

OUR STRATEGIC

VISION

FOR A BRIGHT &
SUCCESSFUL FUTURE



THE
MAYNARD
SCHOOL
EXETER

MADE FOR GIRLS AGE 4 - 18

VISION

To be a leading school in the UK, committed to educational excellence in a caring and happy environment that fosters a life-long love of learning.

MISSION

Our team of inspiring teachers will instil in each individual the confidence to excel academically, socially and morally. Through an educational experience designed specifically for girls, we are able to give them the skills and the courage to go out into the world and make a real difference.

Introduction

Founded in 1658, The Maynard is the oldest girls' school in the country and we pride ourselves on our unique blend of tradition mixed with innovation and forward thinking.

We are an academically selective school with outstanding teachers and support staff who ensure that each and every student can individually thrive to reach their full potential. Year-on-year we are one of the leading girls' schools in the country according to the GCSE and A-level performance tables, and the vast majority of our Sixth Form students secure places at the country's most prestigious Russell Group universities, top medical and dental schools as well as pre-eminent art and drama institutions.

However, a Maynard education isn't just about academic achievement and we place a heavy emphasis on the importance of pastoral care. "It's the warmth of the relationship that makes all the difference," noted the Good Schools Guide at their latest visit. "And the laughter. Relationships between students and staff are supportive, humorous yet entirely professional."

That said, no school is able to stay excellent if it stands still. Education and the required workforce skills are ever evolving and, therefore, so must we. We must ask ourselves if we are doing enough to retain the very special culture, ethos and traditions that are the essence of The Maynard School.

This is a very exciting time for the school and we trust you will join us on our journey to provide the best possible all round education for our girls, both today and into the future.

Sarah Dunn, Headmistress



What shapes The Maynard vision?

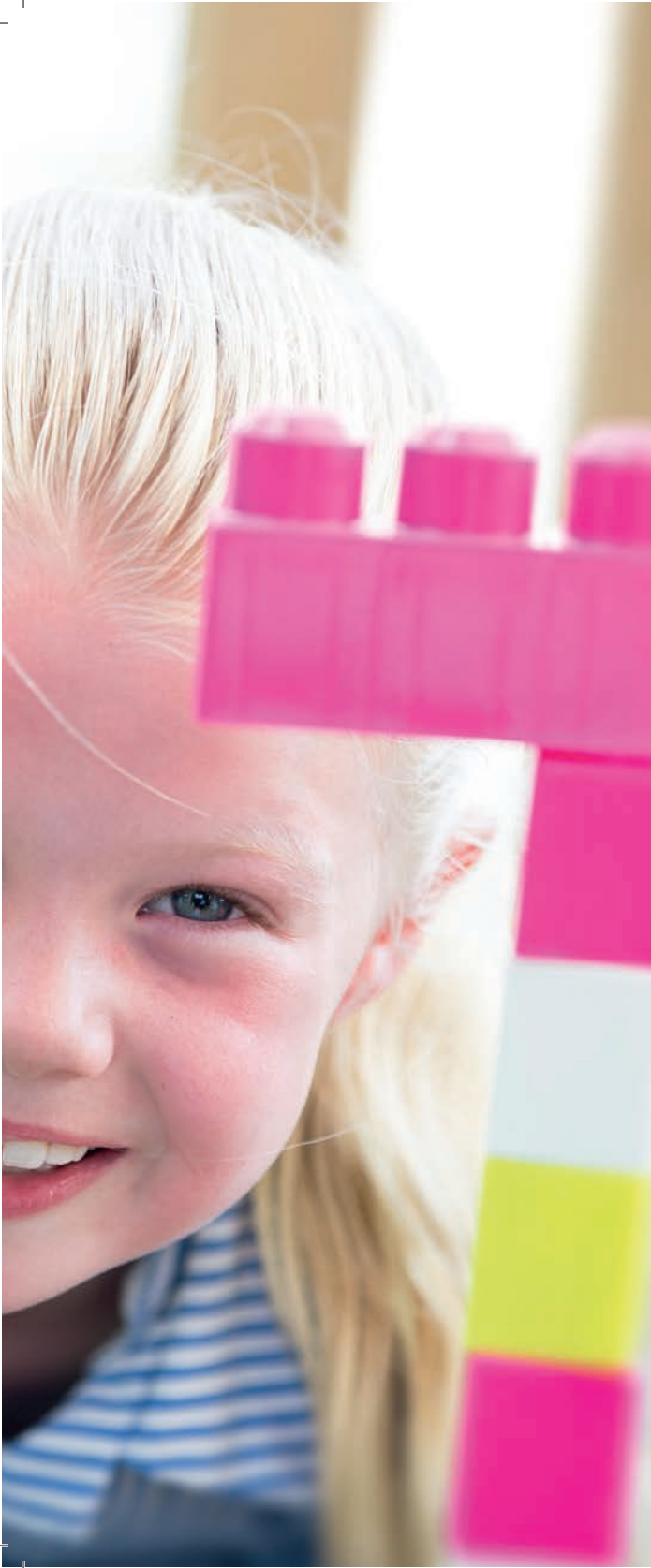
We are a school which is always keen to examine our current educational provision and we seek to ask difficult questions of ourselves whilst listening to the ideas and valued opinions of our wider community.

By constantly engaging in an open-minded and meaningful way, we have been able to shape our vision for the next four years to ensure that this very special school stays at the top of its game whilst, at the same time, preserving its truly unique identity.



The Maynard has always dared to be different its success is down to its originality.





Curriculum

Is our curriculum correct to ensure the right levels of stretch, challenge and breadth yet not so pressurising as to cause unnecessary stress and anxiety at a time when mental health issues are so prevalent?

Our focus is on delivering a broad, rounded and challenging education which adds value and consistently produces girls who are confident, articulate, knowledgeable, compassionate and resilient. We also strongly believe that there are significant advantages in offering single sex education to girls and we will continue to reap the benefits that this provides.

It is important that the girls reach their full potential and gain the best possible results, but not at the expense of their health. Whilst we will ensure that our most able students will have the right curriculum to access the very top universities and educational institutes across the globe, we would rather focus on the quality of our programmes and not the quantity that we deliver. This is particularly important following the reforms that have resulted in linear, more content driven and more difficult exams.

From September 2018, the girls will have more flexibility in the GCSEs that they choose. Both the A-level and GCSE curriculum will be more streamlined to allow the girls to strive for higher grades with a more manageable workload. Individual and small group clinics beyond the core curriculum will allow girls to fine tune their learning, whilst additional academic credentials such as the Sixth Form's Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) will continue to strengthen the students' research and presentation skills. A range of academic enrichment programmes and clubs will broaden their competences even further.

Health and Wellbeing

Is our Health and Wellbeing Programme fully comprehensive to ensure that all students remain healthy, happy and motivated members of our community?

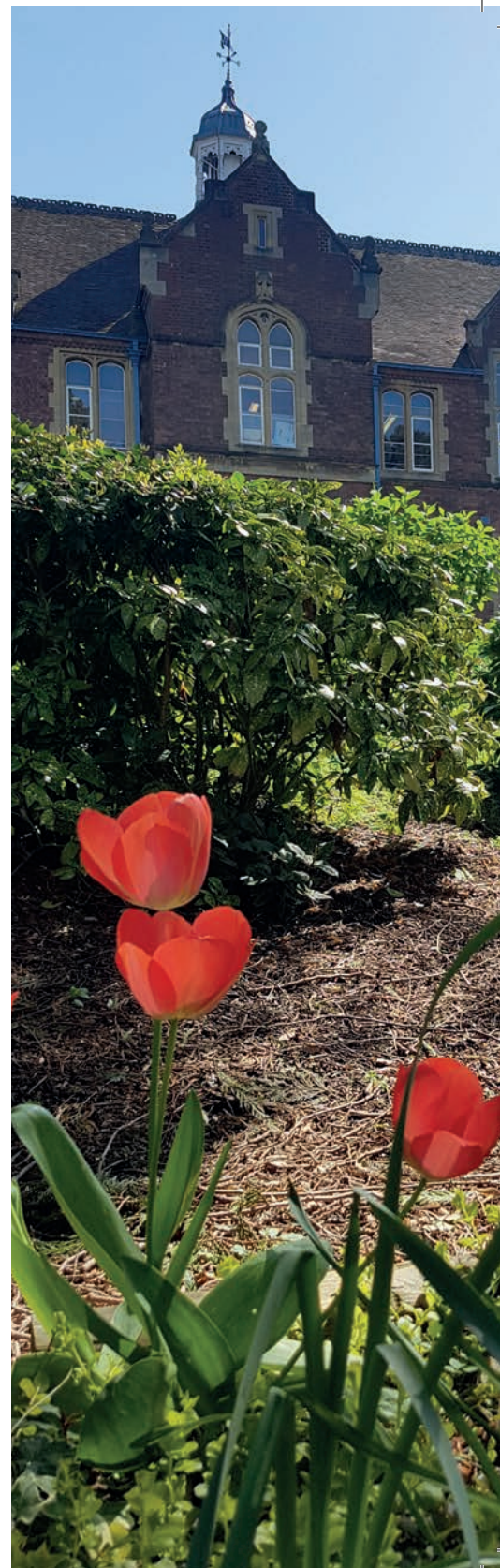
Student wellbeing underpins our whole ideology and identity as a school; we care about each individual. We take pride in our extensive pastoral provision and robust tutor system and will continue to take steps to put wellbeing at the core of what we do. We must remain current and reflective on what we can do to support our students.

Consequently, we will revisit our Wellbeing Programme across the school to ensure it is proactive in the prevention of mental, physical or emotional health issues. In addition, we will increase our in-house nursing and counselling provision to allow the girls easier access to a confidential listening ear and professional advice.

Our aim is to maintain an environment where each pupil is able to succeed in every aspect of their education as well as to flourish and thrive as an individual.



We certainly won't stand still; we want to be progressive and proactive in how we create that sense of wellbeing for all.





Academic Support

Are we offering enough support to those students who are finding their academic challenges more difficult to overcome?

Students have a range of academic support options available to them and we continuously monitor each pupil through regular liaisons between Heads of Departments, Heads of Year, subject teachers and, where necessary, the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO). This ensures that anyone who requires help is quickly brought to our attention and receives the necessary support.

We will continue to develop a study support centre in the heart of the school which provides an encouraging atmosphere in which to work under the supervision of a member of staff. Our core provision for study support is comprehensive but we also keep a close eye on the ever-improving advancements in reading, writing and organisational aids and can offer a vast range of modern technologies to any student who requires it. We also aim to increase our peripatetic SEN provision to ensure those students who require support beyond the core provision are suitably cared for.

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There is a definite sense of purpose and drive but with equal measures of warmth and respect between students and staff.

Good Schools Guide 2017

Sport, Performing Arts and Music

Are we comprehensively catering for our elite sportswomen and creative artists whilst also providing an excellent all-inclusive programme for those just wanting to give it a go?

Active girls are happy and motivated girls; we seek to inspire both the elite and the novice across the board! Whilst we are committed to success in sport, music and the arts, they are emphatically for all at The Maynard.

Our vision through the constant reappraisal of the clubs, concerts, competitions, shows, drama productions, workshops and masterclasses is to offer a fully inclusive programme that provides every student with the opportunity to make the very most of her talent and potential. We want every girl to find their pathway to individual and personal success.

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By fostering an “active life” philosophy and promoting a lifetime involvement in sport and the Performing Arts, we generate an ethos focused around inclusion and mass participation.





The Character Curriculum

Is our academic enrichment and extra-curricular programme providing the right breadth of opportunities? Are we meeting the desires of all our pupils well enough to encourage them to try new things and acquire different skills?

Ultimately, we believe that our extra-curricular provision is every bit as important to the girls' development as the subject knowledge they attain. Our aim is to challenge each and every student to take full advantage of the wide variety of enrichment opportunities on offer, designed to fire their imaginations, foster a sense of adventure and enhance their life skills, all whilst having a great deal of fun.

We will regularly review this programme and seek to broaden our range of activities so that every student can find something which makes them fizz. By asking the girls what they want, tapping into the talents of all our staff, buying in further expertise and taking full advantage of the city's facilities and our beautiful surroundings we aim to offer a very extensive and desirable programme for all.

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We want our students to be inspired by everything they do, both inside and outside of the classroom, so they leave school as interested and interesting people.

Pupil Development, Leadership and Praise

Are we fully a 'through school' from age 4 to 18 with seamless transitions between the key stages? Do we provide enough leadership opportunities across the year groups and are we wholly effective in our praise of endeavour and achievement?

Having a 'through school' can have enormous benefits if the curriculum design is coordinated effectively. Each learning key stage builds upon the next, allowing seamless and effective transitions from Early Years to A-levels. We will cement the smoothest possible passage through the school by continued collaboration over the curriculum and personal development programmes, as well as through ongoing sharing of good practice between each key stage level.

We are whole-heartedly committed to providing a broad range of leadership opportunities for our entire community all of which contribute towards our holistic approach to education and the personal development of those involved. We also believe that meaningful praise plays a huge role in raising self-esteem and nurturing the confidence in our students to give everything a go.

Leadership opportunities and praise systems continue to be developed throughout the school with:

- Sixth Formers leading even more weekly assemblies
- A new colours system to celebrate the success of our students
- An enhanced House System
- A new student ambassador scheme
- Peer mentoring and the Pre-Prep/Junior School buddy initiative
- A greater variety of clubs and activities instigated and run by the students
- A new electronic rewards system to encourage positive contributions to school life as a whole
- Even greater involvement in Outdoor Education and entrepreneurial programmes.





Careers

Is careers information easily accessible and does our programme fulfil the needs of our students and prepare them for a future beyond the school gates?

We are driven in our aim to extend our careers provision and to make it a pivotal part of our Senior School; our goal is to instil in all our students a wide picture of the exciting opportunities available and to arm them all with the necessary skill sets in preparation for a lifetime of fulfilment and attainment.

Careers education begins in the Upper 3 (Year 7) as part of the school's comprehensive PHSE programme and continues throughout the girls' schooling. By Lower 5 (Year 10) all students take the Morrisby Profile, a professional assessment of aptitudes and interests that provides an individually tailored analysis on which to base future educational and career-inspired decisions.

Our Senior and Sixth Form students are supported in their employment aspirations by our Head of Careers who, amongst other things, oversees work placements, careers lectures, university fairs and gap year opportunities. We are establishing a very successful 'Biz Whizz' careers club, featuring dynamic speakers from a huge array of different professions, which we will continue to run each week. Additionally, we will re-establish the biennial Careers Convention, the first being held in 2019, with a large representation of businesses, speakers and workshops from a broad spectrum of careers.

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Here at The Maynard, there are no glass ceilings and it is not unusual for a girl to imagine herself as an astrophysicist, a Prime Minister or possibly both!



Employability skills

Are we addressing the demands of employers regarding skills required for the 21st century in areas such as technology, science, creativity and entrepreneurship?

Today's challenging economic situation means that it is increasingly necessary for students to gain those skills which will enhance their prospects of employment. By its very nature, the classroom is a lot like the workplace – the girls are expected to work effectively in the same place, with the same people, every day. However, to give our students the extra edge we must instil in them the necessary skills to shine in life beyond the school gate.

We will continue to constantly re-evaluate how we may best prepare our students for the challenges of the future. We are committed in developing an enhanced programme of ICT and STEM enrichment to provide the girls with the opportunities to 'up-skill' in these important areas to meet the new challenges of the careers ahead of them. We will also continue to explore and develop exciting projects in the areas of STEM, computing, coding, creativity, design and entrepreneurship through clubs, visiting experts, workshops, competitions, trips and visits.

Our Sixth Form has a very holistic and comprehensive 'Boost' programme of extension studies and extra-curricular enrichment focused on four key areas: Community & Leadership, Co-curricular & Creativity, Love of Learning and Wellbeing & Physical Activity. Designed to run alongside their A-level studies, the programme aims to equip our young women of tomorrow with the skills and competencies to give them an excellent springboard into the future.

Community and Volunteering

Do we connect well enough with our community? Do we give back to society enough through volunteering, charity work and other partnerships?

Community is the bedrock of The Maynard girls hence its reputation as a 'family feel' school. We are privileged to live and work in Exeter and we aim to develop and deepen our links across the city. We know that helping others is vital to wellbeing, and our students are at the centre of a large number of charitable initiatives. Many already willingly give the most precious of things – their time – and we will continue to facilitate additional student-led community initiatives in and around the area, with a particular emphasis on service.

The aim will be to see all pupils from Year 4 upwards involved in a Maynard Charity and Volunteering Scheme, with each girl being expected to give their time to others and raise money for charity. In addition, schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and the visits from Bluebird Care will continue to be central to the way we volunteer in the community.

The Exeter Art Show, organised by the Maynard staff in April 2018, raised an incredible £16,500 for YoungMinds and there is always an abundance of ongoing fundraising activities that our students take the lead on such as mufti days, cake sales, charity concerts, Maynard's Got Talent and the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We won't give up on doing our bit for the community!



Professional Development

Are our teachers gaining enough continuous professional training throughout their careers to ensure cutting edge pedagogy and stimulating lessons that lead to excellent outcomes?

A school steeped in success such as The Maynard attracts the very best workforce and we are blessed to have a host of incredibly talented, ambitious and experienced teachers. Most importantly, a real passion for learning and teaching permeates each and every one of our departments.

Our teachers engage in significant and continuous professional development through a coordinated programme of in-house INSET, external providers and peer review in order to ensure that they remain highly effective in their teaching methodology.



Our staff are consummate professionals: their dedication underpins the warmth and vibrancy of the entire community where the individual girl matters most.





Facilities and Investment

Are our facilities fit for purpose and good enough to allow all of our students the right opportunities and experiences without spending school funds unnecessarily?

We are committed to investments that will improve the facilities for the entire Maynard community. That said, it is important to use the school funds wisely and only build what is most beneficial, knowing that we can also hire world class facilities across the city.

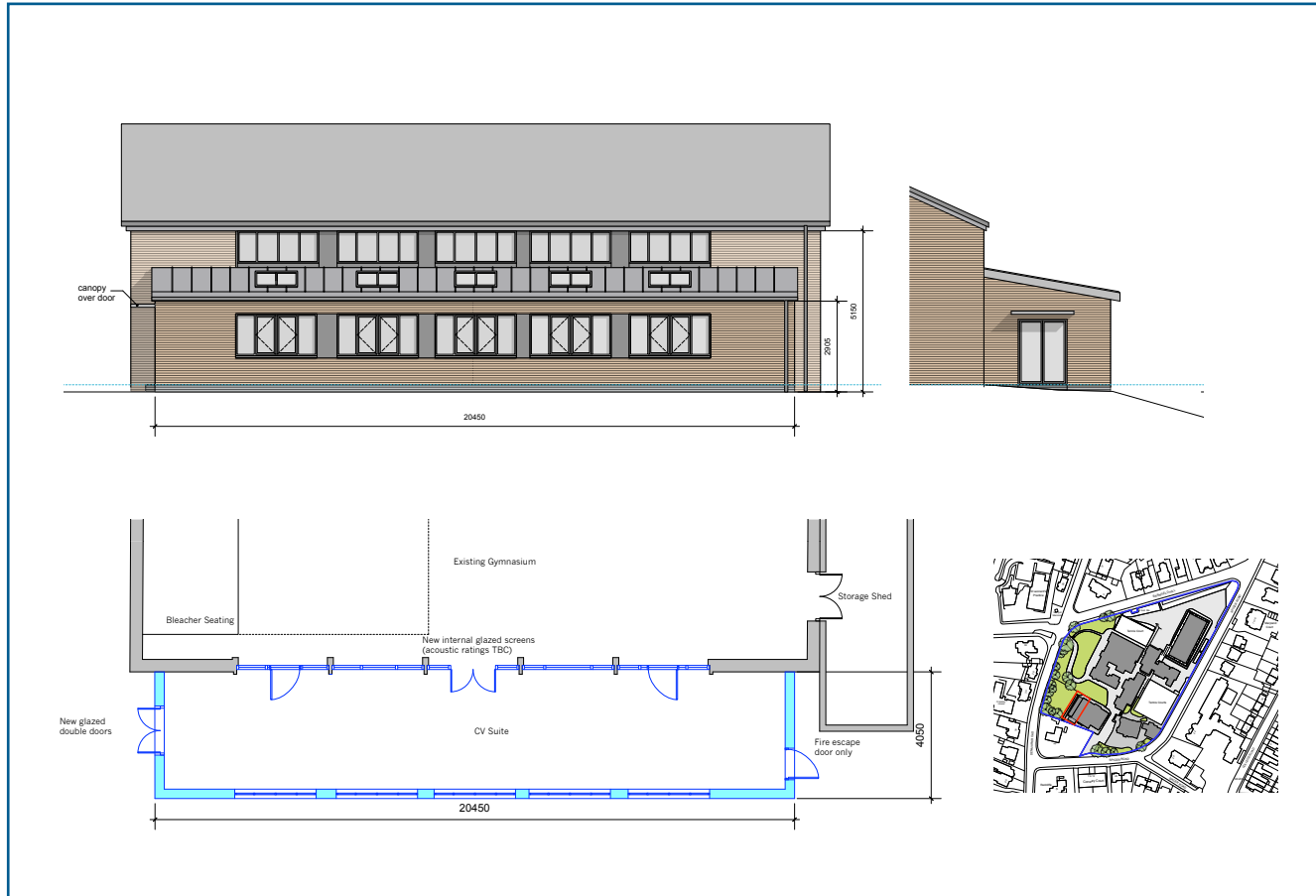
In 2017, we focused on providing a Performing Arts Centre to properly showcase our remarkable musicians, dramatists and dancers. We have now turned our attention to health and wellbeing by building a fitness suite, as well as expanding and improving the dining facilities.

Beyond this there are future plans to upgrade the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Suites, refurbish classrooms, further develop the Sixth Form study centre and improve toilets and showering facilities across the school. We intend for this to be a three year rolling programme starting in summer 2018.



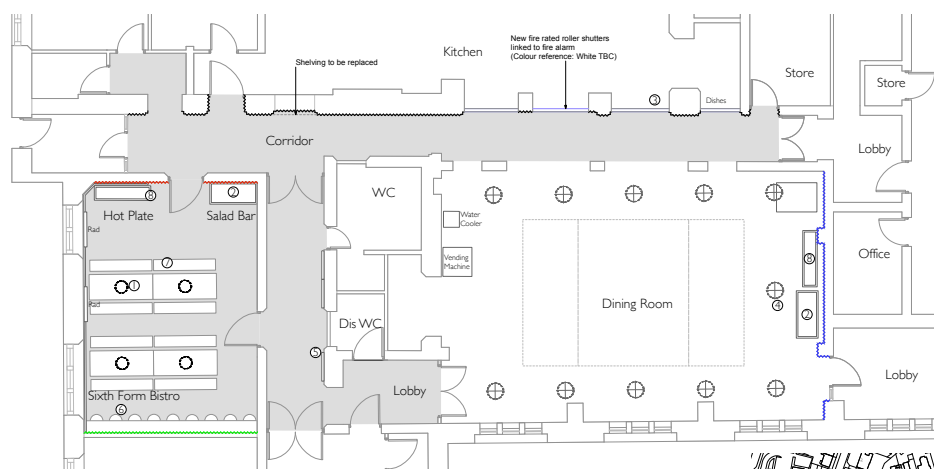
Phase One of our future capital investment is to build a brand new Health & Fitness Suite, refurbish the existing Dining Centre facilities and to create a modern bistro-style area for the Sixth Form.

Health & Fitness Suite



Dining Centre improvements & new Bistro

grainge architects



Option 1 Colour Swatches for Feature Walls

- Feature Walls to be painted ref: Dulux 10RR 14/186
- Feature Walls to be painted ref: Dulux 50RR 32/262
- Feature Walls to be painted ref: Dulux 10BB15/154
- New Flooring to match dining room area ref: TBC
- Photo/Mural Artwork TBC





Accessibility

Does our transport strategy truly enable our students from further afield to access school with ease?

The Maynard is well placed for students, staff and visitors by nature of its central position in Exeter and the excellent transport links available across the city and beyond. However, research has shown that our catchment area is growing and we have an increasing number of students travelling in to school from much further afield.

In recognition of this trend, we will continue to closely monitor the geographical locations of our students. From September 2018, we are launching a bespoke new transport service to cover the Cullompton/Tiverton/Bickleigh areas and will continue to run or oversee those existing bus services currently supplying the Torquay, Honiton, Exmouth, Newton Abbot and Okehampton catchment areas.

As one of the key parts of our transport strategy, we also hold a car-sharing database which matches parents who might be able to share the school run.

External Communications

Is our communication with the parent body effective and user-friendly?

From an academic perspective, the progress of pupils is carefully monitored both by the subject teacher, the tutor and the Head of Year, and there is regular communication with parents should a problem arise. We distribute regular performance and progress reports for every student across the school and operate an open door policy to all parents in addition to our specific Parents and Daughters Evenings.

However, we want to improve our general communications and utilise the advances in technology over recent years. We will prioritise a more effective process and develop the best parent portal to easily access information such as the daily calendar, upcoming trips or events and then be able to book these online.



Social responsibility

As part of our charitable status, we have a strong ethos at The Maynard that an excellent education should be accessible to the most talented and gifted girls in and around the city.

We remain committed to broadening access to the school by offering means-tested financial support to eligible parents and guardians.

Additionally, we offer a wide range of scholarships and Maynard Awards each year and we are ever grateful to the St John's Hospital Trust for their contribution towards these awards.

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In the words of a parent, “If I didn’t know it, and someone described the Maynard School to me, I would probably feel it sounded too good to be true.”

Good Schools Guide 2017





Leadership and Management

We have a lot to do in the next few years and, to meet the needs of our vision for the future, we have expanded the Senior Leadership Team.

We will welcome Caroline Leigh in September 2018 as an Assistant Head. Mrs Leigh will lead on areas such as creating personalised learning programmes, coordinating study support programmes, further developing student leadership opportunities and managing the whole school extra-curricular and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) programmes.

Matthew Loosemore, the Head of English, has also been promoted to Assistant Head and will join the Senior Leadership Team in September 2018. Mr Loosemore will take over the responsibility for whole school safeguarding and will lead on the further development and coordination of the Wellbeing Programme.

The expanded Senior Leadership Team will be visionary in their approach; clear targets and key performance indicators will form part of the annual reviews and our strong Governing Body will consistently offer support in attaining these objectives.

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The governing body has excellent insight into the workings of the school. It is fully aware of the aspirations of the pupils and parents, and it provides great attention to planning, monitoring and evaluating the progress of the school.

ISI Inspection 2016

Financial stability and growth

A thriving school roll helps create a healthy surplus for reinvestment in the estate and in the education of our students, although we are conscious to keep fees at a level which allows us to continue improving quality but which remain affordable.

We have ambitious plans for the short term as outlined under 'Facilities and Investment' earlier in this document and we will continue to scrutinise areas for longer term investment.

As part of our prudent financial management, we always inspect every aspect of our accounts to ensure we only invest in areas that truly benefit the education and welfare of our girls. Our belief is that the school should have the right facilities to enable it to meet its aims and enhance its competitive position but decisions need to be prudent and well-focused.

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Parents of a bright girl in Exeter are spoiled for choice: co-ed or single sex. Take a spreadsheet approach and you'll end up having a statistical breakdown. Take the line that the goal of education is the attainment of selfhood and you'll start getting somewhere. This Guide doesn't take sides, obviously. We simply note that The Maynard is a heartstealer.

Good School Guide 2017





A thank you!

As a school we take our parent feedback very seriously indeed and much of this Vision for the Future has been cemented by the comments made in our recent Parent Survey.

We were heartened by the overwhelmingly positive responses; in particular, the words that our parent body chose to describe the essence of our school is concrete evidence that we all share the same ethos moving forwards.

It goes without saying, our many thanks to you all for this continued support and we look forward to working together to forge the brightest possible future for our entire Maynard community.

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The Maynard is a school which is always striving to look outwards and to the future. We must build upon our solid foundations as the oldest girls' school in the country to ensure we continue to provide the best possible learning experience, with the greatest fun and the brightest outcomes for all of our students.

Sarah Dunn

