

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

10 December 2018

One of the highlights of my year, and an event that is bound to get me all 'Christmassy', is the Lord Mayor's Carol Service in our wonderful cathedral. It is a real privilege for our Year 6 to Lower 4 girls to be invited to sing at this event and it is always a great spectacle to see so many of them up on the tiered staging in such an atmospheric setting. They sang absolutely beautifully and it was just lovely to see the audience smiling so broadly and clearly enjoying such a beautiful sound. Under the skilful direction of Miss Blackwell and Mrs Smith, the girls really rose to the occasion and did the school proud.



It was good to see such a strong turnout at the Upper 4 Options Evening last Tuesday. We have received feedback to confirm that it was a very informative and helpful event which is always good to hear. We have endeavoured to make the GCSE options much more flexible for the girls which has been well received, but equally, it is clearly causing a few issues as they now have to make more choices!



It was also wonderful to welcome the Bishop of Exeter (or Bishop Robert as he likes to be known) to our school on Wednesday. After a tour of the school and coffee with the Head Girl Team, he then engaged in a very interesting debate with our A-level Religious Studies students lasting a whole hour. As ever, the girls' questions were very searching and insightful and Bishop Robert's answers were, equally, very wise and worldly. We look forward to another visit from him in the future but, in the meantime, we are thrilled to have made this connection.



Wednesday evening proved to be a very busy night for The Maynard. The Upper 3 and Lower 4 hosted their Middle School Drama production in the Performing Arts Centre. It was exhausting even to watch the Upper 3 as they performed such a fast paced and brilliant series of short pieces and improvised drama depicting the lead up to, and the aftermath of, Christmas.





After a lovely interval of coffee and mince pies it was the Lower 4's turn to perform 'A Christmas Carol'. As with most Dickens' productions, the lines were complicated and often long and detailed but the girls performed them admirably with lots of standout actors. What a great evening of entertainment and a big thank you to Mrs Bellamy and Mr Ganley for directing these performances and also to Izzy Knight, one of our wonderful Sixth Formers, who was invaluable in helping the staff by coordinating the backstage activity!



At the same time, the Chamber Choir were performing at the Darts Farm Indulgence Evening. Sadly, I could not be in two places at once but I gather that, for the second time this week, our girls performed exceptionally well for the community of Exeter. Well done everyone!



Despite the rather unpleasant weather, the Ten Tors training, including an overnight stay on the moor, went well. Clothing and hair may have been dampened but it seems the spirits of all 32 taking part weren't! Our Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh schemes work really well here because we have so many parent volunteers. If there are any more of you out there that would like to be involved, we would really love to hear from you. We offer training to receive the necessary walking qualifications if you would like to gain them or maybe some of you already have such a thing? Either way, do give us a shout because it makes all the difference to our Outdoor Education programme.

By now parents of pupils in the Upper 5 through to the Upper 6 will have received an invitation to our Senior Prize Giving at the Belmont Chapel on Tuesday 19 December. Please do get your reply slips to us as soon as you can as seating can be limited. It is obviously compulsory attendance for the girls but we do allow them the afternoon off school to prepare for this very glamorous affair. Can I also remind parents of the Upper 5 that consent is required for the girls to leave our site on Tuesday afternoon rather than stay in school, so please do sign and return the permission slip as soon as possible.

I also hope we will see you at our lovely Carol Service in St. Matthew's Church on Thursday 20 December and, being so close to Christmas, I am sure that it will feel particularly festive this year. Even the staff are performing alongside the very polished Senior Choir! Well, that is the intention anyway, if we can just get all of the rehearsals organised! It's a bit like herding cats and Mrs Smith really does have a great deal of patience!

Anyway, onto the week's news!



The Christmas trees are up!

The Reception class had a fabulous time helping us to decorate the Christmas tree in the Junior School Hall and they certainly did a fabulous job whilst having a lot of fun!

Fabulous trip to meet the Snow Queen

Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Killerton House last Monday where they learned all about the Snow Queen – and had even made their own special crowns especially for the trip. They started off in Santa’s Grotto, listening intently to the elf’s story and then it was off to the house to follow the trail and to look at all the gorgeous Christmas decorations. After a quick lunch in the Grotto, the girls continued the story trail around the gardens, indulging in all sorts of fun games along the way! It really was the most magical day out for everyone involved!



‘Elf on the Shelf’ proves a smash hit



Year 2 received a surprise visitor on Monday when an elf from the North Pole appeared on Mrs Willcock's shelf! Our elf needed a name so in Maths we voted for our favourite in class and surveyed the other Junior School classes, using tally charts to organise our data. The winning name was Holly! Holly also left us a note asking us what our favourite books are, so the girls have replied to her on elf paper whilst also learning how to write book reviews in their Literacy lessons.

“Year 1 and Reception have their own elves too. Christmas hysteria has taken over!” said Mrs Willcock.

Year 3 Story Club



Year 3 have been having lots of fun in Story Club with Mrs Rowe this term. Last week they made some sparkly Snow Queen masks and fairy tale character puppets. "The girls enjoy making up their own stories with lots of craft activities. We love reading our stories to each other and Story Club is the highlight of our week."

Equally, the Year 3 also enjoyed a little relaxation (Savasana) at the end of their yoga class last week which was all very magical and Christmassy!

The last swimming lesson of the year!

On Friday we marked the Pre-Prep's last swimming lesson of 2018 with lots of games and relay races. The girls have all made lots of progress this term and we look forward to more great lessons at St Luke's next year.



Healthy Eating talk for the Junior School



Meanwhile, the older girls in Years 5 & 6 enjoyed a visit on Thursday from a nutritionist (Anne Richardson at Crunch Nutrition) who spoke to us all about healthy eating and positive body image. Year 5 had pre-prepared lots of questions and we had a really interesting discussion about how boring it would be if we all looked the same! She even brought in some delicious chocolate brownies for us to sample. Judging by the insightful feedback, the girls clearly found this a most thought-provoking and useful talk.

Zoe Cole: "Even if you don't like yourself, there will be someone out there that wishes they could be you."

Lydia Hurrell: "You should never want to change to look like someone else because you're born the way you are."

Carlotta Tomassi: "The way I look doesn't change the way I act and who I am."

Rose Molecke: "We don't have to change to be beautiful," and, "Brownies are always delicious!"

Sasha Pope: "As long as you have a varied diet, there is no such thing as healthy or unhealthy food."

Recorder Trio preps for Christmas Show

The Junior School Recorder Trio has been busy practising a couple of carols in readiness for the Christmas Show later this week.

As one of our star musicians, Alex Pavic (Upper 6) also plays an invaluable role as the pianist for the group's rehearsal each week for which we are very grateful.



Year 6 enjoy making German decorations

Christmas seems to be permeating so many of our lessons at the moment and the Year 6 enjoyed a fabulous language lesson last week, making some beautifully fragrant Duftende Orangen and learning about all of the German traditions at Christmas time.

Junior School House Hockey

We have finally come to the end of the very competitive Junior School House Hockey Competition and we certainly have enjoyed some excellent matches from the girls in Years 3 – 6. Merchants held out as the eventual winners, followed by Armourers in second, Haberdashers were third and Goldsmiths came fourth. Well done to all those that took part, both on the pitch and cheering from the side lines!



Fabulous cross country results



Three of our students were successful in qualifying for the Exeter and East Devon Cross Country Championship which was held at Blundell's last Wednesday. Conditions were far from ideal with flowing rivers on the course and a good drenching from some persistent rain. Huge congratulations to Katie Harries (Upper 4) who finished an excellent 4th in the Junior Girls section (of over 40 competitors) and to Sophie Cunningham (also Upper 4) who saved the best to last with an incredible finishing sprint to place 19th in the same race.

Amelia Moody (Lower 6) was as superb as ever, finishing third in the Senior Girls section after a very tough run, made all the worse by the underfoot conditions. Our congratulations to them all!

Rosie strikes gold

We would also like to say a huge well done to Rosie Wheatley (Lower 4) who, together with her four teammates, came away from the British Dance Organisation's SW Regional Championship with an incredible win in the 14 and Under Streetdance category.

This has qualified them for the UK Streetdance Challenge in April and we wish them all enormous luck and look forward to hearing how they fare.



A visit from the Bishop



We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Exeter, the Right Reverend Robert Atwell, who visited the school on Wednesday. After meetings with the Headmistress and Head Girl Team and a tour of the school, Bishop Robert spent a lesson with the Sixth Form Religious Studies students. He explained his role as bishop, which includes responsibility for over 600 churches throughout Devon. He then responded to questions from the girls, covering a wide range of topics relating both

to their A-level syllabus and to their general interest in religion and its role in the world.

Bishop Robert spoke about his own views about hell, evil and suffering. He shared his understanding of the role of the church in secular and multi-faith societies and responded to the girls' questions about biblical interpretation, evangelism and religious experience. He stressed the importance of mutual respect and understanding, of being prepared to live with the unknown and of helping others to find joy in life. The girls were very appreciative of his considered, honest and insightful answers to their questions and were particularly encouraged by his confident assertion that there is likely to be a female Archbishop before too long!

Eco Warriors Clothes Swap

The Eco Warriors will be holding another of their hugely popular Clothes Swaps during lunchtime on Wednesday 19 December. Please do ask your daughters to bring in any unwanted items of clothing which can then be swapped for a token with which to 'purchase' something else. The team members will be coming around this week to collect up the clothing so don't miss this opportunity to revamp your wardrobes.

Friends of Buburi sanitary project

We welcomed Mrs Sowden, mother of Miren (2018 leaver), into an assembly last week and she talked to the girls about what a difference the reusable sanitary pads so many had helped to sew last term were making to the school girls in Buburi (Western Kenya). She is planning another school sewing session early next term which we will provide further details about nearer the time. In the meantime, Mrs Sowden has also asked for donations of packs of pants which she will be hand delivering when she visits Burburi in February.



Help Ellie raise money for Breast Cancer Now



Ellie Ramsay, another of our leavers in 2018 and now studying Physiotherapy at the University of Birmingham, is planning on cycling 230 miles from London to Paris next year to raise funds for Breast Cancer Now.

The charity's vision is that "by 2050 everyone who develops breast cancer will live, and live well" and it focuses on four key areas - risk and prevention, early detection and diagnosis, treatment and secondary breast cancer.

Ellie is hoping to raise £1500 from the cycle ride and would very much appreciate our assistance in achieving this target! If you would like to make a donation online, she has set up a page on everydayhero.com, which can be accessed either by searching "Ellie London2Paris" on their website or by using the following link:

<https://give.everydayhero.com/uk/breast-cancer-now-london-to-paris-2019?fbclid=IwAR0nvx8uVaeEETrgSFytdvtDeOVpGk9rBcl4xXdUnvuhFuSsqBYw5Axx5Zwor>

Alternatively you could bring a cheque payable to 'Breast Cancer Now' to school and we will send it on.

Lost Property

We are currently keeping safe numerous items of lost property including watches, jewellery, glasses, iPods, phones, purses etc so do please ask your daughter to see Mrs Wilks or Mrs Halpin to reclaim any missing items as a matter of urgency. Anything remaining by next Monday 17 December will be taken to our local charity shops.

End of day procedures - reminder for parents

Please may we remind all parents and guardians that late room closes at 5.30pm. If you think you are going to be late, please could you phone Reception to provide advance warning. Equally, can all students ensure they sign out and exit through Main Reception in accordance with our Health & Safety procedures.

Alternatively, if students are in a late rehearsal or club, they should sign out with their teacher and then leave through Main Reception. Students cannot be in the building unsupervised after 5.30pm.

And finally, from our roving correspondent



“I have a couple of tests coming up at the moment. Nothing major, just tests. This means that I’ve been revising. For me, revising involves reading through my book, writing some flashcards and looking at what I’ve learnt so far. It’s always nice to look through your books. You can see if your handwriting has changed, remember back to lessons and it often helps you to realise that actually you’ve changed. The things that you have learnt have made you a different person.

Throughout this term you have done things wrong. Everyone has. But the thing that really matters is that you’ve learnt from them. You have made mistakes, seen the error in your ways and learnt. You have, or are, learning to be better; to do better. The mistakes are not the things that will stay with you; the thing that you will take forward is what you have learnt.

I think what defines being a good person is not being perfect. Perfection is unattainable, and that is no bad thing. Being a good person is messing up, getting things wrong, and then adapting. So if I don’t get a 100% on these tests, I won’t be upset. Full marks are great, but learning is greater. I want to learn from my mistakes, not cover from them. Getting things wrong should not be feared, it should be respected, because it is the only way we can become better people.”

Lilly Mazer

Have a fabulous week!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
