

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

10 November 2017

What a fantastic start to the second half of term we have enjoyed and, as ever, the whole school has been buzzing with fun, laughter and endless activities as we hurtle headlong towards our next major landmark ... Christmas!

Last night we hosted our best Sixth Form Open Evening ever, with many current students and their parents, as well as nearly 30 prospective families, in attendance. It was standing room only in the Main School Hall and the gym looked stunning - my thanks again to the parents who donated the gorgeous black curtains that on a dark autumnal night made for such a stylish setting! I am also very grateful to our Head Girl team who spoke so eloquently about their Maynard days and to all the Sixth Formers who donned the brand new pink shirts and so adeptly acted as our ambassadors, on hand throughout to answer any questions. It was a fantastic evening and a great advert for our school, particularly our wonderful Sixth Form.

This afternoon we launched our exciting new 'Biz Whizz' careers club whereupon we welcomed Jonathan Riley from Michelmores LLP to talk to our students about the legal profession. It was a truly informative session, with over 50 eager attendees and I was truly heartened to see so many of our students showing such an avid interest, bombarding Mr Riley with questions about everything, from his A-level choices right through to pivotal moments in his career. Our deepest thanks to him for sparing the time in his busy schedule - it was truly appreciated by staff and students alike!

We will be holding these quick 30-minute sessions every Friday lunchtime and all students in the Upper 4 upwards have been provided with a programme detailing what careers are being covered over the coming weeks. I will include in every newsletter information about the next week's talk so parents can also encourage their daughters to attend, if they have an interest in that field of business.





Finally, I must publicly applaud our brilliant Registrar, Wendy Parker, who this week discovered she had passed the rigorous AMDIS Certificate in Admissions Management. This entailed attending a full day conference followed by submitting a research assignment, completed in the very little spare time she has as a full time Registrar and mother. However, not only did Wendy just pass, she was also awarded a distinction and the Top Student Award, making her one of the best in the country in Admissions! Our huge congratulations and we are honoured to have her leading such a key area of our school!

On to the week's news, including an enormous amount of individual and team celebrations, but starting with some news from the Modern Foreign Language Department ...

German Exchange with Scharnhorst Gymnasium Hildesheim

On Thursday 19 October, nine girls from Years 9 and 10 set off with Mr O'Neill on the first leg of the German Exchange. We were greeted at Hanover airport by our exchange partners, many of whom had gone to great lengths to produce welcome banners and signs.

Our first morning was spent in school which gave us an opportunity to catch up on some of the idiosyncrasies of life in Germany such as the preponderance of sparkling water and the strange shelf or ledge that many German toilets have. After a few lessons with our partners, we had a tour of the old town of Hildesheim and saw, amongst other things, the 1000-year-old rose at the cathedral and the unpronounceable Knochenhaueramtshaus.

The weekend was spent with our exchange families and excursions included trips to Hannover Zoo and the Phäno Science Center, an interactive science centre in Wolfsburg. Some girls even visited Bremen and Berlin.

On Monday, we visited the Rausch Schokoland museum in Peine where we had an interactive tour about chocolate production that tested Mr O'Neill's interpretation skills somewhat.

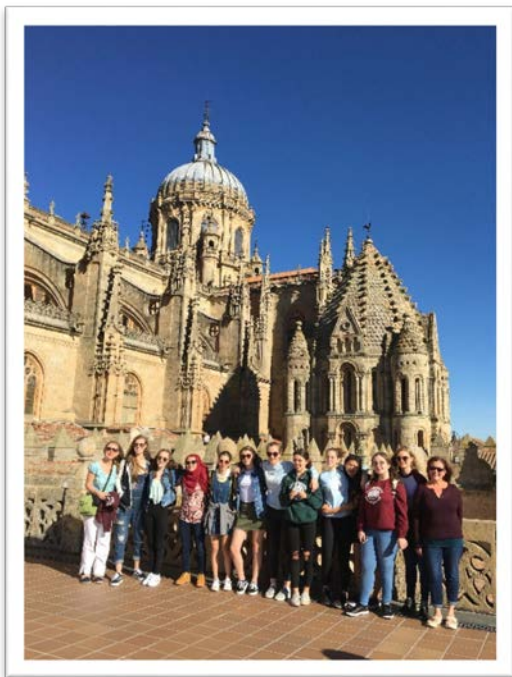
Tuesday was again spent in school. It was interesting to note how different lessons were. In the absence of computers and interactive whiteboards, teachers still taught with chalk!



A day trip to Clausthal-Zellerfeld and Goslar in the beautiful Harz region were a real highlight of the trip. A tour of the Oberharzer Bergwerksmuseum, one of the oldest technological museums in Germany which concentrates on the history of mining in the Upper Harz up to the 19th century, taxed Mr O'Neill's interpretation skills more than the trip to Schokoland. Goslar is a beautiful unspoilt town located on the north-western slopes of the Harz mountain range. The girls were allowed to explore the cobbled streets and traditional shops before we had a tour of the Imperial Palace.

The week flew by and, apart from Mr O'Neill nearly forgetting the pack lunches on the journey out and getting stuck on a Spiderman ride at the airport, went without hitch. The girls' behaviour was exemplary as was their willingness to risk Roggenbrot and brave Bockwurst. Mr O'Neill who has run this trip many times said this particular exchange was the best he had ever led.

We look forward to welcoming our German friends in the Spring!



Spanish Trip to sunny Salamanca

During half term, eleven girls from Years 10 and 11 spent a fabulous week in Salamanca, Spain where the temperatures hit 24 degrees minimum each day. The girls attended classes in the morning and had lots of fun in the afternoons learning how to make Spanish omelette, Flamenco dancing and sampling 'chocolate con churros'. Our handsome and inspiring guide, Carlos, showed us the magnificent historical city of Salamanca and explained its little curiosities. The last evening was spent in a local bar, sampling tapas!

The girls showed great maturity and a sense of fun and have all bought a University of Salamanca sweatshirt as a souvenir to remember their trip. To summarise, they had a fantastic time whilst learning about the culture of this wonderful country, enjoying the autumn sunshine and honing their language skills!

Cast of 'Sister Act' working hard towards customary perfection

With rehearsals taking place over the half term holiday, the school musical 'Sister Act' is really beginning to come together; the big song numbers from the first half have been choreographed and many of the scenes mapped out. The understudy cast has also been announced for the show with Amelie Cosgrove (Lower 5) understudying Deloris and Evie Oldland (also Lower 5) understudying Sister Mary Lazarus, both key parts, to name but a few.

We thank all of the girls who have offered up their time and talent to this production as it takes such a lot of commitment, but they do so with typical professionalism and we wait in earnest for the show dates next March!



Upcoming GCSE drama performances

The Upper 5 GCSE Drama students have been working really hard over the past few months to create their Component 1 Devised Performances. This Sunday, they will be in school preparing for their after school examinations the following day, where fellow pupils and parents will watch the culmination of their creative endeavours. Their stimuli were based around the theme of 'Protest and Revolution'; the three devised pieces are shaping up to be challenging and thoroughly thought provoking - good luck on Monday, girls!



News from a super busy Music Department

Several Maynard musicians had a busy half-term, rehearsing with their Devon ensembles; Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra ambassadors Lucy Harris-Deans (Upper 6), Dodie Bowman, Katie Byles and Alexandra Pavic (all Lower 6), were getting ready for the start of their concert series.

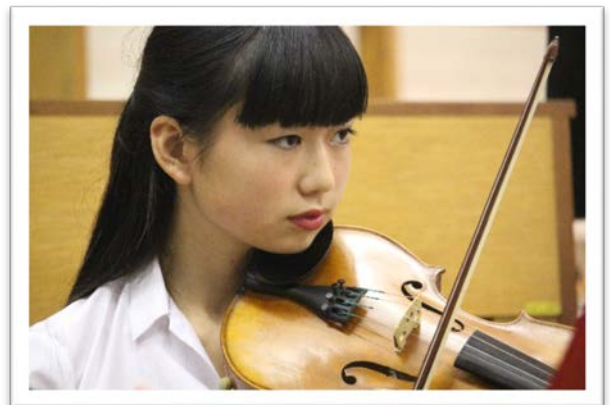
Meanwhile, Alyssa and Thalia Gibbons (Upper and Lower 5 respectively) and Emily Hocking (Lower 5) were rehearsing with the Devon Youth Symphony Orchestra, busily preparing to work

with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Maida Vale Studio on Saturday 2 December. We wish them good luck and look forward to hearing about their exciting day.

London performance for Ming with the English Schools' Orchestra

Ming Speyer in the Upper Sixth equally enjoyed a musically-orientated half term, rehearsing and performing in London with the English Schools' Orchestra. Here's her account of the experience:

'Playing with the English Schools Orchestra was one of the most exciting musical experiences of my life. The music and the standard we were expected to play it at was challenging, but hours of rehearsal meant we met that challenge, and I came away with a real sense of achievement. The course greatly improved my orchestral playing, however most of all it was fun! I would recommend taking part in the English Schools Orchestra to anyone who has the opportunity.'



Dodie to play the Last Post on Remembrance Day

We are delighted that Dodie Bowman (Lower 6) has been chosen to represent the city's civic commemorations at tomorrow's Remembrance celebrations. She will be performing the Last Post and Reveille on her trumpet from the balcony of the Guildhall in Exeter and will also be accompanied by another bugler in leading the VIP Procession from the Guildhall to the Service of Remembrance at the Cathedral..

Amelie helps the Northcott Theatre celebrate landmark birthday

We wish Amelie Cosgrove (Lower 5) the very best of luck for Sunday's 50th Anniversary Gala Evening at the Northcott Theatre on Sunday. Amelie successfully auditioned to represent young talent at the event where she will share the stage with the likes of Robert Lindsay (Citizen Kane, My Family) and Bertie Cavel (Matilda, Doctor Foster), amongst others. There are a few tickets remaining so, if you would like to be a part of the celebrations and see stars of the contemporary stage (including Amelie), do book now - there is even a rumour that Dame Judi Dench, the Theatre's patron, may be in attendance!

A belated congratulations to our Maynard Commandos

A huge well done to Emily Jones and Katie Byles (both Lower 6) who successfully completed the Royal Marine's Commando Challenge on Woodbury Common before half term (and our apologies for not flagging this up sooner!). Not only did they finish the gruelling 5km course, but they were the second fastest team to complete in a time of 50 minutes and 20s.

The Commando Challenge is seriously not something for the faint hearted, taking participants over rough moorland and through hairy raising obstacles including narrow pipes that seem to go on for miles (you squeeze along in the dark at a pace dictated by the feet in front), wading pools and the infamous underwater culvert fondly referred to as the 'Sheep Dip' that even the toughest commandos have nightmares about!

This is an incredible achievement and we whole heartedly congratulate them on a) holding their nerve and b) completing so quickly!



Superlative performances at the Blundell's inter-schools cross country



Whilst on the subject of stamina, we extend enormous congratulations to our cross country runners who all performed so well at the South West cross country qualifiers held at Blundell's on Wednesday. Many of you will be synonymous with the name Amelia Moody, our Upper 5 cross country running star and one of the very best in the South West. As ever, she ran a blinder of a race, cruising to victory in the Senior Girls section and never at any point looking in threat. Likewise, Betsy Board (Lower 5) and Katie Harries (Lower 4) were superb, finishing second in their respective races and qualifying with Amelia for the next stage at the end of the month.

Off to the Regional Hockey Championships!

Our Under 16 hockey team surpassed all expectations on Thursday at the preliminary qualifiers for the National Schools Hockey Championships. Playing away at Millfield, they started the tournament with an excellent (and hugely exciting) draw against the hosts and then went on to defeat Truro School 3-0. In the deciding match we achieved all that was necessary to qualify with a 2-2 draw against Sherborne Girls. We wish them well for the Regional Championship tournament at Clifton College on Friday 24 November.

We have also witnessed numerous other hockey matches this week with the Under 11A&B sides putting in some promising results against Exeter School (Monday) and Blundell's (Wednesday). Likewise, the Under 9 A&B teams played brilliantly against Exeter Cathedral School on Thursday and, although both teams were defeated, the girls are beginning to show a much better understanding of their positions and good power behind their passes.

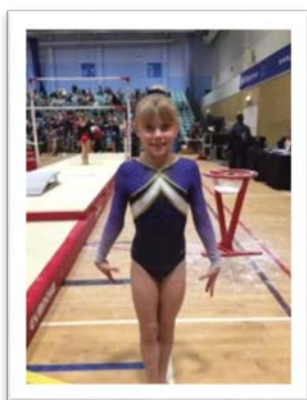
On Thursday, the Under 13s scored a double triumph over Uffculme School with the As winning 4-0 and the Bs taking their match 1-0. These teams are certainly showing an abundance of promise and we look forward to watching their progress over these last few weeks of our school hockey season.



Netball victory over St. Peter's, Exeter

On a chilly Wednesday evening both the Under 15 and Under 13 Netball teams notched some impressive victories over our long-time Exeter rivals, St Peter's. Neither team ever looked in any danger and the Under 15s went on to win 24-14 whilst the Under 13s were dominant in a 20-4 victory.

Huge congratulations to all our wonderful sporting teams for their various achievements in what has been a particularly busy week!



Zoe Wheatley continues to dazzle

Fresh from winning the Most Improved Gymnast of The Year trophy at the Exeter Gymnastics Club, last Saturday saw Zoe Wheatley (Year 6) representing the South West region in the British Gymnastics National Level 3 Finals in the Women Artistic Gymnastics. Despite being her first BG and national competition, Zoe stunned the judges and can now proudly lay claim to being the absolute top gymnast in Devon and number two in the South West for her age group - ranking her as the number 17 in the entire country! This is incredible and testimony to all her hard work and training each week. Huge congratulations, Zoe!



Firefighting fun in the Pre-Prep

Our Pre-Prep girls enjoyed an interesting visit from Police Officer Sgt Conway on Wednesday, who spoke to them about how the Police help people.

As part of his role, Sgt Conway works with Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service and, much to their excitement, the girls had the chance to sit in a Fire Road Safety car and try on some mini Firefighter uniforms!

Charity fundraising in the Junior School

The girls in the Junior School and Pre-Prep will once again be supporting the Christian Response to Eastern European Christmas shoebox appeal to spread a little festive cheer to impoverished children and families in Moldova. Last year, we sent off nearly 100 boxes and we thank all our parents and guardians in advance for their continuing help in filling these boxes.

In recognition of next week's Children in Need, the Junior School will also be embarking on a mini Treasure Hunt followed by some well-earned and energising Pudsey biscuits to see them through the rest of the day.



Autumn Concert

There are still a few tickets left for the Autumn Concert on Thursday 16 November although they are selling out fast! So, if you still haven't purchased yours, we would recommend that you do so sooner rather than later.

To say that we are excited to be giving our first performance since the gym refurbishment, with tiered seating so that the audience will have a great view, is an understatement! With pupils from Year 4 upwards performing in a wide range of ensembles we hope there will be something for everyone. The

programme includes Shostakovich's Festive Overture, Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, music by Gershwin and Bacharach and a solo from 'Sister Act' to hopefully entice you to our show next term.

At this juncture, we would like to say a huge thank you to the MPA who have so kindly sponsored the new grand piano that is now permanently housed in the new Performing Arts Theatre. We look forward to publicly christening it next Thursday!

Girls into Stem



We are looking forward to hosting a grand 'Girls into STEM' (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) event next Tuesday, involving the entire Lower 5 year group and over 60 girls from visiting schools.

Jointly organised by ourselves and the Engineering Development Trust, this will be an exciting opportunity for these students to experience what it is like to be an engineer and learn about careers in Engineering and Technology. Students will be working in small groups to complete two Engineering challenges and one Coding challenge and the winners of each can expect some befittingly hi-tech prizes! To top off a full, exciting and educational day, the girls will also be treated to presentations from experts in various Engineering fields.

Here at The Maynard we are hugely passionate about promoting careers in STEM related subjects for women and this is evidenced by the fact that over 25% of our 2017 Sixth Form leavers were accepted onto STEM based university courses.

Second-hand uniform shop

May we remind all parents and guardians to please book by prior appointment your visit to the second-hand uniform shop to ensure that the relevant member of staff is available to offer the necessary assistance. Please call Lynn Drake in the Office on 01392 273417 to agree a mutually convenient time. Many thanks!

And finally ...

The MPA Christmas Fair is coming!

We can't wait to host the Christmas Fair on Saturday 25 November, starting at 10am. Please do come along for a spot of shopping and to support our hard-working MPA. There is always an array of fantastic festive stalls, not to mention the lure of a glass of mulled wine! Equally, we would be grateful for any donations to the Christmas raffle (contact louiseslimming@yahoo.co.uk) which, again, is a wonderful fundraiser that allows us to purchase so many things to complement the entire school, from sports kits to grand pianos and a whole lot in between!



Have a great weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress



biz
whizz

The Ultimate Careers Club!

JOURNALISM

She's globe trotted as a travel editor, interviewed George Clooney and other celebrities for her Hollywood gossip column, is a bestselling author and award winning blogger!

Meet Old Maynardian and professional journalist, Belinda Jones.

Friday 17 November 2017
12.35pm - 1.10pm
Rosemary Langley Room