



Maidenhill Newsletter

SUMMER 2024 EDITION



BE KIND, ASPIRE, PERSEVERE, ACHIEVE

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents

What an incredible year!

2023/24 has proven to be one of the busiest years on record, with so much change afoot; from our new broader curriculum and Year 10 work experience week, to our high expectations of student behaviour and increased use of rewards and activities week.

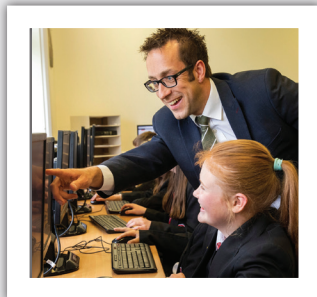
Our students, as always, have coped with it admirably. Learning has improved. Behaviour has dramatically improved. Maidenhill is a place of academic progress as well as care and kindness for its students.

We're looking forward to September 2024 which will bring yet more positive change: new Heads of Year, with 'horizontal' year groups focussing on year group issues and academic progress, brand new toilet facilities for all students, a gigantic outdoor canopy and serving pod to support our single break and lunch, an additional science lab, more maths classrooms, renovated humanities rooms and much, much more.

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this year. I began the year by paying tribute to all those who have worked so hard, including our Staff, Governors, Parents, Students and those in the wider community. Have a wonderful rest and return ready for the next phase in September.

Andy Hunter

Headteacher



School Council

Mrs Ward, Mr Clements and School Council members Laurel Beck and Devonte King, recently visited Scarlet House Care Home in Stroud to meet some of the staff and residents. Y10 students Laurel and Devonte spent time talking with staff and residents, and had a walk around the care home and grounds.

Scarlet House is currently raising money for the Nelson Trust, a centre of excellence bringing belief, hope and long-term recovery to lives affected by addiction and multiple disadvantage.



We'll always have Paris!

Over the May bank holiday weekend, 46 students and 5 teachers headed to Paris for a weekend of exploration and culture.

The adventure started with a super-early 3am coach departure on Friday morning. Saturday being our first day in the city of lights and love, was spent exploring Paris. We climbed up to the first floor of the Eiffel Tower, put the shopping time to good use and went on a river cruise along the Seine where students were able to see the famous sights of Paris.

Evening activities at our centre involved swimming, a disco and a photo challenge, which students were very engaged in!

On Sunday, we spent the day in Disneyland where students had the chance to explore the park independently. Everyone had a great time on the rides and many indulged in lots of shopping!

The whole trip was a great success and our students were brilliant.

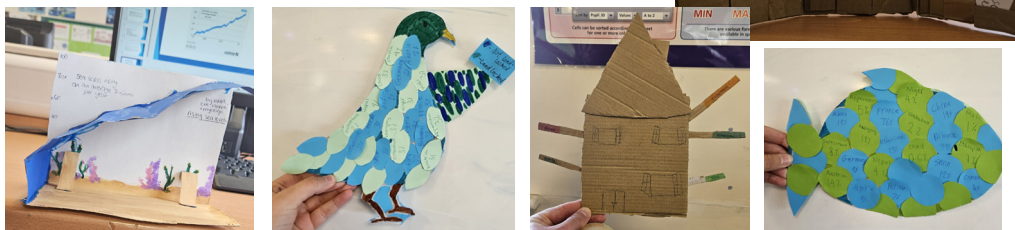
Many thanks to Miss Fowke for organising it and Mr Scott, Mr Colahan and Mrs Ward for joining us.

Miss S Laight

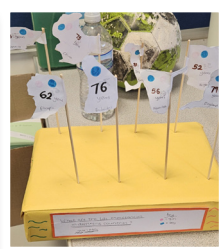
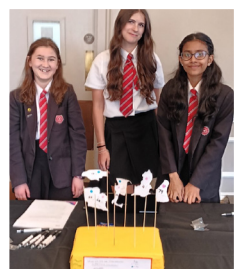


DataFace

Computing Classes 9M and 9A have been taking part in the DataFace competition where they were tasked with making tangible models of datasets related to extinction rates, countries' demographics and the cost of living.



Congratulations to our school winners: Sachethena Rathnayake, Jess Hyde and Esme Squibb who went on to the Cheltenham Science Festival where they took part in an exhibition and presented their data model of different mortality rates between different countries, bidding for a chance to win prizes. The models were displayed at the festival all week.



Dragons Den – The Ball

Year 10 Business students were given the task to plan their Year 11 ball, focussing on aims and objectives, market research, financial information and the marketing mix, using cloud computing techniques.

They then had to present their ideas to Mrs Kendry who judged them on how well thought out their plan was, with the possibility of implementing this for their ball next year.

The overall winners were: Izzy Glastonbury, Chloe Llewellyn, Dylan West
 Best Marketing: Evie Cole, Rose Paskey, Josh Cole
 A special mention goes to Meg Howey as the only member in her team present to stand up and deliver a presentation.

Hopefully we'll see some of your ideas implemented next year!



Mr C Bargh

CAD/CAM Workshop

Y10 GCSE Design and Technology students were recently given the opportunity to visit Renishaw Engineering, a global company with core skills in measurement, motion control, spectroscopy and precision machining specialists.

Students attended a CAD/CAM workshop. They were introduced to additive manufacture and furthered their understanding of computer aided manufacturing and 3D printing processes by designing a product.

The group produced creative CAD drawings using Tinker CAD software and they worked in teams to manufacture an LED torch. They were also given an educational tour of the factory and observed advanced manufacturing devices. They asked questions relating to post 16 opportunities and careers in the field of design & technology.

Mr M Sadler

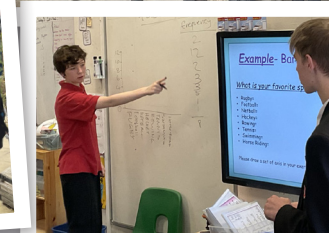


It's a Statistics game...

A group of Year 10 students had the opportunity to take part in an extracurricular activity, allowing them to plan and resource a series of statistics lessons for Year 5/6 students at Haresfield Primary School.

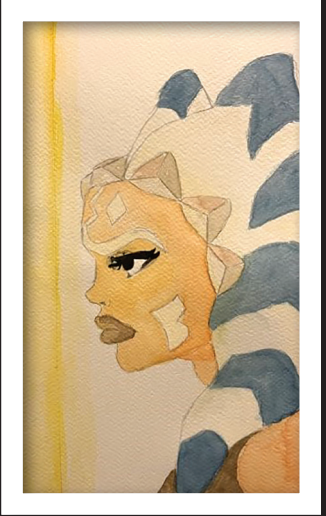
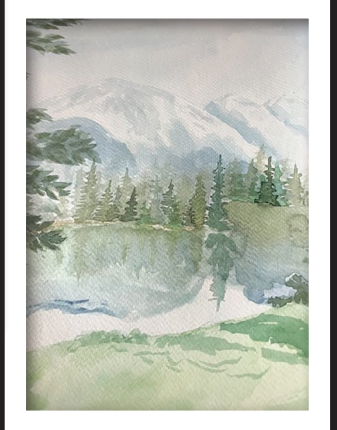
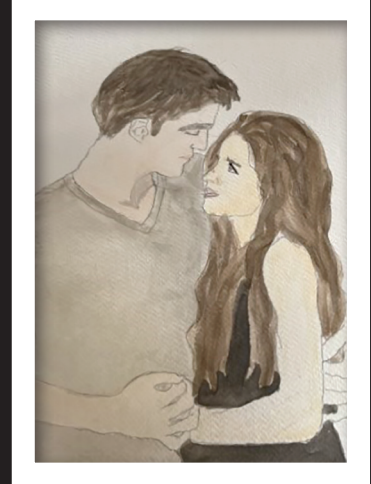
Our students created lessons focusing on drawing and interpreting bar graphs and line charts. This was an amazing occasion for our students to get a good understanding of what it is like to be a teacher. These lessons were received extremely well by our feeder primary school and the skills that our students developed by taking part in the enrichment opportunity have been invaluable.

Mr J Sansom





DofE goes Arty

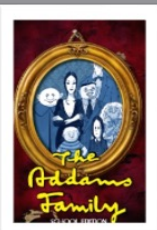


Two Year 9 students, Millie Hudd and Matthieu Charlton, have chosen to focus on Art for the SKILLS section of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. Millie challenged herself to learn and develop her watercolour painting skills while Matthieu chose to explore cardboard sculpture construction.

Both students have impressed with their hard work and amazing results, well done!
Mrs D Glover



“Normal is an illusion”



Well done to the cast and crew of Addams Family – what a great show!



From the cast...

The production started with the announcement of the play. We were given a song to learn in a week, after which we had to sing the song we learnt while Mrs Ball and Mr Nash walked around and listened to us all. After that we were put into smaller groups depending on the role we were auditioning for and then learn a scene in our groups. At the end we performed the scene to a board of teachers.

That night Mr Nash or Mrs Ball sent emails to students telling them to learn a song again. The next day after school we went to call-backs and had to repeat the process. After that the cast list came out.

Lily Winfield (9HLF)



Our rehearsals started with creative warm-ups. A big part of rehearsals is learning and adapting to new choreography and blocking our scenes. Sometimes we rehearsed in the music room to work on singing key parts. Moving rehearsals to the hall was always exciting because we could see what the scenes were going to look like on stage.

It's been a wonderful experience and I can't wait for the next play.

Niamh Soares

Track my Reading

Reading for pleasure - whether reading on their own or sharing a story with someone else - is one of the best ways a child can spend their time.

Research shows that:

- Reading each day can help children improve in all their school subjects
- Reading for just 6 minutes a day can reduce stress by 68%
- Children who read for pleasure are more likely to do well at GCSEs

Choosing to read provides all sorts of benefits - it's comforting, relaxing, reduces anxiety, builds empathy and understanding and aids learning... but above all it's fun!

Last year the Read for Good charity gave Maidenhill School Library two Big Boxes of Brilliant Brand New Books. This was a huge



boost to library stock and the books have proved very popular.

We felt the least we could do as a thank you would be to take part in their current reading challenge devised to unlock more books for community groups.

So, this term we've set Year 7 students a challenge to log how many minutes they have been reading on the Track My Read app, and what they felt about their reading and their books:

Dork Diaries:
I read it but my mum listened and helped me with some of the words

Dead time:
It was mysterious and loads of accusations

Every living thing:
Good book, funny/emotive

Driftwood:
I like this book because it's about fostering

Students and their parents were able to vote for the setting they feel deserved the books the most, choosing between:

- **Every Cloud:** Play therapy for children and young people in Gloucestershire
- **Gloucestershire Young Carers:** for young people who take on a caring role for a family member
- **Allsorts:** a Stroud based

charity supporting families of children and young people with additional needs

- **Stroud Women's Refuge:** providing safety and independence for women and children from around the UK whose lives have been impacted by domestic abuse
- **Home Start Stroud:** supporting families with children under 5 who are

going through challenging times

- **Cashes Green Community Centre:** Providing support and initiatives for the local & wider community

Not an easy choice! Meanwhile, we're all agog to see just how many minutes we can rack up between us. At the time of going to press we had reached 23,830 minutes!

Mrs C Escott-Allen

Dancing Queens

Lily and Lexie in Year 9 and Phoebe, Ava and Maddy in Year 7 competed in a dance competition at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool recently, representing Ambitions Dance and Drama.

The competition was tough against some amazing dance schools, but they all danced their hearts out to bring home a total of 15 trophies in both street and contemporary/slow styles for their teams well as duo- and solo dances.

After having been placed first in her Contemporary/Slow solo dances, Lily had to compete once more against all the 1st place winners in the category and won Slow Dancer of the Day!



Amazing Maisie

Maisie Dean has been competing in local and National competitions in Kickboxing over several years.

In April, she competed in two kickboxing categories, securing gold place and becoming the ISKA English Champion 2024 in Light Contact and K1.

Maisie has now been selected to represent Team England at the ISKA World Championships in Vienna, Austria on the 23rd - 27th October this year. Go Maisie!

EuroCup Basketball

In June, Year 8 student Zach Walters had the amazing opportunity to captain his team and take part in the EuroCup basketball tournament in Barcelona.

It was a very tough weekend of basketball against elite teams in an age group above Zach's team, which was reflected in the results. That said, they played their hearts out and Zach in particular made some great plays, scoring two 3 pointers in one game.

The facilities were amazing with 4 courts in one hall, 2 single courts and 1000 seats in the main hall. The team got to play on all of these.

Outside of the basketball, all the teams stayed in the same hotels, with Zach and his team mates meeting new people from all over the world - good times were had on the beach and in the pool!

It was a great experience which Zach enjoyed immensely and learned from, which will help him improve his game and be better prepared for the next one. It also exposed him to new people and cultures in a very competitive environment.

Zach, you did us proud!





The struggle is real...

This term in the maths department we have been gearing up for our Maths Challenge. The students have been working incredibly hard in their lunch breaks to solve puzzles as a team and practice for the main event.



After completing the challenge, we will be holding a celebration party to congratulate the top 3 scorers and all the students who have participated this term. We are very excited to see how the students get on.

Could you take it on?

Miss S Asquith

Goodbye Year 11!

Year 11 students sat their final GCSE examination on Wednesday, 19th June. They have had their final assembly and their leavers' ball. Celebrations ensued and some tears were wiped away.

23 students were invited to afternoon tea, in recognition of never receiving any C3 detentions throughout their time at Maidenhill. Now all that remains is to say "goodbye Year 11 - you'll be missed!"



Dates for your Diary

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|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Start of term 1 | Tuesday, 3rd September - Year 7 only |
| Staff INSET day | Friday, 27th September |
| End of term 1 | Friday, 25th October |