

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

15 June 2018

We have been so blessed with such glorious weather recently and none more so than for yesterday's 'Vision for the Future' event. What a wonderful evening that was and my grateful thanks to all of those who attended – I only hope you enjoyed it as much as myself. I am sure you will all agree that a glass of bubbles on the terrace in the sunshine is something that we must repeat again and we have definitely set a wonderful precedent for future summertime events!

For those of you who were unable to attend, the evening was all about explaining our Strategic Development Plan for the next four years, based on much research. We have been listening, discussing, planning, strategising and reshaping these past 18 months so this is a very exciting time for us all moving forwards.

It also goes without saying that our sole aim within this plan is to keep our very special school at the top of its game and to continue providing the best possible all-round education for your girls both today and in the future.



We will be sending out the 'Vision' booklet to all parents who could not make last night so you can be party to our future plans but, if you do have anything you would like to discuss further in person, please do not hesitate to contact my PA, Lora Jones (HeadsPA@maynard.co.uk), to arrange an appointment with me.

Aside from this, this past week has followed another hectic schedule; we have welcomed a number of girls joining in September for their respective familiarisation days, the GCSE and A-level examinations have been ongoing, the Senior School have been running through their recent internal exam papers to see where future improvements may be made and rounders, tennis and athletics matches continue to fill the calendar. We clearly like to keep busy!

So on to the week's news.

Record smashing Junior School Sports Day



The Junior School enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day last Friday and a truly remarkable total of 13 records (out of 24 different events) ended up being smashed by these super sporty girls. Our talented Year 6 cohort even managed to set new records in all but one event which surely must be a first. Special mention goes to Laura Hepburn (Year 3) who broke three records and to her sister, Ava (Year 5), who took two. Connie Hurrell and Honey Hubble (both in Year 6) also managed to set two new records apiece.



Whilst we are terribly gifted to have such elite athletes within our midst, Sports Days at The Maynard are very much about inclusion and 'giving it a go' and we thank the entire Junior School for their enthusiasm and willingness to participate - it made for a hugely enjoyable day for everyone involved. Haberdashers ended up the overall winners with Merchants in second, followed by Armourers and Goldsmiths - our congratulations to them all!

Inter Schools Athletics success

We fielded a 28-strong team from the Upper 3 to Lower 5 year groups at the Inter School Athletics competition held at Exeter Arena on Tuesday and, once again, they all proved fabulous ambassadors for the school. There were too many personal achievements to list individually here but we congratulate them all and, particular, the Lower 5s who won in their age group for the fourth year in a row and, in doing so, remain undefeated at this event. We must also say a special thank you to Emily Williams who so proficiently played 'Team Mother' all day and to the rest of the Lower 5s for taking such great care to so fully support the younger year groups.



Ancient Maya tablet making in Year 5

The Year 5s have certainly enjoyed learning about the Ancient Maya civilisation which has swelled their fascination of gods and goddesses. They had a great time designing their own deities in the Maya style which they then engraved onto a clay tablet and painted. We think the end products are truly beautiful!



Lower Sixth find exam Haven

The Senior Games girls in the Lower 6 enjoyed a fabulous afternoon at the aptly named Haven Banks, relaxing and having fun with some post-exam kayaking and canoeing on the River Exe. This was a well-deserved trip, making the most of our fabulous local facilities and we look forward to taking them all again for another session next week. They thoroughly deserve this treat after a year of hard study and A-level work!



Charity Mufti Day on Thursday 21 June



May we advise parents and guardians that we will be hosting a charity Senior School Mufti Day on Thursday 21 June as part of an important project being led by one of our Sixth Formers, Miren Sowden. Miren has been championing the cause of a charity called 'Friends of Burburi' and we are thrilled to be able to support her in these worthy endeavours.

This is a local charity that supports a healthcare and maternity clinic in the poor and rural community of Burburi in Western Kenya. The local people there face many serious health issues such as Malaria, HIV and AIDS, Typhoid and many mothers and babies die in childbirth. The charity is run by four women, all nurses, and they fund all the salaries of the health staff, the drugs and the building of new facilities.

In a recent assembly, Miren highlighted the good work that Burburi also does in sending out specially made sanitary pads to girls in this impoverished area, enabling them to attend school where previously they would have to stay at home during this time of the month. History dictates that once girls start having to miss school on such a regular basis, they soon become disillusioned and start to drop out altogether thus continuing the cycle of poverty and making them more vulnerable to child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

On 21 June, Miren is inviting girls from across the Senior School and Sixth Form to join her in the Textiles room to help make as many washable and reuseable pads as possible during the lunchtime break which will, in turn, be sent out to the Burburi schoolgirls to enable them to go to school and not fall behind in their studies. The pads are very easy to make and there is a pattern with easy instructions to follow so do please encourage your daughter to help Miren boost production numbers.

As part of this initiative the Mufti Day will cost £1 per person and all the money raised will go towards the materials required for the pads and the cost of transporting them out to Burburi where they will change the lives of so many young women.

Eco Warriors Clothes Swap returns by popular demand

Also on Thursday 21 June is the hugely popular Clothes Swap, organised by our very own Eco Warriors Club. The inaugural event last year proved so popular that they are hosting this one by popular demand so do encourage your daughters to have a spring clean of their wardrobes and bring in any unwanted clothing. In return, they will receive a token for each item which they can then use to swap an old garment for something different.



This is a fantastic, very economical and eco-friendly way to refresh a wardrobe so do please remind your daughters about this (and what better way to encourage them to tidy their bedrooms?).

Pre-Prep Sports Day reminder



We are very much looking forward to next Friday's (22 June) Pre-Prep Sports Day being held here on Leebourne Lawn from 1.45pm. We even have our own marquee to shelter in if the weather turns against us! Last year this was such a splendid event and this year it promises to be no different with an exciting programme of events lined-up including the Rubber Duck Race, the Tennis Ball relay and, of course, the Parents' Obstacle Race!



Junior School 'Fun, Food and Film' evening

Our South African Sports Tour girls are continuing their fundraising for SOS Africa with a special evening being arranged for the Junior School girls on Thursday 28 June from 4.00 – 6.30pm. The programme includes some fun games to start, followed by a hot dog and drinks and then a showing of 'The Greatest Showman' (PG certificate) in the Performing Arts Theatre.

Parents and guardians of Junior School girls will be written to about this under separate cover in due course.

International Women in Engineering Day

The Institution of Civil Engineers are hosting a free family event in Plymouth on Saturday 23 June to celebrate their 200 year anniversary and International Women in Engineering Day.

There will be plenty of STEM-based activities for both primary and secondary school students as well as a careers aspect for Sixth Formers and some fun things for little ones.

It will be well worth a visit so do pop in to Ocean Studios at the Royal William Yard for a fun day of engineering exploration.



Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
