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# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

12 December 2016

I would like to start this newsletter by paying tribute to all the staff who put together such an hilarious play. I genuinely had tears of laughter streaming down my face at one point and I was really impressed by how much time and effort they put in to making it so brilliant. I was also very pleased to see a packed audience for both performances which meant that the play raised nearly £1000 for the nominated charity, Crisis at Christmas.

It was also great to see the Sixth Form playing the reverse role by directing, looking after the actors on stage and keeping the staff on course with the occasional prompt and words of wisdom. All in all, the play was an absolute winner in so many ways.

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## Ten Tors Training

I thoroughly enjoyed joining in on the first training hike last weekend for the Ten Tors Challenge 2017.

Together with a group of our wonderful staff and parents, we took three 35-mile and one 45-mile teams for what turned out to be a very entertaining outing.

There was plenty of laughter and spirits remained high throughout the 18km walk, with all the girls running the last 100m back to bus. Consequently, I am now wondering whether we hadn't pushed them quite hard enough!



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## Performance of the Month

I was delighted to award Flo Evans (Lower 4) the Performance of the Month at last Monday's assembly. This is a richly deserved recognition of her outstanding performance at the recent Devon Level 2 Gymnastics Championships where she scooped individual gold for all four pieces of apparatus (beams, bars, floor and vault) and a fifth for helping her team to overall victory!

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## Maddy wins place on South West Regional Orchestra

Maddy Jago in Year 6 received news earlier last week that she has been offered a place in the South West Regional Orchestra by the National Children's Orchestra and I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to her for this tremendous achievement!

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### Lord Mayor's Carol Service

I had the real pleasure of sitting in the front row at the Lord Mayor's Carol Service in the Cathedral last Monday and was thrilled to see an entire stand of our Middle School Choir. They sang so beautifully and, with the lovely acoustics of the Cathedral, it really was a moment to treasure.



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### Sixth Form EPQ Evening

I really enjoyed the EPQ evening on last Tuesday night and I was genuinely bowled over by the diversity of the topics covered – iceberg homes in London, to the threats of climate change on El Nino, right through to how women are depicted in horror movies. You couldn't get much more contrast than that!

Not only were the presentations done so well by very articulate Sixth Formers, but also the explanations by those manning their display boards were really interesting.

It was great to see the depth of their research and their presentation styles on each individual subject – these are techniques that they have acquired by doing their EPQ and you can see why universities value them so much.

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### Upper 4 Options Evening

We had a very good turnout to our Upper 4 Options Evening last week and it was lovely to see the gym positively buzzing. This is an invaluable event at which all the subject staff are present to discuss their courses with parents and students at a critical time of their academic careers. I hope everyone found it as informative as it is intended to be but we are always on hand to help with any last minute dilemmas before the deadline of choices on Friday 3 February.

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### Host Families

I was delighted by the response to our request for host families for overseas students and we have experienced a really enthusiastic take-up. As a result, it looks like we will be welcoming an intake of some very nice Sixth Formers from Asia in September. If there are any parents who are still thinking this might be an option for them, whether it is for a foreign student or possibly a UK pupil who lives a long way from the School, please do give me a call. We would love to hear from you!

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### Changes to Prize Giving

Just to remind you about the changes to Prize Giving tomorrow night (13 December): This year it is for all students in the Upper 5, Lower 6 and Upper 6 as well as our 2016 leavers contingent. I am also inviting the Upper 5 to join in with dressing up for the evening and *all invitees* are invited to stay after the ceremony for Christmas punch and mince pies!

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### Indulgence evening at Dart's Farm



I thoroughly enjoyed attending the Indulgence Evening at Dart's Farm last Wednesday where the Chamber Choir had the pleasure of singing to a completely full house.

The girls helped to create a festive atmosphere by singing carols and Christmas anthems in between demonstrations by such fabulous foodies as two-star Michelin chef, Michael Caines, and Saturday Kitchen's wine expert, Suzy Atkins.

It was a terrific night with a very magical feel and my thanks to all the girls for their invaluable input and, of course, to James Dart for inviting us along.

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### Junior School Hockey news

We finalised our house hockey matches last week and I was pleased to hear how fully committed everyone from Years 3-6 were in trying their hardest for their respective teams. There were lots of demonstrations of teamwork, some great individual performances and some unrivalled displays of sportsmanship.

On this occasion, Merchants were the victors, Goldsmiths took second followed by Armourers and then Haberdashers. Well done to all of the girls and thank you to those who came to support them!



Whilst on the subject of hockey, our Under 9 A&B teams finished the season on a complete high following their games against Exeter Cathedral School yesterday. The entire Year 4 class together with five girls from Year 3 all got to play and they did absolutely brilliantly with the A-side winning 2-0 and the B's drawing 1-1. Special mention goes to Esther Cope who was awarded player of the match for the A team. She has made big leaps forward and is a great example of how hard work and determination pays off!

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### Please continue to vote for our advertising campaign

Thank you to everyone that is voting for our #MadeForGirls advertising campaign, and please continue doing so using the link below - it has been shortlisted as one of the best advertising campaigns in 2016 by a leading marketing publication. We are up against companies such as Hellman's, B&Q, Greenpeace and Tesco!

At the moment we have 700 votes but some of our competitors have a lot more so we would be very grateful if you could help boost the numbers. You can vote once every day and from multiple devices and it only takes a few moments - just go to the link below, click 5 stars and then vote!

<http://www.thedrum.com/creative-works/project/ab-ideas-agency-maynard-school-madeforgirls>

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### Terrific gymnastics performances



It's been wonderful to hear that our gymnasts are excelling in all their various fields. Not only did Flo Evans win the Performance of the Month for November, but her very talented sister, Martha (Lower 5), has enjoyed her slice of success recently too!

She took part in the Regional Gymnastics Grading in Plymouth last weekend and, despite only learning some of the elements relatively last-minute, she did fabulously well to pass her Grade 3 with a Highly Commended.

Likewise, Connie Hurrell (Year 5) was also in Plymouth for this event and won the Level 5 category with the highest points overall and a Distinction for her performance which is just brilliant.

Huge congratulations to both Martha and Connie!

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### Old Maynardians bring brood back to School

I was thrilled to hear that a small group of our 2003 leavers, all of whom have recently had babies, used our Thursday afternoon Toddler Group as their meeting point for a catch-up!

What is not so great is that all the mini-Maynardians are boys so there's no hope of any of them attending the School!

But as Jennifer Marsh (nee Hall) says, "It's fun to bring them back to an environment where we are all so familiar with and have such happy memories."

From left to right: Jennifer Marsh (nee Hall) with Thomas, Fran Dawson (nee Maiden) with Kit, May Bowles (nee Dixon) with Freddie, Kitty Scales (nee Bradley) with Wilf



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### Selling beautiful charity wares in Reception

As part of her diamond Duke of Edinburgh Challenge, Freya Thornberry (Year 10) has been crocheting a number of Christmas decorations and scarves which will be for sale in our Reception throughout this week.

Her aim is to raise over £60 for charity so do drop in for a bit of shopping in support of her admirable ventures.

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### Christmas Jumper Day

I sincerely apologise to all parents if I inadvertently misled you last week about our Christmas Jumper Day! I would like to take this opportunity to clarify that it will be this Friday 16 December when we will be holding a whole School Mufti Day and we would love all the girls to wear something Christmassy.

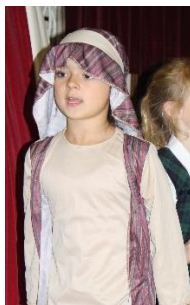
Don't worry at all if they don't own a Christmas jumper and please don't feel you need to dash out and buy one. Just some tinsel or a few sewn on baubles will be plenty sufficient!

We are hoping to raise money for CLIC Sargent (Senior School and Sixth Form) and Save the Children (Junior School) so would be very grateful if you could send in your daughter with a donation.

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### Junior School Christmas Show

I really enjoyed watching the second performance of the Junior School Christmas Show and Nativity Play on Friday afternoon! The girls were absolutely brilliant, the costumes delightful and the whole audience absolutely loved both the nativity and all the beautiful Carol singing. It certainly went a long way in helping to put us all in the Christmas spirit!



**And finally, Christmas Carols!**

Don't forget it's our Carol Service this Thursday evening at 7.30pm at St Matthew's Church (EX1 2LJ) and all parents and families are warmly invited to join us. This is always such a festive occasion, no tickets are required and we would love to see you there to cap off such a splendid term!

Have a great weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

Carol Service	Prize Giving	End of Term
<p>St Matthew's Church</p> <p>Thursday 15 December, 7.30pm</p>	<p>Belmont Chapel</p> <p>Tuesday 13 December 7pm</p>	<p>Whole School Christmassy Mufti Day</p> <p>Friday 16 December 12pm</p>