

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

29 March 2018

I can't believe it is Easter already - where did the term go? We have all been highly entertained this week with two wonderful events: The first was a skilfully performed, potted version of Macbeth by our Year 6 on Tuesday. Everybody had a role and there were some truly talented actresses in the making on the stage. I applaud Mr Smerdon for his directorship of this production and I think his greatest challenge was successfully producing, on demand, 27 beards for the girls just prior to going on stage! Can I also thank Mrs Gorrod and Mrs Reynolds as the Year 6 teachers for their immense input.

Last night the South Africa Sports Tour girls excelled by putting on our very first charity Maynard's Got Talent show! It was a real spectacle and what blew me away was the range of hidden talents that came to the fore during the evening. There were superb dancers, singers, harpists, rappers, pianists and circus performers. I found it impossible to make the decision with my fellow judges, Mr Anderson, Bella Attenburrow and Mrs Fanous, but we finally awarded prizes to Judy Shalaan and Phoenix Wilson (Upper 3) for their song writing creativity, Flo Evans (Upper 4) for her gymnastic perfection and Rose Finnegan (Lower 4) for her beautiful acapella singing.

Well done to the Tour girls because the show raised a fantastic £470 for their charity, SOS Africa. Through this and the wonderful Mother's Day Tea Party recently, they have now exceeded their target of £600 - enough to pay for one little South African girl's education for a year. What is so lovely is that we know who that child is making this a very personal experience for us all. She is called Raynick, she's nine years old, loves netball (and dolphins) and has been attending school thanks to a previous sponsor who sadly had to pull out recently for personal reasons. We are delighted to pick up the mantle and I know the girls are really hoping to meet her (and other township children supported by SOS Africa) when they are out there in the summer.



Better still, and following last night's fabulous evening, the girls have gone and set another target – to continue raising enough money every year so that we can see Raynick through her entire education! This is wonderful news and last night was clearly the first of many Maynard's Got Talents to come!

On a separate note, thank you to so many of you for completing the Parent Questionnaire. Your thoughts and opinions are incredibly valuable to us when shaping our vision and plans for the future. So we would be very grateful to those of you that haven't yet managed to complete this if you could spare a little time over the long weekend to share your observations of the School – we have deliberately kept it as short as possible and on average it takes only seven minutes of your time. You can access it here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MaynardParentSurvey>



At this point, I must wish Mr Smerdon all the very best for his sabbatical term to write his book and follow his dreams and I thank Mrs Reynolds for stepping into this shoes so ably while he is away.

I truly hope you all have a wonderful Easter! I can't really make a sweeping statement about it being relaxing for all as I know you will have some Upper 5 and Upper 6 girls working very hard on their revision. However, I hope even they have some quality down time to recharge their batteries and have some fun!

On to the week's news.

Performance of the Month

Huge congratulations to Martha Evans for scooping February's Performance of the Month. Martha (Upper 5) won the gold medal at the Devon Gymnastics Championships for the Level 5 Over 16 category. She performed all of her elements on the four apparatus pieces very securely which enabled her to score sufficiently against some extremely stiff competition to scoop the title. Well done!



Forest School finale

Our last of the five week sessions in Forest School for visiting toddlers took place on Tuesday, much to our guests' disappointment. Spaces for this tremendously popular course were in high demand and many of those that came said it was the highlight of their week! As well as the traditional pond dipping that they all so love, they finished on an Easter high – making rabbit masks and other specially themed activities as well as having an egg hunt.

Next term, our own students will be enjoying the Forest School facilities, hopefully in the summer sunshine, so we will be offering instead a Cookery School programme for any interested visitors aged three and four. More details on this will be announced in due course.

Netball season finishes on a high

Our Under 13 Netballers finished the term with a fantastic second place in last Thursday's County Tournament held at West Buckland. Despite the freezing cold temperature, the girls were a complete credit, playing some beautiful sequences throughout to show just how much their game has come on in the past few weeks. Roll on the next season!



Congratulations to Harleigh!

We were thrilled to hear that Harleigh Fry (Year 6) was recently presented with two trophies by the Honiton Gymnastics Centre where she trains each week.

She won the Tumbling trophy and the much coveted Strength and Flexibility award (outdoing all the male gymnasts in her squad!) which really is a tremendous achievement and we look forward to hearing more on all her many successes as the competition season unfolds.

Ten Tors - only round the corner

Our Ten Tors teams were out on the moor for their penultimate training days last weekend and conditions were rather wet, to say the least, which made for some tricky walking. One girl, who shall remain nameless, even managed to get herself stuck in a bog, much to the amusement of the rest of her team. We're pleased to say that this didn't deter them and they all returned home safe and sound, if rather weary! Competition for spaces on the teams is always very competitive and selection will take place after the final training session on the first weekend back after the Easter break.



More on Macbeth

A massive well done to all of our Year Sixers for their wonderful performances of Macbeth under the directing eyes of Mr Smerdon and Mrs Reynolds. It was great to see every member of the year group up on stage for their two shows and to see such confident performances from them.

Grace Fitzgerald and Annabel Newland led the cast as Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, managing these complicated roles adeptly and drawing the audience into their fast unravelling fates. The witches and Hecate, played by Ita Gallaher, Susanna Hawkins, Annabel Turner and Arian McElligott set just the right tone of sinister happenings and otherworldliness as a backdrop to the story and were quite terrifying in their interpretation of these famous characters. Well done, too, to all of the performers who set the scene as the lords and thanes of Scotland and to the narrators who held the storyline for the audience.



It is always a challenge to make Shakespeare accessible for this age group, yet the girls were clearly confident with the language and enjoying the dramatic narrative with understanding and appreciation. It was a pleasure to see the cast enjoying themselves so much on stage in front of a full audience and we look forward to what these budding actors will go onto in their future roles at The Maynard.



Easter in the Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep has been a hive of activity in the past week and the girls have really enjoyed creating some lovely Easter treats. Year 2 made some delicious chocolate Easter nests this week, weighing and measuring the ingredients to tie in with their recent Maths learning, and researching and writing instructions to link with their learning in Literacy. One or two chocolate eggs may have been taste-tested in the process! Likewise, Year 1 enjoyed making rocky road in their maths lesson, even weighing out their own ingredients and counting in twos to arrange the mini eggs!

Calling all Maynard Mums!

Our Tennis coach, Jon Rycroft is offering fun Tennis coaching at Victoria Park (10 minutes from the school) on Tuesday mornings from 8.45am to 10am.

Sessions will start after the Easter Holidays and there will be two groups: Beginner Level and Intermediate/Advance Level - so tennis players of all abilities can take part!



For more information please email coachrycroft@hotmail.com or text 07851296713.

Exeter Cathedral concert For Hospiscare ... starring The Maynard and many others



May we remind all music lovers to take advantage of the special discount for Maynard parents on tickets to the above event taking place on Saturday 26 May 2018 at 7.30pm. The Isca Ensemble and a large Isca Ensemble chorus, our own Senior School Choir and soloists Heloise West (soprano), Julian Rippon (baritone) and Emmanuel Bach (violin) will be performing some stunning pieces all under the direction of Roger Hendy. To cap it off, Judi Spiers (the television and radio presenter) will be introducing the entire show. It promises to be a star-studded and fabulous night out!

Tickets are selling well so, if you are interested, we would encourage you to book tickets in advance using the discount code **ISCAPLAYER** when booking online. To find out more, please visit www.iscaensemble.org.uk

Have a fabulous Easter!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
