

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

13 October 2017

We started the week with a whole school photo shoot on Monday morning, instead of assembly, so that the Marketing team could capture a shot to circulate to the press showing us all marking Wednesday's International Day of the Girl. To ask 400 girls, plus the staff, to create the shape of the female symbol in just a matter of minutes seemed overly ambitious but I was proven wrong. I eat my words!



That afternoon we enjoyed another fabulous Teaching and Learning Cafe (for all the teachers) led by the Junior School staff. They each talked us through the reasoning behind their individual practise and it was very enlightening for us to hear about the focus in each year group as the girls progress from Reception to Year 6. Staff found it very informative and helpful to hear how letters and phonics are taught and how much of the junior learning takes place through creative play and collaboration.

We are really ramping up the profile of the House System this year under the guidance and enthusiasm of Miss Lavelle and next week we look forward to the inaugural House Singing competition. Rehearsals are well underway, led by the Sixth Form who are on a steep learning

curve and have had a little taste of what it is like to be a teacher! I can't wait for the final product next Thursday and I understand, in typical Maynard fashion, that many of the staff are also tuning up in order to be able to join their individual houses.

I hope the Upper 5 parents and pupils found the Parents' Evening on Tuesday evening helpful at this somewhat critical stage of their schooling and I look forward to inviting you all in again for an informal cup of tea and a chat about their plans for Sixth Form and longer term university/career routes. I always welcome these talks as it also gives me such a valuable insight into how each girl's experience of The Maynard has taken shape so far.

We have enjoyed another typically active week again as you will read below.....

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### Year 6's cultural trip in Exeter

The girls in Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their visit last Friday to both the Devon and Exeter Institution and RAMM. It's just wonderful to have these educational resources on our doorstep and they were fascinated by their many discoveries. They loved the secrets behind the Institution's front door on Cathedral Green and, as well as studying original books written by explorers in the 1800s with beautiful hand drawn illustrations, they also found that many of the exhibits that are located at RAMM, including a stuffed polar bear, were originally displayed in the Institution!

A particular highlight at RAMM was visiting the BP Portrait Award exhibition. The girls were highly engaged and there was much discussion about the subject matter and as to whether the judges had made the correct decision! It was a very thought-provoking and enjoyable morning visit and, as ever, the girls were a joy to share this adventure with! Here is just a sample of some of the feedback:

"I liked the smell of the old books because it smelt like my grandpa's house and that was nice."

"We saw some amazing pictures ..... my favourite one was called 'Sarah' by Raoof Haghighi. It was so realistic - at first I thought it was a photo."

"We went to sketch animals and I chose a tufted duck."

"We went to RAMM and we found the oldest exhibit was 12,000 years old."

"My favourite was a portrait of Ken Loach by Richard Twose because I thought he had good movement in his painting."



### Buckland Abbey trip

Last Friday, the whole of the Year 8 also enjoyed their trip, taking them back to the Tudor times at Buckland Abbey. The girls learnt to dance, dine and dress like Tudors and even got to try on some of the rather questionable clothing of this era. They were also introduced to the work of contemporary sculptor Andrew Logan and given the opportunity to see some of his art in situ. Again, the teachers all reported back that they were impeccably behaved, great company and an absolute credit!



### Harvest artwork from the Reception class

Following their enchanting Harvest Festival a couple of weeks ago, the girls in Reception have been busy exercising their artistic talents with some vegetable printing, to support their learning about healthy eating. We just had to share!

### Year 5 Gymnastics

The Year 5 cohort are thoroughly enjoying the lovely new gymnastics equipment in the gym and are working really hard on their skills and techniques, to great effect. No doubt, Mrs Fabian is already conjuring up some incredible routines for the next Gym and Dance Showcase in the summer term on the basis that you can never be too prepared!



### The Pre-Prep and Junior School raise £100 with 'Walk in her Shoes'

The entire Junior School and Pre-Prep took part in a charity 'Walk in her Shoes' on Wednesday to raise awareness of all those girls around the globe who forfeit school to trek for miles to collect their families' daily water supply.

They each carried an empty water bottle on their journey which was filled up at the halfway point as a symbolic measure to enhance their understanding of the plight of these girls. Mr Smerdon was the brains behind the fundraiser: "We wanted to do something meaningful on International Day of the Girl and motivate our students to think of more global issues in a way that we could illustrate.

They all embarked on the ‘Walk in her Shoes’ with a real sense of cultural understanding thanks also to a group of our Year 6 girls who took a very insightful assembly about why it is so important to raise money for this cause.”

Our enormous thanks to all those that have contributed and, if there is still anyone hoping to donate, you can do so here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walkinher shoesmaynard>



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### Cecily wins bronze in Schools Pistol Championships qualifier



Our huge congratulations to Cecily Hine (Upper 6) who competed in the South West Qualifying competition for the British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships 2017/18 on Wednesday.

A first round of shooting was followed by an incredibly tense final between the eight top competitors involving a penalty shoot off that knocked out the lowest scoring competitor in each round. In true style, Cecily held her nerve despite such a tense environment, taking a thrilling third overall to win the bronze medal.

She now qualifies for the British Shooting Schools Pistol National Championships to be held at Stoke Mandeville Stadium on 17 January 2018. She will join other finalists from the South East of England, the North of England and Scotland and Wales. Our enormous congratulations to her and great thanks for providing us the opportunity to write about something we have never had to cover before! Another fine example of ThisGirlCan!

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### Devon County hockey champions at Under 16!

We sent our Under 16 Hockey team to Blundell’s on Wednesday for the National Schools County Final tournament and were delighted when they returned as the freshly crowned County Champions after some superb play! Unbeaten in all three of their pool matches, they went up against West Buckland in the semis, scoring an early goal after just 35 seconds that instilled in them the confidence to dominate the game and finish on a superb 4-0 victory. The final against Blundell’s proved a tense affair but our girls were just unstoppable and came through a tough contest to take the County Championship on a score of 1-0!



Throughout all five matches the team scored a total of 11 goals but conceded none which bodes very well for them as they progress through to the Regional Qualifiers. Well done, everyone!

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### Are these the next County Champions?



On a gorgeous sunny afternoon yesterday, the Maynard Under 19 Netball team scored a fine victory against Clyst Vale to qualify through to the National Schools County Qualifier tournament next month. Likewise, in what Mrs Gabbitass has described as “girls’ sport at its best”, the Under 16s inched their way to a superb 45-44 victory against Truro School in the Independent Schools Netball Cup yesterday. Despite being five goals behind with just minutes to go, they raised their game in the final moments, held their nerve and surprised even themselves at the sudden victorious turn around! These are stunning victories and we congratulate them all!

### Other sporting news

There have been bountiful fixtures across the school this week, allowing so many of the girls to sample competitive sport and gain experience working as a team. The Under 9 Hockey team played Stover and St Peter’s Lypstone yesterday and, whilst they didn’t win, they are certainly continuing to show lots of promise and having great fun in the process!

Equally, the Under 10 (A&B) and Under 11 (A,B&C) Hockey teams have all been out and about playing in competitive matches against St Peter’s Lypstone with fabulous team spirit and sportsmanship. Special mention goes to Seren Webberley (Year 6) who showed great courage and determination to step in as replacement goalie for the Under 11A team and played incredibly - Maddie Hinch-style saves and fearlessly diving across the goal!

Although we aren’t always victorious in these age groups, just having so many girls take part in competitive sport is all part of our ethos of promoting ‘Sport for All’. We are particularly proud of this and our thanks to the PE Department for providing such an abundance of inclusive opportunity!





### WOW - Women of the World Festival

Six of our Lower 4 girls attended a fascinating STEM workshop at the WOW School's Day this morning. These girls were instrumental in helping to put together the themes for the day, having attended a 'Think In' with the organisers in June, so it was wonderful for them to experience the fruits of their labour.

They all came back to school positively buzzing having hugely enjoyed the discussions on subjects such as women in science, gender stereotypes and even the weather!

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### Pumpkin picking in the Pre-Prep

The entire Pre-Prep enjoyed an early Halloween treat when they visited Darts Farm this morning. They were given a guided tour around the grounds to learn about the different vegetables, met Spookley the Square Pumpkin and were even allowed to pick their own pumpkins - on the strict premise that what they couldn't carry, they couldn't keep! Fortunately, they were all very sensible (including the staff) and everyone now has her very own Halloween pumpkin to carve!



Have a wonderful weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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