

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

15 December 2017

This week has positively whirled by in a sea of festive activities and I hope everyone is feeling very Christmassy as we head into the holidays! It was just wonderful to welcome back our 2017 leavers at Prize Giving on Tuesday night in the Belmont Chapel – it was lovely to see them and be able to reward all their many successes amongst family, friends, staff and their peers. Many of those who came that evening have commented on what a particularly brilliant evening it was from the sheer talent of our exceptional musicians, the humour of the Head Girl team and the incredibly inspiring talk from the guest speaker, Kate Grey, Broadcaster and Paralympian swimmer. It really was a dazzling success and a befitting way to commemorate the many achievements of all those who took A-levels and GCSEs this summer.

Andrew, Mark and all the kitchen staff thoroughly spoilt us on Wednesday afternoon with the most delicious Christmas lunch and my thanks to them all! It really was a rare treat and there is something very nice, as an adult, about not having to slave over the turkey all day but relax and just enjoy it! I am sure there are many of you who would agree!

Last night's Carol Service at St. Matthew's Church was yet another stunning affair with some fantastic choral and vocal pieces to plant us firmly in the Christmas spirit. There was even a rather good (if I don't say so myself) performance from our newly formed staff choir!



This morning, the entire Senior School was treated to the traditional Sixth Form entertainment which is something that a part of me secretly dreads! Once again, they didn't disappoint with some very good enacting of certain members of staff mixed with a great deal of lampooning, much to everyone's amusement! It was an enormous high on which to end such a successful term - my thanks and congratulations to them all for providing such hilarity!

Stunning display of cakes

The Upper 4s have baked and created some fabulous cake designs in their Food & Nutrition classes, culminating in the ever-popular exhibition of work on Wednesday afternoon. The varied themes, attention to detail and, in some cases, the wonderful humour are a joy to behold. Well done to them all for their enormous efforts and I trust they will taste just as good as they look!



Christmas in the Junior School and Pre-Prep

Well, what a build up to the holidays it has been and I'm sure the girls are almost at fever pitch with excitement!

They have been so busy recently making wonderful creations, for example (and not in any way limited to) patterned dogs in Textiles, Christmas wreaths and, in the Pre-Prep, sparkly trees.

On top of all this, they have squeezed in a further performance of their Nativity and Carols which was much enjoyed by our elderly neighbours at The Lodge on Wednesday and a beautiful Christingle Service in the Main School Hall yesterday.

And today they are looking mighty resplendent in their Christmas jumpers to top off a very festive week!



Santas versus Elves Tennis Academy

The Under 10 tennis academy had great fun on Monday with a Santa versus Elves mini-tournament. Even Mr Rycroft joined in, sporting an enormous pair of Santa trousers! These Year 5 girls have worked really hard on their technique these past few weeks and are beginning to show some fantastic progress so a bit of frivolity at the last session was a just reward for all their ardour!



Martial Arts display

It was wonderful to see so many parents turn up for our open sessions of Pre-Prep, Junior and Cadet Martial Arts classes on Tuesday and our thanks for your support! The Juniors and Cadets all sailed through their grading sessions, successfully passing to become Jiu Jitsu 'red belts'.

These are immensely popular classes and we are so grateful to Helen Catterick (supported by daughter, Anna, in Lower 4) for running these wonderful sessions for the girls!



Countdown to our first Maynard Gymnastics Competition



We are really excited to be taking our first ever gymnastics team to the Independent Schools Gymnastics 4 Piece National Competition in Cambridge next month and the girls have been training so hard on their floor routines in preparation.

We are blessed to have some stunning talent and all five girls from Year 6 will be a wonderful credit to the School so we look forward to reporting back on how they all fared!

Lower 5 Badminton team plays first tournament

Four girls from the Lower 5, Miri Cooper Wedge, Kitty Guinness, Anya Hitt and Bella Brent took part in their maiden Badminton competition on Tuesday evening at St Luke's Science and Sports College. The tournament involved three schools, St Luke's, Clyst Vale and The Maynard all fighting for a chance to play in the county finals.

The girls had to play several games each, both singles and doubles, and acquitted themselves with great sportsmanship and good humour throughout. As the tournament progressed they gained in confidence and ended on a high, winning three out of their last four matches. Unfortunately this was not enough to see them through but they all enjoyed the experience and chance to represent their school!



Final House Hockey results

The final matches for the hugely contested House Hockey competition were played out this week with Armourers triumphing in the Upper 3 year group. This means that they have very much dominated the Senior School whilst Goldsmiths were the overall winners in the Years 3-6 matches. More importantly, great fun was had by all and the House spirit has certainly moved up a notch with everyone already eagerly anticipating next term's House Netball competition!



Top 16 in the country for Under 19 Netball team



Having qualified as one of the top 16 squad in the country, our brilliant Under 19 Netball team fought a hugely competitive match against Surbiton High School yesterday in the next stage of the Independent Schools Netball Cup. Cheered on by several members of staff and fellow students, they played incredibly against these very tough opponents and were leading by three goals going into the final quarter. Very unfortunately, Surbiton upped their game in the final few (and incredibly tense) minutes to take the lead and win by just three goals. It was one of those matches which either team could have taken and it was just a shame it wasn't us but full credit to the girls for their excellent performance nevertheless!

Amazing contributions to our Foodbank/St Petrock's appeal

Thank you so much to all those that have contributed to our appeal for food and warm clothing or bedding that we donate to these two worthy charities. We had one of the biggest yields yet for which we, and the recipients, are extremely grateful! Thank you!



Thrive truffle making!



The girls in the Junior School who are on the Thrive programme have enjoyed making Oreo truffles together and were excited to share them with their parents. Decoupage angels and frames were also part of our creative activities, designed for the girls' own Christmas trees!

Through the Thrive approach, we help our pupils to feel valued, involved and appreciated, to have dreams and ambition and to feel empowered and confident to work with whatever life throws at them.

School buses

Can we kindly remind parents that if you need to use the school buses for any reason, please could you direct all enquiries to sandygardner@maynard.co.uk

Equally, we would like to take this opportunity to apologise to those that have been inconvenienced by some of our buses being a little late at times - the Christmas shopping traffic has, on occasion, affected our punctuality for which we are very sorry!

Plea for Host families

We are still on the hunt for anyone who would like to become a host family for one, or even two, of our lovely international students. This is a very rewarding experience for families, making friends for life, potentially learning a new language, cooking new cuisines and showing off our national heritage. The other large bonus is that host families are paid well for their support and care of the child, in the region of £2000 per term.

A typical host family would live in an area that allows easy access to a transport route into school. They will be asked to provide two meals a day, Monday to Friday, and three over the weekends (plus snacks and drinks). To make their stay as enjoyable as possible, the student will need a room that they can make their own for the year, and hopefully the host family can commit to looking after the student for the duration of the two year A-level course.

As a host family, you would become part of a large network of guardians and host families around the country who are only a phone call away should you require help or advice. A Regional Officer will also be assigned to you and they will also be there to support you in your new role. If you are interested in becoming a host family and would like to have more information sent to you about the role, please can

you send an email me to HeadsPA@maynard.co.uk at the earliest opportunity!

Naming a seat in the Performing Arts Facility

Since we opened the new Performing Arts Facility in the gym, we have received a number of enquiries from parents wanting to sponsor a seat. There are other numerous fundraising possibilities associated with this project and it's not too late to donate! All the information on how you can contribute can be accessed on www.maynard.co.uk/fundraising

It's very quick and easy to donate and we thank all our supporters from the bottom of our hearts.

Renaming the gym

We will be contacting parents next term with a shortlist of suggested names for the new Performing Arts Facility/gym as it is such a multi-functional space it now warrants a new title! All staff have contributed their suggestions, these were then voted upon and we now have a shortlist which will be circulated after the holidays. So do watch this space as we are leaving it up to you to have the final casting vote!

May I wish you all a happy, peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year! See you in 2018!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress

