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# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

3 March 2017

Despite the weather deteriorating this week, it hasn't dampened the Maynardian spirit! We had over 70 youngsters and all their parents through the door last Saturday for our wildly creative, colourful and vibrant Tropical Rainforest Discovery Morning. The Main School Hall was given a complete make-over with all things tropical, from monkeys and crocodiles right through to excessive foliage and even a sparkly waterfall! It was quite a sight to behold when they all left clutching model parrots, sticky marshmallows from the Forest School, jet-propelled model cars and bread octopuses. I think we can be certain that a good time was had by all and my enormous thanks to all the staff for their warm welcome and slick professionalism.



Fantastic offers are now flooding in for all our Upper Sixth students in the UCAS process and it's really pleasing to see the diversity and range of degrees that our girls are applying for. Nurturing a lot of learning across a broad spectrum of subject domains is just another strength of the teaching here at The Maynard!

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## Stunning 'Beauty and the Beast' production



I have to start this week's newsletter with huge praise for all those involved in the absolutely brilliant production of Beauty and the Beast! I was part of the audience at the opening night on Wednesday and have to say that I was completely bowled over by the exceptional talent of all our budding actresses. Everything from the costumes, make-up and choreography right down to the sheer energy



of the on-stage action was simply superb and I await this afternoon's matinee, when I will join Bickleigh, Ide and St Sidwell's primary schoolchildren in the audience, with huge excitement.

Mrs Bellamy Cooper has certainly pulled off a tremendous feat, running the show with two casts, all of whom have shown tremendous on-stage talent. The sheer hard work and enthusiasm that both staff and students have shown over the past few months should never be underestimated and my enormous thanks to all those that have toiled relentlessly all this week to make sure that the rehearsals and final productions have run safely and smoothly.

I know tonight's curtain closer has long sold-out and, to all those lucky enough to have a ticket, I will say this - it is absolutely brilliant and I look forward to seeing you there. Two shows in one afternoon may seem excessive but I certainly don't want to miss the opportunity of supporting both casts in their final performances!

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### Hugely fun MPA Quiz raises £1200

Last Friday night saw the popular MPA Quiz Night swing into action, organised yet again by 'Marie and her Dream Team'. As ever, there was a fantastic turnout with nearly 100 people, and a total of twelve teams, competing for the prestigious MPA Quiz Night Trophy. The atmosphere was great, the competition traditionally fierce, with the fish and chip break offering extra brain food for some, with perhaps the bar not helping others. The eventual winning team was '#Alternate Facts', now the proud owners of the Trophy, but a good time was had by all. The crowning glory was that the event raised £1,200 for MPA funds, with all the money going to the school and, consequently, our girls. My thanks to all who took part and to the MPA for organising such a fun and successful event!



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### Forest School springs into life

We launched our much-anticipated five-week Forest School course for pre-school aged children on Monday and it was wonderful to welcome them and their families to the first session in the drizzle. Damp logs kept Mrs Cook, our trained Forest School leader and Head of Pre-Prep, on her toes but the fire kept burning and all the little ones had a wonderful time planting bulbs, exploring the undergrowth and whittling sticks on which to toast their marshmallows!



I never cease to be amazed by the creativity at The Maynard, and I have to say that I am in awe of the way Mrs Cook can keep coming up with wonderfully arty activities for the children to take part in! I gather that sparkly wand-making, ladybird necklaces and clay patterns will be order of the day next Monday, which I am sure our Forest Schoolers will greatly enjoy.

In the meantime, my thanks to the Estates Team who have worked so tirelessly to ready the garden in preparation for these sessions. The new plants are already beginning to bed in and I look forward to enjoying all the bulbs and seeds once they are in flower later this spring. Much of what has been created could not have happened without the generous donations of all our sponsors, including the MPA, so my grateful thanks to all of them too!

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### Trophy winning performance at the Lego League National Finals

Congratulations to The Maynard Wine Gums team of Miri Cooper Wedge, Bella Brent, Kitty Guinness, Anna Harries and Anya Hitt (all in the Upper 4) who did brilliantly in the National Finals of the Animal Allies FIRST Lego League last Sunday. It was absolutely superb to come home clutching a trophy for their excellent second place in the 'Core Values' category, amidst very stiff competition from all the other schools. As a result, they now have the opportunity to attend either the International Open (Bath) or Open European (Denmark!) championships!

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### Riders on top form again!

Our horse riders continue their winning form, this time in dressage, allowing Hazel McCorrison (Lower 6) to show off exactly why she was shortlisted for the GB Junior squad in this discipline. Although not having owned her horse 'Blue' for very long, they certainly impressed the judges to win an incredibly competitive Novice 24 section to become the Devon Champions and qualify for the National NSEA Dressage Championships at Addington Manor on 9 April.



My congratulations also to Anya Hitt (Upper 4) for an excellent third place in the same class - she really is proving to be an excellent all-rounder, consistently finishing in the ribbons, whatever the discipline!



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### Bella stars again in NYMT production

Budding actress, Bella Attenburrow (Lower 6), will be treading the boards again later this Spring having being cast as Maureen in the National Youth Music Theatre production of Honk! - an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's 'The Ugly Duckling'. It will be a touring production with three performances in total, one at Bury St Edmunds, another in London and one still to be confirmed. My huge congratulations to Bella who I know will work extra hard to make sure she fits in her theatre commitments around her A-level studies!

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### Through to the Regional Finals of Youth Speaks

Our Year 5 'Youth Speaks' team of Marianna Clarkson (Chair), Sasha Hayes (Main Speaker) and Phoenix Wilson (Vote of Thanks) sailed through the District Finals at Exmouth Community College last Saturday. Speaking on the topic of 'Should food and nutrition be a core subject at school?', they finished in the top two teams to secure a place at the Regional Finals in Newquay tomorrow. I wish them lots of luck and I am sure they will continue to perform beautifully!

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### Year 4 enjoy Print Workshop

Our Year 4 students enjoyed a thoroughly constructive morning on Monday when local specialists, Double Elephant Print Workshop, came into School to guide them through the printmaking process. It was a very creative session and, as you can see from the photo, the level of creativity was both diverse and of a very high standard.



### Maynard Virtual Marathon deadline is looming

I just wanted to remind all those who have signed up that the deadline for completion by Senior School girls is Friday 24 March. Can all those who have already finished the 26.2 mile challenge please submit their log books and sponsorship forms either to Miss Williamson or Mrs Thorne - they need to have numbers soon in order to purchase the correct amount of medals to award!

The Junior School deadline is later (as they have smaller legs) and Mrs Fabian will be liaising with the girls to collect in their forms and their sponsorship.

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### Gruelling Stover Cross Country



A huge well done to all our girls who took part in the Stover Prep Schools Cross Country races on Tuesday. Without exception, they all tried their absolute hardest over some really testing courses (with the Under 11 team having to take on the aptly named 'torture field!').

Particular mention goes to Ava Hepburn and Darcey Carroll (both Year 4) who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Under 9 race and to Phoenix Wilson (Year 6) who was 23<sup>rd</sup> out of the 50 runners in the Under 11 race. I would also like to take this opportunity to applaud Rhiannon Cooper (Year 6) for her remarkable sportsmanship in helping a fellow

competitor from another school. On seeing her struggling to complete, and having recognised her from a recent netball match, Rhiannon stopped to comfort her and then ran alongside with her arm around her in order to coax the poor girl over the finish line. What a very kind gesture indeed, and a huge well done to Rhiannon for such enormous empathy - as a result, she has been nominated for Sports Performance of the Month for February, the winner of which I will be announcing in Monday's assembly.



### Netball draws against Plymouth College

Both the Under 11 A&B teams enjoyed fantastic away netball matches at Plymouth College on Wednesday with Mrs Fabian reporting back, “Lots of grit and determination shown by all in both tightly contested games.” Both teams ended up drawing their matches, the As 11-11 and the Bs 6-6. Congratulations to them all and I was glad also to hear that “the singing contest on the bus on the way home was also very tight ....“!

### World Book Day Celebrations

And finally, I must congratulate all the Junior School and Pre-Prep girls on their fantastic outfits they wore to celebrate World Book Day – you all looked fabulous. Well done also to our Senior girls for their very creative door decorations, the winners of which I will be announcing next week.

Throughout the school there were numerous activities to celebrate Book Day – the highlight for many being a visit by local author, Sandra Greaves, who gave a fascinating talk about her book, *The Skull in the Wood*. This is a contemporary ghost story set on Dartmoor, and not for the faint-hearted! Sandra gave two talks, to Upper 3 and Lower 4, and to Years 5 and 6; both sessions were received with rapt attention, and at some points you could have heard a pin drop. We are very grateful to Sandra Greaves and to the authors-in-schools team at Crediton Community Bookshop who arranged the visit.

In keeping with the World Book Day theme, tutor groups will be having great fun over the coming days trying to guess the member of staff based on the title of their autobiography! To give you an idea of some of the entries: ‘A Life of Laughter’, ‘Parallel Parking: A Self Help Guide’ and ‘What I would tell my 14 year old self’!





On which note, may I wish you all a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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P.S. May I ask parents to keep two dates free in their diaries for a couple of new events that you might like to be involved in? The first is on Wednesday 12 July, our last day of the summer term, when we will be holding a big end of year celebration reflecting on the academic year just gone and the many things that the girls have achieved. This will be held in the Belmont Chapel at 10.45am and we really would like to see as many parents from Year 3 - Lower 5 being a part of this very uplifting event. In addition, on 29 June we will also be celebrating all of the Upper Sixth attainments in an assembly at school and, again, it would be great to have as many parents as possible to witness the awards, citations and speeches that will take place. Details of these two events will follow shortly, but I just thought it would be worth getting these dates in your diary now as I know how busy life is!

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