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# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

21 September 2018

It certainly feels like the school has found a good rhythm now with classes settled, teachers knowing their charges, activities and clubs chosen, lockers identified and the lunch queue 'sussed out'. My thanks goes to Mrs Briscoe and Mrs Leigh for cracking the Senior School extra-curricular timetable as that was the typical labyrinth to solve! I have attached a copy of it to this newsletter so everyone can see what a full and varied programme of clubs we offer. An equal thanks also to all



of our wonderful staff for providing such golden opportunities that often extend into later evenings and weekends. Duke of Edinburgh is a good example and this weekend would have been the third weekend in a row that various groups have been out and about on their practice and qualifying expeditions. However, Mother Nature has intervened with those plans and, having delayed the camp at Land's End (with the girls spending last night in the gym instead), we had to make an early call this morning to postpone the entire weekend due to the appalling weather forecast. It simply would not have been safe to send 27 girls out to walk the coastal paths of Cornwall in driving rain and very strong winds. So my apologies to any parents for the inconvenience this may have caused but, rest assured, we will be in touch soon with news of the alternative arrangements for the girls affected.

We witnessed a good turn-out for the MPA's AGM on Monday morning and I don't think it was for the lovely pastries. Well done to Jill Collins and her team, as always, for drumming up support for fund and friend raising with such good humour and spirit. We love our grand piano, the 8000w hall projector and all of the other wonderful things you have provided most recently. We all look forward to another year of these 'icing on the cake' acquisitions through this very special part of our community. Thank you!

As you will be aware from the letter home, next Saturday 29 September is a very big day for us as it is our main Open Morning. Please can I ask you to encourage your daughters to be involved as a tour guide or a helper in one of the departments. The girls are our best ambassadors and having their support for just a few hours makes all the difference.

There is much more to share with you below with Poetry Slams, sport and lots of music news so please read on!

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### Up close with Clare Balding OBE at Girls Go Gold



Twelve of our elite athletes had the most amazing day at the Girls Go Gold Conference in Oxfordshire last Friday and the highlight for many was being able to meet and chat with Clare Balding OBE. They were treated to some particularly memorable keynote speakers and the event launched with brain tumour survivor, James Shone, who has founded the charity 'I can and I am'. James used a balloon analogy to describe the importance of celebrating our individual capabilities (inflating the balloon) and discussed how every individual should have enough air in their balloon at all times to ensure they could bounce back from any adversity or disappointment. It really was the most colourful and impactful talk.

The girls then split into groups to attend some workshops with one half enjoying some netball coaching from Tamsin Greenway, an England International player. The rest were taken off to a hockey masterclass with Team GB players, Becky Middleton and Zoe Shipperley. The day culminated in a Q&A session with the panel, chaired by the ever-charismatic Clare Balding. "Truly amazing" and "such a good day" seems to sum up everyone's experience, including the staff who, as ever, much enjoyed spending time with this lovely group.

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### Bronze Duke of Edinburgh training

Twenty nine girls from the Lower 5 all successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh training last weekend and, unlike their Silver counterparts, they were treated to ideal walking conditions. They all set off on Saturday morning from Sidbury car park for their 28km round trip with an overnight stay at Bickton College and everyone was safely back in Sidbury by 3pm the next day - a brilliant job and well done, everyone!



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### Literary Festival Poetry Slam



Two teams from Upper 4 took part in the Devon Schools' Poetry Slam workshop and competition at the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival yesterday. The teams were Rose Finnegan and Alex Hudson, as well as Eleanor Cumbley and Daisy Hoban. Both teams wrote wonderful poems and performed them absolutely brilliantly, and they were a true credit to the school.

Led by John Paul O'Neill from Farrago Poetry and Aislinn Evans, the current UK poetry slam champion, the students started the workshops with free writing for 10 minutes inspired by the line 'In one hour she said you will be walking the plank'. They then chose their favourite sentences as a starting point for their poems, adding lines and editing the poems until they had something they could perform. They had plenty of time to practise with performance tips from John Paul and Aislinn, and the slam took place at 5pm in front of an audience of parents, teachers, other festival attendees and a judging panel of three local poets. Everyone enjoyed the slam, with a lot of cheering, stamping and clapping for the young poets, and they all learned valuable lessons about creating and performing poetry.



### Shaping up nicely in Year 5

Mrs K's new Year 5 students are settling into the term's activities quite beautifully.

This week they have been having a great time whilst investigating the properties of 3D shapes and learning how to identify them by their faces, edges and vertices. "They are a super lot and we have had a fantastic start to the term with lots to look forward to."

### Self-portraits in the Pre-Prep

The girls in Year 2 have produced some fabulous self-portraits during their art lessons this term. They began by looking at the styles of artist such as Henri Matisse and Leonardo Da Vinci and then set about producing their own portraits in pencil - to brilliant effect!



### Film Production and Directing at this week's Biz Whizz

We enjoyed another excellent careers talk today, this time from Philippa Waddell, the founder and owner of Widlhorse Films. Over thirty girls attended and they all listened avidly to Philippa recounting how she worked her way up in the industry to be where she is today. She explained all the highs (the

travel and adventure) and the lows (the travel, the long hours, the unpredictability etc) of the job, the difference between directing and producing and even discussed the different courses now available to help pave a way into the industry. All in all it was a fascinating 30-minutes and we hope the girls came away feeling enlightened.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming Rebecca Hooker, the CEO of Committed Clothing Company, to talk about her career in the fashion world.



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### Cracking start to the sporting season

This week has been full of fixtures across the school and, on Monday, the Under 19 netball team kicked off their season with the draw that no one else in the country would have wanted – Millfield (the national runners-up) in the first round of the Independent Schools Netball Cup. It was never going to be an easy game and they did lose but they played their hearts out nevertheless. They bounced back to form on Wednesday, however, to win a cracking game against Truro School by just one point! In a busy afternoon, we also pitted two other teams against Truro; the Under 16s were a little untidy and couldn't quite pull together their best performance to suffer a rare defeat whilst the Under 14s won 28-14, marking a fantastic start to their season.

Meanwhile, the girls in the Junior School enjoyed their first lesson at the University's astro turf, acclimatising them to playing on a big pitch and practising their skills. This was the first in a series of astro training for the younger girls which will certainly help to improve their competitive game over the coming few weeks.

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### The ever-popular gymnastics club

The Junior School gymnastics club, held at Exeter Gym Club, has started this week with over 45 girls from Years 4-7 attending squad and recreational training sessions each week, supported by some of our senior gymnasts as assistant coaches.

We are exceptionally lucky to have access to this brilliant facility and high level coaching - the club has recently also invested in a brand new sprung Gymnova floor, the same type that international gymnasts compete on at the Olympics and World Championships! It's a great place for our girls to go and they enjoy these sessions immensely.



### Miss Blackwell plays alongside Sheku

Two days after his performance at the BBC Proms in the Royal Albert Hall, Sheku Kanneh-Mason was in Budleigh Salterton to headline their Music Festival. Sheku will probably be most familiar to you all as the young cellist who performed at the wedding of Prince Harry, following winning BBC Young Musician of the Year and the success of his Number 1 Classical album (which also reached number 18 in the pop charts). A handful of professional musicians from the South West were chosen to accompany him in the orchestra and Miss Blackwell was one of 12 violinists selected to play alongside him. "It was amazing and probably the highlight of my summer."



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### Bowman sisters thrill CREDITON audience

We are delighted to report that Dodie Bowman (Upper 6) and her sister Robyn (an Old Maynardian) performed a concert of European Fiddle tunes at the CREDITON Congregation Church yesterday.

This was the last of this year's season of Lunchtime Summer Recitals in CREDITON and the girls played beautifully to a very appreciative audience.



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### Devon County Junior and Senior Choirs

Mrs Rachel Smith, our Head of Junior Music is also the Conductor/Administrator of the Devon County Junior Choir (DCJC) and Schola Exe, the County Senior Choir. Both choirs meet on Saturday mornings in Exeter during term time: DCJC at 9.15 - 11.15 and Schola Exe at 11.30 - 12.45.

DCJC is for children (girls and boys) in Years 3 - 8 and Schola Exe is for girls (and boys with unchanged voices) in Years 9 and above. The membership of both choirs is drawn from all over Devon: there are over 40 in DCJC and around 15 more advanced singers in Schola Exe; we would love to have some girls from The Maynard School singing in both choirs!

Over 20 members of both choirs have successfully auditioned for the National Children's Choir of GB and the National Youth Choir of GB and have gained choral scholarships to Oxford University and music college. If you would be interested in finding out more about either choir, then please take a look at the website: [www.dcjc.org.uk](http://www.dcjc.org.uk) - you can see details of the choirs' performances, including a forthcoming event with the English Touring Opera in Exeter Cathedral, and find application forms for both choirs. Please also feel free to email Mrs Smith on her County Choir email address: [music@dcjc.org.uk](mailto:music@dcjc.org.uk)

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### Calling all Maynard Mums!



Our tennis coach, Jon Rycroft, runs fun and inclusive tennis coaching open to all Maynard mums! Sessions take place at Victoria Park (10 minutes from the school) on Tuesday mornings from 8.45 am - 10 am. These will be split into two groups with two separate coaches: Beginner level and Intermediate/Advanced level. It's pay as you go (and the cost will vary depending on the numbers) so come along and try it!

For further information, please email [coachrycroft@hotmail.com](mailto:coachrycroft@hotmail.com) or text 07851 296713.

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### Student absences – a polite request

Please can all parents and guardians notify the School Office by email ([office@maynard.co.uk](mailto:office@maynard.co.uk)) if your daughter is going to be absent. We would very much appreciate it if this can be done as early as possible each morning to help us complete registration in a timely and efficient manner.

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### Photo and media permission forms

Likewise, can all those who haven't already done so please complete and return their photo and media permission forms. We take lots of beautiful photos of special moments here at school which we like to use on social media, on the website, in the press and here in the newsletter. Without your permission we will be unable to share these wonderful stories with you!

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Have a wonderful weekend!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Dunn'.

Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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