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Hummersknott Academical

May 2024 striving | supporting | succeeding

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**Chancellor denies
tax cuts are a
'bribe to voters'**

FULL STORY ON PAGE 13



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Mr Thompson

Mrs Jackson

Mrs Musson

Mr Barker

Special Thanks

Mr Webber

Mrs Kippax

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Editor's Comment



Within this edition we have made minor changes to improve your reading experience and expand our writing topics so that there is something for everyone.

For this issue our politics section has had an influx of articles including a breakthrough academical exclusive article with the Chancellor Jeremy Hunt.

A further addition to the paper is the change of the travel section to lifestyle which will now contain a variety of food, fashion and travel for an extended reading.

As you read our 14th issue after our five years of publications you will find a wider selection of articles and a unique design which has been influenced by the young journalists involved over the years.

I am extremely proud of the achievements by the team over my five years at the paper and under my editorial-ship for these past six publications.

Since starting the

publication in our humble beginnings we have constantly expanded our horizons and now achieved an astounding six national awards from Shine Media Awards over our past two years of editions.

However after this long journey it is time for myself to say thank you for reading our humble school newspaper for the final time as I take a step away from the paper to focus on my academic studies and future outside of Hummers-knott Academy.

It has been a pleasure to play a key role in the evolution of the paper and its progression in recent years. I cannot thank my team enough for their hard work and dedication to the paper, as without them it wouldn't be where it is today.

I would now like to announce the passing of my editorial-ship to our sports and culture editors Jack Machin and Olivia Smith who will take over in a joint editorial-ship for the coming year.

Again thank you all for your hard work on the team over the last few years and I wish all of the older members on the team the best of luck as they progress to their post 16 education.

Term and holiday dates

Holiday

May Day 2024

Summer Half Term 2024

Summer 2024

Autumn Half Term 2024

School Closure Day 2024

Christmas 2024

Spring Half Term 2025

Closing Date

Friday 3 May 2024

Friday 24 May 2024

Friday 19 July 2024

Friday 25 October 2024

Thursday 28 November 2024

Friday 20 December 2024

Friday 21 February 2025

Re-opening for teaching

Tuesday 7 May 2024

Monday 3 June 2024

Wednesday 4 September 2024

Monday 4 November 2024

Monday 2 December 2024

Tuesday 7 January 2025

Monday 3 March 2025

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
	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
WED	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)
	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
THU	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
	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
FRI	8:00am	9:00am	Trampolineing
	8:15am	9:00am	Band
	12:45pm	1:10pm	French Homework Club - Week B
	3:15pm	5:45pm	Badminton

Privacy or deception? The debate over Princess Kate's brave health disclosure



by Olivia Smith

AFTER the Princess of Wales underwent a planned abdominal surgery mid-January, speculation arose regarding the true condition of her health.

The Royal Family released very few details following the procedure, however they reassured us that Catherine's surgery was successful, but she was expected to remain hospitalised for up to two weeks to begin her recovery process.

On January 29, just under two weeks after the surgery, Kate was discharged from the London Clinic, and Kensington Palace officials said she would not return to her public duties until after Easter.

However, there were no photos released of Kate leaving

the London Clinic, unlike when her father-in-law, King Charles III, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer. At the beginning of March, Kate was spotted for the first time since her hospitalisation; TMZ published grainy photos of her in a car in Windsor, however the British press, in respect to the Princess' privacy, refrained from sharing the images.

This series of events all leads up to Mother's Day, March 10, when the Prince and Princess of Wales shared a family photo of Princess Kate with her three children - George, Charlotte and Louis - supposedly taken the week prior by Prince William. With a variety of rumours and conspiracies already floating around regarding the Princess' whereabouts, this photograph seemed

to fuel conspiracists even more. It was very clearly heavily edited; from Kate's hand being very blurry to Charlotte's sleeve blending into her mother's top. It was so obviously edited that the Associated Press issued a 'kill order', refusing to use the photo.

This sparked a lot of controversy regarding Kate's whereabouts, the state of her health and whether there is something going on behind the closed royal doors.

The speculation resulted in the Princess speaking out on social media, ushering the public not to worry as she was just experimenting with editing photographs, however this was not a satisfactory response in the eyes of many, raising questions such as 'why didn't they hire a professional photographer?' - it

all seemed very out of character for the royal family. This resulted in the Princess of Wales herself issuing a public statement about her health on March 22.

She bravely appeared before a camera to share the devastating news that cancer had been found after her operation, and therefore her medical team advise that she undergoes chemotherapy treatment, and that she is currently in the early stages of this process.

She also made it clear that herself and William would like to be offered privacy at this challenging time for their family as they appropriately explain to their children what lies ahead for their mother.

This news surely came as a shock to the Royal Family, as well as millions across the globe who have offered the princess their best wishes for her treatment and recovery.

However, many are still questioning the way in which the family chose to deal with this situation in the public eye.

Of course, Kate and her family deserve privacy at this time, and now that she has spoken about her condition, that will surely be extended to them.

But leading up to this point, the situation was dealt with in a very peculiar way - the edited photograph followed by Princess Kate's initial statement about experimenting with editing has left a lot of people rethinking their trust in the Royal Family, questioning what in the build-up to the Princess' final statement was truly honest, and, most importantly, expressing their concern for the Princess' health.

King Charles' cancer diagnosis



by Ella Smith

UNFORTUNATELY, on February 5th, 2024, Buckingham Palace confirmed that King Charles III has been diagnosed with cancer.

They have not released much information on this topic since then, but we do know that the King's cancer is not terminal.

We also do not know yet what type of cancer, only that it was discovered during

a procedure for an enlarged prostate.

Since the news was released, King Charles has postponed public duties during his treatment in London, and he will be returning to full public duty as soon as possible. Recently, His Majesty announced his treatment was proceeding well, and he would return to public duties with the Queen by his side.

Skin scare regime!



by Hannah Smith and Holly Cherrie

ARE you a fan of skin care? If so, ever tried Sol de Janeiro? You may have heard of the brand for their globally famous body sprays and lotions, but beware - the newest edition of their creamy body butter collection Delicia Drench has been known to attract the deadly Wolf Spider!

The brand went viral in 2015 with their quality products, and in January 2024 they brought out Delicia to broaden their fan base.

But the product is allegedly made up of scented chemicals that when combined perfectly mimic the scent of a female wolf spider.

The chemicals farnesyl acetate, hexadecyl acetate and diisobutyl phthalate allegedly combine to create a scent that the eight-legged love bugs can't resist.

Wolf spiders generally live in grasslands and green outdoor areas, although when male spiders smell the sweet scent of Sol de Janeiro, you may find them living in your house!

Responding to these rumours in Newsweek, Sol de Janeiro said: "Sol de Janeiro takes the safety and concerns of its consumers extremely seriously.

"The brand carefully selects each ingredient for maximum efficacy and have banned the use of over 100 cosmetic ingredients in its formulations, while remaining at the forefront of developments in science and new standards around the world to ensure human and environmental health and safety, only working with partners who support the company's commitment to sustainable

sourcing and science-backed safe biomimetics.

"Farnesyl acetate, and hexadecyl acetate are not present in any of our Sol de Janeiro products, particularly Delicia Drench Body Butter and Cheirosa 59 Perfume Mist. Any claims that say otherwise are false and have no merit whatsoever.

"While we cannot speak to the affect these aforementioned chemicals have on arachnids, we confidently can say that these chemicals are not present in any of our products."

Despite the assurances, members of the public still are still claiming a link between of Wolf spiders appearing in their house after the purchase of the cream. Surely a coincidence - but it still makes our skin shiver!

April's world history

by Megan Hughes

ON April 1 2001, the Netherlands became the first contemporary country to allow same sex marriage.

On the April 3 1933, the first flight over Mount Everest was conducted by the British Houston Mount Everest Flight Expedition.

On the April 6, the first modern Olympic games was celebrated in Athens in 1896, 1,500 years after the games were banned by the Romans.

On the April 9 1860, Edouard-Leon Scott de Martinville made the first ever audible recording of a human voice on his phonograph machine, which would become the forerunner of modern audio recording.

On April 10 1815, Mount Tambora started its three-month-long eruption (lasting until the July 15), killing approximately 71,000 people and affecting the planet's climate for the next two years.

On April 13 1570, Guy Fawkes (the infamous 'triggerman' of the Gunpowder Plot intended to blow up the Houses of Parliament) was born.

On April 14 1912, the RMS Titanic hit an iceberg and began to slowly sink, fully sinking the next day.

On the April 25 1792, highwayman Nicholas J. Pelletier became the first person executed by guillotine - more than 15,000 people would follow him throughout the French 'Reign of Terror'.

On April 26 1803, thousands of meteor fragments fall from the sky of L'Aigle in France, convincing scientists that meteors exist.

On the April 28 1945, Nazi Germany carried out its final use of gas chambers, murdering 33 members of the Upper Austrian Socialist & Communist Party.

They think it's all over - it is now!

Once again teachers dominate the Fantasy Football league table as Hummersknott's Klopp and Guardiola, Mr Webber and Mr Robertson-Taylor battle it out for the championship. Asked about his slender lead, Mr Webber admitted:

"I simply cannot handle the pressure. I'm bound to crumble like Keegan in '96" before mumbling incomprehensibly "I'd love it if we beat them, love it."

A student has yet to win the Hummersknott Fantasy Football League title, with

last year's trophy going to Mr Robertson-Taylor.

Mr Birkett won it the year previously.

The highest placed student is Kai Allen in third place, but there is yet hope amongst the student community that some young tactical genius

will step up and dethrone the triumphant teachers.

Do you have what it takes to win next year?

Start planning your team now!

Fond farewells and welcome backs



by Sophie Charlton
and Lola Dunphy

HUMMERSKNOTT Academy has bid goodbye to members of staff this term, and welcomed others back into

the fold.

Well-loved teacher, Mr Stout is due to leave this at the end of this Easter term. He has been given a promotion to a different job at an academy

chain.

He has been teaching maths at Hummersknott since 2016. He said: "I love teaching at Hummersknott. I've been here for eight years, and I have loved every minute. "My favourite part has been being in a room teaching and watching people succeed and enjoy maths. It's been emotional."

Mr Nicholson, Catering Manager, won't be leaving entirely, but instead has moved to work for the Advance Learning Partnership, the trust to which Hummersknott belongs.

He has now become ALP's new Health and Safety Manager: "I will miss all the students and staff and I'm sad to see everyone go, but I'm happy for a new challenge." Ms Standish, from Learning Support, has recently returned after 10 months from having a beautiful baby girl. Her baby's name is Elizabeth and Mrs Standish said: "I love being a mother! I am incredibly happy to be back and love meeting all the new Year 7s".

Language teacher, Ms Lock has also recently returned from maternity leave. She said: "I loved taking a break but I'm happy to be back!" She spent 11 months with her gorgeous baby girl, Sophia. She has told us she is constantly missing Sophia at work and said: "I love being a mother."

Christmas fair raises thousands of pounds for school

by Holly Brown

HUMMERSKNOTT Academy raised an incredible £2,500 from the Christmas Fair. The Christmas fair was a big hit for all ages, and a lot of parents tagged along with their children to enjoy the activities.

There was games, stores, and charity stalls organised by students.

It cost a 50p entry fee, one of the ways in which the school had raised the money.

Mr Merifield, Head of School, said: "On behalf of all the school, thank you to all parents and staff who attended and supported the school." Hummersknott has already started putting this money to good use. College Captains have been busy putting forward ideas in which the money can be spent for multiple departments.

The ideas include a school branded running vest set due to the high number of athletes competing for the school at competitive events, science equipment to aid practical lessons, and equipment to replace and refresh Hummersknott's computer infrastructure.

Student council delivers

by Holly Brown

HUMMERSKNOTT offers a wide range of opportunities, student council being one of them.

Each college has a specific teacher who forwards all their ideas.

Student council forms were put forward by students who were interested in the role in November.

Once sent in, all college managers and the organisers came together to decide who was going to be a part of student council. Now some amazing changes have been made.

In Stephenson, the student council have all put forward the problems of the lunch queue: being too crowded and students having to 'hold their breath' before going to the lunch queue.

Mr Barker has discussed this with other teachers. Over time this has turned into a

better situation, teachers making a gap between the lunch queue and only letting groups in at a time.

Stephenson college have also proposed to allow coats to be left on when entering the building, putting them on before going outside for lunch and break.

Finally they have asked for the Year 11's to have a wider range of colours for their leavers hoodies and to wear them earlier.

For Ketton, the student council have asked for some food items to be brought back (which did happen), and a vote for cheese toasties to come back to the canteen. They proposed a survey on the suggestions that other students had for food.

This idea made students enjoy the food from the canteen a lot more, as they now could eat what was suggested by them. Ketton had created a

fundraiser for valentine's day, which involved in sending a card anonymously (or not!) to win a Nando's gift card, in which Mr McNeill had won.

This led to a proud £135 being raised. They are organising an event to go to the Metro Centre.

For Quaker, the student council have proposed to have a survey about the lunch times, and what students would like to see changed about them, and have asked people in their college's forms what changes they would like to see, allowing students to have a wider range of opinions.

For Wyvern, the student council have suggested to gather and deliver the whole school feedback to the canteen manager, resulting in numerous changes to the menu.

In the near future, the stu-

dent council in Wyvern will be having a meeting with SLT in which the students will be asking questions to them about the queries around uniform, the school days and events they would like to put on.

They have also organised the highly successful WyvAid concert.

For Cuthbert, the student council have recommended for there to be a disability access to the stage in the main hall, as now there is no way for students with a disability to get on the stage. They also suggested specific football free areas in the yard, for people who aren't football fans.

Student council have used their voice in many ways, their suggestions already have been put forward and are going to be discussed by other staff members in a meeting.

Trotting teacher

Miss Jackson's astounding desert run

by Holly Brown



by Inga Leonard

A HUMMERSKNOTT teacher has proven he can run more than just a science class. Science teacher, Mr Harcourt, took third place out of 200 people and won a bronze medal in the North East Master Cross Country Champion-

ship for his age group. Mr Harcourt, who runs for the Darlington Harriers, has been busy competing in the North Yorkshire and South Durham competition in the 35-39 age group. He competed in six rounds

which took place throughout the North East.

The first was held in Middlesbrough, with additional runs in Redcar, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough again, Whitby, and Richmond.

HUMMERSKNOTT Academy has recently been looking at aspirations, trying to navigate students to achieve to their best ability.

Miss Jackson has taken inspiration from this and has now took on the incredible challenge of the Marathon Des Sables.

The Marathon Des Sables is a self-sufficient ultra marathon, where you cover 255km of the desert over 7 days, and is considered to amongst the most challenging races in the world.

It was explained that she already had done this in 2022, but is now re-doing this challenge in the summer.

You go through relentless sand storms, and hard dunes to climb. She was inspired to do the challenge for the second time as Amber, her friend's daughter sadly passed away in 2020. Both times she had raised money for her, to go towards the Children's Cancer North. The money from the walk will be counted towards Hummersknott's charity amount at the end of the year.

If you would like to fund Miss Jackson's marathon, her Just Giving page is open for business!

Studying got you down? Try our Revision Tips!

by Holly Cherrie

WANT to Ace your exams and set yourself up for success? Then revision is the first and most crucial step to satisfying results! Hummersknott's Year 11 students are preparing for their final exams and have revision tips and tricks to share with other peers.

Step 1

Find a routine that works for you for example 20 minutes working five minutes breather regime. It is always good to let your brain have a break and cool down before focusing back on your work.

Step 2

Reward yourself! Do not let your self loose focus set up a reward for yourself, if you complete the twenty minutes of work (or more) you can treat yourself to something that makes you happy.

Step 3

Active recall, sometimes when revising it is good to say things aloud to yourself. For example, asking yourself

questions or summarising what you have just learnt or written.

Step 4

Looking after yourself is also an especially vital component when preparing for a test it is not only knowledge that leads to success it is also crucial that your mental state is stable when preparing for an exam.

Step 5

Music can sometimes be useful when revising. This can help improve focus and boost your mood. Although sometimes it can be distracting if listened to at the right time it can be very successful in helping revise.

Step 6

Blurting is also a technique used often. This is when you write down all the knowledge you have on a subject. You can then improve on the subject by not wasting time on things you already know! Revision also depends on

the subject you are studying.

For example, active recall is good practice for science questions and English, more factual subject over personal knowledge.

When studying for maths students recommend using more written methods, flashcards, highlighting and going through questions step by step.

Not all revision has to be written work and some can be practical making revision fun for yourself is super easy and feasible. Some activities students use include:

1. Clock revision

Simply draw out a circle and label it as if it were a clock face, next label them with the topics you desire to revise then simply pick a number from one to twelve and write as much knowledge you can remember about the chosen topic on that section of the clock face. Some teachers in school use this

method when helping some younger students to revise for their smaller tests.

2. Peer Revision

Sometimes revising with other people can lighten the load of the challenging work. This also incorporates active recall. Asking each other questions helps develop your knowledge on the subject verbally. Some Students say that revising with a friend is good for challenging each other and helping to improve their knowledge of the subject. Although peer revising is beneficial some students also say that revising alone is good for focus and attention span.

Remember that everyone revises differently and uses different techniques to lead themselves to success. Stay calm and always have confidence in yourself!

Grease is the word



THE student production of Grease at Hummersknott Academy was another triumph for the school's drama department. Staged over two nights in

front of a packed audience. Jack Machin starred as leader of the T-Birds, 'Danny', and Libby Cragill and Harriet Dixon both played female lead 'Sandy Dee'. They and

the rest of the cast received standing ovations from the awed audiences. Noah Baker, who was in charge of the lighting for the show, said: "The highlight

was seeing the audience dancing in their seats." A fantastic job by the whole cast and crew as well as the dedicated teachers who made it happen.

College leaders speak out

by Emmie Todd

Quaker:

Student announcement – everyone, the whole college minus a few are all extremely well-behaved and always get involved in school activity's

Upcoming events – An apple for a teacher/ pay 50p for 1 or £1 for 3 and write a note to a teacher you are thankful for.

Events that have occurred in the past term – Quaker's charity was the Halloween sweets and treats sale and they raised £243.85. Recently Quaker did an apple for a teacher/ pay 50p for 1 or £1 for 3 and write a note to a teacher you are thankful for. Mrs Craggs would like to see from her college: "Keep up the attendance and obtain more positive points!"

Stephenson:

Student announcement – Jacob Appleyard He is currently on the Hummersknott 100 leader board reading a total of 15 books. Jacob was also year 9 positive points winner a few weeks back.

Upcoming events – Have not got any charity events planned. However, Mrs Coltman "can't wait to start preparing for sports day and the college music festival."



Events that have occurred in the past term – Stephenson's past charity events have been the rewards disco any one with no negatives got to go and miss a lesson enjoying a disco, Stevo also did a bake sale. Overall, they earned £518.

What is Mrs Coltman hoping for from her students: "Extremely keen for students in Stevo to really work hard to gain more positive brom coms." She has really enjoyed the supportive spirit of the fellow student supporting those who have won the positive point Friday certificate.

Ketton:

Student announcement – Annabell Huge, amazing

effort and always conveying confidence

Upcoming events – Don't have anything planned

Events that have occurred in the past term – Valentine cards, raffle and Valentine's candles raising £78. They also just travelled on a Metro trip on March 21 with all funding money going towards charity.

Mrs Merifield would like to see from her college: "Constant effort and keep up the good work!"

Cuthbert:

Student announcement – Hashini Perumal, she is at the top of the Hummersknott 100 leaderboard with a whopping 45 books being

read. She may be quiet, but she is always putting a constant 100 per cent effort into all her work.

Upcoming events – Cuthbert would like to squeeze in one more hot dog sale before the end of the year as "they always seem to be a big hit at the school!"

Events that have occurred in the past term – in the past term Cuthbert have done a hotdog sale and a Valentine's gifts and candles, raising a total of £151.80.

Mrs Kirby would like to see from her college: "Spend more time with students. To not be as busy dealing with bad behaviour and celebrate those who put in effort."

Wyvern:

Student announcement – Tom Shield, helping the younger years with struggles in school.

Upcoming events – Not much but can't wait for sports day and all the college activities and football raffle.

Events that have occurred in the past term – An extremely entertaining WyvAid concert, earning £131, and an Easter hamper.

Mrs Cairns would like to see from her college: "Everyone to enjoying school and get involved in every opportunity."

One for the books



by Jonathan Simpson

TWO Hummersknott Academical reporters went on an inspiring excursion to London's British Library on January 24th, in an effort to archive the newspaper for generations to come. This was followed by a chat with former Metro editor, Ted Young.

Editor Owen Ovens and I, Chief Reporter Jonathan Simpson, were accompanied by English teacher Mr Webster as we embarked on this journey.

Our day started at 8:20am in the Pumpkin Cafe of the beloved Bank Top station. The 8:31am train had been cancelled, so we instead decided to devolve into a logistics discussion and many, many cups of tea.

One rattly train ride later and we were in Kings Cross station: the gateway to the big city and, of course, Platform 9 3/4. Whilst I had to

resist the temptation of running into that brick wall to be greeted by the Hogwarts Express, this sadness was quickly rectified through the purchase of a sausage roll. A short walk away was the British Library, one of the largest in the world.

200 million historic publications are stored on its miles of shelf space. And it was here that we met Ted Young. Mr Young was the editor of Metro, the country's largest newspaper. But before that, he was night-editor of The Sun, and even had a brief stint at Darlington's own Northern Echo.

He told us that one of his biggest moments was when he helped lead The Sun through the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001.

At first, nobody knew the scale of the event. But as the story grew bigger and bigger, Mr Young dedicated every

second of his life to bringing Britain the news.

One hot chocolate later and we were handing over our beloved school newspaper to the British Library. This was a truly special moment, as five years of student life was about to be archived – forever.

This was the moment that I realised how this is not just a school newspaper, it caters to our whole community. Owen said: "I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved with the Hummersknott Academical, and I am thrilled to have it committed to the history books."

After the stressful bit was over, it was now time for us to enjoy the sights and sounds of London.

A quick hop on the tube took us to Buckingham Palace, where we all unanimously agreed upon its underwhelming stature.

Another quick hop on the tube took us to Downing Street, home of Rishi Sunak – for now, anyway. We decided to take a break from the tube to give some value to our feet, as we walked towards the River Thames.

After a quick look in the Tate Modern's confusing art displays, shock horror emerged. It was nearly half four, and our train was at 5:00pm.

From then on, it was a mad dash to the nearest Underground station.

Everybody jumped on the tube in a karate-like motion, and we arrived at Kings Cross station just in time. And, after another rattly train ride, here we are – back in Darlington. Yes, it's not quite London, but it's home. Home to the Hummersknott Academical, and home to Best Kebab.

3D printing workshop celebrates student's academic excellence



by Owen Ovens

THE Design and Technology department offered students the opportunity to not only honed their creativity by crafting personalized keyrings, but also delved into literature by kickstarting library memberships at Darlington Library.

After the initial introduction

to 3D Printing on December 23, a few students returned the weekend following with their peers to open memberships at the newly renovated Darlington Library.

The library has unveiled a modern and vibrant learning hub which left the young people amazed with its facilities.

Building on this early in-

terest, February saw Year 10's finest honoured with a repeat of the workshop and library tour.

The team of staff who took the selected children said how proud they were of the young people for engaging in the activities and for having an exemplary attitude to school all round.

Farewell to our senior staff



by Jack Machin

IT is that time of year again when we say goodbye to some of our remarkable aspiring journalists as they embark on the next chapter of their academic journey. This year, however, it is with regret that we are bidding farewell to more than half of the Hummersknott Academical team, leaving behind a noticeable void in newspaper.

These departing members have been the backbone of our paper over the past years, contributing a vast variety of skills that have propelled the Academical to its current stature as a national award-winning school newspaper.

Their unwavering dedication and hard work have been instrumental in shaping our publication.

For many, joining the Academical post-COVID was an opportunity to channel their creativity and display their talents to a wider audience. Their journey with us has been nothing short of extraordinary, filled with enriching experiences and invaluable opportunities to hone their journalistic skills. As young individuals, the impact of being part of a school newspaper cannot

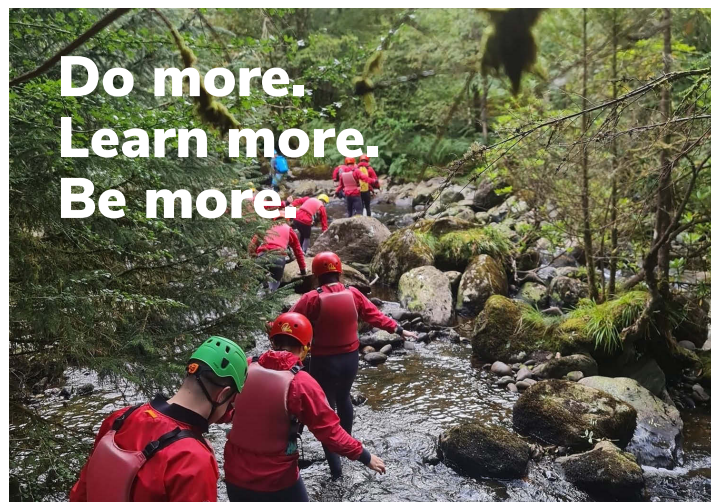
be overstated. It has served as a gateway to a world of possibilities, nurturing them into confident and aspiring adults.

Mr Webber, who oversees the newspaper, said: "To the departing members, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for the countless contributions and the unmissable mark you have left on the Academical. "I hope that the skills and experiences you have gained here will continue to guide you on your future endeavours."

To our readers, we assure you that the legacy of excellence will endure, carried forward by both our talented older members and emerging talent alike.

Chris Barron from Barron Media, who has worked with the team to produce each newspaper, added: "It has been a great pleasure to work with the team throughout their time on the newspaper.

"I've have been hugely impressed by their commitment, talent, drive, and especially their vision. "The Academical has flourished under their stewardship, and I've no doubt they can look forward to much future success."



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

#SkillsForLife

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Scouts

Eastbourne Explorers

100 Years of Drama



by Alfie Webster

AMONGST all the places in Darlington, there is one place people always remember. No, it is not the train station or the Dolphin Centre (though they are quite memorable.) It is the Darlington Hippodrome. This is the place where the pantomimes are staged, and plays are performed. This year it is the 100th anniversary of the Darlington Hippodrome and its own theatrical company, the Darlington Operatic Society. DOS is an amateur theatre group that have been preforming for many years. It is also their 100th. I got talking to Julian Cound, who is the marketing director of the Hippodrome and chairman of DOS and he answered a few of my questions: What is the connection between DOS and the Darlington Hippodrome? Darlington Operatic Society started preforming at the Darlington Hippodrome several years before 1924 but on an ad-hoc basis, using other venues to perform the shows. It was 1924 when several members of the committee of Darlington OS met with the Managing director of the Hippodrome, Signor Rino

Pepe, to discuss and agree a more formal agreement where DOS would present shows on an annual basis at the Darlington Hippodrome. Barring world wars, global pandemics and the near closure of the theatre, DOS continue to perform two full scale musicals a year at Darlington Hippodrome. In the mid 1950's, the theatre was under threat of closure and demolition. The Darlington OS purchased the theatre and kept it clean, dry, and hosted several shows over a couple of years before selling it to the Council for the sum of £4000. The rest, as they say, is history. How long has DOS been connected with the Darlington Hippodrome? Looking back at the years of DOS and The Darlington Hippodrome archives a company closely related to the theatre. So, many years of connection, as DOS first appeared at the Hippodrome in 1920. When was the theatre built and what was it called? The theatre was first opened in 1907, an Edwardian theatre designed by GG Hoskins with the full name of The New Hippodrome and Palace

Theatre of Varieties. The original design had what is now the hullabaloo as a fire station, for theatres were prone to catching on fire back then. Later, in the many years after this, the theatre turned from burning materials into metal and glass and got the name of the Civic theatre. This stayed as the name until DOS sold the theatre to the Council, where the council changed the name to the shortened version of the original, the Hippodrome. That name still stands as the name of the theatre. Is there anything special planned for the 100th anniversary? To celebrate this event, the DarlingtonOS and the Darlington Hippodrome are having a celebratory dinner and an exhibition in the theatre will be put in. Other events are in discussion as well. Sounds like there is going to be plenty of celebrations for DOS and The Darlington Hippodrome over the next 12 months! We would like to congratulate the Darlington Hippodrome and DOS for their 100th anniversary and hope they keep going for many years to come.

Be Scare Aware



by Alfie Webster

FEAR can affect various people in many ways. But if you think you may be struggling with a phobia, remember, you are not alone. Many people have fears of things, which can change the way they act in or react to different situations. Throughout this article, we will learn about the common phobias of people in the world. So, let us begin...

PHOBIA 1- ARACHNOPHOBIA

This is the most well-known fear around the world, for this is the fear of spiders. Most people have it, as this is the most common of them all. If people with this phobia come across an arachnid, they are prone to screaming and running away from the creature, as they see it as a type of predator.

PHOBIA 2- ACROPHOBIA

Acrophobia is another one of the most common fears, as this is the fear of heights. If someone who has this phobia found themselves at a small or great height, they would try to get down or just feel sick. Even something different, depending on the person.

PHOBIA 3- CLAUSTROPHOBIA

Claustrophobia is, once again, a common phobia and another one that most people know too. In case you do not know what Claustrophobia is, I will tell you now. Claustrophobia is the irrational fear of enclosed spaces. People affected by claustrophobia will often go out of their way to avoid confined spaces, such as lifts, tunnels, and public toilets. But avoiding these places may reinforce the fear.

Those phobias are the top three most common and well-known ones of all. We have mentioned common phobias, but I would also like to share with you the rarest fear of all. And that is the fear of walking. Now you know.

Celebrating a love of literature



WORLD Book Day turned into World Book Week at Hummersknott as staff and students made the most of the international event to celebrate the joy and value of reading.

Students participated in debates, quizzes, were asked to guess who the mysterious staff 'masked reader' was, design tasks and the 'Hummersknott Big Read' in which they read sections of a story with their teachers throughout the course of the day. On the day itself, English lessons were focussed on

World Book Day activities and many of the teachers got into the spirit by dressing up as literary characters.

Miss Schweizer, our Literacy Co-ordinator, who organised the whole week said, "It was a delight to see such enthusiasm from our staff and students about World Book Day Week. Walking around the school, there was a real buzz as we engaged in debates, discussion and critical thinking about reading, our futures and the benefits of a good book!"



FINANCE



Managing money as a teen

by Emmie Todd

Do you know where your money belongs? Many teenagers now are coming to an age to own and be responsible with money. This can be useful extra money, but many don't know what to do with this and end up wasting it away.

Chris Brown from Darlington Building Society visited Hummersknott Academy on March 12 to inform us of the important and useful factors of saving money. From this encounter we have demystified credit scores, credit and debit cards, money saving techniques, and financial tips...

Should teenagers be worried about credit scores, and what are they?

A credit score is a number indicating how dependable or likely a person is to pay back debt or a loan. Teenag-

ers don't need to be worried about credit scores however "they should be aware of the impacts of a negative credit score leading them into further issues along the line."

Should teenagers be saving money? Where would they hold it and how much should they save?

Teenagers should always be saving money when possible. "It's getting the balance be-

cause it can be quite difficult to not spend your money on little life assets," says Chris. The Junior Proposition is a great and safe place to put away money as "they offer really good rates of interest." On average teenagers should be saving about 60 per cent of the earnings. These sources of money could include pocket money, birthday, Christmas, or gift money. Little savings like this can lead to massive affordable purchases later in life.

What is the difference between a credit and debit card?

Debit cards are linked to the user's bank and their saved money. This is limited to only the amount held in that specific account. Credit cards provide the user with a line of credit that they can borrow needed, as to pay back later. However, Credit cards charge interest on the money the cardholder borrows, unless it is paid back in the amount of time provided. If it is not paid of it can lead to a negative credit score.



POLITICS

Chancellor denies Budget tax cuts would be a bribe as Academical lands exclusive interview



The Chancellor of the Exchequer has denied that any tax cuts in his upcoming Budget would be a bribe to voters in an exclusive interview with the Hummersknott Academical.

Weeks before the Spring Budget on March 6, Jeremy Hunt fielded questions from Academical editor Owen Owens, 16.

Government policies on education, housing, and the economy were put under scrutiny, including whether much-vaunted tax cuts would be a 'bribe to voters'.

Mr Hunt said: "As a Conservative, what I care about is growing the economy and creating opportunities. I think low tax economies grow faster, so I'd always want to bring down taxes if I could, but I would do it in a way that helps grow the economy."

"I think people are very smart – if you do a tax cut that's an election bribe, people will see through it instantly. If you do a tax cut that's part of a plan to make our economy grow faster, then people know that's the right thing to do."

Owen challenged the Chancellor with a concern widely held by young people

– whether they will ever be able to afford their own homes, or if they are destined to be a 'generation of renters'.

Mr Hunt replied: "The number of first-time buyers increased to record levels in the run up to the pandemic. Obviously, we've had a very difficult period since the pandemic, but I would love to help people get onto the housing ladder in the Spring Budget."

"I think what's caused me to hesitate up till now is that house prices have been falling because of the invasion of Ukraine. If house prices stabilise, and start to rise again, then it becomes easier to start taking measures that will help people onto the housing ladder."

Owen raised the success of the Help to Buy scheme – which was recently discontinued – and asked the Chancellor if there were any plans to come up with a replacement scheme, as has been called for by Darlington

Building Society.

Mr Hunt acknowledged the success of the scheme in helping young people get on the property ladder and expressed willingness to consider reinstating a similar scheme if economically feasible.

Owen also asked the Chancellor for his opinion on the announcement that a Labour government, under Sir Keir Starmer, would introduce legislation to charge public schools 20 per cent VAT on fees.

Mr Hunt, who was educated at the elite public school, Charterhouse, said: "I think it's sort of class war really, and the reason I'm against it is because the likely impact is that it's not going to affect the very rich – they'll carry on sending their kids to public schools."

"But there's people just below that level who will suddenly find they can't afford to send their children, and potentially up to 90,000 families will switch their

kids into state schools, and there'll be less resources to go around."

"I don't think that's something that would be good for our state schools, to have to absorb that many extra students."

Asked whether he had any plans to enhance support for young people, such as the free school meals scheme, Mr Hunt said: "I think the answer is we want to take people out of poverty, so they don't need free school meals. "I would always want us to be a country where we help people who are struggling. The Conservative Government's been criticised for lots of measures we've taken, but since 2010, 1.7 million people have been lifted out of poverty, including 400,000 children. And we've done that not by massively increasing benefits, but by making work pay."

Owen and the Hummersknott Academical team arranged the interview with the help of Darlington MP Peter Gibson.

Mr Gibson said: "I'm aware of what a great job Owen has done as editor of Hummersknott Academy's school newspaper and I was delighted to take him to meet Jeremy Hunt."

"He did a cracking job in pinning the Chancellor down on some key issues, showing great confidence and insight. "He's a great ambassador for Hummersknott Academy and I'm sure he'll do well in whatever career he chooses to pursue."

Nick Merifield, Hummersknott Academy's Head of School, said: "We're incredibly proud of our student-led news team to have landed such a remarkable political interview, and very impressed at their ambition." English teacher, Dominic Webber, who oversees our student-led newspaper, added: "On behalf of the newspaper team, we'd like to say thank you to Mr Hunt for giving us his time, and to Mr Gibson for collaborating with our students to make this interview happen."

Green Party candidate outlines revolutionary vision for Darlington



by Owen Owens

IN an interview with the Academical, Green Party candidate Matthew Snedker has expressed his vision for a caring, sustainable, and fair society within the Darlington Constituency.

Mr Snedker throughout emphasised the importance of creating equal opportunities for all members of society, as well as stressing the need for policies that will prioritize sustainability, affordability, and equality. He highlighted to us what he believes to be key priorities such as well-paid jobs, accessible transportation, and sustainable housing to ensure a brighter future for Darlington and the areas surrounding it. "Cutting people's fuel bills, improving public transportation, and ensuring sustainable housing are crucial steps towards a fairer and greener Darlington," Mr Snedker stated.

In addition to this he outlined the Green Party's five-point plan for a greener and fairer economy, advo-

cating for tax reforms and increased investment in education, infrastructure, and public services. "Our budget plan prioritizes investment in healthcare, education, and sustainable infrastructure to address the challenges faced by our community,"

Mr Snedker said. Within the interview he also expressed deep concerns about the underfunding and neglect of education, calling for urgent investment to ensure every child has access to quality learning opportunities. "Education is the key to our

future, and it's unacceptable that it's been consistently underfunded," he declared. "We need to invest in education to give every child a chance to succeed."

On the topic of young people, Mr Snedker expressed his encouragement for them involved in politics as it is crucial for the voices to help shape their future "I've met some incredibly inspirational young people, and I urge them to get involved and make their voices heard," Mr Snedker said. "Together, we can create a better future for Darlington and beyond." As the Green Party candidate for Darlington, Matthew Snedker claims he is committed to building a fairer and greener society for all residents. With his bold vision and dedication, he hopes to bring positive change to the constituency and inspire others to join the movement for a better future; if he is given the opportunity by the people in the constituency to represent them as MP.



W7

Affordable makeup for beginners

by Hannah Smith
and Holly Cherrie

MAKEUP is a tricky subject, especially when it comes to cost and affordability, so we have collected a handful of cheap but quality brands to introduce you into the world of makeup.

The first brand to look out for is Revolution. Revolution has a range of different items, from makeup to skincare, involving primers to help all your other products to stay onto your face for longer.

A favourite of ours from Revolution is their dazzling eyeshadow palettes! There is a wide range of bright colours which are extremely pigmented and great for creative looks, they also have a great range of neutral colours to keep your makeup looking natural.

Next, we have W7. W7 is a cruelty free makeup and skincare brand. The makeup is affordable ranging from foundation at £4.95 to concealer at £3.95 which is a very moderate pricing for quality products.

The brand has multiple themes of makeup including OH SO, HD and many others; to fit the needs of all cus-

tomers.

Favourites from W7 include their amazing concealer and foundation. Foundation tends to be the base of your makeup and concealer is normally a brighter shade to go over it! The covering of the products are flawless leaving all underneath blotches hidden and under cover!

Another cheap brand includes Technic, with almost all of most of their goods selling for less than £5! But technic offers more than just makeup, it varies to moisturisers, serums, primers, and other types of skincare. One of the favourite products from Technic is their promised working primer and setting spray. This spray is perfect for prepping your skin before your makeup and then setting it too using hyaluronic acid, so it stays fixed for your busy day!

Although the spray is known to make your makeup drip when overused, so make sure you keep the bottle 15-20cm away from your face when spraying the liquid and let it dry before touching.

This list also includes 17, they own high quality but low-price products. Although, it is a brand exclusive to boots so keep an

eye out! As well as that, it is currently sponsoring the new mean girl's movie. After purchasing the extreme extension lengthening mascara, it has turned my lash routine around with its straight-forward application and it makes my lashes look twice as long.

Although have had quite a few occasions where it has made my eyes clumpy and too thick for my liking which slightly put me off however the length of my lashes afterwards is just too good to give up.

You know where to purchase makeup but now how do you use it?

Every makeup routine varies, and everything can be changed to fit your face, and your skin but for now, this is the guide to a full, generic look.

Prepping your skin is an essential step to your routine so primer is the place to start. Once primer is applied next up is your base! The base of your look can be altered depending on what look you are going for. Some use bronzing drops to start of their look with a golden complexion or some go for foundation which gives of a more natural hue. When

blended using your utensil of your choice that works best for you, for example a strong bristled brush or a beauty blender. You can move on to your next step; has the base coat not covered your blemishes as well as you desired? Concealer is what you need to say goodbye your imperfections. Next is all up to you!

Depending on the look you are going for the next step can vary from highlighter, blusher, bronzer, contour and more.

Once the main facial components are customised as desired the following step is your eyes and eyebrows. Some use an eyebrow pencil, and some just use clear gel depending on the darkness they want.

Some would say that eyes are the most complicated step of your makeup routine! For example, sometimes mascara and an eyelash curler is not enough length so fake lashes are also a great substitute! Want to create a nice vibrant look? Then eyeshadow, face gems, watered eyeliner can add a splash of colour to your face.

After this, the look just needs setting spray, and you are good to go!

Flower Knows makeup is a growing success

by Hannah Smith

BRAND Flower Knows cosmetics has recently been building its way up with other high-end brands and products with their unique packaging and presentation. Flower knows was founded in 2016 by owner, Yang Zifeng who had the idea to make their products inspired by fairy tales and have a princess-like aesthetic. There is a wide variety of items that range from makeup, skincare, and mirrors, each beautifully decorated with delicate details and small features on the product and the packaging, which truly make this brand stand out. You can choose from many distinctive styles, including, little angel, moonlight mermaid, strawberry rococo, swan ballet and cir-

cus. These are the 5 themes of flower knows cosmetics which sorts each item into their other matching pieces.

But a product is about quality, and from my personal experience, after trying the little angel cream blush in the shade 'paradise poet' I was slightly disappointed over the pigment. I read many other reviews that said the same thing, it is incredibly light and does not really show up when applied onto the skin so in just a few days the design had been rubbed away. But most flower knows items are not cheap, my blush was £20.35 which is certainly on the pricier side. Overall, the flower knows makeup may be pretty, but it doesn't have all the pigment that may be advertised.

Blush review: Pixi On-The-Glow

by Hannah Smith

ONE of Pixi beauty's latest releases, the on-the-glow blush stick, has recently been getting more popular online. There are three different shades which all have extreme pigment to last you all day long. This includes, Ruby, Juicy and Fleur. Each shade gives you a glowing, yet pure look and as brand owner, Petra Strand says "Try one shade on cheeks & lips to look pulled-together instantly!" To apply the product, all you need to do is twist the base and swipe gently onto the skin. You then blend with your fingers, sponge, or brush.

After I purchased my ruby

blush, it has been tried on many different skin tones and textures and still has come out with a stunning, red tint perfect for full glam or just a quick, natural makeup look but this comes at a price. Each is around £18 which is certainly at the higher end of cosmetic pricing range. Although if you keep an eye for offers and discounts in cosmetic retailers, you can pick this up for much less. Overall, I think that although I bought this at a discounted price, the pigment, effortless application and the stay-fresh look all day would encourage me to pay that bit more.

Great pub food, a beautiful setting, and a bit of local history at the Baydale Beck

by Jack Brown

ARE you hungry? Come to the Baydale Beck and try their vast variety of food options from fries to burgers to pizza. They have a range of beers for adults and a large menu suitable for all ages.

The outdoor play area is also appealing to children too. Behind the building there is a nice little track and a nature reserve.

While they may not see much action in summer, the pub's crackling log fires complete the perfect picture of cosiness come winter.

The history is fascinating; there used to be a medieval inn near the river.

It also makes for a fantastic start and end point for a number of fabulous local walks across the area.

And of course, what pub would be complete without a regular Pub Quiz? Certainly not the Baydale Beck, which holds its trivia contest every Thursday.



Tuck in at Harvey's truck



by Jack Brown

Do you like gourmet street food? Harvey's has you covered. Their menu contains lots of delicious food,

such as fresh, handmade sausages, loaded fries, and gourmet burgers. They are located near the popular

pub, Baydale Beck. As well as this, they are a dog-friendly establishment, meaning it is perfect for a nice treat after

a long walk with your furry friends. Many people love to go there, and I would recommend trying this food truck.

TRAVEL



Are you looking for days out nearby? Well in the final edition of Lucy's locations, you can find the perfect place to explore close to your home!

Beamish

Beamish is a world-famous open-air museum which brings the history of North-east England to life in which visitors can explore fascinating stories of everyday life in the region through time. The museum reopened its gates on the 20th of March for its first season of the year, is open daily from 10am till 5pm! Beamish has some amazing exhibits, a personal favourite of many being Jubilee Confectioners, a sweet shop located in the 1900's inspired town where you can catch the making of mouth-watering sweets in the factory before choosing which traditional treat to take home. Another being the Beamish

Tramway, which opened in 1973 and re-creates the experience and atmosphere of the trams that operated once before, whilst providing transport for visitors around the entire museum. Recently it has been changed so visitors no longer need timeslots to visit the museum, all that is needed is either an Unlimited Pass or Friends of Beamish membership (more information can be found on their website) to enter making days out easier than before!

Hamsterley Forest

Hamsterley Forest is County Durham's largest forest and a part of 'Forestry England'. It is free to visit at any time. It is perfect for all whether

you are eager to go on an adventure or ready to relax with the scenic views. There is something to keep everyone busy at Hamsterley with wildlife watching, stargazing opportunities, adventure play areas, exhilarating mountain biking trails and many more. If you would like more peaceful activities, Hamsterley's several walking trails which provide the perfect opportunity for you to explore the heart of the forest. To add to this Hamsterley also holds many different events throughout the year that anyone can enjoy, this including music events, forest runs and art programmes. Hamsterley Forest is not just a forest, but a hub of activi-

ties that offers something for everyone. Whether you are looking to push your limits, find inspiration in the art and music, or simply enjoy a peaceful walk, Hamsterley delivers. Its close proximity, combined with the many experiences available, makes it a must-visit destination for families or anyone!

So, will you be visiting Hamsterley Forest or Beamish to discover their wonders? I hope you have enjoyed the final edition of Lucy's Locations; it has been an honour to share my favourite locations with you over the past year, and I hope you have been inspired to go on many new adventures!

FEATURES

What is the 'Darlo Finger'?



by Yasmin Trebilco

THE Darlo finger originated in Darlington; This trend has been popping up across several social media platforms, but it has been trending especially on TikTok.

The Darlo finger is when you point only your index finger with the term "Keep it lemon" accompanied by the lemon

emoji. The meaning of the phrase just means "keep it cool" or "keep it fresh" as in lemony fresh.

The 'Darlo finger' was created around early 2023 but it has resurfaced and is currently making it come back in early 2024! Currently, the earliest known "keep it lemon" video was posted by

@lilfleming on TikTok, February 19, 2023 and it received roughly 2500 likes. From that day, people hopped onto this trend, gaining more likes by each video. By September 20, 2023, the hashtag #keepitlemon had achieved 121.1 million views on TikTok.



CULTURE

Augmented reality exhibition 'The Butterfly Trail' spreads its wings



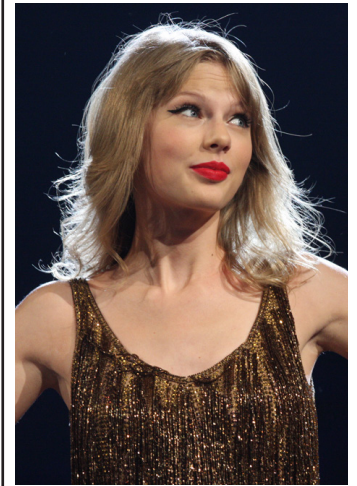
by Olivia Smith

ANYONE visiting London and looking to fill a short amount of time, I recommend you make your way to one of London's newest attractions! The Now Building is host to Outernet's latest magical immersive experience, The Butterfly Trail. Visitors will be immersed in an interactive experience mixing real time animations and mesmerizing displays that transport you into a

whole new world where you feel like you are standing in the heart of a botanical garden. Using their smart phones, visitors can bring butterflies to life with technology that makes you feel like they are truly within arm's reach. I really enjoyed my visit to the Outernet Butterfly Trail; it was a unique yet fascinating use of technology and I'm sure the other immersive ex-

periences they have to offer are equally captivating. It was a clever and beautiful distraction from the energy and business of the city. The Butterfly Trail is one of the many different immersive experiences that families can share. For a full schedule of events visit: www.outernetglobal.com

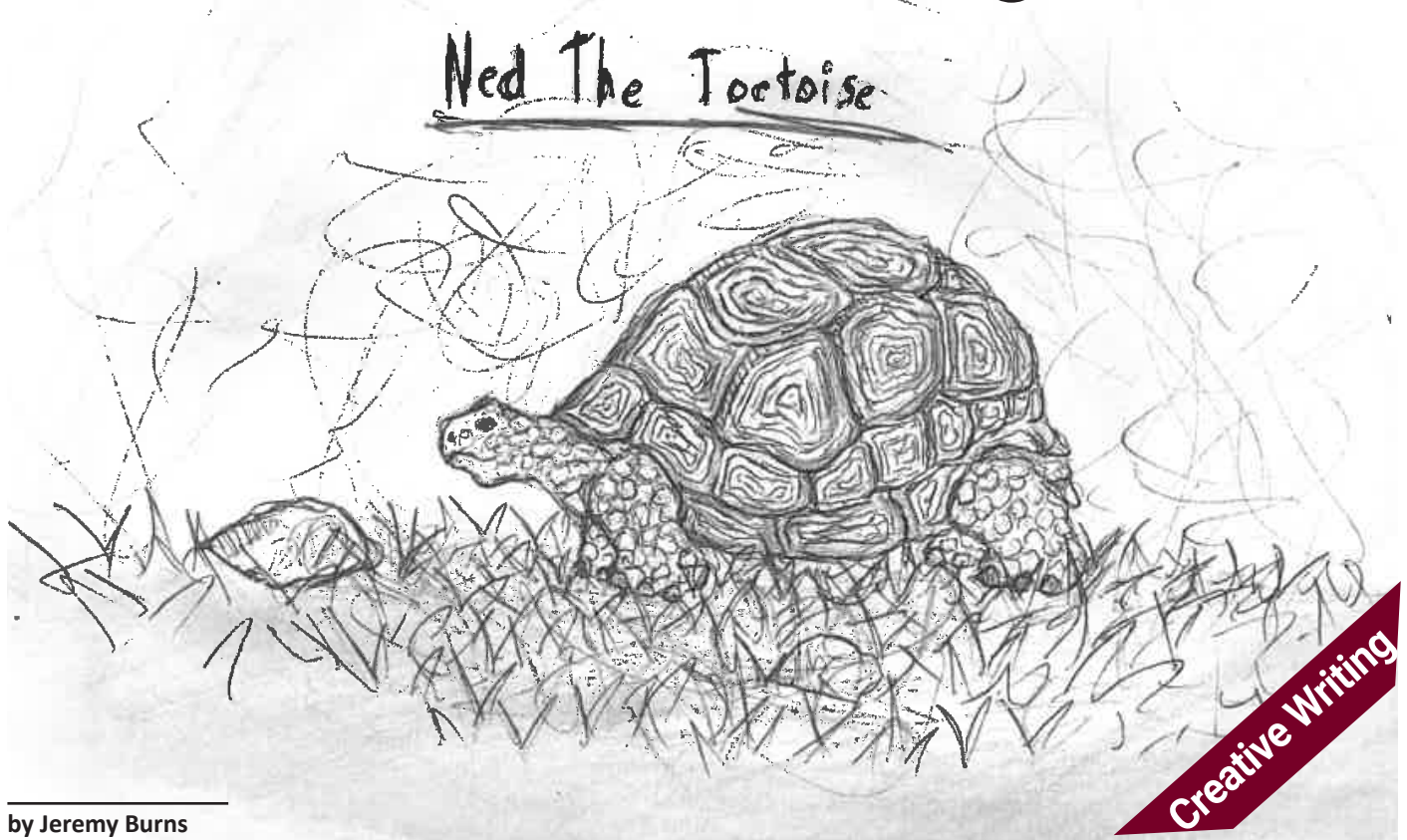
Taylor Swift announces new album



by Molly Turnbull
and Rosie Wytcherley

TAYLOR Swift announced her 11th studio album 'The Tortured Poets Department' at the 2024 Grammys after receiving her 13th Grammy award. Swift announced the album during her acceptance speech for Best Pop Vocal Album, whilst thanking her fans for their continued support during her record-breaking Eras Tour and re-release of 'Speak Now' and '1989' in her journey to fully own her masters. This is her first brand new album since 'Midnights' in 2022 and coincided with her historical 4th Album of the Year Grammy win as the first person to ever win this award four times. The album is set to release on 19th April and Swift has already announced the track list, including 16 songs, including two features from Post Malone and Florence and the Machine. Also, during her stops in Sydney, Melbourne and Singapore on her Eras Tour, Swift announced 3 variants of 'The Tortured Poets Department' each with an exclusive bonus track. These include, 'The Bolter', 'The Albatross' and 'The Black Dog'. Swifties predict that the album will be an alternate/ synth pop album, similar to Swift's previous works including 'Folklore' and 'Midnights'.

The Tortoise Through Time



by Jeremy Burns

IN the languid town of Eldridge, where time move at a pace reminiscent of the aged clock tower that graced its centre; here resided an elderly man named Oliver. Widowed and childless, Oliver lived a solitary life in a modest cottage, surrounded by a small garden, where the fragrance of flowers blooming wafted through the air, and memories of his past life lingered like the delicate smell of the eucalyptus. One day, on a serene afternoon in Eldridge, as Oliver basked in the gentle glow of the sun's golden rays, he embarked on his customary routine of tending to the vibrant tapestry of his garden. The breeze carried the sweet symphony of chirping birds and the delicate castle of leaves, creating a tranquil melody that resonated through the quaint town. As Oliver attentively pruned the blossoming flowers and delicately tended to the lush greenery, a subtle movement on the periphery of his vision caught his attention. In a corner of the garden, obscured by dappled sunlight filtering through the branches, a creature moved with the deliberate slowness that immediately piqued Oliver's curiosity. Drawing closer, his keen eyes focused on an unexpected guest- a tortoise, its intricate pattern of age

etched upon its sturdy shell. This creature of measured steps and ancient grace seemed to have materialised from the very essence of the garden. Its movements were deliberate, a dance with the unhurried rhythms of time, as it traversed the mosaic of colours that Oliver had so lovingly cultivated. Intrigued by the slow ballet unfolding before him, Oliver settled into a shaded alcove, becoming an unobtrusive observer in his own sanctuary. The tortoise, seemingly unaffected by the human presence, continued in its exploration of the botanical haven. Each step echoed the whisper of centuries, a testament to the wisdom carried within its unhurried stride. The tortoise, with its patient demeanour, seemed to sense Oliver's silent admiration. The tortoise slowly turned its head, meeting Oliver's gaze with ancient eyes that held the secrets of a bygone era. Oliver, overcome with a profound sense of connection, decided to offer a gesture of hospitality to his newfound companion. Fetching a bowl filled with cool water and selecting the tenderest lettuce from his garden, he carefully placed the bowl in a shaded nook for the tortoise to enjoy at its leisure. Fascination turned into a bond as days turned into

weeks. Oliver left a bowl of fresh water and tender lettuce leaves every day for his newfound companion. Gradually, the tortoise started recognising Oliver and a silent companionship blossomed between them. Oliver, though initially a man of few words, found solace in the quiet company of the tortoise, and in return, the tortoise seemed to appreciate the care and attention bestowed upon it. As the seasons chanced, so did their routine. Oliver and the tortoise, whom he affectionately named Ned, spent their days in harmonious co-existence. Ned became a constant presence in Oliver's life, providing a sense of companionship that transcended the boundaries of traditional human relationships. Over the years, Oliver and Ned shared countless moments. They weathered storms together, both literal and metaphorical. The tortoise, with its unassuming presence, became a confidant to Oliver, who shared his joys and sorrows, dreams and fears. Ned, in its own quiet way, seemed to understand, offering silent reassurance with a patient gaze. As the inevitable march of time pressed on, Oliver's health gradually declined. Yet, through the challenges

of aging, he found comfort in Ned's steadfast companionship. Aware of the fragility of life, Oliver contemplated the transient nature of existence, and the enduring bond he had formed with this humble tortoise. In his final days, Oliver, frail and content, sat in his favourite chair in overlooking the garden, with Ned by his side. As he closed his eyes one last time, a sense of peace washed over him, knowing he had not faced the inevitable alone. With Oliver's passing, Ned continued his slow journey through the garden, now devoid of the familiar presence that had been its daily companion. The town folk, aware of the unique friendship that had blossomed between man and tortoise, paid their respects to Oliver and continued to care for Ned, ensuring it never lacked for food or shelter. Ned became a living testament to the enduring nature of connections, even beyond the boundaries of mortality. Visitors of the garden marvelled at the tortoise, a silent witness to the presence of time and the flow of life. The tale of Oliver and Ned echoed through our time, became a legend of folk of Eldridge...

INSPIRING US

Hummersknott student's Sunderland success

Joe Neild is a Hummersknott student with a story. Whilst most teens are sat in their rooms playing video-games, Joe found out he was on his way to Sunderland stardom when he was offered a football scholarship at the Academy of Light. **Jonathan Simpson** reports...

This scholarship means that Joe Neild has an actual shot at earning a professional contract for the Black Cats in two years.

But it has not been all smooth-sailing.

The Year 11 student started playing for Sunderland at the age of nine and has been working his way up the ranks ever since, earning new contracts throughout the years. It seemed like everything was on the rise for the youngster.

At the start of the most recent season, Joe was pronounced Captain of his Under-18 squad, and he was about to embark on one of the most important journeys of his entire life.

However, before one of the first games of the season, Joe

was injured during training. This meant that he had to take a significant amount of time off.

When he returned to the Under-18s, his spot had been filled by other players, so he was forced down to his own age group. Many would consider this a major setback, but not for Joe. Joe decided to work his way back up.

December is a very important month for the Academy of Light, as decisions are made on whether to give out a scholarship to some of the young players, which gives them the chance to earn a professional contract. To get a shot at this, Joe needed to make his way back to the Under-18s.

And that he did, as after playing consistently well in

his own age group, he was moved back to the under-18s. After playing against Man City, Blackburn, Leeds, Newcastle and Stoke, he was put on the bench in the FA Youth Cup against Middlesbrough at the Stadium of Light. Joe said that this was a "brilliant experience", and it was about to get even better.

Joe received the news after this game that he had been offered the scholarship, meaning that he will spend the next two years in Sunderland, playing full-time trying to earn a professional contract.

Hummersknott PE Department said: "We are extremely proud of Joe and all his achievements. He has exemplary attitude in everything he does has worked incred-

ibly hard to achieve his goals and is a role model for students across the school and town.

"Not only does he apply himself tirelessly to his football, but he has always supported the school in numerous events across the years and works very hard across all his subjects. We look forward to continuing supporting Joe in all he does and know he will go far."

This news came soon after Sunderland's manager, Michael Beale, announced he would be stepping down after just nine weeks in charge. What then, after years of neglect and dwindling enthusiasm, is the future of Sunderland AFC? Joe Neild could certainly be their saving grace.

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He might be our new Co-Editor, but **Jack Machin** isn't about to stop sharing the latest music news in...

MACHIN

WyvAid rocks Darlington Forum



WYVAID is a student-run concert, which raised more than £1,110 for charity. On the January 31, the WyvAid music concert took place at Hummersknott. The event ran across two lunchtimes, available to all students, with a variety of songs played by the band. Rehearsals for WyvAid began last November. The band consisted of many students from Hummersknott, including singers Adam Smith, Bruce Nixon, Eva Gatenby, Jack Machin, Willow Blamire and Grace Blewitt. Guitarists within the band consisted of Owen Ovens, Fraser Tarn and Aodan Furness, and on the drums were Tom Shield and Ashley Nixon. Playing the bass was Lizzie Taylor, who also played the piano for the event. On top of this, Theo Hawkins played percussion. This group of students put in lots of hard work, free time, and determination to rehearse for the concert and did so successfully. Alongside the band were: Theo Hawkins (event rodeo); Noah Baker and Olivia Smith (lighting technicians); Lucy Harrison and Mrs Copeland (photographers); and Mrs Cairns and Mr Viro, who helped make the concert

possible.

After many weeks of rehearsals, WyvAid took to the stage, performing to over 150 students across both lunchtimes, managing to raise over £150 for Hummersknott's chosen charity, Children's Cancer North. The concert saw many amazing and diverse songs, such as fan favourites, 'R U Mine' by Arctic Monkeys, and 'Parklife' by Blur, alongside some not as well known songs, such as 'Portrait of a Blank Slate' by LoveJoy. As well as this, other songs that were performed were, 'Take me Out' by Franz Ferdinand, 'Molly's Chambers,' by Kings of Leon, 'Naive,' by The Kooks, and 'Don't Look Back in Anger,' by Oasis. This setlist of songs ensured that everyone had something to enjoy listening to at the concert. Photographer, Lucy Harrison, said: "I really enjoyed photographing the event. The students playing all sounded really professional and the students watching looked like they had loads of fun!" Not long after the concert, the band learned that they would be performing for the second time at The Forum Music Studios in Darlington

on April 2.

This concert raised another £930 and was open to all the public, meaning friends and family could come and watch. The setlist included all of the songs from the January concert, as well as some new songs, such as 'The Chain' by Fleetwood Mac, 'Everlong' by Foo Fighters, 'Good Riddance' by Green Day, '7' by Catfish and The Bottlemen, as well as 'When you were young' by The Killers, and 'Will We Talk' by Sam Fender. Lead guitarist, Owen Ovens, said: "It was a thrilling experience for all of us and as a band we cannot thank everyone enough for coming along to watch, or aiding us in the organization process. "I would especially like to thank the Forum Music Studios for allowing us to perform at their tremendous venue." Select members of the WyvAid band will go on to perform at this year's Prom in July. The group has been extremely successful in what they have done and hope to continue to raise money for various different charities in the future.

Music history

On April 14, 1980, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducted its first class of legendary musicians, including Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, and Buddy Holly

The iconic singer-songwriter Prince passed away on April 21, 2016, leaving behind a profound legacy and a vast catalogue of influential music.

On April 14, 2018, Beyoncé became the first black woman to headline the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, delivering a ground-breaking performance that celebrated black culture and history

Taylor Swift surprised fans on April 9, 2021, with the release of "Fearless (Taylor's Version)," a re-recorded version of her 2008 album, as part of her mission to regain control of her master recordings.

April 10, 1970, marked the breakup of The Beatles, with Paul McCartney officially announcing his departure, signalling the end of one of the most influential bands in history.

On April 5, 1994, Kurt Cobain, the iconic frontman of Nirvana, tragically passed away, marking a significant moment in the history of grunge and alternative rock.

Justin Bieber's debut album, "My World 2.0," continued its success in April 2010, featuring hits like "Baby" and solidifying his status as a teen pop sensation

The Queen single "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 on April 19, 1980, becoming the band's first chart-topping single in the United States.

On April 28, 2020, The Rolling Stones released the surprise single "Living in a Ghost Town," their first original song in eight years, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MUSIC



The Darlington programme fostering young talent



THE Forum Music Studios is a non-profit organisation, aiming to enlighten younger audiences with music. The Forum Music Studios recently started a new project, called 'YoungBlood', which is a diverse music programme directed towards teens and adults from the ages 13-25. YoungBlood is an 18-month-long project which aims to reach people of all interests, whether they want to learn how to play and produce music, perform in a monthly concert, or learn behind the

scenes skills like budgeting a live event. The programme, ran by staff at the Forum, is split into three categories: YoungBlood Promoters, YoungBlood Gigs, and YoungBlood Music Creators. These three categories ensure a diverse musical experience for people with all interests. This year's project started in January, when YoungBlood Music Creators and Promoters were introduced to their groups and began working on

various plans.

YoungBlood Music Creators focused heavily on music theory, such as time signatures, chords, keys, whilst also bringing a practical side of music into it, ensuring they had their instruments out and were performing every session.

YoungBlood Promoters were introduced to the industry side of music and were taught how to budget for a live event, as well as having many talks from bands and artists in how to project yourself into the industry. Lucy Walker, a member of YoungBlood promoters, said: "As a promoter, we look for new and upcoming bands, mainly bands with younger people in them. We all chose a genre of music and started talking to different agents and organisers about the

music itself.

"We often have meetings with people from the working industry and we have been given the chance to talk to some amazing upcoming bands and involve them in our work.

"I really enjoy YoungBlood Promoters as it gives me the chance to make lots of connections within the music industry which will really help me in the future." The YoungBlood Music Creators will go on to perform their very first under 18s concert at The Forum Music Studios on June 27, alongside The YoungBlood Gigs. The event will primarily be organised by the YoungBlood Promoters and will be open to the public. After this, YoungBlood will go on to perform regular concerts for its 18-month span.

Our picks for the UK's best music festivals

by Jack Machin, Lola Dunphy and Olivia Smith

Reading Leeds

One of the most well known festivals in the UK has to be Reading Leeds, being one of the few that never fails to bring joy to all who attend it. This year, the event is taking place from August 21-25, in Bramham Park, Leeds. The amazing festival lineup was recently released and the headline artists who are attending are as following; Liam Gallagher, Lana Del Ray, Catfish and the Bottlemen and Blink-182. As well as this, other well known artists include Renee Rapp, The Wombats, David Kushner and Two Door Cinema Club. These talented artists give a diverse performance like no other, something that Reading Leeds never fails to bring.

Hardwick Live

One of the most famous festivals in the North East is

Hardwick Live. The annual festival takes place in Hardwick Park on the weekend of August 16 with artists Becky Hill, Snow Patrol and Richard Ashcroft headlining. They will be performing on the main stage alongside Scam Fender, Sophie Ellis Bextor, Jamie Webster and others. This festival is family friendly, meaning that young people can attend when accompanied by an adult. The festival lasts for three days, and hosts many facilities such as overnight camping. The festival never fails to bring smiles to everyone's faces who attend.

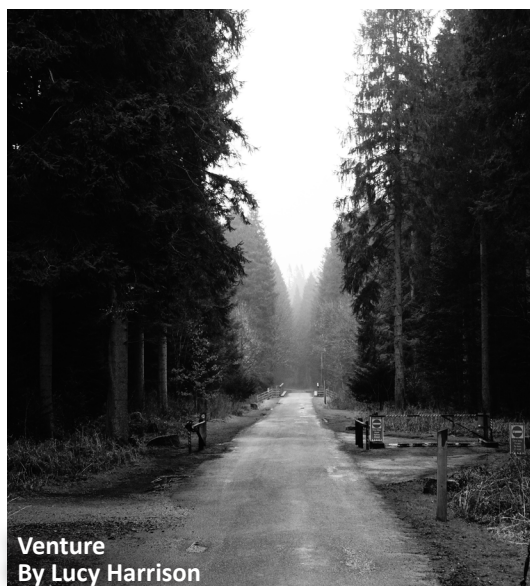
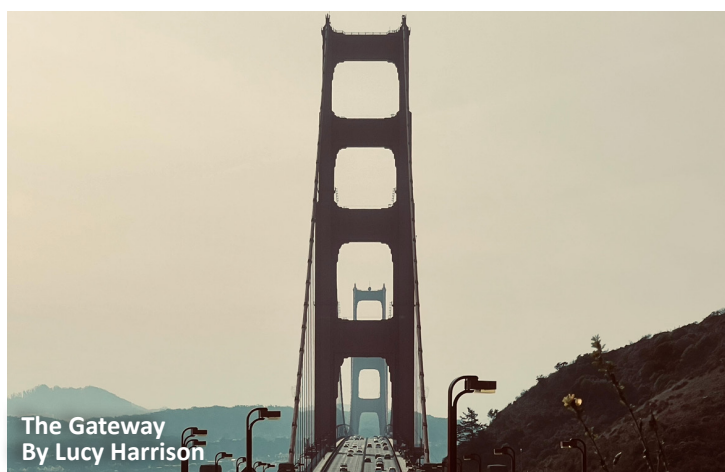
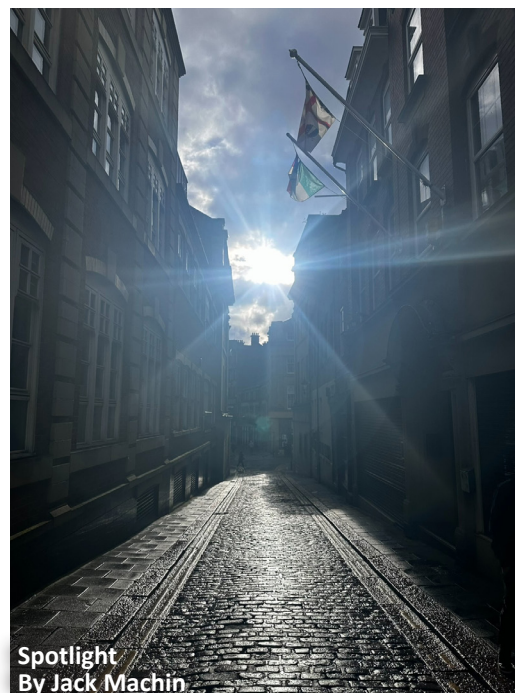
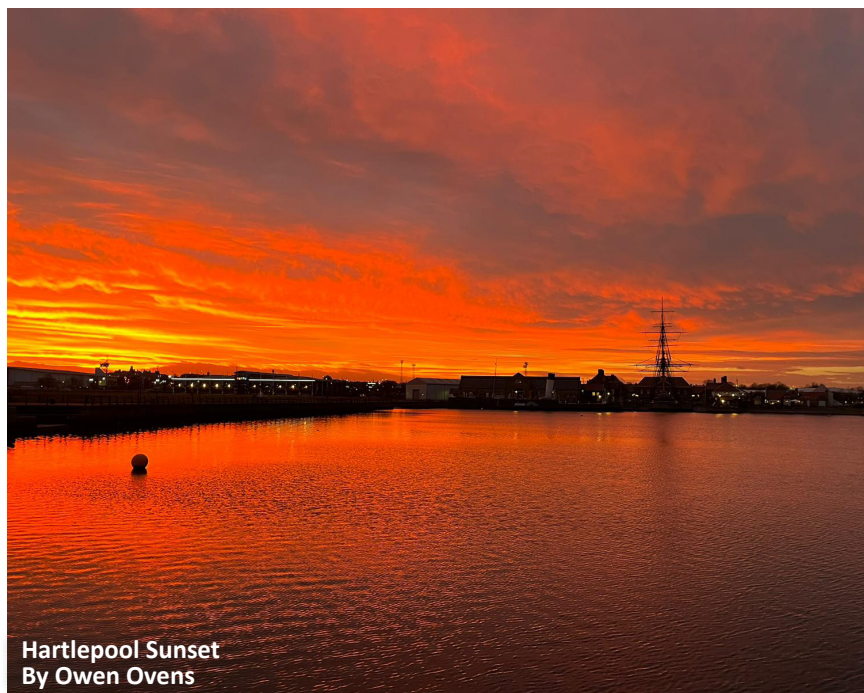
Kendal Calling

Another famous Northern festival is Kendal Calling, with a lineup that never fails to impress. Based in Cumbria, the festival is renowned for its hit headliners, but this

year is arguably one of the best lineups since 2016. This year, the festival will be held on the first four days of August, welcoming over a hundred talented artists and bands to the stage at Lowther Deer Park. The first night of the festival showcases Paul Heaton, previously the frontman of The Housemartins, and special guest Rianne Downey, who will take to the stage as the first headliners. The Friday night stars one of the most iconic Britpop stars to ever grace the music industry, Noel Gallagher and his band Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds. Noel formed the band in 2010 following the split of his highly successful band Oasis, after him and his brother Liam, the other frontman of Oasis chose to go their separate ways. On the Saturday night, The Streets, an alternative hip-

hop band from Birmingham, will perform for the thousands of festivalgoers. Led by Mike Skinner, the band was formed in the 90s whilst Skinner was still a teenager but did not produce any music until the 2000s. With songs such as 'Dry Your Eyes' and 'Fit But You Know It', they are bound to gather an excitable crowd. On the final night of the festival, Paulo Nutini will close the show - the Scottish singer has released popular songs such as 'New Shoes' and 'Last Request'. His soul-influenced music will be sure to attract many people to Cumbria this Summer. Alongside these headliners, Kendal Calling is showcasing many more familiar artists and bands too, such as The Reytons, Keane, Sugababes, Declan McKenna and The Snuts, and many, many more talented artists too!

PICTURES





By Jack Brown

Ethereal
By Willow Blamire

By Jack Brown

Photo tips

by Jack Brown

1. Turn your phone upside down when taking photos
2. Try different settings (this more types of photos)
3. Edit your photos (you can make you photos better)
4. Hold your phone like a controller (this gives you more control)
5. Hold your phone still (to make the image clearer and sharper)



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

Puzzles

Hollywood Wordsearch

M	R	P	O	C	O	L	M	E	A	I	E	T
F	E	L	R	S	R	A	R	S	G	O	H	U
G	L	T	T	E	O	R	G	L	M	G	C	S
H	L	O	M	E	M	U	O	H	I	L	L	C
O	C	A	O	A	C	I	N	Y	O	G	I	A
L	C	T	O	G	C	T	E	D	G	A	H	F
L	G	R	S	A	S	O	R	R	S	Y	H	T
Y	S	I	C	T	R	P	I	O	E	T	E	I
W	L	L	A	S	O	E	L	E	H	R	A	T
O	T	O	R	T	T	H	A	G	I	R	M	G
O	S	G	S	A	C	D	I	S	R	H	R	A
D	I	Y	O	R	A	T	E	N	O	I	T	C
R	R	T	R	A	I	L	E	R	L	A	T	T
R	S	L	E	O	A	E	W	S	O	O	T	Y

OSCARS
ACTION
SOUNDSTAGE
LIGHTS

ACTOR
TRAILER
TRILOGY
PREMIERE

CAMERA
STAR
FILM
HOLLYWOOD

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.

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

Horoscopes

Divined by Lucas Jackson-Ayre

CAPRICORN ♑

It's always better to knock out 2 drones with 1 stone. Unleash your work ethic on the world. Really just go all out. Life is hard, and if you can be somebody's candle when they need some warmth, the world will be just a bit better. You know that thing you forgot about? Yeah, neither do I.

AQUARIUS ♒

An apple a day keeps the doctors at bay, but Android would do just as well. Do you have a favourite sport? Maybe you should try to find one; if you don't. Check out cosmic horror stuff. No reason why.

PISCES ♓

Don't judge a tablet by its screensaver. Why should you not keep learning? Pick a subject and download all that knowledge, my friend! Also, you should clean your keyboard. Nothing bad is gonna happen, but you should clean your keyboard.

ARIES ♈

There's no use crying over spilt Pepsi. Has the rain has got you down? Do you know who's not sad? Ballroom dancers! Take up ballroom dancing! Drink some water today.

TAURUS ♉

The screeching wheel gets the grease. Don't be afraid to guilt people. It's effective, fun, and if you feel guilty, don't. You are not responsible for people's feelings. Stay a little too long. Be a little too interested. Stare a little too much. You are not responsible for other people's feelings.

GEMINI ♊

Rome wasn't destroyed in a day. Don't use essential oils instead of going to the doctor. Or do, and let natural selection do its job. Everything is totally fine and nothing is going wrong in the world at all. Don't look it up.

CANCER ♋

Many (hired) hands make light work. An unknown number of people will be visiting you soon, so be prepared; find a robust hiding place.

LEO ♌

Grass is always greener on the other side of the car park. Wear a hat when you go out. You can pull it off. Stop trying to rickroll people. It's done. It's over. There won't be many bees soon, so I suggest pollinating by hand. Maybe take up making hokey, too.

VIRGO ♍

Go on strike while the iron is hot. You have the attitude, but not the energy. Moisturise your nails. Not enough people do that. YOUR NAILS NEED TO BE HYDRATED, TOO, PEOPLE.

LIBRA ♎

Don't bite the hand that holds you. You are allowed to work on something for a while and still not like it. You are allowed to start again. You are allowed to press delete. Perhaps a colleague or friend is having a bad day. Perhaps you bring him some tea and biscuits.

SCORPIO ♏

Early bird catches the worm. Finish your birthday cake already. It's been out for so long; you're going to get ants.

SAGITTARIUS ♐

Those in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. Don't throw stones at me. Throw stones at the people who put you in the glass house. Is the whole neighbourhood like this? Why would you buy a house made of glass? Drop one glass plate and the whole thing goes down. Is this a metaphor for capitalism?

REVIEWS



Mean Girls

Mean Girls is a musical teen comedy, which first appeared in cinemas in 2004, about students finding their feet and learning life lessons that will stay with them forever. This movie has been refurbished 2 other times, Mean girls 2 coming out in 2011. This movie swept around the world, being so popular that Broadway wanted their 5 minutes of fame, first showing as a musical in the National Theatre, Washington D.C. on October 3rd, 2017. Now the brand new musical infused movie has hit screens, the first viewing on January 8th, 2024 in New York City and coming to the UK on the 19th January. Cady Heron is played by Angourie Rice, the iconic trio is played by René Rapp, Avantika Vandanapu, and Bebe Wood. Famous faces also appear, Christopher Briney as Aaron Samuel's and Lindsay Lohan making a reappearance towards the end of the movie.

The movie is set in North Shore High School, United States. Cady Heron has moved back from Kenya,

her mother wanting her to be a normal teenager and go to high-school. Cady is welcomed by the elite 'plastics', and leaves her old life behind. However, once she begins to fall for Regina's ex-boyfriend, things begin to get messy.

I personally give this movie a 6.5/10, as even though some parts were enjoyable, others made me want to cry. For example, the plot of the movie had been changed in the making, leaving OG fans of the movie disappointed when watching it on the big screen. The marketing of the movie wasn't very clear, as a lot of people thought the movie was not going to be a musical, so the audience was confused when watching. Finally, the theme of dancers pretending to be animals was very uncomfortable to watch. Overall, the movie was very light-hearted and fun to watch but the changes in the plot and songs was not needed.

Holly Brown



Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom

Do you want a game? Where you can explore and conquer mountains and kill the demon King Ganon. Well, if that is you get tear of the kingdom the sequel to breath of the wild an incredibly good game. It is a magical experience an open world game with

mythical beasts and medieval weapons. You take the role a link a young swordsman with the role to protect the princes of Hyrule Zelda, but she vanished it is your duty to rescue her by killing Ganon and save Hyrule.

Jack Brown



Queen Rock Montreal

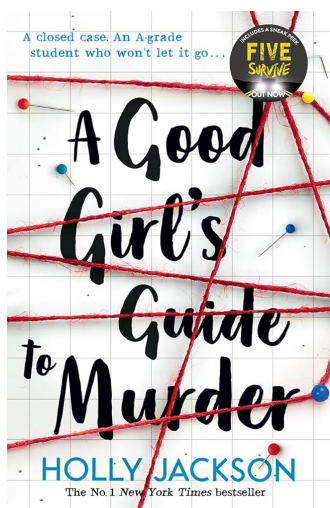
IMAX has decided to take us back in time to November 1981 where Queen hosted one of their most successful Rock concerts in Montreal, Canada. They have digitally re-mastered it into the image and sound quality of the IMAX experience that also includes crystal-clear imagery.

One of the world's most classic rock band performs a series of their greatest hits, including "Bohemian Rhapsody"

"We Are the Champions," "Under Pressure," "We will Rock You" and "Another One Bites the Dust." and more! AllMusic described Queen's performance as being "deliberately theatrical and often majestic."

Experience an unforgettable show with Freddie Mercury, Brian May, John Deacon and Roger Taylor on Prime Video.

Ella Smith



A Good Girls Guide to Murder

The book is about a student called Pip who investigates a 5-year-old murder case in her town to find the real murderer. However, the town is convinced that it is someone else. This is a story with many plot twists that make it even more fun to read. It does take a few chapters to get interesting but when you are past that it is a dramatic and interesting plotline which made it difficult to put down.

Ella Smith



Soundcheck Review, by Catfish and the Bottlemen

After a two-year split, Catfish and the Bottlemen are back with a bang and have finally reunited. The Welsh band are set to headline Leeds and Reading Festivals, as well as performances in Cardiff and Edinburgh. Most excitingly, they released a new single, 'Showtime', their first new release since their album 'The Balance' in 2019. The lyrics of the song detail how their devotion to the musical world collides with their personal lives, with lines such as

'Back to the graft again, Just sold my voice for a long weekend. You bet it was worth it, There's no other place I'd rather reset', which can be interpreted as there is nowhere the band would rather be than making music, which reassures the fans that they are not planning on splitting up again any time soon. I really like this song; it feels like a throwback to their album 'The Ride' from 2016, especially the song 'Soundcheck'. I am really looking forward to hearing it performed live this year!

Olivia Smith

Who is our mysterious new book reviewer?
Do you recognise their unique style of writing?
We've sworn not to reveal their identity, but
we're pleased to introduce...

The Secret Book Club



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 revels 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 a great 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 Editor Jack Machin

for the chance to see it our next issue!

z20k.jm1@hummersknott.org.uk



SPORT



FUTSAL

YEAR 8 GIRLS

10 - 0
Hummersknott Academy St Aidan's

5 - 2
Hummersknott Academy Education Village

0 - 2
Hummersknott Academy Hurworth School

YEAR 9 BOYS

1 - 1
Hummersknott Academy Easington

3 - 1
Hummersknott Academy Durham Johnston

3 - 1
Hummersknott Academy Acklam

YEAR 10 BOYS

1 - 0
Hummersknott Academy Easington

1 - 0
Hummersknott Academy Durham Johnston

7 - 1
Hummersknott Academy Acklam

Netball

YEAR 8 - TOWN CUP

17 - 6
Hummersknott Academy Hurworth School

YEAR 9 - TOWN CUP

6 - 6
Hummersknott Academy Hurworth School
Golden Goal: Hurworth

RUGBY

YEAR 8

1 - 1
Hummersknott Academy ES 6' FORM Egglescliffe

4 - 0
Hummersknott Academy Polam Hall

1 - 2
Hummersknott Academy High Tunstall

FOOTBALL

YEAR 7 GIRLS

2 - 5
Hummersknott Academy Carlisle Trinity

YEAR 9 BOYS

3 - 0
Hummersknott Academy Carmel College

Triple triumph for Dancing Queen Lucy



by Jack Machin

A student at Hummersknott recently competed in several national dance competitions against hundreds of other competitors and triumphed majorly.

Lucy Harrison has appeared on the pages of the Academical countless times due to her phenomenal talent in the sport of dance. Recently, she has competed in 3 dance competitions; UKA Dance, Cheerdance UK and All Nations.

Her first competition, CheerDance UK, took place in Middlesbrough on the 21st of January 2024. In this competition, she competed in 3 dances, two of them being a set dance – a dance choreographed by the competition – and the other one a fusion – one she choreographed alongside her coach at her dance studio. In these, Lucy placed 4th in both set dances and 3rd in her fusion dance.

Her second competition was All Nations, which took place in Oldham on the 10th of March. In the style of classical sequence, Lucy danced the tango, where she came 7th place, and the saunter, where she gained second place award. In the style of Ballroom, she danced the quickstep, where she placed 5th, and the foxtrot where she got into the semi-finals. Finally, in Latin, Lucy danced the jive, where she gained 5th place.

Finally, Lucy's most recent competition was called UKA, which took place in Whitby on the 24th of March. In the style of ballroom, Lucy danced the foxtrot, where she achieved 5th place. In the style of Latin, she performed in the style of Latin, where she danced the cha cha, gaining 3rd place. Not only this, she also danced the two step and gavotte in the style

of classical sequence, where she placed 3rd.

The academical spoke to Lucy about her recent competitions, where she said, 'The start of this year has been filled with many dance opportunities for me and I am grateful that I am able to compete in such fantastic competitions. All of my competitions have been a wonderful experience and have enabled me to further progress in my dance career. As well as this, because of my dance, I also got to meet Strictly stars Leighton Williams and Nikita Kuzmin and was able to dance with them in a workshop. Without dance I wouldn't have been able to do that and for that fact I am extremely grateful.' The academical wishes Lucy the best of luck as she continues to strive in her dancing career.

Cross Country Champion



OWEN Owens has been crowned as a champion of North Yorkshire and South Durham cross-country running. Over the course of six 5-6km races in the NYSD (North Yorkshire and South Durham) Cross-Country League, Under 17s Division, Owen accrued enough points to finish joint first. Running in an age category a year older than his school year against around 30 competitors makes this achievement even more impressive. Asked how he felt about

winning the award, Owen replied: "Surreal. At the start of the season, I didn't think I had it in me to win. To be able to push through to the end of the year, I'm very proud of the way that I adapted, kept improving and kept the momentum going." Owen is now beginning to switch his focus to the Track and Field Season this summer where he aims to improve on his performances last year and achieve a spot in the English Schools Final for Track Event.

Hummersknott hockey teams stick it to Education Village

by Holly Cherrie

ON February 13, 28 Hummersknott pupils from Year 8 and Year 9 played a round robin (three matches) against a year nine boy team from Education village. Hummersknott's teams included the pink team who were a team of all year eight boys, the black team mix of year eight and nine boys and girls, and the blue team who were a mix of year eight and

nine girls. Each team played three matches against the opponent. Pink team won all three of the games played, Black team won two of the three matches and drew one and the blue team lost two of the matches played and drew one. Everyone played fantastically and worked their hardest using great teamwork!

Darlington runners take on English Schools Cross Country

by Jack Brown

This year's English Schools was held at the prestigious Pontefract Racecourse where the athletes had to traverse the challenging course and it uphill finishing straight. In the Junior Boys race Rowan Steel clinched an impressive 84th place finish overall to secure the top spot in County Durham after clocking in at 11 minutes and 3 seconds over the 3.2-kilometre course. Meanwhile Matthew Foster closely followed him in the 3rd spot for County Durham and a 176th place finish overall.

Both aspiring athletes showed true determination to succeed pushing themselves throughout to achieve their respected positions during the hard-fought race between some of England's top talents.

Next up was Freya Talman in the intermediate girl's category who faced a challenging 3.5-kilometre route around the racecourse and ended up finishing in 298th position overall and an 8th place spot

in the county after the performance.

Throughout the race Freya pushed herself up the rankings after a difficult start to the race from the mass start of hundreds of athletes which restricted her initial placing in the starting moments.

To finish the group of Hummersknott athletes was Owen Owens in the intermediate boy's category who although facing an ankle injury going into the race, which had prevented his training over the two weeks in build up to the competition, pushed himself to the limits showing pure resilience to secure himself 3rd place in County Durham and 267th place overall.

All the four talented athletes expressed a massive appreciation for the opportunity and support given by the school and their coaches to compete in a competition of such a high calibre.

Gymnastics selected for national contests

by Holly Brown

ELLA Waite, Year 8 and her partner went to compete in the North of England championships with her club Athena, in which they competed in one of the advanced categories of the IDP (International Development Plan). The IDP is the grading systems for gym-

nastics, where they are tested on their skills. Amazingly, Ella and her partner came first in the IDP1, one of the advanced categories. Now they are going on to represent the North of England at the grade that they won in, in the Nationals in May.

Golden goal decides Year 9 netball match

by Hannah Smith

HUMMERKNOTT Year 9 netball team had a dramatic game against Hurworth which went to golden goal at the end of the match.

The girls went from a 6-2 loss to drawing at the end of the last quarter. The team needed just one more goal to take the victory. The game went to extra time with everyone watching on the edge of their seats, but the score stayed a draw. This meant that it went to golden goal. The next goal

scored would determine the winner! The team powered on throughout and worked hard for their goal. But as the game went on Hurworth unfortunately scored, winning the match. Although it was an unlucky loss, The players used teamwork and pushed themselves to help the group, well done to everyone involved and a big Thank you to Elle Robson for amazing umpiring and coaching!

Running away with it



LOUIE Heslop from Year 7 competed in the Inter County Cross Country Championships, Nottingham on 9th March. Only eight children from the North east were picked to represent the North East for year 7 and 8 boys. This achievement is even more remarkable as Louie has only ever taken part in two competitive races for Darlington Harriers previously.

Hummersknott's fastest give opponents a run for their money

by Hannah Smith

A GROUP of Hummersknott students took part in running the Durham County cross country event.

The academy selected 37 students out of a squad of 94 to represent Darlington to their best effort in Sunderland on Saturday, January 12.

A few of the students involved performed at such a high level that they were

chosen to continue in the competition and represent Durham at the inter-county competition during February. Additionally, four high-achieving students who performed exceedingly well, completed the course at such an advanced pace that they have qualified for the English schools event in Pontefract in March.

This includes Freya Talman, coming in 6th, Owen Ovens and Mathew Foster tying third, and Rowan Steel placing second!

This is the highest number of students selected from Hummersknott in one year. During the race, the weather had clear skies with a small breeze, although the ground conditions were disappoint-

ing and rough, making it more challenging for the runners to make their way around the track without some difficulty and endurance.

But luckily, most runners persevered and completed the course to the best of their ability, making themselves and their teachers proud.

Hummersknott kettlebell lifters chosen to represent England

by Holly Brown

LILY Coad, Kate Etherson and Abbie Etherson have all been selected to represent England in the World and Continental Kettlebell Sport Champions competition in Greece, October 2024, for their amazing lifting abilities.

The weights achieved were: Lily Coad, Year 10: jerk-16kg x2 - 56 reps snatch-16kg x1-130 reps awards- under 18 absolute female and performance of

the competition Kate Etherson, Year 9: longcycle-12kg x2-66 reps Abbie Etherson, Year 9: jerk-8kg x2- 85 reps. Hummersknott teacher Mr Webber said: "We're very proud of these girls, and I like to think it's because of us teachers that they're so strong - clearly we're giving them enough homework to carry home - a few kettlebells should be easy by comparison!"



Do you have a sporting success to shout about?

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

Let our news desk know and you could appear in the next edition of the Hummersknott Academic!

Email

z20k.jm1@hummersknott.org.uk

Futsal stars shine bright in regional tournaments



by Yasmin Trebilco

THE Year 9 futsal team travelled down to Acklam Grange School, Middlesbrough to participate in a series of matches and left with a well-earned win due to their outstanding performance. First match, they triumphantly beat Durham Johnston 3-1. They lead the next match for most of the game but manage to just tie with Easington 1-1. Acklam had won both their games, so the team knew that they would only be leaving with a win. In the final match, they bat-

tled through with excellent tackling and swift reactions from their goalkeeper, Alfie Hayes (arguably the player of the tournament) and pulled through to the end with 3-1 and taking home the victory. The successful team were: Alfie Hayes, Jake O'Hanlon, Rohan Elder, Will Barker, Theo Clark, Martin Lowcock, Oscar Thornber and Ollie Malsbury. Not to be outdone by their younger counterparts, the Year 10 futsal team went down Durham Johnston and conquered all the games,

putting in phenomenal effort to win three out of three games and the title of South Durham Champions! Afterwards, they moved forwards to play at the Beacon of Light against the North Durham Champions. In their first match, they played Easington and Cody scored one goal, making the result 0-1 to Hummersknott. Next match, Hugo managed to secure a goal against Durham, which sealed the 0-1 win. In their last game, they dominated the pitch against

Acklam and used great teamwork to score goals throughout the match, James scoring three and Cody and Hugo each scoring two. This determined a clear winner between all the teams leaving Hummersknott victorious. With their strong defences and fabulous goalkeeping skills, the boys got a deserved win. The team was: Tristan Hall, Nathan Durham, James Dryden, Noah Wilson, Cody Hutton and Hugo Douglas Reeves.

