



THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

12 November 2018

Welcome back everyone and especially to those who have returned safely from a spectacular Iceland trip! I do hope you enjoyed a wonderful half term holiday, albeit it already seems a distant memory such is the pace of life. School is back in full swing and we certainly hit the ground running last week with some fabulous events. An absolute highlight for me is the annual House Song competition and, although only now in its second year, Thursday's rendition certainly took the event to a whole new level. The theme of 'Mamma Mia' proved hugely popular and was met with exuberant enthusiasm from all of the girls, the outfits were sublime (and, in some cases, the cause of much hilarity), not to mention the choreography and amazing gymnastic moves that were utterly brilliant. When you put on an event like this the actual results become almost arbitrary as this really was about the Sixth Form working alongside the younger girls, as well as the obvious leadership opportunities it affords. However, it was also great to see them all having some serious fun! But just for the record, our fabulous judging panel of Mrs Smith, Miss Blackwell and David Davies, the assistant Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral, voted Armourers as the overall winners!

By contrast, last Tuesday we held the Extended Project Qualification Presentation Evening and, quite frankly, I was bowled over yet again by the quality of research and the sheer variety of academic and thought-provoking topics covered by the Sixth Formers. To summarise all of this in just the introduction will not do their brilliance justice so we will detail more on this later in the newsletter. Suffice to say that I am now going to try and attempt to persuade these inspiring Upper Sixth to repeat their performances in some assemblies as, no doubt, everybody will benefit from their interesting wider reading and fascinating observations.



I also thoroughly enjoyed welcoming such a large turn-out to the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday night and my thanks to all those students who acted as such wonderful ambassadors yet again. Sharing a stage with our Head Girl Team and listening to their wonderfully eloquent and humorous speeches about their Sixth Form experiences is always such an honour. To then

witness all the many departmental helpers so enthusiastically discussing their chosen A-level subjects with parents and their daughters is really quite special and I never cease to be amazed by the self-confidence and poise that so evidently is part of the integral make-up of a Maynard girl. As ever, I am one very proud Headmistress!

Big news! Our much anticipated Health & Fitness Suite has now been fully completed and we are thrilled with our clean, sleek and very modern extension to the Performing Arts Centre. Currently doubling as a bright and welcoming reception area for major events such as the Open Evening and Thursday's Autumn Concert, we will soon be installing the various exercise machines and gym equipment with a view to officially being up and, quite literally, running the week after next. In the meantime, our enormous thanks to the MPA who once again have so generously supported the School, this time with the high-tech Bluetooth sound system which I know will be a huge hit.

On to the week's news:



Geographers enjoy fantastic Iceland trip

The A-level and GCSE Geography girls enjoyed an amazing trip to Iceland over half term, taking in many of the most popular sites this incredible country has to offer. Highlights included the Glacier Walk where everyone was kitted out with ice axes, crampons and helmets before climbing up one of the glaciers, Solheimjokull. As Miss Williamson points out:

“It was all amazing but Gullfoss, the two tiered waterfall in the Golden Circle is pretty spectacular and I think the girls also enjoyed basking in the Blue Lagoon!



“Iceland is certainly a geographers dream and it deserves its reputation as the Land of Ice and Fire for a reason! The trip is vital to bringing alive the GCSE course covering tectonics (plenty of geothermal energy, continental rifting and volcanic activity) and rivers, looking at spectacular waterfalls and meandering rivers, whilst the A-Level girls were able to learn more about volcanism and glaciers as part of their course. Being in a dynamic and constantly changing landscape really brings Geography to life.”

Impressive EPQ Presentations

As we mentioned previously in the Introduction, the Upper 6 delivered some stunning presentations about their areas of research at last Tuesday's EPQ Presentation Evening. The EPQ is a stand-alone qualification taken alongside A-Levels in the Sixth Form and, as an extension to their curricular classroom studies, the girls are able to choose any topic to research in depth with an end product of either a 5,000 word extended essay or an artefact. This year, there was a huge and impressive array of titles relating to the girls' interests from Film to Ancient History, Mathematics to Art and so much more. The presentations were truly outstanding, demonstrating real passion and interest whilst offering the girls a chance to demonstrate extensive research into their chosen fields. To whet your appetites, below is just a small sample of the impressive array of subjects that were covered this year:

- Are saviour siblings moral? (Amelia Green)
- How far was there social and political cohesion between Scandinavian settlers and Anglo-Saxons in England 789-1016? (Isobel Harding-Perrott)
- To what extent does Danny Boyle classify as an Auteur Director? (Daisy Gordon)
- Does Alexander the Great deserve his title, or is he a living Myth? (Juliette Hughes)
- To what extent did Alan Turing influence Artificial Intelligence? (Jess Carr)
- To what extent is China developing towards socialism, with reference to Marxist theory? (Hayley Sun)
- To what extent is the NHS treating Type 2 Diabetes effectively? (Erin Maughan)
- Should we keep Great White Sharks in captivity? (Lauren Paton)
- The role of Physiotherapy in Cancer treatment: Are there benefits to cancer patients and the economy of the NHS? (Laure Kerr)
- To what extent have the use of opiates and hallucinogenic drugs impacted literature (with a focus on opium addiction in the romantic period)? (Eve Stevens)



'Tommy' graces our grounds to mark Remembrance Day

Our thanks to Mrs Wilks and all those members of staff who contributed so generously to the Royal British Legion's campaign and enabling us to install our very own Tommy Silhouette in time for the build up to yesterday's Remembrance Day.

We felt it especially important to mark the World War One centenary this year with something extra special and 'Tommy' certainly added a poignant symbol of thanks to all those who served, sacrificed, rebuilt and changed the nation.

Fascinating Biz Whizz sessions resume after the half term break

We have enjoyed some super 'Biz Whizz' careers talks from a variety of professionals this term and we look forward to welcoming more every Friday in the build up to the Christmas break. We have been delighted with the response from the girls, the majority in the Upper 4 upwards, who have been so keen and committed to attend each week. So far we have been treated to enormously detailed talks about the Film industry, Fashion, Medicine, the Armed Forces, Cyber Security, the Education sector and last week we welcomed volunteers from Shelterbox who certainly inspired several girls to consider International Development as a career.



We are now putting together next term's programme and would love to hear from anyone who is either keen to take a 30-minute talk themselves or knows of someone who might be willing to do this. Please email rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk with details and our thanks in advance for your assistance!

Fantastic win for Katie in the Exeter Schools Cross Country Trials



Congratulations to all those girls who ran at last Wednesday's Exeter Schools Cross Country Trials held at Blundell's School. They all acquitted themselves fabulously and it was wonderful that everyone managed to finish what is always a tough and energy-sapping course with a rather nasty steep incline right at the end! We must make special mention of Katie Harries (Upper 4) who ran a superb race to win a huge Junior Girls section. Katie is one of our finest cross country specialists and this early victory in the area event is indication that she is, once again, on fine form for the season ahead.

Hockey success across many Maynard teams

On Thursday last week we fielded several of our hockey teams in numerous fixtures with some outstanding results - evidence indeed of the improvements being shown across the board as the season progresses.

The Under 16 team travelled to Bristol to play in the Tier 3 West Preliminary Round and played some excellent hockey to win the tournament having drawn 0-0 against Wycliffe before going on to win against both Whitecross High School (2-1) and King Edwards (2-0). This means they have now qualified for the Regional Finals on Tuesday 20 November.





Equally, all of Year 3 and 4 girls played against Exeter Cathedral School on the University astro pitch and, for many, this was their first opportunity to represent The Maynard in a sporting fixture. They all worked really hard and learned lots from the experience. Both teams scored goals, supported and cheered each other on, showing great team spirit and sportsmanship.



Then we hosted St. Leonard's Primary School in our termly friendly games within our Year 5 & 6 Sports Club. In total, 24 boys and girls from St. Leonard's played in a mini hockey festival, enjoying playing competitively against our club players, and then socialising after the game with teas and delicious Maynard cookies. It is always a pleasure to host a game with our neighbouring primary school and the girls always rise to the occasion to take on the boys!



Our U11 team also enjoyed an excellent competitive experience playing away against the Blundell's U11B team. They drew this game (0-0) in a well matched and tightly contested game before going on to score a solid victory against the Stover A-team, winning 4-0. These girls are continuing to improve throughout the season and are really beginning to play some excellent hockey!

Our congratulations to all of our many team members who remain enthusiastic, competitive and wonderful ambassadors as the season continues to unfold.

Perfectly Pottery come to the Pre-Prep

The Pre-Prep girls enjoyed a fantastic Perfectly Pottery session on Wednesday and they loved the opportunity of making a Christmas tree decoration.

They carefully rolled, cut and decorated the clay and this will now be fired and returned to them in time for the holidays. It was a wonderful creative experience and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves whilst designing some truly beautiful, individual items.



'Embrace' the feel good factor

We look forward to welcoming many of our parents, guardians and their friends to tomorrow night's screening of the film 'Embrace'. This event is the brainchild of some of our Upper Sixth who were so compelled by the film when they watched it at school last term that they took it upon themselves to organise a more public viewing. There are still seats available so do please drop us a line to

rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk if you would like to make a reservation. The film starts at 6pm in the Performing Arts Centre, admission is free and light refreshments can be purchased on the night.



Wowed by Lowena's awesome costume design

On the subject of creativity, we were blown away by Lowena Tabor's fabulous costume, meticulously hand stitched during Textiles Club over the past weeks (see picture where it is being modelled by Lowena herself).

"I am blown away by the amount of design and stitching this costume has taken. Truly, it is hugely impressive and has been finished to such an incredibly high standard - the entire Textiles Club thinks Lowena (Upper 5) is amazing. And she is!"

Don't forget the Autumn Concert is on Thursday

Ticket holders are in for another treat at this year's Autumn Concert (in the Performing Arts Centre from 7.30pm). The evening promises a range of music to suit everyone's taste, from 'Hot Stuff' to Broadway and 'South Pacific' - prepare to be bowled over by the incredible talents of all our many musicians.

Tickets can be purchased from Reception and cost £5 per adult (with a free glass of wine included) and £3 per student. We hope to see you there!



Excitement builds for Saturday's Discovery Morning

We are hugely excited to be holding another of our tremendously successful Discovery Mornings this Saturday and our thanks to all those students who have volunteered to help at the event. This is a fantastic opportunity for our prospective Junior School and Pre-Prep girls to familiarise themselves with the school, make some new friends and get a feel for all that is The Maynard.

If you know of anyone who might like to come and have some fun coding, toasting marshmallows on the fire at Forest School or creating something delicious in the Food &

Nutrition room (plus so much more) then do please ask them to register on the website www.maynard.co.uk/discovery



And, finally, we end this newsletter with word from our roving correspondent, Lilly Mazer.



“In the room where our computer is at home, and where I write my articles, I can hear the sea. I can see it too, in the daytime; but at night it is a black abyss, the same colour as the sky. I can hear it bashing against the sea wall. I can hear raindrops every so often, tapping on the window almost as if asking to be let in to the warm. I can hear church bells, though sometimes I get so used to them that I almost don’t hear them. It’s the same with sea; on a normal day when it’s not too stormy, the sea

just becomes background noise. I have to really focus to be able to hear it. Some days, I don’t even look out of my window to see the sea. It’s there, but it isn’t really there for me. My mind is filled with other things. Even as I write this, the church bells fade into the background.

I think it happens to everyone. Something as loud as a clanging bell is only a noise in the back of your head while at the forefront of our mind there are thoughts, often insubstantial. Sometimes I feel that way with life. We stop paying attention and forget to listen for the beautiful song of the sea, or we forget to enjoy the book we are reading because it’s only background entertainment. Do you ever do that; when you read a page of a book and suddenly realise you remember none of the words that just passed your gaze? I think we all let something become background noise, often subconsciously. But it’s a waste! I won’t always be able to hear the sea. One day, I will be far away and the sea will be just an echo in my ear. That book, you will finish it, and only wish that you could return to its pages.

I feel like for many, day to day life becomes background. It may be your present but you aren’t really present.

These lessons, your friends, school life, it will one day be over, and you’ll realise that you never took the time to take it in, and now it’s over; never to be repeated. I don’t want that. This school, our life, is here to be appreciated, not to be a background. This beautiful world that we live in deserves to be at the forefront.”

Have a good week!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
