

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

29 June 2018

Wow, what a week this has been! The weather has been absolutely stunning (if you like the heat) which has made for an exceptional Activities Week with all the various trips, outings and post exam festivities that have been taking place across the school these past few days.

An absolute highlight was Monday's Leavers Day and it was lovely to welcome the Upper Sixth parents to their daughters' final assembly during the day and to see them learning the school songs! Many returned later for a beautiful evening drinks reception prior to the Leavers' Dinner and I thoroughly enjoyed hearing all the tales and anecdotes about their daughters during their time here at The Maynard. As ever, these occasions are also marked with great poignancy and it is with some sadness that we wave this year group off to start new chapters in their lives. We wish them all the very best of luck at this exciting time and I am sure a very bright future beckons.

The UKMT Primary Maths Challenge that we hosted on Tuesday was another tremendous success and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting all 20 visiting teams and watching them so engrossed in their problem solving and critical thinking exercises. These sorts of events are very taxing on the brain and I take my hat off to them for being able to concentrate on some very complex challenges for a whole day – they must have been exhausted by the end!

I enjoyed a fantastic day with the Lower 5 at the Chalke Valley History Festival on Wednesday and it really was fascinating to visit such an array of interesting stalls and lectures on topics dating from the Stone Age right up to modern warfare. It was also lovely to spend some proper time with this year group and between us we concocted



several plans, most notably how to improve the whole school singing in the Monday morning assemblies (instigated largely by the sheer volume of their singalong in the bus).

I also made time yesterday to drop in on the Upper 3 residential and they all appeared to be having a fabulous time on a particularly sunny and stunning Dartmoor. My travels continue again today and I will shortly be heading off to join the Lower 6 students on their field trip at Slapton Sands, returning to my roots as a Biology teacher which, believe me, is an exciting prospect especially in this heavenly weather!

In the meantime, on to the week's news.

Pre-Prep Sports Day

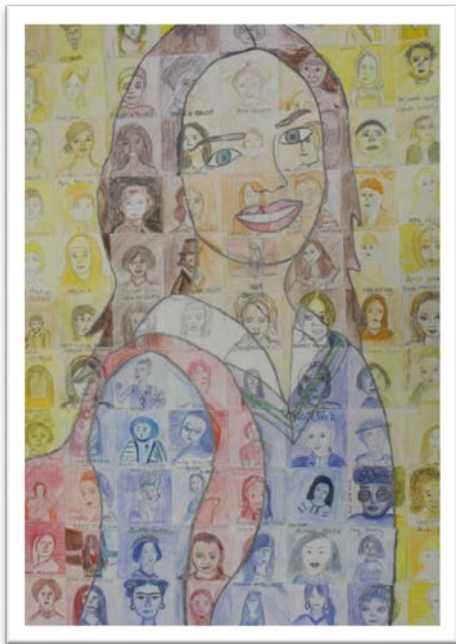
Our Pre-Prep girls enjoyed a brilliant (and very hot!) Sports Day last Friday, taking part in a range of different challenges including the Turtle and Spoon Race, the Rubber Duck Race and The Great Maynard House Steeplechase!

Well done to all the girls for behaving so well and trying their best, and a special thank you to our Year 3 House representatives Henni, Laura, Phoebe and Isabelle who looked after the teams throughout the afternoon.



Cross-curricular days celebrate the 'vote for women'

This week the Upper 3, Lower 4 and Upper 4 year groups took part in two days of exciting cross-curricular activities relating to Votes for Women in this 100th anniversary year of women first being allowed to vote in the UK. Inspired and organised by Miss Blackwell, these thought-provoking activity days enabled the girls to investigate the history of women's suffrage and learn about other human rights issues and social changes since 1918 in fun and memorable ways.



Starting off with an assembly covering topics such as the British suffragettes and the status of women's rights in Saudi Arabia, the activities incorporated music, drama, fashion and textiles, history, English, art, maths and physical exercise. The girls learned and energetically performed suffragette songs and re-enacted events surrounding the fatal protest of Emily Wilding Davison, including poignantly imagining what she might have been thinking on that fateful day. They investigated fashion from the period and through the following decades, creating outfits from black plastic and newspapers for an entertaining and informative fashion show. In History and English they practised debating and created campaigning posters, examined literature from the suffrage movement and explored contemporary issues including #MeToo. In the art room the girls researched and drew notable women and gathered their pictures into a collage, while in maths they constructed voting questionnaires for the school community and collated their results.

The beautiful morning on Tuesday saw the whole group assembled on the tennis courts for a military-style drill, in which they learned how girls would have exercised in past times. The girls came together again for a closing assembly in which examples of their work were demonstrated to a very appreciative audience of pupils and staff.

In 1918, only women aged over 30 who owned property were given the right to vote, and in ten years' time it will be the 100th anniversary of women gaining equal voting rights with men. Something to keep in mind for 2028, Miss Blackwell?



The Primary Mathematics Challenge



On Tuesday, we welcomed 84 Year 5 pupils from 20 primary schools across the region for the annual Primary Mathematics Challenge, organised by Mrs Dersley and the Mathematics Department. Teams of enthusiastic budding mathematicians represented their schools in this fun all-day competition by completing a variety of exciting and challenging problem solving activities, from relay races to crossnumbers (the mathematical equivalent of a crossword, of course). Pupils used their team-working and puzzle-solving skills while having fun doing maths. There was a really lively atmosphere with something for every pupil,

including a chance to sample one of the Maynard's famous cookies - thank you, Andrew, once again for an outstanding lunch and refreshments!

Here is an example question from the day: If I covered a large cube with orange paint, and then broke this large cube into 27 (equally-sized) smaller cubes, what fraction of all the sides of the smaller cubes would be orange?

What about if I broke it into a larger number of smaller cubes?
(Solution upon request)

A snapshot of 'residential fun' in the Junior School

Year 5 had a fabulous three-day trip to Heatree Activity Centre on Dartmoor last week and they certainly enjoyed taking part in all of the various elements of Outdoor Learning that constitute a cracking few days away!

Likewise, Year 6 had an equally brilliant time with some daredevil activities spread across the whole week at Mill on the Brue in Somerset.



Year 4 Activities at Haven Banks

The girls in Year 4 have enjoyed several trips to Haven Banks recently; last Friday they enjoyed some Team Building Games, working together (on dry land) playing games like untangling themselves from a human web, blind fold games and a hotly contested tug of war championships. All 19 of them also managed to trump the five members of staff in the children vs adult version of the tug of war, much to their amusement!

They returned on Monday to do some kayaking, learning the correct paddling technique, balancing on the outside of the kayak whilst trying not to fall in and then playing chasing games across the river, finishing off the session with lots of jumping in to cool down. They are there again today for some Dragon Boat Racing which we can report back on next week but, needless to say, they have enjoyed these days enormously and what weather to be out on the water or picnicking on the quay!



Our tennis club have enjoyed their tiny tennis lessons, following the She Rallies programme written by Judy Murray with the aim to get more girls and women involved in playing and coaching tennis.

In Martial Arts, our Sensei Dr Catterick has been so impressed with the improvements that the girls have made in their confidence and determination, learning self defence and core jiu jitsu skills.



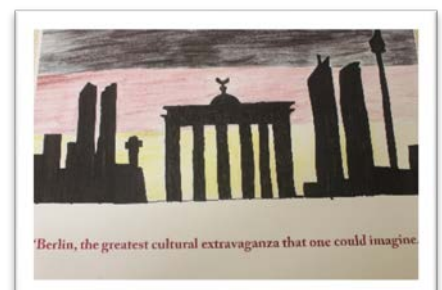
Surfing trip to Croyde

Of course, no-one in school was even a tad bit jealous when the Lower 5 and Lower 6 cohorts went to Croyde for a surfing lesson on Tuesday!

Some of them were attempting this for the first time and it was great to see so many of them honing their techniques during the day and so successfully riding the waves. A great day out was had by all!



Designing 'Reward' Cards for Modern Foreign Languages



The Modern Foreign Language girls in Years 7 and 8 have produced some fabulous designs for the postcards that will be printed to reward effort and good work in French, German and Spanish over the course of the next academic year. It fell to Dairy Birkin, our incoming Head Girl, to have the unenviable

task of judging the winners earlier this week and, such was the high standard, that she really was spoilt for choice. The languages staff will post these cards home to those who have either worked very hard or achieved something extraordinary in their subject. This is a new initiative that has been introduced to make sure parents are also made aware of their daughter's achievements (as we know only too well that internally awarded certificates or cards are often forgotten in the bottom of a school bag and never seen by parents!).

RGS Young Geographer of the Year Competition

The Geography Department is pleased to be running the RGS Young Geographer of the Year Competition again and entries are now open to this prestigious competition for students in all Senior School year groups.

This year's theme is: 'What makes the Arctic unique'. Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students are invited to produce an A4 poster design, whilst the Key Stage 5 students should produce a 1,500 word essay on the topic.

We will be running an internal competition and will select the best from each group for entry into the National competition. The deadline for entries is Friday 28 September by 12pm.

More information can be found online: https://www.rgs.org/RGS/media/RGS-Media-Library/Schools/Competitions/Young-Geographer-of-the-Year-2018-Competition-Guidelines_1.pdf or please see Miss Williamson for details.

Duke of Edinburgh training starts in earnest



The girls doing Gold, Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards next year have been busy on their training expeditions during this past fortnight. This week it was the turn of the Upper 4 groups who spent Wednesday night camping out in the grounds of school, learning how to pitch a tent and cook on the stove whilst also improving their navigational skills ahead of two all-day walks on both Woodbury Common and Dartmoor both yesterday and today. They have all coped admirably despite having to wear long trousers and boots in the heat and we were thrilled that they all completed the challenge so ably.

Film night fundraiser a huge success

We would like to extend a big thank you to all the Junior School girls who supported our South Africa Sports Tour 2018 fundraising event last night. Fifty five girls attended and had fun on Leebourne playing parachute games with the Lower 5 tour girls, followed by a hotdog before snuggling into watch a movie on the big screen in the Performing Arts Centre.

The money raised from this event will be contributing towards our chosen charity, SOS Africa, to whom we have pledged to fund £600 per year towards the education costs for Raynick, a nine year old South African girl who is supported by the charity.

Thank you to all who attended!



More reunions as we welcome back our Old Maynardians



It has been wonderful to meet so many of our Old Maynardians at their respective reunions these past couple of weeks, many of whom have travelled from far afield including from Australia, Canada and various corners of Europe. Last Friday we welcomed back a huge contingent from the class of 1978 as well as several members of staff from the time and they all had a fantastic time with tours by the Lower 6 girls, bubbles in the Rose Garden and a delicious lunch thanks to Andrew and his team served in the iconic Main School Hall. Today we are hosting over 20 ladies who are celebrating 50 years since leaving

the school in 1968 and it has been fascinating to hear them recounting their days here. By all accounts, it is a very different school nowadays and it has been a joy to hear their reactions to all that has evolved at The Maynard in these past decades.

Summer Celebration – next Friday 6 June

Thank you to all of those who have replied to our invitation to attend the end of term Summer Celebration next Friday in the Belmont Chapel from 1.30pm. We would love for all parents and guardians to join us in this fun ceremony to mark the end of the academic year and it's not too late to reply although it would be helpful to know numbers in advance to help with the catering requirements (HeadsPA@maynard.co.uk). We hope to see you there!

Have a lovely weekend!

Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
