

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

6 December 2019

I must start by saying that last Saturday's MPA Christmas Fair was a stunning success and my thanks to all those who turned up to create such a good crowd and help spread the festive cheer. The new venue of Bradley Hall lent itself perfectly to the bustle of the occasion and there was such an enormous array of incredible stalls that it is no surprise at all that I managed to spend a small fortune on presents and the delicious food from the cafe! It was a brilliant day so my huge thanks to all those members of the MPA for their organisation and making it the success that it was. A special mention must go to Kate and Richard Daws who masterminded this year's venture. It was an enormous undertaking as usual and we are so grateful to people like them who readily take up the baton! I am also thrilled to say that the Fair raised over £3300 (we are still adding up the total tally) to be added to the MPA coffers to fund future school projects. This is an incredible amount and once again, my many, many thanks.

On the back of this almighty success, school is really beginning to buzz with festive excitement. The trees and decorations are going up around the buildings and rehearsals for the Pre-Prep & Junior School Show, as well as the Carol Service, are in full swing. There is still much to look forward to in these final two weeks and even the weather has marginally improved recently to match our spirits!

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge congratulations to the Year 6, Upper 3 and members of the Middle School Choir who performed so superbly at the Lord Mayor's Carol Service in the Cathedral on Monday, and to the Chamber Choir for singing so beautifully at Wednesday's Darts Farm Indulgence Evening. Christmas is always an incredibly busy time for the Music Department so my thanks also to Miss Blackwell, Mrs Smith and all the other members of staff for orchestrating such a hectic calendar!



### Exeter Chiefs senior coaches put girls through their paces



We had the great honour this morning of welcoming Susie Appleby and Amy Garnett, the recently appointed Exeter Chiefs Women's Team coaches, in to put the Lower 5 (Year 10) and Lower 4 (Year 8) girls through their paces and teach them some important techniques. To have coaching of this calibre is a major coup – Amy is England's most-capped hooker of all time with 100 caps whilst Susie won 65 caps for England and has been Head Coach for Gloucester-Hartpury Women's team since 2014.

The girls absolutely loved this experience and there is now great pressure on Mrs Gabbitass and her team to form a girls' rugby team at school ... so watch this space! Equally, both Amy and Susie were super impressed by the gusto and enthusiasm with which the girls threw themselves into the training. We look forward to further sessions such as this in the New Year and our thanks to Exeter Chiefs for their generosity in this collaboration.

---

### Last Saturday's Christmas Craft Fair has been hailed as a stunning success!

The spacious setting of Bradley Hall meant that almost everything was in one place, and despite the constant bustle and high levels of attendance, this made for a relaxing and very friendly event!

There were many beautiful craft stalls, a buzzing and fun Junior School stall area, a magical grotto complete with elves, a huge and imaginative range of handmade items offered by the Year 8 stalls, the ever popular MPA stalls (including our ex-MPA Chair Jill, who returned to run her Nearly New stall) and an Upper 5/Sixth Form charity area as well as the Young Enterprise team promoting their "Bee Bothered" eco business.

Just outside, braving the chilly conditions, were the delicious hot food stalls running alongside some lovely live music, whilst the Food and Nutrition Room made for a cosy and popular café...as usual parents had furnished it with an absolutely gorgeous array of home baked goodies.

The numbers are still being finalised, but as it currently stands the Fair has raised in the region of £3,300 for the MPA. This is such a wonderful way to end the year - the MPA would like to thank everyone once again for all your help and support in making the Fair such a happy event and such great success!





### Educational elf comes to Year 2



This week an elf has arrived in Year 2 with a letter from the North Pole, and is causing much excitement! In Literacy we have been correcting his spellings and grammar, and writing sentences about him using conjunctions. In Maths we have taken a poll from the children in Year 3 and Year 5 to help us to choose a name for him... the winning name was Cracker! We are using this data to learn about tally charts and bar graphs.

Watch out for more elf antics in Year 2!

---

### Year 5 impress with 'Remember that Song'

The entire Year 5 headed off on Tuesday to perform to the St Thomas Dementia Group 'Remember that Song' session and certainly impressed all those who were there. Daphne West, the coordinator of the event, wrote in to express her gratitude and her comments made us extremely proud of the girls:

"Thank you SO much for your visit to Remember that Song today. A little something for Year 5 will be winging its way

to the Maynard very soon to express our gratitude. You should be feeling really proud of the girls in every way - musically, of course, but also in their superbly courteous behaviour and willingness to join in with whatever was thrown at them. I particularly enjoyed their 'Von Trapp Family' exit!

My colleagues and I are in receipt of all sorts of messages this evening from carers, who so appreciated the Maynard input today. Because we know our members so well, we were very aware throughout that three members of our group (with fairly advanced dementia) were 'awake' and engaged when the girls were singing and they so loved it when the girls joined in the 'reindeer' chase across the hall. This is a real achievement!

So, thank you very, very much. And all good wishes for the rest of term (and we do so hope you'll come again at some point...)." 

---

### On the subject of 'spreading a little happiness'

We are equally proud of the girls in Year 4 who gave such a warm welcome to the ladies and gentleman from Bluebird Care who dropped in for afternoon tea and a chat recently. The joy that these sessions bring to both parties is palpable, as Mr Smerdon explains:

"We have been working with Bluebird Care for three years now and each term they join us for an afternoon, with classes taking it in turn to host our guests. I have to say that these are some of my favourite



events of the year and it is a great pleasure to see the girls chatting so freely with our Bluebird visitors and to witness the evident enjoyment of our guests at spending time with our students. It always reaffirms the lack of inhibition of youth as the children engage so easily with a much older generation, something that we adults can sometimes lose as we mature and become more self-conscious.

growing up and photos from their childhood to share with the children. After the sessions, it has been wonderful to have the children genuinely buzzing with stories and excitement from the afternoon and to hear carers saying how animated and invigorated some of their quieter clients have been during the visit compared to on other days.

If I could bottle the essence of our school and encourage others to get involved, this would definitely be what I would choose. We always look forward to our next visit and hope that these will continue for many years, with strong friendships between the very young and very old at the heart of them.”



---

### Another wonderful student-led Junior assembly



Lydia in Year 6 was this week's guest speaker at the Junior School assembly on Wednesday, talking to her audience about her love of swimming. Lydia has swum since she was three years old and has moved up through the ranks at the Exeter City Club to now be in the Junior Development Squad, which means training for around ten hours a week outside school. Lydia shared her photos of competitions and told us about her favourite events and galas, recommending that we all strive for our personal best over the pursuit of medals. Well done, Lydia.

---

### Poppy makes it into the final five of national competition

As part of the recent Maths Week, some of our Upper 3 (Year 7) students chose to enter a competition run by the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP). They were tasked with a project entitled 'Visualising the Climate Crisis' and they all submitted some stunning posters as their entries. Our congratulations to Poppy who we heard last weekend has made it onto the final shortlist of five from hundreds of entries across the UK. We wish her the best of luck in these last stages of the competition!







### Solo performance at the Royal Albert Hall for Maddy

Congratulations to Maddy in Upper 4 who was successful in her audition to play at a concert in the Royal Albert Hall next Easter. This is terrific news and we wish her all the luck for her solo performance as part of the international group.

---

### More on the Lord Mayor's Carol Service

Year 6, Upper 3 and members of the Middle School Choir joined forces to perform at the Lord Mayor's Carol Service on Monday and made a formidable team! Their singing was of an extremely high standard and was hugely appreciated by the congregation. In fact, when they were rehearsing in the morning, people sat down to listen to them as they were enjoying it so much. Their performance of 'The Little Drummer Boy', 'Torches' and 'Star Carol' got the service off to a lively start before singing alongside the Exeter Police and Community Choir and the City of Exeter Railway Band in a medley of Christmas music. Let's



hope a good sum was raised for the Lord Mayor's chosen charity - Exeter City Community Trust.

---

### Hayley achieves one of very few places at final ballet audition



Massive congratulations to Hayley in Year 6 who has secured her place at the final audition for a place at the Elmhurst Ballet School. Hundreds apply for extremely limited spaces at the school which bills itself the "world-renowned centre of excellence, providing full-time vocational training in classical ballet in conjunction with a sound academic education across the whole school". To get this far through the admissions process is quite incredible and we wish her all the luck for the final audition next March.

---

### Junior School House Hockey results

We hosted the last of the Junior School House Hockey competitions on Wednesday with the Year 6 girls having the final chance to 'do their bit' for their Houses. Armourers were victorious in this particular year group but they were pipped at the post into second place behind Merchants who came out on top as the overall winner



across the year groups (Years 3 - 6 inclusive). Haberdashers finished in third place with Goldsmiths in fourth. Congratulations to all the girls who entered into the spirit of the competition with such aplomb!

---

### Ten Tors training fully underway ... despite the weather!



Ten Tors is now in full swing as the school begins training for the Ten Tors Challenge in May 2020. This weekend saw the teams travel down to Pixies Holt Training Centre, near Dartmeet. This was their second training weekend of the season and Saturday began comfortably enough with all the girls based in the centre for a morning of 'theory', before being transported out on to Dartmoor for an afternoon of putting this into practice. The forecast was for strong winds and horizontal rain but the teams all took this in their stride, motivated by considerable quantities of cake that was waiting for them back at the Centre. Then an evening of good pasta, excellent apple crumble and some intensive route planning prepared them for Day 2.



An early start on Sunday and the girls were all packed, fed and out on the moor by 8am; this time fuelled by bacon butties! The teams were then dropped at Postbridge with a full day of walking ahead of them. Their routes variously took them up around Fernworthy Forest, taking in nearly 1500 feet of climbing and a number of the 'tors' that they might find themselves on during the actual event. The forecast was much kinder on Sunday and all the teams successfully completed their routes in good time

before returning safely to Postbridge, and then home for some well-earned rest.

Can I add a big thank you to all the volunteers who gave so much of their time and energy towards making the weekend a success. The next question is whether the weather in January will be so kind?!

Mr Tabb

---

### Young Enterprise - Bee Bothered!

As this year's Maynard School Young Enterprise Team, our aim is to raise awareness for the endangerment of our important pollinators, who help to fertilise plants and therefore maintain their essential position in our food chain.

Please can you help us out?

Our locally sourced cards and envelopes are produced from recycled paper, our designs from eco-friendly, lino-printed paint, and our gold stamp from reused candle wax. The hand-folded newspaper hearts at



their centre are filled with verbena bonariensis seeds, dried and packaged by us, that can be planted in Spring and grow into beautiful purple flowers. Perfect for the bees!

The cards cost £2.99 each or 4 for £10. If you are interested in buying our lovely cards you can find them in Reception or you can order them through one of the Young Enterprise team.

[21it45@maynard.co.uk](mailto:21it45@maynard.co.uk) - Evelyn Moody or [21it27@maynard.co.uk](mailto:21it27@maynard.co.uk) - Alex Dean

---



### Maynard shoppers

In response to demand, we have ordered some more of our Maynard-branded, hessian shopping bags. These have been much admired over the past few weeks, are super sturdy and would also make a lovely gift for someone, so if you would like one they are being sold in Reception for the cost price of £4.

---

### And finally ...

Please may we kindly ask parents not to drop off supplies for their daughters in Reception unless it is absolutely urgent? We have been inundated of late and repatriating the items with the correct person is becoming rather time-consuming, let alone it starting to look more akin to a jumble sale than a Reception! We will, of course, do what we can in an exceptional circumstance but would prefer if girls could please remember everything they need at the start of the day. Many thanks!

---

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress