

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

5 May 2017



It is my greatest pleasure to announce the new Head Girl Team for next year. The decision as to who these girls should be is done by a very democratic vote involving three years' worth of students and the staff. My warmest congratulations go to Lucy Harris-Deans who will be an exceptional role model as the incoming Head Girl! We have also elected six deputy head girls as next year's Sixth Form will be almost 100-strong and we thought this would be the right size of team to reflect these numbers. So well done to Bella Attenburrow, Fiona Broad, Megan Dalrymple-Hay, Niyosha Mossadegh, Georgia Newstead and Miren Sowden!

I am really looking forward to working with this wonderful team of girls and intend to give them a very high profile around the School with a range of roles to support our aims, objectives and ethos. At this point, can I also say an enormous thank you to the present Head Girl Team who are still in post before the official hand-over. They have been an utter pleasure to work with, great fun and incredibly supportive of everything to do with the school. I am very much looking forward to their legacy ideas and I know that we shall all miss them when they stand down from duty in time to prepare for their final exams. Thank you, girls, you have been stars!



Farewell to the outgoing Head Girl Team!

Over the past couple of weeks I have spent a lot of time with the governing body, the staff and the Senior Leadership Team, shaping our new school development plan for the next few years. Due to everyone's creative thought, vast experience, energy and dynamism, we now have some wonderfully exciting projects on the horizon and, in due course, I will write to parents to explain where the school is going over the next two to three years.

I have been watching the weather with interest over the week because dry conditions will be paramount to our 22 Ten Tors competitors this weekend. Having previously been involved in this event as a youngster, I am already feeling for their feet, knees, hips, backs and shoulders



and I wish them every bit of luck for when they cross the start line at 7am tomorrow! I will, of course, be there to wave them off and I am looking forward to cheering them back in again on Sunday.

I was highly entertained all of last weekend by the Blackwell Blog about the girls' trip to France! It is clear they had a whale of a time and fully immersed themselves in the French culture and cuisine. I must also pay tribute to them as the staff tell me that their behaviour was exemplary and they were all an utter pleasure to be with. If anyone has ever run a trip with children then they would know just how important this sort of thing is, so I thank the girls for, once again, being true Maynardians! I also thank Mrs Smith, Mrs Finnegan and Miss Blackwell for running such a superb trip! But more on this later!



Another exciting announcement is that Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Vingoe have very bravely, and incredibly kindly, agreed to run the next Exeter Art Show @ The Maynard which is an immense undertaking. This will take place on the weekend of 21-22 April next year and the reason for the long lead-in is that this involves a vast number of top artists from across the nation. Over the past decade, the Show really has become a very prestigious event so I thank them both. I would also like to thank the vast team who have stepped in behind them to offer their help and support because this will require many hands to the pump in order to build another successful event.

I am now off to see the Junior School Gym and Dance Showcase, led by Mrs Fabian, and I have to say that, having had a couple of sneak previews over the past couple of week, I am really looking forward to it and shall report back next week to you!

On to the other news...!

Huge numbers to attend our 'Explore Law' event

We have enjoyed a massive response to our inaugural 'Explore Law' careers event next Wednesday 10 May, organised in conjunction with The University of Law. Nearly 130 students from 19 different schools across Devon have signed up to attend and we really looking forward to giving them a very warm Maynard welcome.

Aimed at those currently studying for their GCSEs and A Levels, this free event is designed to provide students with an excellent opportunity to find out what it really takes to obtain a career in the industry. And with nearly 50 of our own students registered we really hope they will come away feeling enlightened and enthused about a possible legal future!



Performance of the Month

Many congratulations to Anna Harries (Upper 4) who was awarded April's Performance of the Month. Anna is an exceptional Basketball player for the County but during the Easter holidays she was selected to represent the South West at 'Eurobasket', an international tournament in Prague. This was an incredible experience playing against competitive sides from across Europe and her team played brilliantly to finish 7th overall, thanks to a huge contribution from Anna!



Mrs Smith's French trip review

My thanks again to Mrs Smith for spearheading such a successful trip and I would like to share with you here her own reflections:

"A trip with 30 keen, kind and caring girls, three French culture loving staff, reasonable weather, a vast array of activities, lots of French food (including snails which were tried by an impressive 26 girls!), the great daily Blackwell blog, shopping time... all this seems to contribute to the perfect recipe for a very successful trip. It proved a lovely opportunity to use the French learnt in class and also to learn more from "real" everyday situations and become more confident with the language. Great memories will remain with everybody!"

This is what the Upper 3 had to say:

"Last weekend, Upper 3 and Lower 4 went to Ebbingham. We stayed in Chateau d'Ebbingham. There, we did many fun things such as crêpe making, a visit to a bread mill, a visit to a goat cheese farm and we decorated chocolate at a chocolate factory. It was such a great experience and we thank Madame Smith, Miss Blackwell and Mrs Finnegan for making the trip enjoyable."

And what the Lower 4 had to say:

"On Friday 28th April, we travelled by Eurotunnel to the north of France, it then took us 45 minutes to get to our Chateau, called Chateau d'Ebbingham. While we were there, we participated in brilliant activities such as French lessons, going to a market... we learnt about French traditions and the way French people did different things. It was great getting to know the U3s and tasting all the yummy food. It was an amazing experience and we would all like to say thank you to Mrs Finnegan, Miss Blackwell and of course Madame Smith!"



Maddy and Harmony at the Nasa SpaceApps hackathon

Two of our students spent last weekend at the Met Office for the Nasa SpaceApps, an international two-day (29-30 April) hackathon that brings together coders, scientists, designers and technologists and anyone else with an interest in all things to do with space.

Maddy Jago (Year 6) and Harmony Bidder (Lower 6) formed a part of the Space Unicorns team who decided to create a geodesic dome based on the Hawaii Hi-Seas centre. Harmony worked through her idea to create furniture using origami folding and Maddy helped her to develop the idea using fabric for a series of prototypes in a range of materials from recycled fish and chip boxes to shot silk and then a spare duvet cover lined with tape, board and unbelievable amounts of hot glue.

Although they didn't win, the team's brilliant approach to finding materials to experiment with, their determination to develop a fully furnished Space Centre rigorously to scale, plus their really impressive team work throughout was felt worthy of a special mention by the Met Office team running the competition. So a huge well done to all of the team but particularly to the two Maynard representatives, Maddy and Harmony!



Pre-Prep adore their Forest School

The girls in the Pre-Prep enjoyed another fantastic Forest School session on Wednesday afternoon, with activities themed this time around Julia Donaldson's 'Tiddler' that they are reading in class. Needless to say, the indefatigable Mrs Cook had popped down to Magdalen Road beforehand to purchase, of course, squid and prawns to cook on the fire! Much to everyone's surprise, all the girls loved tucking into such delicacies which leaves me slightly anxious as to next week's topic! Will lobster and caviar be next on the menu?

RNLI visit to the Junior School

Earlier today the Junior School were treated with a visit from John at the RNLI who joined them for a special assembly to speak about the charity's role and how to keep ourselves safe when in, or next to, the sea. They learned about the meanings of the different coloured flags on a beach and how to call for help when in trouble. They also learned that the most dangerous animal around our coasts is.... the jellyfish!



Success at the Athletics Trials

Our athletics team excelled at the Exeter and District Athletics trials on Tuesday and I was delighted to see so many of them qualify through to the next round, a trial match between Exeter and East Devon on Thursday 18 May 2017. Huge congratulations to Katie Harries (Upper 3) who qualified in the 800m, Dulcie Fraser (Lower 4) for a marvellous javelin throw, India Leetham (Upper 4) who achieved dual qualification in both the 75m hurdles and the high jump and to Ruby Jarman (Lower 5) who went

through to the next round in both the shot and the javelin. I must also mention Amelia Moody (Lower 5) and Anna Harries (Upper 4) who were side lined with injuries but have been selected based on their personal best times in the 1500m. Well done, girls, and good luck for the next stage!

Exmouth added to the bus routes from September

The bus routes that we introduced at the beginning of this academic year have proved to be very successful and I am delighted to be able to offer an additional route from this September to help those living in the Exmouth area with the school run. Collection points and drop off points will be Exmouth, Darts Farm and Toys R Us in Exeter and we currently have 5 spaces available. If you are interested in this, or any of our other bus services, please do contact sandygardner@maynard.co.uk who will be able to give you further information on timetables and costs.

Gym and Dance Showcase

Good luck to every single one of the Pre-Prep and Junior School girls who will be performing in this afternoon's Gym and Dance Showcase. I know they are all terribly excited and I can't wait to take my seat for what promises to be an outstandingly entertaining afternoon. My enormous thanks to Mrs Fabian who has worked tirelessly in the past few weeks to put on such a varied programme to show off the talents of these wonderful students. More on this next week!



Have a great weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
