

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

23 March 2018

None of us can remember the last time Exeter and surrounding areas had so much snow, not once, but twice! As a result we were once again playing catch up all week, but I have to hand it to the girls in the exam classes who showed great initiative and motivation to use the day for productive revision.

We have still managed to cram a lot into the remaining four days and it was wonderful to watch Molly Bachelor and Lucy Harris-Deans performing superbly for their final A-level pieces on Tuesday evening in a recital. As always it left me humbled and in awe of the extreme talent of our musicians. This was confirmed again on Thursday evening at the really excellent Spring Concert which was a true representation of the Performing Arts here. There were dance groups, drama ensembles, solos and duets and the whole thing was just wonderfully uplifting, varied and thoroughly entertaining. In total, 10 of our more musical staff were involved, as well as Ms Bellamy, Mr Ganley and Mrs Fabian which made for a truly great spectacle (and, once again, it was nice to see our new Performing Arts Centre looking and sounding so good).

I don't think I've written to you since the MPA quiz night which was just brilliant. There were 110 participants and the whole thing had a great atmosphere of fun and competition. The Maynard staff heaved a large sigh of relief with one of our teams being crowned the eventual winners (and holding the trophy high with what, I must say, was a great deal of pride)! I have to, at this point, admit that I was in the other team which wasn't quite so successful! Well done once again to our wonderful MPA as not only was this fun, but it raised a whopping £1200.





As a scientist, I loved the egg demolition challenge which I accidentally forgot to mention last week. Such ingenuity, engineering, creativity and humour filled the labs! But more on this later in this newsletter.

Charity work is close to our hearts and the entire school is right behind today's Sport Relief and there are some seriously brilliant sporting outfits on display around the school! Mrs Gabbitass arranged for every single girl in the Senior School and Sixth Form to enjoy a lunchtime fitness class, led by two experts, which was much enjoyed by all, although there might be some rather stiff legs and arms over the weekend! It was quite a work out! Our thanks to the wonderful catering team staff who put on a deliciously healthy take-away menu so all the girls could eat something nutritious and quickly either before or after their work out. It was a super collaborative effort from everyone and we are sure to have raised a great deal of money for the Sport Relief initiative.

We now enter our final week and I know the tension is mounting with the A-level and GCSE exam classes. I really only have one main piece of advice for them as we enter this big revision period over Easter. It is so, so important to keep stress under control by sleeping well, taking exercise, sticking to a plan that shows progress that you can tick off, but also spending time with friends and family to enjoy some relaxing breaks. Structured well-planned revision schedules, coupled with effective revision techniques using lots of past paper material will be crucial, but this will only work if the mind and body remains healthy throughout. I wish them all the best of luck as they enter the home straights of their respective courses and I know they will do well because I've been witnessing a remarkably strong and motivated work ethic throughout!

And now for the week's news in more detail.

'Eggcellent' Engineering Challenge

As part of our joint celebrations of National Science Week and Easter, as usual, the Science department ran an egg-themed engineering challenge for the Upper Four. This year the standard was 'cracking' and the finale was particularly 'eggciting' (OK, that's the egg puns out of my system - Mr Ridler). All the girls in the year group were tasked with designing and building a machine that could catapult chocolate eggs towards a wall of Jenga bricks, with the aim of demolishing it. They were allowed to use everyday materials such as balloons, plastic spoons, elastic bands and even the box that contained these. The girls were very inventive, building catapults, balloon powered guns and trebuchets.





The high standard of engineering made the competition particularly difficult to judge but overall prizes were awarded to team 1: Alice Player and Lorelei Silver for most bricks dislodged, and to team 2: Alice Board, Lucy Sproule and Isabelle Ibrahim and team 8: Maja Burska, Eleanor Tohill and Hannah Petersen for best mechanical engineering. We would like to thank all of the girls in Upper Four for their great enthusiasm that they demonstrated in undertaking this challenge.

British Physics Olympiad Challenge

Two girls in the Lower Sixth undertook the British Physics Olympiad Challenge last week and we are delighted to announce that Haley Sun achieved a Level 1 Bronze award, placing her in the top 14% of the students in the country that participated, and Cherise Xia was commended, placing her in the top 50%. This are excellent achievements and our congratulations to them both.

Fabulously fun and educational trip to Shaldon Zoo

Year Three had a fantastic day last Friday visiting Shaldon Zoo, which is a small zoo with rare and endangered species.

They learned about the habitat of many endangered animals - they saw golden lion tamarins from Brazil, wild cats known as margay and yellow breasted capuchin monkeys.

They observed unusual nocturnal creatures called owstems, found in the forests of South East Asia, although the favourite animal of the day was the slender-tailed meerkat!

They also stroked cockroaches, mealworms and waxworms...and handled African giant snails and stick insects! It was truly an educational experience!



More news from Year 3



Year Three have had fun with Mrs Davey and Mrs Rowe at our on-site Forest School this term. They have made their History lessons come alive by making their own Celtic roundhouses and sitting round the fire telling Celtic tales. We also learned how to light the fire using sheep's wool with lanolin, just like the Celts did!

They also enjoyed dipping fruit into melted chocolate at the end of the session (we know this was not a typical Iron Age activity but it had to be done!).

Wonderful news from the Music Department

A-level Music recital

Congratulations to Molly Batchelor and Lucy Harris-Deans on their incredibly successful final exam recitals. A supportive crowd gathered to hear the girls perform with Molly playing the violin and singing, in a programme that included the music of Fauré and Tchaikovsky, and Lucy on the flute, performing music by Chopin and Debussy. Both girls contribute hugely to the musical life of the school and its many groups and it was wonderful to hear them perform extensively on their own.



Spring Concert



What an incredibly varied evening! Inspired by the centenary of British women gaining the vote, this concert paid tribute to female composers, writers and performers. Music was provided by the chamber orchestra, chamber choir, Middle School choir, AWESome, the saxophone quartet, flute group and vocal and piano duets - featuring music from 'Pride and Prejudice' and the film composer, Rachel Portman. They were joined by the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival poetry slam winners, a recitation from 'Private Peaceful', a Lower 4 drama

club devised piece (inspired by 'Top Girls' and 'Assembly women') and the newly formed Modern Dance Group, dancing to the music of Adele. They certainly made the most of our wonderful new Performing Arts Centre and provided a great evening's entertainment. Inspirational women all round!

Other congratulations to ...

... Dodie Bowman (Lower 6) who played to a full house at the Teignmoth Pavilions last Friday as part of the 17 piece AJ's Big Band. Now in its 33rd year, the band played a nostalgic journey through the Golden Age of Swing with a special tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. Great fun was had by all!

... Annabel Wickham and Evangeline Davies (both Lower 4) who performed in the West End last weekend (despite the snow!) with the Richard Dale Theatre School.



And we wish good luck to ...

... Gigi Hetherington (Lower 6) who is taking part in an oboe masterclass at the Royal College of Music, London this weekend.

... to our Devon Youth Symphony Orchestra players - Alyssa Gibbons (Upper 5), Thalia Gibbons (Lower 5), Kristina Pavic (Year 6) - who are representing the county tonight.

... Old Maynardian, Natalie Burch, who will be performing alongside four other exceptional young professionals at the third Devon Song Festival in April. The Totnes born pianist, music director and a

Britten-Pears and Leeds Lieder young artist says, “We’re thrilled to be back for a third year and looking forward to giving the audiences a wonderful night of song, that they will cherish for a very, very long time.” The Festival begins in Topsham at St. Margaret’s Church, on Friday 13 April at 7.30pm, where Natalie will be playing the very piano, a sumptuous Yamaha C5, that graced the ballroom of the Queen Mary for many years before being restored for its new role in enabling fine music in the church. Tickets are £12 or £10 for students and over 65’s, available from devonsongfest@gmail.com or on the door.

Sports update from the Junior School – Mrs Fabian reports!

The Larkman Cup



Congratulations to all the runners who competed in the annual cross country race held at Blundell’s School last Friday. The team, comprising girls from Year 4 to Lower 4, was presented with exceptionally muddy conditions – it was so bad that we even had falls in the mud when the girls were just “walking the course”! Everyone tried their best in completing the demanding course, and some of our junior runners managed top 10 and top 15 finishes – well done indeed!

Year 5 Netball Tournament – Freezing but Fabulous!

Is it on? Is it off? Forecasts of freezing temperatures and snow did not dampen our excitement that the End of Season tournament was to go ahead for our Under 10’s last week. And they did superbly, winning three out of five matches, with victories over Exeter Cathedral School, Plymouth College and West Buckland, narrowly losing to Wellington School, and giving Exeter School a scare in the final game where they were made to work hard for their win against us.



The girls finished in 3rd place, only just behind Wellington but showed what a talented and well-connected team they have become. We are very proud of them all! And especially for showing such good sportsmanship and helping out ECS who were a player down and needed help from our team in their remaining matches!

Year 3 & 4 Netball



Our Under 8 and Under 9 Netball teams have enjoyed their Netball season with recent matches against Blundell’s School, Plymouth College, Exeter School and Exeter Cathedral School. All the girls have now played competitive matches against other schools; learning positions and roles on the court and importantly how to be there for each other as a team. Well done to all the girls, practice is paying off (although it looks like we need to work on our team photo!)

Most impressively, the Under 8 team have finished their season undefeated in all of their matches which is a truly excellent effort!

Year 6 Netball

After the recent weather disruptions we were determined to keep our three matches versus Plymouth College running last Wednesday ... so into Bradley Hall we went to play one match after another. It was great for all the girls to support and watch each other play, and there were some super performances and extraordinary efforts as a result!

Well done to the whole of Year 6 for playing so well - we lost the A match, but won both B & C games convincingly.



Junior School House matches next week

We would like to remind parents that it is our Junior School House matches next week, taking place in the usual games slots. As always, parental supporters are very welcome to come and cheer the girls on as they represent their houses:

Year 5 - 26 March @ 2:15pm

Year 6 - 28 March @ 2:15pm

Year 3&4 - 29 March @ 2:15pm

All taking place on the double courts or in Bradley Hall if the weather is poor.

Don't forget to sign up for our all new Adventure Society

We are thrilled to be launching the new Adventure Society to students in years 7, 8 and 9 and would like to remind parents that spaces are limited to 14 so do please hand your consent forms in by next Monday.

Exeter, North Devon, Dartmoor and the South West make excellent outdoor classrooms and we will aim to provide the adventurers amongst us with some fantastic opportunities for outdoor learning and sporting activities.

Sessions will take place on a Tuesday afternoon, starting on 17 April, from 1600 - 1800 (sometimes 1830 depending on the venue) and will include surfing, caving, coastering, paddle sports, mountain biking, moorland walking and more!

Uniform selling event - next Wednesday

Having been postponed due to the initial snowfall, the Stevenson's school uniform selling event will now take place in the Main School Hall next Wednesday 28 March from 2pm - 5pm. Members from the MPA will also be available with a wide range of items from the Second Hand Uniform shop.



****Tickets on sale for Maynard's Got Talent****

In the traditional give-it-a-go style of Maynard girls, we have lots of acts signing up for next Wednesday's Talent Show, being organised by the Sports Tour students to raise money for SOS Africa.

We will be bringing you more news on the acts involved and this wonderful charity in a letter but, in the meantime, please do come along and support both the organisers and the acts!

The event will take place in the Performing Arts Centre from 5.30pm - 7pm, refreshments will be on sale (including wine - and all profits will go to the charity) and it promises to be a brilliant way to celebrate the last night of this term.

Tickets cost £5 and are available from Reception.

Reving up for the Exeter Art Show

With just four weeks to go until the Private Preview (on Friday 20 April - to which all parents will be invited) we would be so grateful for a little help in spreading the word about this incredible exhibition. The full details are on the website - www.exeterartshow.co.uk and the Facebook page www.facebook.com/exeterartshow/ - but, suffice to say, we have six excellent sponsors (Rathbones, Knight Frank, Darts Farm, Foot Anstey, The Exeter and the Murphy Group), over 100 wonderful artists and an excellent charity partner in YoungMinds to whom we will be donating the entire commission from the sale of the artworks which should total well over £12,000.



We will be sending home five advertising leaflets with your daughter and we would be very grateful if you could pass these on to relatives, friends and neighbours - the bigger the audience, the more artwork we will sell and the greater our donation will be to a very worthy cause! Thank you in advance!

Parent Questionnaire

And finally, we value your feedback so please do fill in the Parent Questionnaire that we emailed to all parents yesterday. You will have received a printable version and the online version can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MaynardParentSurvey>

On average it takes only 7 minutes so please do help us pave the way for an even better Maynard by letting us know your thoughts and opinions! And many thanks to those of you who have already submitted their responses.

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress

From our new Columnist...



“Hi, I am Isabel Greaves and I’m in Lower 5 (Year 10). My role in this newsletter is to go to the different clubs and activities at The Maynard and to give you the ins and outs (and fun) of each of them. This is my first one, enjoy!

Choirs, fun places aren’t they? I went to Senior Choir, and it was definitely a fun experience. I admit I’ve never heard Brahms German Requiem before, but when you hear it, it has the same effect as listening to the Star Wars Theme for the first time - you just can’t help but listen. Even the sheet music was impressive, there were hardly any creases! My favourite part was this ripple effect where the different tones of voices sing after each other; shivers, true shivers went down my spine. Every voice came through, even if it wasn’t the loudest and when they are all heard together, it takes you to a safe, calm place, even if the piano is striking out chords. And the conductor managing to conduct a whole choir by themselves is a true talent in itself. I have to add this in as it was my favourite quote whilst I was there;

“Posture is key Ladies”. Touché”
