



VALENTINE'S DAY BLUES?

By Emily Rodgers, Year 7

Valentine's Day can be an amazing day for many couples but is not only a time for romantic relationships; it is also a time for being with friends and family. Far too many people feel lost or alone on Valentine's Day, especially if they feel like they have nobody to be with. If you are worried that someone you know feels like they are alone on Valentine's Day, there are plenty of things you can do to show them a little love:

- Go on a trip or have a party
- Watch your favourite film or TV programme
- Go out for a meal
- Or generally just have a good time

Even if you find yourself spending Valentine's Day alone, don't despair! It's just a day, and really it's just an excuse for shops to get money from people for cards and cheap chocolates. But if you do find yourself feeling a little blue, here are some things you can do:

1. Concentrate on the positives

Think about all the things you do have in your life, rather than worrying about the 'happily ever after' that might not have come knocking yet.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

2. Practice a little 'self love'

Read a book, or watch your favourite movie or take a long hot bath—whatever it is that you enjoy doing, and maybe know you don't usually find the time for, treat yourself.

3. Do nothing

Yep, that's right. Just give yourself time to simply "be". Listen to some music and chill. Notice the little things right there in the moment and just enjoy them.

Overall, there are many things that you can do on Valentine's Day without a romantic partner. However you choose to spend the day, be kind to yourself and enjoy!

Feeling the Love

The word 'love' is scattered across the pages of *The Torch* this month. Can you find all **nine** instances (which don't include the front page!)?

If you find them, bring your copy to Miss Taylor to receive an ePraise point. While you're at it, check out the Sudoku on page 6 to get even more points!

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

When I last wrote an article for *The Torch*, we were applying the finishing touches to the Christmas Hampers that each tutor group prepares for local elderly residents. I am delighted to advise you that the 'Best in School' was from Tutor Group 13SCU. However the standard was very high, once again, across all tutor groups and it is certainly very moving to receive the heartfelt thanks of recipients. I know our students are genuinely pleased to be helping to make a difference at a time of year when not everyone finds it easy to enjoy themselves without some outside support.

In the final week of last half term, we enjoyed our annual Christmas Concert – a very entertaining mixture of popular and seasonal music, from students across all year groups. The standard of musicianship was very high and a large number of individual, ensemble and orchestral performances enjoyed well deserved praise from the appreciative audience.

On the last day of last term we had our Year 13 Presentation Evening, where we were delighted to welcome back the largest number of former students, and their parents, that any of us could remember. It was a real delight to hear how our former students were adapting to university, apprenticeships or the world of work, and how many were getting used to more independence through such as their own cooking and ironing.

We have now had published the national performance tables for last year's external examination results. At Key Stage 4, our Year 11 results placed us 7th out of the 16 Rotherham secondary schools, both for attainment and progress: a very creditable performance. Wath was placed 29th across all South Yorkshire schools, well into the top half of all providers across the county. Pleasingly, we were placed 2nd in Rotherham Local Authority for the percentage attaining a grade 5 or above in both English and Mathematics – of course grade 5 is the government's new 'strong' pass grade. At Key Stage 5, last summer's Year 13 external examination results placed us 2nd across all Rotherham providers for progress. Our new vocational qualifications performed particularly strongly, placing us 4th in the whole of South Yorkshire. Once again, well done to all of our students who produced these very commendable results. We continue to work closely with



senior leaders from Maltby Learning Trust to help secure even further school improvement. We are currently working towards a planned date for academisation of 1 March 2019, when we will become 'Wath Academy', a sponsored academy within Maltby Learning Trust. However, just to reassure parents, there will be no change to the Wath uniform and the only changes that will occur will be designed to help secure an even more effective learning environment for students.

The attention has very much turned to our current Year 11 and sixth form students. The sixth form have their trial exams early next half term and Year 11 are now preparing intensively for their second set of trial exams, scheduled for March. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that regular exam practice makes students much better prepared, and more confident, for their final external exams. The Year 13 students have completed their applications for further study next academic year and, where relevant, have already started to receive offers from prospective universities. Students will spend the next few weeks at Visit Days or Interviews before deciding on their final two Higher Education choices.

In the final week of this half term, the sixth form and Year 11 pastoral support teams will complete two evenings of interviewing potential Year 12 students for next academic year. A large number of students are already booked in to be interviewed and have expressed a serious desire to join us in September. A third of these are from local secondary schools other

than Wath. Our external students add a real richness to the sixth form community. All applicants have been asked to bring their most recent Report with them, as we assess motivation, attendance and punctuality as well as academic progress. Certainly attendance at lessons is essential for success and we are currently on a drive in school towards our 96% attendance target. Please do help support us in your child attending school when at all possible.

An extensive programme of support and revision has begun for Year 11 and will run every evening, and many lunchtimes, until the end of the examination period. Parents will receive a timetable and a letter informing them which evenings students should attend. Parents of Year 11 students will also be notified of the study programme that will run through the Easter and May holidays. We have been pleased so far with some of our students' responses to these extra sessions but urge all Year 11 parents to ensure that their child takes full advantage of what is on offer. I am very appreciative that staff in all subject areas are giving of their time so willingly to support students, not only beyond the school day but also in the holidays.

As I write, we have just finished three days of our annual Gym, Dance and Movement Evening performances. This year the theme was 'Wath on the West End' – I hope you had the opportunity to come to one of the evenings. Our own students, together with pupils from our feeder primary schools, once again provided high quality, creative performances to three very appreciative audiences. All three evenings were sold out. It is particularly pleasing to note that well over 200 Wath students participated: an excellent, inclusive event for the whole school community.

Year 10 students have been involved in 'Enterprise' activities over the latter part of this half term, hosted at Wentworth Woodhouse, while Year 9 students will be visiting the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre next half term. Both of these activities help to enrich our curriculum and provide our students with a broad range of experiences, beyond those that are experienced directly in school.

There is a very important evening coming up for our Year 8 students and their parents, when they will be invited to our 'Next Three Years Evening', on Thursday 7 March. This is the evening where students are advised of our Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11) pathways and courses. These students are already receiving

further information about the different subjects available in Year 9 in assemblies, in preparation for that evening. In addition, the Year 8 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers will provide both students and parents with a clarity of the current state of progress in each academic subject. This will also help advise preparation for the 'Next Three Years Evening'.

Following improvements to the car park and the widening of the main school entrance, we have now completed the new fencing around the car park to create a clear differentiation between pedestrian and vehicular use at the front of school and to create an extra security precaution for all those within the school during the working day. At the end of the pedestrian crossings through the car park, there are gates with buzzer and speaker access through to Reception. In addition, there have been additional CCTV cameras placed to cover these access points.

Your continued support of the school is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

J Taylor

Headteacher

Some dates for your diary

- Half term ends at 2.45pm on Friday 15 February
- Monday 25 February – school closed for students: staff In-Service Training Day
- New half term begins for students – 8.25am Tuesday 26 February
- Next Three Years Evening (for Y8 students & parents): 6.30 – 9 pm, Thursday 7 March
- Year 9 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers – Monday 11 March, 3.15 – 6.15pm
- Year 12 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers – Tuesday 26 March, 3.15 – 6.15 pm
- Year 13 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers – Tuesday 2 April, 3.15 – 6.15 pm
- Year 11 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers – Tuesday 9 April, 3.15 – 6.15 pm.

Latest News and Updates from

Year 10 Enterprise Day

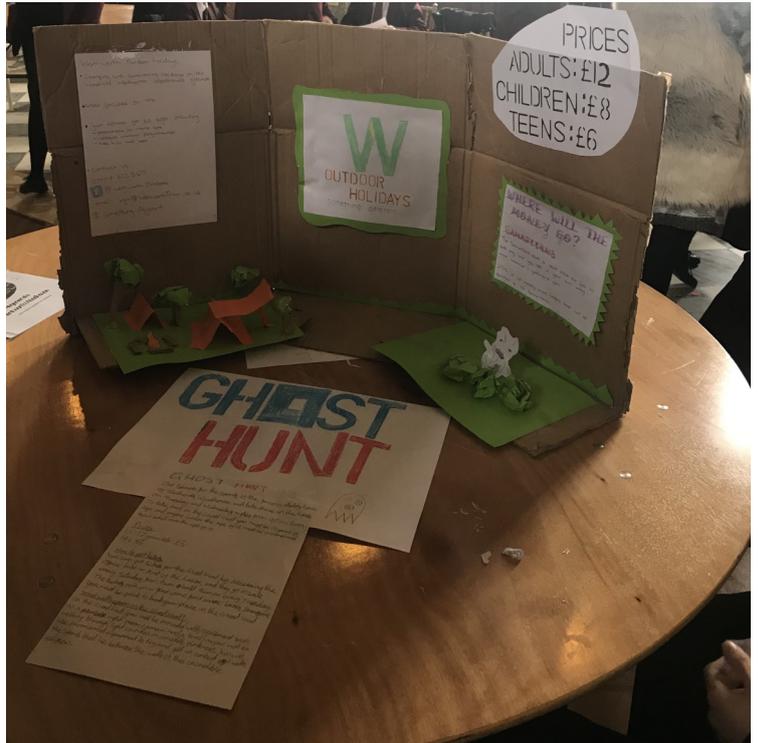
Between 5th and 7th February, all tutor groups in Year 10 took part in an exciting Enterprise Day, which was held at Wentworth Woodhouse. The idea of the day was to generate ideas for how Wentworth Woodhouse could widen its appeal to young people, which culminated in students pitching their ideas and a group from each day being judged the winners.



On arrival at Wentworth Woodhouse, the day started with a free tour of the country house, provided by volunteers. The aim of the tour was to give students a bit of context for the house, which they could then use when generating ideas about how to promote the house later in the day. Students learned about the way Wentworth Woodhouse was really three houses rather than one, build over a series of years. There were also some interesting facts along the way, such as the revelation that one decorative marble statue is actually worth more than the £8 million estate!

Following the tour, students then went into their groups for the day. Their first task was to choose their roles for the day, such as Managing Director or Social Innovator. Once this decision was made, it was off into special workshops designed to hone their skills in their chosen area. For example, in the creative workshop, students were encouraged to generate ideas on cardboard of what they would enjoy to be involved in

at Wentworth Woodhouse, if there were no limits or no adults around.



The next part of the day involved students sharing their expertise in order to create an interesting and practical idea for an event to bring young people to Wentworth Woodhouse. There were all kinds of interesting ideas, such as a 12-to-12 Camping Experience, a Headless Hunt and YGT (Yorkshire's Got Talent). When students had agreed on an idea, they were next encouraged to develop promotional materials to aid their pitch, such as flyers, posters and display boards. By lunchtime, there was a wealth of artistic talent on display.



Finally, students were involved in either pitching their ideas or providing feedback for the other groups' pitches. Volunteers from Wentworth Woodhouse also listened to pitches and gave valuable feedback, before they gathered to confer about the winners. Individual prizes (boxes of sweets) were awarded to some

Wath Comprehensive School

students and one group per day was announced the winner. However, everyone should be praised for their willingness to engage and their excellent behaviour. A big thanks to Mr Barlow for arranging the event.

Scholastic Half Price Book Fair

By Amelia Locke, Year 7

The Scholastic book fair returned to the school library in January. The fair proved very popular with students, who had the opportunity to purchase some of the newest books at half their normal price! Due to the number of sales, the school library received £64 to spend and bought 19 brand new books for students to enjoy, shown in the photo below.

The most popular titles included *The Riverdale Handbook*, *Proud* and *Fortnite: The Essential Guide*.

Student librarians volunteered their breaks and lunchtimes to ensure the smooth running of the fair, which was very much appreciated.

We also ran a competition to design "book fair bunting". The winners of the competition received vouchers to spend at the fair; the winning entries are pictured below.



Science Live Visit

On 28th January, we visited Sheffield City Hall to see several high profile lecturers deliver speeches about their current research. It was a fantastic opportunity to listen to some famous scientists who are carrying out research that goes on to help improve our lives. One of our favourite lectures was given by Professor Lord Robert Winston who has spent his life researching fertility and was one of the pioneers of IVF. It was a great pleasure to listen to all of the professors, and incredibly interesting to find out about their research, for example, how the theory of time travel is possible, how we could power our homes in the future and how

we should always ask questions about what is going on around us. If you get an opportunity to visit the Science Live talks in the future we would highly recommend them.



BEAM Bracelets

By Emily Rodgers, Year 7

On Valentine's Day, BEAM and the LGBTQ+ allies lunch club will be selling rainbow wristbands for anyone who would be interested in buying them.

English Alphabet

By Ngai Wa Yuen Y8

(Before you read it, remember don't take it seriously.)

Have you ever noticed the English alphabet is a bit strange?

So, let's talk about the letter 'c'. First, 'c' makes a 'suh' sound and a 'kuh' sound, which is the job of the letter 'k' and the letter 's'! For example, in the word 'cat', the 'c' takes the 'k's' job, which should really be spelled like this: kat.

The second letter is 'x', it makes a 'ks' sound, which is the sound of 'k' and 's' together! So, the word 'box' should be spelt like 'boks'!

The third thing about the alphabet is the silent letter, which is stupid, we all know that when a 'k' is next to the letter 'n', it goes silent. But!!!!!!! When the letter 't' and 'h' are put together, it doesn't go silent but instead, they make a fusion and pronounce a 'f' sound!

But make sure you don't tell your English teacher how annoying English is!

Love is in the Air...

Valentine Confusion

Short story by Isobelle Fenton, Year 7

Wes Irran's life was changed one day when he found a card for Iris. It said:

To my dearest love, on this beautiful day,

Will you be my Valentine, Iris Debblay?

Love, Wes

It was clearly handwritten, so a lot of care went into making it. When Wes Irran found the card, his heart began to break. Partly because someone had lost a beautiful card, but mainly because he had wanted to give Iris a card like that. The only problem was, his was nothing compared to this one that he held in his hand. Although he was jealous of Wes Xandre, his compassion was stronger than his love for the girl.

He made a promise that he would give her the card as soon as he could. The only problem was that he didn't know how to tell her. He always struggled to explain things, and what if everyone took it the wrong way? What if they thought he stole it?

But he quickly discarded those thoughts, as the bell signalling the next lesson had just sounded.

His next lesson was with Iris, so he could give her the card then, and say it was from Wes. But he was called Wes as well, so that wouldn't work.

"Hi, Irran," exclaimed Iris, "what's that?" She pointed to the card.

"Oh, it's for you." He handed her the card. "It's from —"

"DO YOU HAVE A REASON TO SPEAK, IRRAN?" bellowed the teacher.

Wes was silent the remainder of the lesson. Thankfully, it was the last lesson of the day, so when he left, he waited for Iris, and walked with her to her house. They lived in the same direction, so every day, Wes passed his crush's house, so walking with her was no different. When they reached his house, he decided to ask Iris if she had opened the card yet.

"Yes, I love it, so sweet..." she said.

When he heard this, he froze. She had thought it was from him, and he decided that, if the original owner had been so careless as to drop this, then what right did they have to be angry?

"I know," he said, blushing, "so, what is the answer?"

"Of course, I was even debating asking you myself," she replied. "But do you really like me? Because the other Wes only wants to be with me so he can boast about it." Wes Irran could not believe this. How dare that lying cheat even think of doing that to such a beautiful soul? He was going to give him a piece of his mind...

But not now, it could wait for tomorrow.

Sudoku

Made by Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 8

Solve the puzzle and return to Miss Taylor for 3 ePraise points.

How It Works

All numbers in the 3x3 boxes must be unique (1-9).

All numbers in the rows must be unique (1-9).

All numbers in the columns must be unique (1-9).

Enter the missing numbers to solve the puzzle.

						7	9	1
6	1	5	4			2		
2		9	1	8				6
8		4	5				7	
		6		9		8		
	9				1	5		4
5				2	7	9		8
		7			8	3	1	5
3	4	8						



New Law for Forced Marriage Victims

By Emily Rodgers Year 7

Before this new rule was introduced on 9th January 2019, women that were being held captive abroad and being threatened with forced marriage had to pay for their own flights, food and shelter to escape the terrible situation.

The forced marriage victims often had to pay around £750 in order to escape from their situation. Most of these victims are extremely poor so can't afford to pay for their escape. Last year, the government's Forced Marriage Unit dealt with 1,302 cases. Some 82% of victims were female and 18% male while 15% were under the age of 15. Anyone who forces anyone into a marriage can now be prosecuted and spend anything from five to seven years in prison.

I am personally glad that this law has been adopted in the UK, but I feel that it should be a law in all countries. What do you think?

Things to Know about the LGBTQ+ Community

By Emily Rodgers, Year 7

If you don't know much about the LGBTQ+ community (which stands for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer and others), here are some facts and figures to help you understand more.

1. One in five LGBT people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last 12 months.
2. Two in five trans people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months.
3. The number of LGBT people who have experienced a hate crime or incident in the last year because of their sexual orientation has risen by 78 percent since 2013.
4. Four in five LGBT people who have experienced a hate crime or incident didn't report it to the police.
5. One in ten LGBT people have experienced anti-LGBT abuse online directed towards them personally in the last month. This increases to

one in four for trans people directly experiencing⁷ transphobic abuse online in the last month.

6. Nearly half (45 per cent) of LGBT pupils - including 64 per cent of trans pupils - are bullied for being LGBT in Britain's schools. This is down from 55 per cent of lesbian, gay and bi pupils who experienced bullying because of their sexual orientation in 2012 and 65 per cent in 2007.
7. Half of LGBT pupils hear homophobic slurs 'frequently' or 'often' at school.
8. Seven in 10 LGBT pupils report that their school says that homophobic and biphobic bullying is wrong, up from half in 2012 and a quarter in 2007. However, just two in five LGBT pupils report that their schools say that transphobic bullying is wrong.
9. More than four in five trans young people have self-harmed, as have three in five lesbian, gay and bi young people who aren't trans.
10. More than two in five trans young people have attempted to take their own life. as have one in five lesbian, gay and bi students who aren't trans.

And here are some facts about attitudes towards this community around the globe:

1. 72 countries criminalise same-sex relationships (and in 45 the law is applied to women as well as men).
2. The death penalty is either 'allowed' or there is evidence of its existence in 8 countries.
3. In more than half the world, LGBT people may not be protected from discrimination by workplace law.
4. Most governments deny trans people the right to legally change their name and gender from those that were assigned to them at birth.
5. Between 2008 and 2014, there were 1,612 trans people murdered across 62 countries - equivalent to a killing every two days.
6. A quarter of the world's population believes that being LGBT should be a crime.

It seems that there is still a long way to go before we can say that this community receives the true respect it deserves. If you are affected by any of the issues raised in this article, why not join the BEAM club to make your voice heard?

Feature: Highlights from 2018

By Caitie Swallow, Year 10

Here is a round-up of the main world events that shaped 2018:

January

The dramatic collapse of the giant builder and government- Outsoucer Carillion - with debts of up to £5 billion, left 20,000 jobs hanging in the balance.

February

The UK government took over the operation of the East Coast main line after the Stagecoach/Virgin run franchise was on the brink of financial collapse. Pain was also found on the high street when Toys R Us and Maplin went under.

March

Facebook was plunged into scandal following reports that Cambridge Analytica had tried to influence US voters using data taken from Facebook pages.

Sir James Dyson announced plans to build an electric car by 2021.

April

The Swedish music-streaming giant Spotify floated in New York, landing a \$30 billion valuation. Closer to home, a botched IT upgrade at TSB caused chaos, with customers unable to access accounts.

May

Uber (a taxi company) signed a deal with NASA to develop flying city taxis.

June

Commuters and other passengers in the UK suffered chaos on the railways following the dire introduction of new timetables.

BT boss Gavin Patterson was abruptly kicked out - he had recently announced plans to slash 13,000 jobs following a profit warning.

July

Shares in Netflix, which had recently passed Disney as the most valuable media company in the world, plummeted on evidence of slowing subscriber growth.

Amazon's soaring stock saw founder Jeff Bezos briefly become the richest person in modern history with a net worth topping \$150 billion.

August

The struggling department store chain House of Fraser fell into administration and was bought within hours by Sports Direct for £90 billion.

Retailers reported that sales of shorts had enjoyed a treble-digit rise because of the hot weather.

September

Waterstones snapped up the Foyles book chain for an undisclosed sum, ending 115 years of family ownership.

Shares in Thomas Cook dived after the travel operator warned that the hot UK summer weather had hit profits.

October

Shares in the sports car-maker Aston Martin went into reverse on their first day of trading in London.

November

The Renault-Nissan boss, Carlos Ghosn, was arrested in Japan on charges of fraud in his income.

Denise Coates, the owner of the online gambling website Bet365, became the world's highest paid female executive earning a record breaking £265 million.

December

President Trump and Xi Jinping (President of China) agreed a ceasefire in the US/China trade war at the G20 meeting in Buenos Aires.

Analysts warned the outlook remained fragile due to ongoing Brexit negotiations—and this remains the ongoing source of attention even as we move through the start of 2019.

With so much uncertainty about Britain's status in Europe (and the world in general), it is likely that 2019 will be another full year for world news.

Keep reading the *Torch* to learn about the latest updates!

Upcoming Sporting Events for 2019

Continued from the back page...

By Daniel Nutley, Year 10

The Three Lions, after finishing top of their group in the UEFA Nations League, will face rejuvenated Holland who have missed out on the previous two major tournaments through lack of qualification. This being true, however, does not mean that you should write off the Netherlands, as they also finished top of their respective group which included the 2018 World Cup winners France and the 2014 World Cup winners Germany.

Even if England do not manage to dismiss Holland, they will play two matches: either the final or the third place play-off after their clash with Holland. The other semi final is between hosts Portugal and Switzerland. Winning the entire tournament grants automatic qualification to next year's European Championships.

Another event that the English would love to win is the Cricket World Cup 2019. Lasting from late spring into early summer this year, the Cricket World Cup couldn't get any more interesting: being held at home in the UK, England and Wales will stage the tournament lasting from 30th May until 14th July. As number one in the world rankings, England will be a heavily backed home nation who will look to win their first ever World Cup.

One more World Cup taking place in 2019 is the Women's Netball one. The sixteen team tournament will see if Tracey Neville's England team can follow their dramatic, gold-medal success in the 2018 Commonwealth Games; if you are unaware, they won the match with four seconds on the clock to beat Australia 52-51. After this success, more and more people will be interested to see how far they can go in the crème de la crème of Netball events.

One final event, which is the third World Cup on the list, is the Rugby Union World Cup. This time, the tournament takes place in Asia for the first time of the eight previous tournaments. The current champions are the New Zealand All-Blacks, famous for their rugby

ability as well as their intimidating pre-match dance routine—the Haka. They go into the tournament as favourites and will look to retain their title. Home nation Scotland's group contains the likes of Japan, Russia and Samoa as well as Ireland. Of the other home nations in the tournament, England face a group featuring Argentina, France, USA and Tonga and Wales face a group with Australia, Uruguay, Fiji and Georgia.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Celebrating gold at the Commonwealth Games: can England's Women's Netball team repeat their success?

So whatever sports you follow, you are sure to be spoiled in 2019 with lots of highs, lows, dramatic twists and sudden reversals of fortune. And why not try following a new sport this year? Or get active by taking up a sport you love to watch in your free time?

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by: Bradley Luke, Ben Nutley, Isobelle Fenton, Emily Rodgers, Alex Burrows, Anna Gray, Ngai Wa Yuen, Grace Clowrey, Ellisia Bowman, Phoebe Orwin, Jacob Linney, Dan Nutley, Olivia Storey, Caitie Swallow, Charlotte Ting, Elizabeth Gray, Lauren Williams, Emily Balaiss, Lillie Connolly, Cara Saville and Miss Taylor (editing).

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If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH, come along to F24 on Thursday afternoons, 3-4 pm, or see Miss Taylor for more information.

News, Politics and Current Affairs:

Around the world

By Caitie Swallow, Year 10

Warsaw, Poland

A Norwegian who feared her child was going to be taken into care has been granted asylum in Poland. Silje Garmo, 37, and her daughter Eira, nearly two, are thought to be the first Norwegians to be granted asylum in another European country since the Second World War. Silje Garmo fled to Warsaw last year after social workers accused her of abusing painkillers- based, she says, on lies told by her former partner. Norway's social services have often been accused of being unduly quick to remove children.

St Petersburg, Russia

President Putin has indicated that he might need to "control" rap music, to stop it exerting an unhealthy influence on young Russians. "If it is impossible to stop, then we need to lead, and in an appropriate way, direct [it]," he told a gathering in St Petersburg. Russian rap and hip-hop music is never played on state-controlled radio.

New York, USA

Donald Trump has agreed to close his family's charity, following an investigation that exposed a "shocking pattern of illegality." Announcing the Donald J. Trump Foundation's closure, it had functioned as "little more than a cheque book to serve Trump's business and political interests," and it was accused of its "unlawful coordination" with his presidential campaign, "repeated and willful self-dealing," and more. The state is demanding damages, and a ban on Trump and three of his children holding leadership roles at other New York charities.

Dr Stewart Adams Dies at 95

By Emily Rodgers, Year 7

Dr Stewart Adams, who discovered Ibuprofen, has recently died, he was pronounced dead on Wednesday the 30th January by his son Chris. He discovered this drug while trying to find a cure for his hangover before performing a speech. He discovered it while working at a Boots in Nottingham, he was awarded an OBE for his

work in 1987, this is the 50th year of it becoming licensed, first becoming a prescription drug in 1969. Dr Adams' achievements will be marked on a 'Heritage Wall' being erected in Boots' main office, to mark the company's 170th anniversary this month. In recognition of his work, Dr Adams was made an Honorary Freeman of Nottingham in 2013. He was awarded the honour alongside MRI inventor Sir Peter Mansfield.

The Hope Bus

By Alex Burrows, Year 8

An old bus in Iraq has been fully converted into a mobile school for children in Baghdad. It has had its seats removed and then desks fitted instead and can seat up to 50 children at a time. Most of the children who utilise this service are street children who have never had an education before. The bus is fitted with a TV, a blackboard and a colorful design which provides a great escape for children that require it. The great thing about this bus is that it is completely mobile and travels around the capital of Iraq, Baghdad, delivering education to children who require it.

Teacher Not Charged for Feeding Live Puppy to Turtle!

By Ellisia Bowman Y8

An Idaho high school teacher caught the eyes of newspapers in March after he had fed a live puppy to a snapping turtle in front of children as part of a science demonstration. The snapping turtle was put down later after the incident and the teacher was put on trial. The teacher was found not guilty.

A child brought in a sick abandoned puppy as the teacher was known for taking in sick animals, and they watched the teacher help the animal. After the teacher told the students it was unsaveable, he put the puppy in the tank where it drowned and was eaten by the turtle.

The school and the teacher received many outraged comments on this action from parents, community and animal right communities. Even though a teacher reported this, the same teacher still works at the school. The school received threats and violent comments so police officers are stationed outside to keep the students safe from any harm.

News From Around the Globe

Why aren't there any Great White Sharks in any of the World's Aquariums?

By Emily Balaiss Year 11

Even if you love aquariums, there is one sea creature that you will never come across: the great white shark. And no, it's not because people get scared that the shark will jump out of the thick glass walls and bite their heads off.

Great white sharks can be found in cool coastal waters around the world, mainly around Australia, Asia, South America, and North America. They usually grow up to about 15 feet in length and weigh up to 7,000 pounds. They use their extremely heavy tails to propel their bodies through the water at a top speed of 35 miles per hour.

The reason we don't see them in aquariums is because they can't stand being in captivity. Sharks, when captured, can suffer from depression and lose the will to live. There has been plenty of attempts to contain this creature; in 1999, a great white was captured and sent to Marine Land of the Pacific in Los Angeles and the shark didn't even last one day. Despite this, people keep trying to tame the king of the sea. Up until 2003, there had been 25 attempts to catch and hold this creature, and all of them ended up tragically for the shark.

Lack of space is another reason why no aquarium can hold a great white. One shark managed to swim from Australia to South Africa in just 99 days and they can also leap 20 feet up into the air. Obviously, no aquarium has that amount of space.

Respiratory problems are one more reason why we can't hold a great white shark. Sharks need to keep moving to stay alive because they are obligate ram breathers, meaning that they breathe best when moving and they need a constant flow of oxygen through their gills. An aquarium can't provide this, so they will start to develop problems with their respiratory system. Also, they can suffer with hypoxia or a low deficiency of oxygen, and choke to death because of this.

Updates from the Skies

By Bradley Luke, Year 7

First Boeing 787 delivered to WestJet

WestJet is a Canadian Airline which was founded in 1996. It has just got a brand-new Boeing 787 which is a long-haul aircraft (A aircraft that does long routes.) It will run to London, Paris and Dublin.

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What are your thoughts?

Aer Lingus New Livery

Aer Lingus, an Irish airline, have now changed their livery! The reason for this is because of their old livery not being modern enough. This is their old livery:

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

And now here is their new one...

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Which one do you like the best?

Feature: Tech Updates

The Big Releases of CES this Year

By Ben Nutley, Year 7

This year at CES, which is a large convention showcasing new technology items in Las Vegas, there has been some big releases: a foldable phone, a car with four legs and a drone that can lift 91kg, this year has been quite big at CES. However there have been a few strange ones too. Here are just some of them.

A table tennis playing robot



If you are always winning at table tennis and need a challenge, you might want to have a go with one of

Top Ten New Movies Coming out Soon

By Grace Clowrey, Year 8

- 1) *The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part* (Feb 8th)
- 2) *Captain Marvel* (March 8th)
- 3) *Detective Pikachu* (May 10th)
- 4) *Avengers: Endgame* (April 26th)
- 5) *Dumbo* (March 29th)
- 6) *Shazam* (April 5th)
- 7) *The Lion King* – live action remake (July 19th)
- 8) *Toy Story 4* (June 20th)
- 9) *Aladdin* (May 24th)
- 10) *Men In Black: International* (June 14th)

these. Not only will the robot make quick work of you at table tennis, he will record your techniques, your weaknesses and will exploit them to the best of his ability.

Vuzix Blade

These chunky glasses are made with convenience in mind. This pair of shades has a built in Amazon Alexa, you can answer calls from it, and you can listen to music. Even though they were revealed at CES they have not yet got a price.

An intelligent toilet?

The Kohler Numi Intelligent Toilet is not a normal toilet. It has a hands-free flushing, feet warming, air drying, odor control, music, a night light and automatic seat temperature management. And on top of all that, it even has an in-built Amazon Alexa, so you can flush, just by telling it to.

From robots to intelligent toilets, this year at CES has definitely been an interesting year to say the least.

Amazon Scout

By Alex Burrows, Year 8

Amazon have started experimenting with delivery robots, beginning with a small delivery truck called 'Scout'. Six of the autonomous trucks will deliver parcels at about walking speed around Snohomish County.

Amazon Scout will only operate during the day, and all robots will be accompanied by Amazon employees initially. This is seen as a better alternative to road deliveries. Sean Scott, vice-president of Amazon said this regarding Amazon Scout: "We developed Amazon Scout at our research and development lab in Seattle, ensuring the devices can safely and efficiently navigate around pets, pedestrians and anything else in their path,".

The truck is shown in an Amazon promotional video delivering to a customer. The lid automatically opens when the customer opens the door;

however, there is no explanation from Amazon about what happens if the customer is not home when the robot arrives.

It's not like Amazon has no competitors in this market, however. Robotics firm Starship Technologies has announced a fleet of 24 robots that will deliver coffee and pizza to college students in Virginia. These robots can be requested via an app to deliver goods to customers across the campus of the George Mason University.

San Francisco has had this technology roaming its streets for a few years now, with tech startups such as Marble and Starship leading the industry.

In 2017, city supervisor Norman Yee introduced legislation to restrict their use, only allowing them to be used in certain neighborhoods. The legislation also requires that all delivery bots are always to be accompanied by a human.

Fortnite Security Flaw Affects Millions of Users

By Grace Clowrey, Year 8

FORTNITE



Recently, a security flaw in the popular game Fortnite exposed millions of users to the risk of hackers fully taking over your accounts. This vulnerability was noticed by the security company, Check Point. They found a suspicious website on Epic Games' (the company who developed Fortnite) domain, which could be used to capture users' authentication tokens. This means the hacker could log in to Fortnite without a username or password, purchase in-game extras, and listen in on live audio as the target played the game. The website has since been taken down, and Epic Games has thanked the company for finding the flaw.

Destination Planner: Sheikh Zayed Mosque

By Sidney Coote, Year 8



Sheikh Zayed Mosque, also referred to as the "Grand Mosque", is located in the capital city of the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi. The Mosque took 13 years to construct and cost 545 million dollars to build! Moreover, the Mosque can hold 41,000 people at prayer, which makes it the 3rd largest in the world.

When I first saw the Mosque I thought it was massive and majestic, its colossal courtyard has a floral design and is kept immaculately clean. However, it was not as impressive as the inside, because the main Arabian carpet took two years to make and the coloured prayer room stood out as it is brightly decorated with more incredible floral design. The French made crystal chandeliers are the must see of the entire Mosque.

Inside the Sheikh Zayed Mosque, it was calm but crowded. To get in to the Grand Mosque, you will have to leave time to spare because the check-in is like airport security. In addition, to get to the Mosque there is an underground passage that will take you to the outskirts of the structure from the car park. One benefit of being on a tour is you get to miss a lot of queues and the guides give you lots of useful information that you might miss if you were on your own.

I would definitely visit the Sheikh Zayed Mosque if you are going to Abu Dhabi. This monumental edifice would score 4.5 out of 5, because of the many wondrous things you can see there.



Media and Review:

Lemony Snicket – A Series of Unfortunate Events

By Emily Rodgers, Year 7



I class this television programme as one of the best, it is available on Netflix and I'm hooked. The first series was released last year, covering half of the book series. The newest series was released at the start of January, after being greatly anticipated.

The series covers the life of the Baudelaire children, it is heart wrenching and tear provoking as they seem to find new ways to make you attached to characters and then cruelly dispose of them. Even the theme song itself is telling you to 'look away' because 'this show will ruin your evening, your whole life and your day' and that 'every single episode is nothing but dismay'. Overall, I would recommend watching this, if you are willing to emotionally invest yourself in it.

The Truth about the Wolves in *Beauty and the Beast*

By Emily Balais Year 11

In *Beauty and the Beast*, we know everything that happened to everyone who lived in the castle: the prince got turned into the beast, Lumiere got turned into a candle, Cogsworth got turned into a clock and Mrs. Potts got turned into a teapot, just to name a few. But what isn't explained, is what happened to the women dressed in white at the beginning of the film.

Have you ever noticed that the wolves in *Beauty and the Beast* only appear once or twice in the film? When Maurice is travelling at the beginning of the film, he

diverts to the Beasts' castle after a flash of lightning knocks down a tree so the wolves don't attack him. And then just after that, when Belle goes to the castle, the wolves don't attack, but then later when Belle tries to escape, the wolves come out to attack her. Coincidence? I think not. I think that the wolves are the women dressed in white at the beginning of the film.

Let me explain, at the beginning of the film, the narrator tells us that that the enchantress places a spell on the castle and all who lives there. Although it is not said that the women dressed in white live in the castle like Mrs. Potts and Chip, but if they did live there, it would make sense that they were the wolves guarding the castle because they would try and stop anyone they thought to be the Beast's 'true love' just like they try and stop Belle from leaving the castle by attacking her. And they don't attack Maurice when he is going to the castle because the wolves know that he will have something to do with breaking the curse. Also, the women dressed in white appear at the beginning and at the end, when the beast is a human, because the women in white got turned into the wolves who guard the castle.

Bird Box Challenge

By Phoebe Orwin, Year 8

Recently, Netflix released a new horror film called Bird Box. In the incredibly popular film, a mother leads her children out of their hometown to a forest so that she can provide a safer life for them after a mysterious apocalyptic like monster strikes states one by one. What's seen is different for everyone as the monster is supposed to represent your greatest fears. When it's seen, you either kill anyone and everyone around you, or yourself. After five years of living with the overwhelming fear of seeing whatever's outside, little food and even birth, Mallory decides to blindfold her daughter and son and take them across a river to an isolated forest where she believes there'll be little danger.

After getting a huge amount of views in just its first week, people decided to make the bird box challenge. The main concept is to complete everyday tasks, (shopping, your job, driving, walking through busy traffic, etc.) but all while wearing a blindfold. As you can

Imagine, this isn't the safest of ways to go about your day. Jake Paul and his friend walked across a road and drove their cars while blindfolded, which led to a girl in Utah crashing her car into oncoming vehicles while attempting the same stunt. While no one was injured, lots of things would've gone wrong as a result – including congestion, shock and obviously the insurance and maybe even lawsuits made against the girl. After all this went wrong, YouTube decided to ban the challenge.

However, this isn't the only challenge that's been banished from YouTube; other potentially fatal challenges like the Tide Pod challenge (eating laundry detergent) and the fire challenge (setting yourself on fire) have also been cleared from the popular social media platform. They're also banning pranks that (while they aren't causing any physical harm) make people believe they're in danger: home invasion pranks and drive by shooting pranks are just a few examples of these. YouTube said, "Challenges that could cause or have caused death in some instances have no place on YouTube," and "We also don't allow pranks that cause children to experience severe emotional distress, meaning something so bad it could leave them traumatized for life."

So, what's your opinion on this mass-ban of pranks that, while they're extremely popular and hilarious, are quite stupid? Are you glad they're finally gone, or is YouTube just being unreasonable?

Ariana Grande 7 Rings

By Bradley Luke, Year 7

Ariana is on a roll with her music for her new album. This song 7 Rings is based on something that happened to her in real life. She was out with her friends and got drunk. Then she went to a jewellery store and bought 7 diamond rings for her friends.



Book of the Month



*JK Rowling's Wizarding World:
Movie Magic*
by Jodie Revenson

Reviewed by Sidney Coote,
Year 8

This non-fiction book contains everything about how JK Rowling's amazing books are turned into popular and enchanting films. The first section is about *Fantastic Beasts* and where to find them and looks at the character and locations in the film. Part two contains the information on the Harry Potter movies and follows a similar format. The characters are in chronological order as they appear in the books, for example, beginning with Harry Potter, The Dursleys, Ron Weasley, Hermione, Kings Cross station...

A typical page such as the one on Harry Potter, gives you some background information and facts about behind the scenes. There are photographs from the films, examples of storyboards, drawings of costumes and sets. I found the part about Lord Voldemort most interesting because it gave facts about how Voldemort's nose was created. It took six hours just to do his face!

There are hundreds of pictures which help bring the movie to life. This might perhaps spoil the magic for instance when it explains how Neville Longbottom takes off on his broom, he is actually perched on a crane!

There are also quotes from the actors themselves throughout. The layout is bright and colourful. It is not too difficult to understand; however, some of the vocabulary is complex. I think this book would suit people who have seen the films and read the books. Personally, I have read all the books and this gives me some inside information which adds to the magic!

Sport Update

Upcoming Sporting Events for 2019



Who will get their hands on these trophies?

Daniel Nutley, Year 10

From football finals, to boxing matches, here is a (by no means exhaustive) list of events in the world of sport which are upcoming in 2019 which you can look forward to.

Despite taking place every year, I cannot overlook the Formula One World Championship. Lasting from 17th March until 1st December, England's own Lewis Hamilton will be looking to become only the second ever formula One driver to win six titles, second only to Formula One legend Michael Schumacher.

Another yearly event that I cannot overlook is the Champions League final. Being played on 1st June, the two most elite teams from European football in the 2018/19 season will go head to head to win the ultimate club football prize. This year could be more exciting than ever as each of the four English teams

that qualified for the tournament have subsequently progressed to the knockouts. Could this mean that we see an English club win the tournament for the first time in a few years? Even if the English teams don't win, it's always entertaining to see the likes of Juventus, Barcelona and Real Madrid battle it out for the Champions League title.

From one footballing event to another, the UEFA Nations League finals are being played between 9th and 14th June in Portugal, following the domestic seasons' completion.

England are looking to follow their success in the 2018 Summer World Cup, reaching the semi-final for the first time in 20 years, by competing in first the semi-finals and then possibly the final of the UEFA nations league.

See more of the round-up on page 9.

