

WE ARE 40!
OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**Royal Wedding
Etiquette &
Traditions Guide**

In Conversation With...
Manuela, our new Student
Support & Accommodation
Officer

INSIDE:

- + 6 MONTHS IN ECUADOR
- + TORQUAY TRIP STUDENT REVIEWS
- + INTERNATIONAL JOKE DAY

econtents

2 WELCOME

3 NEWS

4 IN CONVERSATION WITH....

We speak to Manuela, our new Student Support & Accommodation Officer

5 6 MONTHS IN ECUADOR

Two of our teachers travelled to Ecuador to teach English

6 INTERNATIONAL JOKE DAY

How British humour can be misunderstood

7 A RIGHT ROYAL SHINDIG

Etiquette rules and traditions surrounding the Royal wedding

8 WE ARE 40!

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Suzanne Sparrow Plymouth Language School

9 TORQUAY TRIP

Two students write about their experience on this school trip

11 RECIPE

To celebrate the Royal wedding we have chosen a dish served at the recent wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex; pea and mint risotto

12 PUZZLE PAGE

Waste some time and do some puzzles!

13 WHAT'S ON

Your guide to what's on in Plymouth





Kelly Luscombe
Editor

Summer is finally here! After the unusual weather we had recently of snow in spring, it's nice to have some consistently good weather.

We have two new members of staff joining us on the Student Support & Accommodation Team, welcome to Manuela and Moira. Find out more about Manuela in our 'In Conversation With' article. We have articles from teachers and students this quarter and this year is the 40th anniversary of the Suzanne Sparrow Plymouth Language School!

Happy reading!

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WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for past experiences, stories or photos to share on our social media and also to display at the 40th anniversary party. We would love to hear from you, please email kelly@sparrow.co.uk or send us a private message via our social media channels.

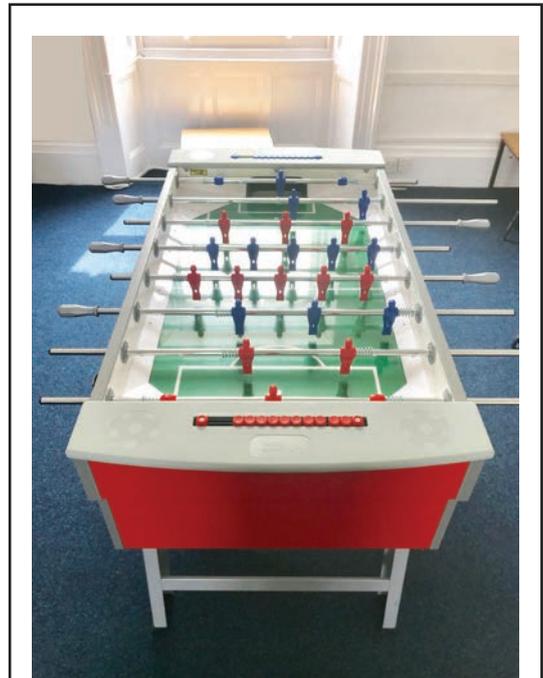
NEWS



RACE FOR LIFE

Our Admissions Officer, Rebecca, is running the Plymouth 5K Race for Life again this year. It is held every year to raise money in the fight against cancer. Good luck Rebecca!

"I hate running, but I hate cancer more!" - Rebecca



JUST IN TIME FOR THE WORLD CUP!

We have a new football table just in time to join in with the World Cup madness that will starting in June. Maybe we could start a tournament of our own!

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CONGRATULATIONS

A big congratulations to our teacher, Rich and his wife, on the birth of their daughter Ishbel Rosemary born on the 6th April.

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If you have any news you would like to share, please send your story to thesparrowtimes@sparrow.co.uk

NEW STAFF

We have two new members of staff starting in May and June, Manuela and Moira. Both will be working in the Accommodation team as Student Support and Accommodation Officers. Welcome to the team ladies!

In Conversation With...



Manuela Fabris

Student Support & Accommodation
Officer

WHAT GETS YOU OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING?

My cat meowing at my face :)

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE – PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL?

Professional, at the moment. One day I would like to be a professional translator.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

I'm not sure... my cat?! Ahah

IF YOU COULD CHOOSE ANYONE, WHO WOULD YOU PICK AS YOUR MENTOR?

This is a very difficult question. A few years ago I had a dance teacher who taught me to look at things with an opened mind. I learned that people are different and have different backgrounds therefore it's not right to be judgemental. Since then I always tried to be friendly and to understand people. I don't really have a mentor now but I think I would still choose him.

WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE IN THE UK TO BE?

I haven't seen enough places in the UK yet but so far I really like Newquay and Bristol.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE LINE FROM A FILM?

You know what's not lame? Safety! (22 Jump Street).

WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO OR PERSONAL MANTRA?

See rejection as redirection.

WHAT IS YOUR GUILTY PLEASURE?

Jaffa cakes.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU LAUGHED SO HARD YOU CRIED?

A couple of weeks ago: I went camping with my friends and one of them started playing guitar. At that point my boyfriend was a little drunk and started singing a song from Arctic Monkeys followed by a very interesting choreography. It was a great performance... shame he doesn't remember it!

IF YOU COULD HAVE ONE SUPER SKILL THAT YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE, WHAT IT BE AND WHY?

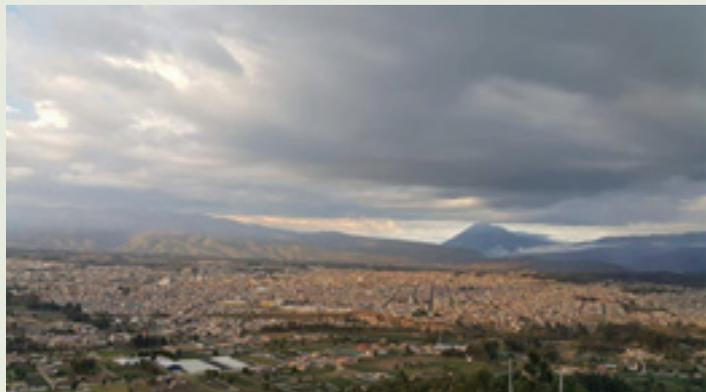
I enjoy learning new languages so I think it would great to be multilingual and be able to understand everyone. This way I would be really good at translating and it would be a lot easier to travel the world.

HOW DO YOU RELAX?

I love playing board games with my friends. We usually meet once a week and spend the evening together with games, snacks and some drinks.

When the weather is good I like to spend as much time as possible outdoor. I love going to the park with a blanket and read a book or just sun bathing.

6 Months in Ecuador



Two of our teachers, William and Charlotte, have spent the last 6 months living and teaching in Ecuador. We asked them to recount a few stories about their time there.

William: "At the end of the Summer 2017, Charlotte and I were given an incredible opportunity to live and teach in 2 different cities in the Ecuadorian Andes mountains. From September to November 2017 we taught classes at a fantastic school in the mountains called the Instituto de Lenguas Extranjeras, or ILE for short.

1000 students. The language programme at ILE was an incredible credit to the students. Our students would finish at school or at work each day and come to study for 2 hours with us, 4 days a week, with one week off every 8 weeks. We worked so hard and learned so much together. It was a wonderful experience. The best days were graduation days and festival celebrations. We made so many great friends here.

The school was a 200-year-old Spanish convent, a beautiful building, with nearly





Charlotte:
Our first city, Riobamba, was high in the mountains (2800m above sea level), but our second city, Santo Domingo, was lower down the mountain, in the jungle region nearer the coast (600m above sea level). Santo Domingo was such a great experience because we were tasked with opening a new branch of the school. We shared classrooms with a local high school and the school was an immediate success. It was a wonderful experience to open a school with 50 students from the first day. We taught classes with doctors, factory workers, police and students of all ages. A school surrounded by jungle that was alive with hundreds of different brightly coloured birds.

At the end of our contract it was difficult to leave. But with new teachers arriving in Santo Domingo to take our places, it was time to fly back for another busy summer at Suzanne Sparrow.



International Joke Day

The British people are known for their dry wit and sarcasm, but the humour isn't always understood by those who are learning English as a foreign language. It is a consideration to all those who may work with or teach people from other cultures, often a joke or funny comment can be left with an awkward silence! Here are some jokes that typify British humour!

"I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day, but I couldn't find any." – Tommy Cooper

"My wife – it's difficult to say what she does. She sells seashells on the seashore." – Milton Jones

"I went down the local supermarket. I said: 'I want to make a complaint – this vinegar's got lumps in it.' He said: 'Those are pickled onions.'" – Tim Vine

"Red sky at night: shepherd's delight. Blue sky at night: day." – Tom Parry



A Right Royal Shindig!

In celebration of the Royal wedding we have some interesting facts and traditions that go hand in hand with a Royal wedding.

Ask permission

The Royal Marriages Act of 1772 requires that all royal family members must ask the sovereign's approval in order to get married.

The bride must wear white

This was a tradition started by Queen Victoria in 1840 when she wed Prince Albert.

The bride's bouquet must include myrtle

Another trend set by Queen Victoria; myrtle is the herb of love and after Queen Victoria's wedding the sprig of myrtle that was in her bouquet was planted. The sprig used in each subsequent bouquet since has come from the very shrub she planted.

The bouquet goes to an unknown warrior

Another tradition relating to the bride's

bouquet was started by the Queen Mother which was to lay the bouquet at the grave of the Unknown Warrior to honour those in military service. The Unknown Warrior was an unidentified British soldier killed during the First World War.

The bride's wedding ring must contain Welsh gold

This tradition started with the Queen Mother and continued for nearly a century.

Guest Attire

There are also rules of etiquette that extend to the guests. Gentlemen must wear a "Morning Suit", "Lounge Suit" or Formal Military Dress. Ladies must dress appropriately for church. This rule includes covering one's shoulders, wearing a hat and no white, cream coloured clothing.



We are 40!



Suzanne Sparrow (PLYMOUTH)
LANGUAGE SCHOOL LTD.

This year is the 40th anniversary of the Suzanne Sparrow Plymouth Language School. That's 40 years of providing English lessons and experiences to thousands of international students. There have been students that have come back to us over the years and then sent their children, we have had schools send us students every year and so we see the same teachers that come time and again become like family and we have seen students grow and achieve what they set out to either in education or business.

The school was first set up in 1978 by Suzanne Sparrow and was the first English language school in Plymouth. The timing couldn't be more serendipitous, as Suzanne was starting the school, Brittany Ferries had just started taking passengers on ferries which had previously been only used for transporting fruit and vegetables. This provided the easiest way for students to travel to Plymouth from France and the first programme was set up around this.



Suzanne Sparrow

Not only have we seen students come back to us for many years, we also have had staff and teachers who have been with the school for many years. They all become part of the Sparrow family, something which has become an ethos for the school to encourage students to feel at home while they are with us.

We will be running an Anniversary Special in the Winter edition of the Sparrow Times so make sure you look out for it.

WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for past experiences, stories or photos to share on our social media and also to display at the 40th anniversary party. We would love to hear from you, please email kelly@sparrow.co.uk or send us a private message via our social media channels.

Carrot

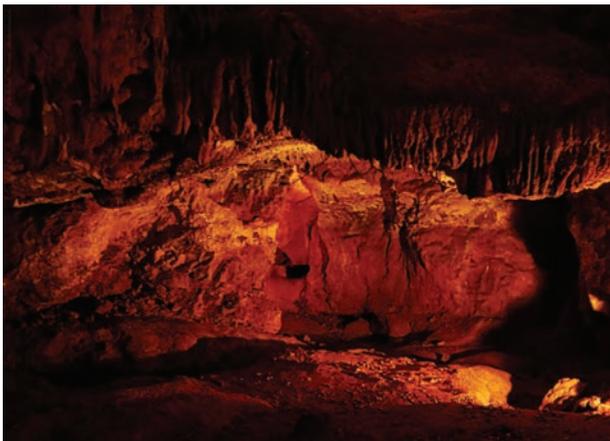
The school organisation took us to Torquay on Saturday 10th March. On this trip, Tim was responsible for taking us on this excursion. We met at Tower Cabs at nine o'clock.

First Stop

We set off from Plymouth to Kent's Cavern. We arrived there about 10.15am. When I entered I was thinking that it was a very small exhibition about animal and human bones, because I hadn't seen the other entrance, a few minutes later, a young guide suddenly appeared and opened the door. At that moment I was astonished to see the door. Moreover, when I went inside, it was very dark and it was thrilling! The guide was telling us about the cavern's history when we stopped moving there were lots of different shaped stones, it was so beautiful. We moved forward, I saw some wax figures in there. The guide told us there had been stone age people who lived in there, at that time. They didn't have light and they depended on hunting animals and used animal oil to make fire.

Next Stop

After that, we went to visit Cockington. This is a beautiful village with some interesting shops selling lots of things made by



Torquay Trip

hand, including a blacksmith's shop! This is brilliant. I loved it. Afterwards we went to Torquay city centre. Fortunately, the weather was good, so I followed Tim and Diana down to the sea and watched some boats. We stood on the bridge and looked around the boats. It was amazing.





Two students write about their experience on this school trip

Junior

On the 10th March some students of our school left the classroom environment for an exciting trip to Torquay and some nearby places like Kent's Cavern and Cockington and finally, to walk around Torquay.



We arrived at Kent's Cavern at 10:20 and entered the building where the local guide told us about the rules and explained to us what kind of materials we could use inside the cavern. We spent about an hour learning how animals and people had lived in that place. There was a moment when the guide turned off all the lights and we could feel how appalling it is when there is no light! Then he lit a fire and showed us how the cavemen managed fire for their survival and during all the time inside the cavern we could see the deformation that the rocks underwent by the effect of time and other factors.

The next stop was Cockington whose main attraction was the small local commerce and great places for taking nice photos. Lastly, we went to Torquay and spent all afternoon walking around the big city centre. The weather wasn't perfect for a day near the sea, but we had the opportunity to climb the very long steps to see all of the Torquay Riviera.



Season Recipe

pea and mint risotto



Ingredients

For the risotto:

100g Arborio rice (use top quality like Carnroli or Nano)
25g white onion, finely diced
20g butter
25g Parmigiano Reggiano, grated
125g fresh garden peas
40g fresh garden peas, puréed
350ml vegetable stock
Salt and pepper to taste
1 mint sprig
Pea shoots

For the mint oil:

1 bunch of mint
400ml extra virgin olive oil

Method

For the mint oil:

Wash the bunch of mint and pat dry. Strip the leaves from the stalks and lay out onto an oven tray. Heat at around 80°C for 2-3 hours to dry out the leaves.

Add the mint leaves and olive oil to a saucepan. On a very low heat, warm the olive oil for 1 hour until the oil is green.

Blitz the oil in a blender and pass through muslin or very fine sieve. You will then have a beautiful clear mint oil, which you can drizzle around the risotto.

For the risotto:

Add the butter to a saucepan and sweat the onions on a medium-low heat until tender and translucent. Do not allow to colour or brown.

Add the Arborio rice to the onion

and stir to coat the grains in oil.

Add half of the stock to the pan and bring to a gentle simmer. Ensure it retains a constant heat and gently stir as it cooks – it should take around 20 minutes.

As the rice absorbs the water and begins to swell, add the remaining liquid gradually as it is absorbed. Season with a little salt and pepper.

Meanwhile, in a blender, add 40g of the fresh garden peas with a splash of water and pulse into a puree.

When the rice is tender, add the mint sprig. Remove from the heat and gently stir in the pea puree, fresh peas and most of the Parmesan cheese. Mix through, remove the mint sprig and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Puzzle Page

The perfect time to waste some time!

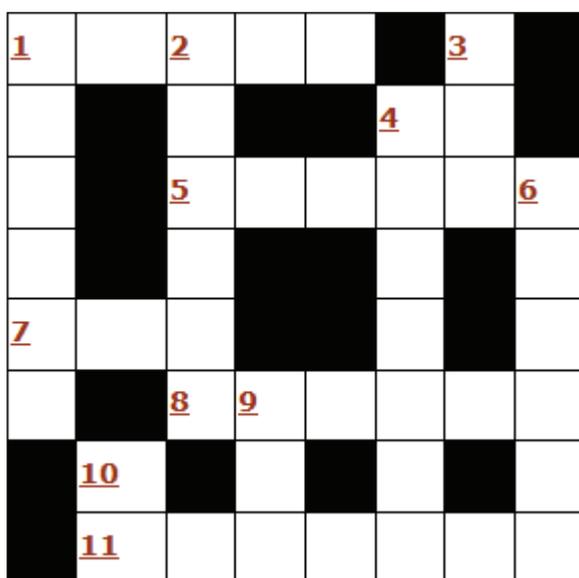
Rhyming Pairs

bore	four
brown	fawn
blue	frown
blow	flew
born	flown
blown	flow

Matching Pairs: Categories

animal	banana
building	car
fruit	teacher
job	house
vehicle	lion

CROSSWORD: Business



Across

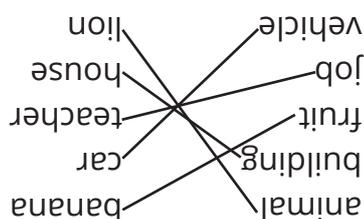
- All the workers in a company
- Short for "money order"
- How many _____ did our sales staff get today?
- A manager's job is to ___ a company.
- Computer keyboard skill
- A person who runs a company

Down

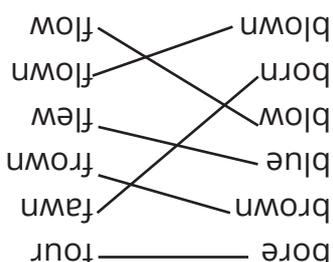
- Money paid to a worker
- Quantity, or a sum of money
- Our company is looking ___ a new manager.
- "I can't talk now. I'm in a _____."
- This person works in the music business
- Japanese money
- Short for "general manager"

ANSWERS

Matching Pairs: Categories



Rhyming Pairs



CROSSWORD: Business



CINEMA

TO CHECK WHAT'S ON AT OUR LOCAL CINEMAS PLEASE CHECK WEBSITES

VUE CINEMA

Barbican Leisure Park, Shapters Road, Coxside, Plymouth PL4 0LG

Phone: 0345 308 4620

www.vue.com

REEL CINEMA

25 Derry's Cross, Plymouth PL1 2SW

Phone: 01752 225553

reelcinemas.co.uk

PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE

38 Looe St, Plymouth PL4 0EB

Phone: 01752 206114

plymouthartscentre.org

JILL CRAIGIE CINEMA / UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA

Phone: 01752 585050

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/your-university/peninsula-arts/film>



PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

REFUGEE WEEK 2018

SATURDAY 16TH - FRIDAY 22ND JUNE

Come and join us for a wonderful week of events celebrating the contribution of refugees to our society. Find out more about the events and see the programme by visiting <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/whats-on/refugee-week-2018>

PING! AT THE UNIVERSITY

SATURDAY 2ND JUNE - SATURDAY 7TH JULY

Ping! is a national table tennis initiative which sees table tennis tables installed in busy places for 6-8 weeks during the summer. The aim is to get as many people as possible playing the game, free of charge, in social, competitive and imaginative ways.

The University has retained a table permanently as part of the Ping! legacy and everyone is invited to have a go. Bats and balls are supplied: to join in the fun, just borrow a bat from the side of the table, and play.

WILD ABOUT PLYMOUTH: BIG BUG HUNT

Join the Wild About Plymouth team for their annual mini-beast hunt!

Experts from Plymouth Museums Galleries Archives, the University of Plymouth and BugLife will be on hand to identify your finds which will also be listed on the museum's weekly blog. Come along and get up close with spiders, beetles, grasshoppers and more.

Ford Park Cemetery is a 34.5 acre urban wildlife refuge and home to a wide variety of plant, bird and insect life.

Admission is free and there is no need to book. Contact museum@plymouth.gov.uk / +44 1752 304774 for any queries..

THEATRE

TR2 BACKSTAGE TOURS

TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY - TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER

Take a tour of our production and learning centre. Here you can see where we build sets, make costumes and props and where companies come to rehearse.

**TOUR ONLY £7, TOUR & CREAM TEA £10
BOOK 01752 267222**

WEEKDAY TRP BACKSTAGE TOURS

WEDNESDAY 17TH JANUARY - WEDNESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

A behind-the-scenes tour of the The Lyric and The Drum gives you a unique look at how a busy theatre operates. Our backstage tour aims to take you behind the scenes to view the The Lyric auditorium from the stage, the flexible format of The Drum, the orchestra pit, the trap-rooms and front-of-house areas. Glimpse inside the dressing rooms, wings and backstage areas, experience some of the theatricality, heritage and tradition all in the company of well-informed and enthusiastic guides. Come and enjoy the buzz of what's happening behind the scenes today!

TOUR ONLY £7

TOUR AND AFTERNOON TEA (WEEKDAYS ONLY) £15

TOUR AND CREAM TEA (SATURDAYS ONLY) £10

MISS SAIGON

In the last days of the Vietnam War, 17 year-old Kim is forced to work in a Saigon bar run by a notorious character known as the Engineer. There she meets and falls in love with an American GI named Chris but they are torn apart by the fall of Saigon. For 3 years Kim goes on an epic journey of survival to find her way back to Chris, who has no idea he's fathered a son.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE £20

OTHER EVENTS

PLYMOUTH ARMED FORCES DAY 2018

SATURDAY 30 JUNE, PLYMOUTH HOE

Celebrate Plymouth's proud military tradition at our annual Armed Forces Day, which this year will be commemorating the RAF's 100th anniversary. On Saturday 30 June, Plymouth Hoe will showcase the services with static and arena displays and parades.

The exciting arena programme will return this year, with a highlight being the Field Gun competitions and the Parade of Standards will see cadets and veterans march across the Hoe Promenade. There will also be military vehicles, equipment and static helicopters on display to see up close and you can meet the Royal Navy, Army, Marines, RAF and veterans' organisations in a variety of villages set out across the Hoe.

From 6pm, a variety of performers will take to the main stage for a free outdoor evening concert, treating the audience to some great performances against the stunning backdrop of Plymouth Sound.

BRITISH FIREWORK CHAMPIONSHIPS

**WEDNESDAY 8TH - THURSDAY 9TH AUGUST
PLYMOUTH HOE**

The world famous British Firework Championships will return on 8 and 9 August, offering two nights of spectacular pyrotechnics that will illuminate Plymouth Sound.

Six top firework companies will battle it out over two nights, each putting on an awe-inspiring ten minute display.

Enjoy the thrill of the funfair on Plymouth Hoe, or simply sit back and soak up the atmosphere – it's an unmissable event!

Through the Lens



Summer is here! Past students may recognise this and may even have swum here! Photo by Shayne House