



SAE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 101 17TH JANUARY 2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 25 th Jan	Ben Bradshaw MP visiting school
Tues 29 th Jan 09.30	Parent Forum, chair -Richard Brazier PTFA
Tues 5 th Feb 16.00 - 17.30	Class 2V, 3 & 6R 1-1 parent meetings, main hall.

Thurs 7 th Feb 16.00 - 17.30	Class 2V, 3 & 6R 1-1 parent meetings, main hall.
Mon 18 th - Fri 22 nd Feb	Half term

KINDERGARTEN LUNCHES ARE HAVING AN INCLUSIVE IMPACT



“COOPERATIVE, IMAGINATIVE, SOCIAL PLAY, MOTIVATED AND HAPPY CHILDREN”



Janni Nicol the Early Childhood Executive Officer for the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship has finished her second short visit to Exeter Steiner Academy Kindergartens and during the feedback she said "I am amazed how many constructive changes have already been made since my last visit in November. Some of the suggestions that I made have been carried out along with many new initiatives and improvements that Tamsin the KG Lead has implemented. I visited all the KG classes for only a short time but during the visits I saw some cooperative, imaginative, social play, motivated and happy children, evidence that learning is taking place and good engagement from teachers who have made changes in a very positive and constructive way. In the main, it was much calmer with a cooperative atmosphere due in some part to the new behaviour care plans that have been put in place and the impact of recent training. It appears that the needs of the children are being met in a much more inclusive way. The new lunch rhythm is already settling down in a very short time with children and teachers beginning to know what to expect. I was amazed at how much the children ate! It would be wonderful if some fundraising could take place for more equipment including some games and puzzles, as well as cameras to enable the staff to evidence some of the amazing work that children are doing during the day to share with parents. It is early days but if this improvement continues in the way it has begun I believe the Kindergarten is on the way to a much better Ofsted outcome."

NEWS FROM THE KINDERGARTENS

In Elmwood this week we have made great progress with our hobby horses and have even had a unicorn join the medley- photos to follow. The children are enjoying puppet shows of Baboushka and lunch has been a big success for all.

In Cherry Tree we have been enjoying the walk to and from the lunch hall: counting the steps as we climb

(there are 37!), listening to the birds singing and feeling the first hints of spring in the air. This has matched our early-spring circle songs beautifully. We have also made look-out spots in our small room by cutting holes in paper and sticking the sheets on the window, for spotting birds in the trees behind the kindergartens.

Candlemas is approaching and the kindergartens love to celebrate this festival with candle dipping and planting spring bulbs! We will give further details very soon

WELCOME TO OUR NEW VICE PRINCIPAL



I am Lyndsey Kane and I am delighted to be joining the community of staff, students and parents at The Steiner Academy, Exeter. I am a mother of 2 children - Pierce who is 14 and Darcy who is 10 - both of whom keep me on my toes and keep a smile on my face! I am very much looking forward to working closely with all of you to ensure that all who work at and attend The Steiner Academy Exeter have the very best experiences and opportunities. I shall be focussing mainly on the welfare of the students including improving student behaviours, attendance and the support we are offering all of our students by working closely with parents, staff and students to remove any obstacles, which may stand in their way.

I have been in education for over 25 years, fulfilling a number of roles. Initially I trained as a teacher of Modern Foreign Languages - German, French and Italian with a specialism in Special Educational Needs. I have undertaken a number of roles over the years, in addition to being a teacher; Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Assistant Principal responsible for Teaching and Learning, Behaviour and Inclusion, Head

of 6th Form, Vice Principal and most recently the role of Principal in a school in Torquay and North Devon. I am passionate about young people being given the opportunities and support to be the very best that they can be and I am very much looking forward to working closely with all at The Steiner Academy, Exeter to help them achieve this.

“AYLA WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMITMENT AND POSITIVITY”

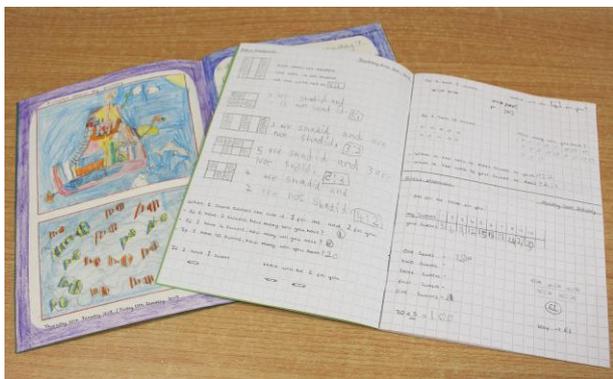
Well done to Ayla who performed in Jack and the Beanstalk at Exeter Northcott Theatre which was seen by over seventeen and a half thousand people.

“You (Ayla) demonstrated a calm and sensitive approach throughout and you have taken on the challenging direction with understanding and maturity....we thank you for your super attitude and for being a pleasure to work with.”



MILAN - YOU HAVE WORKED SO HARD!





MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

I am just about to head over to Upper School assembly with Aegir, as he says farewell to the Upper School, and I, with Hannah, present the awards system. In the uncertain times we are living in as a school there are many opportunities for courage and dignity, and I am grateful for the connections and relationships that I am surrounded with on a daily basis, from parental communications in the diversity of your experience and the professional camaraderie within a plurality of educational approaches. Lyndsey Kane has made a significant and positive impact in her first five days in school and I am confident that our increasing clarity around systems and processes that support your children's wellbeing will take another major step forward.

The awards system that Upper School colleagues have developed is excellent. Clearly, an off-the-shelf rewards system wouldn't work within a school that values individualism so highly. At another review of our provision that last Monday, our visitors were very taken by pupils' appreciation and articulation of the school's support for their individuality, and this central thread of culture is core to our pedagogical work. Accordingly, our version of a rewards system I have suggested we bill as "Honouring Visionaries" so that we can authentically promote, cultivate and recognise significant steps forwards for individual pupils. I will be asking Hannah to share more about this in next week's newsletter, but for the moment, would like to thank Hannah, Tracy and the rest of the Upper School team for their work.

I go to the Upper School assembly from a meeting with the PTFA. It is so valuable that you as a parent body have taken the steps to more formally gather and express your voice, and in response, I would like to share some context to various updates from the week:

Our three class teacher vacancies expanded to four this week, with news that Richard will be moving on from February half term. A concern over recruitment processes and policies in terms of dual qualifications (QTS and Steiner Waldorf certification) is something that we are planning for. Clearly we need to appoint teachers with QTS. Should we have strong applications from teachers who have QTS but limited or no Steiner Waldorf experience, we will be putting in place a CPD programme to induct them into core aspects of Steiner Waldorf pedagogy and practice.

The words from Tamsin and Jani on KG lunches are well spoken. My communication in the week making a distinction between treasured traditions and core aspects of the Steiner Waldorf curriculum would benefit from being expanded. As I said, "millet day" was always part of my experience as a Dad in Hereford KG, but I also acknowledge that all KGs have now to engage with universal free school meals. The core aspects of our curriculum in this area, using knives safely, preparing food with care, embedding rhythm in our self-regulations etc can all be met in many other ways, and the benefits of having TAs working more closely with the children has been clearly apparent this week. This distinction between treasured traditions ("millet day") and core aspects of our curriculum surfaced this week in rumours that our Class 5 might not attend the Olympics in East Sussex this summer. They will. The Class 5 Olympics, the Class 8 Play and project are not only traditions, they are intentional pedagogical projects that are key aspects of a curriculum that is designed to meet the developmental needs of children's healthy and balanced development. This discussion is something that will be developed with representatives from the PTFA over the next few weeks as we further articulate our school's vision.

I appreciate that these times are unstable, and that with the pace and demands of change and development some parents may not feel that we are as swift, comprehensive or adequate in our responses as we could be. However, I feel that the overall direction of travel is not only positive and moving towards the quality of educational provision that it is our commitment to offer, the journey itself is also offering incredible opportunities that are laying the seeds for all sorts of futures. Jordan Peterson might describe this as "self-authoring," I am impressed by the school's impetus for "honouring visionaries."

Paul

MOVING FORWARD CAMPAIGN TEAM UPDATE

Steiner Academy Exeter

Moving forward



Dear All

Our campaign [website](http://www.campaignsae.org) was launched Monday and will be regularly updated. (www.campaignsae.org)

Events

Campaign photo all families welcome - next Friday 25th Jan - meet 2.00pm at the front of Thomas Hall. Please come along to show your support. We need a strong image for the media. There will be some milling while we sort out photo permissions, sign your children up online first if you can through Arbor. Photo itself at 2.20, come mill with us!

Our next **letter writing event** will be next Wednesday 8.50am in the Panel Room - this is a crucial element of our campaign so please come have a go. Coffee, cake, pens, paper, stamps, envelopes and posting provided. Children welcome. If you can't make it to an event we now have an online [guide](#) to help.

We will be chairing the next **Parent Forum** 29th Jan 9.30am, come meet the campaign team and find out how you can get involved.

Updates

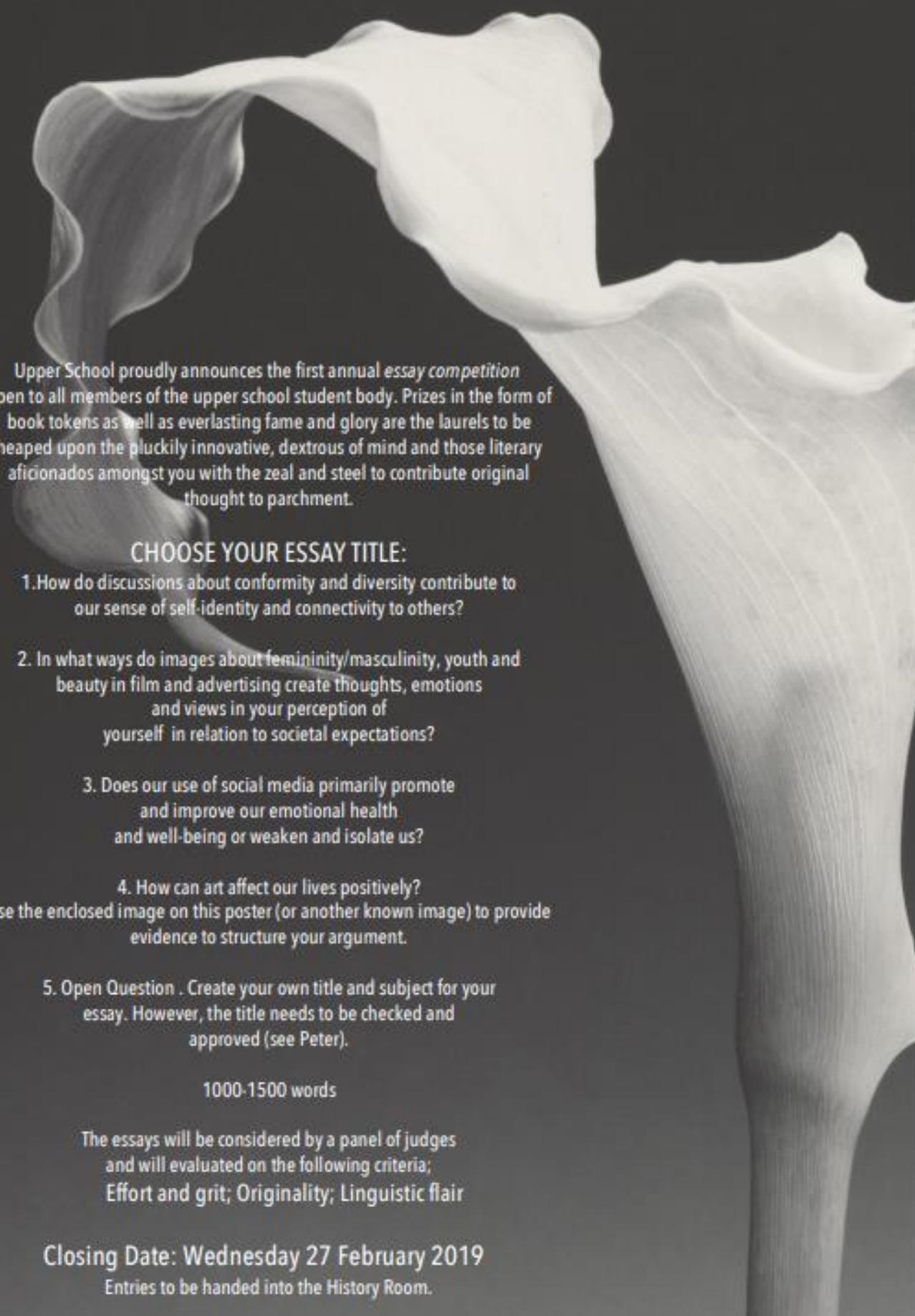
- **We are holding weekly meetings with Paul Hougham** - this week with the newly appointed Vice-Principal as well - and these are serving as strong and formal ways in which the parent and carer body can work with the school to move forwards.
- The PTFA are working with the school to improve the process and support for **volunteering** to help in classes, around the school or on class trips (for example the Class 5 Olympics trip). Paul is committed to supporting parents to help and the PTFA will find a way to expedite this. Update coming soon on this issue.
- Letter writing is making a difference - Ben Bradshaw MP is visiting the school on the 25th February, so again, please feed in points that you would like to make to Ben via the PTFA.
- The PTFA have written to Lord Agnew - the minister responsible for academies - requesting a meeting.
- We are drafting a letter to the Guardian in response to yesterday's article.
- Testimonial guide in the pipeline. Why did you choose Steiner and do you know any Steiner graduates? Get in touch.

Contact us on info@campaignsae.org

Please get involved, we need you!

Best wishes from the Moving Forwards Campaign Team

UPPER SCHOOL ESSAY COMPETITION



Upper School proudly announces the first annual *essay competition* open to all members of the upper school student body. Prizes in the form of book tokens as well as everlasting fame and glory are the laurels to be heaped upon the pluckily innovative, dextrous of mind and those literary aficionados amongst you with the zeal and steel to contribute original thought to parchment.

CHOOSE YOUR ESSAY TITLE:

1. How do discussions about conformity and diversity contribute to our sense of self-identity and connectivity to others?
2. In what ways do images about femininity/masculinity, youth and beauty in film and advertising create thoughts, emotions and views in your perception of yourself in relation to societal expectations?
3. Does our use of social media primarily promote and improve our emotional health and well-being or weaken and isolate us?
4. How can art affect our lives positively?
Use the enclosed image on this poster (or another known image) to provide evidence to structure your argument.
5. Open Question . Create your own title and subject for your essay. However, the title needs to be checked and approved (see Peter).

1000-1500 words

The essays will be considered by a panel of judges and will be evaluated on the following criteria;
Effort and grit; Originality; Linguistic flair

Closing Date: Wednesday 27 February 2019

Entries to be handed into the History Room.