



# Steiner Academy Exeter Newsletter

Issue No 65 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

## Dates for your Diary

For meetings outside of school hours please use the West Garth Road pedestrian gate to access the site.  
All evening meetings start at 19.30 unless indicated

Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> April	First day back  Easter Celebration 2.15 parents invited.		Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> April 16.00 - 17.30	PTFA Annual General Meeting
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Class 6 camp at Ruskin Mill		Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Work Day
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	Class 9 French trip		Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Work Day		Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fair

An A5 booklet will be sent out at the beginning of term with the terms dates and general information.

## Let's make some bread!

Class 3 have helped a pony harrow the soil and have patiently waited for weather conditions to be right for their wheat sowing. We have sown it with cornfield flowers and will scythe it and make bread in September to share at Michealmas. Thank you to Cope Organic Seeds for their kind donation. Sue Neal and Pete Craige, Class 3 teachers.



## Congratulations to Steiner Academy Hereford: a slower start really does work.

Most parents are familiar with the idea that formal learning starts later in Steiner schools, indeed for many this is one of the things that attracts them.



The STEINER  
ACADEMY  
Hereford

It is a 'slow-burn, late flourish' approach. This can bring problems when outsiders, and of course this includes Ofsted, look at the rate of progress further down the school and question our methods: why are the children not all reading by the end of class three? Why are SATS results at the end of class five (Y6) lower than in other schools? Why is the education failing the children?!

Of course it is not failing them. The slow start means that learning can arise out of activity, creativity and enthusiasm. When you have learned this way as a child it will stay with you for life: you will be more able to learn by doing, by getting stuck in and with real passion for the rest of your life.

This year the government has started to judge schools on the *progress* that children make rather than just their *attainment*. We have all seen league tables or banners on school fences proclaiming 'Congratulations: 85% of students achieved GCSEs at A\* - C!!' Good news, surely, but actually these figures may hide a *lack of progress*, maybe these students were capable of far more when they joined the school in question. Similarly, a school in which a low percentage of students achieve good grades may have done a wonderful job at bringing the students on and supporting their development.

The government now looks at progress by comparing outcomes from SATs in class 5 (Y6) with GCSE results in class 10 (Y11). How far has the individual student come during this time? Well guess what: according to results from the Steiner Academy Hereford (SAH) they get further in that time than in many comparable settings, in fact, to quote from the official results:

'... the overall P8 score places the academy in the 1<sup>st</sup> rank of schools nationally and was in fact the second highest score in England. The value added score (EBAC) was the highest nationally;'

(P8 refers to 'progress eight' i.e. across the eight GCSEs the students sat. EBAC refers to the five core subjects within the eight which comprise the English Baccalaureate).

The Department for Education data then breaks this down further:

'.....the overall P8 score in English and mathematics was significantly higher than nationally placing the academy in the 1<sup>st</sup> rank nationally in both subjects;

P8 scores in the science, languages and humanities pillars was significantly higher than nationally.'

Of course our colleagues in Hereford are rightfully proud of their achievement. Unfortunately we will not have data to make such a comparison for another five years (when our current class 5 get their GCSE results.), but we expect to see a similar level of progress. One final statistic: as a general rule, the longer the students had been at SAH rather than at other schools, the greater their progress and attainment. Alan Swindell, Principal

### Safeguarding our children

Please help us keep your children safe. At pick up, especially in Kindergarten, please make eye contact with the staff member who is handing your child back to you. Please then greet your child, keep them close to you and leave the garden area promptly. This can be a tricky transition time for some children and they need your support to leave the grounds safely. Please also be aware of which children you are leaving with as we had a younger sibling join another family group and leave with them this week. Sarah O'Neill, Safeguarding.



## Volunteering opportunities available next term!

Volunteering is a welcome support for our school and an opportunity to engage more with the SAE site and community. We already have some wonderful volunteers and are now establishing roles for more to help provide the richest opportunities for our children.

For example we will be looking for regular helpers to cover the following duties in the summer term:

- Kindergarten gate at drop off
- Playground break-time cover
- Playground lunchtime cover
- Lunch hall assistants

Volunteers will be needed who can commit to at least one shift a week though there will also be opportunities to help with tasks on a more ad hoc basis or offer particular skill sets.

We are aiming for inductions, training and DBS checks to take place early next term.

Please consider your availability and any relevant skills you may have to offer and email [volunteer@steineracademyexeter.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@steineracademyexeter.org.uk) if you are interested or have any queries. Please note this email will be looked at after Easter. Many thanks, Helen Jacoby, Volunteer Coordinating Team

## Thank you

To parents Paul Quinn, Megan Smales, Chloe Wilson and Helen Jackson did an amazing amount of work this week clearing and grading a big pile of timber at end of lower car park to create a space for our future bee keeping. **Pete Cragie, Gardening.**

## Poetry Festival

The poetry festival held in school as part of the national Poetry by Heart competition was a stunning example of the heart and will within school, as well as the talent. Classes 5-8 sat respectfully and attentively as those students who had learned poems delivered them with elan and gravitas.

The first round saw: Blue Medeema performing **Remembrance**, by Emily Bronte, Kaya Ballantyne performing **Proud Maisie**, by Walter Scott, Zena Ahmed performing **Slavery: a poem**, by Hannah More, Sammy Hosgood-Hayes performing **A Frog's Fate**, by Christina Rossetti and Fleur Perry performing **The Witch**, by Mary Elizabeth Coleridge.



As an interlude between pre and post 1914 poems, **Wind**, by Ted Hughes was performed in chorus by 6 Class 6 students: Laura Ewings, Blue Medeema, Sapphire Medeema, Lauren Laurenson and Amie Sanders. This was a masterclass in recitation and teamwork.

The second round saw: Sapphire Medeema performing **Two Pages**, by Choman Hardi, Kaya Ballantyne performing **The Beast in the Space**, by W.S. Graham, Zena Ahmed performing **Originally**, by Carol Ann Duffy, Sammy Hosgood-Hayes performing **Considering the Snail**, by Thom Gunn, and Fleur Perry performing **Dusting the Phone**, by Jackie Kay.

Fleur will now represent the school in the national competition. Many thanks to all concerned, and especially to Danny for videoing the event, as well as Fleur's competition piece.



To round off, Fran led two Class 8 groups in performances of 'See Fire' and 'Not the Only One', that were previews of the Class 8 Project extravaganza on Friday 19th May, between 4-8pm - all welcome - maybe

one for the diaries! Paul Hougham, English Lead

## Class 2 - caring for the homeless

Class 2 have been learning about Saints recently and out of this we have decided to raise as much money as we can to help homeless people in Exeter.

To do this we are going to be knitting as many squares as possible and then sewing them together to create a warm blanket for someone who lives on the streets of Exeter.

Please sponsor us either per square or for the whole project. We feel passionately that people shouldn't be cold and lonely and we want to help as many as we can. Some of the money raised will pay for the wool (although we are asking local shops and our parents for donations) and the rest will go St Petrocks who help the homeless and vulnerably housed. Thank you for any help you can give. You can sponsor us via

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/saeclass2?utm\\_id=2&utm\\_term=73jz599Yy](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/saeclass2?utm_id=2&utm_term=73jz599Yy) or we individually have sponsorship forms. Class 2 and Simon Berkley, Class 2 teacher



## Easter Celebration

All parents and families are invited to our Easter Celebration on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April (first day of term) at 14.15 - 3.45. If your child is not in school that day you are welcome to pick your child up and attend. Those in afternoon care in class 1 will be coming along and some of the Kindergarten children.

Please:

- Children to wear yellow
- To bring in hard boiled and/or blown eggs if directed by individual teachers.
- Make Easter Bonnets during holidays, to wear for the festival



If you could help to tidy up during last 15 mins, when children return to their classrooms at the end of the day, it would be much appreciated!

During the festival, please use the toilets by reception in Thomas Hall only. Jess Lynch-Thewless, Easter Festival Coordinator

## **Finance Update No 12**

### **5 Year financial budget projections and the new School Funding Formula**

In March last year, we asked parents if they would be able to make voluntary donations to a fund to be used to support the school revenue budget. At the time this may have seemed a strange request, but since then more and more headlines in the press have alerted parents of the challenges facing all schools, and more and more schools have started making similar requests for support. Others have been forced into making drastic cuts, including laying off staff, increasing class sizes, decreasing the length of the school day or term and dropping subjects.

Our school has recently updated its five year financial plan - but we still do not know the effect the Department for Education's proposed new School Funding formula will have on our income: the details of which are expected to be announced in summer 2017. As a growing school we have a slight advantage over established schools or those with a falling roll, but it is still a very difficult time financially for all schools, including our own.

This new funding formula will come into effect in 2018-19 - the first year will be a transitional year, giving time to allow local authorities to adjust to budgetary change and continue to set local formulae. 2019-20 will see the new national funding formula implemented in full. Due to the nature of redistributing limited financial resources, inevitably some schools will see their overall funding reduced (estimated to be 42% of all schools), whilst other schools will see their funding increase. To ward against schools having significant gains or losses, it is proposed that no school can lose more than 3% of its funding and no school can gain more than 5.5% overall. To complicate matters, the new national funding formula is being proposed at a time when all state schools are feeling the effects of increased costs. Over the past five years, the education budget has been protected from cuts, rising in line with prices. This is no longer the case. While the government has not cut the education budget, inflation and therefore the costs of running schools has increased, and the same amount of funding is no longer stretching as far. A report by the National Audit Office has estimated that schools will face cuts of 8% in real terms by 2019-20. Some educators speculate that even schools that are likely to gain under the new national funding formula will see any extra cash going straight to paying for increased costs.

#### **How will this affect our school?**

Devon has historically been one of the lowest-funded education authorities in England. For next year (17/18) we have just been notified that the per pupil amount has been reduced by 1% representing a drop of £16,000 and the Education Services grant has been removed with a drop of £17,000. Supposedly from 18/19 there could be a potential increase in the amount per pupil funding to bring it into line with other authorities. Each school also receives a lump sum (Local authority based) and for our school this looks likely to reduce from 2018 from £145,000 to £110,000. The overall picture is therefore uncertain but looks unlikely to be a positive one.

#### **What does the 5 year plan show?**

At present the 5 year plan is showing a consistent shortfall each year. This has just been made significantly worse by the £33,000 reduction for next year outlined above. To remedy this a number of exercises similar to last year are required. Some cost saving measures and budget trimming will be necessary, as well as focussing on increasing our income from PTFA fundraising, school premises external lettings, the development of the summer language school, and general donations.

#### **Additional Voluntary donations**

In our appeal for voluntary donations last year we received a range of gifts to help support our revenue budget. Some families agreed to offer £3 weekly by standing order, whilst others have made monthly donations. A big thank you to those that have paid into the account. It is still our intention to provide information through the website on specific areas that people can contribute towards. We are still

waiting for final confirmation from the Education Funding agency on the school's final capital grant (as part of the school's one off opening grants). Once received it will be much easier to know what capital equipment and projects we will need to fundraise for.

If you also feel that you are able to make donation to support the school (or have friends or family that might like to) and help increase our income - the account to pay your donation to is called the 'Steiner Academy Friends account' Sort Code 30-80-37 account number 25805163. If you do make a donation please email/ring me so I can send you a Gift Aid form. This allows the school (as a Charity) to reclaim tax you may have paid on income and effectively increases your gift by 25% and of course to thank you!



For any communication regarding finances please email [mark.eyers@steineracademyexeter.org.uk](mailto:mark.eyers@steineracademyexeter.org.uk)) or ring me on 01803 762783 **Mark Eyers, Finance**

## Easter Work Days



Do you have any spare time over the Easter holidays? We need to move lots of items around the site when there are no children around. If you would like to get involved with moving building materials, furniture, logs, etc., then please contact Stuart or Alice to discuss what days and times you can help us... 01392 757371 ext 209. Thanks.

## Marco Polo - Class 7

Are there any parents who took photos of Class 7's play this week and are willing to share them with the school? We would love to have a feature in the next newsletter and photos always complement the words! Please contact Katie Young [katie.young@steineracademyexeter.org.uk](mailto:katie.young@steineracademyexeter.org.uk).

## Community News, Events and Advertising

*Disclaimer: Placement of advertisements does not imply endorsement by SAE of the products or services offered.*

### Come and dance in May and raise funds for Katie P

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2.30 - 5.00, Shillingford St George Village Hall EX2 9QW. Please wear white or spring colours with flowers in your hair. Donations to cover costs much appreciated.

### Carer Wanted

For Katie Panichelle and/or her 3 children. This is a paid live-in position.

Are you/do you know of the right person who could care for a lady with a serious illness or her children aged 5, 4 and 19months? Sensitivity to the children's emotional needs is paramount and a supportive attitude of integrative/holistic choices is essential. Email Jason Daly for more information: [jason.k.daly@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jason.k.daly@hotmail.co.uk)

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting us both practically and in other ways and for all the kind thoughts/prayers/healing you are sending Katie at this challenging time X

### Cob and lime building course at SAE

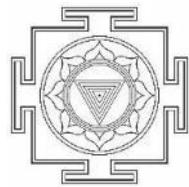
Sat May 13<sup>th</sup> 09.00 - 17.00. Cob and Lime building course to learn how to repair and maintain the walled garden wall.

Taught by master craftsman Matt Le Breton. <http://www.lebretontraditional.co.uk/> Cost - £20 - children over 9 welcome (and free) please no under 9's. Contact Vicki Watts to book a place.

[victoria.watts@steineracademyexeter.org.uk](mailto:victoria.watts@steineracademyexeter.org.uk)

**Cottage in Mallorca** with small swimming pool, sleeps 6 (+ 2 in independent cottage outside) surrounded by fields but in walking distance to delightful village square, with bank, chemist and shops. 20 minutes by car from the airport and with good bus and train connections all over the island. Two families could go together but be independent. See <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/430885> for details, but much lower rates will apply  
Graham Kennish [kennish46@gmail.com](mailto:kennish46@gmail.com)

**Therapeutic Massage and Healing** Ayurvedic, Aromatherapy and Soul Therapy. *Tailoring sessions to suit your needs. Working with many dis-eases including muscle ache, fibromyalgia, cancer, depression, stress and tension, insomnia and fatigue.* Available in Exeter and Buckfastleigh Call Katrina Shee-Han 07518170727/01364 643117



Heartsong  
SONGS OF  
PEACE, FREEDOM AND JOY  
Including Gospel, Harmonic Temple , Contemporary, Taize  
WITH ALISON WHITTALL  
Jan 29th, Feb 26th, March 26th  
LAST SUNDAY IN THE MONTH  
7pm - 9.30pm  
Friends Meeting House, Wynard, Magdalen St EX24HU  
Harmonies taught by ear, no experience necessary  
Cost £10 (£7 conc)  
[alising@btopenworld.com](mailto:alising@btopenworld.com)

**CREDITON COMMUNITY CHOIR (NEW)**  
Led by Alison Whittall  
Mondays 7.30pm - 9pm  
Vibrant, eclectic, exhilarating harmony singing including world music  
Contemporary, gospel, jazz, pop, sacred, folk.  
Songs in English - easy and accessible with challenge also!  
Tips and warm ups to improve your voice.  
**FUN and UPLIFTING**  
Songs with heart, beauty and passion.  
All ages welcome. No experience necessary.  
Come and enjoy your voice and each other!  
'Unbounded joy' says a choir member  
£60 per term (£50 conc) £5 taster session  
[alising@btopenworld.com](mailto:alising@btopenworld.com)  
[www.alising.co.uk](http://www.alising.co.uk)  
Crediton Congregational Church EX173LF

**For Sale** - currently on the market for 20000 euros excluding agent and notaires fees but willing to take offers.

Small chalet in Sarthe about 15 miles south of Le Mans, between two villages both with small supermarkets and the larger with butcher, pharmacy, boulangerie and hairdresser as well as a small lake resort with manmade beach and bar restaurant. Two main rooms; living/kitchen area and bedroom with ensuite shower and toilet. No mains electricity, but mains water. Quarter acre garden with fruit trees and two sheds, one lockable and one open fronted. Enough room to park mobile home/caravan. Sold fully furnished. Very private and enclosed in quiet area surrounded by farmland and woods. Contact Yvette Banks [ybanks57@gmail.com](mailto:ybanks57@gmail.com)



**Reflexology & Meridian Therapy**  
**Yeoford, Crediton**  
*Restoring balance to body, mind, emotions and spirit.*  
**Gina Hurley**  
[www.journey-into-healing.co.uk](http://www.journey-into-healing.co.uk)

## An Introduction to Anthroposophy

*from the inner to the outer path.*

### What does Anthroposophy offer?

How do we develop qualities we wish to aspire to?

How can it serve us in our practical work in the world?

We hope to explore these questions together in an experiential way. The facilitators will introduce the sessions within a biographical framework.

#### Facilitators

Nicholas White: Eurythmist

Derek Lapworth: Secretary of the local Anthroposophical society

A one day experiential workshop.

On Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, 9:30am - 4:30pm  
At the Christian Community, Buckfastleigh.

Cost £10

Please bring a lunch to share.

For bookings and further information please contact Derek Lapworth on 01364 644 010



**Aughadreena**  
Fanad  
Co. Donegal  
Ireland



Aughadreena - on the 'Wild Atlantic Way'.

Enjoy the beauty of the North West: spectacular beaches, headland walks with unrivalled sea and moor views - a warm welcome awaits you at Aughadreena, comfortable B&B near Port Salon. Surfing, sea-kayaking, cycling (bikes available), all within easy reach. Friendly pub with great Guinness and food close by down on the beach.



For more information, please email [aughadreena2017@gmail.com](mailto:aughadreena2017@gmail.com) or telephone Lucinda on 07933 621 136.

## Creative Contemplations

*Is it a meditation thing that is really about crafting, or a crafting thing that is really about meditation?*

Come and find out... there are many paths to wellbeing – and these are two of the best!

Evenings in Exeter and near Okehampton (suggested £3 donation)  
Day retreats in Exeter (inc veggie lunch and afternoon tea), £35

Weekend retreats in the South West from £135

Donation to Steiner Academy, Exeter, for every day / weekend retreat booked from this advert

Visit: [www.creativecontemplations.co.uk](http://www.creativecontemplations.co.uk) Email: [karen@creativecontemplations.co.uk](mailto:karen@creativecontemplations.co.uk) Tel:01837 849103

