



THE EXCRUCIATINGLY HORRIBLE HISTORY OF... EASTER

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By Abigail Germany, Year 9

Brightly painted eggs, chocolate, bunnies - could anything possibly be any better than Easter? Well, actually there are many things that could be modified. For example, the fact that Jesus, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, was brutally crucified, miraculously resurrected and then died only forty days later (according to the Christian Bible).

Of course, Easter is, officially, a Christian holiday but it is celebrated by non-religious people too! For some, Easter is simply the coming of spring and the end of the long, harsh winter. For others, the event is the most important of their calendar! It is completely up to you, personally, whether the chocolate eggs and bunnies are symbolic of Jesus resurrecting and new life or signs of a change of season. Mutual respect and understanding of others' views is extremely important.

The Christian Easter story begins between approximately 30AD and 33AD in Jerusalem. Jesus was in his thirties, approximately, and was loved by the majority of people he met; he made miracles happen. For example, he made those suffering well again, told a storm to go away (and it did, indeed) and even brought the dead back to life! Surely, there was no reason to kill a godly man who used his powers for good?

The night before his crucifixion, on Holy Thursday, Jesus held the Last Supper, also known as the Holy Communion and the Lord's Supper, which was the final meal he shared with his twelve disciples: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot. On this most dreaded evening, Jesus thanked (*continued on p. 6*).

Message from the Principal

26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week marks the end of the second full term. This half term in particular has been a strange period of time, with students spending the opening weeks learning remotely from home and recent weeks in school. The last three weeks have been refreshing and enjoyable for us as an academy, as we missed having the students in the building and have been very pleased to have them back. The students have settled back into academy life extremely well; their engagement in online lessons, in which they continued to access the planned curriculum content, has meant that they have been able to hit the ground running. We are sure that their commitment will bear fruit in the coming months.

This half term, we have continued to make progress in pursuit of our vision: 'delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and live successful and fulfilling lives'. Highlights of this half term include:

Golden Ticket Events

The golden ticket events took place just this week; students had access to our brand new climbing wall, laser tag and a movie night. These sessions have been planned using feedback from students with a view to providing them with memories which last a lifetime. We are looking forward to the next set of events which will be held at the end of the summer term.

Y11 and 13 Teacher Assessed Grades

The Y11s and Y13s have begun their assessment process, which is designed to ensure that no student is disadvantaged by the pandemic whilst also fully preparing them for the next stage in their education. This graduated approach has been well received by both students and parents.

New Year 7

We received confirmation of our new Year 7 cohort for September 2021; this is now at 340 students which is a 13.5% increase on last year's numbers. This is a great indicator that the academy is heading in the right direction.



Staff Appointments

We have already started to plan for September. This week, we have appointed a Teacher of Law, a new SENDCo and a Whole School Lead Practitioner. These posts are in addition to a new Teacher of Spanish who was appointed in February for a September start. The four staff appointed are excellent professionals who will help the academy on its journey to becoming a beacon of educational excellence.

We are looking forward to the term ahead in which we will be launching our Y6-into-7 and Y11-into-12 transition programmes, releasing details of a proposed Maths trip to Barcelona in 2022 and re-starting our full enrichment programme.

We hope that you have a great break over the Easter period. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ransome
Principal

Poetry Corner

Generation Reset

By Sophie Edwards , Year 12

The American Dream that fake thing

What is that dream?

is it equality and safety for all?

or is it the rich getting richer and forgetting about the
poor?

When departments of power fight those they should
protect

who is the real criminal?

Is it the call to arms when the colour of skin is their only
crime?

No crime but cry of innocence

forgetting about the times in which culture can be your
crime

Where the badge is Shield of protection for a group of
people who should protect all

A flawed system in which no one wins

Parties argue but not for the best for the people but for
the final word

With the continuing changes

Humanity is starving itself of purity

Is the next generation going to remember these present
moments with pride?

Or utter disbelief?

When the world finally sleeps,

All that can be heard are the cries of the innocent being
brought into the world

And the gentle breathing of momentary peace

But when the morning comes

all that is left is the American Dream that fake, deluded
thing.

Engineering in Action



Education
in ACTION

30
YEARS
of
THE ULTIMATE
EDUCATION
EXPERIENCE

On Wednesday 20 January, our Y12 A Level Chemistry and Physics students enjoyed an great online event hosted by Engineering in Action, delivering inspiration and motivation for students who are considering a future in one of the varied and diverse fields that make up Engineering. There were 3 informative speakers and a useful question and answer session.

Dr Jackie Bell, Imperial College London, gave us an insight into her career journey so far and the engineering needed to get in to space. She explored the real-world (and in some cases out-of-this-world) problems engineers need to solve to send astronauts into space. This was an interesting interactive talk; students had to calculate how long it takes for a signal being sent from the moon to reach the earth and to think about space suit design.

Professor Dave Cliff, University of Bristol discussed robotics and artificial intelligence. The rate of progress in computer technology over the last 50 years has been phenomenal, but humans are close to hitting unavoidable limits. He asked students to consider new approaches and to draw inspiration from biology.

Roma Agrawal MBE, Structural Engineer, introduced students to how the bridges, buildings and tunnels which surround us in the city were designed and built. She showed students how people, cars, nature and materials are turned into numbers to make sure our structures don't collapse.

The question and answer session gave students the opportunity to ask the speakers, plus a recent engineering graduate, about their route to their career, any books they had read that had helped or interested them and any issues they had encountered.

A quote from one of our Wath students after the event:

"I'm emailing to say thank you for organising the engineering event today. I've really enjoyed how helpful it was in the sense of applying Physics and Maths to real life, and the ingredients for a skyscraper speech has really interested me to look further into structural engineering as a career option."

Science Week at Wath Academy



In the week beginning Monday 8th March, Wath Academy celebrated British Science Week and the theme of 'Innovating for the Future'. Each day, students had opportunities to enter competitions and challenges, listen to podcasts and have a focus on STEM careers that were 'smashing stereotypes'. A range of activities in lessons were delivered across school, all linking to Science and STEM. A summary of some of the competitions and opportunities are shown below:

[Live Link to CERN, Switzerland](#)

We were lucky enough to link live with CERN, Switzerland for an introductory talk on CERN and the big Physics questions they are addressing.

Year 12 Bern White, who studies Physics, said: "It was excellent – an hour of useful information presented by an expert from CERN. During the talk, I learned plenty about CERN, the work they do, the layout of the accelerators, and even how they do it, especially how they use electromagnets to accelerate and direct particles. We were able to ask questions at the end which was appreciated, such as the unbelievable energy costs involved in running the magnets (in the order of hundreds of millions of pounds!). Overall, a brilliant experience that left me with lots of new knowledge about cutting edge scientific work, together with the delicate engineering that goes into making a particle accelerator."

Science Week competitions

Photography

Science Week saw lots of competitions taking place on our social media platforms. One of which was to take a photo of something that symbolised nature/spring. The winning entry was from Olivia R with the following photograph. Well done Olivia. We also had lots of entries for 'Your Favourite Invention' competition, it was

so hard to select one winner that we have selected 3; Scout H, Evie N and Millie O'B all from Year 7. A huge well done girls. All winners will receive an Amazon gift card.



Heart Competition

This competition was in partnership with Baylab. The company which runs Baylab is Bayer - a company who heart health is important to. To maintain a healthy heart, you must not only have a nutritious diet, but also have regular exercise. With this in mind, Bayer announced the launch of the 'Baylab Heart Mechanics National Science Competition'. This competition includes a series of activities to get students thinking about how their lifestyle choices can affect their own heart's health. This competition is still open for entries: details can be found on Satchel:One. The prize not only includes Amazon vouchers for the winning students, but will also enter Wath Academy into the national competition to be in with a chance to win £2000 worth of science or sports equipment for the school! This competition is still running – so if you haven't already entered... make sure you do!

KS3 Lab Coat Competition

KS3 were challenged to design a lab coat illustrating what science means to them. Their fantastic ideas involved celebrating our wonderful NHS with their trade-mark rainbow print and new solar systems oozing with exciting, innovative planets. Jessica K, Alexis D and Molly H designed particularly impressive lab coats. Well done, girls!

The Deep Science Week Writing Competition

The Deep teamed up with Mighty Pens for a short story competition on anything ocean-related. Our students

Science Week at Wath Academy

quickly realized all the weird and wonderful habitats and organisms that make the ocean their home, and this stirred up some brilliant imaginative efforts.

There were lots of great stories written, from the magical and mysterious to the serious and political!

The prize is a family ticket to The Deep! We want to send out lots of good luck to all our students who entered! Our school winners were as follows:

Year 9- Abigail G

Year 8- Daniel R

Year 7- Oliver U

An excerpt from an ocean-themed story by Oliver Uff:

“Emerging from his protected habitat, a lonely turtle appeared. He swam through the barren sea looking for friends, but no one was there. He swam for hours but everyone had disappeared. Confused, he looked down and saw an unusual looking creature - maybe this could be his friend! He swam over to it and realised it wasn't a creature at all, it was just a plastic bag. The turtle was starving so he looked in the bag for food but when he tried to leave his movements were restrained. He was trapped with no one to hear his cries, no one to help him, no one to save him.”



KS2 Design a lab coat competition

We challenged all our primary feeder schools to design a lab coat. We have prizes for Key Stage 1 and 2 and look forward to sharing some of the entries and winners in the next issue of *The Torch* and through our social media channels.

STEM work in Maths

Prizes for students who did the cross curricular activity for Science Week in Maths go to Olivia C, Ruby G and Alfie M in 9T6.

Students were asked to monitor rainfall using a weather station they made and then analyse their results.

Live presentations from Sheffield Hallam University

Over 320 students experienced live presentations from

SHU during Science Week, a fabulous opportunity to engage with senior lecturers in various Science and STEM fields. The presentations were 'Design the Ultimate Frisbee', 'Construction Career Talk', 'Heal or no Heal?' and 'Super Scientist'.

Coming up in Science.....

Top of the Bench – Chemistry National Final



Our finalists from the Royal Society of Chemistry national competition: Emily Hays (Y11), Jenny Hoyle (Y10), Mya McVeigh-Judd (Y9) and Antoni Cusworth (Y9) will represent schools in the Sheffield region in the national final in the week beginning Monday 22nd March! Good luck to all!

Get up to speed with STEM: the virtual experience

KS3 and KS4 Science groups will attend this years' first ever Virtual Week long event taking place between 22nd and 26th March 2021 in their Science lessons.

Biology In Action

On Friday 26th March, our Y12 Biology students will take part in a live lecture with a session focusing on Exam Success from Primrose Kitten, followed by a 'Meet the Biologists' session: Nicola Richards, Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Science at Nottingham Trent University, Helen Pheasey from the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, and astrobiologist Rosie Cane.

The three scientists will take live questions from students about their research and career paths in Biology.

Easter Specials

The Excruciatingly Horrible History of... Easter

By Abigail Germany, Year 9

(Continued from page 1) his followers for their support of him but also addressed the fact that one of the apostles was a traitor; they had a viper, a turncoat, in their midst. Each of Jesus' disciples was shocked by the news – they could not believe that one of their own could do something so horrible. This reaction did, although, apply to all but one: Judas Iscariot. Quivering in his boots with anger and embarrassment that his intentions had been spilled, Judas stormed out.

Recovering quickly, Jesus then informed his friends that he would like to pray. Unlike their leader, the remaining eleven had certainly not recovered and every one of them joined Jesus to pray. Their thoughts flooded with worry over Judas' evil plan.

That same night, after contacting his father, God, through prayer and expressing his fear, Jesus was captured. Judas and the guards of the Pontius Pilate, the fifth governor of Judea, appeared, arresting Jesus while his disciples retaliated. However, quite simply the Trinity told them to stop fighting and not to worry because his father had different intentions for him.

Jesus was taken to Pontius Pilate and sentenced to death under many charges; the main, blasphemy. The governor hated the holy man with a great distaste and wanted him gone – he expected life to be much more straightforward without the interruption of Jesus and his religious ways. This took place on Good Friday. When the trial ended, Jesus was forced to carry his own cross to Golgotha, the place of the skull.

When they arrived, the ill-fated Christian was offered a drink which contained drugs to ease the pain he was yet to experience. However, protecting his religious pride, Jesus declined. Brutally, his hands and feet were pierced with nails and he was attached to the cross where he hung beside two others prisoners. On the sign above his head, it read, "King of the Jews." People were cruel to Jesus as he lived his final hours: the guards gambled over whom would gain possession of his belongings, passersby raged insults and even the other prisoners treated him with true iniquity.

At around three o' clock in the morning, after suffering

great amounts of pain upon the cross, Jesus died. Before his body shut down, he shouted, "My God! My God! Why have you deserted me?" Then, he expressed a scream of true agony and betrayal and died. As soon as this happened, a rush of terror spread throughout Jerusalem; people could feel the presence of God and the weight of their terrible crime upon their shoulders. A Roman Guard who watched Jesus die shivered in bewilderment, coming to the realisation that Jesus really was the Son of God.

On Easter Sunday, approximately two or three days after the crucifixion, three women, the Marys, bought spices in which to embalm Jesus' body with. When they arrived at the cave in which he was kept, the large stone used to block all entry had moved! They entered the cavern and shock flooded them for an angel sat on the bench where Jesus' body was supposed to be laid. He told them to tell Peter that Jesus had risen from the dead, he had reincarnated, and that he should travel to Galilee.

That is the story of Easter! So, in April, when you're biting into your chocolate egg and straightening your bunny ears, remember that Christianity is the reason you get to celebrate such a great event. Reflect on the tale and share the true meaning with everybody!

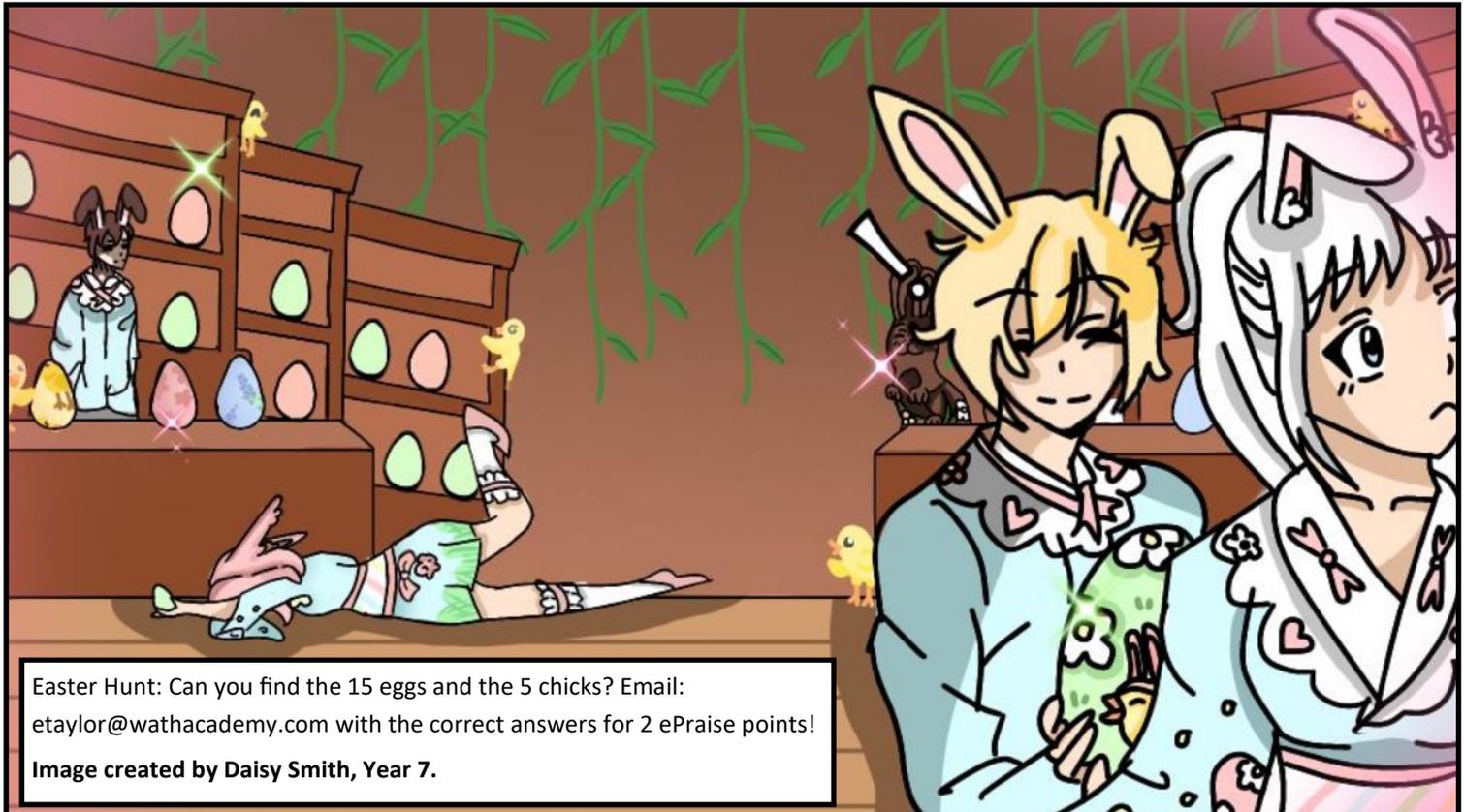
THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Ruby Leach, Igrayne Whitelam, Alex Evans, Evie Germany, Daisy Smith, Isabelle Oliver, Molly Harper, Adam Ward, Isobel Clowrey, Maxton Hutchinson, Emily Rodgers, Mya Mcveigh-Judd, Isobelle Fenton, Abigail Germany, Aidan Jennings, Ngai Wa Yuen, Grace Clowrey, Laura Rodgers, Molly Hammerton, Emily Balaiss and Miss Taylor.

Thanks also to Miss Taylor, Mr Bishop and Miss Perry and all the other unsung staff members who help to contribute each edition.

If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH, please email etaylor@wathacademy.com to let Miss Taylor know, or come and find her in F30 to find out more information.

Easter Specials



Easter Hunt: Can you find the 15 eggs and the 5 chicks? Email: etaylor@wathacademy.com with the correct answers for 2 ePraise points!

Image created by Daisy Smith, Year 7.

The Day Easter Came!

A short story by Isabelle Oliver, Year 7

One bright spring day on the thirty-first of March, a girl who was 5 (and a half) could not wait. Why, you may ask? Easter was coming. You're probably thinking why is she so happy? Her father was coming home from the army; he has been gone since she was three. To you, it may only seem like two years, that's not long, but don't forget she is only five (and a half); it seemed like for ever. Her hopes were high that her dad is going to be her Easter surprise.

As Easter came closer, she started to think is he really coming back? She had never in all her life been more scared for a lovely thing. But why was she feeling this way? The reason was, she hoped her father would remember her; after all, two years is still a long time. We all know that he would remember her... hopefully.

Easter finally came. She was hoping that her father would be there with his arms open wide to give her a hug. He was not there. She started to cry. "I thought he would come." She turned around to hug her mum. She was there... but so was her dad! He said, "I'll never leave you again my little angel."

Now, this was the day Easter came!

The Real Story of the Easter Rabbit

A short story by Isobelle Fenton, Year 9
and Alex Evans, Year 7

One day, a small girl found a rabbit in the kitchen, trying to reach a drawer. "What *are* you doing?"

"I need sweets," it replied. "Do you have any?"

She dropped the plastic cup she was holding, and froze, mouth agape. "Um... yes, I have some in my room," she stuttered and led it slowly to her bedroom where she pointed under the bed, to the dark shadows beneath it, and whispered, "They're under there."

It disappeared under the bed, then leaped out, its small bounding silhouette vanishing over the horizon.

The next day, families woke to missing goods, and the children denied eating it. "Who did, then, the 'Easter Bunny'?" their parents asked, and only sent their children to bed when they nodded honestly.

Feeling bad, the Easter rabbit retrieved its stash of sweets from the forest, bringing them all back to the houses where they belonged. Parents stood, shocked, as children willingly accepted their candy.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to cause a fight, I was being selfish," it explained, "will you forgive me?"

News, Politics and Opinion

Royal Troubles

Emily Balaiss, Year 13

The Royal Family have been in the headlines recently, specifically the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. The interview with Oprah showed new information that the couple never revealed before about Meghan's mental health, why they left the Royal Family, and racist comments. This topic has been so divisive that the events after left people in shock.

The Duchess revealed in the interview that she was having suicidal thoughts. She explained that she "just didn't want to be alive anymore", due to her isolation and unhappiness within the Royal Family. She told Oprah that she sought help from the Palace's human resources department, but did not receive the help she wanted. "I went to the institution and I said that I needed to go somewhere to get help. I said that I've never felt this way before and I need to go somewhere," she said. "And I was told that I couldn't, that it wouldn't be good for the institution."

Meghan also revealed how she faced racism, and told Oprah that there were some "concerns and conversations" between Harry and the family "about how dark [Archie's] skin might be when he is born". Harry confirmed that there was a conversation centring around how the Duke and Duchess' children might look like, but did not reveal who was involved with this concern. However, Winfrey explained that Harry said it was not his grandparents, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. Meghan also told the US talk show host how she was treated differently by the British media compared to Prince William's wife, Kate, who was also closely followed by the media.

Furthermore, the Duke of Sussex revealed that he felt that he was trapped within an oppressive system. "I was trapped but I didn't know I was trapped," he said. "My father and my brother, they are trapped. They don't get to leave." Harry also claimed that there was also a toxic relationship between the royals and the media and that the Royal Family was afraid of the tabloid press "turning on them".

In addition to this, Harry disclosed that he has a fractured relationship with his father, Prince Charles, and brother, Prince William. He said that at one point Charles stopped taking his calls, and there was still "a lot to work through" in their relationship. "I will always love him. But there's a lot of hurt that's happened and I will continue to make it one

of my priorities to try and heal that relationship," Harry said. He said that he and William had "been through hell together, we have a shared experience, but we were on different paths".

Finally, on top of all the drama and chaos caused in the last couple of years, Harry and Meghan revealed that they had two wedding ceremonies. The couple's lavish wedding in May 2018 at Windsor Castle was a grand ceremonial affair, watched by millions around the globe. But Meghan revealed that she and Harry had already exchanged vows in private three days prior to the wedding, in the presence of Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby. "We called the archbishop and we just said, look, this thing, this spectacle is for the world, but we want our union between us," she said. "So the vows that we have framed in our room are just the two of us in our backyard with the Archbishop of Canterbury." "Just the three of us," Harry added.

They also revealed that their second child, due in the summer, will be a girl. Their son Archie was born in May 2019.

Roblox on the stock market

Adam Ward, Year 8

Recently, the free online game platform known as Roblox has gone public for investors. This means people can invest money into Roblox with the hopes that their value increases. Having played Roblox for 5 years now, I was super impressed by this, as they usually played it safe with new things.

Statistics

After the platform opened the gates, the value skyrocketed, currently sitting at a comfortable \$73.04, and is still going up. This is a massive relief, as many expected the company to fall flat on its face due to their horrible track record.

However, the current active daily users hovers around 33 million, showing that Roblox definitely isn't 'dead' (as many people believe). They released info regarding the pay of their 3rd party developers, with a small group (300-400) of the 8 million developers getting over \$100,000 a year. Another quite surprising fact is that although Roblox is largely viewed as a game for kids, nearly half of its players are 13 or over.

News, Politics and Opinion

New features

The biggest and most talked about feature: voice chat. Anyone who has ever played Roblox knows that the current primary communication method is text, but this is set to change. I think it's bold for Roblox to take steps into this unknown territory. Another new mechanic at play will be layered clothing. Let me elaborate. Up until this point, all Roblox clothes have been 2D images placed on the character's body; however, they will soon be 3D models! Along the same lines, faces will now be animated, with different facial expressions. This is possible due to their recent acquisition of loom.ai. These are the 3 biggest features, but they did announce many smaller tweaks.

Personally, I am thrilled with the direction Roblox is taking themselves, and I hope it works out for them.

Tackling Homelessness

Mya McVeigh-Judd, Year 9

Homelessness has been a critical issue ever since the 19th century, emerging as an international issue during the Great Depression in the 1930s. Since then, swarms of financial crisis and high unemployment rates have left homelessness a recurring problem in today's society.

Overall, over 2% of the world's population was considered homeless in 2019, and although that figure may not seem as much, we are speaking over 156 million people, who were either without accommodation or quite frankly sofa surfing. In England, it was last estimated in December 2019 that 280,000 people were sleeping rough on the cold streets of winter, relying on council support and aid for shelter. Over the last five years, according to the Crisis National Charity, the homeless crisis has risen dramatically, with the global pandemic of the last year only exacerbating the problem further.

You don't need to know rocket science to understand that the collapse of many small businesses has been inescapable, especially those who have not been offered much guidance from our Government; once this widespread pandemic has ceased or at least alleviated, I certainly believe it will not be easy to return to norm. This prolonged wait of the "norm" to arrive restrains those family businesses even more to be able to provide food on the table for their loved ones.

Many struggling small business owners risk the potential of becoming homeless in the future, as their company may not reach the requirements for the self-employment income support scheme, subsequently being left without a penny from Britain's ministry. They are not the only ones fending for themselves, as workers who have been made redundant or furloughed may also experience financial strain. Tens of thousands of striving civilians have faced threat of eviction from their households, regardless of the eviction ban in 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic.

The Coronavirus pandemic has also had a massive effect on those currently struggling on the streets. On the face of it, things look encouraging: during 2020, the percentage of homelessness in the UK has declined. But, the truth has not been entirely told. The major reason for the decrease of people living on the streets is because homeless deaths have risen by more than a third in this year. Although less than 3% of recorded causes of death were directly due to Covid-19, it does not mean that many of the homeless have not come in contact with this virus. The funding and help they need may not be provided as much as we would like—even if deaths do fluctuate regularly.

Reassuringly, the national charity has been involved with much effort to protect and offer assistance to rough sleepers during the roam of Covid-19 - emergency accommodation such as hotels and vacant buildings have been offered during Christmas and further on in 2021. Even companies such as Tesco Mobile and Wimbledon Organisers have offered to create packages, such data packages from Tesco to keep in contact with possible family and towels and more from Wimbledon, for the homeless. This is a slow process to tackling homelessness, but it is the way to go; 2021 could quite be the year of the fight to end severe homelessness in England.

If yourself, a family member, or someone you know, that could be/is suffering during these difficult situations, I advise you/them to visit the website www.gov.uk and any trusted financial support charities to venture looking into getting a grant, redundancy pay, universal credit and more. Don't be intimidated to ask for guidance to help yourself and those around you.

Feature: Sarah Everard Implications

The murder of Sarah Everard, Reclaim These Streets vigils gone wrong and the resurgence of #NotAllMen: Laura Rodgers in Year 13 takes a look at what is going on...

Who was Sarah Everard, and what happened to her?

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On the evening of 3rd March 2021, 33-year-old marketing executive Sarah Everard disappeared in South London. She was making her way home from a friend's house when she was believed to be kidnapped and later murdered by Wayne Couzens, a Metropolitan Police officer. Sarah's remains were found one week after her disappearance in some woodland outside Ashford, Kent. Couzens was formally arrested and charged for suspected kidnap and murder on 12th March, and he currently awaits trial in October. Since his arrest, he has been hospitalised twice for head injuries which are suspected to be self-inflicted.

Why is her murder important?

Her death is simultaneously a tragedy and a much-needed wake up call for modern feminists and the wider world. Sarah took all the "precautions" that women are advised to take. She wore trainers, rang her boyfriend whilst walking, and only walked in well-lit residential areas. Yet, despite this, she was still murdered, not only by the 'anonymous predator' most young girls are warned about, but by an authority figure who abused his power to take advantage of her. Feminists have fought for decades to make the world safer, and this murder has acted as a catalyst for a new wave of empowered young women who have realised that they should not have to fear for their lives on a daily basis. Sarah's death is

the product of decades of institutionalised sexism and female oppression. She is only one of thousands of international victims of femicide, a number which only continues to rise.

What has happened since?

Thousands of people attended a peaceful and socially distanced Reclaim These Streets vigil in Clapham Common on 13th March, but those attending were met with violence from the police. The vigil was organised to remember Sarah, as well as to peacefully protest violence against women and feminine presenting people, but the police deemed it unlawful and began to forcefully arrest those attending, destroying memorials and bouquets in the process. This triggered public outrage, with Sir Keir Starmer commenting that the police response was 'deeply disturbing'. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he was 'deeply concerned' by footage of the events. Other protests have been held across the country, but no other police force reacted so aggressively. Conversations about what men can do to help and possible measures that could be implemented have reopened, but it has unfortunately triggered lots of misogynistic discourse, which has only further confirmed the need for both education and general societal reform.

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#NotAllMen? You may be part of the problem...

Most women and feminine presenting people understand that not all men pose a threat to their safety or lives, but when 1 in 6 men are perpetrators of sexual harassment or violence, it instantly becomes easier to understand why we fear most men. If you were placed in a situation where there are 6 people, 1 of whom would hurt you, but that person was

Feature: Sarah Everard Implications

unidentifiable from the others, it would be perfectly rational to be afraid of all of them, as each of them could theoretically harm you. Now apply this to women and feminine presenting people specifically, and it becomes much easier to understand why we, when alone or feeling threatened, fear all men.

Why is #NotAllMen problematic I hear you ask? Because it isn't necessary. Women and feminine presenting people know that it isn't all men, but because those that pose a threat to us cannot be distinguished from the remainder of the population, we must actively be wary of all men as a result. A recent survey shows that 97% of women have suffered sexual harassment at least once in their lives, and many on multiple occasions. If nearly all sexual harassment and violence is perpetrated by men, why are we teaching women and feminine presenting people to change their clothes, behaviours, actions and entire lives out of fear of something that is never their fault? I understand that men also suffer from sexual violence, but this, again, is almost always perpetrated by men. So why aren't we changing how we educate young people on these issues? Instead, we should be moving blame away from victims and encouraging accountability in young people, and justice for survivors.

If your "activism" is only present in order to detract from another movement, it isn't activism. If you use #NotAllMen to detract from the lived experiences of millions of people, you are part of the problem. You are silencing survivors, and simply repeating a point that we understand to protect your own conscience. Yes, it may be #NotAllMen, but it's still #WayTooMany.

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So, what can I do to help?

Step 1 is simple. Don't harass people. I can guarantee that person does not want to be touched, shouted at or even loudly complimented. Step 2, stand up for those who need it. Offer to walk them home if they want you to; if someone looks like they are in danger, intervene. Step 3, educate those around you, and advocate for victims. If a friend or acquaintance is saying things that seem worrying or inappropriate, call them out. Educate them. If they don't listen, report them. If those you report them to don't listen, then once again, look after those in danger and advocate for victims. This problem is institutional. It won't change overnight, but even if one person tries to make the world a little bit safer, it will make a huge difference.

I want to end this ranting, educational, how-to article with a quote from Karen Kilgariff and Georgia Hardstark, *Stay Sexy & Don't Get Murdered: The Definitive How-To Guide*:

'The following quote is from a TED talk my sister sent to me that blew my mind...

"We talk about how many women were raped last year, not about how many MEN raped women... We talk about how many girls in a school district were harassed last year, not about how many BOYS harassed girls... We talk about how many teenage girls got pregnant in the state of VA last year, rather than how many men and teenage boys got girls pregnant..."

'So, you can see how the use of this passive voice has a political effect. It shifts the focus (and blame) off men and boys, and onto girls and women.'"

Resources:

For more information about this topic, please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/help-after-rape-and-sexual-assault/>

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/>

<https://www.survivorsuk.org/>

<http://www.reclaimthenight.co.uk/>

Feature: Feminism in Fashion

Olivia Smith in Year 12 takes a look back at the Swinging Sixties and the instrumental role of fashion in the movement for women's rights.

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The 1960s: the age of change. Civil Rights, the Vietnam War, nuclear weapons and feminism dominated this decade. The second wave of feminism had been kickstarted by women who wanted equality in society after the first wave had been able to triumph in the glory of suffrage. Now, women were broadening their horizons. After being stripped of their wartime freedom in the 1950s, a new form of culture gripped society and sparked a need for individual expression and separation from the generation of the war that they had no part in. Instead, they desired true rights: legally and de facto; maritally; financially; sexually. But how did the feminist movement become so widespread in the 1960s? One way was through fashion.

Women realised that they did not have to subscribe to the male view of the ideal woman, and they could use their fashion as a quiet, yet effective, protest. Some did this subconsciously as fashion reached the masses and became popularised, but the beginnings of these fashion statements were exactly that - statements.

Miniskirts were a favourite trend among young women and teenagers. Hemlines had become gradually shorter, but the miniskirt took off in society on a level never seen before. Credited to Mary Quant, the invention of the miniskirt was a tangible material

example of power, independence, freedom and a bite back against the control of the male-dominated world.

Especially popular in the hippie movement was the disregarding of bras. This was a symbolic way of commanding liberation for their own bodies. It came with much controversy, as well as establishing the derogatory label "bra-burning feminists", but this was a continuing theme as second-wave feminism carried on through the 1970s and into the 1980s as a statement of freedom.

Another testimony against the patriarchy was the rise in "masculinity". There was a small shift toward the dismantling of gender roles in the 1960s. Some epitomised femininity, like Jean Shrimpton ('The Shrimp') and Pattie Boyd. There were idols like Twiggy, who was advertised to make the more masculine figure the 'ideal' for females. A trend less damaging than idealising a body type was the crossover into the more frequent wearing of trousers and the birth of women's suits and tuxedos. This was linked to the rise of education in women and the pursuit of the careers they desired. As women broached male-dominated sectors of society, such as education and the office, their fashion evolved to reflect this new situation.

The feminist movement used this to show the elevation of women and empower minds to spread the message that women could do whatever they chose and were equally as good as men now they could, and did, seize the opportunities. The variety of power women could now have over their fashion was reflective of their new economic ability. No longer did they have to be reliant on their fathers or their husbands. Women could have their own jobs and careers, making their own money and spending it how they chose. The wearing of typically masculine clothes, looking at it from a modern view, is not as radical as once thought due to its undertones of the fact that men are still in control as women have to change to match them, but a contemporary feminist would have seen this as a symbol of female freedom, taking possession of men's clothing to give her power and remove the aura of fragility that surrounded women.

Feature: Feminism in Fashion

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Androgyny became even bigger when men began to subscribe to the radical ideas of the early 1960s. The rock revolution took hold; Mick Jagger, Jimi Hendrix, and more famously, David Bowie, countered social conformity and dabbled in long hair, flares and paisley patterns. This would have allowed women to feel less as if they were standing alone in the movement for equality, and more as if breaking gender expectations could be moved in society as a whole, creating an egalitarian society and empowering those who longed for liberty from the tight, conservative constraints of the 20th century.

Nevertheless, the context of the 1960s is surrounded with the control of the patriarchy and authority over the fashion industry was still held by men. Even the liberating clothes women wore were conditioned through the male gaze and the need for women to look appealing, not for themselves, but for those around them. Women were still being told what to wear through advertisements and designs that catered for a look of youth and appeal. There was no better opportunity for society to provide backlash against the second wave by manipulating the mind into internalising that 'Lolita' was the ideal.

Additionally, the feminist movement, although powerful and widespread in the 1960s, was not a consensus across the Western world. There was a far more powerful majority of conservative views that remained untouched by the movement. Around them, the seemingly paradoxical rise of ultra-feminine fashion and androgynous fashion created an enigma that frightened those who wanted to keep the status quo. Ultra-femininity, for example, the wearing of miniskirts, was seen as promoting immorality, tainting society with the stain of sin.

Androgynous manners were seen to do something similar, yet accentuated the fear of women literally turning into men because they were educated or professional, instead of being there to wait on the men's every need.

Equality of opportunity was a key theme in the movement in the Swinging Sixties and has remained so ever since. Women had, for so long, been prevented the chance at education and learning, which is vital to progression and thinking. As society developed, education became more widespread, and by the 1960s, the Western world had achieved access to education for most women. This was a wonderful step forward, yet women remained disadvantaged as gender expectations and the stigma around the subjects they could study limited their opportunities. Nonetheless, women in the 1960s pushed for change, expanding their prospects by fighting against the system and setting out paths for the women who came after them. This thought was reflected in the fashion statements of the day, some choosing to dress femininely to show that your mind defines you more than your gender, and some choosing to dress in a masculine way to show that women could play the same societal game as men.

The Swinging Sixties marked a pivotal change in the fashion industry that coincided with a change in feminism. In 2021, we can look at the 1960s in its context and see that the women of the day were taking control of their own lives and establishing the foundations for modern-day intersectional feminism. Women can choose whatever they want to wear, whatever makes them feel empowered, and whatever makes them feel like themselves.

However, there is still a way to go. Perhaps recent fashion statements and the collapse of gender roles in fashion, exemplified in mainstream media by the likes of Harry Styles, will propel society forward in the search for true equality for all. Feminism and fashion go hand in hand and their influence may just make life less of a fight against the glass ceiling and more of an empowering existence with women standing alongside men instead of behind them.

Feature: Empowerment

Abigail Germany in Year 9 talks about Women's History Month, International Women's Day and Feminism...and how to embrace your inner feminist!

Margaret Thatcher, Emmeline Pankhurst, Marie Curie, Rosa Parks, Rosalind Franklin, Amelia Earhart, Princess Diana – the list could go on forever. What do all these women have in common? Yes – that's right! These women played their part in destroying the firm walls built by what we call the patriarchy: a system created long ago by men who thought of themselves more important than women because of their sex. If you want to learn about how to enhance your inner feminist, the role models that drive us to achieve our ambitious goals and the maximal value of March to women all over the world, you're certainly in the right place!

Women's History Month

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Women's History Month takes place in March; right from the 1st until the 31st. This annual declaration is celebrated in the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia and is the commemoration of the women, in history, that have played huge roles in gaining females the rights we deserve, as humans. Many of these were mentioned above.

Marie Curie was a physicist and chemist responsible for the discovery of polonium (a radioactive metallic element) and radium (a radioactive element of the alkaline-earth metals). Her research gained her two Nobel prizes, the first of these made her the first ever woman to earn such a reward and both made her the only woman to earn prizes in two different fields of study – chemistry and physics. Curie had many other achievements too which she achieved by not letting the fact she was female get in her way!

So many more exemplary women, who are, most sadly, not with us today, are celebrated during Women's History Month. It is important that, whilst living by the "Women's History is NOW," ideology, we remember how far we have come and express our gratitude for the many who helped us get to this point.

International Women's Day

International Women's Day is the honouring of women all over the world and the continuance of the fight for equal rights. This event takes place on 8th March each year and has a different theme each annum. The issues of the gender pay gap, stereotypes in day-to-day life and the workplace as well as other vast problems are addressed on this major day.

This year, the theme was #ChooseToChallenge, meaning that females must stand up for themselves in order for change to take place. Instead of letting the sexist monsters of the world make gender assumptions, challenge them. Rather than listening to the teacher who told you that you could never be a footballer because you're a girl, challenge them.

The fight for equal rights is a challenge; when men have so much power in so many sectors, it is difficult to oppose such a force. One voice, one act of defiance, can change everything.



INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

MARCH 8

Feminism

Feminism - such a hated word with such a positive meaning. Why? That is something I am still trying to work out for myself. The truth is, feminism has a different meaning for everyone and it takes real experience and influence to figure out what the

Feature: Empowerment

controversial word means to you. However, no matter what the circumstances, don't (even for one second) believe that feminism is, "The act of man-hating," as Milo Yiannopoulos, a hater of women who stand up for themselves, Islam and many others subjects. As well as this, he made multiple claims that he had never met a 'normal' woman who was also a feminist - how incredibly aggravating, not to mention offensive!

One of my most famous viewpoints of feminism was written by writer and editor Marie Shear in 1986. She said, "Feminism is the radical notion that women are people." This, for me, completely sums up what females have been fighting for since the patriarchy was built. All we have ever wanted is to be equal to other people – men. We want the rights that we are told of but don't yet have.

The stereotypes based around the 'normal woman' are truly specific as well as unachievable. No person can be elegant, kind, caring and helpful at all times; everyone has daily ups and downs. Bottling up your feelings to impress your husband who you cook, clean and dedicate your time to, can only lead to even more mental health issues. Yet, don't take this the wrong way; these stereotypes are nearly out of the window in advanced places such as Britain, where we are lucky enough to live. Be glad you were not born in a currently developing country such as India, where women are forced to undergo genital mutations to simply please their partners and be stripped of an education because their only priorities in society are to look after the children and make sure everything is prepared for when their husband returns from work.

In countries as such, women are worthless.

This is why we need feminism.

Enhancing your inner feminist

After all of that realisation hitting you like a ton of bricks, you may feel incredibly empowered. The great news is anyone can be a feminist. No matter whether you're a girl or a boy or neither, even if

you've never experienced sexism, you can still be a feminist. How to enhance your inner feminist? Now, that is the question.

One of my most recent, and favourite, reads was *Feminists Don't Wear Pink and Other Lies*. This book, arranged by Scarlett Curtis, explores the true meaning of feminism and, most importantly, clarifies that it is perfectly fine to wear pink (don't stress). Celebrities, activists and other amazing women share their experiences as a woman in a world like ours. Such as, Evanna Lynch, the actress of Luna Lovegood in the Harry Potter films, Zoe Sugg, author of the 'Girl Online' books, blogger, entrepreneur and YouTube star, and Helen Fielding, author of the Bridget Jones' diary novels. For any aspiring feminist, this book is the perfect weapon.

To conclude...

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Now, you're armed with books, loaded with information and commenting #ChooseToChallenge absolutely everywhere (and tagging your friends on all of your empowering posts which is driving them absolutely insane). We have a long way to go and our mission will only be accomplished when people start to realise that we are not going to back down. Being gentle and mothers, and so on, should not be a commandment that every woman has to follow. People should have the right to decide who they are and, if women don't have this freedom, we are clearly not thought of to be deserving of the title 'human.'

"Feminism is the radical notion that women are people."

Feature: LGBTQ+ in Media

Em Rodgers in Year 9 explores how the issues of queerbaiting, representation and erasure affect the LGBTQ+ community, and the role the media plays.

Queerbaiting, Representation and Erasure are words that often get used a lot these days, but what do they actually mean? In this article, I will explain what they are and the adverse effects they have on the LGBTQ+ community, especially in the media. I will also highlight some examples of good representation and the way things should be done, as well as what you can do to help stop encouraging these negative behaviours.

Erasure

Erasure is a big issue; it is very common and can present itself in many forms in many different places, yet it is often seen as unimportant or overlooked entirely. The most common forms of erasure tend to present themselves in academic situations, especially historical research and books.

One example is the obvious attempt at erasure with William Shakespeare; his sonnets were all clearly written for men, yet that fact is never really mentioned in relation to him. King James I is often a name we hear in relation to the gunpowder plot and the witch trials; however, I feel it is also important to mention that he was the first openly gay British monarch. These parts of history are seemingly not taught, meaning these facts could easily become lost to time.

This issue has huge effects on people, mainly the fact that younger members of the LGBTQ+ community, who are often left completely without representation and feeling alienated due to not being taught or seeing that real people like them exist or have existed in history.

Real people and the Media

Another way erasure presents itself is through the media; a recent example of this is James Corden being cast in Netflix's most recent film *The Prom*, something that wouldn't usually be a problem. However, in this case, he was cast as the flamboyant and overly stereotyped, gay musical theatre actor Barry. This casting choice is often made, usually for simplicity, as there are far more straight actors willing to take jobs, meaning many LGBTQ+ actors are overlooked, leaving

many of them without work. *The Prom* also demonstrates another common occurrence that often leads to erasure, with James Corden being awarded an Oscar for his role as Barry, despite the contributions of several, genuine, LGBTQ+ actors in the film.

Representation

Good pieces of representation tend to be few and far between, with most being directed towards cisgender, white gay men; even then, they are often written as comedic relief. Any representation of **sapphic** women is usually one-dimensional and shallow, often clearly written by straight men, for other straight men, written in as a challenge for them to overcome, to 'change' them or just as a plot device to forward someone else's story. The bare minimum is done to normalise non-binary people or **asexuals** in the media, often going to extreme lengths to include them, then missing the mark completely, with many writers flat out dehumanizing them, making them seem alien or wrong.

Let's look at a few great examples of representation and compare them with some bad examples:

Good Omens vs Harry Potter

Neither of these have characters that were explicitly written as queer to begin with, but both have characters that are heavily implied to be queer. *Good Omens* does a very good job of handling the subtlety of hinting at queer characters, and does so in very light-hearted ways, keeping with the overall tone of the media. *Harry Potter*, however, tried to do the same thing, but handled it in a much worse way, using metaphors for AIDS as a way to hint at it, and along with the demonisation of the illness, paints gay men as dangerous.

The Magnus Archives vs Stonewall

Representation of gay people is scarce enough, but queer POC and trans characters are even rarer in media. *The Magnus Archives*, despite being a podcast with no set character designs, does a good job of handling a fanbase of people seeking representation, with several characters basically being confirmed as ace, and trans. *Stonewall* is meant to tell the 'true story' of the riots; however, it completely ignored the stories of Marsha P.

Feature: LGBTQ+ in Media

Johnson and Zazu Nova, the black and trans leaders of the riots, who fought incredibly hard for equal rights, only for their stories to be removed from the film.

Literature

Paradisio vs IT

Both books have two things in common, fantasy and a strong theme of death and trauma; they are written in very different ways, with *Paradisio* basing the plot around death with grief motivating most of its characters. The plot also focuses on a **hate crime** at several points, but it is written well, and seems very realistic. *IT* is very different; many of the first deaths are gay characters, and are killed for no reason, a trope that is still all too common.

Red White and Royal Blue vs Call Me by Your Name

Making characters seem real can be very difficult, without the idea of fantasy to hide behind; badly written characters can seem out of place and easily become underdeveloped. These books intend to depict realistic characters and their relationships, *Red, White and Royal Blue* doing so very well, the conflict seeming lifelike and sensible. *Call Me by Your Name* is different; the relationship was between a minor and an adult, something that shouldn't be promoted as a good thing.

Queerbaiting

Queerbaiting is a film or TV trope and marketing strategy, used by writers and directors to attract a predominantly queer audience by hinting at a queer character or relationship but never actually depicting it. Despite being very common, isn't usually mentioned as much as the other things in this article, most probably because of how new it is, coming to light in the last twenty years or so.

This trope is usually harmless but can quickly become damaging depending on the character or relationship it is written for. Villains or morally grey characters are usually subject to queer coding and therefore the subsequent queerbaiting, this perpetuating the idea that gay people are all inherently bad or dangerous.

There are probably hundreds, if not thousands of examples of queerbaiting in film and television, with one of the most prolific examples of it being *Sherlock*, being

one of the first to be noticed by the wider queer community, after the writers persistently denied that the relationship between Sherlock and John was meant to be seen as anything other than platonic.

Another large and continuing argument is if queerbaiting can be used as a marketing technique by real people, not just by writers for fictional characters. There are several arguments to support this, these mainly focusing on social media and influencers pretending to be queer. Many huge examples of this have circulated around the internet for years now, the beginning of YouTube seeming to be the catalyst for this, with influencers quickly realising that faking homosexuality is an easy way to gain views and followers.

Of course, many of the people who supposedly fake being queer online may just be people who are too afraid to come out, so immediately cancelling anyone and everyone who shows any indication of being queer without being fully open about their sexuality is never going to work. Telling the difference between those promoting harmful stereotypes and making themselves into false idols for young, easily influenced audiences and those just trying to live their lives is becoming increasingly difficult.

In conclusion

Despite the huge improvements in the last few years, many behaviours that are harmful to the LGBTQ+ community are heavily ingrained into society and would take massive amounts of effort to change. The chances of eradicating any of these things entirely is highly improbable and will probably never happen, but even small things can make a difference, things like educating yourself about queer history, or trying not to support television shows or creators that promote or demonstrate any of these behaviours.

Sapphic - same gender attraction between women.

Asexual - a person who experiences no sexual attraction, someone with a fluid sexuality

Hate crime - a crime that is motivated by prejudice on the basis of race, religion, or sexual orientation



Review and Media



Is this the Ultimate Smash Game?

Aidan Jennings, Year 10



The new DLC fighter/fighters (depending on whether or not you count Mythra/Pyra as one character or not) have recently been released, so I thought I'd review *Smash Ultimate*. Note – at time of writing, the second fighter pass has not concluded yet, so any characters past Mythra/Pyra will not be talked about.

As always negatives first than positives, but there isn't that many. Firstly, the online, I'm sure you have heard plenty of complaints about this, but it cannot be ignored. The Smash Ultimate doesn't have the greatest online, though it's not as bad as people say in my experience (and my internet isn't great for games); there are a few drastic frame rate drops here and there, disconnections, and occasionally it does freeze, but most games I've played are perfectly fine. About one in five games have issues, which is not great, but not as bad as people say. Secondly, in classic mode and World of Light, there are some pretty frustrating fights, but for the most part, these are quite fun. Finally, on the quickplay online, taunts are disabled, meaning characters who have taunts that do damage (like Luigi) have effectively been nerfed. This isn't a big issue, more of a minor annoyance, as the nerf these characters have gotten, hasn't affected them much.

Time for the positives. This game is fast paced, fun, and balanced. There isn't really any game breaking characters in this one, 64 had Pikachu, Melee had Fox, Brawl had Meta Knight, 3DS/Wii U had Bayonetta and Cloud, but in Ultimate there isn't that one character who is just the best. Some characters are better against others, but it isn't like it was in the past where some characters just didn't have bad match ups. This game also has tonnes of single

player content, more than any game before it. There is the World of Light, stage creator, homerun contest, and more, including a unique classic mode for every character in the game, which is quite impressive, when you realise in the base game alone, there are around 70 of them, and every DLC character (who for the most part, have been characters fans have really wanted in *Smash* like Banjo and Kazooie and Sephiroth) has their own unique one as well. Speaking of characters, every single one feels different to the others, even the echo characters have had just enough tweaks to make them feel different to their counter parts (at least for the most part). There are some fan favourite new characters in the base game like King K Rool, but old characters have had tweaks and changes, for example Bowser has a new final smash and the side B off of the edge strategy doesn't work as well as before. Personally, I like playing Fox, and Bowser, both of these characters have completely different play styles and moves, and unlike other fighting game, these moves are easy and rewarding to pull off. There are also over 100 stages in the game, hundreds of songs, Mii fighter costumes and more.

This game has so much content, I can't possibly go over all of it. Just know this game is incredibly fun, and though it does have some flaws, the pros definitely outweigh the cons. I give *Super Smash Bros Ultimate* an 8.5/10.

X-Men: The Last Stand

By Ruby Leach, Year 7

In *X-Men: The Last Stand*, a member of the team (Jean Gray) has got something in her and she is now attacking her teammates and the bad guy Magneto has created a group called The Brotherhood of Mutants. Mutants are people who are not normal, like Wolverine: he has claws that comes out of his knuckles. The X-Men are trying to save their fellow member and stop Magneto from getting the cure.

This is the third in the series, and just as enjoyable and action-packed as the others. In my opinion, I like watching the *X-Men* films because it feels like I am in that world and it's a really fun place to be, full of twists and turns and dramatic set pieces!



Review and Media



WandaVision:

A Disney+ original series

By Grace Clowrey, Year 10



WandaVision is the first of the upcoming Marvel shows to be added to Disney+, and is already a huge success. It began streaming in January and is set 3 weeks after the events of *Avengers: Endgame*.

The series follows Wanda Maximoff and her husband Vision as they start their new lives in the totally suburban town of Westview. However, they soon start to suspect that things aren't as they seem...

It is presented in a classic sitcom style, with lots of hilarious accidents and close calls as Wanda and Vision try to keep their identities (and abilities) secret from the community. It takes the characters a lot of effort to keep their secret safe. In addition, the series takes inspiration from retro shows through the centuries, as the characters seem to time jump every episode, going from black and white 1950s style through to the present day (and colour).

It contains many interesting new characters, and some that are quite familiar – such as Agent Jimmy Woo from *Ant-Man*, and Dr Darcy Lewis from *Thor*. There are shocking plot twist and confusing cliff-hangers every episode, leaving most of the key information shrouded in mystery...

I would highly recommend this series, for Marvel fans and people who haven't seen a single movie – you don't need much background information to watch it, though there may be some spoilers for previous films. It is currently available to watch on Disney+ worldwide, with a new episode releasing every Friday (there will be 9 episodes in this season).

Vampire Diaries

By Ruby Leach, Year 7

Vampire Diaries is about a human called Elena who is in love with a vampire called Stefan, who has a brother called Damon. There are 8 seasons, in which Elena and the Salvatore brothers (Damon and Stefan) are fighting for the side of good.

When Damon first saw Elena, he thought that she was his dead girlfriend (Katherine), but when he found out that Elena wasn't who he thought she was, he knew that she was a doppelganger (lookalike) and the next day when she went to school (Mystic Falls High School), she saw the other brother Stefan and throughout the history class, he was staring at her in confusion because he also thought that she was Katherine.

In season 3 to 5, she and the Salvatore brothers meet the Michaelsons, the original vampire family with one hybrid Klaus (a hybrid is part vampire, part werewolf) and one trybrid (part witch, part wolf and part vampire). In season 4 or 5, Elena finally turns into a vampire by having Damon's blood in her system. However, her brother Jeremy has now turned into a vampire hunter who hates vampires and every time he kills a vampire he will have a map on his arm starting from the hand and the feeling of killing vampires will become stronger until he gets the sword.

In my opinion, I really like the *Vampire Diaries*. It's the perfect programme to watch in the dark, and I feel like I am one of the characters because I usually never see my mum and dad at night! I am now on season 5 episode 5.

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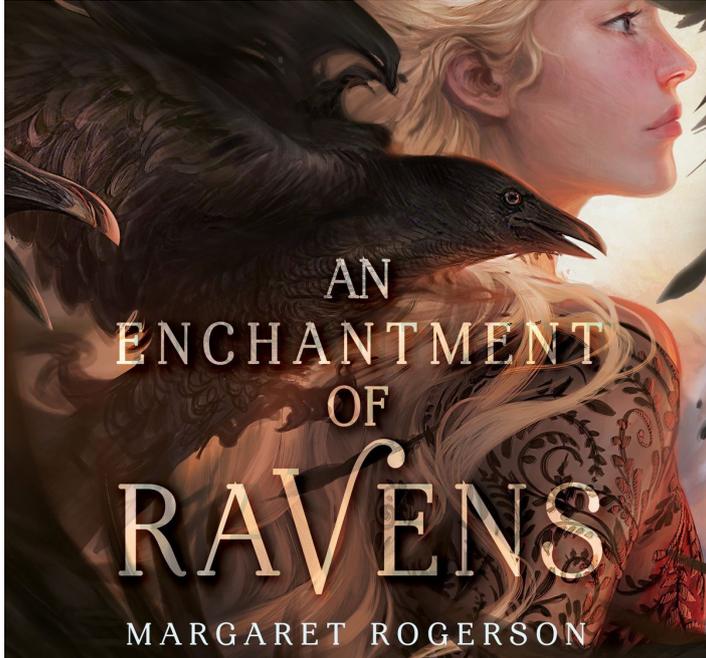
The Book Review



An Enchantment of Ravens

Written by Margaret Rogerson

Reviewed by Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse, Year 13



During lockdown, it is no understatement to say that I have devoured many fabulous books (as well as making several book impulse purchases), however, *An Enchantment of Ravens* by Margaret Rogerson was one that stood out to me amidst the others. Although it is only a stand-alone novel, *An Enchantment of Ravens* has incredible world-building within its pages, creating an immersive narrative I feel will appeal to all fantasy lovers.

Set in the village of Whimsy, which is stuck in an eternal summer, the novel is told from the perspective of Isobel, a human who is proficient in the art of portraiture, a Craft coveted by her fairy clients. Though she is used to the company of her ephemeral clientele, her new patron – Rook – is of a different class altogether. As the autumn prince, Rook must maintain a strong image before his kind (otherwise he risks being overthrown), yet, when painting his portrait, Isobel sees something more and paints human sorrow in his eyes; a potentially lethal mistake which places both of them in peril.

As a huge fan of young adult fantasy, I absolutely adored this book, to such an extent that it has become my favourite stand-alone novel. Though only a short

read, the world building is extraordinary and the descriptions of the fairy world make it easy to picture in the reader's mind. I would highly recommend this book, especially during this time when we are stuck indoors, if you are looking for some escapism for a few hours.

Exit Plans for Teenage Freaks

Written by Nathan Burgoine

Reviewed by Isobel Clowrey, Year 8

Cole has been seen as the school freak ever since being abducted by Ms. Easton at age four. All he wishes is to make it through the end of high school with his grades high and his head down.

But ever since he walked out his front door to appear to be at the door of a museum 80 kilometres away, just as he was thinking about it, he realises something is up. Things get worse as soon every door he faces is an accident waiting to happen – and as it turns out, he discovers that Malik does in fact have a glass door on his shower.

But when the same people start appearing at every stop, Cole finds out that high school crushes are the least of his worries. And they won't stop at anything for what they want - he is running out of options.

I highly recommend this book as I found it exciting and interesting, with many excellent plot-twists and page-turning action scenes.

Places to find it include numerous bookstores, Amazon, and more.

Ickabog Review

Written by J. K. Rowling

Reviewed by Evie Germany, Year 7

Recently, I have read *Ickabog*, a book by the famous author JK Rowling, the writer of the famous Harry Potter collection. In my opinion, this story is a 10/10 read because it is extremely addictive - it hooks you in straight away. The novel is about a kingdom with a protagonist named Spittelworth with a gullible king that follows all the lies from that his newly promoted chief adviser/ best friend forms.

Creative Corner

A Hideous Horror Story (Part One)

By Igrayne Whitelam, Year 7

Former soldier Leona Heidern went out for a walk, with her dog, Ling. They went far - too far - for they were out in the middle of the night. They got lost in a vast and crowded forest at midnight.

Eventually, Leona got out her mobile phone - her plan was unsuccessful for her phone had no signal. As she and Ling crept further into the wood, they came across an old, abandoned town, made up of old, tumble down, rickety, towering and sinister looking buildings. As the pair walked along the old cobbles, they encountered buildings with boarded up windows. She couldn't see in much detail for the only supply of light came from the moon. One moment, they stood before a ruined chapel, and it looked like a good place to stay for the night. As they tiptoed to the chapel, they both heard crying; it was Athena Asamiya, one of Leona's close friends from primary school. Athena lifted her head and when she saw Leona standing before her, she leapt to her feet hugging her tenderly.

"Athena! What are you doing out here?" Leona gasped.

"I was at home and I just woke up here and I keep hearing funny noises but I'm too scared to go and see what they are."

"I'll have a look, maybe it's just a silly prank."

"No seriously, look in that book!" Athena gestured to a beaten and worn-out leather book that was in a dark corner of the room. "Don't touch it. When I did earlier, it just crumbled in my hands - it's so dry."

"Right." Leona slowly crept towards the book and read the page it was open on, she read it aloud. "Dear diary," she started. "We must go. We must evacuate the village to be beyond the reach of the hideous cats. They're taking the children and sometimes the teenagers. Me and my wife are packing now—Argh! What a shame the page ended there, obviously, if I turned it, it would fall apart."

"Yeah, but the thing is - well, I know it sounds stupid but did those cats come to get me?"

"I doubt it- besides, like I said, it's probably a stupid

prank."

"I suppose so."

"Come on now let's go to sleep," Leona said, but she was wasting her time, because Athena was already fast asleep, curled upon a bed of moss with Ling beside her. Leona let out a short giggle and lay beside the pair and fell asleep.

END OF PART ONE

Discovery

Maxton Hutchinson, Year 8

During her morning jog on the beach, the weather was dismal: the clouds made the already dreary morning feel like a substandard evening. On said morning, Caroline Smith, journalist and owner of Caroline's Inquiry, bestselling newspaper, found a most peculiar object half buried in the sand. A small, shimmering bottle.

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Due to its unestablished origins, Caroline took it upon herself to solve this arcane mystery. Upon returning home, she opened the peculiar bottle. Doing so led to the discovery of a heart-breaking, anonymous love letter rolled neatly and stuffed inside. Publishing this letter, Caroline's fellow journalists, employees and readers were shocked to discover its true elucidation.

It was a classic morning; although the weather was gloomy Caroline's spirits were high. The city streets were bustling as the attempt to reach the workplace became increasingly challenging; these setbacks could not stop the determination that burned within. She lived an urban lifestyle within the city and rarely travelled. Some may say that this was the source of Caroline's lack of inspiration, as it was too day-to-day, but she thought otherwise.

Feature: Urban Legends

Every edition, Isobelle Fenton (Year 9) unpicks the story behind a common urban legend. This month is the turn of Okiku - the haunted Japanese doll.

The story of Okiku is said to have begun in 1918, when Eikichi Suzuki bought her sick 2-year-old sister Kikuko a 40cm tall doll. It had pale white skin, black eyes, red lips, and shoulder-length black hair. Since Kikuko couldn't go out much, she spent all the days with the doll, playing with it and brushing the hair, naming it Okiku.

Then, the girl's condition became much worse, and she spend all day in bed, hugging the doll, until one day, she died due to high temperatures.

As was customary at that time, the family gathered all the girl's favourite belongings to cremate with her but forgetting about the doll. When they realised this mistake, they decided to put the doll with her ashes in an altar in their house.

However, soon they felt like something strange was happening, and noticed the doll's hair was growing longer. They did not get scared though, since they

believed it was merely Kikuko's spirit in the doll, so they kept it on the altar, cutting the hair occasionally.

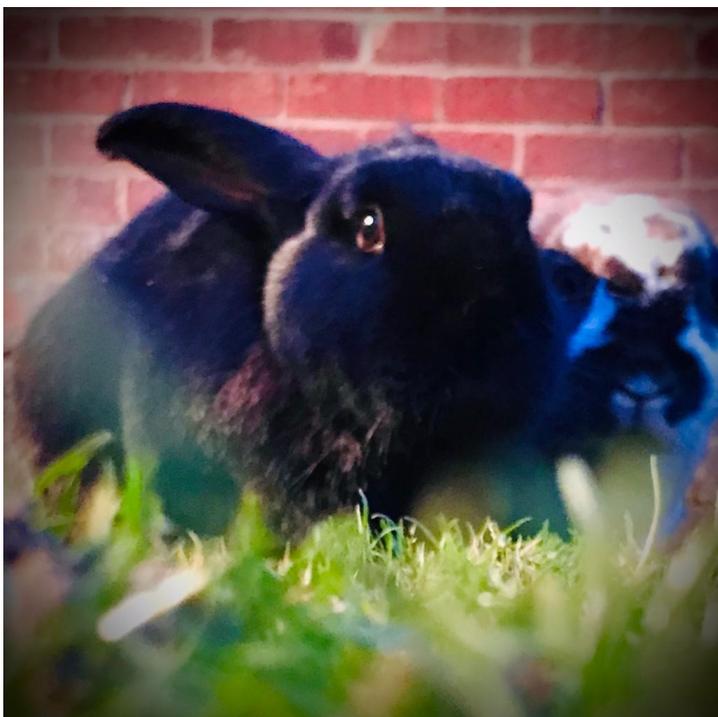
When World War 2 struck, they moved to a new house, and brought Okiku to the Mannenji Temple in Iwamizawa. When they told the priest what was happening, he didn't believe them, until he and all the monks saw themselves how the doll's hair grew. Cutting it became a regular chore for them, and they took pictures of the hair at different lengths to hang near the doll.

Even now, the doll remains in that temple in Hokkaido, where tourists visit regularly to witness the strange phenomenon. Now, though, people say not only the hair changes, but the lips move, and the fixed eyes seem to follow the visitor along, watching, growing increasingly humanoid.

Many experts have analysed samples of the mysterious hair, finding that it is human hair, but finding no reason how or why.

The question is, do you believe this doll is supernatural, and would you go to visit it?

Photograph of the Month



Voted as most popular by members of *The Torch* team, this month's photograph, to welcome in spring, was snapped by Molly Harper in Year 7:

Explaining why he picked this as photograph of the month, Thomas Armitage (Year 9) said: "I think it captures the spirit of spring, with the two rabbit which also together symbolize friendship, something in which we need to cling on especially in these difficult times."

Molly told *The Torch* a little about the cute stars of her photo: "They are my rabbits, Coal and Dot. They are both rescue rabbits that came from bad homes they are now free roaming in our back garden together."

If you would like to submit your own photograph to be printed, please email etaylor@wathacademy.com.

Club Spotlight:

STEM Club

Mathematics forges the foundations of all buildings

At Wath Academy, our STEM Club gives you the chance to explore subjects like science, technology, engineering and maths in real life. During recent STEM club meetings, students have enjoyed looking at the maths behind architecture and construction, designing their own theme park using a mathematical scale, completing the blueprints for this and meeting a client brief.

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Every single building you spend time in: schools, libraries, houses, cinemas, and even your favorite restaurant is the result of mathematical principles applied to design and construction. Before construction workers can build a structure, an architect has to design it. Geometry, algebra, ratio and trigonometry all play a crucial role in architectural design. Architects apply these to plan their blueprints or initial sketch designs.

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Mathematics is a crucial part of design, it is everywhere: work, school, home and even a theme park. Imagine that you are an architect: what would you create?

Fishing

Igrayne Whitelam, Year 7

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Types of fishing

There are many types of fishing, for example, fly fishing (using fake flies as bait), carp fishing and pike fishing. These can involve various baits, rods, lines and reels, which are especially designed for the fish you are trying to get.

Places

Places that involve fishing include:

- Lakes
- Rivers
- Sea
- Canals
- Ponds

Like mentioned before, you must use various equipment in some of these places.

The reel on this image is called the 'Centrepin'.

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Sport and House Update

CHESS PUZZLE: BLACK PLAYS TO WIN

How it works: Black plays next, and must make one move to win. If you can work out the winning move, please email your answer to: etaylor@wathacademy.com.

All correct answer will win two ePraise points and the answer will be revealed in the next edition, along with the names of the winner.

Puzzle created by Elliott Harris, Year 12

