



## EASTER DAY TRADITIONS

By Lauren Williams and Lucy Redfern, Year 7

Every Easter, many different people enjoy the delicacy of delicious, chocolate eggs. However, not many people understand the true meaning of the egg, and what it represents.

What the Easter Egg truly represents, is a sign of rebirth and new life, representing when Jesus resurrected and came back to us.

Originally, the eggs held only decorative purpose, then in Victorian times they became cardboard ornament eggs, filled with Easter surprises. But, the true reason that Easter Eggs are now chocolate is the fact that in France and Germany in WW2, the eggs were bitter and hard. But, they have evolved since then.

Along with all of the traditional things and ways of celebration many people are entitled to their own unique way of celebration. The traditions vary but some are unique in their own way, and here are a few ideas:

- Build a small trench in your garden to represent the cross.
- Clean the house to welcome family and friends for dinner.
- A very weird tradition is to ride a train to represent the childhood memories and greet them at Easter as a resemblance of how you are moving on. Like how we eat lots of Easter eggs because they show new life.

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Easter is a time of fun for us all, but really the deeper meaning is the most important and is about Jesus' resurrection.

### Egg Hunt

Join the hunt with THE TORCH this issue!

Versions of the word 'egg' have appeared in **eight** different places within this issue (not including this page!). Can you help us to locate them all?

Have a good look and bring your copy to Miss Taylor if you find them all. The first five winners will receive a small prize; others will receive e-Praise points.

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# Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

As Easter is almost upon us, we can reflect upon another very busy and successful term.

Last half term, interviews took place to appoint my successor as Headteacher and as you are already aware, this will be Mr Jon Taylor, who is currently one of our Deputy Headteachers. I am sure you would join me in offering sincere congratulations on his appointment; he will take up his new role on 1 September following my retirement this Summer. I am very confident that he is well placed to build upon the many successes that we have enjoyed and to lead the school to even greater achievements in the years to come. I know that he is looking forward to your ongoing support which is so important in ensuring the best educational provision and outcomes for our students. We are now in the process of appointing a successor for Mr Taylor's Deputy Headteacher role.

At the full Governors' meeting last week, I presented my termly report which included many contributions from subject departments and pastoral staff detailing the wide variety of activities and events undertaken this term. Reading these reports reinforces just how many

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exciting opportunities are available for our students and just how much benefit they offer.

Amongst the many events this term we have had residential visits to Risoul, France (skiing) and Paris (History).

In addition, we have made visits to several universities for Master Classes, JCB in Rochester (Business Studies), Leeds (debating competition), Kingswood (Year 11), the Consort Suite (Enterprise) and undertaken D of E Bronze expedition days. We have also made several theatre visits to see an eclectic range of performances. As well as these, we have also hosted our own events such as the Gym and Dance Movement Evening, three dance performances, a drama showcase and a piano recital.

Extra-curricular sport continues to be a major strength of the school with many fixtures played every week in a variety of sports across all age groups. In the last two weeks alone, we have participated in the annual Hall Cross 10-a-side rugby tournament for years 7 to 10, the U15 regional schools boys' football final and had by far the most teams of any school competing in the Rotherham Schools' finals day for football and netball. There were some really hard fought games and I am pleased to report that Year 7 netball won and 6th Form were runners up. In the football final, Y10 won and 1st XI, Year 11 and Year 7 were runners up.

Finally, I would particularly like to thank all students who have participated in any charitable activities this term raising much needed funds for a range of worthy causes at both local and national level.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you a very Happy Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs P Ward  
Headteacher



## News in Brief

### Year 13 Biology Trip

Daanish Mahmood, Year 13

The A level Biology trip to Sheffield University was fascinating as we were able to physically see the processes of PCR and gel electrophoresis. We took part in practical experiments under the supervision of PhD students and were able to analyse our own DNA to find out if we had the gene for PCT (the bitter taste in Brussel sprouts). The PhD students also gave us an insight into studying Biology further at university. It was an unforgettable experience and really helped our understanding of this aspect of our A level biology course.

### Y8 Anne Frank Exhibition

Year 8 students wrote and delivered speeches at the launch event of the Anne Frank exhibition to the mayor and local dignitaries. 14 students have been going to Riverside to deliver tours of the Anne Frank exhibition to local primary schools. The tours look at a timeline of Anne's life and the Holocaust and leads on to a contemporary section which explores how the issues which affected Anne are still relevant today. There is a chance for students to declare commitment to stand up for what is right and speak out against what is unfair and wrong by signing the Anne Frank Declaration. Throughout this process, the students have been amazing. They have really matured and have grown in confidence.

Well done to the following Year 8 students: Emma Barlow, Elisa Beresford, Abbie Taylor, Katie Hawksworth, Daisy Turton, Lori Grainger, Shawna Smith, Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse, Alex Boardman, Hayden Lowell, Landon Griffiths, Imogen Rooney, Elly Cresswell and Emily Holcroft.



*Listening, rapt: Year 8 students from Wath inform local primary school students all about Anne Frank.*

## Upcoming: The Zombie Apocalypse

By Emily Balaiss, Year 8

Watch out, they are everywhere: the zombies are taking over the school!

The Drama staff are piecing together something that the school has never done before: a zombie apocalypse film with some of you in it! Taking place on a Friday afternoon in F2, the students have been working very hard to bring this film to life.

The movie is about four high school students who sneak back into the school and one of them turns into a zombie and then other students and teachers turn into zombies. Within one night, almost everyone in the school is a zombie. Will the remaining students survive...?

The cast list is out and people have been lining up to see what part they got, and then practise, practise, practise for a good 6-7 weeks.

We caught up with a few cast members from the film:

Emily Balaiss told us why she wanted to be in the film, saying she has always had a passion for filming and scripted writing and this a chance to do that. She also told us, "It feels great to be in the spotlight and just get to have some fun with new people."

Olivia Storey is doing make up and says it feels great to meet the cast and stars and she loves make up (I'm sure she is going to do a great job decorating the cast).

Lewis Dockray is helping to write the script to this brilliant movie and he is also starring as a class mate. Hannah Stokes, another member of the cast, told us she loves acting and being in the spotlight.

Make sure to tell you tutor to find the email with the zombie film so you can watch it in registration! If you like what you see, get your tickets to watch the full film because trust me, it's the best thing this school has ever seen.

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# Latest Happenings

## World Book Day 2016

By Savanna Davis and Carys Garner, Year 7  
and Emily Balaiss, Year 8



Books: it seems they're everywhere now. In shops, on shelves and, most importantly, in kids' hands. Thursday 3rd March was World Book Day, an international day to celebrate reading, writing and, of course, books. In the library, a small selection of lucky Year 7s were off timetable for the day: they came in costumes to celebrate their favourite book characters, and took part in a number of activities.

The chosen few made bookmarks, decorated biscuits like books and wrote stories, which was heaven for all of us bookworms. It was a really fun day and it made us realise how important books are to all of us.

The English teachers came in funny costumes, too. Miss Champion and Miss Taylor were voted best costumes for teachers (Miss Champion was Cheshire cat from *Alice in Wonderland* and Miss Taylor was Miss Havisham from *Great Expectations*).



## Classroom medics

By Mya Taylor, Year 10

Last half term, Year 10 students got to have a lesson about being a doctor. Simulator Stan was the perfect patient (though I personally believe he came in to the surgery for his terrible clothing choices; it was awful enough to make anyone feel ill). We could also take ECGs of ourselves and ultra sounds to look at our insides. This was slightly creepy at first but cool when you got over the fact that you could see in your body. There were many other things that we could do as well, such as practising key hole surgery, taking blood samples, testing blood pressure and lung power and putting a resuscitation mask on a dummy. The aim of this day was to try and get students into the medical profession. It was absolutely brilliant and it definitely got me interested.

## The Syria refugee crisis

By Canada Ridge-Harrison, Beth Savage and  
John Aaltio, Year 9

After five years of devastating war, Syria has crumbled under violence and conflict, but what are the consequences for the people who call it their home?

Over a decade ago, Syria gained a new president, following the death of Hafez al-Assad. His son Bashar al-Assad took the position of the new Syrian president. His promise of democracy and freedom gave many Syrians new hopes of life.

However, when he failed to deliver these things, some Syrians broke into violent protests. These rebels were fuelled by anger and hate for the government which had broken promises to millions of people. Protests became violent and with weapons coming into the situation, lives began to be lost.

Five years after the start of the conflict, a

# Inside School

catastrophic war is raging through Syria. Many people have been forced to leave their home, this conflict threatening the lives of themselves and their loved ones.

We spoke to one of the refugees who fled Syria and recently started a new, safer life for him and his son in the UK.

Sinan is a 53 year old refugee from Syria. He escaped the conflict with his 14 year old son. He was working as a radiologist in a war-ridden Syria, when his desire to help patients on both sides of the conflict caused trouble for him and his family. At the age of 12, his son was kidnapped in a bid to persuade Sinan to support only one side of the war. After two weeks, he finally got his son back, and was later arrested by the government for helping the opposition.

A six month sentence secured Sinan in a place where he was repeatedly beaten and burned. As a result of this, he can no longer feel two of his fingers, and has a permanent dislocation in his left shoulder. Soon after, Sinan's father began to suffer from severe stress and as a result had a heart attack which ended his life. The expenses of escaping Syria were so huge that Sinan was forced to sell his flat, and even with this money there wasn't enough for his family of three to come to England. His wife is still in Syria, as severe depression from losing her second child made it difficult for her to move here.

Part of Sinan's journey was by plane and other parts were by boat. The journey took about 20 days as the gaps between flights and ships were long.

On his arrival in England, he was interviewed and as he had saved £500 for his son, he could not be housed by the government but he had to find his own place to stay until he ran out of money and then he could be housed by the government; he is now in a house in Rotherham. In finding a school for his son, he found it a lot simpler than everything else he has done. His son was at once accepted to Clifton School and has now settled in very well.

## Science Visitors

By Ellie Jane Little, Imogen Kooney, Isabelle Gilbert, Jade Beck and Abbie Hilton, Year 8

On Wednesday 24th February, Science students in Year 9 were visited by two people from Newcastle University, who spoke about taking Chemistry/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) as an option at university.

They talked to us about molecules and asked us to make our own particle model including carbon, oxygen and hydrogen—elements found in many everyday products such as hand washes and shampoos. They also explained about how different parts of the tongue can taste different flavours, because the particles fit onto receptors in the tongue in a 'lock and key way'. We were asked to lick some paper, which demonstrated how different people had different reactions: some thought it tasted bitter, and others thought it just tasted of paper.

We really enjoyed the session as it was interesting to allow us to see what university life would be like. It even changed the opinions of some students, about going to university and taking Science!

## Music Awards

Well done to the following, who have all been awarded Music Awards: Jade Beck, Lucy Hepworth, Natasha Charimba, Hannah Avis, Rhys Turner, Joshua Broadbent, Maia Buccieri and Hannah Robertson.



# From Beyond the School Gates:

## Wonder at Wentworth Woodhouse

By Fiona Ross, Year 12



Being the largest private house in the UK, with 23,000 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space, Wentworth Woodhouse is renowned for its likeness to – and possible inspiration for – Pemberley in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Although it is rumoured to have 365 rooms (one for each day of the year), the Woodhouse appears to have an uncountable amount, as there seems to be no definite record as to how many there are. However, upon viewing the house, you can see how such facts become unimportant and irrelevant in the face of such skilled architecture and beauty of design.

Originally a Jacobean house, it was entirely rebuilt by Thomas Watson-Wentworth and is now twice the size of Buckingham Palace. It is easy to see how each of its owners fell in love with the building, and also why Wentworth Woodhouse has been the setting for many films, such as David Walliams' *Billionaire Boy* and BBC's drama *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*.

Such facts as these were told to me and my fellow Year 12 English Literature students (from many different South Yorkshire schools) on our visit to the house. Although our guide was not Mr Darcy, we had the next best thing: Robert, a tweed-clad gentleman who looks as if he has just stepped out of the Victorian Era. He showed us priceless statues and ornaments, as well as spectacular rooms like the grand ballroom (shockingly used as a badminton court when the house was a sports

college). The house has also become a haven for cast-offs, such as a beautiful stained glass window, rejected by a local church and now homed in the house's chapel.

After the tour, the day began to focus more on analytical skills. Throughout the afternoon, in a large upstairs hall, the different schools gathered together to engage in a short craft session where we created a freeze frame of our representation of how the country house is important to literature. Then we focused on extracts relevant to our forthcoming exams, including poetry and prose texts. The sessions were taken by teachers from the different attending schools. For the final activity, we worked in small groups with student teachers from the University of Sheffield on tackling unseen texts.

Even though the day was enjoyable, we did not come across any ghosts – even though the house has a reputation for being haunted. Overall, the visit was both educational and very worthwhile. Less than a week after our visit on 29th January, the house was sold to a preservation trust for £7m. Let's hope the house remains open to the public. If it does, a visit is highly recommended.

## Chemistry Trip

By Megan Greenhalgh, Year 12

On January 20th, the AS chemistry classes experienced a Chemistry Taster Event at Sheffield Hallam University. We were taken into an analytical science laboratory in the Bioscience department which was filled with modern, state-of-the-art technology that enabled us to view the realistic environment involved in a chemistry undergraduate course. The whole session was based around a scenario that entailed investigating samples of sports drinks that had been accused of being fake, and comparing these to genuine products to determine whether the allegations made were true. We were placed in groups and used various techniques such as Spectroscopy, Flame Atomic Absorption Spectrometry and High Performance Liquid Chromatography. Each activity looked quite complicated at first, a large step up

# Trips Out and About

from the experiments we have done at A-level; already knew about business; quite a lot it seemed. We however everything was easy with the demonstrations then ran through some key definitions before we began made by a lecturer and current students being really the challenge. After a few minor technical difficulties, clear. The scenario made us aware of how studying we began by logging on and starting the business game. chemistry is applicable to everyday life and gave us a The first step was to choose a product to sell. Without taste of future work we could pursue involving the the market research given to us, this would've been subject. Perhaps the best thing about the session was very tricky. After a few debates, we chose our products. getting to talk to the students currently studying there By this time, we had run out of time in the session. as they shared their experiences of studying at uni and explained how they were regularly using these labs for The second session started with our ethical business final year research projects. task. We had three case studies: Tom's shoes, McDonald's, or M&S. With these, we then had 17 multiple choice questions to answer, meaning we had to take in the information carefully. Once completed, we moved back onto the game, which we continued throughout sessions 2 and 3.

## Enterprise

By Anonymous, Year 10

On Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th February, selected Year 10 students were whisked away to the Consort Hotel in Thurcroft to enjoy a day full of enthralling enterprise activities. We were set the task of making our own product, which we would pitch to experts in the field at the end of the day to decide which would be the best in the real world. Through the day, we were put through a number of tasks, such as to work out from our shopping list the price of the materials for the product we planned to make. Overall, it was a fun day for all students.

## Mosaic Enterprise Challenge

By Robert Johnson, Year 9

Last half term, the Y9 academic group was chosen to take part in the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge. This challenge aims to show young people what running a day to day business is like, as well as showing us what different companies are doing to be ethical. There were 3 sessions, each around 2 hours long and as it was a challenge, it was graded on our knowledge of an ethical business (30%), and our running of a business (70%).

The first session started quite quickly, as we were made to do a 'bonding exercise'. This consisted of us walking around and trying to find different random facts about each other. Once we had done this, the challenge really began. We first gathered round and discussed what we

then ran through some key definitions before we began the challenge. After a few minor technical difficulties, we began by logging on and starting the business game. The first step was to choose a product to sell. Without the market research given to us, this would've been very tricky. After a few debates, we chose our products. By this time, we had run out of time in the session.

The second session started with our ethical business task. We had three case studies: Tom's shoes, McDonald's, or M&S. With these, we then had 17 multiple choice questions to answer, meaning we had to take in the information carefully. Once completed, we moved back onto the game, which we continued throughout sessions 2 and 3.

This challenge was definitely unique and challenging, and helped us get an insight into the world of entrepreneurs. It also showed us how little changes in products can cause big changes in the finance sector. Despite the few technical difficulties at the start, this was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and I would definitely recommend to do it again.

## History Live Trip!

Kellie Theaker, Year 11

On the 5th of March, students in Year 11 went on a History Live trip in Coventry. We arrived a bit late due to traffic but luckily we were just in time to hear about how 1923 was a crisis year. In some ways, it was almost like a play or a performance because we were in a giant theatre watching actors perform as well as being shown lots of important information about life in Germany from 1919 to 1945 through videos and images from the time period.

For me, the most useful part of the trip was listening to an actual examiner talking us through step by step of what they are looking for in an answer. The techniques we were taught will certainly stay in my mind and help me with my exam and I would recommend this trip to anyone who is studying GCSE History because it really will help you!

# Movement Evening 2016:



## Review

Emily Balaiss, Year 8

A few weeks ago, the Movement Evening was taking over the school with the BRILLIANT dancing and super skills that were being used for the three breath-taking nights.

At the very start, Mrs Sharkey opened the show and then the Kamikaze group were the opening act to the whole performance. After that, Mr Evans and Mrs

Thompson recorded a funny video (at an earlier date) that was extremely funny and enjoyed by all.

The second act were the very talented Year 8 dancers, who were performing in red tutus. The next act was the breath-taking gymnasts who were doing flips and tricks that got the crowd going.

Next, it was the Year 13 dancers with a little romance to add a twist to it. As we all know, the Movement Evening *has* to have a little sparkle and that happened in the Year 7/8 dance group with a bit of ballroom dance in it.

## QUIZ

**The first person to bring a completed and correctly answered quiz to Miss Taylor to win a post card home (others will receive e-Praise points)!**

1. What is the plural of cactus?
2. When was the Titanic made?
3. Who is the Lion in Narnia?
4. In *Harry Potter*, which two people have phoenix tail wands, made by Fawkes (Dumbledore's phoenix)
5. What is 250x250?
6. Who was the creator of Nintendo?
7. Name 5 retro games.
8. Who is the main protagonist of the book *The Hobbit*?
9. Name one work of Steven Hawking.
10. Name a book from Stephen King.
11. Name ten Nintendo characters.
12. Who was Wally's ex girlfriend?
13. What is the school motto?
14. Name three TV shows.
15. How is the Olympic torch lit?

**Bonus: What is Schrödinger's cat?**

Written by Ethan Corbett, Year 7

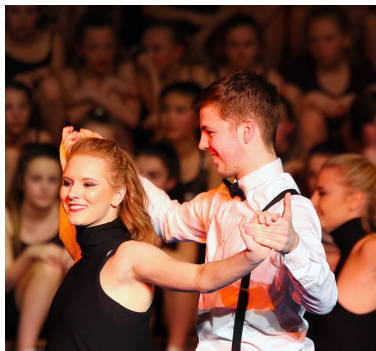


# Back to the Future

After that were some more of the Year 13 dancers with a twist, boys ripping off the girls' clothes (not completely) and under a silky red dress was a gorgeous sparkly dress. But there's something missing: oh yes, the staff dance, the embarrassing staff dance. Next was the interval with hot and cold drinks and chocolate.

In the interval, we interviewed Elissa Beresford, who was part of the kamikaze group. She said she loves the adrenaline of being part of a dance, and it makes her feel good about herself to know she has worked so hard to produce something really good.

If you haven't been involved in Movement Evening before, you should definitely watch out for it next year!



## AUDITIONS

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Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Y7 & 8 3pm F2

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Y9,10,12 3pm F2

SEE LP FOR MORE DETAILS AND  
AUDITION MATERIAL

### THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Daniel Nutley, Carys Garner, Emily Aston, Lucy Redfern, Olivia Storey, Savanna Davies, Lauren Clack, Ethan Corbett, Lauren Williams, Callam Manton, Lewis Dockray, Hannah Stokes, Emily Balaiss, Molly Hammerton, Mya Taylor, Nemesha Nelson, Lucy Robinson and Miss Taylor. Thanks also Canada Ridge-Harrison, Beth Savage and John Aaltio, Daanish Mahmood, Ellie Jane Little, Imogen Kooney, Isabelle Gilbert, Jade Beck and Abbie Hilton, Fiona Ross, Megan Greenhalgh, Robert Johnson, Kellie Theaker, Abbie Lewis, Amy Renwick, Mr Bishop and Miss Perry.

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.

## Books of the Month

### Go Set a Watchman

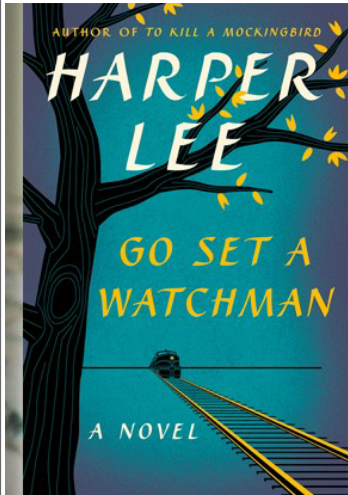


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Reviewed by Nemesha Nelson, Year 10

Set roughly two decades after *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Go Set a Watchman* sees a now-adult Scout return to her hometown, Maycomb, with her suitor, Henry. The plot follows Scout as she rediscovers the people from her childhood, but, unlike in the previous novel, her perceptions of them are vastly warped – people who she'd always seen as innately good or bad suddenly appear far more complex, and throughout the book, Scout struggles with coming to terms with who the people she thought she knew really are.

*Go Set a Watchman* is a particularly controversial novel, and many of the characters seem to contradict their *Mockingbird* selves – especially Atticus, who, at first, comes off as the complete opposite of who he once was, appearing racist and intolerant of the black population in Maycomb, despite him being the very man to teach Scout about equality in the previous novel. This change greatly wounds Scout, and her anger is very clearly expressed. However, throughout the novel, she comes to terms with the people she thought she knew, and finally accepts that not everything is as black and white (pun not intended) as it seems.

The book is incredibly written and brutally honest, and although it has several faults, the fact that it was originally meant to be released before and without *To Kill a Mockingbird* makes it a fascinating read, simply due to the fact that it is a first draft, and provides a unique insight into the characters originally envisioned by Harper Lee.

## Creative Zone:

### Easter Poem

By Emily Aston and Carys Garner Year 7

Kids enjoy their breakfast every single morning,  
Cornflakes, toast, bacon or omelette,  
But let's be real that's boring!  
All kids really want is chocolate!

Kids enjoy their dinner every day at noon,  
Sandwiches for Sunday and Tuna ones for Tuesday,  
But that's all doom and gloom!  
All kids really want is chocolate all the way!

Kids enjoy their tea when they come home from  
school,  
Chicken wings or fish and chips,  
But that's not cool!  
All kids want is chocolate not parsnips!

And once a year on Easter they get their way,  
Of eating chocolate for all of the day!

### Easter Fun

By Daniel Nutley, Year 7

Every Child  
Adores Chocolate  
Sweets and fun!  
The Bunny  
Eggs delivered  
Right on time

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# Easter Epigrams

This month, students were asked to write an Easter epigram, a short and funny poem about Easter.

## Easter poem

By Anonymous, Year 8

There once was an amazing bunny,  
He hated not being quite funny,  
So he joined a class,  
To make his laugh pass,  
And now he has a lot of money.

## An Easter Poem

By Molly Hammerton, Year 8

Run down the stairs into the kitchen  
Burst through the door to see  
A huge amount of chocolate eggs  
Just for me  
Cadbury's, Galaxy's and many others too  
I can't wait to eat them  
It will be over all too soon.

## Easter acrostic poem

By Emily Balaiss

Easter is the best time of year,  
And kids are eating chocolate so dear,  
Sweet animals are being born,  
To rise from the dead is the biggest of all,  
Even though you've eaten too much,  
Remember to find the big bunny prints.

## Search for the Easter Bunny

By Lauren Clack, Year 7

Baskets of hollow chocolate everywhere  
Um, where's that bunny? Is he over there?  
Nope  
Nowhere to be found  
Yet why can't I see him bound!

## EASTER EGG

By Olivia Storey, Year 7

Easter is here.  
All children enjoy it.  
Some parents too.  
Treats for everyone.  
Even you.  
Run and find the eggs and put them in your little basket.  
  
Everyone is happy  
Go! Go! Go!  
Grab the eggs and eat them. Now...  
So, where's the Bunny?

**Next month's theme will be:**

**Spring Song**

**Write an short song or poem about spring.**

**Winners will be published and receive e-Praise Points!**

**Deadline: Thursday 19th May**

# Politics and Current Affairs:

## Cameron 'Battling for Britain'

By Hannah Stokes, Year 8

David Cameron says he is "battling for Britain" and says he has managed to negotiate a "good deal" in Brussels at a crucial EU summit. This is part of a reform package for the British people, who must now decide whether they think it is good enough.

Polls will open in June for a monumental referendum which will shape the future of Britain's relationship with Europe. The UK public will be offered a simple yes/no vote for staying in the European Union.

Has Mr Cameron done enough? Only time will tell.

## Computer Games: Deadly or Healthy?

By Ethan Corbett, Year 7

Scientists are debating whether or not video games are good for your brain. Some say it makes you more violent and anti-social, but does it?

Some scientists say that online games help you as you need to know your team in order to win because you can't send an archer to do a knight's work. They also help with reaction times and make you smarter depending on what you play. Games like FIFA are useless while games like Mirror's Edge help with reactions, on the other hand MMORPG games (massively multiplayer online role-playing game) help with social skills and strategy. Games with dialogue help you read faster and puzzle games help you become smarter and all of them are fun to do and are better than sitting at a table trying to solve for  $x$  when  $y = \pi + x + p_2$ . There is one problem with games: if you play a lot, you then always want to move your fingers (it is helpful in the cold).

Anyway what do you think? Are games good for you or do you think they turn you into violent, anti-social monsters? You can decide: bring in a slip with your views and your favourite game to Miss Taylor. We will feature the results next issue and the top 5 most popular games.

## Turkey accuses Syrian Kurds of deadly attack...

By Emily Balaiss, Year 8

Turkey's president says there is evidence to prove the Kurdish YPG militia based in Syria were behind Wednesday's deadly bombing in Ankara.

President Erdogan said they had been supported by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party in Turkey. Both groups deny involvement.

He also said there had been 14 arrests over the attack on the military convoy.

Earlier on Thursday, another convoy in south-east Turkey was hit by a bomb, killing at least six troops. A car laden with explosives detonated next to military buses as they waited at traffic lights. This is a similar attack from 77 bus bombings in London, could this be a copy cat attempt.

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## Alan Turing: An amazing man

By Molly Hammerton, Year 8

Around school lately I've heard people call each other 'gay' as an insult and I feel people are becoming less confident in themselves after being called this and I don't feel they should.

Being homosexual does not affect you as a person in any way. One amazing example is Alan Turing, who broke the Enigma code in World War 2. The enigma code was meant to be an unbreakable German code with which the Germans used to communicate with each other. Hundreds of people tried to crack the code but it

# Wath Students Speak Out

changed every night at midnight before the six o'clock weather report in the morning. When Alan Turing was brought into the picture, he knew that there were around one hundred and fifty million million different combinations that Enigma could change to and it would take over 20 billion years to crack every combination. As the rest of his team wrestled with time to crack the code every day, Turing designed a machine to decipher the code for them. After getting the machine to work, they had to decide which ships to let sink and which to save because otherwise the Germans would have found out they broke Enigma.

Unfortunately, at this time it was criminal to be homosexual and Turing was taken to court and was given the choice of going to prison or having medication for his 'condition'. He chose medication so he could still work on his machines. This soon proved too much for him and he committed suicide on 7 June 1954, aged 41.

It is estimated that if Turing had not cracked the code, the war would have lasted for another two years and many of us wouldn't be here today. The machine he created was called a Turing machine, we know them more commonly as computers.

## A New Species of Turtle Found in the Pacific Ocean.

By Emily Aston, Year 7

A new species of freshwater turtle has been discovered

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in the tropical and mountainous Papua New Guinea in the Pacific Ocean. This species is thought to have evolved from a common ancestor which lived possibly around 17 to 19 million years ago! It is one of three

related species found across Papua New Guinea and a few neighbouring parts of Indonesia; however, this relation is distant. The red colouring of this turtle is its main unique feature. Turtles are such interesting creatures and it is amazing that another species has been discovered on our planet.

## Dolphins

By Carys Garner, Year 7

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There are about thirty-eight different species of dolphin.

Four of them are river (fresh water) dolphins. They can turn pink when they are hot and grey when they are cold to trap the heat in. The pink river dolphin is found in the Amazon river. They also have long beaks (noses).

Sea water dolphins are grey, blue, black and white. They always stay the same colour.

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## Is YouTube taking over the lives of many young people?

By Olivia Storey, Year 7

Many parents get slightly worried about how much YouTube children watch each day. Some children watch over one hour a day. However, only half an hour of social media should be consumed. Even though you can watch YouTubers and subscribe to many of them, some videos are over 30 minutes long. Is YouTube taking over our lives?



# Media and Review:

It's been Oscars Season of late and here to talk you through

## Top 10 Mythical Beasts

By Callam Manton, Year 8

### 10. **Chupacabra:**

Small blood sucking beast that mostly feeds on the blood of livestock e.g. goats or cows.

### 9. **Basilisk:**

Giant snake with poisonous fangs and eyes that can kill with a gaze (from *Harry Potter*).

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### 8. **Griffin:**

A hybrid between the two most fearsome animals of the sky and forest, the lion and eagle.

### 7. **Wendigo:**

A horrific human-ish thing! A creature cursed by and evil spirit.

### 6. **Centaur:**

Half-men, half-horse creatures that appears in a lot of ancient Greek films.

### 5. **Hydra:**

Nine-headed lizard from Greek mythology, cutting off one head will create another (appears in *Percy Jackson: Lightning Thief*).

### 4. **Sphinx:**

Half-human and half-lion, also likes riddles. A giant sand stone statue in Egypt.

### 3. **Sirens:**

Beautiful creatures that lure you to your death by using song and making you delirious.

### 2. **Wraith:**

Evil earthly spirit that has done some evil deeds and has to stay on Earth.

### 1. **Grim Reaper:**

No one can face Death himself! Death is the one who hunts you down when it's your time to die!

## Best Films of 2015

### #5: *Fast and Furious 7*

This is Paul Walker's latest masterpiece and oh boy, it's a tear jerker. Jason Statham's performance was amazing in his opening scene and the closing scene of the film made me cry like a little child.

### #4: *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*

With this, they didn't change the law of the original franchise so well done Disney! The casting was amazing and I'm so glad Harrison Ford kept his career after the flop of *Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull*, because he rocked that part!

### #3: *Inside Out*

Disney Pixar's thought process with this fabulous film is clearly: what if feelings have feelings? Not my favourite Disney Pixar film (that's easily *Monsters Inc*) but it certainly has the WOW factor!

Riley's growing up through the film felt so real and easy to identify with, so be sure to catch this gem of a film to bring out what's going on inside.

### #2: *Amy*

This amazing award winner had me crying from start to finish. I loved Amy Winehouse and hearing things from her friends and loved ones just breaks your heart.

Her rough childhood in London was something that would stop anyone but she kept going until her untimely death in 2011.

### TIE #1: *Bridge of Spies* and *Antman*

I couldn't decide because they're brilliant for different reasons. I cried at *Bridge of Spies* (I actually cry at most Tom Hanks films like *Philadelphia* and *Forest Gump*).

And Antman has to be up at the top for the sheer comedy factor. Marvel keep churning out such fabulous films and we've got a lot more to look forward to very soon with the likes of *Captain America: Civil War* and *Guardians of the Galaxy 2*!

# Best and Worst 2015



the hits and misses are Abbie Lewis and Amy Renwick.

## Worst Films of 2015

### #5: *Mortdecai*

This David Koepp directed Johnny Depp flick about the eccentric art dealer was a flop. I respect Depp as an actor, but I frankly couldn't stand him in this role.

### #4: *Victor Frankenstein*

Oh, Daniel Radcliffe, no matter how hard you try you'll always be Harry Potter... James McAvoy, another great British actor wasn't very good here, and Andrew Scott's performance was disappointing.

### #3: *Pixels*

Now don't criticize me for putting a kids film on here but Adam Sandler should hang up his acting boots. He isn't a standalone actor so he had to drag Kevin James (another actor who should hang up his boots) into this.

### #2: *Spectre*

This film is one of those that I thought would get better if I slept on it, but alas no... Andrew Scott as Max Denbigh (C) was underused (his nine eyes project could've saved lives) and so was Christoph Waltz (Oberhauser). The love story between Bond and Madeleine Swann was too reminiscent of *Vespa*. Daniel Craig has speculated that this is his last Bond film and I sure do hope so. We need Bond back to being a good guy not an anti-hero!

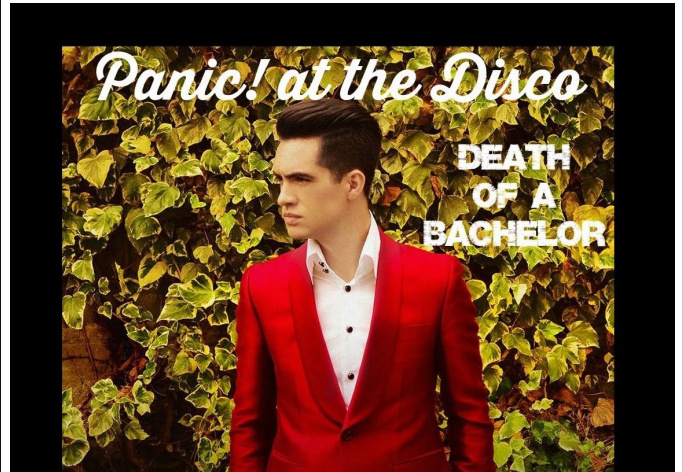
### #1: *Terminator Genisys*

Oh dear. This film was a disaster. The action was pointless, if Emelia Clarke wasn't in *Game of Thrones*, I would think she had absolutely no acting talent. Jai Courtney definitely can't act and don't get me started on all the plot holes.

I know that Arnie's desperate for work when he takes this and that advert for Mobile Strike. Matt Smith with an American accent nearly made me walk out of the cinema. I do not recommend this move. AT ALL.

## Death of a Bachelor – Panic! At the Disco

By Molly Hammerton, Year 8



American rock/pop band Panic! At the Disco has released its newest album 'Death of a Bachelor' which features eleven new songs including 'Hallelujah', 'Victorious', 'Death of a Bachelor' and many more. It is available on iTunes for £8.99. It is an amazing album that I recommend buying, the only bad point is that there is some strong language in one of the songs.

## New Harry Potter Screenplay

By Molly Hammerton, Year 8

Harry Potter fans will be delighted to know that a new screenplay is being released onto the stage. It has been written by J.K. Rowling herself but unfortunately, she will not be releasing 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' as a book, but who knows, the prequel to the Harry Potter series is yet to be finished so it still may be released.

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# Sport and Music



## Flying Foxes

By Daniel Nutley, Year 7

Well, this is a surprise: Leicester City are at the top of the Premier League after 30 games.

The Foxes are flying in the Premier League with Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez tearing up the defences of many other Premier League teams on a weekly basis. The goals from Vardy and the assists from Mahrez form the perfect combo.

That is not to say the rest of the team have not been doing well, though! Kasper Schmeichel, their keeper, has been on form this season and has saved many a shot. Also, Robert Huth in defence has been a wall this season and there are lots of others performing well.



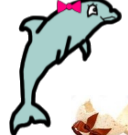
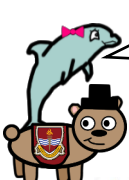

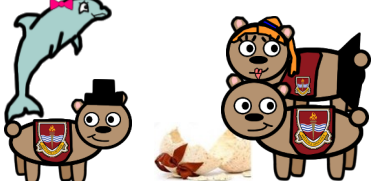
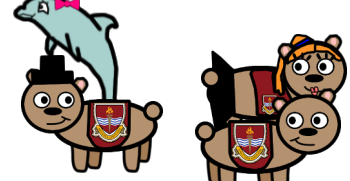
However, I am not saying that it is a one horse race at the top of the Premier League; it is anything but that.

Tottenham, Arsenal and Manchester City are all up there with a shot at the top. The top four is so tightly packed that it only needs one team to win and another to lose for the whole top four to be flipped on its head. Will Leicester be able to continue their amazing streak of victories to ensure their lasting place at the top of the table?

For many football fans whose teams are not near the top of the Premier League, they are backing Leicester to win the Premier League this year. For me personally, I would love it for them to win, mainly because it is someone different from usual.



### WALLY THE WATH WOMBAT

 <p>Things were going well for Wally and Wisteria. Wally gave her an Easter egg...</p>	<p>...until Pius knocked it on the floor and it smashed.</p>  <p>Oh, he got me one of those too, don't think much of it.</p>	 <p>Yeah, well I actually <i>love</i> Wally and haven't used him to get to his friend!</p>
<p>Hubert arrived and Pius began to shout:</p>  <p>Wisteria has smashed my Easter egg because Wally put her up to it.</p> 	 <p>Wally arrived. It was very awkward. Wally asked why Pius had to be so horrid and couldn't put the past in the past.</p>	 <p>Hubert and Pius walked away, hand in hand. Will this be the last we hear from Hubert and Pius?</p>