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# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

25 November 2016

This week I have been amongst the dreaming spires of Oxford at the annual Girls' Schools Association (GSA) Conference. Having had the privilege of hosting the Department for Education's consultation seminar on the new green paper "Schools that work for everyone" here last week, I was asked to express the views of the South West's independent schools at the conference. This will be an interesting time for all of us as the Government has requested greater involvement by the Independent sector to sponsor state schools in need of help. The conference also focused on global connections and women in leadership which was both inspirational and thought-provoking, given that career opportunities for girls are evolving at a great rate.

After a couple of days away, and an interesting trip home with all the trains being cancelled due to the floods, it was good to get back to school and catch up with all that has been happening. And, once again, I am pleased to report that it has been another very hectic but productive week!

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## Discovery Morning

We welcomed nearly 60 children to our ever-popular Discovery Morning last Saturday, the vast majority of whom were sampling the Maynard offering for the first time. The girls all had a whale of a time, taking part in a huge variety of activities including coding, baking edible Christmas trees, making potions in Science, creating balloon powered cars, learning self-defence in martial arts, clay making... the list goes on!



Once again, I was tremendously proud of our incredible school and I know the many visiting parents were left astounded by the quality of learning, the impressive resources and the sheer warmth of all our lovely staff and students. My grateful thanks to everyone who made the days so special and welcoming! Governors also joined us for the morning and our Chair of Governors described the experience as 'stunning', which I wholeheartedly echo!

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## Sixth Form Taster Day

Interest levels from prospective students are on a dramatic rise and, following our hugely successful Open Evening a couple of weeks ago, I am excited to report that today we are hosting

32 prospective Sixth Formers for their official Taster Day. Numbers for this event have almost doubled from last year which just goes to show the increasing popularity of our school. Many of these young women have said that they are particularly attracted to our Sixth Form due to the diverse range of subjects on offer - and with 23 different A-levels subjects to choose from, this certainly is the case!

Equally, such has been the demand that on Monday we are holding our first-ever Taster Day for girls hoping to join the Upper 4 (Year 9) in September 2017. Nearly 15 girls have enrolled for the event which is fantastic and I am sure they will all have a great day!

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### Jessica Carr, a shiny example of a stellar student!

I have to share with you this report from Jessica Carr's supervisor at the Norman Lockyer Observatory. It really is a fantastic achievement for a Year 11 student to be giving planetarium presentations to visiting groups and to be entrusted with the key to the observatory - my congratulations to Jessica on this enormous accomplishment.

"Last Friday Jess completed her training on the Spitz A3P planetarium projector at the Norman Lockyer Observatory (NLO), having demonstrated her competence in the use of the controls and by giving an excellent presentation to the Astro Scouts and their parents.

As a result of her efforts the NLO chairman presented her with her own key for the starball which means that she can now practise unsupervised, whenever she wishes, in order to be ready for presentations at public events.

She fully understands and can demonstrate the daily and annual motion of the stars; how latitude affects our view of the night sky; and the precession of the poles and equinoxes over 25,800 years. Her presentations display her comprehensive knowledge of the constellations and the navigation stars, in addition to an interesting mix of mythology and the evolution of stars.

Jess has a stellar future ahead, hopefully in Astrophysics or Cosmology. She has the intellect, charisma and communication skills to excel in whatever direction she chooses. Her parents, her school and the NLO will be very proud of her." Mac Currie, Supervisor.



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### Team Performances - another successful week!

Well, what can I say? Our Under 14 Netball team have once again nailed it and came back from yesterday's tournament as the Devon County Champions! It wasn't all plain sailing, however, and having cruised through their pool rounds, they came up against a particularly competitive squad from Park School. With less than two minutes until the end of the game, we were three goals down but, somehow,



fought back to score four in very quick succession to literally snatch victory from the jaws of defeat (14-13).

Although the finals were close, they were thankfully not nearly so tense, and we sealed the County Championships with a 9-7 victory against St. Peter's.

We now go through to represent Devon at the Regional Finals on Saturday 28 January at Marlborough College where we will compete against the top schools in the region for a place at the National Finals. This will be a most exciting day as the U19 netball team have also qualified to play there - so there will be plenty of action to watch and I wish both these brilliant teams the very best of luck.

Meanwhile, it was great to hear that our Under 9 (Year 4) Hockey team played so well in their first ever tournament, held at Blundell's last weekend. Despite the cold, wet and blustery conditions, they held their own against four other, more experienced, teams and were quite fantastic to draw against Redmaids (1-1) and Plymouth College (0-0) before narrowly losing to West Buckland and Blundell's.



Considering there are only 11 girls in the class and 10 of them went to the tournament, playing reasonably equal pitch time, this is a great result and just shows the inclusive nature of sport here at The Maynard. As Miss Lavelle says, "I have high hopes for this class and the girls should be very proud of themselves!"

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### European Silver and Bronze for the Charity sisters

Many congratulations to Natalie (Upper 3) and Nicky (Upper 4) Charity for their incredible achievements at the Junior Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu European Championships in Wolverhampton last Sunday.

Six hundred children from 17 countries were competing but they both managed to hold their nerves, keep a good posture and fight very well! Natalie took silver (so narrowly missing out on winning by just half a point) which is an absolutely fantastic result and Nicky, who was fighting in one of the strongest categories, won bronze! I cannot emphasise enough just how brilliant this is and we all enjoyed admiring their very shiny medals when they brought them into school earlier this week!





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### Music success for Hebe Stone and Lauren Benson

Congratulations to Hebe Stone (Lower 4) who heard earlier in the week that she has been offered a place in the National Children's Wind Sinfonia. She is justifiably delighted to have sailed through her auditions and no doubt this news will arm her with all the more confidence in the lead up to her Grade 7 flute exam early next year!

Likewise, it was great to hear that, following her audition during half term, Lauren Benson (Upper 5) has been awarded a place in the National Youth Choir. A soprano singer and former Cathedral chorister, Lauren has built up quite a record of performances and has even sung at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall. I wish her the best of luck for the upcoming weekend when she will also be performing with the English Touring Opera at Exeter Cathedral!

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### UK Senior Mathematical Challenge

During the course of November, our Sixth Form mathematicians took part in the national Senior Mathematical Challenge and I am pleased to report that they have all excelled. Over half of those who entered received an award of some description which is truly fantastic. My particular congratulations to Yunong Wang (Destiny) in the Lower 6 who won a gold certificate, the best result in the School, which has qualified her for the next round taking place later this month.

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### Wind in the Willows

Earlier today we enjoyed a particularly special matinee performance of the Middle School production, *The Wind in the Willows*, to which we invited our local primary schools. It was an honour to welcome 100 students from West Hill Primary and St. Leonard's who all loved the show and left with beaming smiles (one little boy even commenting, "If I was a girl I would like to go to this school!").



Our Years 7 and 8 have worked so hard on this production and I know all the parents who attended last night thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Best of luck for the final show tonight, girls! I am looking forward to it and I am sure you will all be as brilliant as ever!

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### Hour of Code Week

'Hour of Code Week' runs from 5-11 December 2016 and, here at The Maynard School, we will be actively participating in this annual event. Girls will be encouraged to enhance their Coding and Programming skills within school, plus staff will be encouraged to have a go too!

Apple have also teamed up with Hour of Code to provide a brilliant opportunity at the Apple Store in Princesshay. There are Hour of Code activities open for anyone to attend and we would thoroughly recommend this for both our girls and their families to provide an insight into the world of Coding. If you would like any further information about all of this, please do contact Laura Burt, our Head of Computing, on [lauraburt@maynard.co.uk](mailto:lauraburt@maynard.co.uk)

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### Pre-Prep news

No newsletter would be complete without some charming photographs of what all the little girls in the Pre-Prep have been doing! This week, the Years 1 and 2 drew some really lovely pictures of Queen Elizabeth, some of which I can share with you here! The attention to details is quite extraordinary and I do like the way the theme matches a previous task in which they created some wonderful Queen Victoria-inspired bloomers!

(Ps - we still haven't caught Fi-fi the hamster who remains free and enjoying the entire lower floor of the Pre-Prep & Junior School. We know, as there are frequent sightings!



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### New Website launched

We were thrilled to launch our new-look website ([www.maynard.co.uk](http://www.maynard.co.uk)) earlier in the week. The site is regularly updated so do keep an eye out for all the latest news and, in the meantime, I hope you like the redesign!

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### The Staff play - a comedy version of 'A Christmas Carol'

And finally, tickets for the Staff Play are selling fast so if you or your daughter would like to see it, please buy yours soon from Reception. The girls were treated to a most amusing preview during assembly on Thursday and I know the staff are working very hard in rehearsals. My thanks to Mrs Bellamy-Cooper and Mrs Wilks for orchestrating everything with such boundless energy! I am sure both performances (Wednesday 30 November and Friday 2 December at 7pm) will be an absolute hoot!

Have a great weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress



THE  
MAYNARD  
SCHOOL

<b>MPA Christmas Fair</b> The Maynard School Saturday 26 November 10am - 2pm <b>Free Entry</b>	<b>Junior School Christmas Singing at Princesshay</b> Princesshay Square Thursday 1 December, 5pm	<b>Prize Giving</b> Belmont Chapel Tuesday 13 December 7pm
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