

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

16 March 2018

As the cast of the absolutely superb Sister Act come back down to earth (and my enormous thanks again to everyone involved for such a stunning production), the school has had another busy week.

We have enjoyed some lovely World Book Day celebrations over the past few days and the Junior School looked wonderful in their outfits on Wednesday. I had to chuckle as I spotted Mrs Fabian coming across the Rose Garden dressed as Puss in Boots with 20 Pre-Prep girls in tow looking resplendent in their various guises. Quite a sight! Not to mention Mr Smerdon who made for a perfect Mr McGregor!

I think our German Exchange visitors had a lovely time and all seemed to get back on their coach with beaming smiles and lots of experiences to share on the way home. My thanks again to all who took part as host families. With this and trips to Salamanca and Brittany it is good to see such cultural events being offered.

The Lower and Upper 5 enjoyed a Law Mooting event on Thursday evening which would have been a good eye opener for anyone thinking of a law career. This sort of event, coupled with our weekly and highly successful Biz Whizz talks, is giving the girls a good insight into a range of professional opportunities. With so much in the news at present on gender pay gaps and women in leadership, I think this focus is very well placed.

Speaking of exciting careers, I was absolutely delighted to discover this week that 12 girls in the Lower Sixth have now all successfully secured offers in Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Midwifery and Child Nursing. They have done fantastically well to compete so successfully in these challenging interview processes!

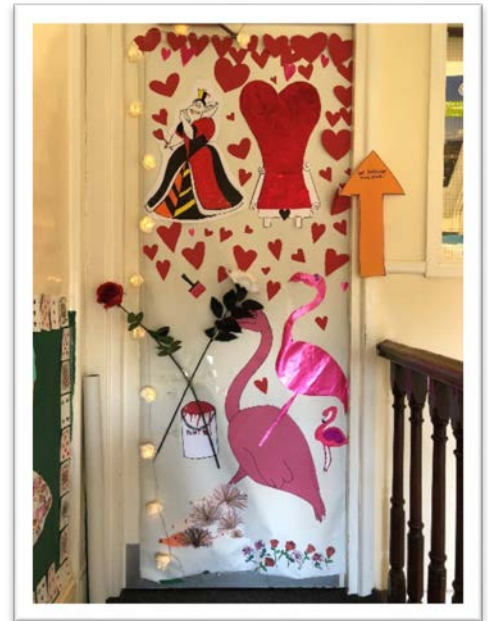


As ever, we have had an excellent run of sporting fixtures this week – more about these later – and I would just like to wish Amelia Moody (Upper 5) and Katie Harries (Lower 4) lots of luck for the England Schools Cross Country Championships in Leeds tomorrow. Having qualified through regional and county rounds earlier in the year, they have proven themselves as the cream of the Devon crop and we will all be willing them on through the inevitable mud!

On to the week's news!

World Book Day

The World Book Day 'Dress your Door' competition has now been judged and huge congratulations to Lower 5P who trounced some excellent competition from the other tutor groups to win themselves a book each. Their door, the stairs leading up to it, the foyer directly outside the classroom and basically anywhere in close proximity was bedecked with hand drawn, coloured and cut out features, along with an array of accessories, to create a stunning 'Alice in Wonderland' theme ... right down to the twinkly lights! It was an excellent effort from the group and a truly beautiful (and very large) display!



Elsewhere in the School, our postponed celebrations of World Book Day have now taken place; yesterday, the girls in the Pre-Prep and Year 3 were treated to an author visit by Paul Cherrill. They had a fantastic time chatting with him about his job as an illustrator, reading his book *Robosnot*, designing a robot and learning the *Robosnot* song!

Likewise, on Wednesday girls from Year 5 upwards attended our World Book Day book fair in the library, provided by Crediton Community Bookshop. They enjoyed browsing and chatting about the books and many went away excitedly clutching their purchases (including Mrs Wilks and the librarian!). We are happy to be able to support a local independent bookseller, and if you haven't been

to their lovely shop, we can recommend it.



In addition to Jasmine Reay who has already been awarded her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, our huge congratulations also to Megan Dalrymple-Hay, Lucy Harris-Deans and Elena Ramsay (all Upper 6) who were awarded theirs earlier this week. This is a terrific achievement and we have never, in recent history, had such a good year for Golds! Well done!

Ten Tors training weekend

Congratulations to our 35 and 45-mile Ten Tors teams who spent their first camping weekend out on the moor last Saturday and Sunday. Torrential rain in the preceding week meant for a change of course to avoid any potentially dangerous river crossings but, apart from that, everything went according plan. Suddenly the Ten Tors Challenge itself doesn't seem so far away and our girls only have two more training weekends to complete, so things are certainly hotting up in the camp!

Tea Party fundraiser a huge success



The Summer Sports Tour girls put on a fantastic Mother's Day Tea Party on Monday to raise funds for SOS Africa, a charity that provides care and an education to some of the most impoverished children in South Africa. The girls are trying to raise £600 to cover the cost of one girl's education for a year and, thanks to a weekend baking the most delicious scones, the Tea Party brought in over £200! A special well done to Elizabeth Bowden (Lower 5) who spearheaded and drove the entire initiative - her efforts paid off! It was a rare treat to be able to sit in the Main School Hall, scoffing scones, cream and jam whilst being served a cup of tea by the students!

Coming soon ... Maynard's Got Talent

The next fundraiser for SOS Africa will be Maynard's Got Talent on Wednesday 28 March in the Performing Arts Centre here at School from 5.30pm-7pm. Please do put the date in your diaries and we will release further details about how to buy tickets next week. Suffice to say, students and staff are all in huge support of this initiative and there should be some stunning acts on the night.

We can't say more at this stage for fear of ruining the surprise but, let's just say, there will be no better way to celebrate the last night of term before the start of the Easter Holidays!



World Challenge expedition



We held our first meeting for the World Challenge expedition on Tuesday after school. The girls started off by talking about their expectations and fears about the expedition to India. The session then led on to thinking about teamwork, team building activities and, of course, fundraising. As ever, there were some brilliant and creative ideas which you will hear about shortly. They have now gone away from the meeting with key areas to research and to feedback to the group about everything from visas and vaccinations, to the wildlife of the Himalaya. It was great to see the girls taking lead of their own expedition.

Fabulous football results

Our Under 14 Football team were superb yesterday, playing a hugely competitive tournament at Exeter University to bring home the Catherine Fraser Memorial Plate following victories against ten other teams, including a nail biting 1-0 final against Exmouth. Their game over the season has improved considerably - thanks to Mr Loosemore for sharing his passion of the sport and imbuing them with the necessary skills to secure this momentous victory!



Other sporting news

Congratulations also to our Under 13 Basketball team who had a great game on Monday, winning against Uffculme School 62-22.

Equally, the netball masterclasses on Monday with England coach, Denise Ellis, were a huge success and our Senior players should feel very privileged to have had training from someone of this calibre. Focusing on tactics and technique, the girls played out some really advanced moves both in defence and attack. It was wonderful to see them incorporating what they had learned into their matches later in the week with the 1st team and the Under 15 As & Bs going on to take some impressive victories against Exeter School.



Wonderful guests to the Pre-Prep

As part of our Wellbeing programme, our Years 1 and 2 girls enjoyed a brilliant afternoon on Tuesday with the lovely people from Bluebird Care Exeter. Small groups of girls were appointed as carers to each of the 'mature students' and had a great time sharing lots of activities together, (including colouring, jigsaw puzzles, a book corner, playdough and board games). There was some fantastic interaction and both the girls and our elderly visitors really enjoyed themselves in this excellent initiative.



Young Enterprise Spring Trade Fair

Team EcoExeter, comprising a group of our Lower 6 Young Enterprise students, are very much looking forward to the Spring Trade Fair tomorrow being held in St Stephen's Church (from 9am - 2pm), just off the High Street. If you are in the area, do pop along to support all the many teams showcasing their lovely creative products.

For all budding sailors

Topsham Sailing Club will be running its popular cadet training again this year and is keen to welcome anyone with an interest in sailing. It is a very family-friendly club with plenty of opportunities to experience a range of dinghy or cruiser sailing so, if your daughter (or son) is interested, do have a look (www.topsham-sc.org.uk). Equally, Mr Speyer (father of Ming) is very happy to tell you more - 07770 936 678 or chris@chrisspeyer.com.

Absence through sickness reminder

Please can we remind all parents and guardians that if you have phoned in to say your daughter is ill, could you then send them back in to school with an explanatory written note on their return. Many thanks!

Lift Sharing

We have had a number of queries from parents regarding the possibility of lift sharing from September onwards. If this is of interest to anyone in the following areas, could you please contact admissions@maynard.co.uk:

- Teign Valley, Haldon, Dunsford or Doddiscombsleigh
- Sidmouth
- Torquay (the bus from here is now full)

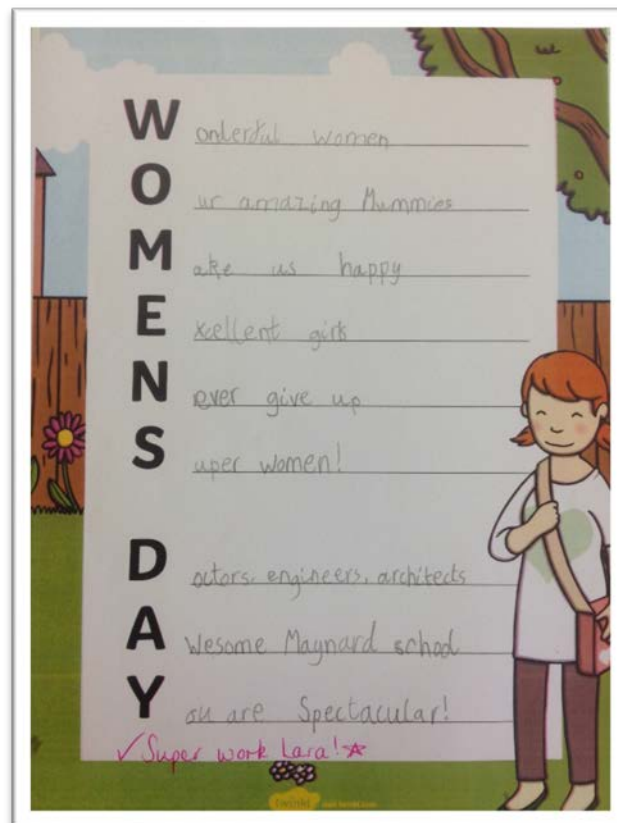
Introducing a new bus route from Tiverton

If anyone from the Tiverton, Bickleigh, Silvertown, Thorverton or Rewe areas is interested in the new bus that will be running to and from Tiverton in September, please could they contact admissions@maynard.co.uk to reserve their daughter's place.



International Women's Day in the Pre-Prep

And finally, we just had to share with you this lovely poem that Years 1 and 2 wrote last week in celebration of International Women's Day!



Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
