

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

11 January 2018

May I wish you all a Happy New Year and extend a warm welcome back after the festive break. It is wonderful to see all of the girls looking so refreshed and ready for the year ahead!

That said, our Upper 5 GCSE students are probably not quite feeling this vibe having returned from their holidays to immerse themselves straight into mock examinations, but they certainly do seem to be taking it all in their stride. I keep reminding them that this time next week they will be enjoying their congratulatory trip to London during which Mrs Fanous has arranged all manner of treats from theatre trips through to some fabulous exhibitions, not to mention eating out in Covent Garden and a spot of much-needed retail therapy! It promises to be a very well-deserved cultural break which has historically always proved an almighty hit.

It will be the turn of the A-level students to sit their mocks from next week onwards and, as ever, my advice is to stay calm, keep healthy and sleep well.

Several of our Sixth Formers were invited to Oxbridge interviews last term and the results for these are trickling in with more to be announced on Monday. We will bring you news of this as soon as we hear but may I just say a huge congratulations to them all for even getting this far – you really are a talented bunch and shall do well wherever life may take you!

My thanks to all those parents and friends of The Maynard who have so kindly volunteered to assist with our Outdoor Activities. We really have been overwhelmed by the response and it is just wonderful to have this support for things like the Ten Tors training walks and DofE expeditions. It would be impossible to run schemes like these without this help so my wholehearted thanks for securing the future of these wonderfully popular activities.





On which note, I am looking forward to joining our Ten Tors teams for their day walk tomorrow around Meldon although there will be one significant other missing from the occasion with my trusty hound, Ty, being side lined following a ruptured disc in her back over the holiday. She will be livid about missing the occasion but must remain confined to her bed as per the vet's instructions!

Before heading into the week's news, may I wish you and your families a happy, healthy and successful 2019!

Carol Service raises substantial sum for charity



We are delighted to announce that the end of term Carol Service on 20 December 2018 raised over £1000 for Challenge Ahead, an activity and support group for children and young people who have sustained an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). During the service, Eve Stevens in Upper 6 talked about how Challenge Ahead has supported her own family and Penny Weekes, who runs the group, told us more about their work and the many opportunities they provide.

Penny was hugely appreciative of the "phenomenal" amount raised and described the music at the service as "astounding". We are delighted to have been able to support this worthwhile cause and would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions. It is also very pleasing to hear that two senior students have already contacted Penny to arrange voluntary work with Challenge Ahead in the coming months.

Karla drops in on Rocket Club

We were thrilled to welcome back award-winning scientist and Maynard alumna, Karla-Luise Herpoldt, as the guest speaker at last month's wonderful Prize Giving ceremony in the Belmont Chapel. Fortunately for us, Karla (who is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Protein Design in Washington, USA) still has family who live around the corner so she was able to pop back on the final Thursday of last term to talk with our after-school Rocket Club and Youth STEMM Award girls.



"What an inquisitive bunch those STEMM girls are," she reported back after her hour-long session during which she was interrogated about her swap from Physicist to Molecular Biologist now designing incredible vaccines that, quite literally, are helping to transform all corners of the world – from those that prevent fatal intestinal disease amongst malnourished infants in developing countries to a form of chemotherapy that targets only the cancerous cells and not the surrounding tissues.

All of our Rocket Club students are, by their very nature, keen scientists but with so many avenues under this umbrella to explore, Karla's visit certainly gave them an appreciation of the career opportunities available and left them with renewed purpose in their individual scientific pursuits.



Performance of the Month

Congratulations to Emma Declerck (Upper 3) who has been awarded December's Performance of the Month. Emma has achieved an incredible 13 qualifying times for the Devon County Swimming Championships 2019 and she was also awarded the Best Swimmers Award for her age group at last year's Tiverton Swimming Club Championships. We look forward to keeping you posted with regard to her Championship results and we wish her the very best of luck.

Dodie becomes a Royal Associate of the Royal School of Music

Not content with having achieved Grade 8 with distinctions and a merit on three different instruments, Dodie Bowman (Upper 6) can now add the letters ARSM after her name. She was awarded a merit in this performance diploma for her violin playing and is now an Associate of the Royal School of Music. This is such a well-deserved accolade and testimony to her supreme musical prowess - well done, Dodie!



Alison Kettlewell hits the limelight again



Our incredible peripatetic singing teacher, Alison Kettlewell, is once again in the limelight and dropped us a line earlier this week to tell us all about her latest ventures:

"I'm having a wonderful time working at the Royal Opera House. I'm covering Dame Felicity Palmer in the role of the Countess in Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*. The conductor is Sir Antonio Pappano, and watching him and Dame Felicity work together is incredible. Felicity used to be my singing teacher

so it is a double pleasure to spend time with her again. I'm also covering the role of Kabanicha in Janacek's *Katya Kabanova* and have my first music call on that this week - can't wait!"

We are tremendously proud of Alison and wish her all the luck with these exciting projects!

Calling all Lower 4s to the GCHQ CyberFirst Girls Competition



We are delighted to be entering for the very first time the GCHQ CyberFirst Girls Competition aimed at Lower 4 (Year 8) girls to encourage them into the world of Cyber Security. This is an opportunity for them to gain invaluable cyber skills, solve problems, work as a team and have fun with friends.

The four categories of challenges are: Networking, logic and coding, cyber security and cryptography with each topic derived from skills used every day by cyber security professionals. The top ten teams will compete in a face-to-face Grand Final at the GCHQ itself.

Teams are made up from four students and will be supported by Mr Friendship our Head of IT. If your daughter would like to join a team, please send an email to Mr Friendship at JamesFriendship@Maynard.co.uk.

As one previous contestant from another school said: "You don't need to be amazing at cyber skills to enter. I didn't know anything about code breaking when we entered, and we have made it to the final."

News from the Library

We are thrilled to announce our first ever Accelerated Reader word millionaire – Emma Declerck in Upper 3Q! Our Upper 3 classes were enrolled on the Accelerated Reader scheme last term, joined by Year 6 towards the end of term, and Emma has successfully completed quizzes for books containing a total of 1,217,685 words! Emma is a huge Harry Potter fan so raced through the Harry Potter quizzes with very high scores.

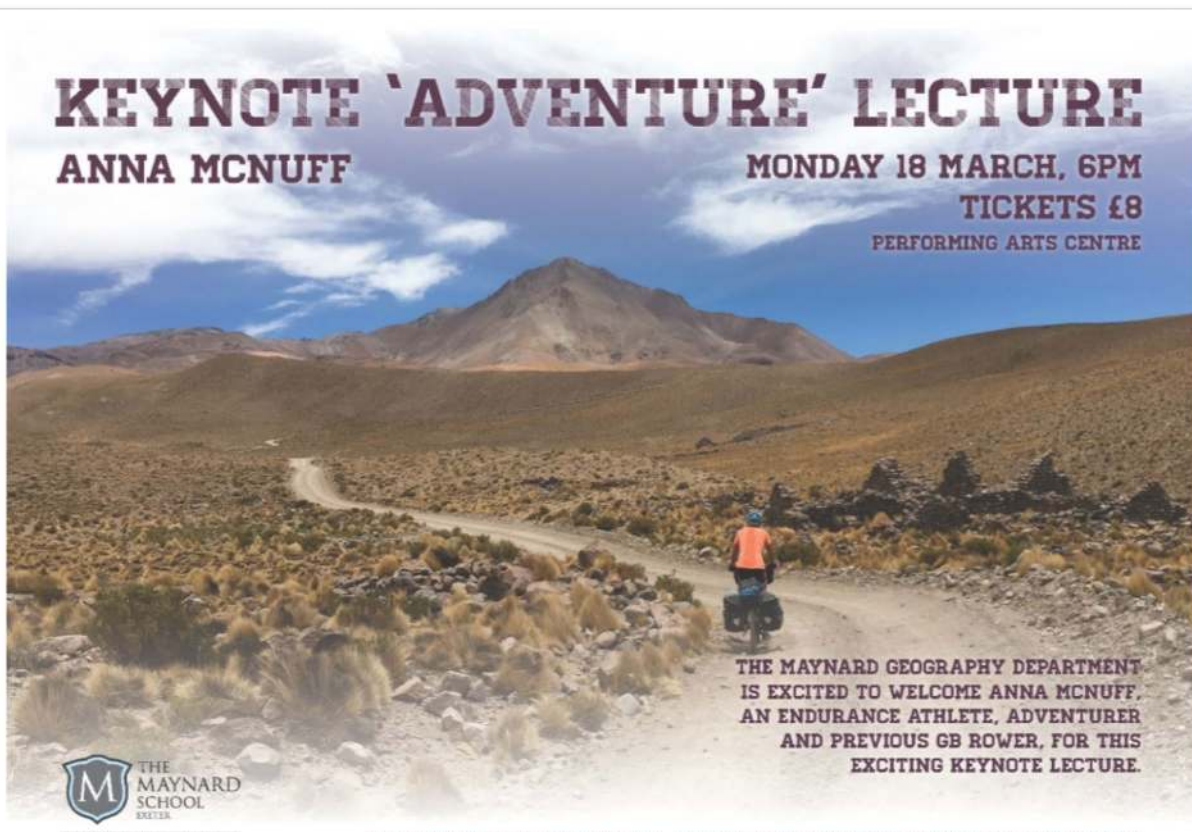
Congratulations to Emma, keep it up!



Priority tickets on sale for fabulous 'Adventure' lecture


Tickets are now on sale from Reception for the Anna McNuff adventure lecture in the Performing Arts Centre on Monday 18 March. Maynard students, their parents and friends are being given a priority period in which to buy these tickets (£8 each) before they are put up on general sale so do, please, purchase yours early to avoid disappointment.

Anna is an endurance athlete, adventurer and previous GB rower. Named by the Guardian as one of the top female adventurers of our time, Condé Nast Traveller have recently included her in a list of the 50 most influential travellers in the world. This will be a lecture to remember and we are delighted to be offering this opportunity to our Maynard community so do please come along and prepare to be inspired!



KEYNOTE 'ADVENTURE' LECTURE
ANNA MCNUFF **MONDAY 18 MARCH, 6PM**
TICKETS £8
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

THE MAYNARD GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT
IS EXCITED TO WELCOME ANNA MCNUFF,
AN ENDURANCE ATHLETE, ADVENTURER
AND PREVIOUS GB ROWER, FOR THIS
EXCITING KEYNOTE LECTURE.

 THE MAYNARD
SCHOOL
EXETER
MADE FOR GIRLS AGE 4 - 18

THE LECTURE IS OPEN TO ALL ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN YEAR 7 AND ABOVE.

And from our roving correspondent, Lilly Mazer!

One of my main New Year's resolutions is to take opportunities. Sometimes, I feel like life and all the chances to do amazing things it brings are just passing me by, and I think it is wasteful if I don't take opportunities I am so privileged to have, and not grab them with both hands. We talk about wasting things like food or money, but I think the thing that most people are a culprit of is wasting life. We don't get to be on Earth long, so if we don't try and jump at every chance to do something amazing, or interesting, or incredible that we get, then what is the point? What is the point in living if your life is just watching other people do things? There isn't one.

For example, we are lucky enough to attend an amazing school. But what is the point in going (apart from the fact that it is an amazing school, of course!) if you don't take advantage of all the great things on offer like clubs or competitions or talks that we have available to us?

I know the easiest thing to do is blend in, to stay afraid of taking the opportunity and to be scared to be different. But just because it's easy, it doesn't mean it's right. This year, I refuse to succumb to the crowd. I want to take every chance I get, even if it means being different.

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress