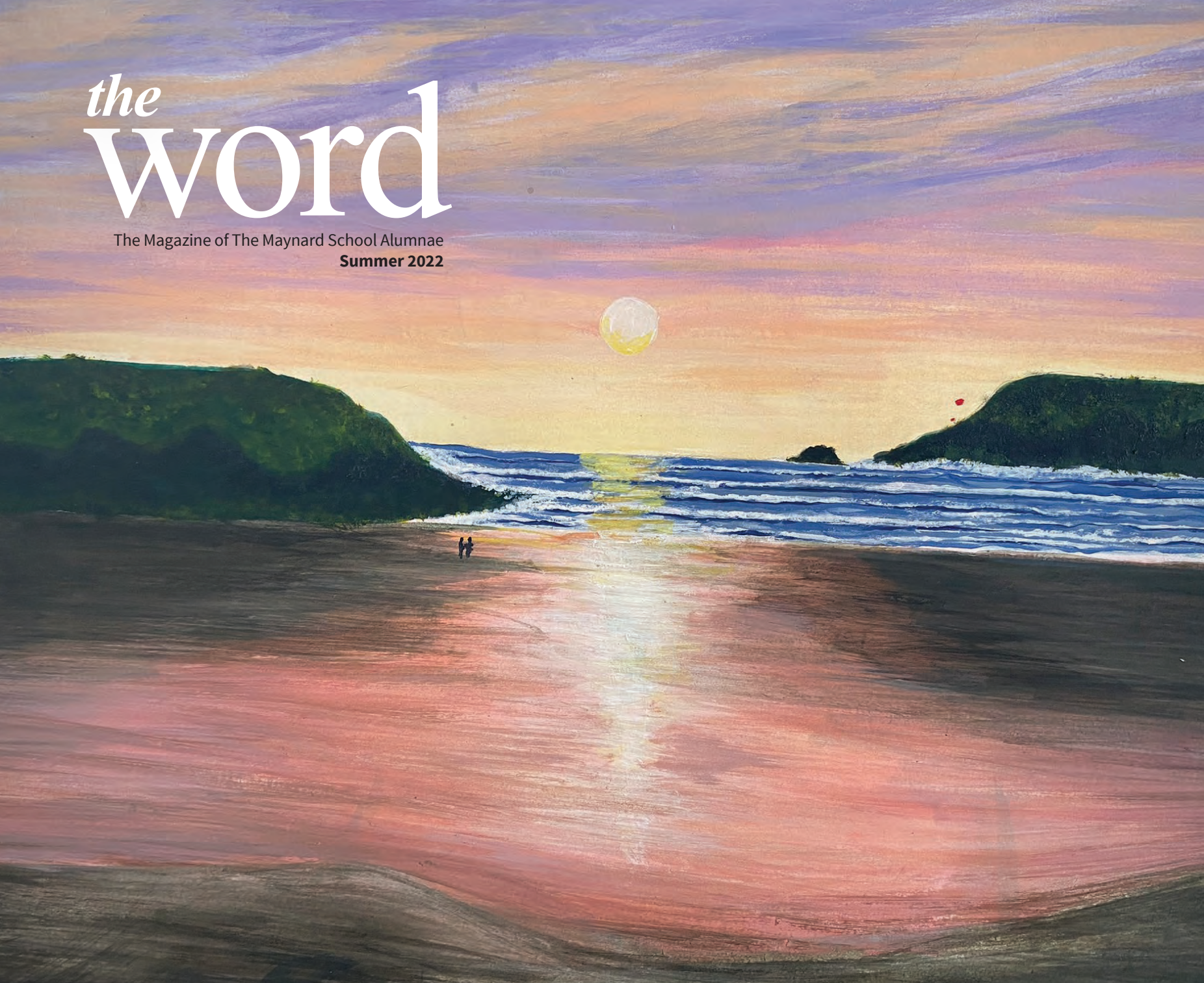
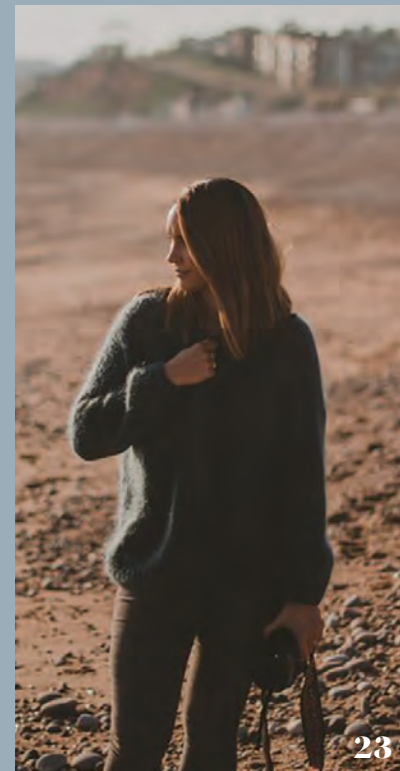


the word

The Magazine of The Maynard School Alumnae
Summer 2022





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Welcome

Having taken a hiatus during Covid, we are delighted to be back with another edition of The Word. Since the last magazine, Rachael Board has now stepped up to become the Marketing and Communications Manager and has passed the reins over to me as the Digital Marketing and Alumnae Administrator. It has been wonderful to have had the chance to speak to many of you already and I look forward to getting to know more of you over the coming year.

As we have crept towards normality and Covid restrictions have waned, we have been thrilled to welcome back parents and visitors to the school, gather for reunions and head out on our favourite activities once more - although some students weren't as pleased by the return of exams! We thought a pertinent theme for this year's magazine would be resilience and it has been fascinating to learn about how you have overcome adversity and ploughed on to create new businesses and adapt to home schooling and remote working. Whilst it was a challenging and unsettling experience for many, we are so proud of how the students embraced their new ways of learning and kept their spirits high with our numerous lockdown challenges- the favourite, of course, being The Maynard Masked Singer!

We always love to hear from you so please do send any news my way for the next edition of The Word (yes, I'm thinking that far ahead!) and please keep your eyes peeled for information about upcoming reunions for the classes of 2013, 2003, 1993, 1998, 1983 and 1973! If you missed out on your reunion due to Covid restrictions and would like to discuss putting on an event, please do get in touch.

For now, I hope you enjoy putting your feet up and reading our latest school news!

Lucy McNally

Young Enterprise

Our Young Enterprise team, Tealightful, developed eco-friendly candles using vegan and sustainably sourced ingredients which were presented in vintage teacups found in local charity shops. Their candle scents were tailored to each season and the students utilised local events, such as Christmas Fayres, theatre performances and church gatherings to sell their products to a diverse audience. At the South West Regional Finals, held at Exeter College, our team fought off strong competition from the three counties to bring home the coveted Sustainability Award!

Such was the talent this year, one of the judges said, "We really are in safe hands if this is the calibre of young people coming through to the business world."



FIRST LEGO League

The Herschel's Comets (our Year 8 and 9 Robotics Club) competed once again in the FIRST LEGO League against teams from all around the globe!

Groups were tasked with designing, programming and building a robot which could complete a series of challenges in a short space of time. This year's theme was 'Cargo Connect', highlighting the importance of freight and deliveries in our modern economies.

The Comets investigated the environmental impact of the electric vans that Amazon Prime are using and presented this to the judges as part of the rigorous competition process. They were also assessed on their teamwork and how they have upheld the competition's core values. We are thrilled to say that the Comets won the 'Robot Design' award for their innovative design and engineering!



Physics Challenge

Four of our Upper 5 students headed to Exeter Mathematics School for the Key Stage 4 Physics Challenge! One of the challenges for physicists Flo, Grace, Judy and Izzy was to determine the mass of a chair using two 100g masses, a metre ruler and a pen.

The girls did fantastically well, working together effectively, and finishing in 3rd place overall. They received Slinky springs as their awards, which are very fitting for a Physics competition!

They were the only all-female group in a heavily male dominated competition (only four other girls took part out of a dozen teams)- really waving the flag for women in STEM!



Maths Olympiad

Four of our incredible students, Helena (Upper 5), Megan (Upper 5), Hannah (Lower 6) and Gloria (Upper 6), took on the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls 2021. This is a national 2.5-hour problem solving mathematics competition aimed at the highest achieving female mathematics students. They tackled five increasingly difficult problems, using their mathematical knowledge and creativity to turn their conjectures into rigorous proof.



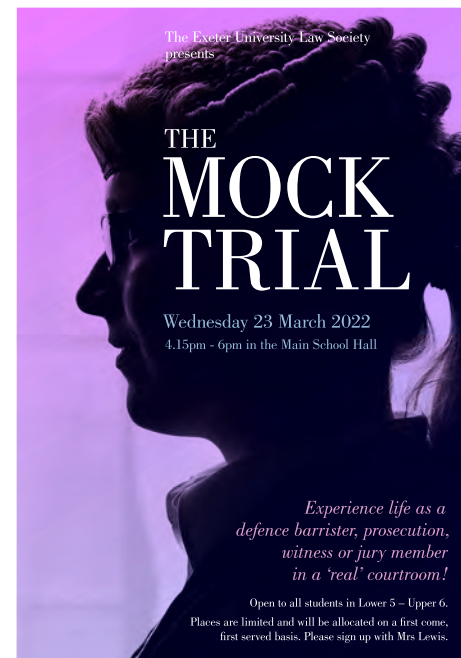
Manus Justa take the hat-trick in the Mock Trial Competition

Our Manus Justa Club did an exemplary job at the Independent Schools Mock Trial Competition where they won all three trials that they were involved in, as a result of careful preparation and inspiring performances.

The team, drawn from Lower 5 and Lower 6 (Year 10 and 12), had been preparing for months and now have a solid grasp of the way that the judicial system works.

The competition took place in virtual courtrooms and they adapted to this difficult environment very well. Mr Lodge, who runs the club and is also a Justice of the Peace, said, "If I'm in trouble, I want this team to represent me."

Students who take part are encouraged to think critically, build arguments and boost their confidence. For many, this is their first introduction to law and enabling students to interact with legal professionals, the competition helps develop employability skills. The experience will help students develop a sound knowledge and understanding of the role of law and the justice system in our society.



Performing Arts

It was so wonderful to throw open the auditorium doors once more and take to the stage for our musical production of Mary Poppins in the autumn. We like a challenge, so this year the company had just eight short weeks to put together their mesmerising show - which would normally run in March - with the added obstacle of being held at the school instead of its usual home of The Barnfield Theatre.



As they say, 'it'll be alright on the night', and it certainly was, with sensational performances from the cast and a fantastic crew of behind-the-scenes technicians making sure that everything ran smoothly. We were delighted to be joined by London-based Sound Engineer, Darren, who kindly gave up his time to make sure it all went without a hitch, as this was the first big production in the Performing Arts Centre. With vast experience of



West End stage shows such as Wicked and Priscilla Queen of the Desert, not to mention TV favourites Strictly Come Dancing, The Voice and RuPaul's Drag Race, we knew we were in safe hands.

Former Head Girl Team member Katie took the leading role and was practically perfect as Mary Poppins- so much so it was hard to think of her as Katie for weeks afterward!

During the previous Summer Term, the Sixth Form also had us transfixed with their edgy portrayal of Macbeth. We were very grateful to be able to put on a performance during waves of tumultuous covid restrictions, albeit to a reduced audience, and the hard work and resolve of the cast and crew was well worth it as the play was very well received!

Former Head Girl Lizzie starred as a convincingly haunted Macbeth, whilst the role of power-hungry Lady Macbeth was shared between talented performers Anna and Adelaide.

Since then, we have witnessed stellar performances from Lower 4 who exported us to Narnia for a magical rendition of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, and Year 6's portrayal of The Tempest. Director, Mr Smerdon, praised the girls for an exemplary performance after some rocky rehearsals:

"They say that you should always hope that the dress rehearsal does not go too well, as this means

that there will be problems with the performance and we were lucky enough to get this right on this occasion! I know that the girls would all agree that we had something of a disastrous dress rehearsal in the morning; truly the worst practise that we have had! Lines were forgotten, scenes were skipped, long pregnant pauses prevailed, tears, upset and all the makings of true Shakespearean

tragedy! Having been producing plays for many years, I was able to reassure the girls that all would be well on the night although I must say I had some uncertainties!

As it was, the evening performance was fantastic, with the girls showing great resilience to turn it around and put on such a wonderful show. It is

always a special evening and the picnic supper at school, followed by getting into costumes and having make-up done all add to the fun of the occasion. Moustaches, stubble, Egyptian-style eye liner and a green Caliban were all the order of the day amongst much merriment and laughter."



World Records in Music

In December 2020, Upper 4Q joined a live stream music lesson with Jamie Cullum, the jazz-pop singer-songwriter and radio presenter, in his attempt to host the largest music lesson in the world. He had managed to pull in a few celebrity favours with musicians such as Robbie Williams beaming in good luck messages. It certainly brightened a very cold, grey December lesson!

More recently, on 15 June 2021, Years 3 and 4 managed to contribute to a Guinness World Record attempt. They joined the livestream from the O2 of Young Voices in an attempt to break the world record for the most people singing simultaneously. Over 350,000 tuned in from around the globe and sang Bill Withers' 'Lovely Day', specially arranged for the occasion.



Dance

Our Senior Dance Company headed to the Forum Theatre in Bath in March for the Great Big Dance Off where they competed against the best from the South West to win their place as Key Stage 3 regional champions!

Our Key Stage 4 performers danced beautifully and, despite being the youngest in their category, were awarded sixth and seventh place. A great achievement considering they were competing against A-level dance groups.

In true Maynard style, many of the dance repertoire were only playing national standard girls' rugby at the Rosslyn Park 7s tournament a couple of weeks before



and that they can adapt so adeptly to two such different sports is concrete evidence of their multi-disciplinary talent, not to mention their alacrity in seizing absolutely every opportunity available. Sadly they did not win the National Final in Cheltenham but we are so proud of them!

The Pre-Prep and Junior dancers put on an equally stunning performance for their Ballet and Modern Dance Showcase in the spring, and it was wonderful to be able to invite parents in to watch – some of them for the first time. The confidence exuding from such young girls on such a big stage was truly remarkable. They rounded off the Summer Term with another dazzling and impressive Summer Show based on hit musicals The Lion King, Mary Poppins, Six and Mamma Mia.

Swimming

We are thoroughly excited to be starting our swimming lessons at the state-of-the-art new leisure centre St Sidwell's Point. An innovation in eco-friendly technology, the three pools boast the highest level water quality due to the UV and ultrafiltration systems (goodbye chemicals and stinging eyes) and two have adjustable floors to adapt to the needs of the user.

The main pool is 25m and has 8 competition lanes, overlooked by comfortable spectator seating - perfect for when we recommence our swimming galas!





Rugby

It was a momentous occasion for The Maynard with our first ever Under 15s rugby team heading to Rosslyn Park to compete in the National Schools 7s competition. This was the team's first championship, having played very few competitive matches against local schools.

The team put on an epic performance and did incredibly well to finish second from five teams in their pool which, ordinarily, would have qualified them through to the next stage of knock-out rounds. However, an on-the-day change to the tournament plan saw these being cancelled which was a great shame as their chances of being placed were looking very likely. However, this was an incredible debut on the national rugby stage and we couldn't be prouder – roll on next year!

Since our sponsorship of the Exeter Chiefs Women began in September 2020, our students have been training with the Chiefs' coaches both at the school and at the Saracens rugby ground. The girls enjoyed a special behind-the-scenes tour of Sandy Park as a peek behind the curtain of life as an elite athlete and are absolutely relishing the opportunity to be trained by some of the best sportswomen in the world.

Even the Pre-Preppers have been taking part in rugby training, with a new Monday night Rugby Club run by our very own resident Chief, Clara.



Staff news



At the end of the 2021 Summer Term we waved a bittersweet farewell to Junior School teachers Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Rowe as they stepped out of The Maynard and into their new adventure - retirement!

With a combined service of 43 years, their presence at school has been sorely missed, however, we have been delighted to welcome our new Year 6 teacher, Mrs Pinkerton-Smith, and returning TA - now the teacher of Year 1 and 5 - Miss Styliandou.

We were flooded with wonderful, heartfelt messages from former students wishing our retirees well, and in return Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Rowe gifted the school a beautiful friendship bench with their mottos emblazoned across the seats.

As well as our retirees, we also said goodbye to Mrs Morton and Mrs Stuttaford, both from the MFL Department, Mrs Gardner our School Business Manager, Mr Darcy from the Biology Department and Mrs Beech from the Junior School. This year, we are also saying farewell to our maths teacher Mr Bowler and our Year 3 teacher Mrs Kingdon. Some very happy news is that Miss Williams and Miss Spelman are currently on Maternity Leave with their beautiful babies while Miss Lavelle, Miss Watson, Miss Kelly and Miss Parsons all got married! Miss Parsons, now Mrs Rymer, is also having a sabbatical this year and will be joining us again in September 2022.

We are saddened to be preparing our goodbyes to current Head, Sarah Dunn. After six years at the helm, Miss Dunn is retiring from education and taking up a brand new occupation in animal conservation.

Miss Dunn has always dreamed of using her degree in Biology for two careers, one in teaching and one travelling the world saving animals. As she successfully navigated her way through 37 years in schools across Devon, she is now pursuing her final challenge before retirement. One of her upcoming projects will see her flying back to her birthplace of Barbados to aid in the study and protection of wild dolphins.



We are delighted to have appointed a new Head, Mrs Liz Gregory, who will start in the Autumn Term. Liz is currently the Deputy Head Academic at Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools, as well as a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mental Health First Aid Ambassador, EPQ supervisor and Sixth Form tutor. We are looking forward to giving her a big Maynard welcome!

We are also waving off our fantastic Head of Junior School, Steve Smerdon. After many wonderful years at The Maynard, he is handing over his reins Mrs Sarah Lavis who is currently a headteacher at St Michael's Primary School.



New Plans for Pre-Prep

We are delighted to unveil our plans to build a new custom-made Pre-Prep facility in the coming months (subject to planning permission). Such is the growing popularity of the school and the talent of the young women of Devon, we are struggling to find teaching spaces which allow us to maintain our small class sizes and allowing room to play and learn.

The new Pre-Prep building will allow the Junior School to utilise the space in which the current Pre-Prep resides, whilst the three new large classrooms, breakaway rooms and offices will provide the perfect setting.

Head of Pre-Prep, Mrs Meaton, tells us, “The team are really excited about our brand new purpose built Pre-Prep. The department has been steadily growing during the past 6 years and we are beginning to stretch at the seams! The new building will give us bright, spacious classrooms with the opportunity for outdoor learning as well as a brand new playground. We are also delighted to have a covered play space for the days when its either raining or when we need some shade. The team have been involved in the planning process and we look forward to moving in soon.”



Meet the new Head

Liz Gregory – an insight into our new Headmistress and her future aspirations for The Maynard.

As part of your interview process for the position, we received some glowing references for you, including these: “Dynamic, driven and a dynamo of a leader”; “Incredibly diligent, dignified and respectful”; “Calm, supportive and very thoughtful”; “She is a gem.”

But how would you describe yourself?

Energetic. Hardworking/driven. Cheerful. Caring. Listener. Achiever and list writer – task focused.

Having started out as a Teacher of Economics & Business Studies nearly 20 years ago, talk us through some of the greatest highlights of your career so far.

Enabling pupils to achieve more than they would have expected – I remember one pupil who joined sixth form with very few GCSEs and went on to

attain two As and a B – two were in subjects I taught him.

Imparting my values of service and giving to others – I remember leaving my school in Derbyshire, my tutor group gave me, as a leaving present, a goat and some chickens – via Oxfam gifts. This signalled that they understood what makes me tick, and I had been able to influence how their values. This same tutor group also gifted me both my cats, they were kittens at the time!

The final memory is the change in culture I have been able to affect in a few schools. Seeing staff engage in evidenced based pedagogy and being re-energized in their love for the craft of pedagogy is a joy and such a privilege.

What single element of your professional career has given you the most personal satisfaction?

Seeing the girls I have taught flourish and develop a deep self-belief in who they are. I have seen this in so many that I have had the joy to teach, and I am reminded why I do this job by a picture on my office wall – a picture of one of my previous tutees, painted by another. The change in that young lady was transformational and it is humbling to know our conversations helped her to thrive.

What attracted you to apply for the position as Headmistress of The Maynard School?

The chance to enable girls to thrive and to promote progressive girls' education in an all-through school. The Maynard is a community that fully believes in, and promotes, girls' education, preparing them to thrive in whatever they do once they leave and empowering them to make a difference to those they interact with.

What is the first thing that you would like to achieve as the new Head?

I would like to consider a coaching programme for both staff and pupils. Coaching has an incredible power to provide us with agency for change and develops key skills of listening and empathy.

Teaching or leading from the fore; what gives you the most pleasure?

Both. I love teaching – this is why I entered the profession and it is a joy to still have time to be in the classroom, it is my happy place. However, leading a community of professional people to be ever better versions of themselves and equipping them to go on to do more than they thought possible is an immense privilege.

You are a strong proponent of Women in Senior Leadership; how do you envisage empowering the Maynard community?

Creating opportunities for all members of our community to shine – whether that be a pupil, member of teaching or support staff – I would like our school to be a place in which all are enabled and equipped to try new things, to push themselves and feel that they have my support in having a go, taking a risk, trying a new idea. I would also like our community to encourage reflection to learn from experiences and be coached to hone their skills.

What do you look forward to most in your working day?

Being out of my office, interacting with pupils, staff or parents around the school site. Seeing the girls in lessons and extra-curricular activities, witnessing the wonderfully supportive and caring relationships staff have with the girls.

Aside from your professional life, what makes you tick?

Time outdoors (particularly in my garden) and time with family and friends – I draw energy from being around others.

Running, cycling, dancing - using up physical energy.

Reading – I love stories and getting lost in their magic.

If you could choose a song that would play every time you entered a room, what song would you pick and why?

Can I have two?

Frank Turner – “Photosynthesis”. This song talks about getting up and making things happen in

your life rather than expecting it to happen. I'm a big believer in making your own luck and not relying on others to do it for you.
Stuart Townend – “In Christ Alone”. My faith is a real cornerstone for me and this song reminds me of what I believe in and that God is my anchor.

If you were a brand, what would your motto be?

Have a go, you never know until you try!

At the age of 11, how would the phrase “when I grow up I want to be ...” have ended for you?

A writer – I love stories and when I was younger, I would spend a lot of time making up my own either in my imagination or writing stories.

What is your favourite guilty pleasure?

Peanut butter, (plus honey and banana sandwiches.)

If you won the lottery, how would you spend the money?

Others need it more than me. I would invest it into research into alternative food sources. We are too reliant on very few sources of food stuffs and when these are put at risk, the poorest suffer. By investing in alternatives, we will make our world a more sustainable place to live for those who have very little.

And finally, have you any ambitions you would still like to achieve?

Learning to fly – this would be my superpower (if I had one) and it would be amazing to learn how to fly a plane.

Doctorate in education. I received a distinction in my MEd recently, I would like to study further, when I have the time.

Old Maynardians smash fundraising records



Currently in their third and final year at Durham University, Old Maynardians and former Head Girls, Daisy and Chloe, were integral parts of the extraordinary team who raised over £205,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust in their annual Charity Fashion Show earlier this year – making this the largest student-led fundraising event in the whole of Europe ever! Chloe shares her reflections.



"I had been to the Fashion Show both years previously and it is the most incredible event and so much fun. But it was Daisy, who was appointed Vice-President of the whole thing this year, who eventually encouraged me to go for an executive role. Thanks to her, I did apply and landed the Charity Director position.

"It's been a mad nine months, especially for Daisy who has literally ate, slept and breathed the Fashion Show in that time. I just don't know how she has done it but it's been great fun working together. I have to say the whole show is so incredibly slick – it's really just unbelievable.





People are just so incredibly talented and it feels like such a worthy showcase of that. And for it all to be for charity as well just feels like the icing on top of the cake.

Featuring 50 students as models and a vast team in charge of logistics, marketing, graphics & design, finances and sales (to mention just a few), the event was a sell-out success attracting 1000 guests to each show held over three consecutive nights.

"Smashing the previous fundraising record of any student-led initiative is just amazing and it's even

more special as £50,000 of the total has been ringfenced to fund the lead teenage cancer nurse at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. This funding had previously been cut during covid so it's a real tangible difference that the event has made," added Chloe.

Our huge congratulations to all those involved and especially to Daisy and Chloe who were so influential in the entire operation – we couldn't be prouder of them both!

Daisy & Chloe



Avril turns 100

In April 2021 Old Maynardian Avril celebrated a very special birthday with the help of her loved ones. As with most birthday parties over the pandemic, Avril enjoyed turning 100 with a quiet day alongside a handful of her closest relatives, including visits from her three children, indulging in home-made cake, surrounded by balloons and opening an abundance of lovely cards - including



one from The Queen, of course!

One of the highlights of her day was a 30 minute 'afternoon tea' Zoom chat with the principal of St Hugh's College, Oxford.

In lieu of family birthday presents Avril had asked for donations to be made to her old College to help current students in need. In 1942



St Hugh's had offered Avril the necessary financial support to enable her to finish her undergraduate degree after the May 1942 bombing of Exeter city centre resulted in the destruction of her father's tailor shop and the loss of his livelihood.

Gaining her degree in Greats (Classics) enabled Avril to pursue her later career as a lexicographer for The Medieval Latin Dictionary. Handing over a cheque of almost £2000 to the College Principal, Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC, was Avril's way of saying thank you almost 80 years later.

Avril has now celebrated her 101st birthday, and whilst she is coping with the restrictions in her care home and missing regular family visits, she has been able to regularly Skype her family and friends and keeps herself occupied with The Times Latin crossword when she is feeling on good form!

We wish her a very happy birthday!



EMILY'S VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE

Emily Williams left The Maynard in Summer 2021 and then returned in September as part of the teaching staff. Here she shares her reflections on her experience as part of her gap year.

What year did you leave The Maynard and what were your plans for life after A-levels?

I joined the Maynard January 2011, and I left in the July of 2021. I had always planned to go on a Gap Year after A-levels, partially because I wanted to go travelling and gain lots of new experiences, see what else the world could offer, but also because I wanted to give University and school in general a bit of time to recover from the pandemic, as they had to drastically change their structures in order to keep everyone safe.

How are you finding your new role at The Maynard?

I won't lie, it was difficult at first, but only because I had a hard time getting used to teachers allowing me to call them by their first name. I had been in the school for so long that it felt really wrong to start addressing the people who had raised me by anything else other than Mrs. or Mr. Otherwise, the role felt very natural for me, I have always enjoyed looking after people and I have 4 younger siblings so it was quite easy for me to slip into a helping hand role.

What was it like starting at the school as an employee? Has anything surprised you?

I think the biggest surprise was how much the teachers care for their students. As someone who has gone through the school recently, I always knew they cared, however when you get to listen to the hidden conversations, only then do you realise how much work and care goes into the teaching and upbringing of each and every child, it gave me a whole new level of respect and awe for the teachers and TA's that work in the junior School.

What has been your favourite moment/s so far?

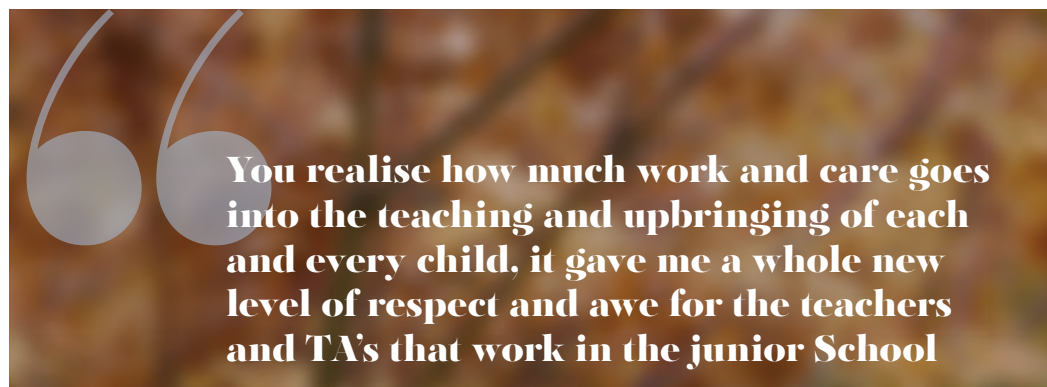
When I first started working, not all of the girls took to me straight away, which I was expecting as a new face around the junior school. However, there was one little girl who would run away from me and get upset when I came near her, and none of the teachers could figure out why. So, when one day I went up to her and asked how her day had gone, and she didn't run away but answered me instead, I was really really happy.

How do you see your role at The Maynard/ elsewhere progressing?

As I am writing this, I am on my last day here at the Maynard school (again). My role at the Maynard school was exactly what it should be, short but sweet. I am hoping to make good use of the rest of my Gap year travelling and then hoping to go onto university to study Midwifery. I will say though, I have been very well looked after whilst I've been here and I have had an amazing send-off by the staff of the junior school.

What are some of your favourite memories from school?

As you can probably imagine 10 years of Maynard memories is pretty hard to sift through and pick a favourite, so I'll stick to my memories of the junior school since I worked there. I remember in Year 3 (and Mrs Rowe will laugh) we decided to do an art project for our India topic, and we decided to make rangoli patterns. But it couldn't be with normal paint, or pens- no, we decided to make them with coloured lentils. As you can probably imagine everyone had loads of fun playing with the lentils, pouring them everywhere and giggling when they got stuck to our hands and cheeks, until we realised, we would have to pick all of them up off the floor. We tried our absolute best but from then on, Mrs Rowe would find stray lentils all around the classroom. I think we may have been the only year to try the lentil rangoli art.





A NIGHTINGALE MEMOIR

In the early days of the pandemic, thousands of people from across the South West came together from dozens of industries to transform Exeter's former Homebase site into a medical facility. Just six weeks later, a 116-bed, state-of-the-art COVID-19 inpatient hospital was built and ready to care for local people.

When the NHS was already stretched beyond its limits, the cry came for medical practitioners to volunteer for the front line at the Nightingale Hospital. One such was Old Maynardian, Niamh (Class of 1995), a Radiographer at the RD&E.

With understandable trepidation she, alongside many other brave and selfless volunteers, stepped up to the plate and began their training in anticipation of the disease surging through the South West.

In order to remember her experience in years to come, Niamh wrote a short memoir and salute to her fellow NHS heroes:



What surprised me the most, however, about working at the Nightingale, was the atmosphere within it. Looking in from the outside, you see a large grey intimidating building, but once you get inside, the walls are adorned with colourful paintings placed there by local artists wanting to do their bit. The team are incredibly friendly and welcoming. There is soft music playing in the background and laughter can be heard from patients that are talking to their relatives online. I met some incredible members of staff and I met some even more incredible patients, whose life stories I will cherish forever.

So, as I walked away from the Nightingale, for what I hope is the last time, I felt relief (the very fact I am no longer needed means we are winning the fight against this virus), I felt pride (I feel proud to have been part of the team that helped us get through one of the toughest times the NHS has ever faced) and I felt sadness; sadness for those that we lost, their families left behind and sadness that the very special team we were has broken up and gone their separate ways.

Thank you to all those that worked hard during this pandemic so that we can get our “normal” back once more.



As the Nightingale Hospital Exeter closes its doors to return to ‘standby status’, I looked back at the exit doors for the last time and felt a mixture of relief, pride and a little sadness. That last word may appear counterintuitive, but I will try to explain why I felt that way.

I am a Radiographer with the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust and I answered the call for volunteers to work within the Exeter Nightingale in the middle of the pandemic 2020. At first, I have to admit, I was nervous. At the time, we did not know much about Covid-19; how contagious it was and how many people would go on to develop severe symptoms. However, I felt an overwhelming sense of duty to apply – there would be people that needed my skill set and if I did not help, who would?

The training that was provided to the volunteers was excellent and I found myself feeling more

prepared for the new hospital doors to open than I originally feared. As the first patients arrived, there was no time for apprehension - I had been requested to carry out my first portable chest xray. Swathed in PPE, I trundled the portable xray machine up to the patient’s bedside. As I looked at the patient’s smiling face through all their uncertainty, my trepidation melted away and I suddenly stopped seeing Covid-19 and saw a human being instead. I knew then that I was in the right place, doing the right thing.

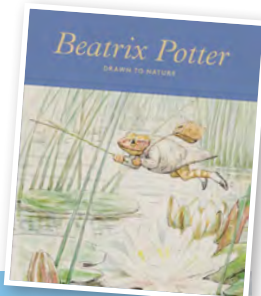
With that said, over the months that I worked there, I saw some human suffering I find difficult to erase from my mind. Watching someone struggling to breathe is incredibly distressing. You feel helpless and frustrated that there is nothing you can do to make their plight any easier. Not even the best medical care could save everyone, and that is something I have had to come to terms with.

Where are they now...?

Where are they now?

EMMA LAWS

Following her return to Devon in 2017, Emma Laws became Director of Collections and Research at the Devon and Exeter Institution – a beautiful Georgian library at no. 7 Cathedral Close. In January 2022, Emma took on a new role as Librarian at Exeter Cathedral but will continue to work for the Devon and Exeter Institution and for the National Trust as a rare book consultant. Emma has also co-written the exhibition catalogue for the V&A's exhibition, 'Beatrix Potter: Drawn to Nature' which opened in London on 12 February 2022.



RAILY GRAHAM

"Since Maynard, I've nearly finished an arts foundation degree, as well as being diagnosed as autistic. It's been great to have a better understanding of myself, and a final conclusion to a journey I started way back in Year 12 of The Maynard.

"As an 'autistic artistic' (as I have been colloquially calling myself), I've done the illustrations for a charitable book which is currently in progress (working with the effects of loss and mortality on children), worked on a number of exhibitions, and have even started work on a children's book which is intended to help provide support for young people going through what can be a very invasive diagnostic process.

"One of my tutors has even offered me meetings with an agent, so all things considered the book may even be a published reality in the near future! There's another adventure to come soon, too, with moving into Cambridge and taking on all that that has to throw at me."



RUTH BINNEY

Ruth Binney has celebrated having two wonderful new books published; *Weeds on Trial* and *Garden Wildlife on Trial*. They look close up at the good and bad of the plant and animal 'invaders' of the garden with a very



ecological approach and also lots of snippets of folklore and other background information. You can find out more on her website www.ruthbinney.com!



SARAH MOFFAT

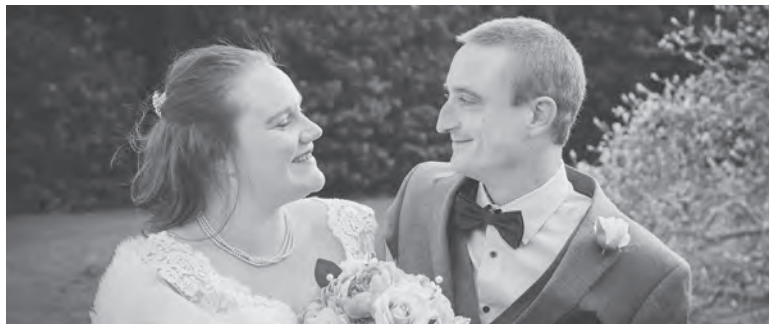
Sarah Moffat obtained joint fifth in the world for her CIMA Management Case Study in August 2021.

The case study is part of the CIMA Professional Qualification covering three levels - Operational, Management and Strategic. Once all levels are completed, Sarah will become a CGMA (Chartered Global Management Accountant). The case studies are all three hour written papers which are based around a fictional company and are focused on applying your technical knowledge to a real-world scenario.



Sarah began studying CIMA through a Level 7 Apprenticeship via her employer and combines it with her role as Interim Head of Finance. She tells us, "It's been difficult to balance a very challenging full time role with studying as well but definitely worthwhile! I have to be very disciplined about planning in study time, as well as finding the time to socialise and exercise as well!"

Her take away message from her experience is, "That it's never too late to study and formalise your knowledge and experience (I started CIMA when I was 35) and that committing to a challenging balance of work and study can be absolutely worth it!"



SAMI TUCKER

Sami Tucker (nee Glover), Class of 2008, married sweetheart Rob in February 2022. She is pictured below with Old Maynardians Charlotte and Hannah singing Frozen's 'Let It Go'.

Hannah now manages her own pottery business and Charlotte runs her own music events management company.



EMMA SOLLEY

Class of 1999

I have stayed local to Exeter and am a commercial photographer with a studio just around the corner from the school. During the pandemic, like many I had to completely adapt my way of life. I suddenly found myself with a closed studio www.emmasolley.com, no commercial work and a daughter to home school. So I had to adapt and Salt and Land was born (www.saltandland.com)!

My art side of the business took off and I sold prints and paintings all over Europe and Watergate Bay Hotel approached me to produce work to line the corridors of the Ocean Wing of the hotel; nearly 30 pieces in all. Then Michael Caines invited me to provide the art throughout his new seafront restaurant in Exmouth and I am the process of creating a collection of another 30 pieces for Lympstone Manor.

Work continues to boom. So out of an awful situation, came something quite beautiful in my household.

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE MASTERPIECES

Colour is in my soul. I am British Indian married for 15 happy years to a Cornishman. We live on the moors, but spend all our spare time with our daughter by the sea. It is not just the blue hues, but the full colour spectrum of sunrises, sunsets and all that's in between that bewitch me.

I am fortunate enough to shoot seascapes around the world, but last year found myself in the Caribbean when tropical hurricane Storm Dorian hit. That's one I don't wish to repeat!

I am often bleary-eyed and up at sunrise, but equally I love a good storm and clouds rolling in. The works I take featuring skies and seas are hugely personal to me. They are the thing that I have always been drawn to and shot forever. For me, sharing them with the world is the most personal thing I have done professionally.

I suppose I favour light over colour. With good light comes amazing colour.



Where are they now?

YOUR APPROACH TO YOUR ARTWORK

Both camera and photographic print technology are progressing so much that we are constantly pushing our creative boundaries as to the art we can create. It is a really exciting time. My collections are primarily printed as fine art prints mounted behind acrylic glass. The water scenes look like floating seas when hung and the skies are like a window with the world's best views.

My approach is probably a bit unconventional. I often shoot landscapes with prime (fixed focal) lenses that are ordinarily used for portraiture. They capture changing tides and light beautifully and give you that otherworldly sense.

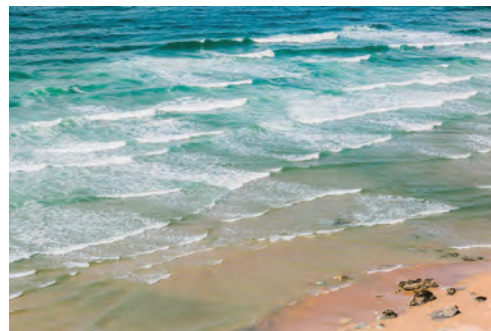
Personally, the knowledge that no two days, or two moments even, are ever the same leads me to believe that a lot of my photography is fate. You can plan to be somewhere, but thanks to this great big colourful world, you never quite know what the conditions are going to throw at you. If I am lucky, the stars align, I am on foot, the light is spectacular and I cloud gaze with a camera in hand. It is a moment captured and then gone. I still find that the most magical thing about shooting stills.

It is the same for all my photographic works and paintings. Some days that is tranquillity, sometimes hope. Often, I find myself drawn to the sea as I like to be reminded of just how small we are and the sheer power of nature. It helps keep life in perspective. I like to think of my works as visual meditations, where we can lose ourselves in the same way when we are by the sea.



Personally, the knowledge that no two days, or two moments even, are ever the same leads me to believe that a lot of my photography is fate.





THE #ARTISTSUPPORTPLEDGE

The #artistsupportpledge has been one of the true heartfelt joys to come out of lockdown and the tragic Covid-19 pandemic. Like so many communities, thanks to the founder Matthew Burrow, the artistic community has all rallied together to share our works and support one another.

When lockdown was announced many of us faced closed studios, cancelled exhibitions and all avenues of self-employed income gone overnight. It was set to be a scary time, but the artists' support pledge means we are not only surviving but thriving.

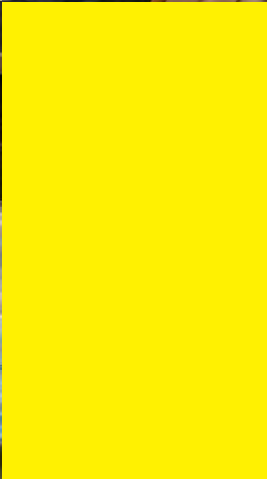
The premise is that we list our works available for £200 or under, plus P & P, and then once we reach £1000 of sales, we pledge to buy a piece of art for £200 from another artist and so on. Genius.

Sales have been great and I couldn't be more grateful. I have new clients across the country and you found me. Which is so lovely. I have purchased two pieces so far in return; one from local Cornish artist Jethro Jackson, he is incredible and based in Rock; and another from New York-based Elizabeth Waggett, who is also represented in the Drang Gallery, Cornwall. I have also discovered other artists whose work I love and we chat via Instagram.

Take a look, it is a whole colour-filled world! Plus you get to buy original art whilst spreading love!



Emily Pike (Class of 2020) has been fervently raising awareness, funds and donations to support Ukraine during the ongoing war. Most recently she, along with volunteers from her local village and other Old Maynardian families, organised a community charity dinner with three courses of Ukrainian-inspired food, a raffle, a silent auction and a live stream with a member of the Ukrainian Red Cross to hear about the devastation on the front line.



EMILY CAMPAIGNS FOR UKRAINE

The evening was hugely successful and raised an amazing £6000. Emily told us, “All of the food was handmade by us with each course being inspired by a Ukrainian dish. We hope to do more events in the future to carry on raising awareness, funds and supplies for Ukraine.”

Emily, who is half Ukrainian on her mother’s side, has been involved in a huge amount of other activities such as global charity concerts outside the Houses of Parliament and marches, rallies and protests across London:

“Although I am at University in Bath studying Politics and International Relations, every weekend after the war started I went to London with my mum to protest and attend rallies. After Easter I decided to work from home and do my exams from home so that I could help organise the charity dinner and attend it between my exams. On one day I volunteered at the Ukrainian Society in London, collecting donations which I hope to do more over the summer between planning other fundraising events!

“Whilst the war is not nearly so present in the news, it is certainly still increasingly devastating. Every day, Russian troops are moving closer to my mother’s and cousin’s hometown in Donetsk oblast of Sloviansk so this is still a really salient issue for us. Moreover, the war has already been exceedingly devastating in that when the Russians were North of Kyiv, they occupied the town we had moved my late grandparents to in 2014 after they became refugees from the war. This town was Vorzel, 5 minutes from Bucha a town we personally know so well, which I’m sure you have seen on the news. Now my cousins have become refugees and do not know if they will ever be able to return home.”

Emily told us that there is still a desperate need for simple medical supplies such as painkillers, bandages and plasters, which were the main resources she collected at her charity dinner.

If you would like to donate to Emily’s fundraising efforts you can visit her Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/manaton-ukraine-fundraiser.

“All proceeds will be going directly to the Ukrainian Red Cross. We chose this charity as we personally know the difference the Ukrainian Red Cross has made, with family friends in Ukraine working with them.”

If you would like to learn more about ways to help, please see the following websites:

ukrainianinstitute.org.uk/russias-war-against-ukraine-what-can-you-do-to-support-ukraine-ukrainians/
supportukraine.uk/



“Right now all I can focus on is Triathlon. I have a credible chance of being a World Champion. Absolutely crazy to consider it but I am working hard on my confidence to keep believing it.”

Kat Matthews stands with...

THE WORLD AT HER FEET

What made you first decide to go into physiotherapy?

I did some work experience and saw how much of an impact you could have on someone's whole life, movement is such a big part of everything we do.

What do you remember most or what did you enjoy most about your course?

I loved learning the biomedical science behind healing as well as the manual therapy skills.

Why did you decide on the Army after qualifying in physiotherapy?

I had decided I wanted to do physio in the Army before starting university as I saw that you can combine both the clinical work and also have more to your job with other pursuits as an Officer.

What do you enjoy most about your work in the Army?

As a physio I most enjoyed the variety of work, you have so many different jobs and experiences for learning. You also get a lot of educational support through peer support and also courses.





What has your experience been like as a woman in the Army- do you feel that you have had to overcome any additional obstacles to get to where you are?

Honestly, I have felt there has been no differentiation of being a woman in the Army. The Army rewards competence, in your job, physically and integrity as a person.

What is a “normal day” in your world?

Currently, I am training full time to do Ironman Triathlon. No one day is the same but a good day would be 90min swim, 3hours cycling and a 1hr run.

How often do you train and what does a training session look like for you?

I train 2-3 times most days and occasionally 1 per week perhaps I have a day off. A swim would be 4-5km (90mins) with mixed intensity, a bike session would be 90mins-4hrs depending on the aim and it would normally have intervals in. Running, would be 45-90mins, sometimes with intervals. I also do a couple of gym sessions a week, now I have more time and try and keep on top of mobility work.

How often do you compete?

I race every month or two from March through until October/November normally but it does vary year to year. Each race is between 4 and 9 hours so you also have to really consider recovery time.

Where do you compete?

All over the world. Last week I was in the canary islands but next month I go to Utah and onto LA. Perhaps Canada and Hawaii later in the year as well as Germany, Slovakia and Denmark.

What is your best memory of your competitions?

Winning 😊 Crossing the finish line first with family there - nothing beats it.

How do you balance this with physiotherapy work?

Currently, my full focus is on Triathlon, you can't do both at the level that I am at. I am maintaining my competencies through study and professional engagement and the Army supports the idea of having a 'dual career' option for the future.

What do you remember/miss about your time at The Maynard?

I remember constantly being told off for being in my PE kit. No, I joke, there were many more excellent memories and most of them were being with my friends in between lessons. I feel we were constantly just having fun, all day!

What advice would you give your younger self?

I cringe at the idea because I would not have listened but I wish I would have worried less about fitting in. The Maynard was such an inclusive environment it did not matter but it still bothered me, as I now know it bothers most people! Just being yourself is the only way to really know yourself and to thus, be happy.

News from the Archive

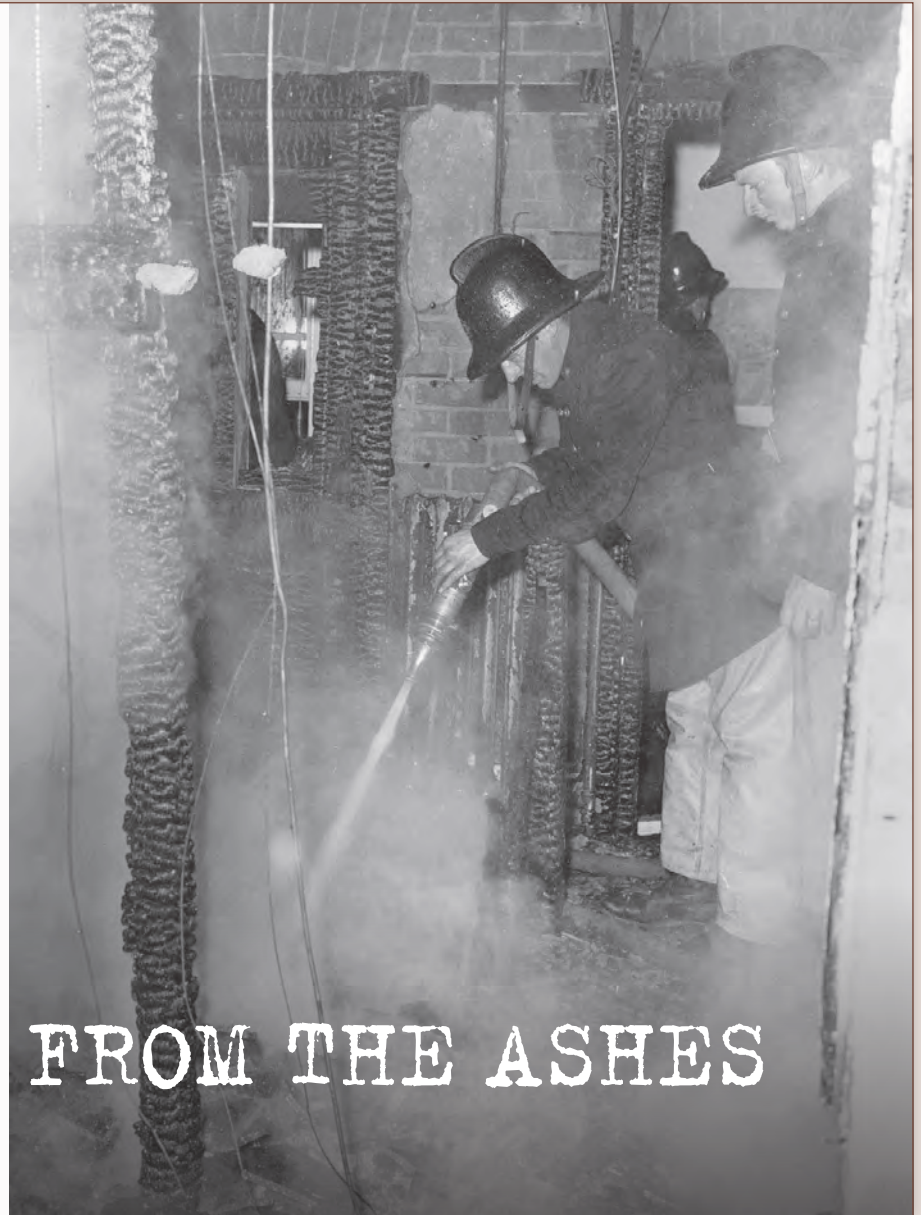
Resilience... can a community be resilient? I think we have to say that it can: the school has shown resilience in the past year or two as it has coped with the Covid pandemic, and there is certainly nothing quite like that in the archives.

The historical situation which immediately springs to mind to illustrate resilience is the 1942 Exeter Blitz. One of the school's boarding houses was destroyed by German incendiary bombs, and the school building was damaged.

That is a well-documented story, so here I will tell of another situation for which the school was completely unprepared, on 23rd September 1972.

THE MAYNARD, RISING FROM THE ASHES

Traceyville fire - outside Kindergarten Room



News from the Archive

The Head Mistress, Miss Bradley, wrote in the School Magazine that year: "A tap on the shoulder woke me from a deep sleep at 11.45pm and a voice calmly informed me that the police had just telephoned to say that there was a bad fire in the Junior School. The message added that I was not to be frightened but to come at once!" Arriving at the school site, she was greeted by a policeman with a cheerful 'It's burning merrily, Miss'. "By now I could hear the crackle of the fire and the crash of falling timber and slates.

The young policeman appeared at the top of the fire escape and beckoned me up to have a look. I joined him and we made our way along the smoke-filled, blackened top corridor from which the flames had been beaten back in the nick of time." (No health and safety concerns there!)

The damage had been restricted by the efficient actions of the firemen to the part of the building nearer to Spicer Road, leaving the hall and the two classrooms above it relatively unscathed. They needed redecorating to get rid of the mess left by the water, and replace the smell of smoke with

something more positive. This was soon completed, and it was only a week later that lessons started again for all the year groups in the Junior School. Not all were in their accustomed rooms, however. At this time, Year 6 (known as Lower Three) would have been based in classrooms in Tregear, so they were unaffected.

After the fire, Year 5 (Form Two) had to move into the Main School building. The magazine comments "Form Two revelled in their unexpectedly early promotion to being full members of the Main School: they were the only people who were glad that the Junior School was not rebuilt in time for



Outside U1 Form room



Traceyville after the fire

them to return to their own form-room; they would have viewed such demotion with disgust!"

Before the fire, Year 4 (Upper One) used a classroom on the first floor at the front of the building overlooking the Tregear tennis courts, and Kindergarten (Year 2) and Transition (Year 3) were in rooms at the front on the ground floor. Those were the rooms that had been destroyed by the fire, and had to be completely rebuilt. The new rooms are larger and a more useful shape than those

which they replaced, which had been part of the original building designed as a private house.

At the side of the Junior School building facing Bradley Hall, the brickwork shows where the old part of the building survived (around a doorway now blocked up) and where the new section was added.

Photographs can illustrate the extent of the damage caused by the fire – but no photographs can adequately illustrate a pandemic!

A RUM TIME FOR GEMMA



Gemma Wakeham and husband Russ left behind their successful careers in nursing and organic chemistry to create their own brand of Devon made rum. Not just any rum, however, they have worked their magical scientific powers and business prowess to develop carbon negative products with sustainable and eco-friendly manufacturing.

Their distillery is run on 100% renewable energy, with electric vehicles, carbon neutral packaging and a closed-loop chilling system. Their bottles use natural cork, compostable seals, light and British-made glass bottles and labels made of sugarcane fibre, hemp and linen.

Unlike many brands, where rum is imported from the Caribbean or South America, Two Drifters make their rum from raw ingredients right here in Exeter.

There are currently four delicious flavours to choose from and their website is packed with ideas for ways to enjoy it (Grapefruit Daiquiri? Sign us up!).



Their list of stockists is growing by the day and you can find their products on the shelves at John Lewis, Master of Malt, The Whiskey Exchange and Virgin Wines, to name but a few. If you are a supporter of the Exeter Chiefs, those eagle-eyed among you may have spotted these bottles behind the bar!

We asked Gemma to tell us a little about her company and why the environment is at the forefront of their business values.

After a career in nursing, what gave you the inspiration and know-how for setting up a business of your own?

I wish there was a clear moment when I felt ready to take the plunge, sell our house and set up the distillery but it's not that easy. At some point you must overcome the fear and just do it. We had a strong product, a great story and a clear direction, and we had spent three years building the idea and business plan.

“At the core of Two Drifters is the constant desire to improve. To strive for perfection in our rums, to constantly search out and implement new or improved sustainable technologies, to inspire others to be more sustainable”

Why was being carbon negative important to you and how did you find ways to achieve this?

My husband, Russ, was an organic chemist working on carbon capture, storage and utilisation before we set up the distillery. Along the way he learned so many ways in which businesses could be more sustainable, that we just had to show how it could be done. We partner with Climeworks and use their Direct Air Capture technology to offset our CO₂, however, it is an expensive technology, so we use this ‘offsetting’ like a carbon tax.

What’s next for Two Drifters?

A fully sustainable Two Drifters Distillery visitors centre in Devon, producing world-class British rums and showcasing the latest sustainable carbon capture technology.



twodriftersrum.com



OBITUARY



Emma Louise Bullous

13/11/1997 – 22/1/2021

Emma was born on 13th November 1997 in Torquay. At the age of 7, she joined The Maynard School where she stayed and flourished until the age 18. She represented the school in basketball, netball and swimming.

It became very evident during her school years through participation or leadership in various projects and lunchtime clubs, that Geology was her true passion. Her fascination for rocks, fossils and anything volcanic was abundantly clear, so it came as no surprise that her chosen course at university was Geology and Physical Geography for which she graduated from Birmingham in 2019 with a 2:1 honors degree. Like many geology graduates, she wanted to use her degree to help the planet and the chance to work for a sustainable energy company gave her the prospect to use her degree and launch her career.

Everyone who knew Emma would say that she was a young woman renowned for her hard work, immense kindness, love of sport and food, but above all, her sense of humour. She also had an innate ability to recognise when others needed help and support which she would offer unconditionally with a radiant smile. Her sense of unity was to ensure everyone around her was happy which often sparked an infectious laugh that was unmistakably Emma.

Her last illness reflected many of these qualities and despite a devastating diagnosis and prognosis she did not change. Always smiling, always polite always kind, always Emma.

Eileen Jones

1930-2022

We are sad to report the death of Eileen Jones, who taught German at Maynard from the early seventies until her retirement in 1994.

Born in Northern Ireland in 1930, she went to Oxford at the tender age of 17 to study German, and attended a summer school in Hamburg in 1949, which must have been an uncomfortable experience as it was so soon after the end of the war.

She taught briefly in Reading, York and Sidmouth before getting the job at Maynard, where she stayed for the rest of her career. She always said how lucky she was to have got this post, as she loved the school so much.

It was Eileen who set up the Hildesheim exchange in 1974. When asked to contribute some comments for the 50th anniversary of the exchange at Exeter School, she wrote:

The German exchange started in 1974 when a lucky chance gave us the opportunity to join in with the already flourishing exchange between Exeter School and the Scharnhorstgymnasium, a boys' school in Hildesheim. It was our great good luck that the teacher of English at the Marienschule, a girls' convent school in the same town, and married

to the Deputy head of the Scharnhorstgymnasium, decided to ask if her school could join in with the existing Exeter exchange, and as at that time they had no girls to offer, Exeter School turned to us to see if we were interested.

It started on a small scale with only six girls in the first year, but rapidly expanded and by the time the Scharnhorst became co-educational, it had grown to include about 35 boys and girls in each country. In the early years, we always travelled by the overnight ferry from Harwich to Hook of Holland, and from there by train all the way to Hildesheim without changing, as there was amazingly a through carriage to the spa town of Bad Harzburg.

The long journey in each direction was very useful to the accompanying staff, as we could calm anxieties on the way out and listen to excited accounts of the visit on the way home!

She is fondly remembered by colleagues and former pupils, whose ongoing careers she followed with interest. There is a tribute page for her here: [Eileen Jones \(muchloved.com\)](http://Eileen Jones (muchloved.com))



Lindsey Parkinson

I was so sad to learn of the sudden passing away of one of my earliest school friends, Lindsey Parkinson, last year.

I met Lindsey when we both attended Hylton Preparatory School, also in Exeter. Together with Harriet Cameron and Suzanne May, we were firm friends and all 'went up' together to start Maynard with a few others when we were 7 years old.

Lindsey had a significant influence on me in my early years. With an older sister, Elaine, she seemed so much more knowledgeable than I did - I was in awe of her confidence and ability to speak up for herself, and others, including me. From our early days of play, she would bring ideas, enthusiasm and big chuckles to whatever we had decided to do.

Lindsey always seemed cheerful to me; being pragmatic and positive, even when things came a bit unstuck. She was astute and sensitive, tuning into when I and others were upset or unsure of ourselves, always offering practical solutions and gently suggesting advice. She would always look you straight in the eye and tell you what she thought, never afraid to be alone in an opinion. She was a great example of how to stand up for yourself and speak your mind.

We weren't in touch so much over the last few years, and although I had been following her travels around the world on facebook, whilst also living abroad for a period myself, we hadn't been in contact much since school. Yet, she was one of my oldest friends, and I felt as though I knew her more deeply because we'd shared almost all our school life together, despite our later lack of contact.

Her memorial service gave a few of us the chance to reconnect and it reminded me that our school friends are often friendships deeply rooted and shaped without the effort needed in later years. It was such a pleasure to slip back into easy chatting with those who know me so well, and good reminder to stay in contact with those who were our first friends.

Claire, Old Maynardian

Jane Jones

31/07/1940 - 20/10/2021

Jane Jones, sadly passed away on 20th October 2021. She's survived by her husband Robin and sons Andy and Nick. Jane was both an Old Maynardian and was a Maynard School Governor for many years. She was hugely proud of Maynard. She lived in Matford Avenue in Exeter both when she was at school and for the majority of her adult life. Jane and her husband moved to Countess Wear 9 years ago into a house they'd built to enjoy their retirement.

Dorothy Houghton (née Ryan)

Passed away January 2020

Stella Hurford (née Bowles)

Passed away 2021

COULD YOU INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION?



We are on the lookout for guest speakers from a variety of roles and industries to talk to our students about their careers!

Biz Whizz is a fun and informative way for the girls to learn what life in the world of work is really like. This year we were lucky to hear about concert management, data science, art studio ownership, climate science, the Royal Air Force, marine conservation and many more!

Our 2022/2023 dates are as follows:

26th September 2022
14th October 2022
18th November 2022
9th December 2022
13th January 2023
3rd February 2023
3rd March 2023
24th March 2023
24th April 2023
19th May 2023
12th June 2023

**If you would like to get involved,
please get in touch!**



ALUMNAE & DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE INFORMATION

All enquiries should be directed to:

Lucy McNally

Tel: + 44 (0)1392 273417 (ext. 181)

Email: lucymcnally@maynard.co.uk

Website: www.maynard.co.uk

The Maynard School,
Denmark Road,
Exeter, Devon EX1 1SJ

OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Office will be open between 8.30am – 5.00pm
on Monday to Friday during term time.

- Please remember to inform the office when you change your address and when you update your email address.
- We also enjoy hearing about your careers, family lives and reunions.
- Notices of births, marriages and deaths, advertisements and forthcoming event information should be sent to the Alumnae & Development office.



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