

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

1 December 2017

Now we are in December, there is a distinctly festive feel around the school. The Christmas trees are up, the design for our Christmas cards has been picked from a stunning selection of students' artwork and, of course, we enjoyed a fabulous Christmas Fair last Saturday! At this point I must thank and congratulate all of our super MPA volunteers, particularly Mrs Taylor and Mrs Bright who orchestrated the entire event. It was a true success and I know they have once again raised a considerable sum that will go a long way to enhance the school. With just two weeks until the end of term, we have so much festivity to look forward to including the wonderful Pre-Prep and Junior School Nativity, the Christmas Carol Service and, of course, the chance to welcome back the 2017 leavers for the Senior Prize Giving ceremony at the Belmont Chapel. The days are flying by and we will all be tucking in to our Christmas dinners before we know it!

Festive season aside, we are busily preparing all of our GCSE and A-level students for their upcoming mock examinations in January with plenty of learning support on top of their timetabled lessons. Equally, next Tuesday our Upper 4 cohort will have their Options Evening to which we would strongly encourage both them and their parents to attend. We will be holding a discussion forum at the start of the evening to provide the opportunity to find out more about the new grading system and the measures we are considering putting in place to maximise success whilst giving breadth of choice. Dr Rudling and I will welcome parents' comments and input in order to inform our final decisions.

The first bout of the Biz Whizz careers club has come to its end for this term but we will restart in January with its weekly Friday lunchtime slot. It has been a tremendous success so far with three exceptional talks from visiting professionals about the psychology behind choosing the right career (and training the brain to make the right choice), life as a private wealth lawyer and the vast array of options involved in the world of journalism. I am so proud of our girls' open-mindedness and appetite to explore a range of exciting careers with a wonderful attendance at all of the talks so far.



As ever, it has been another extremely successful week on the sports field but we will talk more of this later in the newsletter. Suffice to say, it has been an impressive display of grit, talent and competitive spirit! Which leaves me to finish on an entirely different note (if you will pardon the pun) and that is news of our singing teacher, Alison Kettlewell, who received a sudden call up earlier in the week by the English National Opera to stand in as the soprano for their production of Aida at the London Coliseum. With only a very few hours' notice, Alison hot footed it to London for that evening's performance and we very much look forward to hearing further about the experience! Fame indeed!

On to the week's news:

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### Over £4,000 made at the MPA Christmas Fair

Our huge thanks to the entire MPA and, in particular, Louise Bright and Suzy Taylor, for a bumper Christmas Fair last Saturday - a spectacular day was had by all! There was so much going on that people left surprised at how much lighter their pockets seemed, yet they had bags full of Christmas purchases. Downstairs in Ryan House there was a great atmosphere with numerous stalls as well as treats and refreshments for sale, not to mention the raffle tickets. While upstairs there were some wonderful Christmas activities to take part in before entering the delights of Santa's grotto.



The event brought together the whole of the Maynard community, with the girls helping out, as well as parents and staff (both past and present) all working and having fun together. To this end, the MPA managed to raise well over £4,000, all of which will go towards further enhancements within the School. So a great big thank you to all who helped make this such a special and profitable day.

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### The Under 16 team - dual County Champions

A massive congratulations to the Under 16 Netball team who, after six tense matches in which they remained unbeaten throughout, won a very tough tournament on Tuesday to become the County Champions. It is no coincidence that this talented side are also the reigning Devon County Hockey Champions, with many of them a year young so also playing for the Under 15 team.

To which effect, having sealed victory on the netball court earlier in the day, five members of the team returned to school that afternoon only to jump on the bus to Exeter School for their final Under 15 hockey match of the season. It was an excellent game of end to end hockey and extremely close but, with less than 10 minutes until the whistle, we managed to sneak in a goal and score a well-deserved 1-0 victory. The perfect end to an excellent season!





### Fantastic Under 13 results

The Under 13 teams proved invincible against St Peter's, Lypstone on Wednesday with the A side clawing back from being 0-3 down at half time, to win 4-3 in a hugely exciting match. Likewise, the Bs were also triumphant with a 2-0 victory. Our congratulations to them all!

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### Cross Country Runners selected for County Round of National Schools Competition

Congratulations to Amelia Moody (Upper 5), Betsy Board (Lower 5) and Katie Harries (Lower 4) who have all been selected to represent Exeter & East Devon at the upcoming Devon County Cross Country Championships.

In the Exeter Schools' Round a few weeks ago they came 1st, 2nd (Amelia beating Betsy for a 1-2 in the Inter Girls race) and 1st (Katie in the Junior Girls) to qualify for the next stage held at Blundell's on Wednesday. Over a long and gruelling course in a bitter wind, both Katie and Betsy ran exceptionally, finishing well within the top 15 to qualify through to the County Round next month. Unfortunately Amelia was too ill to race on the day but her previous form was plenty enough and she automatically goes through as the one to beat at the next stage! We wish them lots of luck!



### Gold for Bryony

We were delighted to hear that Bryony Hayward (Year 5) won a gold medal in her section at last weekend's Devon Tumbling Championship in Newton Abbott. These events are always massively competitive with gymnasts travelling from across the county so this is a brilliant achievement. Well done, Bryony!

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### Update from an incredibly active Geography Department!

#### Winners of the Maynard Young Geographer Competition, RGS, 2017

Well done to Cecille Howle (Lower 4), Hannah D'Souza (Upper 3) and Florence Evans (Upper 4) for coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Maynard Young Geographer of the Year competition. You produced excellent posters about the human and physical aspects of your favourite place. We really enjoyed judging them and learning about so many new places. Thank you to all the other prize winners and to everyone who entered - it made the field very strong and you all did brilliantly!

### Lower 4 trip to the Eden Project



Our Lower 4s did us proud on a recent trip to the Eden Project where they showed their excellent knowledge about animal adaptation in rainforest biomes. They then learned about plant evolution and how certain plant species have changed through time to remain competitive. We were very impressed with their attention to detail while in the biomes and their enthusiasm when working out which species would survive!

### Upper 4 Cheddar Gorge trip

This was a trip not for the faint hearted! The girls were so adventurous and loved the caving; forcing us teachers to remain strong and attempt the tiny and terrifying gaps. They also learned all about the features of limestone caves, with a visit to Gough's cave. We saw cave paintings, found out about the prehistoric man who was discovered in his skeleton form and even sang to take advantage of the excellent acoustics. Well done to all!



### Upper 3 explore Exeter City Centre



We had a successful sunny day out exploring Exeter City Centre looking at its environment sustainability. The girls were excellent at designing their own questions to investigate and we had one group ask over 50 people about their method of commute! Throughout they showed so much confidence and we received a huge number of compliments about how professional and polite they were. They really are exemplary geographers and now that we are back in the classroom, they are busy using what they have learned to design a brand new city.

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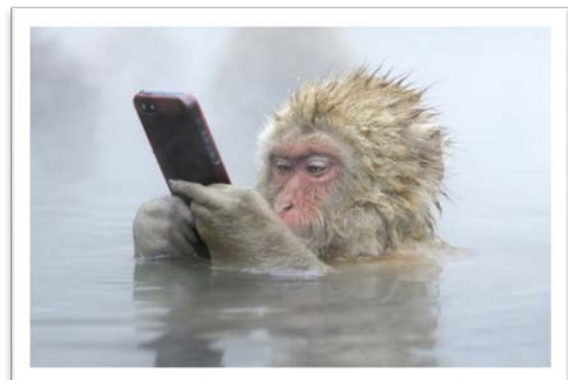
## Next Competition: Geographical Photographer of the Year Award!

Calling all budding photographers...

Enter a picture in one of these categories:

- 1) Wildlife and nature
- 2) Humans using our Earth

With your photo entry, you should include a brief explanation of why this is 'geographical' and which of the above categories it fits into. This should be no more than 100 words long. Entries should be sent to [KatieParsons@maynard.co.uk](mailto:KatieParsons@maynard.co.uk)



There will be prizes for 1st/2nd/3rd places in the Upper 3-Upper 4 age category and also in the Lower 5-Upper 6 age group.

Deadline: Friday 5th January 2018.

We will then encourage our winners to enter a number of national photo competitions that run throughout 2018.

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### Have a listen to this!

For anyone who loves singing, you must hear this by one of our uber-talented musicians, Alex Pavic in the Lower Sixth - <https://youtu.be/iRADVnRXDvQ>

Arranged, performed and recorded all by herself, this is a simply stunning rendition of 'Hallelujah' and we are incredibly proud to be sharing it with you!

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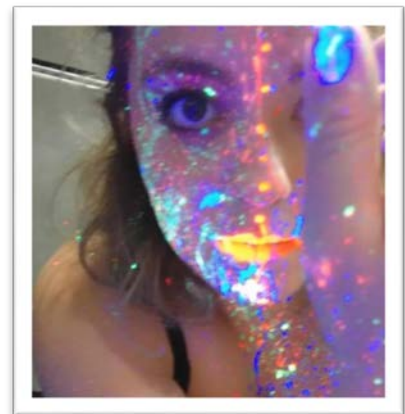
### Old Maynardian's Edinburgh Festival Triumph

We were delighted to hear that Anastasia Bruce-Jones, a leaver in 2015, is continuing to wow audiences across the country. In the summer she spent her 21st birthday in Edinburgh, directing her own play (*Loud in Babel*: written under the pen name of Colby Quinn) at the Festival Fringe. Set in a dystopian future, the reviews said the play was "huge for a play with only two actors" and that it offered "brilliant and at times painfully realistic" observations in which, during its denouement, the "ambiguity [was] beautifully achieved".

From Edinburgh, she then travelled down to Cornwall, where she adapted and directed Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience* at the famous Minack Theatre, after which she went back up to Cambridge to make a short film, followed a few weeks later by directing the premier of a new musical, *The Glass Cage*, by Cambridge graduate Noah Fram. Following that, she performed her swansong to acting by being in a production of *Romeo and Juliet...as Romeo!*

Despite being so busy with theatre life, she also won the accolade of being appointed a Scholar of her college, Gonville and Caius, Cambridge, following her outstanding exam results at the end of her second year. A glistening future awaits and we will continue to watch Anastasia with great interest and excitement!

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### Psychology students arm themselves with a good argument



The Upper 6 Psychology class enjoyed a trip to the University of Exeter Hatherly labs on Wednesday to see Dr Mino Belle's research into circadian rhythms. After a brief presentation they were given a tour of the laboratories to observe his research, looking at sections of live mouse brain containing the master body clock. There was even a passing professor keen to show his work on Alzheimer's disease using human neurons made from stem cells.

“On the downside”, reports Dr Rudling, “the class now has a good scientific argument based on neuroscience as to why they, as teenagers, stay up late, dislike early mornings and fall asleep in lessons!”

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### Pre-Prep visit the Cathedral

The girls in the Pre-Prep had a lovely trip to the Cathedral on Tuesday where they learned about the Christmas story and had the opportunity to also do some brass rubbings.

This is always a popular trip and the girls were a pleasure to take with their animated chatter and awe of such a fabulous building!



### Maynard ballet ‘Open Classes’

Mrs Barlow hosted a series of ballet Open Classes on Monday and it was wonderful to welcome so many parents who came to watch these enchanting displays by groups of girls from Reception through to Year 6. It’s fair to say that concentration levels amongst the younger ballerinas were largely sustained for most of the dances and everyone worked very hard to entertain the audiences. We look forward to hosting further shows in the future!

### Friday highlight in the form of a donkey

The week has ended on a complete high for the Junior School and Pre-Prep girls with a visit from the Donkey Sanctuary and two of their residents!

Fergal and Angus both behaved beautifully and lapped up the constant attention and adoration!



### Sister Act tickets are now on sale

Tickets for our whole school production of Sister Act at the Barnfield Theatre on 7-9 March are now on sale. Please visit [www.barnfieldtheatre.org.uk](http://www.barnfieldtheatre.org.uk) or call the Box Office on 01392 271808 to buy yours! Although we are running three evening performances for the first time, it is likely that tickets will be in high demand so we would advise booking early to avoid disappointment!

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### No nuts in school

Please may we remind parents and guardians that a number of our students have nut allergies and we, therefore, do not want any foods containing nuts being brought onto the premises. It is vital for the health and safety of our girls that this rule is respected and adhered to so our thanks in advance for helping maintain a nut free zone.

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Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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