



S T A R S O F T H E S C H O L A R S

WINTER
2024



THE
MAYNARD
SCHOOL
EXETER



FOREWORD

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter, a wonderfully festive way to review all the amazing milestones and successes we have enjoyed since the start of the academic year back in September. It's been another extraordinarily busy term and to include everything here would be impossible, but I hope the ensuing pages give you a good snapshot of our highlights and happenings.

In the meantime, may I wish you all a joyful Christmas and a fantastic New Year and I look forward to welcoming you back with renewed energy and enthusiasm at the start of the Spring Term!

TUNE INTO OUR SOCIALS

Don't forget that you can catch up with all our news via our social media channels! We post regularly on Facebook and Instagram so be sure to start following us for the latest updates - highlights this holiday will include some particularly festive touches involving both staff and students so prepare to be utterly wowed!



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THE SUNDAY TIMES INDEPENDENT SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR SOUTH WEST

We were delighted to be voted the winners of the Sunday Times Independent Secondary School of the Year in the South West – largely considered the most prestigious accolade from the most respected school survey in the UK! It also marks exactly five years since we last won the title, a true testament to the enduring brilliance of our staff, students and wider community!

It was the perfect culmination to yet another fantastic year and one that also saw us ranked as the top performer in the South West in the Daily Telegraph's 'Best UK Private School by A-level Results 2024, placing 29th nationally out of 214 schools and well ahead of other schools in Devon.

Being recognised by both these esteemed national publications really has been the perfect end to another fabulous and successful year!



SIXTH FORM REFURBISHMENT

We kicked off the academic year in celebratory style with the Grand Opening of our fantastic refurbished Sixth Form Centre. It was wonderful to welcome such a large community of supporters from previous staff members, alumnae, current parents and governors right through to those girls who will be enjoying the benefits of such a gorgeous study centre and common room in years to come!



THE ABSOLUTE BEST STAFF PLAY

After an absence of eight years, the Staff Play made its return in November with a most memorable production of 'Murder at Checkmate Manor'! What hidden talents our staff have – they really were utterly brilliant and the hilarious comedic moments (of which there were many – some intended, others perhaps not!) were just the tonic that we all needed! Truly brilliant and, no doubt, it will remain quite the topic of conversation for many more months to come!



PRE-PREP NEWS

Gnome Alone – Another Fantastic Pre-Prep Christmas Production

As ever, the Pre-Prep play was an absolute delight with its gorgeous tale of Norma the Gnome who so desperately wants to help Santa with his Christmas preparations. The girls performed beautifully, remembered their lines and quite simply wowed their audience!



Reindeer Races

The annual edition of the mighty Pre-Prep Reindeer races was met with all the usual glee and excitement and our wonderful mini Rudolfs had a fabulous time, flying over the obstacles and cheering each other on in a great show of camaraderie and support.

RECEPTION



YEAR 1



YEAR 2





Festive trip to Killerton for Year 1

Our lovely Year 1s enjoyed a very Christmassy trip to Killerton on the last Tuesday of term. The girls thoroughly enjoyed exploring the beautiful grounds and completing all the festive activities before heading indoors to be wowed by the enormous tree and stately rooms so beautifully decorated. Not forgetting, stopping off to refuel with a lovely, warming hot chocolate!

Father Christmas springs a surprise!

Can you believe who paid us a special visit on the final day of term? To say excitement levels were at fever pitch is no exaggeration and it really was the most magical end to another wonderfully successful term in the Pre-Prep!



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Dances

The final assembly of term was full of joy and sparkles thanks to some wonderful Christmas dances by everyone in the Junior School! Bravo, everyone – you certainly put an extra little festive spring in all our steps!



Junior School Singalong

What a wonderful musical finale this was! Packed with readings, performances and rousing carols and songs, it really was the most befittingly festive celebration to lead us into the Christmas holidays.



Afternoon tea with the Head

Year 3 had a lovely time with Mrs Gregory and enjoyed their hot chocolate, cookies and chat.



Stonehenge Artwork

To have a celebrated local artist as your teacher (Mr Hoile) is such a wonderful opportunity to hone the creative skills! Our lucky Year 3s have really enjoyed their Stonehenge project, successfully capturing evocative sunsets in mixed media.



Christmas Stockings

The girls' DT project has seen them designing and hand stitching a Christmas stocking – a lovely keepsake we hope they will have for many years to come!



Electricity

Year 4 have been learning about electrical insulators and conductors in Science and have been using what they have learnt to make their own switches as part of a circuit.

The girls explored different objects around the classroom and tested whether they conducted electricity, and then made a flick switch and a press switch.



Karma and Reincarnation

In RE, we have been learning about Buddhism and discussing the ideas of karma and reincarnation.

To demonstrate their understanding of this the girls have made their own versions of Snakes and Ladders, with the ladders being associated with acts of kindness and generosity and the snakes associated with concepts such as anger and selfishness. The girls have enjoyed testing these games out with each other!

Christmas Robins

This week we have also been putting our sewing skills to the test by making our own cute Christmas robins which the girls will be bringing home ready for holidays!



Tea with Mrs Gregory

Our Year 5s had a fabulous time of over tea and cookies, chatting with Mrs Gregory about all their favourite things at The Maynard and discussing any changes that they might like to implement.



Christ-maths with Mr Holland

Our hands-on Junior School governor, Mr Holland, brought Christmas fun with a maths twist to the Year 5 classroom! Using paper and Christmas cards, the girls got stuck in to making beautiful festive stars out of kite shapes and sparkling dodecahedron baubles.



Joint Years 4 & 5 trip to Winterwood

The girls in Years 4 and 5 were treated to a special seasonal trip to Theatre Alibi (at Emmanuel Hall in St Thomas) yesterday to tour the wonderful 'Winterwood'. They were taken on a magical journey through the woods to meet the incredible characters who live there, hear their stories and to help them on their Christmas missions. It was a highly festive and totally charming drama event that all were able to enjoy!

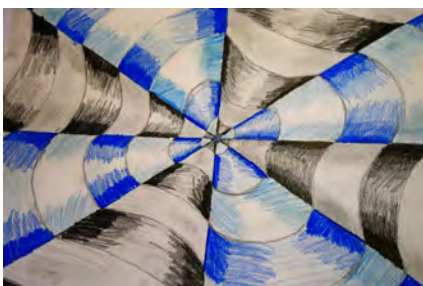
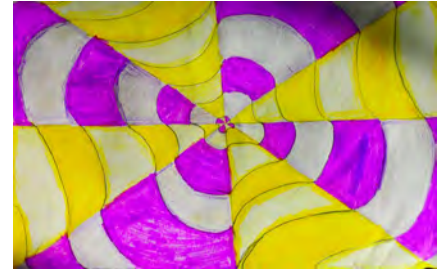
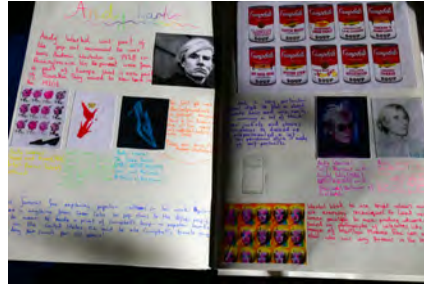
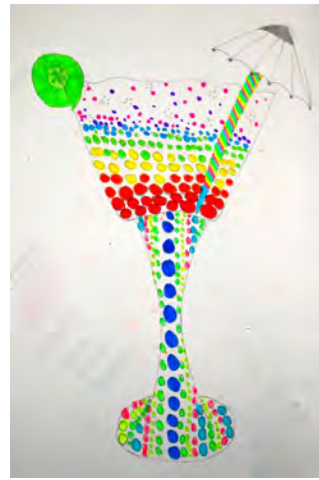
Singing at The Lodge

The girls did a fantastic job of entertaining the residents at The Lodge Care Home, spreading much festive cheer with their gorgeous Christmas songs and carols! It was especially lovely, given their visit coincided with the 96th birthday of Miss Wilson, a deputy head at The Maynard for many years and now resident of The Lodge, who was thrilled to see them all on her special day!



Budding Artists

The girls' sketchbooks are looking superb and we certainly do have some brilliant budding artists in our midst!



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Success at the UK Space Design Regional Finals

Our Sixth Form STEM students wowed the judges at the recent Cityscape Design competition, winning the overall title and claiming their place at the National Finals being held at Imperial College London in March.

Tasked with designing and costing a Martian base to process materials mined on the planet, our students combined forces with those from Poole Grammar to form a team led in part by Nandipa (Vice President of Engineering) and Jemima (Vice President of Business/Finance). The girls showed exceptional ingenuity, producing a hugely detailed final design illustrated perfectly by Imogen's superb artwork.



Congratulations to Willow

Huge congratulations to Willow (Upper 6) for being awarded with the prestigious Blue Boy Award from the St. John's Hospital Foundation earlier this month.

"Willow is a young woman with a profound social conscience who displays remarkable drive and initiative. She never allows the grass to grow under her feet, highlighting the impact that one individual can make with lots of small acts of kindness. She has been involved in numerous charitable endeavours outside of school: working in an Oxfam shop, running Macmillan Coffee Morning events and volunteering as a befriender with the NSPCC and Childline.

Elsewhere, Willow has acted as an advocate for those whose voice isn't always heard, raising awareness of issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community, including arranging charitable link ups and visiting speakers. Remarkably she has also shone in Young Enterprise, the Great Big Dance Off, promoted science through the Gold Youth STEM award, and been a lynchpin of numerous musical ensembles. Her humble and positive approach carries others with her, and she is a wonderful example to younger students as part of our Head Girl Team."



Best results ever in the Senior Maths Challenge

We were delighted to notch our best ever results in this year's Senior Maths Challenge with 85% of our entries being awarded a certificate!

Special congratulations to Joey who has qualified (for the second year running!) for the British Mathematical Olympiad alongside Charlene. Meanwhile, Bethany and Judy's scores were high enough to qualify for the Senior Kangaroo follow-on round. Exciting things to come!



Classics trip to the Bay of Naples

October half term saw our Classics students from Upper 3 through to Upper 6 heading to the Bay of Naples for a wonderful five-day trip taking in some of the most iconic areas of history and culture. Near Pompeii, they explored one of the finest residences uncovered in the area – the Villa of Oplontis – as well as the Amphitheatre, the Forum, the house of Caecilius and the Palaestra; they trekked to the summit of Mount Vesuvius, visited the beautifully preserved Herculaneum and even were lucky enough to visit the Island of Capri. What an amazing trip!



Winner of the ‘Best Academic Research’ prize

Earlier in the term, we were delighted to learn that Eunice (Upper 6) had won the ‘Best Academic Research’ prize in the extremely prestigious University of Cambridge St John’s Poster Competition 2024.

Written on this year’s theme of ‘silver’, her work on ‘Shining Solutions: Silver Ant Adaptations’ dazzled the judges, who cited that her work had “excellently described engineering applications and links to global warming.”



Anna’s essay voted top five in the world

Lower 6 student, Anna, composed such an excellent essay entry in the Cambridge Journal of Political Affairs that it was ranked as one of the top five essays to be submitted from across the world, earning itself a ‘Distinction’ from the judges in the process.

Entitled ‘What marks the difference between rebellion and revolution?’, Anna admits it was a month in the making but all her hard work and attention to detail certainly paid off in the end!

“When I found out I’d won the prize and had also been offered an online internship with Cambridge, I was so excited that I couldn’t sleep!”



Success in the GCHQ National Language Competition

We were super proud to report that Milly, Xiran and Maya (Upper 4) achieved an exceptional 104th place out of the 2040 teams taking place across the UK in the GCHQ National Language Competition. This is the highest placed team we have ever recorded in this prestigious competition, so huge congratulations to them and to the whole of the Upper 4 for their sterling performances.



The Burston Drum: Upper 4 production

Our budding actresses in the Upper 4 put on a stunning performance of 'The Burston Drum' in November, bringing the emotional tale of children fighting for their right to a comprehensive education to the Main School Hall stage. Bravo to them all!



Congratulations to Olivia

We were delighted to hear that Olivia (Upper 5) was awarded a Distinction in her Grade 8 flute exam. Huge congratulations to her on this richly deserved achievement!



Guests of Honour at the Dart's Farm Indulgence Evening

What an honour it is to be invited every year to provide some of the entertainment at the much-loved Dart's Farm Indulgence Evening. As ever, our Chamber Choir did a remarkable job, adding toe-tappingly festive spirit to welcome all the shoppers!

Teatime Concert

Our first Teatime Concert of the year kickstarted the term's live performances and our thanks to all those musicians who treated our audience to such an eclectic and wonderful array of music!



Christmas Carol Service

With snowfall putting paid to our wonderful Autumn Concert showcase of talent in November, the Christmas Carol Service became our feature music production of the term. Over 100 students and staff performed an abundance of carols and songs to a packed St Matt's church, bringing out the festive spirit in each and every one of us! And a huge thank you to all those who so generously contributed to the £310 raised in the retiring collection for FORCE Cancer Charity.



Girls Go Gold!

This annual GSA event has become a firm favourite in our calendar and the ultimate start to our sporting year.

Our sporting superstars headed to Sherborne Girls School in September for a day of inspiring talks and masterclasses aimed at inspiring the next generation of women in sport. The calibre of participants is always outstanding, and this year's keynote speaker was none other than Clare Balding OBE who delivered a fascinating presentation entitled 'Dare to be Different'.

Thereafter, there was a selection of fascinating talks to choose from covering topics such as 'Life in the Olympic and Paralympic Village', 'The Unstoppable Rise of Women's Sport' and 'Championing Growth – Navigating physical changes as a female athlete'.

It really was the most inspirational day to remember in the most esteemed of sporting company!



Cross Country

Congratulations to our cross-country team for their various endeavours and achievements throughout the term – there have been some wet and slippery courses to tackle but they've all achieved this with the customary Maynard grit and determination. Congratulations to Maya (Upper 3), Issy (Upper 4) and Izzy (Upper 5) who are now through to the Devon Schools Championship round next month!



Hockey

What a term for hockey this has been and huge congratulations to all our amazing teams who have consistently given of their all both on and off the pitch. Special mention goes to the Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 teams who all played consistently well to take their places at the Regional Schools' Finals against the best local teams in Devon!



Netball

Our netballers across the Senior School have also been making huge waves and have shown immense perseverance, digging deep when it most mattered! Both our Under 14 and Under 16 teams played superbly to make it through to the County Round of the National Schools Netball Competition.



Great fun at Condover Hall

Our Under 13 and Under 14 Netball teams enjoyed a fabulous few days of sport, friendship and adventure at the annual GSA Condover Hall netball residential in September.



Badminton

Our Under 14 team have made it through to the County Round following two excellent tournaments which saw them defeating tough local competition. We wish them the best of luck for this next stage!



Upper 3 Chocolate Logs

The Upper 3 girls wowed us with their wonderful chocolate logs – the quality this year was quite exceptional (but don't we say that every year?!)



Upper 4 Christmas Cake Exhibition

It's not Christmas without our annual Upper 4 Christmas Cake extravaganza and this year's exhibits were truly spectacular!



Ten Tors training begins

Our Ten Tors training is underway and the teams are already getting to grips with the varying, and occasionally extreme, weather conditions that Dartmoor can throw at them in any one day! But they are bearing up well and are certainly on target to equip themselves magnificently at the Challenge in May.



Chocolate & Chat

A highlight among the oodles of lunchtime clubs happening each week is our 'Chocolate and Chat' big sister mentoring programme, in which the lovely Lower Sixth regularly meet up with their Upper 3 (Year 7) buddies.

Initially, this was designed as a welcome for all the younger girls into the Senior School and to help them settle, but it turned into such a highlight of the week for them all that it now runs year-round with regular catchups and time to play games, eat together and generally just have lots of fun!



House Christmas Fair

The Senior School was a riot of jolly activity last week as we hosted our inaugural Christmas Fair. The Main School Hall sparkled with holiday joy and was packed with treats, activities and prizes to be won, perfectly coinciding with our school-wide Christmas Jumper Day.

The girls enjoyed enormous festive fun whilst also supporting some fantastic charitable causes: donations from the Christmas Jumper Day will go to Save the Children, while fair activities will each support our Houses' chosen local charities (Armourers going to Vranck House School; Goldsmiths to Balloons Charity; Haberdashers to Guide Dogs for the Blind Exeter; and Merchants to FearFree).

What a lovely way to celebrate this season of goodwill!



BBC

Children in Need

Thanks to the incredible kindness and generosity of our wonderful school community, we raised a whopping £1,020.34 for this amazing cause.

The highlight of the day was the staff race, with our wonderful teachers being dressed by their tutor groups as their celebrity lookalikes before battling it out in teams over a small obstacle course to a packed audience in the PAC!





The Lord Mayor's Carol Service

A very well done to all our performers who lent their musical talents to the recent Lord Mayor's Carol Service held in the Cathedral to raise funds for FORCE Cancer Charity.

Sixth Form mentoring

Throughout this term, some of our amazing Sixth Formers have been offering bespoke academic mentoring to Year 11s at Paignton Academy, sharing their subject know-how with younger students readying for GCSEs!

This revolutionary new initiative involved our girls video chatting with students in Paignton to explain different topics, walk them through activities and overall give them another level of academic support. Additionally, our mentors have the amazing opportunity to deepen their understanding of their A-level subjects through explaining it to their mentee, as well as developing their leadership and communication skills.

It's been a very successful initiative with friendships forged and much to be gained by both parties, and we look forward to extending it further in the months and years to come.



Year 6 STEM Day

Sharing our wonderful facilities and exciting events calendar with our neighbouring schools is something that we love to do, and we were delighted to host our first ever Year 6 STEM Day with over 50 girls from St Leonard's and St Michael's Primary Schools in November.

Under the watchful eye of two highly experienced Structural Engineers, Colin Peters and John Allen, with support from the University of Exeter and The Institution of Structural Engineers, the girls were tasked to design a stage set fit for the highest profile artists to entertain the masses.

It was a wonderful day of teamwork and construction, culminating in a final public-speaking presentation of their designs. How fantastic to be able to tap into such inspiring resources and to be able to share this with so many other students in the area!



Exeter Food Bank

Enormous thanks to all those who contributed to our House Harvest Collection for the Exeter Food Bank. We were bowled over by your generosity, collecting a staggering 450kg of items to help all those currently experiencing crisis. We couldn't be more grateful for your donations!

Merry Christmas

*and we look forward to seeing you all again
in the new year!*



THE
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MADE FOR GIRLS AGE 4 - 18
