

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

5 October 2018

You can imagine my delight on Monday morning when I opened my email inbox to a notification that we had been voted as one of the 'top ten best value independent schools in the UK' by The Daily Telegraph! What a fantastic way to celebrate the start of the week, particularly so as we are the only school this side of Reading and Oxford to be featured. The rankings are based on the Telegraph's theory that "academically, most of these schools compete results-wise with their more expensive counterparts, as well as offering much the same array of extra-curricular options and sporting prowess" - something that we believe to be the case so wholeheartedly. Most importantly, and as testament to our enduring affordability and enormous value, this is the second time in three years that we have been included in this listing!

We enjoyed a great turn-out on Saturday for another hugely successful Open Morning and we welcomed over 50 families to come and have a look around our wonderful school, meet the staff and to chat with the students. My thanks again to all those who spared their time to help make this event the success it was and we really are ever grateful.

I don't tend to make a habit of singling out any one student in my introduction to this newsletter but today I would like to make a special exception in highlighting the incredible success of one of our Sixth Formers. Chloe Lamb (in the Upper 6 and one of our Head Girl Team) was so excited to have been shortlisted a couple of weeks ago by Oxford University for the Stubbs Society Essay Prize as one of 10 for showing the "most impressive aptitude in their particular discipline". (As an aside, the Stubbs Society, founded in 1884, is Oxford University's oldest and most illustrious historical society). As such, she travelled up to a star-studded awards ceremony, held at Oxford's Wadham College, last weekend where, to her "huge surprise", she was announced the overall winner in the politics section for her very complex essay



on: 'War is the continuation of politics by other means (Clausewitz 1780-1831). Discuss'. This is such a terrific accolade, richly deserved, and we are so hugely proud of Chloe. Well done! On that successful note, let's move on to the rest of the week's news!

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### Whole school celebrations of Multi-Cultural Week



Thailand with Mrs Riley and have created Aborigine 'dot' pictures after reading the 'dreamtime' story Tiddalik the Frog. They even learned some Swahli from Venus' mum and enjoyed hearing about life in Malta from Josephine's grandpa.

The week has also involved creating a museum of artefacts that are special to our families, visiting parent speakers talking about growing up in Denmark and Russia, and it climaxed this afternoon with a feast of special dishes contributed by families including South American noodles, Eastern European pastries and a Devonshire cream tea! Delicious! Thank you to everyone who has taken part this week.



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### Dance classes go Bollywood



The Junior girls, together with the Upper 3 and Upper 4 have been experiencing a taster in Bollywood dance as part of the ongoing Multi-Cultural Week celebrations and in support of our 'British Values: tolerance of different faiths and traditions'.

They have all been fantastic at learning a short Bollywood dance, with the focus on lively dynamics and hand gestures (and they had a great time in the process!). Furthermore, the Upper 3 were also given the opportunity to develop their leadership skills by teaching the routine to years 4 and 5 and working with them for a lesson, with the aim to produce a performance of their particular dance at



the end. It's been a fantastic educational exercise (pardon the pun) as well as a lot of fun and we congratulate all of those involved for their great gusto and enthusiasm.

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### European Flag competition not as simple as it seems



We received some rather telling results from the Modern Foreign Language Department's competition to celebrate Multi-Cultural Week. The Senior School tutor groups were invited to enter the European Flag competition in which they had to identify the 27 flags. The answers were varied and occasionally showed some mini-gaps in their knowledge (no, Greenland is not in Europe and Czechoslovakia is no longer a country!) but overall it was a very strong field with the overall winners being LAN who scored an impressive 27 out of 27 correct answers! They will be able to collect their prize on Monday... Well done to all that took part!

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### Year 2 trip to 'Tivertoy' Museum

On Monday, Year 2 visited Tiverton Museum to learn all about the history of toys, which is their history topic this term. They had a packed, hands-on day incorporating four workshops about Victorian toys, toys from the 50's and 60's, a sorting activity using toys from different eras, and they even made their own peg dolls.

The girls enjoyed having the opportunity to play with toys from different periods, and to explore and ask questions about how they have changed over time. It was a fantastic experience which will really enrich our learning in school. It was our first outing this year and the girls represented their school beautifully - their teachers are very proud of them!



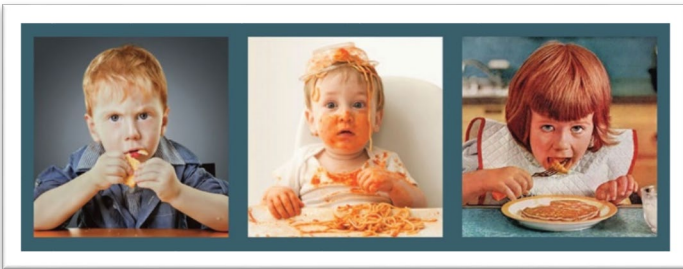
### A slice of culture: fabulous drama performances

We have had the privilege of seeing two outstanding shows this week: On Tuesday, the Upper 5 and Lower 6 drama students went to the Drum Theatre at Plymouth Theatre Royal to see the inimitable Frantic Assembly perform 'The Unreturning'. A cast of four actors told the story of three returning soldiers and their relationship with the concept of home. The performance featured a multi-purpose

revolving shipping container as well as exceptionally complex and risky movement sequences using height and high energy to thoroughly wow the audience. In our minibus on the way home, much of the talk featured “the best show I've ever seen!” sorts of comments. Having worked with the company in a day-long devising and physicality workshop last year, students were very keen to see them in action; they did not disappoint!



The following day, on Wednesday 3 October, the highly accomplished Theatre Alibi brought their new touring show for young people into school as part of their Autumn Tour. 'Table Mates' was shown to the Junior School girls in Year 3 and above as well as the Lower 5 GCSE drama students. This charming show that featured brilliant slapstick, beautiful live music and their trademark narrative style told the story of three friends and their love of food, evoking childhood reminiscence and people from the past. It was both whimsical and very well crafted. The company stayed for a question and answer session with the students afterwards which allowed for an understanding of what goes into making such detailed work.



Next week, the Upper 5 GCSE girls are gearing up for their devised examination on Wednesday 17 October with lunchtime and after school rehearsals. We look forward to bringing you more on that next week.

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### Class concerts prove perfect practice for Years 5 and 6

This week the girls in Year 5 and 6 have been enjoying their very own class music concerts under the direction of Mrs Smith. These involve each individual performer playing to her peers, thus providing the perfect supporting platform in preparation for the larger school concerts to come. The sheer breadth of talent on display is quite staggering and we look forward to being able to showcase this more publicly in the future.



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### Hockey news

The Under 10 team enjoyed a superb tournament on Saturday at Exeter School and there were many displays of truly excellent play with constant battling throughout each of their matches. As a team, they showed wonderful spirit and great encouragement for their team mates both on and off the pitch. Although they notched a convincing win against Exeter School (2-0), they narrowly lost to the others, but they have shown some great improvement since last year and look promising for their future fixtures.



The U11 A&B hockey teams befall some mixed fortunes at their away games against Plymouth College on Wednesday in what were their first competitive matches of this season. The As were drawing 1-1 at half time but unfortunately missed some key opportunities in the remainder to finish 4-1 down. The B team stayed strong throughout and, after some excellent work in defence, came out the 1-0 winners. Both teams are excited to tackle their next games on Wednesday against St Peter's, Lympstone and we wish them the very best of luck.



In what was a busy week for fixtures, the Under 13 A&B teams turned out against Uffculme yesterday but fitness seemed to take its toll in the A team who tired in the second half (after a 1-0 score at half time) to finish 5-0. The Bs, on the other hand, rallied from being 2-0 down at half time to come back dominating the game in the second. They were unlucky not to have scored more but, equally, they were very happy with a narrow defeat of 2-1 at the end of the match. Congratulations to Rosie Wheatley and Zara Fowkes for being awarded the player of the match in each team respectively.

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### Under 16 Netball tournament

The Under 16 Netball team put in some fine displays of play at yesterday's tournament for the Area Round of National Schools Netball but, unfortunately, a mysterious scoring mishap has resulted in somewhat unclear results. Despite winning against Blundell's, St Peter's and ISCA, when it came to the Exeter School game there was a discrepancy over the scoring and a rematch looks like the likely scenario! We will report back on the eventual winner just as soon as this is established but well done, girls, on some excellent play and great sportsmanship throughout!



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### Activity afternoon girls embark on canoeing award

We wish those girls currently taking their Level 1 British Canoeing Performance Awards the very best of luck. The girls have opted to do this as part of their Tuesday afternoon activities and they have already completed two sessions very successfully, learning lots of paddle skills whilst enjoying the sun and sights of Exeter Quay!

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### Isabel meets Princess Anne (or should that be the other way round?)

Isabel Greaves (Upper 5) had a fabulous afternoon on Monday 24 September when she was invited to a Young Carers event in Exminster in her capacity as a volunteer young carer. She was one of six carers attending the event and got to meet, shake hands and have a conversation with Anne. Upon hearing of Isabel's ambitions to be a stand-up comedian, Anne remarked that she had recently been reading about one who was also a carer, thus helping to fuel Isabel's dreams. The whole event was a wonderful recognition of her work, hugely well-deserved and it will, no doubt, be a lovely memory for years to come ... right down to the bit about how Anne, who was dressed in purple, so beautifully coordinated with the helicopter that swooped her in and whisked her off!



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### Reminder about the Parent Portal

Please can we remind all parents and guardians that you can log in to the parent area of the website to access useful documents including letters home, our policies and the parent pupil handbooks. To find the area, select 'Parent Area' under the resources menu at the top right of the website and log in using the school's username and password. If you have mislaid these, please contact the School Office ([office@maynard.co.uk](mailto:office@maynard.co.uk)) who will be happy to supply them to you.

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### Code Camp holiday club for October Half Term



Just a reminder to parents with children aged between 7 and 12 years that during the October Half Term we will be hosting a very special school holiday program called Code Camp, where your child can learn to code and build their very own app. For three days the children will use drag and drop coding to create a "platformer" game (just like Mario Brothers!), picking up core coding concepts such as IF statements, conditionals, loops, x and y coordinates and events in a creative, imaginative and collaborative environment.

The Maynard School is one of the first in the UK to be offering this fantastic opportunity to pupils and there are still a few spaces left to fill. To book please go to [www.codecamp.co.uk/maynard](http://www.codecamp.co.uk/maynard) or contact [any@codecamp.co.uk](mailto:any@codecamp.co.uk) for more information or to book as a group.

Camp dates: 31st Oct - 2nd Nov

Ages: 7-12

Computers provided for all.

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## Yellow accessories required to mark #HelloYellow Day - Wednesday 10 October

The Maynard School is very proud to support next week's #HelloYellow Day, a campaign to raise awareness of mental health issues generally but also to encourage our girls to think about their own wellbeing and speak to us if they ever need support. To mark this important occasion next Wednesday 10 October, everyone is invited to wear one small yellow item pinned to their jumper (e.g. ribbon, broach, badge). Please be aware we are not looking for a donation and it is voluntary.



If you would like more information about this campaign, please visit: <https://youngminds.org.uk/get-involved/how-to-fundraise/helloyellow/>

Thank you for your support!

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## Safety concerns

As winter approaches, may we please remind parents and guardians to ensure that those girls who walk or cycle into school have some form of reflective clothing so they are visible to passing motorists?

May we also remind everyone to adhere to the parking restrictions when dropping off and collecting your daughters. We continue to receive complaints from our neighbours along with photographic evidence! The general rule of thumb is to stick to the one-way system, leaving the school on your left and only to park in designated parking bays. Thank you.

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## Part-time Minibus driver required

We are currently looking for a part time minibus driver from 0630 – 0830 and 1545-1745 Monday to Fridays during term time only. All of the details are on our website under 'Staff Vacancies' so please go to [www.maynard.co.uk](http://www.maynard.co.uk) for more details and an application form. Our current body of minibus drivers say the job is "delightful"!

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## And finally ... the most amazing Biz Whizz yet!

Our huge thanks to alumna, Jo Vann, who spent the whole day at school today. In her capacity as an Army Captain and Ex-England netballer we put her to good use and if your Senior School daughters weren't at Biz Whizz today, they certainly missed out. There wasn't one of us in the room who wasn't inspired to join the forces and her talk was nothing other than hugely inspirational and massively informative about the benefits such a career can reap. Serious food for

thought and, judging by the Q and A session at the end which overran the session by a good 20 minutes, all those who attended were clearly inspired to seriously consider the army as an option in some capacity!

She started the day with an excellent netball masterclass with the Under 14 team ahead of their first round of the Independent Schools Netball Cup next Wednesday and we hope this timely and professional preparation will put them in good stead. The afternoon was spent coaching the Under 13 and Under 12 teams in two separate sessions, focusing on skill and accuracy, which saw the levels of play go up a notch almost instantly.

We cannot thank Jo enough and we look forward to seeing her back at school again soon!



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Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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