



Maidenhill Newsletter

WINTER 2018 EDITION



Headteacher's Update

We are delighted that the Year 7 Team Building day in September was such a huge success. The visit to the Dean Field Studies Centre in September enabled our new Year 7 students to get to know each other better and also experience a range of individual and team challenges. Learning to work and spend time together is a key focus of our work in Year 7 when students learn to adjust to life in secondary school, meeting a range of different students and staff. Our aim is to support all students to develop academically and personally during their time at Maidenhill.

Mrs Wilson, Headteacher



Y7's "Newspaper Challenge" on their first day

Year 7 Team Building

On the 17th and 18th September Year 7 had the privilege to go on a team-building day at Dean Field Studies Centre. Doverow and Frocester went on one day followed by Rodborough and Haresfield.

After we had been briefed and divided into groups; we went with our teachers and community leaders. The first activity that I did was finding the stamp. It was challenging as they were hidden on lampposts but it was also fun. We raced around to see who could find it the quickest.

Our next activity was problem solving. The most challenging one was getting the tyre over the pole. We stood on each other's shoulders but we still couldn't reach it. The funniest part of it was when someone fell over into the lake and got soaking wet. We all laughed.

It was now time for our final activities: the trapeze and Jacob's Ladder. For the trapeze, we cheered each other on as we climbed up the wobbly pole and eventually jumped off the edge to reach the swing. When it was my turn I was so scared. I had to put a harness on and as I was climbing up the pole it began to shake. As I got to the top my legs began to feel like jelly. I jumped off the edge and I reached for the bar and slowly I was lowered down.

Now it was time for Jacob's Ladder. We helped each other up the steps that were almost taller than us. One of us stood on the other person's legs and heaved the other person up. It was hard work. My group eventually made it up to the top. I wish I could go back there because I had so much fun (except getting covered in mud)!

Lily Fenton, 7HHW



"I think it was amazing. It helped me get to know my community better and who they are. It was such fun. We did lots of different activities. My favourite was an activity where we were blindfolded and had to work together to make a square."

Sofie Taubert, 7HCP

"I loved the school visit because it was a great experience and I got to know a lot more people. In my opinion the best bit was the leap of faith. I was terrified and didn't want to do it but my friend encouraged me and I gave it a go!"

Isabella Parris, 7DLC



"I enjoyed the scavenger hunt the most which was when we had to hunt for things around the forest."

Gabbie Adams, 7RKS

"The trip was very helpful and encouraging because it taught you to do anything if you tried. It made me have a lot of courage, resilience and taught me how to work in a team. My favourite part was the leap of faith because I did it but I thought I would be scared"

Chantay Arnett, 7HRE





Achievement Evening

On Thursday 22nd November, we welcomed back last year's Year 11 students to receive their GCSE certificates. Each subject also nominated students to receive prizes. A variety of other awards were presented including the Headteacher's Special Award and Governors' Special Award



STAR Award –
Amie Radford



Headteacher's Special Award –
Charlotte Cousins



Support Teachers' Special Award –
Lewis Clifford



Teachers' Special Award –
Mollie Brown



Governors' Special Award –
Betsey Hall



Tom Moore Trophy –
Jodie and Katie Bailey



Performing Arts Award –
Wesley Lowe



Humanities Award –
Oliver Hodgson

Careers

Kim Harris, our independent and impartial careers advisor, has been working with the Year 11 students to help them consider their options once they leave Maidenhill School. Most have now received a careers interview to check over plans, explore opportunities and to gain additional information. The careers interviews will continue into January. Kim is also available for students to drop in on Wednesday lunchtimes to ask questions, gain help with a CV, application or preparation for an apprenticeship

interview. To support this work, on 13th November, we held our post 16 evening, which was attended by many local colleges, Sixth Forms, universities and training providers as well as local businesses. This is an extremely useful evening for students to gather information about their future education and careers.

Kim has also spent time with Year 9 during Learning for Life to help them become better prepared for choosing their KS4 subjects when they make their choices next term.

Study Skills

The morning of Wednesday 17th October saw Year 11 students out of lessons engaging in a Study Skills morning in preparation for their December mock exams. They received hints and tips on how to revise all core subjects and also participated in workshops on 'remembering', interview skills, destinations, and well-being. On the back of this, we ran an October half term study day offering tea and toast as well as a place to study for the day. It was a first for Maidenhill and was very well attended.

Stroud Ambitions 2018



Year 9 is generally when students at school must, for the first time, choose what academic or vocational subjects they want to pursue for the rest of their compulsory school life. These choices can determine their future interests and paths they take into higher education and employment.

On Wednesday 7th November, our Year 9s attended the Stroud Ambitions event, which is the biggest careers event in the district, providing a unique



opportunity for our students to talk to experts from many employment sectors, gaining advice from independent careers advisers, apprenticeship providers, universities and local colleges.

The event aimed to provide a comprehensive guide to future employment and further study or skills development and certainly helped our students to find the support and information they need ready to take their next steps.

School Council

A huge thank you to all students who challenged themselves by putting themselves forward for the School Council elections 2018. It was amazing to see so many students wanting to have a say in the future of Maidenhill School. We are very proud of you all and you should be very proud of yourselves.

"I wrote my manifesto preparing for the nervous day ahead of me. I thought of things to make my learning community vote for me and included it in my testimonial. Finally, the day came to read my speech to Frocester. It was nerve-racking at first, but when

it was over I felt very proud of myself. I came second in the votes and now represent Performing Arts, which I am happy with. Next time, I wish to come first and make the school the number one school in the whole country!"

Bradley White, 7FMS

Congratulations to Caitlin Donovan, Taylor Pritchard, Cristian Reiger, Harvey Huntley, Toni-Jenna Laming-Mann, Connor Timbrell, Daisy Stephenson and Macy Stanton who will represent their communities and also Council Reps, Jasmine Girvan (Y6/7 transition), Bradley White (Performing Arts), Isabella Parris (Environment), Freya Kay (Independent Study), Simon Bermingham (Well Being), Grace Gibbons (Y11/Exams), Georgina Knight (Sports) and Nathan Greenway-Davis (Learning).





Remembrance Sunday



On Sunday 11th November, as part of the remembrance service in Stonehouse, Year 11 students Ruby Gaulder and Toni-Jenna Laming-Mann placed a poppy wreath. This year marks 100 years since the end of the First World War.

During the week beginning 5th November, each Learning Community took part in a remembrance assembly and our minute silence took place on 9th November.

Student Leaders and the school council took charge of selling poppies and wristbands during break time to raise money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Food Bank

During Harvest Festival and again at Christmas, a food bank collection was made for Stroud District Food Bank. Staff and students donated a large collection of tins, packets and non-perishable goods. Thank you for your support.

Charity News

On 21st September, Mrs Snelgrove's tutor group organised a non-uniform day where everyone wore jeans to school to support the charity Jeans for Genes. Jeans for Genes raises money to transform the lives of people affected by a life altering genetic disorder. We raised nearly £300, which will help provide day-to-day support, nursing, equipment, patient support services, and events that will help bring children affected by a genetic disorder and their families together.



European Day of Languages

On 26th September, European Day of Languages was marked with competitions and challenges.

Mrs Collins organised a European baking competition and the cakes were sold in aid of UNICEF. I entered the baking competition because I wanted to take part in something which is fun, helps others and also helps satisfy hungry students and teachers! I enjoy baking so I wanted to challenge myself by baking a different recipe and use different skills. I researched European recipes and found a cake called 'Piernik' which is a Polish gingerbread with a dark chocolate glaze. I had never made a glaze before so I took it as an opportunity to challenge myself and was pleased with the result. The other cakes looked amazing. They were all decorated with different themes and were very creative!

I won the competition for best European cake; Phoebe Fox won for most creative and Highly Commended was given to Grace Gibbons Year 11, Tia Isles Year 8 and Lily Fenton Year 7. £44 was raised for UNICEF from the sale of the cakes.

The tutor group quiz was won by FDH and the Year 7 challenge was won by Isabella Parris.

Pippa Benn, 9HDK



Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

In October Year 10 and 11 art students visited the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. This visit gave them an important opportunity to experience world quality art and artefacts from different times and cultures. They were able to see how the great themes in art, such as the natural world, portraiture, faith and belief and conflict to name but a few, are expressed in two and three dimensions in a diverse range of media and from different cultural viewpoints:

"I enjoyed looking at the variety of paintings and sculptures but the painting that stood out for me most was 'Charity' by William A Bouguereau. I was intrigued by the media used and the scale of the painting. I thought that the Birmingham experience was very

interesting and it inspired me to experiment more with different styles and techniques."

Bella Hannis, 10RIS

"We got to see lots of really interesting artefacts and paintings. What surprised me most was how big some of the paintings were and how old some of the artefacts are in the ancient Egyptian mummy section."

Cameron Johnson, 10FMS

"My favourite piece was a painting called 'The Music Lesson' of a woman being taught to play an instrument called a virginal. The largest watercolour in the world by the artist Burne Jones surprised me – it was made of ten sheets of A1 watercolour paper joined together.

Bryoney Parry, 10DSP

South West Junior Chef

The South West Junior Chef final was held in Ashburton in Devon in October. There were six finalists, one from each County and I was representing Gloucestershire. I had already spent an afternoon with Gus Ashenford, a chef who runs his own restaurant in Winchcombe to tweak my dishes, and I had practised lots at home, so felt I was prepared.

The cookery school in Devon was amazing; they had a walk-in fridge and a team of staff who washed everything up for us! It was a bit like being in Bake Off, but there were six professional chefs judging us and asking questions as we cooked.

Miss Shannon was in the home-cook final and had cooked her dishes in the morning – so she kindly waited

to find out how I got on in the Junior final.

I cooked a chicken, leek and mushroom pie with zesty seasonal vegetables and it all came together really well, even my flaky pastry looked really good, so I was really chuffed I didn't make any mistakes! Although I didn't win, I was really pleased for Conor who won – he was cooking next to me and I had been helping him... by eating his leftovers! The judges were all really encouraging and friendly and it was great to meet Michael Caines! The feedback from the judges was that I hadn't seasoned enough – it is really hard to get this right as chefs use lots of salt and pepper and get it just right without it being too salty!

Eva Bolton-Lake, 11RKB

Le Champignon Sauvage



On 20th October we went to a Michelin starred restaurant called Le Champignon Sauvage in Cheltenham. We were offered the chance to go after becoming semi-finalists in the South West Chef of the Year competition. The chefs were really funny and showed you professional techniques to cook high quality food. We learnt that you have to try food as you go along and it tasted delicious. We helped prepare food like fresh jelly and cheese biscuits and we made two big batches of brownies and some almond balls. They call making the almond balls a zombie job as it takes ages. We were also lucky enough to present the food, which was given to the customers. It looked amazing!

We are so glad we had this opportunity and would love to go back again.

Aleah Phipps, 11HHW and Maddie East, 8DSP





Wall of Excellence

Maidenhill is a school that always strives to celebrate the achievements of its students and we are delighted to announce that our Wall of Excellence is now on full view in our canteen area. The wall acts as a stunning visual

representation of the quality work our students are involved in; from written work to photographs of practical work and beyond. The wall is updated termly and we have been very pleased to welcome both students and their parents

into school to view the work on display and to enjoy some light refreshments. Congratulations to those students who have had work displayed already; we hope to see the work of new students being displayed in the coming months.



PE News

Congratulations to James Mitchel and Kit Thomas-Franklin who were selected to represent Stroud District in the U16 Rugby squad. They played in the U16 Rugby Festival County Championships in October at St Peter's School Gloucester.



Cross Country

In the recent district cross country championships held at Archway School, Lexie Bull and Oakley James performed very well indeed. Lexie finished second in her age category and Oakley finished in sixth place. Oakley was also competing against boys who were a year older so did exceptionally well. Both Lexie and Oakley have now been selected to represent the district at the county championships which will be held in December.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 3

Monday 7th January
Thursday 10th January
Monday 14th January
Wednesday 16th January
Thursday 31st January
Tuesday 12th February
Friday 15th February
Friday 15th February –
Monday 18th February

Start of Term 3
Full Governing Body Meeting
8.45am Y11 Photographs
Y11 Parents' Evening
Y8 Parents' Evening
Y9 Choices Evening
End of Term 3
Berlin Visit

TERM 4

Monday 25th February
Wednesday 13th March
Thursday 14th March
Tuesday 2nd April
Friday 5th April
Friday 5th April –
Monday 8th April

Start of Term 4
Y9 Parents' Evening
Full Governing Body Meeting
Y10 Parents' Evening
End of Term 4

Paris Visit

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