

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

8 September 2017

Welcome back, everyone! And may I extend an especially warm welcome to all of our new students and staff members. I am sure our lovely Maynard community is looking after you and, as we approach the end of this first week, I hope you are all feeling settled!

This academic year started with a bang when, much to the excitement of staff and students, we unveiled the brand new, stackable tiered seating system in the gym. It was fantastic to have the entire Senior School and Sixth Form all sitting comfortably for this first assembly! Equally, the new lighting and audio system, the large projector and screen (complete with stunning gliding curtains) really have created an impressive theatre or music hall for all our future rehearsals and performances. My sincere thanks to our many generous donors who have helped transform the iconic gym space into such a multi-purpose facility and I look forward to welcoming all our parents and supporters to future events!



Tanzania Trip

Whilst the summer holidays already seem like a distant memory, I must just mention the truly fantastic trip to Tanzania that a lucky 13 of our Geography students (from Upper 5 to Upper 6) thoroughly enjoyed back in July. From the vibrant Maasai lands of northern Tanzania to the spectacular rugged terrain of Mount Meru, the school expedition offered a combination of trekking, project work, an abundance of wildlife and more African culture than you could possibly wish for.



A definite highlight of the trip, in addition to summiting all 4,562m of Mount Meru as well as a fantastic safari, was the six day Community Project based around Isotoik camp. Working with local Masai tribes, the girls' job was to build mud huts around long drop toilets with the aim of improving sanitation for the local communities. They all embraced the role and became very adept at using cow manure and mud to construct these huts.

“We were made to feel so welcome by the tribes, particularly the children and the Masai Mamas who came to work alongside us and we were even invited into their homes which was a huge privilege. Our community project finished with traditional Masai dancing and a goat sacrifice. It was a fantastic experience with a real feel-good factor,” said travelling Head of Geography, Miss Williamson.

This really was a spectacular adventure and, whilst being educational and incredibly memorable, it also challenged our girls to look beyond life at The Maynard and opened their eyes to an entirely foreign culture.

Looking to the future, we will be revealing the destination and plans for our 2019 Expedition shortly.



Brilliant GCSE and A-level results



As many of you already know, our results this year were a true reflection of the talent, commitment and sheer hard work from both students and staff alike.

In the new format 9 - 1 Maths, English Literature and English Language GCSEs, an incredible 18% of students achieved a Grade 9, significantly outperforming the predicted national statistic of between 3% and 5%. Grade 9 is the top grade possible and is ranked as higher than an A*. Equally, in other subjects, The Maynard candidates achieved 41% A* grades and a brilliant 69% A*-A grades.

Likewise, the A-level results were exceptional with over a third of our students achieving straight A*s/As, putting us as the top independent school in the South West (and 42nd in the country according to The Telegraph league tables). We are also officially the 13th best girls' school in the UK in The Times A-level league tables.

May I again extend my huge congratulations to all those who sat these exams and also my thanks to each and every member of staff throughout the entire school for helping them to attain these impressive results.

Clubs and Activities Fair

I have just enjoyed a very busy lunchtime helping with the Clubs and Activities Fair and it was wonderful to see so many of our students signing themselves up for a huge number of different lunchtime and after-school events. We have over 67 different clubs on offer each week, covering a huge array of different interests from musical ensembles and choirs to sport, dance, core fitness, textiles, MUN, geography, chemistry, STEM and art.... The list is endless and I trust your daughter is pleased with her choice.



New Creative Advertising campaign

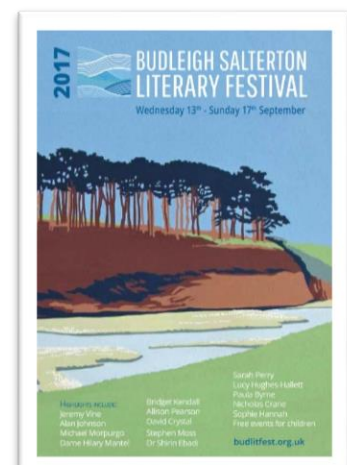
Yesterday we launched our new film on social media to run alongside the print adverts we recently rolled out as the next phase of the award-winning #MadeForGirls campaign. Do click on this link to view the film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGi7LxdRWHQ>



Sponsoring the Budleigh Salterton Literary festival

The Maynard is proud to be sponsoring the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival (taking place from Wednesday 13 - Sunday 17 September) and, with its fantastic line-up of guest speakers and workshops, we would thoroughly recommend it as well worth a visit. In a change to the programme, the multiple award-winning children's author, Geraldine McCaughrean will be replacing Michael Morpurgo who has had to pull out through illness.

More information on all of this can be found here: www.budlitfest.org.uk



Maynard Ski Trip December 2017

Due to withdrawals there are a small number of places available on this very popular trip to the Zillertal in Austria. Students will leave school on Friday 15 December and return on Saturday 23 December. Travel is by coach and the cost of £1050 includes 3* hotel accommodation, ski instruction in Maynard exclusive ski groups, ski and helmet hire, lift pass, insurance and evening entertainment. For further details, please contact Mrs Sue Thorne on suethorne@maynard.co.uk.



Last call for signed documents

The School Office has asked that I remind all parents and guardians to please sign and return their Photography Consent forms, Personal Information Sheets and Right to Study Checklists if you haven't already done so. My thanks in advance for your cooperation!

In the meantime, here's hoping for a hugely fun and successful academic year ahead! Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
