

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

22 June 2018

My huge congratulations to all of our GCSE girls who have now finished their exams and are enjoying a well-earned rest. They really have been a credit to all their parents, the staff and the school these past few weeks and we are very proud of them for the way they have handled the examination period with such aplomb. It is also very exciting to think that the A-level girls are very nearly at the finish line with only the Maths students having to sit their last paper on Monday morning. It is strange to think that the next time we will see all of the GCSE and A-level students will be on the results days in August so we wish them all very happy celebrations and a richly deserved holiday!

It was lovely to spend some time with the Upper 5 yesterday for coffee and croissants and a good chat while they handed in their books to various members of staff in the Main Hall. They all had to then rush off because there was a lot to prepare for the wonderful prom at the spectacular Powderham Castle in the evening. Some of the staff went along at the beginning for the drinks reception and I have to say that the girls looked absolutely beautiful in their evening dresses. I'm not sure quite how they were going to manage the bucking bronco simulator in their lovely attires but they assured me they had a plan up their sleeve!

I always think that this is such a lovely time of the academic year - exams are over, we have all been through the papers to see where improvements can be made and now we have lots of exciting events, all intertwined with a strong academic or enrichment link, to enjoy before the holidays. The Junior School have many activities to look forward to next week (with the Year 5 and 6s returning today from their respective residentials), the Upper 5s will be undertaking their work experience



placements and there are trips aplenty including surfing, a French cultural visit to La Rochelle, the Chalke Valley History Festival and the incredible Stratford experience for the Lower 6 students. Not to mention the cross curricular days for the Upper 3, Lower 4 and Upper 4s who will be focusing their attention on the 100-year celebration of the Votes for Women. All of this, and so much more, in just one week!

As a school, we always have one eye on the future and we are already very busy with our recruitment for the September 2019 intake. To which effect, we hosted a wonderful Open Evening on Tuesday night which was extremely well attended by prospective families and their daughters. These are always really fun and engaging evenings with each department hosting an enormous variety of interactive activities which simply wouldn't be possible without the hands-on assistance from the girls. My thanks to all parents and guardians for so fully supporting these events by allowing your daughters to stay at school to help run the evening – the girls are, quite simply, our best advert and we always receive much feedback from visitors to this effect.

On to the week's news.

Stunning A-level and GCSE Art Show

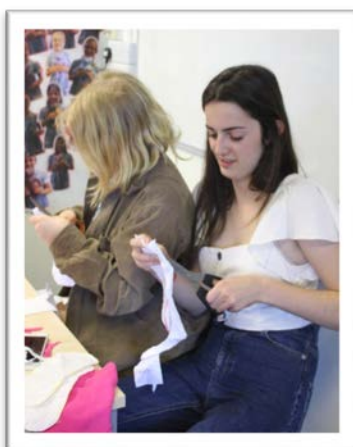
We invited all parents and supporters to the annual A-level and GCSE Art Show on Wednesday and it was lovely to see such a high attendance. As ever, the standard from this year's students was remarkably high and it really was an impressive collection with some wonderful individual items showing the enormous creative talent emanating from the Art Department.



Supporting Friends of Buburi

It was very pleasing to see such enthusiastic support yesterday from across the Senior School and Sixth Form with huge numbers piling into the Textiles room to help Miren Sowden make reusable and washable sanitary towels for young girls in Buburi, Western Kenya. In the past, these young ladies would not be able to attend school during their menstrual cycle, often resulting in them falling behind, becoming disillusioned and then dropping out altogether, with terrible lifelong consequences.

Miren and her mother, Gilly, are strong advocates of this incredible sanitary pad project led by the charity Friends of Buburi, and it was wonderful to have them in school yesterday (Miren having returned from post-exam leave) to lead a very strong team of seamstresses in making huge amounts of sanitary pads to send out to Kenya. The atmosphere was buzzing and it really was the strongest example of the charitable nature of The Maynard schoolgirls. Our thanks to all parents also for the £1 donation towards yesterday's Mufti Day which has helped finance the materials and the cost of delivering the completed pads to the girls in Buburi.



Primary Schools Swimming Gala



Congratulations to those girls in Years 4 and 5 who swam so beautifully in Tuesday's Primary School Swimming Gala. Three of the girls - Claudia Eveling (Year 5), Jemma Webberley and Lydia Hurrell (both in Year 4) - qualified for the finals of their events and performed strongly to finish 5th, 5th and 3rd respectively. The relay finished in fourth place which was an amazing result given that, because the Year 6s were away on their residential, we fielded a team comprising solely Year 5s who were competing against many others in the year above. Well done to them all and how lovely it was to see their support for one another!

Outdoor Adventure Society news

Earlier this term we launched our first ever Outdoor Adventure Society to girls in Years 8 and 9 which has proven such an incredible success. During the course of the programme the girls have really taken themselves out of their comfort zones and acquired many new skills whilst coasteering, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, climbing, caving and paddleboarding. It really has been a fantastic new addition to the summer timetable and we look forward to repeating the course again in the future.





Cake ice creams for Year 4!

The girls in Year 4 had their final cookery session this week, this time making mini sponge cakes baked inside the cone and then decorated with icing, flakes and sweets and they evidently very much enjoyed the final results!

Food, glorious food

On the subject of cake, the Lower 4s produced some spectacular Showstopper Cakes for their bake off this week. There was an array of wonderful decorations with each and every one finished off to perfection. Our congratulations to them all on their stunning designs. Let's hope they taste as good as they look!



Lovely reunion for the 1971 leavers



Reunion season is upon us and we loved welcoming back so many of the lovely ladies who left in 1971 on Wednesday. It was great fun hearing all of their stories from their time here and to witness their reaction to the school as it is today. There were comments aplenty on the 'new' uniform (no longer the tunics they wore), the happy culture, the confidence emanating from their Sixth Former tour guides and the fantastic food. It was a joy to host them!

Today it is the turn of the ladies from the class of 1968 and their festivities are ongoing but needless to say that they, too, are having a fabulous time catching up with one another and reminiscing over bygone days.

Pre-Prep Sports Day

The much anticipated Pre-Prep Sports Day is also ongoing today and our younger girls are having a fabulous time in their many events. The addition of our very own marquee on Leebourne has added a distinctly glamorous touch and we look forward to reporting back on all the fun in next week's newsletter.



Junior School Film Night – Save the date



Our South African Sports Tour girls are continuing their fundraising efforts for SOS Africa and they would like to invite all girls from Year 3-6 to a special charity film night next Thursday 28 June. The girls can expect lots of fun activities from 4pm, followed by a hot dog and drinks and then a showing of the Greatest Showman in the Performing Arts Centre, finishing at 6.35pm.

A letter has already been sent out to the parents of girls in these year groups and do please help support this invaluable charity initiative that has the capacity to make a real difference to an impoverished child in South Africa. More details about the charity, the challenging circumstances faced by the children they support and the holistic

education programmes that SOS Africa provide can be seen in this documentary: <https://www.sosafrika.com/sos-africa-charity-documentary-video.htm>.

A message to guardians of our overseas girls

Please can all guardians of our Tier 4 girls return the travel arrangement forms to admissions@maynard.co.uk at your earliest convenience. If you require any further information about this, please do not hesitate to contact our Registrar, Wendy Parker, via email or on 01392 355998.

Swimming News

Our U12, U13 and U15 swimming teams had a brilliant match v Blundell's on Wednesday. After 20 races the points were tied, and the match hinged on the last U15 Freestyle relay! In an incredibly exciting finale, with every leg of the race being neck-and-neck, the U15 team were spurred on by the crowd and won!

Well done to all three teams, the U12s who won every race, the U13s who were pretty evenly matched and the U15s who saved their best till last!



And finally - from our roving reporter, Isabel Greaves

"This year has been a good year and, as the end of it comes closer, it's fun to think of all that has happened; Sister Act, the Sixth Form Entertainment, my chocolate tiffin making a comeback, the art trips and the numerous clubs that have occurred.

As we enter Activities Week and do things like surfing, it is a clear indication that England's summer really is coming. So have a good holiday, all!"

May we wish you a lovely weekend!

Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
