

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

9 March 2018

We are now half way through the run of Sister Act at the Barnfield and I can honestly say that the performances so far have been utterly incredible. My sincere thanks to all of those involved, and in particular Ms Bellamy and Miss Blackwell, who have toiled for what must be over 100 hours over the past months to create this spectacle - it is totally stunning, supremely cast and wonderfully conducted. The girls acted beautifully, the singing was incredible and the choreography was so slick, right down to everyone streaming on to the stage for the final bow! I would go as far as to say that this was almost at a professional standard! It was also great to see a sell out on all three nights and an oversubscribed matinee for other schools. For those of you with tickets for the final show tonight, I can only say this - you're in for a treat!

On which note, it is very hard to come back down to earth and write about more every day matters but, suffice to say, school is back in full swing and routine has been restored following the disruptions due to the snow last week. It's a happy thought that the clocks switch to British Summer Time in a couple of weeks and I am sure we can all breathe a sigh of relief at the prospect of going home in the daylight each evening!

Over the past few weeks we have been recruiting staff for a variety of positions and we welcomed Lisa Hillson as the part time Finance Assistant on Tuesday. Lisa is herself an Old Maynardian so has a fantastic knowledge of the school and, no doubt, her feet are firmly under the table already! Equally, we spent much of Wednesday interviewing for a new Maths teaching post and I am delighted to announce that Thomas Bowler will be joining us from September to assist in this department. Thomas is currently a teacher and Sixth Form



tutor at the Exeter Mathematics School and comes to us with an abundance of experience.

I very much enjoyed the Years 3-6 Speech and Drama showcase on Thursday and straight afterwards skipped off to Exeter School to meet and greet all of the students involved in the joint German Exchange programme. They seem to be having a great time and the German pupils are enjoying tours of Exeter and Bath as well as lessons in school and family excursions. Thank you to all parents who are presently hosting our visitors.



And on to the detail of this week's news

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge 2018

This year's Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (for Upper 4 - Upper 5 year groups) took place last month and the results are just in! Congratulations to Georgina Watts in Upper 4 for gaining a silver certificate, a particularly impressive achievement at this age, and to Clemmie Little for gaining the best result in Upper 5. Shweta Banerjee, despite only being in the Lower 5, was exceptional and posted the best result for the school which is incredibly commendable and she should be extremely proud! Well done to everyone who took part and, particularly, all of the following award winners:

Silver

Upper 5: Isabella Flashman, Clemency Little (best in year), Amelia Moody, Holly Thornton
Lower 5: Shweta Banerjee (best in school), Harriet Chambers, Tina Forsyth, Caroline Mackey
Upper 4: Georgina Watts (best in year)

Bronze

Upper 5: Olivia Barker, Lillie-Jane Bucci, Peri Butland, Helen Du, Alyssa Gibbons, Liberty Goodridge, Madeline Grief, Ella Goddard, Olivia Taylor, Lydia Waggett
Lower 5: Bella Brent, Nicole Charity, Anna Harries, Sarah Hoban, Anya Hitt, Verity Howle
Upper 4: Alice Board, Charlotte Goodridge, Madison McLaughlin, Katie Pile

Double Elephant print workshop

The girls in Year 4 were treated to a fantastic print workshop on Monday and our thanks to Double Elephant for taking this enjoyable session with them. The artworks created, we think, speak for themselves!



Law Mooting careers event



We look forward to hosting the Exeter University Bracton Law Society Moot Court Challenge next Wednesday to which all Lower 5, Upper 5 or Sixth Form students are invited. Taking place in the Main School Hall from 4-5.30pm this is a real-life version of the courtroom: the judge enters, the mooters and the judge bow to each other, the clerk announces the matter, the mooters give evidence, the judge asks questions, the court adjourns, and then the judge returns to deliver a brief judgment and some feedback.

Please do encourage your daughter to come along if she is interested in becoming a lawyer or taking a law degree – or even if she just enjoys a good debate!

Biz Whizz careers club

Very sadly snow stopped play for the ‘Acute Medicine’ careers talk last Friday but we will reschedule this for a later date. However, today we look forward to welcoming the team from New British Design to talk about the world of architecture and interior design. Both Ben and Hannah Huggins have an abundance of experience within this world, they have a reputation for their contemporary styles and both previously have also been television show presenters on design shows – Hannah most recently as the guest designer on the BBC’s DIY SOS: The Big Build.



Top England coach to give Netball masterclass

The PE Department has pulled off a major coup and have secured the services of one of England’s top coaches to come in next Monday to give a Netball masterclass to some of our teams. Denise Ellis has been Head Coach of the England Under 17 and Under 19 squads and England National Academy Assistant coach, winning many Netball Europe competitions over a period of 15 years. A former Head Coach of the National Welsh Senior squad including through the 2007 World Championships, Denise most recently acted as the Assistant England Under 21 Coach, travelling to Botswana for the World Youth Cup where England won the bronze medal.

To have a visiting coach of this calibre is such an honour and our Junior and Senior squads will certainly gain a lot from the experience.

World Challenge Meeting

We are holding our first World Challenge meeting for students on Tuesday 13 March from 4-6pm. Tori Taylor from World Challenge will be joining us to start thinking about plans for the expedition and to discuss ideas for fundraising. Girls and parents will have been e-mailed directly by World Challenge and asked to bring a picture of their passport on their mobile phone.

The Pets Caught Reading competition

Tutor groups are having great fun this week with the Pets Reading competition whereby staff have sent in photos of their animals looking at a certain book and the girls have to decipher who the pet belongs to - the clue largely being in the title or subject matter of the book!



Virtual Marathon

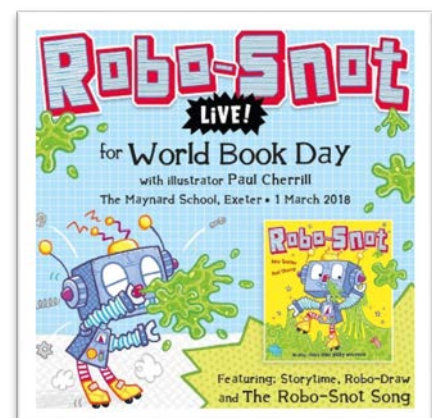
The Virtual Marathon is up and running...(excuse the pun). The challenge is to complete 26.2 miles or further at any speed and over any distance in as many runs as you like, whilst raising a minimum of £26 sponsorship. We are hoping that lots of girls have taken the opportunity to get out and run for our two chosen charities CLIC Sargent and The Teenage Cancer Trust. Last year we raised nearly £1000, so we are hoping that we can exceed this amount. Special mention should go to Eleanor Silver in Upper 3P who walked the entire 26.2 miles last weekend! You can still get involved - log books are available at Reception and you can always ask Miss Williamson or Mrs Thorne for more details.

World Book Day activities

The Junior School and Pre-Prep World Book Day 'Dress up Day' will now take place next Wednesday 14 March and, as part of our ongoing celebrations, we also have two other exciting events to look forward to the following day.

So on Thursday, the Crediton Community Bookshop will be running a book fair in the library for everyone in Year 5 upwards so could parents kindly remember to send their daughters in with money if they would like to buy a book.

Also, Paul Cherrill, a local illustrator from Exeter, will be joining us to run a workshop with the Reception to Year 3 students. Paul is a published author and illustrator of children's books. His most recent work has been illustrating Amy Sparkes' new book *Robo-Snot*, signed copies of which will be available to buy at £5.



Equally, the announcement of the World Book Day door decorations is eagerly awaited and all will be revealed on Monday!

MPA Quiz Night

Just a quick reminder to say don't forget to buy your tickets for next Friday's MPA Quiz Night! They cost £14 and included in the price is a glass of wine and a fantastic fish and chip (or vegetarian alternative) supper! If you haven't quite managed to put together a full team (6-8 people) then don't worry at all as we can combine smaller groups! It seriously is such a fun night and we are delighted to be putting forward two staff teams so watch out!



Mother's Day Tea Parties

The Pre-Prep are hosting their delightful Mother's Day Tea Party later today and I know the Junior School Hall is being bedecked with bunting and other lovely decorations. We hope all the mums have a fabulous time - they are certainly in for a treat!

Likewise, please do come along and support the South Africa Sports Tour students who are putting the finishing touches to their Mother's Day Tea Party being hosted in the Main School Hall on Monday from 4pm. This is a massive fundraiser for the designated tour charity, SOS Africa, who provide care and an education to some of the most impoverished children living in the SA townships. As part of their tour, the girls will be visiting some of these children and working alongside them on a variety of projects.

As such, it would be fantastic to help them achieve their target of raising £600 so please come to the Tea Party - the girls have organised the entire thing and will also be spending much of the weekend baking so it would be wonderful to have a large crowd in order to reward their efforts!

Good luck to Katie!

We send Katie Harries (Lower 4) lots of luck for tomorrow when she will be representing Devon in the UK Inter-Counties Cross Country Championships in Loughborough.

This is the culmination of an incredibly busy week for Katie, who is also performing in Sister Act, so we wish her well!



Ten Tors training!

Our Ten Tors teams return to Dartmoor this weekend for their first overnight camp and walk. Looking at the forecast, they might get a little wet on Sunday but, thanks to modern technology and incredible equipment design, we are sure they will still enjoy the experience!

On which note, may I wish you all a wonderful weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress

