

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

19 October 2018

I always love hearing about the many, often wonderfully different, things that our girls get up to in their extra-curricular activities and one of the clubs that never ceases to interest is our weekly Rocket Club. In preparation for next summer's launch of their competition rockets (which must be built to exacting and very tough specifications), the girls were spotted yesterday evening experimenting with a dummy model to see whether an egg, enclosed within, would survive the drop from the top of the fire exit outside Tregear! It's a fairly unusual site and I must emphasise that we certainly don't encourage things being thrown from such a height on the school grounds but, in the context of the Rocket Club, it was very fitting! For a short while the girls were fizzing with excitement until, of course, they unwrapped their model to discover the gooey mess of smashed egg inside. They may have failed at this stage but it has certainly fired them up to devise an even more cunning method (aka make-up sponges) to protect the egg, as per the rules, in future flights!

I am delighted to say that many of our rocketeers have also entered into the Youth STEMM Awards, a brand new scheme only opened up to the independent sector this year and we are so proud to be the only school in the entire South West to be embarking on this scientifically based version of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. But more on this later.

This year I have the delights of teaching Year 5 Science which is a refreshing change from decades of GCSE and A-level Biology. However, my lessons plans were put on hold this Wednesday as the girls were busy producing wonderful music instead! Singing, ukuleles, violins, violas, pianos, classical guitars – what a range and what talent! I truly enjoyed the afternoon.





Here at school we take the online safety of our students very seriously and all of our staff have been swotting up recently to take an internal test to ensure we are all fully briefed on how to best deal with the digital problems of this age. E-safety can also feel like a minefield for parents with trying to stay up-to-date with all the latest Apps and potential dangers online. There are, of course, numerous resources for parents online but often these contain jargon, and who wants to sit at a computer learning about e-safety? The Vodafone Digital Parenting Magazine is an excellent publication which will help you stay ahead of all the trends within e-safety and we are sending your daughters home this week with a copy of it for you to peruse at your leisure. I would encourage you to make a nice cup of tea and spend a few moments browsing through the magazine as I am certain you will find many of the articles very useful.

There is a definite air of 'imminent holiday syndrome' in the air today and may I wish you all a wonderfully relaxing half term. You won't thank me for saying this but, when we return after the break, the clocks will have changed and winter will be nigh. However, on a positive note, the much-anticipated Health & Fitness Suite will have been completed! We won't be officially opening this until after a few important events such as the Autumn Concert, the Embrace film showing and the Sixth Form Open Evening but we anticipate having all of the equipment ready for the week beginning Monday 19 November. I know this is being met with much excitement from our Senior and Sixth Form girls, quite apart from the staff, and we look forward to having such an invaluable resource on site!

On to the week's news!

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### First in the South West to support The Youth STEMM Awards



As was mentioned in the introduction, at a time when careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine are crying out for women to join their professional ranks, we are delighted to become the first school in the South West to sign up to the new Youth STEMM Award.

Although launched in 2015, the Award has only been opened up this year to independent schools in the UK and we are thrilled to have several of our Lower 5 and Upper 5 already enthusiastically signed up to the programme which encourages participants to log STEMM-related activities



across four strands: 'Inspiring the next generation', 'Engaging the public', 'Developing skills and knowledge' and 'Shaping your future'.

In a similarly shaped structure to that of the much more established Duke of Edinburgh Award, in this first instance, the girls will be working towards their bronze award and will be required to complete a minimum of 10 hours per section whilst covering all five STEMM areas. A silver and gold variation, working towards more advanced skills, will ensue. We wish our STEMM Awards pioneers the best of luck for their many activities over the forthcoming year ahead!

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### New Junior School House Captains selected

Congratulations to all our freshly chosen Junior School House Captains from Year 6 who will fulfil their roles for half this academic year. We have every faith that they will all do a brilliant job and we wish them the very best of luck whilst also thanking them for their continued enthusiasm and hard work!

They are:

**Armourers:** Myla Dixon and Ella Gardner

**Haberdashers:** Sophie Leonard and Darcey Carroll

**Goldsmiths:** Hazel Solman and Sofija Gelev

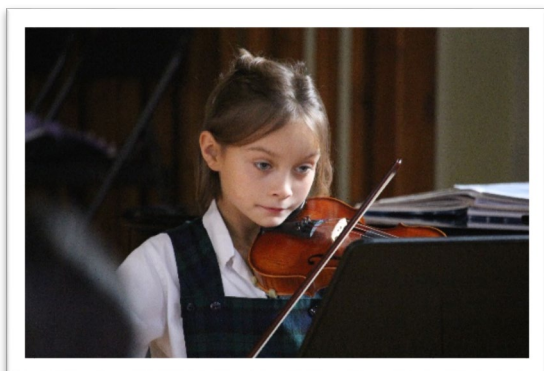
**Merchants:** Hannah Mills and Rosie Thomson



As ever, the House System continues to ignite in everyone a certain competitive spirit and all those in Merchants can breathe a small sigh of relief to be the winners of the house points trophy for this half of term with a record 208 tokens – only five points ahead of Goldsmiths, followed closely by Armourers and the Haberdashers.

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### Junior School Music Showcase



We enjoyed a thoroughly rich and diverse display of musical talents at the Junior School Music Showcase on Wednesday afternoon and we were treated to some wonderful performances from across the board. It is always heartening to know that we have some exceptional up-and-coming musicians in our fold and our sincere congratulations to all those that entertained the audience so beautifully.

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### Gigi banks a life-long memory playing at the Royal Albert Hall

“On Wednesday 10 October I was lucky enough to be asked to play in the Royal Albert Hall for the National Schools' Primary Proms. As part of my studies at the Royal College of Music on Saturdays, I play with an octet which is super friendly and something I have never done before so I was hugely excited to be able to make my debut performance at the RAH with them. The Primary Proms is run by Music for Youth, which aims to "provide young people across the UK with free, life-changing performance and progression opportunities, regardless of background or musical style". I hadn't really appreciated the scale of the project until I bumped into some children who had travelled all the way from Scotland to see the prom!



During our sound check (which was way too early in the morning) we were all miked up and I was very shocked when I turned around to see my face projected across the two, huge screens at the back of the stage. At first the hall seems intimidating as it is such an enormous space to fill but when it fills up (especially with 5000 chatty children), the atmosphere blows you away. We did two performances of "Scenes from Porgy and Bess" and were really pleased with both, however I think the highlight for most of us was showing the children our instruments at the end and seeing if they could guess what they were called. For me, this was probably a once in a lifetime experience and I don't think I'll ever manage to perform to 9000 people in one day again!"





## News from the Drama Department

### 'Don Carlos' at The Northcott Theatre

On Thursday 11 October, the Lower 6 drama students went to the Northcott Theatre to see Ara Theatre's 'Don Carlos' featuring Tom Burke (of 'Cormorant Strike' and 'The Three Musketeers' fame). It was a challenging and interesting interpretation of Schiller's classic text that gave us all much to think about. This was the last of five diverse theatre visits this half term that the department has run for various GCSE and - A-level groups; this wide range of theatre experiences has positively challenged and influenced girls in their devising work this term and has such an impact in the classroom.

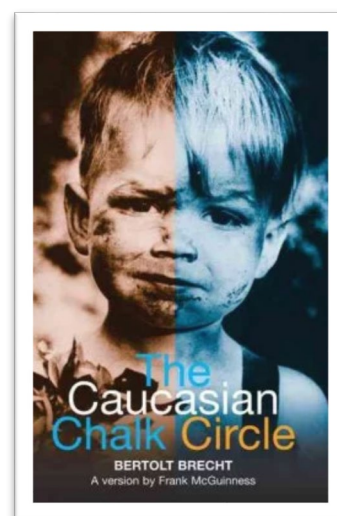


### First GCSE Drama Performances

The Upper 5 GCSE Drama students have been very busy recently creating and rehearsing their devised drama performances ready for their assessment on Wednesday 17 October after school. The diverse and varied stimuli this year focused around the theme of 'Conflict' and featured images of girls gangs, protest groups, aural stimuli such as sound effects of civil war and the U2 track 'Sunday Bloody Sunday'. From this, over the past six weeks the three groups have created and produced highly imaginative work that culminated in relevant, hugely physical and engaging performances. Two of the groups have performed this week with one to follow after half term. Congratulations girls on some stunning, thought-provoking work!

### The Caucasian Chalk Circle

The Middle School Production is cast and busy in rehearsal with Mr Ganley ready for December and the Senior School Play has been announced as Brecht's, 'The Caucasian Chalk Circle' and auditions have taken place this week. More on both of these shows after half term!

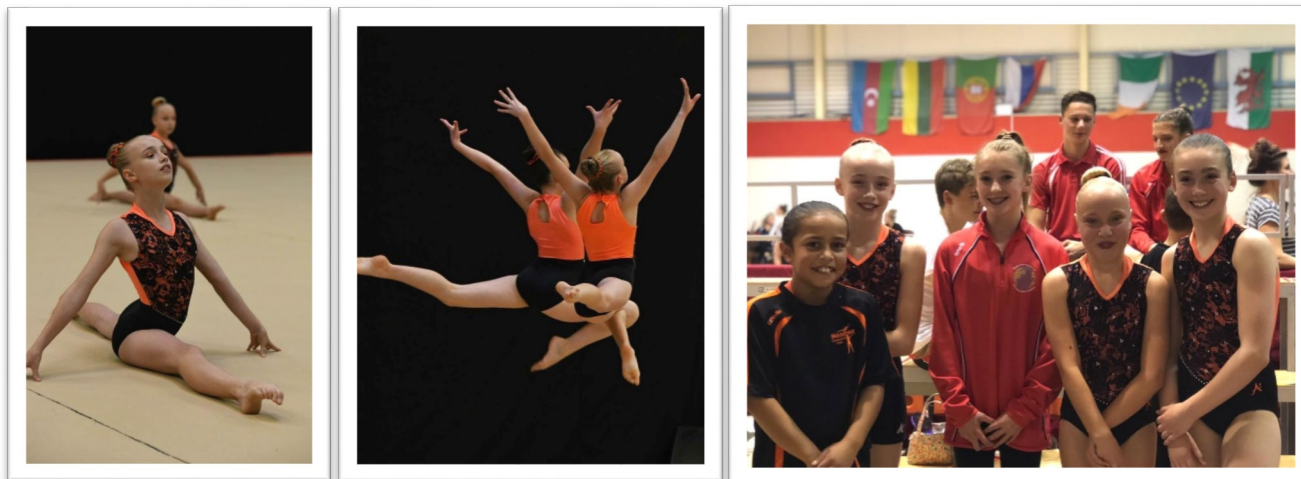


### Year 5 Hockey victories against Exeter School

Our Year 5 hockey team excelled themselves on Monday with the Under 10A and B teams putting in some fantastic performances against Exeter School. For both teams to win so convincingly is truly brilliant and certainly their cohesive team performances and individual determination paid off with these two most impressive victories!

### Harleigh saves the best until last

Congratulations to Harleigh Fry (Upper 3) whose trio won bronze in the Grade 3 Women's Group category at the South West Acrogymnastic Championships last weekend. It was the last regional championships of the year so a great one to medal in and, although Harleigh's trio were ranked 5th going into the competition, they held their nerve and performed superbly against a strong field to finish the season on a total high.



To add to the excitement, Harleigh and her friends met Kirsten Owen who won bronze at the World Acrogymnastic Championships with her partner, Finn Cochrane, earlier this year. Not only that, but there was a TV crew filming the competition for the next series of Gym Stars, so we will be keeping our eyes peeled for a glimpse of Harleigh in action on the show later in the year!

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### Under 15 Netballers defeat Clayesmore to qualify for the next ISNC round

Our Under 15 Netball team clocked an important victory against Clayesmore, Dorset on Monday in the second round of the Independent Schools Netball Cup. Despite being down 19-22 at half term, they came back with great force in a storming second half to win 41-33 on the final whistle.

The whole team worked incredibly hard and congratulations to Natalie Charity (Upper 4) who was voted by the opposition as Player of the Match. We wait to hear who we face next!

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### Under 14 Netballers on track for County Tournament

Congratulations to our Under 14 Netball team who put in a real confidence building match against St Peter's yesterday to win 23-8. This certainly bodes very well for the upcoming County Tournament which they qualified for after a fine set of victories at last week's Exeter Schools Tournament.

It has been a cracking start to the season for this very powerful looking team and we will be watching them with interest over the coming weeks.



### Reception class meets Spookley the Square Pumpkin

The Reception girls enjoyed a fantastic trip to Darts Farm today. We had a long walk around the vegetable field, identifying all the different things growing and we all enjoyed the wonderful 360 degree view from the top of the hill. The girls particularly enjoyed the story all about Spookley the Square Pumpkin and then went to the pumpkin patch to pick their own pumpkins to take home. It was a great trip and very befitting for the last day of school before the Halloween break – happy carving, everyone!

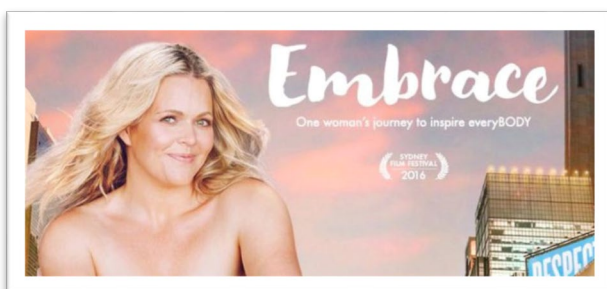
### Fantastic Charity Cake Sale

Our enormous thanks to all those who supported Wednesday's cake sale in aid of the Indonesia tsunami appeal. We were inundated with delicious cakes and biscuits making for extremely brisk business and culminating in a final total of £143 being raised.

Thank you so much!



### 'Embrace' Film Showing



We are delighted to be receiving such a large response to our letter about the 'Embrace' film showing in the Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday 13 November. The Sixth Formers found the message behind this documentary exploring body image and self-confidence so strong that it was entirely their suggestion that we should host a more public viewing: "As a year group we felt that this was both incredibly poignant and necessary, and it

impacted us hugely, so we decided that we should arrange an external viewing in order to share the film and its incredible message about body image, acceptance and self-esteem.”

As a guide, the documentary is a 12A certificate although we would suggest it is more appropriate for girls in Year 9 (Upper 4) and above so, if you feel that this would benefit your children, then do bring them along together with other family members or friends! Entry is free of charge, however there will be refreshments available for a donation. Please email [marketing@maynard.co.uk](mailto:marketing@maynard.co.uk) to reserve your space.

By way of further endorsement, this is what an external online review had to say: “Such an empowering, emotional and thought-provoking film. This film needs to be shown in secondary schools across the UK as it holds such an importance message, for everyone, but especially for those whose minds are so easily influenced by both magazines and social media.”

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### Important Dates

Just a reminder that we will be holding our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 8 November and our Junior School and Pre-Prep Discovery Morning on Saturday 17 November – please do spread the word to friends and neighbours with appropriately aged children!

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### Notes from the School Office

We have noticed a couple of incidents of girls coming into school whilst still nursing an illness. Please can we remind parents not to send your daughters in until 48 hours following any sickness or diarrhoea episode.

We are also aware of an ever-increasing lost property pile; if your daughter has mislaid any items, please could she mention this to someone in the School Office or on Reception so we can do everything possible to find that item and return it to its rightful owner.

Thank you!

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### News from our lovely correspondent, Lilly Mazer (Lower 4)

*“Working hard for something we don’t care about is called stress. Working hard for something we love is called passion.”*



It’s a beautiful quote and very true in my eyes; if you have no connection or attachment to the things that you’re working on, then you’ll never enjoy them. They will never be anything more than a burden. However, if your life is built around working on things that you truly love it should always make you happy. You should feel fervor and joy for the tasks you set yourself. That’s not to say that working at the things you love won’t feel stressful at times; stress is a part of life and no matter what you do it will always be present. If, though, you feel passion, the stress will never be enough to make you give up. Your passion will give you the strength to carry on.

When I joined the Maynard, I hated sports. At my previous school I had been one of the least sporty people, often reluctant to put myself out there for teams. Then I joined the Maynard. I was inspired to



have passion for sports; now I play for the team and couldn't be more proud. For every drop of sweat I know that I'm getting better. Every time we strive for something, we get a step closer to our goals.

This quote in particular caught my eye not because of its accuracy; although it is a truthful sentiment. Not because it had a beautiful background picture, because most quotes online do. But because it resonated with me. I believe this quote is brought to life nowhere else better than in our wonderful school. This school is designed for people with a passion for learning, a thirst for knowledge and a desire to have all roads of life open for their choosing. Because, as long as you have passion, that is what you will get. Your passion for the things that you love will guide you to a place where you can choose where your life will go, whether it be top businesswoman, star author, spacewoman, doctor or anything else you can imagine. This school makes us excited; if you work diligently and with enthusiasm then you will get results."

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### And the final word, this week, is from Isabel Greaves (Upper 5)

"A lot has happened so far in this school year! We have the house song, this year's theme is ABBA, which I'm sure we will all enjoy and we are really looking forward to dressing up. We had the Mental Health Day last week, where you could wear something yellow and, in a recent assembly we watched that brilliant video of the South Africa trip, where the girls went to play sport and to sightsee. We have all been very busy, and now we get to have a two week break, yay! Enjoy, everyone, and have fun!!"

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Have a lovely half term!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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