

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

18 May 2018

Such is the fast pace of all our lives that last weekend's Ten Tors Challenge already seems a whole world away. I must, however, say an enormous congratulations to all 21 of our girls who completed their routes for their various teams with typical grit and determination. As a school, to have a 100% completion rate is just fantastic and testimony to all their training as well as their courage, resilience and sense of adventure! I just loved last Sunday when we were joined on a stunningly beautiful bit of the moor by so many families and supporters to welcome the girls in – it was an incredible atmosphere and just wonderful to see their beaming smiles as they crossed the line. Well done to them all!

This week has seen the start of the GCSE examinations and I am pleased to report that all of our Upper 5s are taking everything in their stride and looking very composed. We will wave our A-levels students off on their study leave next week so, effectively, they have only four more official days at school which must fill them with enormous excitement and a mix of nostalgia as they come to the end of one chapter in their lives and the beginning of a whole new one.

As we rush headlong towards the half term break, may I wish you all a relaxing weekend in the glorious sunshine that we have been forecast! Summer certainly seems to have arrived at long last!

On to the week's news!



## Faraday STEM challenge



We enjoyed hosting a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) challenge last Friday to which we welcomed five Year 8 teams from visiting schools, as well as fielding our own team. Delivered by the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), the day turned out to be a whirlwind of activity and competition.

The pupils were tasked with designing and building a model of an attraction for Thorpe Park, and then presenting their idea to a panel of engineers. As part of the challenge pupils learnt about electronics and budgeting. The Maynard team of Katie Harries, Grace Roddy, Eleanor Cumbley, Hansini Kammila, Daisy Hoban and Natalie Charity demonstrated excellent teamwork, originality and communication skills. Perhaps we might see their idea, a café with a glass roof and a zip wire above, at Thorpe Park one day?

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### Bucking the Physics gender gap

We read yesterday's BBC article 'How Physics gender gap starts in the classroom'

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-44141840>) with great interest.

The article highlighted that in 2016 just 1.9% of girls chose A-level Physics and were outnumbered with four boys choosing Physics for every one girl. It is very sad that despite "no evidence to suggest any intrinsic differences in

ability or interest to explain why girls and boys choose technical subjects differently" (IOP President, Professor Dame Julia Higgins) gender stereotypes are influencing how girls choose their A-level options.

Fortunately, the picture is very different at The Maynard and no such stereotypes exist. Currently, 20 of our Sixth Form girls are studying A-level Physics, making this one of the most popular subjects in the school. Through an extensive programme of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics enrichment our students are well aware that studying Physics opens doors for many future careers.

Moreover, our students do exceptionally well in the subject and, in the last two years, 15 out of 16 students (94%) have achieved A or A\* grades at A-level. Equally, we are delighted that so many of our students are choosing Physics or STEM based subjects at university. This is highlighted by 25% of our Sixth Form leavers in 2017 being accepted to read STEM subjects at Russell Group universities.

Clearly, at The Maynard we are bucking this worrying national trend and we are extremely proud of this!

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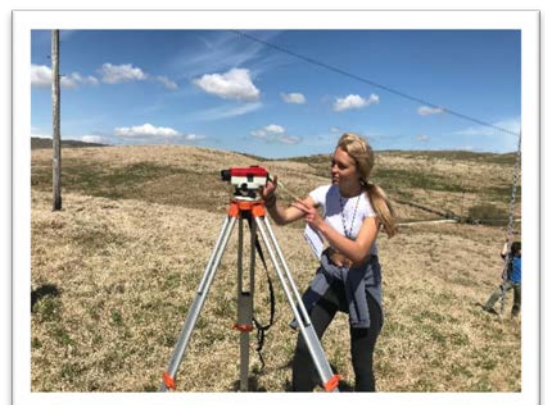
### Geography field trip to Yorkshire

Our Lower 6 Geographers spent three days in glorious sunshine in the Yorkshire Dales earlier in the week. On Monday afternoon they spent time investigating carbon stores in the grounds near Malham Tarn, working to collect samples and process them in the labs. The girls also worked on collecting hydrology data and doing statistical tests in preparation for their independent investigations.

On Tuesday, they spent the day in the Ribblesdale valley survey drumlins (a depositional glacial feature) and saw the famous Ribblesdale Viaduct and the stunning Ingelborough scar.

The final day was spent in Malham investigating perception of place and conducting human geography fieldwork. As ever, it was a fascinating trip and one that will certainly have assisted with their subject studies.

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### Year 3 trip to Wembury

Further down the school, the girls in Year Three enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Wembury Marine Centre on Tuesday and had a fabulous day in the sunshine. Led by members of the Devon Wildlife Trust. They had a great time rock pooling and discovered so many different species of crabs, starfish and creatures related to seahorses (not to mention sea spiders) to name but a few.



They also learned how to respect all the amazing little creatures which live in the sea. After having a lovely packed lunch on the beach, they then made some beautiful wind chimes with driftwood and shells. "The weather was fantastic and we travelled back on the minibus feeling we had expanded our knowledge and had lots of fun!" said Mrs Rowe.

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### Year 6 Coders

The Year 6 students had a great coding lesson this week and certainly seemed to show huge aptitude and confidence, racing through their various tasks. They learned about strings and variables, created code with while loops and then tested their code with emulators before downloading the programmes to their microbits.

During the rest of this term, they will be moving on to projects such as creating a working step counter, developing 'friend testers', creating text messaging systems and - most challenging of all - building temperature sensors to go around the school. These will measure the local temperature in different areas of the school and report it back to a central computer.

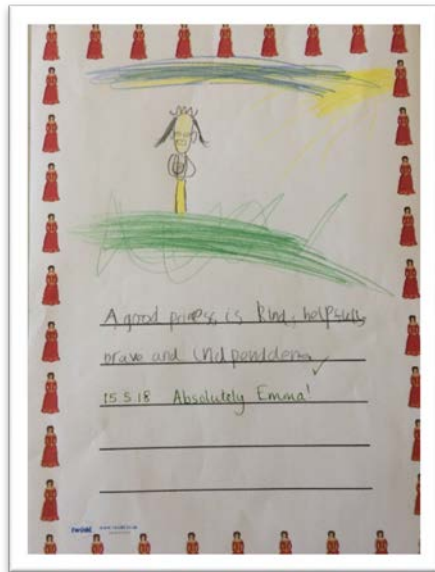


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### Royal wedding fever in the Pre-Prep



The girls in the Pre-Prep have spent the week building up to the Royal Wedding and have been having great fun testing their imaginations and design skills! Years 1 & 2 have been creating wedding dress collages (some of the teachers bought their own wedding dresses into school for inspiration!) and also had a lovely time designing wedding souvenirs with their Year 4 buddies. During their PHSE lesson yesterday they discussed the attributes of a good princess and 'kindness' certainly seemed to be the essential quality that they all agreed upon!



The Reception class have also been getting into the wedding spirit and have been thinking about what they would wear to the Royal Wedding if they were going.

They also designed some fabulous outfits for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle ....



Yesterday, they also hosted their Year 5 buddies at a royal wedding tea party with the big girls bringing lots of tasty snacks to share, whilst Reception organised some fun games to play. They really love getting together with their buddies and everyone had a great afternoon.

## Tennis news

On Monday, our Junior School Tennis Academy players enjoyed a friendly Under 11 fixture against Exeter School. We took a team of eight girls, all of whom played a doubles match and two singles matches. The girls enjoyed and learnt lots from the experience – they scored their own games, played beautifully and showed great sportsmanship and good tennis etiquette!

All of the matches were incredibly competitive and although we didn't manage to take overall victory in either the singles (13-18) or doubles matches (7-14) it was a great learning experience. Well done to all the girls who took part!



## Great start to the Rounders Season for Year 5's



Our lovely Under 10 teams enjoyed a great start to the competitive Rounders season with games against Exeter Cathedral School on Monday at the Exeter Cricket Club.

We must give special mention to many of the girls who have only just started to play competitive Rounders since joining The Maynard this year – lots of rules to learn! And thank you to the Year 4's who helped fill in the teams. Both teams enjoyed close competitive matches and they did fabulously to win their games, 15-10 and 10.5-9.5. Well done to all the girls!

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## Fantastic athletics results

Huge congratulations to all of those that competed yesterday at the Exeter vs East Devon athletics trials at Exeter Arena. Particular mention goes to Dulcie Fraser (Upper 4), India Leetham (Lower 5), Louisa Thomson and Katie Harries (both Lower 4) who qualified through in their respective events to represent Devon in the next round.

We wish our Under 8, Under 9, Under 11 and Under 13 athletics teams the best of luck for their athletics festival being held at Blundell's this afternoon.

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## Eco Warriors growing their own food

Our Eco Warriors enjoyed a great club this week, planting their own vegetable seeds in boxes outside the Pring building. Amongst other things, they will be supplying both the school kitchen and the Food & Nutrition rooms with radishes, chives, lettuces and nasturtiums and we look forward to tasting the fruits of their labour! By popular demand (and following the super successful inaugural edition), they will also be organising another 'Clothes Swap' event – details of this will be announced shortly.



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## Wellbeing Programme recognises Mental Health Awareness Week



The girls in Upper 4 and Lower 5 thoroughly enjoyed the showing of 'Embrace' this morning. This is a film that focuses on body image and self-esteem with a strong message about not just accepting, but loving, how you look. Our Lower Sixth had felt so empowered by it when they watched it just a couple of weeks ago that they had thoroughly pushed for us to show it to



some younger year groups and, judging by the positive remarks from both the Upper 4 and Lower 5s, it does seem to have left an indelible and very positive impression on them, too.

We will be hosting a special viewing for parents next term and will be writing to you with details about this in due course. In the meantime, you can see the trailer for the film here: <https://bodyimagemovement.com/embrace-the-documentary/>

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Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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