

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

29 September 2017

I enjoyed my weekly coffee morning with the Head Girl Team on Wednesday and it was wonderful to chat with them about their day out at the Regional Head Girl's Conference at Bruton School for Girls in Somerset. They appeared to have gleaned from conversations with other girls some fantastic new ideas to implement at The Maynard which we look forward to witnessing. I love these morning coffees because the



Head Girls are effectively the link between the staff and the student body who can act as the eyes and ears for everything that goes on within our community. They really are wonderful role models for the rest of the school and proactively drive so many of our forward facing events such as Parents' Evenings, concerts, performances and club activities. Being at the senior end of the school, they can be incredibly insightful and sensitive on the pastoral side which is so useful to me.

Another highlight of my week has been the start-up of our new Staff Choir, run by Mrs Rachel Smith who is extremely experienced in this as the conductress of the County Junior and Senior Choirs, as well as the Military Wives' Choir. It is so important that the staff are also given the opportunity to do something to let their hair down and it is great to see the numbers swelling at this early stage. However, we are slightly lacking in the base and tenor brigade so I urge the male staff to come on board. Mr Hibberd, the call has gone out to you!

It was great to see such a large attendance at the Lower 5 Information Evening and my thanks to all those who have written in to express their gratitude. By all accounts, everyone found it very useful and a timely insight into all that we are doing to help prepare these students for their GCSEs as they embark upon their two year course. A huge thank you to Mrs Fanous, their Head of Year, for organising the evening and to all those other members of staff who so ably imparted the necessary information to reassure parents that we are doing everything within our power to prepare and care for their daughters at this important stage of their school careers.

I gather the Lower 5 pupils also enjoyed their study session with 'Elevate' who came in to coach them on the best techniques for revision. We, of course, talk a lot about this in school but we find it is useful to reinforce everything we say with outsider companies who can sometimes carry more kudos. It seem to be a very powerful tactic that, combined with our own guidance, must help towards our excellent results year upon year!

On Wednesday evening, we enjoyed hosting a US and Canadian University Fair which was well attended not only by Maynard girls, but also from students across the city. It was interesting to hear about the different types of degrees that these universities provide and the opportunities for very large scholarships that are also available for those wishing to study at these top institutions. I do encourage our girls to have another look into these because sometimes the offers can be hard to ignore.

Once again, the MPA meeting on Wednesday was extremely well-attended and a very lively discussion took place about how to put together some really exciting fundraising events for the coming year. Already this term, the MPA have paid for the new cross country running tops which will make our teams and individuals look great as the season gets underway. So our grateful thanks to them for this!

I can't finish without one more final highlight to my week which was watching one of Mrs Fabian's running clubs for the Pre-Prep and Junior School. Seeing in excess of 40 girls (aged 4 - 7 years old) doing aerobics and then running, ably helped by our Upper 5 students, was a sight to behold! The sheer enthusiasm and absolute delight on their little faces, even though it was bucketing with rain, was just wonderful!

On to the week's news ...

Successful in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition

All 38 girls from the Lower 5 that enrolled for their bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award successfully completed their qualifying 30km walk and overnight camp last weekend. Admittedly, one group did get off to an inauspicious start, getting lost in the first five minutes and only managing to map read their way around the car park! However, they ironed out this initial blip and positively cruised the rest of the challenge, crossing the finish line on Sunday in very high spirits and still full of energy (as did all the other groups). These events are fantastic team building opportunities, really helping to solidify relationships back in the classroom and are to be thoroughly recommended.



Star-studded turnout at the MT13 Prep School Conference



Twelve girls from the Lower 4 enjoyed a fantastic experience at the MT13 Prep Schools Conference at Millfield School on Monday. Joined by numerous other schools stretching many counties, this was an opportunity to enjoy some of the finest hockey coaching available. They received invaluable tuition from, amongst many others, Olympic Gold Medallists and GB heroes, Kate and Helen Richardson-Walsh. Rubbing shoulders with celebrities whilst refining their technique, certainly made for a most memorable day that left them all buzzing with excitement.

Netball and hockey news

Our netball teams continue to show some great promise and things are boding well for when the season gets into full swing next term. The Under 14 team made a fantastic comeback from defeat the day earlier to win (16-6) in a really exciting match against King's Taunton on Wednesday. Unfortunately, the Under 19s lost to them 'on paper' but only because we loaned them our two best players as, due to player shortages that day, King's needed some "extra help". It was a great game and right up to the whistle it could have gone either way but we eventually succumbed 16-18. This is not a true reflection of this brilliant team and we applaud those players who so decently inflicted defeat on their own with some extraordinary performances for the opposition. This is sportsmanship at its best and very much in the spirit of everything we promote at The Maynard!

In hockey, our Under 12A team came up against a very strong Exeter School side last Friday, playing hard and working well as a team but sadly they lost 5-0 on this occasion. The B team put in an almighty effort, however, to even things up with a 2-1 victory. Our congratulations to them all for, again, some terrific sportsmanship.

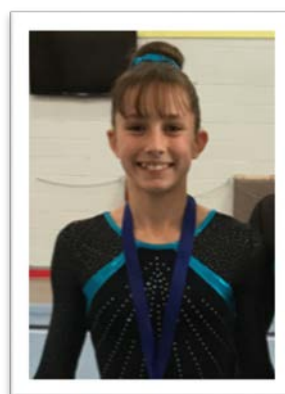


Success at the Blundell's One Day Event

Congratulations to Jemima Dart (Upper Sixth) who was placed an excellent second in the Open class at last weekend's Blundell's One Day Event at Bicton. Riders travel from miles around to contest this popular fixture so it really is quite a feat to finish so far up the leader boards in such a hugely competitive class. Mention must also be made of Bella Brent (Lower 5) who was 12th in the Open and Tilly Hutchinson-Field (Upper 5) for taking 3rd in the Restricted 80cm class. As ever, our equestrian girls continue to fly the flag high for The Maynard!

Medals all round for our gymnasts

Two of our fantastic gymnasts have yet again picked up an array of medals: Zoe Wheatley (Year 6) represented the Exeter Gymnastics Club at the South West Gymnastics Championships held in Wiltshire last Sunday. She came away with a stunning four medals, winning Silver for her floor routine, Bronze for the beam routine and another Bronze on the vault. This placed her in bronze position overall (another medal!) making her the third best gymnast of her age in the South West.



Likewise, Flo Evans (Upper 4) took the gold for her vault with the highest score of the day and finished the entire competition in 5th place overall. It goes without saying that only a hair's breadth separates competitors at this very high level so these are excellent results. Our enormous congratulations to them both!

Pre-Prep Harvest Festival



We enjoyed a wonderful Pre-Prep Harvest Festival on Thursday with every single girl in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 taking part in some beautiful singing, poetry and reading.

The Reception class confidently performed the entertaining tale of 'The Little Red Hen', with Year 1 & 2 telling us all about all the different vegetables we enjoy in their brilliant poem 'Veggies Rock'!

Our thanks to Darts Farm for the fantastic display of vegetables.

Upper 3 makes German Schultüten

The Upper 3 girls taking German have enjoyed creating their individual German Schultüten that are now being proudly displayed along the top corridor of the Senior School. Parents in Germany give the Schultüten to their child on their first day of school and they are traditionally filled with toys, sweets and school supplies. Sadly, for our Upper 3, their versions remained entirely empty on this occasion!



Year 5 coding fun



Mrs Burt has enjoyed her sessions this week with the Year 5 students who are using Tynker (www.tynker.com) as an introduction to Programming and Coding. Using functions such as 'loops', 'iterations' and 'repeat', they have been creating animated greetings cards and even making dragons fly. "They have worked really hard and I am super impressed," reports Mrs Burt.

Wonderful Artwork in the Pre-Prep and Junior School

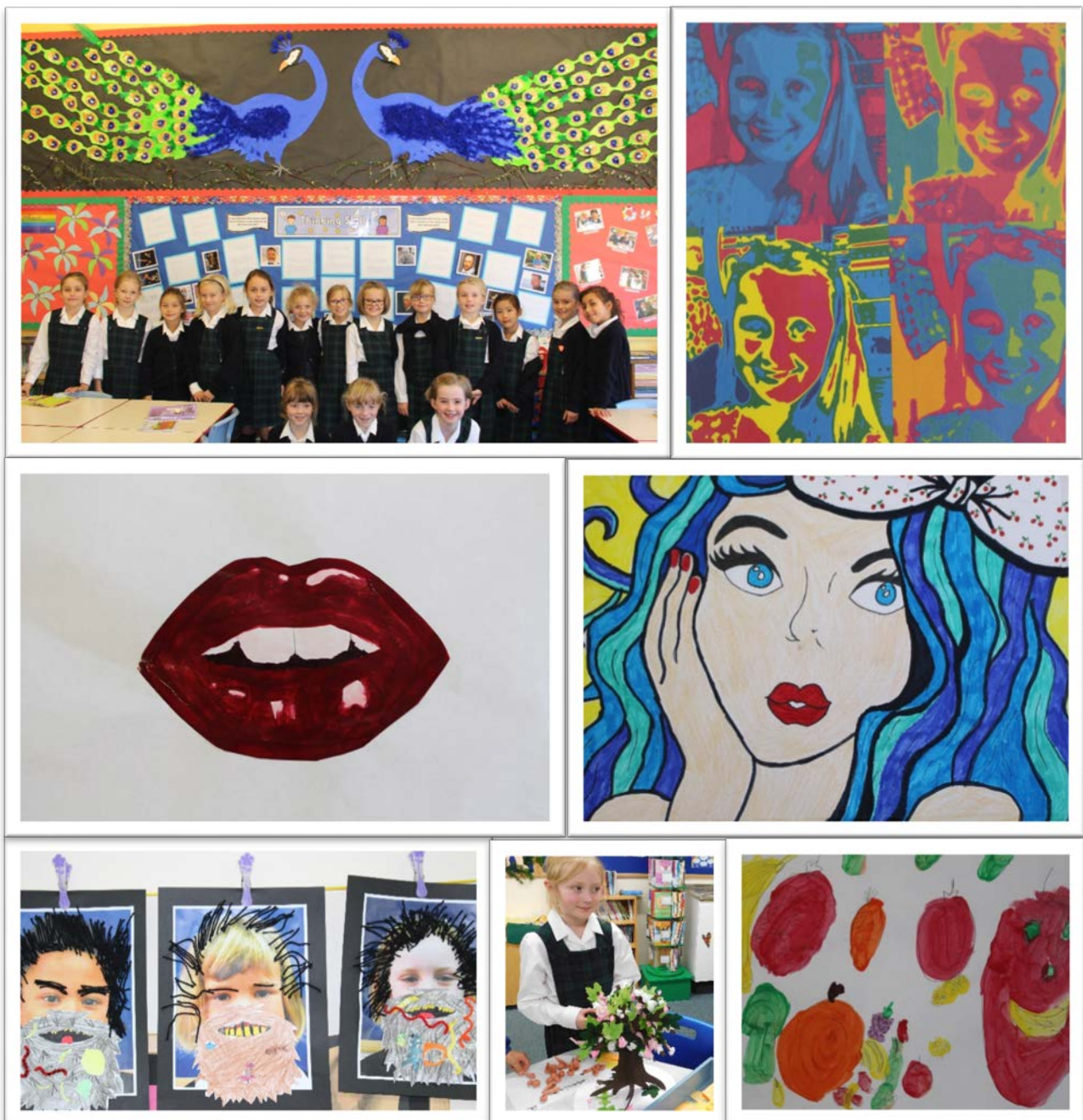
Our Junior School classrooms have sprung in to life since the start of term with some wonderful pieces of artwork adorning the walls. Once again, Mrs Fry and her Year 4 have created the largest and most sparkling collaboration, this time with two majestic peacocks commandeering the entire back wall of the class.

Likewise, the Year 6s in Mrs Gorrod's class have loved their theme of Pop Art and some of the individual pieces to have been completed so far are absolutely stunning. There really is a wealth of artistic talent emerging from this class and we look forward to including many more stunning pieces in forthcoming newsletters.

Year 3 has also been busily producing some fantastic artworks including their seasonal trees to represent the four seasons. Whilst these are, of course, beautiful they have also been a useful learning tool in helping the girls to understand nature's process during the course of a year. In their study of Roald Dahls 'The Twits' they have also produced individual photos of themselves in proper 'Twit' disguise - a project that met with enormous enthusiasm and humour!

In the Pre-Prep, all the girls in Years 1 and 2 have created some wonderful still life paintings of fruits and vegetables to tie in with their Harvest Festival yesterday.

It's fair to say, there is no shortage of budding artists within this school but, as importantly, all the girls are clearly loving the many opportunities to express their creative sides!



Grayson Perry: The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!

On Thursday, the Upper 4s (Year 9) enjoyed a fantastic day out to the Arnolfini Centre for Contemporary Arts in Bristol for the latest Grayson Perry exhibition. They returned full of information about the inner workings of his mind as conveyed through his works. "I like to show people how manly I am. I am a man in a dress, and in a way it almost emphasises my masculinity." The most popular of his exhibits turned out to be the pink Harley Davidson that he rode across Europe with his teddy bear and childhood heron, Alan Measles, in a glass shrine on the back.



Upper 3 tea party

The tea party on Wednesday for our Upper 3 students and their parents was deemed a huge success, providing the opportunity for new parents to connect with those more established within The Maynard community. It was wonderful to see all the girls introducing their mothers and fathers to their new friends and we hope you enjoyed this happy occasion!

Farewell to Florentina



We wave a sad farewell today to our lovely work experience student, Florentina Grünbock, who returns to Austria after spending the last two weeks helping out at The Maynard. At the age of only 15, Florentina is an aspiring teacher and already, most impressively, totally fluent in English! "The Maynard is a very different school to mine at home. We don't wear school uniform and we don't play any sport or do any of the activities that you do here. It's been really good to see your school life and what it is like to be a teacher. I've had a really great time!"

MPA Christmas Fair meeting

We will be hosting a Christmas Fair Committee meeting on Monday 2 October from 7:30pm in the Rosemary Langley Room to which everyone is warmly invited. Please do come along to share any fresh ideas and lend a hand in making this popular event another true success.

We are also looking for raffle donations for the Fair, having had some very generous prizes donated from within the school community in the past. If you are able to help with this, please do contact Louise Bright at louiseslimming@yahoo.co.uk . Likewise, if you know of someone who would like to have a stall, could they please contact Suzy Taylor at craftysooz@gmail.com.

Art for MacMillan in Exeter

We are proud to be supporting Art for Macmillan, a new event taking place this weekend at St Stephen's Church in Exeter High Street to raise money to fund services that help people affected by cancer.

The church will be open from 10am - 4pm both today and tomorrow (Saturday 30 September) to view and purchase many exclusive artworks, all donated by top artists and sculptors in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. It's a fantastic exhibition and we would thoroughly recommend a visit to all art lovers.

Huge crowd expected at tomorrow's Open Morning

We have experienced unprecedented interest in our Open Morning tomorrow (Saturday 30 September) and we look forward to welcoming in excess of over 60 prospective families! Our reputation as a leading school is certainly expanding and we would like to thank you for all your ongoing support. It goes without saying that your daughters are our best adverts and we are grateful to all those who are freeing up their time to help us show off this wonderful school tomorrow!



Have a wonderful weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
