

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

5 April 2019

I had a complete blast at last Friday's MPA Quiz and Fish & Chips Night and it was fabulous to see such a full turn-out with 13 teams all vying for the hotly contested trophy. My team, The Maynerdians managed a fourth place which I feel is at least respectable! It never fails to surprise me just how competitive these occasions are and nor did it go unnoticed that our HR Advisor, Zoe Cunningham, was on the winning parent team serving only to rile us that little bit more! However, when all is said and done the event raised £1100 towards the MPA Funds which is a fantastic amount and so my enormous thanks to Jill Collins, Mr and Mrs Evans and the entire army of helpers for putting on such a superb and successful night!

Talking of which, last night's Maynard's Got Talent was quite extraordinary in so many ways and such a brilliant way to cap off the Easter Term. Comedy sketches, singing, musicians, some stunning dance routines (and others veering towards the more comedic), mime, rap, the "Spice Girls" and the humbly named Super Awesome Teacher Band - what more can I say as there are few words to capture such an event other than it showed the true essence of the school; extraordinary talent, lashings of humour, individuality and most importantly, courage! Add to that the typical Maynard drive towards a certain goal - in this instance, to fundraise sufficient amounts to sponsor South African girl, Raynick, through another year of education. And I am absolutely thrilled to say that this incredible night of entertainment was a complete sell out by Thursday and brought in over £1000 for the #EducatingRaynick cause! Huge congratulations to all the SA Sports Tour girls and the PE Department for organising it and particularly to Mrs Wood whose brainchild this was last year. Well done to the very many performers also and a thank you all those that came along in support.





Congratulations must also go to the Year 6 with their very demanding production of *Romeo and Juliet* on Tuesday. Their lines were slickly delivered with panache and the whole audience was drawn in to the tragic storyline. The swordfights were delivered with such gusto, I did find myself wincing somewhat and eyeing up where the first aid kit was situated! Well done, girls. A super performance and my thanks also to the Director, Mr Smerdon!



As I write, I have to confess to feeling a little nostalgic as this week has heralded a few 'lasts', particularly my final weekly meeting with our truly brilliant Head Girl Team on Wednesday. On paper you might think such get-togethers would be fairly mundane affairs to discuss various school procedures and, whilst they have achieved much over recent months, I can only say that these meetings have regularly been a highlight of my week. How easily we can get distracted, moving quickly off topic and descending into nothing more than a friendly chat about not very much really! My thanks to Daisy, Chloe, Gigi, Mimi, Eve, Laura and Katie for keeping me so entertained and also for all their invaluable support and advice over the year. They have been a remarkably proactive gang and not surprisingly ended their Head Girl tenure with another one of their ingenious events that we have become so accustomed to with this particular team - the whole senior school Easter Egg hunt with a twist! I was expecting this to melt into chaos but I needn't have worried as it was, as always, cleverly planned and a great success!



With the school positively buzzing after such a fantastically fun week and with the prospect of a well-deserved break over the holidays, it leaves me with just one more thing to say - have a fabulous, restful and relaxing Easter and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

On to the week's news ...

Year 6 rise to the challenge of *Romeo and Juliet*

The Year 6s presented their production of *Romeo and Juliet* for two performances this week - one to the Junior School and one to the parents. Directed by Mr Smerdon and assisted by Mrs Reynolds, they put on a wonderful show of this challenging script. To see pupils of this age manage Shakespearean language and the nuances of this complex story so adeptly is a great credit to them and the level of

enjoyment throughout the cast was evident in the warmth of their performances. Mr Smerdon reports on what a great group they were to work with and how much fun they had in rehearsal preparing for the shows.

Rose and Rosie led the way as the lead roles and they were ably supported by all their Y6 peers who all rose to the occasion and stirred the audience with this moving story of love in feuding Sixteenth Century Verona. "For never was a story more of woe than this of Juliet and her Romeo". Who could fail to be moved! Well done to all involved.



WAS Wellbeing Improvement Award



As part of our Wellbeing Provision the girls were informed in assembly this week of the WAS Wellbeing Improvement Award that we are working towards, along with the five strands of wellbeing.

Please encourage your daughter to complete the wellbeing questionnaire to help us understand what we are doing well and how we can do even better:

<https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/5ca1bd9915fbf>

We are also in the process of setting up a wellbeing committee and would love to have some student representatives; again, please encourage your daughter to become involved if she has an interest in this area. The girls can find out more from Mrs Leigh or Mr Loosemore.

Early Easter celebrations in the Pre-Prep



Easter has certainly come early in the Pre-Prep and the girls have been busy this week making the most wonderful seasonal products! Year 1 produced some gorgeous cards and then everyone from Reception

through to Year 2 tested their culinary skills by making some delicious looking Easter nests using the honey from their sponsored beehive. The Year 2s then wrote up their recipes in their Literacy lessons. As ever, the 'fun whilst learning' ethos of our Pre-Prep continues apace!

Planting and dancing at Bull Meadow Park

Years 3 and 4 braved the hailstones on Wednesday to join forces with the Devon Wildlife Trust with a spot of gardening at the Bull Meadow Park just down the road from us. They started with clearing away the weeds before planting their wildflowers and even doing the conga over the seeds as a ritual to encourage growth! They had a great time dodging the showers and finding some enormous worms, as well as learning lots about the importance of wild flowers in the city!



Upper 3s complete extraordinary week of fundraising



The entire Upper 3 year group have been totally fantastic with their charitable endeavours all week to raise funds for FORCE Exeter and Till the Coast is Clear. Their stamina and enthusiasm for the many undertakings has been quite incredible and we applaud them all! Cake Sales, Guess the Name of the Bunny and the Number of Sweets in the Jar, a raffle, a biscuit decorating competition and, finally, the utterly brilliant lunchtime sponsored Danceathon yesterday have surely raised an enormous sum for these worthy causes. We couldn't be more impressed with them for the way in which they have wholeheartedly embraced their charitable endeavours. Well done, girls!

PERFORMING ARTS

Lower 5 complete BBC's 'Earth Mission'

The Lower 5 musicians have completed the challenge set by the BBC to complete an 'Earth Mission' and have composed a piece of music to represent Earth.

They recorded their work on GarageBand and created an iMovie film to accompany it. Fingers crossed that they make it on to the BBC website!



Two great Drama trips

Many of the girls have been out and about pursuing their Drama Studies over the past couple of weeks. Last Friday, the exam students from Lower 5 - Lower 6 watched a new production of Henry James' chiller 'The Turn of the Screw' at the Exeter Northcott Theatre, which provided much interesting debate and material towards their Summer Examinations.

Yesterday 64 of our students, not to mention many other schools, attended the matinee of Willy Russell's iconic musical 'Blood Brothers' down in Torquay at The Princess Theatre. This much loved show, that charts the tragic yet uplifting story of twins separated at birth, was thought-provoking, moving and really well told.

It is always interesting to see two shows in close succession so that the girls can compare the styles and production values. There is nothing like seeing live theatre!

SPORT NEWS

Sports Performance of the Month



We celebrated our winners of the term's Sports Performance of the Month in our final assembly earlier this afternoon and we wish them all very many congratulations on achieving this accolade, namely:

The Under 12 Netball team (January) for an exceptional start to the season winning Truro School, Blundell's, St Peter's High School and St Peter's, Lypstone.

The Under 14 Basketball team (February) for their strong performances in the National Schools Basketball Competition when they scored some fantastic victories against Uffculme School and the Bristol Met before bowing out of the tournament courtesy of the narrowest of defeats against King's School, Winchester.



Natalie in Upper 4 (March) for her Under 15 England Basketball selection despite being a year young for the category. She will begin her training in Manchester over the Easter holidays in preparation for the upcoming international tournaments this summer in Copenhagen and Spain. We wish her lots of luck for all of these and look forward to hearing about her future endeavours.



Sports Leaders - Year 2 Multi-Sports Festival

A big congratulations to our Upper 5 Sports Leaders for successfully passing their Sports Leaders qualification this week; they have worked incredibly hard all year and have been teaching Year 2s at St Leonards since January.

Their final task culminated in hosting and managing a multi-sports festival in Bradley Hall during which they were responsible for everything from leading the different sports to managing the publicity and refreshments. The Year 2s were so excited and had an amazing experience thanks to the girls' efforts and energy.

Although the qualification has been challenging at times, the girls have really developed their leadership abilities and have learned some invaluable life skills; we are incredibly proud of them. Well done Upper 5 Sports Leaders!



House Netball results



The Junior School House Netball matches have been taking place all week and there has been lots of fun as well as some very competitive games for all the girls in Years 3 - 6. It has been lovely to see the progress and enjoyment they have experienced in netball this year, and congratulations to all those in Merchants who recorded a clean sweep of victories across all the year groups, making them the runaway winners of this competitive in-house tournament.

In the Senior School, it was the girls in Armourers who managed to pull off some solid performances across the year groups to take the title ahead of Haberdashers, Merchants and Goldsmiths. Congratulations to all those who took part and our thanks for making this such an enjoyable and successful season.

Winning comeback for Celia

Congratulations to Celia (Lower 6) who came back after a six month break from competition to win the Individual and County Dressage Novice 27 (2007) Class at the NSEA qualifiers held at Bicton last Saturday. This is a terrific start to the season and bodes very well for her many upcoming events!



Swimming success for Jessica



Jessica in Upper 3Q came away from representing Exeter City Swimming Club at the Tiger Bay Open Meet, Cardiff last weekend with a clutch of medals and awards. Racing in a 50 metre international pool, she won bronze in the 200m Backstroke, Silver in the 200m Butterfly and was awarded three coveted 'Speeding Tickets' for swimming faster than the upper cut-off times in the 200m Freestyle, 400m Freestyle and 50m Backstroke. In total, Jessica has qualified for nine events at the Devon County Championships later this year as well as three events at the South West Region Championships taking place in May and is training hard in the run up to this event.

Good luck to our Basketball superstars

Best of luck to Evangeline and Natalie in the Upper 4 who will be jetting off to Prague during the holidays to play for SW Basketball in an international competition.

We look forward to hearing how they fare.



Netball colours

Congratulations to Annie and Dulcie (Lower 5) who both received their Under 15 Netball colours and to Ruby Jarman who was awarded her U18 equivalent in the final assembly earlier this afternoon.

Rainbows and Brownies



We are delighted to announce that The Maynard School is to have its own Rainbows and Brownies Units commencing from the start of the Summer Term. The age groups for each are 5-7 for Rainbows and 7-10 for Brownies. Rainbows will be led by Maria Whitton (aka Squirrel) and Brownies by Rebecca Lang (aka Deer), who both run other units elsewhere and have been involved with Guiding for many years. Maria is an ex Maynardian and Olive's mum (year 2).

This is a very exciting opportunity for the girls to become involved in Guiding, especially for those who live too far away from school to be able to attend units close to home, and a fantastic legacy for the school to have its own unique units for Maynard girls only.

The meetings will be on Fridays after school in Junior School Hall; Rainbows from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and Brownies from 4.00pm to 5.30pm.

Applications will be considered on a first-come first-served basis, and must be made online using Join Us in the "Information For Parents" section via the Girl Guiding website as follows: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

The full information about this is included in the end of term information packs.

Good luck to our Upper 3 dancers!

May we wish the Upper 3 the very best of luck for their Great Big Dance Off competition at the Forum Theatre in Bath on the last day of the holidays.

They will be competing against other schools in the South West in the hope that their dance is one of the top two to qualify for the national finals in July. Break a leg, girls!



Have a brilliant Easter!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress



THE
MAYNARD
SCHOOL

2019 JOANNA LEACH FOUNDATION
CELEBRATION CONCERT

EXETER CATHEDRAL
SATURDAY 19th. OCTOBER 2019 at 7 p.m.

ISCA ENSEMBLE & CHORUS
Exeter University Chapel Choir
The Maynard School Senior Choir

Haydn's *The Creation*



Haydn's *Te Deum in C*

Héloïse West - soprano
Michael Graham - tenor
Tim Mirfin - bass

Roger Hendy : Musical Director
Anthony Clements : leader

Tickets £12 - £24
available in advance online at
www.iscaensemble.org.uk
www.ticketsource.co.uk
or in person or by phone at
Exeter Visitor Information &
tickets 01392 665885
1 Dix's Field, Exeter EX1 1GF.

