
THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

10 February 2017



As we shut the door on this first half of term, I thought you might be interested to hear that it was the staff's turn to be in the learning environment last night when they all went down to the Apple store in Princesshay for an evening of training. It was great fun to see the Maths and Science Departments having robot races; the English and Drama teachers were concocting cartoon plays and scripts based on literature and creative writing ideas. Dr. Henderson seemed to get particularly excited about an acceleration graph and was last seen jumping up and down with an iPad in his hand to see how much velocity he could generate!

On Monday, we welcomed the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary into the Upper 5 - Upper 6 assembly to kick-start Internet Safety Week which the girls have taken very seriously. All were urged to review their privacy settings and, after half term, the Sixth Form will be also be helping all the girls from Upper 4 through to Upper 5 to ensure that their safety online is as good as it could be.



My thoughts last weekend were with our very dedicated Ten Tors teams! I received a photograph at 6pm on Saturday of tents covered in snow and a virtual blizzard - truly a lesson in grit and perseverance! I was so glad to know that they were at a bunkhouse and could be brought in to the warmth of an open fire overnight, rather than being exposed to the elements!

I wish all the historians going on the Berlin trip well as they depart at lunchtime today - it looks like an exciting itinerary and I very much look forward to hearing all about it on their return.

In the meantime, I wish everybody a happy half term and I hope you enjoy the break! Now onto the news from the week!

**** BREAKING NEWS ****

Professional volunteers wanted for our pioneering careers seminars by Sykpe

I am really excited to announce the development of a new initiative for a weekly series of careers seminars by Skype which Rachael Board is spearheading (rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk). The concept is to seek volunteers from a wealth of professions to run 20-30 minute Skype sessions during timetable breaks for any interested parties in Upper 4 and above. Please do contact Rachael if you think you would like to be involved in this as it will hugely benefit our students and open their eyes to a world of different career options. All volunteers will be sent a set of questions in advance to base their talk upon before the session is opened up to a Q&A with the attendees.

As I say, I am thrilled to be launching such a sustainable initiative within our school community that, given it will only take 30 minutes, we hope our parents, friends and alumnae will support (and my thanks in advance to all those that do come forward!). The plan is to build a diverse programme focusing upon a different profession each week to which our students can sign up to in advance. If all goes to plan, this will be a very smart way for our school community to explore different professional avenues without taking up too much of any one person's time. This is a hugely pioneering initiative that I'm not sure any other school is offering to its students right now so I would love for it to grow and flourish!

Amazing Amelia is nationalist finalist

Enormous congratulations to Amelia Moody (Lower 5) who performed amazingly to finish sixth at her first ever South West Schools' Cross Country Championships in Truro last Saturday.

It was only recently that her enormous talent was unearthed and, without any form of professional coaching, throughout all the qualification runs Amelia has consistently beaten trained club runners with much more experience.

"I felt very nervous on Saturday as the course looked so windy and complex and I knew it would decide whether or not I would go to the Nationals. I live and run on Dartmoor so I'm used to mud, but the mud on Saturday was extra slippery," she said.

"I had been running most evenings after school and it is a bit scary at times as I don't really like the dark so I am looking forward to the lighter evenings! I am very honoured to be going to the Nationals and, for the next five weeks, I'm going to ensure that I put lots of effort in so that I get the best out of the experience."

In coming sixth out of the best 61 runners to have qualified throughout Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Avon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, Amelia has automatically secured her place at the Essa National Championships in Norwich next month.





Performance of the Month

Our other sporting superstars of the moment, the U14 Netball team, were awarded Performance of the Month at yesterday's assembly to rapturous applause. They are not only the Devon County Champions but last month they also qualified for the National Schools Netball finals after a particularly competitive Regional tournament at Marlborough College.

The team will travel to Welwyn Garden City on 18 March for the finals and have every capability to return as the National Champions! Fingers crossed!

Exciting Garden of Reflection enhancements

Works to enhance the Garden of Reflection have started in earnest and our Estates team is making good progress to beautify this lovely, tranquil site. We are planning to create a flower stream as the water simply doesn't flow, and hasn't, for years! To this end, we would be very grateful for any donations of bedding plants, bulbs or wild flower seeds and if you do have anything lurking around, we would be only too pleased to give them a good home!



Keeping on the same theme, living where we do, I am sure we have no end of green-fingered people amongst our parent body and I just wondered whether it might be possible to set up a working group to keep the Garden of Reflection looking beautiful. This really won't involve any heavy work and will be more a question of pruning and planting. Are there any experts out there who could spare a few hours to help inject year-round colour and attract the insect world for our students to study?

If you think you can help us with this, we would be so grateful and ask that you contact janethomas@maynard.co.uk who will talk you through what we have in mind. My thanks in advance to you all!

Shweta's short story success

Congratulations to Shweta Banerjee (Upper 4) who found out earlier this week that she won her category for the writing competition organised by the Friends of St Thomas Library. This is a tremendous achievement and we look forward to having sight of her winning piece. In the meantime, a very well done indeed!

Equestrian success ... again

Once again, our equestrian team has stamped its dominance with another superb victory at Bicton on Sunday to become the Devon County Champions. Competing in the Novice Section of the NSEA Inter-Schools Show Jumping qualifiers, the team of Bella Brent, Emma Murphy, Kitty Guinness and Anya Hitt outclassed the competition as the only four-member team to all finish on clear rounds.



Although undeniably the best school team in Devon with numerous arena and one day event successes at 80cm, we are also certainly holding our own at higher levels of competition. In the 90cm class, the newly-formed team comprising Jemima and Millie Dart and Bella Brent all jumped steady but safe clears to finish third overall, with another Maynard team breathing hotly down their necks in fourth place.

My congratulations to them all!

Gigi Hetherington to perform at the Royal College of Music

Congratulations to the very talented Gigi Hetherington (Upper 5) whose wind quartet has been selected to perform at the Royal College of Music on Saturday 25 February. Following auditions, this was the only ensemble chosen to take part in the prestigious Junior Department Chamber Music Concert and I wish Gigi and her fellows the best of luck. Tickets are £5 if you happen to be in London and are available through the College's website (www.rcm.ac.uk) - I am sure it will be a brilliant show!



Desiree Hoffman returns home

We bade a sad farewell to Desiree Hoffman (Lower 5) yesterday as she heads back to her home and family in Switzerland. We have very much enjoyed having her here at school for the last half term and we wish her the very best of luck for her future endeavours! As ever, Desiree, our doors are always open and we would welcome you back at any time. Have fun!

Spaces for 'Let's Talk Teens' Workshop filling up fast

Spaces for our second 'Let's Talk Teens' workshop, back by popular demand on Saturday 25 March, are already filling up so do book your place quickly to avoid disappointment.

At five hours long (including lunch), this is a comprehensive workshop designed to enhance the skills and confidence that parents need to unravel the complexities of our teenagers, improve family life and prepare them for adulthood.

The workshop covers:-

- how teenager's emotional, physical and cognitive developmental needs drive behaviour
- how our role as parents needs to change as they change
- how to open and maintain lines of communication
- how to reduce conflict
- how to set boundaries (and what to do when they are broken)
- how to motivate teens to do what they need to do with a minimum of resistance
- how to build self-confidence
- plus guidelines on social networking, gaming, pornography, relationships, peer pressure, drugs and alcohol

Feedback on these workshops is very positive with parents describing it as "enlightening, practical, proactive, helpful, thought provoking and surprisingly humorous".

If you would like to see what others have thought, and to book a place please view Alicia's website: <http://www.lets-talk.uk.com/bookings>

Beauty and the Beast - Friday night already sold out!

Tickets have sold like hot cakes for the upcoming School performance of Beauty and the Beast at the Cygnet Theatre (1-3 March 2017) with Friday night already a sell out!

However, there is still some availability for Wednesday and Thursday nights, although these will be in strong demand! Tickets cost £8 for an adult and £6 for a child and can be purchased through www.cygnettheatre.co.uk



Have a wonderful half term!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday 24 February, 7.30pm - MPA Quiz Night
For more info email MPA@maynard.co.uk

Saturday 25 February, 9.30am - 11.30am - Discovery Morning, for all girls aged 3-11.
For more info or to register visit www.maynard.co.uk/discovery

Monday 27 February, 9am - 11.30am - Forest School Programme for pre-schoolers starts. Limited places still available for 3 and 4 year olds.
To register visit www.maynard.co.uk/forest-school
