

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

20 March 2020

As we navigate our way through these unprecedented times and somewhat surreal circumstances, it is important for us to focus on all the positives and there isn't a moment when I am not grateful to be a part of such a genuinely warm hearted community. Whilst I thank you all for your enormous support, particularly as events have unfurled so suddenly and dramatically in these last few days, the one thing that will keep us all going is friendship and kindness.

This could not have been more evident than in yesterday's final assembly and the impromptu 'Maynard Sixth Form's Got Talent' today when all those girls who have been somewhat dented by the shocking news regarding exams rallied around one another in a mass showing of Dunkirk Spirit. My heart absolutely bleeds for them, but we are all here to support and reassure them in these uncertain times and no stone will be left unturned from our end to ensure they gain the qualifications that they so richly deserve. The same can be said for the rest of the school who depart our gates this afternoon to start their home-learning programmes - we are only ever an email or phone call away so please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

It is important that the girls do continue their school routine at home and we will be monitoring on a daily basis to make sure that they are logging into their learning resources. As with normal routines, can I ask that you continue to inform the school if your daughter is unwell so we can note this accordingly.

Often in the face of adversity come great triumphs and I know that we will still have lots to celebrate. The staff are being incredibly imaginative in devising numerous ways for the school to regularly come together and I know the weekly online 'Maynard Challenge' will be met with much enthusiasm. Watch this space for further details but expect some madness to keep us all entertained!





I would also like to assure you that we really do wish to continue publishing Friday's newsletter during the term time so please keep in touch with news of achievements, missions accomplished, or any interesting ways that you have kept yourselves busy while in isolation - we would love to hear them all!

Last week, I started this newsletter with the statement, "It's show time." Today I will finish by saying that "the show must go on". Stay safe, stay healthy, stay happy and I very much look forward to us all getting together again soon. Until then, I will continue to keep you informed of any developments regarding schooling and qualifications as matters unfold.

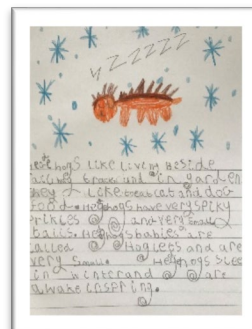
On to the week's news ...

### Pre-Prep girls stay busy whilst self-isolating

Some of our girls have had to take the very necessary step of self-isolation this week and the remote learning platforms are already proving a great success! Here are some examples of girls who have submitted some beautiful work over the past few days:

Freya in Reception with some lovely Mathletics; Alice (Reception Class) and her 'fairy traits'; Marietta in Year 1 with some super hedgehog homework and Lettle (Year 1) creating some fabulous owl artwork.

Now more than ever, we would love details of what your girls have been up to whilst learning from home, so please do keep sending them in!



### 'Teams' app keeping seniors in the learning loop

Likewise, in the Senior School the teachers have been working hard to make sure both classroom and on-line learning happens simultaneously, as Miss York (Biology) reports:

"I taught my Lower 6 lessons today using Microsoft Teams for half of the class who were self-isolating and in real-life for everyone else! We had whole class chats and the remote group gave some useful tips to those still in school ready for next week!"







### Young Enterprise Spring Fair

The Lower Sixth Young Enterprise team attended the Spring Fair at St Stephen's Church last Saturday, albeit a quieter affair than normal. As ever, their beautiful, handmade and eco-friendly 'Bee Bothered' cards drew a lot of attention and it was a busy day on the stall! Keep an eye out for their cards when we next return to school!

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### The fabulous trip to Shaldon!

Year 3 had a wonderful trip to Shaldon Wildlife Centre last Friday. They had a tour around the zoo and were fascinated by leaping lemurs and mischievous meerkats, along with many other primates, mammals and birds. Some of these creatures are endangered, so we felt privileged to meet them. We had the opportunity to handle some of our creepier and crawler creatures such as Madagscan hissing cockroaches, giant African land snails and stick insects. The girls learned so much, asking lots of relevant questions and we are very proud of them. We finished the day with fun on the beach, which involved games and art activities using pebbles and driftwood. And the sun shone for us!



### Hub activity

The Hub has regular visitors who are involved in so many crafts at lunchtimes including Pom-pom making, which has proven to be a great way to relax and chat to each other. The current Pom-poms of choice are Easter chicks and sheep which we absolutely love!

The Hub committee members also thought they would run an Easter plate colouring competition for the Junior School and our congratulations to all those that submitted entries, which were all cheery and bright. The poor judges had a very difficult time choosing the winners so a really big well done to everyone who took part!





### Searching for signs of Spring!

The primroses are better than ever, the daffodils blooming and the blossom is positively beautiful – so what better than to have a wander and look at what Mother Nature has to offer? This is exactly what the Reception class did earlier this week and they had a great time inspecting everything before returning to the classroom to record what they had seen!

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### Great ABRSM exam results

The results from our ABRSM exams on Tuesday have come through amazingly quickly and, in the week after starring in 'Legally Blonde', both Ellie and Liberty have passed their Grade 8 singing with merit and distinction respectively!

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## SPORTING NEWS

### Under 11 Netball tournament

Last Friday, we took our lovely Under 11's to their end of season netball tournament – a big commitment for these girls given the rest of their year went to watch the primary schools' matinee performance of Legally Blonde! The team had a brilliant afternoon and played some superb netball, full of drama; we had a blood injury, freezing cold temperatures, bright sunshine and lots of fabulous netball. This team has really progressed throughout the season and demonstrated how they've matured as players with a much better understanding of space and timing down the court.

We secured four out of six strong wins against Wellington School, Exeter Cathedral School, Plymouth College and Exeter School, to finish in overall 3rd place behind Queen's Taunton and Blundell's.

A super afternoon of netball for these hardworking girls who gave their all and really enjoyed the afternoon!



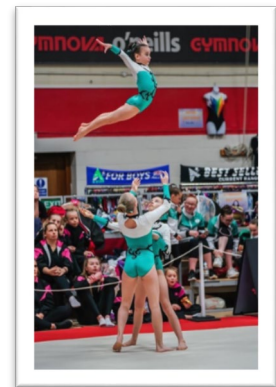


### Individual success for Isabel

Huge congratulations to Isabel in Year 6 who performed exceptionally at last Sunday's English Riviera Open Gymnastics Competition. In her age category, she won a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> medal for individual vault, floor and beam to win the whole competition on her overall score. Well done!

### Reaching for the stars

Harleigh and her acro partners have competed twice in the past week in preparation for an international competition over Easter. The girls are still training hard, despite not knowing if it will happen and performed well at a higher grade than they have previously competed.



### Performance of the Month for February

Congratulations to our Under 19 Gymnastics Team comprising Velvet, Martha, Bella and Flo who were awarded February's Performance of the Month for their performance at the British Schools Gymnastics Association Women's Artistic Gymnastics, Floor and Vault Competition. They secured third place, winning bronze in the South West Regional Competition - our first medals for Gymnastics in this year group!

### Maynard Parkrun

The Killerton team were out again last Saturday, cantering round the muddy course with the loss of just one trainer (which was recovered quite quickly). A slight change to the team for this week as unfortunately Olivia was unwell (we missed you) but Anna, Miss Gwynne and Mrs Holt were joined by Kitty, Betsy and honorary Maynardian for the morning, Katie (see photo). We can happily report that it was Kitty's first ever Parkrun and hopefully not the last, also Anna recorded a new personal best time. Well done, one and all!





Unfortunately, due to the current situation Parkrun National have cancelled all parkrun events until the end of March at least, so the plan to all meet at Exeter Riverside this Saturday will not now go ahead - maybe we can give it another go in the future when things have sorted themselves out.

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### Pre-Prep gymnastics fun

The Pre-Prep had great fun on Wednesday playing team games at the end of their gymnastics lesson, followed by a much needed and well-deserved wind down with Headspace before going off to lunch.

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### Year 6 House Netball results

Congratulations to Armourers and Goldsmiths who finished joint first in this week's Year 6 House Netball matches, although Armourers lifted the title in the end based on the number of goals they had scored. The Year 5 girls also had a huge input to these matches, playing some great games all round with lots of high scoring games.



### More in-house netball

The Upper 3s also enjoyed their House Netball Competition this week, led by two of our Upper 5 Sports Leaders. Again, there were some close scores and tightly contested games with Merchants running out as the overall winners.

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### A notice from the Library

The library shelves were starting to look a bit like the supermarket shelves this week after the girls were told they could borrow extra books in case of school closure! Parents and girls should not worry about bringing the books back to school before the date on the Date Due slip - it will be fine to return them when school re-opens. There are no fines, only replacement charges if books are lost. We hope your daughters enjoy their books!





### And, finally, an uplifting story from .... Party in the Pac

There was no stopping the Upper 6 girls enjoying their somewhat impromptu last day at school! The sadness and despair of yesterday has lifted and upbeat defiance was definitely the order of the day - these girls were going to have fun no matter what! Period 3's 'Maynard Sixth Form's Got Talent' was a celebration of all things Maynard - unabashed singing, dancing and karaoke acts, whole year group sing-a-longs and even the dulcet tones of Mr Hibberd's solo performance of Elvis' 'Let me be your teddy bear'!

A note to them all: thank you for being such fabulous ambassadors to the school and we are so sorry that recent events have changed all of our combined plans for your rite of passage at this significant time in your lives ... but we will get through this and we promise to ensure that you will leave school with the qualifications you all deserve for happy, fulfilled and fruitful onward lives. Stay in touch and we will see you soon!

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### Highlights from an extraordinarily busy term

Without doubt, two highlights from this term have been the Senior School production of *Legally Blonde* and the beautiful performances by the Pre-Prep and Junior School in their recent showcase.

Here is a quick and uplifting reminder from them both to remind us all what a very special and talented community the Maynard is!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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