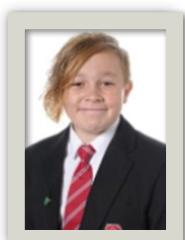
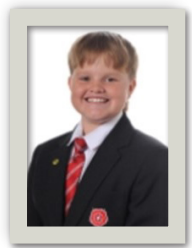




# Maidenhill Newsletter

SPRING 2025 EDITION

## School Council



BE KIND, ASPIRE, PERSEVERE, ACHIEVE



# Headteacher's Update

As another Winter term draws to a close and we all look forward to a welcome Easter break, I reflect on the successes of the term; and what a term it has been!

There was no better way to begin than with our **Year 11** Mock results day; our most positive on record which ignited a superb response from our oldest Year group who have continued to step up through their additional mock exams and who are on track to be our highest performing Year group in Maidenhill's history. All other year groups have excelled in such a variety of ways; whether it be our **Year 10s** showing tremendous grit and commitment towards their preparations for their first round of assessments; our **Year 9's** approach to making their option choices for GCSE, our **Year 8s** who currently are our highest attending Year group or our **Year 7s** who day by day are showing their increased maturity. We are justly proud of them all.

This term has also played host to a significant number of **visitors**. Whether this be local visiting Headteachers, candidates applying for jobs or even supply teachers covering the occasional lesson, the feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive and absolutely consistent; that Maidenhill is a school of **calm** with calm corridors and calm lessons. We're told our students are academically focussed, impeccably polite and a credit to us. It's lovely to hear such positivity being reinforced in so many ways and I thank you, the parents and carers for supporting us to make this happen in the interests of all students at Maidenhill.

*Andy Hunter*  
Headteacher



## Sunflowers and Ambulances

On Wednesday, 18th December, the school hosted a Christmas Fayre in aid of The Air Ambulance and Sunflower Suicide charity in Stonehouse. The fayre was well-attended by the students' families and the local community.

Each tutor group had their own stall offering goods and activities including cakes and bakes, Guess the name of the Elf, Teachers' pets, Karaoke and a book sale, among others.

The atmosphere was amazing and a perfect way to bring the term to a close.

The fayre raised £713 which was split between the two charities.

Some of our Year 7 students presented the Sunflower Suicide Charity with their cheque.



Mrs P Ward



# Happy Valentine's Day!

While maybe not the traditional way to celebrate Valentine's Day, the Science department put their own spin on it with students conducting a series of heart dissections on the day. Dissections provide a hands-on practical approach to learning about the heart's structure and function, complementing theoretical knowledge gained from textbooks.



Miss H Pollock

Your heart  
beats about  
100,000 times a day,  
pumping about 2,000  
gallons of blood  
throughout  
your body



★  
Sending ★  
POSITIVE VIBES  
★ your way ★  
as you tackle  
your GCSE exams.  
★ ★

## Keep Calm and Ace Exams!

Well done on your mock exams Year 11; you all worked so hard on them and now let's prepare for the real thing! Keep persevering, it will all be over soon then we can finally relax and chill in the summer sun. (Hopefully - we do live in England after all).

Let us remind you of the opportunities at school to help you with your GCSE exams including after-school sessions, in-day sessions or asking for help or resources from teachers in preparation. Past papers are a godsend! Just look on the exam board or a website recommended by a teacher and answer to the best of your ability - you can even ask your teacher to mark them! Don't forget Lunch and Learn and all the online resources available. There is no need to stress Year 11- we've got this!

11CL



# FameLab



Recently, Year 9 students spent their time in science lessons working towards FameLab Academy UK, a schools initiative which seeks to revolutionise science communication in schools.

Each student was required to prepare a three minute presentation to explain a scientific topic on an area of their choice and then delivered it in a dynamic and engaging way to their class.



The class teacher selected the best ones, and after a 'Semi-final' round, nine students then competed in the FameLab Final by presenting their talks to their whole year group.

The students had practiced and learned their talks by heart, and showed incredible confidence in presenting to their peers.

Topics ranged from muscles, to planes and the atom. Although all students presented brilliantly Leon Lukes was selected as the winner by the

panel of judges. Leon's fascinating presentation was on the use of music as a form of torture. Runners up were Nathaniel Regel, posing the question: what would happen if everyone in the world jumped at once and Elise Workman delved into mass hysteria.

Leon will now represent the school in the interschool FameLab Academy Final, and the remaining finalists will attend the event to support him. Good luck Leon!

*Mr B Norman*

Most planets including the Earth spin anti-clockwise. Uranus spins on its side and Venus spins clockwise. This is likely to have been caused by giant asteroids in the distant past.

# DataFace

DataFace enables young people to tell the stories they care about through the gathering and presentation of data. DataFace equips teachers and students with the skills and confidence to interrogate



data – big and small – and present their findings creatively.

During the first week of term Sarah Cooksley and Karen Morris from Dataface introduced a competition where students use data sets to create a physical model showing a story about the data that they have unearthed.

This competition is running in Year 9 lessons and will be judged across the whole year with the winner presenting their model at the Cheltenham Science Festival.



## Go figure!

**KS3 Maths club** – This term maths club have been focussing on maths in art, creating art by accurately drawing polygons with maths equipment then using measured lines within the shape to create a picture, creating an illusion within the shape. Some students accurately drawing shapes using a protractor for the first time which has been testing but very rewarding.

**Cipher club** – This term in cipher club we have been looking at morse code. Decoding sentences from morse code and writing our own words and phrases in morse code for our peers to crack. The students have been fantastic at recognising the patterns and most frequent letters in text to enable more efficient methods of decoding.

*Miss S Asquith*

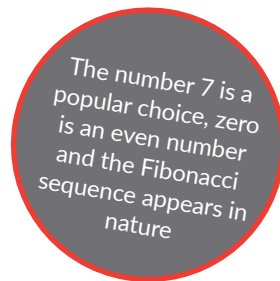
## UK Maths Challenge

On January 29th, more than 60 Year 10 students participated in the UKMT Maths Challenge, a national competition conducted under exam conditions. This event provided an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate their problem-solving skills while working under time constraints. The competition features questions that are typically posed to university students in higher education, and it is multiple-choice, allowing all participants to make informed guesses even if they don't fully grasp the context of the questions. Later this year, both year 8 and 9 will take part in the junior challenge.

Certificates have been awarded to the following students to recognise their achievements. Well done to those involved!

*Mr J Sansom*

Matthews	Joseph	89	Gold
Long	Joseph	80	Gold
Leonard	Henry	70	Silver
Brodie	Barney	53	Silver
Strode	Maxine	53	Silver
Love	Kimi	45	Bronze
Chodera	Toby	45	Bronze
Charlton	Matthieu	44	Bronze
Rathnayake	Satchethena	41	Bronze



**UK Maths Trust**



# Shakespeare for Schools

On Wednesday 12th March, our talented Year 8 and 9 students took to the stage at the Tewkesbury Roses Theatre to perform Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and what a performance it was! For some of our students this was their first time stepping onto a professional stage, making their achievement even more incredible. The evening was a true celebration of their dedication, creativity, and passion for the performing arts.

Since October these dedicated students have been working tirelessly in rehearsals, refining their understanding of Shakespearean language, perfecting their stage presence and mastering the technical aspects of theatre, from managing props to embodying their characters with confidence. Learning to interpret Shakespeare's words is no small feat but the cast embraced the challenge wholeheartedly, delivering their lines with clarity and expression, ensuring that the audience was fully engaged from start to finish.

The production itself was a triumph with every element coming together seamlessly. From the beautifully crafted costumes to the effective use of stage lighting, each detail contributed to the overall immersive experience. The students not only performed their roles with skill but also demonstrated impressive teamwork and professionalism supporting one another both on and off stage. Their ability to bring the characters of *As You Like It* to life in such an engaging and dynamic way was truly commendable.

Portrayals of 'Jaques' and 'Orlando' were particularly outstanding and deserve a special mention. The depth of emotion, comic timing, and stage presence displayed were remarkable, earning the students well-deserved recognition. Additionally, 'Duke Frederick' commanded the stage with great authority and charisma. The students involved should be immensely proud of their efforts; each and every one contributed to making the production a resounding success.

The feedback from the audience was overwhelmingly positive with many expressing admiration for the students' confidence, energy, and talent. Parents, staff, and fellow students in attendance were truly impressed by the standard of the performance. School governor, Mr Etherington, who attended the play said: "We were first on the stage, and the children were very well behaved while the other schools were performing. We were definitely the best of the three schools (not that it was a competition)."

This production of *As You Like It* has been an incredible learning experience for everyone involved, helping students develop their confidence, teamwork, and appreciation for the arts. The entire cast and crew demonstrated professionalism, enthusiasm, and a passion for theatre that truly shone through.

A special mention must also go to Mr. Nash, Miss Ford, and Mrs. Simpson who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the production was a success. Their dedication, support, and expertise were invaluable in guiding the students throughout this journey, and the show would not have been possible without them. We also extend our gratitude to the Tewkesbury Roses Theatre for providing such a fantastic venue, allowing our students to experience performing in a professional setting.



## Holocaust Memorial Day

On Monday, 27th January, the school again remembered the Holocaust through Holocaust Memorial Day.

In the preceding week, students read the story of Mala Tribich, a Holocaust survivor born in Poland, and her brother, Ben. Students were asked how the story made them feel and the possible lessons to be learnt from this. They compared Mala's story with that of another survivor, John Hajdu, considering how his experiences differed from hers.

Holocaust Memorial Day is an opportunity for our students to also learn about other, subsequent genocides, of which Rwanda, Cambodia and Bosnia are examples, among others.

The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Trust being 'For a better future', students were encouraged to 'read-on' to consider the commitments they could make to ensure we do have a better future.

## Association Football Results

### Year 11

Stonehouse Cup  
Maidenhill School 3-2 Wycliffe College  
Maidenhill School 2-3 Archway School  
Rednock School 5-0 Maidenhill School  
Maidenhill School 0-4 Marling School

### Year 8

Maidenhill School 4-2 Archway School  
Rednock School 1-0 Maidenhill School  
The Corsham School 1-2 Maidenhill School  
Maidenhill School 2-2 Marling School

### Year 10

Maidenhill School 2-0 Rednock School  
Katharine Lady Berkeley's School 1-2  
Maidenhill School  
Archway School 0-5 Maidenhill School  
Marling School 1-0 Maidenhill School

### Year 7

Archway School 2-2 Maidenhill School

### Year 9

Maidenhill School 2-5 Rednock School  
Wycliffe College 1-1 Maidenhill School  
Katharine Lady Berkeley's School 3-2  
Maidenhill School  
Archway School 1-1 Maidenhill School  
Marling School 5-1 Maidenhill School

Before the 19th century, many footballs were solid, made of leather stuffed with materials like wool, feathers and sawdust.



# World Book Day

Thursday, 6th March was World Book Day (WBD). This charity event is held annually on the first Thursday in March with the aim of providing every child in fulltime education with a book voucher. The theme for WBD this year was "Read your way" encouraging children to read in their own style making it something they do for enjoyment.

Students were given a whole school challenge to find clues around the school in order to identify eight books. They were given rewards for participating with prizes for the winners.

Additionally, the library organised a competition for the best bookmark.

## Design a Bookmark for World Book Day

# Competition Winners

**Year 7**

**Makayla Westlake 7PS**  
(the judges liked the rainbow and the way you had blended the colours)

AND

**Nina Drake 7DM**  
(the judges liked your half-flower and the way the vine was going in and out of the frame)

Highly commended: Evie Willerton and Elijah Perret

**Year 8**

**Charlotte Hyde -8HB**  
(the judges liked the calm and peaceful use of colour, the font and the way the flowers had been done)

AND

**Beth Fox 8HB**  
(the judges liked the way you had patterned your lettering)

Highly commended: Hanna Michalowiz 8JF, Felicity Westlake 8LH, Rhianna King 8CS.

## Read all about it...

We are a group of Year 10 students whose goal is to encourage younger children to read.

We run a reading club almost every Thursday lunchtime, where you are allowed to read your favourite book and eat lunch or, if you want, you can tell the others that are there what book you are reading, what it is about and why you like it.

At the end of last term we introduced Readathon, which is a two week sponsored read where you set a goal for how much you are going to read in a set amount of time. What do we do with the sponsor money? Well, the money goes towards buying books for children in hospital so that they can escape reality and have a nice stay.

So, get reading!

Ollie Tyack Year 10



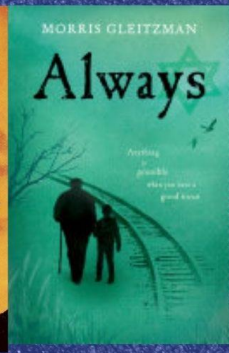
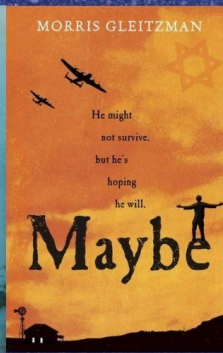
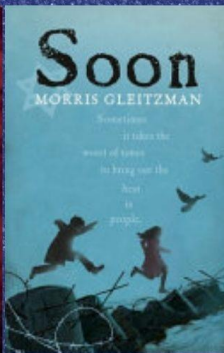
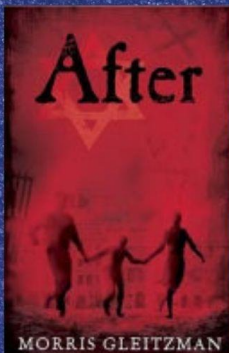
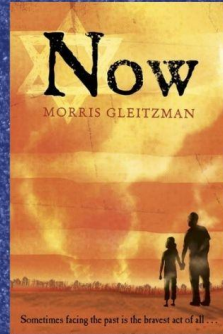
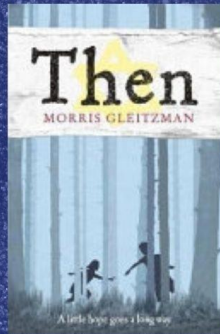
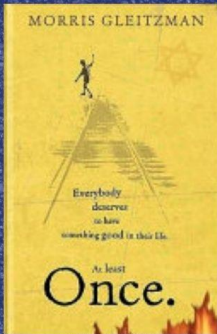




# Prepare for tears...

The series of 'Once' created by Morris Gleitzman is a story about a young boy who survives World War 2. He makes and loses friends and witnesses a lot of death. Now the question is, was it a happy or sad ending? You will have to find out! Out of the series, my favourite book was 'Then'. It was the saddest book but the best! I hope you enjoy it!

Freddie, Year 8





# School Council

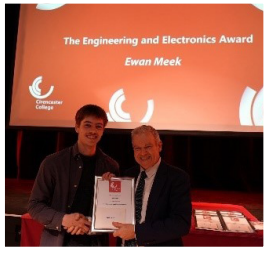
Our newly elected Student School Council recently held a meeting at the local council offices in Ebley Mill. It was a fantastic experience for our representatives to sit in the chambers using their mic systems to hold the meeting. Mrs Collins, our student voice governor joined us.

We also had a history tour of Ebley Mill which was really interesting. We are hoping to hold some of our meetings there in the future.

Mrs P Ward

The concept of school councils has been around for some time with some countries having laws that require secondary schools to have councils.





## Alumni

### The Engineering and Electronics Award

From the start of his T-level Engineering programme, Ewan Meek stood out as someone determined to achieve his goal of attending a Russell Group University. To broaden his understanding and to complement his T-level qualification, Ewan made the decision to simultaneously complete the A-level Maths qualification. He consistently scored highly in

assessments and was not fazed by a demanding exams schedule at the end of the year. Ewan achieved a well-deserved Distinction in his T-level alongside a B in A-level Maths and had been accepted onto an Engineering degree at the University of Exeter, realising his ambition of joining a top university. Well done, Ewan – we are all extremely proud of you!

### The Foundation T-level Award

Ben Mills' outstanding efforts and remarkable growth throughout the foundation year demonstrated an exceptional commitment to his personal and academic development, which is truly commendable. His dedication to learning and self-improvement has been evident, as he has consistently sought out new challenges and embraced opportunities to enhance his skills. His work experience at a local business provided him with invaluable insights into the world of business, equipping him with practical skills that have significantly contributed to his positive progression toward the Business T Level qualification.



## The award goes to...



Year 11 student, Holly Cassidy has been volunteering at "The Door" in Stonehouse for a while now. It started off being a safe space for her to join other teens to socialise and discuss similar issues that the youth have to grapple with.

She gradually got more and more involved and completed her training, passing with flying colours.

As well as mentoring others, she is now on the board of Young Voices, representing The Door members of the Stroud council and other agencies and giving the youth a voice.

She mentors teens and their families through their own mental health issues.

At an awards ceremony at the Subs rooms in Stroud, Holly received the prestigious "Golden Hinge" award for the category "Spirit of the Door" – there were over 100 nominees.



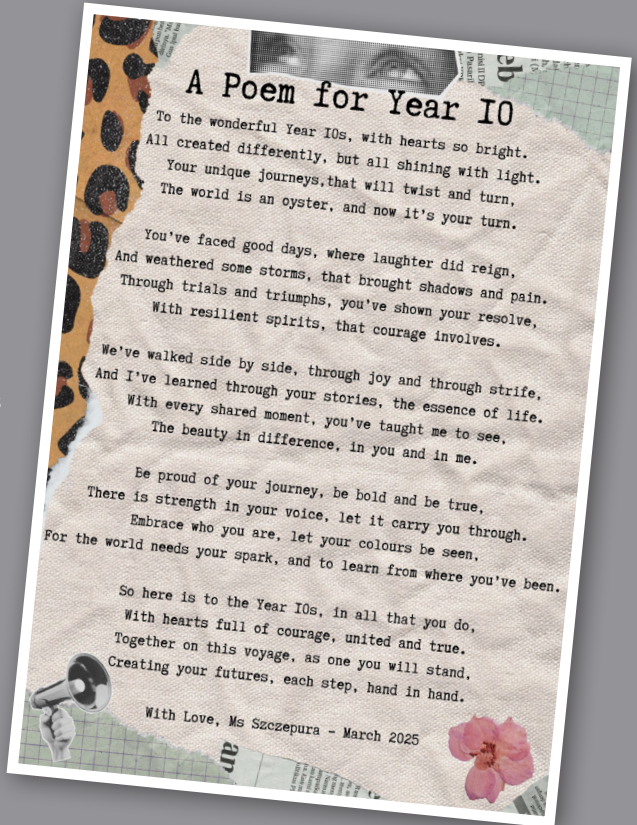


# Goodbye for now...



It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to our head of Year 10, Miss Szczepura. In an emotional assembly, Miss Szczepura presented a poem dedicated to the Year 10 students.

Although we can't always spell your name, we wish our leopard-loving lady happiness and good fortune!



We will miss your insights and dedication and wish you a very happy and well-deserved retirement.



## Dates for your Diary

Start of Term 4	Monday, 28th April
Y10 Internal Exams	Tuesday, 29th April - Tuesday, 20th May
Y11 Summer Exams	Friday, 2nd May - Wednesday, 25th June
End of Term 4	Friday, 24th May