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# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

24 February 2017

Welcome back to you all after half term and I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful break. I gather many of you took to the slopes for some skiing whilst others found some winter sun. It's good to have everyone back and all in one piece!

As ever, we are full steam ahead again and we have already had a very busy week. One exciting development was an unexpected call from BBC Worldwide on Monday afternoon, urgently requesting an interview with Mrs Burt, our Head of Computing and ICT expert. This was all in relation to a story they are featuring about a new film school (based around social media posts) opening in Exeter. With only a moment's notice, it is no wonder that poor Mrs Burt was caught slightly unawares, her main concern being that she hadn't had time to plan her wardrobe, but she pulled off an excellent impromptu interview all the same! We believe that this will be aired on Monday 27 February so do keep your eyes open for this fantastic moment of fame!



Meanwhile, we are coming to the end of our most busy period for our recruitment. It is particularly pleasing to see that we have more than doubled our visits to the school in 2016/17 and our registration figures are really up on previous years. The future is looking very bright!

I had a very thought-provoking visit to the WESC Foundation (The Specialist Centre for Visual Impairment) earlier this week and enjoyed a good chat with the Principal there and her Deputy Head. The variety of provision, the dedicated care and the inspirational stories of young people conquering adversity (in one case gaining a place at Cambridge University) made this a really worthwhile experience. I hope to be able to partner with WESC in the future with some volunteering and work experience with our girls.

Finally, we had a termly Governor's meeting yesterday which was extremely positive and it was lovely to see all the governors thanking the staff for their hard work in making the School so buoyant - and they all recognised it as having "a real buzz about the place"!

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## Hugely successful trip to Berlin

Our Sixth Form History students enjoyed a fantastic trip to Berlin over the half term holidays, with everyone promising to return again soon, such was its success! Berlin is steeped in history - from the reign of the Kaisers to the devastation of the Second World War and the drawn out conflict of the Cold War - so is a perfect destination for our keen historians who spent three full days exploring all it has to offer.

Highlights of the visit included; a tour of the modern city, seeking out many of the clues that remain of Hitler's Third Reich; a visit to the beautiful holiday retreat of Potsdam, where the future of Germany and the post-war world were decided by the Allies; a trip deep below the streets of Berlin to explore a nuclear bunker and experience a little of the fear and claustrophobia of living through a nuclear attack.

The girls also had the opportunity to visit Sachsenhausen Camp, a concentration camp on the outskirts of the city - an extraordinarily thought-provoking experience. On a much brighter note, they also spent some time at the East Side Gallery, the iconic outside murals (pictured) painted on the Berlin Wall after the end of the Cold War.

As well as providing the opportunity to visit so many historical sites, there was also time to soak up the atmosphere of this pivotal European capital and enjoy some of the culture that manages to combine so much history with an exciting sense of modernity.



### Youth Regional Music Festival

May I wish The Maynard Trio, aka our senior chamber ensemble, the best of luck in the Music For Youth Regional Festival in Truro later today. Robyn Bowman (Upper 6), Gigi Hetherington (Upper 5) and Alexandra Pavic (Upper 5) are some of our most fantastic musicians and I know they are keen to be selected for the next Festival taking place in Birmingham. No doubt they will perform beautifully, as ever, and I really look forward to hearing how they get on!



### Team Sports news

Firstly, congratulations to Natalie Charity, Grace Oldfield and Sophie Barker (all in Upper 3) who have been selected for the U12 South West Regional Development Squad for Basketball. They have been training regularly with the squad, and have a tournament coming up on 4 March 2017 from which a team will be selected to travel to France to represent the South West.

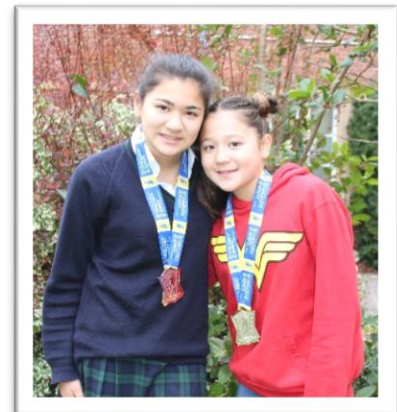
I must also mention some fabulous Netball performances this week with the U12A&B, U13A&B and U14 A, B and C all playing against Exeter School.

Both U12 teams were victorious, all the U14 teams won and the U13A girls had a really tight game but ended up losing by one infuriating goal 17-16. Likewise, the U13B team also put up a very good performance but sadly lost 19-10 on this occasion.



### Incredible individual achievements

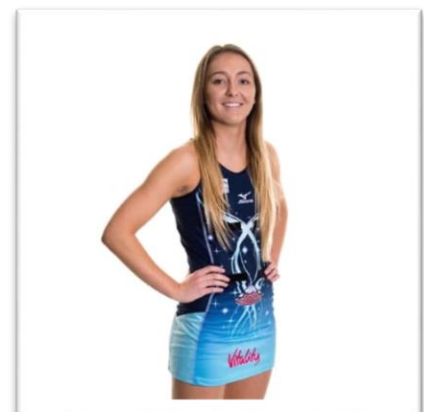
The amazing Charity sisters are at it again! As the current Silver (Natalie - Upper 3) and Bronze (Nicky - Upper 4) medallists at the European Jiu Jitsu Championships they are certainly some of our most decorated sportswomen at school. On 5 March, Nicky (who is also a part of the Junior Team GB squad and trains regularly in Birmingham) will also be competing in the National Championships. I know she is training very hard for this and improving her fitness in readiness so we wish her the very best of luck!



Likewise, huge congratulations to Ellie Ramsay who has been selected as part of the U19 Severn Stars NPL (National Performance League) Netball long squad. She is one of only 18 girls selected, and the sole representative this side of Gloucestershire, which just goes to show what an amazing achievement this is!

I also received a call this week from a mother of one of our alumna, Yasmin Hodge England, who left in 2012.

Yasmin is pursuing a very successful career on the netball court and, since summer 2016, she has also been playing for the Severn Stars Netball Superleague whilst reading Sport & PE at Cardiff Metropolitan University. Although losing her first game against Surrey, she looks to have a great career ahead of her and we wish her well for all that the future holds.





## Record numbers for tomorrow's Discovery Morning

The Pre-Prep and Junior School are busily putting the final touches in place for tomorrow's rainforest-themed Discovery Morning. A massive total of seventy-six children (and numbers are still rising), most of them with no connection to the School, are signed up for the various activities that include cookery, yoga, sessions with Devon Wildlife Trust and coding. These mornings are an excellent way of parading our wonderful staff and facilities at The Maynard and, in the past, have resulted in a number of parents registering their daughters to attend the school.



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## Preparations for Beauty and the Beast hot up!

I am hugely excited at the prospect of witnessing my first large school production when Beauty and the Beast finally hits the stage at the Cygnet Theatre from Wednesday to Friday next week. Mrs Bellamy Cooper, along with her team, have worked tirelessly to ensure a polished performance as, indeed, have all the girls. This Sunday, they will all be putting in that extra mile with a dress rehearsal at the Theatre and I thank them all for their enthusiasm and dedication. I have no doubt that it will be a wonderful show and if you haven't already done so, I would urge you to purchase your tickets soon ([www.cygnettheatre.co.uk](http://www.cygnettheatre.co.uk)) to avoid last-minute disappointment.

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## Forest School steps into Life



Meanwhile, our Estates team have worked wonders on the Forest School and we are all ready for the grand opening tomorrow at Discovery Morning, when our little visitors will be entrusted with planting out the first seeds, bulbs and bedding plants! The first of our five-week courses for Pre-School children starts on Monday and we look forward to welcoming all the little ones who, I am sure, will have great fun lighting fires and learning about nature under the watchful eye of Mrs Cook.

We also look forward to using this area for lots of outdoor learning next term with the Junior and Pre-Prep girls as, in The Maynard mind, learning need not always happen at a desk!

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## 'Parenting Teenagers' workshop

I know a few of the members of staff here are very much looking forward to receiving some expert guidance from Alicia Drummond on how to cope with that sometimes difficult transition of their children as they venture into their teenage years. Alicia is holding a workshop here at school on Saturday 25 March which has, in the past, proved invaluable to numerous parents. The five-hour session (including

lunch) provides an insight into the chemical make-up of a teenager to explain their behaviour and gives positive guidance to parents on how best to support and encourage your child at this sometimes tempestuous time!

There are some tickets still available at £55 each and if you, like some people I know, are beginning to tear out your hair, I can only say that these workshops come with huge recommendation! To book your place, please go to <http://www.lets-talk.uk.com/Bookings.aspx>.

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### Exeter Living Awards – finalists!

I am delighted to say that we have, yet again, been shortlisted for the Exeter Living awards in the 'Education' category. These awards have only been running since last year and we are the only school in the area to have been shortlisted both times which just goes to show how highly The Maynard is regarded by the outside world! The award ceremony takes place on 6 April and we keep everything crossed that we can go one stage better and win it this time around!



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And finally ....

### Still seeking professional volunteers for our pioneering careers seminars

This is a call to all our wonderful parents and, in particular, those professionals willing to share details of their career path with our student body. As I wrote in the last newsletter, we are launching a pioneering weekly careers programme via Skype and need willing volunteers to sign up to our 30-minute sessions, designed to inform our students about a variety of professions.

By doing this via Skype during a lunchtime, it will negate any need for travel and won't take up too much of any one person's time. We will be streaming through a huge screen so, to all intents and purposes, it should almost feel to the audience as though you are actually in the room.

These sessions could well prove pivotal in choosing a career or, indeed, subject choices at A-level and university and we would urge you to, please, help us in making this a success.

If you would like to share your experiences, please do contact Rachael Board ([rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk](mailto:rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk)) who will be creating a varied programme for all girls in the Upper 4 – Upper 6 to sign up to, as they wish. Rachael will also be very happy to discuss with you the format for these sessions and fill you in on the finite details.

My thanks also to those that have already proffered their services – we really are truly grateful.



Have a lovely weekend!

Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

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](http://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](http://www.maynard.co.uk/forest-school)

Wednesday 1 - Friday 3 March, evening performances from 7pm - School Production, Beauty and the Beast, at the Cygnet Theatre, Exeter. Some ticket availability on Wednesday and Thursday. To book visit [www.cygnettheatre.co.uk](http://www.cygnettheatre.co.uk)

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