

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

12 May 2017

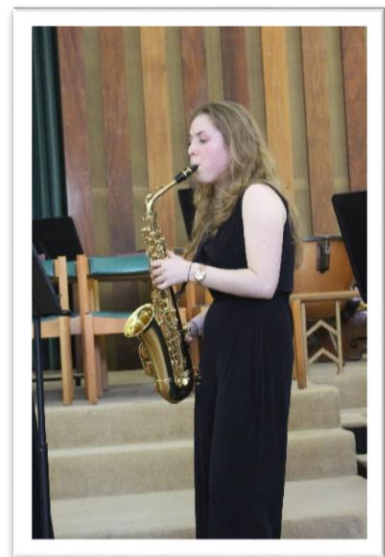


A very exciting event for us all this week has, of course, been the arrival of our newest member of staff, Nula! She is joining the Junior School as the resident dog and has an impeccable pedigree as an ex-working guide dog for the blind. Mrs Fry, who has many years' experience fostering guide dogs, will be her official owner but Nula will be in every day encouraging all sorts of aspects of learning and

further enhancing the wonderful happiness of the classrooms and playground. She is already a massive hit with the girls and I just loved watching a Pre-Prep French lesson where Nula sat with her head on Mrs Fry's feet while the girls worked out "Bonjour ma petite chienne! Je m'appelle ..." with Mrs K. I must say a heartfelt thank you to Mr Eveling (father of Claudia in Year 4) whose law firm, OTB Eveling, has kindly sponsored all of Nula's start up fees to financially enable our new furry friend to join us.

Tuesday was a simply magical evening at the Mint Methodist Church. The quality of the music at the Summer Concert was remarkable and, in my view, worthy of the Albert Hall throughout! There were quite a few tears in the audience (Mums and pupils alike) as five of our Upper 6 leavers gave very moving musical and narrative performances. I cannot begin to tell you just how proud I was of all of the girls and, of course, Miss Blackwell and her wonderful team. Music at The Maynard is certainly something to shout about!

It was great to be able to host the University's Explore Law event on Wednesday evening with 100 students from many schools participating. I hope to be able to host them again next year and promote many more events such as these in the future.



Once again, I have had a round of very positive Governor and Staff strategy meetings this week and very soon will be able to write to you all with some exciting new ventures as we head into the future. The increase in the number of new girls wanting to join us for next year has been



remarkable and we are all set to have a vibrant and busy school for next year with the Sixth Form now at 100 students!

On a less happy note, we say goodbye today to our lovely Julie Slade who has looked after the staff and students so well for over 20 years as a mainstay of the catering staff. Whatever we have required for meetings, events and daily needs in general, all around the school, Julie has been there for us and we will miss her greatly as she heads off into retirement today. Good luck, Julie, and enjoy it!

So, let's give you a more detailed account of last week's activities:

100% success rate in Ten Tors

Huge congratulations to the girls who took part in last week's Ten Tors, all of whom finished smiling and with their sense of humour intact despite the challenge they had endured! We fielded two 35-mile teams (Alyssa Gibbons, Millie Hole, Amelia Moody, Mimi Richards, Rebecca Slade, Martha Strange, Nadia Dalrymple-Hay, Nellie Clark, Helen Du, Isabella Flashman, Anna McArdle and Polly Shaw) and one 45-mile team (Grace Williams, Claudia Beresford, Elena Ramsay, Kendra Kearns, Jasmine Reay and Laurel Watts).

We also had six other girls (Tatiana Wharton, Tigerlily Leetham, Faye Hepburn, Eleanor O'Brien, Elizabeth Bowden, Lara Natusch) individually competing in other teams for the 35-mile challenge. I must also make special mention of Megan Dalrymple-Hay who did incredibly well to finish the 55-mile challenge with her team.

Despite a bitterly cold first night on Friday, the weekend developed into glorious sunshine and the conditions were nigh-on perfect to help the girls on their way. It is quite some achievement that every single one finished within the allotted time and testament to the excellent training they had received in the build-up to the event itself. My thanks to all those staff who helped in this and an almighty well done to the girls themselves!



Magical Gym and Dance Showcase

The Gym and Dance Showcase by the Junior School and Pre-Prep last Friday was an incredible success and it was a complete joy to behold. Where I could wax lyrical about this for quite some time, I am going to hand over the reins to Mrs Fraser, a current parent and member of the audience:

“Wow, wow, wow! We absolutely loved the Gym and Dance Showcase! Everyone is talking about it and all the mums are saying how impressed they were with the show and how much thought and effort had gone into it all. Everyone agrees that Mrs Fabian is a star! So professionally done and so well choreographed...and the joy of it all was that the girls truly loved doing it.

I was so very proud and my mum kept nudging me and saying, “This school is worth every penny of yours, my dear!”...and I totally agree. I am so happy the girls can just be girls and do these lovely things without fear of being ridiculed. My daughter used to cry and fear standing up in assembly at her previous school, but look at her now! She has grown so much in confidence at The Maynard.

Thank you all very much. It was such a pleasure and a privilege to witness such a lovely event.”

What more can I say, except to congratulate all of those who took part or helped make this such a memorable performance, particularly Mrs Fabian who has worked so tirelessly over the past weeks to perfect the programme!



Sixth Formers excel in #Love Physics competition

Congratulations to Fiona Shi (Upper 6) and Ellen Player (Lower 6) for their excellent results in the Exeter and East Devon Ogden Trust #Love Physics Film Makers' Competition.

Fiona achieved 1st place in the Sixth Form category for her 3-minute film about the Big Bang whilst Ellen achieved 3rd place for her presentation on the Physics of standing waves.

Both students produced highly creative films with clear scientific explanations and it is a remarkable achievement to have taken two of the top three places in such a prestigious competition. The Maynard has a history of good form in this competition; last year Fiona won the 'most creative' category, following in the footsteps of Esther Maltby who had triumphed the year previously.



Sizzling Hot Summer Concert



As mentioned in my introduction, the Summer Concert on Tuesday was yet again a stunning mix of exceptional talents across the board. With performances by the School's senior ensembles, to toe tapping along to the sounds of the jazz band and saxophone quartet, the elegance of the Advanced Wind Ensemble right through to the soaring voices of the senior choir and chamber choir - this really was a wonderfully eclectic evening.

Much of the programme featured the chamber orchestra and orchestra who played, as ever, to a very fine standard. The musicians not only performed Rossini's overture 'The Italian Girl in Algiers' but acted as accompanist to several of the Upper Sixth leavers, performing in their last concert.

Kate Middleton compèred, Lucy Byles featured on the clarinet, Millie Dart narrated Dankworth's 'Tom Sawyer's Saturday', Frances Butland sang 'Wishing you were somehow here again' and Robyn Bowman popped up everywhere! Not content with leading the orchestra, jazz band and saxophone quartet she performed the exhilarating Czardas by Monti and the slow movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto in D minor. The mood of celebration and fun was quintessentially captured in the Toy Symphony, when the leavers featured on toy instruments.

It really was a fine evening of celebration and an excellent opportunity to applaud the talents of our musical Upper Sixth before they head off into the next chapter in their lives.

Performance of the Month nominees

I look forward to assembly next week when I will be awarding the Performance of the Month for April. As ever, we have a fine list of nominees and it will be a very hard decision to call, for which I do not envy the PE Department! As ever, we are proud to host so many elite athletes in our midst, many of whom combine gruelling training schedules with all their schoolwork and many other extra-curricular activities. So, very many congratulations to April's shortlist of:

Flo Evans (Lower 4) for her fine performance at the Women's Artistic Gymnastics Junior English Championships at Loughborough University where she competed against the GB Juniors and performed brilliantly across all her apparatus pieces to finish 40th overall.

Harleigh Fry (Year 5) who, with her two other team members, took a fantastic bronze medal at the recent Women's South West Acrobatic Championships, despite competing against much older and, theoretically, more experienced opponents.

Dulcie Fraser (Lower 4) who has successfully trialled for the new Girls Player Development Centre with Exeter City Football Club and will now train with a selected Under 14 squad in an initial 10-week pilot period ahead of the new season in September.

Anna Ramsay (Captain), Harriet Chambers, India Leetham, & Katie Slade (all Upper 4) who, as members of the ISCA Hockey Club Under 14 Team, have qualified for the National Finals taking place at the Olympic Park this weekend. We wish them the very best of luck!

Natalie Charity (Upper 3) who has been selected to represent the South West Under 12 Basketball team for an International tournament to be held in France.

Other Sports News

The Maynard has, once again, fielded a number of teams for numerous sporting fixtures across the county this week and my congratulations to them all:



The Under 11 A&B Rounders teams who played against Exeter Cathedral School on Wednesday. The A team won 10.5-7.5 and the B team scored 14.5-11.5 against a very competitive Cathedral School Under 10 team.



The Under 9 team enjoyed their first Rounders matches against Blundell's yesterday.



The Under 13 A and B Tennis teams had a tough trip to West Buckland in the first round of the Aegon Tennis Championships. Division 1 team lost 0-12 and Division 2 team was very close but lost 6-7 in the end. Despite this, it was a lovely day and there was some great tennis on show.

In addition, 24 girls from the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 teams enjoyed a super first swimming gala against Queen's Taunton and, despite losing in some extremely competitive races, it was wonderful to be fielding such a large team to represent the School.

It is a fantastic testament to how seriously sport and, indeed, health and wellbeing are taken here that so many of our students are taking such an active role either on a competitive or Corinthian level. Swimming is no exception to this rule, and the Tuesday swim club has proven a very popular addition to the summer club menu with masses attending each week!

Devon Satellite Netball Academy

Congratulations to Natalie Charity (Upper 3), Hebe Stone & Annie Grief (both Lower 4) who have all successfully trialled for the 2017/18 Exeter Satellite Netball Academy. Spaces on this elite training programme are always terribly limited and to have been chosen from such a large pool of contestants is truly brilliant. Well done!

Junior School Safari Day

After a gloriously sunny week, rain hasn't stopped play today and the Junior School students are resplendent in their Safari Day costumes! From giraffes to flamingos, jungle trees to zebras everyone has backed this fundraiser for the Sixth Form trip to Tanzania in the summer. As the lunchtime bell tolls, many of those travelling to Africa will be helping to raise additional funds for local Tanzanian communities with an ice cream sale and yet more face painting across the Junior School and Pre-Prep. My thanks to you, as parents and guardians, for all your support as well!



Holocaust Survivor visit



This afternoon we welcome William M. Bergman who has travelled from Bournemouth to share with our older students his first-hand experiences of the Holocaust. In 1938 Mr Bergman, who was born in East Prussia, went into hiding with his mother whilst his grandfather and father were sent to Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany.

It is hugely brave of Mr Bergman to share his story given, only a year ago, it was still all too painful for him to talk about publicly. But he is doing so as he believes it is his duty to pass on to the younger generations the real-life story in an attempt to make sure our future leaders never allow history to repeat itself in this way.

Good luck to the Upper 5s

Today is the last day in School for our Upper 5s and may I take this opportunity to wish them all the very best of luck for their upcoming GCSEs. You have all worked ever so hard and I am sure you will do yourselves proud! Stay calm and stay healthy and, of course, good luck!

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
