

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

19 January 2018

There have been so many lovely, uplifting moments this week it is hard to know where to begin!

One highlight was going to watch our Year 6 Gymnastics team practice and rehearse their routines before their big ISGA competition in Cambridge this weekend. They were brilliant! Their vaults, tumbles and graceful moves on the floor were a sight to behold! I wish them all the best for the weekend and my thanks to Mrs Fabian for all her efforts and, of course, to all of the parents for accompanying the team members to the venue so far away!



I also thoroughly enjoyed walking into my office yesterday to see the return of the Lego League Regional round trophy sat proudly on my desk! Well done to Lizzie Zmuda, Lorelei Silver and Alice Player (all Upper 4), and thank you once again to Mrs Weeks for all her expertise in guiding our Robotics team to such success!

All mock exams have now finished and you can sense the relief in the corridors and common rooms! We now enter the final months and I urge the girls to take full note of all of the wellbeing advice they have been given alongside their revision skills guidance. Being healthy on the day you sit your exams is half the battle won! I also encourage them to take full advantage of all the additional clinics and tutorials run by our excellent and proactive staff. Don't miss out on these opportunities!

It was nice to talk to so many Upper 4 parents on Tuesday evening and the new GCSE option programme for next year is now bedding in well. Please do keep in touch with Dr Rudling if you have any queries over the next few weeks as these choices are finalised and put into our new curriculum plans for next year. The Lower 6 A-level options are to be sorted next, so the Upper 5 will be making their initial choices over the next couple of weeks. Unlike many schools, The Maynard builds its academic programmes around the students' choices rather than asking them to select from rigidly pre-set option blocks. There will never be a perfect solution but 90% at least will get their first choice which is very good system!

We welcomed World Challenge to the school on Monday to give a presentation on the next big overseas expedition to the Lower 5 and above. The 2019 proposal is to travel to India and Ladakh which looks truly amazing. World Challenge is the leading organisation for school expeditions and I spent some time with them in October half term in Swaziland learning more about their safety, support and communication systems. I very much agree with their ethos which is that students from all walks of life access these exciting opportunities and really take control of the planning and financing of their adventure. Mrs Williamson has organised a parent and student presentation to take place next Tuesday evening so, if you are interested, do come along.



On to the week's news ...

Post exam treat for the Upper 5s



As a special treat to celebrate the end of mock examinations, we had great pleasure in escorting the Upper 5 year group to London last Thursday and Friday. The girls enjoyed a jam packed itinerary which took in several iconic sights including the V&A Museum (for the Balenciaga: Shaping Fashion exhibition), a tour of the Globe Theatre at which the girls loved their Sword Fighting experience and, of course, the traditional West End Show, this year being 'Kinky Boots' at the Adelphi Theatre.

The mini break culminated at the Imperial War Museum where they enjoyed a particularly moving Holocaust Exhibition before heading home in time to relax and recover over the weekend!

Performance of the Month

It gives us great pleasure to announce the nominees for last month's Performance of the Month Award and we look forward to announcing the winner during an assembly next week. In the meantime, our enormous congratulations to:

The Under 15 Badminton Team of Miri Cooper Wedge, Kitty Guinness, Anya Hitt and Bella Brent (all Lower 5): These girls represented the School in their first ever competitive Badminton tournament and they played superbly showing great sportsmanship, determination and improvement with every game.

U16 Netball & Hockey Squads: For being crowned County Netball and County Hockey Champions, progressing through to the Regional Round in both National Schools competitions.

Armourers House: For winning all of the year group House Hockey competitions in the Senior School!

Lower 4 Martial Arts Club Members: Seven girls from Lower 4 successfully gained their red belts in Jiu Jitsu following the recent belt grading session. Well done to all the girls for their commitment and enthusiasm in learning new skills.

Anna Catterick (Lower 4): Anna has been a fantastic assistant coach in the school Junior and Senior Jiu Jitsu clubs for the past year, passing on her knowledge and experience to her peers and setting a great example to the Junior girls.

Biz Whizz – the weekly Careers Club

We welcomed Henry Sanford from ab...the creative agency for the first of this term's weekly careers talks earlier today. Around 30 girls turned up to hear an absolutely fascinating session about Marketing and Advertising, its future and how to stand out from the crowd when applying for a job or work experience.

All parents and guardians should already have received this term's programme by email and we hope you will agree that the girls have plenty to look forward to with a particularly varied and fascinating array of talks lined up. So do, please, encourage your daughters to come to those that might be of interest!



Music Showcase next week is cancelled

Regretfully, we have had to make the very hard decision to cancel next week's Music Showcase due to numerous staff sicknesses these past few days. This is not something we have taken lightly and we apologise fully to all those who would have been involved but, unfortunately, it just wasn't going to be possible to prepare properly with so many of the music teachers falling victim to the flu epidemic. Our thanks to you all for your cooperation and understanding with this matter.

Sisters in Sister Act!



It's full steam ahead with rehearsals for our upcoming whole school production of Sister Act at the Barnfield Theatre from 7-9 March 2018! There are over 110 girls involved in this hugely uplifting musical and it's just wonderful that so many of our students are playing their hands in some capacity. Not to mention, of course, the sheer number of sisters taking part: The Harries (Anna and Katie), Batchelor (Molly and Daisy), Hudson (Lizzie, Alexandra and Katie), Thomson (Eleanor and Louisa), Fowle (Miller and Sennen)

and Kerr (Laura and Lucy) families are particularly well represented with daughters joining the sisterhood!

Tickets are selling fast; half have gone for Wednesday and Thursday nights with very few seats left on Friday's finale. So don't leave it until it's too late! Once they're gone, they're gone! (www.barnfieldtheatre.org.uk).

Forest School is back!

We are truly excited to once again be hosting our ever-popular Forest School with a five-week programme designed to entertain visiting explorers aged between 3 and 4-years old. The sessions will be run by Mrs Davey, our trained Forest School Leader, and will be held here at The Maynard in our specially adapted and safe area. Each week, we will be looking at all of our surrounding nature, lighting fires and using simple tools and natural materials for craft activities. We also take part in group stories and games but, just as importantly, there will be plentiful hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows to keep us warm!



For more information, email marketing@maynard.co.uk or book online at www.maynard.co.uk/forest-school from next week.

And please do spread the word to friends and family!

Discovery Morning - Saturday 24 February 2018



Registration is now open (maynard.co.uk/discovery) for the latest of our ever-popular Discovery Mornings and this next one will have a distinctly Spring-like feel! We can't, of course, give too much away at this juncture although, suffice to say, our wonderful Junior School staff are concocting some fairly ambitious plans! As ever, we will be hosting a fantastic offering of activities from ballet, yoga and Forest School through to cookery, science experiments and coding - all specifically adapted to suit each age group from 3 to 11 years old.

Appointments or absences - a polite notice from the School Office

We would be grateful if requests for any medical or other important appointments could be notified to the school office, where possible, with at least 24 hours' notice. We would also like to remind you to phone or send us an email before the start of school should your daughter not be able to attend due to illness. Thank you for your co-operation!

Good luck for the weekend!

We wish the very best of luck to Amelia Moody (Upper 5) and Katie Harries (Lower 4), both of whom have qualified for the Devon Schools Cross Country Championships being held tomorrow at Stover School.

Good luck also to our team of Harleigh Fry, Sienna Fuller, Connie Hurrell, Elisa Neal-Jones and Poppy Taylor (all in Year 6) who are competing on Sunday in the Independent Schools Gymnastics Association National Challenge Cup at St. Faith's School in Cambridge.



We believe this is the first time that The Maynard has fielded a gymnastics team so this is a hugely exciting development for the School. The girls will certainly be put through their paces with them all having to compete in each of the four disciplines – Set Vault, Voluntary Vault, Set Floor Routine and the Voluntary Floor Routine (to music).

Good luck to all of these girls! We know you will do us proud in each of these major events!

Have a lovely weekend!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Dunn'.

Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
