

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

8 November 2019

I hope you enjoyed a fabulous, restful half term albeit it already seems a vague memory such has been the pace of life this past week since we started back! The calendar has, as ever, been bursting at the seams with an array of events and activities across the school.

There have been several highlights for me but the one that truly stands out is a series of workshops and presentations from former Olympic and Commonwealth Gold medal winning gymnast, Craig Heap. I have known Craig for a number of years and over this time I have become familiar with his incredible gift for being able to inspire people from across a huge age range. It was no surprise, therefore, to see the Sixth Formers right through to the Pre-Prep engrossed by his message – that hard work pays off! In his own words, he wasn't the most flexible or talented gymnast but adhering to a gruelling work ethic and being able to keep going despite failure and disappointment along the way saw him compete in several World, European and Commonwealth Championships, topped only by achieving a personal best score at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

His is a unique talent in being able to impart a powerful message, tailored to the age of the audience, but injected with a great deal of humour and a huge dose of self-deprecation despite his success as a top-level competitor and now high performance coach and TV presenter. In both the Junior and Senior school assemblies with him you could honestly have heard a pin drop! On top of this, he also hosted a gymnastics workshop with the Lower 4 girls and, my goodness, watching some of them grow in confidence during the session was a sight to behold!





School has been abuzz this morning following a superb Sixth Form Open Evening which was extremely well attended by both our current Upper 5 girls and a huge number of prospective students all wanting to find out more about our A-level offering. At the risk of repetition, I always come away from these events filled with pride for our amazing staff and students whose love of their subjects oozes from every pore – who could fail to be wowed by such passion?



Equally, on Tuesday evening I had the great honour of sitting in on some of the Upper 6 Extended Project Qualification presentations and I must commend them all for their calm and confidence in talking about their topics in front of not just a panel of judges but a huge number of their peers and parents. An EPQ is the equivalent of an AS level and is highly thought of by universities due to the rigour required in the research, planning and presentation skill. The sheer breadth of topics that our students tackle in their projects never ceases to amaze me and this year was no exception. Examples of just some of the 18 presentations include: ‘The Pidgin language on the border between China and Russia – which country contributes more to their pidgin language and why?’; ‘To what extent can censorship within Western nations in the twenty-first century be justified if at all?’; ‘What limits, if any should we put on AI in medicine?’ and ‘Assess the relative effectiveness of long-term and short-term engineering approaches in mitigating the effect of

earthquakes in settlements close to the San Andreas fault’. I commend them all on such diversity and intellectual maturity and have no doubt whatsoever that our excellent track record for success in EPQ is set to continue! Can I also thank Miss Williamson for her excellent input as the EPQ coordinator.

On to the week’s news!

German Exchange to Hildesheim

On Tuesday 29 October, 14 excited girls from Years 9 and 10 set off with Mrs Cunningham and Mrs Stuttaford to visit our partner school, the Scharnhorst Gymnasium in Hildesheim in North Germany. Our German Exchange is run in partnership with Exeter School and this visit was the 53rd of its kind. We travelled by coach to Heathrow and flew out to Hanover where the exchange families were waiting to meet and greet us, ready to drive





the girls back to their homes for the week. Our German exchange teachers had organised an interesting programme consisting of educational, linguistic, historical and cultural events. The girls followed the German school day during the Wednesday morning. They were surprised to see the many differences between the schools such as, for example, black boards with chalk instead of computers and interactive white boards in the classrooms. During the afternoon, they had a tour of Hildesheim and climbed the many steps in the tower of the St. Andreas Kirche. On Friday, our trip to Bremen encompassed visiting the Übersee Museum (the Over Seas Museum) where all girls

were involved in an African drumming session. Following the museum visit, we had free time in Bremen to explore the old town before we headed back home to Hildesheim on a double decker train. Thursday, being a Bank Holiday, was spent with the families, as was the weekend. Some of the girls had the fortune to go to Berlin for the day where they enjoyed some of the many historical attractions.

On Monday, we all went by coach to the former East German border. Here we visited two different sites. Firstly, we saw the Helmstedt-Marienborn Checkpoint, the most Western point seen from an East German perspective; a point that, following the Second World War, separated Germany into two countries: East from West, Communism from Capitalism, as well as separating Europe and implicitly the rest of the world. We had a very interesting tour of the place, which became a memorial site with listed buildings in 1990. Secondly, we saw the Grenzdenkmal Hötensleben (border memorial near the village of Hötensleben) where we were given an informative tour of the site.

The girls found the tour very interesting as it really managed to highlight how different life was for some, not that many years ago. On Tuesday, we said goodbye to our German friends and, as with any good exchange, there were tears.



I would like to thank Mrs Cunningham for her assistance on the trip as well as all the girls for being excellent. They did us proud and represented the school extremely well. We can now look forward to welcoming and hosting the German students and teachers here in Exeter on the 18 March 2020.

Margrethe Stuttaford

French Spelling Bee



A lovely group of keen Upper 3 (Year 7) girls completed their first round of the French Spelling Bee House Competition before half term, with fabulous and accurate spelling from all girls. Specific mention to Chiara D who scored 100% (50 words in 5 minutes), winning maximum points for Merchants. Following closely was Larissa K. winning in Haberdashers, Ella M. winning in Goldsmiths and Tigerlily M. winning in Armourers. These fantastic results allowed these four, as well as Ruby T., Rose G.C, Hazel S., Margot S., Yemi A. and Christina C. to go through to the second round, all having earned some very well-deserved points for their respective houses. Mme Smith is very proud of them. Well done, girls!

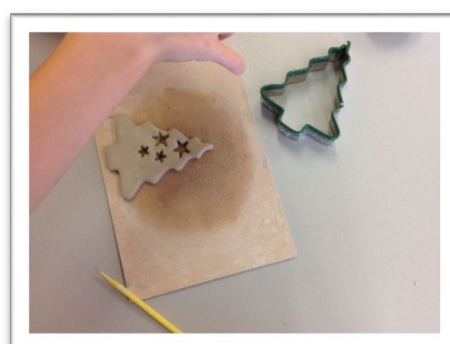
Haydn's Creation an enormous success

Members of the Senior Choir began their half term by joining with the Exeter University Chapel Choir and the ISCA ensemble to perform a concert of music by Haydn in Exeter Cathedral. This was not only a wonderful chance to sing with tenors and basses and to be accompanied by a full symphony orchestra, but also to fundraise for a worthy cause. Over £3,500 was raised for Hospiscare! A recording of the concert is available on: <https://www.iscaensemble.org.uk/previous-concerts-and-reviews/>



Perfectly Potty Pottery workshop

The girls in the Pre-Prep have been getting fabulously festive and messy this week thanks to a visit from the brilliant Melissa from Perfectly Potty who taught them to make Christmas tea-light holders out of clay. She has taken the fruits of their labour back to her workshop to fire and glaze and will return them in time for Christmas - here are just a few sneak peaks of the girls' amazing creative efforts as we don't want to spoil the surprise!



Maynard team off to the ESSA National Swimming Finals

Following their excellent performances at the recent Regional Finals we were delighted to learn that our team were placed in the top 30 (from approximately 300) schools nationally and qualified through to the National Finals at the Olympic Aquatic Centre next weekend. This is an excellent achievement and we wish Emma, Jess, Ella, Sofija and Isobel the very best of luck for this momentous occasion!



Hockey news

The U11 hockey team enjoyed a great tournament on the last day before half term (Friday 18 October), playing in five matches against local competition. They finished fourth overall out of the seven teams to show a huge improvement on last year. So well done to all of them!

Likewise, the Under 13 A and B teams enjoyed some fantastic matches against King's Ottery earlier in the week with the As losing 3-1 in a tightly contested game and the B's winning 4-0 thanks to some great passing play, strong tackles and confidence when distributing the ball.



In a hugely busy week of fixtures, the Under 18s also put in a fine performance against Mount Kelly on Tuesday to show some real improvements in their tactical and positional play to win 2-0. This puts them in fine stead for their Tier 4 West Tournament next Thursday for which we wish them lots of luck.



The Under 11 A team also enjoyed a lovely game of hockey against the Blundell's Under 11 B team to come back from a 1-1 draw at half time to win the match 4-1 on the final whistle. This team is really beginning to move the ball around with confidence and trust one another to do the right thing which is certainly reflected in this excellent result.

To cap off such a busy week in the world of hockey, the Under 8 and 9s enjoyed some brilliant games against local rivals, Exeter Cathedral School, yesterday and although they were unfortunately defeated on this occasion, they all had lots of fun in the sunshine!



Netball news

Congratulations to the Under 14 Netball team who enjoyed a successful return to school after half term, winning their games against St Peter's on Tuesday (24-9) and then posting a second victory against Wellington (36-11) yesterday in the Sisters in Sport Competition. This is excellent preparation for the forthcoming County Championships.

Gymnastic success

A huge well done to Connie (Lower 4) and Flo (Upper 5) who competed in the recent Devon Championships of the Women's Artistic Gymnastics competition. They each scooped overall silver medals in their respective levels after some fantastic performances and our congratulations to them both!



Showjumping for Schools victories

Sisters, Zoe (Lower 6) and Isobel (Upper 6), enjoyed a successful trip to King's Sedgemoor Equestrian Centre during half term where they both won their classes in the British Showjumping for Schools competition. Zoe was first in the 90cm whilst Isobel took the 1m class and finished second in the 1.10m. Our congratulations to them both.



One last space on the ski trip available!

Due to a withdrawal, we have a rare space available on the ever-popular ski trip to Austria in February half term. This is open to anyone in Upper 3 or above, whatever their ability from beginner to expert. Please contact Sue Thorne via office@maynard.co.uk for further details.

Date for your Diary - the fabulous Christmas Fair

This year's fantastic Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 30 November, so please do come along and enjoy all the festivities on offer. With over 30 stalls, it's not only a fabulous way to pick up gorgeous gifts that you won't find on the High Street or internet, but it is also a very social event and always a lot of fun. Enjoy a bite to eat from the BBQ, sip on a warming glass of mulled wine and visit Santa in his grotto! Doors will open at 10am and we look forward to seeing you there! The poster is included below.

Have a great weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress



THE
MAYNARD
SCHOOL

THE MAYNARD SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS FAIR
SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2019
10AM - 2PM



OVER 30 STALLS SELLING:
JEWELLERY, WREATHS, CERAMICS, BOOKS, HOMEWARES, XMAS TREATS
ART, FAIRTRADE CLOTHING AND SO MUCH MORE!

SANTA'S GROTTO. RAFFLE. BARBECUE. MULLED WINE. XMAS TOMBOLA