

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

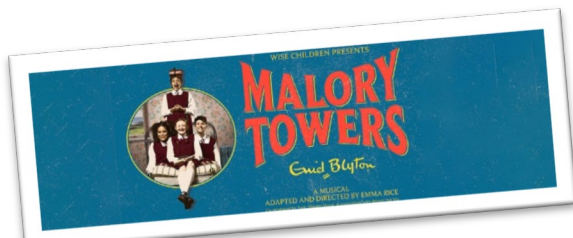
20 September 2019

As some of you will probably know, I spent much of my childhood living in the Bahamas where my father was the Head of an International School. As such, I am completely devastated by the destruction caused there by the recent Hurricane Dorian which has affected so many of my friends, their families and the whole community at large, including the wonderful wildlife. Being on the wrong side of 'the pond', and with many of their phone lines and internet connections still down, makes me feel so very helpless and this dire situation really does focus the mind on how lucky and privileged we are here in Devon and at The Maynard. We do a lot of charity work here which I am very proud of and I am now hearing first hand just how much a little goes a long way. Inspired by the way our girls always quickly step up to the plate to help others, I hope that the rescue packages being put together from our little corner of Devon will be able bring a little respite and happiness to displaced and injured children and animals.

Wellbeing and happiness is also always at the centre of everything we do here at The Maynard and I'm thrilled at the response so far to our invitation to attend next Wednesday's Wellbeing Presentation Evening. This an exciting opportunity to find out about our award-winning programme which we have worked hard to put into place to ensure that your daughters continue to be happy and thrive here at school, and I think you will be very impressed by the extent of our provision. We will also be unveiling our brand new booklet which expands on all of this and which you will be able to take home with you at the end of the evening.

Proceedings will start with a short drinks reception from 5.30pm and the actual presentation itself is planned from 6.15pm, which hopefully will give our working parents the time to finish at the office without missing out on the informative element of the evening.





I managed to join Mrs Bellamy on the Drama trip to see Malory Towers at the Northcott Theatre on Wednesday which was a real evening of nostalgia and great fun with many of our pupils filling the audience. I also thoroughly enjoyed spending some time yesterday evening with our Upper 5s at the Exeter Skirmish Laser Quest - a tradition that we organise every year for the girls as they enter into the final year of their GCSEs. As ever, Mrs Fanous proved to be an absolute demon and instilled a somewhat competitive element into all of the staff and this was only matched by the girls themselves who certainly were taking no prisoners! I can't help feeling I was a bit of a target! It was a fantastic event and a great start to the year for these girls who certainly know how to balance hard work with a lot of fun!

On to the week's news .....

### Olivia is youngest, and only girl, to be selected for pilot academy

Huge congratulations to Olivia in the Sixth Form who found out last week that, following a rigorous three stage process, she has gained a place on the Skyborne EASA Integrated ATPL training course to become a fully qualified airline pilot. Not only was she the only female to be selected but, at just 17-years old, she was the youngest by about 15 years!

After her A-levels next summer, Olivia will embark on a six month training course at the Skyborne Academy in Gloucestershire followed by another six months learning to fly in Spain, where she will be living for that time.

"Ultimately I would like to work for Emirates and live in Dubai but will probably build up my short hauls first with a company like easyJet. Going into a very heavily male-dominated industry has been very daunting, however I believe that I can truly bring some excellent qualities to this industry - clearly Skyborne thought so too! I can't wait to begin my career, and perhaps you might hear me over the tannoy in many years to come!





### Cracking start to the Netball season

On Wednesday, three of our key age groups competed in their first fixture of the season against some very stiff competition from Truro School and they all posted some great victories. This bodes incredibly well for the coming weeks, especially so as this was the first time some of the girls had played together.

The Under 14 team got off to a slow start but reacted well to the pressure and came back strongly to win 24-17. Likewise, the Under 16 game was “an absolute cracker” (Mrs Gabbitass) with our girls coming from behind to win by a single point!

The Under 18s looked equally strong, quick and smart and were absolutely brilliant to also win their game 42-20 and give us a clean sweep on such a lovely, sunny afternoon.

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### More equestrian success



Last weekend saw a good turnout from our equestrian teams who, by all accounts, kicked off this academic season of events with all guns blazing at Bicton’s NSEA Jumping with Style competition.

In the 70-75cm class, Polly (Year 6) came third individually to qualify for the championships at Addington in Buckinghamshire next month. She also helped the team competing in the 80-85cm class to an excellent fifth place which was good enough to qualify them for the championship plate competition at Keysoe.

To cap off a truly successful day, the team of Kitty (Lower 6) and sisters, Zoe (Lower 6) and Isobel (Upper 6), put in a truly brilliant performance to win the 90-95cm class and also qualify for the championships.

Well done to all those involved!

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### (Planned) Police visit to the Junior School & Pre-Prep!

On Wednesday, the Pre-Prep and Junior School were visited by the local Police Community Support Officer, Nic Unsworth, who spoke to the girls about what a PCSO does and the equipment that they use. He also spoke about keeping safe as the nights are getting darker and how to be seen on the roadside as pedestrians or on their bikes.

Nic has been a regular visitor to school over the years and has been community officer for the local area for the past 15 years. It is always a pleasure to welcome him back to talk to the girls.



### Fun in the sun

The Reception class enjoyed their first Forest School experience here at The Maynard in the glorious sunshine last Friday. They raced around collecting apples in the 'great apple hunt', loved searching for bugs and generally just enjoyed investigating the whole of the Forest School area and its hidden treasures. The highlight, of course, was toasting apples and marshmallows on the fire and devouring them with melted chocolate.

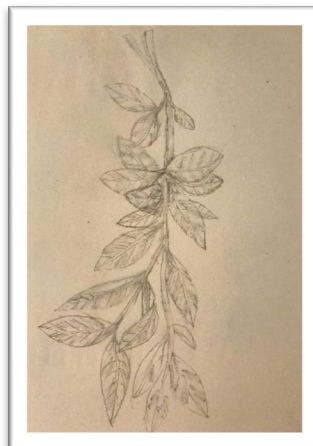
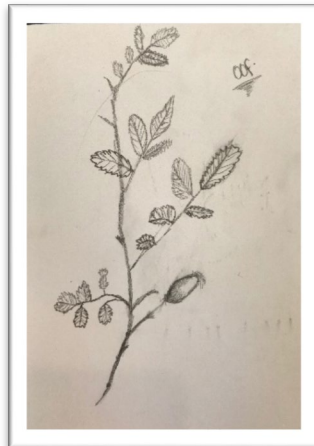
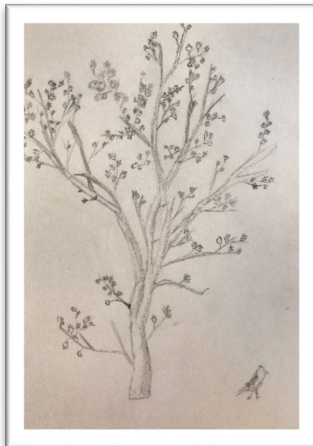


### Teeth - the Year 4 topic!

Year 4 have been learning about teeth this week and have been looking at Nula's teeth and comparing them to our own. Nula was a great model and enjoyed a treat afterwards to reward her for her help in our lesson!

### Al fresco art in the Garden of Reflection

The Lower 4 have really benefitted from this lovely Indian summer weather this week, as they were able to spend time in the Garden of Reflection during their art class. They were tasked with drawing from observation and completed a variety of pencil sketches of trees, leaves, and berries. These sketches will inform their Natural Forms project and it was a lovely way to spend a lesson!



### Recycling plastic and creating greenhouses

Senior STEM club got off to a fine start this week and the girls are very much enjoying using recycled plastic bottles to build a greenhouse. They hope to erect the finished product on Leebourne and plan to grow vegetables in it to be used in our school kitchens. The club is also thinking hard about how to reuse other plastics in their project, which we expect to grow and develop over this academic year as the girls hone their skills in all areas of STEM!



### Robot Club is back underway

Robot Club has proven very popular this year and has attracted a good crowd of 12 members from Upper 4 who will be kindly assisted in their tasks by three members of the Maynard team that reached the FIRST LEGO League Open European Championship in Denmark two years ago. The rules of this year's competition state that they will have to build and program robots using Lego & Mindstorms to perform missions on the map/playing field that must be set up according to the instructions given. We wish them every luck!



### Young Enterprise

We have another very keen group of Lower 6 girls gearing up for Young Enterprise this year. Having efficiently undergone the election process for roles, they were making a good start mooting ideas for products this week. However, that was before attending the launch event at Exeter School from which they emerged buzzing with even more ideas. "We need to go big or go home!" they exclaimed! Watch this space...



### Jeans for Genes Day

Everyone enjoyed an excellent 'Jeans for Genes' assembly this morning led by the Head Girl Team and our thanks to all the girls and parents who supported the initiative by making a small donation in return for wearing mufti today. This collaborative fundraiser makes a huge difference to the 50,000 children in the UK who suffer from some form of genetic disorder.





### Junior School Show Support

The Junior School and Pre-Prep girls showed their support for Climate Change Action through this group photo after finding out more about today's protests and Greta Thunberg at assembly. As Ms Thunberg says, "Even the smallest of us can make a difference."



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### Lunch buddies



The Sixth Form mentors who have so kindly volunteered to buddy up with the Upper 3 girls (experiencing life in the Senior School for the first time this term) gave them a lovely time over a special 'welcome' lunch yesterday. It was a very heart-warming sight to watch so much interaction between the year groups who spent the time avidly chatting and sharing stories.

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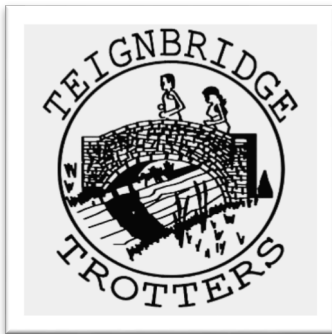
### Welcome to our new MPA Chair

Our thanks to those who attended the MPA AGM earlier in the week and it certainly looks like we have another exciting year of fundraising activities ahead. We waved a fond farewell to the outgoing Chair, Jill Collins, who has worked tirelessly over the years to spearhead so many invaluable initiatives that, in turn, have brought so much to our community. Our enormous thanks to Jill! In turn, we are very grateful to Louise Bright who will take over the reins as Chair and we very much look forward to working alongside her and her team in the coming year.

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### Fancy a game of golf?

The Exeter Golf and Country Club are keen to encourage more girls into golf and are offering taster sessions and a free four week course in the autumn. Please contact them direct if you would like to find out more! The flyer is included as a separate attachment.



### Newton Abbot Ladies 10K

Entries close tonight for the Newton Abbot Ladies 10K that is taking place next Sunday 29 September and which is being organised by a team of volunteers, including our very own Head of Geography, Miss Williamson. The run follows a beautiful route with very little traffic and you should all be home in time to enjoy a well-earned Sunday roast! More information can be found here:

<https://teignbridgetrotters.fullonsport.com/event/newton-abbot-ladies-10k/profile>

Have a great weekend!

Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress