



by the pupils, for the pupils
May 2018

Eggs-am Season



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In the news...



A lot has been happening in the news lately, including the use of chemical weapons in Syria and the United States pulling out of the Iran deal.

President Bashar al Assad has, according to most western governments, carried out a chemical weapons attack in a rebel-held town in central Syria. President Assad has denied the attacks, which killed or caused life-changing injuries to many people. The attack prompted the West (including the US, UK and France) to carry out joint air strikes in suspected areas where chemical weapons were being made. These chemical attacks have once again turned people's eyes back to the tyrannous conflict in Syria, which started during the uprising of the Arab spring. Because most of the democratic West side with the rebels, and Russia sides with Assad, the conflict is almost used as a proxy war between the superpowers of the world, fought on Syrian soil.

In other News, the US is moving towards a peace accord with North Korea, with a face to face summit organised between their leaders in June of this year. However, Trump seems to have made the chance of nuclear war higher, by pulling out of the Iran nuclear treaty and imposing sanctions on Iran. While the leading European Governments try to keep peace in the Middle East, Trump continues to slowly pull international relations apart.

In lighter News, preparations are under way for the Royal wedding later this month. It is

due to take place on the same day as the FA Cup Final, causing a dilemma about which to watch. I recommend getting out and about on the 19th of May, as every one else will be watching either the Football or Wedding on TV. The roads will be safer for cycling, the hills will be free of ramblers and the cinemas should be empty too!

William Wale



Syria Gas Attack

On 7th April 2018, a horrendous disaster took place in Syria leaving the country wracked with grief and destruction. The incident resulted in at least seventy casualties, leaving another five hundred or so injured and deprived. The rebel forces in Douma (the last rebel-held town in the Eastern Ghouta region) attributed the attack to the Syrian government. Contradicting this, the Syrian and Russian Defence Ministries denied this allegation; they said that the incident didn't occur at all and was apparently fabricated by the British Intelligence. Russia even went on to say that it has 'irrefutable evidence' to suggest that the incident was 'staged'. A week later, on 14th April 2018, United States together with France and Britain carried out a series of strikes on multiple sites in Syria.

The East Ghouta region has been the target of these attacks for a very long time. Earlier this year, in February, the forces faithful to President Bashar-al-Assad launched an assault on Eastern Ghouta. This attack resulted in the death of more than 1,700 civilians.

After that in March, the troops split the region into three districts (the largest of which was near Douma, home to around 150,000 people). Due to the fact they faced defeat, the rebel groups in the other two districts agreed to be evacuated to Northern Syria. Nevertheless, the group that controlled Douma, Jaysh al-Islam, continued to resist. As a result, on 6th April the air strikes resumed and the negotiations with the government abruptly stalled. The onslaught continued on the second day which led to a dozen or so

casualties before the alleged chemical attack.

Activists from the Violations Documentation Centre (VDC), who record professed violations of international law in Syria, reported two various incidents of bombs believed to contain toxic substances being dropped by the Syrian Air Force.

Hundreds of corpses lay mutilated, besmirching the land of Syria. If the condition doesn't improve, then one day this will be the state of the world, the only difference being the increased number of innocent corpses.

An appeal for peace and justice
The world is passing through turbulent times and the conditions are deteriorating day by day. The world is moving at an unprecedented pace towards the next war. Nuclear weapons are being developed without contemplating the catastrophic effect they will have on the world. If nuclear weapons are utilised, then they will smite every nation with such catastrophe that its effects will be irrevocable. I do not wish to grow up in a world inflicted with sorrow and the devastation of not only nuclear weapons but also guns. This may sound like a cliché, but I want the world to be peaceful, so the current, and especially the future, generations don't have to suffer and live in a world full of affliction.

Everyone is aware of these harsh realities, but no one stops to think about the solutions and what actions could be taken to prevent such crises from arising. We read about horrific incidents in the news everyday (the chemical attack on

Syria being one of them) and after some time, we totally forget about the incidents. We turn our faces away from these bitter realities of life, not because we think that we can't do anything about them, but because we don't want to interfere in other people's matters and also don't want to take any trouble upon ourselves.

Peace and justice can only be restored if we all work together – if we all become united. The voice of a group is much more powerful than the voice of an individual. I urge you all to stop neglecting these incidents and do something about them. Standing up against evil is something which we should establish in our lives because at every step it will be of use to us.

The condition of the world can be improved – it's in the hands of humans to reform themselves and take steps in order to shift the world further from destruction. We need to help each other and eliminate all sorts of vices within us, whether that be greed, anger or cruelty. We must not let injustice take place and must always be ready to protect others if they're in peril.

Instead of leading the world into another world war, our leaders must make maximum efforts to save the world from this global catastrophe – the horrors of another war will be so cataclysmic, that generations and generations to come will be left crippled.

Rameen Masood

The Windrush Scandal

On 22nd June 1948, the HMT Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Docks in Essex. For the passengers aboard the British ship, this marked the beginning of a new, prosperous life, living and working in Britain. The 492 passengers were from Caribbean islands and were part of the Commonwealth. With the labour shortages, because of the Second World War, job opportunities arose for these members of the Commonwealth. This influx of immigrants from countries like Jamaica, Tobago and Trinidad lasted from 1948 up until the 1971 Immigration Act was passed. This act allowed Commonwealth citizens who were already living in the UK to remain, whilst British passport-holders overseas had to prove they had a parent or grandparent born in the UK and they had to possess a work permit.

The problem arose when some families of 'Windrush generation' migrants, despite living and working in the UK for nearly all of their lives, started to face problems like being denied NHS treatment, benefits, pensions, being fired from their jobs or, in some cases, being threatened with deportation. The Home Office did not keep any paperwork confirming the Windrush migrants' legal right to stay. This has made it incredibly difficult for these people to prove that they are legally allowed to live in the UK and has spread anxiety throughout the families of the people from the 'Windrush generation'.

However, Theresa May has apologised and has insisted she is not "clamping down" on Commonwealth citizens. Someone showing their support for the Windrush migrants is Sajid Javid, who has recently replaced Amber Rudd as Home Secretary. As a second generation immigrant himself, he says that he is "angry" over the treatment of those involved and has made "a pledge to those from the Windrush generation who have been in this country for decades and yet have struggled to navigate through the immigration system". He has promised that he "will do whatever it takes to put it right."

On Desolation Row

On March 8th, 2018, Rozzie Rashid and I embarked on a somewhat indescribable journey toward one of the bleakest places this world holds: Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. In preparation for this journey, we also attended two seminars in Nottingham where, amongst other things, we heard a deeply moving account from Janine Webber, a Holocaust survivor, which provided context to our visit, and helped to enrich our understanding of the tragic events beyond a classroom level. On the day itself, following a 4am wake up, a two-and-a-half-hour flight to Krakow, Poland, and a short bus journey, Rozzie and I found ourselves in the town square of Oswiecim, and here we began our descent into a bizarre and dark world, brimming with a dichotomous mix of horror and hope.

Oswiecim was a beautifully ordinary town, colourful and vibrant, containing something that the camp just down the road so horrifically lacked: life. The typical central European architecture and magnificent Catholic church, untouched for a century, bore no scars of war or despair; but behind this luminous façade lay the memory of a hidden hell. Oswiecim is the Polish name for Auschwitz, and in this seemingly lovely town, in the years 1942-45, all the many thousands of Jewish inhabitants were deported and led into slavery by the Nazi invaders. Today, no Jew remains in this town. Now the more I look at the town, the more its colours diminish and fade, the more the town feels skeletal, concealing a secret absence you would not know was there.

Following this interesting introduction, we went into the Auschwitz-I camp itself. I can still picture in my head the chilling message written on the gates, a message so horrendously wicked, I would hope the Devil himself would demand it be torn down: Arbeit Macht Frei – Work Will Set You Free – the most notorious of ironies, and a fitting description for such a depraved, disturbing establishment, representing the gateway to endless suffering. To stand before such a place is to stare Death in the eye, and one cannot help but feel helpless and isolated and experience a sickness of the stomach. To be there was to accept that we humans are capable of such despicable and diabolical acts, and I felt ashamed.

Within the camp itself, we saw photographs taken by the Nazis to document their own atrocities. I shan't delve too deeply into their nature but, from seeing the images, one can immediately, and quite overwhelmingly, grasp the industrialised and systematic nature of the murder of the inmates at these camps. On the walls of the camp were thousands of framed photographs of shaven men, women, and children: Poles, Jews and gypsies, all sentenced to death by labour for no crime other than their ethnicity. In traversing this camp, one can appreciate the true brutality of the Nazis: these ordinary people were killed for the crime of being alive.

To further emphasise the savagery of the Nazi death machine, we were brought to rooms upon rooms of hair and shoes of victims of the camps, recycled by the Nazis and turned into string and materials for the War Effort,

or toys for SS officers' children, conjuring up horrific images of absent-minded children joyfully playing with the stolen toys of Jewish babies, who had been slaughtered amongst the 6 million others. When written down, the death of six million is simply a statistic, unfathomable to the human brain. Even after visiting Auschwitz and exploring the worst of human immorality, I can still find it difficult to comprehend such evil, and no matter how greatly I ponder and study the Holocaust, I will never be able to understand the physical juxtaposition of the gas chambers, and the family house of the camp commander Rudolph Hess. I am left to conclude that, in such a place as Auschwitz, evil is commended, horror is savoured, love is synonymous with hate, and freedom is the laughable dream of a foolish wonderer, his imagination the only thing not constrained by the bars on the windows and the barbed wire wrapped around the fences.

The final area we visited was Auschwitz-Birkenau, with its iconic railway line entrance where 1,300,000 Jews were brought in: over one million of these never returned home. Here, we saw the cramped, dirty and disgusting living conditions of the camp inmates, and saw the toilets: rows upon rows of holes in the ground. Here, I sensed the tangible presence of death and despair everywhere.

At this camp, however, I had one of the most strange and beautiful experiences of my life, one which will stay with me forever. Our group was sitting on the steps of a memorial at the camp, whilst our educator read to us the testimony of a Holocaust survivor, a piece of writing he had composed despite suffering under the harshest of conditions known to Man, and which he had hidden under the ground in the blind hope that one day someone might liberate that horrible piece of earth and find it. He talked of our duty to remember the event: "But you, unknown "free" citizen of the

world," he wrote, "I beg you to shed a tear for them when you have their pictures before your eyes." Whilst hearing these wondrous words, a group of Hasidic Jews were singing a beautiful Kaddish (a Jewish prayer) and the golden orange sun was setting behind the trees. In that moment, despite being on such scarred and bloody ground, I came to feel a wave of hope flow over me, a realisation that one man amongst all the infinities of this world is nothing, and that only through the spreading this message, and uniting, can we strive to achieve a better world and dispel the thought of Georg Hegel that, "We learn from history that we do not learn from history."

If ever one of you is given the opportunity to visit Auschwitz, I would hesitate to accept it. I warn you that it is not a place for everyone, and that there is no happiness to be found there. Although I now have my own testimony, and I am privileged to say, "I was there", I come away from this experience with a lack of clarity of mind, and with a harsh re-appreciation of my own life. I may often complain of the inconveniences of a first-world life, but I now realise, quite nihilistically, that all I am, all I have learnt, and all I could ever dream of knowing, may fit through the eye of the needle.

By Will Peet



Net Neutrality

Net Neutrality is the law that the government uses to make sure Internet Service Providers treat all forms of data the same, do not differentiate by users, or charge by company. This prevents the concept of fast and slow lanes on the internet. This means the internet is an even playing field: we all have freedom to access data without it being blocked or slowed down, and freedom to upload data onto the internet without being charged for faster connection.

Without Net Neutrality, the internet would change for the worse. Unfortunately, in the United States the Federal Communications Commission has passed a vote, three to two in favour, in order to kill Net Neutrality. This has led to riots and a series of battles on the internet which can be named 'Net Neutrality Wars'. The removal of Net Neutrality will occur around the 25th April. What if something happens in the UK Parliament that results in a vote removing Net Neutrality? What would we lose as a result?

Allow me to paint a picture of an internet without Net Neutrality. The base price of the package you pay for is £20 monthly. You wake up and find that your ISP (Internet Service Provider) has blocked your access to many features. So when you decide to go and see the news online, it is blocked. You have to pay an extra £5 monthly to access the news, to read the latest from BBC, the Guardian, the Times, and more. Fair enough, you fork out the extra money. You go onto Reddit, but alas there is another paywall. Pay just £10 a month to go onto entertaining websites such as Reddit and more! Thus, you hand over even more money. Next, how about some YouTube? No, paywall. £10 to access services such as YouTube, Netflix, Hulu and more! This time it is optional though. However, if you do not pay, you get a slow connection, and you receive long bouts of buffering between videos or even in videos. "Insanity!" you may be thinking, so you head over to complain on social media. You head onto

Facebook, but it is blocked yet again. £5 to access Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and more. You decide to pay access to all these features, which adds up to a total of £50 extra a month or £600 a year. These paywalls sound ludicrous, but without Net Neutrality it may become a reality. Why? Simple, it's business. If a company, in this case an ISP, is free to add paywalls to the internet, this could amount to billions of profit yearly. If three-quarters of Americans who have internet access pay, it

would result in £114.6 billion in profit in a year. Even if only 1% pay, they still earn 1.8 billion yearly. The amount of money to be earned is so incredibly high, it is sure to lead to actions motivated by pure greed.

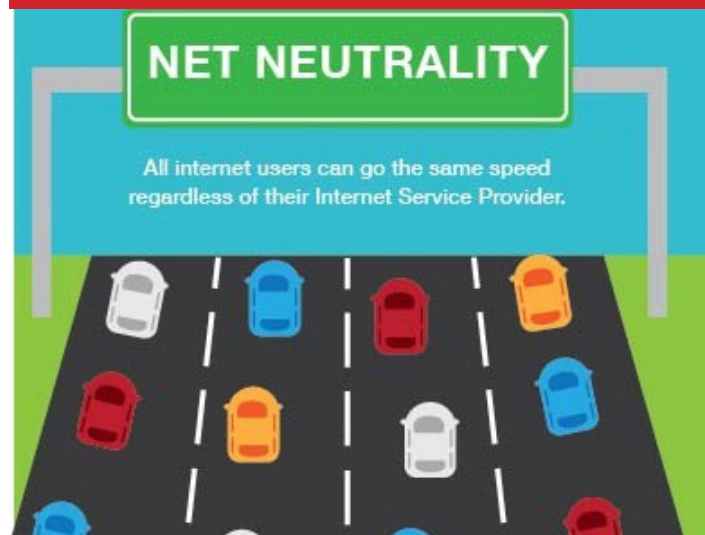
The paywalls could be just the beginning. I said before that if you choose not to pay for YouTube/Netflix access you will have incredibly weak connections. This idea is the Fast Lane and Slow Lane concept. With Net Neutrality, everyone is allowed to have an equal speed of access to data, meaning nobody has to pay extra for faster connections, regardless of the ISP. However, with Net Neutrality gone, this isn't the case anymore. ISPs could create Fast and Slow lanes. Those who can afford to pay for faster connection can have faster access to websites and overall faster internet speed, however those who cannot or will not pay would be stuck with slower connections, meaning an increase of buffering. If a website wants an ISP to not slow down access to their website however, they would have to still pay a massive sum of money to the ISP. While ISPs claim they would never throttle internet speed for certain websites, this is a pure lie: we have already seen them do so. The ISP Comcast slowed down connections to Netflix during 2014 and sped up their own internet streaming service to get more ad revenue. Netflix has to pay from \$25 million to \$50 million yearly in order to keep their internet speed for consumers even. It was a win-win situation for

Comcast, either consumers would go onto their streaming service and they would earn more money via there, or Netflix would pay Comcast a large amount of money to sustain their internet speed. If this isn't evidence for ISPs throttling internet speed for companies, then what is?

Another major issue, if Net Neutrality vanishes from Britain, is how ISPs can block content entirely. Without Net Neutrality, ISPs are free to block access to websites or companies which challenge what an ISP is doing. Then all the ISP has to do is block all access to the website or force it to take down what it has said. Net Neutrality allows everyone to access all data without any of it being blocked by an ISP's will. Forcefully blocking of content had been described not only as an offence of the American First Amendment, the right of freedom of speech, but has been taken as far as being a violation of Human Rights because of how it takes away the freedom of speech and the freedom of access, which many consider a Human Right.

As we still have Net Neutrality, we have access to any data without it being slowed down, blocked, or made difficult to access. Buying a package from an ISP today should mean that you get the entire internet in your hands without the ISP denying data or even access of data. Simply, Net Neutrality makes the internet an even playing field for everyone, every consumer and company. Without Net Neutrality, the internet will change, very much, for the worse and will no longer be the same as we know it to be.

Mahad Adeel.



My Work Experience at a Law Firm

In the February half-term, I undertook a work experience placement with a leading law firm in Leicester, ZMS Solicitors. This placement was an invaluable experience, with my office skills being second to none by the end of the week! I learnt how to file efficiently, carry out legal research and take legal notes during a trial. Perhaps the most eye-opening encounter, however, was one that Leicester residents might have seen and read about in the news. On the 14th February, 2018, the barristers' robing room was eerily calm, despite a man attempting suicide in the courtroom I had been in five minutes earlier.

He had been convicted and found guilty of sexually abusing his six-year-old daughter. It seems that this was as routine as the sun coming up in the morning in the legal world, with even the Leicester Crown Court's security guard telling me that he'd seen worse. I didn't know what to feel; all I knew was relief that I hadn't been in the courtroom at the time.

It truly highlighted the flaws of the legal system, particularly regarding security. After all, how HAD he managed to smuggle a razor blade into court? Considering he was already serving a seven-year prison sentence, the effectiveness of security checks is open to debate. His defence barrister, Mark McDonald, said his client maintained his innocence and was a "mentally fragile and broken man". If this is true, then the system failed in protecting him from himself and others. If it is not true, it highlights an issue of either a wrong verdict or an individual's refusal to face justice.

For me, it was the most educational, and distressing, event of the week. But I'm glad it happened. As you would expect, there is something humbling when you are at the scene of a news story, rather than reading about it in the paper. It opened my mind to wider issues and debate, including mental health which is something I had not explored before. Most importantly, it encouraged me even more in my ambition to go into Law. The field is intellectually challenging, ethically controversial, and is rooted in reality.

Sana Sajid

Carnegie Shadows

A heavy thud resounds from the top of the Library's winding staircase. There is a rasp of tape being ripped off a cardboard box - followed by an explosion of colour and words - as the books for this year's Carnegie Medal are revealed. Beginning with Arthur Ransome's 'Pigeon Post' in 1936, the Medal is considered the most prestigious award for authors of children and young adults' literature. While the Library rumbles and roars with life down below, you will find a group of fellow bookworms snuggling up against homemade cushions, engrossed in this year's shortlist.

According to CILIP, the organisation that determines the final Carnegie winner, "The whole work should provide pleasure, not merely from the surface enjoyment of a good read, but also the deeper subconscious satisfaction of having gone through a vicarious, but at the time of reading, a real experience that is retained afterwards."

The Carnegie shortlist is the bookworm's equivalent of Russian Roulette. Every year, you can be certain of encountering a book that you might never pick up otherwise. Before I embarked on reading the shortlist, I would pride myself on being cover-blind; this is where I would fulfil the literary cliché of not "judging a book by its cover". However, this year's shortlist has challenged me to take this a step further, adopting the attitude of not even judging a book by its blurb. They seem characteristically vague, elusive, enticing - perfect for throwing yourself into the deep end of a vast and churning ocean of ideas.

One of Carnegie's greatest strengths is the variety of its titles. From the remote rain-sodden islands of Scotland in the 1700s to modern American suburbs, readers are brought to consider challenging and topical themes from around the world. Because the book must have been written within the previous school year, it is almost certain that the issues tackled will be pertinent to today's society - even if they are set in the 1700s. 'Saint Death', for example, is ingenious in the way it brings us to consider a different perspective. The reader sees the reality of life at the Mexican-American border, and how America's domination has impacted upon the lives and thoughts of the people "on the other side".

'It would be easier to say it's about them... It's about us.'

('Saint Death' by Marcus Sedgewick)

The defining feature of the shortlist is that it caters for a wide variety of mind-sets - especially those that may be assailing the adolescent mind. 'Saint Death' brings a tone of bleak pessimism, perfect for the nihilistic teens among us, whereas 'Release' addresses this angst in the form of an identity crisis. 'Where the World Ends' interprets this teenage "quest for the self" through the way the characters question authority figures. Despite the breadth of plots and

However, the system is not without its flaws. The Medal specifies its audience to be "children or young adults". It doesn't take much to see just what an immense age range this is. The period of time between infancy and adulthood is inherently unique, in that just a couple of years can vastly alter what a young person values and prioritises in their life. This makes a large difference in the sorts of themes that these readers engage with, and therefore which aspect of a book should be prioritised in the judging process. Such wide variation in interests and maturity among young people may mean that the current Carnegie audience is too broad. For example, several titles do require a degree of maturity to fully grasp the writer's reasons for including disturbing or complex content. 'After the Fire', for example, recounts the story of a young woman who (up to that point) had spent her whole life in an extreme religious cult; this may require a deeper awareness of religion to fully appreciate the subtleties in the words of her pastor. This is not to be confused with the intelligence of the reader; younger readers may simply have less experience of disturbing content, which may reduce their enjoyment of the book as a whole. Indeed, due to the often mysterious blurbs found on Carnegie books, readers may not be aware of just how profane their contents may be (cue painful flashbacks to last year's 'Beck' by Mal Peet and Meg Rosoff).

To some extent, a feeling of discomfort is how the frontiers of literature are extended, and how awareness can be raised of otherwise taboo issues. It brings to mind the idea of free speech - fully accepting it requires the tolerance of ideas we might disagree with or find unpleasant. Whilst a definition of "unpleasant" or "inappropriate" does exist in the dictionary, in reality each person will have their own interpretation of these words. Whilst it is important that reading remains a two-way road, there is only so much that the organisation can do in ensuring its titles are enjoyable and challenging - because they will be perceived differently by every reader.

There have been several amendments suggested: the prize could be split into Child and Adolescent categories, or a recommended age could be set for each book to inform readers for whom content might be of concern. Alternatively, the readers could choose the longlist, with the ultimate winner being decided by the experts. That said, a perfect system adorned with unicorns and rainbows cannot exist, and the one that is currently in place has proved influential and inspirational for many.

There are awesome adventures to be had - both within the books, and outside of them too. Fellow bookworms are brought together from all across the year groups, with vastly differing book preferences. Debates have become quite heated at times, and they have certainly inspired me to look further afield from my own sphere of reading. Thanks in particular go to Mrs Midgeley, Mrs Ingham and Mrs Kendall for facilitating this scheme. I will miss the Carnegie community dearly as I move on to university, and I wish them every success in their upcoming endeavours.

Maria Hancock

At the Cinema

Ready Player One

'Ready Player One' is the latest film from Steven Spielberg and it is one to watch. I am a geek, so I completely fell in love with this movie but I'll try not to be biased. The story follows the life of a young man, in a future world, called Wade Watts, who finds his escape from reality, like everyone else, in the 'Oasis', an expansive virtual reality universe where you can be anyone or anything you want. So, players' avatars are all characters from pop culture, such as video games, movies, comics, and they are able to use matching vehicles as well. It is pure eye candy for anyone who was a kid in the 80's, as this retro-style movie is filled to the brim with 'Easter Eggs' from pop culture. There are superheroes, cartoon characters, ninjas, giant robots, monsters, giant robot monsters, DeLoreans and killer puppets, by which I mean Chucky. It also includes some advice about the dangers of cooperative gaming, and how you shouldn't give your name out to people that you haven't met. It is a science-fiction and action and fantasy movie, but it also has some horror, which I wasn't expecting and I recommend that viewers watch 'The Shining' before going to watch this. Everything was awesome inside the 'Oasis' but on the outside, in reality, it got a little boring; it wasn't as exciting as when they were in the 'Oasis' and most of it didn't need to happen at all. Overall, I wouldn't bat an eyelid if someone just went to see this to watch his or her favourite characters come alive, and not for a plotted story about a gamer.



Pacific Rim: Uprising

If you have seen the first 'Pacific Rim', you would probably agree that it was a pretty good 'Giant Robots vs Giant Monsters' movie. This one wasn't. 'Uprising' does, however have some awesome, original ideas for a sequel: robot vs robot - or as they are called in the movie, 'Jaegers', new villains that were good guys in the last films and reasons for the monsters coming in the first place. However, all readers should note: idea and plot. Not the same thing. Though these new and original ideas were good, the actual plot was carried out awfully. There really wasn't much of a plot, but what remnants there were sped along really quickly and the overall pacing was so fast it was like Roadrunner wrote the script. At one point, the good guys have just come out of a fight, they talk for about thirty seconds and figure something, before going off and fighting again. The conversations they have together are of no importance, only filled with childish humour, and only in the fight scenes do important things happen. In 'Pacific Rim', the Jaeger pilots are all mature adults who have trained for years, however in 'Uprising' they're all about twenty apart from two. Plus, in the final fight scene, all of their Jaegers are destroyed, but only one of the pilots dies whereas in the prequel, almost all of the pilots die when they lose their robots. Plus, all the robot names are dumb, like 'Titan Redeemer' or 'Gypsy Danger'. Overall, 'Uprising' pays no homage to the original, but is a decent film if you feel like sitting down and binging a light action movie.



Thomas Mann

Interview with Dr Whittle

As we're sure you're aware Dr Whittle is leaving at the end of this academic year - his post as Director of Music will be assigned to Mr Barker. We asked him a few questions related to his departure:

How long have you been teaching at LGS?

'I have been teaching at LGS for thirty-two years now at the end of this academic year!'

How would you describe your time at LGS in a few words?

'I think I would choose: Musical and Fulfilling'.

What was your favourite memory at LGS?

Wow – I think it must be the time the LGS folk group went up to St Andrew's (when the headmaster was the head of the HMC), but there are so many other things as well as this.

What are you going to do after LGS?

Well – more of the things I haven't been doing really, birdwatching, maybe write another book.

Was teaching at LGS your first teaching job?

No – I had one at a boarding school in Devon for nearly seven years!

What will you miss most after leaving LGS?

Definitely the pupils: they're really fun to work with and make teaching fun!

As you can see from Dr Whittle's answers he is very dedicated to his department and loves his subject which makes him a great conductor and teacher. If you didn't know, he conducts First Orchestra, the Big Band, Folk Group, and also comes to play alongside the pupils on his many instruments.

What was your favourite duty at LGS?

Well, taking the musical ensembles – but this depends on the day.

What is your favourite piece of music?

This too depends on the day and my mood, but today it is anything by Bach!

What is your favourite instrument?

Difficult – but if I had to choose, it would be the piano.

What do you think you have given to the LGS Community?

I hope that I have given people the opportunity to participate in a range of different ensembles and include as many people as possible into music.

Dr Whittle has worked tirelessly and with great experience to help the music department of LGS run smoothly. We wish him a happy retirement and we look forward to seeing another book from him.

Travel Survey Review

Thank you to everyone who participated in the travel survey just before Easter.

In terms of headlines, it's really that bus travel remains popular, with 415 (mainly LGS) pupils having a bus pass during the Lent term 2018, in line with previous years. There are relatively low levels of car sharing between families, resulting in a lot of pupils arriving at school one child per car, or at least one family per car. If more parents could consider who lives nearby (Formlink should help with this) and what opportunities there are for occasional or regular lift sharing that would save time for busy parents as well as easing congestion.

Overall there was an 86% response across the three groups (LGS pupils, LGJS pupils, staff) which provides very useful data. This level of response is broadly in line with the previous year. 1,225 staff and pupils filled in the travel questionnaire. Some of you may be interested to see the results of the survey.

Car travel is still unsurprisingly by far the most common form of transport, especially for LGJS pupils and for staff. Overall, 75% of those who took part in the survey had travelled to school by car that morning, almost unchanged from the previous year. This remains a high figure and one which we need to work to reduce, given the congestion on the drive and the negative impact which car travel has on the environment. 95% of LGJS pupils and 97% of staff arrived at school by car on the day of the survey, and 60% of LGS pupils. Those LGS pupils who had not travelled by car were predominantly using the School Bus. 274 pupils arrived at school by bus on the day of the survey (prior year: 260). It remains the case that significantly fewer pupils were on the bus on the day than had paid for a bus pass though, due to families paying for a weekly pass and using it on the days when bus travel is most convenient. 415 pupils currently have a daily bus pass, in line with previous years.

The amount of car sharing between families has fallen again for the third consecutive year. It is not clear why this is happening, but it is a cause for concern because less car sharing results in more traffic on the site. 560 staff and pupils said there was someone else in the car with them (prior year: 525). This is positive, although this is predominantly due to family groups travelling together.

Of those pupils who arrived by car with someone else in the car with them, only 99 pupils said they shared a car with pupils from another family (prior year: 187). This is a significant drop. No staff gave a lift to any pupils other than their own children.

Walking, cycling and the public bus remain the form of transport used by only a relatively small number of pupils and staff. There is no significant fluctuation year on year in the number of pupils and staff travelling by these means.

Sixth Form drivers – 40 Sixth Formers said they sometimes/regularly drive to school. This is a reduction compared to the prior year, when 49 were driving. Of those pupils who drive, most (37) usually carry one or more passengers. Only three (8%) do not usually carry a passenger. Of staff who drive to work 108 (77%) do not usually carry any passengers.

Overall this is a fairly stable picture compared to 2017. The largest shift in absolute terms is the decline in car sharing between families. This is a cause for concern given the limited capacity of the car park, both in terms of how many cars can park and also the impact of large numbers of vehicles entering and leaving at peak times. If all drivers – parents and staff - lift shared for just one day per week the amount of traffic on site would reduce very significantly.

Mrs Shakespeare

The 2018 Classics trip to Italy

On the first week of the Easter Holiday, a group of forty students and four teachers went on a trip to Italy. We visited many historical sites across two different areas across two different regions in Italy, and learned a great amount about the culture and lives of those who lived over two thousand years before us.

The trip began with a very early start, 4:30 AM to be exact, and was followed by a long journey to an airport, which allowed us to catch up on some much needed rest, then across to Rome, our first destination. Swiftly after arriving in Italy, we dived straight into the rich archaeology of the area with a visit to (Ancient) Ostia, a fishing town in Ancient times, and a stop for anyone on the road into the city of Rome. For this reason, we learned, many rich Romans would spend vast amounts of money on tombs for their families and themselves to be positioned along this road through Ostia, so that anyone travelling to and from Rome might see it and notice their riches, and generosity.

The main highlight of visiting Rome was of course the Colosseum. It is probably the most famous ancient structure in the entire world, and you can definitely see why after a visit. Even from just the outside, the sheer size of it is enough to amaze anyone, and it only gets better after getting in. From the vastness of both the height and circumference, to the complexity of the mazes in the centre, it is one of the most mind-blowing things I've ever experienced. It was also astounding to see how advanced the architecture and engineering of the Romans was, despite how long ago they were alive.

Mid-way through the week, we moved out of

Rome and entered the Bay of Naples, an area famous for Ancient ruins. The main focus of the second half of our trip was,

unsurprisingly, the disaster of Vesuvius. We started by spending a day in the famous town of Pompeii, my personal favourite site of the entire trip. Unlike the architecture in Rome, although amazing to marvel at, Pompeii gave a proper look into the lives of the normal people in Ancient Italy. In addition to this, it was incredibly well-preserved, giving an even more accurate representation of how people lived in the Roman Empire, along with allowing you to imagine people walking round the town, sitting at home or going to the theatre and living their everyday lives - just like you and me do some two thousand years later. Another similar site we visited was Herculaneum, which was much closer to the volcano when it erupted, and so much better preserved. However I found it slightly harder to tell where you were in the town, and it lacked things that made Pompeii really stand out, like an amphitheatre. Having said that, it was still an amazing sight to behold, especially the infamous "boathouses" containing the impeccably preserved human skeletons of the locals of Herculaneum attempting to escape their inevitable doom.

To sum up, the Italy trip has been both one of the most informative and one of the most enjoyable trips I have ever been on, and I can't wait for the next Classics trip in a few years' time!

Matthew Ainge

Enrichment

At the beginning of this last academic year an after-school activity called Enrichment was named in the notices. The notice said that Enrichment was starting back up in this new year. The first session brought only four new members to the already very small group of 'Enriched' students. However, not one of the new arrivals left with a frown on their face.

The first topic of the year was about the Grecian civilization. We learned about some of the fascinating history of Ancient Greece and this led to a discussion about the ingenious philosophers of that time and the social and political conundrums that they faced and worked through. We discussed the still ongoing debate of whether Nero truly played his harp while Rome burned or, rather, whether he actually played a part in the burning of the city. The Classical era was undoubtedly one of the most interesting topics and it spanned multiple sessions due to the sheer amount of influence this epoch has had upon our own time.

We studied the likes of Socrates and Plato, and especially Aristotle and his pupil, Alexander the Great. This entailed a discussion of the relationships between philosophy and leadership, how they influenced each other and the modern day. This was one of the most relevant topics for both now and in the future, seeing how certain people could affect the thoughts of both the leaders of nations and the populous, improving lives millennia after their bodies have left this world. It was amazing to study the minds of those long gone and to consider how their ideas changed their worlds and influenced the millennia to come. In later sessions we found ourselves enthralled by the Renaissance with discussions of the golden ratio where the fundamentals of Maths and Art combine. Again, it was fascinating to consider how the vision of artists such as Da Vinci and Michaelangelo still capture the imagination in a world so very different from their own. From there, we talked about the Enlightenment and how it changed history. We discussed how Reason and Rational debate led us out of "the dark ages" where the Church dominated all major thinking. We investigated how the great minds of

the era discussed major issues like the separation of Church and State and deliberated over the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

The next topic that we looked at was Pop Culture, through the previous hundred years. We learned about the socio-economic conditions that help to shift and change what is considered popular and how new technology changed the world in ways that people, even half a century ago, could never even have imagined. We looked at how these celebrities changed with the times, during the post war they were solid and dependable but suddenly, in the crazy and rebellious world of the sixties, they were high flying, quick burning, and short living (A lot of them died before they hit thirty!). We then went on to discuss how the world reacted to major moments, which now hold incredible historical significance, like the Civil Rights movement of 1954-1968, and the lengthy Cold War.

During one of the final sessions of the year, we had a special visit from Peter Barlev, one of the Sixth Form. He started by asking us one question: "Can humans evolve and, if so, how will that occur?" He began the presentation by looking at what evolution really is and how human evolution differs from other animals, leading us back to the question he asked us at the start. He talked to us about how we might evolve further or, rather, exploit the genetics behind evolution; he even talked about artificial evolution and how scientists are researching this field. It would be an understatement to say that we were all amazed by this, and to learn that people are developing existing technology that is able to alter the genetics of an embryo. He extrapolated present research even further, to the point where we might be able to control at least the Nature part of the phrase Nature and Nurture.

All in all, it has been a truly captivating year for those involved with Enrichment and it has been an experience we will be looking forward to having again in the next academic year.

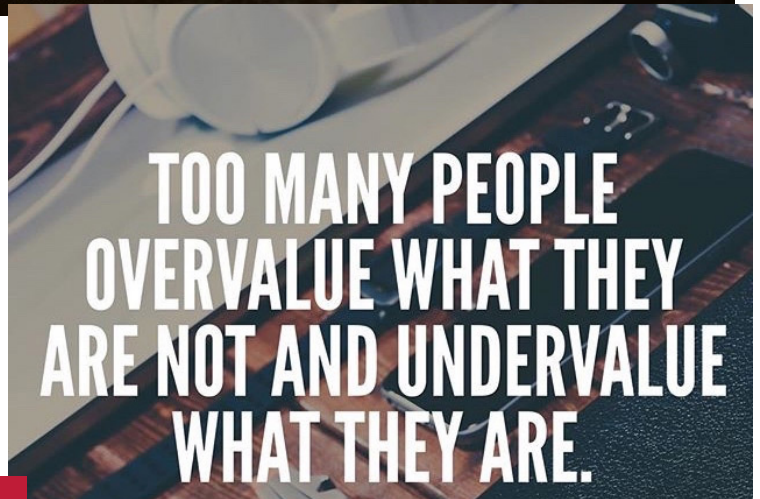
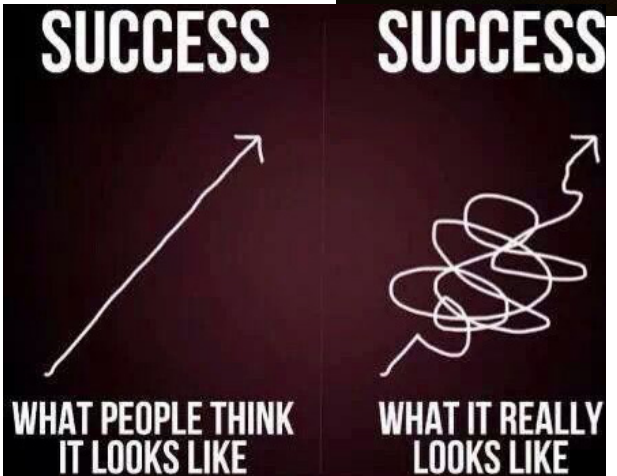
Rayhaan Giga and Thomas Pearl

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Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world.

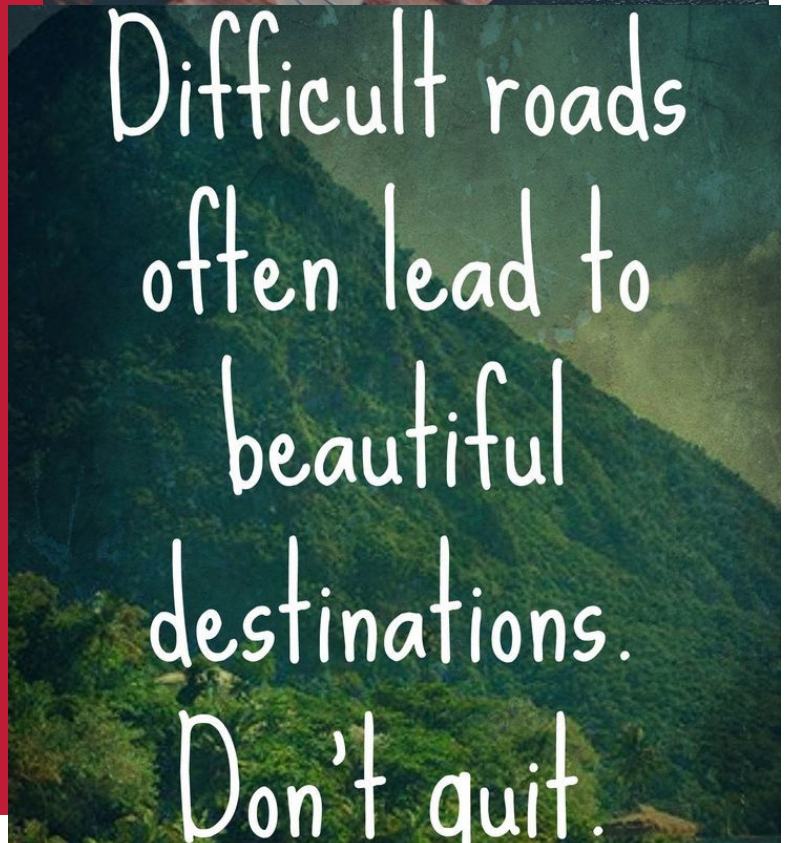
Nelson Mandela



TOO MANY PEOPLE OVERVALUE WHAT THEY ARE NOT AND UNDERVALUE WHAT THEY ARE.

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

Winston Churchill



Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations.
Don't quit.