



THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

22 September 2017

School is positively buzzing this week and it's great to see that all the many clubs and activities have bedded in with such high participation and huge enjoyment. On top of all of this, there's a particularly fun feel today with the Jeans for Genes fundraiser and my thanks to all parents and guardians for their generous support of this very worthy cause.

On the subject of fun, I really enjoyed the Upper 5 Team Building Skirmish last night in Stoke Canon Woods although I seemed to be vanquished quite quickly in each game which leads me to believe that I was very much being picked upon by everyone! I'm also not convinced about Mrs Fanous' make-up talents judging by the war paint she smeared all over my face! But it was a fabulous evening and much enjoyed by us all!

I'm really pleased that the weather has improved in time for this weekend's Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition in East Devon. This will be the third successive weekend that the Maynard girls have gone out, totalling almost 60 students to have enjoyed the Bronze and Silver Awards since the start of term. I thank the staff immensely for all their time, effort and invaluable support over these weekends as they really are a considerable commitment and an enormous responsibility (quite apart from being somewhat chilly in this unseasonable summer!).

Before I go into more detail about the week past, can I just make a final plea for girls to step up and help us with our Open Morning next Saturday (30 September)? It is so important to have the girls present on these big occasions as they are our greatest advertisement! Prospective parents want to see our lovely bubbly, confident and articulate young ladies that symbolise all that is The Maynard so if your daughter hasn't already signed up, please could she find a





department that she would like to help in? It should be a fun day with loads of activities, plenty of cookies and lots of new faces to chat to!

Finally, we had a visit from the Good Schools Guide on Wednesday who wanted to get a feel for the school for their report. Part of this process involved interviewing, with what I gather some very searching questions, at least 20 girls as well as representatives from our parent body. By their own admittance, they went out of their way to try and catch everyone out and find at least something negative, but to no avail! Instead, the feedback at the end of the day was truly remarkable and they even reported that the school was as close to perfection as they had ever seen! High praise indeed and my sincere thanks to those parents who kindly gave their time to come in and speak to them! In the meantime, we await the final report with great interest - I am sure it will be glowing, just as it should be!

On to the week's news ...

Casting for 'Sister Act'

Following a busy schedule of auditions and call-backs, I'm pleased to say that much of the cast for our whole school production of Sister Act has been decided. This has been a mammoth task for both Ms Bellamy and Miss Blackwell and, such was the incredibly high quality of every performer, I know they have spent many hours agonising over the final decisions. With all this talent there is no doubt whatsoever that this will be an absolutely stunning showpiece as well as a superb opportunity to tread the boards at the Barnfield Theatre. Congratulations to those that auditioned and thank you to all for your undeterred enthusiasm and commitment!



Dine with Your Daughter

The girls in Year 3 enjoyed a lovely lunch with their parents on Tuesday and it was wonderful to welcome so many of you in to school to sample our delicious home-cooked food. This is always an excellent opportunity to observe the girls and how they happily interact with one another as they start their journey in the Junior School. I also know that both Mrs Rowe and Mr Smerdon enjoy chatting to the lovely parent body in this very informal and relaxed environment so my thanks to all those who could join us!



Pre-Prep Harvest Celebration

Years 1 and 2 have been busily preparing for the Pre-Prep Harvest Celebration next week and we just had to share with you this photo of them preparing for their display! As ever, they are loving all the creativity and the Pre-Prep Classrooms are filling up with all sorts of wonderful artwork, making it a very homely and happy place to be! We warmly invite parents to the Celebration on **Thursday 28 September** so do join us for tea and coffee at 9am in the Junior School Hall for a 9.30am start.



Year 5 Personality Portraits

Meanwhile, Year 5 in the Junior School have been carefully crafting their Personality Portraits whereby they cut out pictures of all their favourite things to make a beautiful collage, all topped off with an image of themselves. This is a great way to start the academic year with everyone finding out about each other's passions and just getting to know one another a little better.

Upper 3 STEM club

Eleven students from the Upper 3 are enjoying their weekly sessions at STEM club with Mr Ridler. With an emphasis on technology and engineering, they spend all their time building things! At the moment they are learning about gears and this week's focus had them making K'NEX models of blenders, egg whisks, exercise bikes and even chainsaws!

By Christmas they will be creating objects using soldering irons and, in the spring, they will move on to making rockets using various ingredients such as mixing hydrogen carbonate and lemon juice in film canisters to powerful effect!

This is such a fantastic club and it is wonderful to see it so well attended!





Sports news

Our busy sporting calendar continues in earnest and we have had a number of teams scattered across various fixtures. The Under 13 Hockey team started their campaign with a tournament at Blundell's last Saturday, getting back into the swing of competitive sport with six matches in total. It was a promising start to the season with everyone working hard against some very tough competition.

Likewise, the Under 13 netball team kicked off their season on Tuesday in the first round of the Independent Schools Netball Cup (ISNC) against Red Maid's High School. By all accounts, it was a super tough game against some very strong opponents and the final score of 43-6 was in no way reflective of how hard they all played.

However, the Under 19 team balanced the score sheet with a superb victory in their first round of the ISNC, also against Red Maid's, winning 40-25 which bodes well for a successful season ahead!

We also enjoyed an excellent day on Wednesday with three of our Netball teams playing at home against Truro School. Both the Under 18 and the Under 16 teams won (39-27 and 27-10 respectively) and the Under 14s drew 14-14. Congratulations to you all as Truro historically field some very strong sides so this is a good gauge of what to expect from the season ahead!

To top off such a successful week on the sporting field, the Under 15 Hockey Team scored a convincing victory (7-0) against Colyton Grammar yesterday in a glorious come-back following their tough game against Millfield last week!

Fantastic start to the Activities Afternoon

Students from Upper 5 through to Upper 6 had a fine start to their Tuesday Activities Afternoon this week with them all enjoying a huge array of offerings including tennis, squash, yoga, kick boxing, golf, aerobics and even kayaking on the quay. It is very important to us that we engage each and every student in regular physical activity and these Tuesdays not only provide a fantastic opportunity to try something new, but also some light relief away from the classroom!





Some fantastic LAMDA results

Congratulations to all those students who took the LAMDA Speech and Drama examinations in the summer. Every single one was awarded either a Merit (65-79%) or a Distinction (80-100%) which is a terrific achievement and testimony to the wonderful tuition they receive from Mrs Leonard. Particular mention goes to Emily Jones (Lower 6) who gained an unprecedented 100% for a Grade 8 Gold Medal in Verse and Prose Speaking!

Upper 4 Roman Banquet



The Upper 4 had great fun at their Roman Banquet during lunchtime today with one member of staff commenting that this year's group have surpassed all toga-tying techniques in recent years, not to mention some very attractive use of foliage! The choice of food was, as ever, interesting with an abundance of themed 'delicacies', most notably Greek yoghurt and grapes! Our thanks to Andrew and his team in the kitchen for their very valuable contribution of protein and carbohydrates to keep the girls going on a Friday afternoon!



USA and Canadian University Fair

We are greatly looking forward to hosting a USA and Canadian University Fair next Wednesday 27 September at 7.30pm in the Main School Hall. The Universities of Oregon, South Florida and Cincinnati will be joined by Concord University (West Virginia) and Bishop's University (Canada) in what promises to be a very informative evening about studying abroad. Please do remind your daughter about this event if she is considering a university career after The Maynard and do come along yourselves if you would like to find out more about a foreign offering.

Pre-Prep and Junior School Coffee Morning

The Pre-Prep and Junior School will be hosting another one of their ever-popular coffee mornings next Wednesday 27 September from 8.30am in the Junior School Hall. Do pop in after drop off for this informal opportunity to sample the famous Maynard cookies, meet other parents and chat with the staff!



MPA News

We enjoyed hosting our wonderful MPA for their AGM on Wednesday and my sincere thanks to all those that have stepped up to the committee. As ever, there is much to look forward to and we would like to remind all parents and guardians that we are hosting a meeting to discuss future fundraising activities on **Thursday 28 September** at 8.40am in the Senior School Library. We would love to see you there!



From left to right: Lauren Trehern (Vice Treasurer), Paula Charity (Treasurer), Helen Grinyer (Vice Chair), Jill Collins (Chair), Maia Riley (Secretary), Cleofe Board (Vice Secretary), Louise Bright (Christmas Fair Coordinator), Suzy Taylor (Christmas Fair Coordinator).

Staff Choir started up!

I knew it wouldn't be long before Mrs Smith would start banging the drum for a Staff Choir and, indeed, she has successfully managed to coerce a number of us to start weekly rehearsals to which I have found myself also signing up! Rachel has a huge passion for running choirs and much of her spare time is spent directing the Chivenor and Lympstone Military Wives Choirs as well as conducting the County Junior and Senior Choirs every Saturday.

I'm not entirely sure what magic she will be able to weave with us lot but I thoroughly enjoyed this week's session of Simon & Garfunkel and Billy Joel. No doubt a public performance will be on the cards but as yet I think we are probably best kept far away, under wraps in rehearsals!

On which note, may I wish you all a lovely weekend!

Sarah Dunn
Headmistress