

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

14 September 2018

The summer heatwave may well have passed but the recent spate of good weather, tinged with a little rain, has certainly helped in keeping our grounds looking lovely with all the flowers still in bloom. The building work for the new Health and Fitness Suite is moving along nicely and every time I look up from my desk the view seems to have changed as the structure creeps upwards. Such is progress that we should be comfortably able to hit the deadline of October half term for completion.

In the meantime, our new intake of students have been enjoying some bonding exercises during these first few days. The entire Sixth Form went to Mount Radford Lawn last Friday for a Rounders tournament and a picnic. The Upper 3 also had an exciting and fun trip to Escot and luckily it was not a mud bath like last year! All of our other lovely 'newbies' seem to be settling in very quickly and I was delighted to see so many of them already signing up to clubs such as MUN, choir, orchestra, hockey and drama. They really do seem to have embraced the ethos of our school and got stuck straight in! It was also great to see how many were able to join us for the New Parent Supper last night. The Main School Hall was teeming with people and it was lovely to see everybody making new contacts and networking with each other. It was a wonderful evening and the food was superb so a huge thank you to Andrew and his team!

This weekend marks the first Duke of Edinburgh training expedition of the season and I wish all the Bronze DofE girls the best of luck as they embark on their inaugural off-site two day walk and overnight camp. I am pleased to say that the weather looks perfect for the next couple of days so I hope that they have a hugely enjoyable time and my thanks, as ever, to our many staff involved



for the immense amount of personal time they give up to do this.

If I could make a little plea at this point: I would be enormously grateful if as many girls as possible could spare the time to help out at our Open Morning on Saturday 29 September. Our greatest asset is our wonderful students and it is them that our prospective parents most want to meet and chat to! We will require help with running lots of interactive activities in the various departments for our guests to enjoy and we also need plenty of older students to act as tour guides. Previous volunteers at these events always have a great time and we would truly welcome as much help as possible – it's only for three hours (9am – 12pm) and I'm quite sure there will be some form of delicious snack by way of reward and thanks!

As always, despite only being the very beginning of term, we have had an action packed week:

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### Equestrian individual and team success

Many congratulations to all our riders who competed at the National Schools NSEA Show Jumping qualifier at Bicton Arena last Sunday. It was wonderful to welcome Isobel Davies (Lower 6) who was competing for the first time for The Maynard and she put in a fantastic double clear to finish second in the 1.10m class and qualify as an individual for the National Championships next month.

Our 70-75cm team of Polly Cochrane (Year 5), Kitty Guinness (Upper 5) and Ava Hepburn (Year 6) were equally on stunning form, winning their class and also qualifying for the Nationals. Our huge congratulations to them, too.



Elsewhere, Sophie Cunningham (Upper 4) took a brilliant second place (out of 48) at last weekend's South Dartmoor tetrathlon. At only 13-years old Sophie was competing against much older girls in the Under 15 section but still managed to win the riding section



and, following the shooting, swimming and running disciplines completed in overall second place. A fantastic result and well done, Sophie!

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### Ten pin bowling and pizza on the Quay

The traditional Lower 5 'welcome to GCSEs' trip proved great fun on Tuesday night and if ever there was concrete evidence that ten pin bowling isn't our forte, then this was it! Of course, there were some sterling performances but generally speaking the staff appear to be making no improvement whatsoever which certainly makes for a lot of hilarity! After all that laughing, pizza on the quay was much required and great fun was had by all. We wish all of our Lower 5 girls the best of luck as they embark on two years' hard work in preparation for their GCSEs.

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### Adrenaline and giggling at Escot Park



The entire Upper 3 cohort enjoyed a fabulous team building day at Escot Park on Monday. The sun shone as the girls giggled their way through the maze and learned about the wolves and birds. We looked for the rather allusive lynx and the girls built first class shelters and fires. The more fearless went down the terrifying drop slide! We do hope it helped our new girls to get to know a few more of their classmates; it certainly helped the teachers and we think that we are in for a fun year with a fantastic group of girls.

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### Drama trip to the Northcott



On Wednesday, the GCSE and A-level Drama students went to see Ian Hislop's funny and thought-provoking 'The Wipers Times' at The Northcott Theatre. Set in the trenches of WW1 the show charts the creation and rise of the real life story of the satirical newspaper, 'The Wipers Times'.

Following a sell-out West End run and an appearance at the Passchendaele Centenary in Ypres, we were lucky to be able to see it right here on our doorstep and it provided a most entertaining start to our programme of theatre visits this year.

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### Artistic talent in Year 4

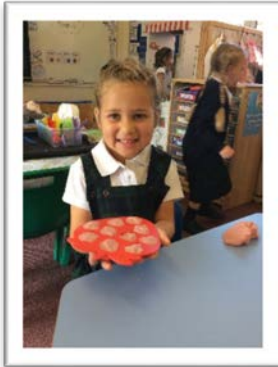
Mrs Fry's classroom in the Junior School is always famous for its brilliant homemade artwork and she has already set the bar very high with this wonderful piece now hanging in pride of place on the Year 4 wall. Having initially started the piece at the end of the last academic year, the finishing touches were completed over the past few days. "We worked individually and in small groups to complete each tile, collaborating with our classmates to ensure the colour flowed across the picture correctly."



### News from the Pre-Prep

All ten new girls in the Reception class have enjoyed a great first full week getting to know their classmates and they already appear to be fully settled in their new life at The Maynard. There has been all sorts of fun and creativity in the classroom and they have been loving spending time with their Year 5 buddies who have been superb in helping to look after them at their new school.

Without doubt, the Pre-Prep is certainly abuzz with lots of happy, smiley faces across the year groups.



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### Congratulations to Cathryn



We must make mention of Cathryn Griffiths (Lower 4) who turned 13 last weekend and organised a disco party for all of her friends to celebrate. However, she asked that no one buy her any presents but requested that they donate the money to one of her favourite two charities instead. As such, she raised an incredible £470 that will be shared between The Marine Conservation Society and the Grace Charitable Trust. The latter enables tribal children in remote jungle villages in Southern India to be transported to school safely and provides education support by way of equipment and uniforms, as well as providing a school bus.

Cathryn visited India with her parents last year and, on her return, gave a presentation to her year group, the Upper 3 and Year 3 in the Junior School. She will be going back to these villages next February half term to see the ongoing work of the charity and meet the girls she has started writing to. In the meantime, we wholeheartedly congratulate her on her hugely philanthropic approach and we look forward to hearing about all of her travels to India next term.

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### Biz Whizz Careers Club

We are delighted to have relaunched the Biz Whizz careers talks for girls in the Senior School and Sixth Form following a break to allow for the summer examination timetable. The first of these talks took place today and our thanks to alumna Alice Miller, an Acute Medicine Consultant, for her fascinating

insight into her career as a medic and life within the NHS – it would be hard to find a stronger supporter of our health system and the multitude of wonderful careers within it. This was a hugely popular talk with over 35 girls from the Lower 4 upwards in attendance and it was followed by a very intelligent and lengthy Q&A session, evidencing the curious mind of a Maynard girl.



Biz Whizz is an entirely optional club that takes place in the first half of the lunch break every Friday during term time. We have an excellent programme lined up for the term ahead covering areas such as fashion, film, the armed forces, professional sport, ecology, veterinary practice, cyber security, music promotion, humanitarian aid and more.

Next week we look forward to welcoming Philippa Waddell, founder and owner of Wildhorse Films, who will talk with the girls about film production and directing. “I have great news to share as I’m directing my first feature film. There’s lots to talk about.”

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### ‘Girls Go Gold’ Conference

Twelve of our elite athletes are visiting the ‘Girls Go Gold’ conference in Oxfordshire today which certainly looks to be an experience of a lifetime. Organised in conjunction with the Girls School Association, this is a one day national conference for elite sportswomen aged 14-18 years old with the aim to provide the opportunity for talented young sportswomen to engage with academic and performance experts of the highest calibre. As such, their keynote speakers for the day include Clare Balding OBE, Gail Emms MBE (the Badminton silver medallist at the 2004 Olympics) and James Shone, founder of the charity, “I can and I am”. They will also partake in a practical workshop with one of several top quality GB sportswomen and Olympians who are also in attendance.

This is an excellent opportunity for them all and we look forward to hearing more about it on their return.

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### Singing for Unicef

We are delighted to announce that several of our choristers have been invited to join members of the Exeter Philharmonic Choir to perform in a charity concert raising funds for UNICEF (the United Nation’s Children’s Fund) on Saturday 29 September at the Southernhay United Reformed Church. This is such an honour and we wish Daisy Birkin, Chloe Lamb, Isobel Yeoman, Susannah Leigh, Katie Byles, Laura Kerr and Alexandra Pavic the best of luck for what promises to be a stunning occasion with a fantastic programme of music including Fauré’s popular Requiem.

Soloists at the concert will include Catherine Hamilton and Julian Rippon, both very well-known to Exeter audiences, Tom Robson, who has sung with world-famous choir The Sixteen, and mezzo-soprano Svetlina Stoyanova, currently singing with the Vienna State Opera. The concert will be conducted by former EPC Director of Music, Raymond Calcraft.



Not only is this aiming to raise money for a worthwhile cause it should be a wonderful concert and is being attended by the Lord Mayor, the Lord-Lieutenant of Devon, a Secretary from the Czech Embassy (representing the Ambassador) and possibly ambassadors from France and Bulgaria.

Tickets are available in advance from Exeter Northcott Theatre Box Office (01392 726363) or at the door.

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### **The Maynard Parent's Association AGM**

Just to let you know that the MPA is holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday (17 September) and everyone is welcome! Held in the Main School Hall, it will start at 8.30am and tea, coffees and croissants will be available from 8.15am. This is a wonderful chance to find out what the MPA has been up to over the last year and what plans it has for next year, plus a short address by Sarah and Alan Gibbons, Parent Governor. Who could not want to come?!

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Have a lovely weekend!

Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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