

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

9 September 2016



I am so pleased, after all the anticipation and excitement, to be writing my first newsletter in my role as Headmistress of the Maynard School. This is such an honour for me, especially as becoming a part of The Maynard has been a very long time in the making!

On returning from The Bahamas where I grew up, I very nearly became a Maynardian when I was enrolled in the school to join the Lower 5. My family changed their minds at the last minute due to my father getting a job in Torbay so we moved to Dartmouth and I attended Churston Grammar School instead. As lovely as it was, it wasn't The Maynard, which I had set my heart on. Therefore, I am delighted to have finally made it through The Maynard gates in a role I have been coveting for years.

I have honestly been humbled by the very warm welcome I have received over the past few days from parents, staff and, most importantly, from all the delightful students. I'm very much looking forward to getting to know you all and really becoming one of The Maynard family.

I quite understand that many of you will be wondering what plans I have for the School but you can rest assured that whilst I do, of course, have some long term ambitions to keep us at the forefront of education, for now my primary plan is to watch, familiarise myself with and absorb all that happens here. The next few weeks will be spent learning everyone's names, getting to know the girls, watching them on the games pitches, eating

with them, joining them in class and generally gaining a good understanding of our School.

I very much operate an 'open door' policy so do please tell your daughters to pop in whenever they feel the need to share an idea or problem!

Anyway, that is quite enough about me and so now onto other far more important matters!

Welcome to all of our new girls

I'd like to extend the warmest of welcomes to all of our new girls who have joined us this term. I sincerely hope you are beginning to find your way around the School and are settling in well. It goes without saying, but please do ask if you have any questions or are feeling a little lost. We all know how daunting a new school can be (me especially at the moment!) and all the staff and students will be happy to help you at any time. In the meantime, may I wish you all the best of luck with your Maynard career and we look forward to sharing with you many happy days to come!

Upcoming Whole School Open Morning - Saturday 24 September

Open Mornings are an ideal way to showcase everything that we have to offer here and I'm truly excited that my first public appointment is now only a couple of weeks away. The staff and I have devised some innovative changes to the way in which we plan to run this event and we hope that prospective or, indeed, current parents and pupils will appreciate these tweaks.

First and foremost, we have introduced a much more interactive feel to the event with numerous opportunities for prospective pupils to get involved with various experiments, games and activities which our Year 7 to Upper Sixth students will be running. I am hoping this will free up the parents to have time to chat with the teachers and key members of staff so they can really do their research and discover for themselves all that is on offer.

I hope you will have received my letter of earlier this week enquiring of your daughter's availability on the morning. Events such as these are made all the better if the school is buzzing with students - take it from me, there is nothing more soulless than a school without pupils! So we would really appreciate it if your daughter could spare the morning to volunteer some help - it's set to be a lot of fun. If your daughter would like to be involved but you envisage transport being a difficulty, please can you let my PA know as we are hoping to be able to run some buses for the event. Miss Jones can be contacted on 01392 273417 or HeadsPA@maynard.co.uk.

Likewise, if you know anyone who may be interested in sending their daughter to the School, please do tell them about this Open Morning. We are running a very flexible time schedule so prospective parents and pupils are welcome to drop in whenever they like from 10am - 12pm - we would love to see them all!

Maynard Parents' Association

The Maynard Parents' Association is a wonderful body of volunteers who organise events to raise invaluable funds for the school that over the years have been used in a variety of ways from interactive whiteboards, right through to supporting some of the trips to keep costs down for the parents.



On Friday 16 September the MPA will be hosting a breakfast AGM in the Main School Hall, starting at 0815 - please do come and meet some of the other parents over a cup of coffee, tea and a croissant! We would love to see you there, so if you can make it please confirm your attendance by emailing office@maynard.co.uk.

Individual School Photos

On Wednesday 14 September, we have arranged for a photographer to come into school to take individual photographs of all students. I would be very grateful if you could send your daughter into school that morning looking especially tidy in the correct uniform and with her hair tied back! Each pupil will be photographed individually but there will be the opportunity for sisters to be photographed together on a pre-requested basis only. If you would like a sibling photograph, please email marketing@maynard.co.uk by 5.00 pm on Monday 12th September.

School Prospectus

The Marketing Department is, as I write, busily putting together a whole new prospectus for the School which we will be unveiling at the Open Morning. I am really excited about the new look that we will be adopting and we have hired the services of a professional photographer to capture those quintessential shots. She will be working in various departments around the School on Tuesday 13 September and, again, I would be very grateful if your daughters could be neat and tidy on that day too! They might yet be the faces of The Maynard!

School bus availability

There are a few seats available on some of our new Maynard bus routes so please contact Mrs Sandy Gardner (01392 273417 or sandygardner@maynard.co.uk) if you would like to book your daughter/s on one of them.

Currently we have three spaces available on the Ottery St Mary bus (via Westhill and Whimble) and seven seats on the Ashburton bus (via Drumbridges and Haldon Services).

All of our buses are bespoke to The Maynard, driven by our staff who are DBS checked and fitted with cameras for extra security. Mrs Gardner will be only too pleased to advise you of costs and timings, so do please contact her if this is of interest.

And finally, I thoroughly enjoyed our first assembly on Wednesday morning in which we discussed the utter courage and determination of all those Paralympians who have so bravely conquered adversity to represent their countries in Rio. I was impressed with the way all the girls showed such empathy towards these amazing athletes and I am quite sure that they will embrace the same grit and resilience throughout the coming academic year. This is, after all, what makes a Maynard girl!

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress



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