



Maidenhill Newsletter

SPRING 2017 EDITION

**"Students
take pride in
their work"**

OFSTED 2017

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**"Attitudes to
learning are
very positive"**

OFSTED 2017

GRADED
GOOD
BY OFSTED



Headteacher's Update



"Leaders promote an ethos where everyone is included. This is a great strength of the school."

OFSTED 2017

I am delighted to share with you that the Ofsted inspection team confirmed that Maidenhill is a GOOD school.

The inspection team recognised the positive ethos that has been developed in the school and the excellent relationships between staff and students, and amongst students. They describe the ethos "where everyone is included" as a "great strength of the school". They note that both students and staff are proud of their school.

The inspectors were rightly impressed with the students. Inspectors visited many lessons and looked through huge numbers of books and folders, in addition to talking to students about their work. They also met with groups of students over the two days to find out about life at Maidenhill from students' perspective. In the report students are commended for their "very positive attitudes to learning". "Students' conduct and manners are very good" and they are "polite and courteous, showing high levels of responsibility for their own behaviour".

We undoubtedly benefitted from the physical improvements that were made to the school internally and externally a couple of years ago, but it is what goes on every day in the classroom that leads to

"Students in all years make good progress in a wide range of subjects, including English and maths."

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"Relationships between teachers and students are excellent and this contributes to a purposeful learning environment"

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improved grades and increased progress. I am sure you will agree that the commitment of the staff at Maidenhill is second to none and the way that staff work together to continually improve what is happening in lessons has clearly led to significant improvements in raising achievement. I am also pleased that parents report that they feel their son / daughter is "happy, safe and well cared for at the school".

You will also note in the report that there is one judgement that 'requires improvement'; this is specifically the attendance of some students. The rationale is clear – if students are not in school, they cannot learn as well and rarely as much. 90% equates to half a day off a week, or in terms of 5 years at Maidenhill, that's 6 months off school. Clearly as a school, and in particular the Learning Community Leaders, work tirelessly to get those students to attend better, but we need parents and the students to take responsibility for this too.





Over 90% of parents would recommend Maidenhill to other parents; 86% of students would also recommend it.

Thank you to all parents who completed our recent Kirkland Rowell Survey. Your feedback is really important to us and I appreciate the time and effort you put into completing the survey. Parents, students and staff all completed the survey giving us an all-round view of Maidenhill. The results are benchmarked against surveys from other schools so that we have a wider view of our performance.

The overwhelming feedback from parents, students and staff is that Maidenhill continues to improve year on year, with 87% giving the school a 'good or very good' rating; a further 11% replied 'neither good nor poor':

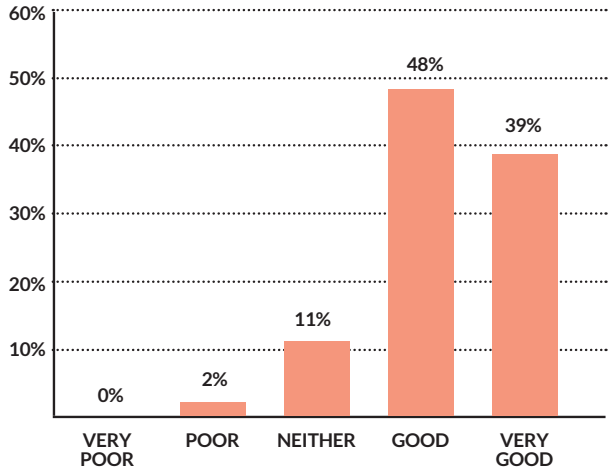
PARENT'S COMMENTS:

"We feel very fortunate to have Maidenhill as our local secondary school."

"The school in Year 7 has turned our young man into a responsible, organised and enthused student."

"The school continues to go from strength to strength. It is well led and organised. Pupils understand the expectations of them. Help is always available. Communication between school and parents is excellent."

"The school is fantastic and has improved immensely and my child is very happy and proud of his school."



The areas identified by parents as being strongest, and indeed judged to be 'OUTSTANDING' were School Communication; Community Spirit; Careers Advice; Levels of Homework and Developing Moral Values. Less strong, but still judged to be 'GOOD', were Choice of Subjects; Exam Results; Teaching Quality; Truancy Control and Happiness of Child.

We will be using the feedback from the survey to inform our next steps regarding our school improvement plan as we move from our Ofsted judgement of 'good' to 'outstanding'. More detailed information about parents' and students' comments and our responses are to be found in Mrs Wilson's accompanying letter.





Futures Day

On Thursday 2nd February a group of students from Year 11 attended the Futures Day event hosted by Marling School.

A large number of universities, higher education institutions and providers of apprenticeships attended the careers fair to provide valuable information for students on preparing for life beyond school.

The different providers all exhibited what they had to offer and the range of potential careers and opportunities available to young people through them.

The event showcased a wide range of career routes, specialist and career specific equipment with interactive demonstrations.

The day was well organised and personable enough to enable students the opportunity to speak to universities and companies in depth about the many courses and careers on offer.

BBC School Report

Journalists from KS3 and KS4 have been meeting this term, creating news stories about local points of interest, interviewing members of staff and researching global issues.

This was all put to use when we transformed a classroom into a newsroom for BBC School Report day on March 16th 2017.



Cyberfest

© GCHQ 2017



On Friday 27th January 2017, Mr Bargh took 20 Year 9 students to the first annual Cyberfest at Gloucestershire University where they joined other students from around the county to learn more about Computer

Science, Cyber security and what job opportunities could be available to them if they continue their Computer Science education. The event was co-hosted by GCHQ and the director of the organisation made time to talk to the students as the key note speaker. The students then went on to learn about the key Computer Science concepts of DDOS attacks (through the medium of throwing balls about), Internet Protocols and encryption so that the students knew how to keep themselves safe online.

In the afternoon, students were welcomed to a Computer Science fair, where industry experts showcased some of the latest technology that the students could program, hack and experience. The students were able to test out the latest augmented and virtual reality headsets which have some very real world applications in the form of aiding surgeons to complete surgery without complications; overlaying vital organs with images that could help them fix the issue that has been identified.



Also, the Enigma machine was showcased by Bletchley Park and students were able to encrypt messages to send to another person so that they could decrypt them and find out the message.

The Enigma machine was created by the Germans to send encrypted messages, but here in the United Kingdom, Alun Turing was given the job of decrypting them during World War II to help the allies win the war in a shorter period of time, therefore saving millions of lives.

BT showed the students how ethical hacking could be used to increase computer systems' security, using a game to help the students to understand the key concepts.

In addition to this, there was Cheltenham Hackspace who showcased what you could do with a Wii remote and Raspberry Pi type hardware, in creating remote control vehicles. Even though these were fun activities the real world applications, to help survivors of earthquakes and go where humans aren't able to, because it is too hazardous, are very important.



Overall the day was enjoyed by all and the students learnt a lot about where Computer Science could take them.



Humanities - Studying the First World War



Students in Years 7-9 have produced some great humanities independent study projects in recent months. Year 9 history groups produced diaries from soldiers fighting in the trenches in the First World War. The effort, creativity and historical research from many students was impressive and resulted in some exceptional pieces of work. Year 8 history groups produced interactive museum exhibits for a "Museum of English History." Students then judged each other's exhibits and peer assessed their work. Again, the creativity, effort and historical research was excellent and some high quality exhibits were created.

Delphi Engineering

DELPHI On Wednesday 8th February 2017, Mr Clements and Mrs Wake took 10 Year 11 students to have a guided tour of the Delphi Engineering site on the industrial estate in Stonehouse. The purpose of the visit was to meet the current Year 2 and Year 3 apprentices, to have a tour of the factory, to view the products produced at Delphi and gain further insight and knowledge about modern day apprenticeships.

The four apprentices who guided us around the shop floor told us about the different parts that they manufacture and which parts were made in certain sections of the factory. They showed us the different types of hi-tech equipment and machinery that they use to produce the fuel injectors and products for highly powered engines, marine engines in boats, lorries and for John Deere tractors.

The apprentices gave us more insight and knowledge into the different levels of the apprenticeships and what GCSEs you would need in order to get there. They also gave us information about the starting salaries and the different levels you can progress to in the workforce.

Stanley Parsons, 11FKS and Nathan Hawkins, 11FCM

Geography Quiz



Eight Year 9s, who had been selected for their outstanding effort in geography this year, were chosen to represent Maidenhill School at an inter-school geography quiz hosted at Oxstalls Campus in Gloucester on Thursday 8th December.

The students competed against four other schools, Deer Park, Chosen Hill, Farmors and Balcarras. The quiz consisted of ten exciting and challenging rounds that included topics such as musical geography, the geography of sport and even the geography of bread! After some intense and fun filled quizzing our two Maidenhill teams finished 4th and 5th, respectively beating teams from Farmors, Chosen Hill and Balcarras!

The students thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon trip which promoted a positive team ethic and let them explore a different avenue of geography outside the classroom.

A huge well done to:

**Kit Thomas
Sam Wheeler
James Ayre
Tiana Crowther
Leah Fry
Emma Dalby
Emily Southey
Paige Shirreff**



Afternoon Tea



Stonehouse Court Hotel

On Monday 19th January, Year 11 Hospitality students attended an afternoon tea at Stonehouse Court Hotel in order to research for their final event. Students were served afternoon tea at a high standard consisting of scones, cakes, sandwiches, coffee and tea. The trip was thoroughly enjoyable and students put this expectation into their own event, carried out for the Rotary Club on 1st February as part of their controlled assessment. The afternoon tea they planned and prepared for was highly successful and excelled to a professional standard. Well done Year 11!



Year 11 Rotary Club Afternoon Tea



Year 11 Rotary Club Afternoon Tea

Cakes!



Year 10 and 11 Hospitality students have been working hard this term planning events.

In December, Year 10 students planned a Christmas themed event in which the class were very professional and produced great food. The presentation was excellent and they all exceeded standards. Students raised money which they hope to put towards supplies for the kitchen.

For the Valentines event, organised by Year 10, students mostly decided to incorporate extravagant icing skills that they had recently been practising. Students all worked extremely hard on this as they wanted to provide even better food than their previous event. The event went well and staff thoroughly enjoyed the presented outcomes.

Y11 Catering Trip to Zaza Bazaar



On Friday 4th November, 16 of the GCSE Catering students visited Zaza Bazaar in Bristol to research for their exam in February where they had to cook and present 2 dishes with accompaniments. The theme for the exam was

International week so Zaza Bazaar was ideal as you can choose food from around the world like sushi, curry, pizza and pasta, Chinese, Vietnamese and much more, though a lot of people chose Chinese. The food choice was absolutely amazing. The purpose of the visit was to include more taste tests in their coursework and also to see how the food is cooked, served and presented.



Raising Funds for the Little Princess Trust



Well done to Ellie Law in Year 10 who has organised and braved a charity haircut. Ellie had around 12 inches of her long hair snipped off at the Magpies Social Club on Saturday 21st January and her ponytail has been donated to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which uses real hair to make wigs for children with cancer.

"I cut my hair off for charity in memory of my great-grandparents. The money that I have raised will be split between Alzheimer's Society in memory of my great grandmother who died of the disease, and the other half to Cancer Research in memory of my great grandfather. Also my grandfather has suffered from lung cancer and had a large part of his lung removed.

Over 30 friends and family came to watch me have my hair cut by Georgina Stephens, a local hairdresser. My aim was to raise £500 but the total is currently at £750 and still growing. Thank you to everyone for your generous support on this."

Ellie Law, 10HKA



Black Belt for Luke Hamblin

Congratulations to Luke Hamblin, Year 7 for passing his black belt in Tae Kwon Do at the end of October. Luke has been training in Tae Kwon Do since the age of six. The test was just over 2 ½ hours long and involved performing his ten different patterns to a panel of eight examiners, including Master Kalcutt who is head of the organisation Luke trains with. He also had to do line work, set sparring and free sparring against a number of different opponents including two at once, self-defence, board breaking and theory.

Netball Residential

On Friday 24th March our Year 10 girls' netball team visited Condover Hall in Shropshire for a weekend of netball and outdoor and adventurous activities.

The girls have been extremely successful in their netball matches this year and the weekend gave them an opportunity to play other schools from all over the country. Netball matches were played throughout the day on Saturday with semi-finals and finals taking place on the Sunday. The team played well and all enjoyed this exciting opportunity.

Stan Shilton



The Gloucestershire Schools' Individual Table Tennis Championships were held at Waterwells on Saturday 28th January 2017. The tournament attracted a record 52 competitors from across the county.

The boys U13s attracted 22 players, played as 6 groups. Stan Shilton, Year 8, won the semi-finals then won straight sets 11-6, 11-4, 11-8 in the final. Well done Stan.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 5

Monday 24th April	Start of Term 5
Thursday 27th April	Y10 Parents' Evening
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday Monday
Wednesday 3rd May	Geography Field Visit Parents' Information Evening
Friday 5th May	Y10 Mock Exams Start
Wednesday 10th May	Y11 GCSE Exams Start
Thursday 11th May	Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday 15th – 17th May	Geography Field Visit
Friday 26th May	End of Term 5

TERM 6

Monday 5th June	Start of Term 6
Wednesday 21st June	Sports Day (p.m.)

Thursday 22nd June	Summer Concert
Tuesday 27th June	Y7 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 28th June	Community Fashion Show
Thursday 29th June	Post 16 Stroud Taster Day
Thursday 29th June	Leavers' Ball, 7pm
Friday 30th June	INSET day
Monday 3rd July	Y6 SEND Morning
Wednesday 5th July	Y6 Singles Afternoon
Thursday 6th July	Cirencester College Taster Day
Friday 7th July	Y6 Discovery Day
Monday 10th July	Y6 Parents' Evening
Thursday 13th July	Full Governing Body Meeting
Wednesday 19th July	School Parliament Visit
Friday 21st July	End of Term 6

STOP PRESS!

Other events this term...

■ Maidenhill Friends

Maidenhill Friends Easter Quiz was held on 30th March raising more money for school funds.

■ Blood Brothers

In preparation for their exams, Year 11 watched a performance of Blood Brothers at the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon.

■ Y7 Bring Your Parent/Carer to School Morning

Thursday 2nd March saw another successful "Bring your Parent/Carer to School Morning".

Already over half way through their first secondary school year, Year 7 always enjoy the opportunity to be able to show their parents around the school. Parents welcomed the chance to see what their children have been doing and how a typical day is for them as well as having a chance to have a coffee and chat with other parents, carers and staff.

The comments we received, as always, were positive.

■ Japanese Visit

From 20th – 24th March, Maidenhill again welcomed Japanese visitors, this time from Narita High School. Many of our students applied to be a buddy and welcomed Japanese Students to their lessons so they could get a taste of school life in England. Workshops were held in DT and art and design and a special Samba workshop was enjoyed with the Year 10 music students. The Japanese workshop held after school proved yet again very popular.

MIDDAY SUPERVISORS REQUIRED

The Shrubberies Special School is looking for cheerful and energetic Midday Supervisors to support pupils, aged from 2 to 19, during their lunch break. You will join a friendly and experienced team of lunchtime staff and also work closely with the classroom team.

Hours are 12 until 1, Monday to Friday, term time only.

Please contact Sharon Pullin, School Business Manager, to arrange an appointment to visit the school.

admin@shrubberies.
gloucs.sch.uk 01453
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