

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

16 June 2017

Isn't it fantastic that the sun has finally come out and summer has apparently arrived? Despite the ongoing public and internal examinations this week, it feels that the whole school has been boosted by the turn-around in our weather and I have very much enjoyed watching the girls making the most of our open spaces during their breaks and lunch times. Equally, I have been lucky enough to hold a few meetings outside and it has been great to have our usual discussions and planning around a picnic table in Leebourne for a change.

The exams are, of course, still very much a focal point for our students in the Sixth Form and Senior School but we have managed to squeeze some more light-hearted events into the calendar to give the girls a well-deserved break. You will read more about these later on in this newsletter.

A highlight of my week was definitely the Junior School Sports Day and it was wonderful that so many parents came along to the Mount Radford Lawn to offer their support. As ever, it was fantastic to see the girls all egging each other on and really entering into the spirit of the day. You know when there are smiles and peals of laughter all round that it was a truly successful event! And, rest assured, I have taken on board the many comments from parents regarding a possible Pimms tent for next year!

On Wednesday, many of the girls in the Senior School enjoyed a whole day off from the internal exams timetable to take part in our unique 'Activities Day' whilst some were away competing in the Inter Schools Athletics at Exeter Arena. I know the Bollywood Dancing was very popular but, for me, the highlight was the sleep



talks by Janice Jenner at Hunrosa Sleep who offered some worldly advice on what is considered to be the optimum amount of sleep required and how to attain this! I have certainly been trying to put some of her tips into practice! The even better news was that our athletics teams did superbly, but more about that later.

Over these last two days, the Lower 6 have been focusing on an early start to their UCAS forms by embarking on the whole process of researching the best degree courses and drafting their personal statements. Our aim, as always, is for a 100% success rate on getting their first choices.

The staff had their termly Teaching and Learning seminar this week and, once again, it was a brilliant session with lots of sharing of good practice and ideas. I suspect that the girls will witness some new and creative techniques in the use of 'Blooms taxonomy' and 'menu tasks' in the coming months!

Today, we wave goodbye to the ever-popular Mr Banks who has stepped in to teach English all year for Mrs Briscoe who has been on maternity leave. I know everyone will agree that Graham has been an excellent addition to the Maynard team and we wish him well for the future.

On a final note, it is wonderful to be able to report that our intake for September continues to look fantastic. As a result, we are having quite a few structural changes made to classrooms and offices to accommodate these numbers, so the Estates Team are in for a busy summer, bless them!

On to the week's news ...

Primary School Mathematics Challenge

We started this week with hosting the third annual Primary Schools Mathematics Challenge involving schools from around Devon. We welcomed boys and girls from St Michael's C of E Primary (Kingsteignton), West Hill Primary, Clyst St Mary Primary, Doddiscombsleigh Primary, Kenton Primary, St John's School (Sidmouth) and last year's winners, Bowhill Primary, in addition to our own Maynard representatives. A couple of schools had to withdraw at the last minute but they will be back again next year! In total, there were 10 teams of four pupils, chosen by their schools as their most gifted and talented mathematicians and each team included a member of staff or parent helper who assisted with the marking during the day.



In essence, the competition featured six very different rounds, all of which posed some incredibly tricky questions and problems to tackle. To give you a flavour of exactly the level at which these students are working at I will share with you one of the 15 questions in Round One:

The local hotel has 200 rooms. The rooms are numbered in ascending order starting with the number 1. None of the rooms have a number which is a multiple of 13 or has the sum of the digits of the room number equal to 13. These rooms are given names instead of numbers. How many rooms have names instead of numbers?

It really was a taxing day on the brain but Andrew's famous Maynard cookies kept everyone going strong and they also enjoyed a very tasty picnic lunch which put them in good stead for the afternoon's rounds. At the end of the day, Clyst St Mary scored the highest to win the competition followed by Doddiscombsleigh and West Hill Primary.

It was a fantastically entertaining and memorable session and our congratulations to all of those who took part!

Junior School Sports Day

What a contrast a year makes and I am sure many of you will recall the dreadful torrential rain of last year! The sun shone on Tuesday and the Mount Radford Lawn made for the perfect setting for our Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to take part in their much-anticipated Sports Day. Everyone rose to the occasion and it was especially exciting to see so many school records being smashed. My congratulations to all the girls that took part, for their exemplary behaviour, great spirit and determination.

In particular, a huge well done to our new School Record Holders, namely:

Amelie Stansfield (Year 3) - Standing Long Jump (1.66m) and Chest Push (5.80m)

Ava Hepburn (Year 4) - Standing Long Jump (1.72m)

Connie Hurrell (Year 5) - Standing Long Jump (1.86m) and Quoit Sling (18.50m)

Honey Hubble (Year 5) - 60m Sprint (9:12s)

Eleanor Simpson (Year 6) - Quoit Sling (19m)

Well done to Haberdashers, who were the winning house overall!



Some very exciting athletics news

Huge congratulations to India Leetham (Upper 4) and Milly Bennett (Upper 6) who both won their respective events to become the Devon Champions at the County Athletics Championships held last weekend. India cleared a massive 1.50m in the Junior Girls High Jump whilst Millie leaped to victory in



Year 7 and Year 9 team champions. This is the third year running that the current Under 14 team have won this championship!

Of the many fantastic performances, we saw the following girls all become Inter Schools Champions in their respective events:

- Year 7: Jessie Menzies (High Jump)
 Natalie Charity (Javelin)
 Grace Oldfield (Shot)
- Year 8: Dulcie Fraser (Javelin)
 Annie Grief (200m)
- Year 9: Betsy Board (Shot and 800m)
 India Leetham (High Jump and
 75m hurdles)
 Year 9 Girls Relay Team
- Year 10: Tilly Carpenter-Hansson (200m)
 Amelia Moody (1500m)
 Ruby Jarman (Javelin)



the Senior Girls Long Jump. Both girls are now proud recipients of the official Devon Athletics kit and will go forward to represent the County at the South West Championships tomorrow (with Milly also competing in the 4 x 100m relay team). Well done!

Equally, there were some fabulous individual and team performances from over 30 of our students in Years 7-10 at the annual Exeter Inter Schools Athletics Championships on Wednesday. With stand-out performances in all age categories, and lots of 1st - 3rd placings, we were thrilled to finish as

Quite apart from these successes, it was especially wonderful to see some of our girls stepping up and, in true Maynard spirit, filling in for those sidelined with injury. They all performed superbly in events that they wouldn't normally compete in and we thank them for this commitment. Namely, Amelia Moody (3rd in the 300m before winning the 1500m), Ella Goddard (in the 800m) and Tilly Hutchinson Field (running the 80m Hurdles like a pro as well as showing outstanding technique in the High Jump).

Other sports news

At this stage, I must apologise for the sheer amount of sporting successes included in this newsletter. Whilst it is absolutely right that we applaud the very many successes of our students, it does appear a little top heavy on the sports front this week purely because the exams have been the main focus these past days so there isn't quite so much to report on as normal!

Our Junior Rounders teams have been out and about this week and the U11s enjoyed some good competition against St Peter's in Lypstone on Wednesday. The A team took a fantastic victory 14-4.5 whilst the Bs were unlucky in defeat 14-11.5.

The Under 10 A and B teams travelled to Plymouth College on Monday but both sadly lost although everyone enjoyed the trip in the sunshine!



Elsewhere, our congratulations to Natalie Charity (Year 7) who has been selected to play for the South West at the annual Regional Development Basketball Tournament in July. This is a terrific achievement and comes on the back of a rigorous six-hour trial for a place - so well done, Natalie!

We also extend our congratulations to Year 5 pupils, Connie Hurrell and Zoe Wheatley, who competed in the Devon Level 4 Gymnastics competition in Plymouth last Sunday as part of the Devon Elite Squad and representing the Exeter Gymnastics Club. It gives me great joy to report that both girls did brilliantly well with Connie coming first on the Beam and third overall, while Zoe came first on the Vault, Bars and Floor to take the overall competition and become the champion for her age group! Well done, both!



Kristina gains 'Distinction' in violin exam

I was delighted to hear that Kristina Pavic (Year 5) continues the family's excellent musical achievements with a 'Distinction' in her Grade 5 Violin exam recently. Both Kristina and her sister, Alexandra (Upper 5), are exceptional musicians and surely must be every music teacher's dream with their extraordinary talent and dedication. Well done, Kristina!



Jemima jumps to glory

Jemima Dart (Lower 6) continues to go from strength to strength with her horse, Murphy, and at the weekend they won a hugely competitive Riding Club Area 12 Championships at Bickton Arena. They are both regulars on the One Day Event circuit, often travelling far afield, but it was especially rewarding to claim such a convincing victory on home turf and, in so doing, qualifying for the National Championships in August.

We wish her the best of luck for the summer season ahead!

Residential season is upon us!

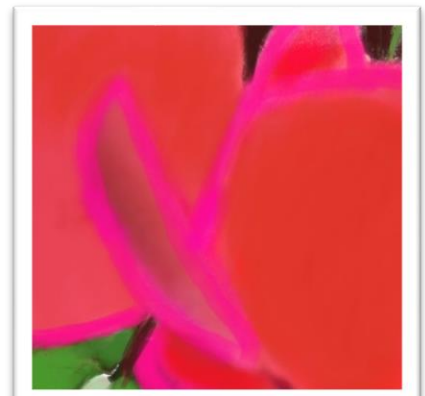
It is wonderful to think that the sun has finally come out just in time for the Year 6s and the Upper 4s to depart on their respective residential camps on Monday. No doubt, they will have a whale of a time at The Mill on the Brue (Year 6) and Ironbridge (Upper 4) and we very much look forward to hearing all about their various adventures!

Chance to win £5,000 worth of books for the school

We would really appreciate it if as many people as possible could enter the National Book Tokens competition to win £5,000 worth of books for the school. It is very easy and quick to complete and we would be very grateful for all your submissions. Wouldn't it be wonderful to win? Entries can be made here: <https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools#.WUPbf-srK70>

And finally ...

I leave you this week with these wonderful pictures from the Year 1 and 2 girls in the Pre-Prep Department who have all shown immensely creative streaks in their iPad art sessions!



Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
