

**Blatch Magazine
Autumn/Winter
2025**



Dear Reader,

Our first edition of the new academic year! A new team and a fresh set of articles but still going strong. Once again we hope to provide a broad spectrum of writing from across our school community from world affairs to entertainment, from sport to reviews. But if you spot any gaps, come join the team and write for us :)

A quick reminder of who we are and what we do. We are the *Blatch Mag*, a student-led magazine here at Blatch. Any student is welcome to join, or welcome to write any article they wish on any topic of their choice (making sure it meets with [our core principles and style guide](#)). Feel like joining? Come along to Room 113 on Wednesdays after school.

We aim to release two to three magazines per year that truly reflect the views and thoughts of our school community and writers.

And of course we couldn't do this without help from the teaching staff. Although we are entirely student-led, we are grateful to Ms Holland for facilitating our meetings, Ms Goodwin for helping us to get published and Ms Claydon for giving us the final green light!

We hope that, despite all the changes to our team and a fresh start to another year, we can continue to provide as best as before. Happy reading!

- ***Blatch Mag Team***

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Features



What about the rest of the world?

In 1989, it was established that every child has the right to an education. We are familiar with the values and beliefs that guide our education in England, but how would school life look somewhere else? We spoke to two teachers and students, to hear what they had to say:

During her time teaching in Vietnam, Miss Simeonova grew more accustomed to the ways of private school, where expectations of children were sky-high. It was not unheard of for students to have twelve hour work days. When she observed an English lesson at a state school, she was surprised to find a classroom of sixty children, with the teacher using a microphone.

Student Zoe M remembers well the part of the wet season when she missed school in Costa Rica. “The school was on the other side of a river, and during the wet season it would flood and no one could get across.” When asked about the students who lived on the other side and didn’t have to cross, she said that there weren’t any, the other side was a thick jungle filled with snakes.

In terms of the school structure, a student who lived most of her life in Turkey said that her school day started at 7:30 and ended at 3:30, with eight to nine lessons a day. After every lesson there was a five minute break, and at lunch they could go home to eat!

Miss Thompson, who taught for a few years in Sweden, decided that the best part of teaching there was seeing the way a different education system works. As a History teacher, she taught not only History, but also Geography, Politics, and RE. Students had the same teacher for all of those subjects. Best for the students, was the country’s policy that no child has to pay for anything in school until age eighteen. The pupils got free food and free stationery-

Swedish canteen here I come!

- Anina B



Matthew Kirk- Unsplash



Julian Gentile- unsplash



Susan Q Yin- unsplash

Green Careers Week

From the 3rd to 8th of November was Green Careers Week, but what exactly does this mean? Anina B reports.

-What is a green job?

A green job is any job that contributes to the conserving or restoring of the environment, and helps a greener economy. They come in many different shapes and sizes, ranging from more manual labour to office jobs.

-What are some examples of them?

There are jobs like installing solar panels or being a wind turbine technician; architects focused on making buildings out of more sustainable materials or designing clean-energy generators; conservation scientists who study the effects of humans on nature, and how to dispel them. You could even be an environmental lawyer!

-How can we show support and celebrate this Green Careers week?

Show support by:

1. Looking for ways to make your life more sustainable.
2. Researching green careers
3. Making a donation to a green charity

Why are green careers important?

The environment is necessary for everything from food and oxygen to our mental health. A green career is one way we can start paying nature back. In addition, research has shown that in the UK green jobs actually pay 15% more than the average across the country.



Image: TJ K - Unsplash



Image: Damiano Baschiera - Unsplash

There is no planet B!!!

What can you do? Ellen H advises...

- DO NOT drop litter.
- Try to get to school in a sustainable way such as walking, cycling or getting public transport.
- Turn off the lights when you leave the room.
- Turn off your devices (computers, chromebooks etc) when they are not needed.
- Suggest planting things around the local area to make it more eco friendly.
- Raise awareness of the environmental issues in the local area.
- If you plan to go on holiday try to travel as sustainably as possible.



Image: Markus Spiske- Unsplash



Image: Tim Mossholder-Unsplash



Image: Patrick Hendry- Unsplash



Image: Julia Joppie- Unsplash



Image: Markus Spiske- Unsplash

Beneath the Seams

Have you ever bought a pair of blue jeans and wondered why the price was so cheap, or where it was made? That trendy piece of clothing is worth so much more. Its hidden price tag is far heavier than its retail price and the time that people spend making the stylish pieces that you wear is longer than the time you spend picking it out. People working for fast fashion brands often face difficult and exploitative conditions, particularly in factories located in developing countries. Many of these workers, the majority of whom are women, earn extremely low wages that are not enough to cover basic living expenses. They frequently work long hours in unsafe environments with little to no job security or rights. Despite being a critical part of a multi-billion dollar industry, these individuals are often treated as disposable labour. The pressure to produce clothing quickly can lead to serious health problems.



Brands such as H&M, Primark, Nike, SHEIN, Urban Outfitters, ZARA, Uniqlo, MANGO etc. are all examples of fast fashion brands.



Fast fashion plays a significant role in the rise of global carbon emissions, yet the scale of clothing overproduction remains largely unclear to consumers. Many people are unaware of how many garments are produced each year or how much of that clothing goes unsold and ultimately ends up in landfills as waste. Consumers often lack transparency about the brands they purchase from and the environmental impact of those companies. It is estimated that between 80 and 150 billion garments are produced annually, and approximately 10 to 40 percent of them are never sold.

As a consumer there are a few things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint in the context of fashion. Here are a few suggestions to help make a difference and help our planet.

1. Thrift!

- Thrifting is one of the easiest ways to start buying sustainable clothing as you're not supporting the overproduction of clothes by buying secondhand items. It's also a great way to get clothes without contributing to the success of fast fashion brands.

2. Spread awareness!

- Posting on social media, letting friends and family know, or even going to a protest, spreading awareness will let people know about all the negative impacts of fast fashion and there are other ways that you can be stylish without supporting them.

3. Reduce, reuse, recycle!

- 3 R's that can change the way you shop for clothing. Reduce your consumption and waste by buying less and reusing! Do you ever consider reusing old clothing pieces and customising them into your own creation? And recycle everything you can!

4. Donate!

- Donate to those in need! Especially those who are on a tight budget. If not everyone can have nice clothing why not find a way that they can by donating!



Microtrends are a direct result of social media and influencer culture and lead to other things such as “aesthetics” which all take away from each person’s individual style and fuels the already massive problem of overconsumption. Having so many trends and aesthetics floating around pushes people to buy more and also pushes people to find out what “aesthetic” they are. People should be able to just go out and buy what they want and create their own unique styles rather than buying more clothes than they need just because an influencer wore and recommended it.



RUN OF THE

MILL



Library Spotlight: The Heart of Blatchington Mill

Blatchington school library is more than just a quiet space to study - it's a hub of creativity, learning and community. With a vast collection of books, digital resources and knowledgeable staff, the library is an essential part of school life.

A Haven For Book Lovers

The library offers diverse books, including fiction, non-fiction, and graphic novels, to suit every interest. Librarians can help you find titles and discover new authors.

Supporting Student Success

The library is a vital resource center supporting student success with online databases, study spaces, and research assistance. Librarians help students develop critical research and information literacy skills

I spoke to some staff from the library about their role as a librarian and an English teacher.

STAFF: Miss Mulligan

1. What do you like about Blatch?

It's really welcoming. Students and teachers are really welcoming. I love people.

2. Do you love reading books?

It's my favourite thing and has been since I was about 7.

3. Do you love the library?

I really enjoy the library and fun games like jenga on friday.

4. What's your favourite book and why?

My favourite book recently is If my Words had Wings by Jawondo Daniele because it's full of hope and it inspires teenagers. My favourite younger book is Kensuke's Kingdom because it's a great adventure story.

5. What does reading mean to you?

Reading means everything to me.

8. What do you do in your spare time?

Playing with my puppy, reading, and listening to music.

7. What or Who inspired you to be a librarian?

I love books and get excited about showing teenagers books.

STAFF: Miss Simeonova

1. What do you like about Blatch?

I like the culture, the ethos of the school and how all my colleagues are really nice.

2. Do you love reading books?

I love reading books and also love listening to audio books especially when I'm driving or cleaning.

3. Do you love the library

Absolutely, I find it exciting because I love surrounding myself with books.

4. What does reading mean to you?

Escapism and challenging myself

5. What is your favourite book and why?

Books are like sunsets and they all have beautiful parts that make them special.

6. What or Who inspired you to be a Teacher?

My English teacher because she made me realise that I'm better than I thought I am and I also love reading books.

Student: Emily B

1. What do you like about Blatch?

I love the Drama department and the library as it is a calm and peaceful space to read or work.

2. Do you love reading?

Of course! Books are the best.

3. What's your favourite book and why?

I love The Hunger Games series, they are captivating and sometimes I find that I can't put them down!

4. Do you love the library?

Why wouldn't I? It is an amazing space to work and read. I love all of the plants in it and all of the displays.

5. What does reading mean to you?

Reading is a huge part of my personality and it is good that Blatch has such a wonderful place to retreat to and get your nose stuck into a good book.

STUDENT: Ivy M

1. What do you like about Blatch?

I love the good facilities and the Drama sections as this is my favourite subject. I also love the way they help you learn.

2. Do you love the library?

Obviously! It's very calming and relaxing and a great space to just chill out.

3. What's your favorite book and why?

I love the Hunger Games by Susan Collins because it's adventurous and it has good characters. It also gets hard to put down!

4. Do you love reading books ?

Yes. I love reading books especially fiction books and I also love the stories within them.

5. What does reading mean to you?

It means a lot because it's a great activity, it helps you to escape from the world and I think there's a book for everyone to read and enjoy.

The library is always looking for students to get involved in library activities whether it's participating in book clubs, helping with events, or suggesting new books to add to the collection. If you're interested in getting involved, speak to the librarian today.

BY MINAL B

History of Halloween

The origin of this spooky holiday goes all the way back to Celtic times where they celebrated a holiday called Samhain (pronounced sow-in). Samhain was a festival between the 31st of October and 1st of November to mark the end of the summer harvest. The Celts believed that on Samhain a rift between the world of ghosts and humans would open, these “portals” would be considered as doors in the roots of trees and in fairy mounds. Most of the ghosts were good ghosts but some of them were mean and caused mischief so all the Celts would dress up in spooky outfits and dance around a bonfire and scare the mean ghosts back into the land of the dead and honour the nice ones.

The name we use today comes from some slightly more recent holiday that was created by Christians to honour saints and the deceased. It was called All Hallows Eve. Over time some of these celebrations have merged to create the iconic Halloween and some other celebrations have become some of the festivities of the sweet swagging scary holiday we all know and love so let's see which (or should I say witch) ones created the ultimate scary holiday!!

POMONA, The Romans actually invented apple bobbing in their holiday to honor Pomona the goddess of fruit and trees.

SOULING hundreds of years ago in medieval England on the day once known as Samhain people would go around door to door offering to pray or sing in exchange for food, sound familiar? Then in Victorian times they would give out small pastries known as soul cakes. Eventually through the modern ages this became sweets and chocolate.

JACK-O-LANTERNS in America for Halloween (or All Hallows Eve as it was called back then) they would carve turnips, yep you heard that right turnips. But then the Irish introduced pumpkins to the USA and they found that they grew well in America and were more efficient for carving.

Fun Fact!!

They were called jack-o-lanterns because they were used to scare away a mythical spirit called Jack! But as time went on it became more seasonally related to Halloween.

Well that's all for our spoooOOOooky run down of Halloween!! Hope you enjoyed the history of the scary season we all know and love. Goodbye till next time!

By Buddy C!



Extra-Curricular Activities Overview

At Blatchington Mill we have a wide range of extra curricular activities. All students, in all year groups, have the opportunity to get involved in things that they enjoy or are interested in. Clubs are a vital part of a child's education, not only for academic achievements e.g homework club, book club, GCSE revision & catch up club. Others are based on hobbies/beliefs/lifestyles such as:

- Musical instruments
- Creative writing
- Sports
- LGBT ambassadors club
- Lower and upper school voices
- Magazine club
- Axiom (maths)
- Young librarians
- Drama club
- Sign language club
- Art club

So if after all this you are still unsure whether to take up a instrument or start a sport maybe you just want to try a random club on the timetable. Just give it go, you never know, you might love it!

- Charlotte D



INTERVIEWS!



Amelia Roberts: Author and ex-Blatch student tells us about her work as a writer

How and when did you know you wanted to be an author?

This is such a clichéd answer, but I've just sort of always known. I've been writing since I could hold a pencil and it's never occurred to me to stop.

What or who influenced you to become an author?

Reading is a big part of it; I wanted to be able to do the things all these brilliant authors I admired could. But I'm also incredibly fortunate in that I have a whole chain of people who made it possible for me to start and keep writing, from my family and friends to my favourite teachers—Ms Holland definitely included, but also encompassing teachers outside of English, like the brilliant Mr King, who was one of my Media Studies teachers at Blatch. I also got involved with a project called The Write Stuff at the Jubilee Library in Brighton with a fantastic author called Mal Peet when I was still at school. There are loads of amazing opportunities like that out there for aspiring authors; being treated seriously as both a writer and a young person can be immensely influential.

As an author what is your favourite thing you've written?

This changes a lot! Stuff I was proud of at the time seems clunky or even a bit embarrassing a couple of years later, but I think that's a good thing because it means I've grown as a writer. At the moment, it's my PhD thesis. I graduated in 2024 from the University of Sussex with a PhD in Creative and Critical Writing. My thesis was about same-sex desire and intimacy in Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*. Due to various financial- and health-related issues, it took me eight years to complete what should have been a four-year degree. I ended up producing a mammoth piece of work that totals about 300,000 words and over 1,000 pages when you include the appendices. I'm really proud of myself for pulling it off.

How do you come up with ideas for stories?

I'm a big fan of the idea that writers are like magpies; we collect shiny things that we notice while going about our lives and then some weird part of the brain starts connecting the dots and turning them into stories. Asking 'What if?' is always a good method for generating ideas. I find listening to music can be really inspirational too, whether it's the feelings that the music itself prompts or specific lyrics that conjure up little kernels of ideas.

Who was your favourite author growing up?

I still have my childhood copies of Malorie Blackman, Diana Wynne Jones, Jacqueline Wilson, Patrick Ness, and Lemony Snicket, which means they stuck with me in more ways than one. And one of my earliest memories is my mum reading *The Hobbit* to me at bedtime; that's still one of my favourites.

What books do you recommend to teens/early teens?

You have so many to choose from! When I was a teenager, YA literature didn't exist as a genre; now, it's thriving.

For early to mid-teens: Malorie Blackman, Jacqueline Wilson, Rick Riordan, Sara Starbuck, Katherine Rundell, Chris Riddell.

For older teens: Rainbow Rowell, Kacen Callender, Benjamin Alire Sáens, and Elizabeth Acevedo. Danez Smith if you like poetry. Claudia Rankine if you're interested in experimental writing. For graphic novels, N. D. Stevenson, Jen Wang, Ngozi Ukazu, Wendy Xu, and Alice Oseman. For fantasy, Maggie Stiefvater (one of my all-time favourite authors) and Leigh Bardugo. Bill Bryson has some really fun non-fiction books about a whole range of different topics, from science to linguistics.

I also think your late teens are a great age to start reading outside of what you might be naturally drawn to, if you're not already doing so, including "the classics" (Mary Shelley was a genius; *Sherlock Holmes* is unexpectedly hilarious) and some contemporary adult literature. Markus Zusak and Natasha Pulley are exquisite starting points. You might like to try Nghi Vo's novellas, or possibly even R. F. Kuang's novels. Kazuo Ishiguro, Terry Pratchett, and Douglas Adams are all modern classics in sci-fi/fantasy for a reason.

My biggest recommendation though is to go into bookshops and ask booksellers what they suggest. We have some incredible local independent bookshops, like Afrori Books in Brighton and The Book Nook in Hove, and the people who work there are beyond lovely; any one of them would be over the moon to have a young person pop in and ask them for book recs.

What is your favourite part of being an author?

Unexpectedly—because, like a lot of writers, I'm a real introvert—the communities I'm finding (and helping to build!) around reading and writing. Other writers are so talented and so much fun to hang out with. In terms of the actual writing, my favourite part is those times where everything just clicks; you're in the zone, it's all flowing, it feels effortless, and when you read it back the next day, it sparkles. Magic!

What makes a great book?

This is super subjective. What one person thinks makes a great book, another person will think makes it rubbish. For me, it's a combination of characters you feel you can sink your teeth into (they don't have to be likeable or relatable, just compelling), a plot that takes me by surprise but doesn't rely on outlandish plot twists, and a writing style that warrants lingering over and rewards rereading.

Do you prefer to write fiction or non-fiction?

Definitely fiction. It comes quite naturally to me, whereas I have to really engage every single part of my brain to get anywhere with non-fiction, even though I find it rewarding to write.

What is your writing process like in the making of a book?

Always changing! I'm always trying to figure out what works best for me as a current writing practice, whether that's scribbling down notes in the five minutes I have spare while I'm waiting for the kettle to boil during busy periods, or trying to work out if I can justify locking myself away for a week to do nothing but write.

One thing that's always true is that books are really made in the rewriting. The first draft is just you telling the story to yourself. You have to make it exist before you can make it good.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to become an author?

Keep going!! The only important difference between you right now and your favourite published author is that they kept writing.

How was your time at Blatch?

If I'm completely honest, it was difficult. I was diagnosed with a disability called ME/CFS when I was 11 years old, right as I was starting Blatch, and for most of secondary school I was only able to actually go to school for a couple of hours a day. I felt incredibly ill all of the time and experienced severe anxiety.

That said, there were parts of Blatch that I adored: favourite teachers who poured everything into teaching their subjects; learning about so many different things; the friends I made and am still in touch with today. I met my best friend, who I still live near and see nearly every week, because we were sat next to each other in Year Seven French.

What advice would you give to students about Blatch?

Make the most of the resources you have there, especially if you like performing arts; Blatch is an incredible place for music and theatre. Try to enjoy even the things that seem mundane to you (I'm so jealous you get to use Bunsen burners; there are so few opportunities to use Bunsen burners as an adult). Ask for help! Even for small things, but especially for big things.

What advice would you give to students about their future/career choices?

Take your time, but also don't worry too much, because nothing is permanent. You can retake exams; you can switch university courses or even universities; a future job you'll end up loving might not even exist yet. I didn't get into my first-choice university, Sussex, right away—it was through clearing.

Have you made any choices you regret?

I was really uptight all through secondary school! I understand why and don't blame myself for it, but I could have made everything easier for myself, and for other people, if I'd learned to stop worrying so much about everything and to laugh at myself a bit sooner.

What are your dos and don'ts about secondary school?

Don't use AI, because it robs you of opportunities to develop your critical thinking skills, which are more vital than ever before in today's world. More important than that though: be kinder than you think you should be to everyone, including yourself.



Platform 92 are just getting bigger and better

I am sitting in the depths of the Blatch music basement listening to *Lewis G* on the drums, *Jack M* on the guitar, *Louis E* on the lead guitar, *Noah K* on the bass and *Bonnie B* on the vocals, as Platform 92 continues to take my breath away....

What inspired you guys to want to start a band?

We all just liked music so much and wanted to make music together.

We originally just constructed the band for the winter concert and the summer concert at Blatch, but as a collective, we just decided that we were enjoying playing together so much that we wanted to start the band full time.

How has your band evolved since the first time you played together?

A lot. We have put in lots more effort and have been putting much more time aside for practice and rehearsal. We have also gotten to know each other much better and are more comfortable playing music together and just having a laugh!

Bonnie - I actually have a recording of the first time we played together and I think that if you compared it to us playing with that same song now, it would sound very different.

Lewis - We can also make fun of each other a lot more easily now.

I have met you all personally and I know you all get along tremendously, but have you ever had any big arguments or any disagreements of some sort?

Well we haven't had any big disagreements as such as a band now, just little disputes about what songs we want to play together. But back in our early days, we had a minor argument with one of our ex members of the band due to them not learning the songs properly and as a collective, eventually we had to say you need to leave.

Obviously Blatchington Mill holds two concerts a year: the winter concert and the summer concert. How do you feel when you are performing to family, friends and strangers?

Jack - To be honest I feel that I have performed so many times with Friday Jam sessions and other music related things, that I have grown used to the nerves.

Bonnie - I remember that our first concert as a band was at the Dome so that was a big milestone for me. For Blatch on the other hand, obviously I was still nervous but it felt like a bit of a down scale to me.

On the topic of the Dome, tell me a little bit more about the venues you have been doing outside of school.

In the summer we did a music festival called *FestaCampestre* and performed, as the last act, 7 songs which was amazing to do and obviously we were lucky enough to play at the Dome as our first gig which was also great and we played at the end as well, so technically we have all headlined twice in our music careers!

Would you say that your band plays a single genre of music or do you mix it up a lot?

As a band we probably play Indie Rock the most but we have also tried to experiment with some pop as well.

Bonnie - But a lot of the time the voices are too low for me in Indie Rock so I have tried to swerve the band into some different genres.

What would you say your band's favourite song to play together is?

Jack - Kilby Girl (The Backseat Lovers)

Louis - Kilby Girl (The Backseat Lovers)

Noah - What you know (The Two Door Cinema Club)

Bonnie - Zombie (The Cranberries)

Lewis - The Sun Goes Down (Arctic Monkeys)

Where would you like your band to end up in the future?

Jack - I would probably just like us to perform at bigger and bigger venues.

Bonnie/Louis/Noah - I would love to perform at Glastonbury.

We would also love to try and make a start on writing our own songs collectively as a band.

Thank you so much for letting me interview you, by the looks of things, soon Glastonbury will be *begging* you to headline on their Pyramid stage!

- Interviewed and written up by Solomon-Luis F



Interview with an Environmental Law Professor

What is your Green Job?

I am an environmental law professor at the University of Sussex.

How did you get to where you are now? When I first graduated, I worked for an organisation in San Francisco that protected land from development. My job was to help plan campaigns; provide funding to environmental activists working to protect biodiversity.

What inspired you to choose that job path? I studied environmental science, but it was very technical and I realised I was more interested in problem solving- about how laws and people can use land in a way that supports nature.

What do you do now? Now my work focuses more on understanding how governments work together to protect the environment through international law. Issues like climate change or the biodiversity crisis cannot be solved by one country alone. I have been working on things including how the UK and EU work together to support the net zero transition.

What is net zero?

The UK government and lots of other governments around the world have committed to the goal of reducing their overall greenhouse gas emissions to 0 by 2050.

What advice would you give to people who would like to work in this area and on similar topics?

The many challenges facing the environment mean that there are more opportunities than ever to work in this area. This could include anything from environmental engineering, helping companies comply with environmental requirements, being a professional environmental activist and running campaigns, to working for government. However, environmental jobs are also competitive to get. For my first job I applied to over thirty organisations and worked in cafes until I finally got one of them. It takes persistence but don't give up.

- Anina B, interview with Emily L



Image: Nick Winsor- Unsplash

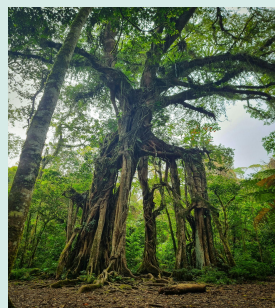


Image: Julio Samudra- Unsplash



Image: Dan Blackburn



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Bonjour!



Hole!

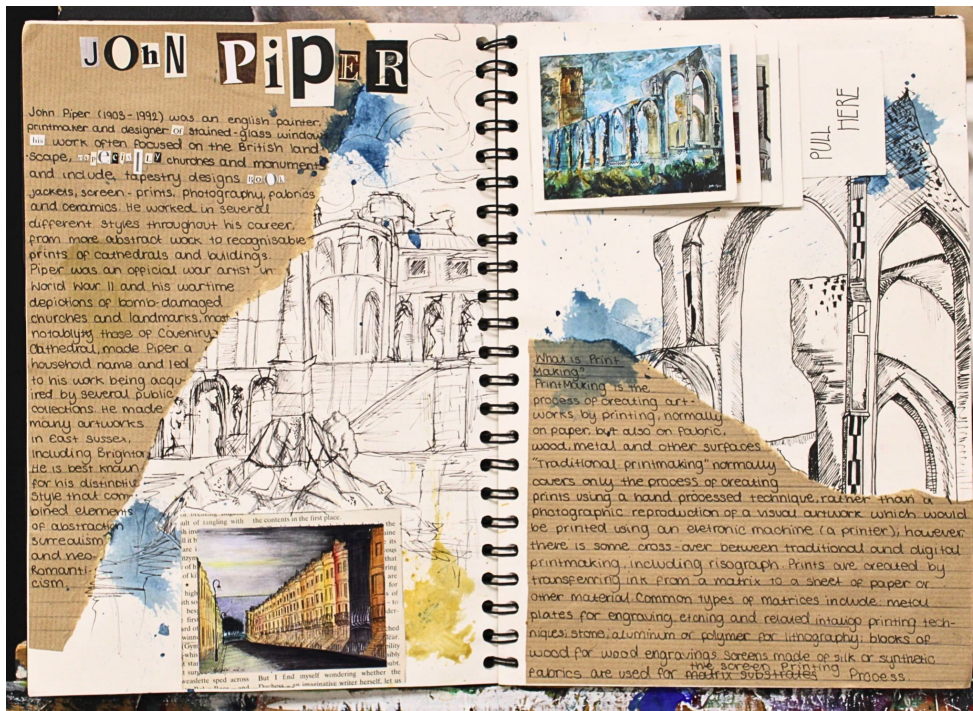


Creative



Artwork by
Isabella
Chaya
Will
Lucas.





- Acacia

Sea and sky, acrylic and oil on canvas was painted while I lived in Brighton. I thought at first that it might include some features of the shore, perhaps pebbles seen through shallow water in the foreground but as the painting progressed I decided that the sea, filling the foreground and stretching away to the horizon, would have more impact.

Since my degree course in the visual arts during the 1980s I have continued to draw and paint. The sea, with its constantly changing moods, is a fascinating and captivating subject.

Sea and sky appears in the recently filmed documentary, Dominic Sladden Growth Through Art, it is directed by the filmmaker Cristian Parras and is expected to be ready for distribution before Christmas.



- Dominic Sladden (Teaching Assistant)

Knowing

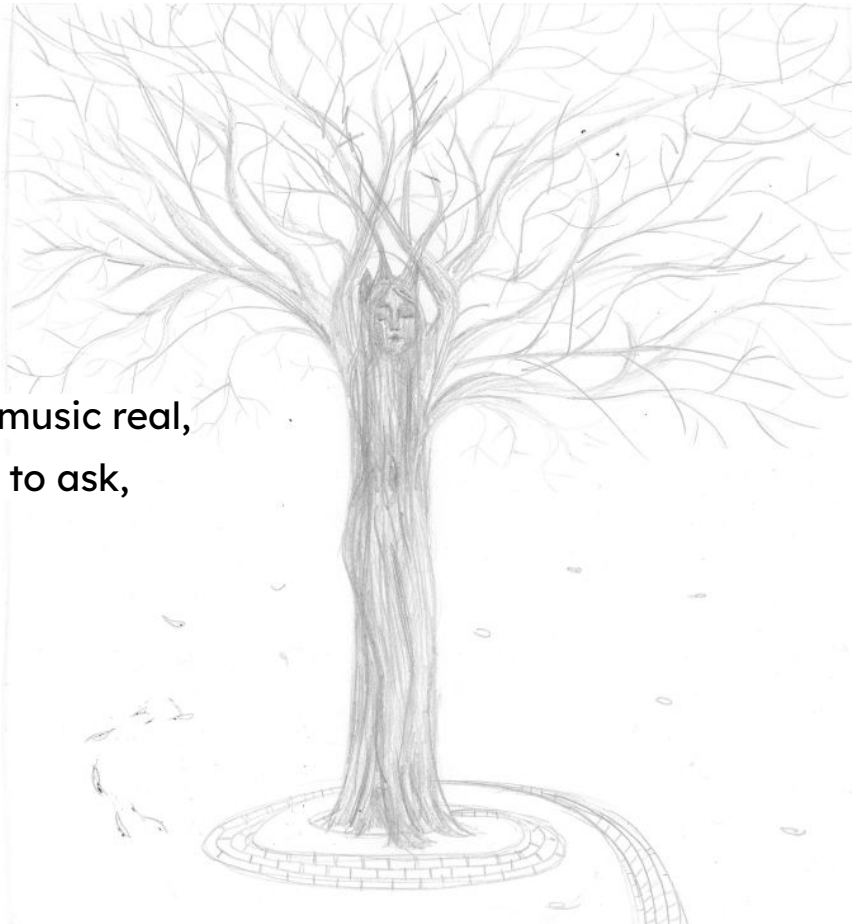
Imagine a world where every voice carried the same pitch,
Every story carried the same arc,
The trees would grow at appropriate angles,
No curve or bend,
No wilderness in their reach,

We would greet each other with mirrored smiles,
Nod in time,
Speak in phrases we've all heard before,
There would be no unknown in the wind,
No colour to chase in the edges of the sky,

If every canvas held the same shape,
If every paint the same colour,
Why bother painting?
If ever soul echoed the last,
Why bother listening?

Difference,
Difference is the crooked path,
The off key note that makes the music real,
It's the question you didn't know to ask,
The laugh that arrives uninvited,
The light in its golden hour,
Tilting just so,

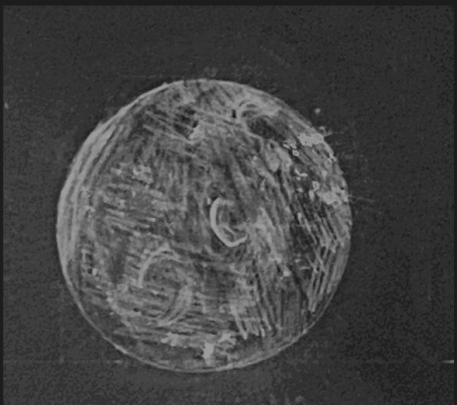
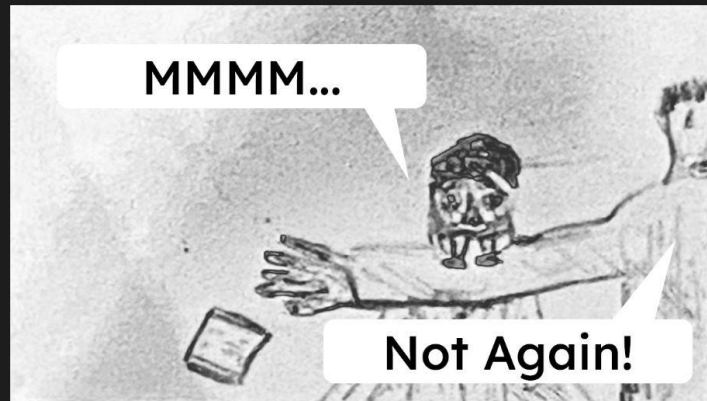
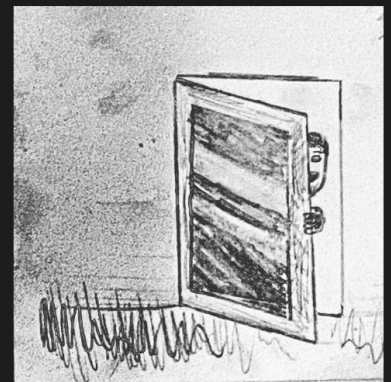
Without it we vanish.



- Freya L

COMICS

By Woody B



**As the Full Moon
Rises...**



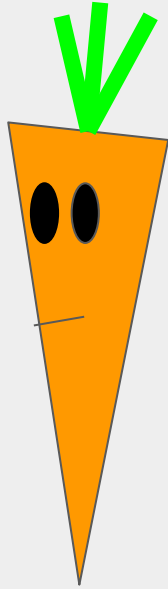


Oh how I
long to fly
like the other
birds... Although
I appear one,
my weak, limp,
tiny body can
barely even

support my head...

I guess only time will tell.

Once there was
a carrot that
hated school...



*This carrot
had endured
years of it,
long hard
years...*

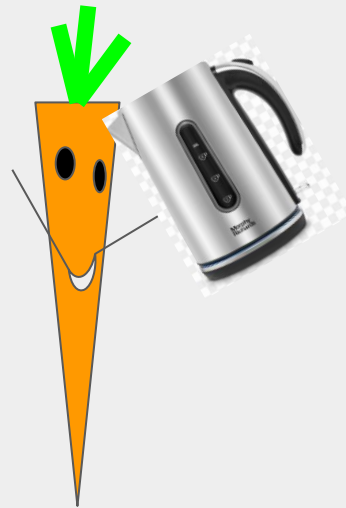
*But one day...something life
changing happened... The carrot
read the blatch magazine!!!!*



Blatch Magazine
Spring 2023



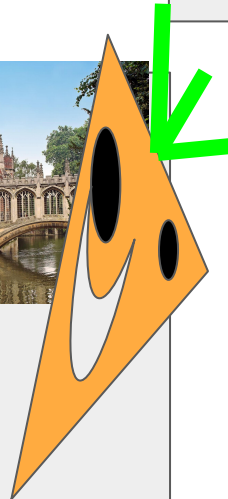
flashback



(And also drowned
in a kettle but
details, details...)

Anyway...

*Because of this magazine,
the carrot started to like
school! Her grades got
better, and she even went
to CAMBRIDGE
university!!!!!!!!!!*



The end



Apple “doughnuts”

Ingredients:

- Three medium apples (cooking or normal, doesn't matter)
- One sheet of pre-made puff pastry
- One egg
- One tablespoon icing sugar
- One tablespoon caster sugar
- Cinnamon to taste



Image: Ksenia Yakovleva - Unsplash

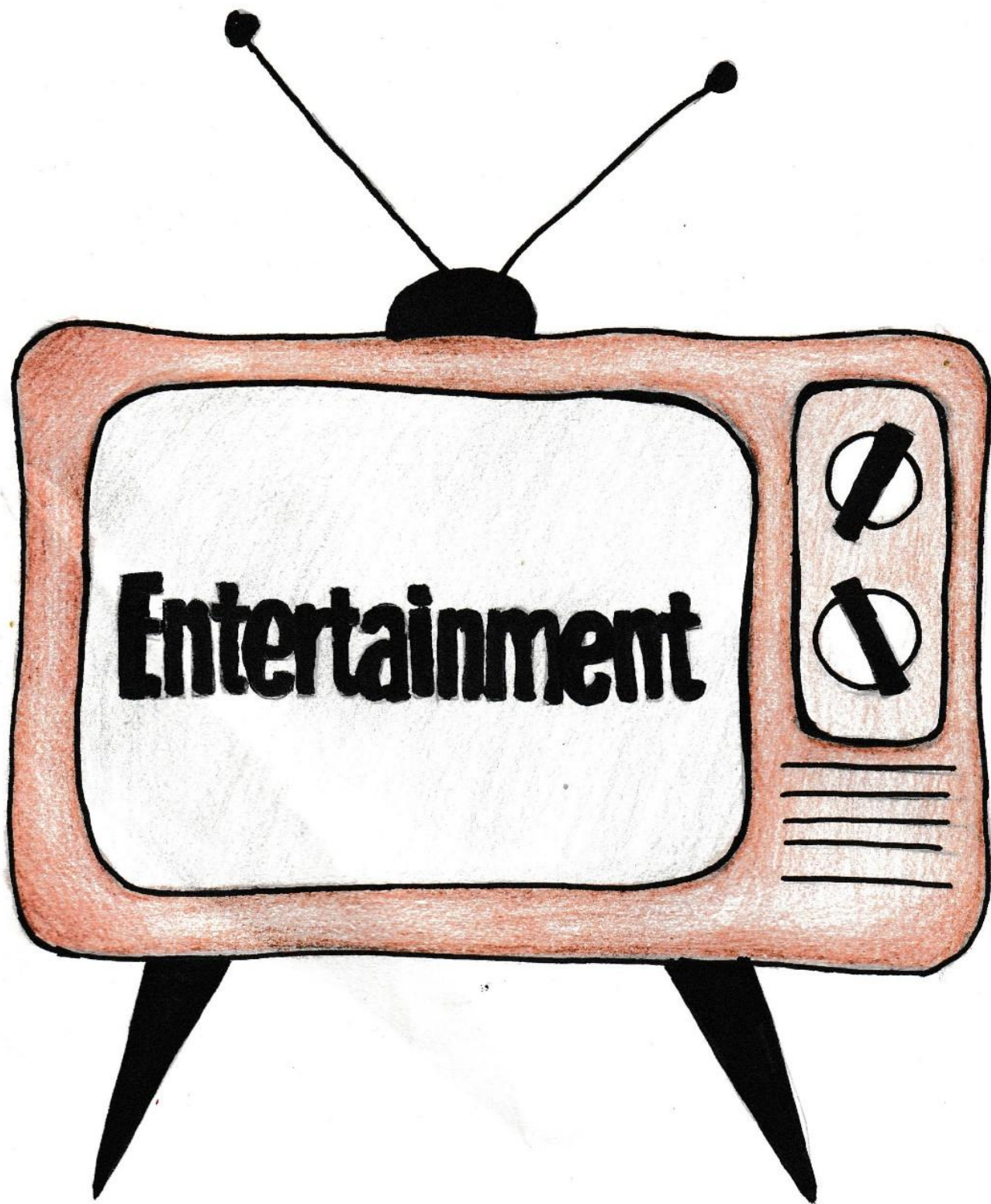
Method:

1. Cut your apples into circular slices across the equator, you should get around five slices per apple, depending on their size.
2. Use a knife -or piping tip if you can find one!- to remove the core in the center of each slice.
3. Open your puff pastry sheet and cut into around centimetre strips lengthwise.
4. Wrap each apple slice in as many strips of puff pastry as you like, more if you want it more doughy, and less if you want it more apple-focused. Each apple should be mostly covered, but it is fine if you can see the apple.
5. Place each “doughnut” onto a parchment lined baking tray.
6. Whisk up an egg in a small bowl, and use a pastry brush to cover each doughnut in a layer of egg.
7. Sprinkle each doughnut with a layer of caster sugar to taste, and cinnamon- also to taste.
8. Heat the oven to 180 celsius, and place your tray inside. They should take around 15 to 20 minutes, but sometimes longer, depending on how crispy you like them.
9. Wait for them to cool after taking them out, before sprinkling with icing sugar.
10. Enjoy!

They are best served fresh from the oven, but are also fine cold. They make a perfect quick breakfast, afterschool snack, or comforting desert.

If you want to make them vegan, use vegan puff pastry, and substitute the egg wash with non-dairy milk (such as oat or almond) combined with some kind of syrup e.g. maple. You can also use aquafaba, the liquid from chickpea cans.

Happy Autumn!



Blatchington Broadway

Last year, the actors of the lower school (years 7 and 8) rehearsed for months to put on the summer show. It was *Emil and the Detectives*, the thrilling tale of a young boy's journey from countryside to city as he solves the mystery -with the help of his friends- of his stolen money.

It touches on the topic of social injustice and independence while remaining light and witty. The captivating cast pulled off every scene wonderfully, we were on the edge of our seats, wanting to find out more but not wanting the performance to end.



Image: @blatchmill

“Nerves were high”, according to Molly A (Tuesday- detective), but after the first night it was fine. She particularly enjoyed the scene when they had to chase Mr Snow, even when her hat fell off in the spur of the moment.

- Anina B



Image: @blatchmill

Emily B, who played Ida Tischbein (Emil's mother), said that she felt “really lucky to have the opportunity, even though learning [her] lines was quite stressful, she really enjoyed it.” Despite her backstage nosebleed, she found the whole experience very fun.

The play was performed four times in July:

- once on transition day for the now-year 7s
- twice to the general public
- once to the now-year 8s



Image: Unsplash - Gwen King

Back To The Future

If you are looking for a show that combines iconic storytelling, thrilling visuals and 80s hits then Back to the Future- the musical might be your next favourite night out. Now playing at the Adelphi Theatre in London's West End this stage adaptation of the beloved 1985 film takes audiences on a time travelling adventure full of heart, humour and high energy music.

Open to viewers age 6 and up the production is family friendly while still offering plenty of excitement for teens and adults alike. With its fast pace, clever scripts, and crazy effects it is an experience that is unforgettable whether you're familiar with the original film or not.

The plot follows teenager Marty McFly, he is accidentally transported back to 1955 in a time machine built by the eccentric, Dr Emmett Brown. While stuck in the past Marty must make sure his parents fall in love, or risk changing his future forever. The musical adds fresh energy to the classic story, with a dynamic original score by Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard, along with the all the iconic moments fans love.

What really sets this show apart, is how it blends excitement of a blockbuster movie with the magic of live theatre. The performances are sharp, the staging is inventive, and the whole production is packed with that electric, feel-good energy that keeps you talking about it long after the curtain falls. If you like theatre, are interested in set design or even just want a night out, then this show is worth the ticket.



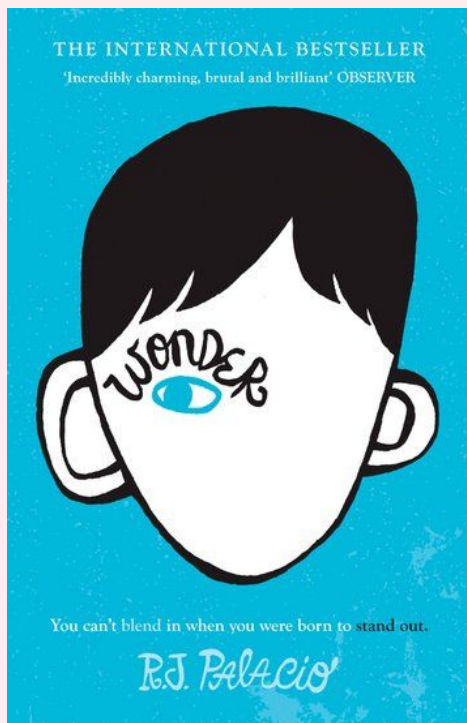
- Charlotte D



About: Years before 18-year-old Coriolanus Snow becomes the oppressive president of Panem, we find out he was never as cruel and cunning like he was when he became president. With the 10th annual Hunger Games rolling in around the corner, Snow in his youth becomes distressed when he's been assigned a role to mentor charismatic Lucy Grey Baird from District 12. He especially becomes alarmed as District 12 is one of the losing districts of all time. Together they work a way to make Lucy Grey survive the Hunger Games but not everyone is playing fairly according to the harsh rules. But can Lucy Grey win the games, making her mentor Snow win a life changing amount of money.

Review: This dystopian film is set in the 1900s before all the other Hunger Games films. The film has all sorts of different emotions in it such as grief, love, guilt, anger, hope and more. It also explores many different themes such as dystopia, survival, wealth and poverty. Snow's youth teaches us how people's feelings develop over time and how they are capable of change just by going through an experience.

- Mehrin M

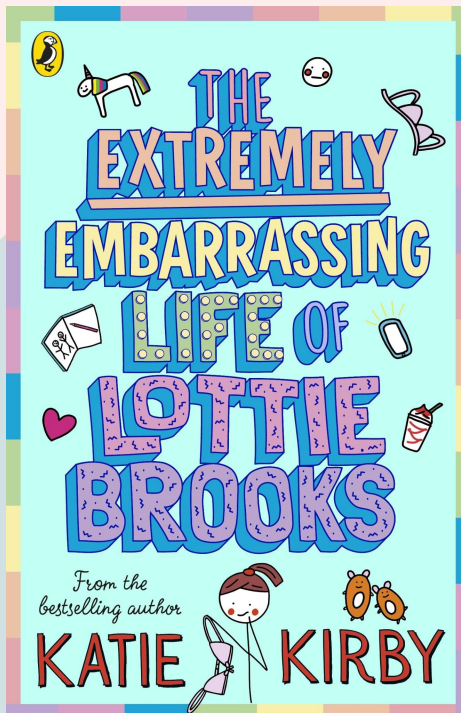


Blurb

‘My name is August. I won’t describe what I look like. Whatever your thinking, it’s probably worse.’

Review

Wonder is a thrilling novel aimed at Years 9 and up. It is about August Pullman (Auggie) a 10 year old boy with a severe facial difference. It is a dual narrative and also follows the perspectives of Olivia Pullman (Via) - Auggie’s sister, Jack Will - Auggie’s best friend, and Miranda Navas - Via’s best friend. After being homeschooled his whole life, August Pullman attends school for the first time. He has to face bullies, arguments with friends, fights and much more.



Blurb

‘IF YOU ARE READING THIS IT IS PRIVATE PROPERTY AND I I WILL GET YOU!’

Lottie Brooks is 11¾ and her life is already OVER - not only is she about to start high school without any friends or glamorous swooshy hair, she doesn’t even own a BRA!

Armed with her TOTALLY SECRET PRIVATE DIARY and a large supply of Kitkat Chunkys, Lottie takes on sleepovers, crushes, new best friends and some EXTREMELY embarrassing moments.

Review

The Lottie Brooks series is a brilliant collection of books that will get you laughing your head off! Written by local author, Katie Kirby, The extremely embarrassing life of Lottie Brooks is a fun relatable novel recommended for readers 9 and up. These are a series of books that you’ll never be able to put down. You can also borrow most of these books from the Blatchington Mill library. This is the first book of the series and after you’ve read it you’ll be begging for the next one!





Blurb

MABEL MYNT KNOWS A LOT ABOUT SPACE...

...like how we feel connected to the stars because we are all made of stardust. And that mum's new boyfriend Galactic Gavin, has eyes that twinkle like sirius, the brightest star in the night sky.

And that sometimes the perfect place for her sister, Terrible Topaz, would be a black hole.

But Mabel doesn't know how to fill the space in her heart that Dad left when he walked out

And she sets out on a mission of discovery...

Review

The Girl with Space in her Heart, by Lara Williamson is a heartwarming story that features serious topics like anxiety, family separation, and depression, while also appreciating witty writing and emotional depth. It is rated for children 9 and up but if you struggle handling tricky topics like this then this book might not be for you. It is written from the perspective of the protagonist Mabel Mynt who loves space. Her dad used to tell her all about it, until he walked out on their family. Now mum has a new boyfriend. Mabel likes him because he tells her about space but Terrible Topaz thinks there's something fishy going on and is desperate to find out, so that mum's heart doesn't get broken again. Join Mabel on the journey of a lifetime!

Blurb

Turning the envelope over, his hand trembling, Harry saw a purple wax seal bearing a coat of arms; a lion, an eagle, a badger and a snake surrounding a large letter 'H'.

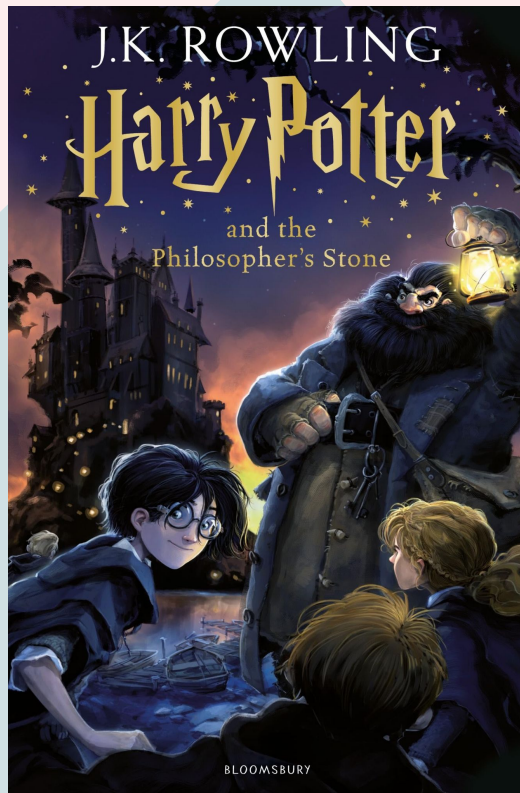
HARRY POTTER has never heard of Hogwarts when the LETTERS started dropping on the doormat at number four, Privet Drive. Addressed in GREEN INK on yellowish parchment with a PURPLE SEAL, they are swiftly confiscated by his GRISLY aunt and uncle. Then, on Harry's eleventh birthday, a man called RUBEUS HAGRID bursts in with some ASTONISHING news: Harry Potter is a wizard, and he has a place at HOGWARTS SCHOOL OF WITCHCRAFT AND WIZARDRY.

An incredible journey is about to begin!

Review

The Harry Potter series is a wonderful collection of books that I definitely recommend reading. It follows the story of Harry and his journey at Hogwarts, and his life at home too. It is recommended for readers 8 and up and is the first book of 7. There are also 8 Harry Potter films if you're not as into reading but still like the sound of it. The book is full of surprises so you never know what's going to happen next, which is why it's so great. The characters also feel really real, and you start to care about what happens to them. It's the kind of story that makes you wish magic was real and that you could be part of it too.

- Anya B-J





The School for Good and Evil

Imagine if fairy tales were real, imagine the people who were in them went to a school to train to be Heroes or Villains, Good and Evil. Every four years, two children get kidnapped and taken to the School for Good and Evil. Welcome to the sleepy village of Gavaldon, the home of Sophie (a blonde beauty who dreams of being kidnapped and becoming Princess, -she is sick of her life in Gavaldon) and Agatha (with her dark hair and shapeless dress lives in a graveyard, just to let you know what kind of girl she is). What if Heroes and Villains don't look like they are supposed to...?

-Emily R



Strange Star, by Emma Carroll

A scarily intriguing story revolving around Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. The plot mainly follows Lizzie Appleby. This is a chilling tale of budding scientific discovery and whispers of superstition all with a strange comet hanging overhead. Published on the 7th of July 2016 and with 320 pages, it has won several awards including *The Times Children's Book of the Week*. Overall this book is a stunning reminder of the magic of Emma Carroll (rightly known as the queen of historical fiction). I rate this book 5 stars.

Like this? Try *The Week At World's End*.

- Emily R



2025 Film Reviews 🎬

Jurassic World Rebirth 4/5

A team of mercenaries travel to a dinosaur infested island to gain DNA samples that could save millions from disease. But when the group discover a secret kept hidden from the world for decades things go south quickly.

What I thought...

The film was fun, quirky and filled with all the jumpscare you would expect from a film in the Jurassic Park/World franchise. The cast was superb, a highlight actor for me was Scarlett Johansson (Zora Bennet) as she mastered the intense and more emotional scenes wonderfully. Also, the special effects were very realistic, making for some scary dino action!



The Thunderbolts 4.5/5 (rated 12)

A washed up, depressed group of mercenaries must band together to save themselves from a death trap, leading them to confront the deepest, darkest, corners of their past.

What I thought...

The Thunderbolts is a funny, exciting film filled with great humour while also tackling some deep themes like depression, sadness and feeling alone.

(Also the star after Thunderbolts means The New Avengers!)



A Minecraft Movie (rated PG) 3/5

In this film, four misfits journey into a world of their imagination and save it from an evil sorcerer.

What I thought...

A Minecraft Movie is a lot of fun. Many teens and tweens rushed to the cinema to see this. But the praise ends there. In my opinion the film lacked a proper story and most of the film was spent with Jack Black making people laugh. Although A Minecraft Movie was a fun, enjoyable experience, I personally didn't love it as much as most other people so I must be the odd one out.



Upcoming films

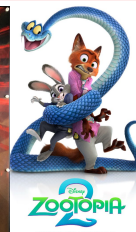
Zootropolis 2

Avatar Fire and Ash

Wicked, for Good

G.O.A.T

The Mandalorian and Grogu



Riddle of the season: What appears once in a minute, twice in a moment but never in a thousand years.

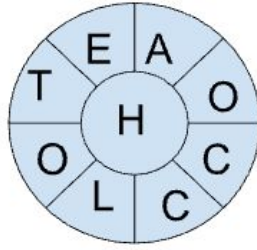
Answer: The letter M

Wordsearch

Words: **English, Maths, French, Spanish, Art, Geography, History, Music, Drama, Science**

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

Word Wheel - Find all the words in this wheel. Each of the words must include the middle letter. You cannot repeat the same letter twice.



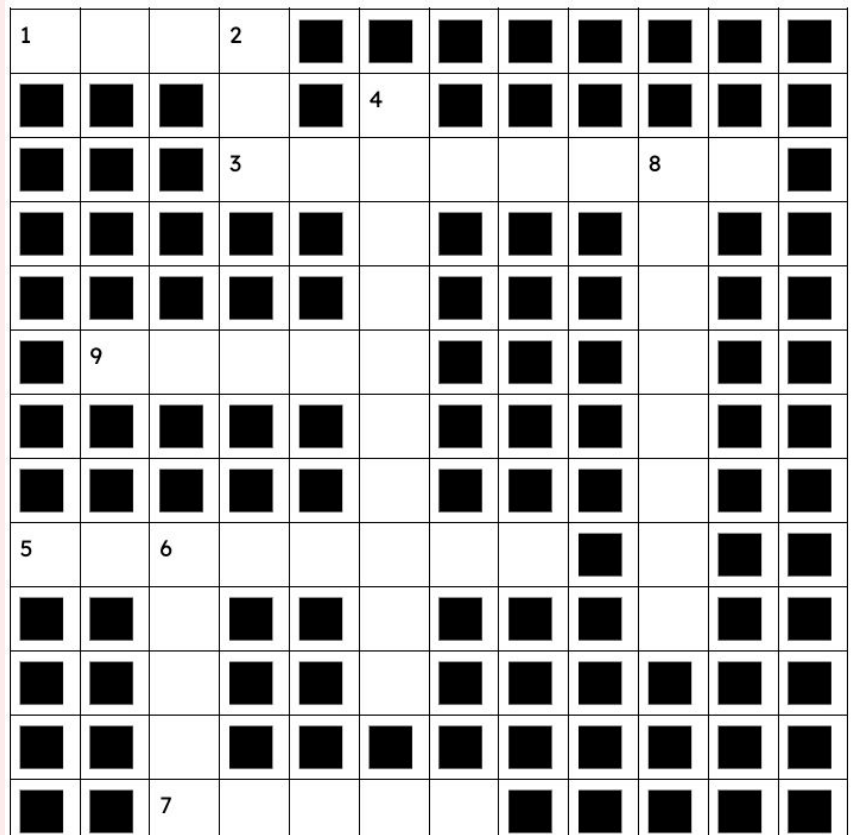
DOWN

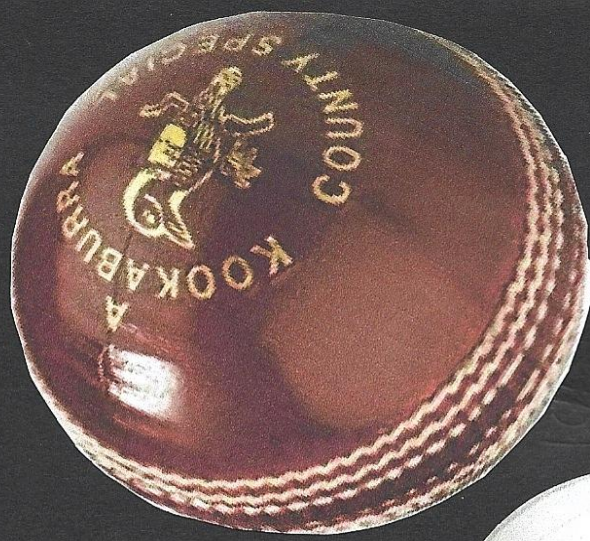
- 2: Opposite of begin
4: A frozen continent
6: What windows are made of
8: When rain comes down, I go up

ACROSS

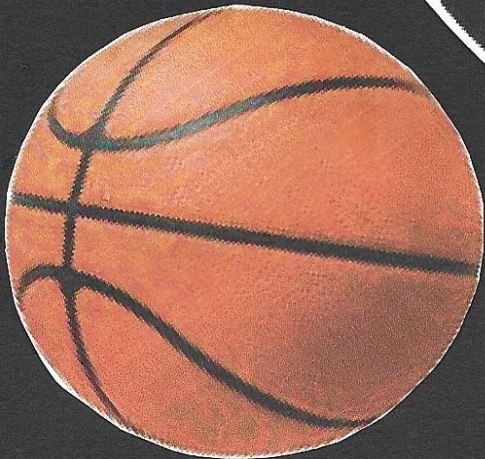
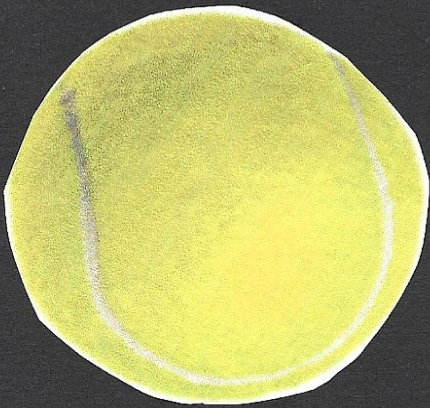
- 1: French for “To be”
3: Prehistoric species
5: What are you reading right now?
7: The number clue
9: Belongs to them

CROSSWORD





S P O R T



BHAFC Match Review

After the international break (18th October 2025) the Premier League resumed with the Seagulls welcoming Newcastle to the Amex. Nothing but goal difference separating these two sides.

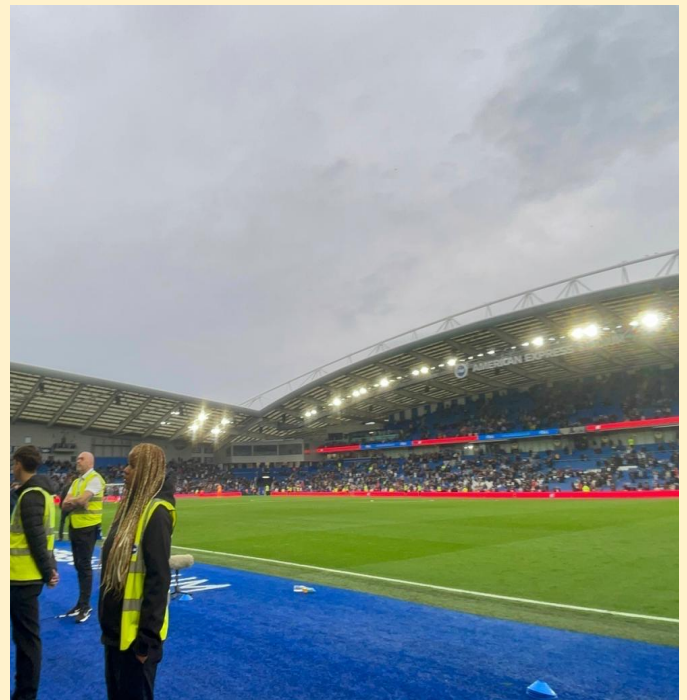
Multiple chances made goalkeepers Bart Verbruggen and Nick Pope have to make some nail-biting saves that kept fans sitting on the edge of their seats.

A perfect run from Georginio Rutter set Danny Welbeck up for a spectacular finish sending the ball into the back of the net. Newcastle fought back with a goal scored by Nick Woltemade that was executed superbly.

However Newcastle United fans' cheers didn't last long as Danny Welbeck scored, filling the stadium with his name for the second time that evening.

Although there was an obvious hero that night (double goal scorer D. Welbeck) it has to be said that all the players on both teams put up a good fight, constantly attacking, defending and putting pressure on the other team. The game ended with the Albion fans singing 'Freed from Desire' with pride in their hearts that Fabian Hürzeler's team gained all 3 points.

- Charlotte D

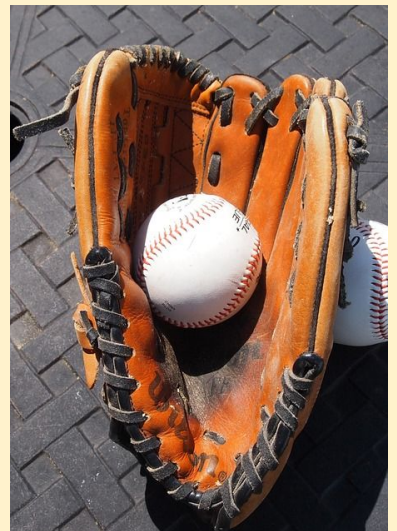


National Sports Roundup

In the last few months, there has been a spectacle of national sports that includes American football, Baseball, Basketball, Cycling, Football, Hockey, Rugby and Tennis. In this article I will cover a few of them...

Hockey

In hockey there are two teams of six players. It's a game of strategy and fast thinking. Many play on ice but for a more practical solution they play on grass or astro. Hockey has deep roots in history; its first rules made in the 1800s. Hockey is also well known for its speed and physicality which will help you stay active. Hockey is also an Olympic sport. In 2024 the Netherlands were outstanding as they won Gold in both women and men's.



American Football

American football has a mixed origin with roots in rugby and football (soccer).

The world famous NFL (national football league), a 32 team league, was first founded in 1920. Other things to note are the interesting shape of the ball and the 3 hour long games. You may have heard of the Super Bowl- it is the most watched, in the US, television event since 1967.

Baseball

Its origins hide among English games like rounders. Some specific details are that each baseball has 108 double stitches and the fastest game ever was only 51 minutes long. The first official baseball game took place in the US in Hoboken, New Jersey. It is a bat and ball game with 2 teams of 9 that take turns batting and fielding. The end goal is to score more goals than the opposing team.

Basketball

Basketball is older than all the others mentioned so far, being invented in 1891 by James Naismith. The first basketball game only had 13 rules, dribbling was not allowed and you had to throw the ball from where you caught it. Nowadays, basketball has over 1 billion fans world wide that shows just how popular it truly is.

- Felix C

All photos provided by Pixabay



Wellbeing

What is wellbeing? Wellbeing is a state where you feel comfortable, healthy or happy. It is really important for your mental health so here are my top ten tips for good mental health.

- Regular exercise: Exercise boosts mental health by reducing stress and anxiety.
- Spend time in nature or a calm quiet place where you feel safe or comfortable.
- Find ways to be creative e.g writing, drawing.
- Getting good sleep (avoiding screens is an excellent start).
- Connecting with friends and family.
- Do things for others- helping others can not only be great for them but also boosts your self-esteem.
- Eat healthily.
- Do things you love e.g at Blatch we have a huge array of clubs, find something you enjoy!
- Be in the moment: You only live once!
- And finally the most important one: accept yourself for who you are! Be yourself.

Remember, some of these might not be the thing that you need.
Find something that works for you.

- Emily R



Image: Unsplash



Thank you!



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Thanks to Pixabay, the BBC and Unsplash for supplying images



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- No plagiarism
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- No defamation
- Being sensitive and inclusive on all subjects
- No fabrication
- No offensive language/ statements of any kind.
- No explicit content
- All images to be appropriately sourced and credited (original or free stock websites such as Pixabay, Pexels, Unsplash)
- All opinions to be qualified/ referenced
- All permissions to be sought for contributions including people who features in photographs

Style Guide

To make our newspaper accessible and easy to read for all, we have these guidelines.

- Lexend font
- 12-14 point in size
- Articles to be mostly printed on pale colours linked to the relevant section of the magazine