Minerva Primary Academy’s brand new state-of-the-art building has now been officially opened by novelist, cookery writer, TV personality and business woman Prue Leith CBE.

After the opening, Prue spent time touring the stunning new building and she spoke with pupils, parents, carers and staff.

The new build boasts amazing spaces for pupils to thrive and develop. These include: a dance studio, project break out spaces and an enrichment room with a fully functioning kitchen for cookery and baking. In the coming year the Academy will be developing the grounds to provide a stimulating environment for play and outdoor learning including a construction area, outdoor cooking space, an amphitheatre for performances, sand and water play areas and some green areas to explore.

The academy has been extremely privileged to have Toby Paterson (award-winning artist with an international reputation) create lots of artistic elements that have transformed the building. His input includes fabulous huge stairwell paintings, specially designed screens, bespoke canopies, signage, facade design and Minerva owl sculptures. Toby’s creative artistry means that Minerva Academy is like no other school.

Pete Hallam, Principal said, “We are all very excited about our new building, but above all we’re very proud of our pupils and staff. Minerva has seen sustained continuous improvement in performance over the last few years. We believe that children should enjoy their learning and develop into resilient and confident individuals. This building will help them achieve that and it will be a truly amazing asset for our local and wider community.”
Over eighty pupils from Year 3 received a lesson from Naturalist Ed Drewitt. This lesson enriched their Year three science curriculum where they have been studying humans and animals in their lessons.

Ed brought in some amazing skeletons including the skulls of badgers, rabbits, albatross, and sheep. The pupils were able to closely observe and even handle the bones! The children had the opportunity to ask Ed questions about what they had learnt.

In Year three pupils need to develop their scientific vocabulary and be able to identify and name different bones. Following on from this they looked at vertebrates and invertebrates in their lessons and the differences between them.

Triff Rees, Inclusion Leader & Year 3 teacher said, “This has given pupils a first-hand experience of working closely with a naturalist. Ed brought in a great range of skeletons and pupils really loved it. Ed is extremely knowledgeable and when the children fed back, they had remembered a considerable amount of information. This experience has helped to develop their skills and knowledge in this area of science.”

The Cabot Learning Federation (CLF), one of the most established and mature multi-academy trusts in the South West, is extremely pleased to announce that Evergreen Primary Academy, formally Millpond Primary, joined the CLF on 1st September 2018.

Millpond had been working in partnership with the CLF in the period up to the transition to Evergreen Primary Academy, focusing on wider school improvement and the development of teaching and learning. Staff, students and parents have been informed of the decision and the response has been very positive. The addition of Evergreen Primary Academy to the CLF will further strengthen the partnership and improve the life chances for all pupils that attend our academies.

The addition of Evergreen Primary Academy to the CLF family of schools was approved by the South West Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) Lisa Mannall earlier this year.

Principal of Evergreen Primary Academy, Vicky Counsell, said, “We are delighted to be embarking upon this exciting journey of joining the Cabot Learning Federation. The Evergreen team are looking forward to working collaboratively with other academies and CLF teams to ensure that our pupils have an engaging, enriching and challenging curriculum and that we are able to provide positive outcomes for all of our pupils.”

CEO of the Cabot Learning Federation, Steve Taylor said, “Every conversation I have had with staff and parents both before and after the transition to Evergreen has been full of optimism and excitement about the school’s future in the CLF. The academy is in a strong place to make swift and sustainable improvements; it’s going to be an exciting first year!”
Mary pops in for spectacular musical at Bristol Met

Bristol Metropolitan Academy staged the spectacular musical production of Mary Poppins from Thursday 29th November - Wednesday 5th December 2018.

Starring, Emily Clough as the enigmatic Mary Poppins, Ellis Hopkinson Hassell and Jamie Honeywill who play the formidable Mr George Banks. Jessie Davis Griffiths plays Jane, Cerys Moss Wills plays Michael who are the parent's terrible twosome, Max Bennett as the adorable Bert and Dilys Taylor Collins plays the scatter-brained mother, Winifred Banks. The seventy strong cast and crew who consist of students from Years 7 – 11 have worked tirelessly on this production for 11 months, much of which was in their own time.

The musical is set in Edwardian London's Cherry Tree Lane, where yet another nanny resigns from keeping an eye on Mr Banks’ boisterous children, Jane and Michael. But then, as if by magic, a new governess the enchanting, Mary Poppins lands on their doorstep to take control of the situation, as thrilling adventures along with the amazing chimney sweep, Bert, pave the way for a wonderful transformation. Will the charming Miss Poppins turn chaos into order, you will have to watch the show to find out!

Director of show Meesh Vince said, "The students and staff have worked so hard since January 2018 and I am incredibly proud of their talent and commitment. It has been a dream of mine to stage this show since I was a child myself. Huge thanks to Dave Vince for making the musical a hugely success and magical."

Digitech Students study at Cambridge University

For the first week in August three Year 12 students from Digitech Studio School had the opportunity to stay in the University of Cambridge, Murray Edwards' College student halls and participate in a number of university level scientific workshops. This was part of a cultural exchange with high school students in Tokyo. Lewis Wild, Rohan Dewan and Mahir Saciid shared rooms with Japanese students, exchanged cultural traditions and took part in cutting edge scientific research at the university.

Here's what they had to say about the visit….

Lewis Wild said, “The UK-Japan Young Scientists Workshop was an amazing opportunity in which I was privileged to take part. It provided me with the ability to immerse myself in a selected topic of science whilst building my “soft” skills through networking with professionals within their fields and through the wealth of new friends that I have gained.

Rohan Dewan said, “Being part of the Japan UK Scientist Project taught me the importance of being able to present scientific research to the general public via an internet podcast. As well as learning how to record and edit a podcast, we also had a lot of fun during the cultural exchange evenings. We laughed as we tried (and some of us failed) to paint our names in Japanese with the traditional paint brushes.”

Mahir Saciid said, “From taking part in this project I have gained a lot of knowledge of what the life of a university student and a research engineer would be like if I chose to pursue this career path. After meeting and working with the students from Japan I was amazed as to how hard working they were, so I also gained a better and more positive attitude towards my own life and studies.”

“The UK-Japan Young Scientists Workshop was an amazing opportunity in which I was privileged to take part.”
Hanham Woods Academy continues on rapid improvement journey

Following Hanham Woods Academy’s recent Ofsted monitoring visit the Cabot Learning Federation is extremely pleased to announce that the inspection team judged the academy to be taking effective action towards the removal of special measures.

Three inspectors visited Hanham Woods Academy for their second monitoring visit since the full Ofsted inspection back in October 2017. The judgement at this and subsequent monitoring visits can only be taking effective action or not taking effective action.

On outcomes for pupils Ofsted said, “Pupils achieved better results in 2018 GCSEs than in previous years. This is the result of improvements in the quality of teaching and a range of effective interventions.

Leaders have been successful in improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. These pupils are now making better progress because the quality of teaching overall is improving.”

In relation to Middle and Senior Leadership they said, “The senior team have a relentless focus on improving the quality of teaching and learning across the school. Their restless energy has proved infectious and staff morale is high.” With reference to the quality of teaching they said, “Teachers are now expecting more of their pupils, and pupils are responding positively to the challenge. While expectations are not universally high the level of consistency across the school is significantly better than at the last monitoring visit.”

There is increased pride being shown in the academy, noted Ofsted, they said, “Because teachers are now more consistent in their expectations, pupils show an increasing degree of pride in their work and their achievements. Leaders and teachers acknowledge that they have more to do in this regard, but the improvement is palpable.”

On behaviour they said, “Exclusions are down and atmosphere has improved. The number of pupils excluded from school has dropped significantly. This is largely because teachers are very consistent in the way they manage behaviour. Pupils know what is expected of them and they respond appropriately. Pupils appreciate the calm and orderly atmosphere because they can concentrate on their work.”

The academy is receiving significant support from Cabot Learning Federation, they said, “The trust has been active in supporting the school since the inspection. It has acted to improve governance and to strengthen the senior leadership team. These strategies have increased the challenge to school leaders and teachers. The trust has used its team of school improvement staff to help middle leaders and teachers improve the curriculum. This has been a significant factor in raising the level of expectation across the school.”

Steve Kneller, Principal at Hanham Woods Academy said, “The judgement of this inspection team indicates that the standard of education provided at Hanham Woods Academy has improved markedly since the previous visit in June and significantly since the full inspection last October. This is as a result of the hard work of both staff and students and the ongoing support and challenge of parents for which I am very grateful.”

News in brief......

Hans Price students experience college life

Hans Price Academy took a group of 53 Year 8 students to Weston College, where they experienced life at university and higher education.

In the afternoon students were divided into groups and chose two workshops that they would like to have taster sessions in. Some of the students chose Graphic Design and Art others chose theatre make up.

Dianne Tuck Learning mentor said, “All the students came back to HPA full of enthusiasm and had a very enjoyable day.”
OFSTED: Minerva is still a ‘Good’ academy

Minerva Primary Academy was recently inspected by Ofsted. The Cabot Learning Federation is very pleased to announce that Ofsted have judged that the Academy remains ‘Good’ in all categories.

Ofsted said, “The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection.”

“Leaders and staff alike set high expectations for pupils in all aspects of school life. Teachers consistently model high expectations, fairness and equality. Pupils speak confidently about their school and their learning. All pupils the inspector spoke with said that staff are caring and considerate and they make learning interesting. Pupils are proud that differences are celebrated, for example in culture, religion, gender and views.

They, along with members of the school, do not tolerate or accept any form of bigotry or unkindness. They told me that no matter who you are, or when you join this school, you will be among friends.”

They said, “Pupils enjoy coming to school. Staff morale is high. This is a school where pupils know it is alright to make mistakes, because they learn from them. This helps to build their resilience. Pupils are taught to ‘have a go’ at challenging learning activities. Because of this, even if they get something wrong pupils do not lose their self-esteem or confidence.”

On the new build Ofsted noted, “Everyone in the school is excited about moving to the ‘state of the art’ building that they have watched being constructed next door. During this time of transition you have ensured that staff have remained focused. Pupils continue to succeed in their academic subjects and flourish in their personal development and well-being. Those pupils who attend Minerva School the longest make the best progress.”

Talking about the Academy curriculum they said, “At the previous inspection, the Academy was asked to improve the consistency of teaching of mathematics and for pupils to be given opportunities to respond to teachers’ marking and feedback. Senior leaders are successfully improving these areas of the school’s work.”

They went on to say, “Principal, Pete Hallam and his staff are aspirational in wanting an even more stimulating and enriching curriculum. Pete Hallam has rightly now prioritised developing the middle leadership of the creative subject areas to increase teachers’ and teaching assistants’ confidence and expertise.”

On the subject of safeguarding Ofsted said, “The leadership team, along with the strong governing body, has ensured that safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose. Checks on staff and volunteers meet statutory requirements, and training for leaders and staff is up to date. When pupils leave the school mid-year, or fail to attend, you ensure that they are not missing their education. The Academy informs the correct agencies in a timely manner and are kept up to date with the whereabouts of the pupil.

There is a strong culture of protecting pupils and supporting families in the school. Staff know when to report and refer concerns. The Academy provide strong care and support for pupils and their families. Along with other school staff, the family support worker provides strong support for families in times of crisis or individual need. Leaders take constructive action to ensure that pupils get the help that they need. As a result, pupils feel safe, and are kept safe.

Pupils told me that there is no bullying at the school. Pupils are confident that if someone was being bullied, an adult would stop it. They really appreciate the named trusted adults in the school, but feel confident in any member of staff to listen and to take care of them.”

Pete Hallam, Principal said, “We are delighted that Ofsted have recognised the great job that the staff at Minerva do and we would like to thank the children and families for their positive comments as these contributed to such a great report.”

Steve Taylor, CEO of the Cabot Learning Federation said, “This outcome is extremely welcome and also unsurprising – Minerva has clearly been a strong school for some time. The timing of the inspection means that the community can now look forward to the move into the new build with considerable optimism, anticipating the great things that the school will be able to achieve in its state-of-the-start new surroundings. Well done to all at Minerva.”
John Cabot Academy in Kingswood is celebrating after being rated Good in all areas by the education watchdog Ofsted.

Inspectors praised leaders of the secondary school for their “single-minded determination to improve the quality of education on offer to pupils”.

Following a two-day visit last month, lead inspector Andrew Lovett said in his report: “This is a rapidly improving school. Leaders and teachers are working effectively together to improve all the key aspects of school life.

“The executive principal and senior leaders are ambitious for the school. They have put good plans in place to achieve their goals. As a result, there have been notable improvements in behaviour and standards.”

Executive principal Sally Apps said: “We are delighted that the great efforts made by our staff and students are recognised in this report, which marks a significant milestone in our ambition to make this school outstanding by 2020.

“Ofsted acknowledges the turbulence the school faced after being judged as Requiring Improvement in 2016 and the resolute actions and decisions we took to bring about the changes needed. I am immensely proud of the progress so far and know the whole school community will work together to build on this success.”

The Ofsted report said: “Pupils are increasingly proud of their school. They recognise the school is improving and believe it is helping them to realise their ambitions.” Inspectors noted that most pupils had good attitudes to learning and said behaviour in lessons was good, meaning that teachers could focus on teaching and students could concentrate on learning.

“Pupils treat each other well. They are lively and friendly. Relationships between pupils and teachers are warm and respectful.”

John Cabot Academy is part of the Cabot Learning Federation multi academy trust and has 1,147 students aged 11 to 18. The report said the sixth form, which has 348 on roll, was a strength of the school.

Other highlights in the report included:

• GCSE standards rose significantly in 2018
• Maths is a strength and standards of literacy are high
• The most-able students are encouraged to stretch themselves
• Students with special educational needs and disabilities make good progress
• Progress of disadvantaged students have improved substantially
• Pupils in every year group make good progress
• Keeping pupils safe is given the highest priority.

The inspectors said teachers had high expectations for all students and were ambitious for them. They praised the curriculum offer at the school, which they said provided the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects, supplemented by a strong mix of artistic and cultural experiences and an inclusive timetabled enrichment programme. They were also impressed with the pastoral support for students and the strong personal, social and health education programme.

Inspectors praised the trustees of the Cabot Learning Federation, describing them as experienced and well-trained. The Ofsted report said of them that “Trustees monitor the school’s effectiveness closely. …. As a result of the scrutiny process, the multi-academy trust executive leadership team has been able to ensure that appropriate support for leaders and teachers has been put in place and is having an impact.

The report said the school should improve teaching, learning and assessment, and hence raise standards, by ensuring that all teachers have equally high expectations of all pupils.

It also recommended that communication with families should be improved and leaders should ensure that all parents and carers felt their concerns were being addressed.

Chief Executive of the Cabot Learning Federation, Steve Taylor said: “I am delighted for John Cabot pupils and their parents and carers; their confidence and pride in their school has been given an additional boost with this affirmation from Ofsted. The academy remains a great place for a child to be educated, which is testament to the hard work and commitment of teachers and leaders at the school.”
Year 4 pupils at Wallscourt Farm Academy raised over £1000 to donate to their link school Ibakwe Hill School, in Uganda. This school is a school for refugees fleeing the conflict in South Sudan. It is an ‘Under Trees’ school which literally means that the children are taught under trees as they have no building to be taught in.

The children at Ibakwe were asked by their teachers what they would like the money raised to be spent on, they have requested Sports equipment and a toilet. Poppy and John from the charity that supports the school have said that the amount they have raised will pay for both.

Pupils raised the money by making and selling items and by individual children raising money themselves. A special thank you goes to Isabelle Rea for having her hair cut and raising over £800 and to Maisie Hopton for making cookies and popcorn to sell in the community, a brilliant effort by both!

**Evergreen pupils meet the Teletubbies!**

Thanks to a collaboration between Ablaze, Rolls-Royce and the Bristol Hippodrome, twelve primary schools were lucky enough to be treated to boxes at the Hippodrome’s children’s shows over the last few weeks. Pupils from Evergreen Primary Academy - who are part of the Cabot Learning Federation - were treated to the ‘Teletubbies Live Overview’ performance and all the pupils were thrilled to see the Teletubbies on stage. For some of the pupils who attended shows over the summer, their visit to the Hippodrome was the first time they had ever been to the theatre.

Deborah Barkham, the Inclusion Lead and SENCo at Evergreen Primary Academy, said “The children really enjoyed the Teletubbies Live show. They loved the opportunity to experience live theatre in such beautiful surroundings!” She commented on the school’s Ablaze Reading Buddies: “Children at Evergreen Primary Academy are given the opportunity to take part in weekly, one-to-one reading sessions with professionals from TLT Solicitors through Ablaze.

Our children really value this time and have developed positive relationships with their readers. Taking part in this reading programme, alongside the other reading activities taking place in the school, provides our children with the opportunity to develop a love of reading and sharing stories. A bonus of the Ablaze Reading Buddy programme is that our children have the chance to meet inspirational adults within the Bristol community and this helps to support and develop their own aspirations for their future.”

Charlotte Kelly, Community Investment Officer at Rolls-Royce in Filton, commented “Rolls-Royce works with a range of specialist partners to support social investment programmes that make a positive difference to the local communities which we serve.

We wanted to do something different in 2018, so when we were approached by the Bristol Hippodrome, we jumped at the opportunity to become one of their corporate partners offering those who may not be able to visit the theatre the opportunity to go.”
News in brief......

**Remembrance**

Fourteen students from the Acorn and King’s Oak Academy paid their respects at the Warmley War Memorial.

Students lay a wreath to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice to mark the end of the First World War.

**Pudsey**

Pudsey the Bear, the iconic figure representing Children In Need for millions of people across the UK dropped into the Acorn at King’s Oak Academy to say hello!

Pupils had a non-uniform day and raised £200 for this very worthy cause. The classes also did fun Pudsey activities that included biscuit decorating and outfit design.

**Careers**

King’s Oak Academy recently hosted a comprehensive careers event. Students networked with a range of different Industries who were on hand to inform students of future pathways available to them. There were representatives from Banking, Digital Marketing, Web Design, Airbus, Finance, creative industries, retail, construction, and education, the Army and sport.

This event was staged for Year 11 and Year 8 students who each chose five businesses to visit, during this morning of activities.

Chemin Alam-Lloyd, Associate Assistant Principal said, “This event improved their business awareness and will help them with their decision making of future choices in the world of work or further education. Students were very engaged throughout this event and sessions were informative and interactive.”

**SS Great Britain**

Year three pupils from Frome Vale Academy visited the SS Great Britain recently, we sent our roving reporters to find out more about the trip, these are their highlights.

“My favourite part was when we went on the magnificent ship and we saw statues. This is because it was very fascinating how they all looked real. I also enjoyed it when we dressed as Victorians. We discovered SS stands for steam ship. It was fascinating when we travelled in time.”

by Savannah Year 3

“My favourite part was when we opened the talking toilet. This is because it had a funny voice. We found out that the steering wheel was at the back of the ship. I also enjoyed it when we were using the tools. It was fascinating when we went back in time and saw the celebration of the launch.”

by Gilda Year 3
Pupils at Summerhill Academy are raising the profile of the school as the Academy that creates and chooses healthy lifestyles options for all. Pupils will be walking to the Academy every day and are passionate about sharing their understanding of why it is a healthy choice to walk to school.

Pupils have voiced their views in both assemblies and in the pupil Academy council about why this is important. They are enthused and excited about logging all pupils’ healthy choices each day.

The children will earn badges for walking to school that are recycled from yogurt pots and have lovely designs for each of the four seasons.

This initiative has been started in conjunction with ‘Living Streets’ which is a charity that aims to create a nation where walking is the natural choice for everyday local journeys. Their mission is to achieve a better walking environment and inspire people to walk more.

Davinia Varela-Lindley Year 4 teacher said, “It is particularly important for us to have children think about their mode of transport and how walking can benefit their well-being. The effect will hopefully be to lessen traffic congestion in a particularly busy part of our community and have an impact on our local environment.”

Two of Bristol’s top chefs Adrian Kirikmaа and Josh Eggleton visited Evergreen Primary Academy recently to deliver a breakfast club on behalf of FareShare South West. The organisation launched their Big Breakfast Week, a school-based campaign, which is part of their bid to tackle the city-wide issue of child hunger.

As well as the usual wide ranging breakfast menu the chefs were on hand to prepare and make nourishing healthy smoothies for the pupils to drink. The event was extremely well supported with around 30 families participating.

The breakfast club has been well established and has been in operation for over four years at the Academy and has proved an amazing success with pupils, parents and carers.

The week aimed to raise awareness of the need for additional food provision in schools where children are regularly arriving hungry, undernourished and unable to learn.

Vicky Counsell, Principal of Evergreen Primary said, “It has been fantastic to have two such well-renowned chefs visit our school and share their love of good food and healthy eating with our children. They have had lots of fun today! Our relationship with FareShare has enabled this to happen and has proven to be a real asset to the school over time. Working closely with FareShare enables us to provide a healthy breakfast for our pupils and their families every day that they are in school. We are able to provide a warm, caring and engaging start to the day for our children and this impacts positively on the rest of their day at school.”
Over 30 students from Cabot Learning Federation’s Post 16 hosted an afternoon of entertainment, fun and a festive tea party for around forty Local residents. Residents of Kingswood Court, the Beeches, Begbrooke House, Fairview Court, Dewhurst, Redfield Lodge, and Cleeve Lodge care homes joined students who are studying transition health and social care. As part of their course work, students have to deliver a health promotion campaign, working with people from a care home.

With party crackers pulled, students donned their Christmas hats and served food, teas and coffees and interacted with the care residents throughout the afternoon. Their guests were entertained by the fantastic John Cabot Academy choir and a pantomime was performed by a local theatre company. Oh, yes it was!

Students also talked to their guests about the importance of health and fitness, using armchair aerobics, keeping their minds active and also the importance of receiving the winter flu jab.

Marevna Emms Health & Social Care Teacher Post 16 said, “The students have been absolutely amazing. I think it is really important for students of this age group to interact and work with our senior friends at an event like this, bringing their learning to life. More importantly, it is not just a classroom exercise but is extremely rewarding for both our guests and students at this time of year.”

Anna Akinboroye Post 16 student said, “I just want to say sharing is caring and it is good to care for other people so that they feel loved and feel a part of our community.”
Hannam Woods brother and sister achieve national success!!

Another huge achievement by both Alfie and Betsy Bax from Hannam Woods Academy competing in the National BMX Series.

Alfie finished the season in 5th place, a fantastic achievement due to injury & only completing in 7/12 races. Betsy had a brilliant result and is now national champion! Well done to you both.

Rugby sucess for Hans Price

Corey Farr, Joe Constable, Max Withers and Ethan Horn scored the tries in a superb 26-10 win for Hans Price Academy’s Year 10 rugby team, in a thrilling victory over Sidcot School.

Ethan Horn adding three conversions, in a game that was much closer than the score suggests. Excellent attitude from both teams, in a fiercely fought contest, well played!

HPA student wins silver medal

Congratulations to Jasmine Dight from Hans Price Academy who secured a silver medal against 63 other competitors in aerobic gymnastics at the World cup in Bulgaria earlier this month, in the 10-11 category.

Jasmine, the reigning British champion, then joined her trio teammates Seren Jones and Katie Ferris to win another silver medal against 17 other trios. A fantastic achievement!