

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

25 November 2019

Apologies that this newsletter is a little overdue but, as you can imagine, Friday's news about being voted the Sunday Times Southwest Independent Secondary School of the Year rather took precedent! Needless to say, we are all very much still in celebratory mood following the announcement and I am particularly touched by how much it seems to have meant to all of the girls!

All of this recognition is absolute testament to the sheer hard work and graft from our remarkable community who collectively come together as a whole to create the most vibrant, talented and positive bunch of people I could ever wish to work with. Suffice to say, I am one very proud headmistress!

I should also like to applaud all of the performers at Thursday's Autumn Concert who performed so beautifully. It really was yet another extraordinarily eclectic evening involving a bounty of different genres and instruments. My thanks, as ever, to Miss Blackwell, Mrs Smith and all of those involved for a fantastic night out!

On a festive note, I am really looking forward to Saturday's MPA Christmas Fair and I gather we are certainly very much in for a huge treat with so many stalls and a change of venue to Bradley Hall to allow for more space. We really are grateful to the MPA for their hard work in organising all of this and I do hope that you will be able to come along and support it – it's a great way to do some Christmas shopping and always a very social experience!

On to the week's news!



Stunning performances at the Autumn Concert



What better way to spend a wet and miserable evening than in the company of 80 talented musicians! Thursday night's Autumn Concert saw a large variety of ensembles and soloists perform and all their hard work and rehearsing really paid off, with performances to be proud of. Our Sixth Form soloists shone and the music ranged from waltzes and rumbas to 'Wicked' and 'Legally Blonde'. An added treat was a Grade 8 ballet dance and the chance to see Mr Nuthall do his James Bond impersonation. Huge congratulations to everyone involved and thank you to all of those that supported in the audience.



Spreading the music vibe in the Junior School

The Junior School were delighted to have an assembly run by Year 6's Zoe Cole last Wednesday who talked us through her year in music, particularly her membership of the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain. Zoe spoke eloquently and confidently in front of the school and the staff (ie. 125 people) and inspired our young musicians to see the enjoyment that they can have from playing an instrument. Well done, Zoe!



Olympic pool championship experience for swimming team

Congratulations to our swimming team who all enjoyed a wonderful experience at the recent ESSA Secondary Schools' Team Championships on Saturday 16 November. It was an amazing experience to swim in the London 2012 Olympic Pool and they were very impressive to finish 25th out of the whole country, a move up from their 27th ranking qualification so well done, girls!

Under 14 Netball team through to the Regional Championships

Our Under 14 Netball team didn't let the bitterly cold conditions on Wednesday dampen their spirits and they played a superb tournament at the County Netball Championships. Despite losing the first game against Newton Abbot College by an unlucky 1 point, they went on win against Devonport High School and Braunton School, whilst drawing with Uffculme, which was enough to gain them a place in the semi-finals versus Torquay Girls' Grammar. This was another nail biting affair but they just managed to clinch an important victory by a one goal margin (8-7) to qualify for the Regional Championships as Devon representatives.



The final versus Newton Abbot College was a repeat of their earlier encounter and they just missed out on being crowned County Champions with a 10-11 loss. However, they should be very proud of their achievement and the way in which they performed in some highly pressurised matches. We wish them luck for the Regional Championships in Bournemouth in January!

Junior School Hockey Roundup

There was some super Junior hockey going on last week:

Our Year 4 Hockey Club girls hosted players from St. Leonard's Primary School on Monday where they played in a fun festival type tournament, a first competitive hockey experience for many of our visitors which they all enjoyed. Our girls set a great example and made the occasion good fun for all.

Year 5 enjoyed their house competition matches on Monday, whilst the Years 3 and 4 also had a fun afternoon of hockey on Thursday, during which they took part in a combination of mini house matches as well as an additional hockey skills competition... with many of them braving the soggy and windy weather, giving them a true taste of what the Hockey term is all about! (And, not to be outdone by Miss Lavelle's popular selfie habit, below is our dining room selfie of the girls enjoying their first round of Maynard match cookies!)

Equally, our Year 6 teams played at Exeter School on Wednesday and showed how much progress they have made with lots of goals being scored and competitive matches being played by both sides. They also still have their house matches to look forward to and then we can announce the overall Junior School House Hockey results, so watch this space!





Under 12 Netball Success



What an exciting result for our Upper 3 netballers who put in a fantastic performance in their first competitive senior match playing in the Sisters in Sport U12 Netball Cup last week. They played some superb netball against Churston Grammar School with a convincing win of 21-1. The squad worked their socks off, showing real potential and promise for such a young side! This result sees the U12's through to the next round of the cup where we will be travelling to Bristol to play against Redmaid's School. A superb start for them and well done to the whole squad!

Good luck to our runners

We wish the very best of luck to our cross country runners, Sophie, Katie and Emma, who will compete in the Exeter vs East Devon Round on Wednesday following some great performances at the Exeter Round. Given the recent rain and the forecast for the next couple of days, they might also be wise to pack their swimming costumes and a snorkel!





Year 1 Science news

The girls in Year 1 have been thinking about materials in their science lessons. They have been looking at how materials change and discussing the different properties both prior to and following the transformation. This week, we compared water and ice by inspecting them closely and holding balloons full of water and ice.

French pirate fun for the Year 2s

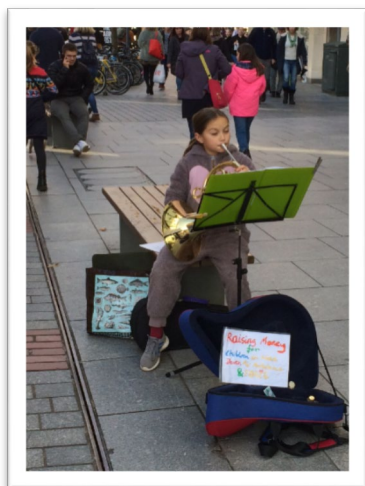
The girls in Year 2 really enjoyed becoming French pirates with Mrs Khreishah last week!



Upper 3 and Lower 4 Evening of Drama

The Upper 3 and Lower 4 Evening of Drama will take place this Wednesday 27 November at 5pm in the Performing Arts Centre. All students will stay after school from 4pm to have refreshments and prepare for the show. Many parents have reserved seats already; if you have not returned your slip to Mrs Bellamy to say you are coming, please could you do so as soon as possible? The show is due to finish at around 6.30pm.

This informal showcase of Key Stage Three work promises to be a fun filled evening of interesting class work.



Children in Need - update on funds raised so far

The brilliant staff 'fashion show', organised by the Sixth Form, raised an incredible £340 for Children in Need on Friday 15 December. Once we have added up the mufti day donations, we can proudly say that The Maynard has yet again contributed a significant amount to Children in Need.

Equally, there were also some very plausible individual endeavours and our congratulations to Maddie in Year 6 whose busking in Exeter on Saturday 16 December raised an incredible £310.92 which she decided to split three ways in order to support two local charities (FORCE and the Devon Air Ambulance) on top of Children in Need.

Borneo Expedition launch

Please can we remind you that it is the Borneo Expedition 2021 parents' launch evening tomorrow, starting at 1800. Do come along if you would like to find out more about this super-exciting and adventurous trip ... at the risk of possibly making you somewhat envious!

MPA Christmas Fair – help still required!

The MPA Maynard Christmas Fair takes place this Saturday 30 November from 10am - 2pm. It promises to be a lovely event as always, with handmade craft and gift stalls, parent-led games, student stalls including Year 8 handmade gifts and, of course, Santa's Grotto. There will be plenty of delicious savoury food options on offer, including Mr. Smerdon's ever popular meat BBQ, and new this year, a Vegan pop up, as well as the usual tea, coffee, mulled wine and cake café. The Fair is in a new location this year - Bradley Hall, with the café in the Food and Nutrition room.



How you can help!

- Buy the raffle tickets that have been sent home with your daughters. Please return completed stubs and cash in an envelope to Reception by the end of school on Friday. There are more tickets available from Reception if you would like to top up! As ever, there are some incredible prizes on offer, from days out, to beauty treatments, a delicious Spanish food hamper, wines and spirits, a hand tied bouquet, a beautiful handmade Christmas wreath, a David Lloyd family pass, a signed Exeter Chiefs ball ... and much more! If you would like to donate something, more raffle prizes are still welcome, and can be left safely at Reception in the coming week.
- Bake or buy a cake/other sweet offering for the café. Leave your donations, labelled if possible, in the Food and Nutrition room at the end of school on Friday 29 November, or first thing on Fair day. *No nuts please and don't forget to collect your cake tins/Tupperware afterwards!
- Come ready with a tune or two (instruments/backing tracks are both ok). Students, parents and staff are all welcome to perform at the "rolling stage" outdoor busking area!
- Bring any nearly new items including unwanted gifts, pre-loved toys, books and DVDs to the Estates Office or Junior School Hall on Friday 29 November.

Thanks so much everyone for all your help and support...now let's start the festive season off in style!

Hope to see you there and have a good week, in the meantime!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress