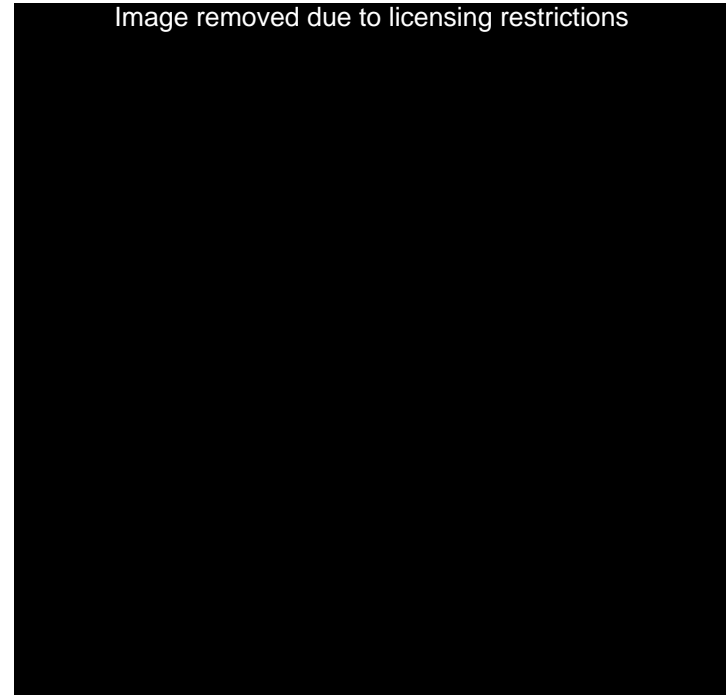




## ONLINE DATING DANGERS

By Morgan Calvert, Year 9 and Scott Smith, Year 10

Image removed due to licensing restrictions



In the season of love, it can be tempting to hit 'accept' to friend requests from people you don't really know, but is it worth the danger?

Take what happened to Leonne Weeks in Dinnington, only a few weeks ago. I'm pretty sure everybody in our school has heard about her tragic murder but here is an update on the news story.

Twenty minutes before Leonne's body was found she was reported missing. She had met a boy on an online dating site and had arranged to meet him that night but it didn't go exactly as planned. Usually when you meet a boy, you go back to their house and meet the parents but this time even Leonne didn't come back.

Although she had only arranged to meet a "boyfriend", another girl was arrested on suspicion of being involved in the terrible murder. We send our thoughts to Leonne's family and friends.

Let's just remember she is now happily in the sky with all our other lost ones.

One main cause for the murder was e-safety. According to recent studies, most children do not understand what they are signing up to when on the internet. When clicking the 'accept' button on a set of terms and conditions make sure you understand what you are accepting. Many problems can be caused if you don't, such as people accessing your computer or personal information.

Despite the internet being great for research and homework, leaving children on their own is dangerous as they are gaining massive power. This means that children are 40% more likely to be in danger when on the internet.

To keep safe online, you should:

- Always read the terms and conditions of the sites you join. Some sites have age restrictions, so check before you join.
- Only accept friend requests if you know them.
- Tell someone if you get suspicious. In school, you can always speak to Mrs King, Mrs Cooke or Miss Norton, or you can report concerns to the online organisation CEOP.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions



*Laying flowers for Leonne—not the kind she was expecting to receive when she met up with a stranger online.*

### Valentine's Day Challenge

Love is in the air this month at *The Torch*! The word 'heart' appears five times (not including this page!). Can you locate them all?

If you find them, bring your newspaper back to Miss Taylor in the English department. The first five winners will receive small prizes. Others will receive merits.



# Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

When I last wrote an article for *The Torch*, we were applying the finishing touches to the hampers that each tutor group prepares for local elderly residents. I am delighted to advise you that the 'Best in School' was from 9EV. However, the standard was very high across all tutor groups and it is certainly very moving to receive the heartfelt thanks of recipients.

Towards the end of last term, we also had our Year 13 Presentation Evening, where we were delighted to welcome back Pat Ward, our recently retired head teacher. Mrs Ward distributed certificates and prizes and made a very relevant address to the many students returning to the school. The final event of last term was the Christmas Concert – a very entertaining mixture of popular and Christmas music, from students across all year groups. Unfortunately, the quality of Christmas jokes from our compere was little better than you usually find inside a Christmas cracker. Our current Year 13 students have now completed their applications for further study. I am delighted to announce that four students have received offers from Oxford or Cambridge, our highest number for a good number of years. Students will spend the next few weeks at Visit Days or Interviews before deciding on their final two choices.

This is also a particularly busy time for Year 11 students, who are preparing for GCSE exams and the completion of BTEC courses. The year began with a Review Day – with tutors reviewing progress to date before deciding, with students, on the targets for the remainder of the year. Year 11 students are now busy completing controlled assessments, which are an important aspect of the course in many subjects. The extensive programme of support and revision has begun and will run every evening, and many lunchtimes, until the end of the examination period.



Students will have received a timetable and a letter informing them which evenings they must attend but they are, of course, welcome to attend others as well. Parents of Year 11 students will shortly be notified of the study programme which will run through the Easter and May holidays. We have been

pleased so far with students' responses to these extra sessions but urge you, as parents, to ensure that your 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.

Year 12 and 13 students had their Preliminary Exams earlier this term and these have been followed, more recently, with their Student & Parent Consultation Evenings with subject teachers. Other year groups have now completed their assessments for this half term and reports for all year groups are in the process of being posted home. We do like to keep parents up-to-date with student progress every half term.

Personal interviews have begun for students applying to the sixth form next year. We have so far seen 90 external students. Given that, traditionally, we attract a third of our sixth form from other schools, this bodes well for Year 12 numbers next year. All 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 to exceed 95% attendance. Please do help support us in ensuring your child attends school when at all possible.

Final preparations are underway for our annual Gym, Dance and Movement Evening performances, which will take place on 14, 15 and 16 February. Our own students and pupils from our feeder primary schools will, I'm sure, once again provide high quality, creative performances to three appreciative audiences. Thursday is already sold out – if you haven't been able to get tickets this year, do try to come along next year.

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 Tuesday 14 March. This is the evening where students are advised of our Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11) pathways and courses. These students are currently getting information about the different subjects available in Year 9 in assemblies, in preparation for that evening.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Taylor  
Headteacher

# News in Brief

## Italian Club

By Emily Balais, Year 9

Want to learn Italian?

Well, lucky for you, Lewis Nuttall is holding an Italian club for students of all ages.

This is a chance to learn Italian and make new friends; it's great for anyone who is looking to learn a language or continue learning languages. If you are looking to learn Italian, come to G10 on Tuesday lunch.

## German Pen Pal at G9

By Jacob Linney, Year 7

German Pen Pal is a club where you get paired with someone from Germany and then you can pair up with others in the club and make things, such as a presentation about a particular part of Wath like the town centre.

When you join the club, you also get to use things like eTwinning or Story Bird: eTwinning is a site where you can chat to your pen pal through online mail or through live chat, and we are currently using Story Bird as a way to write stories for our pen pals! Anyway, come to G9 to take part!

## Year 10 Drama School Tour

Year 10 Drama students are currently preparing for the "Primary School Tour". This tour is an opportunity for our Drama students to devise a piece of Theatre in Education that delivers an important message and then perform this to our local primary schools. The pieces include messages about stranger danger, cyber bullying and the dangers of playing with fire. The performances will go out to primary schools straight after Easter so rehearsals are well under way.

## Drama Live Streaming

Over fifty Drama students attended the live streamed performance of *Woyzeck* by the professional theatre company Splendid Productions in F2 on the evening of Thursday 26th January. The range of techniques used in the performance were an excellent opportunity for our students to gain important ideas for their own devised pieces.

Comments from some of our GCSE students included:

"It was really good to be able to watch professional actors for free."

Another student said, "At first I didn't understand what was going on because the story started with the end and the scenes were all jumbled up but some of the parts were really funny and in the end it made sense".

## Y8 Drama

On Thursday 9th February, fifty Year 8 students who are considering continuing their studies of Drama at GCSE next year came along to F2 to watch the National Theatre production of *Treasure Island* from 3pm until 5pm. These students were able to see a fantastic production full of swashbuckling pirates and an incredible set for free. The production followed the story of young Jim Hawkins who was swept away on an incredible journey for treasure after finding a treasure map. The only problem was that the treasure belonged to the most fearsome pirate on the seven seas, Long John Silver. A lovely evening was enjoyed by all and students will be able to use some of the techniques they saw in their upcoming Drama lessons.

## Study Stars

Study Stars is a homework/study club run by Miss Thomas and Mrs Marsden on Wednesday lunchtimes in G16. This club is for all years, and on special events such as Christmas, we do parties and have some fun.

You can bring your lunch and your friends; it's a great way to do the homework you forgot to do or do some studying for your GCSE exams.

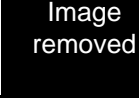
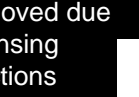
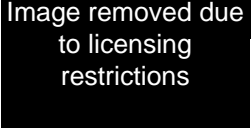
## Important Dates for your Diary

- **New half term begins** – Monday 27 February
- **Year 8 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers** – Tuesday 28 February
- **Year 12 Review Morning 2** – Thursday 2 March
- **Year 11 GCSE Dance Recital Evening** – 6.30pm Thursday 2 March
- **Year 7 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers** – Tuesday 7 March
- **Piano Recital Evening** – 6.30pm Thursday 9 March
- **Next Three Years Evening** (for Y8 students & parents) – 6.30pm Tuesday 14 March
- **Year 10 Review Day 2** – Thursday 16 March
- **Assessment Week 4** – begins Monday 20 March
- **Year 9 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers** – Tuesday 4 April
- **Year 13 Review Morning 2** – Thursday 6 April
- **End of Spring Term** – 2.45pm Friday 7 April.


# Latest News and Updates from

## Weird Breeding Pairs in Pokémon

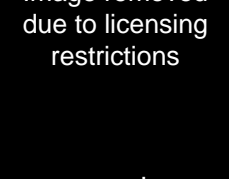

By Abbie Lewis, Year 10

**1. Skitty and Wailord:** This is probably  one of the oddest breeding pairs. Skitty, a  2'0" cat, can breed with  Wailord, literally the largest Pokémon in the game at 47'7".


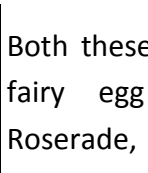
### 2. Gardevoir and Chandelure

 Gardevoir is a popular psychic/fairy type Pokémon, used competitively because of its good moveset and strong mega. However, this human-like Pokémon can breed with one of the weirdest Pokémon, Chandelure, which is literally a fire/ghost type chandelier. Why can this happen? Only Nintendo knows.

### 3. Komala and Primarina

Both of these Pokémon are from the newest generation, Gen 7.  Primarina is the fully evolved version of the starter Pokémon Popplio, whilst Komala is a stage one Pokémon that doesn't evolve. The weird thing is that Komala's Pokedex entry  states: "It is born asleep, and it dies asleep. All its movements are apparently no more than the results of it tossing and turning in its dreams." So my question is, how does this breed? Am I the only one weirded out? I don't even need to mention how Primarina is a mermaid and Komala is a koala...

### 4. Carbink and Roserade

 Both these Pokémon are members of the fairy egg group. For some reason,  Roserade, the masquerade-like Bouquet Pokémon and Carbink, a sentient rock can breed. I don't know what's weirder, the fact these two can breed, or the fact that they are both fairies.

## How to Cope with Exam Stress

By Mya Taylor, Year 11

With exam season fast approaching, I and many other students are stressing out to the max. What if I forget my formulas? What if the quotes I tried to remember haven't sunk in? To make matters worse, we (the current Year 11) are the first ones doing some of the new GCSEs. We are in that awkward place, where some of the subjects use the old grades while others use the new numbers.

Just thinking about all of this is enough to get my heart racing, especially when I also consider how my performance in my GCSE examinations will affect my entire life. It's all we ever hear: depending on how we do in these exams, our paths will be laid out for us and there will be no way round them to get to what we really want from life...

Or so we are led to believe.

The fact of the matter is that what we do *after* the exams is much more important. Whether you want to be a teacher, a journalist, sports star, hairdresser, builder, baker, movie star, lawyer, stock broker – whatever your job preference is – don't let GCSE grades dictate your future! People think that if they don't get the right grades and they are unable to get in to the right college or sixth form, or get on the course they desire, that their future is ruined. IT'S NOT. You can go the long way round. Start at the bottom and work your way up the job ladder to get to where you aspire to be.

Life may be hard and it's great to set your goals high, but don't think that it's the be all and end all of everything, especially if you don't get there straight away. And when it comes to deciding on a career, think carefully! You might love sport, yet think it would be easier to earn a billion as a banker, but think about what *really* makes you happy. You'll be doing that job day in day out, so enjoying it is what's really important.

I guess that what I'm really trying to say is don't stress – as long as you try your best in these exams, then be proud of whatever results you get.

# Wath Comprehensive School

## Breaking the Language Barrier: Saint-Étienne 2016

By Ellie Eagleton, Year 13

I won't lie: the main reason why I wanted to do French after AS was because I wanted to go to Saint-Étienne again. Last year's trip was brilliant and made me love my second language so much more, and this year was no different, if not even better.

The trip has run for the last seven years and it's always been a success. The gist of it is that you go to France and work in one of two French primary schools as a classroom assistant. You stay with one of the teachers at whichever school you're working at, although there are other hosts available for emergencies. Most of them don't speak much, if any, English, so it's needless to say that the aim of the trip is to improve your speaking. You're also much better off staying alone with your hosts, rather than doubling up with a friend; I know, you're thinking 'I hate you'. But hear me out. Last year, my friend and I stayed with the same family, simply because we were apprehensive about the thought of staying alone with our hosts, which just meant we ended up sitting in her room between meals. And because we only really interacted with our hosts at mealtimes/in the morning, we lost a lot of valuable opportunities to hone our confidence. So, this year I stayed alone with Murielle, the headmistress of the school I worked in, and I was amazed at how useful it was just to sit with the family and talk between meals. My speaking skills were challenged constantly, particularly when we had guests over.

The work experience itself all depends on what the staff arrange, but at both schools, there's a lot of introducing yourself and a lot of explaining that you're not best friends with the Queen. We worked in the English class for most of the three days we were there, routinely introducing ourselves and helping various classes with their English exercises. For example, we helped seven-year-olds differentiate between simple words like "little" and "big" one day, and played games centred on colours and numbers with five-year-olds the next. I also

sat in a CM2 (Year 6) class on the last full day and observed an RE lesson, and surprisingly managed to decipher a lot of what the teacher was telling them about Jesus. Just don't ask me to explain the in-depth grammar lesson they had, even though I did sit there taking notes and silently trying to figure out how verb complements worked. I'm still not sure how eleven-year-olds manage to cope with them.

The time we spent together as a group was also one of my favourite parts of the trip. Our visit to Lyon on the Saturday was the highlight of the week; the main thing we took away from it was the delights of a vegetable known as an endive, AKA a chicory. As well as this, we also braved the challenge of asking strangers for common French expressions as part of another challenge in the city centre, including a very rude way of describing heavy rain.

### Creative Corner

Untitled

By Olivia Storey and Lauren Clack, Year 8

*Last time, we found out it was self defence, and the girls realise they have fled from a crime scene...*

(Libby's point of view)

\*next day\*

I awoke. 'Why is Lorena asleep in my bathtub?' I thought to myself. Of course... still feeling guilty. Jane Sanderson's death was our – well, technically Lorena's – fault but I'm trying to convince her that it was my fault too (I kind of just stood there), and only we know that "we" (Lorena) did it.

I picked up the newspaper and looked at the front page, "Jane Sanderson, found dead at the bottom of a skyscraper. Did she fall, commit suicide or... was... she... PUSHED!?! Find out more in this issue of the *Daily Telegraph*."

I felt ill. More ill than I have ever felt in my entire life. I had pretty much helped kill someone (again, I kind of just stood there). If there was one thing I knew, me and Lorena, were one-hundred percent, without a doubt, going to hell...

# Conspiracy Corner

**Feeling suspicious about the world as it is? Year 10 student Lauren Hollingsworth-Smith takes you through her latest theories... This edition: Does the media control how you think?**

In the previous issue of Conspiracy Corner, we theorised that western media had a large influence on creating prejudice, but is it powerful enough to control how we think?

In the present era of globalisation, it's apparent that we as a society are becoming more dependent on the media, and it's becoming more and more integrated into our lives. Its impact is huge. Think about this for example: what do you remember from your childhood? For many of us, our favourite shows are associated with our earliest childhood memories – evidence alone of the media's influence. Today, the number of young children accessing the media is increasing; in some cases, toddlers know how to use a smartphone or tablet before they can even speak! And we've all seen an abundance of "phone-zombies" as we go about our daily commute.

Because it's so ubiquitous, the media does have psychological impacts. One common example is how it negatively influences body image, particularly in young people. Since we're constantly bombarded with false ideologies of beauty, often created by layers of Photoshop, we're tricked into believing that it is normal and desirable to have an airbrushed appearance. This can lead to many mental health issues, such as anxiety.

If the media has the power to influence our mental health, then it is more than likely that it can influence our thoughts – whether we are conscious of it or not. Many conspiracy theorists are aware of this, and some believe we are being brainwashed – on purpose.

As we discussed in our previous article, it is evident that the media is the main perpetrator for the perpetuation of Islamophobia in modern day society, due to its ability to create stereotypes and prejudices. We focus on the differences of others rather than our similarities (fundamentally, we're all human and we're all equal), and this focus on differences can make us forget our own humanity and dehumanise others.

What does this lead to?

More conflict.

The media's constant bombardment of labels and stereotypes is keeping us in an endless cycle of conflict.

But if this is true, one question arises:

Why?

Well, to quote Mr Orwell, "War is peace." For those of you who haven't read *1984*, let me explain...

A successful way of controlling a society is a tactic called divide and rule, which essentially keeps our leaders in power by creating an endless cycle of conflict. It is believed that groups with conflicting views and prejudices have been secretly manufactured, funded or controlled by an invisible 3rd party; thus no side has "the right" or "the truth", nor offers anything of real intrinsic value – neither side will win and the Hegelian Dialectic conflict is endless. Furthermore, the "us vs them" scenario prevents those divided and ruled from realising how powerful they could be together. And all this results in huge benefits for the ruling 3rd party – be it our governments or something higher in the global hierarchy; by manufacturing endless wars, they receive immense profits for their corporations (e.g. the weapons industry) and by keeping people in constant fear, they gain more loyalty.

"The War On Terror" is a classic example. Fighting so-called terror with essentially more terror leads, unsurprisingly, to even more terror. The problem arising in the wake of the recent mass-murder event in Paris and the subsequent French bombing of the Islamic State (also a mass-murder event) is that the two acts (and hundreds like them) serve as justification for more of the same from the other side. They provide fuel for each other's fire and the situation continues to metastasize.

Instead of dwelling on the negatives, I'd like to end on a lighter note. Henry David Thoreau said, "It is never too late for men to abandon their prejudices." In other words, it is possible to bring an end to this seemingly endless cycle of conflict. The first step to global peace is to act peacefully, and in my opinion, just approaching things with an open mind is an act of rebellion against a totalitarian society.

So, the next time you're browsing the media, just remember: not everything you see is necessarily the truth.

## 20 weird facts

By Carys Garner, Year 8

1. Sand wasps fly out of the nest backwards to make sure they'll remember the way home.
2. One of the longest domain names in the world is: iamtheproudownerofthelongestlongestlongestdo mainnamesinthisworld.com.
3. A billion seconds is 32 years.
4. Netflix have created a pair of socks that pause the show you're watching if you fall asleep.
5. The world's only Cornish pasty museum is in Mexico.
6. Chinese drivers are stuck in traffic jams for the equivalent of nine days a year.
7. According to a 2013 survey, 3% of Londoners regularly eat in the bath.
8. Whales can suffocate if fish get stuck in their blowholes.
9. The number of messages sent every two days via WhatsApp and Facebook exceeds the number of human beings who have ever lived.
10. You can't write perfect French on French computer keyboards.
11. Each nostril smells the world slightly differently.
12. Christmas tree lights can interfere with your Wi-Fi.
13. M&Ms were invented so American soldiers could eat chocolate without it melting in their hands.
14. Not supplying trays in cafeterias reduces food waste by 32%.
15. Hens that are given alcohol lay half as many eggs.
16. When walking, anxious people tend to veer to the left.
17. The word 'sock' comes from the Latin *soccus*, meaning shoe.
18. The loudest word ever shouted was 'Quiet!' by a primary-school teacher from Northern Ireland.
19. When France's TGV broke the world train-speed record, it had to apply the brakes for ten miles before stopping.
20. The name 'Donald' means 'ruler of the world'.

## Books of the Month

### Gold of the Gods (by Bear Grylls)

Reviewed by Anonymous



The book *Gold of the Gods* is very exciting with loads of lines to get the adrenaline flowing. It is about a young boy called Beck Granger whose mission is to survive in the jungle. This task may be challenging even for the world's youngest survival expert. Many dangers, such as starvation, dehydration and the deadly animals, await our young explorer, so can he survive?

### Just Friends (by Billy Taylor)

Reviewed by Savanna Davies,  
Year 8



August and Ethan have been best friends since they met at Ethan's seventh birthday party. Twelve years on, their friendship continues to grow. But after magic tricks, money, fame and an unexplainable miracle in a car accident. August realises she wants to be more than friends.

From the minute I picked up the book, I wondered if Ethan and August would end up together. As I got deeper into the book I was sitting on the edge of my seat wondering how Billy Taylor would pull these two love birds out of the plot twists that occur.

This story is so heart-warming too. With all the trouble August and Ethan go through to realise the truth, it's astonishing. At points you have such deep emotion for the characters.

This book makes you realize that true love does exist. It is out there. True love will find us when we are ready for it.

### Wasp Swarm (by John Townsend)

Reviewed by Harry Spencer

This book is about two people called JJ and Anna, who were fishing at the park when two boys came along called Taz and Jack. These two spotted food in Anna and JJ's bag, but little did they know what awaited them when they stole the food and started eating!



# Spreading a Little Love:

## Owning a Bunny

By: Poppy Muffett, Year 10

Getting a bunny, or any other type of pet is very rewarding. Although getting permission from people at home may be difficult, the result in the end is well worth it. As a bunny owner myself, I strongly recommend a household pet. My rabbit is called Clover, and he is a happy little bunny with white fur and blue eyes. I've learned some interesting information in my first year as a pet owner, so I thought I would share it in this article.

### Buying Your Bunny

If you decide that you are going to get a bunny, then you need a place to buy one from. I bought my bunny from Wentworth Garden Centre, but Pets at Home is always a good choice, as you get microchipping and jabs included. If all else fails, then look at Pets4Homes, a website where breeders advertise their litters.

You also have to think about the size of the rabbit that

you want; the smallest breed available is a Netherland Dwarf, which is a little bigger than a Guinea Pig, whilst the French Lop is around the size of a small dog. Smaller bunnies live longer, as the Netherland Dwarf lives for up to 12 years, but larger breeds live for up to 6. Larger bunnies will not fit in standard hutches either.

### The Medical Side

This is where owning a bunny gets more serious, as rabbits have to be vaccinated against Myxomatosis (mix-ee-ma-toe-sis), which would kill your rabbit within 12 days, and causes them to bleed from their eyes. It is a cruel way for them to die, so if your bunny does catch the disease, it is best to have them euthanized. Your rabbit will then need a vaccine every year.

It is also necessary to have your bunny neutered or spayed (depending if they're a boy or a girl). The procedure calms hormones, and makes your pet happier in general. This can cost £50 - £70 depending on your vet, and it does significantly lengthen the life of your bunny. Female rabbits will only live for up to 4 years if they are not spayed, and have not had babies.

### Housing Your Pet

The RSPCA state that your bunny should have space to lay down whilst completely stretched out, your bunny should be able to stand up without their ears touching the roof. In addition to this, your rabbit should be able to hop three times across the hutch, and you should provide them plenty of safe areas for when they feel insecure. You should give your pet enough bedding to keep them warm, and ensure that they have access to hay at all times. If rabbits live in a dirty environment, they can develop flystrike, which is a horrible disease. Therefore, you should clean your rabbit's hutch at least once a week. Personally, I clean my rabbit every day, which works for both me and him, as he loves to be clean. You can get most supplies from Pets at Home.

Your rabbit should have a run too. Even the smallest breeds need three miles of exercise per day to stay healthy. Their run should be larger than their hutch, and should offer your bunny space to run around, and space where they feel safe. They should also be able to perform binkies (hops) without hitting the roof of the run.

## 5 Valentine's day facts.

By Ellie-May Beaumont, Year 8

1. About 150 million cards are exchanged each Valentine's Day!
2. Valentine's Day is the second most popular card-giving occasion, beaten only by Christmas.
3. There aren't enough singles women for every single man in their twenties. For every 119 single men, there are only 100 single women of the same age!
4. Over two million marriages take place in the United States alone every year. That means there are more than 6,000 a day!
5. The first Valentine's Day box of chocolates was introduced by Richard Cadbury in 1868.





# Valentine's Day Specials



## Showing Affection to Your Pet

As rabbits are prey animals, they will want to feel secure when you hold them. When you pick your bunny up, support their bottom, and hold their middle. Bring your pet up to your chest, and rub your rabbit's head whilst talking to them. This should make your rabbit feel safe. I bring my rabbit inside every day, and place him on a towel. Towels work better than cushions, as your bunny has space to run around, and the towel can be washed if your rabbit has an accident. Younger rabbits may have the occasional accident, but since Clover is going to be one in April, he doesn't really have accidents anymore. Clover often sits next to me and puts his head down, so that I will rub his nose and ears for him. Make sure that the area is as peaceful as possible – even the clashing of plates can make a rabbit feel skittish. Your pet can stay inside with you for however long as you like, but I recommend one hour as a maximum, as the more time that your pet is inside, then the more chance that your pet will have an accident.

## Diet

A rabbit's diet should not consist of just dry food from bags, but the dry food can be very nutritious for your rabbit. I recommend Burgess Excel Nuggets, as they help keep the digestive system healthy, and there is a mint flavour available too. Hay should make up 80-90% of your bunny's diet, so they should have access to it at all times. I recommend giving your pet at least two different types of hay. You should also give your rabbit fruits, herbs and vegetables. Only do this after they are 12 weeks old, and introduce them gradually to different types of fruit and vegetables. I give Clover a moderate amount of fruits, herbs and vegetables every day. He receives his breakfast in the morning, and his dinner at night. His favourite herb is fresh coriander, and his favourite fruit is grapes.

I hope this solves any queries you have on owning a rabbit, and if you are looking at adopting one, then I hope this guide comes in handy for you. If you would like to keep up with Clover's adventures, then his Instagram account is @cloverthebunbun.

## Valentine's Day Word Search

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      I P E L           I P L I
    E A J A A Y       L J Q Z H K
  O J O A F T S H    Z M W A I T X J
W N S N U R D P T S S O B I R W Z W L C
P R U H K E I P Z R A U L U A P T N I A S F
M M H Y M N Z V F Q O N Z B F T F C B U P A X S
I X T P T J U V Q C F T Q J M U M E C S J E H X
S F O O E W P M Z T K A C U D U E O N M I C F D
W O N N P C L H F Y N F A Y A E L M H K A O G P
H F T B B E N R Y L A E A O X U F O E Q P N J C
S W E N C X K E V S R Y P L Q A Y S C D P C A Y
C N H E I S A D X F X O S B G H H R T N O N
V D A E M L H Q I S K P H O E N I X A G R C
X E N L A G M B V Q V A I M J U S G W D
Z S H E R H Q L O J P S P U H Q Y G
A M Q N C Q M U R G E H V E Q K
F O X A A T L W P M I R A U
  H I N R S U G K L R P A
    H N O C L Y L E P X
      A E V O E I O V
        H S N P U H
          W O O U
            H N

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Can you find all ten words? Return your word search to Miss Taylor when you find them to receive an ePraise point.

1. love
2. happiness
3. romance
4. heart
5. boyfriend
6. flowers
7. girlfriend
8. present
9. cupid
10. chocolates

Word search created by  
Emily Balais, Year 8.

# News and Current Affairs:

## It's an amazing time of the year for...

By Caitie Swallow, Year 8

### Being a true friend

A ten-year-old boy from the US has grown his hair for two years so that it could be made into a wig for his friend. Tyler Boone has been friends with Gabby Ruiz, who suffers from hair loss, since they were toddlers. His hair has now been cut off and will be made into a wig by a charity.

### A kind act

Instead of spending Christmas on the streets of Edinburgh, Jimmy Fraser, who has been homeless for 13 years, spent it in Sweden. Annis Lindkvist, from central Sweden, was visiting Edinburgh when she met Fraser. After hearing his story, she paid for Fraser to spend the holiday with her and her family instead.

### Getting your skates on

After a storm left a thick layer of ice over the roads and pavements in Ontario, Canada, on 26th December, it became impossible to walk outside without falling onto the ice-hard pavement. The icy conditions forced motorists to abandon their cars, motorbikes and vans. So people found another way to get around – they decided to pop their skates on and skate everywhere.

## 'A cruel coincidence'

By Lucy Redfern, Year 8

Rescuers have removed three bodies from a hotel engulfed by an avalanche in central Italy, as a desperate search for up to 30 other people continues.

On the 18th of January, an avalanche plummeted towards the Rigopiano Hotel, in the Abruzzo region, devastating families who had stayed there for a luxurious break.

"The hotel is almost completely destroyed," Antonio Crocetta stated only hours after the devastation. Giampiero Parete said that his wife and children are still missing as police desperately run the search for trapped survivors.

The search is on as rescuers say at least 20 tourists and seven staff were inside at the time, among them children. Rescue operations are underway across central Italy and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has said the EU is ready to help.

## Chinese Takeover

Dan Nutley, Year 8

As you may or may not know, in the world of football, there is a transfer window every January, which is an opportunity to buy and sell players and strengthen your squad halfway through the season. With this transfer window comes a load of mega moves and lucrative cash deals.

However, a new area of interest has arisen of late, concerning rich Chinese clubs buying some of the world's superstars, young and old, and offering them, in my opinion, silly sums of cash to persuade them to join their clubs.

This new trend was first making headlines this time last year when players such as Ramires and Jackson Martinez found a new team in China. Then there was the summer window of 2016 where even more deals were confirmed and the Chinese league continued its takeover. And now, even in the little time we have had so far in the window, players are already packing their bags and going off to Asia.

The Chinese league is nowhere near as popular as European leagues in terms of followings and fan bases and the only thing it is renowned for is money, money and more money.

However, this does outline one thing: the players who genuinely care for the beautiful game and play for the passion, not the money involved. I mean, the cash sums may be lucrative and tempting, but I would much rather play for a super club and have a chance to play the best football I could than go to China. However, some of the players going are young talents who still have half a career left and could eventually become world superstars, but yet decide to go to China. The trophies on offer over there are nowhere near as good as over here in Europe; I mean, who wouldn't want a

# Wath Students

Champions League winner's medal rather than a shout at a title race in the Chinese Super League?

I do believe that the Chinese League should be able to grow, but it should have other ways of attracting players rather than just using absurd wages. Such a huge country does deserve its own high standard league but it shouldn't be just the money that attracts players. Since they have also been employing big named managers such as Manuel Pellegrini, they should be able to develop youth players through their own team's systems.

Overall, though, it will be a long time before this trend dies down so keep an eye on the transfers, because there may be some shocking ones.

## Mother and Son Bodies Found in a Ruislip House in London

Caitie Swallow, Year 8

On 15th December, ten days before what could have been a perfect family Christmas day, a mother and son were found in their houses, dead. Police think that there was no one else involved in the deaths. On the 9th December, the woman, Sinead Higgins, tweeted that "the future [looked] very stormy".

Homicide police swept the house but nothing was found. A neighbour, when he was interviewed said, "The last I saw of Sinead was when she had obviously been to Sainsbury's and had a few things in her bag, she didn't talk as she had her head down. However, when I last spoke to her, about a month ago, she looked desperate and she said everything was going wrong."

Sinead Higgins, 37, was a registered nurse and her son, Oisín O'Driscoll, was only 7 years old. Instead of toys and the things he wanted, someone took his dreams away. It is suggested that she had a bubbly personality when they moved into the house and then "towards the end, she got more and more depressed".

Another neighbour said, "Oisín was very excitable and a great addition to the street as well as at his primary school. He loved football and was forever going to his club and training. He said he wanted to be the next Lionel Messi, and now he can, just in Heaven."

## How to survive a zombie apocalypse

By Jacob Linney, Year 7

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Well, it looks like you really messed up this time, and I will have to sort you out with some good locations and supplies to survive near death.

First off, let's say it will go on for about four years: there is hardly any food that will last that long, so I think we should find you a place that's quite hidden, but I hope you bought a flight ticket because we may be going abroad. We will consider being a zombie kind of like having rabies, and use this factor to figure out a perfect location.

First factor to count: they will be afraid of water, so the beach could be an ideal location. But beaches are highly inhabited places, so that's off the list, plus we need a good source of food. So how about in Hawaii, where they are making a farm on a boat? If possible, try and get hold of that boat.

Now for defence; this ship is not fortified, so you will need to get weapons. The reason I said it would last four years is that because the body of the ship will all break down, and the huge amount of zombies will stretch the apocalypse out to four years, so we may need to land once in a while for extra seeds (for growing food) or fuel. For seeds, stop in Honolulu, a county in Hawaii. For fuel, you will need to go to Sonny's Service and Repair in Honolulu, so this is quite the location.

But if you don't want to sail for four years, we'll sort something else out that's not in Hawaii and will have a good source of food. According to my research, you should go to Venice.

Now you should be set for whatever's out there. This has been my guide to zombie apocalypses – I need to go before I get eaten; bye, and don't die!

# UK Politics: Analysis and Comment

## What's Happened Since the EU Referendum (A Quick Overview)

By Ethan Gray, Year 10

Hours after the biggest news in British history on the 24th June, Britain experienced many happenings. This article, in case you missed them, will take you through some of the key events since this historic moment. Also, you will be taken through how the economy has dealt with the result.

On June 24th, soon after the announcement, David Cameron resigned as Prime Minister, saying, "I do not think I can be the captain to take the country to its next destination."

Then, on July 11th, it was announced that Theresa May would become the new Prime Minister after being formally confirmed as the new Tory leader.

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As you can see on the graph, the British pound fell dramatically. In addition, the pound fell again after commentators on the matter interpreted Mrs May as having implied we will leave the Single Market. By this time, the pound was worth \$1.21, compared to the pre-referendum \$1.47.

But what does this mean for us? The fall in the pound helps exporters but it makes foreign holidays more expensive for British tourists and it has also increased import costs for manufacturers. The falling pound resulted in a 'battle' between Tesco and its biggest supplier, Unilever, which wanted to increase prices in the UK to compensate for the drop in value. This led to Tesco to temporarily terminate its selling of certain famous brands – including Marmite – to its online shoppers.

On the other hand, there was a silver lining. At this time, according to analytics, the travel flights to England rose 7.1%, as a consequence of British holidays becoming cheaper.

As this was going on, Mrs May had been meeting with some EU leaders including Germany's Angela Merkel. However, the formal negotiations on Britain's relationship with the EU after we leave have yet to start.

Finally, I'm sure you're all interested in what's happened to immigration since. Up to June, last year, net migration was maintained at 335,000. Also, there was a record number of people coming to live in Britain, standing at 225,000 since June.

## The Spinosaurus

By Jacob Linney, Year 7

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

It stomps. It bites. It is one of the tallest carnivores in the world! It's the Spinosaurus!

Weighing a whopping at 18960.1665 kg, it is heavier than ten double busses made of pure steel.

The Spinosaurus was an amphibious creature, meaning it swam and walked. Plus, it has a special technique for catching fish: by putting a bit of its nose in the water, it could pick up echolocations, also known as fish speech, and when it was close enough, it would catch the fish in its sinister jaws. Many believe that the Spinosaurus was more deadly than the T-rex.

The Spinosaurus survived over five million years! Until climate change... Then they all died.

Over all, which is better: the Spinosaurus or the Tyrannosaurus rex?

# New Year's Honours List Revealed

By Caitie Swallow, Year 8

More than 1,000 people – including Olympians and politicians – have been awarded a special New Year's honour. The list is made up of people who have done exceptional things or helped inspire others in 2016.

The honours list is revealed twice a year and there are lots of different honours. These include: knighthoods, damehoods, which are the most highly ranked awards given; Orders of the British Empire (OBEs), Commanders of the British Empire (CBEs), Members of the British Empire (MBEs) and the British Empire Medal. The list is full of Olympians and Paralympians (who found glory at Rio), politicians, musicians, scientists and ordinary people who have done amazing things. Andy Murray was given a knighthood and will now be known as Sir Andy Murray. Fashion designer Victoria Beckham was honoured with an OBE.

One of this year's youngest winners was Jeremiah Emmanuel, for his inspiring work volunteering in the community. He is just 17 years old and has been in charity work since he was 4 years old. When he was 13, he set up a group called One Big Community, to help young people find solutions to violence in their communities by working alongside the police and with politicians. Emmanuel was rewarded with a British Empire Medal for his inspiring work.

However, not everyone was happy with all of the names on the honours list. Prime Minister Theresa May was accused of using the honours list to reward people who supported her when she was the Home Secretary (boss of the Home Office, the government department responsible for security, law and order). Fourteen officials in our Prime Minister's old department were on the list. The next honours list will be announced in June on the Queen's official birthday.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

# Top Ten Beasts from the Wizarding World

By Emily Balaiss and Lewis Dockray, Year 8

10. **Occamy** – This creature is half serpent and half bird; it is extremely aggressive to anyone who approaches it.

9. **Phoenix** – This one is the most magnificent creature as it can burst into flames when it is about to die and be reborn from the ashes. This beauty is also a key component in Harry's second year at Hogwarts, getting everyone out of the Chamber at the end of the novel and film.

8. **Dementor** – This creature is certainly one of the scariest on this list as it can feed on happy emotions. In Harry's third year at Hogwarts, the Dementors are placed all around Hogwarts in order to find Sirius Black.

7. **Boggart** – This creature can transform into someone's worst nightmare and then change into something funny, if you only focus and use the spell: "Riddikulus". It is the subject of Harry's first Defence Against the Dark Arts lesson with Professor Lupin in Harry's third year at Hogwarts.

6. **House Elf** – This creature is cute and also a great helping hand around the house. Though house elf enslavement could be seen as a horrible life for such a cute creature, most house elves excluding Dobby love to work and a house elf's freedom is seen as a disgrace as you cannot seek work.

5. **Nundu** – This creature is one of the most proud and magnificent creatures in the *Harry Potter* universe.

4. **Hippogriff** – the magnificence that is the hippogriff is the first creature we see in our first Care of Magical Creatures lesson with Hagrid in the third book and film. When Harry and Hermione go back in time to save Sirius, they get caught up and save Buckbeak the hippogriff as well.

3. **Thunderbird** – This proud creature can create thunder storms with its big wings, and that's why we put it at number 3.

2. **Swooping Evil** – This is certainly one of the more interesting creatures in Newt's case.

1. **Niffler** – We chose this as number 1 for many reasons, one of them being that it is immensely cute.



# Media and Review:

## Dual Universe

By Alex Law, Year 9

*Dual Universe* is an open world, MMO style sandbox, space simulator where anything to do with aviation and advanced space travel is possible. The new game by Novaquark combines elements of *Eve Online* and *Star Citizen*, as well as *Minecraft*, *No Man's Sky*, and *Space Engineers*. There are pre-alpha stage videos on YouTube and even interviews with the some of the designers from Novaquark. It has player-driven in-game economy, politics, trade and warfare. Players can freely modify the voxel-based universe by creating structures, spaceships or giant orbital stations, giving birth (not literally) to empires and civilizations.

### Voxel building

A voxel represents a value in a regular grid in a three-dimensional space. For those who don't know what that means, it means that players have the freedom to build whatever they want and how they want. They can build large space ships to small houses and with this freedom it makes this game exiting and definitely interesting.

### Seamless true MMO universe

When they say "massive", they mean it. They have developed a unique way to handle the massive amount of players in a never-ending open world so people can

share experiences in together in a continuous, undivided universe.

### Emergent gameplay

Ideologies, powers, ideas and gameplay will immerse the players in fully functional politics and the freedom to create empires or small villages where the sky is the limit (not literally).

### Scriptable ships and constructs

You can script your ships and constructs to shoot, fly and even have their own artificial intelligence.

### Team up or go solo

You could go solo in your own small fighter or man a massive corvette as anything is possible in *Dual Universe*.

## Assassin's Creed: An Incredible Film

By Molly Hammerton and Alex Law, Year 9

Imagine if you could travel through time, back through your bloodline and experience your ancestors' greatest feats and failures. Well, for the unsuspecting Cal Lynch, this is possible as he travels all the way back to the Spanish Inquisition and is synced with his ancestor.

The film's start is as action-packed as the rest of it, when we are introduced to thirteen-year-old Cal and his first interaction with an assassin, who is his father. Moments later, we are confronted by the Templars (the villains in the franchise), and a fight ensues.

Fans of the game should definitely go and see this amazing film, but we would also recommend it to all.

## Star Wars: Rogue One Our Thoughts

By Emily Balais and Lewis Dockray, Year 9

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, director Gareth Edwards brought us a new spin off in the already spectacular *Star Wars* saga. Filming this movie was certainly a great step in the right direction and a great addition to his film résumé.

This story takes place just before *Episode IV: A New Hope*, nineteen years after *Episode III: Revenge of the*

## Top 10 favourite YouTubers

By Savanna Davies, Year 8

1. PewDiePie
2. danisnotonfire
3. AmazingPhil
4. jacksepticeye
5. Markiplier
6. iHasCupquake
7. RomanAtwoodVlogs
8. Epiccyberdog
9. Nerdy Nummies
10. Marshmallow Fluff

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# Films, Games and More



*Sith*, and is about 22-year-old Jyn Erso. In two words, we would describe Felicity Jones' performance as both enthralling and thrilling. Jyn goes on a journey to find the plans to the Death Star so that the rebellion can have the hope of one day destroying this planet killer.

If you have read the recent issues of *The Torch*, you will know that our initial theories were wrong. One of them was that Obi-Wan Kenobi and Yoda would be in it to show us what they have been doing all these years on Tatooine and Dagobah. However, they weren't, which came as a surprise for many viewers.

## Marvel(lous) Universe Live

By Emily Balaiss and Molly Hammerton, Year 9

Recently, Sheffield Arena has been spouting out amazing events for all ages, the latest being Marvel Universe Live: Superheroes Assemble that was created by Feld Entertainments. It features all our favourite heroes (and villains) such as, Captain America, Iron Man, Spider Man, Hulk, Thor, Hawkeye, Wolverine, Loki, Red Skull, Green Goblin, Lizard and Rhino.

It revolves around the battle for the Cosmic Cube and Loki's insane desire for it. The heroes must put aside their differences and work together to re-unite the three fractals of the Cosmic Cube and defeat infamous villains.

It was an amazing experience for the Marvel lovers, who came back with the memories that they will never forget! We will be looking for other events from this talented crew in the future.

## The Perks of Being a Wallflower

By Molly Hammerton, Year 9

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, adapted from the brilliantly written novel of the same name by Stephen Chbosky, is a beautiful and moving film that stars Logan Lerman (*Percy Jackson* films), Emma Watson (*Harry Potter* franchise) and Ezra Miller (*We Need to Talk about Kevin*) as the main characters. The story revolves around Charlie, a freshman at his new high school.

The story starts with a letter to a friend from Charlie. It explains how he hasn't seen a friend all summer and his way of getting through high school. We then follow him

through his journey, making new friends (and enemies), happiness and sadness and finding new love.

This is a powerful, coming of age film that will move you as we see Charlie overcome obstacles. I would recommend this to many people.

## Heathers: The Musical

By Josie Law, Year 9

*Heathers: The Musical* is a rock musical with music, lyrics and book by Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy. The show, while a comedy, deals with the issue of teen suicide, homophobia, bullying and gun violence.

*Heathers* is the darkly delicious story revolving around Veronica Sawyer, a brainy and beautiful girl who hustles her way through to the most powerful clique of Westerberg High. Veronica falls in love with dangerously sexy new kid J.D. when Heather Chandler kicks her out of the group.

The music, written by Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy, is a great sense of rock, the music blends in well with the theme of the story. Each song has a great tune, which is easy to sing or dance along to.

The story itself seems very dark, but the way it's written shows many comedic sides to lighten the dark tone. It's very well written and still relates to the original 1989 film.

### THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Jacob Linney, Ellie-May Beaumont, Emily Aston, Savanna Davies, Carys Garner, Caitie Swallow, Daniel Nutley, Olivia Storey, Lauren Williams, Lucy Redfern, Holly Szymczyk, Emily Balaiss, Lewis Dockray, Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse, Emily Holcroft, Morgan Calvert, Alex Law, Josie Law, Abbie Lewis, Poppy Muffett, Lauren Hollingsworth-Smith, Scott Smith, Mia Hollingsworth-Smith, Amy Renwick, Mya Taylor, Nemesha Nelson (proofreading), Eleanor Eagleton (proofreading) and Miss Taylor (editor). Thanks also to Ethan Gray, Heart and Miss Perry (proofreading).

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.

# Sport and Music

## Bolt Loses Treble Treble



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*Nesta Carter (second left) spoils Bolt's golden record with a drugs test that sees the entire team lose their medals.*

By Daniel Nutley, Year 8

Considered by most as the fastest man on earth, Usain Bolt has had one of his nine Olympic golds taken away from him after Nesta Carter's failed drugs test.

After a retest of the 2008 samples before the Beijing Olympics, the IOC (International Olympic Committee) has found a banned substance in Nesta Carter's sample. This meant they had to strip Carter and the rest of the Jamaica Gold medal winning relay team of their medals.

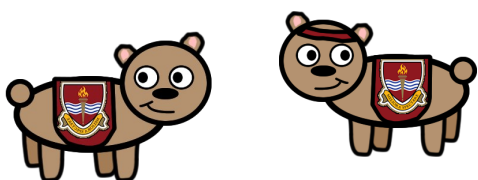
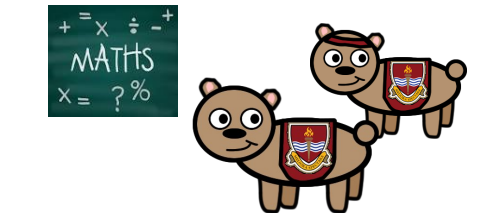
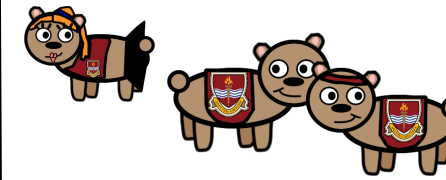
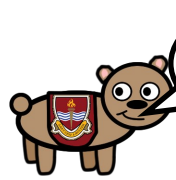


In the summer of 2016, Bolt achieved a "triple triple", meaning he had achieved Gold medals in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m in Rio 2016, London 2012 and Beijing 2008.

However, he can no longer claim to that title as he now has only two medals in the relay rather than three.

On the other hand, the Jamaican Olympic association have said they may appeal to get the medals back.

### WALLY THE WATH WOMBAT

*Wally discovered he had a long lost brother at the end of last half term, but with exams approaching, what will happen?*

 <p>Wally's brother had moved to Wath and they were in the same classes.</p>	 <p>First lesson: maths. Wisteria walked in and looked to Wally. Then to Wilbert.</p>	 <p>Everything went very quiet. Wally was sure something weird was going on with these two, but what?</p>
<p>Until lunch time and Wally couldn't take it anymore...</p>  <p>"What is going on with you two?"</p>	 <p>"I used to go to Wickersley. I left because of Wilbert... You see, he used to bully me. At first, it was at school, then online. I didn't know what to do, and felt like there was no one to turn to."</p>	 <p>"I'm so sorry," Wilbert said. "I should never have done that to you. Please forgive me." "It will take time, but I will try," she said.</p> <p>Remember: <b><u>Bee the change.</u></b></p>