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# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

27 January 2017

Once again, we have enjoyed a typically varied week here at school with so many things going on to report back to you about! One of the highlights for me was shadowing Mrs Cook in the Pre-Prep where I enjoyed an excellent phonics lesson and learned about puppets. I've also had interesting talks with the Year 6 girls over lunch, discussing their various weekend activities including the National Children's Orchestra and ski trips.

On Tuesday, I was completely blown away by the quality of the internal Sixth Form Academic Scholarship presentations. All the girls showed remarkable knowledge, coupled with enormous confidence and articulation to express their interests. Topics were varied and intelligent ranging from astrophysics, robotic surgery, patriotism and nanotechnology which made for a truly interesting time! Well done, all of you!

Now on to what has happened during the week in more detail!

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## Upper 5 enjoy a fabulous trip to London

In order to provide some respite for the Upper 5 girls after their mock exams earlier this term, we organised a fun-filled trip for them to London. It was somewhat of a whistle stop overnight stay, with a packed itinerary taking in Harrods, Covent Garden, a tour of The Globe Theatre, the Imperial War Museum and a workshop at the Queen's Theatre followed by a performance of Les Miserables! The girls were all brilliant company and the trip turned out to be the perfect tonic after such a gruelling start to the year!

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## Running glory for Amelia Moody

Enormous congratulations to all those that had qualified for, and then ran so brilliantly at, last weekend's Devon Schools Cross Country Championships held at Stover School. Particular mention goes to Amelia Moody (Lower 5) who was superb, finishing in second place in the Intermediate Girls' race and only being beaten by the reigning National Champion who, incidentally, is in training for the Commonwealth Games! A more modest person it would be hard to find but, wow, what a talent Amelia is! I look forward to hearing how she gets on at the South West Finals in Truro next month and wish her all the best of luck!



### Second team qualifies for Hickstead



We have had another nice write-up in today's Western Morning News about our equestrian team winning so well at Bicton last Sunday. Tatiana Wharton (Lower 5), Grace Williams (Lower 6), Kitty Guinness (Upper 4) and Ana Hepburn (Upper 4) are now our second team to qualify for the National NSEA Eventer's Challenge Championships to be held at Hickstead in the summer. As the reigning champions, it is a wonderful luxury to double our effort with two very talented teams to defend the title!



### Brilliant Spring Showcase Concert

Tuesday's concert was as brilliant as ever and all 20 girls performed beautifully with a stunning variety of musical genres.

It is always lovely to hear such talent from the younger girls in the school right up to the GCSE musicians.

Thank you for a wonderful evening!

### Upper 4s exercise their language skills

Our entire Upper 4 year group took part in the inaugural House Languages Olympiad on Thursday held in the gym, a fitting venue given that Gymnasium comes from ancient Greek and means an educational and sporting institution! Girls practised their language skills in French, German, Spanish and Latin in an action-packed morning of fast paced and fun activities, including basketball hoops and a penalty shootout.

House points were awarded for both speaking skills and physical prowess with Merchants emerging as the overall winners! Congratulations to all the girls who took part so competitively and in such good spirit and thank you to Mrs Halse whose idea it was to take languages out of the classroom!



### Dartmoor on a frosty winter's day!

Our A-level Geographers enjoyed a very chilly morning at the East Devon National Nature Reserve on Thursday to learn more about the conservation of the upland deciduous woodland! They had an interesting time exploring how the area (the oldest reserve in the UK) has been managed to create ecological niches for migratory birds and animals such as dormice. It was a most educational trip that provided a real insight into how challenging environmental conservation projects are and, without doubt, they will be able to apply this case study in their forthcoming exams.

### Meanwhile in the Junior School ....

The Year 4 girls had a brilliant time last week, learning all about the oceans and how our modern world is so damaging to them. The Devon Wildlife Trust delivered an excellent lecture on how our sea-life is being affected and I am quite sure the girls will take a lot away from the session!

Likewise, what may have seemed a rather over-ambitious project at its concept when Mrs Fry first voiced the idea of making a dragon in class, has turned into a piece of absolute beauty! The Year 4s have made a marvellous job with this exquisitely crafted work of art and I can honestly say it is, quite simply, one of the best pieces I have ever seen created by an entire class. A great group effort!



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### And in the Pre-Prep!

The girls have been enjoying such fun during their PE sessions with Mrs Fabian and earlier this week played a “matching pairs” game in the gym! Working in teams, they had to retrieve matching objects scattered all around, quite a work out and one that is designed to test their memories as well as their observation and coordination skills!

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### Marvellous music news

Following all day in rehearsals last Saturday, Dodie Bowman (Upper 5) and Lucy Harris-Deans (Lower 6) enjoyed a rapturous performance at the Cathedral as members of the Orchestra of the Swan. This was a special memorial concert for John Adie, the founder of the Two Moors Festival, and the girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being part of a full orchestra.

Congratulations to Molly Batchelor (Lower 6) who earlier this week received some fantastic news and in record time; on Sunday she auditioned for the National Children’s Choir of Great Britain and by Monday morning we learned that she had already been accepted. She must have been impressive! Well done!

In what has been another most successful week in the Maynard music world, Bibi Redford in Year 4 has been celebrating a pass – with distinction – in her Grade 4 piano exam. Great news and thoroughly deserved so congratulations to Bibi, too!

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### Tickets on sale for Beauty and the Beast

Tickets are now on sale for our exciting school production of Beauty and the Beast, taking place in the Cygnet Theatre from 1-3 March 2017. I should warn you ‘though that they are likely to sell out quickly so do book early on [www.cygnettheatre.co.uk](http://www.cygnettheatre.co.uk) – tickets cost £8 for an adult and £6 for a child.

Over 50 girls from the Upper 4 right through to, and including, the Sixth Form are involved in some capacity with this production and I know they are all working incredibly hard in rehearsals, even at weekends. Without doubt, it's going to be a great spectacle and we are all very much looking forward to it!

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### Sporting successes



Jess and Ellie Ramsay (Upper and Lower 6 respectively) had a most successful weekend when they represented Isca in the U18 National Indoor Hockey Finals in Croydon. The team played brilliantly to be championship runners-up which is an excellent result given they were playing the best teams in the country!

Meanwhile, Poppy Taylor (Year 5) and Harleigh Fry (Year 5) are enjoying their share of success having both been invited by the Honiton Gymnastics club to join their 'Potential' group. This is a feeder group for their Elite squads and requires a huge amount of commitment and training (11 hours per week). Both are working very hard for their upcoming club competition in half term, the South West Prelims in March and the South West Championships in July and we wish them the very best of luck!

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### Masterclass with the 'rock star' of the flute world!

Earlier this morning we welcomed Ian Clarke, the world famous flute player and composer, for a fantastic masterclass with all our flautists (and one from a local primary school)! Ian worked with the girls on all kinds of different techniques and gave them some helpful methods of practice and interesting tips. The corridors were positively reverberating with beautiful tunes and our thanks to Ian for such an inspirational session!



### In this morning's post!

We had a lovely surprise this morning when we opened the post and found out The Maynard has won the Best YouTube Performance (Independent School Category) and the Social Media Performance of the Year (Independent School Category) in the Edurank Awards 2017.

These awards recognise and celebrate the success of social media marketing within the education sector and are a real accolade for our hard working Marketing Department. The trophies are now proudly being displayed in Reception so do look out for them!

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### Date for your diaries

On Saturday 25 March 2017 we will be hosting another Alicia Drummond: Parenting Teenagers workshop and would like to invite all Senior School parents. This workshop was hugely successful last year with parents benefitting from a range of very practical tips on how to manage this exciting but sometimes challenging developmental stage. Scientists now reckon adolescence can begin at age 7 and last through to 25 so, as Alicia says, “it is a long time not to get your parenting right”.

There are only 22 places available so please do register promptly on [janethomas@maynard.co.uk](mailto:janethomas@maynard.co.uk). The cost is £55 each and includes a sandwich lunch.

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### And finally ...

May I wish our U19 and U14 netball teams the best of luck for tomorrow’s Regional Finals in the National Schools Competition. Both will be representing Devon and will making a crack of dawn start for the tournament which is being held at Marlborough College. Good luck, girls!

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress