

HUMMERSKNOTT ACADEMICAL

DEC 24

SHINE SCHOOL MEDIA AWARDS | BEST NEWSPAPER 2024

£1.00



Main Entrance



A new era Mr Sowerby takes the helm

WITH a vision of making Hammersknott Academy a beacon of excellence, experienced leader Grant Sowerby steps into the role of headteacher.

Drawing on a distinguished career in education, he's ready to guide students, staff, and parents towards even greater success.

Full story Page 4



Press Team

Editors

Olivia Smith
Jack Machin

Assistant Editor

Benji Tait

Chief Reporters

Hannah Smith
Holly Cherrie
Yasmin Trebilco
Ella Smith
Autumn Watson

Senior Reporters

Alfie Webster
Carys Hopkins
Ayden Smith

Reporters

Clover Cooper
Elspeth Robertson
Emily Marquiss
Emmie Todd
Esther Schilbach
George Billington
Heidi Scotchbrook
Helen Rahimi
Yuli Kuntorov
Isaac Pocklington
Isabel Baker
Charlie Jones
Matthew Sanders
Max Jones
Sam Johnson
Sophie Clark
Sophie Hodge
Venisha Plane
Saira Choudbury
Katy Mcgee
Akshadha Jindal
Luke Price
George Harris

Photographer

Jack Brown

Special Thanks

Mr Webber
Mrs Kippax

With support from
Barron Media

Editors' Comment

HELLO everyone and welcome to the 12th edition of the Hummersknott Academical.

In this edition, we welcome many new aspiring journalists who have joined our team this term, and we look forward to seeing the progress they make over the upcoming year. This will be our penultimate edition as editors. It has been so exciting for us to see so much interest and enthusiasm from younger Years and our new members, especially as we watch the majority of the team we previously worked with thriving in their post-sixteen education.

As well as this, we welcome our new assistant editor, Benji Tait, who will be working alongside us this year and giving us a hand whilst we navigate our GCSEs. After Mr Merifield's retirement, we had the pleasure of interviewing Mr Sowerby, our new Head of School, which you can read about on Page X. Mr Sowerby will be taking on the role after Christmas after Mr Keating stepped up for this term.

This edition is quite heavy on politics; from local politics to the Presidential Election in the USA, we have covered all kinds of news. We also had the opportunity to interview Lola McEvoy, the local MP for Darlington.

As well as this, we have explored many new topics in this edition, including a

brand-new seasonal spread, written by Holly Cherrie, Hannah Smith and Yasmin Trebilco, which will cover all things Christmas.

We have also brought back spreads, such as Alfie's Adventures, and Ayden's Arcades.

It brings us great sadness to say that the last edition of Machin Music was the final one, following a successful three-year run. This is purely down to the workload of GCSEs. We hope to continue to report on music news throughout the newspaper. We are both so excited to present this edition to you as a reader.

We would like to thank our team for their hard work and dedication as always. We are also grateful for the support from Mr Webber and Chris Barron from Barron Media.

We are particularly thankful for Mrs Kippax, who has been so supportive of the Academical - week in, week out - and we hope she enjoys her semi-retirement.

Thank you for reading and we hope you enjoy this edition of the Hummersknott Academical.

Olivia Smith
Jack Machin

Clubs and activities

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

Term and holiday dates

Holiday

Christmas 2024

Spring Half Term 2025

Easter 2025

May Day 2025

Summer Half Term 2025

Summer 2025

Closing Date

Friday 20 December 2024

Friday 21 February 2025

Friday 11 April 2025

Friday 2 May 2025

Friday 23 May 2025

Friday 18 July 2025

Re-opening for teaching

Tuesday 7 January 2025

Monday 3 March 2025

Monday 28 April 2025

Tuesday 6 May 2025

Monday 2 June 2025

Wednesday 3 September 2025

Year 6 pupils welcomed to Hummersknott Open Day



by Ella Smith

EVERY year for our open evening we welcome many possible new students to our school for the first time. We show them all the possibilities and future paths they could access by coming here! Our teachers set up wonderful activities for people to try out, with the help of current students.

Mrs Kippax said: "It was a busy night!" and Mr Barker added: "The evening went

very well as it was interactive and engaging. "It is always nice for the Year 6 pupils to get a flavour of the craziness and madness (but beauty too!) of Design and Technology. "They got to see end-products, and hopefully we helped spark their imagination and creativity." The Year 6s were fascinated by the school and enthusiastically completed the

activities. Current Hummersknott pupil, Venisha Plane, said: "I thought the evening went really well. "Lots of families and students enjoyed how different subjects were presented." Mrs Musson and Mrs Morris both said that they can't wait to meet all the incoming Year 6s properly in September, and can't wait to teach them.

Art showcase at pumping station

by Olivia Smith

GCSE art and photography students displayed their artwork in an exhibit hosted by the Tees Cottage Pumping Station on Coniscliffe Road. This display was a part of the pumping station's open

weekend held on October 5 and 6. Military vehicles and vintage cars were on show to add to the exciting event. Visitors were able to vote for their favourite piece of work

and the winning students received a prize. The students got to work closely with the Tees Cottage Pumping Station which made this event extra special for them.

Farewell to Dame Maggie Smith

by Holly Cherrie

BELOVED British actor Maggie Smith sadly passed away from heart complications and breast cancer earlier this year.

On September 27, aged 89, Dame Maggie passed on at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

The award-winning actress battled long-term illnesses and health complications throughout her years of acting, and whilst filming popular children's film 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince', she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Although struggling, she continued filming whilst receiving treatments and fought cancer whilst playing her iconic roll of Professor McGonagall.

Dame Maggie also suffered with Graves' Disease, which was diagnosed in January 1988. Symptoms can include shaking, weight loss, nervousness and more.

She claimed her condition, and injuries she received due to serious shaking, created: "Kind of like a fog of despair." She also said: "I looked absolutely frightening, and I didn't know which way to turn."

After undergoing radiotherapy to treat her condition she was put into isolation for 12 months to recover.

The Oscar-winning actress's family issued a statement saying that: "She passed away peacefully" and after her successful and inspiring 70 years of acting, Dame Maggie's days of spotlight have come to a sad but peaceful end.

School Lego club appeals for new members

by Isaac Pocklington

DO you have what it takes to be the next Hummersknott Lego master? Every Wednesday, Mr Barker runs an after school club that will test your brick building abilities! The Lego competition started on October 2, when the competitors were thrown into the

first challenge to recreate a figure striking a well-known pose from Roblox game Dress to Impress. This was a difficult challenge for the builders because they had to make their builds diagonal - it helps if you know some trigonometry (I guess it is useful for something)!

Mr Barker announced the second round would be a blind round, where he judged the teams without watching the preparation and there were no name tags on the builds. The teams have gone on to build jellyfish, graveyards, witches, and more, which

have all inspired the designers to be creative. The Lego competition still continues today, who do you think will win? If you like Lego and you are a good team player, join the club - you will always be welcome!

Who is Hummersknott's new head?

Ahead of officially taking over the reins at Hummersknott Academy, our editors **Olivia Smith** and **Jack Machin** sat down with new head Mr Sowerby to find out where he's coming from, and where he plans to take our school...

Could you tell us a little bit about your background and yourself?

I grew up living in Windlestone Hall School, a residential behavioural school where my Dad was deputy head. I suppose I was destined for education!

I went to school at Whitworth Park and to college at QE in Darlington.

I took a year off as I didn't know if I wanted to go to uni, where I spent six months in the Falkland Islands, which was an amazing experience. I decided to go to university, and after that I travelled the world.

I then worked as a learning support assistant, which gave me a really good ground in education.

I decided I wanted to be a teacher, so I did my teacher training in Sunderland, and got my first job at Sunnydale in Shildon.

I then worked as a subject leader across two different schools.

I'm very ambitious, so I always knew that I wanted to be a head teacher. I applied for an assistant head job at Parkside Academy and did that for three years.

After that, I took the headship at Bishop Barrington, where I put systems and structures in to improve it from a 'Requires Improvement' school to a 'Good' school.

When I saw the head teacher role for Hummersknott come up, I immediately knew I wanted to apply.

Why did you want the job at Hummersknott?

People ask me why I am moving from one headteacher's job to another, but I want to make a difference for a different group of students. I am ready for a larger school to make a difference in. I think the school is at a point where it can be developed quickly to make sure that large groups of students can do really well, and I really believe it can be that beacon of excellence, and I think I am the person to do it.

When you came for your interview, what was your impression of Hummersknott?

Mr Keating showed me

around and I also came to see the Year 6 open evening. This school is an impressive place; when I came for the interview, it was the college captains who interviewed me and showed me around that I remember the most - they are unbelievable!

The facilities here are amazing, but maybe students take for granted things like the 4G, the swimming pool, the wide corridors and the music supplies. It's really a fantastic offering. The atmosphere is friendly and people speak very highly of the school.

Every student I have spoken to have said they are proud to wear the school badge.

How do you plan to prioritise the wellbeing of your students as they prepare for their GCSEs?

People do well when they are happy.

Stress and anxiety are inevitable, but embracing it and understanding that is important.

You should feel a bit nervous walking into your GCSEs, because you don't know what the exams will be like, but equipping you with the information to know how to handle those feelings is vital. We will work with students by looking at effective revision techniques. If you prepare for something properly, you tend to be more relaxed. The pastoral system at Hummersknott is a real strength; the college managers are always there, everyone has someone to go to for help. I try to be as approachable as I possibly can be.

What is something you pride yourself in in the role of Headteacher?

Honest and integrity. They are two things I hold myself to a really high standard. I am a hard worker, and I am diligent, and I have a bit of a forensic nature. I think honesty is vital; if I can look myself in the mirror and think I have done everything for my students today, then I am alright. Every decision I make is in your best interest.

What are your visions for school?

We need to look at the



outcomes for students, they need to be really strong.

But for you guys to come to school and feel happy, then that means we are succeeding.

My philosophy is that the biggest impact on your education is the classroom, the hour by hour, minute by minute teaching. If that is good, you will get good grades and good results.

On average, students in the North East do the worst nationally, and I want to level the playing field.

I want Hummersknott to be a beacon of excellence in the North.

Have you planned any significant changes?

I will have to conduct some analysis of what is happening at the moment and what changes are needed.

The school does not need any of the drastic changes I have made in my previous school. It needs a different approach here.

There are different ways to make a school better.

The school needs to move forward because by standing still and staying the same, you are in effect going backwards, as other schools will be moving forwards.

Every change we would make would be for the betterment of the students.

What are your plans to communicate with the staff and the students?

Clear lines of communication need to happen, everyone needs to know what everybody's job is and who to go to for help.

I like assemblies, assemblies send an important message. There is always a reason

why things happen, there is always a purpose.

If any big changes were to come, I want everyone to know why. That needs to be really clear.

I want to have regular meetings with the Student Council. I have talked about honesty, and if there is something you think I need to know, I want to know.

How is Hummersknott different to other schools you have been at before?

It is a big school, with lots of students, and managing that is a big change.

Context-wise, it is a bit different as well, not every school has the same context to Hummersknott.

I want to take the school on a journey. I will pick the school up in a very different position to the school I am currently at - Hummersknott can strive to be one of the best in the country.

With some changes, I think I can make this school into one of the best.

Do you have a message for the parents and the students?

My steadfast opinion is that we can drive this school to be that beacon of excellence. It is a triple effort: between staff, students, and parents who can make success happen.

I talked to the students about being proud to wear the badge. I will be proud to lead this school.

I had a meeting where I ordered all the staff to wear Hummersknott badges. We all need to wear it, as we are all in it together.

We all want the same thing: for you to do well.

Goodbye to Mr Keating



by Charlie Jones and Jack Brown

OUR Head of school will be leaving us at the end of the second half term of the Academic year. Mr Keating is officially moving on.

He said: "I am stopping being the head teacher of Hummersknott and executive head teacher on December 17, and then Mr Sowerby will come into power.

"It's been fantastic over the past ten years: a year and a half as a deputy head, and

eight years as head teacher.

"We've gone through a lot of changes, many wonderful things and some challenges, notably Covid-19, and I'm very proud to be handing over to Mr. Sowerby. I'm confident he can take the school on to the next level.

"I can't point to just one moment I'm most proud of. I think my proudest moment would be just being the head teacher of this wonderful school.

"When Mr. Merifield came in a while ago, I stepped back to executive head teacher for Hummersknott, and I ended up picking up a job as executive head master at another school in Newton Aycliffe.

"I am going to be doing more work there and I'm also going to be doing a lot more with the ALP trust as I have some serious projects."

We asked him if he had any particularly funny memories of his time at Hummersknott.

"One of the funniest things that happened was a few years ago," he laughed.

"I was sitting with a previous member of staff, Mr Foster, in my office, and we looked out of the window and saw a strange red light on the top of the power box next to the astro turf pitches.

"It was flashing for days. We had no idea why, but we decided to get it looked into. Turned out it meant the swimming pool was leaking!"

New head students announced

by Autumn Watson

THE head students for the coming year have been selected.

Our Senior Leadership Team is assisted every year by our Year 11 head students and deputy head students, as well as college captains and student leaders.

After challenging interviews and applications, the four head students for this year have been chosen and will continue to represent the

pupil voice in the upcoming terms.

Jack Machin and Joanna Mkanganwi were appointed Head Students for the 2024-2025 academic year, and will be assisted by Ruby Strong and Jasmine Ward as deputies.

Throughout the year these pupils help run, organize, and communicate with the senior leadership team and the students of the school.

Mr. Keating (then head of school and leader of the interview team) said: "All ten candidates were very, very strong; their applications were amazing.

We found the candidates tough to choose from; any of the ten have shown outstanding commitment and could have represented the schools ethos.

"However, we only have two positions, and the four

chosen students were picked for their fantastic energy and enthusiasm."

Once appointed, all pupils felt 'shocked' and 'grateful' for the opportunity to represent their school.

Joanna said: "I am hoping to use my position to generate more 'out of classroom experiences' for our students.

"I look forward to serving the school as a head student."

Studies link exercise to mental health

by Emily Marquiss and Elspeth Robertson

STUDIES have shown that doing sport has a great effect on young people's mental health.

It lets this generation's youth often find an escape from their everyday lives.

Whether it's a fantastic football match or a nifty netball game, kids find that they end the day with a smile.

Miss Edwards from the Hummersknott PE department said: "Your brain needs exercise just like the rest of your muscles to become stronger and more effective. Exercise is the remedy for so many things."

Exercise is a free way to boost your mental health, and it can improve your confidence too - sport is scientifically proven to release positive hormones that improve your overall mood.

Personally, I do gymnastics, dancing, and recently started the Saturday morning 5k

parkrun.

Every weekend I feel so proud of myself, especially as my last parkrun was four minutes quicker than my previous personal best!

After each run, we always go to a cafe to get a sweet treat and a nice cold drink - or my personal favourite: a hot chocolate!

To registered for the parkrun it only takes a visit to their website, and then turning up to whichever one you want, preferably one closest to you. In our area, that includes South Park and Hardwick Park. Both are beautiful and scenic places for the run. Also, along with gymnastics and dancing there are different perks like shows, displays and competitions, but if you don't like that type of thing there is just the joy of doing the sport and getting in the exercise in a fun and interactive way.



New electric chargers added to car park

by Hannah Smith

HUMMERSKNOTT Academy is taking steps to improve and become an eco-friendlier school.

One of these steps is introducing new electric chargers in the car park to encourage staff and visitors using the car park to drive electric cars, which are much better in the fight against climate change.

Electric cars emit far fewer greenhouse gases, such as carbon monoxide and methane, than a regular engine car, and by adding these EV charging the school hopes to make it easier for people to

choose low-emission travel options.

The addition of chargers aligns with the curriculum's focus on environmental responsibility, and how we should all be taking small steps to help Darlington become a cleaner place. Hummersknott also aims to incorporate renewable energy and sustainable living into science and geography lessons, to inform pupils about how to make educated decisions about low carbon options.

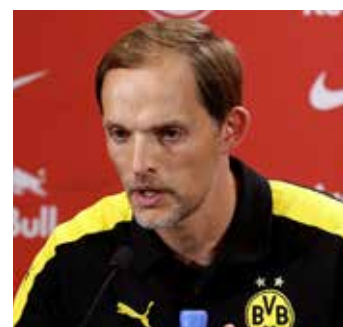
The electric car chargers, paired with lessons about environmentally friendly

changes, show students at Hummersknott real examples of sustainable actions in progress, which may inspire the younger generation to make alterations in their own daily life to save the future of our surroundings.

A Hummersknott IT technician, said: "Hummersknott is committed to making the school a better place, but there's still a long way to go." The school appears dedicated to prioritising environmental issues, and to furthering the preservation of the clean environment in and around Darlington.

German Tuchel scores England manager job

by Luke Price



THE 51-year-old Thomas Tuchel has been appointed as the new England manager starting in January 2025. The German has signed an 18-month contract, becoming the third non-British person to become manager of the national team.

Tuchel's Trophy cabinet includes the Club World Cup (won in 2021); the Champions League (won in 2021) both with Chelsea, and the Coupe De La Ligue (won in 2020, at Paris Saint Germain). With spells at Augsburg, Mainz, Borussia Dortmund, Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Bayern Munich as a coach, Tuchel led teams to league titles and domestic cup competitions in Germany and France, before he won the UEFA Champions League title with Chelsea in 2021.

Making history



Image: Poppy Brodrick

by Esther Schilbach

A HISTORY competition has started up for Years 7, 8 and 9 with prizes of shopping and cinema vouchers. For Year 7, the challenge is to create a model of a motte and bailey castle using any materials, either alone or as a group.

You can use the internet to find out good techniques for building your model. Year 8s get a bit of a gruesome task. They have to make papiermache model

of King Charles the First's severed head, again, either solo or in a group.

For Year 9, entries must be a 3D model WW1 trench. You can use whatever materials you want and can work in a group or alone. Previous students used breakfast cereal Shreddies for materials!

But many also used more standard materials like cardboard to construct their dioramas.

Hummersknott headliners



by Jack Machin

A band including students from Hummersknott performed in a charity concert, raising money for Children's Cancer North last year. Now, they have formed a band called 'Lost Generation' and are now gigging in places like The Forum in Darlington, and NE Volume in Stockton. The first ever concert took place in January 2023, when students from Wyvern College formed a band together and performed for students to raise money for the chosen school charity that year. A year later, the concept of the concert continued, however this time, the band members expanded to students from the whole school. They once again performed at Hummersknott for the students, which resulted in them raising over £150 for Children's Cancer North. After such a successful run in January, the band decided

that they wanted to raise money for the forum, a local grassroots music venue located in Darlington. The Wyvaidd concert took place in early April, with an array of songs played, such as, 'The Chain' by Fleetwood Mac, 'R U Mine' by Arctic Monkeys, and 'Hypersonic Missiles' by Sam Fender. The concert was a huge success, with many students and teachers going from Hummersknott, as well as the public. Altogether, the band managed to raise over £900 towards the Forum. After the huge success, the Wyvaidd band decided they wanted to take it a step further and become a band. In early April, the band decided to name themselves, 'Lost Generation'. The members, including past and current members at Hummersknott, are: Eva Gatenby, Megan Coul-

son-Beedie and Jack Machin on vocals, Owen Ovens, Fraser Tarn and Aodan Furness playing the guitar, Lizzie Taylor on the bass, and Tom Shield on the drums. Lost Generation began their journey at NE Volume in Stockton, where they began to perform their regularly. As well as this, Lost Generation also performed at The Forum in Darlington, under the YoungBlood Gigs program. On the October 30, Lost Generation headlined at The Forum, with support from Adam Smith, a former student at Hummersknott. The night was a huge success, with over 150 people showing up to see the gig. Lost Generation are planning to come back with a bang early in the new year, so be sure to watch out for any gig announcements on their social media.

Brilliant is the word for this club



by Venisha Plane

THE Brilliant Club was co-founded in 2011 by Jonathan Sobczyk and Simon Coyle to help young people achieve their potential. As teachers themselves, they realized that pupils of certain backgrounds tend to have more obstacles regarding their opportunities within education. They wanted to try and help less fortunate students to go to the most prestigious universities and to help them follow their dreams. They started by getting a PhD tutor to help twelve students in London by using university-style tutorials. Jonathan and Simon wanted to expand across the UK. The Brilliant Club won a Guardian Charity Award in 2015 and they now work with more than 20,000 pupils a year. This year, the Brilliant Club has asked Hummersknott teachers to choose fourteen students who think they have the potential to go on to do a form of higher education. On October 22, the first Hummersknott session was held with Gordan Duffy-McGhie, who has a master's degree in theatre and production. The course will end with the students 'graduating' from a university chosen by The Brilliant Club. They will have to complete a 2000-word essay to pass the course before this.

Equation sheets released for physics

by Olivia Smith

STUDENTS sitting their GCSEs in 2025, 2026 and 2027 were overjoyed to discover that equation sheets will be available in physics and combined science

physics. After the COVID-19 pandemic, equation sheets were given to students in their exams due to the impact the virus had on their academics. 2024 was initially planned

to be the final year that this help was provided, but it has now been extended until 2027, meaning that students will not need to memorise the equations needed, but they just need to know how

to apply them to their questions. This came as a huge relief to many students across the country, as they prepare their revision for the exams in May.

A fond festive farewell



by **Charlie Jones,**
George Billington &
Matthew Sanderson

CHRISTMAS is coming around, but it's not all smiles because some of your favourite teachers will, unfortunately, be leaving us when we break up for Christmas. We caught up with them for the final time.

DT teacher Mr. Tissington, who has been a fixture at Hummersknott for many

years, said: "I'm going to miss the staff and students but I'm very happy for extra time with my family and ride motorbikes."

However, this may not be the last time we see the DT specialist as he hopes to do substitute work.

IT Manager, Mr Carr, is moving on to pastures new. He said: "I will always cherish my time at Hummersknott. The memories of the staff and pupils are truly special,

and the school will always hold great meaning for me. "It will forever be the school I never wanted to leave." Finally, our own Mrs. Kippax, an English teacher and one of the teachers who helps to produce the Academical, will also sadly be leaving us at Christmas.

She said: "I've been here permanently since 2017, and four years in and out before that, I enjoyed my time here at Hummersknott, but I'm

sad to go as I'll miss the staff and students.

"I've enjoyed helping with the newspaper, particularly the London trip in 2023 and I am now looking forward to a new adventure."

We wish all the best for them wherever they go, and if these teachers were on your nice list, it may be a good idea to say goodbye.

(Also maybe get them a present or a card? Just a thought).

Students raise hundreds for Children in Need

HUMMERKNOTT Academy has raised more than £700 for Children in Need this year. Hummersknott have raised money for Children in Need in the past, but this year, they took it to another level. Hummersknott raised money by putting on a Just Dance-athon, where students could dance to their hearts content, and also get their faces painted. There was also a raffle for a bike, and Pudsey Bear pins and pens were on sale.

The event was organised by the college leaders, with the help of student leaders, who went around forms and sold tickets, and also helped man the busy event on the day it took place.

Mrs Musson, one of the college leaders who helped organise the event, said: "The Children

in Need event was absolutely amazing. Everybody that helped out, the Year 11s in particular, were unbelievable and the whole thing was so much fun.

"I loved seeing all of the kids dancing, and them in class in the afternoon with their faces painted.

"The most important thing is though that they are learning about charity and giving towards a good cause.

"We didn't do Children in Need at Hummersknott for a long time, so the last couple of years that we have done it have been a great chance to raise money and have fun." The charity event was an amazing opportunity to raise money, and Hummersknott will without a doubt support the cause again in the future.

FREE 8 WEEK MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS BOOTCAMP

Transform Your Body, Whilst Completing L2 Mental Health First Aid & Suicide Awareness & Prevention

CONTACT US

FORGE FITNESS DARLINGTON, BOROUGH RD
INDUSTRIAL ESOL1 1TG
david@forgefitnessdarlington.co.uk

JOIN US NOW

- STRENGTH EXERCISES
- CARDIO EXERCISES
- AEROBIC FITNESS
- CORE EXERCISES
- TUES/THURS/SAT

Young tycoons clean up by washing cars



by Jack Machin

THREE students at Hummerskott plan to raise money for charity by washing cars in the local area.

Year 10 students Lewis Deverell, Darin Cocks, and Noah Abblett-Tate, have organised an event where they will be knocking on doors in their local area and washing cars in December.

All of the profits made will go towards the Make A Wish Foundation UK.

The car washing business, Polish and Protect Auto Detailing, was founded by Lewis during the summer of this year.

He started out by cleaning the cars of his friends

and family, and in August, recruited one of his friends to help him with it as they started knocking doors and asking the public if they wanted their cars washing. Lewis, as the owner and operator of Polish and Protect Auto Detailing, said: "I'm really happy with how far my small business has grown in such a short amount of time. "I'd love to give back to the community and I am looking forward to doing something for a good cause."

The event is expected to raise between £100 and £300 for Make A Wish UK. Make sure to watch out for them.

Mysterious sloth virus spreading

by Sophie Clark and Sophie Hodge

An illness is suddenly spreading rapidly despite being discovered decades ago. Also known as "sloth fever" the sloth virus is very deadly to humans and other animals.

It is spread by mosquitoes biting sloths then other animals and humans. There are currently no treatments for the sloth virus but if you go to your doctor, they can give you tips like getting enough rest, drinking enough fluids and taking over the counter pain medicine.

Sloth fever symptoms include fever, headache, chills, muscle aches and pains, and stiff joints. It also causes vomiting, sensitivity to light, dizziness, diarrhoea, extreme abdominal pain, and haemorrhaging.

Patients may be hospitalized

following infection, but typically recover without lasting symptoms.

The sloth virus was discovered in 1955 in the Caribbean, and in 1960 it was detected in Brazil after a blood sample was taken from a sloth.

Since then, it has been found in humans in more than nine countries in South America. One case in New York and 20 cases in Florida were reported on August 27 2024. Many individuals who came back from Cuba with symptoms were recorded between May and July.

According to the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, three individuals were admitted to the hospital, but no deaths were recorded.

Oasis is back after brothers reconcile

by Olivia Smith

AFTER a long fifteen years, fans were ecstatic when rock band Oasis announced their reunion.

The band is well known for the two frontmen, brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher, as they split up back in 2009 after a long ongoing feud. They finally rekindled their relationship and are heading out on tour together in 2025. The news dropped on August 27, which sparked the attention of news channels

worldwide.

By August 31, almost the entirety of the UK logged onto websites such as Ticketmaster to secure their tickets.

After such high demand for the UK dates, Oasis released tickets for American and Australian shows too, and most recently, they also announced shows in Japan and South Korea.

You might say they'll be performing Half the World Away!

Flash floods in Spain cause havoc

by Luke Price

THIS October the city of Valencia in Spain was hit with a torrential downpour, about one year's worth of rain, triggering severe floods. Catarroja, located five miles from Valencia, has a population of about 30,000 people. It was one of the most severely affected by the flash floods.

There was a reported 500mm

of rain in just eight hours! More than two hundred and twenty people were killed from these floods and it is known as one of the deadliest floods in the century. An unknown number of people remain missing, while thousands of others are without electricity or phone service. The majority of those who

tragically died were in the coastal region of Valencia, where the state-run agency said that nearly a year's worth of rain had fallen in just eight hours. Several dead bodies have been recovered by emergency workers after the rain. Another town which was horrendously caught in the raging waters was Letur

in the eastern province of Albacete on Tuesday, pushing cars through the streets, images broadcast on Spanish television showed. The leader of the eastern Valencia region told reporters that several dead bodies had been found in flood-affected areas, without specifying how many.

Students rock out for charity

Lights Out shines bright at Xmas fair



by Olivia Smith

A GROUP of Hummersknott students formed a band in order to raise money for the charity Candlelighters. Candlelighters is a Yorkshire-based charity which provides support to teenagers who are suffering from

cancer.

The band, named Lights Out, consists of myself, Olivia Smith, plus ex-student Willow Blamire on vocals, Max Graham on guitar, Oliver Collings on drums and Ellie Rennie on bass.

We also had support from Josh Moody, who photographed the event. We were offered a spot to perform at the Piercebridge Christmas Fair in the ballroom at The George Hotel on November 23.

Overall, we raised a total of £373.69, including donations via our promotions on social media. Candlelighters was also voted to be the school charity for this year!



THE FORUM
MUSIC STUDIOS

MUSIC CREATORS



YB
YOUNG BLOOD
LIVE

PROMOTERS AND LIVE GIGS

YoungBlood Creators

Are you interested in playing and creating music?

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

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

YoungBlood Live

Gig nights for young people created by young people

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

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

YoungBlood Promoters

Want to put on a gig?

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

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




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

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

Florida recovers from devastating hurricane



by Luke Price

IN early October, a storm was in the Gulf of Mexico, a warm ocean basin in North America.

A couple of days before landfall, it intensified into a category five storm around 75 miles west of Tampa. It hit as a category three storm, with winds over 125mph, and storm surges over a devastating 15 feet high.

This hurricane spawned a

deadly tornado outbreak, causing widespread flooding in Florida.

It killed a total of 32 people in Florida and caused a total cost of \$85 billion (about \$260 per person in the US). More than two million homes and businesses are now without power across Florida, with whole neighbourhoods going dark.

Some people called this a 'devastating experience'.

Many stayed at home as the storm weakened from a category four, then a category three.

Hurricane Milton started on October 5 and lasted five days, ending on October 10. This category five storm became the second most powerful and intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded over the Gulf of Mexico.

Even though Hurricane Milton was formed on the 5th of

October, it didn't make landfall into the United States of America until the 9th of October.

Before Milton, Hurricane Helene had just hit Florida, this time, Milton was worse. Hurricane Helene was a category four hurricane with winds over 140 miles per hour (mph).

Trying to talk TikTok to teachers

by Autumn Watson and Isabel Baker



WE asked members of staff around Hummersknott Academy how they feel about using TikTok language in a classroom and if they think it would be beneficial to the students' learning.

Mr Viro, an English teacher who prides himself on his sense of humour, said: "It is amusing as long as it is appropriate, but never use it in exams as it could make you lose a lot of marks and could you get disqualified."

Mr Salmond is a history teacher who likes to think he is up to date with the latest trends and fashions, despite all evidence to the contrary. He told us it is important to

"be open and accept the next generation."

Mrs Roberts is a languages teacher who tries to keep up with the changes in modern lingo.

She enjoys communicating in different languages and tries to use TikTok language as much as possible. "If they can learn TikTok slang why can't they learn Spanish, French and German?!" she complained.

Mrs Thompson-Hawes is a fantastic science teacher with a fun personality, and she thinks that TikTok slang should not be used in the classroom or workplace, as it is not appropriate and shows

a lack of respect.

Mr Barker is a design-technology teacher. He explained that he was sick of hearing it in the classroom, however he would use it sometimes in the class just to annoy the students!

Collectively, many of the teachers have all described the slang as a passing trend that will not last very long. They all found it amusing how this generation connects with each other.

Some teachers found it funny to annoy the students because when a staff member uses TikTok slang it becomes 'uncool'.

DIWALI

Celebrating Diwali

by Akshadha Jindal

DIWALI is the Hindu festival of lights and is celebrated with variations of how and why it is celebrated.

This year Diwali was celebrated on Thursday, October 31 10:22am to Friday, November 1, 12:46pm.

'Deepavali' is another for Diwali, which means 'a row of lamps'.

This festival is enthusiastically celebrated across India, where we light up lamps (also known as diyas in India), decorate the worship place which is usually placed in the east direction at the house, and everyone plays around bursting crackers and fireworks.

This is specially celebrated in the acknowledgement of the victorious return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya saving her wife Sita from an evil King called Ravana.

The big reason we celebrate is that this is a victory over evil.

Let me summarise the most popular stories behind Diwali celebration...

The Legend of Lord Rama & Sita

Millions of years ago in the Indian city of Ayodhya, Lord Rama was preparing to take the place on the throne as his dad was poorly.

Unfortunately, his stepmother had different intentions before King Rama could be the next king, so she ordered him to be banished from the Kingdom for 14 years so her son could be on the throne instead. Lord Rama, Sita (Rama's wife) and his brother Lakshman passively left Ayodhya, much to the dismay of the people who admired the prince.

Rama, Sita and Lakshman lived happily for many years in the forest but when the demons had landed on the land where they were living, King Ravana and his Shurpanakha arrived, troubles were said to begin.

The 10 headed demon kidnapped Sita and then trapped her in his palace on the land of Sri-Lanka.

To reach to his palace, they were able to build a bridge with stones with the help of Lord Hanuman, alongside with his army of monkeys. A battle broke out when

they crossed the river as Rama had good on his side, he had defeated the evil and released Sita from his grip leading to the welcome of them in Ayodhya by people lighting diyas.

The Legend of Krishna

All the Gods were in distress as the whole world was an agitation. Naraksura, who was granted immortality by gods, spent his days terrorizing people that live on earth. The Gods pleaded with Lord Krishna & Satyabhama (his wife) to defeat the demon in a huge battle. Lord Krishna fought his best and might have weakened down Naraksura but couldn't get rid of him because of his immortality.

When Satyabhama saw Krishna hurt on the battlefield, she got angry and shot a fatal arrow which took Naraksura down in no time.

Naraksura died with no difficulty by her hands as because when he was granted immortality, he had asked that he would never die by the hands of men and because of this he never realized that a woman could kill him.

Furthermore, this made easy for Satyabhama to kill the power-hungry demon.

After this catastrophic battle, Krishna & Satyabhama bathed in scented oils to remove the scars of the battle. And in the remembrance of this, we light oil lamps this day.

You can explore more stories about Diwali, but these ones are the most popular and the important reasons why we celebrate this day.

Peace and kindness are a crucial part of all Diwali festivities and donating money and time are important too. At the border of India and Pakistan, soldiers exchange traditional sweets as kind gesture from the two countries.

Children receive presents of money and new clothes such as the traditional dresses like kurtas and dhotis for boys and lehnga cholis and salwar kameez for girls.

Grown up men might wear a sherwani coat with kurta and woman will often wear a sari and bangles they've received as gifts.



POINTE

Putting Darlo's new MP to the test



We sat down with Lola McEvoy, Darlington's newly elected MP. **Benji Tait** interviewed Lola about everything, from how life has been as an MP, to how she is going to support Darlington in the future.

What has life been like since you were elected as the MP of Darlington?

It has been an absolute whirlwind! The opportunities I've had to help people and improve things feel vast. I'm surrounded by ambitious people who really want to make a positive impact. The thing I'm struggling with is juggling priorities as there is so much to do. The other amazing thing is that I have been able to deliver for Darlington straight away. Every week there is something new that has transformed people's lives in our area, whether its money being put into the NHS, or reforms in the fundings used into looking after children, or some of the things we've done around green energy and British Energy. It's just been fantastic. I love to be busy so it's definitely the job for it.

Have you received confirmation that the new treasury site on Brunswick Street is a going ahead and if so, how will it benefit the young people of the town? As far as I know, it's definitely going ahead.

There's no reason for it not to be going ahead. Its super exciting that we have got a seat at the table where we can make sure that everyone is adhering to the best possible practice.

When you get big investment in an area it's the halo effect of the supply chain which will bring jobs. I want them to be doing an outright program in schools and talking to the Year 9s when they make the GCSE options and say: "Have you thought about the treasury?"

We also have to look at how we can maximize a local bias on work forces in the supply chain and work out how we can leverage the treasury to also be something that draws in bigger business and bigger employers.

What will the world look like for our current Year 7s after 5 years of Labour governance?

I want the next generation to take it for granted that things are really good for them. I want them to have the potential to change jobs fulfil what they want to do in life. We have put in some key measures that were absolutely amazing that will transform a load of issues

that were going in the wrong direction - for example, the casualisation of the work force which means that you can't plan month-to-month, and you can't prove a status of employment meaning when you apply for a mortgage you can't prove to the bank that you'll be employed for the next 12 months.

We have changed that so now if you work regular hours, whatever you're doing, no matter how senior or junior, your contract must reflect the terms and conditions of the hours you regularly work.

The other thing that we have done merge the minimum wage, making sure that there is no discrepancy between younger people and older people in terms of a starting wage.

All this sends a message to what the best practice is and how this government thinks employment should be.

How will the government improve education standards?

Education staff has been treated incredibly bad over the last 14 years of Conservative governance, and understandably many have left the profession in droves. Which means that you're taking on new trainees who take time to learn their trade. What we need to do is retain our staff, so that's why we've done the pay deal to settle and retain existing staff.

We need to make their jobs easier, because what we are asking them to do is too much.

We have reformed Ofsted because Ofsted is something that teachers have found absolutely destructive to teaching styles and mental health. It's absolutely brutal when you can get call, it's like the big bad wolf coming to the door!

Another thing we are doing is placing massive investment into young people's mental health. SEND provision in our area and country has been woefully lacking, and it's tearing through young people's and their families' lives. People are actually having to give up work because of the lack of SEND provisions, so we are going to invest hugely in that. Online safety is another thing I'm pushing. It's an issue that Darlington is worried about. On the campaign trail back in July, every demographic, every voting allegiance, and parents were saying: "We don't know what to do."

This cannot just be down to parents, and its massively impacting children's behaviour and mental health. This must change.

I am also working to ensure that the vital support staff are at the negotiating table to get a better pay deal.

Would you support a campaign to give Darlington city status for the 200-year anniversary of the S&D railway?

I don't think that's how we would get city status, but what I'd like to see is Darlington bringing an industrial future forward that we can all be proud of. But don't get me wrong, if the option was on the table I would fight for it! I'd like to see a proud industrial future with what we are doing with green jobs, and I want Darlington punching on the world stage again, just like we were doing back when the Stockton and Darlington railway opened. We have the potential to do that once more.

Trump wins back the White House



by Benji Tait & George Billington

DONALD Trump has been elected as President of the United States of America for the second time becoming the first president since Grover Cleveland to serve two non-consecutive terms. The campaign began when former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden announced they were running for re-election to the White House. But after a disastrous performance in the first only debate between Trump and Biden, Biden was forced to drop out of the race in favour of his Vice President, Kamala Harris. But it was not all plain sailing for Trump either - on the July 13 in Butler Pennsylvania, Trump was shot in the ear at a rally for his supporters. The Republican nominee selected Ohio senator JD Vance as his running mate, while Harris picked Minnesota governor Tim Walz. A running mate is the pick

for vice president. This election has been one of the most contentious in US history with the key issues being abortion rights, illegal immigration, and the economy. Trump has strong anti-abortion views which most likely will translate into his governing. On the other hand, Kamala Harris has majorly contrasting views to her competitor. Unlike the rest of the world, the US doesn't decide its President by the popular vote, which is the number of actual ballots cast, but a system called the Electoral College, which is a number of votes given to each state based on population density. For example, the state of California - which has a high population density - has an electoral college vote of fifty four, whereas a less populated state like Delaware has three. To win the election you must secure 270 Electoral college

votes.

After a heated race with Kamala Harris, Trump emerged Triumphant after 71,000,000 people voted for him compared to Kamala's 66,000,000 votes. When all the electoral college votes were counted, Kamala Harris got two hundred and twenty-six and Donald Trump got three hundred and twelve.

As a result of the election Donald Trump will become President however, he is not sworn into office until January 20 2025, meaning until then Joe Biden will stay as president.

So, Trump has been elected as president for the second time, but what did he do during his first term as President, which lasted from 2017-2021?

Well, he initiated a trade war

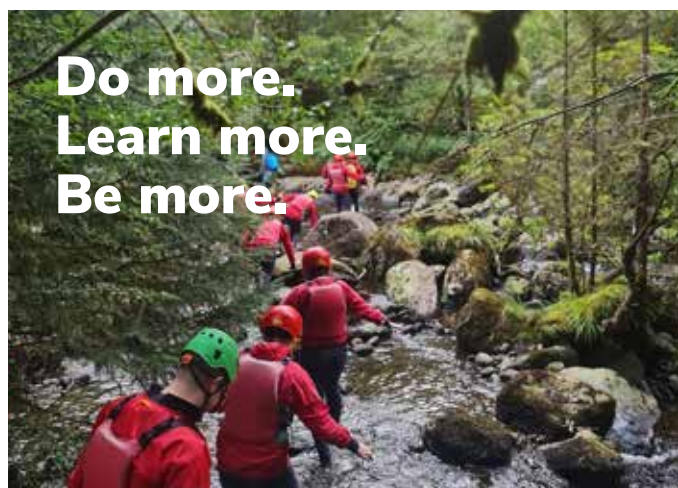
with China in January 2018 which is still going on to this day, he also increased security at the Mexico-US border, and withdrew America from the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership.

However, you may be wondering what he promises to do during his second term as president.

He has promised to govern by a simple motto: "Promises made, promises kept." He vowed to deport all undocumented immigrants. Also, he vowed to "end inflation." He promised to "drill, drill, drill" meaning he supports the oil industry.

He also promised to end the Ukraine-Russia war - which he claims he can achieve in short order.

We shall see.



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

Copyright 2018 The Scout Association Registered Charity numbers 306101/SC038437



Scouts

Eastbourne Explorers

Christmas



Have a happy Hummersknott Christmas

by Yasmin Trebilco

WE like to celebrate Christmas at Hummersknott in the last week of term to get everyone in the Christmas spirit while learning new possibilities.

The optional choice of having a delicious Christmas school meal including merry treats as dessert.

It features popular Christmas

food, such as Yorkshire puddings, mince pie, and many others.

This gives us a chance to eat together near the most joyful time of the year and become closer as a school.

At the end of the year, we gather everyone in the assembly hall and give out free prizes for the most

hard-working people, including prizes like 'earning the most positive bromcom points' The winners have a choice of rewards which include shopping vouchers and Vue vouchers.

Ellie Rennie, a year 9 student said: "Christmas at Hummersknott is a wonderful time. "It's always joyful and fun

for teachers and students."

On the last day before students break up for Christmas, they are allowed to go home an hour earlier than their usual time, causing them to miss the last period and get home and celebrate earlier.

Happy Christmas everyone, from the news team!



Teachers' top Xmas picks

by **Hollie Cherrie**

AS the Christmas season comes around, so do Christmas films. Ever gone through the struggle of sitting in front of the tv for an hour, just to pick a film you end up not liking? In that case, you are in luck! Charlie Jones, George Billington and Helen Rahimi went around the school and hopefully, with these suggestions and quotes from some of your favourite teachers, you won't have to wait a minute! Mr. Webber has chosen the film 'It's a Wonderful Life'. "This is a dark film about redemption, a lot like A Christmas Carol. "It's not only my favourite Christmas film, but it's just my favourite film." Mrs. Kippax has chosen the film 'Elf', saying: "It makes me laugh out loud every time I see it!" Mr. Richardson has chosen 'The Santa Clause', and simply said: "It's just a good film, innit?" Mrs. Morris has chosen 'Na-

tivity': "My favourite part of the film is when the teacher brings the children to see a baby being born, it makes me laugh out loud every time." Miss Jackson, after a heated argument with Mrs. Morris, has also chosen 'Elf'. ("I am having Elf, Elf is my movie!" she said with frightening intensity. What happened to the season of goodwill, Miss?) Mrs. Musson has chosen 'Oliver Twist': "I chose this film because it's my and my dad's favourite film and we take the Christmas decorations down while watching it." Mr. Tatham might have misunderstood the assignment. He picked the James Bond film Moonraker: "I like the action-adventure side of it, it's not the usual film you would watch at Christmas." Miss Wilson picked a movie which has often been questioned about whether it is a Christmas movie or not: Die Hard. "You've gotta watch it!" she said.

Top 5 winter watches

by **Yasmin Trebilco**

1) Home Alone
Kevin was accidentally left at home by his wrapped-up family when going abroad for the holiday season. He is faced with two dumb-founded robbers; little did they know they were faced with a mischievous little boy planning to put a stop to their crimes.
2) Elf
On Christmas Day, an orphan called Buddy was accidentally transported to the North Pole and was raised among Santa's hard-working elves. As he grew older, Buddy noticed he was different to the elves, and soon discovers why, embarking on a journey to find his real father in New York city.
3) The Grinch
Created by Dr. Seuss, The Grinch made his first appearance in a book from 1957, 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'. The Grinch is a miserable, sulky character who detests Christmas after bullied on

Christmas Day as a child. He plans to steal Christmas in this town of joy and happiness, Whoville.
4) The Snowman
This is short film made in 1982 for a young audience. After a heavy snowfall, a young boy named James plays in the snow and ends up building a large snowman. At the stroke of midnight, James shockingly discovers his snowman has magically come to life. The snowman grabs his hand and takes flight in the chilly winter breeze.
5) Nativity
Miserable Mr. Maddens, a primary teacher, and his new merry assistant, Mr. Poppy, get put up for the job of making the school nativity, but his rival at a competitive primary school always wins the best award for their plays. When he rashly claims that Hollywood producers will record their nativity and make it a hit movie, this lie spreads widely.

Top five festive favourite tunes

by **Holly Cherrie**

1) Last Christmas
The hit tune Last Christmas, sung by old-school boy band Wham!, has been top of the charts five times since its 1984 release! Written by the talented George Michael there hasn't been a better song about love and heartbreak at Christmas!
2) All I Want for Christmas is You
Sung by the iconic pop vocalist Mariah Carey, all I

want for Christmas is you, has been ranked #1 Greatest Holiday 100 song of all time by Billboard and has been a Christmas favourite ever since having over 1.4 billion streams globally every year!
3) Do they know it's Christmas?
Do they know it's Christmas? is a charity song written in 1984, to raise money for the 1983-1985 famine in Ethiopia. It is performed by Bandid, a group of popular English and

Irish artists including Paul Young, Boy George, George Michael, Le Bon, and Bono and many other popular singers back in the 90s. The song raised \$150 million for struggling families in Ethiopia!
4) Winter wonderland
Winter wonderland is a Christmas original written in 1939 and covered by over 200 artists since! Some of the most popular covers being by soul artist Michael Bublé and jazz pop artist

Laufey. If you're a fan of a white Christmas, then you'll adore this classic!
5) It's the most wonderful time of the year
Last but not least is the popular wintertime tune, it is the most wonderful time of the year! Released in 1963 and sung by Andy Williams, the song has been a hit ever since reaching the Top Ten Christmas 100 almost every year and being featured in many popular Christmas movies!

Christmas Crackers

What is Christmas to you? A time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, or a time to stuff your face with chocolate? But, no matter what you do, those cringy Christmas jokes will always find a way to intrude upon your winter, so if you are feeling down this cold December, let **Charlie Jones** and **Sam Johnson** warm you up with our top ten Christmas jokes!

1. My friend just won the Tallest Christmas Tree competition. I thought to myself, "How can you top that?"

4. Did you hear about the man who stole an advent calendar?
He got 25 days.

7. Who tells the best Christmas jokes?
Reindeer. They sleigh every time.

10. The Christmas jumper my kids gave me last year kept picking up static electricity.
I took it back and exchanged it for a new one-free of charge.

2. How did Scrooge win the football game?
The Ghost of Christmas passed.

5. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
Frostbite

8. Why is everyone thirsty at the North Pole?
No well.

3. What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsinitis

6. Why did Mrs. Claus insist Santa take an umbrella?
Because of the rain, dear

9. What do you call an old snowman?
Water.

What's on your Christmas list?

With Christmas fast approaching one question remains: what presents are going under my tree? In a world full of industry and engineering we as humans have created a vast amount of books games and tasty delights but with so much choice what are we meant to ask Santa for? Well, help is at hand!

Sam Johnson can suggest ten top-notch presents to sure to make you merry this Christmas!

GAMES

1. FC25

Delve into the world of football, building your own team and embarking in your own career (**George Billington** and **Charlie Jones** took it for a spin - see what they thought later in this issue!)

2. The Legend of Zelda: Echoes of Wisdom

This game arrived on Nintendo Switch on September 26 2024.

It's an action game where you get to play as Zelda (for the first time in the franchise) travelling across the kingdom to save Link (check out my in-depth review in this issue for more info!)

3. Funko Fusion

Collect fusions across the multiverse to fight a common enemy eddy an evil twin of Freddy Funko

SWEETS

If gaming is not to your liking, try some delectable treats for Christmas day. We have all kinds of special cakes, sweets and so much more but what mouthwatering chocolates are left to pick up dust on a shelf? Because of this we have picked 3 tasty things to help on our special occasion.

1. Freeze-Dried Candy

This unique type of sweet has exploded in popularity, taking normal everyday sweets, and freezing them to create this special concoction. Andy's Candy Bar on Duke Street (a popular sweet store) sells them in Darlington town centre.

2. Darlington Dabbers

A Darlington classic, these one-of-a-kind sweets are flavoured with raspberry and passion fruit. This is another Andy's Candy

Bar speciality, and is regarded as one of the best treats and gifts on the local market!

3. Roly's Fudge

Do you like fudge? Of course you do!

These mouthwatering fudges scattered across England are to die for.

So, would you get some normal fudge from the big marketplace or get these one-off wonders here instead?

BOOKS

For those ones who would rather enjoy some peace and quiet rather than contorting their thumbs or scoffing treats, try a book to pull you into an entirely new world. No matter what you like Gothic, dystopian, science-fiction, or fairy tales, there's plenty available.

1. Yellow Face

Yellow Face is a book of treachery, betrayal, and a jealous friend will guilt catch

up to June or will she get away with this crime?

2. Animal Farm

What happens when animals have had enough, the labour to touch their legs to frail an uprising that's what but when a certain pig gains power.

What will happen to their dreams of a utopian society?

3. Lord of the Flies

Lord of the Flies portrays a scenario in which upper-class British children quickly descend into chaos is the life without adults a blessing or a curse they will drastically regret?

4. To Kill a Mockingbird

When Scout Finch, a young girl, and her dad, Atticus, encounter their hardest moral challenge, they must find a way to prove accused man Tom Robinson innocent in a time when the justice you received largely depended on the colour of your skin.

Christmas Tree Collection

Sat 4th & Sun 5th January 2025

We will recycle your Christmas Tree.
Collecting across DL1, DL2, DL3, DL4 & DL5.
Book by midday Wednesday 1st January.

Book your collection online at:
www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/CTC



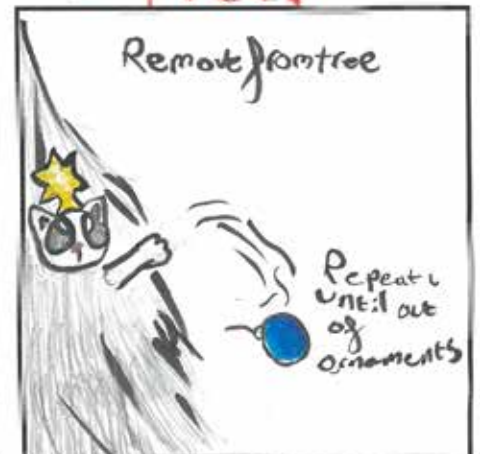
Supported by



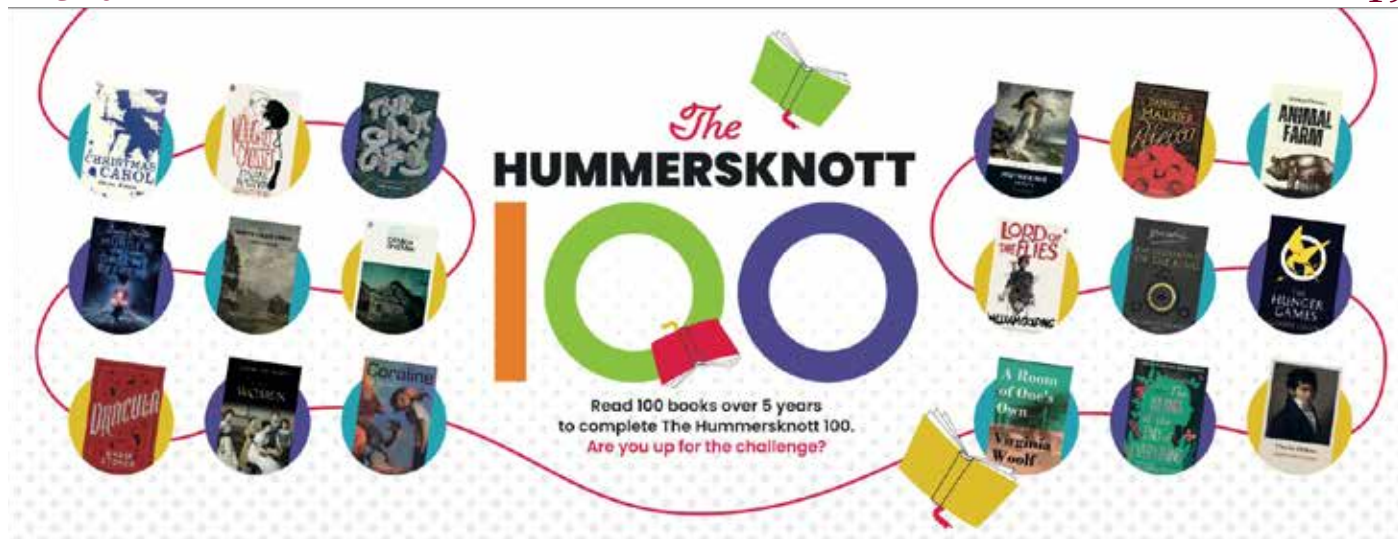


Emily Marquiss

How to decorate a Christmas tree?



Max Jones



by Sophie Clarke and Heidi Scotchbrook

THE Hummersknott 100 is a reading challenge for Hummersknott students and encourages them to read more. It raises your knowledge and makes you hungry to read more - especially as you can win prizes!

If you read five books you get an early lunch pass and 25

bromcom points.

If you manage ten books, you get to watch a movie and have treats as well as an early lunch pass and 25 bromcom points.

If you read 15 you can have Dominos or Nandos delivered to the school during lunch in the LRC.

You also get an early lunch pass as well as 25 Bromcom points.

Finally, if you read 20 books you can get an end-of-year trip, Brom points and an early lunch pass for the week with a friend.

There are five levels to explore, and books get more

advanced as you move up the different levels.

The Christmas break is a great chance to borrow one of these title from the library and stay away from the cold weather with a good book. Reading might be its own reward, but it doesn't hurt to get some other goodies too!

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

LEVEL ONE

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

LEVEL TWO

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

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

LEVEL THREE

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

LEVEL FOUR

- Hollow Pike – Juno Dawson
- Children of Blood and Bone – Tomi Adeyemi
- The Ocean at the End of the Lane – Neil Gaiman
- The Loneliest Girl in the Universe – Lauren James

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

LEVEL FIVE

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

CULTURE

Darlington's Christmas panto Hairspray



by Akshadha Jindal & Sophie Hodge

THIS year's glorious Christmas pantomime will make your day full of smiles and laughter. This Christmas's Darlington pantomime showcased *Sleeping Beauty* as a fascinating and memorable performance. It features Lee Mead, Su Pollard, Josh Benson and Jamie Jones. These talented people will

bring energy and joy to our stage and with warmth to be left in our hearts. In a distant kingdom, Princess Aurora receives a gift for her twenty-first birthday from her wicked Aunt Carabosse. When she accidentally pricks her finger on a bewitched spinning wheel, she falls under a harsh curse that causes

her to fall into a deep slumber for a hundred years. Everything will be unveiled in this spectacular panto that is packed with magic, music, comedy, and special effects sure

Make sure you stay awake and don't miss out!



THE WEST END & BROADWAY HIT MUSICAL
hairspray

by Clover Cooper

THE amazing stage show 'Hairspray' has just come to Newcastle and I was lucky enough to be in the audience. On first impressions, the stage was nicely set and the wait for the show to start wasn't long at all.

The first song of the show was sung well by Alexandra Emerson-Kirby, who starred as Tracy Turnblad.

All the dancers were coordinated and on time: it was the perfect way to start the show. All the bright colours and lights were amazing, and the costumes were so well thought out. All the actors made it feel like you were really in the scene.

The storyline was interesting and easy to follow.

It was funny, exciting and amusing to watch. The cast was amazing, and I loved all the singing and dancing they did. I would 100 per cent see it again.

All about Chappell Roan

by Saira Choudhury

YOU'VE probably heard of Chappell Roan. One of her biggest hit songs, 'Good Luck, Babe!' now has over 1 million views. 'Good Luck Babe' was released on April 5, 2024. The song hit No.77. Although it doesn't seem particularly impressive debut if you're an A listener, for someone who's been in and out of the major

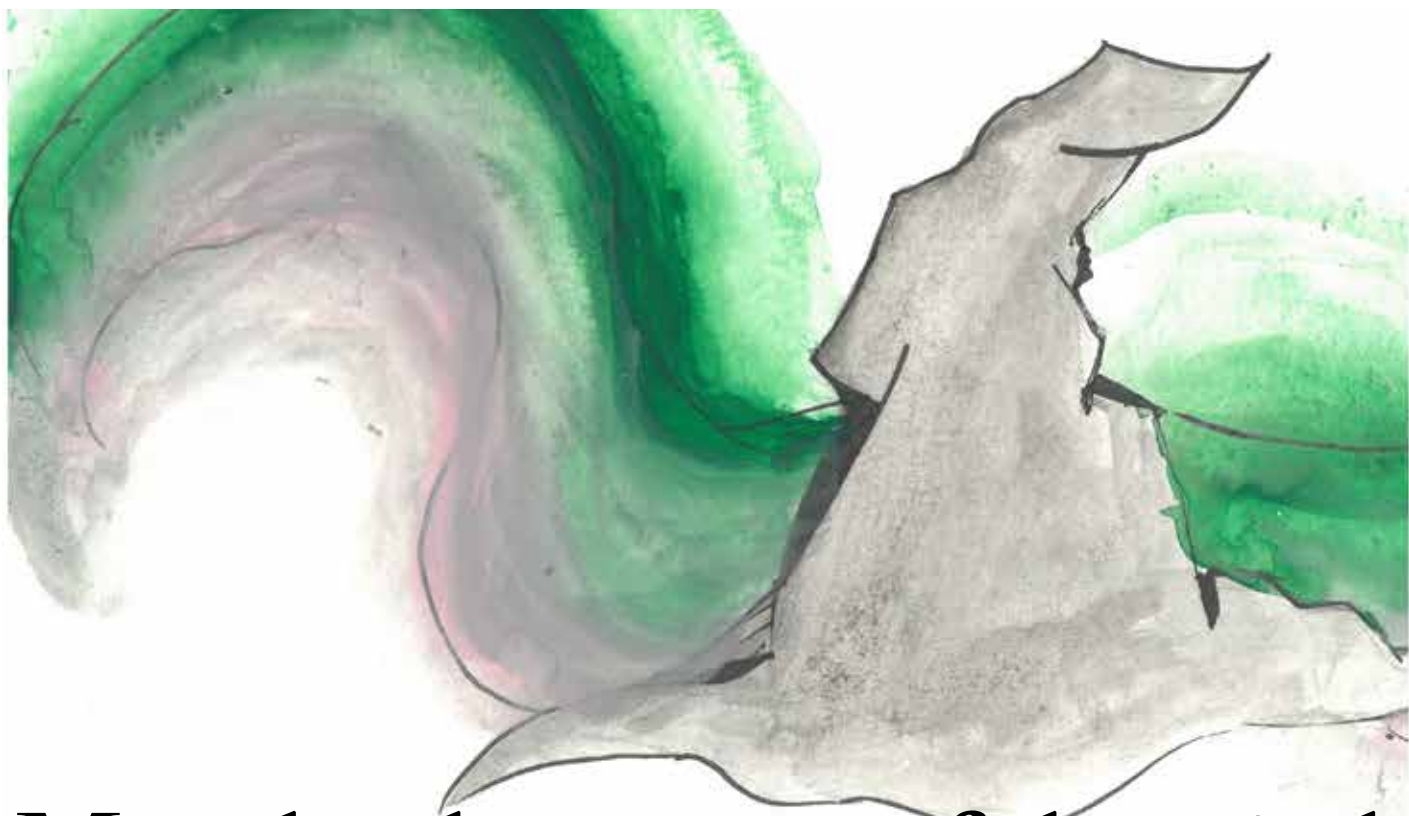
label system for almost a decade, it's a very well-deserved breakthrough. What also helped her grow her career was when she was performing with the very well-known Olivia Rodrigo. That's when people started to recognize her music. Another reason why Chappell Roan's music started to grow was when Sabrina Carpenter

sang 'Good Luck Babe!' This then made other people more invested in her music. 'Hot To Go!' is also another hit song of Chappell Roan, that was released on August 11, 2023. Chappell Roan was actually jealous of 'YMCA' so she made *Hot To Go* and added a little dance along with it so she could do it along with

the audience, she was a big fan of interacting with the audience.

The song was also made to live out her cheer leading fantasy.

The meaning of the song is, she is telling a girl that she is hot and interested in her and they should do something about it.



Must be the season of the witch

On screen...

by Olivia Smith



AFTER filming began in December 2022, the first part of the new Wicked movie has received massive attention, and it was finally released in November this year. Starring Ariana Grande as 'Glinda' and Cynthia Erivo as 'Elphaba', the movie is based on the musical 'Wicked'. The story is heavily interlinked with The Wizard of Oz, and it exposes the upcoming of the main antagonist 'The Wicked Witch of the West'. I have seen both the musical and the movie, and I really

enjoyed both. The movie is a very accurate representation of Act One. Ariana and Cynthia are both incredible actresses. Personally, I believe that Elphaba should be portrayed to be a more awkward character; in the original musical she appears to lack social confidence and isn't very good at interacting with others, but this isn't quite as clear in the movie. Despite this, I am really looking forward to the release of part two.

...and stage

by Venisha Plane

The award-winning Broadway and West End production of Wicked has flew onto the Sunderland Empire stage this year. I thought it was amazing! The singers were talented, but the performance of "Defying Gravity" was fantastic. The actress who played Elphaba, Laura Pick, is an incredible singer. The stage design and lighting were outstanding as well, making for one wickedly awesome production.

All aboard! Hopetown opens its doors



by Sophie Clark, Clover Cooper and Sophie Hodge

HOPETOWN Darlington has opened for business and is being swarmed with excited visitors. It is based where North Road train station is and is a very exciting experience all about trains, and Darlington's proud history as the birthplace of the railways. It is a marvellous train museum and carriage works. It also has a brilliant playground called Wagon Woods and you can pay £5 to play on it for one hour.

The whole thing is completely free other than the playground, cafe and gift shop. It is open from 10:00am till 5pm and is a great place for family fun. The museum is planned to play a major role in 2025's celebration of the Bicentenary of the Darlington and Stockton Railway - the world's first passenger railway - which is expected to draw visitors to the town from all over the world.

A fairytale ending for theatre show

by Emily Marquiss

A LOCAL performing arts company staged a self-written musical this December, produced by the company's owners.

'Once Upon a Time' is a show that the owners of Darlington Academy of Performing Arts, known as DAPA, wrote themselves to be performed on December 14 and 15. The show is about two queens, the Queen of Diamonds, and her sister, The Queen of Clubs. In the beginning of the play, they are 'duo-artists' and made music together, but after an interview, they had a huge falling out.

The Queen of Diamonds banned all music other than hers and banished her sister. When the characters 'Red' and 'Wolfie' enter the story, they try to find the Queen of Clubs, bring her back and bring back all the music. Along the way, they met The Queen of Nursery Rhyme Land; Bo Peep and The Candy Man. When the Queen of Clubs is found, the group are imprisoned by the Queen of Diamonds' guards.

At the prison, they realised music is in the soul. The Queen of Diamonds realised she needed to change so she reunites with her sister, and everything is restored.

The show was a huge success, and it was a pleasure to be part of it!



Former Academical staff launch new QE magazine



SEVERAL former Academical journalists have been instrumental in the launch of an exciting new magazine project at Queen Elizabeth College.

The magazine, aptly named Reign, presumably for the college's royal naming convention, has officially hit the shelves and is already making waves with its diverse content.

It is packed with thought-provoking features, insightful opinions, and engaging articles that promise to appeal to a wide audience.

The project represents a

fresh platform for student voices to shine while also showcasing their journalistic talents.

A number of the new Reign staff previously honed their skills as part of the editorial team for the Hummersknott Academical. Drawing on the experience and expertise gained during their time at Hummersknott, these alumni have been involved in every aspect of the magazine's production, from content creation to layout design and even marketing. Like its predecessor, Reign takes a bold approach to journalism, delving into a

variety of challenging and thought-provoking topics. The magazine doesn't shy away from tackling serious issues, but strikes a balance with lighter pieces, including entertainment, lifestyle, and humour, as well as dedicated sections on sports and college life.

Queen Elizabeth College has embraced the magazine as a testament to the creativity and ambition of its students. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of Reign can find more details by visiting the Queen Elizabeth College website or checking out its social media channels.

Behind the scenes of Made in Dagenham

GCSE students prepare with powerful play



by Alfie Webster

FOR their October 2024 show, the Darlington Operatic Society chose to stage *Made in Dagenham*. The musical tells the story of the pay equality strike made by the women of Ford Dagenham. It follows a machinist called Rita and her friends and family through the strike she started. I had the amazing opportunity to be included in this awesome production as Graham O'Grady, the son of Rita.

The audition process was crazy! All the candidates were talented, it must have been an incredibly hard decision for the director the musical director. They decided to choose me and Seth Cohen for Graham and Abigail Moore and Cassie Hide for Sharon. All the cast were brilliant, and within the second rehearsal, I had seen the entire show and loved it. The lead up to the show was

amazing and it felt refreshing to be on the Darlington Hippodrome stage once again. The set was amazing, the cast was amazing and I absolutely loved every single second of every rehearsal, show, everything! Well done and thank you to everyone at DOS for a brilliant show and opportunity to be in a show with the society once again.



by Autumn Watson

KEY Stage 4 students were treated to a thrilling production of *An Inspector Calls* when they visited Darlington Hippodrome in October. Written in 1945 by JB Priestley, but set in 1912 before WW1 and before the sinking of the Titanic, it follows the Birling family having a pleasant evening until the Inspector arrives and drama unfolds. The performance was amazing; the actors represented JB Priestley's characters with insight and dramatic tension. It was a perfect way of preparing GCSE students for the exams. Or you can just watch it for fun. The production continues to tour and, if it returns to the North East would highly recommend you go and watch it. Overall, I highly recommend it to theatre lovers, GCSE students or those looking to experience history on stage.



Image: Darlington Hippodrome

Calling Eurovision 2025 now

by Luke Price

WITH Switzerland winning the 2024 Eurovision song contest, they will host the Eurovision 2025. The big countries that have automatically qualified for the contest's grand final are the UK, France, Spain, Italy (which is favoured

to win the whole competition) and Germany. These countries' broadcasters make the biggest financial contribution towards the competition, and so get to compete anyway. Some countries that are not in Europe can join and com-

pete in Eurovision because they are a part of the EBU (European Broadcasting Union) like Israel, Turkey (Türkiye) and Armenia. Italy are the favourites to win the competition, with Ukraine in second, and France in third.



UNRAVEL



by Alfie Webster

Hello and welcome to Alfie's adventures. In this edition I will share my experiences of two very different sites, The Gamers Lounge and Cluedini Escape Rooms. So, let's begin...

CLUEDINI ESCAPE ROOM

Do you like puzzles, mystery and... frantically running around a locked, themed

room for a key? Well, if you do, then Cluedini's the place for you!

These Darlington escape rooms are challenging yet fun.

Choose from different themed rooms, such as Anubis, Outlaw and, my personal favourite, Sleuth No.1. I enjoyed visiting with friends, and it was exhilarating, having to find the suspects' clues and alibis.

rating, having to find the suspects' clues and alibis.

GAMERS LOUNGE

Whether you are a Minecraft master or a Fortnite failure, you will enjoy the Gamers Lounge in Darlington. Near the Majestic, this is a place for gamers of all kinds! There are many games to enjoy on the Xbox and Playsta-

tion consoles, plus some car games where you can race with friends.

There is also a pool table. So you don't get hungry, there is a snack and slush shop and the people running it are all lovely. I enjoyed my time there and would highly recommend it to others.

Morzine: The perfect Alpine getaway

by Jack Brown

LOOKING for a place you can visit all year round? Morzine is the place to go.

Located in the heart of the French Alps, Morzine is a beautiful mountainous retreat.

Come winter, it is a stunning, scenic ski resort, and in summer, it transforms into a picturesque mountain biking resort.

In fact, it's one of the oldest

ski resorts in France, attracting visitors since the early 20th century.

The main town area has some of the best restaurants in France, serving up not only delicious food, but an incredible atmosphere too.

I would recommend visiting for its picturesque landscape and culture, as it has beautiful mountainous farms situated in breathtaking valleys.



REVIEWS



Coraline

Coraline is a movie that was released in 2009 and was very popular because of its creative choices, unique animation and the way it blends both reality and fantasy. It's about a young girl who discovers a secret door to a parallel version of her dull life that seems to be her dream life.

The story covers many themes, including friendship, love, desire, horror and the need to resolve childhood trauma.

At the start of the movie, Coraline leaves her hometown of Pontiac, Michigan, and moves into her new house, "The Pink Palace". She then goes to explore outside to find a magic well and meets a character called Wybie, which she later

forms a friendship with. Wybie is a somewhat awkward boy whose grandma owns The Pink Palace. When coming home, she finds a doll that has button eyes and looks identical to her, finding out it was sent by Wybie. Coraline then goes to explore her house and finds a small door that is blocked with bricks. Later that night, she follows some mice leading to the door and when opening that door, a tunnel forms in front of her. This tunnel leads to a perfect version of her life and thus her scary adventures begin.

However, the perfect version of life isn't always the best version of life. The trials and tribulations that Coraline endures during her adventure in the 'other

world' shows us that above all, the grass is not always greener on the other side. It shows us that we should always appreciate what we already have. Even having not so perfect parents, dull days and the distinct lack of adventure, the here and now is the only tangible life available to us.

I've seen Coraline nearly a hundred times and I can honestly say that it offers something new at every viewing. The friendships Coraline develops with Wybie and the clever cat show us that pleasant surprises are to be found in the strangest of places. Above all, as the Dancing Mice tells us, 'Stay away from the little door Coraline!'

By Saira Choudbury



Noughts and Crosses

As part of the Year 9 curriculum, the whole year read Noughts and Crosses, which is Malorie Blackman's no.1 selling book.

Although many people know about the story's, fewer know that it is only the start of an incredible series.

This story line continues throughout Knife Edge, Checkmate, Double Cross, Crossfire, and End Game. The baseline across all the books is the way that racism is reversed in the sense that black people are historically perceived in Blackman's world as superior to white people.

Personally, my favourite is Knife Edge. I really enjoyed exploring how the protagonist Sophie was challenged by her new responsibilities as a parent.

Knife Edge has many twists and turns, with an incredibly engaging plot.

By Emmie Todd



Moana 2

Moana 2 has a great art style and a great story line. The plot looks on top. The whole movie looks good and the villain as Disney says their best one ever made. The idea of going and reaching their first island ever found but the villain tries to kill her.

I think it would be a great movie, and it would bring a new twist to the story.

By Matthew Sanderson



The Wild Robot

The Wild Robot has a deep story line and a great art style and shows the world through a robot's eyes and tells us the meaning of life.

I think the villain in the movie is top notch and makes the plot much more entertaining.

I think it deserves at least four stars.

By Matthew Sanderson



Beetlejuice Beetlejuice

This follow-up to Tim Burton's cult hit came to cinemas in the UK to many previous fans delight. The sequel came after a whole 36 years after the original, directed by Burton and starring Michael Keaton (Beetlejuice), Winona Ryder (Lydia Deetz) and Catherine O'Hara (Della Deetz) now with Jenna Ortega (Astrid Deetz). The movie starts with Lydia Deetz holding a talk show while her daughter, Astrid, is trying to live her life. While on a break from her

talk show, Lydia is informed by Delia that her husband (Lydia's dad) has been eaten by a shark. They travel to Connecticut where Lydia's boyfriend (Richard) pressures Lydia to marry him, and she hesitantly agrees. Meanwhile Astrid meets a boy (Jeremy Fraizer) who she agrees to spend Halloween with. Meanwhile in the afterlife Beetlejuice is running a team of "Bio-exorcists" while hiding from his dangerous ex-wife, Delores. Soon Astrid realizes that

Jeremy is a ghost who drags her into the afterlife. Jeremy reveals that he needs Astrid to exchange her life so he can revive himself. Lydia asks Beetlejuice and Richard to help them find Astrid. They agree to help, and they save Astrid and bring her back. Delia gets bitten by two snakes, dying and asks Beetlejuice to reunite her with her husband. Beetlejuice demands Lydia's whereabouts in exchange. As Lydia and Richard are getting married, Beetlejuice interrupts the ceremony

making Richard admit he was using Lydia for money. Beetlejuice fails at taking over the wedding and Lydia leaves Richard. Overall, I thought this movie was a fun sequel to the original, but nothing more. If you're a fan of the weird and wonderful world of Tim Burton I would give it a watch. It is definitely a nice easy watch with a light mood and dark undertones, never getting too serious.

By Esther Schilbach



Transformer One

I would watch this a thousand times and more! I love this movie. It's got great animation and storyline. It's a funny movie and makes so much sense with the other movies plus it tells us how all of the war started. The two villains of this movie create so much plot and one of their deaths are so brutal.

By Matthew Sanderson



Dog Man

Dog Man is based on a comic book that filled my childhood to the top. The story follows the first or four books in the series. The villain Petee is a funny and smart person and makes a good fit in this movie making it a better story line.

By Matthew Sanderson

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

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

Was it good? Was it terrible?

Send your review to Co-Editor Jack Machin

for the chance to see it our next issue!

z20k.jm1@hummersknott.org.uk



AYDEN'S ARCADE

GAMES ARE SERIOUS BUSINESS FOR AYDEN SMITH

The silent crisis unfolding inside the gaming industry



A NEW game developed by Massive Entertainment, *Star Wars Outlaws* has faced abysmal reviews after its release.

Though described as a “Quadruple A game”, this is far from the first title that has experienced this level of criticism after a large amount of media promotion. Many games, such as ‘Fallout 76’, ‘Concord’, and ‘Skull and Crossbones’ have been released and severely disappointed fans, with trailers and gameplay footage

exaggerating the concepts but making the actual game feel so much worse when it does not meet standards. These games have all failed with the only exception being *Fallout 76*, which is slowly recovering.

According to Matt Piscatella, a Video Game Industry Analyst at Circana, when it came to *Concord* “Sony dropped the ball on this front, badly damaging its ability to build momentum ahead of release”. *Star Wars Outlaws*, a game which had grand expectations like those before it, was originally meant to be solely set in the harsh desert planet of Tatooine, where our protagonist would work for the many Crime Syndicates that inhabited it.

The idea developed eventually featuring multiple planets such as; Toshara, Kijimi and Akiva. Though these are not known in the *Star Wars* universe, it would have allowed for new and interesting

stories, which would have been exciting for those who want to explore more of the *Galaxy Far, Far Away*.

It seems like an incredibly exciting concept, though when the final product released august this year is filled to the brim with bugs and glitches, almost making it unplayable in some cases. At this moment, the game is still being played, but nothing compared to what was expected of it.

The developers have attempted to attract more players with the addition of upcoming and free DLCs, although in all cases this has seemed to prove unsuccessful. Many more games to come will go through this and fail, preventing such amazing concepts from thriving. This crisis in the gaming industry is serious, resulting in many losing their jobs and millions disappointed with the final products.

Popular gaming studio

Bungie has faced this issue, with after the release of their most important DLC for RPG/Action game *Destiny 2*, newer content is not up to standard compared to it.

It has faced massive criticism and issues, resulting in 220 members of the development team being laid off. Even if content were up to standard, it wouldn't meet the same popularity as it once had.

Popular members of the team such as Game Director Luke Smith and others have all been laid off, even with their high standing with fans, to allow “Restructuring” to the studio after their absorption into PlayStation studios for £3.6 Billion.

Will we recover from this silent crisis that plagues the games we so desperately want to succeed?

Or will we see the downfall of these triple A games as we know it?

PlayStation under threat as fans demand compensation

by Yuli Kuntorov

SONY is currently under fire from consumers after allegations that they are abusing their power as a major gaming studio come forth.

The claim is that by imposing unfair taxes on developers and their games, they are significantly taxing smaller indie developers and not allowing them to thrive and earn the true value of their labour.

Labour, which in all cases requires serious dedication and time, can take a toll on the developer.

As the manufacturers of some of the most widespread gaming devices in the world, Sony has enjoyed unparalleled success in the industry for more than three decades. In fact, its PlayStation 2 console, while long outdated, remains the most successful gaming console release of all time.

This has given the company enormous influence over developers and the market. Developers have revolted against this perceived tyranny, having filed a lawsuit against them back in August of 2022 accusing Sony of overcharging millions of UK PlayStation customers for their digital purchases. The case has only recently been allowed into court in late 2023 and was brought to United Kingdom Competition Appeal Tribunal, a body that deals in a variety of sectors, such as; economic; business and , if they involve “economic regulatory issues”, which supported Neill's claims and agreed to bring the dilemma to the Salisbury Square House in London. The case was set up by CEO & Co-Founder of Consumer Voice, Alex Niell, who has consistently made claims

against Sony about similar transgressions. Multiple other developers have joined his cause, with many excited consumers waiting in anticipation that they may get a slice of the hefty compensations that they may be awarded.

Niell and his colleagues created the terms of this lawsuit if they were to succeed, they included that “Sony should pay 90% of the Class Representative's Costs in Issue.” and the sum of 5 billion in reparations to those that were affected.

On November 21 2023, Neill and his colleagues won their case and were awarded with a hefty compensation of £5 billion by Sony Group Corporation.

This £5 billion as dictated by the court had to be shared with all Sony users that filled the requirements for a claim.

Shortly after this Sony tried to begin another court case, defying this claim, and so called “unfair” attack on them.

This was rejected by the court in April 2024, finally ending the legal drama.

The case was only recently resolved on the October 25 2024; you can still sign up right now for a stake of the money.

Following the verdict, there came along a newly made website, where you can apply for a reward of up to £500 for any UK PlayStation user. Anyone who owned a PlayStation 4 or PlayStation 5 between August 19 2016, and August 19 2022 can submit a claim and has a chance to receive up to £500 compensation, depending on their purchases during that period.

Dress To Impress takes the internet by storm



by **Helen Rahimi**

A NEW game is taking over Roblox: Dress To Impress. It has amassed over 4.3 billion visits and has caught the attention of famous Tik-Tok stars, Twitch streamers and Youtubers, including Caseoh, Leah Ashe, and even James Charles.

You have a timer, theme, and a customizable model for you to dress up in tasteful clothes. But is your outfit good enough for the other voters?

The game is perfect for people who enjoy expressing themselves using lavish clothing.

If you don't like the theme, timer, or voting, you can

always join freeplay mode to dress up as whatever you want without a limit. You get to choose your theme.

For 299 Robux, Roblox's currency, you can get even better clothing in the VIP section temporarily, enjoying the exclusive area for a month until you buy it again. However, if you want to keep the feature, you can buy it permanently for 799 robux and enjoy it without the worry of you losing it.

If you want free, in game clothes, you can use codes that are posted online on the official Dress to Impress group or social platforms. With codes, you can get

dressess, accessories, and bags that are not immediately available in game.

Codes include: 'B3APL4YS_DOL1E' for a doll accessory, 'S3M_OW3N_Y4Y' for an Axe you can toggle to see what matches your outfit best, and 'UMOYAE' for a dress you can toggle for many different outcomes.

You may have seen the pose 28 videos, the iconic stance becoming a fan favourite on the Dress to Impress catwalk.

Overall, the game is enjoyable since you can be sociable and compare your fashion skills to other players.



Echoes of Wisdom

It has been a year since we gained a new thrilling Zelda game, but this time it is not Link who saves the world. For the first time in the franchise, Zelda will save the brave knight Link!

The game returns to the same design as 2019's Link's Awakening remake, adapting more of a cartoonish art style than the latest two games.

Although the detail seems to be less than previously, its attention to detail is there, from the grass swaying in the wind, to the sand whipping sharply in your face.

No Zelda game would be complete without new mechanics, and this one does not disappoint, as we unlock the ability to unlock echos such as water blocks in which depending on the type of echo can make bridges out of old beds, throw rocks at foes, or finding your own combination of echos to do things your way.

Although the main quest may take longer than the other games, there are only fifty side quests - in comparison, both Breath of The Wild and Tears of the Kingdom have a hundred and thirty-nine, therefore you don't get as much gameplay. However, echos are scattered across the map which is like a type of korok challenge (little challenges to collect korok seeds) except the reward is much more sufficient for what you do to get them.

When it comes to boss fights this game excels.

It has over a dozen bosses and mini bosses, each with a different move set.

Finally, we have the combat factor, with which not everyone is impressed. Some have even said it to be a dull type of combat. Although the echo monsters are at first exciting, even they can get boring as you watch them thrash a poor victim.

Even though the game is based on puzzles not combat there is still a wide amount of fighting and would be one of the only things they would need to improve!

FC 25

The hit football game series EAFC (formerly FIFA), has released its latest edition. FC 25 allows you to participate in many different modes ranging from creating your own player to managing your own team.

Options include Career Mode, Clubs mode, and Galacticos mode.

Galacticos is the newest special mode in FC25 - have you ever dreamed of replaying the monumental Careers of footballing legends Ronaldo Nazario, David Beckham, Zinedine Zidane and more? If so, then you are going to love this!

If playing as former footballing greats isn't your

thing then maybe you would like to leave your own mark on the footballing world as your own unique player, on the classic Career Mode. Whether you want to stay at one club and take them to glory, or instead move clubs whenever you want, there is something for everyone. With manager career mode the choice is yours: who will you sign? Can you take your team to the top of the league and earn the admiration of millions?

Who will you show the door to?

Will you take your favourite club to the top, or move around and try and vary who you manage?

Will you take some of your

players with you or start a fresh?

Clubs is a mode in which up to eleven friends can create their own Club, characters, a stadium and even fans!

By far the most popular game mode is Ultimate Team.

This is a mode in which you again create your own club, however it is single player, and you cannot choose who you have on your team.

This mode is based around collecting real players' cards from all around the globe. Can you create the best team possible?

by **George Billington and Charlie Jones**

by **Sam Johnson**



REINDEER Wordsearch

N	R	R	N	N	E	O	I	L	L	R	N	A	E
N	C	E	N	U	E	R	N	E	P	D	E	D	N
E	U	C	C	E	C	E	A	E	N	S	C	E	R
E	P	N	N	C	S	T	E	O	N	D	H	I	N
H	I	A	N	B	R	E	H	D	R	S	P	N	N
I	D	R	D	L	E	M	N	O	E	I	L	E	C
A	N	P	N	I	H	O	N	N	R	E	O	E	R
D	I	E	E	T	S	C	E	N	E	N	D	E	C
I	D	N	E	Z	A	R	R	O	C	B	U	T	E
D	A	R	N	E	D	C	D	R	H	N	R	R	R
D	N	D	E	N	T	D	C	P	D	P	I	C	N
O	C	C	R	O	L	E	B	B	I	L	A	N	E
V	E	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	R	O	N	E
O	R	P	C	U	D	A	I	N	E	X	I	V	C

DASHER VIXEN DONNOR
DANCER COMET BLITZEN
PRANCER CUPID RUDOLPH

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.

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

Horoscopes

Divined by Isaac Pocklington

CAPRICORN ♑

As the year winds down, Saturn's influence encourages you to take stock of your achievements and lessons learned. It's a powerful period for Capricorns for planning your big moves. Embrace the festive spirit, but remember to carve out moments for self-care.

AQUARIUS ♒

This is a time for reflection and careful communication. Venus will bring romance and charm into your life, making it an exciting time for social interactions and new connections. Overall, December promises personal growth and new beginnings for you!

PISCES ♓

December 2024 is a month of emotional depth and spiritual growth. With Neptune, Saturn, and Uranus aligning in your sign, it's a time for introspection and embracing your innate fluidity! You'll gain renewed resolve and practicality, helping you stride forth with purpose.

ARIES ♈

December 2024 is a month of dynamic energy and new beginnings! With Mars in Leo and Venus transitioning into Aquarius, you'll feel a surge of passion and drive. Embrace flexibility and adaptability.

TAURUS ♉

December 2024 is a month of balance and harmony for you. This is a great time to focus on your personal projects and enjoy the holiday spirit. You'll feel a strong sense of connection with loved ones. Embrace the festive season, and let your inner strength guide you through any challenges that come your way!

GEMINI ♊

December 2024 is a month of excitement and new beginnings for you! However, be mindful of potential misunderstandings and delays due to Mercury retrograde. This December, let your Gemini spirit shine brightly and enjoy the cosmic adventure ahead!

CANCER ♋

December 2024 is a month of transformation and introspection for you. With Saturn and Uranus guiding your path, you'll find yourself making steady progress on long-term projects. Embrace the changes and challenges that come your way.

LEO ♌

December 2024 is poised to be a month of intense creativity and reflection. With Mars in Aries fuelling your fiery spirit, you'll feel an unstoppable urge to pursue your passions. Just remember to balance the festive fun with moments of quiet reflection.

VIRGO ♍

December 2024 is a month of precision and introspection for you. With Mercury retrograde through Sagittarius, you might find yourself re-evaluating your goals and fine-tuning your plans. This December, let your practical nature guide you through the cosmic dance of life!

LIBRA ♎

December 2024 is a month of balance and harmony for you. With the Sun, Mercury, and Saturn aligning in your sign, you'll find yourself in a cheerful and enthusiastic state of mind. Embrace the festive season, and let your inner strength guide you through any challenges that come your way.

SCORPIO ♏

December 2024 is a month of transformation and intensity for you! With Mars in Leo and Venus transitioning into Aquarius mid-month, you'll experience a cosmic tug-of-war between feeling stuck and craving change. Health-wise, December promises good health but remember to take care of yourself!

SAGITTARIUS ♐

December 2024 is a month of adventure and self-discovery for you! With the Sun illuminating your sign until the 21st and Mercury by your side all month long, you're poised for cosmic chaos and creation. School might feel a bit stressful, but if you stay organized and ask for help when you need it, you'll do great. It's a month of discovery, growth, and cosmic guidance.

SPORT



College cross country clash



by **Emmie Todd**

HUMMERKNOTT'S annual college cross country took place on the morning of November 12.

The top 16 winners from each race went on to compete at the Wyvern Academy cross country competition. This was a great event with more students taking part than previously.

The winners for each race were Jess Lees, Ella Harcourt, Emily Robinson Tregar for Year 7 Girls.

Year 7 Boys were Lucas Hall, Joe Huscroft, and Ben O'Hanlon.

Year 8 and Year 9 Girls were Izzy Kilpatric, Evelina Barras, and Bella Cattle.

Year 8 Boys were Louis Heslop, Cael Brock Archie Strong.

Year 9 Boys were Theo Cattle, Dan Hickey, Jack Cottam.

Year 10 and Year 11 girls were Chloe Graham, Niamh Welburn, and Ruby Strong.

Year 10 and 11 Boys were Jacob Appleyard, Rowen Steel and Mathew Foster.

OCR and GCSE Year 10 PE students kindly helped marshal the course and motivate the runners to continue and push themselves even further.

Quaker won the event, with Wyvern second, Stephenson third, Cuthbert fourth, and Ketton fifth.

Out of every category, the Year 10 and Year 11 girls won the whole event.

Hockey heroes

by **Sam Johnson**

TWO students at Hummersknott Academy have tried out for the Under 18 county team for hockey.

Huw Burnside, along with ex-student Jack Johnson have played vital roles in the Hummersknott hockey team for an extensive time now, and deserve their recognition for their hard work. Through their time at Hummersknott, these two pupils have been described as 'key role models and experienced players' by their peers, often helping the younger players in the sport they specialise in.

A new opportunity opened up for the players as they were invited to try out for the prestigious under eighteen county hockey team in the middle of September. They showed a brilliant performance of skill to the coaches proving their talent. Fortunately, they accomplished their goal after weeks of training and challenging work.

Mrs Johnson, a teacher at Hummersknott and Jack's mum, said "I looked at the first team and was overjoyed to see my son written on it though it is very hard he enjoys it a lot!"

The first tournament is in Leeds and the team have been put through extensive training which will pay off in the tournament.

Netball champs retire unbeaten

by **Sophie Hodge and Heidi Scotchbrook**

THE Year 10 and Year 11 netball teams competed in the annual town netball tournament at Polam Hall after school on October 3.

The Year 10 team played some fantastic netball, and, for some they were playing for the school team for the first time.

They pulled together as a

team really well.

For our Year 11 'dream team', it was their final tournament, but they finished with style to be crowned town champions for the fifth year in a row, never to be beaten by their age group across all of Darlington.

They beat Polam 59:13 which is absolutely amazing.

Then, on Saturday 5th October, this U16 team went to the first round of the National Schools Netball Tournament at the Dolphin Centre. The girls played some incredible netball and finished second to qualify for the next round in February.

They won two out of three games, beating Carmel 42-2

and Barnard Castle 35-3, and the third game was against Yarm who beat Hummersknott 31-13.

Each game was twenty minutes long, and the teams played three games back-to-back.

Netball with Mickey Mouse



by Heidi Scotchbrook

THE International Junior Netball Festival is a netball tournament which was held at Torcy Tennis Club in France on October 29, 2024. Six teams were involved from Headlanders, a netball team based in Darlington, with age groups of under-14s, under-16s and under-18s.

The U14 black team won their group and moved into the Olympus Cup, where they narrowly were defeated in the semifinals.

The U14 blue team finished

third in their group where they progressed through to the Atlantica Shield.

They secured wins in the quarter and semifinals, progressing to the final where they defeated Tauton Whites 7-4 in an incredibly tense final.

The U16 blue team finished third in their group and were defeated by Headlanders U16 black in the quarter final.

U16 black finished first in their group progressing to the Olympus cup after some very impressive wins they

beat Chelsea Shadow Hunters 10-6 in the final and won the cup.

U18 Black finished first in their group and u18 blue finished just behind them in second place.

Both teams progressed to the knockout stages where they won their semifinals.

They then faced each other in the final where U18 black were victorious in a tight hard-fought final meaning they won the cup outright.

Cross Country runners shine at regional final

The Inter Boys Cross Country team were the only team from Hummersknott to qualify for the Regional Final this year.

The team consists of From Lucas Rogers, Finn Abblett-Tate, Rohan Elder, Matthew Foster, Luke Walker and Jacob Appleyard.

In excellent conditions for running, the boys ran hard to finish a very creditable seventh place, 29 points off qualifying for the National Final.

Lead home by Matthew Foster in 15th place, he was closely followed by Finn Abblett-Tate in 20th in only his second competitive race which was an amazing effort. Jacob Appleyard was a very solid 33rd with Lucas Rogers competing a year young finishing in 40th.

Rohan Elder was 43rd with Luke Walker 53rd out of a field of 72.

Hummersknott Girls dominate football County Cup opener

by Clover Cooper

YEAR 8 and Year 8 Hummersknott girls football teams played St John's RC girls, crushing them 8 - 0 in the first round of the County Cup.

The game took place on Saturday, October 5, at Hummersknott.

They all played their best, resulting in the astonishing win.

Mrs. Stokell, a PE teacher at

Hummersknott, said: "It was one of the best games that I have ever seen from the Year 8 and 9 team.

"They all showed great resilience working as a team together."

Last year, St Joseph's Catholic Academy won the Under 14s Durham County cup, but this year, Hummersknott are hoping to take the win, as the first round went so well.

On Saturday February, 15, Hummersknott will be playing Wickham School and Sports College in the second-round match.

The Hummersknott team are hoping to continue their winning streak and deliver the Wickham the same kind of thrashing they so recently dealt out to St John's.

Good luck team!

Do you have a sporting success to shout about?

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

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

Email

z20k.jm1@hummersknott.org.uk

BreakOUT Group

LGBTQ+ Social Group

Wednesday A Week

ENG2 3.30 - 4.15

Everyone welcome!



Kettlebell lifter Lily fights pain to take championship



by Autumn Watson

HUMMERSKNOTT's Lily Coad broke the pain barrier to win the world championships for Kettlebell lifting in Corfu, alongside great success for teammates Abbie and Kate Etherson. While Lily was lifting her championship-winning kettlebell, she ripped her hands apart causing immense pain, however she somehow heroically pushed through this, determined to win. Lily was one of three students from Hummersknott travelled to Greece to compete in the world champion kettlebell competition. Lily travelled alongside Abbie and Kate Etherson to Corfu, Greece for the competition where they competed in separate categories. Abbie Etherson completed a 2x8kg jerk (raising above your head), Kate Etherson a 2x12kg long cycle (deadlift with a swing

then placed above the head) and Lily Code lifted a 2x16kg jerk and snatch (swing then lock above the head).

They all lifted for ten minutes, which is an incredible achievement on its own.

They all competed amazingly with Lily and Abbie coming first and Kate second.

On becoming world champion in her category Lily said: "I am excited that I could do it.

"I am extremely happy with myself. As I lifted the kettlebell, I could feel my skin tear apart, but I had to just put the pain to one side and concentrate on winning. Abbie who also came first in her category said: "I am very proud of myself."

After much experience Kate still enjoys competing and said: "I was very excited to do it again."