



# SAE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 100 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019

## 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.

## OUR LIBRARIANS



Meet our student librarians, Jip, Karina, Lila, Poppy, Arthur, Carmen and Jim, - Marie, Mollie and Meg (Not pictured), who are doing an amazing job and have been invaluable in the re-structuring and beautification of our library.

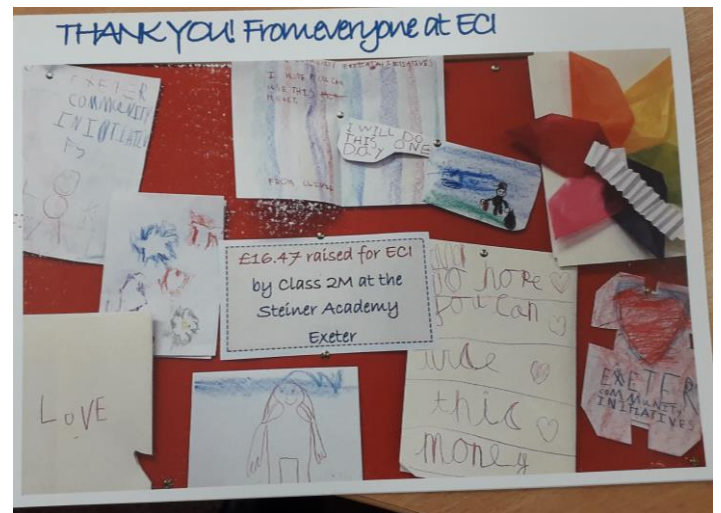
Well done guys! **Lottie Cooper, Media Tech Person.**

## CLASS 9 FUND RAISING

Class 9 are raising money to help support their educational visit this year to Iceland. They have come up with the initiative to sell cakes weekly as they also feel this can bring joy to the end of the week. Please come along and try a tasty snack to celebrate the end of a week, especially in these cold times. The cakes will be sold from outside the Nurture Room in the corner between Class 2 and 3 on Thursday's from 1545 to 1600 hrs.



## WELL DONE CLASS 2M



They raised £16.47 by selling cards for Exeter Community Initiatives.

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Dear Parents

Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of the new term. The KG team had a productive three days this week with training and time for reflection and there is a definite buzz of excitement about the year ahead.

We have some changes starting next week in Kindergarten including a new lunch time routine for our classes. From 12pm we will be walking up to the main hall to eat together. Each Kindergarten will have their own time slot so that it is not too busy, and no other classes from main school will be there at the same time.

Here are several benefits for this in terms of the children and the staff:

- staff will be more available to be present with the children across the day as they will not be expected to cook the main meal
- ensuring the provision of well balanced, nutritious meals
- children will have access to a wider variety of foods
- children will be well fed and ready to learn

- lunch will remain a social occasion of togetherness, bringing the whole KG closer as a unit
- children will become used to eating in the hall ready for when they start in Class 1.

Children will still be doing cooking during their sessions but there will not be the pressure to prepare lunch.

We are also inviting parents into the classes between 8.45-9.15. This is a time when parents are welcome to join in activities with their children in the class.

Finally, I will continue to work in my role as EY Lead and SENDCo full time for the next few weeks and then gradually reducing my days per week until the end of the summer term.

I very much look forward to working with you again.

Best wishes

Tamsin

## KG TEAM PHOTO



L-R Keeley, Hannah, Zoe, Ruth, Tamsin, Helen, Julie, Sam B, Theresa, Sam T, Genevieve (not pictured, Alex and Sophie)

We have had a joyful beginning to our Spring Term. Already one class has begun to saw and strip the bark off hazel sticks for the Sun Children's hobby horses. During ring-time and story we are introducing Babushka and the Three Kings, to celebrate the end of our Christmas celebrations and continue the spirit of kindness and giving into this New Year.

It has been wonderful to see the confidence, warmth and enthusiasm of the children in their return to school. We have also enjoyed activities both familiar and new: baking bread, exploring new puzzles, books and coloured wooden building blocks. The children discovered that that walls have been 'Lazured' and now give a pleasing gentle warmth, and that we have a new story chair; we revisited a treasured story 'The Littlest Bubble'. We are very happy to welcome new children into our classes.

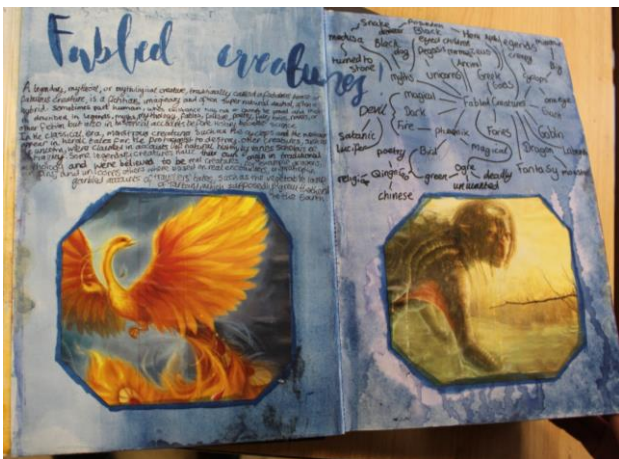


## DRESS CODE REMINDER

Although we do not have a uniform at school, we do have requirements of the pupils' dress which must be adhered to.

- All clothes should be whole and not torn ie no rips in jeans.
- All children should be tidily and cleanly dressed.
- There should be no extremes of fashion. Tops should come down below the waist. Shorts and skirts should be mid-thigh length no shorter.
- Clothing should be:
  - Comfortable and appropriate for movement, and movement lessons.
  - Plain, i.e. free of text, with no images larger than an outstretched hand (approx.) and no images of a morbid, sexual, provocative or abusive nature.
  - No thin strapped vest tops are allowed. The thicker strapped style is acceptable.
- A games kit is to be worn in games lessons from Class 4 up. ( a white top, short or long sleeved and black trousers/shorts)
- Pupils should wear a top at all times.

- Jewellery should not be worn in classes 1 - 7 or to excess in 8,9,10. Those with pierced earlobes can wear one pair of studs only.
- Jewellery worn in other pierced areas of the body (other than the earlobe) is not allowed. Children will be asked to remove those items.
- No make-up to be worn in classes 1 - 7 and only discreetly in 8,9,10. No dyeing of hair in classes 1 - 7 and only natural hair colour in 8,9,10.
- Clothing and footwear should be sensible and appropriate to the season.



Residents have been advised to contact the statutory authorities if they observe any behaviour that contravenes the Highway Code, or the local Exeter bylaws.

'Parking Zones' - To clarify there is 'No Stopping and No Dropping' from the bus stop/parking bays at the bottom end of West Garth Road to the first double driveways (area is demarcated with yellow and orange cones); there are then 'Drop Off Only Zones' on both sides of West Garth Road as far as Roundhill Close (there is a final yellow cone and a sign demarcating each of these areas). We also ask that vehicles dropping off/picking up children from school do not park in the narrow roads that lead off West Garth Road, as this causes problems for residents in these areas. **Facilities and Parking Team.**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year, and a warm welcome back to school. The at times sunny weather this week has been a particular boon, and maybe an auspicious context for our work this next year, the learning of your children, and your experience as families.

We are an unusual school in unusual times, and I hope that my positivity does not detract from the challenges some of you are experiencing as part of the uncertainty regarding the school's future, and our sometimes rocky journey away from inadequacy. My consistent message has been to honour the diversity of experience you as a parent body must be having at this time, and from that, seek to take the steps that can help us move forwards together. Thank you to the various members of the PTFA and the parent body as a whole who have taken such initiative in formally organising and representing the parents' voice, particularly as it relates to the future of the school. It is absolutely correct that, even though I have been crystal clear about my expectations and aspirations for the school as an all-through Steiner Waldorf school embracing the standards and challenge of the DfE and Ofsted, my work and that of the teaching body is to tend to the day to day quality of education.

There are a number of farewells and hellos due at this point. Most pertinently this week are farewells to both Aegir Morgan and Vicki Wren, who are not now returning to school following their resignations. Both contributed greatly to the founding phase of the school, and I know that many will miss their presence and contribution. Interviews are due over these next few weeks for the teachers of classes 2V, 3 and 4 and vacancies remain open for an Exams Officer, HLTA

## PARKING AT DROP OFF AND PICKUP

Residents and parents all agree that the Parking Rules have improved the situation immensely in West Garth Road, but it would be great if we could iron out the last few niggles, to keep the traffic flowing, ensure the safety of our children and other pedestrians so we can show we are being a 'good neighbour' to the residents affected by the school.

Please;

- Park in the direction you are travelling
- Park close to the curb
- Use the triangle to turn around

Please don't park

- too close to the corners as it makes it difficult to safely exit a junction
- across/obstructing driveways,
- blocking bus routes
- partly on the pavement (as it blocks the safe passage of pedestrians and damages the pavement)
- on the grass areas

Maths and TA posts. We welcome Claire Jefferies as SENDCO, and I am pleased that we have managed to give her a reasonable induction and neither overloaded her or scared her off. I am delighted at the tenacity and drive that she is already bringing to the post and grateful for this essential addition to our SEND team.

Kindergarten re-opened yesterday after 3 days of training for staff, and I am pleased that the sustained nature of required improvements are already in evidence and I need to especially thank Tamsin Robertson for her commitment. I am grateful too to Kindergarten staff for their responsiveness to the renewed one-team structure and to those Kindergarten parents we met on Thursday morning for your dialogue.

This term is going to be very significant for the school as we further explore the heart of our Steiner Waldorf pedagogy and share its fruits. Above you will have seen the advert for the essay competition initiated by Peter, part of a broader '*Meeting the World*' initiative unfolding in Upper School. This could be seen as an interface of enrichment / careers / progression. It may be more indicative, however, of the discursive and dialogic nature of our pedagogy, and how the overall momentum and gesture of learning across each phase of the school builds from goodness into beauty and truth. How this is then embodied and communicated by each teacher becomes the heart of collegiate work and I am sure that the visit with Steve to the Royal Marines base at Lympstone and the innovative choice by Class 8 of *Curious Incident* for their Class 8 play will bring other facets to the students' meeting of the world. Yesterday, during assembly, I asked the Upper School students if they thought there were any continents of the world that at least one of their teachers had *not* visited. I wonder how we as a school will meet the world this year, and if our future, as an 'undiscovered country,' veers more towards the interpretation from Star Trek, than Hamlet.

**PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR PTFA NEWS AND SCHOOL LUNCH MENU.**

## PARENTS AND CARERS UNITE TO MOVE FORWARDS

Over the last week a group of parents and carers, led by the PTFA, have met to agree an action plan to support the school and to ensure a future for our children at an inclusive and all-through Steiner Academy Exeter. This campaign is very much in its infancy, but is intended to empower us with positive ways that we can help and is open to all who would like to be involved. At this early stage, we have:

- Agreed a campaign action plan - a working document that sets out our objectives, namely to:
  - a. Promote the value of Steiner education
  - b. Strengthen the parent /carer body (through communication and participation) and
  - c. Influence the re-brokering process so that a suitable Multi Academy Trust is appointed to maintain an all through Steiner Academy in Exeter, which supports organisational and academic best practice and ambition and outlines a strategy by which we may achieve these objectives alongside a growing list of actions and mechanisms that many of us can get involved with.
- Convened a parent forum, wherein we shared this action plan and discussed numerous positive ways in which it could be delivered. For those unable to attend (and we know this meeting was called at very short notice) we will share the campaign action plan with all via the soon to be launched campaign website, an email to all and Facebook pages
- Written a press release emphasising the positive experience that Steiner education can deliver. If you see press articles picking this up, please do consider heartfelt and positive responses in the discussion threads that follow.
- Convened letter writing workshops (with more to follow) helping people understand how to engage their MP and other decision-makers
- Begun to build a new website, which we will launch soon giving you access to FAQ's around the progress that we and the school are making and a place to share your positive stories around the school
- Launched an email address for you to use if you want more information about the campaign, have questions for us or would like to offer help: [info@campaignsae.org](mailto:info@campaignsae.org)
- Created a youtube channel which we will use to post videos of positive school experiences for all to see
- Established a formal model for communication with the school, directly with Paul Hougham, to ensure that regular, two-way dialogue between the school management committee and the parent/carers body is enabled and can help us all to move forward and align in the same direction

If you would like to contribute to the Moving Forward, Steiner Academy Exeter campaign, please do get in touch via the [info@campaignsae.org](mailto:info@campaignsae.org) email address, or talking to us at the school gate.

Spread the word, bring your ideas and enthusiasm, let's make this campaign work.

**Rich Brazier, on behalf of the PTFA and the Moving Forward, Steiner Academy Exeter campaign**

## CLASS 2 - 10 LUNCH MENU

Week beginning	Week 1 7 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan, 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Week 2 14 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	
	Main	Desert	Main	Desert
Mon	Creamy Mushroom Pasta with seasonal greens	Homemade Cake	Pesto pasta with roasted winter veg	Homemade Cake
Tue	A mild veg and chickpea curry with brown rice	Fruity jelly with cream	Veggie shepherd's pie with seasonal green veg	Fruity jelly and cream
Wed	Seasonal soup with homemade rolls and chunks of cheese and salads	Fruity flapjack	Seasonal soup with homemade rolls and chunks of cheese with salads	Fruit yoghurt
Thu	Veggie or organic beef Lasagne with seasonal greens	Fruit	Veggie or organic beef Spaghetti bolognaise with seasonal green veg	Fruit
Fri	Pizza with a selection of salads and potato wedges	Biscuit	Homemade veggie burgers (contains nuts) in a bun with salads and potato wedges	Biscuit