

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

31 January 2020

As you know, one of the things that always makes me most proud about The Maynard is the empathy and compassion of our community and the desire to help those who are suffering or have hit hard times. It was such a thrill today to see so many come into school dressed with an Australian theme to recognise the plight of both the people and the animals that have been so devastatingly affected by the raging bush fires. A main goal is to provide money for food drops to the surviving animals who are now without any vegetation to feed from. Flip flops, shorts and cork hats abound and I can't help feeling grateful for the unseasonably mild weather so those that are, let's say, more lightly dressed won't be catching a cold through their fundraising efforts. I have also made sure that I bought one of the lovely koala bracelets made by the girls which I shall wear with pride over the weekend. I hope that we will have raised a substantial amount to send to the relief charity and my thanks to everyone for their kind support.

I honestly cannot believe that we are already at the end of January - where has the time gone? However, as a distinctly summer person I must confess I am glad to be saying goodbye to what has been a damp and dismal month and, as the evenings start drawing out, spring is certainly beckoning. As such, the Upper 3 had a particularly exciting day yesterday as part of the 'Loving Life Programme'. Our aim was to help the girls start to develop a positive mindset towards dealing with life's little ups and downs. They enjoyed some yoga and 'Wow Walks', made 'Jars of Joy' to remind them of all the things that make them happy, and even had a brief introduction to some meta-cognition skills.

Earlier this afternoon, the Senior School and Sixth Form were treated to another of our amazing Biz Whizz careers sessions and I am ever grateful to the many speakers that volunteer their time so willingly to talk about what they do and pique the girls' interests.



This week's choice of talks included Gemma Dudgeon, a renowned interior designer and former professional opera singer, a journalist for the top national papers who had worked his way up the ranks from starting out as the reporter for the Exmouth Herald and, finally, the Director of the Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute (LEEP) who is responsible for looking at issues such as how to address the impact of climate change, woodlands and where they should be, and how to conserve biodiversity. My thanks to them all for their fascinating insights – without doubt, Biz Whizz really has become the most inspirational resource for so many of our students as they make their onward journey to future careers.

On which note, I would just like to wish our budding lawyers the very best of luck as they compete for the first time in a national Mock Trial competition in Southampton tomorrow. I know they have all been working very hard on various court scenarios over these last few weeks and I am sure they will equip themselves beautifully as they pit their defence and prosecution arguments against other schools from the South.

On to the week's news!



### Pre-School forest fun

The first of our Forest School sessions for three to four year olds took place on Tuesday and we were delighted to welcome the youngsters to The Maynard for some outdoor fun with Mrs Davey!

They had a lovely time learning about the rules of the fire area and made forest princess crowns, had a bug hunt in the mud kitchen area and mixed fairy potions with huge excitement. We look forward to welcoming them back next Tuesday!

### Dragons and fortune tellers in Year 4

Year 4 have been celebrating Chinese New Year this week by making dragons and fortune tellers, as well as having a go at writing in Chinese. We discovered that writing in Chinese takes much longer due to the complicated nature of their characters but everyone had a really good try at it!



### Beautiful Year 2 animal prints

Year 2's topic this term is Animal Magic and the girls have been looking closely at animal prints and recreating them using sketching pencils and acrylic paints!



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### Endangered species in Year 3 Art

Year 3 have been practicing and improving accurate drawing skills in their Art lessons, using different pencils to carefully match tonal values and thinking about reflective symmetry. They chose to draw elephants and tigers as they have been learning about endangered species as part of their India topic this term.



The girls also created some beautiful drawings of the Taj Mahal, looking at its symmetrical design, and identifying lines of symmetry within the building.



### England Roses vs Aussie Roo's

Together with our Australian-themed mufti day, many of the year groups have been taking part in equally 'Down Under' style activities. As such, the Year 5s enjoyed their England Roses versus Aussie Roo's netball match this afternoon and it was very befitting that the Aussies were victorious!

### A trip to the National Apprenticeship Show

On Wednesday, a group of girls from the Upper 5 and Sixth Form visited the National Apprenticeship Show at Westpoint Arena in Exeter. The show had a wide range of interesting stands and interactive displays showing advanced and degree level apprenticeships on offer nationally. Career fields ranged from the Armed Forces, Met Office, NHS, civil engineering, cyber security to law, with many more options in-between. The students enjoyed browsing and discussing how to apply for the apprenticeships they might be interested in. With degree level apprenticeships becoming a more popular alternative for many students we will probably be visiting it again next year!



## GCHQ Cyber Discovery Challenge



Congratulations to our team of Lower 4 students (Tess, Maliha, Hannah and India) who have made it through to the second round of the GCHQ Cyber Discovery Challenge. To get this far the girls have solved incredibly difficult cyber challenges involving analysing network traffic and the raw code behind websites to solve clues.

The second invitation-only round involves hundreds of hours of challenges. The girls are discovering techniques used by Cyber Criminals and how to defend against them, using multiple languages including: Python, HTML, Java Script, Linux operating systems, Json and more.

We wish them the best of luck for the next round which takes place on Saturday 8 February.

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## Netball news from Mrs Gabbitass

There has been lots of netball played this past week, starting with some great performances by the Under 14s at the Regional Finals in Bournemouth last Saturday. They played some terrific matches against very competitive teams, who had equally had to qualify to get through to this stage of the competition. They recorded wins against Truro High School and St Edwards, Dorset and lost by very small margins to both Dean Close (5-8) and the eventual overall winners, Taunton School (7-10). It was such a valuable learning experience for the whole squad who had to bring their very best to the day in order to compete at this level. I was very proud of them!



Equally, there were some super matches across the board this week against Blundell's involving the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams, the Under 15 A & Bs and the Under 14 A & Bs. We played every match in excellent spirit, with an even number of wins and losses for both schools. It was so good to see so many girls representing The Maynard - on Wednesday afternoon alone, we had over 60 girls playing netball and loving every minute of it!

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## Junior School Netball news



It has been an equally busy week on the netball courts for the juniors this week. On Wednesday, our Year 6s hosted Mount Kelly which gave us the opportunity for all 34 from this cohort to play competitive netball. All four of our teams played with a cumulative score across the matches of Maynard 22-9 Mount Kelly.



Yesterday it was the turn of our Years 3 and 4 girls who played in a Bee Netball triangular tournament at Exeter University against West Buckland and Exeter Cathedral School. For many of the girls across the three schools this was their first experience of competitive netball. Our girls played brilliantly and demonstrated lots of the qualities we are trying to encourage through this New England Netball framework for junior players, such as “bee proud, bee fair, bee together, bee friendly and bee strong.”

Equally, yesterday evening it was the turn of our Years 5 and 6 Netball Club who hosted St. Leonard’s Primary school for some friendly matches where we work cooperatively to learn the game and improve the children’s skills. It was lovely to see our Maynard girls being so supportive, friendly and encouraging.



#### GB team selection for Natalie

Huge congratulations to Natalie in Lower 5 who has been selected onto the England Basketball Talent Programme for 2020 and can look forward to playing some national and international tournaments over the coming months. This is a fantastic achievement and very well done to her!

#### Calling all budding Legal Eagles

For those that might have been inspired by the legal buffs who are heading off to Southampton this afternoon, please note that we are hosting, in conjunction with the Exeter University Law undergraduates, another Mock Trial for anyone in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 here at school on Wednesday 12 February, starting at 4.15pm.



We have found that, in previous years, this event has proven to be a unique, hands-on opportunity to experience and enact the different roles of the prosecution or defence barristers, to cross examine the witnesses and sample what it must be like to be a member of the jury during some complex proceedings. Our Head of Careers, Mrs Lewis, has all the information and do please encourage your daughters to chat with her and come along if they are interested in any aspect of the legal world.

### Lower 6 Artwork

This week's artwork comes to you courtesy of Lower 6 A-level artists, Lowena and Peggy. Lowena's pieces are following a "gothic" theme, whilst Peggy is focusing on her portrait work.



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### And finally ...

Another quick plea for all uniform to be clearly labelled so that any lost property can be returned to its rightful owner. Equally, could we ask parents to please check that your daughter hasn't accidentally brought home anyone else's shoes, clothing or equipment? Many thanks!

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Have a fabulous weekend!.



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress