
THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

2 December 2016

Is it really only two weeks to the end of term? Yet there is so much more to come! We still have the Carol Service, Prize Giving, Nativity, Upper 4 Options Evening, Singing at Darts Farm and of course our Christmas lunch which is, according to one of the girls in Upper 3, “just brilliant!”.

This week I had the pleasure of accompanying some of the Sixth Form to a very thought-provoking TEDx screening and talk at the RAMM delivered by an ex-Jihad terrorist and a BAFTA winning film maker. It was a very interesting reflection on radicalisation with a strong message to “let go of anger and hatred and instead cultivate your heart to see goodness, beauty and truth in others.” I particularly enjoyed sharing our thoughts in the foyer afterwards and was impressed to see that, after some discussion, many of our students went and found the speaker to ask him further (rather tough) questions.

I have spent some time this term visiting other schools and getting to know my fellow Heads which has been a very positive experience. This week I went to both Exeter Cathedral School and St Peter’s, Lypstone and enjoyed the opportunity to share good practice and discuss ways to strengthen our collaboration. It’s also intriguing, and great fun, to have tours of other schools!

MPA Christmas Fair

My sincere thanks to all those that made last weekend’s Christmas Fair such a roaring success. There was a fantastic turn-out and some really excellent stalls – needless to say, I spent an absolute fortune! What struck me was the really vibrant atmosphere and I know the Santa’s Grotto upstairs was a particular favourite for so many of our girls and their guests!

I’m so pleased to report that the occasion raised nearly £3,000 which is just brilliant!



Princesshay Choral Extravaganza

Despite the bitterly cold conditions the Pre-Prep, Junior School and some Senior girls still managed to hold a tune last night, entertaining the crowds and adding a bit of sparkle to the first night of late night shopping in the run up to Christmas. It really was numbingly freezing but the girls were amazing and my grateful thanks to all of them for their cheery composure and enthusiasm.

The Pre-Prep Nativity and Junior Carols

Whilst on the Christmas theme, the Pre-Prep girls are having such fun in rehearsals for their Nativity Play next Thursday (at 4.30pm) and Friday (at 2pm) and I am sure it will be a wonderful first production for our younger girls.

Afterwards, the whole of the Junior School will be taking to the stage to polish off the performance with some Christmas carols to get us all in the mood for the impending holiday season. We look forward to welcoming everybody!



The Wind in the Willows

The Middle School Production was a total triumph and huge congratulations to the Years 7 and 8 girls who I know worked so hard to make it such a success.

Standing up in front of a crowd can be a very daunting experience but they all did so well and there really were some remarkable displays of acting. My great thanks to Mrs Bellamy and her team for putting on such a great production at this very busy time!

Staff play - 'A Christmas Carol'

Perhaps not quite so polished was Wednesday's staff play but all I am hearing at the moment is the girls' hysterical accounts of the first sell-out performance of 'A Christmas Carol'. I can't write too much detail here as I don't want to give the game away ahead of tonight's show but, suffice to say, it is utterly brilliant!

I'm not sure that the Main School Hall has seen anything like it before and to have the whole audience rolling around with laughter from start to finish is quite a feat! The only complaints received so far is that it just wasn't long enough! One girl even claimed the tickets were too cheap for the quality of entertainment and she would happily have paid twice the price! Quite an endorsement!

So for those of you who have managed to buy tickets for tonight's performance, I can only say this: you really are in for a night to remember!!

Anyway, on to more serious things!



Sixth Form Tectonics Conference

Last Friday, 20 Lower and Upper Sixth Geography students enjoyed an amazing opportunity to attend a series of lectures in London by some of the UK's leading scientists in the field of tectonics. Danniella Page (Upper 6) has sent in this report from what sounds like a very educational and inspiring day:

“Speakers included Dr Martin Degg, Dr Debbie Milton, David Redfern, Professor Iain Stewart, Professor Fiona Tweed and Sue Warn.

The lectures varied from tectonic hazards in Iceland to the different dangers of plate boundaries. Of particular interest to me was Professor Iain Stewart's lecture, who discussed the dangers of collapsing buildings during earthquakes. He spoke about different methods of making buildings more resistant to earthquakes, including the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, which was retrofitted with concrete fortresses to withstand the shaking.

The speakers provided an insight into the different hazards of seismic and volcanic events, including plenty of case studies and exam tips. We all had an inspiring and interesting day.”

Lead School for Computer Science



We are really pleased to have been recognised as a Lead School in the Network of Teaching Excellence in Computer Science.

This is justifiable proof of the broad, balanced and progressive curriculum and also grants us the opportunity to share our expertise with other schools in the area. This is a fantastic opportunity and I know Mrs Burt, Head of Computing, is looking forward to collaborating with other such members of staff both locally and, indeed, on a national basis.

Pre-Prep Ballet Show

The Reception and Year 1 girls in the Pre-Prep had a great time showing off their newly acquired ballet skills in front of parents and guardians on Monday. Our very own Darcey Bussell, Mrs Barlow, has worked wonders with these girls and I know they are absolutely loving her lessons.

The two shows last Monday afternoon were very sweet and I gather they were twirling around the Junior School Hall and even found treasure! The older girls will be performing next week.



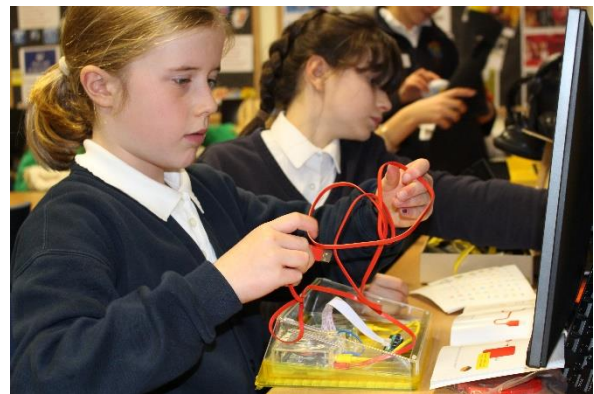
Gifted and Talented Coding Day

On Tuesday, we held a Gifted and Talented Coding afternoon for students from St Leonard's, Ide and Bickleigh Primary Schools which was a wonderful opportunity to show off The Maynard School. Under the supervision of Mrs Burt, together with a team of experts from PS-Stem, our guests learned about some key concepts of Computer Science.

This was a great opportunity to experiment with Kano, a computer that clicks together like LEGO and guides students simply through computing and coding. Mrs Burt tells me that this system completely demystifies technology in a human way, 'empowering curious minds to create with technology.'

It certainly sounds ingenious and I know our guests really enjoyed some great sessions with all their teachers saying how much they had all learned.

Equally, 'Hour of Code Week' starts next Monday and I know there are plans afoot for us all to be actively participating in this annual event. The girls will be encouraged to enhance their Coding and Programming skills within school, plus we're hoping staff will have a go too!



Performance of the Month



I am looking forward to announcing the winner of the much coveted (Sporting) Performance of the Month at an assembly next week but can share with you now the list of nominees. I apologise for the long list but I do think each and every one of these girls needs a special mention for their various brilliant achievements:

Lauren Wood & Ellie Ramsay (Lower 6) - Lauren and Ellie have both been selected as part of Team Bath (Lauren) and Severn Stars (Ellie) Netball U19 Long Squads for the National Performance League.

The Under 19 & Under 14 Netball Squads - Both teams are successfully through to the Regional round of the National Schools Competition, the U14s as County champions and the U19s as County Runners-Up.

Under 14 Hockey Squad - For reaching the Semi Finals of the Regional Finals in the National Schools competition. This was The Maynard's best performance in Hockey in decades.

Amelia Moody (Lower 5) - Amelia came First in the Exeter and District Cross Country Intermediate Girls Race and will now represent Exeter Schools at the Devon Cross Country Championships.

Flo Evans (Lower 4) - Flo was placed overall First in the Devon Level 2 championships, where she won individual gold on all four pieces of apparatus; beam, bars, floor and vault.

Nicky and Natalie Charity (Upper 4 & Upper 3): Nicky won bronze and Natalie took the silver at the recent Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu European Championships.

Well done to all of you!

Exeter Chiefs surprise the Bowman sisters

Robyn (Upper 6) and Dodie (Upper 5) Bowman were treated to a very welcome surprise last weekend when busking at Dart's Farm to raise money for the Duke of Edinburgh's Charitable Trust Fund. As they were quietly minding their own business, playing away beautifully on their violins, so three Exeter Chief players popped up and presented them with their very own copy of the Chief's calendar! I only wish someone could have filmed the look on their faces!

One of the best advertising campaigns of 2016 ... but we need your votes!

Our #MadeForGirls advertising campaign, created in conjunction with the Marketing Department and local agency AB, has been shortlisted as one of the best advertising campaigns in 2016 by a leading marketing publication. We are up against some huge company and charity heavyweights such as Hellman's, B&Q, Greenpeace, Tesco and even the Post Office so we would love it if you could boost our chances of winning by voting for us on: <http://www.thedrum.com/creative-works/project/ab-ideas-agency-maynard-school-madeforgirls>



Book Sale in the Library

The library looked truly beautiful this afternoon for the Second Hand Book Sale and my thanks to Mrs Hourihan for all her efforts.

There was a huge selection of books from all the different genres for as little as 50p. Due to so many clubs taking place at lunchtime, the sale has been extended and girls are most welcome to pop back into the library at any point in the coming days to buy anything remaining.

All the money raised will go towards the Roald Dahl Marvellous Children's Charity to make life better for seriously ill children in the UK.

Christmas Jumper Day

Just a quick reminder to say that it is Christmas Jumper Day next Friday 9 December and all girls are welcome to come to school wearing anything festive.

Don't worry at all if you don't possess a jumper - if it's Christmassy, wear it, even tinsel! In return, we are suggesting a donation of £2 which will go towards CLIC Sargent. There will also be a cake sale during break time, so please remember extra change for this!

Have a great weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress

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| <p>Lord Mayor's Carol Service Exeter Cathedral Monday 5 December 2pm</p> | <p>Pre-Prep and Junior School Christmas Celebration Junior School Hall Thursday 8 December 4.30pm Friday 9 December 2pm</p> | <p>Prize Giving Belmont Chapel Tuesday 13 December 7pm</p> |
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