

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

26 January 2018

We have spent this week waiting on tenterhooks for the official Department for Education's Schools Performance Tables to be published and you can imagine our relief when we had first sight of them yesterday. We were so delighted to be ranked in key areas as the best school in Devon and 45th overall in the country for our A-level results last year.

For the third consecutive year, we had the highest percentage of students achieving AAB or higher in at least two facilitating subjects. This is just fantastic as this really is the hardest measure on record with these subjects being widely regarded as the toughest on offer, including all the Sciences, Maths, Further Maths, Geography, History, English Literature and both Classical and Modern Languages. As such, they are the key requirements to study the most sought after degrees at top universities, both in STEM fields and the arts. So to be at the top in this measure is just wonderful and I'm extremely proud of our staff and, of course, the class of 2017 for this outstanding achievement!

This announcement must not, however, eclipse our wonderful Under 11 Gymnastics team who brought home a bronze medal from their first ever competition together, the ISGA Championships in Cambridge, last Sunday. Equally exciting was Connie Hurrell's sublime performance that won her the overall individual silver medal to cap what was a truly memorable and successful day. Very well done, girls!

I keep popping into the rehearsals for Sister Act and, I have to say, it really is already looking and sounding fantastic! With a cast of 110 girls this is a massive collaboration and my thanks to all those who are showing so much enthusiasm and commitment now that the rehearsal schedule is in full swing! Tickets are selling fast, with the finale on Friday almost completely booked, so please do contact the Barnfield Theatre as soon as you can - we would hate for you to miss out!

On to the week's news ...



Success at the Devon Schools Cross-Country Championships



Massive congratulations to Amelia Moody (Year 11) and Katie Harries (Year 8) for two sterling performances at the Devon Schools Cross-Country Championships held at Stover School last Saturday. Amelia, who has been largely sidelined from training due to her recent GCSE mock examinations, ran a fantastic race to finish third in the Intermediate Girls section whilst Katie came a fantastic 8th from 46 runners in the Junior Girls. Both have now qualified through to the next round at the South West Schools' Cross-Country Championships next Saturday which is a wonderful achievement and we wish them lots of luck!

Gymnastics news

The long trek to Cambridge last Sunday was certainly worth it with our wonderful Under 11 gymnastics team of Harleigh Fry, Sienna Fuller, Connie Hurrell, Elisa Neal Jones and Poppy Taylor (all Year 6) scooping the team bronze at the ISGA National Challenge Cup. As mentioned earlier, Connie also won the individual silver medal which made for yet further excitement and celebration!

Unfortunately, another of our star gymnasts, Zoe Wheatley (Year 6), was unable to join the team as she had an important trial to attend. So it is fantastic news that she has been selected onto the South West Gymnastics Squad, joining 22 other girls combining elite gymnasts from Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. Well done, indeed!



Magistrates talk to Lower 5 and Sixth Form

As part of the 'Magistrates into the Community Scheme', it was wonderful to welcome Tim Knight and Graham Salmon in to School for two tutorial sessions with the Lower 5 and Sixth Form last week. We enjoyed finding out about the overall structure of the legal system, the role magistrates play within it and even tried to work out which crime was the most severe from a list of interesting options.

The Upper 5 have also benefitted from sessions held in the lunchtime from Exeter University students, Bracton Law Pro Bono. A group of around six students came in on three occasions to give presentations about human rights, criminal law and cyber law. They gave us a real taste of what it would be like to be a first year undergraduate student, giving us real case examples, introducing the correct legal jargon and explaining how you would reach a decision. The Upper 5 really enjoyed the experience and we look forward to further planned activities in the future.

The Biz Whizz careers club welcomed Galina Labworth from Rundlewalker in to talk earlier today about her experiences as one of Exeter's best criminal defence solicitors. Having raced here from the Police Station where she was representing fresh clients, she spent the session talking through what the job entails as well as the qualifications and character traits required. She speckled the discussion with fascinating case studies to illustrate why the job can be so fulfilling and how it is so important to keep the mantra "innocent until proven guilty". Yet again, it was another excellent Biz Whizz session.



Next Friday's talk will be on Psychology and how it is a cornerstone subject for managing, leading and working alongside so many people in all walks of life.



The Three Little Pigs and Mrs Meaton's hairdryer!

The girls in Years 1 and 2 are continuing to enjoy their topic of 'Houses and Homes' which, this week, has focused on the story of the Three Little Pigs.

They worked in pairs to try and build a house of straw, sticks or bricks to protect the pigs from the big, bad wolf. Much to their enormous excitement, they then went on to test the sturdiness of their designs by blowing them with Mrs Meaton's hairdryer. They loved it and it certainly has been one of the highlights in the Pre-Prep for the term so far!

Summer 2019 Expedition to India

Travel designers, World Challenge, joined us on Wednesday evening to launch our hugely exciting expedition to India in July 2019. This will be a fantastic adventure lasting three weeks, with a mixture of hiking and sightseeing in culturally enriched areas such as Ladakh and Rajasthan. Adventurers will also carry out project work in local villages such as fixing buildings and carrying out maintenance work in schools, thus providing plenty of interaction opportunities with the local communities.



There is no doubt this is going to be an awe-inspiring experience open to all of our current Lower 5, Upper 5 and Lower 6 students. So if you are interested in signing up, please do so either online or via the paper copies that were handed out on Wednesday evening (the deadline for this is Tuesday 6 February 2017). If you were unable to make the

meeting, please do ask Miss Williamson (katewilliamson@maynard.co.uk) for further details.

Exam Invigilators required!

We have a need to expand our exam invigilation team this year so if you would be interested in a part time job in School, then we would love to hear from you!

The job will entail invigilating girls with special access arrangements in separate rooms or helping the chief invigilators in the Gym to supervise the majority of students. We run a full day of training and have a very friendly, experienced and supportive exam invigilation team of twelve already in place. The job can be very flexible, with the possibility of working just certain days of the week or only in the morning or afternoon. The main exam period runs from the middle of May until the end of June. We also have a small number of meetings and mock exam sessions running throughout the year.

You would need to be available from 8.30am until 4.00pm on your day of work and basic pay is £8.20 per hour. If you would be interested in helping, or need more information, please contact the Exams Officer, Donna Lewis: donnalewis@maynard.co.uk

Discounted tickets for concert in aid of Hospiscare

Our amazing and very highly regarded Senior Choir will once again be featuring in the annual concert for Hospiscare taking place in Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 26 May 2018. This is always a stunning event and we would strongly recommend it to any music enthusiasts! We have very kindly been given the special discount code of ISCAMAYNARD for any staff or parents buying tickets online at: www.iscaensemble.org.uk or www.ticketsource.co.uk



Our thanks to the MPA

The PE Department was delighted to take possession of 20 new athletics and cross-country tops to really make us stand out at future fixtures!

Our enormous thanks to the MPA who so kindly donated this much required team kit!

Earn over £2000 per term ...

... and become a host family for one of our Sixth Form students from further afield! Find out more about this incredibly rewarding role at our homestay meeting here at The Maynard on Thursday 1 February from 3pm - 4pm. To book a place or find out more, please contact admissions@maynard.co.uk

Mollie Hughes 'Be Inspired' lecture: Last few days of priority tickets

There is only one week remaining to pick up your priority tickets for the Mollie Hughes motivational talk on Tuesday 20 February 2018. As the first woman in the world to successfully scale Mount Everest from both the North and South sides, Mollie has since travelled the length and breadth of the UK inspiring youngsters to achieve their ambitions.



"The girls were just spellbound by her story and, most importantly, motivated. Her reflections on the qualities needed to fulfil personal dreams and ambitions chimed exactly with what we have been saying as a school for years but they believed her! They are still talking about it weeks later!" (Sacred Heart High School, Newcastle).

Tickets are on sale for £5 each from School Reception but we would strongly advise to buy yours in the coming days before we open sales up to other schools and the general public!

Busy weekend ahead



May we wish the very best of luck to our Under 16 Netball team who is travelling to Bournemouth at the crack of dawn tomorrow for the South West Regional Finals. They have a busy day lined up with six pool matches against teams from the top schools to qualify in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Avon, Dorset, Somerset and Cornwall. We have a tough draw that includes Millfield and Canford but will keep everything crossed that we can progress through to the semi-finals and beyond!

There are also a number of girls taking part in the Ten Tors training weekend and we hope the weather is kind to all those who will be trekking across the moor! Of particular note, are the girls who will be whizzing back from Bournemouth after the Netball to join in with these preparations – this certainly is quite a full couple of days for you!

Have a great weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
