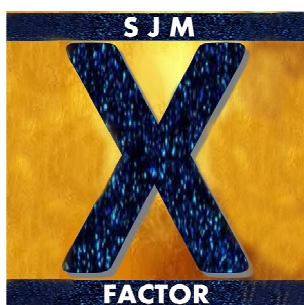


PRESS RELEASE: 16 December 2016 for immediate release

St John's X Factor winner celebrates



Twelve of the most talented performers at St John's Marlborough, plus a few surprise guests performed in the St John's X Factor Live Final on Wednesday in the Theatre on the Hill at St John's to an audience of over 200.

The winner of the competition was Ann Liu Cannon, a Year 13 student at St John's, and the prize was a one hour limousine ride for Ann and her friends on Friday afternoon, the last day of term.

Four staff members, including St John's Principal Mrs Nicky Edmondson, judged the awards, commenting on each of the performances, including a surprise performance by a Spice Girls tribute act, consisting of five St John's staff members; Mr Cobbold, Dr Barclay, Mrs Holmes, Miss Kenvin and Miss Staten, which brought the house down. The quintet reunited for one final performance on Friday morning, as students arrived at school.

The competition was organised by Mrs Kelly Matyla, the Head of Drama at St John's. She has been planning the event for weeks and is confident the evening will be a huge success. She said *"This is my first talent night here at St John's and I am so looking forward to making this an annual event. I am so proud of the talent at St John's, and also of the hardworking backstage crew of students"*.

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Notes for editors

St John's Marlborough was inspected by OFSTED in May 2014 and found to be an Outstanding school in all areas. St John's converted to academy status in September 2012 and is part of the Excalibur Academies Trust. It has a catchment area of over 250 square miles from a primarily rural area of Wiltshire, and has almost 1,700 students age 11-18, including a Sixth Form of 400. Until

December 09 St John's was based on two 1960s sites in the town with half the students being taught in ageing "temporary" classrooms, some of which had been in place for over 30 years. Following a decision by the governing body to build a new school rather than waiting until 2020 for a government-funded new building, the new St John's opened in December 2009. The development was funded by the school by selling land for development and by fundraising. The new St John's is a single-site, purpose-built school with a wide range of excellent facilities that gives students, as well as the wider community, a place to be proud of.

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