



# Lipson Life



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
LIPSON CO-OPERATIVE ACADEMY

February 2026



## Zero Ambition



WE are delighted to be partnering with Let's Go Zero as the Academy embarks on a journey toward a greener future and, ultimately, the larger goal of environmental sustainability.

collective commitment of environmental stewardship, aiming to empower students, staff and our local communities to contribute meaningfully to a healthier planet.

We recently committed to a scheme introduced by Great British Energy and the government that will see the Academy install solar panels and other energy efficiency measures as part of £100 million of funding nationally.

Savings will be reinvested in school services as part of the government's clean energy superpower mission, enabling the whole community to reap the benefits of homegrown, clean power.

In turn, pupils will benefit from more money for textbooks and teaching as Great British Energy helps cut school energy bills.

We are keen to involve the Lipson community in our journey towards sustainability, and welcome contributions, ideas and support from outside the school gates. If you know anyone who would like to become involved at any level, they can contact Stacey at [stacey.parker@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:stacey.parker@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk).

We recently published our *Climate Action Plan, Small Steps - Big Impact*, and Let's Go Zero will be helping us along the way as our Educational Action Advisers.

This initiative follows the government's commitment to curriculum reforms that will strengthen climate and sustainability education across Geography, Science, Citizenship, and Design & Technology – from year one through to a new Natural History GCSE – helping to ensure pupils understand the planet; take action on climate change; and develop the skills for a greener future.

Paula Malone, of Let's Go Zero, visited to the Academy to meet with students on our School Eco Committee as well as the school's Head Teacher Designate Tom Goodman, Sustainability Lead Stacey Parker, and other key Lipson personnel.

As part of the family of Ted Wragg Trust of schools, we are committed to fostering a sustainable future. Our CAP (which can be viewed at [bit.ly/lcasustain](https://bit.ly/lcasustain)) is our pledge to a

For more about Let's Go Zero, visit [letsgozero.org](https://letsgozero.org).



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#LipsonLife♥

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# The Art of the Matter

OUR Year 12 Photography and Art students enjoyed a school trip to Bristol, where they visited Spike Island; the Arnolfini Art Gallery; and Bristol Museum, at which they viewed this year's National Wildlife Photography Exhibition.

This trip was designed to inspire and support students as they begin developing ideas for their Unit 1 work.

It also provided valuable real-world gallery experience, which forms a required element of their A-level course, and helped to strengthen the sense of community within the year group.

You can see a video of the trip on the [\*Academy's YouTube channel\*](#).

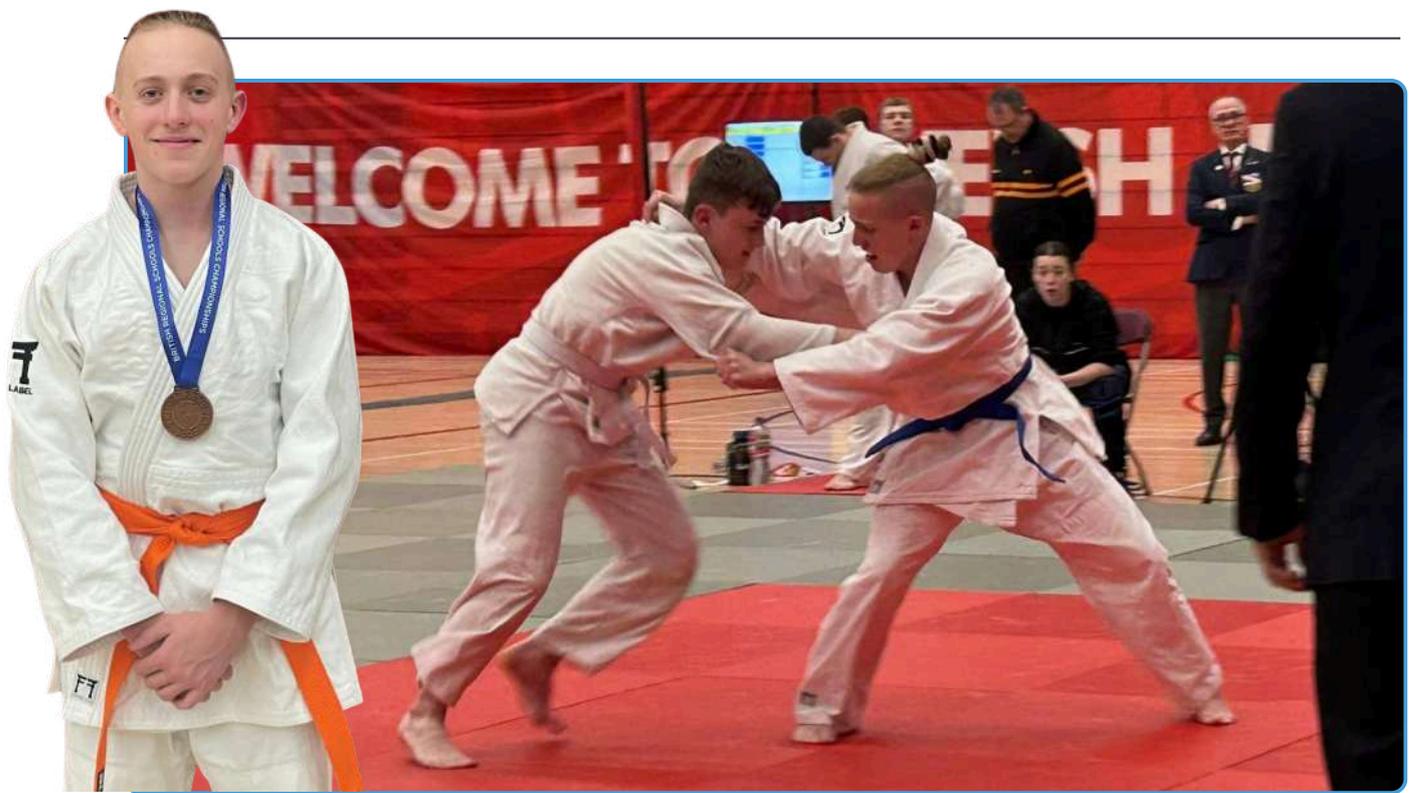


# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

THERE was a takeover in the gym when employers and educational establishments came together in a Careers Fair for our senior students.

Plenty to see, hear and get involved with - and plenty of teachers on hand to advise - as the youngsters began to make tentative plans for their future.





# Jewell in the Crown

YEAR 10 student Dieter Jewell-Cole enjoyed a belting January, returning from the Welsh Regional Schools Judo Competition with a bronze medal.

In only his third competitive outing, Peninsula Judo judoka Dieter surpassed his objective of winning a single bout by doubling that aim in the highly competitive lightweight division.

His incredible determination to bounce back stronger after suffering a defeat earned him praise from his coach and he left the tournament proud and motivated for the next challenge.

He and his fellow competitors also left with praise for their behaviour and attitude, having represented Peninsula with pride, respect, and outstanding sportsmanship - as important as any medal.

Well done, Dieter.

## #GeddonPlymouth2029

WE are delighted to line up behind Plymouth Culture and offer the support of Plymouth's highest performing non-selective secondary school to the city's bid to become the UK City of Culture 2029.

We fully endorse Plymouth Culture's belief that this is Plymouth's time to shine and it is ready to show the world that it is a city of culture, shaped by the sea and its dynamic histories - Plymouth's past and present forms a huge part of Britain's story.

Plymouth has strong cultural infrastructure; a rich ecology of artists and organisations; and growing ambition.

The bid is an opportunity to put culture at the heart of Plymouth's future and share that story nationally.

Find out how you can get involved at [www.plymouthculture.co.uk/](http://www.plymouthculture.co.uk/)



# REVOLTING CHILDREN

ACADEMY Drama students visited the Theatre Royal Plymouth to attend the dress rehearsal of Matilda - the Musical.

Watching the Royal Shakespeare Company's smash-hit production of Matilda, based on Roald Dahl's beloved book, was an extra special treat for the students as they will be staging their own version of Matilda later this year.

The TRP production - written by Dennis Kelly, with music and lyrics by Tim Minchin - about a strong and determined heroine with a vivid imagination has won more than 100 global awards, including 24 for Best Musical.



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# Talented Maz raps it up

IN December, the very first [Lipson's Got Talent](#) was held at the Academy.

In total, more than 100 students from across all houses auditioned, showcasing a wide variety of talents.

This made the judges' task of selecting finalists extremely difficult. After much deliberation, 13 finalists were chosen from across Years 7 to 10.

All students showed tremendous bravery performing in front of a full audience and should be incredibly proud of themselves. Our judges, Miss Adwera and Mr Goodman, along with the audience vote, had a tough decision to make.

The overall winner was Maz (Year 10) with her rap poetry. Our two runners-up were Alfie C (Year 7), who sang *7 Years* by Lukas Graham, and the Hula Hoop Queens, our Year 9 boys who performed an impressive routine to Shakira's *Hips Don't Lie*.

Miss Glew and Mr Joint would like to thank all the

students who contributed to making this such a successful and enjoyable event. We are already looking forward to next year's competition!

Alongside *Lipson's Got Talent*, students also took part in a range of house competitions across Maths, History, and Geography. These included:

- Mathematic Pointless
- Escape from the Past
- GeoGuessr: Plymouth Edition

There were many house points up for grabs, and following all competitions, the current house standings are:

- 1: House Leslie** - 1,618 points
- 2: House Mayflower** - 1,470 points
- 3: House Daymond** - 1,359 points
- 4: House Smeaton** - 1,322 points

Well done to all who took part. We are off to a strong start and look forward to many more exciting events in the coming weeks.





National  
Theatre

**CONNECTIONS**  
2026

Lipson Drama Academy presents

# RIIDE OR DIE

by Florence  
Espeut-Nickless

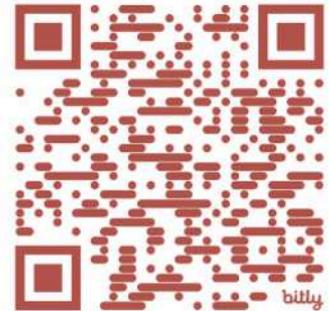
**Muse Theatre**

**Thursday, April 2**

**Curtain up: 6.15pm**

**Tickets: £4\***

**Book at: [bit.ly/lcarod](https://bit.ly/lcarod)**



*\*Booking fee applies*



Funded by  
UK Government



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



# Super Sustainability Support

YEAR 13 students enjoyed an engaging and thought-provoking visit to the National Marine Aquarium, where they explored the real-world impact of sustainable fishing practices.

Through interactive sessions and expert input, students examined how fishing methods affect marine ecosystems and how consumer choices can play a vital role in protecting fish stocks.

A key focus of the day was understanding how

we, as consumers, can support sustainability through informed choices in the supermarket - bringing an important area of their specification to life beyond the classroom.

The visit provided valuable context and helped deepen students' understanding of sustainability within marine environments.

Our thanks go to all the [NMA](#) staff for delivering such a fantastic and informative day.

## Celebrating the Season with PYMS

THE final big outing of the festive season for the Music Department saw the Senior Band perform at the [Plymouth Youth Music Services](#) Lord Mayor's Carol Services in Methodist Central Hall.

They were joined by the Year 7 Choir for one service and the Senior Choir for another. Both services were wonderful celebrations of the meaning of Christmas, with words from the Chaplain of Marjon University, Rev. Michelle Parkman and Christmas songs from ten different Plymouth schools, as well as congregational carols, at each service.



# WORKING IN THE MEDIUM

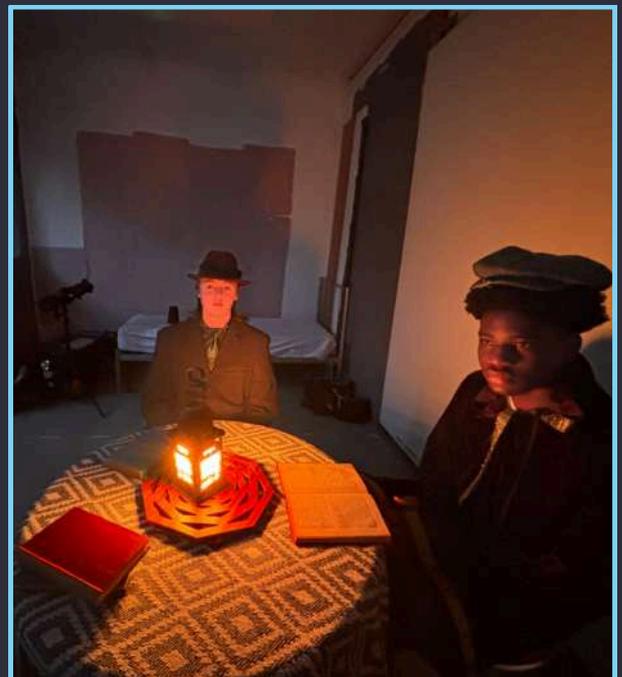
A GROUP of our Sixth Form Media students recently took part in an exciting workshop at Arts University Plymouth, where they were tasked with creating a short film based around the theme of a séance.

Working in a professional-style production environment, students were assigned specific media roles including camera operator, lighting, production design and acting.

The group were fantastic to work with throughout the day. They collaborated brilliantly as a team; communicated clearly within their roles; and approached the project with creativity, focus and enthusiasm. Their professionalism and commitment impressed the lecturer they were working alongside, who commented positively on both their teamwork and their final outcome.

Most importantly, the students had a lot of fun while gaining valuable insight into media production at a university level. They clearly took a great deal from the experience, developing both practical skills and confidence in a creative setting which is sure will impact on their own upcoming film productions.

These students are definitely ones to watch - we are sure you will all agree that the final film outcome is incredible...if not a little bit scary!





YEAR 12 biologists enjoyed an inspiring visit to the [University of Plymouth Electron Microscopy Centre](#), where they gained a fascinating insight into cutting-edge scientific techniques used in modern biological research.

Students learned how delicate, “squishy” biological samples are carefully prepared before being placed into the vacuum of an electron microscope. This included exploring how samples are fixed, dried using a range of methods (including liquid nitrogen), and coated with metals such as gold and neodymium to allow detailed imaging.

The visit also gave students the opportunity to use both transmission and scanning electron microscopes, while asking insightful questions about how and why each technique is used in research and diagnostics. Seeing these processes first-hand helped bring challenging concepts to life and deepened their understanding of microscopy beyond the classroom.

Our sincere thanks go to the entire team at PEMC for a fantastic morning and for generously giving up their time to accommodate us.

## Positive Start from Girls Football Teams

BOTH the Under-15 and Under-13 Girls football teams have made a positive start to their central venue fixtures.

The Under-15 girls started the league with a tough fixture against a well organised DHSG side but battled hard and got better as the game went on, eventually losing the game 3-0.

The girls then took the momentum into their second game against Coombe Dean where there was some excellent play from Lipson, who came out winners 3-0 with goals from Ashton Dixon (2) and Amelia Newton.

Next up were the Under-13 girls who only had one game in week 1, against DHSG.

DHSG started the brighter side, taking an early 1-0 lead, but this gave Lipson the spark they needed to turn the game around. Lipson dominated possession for large periods before finally getting the reward of a goal just before half-time through Sunni White.

Lipson continued to push forward in the second half finally taking a deserved lead, through a goal straight from the corner, scored by Darcy Tuckwell.





# LIPSON LEAVERS

## POST-SIXTH FORM UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS



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# Eyeing Up the Lipson Birds

WE have been helping out the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, taking part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch.

Every January and February, the RSPB asks students across the UK to count the birds in their school grounds, creating a snapshot of how birds are doing across UK schools.

Our Big Schools' Birdwatch results will help the RSPB learn which birds are doing well at Lipson and which are in trouble. They will then work out what needs to be done to help those in need.

This might result in:

- Increasing the number of suitable places that particular birds nest and live;
- Growing plants that provide food for these birds;
- Providing habitats for the creatures that some birds eat.

Having 25 years' worth of data means that the numbers of birds seen by school pupils can be compared each year.

The number of birds seen during the Big Schools' Birdwatch also gives scientists an idea of how other wildlife is doing.

Importantly, it also helps schools learn more about the species that are attracted to their grounds and helps them monitor year-on-year data.

Schools can get an indication of the biodiversity of their grounds based on the birds that visit.





# 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

# ATTENDANCE

FOR seven weeks in a row as a school, we have beaten last year's attendance. This works out to 308 days extra in school!

Our Challenge to you...let's beat it again and get to 400 extra days next term!

Pupils with near-perfect attendance (95-100%) in Year 11 are almost twice as likely to achieve Grade 5+ in English and Maths GCSEs, compared to similar pupils who attend 90-95%.



**Attendance of  
92% and above  
= average  
GCSE  
Grade 5**



**Attendance of  
90% or below  
= average  
GCSE  
Grade 3**



# Dawny

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Dawn Moutell, Attendance Officer at Lipson, has passed away.

Dawn was a much loved and integral part of the Lipson community for 24 years, and her loss is felt deeply by staff, students, and families alike. Her warmth, kindness, and unwavering commitment made a lasting impact on the staff team and generations of young people. She will be profoundly missed by all who knew her.

Dawn was truly part of the fabric of Lipson - unconditionally kind, courageous and selfless. Our thoughts and love are with Dawn's family at this incredibly difficult time and we would like to thank the wider Lipson community for the kindness and support.

Words will never be able to express the devastation and sadness this has brought to the whole Lipson family. Dawn embodied everything we stand for and strive for as a school.

We will miss her dearly.

