

Maidenhill Newsletter

SPRING 2023 EDITION



Adieu, Mrs Wilson!



BE KIND, WORK HARD, LOOK SMART

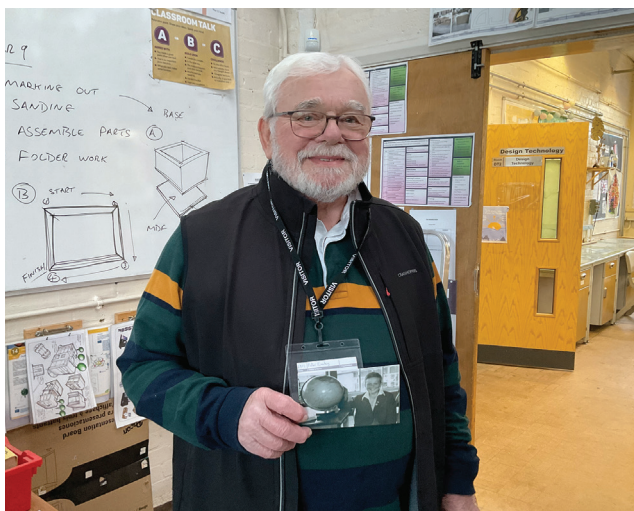


Head Teacher's Update

I was delighted to welcome a former student back to Maidenhill for a tour recently. Peter, pictured here, was one of the very first students to attend Maidenhill when it first opened in the 1950s. Peter commented on how much the school had changed since his time, not just in terms of the significant changes to the building, but also in terms of the 'feel' of the school. He noticed how "warm and friendly" staff are, a contrast to the 'somber' and 'cold' feel of the school he remembers back then. The same comment was made recently by a visiting local Head Teacher who was really impressed by the focused learning he observed and the positive ethos he felt around school and in lessons.

Maidenhill has indeed changed hugely since I first started in 2007 as Deputy Head. We are now much bigger, although remain a small secondary school compared to other secondary schools. We enjoy a really pleasant environment both outside with our landscaped social areas and internally with refurbished classrooms, learning hub and smart dining areas. Gone are the days of windows that wouldn't open and radiators that didn't work, the draughty changing rooms and smelly gym corridor. Thanks to the site staff, our buildings remain bright and well maintained since that significant investment in 2013.

We now have our highly effective Learning Communities and vertical tutor groups providing students with the opportunity to work with students of all ages, and offering cohesive and structured welfare and guidance for students. We have our smart uniform, a change from the blue sweatshirts and white polo shirts that resembled a primary school uniform back then. Our School Council has played and continues to play an important role in the many improvements that have been made over the years.





Head Teacher's Update



However, those systemic changes are only as good as the people who implement them and this is where, as a school, we are extremely fortunate. We have recruited and developed a strong staff team of both teaching and support staff and it is their commitment and hard work that makes the real difference. It has been a pleasure and an honour to lead such a dedicated team for the last 11 years as Head Teacher and to work with such a focused and supportive governing body who

share our vision.

As I reflect on my 16 years at Maidenhill, it is with a great sense of pride. Without a doubt the school has changed considerably and now enjoys a very positive reputation in the community, as is shown by the fact that Maidenhill has been over-subscribed for the last few years and has recently had its second "good" Ofsted inspection. Maidenhill is not perfect; what school is? However, what makes me most proud is the constant desire to improve things

Maidenhill: Before and after

for the better, for the good of our young people.

Our students should be very proud of themselves and they deserve the best we can provide. Maidenhill's success is not down to one person, it is the common mission and sense of purpose that we have as a school that is second to none.

That is why, looking forward, I feel confident that Maidenhill will go from strength to strength.

Mrs P Wilson, Head Teacher





Healthy or Hearty?

Year 11 food preparation and nutrition students completed their final cooking assessments this term, which involved planning, preparing and cooking three calcium rich dishes each.

Year 7 students were tasked with planning and making a healthy pasta salad that included all five essential nutrients.



Year 8 students had to produce a multiculturally inspired burger.



Year 9 students had a choice of making either a sweet or savoury homemade snack.



Hungry yet?
Miss L Bullion



Good Enough to Eat!

This term, Year 10 art and design students have been getting creative with their ice cream work as part of their art and design portfolio. They completed oil pastel studies and designed, modelled and glazed ceramic sculptures of delicious ice-creams, inspired by the artist Anna Barlow.

How good do they look...?!





FameLab Finalists

In science over the last few weeks, Year 9 students have been working on their 'FameLab' speeches. Each student researched and wrote a three-minute talk about a topic of science that interests them, and then presented it to their class. The class teacher judged each speech on three things: content, clarity and charisma. The best talks included good scientific information, explained their concepts clearly and were fun and engaging to listen to. Each class teacher selected their class' winners who, in turn, took part in two semi-finals, from which nine students were ultimately selected to compete in the school final.

On the 27th January, the finalists delivered their talks not only to their entire year group, but also to a judging panel consisting of one the school governors, a scientist associated with FameLab and our very own Mrs Wilson! A variety of topics such as Light, Dreams, The Brain and Hyperspace were some of the chosen topics, to name but a few.

Lily Smith impressed the judges with her excellently

delivered speech on the 'five-second rule' for dropping food on the floor and was selected as the Maidenhill FameLab champion, with Jas Winfield and Izzy Meadows as the runners up!

Lily will now represent the school in the interschool FameLab competition. All the finalists can be really proud of themselves and are invited to watch and support Lily as she competes against winners from other schools.

Mr B Norman





Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

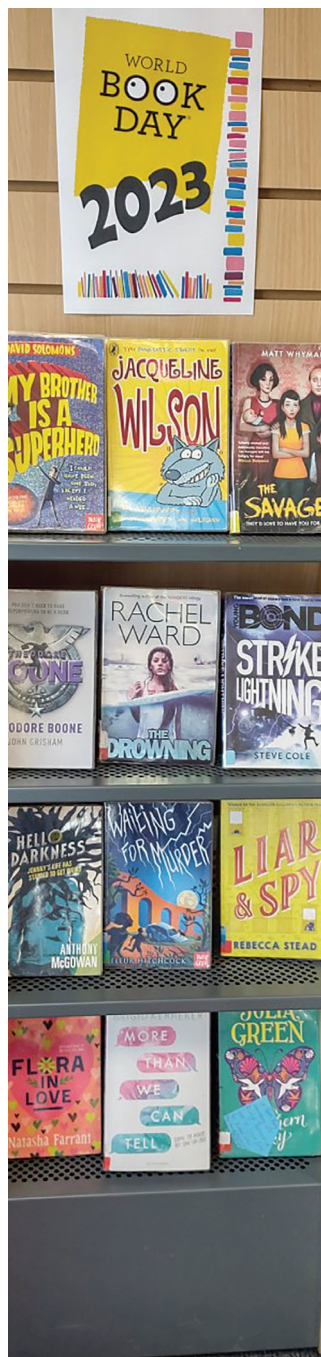


World Book Day on Thursday, 2nd March, again provided an ideal opportunity for students to celebrate the joy of reading for pleasure.

Although students in Years 10 and 11 do not have to borrow books with Accelerated Reader quizzes, many continue to do so. Older students often prefer the 'hard-hitting' themes and titles that reflect more of the complexity of life.

To accommodate the varying individual tastes, the library has recently invested in the KS4 section by purchasing new Young Adult titles. The picture shows just a small selection – they're proving very popular!

Mrs C Escott-Allen



Learning Support to the Rescue...

A lot has been going on in Learning Support recently! Miss Teasdale has started running a Wellbeing Club for both KS3 and KS4 every Monday, Week 1. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn skills to calm your mind and body through breathing, relaxation, meditation and yoga. These proven methods help to calm exam stress and manage pain, anger and anxiety, as well as promote concentration and discipline. All are welcome, so please do come along and give it a go!

Miss Wasley and Mrs Bruce took a select group of students on a trip to SGS College on the 9th February. This gave students

some experience in using public transport. Additionally, students got the chance to meet their potential tutors for next year as well as the opportunity to get a taster of what their upcoming course at SGS will be like.

For students wanting to spend their break and lunchtimes in Learning Support, Mrs Fulton, Miss Ashenford and Mrs Watson have managed to secure a space in LS4 for KS3 students to do arts and crafts in a relaxed and supported environment. This is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends, explore creativity and nurture artistic talent in a safe, quiet space.

Miss I Clarke



Blood Brothers

On Thursday, the 3rd December, Year 11 went to Cardiff Millennium Centre to watch Blood Brothers, one of the texts which we have been studying for our GCSE.

Blood Brothers is a play written by Willy Russell in 1982, which puts forward serious issues in England at the time. Throughout our lessons, we have been going through the whole play and watched it online to give us an idea of the characters' emotions, how the language portrays that and the role each character plays in the tragedy.

However, the online performance was nothing compared to watching it live at the theatre. The play was beautifully performed, clearly illustrating the class divide, (being a key theme for the play) through both intricate set and costume.

Hearing the songs live, allowed us to understand how the

motif of Marilyn Monroe is carried through from start to finish, as well as making it easier to remember the quotes. The vocals were amazing and Mrs Johnstone's story was moving because of the emotion she put into the songs.

When we read it out in class, we got an idea of how each character would act, but watching it at the theatre, meant we could really focus on how Edward and Mickey's childhoods differ, which is illustrated through their speech. In addition to this, the performance solidified the narrator's importance and how he highlighted the moral battles Mrs Johnstone faced. He also played a key part in showing Mrs Lyons' breakdown, which is built



up through its intense songs.

Not only was this trip a fun way to experience Blood Brothers, but it helped me understand the story further and its deeper message of class divide in England. I enjoyed the book, but after watching the play, the story holds a special place in my heart. Since watching it, my friends and I continue to quote parts of the songs, aiding our revision ready for exams. Overall, it was a wonderful play which I personally enjoyed thoroughly and will remember fondly.

Natasha Walmsley, Year 11

A Christmas Production to Remember

Year 7 visited the Theatre at Bristol Old Vic on 6th and 13th December to see the wonderful Nutcracker Suite. We hope this is the first live theatre trip of many more whilst at Maidenhill. The production was an incredible Christmas performance with amazing actors and musicians.

Even though the journey felt long with the bustle of Year 7s, it was all worth it when we got to the beautiful Old Vic theatre. The modern style rustic feel that this spectacle of a building was emitting was incredible. We stepped in and saw the wonderful building and theatre entrance forum. There was a metal spiral staircase which we climbed to be guided to our seats in the gallery.

With the perfect balcony seats, overlooking the audience and the curtain covered stage, the whole of Year 7 was readily waiting for the play to start. The curtains opened and we were introduced to an excitable young girl, playing with her toys on a frosty

Christmas Eve. As the story progressed, many more unique characters performed, sang and danced. There was even a whole entourage of living toys, following the main character, Claire.

With loss, love and a gripping story line, this outstanding performance was a must-see for all theatre connoisseurs, families and casual enjoyers of rebooted classics alike!

We were very grateful to parents/carers and Theatre Works for funding this exciting theatre event.

Leon Lukes, Year 7





Business as Usual



Year 10 business studies students are currently completing the four week '10X Challenge'. The interactive and fun programme introduces enterprise and financial education to students in preparing for the world of work as they create their own business with just £10.

Students work in teams to research and decide on a product to invest their £10 in. They are then required to source materials or products, prepare sales pitches and plan selling events.

At the end of the challenge, students decide how to spend or donate their profit after repaying the £10 pledge.

In week 1, students design the logo for their business. To the left are some examples of the submissions that students created.

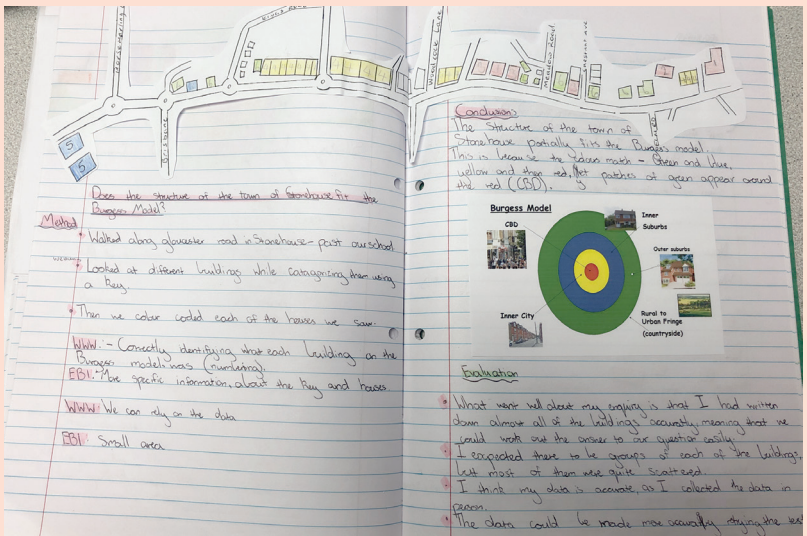
So far, so good.

Mr C Bargh

Year 7 Get Geographical

On Tuesday 31st January, my class and I went into Stonehouse to do some fieldwork. Fieldwork is when you go out and find information about a place.

For us, we had to find different types of buildings and record each one on a map. We tried to find out if Stonehouse geographically fits the Burgess Model. The best part of the trip was we were able to see the information ourselves so we knew it wasn't false because we collected it ourselves.



Some of the interesting work completed in geography

When we got back to class we all sat down and compared our information. We then colour coded our map, and compared our data to the Burgess Model. The next task

was to write some conclusions and evaluate our enquiry to see if we could make the project better.
Aaron Snell, Sophia Chin, Reuben Jones (7q/Gg3)

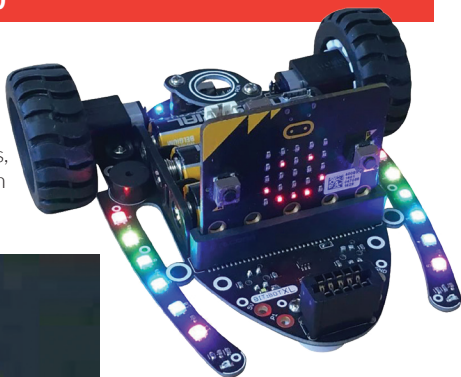


Coding:Club

Previously in Coding:Club, students have been looking at programming a Bit:Bot to follow a sequence of instructions. Follow the QR code shown below to see Nathaniel's outcomes.

This term we will be exploring the Kittenbot games controller where students will be programming their own games, downloading them on to a Micro:bit and will be able to play them on this new piece of equipment.

Mr C Bargh



Kickboxing

A group of kickboxing enthusiasts participated in a 5-week course in Kickboxing. 'What they have learnt in a short space of time has been amazing' said Mr Matheou, 'I am so proud of them!'

Kickboxing lessons will continue after half term and we welcome those who want to try a new sport. It is non-contact but pads are used. Those with or without experience are welcome.

The club is after school, on a Wednesday, in the dance studio between 3.15pm and 4.00pm.

Mr M Matheou





For the Love of the Game



Thank you to **Tayntons Solicitors** for sponsoring and purchasing the new rugby kit for our Year 10 and Year 11 rugby teams. We look forward to wearing it next season.

Year 10 and Year 11 rugby teams





Litter Picking

DKW tutor group voluntarily engage in litter picking, which I think is commendable – well done guys!

Miss K Waterman



Top Dog

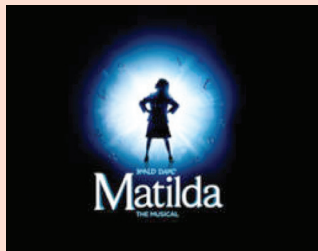
Congratulations to Ellie-Jean Middle who, together with her dog, got 5th in her class at Crufts.



A kind of Magic in Matilda

Well done to the cast, crew and all the staff that helped to make Matilda such a successful production!

The months of hard work were ultimately rewarded by sell-out performances and happy audiences.



Careers Event

A sincere thank you to our local businesses and providers – The Jockey Club, Tony Gee and Partners LLP, St James' Place Wealth Management, Allan Webb Ltd, Stroud District Council, Hartpury College, Allensmore Nurseries, Cirencester College and Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership –

who again could be counted on to support our Year 9 Careers Event on Friday, 3rd February.

This annual event, informing students and making them aware of such a wide range of career pathways open to them, is so important to us.

Mr S Clements



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 17th April
Thursday, 4th May
Monday, 15th May
Friday, 26th May

Start of Term 5
Y9 Parents' Evening
Start of GCSE Exams
End of Term 5

Monday, 5th June
Tuesday, 20th June
Wednesday, 28th June
Friday, 7th July
Tuesday, 11th July
Tuesday, 25th July

Start of Term 6
Prince of Wales Athletics Day
Exams Contingency Day
Y6 Discovery Day
Cirencester College Taster Day
End of Term 6