

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

12 October 2018

A highlight of each week is often a student-led assembly. Mostly these are orchestrated by our wonderfully creative and articulate Sixth Form who enlighten us with a vast range of their interests and viewpoints. This week we started with a Monday assembly about the South African Sports Tour that took place in the summer holidays. Typical of an exciting trip to an exotic location abroad, there was a part that mentioned the great sports matches but actually it was more about the safaris, climbing Table Mountain, the food, the fun and, most importantly, their experience of meeting the children from the townships. It was wonderful to see the final emotional connection with little Raynick after so much fundraising to sponsor her through school. Our thanks to the PE staff and, particularly, Mrs Wood for organising such a great event. This is no easy task!

Following on from this charitable theme, and the spectacular success of the Exeter Art Show last April, the school was very proud to once again support the YoungMinds campaign to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing by wearing something yellow for #Hello Yellow Day on Wednesday. It was nice to see so many of our girls and staff making the effort to take part in this voluntary act of recognition.

This week the girls have begun their rehearsals for the eagerly awaited House Song competition to take place in assembly on Thursday 8 November. This was both hilarious and genius in its first run last year and Miss Lavelle, who now heads up the House System, has chosen Mamma Mia (of course!) to be this year's theme. I can't wait!

You may be interested to know that our teachers learn, too! This Monday evening we had our half termly Teaching and Learning Cafe where all staff share good practice and hone their teaching skills further. This week they reflected on the Elevate Study Skills programme that all Lower 5 and Upper 5 receive as well as looking at academic data analysis and use of ICT to



improve classroom delivery. I am always grateful to all of the staff for their continued contribution to these regular sessions. Despite being at the end of a hard day, the enthusiasm, inspiration and positivity is always there in spades!

So let's move onto this week's news:

Enormous sporting success



The PE department has enjoyed another busy week and there have been some wonderful achievements to celebrate across the year groups. The highlight was the Under 14 team's performance in the Area Netball Tournament on Wednesday when everyone played beautifully in the long-since departed glorious sunshine. They came out the convincing winners against all three opponents, namely Exeter School, St Peter's and Isca, and can now look forward to progressing through to the County Round in November. This is a very strong and talented squad with a bright future ahead!



The Under 16 Hockey girls also had a great tournament at the Devon Tier 3 Finals yesterday where they finished second in their pool after victories against King's Ottery, Uffculme School and Torquay Grammar to progress through to the semi-finals against West Buckland, which they also won. They then faced Mount Kelly again (having lost to them in the preliminaries 1-0) in the final and were narrowly defeated 2-1 in a well-fought end to end game. Throughout all of the matches, the girls played brilliantly well and continued to battle hard despite the miserable weather and a second place was just rewards for their determination.



Equally, the Under 9A hockey squad loved their first competitive hockey festival of the season when they played at Exeter University this week and clearly their recent practice sessions on the Astro has really helped. This group have lots of potential, they worked super hard and scored some cracking goals but, above all, they had fun. Our thanks to Exeter Cathedral School for hosting such a fun and competitive event!

Equestrian Arena Eventing news

Our thanks to all those who competed at the NSEA (Jumping with Style) Arena Eventing Challenge at Bicton last Sunday and, once again, there was some wonderful performances. Congratulations to Isobel Davies (Lower Sixth) who came second in the 90cm class to qualify for the Championship Plate next month. The 70-75cm team of Kitty Guinness (Upper 5), Polly Cochrane (Year 5), Sophie Cunningham (Upper 4) and Connie Small (Upper 4) finished out of the rosettes on this occasion but, no doubt, will have come on for the experience.



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh success

Twenty-eight girls, one of our highest tallies in history, completed last weekend's Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition despite the very inclement weather on Saturday and the freezing cold camping conditions that night. This is a marvellous achievement and, for many, completes the many months of training walks, volunteering, physical and skills assessments that comprise the Bronze Award. Our congratulations to them all.

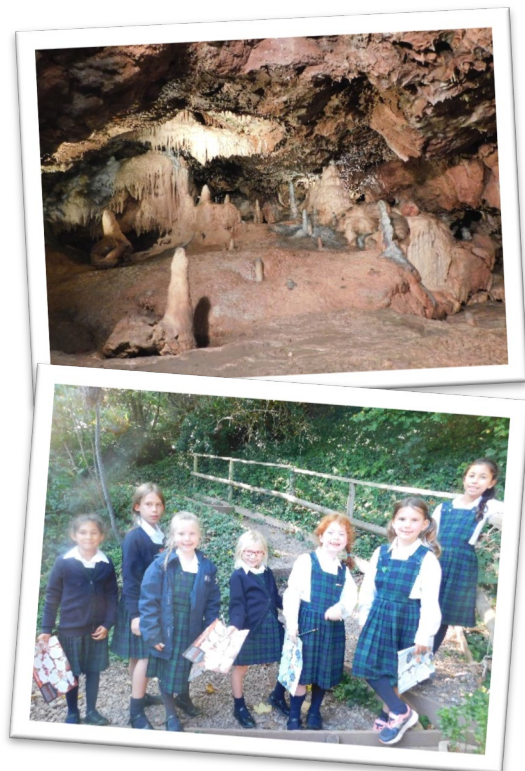


Stone Age learning on Kent's Cavern trip

The Year 3 students enjoyed their trip to Kent's Cavern in Torquay on Wednesday as part of their learning about the Stone Age.

Elliot, our very knowledgeable guide, took the class into the caves and very adeptly made the whole experience come alive, much to everyone's delight. We handled actual artefacts from the Stone Age era and walked into dark caves where we were greeted by common horseshoe bats overhead!

The girls also enjoyed a woodland trail, which tested their knowledge of the Stone Age way of life. To round up the day we had an archaeological dig and left with precious gems, which we had excavated. It was a fabulous, and very educational, day out!



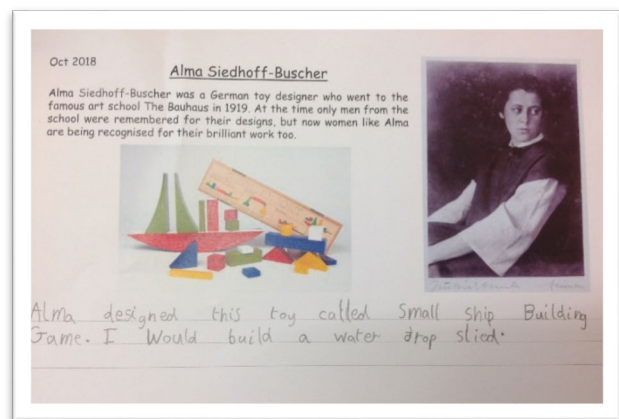


Geography trip to Princesshay

Ahead of their much-anticipated trip to Iceland next week, the Upper 5 Geographers enjoyed a sunny day in Princesshay last Friday, conducting Human Geography fieldwork. The girls were assessing the impact of Urban Regeneration on Environmental Quality in the area. Not only was the session blessed with glorious sunshine, it involved an impressively motivated bunch of Upper 5s, fastidious in their work!

Year 2 celebrates International Day of the Girl

The Year 2 students marked International Day of the Girl yesterday by linking with our topic 'Toys' and learning about Alma Siedhoff-Buscher, a German toy designer and student of the famous Bauhaus School. We studied her designs and talked about how at the time she wasn't recognised for her work, unlike her male counterparts. We looked at her 'Small Ship Building Game' which is still in production today, and which she designed to encourage children to use their imaginations. The girls came up with their own fantastic ideas for what they would build with the game. Thank you to Freddie's mum for the inspiration for this lesson!



Fun in the Library

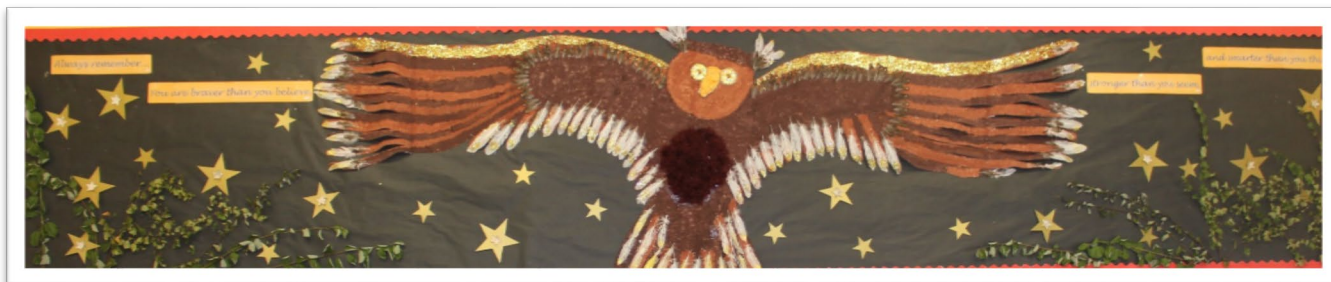


favourite book (the clue is on the mouse mat!) and when did women get the vote (answered on the Votes for Women display board).

We have a well-stocked junior section in the senior library which the girls are able to choose from, and the Year 3 girls had time to borrow a book for a quiet reading session. They also had fun using the library scanner to issue their own books!

More collaborative art in Year 4

The incredible whole-class and large scale artworks in Year 4 continue thanks to the ever-creative influence of Mrs Fry! There is always a moral purpose or deep meaning to each of these lovely works of art and this huge, and very beautiful, owl is no exception with his wonderfully wise words: "Always remember you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think!" We look forward to the next instalment, Mrs Fry!



Cyber Security in this week's Biz Whizz

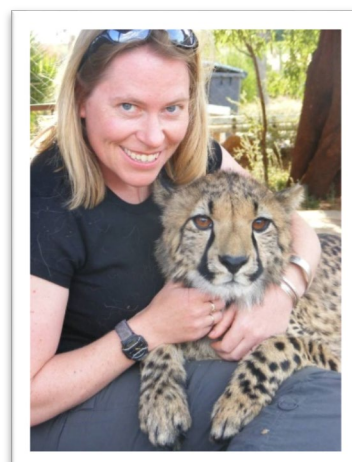


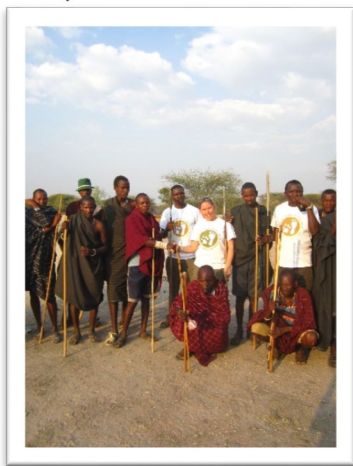
Our many thanks to Stephanie Jaques, one of our parents, who visited us today to take this week's Biz Whizz talks. Stephanie works for the Met Office as a Cyber Security Expert and she gave a fascinating presentation to the girls about how important it is to safeguard our assets from hacking, the latest form of modern warfare. She detailed some of the most recent major incidents, including that of Wannacry that disabled the NHS in 2017, and showed a large map detailing all of the major cyber attacks happening as she was talking (and there were many). It was very much a life lesson in how easy it is to be hacked and, indeed, to hack which evidenced the importance of prevention with regard to the girls' own personal online accounts.

Importantly, she also explained how there is a distinct lack of skilled workers in cyber security with thousands of jobs available, creating an interesting and challenging career opportunity in this field. On top of this there are many courses, often free, available to those looking into cyber security as a potential career. For details of these, rather than list them here, do email rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk.

Upcoming talk by Amy Dickman - alumna, Senior Research Fellow and National Geographic Explorer

Just to let you know that Dr Amy Dickman, one of our alumna, is making a rare appearance back in the UK next month and will be giving a (no doubt, fascinating) talk at the Aylesbeare Village Hall all about her incredible big cat conservation projects on Friday 16 November. Amy has far too many qualifications and achievements to list individually here but her talk will focus upon the incredible work she is doing with Tanzania's Ruaha Carnivore Project which she established in 2009.





The Ruaha landscape is one of the most important areas in the world for big cats, holding around a tenth of the world's remaining lions. However, it also has an extremely high level of lion killing, as lions and other carnivores impose high costs on poverty-stricken local people. Amy and her Tanzanian team are working with local communities to reduce carnivore attacks, providing villagers with real benefits from carnivore presence, engaging warriors in conservation and training the next generation of local conservation leaders. It has been a challenging endeavour, given the remote location and secretive and hostile nature of the tribe responsible for most lion-killing.

There is much in the media about Amy's work and one such article detailing the risks she faces can be found here:
[https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/29/british-woman-fighting-](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/29/british-woman-fighting-save-african-lions-extinction/)

[save-african-lions-extinction/](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/29/british-woman-fighting-save-african-lions-extinction/)

In her talk, Amy will discuss the significance of her project, the difficulties of working in an area where witchcraft and mythology abound, and the conservation successes that are already emerging from this important work.

Tickets to the talk, starting at 7.30pm, cost £2.50 and refreshments will be available in aid of the local Arts and Social Club. Everyone is welcome!

Please support the Charity Cake Sale for Indonesia's tsunami victims

Next Wednesday (17 October) we will be hosting a charity cake sale to raise important funds for all those children in Indonesia who saw their homes, schools, and loved ones, swept away by the devastating tsunami on Sulawesi's western coast. This has affected over 1.5 million people including 600,000 children and they need our help.



It would be wonderful if as many Senior Students could bring in nut-free cakes to sell - the more the merrier - and please could they also have the necessary change in order to buy something? As the famous expression goes, 'every little helps', so it would be amazing if as many as possible could support this worthy cause. Thank you!

Lost property reminder

We have had a few parents stating that they think another student has gone home with their daughter's coats, jumpers or other such clothing by mistake. As such, please can parents and guardians check their daughter's clothes when they get home and, should you notice that it belongs to someone else, could you bring the item to Reception so it can be repatriated with its rightful owner. Many thanks!

A new Guest Contributor – Lilly Mazer from Lower 4

We welcome on board our new guest contributor for this term, Lilly Mazer. As you will see, Lilly is a superbly talented journalist-in-the-making and her additions to the newsletter will, no doubt, make it all the more palatable as we head into the weekend! Thank you, Lilly!



“It’s been four and a half weeks since we came back from the summer holiday, and I can hardly believe it. It feels like months have gone by; in only a few short weeks, everyone has settled back in to the simultaneously exciting and steady rhythm of school life.

For me, this is my favourite part of the year. Friendships faded over the summer are rekindled, brand new school books not yet wrinkled at the edges are handed out and, as the weather turns cooler, we turn to each other for the warmth of companionship and support (even more so as we wait for the heating to be turned on!). I especially love the way the school looks at this time of year. The falling leaves, autumnal hues and most of all the beautiful Tregear building covered in the gleaming red ivy, inspiring everyone who sees it to take note of its beauty and share it however they can.

It feels like the school is pulsating with energy, everyone excited to see what this fresh year will bring. This is a time of reflection on how we will take the opportunities a new school year offers us, and to consider our aims and goals. Beauty is everywhere - both with the physical beauty of the school and the fresh-faced pupils that fill its halls. We must savour every minute of this season; all too soon it will be over, and we will look back with a sigh at this glorious time in Autumn, and, in fact, at this marvellous school.”

Have a fabulous weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
