

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

18 October 2019

Another week has swept by and it's hard to believe that it is already half term! That said, however, I think everyone must be in need of a well-earned break after so much industry these past few weeks. Many parents will be aware of just how hard their daughters are working following so many parents evenings across the school in the last few days and it has been wonderful to have such a good turn-out to these.

I hope also that many of you are all getting to grips with the new Parent Portal which we have launched, as promised, to simplify the way in which we communicate across the Senior School and Sixth Form. Having this will allow us to reduce the letters home and modernise the reply slip procedure as well as numerous other advantages. After half term we will also be launching the Parent Portal app which, again, should further make communications more fluid for everyone. That said, it is a new venture and we will possibly experience some teething problems along the way so please do bear with us whilst we iron these out (if indeed they do happen!).

Whilst on the subject of change, we have noticed that some parents are still not aware of the new one-way system and I would please ask that everyone adheres to entering from Denmark Road, driving up the drive past the main school building and then exiting via Spicer Road. May I also ask that you please do not come on-site until after 5pm every day as we really must put the safety of our students, staff and parents as a top priority. There have been a few 'near misses' over the past few weeks with people driving on site at the wrong times and in the wrong direction so please do help us to all do the right thing!

In the meantime, may I wish you all a lovely half term. I hope it provides a great opportunity to kick



back, relax and recharge the batteries ready for a busy few weeks as we build towards (dare I say it?) Christmas!

On to the week's news!

Another remarkable Biz Whizz Careers session



We welcomed three more speakers in at lunchtime today to talk to the Senior Girls about their careers and our thanks to Lee Ferris (architect) Liberty Dixon (Head of Science for the International Department of Trade) and Deborah Fisher OBE (a former diplomat and now Director of Crisis Response and Independent Living at the British Red Cross) for some exceptional insights into their professions.

Without a doubt, the indelible mark that so many of these speakers, who give so willingly of their time, leave on the girls is significant and we are aware of several students so far who have already been sufficiently inspired to follow in our Biz Whizz speakers' footsteps. To have this clarity and direction is very motivational as they consider A-level and degree options and can only put them all at an advantage to gain the necessary experience and qualifications to achieve their end goal.

The next Biz Whizz session (compulsory for all Lower and Upper 5s, optional to the Sixth Form) will take place on Friday 29 November. The three professions being focused will be the Armed Forces, the entertainment industry and a career in artificial intelligence.

Year 4 visit 'We the Curious'

The Year 4 girls had a brilliant time exploring all the hands on science exhibits at 'We the Curious' last Friday and also spent some time working on different types of animations based on the work of Nick Park. A fabulously fun (and educational) day out!

More recently, they have enjoyed a lesson in working together tasked with creating a class city out of Lego. Sharing, working together and including everyone's ideas!





Budding vets in Reception class

The girls in Reception have been very excited this week to have a new role play vet centre to play in and, by all accounts, we appear to have plenty of budding vets in the group!

SS Great Britain proves a thrilling trip

Last Friday, the Year 5s visited SS Great Britain in Bristol as part of their Victorian History topic. They found out about real Victorian passengers, by looking at artefacts, genuine diaries and letters and dressed up in authentic costumes. They toured the ship, complete with startlingly realistic mannequins, noises and smells! The girls had a great time, learned a lot of History and behaved impeccably!

They also had a day of Victorian schooling back at school this week; learning handwriting, arithmetic, history and art from a very strict Victorian schoolmarm and wearing the dunce's cap if they misbehaved!



Drama in French

Mme Smith's Upper 4 French class this week have performed a little simulation of 'a phone call to a doctor's surgery to book an appointment' and then performed the actual doctor and patient conversation using all the vocabulary and expressions learnt this half term. Occasionally reluctant to do some speaking in class, these girls have risen to the challenge and produced some very funny but realistic dialogues and scenes, with amazing acting skills and beautifully pronounced language. A fabulous way of practising their language for a potential real life situation!



Miri and Kitty report from Robot Club



Over the past two weeks great progress has been made in the Robotics team. On the robotics board we have successfully completed two missions, one including a light sensor and motor which involves some complex programming. The project is also going very well this year on the question of 'how to improve a public buildings or community space'. We have decided to base our idea around the increase in high rise buildings and lack of green space, and so are planning rooftop gardens for student accommodation to get people outdoors and increase wildlife in our city. As a team we are working three lunch times a week to get ready for the competition in January and are making great progress by working to each other's strengths.

Tight contest in the Junior School house points competition

Well done to Merchants for winning the Junior School house points for this half of term, closely followed by Goldies, Habbies and then Armourers with only seven tokens separating second from fourth. Merchants house captains, Edrea and Chloe, received the trophy at assembly and join the Wall of Fame in the Junior Hall with our previous winners. Well done to everyone in the Junior School for winning so many tokens and making such positive contributions around the school!



Drama News



We have had an exceptionally jam packed half term in the Drama Department; workshops with Frantic Assembly, trips to see inspiring shows such as 'Malory Towers', 'The Lovely Bones' and the new Theatre Alibi show, casting and rehearsals for the school musical underway and all topped off by the brilliantly expressive GCSE C1 performances last Friday.

Looking ahead, we have the Upper 3/Lower 4 Evening of Drama on Wednesday 27 November (5pm, Performing Arts Centre). This informal 'performance' will showcase the work that these students have produced over the term and give parents an insight into how drama lessons work at KS3. All girls will be involved and there will be a letter home with further details coming shortly explaining how to reserve seats.

Great sporting results to cap off a fantastic half term



We have enjoyed another cracking week of sport with plenty to celebrate including some fantastic individual and team performances:

The Under 8s and Under 9s have been very busy with a couple of fixtures in the past week. Last Thursday they thoroughly enjoyed their Hockey Festival hosted by Exeter Cathedral School, with both teams really enjoying the opportunity to play multiple matches and gain some experience of a proper hockey match. They followed this up yesterday at Exeter School when eight from Year 3 and the entire Year 4 played in three mixed teams

called the Tigers, Panthers and Leopards. The older girls did a brilliant job, helping the Year 3s to understand their positions a bit more and encouraging them to work together as a team. Collectively, they really have made so much progress this half term and are really enjoying their hockey.

Harleigh seals victory to become Southwest Champion

Congratulations to Harleigh in Lower 4 who competed in the South West Acrobatic Gymnastics Championship last weekend with her trio, winning a hugely competitive Level 3 section. It was their first gold at this level and only the second time they have competed together as a trio so to become regional champions is quite a feat! Well done, Harleigh!



Under 14 Netball Team become Area Champions

Congratulations to our Under 14 Netball team who posted some excellent victories against Exeter School, Blundell's and St Peters to win the Area Championships and qualify through to the County Finals next month.

This team are developing very nicely and have so much potential.

Fantastic play by the Under 19s vs Bristol Redmaids'

Having come third in the week at the Under 19 Area Round of the National Schools Tournament, the Under 19 Netball team were feeling a little deflated ahead of their ISNC (Independent Schools Netball Cup) match against Redmaids' High School, Bristol on Wednesday. However (in the words of Mrs Wood), they were amazing! "I have yet to see this team play so well with such determination and drive. From a 12-12 draw after the first 15 minutes, we really showed Redmaids' what we were capable of with fantastic team work and accurate shooting, we won the next 15 min quarter by seven goals! Unfortunately, due to injury, the team had to be rearranged but we still continued with the winning ways to finish on a final score of 49-36!

Tight game for the Under 13 Netball Team

Congratulations to the Under 13 Netball team who played a nail biting ISNC game against Truro this week, just pipping them to the post to win by 34-33!

Under 15 ISNC versus Canford

Unfortunately, the Under 15 had a tough draw against Canford in their latest ISNC round this week and, although they played their socks off, they had to content with a very well drilled side including two super tall and accurate shooters. Despite fighting it out until the end, they were beaten but not for the lack of trying!

Three complete Commando Challenge

Congratulations to Kitty (Lower 6), Betsy (Lower 6) and Alice (Upper 5) who completed the gruelling Commando Challenge on Sunday. This is a great achievement although we're not entirely sure that they were thanking their families for that particular Christmas present as they were crawling through endless dark tunnels and being dunked under some filthy, smelly water!



'Pitch up and Play' Exeter Chiefs invite



Following last year's success, the Community Chiefs are holding another Pitch Up and Play event on the morning of the England vs France Red Roses game (Saturday 16 November) from 9.30am - 12pm. This will be for women aged Under 13, Under 15, Under 18 and above and will include coaching sessions from the Community Chiefs and the Exeter Chiefs Women's coaches. If you would like to book a place (free-of-charge) you must first ensure you have purchased a match ticket but it will make for a brilliant day out! All the information can be found here: www.camps.exeterchiefs.co.uk

Half term craft workshops for children

Old Maynardian, Sylvie Saunders, is running a series of workshops to keep your little ones entertained during the half term holidays. These will all take place near Ashburton and include a huge array of activities so, if you're stuck for something to do, look no further! More information can be found here: <https://batchashburton.wordpress.com/>



House Photo Competition Autumn 2019

- Entries submitted to form tutors via email by Friday 8th November.
- The photo must be autumn themed - of a landscape and not contain any people.
- Every entry will earn your house a house point.
- Your form will decide on the best photo from each house in your form to put forward for further judging.
- More points will be earned for your house the further down the competition your photos get.

Have a fabulous half term!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress