

# MAYFIELD MESSENGER



Summer 2019



## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<b>Headmaster's Foreword ..</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sports Day .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Trips &amp; Visits .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Meet The Team .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Awards Ceremony .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Lower III Residential.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Pre Nursery &amp; Nursery ....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Troy Story.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Art.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Recycling.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Key Dates .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Contact Details .....</b>	<b>16</b>

## Headmaster's Foreword



### **M**ayfield Highlights 2018 –2019

Dear Parents,

It has been amazingly busy in the last few weeks as the Summer Term has rocketed through the final few phases at jet-propelled speed and I sit in my study trying to catch my breath as I write this. Now usually, I run through the term's highlights and the climax to the school year. I could talk about the fine weather we have had, enabling us to complete both Upper and Lower School Sports Days, and very enjoyable they were, too, with heroic performances on the fields of battle and honours being shared

around. Jeevan emerged as Victor Ludorum, while Aneesa triumphed as Victrix Ludorum. The Upper School Sports Day was won by Livingstone, while the Lower School Sports Day was won by Scott and they scooped the overall trophy. Lower III also benefited from one of those rarities – a week without rain in Wales on their adventure holiday while it bucketed it down the whole week here in Walsall – don't tell me it always rains in Wales!

I could write about our Lower III's successes that again 83% of them were offered places at grammar schools, with five scholarships offered. I could tell you that in the Key Stage Two SATs, 100% of our Lower III pupils are working at or above the national standard in writing, mathematics and science. I could tell you that in the Key Stage One SATs, after being moderated again

by the Local Authority and having all our judgements validated, that 100% of pupils in Form I are working at or above the national standards in reading, mathematics and science. Well, I'll wait until September to give you the full details and I am sure you will be impressed.

Perhaps, I should recall the Garden Party, and thank all the staff and parents for organising such a great event, particularly Mr Cook for organising such a successful 'World Cup'. Or I could remind you of all the fabulous trips the children have enjoyed: Nursery and Kindergarten at Sycamore Adventure, Transition at the Dinosaur World at the Wolverhampton Grand, Form I at the Black Country Museum; Lower II 'Go Ape', Form II sailing at Sneyd, Upper II at Cadbury World; not to mention all the visits: Lower III Bikeability, the peerless Andi Markham and his ventriloquism,

and the Queen Mary's Grammar School skiffle band, to name but a few.

I could wax lyrical about the wonderful talent on show at the Speech Festival, where the winners were: Transition, Aarush, Rohan M, Sevak and Harman. Or I could mention the Swimming Gala, with Muneet and Eesa scooping the Swimming Cups and Livingstone won the House Cup.

All of these wonderful things are only possible because of the energy, commitment and enthusiasm of the dedicated, hardworking and highly professional Staff, who have given their best to provide high standards of teaching and learning, both in school and during extra-curricular activities. We also cannot do it without the warm support of our parents and governing body.

However, I mainly wanted to focus on proudly announcing the

opening of our new school hall! It has been a dream of mine since I first stepped through the doors of Mayfield over 11 years ago. It has been a colossal team effort. The selfless and voluntary support of the governors to realise my ambitious dream. The timely intervention, expertise and authorisation of the Queen Mary's Schools Foundation Trustees to give the green light and oversee the bureaucracy and paperwork required to get the job done. The hard work of the staff to fill it with up-to-date, top of the range equipment. Thanks to the generosity of parent benefactors, such as Armaan's, Krishie's and Lower III's parents. Finally, it has been many years in the planning and less than 8 months to build. The hard work, co-operation and general bonhomie shown by all those working for Darwin Construction to give us such an amazing product. And it is an awe-inspiring facility; 3 badminton courts long, large enough

to play basketball or 5-a-side football and with the capacity to hold whole school events, such as our Parents' Information Evenings, Harvest Festival, Music concert and our annual prizegiving ceremony. In addition, it has changing facilities and a sports teachers' office. I am sure generations of Mayfield students and their parents will enjoy the use of this fabulous multi-use school hall. I see the construction of the new hall as an apt analogy for the development of our Mayfield children. Like the hall, our children need strong foundations, solidly embedded in their early years. The planning, design and construction of the new hall needed expert input from a team of specialist, staff, governors, trustees, parents and investment, just as our children need as they develop, learn and fulfil their potential through Lower and Upper School. Now the new school hall is finished, it looks lovely

and shiny from the outside, but it is not just important for the façade to look wonderful, what is inside also has to be in mint condition and all the parts have to be in perfect working order for the whole package to function, just as our Lower III students leave the school looking smart and grown up on the outside, and also with well-developed personalities and a keen moral and social understanding within, equipped for their next steps in education. Just as over the summer, our school driveway is to be relaid, so too for our Lower III students the path towards their future is yet to be

decided. With their talent and potential, anything is possible and the world is truly their oyster. We wish them all the best at their next schools and for the rest of their lives!

I was over the moon that Mr and Mrs Cook agreed to officially open the new school hall and preside over our Awards Ceremony at the end of the year. It was a fitting climax to their careers at Mayfield, the school to which they have given so much. We will always treasure their memories here and have named the new building 'The Hall of the Olympians' in honour of their huge contributions to the happiness and wellbeing

of the students, staff, parents and governors during their time here. We all wish them well in their retirement and hope they will find time to come back and visit every once in a while.

Finally, after such a frenetic end to the year, with the much anticipated Lower III production 'Troy Story' still to come, I think we will all deserve a good rest after Friday. Have a lovely summer break everyone and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Matthew Draper,  
Headmaster

## Sports Day





## Trips & Visits

**L**ower II went to Go Ape, Simran has wrote all about their adventurous trip.

Go Ape

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 lower II went to a school trip Go Ape. We quickly got onto the bus. I enjoyed the beautiful scenery, it was a bright sunny day. Finally we got there. We had to put on these special bands, if we didn't with the bands we couldn't have gone. We stepped into our harnesses and then the helpers put them on for us. We slid these metal bits into a rope and went up the stairs, there was an easy go and a hard go everybody did the easy go then they could do what ever they wanted. At the end of each go there was a zip wire then you fell into a bunch of leaves! Next we had lunch. I had Schumpian's ham sandwiches and crisps. After that we went to the playground I went on the swings and with my friends I went on the seesaw. Then we did den making, we were split into 3 groups. There was a tree and you had to lean logs against it and make a den. Then it was time to go. I really enjoyed the trip, it was the best trip ever!



**F**orm II have had a very exciting sailing adventure which links in with their class reader of Swallows and Amazons.

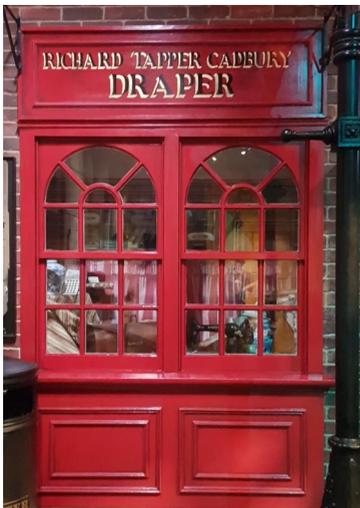




**T**ransition visited the Dinosaur World Live show at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. Daya has done a wonderful write-up of their trip.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
I can write a re-count  
On Friday we went to the theatre to watch Dinosaur Live.  
It was at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.  
We got there on a coach.  
I sat next to Reet on the coach on the coach we played <sup>trivia</sup> board games.  
When we arrived we went to find our seats and I had a kit kat and apple juice for a snack.  
The theatre was ~~excite~~ exciting for me. Because it was misty! The first dinosaur was a Theropine sauropod. He was Really friendly. He kept tickling Miranda. &  
The Micro Raptor flew in and came onto his cage he kept making a funny noise. Next was a baby ~~triceratops~~ triceratops he was ~~very~~ wrapped up in a blanket blanket because he was sleeping we shouted "wake up it's Christmas!" and then we woke up Brutus his mother so she came in she was 9 times bigger than the baby triceratops. Her huge plate protected her from getting attacked by any dinosaur! Next a baby T-Rex called Tamara was on stage she was very athletic she kept running making a fierce noise. Then her mother came on he was 10 times bigger than the baby T-Rex he she was Really fierce and there was green mist all around her.

**U**pper II went to Cadbury World where they had lots of fun visiting the 4D cinema and writing their name in chocolate! They had a great talk from the Cadbury's Education Representative telling them all about the lifestyles of



society from the time when the Cadbury brand was first created. They had a turn in the Cadabra ride sitting in their 'Beanmobiles'!



## Meet The Team - Mr & Mrs Cook



**M**r & Mrs Cook have been a part of the Mayfield Family for a number of years. It is with great sadness that we see them retire this term.

Mr & Mrs Cook have achieved tremendous success in their Olympic careers, where they represented Great Britain in a number of races.

Mrs Cook is a three times Olympic Bronze Medallist. She was awarded her MBE in 1986 by Prince Charles. In 2011 Mrs Cook was inducted into the England Athletics Hall of Fame.

Mr Cook is a World Record Holder for being part of the quartet that ran the 4x800m relay. His team mates were Sebastian Coe, Steve Cram and Peter Elliott!

But of course, the highlight of their careers must be the work they've done at Mayfield ?!

## You've been a part of the Mayfield Family for so long, what's your fondest memory of your time here?



Dance Lessons with Lower School; running with children every week in running club; having a laugh and a joke in the staff room and chatting to children and parents at the 5pm club pick up time.



I have many great memories—the friendships made, LIII residential holidays and simply being part of the great Mayfield team.

## Having been an Olympian what advice would you give to our budding athletes?



Don't waste your gift.



Enjoy your sport and don't worry about winning and losing.



## What will you miss about Mayfield?



The people—staff, children and parents.



I agree with Mrs Cook but most of all I will miss the cakes in the staff room!

## What are you looking forward to the most in your retirement?



Receiving my free old person's bus pass.



Going on holiday in September.



## Teaching or Competing?



In sports you reach your peak very early in life. I don't know if I will ever surpass what I achieved when competing but I've thoroughly enjoyed doing the job that I always wanted to do.



Hard to beat the highs of competing yourself but the satisfaction and inspiration you feel watching children you've taught compete well, is right up there too.

## Who are your idols / heroes?



Mary Peters (Gold Medal Pentathlon 1972 Olympics). I watched her on T.V as a child. Later on she was a team manager for the GB athletics team. She would walk with you from the warm up track to the reporting room for big track finals. She always made you feel calmer and said all the right things.



My hero - Kathryn Jane Smallwood. A great awe-inspiring athlete during the 1980's.

## Who would play you in a movie about your life?



Young Me: Arnold Schwarzenegger, as we both had similar physiques in our youth!!

Old Me: Richard Wilson, as I'm now like Victor Meldrew, the fictional character he played in the sitcom 'One Foot in the Grave'.



Young Me: Kiera Knightley

Old Me: Sigourney Weaver (I wish).

## What did you want to be when you were in primary school?



Simple—play football for Wolverhampton Wanderers, win the FA Cup and score the winning goal against West Bromwich Albion.



Anything that meant working with horses and ponies. My sister and I were completely horse obsessed. My younger self would be so disappointed I've never owned a horse or pony. Still time.....

## Awards Ceremony



We had an amazing Awards Ceremony where our new School Sports Hall named 'The Hall of Olympians' was officially opened by Mr and Mrs Cook.



## Lower III Residential

During the first week back after half term, Lower III had their cases packed for a fun filled week of adventure at Betws-y-Coed in Wales. Mr Watts, Mrs Smith and Mrs Inkster braved the rain alongside Lower III as they started their Welsh adventure.



The first day saw them building dens and pond dipping, before settling down for their first night.

Day 2 and the children headed to the rock pools of Criccieth Beach. They walked across the headland from Black Rock Sands, explored caves, saw a seal and collected plastic for re-cycling. They played a geography eye-spy game and looked at the effect of long shore drift and sea defences. This was all topped off



with an ice cream! Amazingly Tuesday was fairly rain free whilst we endured all the showers back home, they definitely had better weather than us! After dinner

they did a mammal trapping session.

On Wednesday they checked their traps to see if any of the local wildlife took advantage of their dry hide outs - they found a shrew and

a wood mouse.

By Wednesday the troops were getting tired so they started the day by visiting Llanberis Slate Museum where they learnt about the local area's history and watched a slate dressing demonstration. They looked at Miners



cottages across the century. In the afternoon they went Gorge Walking.

A very busy day on Thursday as Lower III walked up Mount Snowdon. Split into groups, Group 1 reached 1000m above sea level whilst Group 2 did a slightly shorter route.

The evening was spent roasting marshmallows on a campfire and playing cards.

Friday morning was spent packing and going to the local shops before heading back home.



## Pre Nursery & Nursery

In Nursery we have been measuring and weighing. We estimated the weight of objects found around the classroom and checked our findings using weighing scales. We weighed ourselves and put the children in order from the lightest to heaviest.



We have also been using different materials to measure length and width. We used tape measures, rulers and cubes. We built beanstalks out of Lego and other building blocks. We measured which groups was the tallest.

We have performed Ballet to all our Mummies and Daddies.

Pre Nursery enjoyed a fantastic trip to Birmingham Nature Centre. They were able to see otters being fed, new exhibits being built for monkeys and meerkats. They enjoyed a yummy picnic, the adventure playground and of course the ice-lolly. As we come to the end of our year. We would like to wish each and every child the best success for their journey throughout Mayfield.



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## Troy Story

An outstanding performance of Troy Story by Lower III was enjoyed by pupils, staff and Lower III parents alike. Thanks to Mrs Hatton and all of the staff involved in making this years production such a success!



## Art

On the 19th June some of our pupils went to the Highclare School's Art Competition Awards Ceremony. Krishie (Lower III) and Simran (Lower II) were both winners. Harman, (Lower III) received a Highly Commended certificate. Well done to them all!



## Key Dates - 2019



- ◆ 4th September Back to School
- ◆ 9th September Extra Curricular Clubs Start
- ◆ 23rd September Swimming Club at QM Starts
- ◆ 7th October UII Football v Hallfield
- ◆ 21st October UII Football v West House & Norfolk House
- ◆ 24th October Half Term



MAYFIELD PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
*Believe It! Achieve It!*

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