

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

26 March 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

This week has been a very odd experience indeed and I think it's going to take some time for us to truly get our heads around a virtual school. I, for one, have missed seeing all the bright, sunny faces around and of course the chatter and laughter. That said, the early reports I am receiving as this week has progressed have all been incredibly positive - although I am a bit worried to hear that one child has said they prefer it to normal school!

Everyone seems to have navigated their way to lesson plans and learning menus and, through epraise and Microsoft Teams, the Senior School girls have impressed us by their interaction and attendance in every lesson. Well done!! At this point, I must thank Mr Friendship for all of his online tutorials and individual guidance as I think his email in-tray has been going berserk this week! And that's not just the students! If anyone is still having any technical problems, please don't worry. Many of the tasks set on epraise can be done at a different time, so just let the class teacher know as soon as you are able and we can register you when we hear from you. Flexibility and patience will be key to success!

Careers and PSHE provision will continue to be very active with research tasks, Morrisby online profiling for the Lower 5 and other activities. I hope you have all found the weekly challenges that the staff have posted fun and I think you are going to enjoy even more of them after Easter as I have had a sneak preview of what's in the pipeline!

I am genuinely hoping that the Upper 5 and Upper 6 have had this week to take a break and take stock of the immense changes that have happened in their world, in particular. The dust is now settling and the exam boards and Ofqual will soon be giving us further clarification on how the grading will take place.



Chloe in her chemistry lesson - one of the benefits of home schooling is that you get to cuddle your dog in lessons!



Sophie (Lower 5) doing PE in the sunshine.



Story telling in Reception. "It's a nice time to all see each other and do something together."



Tara in Year 1 enjoying her home learning!



As always, as soon as we know any more we will let you know. When the Upper 5 return from the holidays, we intend to offer the extended essay qualification or EPQ which is awarded by the AQA Exam Board. Mr Hibberd and Miss Williamson will have tutorials and webinars all set to go to get you up and running. Later in the term, we will turn our attention to providing the Upper 5 with a very important and essential intellectual bridge to your A-level programs. More to follow next term! For the Upper 6, I am keen to hear your requests. Staff would like to challenge you intellectually and consolidate your learning ready for university and I am keen to award a special prize (or two) at the Awards Evening for the student who has acquired the best new skill this Summer Term!

So, today is our last day of remote learning this term as we break for the Easter holidays. Usually we would be giving a final assembly to the students so I thought I would record one instead. This again has been quite a unique experience for me as I now have my own YouTube site! It's only five minutes and, if you would like to view it, it can be found through the link below. The girls will also no doubt remember that I give out Cadbury Creme Eggs in the Easter assemblies. Don't worry, I will save them for our next real assembly, I promise!

<https://youtu.be/JNQfxynNQlw>

These are absolutely unprecedented times, and all I can say is I hope with all my heart that you and your loved ones stay safe and well over the Easter holidays. It will be very difficult to be so isolated from friends and extended family so we must all consider our personal wellbeing. Mr Loosemore will be sending out some useful guidance today which I hope will be of interest to you. Please do contact me over the Easter break if anything is worrying you and I can be of any help to your family. The School has really tried to do its bit for the community by opening a key workers' school, donating our science safety spectacles to the hospital and offering all NHS workers parking on our site whenever they need it.

I have been impressed by what you have all been up to and below is an account of the week we have just had as The Maynard 'Virtual School'. Please keep this coming in the weeks ahead!

Firstly ... a huge thank you!

Before going any further, we would like to say an enormous and very public thank you to our wonderful cleaning team who have worked tirelessly and with enormous good spirit through these unprecedented times. You really have been superstars!



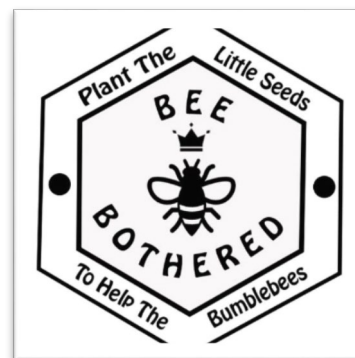
Huge congratulations to the award-winning Young Enterprise team



We learned this morning that, undeterred by the remote entry conditions of the recent Young Enterprise Regional Semi-final, our brilliant team 'Bee Bothered' has sailed through to the County Finals by virtue of fantastic victories in not just one category, but three! They won the Sustainability Award, the Customer Service Award and were joint winners of the Innovation Award!

As Mrs Woulfe has already told them by email this morning, "You really have worked together very well - Mr Richards and I have been very impressed. You

were so organised to get ahead with your report, planning ahead to submit it on time even though the school musical was going on at the same time. You also planned well for the Spring Trade Fair last week which was hampered with numerous illnesses within your team and worries about whether you should be isolating or not. It was a huge extra challenge having to submit a video presentation last week instead of being able to attend the semi-finals in person today, but you managed it, again despite several illnesses and absences in the team. So this makes your achievement even more remarkable. A huge well done to every one of you!"



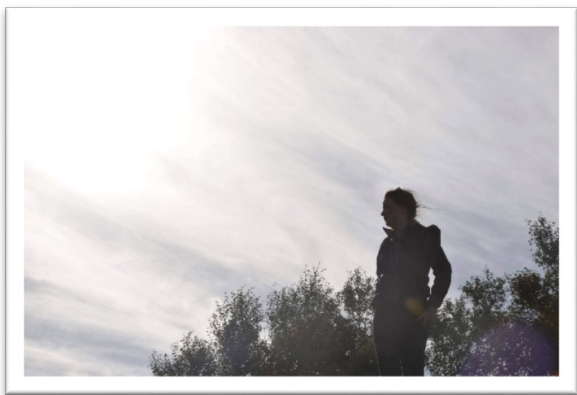
Great success in the UK Chemistry Olympiad 2020



Congratulations to all our Lower 6 girls who entered the recent UK Chemistry Olympiad, with every single one achieving a bronze medal. This is quite unprecedented, particularly as they will all have another chance to take part next year when they are in the Upper 6.

So, a huge well done to Shweta, Margaret, Nicole, Mandy and Tina for flying The Maynard flag so high!

Supporting Polly to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society



“In August, I am planning on walking 26 miles across Dartmoor in a day to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society. This is a charity that is very close to my heart as, shortly after my grandmother passed away in the summer, my grandfather was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. The society has been closely working with him over the recent months and I wish to give something back to such an amazing charity. I have the aim of raising £300 for the society and would really appreciate any donations to help me to achieve this target.”

If you would like to support Polly, please click on the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/trek26dartmoor202026miles-pollyshaw>

We wish her very well and will keep you updated with her fundraising progress. Suffice to say, we are immensely proud of her for these endeavours!

Spreading a bit of cheer to others

It is an honour and a privilege to be able to keep school open for all those children whose parents are keyworkers and helping to keep the country on its feet at this critical time. In turn, these girls are also playing their part in spreading a little cheer and, together with our wonderful staff, they created a beautiful rainbow yesterday in the double courts as part of the giant neighbourhood I-Spy game!

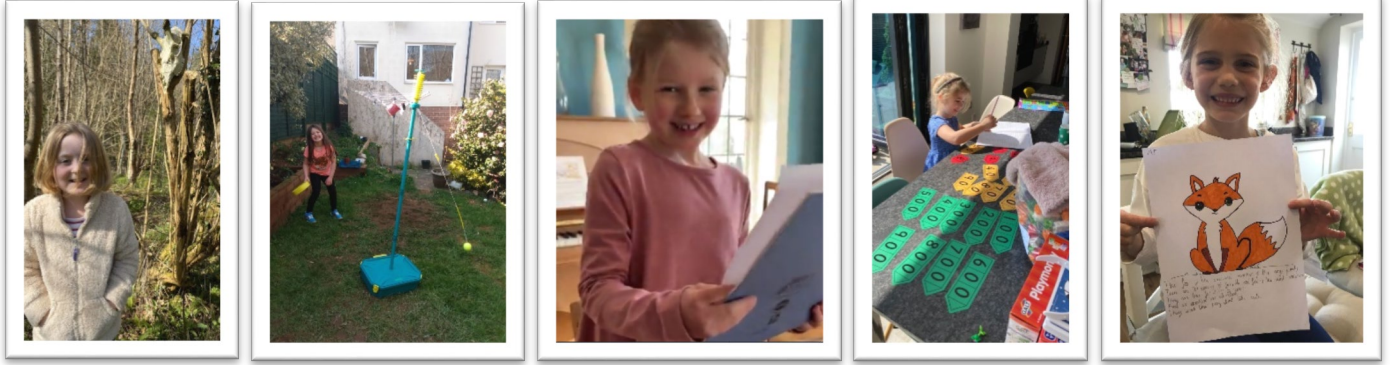
They have also been creating a mural in one of the Junior School windows for the people in The Lodge opposite to look at whilst they are stuck in isolation. Every day, more and more bits are added and it really is an ever changing, and cheery, landscape!

There are also plans to write letters and draw pictures to send to them and we shall be working on this after the Easter holidays.



Endless achievements in Year 2

Amongst many other things, here is just a small sample of what Year 2 have been up to this week! Rose has found a deer skull, Izzy is playing swing ball in her garden, Amelia is reading her recipe for a 'Marvellous Medicine', Sophia has been keeping up with her Maths and Maya has done a picture and research about foxes!



Easter Gardens in Upper 3

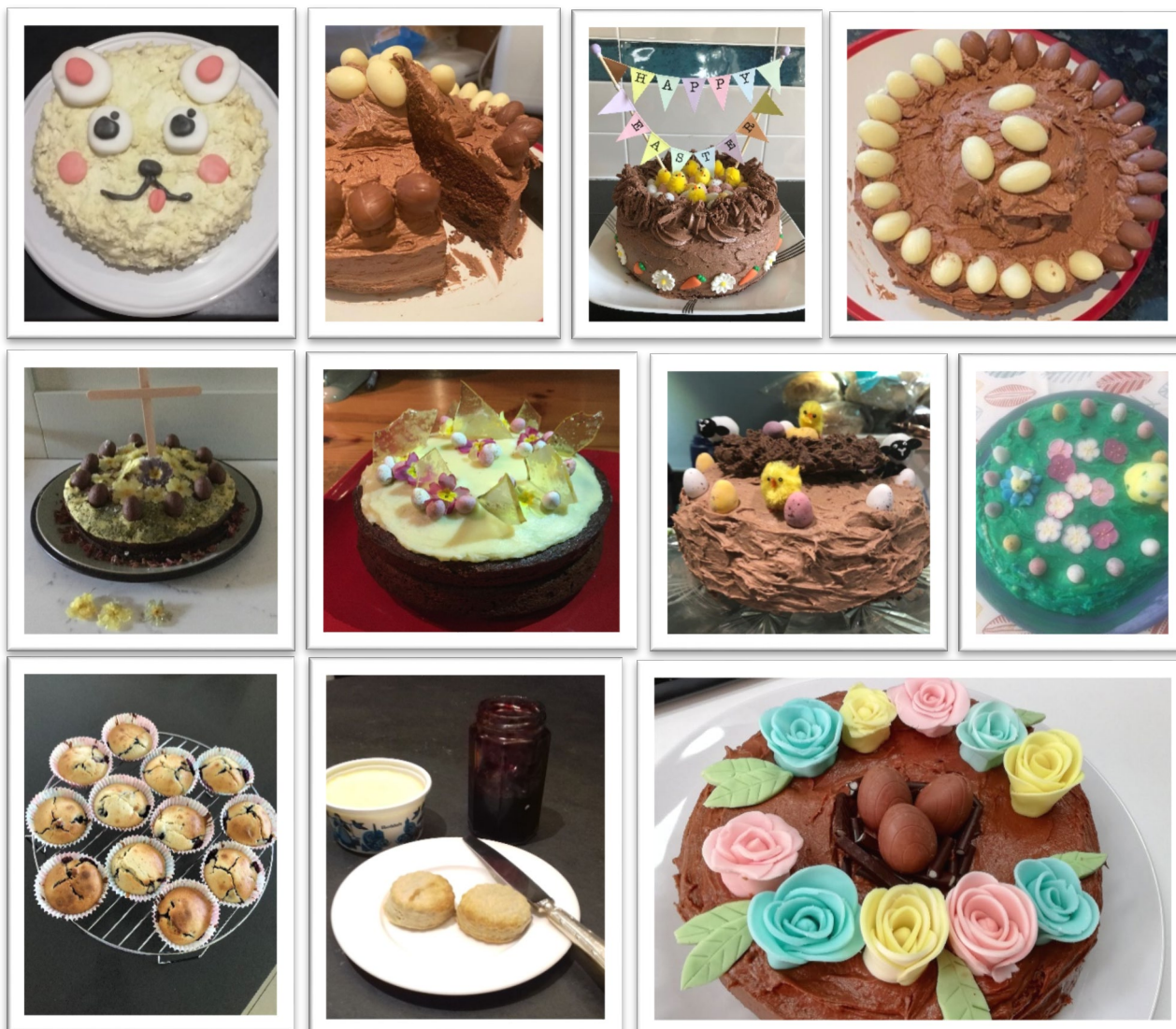
During the week before the Easter holidays, it's become a bit of a tradition for Room 12 (the main RS teaching room) to be a hive of activity for Upper 3 pupils as they create Easter Gardens from the assorted bags of moss, soil, twigs and pots they've brought into their lesson. It's also a common occurrence for several woodlice, small worms and other insects to need rescuing by the less squeamish of the girls! As you can see from these images, the tradition has continued at home this week, with many girls taking full advantage of being able to create their gardens outside in the spring sunshine.



A whole host of culinary delights

The girls all seems to be keeping busy whilst at home and we have received so many fabulous photos of some stunning home-made culinary delights. This is quite in keeping with the launch of our first 'Maynard Challenge' to help keep boredom at bay whilst we all self-isolate during the holidays... but more on that later in the newsletter.

In the meantime, feast your eyes on what has been created so far!



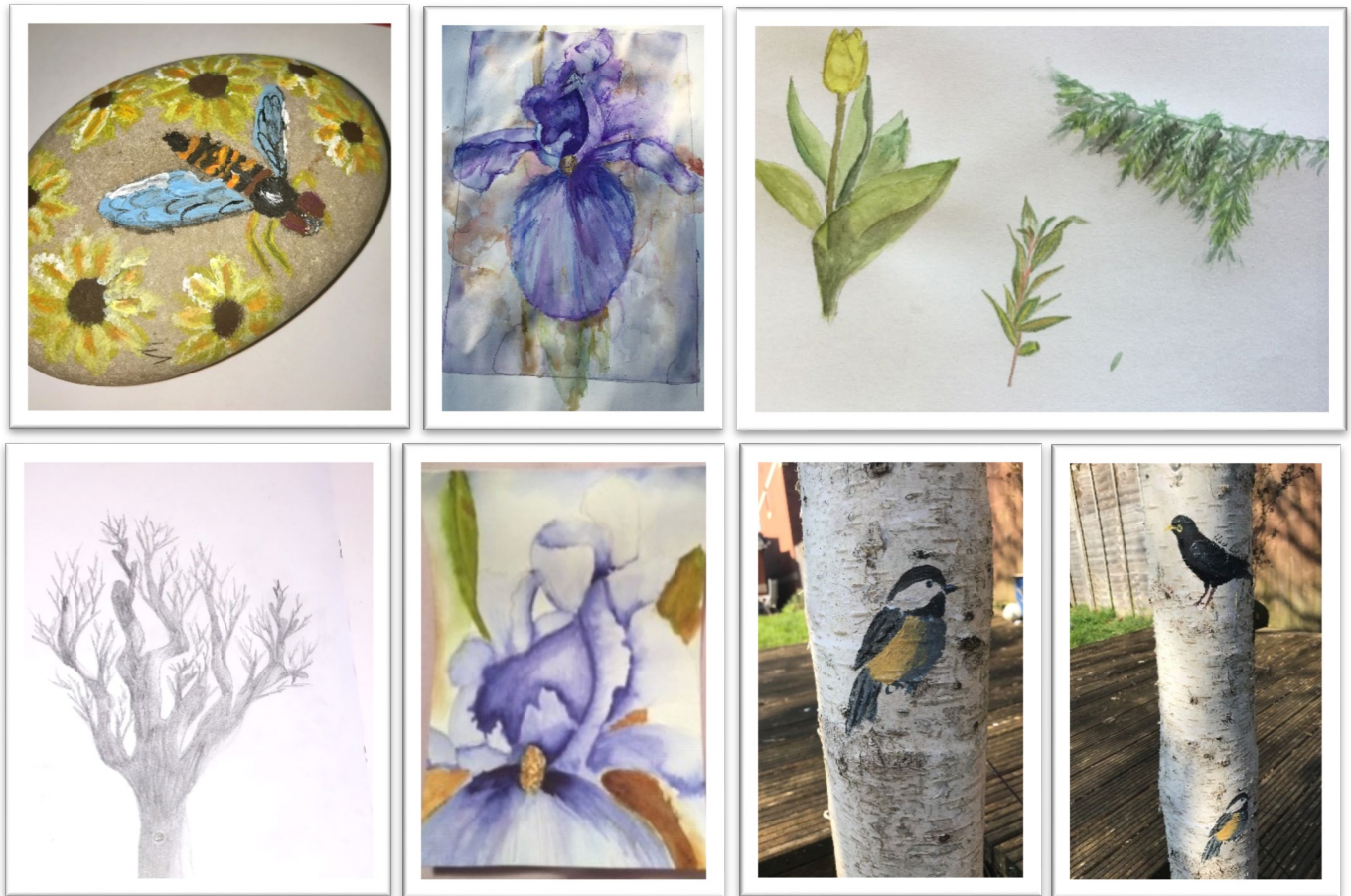
Wonderful artworks

Equally, the remote learning seems to have brought out an artistic streak in so many of the girls from across the school and there are some fabulous ideas amongst these for anyone looking for inspiration during the Easter holidays.

A garden on a plate and costume design for The Tempest (Year 6)



Natural forms in the Lower 5

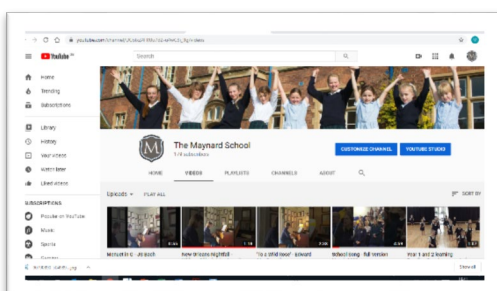


Other home learning photos

We would love to hear how your daughter is adapting to home learning so do please send your photos in! We included some from this week in the introduction and here is Medi in Reception with her work on the lifecycle of a frog!



And some exquisite musical offerings!



Both Mrs Smith and Miss Blackwell have been busy this week putting together some delightful musical offerings to remind us what fantastic musical talents they both are (well, that's not what they said but it is certainly true). We are trying to upload these – and a lot more – each day on our YouTube channel so do keep an eye out for them there!

Possible holiday project ideas

We are regularly sharing some of the ideas that we are being sent to help keep our children entertained during the upcoming holidays – PE with Joe Wicks has been particularly popular! Please do check our social media channels for more details of these – and, equally, don't hesitate to send us anything that you have found particularly useful. We would love to share your ideas onwards with the entire Maynard community!



And finally...

CALLING ALL STAFF, PARENTS AND STUDENTS ...

... Launching the all new 'Maynard Challenge'!

We thought it would be fun to launch a challenge series to help us all fill our days and the first of these comes with an Easter theme as we start the holidays. We are inviting everyone to send us photos of their Easter cakes and bakes – savoury or sweet, the only rule is that they must be distinctly Eastery! Have a look at the poster below for more details.

Have a lovely Easter!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress

The Maynard Easter Challenge

It's time to show off your culinary skills!

Our Easter Challenge is 'Cakes and Bakes'

*Sweet or savoury, large or small – the only rule is that
they must have a distinctly Eastery theme.*

*Judging will be done in the following categories: Pre-Prep,
Junior School, Senior School, Sixth Form, Parents & Staff
and, of course, Alumnae!*

*Please send photos of your entry to
rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk by 5pm on Monday 13 April
(and more than one entry per person is allowed)!*

Good luck and get baking, folks!

