

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

20 October 2017

What a week it has been and I am sure the girls (and the staff!) are looking forward to the half term holiday to catch their breath a bit! I am still on a complete high following yesterday's inaugural House Song Contest – what a success that was! The atmosphere in the gym was absolutely buzzing and it was just what we want for our 'new look' House System. The Sixth Formers were brilliant in choreographing and rehearsing their individual houses and organising all the rehearsals. It proved to be the perfect leadership opportunity and they certainly rose to the challenge.

The actual performances were fantastic and we witnessed not just some wonderful choral performances, but also some hilariously dubious dance moves from certain members of our staff! It was eye wateringly good and the icing on the cake had to be the surprise performance of the staff choir singing (not the best) rendition of 'You've got a friend in me' from Toy Story which had the girls in stitches!

To be honest and after all that fun, the results seem somewhat arbitrary but, just for the record, Goldsmiths were judged the winners for their version of 'Under the Sea' which, thanks largely to their incredible props and costumes, was just wonderful! Our enormous thanks to Mr Stephen Tanner for joining Miss Blackwell and Mrs Smith on the panel of judges – his comments were very insightful and made for interesting learning! I must also thank Miss Lavelle for being the driving force behind this new event. I suspect a tradition has been born!



On an altogether separate note, we welcomed several prospective students into school for the Lower 4 into Upper 4 Taster Day on Tuesday. My thanks to all our girls for being so kind, helpful and friendly to the new faces in their midst. I think they all had a good day and I really enjoyed an hour of teambuilding with them.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate Mirren Sowden, one of our Head Girl Team in the Upper Sixth, who over these last couple of days has hosted an incredible exhibition entitled 'The Legacy of the American Constitution on racism in the US on today's society' in the Drama Studio. The research and effort that has been put into this as part of her Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is just staggering and the results are very impressive. Mirren started the project back in February and has been working tirelessly on it for months, resulting in a stylish exhibition of professional quality that mixes audio and visuals to very powerful effect. Many of our students have been drawn to visit the exhibition and the feedback wall is crammed full with post-it notes singing the show's praises. Well done!



On to the week's news.

Year 5 & 6 Music Showcase

We enjoyed a fabulous showcase from our talented musicians in Years 5 and 6 on Wednesday and it was great to see so many parents and supporters in the audience. We are very lucky to have such a wealth of excellent musicians moving their way up the school and the future certainly looks very bright. Well done to all those who performed so beautifully!



Showing friendship to Ugandan school pupils

The girls in Year 4 have been busy writing letters this week to school children in Uganda for classmate, Keira Barnes, to deliver during half term. Keira's family has had a long association with Uganda and her grandparents lived there for many years, making friends with the lady who put all of her retirement money towards building this school. They visited it four years ago, having raised enough money to install a hand pump providing clean, fresh water and they are taking the family back again to see how the school is doing.

Writing these letters to be hand delivered is the ideal opportunity for our students to strike up a friendship, given they speak English in Ugandan schools, and learn a little more about their culture and society. They will also be equipping Keira and her family with pencils, pens and other useful things to squeeze into their luggage and donate to the school.

Walk in her Shoes

The Junior School and Pre-Prep's charity 'Walk in Her Shoes' has raised over £225 for Care International. A big congratulations to all the girls for taking part and a huge thank you to all those that sponsored them.

New Gym Equipment

The Year 6 class were very happy to be the ones responsible for unwrapping and trialling the amazing new gym mats last week.

The smiles on their faces say it all!



Upper 5 enjoy Elizabethan Montacute

The Upper 5 History students visited Montacute House in Somerset on Wednesday as part of their GCSE studies of an Elizabethan environment. They enjoyed two guided tours, one of the beautiful mansion and the other called 'An Elizabethan Welcome' which took them around the grounds as though they were arriving as guests of Edward Phelps, who had the house built as his summer home in late Elizabethan times.

Busy week for Drama

It's been a really busy week in the Drama department. On Thursday 12 October, the GCSE and A-level drama students attended Thera Hesketh's brilliant 'Around the World in 80 Days' that is currently on tour at the Northcott Theatre and they were even treated to a special aftershow Q and A session with the cast. The performance was outstanding and meeting the cast afterwards was a real treat.

Then, on Sunday 15 October, Paolo Guidi of award winning theatre company 'Frantic Assembly' spent a day working with our exam students. He ran two 'Devising and Physicality' workshops; a two hour session for Lower 5 and four hours for Upper 5 and the Sixth Form. The students were stretched and challenged to work with the company's highly physical movement techniques. They created some fantastic sequences using lifts and physical connections and had lots of fun whilst making the most of this excellent opportunity to work with an expert practitioner.



Recruiting all singers!



The Devon County Junior Choir (DCJC) and Schola Exe are two of the County ensembles which provide extended music making opportunities for children in Devon. These were established by Rachel Smith, our Junior School Director of Music, and she continues to conduct, administrate both and recruit!

DCJC was established 10 years ago as part of the Government Sing Up campaign and over this time it has grown and flourished. It meets on Saturdays in term time in Exeter at 9.15am for two hours and is for

girls and boys in Years 3 - 8; it provides a forum for learning good vocal technique and choral discipline as well as having fun. The music the choir learns and performs is wide ranging and includes lots of individual songs from folk to musical theatre (generally in two or three parts), as well as preparing for involvement in major concerts; its next event is participating in two Carol concerts in the Cathedral with the Exeter Philharmonic Choir in December.

Schola Exe is the senior choir for girls aged 13 - 18 and boys with unchanged voices. This was formed in 2012 as the senior choristers in DCJC were reluctant to leave, so it became a natural extension. The choir sings much more challenging music and is regularly invited to take part in major concerts in the Cathedral; in November it will be performing with the English Touring Opera in Bach's Mass in B minor. Schola Exe also rehearses on Saturdays, from 11.30 - 12.45 and, at present, has a Maynard Sixth Former as one of its members.

Several current and former members of DCJC and Schola Exe have gone on to gain choral scholarships to Oxford and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and to join the National Children's Choir of GB and the National Youth Choir of GB.

If you think your daughter might be interested in joining either choir, please take a look at the website: www.dcj.org.uk. There is lots of information about all the choirs' activities, plus application forms and contact details for Mrs Smith.

Encouraging Hockey matches



The Under 14 Hockey team, poor things, played King's Ottery in absolutely horrendous conditions yesterday but defied the deluges to win 1-0. This was their first win of the season and thoroughly well-deserved!

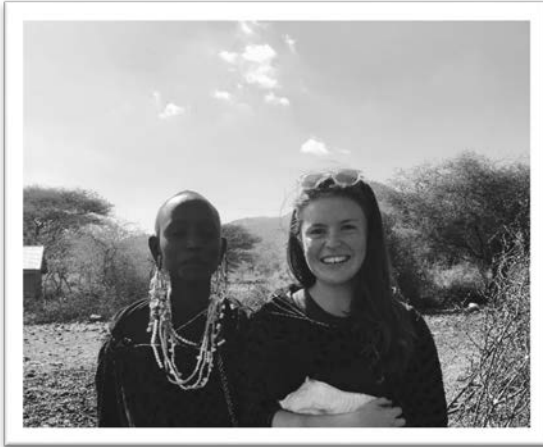
Equally, the Under 9 teams certainly raised their game yesterday with both the As and the Bs taking on Exeter School. The As narrowly lost an amazingly close contest (1-0) and, likewise, the Bs just lost (2-1) but both were excellent, competitive games and the teams

are certainly now showing a much better understanding of the game and positions! Well done!

German Exchange and Spanish trip

We wish all those going on the German Exchange and Spanish trip over the half term a 'bon voyage' (just to add a little French into the mix). These will be thoroughly enriching trips and will, no doubt, prove most beneficial in improving their spoken language.

Alexandra takes on epic Rwandan bike ride



May we take this opportunity to wish Alexandra Daniels (Upper Sixth) the very best of luck for her forthcoming Congo-Nile bike ride over the half term break. A 240km mountainous challenge in every sense of the word, she will be using the experience to undertake research into her EPQ project of how tourism has impacted employment in Rwanda's smaller communities, whilst also raising money for the Kerley-Bretherton fund at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

"This charity was set up by my family after my grandfather died and has been an inspiration to me to raise money through charitable work over the years.

This expedition meant I could combine my interests in Geography whilst raising money for the charity. Whilst the research in itself will be fascinating to collect, I am particularly excited by Rwanda's active volcanic landscape, an aspect of Geography that I am very passionate about. The Congo-Nike bike trail will be challenging, especially in the heat and humidity, however it will be such a great achievement when completed!"

We wish Alexandra loads of luck and look forward to hearing all about it on her return! In the meantime, if you would like to donate to the charity, her JustGiving page is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alexandra-daniels>

'Sister Act' - rehearsal reminder!

Rehearsals are now well underway for 'Sister Act' with the 60-strong main cast meeting regularly after school with both Mrs Bellamy and Miss Blackwell. Highlights so far have included the camaraderie of 'It's good to be a nun', the brilliant harmonies in the Latin of 'Raise your voice' along with the Latin rapping from Eleanor Thomson as Sister Mary Lazarus. The understudy cast has been announced and there's talk of an understudy performance close to show week.

A reminder for the cast that there is a rehearsal on Sunday 5th November. Principals are rehearsing from 9.30am and the chorus of nuns from 2.00 - 4.00pm. The rehearsal schedule and vocal tracks to practice singing along with are all available in iLearn 365.





NSEA Championships

Seven of our students are currently at Addington Manor in Buckinghamshire, representing the school in the National Schools Equestrian Association Championships. The classes extend over three days with the majority of our riders competing over the weekend. We wish them lots of luck and look forward to hearing how they fared.

MPA news: Classlist

The MPA's new parent network site, Classlist, has got off to a flying start and more than half our parents have already signed up and are making use of this great new tool for communicating with each other and keeping up to date with MPA news and events. If you haven't already, you can sign up here: www.classlist.com

Please return signed forms!

A number of forms remain outstanding and we urgently require parents to complete and return them to the School Office. If you haven't already done so, please can you fill in, as appropriate, the Right to Study checklist, the Sixth Form Subject Options, the Medical Care Plans and/or the Pupil Information Sheets. We would be grateful for these to be returned asap as they are very overdue!

Parking

We continue to take the Healthy and Safety of the entire Maynard community very seriously. To which effect, please may we remind parents not to park on the zig zags outside the school grounds. We have received further complaints this week about this and would politely ask for everyone to obey the parking regulations to prevent angst or accident.

Have a fantastic half term!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
