

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

30 November 2018

May I start with thanking our wonderful Parents Association for an utterly superb Christmas Fair, once again! The quality of our stalls is way beyond the norm for a school event and, as usual, I had to return to the cash point machine more than once and went home with a car full of bounty. I was particularly impressed by the Lower 4 range of goodies which were all handcrafted and made for lovely presents. The Sixth Form also excelled with their Young Enterprise and World Challenge stalls and, of course, their singing! Special thanks really must go to Suzy Taylor and Louise Bright for orchestrating the whole event, but also to the enormous team of parent volunteers that spent all of Friday evening setting it up - I have to say that the Santa's Grotto was particularly spectacular (and thank you for coming at this busy time of year, Father Christmas!).

Speaking of getting into the festive spirit, I was ever so impressed to see the enormous pile of Christmas Shoeboxes destined for Moldova. I had to second a team of Sixth Formers to help me move a record 190 boxes and, as it turned out, the volunteers who collected them had to make two journeys. Needless to say, they were bowled over by our generosity and we are thrilled to be championing such a cause.

We are all so excited that the Health & Fitness Suite has finally opened and, so far, over 50 senior students and staff have already had their induction with our invited personal trainer, Chris, from David Lloyd. I think the idea is that the suite will be used in curriculum PE lessons up to Upper 5 but the Sixth Formers (and, of course, the staff) will be able to use it independently in their free time. It's just been such a joy to see it is already proving so popular before, during and after the school day and I am so delighted by the enthusiastic take-up.

The final note from me is to wish the best of luck to all nine Oxbridge candidates who have now made it through to the interview stage.



To have come this far is brilliant in itself and we will keep everything crossed for some successful outcomes over the coming weeks.

Now on to the week's news.

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### Ananya, Mariam and Phoebe report back from their trip to Bristol

We went to 'We the Curious' in Bristol on Friday 23 November and Year 4 had a great time!

We could experiment with magnetic sand, walk through a tornado that had different colours in it and make some giant bubbles which we loved! We also liked the giant hamster wheel which we could all go in. Upstairs there was a really cool sloped room and there was a section where we could draw weird faces and choose the eyes, nose, mouth and hair.

We learnt that Pluto is not a planet you can land a spaceship on because it is really a type of gas that floats in the solar system that looks like a planet. We also learnt how to make wheat and how to milk a cow. At the end, Year 4 went to the gift shop and loved what we bought from there.

It was a FANTASTIC day!



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### SS Great Britain outing enjoyed by the Year 5 girls

Year 5 had a chilly but fascinating time in Bristol last Friday, visiting Brunel's SS Great Britain. Billed as one of the top visitor attractions in the UK, they learned about life on board for Victorian passengers and had an informative tour of the ship which they all absolutely loved.

This was a fantastic day, albeit slightly overdue having had to postpone the original booking due to inclement weather conditions.



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### Wonderful Pre-Prep ballet performances

Our Pre-Prep girls danced beautifully for their respective families in their Open Ballet Classes on Monday. This was a first public performance for the Reception class who all rose to the occasion with enormous aplomb and energy! It also goes without saying that Years 1 & 2 were equally brilliant and we hope all those that came were suitably impressed with their improvements and sheer show of enthusiasm.



Our specialist teacher, Mrs Barlow (aka Mary Poppins), takes extra-curricular ballet lessons once a week with the girls in the Junior School and Pre-Prep and her classes are always met with much excitement and anticipation by our budding young ballerinas.



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### Oxbridge interviews



Next week marks the start of the Oxbridge interview season and there are a number of students who have made it through the fiendishly difficult admissions tests - a significant achievement in itself - and are about to embark on their interviews.

They are tackling a variety of Arts and Science subjects: Daisy Birkin (Economics), Isobel Harding-Perrott (Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic), Jessica Carr (Mathematics), Alice Brion (Engineering), Linda Liu and Alex Pavic (both

Natural Sciences) are going up to Cambridge, whilst Gaia Clark Nevola, Alice Sara and Eve Stevens (all to read English) are off to Oxford. They are wonderful young women and we wish them all the best!

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### Lots of sporting news ....

#### Under 12 team puts up a fine performance in the SistersNSport Netball Cup

The Under 12 netball team enjoyed a fast-paced and exciting match against Ivybridge Community College last Friday that saw both teams improving massively throughout the game. It was a whole team effort, including the rest of the Upper 3 girls who were strong in support from the Bradley Hall balcony.

Ivybridge rolled out the eventual winners (15-12) in a closely fought contest to go through to the next round, but it was an absolutely brilliant performance from our young team who show lots of promise for the upcoming netball season. Player of the match (as voted by the players) was deservedly won by Annabel Turner who was superb throughout.



### Close hockey games against Exeter Cathedral School



The Under 10 A&B hockey teams enjoyed some lovely matches against Exeter Cathedral School on Monday. Always guaranteed to be closely fought, these games didn't disappoint with both teams holding 0-0 at half time. The A team were unlucky in defeat following two goals from their opponents in quick succession which they couldn't quite come back from, but the B team delivered the same to them with a final score of 3-0 to us!

It was a great end to the hockey season for this year group who have made fantastic progress and shown enormous ability with some good wins and lots of goals scored over the weeks!

### Fabulous start to the Netball season for Under 12s

The Upper 3 netballers enjoyed some great games on Monday in their first friendly against St Peter's High School as an early preliminary to the actual season kicking off next term.

Both the A & B teams played strongly, showing some lovely passing and timing skills down the court. Particular mention must go to the B team shooters who were unstoppable! The As won their match 5-3 and the B team were remarkably impressive, winning theirs 14-0. The players of the match, as voted by the other team, were Honey Hubble and Harleigh Fry.



### Eye-opening hockey game for Year 6

We took the Year 6 girls up to the University yesterday to watch a particularly fast and furious hockey match between Exeter and Cambridge University. It was an excellent opportunity for them to see a full size proper game and gain a better understanding of how to use the pitch and space available whilst having a lot of fun and laughter!



### Biz Whizz - the ultimate Careers Club

As we head towards the end of term, it seems only appropriate to say another enormous thank you to all those speakers who have so willingly given of their time to share their knowledge and insight into the various careers covered within the weekly Biz Whizz programme.

We had a full house of nearly 40 attendees at today's talk about life as a vet with Chris Johansson, the director of the Western Counties Equine Clinic, and his wife, Inga, who treats smaller animals in a local veterinary practice. It was a very insightful and informal chat about how they both qualified, the highs, the lows and the difference between the two practices. For half an hour the girls were positively surrounded by an abundance of veterinary expertise and, as ever, they all rose to the occasion with intelligent and thoughtful questions.

The programme is arranged each term in response to demand from our students and we try to keep the weekly bookings as varied as possible to cover the widest audience. During this term alone, we have already welcomed an acute medicine consultant, a film producer/director, a fashion brand owner, a professional GB sportswoman and army captain, an expert in cyber security, an education consultant, volunteers within the international development/humanitarian sector and an ecologist. We also have two remaining talks before the curtain falls on the term's talks - one from local music agents/promoters/record label DMF Music (also the organisers of the multiple award-winning Beautiful Days festival) and the other from a Theatre Producer and Head of Production for Pop-up Globe in Auckland.

We are busily preparing the schedule for next term and already have some fascinating speakers lined-up. The full programme will be given to all Senior and Sixth Form girls during the first week of the term and we will also publish details both on the website and in this newsletter in the New Year.

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### Don't forget the Junior School Book Fair!

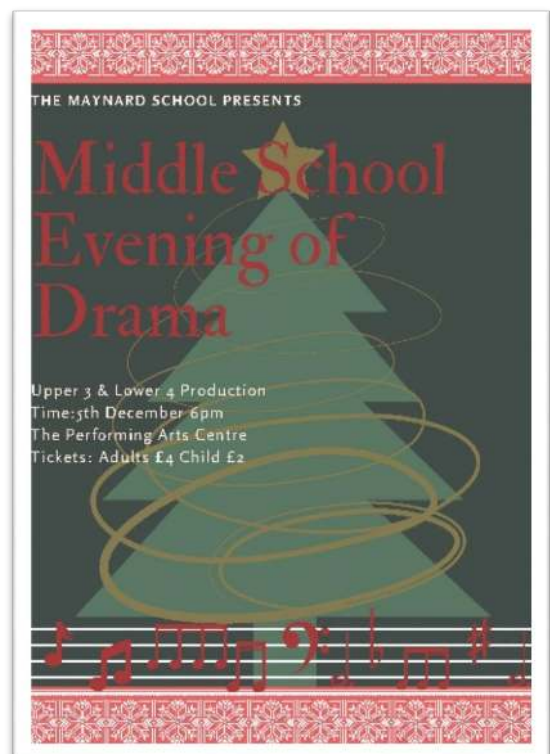
The Book Fair is ongoing in the Junior School Hall each day from 3.50-4.10pm each day so please do pop in and peruse all the wonderful things for sale. It will be open until next Thursday and we look forward to seeing you there!

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### **\*\*Reminder\*\* Middle School Evening of Drama**

Next Wednesday 5 December we will be holding our Middle School Evening of Drama involving both the Upper 3 and Lower 4 Drama Clubs. Please could all costumes be brought into school by Monday for both groups.

Also, just a reminder to all Lower 4 Drama Club girls that there are rehearsals after school on both Monday and Tuesday with Mr Ganley. Tickets are available to buy from Reception ahead of the event and we are all looking forward to what promises to be a fun and festive evening.



And from our roving correspondent, Lilly Mazer,  
who has turned out to be quite the most dependable journalist in history:

Recently, I've started to take pictures of raindrops on windows. The car window, my bedroom window. It's become a kind of fascination of mine. I love how the camera on my phone focuses on the raindrop and the outside becomes kind of blurry; it's beautiful. I love how the raindrops catch the light; sometimes, when I lie down in bed, the raindrops on my window look like a sprinkle of glitter. It seems almost magical to me.



Of course, the raindrops aren't glitter. They're just water, sprinkled droplets of water. But when you find raindrops in the right place, they glitter. Twinkle, shine, shimmer. They become magical. I think that's what people are like. Ordinarily, we're just plain water, normal people. But if we can find the right window, we can glitter. You just have to find the right place. And if raindrops can, you most certainly can too. You can be magical; so long as you find the right window, the right place in life, be it the right school, workplace, home, you can shine. A raindrop doesn't have a choice of where it lands, though. We are the ones who choose where we can sparkle. The weight of that decision is on us.

So where will you choose? That's up to you. But every raindrop has the potential to be glitter. Every person has the potential to do something amazing. You can do something amazing, too.

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Have a good weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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