

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

24 March 2017

What a night we had at the Spring Concert yesterday! The breadth and depth of talent left me reeling. Over 80 girls took part from Year 6 to Upper Sixth and a packed audience enjoyed everything from the slick timing of the flautists to exuberant song and dance from the younger pupils. There were vocal performances that left a lump in your throat and you just couldn't fail to tap your feet and grin as the fantastic ensembles swung their instruments while sporting their idiosyncratic hats! All great fun! I have to say that there were levels of performance last night that were clearly worthy of a spotlight at the Albert Hall! It all left me more determined than ever to improve the environment in which these amazing young people showcase their remarkable expertise.

The teaching staff have been hard at work again this week with an evening we call the 'Teaching and Learning Cafe'. Each term we spend quite some time sharing pedagogical concepts and good practice in the classroom. It's always fun and very uplifting and we have all come away with some great new ideas to take back to our departments.

So here are the details of another busy week ...



### Something we simply have to share!

We received this lovely email from a parent who attended last night's Spring Concert and I just had to share it with you, in case you thought I was putting a Headmistresses' bias on my introduction to this newsletter:

*"We wanted to say thank you so much for your hard work pulling together such an impressive night of music and musical theatre last night. We were bowled over by the vast array of musicianship and vocal talent, and the whole atmosphere of the evening was yet another example of both the warmth and support of the school community, and the infectious sense of joy and ambition at the Maynard School."*

Thank you to that parent and we are so glad that you evidently enjoyed it just as much as us!

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### Super Saturday sporting results

We capped off an excellent spring sporting season last Saturday with students travelling across the country for two major championship competitions. The under 14 Netball team were competing as the South West representatives in the National Schools Netball Championships at Welwyn Garden City whilst Amelia Moody (Lower 5) was running the biggest race of her career at the National Schools Cross Country Championships in Norwich.



Used to training on Dartmoor mostly in the dark after school, Amelia was hopeful of a hilly track to sap her fellow competitors, so the flat conditions on the day were a huge disappointment. However, she ran a tremendous race to finish 67th out of the 345 competitors in an incredibly close contest with just one second splitting her from three other runners. Her result placed her as the second best runner in Devon and 7th from the entire South West, comprising Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Avon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

Meanwhile, the netball team had drawn the short straw ending up in the most competitive pool that fielded the eventual winner and runners-up of the championships. However, the girls played superbly and were excellent ambassadors for both the school and Devon as a whole, finishing a hugely respectful 11th= nationally from every state and independent school in the country. Not bad for a school of our size!

Our enormous thanks again to Harry's restaurant for sponsoring the team's new kit – by all accounts, the bobble hats especially were a massive hit and admired enviously by everyone at the competition!

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### More gymnastics success for Connie

Many congratulations to Connie Hurrell (Year 5) for another superb week on the gymnastics front! Not only did she find out that she has been selected for the Devon Elite Squad but, last weekend, she travelled to Wiltshire for her first ever National Grades competition where she finished 10th (with a 'Distinction') from a 70 strong competition.

This was particularly impressive given Connie was only 9 years old at the time (she has since had her birthday) and she was competing against other girls up to the age of 13.



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### Good luck to Flo Evans

We wish Flo Evans (Lower 4) the best of luck for the upcoming WAG Junior English Championships (gymnastics) at Loughborough University on Sunday 8 April. For the past six years, Flo has been training as much as 22 hours every week and she is now at a significantly high standard and able to take on these bigger competitions! Good luck, Flo!

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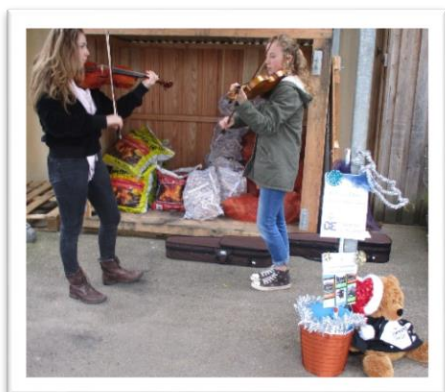
### Sixth Formers take part in Deaf Awareness

Our students in the Sixth Form have been exploring how to communicate with deaf people thanks to a weekly programme throughout March with the Exeter Deaf Academy. The compassion here at school never fails to impress me and these sessions, together with all the other good deeds that our students undertake on a weekly basis, just goes to show the depths of social awareness and care for the wider community that our girls possess.



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### Busy month for the Bowman sisters



As a case in point to the above, our incredibly talented Bowman sisters, Robyn (Upper 6) and Dodie (Upper 5), have spent every weekend this month playing in various charity concerts to raise money for numerous worthy causes. Their dedication to their music should be applauded and that they consistently use it so regularly for charitable nature is really quite something! Well done, girls!

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### Fun Physics team competition

Eight of our Sixth Formers had a great time solving some really tricky problems at the Physics Team Challenge at the Exeter Mathematics School on Wednesday. Although billed as a 'fun' event, they had some savagely difficult questions to answer as well as more practical challenges involving springs and

Lego – by all accounts, it was no easy ride! But with their usual determination, all the girls stepped up to the mark and learned a great deal about the knack of problem solving!

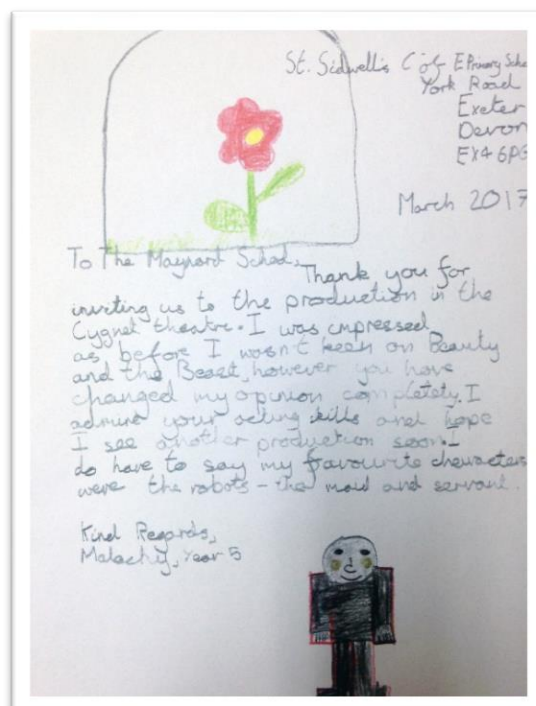
### Farm visit for the Pre-Prep

The girls in the Pre-Prep had a fabulous visit yesterday to West Town Farm in Ide where they thoroughly enjoyed lots of fun activities from feeding the pigs to learning about how to make flour using a hand grinder. One of the highlights of the day, apart from the warming hot chocolate at the end, was watching a new born calf trying to learn to balance on its little legs which they all found particularly endearing!



### St Sidwell's feedback from Beauty and the Beast

It was a wonderful and unexpected surprise to receive so many letters from the St Sidwell's Primary School students thanking us for inviting them to the matinee performance of Beauty and the Beast at the Cygnet Theatre recently. All of the letters were enchanting and it was a wonderfully kind gesture!



### Junior School girls take on the Larkman Cup

Congratulations to the 14 Junior School girls who took part in last Friday's Larkman Cup running race at Blundell's. This is a really tough event with a nasty hill right at the end to really tire them out

but the girls were all very brave and every single one completed which is a magnificent effort. Special mention goes to Year 4 girls, Ava Hepburn who was 5th and Darcey Carroll who finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place from a huge number of competitors. Well done, indeed!

The entire Junior School will be taking part in the swimming gala this afternoon and I wish them all the best of luck! I know there is much excitement building about this event and I look forward to hearing how they all get on!

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### Young Enterprise

In the words of this week's Express and Echo, "These young people are making Devon proud"! Congratulations to our Young Enterprise team who, despite juggling A-level studies, took part in a Trade Fair at the Exeter Guildhall last weekend to sell their personalised Mother's Day gifts under the company name Blue Velvet.



The beautiful scrabble cards were a particular hit with customers and we applaud the girls for their ingenious designs and very slick selling powers! The Young Enterprise programme is a fantastic opportunity to realise their potential beyond education, prepare them for future employment and give the girls a taste of the satisfaction that comes from designing something right through to selling it!



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### Raising money for the upcoming Tanzania trip

Our equally enterprising Lower Sixth students are avidly raising money for their trip to Tanzania in July and last week held their first film night for the Upper 3 and Lower 4 students. This very popular initiative raised £170 which will be used to buy resources for the community projects they will be working on when they get there. I am sure there will be many more fundraising events in the coming months and I thank all those parents in advance for their huge support and generosity.

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### Virtual Marathon money rolls in

Today was the deadline for all sponsorship money to be handed in by those girls who entered the Virtual Marathon. Over £1000 has been received so far and the figure continues to rise which is hugely exciting! The final amount will be split equally between CLIC Sargent and the Teenage Cancer Trust, charities that Miss Williamson and Mrs Thorne are running for in next month's London Marathon. It's not too late, however, to hand in your sponsorship so do please remind your daughters if they haven't quite yet managed to recover all the money!

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### Attention Maynard Mums! Ladies Tennis Coaching

Our brilliant Maynard Tennis Coach, Jon Rycroft, is hosting a fun six-week beginner's tennis course for ladies, starting on Tuesday 25 April. This will be held just five minutes away from school at the Victoria Park Tennis Club in Exeter from 8.40 - 9.40am and has been organised to coincide with the morning school run.



So, if you or a friend fancy a social but sporty session and would like to brush up on your tennis skills do please book in! Places will be limited to eight and the cost for each session is £11 for non-members and £7 for VP Members. There are also some spaces in the intermediate group which will run at the same time.

Please contact Jon directly on 07851 296713 to reserve your place or email [coachrycroft@hotmail.com](mailto:coachrycroft@hotmail.com)

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### Pre-School Princess Party



Our Reception girls are hosting a Princess Party on Thursday 27 April and, having chosen the theme themselves (a unanimous decision), they would like to invite all girls aged 3-6 years old to join them for an afternoon of sparkly activities.

This is a lovely opportunity for visitors to come in and explore The Maynard Pre-Prep, meet our teachers and chat to our pupils. So, if you know of any little ones that love princesses, then please do tell them about this

event (siblings are very welcome too!). It is free of charge and will run from 3pm - 4pm.

For more information, please contact [marketing@maynard.co.uk](mailto:marketing@maynard.co.uk) or register at [www.maynard.co.uk/princessparty](http://www.maynard.co.uk/princessparty)

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### Pre-School Music group

Next term, to replace our Forest School sessions for Pre-Schoolers, we will be running an exciting music group for 2-4 year olds with our new Head of Junior Music, Rachel Smith. This will take place on Monday mornings from 9am - 10am, and activities will include singing, playing instruments, listening to music and action songs.

It would be wonderful if you could please spread the word about both of the above events as I am sure they will be a wonderful way for new families to experience the amazing offering here at The Maynard!

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### Lost property

As we head towards the Easter holidays, could I please ask parents and guardians to check their daughter's uniform as I am receiving reports that some girls have mislaid various items in recent weeks. That's the problem with uniform as it's all too easy to accidentally pick up someone's clothing when it all looks the same! However, most of it is labelled so it would be much appreciated if you could just check through any items when you have a moment. Thank you!

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### Red Nose Day

School has been abuzz today with lots of different Red Nose Day activities but the highlight for me was the cake decorating competition between the staff. I have to confess to being somewhat nervous at the prospect of showing off my culinary design skills and was definitely feeling the pressure yesterday lunchtime in the Food & Nutrition room when a certain few of us gathered for the big 'Cake Off'! The fruits of our labour have today been on display in the Main School Hall and all the girls and staff were invited to vote for their favourite looking cake in return for a small donation to charity.

As I write, the votes are still being counted and I look forward to announcing the winner of this terrifyingly competitive contest next week!



### Alicia Drummond workshops for Lower and Upper 4s

I have just this minute come out of Alicia Drummond's talk to the Lower 4 about friendships and ways of controlling stress which was incredibly insightful and useful for the girls. It was good to see them so engaged and offering up lots of interesting comments and thoughts. I am sure that the parental workshop tomorrow will be equally informative and I hope there is a good uptake.

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In the meantime, may I wish all our lovely mothers a very happy Mother's Day and I hope you are all suitably spoiled!

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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