Old Moretonian, and internationally acclaimed composer, Thea Musgrave, received the Queen’s Medal for Music earlier this year at Buckingham Palace.

The composer, who the Musgrave Centre is named after, was a pupil at Moreton before she went on to study at the University of Edinburgh and subsequently the Paris Conservatoire to study with Nadia Boulanger. Since then, Thea Musgrave has gone on to receive international acclaim and has had a lifetime of success as a composer.

2018 marks her 90th birthday and it is only fitting that her compositions have been performed this year at the Edinburgh International Festival and at the BBC Proms.

Thea was composer of the week on BBC Radio 3 and anyone who heard her recent appearance on BBC Radio 4’s Desert Island Discs could see how she is an independent force, an individual, a real creative thinker always following her heart and intuition. Some would say, a true Moretonian!

When asked about being a woman and a composer she says that she is rarely both: it’s this rejection of dogma that singles her out and has undoubtedly played a large part in her success.

When she left Moreton for Edinburgh she actually went to study medicine: she soon found the music department next door and the rest, as they say, is history.
Last term was jam packed with a host of musical events from start to finish!

The term got underway with a thought provoking talk about ‘Developing Musical Skill’ by Michael Griffin. Soon after followed a performance coaching day with Beccy Goldberg which proved to be a huge success and gave pupils a valuable insight into how to be more confident performers. ‘It was the most useful two hours of my life’ said one student on leaving the session! These events certainly get pupils and staff alike thinking about how they play and learn, offering plenty of opportunities for musical reflection.

Next there was a wonderful day of string playing in Kelly McCusker’s masterclass and during the term were two fabulous lunchtime concerts which were full of variety and very polished performances. Somewhere in the midst of all this was also a fun-filled ‘Build a Band’ day for Moreton First!

The Chamber Choir had a very busy term; they performed at Theatre Severn for a Remembrance concert, travelled to Chelsea for the F.A.I.R. fundraising carol concert as well as performing within school. These events were in addition to all the annual school carol services, Christmas concerts, productions and nativities.

The Spring Term will be just as busy with a huge variety of events to look forward to with something for everyone to enjoy. We looking forward to seeing you there!
Pianist Kathryn Ashwell leads an active career as a performer, teacher and adjudicator. As a soloist she has performed concertos by Mozart, Shostakovich, Ravel and Poulenc, as well as the piano part in Stravinsky's Petrouchka, with orchestras including the Cheshire Sinfonia, Apollo Ensemble, the University of Manchester Sinfonietta and Hampshire County Youth Orchestra.

Recital work with her duos, the Adelfi Duo and the Chalumeau Duo has taken her to the Winchester, Lake District Summer Music and Bath Fringe Festivals as well as to music societies throughout the UK.

Kathryn is on the teaching staff at Junior Guildhall and is Assistant Head of Instrumental and Vocal Studies at Sevenoaks School.

This is the first of the Spring Term’s Lunchtime Concerts and gives students the opportunity to come and perform repertoire that they are learning in a friendly supportive atmosphere. These are ideal performance platforms for students preparing for ABRSM exams, the Oswestry Festival, for auditions or who simply want a chance to perform a piece they are learning.
Manchester’s Chinese Centre will be visiting Moreton to give Chinese cultural workshops to all pupils from Years 3-6 in Moreton First and Remove. Workshops will focus on Chinese traditions including; paper folding, calligraphy and storytelling as well as Chinese music. For senior school students who play traditional Chinese instruments, there will also be a Chinese instrument workshop. This will be a wonderful way to celebrate Chinese New Year on 5th February.

Located in London’s West End in the Marylebone district, Steinway Hall in London was opened in 1875 and became the first Steinway Hall in Europe. It has showrooms as well as several practice rooms. Masterclasses, run by Steinway artists, are available to pianists of Grade 6 and above.

Two Moreton students will receive individual 35 minute masterclasses and a further ten pupils will be invited to come and observe. All pupils will take a tour of the facilities. Steinway Hall is not open to the public and so this is a rare opportunity, not only to take a tour around the factory of the world’s most famous pianos, but the two masterclass students will receive incredibly high level coaching.

The annual Oswestry Youth Music Festival offers an array of classes for instrumentalists and singers of all ages and abilities. It is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to take part in a competitive festival and receive feedback from an experienced adjudicator. Many pupils at Moreton Hall compete in this festival with great success and take a lot away from the experience.
THURSDAY 7TH MARCH

Vocal Masterclass with Soprano, Soraya Mafi

Winner of the Susan Chilcott Award 2016, Lancashire-born soprano Soraya Mafi makes debuts in 18/19 with Seattle Opera, Opéra National du Rhin, Opéra National de Lorraine and Opéra Royal Versailles and returns to Grange Park Opera to make her role début as Gretel, *Hansel and Gretel*. Concert performances include Mozart Concert Arias with The Academy of Ancient Music, *Mozart Mass in C Minor* at Westminster Hall with The Southbank Sinfonia and *Mozart Requiem* at King’s Place with Hugo Ticciati. Recitals include performances at The Wigmore Hall with Ian Tindale, The Ludlow English Song Festival with Iain Burnside and The Cheltenham Festival with Malcolm Martineau.

TUESDAY 12TH MARCH

Lunchtime Concert Series

The second of our Spring Lunchtime Concerts will see more of Moreton’s musicians take to the stage with performances from a variety of instruments and voice of different levels and genres. Another fabulous opportunity to come and listen to and support Moreton’s aspiring musicians.

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH

Old Moretonian Gala Concert

We are delighted to be welcoming back Old Moretonians to give what promises to be a truly spectacular concert and a celebration of music at Moreton Hall. Several of Moreton’s pupils have gone onto have flourishing careers as professional musicians, as performers and conductors, and others are just beginning their musical journey at conservatoires and universities across the country. It will be a fabulous evening of music-making to inspire the next generation of Moreton’s musicians!
Our annual Sixth Form Recital prize returns to the Musgrave Centre for an evening of performances by our Sixth Form singers and instrumentalists. The Recital Prize celebrates the musical achievements of Moreton’s most experienced musicians and gives them a more formal platform to play contrasting repertoire to an audience and receive individual feedback from an experienced professional musician. This year we are very lucky to be joined by guest adjudicator, clarinettist Heather Gordon-Redfern.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of Theatre Severn, our young choristers from Moreton First Year 5 & 6 Choir, are invited to sing as part of a 150 mass choir to perform the musical Romany Wood by local composer David Gaukroger. Back in 2009, Romany Wood was sung by a large children’s choir and accompanied by the Shropshire’s Youth Orchestra. It seems fitting to stage this musical again for the birthday celebrations. This event not only offers a unique opportunity for our young singers but also galvanises the partnership that the Moreton’s Music Department have with the Shropshire Music Service.

The children will take part in a choral workshop in early March, a dress rehearsal on Sunday 24th March and final performance on Monday 25th March.