

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

8 February 2019

Thank you for your forbearance with the snow disruption at the end of last week and I'm glad everyone managed to stay safe. In the end we had 90% of the staff here to teach so, in fact, we had very little disruption to learning after all. We certainly had lots of fun snow ball fights (with teachers vs students - although, I must admit, the students certainly had the upper hand) during tutor period.

The highlight of my week has been the GCSE Drama examination pieces on Tuesday evening which were utterly phenomenal! The girls delivered some stunning duologues and monologues and the quality of acting was quite extraordinary, as were the Yorkshire accents! Well done to Mrs Bellamy as I know she has worked extremely hard with these girls over many evenings and weekends but her efforts were certainly rewarded and we hope the examiner agrees!

With part of my degree being in Marine Biology, I wish I could have joined the Year 6s at The National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth on Monday where they had a lovely time dissecting squid and extracting ink sacs. It's great to have such a resource so close to us that we can access on an annual basis.

Likewise, the Junior Girls impressed me at the Youth Speaks Competition last week which was hosted by the school and compered by ex-headmistress, Miss Murdin. It was fantastic to be able to provide our Performing Arts Facility for this Rotary Club event which I now hope will become an annual affair here at The Maynard.

As promised, this is somewhat of a bumper issue covering two weeks of exciting news, so without delay
.....



Clothes Swap swamped



As ever, the girls continue to campaign to raise environmental awareness or fundraise for charity and the Eco Warriors' Clothes Swap proved another fine example of how all our students support these endeavours so wholeheartedly. Piles and piles of clothes swamped the venue and queues of girls packed into the room to exchange something old for something new in a bid to freshen up their wardrobes in time for the new season. The ethos surrounding this event is very much to promote recycling and upcycling whilst highlighting the detriment caused to our environment by fast fashion – and we all agree, there's nothing better than the feel good factor derived from bagging a bargain!

Youth STEMM Awards cake sale

The first of the girls to embark on the new Youth STEMM Award (based on a similar concept to the Duke of Edinburgh Award) fulfilled one of their course criteria by hosting a cake sale on Monday in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. They must have spent the entire weekend baking in preparation and an enormous array of cakes to offer resulted in a most impressive £87 being raised for this worthy charity, whilst also covering their 'communicating with the public' strand of their Bronze Award. Well done, girls!



A-level students meet their Geography idol



Our Sixth Form Geographers were treated to a series of lectures with world renowned experts at the Plymouth University A-Level Geohazards Conference on Monday.

Amongst the speakers was Professor Iain Stewart, best known for his BBC series 'Power of the Planet' and 'Rise of the Continents' to name a few, who delivered a fascinating talk on 'Communicating geohazards and disaster risk'. This was followed by lectures on earthquake impacts and a fascinating presentation by Dr Paul Cole on monitoring and predicting volcanoes, with particular focus on Montserrat.

In addition a speaker from Mott MacDonald highlighted the wide ranging opportunities for Geography and Geology degrees in the field of Geoengineering Management and Consultancy through her work on project managing the repair of the Dawlish railway following the storm damage back in 2015.

Upper 4 take on the HeartStart Initiative

As a fully-fledged British Heart Foundation HeartStart School, we take great pride in teaching our students emergency life-saving skills such as recognising a heart attack or cardiac arrest, performing CPR, helping a choking person or dealing in serious bleeding.

Our own Mrs Thorne is a fully qualified HeartStart trainer and, as part of their tutorial programme, she has been teaching the Upper 4s vital lessons in how they can help save a life. On completion of all six sessions all of the girls will receive a certificate from the British Heart Foundation to recognise their completion of the course and they can go out in to the world, confident that they have the basic medical skills to help someone in crisis.



Congratulations to the 'Youth Speaks' team



Congratulations to Claudia Eveling (Chairperson), Sofija Gelev (Vote of Thanks) and Hannah Clark (Main Speaker) who represented the Junior School at last week's Rotary Youth Speaks competition encouraging public speaking for students in Year 6. The girls presented the arguments for and against "Should people be immortal" against stiff opposition from seven other schools. The team spoke confidently and presented their argument convincingly in front of a full crowd in the Performing Arts Centre, provoking much thought amongst the audience. Whilst not qualifying for the last round, the team were well in the mix amongst lots of quality speeches including the

winning teams' "Does Santa exist" and "Why gaol?". Well done to everyone who took part!

Year 6 have great fun at the Plymouth Aquarium

The Year 6 girls went on their much anticipated trip to Plymouth Aquarium on Monday. After a fascinating tour of all the exhibits - including watching the starfish being fed, they carefully manipulated some very sharp scalpels and managed to dissect a squid. The girls thoroughly enjoyed removing the pen and actually writing with squid ink. It was lovely to receive so many comments from the Aquarium staff on how polite and enthusiastic our students are and what amazing questions they ask.

Every year we learn dozens of new fascinating facts on how some of the hundreds of animals at Plymouth Aquarium are adapted. This year the Banggai Cardinalfish particularly made an impression. The males of the species (like the Emperor Penguin) show heroic fortitude as they brood the eggs and free embryos in their mouths for around 30 days - hopefully not eating anything during that time!



'Egg landing' with the Year 5s



Year 5G have been studying gravity and air resistance with Miss York during their science lessons and have enjoyed a great time designing and building their own 'egg-landers'. They used hollow chocolate eggs to test if their design was good enough to protect the egg from breaking when it was dropped from the balcony in Bradley Hall. They then tried the same test without the parachutes and were surprised (and delighted) to have only one casualty! Great engineering Year 5!

Chinese New Year celebrations in Year 4

Mrs Fry's class have once again pulled out all the stops to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Famed for her whole class artistry year-on-year, the girls stepped up to the challenge with some beautifully intricate dragon masks that they created in class. Our thanks to Issy who also brought in the lovely red money envelopes (complete with Chinese coin in each) to add an extra special touch to the occasion.



Incredible observational drawings by Year 3

Year Three have started the term on an equally artistic note and have produced some wonderful observational drawings that can only be described as defying their young age. The girls are learning about colour, line and shape in art lessons this term and they have used their skills to produce these delightful paintings in watercolour and pastels. They are also learning facts about their chosen wildlife and will give a talk to their peers about their findings later on this term.



'Animal Magic' in Year 2

This term the Year 2s have been immersed in their cross-curricular topic 'Animal Magic'. In PSHE they have been exploring themes of acceptance, tolerance and daring to be different through the joyful story *Giraffes Can't Dance*. They have painted their own magnificent, dancing giraffes which are on display in the corridor behind the Junior School Hall - please do pop in to have a look... giraffes CAN dance in Year 2!



Year 1 enjoy shaping up!

Year 1 have been learning about 3D shapes in their maths lessons this week. As such, they have been looking at various shapes, discussing what they look like and learning more technical words such as face, edge and vertices. They also had a great time working together to sort the shapes into different, and very tidy, groups!

Mindfulness in Reception

Reception have started their mindfulness sessions to start the day when they come in from the busy playground.

This has so far proven to be a wonderfully calming experience for all involved!



Sport news!

The sporting calendar has once again been jam packed so here is a brief round-up from the last two weeks!

On Tuesday, the Under 14 team pulled off a super exciting victory against the Bristol Metropolitan Academy in the National Schools Competition. A shaky start saw them trailing 4-18 down at half time but, after an almighty team effort, they clawed their way back to take the match 60 points to 55! Well done, girls!

This week also saw some very exciting netball matches against Exeter School for the Under 9 A, B and C teams and they all played superbly whilst showing some excellent team spirit. Congratulations to them all on some superb results, with both As and Bs winning and the Cs just losing out in a hotly contested game.

There was also plenty of action last week amongst the junior and senior teams and we fielded 12 teams in total from the Under 10s through to the Under 15s in a variety of matches and tournaments. It is wonderful to utilise the services of quite so many girls in each age group, giving them all some vital match experience and the opportunity to represent their school. It's obviously not always about the winning but we are proud to say that, in this instance, we did clock more than our fair share of the victories and we are just so proud of them all!



Junior School House Cross Country results

Well done to all those in Years 3-6 who so wholeheartedly put their all into the recent House Cross County Competition. It couldn't have been a closer competition and it went right down to the wire with the top three houses only being separated by the smallest of margins. Merchants snuck in as overall winners, closely followed by Goldsmiths, Haberdashers and then Armourers.

There were some impressive displays of cross country talent, moments of great humour and an overriding sense of grit and reliance amongst those for whom perhaps cross country running wouldn't rank as a favourite pastime! Our thanks to everyone who took part!



A love of singing in the Junior School



The girls in Years 3 - 5 have been enjoying their weekly singing sessions with Mrs Smith on a Tuesday morning. They always warm up their bodies and voices with exercises and simple songs to start - often with actions and using their voices in different ways in fun songs - before moving on to more intricate music. This term, the songs all have a theme of caring for our world and each other, with 'Friends Forever' being the current favourite. Singing time in the Junior School is one of Mrs Smith's musical highlights of the week which she really enjoys, not to mention the girls who equally love these sessions!

Maddy Jago plays London's Purcell Room

Congratulations to Maddy Jago (Lower 4) who will be playing at the Purcell Room on London's Southbank on 17 March as a member of the Exeter Suzuki Group. To be selected to play as part of British Suzuki's national celebrations is a huge honour and follows on from her Albert Hall performance a couple of years ago.

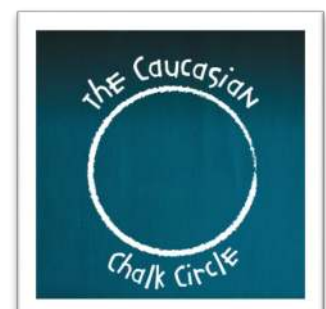
The Suzuki method is an internationally known music curriculum and teaching philosophy dating from the mid-20th century, created by Japanese violinist Shinichi Suzuki. The British Suzuki Institute organises national concerts every two years and we are thrilled that Maddy has, once again, be selected to take part in such an illustrious forum.

Drama news

The GCSE Drama Component 2 Text in performance examination took place on Tuesday evening in front of the visiting examiner. The audience were treated to a series of scenes from post 1954 play texts such as 'After Juliet' by Sharman Macdonald and 'Be My Baby' by Amanda Whittington. The students were incredibly focused and hardworking on the run up to the exam and gave strong and characterful performances on the night. Their hard work was evident and promises to really pay off in terms of achievement towards their GCSE exams. Well done to all those involved!

Tickets on sale for Caucasian Chalk Circle

Please don't forget that tickets are now on sale for the Senior School Production of The Caucasian Chalk Circle, taking place in our Performing Arts Centre from 6-8 March 2019. Traditionally these performances are enormously popular and they do sell out quickly so please don't risk disappointment and buy yours now from School Reception!





'Adventure Lecture' tickets

Likewise, don't delay in purchasing your tickets for the Anna McNuff 'Adventure Lecture' on Monday 18 March in the Performing Arts Centre from 6pm. As one of the Guardian's top female adventurers of our time as well as being one of the top 50 Conde Nast Traveller's most influential travellers in the world, this is a talk not to be missed!

Mufti for Valentine's Day - Senior and Sixth Form students only

There will be a mufti day next Thursday 14 February and please may we ask that students in the Sixth Form and Senior School bring in £1 for the charity, SOS Africa. To coincide with Valentine's Day, the theme for this year is pink and red! Please note, this has been organised by last summer's South Africa Sports Tour girls with the purpose to continue raising enough money to sponsor a little SA girl through her schooling which she would not otherwise be able to afford.



And now, over to our roving correspondent, Lilly Mazer, whose article was intended for last week's newsletter but snow stopped play so we have it today instead!



"Imagine this; waking up and getting out of bed. Walking to the window and opening the curtains. A white powder glazes the ground like fairy dust, and your heart soars. There is something so magical about snow, be you young or old, child or adult. Snow somehow captures the childlike part of your heart and somehow makes even the ugliest places beautiful. But I think that snow is also a metaphor for the beauty that is sold to us in shops.

Snow looks so beautiful from the window, glistening and shining. It seems as though it would be fluffy and soft. But once you go outside it is cold and wet and it melts on your body leaving you damp and cold. It looks so pretty from a distance, but it can be that it isn't so nice once you are actually in it. Being pretty like the models we see seems like it would be amazing, but in reality just because someone is pretty it doesn't make them any better or happier as a person. And actually, being beautiful like the beauty that is sold to us in shops won't automatically make your life better. What you look like doesn't change who you really are or how you feel, just like although snow looks so beautiful it sometimes isn't really as nice as we imagine.

I think it's important to remember that someone's physical beauty doesn't change who they are as a person and how they feel. People may see you one way, but that doesn't necessarily change how you feel. How look you look is not how or who you are. What really makes you yourself is not how you appear to others; it is how you act to others, and how you feel. Your looks do not define you, and nor should they."

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress

Some Upcoming Events...

Our next Discovery Morning - sign up at www.maynard.co.uk/discovery



Forest School for Pre-Schoolers. If you know anyone who may be interested, they can sign up at www.maynard.co.uk/forest-school

