

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

01 March 2019

As you know we had our full compliance inspection call this week and our inspectors were in during Wednesday and Thursday giving our systems and policies a thorough going over. The official report will not be released for five weeks but I would like to assure all parents that everything was fine and, as soon as it is released, we will publish it to you all and on our website. Can I also thank the very large number of parents who returned the questionnaire - the inspectors were impressed by how many they received and the responses were remarkably positive.

It is a great pleasure to be welcoming back Dick Moore to the school today by popular demand following such incredibly impactful presentations on his last visit. He will be talking to all the students in the Senior School and Sixth Form throughout the day. I am also truly hoping that parents will be able to join us this evening from 5pm as I know that you will find his talk hugely insightful and informative on teenage mental health.

The Junior School and Pre-Prep House Skipathon run by Miss Lavelle yesterday was great fun and I was amazed that we had only giggles of glee and absolutely no grazed knees despite the high level of enthusiastic skipping. Well done to Goldsmiths who accumulated the most shuttles in a set time but an even bigger congratulations to everyone who took part for so enthusiastically helping to raise funds for the NSPCC. We are still collecting in the fundraising forms so will report back to you in due course with details of the total sums raised.

It's been a super busy week in the Food and Nutrition room with all of the Upper 5s working in batches over the course of three days to complete their practical exam assessments. I popped in to see the fruits of their labour and can honestly say I was completely bowled over by the incredible high quality of all of their dishes. To prepare a three-course meal in just three hours, finished to such an exceptionally high standard is a



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massive task and I was most impressed by the sense of calm efficiency as they set about their ways. They honestly produced some stunning courses that any five star restaurant would have been proud to serve. Perhaps we should contact the BBC to run our own Maynard Masterchef!

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Lewis and Mr Hibberd for their help in organising such an inspirational set of law workshops that culminated in the full blown 'Mock Trial' on Tuesday afternoon. It was an excellent illustration of how the courts of law operate and certainly proved immensely popular amongst all those considering a legal career.

On to the week's news!

Fantastically cultural trip to Berlin



Over half term 23 Lower and Upper Sixth students took part in a study trip to Berlin. We had an action-packed schedule and the students experienced in real life much of what they had learned about in the classroom.

One of the most memorable tours was that of the charming Cecilienhof in Potsdam where the famous Potsdam Conference took place at the end of World War II. It was extraordinary and somehow ghostly to be in the room where Stalin, Attlee and Truman made decisions that had such a huge effect on world history.

The section of the Berlin Wall

decorated with a wide variety of street art, mainly depicting the futility of war and the desire for peace and the preservation of the planet, was another great favourite and many photos were taken in front of some of the most striking paintings. The most sombre part of the trip came on Sunday when we visited the former concentration at Sachsenhausen. Whilst walking up to the camp from the railway station we followed a part of the Death March taken by some of the inmates at the end of World War II.

Arriving at the camp in sombre mood we spent the next two hours absorbing the unimaginable horrors and cruelty in the grim atmosphere of the surroundings, made somehow even more painful by the glorious sunshine. On the last day we had a fascinating tour of the Bundestag (former Reichstag) where we sat in the debating chamber and saw how different the semi-circular shape is to our own House of Commons which leads to much less confrontation. It was extraordinary, too, to see the graffiti written by the conquering Russian soldiers at the end of the war still visible on the parts of the original Reichstag walls. We had wonderful views from Norman Foster's amazing glass dome in the bright sunshine and clear blue skies and afterwards sat outside in Unter den Linden having lunch.

We also experienced the height of the Cold War at Checkpoint Charlie and the interactive DDR museum as well as sampling some Berlin café life in the evenings. It was a huge pleasure to take such a brilliant group of students away and I hope the experience will have added to their A-level studies as well as providing them with a flavour of present day life in such a fascinating city.

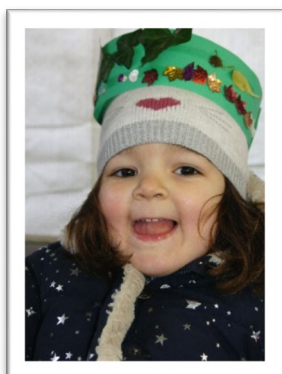
Mock Trial

It was a huge pleasure to host Tuesday's Mock Trial which was enthusiastically enjoyed by not only our girls but also students from four neighbouring schools. This was the conclusion to a series of interesting Law workshops run by an inspiring group of Exeter University Law students. It was a really fun evening, but also very informative and gave the students a real sense of what it would be like to be a barrister.

They started by analysing the evidence, then with the help of the university students came up with a list of admissible questions to ask the witnesses and defendant. The students then took over all of the roles in the mock trial itself. Donned in legal gowns and with an actual judge (a tutor from the University who kindly offered to take part!) at the helm they found the defendant guilty! We would like to thank the Exeter Law students for their hard work and efforts to make it such a good event.



Forest School for Pre-Schoolers



The first of our Forest School sessions for 3 and 4 year olds started in the brilliant sunshine on Wednesday and we were delighted to welcome several pre-schoolers to sample one of Mrs Davey's fabulous lessons around the camp fire! They had a great time inspecting the frogspawn in the pond, making special forest school headdresses, not to mention much hilarity over the mud faces all followed by a story and marshmallows roasted on the fire!

We look forward to four further weekly sessions (finishing on Wednesday 27 March) and if anyone reading this would like to join in with their daughter you still can - please visit www.maynard.co.uk/forest-school or contact marketing@maynard.co.uk.

Pre-Prep Fire Safety

Fire Safety was very much a topic in the Pre-Prep this week and the Reception class enjoyed making a bucket brigade line yesterday, helping to extinguish a chalk fire that had been drawn on the floor. They passed the bucket beautifully down the line and found this an exciting way to work together although some were perhaps a little zealous, opting to throw both the bucket and the water! They also looked at pictures of firemen from long ago and talked about the difference between firefighters now and in the past.

The whole of the Pre-Prep also enjoyed an excellent talk about fire safety from Di at the Devon and Somerset fire service. They learned all about how to keep safe, including finding and checking smoke alarms, as well as perfecting the technique 'Stop, Drop and Roll' if their clothes ever catch fire.



They were a hugely enthusiastic bunch and very curious about all the different aspects of being in the fire service!



Pitch perfect in Year 1

The girls in Year 1 have started a new music topic on Pitch. In their lesson with Mrs Smith this week, they had a great time performing 'Five little froggies' who sit around a well and jump high and low. The girls matched the physical action with the corresponding voice pitch and certainly seemed to be very much enjoying themselves!

Fascinating Science in Year 2

The Year 2 girls are enjoying especially exciting Science lessons as they watch and chart the changes in the frogspawn that has taken pride of place in their classroom. Many of us remember doing exactly this during our school days which just goes to show our continuing fascination for nature and the enduring educational value that it beholds!



Excellent cross country results

We took 3 teams to the annual Stover School Prep Schools Cross Country competition earlier this week, competing in the Under 9 and Under 11 races of 1600m and 1900m respectively, over mixed terrain around Stover's grounds. The gorgeous weather made for a very different experience to last year where we arrived in the snow whilst the "the beast from the east" whipped up around us! By contrast, this year had perfect, sunny yet cool running conditions

Although the championship is a mixed event, with 10 other schools attending with both girls and boys teams, we are always delighted to be invited and allowed to run in the girls' races. The girls were absolutely brilliant, determined, excited and showed great team spirit towards each other. Equally, there were some fabulous performances with our Under 9 runners placing 2nd, 5th, 7th and 14th in a race of 40 runners. Our Under 11 runners also did superbly placing 6th, 10th, 22nd and 25th out of a field of 45 over the longer course.

We are super proud of them all and thanks to the MPA for the super athletics vests – they looked very smart!



Great Netball matches against Stover

All of our Year 6 girls played against three teams of Stover girls on Wednesday, making for three lots of busy netball courts on a beautiful sunny day!

It was a lovely afternoon with a great balance of competitive Netball, sportsmanship, endeavour and fun! Well done to all of the teams, who to top it off had a clean sweep of wins!



ISCA success

Congratulations to Anna Ramsay (captain) and Harriet Chambers who represented the Isca Under 16 team on the first Sunday of half term, helping to take them to victory in their final pool game. They have now qualified as top of their pool which takes them through to the Under 16 EHB Cup Regional Finals to take place on 10 March for which we wish them the best of luck.

We are Edurank winners again!

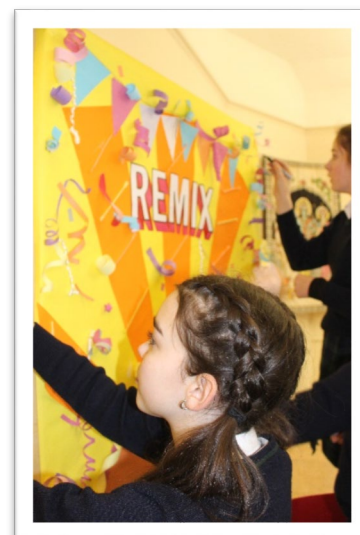


We were delighted to receive an email this morning notifying us that we have once again won the Edurank's Social Media Performance of the Year (Independent School Category) and Best YouTube Performance (Independent School Category) for the second year. This makes us the most successful of all schools competing in this relatively new award and goes to show the talents and efficiency of our Marketing Department!

Senior School World Book Day

The senior school forms will be taking part in our traditional 'dress up your door' competition for World Book Day on Thursday 7 March, with judging to take place at lunchtime on Friday 8 March. This is always fantastic fun for the girls and invariably they always manage to produce some truly beautiful and imaginatively decorated form room doors. Please can we encourage the girls to bring in materials from home although there will be coloured paper available in the library from Monday lunchtime. Prizes include a book lucky dip for the winning form, plus sweet treats for the winners and runners-up.

Other activities for World Book Day include a Second Hand Book sale in the library starting on Friday March - please could you make sure your daughter brings in some money if she would like to buy a book (prices from 20p to £2). We've had a big clear out of the rarely borrowed and/or scruffier books from the senior school shelves, to make room for new books, and most of the books for sale will be



suitable for age 13+. The books will be available to buy until Monday 18 March and any remaining books will be donated to charity.

We will also be running an exciting 'which book are you from' competition involving staff members around the school, and the library will be displaying new cards with 'reader to reader' book recommendations. A World Book Day book token will be given to each girl, and finally, we are looking forward to workshops and talks by Fleur Hitchcock on Friday 15 March for Lower 4 and Upper 3 (plus Year 5 and Year 6 girls) to round off our celebrations. Accelerated Reader information is shown for the books in the scheme. You do not need to log on to search the catalogue, but students can log on using their Maynard credentials to reserve books, write reviews, and check which books they have borrowed.

Join the Young Enterprise team for the Mother's Day Plog



Calling all mums! We would love you to join the Young Enterprise Team for their latest venture – a Mother's Day Plog. Plogging is a relatively new initiative that first started in Sweden but is now travelling the world that involves jogging whilst picking up litter along the way.

Bags and gloves will be provided by Plastic Free Exeter so please just come along with your daughter and prepare to have a good work-out whilst cleaning our city. The plan is to meet at 10am on the Quay on Sunday 31 March. We would love to see you there!

The Senior School Production



As you all know, excitement is building for our Senior School production of Brecht's 'Caucasian Chalk Circle' next week (Wednesday 5, Thursday 6 and Friday 7 March) and we anticipate yet another brilliant Maynard performance.

Tickets have now nearly sold out for the final show on Friday but we would like to encourage you to spread your invaluable support across the two other performances on Wednesday and Thursday evenings - tickets are available from Reception at £7 for an adult and £5 for a child. The girls have worked so incredibly hard over these past months and it would be lovely to have a good crowd to support them across all three nights.

As we say: 'A performance is only as good as the audience you are playing to'. So our thanks in advance for all your continued support!

Inspire someone at the 'Adventure lecture'

This is your last opportunity to bag the exclusive Maynard tickets for the fantastic 'Adventure Lecture' by Anna McNuff before they go on sale to the general public on Monday. Anna is not only a fantastic speaker with an infectious enthusiasm for taking on the impossible, but she is also one of the top rated female adventurers in the world at this time. If you want to find out what inspired her to take on, and complete, so many crazy challenges or just need that extra little nudge to take on your own adventure,

then this talk is not to be missed! Likewise, it might just be the perfect way to inspire a friend or member of the family so do feel free to bring anyone along!

It will be a hugely memorable and, we hope, inspirational evening out at an excellent price of just £8 per person. The lecture will take place on Monday 18 March, starting at 6pm in the Performing Arts Centre and tickets are for sale from School Reception.



Good luck to the gymnasts!



And, finally, may we wish all 17 of our Year 6 to Year 12 gymnasts good luck for their competition on Sunday. We are taking three teams to the BSGA South West Regional Floor and Vault Competition, which is being held at The Kingsley School in Bideford. This is a first for the Maynard Senior School following our debut gymnastics competition last year with Year 6.

The girls have been training hard these last few months with our coaches from Exeter Gymnastics Club to prepare for the competition and we wish them all the best for a successful event!

From our roving reporter, Lilly Mazer...

“For most of us, the half term is a chance to relax, catch up on sleep and spend some time with the family. It is the perfect break to recover so that we can all be in good form for the rest of the term. I know that for me and many of us, a lot of relaxed time is spent on social media. It is an amazing way to connect with others and see what friends and family are getting up to. But it also has some massive downsides. Personally, lot of the posts I see are negative. I see posts of young women with impossibly perfect bodies, models looking amazing, and people setting simply unrealistic beauty standards.



Body image and self-confidence is a very large issue within our society. In a world where these perfect bodies are always being forced at us, it's hard not to be influenced by what you see. We are shown women with bodies that are not only unfeasible but are at times unhealthy and told that in order to be beautiful, happy and loved, we must look like them. And when it is being shown to us from when we first check our social media in the morning to the last time we glance at our phones at night, how can we not be brainwashed into a cycle of self-hate towards our own body? It's nearly impossible to avoid, and that is a big problem.



Most people don't have these 'supermodel' bodies. So why is this platform which gives us the incredible opportunity to promote all shapes and sizes only promoting one type? It is a way of controlling people, making them feel unworthy so that they believe they have to change themselves to be beautiful and happy. But they don't. You can be any shape or size, and be beautiful. Your size is merely a measure of flesh, not a measure of you. You are defined in how you treat others, and in how you treat yourself.

So I think the most important thing to remember is that no matter what ideals of beauty these people try to shove down your throat, you are beautiful. Your beauty is shown in those small acts of kindness to others. Your smile to strangers. The look on your face when you feel beautiful. And the way it feels when you make others feel beautiful."
