

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

2 February 2018

It was a busy weekend with many girls out doing a range of activities. The Under 16 Netball team once again did us all proud when they travelled to Bournemouth to take part in the Regional Netball Championships. I gather we were just pipped at the post, coming second equal in a competitive pool and only being knocked out after some excellent games (including winning against Millfield) on goal difference. It says a lot when the eventual winners were a team that our girls only lost to by one goal in the earlier rounds. As always, we must applaud them in their efforts in getting this far!

There were also 23 girls out on the moors all weekend staying overnight at Pixies Holt and being put through their navigation exercises in readiness for the Ten Tors Challenge in May. I don't think the weather was particularly kind, as is often the case on Dartmoor in January, but they took it in their stride and it seems they had a great time. Ten Tors has always been an extremely successful venture at the Maynard and I wish these girls all the very best as they go through the final months of their training. As someone who did Ten Tors as a teenager, I know exactly what their feet and backs are going through and I sympathise!

Staying on the topic of Outdoor Education, I'm pleased to announce that two more of our Sixth Form girls have just been awarded their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award for their endeavours. Our congratulations to Amy Chambers and Laurel Watts who can now look forward to going up to St James's Palace to receive this in the summer. Well done!

We have had many visitors to the school this week with the 11+ and 13+ interviews and auditions so we hope to see lots of new faces in the autumn. You may also be aware that we are appointing an additional member to the Senior Leadership Team from September. This post will be an Assistant Head and, as expected, we've had an enormous amount of interest with many teachers visiting us over the past few weeks. I must thank my PA, Lora Jones, who has now done at least



17 tours around the school site for these prospective candidates and she is now an expert on promoting the Maynard! All visitors have remarked upon the unique, warm, friendly and productive ambience around the place which is always nice to hear!



There are some wonderful events coming up at school over the next couple of months so please make sure that you get your tickets as quickly as possible because I gather they are all selling out. On Tuesday 20 February, Miss Williamson has organised an excellent talk by Mollie Hughes who was the youngest women to summit Mount Everest from both the north and south sides. And, of course, you can't miss out on Sister Act at the Barnfield Theatre! Following the sell-out of Jesus Christ Superstar two years ago, Mrs Bellamy and Miss Blackwell are putting this show on over three nights instead of two to try and ensure that everybody can see the spectacle. As such, tickets are already in high demand and it's truly fantastic that there has also been quite a bit of interest from prospective girls to the school.

I was wondering if I could make a plea to all parents regarding drop-off and pick up around the school in the morning and in the evening. We benefit from effectively being an island, providing a lot of road space around the school to pull in.

However, I know that it is still quite a difficult exercise for parents and, at times, a frustration. In the past the school has run an informal one-way system, going anticlockwise around the school and I gather that this proved quite successful so I wonder if we might want to revisit the idea. If it is acceptable to you, I would like to trial this starting straight after half term from Monday 19 February and we can then gauge whether this makes much difference at these busy times. So, as you approach the school, could you please only travel in an anticlockwise direction? As ever, I welcome any feedback so we can work towards a viable system that will help to iron out any safety issues regarding our neighbours, the general public and, of course, you and your daughters!

And now to the week's news.....

Good Schools Guide review is published!



Our review by the Good Schools Guide has now been published and we are delighted with the report that perfectly captures the essence of all that is The Maynard. To be described in the closing sentence as “a heartstealer” sums up the positivity of the entire document and we are thrilled to be held in such high esteem by professionals in assessing the country's educational establishments. Essentially, whilst it validates everything we already know, it's still a great compliment and we are thrilled at their findings!

Read the full review here:

https://www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk/schools/103206/the-maynard-school/AAAD284#tab_review

Rotary Youth Speaks Competition

Congratulations to our two talented teams from Year 6 who took part in the last night's Rotary Youth Speaks competition, encouraging speaking and presentation skills in young people. In front of an enormous audience of over 150, they spoke brilliantly and all worked so well together!

Kristina Pavic, Isabel Board and Sienna Fuller had the incredibly tricky topic of 'Should all children be treated as gender neutral'? whilst Elisa Neal-Jones, Zoe Wheatley and Isadora Hetherington tackled 'Is there a future without plastics?'

It was almost impossible to choose the winner and whilst The Maynard wasn't selected this time, they truly acquitted themselves beautifully and we were very proud of them all!



Biz Whizz - Psychology careers talk

We enjoyed a most informative talk earlier this afternoon from Emma Haddleton (director of Haddleton Knight) about the multiple doors that can be opened when studying Psychology. It was another well-attended Friday lunchtime session just proving how our students are keen to explore the various career avenues.

Our next Biz Whizz session will take place after half term on Friday 23 February and will focus on the wonderful world of Civil Engineering.

Sport news

As ever, sporting fixtures abound and, in the last two weeks, we have fielded all of our Senior School Netball teams from Under 12 through to Under 18 against various local opponents including Truro School, Exeter School and Blundell's. Next week we can look forward to fixtures against Taunton and St Peter's High School, as well as the much anticipated ISNC quarter final plate match against Berkhamsted School on Wednesday. This is a home fixture, starting at 12.30pm so do come along and support the girls!

In the Junior School, the Under 10s and Under 11s have been enjoying their first competitive outings of the netball season, narrowly losing against Exeter School and Exeter Cathedral School respectively in some hugely close and competitive matches. On both occasions, they have been wonderful hosts to the visiting sides and forming a tunnel out of the dining room after match teas has certainly become a bit of a tradition now!



Examinations Information area on the website



The school website now has an 'Examinations Information' section, which can be found under the Academic tab. You will find lots of useful and important information here relating to GCSE and A level external examinations, but also internal examinations.

What will you find?

- Important student guidance from JCQ, the examination governing body, about the rules and regulations regarding coursework, controlled assessment, non-examination assessment (NEA), using social media wisely and how to avoid plagiarism. Instructions for written exams including what items can be taken into the exam hall and, more importantly, the things that are banned.
- There are two appeals policies outlining what to do if a student is not happy with her results and NEA marks.
- A student and parent information booklet outlining what to do if you are late on the day of an exam, special consideration, collecting results and revision tips and hints.
- The GCSE and GCE timetable for 2018.
- A form to use if a student cannot collect exam results in person.
- At the appropriate times, we will also display mock and internal exam timetables.

Our website does also contain a 'UCAS & Careers' section which has links to the most up to date medical courses, apprenticeships, careers open days and other careers related events. It is worth having a regular check of what is available!

Bridging the gap between the generations

We are thrilled to be joining Bluebird Care in a brand new initiative inspired by the Channel 4 programme, 'Old People's Homes for 4-Year Olds'. Aimed at Years 1 and 2 in the Pre-Prep, the idea is to share some fun activities with those from a much older generation whilst cultivating new relationships and new conversations.



Mixing the generations is known to have its shared benefits and we hope this hugely worthwhile community venture will create a sense of wellbeing in all those concerned.

100 Most Influential Women of Exeter



GrowExeter, the company responsible for organising the 100 Most Influential Women of Exeter celebration evening has kindly invited our students and parents to join them at the event being held on Monday 12 February at the Deer Park Country House Hotel near Honiton. It promises to be a very special and inspiring evening so to find out more, please go to www.100womenexeter.eventbrite.co.uk.

Parents will be required to purchase a ticket but their children can go along for free!

MPA Quiz Night - Friday 16 March

Please do join us for the annual MPA Quiz – always a fun night and a great opportunity to enjoy a glass of wine with other parents!

Teams should comprise 4-6 people (and smaller groups can be combined on the night) and prepare for a lot of fun and hilarity! Tickets cost £14, including a fish and chip supper (a vegetarian option will be available) and can be purchased either via www.classlist.com or via a form which will be emailed to you next week.



School Bus route: Torquay, Kingsteington, Newton Abbot

Due to road works on the A380, we are experiencing unavoidable delays which means we are unable to accurately predict travel times. We apologise profusely and would ask that you bear with us for the next couple of months until the works are completed. Thank you!



Countdown to Discovery Morning

Our next Discovery Morning will take place on Saturday 24 February 2018 and we already have over 30 girls signed up to join in with a whole host of exciting activities. There will be a distinctly spring-like theme to this event, with even the promise of some fluffy friends, so do spread the word! You can register online at www.maynard.co.uk/discovery.

Last chance to buy priority tickets for Mollie Hughes' lecture

This is a final call out to anyone hoping to attend Mollie Hughes' hugely anticipated motivational talk on Tuesday 20 February. Tickets will be opened up to the general public and other school next week so do purchase yours from Reception at £5 each before they potentially sell out! Everyone is welcome - parents, friends, siblings etc!

"Meeting Mollie was a privilege and listening to her is captivating. Her story is vivid, scary, full of risk and comes with inspiring lessons of courage, strength, compassion and huge success.."



World Challenge Expedition 2018

Please note that the deadline for applying to join the World Challenge Expedition to India next summer is Tuesday 6 February 2018. This promises to be an incredible and culturally rich adventure, spanning three weeks, and is open to all girls in current Lower 5, Upper 5 and Lower 6. For more information, please contact Miss Williamson on katewilliamson@maynard.co.uk

Good luck to Amelia and Katie

We wish Amelia Moody (Upper 5) and Katie Harries (Lower 4) the very best of luck for tomorrow when they will both represent Devon in the South West Schools Cross-Country Championships at Stover School. It is such an achievement to have qualified through to this level and we look forward to hearing how they do! Go, girls!



In the meantime, have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
