

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

26 April 2019

May I wish you all the warmest of welcomes back and I hope you have enjoyed the holidays and the glorious Easter weather! The term has started in typically busy fashion and I have some excellent news to report from these first few days, let alone all the amazing things that the girls have been up to during the break, such as firing rockets, riding in international competitions and gaining exceptional singing qualifications!

On Tuesday, Mrs Leigh took 28 of the Upper 3 girls to Bath to compete in the South West Regional Round of the Great British Dance Off competition – a first experience for our Maynard dancers who have worked so hard since January to perfect their contemporary routine combining both horror and drama. Needless to say, they completely astounded the judges and the audience, scoring a massive 472 points out of a possible 500. This secured them second place from the 14 teams competing, narrowly missing out on the top prize but still gaining them qualification to represent the South West at the National Finals being held in Cheltenham later on in June. I should like to extend my huge congratulations to them on what can only be described as a brilliant performance and we are all so incredibly proud of them. You can actually watch this superb dance on our Facebook page!

Hot on the heels of this success was that of the Young Enterprise team, Everocean, who were placed second at the Devon County Finals on Wednesday and also received the Young Enterprise prize for teamwork! This is a remarkable and richly deserved result for the team that has been tested to the limits since its inception with stock delivery issues and all manner of things that could so easily have destroyed any other start-up business. Not so The Maynard girls who took on the various challenges with all the usual 'can do' attitude to pull off such a super outcome, even being featured on BBC Spotlight as a result of their endeavours. More on this, written by the girls themselves, later on in the newsletter.





Finally, from me at least, it makes me very proud to announce our new Head Girl Team for the year ahead and my congratulations to them all. Given this is a very large year group, the numbers on the team have extended to ten and I am sure each and every one of them will act as superb ambassadors for the School whilst going about their duties with wholehearted commitment.

The new Head Girl, Emma Murphy, will be ably supported by Sara Al-Seaidy, Helen Du, Liberty Goodridge, Ella Goddard, Madeline Grief, Faye Hepburn, Amanda Milligan, Nina Srdanovic and Amber Williams. My congratulations to them all and I very much look forward to working with them over the coming terms.

On to the week's news ...

Girls Rise to the Rocket Challenge

After many weeks of designing and testing their rocket, the seven members of Rocket Club were able to put all that they had learnt to the ultimate test during the holidays when they attempted to qualify for the national finals of the UK Youth Rocketry Challenge in front of one of the competition's official judges. Location is key and, away from the Exeter airport flightpath, the girls gathered in a Mid Devon field in an attempt to launch and recover their rocket containing a raw egg to a very exacting set of rules governing altitude, total flight time and vehicle design. Another of the stipulations is that the egg should survive its entire journey both up and down unscathed and without cracking.

They have had to put into practice elements of chemistry, physics, engineering, aerodynamics, 3D design and 3D printing which culminated in a rocket that received high praise from the UKROC judge for quality of build and design. Despite some last minute rule clarifications and "in-field" modifications the first launch started with a perfect ascent, with the rocket flying straight and true, roaring to an altitude of 228m in less than five seconds. Unfortunately, the girls should perhaps have practised their knot tying skills as two of the three recovery parachutes detached, leaving our egg passenger plunging to its doom and slightly damaging the main rocket which had come back to earth with a bang.

After some minor repairs they were then able to put up a second flight to a similar altitude and, this time, with a perfect descent with all parachutes attached. This flight again suffered some misfortune due to





unavoidable wind drift that caused the payload to collide with a nearby concrete barn roof, putting the tiniest of cracks in the egg. Disappointingly, this miniscule damage meant the second flight was also disqualified.

Despite not being able to progress to the national finals the girls should be proud of how close they came to qualifying and they are now keen to perform an additional launch to prove that their rocket can achieve the perfect score. As ever, our sincere thanks to Mr Ibrahim for spearheading the rocket club which has proven to be one of the weekly highlights for all its participants.

From the award-winning Young Enterprise team ...



Everocean was proudly the runner-up at Wednesday's Young Enterprise Devon County Finals! We are also honoured to have received the YE prize for teamwork.

The journey was long and arduous, but infinitely fulfilling and educational as well. Such great experiences have only been possible with the hard work of each of our team members, and the support of teachers, advisors and mentors. Rest assured, we will continue to strive for our dream of Exeter as a city free of single-use plastic and the UK as a plastic-free nation.

Our product is a reusable, recyclable sugarcane bioplastic bottle that is sustainably sourced from Holland. For each bottle, one tree is planted by Trees For The Future, leaving you with a product that has a negative carbon footprint! Link to order and for further information is here:

<https://mystudentcompany.com/young-enterpr.../ever-ocean-161>

Through to the next round of 500 Words!

A record number of girls this year have made it through to the next round of BBC Radio 2's 500 Words story competition and our congratulations to Hannah and Rose in Year 6, Evie and Hattie from Upper 3 and Lilly in Lower 4. Out of well over 100,000 entries only 5000 were selected through to the second round so they have all done extremely well. The final 50 will be announced in May – good luck, girls!



Superb GB performance from Ellie



We were delighted to hear that Ellie in Lower 4 put up another of her consistently brilliant show jumping performances last month, again donning the English flag as part of the Youth Nations Cup team competing in the 'Children on Horses' class in Belgium.

Riding the ever-reliable My Lucky Day ('Lucky' for short) Ellie placed individual 10th in the preliminary Saturday competition and then went on to finish overall 13th in the Grand Prix against some of the hottest international competition across the nations represented.

Our enormous congratulations and we wish Ellie the very best of luck for the upcoming 'viewing trial' at the FEI Chepstow International next weekend for future Nations Cup selection.

Daisy also riding high

Congratulations also to Daisy in Lower 6 who successfully qualified her Welsh stallion pony, Thistledown Americano (Cracker), during the Easter holidays for a mixed breeds showing class at the Royal International Horse Show, Hickstead. This is a fantastic achievement, especially so as shortly after purchasing him, Daisy suffered an enormous setback and had to spend months nursing Cracker back to health following surgery to a tumour in his hoof, incapacitating him for a considerable time. This qualification, only three months after being brought back into work, is wonderful news and thoroughly well-deserved and we wish them both the very best of luck for the coming season.



Brilliant debut England performance from Natalie



Natalie in Upper 4 enjoyed a hectic Easter holidays, furthering her extraordinary basketball career with some exceptional performances both at home and abroad. She started at her first ever England Camp in Manchester where, after three days of training, she was selected in the top 15 (from 33) to play for the England Under 15 team in Nottingham in matches against the Ireland Under 16s and Under 16 GB squad.

Following this, she hopped on a flight to Prague and played the semi-finals at Eurobasket for the

SW Under 14 team to top off an incredibly busy, but fruitful, couple of weeks.

Her next England Camp will take place in Manchester next month, just prior to a tournament in Copenhagen where she will play for both the Under 15s and the Under 14s. These are extraordinary achievements for one so young and we are incredibly proud of her. Well done, Natalie!

Wonderful music news

We have just heard that Lauren in Upper 6 has passed her Advanced Diploma in Singing with distinction. This is fabulous news and our heartfelt congratulations to her.

Equally, Evie (Upper 3) and Natalie (Upper 4) have recently returned from their first singing experience with the National Choir of Great Britain and we were delighted that they so thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

As ever, our singers and musicians continue to reap the rewards and a vast number of them juggle representing the school at our many illustrious events with some quite extraordinary extra-curricular endeavours. On which note, the first of our in-house events is the Summer Concert on Thursday 9 May and we would advise that you book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Goodbye to Forest School for Year 4 ...

In the final week of last term the Year 4 girls enjoyed their last session at Forest School, making bird feeders to take home and working in groups to make shelters that would stand up to inclement weather conditions. We had to provide the wind and rain artificially but, thankfully, only a few girls got wet as most of the shelters were very sturdy! Having learned how to light fires earlier in the term, the girls put their fire lighting skills to the test and enjoyed toasted marshmallows with melted chocolate to finish off a fabulous few weeks in this delightful outdoor haven.



... And hello again for the Pre-Prep!

Meanwhile, the girls in the Pre-Prep are straight back into it, this week enjoying just a little bit of 'fairy fun'.

They made their own little fairy houses and a magical potion pot where they all cast a secret spell – some even, allegedly, saw several fairies dotted around the Forest School grounds although any sightings still seem to have evaded Mrs Davey ... much to her disappointment!

Final training weekend for Ten Tors

We wish all our Ten Tors teams the best of luck for this weekend's final training expeditions. Unfortunately, today's starting times have had to be delayed thanks to incoming Storm Hannah but they will set off on their hikes tomorrow, with an overnight camp out on the moor and returning on Sunday. With the Challenge taking place in just two weeks' time, they have all trained so very hard these past few months, increasing their fitness levels, honing their navigation skills and practising their campfire culinary techniques! They are, by all accounts, fully prepared and ready for action!



Have a great weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
