
THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

07 October 2016

I've been torn as how best to start this week's newsletter; such is the amount that has been happening this week. Unfortunately for me, on a personal level, most of my days have been spent in meetings, which is great for progression and bouncing ideas but not so good when it comes to getting out and about!



One of the highlights of the week for many of the staff here was Wednesday's 'World Teacher's Day' and I've been impressed with some of the selfies that have been appearing on social media as a result. It also happened to coincide with Mrs Wilks' birthday and I know she felt incredibly valued by all our lovely students who went about trying to make it a very special day for her. Mr Loosemore, on the other hand, maintains he was "bullied" into having this photograph taken of him - however it came about it has provided much entertainment for us all!

Junior School fun

The Junior School was delighted by the arrival of our brand new batch of Wippwalkers and I have enjoyed gaining glimpses of them perfecting their techniques on these quite tricky balancing boards. I must admit that I'm secretly hoping for a quiet evening soon when I can have a private go on them after everyone has gone home!

It was great to take the Junior School assembly during the week when we focussed upon respect and kindness. It never fails to impress me just how



much of this is on display at the School already and it was lovely to see our younger students listening intently and so clearly absorbing all that I had to say.

Stunning Theatre Alibi performance

On Wednesday, the Junior School was visited by the ever-popular Theatre Alibi for a stunning



performance of 'The Boy who Climbed into the Moon' by David Almond. Claire Rowe (teacher of Year 3) waxed lyrical about this "mesmerising" production telling the story of a lonely boy who befriends an old man living at the top of a huge tower block. "The children were spellbound – even the little girls in Reception didn't move a muscle for a whole hour! The puppetry was sensational, the portrayal was fantastic, the props beautiful and its reference to the historical events that took place during the Second World War was really thought-provoking. We were all spellbound!"

Private view of the Beatrix Potter collections

Our alumnae had a great day out at the private view of the Beatrix Potter collections that we arranged for them at the V&A on Monday. This exclusive event was kindly hosted by Old Maynardian, Emma Laws, who has been a curator at the museum for the past 19 years and who has been managing the exhibition to celebrate 150 years since Beatrix's birth. Tucked away in a private room, our alumnae were treated to a fascinating talk by Emma whilst passing around original works of art, including seven of the Peter Rabbit drawings featured in the books. Many of these are not on public display anymore (in order to preserve them from atmospheric and light damage) so this really was a rare privilege and much appreciated by the attendees.



Emma has also agreed to host a similar private view of the Winnie the Pooh works next year to coincide with the V&A exhibition celebrating his 90th birthday. Naturally, all friends and alumnae of The Maynard School will be very welcome to attend and we will send out details nearer the time.

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Twenty-one girls from the Lower 5 enjoyed a sunny couple of days on Woodbury Common to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition last weekend. Under the DofE rules, the teams have to be out 'journeying' for at least six hours a day and the girls certainly covered some ground, camping overnight at the Pooh Cottage camp site near Budleigh. All the girls were brilliant and, despite a few navigational errors (to be expected!), they were bright, cheerful and proved very capable.

Performance of the Month

My congratulations to Ruby Jarman (Year 10) and Jess Ramsay (Upper 6) who I had the honour of awarding the Performance of the Month to at yesterday's assembly. This is a richly deserved recognition of them both, having been selected for the Futures Cup in Hockey U16 & U18 respectively.

This is a wonderful achievement and follows a yearlong programme of trials, training and assessment. Futures Cup is a four-day tournament which takes place during half term with the best Junior Hockey players in the country competing. It will provide these elite players the chance to impress the National Junior coaches and potentially be selected for England. We wish them the best of luck for the tournament and look forward to hearing all about it!



Connie Hurrell wins silver at the Exeter Challenge

It was great to hear that Connie Hurrell in Year 5 won silver overall for her outstanding gymnastics at last weekend's Exeter Challenge. Not only that but she achieved silver in all four separate pieces which really is very impressive. We wish her the best of luck for later this month when she will compete in the Sapphire Challenge in Hemel Hempstead, representing Devon for the first since gaining a place on the county squad over the summer

Wonderful Wednesday

We once again have posted some excellent team results in the world of hockey and netball which is very encouraging indeed! At the risk of making this newsletter rather sports-heavy, I must share with

you news from Wednesday's exciting tournaments where both our U18 (hockey) and U14 (netball) teams played quite superbly.

The netball team cruised through their pool matches of the hotly contested National Schools Area



Tournament, winning against Blundell's (11-7), Clyst Vale (20-0) and Okehampton (11-4) to face Exeter School in the semi-final. Not perturbed by the step-up in standard, our girls came out of this as the 10-9 winners to book their place in the finals against St. Peter's. This was a real cliff hanger of a match and could easily have gone to either team although, unfortunately, we were unlucky in defeat this time to finish 9-10. In great matches like these, the score doesn't matter

as both the finalists automatically qualify for the County Finals on 28 November where we hope to reverse our fortunes!

Equally, the U18 Hockey team thoroughly enjoyed their Devon County Finals at Blundell's which saw 12 teams competing for the top two spots and a place at the Regional Finals.

Once again, we were unbeaten at the end of our pool stage with no goals conceded (0-0 vs Exeter College, 2-0 vs Colyton Grammar and a "frustrating" 0-0 vs Torquay Girls' Grammar) to go through to the play-offs against Shebbear College. It was a very tense clash with neither side able to score but we eventually sealed victory on flicks thanks to some excellent goal keeping by Ellen Player.

Unfortunately, we lost in the final 2-0 against Exeter School but it was a wonderful day with some exceptional displays of sportsmanship. From my own personal perspective, it is just great to know that The Maynard is contesting these major events against larger schools and proving to be quite the force to be reckoned with!

On which note, I wish our U14 hockey players the best of luck for the County Final at Exeter University later today! I shall be going up to cheer them on for the afternoon and I hope to report back on great things by next week.

Concert Skirts

We are pleased to report that Stevensons have 32 Concert Skirts in stock for the forthcoming concerts and performances. If your daughter requires a Concert Skirt please place your order directly through the school by emailing RushaElNashar@maynard.co.uk. Please note that Choir Skirts will also be available to purchase at the Uniform Selling Event on Friday 14 October.

Hockey action from the U10s

I was very grateful to all those girls who gave up their Saturday morning last weekend to play in the U10 hockey tournament at Exeter School. They had some really tough games against Exter School,



Plymouth College and West Buckland and they all fought really hard with Kristina Pavic (Year 5) making some cracking saves in goal.

Their final game was a play-off against St Peter's Lymptone where we were able to create some space in attack and dominated for much of the game to win 1-0.

Well done to all our players who worked so hard in each of their games - my thanks also to Miss Lavelle and to those parents who came along to support.

European Day of Languages

As part of the celebrations for European Day of Languages all girls in Year 7 to Year 10 entered the Vocabexpress League of Champions 2016. This is an online competition that tests the girls' understanding of vocabulary in fourteen different languages (including Latin) as well as their accuracy with spellings.

In this, the first year we have taken part in the competition, the target was to place in the top twenty. A tremendous effort meant that the German classes finished in fourth place nationally with 56 595 points. Sixty-four girls take German so this equates to an average score per girl of 884 points which is incredible.

We also notched up some excellent individual results and my congratulations to all the winners in their chosen languages - Shweta Banerjee in Year 9 (both German and French), Natalie Charity also in Year 9 (Spanish) and Nicole Charity in Year 8 (Latin).

It was also excellent to see the school represented in the Portugese, Polish, Italian and Mandarin competitions.

I know Mr O'Neill (Head of Modern Languages and Classics) was delighted by these results but more so by seeing the girls working with such keenness to win points for their school. "I have never seen girls so interested in the accuracy of their spellings or so excited to learn vocabulary. They have all done really well and we definitely intend to compete again next year."

Upper 4 trip to Cheddar Gorge

The Upper 4s had a great trip to Cheddar Gorge on Thursday as part of their topic, Rocks and Landscapes, that they are currently studying for their Geography project. There is no better place locally than the Gorge and Caves to carry out this research and the day involved numerous activities including a walk (and, in some cases, a run) up the 274 steps of Jacob's Ladder. Many of the girls also opted to do a bit of Adventure Caving which they undertook with all the usual Maynard gusto!



Note from the MPA about name tapes

I have been asked by our MPA to alert you to the fact that they have registered on the easy2name website, which means that we can collect 20% of the value of orders made on the site; so if parents need any name tapes, personalised labels, stickers, bag tags etc. please could you order them through this site so the MPA can continue with their invaluable fundraising for the school. It is very easy to do: simply go to the site www.easy2name.com, order whatever you need and then when prompted type in MAYNARD PARENTS ASSOCIATION EX1 in to the box. Thank you!

I would like to finish this week's newsletter with a brilliant composition by an Old Maynardian written in 1928! At yesterday's Toddler Group (that we host every Thursday in the Pre-Prep) a lovely lady handed us a bundle of old school magazines and a homework book that her mother and godmother had kept for all these years. They are a fascinating record of The Maynard from nearly a century ago and on this rather autumnal Friday morning, I just have to share this piece with you:

'Weekends' by Gwynaeth Mary Greenslade (3 March 1928)

In comparing weekends of all seasons I think summer ones are best. These seem to be a complete change from the week and there are many things to be done then. Spring and autumn weekends are almost as enjoyable as summer ones, but in these the long dark evenings cut the days short. There are different things to do at each season. Saturday afternoon always seem the main part of the weekend. In autumn what could be better than a long walk in the country? Picture a mild autumn day, warm and sunshiny. The trees range themselves in their changing tints against the blue sky. The ground is extremely muddy and it is necessary to dash madly across pools of water which lie in the path. Chestnuts and acorns lie scattered beneath the trees and everything seems peaceful. To finish the day properly the evening should be spent in reading or indulging in a favourite hobby, but in reality it is often spent in finishing prep. On Sunday one generally goes to church in the morning, for a walk in the afternoon, and to church or to visit relations in the evening...
... The drawback to all weekends is prep for to think that part of the evening will have to be spent in doing prep spoils an enjoyable afternoon.

So there we have it - whilst the school has transformed dramatically over the years, the bugbear of homework lives on!

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress

<p>Sixth Form Open Evening</p> <p>Thursday 10 November, 6pm - 8pm</p> <p>Contact admissions@maynard.co.uk</p>	<p>Pre-Prep & Junior Discovery Morning</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>Baby Grand Piano - Rent Free Loan</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>
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