



Maidenhill Newsletter

SPRING 2024 EDITION

All our Voices

Self confidence, self esteem & self acceptance

Book covers include: *The Big Deal*, *Six Dress*, *Second Best Friend*, *Tyranny*, *Wonder*, *Face*, *Marcus Rashford You Are a Champion*, *Dare to Be You*, *Survival*, *Countless*, *The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh*, *Gareth Southgate*, *Banish*, *Sharp*, *Knock the Moon*, *I Am Not a Label*, *You Are Not Some*.

All our Voices

Death, grief & bereavement

Book covers include: *The Girl on the Sun*, *Fire Colour One*, *Reliant*, *Unsexed*, *Handing Back*, *Elsewhere*, *Lost*, *Letters to the Lost*, *Survival*, *Countless*, *The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh*, *Gareth Southgate*, *Banish*, *Sharp*, *Knock the Moon*, *I Am Not a Label*, *You Are Not Some*.

All our Voices

ADHD, autism and other neurodivergencies

Book covers include: *Mockingbird*, *Asking for Friends*, *The Midnight Game*, *How to Look for a Lost Dog*, *Can You See Me?*, *Holding Up the Universe*, *Do You Know Me?*, *The Reason I Jump*, *Different Normal*, *Check Mates*, *Ways to Be Me*, *The Reason I Jump*, *Different Normal*, *Check Mates*, *Ways to Be Me*.

What is Feminism? Why do we need it? And other Big Questions

Louise Spilsbury & Bea Appleby

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings

MAYA ANGELOU

Parvana's Journey

Dalvinder Ehteshami

WOMEN WHO FOUGHT BACK

JILL BRIDMAN

BE KIND, ASPIRE, PERSEVERE, ACHIEVE



Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents

At Maidenhill we pride ourselves not only on pursuing academic progress and achievement, but also on celebrating the unique qualities that make each of our students exceptional individuals.

Our increasingly diverse student population brings a wealth of experiences, cultures, and perspectives into our community, creating a rich tapestry that

enhances the educational journey of every student.

This term, we continue to uphold our commitment to nurturing not just the minds, but also the hearts of our students. Our front cover demonstrates our absolute commitment; from literacy to hearing the voices of students from all diverse backgrounds.

As Easter approaches, I wish you a safe, relaxing break. I congratulate Year 11 on the positive energy and focus they continue to bring as they relax now following their core mock exams last week. We're behind you all the way Year 11!

Andy Hunter

Headteacher

Year 9 Choices

We were really pleased to see such a huge turnout at our Y9 options evening. Students have now submitted their preferences, and will be experiencing taster sessions in all of our GCSE subjects over the next few weeks.

Please look out for notifications towards the end of Term 5 when students will be making their final decisions in the options process.





Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year's Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award was relaunched at the beginning of 2024 to an amazing response; 30% of year 9 students have signed up to take part in the prestigious qualification - a dramatic increase on previous numbers.

For each of the four sections of the award, students choose an activity to be completed over the course of three or six months, resulting in a wonderful variety of activities currently being attempted.

In the physical section we have students developing their fitness in football, rugby and netball and also in more extreme activities such as skiing, climbing and martial arts. In the skills section students are working on improving their acting, drawing, photography and crochet skills. A number are working on their cooking while others are learning more about building computers and how to maintain car engines.

I am perhaps most proud of the volunteering activities by students and their contribution to the local community. Some are helping to support coaching of younger children in local sports clubs and a dance club. Others help in charity shops such as the Whiteshill Village shop and Oxfam or at local scout groups, St. John's ambulance, Stonehouse in Bloom and even in local retirement homes, spending time with residents.

The majority of the students are probably most excited about the final section - the expedition - which will take place in the summer term. Training sessions on map reading, first aid and setting up a camp will start after Easter, in preparation for the two-day, one-night expedition. The wonderfully large increase in student numbers does present a bit of a challenge for the school to provide all the camping equipment needed. Fortunately, we have been successful in securing additional funding from the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and students will benefit from new tents and camping cooking equipment added to our existing equipment.

At Maidenhill we want the DofE Award to be accessible to all. To that effect we are keeping everything in-house and don't make use of outside companies to deliver it, helping to keep the costs low.

Regrettably, we are not able to provide all equipment such as rucksacks and walking boots for students when it comes to the expeditions. Students who take part in DofE do benefit from having special discounts in the main outdoor activity retailers. In order to make sure no one is discouraged from taking part due to the cost, I would like to build up a store of donated rucksacks, walking boots and lightweight waterproof jackets.

If you have any of these items in good condition and would like to donate them, please email me at kcopping@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



Mr K Copping



Holocaust Memorial Day

You may have noticed the variety of birds displayed in The Hub on the wall recently.

Year 9 students have been working on a project given to us by our humanities teachers that spanned over a stretch of two weeks.

The project involved us students having lessons across all of the humanities subjects, informing us about the horrors of genocide that have taken place in recent years. The experiences we have been taught about are horrifying, however we need to be informed about things like this so we can put things right and not allow anything like this to happen again. Examples of what we were taught about are: Rwanda, Cambodia, Sudan and of course, Germany.



This workshop consisted of us first being taught about a particular mass event, reading some stories by people who actually experienced the horror and then making the final piece - our bird.

For the parents out there who might be reading this; we created a bird using a template and designed a pattern or a message on the bird that related to the project's overall theme, 'Fragility of Freedom'.

If you have any spare time around school take a quick look up at the wall in The Hub to see the work on display!

Barney Brodie (9FKJ)

C'est Incroyable!

On the 17th January the Languages Department welcomed Onatti back for another amazing performance. The production was entirely in French and has been designed specifically for secondary school students who are learning a second language. Our year 9 and GCSE French students were incredibly engaged, with one student being on stage for most of the production! The show was about some students in an after-school art club. They soon realise they are locked in the room with no signal and no way to escape. Our students enjoyed the production and were able to understand more French than they thought!



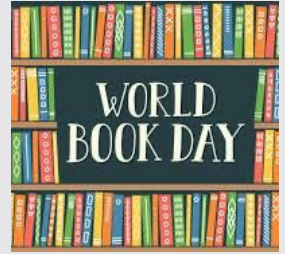
Miss S Light



World Book Day

Maidenhill kicked off another World Book Day this term by celebrating our favourite characters and books in the whole school character quiz. Staff were over the moon to play a part in the celebrations; selecting character badges that were worn all week.

Never before have we seen such enthusiasm from our students (and staff!) as they spent the week hunting for characters, filling in their quiz sheets and using their team skills to help each other out.



The students were eager to complete the challenge. Dumbledore sitting proudly in Mr Hunter's office, Dumbledore sitting proudly in Links with the Harry Potter crew and being hunted by skilled Tributes was just a small part of the fun and games this week.

Alongside the quizzing challenge, students were given the opportunity to receive a free book from the English department's free book stall. With a range of genres to choose from, break time was alive and buzzing with excitement as students picked from a selection of titles on offer.

It was fabulous to see so many faces visit the stall, creating yet again, another wonderful World Book Day at Maidenhill.

Mrs D McAlary

Winners of WBD Competition:

1st Place

Team: Max Morgan, Jack Ellis,
George Percival (HDM)
Nathanial Regal (HEJ)

2nd Place

Jas Harding (RKP)

3rd Place

Tianna Frankem (HJS)
Brooke Gillott (HJS)

4th Place

Bea Marshall (FDB)
Clara Crooks (FBN)
Lexi Hilder (RKP)

Well done to all!





Y8 does Papier Mache...

Year 8s have been constructing and applying papier-mâché, developing their ideas and constructing a diorama inspired by fairy tales.

An excellent set of artwork by Josh Gibbs, Harley Ward, Reinette Lord and Scarlett Holder can be seen here.

Mrs D Glover





Food so good...

Key Stage 3 Food Preparation and Nutrition students were instructed to create an attractive, professional plate following the 5 principles of plating food whilst demonstrating a range of decorative techniques to showcase Tunnocks Teacakes.



Year 7 Final Cooking Assessment: To consolidate students' healthy eating project.

Students were tasked with preparing and cooking a pasta or rice salad suitable for teenagers, following the healthy eating guidelines.



Year 8 Final Assessment: Following research into different cuisines, students had to plan, prepare and cook a burger inspired by a country of their choice.





Key Stage 3 Maths Challenge

The Maths intercommunity tournament took place during the last week in January. All Students in Key Stage 3 took part in the qualifying rounds, with the highest performing students progressing to the final. The finalists worked in their communities, solving various challenging maths problems. Congratulations to Frocester on winning the overall event; a commanding performance by the Year 8s aided in achieving victory for the second year in a row.



Well done to the following students who made it to the final:

	Frocester	Doverow	Haresfield	Rodborough
Year 7	Hanna Michalowicz Ava Dalley Noah Sutton	Willow Allen Jack Squibb Bella Green	Kelsey Garraway Osian Ackland Lilly Waston	Bea Empson Beth Fox Martha Dutton
<i>Substitutes</i>	Charlie Mayo Sophie Horvath	Kai Pritchard Ellie Hams	Emilia Borowik Rio-James Arnett	Riley Brinkworth Alfie Ind
Year 8	Finn Gardner Oscar Roseblade Josh Smook	Solomon Jones Alicia Jameson Kylie Cullum	William Hollis Eva Crowe Sophia Handbury	Elise Workman Frazer Beard Tilly Hassall
<i>Substitutes</i>	Larna-Mai Presley Josh Gibbs	Charlie Theobald Leon Lukes	Izzy Brazington Kaitlyn Harris	Peaches Lonergon Lylah Ockham
Year 9	Elsie McNair Oliver Hamblin Bea Marshall	Summer Bapp Kimi Love Myeleigh Squibb	Millie Hudd Niamh Soares Sophie Reece	Helena Small Ben Fox Evie Pearce
<i>Substitutes</i>	Archie Polland Billy White	Ollie Tyack Rosie Webb	Joe Long Lily Winfield	Bea Ind Charlotte Cant



Sparx Maths

A Sparxs competition run by the Maths department, required students to complete as much independent learning as possible to be eligible to win Amazon vouchers.

It was fantastic to see so many students across all year groups getting involved!

Well done to our winners:

William Malkin (Y7), Nathaniel Regel (Y8), Jessica Hyde (Y9), Emily Bown (Y10) and Charlie McCallum (Y10).

Mr J Sansom



FameLab

Recently, Year 9 participated in FameLab Academy during their science lessons. This is a communication project where students choose a topic of science of their choice and write a three-minute speech on the topic to present to their class.

During presentations, class teachers look for the three Cs: content (is there good scientific information in the talk?), clarity (are the concepts explained well?) and charisma (is the presenter engaging?).

Based on the presentations, class winners were selected to progress to the semi-finals, followed by the final, which took place on Thursday 1st February. Ten of the best speeches were presented by their authors to the entire year group.

The contestants had to practice at home and learn their speech off by heart, before receiving questions and feedback from the judges. The judges for this event included Dr Simone Cuff, a professional researcher in immunology; Mrs Wendy Fabbro, a Maidenhill Governor and our very own Mr Hunter!



The judges had a tough job selecting the winner and runners up, but eventually settled on Scarlett Blanch and Henry Leonard as runners up. Lily Winfield was selected as the overall winner, with a talk about knuckle cracking.

Lily will now represent the school at the interschool FameLab Academy competition in March, and the other finalists will get to go the event to support her!

Mr B Norman

Take your pic

Year 10 students have been expanding their photography skills into the realm of manual photography in term 3 and 4. Students have learnt how to manipulate the aperture and shutter speeds of the DSLR cameras to create artistic effects in their photography. Students loved the romantic lights of Bokeh photography and ghostly effects of long shutter speeds.

Keep calm and carry on shooting year 10!





Football Rules, OK!



Years 7,
8 and 9
Football
teams



Here come the girls...

The Year 7 girls football team played outstandingly well at their football tournament and are looking forwards to future fixtures and tournaments. The effort, teamwork and skill they all displayed was superb.





Design Prospects

Year 9 students recently participated in a Renishaw engineering CAD/CAM workshop.

A presentation on the history of Renishaw and related post-16 opportunities and careers in the field of design and technology sparked a real interest among students and resulted in many questions.

Students were given the opportunity to further their understanding of computer aided manufacturing and 3D printing processes by designing a product.

They all produced a creative CAD drawing using Tinker CAD software and their designs will shortly be printed in 3D in the DT workshop.

Well done Year 9!

Mr M Sadler



Mini Careers Fair

We would like to thank PQA, Tony Gee, Hartpury College, the NHS, Cirencester College, Foxmoor School, Nimble-Elearning, Gloucestershire Police, Capsule Insurance and Stroud College for supporting our Year 7s and giving them early insight into the world of work and further education.

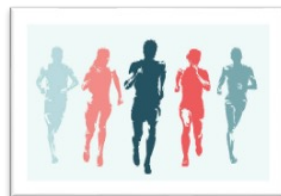
Mr S Clements





Running Club

Running club has managed to continue strongly all through the dark and cold months of winter and a hard-core group of students have braved the mud, and taken over the school field and various other routes around school every Friday afternoon.



For some it has been a test of speed, whilst for others it has been a test of endurance. Some stand-out runners have represented their counties at the regional cross country championships and would have run at the national championships if they had not been cancelled due to the weather.

A group of 6 runners have attended every session since the club started in November - a fantastic effort that shows real resilience! Other students are using running club as a part of their DoE Bronze Award, and some members of staff have also dropped in for some sessions to show off their running ability.

Most importantly, every Friday afternoon we have seen an enthusiastic group making the most of getting outside and testing themselves.

Mr L Colahan

20th GLOUCESTERSHIRE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER

We invite all Gloucestershire pupils to enter **ONE** Image - any subject

of the Year 2024

PRIMARY & SECONDARY AWARDS
FIRST PRIZE £70
 & RUNNER UP CASH PRIZES
 BEST SECONDARY & PRIMARY ENTRY
GYP TROPHY



For further information ask your teacher or visit:
www.cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk

email: GYP@cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk

Entries close
MARCH
 20th

All SELECTED IMAGES will be cinema projected at the AWARDS evening
CHELTENHAM PLAYHOUSE GL63 7HG
 Thursday April 25th

Please submit your entry to your school representative before the closing date

Organised by Cheltenham Camera Club
 Sponsored by Cheltenham Area Council
 & University of Gloucestershire

Competition

Be in with the chance to get your photography noticed and even win some cash in the upcoming 'Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year 24' run by Cheltenham Camera Club. Year 9s and 10s can use a photo from your photography lesson or if you haven't started photography yet, you could submit one of your own photos. Any age welcome to apply!

Submit your photos to Mrs Pierre-Justin.



Dates for your Diary

Start of term 5	Monday, 8th April
GCSE Exams start	Tuesday, 7th May
End of term 5	Friday, 24th May



Spare a thought

Teachers at the end of term in the staffroom are like...