

---

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

30 September 2016

I am so proud of our school and everyone who was involved in last weekend's Open Morning! It looked fabulous and the buzz was incredible with lots of happy, smiling faces on the day and remarkably positive feedback that is still coming in.

We welcomed a record 65 prospective families into the School, all of whom loved the many various activities that were being hosted by our girls across every Department. The pride with which our students and staff showed off their school so positively shone through and I know many families were very impressed with this. So my deep and many thanks to all those who made it such a success and also to you, the parents, for ferrying your children around and making it such a special day!

---

## A sporting highlight – victory against Millfield!

I have been getting out and about again to see a few matches whenever I can and I was so pleased to



make it to our netball fixtures against Millfield on Wednesday evening. Unfortunately, I couldn't get around all of the teams fast enough so missed out on watching any of the U16 or U18 games but I did manage to catch a glimpse of the final few minutes of the U14s. And how glad I was that I did!

The standard of play was simply superb and the pace with which both teams went from end to end, scoring each time, was quite amazing. It was a very close match with little to split the two teams but our girls keep their nerve to eventually take the match 30-28. How we fare against Millfield tends to be a real marker for us

for the rest of the season and I can honestly say that we are going to be the team to watch in this age category.

The U18 team also fared brilliantly, leading all the way through the match and only just conceding the levelling goal in the final 10 seconds to draw 23-23. This was a fine effort and my congratulations to all the girls. Despite losing, the U16s made the much taller Millfield team work really hard and they should be proud of their gritty play when the chips were seemingly down in this very tough match for them.



---

### Hockey news

The hockey season is gaining pace and we have played some great games this week. Our first team kicked off the season with an exciting victory (2-1) against the Blundell's second squad which is a terrific start.

Likewise, our U11 A&B teams have enjoyed a slice of the action, playing Exeter School on Monday. Although both teams lost, there was some great play with both teams showing real progress on the pitch. What impresses me most is that the whole year group plays in these games and everybody gets a go which, in my mind, is what sport at this level is all about!

Our calendar for the coming week is chockablock and I wish everyone the best of luck for some very significant county round and area matches in both hockey and netball.

---

### Tea Party & Lunchtime fun

I enjoyed meeting parents at the Upper 3 Tea Party on Wednesday and it was lovely to have a catch up with them all, especially as I have the pleasure of teaching many of these girls during the week. As I write this, it has occurred to me that much of my 'getting to know everyone' involves eating and this week is another case in point with more fun lunchtimes with the girls.

The topics of conversations I have encountered remain varied but this week's subjects have focussed on various birthday parties taking place at the weekend, about how they enjoyed the Open Morning and when they are actually going to meet my much-talked about dog! As it happens, Ty is sitting obediently at my feet, seemingly very settled as I write after endless cuddles and cooing this morning from so many of the girls, including my Biology set!

Equally, I have been using these lunchtime 'chats' as a bit of a fact finding mission and I've used the opportunity to ask the girls why they chose The Maynard and what they like about it. It's very

interesting because their replies have very much mirrored everything we laud about the School! So many girls, right up to the Sixth Form have said many different things but essentially the message has been that they like the fact that they can concentrate on their studies, that they feel very relaxed and uninhibited and that they find it's just a lovely existence being a student at The Maynard.

---

### Institute of Physics lecture

On Monday we hosted four visiting schools to a couple of lectures delivered by Jodi Walsh, who made The Maynard her first stop in a three-week tour organised by the Institute of Physics. Entitled 'Listening to machines underwater: How acoustics can help renewable energy', these lectures provided a valuable insight into the work of a researcher and the students thoroughly enjoyed the audience



participation element, particularly when they were invited on to the stage to role play air and water molecules!

Jodi highlighted the enormous potential our island nation has for harnessing the power of the sea and predicted that, through the pioneering work of researchers like herself, by 2020 an impressive 20% of our electricity could be generated by wave and tidal power. She also spoke about the gender gap in Physics and Engineering, explaining how in recent years there has been a noticeably higher proportion of women entering these fields. With several of our Sixth Formers going to study Physics and Engineering each year we can be sure that Maynardians are contributing to this trend!

---

### Flo Evans excels in South West's top gymnastic competition

Huge congratulation to our gymnast extraordinaire, Flo Evans (Lower 4), who competed last weekend in the South West Age Group Challenge Cup. This is the top competition in the South West and Flo did so well to finish in 6th position. Well done, indeed!

---

### A-Level Drama and Music Students' trip to London

Oh my goodness! I was wowed to hear about Wednesday's exploits for our A-Level Drama and Music students when they went to London for what sounds like quite a trip. In under 24 hours, they attended 'the Threepenny Opera' and a 'Brecht in Practice' lecture, they witnessed a BBC Radio 3 live

broadcast, directed members of the professional cast on the Olivier Stage in a 'Page to Stage' experience, enjoyed a Q&A session with the National Theatre Director and even climbed to the top of the new extension of the Tate Modern.

One final treat for the musicians was to see The Virtual Orchestra (the Philharmonia) which featured Old Maynardian, Katy Woolley, on principal horn! It sounds like quite the most incredible day and how lucky these students are to be provided with such an experience!



---

### **Pre-Prep Harvest Festival**



It was great to join in the Harvest Festival celebrations with the Pre-Prep yesterday and it was a real highlight of my week. It was so beautifully set out with bales of hay scattered around and our Governor James Dart very kindly had donated loads of vegetables which made the hall look gorgeous. I know the Pre-Prep are making bread today so I must make sure I spare some time to pop in and try a little sample!

---

### **Whole School Photograph**

Yesterday's school photograph was a lot of fun and it was lovely to see the whole school together in one place. When I woke up to pouring rain in the morning I did wonder whether it would go ahead but we were lucky and, by the time everything had been set up, the sun had started to shine! Everyone had made a real effort to turn out smartly and, without exception, their behaviour was exemplary despite a lot of hanging around while everyone was taking up position. These sorts of things take an awful lot of organising and my thanks to all for their patience and good humour!

---

### Western Morning News fame

A colleague of mine arrived in my office this morning excitedly clutching a copy of today's Western Morning News. You can imagine my delight when I saw that a photo Anya Hitt (Upper 4) riding her horse in Maynard team colours is featured on the front cover. Inside there is also a fabulous article entitled, 'Success on home turf is sweet for national champions team', extolling our riders' victory at the recent South West School's One-Day Event at Bicton.



Like all of our teams, the equestrian girls are great ambassadors for the school and they frequently travel the length and breadth of the country to compete so successfully in all sorts of events. In fact, we have 14 horse and rider combinations heading back to Bicton this weekend for a couple of different events (dressage and arena eventing) and I wish them the best of the luck!

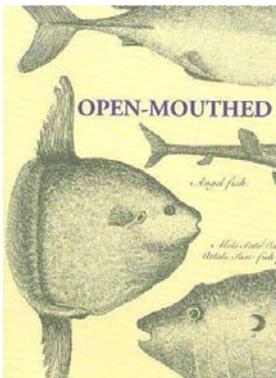
---

### Marketing plea

It would be great to have some more positive reviews about the School on our Facebook page and Google listing as these can be quite powerful messages based on personal experience. So, if you have a spare few moments, we would be grateful if you could jot down your impressions (search for The Maynard School on Facebook and like our page, or type in The Maynard School on Google and the listing is on the right hand side)! We see a lot of traffic coming through these sites and it is always good to have genuine reviews for prospective parents to read! Thank you!

---

### Poetry and Prosecco evening



To celebrate national Poetry Day, the Maynard Junior School & Pre-Prep are hosting an unmissable Poetry and Prosecco evening on Thursday 6 October in the Main School Hall (from 7pm) to which we would like to invite all parents and friends. We are lucky enough to have the author Dr Alan Peacock joining us to read poetry from his wonderful book 'Open Mouthed', accompanied with delicious canapés and fizz!

Tickets are only £10 each, available from the Junior School Office or via [helenlloyd@maynard.co.uk](mailto:helenlloyd@maynard.co.uk) and there will also be the opportunity to purchase Alan's book (described by the Financial Times as "a booklet of sheer magic ... unforgettable") on the night.

---

### Yoga

I would like to end this week's newsletter with this photo which has kept me amused for a little while. No, this isn't the Year 3 girls having a quick nap after a long day but instead they are enjoying their weekly yoga session which, I am told, is an absolute hit for staff ("it was amazingly quiet ... for a short time") and students alike!

Have a lovely weekend!




Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

<p><b>Sixth Form Open Evening</b></p> <p>Thursday 10 November, 6pm - 8pm</p> <p>Contact admissions@maynard.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Pre-Prep &amp; Junior Discovery Morning</b></p> <p>Saturday 19 November, 9.30am - 12pm</p> <p>For all girls aged 3-11</p> <p>To book a place contact admissions@maynard.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Baby Grand Piano - Rent Free Loan</b></p> <p>One of our parents Mr Bolt is offering a rent free loan of a baby grand piano to Maynard families.</p> <p>Mr Bolt can be contacted directly on (07751 885704).</p>
--	---	---

**Find us on:**



The Maynard School



@MaynardSchool



The Maynard School



@maynardschoolexeter



the-maynard-school