

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

17 May 2019

We are not even at the end of the academic year yet but I have to confess that I am feeling slightly reflective as I write, largely because we bade a fond farewell to all our Upper Sixth on Wednesday as they head off for their study leave in preparation their upcoming A-levels. Their last official day at school was on Wednesday and as with previous years, there was a certain amount of high jinks! Staff were initially greeted by some very officious looking “traffic wardens” demanding a fee to park onsite or a forfeit instead (I saw a number of staff doing star jumps!), artwork replaced by Upper 6 photos around the school, rather amusing reflections of their time here and an alternative assembly that caught us all a bit by surprise.

It all ended with a lovely picnic on Leeborne and all was done with a great sense of fun, as would typify this particular year group and for which I shall always remember them. May I wish them all the very best of luck for their exams but, most importantly, for their lives ahead as the page of this book closes and an entirely new chapter begins! We will, of course, all be together again for the Leavers Assembly and Dinner on 21st June which I am very much looking forward to as it is a very special day.

On a more sombre note, the GCSE girls are nearing the end of their first week of exams and I have been most impressed with the calm manner in which they are embracing their very demanding timetables. For many students across the country this is a very overwhelming time in their lives but the serenity and efficiency with which our Upper 5s seem to have faced this week has been quite remarkable. Keep it up, girls!





I also cannot tell you how incredibly proud I was of all 27 girls who took on the Ten Tors Challenge last week and completed with such almighty aplomb. Many parents and staff were caught slightly on the hop when one of the 35-mile teams finished in what we think might have been a record time for any Maynard team (testament to their excellent training – thank you Mr Tabb and co!).

It was a beautifully sunny day as we enjoyed watching the Maynard teams plus the girls walking for other successful teams come in with really excellent times and was I bowled over with how fresh and happy they all looked despite such an arduous couple of days. Truly, you were all amazing and I hope you are as proud of yourselves as we are of you! There are a lot of flip flops this week!

On to the week's news!

### Gold DofE students receive awards at Buckingham Palace

In a timely break from A-level revision, five of our Upper Sixth travelled to Buckingham Palace on Monday to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards from the “truly inspiring” television presenter and former captain of the Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby team, Steve Brown. Huge congratulations to Chloe, Izzy, Daisy, Gigi and Darcy on this incredible achievement and we are thrilled that you enjoyed such a well-deserved celebration, chatting with Princess Anne in the sunshine and exploring the amazing gardens. As one of them reported back: “It will certainly be one to remember. Who knew one building could house 40,000 lightbulbs and 1500 doors?”



### Pre-Prep girls enjoy fantastic day at Exmouth

Last Friday, Year 2 and the Reception class headed off with huge excitement to Exmouth Beach for the day. While Reception visited the Lifeboat Station, the Year 2's headed straight for the beach! The trip had an Art, Literacy and PSHE focus with the girls each making a 'beach in a jar', using carefully collected shells and stones from the beach. We then read a story, 'Tuamor the Turtle', about pollution and the environment, and the girls wrote a 'message in a bottle' about their wishes for the future of the oceans. The Year 2's were joined by Reception for a lovely picnic on the beach, before working in groups to



make beach art in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. It was a busy, productive day and the girls behaved like little superstars - well done!



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### Year 1 become rangers for a day

Year 1 enjoyed an exciting trip to Haldon Forest on Tuesday and the day began with them collecting their 'Ranger - Amazing Animals' explorers' rucksack from the Rangers office before heading off into the woods. Their packs included, amongst other things, small minibeast pots with magnifying lids and so they set off tasked with seeing what bugs they could find in the undergrowth. It certainly brought out the adventurous spirit in them and their detective abilities were rewarded with hordes of beetles, spiders, earwigs, wood lice and centipedes.



They also had a guessing game in their explorer bags and the girls loved looking at different mystery objects that had been found in the woods and guessing what they were (snail shells, deer antlers and even some adder skins). The day culminated with a quick hot chocolate in the café before heading back to school in time for pick-up. A great time was had by all!

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### Years 3 and 6 'buddy up' at the RAMM



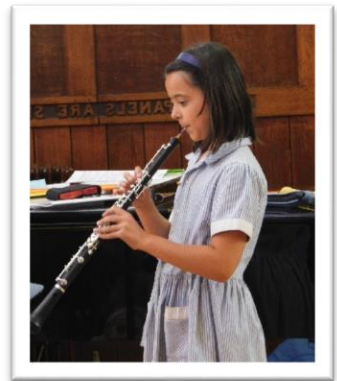
Years 3 and 6 recently enjoyed a wonderful educational visit to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) where they walked around with their 'Take Flight with Alfie' booklets, which they had to complete. This involved sketching, poetry and generally commenting on the many interesting artefacts and displays in the museum. Their main focus was the work of the artist Steffen Dam in Sladen's Study on the first floor, which also contained beautiful starfish and sea urchins. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the younger girls loved being with their Year 6 buddies.

The booklets have now been completed and returned to the museum who will send them to Trinity College London for moderation when, hopefully, each child will receive a certificate.

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### Splendid efforts from Years 3 and 4 in the Music Showcase

Our Junior Music Showcase on Wednesday featured girls in Years 3 and 4 who very bravely performed to an audience of parents and friends. Over half of the two year groups performed either a solo on their instrument or a singing piece, and we had four 'double' performers: Ashi, Hannah, Izzy and Niamh (all in Year 4). The concert started and finished with the combined year groups performing songs that they have learned recently and the Year 4 Recorder Group also featured. A big well done to all the girls on overcoming their nerves and performing so beautifully.



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### 'Remember that Song' – Year 5 perform to dementia sufferers



Year 5 visited a social group for those suffering from dementia and their carers on Tuesday afternoon. 'Remember that Song' is led by Daphne West, a former headmistress at The Maynard, who invited the Junior School to attend a session and perform for the members. The girls participated enthusiastically in the songs and actions led by Daphne and her colleagues and also performed four songs of their own which they have been learning this year, based on our world, the environment and friendship. The audience was very attentive and applauded the girls warmly as they sang beautifully.

Daphne writes: "This comes to you with warm thanks, to the girls. The girls made so many people very happy this afternoon - they have very difficult times as they struggle with their dementia, or that of a loved one, so your contribution meant a huge amount to them. Members were SO impressed by the girls' singing - there are some serious musicians in the group and they really appreciated the quality of what we were hearing. It was just lovely the way the girls joined in with everything ... the sea of enthusiastic hands in the "Cruise Song" and the willingness to take part in the action songs were highlights in this area."

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## SPORT NEWS

### First tennis tournament for Under 11s

Well done to our Under 11 Tennis Team who played their first ever matches with Exeter School this week. The friendly fixture was arranged to allow both teams to understand how matches are run, get used to scoring for themselves and enjoy playing some competitive tennis.

The girls all played two singles games and a doubles match, showing off some lovely tennis in the sunshine and doing themselves proud.



### Numerous awards at Exeter Netball Club's presentation evening

Congratulations to all of our netballers who won so many of the awards at Exeter Netball Club's End of Season Presentation Evening last Friday. Namely:



India - Under 16 Regional/Division 1 Panthers Player of the Season

Natalie - Under 14 Regional Players' Player

Annabel - Under 14 Exeter 1 Players' Player

Rosie - Under 14 Exeter 1 Most Improved Player

Judy - Under 14 Exeter 2 Players' Player

Ava - Under 12 Exeter 2 Players' Player and Player of the Season

Isla - Under 12 Exeter 2 Most improved Player

These are fantastic achievements and awards richly deserved, so well done to you all!

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### Fabulous cake-making by the Lower 4s

Lower 4N have excelled themselves in the Food & Nutrition room to produce some delicious looking (and, no doubt, tasting) cakes - not that they were going to let us try any! Their creativity and imaginations on top off their beautiful design work is totally fabulous and we hope that their families at home enjoyed the fruits of their labour!

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### A reminder about the Midsummer Music Concert

Don't forget that next Wednesday 22 May it is the Midsummer Music Concert being held at the Southernhay United Reformed Church from 7pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to allow our younger musicians the chance to shine and is always a fabulously entertaining evening filled with talent and sparkle. Tickets are available from Reception at £5/adult and £3/child.





Have a lovely weekend!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Dunn', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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