



SAE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 125 20TH SEPT 2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 27 th Sept 13:00 - 14:00	Michaelmas KG celebration parents invited
Fri 27 th Sept	Michaelmas assembly for students
Sat 28 th Sept 10 - 15:00	Community work day
Wed 2 nd Oct 17:00 - 18:00	Cl 8 & 9 parents' meeting
Thurs 3 rd Oct 17:00 - 18:00	Cl 10 parents' meeting
Fri 4 th Oct 10 - 12	Yr 7 open morning
Fri 4 th Oct 17:00 - 21:00	Welcome PTFA Ceilidh
Wed 9 th Oct	Cl 9 & 10 Drama trip - Black Men Walking - Northcott

Thurs 10 th Oct 18.30 - 20:00	KG class parent meetings
Wed 16 th Oct 13:00	Class 9 & 10 trip - Bleak House - Northcott
21 st Oct - 25 th Oct	Half term
Fri 1 st Nov 10 - 12	Reception open morning
Sat 23 rd Nov 10 -12	Open morning - experience kindergarten
Fri 6 th Dec	Flu vaccinations
Fri 6 th Dec 10 - 12	Reception open morning
Mon 9 th - Fri 20 th Dec	Class 10 mocks

OUR WEEK IN PHOTOS



Steiner Academy Exeter International Day of Peace 21st September 2019



UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

Class 10 harvest



In harmony with Michaelmas marking the end of the growing season and after the summer break Class 10 came back to harvest their crop. We have already enjoyed a bumper crop of potatoes and onions but in order to get the most from the land they used basic permaculture principles to grow more than one crop in the same space. As you can see Class 10 are well prepared to enter the darker colder times of winter as they have plenty of food to enjoy. The squashes truly are enormous worthy winners in any garden show. They still have a few pumpkins that are still maturing for Halloween. Stephen Forrest



Celebrating World Peace Day

It is World Peace Day this Saturday the 21st September and this was the topic discussed during Upper School assembly. One of the ideals of this is that peace starts within and it radiates outwards or you must be at peace with yourself in order to encourage peace with others. This means you have to pluck up the courage to face up to your own dragons both inner and outer which corresponds to the meaning of Michaelmas celebrating the Archangel St Michael defeating Lucifer. Take this time to

reflect on yourself and identify your own dragons so you too can pluck up the courage to face them just like the Archangel St Michael.



Upper School Lates

In upper school we are focusing on ensuring that all students can make the most of their learning time in school and as part of our high expectations for our students we want to see all students in school, in the morning, on time. For every morning a student is late then they will incur a 10 minute detention and these will be added up and an appropriate detention will be issued for Thursday after school. You will receive a text to inform you if your child has a late detention.

Please support us in ensuring that your child is in school on time as this not only affects their learning but that of other children as late children disturb the rhythm of the lesson. Many thanks in advance for your support. Tracy Adams

Humanities in the Middle School



This year I have the absolute pleasure of being the Humanities subject teacher across class 6 and class 7

year groups as well as my other roles. I meet each class once a week and over the year, will be supporting skills and understanding in both Geography and History.

Geography in Classes 6 and 7 is all about the children looking at the space around to help them find their own centre. They are a point where social sensibilities are awakened, as they see the space and world that they share with others. In History, the children experience imaginative descriptions that move the feeling realm from the point of view of the participant rather than the spectator. Hearing stories of people of the past showing new ways of thinking, courage, debating, standing up for what they believe; all reflect the changing inner world of the students themselves.



These lessons are an addition to the Main Lessons that the classes experience and so I will be using this opportunity to supplement rather than bring new content out from the context of a themed block. In both areas of Humanities, we will be developing skills such as map-reading, essay writing and debating; as well as looking at bigger world pictures and themes both physical and human in nature.

We have begun the year in both year groups with understanding contours, with increasing accuracy in Class 7. Below are some fabulous pictures Lottie took of Juniper Class creating clay hills based on real-life contoured-hills on the Dartmoor Ordnance Survey



map. They, and the other three classes did this brilliantly and had lots of fun doing it (as did !!).

Jenny Wragg

CURRENT FAQs

(Frequently asked questions)

Q: My child wants to attend the Climate Strikes.

A: Student Council has been very active in preparing for today's strike, and the Upper School team, led by Hannah, have worked with a group of Class 9 and 10 students to support their attendance at the strike in Exeter, based upon clear criteria of progress and behaviour, and a detailed risk assessment that ensures their safety. Whilst I am sensitive to and support all parents' and students' engagement with this issue, I have an ethical and legal duty to keep children safe and ensure the integrity of their education, notwithstanding the school's current Ofsted rating or the magnitude of this issue. I hope to be able to extend selective attendance at future strikes, again in conjunction with the Student Council, and will be asking parents not to remove their children from school beyond this.

Q: I have heard that Steiner Academy Bristol will be undertaking KS1 SATs and the RBA (Reception Baseline Assessment) this academic year. Is this true for our school, and will it be a condition of funding in the future?

No, we are not undertaking KS1 SATs, nor the RBA (which is in a pilot phase this year), but have been working with the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship on implementing a Waldorf Developmental Framework to support teachers' observational practice and their planning for individualised learning. Alongside this, Nerea is working with KG teachers on sensory motor integration activities and reinvigorating our movement curriculum.

Q: Where are we at with re-brokering to Avanti?

A: The transfer date is still set at 1st November, although this may slip a little. I met with Mike Ion from Avanti, and the other Steiner Academy principals this last Tuesday in Bristol, and I am anticipating further announcements for the parent community over the course of the next two weeks.

Q: Why are parents not invited to the Michaelmas festival?

A: Next Friday's Michaelmas festival will be school only, and led by the Student Council around the Climate Strike and Waldorf 100. The following week we will share this more extensively in the newsletter.

We are hoping to make Martinmass a festival where parents are invited, but have a level of work to do in terms of preparation before we confirm those details.

Q: Where is the decision making process about breaks and the school day?

A: The AMC is considering two parent petitions today. I have shared my rationale in terms of retaining higher levels of landcrafts, arts and main lesson in the timetable alongside necessary expansion of literacy and numeracy tuition. I recognise that I did not sufficiently read parents' mood and need for information on this at the point of change. I will be asking the AMC Chair to communicate any decision.

Q: Did you appoint any Vice-Principals?

A: No. We made a decision to structure support that is coming in to the school in the form of consultancy from Babcock who would work on specific projects alongside the existing teams. We have undertaken something of a change of emphasis in our organisational structure by raising the profile of and resources for Phase Leads as ongoing members of staff rather than visiting placements.

If you would like to suggest questions that we can answer please email
principal@sterineracademyexeter.org.uk

Paul Hougham