



Maidenhill Newsletter

WINTER 2024 EDITION



BE KIND, ASPIRE, PERSEVERE, ACHIEVE



Headteacher's Update

Dear parents

As another long and, at times dark term draws to a close, I struggle to even refer to it as the 'Autumn' term, given the colder days and spattering of snow. I am pleased to say however, that Maidenhill continues to flourish, and I write to extend my most sincere thanks to everyone who has continued to adapt to yet more notable change. Students have seen considerable developments in our school geography, with a change of venue for maths and a few of the humanities rooms, new food teaching facilities, as well as a new computer room and science laboratory. They have coped admirably with delayed toilet refurbishments and are benefitting from the new and improved facilities since they have been completed!



One of the biggest changes since September has been our move from 'vertical' learning communities to 'horizontal' year groups. This change was brought about to ensure that whilst we continued to focus on supporting students pastorally, we also give equal attention to promoting academic progress and success. Students have again adapted phenomenally well to these changes and to the improved tutor contact time and activities. On a weekly basis we have been able to deliver a bespoke experience to facilitate building the foundations of great learning and continued success.

We look forward to welcoming back our students on Tuesday 7th January. I wish you a peaceful, relaxing break and a very Happy New Year.

Andy Hunter

Headteacher



Students including student leaders Jas and Meg, and headteacher, Mr. Hunter represented Maidenhill School on Remembrance Sunday at the Memorial Service in Stonehouse.



Preparing Year 10

As part of their preparation for further education and employment after Maidenhill, Year 10 students have participated in a selection of events to help inform them with their options Post-16 in terms of career paths, employment sectors and company roles beyond secondary school education.

On Friday 12th July, each Year 10 student participated in a 'mock business employment interview' with a selection of local employers. The purpose of the day was to provide experience of a formal interview and prepare themselves better for future college and job interviews. The Year 10 students had prepared a 'mock application form' in advance which the employers used during the interview. Despite the Year 10s being a little nervous prior to their interview, it went extremely well; they received incredibly positive feedback and enjoyed the event.

In addition, Year 10 students also had the opportunity to visit Archway Sixth Form, Stroud College, and Cirencester College. These college taster days provide a valuable insight into Post-16 education, the types of courses on offer and what studying at Post-16 institutions will be like.

Finally, students took part in a week's Work Experience during the last week of June. Students, Parents and Carers were instrumental in sourcing work placements and Maidenhill School is extremely grateful to all the businesses and organisations that facilitated a placement for our students.

Parents, Carers, Students and Employers have all provided amazing feedback about how successful and valuable work experience is for our students, how well they engaged in the workplace and how positive the week was for everyone involved.

Well done to all our Year 10 students, you absolutely nailed it!!

I hope the students have found these Post-16 opportunities valuable as they progress towards applying for a college course, apprenticeship, or full-time employment after their Y11 GCSE exams.

Mr S Clements

Activities Week

Around five hundred students took part in the first Activities Week of its kind at Maidenhill School during the last week of the academic year 2024.



The aim was to replace traditional teaching with a range of (over forty) fun activities and experiences for students that they may not have tried before. This was an opportunity for students to develop new and existing bonds with both teachers and other students and to increase their sense of adventure by trying something new.

Feedback from both students and staff was incredibly positive. Students enjoyed the range of activities, being able to wear non-uniform and interacting with other year groups and teachers in a non-learning context. We look forward to another fun-filled week at the end of 2025!

Mrs I Ethelston



Students Shine at Stroud Country Show

The Stroud County Show saw remarkable contributions from Maidenhill students this year, with seven talented young photographers displaying their work. Among them were Kimi Love, William Malkin, Sophie Reece, Gracie McIntosh, Elli Moussard, Ben Page, and Toby Chodera, each presenting stunning photographs that captured various aspects of their surroundings.

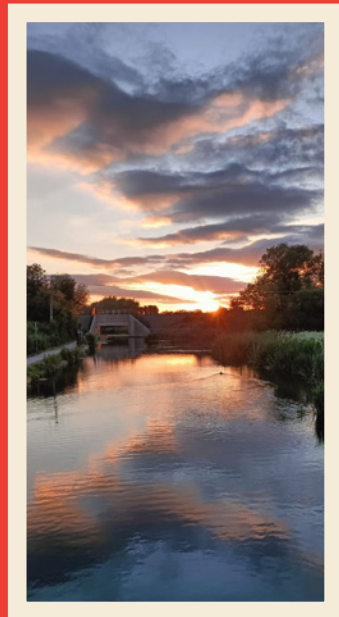
In a particularly noteworthy achievement, Toby Chodera secured first prize for his evocative “Lockdown” photo, which powerfully conveyed the unique and challenging experiences of Covid. Ben Page also received the runner-up position for his beautiful depiction of local canals.

The exceptional quality of the photos submitted highlighted the students’ creativity and dedication. The school community extends heartfelt congratulations to all participants, especially the prize winners, for their outstanding work and contributions to the show.

A team of Year 10 photographers also expertly documented the event—Meg Howey, Freya France, Evie Smith, and Esther Olowoleru. Their professionalism and skill in capturing the essence of the show were evident, and anticipation is high for the release of their photos. The school expresses gratitude for their efforts and looks forward to showcasing their images.

Overall, the involvement of these students not only added vibrancy to the Stroud County Show but also demonstrated the immense talent and enthusiasm present within the student body. Their participation and success are a source of pride for the entire community.

Mrs E Pierre-Justin





World Mental Health Day

Maidenhill school was a sea of yellow on Thursday, 10th October. Students and staff came together to wear yellow in support of **Young Minds**, a charity who aim to make sure every young person receives the support they need for their mental health.

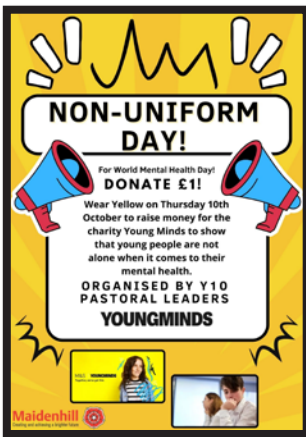
It was amazing to see so many students and staff embrace the day with a variety of outfits and creative ways to incorporate yellow into their attire – even down to their PE kits. We saw yellow ribbons in hair, yellow onesies, yellow socks and ...yellow ducks? What a day!

Together the school raised an incredible £670.40. An amazing effort - well done!

Thank you to parents and carers for your support with finding something yellow to wear and making donations.

(We mustn't forget our new Pastoral Leaders who worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to plan and promote the day - what an amazing effort! (#aspire #bekind).

Ms B Szczepura





Artists at work

Year 11 artists created an amazing response to the 2024 GCSE Art examination paper.

Portraits, Fragments, and Images and Word were all themes that they explored.

They created an excellent range of work across both the project and the 10-hour exam time. We had stop frame animation, paintings, prints, collage, pencil studies and mixed media outcomes.

Well done Year 11, fantastic work and we're so pleased to be able to finally share the wonderful work!



Mrs D Glover



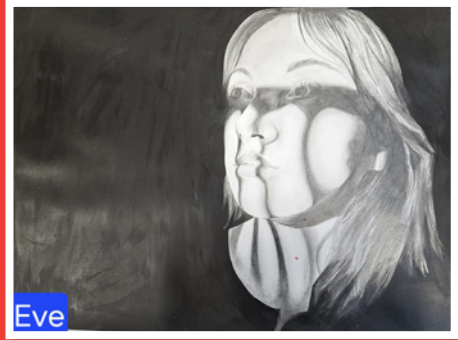
Jarika



Taylor



Taylor





Food and Nutrition

Our 2024 Year 11 Food students, as part of their GCSE course, completed their practical task in April. They had to plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes to be sold in a cafe or restaurant that would promote the use of fresh and seasonal ingredients.

All the students worked really hard to prepare and cook their selected menus within 3 hours. They executed complex culinary skills and produced high quality dishes.

Well Done Year 11.

Miss L Bullion





The Japanese Visit

On Friday, 8th November, we again welcomed students and staff from Sugamo High School in Japan. The morning was fantastic!

Our Yr 9 guides showed our guests around after a short 'welcome' assembly and their conduct was amazing. Our students attending the workshops (lead by the Japanese students) were respectful, engaged and enthusiastic – overall a brilliant reflection of Maidenhill.

Mr A Rome



A Bit on the Side

In the two terms I've been at Maidenhill, I have taken part in multiple extra-curricular activities in performing arts.

I am in the Samba band; we meet every Wednesday lunch time. It is a ton of fun, everyone who takes part really enjoys themselves and we always have a laugh. It's a place where I can be myself and we get to play great music together.

I also take part in the year seven vocal group. We're going to do a welcome winter concert in which we sing Christmas songs, and I get to sing a short solo.

To finish off, there is the year seven production I'm in: TWIST. Having a role in the play is amazing, the rehearsals are GREAT and the teachers that run it are just the best.

Evie Willerton, Y7



PGL Adventure

In November, 36 students from year 11 went on a maths revision weekend to PGL Liddington, a residential adventure centre with plenty of activities to inspire, motivate and challenge.

It was a fantastic weekend, filled with 6 hours of maths revision and a range of outdoor activities including the giant swing, archery, axe throwing and ziplining.

We received many compliments on how mature and polite our students were. They were a credit to the school and had a great time!

Miss S Asquith





A Trip to Deanfield





On Monday the 14th of October my tutor group and I went to Deanfield Outdoor Centre with other Year 7 tutor groups. Dean Fields is an outdoor activities centre which has a lot of fun and scary activities such as tunnelling, orienteering and team challenges, with two high rope obstacle courses and the "Leap of Faith."

The first activity I did was Orienteering. My group joined Mrs Kendry's group to make one big group. I partnered with my primary school friend, Alfie. Miss gave us a map to find the stamps, which was hard work. I liked that I spent time with a good friend, but I disliked that we never found all the stamps.

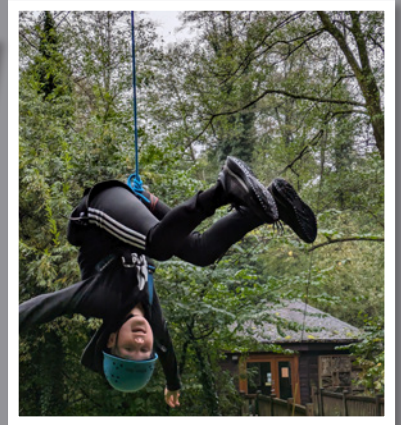
After Orienteering, we got back and did tunnelling. I'm not the best with small spaces but I coped well, and I loved being able to do my best. It was a great challenge, but it was also great fun.

Once we finished lunch we went to the high ropes. First, we did Jacob's ladder. I got about three quarters up the ladder, but Aiden was the only one in my group to make it all the way to the top. Some other students got very close.

Finally, we did the "Leap of Faith!" If you didn't know, I am petrified of heights but to make it worse Alfie told the worker to put the bar as far away as possible. I agreed as soon as I got to the top that I would do the jump. My head felt dizzy, but I jumped and caught the bar.

I loved the trip! I went home and am still proud of myself today.

Kaiden Harkins 7JL





She's a Champion!

Year 11 student Maisie Dean, recently competed for Team England Kickboxing at the ISKA AMA Worlds 2024 championships held in Vienna, joining a total of 1061 athletes from 34 countries.

She qualified as two times English Champion in April 2024, competing in light contact -55kg and K1 light -55kg.



Over the course of three days Maisie fought numerous opponents, placing her as World Champion in her light contact division and third place in her K1 light -55kg division.

Since winning her World Title belt, Maisie returned five days later to compete in the ISKA British Championships held in Birmingham. She was placed first in her category and is now British Kickboxing Champion in light contact – 15-17 years.

She also qualified for the ISKA AMA European Championships being held in Malta in April 2025. In addition, Maisie also gained a second place in a higher weight division at plus 65kg.

What an excellent end to the year; 2 x English Champion, World Champion and British Champion!

Cipher Club

This term we have introduced a new cipher club in the maths department which has been well attended by students.

We have been taking part in the Southampton University cipher challenge and so far, we have been able to crack the practice ciphers each week as a team.

Let's hope we do just as well in the real competition next term!

Miss S Asquith





Maidenhill School Council



Congratulations to our newly elected School Council 2024-2025!



Game, Set and Match!

In the recent Paralympics one of my relatives, Billy Shilton (ex-Maidenhill student) won bronze in para table tennis.

This is not a first for Billy after winning bronze in Tokyo during the previous Paralympics. As a family, we are immensely proud of what Billy has achieved and we can't wait to see what the next few years bring for him.

Evie Cole 11CL (Billy's cousin)



Harry's thriving...

Harry Price attended Maidenhill school from Year 7 until the end of Y11 in 2024.

Harry did not find school easy and struggled with dyslexia, but with support, built up his confidence and was awarded a sports scholarship at Kings School.

He is very happy there, completing a BTEC course in sports, which he loves.





Year 7 Rugby

This term I was lucky enough to be picked to represent Maidenhill in a rugby tournament against many different teams from different schools.

Our first game was against Archway, who we had already played against before. Once again, we beat them 14 – 0 in the first out of six games. The next game was against Kings School, and we gave them a thrashing too.

The third game was against our hosts, Deer Park

in which we were beaten 21-7. Next up was Thomas Keeble and I

was excited because some of my mates were on the other team. Well, we beat them 28 – 14!

In the last two games we won one and lost the other one.

We were all tired and we headed back to school after a long tournament but it's the best thing you could do in this school, in my opinion!

Oscar Smith, Year 7

Year 11 Netball

The year 11 netball team took part in the annual netball tournament at Westonbirt. The girls all performed outstandingly well, working tightly as a team to produce some of the best netball they have played.

We narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals by one goal. The PE department are extremely proud of all the girls and their commitment, attitude and ability to represent the school in such a positive manner. Well done everybody.

Mrs D Hamby

Left to right: *Isla Moreland, Lexi Wager, Layah Tremplin, Maddy Warren, Georgia Bainbridge, Maisie Wall.* Bottom left to right: *Molly Freeman, Chloe McBride, Cleo Llewellyn, Isla Hudd*



Dates for your Diary

Start of Term 3

Tuesday, 7th January

End of Term 3

Friday, 14th February