

Newsletter



Christmas 2017

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter.

Once again, we have had a very busy few months at Maplesden and the new academic year has proved to be full of variety. This newsletter provides a taste of just some of the activities that the students and staff have been involved with this term.

We have recently received the first set of figures for Year 7 next year and I am pleased to announce that the school's reputation goes from strength to strength. More parents than ever before want their children to attend Maplesden Noakes. We are one of the most popular and successful schools in the area.

The sentiments of Christmas such as being together as a family and as a community are something that we work very hard to promote all year round at the school. I am acutely aware that everyone; students, parents, teachers, support staff and governors, all play their part to make Maplesden so successful and I am extremely grateful for your hard work. I am sure we are all ready for a good Christmas break and I do hope you and your family are able to enjoy the festive season.

Denise Bean, our Office Administrator is retiring after 18 years at the school! It is always emotional to say goodbye to colleagues and this is particularly the case when long serving colleagues leave. I know we will all really miss Denise and we are all grateful to her for her dedication to the school and her job. I will also miss her sense of humour and her amazing laugh!

We wish Sharon Bradley, one of our Cover Supervisors the best of luck as she is also leaving at Christmas.

In January, we will be welcoming the following staff:

Hannah Slingsby – History

Maria Onyelekere – Office Administrator

Frances Casey – Teaching Assistant

Welcome back, also to Megan Clarke who returns from maternity leave.

School finishes for the Christmas break on Wednesday 20th December at 12.30 pm. Students return to school on Thursday, 4th January - Week 1 of the timetable.

I'd like to wish everyone associated with Maplesden Noakes a peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Best wishes

Richard Owen
Headteacher

Dance and Drama

As usual, dance and drama have had a very busy couple of terms. The first half term consisted of auditions for the annual pantomime, a challenge by the Hazlitt Theatre to film and make a promo video on the Hazlitt Theatre VIP panto launch and a very busy but fantastic Year 6 open evening.

The second term consisted of a fundraising Musical Theatre showcase, a Blood Brothers workshop, two pantomime trips, the annual student pantomime and a visit and talk by the wonderful Stefan Booth; an ex-Eastenders and Hollyoaks cast member.

A night at the musicals; fundraising showcase

On 15th November 2017, The Maplesden Noakes Drama department students, and a selection of Maplesden staff, performed together in 'A Night at the Musicals'. The showcase was put on to raise money for new head microphones, to enhance and aid the range of shows and productions our drama department produces, such as our annual production, the annual dance show and pantomime. The students took part in an audition process across 2 days where Miss Mason, Mrs Fraser-Thompson and Miss Arnold chose a selection of outstanding musical songs and dances to be a part of the show.

The students were entirely in charge of the creative process and were asked to have their numbers, ready and perfected on the day of the dress rehearsal. With minimal help from the performing arts teachers, the students choreographed their own dances, with a notable performance from year 13 student Darcie Trought with Another Day of Sun. As teachers, all we did was choreograph our lively and exciting group numbers and the rest was created by our brilliant students.

A selection of Maplesden Noakes staff graced us with their performances, including Miss Kemp with her performance of I Dreamed a Dream from Les Mis, Miss Moody with Son of a Preacher Man from Son of a Preacher Man the musical and Miss Arnold with Purred from the Addams Family and Memory from Cats. Our students also wowed and thrilled our audience with an excellent line up of knock out musical classics. Some notable performances were year 10 student Maddie Lambley with Somebody to Love from We Will Rock You, Willow Pochin with Burn from Hamilton and Devon Cable with Someone Like You from Jekyll and Hyde. Due to the hard work and dedication of our staff and students, we raised over £600 on the night and we are thrilled with the fantastic performance and the generosity of our audience, we hope to be able to purchase a head mic to make our future performances just that little bit more brilliant.

Blood Brothers workshop led by Mike Southern

On Thursday 9th November, Mike Southern, who played Sammy in Blood Brothers in the West End for 10 years, came into the school to run several workshops. The first workshop was with our Year 10 GCSE drama students who are currently studying the play as part of their course and exam syllabus. The second workshop was with all BTEC drama and GCSE drama students and the third, was with drama teachers from across Kent. This is the third time we have invited Mike in to run workshops and as per usual, the students and staff thoroughly enjoyed exploring the musical and characters with Mike as an inspiration due to his own role within the musical itself. Sian Fearn, GCSE drama student said "It helped me understand Blood Brothers clearly and I enjoyed exploring the social context of the musical whilst having fun"

Two pantomime trips

We have been lucky enough to see two professional pantomimes this term (with one of them; we saw it twice!) On Wednesday 29th November, we took the year 12 and 13 sixth form performing arts students to see Peter Pan at the Marlowe theatre in Canterbury.

On Friday 1st December, the sixth form business challenge, Hazlitt Theatre group were invited to the VIP night of their pantomime, Cinderella and then on Tuesday 5th December, we went back to see this wonderful show again as part of our partnership, only this time, we took our very own cast along to be inspired by watching their own characters on the stage professionally.

We thoroughly enjoyed both pantos, but extra credit goes to the Hazlitt this year and it really was the best panto yet; with the strongest cast to date and hilarious jokes and characters.

Inspirational talk by Stefan Booth

As part of our new and exciting partnership with the Hazlitt Theatre, Stefan Booth (Hollyoaks and EastEnders star) who is currently playing Prince Charming in the Hazlitt's pantomime of Cinderella, offered to come in and talk to the drama students about the acting world and industry. On Friday 8th December, he spoke with all the Year 9 to 13 drama students and inspired and motivated them to follow their dreams of performing. It was an absolute pleasure to have Stefan in school and a thrill to see how engaged the students were in his talk. Stefan has kindly offered to come back anytime as he too, was also inspired by the passion from our students. Maddie Lambley, Year 10 GCSE drama student said, "It was a wakeup call because I realised that I'm not going to be happy if I don't follow my dreams and do things in life that aren't my passion".

Forthcoming events in dance and drama

Tuesday 9th January: The MNS dance company will be performing at the Orchard Theatre showcase 'Once upon a time'

Wednesday 17th January: Student Pantomime

Thursday 25th January: Fundraising quiz (please follow us on Facebook for further details) and come and support us by taking part so we can raise money for more head mics.

I will be going on maternity leave in February half term, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my students good luck in their exams and thanks staff in my department for being so supportive and helpful as always.

Miss Mason

Head of Performing Arts

Health & Social Care

All our Health and social care students have been busy working on completing their coursework and achieving a high standard of work.

Year 11 students have had 'Don't Abuse the Booze' come in to talk to them about the dangers of drinking too much alcohol. The students had an opportunity of trying on some beer goggles and practising some first aid.



Year 9 and Year 12 students had the opportunity of having a training session with Dementia Friends, which was interactive and gave the students an insight of what living with Dementia is like.



Year 13 students had various professionals from social services visit. There was also a visit from Lindsey who works at the Oliver Fisher Trust Neo-natal unit at Medway hospital. She discussed the role of a neo-natal nurse and what the special care unit does.



Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported their son or daughter this year with their Health and Social Care course.

Modern Foreign Languages

Primary School Links - To celebrate Christmas, our lovely Year 9 French reindeers went to work with the Year 2 elves. They taught them how to say the weather and then practised a play in French about how Santa can't deliver his presents due to snow! Izzy Hall and Yahya Amarzouk were very convincing as Santa. The Year 2 students performed with the year 9 and sang the French version of Jingle Bells.

Elite Linguists - As part of the festive celebrations, the MFL department also had a Christmas breakfast with the Elite linguists. Everyone enjoyed a continental breakfast with pain au chocolat and Panetone and a hot cup of hot chocolate.



Year 10 Visit Maidstone Careers Fair



On 8th December 60 of our Year 10 students visited the careers fair held at the Maidstone Market Hall. The event showcased a range of local colleges, training providers, universities and employers to help students explore future options. They also attended a presentation on apprenticeships and were able to talk to different providers of apprenticeships. Two prizes of £20 were won by George Bristow 10L and Lucy Shaw 10L – fantastic for Christmas!

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

On Wednesday 13th December, a number of students in Year 11 attended the Duke of Edinburgh Award evening at Kent County Showground to collect their Bronze level certificates. All participants worked incredibly hard completing volunteering, taking up a physical activity, learning a new skill and completing a 2 day expedition on the North Downs. The students included Elly Booth, Grace Brooks, Dayna Chalklen, Mia Neaves, Abbie Plummer, Brendan Pyke, Bluebell Watts and Macey Willard.

Year 11

Well done to all year 11 students for completing their mock exams. All students and parents have now received a detailed guide of revision resources, which can be used to support exam preparation into the New Year.

Kent Fire and rescue visited our year 11's on the 17th November to discuss the dangers of impaired driving. Students had the opportunity to take part in a question and answer session with the emergency services and hear the accounts of the first responders.

Mrs Pope
Head of Year 11

Maplesden Sixth Form

This summer, Maplesden Sixth Form students achieved the best ever results with more students than ever achieving top grades. In fact, 31% of our students achieved A*-A grades, outperforming some local grammar school sixth forms and placing us among the very best sixth forms in Kent.

Destinations Success

We have had another successful year with regards to university. Two of our high achievers were Megan Lloyd and Emily Yandle: Megan has gone to the University of Lincoln to study Psychology and Emily is studying Consumer Behaviour and Marketing at the University of Reading. Other destinations include Warwick, Exeter and Kent with students studying anything from Mathematics to Social Anthropology. Many of our students have chosen courses in Psychology, Philosophy or Sports. We are very proud of all our students who have embarked upon study at university and congratulate them for their hard work in achieving excellent A Level and BTEC results.

We are also incredibly proud of our students who have secured Higher Level Apprenticeships. More and more students are choosing to embark on apprenticeships for their progression post-sixth form; this year students have taken up positions in digital marketing or with KCC as well as in construction and business and marketing. We offer support for apprenticeship applications throughout Year 13 and are looking for ways to continually ensure students receive the best advice and support with these crucial decisions.

Sixth Form Applications

Any Year 11 student who is considering an application to Maplesden Sixth Form should be completing these online now. If you have not done so already, please logon to the UCAS Progress website www.ucasprogress.com/search and submit your application before the end of the Christmas break.

Sixth Form Committee

The time of year has come again when we select a Sixth Form Committee; this group of students represents the Sixth Form in various ways and can be called upon to share views and ideas on various factors of life at Maplesden. In a break from tradition, we have this year decided to have one Head Student and one Deputy Head Student; this is to ensure that the committee is led efficiently and that all members of the committee have a valued role. This year's Head Girl is Beth Elliott and Deputy Head Girl is Charlie-May Loft. When asked about her role, Charlie has said "I am so pleased to be made Deputy Head Girl. It is an honour and I am thrilled to be a bigger part of the school community. With this role, I hope to help the school adapt for the better. As well as helping the students have a voice."

The Committee is made up of Ryan Gudge, Julie Joram, Victoria Cousins, Isabella Ker and Alice Bentley, with Ryan Venables and Chun-Kong Chong taking a key role as our Sixth Form Ambassadors, working on charity events. The Committee is already underway with plans for the Year 13 Prom, which will take place next summer; there will also be events planned for Sports Relief 2018 as well as other charitable activities supporting fundraising for the Camp International trip to Malawi in July 2018 (actual dates TBC) and various other good causes. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to the Committee's contribution both to Maplesden Sixth Form and the school as a whole.

The Year Ahead in the Sixth Form

We are already busy with applications for the 2018 cohort of students to join Maplesden Sixth Form and students in Year 12 and Year 13 have various other activities that they are currently undertaking. Year 12 have recently joined up to the opportunities platform, Unifrog, allowing them to search for university courses and apprenticeships in their areas of interest.



Year 13 are well underway with university applications through UCAS; the deadline of 15th January is fast approaching so personal statements and references are being written in order to ensure the best offers are received.



Many students attended the Maidstone Apprenticeship and Employment Fair on Friday 8th December. We also have plans for a 'Meet an Employer' day in March 2018 for students looking at moving on to secure Apprenticeships.



Some proposed key dates for Sixth Form:

Weds 7th March IBCP Info Evening - for Year 11s considering the Business and Finance IB Diploma pathway or the Sport, Media and IT pathway.

Weds 14th March UCAS Info Evening – for Year 12 students and parents who are considering University after Sixth Form.

Weds 21st March Apprenticeship Info Evening – for Year 12 students and parents considering apprenticeships after Sixth Form.

IBCP

The new **International Baccalaureate Careers Programme** has commenced teaching in the Maplesden Sixth Form following a year-long verification process from 2016-2017. This group of students are now studying two IB Diplomas in Film Studies and ITGS alongside a double-award BTEC in Sport. So far, students have enjoyed a visit to the SmART Project in Dover to see how people from difficult circumstances are supported; they have completed critical thinking lessons and explored the ethical issues around supporting refugees in the UK. This course is open to students currently in Year 11 applying for Sixth Form in September 2018; we will be offering pathways supporting the IFS Personal Finance Certificate as well as the double-award BTEC Sport and adding the IB Diploma in Business Management.

IBCP and the Samaritan's Purse

IBCP students successfully encouraged students in Year 7, 8 and 9 to collect items for the Shoebox Appeal. Around 50 boxes were donated to The Entertainer in Maidstone to be sent off by the Samaritan's Purse and £75 was raised to fund shipment. Thank you to all those contributed and supported this venture.

IBCP at UCFB, Wembley Stadium



On Wednesday 22nd November, the IBCP students were taken by Mrs Mortley to Wembley to visit the UCFB University which is run there with accreditation by Bucks New University. The students had a tour of the stadium and were able to experience some of the lecture activities that may be available to them at the university. By learning about the



importance of networking, employability and personal attributes, the students realised the IBCP is an excellent opportunity to develop their personal attributes and learning abilities in preparation for higher education and employment.

Sporting Success

Lewis Arnold – Boxing Champion

Having boxed since he was nine years old, Lewis Arnold has recently been hugely successful in London National Novice Championships for Boxing on the 12th November. He entered the 50kg weight category and was successful in being crowned Champion of England for this weight! Congratulations Lewis!

Miri Taylor – Football

Having been a member of our SEFA Scholarship programme since Year 12, and having a very successful season in 2016-2017, Miri has just spent time at the England Women's Under 18 Training Camp. Miri has been a successful footballer since she started playing at the age of eight alongside a team of boys. She played with Chelsea for six years and signed to the Arsenal Women's Reserve team in the summer of 2017. We are very proud of Miri's achievements and wish her every success for the future!



FPTA Update

The FPTA was only formed in February 2017 and we are delighted to announce we have managed to raise a staggering £3,558.41 so far, not including our Christmas Raffle which we are hoping will total over £500 profit!

Our summer BBQ for our existing and new incoming Year 7 was a huge success and we were lucky enough to have over £1900 matched funding from Santander from this event alone. This meant we were able to provide the money to purchase new blinds for the Math's block and we look forward to showing you photos of these on the next newsletter.

We are currently quite a small committee so are limited to the events we can organise and hold. To enable us to raise as much money as possible for the school we would love to expand! If anyone wishes to join the committee (no obligation to have a role or attend every meeting) or would like to be added to our volunteer list for events please contact us via Facebook or our email address: fpashop@maplesden.kent.sch.uk. If you have any suggestions for fundraisers that you would like us to organise either for parents and families or students then please do give us your ideas. The money we raise all goes straight back into the school and we are aiming to provide resources and equipment that can be used by all students in every year.

Wish List Requests

We have contacted every department within the school, requesting a 'wish list' item that the FPTA could potentially fundraise for. So far, these range from new language resources, new head mics for drama, a specialist machine in the Science department, together with many other requests. We are compiling a list and are hoping that with each fundraising event we will be able to provide a department with their item as well as continuing to replace the blinds in each block.

Uniform Shop

Thank you for all the donations of outgrown uniform. The FPTA used uniform shop has been a huge success so far and we look forward to continuing to provide this service. Any donations can be dropped off at the school reception. If you wish to buy any items, please contact us on our email address or through our Facebook page.

Follow Us

Please come and find us on Facebook 'FPTA of The Maplesden Noakes School'

Future Events

We will be holding our first AGM meeting - date to be confirmed. Ideas for the new year include a movie night for lower school students and we will, of course, be planning our Summer BBQ.