

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

10 January 2020

Welcome back to the start of a New Year and a new term! I hope you all enjoyed a fabulous holiday and have started 2020 with renewed energy and purpose (and not too many resolutions to maintain!). Following our excellent and truly successful last year, I can't help thinking that the lovely roundedness of 2020 bodes well for us all and I look forward to the year ahead with great excitement at what we can all achieve.

To which purpose, our Upper 5 and Upper 6 girls have come straight back into their mock GCSE and A-level examinations and I hope that they have managed to strike a good balance over the holidays of rest and relaxation with some intense bouts of revision. My thanks also to all parents who, no doubt, will have played a central role in encouraging and supporting them at what always seems a daunting time. However, the mocks are designed to be a learning experience and are aimed at practising revision techniques and answer structures as well as highlighting areas that need attention. It is important that the students view the results as a learning exercise. There is plenty of time yet and these rehearsals will prove invaluable in paving the way over the next few months in the lead-up to the real public examinations in the summer. So deep breaths all around as, thanks to the mocks, you will all be better equipped and prepared for the real thing!

We welcomed ten new starters to our fold this week and I know they are all already settling in beautifully and enjoying their new school. May I extend also a warm welcome to their parents and please do remember that we are always on hand if you have any questions or concerns. I hope you and your daughters will enjoy a fruitful and happy relationship with our Maynard community and I look forward to catching up more personally with you over the coming weeks.



This is always a very busy time of year for us as we look ahead to September and another intake of students for the future academic year. As such, I thoroughly enjoyed meeting some prospective Sixth Form starters last night at their interviews and I must admit that I have been blown away by the calibre of candidates. My thanks also to our current Lower 6 who have acted as their 'buddies' and been so kind and welcoming. Our next big diary event is to welcome the new cohort of potential Upper 3 and Upper 4 students on our 11+ and 13+ assessment day next Saturday, along with our present Year 6 girls. I wish everyone the best of luck.

We have much planned over the course of the next few weeks and I very much look forward to keeping you abreast with any developments and happenings via this newsletter. So, without further ado, on to the week's news and notices!

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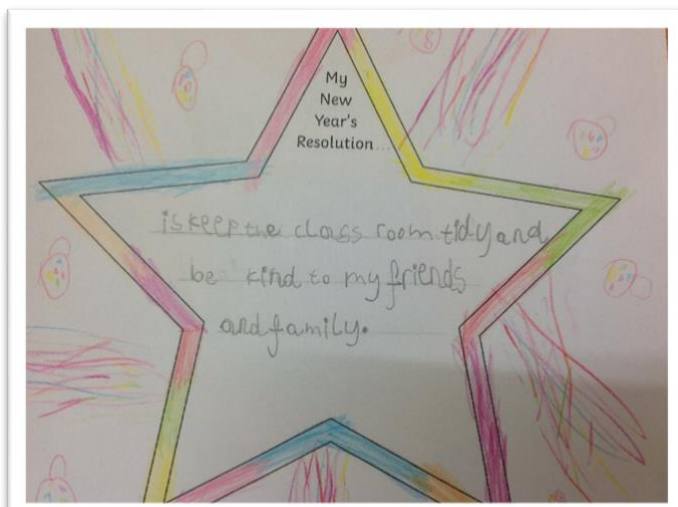
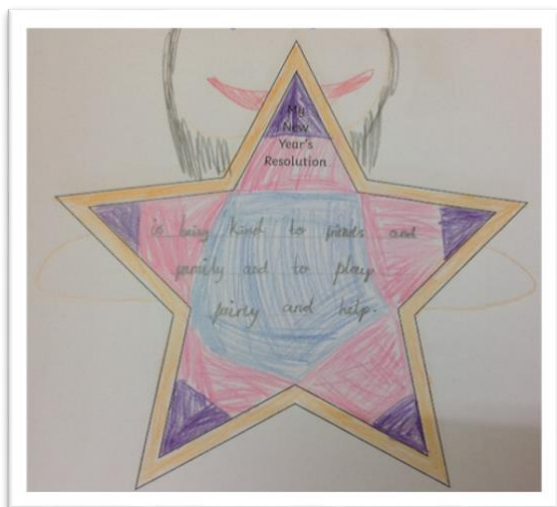
### Environmentally conscious in Reception

Inspired by the book, 'Who will Save Us' by Rebecca Morch, the girls in Reception have been thinking of different ways humans can save the penguin population by reducing global warming and protecting the polar regions. As ever, they have truly taken to heart the message and given great thought to their solutions.

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### New Year's Resolutions for Year 2

The girls in Year 2 have started the year as they mean to go on, making their New Year's Resolutions this week with a focus on trying their best and being kind.



### Spelling Bee goes from strength to strength

The Spelling Bee house competitions have reached a whole new record level of interest as their popularity increases across the Senior School year groups. This year, the MFL department have introduced it in Spanish for the Lower 4 and German for the Upper 4, as well as carrying on with the Upper 3 in French.

The finalists for the Upper 3 French Spelling Bee are Margot S, Yemi A, Larissa K and Ruby T-M. Not long to go before they can "fight" for the crown!

The Lower 4 who are through to the second round in Spanish are Susanna H, Emma D, India V, Kristina P, Millie A, Annabel T, Isabel B, Hannah-Sophia M, Summer H-H and Connie H.

The Upper 4 going through to the second round in German are Jessy W, Maddy K, Eleanor S, Megan S, Katie A-J and Lily M.

More words will be coming their way to ascertain who will go through to the last round in German and Spanish but it is certainly look very tight at present so there is lots to play for. Get learning, girls!

In the meantime, well done to all those who have taken part and good luck to the ones still on track to win points for their houses and prizes for themselves!



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### December's winner of Performance of the Month

Congratulations to Flo (Upper 5) for winning December's Performance of the Month in acknowledgement of her incredible dedication and commitment since her return to competitive gymnastics, and her subsequent selection as a member of the Devon Women's Artistic Gymnastics Squad.

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### Emma excels at annual swimming awards

To celebrate last year's achievements, the Tiverton Swimming Club hosted their annual award ceremony during the Christmas holidays. We were thrilled to hear that Emma (in Lower 4) was awarded the best 11-year old female swimmer and most improved back stroke (in top squads) award. She was also amongst one of four nominees for the 'Swimmer of the Year Award'.

She is looking forward to 2020 with a very busy start as she will be swimming in the Devon County Championships during three



weekends in January and February with 12 qualifying times. She will also be climbing in the four regional rounds of the BMC Youth Climbing Series held over the next few months! We wish her lots of luck and look forward to hearing how she fares!

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### Junior & Senior Tennis Coaching and Academies

We are getting lots of girls turning up for tennis lessons and tennis academies ... but they are not running at present! We always have a short break during January while the weather is cold, wet and the mornings dark so that Mr Rycroft can reorganise the schedule. All parents of girls who had lessons last term have been contacted by him to that effect and he will be in touch with the new schedule within the next few weeks. Equally, letters regarding the tennis academies restarting will be sent out prior to half term for Years 5-8.



### South Africa Sports Tour kit

The Kukri online shop closes on Sunday 19 January and all orders for the SA Sports Tour kit must be received by them. Any girls needing to check their sizes can come to the PE office where we have a list, so please do encourage your daughter to drop by if she is in any doubt.

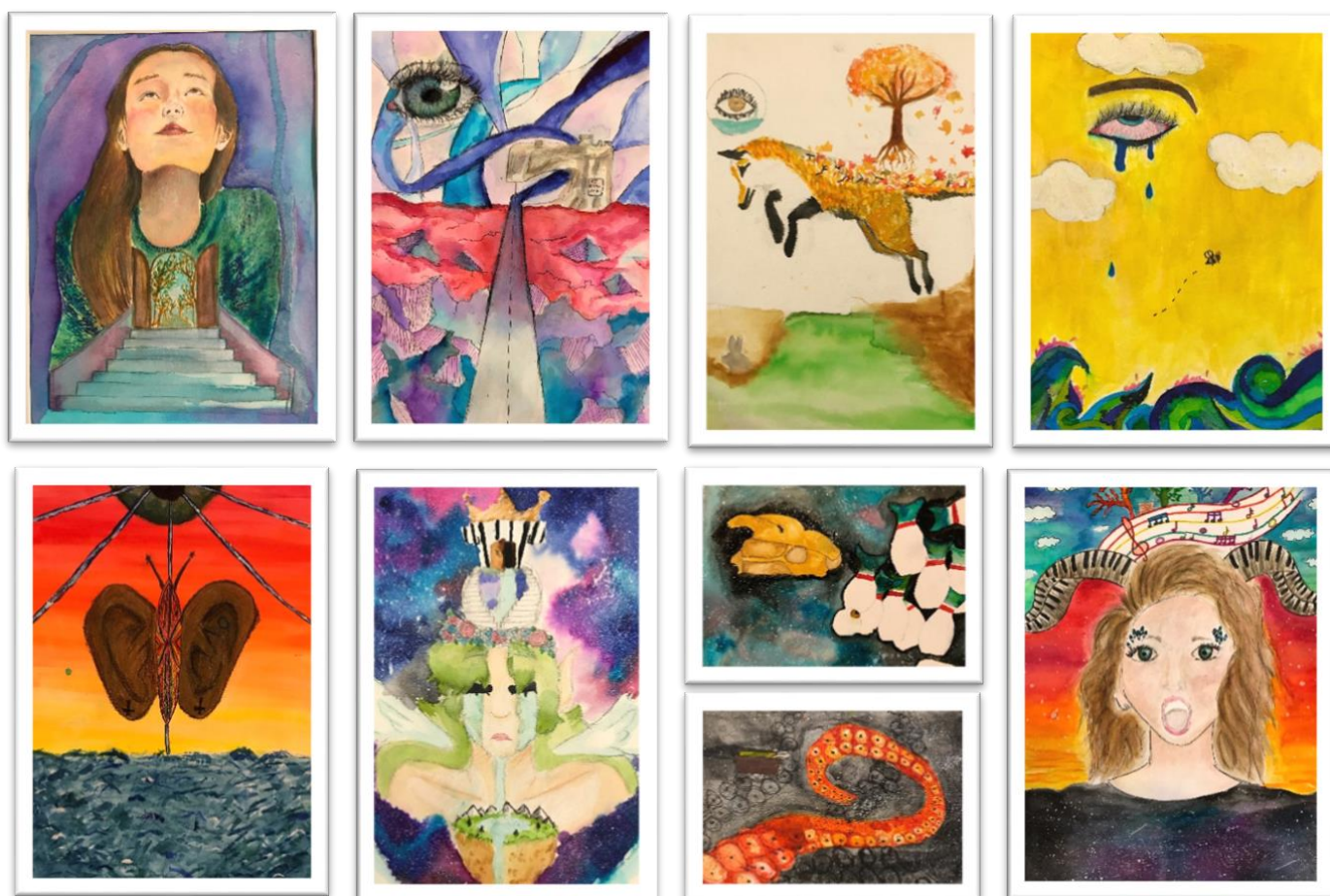
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We are delighted to share with you these beautiful pieces that have been produced in the art rooms this week:

Lower 4 have used mixed media - a wax resist and 'sgraffito' technique - to produce these large colourful Natural Forms. Inspired pieces!



Whilst the Upper 4 have been working on a surreal based project called 'Fantastical' and have created some wonderful interpretations of the theme.





### Christmas Carol Concert fundraises over £500

Our sincere thanks to all those who came to the Christmas Carol Concert last month. We are delighted to say that over £500 was raised for the Friends of Buburi, a charity dedicated to improving health and saving lives in Western Kenya. "This is truly amazing and so greatly appreciated. Please thank all the girls who enthusiastically encouraged people to give!" said the charity representative, Gilly Sowden.

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### More music news ...

Congratulations to Issy in Year 5 who auditioned for the National Children's Choir of GB in November and has since learned that she has gained a place in the Yellow Choir (for 9-11 year olds) which is conducted by Mrs Smith. She will join 50 other talented singers from around the country on two week-long residential courses a year which are held at Shrewsbury School in Shropshire in the Easter and summer holidays. The weeks will consist of lots of singing, musicianship classes and performing opportunities but also sport and recreational activities, and the chance to make lots of new friends. Altogether, there are over 200 young singers aged 9 - 19, spread over four choirs. Issy is the sixth member of The Maynard to be awarded a place in recent years and currently Natalie in Lower 5 and Evie in Lower 4 also sing with NCCGB.

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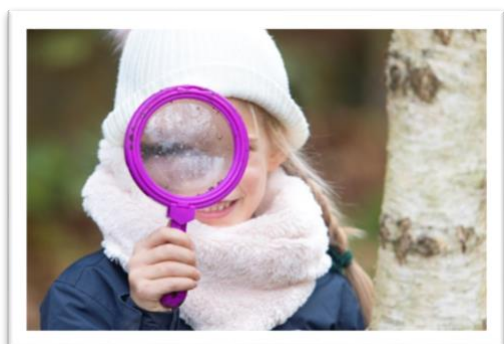


### A memento from the Pre-Prep and Junior School Christmas Show

The specially produced DVD from last term's wonderful Pre-Prep and Junior School Christmas Show is now available to purchase from the Junior School Office. They are £3 each and we can only accept cash for this so please do drop in during school hours to pick one up!



### Forest School for Pre-Schoolers – spread the word!



We are delighted to be launching our Forest School sessions for Pre-Schoolers again on Tuesday 28 January 2020 with five lessons open to all girls aged three and four.

Our beautiful city centre Forest School is situated on site here at The Maynard in a safe and compact area specifically adapted to suit the needs of every little explorer! Sessions will be run by Mrs Davey, our trained Forest School Leader, and Mrs Riley, our Reception teacher.

Sessions are child-led and involve a lot of exploring and discovering nature, as well as activities such as helping to build a fire and using simple tools and natural materials for craft activities. We also take part in group stories and games, and there will be lots of hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows to keep us warm!

The course costs £25 per child and places are limited so please do spread the word. Registration can be done here: [www.maynard.co.uk/forest-school](http://www.maynard.co.uk/forest-school)

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### Lost property

We are receiving reports of several items of lost property, particularly in the Pre-Prep and Junior School. Please can we ask that parents regularly check your daughter's bags to make sure she hasn't accidentally ended up bringing home someone else's belongings? Grateful thanks!

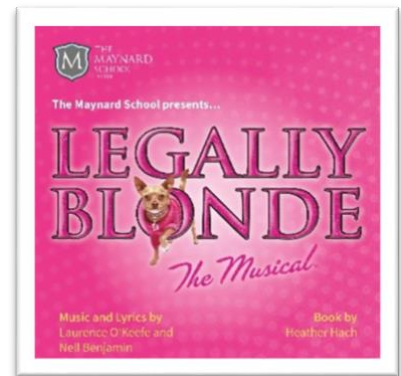
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### Tickets are now on sale for Legally Blonde

Don't forget that tickets have gone on sale for this year's musical production, Legally Blonde, taking place at the Barnfield Theatre from 11-13 March 2020. The Friday finale is already filling up and traditionally these shows prove a complete sell-out, so please don't delay if you are hoping to come along for what promises to be yet another theatrical spectacular!

Tickets can be purchased through [www.barnfieldtheatre.org.uk](http://www.barnfieldtheatre.org.uk)

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Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress