



# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

17 January 2020

I gather from the short updates I am receiving that the Upper 5 girls are having a fantastic time in London and, as we were sheltering from the appalling weather here in Devon yesterday, I couldn't help notice a glimpse of blue skies in their photos. The lucky things! This is an annual trip that we organise for the year group as a treat for them all and an opportunity to let their hair down after their mock GCSE examinations. It always involves a whirlwind of cultural (and some retail!) activities from visits to the V&A and Imperial War museums, dressing up Elizabethan-style at the Globe Theatre through to an evening wander and dinner in Covent Garden as well as, of course, a West End show. I trust they will continue to enjoy their final few hours up there and no doubt will collapse in an exhausted heap on their return home this evening.

Meanwhile, the Upper 6 girls are still ploughing through their mock A-levels and seem to be taking everything in their customary stride. The end is in sight with just a couple more days to go before the last one on Tuesday afternoon when they can all breathe a sigh of hearty relief. On which note, I must also share with you the fantastic news that two of our girls have received offers this week from Oxford. Dodie Bowman (a 2019 leaver) has a confirmed place to read Music and Amanda Milligan (current Upper 6) has a super offer to read Law at Christchurch. My heartfelt congratulations go to them both on this outstanding success. Likewise, offers are flowing in from some of the country's top universities and our entire Upper 6 year group look to have very exciting futures ahead of them, reading a huge array of impressive subjects. So well done to them all!

I would also like to congratulate the Year 8 and 9 girls who form the Herschel's Comets team that performed so spectacularly at the FIRST LEGO League competition in Bristol yesterday, winning the Core Values section and scooping a rather large trophy in the process!



This has certainly fuelled Mr Lodge's competitive side and I understand that preparations for next year's event are already underway!

Our Ten Tors training resumes again tomorrow and the girls will be back out on Dartmoor for the last of their day walks before we go to the really intense stage of even longer hikes and overnighing in a (chilly and invariably damp) tent. Once again we have had a remarkable number taking part in the challenge this year and we have had to apply for five team entries! As ever, I look forward to joining them on future training sessions.

Thank you to all parents for the very strong turnout at the Upper 4 Parents' and Daughters' Evening on Tuesday. It is always a difficult task with so many GCSE options to choose from but I hope you found the evening both useful and informative.

On to the week's news ...

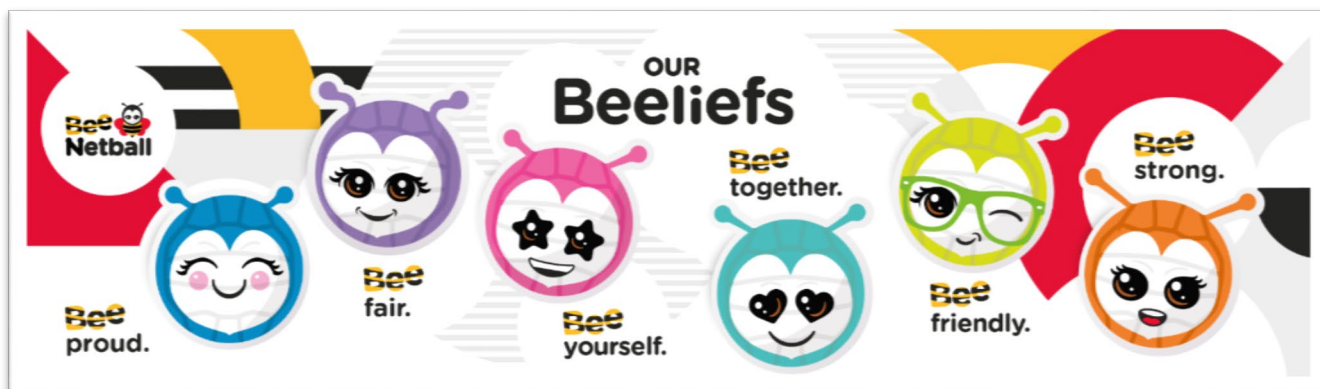


### Fascinating talk for the Reception class

The girls in Reception were treated to a fascinating visit from Ornella's mother earlier in the week. We are very grateful to Dr Rodgers for giving her time to talk about her visit to the Antarctic which tied in perfectly with the girls' learning about polar regions and how to protect the penguin environment. They were captivated throughout and asked lots of very relevant questions to show a real understanding of their topic.

### Bee Netball fun for Year 2

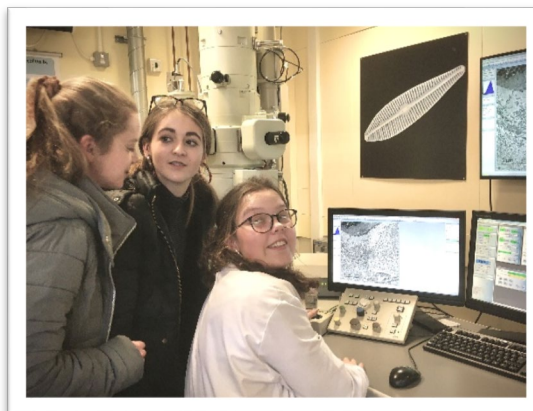
In Year 2 we have started a new programme of work devised by England Netball, designed to give younger girls a chance to have fun developing skills that will help prepare them for playing netball later on. Named 'Bee Netball' (after the England netball team who are nicknamed "the Roses" and bees love roses), it mirrors the same qualities and "Beeliefs" as those we teach in the classroom and the girls have met the new challenges with all their usual enthusiasm!





### Electron Microscopy workshop

On Wednesday, 14 of our Lower 6 Biology students visited Plymouth University to attend an electron microscopy workshop. They learned how to prepare and examine specimens (such as viruses, the cilia found on cells in the respiratory system and bacteria) that were magnified up to a whopping 1,000,000 times. We had a chance to operate the microscopes that were about two metres tall and worth £300,000! This gave the girls an opportunity to apply some of their A-level knowledge and see what a research scientist does on a day-to-day basis. We also had a tour of the campus to get an insight into what life is like at university.



---

### Robotics success



Herschel's Comets is our own in-house club that designs, programmes and builds robots to complete missions in the **FIRST LEGO League** competition series. There are four categories of competition; robot performance, robot design, core values, and project (a five minute presentation) and each year the League introduces a different scientific and real-world challenge for teams to focus on and research.

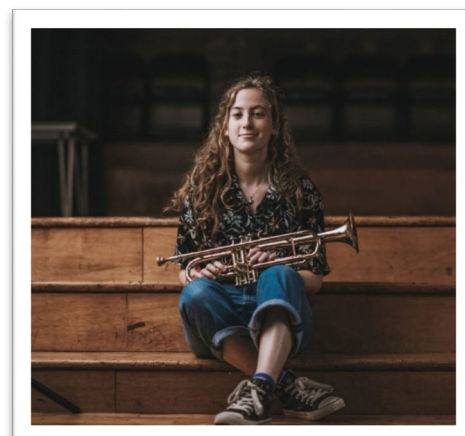
Yesterday saw the team travel to Bristol for the Wessex Regional Round where the girls equipped themselves exceptionally. As Mr Lodge explains: "Our robot performed better than last year, and our project (a template design for a rooftop sensory garden) was fantastic. Of 20 teams, ours was judged in first place for observance of the competition's core values, and we were awarded a fantastic cup to add to our collection."

---

### Dodie on gaining an offer to Oxford

Our congratulations to 2019 Leaver and superb musician, Dodie Bowman, for her brilliant offer to study Music at Oxford University. Although still struggling to absorb this fantastic news, we thought we would ask her about the whole process:

"Having finished the Sixth Form in the summer and getting my A-level results, I had decided to undertake an Art Foundation Course at Exeter College. Realising how much I was missing my music lessons, I got back in touch with School and decided to apply for a music degree. With a great amount of help from Mr Hibberd and Miss Blackwell, and having the required grades, I decided to put down Oxford as one of my UCAS choices. The rollercoaster began. I was offered an interview,



again school helping me with practice interviews and preparations, and soon the time came to travel up to Oxford. I have to say after some tricky interviews and an audition, the wait for the outcome began. So Tuesday morning arrived, after what seemed like a very long wait, although it was only 9.40am, the UCAS email arrived, and to my great delight I was offered a place to study music at Jesus College. It has taken a while for the news to sink in, but I can't wait to become involved in the rich musical tradition at Oxford, building on my musical knowledge from school and the various orchestras/bands that I have been involved in. A very exciting time lies ahead."

---

### Exeter Chiefs training with the Lower 4s

We welcomed back Amy Garnett, the first player to earn 100 caps for the England women's national rugby union team, for some more training with the Lower 4 (Year 8) girls on Tuesday. They all had an absolute ball (if you'll pardon the pun) and certainly Amy was most impressed by some of the skills shown. Amy, who is now the assistant coach of the new Exeter Chiefs' womens team, will be running weekly workshops with this year group throughout the term and we are thrilled to have her on board!



### Good luck to the Cross Country team

Best of luck to Katy, Sophie C, Sophie B and Emma who are representing Exeter at the Devon Schools Cross Country Championships at Stover tomorrow. The sun will be shining and we just know you will all be brilliant!

### The wonders of a cake sale!

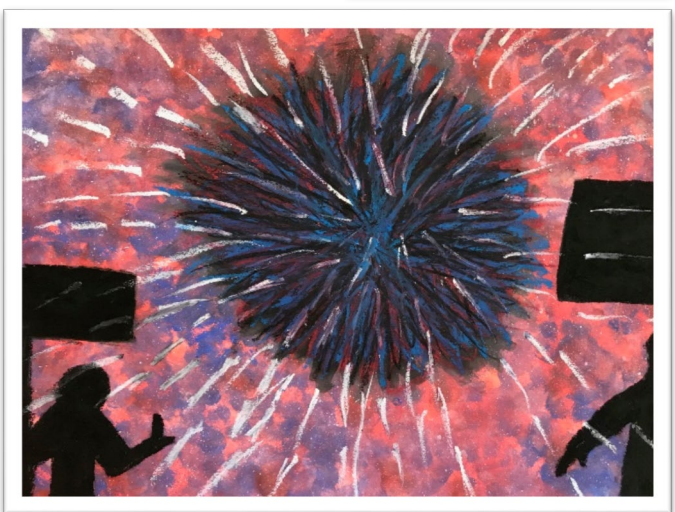
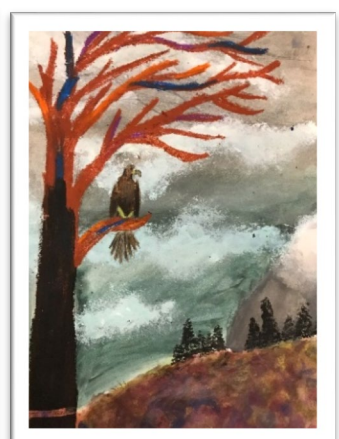
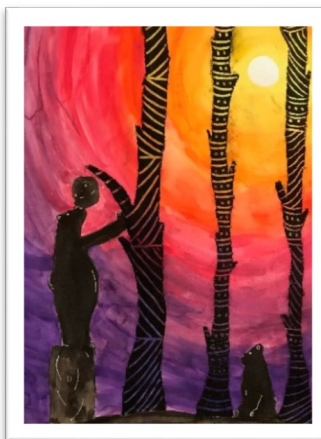
Here at The Maynard we regularly host cake sales as fundraisers for worthy charities and we were delighted to raise £135.80 for the MPA from the Years 2 and 4 event in December. We are very grateful to our army of volunteers who orchestrate such a busy calendar of sales to raise important funds for the running of our school and we can look forward to the next of these on Friday 7 February - but more on this nearer the time!





### Artworks of the week

The Upper 3 have been looking at the theme of celebration. Here are some examples of their colourful and wide-ranging work including the Chinese New Year, Halloween, Christmas, Holi, Day of the Dead and 4th July.



---

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress