

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

17 November 2017

What a magical Autumn Concert we witnessed last night and I do hope all our guests enjoyed a comfortable seat and uninterrupted view, thanks to the new performing arts facilities. It was just brilliant to unveil all these refurbishments at such a fitting event as this and I know that some of our extremely kind donors were sat in the audience, hopefully enjoying every moment! The choirs, ensembles, orchestras and soloists were all fantastic and there was such an abundant variety of musical styles to listen to - what a wonderfully talented bunch we have in our midst! My thanks to Miss Blackwell, Mrs Smith, the entire music team and of course to all the performers for such a thoroughly entertaining evening!

Speaking of entertainment, I was privileged to be able to watch some of the GCSE Drama devised pieces on Wednesday afternoon and, as always, the performers exuded confidence and charisma. I hope that they have all gained some excellent marks as they have put a great deal of work into this with Mrs Bellamy.

For me, this has been a full week of appointments to catch up with governors, parents, prospective parents and students which is something I always enjoy! No matter how much we like to think we know about the school, I always think that the real insight comes from parents and pupils and it is always very insightful to be told their thoughts and opinions. As such, I enjoyed sharing a cuppa with those who came to our Upper 3 Taster Day on Wednesday and I was heartened that, without exception, they all remarked on the very evident self-assurance of our students and the nurturing atmosphere throughout the entire school. Always a joy to hear!

I am hugely looking forward to tomorrow's Discovery Morning in the Pre-Prep and Junior School for which we already have over 60 girls registered. This is, arguably, one of our most light-hearted and fun Open Events of the year with a plethora of wonderful activities and a buzzing atmosphere! Most importantly, our young visitors absolutely love it and always go home with beaming smiles and a huge array of goodies that they have created during the course of the morning.



As always, there is much to cover from another busy week so, without further ado, let's move on to the news!

Supporting Children in Need

The girls (and staff) have arrived at school this morning bedecked in spotty pyjamas and Pudsey ears in a massive show of support for Children in Need - Mr Tabb has clearly topped the show with his uber elegant paisley dressing gown! We have a variety of activities lined up during the day including a treasure hunt in the sunshine for The Junior School and a lunchtime staff versus the Sixth Form bench ball match (which won't be at all competitive, of course!). Our thanks to the MPA who are donating all proceeds from this morning's cake sale to Children in Need. Likewise, the Lower 4 enterprise team are busily making festive gifts to be sold at next week's Christmas Fair and, again, all money raised will be donated to this very worthy cause.



Girls into STEM event sparks hot competition



The Maynard 'Girls into STEM' day was a unique and inspiring event on Tuesday. The engineering challenges and mathematical problems were hotly contested between the teams at the event, which comprised of 90 girls, including 40 from local schools. Indeed, such was the quality of their designs and the creativity and innovation of their solutions that it was very difficult to judge!

We were delighted to welcome Dr Juliette Jackson and Kate Purver, both expert Engineers, who delivered presentations

on their varied and exciting careers. As part of our bespoke day we also welcomed PhD students Natalie Whitehead and Lauren Barr, who are both physicists at the University of Exeter, who offered valuable insight into studying STEM subjects at university.

We are passionate at promoting STEM careers to our students, and events like this are important parts of our comprehensive STEM programme, which also includes an Upper Three STEM Club, a Lego Robotics club, a Physics Film Makers Competition, Physics Olympiads, Physics Team Challenges, visits to the university to meet postgraduate students, opportunities for work experience with global Engineering giant Atkins, and a whole host of lectures which have recently included Helen Sharman and a NASA rocket scientist. With over 25% of our 2017 Sixth Form leavers choosing STEM courses at university, we are very proud of the work that we are doing in promoting these subjects.



Coder Dojo Marathon

Five of our students took part in the Thomson Reuters Girls Only Coder Dojo Marathon held in Exmouth last weekend. Aimed at girls aged from 7-15 years, it was wonderful to hear that Isabel Board (Year 6), Millie Allott (Year 6), Penny Robshaw (Lower 4), Isabella Flashman (Upper 5) and Sara Al-Seady (Upper 5) were going the extra mile outside school to further develop their coding and designing of websites and apps!



The girls got stuck in from the word 'go' creating their own games, mazes and even comic strips using programmes such as Scratch and Python. It was fantastic to see them working together to trouble shoot problems along the way and share their accomplishments at the end of the afternoon. They also had the opportunity to meet other girls attending Dojos in Washington DC, New York and London through a live web link.

Senior Team Mathematics Challenge

Our team of Jess Carr and Hayley Sun (both Lower 6), Ellen Player and Destiny Wang (both Upper 6) performed superbly at Monday's Devon Regional Final of the Senior Team Mathematics Challenge (for Sixth Form students) held at Exmouth Community College. This is a challenging competition over three rounds and fiercely fought so it was an excellent achievement that our team finished in the top 10 teams of the 26 competing. Congratulations to them all!

Mathematical Olympiad for Girls

Also congratulations to Jess Carr, Gigi Hetherington, Alex Pavic (all Lower 6) and Ellen Player (Upper 6) who completed the three hour long examination at the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls last month. This was an enormously tricky paper, aimed at girls in Year 13 (Upper Sixth), for which only the best mathematicians in the country are nominated so sitting it alone is a real accolade! Particular mention must go to Jessica Carr who, despite effectively being a year young, was awarded a certificate of Distinction, something afforded to only the top 25% of participants.

Amélie wows the audience at the Northcott Theatre



Congratulations to Amélie Cosgrove (Lower 5) who helped seal a memorable occasion in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Northcott Theatre at their Gala Evening on Sunday. A star-studded cast and audience included Robert Lindsey, Bertie Carvill, Ruby Bentall, Martin Shaw, Felicity Montague and Joe Stilgoe with the charity auction being hosted by Tim Wonnacott. Judy Dench, the Theatre's patron, was unable to attend unfortunately but did record an emotive speech which was well received by all! Amélie's beautiful singing voice, however, certainly caught the eye of the Chair of Trustees for the Theatre who even requested to hear more!

Dodie Bowman - Remembrance Parade

Dodie Bowman (Lower 6) had the honour of being asked by the Lord Mayor to take part in the VIP Procession from the Guildhall to the Field of Remembrance on Armistice Day. She and two buglers from 6 Rifles lead the procession consisting of Standard Bearers, the Lord Mayor and many other Distinguished Guests to the Remembrance Service. After the service Dodie went to the balcony of the Guildhall to sound the Last Post and, after the two minutes' silence, the Reveille, while poppies were thrown down onto the High Street. Subsequently, we received word from the Lord Mayor's office that Dodie was "note perfect" which is high praise indeed! Well done, Dodie!



The Autumn Concert



What an amazing way to welcome our fabulous new Performing Arts Space and congratulations to the 85 girls who took part in last night's Autumn Concert. It was lovely to see girls from Year 5 upwards working together and enjoying their music-making, to say nothing of their amazingly high standard. We were treated to instrumental and vocal ensembles and music from Baroque to Jazz. The girls all rose to the occasion of being the first Maynardians to perform in the new space and have set an incredibly high standard for others to follow. Well done all!

Anna Ramsay shows hockey brilliance

Following two-days' of trialling, Anna Ramsay (Lower 5) received the brilliant news this week that she has been selected for the Under 17 England Hockey Performance Centre in Taunton. This is an incredible achievement given there were 18 available spaces, spanning a catchment from Cornwall to Somerset, not to mention the fact that at only 14-years old she is so much younger than her peers. Well done, Anna!



Anya qualifies for dressage championships

Another student who has achieved age-defying excellence is Anya Hitt (Lower 5) who has certainly made her mark in the dressage world this summer, culminating in a superb victory at the British Dressage Petplan Area Final held at Bicton during half term. She has now qualified for the Championships next Spring at Hartpury in the Under 18 Prelim dressage test - we wish her loads of luck!



Much anticipated U10 Hockey success

On Monday, our hardworking and ever determined Under 10 hockey team celebrated their first (and very well deserved) win of the season! This has been a few weeks in the making but they have improved hugely in this time and they played two superb matches against Exeter Cathedral School with the A team winning 2-1. The B's also played very well and, although they lost 1-4, they scored "a beauty" and were thrilled!

Disappointment for the Under 19 and Under 15 Netball teams

It is a complete rarity to report that our hugely successful Under 15 team has been defeated but, sadly, on Monday in a qualifying round of the Independent Schools Netball Cup this was the case! It was a cracking home game against a very competitive King's School, Worcester and, having grappled our way back from being seven goals down in the final quarter and with just three minutes until the whistle, we looked the likely winners. Unfortunately, however, we just didn't manage. We might be out of this Cup but we shall remain a force to be reckoned with in the future!



In what was a slightly disappointing week for us, the Under 19 Netball team narrowly missed out on qualifying for the Regional Championships, finishing third in the County Round. Only the top two qualify which counts us out but, likewise, whilst a little deflated, we shall rise again!

New Year 2 teacher appointment

We look forward to officially welcoming Vicky Willcock on Monday as the new Year 2 teacher, following our decision earlier this term to split years 1 and 2 to maintain the small classes that are our hallmark. Vicky is a specialist Key Stage 1 teacher having always worked in this area and comes to us with an abundance of experience. She equally has two young children of her own, Betsy (6) and Hugo (4), so is especially well equipped with this age group.

"Even before I had my own children, I have always loved this age group and I thoroughly enjoy working with them and supporting them in their educational journey. The vibe here at The Maynard is wonderful and the nurturing pastoral care that is so evident is an absolute priority for me as a teacher."



We wish her lots of luck in this new appointment and very much look forward to working with her.



Exeter Art Show @ The Maynard – 20-22 April 2018

We are delighted to announce that we have secured a title sponsor, Rathbones Investment Management, for the upcoming Exeter Art Show in April. In addition, we also have support from Knight Frank who are sponsoring the Private Preview on Friday 20 April. Legal firm, Foot Anstey, have also confirmed their backing. This is wonderful news for us as the event is 100% charity based with all the profits from the commission on the sale of artworks being donated to

YoungMinds, a charity improving the mental health and wellbeing of young people in the UK. At the last event in 2015, we achieved nearly £12,000 in commission and we hope to better this next year for the benefit of our charity partner.

We look forward to regular updates on this wonderful exhibition (the largest this side of Bristol) but, suffice to say, we are being inundated with requests from nationally and locally acclaimed artists hoping to exhibit.

Biz Whizz - Journalism

We welcomed Old Maynardian, Belinda Jones, this afternoon for a talk on journalism as part of the new Biz Whizz careers club. Once again, we had an excellent turnout and Belinda thoroughly enthused them with tales of all her travels in the industry, how she became a journalist and the different jobs she has held!

Next week, we will host Emma Haddleton, a business and workplace psychologist, who will talk about how we make decisions about our careers as well as some of the traps we can all fall into when making important decisions. With women at the forefront of changing patterns in work and careers, this could be an extremely useful lesson from an expert in her field so do encourage your daughters to come along if they are undecided about what they want to do in the future.

Reminder MPA Christmas Fair

Don't forget to come along next Saturday 25 November to our wonderful annual Christmas Fair!

As in previous years, we rely on your generosity to make it a true success so we would be extremely grateful for any donations of festive bottles, mince pies, cakes, books and any good condition pre-loved treasures!

We hope to see you there!



And finally

Just to get your taste buds flowing, we just have to show you what the girls in Upper 5 have been creating in their Food and Nutrition classes this week! These beautiful mango and vanilla mille-feuille have been started from scratch with the flaky pastry and crème patisserie all crafted by their own fair hands – just going to show the advanced level at which they are working! We hope their parents and families enjoyed savouring them as much as we in the School Office certainly did (Mrs Fanous donated hers for which we are very grateful!).



Have a wonderful weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress



biz
Whizz
The Ultimate Careers Club!

This is possibly one of the most pivotal careers talks you can attend...

**MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION
ABOUT YOUR FUTURE!**

Choosing the right degree or career option can be a daunting prospect! Find out how we make decisions about our careers, how the brain can trick us into thinking we are right or wrong and some of the traps we all fall into when making important decisions.

Women are at the forefront of changing patterns in work and careers – be one of these pioneers!

EMMA HADDLETON
Business & Workplace Psychologist

Friday 24 November
12.35pm – 1.10pm
Rosemary Langley Room