

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

24 January 2020

This has been a particularly busy week as the Heads of Departments and I wade through the many assessment papers that our prospective students sat last Saturday morning. As ever, the standard has been exceptional and my huge congratulations to all those that took the examinations - we certainly look to have a very talented bunch of joiners lined up for September. This also extends to the Sixth Form and I have had the pleasure of interviewing another wave of prospective students this week who have all, once again, bowled me over with their academic ability as much as their zest for life and extra-curricular interests. As a result, it's super busy in the Admissions office at present and it certainly seems that our reputation is spreading far and wide, with enquiries now coming in from as far afield as Australia and places already being reserved in Reception for 2024!

I was also delighted to hear that we have been shortlisted as Finalists for the upcoming Exeter Living Awards in recognition of the truly fantastic past year we have enjoyed. From topping the region's league tables, being voted the Sunday Times Southwest Secondary Independent School of the Year and one of The Telegraph's top ten best value schools in the country, as well as being the first in Devon to achieve the Wellbeing Award for Schools, it really has been an exceptional year. But, rest assured, we won't be resting on our laurels and there is much to look forward to in 2020.

The same can also be said for the Upper 6 students who, having just finished their mock A-level examinations on Tuesday, are being especially motivated by the stream of university offers that keep rolling in. As ever, the vast range of courses that they have applied to is quite staggering and, whilst some are still awaiting interviews or outstanding offers, the overall picture is fantastically diverse. The STEM



subjects are proving as popular as ever and we have in our midst those who will be going off to read veterinary science, computer science, natural science, maths and civil engineering at their chosen universities. Equally, the arts-based subjects are also well represented and it is fantastic to have some excellent offers on the table for English Literature, Law and the humanities. What an exciting landscape and I am so proud of each and every one of them.

On which note, may I also wish the very best of luck to our Under 14 Netball team who will be playing in the Regional tournament at Bournemouth tomorrow in the hope of bagging a place at the National Finals. They surely must take great confidence as one of Devon's top teams in this age bracket and I will be keeping everything crossed for them.

On to the week's news ...

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### Ten Tors training resumes in earnest



Last weekend saw our Ten Tors teams out training once again for this May's Ten Tors Challenge. The weather leading up to the weekend had prepared the girls for some seriously challenging wind and rain on the moor. However, when Saturday arrived, this couldn't have been further from the truth. The girls arrived in time for a stunning sunrise and a beautiful, crisp winter's day lay ahead of them.



Our four training teams set off across the north west moor, their routes taking them over two of the highest peaks on Dartmoor and more than 3000ft of ascent. However, all the rain of the previous week meant that some of the biggest challenges of the walk were the teams' river-crossings. With the rivers so swollen, the girls had to make some significant detours to complete their routes. This was a valuable experience for all the teams and the staff were very impressed with how well they handled these challenges.

Despite their detours, each team successfully came in ahead of their schedule and in good spirits. Their next challenge: our first wild-camp on the moor... in February. Wish us luck!

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### Excellent cross country results

Congratulations to our four cross country runners who, having qualified through previous trials, competed in the Devon Schools Cross Country Championships at Stover on Saturday. Katie (Lower 5) stormed the Inter-Girls section to post a very convincing victory and qualify to represent Devon in the next round. From a field of 35, she also had great back up from the rest of the Lower 5 runners with Sophie B finishing in 17th place and Sophie C in 24th.



Equally, Emma (Lower 6) put in a very gutsy run in the slippery conditions of the Senior Girls race to finish in overall 15th place. Our congratulations to them all!

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### Equestrian success

In a busy weekend of sport, our equestrian teams equipped themselves very well at the NSEA Arena Eventing at Bicton on Sunday. In a particularly busy 70cm class, Velvet (Lower 5) completed a beautiful double clear and was unlucky not to finish in the ribbons on this occasion. Likewise, Martha (Lower 4) helped the team to an overall sixth place over a stiff 80cm course by virtue of an excellent individual 9th place. Well done to them all!

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### Chinese New Year celebrations

The girls in Reception have been having great fun learning about the Chinese New Year celebrations by watching dragon dances, making their own dragon puppets, writing Chinese numbers and making lanterns.



### Music and popcorn making in the Pre-Prep

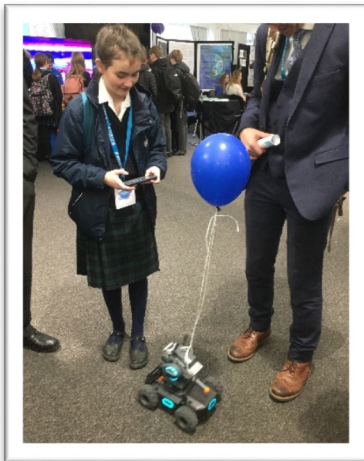
The Reception girls have also been learning about pitch in Music this term. To help them with their understanding of high and low notes, this week the focus was on popcorn - the girls played shakers, incorporated actions and dance to the popcorn song (lots of jumping high and crouching low) and, probably most excitingly of all, we made popcorn in the classroom to watch the corn popping up and out of the machine. Then we had to eat it all up!

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### Year 6 turn teachers for the day!

The Year 6 girls have been spreading the word about the importance of e-safety this week. Having created their own interactive games in their computing classes this term, they had a great time teaching the Years 3 and 4 how to play them whilst also explaining the dangers of the internet, as well as the benefits. Their teaching techniques were certainly very impressive and a great time was had by all!





### STEM away day for the Upper 4

All the girls from Upper 4 went to Plymouth University yesterday to attend a STEM Showcase where they enjoyed gaining hands-on experience in a whole range of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths ideas. These included playing with robots, driving Segways, experiencing VR technology, handling giant stick insects, trying out coding software and creating composites for solving crimes. We also had a lecture from a Geologist who explored the variety of STEM careers available and the routes into them.

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### A great week of Netball

We have enjoyed lots of lovely competitive netball matches this week and, on Tuesday, the U14 A & B teams played some really close games against St Peter's School, Exeter (winning one and narrowly losing the other) in preparation for tomorrow's Regional Finals tournament.

The Under 12 team also played superbly against a strong Truro side on Wednesday, winning 16-11 and showing that their skill level and tactical play has progressed significantly since the start of the year. Equally, the Under 15s were also immense against their Truro opponents and they continued to improve throughout the game to eventually post a 36-27 victory. Well done to them all!



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### The Independent Schools Mock Trial competition

The budding lawyers that form the Maynard's Manus Justa team continue to prepare for the upcoming Independent Schools Mock Trial competition in Southampton next weekend and they will be back in school again tomorrow to put the final touches to their efforts so far.

This competition is a fantastic way of providing our budding lawyers the opportunity to experience life inside a courtroom and gives students the chance to learn about the criminal justice system whilst working in teams of crown prosecutors, defence barristers or witnesses. It is also a great way of developing transferable skills such as public speaking, self-confidence and debating to take forward into any career.

Our team, the first of its kind to enter this competition, comprises 13 girls from Years 10 and 12 who are being supported in their preparations by Holly Gilbery, a barrister and Old Maynardian. We wish them all the best of luck.



### The STEMM Awards – an essay by Alex in the Lower 6

For anyone interested in STEM subjects and, in particular, engineering, we thought we would share with you a fascinating interview that Alex in the Lower 6 did recently with Karen Friendship, the managing director of Alderman Tooling, the South West's leading contract metal fabricators. Please click on the attachment and prepare to be wowed by this very motivational piece exploring diversity in the workplace and promoting women in engineering.



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### More Upper 3 artwork

Following on from last week's lovely artworks that we published, here are some more of the Upper 3's material that they have been producing in their classes on the subject of 'Celebrations'.

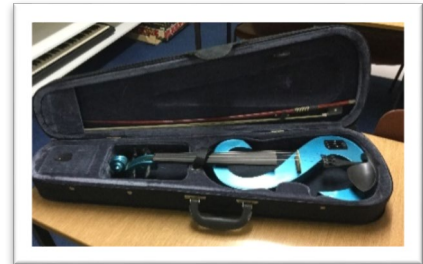


### Violins for sale

Miss Blackwell, the Director of Music has two violins for sale. They are:

- A half-size violin, case and bow. Offers in region of £50.
- And an electric violin, case and bow. Offers in region of £100.

Please contact her directly on [angelablackwell@maynard.co.uk](mailto:angelablackwell@maynard.co.uk) if you can offer either of them a good home!



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### Australian Bushfire Charity appeal



After watching the shocking footage of the Australian Bushfires, our Lower Sixth Geographers have today delivered a presentation to the school about the devastating impacts upon wildlife and the ecosystem. The dramatic images of Lewis the Koala clearly demonstrate the plight of the estimated half a million animals to have been killed by the fires, which continue to devastate habitats across 10 million hectares.

Several species including koalas are now believed to be functionally extinct, and the longer term environmental impacts are yet to be seen.

Whilst the short term efforts focus on rescuing and treating injured wildlife, attention is now turning on food drops to support and feed hungry wildlife. In the longer term, extensive reforestation projects will be needed to restore forests and regenerate habitats.

The Lower Sixth will be aiming to raise money to support the efforts of the Animal Rescue Co-operative in caring for the injured wildlife. This will begin next week with:

- Fundraising for the ARC through an Australian Themed Mufti Day.
- Selling Koala Charm bracelets, all profits going to ARC.
- Crafting, including creating pouches and nests to be sent to Australia. If any girls would like to help with this, patterns and instructions can be found on: [iLearn365>Geography>Australian Bushfires](#).

We hope to engage as many girls as possible with these fundraising efforts and any help, however small, will be very gratefully received.

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Have a lovely weekend!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sarah Dunn'.

Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress