

Maidenhill Newsletter

SUMMER 2023 EDITION

BE KIND, ASPIRE, PERSEVERE, ACHIEVE



Head Teacher's Update

It is an honour to write in the Newsletter for the first time as Headteacher.

The past 10 weeks have been somewhat of a whirlwind of productivity and ideas. It's been fascinating to listen to children, staff and parents talk about their plans for Maidenhill's future. Many of these ideas are already taking shape and I'm looking forward to delivering these over the next few years. So far:

- Students, staff, and other stakeholder groups have revamped our mantra which from September will become **'Be Kind, Aspire, Persevere, Achieve'**. Whilst we retain kindness as a virtue, this represents a significant shift to ensure we remain deeply aspirational for the academic outcomes and real world success of our students.
- Our **curriculum has been substantially improved** and at Key Stage 4, students will now study **9 GCSEs including 4 options subjects**. **5 new courses** on offer are Statistics, Computer Science, Health and Social Care, Travel & Tourism and Photography. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum will also see Dance and Photography introduced for the first time, broadening students' experiences further.
- We have **recruited teaching staff exceptionally well**. We must be one of the few schools around that is overstaffed for September with Subject Specialist teachers in all areas. This will ensure students get the very best teaching and learning experiences possible.
- We're **improving our digital capacity** with the building of a new state of the art IT suite and the purchase of new DSLR cameras for Photography. We are recruiting a new Social Media leader who will ensure we have a **place on the national stage**, so we can share the incredible things our students do day-in, day-out, with you.
- We have recently secured money to **improve our toilet facilities across the school**. Our Governing body has also pledged extra funding to ensure that we support the most fundamental of necessities! We're re-vamping our approach to toilet use and more information will follow.
- We have made plans for the first time for our **Year 10 students to engage in work experience**. Additionally, students in school in July will have, subject to satisfactory school conduct, the opportunity to participate in an **'activities week'** in a celebration of their approach to learning all year.

I look forward to seeing Maidenhill grow from strength to strength with you!

Andy Hunter
Head Teacher





Eco Council

Maidenhill's Eco-council have been working hard this term to turn an unused area into a beautiful space for nature (and students) to use. They secured a £460 grant through the Green Influencers Scheme and have planned, purchased and planted a variety of plants with pollinating insects in mind. The group are currently making bug hotels, using the wise

expertise of tech-genius Mr Sadler and plan to plant a small wildflower meadow on the school site next academic year.

'I've really enjoyed working as part of a group and doing things to help the environment that other people wouldn't always think of doing.' - Lily Winfield, Y8 student.

Mrs K Johnson



Year 9 Enterprise Event

Well done to our Year 9 students who took part in an Enterprise Event and thank you to the business volunteers who supported our students in creating a viable business model, product or on-line App: Jon at Chrysalis Research, Dorian at Capsule Insurance Brokers, Rob and Darren at RG Systems, Sean and Jodie at Ringway, George and Andy at Kohler Mira, Carol at Tip into Talent and Lara at Human Synergy, for your time, guidance and support of our students.



Coronation Celebration

To celebrate the **Coronation of the King**, the English Department ran a competition to inspire students to write about the event. Students were able to write poetry, reflections or a story.



Congratulations to the winners in each Year group:

Winner Y9 – Gracie McIntosh

Winner Y8 – Ben Smart and Jessica Hyde

Winner Y7 – Holly Crooks

Well done to runners up Devonte King and Alex Newman



Spotted at Horse Guards Parade

A six-gun salvo was fired by The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery at the precise moment His Majesty was crowned King. .

This was a unique salute for the Coronation, designed for maximum impact and to create a sound that was clearly heard within Westminster Abbey.

Beth Roberts, Maidenhill alumnus with a passion for the British Army, has excelled in The King's Troop

She plays the trumpet, won Best turned out in her passing out parade and manned gun number four at the King's Coronation.

Beth continues to do us proud!





The King

A king is like a shepherd,
who guides his people with care
He leads them through the valleys,
and protects them from despair.

A king is like a father,
who loves his children dear
He shields them from the stormy seas,
and wipes away their tears.

A king is like a captain,
who steers his ship through the waves
He navigates the treacherous waters,
And keeps his crew safe and brave.

My king is like a beacon,
who shines a light so bright
He guides his people through the dark,
and leads them to the light...

Gracie McIntosh, 9DMM





Lucky Library!

Recently, Mrs Escott-Allen visited every Year 8 English class at Maidenhill. She arrived book-equipped, with two large boxes of fiction books, that were very kindly donated by the 'Read for Good' charity.

Mrs Escott-Allen explained lots about the charity and what good they do for the world. She then explained to us, in detail, about the generosity with which they donated our books. Many, many books were donated, in all different genres, including some that cover critical issues around the world. I am sure these books will teach many of us here at Maidenhill lots!

On behalf of us all, we would like to give a huge thank you to the 'Read for Good' charity; these books are and will be a massive contribution towards this school and our goals of making every kid something special.

Later in the lesson, we were given the opportunity to look through the books, have a think and then put our names forward to reserve the books we wanted to read. I, together with our other library assistants, are all working extremely hard to push these books out to the wider school as soon as possible. As you can understand, it's a lengthy process processing all these books (putting all the labels on, and the covers and adding them to the catalogue) but once again our team is doing all we can.

Mrs Escott-Allen then took the book boxes away and we had a further chat in our lesson about what we liked the look of. A truly wonderful experience produced by not only the 'Read for Good' charity but Mrs Escott-Allen herself. I'm sure on behalf of the school we would love to give yet another massive thank you to our Librarian, Mrs Escott-Allen in ensuring our library has many recent additions and broadening our reading minds, like always.

Barney Brodie, 8FKJ



Thank you

All you could hear in the room was the sound of pens being dragged along paper and people's minds rapidly coming up with ideas to write down on the blank sheet of paper laid down in front of them.

However, one mind in the room was not thinking about what they were going to write. That mind was scheming something. Lots of ideas were being glued together.

This mind was quickly drawing a plan. This mind was working as hard as a mind possibly could.

The teacher suddenly glanced over. She stood up and marched over to the owner of this mind. With hands on her hips, she gasped and sighed at the sight of a thank you card staring her right in the face.

Dylan O'Callaghan, 7RTK



She's got this!

Maxine Strode (Y10 RJS), has been training as an Elite gymnast and is a Junior squad member at The Academy of Gymnastics in Portishead.

In December last year, Maxine qualified to represent the Southwest Team at the Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) National finals and their team brought home the Bronze medal. Maxine's high score on Bars and another team member's high score on Beam secured a silver medal for the South West Team for their total scores in each apparatus.

In April, Maxine won 1st place National 3 South West Champion, 2nd place on Bars, 1st on Range and went on to represent South West Team in The National 3 WAG Finals in Stoke-on-Trent.

On Saturday the 20th May, Maxine competed (with the South West Team) in the WAG National 3 Finals at Stoke-on-Trent. The South West Team came 1st and is the 2023 WAG National 3 Champions.

Maxine garnered a total score of 49.00 in all her apparatus, taking the 4th place out of 62 competitors



POW

On Tuesday 20th July, 61 students across years 7 to 10 spent the day in Cheltenham, representing Maidenhill at the Prince of Wales Athletics Championships.

The students participated in numerous events including Shotput, Javelin, Discus, Long Jump and High Jump, alongside a list of short and middle-distance track events.

The first half of the day saw continuous rain and dull, dreary weather, but our students did not allow this to dampen their spirits. Miss Dobler, Mr Soper and Ms Gallagher were very impressed with our students who showed great responsibility, maturity and resilience as they gave their very best efforts in all of their events.

Most of all, our students displayed great camaraderie and support as they encouraged each other in their events, going as far as winning a prize for the most vocal and supportive school!

Thank you and well done to all staff and students involved!





It's a Science Thing...

When I started the process of FameLab, I never once imagined that I would get the chance to represent my school at the Gloucestershire STEM Final Competition, and never, in my wildest dreams had I imagined standing on that very stage and sharing my love of science.

When it was announced that the whole of Year 9 would be taking part in FameLab, I knew it was something I had to put all my effort into – and it paid off! I got through to the semi-final and from there to the school final, where I stood on the stage and presented my subject to the rest of my year – and I won!

My speech on the 5-second rule had secured a place for me in the Gloucestershire final. The process leading up to the competition was incredible; there were so many supportive people and good friends and helpful tips and tricks from the masterclasses that I'll be using for a long time.

Before I knew it, the big day arrived! As I sat in the front row of the theatre, waiting for them to call my name, I had butterflies in my stomach. I remembered how hard I had worked for this, how much I had prepared and the effort I had put in. When they called me up to the stage, the nervousness evaporated and I started talking.

I am so happy for the people that won prizes and am so grateful for the opportunity. Everyone involved was so nice and this is an experience that I will remember forever.

Lilly Smith, 9RCB





Pi Day

In March, to celebrate Pi Day (the international day of maths), Key Stage 3 took part in the first ever Intercommunity Maths Competition.

Every student competed in the qualifying rounds and those with the top scores represented their Learning Community in the final. On finals day, students competed in their year groups completing 3 rounds of challenges in their Learning Community teams against their peers. There was some brilliant and at times quite noisy maths but lots of fun was had by all. Frocester ended up winning the title with 51 points, Haresfield and Doverow came second with 40 points and Rodborough achieved 34 points.

How would you get on with the question below?

Mrs C Vale and Miss H Bird

The trapezium $ABCD$ has parallel sides AB and DC .

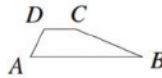
AB is three times the length of DC .

AD is four-fifths of the length of BC .

$AD = DC$.

The perimeter of the trapezium is 50 cm.

What is the length of BC ?



Maths Club

The Maths Club was tasked with creating a maths boardgame over the last few weeks, and the students responded by forming a collection of fantastic and engaging games. Strategies were thought up and tested, boards were made, and rules were shaped, tested, and tweaked. In the end, Helena Small and Joshua Smook's creation "Mathopily" was judged to be the best of the bunch, beating off some tough competition.

Mr L Colahan





Something Fishy

Fish in School Hero seeks to give students a chance to prepare, cook and eat fish, aiming to develop more positive attitudes towards eating fresh fish sourced in the UK. Maidenhill School were one of the two hundred and fifty schools selected to receive a supply of free fish to support students' food education.



Year 10 Food students were given the task to plan, prepare and cook a dish including fillet of salmon.

Below are the final dishes cooked:





The World of Engineering

Former Maidenhill student, Ewan Thompson, returned to his favourite workshop to teach Year 7 and Year 10 Design and Technology students about engineering and the career opportunities in the field of civil engineering. He is currently an 'apprentice engineer' at Tony Gee Civil Engineering Solutions.

Ewan planned and delivered engaging workshops to help students further their understanding of engineering. Students were given a design task of designing a structure to improve public transportation. The end product also had to be environmentally friendly.

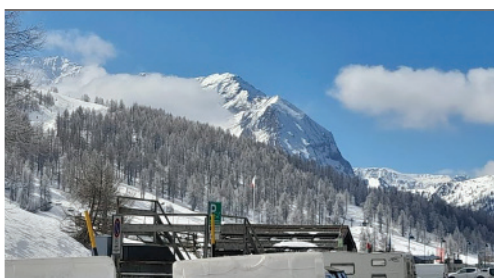
All students thoroughly enjoyed the careers talk by Ewan, as well as his design challenges. Hopefully Ewan's visit will inspire students to pursue a career in the wider world of civil engineering.





One Cool Trip

Students were again given an opportunity to go on the school ski trip organised by Mrs Ball, from the 1st to 9th April. As always, there was no shortage of willing participants. Although there were significant delays and difficulties at Border Control, students behaved impeccably throughout and the experience was ultimately enjoyed by all.





Snow and Sun ...



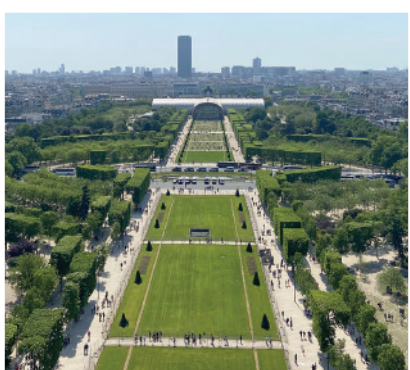


A group of 44 students and 6 members of staff made their way to Paris over the May half-term holiday. We left at 5am on Friday and arrived at our accommodation on Friday evening. We spent Saturday exploring Paris and visiting some famous landmarks. After climbing up the Eiffel Tower, we took a river cruise along the Seine in the beautiful sunshine!

We then drove through Paris passing the Arc de Triomphe, Louvre, Champs Elysée and Notre Dame. Sunday was spent at Disneyland where students had freedom to explore the site.

The students were amazing and made the trip such good fun! Miss Fowke has already started planning for next year...

Miss S Laight





Anyone for Tea?

On Friday, 16th June, 21 students were invited to afternoon tea. The Celebratory Tea was in honour of those Year 11 students who have displayed exemplary behaviour, and have never been issued with a C3 during their entire school career.

It was held just before the Leavers' assembly and enjoyed by all.



Sparx flying...

This academic year saw the introduction of the Sparx Maths online platform, which we have been using for independent study tasks, and to aid with revision across all the year groups. In what can only be described as a fantastic effort by Maidenhill students, over 450,000 questions have been correctly answered on the Sparx platform this year (so far!), and we've almost hit 10,000 hours of personalised learning across the school, an amazing achievement!

A special shout out goes to the following students who achieved the highest XP count in their year groups:

- Year 7 – Breanna Addis with 44,568 XP
- Year 8 – Jessica Hyde with 35,430 XP
- Year 9 – Abbie McDonald with 86,424 XP
- Year 10 – Charlie McCallum with 66,222 XP
- Year 11 – Casey Eisleys with 33,035 XP

Mr A Seabrook

Smart Money

This year Maidenhill have teamed up with HSBC to deliver workshops on Personal Finance to year 8 students. The workshops covered banking, debt and how to be financially aware, delivered by staff from our local HSBC branch. The school was awarded the Smart Money Award 2023 by HSBC for improving and educating students in personal finance.





Ramarni Trust

The Ramarni Trust, set up by Ramarni Crosby's family, is doing all it can to prevent knife crime and save lives. Viv Clifford, Ramarni's grandmother, wants to ensure that bleed control kits are installed in bleed boxes, similar to the ones used for defibrillators, in as many settings as possible in Gloucestershire.

Mrs Clifford has donated a bleed pack to Maidenhill School, which was gratefully received. Hopefully we will never have to use it.



Techognition Recognition

Our Science Technicians, Mrs Hirst and Mrs Dennis, recently won 1st prize in a competition for Techognition Day. This is run by preproom.org and is a day celebrating the essential, yet often overlooked roles of school and college technicians.

They had to send photos of them going about their daily tasks or of something they were involved in for Science

and the photographs that won 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes were picked at random. The winning photograph was of a Crystal Garden that they created in the after school Stem Club.

They won £250 worth of Amazon vouchers to be shared, 3 Top balance weighing scales for the Science Department, a Chocolate Velvetiser worth £100, (donated to the raffle for Matilda to raise funds for Friends of Maidenhill) and a Hamper from John Lewis to the value of £100.



The contents of the hamper were shared with the Science staff for everyone to enjoy.

What fabulous prizes for our fabulous technicians!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Start of Term 1 (Y7)	Tuesday, 5th September
Start of Term 1 (Y8-Y11)	Wednesday, 6th September
Open Evening	Tuesday, 26th September
Open Morning	Wednesday, 27th September
Open Morning	Thursday, 28th September
End of Term 1	Friday, 27th October
Start of Term 2	Monday, 6th November

