

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

8 December 2017

Despite being a very long term, amazingly neither the pupils nor the staff seem to be running out of steam looking at the wave of superb events and successes again this week. I think the Christmas break in a week's time will be well earned and very necessary!

Seeing all of our Year 6, Upper 3 and Lower 4 up on the tiered staging in front of a full audience at Monday's Lord Mayor's Carol Service in Exeter Cathedral was a true spectacle and the girls sang beautifully. I have heard so many compliments since and would like to thank Miss Blackwell and Mrs Smith for making this such a great event. However, it did not stop here with our choral prowess, as the Chamber Choir were in full voice at the Darts Farm Indulgence evening on Wednesday. Once again, the public were treated to a fabulous Maynard performance. Well done to all!

Not to be outdone, the Reception to Year 6 classes performed this year's Nativity and Christmas Show with great zest and gusto to a packed audience both this afternoon and yesterday evening. The Pre-Prep gave a colourful, upbeat and wonderfully choreographed version of 'The Little Red Robin', while the Years 3 to 6 girls sang their hearts out with a variety of Christmas songs in their very impressive array of festive jumpers. A superb effort, as always, by the indefatigable Junior School staff!

I have thoroughly enjoyed all of the 'next steps' chats and have now met with most of the Upper 5 pupils and their parents over the past four weeks. It has been impressive to hear how positively the girls are approaching their studies in this difficult year of newly reformed GCSEs. It has also been truly



inspiring and often humbling to hear about the breadth of all the extra-curricular activities they do both in and out of school, whilst also trying to keep up with this heavy workload. It is always a difficult balance as exams appear on the horizon, but there seems to be a true spirit of working hard, yet keeping a sense of perspective on things, as they prepare for their mocks in January.

And now for the rest of the week's news:

Student Clothes Swap a huge success

Last Thursday's Clothes Swap, organised by our Eco Warriors team, was an utter success and extremely well attended. The idea behind the scheme was to highlight our throw-away society and students were encouraged to upcycle their old garments in exchange for a different item of clothing. We were inundated with bags full of clothes and it was very pleasing to see so much being swapped with very little left over at the end of the day. Our enormous thanks to the Eco Warriors team for organising and running the whole, fantastically successful, initiative!

Second place at the Physics Challenge Competition



Congratulations to the Maynard team of Isabella Flashman, Clemmie Little (both Upper 5) alongside Tina Forsyth and Shweta Banerjee (Lower 5) for their excellent second place at the Exeter Mathematics School KS4 Physics Challenge Competition on Monday. They were one of 16 teams from local schools competing in this brain-taxing event, comprising three very technical rounds.

The first required them to make estimates such as the cost of warming an Olympic swimming pool to 25 Degrees Celsius, or where would an electron be if an atom was blown up to the size of a football. In the second round, they had to complete four practical tasks by being innovative with the equipment and without any given methods. The competition culminated with an incredibly difficult final round of questions. To finish second (and by just one single point) is an excellent achievement, so well done to them all!

On top of the world! The Geography Department presents

We are delighted to announce that Miss Williamson has organised another one of the Geography Department's brilliant keynote speeches, to be held here at school on Tuesday 20 February 2018 at 6.30pm. We look forward to welcoming Mollie Hughes who in May this year, and aged only 26-years old, became the youngest woman in the world to successfully summit Mount Everest from both the South and North sides.

This is bound to be a truly inspirational speech on tackling the unknown and facing adversity from one of the country's most determined motivational speakers.



Tickets, available from Reception, cost £5 and the event is open to adults and students so do book early to avoid disappointment.

Coming soon The 2019 Overseas Expedition

We look forward to officially launching the destination and details of our 2019 Overseas Expedition in early January but, suffice to say, the girls from Lower 5 through to Lower 6 are certainly in for a treat! We are unable to divulge any information at the moment whilst the finishing touches are being applied but it's sure to be an exotic, yet cultural, experience with a varied itinerary, so watch this space!

Wednesday's wonderful 'Evening of Drama'

On Wednesday evening all of the Upper 3 and Lower 4 Drama Club performed some wonderful pieces in their 'Evening of Drama' in the new Performing Arts space. The Upper 3 delighted the audience with sections from four children's classics; 'Alice in Wonderland', 'Tom's Midnight Garden', 'Hansel and Gretel' and 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. The Lower 4 performed a version of the very funny 'Johnny and the Dead' by Terry Pratchett; the girls created some lovely characterisations and readily rose to the quick wit of the piece. The new Performing Arts space really showed the work off to a tee and well done to all those involved for a thoroughly entertaining evening!



Trip to London to play with the BBC Symphony Orchestra

Three Maynard members of the Devon Youth Symphony Orchestra, Kristina Pavic (Year 6), Alyssa Gibbons (Upper 5) and Thalia Gibbons (Lower 5), were lucky enough to travel to the BBC's Maida Vale Studios last Saturday to spend a day playing alongside the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Through mentoring with some exceptional players, they played Mussorgsky's 'A Night on the Bare Mountain' and 'Finlandia' by Sibelius. As well as improving their technique playing these challenging pieces, they received valuable feedback on their playing style. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and a useful insight into the world of professional musicians.

Alumna set to dazzle



We read with interest in this month's Exeter Life about Nina Savicevic, a former student here at The Maynard. Nina is an exceptional pianist recently making the finals of the Scottish Youth International Competition and currently auditioning for the BBC Young Musician of the Year 2018. To give you an excerpt from the magazine feature:

“Nina Savicevic wanders over to the piano in St. Stephen's Church, sits on the stool and opens the lid. What happens next stuns the room into silence.

The whole place suddenly fills with the kind of music that makes the hair on the back of your neck stand on end. People come in from the street outside to see this incredible 16-year-old work her magic on the instrument she has been playing since she was five.”

For those that might be interested, Nina will be performing at St Margaret's Church in Topsham tomorrow and at St Stephen's Church in the city centre on Friday 15 December.

Wishing Georgia Toffolo luck in 'I'm a Celebrity'

We wish Old Maynardian, Georgia Toffolo, the very best of luck in the final stages of television production 'I'm a Celebrity 2017'. Billed as having both brains and beauty (as well as an “adorable character”), Georgia is one of the firm favourites to win and all of the Maynard community will be right behind her in the lead up to the finals on Sunday night!



Sports Leaders prepare for busy Spring Term

Our Upper 5 Sports Leaders have been planning and leading some fantastic activity sessions for the Pre-Prep and Year 3 girls this week.

This is in preparation for next term when they will take weekly multi skills activity classes for the children in Year 2 at St. Leonard's Primary School. This is a popular annual venture at The Maynard, leading to their Level 2 Award in Sports Leadership, and is always enjoyed by both parties involved!



Our thanks and congratulations to Seren Webberley

Congratulations to Seren Webberley in Year 6 who recently took part in an Under 16s Bouldering Competition in Bristol which, given she is only 10-years old, is quite an extraordinarily brave achievement in itself. But then to come back into school and take a Junior School assembly to tell us all about the sport and why she loves it was brilliant and we are so grateful to Seren for sharing her experiences!

For those of you who, like us, may not know what bouldering is, it's a form of rock climbing but without the ropes and harnesses. The challenge is to climb short but tricky bouldering problems using balance, technique, strength and your brain. Our thanks to Seren for imparting her knowledge on this amazing sport!



House Hockey matches battle on

We have enjoyed some incredibly competitive games this week in the House Hockey Competition with the final few matches between the Upper 3 and Upper 4 year groups still left to play. Armourers are so far dominating the Senior School with victories over nearest rivals Goldsmiths in both the Lower 4 and Lower 5.

However, it's a very different picture in the Junior School with Haberdashers the Year 6 winners, Goldsmiths and Armourers tying for first equal in Year 5 and Goldsmiths taking the combined Year 3 and 4 age group.

There is all to play for next week and we look forward to announcing the overall winning House just as soon as the final matches are completed.

A final plea about parking

Despite our regular requests not to, a number of our parents are continuing to park on the yellow markings and hatchings outside School during the busy dropping off and collecting times. We would, please, ask that you park legally at both ends of the day so as not to annoy the local residents and to maintain safety levels for our students when crossing the road.

****Tuesday deadline for Charity Collection****

We require all donations for our St Petrock's and Exeter Foodbank appeal by next Tuesday 12 December. As we approach Christmas time, we traditionally think about those people less fortunate than ourselves and would really appreciate anything that you are able to donate.



A small donation of an item of food that you might already have in your cupboard could make a huge difference as would any blankets or warm winter clothes in good, usable condition. All that we ask is that the food be non-perishable, unopened and in date, and that the clothing and bedding be clean. Toiletries are also most welcome!

Please join us in supporting these very worthwhile charities as we are still somewhat short of donations. Any help to boost our contribution will be very much appreciated and our many thanks in advance!

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
