

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

13 September 2019

It was wonderful to host so many of our new parents at the welcome drinks party on Wednesday evening and my thanks to you all for coming along. It was a great way for everyone to meet one another and get to know so many of your daughter's key staff and I trust you found it both useful and enjoyable.

Whilst on the subject of events, you should by now have received an invitation to our Wellbeing Presentation Evening being held here at school on Wednesday 25 September, starting with a lovely glass of fizz and canapés at 5.30pm. We decided to hold this event so we could inform parents exactly why we became the first and only school in Devon to be awarded the Wellbeing Award for Schools last term. We really do have a vast provision in place to ensure that your daughters will be happy and can flourish here, not to mention our wider community of parents, staff and other associates of the school and we are excited to be able to use this opportunity to tell you all about these. So do please come along and join us for what promises to be a fascinating and informative evening!

I am also thrilled to say that we have, once again, been voted as one of the top ten best value private schools in the UK by the Daily Telegraph's education supplement. We continue to achieve this status year-on-year which I am sure will be no surprise to you all when you consider the enormous opportunities on offer on top of our academic excellence. The sheer volume of correspondence already this term about revision guides, study trips and residentials, Ten Tors, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (to name but a few) just goes to show the tremendous amount that we manage to squeeze into the academic calendar and it is always great to have this recognised in the national press.



## The Telegraph





Earlier today I had the pleasure of meeting some of our alumnae who were returning for their 25 and 30 year leavers' reunions. It's always fascinating to hear their stories of their experiences at the school and even better is watching their faces as they look around the school and reminisce about days gone by. As ever, our Sixth Formers are integral to their experience back at school and my enormous thanks to those that give them guided tours and update them all about the school as it is today. Being able to offer this to our visitors makes an enormous difference.

I would also like to say an enormous thanks to the vast number of girls (66 to date!) who have volunteered their services to do exactly this at our Open Morning on Saturday 28 September. It really is truly appreciated that you will rally around to make these events so successful and we are very grateful to all those that are signed up (and would love for more to do so, if possible!).

Finally, please do come along to our Maynard Parents' Association AGM on Tuesday morning. We have an absolutely super team of parents who really do put the icing on the cake for us and are always keen to have new members. I cannot thank them enough for the wonderful things they do for the girls.

On to the week's news ...

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### Girls Go Gold Conference

Yesterday's Girls Go Gold Conference proved to be an inspirational day at the University of Bath. Twelve of our top sportswomen joined forces with 400 other sporty females from across the country in this annual GSA conference and enjoyed an array of sporting opportunities.

Pam Cooley, ex England Netball captain, commonwealth medallist and successful engineer opened the conference and her speech covered a range of topics but focused on the importance of sport on wellbeing and how the skills and attributes learned through participation in physical activity can be of huge benefit both in school and in our working lives.





Other highlights included a netball training session run by Team Bath players, a visit to the Sports Science labs and gaining hands on experience of some key fitness tests and their associated data. The girls absolutely loved their final practical session on the trampolines - high energy and lots of hilarity.

The day also gave the girls an opportunity to have a good look round the University and gain an insight as to what life as an undergraduate might look like. I have already heard from parents saying how much their daughter loved the day and Bath University itself.

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### Reception Class settle in

All the new Reception girls have had a great week settling into school life for the first time.

They are becoming more confident with their classroom and the Pre-Prep environment and are becoming good friends with their classmates!



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### Year 1 enjoy first foray into Forest School

Likewise, Year 1 have made a great start in their new class. We welcomed five new friends to the yeargroup this September and have already had our first trip down to Forest School with Mrs Davey. This is always one of the highlights of the girls' week and they very much enjoyed exploring the site with its abundance of wildlife!

Much to their excitement, they were also allowed to collect the windfall apples which were then toasted on the fire and gobbled up with a little chocolate sauce!



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### Autumnal treasure hunting for the Year 2s

Year 2 have been out and about looking for signs of Autumn to inspire their poetry and art learning, which they are looking forward to sharing in the Pre-Prep Harvest Celebration next week. They found all sorts of Autumnal treasure!



### Upper 3 go wild at Escot!

The Upper 3 had a wonderful time at Escot last Friday on their teambuilding day. Mrs Rowley, Mrs Bean and Miss Hartopp, the Upper 3 tutor team, had a thoroughly great time with this lovely lot. The girls got lost in mazes, daringly threw themselves down the drop slide and built (fairly) waterproof shelters. This was all without being eaten by the wolves! We do hope this day helped the girls to get to know each other, and us, much better.



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### Sixth Form Art Trip to London



The Sixth Form Art group headed off to London early on Saturday morning, full of anticipation and enthusiasm. We were lucky enough to get tickets for the last day of the stunning Cindy Sherman retrospective at the National Portrait Gallery. Cindy Sherman is a world-renowned photographer and one of the most influential artists of our time. The exhibition focuses on Sherman's manipulation of her own appearance and the use of materials derived from a range of cultural sources, including film, fashion, and advertising, and the show explores the tension between façade and identity.

We also visited the BP Portrait exhibition, soaking up inspiration and luxuriating in the variety and quality of the work on display. After lunch, and having explored the al fresco live entertainment in Trafalgar square, (excellent musicians! A cyclist with a fire act!), we proceeded to the National Gallery and had some time to explore some highlights from the vast eclectic collection of

European art from the 13th - 20th century. The experience will hugely impact on coursework ideas for the forthcoming year.

We arrived back in Exeter, tired but sated after a massively productive and enjoyable day. Mrs V and Ms H beamed from ear to ear when told by the friendly GWR train manager that our students were a credit to the school!

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### Chocolate and Chat

The first Chocolate and Chat Club of this academic year kicked off with a bumper attendance yesterday. An enormous number of Sixth Formers volunteered their time to settle the Upper 3s in to Senior School with lots of fun and games (and seemingly little chocolate, not that anyone noticed as they were having too much fun!). Overseeing all proceedings, of course, was the lovely Nula who had made the trip from Junior School to catch up with her old buddies!





### Awesome catering team does it again!

Huge congratulations to Andrew and his catering team who have, once again, been awarded the top food hygiene rating of five following their spot inspection earlier this week.

We are incredibly proud of the exceptional school meals that are served to students and staff on a daily basis, and the inspectors were certainly impressed by the standard of hygiene maintained by our wonderfully passionate and professional team.

### 'Legally Blonde' auditions

It is very much the talk of town but auditions for next year's musical 'Legally Blonde' are already well underway and the talent on display has been astounding. Casting is going to be a really tough job and I pity Ms Bellamy-Cooper and Miss Blackwell to whom the decisions will fall!

This much anticipated show, following the enormous sell-out success of the last musical 'Sister Act', will be taking place in March at the Barnfield Theatre with tickets going on sale later this year. More information on all of this will be published in due course.



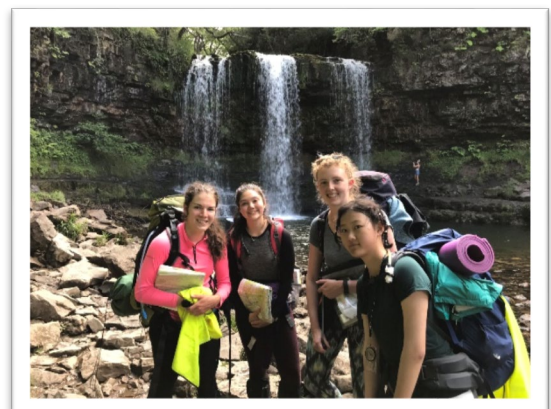
### Please note - a change of date to the Years 5 and 6 Musical Showcase



Our sincere apologies but the Years 5 and 6 Musical Showcase will now be taking place on Wednesday 2 October NOT on Wednesday 9 October, as advertised in The Guide. It will take place in the Main School Hall from 2.45pm-3.50pm and refreshments will be served from 2.15pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Gold DofE expedition success

We took two teams of Lower 6 students to the Brecon Beacons at the start of the summer holidays, both of whom stormed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions in some gloriously hot and somewhat challenging weather. Our congratulations to them all and a huge thank you for their good company and senses of humour throughout!





### Equestrian success for Daisy

Congratulations to Daisy in Upper 6 who has enjoyed a tremendously successful summer with her ponies around the country, most recently winning both the ridden and in-hand veteran classes on Moortown Honeyman at the Dartmoor Pony Society Championship Show last weekend and, in so doing, qualifying for the Veteran Horse of the Year 2019 finals.

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### Charity Jeans for Genes week

The school will be participating in Jeans for Genes Week this year (16- 20 September); this is a fantastic charity which raises money to support children with genetic disorders. We will be asking students to wear jeans on Friday 20 September, with a suggested donation of £1. The girls will also have an assembly on the charity on Friday.



### Concerns from our neighbours

Please can we ask that you do not park on the double yellow lines when dropping off and picking up your children from school? Doing so creates an enormous Health & Safety risk and also causes upset to our neighbours, fellow road users and other people on the pavements. Thank you!

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### MPA - AGM on Tuesday

The MPA (Maynard Parents Association) is holding its AGM next Tuesday 17 September from 8.15am in the Main School Hall. Everyone is welcome so please do come and join us for coffee, some lovely pastries and to find out all about the amazing support that the MPA provides the school through its many amazing fundraising efforts. The more, the merrier and we very much welcome fresh faces and new ideas!

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Have a lovely weekend!

Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress