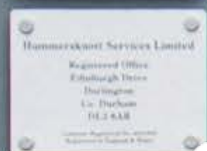


HUMMERSKNOTT ACADEMICAL

JULY 24

SHINE SCHOOL MEDIA AWARDS | BEST NEWSPAPER 2024

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Keep clear

Mr Merifield is heading off

We bid a fond farewell to an
unforgettable Head of School

HUMMERSKNOTT'S Head of School has announced his retirement. Mr Merifield has declared he will step down this summer after 33 years of teaching. He has held the role since

2020, having previously served as Vice-Principal. Executive Principal, Mr Keating, will take over the role until a new Head of School is appointed.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3



Press Team

Editors

Olivia Smith
Jack Machin

Chief Reporters

Holly Brown
Megan Hughes

Senior Reporters

Hannah Smith
Holly Cherrie
Yasmin Trebilco
Ella Smith

Politics Reporter

Benji Tait

Travel Reporter

Alfie Webster

Reporters

Autumn Watson
Ayden Smith
Carys Hopkins
Elspeth Robertson
Emmie Todd
Esther Schilbach
Helen Rahimi
Isaac Pocklington
Isabel Baker
Marshall Walker
Max Jones

Astrologist

Lucas Jackson-Arye

Photographer

Jack Brown

Contributors

Mr Virot
Mr Tatham

Special Thanks

Mr Webber

With support from
Barron Media



Editors' Comment



HELLO reader!
We are excited to share that we are now Co-Editors in Chief of the Hummersknott Academical Newspaper!

We are looking forward to continuing to bring the latest local, national, and global news at the now *award-winning standard* we have established in previous years.

We have welcomed many new members to our team for this edition, and we are thrilled to be working with such talented young journalists to help us produce our paper.

We have also re-modelled our team structure, and would like to congratulate our new senior staff and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

In this edition, we will explore many new topics, including fashion and beauty, as well as a new gaming page – courtesy of Ayden Smith – and a refreshed travel section, where Alfie Webster will be taking over from Lucy Harrison.

Many familiar pages will also be back, in this or future issues, including Lucas Jack-

son-Ayre's popular Horoscopes, Machin Music, Sporting Achievements, and Inspiring Us.

We hope to uphold the integrity you've come to expect of this publication, whilst evolving it over by including new concepts and ideas.

We would also like to thank our departing colleagues as they leave Hummersknott and the news team for new adventures, and wish them good luck.

In particular, we want to applaud our outgoing editor, Owen Ovens, who not only led our newspaper to national recognition and an award-winning standard, but was also nominated for both The Terry Mansfield Award, and Scoop of the Year at this year's prestigious Shine Media Awards.

We cannot wait to share this edition with you, and thank you so much for reading the Hummersknott Academical!

Olivia Smith
Jack Machin

Clubs and activities

DAY	START TIME	END TIME	CLUB
MON	8:00am	9:00am	Basketball
	8:00am	9:00am	Swimming - Improver/Advanced
	8:15am	9:00am	Choir
	12:15am	11:10pm	Choir (KS4)
TUE	8:00am	8:45am	Boys Football
	8:00am	9:00am	Dance
	8:00am	9:00am	Swimming - Improver/Advanced
	8:15am	9:00am	Drama Club
	11:15am	11:45am	Art Club
	11:15am	12:15pm	Choir (KS3)
	11:15am	11:45am	Pen Pal Club (Week A)
	11:45am	12:15pm	German Homework Club
	3:15pm	5:45pm	Badminton
	3:15pm	4:00pm	Creative Writing - Week A
	3:15pm	4:15pm	Gardening Club
	3:15pm	4:15pm	Girls Water Polo
WED	3:15pm	4:00pm	Learning Support Homework Club
	3:30pm	4:15pm	Girls Rugby (Autumn and Spring terms only)
	8:00am	9:00am	Girls Football
	8:00am	9:00am	Swimming - Improver/Advanced
	8:15am	9:00am	Dance
	11:15am	11:45am	Geek! Board Game Club
	12:15pm	1:10pm	Music Show Soloists
	12:15pm	1:10pm	Choir - Week B
	3:15pm	4:00pm	Learning Support Homework Club
	3:15pm	4:15pm	Maths & English Homework Club
	3:15pm	4:15pm	Netball
	3:15pm	4:15pm	Reading Group (KS3)
THU	3:15pm	4:15pm	School Newspaper
	3:15pm	4:15pm	Swimming - Beginner/Improver
	3:15pm	4:30pm	STEM Club
	3:30pm	4:30pm	National Teen Book Club
	8:00am	9:00am	Hockey
	8:15am	9:00am	Orchestra
	8:00am	9:00am	Swimming GCSE PE
	11:15am	11:45am	Photography/Film-making - Week B
	12:15pm	1:10pm	Spanish Homework Club - Week A
	12:45pm	1:10pm	German Homework Club
	3:15pm	4:15pm	Boys Water Polo
	3:15pm	4:15pm	Debating Club
FRI	3:15pm	4:15pm	French Book Club
	3:15pm	4:00pm	ICT Club
	3:15pm	4:00pm	Learning Support Homework Club
	3:15pm	4:30pm	Table Tennis Club
	8:00am	9:00am	Trampolining
	8:15am	9:00am	Band
	12:45pm	1:10pm	French Homework Club - Week B
	3:15pm	5:45pm	Badminton

Term and holiday dates

Holiday

Summer 2024

Autumn Half Term 2024

School Closure Day 2024

Christmas 2024

Spring Half Term 2025

Closing Date

Friday 19 July 2024

Friday 25 October 2024

Thursday 28 November 2024

Friday 20 December 2024

Friday 21 February 2025

Re-opening for teaching

Wednesday 4 September 2024

Monday 4 November 2024

Monday 2 December 2024

Tuesday 7 January 2025

Monday 3 March 2025

Mr Merifield looks forward to a rest after 33 years teaching

After taking on the role of Head of School in 2022, Mr Merifield has made the decision to retire from working at Hummersknott, effective from September. Mr Keating will be assuming this position, until a permanent successor is appointed going into 2025.

Olivia Smith and Jack Machin caught up with Mr. Merifield for one final time to discuss what he enjoyed about his thirty-three years here, how the school has altered in this time, and what he is looking forward to in the future...



What drew you to work at Hummersknott in the first place?

I was just starting out in teaching. I was up in Durham – I originally come from Chesterfield, but I went to University in Durham, and the Hummersknott interview came up.

To be honest, I wasn't massively keen on working in Darlington! I didn't know the area at all, but I got the job, and I've been here ever since. Really, it was a happy accident!

What has been your favourite part of the past thirty-three years?

It has all been fantastic. Teaching is the sort of job where it's never the same from minute to minute. The best thing has always been the people and the students I've worked with, because they are an incredible bunch.

We've learned plenty here, but what has working at Hummersknott taught you?

It's a cliché that every day is a school day, but you do learn something new every day.

As a teacher, you learn from your students, and you learn about their life experiences and their aspirations. I have said it before, but my favourite part of the year is when Year 9 choose their options, because I get to find out the amazing dreams that everybody has and what they want to do.

If you come to school not ex-

pecting to learn something, then you have probably been in the job too long! I don't think there has ever been a day where I haven't learned something about myself.

What different roles have you played here?

I started as an English teacher, then looked after the library for a bit.

I ran a media studies course a long time ago, with the head of English from what is now St. Aidan's.

I then became a Deputy Head of House, which is what we had before the college system, and then became a Head of House for House Dunelm, which was one of the original houses before the college system.

I became Assistant Principal, then Head, so I have always had a new job to do.

I still miss teaching day-to-day, I enjoy being in the classroom. Every teacher will tell you they like being in the classroom more than anything.

The Head of House and the Deputy Head of House are really interesting because I was solving people's problems. Then being in the Senior Leadership Team has been a completely different challenge again.

My least favourite part of the job has always been when you have to treat young people like children, and go back to just teaching the rules. This job is about expanding children's future, but sometimes you have to respond

in a certain way to how students behave, and that's my least favourite part of any job. It has to be done, but I don't think any teacher enjoys that.

What will you miss the most about working here?

The people I work with, the students, and seeing what you're all going to do next. There was never gonna be an easy time to leave. People have said some lovely things like "Why couldn't you leave it another year?!"

It has been a pleasure to serve a community and to be able to see those people grow up and bring their own children to the school. If you see somebody who came through the school twenty or thirty years ago trusting this school with their own children's education, that's a massive vote of confidence.

At parents' evenings, I'll feel old because I'll meet former pupils with their own children – they'll be showing their kids their names on the Honours Boards! I think I knew it was time to go when I called a student in Year 11 by his dad's name!

Has Hummersknott changed in your time here?

Massively. It's not only a totally different building to the one I started in, but education has changed unrecognisably.

Teaching is a very different profession now. Demands on students have become greater and greater.

When I started, it was 100 per cent coursework for English. Now it has gone completely the other way to 100 per cent based on exams. The whole education system has changed, and it never stays still.

But now the expectations for both teachers and students are much higher than ever before.

What changes would you like to see in the future?

I think Hummersknott will go from strength to strength. As long as this place keeps

giving students a choice in what they want to do in life, and helping them to realise those choices, then we can only get better.

But the exciting thing will always be the same: seeing students achieve what they want to in life. That's what schools are all about.

What are you most looking forward to in retirement?

Sunday afternoons and not having to think about having to go to school the next day! As a child, you always think about going back to school every Monday morning – and then becoming a teacher meant I had to feel that same way every Sunday!

But we also want to stay active, and I can't imagine doing anything without a structure, so I'll look around and see what's out there.

What does the future hold for Hummersknott?

Mr Keating will step back into the role until Christmas, so there'll be a familiar face and a steady pair of hands running things, and a new Head will take over after Christmas.

It will be nice for Hummersknott to have a fresh pair of eyes, and for somebody to come in and feel what a joyous job it is to work here.

Any last words for the students you're leaving behind?

Just good luck to everybody and keep doing what you do, because you are an incredible bunch of people. Believe in yourselves.

The students that I have seen achieve great things have been those who have realised that they CAN do it. The very best teachers inspire young people to believe that they can achieve.

Every student has incredible talents, it's just finding what those are and enabling someone to see how they can use them.

So, my advice would always be to find what it is you love doing, believe in yourself, and just go for it!

Miss Jackson's desert run raises thousands of pounds



by Esther Schilbach

OUR amazing Geography teacher Miss Jackson has raised thousands by running in the Marathon Des Sables 2024.

The Marathon Des Sables is organized by Atlantide Organization International and is a foot race that you can run, walk or freestyle, with a total distance of 250km. Everyone must carry their own backpack containing food, sleeping gear, and other essentials.

Miss Jackson arrived in Morocco on the April 12, and on April 14 the race started off. She withdrew from the race on Day 5 – April 18 – because of nausea and vomiting from the intense heat and hellish conditions, but still managed to cover more than 180km! She ran in aid of Children's Cancer North after her

friend's child sadly passed away, raising a whopping £4,031 for this amazing cause.

When crossed the finished line, the desert temperature was at a massive 44 degrees centigrade, and Mrs. Jackson's temperature was not much lower at 39.8! There were prizes for first, second and third individuals and teams.

About 900 people ran the race.

Miss Jackson said: "The hardest bit was dealing with the intense heat. There was no shade, we were walking through the sand dunes, so the heat comes down, hits the sand then reflects back up and you're just stood there cooking like a turkey. "My favourite bit was being with my friends, Claire

and Olivia and having an absolute giggle. You are really stripped bare of all of your material possessions, and you really do live off everything in your backpack. "There really are no worries other than what you are carrying in your backpack and surviving the weather. "I previously finished in 2022. I didn't finish this year because, probably a combination of the heat and I didn't take enough salt in the days beforehand, and I hadn't been able to eat anything because I felt so nauseous. "The most challenging bit was continuing when I felt so ill, knowing that I had no injuries. "If I went back again, I would change what I took out for food and watch my salt intake properly."

Darlington Food Fest delights visitors

by Esther Schilbach

DARLINGTON'S popular Food Festival returned in May with lots of music, crafts, and of course, mouthwatering food.

Held in the indoor market, market square, and town centre, there were stalls selling local and exotic treats, alongside local crafters selling trinkets.

Soosh Sushi School also held a class to teach people how to make sushi. They held 5 1-hour long classes at 12pm. All weekend, a range of live music was played from the stage for visitors to enjoy while sampling food. All types of music were performed, from jazz to indie, and all sorts of artists showed their talents on stage.

On Friday, a band called Glamtastic played their music live, performing hits from David Bowie to T-Rex.

On Saturday, Jeff Barnart, an internationally-recognized jazz and ragtime pianist, performed at The Vault in association with the Darlington New Orleans Jazz Club.

Also on Saturday, JennAmii, a local acoustic duet showed their talents.

Then on Monday, a local indie rock band, Precinct, finished the festival with a bang.

Alfie Webster, a Hummer-skott student, said: "The crepes were the best thing at the food festival, either that or the chicken"

However, his fellow Year 7, Max Jones, disagreed, saying: "In my opinion, the salted chips were the best!"

"No, the ham and pineapple pizza was the best!", added Year 8's Isaac Pocklington.

Look to the skies this summer for a view that's out of this world

by Isaac Pocklington

ASTRONOMY is the study of everything in the universe beyond Earth's atmosphere. This includes objects we can see with our naked eyes, like the Sun, the Moon, the planets, and the stars, as well as objects we can only see with telescopes or other instruments - everything from inconceivably massive faraway

galaxies to tiny microscopic particles. Even today, constellations continue to be valuable tools to orient astronomers and stargazers in the night sky. One constellation tradition is the Western Zodiac, which is made up of 12 constellations: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra,

Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces. The constellations you can see this summer include Bootes, Libra, and Ursa Minor, among others. If you look up in the night sky tonight, you will probably see a constellation. Other types of astronomy include Astrometry, the ancient

branch of astronomy concerning precise calculations of the motions of the sun, the moon, and the planets; planetary astronomy which tackles questions like how the solar system came to be; and astrophysics, which is how we apply the laws and theories of physics to astronomical observations.

The Hummersknott Academical named UK's best school paper



A word from Mr Webber

It is a point of pride for me that practically every word written in this newspaper is by the students. This is a rule, a condition that I set when we started this project five years ago. Therefore I ask you to forgive me, just this once, for breaking that rule, however I am afraid I cannot help myself, I simply have to express my pride in this team winning the national Shine Media Award for Best Newspaper.

Owen and the team he assembled, guided and encouraged have done an amazing job and are rightly rewarded. But they are also building on the fantastic foundations and progress made by previous editors Jess Morgan and Jessica Fairley and indeed everyone who has contributed to the newspaper over the years, including the incredible support of Chris and Peter Barron. Little did we know when we started this small project that it would lead to such success and national recognition. Long may it continue! And I am sure it will in the capable hands of our new editors, Olivia and Jack.

THE Hummersknott Academical has won the top prize a school newspaper can! The newspaper won Best Newspaper and Best Front Page at the Shine School Media Awards at a recent ceremony in London. Outgoing editor, Owen Owens, 16, who was also Highly Commended for the Terry Mansfield Award for Tomorrow's Talent, said: "When I became editor of the Hummersknott Academical, I never dared hope we would become the best school newspaper in the country. "To win is an honour and a true reflection of the hard work and dedication shown by the team. No words can sum up the gratitude we all feel to have won this highly

respected award.

"I am so proud to have left the paper on such a high note. As my time comes to an end at Hummersknott, and I move onto Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support we received from both the school and from Mr Webber during my time as editor."

Mr Webber, who oversees the project, previously won Most Inspirational Teacher at last year's awards ceremony. He accompanied Owen and the paper's new editors, Olivia Smith and Jack Machin, to the awards ceremony. The Academical was also Highly Commended for Best Scoop for last edition's exclusive interview with

then-Chancellor Jeremy Hunt, and for Best Short Fiction for 'The Tortoise Through Time' by Jeremy Burn, which was also printed in our recent Spring issue. Head of School Mr Merifield said: "We're overjoyed that The Hummersknott Academical has received such incredible national recognition. They beat out some fantastic publications from all over the country to win, many from fee-paying private schools.

"It's a testament to the phenomenal level of time and effort that the student news team and the staff members supporting them put in almost entirely outside of school hours. We couldn't be prouder."

Teachers take a sponging for charity

by Ella Smith

HUMMERSKNOTT teachers valiantly volunteered to have wet sponges thrown at them in aid of good causes. The Stephenson Stocks charity event was organised by Mr Barker and raised more than £80 for Children's Cancer

North this May. This is an annual event held in the yard at lunchtime, where students pay 50p for one sponge, or £1 for three sponges to throw at the staff who have volunteered for the Stephenson stocks. This year, the staff who volunteered

were Mr Barker, Mr Tissington, Mr Viro, Mrs Musson, and Martin. For some reason, there seemed to be a great many students eager to help the staff members with their fundraising efforts. The Stephenson Stocks were original-

ly built by Mr Barker and Mr Wayton to help raise awareness for meningitis and raise money to help people fight it, inspired by a Year 11 pupil, Jamie Davies-Sen, who sadly passed away due to meningitis in 2017. Water way to raise money!



AI, Eh?: computer-generated images baffle and enrage fashion community



by **Helen Rahimi**

PEOPLE on the internet have been bamboozled by AI photos of celebrities and their literally incredible fashion at the most recent Met Gala. The Met Gala, also known as the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute, is a pageant where celebrities, fashion designers, and other fashion industry insiders show off their best outfits on the red carpet.

Themes from previous years include 'Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty' or 'In America: A Lexicon of Fashion.' All of this is to help fund the Costume Institute in Manhattan. On the May 6, this year's Met Gala had celebrities crossing the infamous red carpet in their best outfits for the theme of 'The Garden of Time.'

Pictures of Katy Perry in a stunning corset dress with a skirt seemingly made out of vines quickly spread online, along with pictures of Rihanna with a puffy sleeved jacket with a head rest behind her. She appeared to have a light cream and dark green pencil type skirt puffed out into a long trail behind her. However, eagle-eyed readers quickly noticed some-

thing wrong, raising questions about authenticity and the future role of AI taking fashion designer's jobs. This caused people to ponder the fact that computer-aided design now has the power to shape perceptions of celebrities and manipulate imagery. This brought an unexpected guest to the Gala: AI itself. People online have saved a series of photos of celebrities including Dua Lipa, Rihanna, Katy Perry, Chris Hemsworth, Zendaya, and Beyonce, that appear to be taken at the fashionable event, when in fact they were not taken at all. They were created by users online who put the idea into a program, in which it created these photos with machines. Despite these pictures of everyone's favourite celebs not being taken in real life, many people -including Katy Perry's own mother- were convinced by the realism and had no clue about it being AI until they were told. This incident serves as a chilling reminder of the power and potential of AI, and how it can create images that appear real.

Has Hummersknott found the purrrfect new mascot?

by **Emmie Todd**



AN adorable fluffy cat has been mysteriously showing up within the school grounds and even adventuring into the school building. We are unsure when he started to appear, but he has quickly become a feline friend with pawfect attendance. As the cat has gained more confidence he has even decided to join students inside the school. Fittingly, members of staff in the Geography department revealed that they have been helping him find his way back out onto the yard. This is not the first time

he has ventured into the school building, and the Academical can reveal that we don't expect it to be the last! As we got to know the cat more, we were intrigued in what the owners thought of this situation. We were able to get in contact with owner Rachael, and learned his name is William. She was more than happy with him visiting us, and said: "I love that you are all looking after him and he is bringing you enjoyment throughout the school day." It's a purrrfect arrangement.

We bid farewell to eight departing teachers



by Holly Brown

AS Year 11's time at Hummersknott comes to an end, so does that of some of the teachers who have given so much to the school.

As well as Mr Merifield (see Page 3), there are also eight other teachers that are leaving this year.

Mrs Maynard has been at Hummersknott for over 23 years, and said: "My time at Hummersknott has been amazing as a former student and a teacher.

"I will be retiring for holidays, and a lot of family time."

Mrs Dawson has been with us for more than 16 years. She said: "I've enjoyed working with some wonderful students and staff at Hummersknott. I've made some wonderful friends who I'll definitely keep in touch with but I'm now looking forward to retiring and looking after my new grandson!"

Miss Harrison has taught here for the last nine years, and said: "It has been my absolute pleasure and privilege to work with so many incredible students - helping them to secure the grades they need to progress, develop a love of learning and providing them with a safe space to grow.

"It is with a heavy heart that I am leaving, but I am really excited to take up the challenge of my new role as Head of Science and Design Technology at Bedale High School."

Miss Hatton has been a

teacher at Hummersknott for two years, and said: "I have really loved my time at Hummersknott and I have had the privilege to work with amazing teachers and students.

"I will miss you all, but particularly my form group, who are all fantastic individuals. "To my classes - thank you for bringing your creativity, curiosity, and enthusiasm to my lessons. I know you will go on to achieve great things."

Mr Peacock has been at Hummersknott for seven years, and said: "Having been a part of Hummersknott firstly as a student, and then working for Hummersknott Active, I have decided it is a good time to see if the grass is actually greener elsewhere!

"I will miss a lot of colleagues who I am going to call friends. There really are some outstanding teachers here, but more importantly, good people.

"Of course I will miss the students who make me smile daily."

Mr Firth said: "After eight years at Hummersknott working with a brilliant staff and seeing hundreds of you grow into mature, funny, knowledgeable, and charming young adults, it is time for me to move on.

"I have many fond memories and will miss you all!"

Ms Matthews, who has been with our DT department for two years, said: "I have many fond memories of my time here and wish Hum-

mersknott all the best for the future."

Mrs Merifield has been at Hummersknott for 25 years, and said: "The last 25 years have flown over, and I have been privileged to work with so many amazing students,

staff and families.

"I have learned so much from working with you all. I will always have very fond memories of my time at Hummersknott, and in particular of my own Ketton College."

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Old faces, new paper



by Mr Webber

MANY of the Academical's departing press team are to be part of an exciting new publication at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College (QE). Eight alumni of this newspaper met during 'Bridging Week' at QE to discuss with Media Studies Course Leader, Jodie Freeman, creating a newspaper and/or magazine

under the QE Journalism umbrella. The team were joined by existing members at QE and other interested students at a meeting in which they discussed ways to move forward with the proposal. The Hummersknott alumni also enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the Academical's success the previous day at

the Shine Media awards, as they posed with the victory banner. Ms Freeman said: "I am really excited about the ideas that came out of the meeting and working with this team of bright and enthusiastic students. "They are going to do great things this year!"

Teenagers: Taking care of mental health

by Max Jones

THE issue of mental health is a growing problem in many people's lives in modern society.

As many as 42 per cent of Gen Z have been diagnosed with mental health problems and many others live undiagnosed. It is not always easy to identify negative behaviours that could suggest bad mental health. Symptoms may include withdrawal from friends, family, and activities; changes of usual habits (such as sleep patterns or eating habits); changes in decision making; difficulty concentrating; extreme mood swings; and even suicidal thoughts.

Bad mental health itself can be triggered by traumatic experiences, stress or a variety of others factors.

Although difficult, there are many ways to shake unhealthy habits and try and heal the pain people can go through. It can be an uncomfortable subject to speak with someone about, but it is important to do so.

Here are five tips to help your mental health and improve it for a happier life:

- Keep well rested. Most people know that rest helps your brain relieve stress and improves your mood, making it a great aid for mental health.
- Eat good foods. Eating healthy food can contribute to good well-being and can help protect you from diseases such as diabetes and heart attacks. It can also reduce the risk of cancer.
- Exercising regularly. Exercise as a whole is good for your body but for your mind it can have a variety of effects. It can help your stress level as well stimulate the release of dopamine, a brain chemical that makes you feel happy.

Most importantly, anyone experiencing these kinds of thoughts have somewhere to turn to.

Gere are some helpful numbers:

Under 18 Childline 0800 1111
Urgent Mental Problems 111
The Samaritans 116 123

Mystery mallards have Hummersknott in a flap

by Helen Rahimi



RUBBER ducks have been mysteriously appearing all over the school. Varying in all kinds of colours and shades, taking part in this a mysterious treasure hunt has become a favourite break-time activity for both students and teachers. Ducks have been found in many random places, including in school toilets, inside classrooms, along corridors, and on windowsills. But the mystery remains as to who has hidden these baffling bath-time birds throughout Hummersknott Academy. Whatever the true identity of the devious duck dropper, they have caused a great deal of surprise among many, including our teachers.

This green duck (pictured), has been named Eddie, and was spotted and claimed from Mrs Musson's English classrooms. Mrs Musson said: "It's absolutely quackers! We're going to have to quack this case, as we need an egg-splanation!" The Hummersknott Academical is hot on the trail of the cheeky chick chucker, and we believe that the culprit – or maybe even culprits(?) – are doing this in good sport and are just trying to play harmless tricks on the rest of the school. While the Academical hasn't yet been able to ascertain exactly who is responsible, our best sources indicate that it is most likely a Year 11 parting gift.

Teacher tops Fantasy Footy League



by Holly Brown

IN the most predictable championship victory outside of Man City winning the Premier League again, Mr Robertson-Taylor celebrated another triumph in Hummersknott's Fantasy Football League.

It initially seemed that Mr Webber may have the edge this year after leading for most of the season, but disaster struck when his team collapsed like a pack of cards in the closing weeks, handing

victory to his rival.

As he humbly accepted yet another Championship certificate to add to his collection, Mr Roberston-Taylor said: "I have done this every year, ever since I was at school and I have played it for that long I know how the point system works!"

Anyone wishing to take part in next season's Hummersknott Fantasy Football League should look out for an email invitation from Mr Webber before the end of term.

Virtual reality tech offers new hope to arthritis sufferers



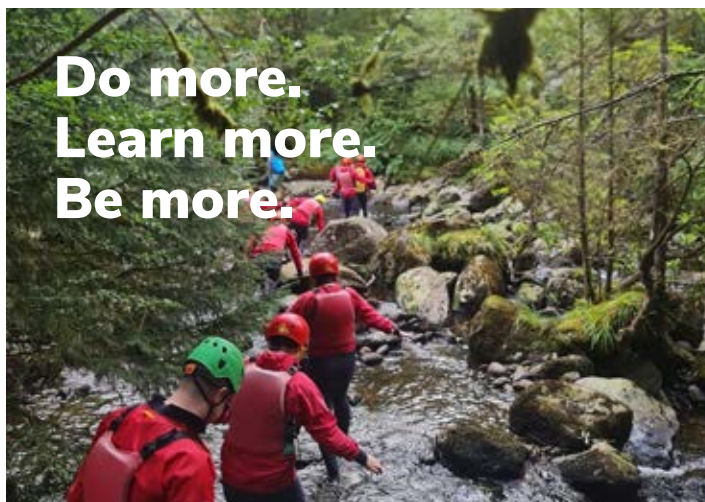
by Helen Rahimi

ARTHRITIS is a chronic disease when a person has inflamed and stiff joints. This can worsen overtime and can cause disability, making people less able to carry out daily activities and tasks like chores. Depending on the kind of arthritis, it can attack your organs, tissues (like your skin!), and immune system. Arthritis isn't curable, but studies show that virtual reality (VR) can help. Many people suffer from this terrible illness, especially older people. In fact, it affects 528 million people worldwide! This is a 113 per cent increase from 1990, and 73 per cent of that number are older than 55 years old.

Children can suffer too, and VR is a wonderful way to entertain them.

Virtual reality is a simulation that gives a 3D display and pose tracking experience that can make you feel like you can see things that are not there – almost like being in a computer-generated world. Research from the University of South Australia (funded by The Hospital Research Foundation Group) found that not only will VR ease pain for people with arthritis, but it makes exercise feel easier, so our older generations are moving around in a fun way. Luckily, Virtual Reality is a fun way to combat the pain and get our elders moving again.

**Do more.
Learn more.
Be more.**



Want a life less ordinary? Eastbourne Explorers take part in a wide range of activities both on and off the water.

Whether you're a young person looking to develop your skills, or an adult searching for a volunteering opportunity, then come and join the team.

Put your skills to use, learn new ones, and be part of something truly amazing.

For further information about the group use the email address below.

anth.gibson@eesu.org.uk

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Scouts
Eastbourne Explorers



by Alfie Webster

Uniform look, different opinions



by Carys Hopkins

SINCE Hummersknott joined the Advance Learning Partnership academy trust, there have been lots of changes, from new behaviour policies, to alterations to rewards and trips, but now the image of our school is changing, quite literally: uniform. For incoming Year 7s, and anyone that has grown out of it, a new uniform from a new supplier has been introduced,

eliciting various comments. Previously sourced from provider Trutex, Michael Sehgal and Sons now supplies Hummersknott's uniform. The new look features a pencil style skirt, blazer, jumper, and both male and female trousers. Whilst shirts and blouses remain the same, this update is a big change. An important issue that has dominated the conversation is how students wear the

uniform and how it makes them feel. The opportunity to share their views has been presented recently at school council meetings. With a summer uniform (meaning tights-free) looming, and our familiar Trutex brand now gone, could this mean our often-debated challenges with uniform have been solved? The school's community always has a lot to say so we asked some to explain their

views. However, they all asked to remain anonymous given this can be a divisive topic. One Year 9 girl said: "I am not all that keen on the new style of skirt but glad there are girls' trousers, so we have some more options. "I am looking forward to a switch up of the current norm." A teacher added: "The new uniform provides a sense of identity for students."



THE FORUM
BIRMINGHAM

MUSIC CREATORS



YB
YOUNG BLOOD
PROMOTERS AND LIVE GIGS

YoungBlood Creators

Are you interested in playing and creating music?

YB Creators is an afterschool programme designed by The Forum Music Studios offers students the opportunity to:

- Play live on professional stage
- Work with professional musicians/ songwriters and mentors to develop your skills.
- Digital music creation
- Meet new friends and form a band!

YoungBlood Live

Gig nights for young people created by young people

- Monthly gig nights organised by Young Blood Promoters
- For 13 – 17 year olds
- Up and coming bands from all genres
- £4 Tickets
- Volunteer and Stewarding opportunities

First gig Thursday 19th September (Manors/The Undecided)
for more details keep an eye on our socials!

YoungBlood Promoters

Want to put on a gig?

The Young blood promoters programme is designed to empower and support young promoters within the music industry. It serves as a creative hub for young promoters who are passionate about learning to organise live events. With guidance from mentors and guest speakers including industry professionals, YBP will have access to a regular space to research and develop as well as a budget to work with.

- For 16 – 24 year olds
- Book, Schedule and Promote the bands for Young Blood Live Gigs
- Organise Amazing Live Events
- Manage a Budget
- Supported by The Forum team and guest industry professionals




to get involved contact Kirsten on kirsten@theforumonline.co.uk

For more info head to: www.theforumonline.co.uk

On your marks, get set... Sports Day!



by Carys Hopkins

HEAD of school Mr. Merifield once said "Sport can make you sing for joy or break your heart." This is so true for so many,

especially when it comes to Hummersknott's annual Sports Day. A chance for everyone to show off talent, enjoy the

sun, push themselves, but most importantly be part of their college community. Mr. Tatham said: "I am looking forward to seeing all the

new Year 7's getting their first taste of a Hummersknott Sports Day, and for all the colleges coming together to compete.

"And of course, I am particularly looking forward to the staff tug-of-war!"

For Sports Day 2024, the focus is on getting involved and taking part, which is why new events have been added, providing options and some essential encouragement to join in.

One key newly-introduced event is the Charity Mile for this year's fundraising event in aid of Children's Cancer North.

PE staff say that this event can be walked or run, is the perfect opportunity to raise money for an amazing cause, and enjoy the lively atmosphere of a Hummersknott Sports Day.

Other morning activities include jumps, throws, the 1,500 meter run, and the hurdles.

These events, along with others, are ways to showcase your skills earlier on - before the bigger crowds show up in the afternoon!

Afternoon activities include the 100, 200, 300, and 800 meter races, tugs-of-war, relay races, and cheerleading. Last year's Sports Day was won by Quaker College.

Can they be challenged, or will the Greens take victory again?

Mr. Merifield added: "Don't miss the chance to make memories. Get out there and give it your best shot!"

Railway museum arriving on time

by Emmie Todd

A RAILWAY journey that changed the world forever took place in Darlington 200 years ago.

And now Darlington's newest visitor attraction, Hopton, will commemorate that event. £35 million is being spent on the new train museum, which will encompass both purpose-built and heritage buildings, including the former Head of Steam museum, and transform the North Road site into a major family destination.

This new train attraction will focus on telling the incredible story of how Darlington created the first ever steam train and the history behind it.

Locomotion No.1 became the

first steam locomotion to carry a passenger-carrying train on a public railway - the Darlington to Stockton Railway.

Visitors will enter through the 1833 goods shed where there's now an artisan cafe, coal-themed shop, and a new railway-themed digital media experience.

Within an 1842 Victorian railway station, discover Darlington's story of rail engineering, ideas and inventions.

In the 1853 carriage works, you'll find the Exhibition Hall, featuring special displays and stories, where you can explore the archive and artefacts not on permanent display.

In the brand-new museum, visitors have the chance

to see live engineering in action.

Outdoors is Wagon Woods, a railway adventure play park that builds on the story of the Darlington to Stockton rail line.

Not only will Wagon Woods feature wagons, cogs and chimneys, but it will also feature walkways, bridges, slides, a multi-level play structure, and lots of other exciting railway themed attractions.

The design includes an accessible incline track with interactive features and a companion slide suitable for wheelchair users, demonstrating an impressive commitment to making the attraction inclusive to all. There's only one way to go now - full steam ahead!

Britain's still Got Talent

by Jack Brown

The latest season of hit television talent extravaganza Britain's Got Talent has finally concluded.

Favourite acts included Sydnie Christmas's spine-tingling voice which won her the whole competition, and animal trainer Lucy Heath with her amazing performing dogs.

The world's biggest talent show was launched in 2007 by showbiz guru Simon Cowell, who became known as the 'nasty judge' for his cutting evaluations of acts.

This season marked the show's 17th, and featured eight action-packed episodes.

English teacher Miss Schweizer said: “We are over the moon at how many people have risen to the challenge, and astounded by their phenomenal progress this year. Now, excuse me while I go plan a reward trip and buy some prizes...”

Tick a book off the Hummersknott 100 reading list as you finish it

LEVEL ONE

- The Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank
- Ink Heart Trilogy Book One – Cornelia Funke
- Like A Charm – Elle McNicol
- Julia And the Shark – Karen Millwood Hargrave
- The Island at the End of Everything - Karen Millwood Hargrave
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland – Lewis Carroll
- The Secrets of Haven Point – Lisette Autom
- Holes – Louis Sachar
- A Wrinkle in Time – Madeleine L'Engle
- Beowulf – Michael Morpurgo
- Private Peaceful – Michael Morpurgo
- Coraline – Neil Gaiman
- The Star Outside My Window – Onjali O. Rauf
- A Monster Calls – Patrick Ness
- His Dark Materials Northern Lights – Philip Pullman
- Clockwork - Philip Pullman
- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children – Ransom Riggs
- Percy Jackson The Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan
- Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson
- Proud of Me – Sarah Hauger-Holt

LEVEL TWO

- A Flash of Fireflies – Aisha Bushby
- Refugee Boy – Benjamin Zephaniah
- Eragon – Christopher Paolini
- Inkspell – Cornelia Funke
- Show Us Who You Are – Elle McNicol
- Animal Farm – George Orwell
- Eve Of Man – Giovanna, Tom Fletcher
- The Hobbit – J.R.R Tolkien
- The Call Of the Wind – Jack London
- The Maze Runner – James Dashner
- Booked – Kwame Alexander
- I Am Malala – Malala Yousefzai
- The Graveyard Book – Neil Gaiman

- His Dark Materials: The Subtle Knife – Philip Pullman
- The 5th Wave – Rick Yancey
- The Recruit – Robert Muchamore
- Stone Cold – Robert Swindells
- Tales of the Greek Heroes – Roger Lancelyn Green
- Red Leaves – Sita Brahmachari
- The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins

LEVEL THREE

- The Enemy – Charlie Higson
- His Dark Materials: The Amber Spyglass – Philip Pullman
- Huger Games: Catching Fire – Suzanne Collins
- Everything Everything – Nicola Yoon
- The Black Flamingo – Dean Atta
- The Fellowship of the Ring – J.R.R Tolkien
- Wing Jones – Katherine Webber
- Heartstopper – Alice Oseman
- Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman
- Orphan Monster Spy – Matt Killeen
- Blood Brothers – Willy Russel
- Things a Bright Girl Can Do – Sally Nicholls
- The Lord of the Flies – William Golding
- The Hate U Give – Angie Thomas
- Gangsta Rap – Benajmin Zephaniah
- Six of Crows – Leigh Bardugo
- Gulliver's Travels – Jonathon Swift
- Roll of Thunder Hear Me Cry – Mildred D Taylor
- Inkdeath – Cornelia Funke
- The Call – Peadar O'Guilin

LEVEL FOUR

- Scythe – Neil Schusterman
- The Murder on the Orient Express – Agatha Christie
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou
- One Of Us is Lying – Karen McManus
- I, Robot – Isaac Asimov
- 1984 – George Orwell
- Hold Back the Tide – Melinda Salisbury
- Sign of the Four – Arthur Conan Doyle
- Knife Edge – Malorie Blackman
- Frankenstein – Mary Shelly
- Of Mice and Men – Jhon Steinbeck
- To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time – Mark Haddon
- The Two Towers – J.R.R Tolkien
- Crooked Kingdom – Leigh Bardugo
- The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald

LEVEL FIVE

- Northanger's Abbey – Jane Austen
- A Room of One's Own – Virginia Woolf
- Checkmate – Malorie Blackman
- A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens
- The Return of the King – J.R.R Tolkien
- Life of Pi – Yann Mantel
- Boys Don't Cry – Malorie Blackman
- Little Women – Louisa May Allcott
- Dracula – Bram Stoker
- Great Expectations – Charles Dickens
- Rebecca – Daphne du Maurier
- Clap When You Land – Elizabeth Acevedo
- Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte
- An Inspector Calls – J B Priestly
- The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood
- Thunderhead – Neal Shusterman
- The Perks of Being a Wallflower – Stephen Chbosky
- The Burning – Laura Bates
- Burn – Patrick Ness
- Brave New World – Aldous Huxley

Pupils back Labour in mock election



by Benji Tait

HUMMERKNOTT pupils went to the polls in a mock election on July 4. The election was the climax of a week's worth of life skills lessons titled 'Democracy Week', drawn up by Mrs Johnson in Humanities. Monday focused on an introduction to the general election and an overview on the conservative manifesto. Tuesday shifted focus to the opposition, looking at Labour and the Liberal Democrats, examining their manifestos and digesting their plans for our town. Wednesday saw the final parties, the Greens and Reform UK, judged by Hummersknott

pupils in order to determine where their votes would go. Mrs Johnson was joined by some members of the student council to count the votes, and the results were announced on Friday. Mrs Johnson said: "It has been fantastic to see our students take part in our mock General Election. "This learning supports our aim to help students become more politically literate, and underscores our British value of democracy. "I'd like to say a special thanks to the student council for taking the time to count all the votes and ensure we ran a fair and democratic

election." After the counting was complete, the results were: Labour 321 Reform UK 171 Green 160 Conservative 72 Liberal Democrats 31 This broadly tallies with national results, which saw a Labour landslide victory with surprising but limited success for Reform in the General Election, but differed as the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats did much better nationally. It appears though that Hummersknott agrees with the rest of the country that it was time for a change.

What is a General Election?

by Benji Tait

A GENERAL election is when anyone over the age of 18 votes for a person standing to become a Member of Parliament, who will sit in the House of Commons.

An MP represents their area, known as a constituency – for example, Darlington is a constituency.

In a general election, the public vote to elect 650 MPs to represent them in the House of Commons. To form a government one party must win a majority by winning 326 seats.

The main political parties are the Conservatives, also known as the Tories – they previously held a majority in parliament with 344 seats, and formed the last government under leader Rishi Sunak, now MP for Richmond and Northallerton.

Labour recently secured a large majority in the recent election. Their leader is Sir Keir Starmer, MP for Holborn and St Pancras and the new prime minister, while Labour's Lola McEvoy is now the new MP for Darlington. The Liberal Democrats hold 71 out of the 650 seats available. Their leader is Sir Ed Davey, MP for Kingston and Surbiton. Hummersknott alumni Simon Thorley was their candidate for Darlington in the election.

Traditionally, the Conservatives portray themselves as the party of business, consistently campaigning for the rights of businesses and corporations; Labour depict themselves as standing with the common people fighting for workers' rights; and the Liberal Democrats base their stand on equality and liberty. All parties release a document called a manifesto that lays out the parties' plans for the country if elected to government.

However, despite their differences, one thing that all parties agree on is that the British public have the right to determine who governs the United Kingdom.

NEWS

Fire service celebrates five decades of saving lives



by **Holly Cherrie**

THIS year marks 50 years of County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service joining together to create the life-saving service we know today.

The service works tirelessly across the 15-fire station operational areas to protect the regional community from dangerous and fatal incidents, ranging from house fires and extreme flooding, to traffic collisions, and more. Thousands of lives are saved every year thanks to our hard-working fire officers and fire team.

On April 1, 1948, after the Second World War, a fire service covering County Durham was first established. Nearly three decades later, a reorganization of the local government boundaries saw the County Borough Fire Brigade of Darlington merged with what was then known as Durham Fire Brigade. This also made the service co-terminous to County Durham Police.

To mark the 50 year anniversary, the service reached out to firefighters and staff members from the past to hear their stories.

Amongst these special workers were the members of the 1974 S1 Intake - the first group of fire fighters to complete their training as a part of the new service.



The evening before their graduation, the S1 intake reported for duty at Framwellgate Moor Training School,

because in those days the intense training required new recruits to live on campus, which meant the trainees were sleeping on bunk beds in an appliance room.

While not all 30 recruits graduated to become fully-fledged Firefighters, 27 did.

After their graduation, they celebrated by visiting a local pub in Framwellgate Durham. 50 years later, the same (now retired) S1 intake team met up on Thursday, June 13, at that same pub to catch-up and reminisce about the good old days.

Chief Fire Officer, Steve Helps, said: "As a Service, we're committed to looking to the future as we strive to

do the best for our communities. But we equally know and appreciate that we wouldn't be where we are today without the dedicated service of all those Firefighters who came before us.

"I want to thank these Firefighters for their service, and I am delighted to see their bond has endured all these years."

Director of Emergency Response, Rob Cherrie, added: "This is a job that is extremely important and that saves the lives of hundreds, but of course, a great team always has to start with great workers, and this is why we will always be grateful for all who paved this path before us".





The problem with sizing



by **Holly Brown**

FASHION has been a topic of conversation for centuries, arguably coming to a head during the Regency Era, with empire lining dresses and crushing corsets – quite different as today's fashion trend is for baggy clothes! However, there is one continuous problem throughout the years that everyone seems to be talking about: sizing. Fast fashion brands, such as Shien and Primark, typically cut their clothes with

straight cut, where the specific fabric is cut straight down a model, without taking into consideration the variety of body's that come with that size. This is better for their profit margins as this creates a cheaper alternative, and this can bring a quicker way to be 'trendy' and therefore have more interaction. This creates an uncomfortable situation for everyone, as a lot of people do not un-

derstand what size they are, so they do not want to go into the changing rooms and try their size for it to not fit. This can create a bad body image for the buyer, and other mental health problems. Casey Hopkins, Year 9, said: "We can't rely on any shops for the same sizing. People can have a lot of anxiety when going in as we cannot trust any brand and what they have to offer." Despite the overlooked situ-

ation, there are also brands that fully accept the variety of bodies that come with a specific size, like Fashion Nova.

Fashion Nova is supportive of the body positive movement, their main message of the brand being: "We cater to anyone who has an affinity for fashion."

"Regardless of shape, personal style, or gender, we're here to fit everyone."

COMMUNITY

James Arthur tour ends with a bang at Boro's Riverside Stadium



by Holly Brown

JAMES Arthur started his tour on March 5 in Bournemouth, and after three months has ended it in his hometown of Middlesbrough. He played the Riverside Stadium, where 30,000 fans came to watch. This concert was electric; everybody dancing and cheering for both the support acts and especially for the man himself: James Arthur. The first support act that was seen on stage was Spilt

Milk, a small band based in the North East. They were founded whilst doing a competition and were asked if they would like to be part of the show. After that was the talented Lauren Hibberd, who played five songs, including 'Girlfriend Material' and 'Anti-Fragile'. After that was McFly, a very popular band formed in 2003. They played nine songs, including 'All About You' and 'Colours In Her

Hair'. It was clear that a lot of people in the stadium were very excited to see them, everyone cheering when they appeared on stage. After all that, the main part of the show appeared, James Arthur! He played a set of 22 songs, including his most popular: 'Impossible' and 'Say You Won't Let Go'. Most people – including me – were crying. He also sang 'A Thousand Years', with the whole crowd

Voices of Darlington community choir set to return this summer



by Elspeth Robertson

A POPULAR annual Voices of Darlington event is set to return on August 31. Performances last all day and are for all ages. It is the perfect opportunity for families to get out of the house and listen to some music. There are different choirs, from the bop choir to the musical choir, and lots of music for adults, teens, and younger children. Voices of Darlington is also hosting other events this year, such as Hopetown Grand Opening Week pop-up events around Darlington on July 20. Another event is only seven days later, and for an important cause: an afternoon tea for breast cancer. And finally, August 5 to 7, the three-day Song Academy summer event, lasting from 9am to 5pm on center stage.

harmonizing along. For the majority of the concert, he sang songs from his new album, 'Bitter Sweet Love', including 'My Favourite Pill' and 'Blindside'. I think that may well have been the best concert I've ever been to, but I admit to a trace of bias, because he is truly my favourite singer ever. Nevertheless, personal prejudices aside, it was a really good concert which it took the crowd on an emotional roller-coaster.

From Casting to Curtain Call

Alfie Webster struts his stuff in Kinky Boots



by Alfie Webster

LADIES, gentlemen, and theatre fans of all descriptions! I welcome you to Northampton, where a failing boss of a shoe company meets a fabulous drag queen, and together, they make KINKY BOOTS!

I am Alfie Webster, also known to theatre-goers as young Charlie Price, and I'm here to take you behind the scenes of this fabulous performance.

Casting for the Darlington OS (DOS) performance of Kinky Boots started very early in

the year, but for the *pivotal* roles of young Charlie and young Lola, casting came later.

To get an audition, I had to send in a self-tape of myself singing both the Charlie and Lola parts of the opening song, 'The Most Beautiful Thing.'

Next, I had to go to DOS's rehearsal space, and do an audition in-person with the musical director and director.

There were five boys there going for one of the four

parts, and I was lucky to be one of the two to win the role of Young Charlie.

It was quite relaxed during the first rehearsals as I learnt the stage directions and dances to the opening scene and the finale. These were the only scenes that I was in, but that also meant that I got to watch the rest of the show unfold whilst I was waiting. I saw the actors' progress and dances becoming more natural all through the time I was there.

I was the first to see the set,

the dresses and (of course) the boots! It was incredible! Once the rehearsals had finished, the shows started.

I was a bit nervous on my first show, but that was nothing unusual.

It was so exhilarating, standing there in front of a live audience. I felt proud when I came down the catwalk at the end and got a cheer.

I was upset when it came to my last show, but I dearly hope that I will soon be treading the boards in another show. The lead. Obviously.

Kings of Leon kick off tour at electrifying Leeds show

by Olivia Smith

KINGS of Leon are currently touring their new album, 'Can We Please Have Fun', and I can certainly say that their opening night in Leeds answered this question: yes we can!

The atmosphere in the arena

was amazing and the variety of songs they played made it even more enjoyable.

They played a mix of their older and better-known songs as well as their newer music. I love their recordings, but I found the lead

singer's voice was even better in person.

Songs such as 'Sex on Fire' and 'Waste A Moment' provided upbeat numbers, whereas slower songs such as 'Revelry' and 'Split Screen' gave the audience a large

variety of tempos to enjoy.

I would definitely recommend listening to the new album. It has something for everyone, and if you're not lucky enough to have tickets for the tour, don't waste a moment of it!



PROM 2024





He might be co-editing the whole paper now, but **Jack Machin** can't give up ...

MACHIN

Glastonbury 2023: a stellar line-up that delivered unforgettable performances



THE world-renowned Glastonbury festival returned this July. The annual festival, established more than 50 years ago, is held in the picturesque fields of Somerset. The festival first began in September 1970, and only sold 1500 tickets. Back then, the headlining act was a band called The Tyrannosaurus Rex. Over the five decades since, the festival has seen many well-known artists walk its stages, including acts like David Bowie, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Oasis, Pulp, Blur, and Arctic Monkeys. The festival is divided into six main stages: The Pyramid Stage, The Other Stage, West Holts Stage, Woodsies, The Park Stage, and the Acoustic Stage. More than 50 different

artists performed each night across these six. With more than 210,000 people attending annually, the festival never fails to disappoint with its amazing, unique, and innovative line-ups. On the Friday night, the artist headlining the Pyramid Stage was Dua Lipa, who was accompanied by Olivia Dean and PJ Harvey. On the other stages, Friday saw Anne Marie, The Snuts, Declan McKenna, and Fontaines DC. On Saturday night Coldplay headlined the Pyramid Stage with an amazing set. Supporting them were various other artists, including Little Simz and Ayra Starr. Not only this, artists on the other stages included Camila Cabello, The Staves, and The

Last Dinner Party. On the Sunday night, headlining the Pyramid Stage was SZA, alongside some famous names, including Shania Twain and Paloma Faith. On the other stages, many other famous names in the music industry played, including Two Door Cinema Club, Avril Lavigne, The Ks, and The National. The festival was once again broadcast live on the BBC and iPlayer, for all of the public to watch, which allowed more than 7.6 million people to experience the intense atmosphere of joy and celebration that Glastonbury projects across the UK. Glastonbury will be back again next year, on the June 25 2025, for its 55 year anniversary.

The Anthem of 2024?

THERE have been many fantastic singles released by various talented artists over the course of 2024. However, the song with the most chart units so far in 2024 is Noah Kahan's anthem, *Stick Season*. The song has received over 850,000 chart units alone in 2024. After being released last year on July 8, the song recently sprang to success in January 2024, where it hit the charts and (rightfully) took the number one spot, staying there for over 6 weeks.

The song explores a lost relationship between two people. The beautifully-written lyrics weave in meaningful metaphors which really explore the emotions of the person that has been 'split in half' after losing their partner. The title, 'Stick Season' is a commonly used phrase by people in Vermont to describe the period of time between autumn and winter, where it is constantly miserable, grey and cold. In the 'Stick Season', just past autumn, all of the colourful leaves have fallen to the ground and decomposed, and it is just before winter, when all of the Christmas lights illuminate the streets, and the icy, snowy weather lays a blanket of snow over the fields and roads.

I believe Noah truly relates and feels similar, vocalising the same miserable, depressing feelings that *Stick Season* gives off. This shows that he is truly heartbroken by the fact he has lost his other half.

The lyrics 'Doc told me to travel but there's Covid on the planes' explores the feelings that many would have felt during the pandemic, when many people felt disconnected from their families and friends.

Many teenagers and young adults can relate to the feeling of loss and heartbreak.

MUSIC



Sports anthems theme chosen for music festival

PREPARATIONS are well underway for the annual college music festival. The college music festival is a competition run by the newly-elected student leaders, in which each college competes head-to-head for the first place prize. The competition is divided into three categories: Choir, Ensemble, and Art, and takes place on the last day of school. The theme for this year's college music festival, Sports Anthems, was announced at the beginning of July. The first category, Choir, involves students in each college performing two to three songs to a backing track.

They get judged on many factors, including harmonies, solos, and adapting lyrics to suit the college. The second category, Ensemble, involves a select group of students performing in a band. They are marked on things such as variety of instruments and overall performance. The third category, Art, involves a select few students from each college creating a college banner relating to the theme of the festival. Ketton's song choices for Choir are 'Thunderstruck' by AC/DC, 'Hit Me With Your Best Shot' by Pat Benatar, and 'Y.M.C.A.' by The Village People.

For Ensemble, they chose to perform 'I Got a Feeling' by Black Eyed Peas, 'Chelsea Dagger' by The Fratellis, and 'The Winner Takes It All' by ABBA. Quaker's choices for Choir are 'Hey Jude' by The Beatles, and 'Bittersweet Symphony' by The Verve. For Ensemble, they chose '7 Nation Army' by The White Stripes, and 'Don't Look Back in Anger' by Oasis. Stephenson's song choices for Choir are '500 Miles' by The Proclaimers, 'Waving the Flag' by K'NAAN, and 'Freed from Desire' by Gala. For Ensemble, they chose Rock and Roll Star' by Oasis, 'Star Man' by David Bowie, and

'The Chain' by Fleetwood Mac. Cuthbert's song choices for Choir are 'Don't Stop Believin' by Journey, 'Mr Brightside' by The Killers, and 'Sweet Caroline' by Neil Diamond. For Ensemble, they chose 'Eye of the Tiger' by Survivor, and 'Hall of Fame' by The Script. Wyvern's Choir choices are The National Anthem, 'Let's Get Ready to Rumble' by PJ and Duncan, 'Green Light' by Pitbull, and 'We Are the Champions' by Queen. For Ensemble, they chose 'Song 2' by Blur, and 'Gold' by Spandau Ballet.

Town music venue to be transformed



THE Forum Music Centre recently received a large sum to renovate the building and add brand new facilities. In 2004, The Forum opened, becoming a dedicated live venue, rehearsal space, and recording studio for Darlington. Renovations will begin later this year, and will see a standalone recording studio, replace a rehearsal room. The small building will be knocked down and replaced

with a brand new, state-of-the-art digital recording studio, which will be fully sound-proofed and filled with high-spec recording devices, plus a rooftop garden with easy stair and lift access. The current studio will be replaced with an education space for people of all ages to learn the digital side of music. This room host lessons and workshops, and will hold computers connected to

the main studio, letting artists mix and produce music independently and collaboratively. Staff are also going to build dedicated artist facilities, including a private kitchen and wash-room, with easy stage and main building access, plus a loading and parking area for touring artists. A kitchen extension and refurbishment is also planned. This holds many new partnership opportunities for the Forum, which hopes to team-up with independent, ethical food businesses to serve food at events. Not only this, the Forum will also be adding an additional mezzanine floor to their main auditorium, allowing many more people to listen to a performance at a time. New toilet facilities will also be added where the current Education Suite is. Finally, staff are aiming to have a carbon net-zero grassroots music venue by installing solar panels.

Young artists delight crowds in debut show

YOUNGBLOOD, youth music project run by the Forum, performed their first concert to an audience this summer. After starting rehearsals towards the beginning of the term, the two bands at YoungBlood have been working extremely hard to perfect their songs and ensure their music was at a high standard. Many well-known songs were performed on the night, including 'Hypersonic Missiles,' by Sam Fender, as well as 'American Idiot' by Green Day. A few students from Hummersknott took part in this amazing event. On vocals were Saira Choudbury, and Jack Machin. Lewis Deverell and Oscar Westmarland-Morrison played guitar. YoungBlood will continue to rehearse and hope to perform in a second concert very soon.

UNRAVEL



by Alfie Webster

WELCOME to the first edition of Alfie's Adventures! Here, I will tell you about the places I have been and review a couple of them in every edition. This time, we will be exploring Eden Camp and finding The Forbidden Corner! So, let's begin....

EDEN CAMP

This Yorkshire World War Two outdoor history museum is perfect for people who have a taste for historical

fun.

Converted from a real prisoner of war camp that was active during the war, you can feel the authenticity! There are several huts containing information on the war, including a hut about the original use of the camp. There is also a weapons station, where there are tanks and different guns on display. I've visited many times and it is never boring. Every visit has been a delight, especially

when I got to sit in a training tank!

All the people working there are kind and always ready to answer any question about the camp. If you go, I can promise you won't regret it.

THE FORBIDDEN CORNER

If you love fantasy and magical, mystic beings and worlds, this is the place for you! Called 'the strangest place in the world' it really lives up to its name with demons,

dragons, dungeons, and other magic things that don't start with D.

Towers and castles take you to different realms – even Hell!

Visitors can scaling the castles, getting lost in the maze, and venturing into a gigantic monster's mouth! Adults and children alike enjoy running around the forest and seeing the handmade giant wooden models. I say this is a good visit for all the family. See you next adventure!

Year 8 ready to say “Allons y” to France

by Isaac Pocklington

YEAR 8 students enjoyed a trip to France this July. They did plenty of activities, including visiting the Laval Market, thrilling Parc Asterix, an animal refuge, and trying fencing. Throughout the trip there were different themed nights like French nights and disco nights. The Château where they stayed hosted activities like

archery, zipwire, fencing, climbing and nightline. They also visited Parc Asterix, a massive theme park with lots of rides, like the most famous ride: OzIris. I think this was the most exciting day. They visited a hypermarket called Laval Market where they spent some of their money, and explored the nearby town.

They also visited an animal rescue shelter called Refuge De'l Arche which has more than 1200 animals in the site.

Mrs Raine, trip organiser said: “I think people were most excited to experience a new culture, visit places which they may not have the opportunity to go on a traditional holiday and get to use and see the language in

action.

“There are challenges going on a trip like this, like stepping outside your comfort zone, trying new foods, speaking in the language, interacting with locals, and – of course – the long journey on the bus, but I'm confident the students got a lot out of it, and didn't want to bid France ‘au revoir’ too soon!”

Year 10s explore Barcelona



by Jack Machin

A GROUP of Year 10 students recently got the opportunity to go to Barcelona with school.

The Year 10 GCSE Spanish students were accompanied by five teachers: Mrs Fuentes, Mrs Egan, Mr Barker, Mr Ferguson, and Mrs Jennings.

On the June 10, the students made their way to Leeds Bradford Airport, where they flew to Barcelona Reus Airport.

After a short coach ride to the hotel, the students all settled in and went to bed after a long day of travelling. On the first day, the students met their tour guide, Jude, who spent the duration of the trip with them. They spent their morning in Montserrat, one of the holiest places in Catalonia. Montserrat is a holy monastery on top of a mountain, surrounded by chapels and hermit caves. The students took a cable car up the mountain before looking around the monastery and interacting with the locals.

After this, the students took a coach to the centre of Barcelona. They made

their way to La Boquiera, a colourful local market filled with amazing stalls that sold many things, such as fruit, ice cream, smoothies and much more.

The students were encouraged to use their Spanish language skills to buy their own lunch. Then, the group took a stroll down the famous Ramblas, before spending the rest of the day shopping in Barcelona. After this, the students took the coach back to the hotel, where they had their evening meal and took a walk down to the local beach before going to bed.

On the second day, the students spent their morning in Tarragona, a town filled with Ancient Roman ruins. They were guided around the town to the beautiful cathedral, where they were allowed to explore the local area and go into shops and cafés.

After this, the students went to Port Aventura, a famous theme park in Spain, where they spent their day going on many roller-coasters and water rides.

After this, the students made their way back to the hotel

for their evening meal and then a walk on the beach. On the third day, the students spent their morning in the Poble de Espanol, a tourist attraction filled with beautiful architecture, amazing museums and interesting shops.

The students also spent some time in Port Vell, an urban renewed waterfront harbour filled with market stalls and shopping centres. Students were encouraged to interact with the locals and use their communication skills to buy souvenirs.

The students next made their way to La Sagrada Familia, a beautiful church in Barcelo-

na, designed by the famous architect Gaudi. They had a guided tour of the show stopping church, where they got told about the meanings behind all of the architecture and the history behind the holy building.

Finally, the students stopped off at the Calafell Slide, which is more than 700 metres long. The final night was spent at the hotel for an evening meal and a quiz night.

On day four, the students were up at 6am for their coach trip to the airport, to catch their 10am flight back to England.



PICTURES



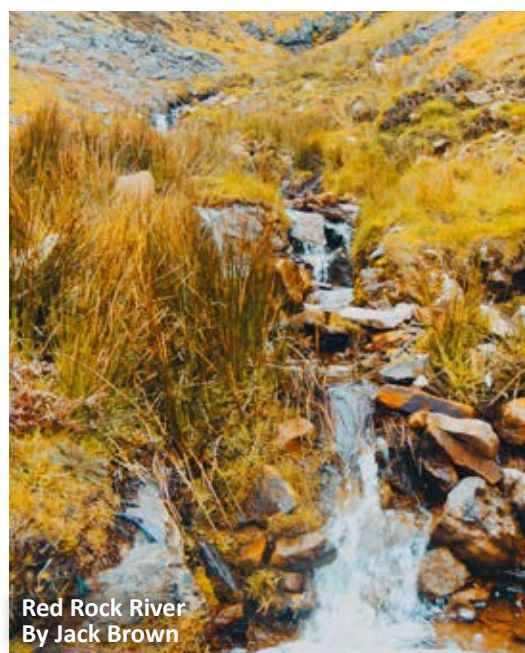
By Emmie Todd



Urban Alignment
By Jack Machin



By Isaac Pocklington



Red Rock River
By Jack Brown



By Isaac Pocklington



By Jack Brown



Winding Travels
By Jack Machin



Radiant Shade
By Jack Machin



Cave to a Better World
By Jack Brown

**Are you a keen shutterbug?
Do you have an eye for composition?**

If you think you can take a cracking photo, then send your best snaps to Academical editor Owen Ovens for a chance to see them in our next issue!



Email your best shots to
z20k.jm1@hummersknott.org.uk

REVIEWS



Clancy by Twenty One Pilots

TWENTY One Pilots have released their seventh studio album, Clancy.

This album follows a storyline that has been going on for almost a decade and has been named the last album describing their storyline.

This storyline is about their main character, Clancy, and his struggles from inside the city of Dema and his multiple escapes out of the city to the continent of Trench with the help of the Banditos –

his friends.

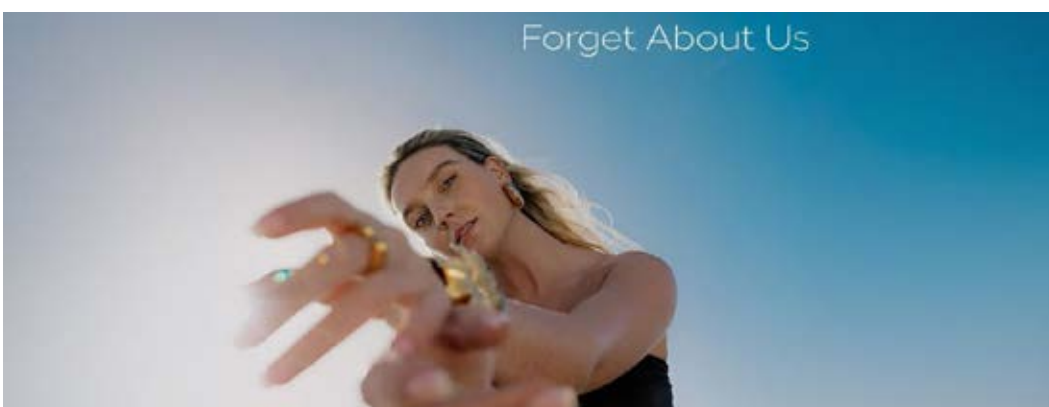
The lore of this storyline is complex and long so if you want to learn more, you can look at the many YouTube videos explaining the Twenty One Pilots lore, or you can watch Twenty One Pilots' own video about their lore entitled "I Am Clancy." This album is about Clancy's journey back to Trench after being stranded somewhere unknown at the end of their previous album 'Scaled and Icy', however there are quite a few non-lore-related songs in the album as well.

Twenty One Pilots introduced this new album to us with the release of their video "I Am Clancy" and slowly released the songs and their music videos before posting their live-stream which premiered all their songs and videos one by one. Their album is extremely high quality, and this is seen in the over a year's worth of creating this album and all of time on the music videos for each song, this meaning that they had to postpone the release date to get it as high quality as possible.

The songs themselves have a truly diverse and beautiful sound and every one of them is different to the next, despite having much the same theme and sound.

The lyrics mostly explore ideas of mental health issues and the different struggles that come with it as well as the band's own insecurities and struggles when it comes to making music and pleasing fans.

By Megan Hughes



Forget About Me - Perrie Edwards

SINGER Perrie Edwards has released her first solo single, after ten years in Little Mix.

With over 2.3 million views on YouTube, fans are really liking Perrie's new single 'Forget About Us'. I believe that this is a great first single.

Holly Brown



Scythe

THIS book by Neal Shusterman is a sci-fi fantasy novel and is the first in a series describing a dystopian world where no one dies – except for those chosen by Scythes. The descriptions and writing style in this book are beautiful and the emotions and reasoning of the characters are very

well portrayed, especially the way it shows how bad influence can severely affect people's mindsets and force them to do things they would never have done otherwise. This book is seriously a beautiful read and leaves you always turning the page.

By
Megan Hughes



Taylormania

In the Darlington Hippodrome, a show called Taylormania was performed by a 'Swiftie' with a passion for performance: Katy Ellis. It was an amazing experience in which she performed most of the Eras Tour setlist along with some others.

It was clear that she had spent lots of time perfecting her voice and accent to imitate Taylor Swift's style. She also has a live band and backup dancers who were all amazing and brought the whole show together.

Ella Smith

There are many clubs within the school walls, but what about its secret ones? Join **Megan Hughes & Marshall Walker** as they review some books they've discovered through...

The Secret Book Club

In the Secret Book Club, the rules are simple; you choose a book, read it at home or in the Club, return it and share your thoughts on it.

This Club helps you read out of your comfort zone. The meeting times of this club are after school and, of course, you can read at home as well. If you would like to join this Club, just go over to English, and speak with Miss Schweizer to find out more.



The Boy at the Back of the Class is the story of Ahmet who had to run away from war. When he joins a new primary school in England, he doesn't speak any English but

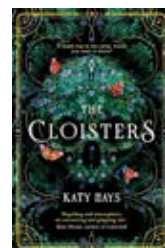
he does love playing football. Despite the language barrier, he finds a group of friends who will do anything to help him find his family.

What follows is a heart-warming adventure that is sure to leave an impression. The characters are full of the childhood innocence that leads to a fair few questionable but humorous choices. Onjali Q. Raúf is building a reputation for herself for powerfully moving stories that encourage empathy on every page and in this reviewer's opinion, that reputation is truly deserved.



Gwen and Art are not in love and they don't care who knows it. There's only one real problem: they've been betrothed since they were children and

their parents have started planning the wedding. It seems they will be trapped in a political marriage until one day Gwen witnesses something that might give her the upper hand... This is Knight's Tale for a modern reader. Think comic moments, miscommunications and a modern take on Arthurian legend. It showcases the brilliant humour of Lex Croucher excellently and will put a smile on even the most stoic faces.



The Cloisters follows Ann Stillwell who moves to New York fresh out of college in a desperate attempt to build a new life for herself. Somewhere in the shadowy

corridors of The Cloisters, a mysterious museum, she begins to craft one. She soon begins to realise that The Cloisters is home to more secrets than she knew. And then a lost tarot card causes things to unravel even further. This is a dark mystery that reveals in uncertainties and liminal spaces. It is deliciously dark and fast paced, keeping you tangled in its mystery until the very end.

Have you read something lately? Or seen watched a film?

We want to hear about the books, movies, games, and music that you want to talk about!

Was it good? Was it terrible?

Send your review to Co-Editor Jack Machin

for the chance to see it our next issue!

z20k.jm1@hummersknott.org.uk



AYDEN'S ARCADE

GAMES ARE SERIOUS BUSINESS FOR AYDEN SMITH

The Amazon series getting fans to pick up a controller



"WAR never changes."

Those are the words millions of new avid Fallout fans hear after the fallout TV series' release, a series that is taking the world by storm through its imaginative concept of a post-apocalyptic America.

This new and fresh series has inspired its audience to get into the games that inspired its creation.

Fallout was the first game released in 1997. The game's story tells of a vault dweller, a person who, like many others, fled the bombs dropping by hiding in a vault – an underground bunker designed to preserve the best and brightest.

However, a dark truth awaited them: these shelters were an excuse for the manufacturers to run experiments on their inhabitants, with many dying from the horrible torture they were forced to endure.

The most recent installment,

Fallout 76, is being updated and tweaked for its large player base.

The game is set in West Virginia, in the Appalachian regions, where the dwellers of Vault 76 venture into the wasteland. Fallout 76 is the only game in the franchise that has multiplayer, meaning that friends and family alike could explore the post-apocalyptic setting that is Fallout.

When first released the reviews were overall negative, but over time the game regained its footing. Though these negative reviews have caused a slight decrease in the game's popularity, it has largely bounced back.

Each game explores a variety of new and interesting landscapes, from the war-torn land of Appalachia to the ruins of Las Vegas. With new instalments and updates on the way, these games are necessary to play if the show sparked your liking.

The teenager that hacked Rockstar



ONE of the world's largest game developers has finally won its fight against a teenage hacker.

Arion Kurtaj, the alleged founder of the notorious hacking group known as Lap-suss\$, has recently been convicted of carrying out a major hack on the famous company Rockstar, stealing code to their biggest game in development, whilst in police custody for previous hacking charges, against EE, BT, and Uber.

Arion, a 16-year-old from Oxford has been sent indefinitely to a psychiatric ward after many severe hacking charges against multiple companies. Companies including

EE, Uber, and others.

It was decided in court that Arion was mentally unfit for trial, and he had "caused real harm to real victims involved."

He was sentenced to life in a psychiatric ward until he is thought to not be a danger to society but adding that as he "continued to express the intent to return to cyber-crime as soon as possible," he will not be released any time soon.

However, what is interesting is how he did it. Arion had already been under police custody, being held in a local Travelodge with a high amount of surveillance. He purchased an Amazon firestick, some-

thing that would ordinarily be used to watch shows and movies, and used it to hack into one of the biggest gaming companies in the world, To gain access to the highly anticipated Grand Theft Auto 6 - a game which has been in development for 14 years and is thought to be amongst the most realistic and ground-breaking games ever developed.

Despite these recent events, the official GTA 6 trailer was released with over 140 million views on YouTube, with many preparing for the inevitable release of this Triple-A title that will be sure to blow the public's expectations out of the park.



Days Gone

DAYS Gone is a shooter zombie game about a biker and his best friend riding around post-apocalyptic Oregon. At the start of the game, you and your friend are chasing a biker called Leon to reclaim stolen goods. In time this game turns into a story about a biker finding answers about what happened to his wife while also trying to survive against different factions like the 'Freakers' (zombie-like enemies), the 'Anarchists', and the 'Rip-

pers' (humans acting like the zombies because they believe being a 'freak' is way better than being alive). It is an open-world game where you can find hordes of zombies that have names based on where they are placed or where they rest, and if you kill the horde entirely you get experience points and can unlock different abilities. You can also find different military checkpoints to upgrade your stamina, health, and 'focus' – basically

ly a slow-motion mode when aiming which enables you to kill enemies faster. During the game you find camps which you can increase reputation by completing tasks such as bounties – this is useful because it will enable you to buy more things. One of the best things about playing on PC is that you can install mods to make your game better. Admittedly, the game can be a little buggy and gameplay occasionally slows down,

and you can't replay missions or kill hordes again without reloading an earlier save. Nevertheless, this is a really good game – it has a great story, which ends on a huge cliff-hanger. At the moment there is no sequel to the game, as they cancelled production – which is a shame.



By Tomasz Pawlowski



BeamNG

BeamNG is essentially a physics engine – which is software that allows computers to create physics phenomena that we experience in the real world. It has the most detailed and authentic vehicle simulation you've ever seen in a game. The soft body physics programming allows collisions and vehicle damage to be realistically simulated. There are lots of reasons to play: no two crashes are

the same; you can download mods to get different cars; and you can fly planes! That being said, sometimes the handling on the cars isn't great, and sometimes it doesn't feel that realistic. I really like this game because you can never get bored of it – no two crashes are the same – it's really fun to play.



By Connor Campbell



Ghost Recon: Breakpoint

Ghost Recon: Breakpoint, is a tactical third person shooter game. At the beginning of the game you get stuck on an island by a swarm of drones which destroy your helicopter – your main goal is to find a way off the island. In the game you can be a master of stealth, or you can go guns blazing. You can have many adventures with friends or AI teammates to help you beat your missions. Positives about Ghost Recon: It is a very good game and is worth buying if you like being stealthy or just want a good shooter game. It is available on all plat-

forms and can be found for less than £15. Negatives about Ghost Recon:

It can be buggy at times like getting stuck in the floor or the enemy drones freezing. Aiden's Star Rating: I would give it 4/5 stars: I really like the storytelling in the game – all the missions build upon each other leading to finding out who made the drones that got you stuck on the island. I really like playing really stealthily – it's a real challenge and makes the gameplay exciting.



By Aidan Piper

PUZZLES

EUROS 24 Wordsearch

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

- FOOTBALL
SWITZERLAND
TURKIYE
UKRAINE
CROATIA
FRANCE
HUNGARY
- NETHERLANDS
SCOTLAND
ENGLAND
GEORGIA
DENMARK
POLAND
CZECHIA
- SLOVENIA
GERMANY
AUSTRIA
ALBANIA
SERBIA
ITALY

Hummersknott Sudoku Challenge

Fill in the grid with numbers so that each column, each row and each 3x3 box all contain the digits 1 to 9.

		1	5	8	3			4
	4			1		3	7	
		3		4		2		
					8			
		9		7	5		1	
	1					7		
1	3					5		7
5		6						
4	9					8		6

Horoscopes

Divined by Lucas Jackson-Ayre

CAPRICORN ♑
Feeling down? Try baking some cookies, capitalizing off others' suffering, taking a walk, or other mood-boosting activities.

AQUARIUS ♒
Have you tried coffee jelly? It's pretty popular in Japan. Maybe try something new. No matter your gender or orientation, you can listen to sapphic music. It's pretty good.

PISCES ♓
Turn a bad hair day into a good hair day by wearing a wig. If the wig is having a bad hair day... I don't know what to tell you. Wear a second wig?

ARIES ♈
With loneliness on the rise, you can find solace in the arms of a cat or perhaps a raccoon. I would recommend checking out where your stuff comes from. It must not be fun finding out that your cute new dress was so cheap because it was made by children.

TAURUS ♉
Play some video games. Eat some snacks. Build a real bro cave.

GEMINI ♊
Use your incredibly wide social platform to promote conspiracies and misinformation.

CANCER ♋
Do you have too much money and just don't know what to do? Try buying a company, house, or a few new cars. Petrol, of course. None of that eco-friendly, electric car business.

LEO ♌
Fight against the British to assert French power over western Europe. Your empire shall crumble before you, and your 72,000 men shall turn to ash before your eyes.

VIRGO ♍
Your happiness lies in the golden wheat fields and orchards of olives. Do not eat the pomegranate from the tree. Tis full of only bugs. And also possibly Hades. Luigi is a Virgo, apparently. That's cool.

LIBRA ♎
Venus has burnt to a crisp in a recent solar flare, so be prepared for the combustion. If your surname begins with M, buy chocolates for a Webbed man or bad luck may befall you.

SCORPIO ♏
Embrace the feral goblin energy. You know you have it in you.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
Need to get somewhere really fast? Don't worry! You could always take a private jet flight there! It's only a few miles? Take one anyway! Don't worry about the carbon emissions, it's not like anything past 2020 was real anyway.

SPORT



Hummersknott dominates Hurworth in Town Cup final



by Olivia Smith

FOR the third year in a row the Year 11 boys' football team have won the Town Cup. The team triumphed in a fantastic 6-2 final victory over Hurworth School. The match was played at Middlesbrough FC's training ground on May 17, and it was an exciting match at that – Tom Fenney scored the opening goal within the first minute of the game, giving the Hummersknott team the immediate upper hand. Hurworth equalised midway

through the first half, but Joe Neild scored his first goal of the game to put Hummersknott ahead going into the second half. Hurworth fought back to score a second goal early in the second half, but after Joe Neild completed his hat-trick, Alfie Rickard scored a screamer and George Garlick claimed the final goal of the game. Hurworth were simply out-classed – 6-2 Hummersknott, full time. The squad consisted of Tom

Shield in goal, Harrison Scott, Luke Cinnamon, Tom Fenney, Jackson Cherrie, Oli Beacom, Zak Davies-Sen, Jimmy Smith, George Garlick, Joe Neild, Oli Paylor, Alfie Rickard, Joseph Gayles, Alex Jackson, Theo Hawkins and Connor Alder. Mr Peacock has coached the team for the last five years he said: "This team have been excellent representatives of Hummersknott as well as excellent footballers, and it is exciting to see what the future holds for them."

Top place finish for Boys leads to UK finals

by Hannah Smith

TWO Hummersknott teams competed at the regional athletics competition. The Year 10 and 11 boys' team left with a result that we have never seen before at Hummersknott by winning the regional final. They will go on to represent the North East as part of the top ten schools in the country.

This secured their place in the National finals in Stoke. The relay team put Hummersknott at an advantage at the very beginning of the competition, getting them twelve points ahead before most of the competition had even begun. Throughout the day, the boys kept their confidence and powered through each of the games to secure the win. Each one of them showed resilience, determination, and boldness, as they not only improved as individuals, but they have also grown as a team to beat opposing schools and found themselves in first place.

The close competitors were St John Fisher Catholic High School, Harrogate who scored three hundred and eighty-five points. Second place went to St Aidan's CE High School, Harrogate, who scored three hundred and ninety-five points, and finally first place was awarded to Hummersknott Academy, Darlington, coming out of the competition scoring a total of with four hundred and five points awarded. The Year 7 and Year 8 girls team also competed, placing seventh.

Football and thrills at Flamingo Land's weekend tournament

by Olivia Smith

FLAMINGO Land Resort hosted a weekend long football tournament for teams all over England. Flamingo Land has been a long-beloved destination for many families and friends to have some adrenaline-pumping fun, and by introducing football matches, the park has blended the excitement

of sport with many diverse entertainment options within the park. The games began on Saturday, May 11 and concluded on Sunday. The weekend finished with a presentation that awarded a participation trophy to every team, but the harder-working and most diligent players

of each team were presented with a special and individual award. Each morning brought on some exhilarating, and intense games that kept the viewers on the edge of their seats. When the morning ended, every team got to celebrate with a well-deserved afternoon on the park rides.

Netballers triumph at Leeds Rhinos weekend



by **Elspeth Robertson**

HUMMERKNOTT students ranging from Year 7 to Year 10 represented Headlander's Netball Team at Butlins during a Leeds Rhinos netball weekend.

The Under Fifteens were group winners.

In Year 7, Lara Collings and Heidi Scotchbrook were just some of the Under 15 group winners, followed by Anna Scott Wailes and Orla Armstrong in Year 8.

Lots of Year 9s won as well: Elle Robson, Maddie Glew,

and Jenna Gordon, and multiple Year 10s: Elly Walker, Ruby Strong, Emily Sinclair, Jasmine Ward, Evie Wilson, and Amelia Singh.

Everyone worked amazingly well and as a team and as a result did spectacularly well.

Hummersknott Boys improve Track and Field ranking to finish 11th in England

by **Mr Tatham**

THE English Schools Track and Field Cup had 470 schools start out in the competition and the Inter Boys went into the Final in Stoke as one of the top 13 schools in England.

The Inter Boys team were ranked 13 of 13 on paper from the previous round but from the time they left school to when they returned at 8:30pm on Saturday night they showed great team spirit and unity.

They finished 11th out of 13 teams on the school's debut at this level. Their total points went up from 405 at the Regional final to 426 points as a result of everyone of the 15 strong squad either improving or equalling at least one previous round's

performance.

The boys learnt so much from the whole weekend about themselves and they have achieved something unique by Hummersknott students.

It can be little unfair to pick out individual performances to highlight but Hugo equalled the National cup record for 80m hurdles with a time of 10.6 seconds.

I would like to thank Sam for all her efforts coordinating the weekend, the parents who came to support, Jack Hinde's mum for driving him down Friday night and her company for sponsoring the vests, all donations given to make the weekend a special time for all and Max Staniforth's constant team encouragement.

The team included Hugo Douglas Reeves, Zack Mohammed, Max Innis, Max Graham, Luke Walker, Max Staniforth, Roman Steel, Rohan Elder, Matthew Foster, Tom Spencer, John Hamilton, Jayden Wind, Alex Morton, Jack Williamson, James Dryden, and Jack Hinde. The boys showed incredible determination, not just in their individual events, but in their unwavering support for one another throughout the competition. Their camaraderie was evident in every race, jump, and throw. The experience has undoubtedly strengthened their bond and prepared them for future challenges. This remarkable journey will be remembered by all involved.

Year 7s trounce Polam to reach Town Cup final

by **Yasmin Trebilco**

THE Year 7 football team defeated a tough Polam team in the semifinal of the Town Cup.

Hummersknott performed phenomenally on the pitch with determination and teamwork.

Throughout the game, Hummersknott's defense was resolute, with key tackles and interceptions preventing Polam from gaining momentum.

Four fabulous goals were scored, two from Cael Brock and two by Oly Appleyard – one a marvellous looping lob right over the keeper's head. The boys left the match victorious, the final score 4-1. This qualified them for the final at Rockcliffe Hall.

The football team was Cael Brock, Archie Strong, Saavn Patrai, Jaden Singh, Riley Mansfield, Noah Hannafin, Indie Williamson, Peter Cinnamon, Cameron Geldard, Ollie Appleyard, Callum Threadgill and Wazir Ahmed.

Hummersknott athletics stars qualify for inter-counties match

by **Holly Cherie**

A GROUP of talented Hummersknott students qualified in the inter counties match to represent Durham at Gateshead stadium.

The team scored first and second against strong opposition while representing Darlington at the county athletics competition, winning the chance to go on to play at the county level.

Skilful students knocked the socks off many competitors who joined them in Monkton Stadium in June.

Gold medallists were Rowan Steel in the 800 Metres with a time of 2:06; Matthew Foster in 1500 Metres with a time of 4:31; Hugo Douglas Reeves in 100 Metre Hurdles; Rohan Elder in Triple Jump jumping a length of 10.90m; and Max Graham in High Jump jumping a length of 1.67m.

Silver medallists were Elizabeth Clay in the 100 Metres, Max Innis in Javelin, Isabelle Holdcroft in the 200 Metres and Emily Bowerbank in Discus.

Girls crowned U13 Town Cup champions with 10-4 victory

by Yasmin Trebilco

HUMMERKNOTT Year 7 and 8 girls performed remarkably to win the U13 girls Town cup against Hurworth.

The team left the game victorious with a score of 10-4. They were engaged in every minute of the match, playing skilfully and with determination, using teamwork to get the ball in the back on the net.

Imogen A earned the player of the match award thanks to her outstanding defending against some strong attacking opponents.

All the girls were marvellous to watch in action and deserve full credit including Amelia S who was cheering

on the team after an unfortunate injury on Monday. The goal scorers were Grace 4x, Izzy 2x, Beth, May, Indie and Adele.

The Year 7 team played Carmel and had a tight first half, Hummersknott having two cracking shots on goal by Louis Heslop and Riley Mansfield that unluckily hit the goal post.

Carmel decided to take their chances, ending the first half 2-0.

The second half of the match was more aggressive as players showed themselves to be more determined.

Ollie Appleyard managed to score their first goal of the

match, making it 2-1. Unfortunately, Carmel kept the win to the end of the match, finishing it with one extra goal, the final score being 3-1.

Year 9 continued their wonderful season, triumphantly picking up their second cup of the season by beating Hurworth 5-1.

They battled and dominated the first half of the match, keeping good possession of the ball and having a few shots on goal.

They eventually came to half time, leading 1-0. Hummersknott scored their second goal 20 seconds into the second half.

Hurworth stepped up which resulted with them pulling a goal back, however Hummersknott came back again, scoring three more goals by Rohan Elder and Ollie Marlsbury.

Will Barker was selected as Man of the Match, but all players played tremendously. All the boys' and girls' teams performed wonderfully during each match, finishing this season with five out of seven finals and winning three town cups this year.

The teams also wanted to express a massive thank you to Mr. Peacock for managing and motivating them to reach such a high level.

Diary of a schoolgirl footballer



by Grace Weston

I HAVE been playing football since I was in Reception. I started going on Friday after school to TSC Football Academy and played in the boys' team and I loved it! I remember going to their

summer camps every year holiday at Hummersknott and winning trophies. Around the age of nine I was asked to join TSC which I did and I would train every Saturday and play a match on Sunday.

Back then I was a winger. I used to score loads of goals so they moved me to striker. Just before secondary school I moved to a girls team because I wasn't all allowed to play with boys any more, so I decided to join Darlington

Locomotives.

This season I have been playing as a striker and I have scored 56 goals in 14 games. We have won all 14 games in Division One and we have been promoted for next season into the Premier League, when I am signing for Darlington FC Under 12s. Whilst still playing for Darlington Locomotives (its called dual registration) I have been going to trials for teams around the district, like Teesside and Darlington. I train just about every day of the week, which is brilliant because I just love football!

Do you have a sporting success to shout about?

Whatever sport you enjoy,
let us know how it's going!

Tell our news desk and you could appear in the next edition of the Hummersknott Academical!

Email

z20k.jm1@hummersknott.org.uk

Cheerleaders triumph in Florida



by Holly Brown

JESS Bleasby, Ava Stoves-Clark in Year 10 and Anya Ready in Year 7 have competed at The Allstar Cheerleading Championships in Florida. These championships are the

pinnacle of the cheerleading world, with 1000 teams taking part from all over the world.

Only teams who are bidden are allowed to attend, meaning the level of competition

is very high for everyone. The team, named Ice Queens, competed in the Level 2 under 16 category, where 54 teams competed. They 'hit zero' – meaning they received zero deductions –

and will be getting a peak performance plaque for the achievement.

They won first place with a gold medal in the Level 2 under 17's category at the Open Championships in Florida

BreakOUT Group

LGBTQ+ Social Group

Wednesday A Week

ENG2 3.30 - 4.15

Everyone welcome!

Wednesday A week

Everyone Welcome



BreakOUT

LGBTQ+ Social Group

Everyone welcome!

Meeting Time:

Weds A Week
3.15pm - 4.15pm

Location:

English 2

Rumble in the Ring



by Helen Rahimi

JAKE Paul is an infamous Youtuber but also, a boxer who has won against Nate Diaz, Anderson Silva, and Tyrone Woodly twice. Tommy Fury is also a popular boxer and Mixed Martial Artist who has won against KSI,

Daniel Bocianski, and Anthony Taylor and is favoured by fans.

On February 26, these boxers came to blows in Diriyah, Saudi Arabia.

The YouTube stars got together and traded punches for eight rounds which resulted in a split decision

victory in favour of Tommy Fury.

One judge scored it 74-45 to Jake Paul, while the other two judges had it 76-73 to Tommy Fury.

The event generated 800,000 pay-per-views. Jake Paul earned a whopping \$9.8 million, and Fury earned \$5.4

million.

Paul looked dejected as Fury spoke to him, given the devastating loss, but still mustered a message: "Thank you bro."

Fury finished by saying: 'It was a great build up, a great fight. Thank you very much.'

Year 8 Girls secure second in town rounders tournament

by Yasmin Trebilco

The Hummersknott Year 8 Girls rounders team took the second place spout at a recent inter-school contest.

The team played in the town rounders tournament at Polam hall School, where they performed excellently and with lots of strong teamwork and effort. The girls managed to finish in second

place out of five other schools with two wins, one draw and one loss against the winning team (but only by one rounder).

They were a pleasure to watch in action as they went through each game and it was clear they had determination to reach the high place that they deserved. The team was:

Maizie, Emilia, Mia, Orla, Bella, Jasmine, Sophie, Lily, Lola, Emily and Anna. Beth J was also a part of the team but due to an injury, she unfortunately couldn't play. The team's coach praised their dedication and hard work, highlighting the significant improvement in their skills and

strategy since the start of the season. Their camaraderie and sportsmanship were commendable, reflecting the true spirit of the game. The girls' commitment to excellence and teamwork was evident throughout the tournament, making them proud representatives of their school.

Cricketers sweep town tournament

by Marshall Walker

THE Year 7 and 8 cricket teams went to the town cricket tournament and won every game.

To be crowned U13 Town Champions, Hummersknott defeated Hurworth School, Polam Hall School, Wyvern Academy, and Carmel College.

Accurate bowling and excellent running between the wickets made the difference, and most of the team turning up every Friday morning to practice showed hard work pays off.

Hummersknott's Kyle Forster captains Northern Ireland to chair football win



by Olivia Smith

KYLE Forster has become Hummersknott's latest international sports star by captaining his country to powerchair football success.

SportScotland Inverclyde National Sport Training Centre was the venue for the international tournament in which Kyle represented Northern Ireland as they faced England, Scotland, and the Republic of Ireland.

Making his debut for the develop-

ment squad, Forster was given the captain's armband when the regular captain was substituted after some fine displays and several classy assists.

Kyle said: "I was delighted to be selected and enjoyed the games immensely.

"I'm really looking forward to playing for Northern Ireland again. My mum got a bit emotional when I was made captain! Like me, she was very proud."