

INSIDE:  
Saluting  
the  
CCF



# Lipson Life

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
LIPSON CO-OPERATIVE ACADEMY

Ted  
Wragg  
TRUST

May 2026

## And the winner is...

*"AN exceptional standard for trusted leadership."*

*"A culture of listening, empathy and evidence-informed decisions that help staff thrive and, ultimately, benefit pupils."*

Two extremely valued and graciously accepted epithets from educational specialists Edurio, whose latest data-driven survey placed Lipson Academy at the very top of the best-led schools in the whole country.

Ted Wragg Trust member Lipson has just been named as one of five schools nationally to win the coveted and prestigious Edurio National Trusted Leadership Award, representing an exceptional standard for trusted leadership.

The honour was awarded following an analysis of staff feedback collected across 1,729 schools in England during the 2024-25 academic year.

Ernest Jenavs, CEO at Edurio, said: "When colleagues are confident that leaders understand their challenges, it reflects a culture of listening, empathy and evidence-informed decisions that help staff thrive and, ultimately, benefit pupils."

School staff face complex professional challenges every day. Leadership matters most when colleagues feel these realities are genuinely understood.

Edurio collaborate with educational organisations and educators who share their mission and strive for continuous improvement to provide education leaders with clarity on what matters most.

### Trusted Leadership Award

PRESENTED TO



Ted  
Wragg  
TRUST

THE DEAN TRUST  
Believe Achieve Succeed



PRIORITY  
FEDERATION  
OF ACADEMIES

edurio

National Award Winners 2025

They use their datasets to produce national analysis and insights to drive important discussions in education. As established thought leaders, they have become a trusted partner in the sector.

#### National Trusted Leadership Award Winners

**Avanti Schools Trust** – Avanti Grange

**The Dean Trust**

– Dean Trust Wigan and Dean Trust Rose Bridge

**The Priority Federation of Academies**

– Cherry Willingham Primary Academy

**The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust**

– Lipson Academy

**LEO Academy Trust**

– Shawley Community Primary Academy



Lipson Co-operative, Academy Bernice Terrace, Plymouth PL4 7PG



01752 671318



lca@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk



facebook.com/LipsonCooperativeAcademy



www.instagram.com/lipson\_academy/



www.threads.com/@lipson\_academy



bsky.app/profile/lipsonacademy.bsky.social



youtube.com/@lipsonacademyofficial



www.linkedin.com/company/lipson-academy

# Legends of Literature

THE Year 12 Literacy Mentors Reading Programme has launched this term, with our Sixth Form students making a real difference to the reading confidence and enjoyment of younger pupils across Years 7 and 8.

Twice a week, our Year 12 mentors give up their time to listen to our younger students read, offering encouragement, support and guidance in a calm and positive environment.

The programme has helped younger students to develop fluency, confidence and a greater love of reading, while also building strong relationships across the year groups.

The commitment and maturity shown by our Year 12 students has been outstanding. They have acted as excellent role models, showing patience, kindness and genuine enthusiasm for literacy.

We have been particularly impressed by the way mentors have helped younger students feel more confident when tackling challenging texts.

The beauty of the programme is that it is mutually beneficial - younger students improve their reading whilst the older students get the satisfaction of making a real difference.

A huge thank you goes to all of the students involved. The programme is a wonderful example of our school community working together to support learning and promote a culture of reading for pleasure.

*Mrs Toze*



## Time's Up; Pens Down

THE end of the Spring Term saw the Academy say goodbye and thanks-a-million to Alison Davis (below, centre), who stepped down after many years' service.

Thousands of students who have sat exams at Lipson have done so only because of Alison's organisational skills and expertise in making sure everything runs smoothly for everyone - a massive, massive undertaking.

More than that, she embodied everything that is so good about Lipson.

Ali has passed the baton on to Rebecca Kelly (far left), another super and vital behind-the-scenes team player at Lipson.



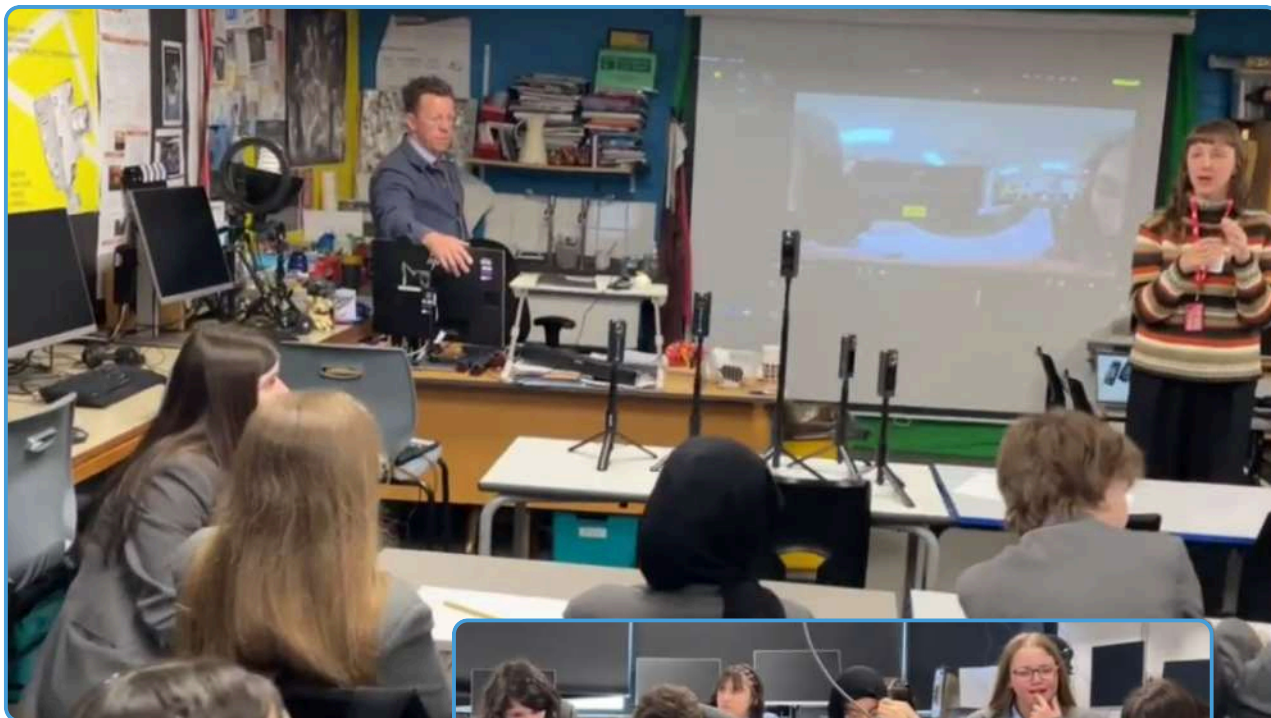
# RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

AS part of our GCSE Religious Studies course, our Year 10 students visited the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St Mary & St Boniface, in Stonehouse, and St Jude's Anglican Church, on Beaumont Road. This was to support the Christian Practices unit.

We met with leaders of the Churches, Father Jude, and Churchwarden Rob Ponsford; had a tour of churches; conducted an investigation into the sacraments; and learnt about the role of the Church in the local community. Wow! The support they give is phenomenal.

The students will be able to refer to their experience in their exam. They were engaged and their behaviour impeccable!





# Lights, Camera, Action...and Cue

A GROUP of lucky Year 8 students took part in an engaging *360° Film in a Day* workshop, when they explored creative storytelling using cutting-edge immersive technology.

Working alongside a practitioner from 360 Immersive at Real Ideas, students were introduced to new filmmaking techniques and tools, gaining hands-on experience throughout the day.

The workshop challenged students to plan, film, and edit their own short pieces with the brief of promoting their school. They collaborated effectively in groups, developing ideas, capturing footage, and learning how to bring their concepts together through editing.

The day concluded with a showcase, where students shared their finished films with one another, celebrating their creativity and achievements.

The completed films will be submitted to the Ted Wragg Moving Image Competition 2026, where they will be featured alongside entries from three other schools from within the Trust.

## Year 12s Taking Care of Business

**A MASSIVE thank you to our friends at Rockets & Rascals for the Q&A session with our Year 12 Business students around marketing.**

**Seeing how real businesses do it and the impact it can have in real life has really helped students extend their knowledge beyond the classroom.**

**Special thanks to Steve for hosting us and answering tons of questions openly and honestly - the coffee was great, as well!**





LIPSON CO-OPERATIVE ACADEMY PRESENTS

A RSC MATILDA THE MUSICAL SCHOOL'S PRODUCTION OF

MATILDA THE MUSICAL  
CHANGE MY STORY

**AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL**

Book by Dennis Kelly, Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchin

Adapted for schools by Nik Ashton

**The Muse . Thursday, 2nd July . 16.30 & 18.30**

**Friday, 3rd July . 16.30 & 18.30**

**Tickets £8 (plus booking fee)**

**£10 on the door (subject to availability)**



LipsonLife ♥

---

# Year 8s Lapping It Up

OUR talented Year 8 Band had the exciting opportunity to take part in a truly inspiring community celebration at Brickfields Athletics Stadium in Plymouth alongside pupils from Compton CE Primary School.

Children at Compton have been taking part in an Ultra Run Challenge, building up their distance week by week in an incredible display of determination and resilience.

Last month, older pupils completed their final stretch by running all the way to Brickfields, where the whole school gathered to finish the challenge together by running laps of the track, marking the end of their journey in spectacular fashion.

Together, the pupils have run an astonishing total of over 4,000 miles — a remarkable achievement that deserves to be celebrated.

Our Year 8 Band was proud to support this special occasion by performing live at the event, playing a

fantastic set to staff, students and parents gathered at the stadium.

Their music helped to create a vibrant and uplifting atmosphere as the runners crossed the finish line, adding even more energy and excitement to an already unforgettable day.

Our students also had the chance to meet the legend that is Pilgrim Pete..

Adding to the excitement, ITV Westcountry was in attendance to film the event, capturing the incredible efforts of the primary school pupils and the contributions of our students.

It was a fantastic day that highlighted not only the power of perseverance and teamwork, but also the importance of coming together as a community to celebrate success.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 8 Band for representing the school so brilliantly.



# EAL Conference 2026

DELEGATES attending FlashAcademy's free Improving Outcomes for EAL Learners at Lipson were greeted by the saxophone section of the Music Academy.

The South West regional conference brought together educators wanting to explore practical strategies for supporting English as an Additional Language inside and outside of the classroom.

There was also a focus on assessment, evidencing progress and approaches that help learners thrive, as well as opportunities to network and share best practice with colleagues.

Emily Hunt, Head of Customer Success at FlashAcademy, opened the event, sharing insights from her work supporting schools nationwide.

EAL Coordinator at Lipson Academy Lukasz Mlodziniak presented strategies grounded in classroom practice; and Kelly Dicks, Headteacher at Filton Hill Primary School and EAL Lead for Olympus Academy Trust discussed whole-school approaches that have supported new arrivals.

Across the UK, thousands of multilingual learners walk into our classrooms every day. They bring rich languages, cultures, and experiences that strengthen our schools. Yet for many educators supporting English as an Additional Language - or EAL - the work can often feel isolated.

Unlike many other areas of education, EAL has no single national curriculum, no unified assessment framework, and limited structured opportunities for professionals to connect and share practice.

For years, EAL leads and practitioners have been doing extraordinary work- often quietly, often independently.

For the first time since 2012, the 2025 Ofsted Framework has explicitly recognised the importance of multilingual learners and the need for schools to demonstrate how they support pupils with English as an Additional Language.

This renewed focus creates an important moment for schools across the country.

- A moment to share what works.
- A moment to learn from one another.
- And a moment to strengthen how we support multilingual learners to thrive - both inside and outside the classroom.

**Event**  
**Improving outcomes for EAL learners**  
Thursday 30th April 2026 | Plymouth

**Lukasz Mlodziniak**  
EAL Co-ordinator, Lipson Co-operative Academy

The banner features a portrait of Lukasz Mlodziniak, a man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a maroon shirt. To his right is a cartoon illustration of a yellow character with large eyes and a small body. Below the portrait is a cartoon illustration of a blue and white penguin. The background is a light yellow with a red and white striped lighthouse on the right side.





# The Lipson Invincibles

MEET the Lipson Invincibles!

Our Year 7 girls football team finished their Central Venue league fixtures with an unblemished record of played eight, won eight.

Wins against Devonport High and Plymouth High - both without conceding - completed their memorable season in which they scored 46 goals and conceded just six.

Highlight of the campaign was a 12-1 win over Coombe Dean, and there were also 8-1 victories over Plymstock and Eggbuckland.

Each week, the girls have been a step ahead of everybody in terms of quality and represented the school in the best possible way.

Just perfect 🍷

## Results

Lipson v Tor Bridge W 8-1  
Lipson v Coombe Dean W 12-1  
Lipson v All Saints W 3-1  
Lipson v Stoke W 2-1  
Lipson v Plymstock W 8-1  
Lipson v Eggbuckland W 8-1  
Lipson v DHSG W 2-0  
Lipson v PHSG W 3-0

THE cream of the Academy's footballing talent was on show when Year 10 went up against Year 11 on the school Astroturf, with both sides making light of the soggy conditions.

Year 10 were coached by Mr Goodman, while Mr Brook was on hand to dispense wisdom to the Year 11s.

Enjoy the extended highlights at [youtu.be/fkEQ-LBzUgk](https://youtu.be/fkEQ-LBzUgk)





**CHEERS, tears, a guard of honour and a song - retiring head teacher Martin Brook received the send-off from students and staff that he thoroughly deserved when the final school bell was tolled.**

**Gone, but never, ever forgotten.**

# Thanks and Fare Well, Martin



MARTIN Brook has been shortlisted for the Lifetime Achievement Award in the prestigious Pearson National Teaching Awards 2026.

This national recognition celebrates Martin's extraordinary contribution to education over nearly four decades, during which he has transformed schools, shaped leaders and improved life chances for thousands of young people across Nottinghamshire and the South West.



Martin's career has been defined by integrity, compassion and an unwavering belief in the potential of every child. His leadership at Lipson Co-operative Academy in Plymouth stands as one of the region's most significant school improvement journeys.

When Martin joined Lipson in 2019, the school was facing significant challenges. Initially appointed for a single day to stabilise the school, he went on to lead a sustained transformation over seven years. Today, Lipson is a thriving, high-performing school, recognised for both its academic success and inclusive ethos.



However, Martin's impact goes far beyond results. He has built a school culture rooted in belonging, kindness and high expectations. Students describe feeling safe, respected and valued, while staff consistently highlight the strong sense of trust and support within the school.

***Continued on opposite page***

---

# Pearson Award Nomination



## *From previous page*

Colleagues describe him as a unifying force who brings people together around a shared purpose, combining clarity of vision with humility and humanity.

Martin said: "If I can overcome the slight uneasiness I feel about the nomination, it is clearly a real honour to have been put forward and shortlisted for such a prestigious award, an award that I believe initially carried Ted Wragg's name.

"Ted was my first mentor during my teacher training in the 1980s and had been an inspiration to me, and I now finish my career working for a Trust that carries his name.

"I have been blessed to do a job that I love for the best part of 40 years and this nomination is for every student, member of staff and parent that I have been lucky enough to serve during that time."

Martin's influence extends well beyond his own school. He has mentored headteachers across the region, worked as a National Leader of

Education accredited by the DfE, and supported system-wide improvement, playing a key role in strengthening education across Plymouth and the wider South West. Many leaders credit him with shaping their own approach to leadership.

Winners of the Pearson National Teaching Awards will be announced on National Thank a Teacher Day in June. The awards, founded in 1998 by Lord Puttnam, celebrate excellence in education and highlight the vital role teachers and schools play in shaping future generations.

Moira Marder, CEO of the Ted Wragg Trust, said: "Martin's contribution to education over nearly forty years is simply extraordinary. "He has transformed not only the life chances of thousands of young people, but also the careers of the many leaders he has developed and supported along the way.

"His leadership is rooted in the belief that every child deserves the very best. We are incredibly proud to see him recognised at a national level for the lasting legacy he has created."



**AS part of the Easter handover from outgoing head Martin Brook to his successor, Tom Goodman, the two head teachers went head to head on the Academy Astro in a footy face-off.**

**Both led teams of staff - supplemented by a couple of special guests - in what turned out to be a tight encounter that was enjoyed by the whole school.**

**So tight, in fact, that it had to be decided by a nerve-wracking penalty shoot-out, with Tom's team triumphing after a 1-1 draw.**

---

# PICK OF THE LITTER

OUR School Eco Committee led by example when they stepped out for a litter-pick around the school.

The pick, which took in the playground in Bernice Terrace as well as the school football field - and finished with well-deserved hot chocolate and biscuits in the school canteen - is part of the Academy's journey towards a greener future.

As part of this, the school is currently finishing the installation of solar panels under a scheme introduced by Great British Energy and the government that has been funded to the tune of £100m across the country. We recently published our Climate Action Plan, Small Steps - Big Impact, which (which can be viewed at [bit.ly/lcasustain](http://bit.ly/lcasustain)), and have partnered with Educational Action Advisers Let's Go Zero.

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

We are committed to fostering a sustainable future and keen to involve the Lipson community in our journey towards sustainability. We welcome contributions, ideas and support from outside the school gates. Anyone who would like to become involved at any level can contact Sustainability Lead Stacey Parker at [stacey.parker@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:stacey.parker@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk).



---

# Cadets Rule Britannia

ANOTHER weekend, another amazing experience for the cadets of the Combined Cadet Forces.

A full weekend at Britannia Royal Naval College saw the cadets have an amazing time trying new and challenging activities including high ropes, low ropes, archery, ship simulator training and swimming before finishing off with bouldering and then powerboating into Dartmouth for the music festival.

They also managed to dodge most of the rain!

The cadets have again grown in confidence and have been enthusiastic, kind and caring to each other.

The captain of college met with us again to say how much they enjoy our school attending these weekends.

Lots of shout-outs to the cadets who overcame personal challenges with real resilience and determination.

However, of course these things only happen because of the staff at Lipson involved in the CCF who attend personal CPD to be able to run the activities in their own time and devote their energies to our wonderful CCF community.

Now on to four weeks of late Tuesday nights taking the CCF paddle boarding, power boating and sailing as part of the amazing offer.





# May the Forces Be With You

WHAT did you do over the May Day Bank Holiday?

A group of our Combined Cadet Forces students had a most successful and enjoyable Campcraft & Navigation training weekend on Dartmoor.

The weather was very kind, allowing them to strike camp in glorious sunshine on Friday evening.

The Tuesday evening training sessions really kicked in and tents were put up in record time before stoves were boiling their water ready for the ration packs for tea.

Friday evening saw a night navigation practice walk around Kings Tor and Swelter Tor - again, the weather was excellent, affording everyone wonderful views of Dartmoor.

Barbecued sausages and halloumi for the staff and cadets followed before a few hours of sleep and rising at around 6am - to the beautiful

sound of cuckoos - cooking breakfast and putting the tents away.

The weather still held and the cadets managed their day navigation entirely in the dry! They finished at Fox Tor Cafe, where they were treated to a nice breakfast and drinks.

It was a fantastic weekend. Seeing the cadets having such fun, developing skills for life outside the classroom, and developing friendships beyond year groups gave the team of volunteers a tremendous sense of pride and accomplishment of the power in developing the whole person through the CCF.

Thanks everyone who supports our wonderful students participating in the CCF.

A massive thank you to Rhys and Toby who gave up precious time with their loved ones to enhance the lives of our cadets. These things do not just happen.

A MASSIVE thank you to Tom Marks and Pete Twyman for recruiting 53, Year 8 students into the CCF cadets, and to the tutor team for promoting this wonderful opportunity.

The students were really 'buzzing' about their first session, into which went a great deal of time, planning and prep.

Thank you all - fantastic life skills, resilience and memories for a brilliant group of students.



---

# So...What Exactly is CCF?

## **Lipson Combined Cadet Force: Adventure, Confidence and Opportunity**

THE Lipson Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is going from strength to strength, with 60 cadets from Year 8 to Year 13 now coming together every Tuesday from 3-5pm.

What sets the CCF apart is not just the activities - it is the incredible personal journey each student undertakes along the way.

At its heart, the CCF is about building confidence, resilience and leadership. Cadets quickly grow in self-belief as they take on new challenges; support one another; and step outside their comfort zones.

Along the way, they form strong friendships across year groups, creating a real sense of belonging and team spirit.

The opportunities are anything but ordinary. From mountain biking and archery to field gun, low ropes and first aid training, cadets develop practical skills while having fun. Many also gain qualifications in lifeguarding and leadership, giving them a valuable head start for the future.

The Summer Term brings even more excitement, with cadets taking to the water for powerboating, stand-up paddleboarding and sailing, all leading



to recognised RYA qualifications - a fantastic achievement and a real confidence boost.

Beyond weekly sessions, cadets experience unforgettable adventures. Weekend residentials at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth offer a taste of life in a professional military environment, helping students grow in independence and teamwork.

On Dartmoor, cadets develop resilience through camping and navigation exercises, learning to lead and support each other in the outdoors.

Our strong partnership with HMS Raleigh opens the door to unique, hands-on experiences, including firefighting training and Damage Repair Instructional Unit simulations - where cadets work together to respond to emergencies in a realistic ship environment.

The Lipson CCF is more than an enrichment activity - it is a transformational experience. Whether developing leadership skills, gaining qualifications, or simply discovering new passions, cadets leave with skills and memories that will stay with them for life.

We are incredibly proud of everything our cadets achieve and look forward to welcoming the next generation to be part of this exciting journey.



LIPSON CO-OPERATIVE ACADEMY

PRESENTS



# COME FROM AWAY

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY IRENE SANKOFF AND DAVID HEIN

THE MUSE . 8TH-10TH JULY . 18.30



**TICKETS £8 (PLUS BOOKING FEE)**

**£10 ON THE DOOR (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY)**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International  
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI

[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

LIPSONLIFE ❤️



HERE are some of the Academy's talented young thespians on their way treading the boards at Theatre Royal Plymouth.

The young actors performed their version of Florence Espeut-Nickless's *Ride or Die* at the Drum Theatre as part of this year's National Theatre Connections festival.

The students worked extremely hard on the production, which debuted at the Muse earlier in April and which follows children debating top theme parks, leading to chaotic events including car trouble; a suspended student; and a surprise holiday.

## Thank You For Lighting William's Star

BIG thanks to students and their families who contributed to a last-day-of-term Cans & Cakes Sale held at the Academy to raise money for Bristol Children's Hospital's Grand Appeal.

Nearly £900 was collected for the William Powell Star Tribute Fund as the school rallied around member of staff Dan Powell, who arranged the fundraiser in memory of his son.

William was born in Bristol with Hypoplastic Right Heart Syndrome Triscupid Atresia and Pulmonary Atresia, making him the only child in the UK with these conditions combined.

Thanks to people who donate time, money and efforts Dan's family had an amazing seven months with him, most of it in hospital but trying to live as normal lives as possible.

The money raised by the sale will support the amazing work of Bristol Children's Hospital, helping many other families with really sick children, especially congenital heart defects, and will be assigned to William's star which is up on the wall in the hospital, sadly with many others.

Magnificent effort from everyone who baked, brought, bought, ate and drank.



---

# Darcy and Lola Reap Rewards

DEVON'S Under-12 girls recently attended the FA England Football National Futsal Finals for Emerging Talent Centres, captained by our very own Year 7 Darcy Tuckwell.

Darcy was also the county's player of the day, scoring three times and setting up other goals.

Devon qualified after the girls ran away with the Southwest competition, winning every game against teams from our region.

The National finals proved a little tougher for our brilliant Devon team with games against Liverpool, West Brom, Ipswich, Newcastle United and Brighton. Results certainly were not a fair reflection with Devon putting in some great performances and being involved in entertaining games.

The finals were held at a brilliant Futsal-specific facility at Repton School Sports Centre in Derby.

It was an amazing experience and another way to put Devon on the football map nationally, coming up against some powerhouse clubs.

Darcy also received a special award when she and fellow Lipsonite Year 7 Lola Toms took part in a football tournament in Belgium with Plymouth Argyle, which the Pilgrims won.

Darcy was asked to play up an age group when the Under-14s suffered an injury and she went on to score two goals as Argyle won 4-2.

She also played for her own age group, scoring five goals in an 8-1 win.



## Mackenzie's Dee-Light

**LIPSON alumni  
Mackenzie Dee is now  
doing his Marine  
engineering  
submariner training  
after his passing out  
parade at HMS Raleigh.**

**Mackenzie is now off to  
London to compete in  
the field gun  
championships.**

---

# MASTERS OF THE ARTS

THE Lipson Big Band kicked out the jams at their annual concert at Calstock Arts Centre, playing to a packed house and delivering some very challenging arrangements that gave improvisation opportunities to Lillie Lazarus, Damon Monroe and Morgan Cashmore.

They also invited the brilliant Gordon Carter to perform with the saxophone section. This worked so well as an emulation model to his Lipson students and the whole team, especially during his feature with the Jazz Quartet.

It was a knockout gig and probably the best that the group has ever played during the last two decades.



The bus shelter displays four posters for Calstock Arts events:

- Top Left:** Tickets £5 advance, £6 door. Full details: [www.calstockarts.org](http://www.calstockarts.org) / 01822 833183. Doors and bar open 7.00pm, start time 8.00pm.
- Top Right:** Tickets £17 advance, £20 door, £2 reduction FCA. Special offer £16 for all children. Full details: [www.calstockarts.org](http://www.calstockarts.org) / 01822 833183. Doors and bar open 7.00pm, start time 8.00pm.
- Bottom Left:** CALSTOCK ARTS. The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock PL18 9QX. Friday 24 April 2026 - 8.00pm. **CLIVE CARROLL**. Tickets £15 advance, £17 door, £2 reduction FCA. Full details: [www.calstockarts.org](http://www.calstockarts.org) / 01822 833183. Doors and bar open 7.00pm, start time 8.00pm.
- Bottom Right:** CALSTOCK ARTS. The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock PL18 9QX. Friday 1 May 2026 - 7.30pm. **The Lipson Big Band** (previously the Co-op Big Band). **A GALLERY BAR SPECIAL**. Free admission. Donations for the band and Calstock Arts. Full details: [www.calstockarts.org](http://www.calstockarts.org) / 01822 833183. Doors and bar open 7.00pm, start time 7.30pm.

