

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

23 November 2018

I must first start by thanking and congratulating all those who were involved in last weekend's events. There was so much happening! We had a record number of visitors to the excellent Discovery Morning with 85 children aged 3-11 taking part in all sorts of science, cooking, bush craft, coding and craft activities. The school looked spectacular in its Autumn-themed decorations thanks to Miss Beach's creative eye and direction. It was super to see so many bouncy steps and beaming smiles leaving the hall clutching goodie bags full of balloon-powered cars, chocolate twists, potted plants and butterfly wheels. Even I have come away with a potted pumpkin seed to nurture!

About 30 girls embarked on their inaugural Ten Tors training walk on Sunday and were blessed with superb weather as they circumnavigated the steep ravine of the River Dart around New Bridge and Dartmeet. I had the privilege of joining them for the first half and enjoyed watching the clear enjoyment as they experienced lovely scenery, great banter and, of course, lots of fresh air! Sadly I had to skip off earlier than I wanted to catch a train to London for the annual GSA Conference. I would much rather have continued on the walk!

Mr Hibberd took his Modern United Nations team off to Exeter School on Sunday for another exciting conference where they had a tremendous time and great success. Special mention must be made of Isabelle Knight who was a commended delegate due to her brilliant representation of Peru in the General Assembly.





And all of this before we even started the working week! This, too, has been as busy as always. Monday saw 100 girls taking part in a really excellent STEM event organised by Mr Ridler and Miss York. It is fantastic to once again host such a big and worthwhile event with so many visiting schools. We also had lots of lovely new girls join us for the Upper 4 Taster Day on Tuesday and our present girls looked after them superbly. Again, I cannot thank our staff enough for giving up their free time to offer all of these visiting pupils such wonderful 'Maynard experiences'!



Several Upper 5 girls were selected by the DfE to take the International benchmarking tests called PISA on Thursday which I am sure was not their favourite choice of activity but I thank them for entering into the spirit of it and contributing to the data harvested to measure the standard of British education.



Mrs Fanous once again laid on a very valuable 'Ace your Exams' session last night for the Upper 5 run by the excellent company, Elevate. We hope that this will be a very helpful and positive boost for them as they roll towards their mock exams in January. And finally, today is our big Sixth Form Taster Day with almost 70 girls taking part in sample A-level lessons and seminars. It was great to see a good number of prospective new faces who seemed very excited to be here - as always, our girls quickly took them under their wings and were soon extolling the virtues of The Maynard!

This weekend, of course, is our amazing Christmas Fair so I do hope you will all join us and support the tremendous work done by our MPA. All of their fundraising goes directly back to the girls with lovely additions to the school such as grand pianos, presentation projectors, sound systems for new suites and much, much more. I hope to see you there!

And on to the detail of this week's news

Hugely successful 'Girls into STEM' day

Our second annual 'Girls into STEM' event proved another almighty hit with over 100 girls in Year 10, including those from The Maynard and four visiting schools, taking part in a packed programme of events. In addition to the truly inspirational careers presentations from visiting female engineers representing Arconic and Flybe, we also equipped the participants with some more practical engineering experience to test their capabilities and understanding. Each team was tasked with building a



trebuchet to launch a projectile over a wall (accompanied by a devilishly difficult worksheet on the Physics of trebuchets) as well as programming a robot to find water on an alien landscape.

As one of the biggest all-girls based STEM events in the country for this age group, it was hardly surprising that the level of competition was incredibly high and we were also very impressed with the quality of team work displayed. Our congratulations to the prize winning teams from Tiverton High School and Blundell's although, it must be said, the Maynard girls truly gave them a good run for their money!

Mme Smith delights in the French Spelling Bee

The Upper 3 have all taken part in the first round of the French Spelling Bee House Competition, having to learn the French translation and spelling of 43 words. Well done to all the Upper 3 for taking part! I am impressed by the accuracy of some very talented students' spelling skill and can announce that Emma Declerck has missed the perfect score by one mark only (just one little accent omitted!), earning most points for Merchants. Well done, Emma! Following her closely, we have Hannah-Sophia Mulhauser (Haberdashers), Evie McCormack (Goldsmiths) and Harleigh Fry (Armourers). These four talented girls, along with Honey Hubble, Hannah Solon, Seren Webberley and Kristina Pavic will now be invited to go for the second stage of the Spelling Bee and I wish them all the very best luck.

Bracing Geography trip to Dawlish for the Upper 4

The Upper 4 girls spent the whole of yesterday braving the cold at Dawlish for their Geography trip. After rescheduling due to a yellow weather warning a few weeks ago, we had blue skies but a biting easterly wind.

Wrapped up in warm jackets and bobble hats the girls were investigating a crucial question for the South West: How should we manage the future of the railway line at Dawlish? We looked at the evidence for coastal processes and then explored the current situation with sea defences and engineering. The girls are now using the evidence to inform their opinions about whether the train line should be defended, moved or whether we should adopt the 'do nothing' approach. It opened up some interesting discussions about whether our economic needs in the South West should trump investment in HS2 upcountry! It was a great day for exploring the relevance of Geography to our everyday lives.





Ellie places 4th at International Youth Show in Belgium

Congratulations to Ellie Simpson (Lower 4) who, at only 12 years old, was one of the youngest to compete in the 'Children on Horses' section at the International Youth Show in Oplabbeek, Belgium. Ellie made the long drive from her home near Ashburton with both of her horses and reaped the rewards when finishing 4th on Lucky in the 1.30m Grand Prix on Sunday 18 November with two excellent clear rounds.

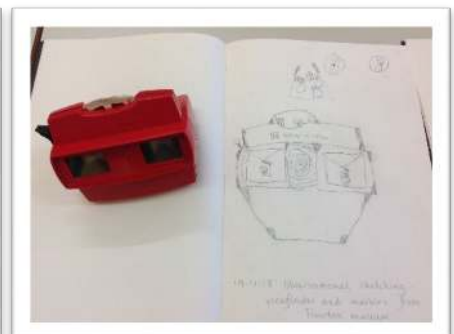
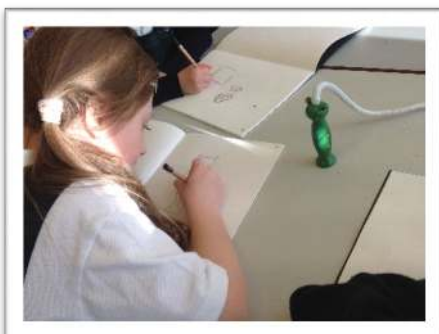
Miss Lavelle reflects on an excellent second place in the Regional Hockey finals

The Under 16 hockey team travelled to Clifton College on Tuesday for the Tier 3 WHA Under 16 Girls Finals. In the pool games they got off to a slow start losing 1-0 against Truro High School but their performance improved over the tournament with wins against Clayesmore School (1-0) and Hereford Cathedral (3-0). This meant they finished second in the pool and went into the semi-finals against Mount Kelly, the team that they had lost to twice in the previous round of the competition. The girls went out strong and did not want another loss! They fought and played sensible, confident hockey throughout coming out with a 2-0 win, taking them into the final to face Truro High School again! Both teams were tired by this point but the girls continued to work for each other and were unfortunate to finish on a 2-1 loss, missing out on the National Finals by such a tiny margin. I was so proud of the girls and they were really happy with their performance over the day.



Fabulous artwork by Year 2

What a brilliant bunch of budding artists we have in Year 2! The girls have been doing observational pencil sketch drawings of toys on loan to us from Tiverton Museum, paying close attention to shape and shade. We will now use these wonderful sketches to produce some watercolour pictures. Keep up the good work, girls!





Reading with Nula

Nula, the Junior School dog, continues to be a much-loved friend with an exceptional listening ear.

She also must be one of the most well-read dogs in the country as you can see from this latest photo!

Busy weekend for our Jazz musicians

The girls involved in Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra (DYJO) enjoyed a very busy schedule last weekend. Dodie Bowman and Katie Byles (both Upper 6) played in a unique 'Battle of the Bands' hosted at Wells Cathedral School on Saturday night. It involved the DYJO and the Wells Cathedral Jazz Orchestra playing on the same stage, each alternatively playing a piece, finally culminating with them playing a piece together. It was a friendly event, although there was an underlying competitive spirit with each trying to outdo the other. The gig was completely sold out and great fun was had by players and audience alike.



On the Friday night Dodie and Katie along with Alex and Kristina Pavic (Upper 6 and Upper 3) again played with DYJO, but this time featuring as the opening band to kick start the Teignmouth Jazz Festival. Again a great time was had by all!



Festive music-making fun for the Year 6

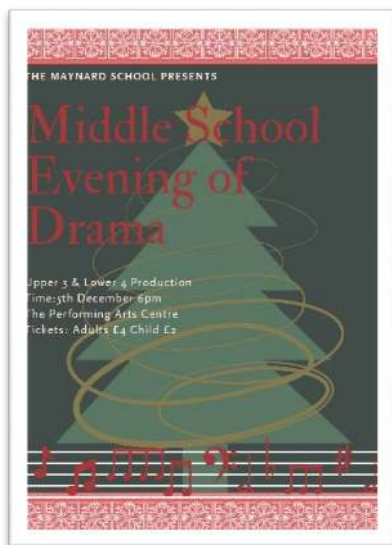
The Junior School is learning the song 'Ding dong, it's Christmas' as part of the Christmas show. As well as singing, the girls in Year 6 are tackling the glockenspiel part which is harder than it might appear! The girls will also add some sleigh bells to give a suitably festive sound and look forward to entertaining everyone in a few weeks' time.

Maddie busks for Children in Need

Congratulations to Maddie Lock (Year 5) for raising a superb £92.02 for Children in Need last weekend. This is the second year in a row that she has busked for charity and we really are super impressed by both her sentiment and the monies raised! Well done, indeed!

Coppafeel Breast Cancer Awareness

The Sixth Formers this morning attended an invaluable talk about breast cancer awareness – it was only a short presentation during the morning tutorial but it left an important message about regularly checking for any changes to our bodies. It was all the more impactful as Rebecca, who delivered the presentation, was a breast cancer survivor having received the diagnosis at a young age. As ever, our girls proved the perfect audience to a difficult subject and we truly hope that these sorts of talks will raise awareness and keep our community healthy.



Tickets on sale for Middle School Evening of Drama

Rehearsals for the Middle School Evening of Drama performed by the Upper 3 and Lower 4 Drama Clubs are hotting up. As relayed in last week's newsletter, the Upper 3 will be performing an array of Christmas themed drama pieces in the first half and the Lower 4 will take the second half with their production of 'A Christmas Carol'. The show takes place on Wednesday 5 December at 6pm in the Performing Arts Centre and tickets are on sale at School Reception now. We are all looking forward to what promises to be a fun packed festive evening but, in the meantime, please watch out for letters home outlining the simple costume needed and the schedule for the final week.

Note to Upper 3 parents about upcoming screening of 'A Christmas Carol'

As you will be aware, the Upper 3 girls are studying Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' at the moment and we just wanted to draw your attention to the National Theatre's streaming of the film on Tuesday 11 December at 7pm in the Vue Cinema. Whilst it is too late to organise a formal trip, Ms Hartopp and Mrs Spelman will be attending and really want to encourage the girls to go, too!

Final plea - Christmas Shoebox Appeal

We have heard this week that our enormous pile of Christmas shoeboxes that you have so kindly donated for the people of Moldova will now not be picked up until next Wednesday. So, if anyone has been meaning to put one together but thought they had run out of time, we have an extension and would happily receive more! We can never have too many!



Outdoor clothes swap/sell

A number of our girls who have signed up for Ten Tors next year are still outstanding vital items of equipment and, rather than suggest they buy everything new, we wondered if anyone had some preloved items (in good condition) that they would either like to sell or donate. The simplest way for this to be done is to treat Ten Tors equipment in the same way as secondhand uniform – information about this can be found here <https://www.maynard.co.uk/information/uniform/> - which, rest assured, is the simplest way to have a good clear out with the least possible effort!

Look out for our Young Enterprise and Lower 4 at the Christmas Fair!

In amongst all of the over wonderful things being sold tomorrow at the Christmas Fair, please look out for our Lower 4 girls who have been extra busy preparing their stall of crafty and edible items as part of their PSHE programme to raise money for charity.



Likewise, this year's Lower Sixth Young Enterprise business, 'EverOcean', will be selling BPA-free, reusable water bottles to limit plastic in the oceans. "We have seen how many one-use plastic water bottles are handed out each day in school packed lunches and so we want to provide this bottle so that the amount of these can be reduced or stopped altogether," said managing Director, Ellie Pile. "The bottles will cost £6.99 each and we will be donating some of the profit to a marine conservation charity so that the selling of bottles helps to clean the oceans."

We hope to see you there for this wonderful event that will surely put you in the festive spirit!

This week's dispatch from our roving correspondent, Lilly Mazer

This morning, I saw my breath in the cold air as I walked from our house to our car. I had forgotten how strange it was to see one's breath; it is like seeing a cloud emerge from your body. It reminded me of a line I wrote in my first article; "as the weather turns cooler, we turn to each other for the warmth of companionship and support". This line seems to ring even truer now; the warm glow of friendship can be seen on the faces of all. I think Winter not only brings about the glow of friendship and love within a community, but also brings out the beauty in all.



This quote "Without misery there can be no beauty" encapsulates the spirit of Winter for me. It reminds us that this cold season, miserable though it may be, brings out the beauty of generosity, kinship and kindness. The glow of flames in fires lit to keep cold at bay, twinkling in someone's eye; the warmth in our heart as we see the gifts we are starting to buy to bring pleasure to our family and friends and especially the now giant pile of boxes in cheerful paper that can be found just beside the lunch hall waiting to be sent to children who might otherwise have spent this whole season in misery; proof, though it is not needed, of the beauty of kindness within all of us.



THE
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So though it may be the time of year where the chill brings misery to our minds, we also need to recognise the beauty caused by the cold; beauty in ourselves and in others. We need to use the longing for warmer times to fuel us to show the warmth in our hearts. That is what this season is about, really; showing others warmth, kindness and love.

Have a great weekend!

Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
