

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

3 February 2017

Sadly, the weather seems to have deteriorated this week and all those lovely, crispy mornings have become a thing of the past. However, it takes much more than this to dampen our spirits here at The Maynard!

We are wonderfully proud of our Under 14 and Under 19 Netball teams who qualified to represent Devon at the Regional National Schools finals last Saturday. The Under 14s were just brilliant, beating schools such as Millfield and Cheltenham Ladies College to make it through to the National Finals on 18 March in Welwyn Garden City. Their performance puts them as one of the top two teams in the whole of the South West (spanning seven counties – Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Avon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire). Likewise, the Under 19s also played very well but weren't quite able to make it to the final stage. However, it is safe to say that, for a relatively small school, we really do punch well above our weight!



I have spent some time over the past few months wandering around our lovely site and we really do have the best of both worlds. We are within a few minutes' walk of the City Centre where we can enjoy museums, concert halls, theatres, art exhibitions, cafés and great shops! But, at the same time, we have a very charming campus with plenty of green spaces for the children to enjoy. To that end, I have started a few make-overs, beginning with the Garden of Reflection where we are mending the bridge, tidying up the pond, re-fencing, trimming the apple trees, reorganising the seating arrangements and will soon be involving the students with planting some pretty perennials.



As the weather warms up at Easter, I am hoping to see all of our seniors sitting in the sunshine, relaxing and enjoying nature! Mrs Cook and I are very excited about the prospect of offering more outdoor learning opportunities for the Junior School and Pre-Prep Department. We are currently designing a curriculum for a Forest School which will allow our 4-6 year olds the opportunity to go out into the open spaces and learn much more about the flora and fauna, how to make fire pits, create leafy trails and even roast marshmallows! Likewise, we look forward to using

the garden as an outdoor classroom for the Junior School students just as soon as the weather allows us!

At this stage, I would like to thank our wonderful MPA who have been so generous in offering to help us to buy some equipment for the Forest School, in addition to the football goals that are used by our Senior girls in their most popular sessions with Mr Loosemore and Mr Hibberd. They have also helped financially with the high-vis bibs for the newly formed Running Club on Mondays as well as with training courses for our outdoor education volunteers. I really can't thank them enough for their generosity and support with all these exciting projects - it's absolutely invaluable!

Another highlight of this week was going to see the Year 4 classroom that they have been decorating in celebration of the Chinese New Year. I have to say that their enormous dragon that runs the full length of the room is absolutely spectacular! So much so that when they decide to change their display next term, I am going to have to steal it and put it up somewhere else in the School as a permanent feature.



I have also had the privilege of going into lessons to observe the ongoing teaching this week. As always, it is an uplifting experience to watch carefully planned lessons being executed with passion, thoughtfulness, and enlightening creativity. I think the teachers would also be the first to admit that they are privileged to be teaching such engaged young people who clearly have a love of learning. It is just great to witness enthusiastic hands shooting up at frequent intervals to ask insightful questions that clarify a point or expand a theory. To a teacher, such a classroom ethos is pure joy!

On to the week's news ...

Hebe Stone takes to the musical stage

Hebe Stone (Lower 4) has enjoyed her fair share of success recently, not least for her starring role with the Under 14 netball team at the Regional Finals, where she stepped up to play so well despite being that much younger.

Her talents aren't just limited to her obvious sporting prowess, however, and in recent music festivals she has also fared particularly well. At Saltash, she won the Grade 6/7 Solo Woodwind Class as well as the 12 years and under section of the Woodwind Recital Class (with Distinction).

She then followed this up with a very respectable second place at the Taunton Music Festival in the 12 years and under section of the Woodwind Solo Class. My congratulations to her for all these many achievements!





No Small feat!

Well done to Connie Small (Upper 3) who rode her pony Rusty into the ribbons at a show jumping competition at The Grange last weekend.

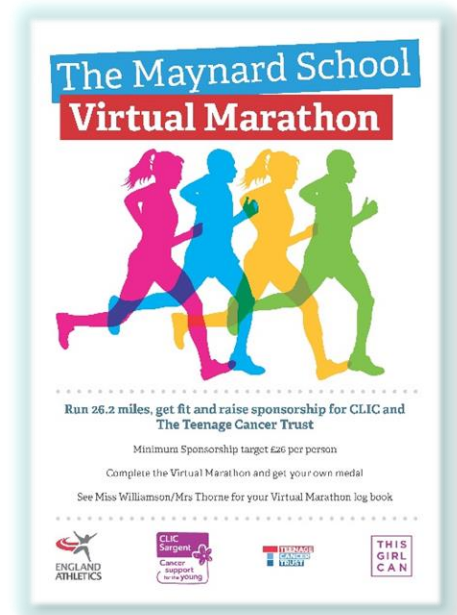
After two rounds over smaller heights, she saved the best to last to finish third in the 80cm class.

This is terrific, Connie, and a great start to the season!

The Maynard Virtual Marathon

Following a huge take up for this inspired fundraising initiative by Mrs Thorne and Miss Williamson, I am delighted to announce that two girls have already completed the challenge. Amelia Moody (Lower 5) and Betsy Board (Upper 4) have already accumulated well over the 26.2 miles required whilst both securing in excess of £40 sponsorship to go towards CLIC Sargent and the Teenage Cancer Trust.

More than 50 girls, staff and parents are doing this marathon and I know log books are filling up with miles achieved. I am also committed, and whilst my mileage is somewhat more incremental than others, I am still on target to have completed by the end of the month! If anyone else feels inspired to 'run' and raise money for such worthy charities, do please email Miss Williamson for a sponsorship form and log book (katewilliamson@maynard.co.uk).



Harry Potter Day



We all had great fun celebrating Harry Potter Day on Thursday with over 20 different activities happening throughout the day.

The girls in the Junior School looked amazing in their fancy dress and my thanks to all those members of staff who also looked 'wizard!' From quizzes to photo

booths, anagrams, word searches and colouring sheets – this really was a great day.

My congratulations to Aelfleda Bishop, Sophie Gallaher and Alice Player (all in Lower 4) who won the very cryptic Senior Scavenger Hunt by a huge margin!



Sporting news



Earlier this week our Under 12 Basketball girls played their first ever full court fixture against Uffculme School, showing exciting potential to win the match 41-16 which is truly brilliant! They will take on the National Schools Competition as their next target and look to be very real talents for the future.

Meanwhile our Upper 5 Sports Leaders are loving their weekly visits to St Leonards Primary School to lead multi sports activities. Following this week's session the Year 3 children thanked them by awarding the girls a chant of "Fantastico" - a whole class acknowledgement for something really great!

The feedback from teachers there has been wonderful to read, with one saying "the children had an amazing time with you yesterday, the Sports Leaders are brilliant at engaging the children. We are very lucky to have you all in!" A huge well done to all our girls for being such wonderful ambassadors!

Archive Club

Our in-house archivists have been busy again and their latest blog can be accessed on:

<http://maynardarchives.blogspot.co.uk/2017/01/cornishs-exeter-by-erin-ellie-and.html>

The research into the history of the school always unravels some fascinating facts from our past and I would strongly recommend reading these blogs. As ever, they are put together with great detail and passion and my thanks to the girls for keeping us so informed about the School's heritage!

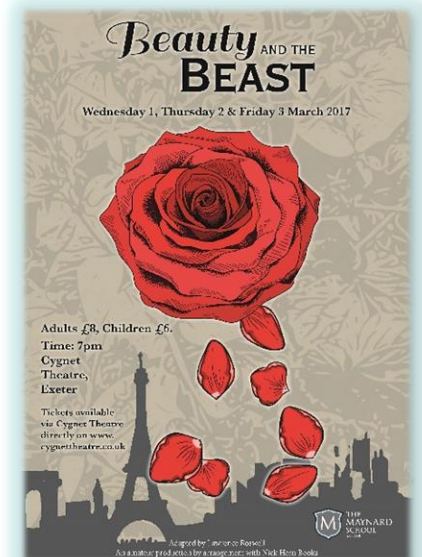
Beauty and the Beast

Tickets for the School performance of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Cygnet Theatre (1-3 March 2017) are selling fast so I would urge you to book now or risk disappointment.

Whilst Friday evening's performance has nearly sold out already (just a few tickets remaining) there is currently more availability for Wednesday and Thursday although I will advise that these, too, 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

I know rehearsals for the show are going well and, in true Maynardian style, it promises to be another wonderful production!



Youth Squash Club in Crediton

The Kirton Youth Squash Club provides an excellent opportunity for a fun, sporting Saturday morning and is looking to recruit new members aged 7 and upwards.

Everyone is welcome, whatever their experience and they will even supply balls and rackets.

Sessions run every Saturday from 10am - 11.30am but for more information, please contact either Sarah (01363 866231) or Clive (07825 701902).

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. The cost is £55 each and includes a sandwich lunch.

And finally

Good luck to Katie Harries and Amelia Moody

May I wish the best of luck to Katie Harries (Upper 3) and Amelia Moody (Lower 5) who are both representing Devon in the South West Schools Cross-Country Championships in Truro tomorrow. They have both done so well, sweeping through their qualification runs to get this far in such a competitive sport. Good luck, girls, and I wait with baited breath to find out how you get on!

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress