
THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

6 July 2018

Where on earth has that year gone? It has been a whirlwind of events and activities, achievements and accolades.

Just this week alone we have had the Upper 3 Moving Up Day, the Lower 6 Next Steps Day, a Lower 6 trip to Cambridge University Open Day, a Biology field trip, a visit to the Britain Needs Scientists day, the wonderful Junior School Summer Show, a full rocket launch, Senior Sports Day and the Swimming Gala, a visit from an author and, of course, our big celebration at the Belmont Chapel. All in five days! I think it is fair to say that everyone might now need a bit of a holiday!

You will see below the details of all of these fantastic events and I hope to see you all at the Summer Celebration this afternoon in what should be a really uplifting and happy event. There is so much to share with you!

You will all receive an end of term booklet outlining the details of the term ahead in an envelope coming home with your daughter this afternoon but do, please, get in touch if we can help with anything. The school is manned all summer to ensure that we can always be of assistance.

In the meantime, I wish you all a sunny, happy, and restful summer and look forward to welcoming a fully reinvigorated staff and student body back to school in September.

Senior School Sports Day

The Senior School Sports Day was fortunate enough to coincide with a brief respite from the heatwave and the cloudier conditions were greeted with much relief when the school decamped to Exeter Arena on Tuesday. As ever, there were some hugely competitive races and field events but, most importantly, the day was focused on whole school involvement with all students and staff taking part. This made for some very vocal support with everyone cheering on their houses in a bid to lift the much coveted House Shield.

Particularly noteworthy performances came from India Leetham (Lower 5) who won the 100m and 200m sprints as well as breaking the High Jump record. Likewise, Louisa Thompson (Lower 4) equalled a long standing record for her year group's High Jump which dates back to 1994. Betsy Board (Lower 5) and Sophie Cunningham (Lower 4) excelled at the middle distance races, Katie Harries (Lower 4) was spectacular in the 1500m whilst Rosie Wheatley (Upper 3) and Dulcie Fraser (Upper 4) dominated the throwing events for their age groups.



Without doubt, the highlight of the day was the staff versus Sixth Form relay race which ended in the closest of victories for the Hartopp, Loosemore, McDonald and Fabian staff team (and the other team of Wood, Smith, Hibberd and Tabb finished a respectable third).

Armourers sprung a surprise house victory on overall points to cap off a truly fantastic and fun day.



A busy penultimate week of summer fun

The penultimate week of the Summer Term has provided plenty of exciting new experiences for students in both the Junior and Senior School. Whilst the students in Upper 5 enjoyed a week of work experience in a number of companies both in Devon and further afield, the Lower 5 language girls were soaking up the culture on their trip to La Rochelle. Others from this year group, as well as the Lower 6, were treated to a surf trip to Croyde in the glorious sunshine whilst the Upper 3s and Lower 4s had a tremendous time on their residential trips to Dartmoor and Osmington Bay respectively.



Then there was the four-day Stratford Trip for the Lower 6 English group, the Biology field trip to Slapton, the Chalke Valley History Festival and, for the Year 4 girls, some closer to home activities including kayaking and dragon boating at Haven Banks. The list could go on such is this time of year but, suffice to say, an excellent time has been had by all!

French Spelling Bee Competition – results announced

Congratulations to Megan Sexton for winning the Year 7 (Upper 3) French Spelling Bee Competition, gaining the most points for Goldsmiths. Lilly Mazer and Hannah d’Souza (absent on the morning of the prize giving so sadly not in the photo) were equally impressive in second and third place respectively. Mme Smith is incredibly proud of all three girls who have so diligently practised and performed their quick spelling skills for 150 words in French and English on a weekly basis with her. Well done!



Wonderful Pre-Prep and Junior School Summer Show

All the hard work in rehearsals these last few weeks has certainly paid off and the girls in the Pre-Prep and Junior School put on a fabulous display for their guests at their Summer Show performances both yesterday and on Wednesday. It really was quite a spectacle with every year group from Reception through to Year 6 taking to the stage to perform either a song, a piece of drama or a dance routine.



Without exception, they were all brilliant and it has been quite the talking point amongst the parents ever since! Well done to all those involved and to the staff who choreographed each class to such perfection.

Merchants win the House Swimming Gala

Congratulations to all those in Merchants who swam so well in yesterday's House Swimming Gala, winning the competition by 33 points over Haberdashers. As ever, it was an extremely competitive event producing some excellent results from both our competitive and Corinthian swimmers - at its heart, this type of event is all about stepping up to the challenge and our thanks to all those who entered into the spirit so boldly!

School records fell only to the Merchant team who were responsible for new times set in the Two Length Freestyle (Hollie Cottell), the Lower 5 Medley Relay and the Upper 3 Freestyle Relay. Their overall victory was clearly very well deserved so well done to you all!



Lower 5 French trip to La Rochelle

From Mme Powell

We had a wonderful time with 20 girls from the Lower 5 French group during the extra-curricular activities week. We flew from Bristol last Tuesday and arrived in La Rochelle in time for a late dinner in a restaurant overlooking the marina from where we were able to admire the sunset over the Atlantic.

After the Wednesday morning language lessons, we had a spot of lunch and headed to the best aquarium in Europe that houses the Sea Turtle rescue centre, the 360° jellyfish tunnel and the Gallery of Lights ... it was truly spectacular.

The next day, after some hard work on grammar and conjugation, we visited the arcades, the cathedral and the museum of Nouveau Monde, a fascinating insight into The New World and La Rochelle's role in the Slave Trade. We then had to stop at Ernest Le Glacier and choose from 80 different ice-cream flavours which took a while! We then explored the picturesque Old Port and finished the day in a pizzeria.





On Friday, on route for Île de Ré, we explored St-Martin-de-Ré, an historic fortified port town and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2008. We had to practice some French to buy our lunch and visited the quaint little shopping streets whilst also enjoying some splendid views from the top of the Bell Tower. In the afternoon, we went to L'Abeille de Ré, a bee farm where we learned the know-how behind honey-making, an interesting visit ending in a shopping spree. We finished the tour of the island at the Phare de la Baleine, the second oldest lighthouse in France and still in use today. It offers some amazing views over the Atlantic coastline.

On Saturday, we spent a whole day in the centre of La Rochelle, visiting the famous towers of St-Nicolas and La Lanterne, exploring the old town, the shopping area, the market, the wonderful shops and the marina. We had some free time to finalise our shopping before going back to the airport.

All good things come to an end and all of us were very sad that the visit had gone so quickly. The girls had a great time and were a credit to our school. Needless to say, we are already looking forward to our next trip in June 2019.

Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

We have a record number of girls signed up for the three Duke of Edinburgh Awards schemes and the last few weekends has seen them all out and about on their various training walks. The Silver participants completed a very successful practice expedition to Dorset. They started in Lyme Regis and took in the Dorset coastal highlights before turning inland to tackle some tricky navigation. We were very proud of their camp craft skills, energy and teamwork.



The gold groups explored Dartmoor on a lovely sunny weekend and showed excellent navigation skills. It was a tough weekend but some really strong teamwork was excellent to see! We wish these girls the best of luck for next week's qualifying expedition on the Brecon Beacons.

The Bronze students spent a night camping at school last week, learning how to set up a camp, cook for the group as well as finishing the important route planning task. They then spent a day hiking in Woodbury, tackling Haytor in the sun and learning how to work together to problem solve.

Well done to all of them!

The Maynard Rocket Club conquers the skies!

At 1600hrs on Thursday 5 July, armed with clinometers, a trundle wheel and a fire extinguisher, the crew of The Maynard Rocket Club embarked on their first mission. With the Civil Aviation Authority notified (really!), sunny skies and a light wind, everything was set for the launch of their four rockets, designed and built by the girls, at the Duckes Meadow sports ground.



Miss Dunn gave the countdown, Mr Ibrahim contacted air traffic control between each launch (really!), and brave Mr Ridler retreated to a safe distance of 200m with the students. The first launch was incredible: Lorelei, Lizzie and Isabelle's rocket soared to an estimated height of 140m! What happened next was unforgettable... Lucy and Rose's rocket, which they painted in Maynard tartan, went up and up and up! It seemed to climb forever; its parachute then deployed successfully, and it gently returned to earth. The students' measurements and calculations gave an estimated height of over a kilometre, putting the Maynard tartan at least 1% of the way to the edge of space - NASA watch out! Alex and Lauren's rocket managed a fantastic 130m after a last minute repair. Then, in a nerve-wracking climax, Carol, Angel and Linda's rocket performed a figure of eight, briefly endangered Miss Dunn, and embedded itself into the turf, much to the rather friendly groundsman's disbelief. During this time it reached a peak height of approximately 10m and provided considerable entertainment.

It was a thrilling way to end the school year. We are all so grateful to Mr Ibrahim for giving generously of his time and expertise in running the Rocket Club, and we are looking forward to more exciting STEM adventures next year.

The Rocket Club team comprised:

Lower 4: Lucy Weekes and Rose Ru

Upper 4: Lorelei Silver, Isabelle Ibrahim and Lizzie Zmuda

Lower 6: Angel Cheng, Linda Liu, Carol Wu, Alexandra Pavic and Lauren Benson

Performance of the Month Award for June 2018

Congratulations to Louisa Thomson who was voted Performance of the Month for her superb athletics season during which she finished 3rd in the High Jump at the Devon County Athletics Championships with a new personal best of 1.45m. Louisa then went on to equal the school Sports Day record of 1.43m which has been held since 1994. We wish her an enormous 'well done'!

Building works commence

The advent of the summer holidays heralds an exciting time for the school and we will start work with immediate effect on the new Health & Fitness Suite as well as the renovations to the Dining Centre, amongst many other more minor improvements. We will be working to the tightest of time frames in order for everything to be completed by the time school starts back in September and we look forward to unveiling all of these wonderful projects to students and staff alike.

Have a fabulous holiday!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
