

THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Lipson Life

THE NEWSLETTER OF
LIPSON CO-OPERATIVE ACADEMY



July 2026



Delighted? Of Course!

WE are delighted and proud with our excellent OFSTED report following their visit to the Academy in late April.

We were graded 'Strong' in three of the seven categories assessed and achieved the 'Expected Standard' in the remaining four.

This is a magnificent achievement for all connected

with Lipson and it was the highest set of gradings under the new-style OFSTED scorecard to any non-selective secondary school in the South West.

Achieving the 'Expected Standard' requires high quality and consistent practice, while a 'Strong' judgement recognises areas of particular excellence.

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SOME KEY DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

AUGUST

Thursday 13 - A Level Results Day

Monday-Tuesday 17-18 - Summer School

Thursday 20 - GCSE Results Day

SEPTEMBER

Monday 7 - Back to School Years 7, 11 and 12

Tuesday 8 - Back to School Years 8, 9, 10 and 13

Thursday 10 - Year 11 Launch Evening

Thursday 24 - Open Evening

OCTOBER

Monday 26-Friday, November 6 - Half-Term

NOVEMBER

Thursday 12 - Sixth Form Open Evening

Monday 16-Friday 27 - Years 11 and 13 PPEs

Thursday 26 - Year 10 Parents Evening

Thursday 20-Friday, December 4 - Assessment Week

DECEMBER

Thursday 10 - Year 8 Parents Evening

Friday 18 - Break Up

JANUARY

Monday 4 - Inset Day

Tuesday 5 - Back to School

Thursday 7 - Year 11 Parents Evening

Thursday 21 - Years 12 and 13 Parents Evening

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 9 - Dream Job Careers Fair

Monday 15-Friday 19 - Half-Term

Monday 22-Friday, March 5 - Years 11-13 PPEs

Thursday 25 - Year 9 Parents Evening

Thursday 25 - Open Evening

MARCH

Monday 15-Friday 19 - Assessment Week

Thursday 18 - Year 7 Parents Evening

Monday 29 - Monday, April 12 - Half-Term

APRIL

Monday 12 - Inset Day

Tuesday 13 - Year 11 PPE results

Tuesday 13 - Year 11 Parents Evening

MAY

Monday 3 - Bank Holiday

Monday 10-Friday, June 18 - A Levels and GCSE Exams

JULY

Thursday 1 - School Sports Day

Friday 2 - Inset Day

Monday-Wednesday, 19-21 - Enrichment Days

Wednesday 21 - Break Up

Ofsted – the Details

The new OFSTED framework sets a notably high bar for schools. Achieving the 'Expected Standard' requires high quality and consistent practice, while a 'Strong' judgement recognises areas of particular excellence.

The inspectors who visited the Academy in April were particularly impressed by the dedication of our staff to every single pupil, recognising that the warm relationships between teachers and students are the foundation of Lipson's continued success in recent years.

The full report has now been published and can be accessed at bit.ly/lcaofsted2026.

Some of the highlights truly deserve celebration and provide an opportunity to recognise just how special the staff, students and wider Lipson community are.

"Pupils are proud to belong to the 'Lipson Family'. Happiness, warmth and kindness permeate the corridors and classrooms. Pupils know that adults care about them."

"Staff demonstrate an unwavering commitment to ensuring that every child is safe, happy and successful" and "love working" at the Academy. "Many describe Lipson as their forever school."

"Pupils behave well in school. They rise to the high expectations set by leaders. They engage positively with learning in lessons. Pupils are well mannered and friendly."

"Students are aspirational for their futures, inspired to consider their 'dream job' and work hard to achieve their goals."

"Parents are very positive about the school and have confidence in the leaders and wider staff to support, challenge and care for their child."

"Alongside academic qualifications, they successfully develop life skills and leave as more confident and resilient individuals. They are well prepared for adulthood."

Together, we will build on the positivity of this report and continue to make Lipson an even stronger and better place for children to learn and thrive.



Have a Care

BIG shout out to these guys - our wonderful Young Carers.

Our Young Carers met for their final event of the school year to relax, enjoy some pizza, play games, and get to know other YCs from across the school. From Mafia to Uno, chess and plenty of conversation, the afternoon was all about taking a well-earned break and building friendships.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the afternoon such a success. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back in September for another year of activities and support.



MAJOR HONOUR FOR JACK

YEAR 12 Jack Matthews has beaten tens of thousands of students worldwide to be shortlisted for a prestigious literary award.

Jack came through a field of 100,227 contestants from 183 countries to make the finals list of the John Locke Institute Global Essay Prize in the Law Category.

To be numbered among the best of the best is a remarkable achievement by Jack and we congratulate him on the tremendous honour.

All essays will now undergo a final review by the John Locke Institute senior faculty. They will determine commendations, high commendations, category winners and the overall Grand Prize winner.

Jack, a Sixth Form leader, has been invited to a black-tie Awards Ceremony & Gala Dinner at London's Grosvenor House Hotel, in Mayfair, in October, for a spectacular evening to celebrate his success and announce the winners of each category, as well as the winner of the overall Grand Prize.

Alongside the ceremony, the John Locke Institute will host an invitation-only academic conference, bringing together finalists from around the globe.



BRIGHT SPELL

THIS happy bunch are celebrating after winning the Year 9 Spelling Competition.

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!



Prom Kings and Queens

OUR amazing Year 11s celebrated in style and danced the night away at the 2026 prom after all their hard work and dedication throughout their GCSEs.

From glamorous outfits and unforgettable arrivals to plenty of laughter, dancing and memories made with friends, it was a fantastic evening at Boringdon Golf Club and the perfect way to mark the end of an important chapter.

We are so proud of everything our Year 11 students have achieved and wish them every success and happiness as they begin their next adventure...and look forward to welcoming many of them back for Sixth Form in September.

Congratulations, Class of 2026!

Is It Real Or Is It Cake?

A SCRUMPTIOUS top-three finish for our student Academy bakers in the 2026 City College Plymouth NextGen Bake-Off.

Our tasty trio made a food illusion cake of a vanilla Victoria sandwich cake filled with homemade rhubarb jam and a clotted cream custard frosting, shaping this into a fondant icing plant pot complete with chocolate soil and coconut grass and carrots.

Organisers said all the students should be incredibly proud of their efforts, creativity, and enthusiasm throughout the competition, and they represented their schools exceptionally well.

"We would also like to commend all of the students on their behaviour during the day," they said. "They were a credit to their schools and conducted themselves brilliantly from start to finish."



WELL, WELL, WELL

YEAR 12 students visited Plymouth Marjon University to attend the Ted Wragg Trust Health and Wellbeing Conference.

The morning consisted of four engaging sessions focused on health, wellbeing and preparing for life beyond Sixth Form. Students learned how to stay safe on nights out, including awareness of drink spiking, and received practical advice on living independently after Sixth Form.

They then took part in a carousel of workshops covering a range of important topics. Through Young Enterprise, students explored mortgages, credit cards and personal finance, with some of their questions featured during Martin Lewis' Big Money Assembly in June.

Students also learned about HPV and ovarian cancer, before taking part in an exciting self-defence session where they developed Thai boxing skills. A special thank you to our own Theo Jones for helping to demonstrate techniques alongside the team from Hybrid Gym. Congratulations to Dylan O, Alex P and Felipe V, who were the winners of the Thai Boxing Challenge!

Following lunch, students attended a PSHE showcase and had the opportunity to engage with a range of organisations from across Plymouth, including Plymouth Marjon University, Clean Our Patch, Samaritans, Citizens Advice, Plymotion, The Children's Society, The Zone, SHIP and the NHS.

We would like to thank everyone involved in making the day such a valuable and worthwhile experience for our students. We are already looking forward to next year's conference!



Taking the Opportunity



OUR Year 10s grabbed the chance to attend an Opportunity Plymouth Career programme Celebration Event at Plymouth University.

Opportunity Plymouth was a ten-week pupil mentoring programme delivered by trained University students as mentors.

Sessions aim to enhance aspirations, skills, and

preparations for students' post-16/careers options, whilst also boosting self-esteem, communication and engagement in school.

The Celebration Event offered students a chance to tour the campus, hear about university life, receive a talk about post-16 options and be presented with their certificates.





Salutations, Year 11

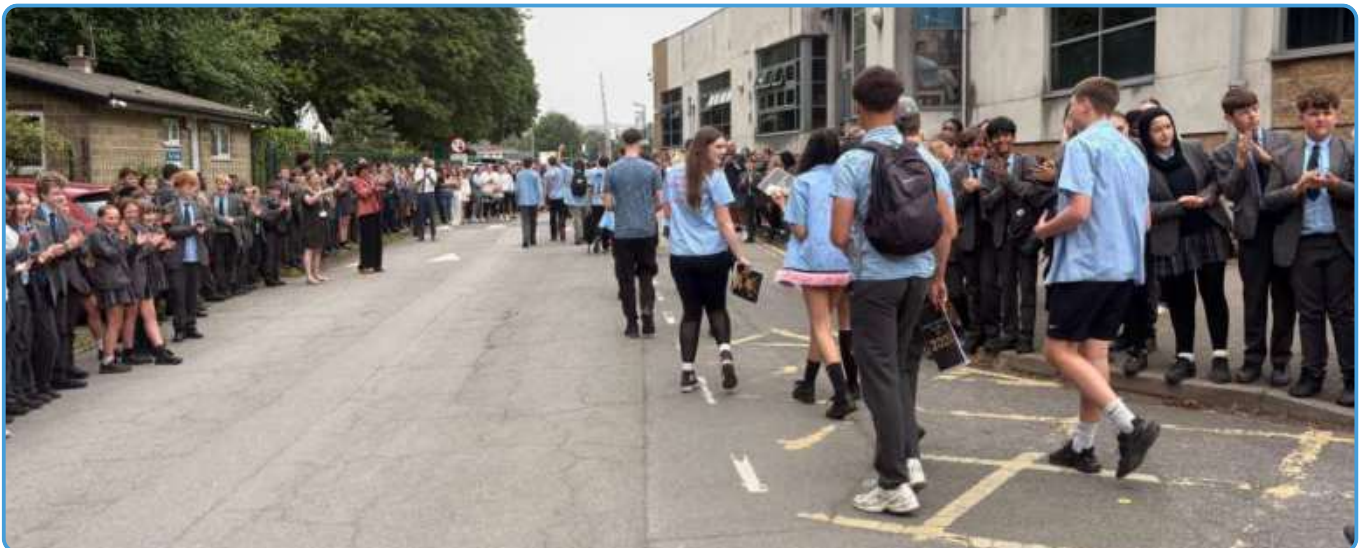
WITH the GCSE exams done and dusted, there was just one thing left for our Year 11 cohort this Academy year...

...the traditional Lipson passing out parade, where the whole school, parents, carers and friends turned out - in numbers, it has to be said

- to meet, greet and congratulate their loved ones.

Before that, the equally traditional signing of the shirts - the quality of which grows in innovation and design year by year.





CRASH COURSE FOR Y12S

CAPS doffed to Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service for staging a Crash Investigation Session for our Year 12s.

Inquiries centred on a crashed BMW, with students tasked with examining the mangled evidence investigated and discussing what factors could have caused the accident; the consequences of the collision; and what they could do to reduce the risk from the point of view of both driver and passenger.

One in six new drivers will have a collision in their first six months on the road, from reversing into a bollard to a front-end collision or something more serious.

All students appreciated this hands on experience and the lessons learn will keep them safe for life.



Passing Muster



WE were delighted to welcome Captain Tim Leeder RN (FOST Captain – Ships) as Reviewing Officer to the Academy for our Combined Cadet Forces' Biennial Inspection.

The inspection is the Royal Navy's formal inspection of our contingent and takes place only once every two years, making it one of the most significant events in the CCF calendar, particularly important for both the cadets and the school.

Our cadets spent many weeks preparing for the inspection, from perfecting their turnout, ironing and boot polishing, through to drill, ceremonial parade work, first aid and field gun.

The opportunities the students receive through the CCF are invaluable, and events such as the Biennial Inspection are a fantastic opportunity for them to showcase everything they have achieved over the past two years.

PROPS to Year 7s Lola and Darcy, who have been selected to represent Plymouth Schools Under-13s and Devon County Under-14s.

The rigorous selection process for both representative sides was completed over a number of sessions where their talent shone through.

The whole Lipson community are very proud of them!



SUMMER FETE



£1,024.37
raised
for The Meningitis Trust
and Plymouth Heartbeat





**LIPSON
ACADEMY**

OUR YEAR 2025-26 IN PICTURES





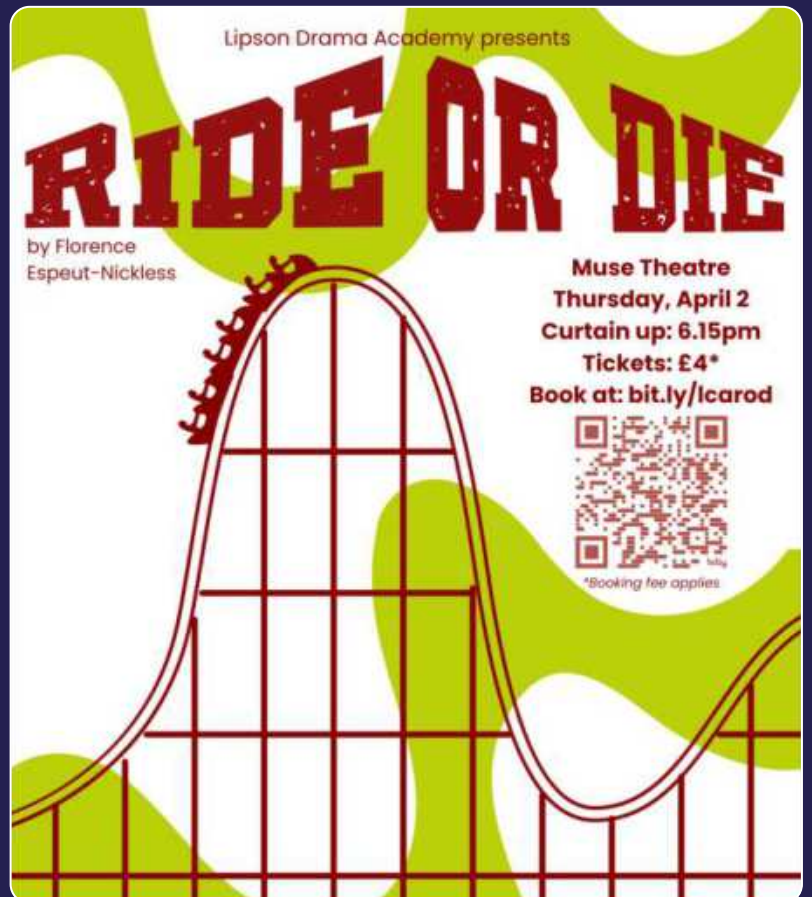














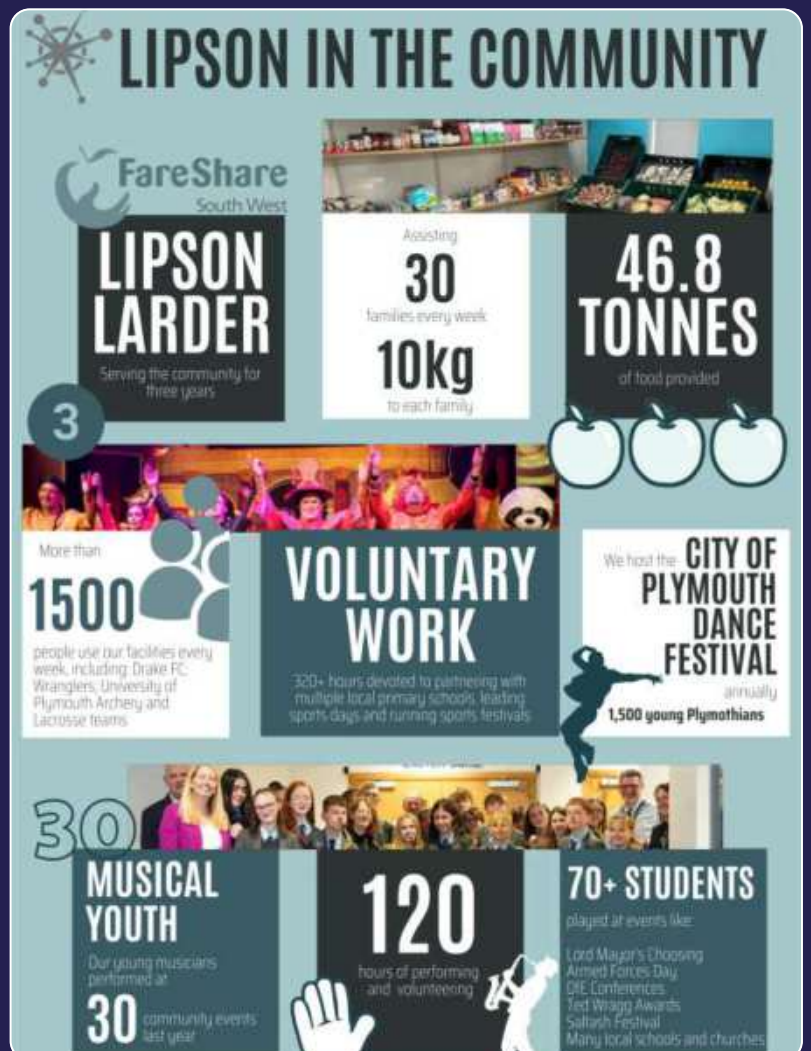
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT















Tour de Force

WE were honoured to play our part in Plymouth Armed Forces Day - the Lipson Big Band continue to go from strength to strength!

A fabulous setting on the Hoe and a huge appreciative audience made a lovely day even lovelier for our annual performance, supported by PYMS and PCC.

The Band performed a half-hour set featuring our very own Sara Holc on vocals - who completely smashed it out the park as per usual.

It was another outstanding all round performance from the team, one of many this second half of the Summer Term.





Amazing Mace!

OUR Academy Band and Senior Choir performed the Plymouth Lord Mayor's Choosing Reception at the City Council House.

Our talented students sung and played for members of the council and invited dignitaries, including Plymouth MP Luke Pollard, at the special event, which celebrated Councillor Kevin Sproston being chosen as Plymouth's new Lord Mayor for 2026–27.

The students showcased their musical skill and professionalism throughout the reception and were even given the exciting opportunity to hold the city's ceremonial mace, making the occasion even more memorable for everyone involved.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who represented the Academy so brilliantly and would like to thank Plymouth City Council for inviting us to be part of such a prestigious civic occasion.



Performance Fit for Royalty

SIXTEEN students from the Academy took part in the Ted Wragg Trust Choir performances at the Devon County Show, joining students from three other Trust schools - Matford Brook Academy, Marine Academy Primary and Cranbrook Education Campus.

Directed by the fabulous Colin Rea, the choir performed four inspiring songs on the BBC Devon stage before performing again later on the Devon Music Education Hub stage. Adding to the excitement, Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, was close by during the performance as she visited the show. Lipson's very own Athena was even interviewed for BBC Radio Devon prior to the performance!



THE Lipson Big Band put the pedal to the metal over the two days of the Plymouth Motor Show at Newnham Park.

The level of their professionalism and individual musical skills is simply turbo-charged.

Hot Summer in the City

THE hottest ticket in town during the last week of Flaming June was undoubtedly the Lipson Music Academy's Summer Concert, for the quality musicianship on display and the determination of the performers on the most sweltering of days!

Emmanuel Church, Manadon, was the venue for a wonderful evening of music-making, and in the midst of the heatwave, a church with a cool interior as concert venue was a masterstroke!

The audience was treated to a wonderful display of performances by the Junior and Senior Choirs, the Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9/10 Music Academy Bands, and our Saxophone Ensemble and Brass Group, both of which are generously funded by Plymouth Music Accord.

The concert marked a superb culmination of a

year's hard work and musical growth by our students, and set the stage perfectly for our upcoming music tour to Belgium.

Thanks must go to:

Emmanuel Church, for kindly hosting us;

Gordon Carter, our amazing saxophone teacher, for his help at the event;

and everyone who came along to Emmanuel and supported the evening despite the near tropical conditions!

We congratulate the students on their commitment, teamwork and exceptional performances, and we look forward to seeing what next year has in store!





LIPSON IN THE COMMUNITY



FareShare

South West

LIPSON LARDER

Serving the community for three years

3



Assisting

30

families every week

10kg

to each family

46.8 TONNES

of food provided



More than

1500

people use our facilities every week, including: Drake FC; Wranglers; University of Plymouth Archery and Lacrosse teams



VOLUNTARY WORK

320+ hours devoted to partnering with multiple local primary schools, leading sports days and running sports festivals

We host the **CITY OF PLYMOUTH DANCE FESTIVAL**

annually

1,500 young Plymothians



30

MUSICAL YOUTH

Our young musicians performed at

30

community events last year



120

hours of performing and volunteering



70+ STUDENTS

played at events like:

Lord Mayor's Choosing
Armed Forces Day
DfE Conferences
Ted Wragg Awards
Saltash Festival
Many local schools and churches

#LipsonLife 

HONOUR FOR MARTIN

FORMER Lipson head teacher Martin Brook has been honoured with a national Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to education over nearly four decades.

The Silver Pearson National Teaching Award was presented at a special celebration at Lipson Co-operative Academy, part of the Ted Wragg Trust, where Martin served as head teacher until Easter this year.

The presentation was made by four former and current students who played a key role in the judging process. Two are current students at the Academy, while two former students now work at the school as learning mentors, reflecting the lasting impact Martin has had on generations of young people.

The judging panel also heard from governors, parents and colleagues past and present, all of whom spoke about Martin's transformative leadership, commitment to young people and lasting influence on education across Plymouth and the South West.

The Silver winners form the shortlist for the prestigious Gold awards, which will be announced at a ceremony in London and on BBC One's *The One Show* later this year.

Martin's career has been defined by a firm belief in the potential of every child and a determination to ensure that background should never be a barrier to success. His leadership at Lipson Co-operative Academy is widely regarded as one of the region's most notable school improvement stories. When he joined the school in 2019, it faced significant challenges. Initially appointed for a single day to provide stability, he went on to oversee a remarkable turnaround over the next seven years, helping to create a thriving school recognised for both academic success and an inclusive culture.

Throughout his career, Martin has championed a culture of belonging, kindness and high expectations. Under his leadership, students, families and staff consistently described Lipson as a school where people felt valued, supported and inspired to achieve their best.

His influence extends far beyond Lipson. Martin has mentored school leaders across the region, supported system-wide improvement and helped shape the next generation of educational leadership. Many headteachers and senior leaders credit him with having a profound influence on their own approach to leadership.

The Pearson National Teaching Awards are run by the Teaching Awards Trust, an independent charity established more than 25 years ago to celebrate the transformative impact of education and recognise the teachers, support staff, schools, colleges and early years educators who inspire young people every day.

Moirra Marder, CEO of the Ted Wragg Trust, said: "Martin's contribution to education over nearly forty years is simply extraordinary. He has transformed the life chances of thousands of young people and inspired countless colleagues throughout his career.

"What makes this recognition particularly special is that the judges heard directly from students, former students, families, governors and colleagues whose lives have been touched by Martin's leadership. The fact that students he once taught and supported were able to present him with this award is a testament to the lasting difference he has made.

"We are incredibly proud to see Martin recognised with a Silver Pearson National Teaching Award and delighted that his remarkable contribution to education is being celebrated on a national stage. I can think of no one more deserving."

Sharon Hague, CEO of Pearson UK, said: "We are proud to take this opportunity to say thank you to the teachers up and down the country who make our schools so special. This year's Silver winners represent the amazing dedication and brilliant work that goes on in classrooms across the country."





The World at His Feet

YEAR 8 Kayden Jones is a young man with the world, quite literally, at his feet.

A kickboxing National Champion, Kayden has made steady progress in the martial arts realm and now has his eyes on the prize of a world title later this year.

Moving to Plymouth in 2019, Kayden joined Mythic Martial Arts, in Cattewater, where he immediately impressed, training twice a week and outstripping his peers in terms of excellence.

Under the guidance of gym owner and chief instructor Andy, he advanced to his first taste of combat in the shape of interclub competitions, at which he won his first medals. That success led to his regional tournament debut in Wales, where he won a bronze medal.

He upped his training regime which helped push him to the next level – taking part in the biggest competition in the UK calendar year, the Bristol Open. This was the moment which flicked the switch of the future for Kayden. After several fights, he was ultimately eliminated in the semi-finals, which meant he got to stand on the podium in the third-place position.

He moved up to fighting and competing regularly and winning a nice collection of medals of different values, including at the GB Grand Slam – the second biggest competition in the UK. The highlight of the day was when Kayden drew the current European champion for an electric fight that ended in a high scoring draw. To everyone's shock, an extra 30 seconds failed to produce a winner and the ref ordered a next-point-wins, with Kayden claiming the win.

The next fight was against a Team GB fighter called Szymon, which is where Kayden's biggest rivalry

started. Over the next few months, he attended interclub competitions and tournaments, always hitting the podium unless he drew Szymon.

In 2024, Kayden competed at the English Open, dominating his divisions, winning a gold and the title of English Champion, as well as an invitation to train and compete with the national team at the next World Martial Arts Championships in the Czech Republic. The Worlds saw 47 nations compete and Kayden showcased his skills by beating German, Czech and Spanish fighters to win two Bronze

Kayden then competed at the WMAC English Open, where he won two English titles and earned the qualifications to compete for England again in the 2025 World Championships, held in the UK.

By the time those Worlds came around, he was also British Champion and was capable of competing with the world's best, making it to the finals before coming up against another nemesis in the shape of fellow team-mate and multi world champion William. After these defeats, Kayden started sparring with fully grown adults at the age of 12, which has helped him continue to grow as a fighter.

In his first interclub competition of this year, Kayden again came up against Szymon, with the extra sparring work paying dividends as he finally got his long-awaited win. The English Open followed, where Kayden performed extremely well but ultimately lost in the finals to fellow England team-mate William. Kayden won two silver medals and gained qualification for this year's national team, following that up with a bronze and a silver at the UK Open.

Next up for Kayden is shot at the World title in Austria in September, with William having moved up an age division. During the down time, he intends to soak up the culture and see a new part of the world.

Gold Medal for Judoka Dieter



YEAR 10 student Dieter Jewell-Cole is back among the medals.

Dieter, 15 this month, came home with a gold from the Westcountry Green Belt and Under judo competition, held in Bideford.

Peninsula Judo Club judoka Dieter, who started competing just this year, not only took the top prize, but also won plaudits for representing the Academy like a champ and a true sportsman.



MOVING ON UP

PROUD to have hosted, and taken part in, the Ted Wragg Moving Image Awards Evening.

Devonport Market Hall, Plymouth, was the wonderfully appropriate venue for a celebration of the incredible creativity, talent, and determination of students from across our Trust.

The evening showcased the ideas and the stories brought to life, and the many hours spent planning, filming, editing, re-editing, and perfecting every frame.

Rhys Phillips, Head of Media Studies at Lipson, said: "I was blown away by the talent on display; the quality of production in each category was nothing short of exceptional.

"Such an amazing range of work that we saw - from Music Videos through to hard hitting Short Films - confirmed for me that this event allows our students the opportunity to tell their stories through the use of Moving Image, providing that platform to show off their skills and dedication to their productions.

"The buzz around the Market Hall was infectious, and it really felt like our students got a chance to experience an Oscars style evening in such an innovative and timeless setting.

"The photobooth was very busy, everyone got involved, even the parents and teachers, bringing their best poses for our paparazzi team.

"It was a real pleasure to see the audience's reactions to the video productions, a mixture of joy, excitement and astonishment, a really special shared moment to have had in the 360 cinema, which looked incredible.

"I'm very excited to see what next year brings, but for now I want to thank everyone who helped and got involved with this year's event, students, staff, judges, catering teams - it genuinely could not have happened without your time and support."



ENJOY THE BREAK...

Intro/ Verse

7

A/E Em

Pre

10

A/E Em C (x6) D Eb

Chorus

14

Gm Bb C

17

F Gm F Gm (x3) A Em/A F

Bridge

23

C D/C C D/C C D/C C D/C Am7 D/A Am D/A Am7 D/A

...SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

