

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

12 January 2018

It's a big fortnight for the exam classes as the Upper 5 and Upper 6 are immersed in their mock examinations. It is a tough programme as they sit their papers over a very short period of time, with little respite compared to the real thing, but they seem to be taking it in their stride and applying all of their acquired exam and revision techniques well. Mrs Lewis (our Examinations Officer) went out of her way to find me earlier in the week to tell me just how exemplary the Upper 5 had been in their attitude and approach. I wish them all well and hope it gives them the boost it is designed for as they approach their final four months of preparations.

I would also like to congratulate all those in the Upper 6 who have fared so brilliantly in their university interviews. Offers continue to pile in across the board and this is a really exciting time for these girls as they prepare for their futures outside the school gates. Many of our Medics, Midwives and Physiotherapists are still awaiting their interviews and I wish them the very best of luck!

As you know, we take the concept of happiness and reduced stress very seriously here at The Maynard so, to that end, Mrs Fanous took the Upper 5 off to London the morning after their exams with a team of expert staff to sample museums, art galleries, drama workshops and West End shows. I have received a volley of texts from the teachers over the past 48 hours and they are clearly having a truly super time!



Last Saturday, we ran our Entrance Assessment Day for the first time on a weekend. We had an impressive turn out of equal numbers of Maynardians to new girls and, even though it was a formal day, they seemed to have a good time with all of the icebreaker events and lovely treats at each break. It was also the initiation of our new online papers using the Durham University CEM scheme but all of the girls coped admirably, as we expected them to, being of the digital generation! Well done to all of the Year 6's who not only put a great effort into their tests, but also in the way they looked after our guests very well with kindness and helpfulness.

We are having a true baby boom here I am delighted to tell you that three of our staff have had new additions to their families over the past three weeks! Mrs El-Nashar (PA to the SLT), Dr Keen (Head of Classics) and Dr Henderson (Maths teacher) all had baby daughters and we wish them well! I also think it was incredibly clever of them to all have girls!

And on to our news.....

Austrian Ski Trip a huge success

All the girls and staff members enjoyed a wonderful trip to Austria for the biennial ski trip in the week before Christmas. Conditions were superb with plenty of powdery snow, the instructors were fantastic and all in all everyone had the most amazing time! Most importantly, we managed to return the entire lot to their families not just in time for Christmas, but all in one piece! My thanks to Miss Williamson for organising the trip and to her support staff for making the whole thing both viable and enjoyable!



Alex Daniels completes Congo-Nile cycle for charity



Our enormous congratulations to Alex Daniels (Upper 6) who has raised a substantial amount of money for charity following her gruelling 240-kilometre Congo-Nile cycle ride during the October half term.

Earlier this month, Alex handed the RD&E Hospital a cheque for £870.57 to help fund respiratory research in memory of her grandfather who sadly passed away from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis in 2012.

“The cycle was a chance to raise money for charity, whilst allowing me to conduct research into my study project on ecotourism and its impact on local communities. The Congo-Nile cycle was particularly challenging, riding in the humid environment of Rwanda from early in the morning until noon. Cycling in the 30 degree heat made us prone to heat stroke throughout the day which made it very difficult at times. As Rwanda is named the ‘land of a thousand hills’, we encountered many of these inclines throughout each day, meaning we were exhausted by the evening!”

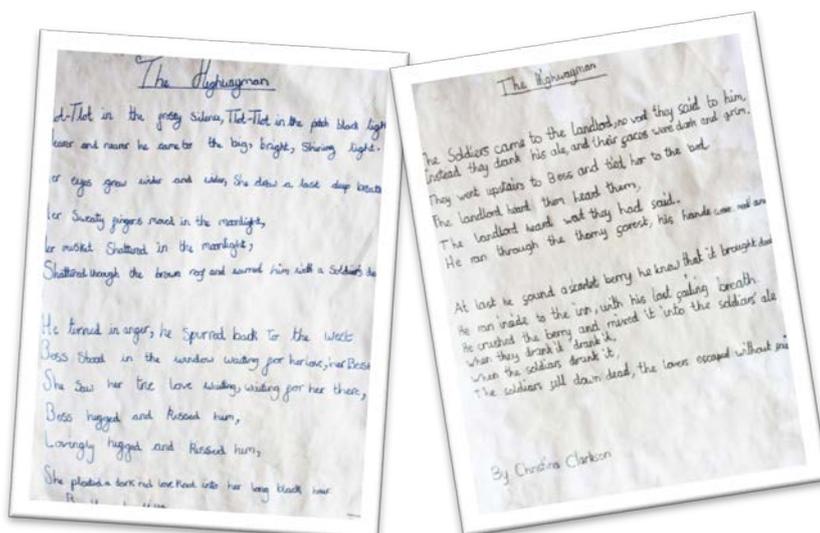
This is a terrific achievement, combining her love of geography studies with a very humanitarian side and the entire Maynard community applauds Alex for so successfully rising to the challenge! We are extremely proud of her!

Oxbridge and beyond!

Congratulations to Lizzie Barbeary who has been offered a place to read Law at Wadham College, Oxford. Offers continue to flood in with Charlie Jackson and Grace Williams successfully receiving offers to study Veterinary Science, Ellen Player for Chemical Engineering at Imperial College, London and numerous other offers at top universities for a vast array of courses. We look forward to updating you with further news on this in the near future. In the meantime, our congratulations to our dedicated and hardworking Upper Sixth, currently with their heads down with their mock examinations!

News from the Junior School and Pre-Prep

Our Pre-Prep girls have returned from the holidays feeling energised and they have been getting stuck into their latest project entitled ‘Houses and Homes’ with great enthusiasm. This week has seen them drawing and describing their own homes, learning how to write their addresses and trying to find where they live on a map. Great fun has been had by all!



In the Junior School, the Year 5s have enjoyed studying *The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes, albeit they found the ending too sad so have rewritten their own happy versions. The way in which they have replicated Noye's own style of writing is most impressive and, as ever, an uninhibited creative streak is altogether evident in these talented students!



Our thanks to Mr Macdonald for bringing in Watson to yesterday's assembly – it was an enormous treat for staff and students alike! As a Pet Therapy Dog, the intention is for Watson to visit school on a semi-regular basis to improve the wellbeing of all in our community. He can help to reduce anxiety and stress, reduce exam nerves and, with appropriate medical support, overcome phobias. He can also engage in the Paws to Read programme.

He is an incredibly special dog and although not terribly old, is wise beyond his years. Mr Macdonald accredits the Maynard girls for helping train him and providing the necessary positive experiences every time he visits. We look forward to seeing him again in the not too distant future.

Nina Savicevic on the BBC

Old Maynardian and brilliant pianist, Nina Savicevic, is back in the spotlight and for those of you who missed seeing her on the television last night, you can catch up on her recent interview with David Fitzgerald here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05rc8r9> (fast forward by 1 hour and 34 minutes to go straight to the bit with Nina). Her playing really is quite compelling and we wish her the best of luck for a continued and successful musical journey.



More Music news

We were delighted to hear that Dodie Bowman and Katie Byles (both Lower 6) have been awarded Grade 8 with distinction for the trumpet and alto saxophone respectively. Our congratulations also to Isadora Hetherington (Year 6) who has been selected for the National Children's Orchestra on her trumpet and to Maddy Jago (Upper 3) for her selection into the National Children's Orchestra (South West region) on her violin.



Over £600 raised at the Carol Service

Our thanks to all those that made a donation at last month's Christmas Carol Service. In total, we raised £608.50 for local charity, Balloons, which will be put towards craft kits to be used by Grief Support Workers in their 1:1 work with bereaved children and young people. Our donation is enough to cover the entire year's supply of kits, thereby facilitating over 900 individual support sessions. Balloons have expressly asked that we pass on their sincere thanks to you all!

Young Enterprise Team nails the Christmas Fair!

Ecoexeter, our Young Enterprise team, took over £800 at the Christmas Trade Fair on Saturday 16 December thanks largely to their exceptional organisational and interpersonal skills. Selling solar chargers and high quality hand designed canvas bags, their display looked fabulous with sufficient stock and staffing levels to allow the day to run like clockwork. Sales are ongoing and there will be further opportunities to stock up with your own purchases in the near future. Watch this space!



U13 Netball team post early victory



The Netball season has kicked off in excellent style with an early victory for the Under 13 team in the Independent Schools Netball Cup plate competition. They played brilliantly on Monday against Haberdashers Monmouth School for Girls, leading from the start and winning relatively easily 26-16. This was a great performance from the whole team so well done to them all!

For all our very latest sports news, don't forget to follow us on Twitter [@maynardsport](https://twitter.com/maynardsport)

Aspirational tales of adventure - not to be missed Geography lecture

Don't miss the exciting and rare opportunity to hear this incredibly inspirational talk by Mollie Hughes who, in May 2017 and at just 26-years old, became the youngest woman in the world to successfully summit Mount Everest from both the North and South sides. Prepare to be wowed by her rich tales of driving her body to the brink, overcoming extreme adversity and how, with the right mix of determination and self-belief, she believes anything is possible.

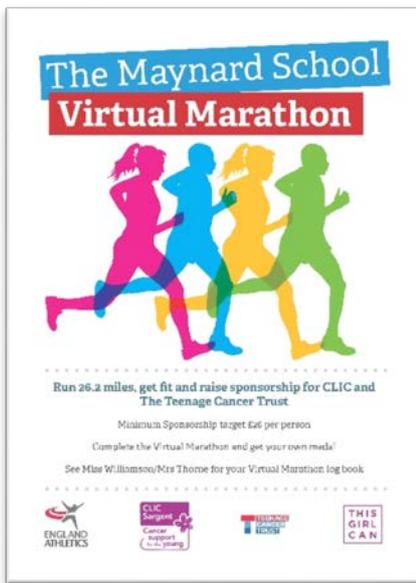


The talk will take place here at The Maynard on Tuesday 20 February at 6.30pm and tickets can be purchased for £5 each from School Reception. Bring the entire family and prepare to be sufficiently motivated to achieve your dreams for 2018!

Virtual Marathon returns by popular demand

We are delighted to announce that the Maynard Virtual Marathon is returning again this year following on from its inaugural success in 2017 when it raised over £2000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust and CLIC Sargent.

This brilliant initiative, masterminded by Mrs Thorne and Miss Williamson, aims to encourage girls, staff, parents and friends to take up running with the end goal of achieving an incremental 26.2 miles before the last day of term on Thursday 30 March 2018. Sponsorship forms are available in school and we look forward to celebrating another bumper year of miles covered and monies received!



In the meantime, have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
