

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

4 October 2019

I have to say that last Saturday's Open Morning was, for me, the absolute best yet and my thanks to everyone for making it so truly remarkable in so many ways. We had a record breaking number of visitors with over 60 families wanting to find out more about a Maynard education and, as ever, our wonderful student body did a fantastic job in showing them all what a fun, vibrant and busy learning environment the school offers. As one of our visitors has since emailed: "To be honest I attended knowing that I was going to love the school, but The Maynard completely exceeded our expectations. There is no place in the world I would like my daughter to grow up other than The Maynard School."

Likewise, the Lower 5 Parent's Information Evening was also a tremendous success on Monday and it was wonderful to see such a good turn-out. In many ways, the Lower 5 is a pivotal year in anyone's education as the girls embark on their first journey towards external exam qualifications and evenings such as these I hope go a long way to reassuring everyone that these students are in the best of hands thanks to the professionalism and dedication of our incredible staff. Without doubt, come the end of their two year course they will be fully prepared to tackle their GCSEs with the traditional Maynard aplomb.

On a slightly different note, this morning we had such fun at the annual House Song competition and, wow, what can I say? Not only is it a hugely uplifting way to start a Friday morning, but it really is peppered with moments of pure genius alongside huge hilarity. The overall collaboration with very senior girls working with all of the lower years is what makes such Whole School House events so special. This year's theme of 'Queen' was met with enormous enthusiasm by all of the houses and, as ever, the choral effects were spiced up with some incredible dance and gymnastic moves, some great





lighting effects and, for the first time in the competition's history, we even had blasts of confetti! To think that each of the routines was put together in only one week and led entirely by some very talented Sixth Formers who directed and choreographed their houses so efficiently, is really quite an achievement and it certainly impressed our guest judge, Chris Hoban, the Director of Music from St Peter's School in Lympstone. As he said in his "summing up" choosing an overall winner was no easy task but the show openers, Merchants, with a colourful rendition of 'Don't Stop Me Now' ended up narrowly pipping Goldsmiths' 'Bohemian Rhapsody' to the post. And, oh my goodness, what a popular victory that proved to be with the Performing Arts Centre roof being lifted by rapturous applause and cheering from across the audience! All I can say is roll on next year and well done to Miss Lavelle for coordinating a much-loved and truly successful event!  
On to the week's news ...

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### Truly multi-national flavour to the Junior School's One World Week

This week has been the Junior School's annual One World Week with a focus this year on the power of language. Assembly was abuzz with the girls teaching us all snippets of the different languages they can speak, with Spanish, Bengali, Danish, Iranian, Welsh, Portuguese, French, Chinese, Brazilian and Isle of Wightese all to the fore, amongst others! Earlier in the week, we learned some sign language together and practised greeting each other around the school during the day.

Around the Junior School and Pre-Prep there has been Brazilian dance, contentious world trading games, stories from different cultures, registers done in different languages, haiku written, shortbread eaten, songs from around the world sung, visits from parents to teach us Malay, Chinese written, Arabic learned, and Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes performed by the Pre-Prep in French!

The week culminated in our feast from around the world, where parents contributed favourite recipes from home.

Thank you to everyone, or should I say, merci?



### One World Week in Pre-Prep

The Pre-Prep girls have spent the last week learning to greet each other and to count to ten in lots of different languages including Greek, Thai, Tagalog, Malay and Dutch! Yesterday the Year 2s even tried sushi and green tea to celebrate Japan, and the Year 1s and 2s had a Brazilian dance lesson with Mrs Leigh and the Upper 3s!



### Year 3 stir the senses



Year 3 have really been making the most of One World Week, having lots of fun and learning to appreciate how wonderfully diverse our world is. They have been working together learning how to greet one another in different languages and, working in pairs, making mini presentations about different countries. They have also been writing Haiku poems as well as learning how to recognise different letters in braille. They enjoyed listening to music from around the world and discussing how the music made them feel. Finally tasting a variety of delicious foods from different countries has made it a particularly sensory week!

### Year 4 improve sign language skills

Also as part of the One World Week celebrations, the girls in Year 4 have been learning sign language as well as answering the register in a different language every day and enjoying traditional stories from all around the world each day. It really has been a wonderful week!





### Year 5 and 6 Musical Showcase

What a fabulous musical afternoon we had on Wednesday for the annual Year 5 and 6 Showcase! There was so much to fit in and the audience was richly entertained from violin, piano and singing performances to hearing slightly less common instruments such as the viola, French horn and even the melodica. All of Year 5 sang and the nine Year 6 girls in Middle School Choir also demonstrated their vocal development, even though they were without the Upper 3s and Lower 4.



It was a great pleasure to see so many volunteers and to hear such a wonderful array of music. The girls showed real bravery to get up and share their music in front of what was a big crowd and the hours of practice that go on at home all proved their worth.



It was a great show and hopefully inspired the next generation to pick up the mantle in the Spring Term with the Year 3-4's turn. Well done to everyone and thank you to Mrs Smith for her sensitive accompaniment and encouragement.

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### Celebrating National Poetry Day



Thursday was National Poetry Day, and teachers and students across the school spent the day dipping into varied verses. Many departments shared poems based specifically on their subjects. Some poems led to deep discussions about the concepts within them, others offered students the challenge of tongue-twisting lines, especially PE's 'THWOK!' by Matt Harvey, the poet of the Wimbledon Championship. In Computing, Mr Friendship challenged teams of students to guess 'Bot or Not?'. Could they guess which poems were written by celebrated poets and which were crafted by computer? Sometimes, it was too close to call!

Throughout the day, students learned that poetry can capture, explore and illuminate many aspects of the world.

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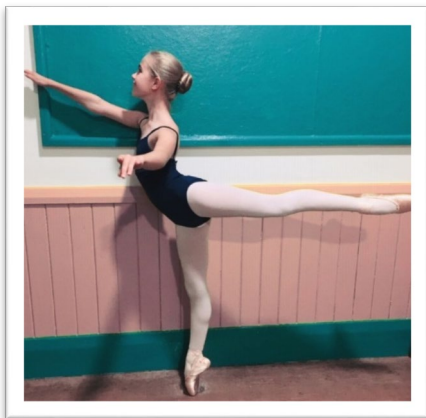
### Robot Club update By Club Leaders, Miri and Kitty in Lower 6

This week Robot Club has just finished setting up the very exciting new board which is where missions have to be accomplished by programming the EV3 robot to carry out these required tasks. This year's board is based around city life and the problems that occur from litter and traffic, to lack of green space. The team has currently assigned different roles within the group based on everyone's strengths and, with a large group of girls joining up this year, the club has been stretched out over three lunchtimes. We hope that, by next week, we will be back up to scratch with our programming skills and will have decided on our project for improving a community which the competition requires.



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### Summer secures major role in Swan Lake



Congratulations to Summer (Lower 4) who has been excelling in her ballet. Due to dancing with the Royal Ballet School during her time in Year 6, she was unable to take any of her RAD exams so she took her Grade 4, Grade 5 and Intermediate Foundation exams during her time in Upper 3, and was awarded a high distinction for all three.

More recently, Summer auditioned with the Birmingham Royal Ballet for a forthcoming performance of Swan Lake for young dancers and was cast for Neapolitan Girl, a featured role in the performance. As such, she is one of the youngest (if not the youngest) to be cast for such a main part in this iconic ballet. She now has a big decision to make as to whether she intends to accept

this offer with the Company but, whatever the outcome, this is a terrific achievement and very well done to her!

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### Senior Hockey team on a winning streak

On Tuesday, the Under 18 Hockey team proved invincible at the Tier 4 Tournament at Plymouth Marjons, winning all of their games in their pool (4-0 vs Plymouth College, 1-0 vs Colyton, 1-0 vs West Buckland, 4-0 vs Shebbear ). This put the team top in their pool whereupon they played Mount Kelly in the semi-finals, going on to take a convincing 5-0 victory. They then met Exeter College in the finals, winning 1-0 to take the tournament title unbeaten in all six games and qualifying for the U18 Tier 4 West Round on Thursday 14 November.





### Great success for the Under 13 hockey teams

The Under 13 A and B teams were in action yesterday against Uffculme and managed to turn around last year's form (with the A team losing and the Bs finishing on a draw) to net two very convincing victories - the As won 7-0 and the Bs 6-2! This is a great start to the season and it certainly bodes well for a successful few weeks ahead.

### Incredible efforts from the Under 10 Hockey team



What an amazing first tournament last Friday for the Under 10 A team who finished 4th out of 7 teams with wins against Stover (2-0) and West Buckland (2-0), draws against Plymouth College (0-0) and Queen's College (0-0) and a couple of losses against Blundells (0-2) and Exeter School (0-2).

As Miss Lavelle says: "I could not have been more proud of the girls - they fought hard, never gave up and really showed how all of their hard work and commitment has paid off!! What an improvement!"

### More equestrian successes

Congratulations to Daisy (Upper 6) and Moortown Honeyman who made the long journey to Lincolnshire last weekend for the National Veteran Championship Show. Not only did they win all of their ridden and in-hand classes, but they also came away as Reserve Supreme Champions of the Show! Truly well done!

Likewise, Anya in Lower 6 was 'on song' for the National Dressage to Music Finals in Hertfordshire at the



weekend, taking a fantastic second place and only missing out on victory by the narrowest of margins. This is a truly spectacular achievement in a highly competitive world so very well done to her.



And last but by no means least, congratulations to Kitty in Lower 6 who, following a successful British Show Jumping Academy camp in the summer where she won the coaches' medal for the most improved, was asked to compete last weekend for Devon in a team of four against show jumpers from all over the South West. The Devon team, which included old Maynardian *Jemima Dart*, came a brilliant 3rd to cap off an excellent weekend for some of our very talented and capable horsewomen.



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### Date for your diary - Senior School Showcase

The Senior School Music Department is holding its first event of the year next Wednesday 9 October at 4.30pm in the Main School Hall. This free showcase will feature soloists from Upper 3 to Upper 4 and will be the first opportunity to hear the new school harp being played. Refreshments will be provided for this short recital and everyone is most welcome to attend.

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Have a great weekend!

Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress