

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

24 November 2017

I am going to rewind a little bit because I missed an important item off last Friday's version due to it taking place after the newsletter was written, but I have to report this for two reasons; one is due to the large participation and the second reason is because of the result. I am, of course, talking about the staff versus student bench ball that took place in aid of Children in Need! Despite the staff being somewhat challenged in height compared to the student team, I think it was clear that enthusiasm (and perhaps a little bit of cheating) led to a resounding victory for the staff. Well, in reality, the score was 2-1 but, to us, a win is a win! I would also like to thank everybody involved, and particularly Mr O'Neill, because we raised a fantastic amount of money for this very worthy appeal.

After all of that excitement, we then rolled into another utterly fantastic Discovery Morning on Saturday with bumper numbers coming through the door to experience a dazzling visual impact in the Main School Hall. Miss Beach's amazing creativity once again came to the fore and my thanks also to all the teachers who put on very clever, fun and exciting activities for the children. There was even a full park set up on the stage complete with benches, trees, fake grass and, of course, artificial mushrooms where people could come and spend some quiet time cuddling Nula (the Junior School dog). Once again, I think The Maynard can say that we went that extra mile and all I received, from family after family, was effusive compliments about the wonderful morning they had experienced and what a magical feel the school exuded! I cannot thank all the staff and the student helpers enough for, once again, giving up their time to show off our wonderful school!

As much as I hate being away, as I inevitably miss important activities, I had to attend the GSA Annual Heads' Conference in Manchester on Monday and Tuesday. It was an interesting



agenda, full of discussions about curricular reforms, mental and emotional well-being issues, future careers and the skill sets required for the 21st century.

It was also a great opportunity to network with 200 other Heads from the Girls' School Association and even some from America! It was good to know that we are ahead of the curve with the major decisions we are making at the moment but I was also able to glean some exciting opportunities that I hope to bring back to The Maynard over the coming months.

Although I was not able to attend, which is a shame as I so loved this evening last year, I gather that the EPQ presentations by the Sixth Form on Tuesday were really clever and typically diverse. This is a real strength of the school and it is good to see the continued interest in this very worthwhile qualification.

After such an amazing musical performance last week at the Autumn Concert, it is very evident that talent across the field is so strong here with, this week, the triumphs taking place on the sporting field, particularly with the Under 19 Netball and Under 16 Hockey teams. There is more detail about this later on but I do want to congratulate them all for their amazing talent, team work and determination. We are a small school compared to some of our sporting competitors so to perform at the level we do is a true accomplishment. I firmly applaud everybody involved, the girls and staff, for all that they have achieved and will, no doubt, continue to do so!

As usual, the week has been packed full of all sorts of enrichment activities. On Thursday, Mrs Fanous brought in the wonderful and very helpful Elevate Education company to give our Upper 5s a boost on their revision techniques as January's mock exams loom over the horizon. Likewise, today saw the very complicated timetables being put together to give our girls, plus a large number of potential new Sixth Formers, the opportunity to taste a range of A-level lessons to help them make an informed choice going into the future.

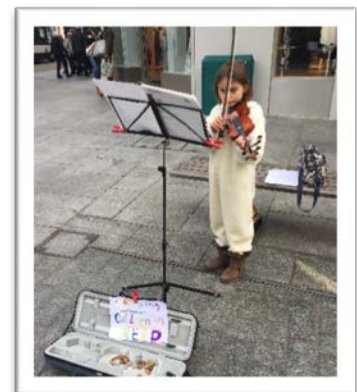
We are looking forward to tomorrow's wonderful Christmas Craft Fair run by the MPA and I really do hope that I see as many of you there as possible, enjoying the many stalls and spending money that goes straight back into the niceties that we see here at School! I can't promise to pull your number out of the Tombola but I'll do my very best!

Now on to the week's news...

Fabulous fundraising for Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who supported our endeavours to raise money for Children in Need last Friday and we were delighted with the final total of £882.93 from these fundraising efforts. Special mention goes to Madeleine Lock (Year 4) who made a spur of the moment decision, whilst watching the event on television that night, to take herself off for a bit of busking to raise some money for the cause!

She donned her polar bear costume (as the nearest thing she could muster to a Pudsey outfit) and busked for two 30 minute sessions in the twilight. Thanks to the enormous generosity of the Exeter shoppers, she collected a hugely impressive £205.83 in that one hour! Well done, Madeleine!



Year 3 enjoy trip to prehistoric caves at Kents Cavern



As part of their learning about the Stone Age in History lessons, the Year 3s loved their visit to Kents Cavern in Torquay on Tuesday and the experience hugely helped their understanding of this part of the curriculum. Said their teacher, Mrs Rowe:

“We wandered through large caves following in the footsteps of early explorers who unearthed a vast array of bones and artefacts. We looked at a jawbone which is 41,000-years old - the oldest remains of our ancestors found in Britain! These finds show that the caves were not only home to our ancestors but were also used by Ice Age

beasts such as cave lions, spotted hyenas, mammoths and cave bears.

“We enjoyed our cave art, using charcoal and drawing on bumpy surfaces, just like cave men would have done. We went on a Stone Age trail in the woods and conquered our riddle quest. Finally we became archaeologists and we managed to excavate hidden gems! Year 3 thought it was a fantastic trip!”

Senior Mathematics Challenge

Congratulations to the entire Sixth Form for posting such excellent results in the recent Senior Mathematics Challenge, taken at the beginning of the month. In total, 25 girls gained a certificate with Hayley Sun scoring the highest mark in the Lower 6 and Destiny Wang (Upper 6) repeating her success from last year to, once again, be the best in the school! Both have now qualified directly to take part in the British Mathematical Olympiad which really is a terrific achievement!

Likewise, well done to Jess Carr, Linda Liu and Cherise Xia (all Lower 6) who have qualified for the next stage of the competition, the Senior Kangaroo Round. We wish them lots of luck!

News from the Drama Department

The drama department has been a hive of activity over the past few weeks; the Upper 5 GCSE students have rehearsed and completed their devised performances based on the theme of 'Protest and Revolution', whilst the Upper 6 are preparing for next Tuesday's A-Level devised performances for Component 1, inspired by Brecht's 'Caucasian Chalk Circle'. Well done and good luck respectively to all those girls involved - according to Mrs Bellamy the recordings look very promising so far.

On Tuesday evening, all of the GCSE and A-Level drama students attended 'The Kite Runner' at the Northcott Theatre here in Exeter. It was an excellent performance that many found profoundly touching and will, no doubt, prove a great study for their analysis.

The Upper 3 and Lower 4 Evening of Drama is fast approaching on Wednesday 6 December, starting at 6.30pm. Please do come along and prepare to be entertained!



Tense Basketball 'friendly' against Uffculme School

Our Under 15 Basketball team were put to the test on Tuesday when they took on a very physical and much improved Uffculme School at home. Our side fought hard in a cracking game and victory was well deserved, with The Maynard eventually running out the 42-36 winners. Well done to them all!

Under 19 team through to the next round of the Independent Schools Netball Cup



It was a nail biting close match on Wednesday but the Under 19 team battled through the third round of the Independent Schools Netball Cup (ISNC) to pip The King's School, Worcester to the post with a score of 40-39. "It was an unbelievably close game and all the girls did incredibly well to keep their focus and resilience throughout. It boiled right down to the wire and we won it literally in the last few seconds of the game," said Mrs Gabbitass, the Director of Sport. "It was particularly thrilling as this is the same school that knocked the Under 15 team out of the ISNC in an equally exciting game!"

U16 Regional Hockey Championships

The Under 16 Hockey team, the current Devon Champions, travelled to Clifton College yesterday for the hotly contested Regional Championships. Unfortunately for them, they were drawn in the toughest pool, meeting the reigning Regional champions and runners-up. They battled fiercely against both Clifton College and Marlborough College, narrowly losing to each 1-0 and 2-0 respectively. In their final match of the pool, they played "like it was the final of the World Cup" (Miss Lavelle) to beat Blundell's 1-0 - putting them, once again, as the leading Under 16 girls' hockey team in the Devon! An admirable achievement!



Success for the Charity girls in the Junior Jiu-Jitsu European Championships

Huge congratulations to Natalie (Lower 5) and Nicole (Lower 4) Charity who replicated their 2016 performances to scoop Silver and Bronze respectively at last weekend's Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Junior European Championships in Wolverhampton. This was the biggest contest of its kind so far with over 900 competitors representing numerous countries, and extremely competitive, so for both to come home as medallists is a tremendous achievement! On the back of this success, they have been selected for the World Championships in June 2018 for which we wish them loads of luck!

Jessica strikes bronze

We were delighted to hear that Jessica Fraser (Year 6) won a bronze medal for her 50m Breaststroke at the Plymouth Leander Winter National Qualifier (part of the Harwich Cup series) last weekend. There were 24 swimmers in the category (for 9&10-year olds) so to finish third is a fantastic achievement and her time was so good that she has now qualified for the Devon County Championships! Well done, Jessica!



Pedalling for charity with the House Cycling Competition

All this week, our students have been actively taking part in the House Cycling Competition in the calm sanctuary that is Dr Rudling's room! During Registration, breaks and lunchtimes the girls have been pedalling away, attempting to achieve the highest mileage for their respective Houses whilst also raising money for the charity, Eboo. The competition was the brainchild of our Sixth Formers who have orchestrated the whole thing in support of this charity which enables an education for some of the poorest and most deprived young girls in Kenya. Well done to all those involved and we look forward to announcing the final tally of mileages achieved by each House in next week's newsletter.

Junior School house hockey

We are looking forward to the upcoming Junior School House Hockey matches and warmly invite any parents to come and support their daughters. The matches will shift between both Bradley Hall and the double courts so do dress for the weather. A warming cup of tea or coffee will be available! The dates for the different year group tournaments, all starting at 2.15pm, are:

Year 5 - Monday 4 December

Year 6 - Wednesday 6 December

Years 3&4 - Thursday 7 December



News from the Music Department

Such is their commitment that, from the Junior School right through to the Sixth Form, our musicians are constantly busy both at school and during their spare time.

As such, the Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra (DYJO) began its new season of gigs last weekend by kick starting the commencement of the annual Teignmouth Jazz Festival. Our own Dodie Bowman (Lower 6), Katie Byles (Lower 6), Lucy Harris-Dean (Upper 6) and Alexandra Pavic



(Lower 6) played as part of DYJO1, while Kristina Pavic (Year 6) played in DYJO2. An appreciative audience was treated to a full set of numbers with some being accompanied by Dave O'Higgins, a well-known saxophonist. It was an immensely fun and entertaining evening for all concerned!

A future star to look out for is Kristina Pavic who, at only just 11-years old, keeps a hectic schedule and is achieving enormous success for her age. She has already bagged her Grade 5 for Violin (Distinction), Saxophone (Distinction) and Music Theory (Merit) as well as having passed her Grade 4 Piano with Distinction. In addition to being a crucial member of various school orchestras, she plays the saxophone for the Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra, is the lead violinist in the Devon Youth Concert Orchestra and plays first violin for the Devon Youth Symphony Orchestra! To be playing so many instruments at such a high level is a terrific achievement and we thoroughly applaud her. Well done, Kristina!

Reception class go gardening

On Wednesday, the girls in Reception took to the outdoors and were tremendously helpful in planting a whole load of daffodils in the Garden of Remembrance. Whilst some found digging the wet and heavy soil rather strenuous, they all persevered and we look forward to enjoying the fruits of their labour in the spring!



All aboard the Betty Bus

The girls in Years 5 and 6, as well as the Upper 3s, enjoyed a visit from the very brightly coloured Betty Bus on Thursday morning as part of our ongoing wellbeing programme across the school.

The group sessions taught them about puberty and what to expect at this stage of their lives, but in a fun, humorous and memorable manner which the girls certainly seemed to enjoy!





New Hi-Vis vests courtesy of Specsavers

The girls in the Pre-Prep want to thank Specsavers for their hi-vis vests that they will be proudly donning when they walk to swimming and for various school trips, when necessary.

We were given them as part of Road Safety Week and we are very grateful!

The Maynard Wellbeing programme

One of the first steps to looking after your own wellbeing is to look out for someone else's and here at The Maynard we are currently involved in two initiatives that do just this: Over 20 of our Sixth Formers are currently involved in the 'Kissing it Better' scheme whereby they visit a local care home once a week and talk to, do puzzles, make music or even paint nails with the elderly residents. It's often the highlight of these pensioners' week and both sides always keenly anticipate these heart-warming visits.

Likewise, next week our Eco Warriors team will be organising a clothes swap to raise awareness of our throw-away society that is so influenced by consumerism, as well as the exploitation of textile workers in developing countries. We would like to encourage all of our students to bring in anything that they no longer wear which, in turn, they can exchange for another garment of their choice. This is the perfect opportunity to create a new wardrobe just in time for the Christmas festivities!



Biz Whizz - next week it's fashion!

Our weekly careers club, Biz Whizz, continues to be an attractive addition to our calendar and next week we will be hearing from Old Maynardian, Mel Brown, about the joys of working in the fashion industry. For the past 20 years, Mel has been the Design and Buying Director for high street brand, JoJo Maman Bébé, and she has a wealth of experience in the sector. Fashion is one of the largest employers in the UK and Mel will be speaking to the girls about all the many opportunities, spanning a multitude of careers (from photography, buying, sourcing, graphics and advertising, ecommerce, social media etc) that can be tapped within the fashion industry.

Have a lovely weekend!

Sarah Dunn
Headmistress



THE
MAYNARD
SCHOOL

biz
Whizz

The Ultimate Careers Club!

FASHION

As one of the biggest employers in the UK, Fashion can offer a fantastic career with so many different spheres in which to specialise.

Find out from Mel Brown, the Design & Buying Director of Jo Jo Maman Bébé, about the abundant world of fast paced, often technologically advanced roles on offer.

Friday 1 December 2017
12.35pm - 1.10pm
Rosemary Langley Room