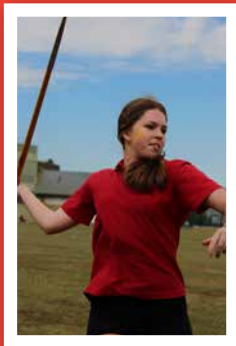


# Maidenhill Newsletter

WINTER 2025 EDITION



BE KIND, ASPIRE, PERSEVERE, ACHIEVE



## Headteacher's Update

As we reach the end of a busy term, I'd like to celebrate some of the many highlights across our school community. Our new Year 7s made a fantastic start to life at Maidenhill, many of them joining us for Summer School where they threw themselves into activities, formed new friendships and began their secondary journey with real confidence and enthusiasm. The summer term also saw our second successful Activities Week, offering students a brilliant range of experiences both in and out of school. Sports

Day was even bigger and better than last year, filled with energy, teamwork and some truly inclusive activities. I'm incredibly proud of the spirit and determination shown by all who took part. Thank you also to parents and carers who attended. Our students have once again shown great generosity and compassion through their involvement in charitable events, helping to raise funds for YoungMinds' "Hello Yellow" campaign and Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to every family who contributed—your kindness makes a real difference. We were also delighted to welcome visitors from around the world and across the arts. Students from Sugamo High School in Japan spent time with us, offering students a wonderful cultural exchange, and we were treated to an inspiring visit from author Tia Fisher, whose sessions left many students buzzing with ideas and creativity. As we head into the Christmas break, I want to thank all students, families and staff for their hard work, positivity and support throughout the term. I wish you all a restful, enjoyable Christmas holiday and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for an exciting 2026 ahead!

*Andy Hunter*  
Headteacher

## Remembrance Day



Sunday 9th November saw Stonehouse's annual service of remembrance. This was well attended by people from all walks of life; those belonging to local groups and schools, representatives of local councils and services as well as members of the general public. Student Leaders Evie, Dolly and Barney supported me in representing the staff, students and wider community of Maidenhill and I thank them for their commitment to this event.

This first commemoration event was followed by a weeklong series of assemblies delivered by History teacher Mr Porter and a minute's silence at 11am on Tuesday 11th November for the whole school.

My sincere thanks to the students, who all showed the utmost respect during these events.



Staged on World Mental Health Day, Hello Yellow support young people with mental health issues and is run by the charity Young Minds.

On Friday 14th October, we once again celebrated Hello Yellow day at Maidenhill in support.

The idea of wearing yellow is to share some positivity and highlight the importance of talking about our mental health. This was a big success, with students wearing yellow and the school raising £489.65 for Young Minds.

Thank you to everyone who took part and an extra thank you to the Student Leaders who organised the entire event.

*Mr H Scott*



On Thursday 25th of September, the school once again held a cake sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

There was a fantastic buzz during break- and lunchtimes; students enjoyed the selection of baked goods on offer, of which many were homemade, and all were absolutely delicious!

Thank you to everyone who made, donated and bought and ate the cakes - you helped us raise £111.65!

A big thank you also to our Student Leaders for organising this.

*Mr H Scott*

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**



## Young Carer



I was invited to talk about my caring role to help explain to NHS staff what a young carer is/does and how it impacts on us both mentally and physically.

It will be presented to the NHS Gloucestershire Board and will be included in the new NHS staff training.

*Merri Lawlor - 7RH*





## Life is Sweet

Year 10 students are currently working on paintings of sweets.

They've been looking at British artist Sarah Graham, best known for her large-scale vibrant photorealist paintings of childhood objects like sweets, toys, and gumballs.

They've set up a sweetie photoshoot, presented their contact sheet and selected their most successful photograph.

Next, they drew the photos and are currently busy building layers of colour with acrylic paint.

Mmm...good enough to eat!

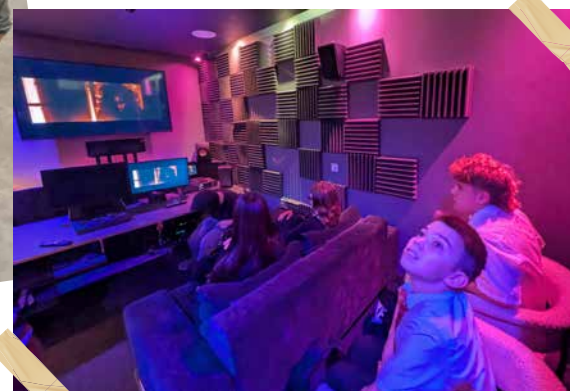
*Mrs D Glover*



## Year 10 Photography Trip

Our Year 10 GCSE Photography students recently enjoyed an inspiring trip to Still Moving Media Studios in Cheltenham. They gained valuable insight into the photography and film industry, seeing first-hand how professionals work and exploring industry-standard equipment and techniques. The visit was a fantastic opportunity for students to connect their classroom learning with real-world practice, and they returned full of ideas and inspiration for their own projects.

*Mrs E Pierre-Justin*







## Summer School

Over the summer holidays, Maidenhill School again facilitated the annual Summer School to welcome new Year 7 students to the school. The programme of activities and lessons was expertly led by Mrs Legge and Mr Sadler.

With around 100 students a day attending, it was a real success. The programme was designed to help students settle into secondary school life, make new friends, and build confidence before the official start of term.

Each morning the students were given an inspirational assembly with topics such as 'Overcoming challenges and obstacles in your life' or 'Achieving your goals'. Throughout the three days, students took part in a mix of physical activities and academic sessions, and lunch times were spent sitting together, sharing a delicious lunch of freshly made rolls, fruit and the school's renowned chocolate crunch.

The different subjects offered over the week varied greatly: from Maths, English and Science to Art, Music and Drama, along with Geography, Computing, Languages, PE and Food and Nutrition. How great is that?

One of the highlights was a hike over the hills surrounding our school on the final day, pushing both staff and students out of our comfort zones, but it was worth it to see those stunning views and enjoy the refreshing ice-lollies after such a hard workout.

Many students said that Summer School made them feel much more prepared for September. Teachers also commented on how quickly the group bonded and developed a sense of belonging. By the end of the week, there was a real buzz of excitement about starting secondary school.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and student leaders who helped facilitate such an important opportunity for our new cohort; we look forward to seeing our new Year 7s continue to thrive during the year ahead.

Year 7s







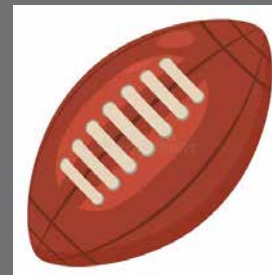
## Activities Week

July saw the second phenomenally successful Activities Week. Students were able to choose from a range of over one hundred activities, ranging from action-packed climbing, hiking, jumping, and swimming events to arts and crafts, baking and movies.

Another exciting week of activities is again planned from Monday 13th to Friday 17th July 2026.



## Y11 Rugby



Congratulations to the **Year 11** students who represented **The Barbarians** in the rugby union fixture, Marling School vs The Barbarians:

Will Austin  
Olly O'Connell  
Archie Pollard

The Barbarians defeated Marling School 19-15 in what was described by the match official as "one of the best games of school rugby they have ever been a part of".

## Y9 Rugby

Well done Year 9 students who represented Maidenhill School in the rugby union fixture vs **Katharine Lady Berkeley's School**:

Lewis Barrett  
Max Bown  
Harry Brown  
Sami Cherif  
Lewy Davis  
Jack Ellis  
Stan Franklin  
Harrison Hatch  
Leighton Jones  
Freddie Newman  
Kai Pritchard  
Will Russell  
Olly Smart  
Noah Sutton



What a valiant display from the fourteen Maidenhill School rugby union players, but with Maidenhill School reduced to thirteen players, KLB secured an eventual win after an incredibly close match!

Mr J Soper





## Rhyme, rhythm and reading

National Poetry Day is an annual UK celebration of poetry, held on the first Thursday of October.

The day encourages people to share, experience, and create poetry through various events in schools, libraries, and public venues.

For National Poetry Day this year, students chose their favourite of three poems displayed outside the library and had to write down why they liked them. 69 students entered the competition.

Our Year 7 students were challenged to design bookmarks for use by the whole school. The winning designs showed good use of colour and some interesting ideas supporting reading for pleasure.

The winners were Nyfain Pask, Evie Taylor, Rosa Rivers, Daisy Dale and Indie Bishop.

*Mrs C Escott-Allen*



## The UWE Visit

On Friday 4th July, a selection of students attended a session presented by the University of West England. UWE uses Minecraft as an educational tool to teach STEM concepts to young people. Through this program, students build and design within Minecraft worlds to learn about topics like environmental science, engineering and sustainability.

Exploring how this can be used to solve real problems currently occurring in cities, students looked at solutions to the issues of flooding from the Avon river and how traffic flow could be improved. The students all engaged positively, starting to think laterally about how their given problem could be resolved.

*Mr C Bargh*



## The Japanese Visit

On Friday, 7th November, Maidenhill School again had the pleasure of welcoming students and staff from Sugamo High School in Tokyo, Japan. Students were enthusiastic in volunteering to take part in the different workshops presented by our guests, including Anime and Japanese games. Another fantastic morning!



## The Author Visit

Tia Fisher is an award-winning English author who writes realistic fiction for young people.

She visited the school (Years 9 and 10) in November, to help promote a culture of reading for pleasure.





## School Hustings

55 enthusiastic students from across all year groups stepped forward to take part in our School Council hustings. Each candidate delivered a thoughtful and inspiring speech, clearly expressing why they would make a strong representative for their peers.

The quality of speeches was outstanding — students spoke with confidence, passion, and a genuine desire to make a difference within our school community.

Following the elections, the successful candidates represent a variety of key areas, including Year Group Representation, Student Leadership, EAL and Literacy, Sports and Fitness, Learning Support, Performing Arts, Student Experience, and Mobile Students.

We were excited to hold our first School Council meeting on Friday, 17th October, where our newly elected members started sharing ideas, setting goals, and collaborating on initiatives to make our school an even better place for everyone.

Congratulations to all the students who took part — your dedication and leadership truly embody the spirit of our school.

*Mr Rome and Mrs Ward*

## Maths Club

In maths club so far this year we have been taking on a variety of challenges. As a group we have been building circular structures out of pringles, calculating the speed of moving objects and competing for the furthest flying paper aircraft. Every student in the club has brought their own ideas and excitement to each session and it has been great to see how they work together as a team. I look forward to seeing how they tackle future challenges presented to them.

*Miss S Asquith*



## Dates for your Diary

Staff INSET day

Start of term 3

End of term 3

Monday, 5th January 2026

Tuesday, 6th January 2026

Friday, 13th February 2026