

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

20 January 2017

After escaping the potential disruption of the predicted snowdrifts last week, it has been all systems as normal this week! The school has once again been buzzing with potential new students who came in on Tuesday to sit their 13+ entrance tests. The Admissions team have been working hard over the past fortnight to make sure all of our young visitors have as enjoyable and comfortable an experience as possible and it has been a joy to see them leaving quite a challenging day with beaming smiles and proudly clutching their Maynard teddy bear key rings as souvenirs!

I have, as usual, enjoyed some very interesting chats with the girls over lunch and sponsored most of the Upper 3 to complete their virtual Marathon for CLIC Sargent! It is clearly going to be an expensive month, but all for a great cause!

So here's what has been happening across the school:

Devon's top independent school!



Department
for Education

Great news! We have been ranked as the leading independent school in the whole of Devon by the Department for Education's Schools Performance Tables, based on A-level and GCSE results from 2016.

At GCSE, we were the top school in the entire county for the English Baccalaureate, a performance measure that scores schools according to how well pupils have performed in up to eight core subjects including Maths, English, the sciences, a language and History or Geography. We were also rated as the leading independent school in the county across the entire GCSE Performance Tables board.

In The Daily Telegraph yesterday we were also deemed as the best School in the Southwest and 16th nationally for our GCSE results which really is something to shout loudly from the rooftops!

At A-level, we performed equally well to be the DfE's top scoring independent school in the county for the highest percentage of students to achieve AAB or higher in at least two facilitating subjects. These include all those most commonly required for entry into leading universities including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Further Maths, Geography, History, English Literature and Classical or Modern Languages.

These really are fabulous results that speak volumes for our talented students and the professionalism of our dedicated staff! Well done, everyone!

Gifted and Talented Coding success

We were delighted to host 24 visitors from Ide, Bickleigh and St Leonard's Primary Schools for our second Gifted & Talented Coding Day on Monday. All the girls had a fun morning, learning how to code with Python and investigating App technology under the watchful eye of Mrs Burt, the Head of Computing.

These mornings are a fantastic opportunity to share our excellent resources with other organisations and are a great way to show off all that we offer at The Maynard, right down to the famous chocolate chip cookies!

Sports Leaders enjoy first teaching session



Our 15 Upper 5 Sports Leaders took their first session this week at St. Leonard's Primary School as part of their Level 2 Sports Leadership qualification. As such, they will be running regular sports activities in Netball, Football, Basketball, Hockey, Tennis and Rounders for 60 multi-ability boys and girls in Year 3.

Working together in small groups, the girls are responsible for the planning, delivery and evaluation of each of these sessions - this, believe me, can be a truly daunting experience at first! However, they approached the whole thing with all the usual good humour and

determination to deliver a quality and fun first lesson to all those very lucky pupils who, incidentally, loved being led by The Maynard girls!

Terrific results at Under 12 basketball tournament!

Our two Under 12 teams performed especially well at their first ever Basketball tournament held at Uffculme School on Tuesday. Altogether there were 14 other teams competing, only one other of which was a girls team! Each side played six matches and the A team won 5 and lost only one, whilst the B team won 3 and lost 3.

Lots of the opposition staff commented on how well they played and, I'm told, some of the boys were a little bemused at being beaten by a girls team - much to our girls' enjoyment!



Lauren Wood wins Sports Performance of the Month



Congratulations to Lauren Wood (Lower 6) who was awarded Performance of the Month earlier this week!

Lauren was recently selected to be part of the Under 19 Team Bath Netball Short Squad - an altogether excellent achievement in a very competitive world. She will now be competing in the National Performance Netball League where Team Bath is largely considered to be the country's top U19 team. Well done, Lauren!

Treat for the Pre-Prep and Junior School

It was a great pleasure to welcome Andy Watts of the duo, Wavey and Snotts, to the Maynard Junior School earlier today for a reading of their new book, Cloud Cuckoo Land. From Reception to Year 6, all the students were fascinated by Andy's reading and inspired by the wonderful collages that he and Sam Davies have created to illustrate the text.

As always, children of this age relate quickly to rhyme and nonsense and they were quick to draw their own parallels with the stories of Spike Milligan and Edward Lear; and were full of interest as Andy explained the inspiration behind the story and the craft of creating the book and illustrations. We would all thoroughly recommend a visit if you have the opportunity!



We will be taking part in 'Safer Internet Day'

Here at School we take the responsible use of the internet very seriously and, as such, we are proud to be taking part in 'Safer Internet Day' on Tuesday 7 February. The theme this year is 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'.

The day offers the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community. We will have all sorts of activities going on, for staff and students, plus lots of resources available to students and I hope it will prove to be an informative experience.

Calling all flautists from The Maynard and beyond!



We will be hosting a flute masterclass next Friday with Ian Clarke, a world famous player and composer, and would like to extend an invitation to all flautists to join us for this very exciting day.

Ian's compositions have been performed across five continents on stages ranging from London's South Bank to the Glastonbury Rock Festival. Equally, he has performed as a featured guest soloist and teacher at major events around the world.

To have a visiting musician of this calibre is a huge honour so do come along to the session – anyone is welcome, any age, just as long as you are grade 1 or above in the flute. If you or someone you know are interested, please do contact angelablackwell@maynard.co.uk for further details and to book a place.

Looking ahead

May I wish the best of luck to our runners at the Devon Schools Cross Country Championships taking place at Stover School tomorrow. We have two girls – Katie Harris and Sophie Barker – running in the Year 7 Girls' race, Betsy Board (Upper 4) will represent us in the Junior Girls section and Amelia Moody (Lower 5) in the Intermediate Girls. To have qualified through to these Championships via the previous two rounds is such an achievement and we wish you all well!

Next Tuesday we look forward to our Spring Showcase Music Concert taking place in the Main School Hall at 5pm. As ever, we would love to see as many parents and supporters there as possible as it sure to be a real treat with numerous soloists lined up to perform!

And on Wednesday, we will be welcoming back our 11+ and 13+ scholarship candidates for their final interviews and auditions. These will be followed by the Sixth Form academic scholarship interviews on Thursday and Friday – so a busy week ahead beckons!

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress