

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

22 March 2019

I cannot find enough adjectives to do justice to last night's fabulous Spring Performing Arts Concert and I am on a complete high still today! As with all of these things, you had to be there to really appreciate the incredible talent permeating our school and it was fantastic to see so much support from our parents and wider school community. I hope you enjoyed the evening as much as I did!

It is always very hard to sum up an event of such varied entertainment; items that brought a tear to the eye (Senior Choir - 'Angels') sitting alongside those that raised a smile (Upper 3 'Drama Star Trekkin' Across the Universe'). With 88 girls involved, ranging in age from Year 6 to Upper 6, the breadth and depth of talent was a sight to behold. The concert featured accomplished soloists, four choirs, two chamber ensembles, the chamber orchestra, recitations, drama and dance and the one and only Jazz Band. A HUGE well done to all those that took part and thank you to our superb music team and, of course, our wonderful audience for being so supportive.

On a similar note, I absolutely loved the Anna McNuff 'Adventure lecture' on Monday night and my enormous thanks to Miss Williamson for organising such a fun-loving and inspirational woman to talk to us all about her very many intrepid expeditions. I can honestly say this ranked as one of the best talks (and I have heard many over the years) that I have ever been to and I feel dangerously inspired to dream up my own mad challenge one day!

It has been another week of success and I would like to congratulate our Young Enterprise team on their excellent second place at last weekend's Spring Fair. This is a terrific achievement and goes to show how brilliant they have been in product selection (reusable sugar cane bottles) and promotion - a huge well done to them all!





Equally, may I wish our Ten Tors teams the very best of luck for their penultimate training weekend. I am very relieved that the weather has improved so much since a couple of weeks ago when they were faced with all that Storm Gareth could throw at them, making for particularly unpleasant conditions even for the moor. This weekend will seem like a walk in the park by comparison and I am looking forward to joining them for a good part of it!

And finally, it was wonderful to see that The Maynard is hitting the headlines again, this time on the front cover of Exeter Living. It's a fantastic shot that encapsulates everything about our school - adventure and enormous fun in a fabulous learning environment.

On to the week's news!

ISI Inspection Report

A separate letter detailing the recent Independent School Inspectorate's report was sent to all parents and guardians earlier in the week but, just in case you haven't yet had time to read it, we are delighted to announce that we met every single standard set by the Department for

Education with no action points to follow up on. In other words, there were absolutely no improvements necessary! This is not an easy outcome to achieve as the inspection covered all aspects of school compliance with over 500 guidance statements, covering 39 legal requirements.

These regulations look closely at safeguarding and welfare, safer recruitment of staff, provision of education, health and safety (on and off site), behaviour management, fire safety, attendance and admissions monitoring and risk assessments. Confidential questionnaires were returned in abundance from parents, staff and pupils, and a multitude of stakeholders were interviewed. Many lessons were observed and lots of student work was also submitted for scrutiny. It was wonderful to see everyone showing off their school with such great loyalty and pride.

The report has been uploaded onto our website and can be accessed through the following link: [ISI Inspection Report](#)



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

WAS Wellbeing Award for Schools - Can you help us?



As part of our Wellbeing provision we are currently working to achieve the Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS) which focuses on ensuring that we promote the emotional wellbeing of both staff and pupils. With this award, we aim to:

- Show our commitment in promoting mental health as part of school life
- Improve the emotional wellbeing of staff and pupils
- Engage the whole school community in the importance of mental health awareness

We would love your views to help us understand what we are doing well and how we can do even better. Please follow the link below to complete the survey which should only take a few minutes:

[WAS Wellbeing Award Survey](#)

Lower 4 enjoy Wellbeing and Mindfulness classes

As part of our Wellbeing and PSHE programme, the entire Lower 4 have been learning about mindfulness and experiencing yoga this term in order to help the girls to learn strategies to deal with the pressures and stresses of teenage life, especially during exam periods. Furthermore, the sessions have really enhanced their PE this term, where the girls have been experiencing all types of fitness classes and exercises to enable them to learn what fitness routines work best for them.

The girls have been fantastic and have really taken the sessions seriously. Equally, a big thank you to Mrs Fabian and Mrs Wilkes for delivering such amazing yoga and mindfulness lessons which they have all really enjoyed.



Why not ask your daughter to teach you some yoga movements or try out the mindfulness techniques they have learnt, which can be of benefit to us all!

Sponsored skip-a-thon raises huge sum for the NSPCC



Kerry from the NSPCC returned to the Junior School yesterday to say a huge thank you to the pupils for their fundraising support and to remind the girls of everyone's right to stay safe. The Junior School and Pre-Prep raised a staggering £1444.33 through the sponsored collections for their skip-a-thon. Kerry explained to the girls that this will be enough to train a new member of staff who will help over 200 children during the next year. A huge thank you to all of the girls' families and friends for such generous contributions to such an excellent cause. Well done, everyone!

Bee-fantastic continues in the Pre-Prep

Following their numerous Bee Week activities the Pre-Prep girls received a lovely surprise in the post recently with confirmation of their very own adopted beehive, together with some delicious honey! The hive is located in the spring at the Perthshire fruit farms and is relocated in late summer each year to the higher moorlands where the heather grows so that they can also make Scottish Heather Honey (the champagne of the honey world). No doubt they will enjoy sampling the fruits of their bees' labour!

In keeping with the bee theme the Year 2 girls have also had a lovely time making thumbprint bees and using bubble wrap to print a hive during their Art lessons. They used their lovely artwork to link with their PHSE week in which they discussed what attributes they felt were important and they wrote their ideas beside their bee to create these gorgeous pieces of work.



Reception enjoy a (planned) visit from the Police!

The girls in Reception class were super excited to welcome PS Chris Conway into their midst on Wednesday as part of their topic, 'People who help us' and were very inquisitive about what life as a policeman entails. He told them all about his uniform, how he helps people and also how to contact the emergency services. The girls all behaved impeccably, listening intently and asking lots of questions demonstrating what a curious and bright little bunch they are!

Year 1 visit to the Devon Bird of Prey Centre

The girls in Year 1 had a wonderful trip to the Devon Bird of Prey Centre on Wednesday as part of their 'Nocturnal Animals' topic. The girls were introduced to Dink the Falcon, Cherub the White Faced Owl, Breeze the Owl, Mayhem the Harris Hawk and Amber the Eagle Owl. They learned all about what the birds eat, how they hunt and how they are looked after and they even had the opportunity to try on a falconer glove and hold some of the birds.



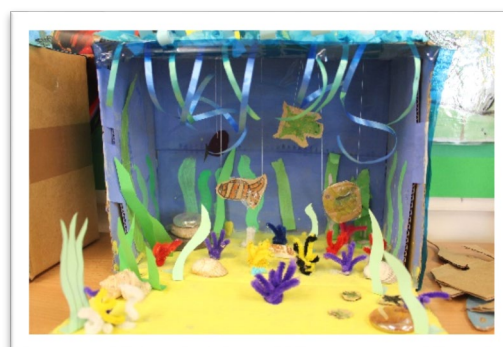


Year 3 and Year 6 make pledges against plastic

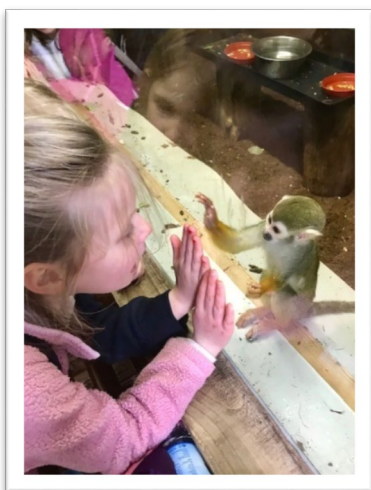
The Year 3 girls joined up with their buddies in Year 6 to write their own anti-plastic pledges as part of their work during Environmental Week. Each pledge, written on the back of their own sea creature creations, will be stuck to the beautiful display adorning the wall in the Junior School Hall, serving as a constant reminder of how important it is for us all to look after our planet. We are also inviting teachers and parents to make their pledges to include on the display so do feel free to drop in and leave one for us to put up.

This is what the oceans should look like

Meanwhile, in Year 5 they have been busy making some beautiful, and exquisitely decorated, dioramas depicting 'what the oceans should look like'. We think they are fabulous and we are super impressed by the attention to detail, the colours and the choice of sea-life. Well done, girls!



Great trip to the Shaldon Wildlife Trust



The girls in Year 3 were treated to the most fantastic day at the Shaldon Wildlife Trust last Friday with Mrs Rowe, Mrs Beach and our brilliant bus driver Mr Smerdon, to find out about the preservation and care given to some of the rarest and most endangered animals in the world.

In the morning we spent time with our lovely and knowledgeable guide, Leah, who showed us all around the animals' beautiful woodland garden. We saw silver and pigmy marmosets, red-ruffed and ring tailed lemurs, capuchins and we all had a turn feeding the meerkats who were hilarious! We learned about their natural habitats, feeding and behaviour patterns and we ventured into the nocturnal house to visit the slow loris and then into the insect and amphibian houses where we learned more amazing facts about conservation and even had an opportunity to hold cockroaches, giant snails and stick insects!

In the afternoon we had a delicious beach picnic and then had great fun playing tag, wave chasing and skimming pebbles, finally ending our day with some mindfulness relaxation and feeling very thankful for such a wonderful day together!

Another author visit - a belated World Book Day treat

Popular children's author Fleur Hitchcock visited for a whole day last Friday, delivering exciting talks and writing workshops to girls from Year 5 to Lower 4. She gave fascinating insights into the childhood experiences which inspired her books, and suggested many areas where ideas might come from, such as

other books and sibling rivalry! She read out a thrilling passage from *Dear Scarlett* which held the Year 5 and Year 6 girls spellbound.

Fleur's Upper 3 writing workshop began with asking the girls to think of a character, what they liked and didn't like, and then some kind of crisis or peril in which they could place their character. In the Lower 4 workshop she asked them to start writing a suspense story, with lots of detail about the surroundings so the reader could imagine they were there. Some read out their stories, which were very creepy and sent shivers down the spine! Fleur gave encouragement and useful feedback to the girls which will help with their future story writing.



Fleur's books were very popular with the girls and our stock supplied by the Crediton Community Bookshop nearly ran out! Her latest book, *The Boy Who Flew*, was recently given a 5-star review in the *Daily Telegraph* as one of the best children's books of the year so far.

PERFORMING & CREATIVE ARTS



Isobel lands starring role in The Northcott's 'Grease'

Congratulations to Isobel in Lower Sixth who has landed the role of Sandy in the upcoming production of 'Grease' at the Northcott Theatre (Monday 15 - Saturday 20 April 2019). It's sure to be a spectacular show and we would urge you to go along to support Isobel and the other cast members in such an iconic and much-loved musical.

Tickets are for sale through www.exeternorthcott.co.uk.

Photo - Lewis Law Photography

Maddy leads the Exeter Suzuki Strings at prestigious festival

Congratulations to Maddy in Lower 4 who performed as part of the Exeter Suzuki Strings last weekend, having been selected to take part in a national festival at The Purcell Room on London's South Bank. We were equally delighted to hear that Maddy was chosen to act as Leader at this prestigious venue. No doubt it was a fabulous and very memorable experience, quite apart from a wonderful performance!

Olivia selected for musical masterclass

We received news this week that Olivia in Upper 4 has been selected as one of only six singers to take part in a masterclass with Sarah Walker at the Devon Song Festival. The age range of singers was advertised as 16 - 32 so we are thrilled that Olivia has been accepted under the age category; a sure sign of her talent and promise! Sarah Walker is a professional soprano who has appeared in Britain with Glyndebourne Festival Opera, The Royal Opera, English National Opera, Scottish Opera, and abroad at The Metropolitan Opera (New York City), Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera and the Vienna State Opera. (Perhaps some parents may recall her in the 1990s when she collaborated with French & Saunders for their opera diva sketch singing their version of Kylie Minogue's "I Should Be So Lucky"!).

Senior Choir to perform at Haydn's 'The Creation' concert

Tickets are now on sale for Haydn's 'The Creation' Concert being held in the Cathedral on Saturday 19 October 2019 and featuring the ISCA Ensemble Chorus, the Exeter University Chapel Choir and our very own Senior Choir.

This promises to be a totally stunning event as well as an important fundraiser for Hospiscare.

To buy your ticket, please visit www.iscaensemble.org.uk or call in or phone the Exeter Visitor Information office (01392 665885).



Lower 6 start life drawing classes



The Lower 6 enjoyed the first of their life drawing classes with a real model earlier this week, working with great concentration to render the human figure in all its complexity.

They started with a series of short standing poses, focusing on the proportions of the body and moved into longer 30-minute drawings looking at weight and tone. Using pastel and charcoal, their canvasses are already looking most impressive and they have another session to look forward to in a couple of weeks, with more scheduled after the Easter break. We will look forward to sharing with you their progress.

SPORT NEWS

Under 8 netballers showing great progress

Our Under 8 netball team enjoyed a brilliantly competitive match against St Peter's Lymptone last Thursday. It was a truly exciting game and could have gone either way but our girls had to settle for a marginal 12-9 defeat on the final whistle. It was fantastic to see them playing so well and there has been a marked improvement in all areas of their game over the past few weeks. Well done, girls!



“Feisty” games of netball for the Under 10s

The Under 10 A & B teams enjoyed some feisty (according to Miss Lavelle) matches on Monday against St Peter's, Lymptone.

The A team lost 11-6 (despite being up 4-1 after the first quarter) and the B's won an incredibly tight match 6-5.

Both were great games and very exciting to watch!

Haberdashers triumph in the Junior School Swimming Gala

Haberdashers were on tip top form at Wednesday's Junior School Swimming Gala, finishing a brilliant afternoon of swimming as the winners of the coveted House Prize. All the girls from Year 3 through to Year 6 were involved in the gala and it was a great event with a truly competitive, yet fun-loving, spirit! Merchants finished second followed by Armourers and Goldsmith. Well done to all those involved!





Great Britain equestrian selection for Ellie

Congratulations to Ellie in Lower 4 who has been selected to represent Great Britain in the Children on Horses squad for the Youth Nations Cup being held in Opglabbeek, Belgium. This will be Ellie's second outing wearing the Union Flag and we wish her the very best of luck!

Join in the fun at the MPA Quiz Night

There is only one week to go before the highly anticipated and hotly contested Quiz Night next Friday 29 March, starting at 7.30pm. The closing date for tickets is next Wednesday (27 March) so please don't risk missing out and buy yours now!

It's a great fun evening for all, with fish and chips included in the price, a licensed bar selling alcoholic and soft drinks plus snacks and a highly coveted trophy to be won (or set your sights lower and go for the wooden spoons!). It really is a great opportunity to get together with other parents and a fun time to be had by all! You can book via Classlist - go to Events, click Quiz, then buy tickets. What could be easier? Failing that, please complete the attached form and hand this in to Toria on Reception. We look forward to seeing you there!

Just to make your mouth water ...

The Lower 4s have been busy again in the Food & Nutrition room, this week making these gorgeous fruit tarts with Crème Pâtissière and homemade sweet shortcrust pastry.

They look truly amazing and we hope the girls' families enjoyed the fruits of their labour!



And from our roving correspondent Lilly (Lower 4)

It was the start of spring this week. It seems like all of a sudden life is returning, renewing and rejuvenating. It's also the time when we consider the things we have done and start to work on making ourselves better, refreshing ourselves so that we may be better prepared for the challenges of the future.



Flowers blooming, animals being born, the sun shining stronger. Spring is the time for beginnings. It's almost like a reminder to us; it's okay. You might have failed at something. Your leaves might have withered and died. You might have given up at something which you loved. But it's okay. Because spring is a time where we can start again. We can make things better. We can blossom into being a version of us that is truly beautiful. We can succeed. Spring is a time for renewal, resilience. We can look back at past failures or losses and find strength within to make something better of ourselves. We must look

deeper for renewed strength we were not aware of, and use it to make our lives and the lives of those around us better.

We can even take inspiration from the flowers around us; though they may have withered over the winter, it doesn't mean they can't blossom into something now. Just because things were going badly, it doesn't mean that you can't achieve your potential. It might be hard; it might be tiring. But if flowers and trees can go from being wilted or decayed to being beautiful and doing what they are meant to be doing in life, so can you.

Have a fabulous weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
