
THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

23 February 2018

What a week this has been! Two days of interviews for a new Senior Post dominated my Tuesday and Wednesday but I am very pleased to announce a truly excellent result. We had a record 91 applicants respond to our advert for a new Assistant Head to join our team to help us drive new initiatives in Wellbeing, Study Support, Personalised Learning, PSHE, Student Leadership and various aspects of our co-curricular programme. The field was so strong that I am very excited to announce that we have decided to bring two people into the senior team. Congratulations must go to Mr Loosemore who has been appointed in a very pastoral role and I am sure you will be pleased to know that he will still continue his excellent work as Head of English! The other appointment is Mrs Caroline Leigh who will join us from a school in Swindon where she is already on the SLT as the Lead Professional in Teaching and Learning with a great deal of experience. We are all very much looking forward to working with them in these new roles.

My thanks must go to Mrs Williamson who spearheaded the fantastic Mollie Hughes presentation in our new Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday. It was truly humbling to hear what this young woman had put herself through and it was a wonderful lesson in resilience and perseverance!

The following evening was another highlight in my term as I watched the quite amazing Upper Sixth girls perform their Drama exam pieces. Once again, the performances appeared to me almost of professional standard and we all sat in awe of the talent and passion before us. Well done, of course, to Mrs Bellamy for her expert coaching and Mr Ganley for all the technical lighting and sound. Once again, it was great to see our new performance suite coming up trumps.

As always, so many of our students have been excelling again so I will let you read all about these many achievements below:



Wonderful New York trip



The half term History trip to New York was hailed an outstanding success despite the same never-ending rain that we were experiencing in Devon! In many ways, the continual soakings as they wandered between the numerous attractions made the trip all the more memorable, with highlights including (but not limited to); visiting Liberty and Ellis Island to learn some of the extraordinary individual stories of immigration to the US; looking back at the 20's and 30's through touring Wall Street, Grand Central and the Empire State Building; and an extraordinary tour of the UN. However, we suspect the girls would probably add to this list a spectacular Broadway show (Chicago) as well as ice skating in the shadow of the Rockefeller Centre!

Outstanding and truly inspirational lecture

Mollie Hughes, the famous adventurer and mountaineer who last year became the youngest woman in the world to successfully summit Mount Everest from both the North and South sides, delivered an extraordinary talk to a packed audience on Tuesday. We also had the pleasure of welcoming several West Exe students on top of our own friends and associates, all of whom were positively wowed and motivated by her story.



“It was so inspirational,” said one of our Lower 5s, “She was absolutely incredible and it was the most amazing talk ever!” Likewise, the West Exe students were raving on their way home about the experience and were concocting their own plans to climb Everest and row the Atlantic!

Our thanks to the Geography Department for organising this very inspiring evening.

Stunning A-level drama work

On Wednesday the Upper 6 Drama A-Level students were examined in their Component 2 practical performances by a visiting examiner. The students presented individual monologues and design work followed by a highly accomplished half hour group performance of Abi Morgan's 'Splendour', a complex play spanning the final hours of a dictator's wife and those around her as the encroaching civil war beyond the gates grows ever nearer.



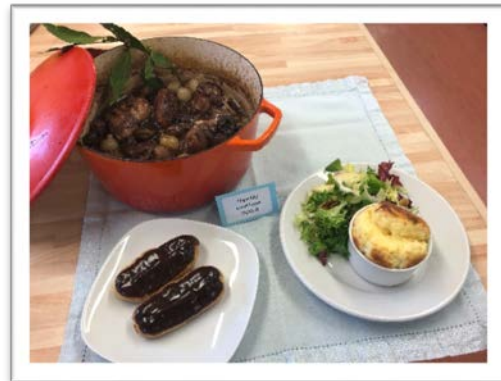


Equally, just before half term, on Wednesday 7 February our GCSE Drama students completed their practical examinations, also to a visiting examiner. The students performed extracts from six diverse texts including Bernard Kopp's 'Dreams of Anne Frank' and Stephen Lowe's 'Touched' in a great display of expressive skill and commitment.

Well done to both sets of drama students!

Food and Nutrition GCSE assessments

Congratulations to the 25 Upper 5 Food and Nutrition students who held their nerve to create some delicious dishes when being assessed this week. Under tremendous pressure, they completed a three hour practical as part of their GCSE to show off some really advanced culinary skills. From making flaky pastry, homemade pasta, plaited bread and roulades right through to boning a chicken and filleting fish - this really was a tough test of cheffing endurance and the results were spectacular!



Congratulations to Zoe Cole

Our congratulations to Zoe Cole (Year 4) who has successfully gained a much-prized place playing her viola on the National Children's Orchestra (NCO) Training Orchestra for under 9-year olds. In addition to these commitments, she will also play with the South West Regional Orchestra, working alongside instrumental mentors and playing side-by-side with professional players. At only 8-years old, these are super achievements and we wish Zoe well for all her future performances!



Pre-Prep multi skill sports

The girls in Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a fantastic morning of multi skills sports at St. Luke's Science and Sports College on Tuesday. They tried their hands at lots of different activities including target games, balancing tasks and a brilliant pirate game which involved some maths and a lot of pirate shouting!

Our thanks to the staff and Year 7 Sports Leaders for hosting such a fabulous event and making everyone feel so welcome!

Other sporting news

Our Under 9 and Under 8 netballers signed off the last half of term in successful style with all three teams winning convincingly against Exeter School. This was a fabulous start to their competitive season and the future certainly looks bright for these promising young players!

On our non-pupil day before half term we invited 'She Rallies' British Tennis Ambassador, Laura James, to run a coaching course for staff and Sixth form as part of the Judy Murray and British Tennis initiative to encourage more girls to play and more women to coach the game. It was a brilliant course and we are looking forward to implementing the coaching material with junior girls in the summer.

As ever, this week has been very busy with lots of action on the netball courts. On Monday, the Under 10s played Exeter Cathedral School at the University, with one team losing and the other winning. More importantly, there were lots of smiles regardless of the score!

The Under 12, 13 and 14 teams have all played Exeter School this week, with the two sides both sharing the honours - some wins for us, some for them but, as ever, there were encouraging displays of teamwork and individual excellence.

The Under 10s were in action again on Wednesday, along with Under 11s, playing St. Peter's Prep, Stover School and Bramdean School with both year groups winning and losing a game - so lots of competitive play and digging deep. In essence, the girls are all loving their busy netball schedule!



Junior Tennis Academy

Our Junior Tennis Academy has launched again today despite the very chilly start and the girls from Year 6 enjoyed a successful session honing their skills. Girls from Years 4 to 8 are invited to join the Academy where they can take advantage of weekly early morning coaching in their groups.

Enter up for the National Schools Photography Competition!

As promised, the Geography Department have announced the details for their next photography competition and we look forward to another bumper entry. Prizes this time include cameras and accessories as well as work experience with professional photographers, plus much more! The topic for the Sixth Form competitors is 'A lasting impression' and for those in Upper 3 to Upper 5 it is 'A window into life at school'. The deadline is 16 March 2018 and students should see Miss Parsons for more details and some top photography tips! Good luck!

Good luck to the Robotics Team

May we wish the best of luck to Lorelei Silver, Alice Player and Lizzie Zmuda (Upper 4) who will take part tomorrow in the FIRST Lego League UK Robotics Final at the University of the West of England in Bristol. The girls have spent several weeks in preparation and, having qualified in an earlier round, they have been perfecting their kitchen sink design for recycling grey water on top of programming and building a lego mindstorm robot to solve water based missions. Good luck!



Fundraising for a South African charity

The girls going on this summer's South Africa Sports Tour are starting to put together an amazing programme of events to raise money for a charity helping some of the local communities out there. At the Mollie Hughes talk on Tuesday they made over £100 selling cakes and refreshments with plans being put in place for a 'Maynard's Got Talent' event later in the term. More details on all of this will follow!

In the meantime, a number of parents have expressed an interest in sponsoring some of the tour items (track tops, hoodies, performance t-shirts etc). If you are able to help us with any of this, we would love to hear from you, so please contact Mrs Gabbitass directly on CatherineGabbitass@maynard.co.uk. Very many thanks in advance!

Late Room

Please can we gently remind parents and guardians that Late Room is open until 5.30pm when all girls must be collected. Students should not be in school after this time unless prior arrangements have been made and this would only be in exceptional circumstances. Thank you!

Have a lovely weekend!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Dunn'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
