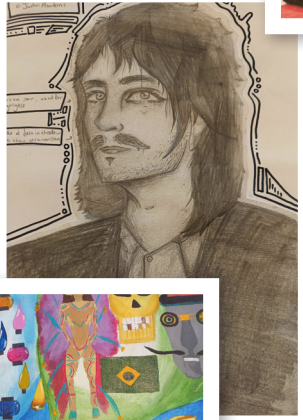




# Maidenhill Newsletter

WINTER 2023 EDITION



BE KIND, ASPIRE, PERSEVERE, ACHIEVE



## Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents

As another busy term draws to a close, I write to extend my most sincere thanks to everyone who has made the start of this academic year the phenomenal success it has been. Students continue to respond so well to such significant change and it continues to have an exceptionally positive effect on the quality of education students are receiving.

Since September, students have had access to a record number of trips and visits. From our recent Year 7 Christmas Carol performance to our Year 10 and 11 Netherlands football tour, our extra-curricular provision is alive and active more than ever before. Another highlight this year occurred where we welcomed our friends from Sugamo High School in Japan. It was great to see a record number of students volunteering to take part in accommodating the visit.

This term culminates in the launch of the most exciting new initiatives of the year as we share with you our emerging plans for our Activities week at the end of the year. This is just another example of how Maidenhill is a place of fun as well as learning, achievement and success.

We look forward to welcoming back our students on Monday 8th January. Have a restful, peaceful, relaxing break and a very Happy New Year.

*Andy Hunter*

Headteacher





## Remember

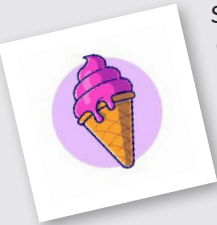


On Friday, 10th November at 11:00, the school stood in silence for a minute, in remembrance of the end of World War I and all service men and women around the world who have lost their lives in conflict.

We remember all those who are affected by war, past and present.



## Festive Fridays



Students with attendance of 94% or above and no C3s for the term, shared our 'Final Frozen Friday' initiative on the 27th October.

Students enjoyed ice creams from the ice cream van despite the autumnal weather.

Our zero C3s and 94% + attendance initiative starts afresh every term and students can look forward to more Festive Fridays.



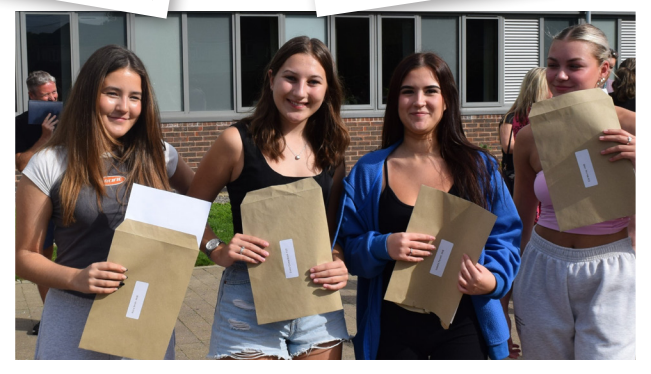
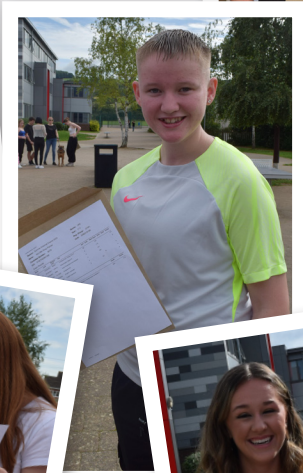




# Results Day

On Thursday, 24th August 2023, Year 11 students picked up their GCSE examination results. This was the first year that exams and the collection of results returned to normal since the COVID pandemic.

We wish our Year 11 school leavers all the very best in their future endeavours!







## EmPower Her

Anne Keast-Butler, director of GCHQ commented that, during WWII, 75% of the workforce involved in cracking the enigma code were WOMEN. Currently, only 12% of the cyber workforce are female. "This needs to change".

Year 8 girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves at this year's EmPower Cyber event, engaging in various activities with employers – they had to program computers, solve problems and think computationally, with attractive prizes for the winners.

They listened to talks by the director of GCHQ and met other inspirational female advocates for Cyber Security. By the end of the day their curiosity had been piqued to the extent that they started considering the pursuit of further cyber studies.





Summer School was fun, exciting and a bit nerve-racking, but we made good friends. It is an opportunity for new Year 7s to go to Maidenhill for three days over the summer months to discover what a full day as a student feels like at the school.

During Summer School we attended different classes and learnt our way around the school. We went to the hall for our welcome assembly – there were nearly 100 students there!

We found out which learning communities we were in. Ours was Doverow and Miss Hoare took us to

our lessons. It made us feel a lot more confident when school actually started.

We had five lessons each day. Our theme was 'Space with Tim Peake'. We created soundscapes in Music and used them in Drama where we acted out the blast-off into space. My favourite lessons were French, Art, English and Maths. We sat next to our friends, but in school there are seating plans. Luckily in Summer School they let us sit wherever we wanted.

We experienced getting a meal from the cafeteria and on the last day we hiked up a hill and had a picnic at the top.

We really hope the new Year 7s go next year.

*Ellie Hams and Annaliese Hunt (DLH)*







**How we felt on the first day...**

"We walked to the gate and waited. I was feeling excited and nervous. We had to go to an assembly. I got into school okay and I was still feeling really excited.

Now when the gates open, I just walk in - it's just normal now"

*Xavy France (DHB)*

"I needed some support from staff to get into school. I was feeling really nervous and I was too scared to go in by myself.

I now have a teacher and my keyworker who help me in the mornings. This makes my mornings easier and I feel good about being at school."

*Sam Phillips (DLB)*







## A Trip to Remember

At the end of the long term, Year 7 embarked on an adventurous trip to Dean Fields Study Centre in The Forest of Dean. The day was full of laughs and team-building activities that brightened even the dimmest of feelings. We learnt how to climb, scavenge and work together throughout the journey.

One of our favourite activities to complete was to climb to the top of a huge ladder that went 20 meters into the air! This activity took a bit of bravery, but luckily no one fell off! (Or as far as we know...)

Another brain-teasing task to get done was orienteering. This wasn't an easy situation as we had to find as many stamps as we could and show the staff how many we got. The winning teams were very proud.

After a morning of adventuring in the woods, we were definitely ready for a sandwich in the sunny breeze. As our stomachs filled up, our hunger for games grew.

But after that came the best part of all - the underground tunnels. These long pipe structures are buried deep in the muddy soil. Some are wide and some are not at all. Although this may seem horrible, it honestly was really fun! Hidden in the tunnels lies ball pits and crazy slides.

After a tiring day in the wilderness, the coach was ready to pick us up. All in all, this trip was worth every minute.

*Sammy Baker (DAT)*









## Design Masters in the Making



Year 11 students studying GCSE Product Design, participated in CAD/CAM workshops at Renishaw Engineering in Dursley. Students had the opportunity to further their understanding of computer aided manufacturing and 3D printing processes by designing a product.

All students produced creative CAD drawings using Tinker CAD software and their designs were printed in 3D. They were also given an educational tour of factory and design offices. Students were able to observe advanced manufacturing processes and ask engineers questions relating to post 16 opportunities and careers in the field of design & technology.







## KS3 have been Designing too...



### Barney Brodie – Year 9 Passive Amplifier

Barney manufactured an excellent passive amplifier for a chosen client after having learnt routing techniques and understanding how to form polymers.

A very good effort Barney.



### Sophia Chin – Year 8 Automata

Sophia has designed and manufactured a decorative automaton after having learnt how mechanisms work and how to create an accurate lap joint.

Well Done Sophia, this is a fantastic product.



### Mia Meadows – Year 7 Key Rack project

Mia has created a fantastic key rack by demonstrating excellent sawing techniques and showed a good understanding of wood finishing processes, ensuring that she met the needs of her client.

Well done Mia.



## KS3 Fantastic Food



### Year 7 Healthy Eating

Students were tasked with the design, preparation and cooking of a pasta or rice salad, following the Eat Well Guidelines to include all five food groups for their final cooking assessment.

### Year 8 Food around the world

Students were tasked with researching their favourite cuisine and using the information to prepare and cook a multicultural burger suitable for production in a commercial street food outlet.





**Year 9**  
**The Science of Food**

Students were tasked with the production of a batch of French savoury palmiers to demonstrate their pastry skills.







## Fine Dining

Year 10 was tasked with planning, preparing and cooking a taster plate consisting of a trio of desserts, suitable to be served in a fine dining restaurant.

Feast your eyes on some of the delectable dishes they produced!





## Fantastic Photos



Year 10 are reaching the end of their first project in Photography; Still Life. Students have explored the work of Robert Mapplethorpe, Maurizio Di Iorio, Suzanne Saroff and Bruce Boyd, which has helped them understand how to take an interesting photo. This has been demonstrated in Year 10s' incredible shots, showcasing their camera and editing skills. What amazing creativity – I can't wait to see what comes of the next project!

*Mrs E Pierre-Justin*







# Our Japanese Visitors

On Tuesday, 14th November, Maidenhill welcomed students and staff from Sugamo High School in Japan, for what is fast becoming an annual event!

Year 9 guides showed our guests around during period 1, after a short 'welcome' assembly.

A limited selection of students attended a workshop and presentation by the Japanese students.







# Congratulations!

...to the Year 7 Rugby team who were undefeated in the Stroud District Schools Rugby Festival. It has been an amazing first rugby season for them, having won all of their matches this year.

A fantastic achievement, well done boys!!

*Mr S. Clements*



## AJAX in Amsterdam

From Friday 27th to Monday 30th October, 36 boys and 4 girls from Years 10 and 11 participated in the school's first football tour to Amsterdam.

Upon arrival, the students headed to theme park, Walibi Holland and tackled several large roller coasters, including 46-meter high "Goliath" and track twisting "Lost Gravity". The evening concluded with a group meal at the hostel and a range of competitive activities.

The following day, the students visited the home of Dutch giants, AFC Ajax at the Johan Cruyff Arena. Following a tour of the site and trophy room, students were given the opportunity to conduct their very own press conferences, before heading out onto the pitch. Later that day, both year groups played fixtures against Haarlem Kennemerland FC which will live long in the memory.... With time running out and their backs against the wall, the year 10's made use of their best option to force a 2-2 draw against a strong Kennemerland side. Meanwhile, the year 11's produced a devastating spell of attacking football deep into added time to overcome the hosts, 3-2. Go karting concluded an electric day of activities!

Archery, tag and gift shopping on the final day, rounded off a thrilling first football trip overseas.

*Mr J Soper*





## She has a Black Belt

Maisie Dean achieved her black belt in Kickboxing in October. She continues to train hard and compete around the UK in local and national competitions.

She recently competed in a series of competitions in the WAKO Cimac Adidas Super league and another competition for a ladies' title.

Maisie also fought in the UK open championships and was placed 2nd in Light Contact and 3rd in Points Fighting. These fights gained Maisie enough points to secure 1st place overall and awarded her a plaque as the Grand Champion for her age and weight division in the Cimac Adidas Super League 2023.

## She Danced all Night

*A letter received from Gloucester Gymnastics Club:*

I am writing to share a heartwarming story about one of your students, Chiara Brown (Year 11), who over the weekend participated in a remarkable 20-hour Danceathon to raise funds for the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust and support one of our own gymnasts who is currently undergoing treatment for Leukemia.

The Danceathon, which spanned a full 20 hours (from 3pm Saturday to 11am Sunday), was a true testament to the strength and resilience of our gymnasts. It was a powerful display of unity and compassion as gymnasts, coaches, and parents danced tirelessly, showing their support for our beloved gymnast in her battle against Leukemia.

Not only did this event raise over £2,000 for the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust, but it also served as a source of emotional strength and encouragement for our gymnast, Daisy. The knowledge that her friends were rallying behind her undoubtedly bolstered her spirits during her challenging journey.

We are immensely proud of Chiara and the other gymnasts who participated over the weekend, so we wanted to share her achievement with you as a school. We hope that Chiara can be acknowledged in school and congratulated for what she has achieved.

Many thanks

Rebecca Scott

Head Coach at Gloucester Gymnastics Club



## World Scout Jamboree

The World Scout Jamboree is a Scouting jamboree of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, typically attended by several tens of thousands of Scouts from around the world, aged 14 to 17. The Jamboree is only held once every 4 years and involves 40,000 scouts from across the world, with only 4,000 selected to attend from the UK.

Izzy Meadows was chosen as one of the 36 individuals from Gloucestershire. She had an amazing time and was very fortunate to be able to experience the different culture.

Whilst the World Scout Jamboree is a 2-week camp with a 1-week city visit, the UK contingent had to be evacuated to a hotel elsewhere due to extreme weather conditions. This was a little scary at times but Izzy's experience was unforgettable.

Well done Izzy, for being selected to attend such a prestigious event.

*Mrs S. Kendry*



## Alumnus



Josh Wiltshire, who was a student at Maidenhill in 2021, has continued to do us proud.

Josh has completed 10 weeks of basic training at RAF Halton and on the 4th December he will be starting phase two at RAF Cosford, training to be a weapons engineer technician

We wish you well, Josh!





## Charity at Maidenhill

Students and teachers contributed an array of delicious cakes for the Macmillan cake sale which raised in excess of £150.



Non-uniform Day also saw £339.95 raised in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Start of Term 3</b>	Monday, 8th January
<b>Mock Results day</b>	Thursday, 11th January
<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening</b>	Thursday, 8th February
<b>End of Term 3</b>	Friday, 9th February
<b>Start of Term 4</b>	Monday, 19th February