

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

28 April 2017

Well, what a week this has been! I had a particularly lovely time with the Ten Tors girls last weekend when I was acting as 'lead' whilst Mrs Thorne and Miss Williamson were gaining blisters in London! I have to say we were blessed with the weather which always makes it easier and I found all the girls great fun to be with, as were the parent volunteers and, of course, Mrs Davey. Overall, we clocked in between 50-60km over the two days and everyone finished on time and, in some cases, well under time. But more on this later in the newsletter!

I also had a great deal of fun when I popped down to see the Princess Adventure party yesterday and everyone was just bubbling over with excitement, fidgeting in their seats because they couldn't wait to get on with the various activities! Equally, I thoroughly enjoyed the GCSE drama assessment productions last night and I found myself both thoroughly gripped and even quite emotional – they were that good! The talent and acting were remarkable and congratulations to Mrs Bellamy Cooper for producing such a high quality final assessment.

I have had a lot of meetings with our governors over the past month and the project to turn the gym into a multi-use space, incorporating a high quality theatre, is well under way and we are hoping this will be in place for the girls to enjoy in the near future. I am truly excited by this as I think all those who follow both the Performing Arts and Sport will enjoy the benefits of watching all our many performances from a slightly softer seat with a better view!

To be honest, school is so busy at the moment that I am having to run a special assembly on Tuesday in order to just have the time to celebrate everything and give out all the many awards that are pending! But to give you more details about everything that is going on, in all its wonderfully varied guises, please read on!





Teachers conquer the London Marathon

My enormous congratulations to Mrs Thorne and Miss Williamson for finishing the London Marathon last weekend in such impressive times. This is an incredible achievement given that they had to squeeze all their training in and around very busy professional lives for which I truly take my hat off to them. In so doing, they have also raised nearly £6,000 for their respective charities – The Teenage Cancer Trust and CLIC Sargent – through some very innovative endeavours, not least The Maynard Virtual Marathon which was responsible for £2,000 of this sum.

Particular mention must go to Amelia Moody (Lower 5) who far exceeded the marathon mileage, clocking 117 miles in total in the timeframe, and to Madison McLaughlin (Lower 4), fundraiser extraordinaire, who donated £403 in sponsorship to the respective charities. I must also congratulate Dulcie Fraser and Claudia Riley (both in Lower 4) who raised £200 and £268 respectively. Well done to everyone for such an outstanding charitable Maynard effort!

Countdown to Ten Tors

Our three teams enjoyed some exceptional weather last weekend for their final Ten Tors training weekend on Dartmoor. This year we are fielding two 35-mile teams as well as another one who will take on the 45-mile challenge. With just one week to go until the off, we wish them all well and they should be safe in the knowledge that they are well trained and fully prepared for this wonderful event!

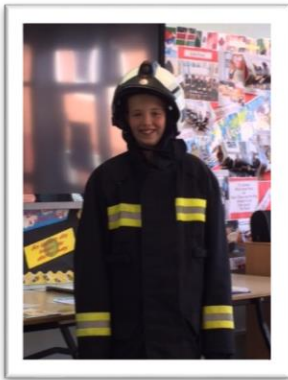


Forest School for our Pre-Prep girls

Last Friday, all of the girls in the Pre-Prep had a fantastic first session at our on-site Forest School. In order to maximise the learning experience, every session is given a theme and last week it was based around the book 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister, which they have been reading in class. They worked as a group to create a big 'nature art' fish, made rainbow fishes out of clay and sequins and even cooked their own rainbow trout with wild garlic on the fire! The girls will take part in Forest School every Friday afternoon this term.

Pre-Prep Princess Adventure!

Yesterday we hosted a fantastic 'Princess Adventure' party to which we invited many of our prospective pupils looking at a 2017 or 2018 entry into our reception class. Everyone in the Pre-Prep dressed beautifully for the occasion and I know it was a complete highlight for them all. I have to say that I was incredibly proud of the way they looked after our guests during a fun-packed afternoon of activities including a nature scavenger hunt in Leebourne, making wands from branches, crafts and decorating (and eating!) wonderful princess and tiara shaped biscuits, rustled up especially by our own catering team!



Junior School Fire and Rescue visit

The Junior School enjoyed a fascinating assembly on Wednesday when Gareth from the local Fire and Rescue service spoke to them all about their role in the community and how to keep safe at home. He sent a very strong message to the girls about the importance of having smoke detectors and advised them all to make sure these are checked regularly. As ever, the girls thoroughly enjoyed hearing all his stories and showed a keen interest to get more involved in safety issues at home.

Wonderful Senior assembly

At this juncture, I had intended to include a wonderful piece by Viv Martin that formulated her recent assembly about her experiences as a student here at The Maynard. Sadly, however, I have been overruled by the Marketing team who enjoyed her nostalgic memoir so much that they have ring fenced it as a feature in The Maynardian magazine at the end of term! So do look out for this in there as it makes for a thoroughly entertaining read - all I can say is thank heavens the uniform has been modernised since her days here!

Express and Echo Sports Awards

Our hugely successful Under 14 Netball team enjoyed a star-studded night out at the Express and Echo Sports Awards on Wednesday night. Having been shortlisted in the 'Best School Team' category, this was a well-deserved treat and their runners-up certificate will be proudly on display in School soon. My thanks to the PE Department for arranging the whole evening and to the girls for being such well-behaved ambassadors on the night!



French Spelling Bee Regional Final



On Monday, three girls from Upper 3 travelled to Norton Hill School in Somerset as our representatives in the the French Spelling Bee Regional Final where they competed against 23 other schools. Natalie Charity, Daisy Hoban and Manon Smith were understandably nervous at this rather daunting event and, having worked hugely hard on perfecting their list comprising 150 words, they did the School proud.

“It was an amazing experience for us all, despite the fact that we were all extremely nervous at the beginning. Unfortunately, we did not proceed on to the national finals, but we believe we did our best and are very proud to be in the top 58 out of 5708 in the South West region. A very special thank you to Madame Smith, Mr. O'Neill and everyone else that supported us.”

Shakespeare Gala Event

For two of our Sixth Formers, Bella Attenburrow and Eleanor Thomson (both Lower 6), it was a somewhat busy start to the term with some wonderful performances at the Shakespeare Gala Event on the first day back at school. It is always wonderful to read testimonials about our girls from various event organisers and this is no exception:

“I can’t thank you enough for your huge contribution to our Shakespeare Gala event. We were much impressed with the imaginative use of a somewhat limited acting space, plus the various ways some of Shakespeare's complex characters were brought to life. Sabella and Eleanor certainly did you proud! So, on behalf of the Exeter & District Branch of the English-Speaking Union, a **VERY BIG THANK YOU** for an entertaining and enjoyable evening!”

So, a huge well done to Eleanor and Bella for taking part as I know what a busy time of year this is for you both!



Some excellent Music news

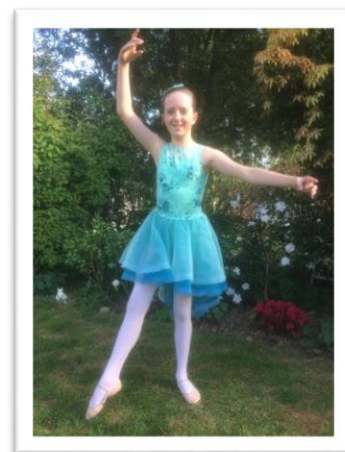
Following the Music for Youth Regional Festival in Turo back in February, I was delighted to hear this week that the Maynard Trio of Robyn Bowman (Upper 6), Alexandra Pavic (Upper 5) and Gigi Hetherington (Upper 5) has won through to the National Festival to be held in Birmingham in July. To have been selected for the nationals and to perform at the City of Birmingham Symphony Hall is an incredible achievement and we applaud you all!

I was equally impressed to hear that Donna-Marie Broomfield, who conducts our chamber choir, senior choir and Middle School choir, will be singing at Brighton and Hove Albion's final home game of the season tomorrow. This is a televised event (the club is returning to the Premier League) and we wish her the best of luck!

Ballet success for Cathryn Griffiths

Congratulations to Cathryn Griffiths in Year 6 who has successfully auditioned for the Royal Ballet School's Mid Associate programme for girls aged 11 to 13 years. This will be a step-up for Cathryn who is currently following the Junior Associate programme and we wish her the very best of luck for when she starts her classes in September.

It goes without saying that hundreds of children audition for very limited places on this programme so this is a remarkable achievement – well done!



Harleigh Fry takes acrobatic bronze

Harleigh Fry (Year 5) was on top form at the recent South West Acrobatic Championships in Sherborne, Dorset winning a somewhat unexpected bronze medal.

At only 10 years old, Harleigh was competing as a trio representing the Honiton Gymnastics Club in the very competitive women's Level 2 category and, in the words of her mother, "they were very much the outsiders"! This is fabulous news and we shall enjoy watching Harleigh's future performances with much interest and anticipation of further excellent successes!



Successful football trial for Dulcie Fraser

Maynard football star, Dulcie Fraser (Lower 4) has successfully trialled to become part of a new Girls Player Development Centre with Exeter City Football Club. This means she will now train with the Under 14 development squad for an initial 10-week pilot period before the new season starts in September.

The new Development Centre will play fixtures in the summer against other professional football clubs such as Plymouth Argyle and Swindon Town FC and we wish Dulcie the very best of luck for all her future matches. Well done!





Young Enterprise endeavours

Our team from the Lower 6 enjoyed a great outing to the Young Enterprise finals at the Met Office on Wednesday. Although they didn't manage to win anything this time it was a fruitful experience and I am sure the girls will have learned a great deal about managing a business in preparation for life beyond the school gates!

Bon voyage to the French trip girls

As I write, thirty students from the Upper 3 and Lower 4 are en route to St Omer in France's newly named region of Hauts de France (effective on 30 September 2016) where they will spend the Bank Holiday weekend.

The itinerary for the trip, focusing on language, culture and gastronomy, will include a visit to a bread mill, a chocolate factory workshop, a goat farm visit as well as the mandatory trip to a local market that simply must be done on every French holiday! A busy few days will also involve structured French lessons to enhance their speaking skills. We wish them well for this trip and look forward to hearing about their exploits on their return.

The Maynard Archive

For those of you who are interested in the rich history of The Maynard, may I point you in the direction of the Archive Club blog. Their recent post is a fascinating insight into the background of the Bradley Hall foundation stone and well worth a read!

<http://maynardarchives.blogspot.co.uk/2017/04/the-bradley-stone-by-erin-ellie-and.html>



Drama and Art examinations

The summer examination period kicked off this week with the GCSE drama students having their final assessments last night. As a spectator to their performances, it was a thoroughly entertaining evening with each and every student giving her absolute best in some very talented acting displays! Likewise, the AS and A-level Art students also took their exams during the week so I wish all the girls the best of luck for their results!

Junior School Gym and Dance Showcase

The entire Junior School and Pre-Prep are avidly rehearsing for their upcoming Gym and Dance Showcase on Friday 5 May (2.30pm) to which all parents are warmly invited. Each class will perform a themed dance piece, there will be two ballet performances as well as some individual acts from our elite gymnasts and dancers. It's sure to be a hugely entertaining show and is an excellent opportunity to 'unveil' the all-new Maynard leotards!



Have a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Dunn'.

Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
