



The St Michael Steiner School

NEWSLETTER

August 2018



Katie Sharrock has been one of our Kindergarten teachers for the past 16 years; she joined us when the school was in its second year and many of the children in our school, including some of those who have just graduated from Class 12, have wonderful memories of their time in her Kindergarten. She has also been a College member and an invaluable friend and colleague to all of us. Although we will miss her more than we can say, we can agree wholeheartedly that Katie deserves the sabbatical year she is taking to pursue some of the things she has wanted to do for a long time. However, the school is not in a position to fund sabbaticals at this point, so on hearing of Katie's plans, a parent took the initiative to set up this crowdfunding project to support her. We hope all of you who can manage it will contribute something to making her year as restorative as possible:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/katiesharrocksabbatical?utm_id=108&utm_term=RQrekGrNG

Summer Preparation Conference for Waldorf Teachers

16th, 17th & 18th
July 2018
at



The St Michael
Steiner School

School finished on Friday 13th July and on the following Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we hosted a preparation conference for Waldorf teachers.

Some of the High School teachers have been attending the Teachers' Refresher Course in Kassel for several years, and some of us also went to the Summer Course in Oslo in August 2017. These annual conferences provide an opportunity for teachers from schools across Europe to meet and work together to renew and enliven their practice.

We have found these conferences thought-provoking and inspiring; every year, hundreds of Waldorf teachers go back to their schools full of enthusiasm and practical ideas for the coming year. In particular, the experience of having worked with their own colleagues from across the school, alongside those from other schools, means that they can collectively share and carry a fresh impulse, and this can only strengthen their schools.

It is this experience, and the awareness of what something similar could do for us in the UK, that led to the realisation of this conference. Our aim was that participants would come and share their experience, as well as gathering inspiration, ideas and material for their own teaching in the year ahead. The 42 participants from 11 schools across the UK did just that.

At the end of the conference we asked people to give us (anonymous) feedback to help us plan. Everyone, without exception, said they would come again next year.

Here are some of the other comments:

"Very knowledgeable staff; many new ideas"

"Provided a wonderful arc of understanding"

"The way it was run and delivered was spot-on"

"Very well organised - lots of clear information"

"Good, enthusiastic teachers, relevant topics, great food"

"Thank you so much for sharing and opening your school to all of us. The lectures were great!"

"Sharing of ideas by different teachers across schools was great"

"The atmosphere and ethos of the school, connecting, sharing, food(!!!), inspiration"

"Inspired by St Michael's staff - great energy and wisdom - Thank you!"

Everyone mentioned the delicious food, provided by parents and friends at very short notice. Thank you so much Jasmine, Lew, Jen Maria, Gail, Jane and everyone else who worked behind the scenes to make the event such a success.

Amanda Bell
Conference organiser

From The College

Consent forms and contact information

Later in the summer, we will send out an updated information pack to parents, including a consent form. It is very important that you sign and return this form by the first day of term as we require your consent for many of the regular activities that take place in the school. Please also check that your contact details are correct on the parents' contact list and let us know of any corrections or changes. remind all families of the importance of letting the school know if any of your contact details (address, email address or telephone numbers) change.

To contact the College, email:
college@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

WISH LIST

Every month we will publish a list of items that we need at school in case someone out there has them to give away, or knows where we can get them for not-too-much money. At the moment, we are looking for:

- Working hand sewing machines
- Large pieces of leather
- A potters wheel (kick wheel or working electric one)
- Craft tools - woodwork, leatherwork, metalwork
- A guillotine (for A3+ paper)
- 4 sheds: 1 for gardening tools, 1 for games, 1 for fairs/trips and 1 for general storage;
- Garden tools and wheelbarrows
- Top soil/compost;
- Microscopes;
- A double cooker for the kitchen;
- A small fridge/freezer for the lab;
- Sand for the sand pit
- Volunteers to water the gardens over the holiday

Contact Julia Wallace, Sarah Houghton or Amanda Bell if you can help.

What is the College?

The school has no Head Teacher but is led and managed by teachers and administrative staff working as The College.

The College is made up of staff members who are able and willing to take responsibility for the leadership and management of the school.

The College meets, at present, on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5:30pm. Meetings are chaired by a member of the group; a new Chair is chosen periodically by the group.

The College oversees the general wellbeing of the school, ensuring that the aims and vision are kept in mind and reflected in practice, and is responsible for monitoring all aspects of the education offered by the school.

Current College members:

Pat Alexander
Amanda Bell
Dorothea van Breda
Peter Brewin
Julian Coxon (Chair)
Vicky Dunn
Leigha Hipkin
Sarah Houghton
Michèle Hunter
Eleni Karakonstanti
Birgit Möller (ex officio)
Stella Ottewill
Marta Pietrzyck
Katie Sharrock
Julia Wallace

There are some exciting new initiatives from parents. There will be more information in September, but here are a few bite-size portions:

Parent-College meetings

Thank you to the school for introducing the Parent-College meetings. They have been a great springboard for introducing some initiatives which I hope will enhance the experience for the St Michael's families and teachers as well as making introductions easier for new and potential new parents to the school.

The Parent Welcome Body

I am delighted to announce the new **Parent Welcome Body**. We are here to assist and support families and will do what we can to help by offering a listening ear and introducing parents with families who are happy to chat, drink tea and arrange playdates! If you are new or know of a new parent whom would benefit, please pass our details on:

Lucy St John lcstjohn@hotmail.com 07903 047350

Hollie Holden hollieholden@gmail.com 07917 654050

The St Michael Steiner School Virtual Café

If you are a Facebook user and have not already joined, you are invited to join the St Michael Steiner School Virtual Café. Just pop the title into the search box on Facebook. It is a great space for thoughts, ideas, buying, selling and sharing amongst parents. Please remember to abide by Data and Child Protection regulations when posting pictures of children. In other words, ask permission from their parents!

Have a lovely summer and well done for all the achievements this year.

Lucy St John

On behalf of the Parent Welcome Body



Anthroposophical Association Limited
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and
**Anthroposophical Society
in Great Britain**

Registered Charity No. 220480
Rudolf Steiner House, 35 Park Road, London NW1 6XT
Tel 020 7723 4400 Email doris.bailiss.rsh@anth.org.uk

A House Development Manager is required to support the development, and oversee the daily operations of, Rudolf Steiner House in London. The post requires excellent events management and organisational skills, sound judgement and good interpersonal and communication skills. It carries a high degree of responsibility and requires a collaborative way of working with the Board to develop Rudolf Steiner House as a vibrant venue for anthroposophical Steiner-inspired activities.

Applications are invited for the following vacancy. NO agencies please

House Development Manager

- Permanent – minimum 32 hours per week (days and times to be negotiated)
- Salary range £31,600 to £37,750 pro rata depending on experience
- Based at Rudolf Steiner House in London
- Anticipated start date: October/November 2018

Closing date **Friday 31st August 2018**

The job description, person specification, application form and information about the Anthroposophical Society is available on request from the General Manager, Doris Bailiss: doris.bailiss.rsh@anth.org.uk. Fully completed application forms (CVs on their own will not be accepted) should be returned to Doris Bailiss by the closing date Friday 12pm 31st August 2018

A Story That Could Be True

Men and Boys Camp 5-7th October 2018

This is for fathers and sons, godfathers and their godsons to spend a weekend in adventure and fun with stories and campfires together. The weekend includes activities for boys, time for men as well as shared projects and a cooking / washing up rota. It will be a gentle weekend with an emphasis on simply being together for the greater good and masculine creativity. Sons need fathers and fathers need sons! This weekend offers an opportunity for the exchange of gifts between generations.

Stepdads, mentors and godfathers with boys and stepsons are most welcome within your specific family arrangements. Age for boys: 9 - 19. Accommodation is in shared cabins with a couple of camping spots. Limited to 20 people. Food is included in the price.

Where: Avon Tyrell UK Youth Outdoor Centre (in the New Forest) Bransgore, Hampshire.

Times: Arrive from 16.00 Friday for dinner at 18.30, leave 15.00 Sunday.

Cost: £250.00 per father and son, godfather and godson.

To book:

find out more email or call:

Elmer Postle: elmerpostle@gmail.com / 07785926796

Dan Kidner: dkidner@yahoo.com

Webpage: <http://www.owlcranial.com/home-page/men-and-boys-camp/>

To reserve your place, pay the full amount or a non-refundable deposit of £75.00 via bank transfer: marked as 'Fathers/Sons' to, Lloyds, Sort Code: 30-80-37 Account No: 31243260

Lyre Making Workshop

28 - 30 September 2018



This is an impulse coming from Pan Liang Ho, the school's music teacher with aims to bring hands-on woodworking and music together in the creation of the 12-string diatonic lyre. Pan Liang has personally observed the therapeutic effects of playing the lyre in children. The resonating, clear and light tone from the lyre reaches one's nervous system very quickly and calms it down to bring it into a state of peace and relaxation. In today's media saturated environment, the lyre is becoming increasingly relevant to bring children out from their over-stimulation to a state of calmness and balance. In terms of music pedagogy, the lyre encourages deep listening when the tones fade slowly into silence but yet one can still hear the tones clearly within.

Woodworking builds a sense of care and respect to our surroundings. Through woodworking, one learns that things can be made with one's own hands, broken objects can be repaired instead being replaced in today's buying culture.

In this workshop, we are pleased to invite Jason Pond to lead and teach lyre making. The wood and strings will all be provided. Each participant will go away with a 12-string diatonic lyre made with their own hands which the children can play on. Lyre playing lessons are also available from Pan Liang Ho if there is interest.

Jason has been teaching craft at Elmfield Steiner school for 7 years and more recently have been setting up his own Community workshop in Bewdley in the west midlands. The details of the workshop are as follows. This workshop is mainly for adults but children (class 4 to 8) are welcome to come together with one of their parents and make the lyre together over a weekend.

September 28-30 (whole weekend needed)
7-9pm on the Friday evening
9.30am - 5pm on the Saturday and
9.50am - 4.00pm on the Sunday.

Cost will be £225 for each participant. A parent and child pair will also be charged at £225 with no extra. With a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10.

Please kindly sign up with Pan Liang Ho at hopanliang@stmichaelsteiner.com for this lyre-making workshop if you are interested. Spaces are limited and will be confirmed after payment.

OFSTED REGISTERED CHILDMINDER

- St. Michael's Kindergarten parent
- Breakfast before school from 7.30am
- Pick-ups from school at 12.30pm or 3pm
- 10 minute walk to and from the school
- Home cooked, healthy food
- Large garden
- Dogs, cats and chickens!

I am now taking bookings for September 2018 so please get in touch if you would like to reserve a place.

email: elizabethlee0101@gmail.com

tel: 07879 401911

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Nisa & Chris, parents of Zora in St Michael Steiner School, Hanworth, and founders of SLEEP ORGANIC



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