

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

29 March 2019

It never ceases to amaze me every time I start writing this just how much happens during the course of an average week here at The Maynard. And I use the term 'average' in the loosest sense, as clearly there is no such thing when you look at the sheer quantity and huge variety of the stories in each newsletter. Last week, for instance, we covered over 25 different items and, looking at it again this week, we're not all that far off the same! This is just testament to the fast pace of life here and by no means do we, or can we, include everything - the newsletter is but a tiny reflection of the many goings-on and by no means a comprehensive summary of the many, many weekly happenings. What a lot we pack in and it's no wonder at all that the girls are starting to look forward with great anticipation to the forthcoming Easter holidays - how very well deserved these will be!

I am so pleased to report as somewhat breaking news that we have just been voted the 'Most Outstanding Girls Education Institute 2019 - South West England' in the Private Education and Development Awards. This follows a three month selection and judging process during which time industry experts "researched nominations and analysed all supporting evidence to ensure that only the most deserving and top performing establishments were recognised". As ever, winning this award is testament to the hard work and commitment of our entire community and I wholeheartedly thank you all.

I have been avidly following the progress of our Young Enterprise team who have been such brilliant ambassadors for the scheme with their enormous enthusiasm and business savvy. Launching the sales of their wholly environmentally friendly recyclable drinks bottles has by no means been plain sailing and, from the outset, they have been beset by one potential disaster after another - empty promises, transportation nightmares, suppliers' stock problems to name but a few - but with each one they have successfully persevered to reverse the situation and record incredible sales at





each of the fairs they have attended. It is just rewards, therefore, that they successfully breezed through Wednesday's Exeter Judging Finals, winning the Sustainability Award and finishing overall second in hugely competitive company, to reserve their place in the County Finals being held next month at the Met Office. My sincere and hearty congratulations to the entire team!

On the subject of 'grit and resilience', I very much enjoyed camping out and spending time with our Ten Tors teams at their training camp last weekend. Aside from their great determination in conquering some very big mileage on the challenging north moor, I was most impressed by some of their culinary skills and must confess that never before have I heard of any Ten Tors team making dough balls on the camp stove! Mrs Fanous would be proud! Such ingenuity bodes well for the event ahead and, with good sustenance being half the trick, I feel confident that The Maynard will once again enjoy a most successful Challenge when the starting flag goes down in May!

On a far more cultural note, we were delighted to receive some fantastic news about two of our most talented and experienced musicians. Earlier this week, we learned that Dodie in Upper 6 positively nailed her advanced diploma on the piano with an absolutely massive 47 marks out of a potential 50. This is in addition to the three Grade 8s (piano, violin and trumpet) and an advanced performer's diploma on the violin that she has already gained! Equally, we heard this morning that Alex (also Upper 6) has added to her advanced flute diploma with two Grade 8 distinctions in both the flute and voice! Truly, their sheer musical brilliance is quite extraordinary and we wish them very many congratulations on their ever-increasing number of awards!

I can't tell you how much I am looking forward to the MPA Quiz Night later on this evening - it's always great fun and full of laughs although I must confess to it bringing out my competitive edge!

That said, history dictates that I'm truly not the strongest member of our staff team, but I can at least rest in the knowledge that I am surrounded by some hugely intelligent and capable colleagues who, as ever, will be all out to win it. So watch out, everyone!

### 'Explore Law' workshop

Following on from our work with Exeter University's Law Society and the recent Moot trial, we were delighted to welcome the University of Law together with a panel of solicitors from Stephens Scown and Ashfords on Wednesday for an 'Explore Law' workshop. This was an invaluable opportunity to understand the varied opportunities within the legal professions, such as the differing roles of solicitors and barristers, solicitors' roles as advocates, the array of legal specialisms and the importance of commercial awareness.



The evening was both interactive and informative; students were given the opportunity to apply the law, using Ed Sheeran's copyright case as a worked example. This was followed by an excellent Q & A session during which the trainee solicitors answered perceptive audience questions for over an hour. These were wide ranging, including subtle insights into the academic study required and the practical realities of legal life.

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### A visit from Emily Hauser, author and classicist



Dr Emily Hauser, a Classics academic and the author of the Golden Apple Trilogy, historical fictions based on the Trojan War, visited the school on Monday and gave an exciting talk in assembly on finding women's voices in the ancient world and bringing her stories to life from Homeric perspectives.

She showed us photographic evidence of her climbing walls in ancient Troy (to prove an argument with her publisher that ancient women could have managed this) and also gave a reading from her book "For the Most Beautiful". The Sixth Formers had a wonderful time asking Emily about

her views on Sappho and the Iliad, and Emily signed copies of her trilogy for the girls in break time. We hope that this will be the first visit of many and would like to say a massive thank you to Emily for coming in and speaking so brilliantly!

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### Success for Ellie in Theology essay competition

Congratulations to Ellie in Lower 6, who has recently been awarded a prize in the Logos Institute Essay Writing Competition, run by the Divinity Faculty at the University of St Andrews, Scotland.

Her essay, 'Does the theory of evolution constitute a challenge to the Christian faith?' secured a top ten place, with a prize of £150 and a fully paid place on a summer school at St Andrews. Unfortunately, Ellie will not be able to attend the summer school as she will be on the World Challenge trip to India! However, she has been able to make arrangements to do a holiday course during Easter 2020 instead.

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### Martha's short story impresses the judges

Enormous congratulations also to Martha in Upper 4P who won second prize in the Short Story Competition (for the 12-15 year age group) at the Chagword Literary Festival with an 800 word piece on the topic of Extraordinary Meetings. Martha's essay was entitled "Jamie Oliver?" and clearly impressed the judges who selected her anonymously from a huge field of contestants. Well done, indeed!



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### Junior School Speech and Drama Showcase

On Monday, we were host to yet another brilliant Speech and Drama Showcase for the Years 3 – 6s in the Main School Hall. Pupils across the age group performed the poems, monologues and duologues that they have been working on with Mrs Leonard in their Speech and Drama lessons. Many of the girls have recently returned from great success at the Devon Performing Arts Festival so it was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to share their pieces with parents and the rest of the Junior School. It was wonderful to see so many lively performances and for the children to have the chance to build their confidence at this event. A special thank you, of course, to Mrs Leonard for all her hard work with the girls.

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### PAT ....Nula, the Junior School Dog



The ever-adorable Nula recently qualified as a PAT (Pets as Therapy) dog although we have been waiting upon her bandana to arrive before officially announcing this qualification!

Passing the assessment ensures that Nula is of a suitable temperament and happy to be in environments where she can "provide comfort, happiness and emotional wellbeing to many people each week". There is no doubt that Nula has brought with her a massive tonic to all the girls and staff in the Junior School and she has quickly become an invaluable aid to our wellbeing repertoire.



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### Toddlers' Forest School

Our final session of the Toddlers' Forest School took place on Wednesday and what better way to finish than in the warmth of the brilliant spring sunshine? They had a blissful time pond dipping for tadpoles, making pretty butterfly masks and, of course, gobbling the mandatory camp fire marshmallows. Our thanks to all those that came and we look forward to hosting more of the same in the near future.

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### Trip to West Town Farm

The girls in Reception and Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic trip to West Town Farm in the sunshine earlier this week. They helped with the sheep and loved the lambs, chickens and cows. They also learned more about bees and had a close look at the hives to reinforce Environmental Week. They even made little sculptures out of beeswax and seed bombs to plant wild flowers back at school to help with pollination. It was an action-packed and fabulous day!

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### Mother's Day tea party

The Reception class hosted the most wonderful Mother's Day tea party earlier this afternoon and the Junior School Hall was awash with daffodils and other gifts for all the lucky mums.

We even got the best china out for the occasion!



### Upper 3 Charity Week



Next week the entire Upper 3 year group are holding a super busy charity week in aid of Force Exeter and Till the Coast is Clear. We have been so impressed with their brilliant organisation and marketing skills (posters adorn the great majority of the school walls and doors), much of it we suspect is driven by some friendly inter-form rivalry to spur them on!

There will be cake sales galore, a giant Easter Egg raffle, guess the name of the bunny and the number of eggs in the jar, not to mention a Dance-a-Thon and biscuit decorating competition (for the teachers). As ever, we would be very grateful for your support and it would be wonderful if you could send your daughters into school with some small change so that they can take part in the many activities planned.

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## SPORT NEWS

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### Under 12 Netball team finish season on another winning note

The Under 12 netballers had a brilliant end to their season this week playing in the sunshine at Stover School on Monday. Our A&B teams really stepped up to play the opposition's Under 13A and Under 12A squads, with lots of challenging and physical play that tested their nerve, fitness and skill in equal measure.

Both were tight games where the girls had to dig deep to get ahead and stay composed to keep the lead in highly contested and competitive games. To cap off a successful season for these very promising players, the As won 22-20 and the Bs 15-11. Well done, girls!



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### Emma climbs into the British Finals



Apart from being a keen swimmer, Emma in Upper 3 also has been doing well at competitive indoor climbing. Over the last few months she has participated in the four regional rounds of the BMC (British Mountaineering Council) YCS (Youth Climbing Series). These are organised all over Britain and include two rounds of bouldering and two of lead climbing. The best three of each region are then invited to compete in the British finals, which this year will be held in Sheffield at the end of April. Emma finished 2nd, 1st, 3rd and 1st respectively in the regional rounds which put her in equal first place. After a very close climb off she finished second - a fabulous achievement as she is in the younger year group of the age category. We look forward to hearing how she fares at the finals!

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### Records fall at the Junior School Swimming gala

Further to our announcement that Haberdashers had won the House Trophy at last week's swimming gala, the race times have now all been ratified and we can confirm there were a number of records broken. Congratulations to the following girls on some truly super swimming!

Sofija (Year 6, Two Length Freestyle and One Length Fly)  
Sarah (Year 5, Two Length Freestyle)  
Jenna (Year 5, One Length Freestyle)  
Lydia (Year 5, Individual Medley)  
Elizabeth (Year 5, One Length Breaststroke)  
Laura (Year 4, One Length Breaststroke)



### Larkman Cup cross-country running success



Well done to all those girls in the Junior School who ran in the Larkman Cup cross country races last Friday held at Blundell's. They all coped really well with the tough course and running conditions, and were a real credit to themselves. We posted some superb individual results:

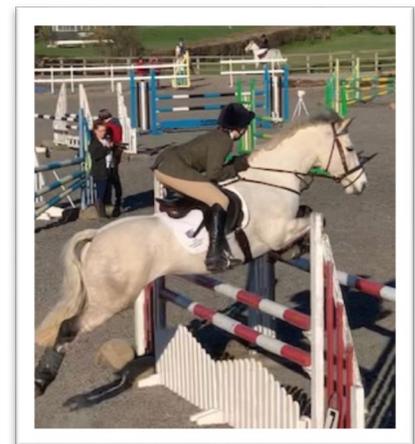
Under 13 - first finisher for The Maynard was Zoe in 16th place  
Under 11 - first finisher for The Maynard was Ava in 11th place  
Under 9 - first finisher for The Maynard was Jasmine in 2nd place

But it was the Under 9 team who collectively stole the show to win their age category. This is the second trophy brought back by the Year 4s in the space of only two weeks – at this rate Mrs Fry is going to need a trophy shelf in her classroom!

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### Equestrian success for Isobel

Congratulations to Isobel in Lower 6 for a fantastic performance at last weekend's NSEA Qualifier at Pontispool. She finished 7th in the 1m class out of nearly 60 competitors and then went on to win the 1.10m event as the fastest of only three clear rounds from a huge field. Isobel has now qualified for the finals at Addington in October and is certainly proving a force to be reckoned. On this form, we can surely expect many more successes as the season unfurls in the coming months.



### Please share the news about our Pre-Prep rainbow-themed party



We are hosting yet another of our very popular Pre-Prep parties and would be grateful if you could spread the word to anyone with a daughter aged 3-6 years old. The party will be held here at school on Friday 26 April at 2pm and this year's theme is rainbows so there will be lots of exciting and very colourful activities, including a treasure hunt, cake decorating and art & crafts.

This is a lovely opportunity to come in and explore The Maynard Pre-Prep (Reception – Year 2), meet our teachers and chat to our pupils. Siblings are very welcome, too.

This event is free of charge and, judging by previous parties, will be fantastic fun! For more information and to register please visit [www.maynard.co.uk/pre-prep-party](http://www.maynard.co.uk/pre-prep-party)

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### A date for your diary

Just to let you know that the Exeter Food Festival is coming up and promises to be yet another feast of treats celebrating the start of spring with live music, chef demonstrations, artisan produce, real ales and cider, family-friendly workshops and a chance to meet the dedicated producers behind the products.

The festival takes place over the Bank Holiday Weekend of Saturday 4 May to Monday 6 May in the Northernhay Gardens. For more information or to buy tickets visit:

[www.exeterfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk](http://www.exeterfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk)

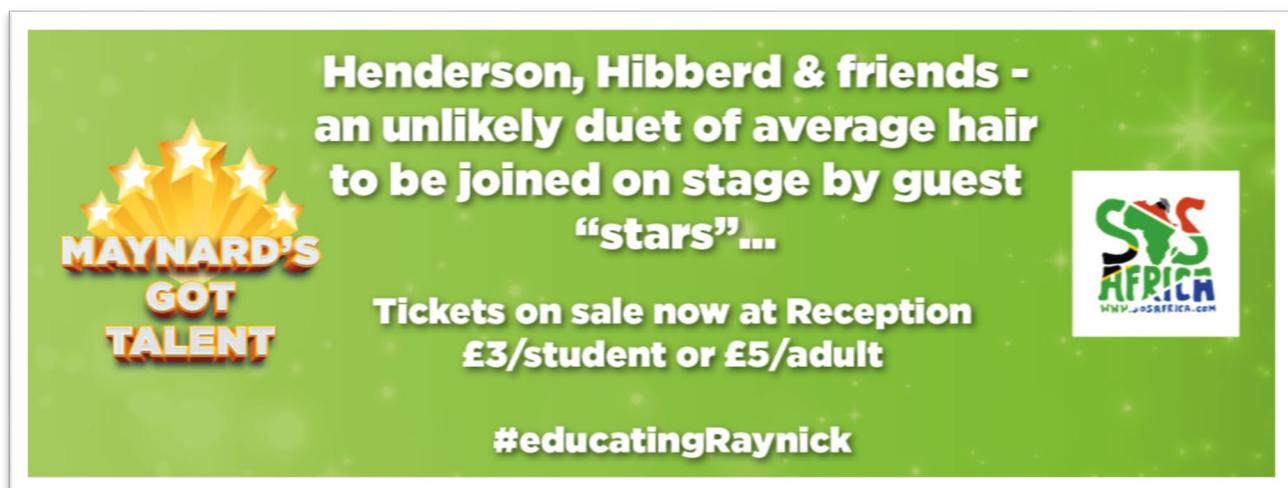


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### Maynard's Got Talent - #educatingRaynick

Please do come along and support next Thursday's (4 April) Maynard's Got Talent - we caught a sneak preview of the "Spice Girls" in rehearsal earlier this morning and certainly their performance promises to be a whole lot more polished than we could ever have imagined (although the same cannot be said of some of our other "celebrity" performers)! Aside from this, we have a stunning line-up of acts and it promises to be yet another outstanding night of entertainment and the perfect way to see out the term!

Tickets are on sale from Reception (£5/adult, £3/student) and we would so love for this to be a sell-out in order to raise maximum funds to keep sponsoring Raynick's education - her life is a world away from ours but we can make a real difference to her prospects.



**Henderson, Hibberd & friends -  
an unlikely duet of average hair  
to be joined on stage by guest  
"stars"...**

**Tickets on sale now at Reception  
£3/student or £5/adult**

**#educatingRaynick**

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### And from our roving correspondent ...

"Brexit. Most people (including myself more than a bit) are a little sick of it; it's been just under 2 years since that fateful referendum, and we have had two years of having Brexit on the news most days. It would get a bit much for anybody. But it's now only about a month until we are scheduled to leave the EU, and there are so many questions yet to be answered, leaving a lot of people, very rightfully, worried.



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For a lot of us, sometimes even small changes can be hard to process. Things like trying to make new friends, meeting new people or doing new things can often be more worrying than they should be. Big changes, like starting new schools or moving to new places can be terrifying, and part of this fear is not quite knowing what to expect. Brexit is definitely one of those fears. No-one knows quite what is going to happen, and that is a scary thing to face. At least when we are aware of how a change will impact us we can try to prepare for it. When you have no idea what a change entails, it's very hard to get yourself ready for it. It's like packing for a holiday, except you are not sure if your destination will be sunny, cold or windy. It's nearly impossible to do. So what can we do in the face of change that we don't know how to prepare for? Different people have different reactions.

Some people face change by, well, not facing it. They pretend it's not happening in order that they don't have to face their fears. This can be a good way of dealing with things, until they actually happen and you are totally unready (perhaps a little like the UK at the moment). Others become angry that something is happening that they have very little or no control over (I'm sure many of us can relate to this when thinking about Brexit). One way of dealing with change is acceptance. Holding the knowledge that something is happening and realising that there isn't very much you can do about it, so perhaps it's best just to see what happens.

None of these ways of dealing with change are wrong. Maybe the best thing to do is to pretend you are in control, until you actually are. Sometimes you need to use your anger at change to fuel you into making things better. And sometimes you just need to realise that no matter what you want, this thing is happening, so you might as well go with it. Whether you are facing massive political debates or change within your personal life, it's important to think about how you are dealing with change; could you be more effective in your reaction? Change is inevitable- and Brexit is a big change, whether you are for it or against it. Understanding, let alone controlling this chaos is virtually impossible. But that leaves us with a simple question- how will we react to this change?"

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Have a very Happy Mother's Day and a wonderful weekend!

Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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