

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

27 September 2019

May I put a plea out to all parents? As the winter nights draw in, we really do want to keep your children safe. Therefore, if they are staying on later for clubs, activities, rehearsals or simply waiting in the late room, can you please help us to ensure they go home safely in the dark? All Upper 3 to Upper 5 pupils are asked to exit via Reception where the Receptionist or a member of the SLT will sign them out and check that a parent or guardian is ready to collect them. Please can you come to Reception to collect your daughter or phone Reception to confirm that you are at the school gates. If you are happy for your daughter to walk home or to a bus stop, please could you put that in writing to the Office so that we can keep a running list and know that it is fine to allow her to leave once she has signed out. If a club, rehearsal, activity or match finishes after 5.30pm, the member of staff in charge will look after your child until we know how they are getting home. If we can all work in close partnership it will really help us to run this process smoothly and efficiently.

Back to the week just gone! Yesterday we had our first MPA committee meeting of the year which was well attended and packed with great ideas and bags of enthusiasm. The meeting was run by our brand new Chair, Mrs Louise Bright and I cannot thank her enough for taking on this busy role. She has taken the tiller from Jill Collins who really does need a very special mention. Jill has given 17 years of very enthusiastic and proactive service to the MPA and I have absolutely loved working with her as the Chair since I arrived. Her three girls have all now grown up and flown the Maynard nest for great things and we will miss Jill greatly. Can I extend our heartfelt thanks from us all for everything she has done.

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many of the Upper 3 parents at their tea party on Monday afternoon and I do hope you all had the opportunity to meet some of the new parents and their daughters whilst also catching up with members of our staff. I am, as ever, bowled over by just how our youngest contingent to the Senior School have settled in and, by all accounts, they have taken the transition very much in their stride.





THE
MAYNARD
SCHOOL



Likewise, Wednesday evening's Wellbeing Presentation was a well-supported and truly successful affair and, for us all here, it provided a wonderful opportunity to tell our parent body all about our very extensive provision. As I have said before, we are justifiably proud to be the educational front runners of wellbeing in Devon and to have this formally recognised as the only school in the county to have achieved The Wellbeing Award for Schools. So, for those of you unable to make Wednesday's event, we will be sending your daughter home this evening with our brochure detailing all that we are doing to promote the happiness and sense of wellbeing across our entire community. I do hope you will enjoy finding out more about this and, as always, we are always here to address any concerns or answers any questions that may arise.

Earlier this afternoon, we welcomed five different speakers for the first of our Biz Whizz Careers Club talks and what a fantastic way to start the academic year. Under its new guise, we have made these talks compulsory for all Lower and Upper 5 girls who must attend one of the three on offer and others are very much welcomed if they would like to come. Today's line up included a talk by award-winning Executive Film and TV Producer (and current parent), Justin Thomson, representatives from the RD&E covering radiotherapy, oncology and medical physics and a former trader for Barclays Capital with a wealth of experience in the finance industry. My sincere thanks to them all for sparing of their time to inspire and inform our girls.

To which effect, I cannot emphasise enough what an indelible mark Biz Whizz has made on so many of our students over the past couple of years with many, as a result of attending certain talks, setting their sights on careers they would not otherwise have considered. So if you, or someone you know, would like to talk to the girls about what you do, how you qualified for it and why you love it, please do contact rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk and she will find a convenient date for you to come in.

That aside, we are deep into preparations for tomorrow's Open Morning which is always a fantastic opportunity for us to show off our school whilst also representing an ideal opportunity for prospective parents to talk with our current students to glean their experiences of The Maynard. We have almost 60 prospective families already registered and traditionally

this tends to rise overnight so interest in the school is certainly still booming and we are in for a very busy morning ahead! My thanks again to all those girls who have volunteered to help out in some capacity and to their parents for enabling this to happen. As I always say, our students are our very best ambassadors and who better to sell the school than these confident, friendly and articulate young women?



On to the week's news...



Poetry Slam at the Budleigh Literary Festival

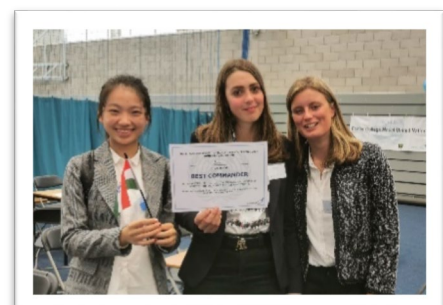
A wonderful day was had by our outstanding Upper Four team who entered the 'Poetry Slam' competition last week as a part of the events put on for the Budleigh Literary Festival. After a day of entertaining lectures and workshops the girls performed their created poems wonderfully in front of an impressed audience. Mr Loosemore was hugely proud of the girls for bravely taking on such a daunting task. Well done to the whole team - Lily, Phoenix, Hattie and Maddy.

Inaugural MUN event

Last weekend marked the start of the Model United Nations season. We took a team of 15 girls, many of which were experiencing their first conference.

They took their seats on the Security Council and the Political, Environmental and Human Rights Committees, debating issues from the Paris Climate Agreement to the question of Religious influence in politics.

In the General Assembly the girls participated in a war games scenario, in which our delegation for India won the best commander award, perhaps a dubious distinction!



European Day of Languages



To celebrate European Day of Languages yesterday, the Senior School tutor groups have had the chance to take part in a "Translate the song titles" competition, organised by the MFL department, with questions in French, German and Spanish. There were a lot of excellent answers from all the age ranges and the girls worked really well and collaboratively to use their linguistic skills and common sense. The winning form group will be announced in the next assembly.

A very busy Drama Department

The Drama Department has been buzzing with activity over the past two weeks. We went to see the excellent and utterly charming 'Malory Towers' by Wise Children at The Northcott Theatre last Wednesday, taking a group of 40 drama students. The heart of the show is promoting 'kindness' and producing women the country can be proud of - something we think resonates greatly with our own school ethos.

On Sunday 22 September our girls were treated to a workshop with the brilliant movement theatre company, Frantic Assembly; Perry Johnson, one of the associated artists ran two pacy workshops, a two hour session for the Lower 5 and a four hour version for our Upper 5 to Upper 6 girls on 'Devising and Physicality'. As a recognised practitioner for Edexcel this was a brilliant opportunity for our girls to experience their high octane, physical theatre first hand.

Finally, we had Theatre Alibi in school on Wednesday to treat both Junior and exam students to their unique style of storytelling with Michael Morpurgo's 'I Believe in Unicorns'. The four-person cast whisked us away to a town in the mountains of a distant country, where a visit to the library and a unicorn transform the lives of Tomas and his family. The play combines the telling of some wonderful stories with the realities of conflict. It was a stunningly accomplished show with an emotional and political impact and our students were totally captivated by it which led to lots of 'idea stealing' - especially after the Q and A when the cast detailed the company's process and style.

What an utterly brilliant time we've had!



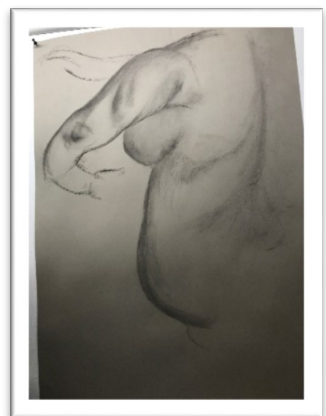
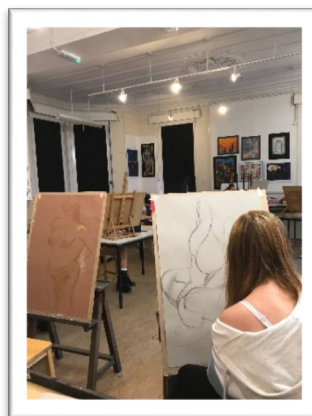
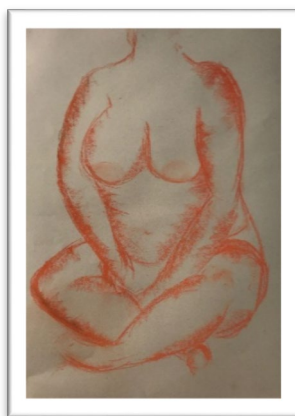
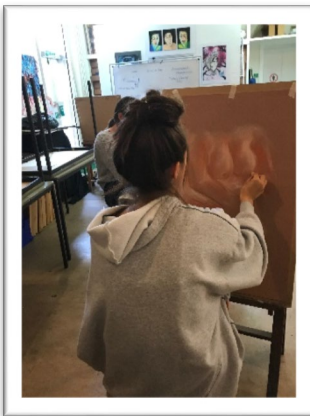
Rehearsals well under way for the Concert Orchestra



The Maynard Concert Orchestra has started the term strongly as it tackles the Skaters' Waltz. MCO is made up of String and Wind Bands which practise separately on Monday mornings and then come together for final practices and performances. Girls start in MCO at approximately Grade 1 standard and membership is usually drawn from Year 4 through to Upper 4 which also means that it links the Junior and Senior Schools. The girls are not only learning musically, but also working together as a team, taking on individual responsibility whilst supporting each other and learning to communicate both verbally and non-verbally - important life skills!

Sixth Form Art class - life drawing session

On Monday, the Sixth Form Art class had another opportunity for a life drawing session with a model. They worked intensively for an hour and a half, and completed some strong figure drawings which will inform coursework. The students could dictate the various poses, so that everyone benefitted equally, and they used primarily charcoal and soft chalks. A selection of the work is on display on the walls in the Sixth Form Art Studio.



Maynard Sports news



It's been another busy week of fixtures, starting on Tuesday when the Under 16 Hockey teams played some tough games against Uffculme, King's Ottery and Colyton. They persevered brilliantly despite the tipping rain, not always achieving the results they might have liked, but it was a good test of stamina and they certainly will have come on for the experience.



On Wednesday, the swimming team travelled to Millfield to compete in the Junior Girls Freestyle and Medley Relay races at the ESSA SW Swimming Championships. Traditionally the South West put forward some of the strongest teams nationally so this was always going to be a tough contest against the likes of Millfield, Mount Kelly and Plymouth College but our girls certainly swam exceptionally to secure sixth place (from 42 teams) in the Freestyle Relay and 9th in the Medley, both in excellent times. We now await the results from other regions to see if our times are amongst the top 20 to qualify us for the National Finals at the Olympic Park next month. Huge congratulations to Emma, Jess, Isobel, Ella and Sofija.



And yesterday, the U14s experienced their first 11-a-side hockey match of the year against a very strong Uffculme School. They played some lovely passing hockey, really gelling well as a team and finished with a 3-0 win. Congratulations to Esme who was voted Girl of the Game!

Individual excellence



There are many congratulations in order for several of our girls who have performed superbly in their various sports and disciplines outside school:

Firstly, to Lydia in Year 6 who attended the annual awards evening for the Exeter Swimming Club last Saturday and scooped two trophies for the fastest 50m breaststroke and 50m backstroke times. She was also awarded five other medals for her top times in other events.



To Flo (Upper 5), Connie (Lower 4) and Zoe (also Lower 4) who were all competing in the South West Quatro Competition for gymnastic at the weekend. Attended by all the main players from Plymouth, Torquay and Exeter East Devon this is a hugely competitive event and they all performed exceptionally.

Flo was placed overall 2nd on the bars and 3rd on the beams in her category and Connie took 3rd overall and won the beam to keep up her reputation as 'Queen of the Beam'. Meanwhile, Zoe was competing in the Women Artistic Gymnastics (FIG Espoir), displaying her skills at the

highest level required for her age group. She competed on the vault, beam (the London 2012 Olympics beam no less), bar and floor and achieved her aim of qualifying for the upcoming National Challenge Cup in November, as well as earning her place on the Devon team for the Inter County Teams in October.

A massive congratulations to them all!

National Citizen Service

We are delighted to offer a fantastic opportunity for all those girls in the Lower 6 who are doing their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The National Citizen Service, recognised nationwide by employers and universities, has put together an excellent one week programme of ‘Adventure’, ‘Skills’ and ‘Social Action’ during half term designed to develop leadership and teambuilding, which not only will be fantastic fun but also provide the opportunity to give back to the community.



Previous testimonials suggest this is a brilliant experience and also counts towards their DofE residential. As one parent said, “It has been a long time since I have seen my daughter as happy as she was that week she completed the NCS.”

To find out more, please visit www.ncsyves.co.uk

Last Call for Ladies 10k entries



Entries will close tomorrow (Saturday) at 1pm for the Dornafeld Ladies 10k race on Sunday and just a few spaces remain for this hugely popular event held on the undulating lanes of Denbury and Ogwell. It is open to women of all running abilities and entry is free for 15-18-year olds.

Lap up the beautiful countryside with friends or compete as an individual but, whatever your preference, rest assured there will be some delicious homemade cakes at the end!

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

Have a good weekend!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Dunn".

Sarah Dunn
Headmistress