

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

18 January 2018

I would like to start by saying a massive congratulations to our Oxbridge candidates. Seven gained an interview which is an enormous accolade in itself and we have had the wonderful news this week that three have gone on to gain excellent offers; Gaia Clark Nevola for English at Oxford, Isobel Harding-Perrott for Anglo Saxon, Norse and Celtic at Cambridge and Jessica Carr for Mathematics (also at Cambridge). That said, those who didn't gain offers should equally be very proud of themselves, especially as they have already received offers from some of the very top universities.

I thoroughly enjoyed walking with the Ten Tors girls at the weekend and was impressed with their very positive attitude despite the first four hours of sideways rain, freezing winds and zero visibility. I gather it wasn't like that in Exeter! It's also exciting to see that we have well over 30 girls signed up for the Challenge with a good spread doing both the 35 and 45-mile courses.

I had the pleasure of interviewing some super candidates for entry into our Sixth Form in September, all of whom have come from a wide range of schools in our surrounding area. These evening interviews will be ongoing into next week and then we will make our final selection in the early part of February, but we hope that we will have a wonderful clutch of talented girls to join our present cohort in the Autumn.

I gather the Upper 5 girls are having a great time in London with a host of exciting and varied activities including a West End Show, an open top bus tour, museum trips and a meal out at Covent Garden. I am very jealous!

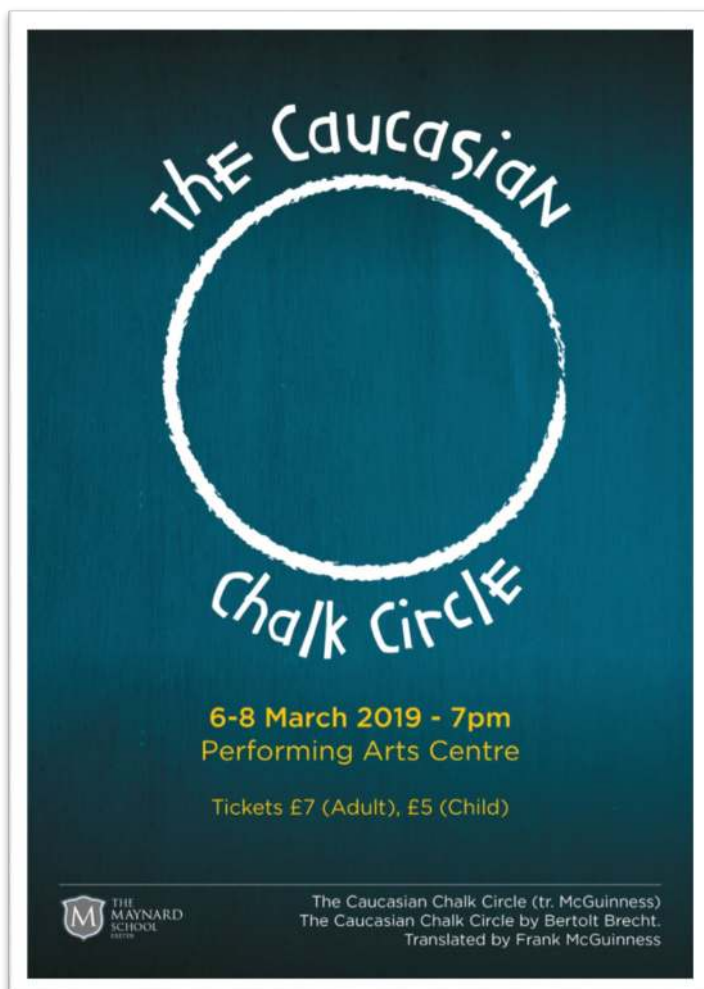


One final point from me is to congratulate our Under 14 Basketball team which really is excelling on the courts and moving up through the ranks of various competitions. I am off to watch their match against King's School, Winchester and have great hopes for a good result.

On to the week's news!

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### This year's fabulous Senior School production: 'The Caucasian Chalk Circle'



Rehearsals for this year's school play, 'The Caucasian Chalk Circle' by Bertolt Brecht, are well underway and, in total, we have a cast and production team of over 60 senior students from Year 9 up to the Sixth Form.

Originally written in 1945 against the post-war backdrop of huge upheaval and disarray in mainland Europe, we have given the play a slightly more modern twist to resonate with the socio-economic affair of today's world. We open with a scene set in the rubble of a bombed out village where two returning communities of farmers make a claim on the land they both consider to be their home. In a bid to bolster their claim, one side have brought in a famous local singer and prepared a play with music, The Chalk Circle, based on a Chinese parable. This story begins in the midst of a revolution, the Governor is executed, and his wife must flee. In the chaos, their infant son Michael is left behind. When no one else will take responsibility for the child, a servant named Grusha takes him up and goes on the run. The next three years unfold in a series of episodes showing how Grusha and Michael survive; the challenges they

face, the characters who help and hinder them. Do they stay together and can there be a future for them?

It is a fantastic and fast moving storyline raising questions about the choices people make in times of need and peril. It explores themes of belonging, motherhood, sacrifice and it portrays the underlying problems caused by war, homelessness and movement of people, making the play as relevant now as ever.

We have an excellent reputation for our compelling drama productions which are always a sell-out and this year is destined, once again, for the very same success. The play will take place over a three-night run (Wednesday 6 - Friday 8 March 2019) in the Performing Arts Centre at 7pm. Tickets (£7/adult and £5/child) are now on sale from Reception and we would urge you to purchase yours early to avoid disappointment!

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### Don't miss this amazing 'Adventure' lecture

Likewise, tickets are also now on sale for the Geography Department's much anticipated annual lecture, this year from top endurance athlete, adventurer and former GB rower, Anna McNuff. Named by The Guardian as one of the top female adventurers of our time, Conde Nast Traveller have also recently included her in a list of the 50 most influential travellers in the world.

Anna's major journeys include cycling a beautiful pink bicycle through each and every state of the USA, running the length of New Zealand and, most recently, exploring the peaks and passes of the Andes Mountains - a journey in which she ascended the equivalent to eleven times the height of Everest on a bicycle.



"I get my kicks by travelling the world on long, human powered journeys, and in sharing those journeys with others. When not running up mountains or sleeping in the wild, I encourage others to grab life by the balls (non-scientific term), and speak and write about the importance of adopting a growth mindset (scientific term), in everything we do.

With a background in psychology and a career as an elite athlete under my belt, I'm fascinated by the powerful and delicate relationship that exists between mind and body. I have an insatiable thirst for exploring the limit of human potential, and in better understanding the (often misunderstood) feelings of fear, self-doubt, vulnerability and courage."

The lecture will take place in the Performing Arts Centre on Monday 18 March from 6pm. Open to all parents, friends and students in Year 7 upwards, tickets are now on sale from Reception at £8 each.

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### Explore Law - sign up now!



We are delighted to be hosting the annual 'Explore Law' event again, organised by the University of Law and being held on Wednesday 27 March from 4pm - 6.45pm in the Performing Arts Centre. Open to all students in Years 10, 11 and 12, this is an ideal opportunity to gain further insight into law and to help your daughter discover if it is the right career for her. The programme includes a taster workshop exploring several different areas of law as well as a next steps talk which looks at career options and what can be done now to maximise successful outcomes in the future.

Maynard students are being given a priority booking period and we would strongly recommend that your daughter signs up here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ExploreLawExeter> before spaces are opened up to a wider audience at the end of next week.

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### Robot team scoops prize at First Lego League competition

The Maynard Robot Club team comprising five girls from Lower 4 (Emma Johncock, Katie Ashcroft-Jones, Mara Dragomir, Eleanor Silver, Megan Sexton), two from Upper 4 (Hansini Kammila, Penny Robshaw) and one in the Lower 5 year group (Lizze Zmuda), enjoyed a successful trip to Bristol for the First Lego League competition on Wednesday.



The basis of this event is to challenge teams to research a real-world problem and develop a solution. They must also design, build and program a robot to compete against those from other teams.

We were delighted to have been awarded second place in the 'core values' competition as a result of the girls' exemplary teamwork and respect for those around them, as well as for their sense of fun throughout the day. In the process of the Robot Club as a whole, they are also developing skills in problem-solving, confidence and public speaking. Well done to them all!

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### Under 14 Basketball team off to a good start

We enjoyed a great start to the National Schools Under 14 Basketball competition yesterday against a very strong side from Uffculme school. We started very well, playing to a high standard and this set us up for the rest of the game, eventually winning 46-31.

It is great to see numbers growing at the Monday after-school club and we look forward to the Under 12 & Under 13 squads starting their competitive season later this term.

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### Lizzie, Maddie, Polly and Hannah Sophia excel in their Ballet exams

Our congratulations to Lizzie (Upper 5) and Maddie (Upper 4) Coldrick who both received a distinction for their Grade 8 ballet exams that they took just prior to Christmas. Also to Polly Broad (Upper 5), who attends the same ballet school in Woodbury Salterton, and who passed the same exam with a Merit. Three Grade 8s in one exam session is quite a feat in itself but the results are even more amazing! Well done, girls!

Also, a huge well done to Hannah Sophia Mulhauser (Upper 3) who received word a few days ago that she has passed her Grade 5 Ballet exam with a merit. She's now started (and is thoroughly enjoying) Grade 6.

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### First Junior Word Millionaire announced



Following hot on the heels from our inaugural Accelerated Reader Word Millionaire in the Senior School, we now have our first equivalent for the Junior School – Isabella Probert in Year 6! Isabella has speeded her way through 15 books in just six weeks, by authors including Erin Hunter and Jacqueline Wilson, and successfully completed quizzes to accumulate 1,057,360 words. She visits the library almost every day, browsing through books and recommending them to her friends. She is a true reading ambassador!

We must also make mention of Hannah Clark (also Year 6) who joined Isabella to receive her certificate in this morning's Junior Assembly.

Hannah provided some hot competition and was only narrowly pipped at the post to finish a close second. She, too, completed a huge number of books in the allotted time period – something she doesn't find too onerous given her great love of the written word. Our congratulations to them both!

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### Forest School continues to be an almighty hit

The whole of the Pre-Prep continue to have a fabulous time in their weekly Forest School sessions under the expert guidance of Mrs Davey. The girls in Reception didn't let the cold conditions perturb them last Friday, wrapping up warm to plant some daffodil bulbs in the garden. For some so young, it will feel like an eternity before they actually bloom but the wait will certainly be worth it! They also played a memory game and enjoyed meeting the very memorable Molly Mole and Sammy Squirrel!



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### Year 1 explore Space



The girls in Year 1 are learning about Space this half term and they have been enjoying playing in their role play space station as well as learning about the planets in the solar system.

They have also created some lovely planet art work with Miss Kelly which is very much bringing the whole subject alive, as well as being the cause of much concentration and creativity!

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### Get fit at Running Club

The Thursday lunchtime running club is proving quite a hit and the girls enjoyed a great experience in the sunshine on the quay last week. There are some additional spaces available so if your daughter would like to join this super-healthy club which accommodates all running abilities, please do ask her to sign up with Miss Williamson. Everyone is welcome to join in; it is a fabulous and very social way to get fit!



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### Delivering items to Reception

Please can we ask that any items being delivered to Reception for your daughters to collect are clearly labelled for their intended recipient. We receive an awful lot of things to distribute each day and it's not always clear who they are for which can sometimes result in much confusion! Can we also remind you that any Second Hand Uniform is clearly labelled before being left with us? Our thanks in advance for your cooperation with these matters!

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### All welcome at the next MPA meeting!

The next MPA meeting will take place on Thursday 24 January at 4pm in the Rosemary Langley Room and all are welcome! Please could you sign in at Reception beforehand so that, in case of emergency, we know you are in the building. Refreshments will be available and, as ever, it would be wonderful to see you there!

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### Biz Whizz Spring programme



We have another incredible programme of visiting speakers lined up for this term's Biz Whizz Careers Club. Run every Friday during the lunch A slot, this club is open to all Senior and Sixth Form students. We will be sending you the full line-up at the beginning of next week but please do encourage your daughters to come to those professions that interest them the most. We are aware of a number of girls who have already been suitably inspired by some of the talks to pursue a career in an area that they would not otherwise have considered without this opportunity. As a school, we are unique in this offering and also hugely grateful to all those professionals who have so willingly given their time to inspire the next generation.

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And, finally ...

### Supporting the Friends of Buburi

Mrs Sowden will be joining us next Wednesday 23 January during the lunch break to oversee another session of making washable sanitary pads for the young ladies in Buburi, Western Kenya. Until now, many of these girls have missed school during their periods because they don't have access to sanitary products. This has a huge impact on their education and can lead them to dropping out altogether, putting them at greater risk of child marriage and getting pregnant at a younger age.



At the last pad making session, the Textiles Room was packed with all our girls wanting to show a helping hand and we hope to receive similar support this time. All the research shows that the pads we make are having an enormous impact on the Burburi community and attendance at schools is certainly much-improved.

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Have a good weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress