



# Maidenhill Newsletter

SUMMER 2025 EDITION



BE KIND, ASPIRE, PERSEVERE, ACHIEVE



## Headteacher's Update

Dear parents

As we wrap up another inspiring year at Maidenhill, our Summer Newsletter reflects the incredible achievements and vibrant experiences of our students.

From exciting enrichment trips to Paris and the Bristol Old Vic, to outstanding creative, sporting and academic successes; it's been a term filled with energy and ambition. Highlights include powerful student-led projects like the DataFace visualisation finalists, a moving charity effort, and national sporting success on the athletics field and rugby pitch.

Across the school, students have shown what it truly means to be kind, to aspire, to persevere and to achieve. Whether through creative writing, design, leadership, culinary skills, or the vast array of work behind the scenes, Maidenhill students continue to impress with their talent, dedication and enthusiasm.

Thank you to all staff, students and families for your continued support. We wish everyone a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break — and we look forward to welcoming you back in September!

*Andy Hunter*  
Headteacher



## It's Official – Maidenhill is Kind!



## Goldilocks?!

Harrison Gardner raised £620 for the Little Prince's Trust charity by cutting his hair off and giving it to the charity to make a wig for cancer sufferers. This is a very generous and kind thing to do – well done Harrison! We are all very proud of you.



Mrs S Kendry





## Fantastic Fiction

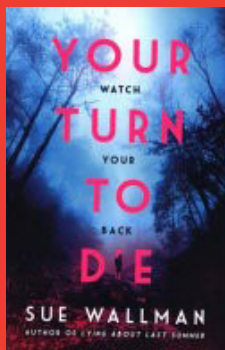
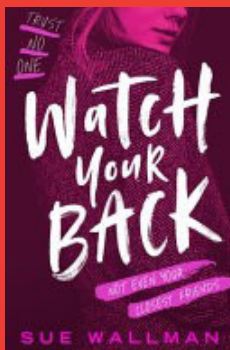
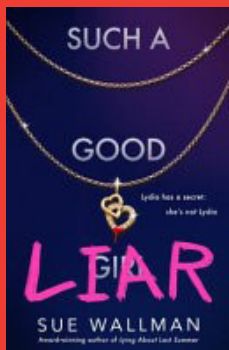
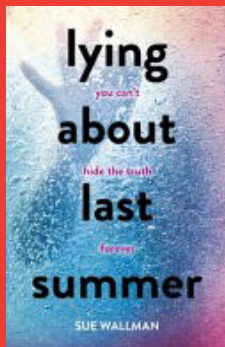
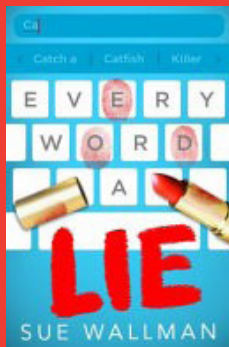
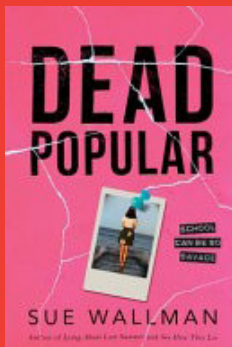
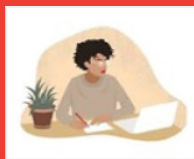
Sue Wallman, author of Young Adult Thrillers, recently presented a workshop on the topic 'How to write a thriller' to Maidenhill students.

Devonte King in Year 11, had this to say:

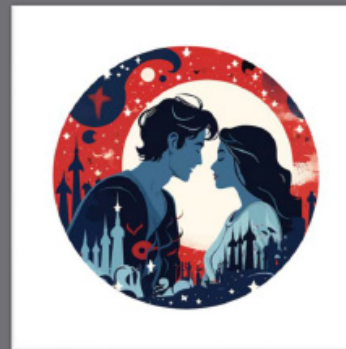
"As an aspiring writer, I've been working at my craft for such a long time, but there are just some things I felt I couldn't quite learn by myself. Having a professional give me some tips was extremely helpful and I certainly learnt some things I wouldn't have ever thought of."

Sue Wallman, a thriller author who visited Maidenhill recently, told me the difference between a plot twist and a plot reveal. This is something not many people know, but it's so crucial. I enjoyed the writing task itself as well and getting feedback.

Overall, I'd recommend it to anybody who had any sort of interest in literature or writing, as I feel creative writing can be something that has fewer opportunities out there than the other arts, and being able to express yourself around other people who have the same passion, and somebody who has developed their passion into a career, is very validating and very enjoyable."



## Star-crossed Lovers with a Modern Twist



On Friday, 21 March, fifty Year 10 and Year 11 students, along with their awesome English teachers, embarked on a journey to be immersed in this unbelievable performance of the remarkable Romeo and Juliet at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre.

This modern take on a classic was truly mesmerizing, magnificent, and mind-blowing. To be able to come up with the idea of giving Romeo and Juliet a twist to truly immerse the audience was exceptional—we were hooked from the start. This production included rapping, digital technology, a live pip band and amazing musical numbers. This was all brought

to life by talented actors and a strong production team.

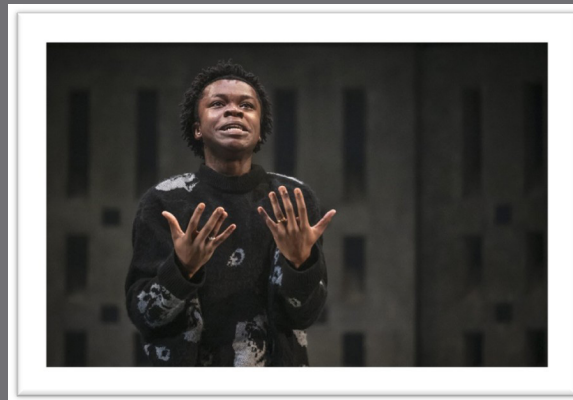
We enjoyed recognizing key quotations that we had learnt in class and seeing the characters come to life. Each rap included Shakespeare's language plus occasional modern slang to keep it fresh! It was incredible to see the iconic script through modern eyes.

The director Corey Campbell mentioned that 'Romeo and Juliet' is not only about conflict – it's about love, which we felt was true to an extent, but the fighting and scenes with conflict were the most moving. The fight scene with Mercutio and Tybalt caused a few tears – mainly for the teachers.

The incredible and intense acting brought the story to life and changed our perspective on some of the characters, deepening our view of Shakespeare's message and original ideas about the play.

Thank you to Mrs. Melendez for organising such an inspiring trip.

Ollie Leonard, Travis Helps and Isla Moreland







## Take me to Paris

In May, our Year 8 students embarked on an unforgettable school trip to Paris, packed with adventure, culture, and fun.

Setting off in the early hours of Friday morning, excitement filled the air as students and staff began their journey to the French capital.

Saturday was a day to remember, starting with a climb up the iconic Eiffel Tower, where students took in breathtaking views of the city. This was followed by a scenic river cruise along the Seine, giving everyone a chance to admire some of Paris' most famous landmarks, including Notre-Dame and the Louvre. The day ended on a high note with a lively evening swim — a highlight for many!

Sunday saw the group head to Disneyland Paris, where students enjoyed a magical day of rides, shows, and encounters with their favourite characters. Once again, the day concluded with another much-loved swim, helping everyone unwind after an action-packed day.

The students were incredible throughout — enthusiastic, respectful, and a true credit to the school. Their behaviour, curiosity, and positive spirit made the trip a resounding success and a fantastic experience for all involved.

After a full and exciting weekend, the group returned late Monday night, tired but full of amazing memories. Paris 2025 will certainly be a trip to remember!

*Miss S Laight*







## A Future in Design

Year 10 GCSE Design and Technology students recently visited Renishaw PLC to further their understanding of computer aided design and computer aided manufacture. They were given an educational tour of the factory and had to solve a problem using their CAD skills to create a solution in a CAD/CAM challenge.

Students learnt additive manufacturing processes and how 3D printing is used to manufacture a prototype. All students produced creative CAD drawings to the best of their ability, using Tinker CAD software. They observed advanced manufacturing devices and asked questions relating to post 16 opportunities and careers in the field of design & technology.

Overall, a productive and informative day – well done Year 10.

Mr M Sadler



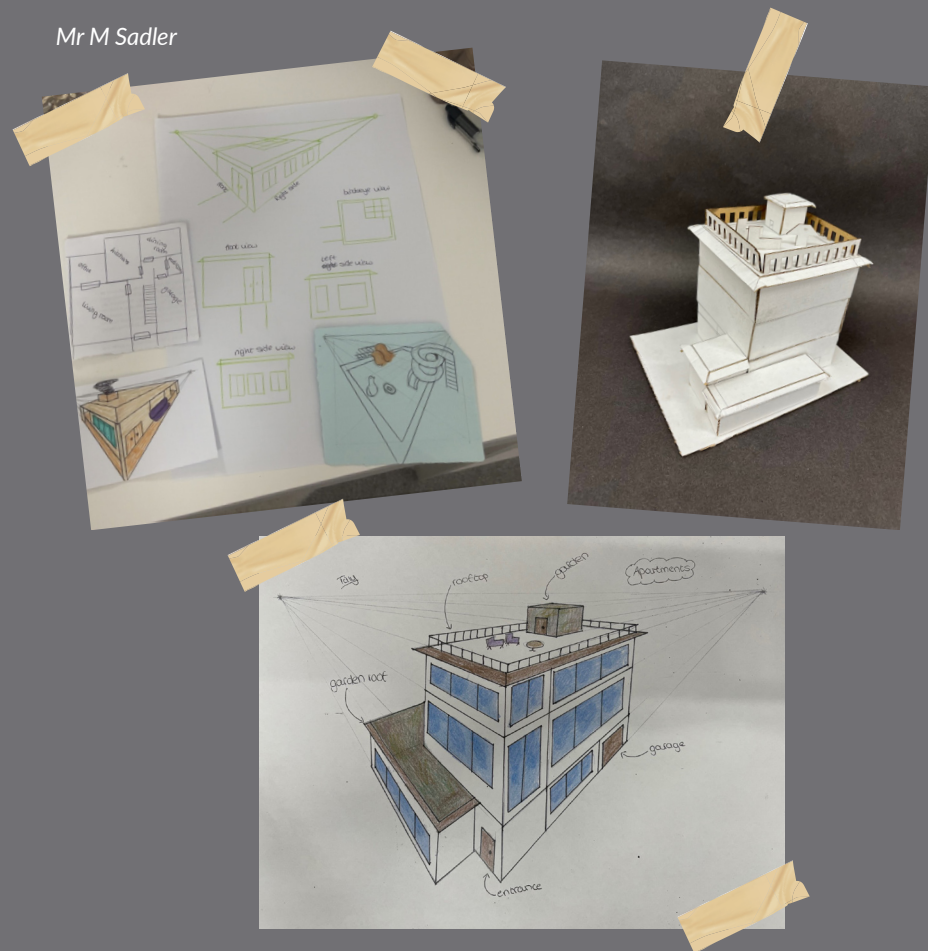
## Duke of Edinburgh

A key aspect of the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) is for participants to learn and develop new skills, pursuing hobbies or interests. With Design Technology as her choice, Tilly Hassell has completed excellent orthographic drawings and made a card model for her classwork and DoE evidence.

Her 3rd angle projections and two-perspective drawings show a high level of accuracy and skill. These types of drawings are widely used in industry to help the manufacturer understand the design. This work is clearly above GCSE standard.

Well done, Tilly, you have a clear talent for presentational drawing.

Mr M Sadler





## DataFace success

In Computing lessons in Y9, students have been competing in an in-school competition to create and present data visualisations, with the winners presenting at an event called DataFace, run by the Cheltenham Science Festival.

Saph Field, Kawthar Nassef and Kirsty McLeod emerged victorious with a brilliant concept attempting to find a link between literacy rates and domestic violence statistic and visualising the data on T-shirts using fabric paint handprints and a library to show the correlation.

On Monday 4th June, they presented their ideas in a convention-style setup against twelve other school teams, including High School for Girls and Cirencester Kingshill.

The girls were extremely nervous but made the finalist shortlist where they had to speak in front of a room full of industry experts and other students. They were awarded finalists' certificates and in addition, won several books for the school.

Mr C Bargh



## Maths and more...

This term some of our students went on a trip to Cheltenham to participate in an escape room. Apart from the students being impeccably behaved throughout the trip, they also managed to make it onto both leaderboards! Working as a team, solving puzzles whilst also having a fantastic time. We were even lucky enough to eat our lunch on the grass by the Promenade in the nice weather.



BEGINNER	
Penguin Patrol	40.13
HALF WIT ENGINEERS	44.52
The Flappers	46.20
MAIDENHILL PRINCE PRINCE	46.46
JUSTICE FOR ASLEY	47.20
HAPPY FEET	52.37
ICE AGE	55.39
AIRTEAM	56.16
TROUBLE TEAM	58.30
DADDY COOL	59.18
SHIPWRECKED	59.59

## Cipher club

This term in cipher club we have been working to create our own ciphers, creating symbols for each letter of the alphabet, and coding our own secret messages. We have also looked at more Caesar ciphers, dancing men ciphers and other cryptic puzzles, working together to find the hidden message. We have focused more on decoding symbols this term and have also welcomed some new members.

## Maths club

We have been incredibly busy this term with our club growing too. This term we have looked in detail at shape, angles within shapes, similar shapes and constructing art with maths equipment. We have also been doing our usual number puzzles and challenges, working as a team to solve these. What a fantastic year it has been for our club and cannot wait to see what next year brings!

Miss S Asquith

## Life's a Picnic...

Thirty-nine Year 11 students who have never had a C3 since joining Maidenhill were rewarded with a picnic in the hall. Great going guys!







## In the Mood for Food

Food and Nutrition students In Year 10, have been making classic Gâteau Paris Brest, carefully choosing pâte à choux pastry for its light, airy texture. They prepared a smooth, rich crème patisserie to fill the choux rings, demonstrating skill in balancing flavours and consistency. Using piping techniques, they expertly piped pastry dough into neat rings before baking and later filled the cooled shells with the crème patisserie, showcasing precision and attention to detail in their presentation.



Year 7 students planned, prepared and cooked pasta salad that includes all five essential nutrients to ensure it is suitable for a teenager.

Year 9 students made savoury palmiers as part of their final assessment, using rough puff pastry and demonstrating their understanding of creating flaky, layered dough. For their assessment, they chose their own fillings, allowing them to experiment with flavours and showcase creativity while applying pastry techniques.



For Year 8 assessments, students created multicultural burgers inspired by a cuisine of their choice, demonstrating skills in bread making and safely handling high-risk food. This project encouraged creativity while emphasizing important food safety practices.





## Feeling Sporty!

We had absolutely brilliant representation in events across the board from Maidenhill School on the 15th of May in the District Athletics Competition. Several members of staff from other schools commended our number of entries for girls and boys in both year groups.

Some particularly outstanding results included:

Shot Put

Will Austin (10KP) SILVER

High jump

Ben Smart (10KP) GOLD

300 meters

Jackson May (9KJ) BRONZE

A phenomenal effort by all involved!



And from the sports desk at the Prince of Wales District Athletics Championships, Cheltenham:

"Will Austin pushes the shot put 9.69 meters to win Silver!

Leyton Akhile wins Bronze in the 100-meter sprint with a time of 11.71 seconds!

Grace Hanley and Oscar Redmond secure bronze medals in the 800 meters

Ben Smart wins Bronze in the High Jump!

Olang, who earlier won his 100-meter heat with a time of 13.26 seconds gave Maidenhill a solid start, before passing to Green, who put the hammer down, blistering past Rednock and Thomas Keble to forge the tightest of leads. Kavanagh runs the bend of his life to stay a stride in front. With it all to do, Webster finds another gear in the last 40 meters to hold off the chasing pack to secure the quickest relay time and take Gold!"

## Tee-rific

Year 8 student and supreme golfer, Will Malkin, won the U14 Net competition, despite being only twelve years old!

William Malkin played in the U16s County Golf Championship today. Across the whole tournament (U16's and below) he came 19th out of 44 in the gross competition and 4th in the Net score competition. They also split this down to age groups and although William is twelve, he played in the U14 tournament. He came 5th on gross scores and joint first in the Net score

*Mr J Soper*

## Goodbye Year 11 Student Leaders 2025...



Thank you for your dedication to the school.

We are excited to see what comes next and wish you all the best.

## Hello, Year 11 Student Leaders 2026!

Molly Bradley Steele  
Cara Segelov  
Lily Winfield  
Will Austin  
Bea Marshall  
Barney Brodie  
Evie Nicholson

Elsie McNair  
Sophie Reece  
Jasmine Malik  
Libby Price  
Dolly Hall  
Kimi Love  
Owen Darlington

We have also introduced additional roles for Year 10 students of assistant student leaders. They will be working alongside the Year 11 student leaders with their projects and events. This will be particularly beneficial during busy times for Year 11 students and should allow the student leadership team to embark on more ambitious projects that can span more than one academic year.

After submitting a written application and completing an interview, the following students have been appointed as Assistant Student Leaders:

Favour Olowoleru  
Ellie Mouselli  
Millie Etherington

Clemence Charlton  
Ben Page

Congratulations to you all – you have big shoes to fill!





## You go girls!

On Sunday, 4th May, Maddy Warren and her team, Dings Crusaders, won the under 16 National Cup Final in girls' rugby with a score of 43-1.

One for the girls, Maddy and team!



Holly Cassidy has also been raking in the awards – Civic Award, Gloucestershire Volunteers Award as well as Community Award finalist.

Wow – well done!



## Thank you and Goodbye



As Y11 students said their goodbyes and thank yous, staff and students alike could be seen to wipe away the odd errant tear. Goodbye, Year 11 – you will be missed!



## Dates for your Diary

Start of term 1  
Staff INSET day  
End of term 1

Tuesday, 2nd September  
Friday, 26th September  
Friday, 24th October