

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

23 April 2018

Apologies for this newsletter being rather overdue but this start of the term has certainly been somewhat busy as you will see from reading this!

I would firstly like to welcome everyone back for, let's hope, a sunny Summer Term! A particularly warm welcome must be extended to our seven joiners and we wish them a wonderful time here at The Maynard. I am pleased to say that they all seem to have settled in beautifully and I hope they are feeling less daunted by their new school in this second week.

Areas of the school received some pretty large make-overs during the Easter holidays and we are thrilled with the work that has been done to upgrade the Junior School toilets and also the study room in the Sixth Form. The biggest job of them all was installing a new fire exit into the Main School Hall to ensure that we comply with all of the Health and Safety regulations. It is always rather nerve wracking when you make a massive alteration to something so historic but I am completely delighted by the outcome - the added symmetry to the stage area, together with a new feature wall from the outside does look fabulous and as if it had always been there!

Over this weekend we hosted a truly fantastic Exeter Art Show, featuring 122 artists from across the UK and over 430 individual works. The brainchild of Mrs Reynolds, this was its fifth edition and, according to our seasoned regulars, the biggest and best yet. I can't thank Mrs Reynolds enough for working so tirelessly these last few months in building such a spectacular Show - there aren't the words to rave about it enough! My thanks also to those parents, guardians and friends of the school for so fully supporting it and it was lovely to see some of you in the crowd at the Private View on Friday. I am delighted to say that we smashed all previous records for artworks sold and, in so doing, we have raised an estimated £15,000 for YoungMinds. I will be sharing the exact figure with you just as soon as we have this information but, as fundraisers go, this truly is fantastic.



It was also wonderful to see so many classes from the Pre-Prep and Junior School drop in to look at the Show on Friday afternoon and they were all making some very insightful comments on the various works. It was an excellent opportunity for them to see so many different artistic styles and I can't help feeling that it will have left an indelible print on their imaginations for their own future projects.

As if organising such an enormous event wasn't enough, Mrs Reynolds has very ably also stepped in to the role as Acting Head of the Junior School, allowing Mr Smerdon to take this term off on his sabbatical. We wish her all the luck in this role and thank her for so capably taking up the reins!

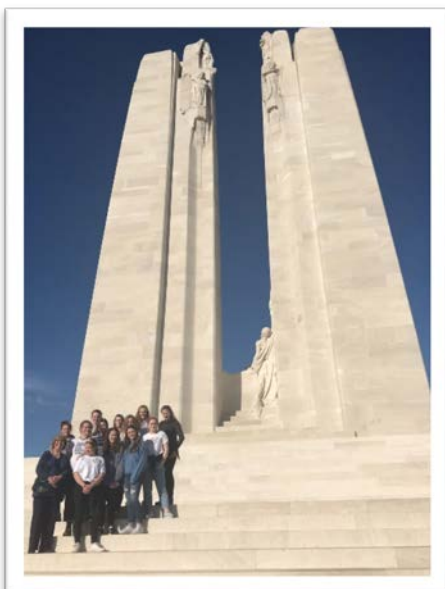
On to the week's news..



New Head Girl team announced

We are delighted to announce that, following our democratic voting process, Daisy Birkin has been appointed as Head Girl for the next academic year. She will be supported by a team of wonderful ambassadors for the School, namely: Katherine Byles, Amelia Dudman, Gigi Hetherington, Laura Kerr, Chloe Lamb and Eve Stevens. Congratulations to them all and we have every faith that they will continue the excellent standard set by this year's team!

First World War Battlefields trip



A group of Upper and Lower 5 students took part in the History Study trip to the First World War Battlefields during the Easter holidays. We stayed in the beautiful town of Ypres which was completely destroyed during the First World War but never fell to the Germans and has since been rebuilt in the original fine medieval style. We had two brilliant guides for our tours of the Ypres Salient and the Somme battlefields. It was fascinating to see the difference between the British and the German cemeteries. We were able to walk through some original trenches which brought home the full horror of the war as well as the network of underground tunnels near Vimy Ridge where a group of Canadian soldiers had to remain in darkness and silence before their attack on 9 April 2017.

During our visit Polly Shaw laid a wreath commemorating her great great grandfather who served in three of the Ypres battles.

She did this during the very moving Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. As part of our visit to the vast Thiepval memorial which is dedicated to those who fell on the Somme and have no known graves, Amelie Cosgrove read the poem “The Soldier” by Rupert Brooke and Alex Dean laid a wreath on behalf of The Maynard.

We also paid a special visit to the Devonshire Regiment’s cemetery where there was an inscription “The Devonshires held this trench. The Devonshires hold it still”. We recognised a number of familiar Devonshire names on the gravestones. On the last day we were also fortunate to be able to visit a brand new installation in what was “No man’s land’ near Ypres. This consisted of 600,000 small clay figures representing the Belgian dead in the First World War. This was a breathtaking sight and a message of hope at the centre was a giant clay egg with a number of the clay figures about to hatch out which represent the hope that peace can eventually eradicate war but without ever forgetting the sacrifices made.

Amongst many memorable moments perhaps the most poignant was hearing the song of the skylark as we stood at the Lochnagar Crater on a beautifully sunny morning remembering the 19,240 British soldiers who died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in July 1916.



National Championships success for Anya Hitt



Anya Hitt (Lower 5) enjoyed a busy (and very successful) Easter holidays competing with her horse, Cnoc an Noinin Clover (aka Dumpy), culminating in the British Dressage Pet Plan National Championships. Having qualified through the initial three rounds this was always going to be a hugely competitive test with Anya, at only 14-years old, competing in the hotly contested Under 18 Preliminary class. To have finished 6th out of 30 rivals, only 1% behind the eventual winner, is an incredible achievement and we wish her well for what promises to be a very bright future in this discipline. Well done!

BBC Radio 2 500 Words short story competition

Our congratulations to Grace Roddy (Lower 4) and Lilly Mazer (Upper 3) who have both made it through to the second round of the BBC Radio 2 500 Words competition. This is a brilliant achievement and we will keep everything crossed that they are both selected in the final 50 stories for judging - we will know in May!

News from the Music Department

Imogen Hussey (Upper 6) and Lauren Benson (Lower 6) recently achieved their Grade 8 singing but in traditional Maynard style they didn’t just pass, they flew it! Imogen was awarded a Merit and Lauren achieved a Distinction so a huge well done to them both.

Molly Batchelor (Upper 6) excelled during her residential with the National Children's Choir of Great Britain during the holidays, and has been given a solo part to perform with the choir during their forthcoming tour to China. We wish her the very best for this!

Likewise, we were delighted to hear that Gigi Hetherington (Lower 6) has been involved in an exciting project with the Royal College of Music and, as a member of the junior college orchestra, she has recorded a new work for the English National Ballet. To find out more about this and to see Gigi featured in the video please go to www.ballet.org.uk/project/dance-journeys/

Rosie's crew take third place in the UK Streetdance Challenge

Congratulations to Rosie Wheatley (Upper 3) and her crew who finished third in the UK Streetdance Challenge in Taunton during the holidays. Not only did they bag themselves a bronze medal each but they also shared a coveted trophy and a £500 cash prize - an excellent result for Rosie who only started streetdance eight months ago!



Junior School House Netball results

The Junior School girls in Years 3 - 6 enjoyed some very competitive House Netball matches at the end of the last term to cap off a most successful season. Goldsmiths proved the dominant force in the combined Year 3/4 matches and, again, in the Year 6 ones although Merchants caused an upset to steal the proverbial crown in Year 5. This led Goldsmiths to win overall, Armourers snuck in in second place, Merchants finished third and Haberdashers were fourth.

Regardless of the results, it is always so wonderful to see how the House System provides such a sense of belonging and pride in all of the girls. Roll on the Rounders season and yet more competitive inter-house matches!



Next MPA Meeting

The next Maynard Parents' Association (MPA) meeting is this Wednesday 25th April, at 8.40am in the Senior School Library. Everyone is welcome!

Outdoor Adventure Society

The first of our Outdoor Adventure Society sessions was a thrilling affair on Tuesday and the girls enjoyed a great time high roping at CRS Adventures based at the River Dart Country Park. They will be taking on a whole range of activities this term including kayaking, climbing, coasteering and stand up paddle boarding.

Such was the popularity of the Adventure Society that we were inundated with girls wanting to join and, unfortunately, demand far outweighed the spaces available. So for those who did not get a place this time around, rest assured that we are aiming to offer it again in September.



Tiny Tennis for the Pre-Prep

The Pre-Prep girls had a sunny start to their Tiny Tennis lessons last Thursday and they all seemed to thoroughly enjoy their time on the court. Over the course of this term they will receive instruction from a professional instructor who will be following the Lil' Miss Hits course, part of the LTA She Rallies programme devised by Judy Murray to get more girls in the UK playing and coaching Tennis.

Prepare to be wowed at the Summer Concert

SUMMER CONCERT

Thursday 10th May

Gym

Join us in saying farewell to the U6th.

Our annual Summer Concert, celebrating the incredible and varied talents of our senior musicians, will be taking place on Thursday 10 May at 7.30pm in the new Performing Arts Centre.

Alongside an opportunity to hear our chamber choir, jazz band and orchestras we will be hearing our wonderful Upper 6 perform for the last time. These include members of the National Children's Choir of Great Britain, the English School's Orchestra and the National Youth Musical Theatre and many of them have even organised and prepared their own choir especially for the evening.

A rich and dynamic programme includes Bernstein's Mambo, Grieg's In the Hall of the Mountain King and Mozart's Halleluiah.

Tickets cost £4 for an adult (£3 for a child) and are available from School Reception. We look forward to seeing you there!

Eco Warriors Club create beautiful 'fish' message

Having rifled all the classroom bins in the search for plastic, our Eco Warriors club members have created this beautiful picture of a fish made from the sweet wrappers that they found. What stunned them most was just how much plastic - three bin bags full - they could collect in just a small space of time and this spurred them on with their mission to raise awareness as to the devastating effect plastic is causing to the world's oceans.



The insight track from roving correspondent, Isabel Greaves

Eco Warriors, the humans that fight for nature's rights. I went to the warriors meeting here at the Maynard, it was fun seeing people using their various skills to help towards the saving of this Earth. The talent that was there was really nice, everyone left their own personal touch, whether it was to help with the presentation, designing the creatures, or supplying the knowledge of the animals.

Witnessing all the animals come to life, with all the food wrappers that are increasingly destroying their homes, really sent a strong message and the fact that people of different ages all come together to create the image made it even more magical.

"Just keep swimming, Just keep swimming."

Have a fabulous week!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
