

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

7 September 2018

It's been a wonderful week welcoming everyone back and it is all very much full steam ahead. Certainly, the girls and staff all look refreshed and ready for the academic year and I trust that you, too, have had a fabulous summer albeit that it has seemingly flashed by in the blink of an eye.

School has undergone many renovations during the break; the Health & Fitness Suite adjoining the gym building is racing upwards; the dining centre refurbishments and new Sixth Form Bistro have certainly been met with much approval and that area of the school building looks much the better for it; numerous interactive televisions have been installed in those classrooms which didn't already have one and I am sure these will be an invaluable aid to our teaching staff; the floor in the Junior School Hall looks beautiful and fresh after a sanding and a new lick of varnish; and the new lockers adjoining Bradley Hall are certainly proving a perfect replacement to the locker room of old now housing the Sixth Form Bistro.

As the school expands, we are delighted to welcome some new members of staff into the Maynard community this term and, no doubt, you will be meeting them at some point in the near future. Mrs Caroline Leigh joins us as the Assistant Head; Mr Tom Bowler is the new member of the Mathematics Department; Mr Jim Lodge, a teacher here for many years previously, has returned to teach Physics; Mrs Natalie Haworth (an ex-Maynardian) takes up her position as a teacher and Teaching Assistant in the Pre-Prep; Toria Turner is the new face on Reception; Jacki Street takes on the role of Admissions Assistant and will be joined by Kirstyn Munro as the School Registrar in a couple of weeks; Lyndsay Pankhurst is



providing maternity cover for my PA, Lora Jones; Michelle Craig is the new SLT Administrator and Freya Purchase is the Graduate Learning Support Mentor. We also welcome two peripatetic music teachers in Jade Gall (clarinet) and Taylor Ross (flute).

Likewise, Mr Smerdon has returned from his sabbatical leave and is now back in situ as Head of the Junior School (and our thanks to Mrs Reynolds for so ably acting as Head in his absence). We also welcome back Mrs Viv Martin who thought she had retired last year but couldn't resist coming back to cover maternity leave for Mrs Briscoe in the English Department! And last but by no means least, Mr Loosemore (Head of English) joins the SLT team as Assistant Head. He will take over from Mrs Wilks to become the Designated Safeguarding Lead by Christmas.

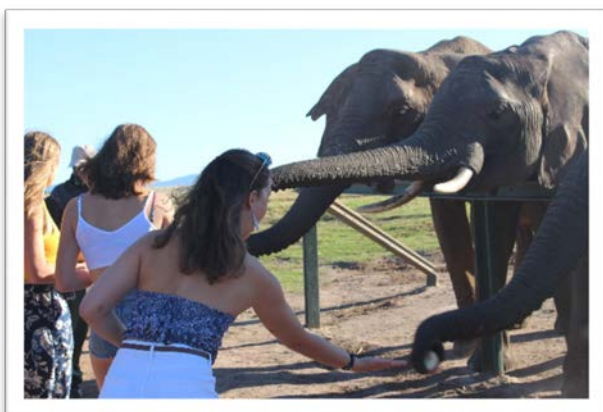
We also welcomed lots of new girls into our community all of whom are settling in beautifully and we wish them well for their time here at The Maynard! So, without further ado, here's to a happy and successful year ahead and I look forward to keeping you all abreast of the news and events of the coming months, starting here!

Sensational South Africa Sports Tour



The trip started on a complete high from the very first day and no-one thought any of the proceeding days could possibly exceed the quite incredible Cape Peninsular Tour where the girls had the opportunity to get up close to seals, penguins and all the other wonderful South African wildlife. But they were wrong - every single day proved to be an

Twenty one girls had the trip of a lifetime during the summer holidays when travelling to South Africa for their Hockey and Netball Sports Tour. Aside from playing superbly in all their training opportunities and matches against local sides from Cape Town and beyond, they also had plenty of time to soak up the area's many wonderful and eye-opening sights.



utter highlight. An escorted tour of Robben Island by an ex-prisoner there gave them all a thought-provoking insight as to the appalling living conditions of its inmates, the cable car up Table Mountain, a surfing lesson on one of the many gorgeous beaches, the trip along the Garden Route, tours of an impoverished township and meeting some of the locals, the unforgettable Elephant Park and the chance to spot the Big Five on safari were

all only eclipsed by one thing – meeting the little girl whose entire education the sports tour girls have pledged to sponsor until she finishes school.

Long before setting out to South Africa, the girls had decided that they would like to give something back to the community out there and, in collaboration with Somerset-based charity SOS Africa, it was decided upon that they would organise some fundraising events to help raise the



necessary monies to cover a young girl's education. At nine years old, Raynick's family could not afford any of her schooling so several cake sales, tea parties, film nights and the inaugural Maynard's Got Talent later the necessary £600 was raised for the first year of sponsorship. And with bags crammed with books, pens and other necessary school items the girls arrived at Grabouw High School to the warmest of welcomes from Raynick and her friends.

"It was truly wonderful," said Mrs Wood, one of the three members of PE staff responsible for overseeing the whole trip. "Meeting Raynick was a complete highlight and only served to spur the girls on with yet more fundraising events to come. Pledging £600 per year to see out Raynick's entire education is no mean feat but being able to meet her and see her school has instilled in us renewed purpose and the girls have taken on this sponsorship wholeheartedly.



"Now that we are back for the new academic year, we are already booking the next round of fundraisers and we will look forward to seeing Raynick again in 2020 when we head back there for the next tour. I also have to say that it was a complete pleasure to spend those two weeks with our talented young sportswomen – they were fantastic company throughout and together we had a complete ball. We have all brought home lifelong memories of a very happy and fun-filled trip."



100% completion rate in Gold DofE Expedition

Congratulations to all our many Sixth Formers who enjoyed a hugely successful four day and four night Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Brecon Beacons during the July heatwave. This was the final assessment for 20 of them and training for one (due to a foot injury causing a missed training walk) and, despite the soaring temperatures, we are thrilled that they all completed and in such high spirits.

“They were all just brilliant,” said Dr Rudling, who accompanied them on the trip. “Some of the walking conditions were pretty tricky and we certainly covered many miles but their endless energy and enthusiasm meant they handled it all superbly. From the outset, it was evident that their extraordinarily positive outlooks and superb teamwork would help them overcome anything and there was never any doubt that they wouldn’t treat it as anything other than a walk in the park!”

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme has attracted an unprecedented uptake from our students recently and the school now has record numbers taking part in all three Bronze, Silver and Gold sections for the 2018/19 academic year.



News from the Library

The library second hand book sale held last term in aid of Exeter charity FORCE Cancer raised £76 to support their work with cancer patients and their families. Thank you to everyone who bought books or donated change and to the girls from Upper 3 who helped with the book sale.

On Thursday 5 July, the penultimate day of last term, the girls from Upper 3, Lower 4 and Upper 4 enjoyed an inspiring talk from award-winning author Lauren St John, hearing about her amazing life as a sports and music journalist, and how her love of animals led to her writing children’s books. She described her animal rescue work with the Born Free Foundation and introduced the girls to Authors4Oceans which she founded to help draw attention to the issue of plastics entering our seas and killing wildlife. Lauren’s visit was kindly arranged for us by the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival education outreach team. This year’s festival dates are 19 to 23 September; brochures are available from reception and the library, or see <https://budlitfest.org.uk/>.

Holiday experiences

News about some of our students wonderful experiences during the summer holidays are starting to trickle through and we just thought we should share a snapshot of some of these with you:

Head Girl, Daisy Birkin, enjoyed a fantastic week at the Eton Choral Course held in St John’s College, Cambridge. “It basically involved singing all day every day! The choir consisted of 73, 16-18 year olds (including boys) and having never properly sung with tenors or basses before it took a little while to get used to such a full, rich sound!

We had full days of rehearsals, singing lessons and masterclasses. Later in the week we had a recital and two evensongs, one in St John’s College Chapel and one in the Chapel at King’s College (which was particularly amazing!) and then on the final day we recorded an evensong for BBC Radio 3. I learned so much from the week, not only about singing in a choir and acting upon direction from our course Director Ralph Allwood (who was hilarious), but also about my personal singing style and performance. I would honestly recommend it to any girls who enjoy singing chorally and are possibly thinking of carrying on with it at university.”

Darcy Howle (Upper 6): “I am interested in studying biomedical sciences at university so I acted upon my interest by getting in touch with my good family friend, Sam Barrell, who is the Chief Operating Officer at the Francis Crick Institute in London. By taking part in work experience at the Institute, known to be one of the most influential biomedical research practices in the world, I learnt how new discoveries were made to prevent, diagnose and treat illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, infections and neurodegenerative diseases.

I used cryoEM (£5 million microscope) to see the molecular composition and structure of proteins created and used for embryonic research into finding a solution for male and female infertility and improve the effectiveness of IVF. I sat in on intellectual discussions on DNA and gene modification of the human embryo and previous research into infertility treatments so that methods can be adjusted and improved. I was fortunate enough to enter into a laboratory and watch a zygote being separated and used to create unspecialised cells to be used for further research.

All that I had experienced had related to my A-level Biology syllabus and it showed me how much my secondary education can allow me to understand and how much someone can achieve if they are determined enough about their subject. I am extremely lucky to have been able to visit, as the accessibility to research centres as highly acclaimed as this is very rare to students due to the security risks and the confidential nature of the research.”



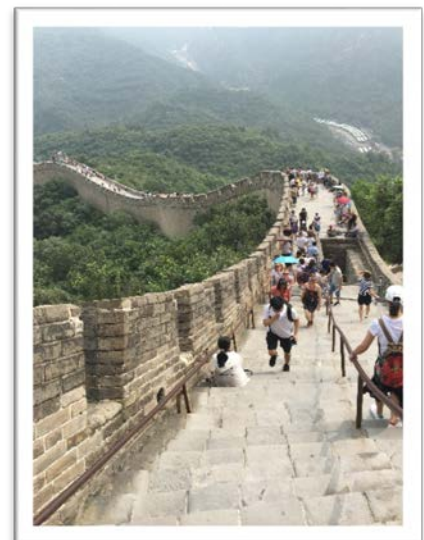
Polly Shaw (Lower 6): “This summer I had the privilege of being one of two cadets chosen to represent the UK Sea Cadet Corps in the inaugural Sea Cadet exchange to New Zealand. There I took part in such activities as sailing and kayaking with local sea cadet groups and visits to New Zealand Navy vessels. We also enjoyed a RIB ride around Auckland harbour, a trip in a nh90 helicopter, firefighting, a confidence assault course and damage control which involves plugging holes in a ship simulator that is flooding with cold water. We had a more restful time sightseeing and visiting the New Zealand Parliament. It was truly an experience of a lifetime and I

formed friendships with cadets from all over the world.”

Molly Bachelor (leaver in 2018): Molly travelled to China for a ten day tour to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the National Children’s Choir of GB.

“We did two nights in Beijing at the Beijing Concert Hall, the first night accompanied by the Beijing Palace Choir and the second night on our own, then we went to the Shanghai Grand Theatre for our last performance. It was incredible to perform for the general public in both these places and to see their reactions to the Chinese songs we sung in our encore.

We also visited many tourist attractions on the side including local factories for silk and jade, going to the Forbidden City, as well as being fortunate enough to climb the Great Wall. My favourite moments however were probably the concerts because I loved performing and was proud to be part of such an amazing tour.”



Music success for Alexandra Pavic

Congratulations to Alexandra Pavic (Upper 6) who has been awarded a diploma for her flute playing which is a fantastic achievement!

“I had to prepare a 30 minute continuous recital and perform it with my accompanist, Carol Galton, in front of an examiner who then wrote comments about it and gave me a mark for each piece. The pieces I picked were quite diverse, ranging from Baroque to very contemporary. I performed the three movements from Vivaldi's "La Tempesta Di Mare", the three movements from Poulenc's sonata for flute and piano, the two movements from Grovlez's "Romanze et Scherzo" and an unaccompanied piece called "Danse de la Chèvre". The final piece was the one that I received an honours for when I performed it at the Devon Performing Arts Festival two years ago so it was nice to keep it going for my diploma as well.



Now that I have the diploma it means I'm an Associate of the Royal Schools of Music which is quite cool!”

Good luck to Mrs Smith

We wish Mrs Rachel Smith, Head of Junior Music, the very best of luck for her latest out-of-school adventure. She has travelled to Ypres to conduct the Military Wives Choir who have been invited to sing at the Menin Gate in tonight's Sunset Ceremony. They will then give a concert in the town tomorrow. We look forward to telling you all about this in next week's newsletter!

Upcoming GCSE and A-level Drama event

Next Wednesday evening (12 September) all the Lower 5 and Upper 5 GCSE students, along with Sixth Form A-Level students, are booked in to see 'The Wipers Times' at the Exeter Northcott Theatre. Students will meet Mrs Bellamy-Cooper in the foyer at 7.10pm to collect tickets and the show comes down at 9.50pm. The letters regarding drama trips for the term are winging their way to parents as we speak - could we have all reply slips back in to school by next Tuesday 11 September. A quick turnaround for the start of term!

Young Geographer of the Year competition

The Geography department are pleased to be running the RGS Young Geographer of the Year Competition. This prestigious competition is open to students in all year groups and the theme is 'What makes the Arctic unique'. Key Stage 3 and 4 students are invited to produce an A4 poster whilst Key Stage 5 students should produce a 1,500 word essay and adhere to the criteria.

We will be running an internal competition and will select the best for entry into the National competition. The deadline for entries is Friday 28th 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.

Biz Whizz - the ultimate careers club



We have prepared an extensive programme of speakers for our weekly careers talks held every Friday lunchtime and the line-up is, without doubt, both varied and particularly impressive. This is an entirely optional club but we would strongly urge those girls in Senior School to come along to find out more about the professions that interest them the most. We will be emailing the programme to parents early next week and a printed copy will also be handed out to Senior School students during tutorial time on Monday. The line-up includes an Acute Medicine Consultant, a Cyber Security expert, an Army Captain and ex-England netballer, a CEO of a clothing company, a film director, an ecologist, an international stage manager, a specialist equine vet, a music promoter and agent, a humanitarian aid worker and an award

winning author, broadcaster and podcast host. More details on all of these to follow next week!

New Parents' Welcome Supper

We would like to remind those to whom this applies that it is the New Parents' Welcome Supper on Thursday 13 September at 7pm in the Main School Hall. Thank you to all those that have replied and we look forward to seeing you all there!

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
