
THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

6 October 2017

"A good school, for us, is an admirable school, the sort whose many qualities and achievements are measurable. The Maynard is by every measurement an admirable school. The very best schools are the precious few we also fall in love with. The Maynard is one of this rare breed.



Pinning down what makes a school loveable is difficult because magic, by its very nature, eludes definition. In the case of The Maynard the magic - for us - lies in the spirit of all girls together, everyone supporting each other in a climate of kindness, aspiration and masses of fun.

This is single-sex education at its best, free of the inhibitions of self-consciousness, where girls can be girls and grow up to be confident young women."

The Good Schools Guide, September 2017

This says it all! A preliminary glimpse into the content of the final, as yet unpublished, report from the Good Schools Guide and I am just so delighted that they have truly discovered the inner mechanics of our wonderful community. Fun, friendship and aspiration is key to everything that our girls achieve and I am so delighted that day-on-day these qualities are the ones that shine through at The Maynard. As you can imagine, we await the final report with great anticipation and I very much look forward to sharing it with you in its entirety.

In the meantime, I would like to thank all the girls for their invaluable support at last weekend's Open Morning. The various activities on offer in every department were quite staggering - from exploding bubbles in Chemistry, German cheese tasting, yoga in the Pre-Prep and delicious food creations with Mrs Fanous. As ever, the girls were an absolute credit; polite and bubbling with passionate enthusiasm for their school. Suffice to say, we have been inundated with feedback waxing lyrical about them all and I am just so grateful for everyone's contribution to such a successful day.

All of our trips and school based activities that enrich our pupil's education are now in full swing and it is always great to see these events stretch and challenge our hungry young minds. It was very enlightening helping Mr Hibberd with his Lower 5 Philosophy, Politics and Religion workshop yesterday morning and I greatly enjoyed eavesdropping on the heated debates at each table as they wrestled with the morals and ethics of utilitarian decision making!

I also had the privilege of dropping in on Theatre Alibi who were playing a fully mimed piece to the Junior School and Pre-Prep on Wednesday morning. It was really thought-provoking, even for our younger children, and I was pleased to see such engagement and so many open mouths as they gaped at these enormously skilled actors and musicians 'telling' the story of Apple John!

The girls continue to excel in so many varied areas and, as always, I applaud their endeavours and talents! So, without further ado, on to the week's news, starting with a bit of 'housekeeping':

Parent Vehicle movements on site

We take the Health and Safety of all our pupils very seriously and we must abide by our stringent school policies that are designed to minimise vehicle movements on site (for obvious reasons!). As such, parents are kindly reminded that they must not drive into the school between 8:00am and 5:30pm. The only exception is where an allocated place has been reserved, on the terrace, and the visitor has been notified that this is the case.

Known fraud

Please may we also remind parents to be vigilant following some serious fraud incidents at other schools. Scam emails purporting to be from the school and requesting payments to a new bank account, sometimes offering discounts for early payment, have been reported. These emails look very genuine, even containing previous letters and email messages from the school. We would like to assure you that The Maynard has no intention of changing its account details so if you are in receipt of such an email, please do report it.



Tuning up for the Autumn Concert

Rehearsals are well underway for the Autumn Concert on Thursday 16 November 2017 and, as ever, all our music lovers are in for a real treat! The programme will include an enormous variety of music, from Aretha Franklin through to Dvorak as well as a snippet from our upcoming production of 'Sister Act', just to whet the appetite for the real thing in March. This will also be a first opportunity for our parents to sample the new tiered seating in the Performing Arts Theatre so we do hope you will be able to join us for this wonderfully entertaining evening.

The Maynard 'What's On' Guide

We will be sending your daughter home on Monday with a copy of our brand new 'What's On' guide, detailing the very many Music, Drama and Creative Arts activities throughout the year. Please do keep an eye out for this.



Double qualification for the National Championships



Congratulations to all of our equestrian teams who performed so well at last weekend's NSEA Arena Eventing qualifiers at Bicton. There was a huge entry, with schools travelling from as far afield as Ascot, so it was an incredible achievement to finish in second place in both the 90-95cm Intermediate class and the 1m-1.05m Open class to qualify for the National Championships later this month. Once again this has caught the gaze of the Western Morning News who today have published a very nice piece with the headline, "Maynard School's dominant reign continues".

I must also make special mention of Ava Hepburn (Year 5) who at only nine years old was our youngest representative. Not only was she an integral part of the 80-85cm Novice team, helping them into a very credible 4th position, but she was also placed 8th as an individual in the 70-75cm class. With talent like this coming up through the ranks, the future certainly looks good for our equestrian teams!

Performance of the Month

It is only befitting, as a follow on from above, to announce that Jemima Dart (Upper 6) was awarded Performance of the Month at yesterday's assembly.

Jemima has consistently made an outstanding contribution, both as an individual and a team member, to all of our equestrian activities and she competes, with great success, to a very high standard. As an example, she was a key part of last weekend's National Championship qualifying team in the Open class and was placed second the weekend prior to that in the Open class at the hugely competitive Blundell's One Day Event.



Sporting snapshot

We have enjoyed another busy and successful week on the sporting field, starting last Saturday with the Under 10s playing their first hockey tournament of the season at Exeter School. Despite the weather, they put in some really gutsy performances and are already showing some huge improvements in their game!



On Wednesday, we took almost the entire Year 6 to play against Stover in the Hockey Under 11 A, B and C matches. Although a lovely, sunny day the grass proved somewhat “tricky” (they train on a hard surface) but it was fantastic to see the C team winning and to have so many girls playing competitive sport side by side. So huge congratulations to them all!

Further up the school, our Under 16 Hockey team beat Exeter School 2-1 and drew against Blundell’s to qualify for the County Finals in the National Schools Competition. Likewise, the U16 Netball team repeated this success in their equivalent competition on Thursday, beating both St Peter’s and Exeter School although losing by the narrowest of margins to Blundell’s. They will now go on to the County Finals in November.

Next week looks equally busy, with a highlight being the first rounds of the National Schools Competition for the Under 14 and Under 19 Netball teams. We also have the second round matches for the Under 19 and Under 15 Netball teams in the Independent Schools Netball Cup on top of all the usual fixtures across the school. We will report back!

Multi-skills lesson takes a U(nicorn)-turn

The girls in Reception are loving both their Modern Dance and Martial Arts clubs and it’s wonderful to see them all really trying their little hearts out to learn the individual moves. However, you can imagine their surprised little expressions this week when Mrs Fabian asked them to become unicorns as part of their multi-skills task during their PE lesson. “Well, why not?” was the explanation for this! Needless to say, great fun was had by all!



Individual school photos

Parents and guardians should now have received all their codes in order to be able to access the school photos. However, there were some forms outstanding for some of the girls so, if you didn’t manage to return yours, please email office@maynard.co.uk for your personal login code.

There are several images of each child and one example of a sibling shot but if you want to see more of these, please do contact www.clulegends.co.uk direct.

Just a quick reminder to parents that if you would like to visit the second hand uniform shop, please could you book an appointment through the school office so we can make sure the necessary staff are available.

International Day of the Girl

Next Wednesday 11 October marks International Day of the Girl, a cause that is very close to our hearts and one that we have been supporting for a number of years now. The girls in the Pre-Prep and Junior School will be raising money for Care International whose theme this year is 'Walk in their Shoes', aimed at raising awareness of the many girls and young women who miss out on education by having to walk miles to collect water for the family each day.



As such, on Wednesday morning the girls will have a sponsored walk around the school, following a set route and under the escort of some of our Senior students. If you would like to make a donation in support of this venture, please visit our Just Giving page online: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walkinhereshoesmaynard

In the meantime, have a wonderful weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
