

HUMMERSKNOTT ACADEMICAL

JULY 25

SHINE SCHOOL MEDIA AWARDS | BEST NEWSPAPER 2024

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foods get the
thumbs up?
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fastest U18
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A career of caring

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Special Thanks
Mr Webber
Mr Salmond
Mr Birkett
Barron Media

Editor's Comment



Dear Reader,
Welcome to Hummersknott Academical Issue 18, and my first edition as Editor-in-Chief. In this issue, we continue to bring you the latest local, national, and international news while upholding the award-winning standard our readers expect. I'm also proud to unveil a newly remodelled editorial structure. Congratulations to Holly Cherrie and Hannah Smith on their appointments as Deputy Editors – thank you both for your hard work and support. A huge thank you as well to our new Sports Editor, Ella Smith, whose organisation, and dedication have ensured the continued excellence of our sports pages. I'd also like to recognise Chris Barron, the gentleman responsible for making

this newspaper look as brilliant as it does, and Mr. Webber, who year after year has generously given his time to support the teams that bring this paper to life past and present. To everyone who contributed to this edition whether you wrote an article or simply gave a quote thank you. Your involvement makes all the difference. In this issue, we explore a wide range of topics, from food to the 12-Day War in Iran, charity fundraising, theatre, and much more. There's something for everyone. Finally, on behalf of the entire Hummersknott Academical team: thank you for reading. We hope you enjoy this edition.

Clubs and activities

A WEEK

DAY	TIME	CLUB
MON	Before School	School Orchestra / Band
	Lunch	School Nurse
	Lunch	Science Revision
	After School	Badminton
TUE	Lunch	Hockey / Rounders
	Lunch	Gardening
	Lunch	Dance Club
	After School	Swimming
WED	Lunch	Chess
	Lunch	Athletics
	Lunch	Science Revision
	After School	Newspaper Club
	After School	STEM Club (Lego Masters)
	After School	KS3 Reading Club
THU	Lunch	English Literature Revision
	After School	GCSE Art & Photography booster
	Lunch	Athletics
	After School	All Things English
FRI	After School	Debating Club
	After School	Swimming
	Lunch	Calm Club
	After School	Maths Homework Help Club
	After School	Computer Science booster

B WEEK

DAY	TIME	CLUB
MON	Before School	School Orchestra / Band
	Lunch	School Nurse
	Lunch	KS3 Chess
	After School	Badminton
TUE	Lunch	Hockey / Rounders
	Lunch	Gardening
	Lunch	Dance Club
	After School	Swimming
WED	Lunch	Chess
	Lunch	Athletics
	Lunch	Creative Writing
	After School	Newspaper Club
	After School	STEM Club (Lego Masters)
	After School	KS3 Reading Club
THU	After School	English Literature Revision
	After School	GCSE Art & Photography booster
	Lunch	Athletics
	Lunch	Spanish Film Club
FRI	After School	All Things English
	After School	Debating Club
	After School	Swimming
	Lunch	Calm Club
	Lunch	BreakOUT
	Lunch	History Club
	After School	Maths Homework Help Club
	After School	Computer Science booster



We're always looking to recruit aspiring journalists to join The Academical. If you'd like to be part of our team, email Mr Webber at ewb@hummersknott.org.uk

Term and holiday dates

Holiday

Summer 2025
Autumn Half Term 2025
School Closure Day 2025
Christmas 2025

Closing Date

Friday 18 July 2025
Friday 24 October 2025
Thursday 27 November 2025
Friday 19 December 2025

Re-opening for teaching

Wednesday 3 September 2025
Monday 3 November 2025
Monday 1 December 2025
Monday 5 January 2026

The former Hummersknott pupil caring for the Capital



Nicola Rudkin is one of the top nurses in one of the main hospitals in London, but she grew up in Darlington and attended Hummersknott Academy.

She spoke to **Anna Dryden** about what a career in care means...

What is your current job?

I am the Deputy Associate Director of Nursing (DADoN) for Emergency Care and Trauma at The Royal London Hospital. My role involves providing strategic and operational nursing leadership across several services. Altogether, I am responsible for around 500 nursing staff working in these critical areas. The Royal London is one of the largest and busiest teaching hospitals in the UK, so the role is both challenging and incredibly rewarding.

When did you attend Hummersknott Academy?

I attended Hummersknott from 1992 to 1997 and was in Trinity House - which was one of the old colleges before they were renamed!

What was your best memory from Hummersknott?

I have many fond memories of Hummersknott. I made lifelong friends and was proud to be elected House Captain for Trinity in Year 11. Some of my happiest memories involve taking part in Hummersknott school musical productions. It was a brilliant opportunity to experience new things and help develop my self-confidence.

What did you do after you left school?

After Hummersknott, I went to Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, where I studied A-levels in Sociology, Psychology, and Business Studies. I then took a gap year and travelled to India with a charity organisation, volunteering in an orphanage in Mumbai, before backpacking around the country for six months. Following this, I studied Adult Nursing at the University of Manchester, where I graduated with First Class Honours. The social sciences I studied at college helped me understand the human side of healthcare, which prepared me well for my career.

What inspired you to follow this career path?

From an early age, I needed the care of the NHS myself, having undergone complex orthopaedic surgery and managing childhood asthma. Those experiences left a lasting impression on me. Hummersknott gave me opportunities to grow in confidence, responsibility, and leadership - especially as House Captain. These experiences helped shape my path into a caring and leadership-focused profession.

What qualifications did you need to become like this?

To become a nurse, I needed a nursing degree. Since qualifying, I have undertaken several postgraduate courses in specialist areas to deepen my expertise. Currently, I am studying part-time for a Master's in Healthcare Leadership at the University of Manchester, while continuing to work full-time. This qualification will support me to step into even more senior leadership roles in the NHS - even as a Director of Nursing or Chief Nurse one day.

I have been a nurse for 22 years. For the first 13 years, I worked mostly in critical care, and for the past seven, I have been in senior leadership roles.

Recently, I have taken on the challenge of leading in Urgent and Emergency Care. What I love most is the variety and impact the profession offers.

Nursing is incredibly demanding - both physically and emotionally - but it is also a great privilege. You are there for people during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives, whether helping someone recover or supporting them and their family at the end of their lives.

I no longer have as much direct patient contact, but I now can shape our profession's future by supporting, developing, and advocating for our staff and services.

What was it like meeting the Royal Family?

I met King Charles and Queen Camilla (the Prince and Princess of Wales as they were then, before they took the throne) in June 2017, following the London Bridge terror attack.

At the time, I was the Matron of the Adult Critical Care Unit at The Royal London, where we cared for 12 of the most seriously injured victims.

It was a huge honour to meet them - they took the time to listen and thank both victims and staff.

Later, in April 2022, I had the incredible opportunity to meet Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II via a video call.

She wanted to thank NHS staff for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the height of the crisis, I led the expansion of our critical care services—from 22 ICU beds to 156 in just six weeks.

Six new wards were built rapidly, and with her permission, we named them 'The Queen Elizabeth Unit'.

Despite her own ill health, she was warm, curious, and deeply appreciative. It was a special and emotional moment to reflect on what we had achieved together.

How did you feel when the BBC news featured a feature on your hospital?

Clive Myrie and the BBC featured our hospital during two separate waves of the pandemic.

At the time, we were under intense pressure, caring for critically ill patients with a virus we still did not fully understand.

While it was difficult being under the spotlight during such a stressful time, the coverage was important. It gave the public a window into what was really happening inside hospitals, and helped people understand why restrictions like lockdowns were necessary. I am proud that the coverage helped generate empathy, understanding, and support for frontline workers—and proud of how my colleagues rose to the challenge.

Welcoming our new Year 7

by **Esther Schilbach** and **Emily Marquiss**

Moving up to Year 7 from primary school can be a big adjustment.

But don't worry - we were all Year 7s once!

And luckily, **Esther Schilbach** and **Emily Marquiss** are here with the lowdown on everything they wished they'd known during their first few weeks at Hummersknott Academy!



GUIDE TO COLLEGES AND YEAR GROUPS

At Hummersknott, we have forms that you spend the first 20 minutes of the day in, doing activities.

These forms are organized into colleges – Wyvern, Ketton, Quaker, Stephenson and Cuthbert.

These colleges each have their own separate colours: Blue for Wyvern, Red for Stephenson, Purple for Ketton, Yellow for Cuthbert, and Green for Quaker.

Sometimes at Hummersknott we do college events like the college music festival and sports day.

You will have a Head of Year - Mr Virost and a Year Manager - Mrs Craggs - who will oversee things to do with forms, behaviour uniform etc.

You can also see them if you need support.



TEACHERS AND STAFF

Here at Hummersknott, we have an amazing team of teachers and staff to help you achieve your dream.

You may have already met some of our lovely staff, like Mrs. Rayner and our lovely head teacher Mr. Sowerby.

All the teachers here at Hummersknott are highly skilled to help you accomplish great.

Every member of staff is there to ensure you have the best possible time at Hummersknott Academy!

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

We have a range of different clubs from sports, to academically help to recreational.

For sports we have badminton, athletics, rounders and more.

We also have homework help after school, the school newspaper etc., there is also a calm club, or you can go to the school library at break time or lunch.

There is also a drama club where you can do productions of musicals or plays.

TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

During your time at Hummersknott, you will be given the opportunity to go on many trips rewarding good behaviour such as trips to Flamingo Land and Alton Towers.

We also go on trips abroad to places like Italy, Paris and Iceland.

These trips are great fun and things to look forward to during your time here



SPORTS DAY

This is also a school competition for colleges to engage in.

This time it is amazing, supporting each other in the sun.

It's better than primary school's own because you don't have to participate in a sport if you don't want to, but you need to be outside supporting the people representing your college - at least you get to miss your lessons for the day!



MUSIC EVENTS

Over the year, we have a few different music events. This includes the house music festival; in this all the colleges go against each other in song competitions.

There is a component where everyone sings together, and another is if you are a part of the school band, you can play

your instrument with people singing alongside you.

This festival has become "Battle of the Colleges".

During this time, you can wear face paint in support of your college, and you may need to customize a shirt of yours for this.

For example, last year it was a sport anthem theme, and we had to make a normal shirt look like a sports jersey.

To attend the festival, you must sign up to be a part of it. It takes place in the main hall of the school.

The bottom line is: the more you join in with the life of the school, the more you will get out of it!

Newly-elected College Captains lay out their agendas for school



by Matthew Sanderson and Sam Johnson

Each year students and college leaders provide happiness and stability to the school.

New student leaders are chosen from the student body at Hummersknott, and are typically students who are mature, responsible, community-focused, and who care about their classmates' education and secondary school experience.

These include two College Captains chosen to represent their school college.

This year, ten new students have taken on the responsibility of helping Hummersknott as Student Leaders and College Captains.

The new Wyvern College Captains, Rowan and Naomi, were asked how it felt to be a college Captain, and they said: "We are happy with the responsibility given to us and we hope we can set up more charity events in the future." When asked the same thing,

Benji and Niamh from Quaker said: "Being a College Captain is a privilege, and we're glad to be working together so we can improve our school and our local communities in our town."

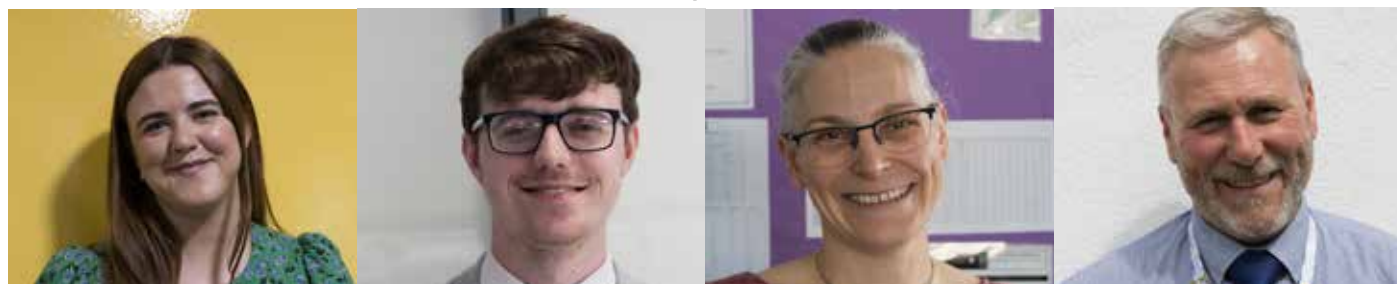
Lewis and Kiera from Ketton College said: "It means a lot to be chosen and we have a lot of responsibilities like speaking up for anyone who needs us to, and looking at how we can improve things around school."

Toby and Jess from Stephenson explained: "We love being College Leaders because we get to put our ideas into the school."

"We feel like we have won the lottery!"

Finally, Carys and Kate from Cuthbert said: "It is an exciting opportunity, and we know there are a lot of ways we can make a difference, like building on dialogues between students and teachers."

The times are changing as departing teachers make way for new faces



Every school year brings with it ups and downs — new faces joining our brilliant school community, and some familiar ones moving on to new adventures. But don't worry!

Luke Price and **Alfie Webster** are here to give you the full lowdown on the teachers leaving and the new ones joining Hummersknott.

Geography teacher Miss Turner is sadly leaving us. She said: "My favourite thing about Hummersknott is my form and my amazing faculty."

"I'm going to miss the brilliant geography trips, my department, and all the fantastic students I've had the pleasure of teaching."

Senior Assistant Head Mr Thompson is also moving on. He said: "My favourite thing

about Hummersknott is all the wonderful staff here — I'm going to miss them so much."

Mr Copeland, who has supported students with the Lexia reading system for many years, is also leaving. He told us: "Hummersknott has been a big part of my life for 20 years now, and I'll miss all the staff who've been part of this journey — especially my wife, who will be leaving

with me."

Science teacher Mr Leak is saying goodbye as well.

He said: "I will miss all the students I've taught, and of course, my amazing colleagues."

We are also sorry to be saying goodbye to our wonderful Art teacher Wendy Copeland who has been at Hummersknott for many years and will be sorely missed. Also our Lab Technician Ling Lau is moving on to pastures new and we wish her all the very best.

We thank all of these teachers for their incredible contributions to our school and

wish them the very best in their next chapters.

But now for some happier news — we're welcoming some fantastic new teachers to Hummersknott!

Please give a warm welcome to K. Weightman (Design Technology), J. Hurst (Deputy Head), S. Hailes (Maths), W. Nattrass (Geography), L. Oliver (Science), J. Gogliormella (Science), O. Hodgson (Art), M. Gunnell (Assistant Head), and M. Mooney (PE). We're excited to have them join the Hummersknott family and can't wait to see the impact they'll have!

New pope, new hope

Pope Leo becomes first US citizen to hold papacy



by Ella Smith

POPE Francis passed away at the age of 88 on Easter Monday after being hospitalised for thirty-eight days. He was ill with bilateral pneumonia. Cardinal Kevin Farrell announced the death of the pope by saying: "Dearest brothers and sisters, with deep sorrow I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis."

"At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father."

"His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of His Church."

"He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially in favour of the poorest and most marginalized."

"With immense gratitude for his example as a true

disciple of the Lord Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of the One and Triune God."

The late Pope requested that he wanted the funeral rites to be simplified to allow a focus on the faith of the Church and the Risen Body of Christ. The process of choosing a new pope is called the conclave.

During the conclave, the cardinals under the age of 80, vote for who amongst themselves they want to be the new Pope.

While this is going on, they are shut away from the outside world.

A new pope needs a two thirds majority to be elected, which is determined by how many cardinals are in attendance on the day.

For example, if there are 133 cardinals in attendance, they will need over 90 votes to be elected.

If a new pope has been selected, white smoke will be sent from a small chimney from the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

If a new pope is not selected, black smoke will be shown, and voting will continue with two rounds of voting per day. The smoke is produced by the burning of the ballot papers the cardinals use to cast their votes.

The new pope is Robert Francis Prevost who has chosen to be named Pope Leo who is 69 years old.

He is the 267th pope and is also the first ever American pope, as he is from the city of Chicago, Illinois.

However, he is also considered to be a cardinal from Latin America due to the many years he has spent as a missionary in South America.

What to do in Darlington this summer

by Brooklyn Speke

Are you looking for ways to make the most of your summer?

Whether you're into music events, athletic activities, or festivals, Darlington is packed with events which are guaranteed to make Summer 2025 unforgettable.

This summer there are multiple fun events for you to enjoy.

One of which is the Middleton St George Community Association Summer Fair!

On August 23, there will be a summer fair at Middleton St George Community Centre featuring more than over 100 performers.

Get your dancing shoes on because this event is a large-scale music festival and it continues throughout the whole day!

Another popular event is the The Mega Misfit Market, which takes place between August 30 and 31.

This is a nice place to eat some tasty food, listen to live music and have fun with your friends!

This event is going to be held at Darlington Square.

Another Darlington event is the Pride Festival which is taking place on August 9 in the Market Square!

There will be multiple exciting activities and live music to enjoy. It's the perfect festival to participate in for summer!

Summer doesn't last forever - the new school year will be starting before you know it, so it's important to make the most the nice weather, the free time, and all the entertainment on offer!

These events will make summer 2025 your best, so get out there and enjoy yourself.

Popstar's latest project is out of this world

by Yasmin Trebilco

AN all-female crew took flight into space in the Blue Origin space flight extravaganza this Spring - including a famous pop diva. The crew consisted of Katy Perry, Gayle King, Lauren Sánchez, NASA rocket scientist Aisha Bowe, scientist Amanda Nguyen, and film producer Kerianne Flynn. The launch took place on April 14, and successfully achieved orbit with no com-

plications.

The flight was operated by space tourism company Blue Origin, owned by Amazon boss Jeff Bezos.

These famous celebrities spent 11 minutes orbiting the Earth.

The spacecraft took the six women more than 62 miles above Earth's surface.

Katy's galactic trip has attracted significant attention, as she is the first artist to

sing in space, performing the Louis Armstrong classic 'What a Wonderful World' for her fellow passengers.

Katy said she wanted to inspire young girls and women to pursue their dreams - including exploring space.

The pop-star also admitted that she had wanted to go to space for nearly 20 years, due to her love of space and astronomy.

After landing back on Earth,

Perry said she felt: "super connected to life".

After landing, she immediately held a daisy up to the sky and kissed the ground.

These actions drew some attention - some complained it was an 'over-the-top performance', though and others admired her gestures and believed they were a sincere display of appreciation for the planet we call home.

Football world mourns star striker Diogo Jota



by Benji Tait

Last week, Liverpool and Portugal forward Diogo Jota and his younger brother tragically died in a car crash in Spain.

Their car suffered a tyre blowout and caught fire,

killing both at the scene. Jota, aged 28, had recently married and was a father of three.

The football world has been in mourning, with tributes pouring in from Jurgen Klopp, Cristiano Ronaldo,

and fans worldwide.

Liverpool announced they will retire his number 20 shirt in his honour and a funeral was held in Portugal, attended by teammates, family, and supporters.

Too many
yesterdays,
not enough
tomorrows

by Luke Price

Too many yesterdays etched
in our mind
Moments and memories you
left behind
The roar of the crowd, your
smile in the sun
A match never finished, a life
half-run

You played with your heart,
wore passion with pride
Now echoes of silence stand
where you'd stride
Gone from the pitch but not
from our song
The minutes feel empty, the
days far too long

Not enough tomorrows to see
you again
To witness your fire to cheer
through the rain
No more first touches, no
final goodbye
Only questions and tears as
we ask why.

We hold onto yesterdays,
bright and bold
In jerseys and stories and
memories told
You lit up our lives, now
shadows remain
But we'll carry you with us
through sorrow and strain

Rest now Diogo, your legacy
stays
In hearts that still chant you
in endless replays
You gave us your all and
though you are gone
Too many yesterdays carry
us on.

Academical praised in media awards



THE Hummersknott Academical drew praise from judges in this years Shine School Media Awards.

The newspaper was 'Highly Commended' in two categories: Best Newspaper and Best Front Page.

Former editors, Olivia Smith and Jack Machin - who stepped down this term to focus on their GCSEs - attended the awards ceremony in London, with incoming editor, Benji Tait, and English teacher Mr Webber, who oversees the school's Newspaper Club.

Mr Webber said: "I am

incredibly proud of our editorial staff and the whole Academical team.

"In my opinion, they deserved to win both awards, but the competition was fierce and the judges had a lot to consider.

"Jack and Olivia put a titantic amount of effort into the issues they edited, and the quality really shines through. "Now we look ahead to next year!"

The Academical previously won Best Newspaper at last year's awards, and has won in multiple other categories since it was founded.

From big blocks to the big screen



by Yasmin Trebilco

A BELOVED childhood game has been adapted for the big screen and was released in cinemas this year.

A Minecraft Movie premièred on April 4, and is a fantasy, adventure and comedy film, and immediately became a huge success.

The movie transformed the popular video game's familiar world of blocks into an amazing famous movie starring Jason Momoa, Jack

Black, Emma Myers, Jennifer Coolidge, Sebastian Hansen, and Danielle Brooks.

The plan for the Minecraft movie adaptation originated in 2014 and got passed around several directors and producers.

It finally settled in 2022 where they began to craft this popular movie.

However, with this cinematic experience came great chaos - theatres were trashed with

waves of popcorn, thrown everywhere due to scenes and responses that went viral on social media: the infamous "Chicken Jockey" phrase, and other TikTok memes.

Within this movie is a 34 second song sung by Jack Black's character, Steve, called "Steve's Lava Chicken".

This immediately set the record for the shortest track ever to hits the charts.

Young maths stars number among UK's brightest

by Sam Johnson
and Luke Price

EXCEPTIONAL students from Hummersknott were invited to compete in a test to prove their mathematical abilities. The Junior Maths Challenge took place in May, and is a maths competition for children get to show off their skills.

The Challenge aims to foster the next generation of mathematicians, as laid out by the founder of the competition, Tony Gardener, in 1987.

Gardner worried that children were falling short in education and not getting the help they needed.

This drove him to try to improve learning by teaching students and hosting competitions for adults and children alike.

His passion grew into something more, as he was crucial to the development of the UK Maths Trust which later created the Challenge.

The quiz consists of 25 multiple choice questions, with the first 15 worth five points, and the final ten worth six points. The Challenge is known to be exceptionally difficult, pushing even the most gifted students to the edge of their abilities.

Approximately forty Year 7 and Year 8 pupils from Hummersknott Academy were nominated for this year's contest - and two made it through to the championships.

Both a Year 7 and Year 8 student managed to qualify for the second round.

Still keeping the basic rules of the previous test, the Junior Kangaroo was a level up from the first challenge, as only the highest-scoring pupils were able to compete.

Your summer tans hides a dark secret

by Hollie Cherrie

Your skin is the largest organ in your body - its also vital for our survival.

Without organs, we would be nothing but a pile of bones. This is one of many reasons why ultraviolet (UV) protection for our skin is crucial, especially for the younger generation and their developing skin cells.

UV-B rays are harsh rays of

radiation produced by the sun.

Too much unprotected exposure to these rays can cause long term damage and premature aging.

This means your skins looks older, showing signs of wrinkles and discolouration. It also increases the risk of developing skin cancer.

Is your summer tan worth a

high risk of long-term skin cancer?

As developing trends of summer tans, and golden skin are being followed more and more, the influence of these trends are causing young people to forget the importance of protecting your skin. Let's face it, this is the only one you get.

As everyone enjoys the

feeling of sunbathing, taking a moment out of your day to use sunscreen on your exposed skin could save you from a painful nights sleep. Studies have proven that your skin is still able to tan through the protection of sun cream, so your summer aspirations will not be interrupted.

Don't risk it.

Young poets praised by competition judges



by Emmie Todd

YOUNG poets from Hummersknott have had their performances considered in a national competition. Poetry by Heart is a national event in which students learn and recite a chosen poem. Six students from Hummersknott entered and learnt a poem to perform and send in for winners to be determined by the judges. The students that get through

to the next round are given the chance to perform in the Globe theatre in London. Milly Adgar, one of Hummersknott's poets was awarded 'Highly Commended' status, while fellow Hummersknott writers Kate Etherson, Ella Smith and Ruby Bingham all received a Commendation for their entries. Emmie Todd and Isabelle Baker also took part.

Unfortunately, despite judges recognising and praising the contributions from Hummersknott, none of the school's entries went forward to the final in London this year. Nevertheless, they all worked hard in memorising and performing their chosen poems - and as Poetry By Heart is an annual contest, there's always next year!

A summer holiday for priceless moon dust



by Hollie Cherrie

Priceless moon dust 'rarer than gold' has been loaned from China and shipped into the UK.

For the first time in 50 years, samples of the lunar surface have been brought to Earth.

The invaluable specks of rock and dust have been moved and stored in a safe at high-security facility to be preserved for testing, and a team of highly trained scientists lead by Professor Mahesh Anand have set out to answer fundamental questions about the early years of planet Earth.

Inside the grains of dust could be crucial evidence to the formation of Earth more than 4.5 billion years ago. Professor Anand, the only scientist in the UK to have been loaned this exclusive specimen, describes it as: "more precious than gold dust."

"Nobody in the world had access to China's samples, so this is a great honour and a huge privilege."

School launches politics club

by Helen Rahimi

A new club has been added to the already vast opportunities offered at Hummersknott Academy. Politics Club, run by Mr Richardson, offers a glimpse into the world of global politics. Pupils will take the chance to explore international politics, foreign and domestic conflicts, and how the power and influence of political leaders shape the world into how it is today. Every other Wednesday, students gather to talk about

global problems and new changes that are discussed. Conversation predominantly focuses on the House of Commons, when pupils evaluate the performance of the Prime Minister, Ministers, and Members of Parliament. Club-goers typically break down Commons performance into easy-to-follow categories, including:

- PM Zingers - Did the Prime Minister deliver any good comebacks or insults to the opposing

- parties?
 - Actual Answers Given - Did the Prime Minister actually answer any questions? Did the people get the answers they wanted?
 - Overall Drama Rating- Like a soap opera with suits - how spicy was this week's gathering? Has there been an argument that has been left sizzling in the House?
 - And many more.
- Overall, it is a great way

to encourage young people to know more about their democracy and opens opportunities to be a part of the politics team which could slowly blossom into something larger in future. It is hoped that pupils will leave school with a better grasp of how our country is run, and of the importance democracy and diplomacy play in our daily lives. Who knows? Perhaps there'll be a Hummersknott alumnus in Number 10 one day soon!

Pretty Wild Seeds: a hidden garden gem



by Emmie Todd

A DARLINGTON family-owned business has grown wildly over the past 10 years. Pretty Wild Seeds started in a spare room in Andy and Paula Ivison's house but now fills two warehouses and a shop on John Dobbin Road, in Darlington.

After starting their business at home, packing seeds by hand and selling online, orders were building up and they needed more space and officially opened the shop in July 2021.

Currently two sisters, Asta and Nijole, are packing an average of 5,000 orders a week - despite it not even being peak season!

They also have a seed packing machine which allows them to pack larger orders. The company is growing every year and, wanting to

help the local community, they donated Forget Me Knot seeds to St Teresa's Hospice for charity events, and to Hopton for a flower growing competition.

A few years back they sponsored the Darlington Quakers football team.

They also have a nationwide allotment scheme including 150 allotments where you get 10 per cent off seed orders when you get from them.

One of their aims is to be available for everyone and they realised that people wanting to grow plants in a normal sized garden probably can't use of 100 seeds, so budgetseeds.co.uk offers them the chance to buy the same quality seeds, but in smaller quantities at a smaller price.

Pretty Wild Seeds have an

Amazon account where they send of big bags and crates of seed to be sold and sent off at once.

The company specialises in wildflower seeds and mixes, as well as having a vast range of grass, flower, fruit, herb, vegetable, tree, and shrub seeds.

If you want to grow something from seed, they probably have it.

Mighty oak trees come from little seeds, so begin your journey with Pretty Wild seeds.

To order go to prettywildseeds.co.uk and its sister site, budgetseeds.co.uk, or they can be contacted on 01325 353596 and are open seven days a week from 8am till 4:30pm.

Community theatre gets ready to stage sweet Roald Dahl production



by Emily Marquiss

A DARLINGTON arts groups is staging one of Roald Dahl's most beloved stories.

Darlington Academy of Performing Arts (DAPA) is putting on a musical production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Performances will take place between July 25 and 27 at Darlington Community Theatre.

The cast is extremely excited to get on their amazing and interesting costumes and hit the stage.

I am playing the role of Augustus Gloop. Towards the beginning, it was super-stressful, but the closer it came, the more exciting it became.

The hardest part was learning lines and songs for the leading role along with the choreography for dance routines.

Another difficult piece was mastering the German accent - it was ein nightmare!

Everyone was so supportive, including the adults in the cast and the others in the roles.

The directors said: "We're so excited to bring Charlie and the Chocolate Factory to life on stage!"

"This show is packed with imagination, laughter, and a little Wonka magic."

"Our amazing DAPA students have worked incredibly hard, and we can't wait for everyone to join us on this delicious adventure."

"It's going to be scrumdiddlyumptious!"

Universal Studios theme park announced for UK

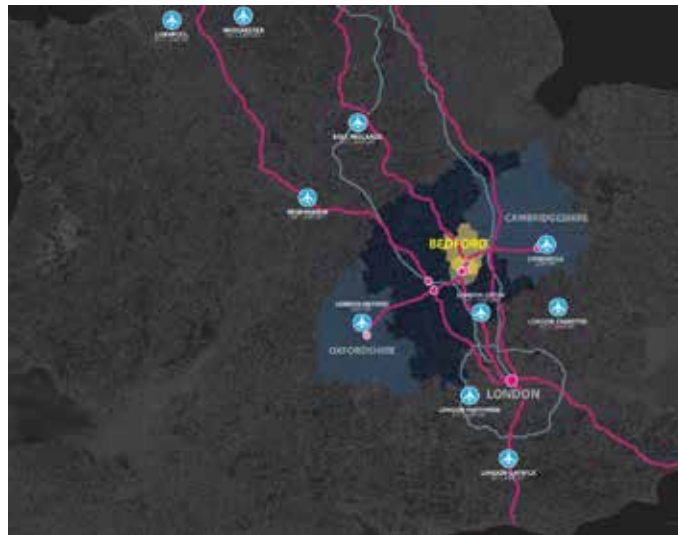


by George Harris

In only six years time a new world-class theme park will open in the United Kingdom. Universal Great Britain, a new theme park situated in Bedfordshire, will open for all UK residents and tourists to visit and enjoy. The attractions this park will include are unknown for now, but many have been speculated upon based on the sort of attractions that exist in the older established park in Orlando, Florida. Many expect attractions to include a Jurassic Park water ride and roller coaster, a Back to the Future rollercoaster (which could be the tallest in the country), a James Bond stunt show, a Paddington Bear playground, and a Minions rollercoaster. The park will cost around £50 billion to build. This park will be a useful source for economic gain for Britain as it would bring

thousands of job opportunities and lots of tourism to the UK, so foreigners can check out all that Britain has to offer. Construction is expected to

begin in 2026 and be completed around 2030. Developers hope to be ready to open the gates to the public as early as Spring 2031.



Marking 80 years of peace



by Hannah Smith

Victory in Europe day, also known as VE day, commemorates the end of the war against Nazi Germany. Europe was at war for nearly six years before Nazi Germany and its allies, the Axis Powers, surrendered to the Allies, including Great Britain on May 7 1945. The day after, Prime Minister Winston Churchill made a statement on the radio announcing that the war in Europe had come to an end and the fighting was over. The UK has celebrated the end of the war for many years through joyous festivities, including street parties, parades, dancing and singing. Lighting beacons and lamp lights was also encouraged to represent the "light of peace" that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war.

Members of the Royal Family also like to enjoy a series of celebrations.

This year, to commemorate 80 years since the end of World War II, the Royals attended a thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey, where King Charles and Prince William laid wreaths. Following an evening concert held at Horse Guard's Palace which featured popular wartime songs - such as "We'll Meet Again" and "The White Cliffs of Dover", both written by English singer-songwriter Vera Lynn.

The 'Light of Peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war makes VE day a day for hope, reflection and remembrance. We take time to honour those who suffered hardships and fought for us. It also us time to reflect upon others who are currently living through wars and persecution in the modern day.

Saying goodbye to Miss O'Doherty

by Luke Price and Alfie Webster

This year, we've said goodbye to many of our favourite teachers - and Miss O'Doherty is one of them. As she prepares to start a new chapter in her career, we took the chance to interview her before she leaves for her new job.

How are you feeling about the new job?

I'm very excited, but at the same time, I'm also a little apprehensive - so yes, I'm a bit nervous too!

What is your favourite thing you're going to miss about Hummersknott?

The thing I'll miss the most about Hummersknott is all

the amazing Ketton staff and the wonderful students I've had the pleasure of teaching.

Why have you chosen to leave Hummersknott?

I've made this decision because I'm really passionate about the industry I'm going into. It's something I've always wanted to do - so now feels like the right time.

Summer holiday chaos dogs new passport rules



by Akshadha Jindal

NEW UK passport fees are impacting summer holiday plans. Since coming into effect on April, families have faced increased costs for travel abroad, urging prompt action to avoid unexpected expenses. The revised fee structure, designed to make the passport service self-sustaining, is a more expensive start to your

overseas adventure. For a standard new adult passport application made online, the cost is now £94.50, while a new child passport costs £61.50. These are the most common application types, and the online route remains the most effective. However, opting for a traditional paper application form incurs an additional £12.50

fee, pushing a new adult passport to £107 and a new child passport to £74. This penalty for not applying digitally is significant, especially considering that, according to Money Saving Expert, over 360,000 Brits missed out on savings last year by choosing the paper method.

Beyond these standard costs, specific passport services have also seen increases. For those needing a frequent traveller passport (54 pages instead of standard 34), the online cost rises to £107.50 for adults and £74.50 for children.

Applying by post for this larger passport incurs even higher fees: £120 for adults and £87 for children.

For urgent travel, the One-day Premium Service now costs £222 for adults and £189 for children, while the 1 Week Fast Track Service is £178 for adults and £145 for children.

Even Britons applying from abroad face new fees: online adult passports are £108, children's are £70, and the paper applications for overseas cost £120.50 for adults and £82.50 for children. His Majesty's Passport Office (HMPO) currently advises that standard processing for UK passport renewals can take up to ten weeks, with first-time or replacement passports often extending to

six to 12 weeks.

Common reasons for delays include submitting incorrect or missing documents - only original documents are accepted, never photocopies - and failing to provide acceptable passport photos that meet strict HMPO guidelines, or errors on the application form itself.

These issues, particularly during peak travel seasons between April and August, can lead to significant delays and potentially necessitate paying for costly expedited services.

To ensure a smooth application process and avoid unexpected expenses, British families are strongly advised to act promptly.

Applying online is consistently the cheapest and often the fastest method.

It's crucial to check all requirements carefully on the official Gov.uk website, ensuring all necessary documents and photo specifications are meticulously met. Considering a Post Office "Digital Check & Send" service (for a £16 fee) can help verify accuracy before submission.

The golden rule for a stress-free summer holiday remains applying early - at least three months before your intended travel date - to allow ample processing time and account for the new fees.

Readers reap rewards for finishing books



by Heidi Scotchbrook and Akshadha Jindal

Readers at Hummersknott are busy earning enjoyable activities outside school just for reading books. Since the Hummersknott 100 reading challenge was introduced, students have been enjoying reading more than ever - and earning some exclusive rewards along the way.

The Hummersknott 100 encourages pupils to read as many books during their time at school as possible - everything from Harry Potter to Jane Austen. Every milestone of book reading is rewarded with exclusive bonuses, such as by

passes that allow pupils to bring a pal along for an early lunch.

As students finish more and more books, the rewards get better and better.

For reading ten books, pupils get to chill and relax while watching a movie - usually based on that time of year.

Anyone who reads 15 books will be treated to delicious pizza from Dominos or food from Nando's.

Finally, for finishing twenty books, the reward is fun and adventurous activities during the school day.

Battle of the Bites: how does our school canteen stand up to the competition?



We've all been there — standing in the lunch queue, wondering whether the money we just spent on a slice of pizza is worth it, or dreaming of that bacon butty from Cooplands.

But what if we told you that our humble school canteen might just be winning the food fight?

We decided to put school food to the ultimate taste test by comparing it to some of the biggest names in high street snacks and local bakeries.

Here's what our Hungry Reviewers, Heidi Scotchbrook and Sophie Clark, found...

Pizza Playoff

Gregg's pizza packs a punch with an 8/10 taste rating, but at £2.40 a slice, it's not cheap. The school pizza? Almost as tasty at 7.5/10 -0 but crucially, 40 pence cheaper! School pizza wins for better value!

Donut Dilemma

Gregg's donuts are pretty great scoring 9/10, but the school's version takes the cake (or the donut) with a 9.5/10! At just 65p, compared to Gregg's £1.00-£1.20, it's an easy choice: school donuts are both tastier and cheaper!

Drink Duel

The school's Gen Juice tastes

decent (7.5/10) and costs just 80p for one or 2 for £1 — great value.

Lucozade scores 7/10, but costs £1.98 for two bottles. The school's Gen Juice wins on both taste and price — unless you're really thirsty.

Sandwich Smackdown

For this one, we pitted the canteen's own sandwich artists against Subway. Subway's sub earns a 7.5/10 for taste, but the price is a painful £6.99! Meanwhile, the school's sandwich scores a solid 8/10 — and for just £1.55, or £2.50 as part of a meal deal with a drink and dessert. Obviously, the school sandwich comes out on top —

tastier and far better value. Best thing since sliced bread.

Muffin Mayhem

Both muffins from Cooplands and the Hummersknott canteen were delicious and scored 8/10. But the school's version costs only 70p, while Cooplands charges £2.05 - now that's a mark-up! Our verdict: the school muffin is just as good and much cheaper.

Bacon Butty Battle

Getting serious now as we go back to Cooplands to try their bacon butties. Both bacon sandwiches scored a 7/10 for taste. However, Cooplands charges £4.10, while the school offers theirs for only £1.00. Same flavour, but the school one is £3.10 cheaper. That's a win.

Curry Clash

We decided to go straight to our favourite Indian restaurant to see if their curry can earn a hotter score than the canteen's. The restaurant curry scored slightly higher (8.5/10 vs 8/10), but costs £7.45. The school's curry is part of a main meal deal — only £2.60 for curry, a drink, and a dessert. Make no mistake, the restaurant curry is great, but for value and convenience, school version tikkas all the right boxes.

After trying food from bakeries, shops, restaurants, and our own canteen, we came to the only logical conclusion: school food doesn't taste much different from the high street alternatives — and it's WAY better value for money. If you're looking for something tasty without breaking the bank, our advice is simple — stick with school meals. Your stomach — and your wallet — will be very happy.



NEWSPAPERS

The woman who got the human race to the moon



by Bailey Stainthorpe

Katherine Johnson was a one of a kind worker at NASA, helping with the most advanced and important calculations such as calculating the trajectory for the rocket to head to or using her marvellous mind to calculate the most complex equations for NASA.

Katherine Coleman (formerly), was born in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia (August 28 1918). Her family consisted of her Dad (Joshua McKinley Coleman) and Mother (Joylette Roberta Lowe) with three siblings: an older sister named Margaret

and two older brothers, Horace and Charles.

Her mother worked as a teacher and her father was a lumberman, farmer and handyman. From her early life, she had massive abilities to decompile math equations effectively.

Her work and education Katherine Johnson was educated at West Virginia State University and earned a Bachelor of Science while studying and learning there. Her great education and mind earned her a rare spot at NASA and the NACA. It was rare already for a woman to get into the space pro-

gram, but for a black woman to do so was even rarer in those times.

While working for NASA, she did some of the most important things for America's first space trip with Alan Shepherd in 1961, the first mission for the moon landing.

After that, she did actual the moon landing's calculations in 1969.

Later on in her life (also during NASA for a bit), Katherine had three daughters. Katherine and her family lived in Newport News, Virginia, from 1953.

Her first husband was James Goble. Unfortunately, James died from an inoperable brain tumour in 1956 and three years later Katherine remarried to James A. "Jim" Johnson, a man who served the U.S army as an officer and a veteran of the Korean

War.

They were married for 60 years until his death in March 2019 at the age of 93. Katherine died peacefully at a retirement home in Newport News, Virginia aged 101 from natural causes.

Two NASA facilities have been named after her to honour her.

On May 5 2016, a new 40,000 square-foot building was named after her and was called the "Katherine G. Johnson Computational Research Facility". The building was opened September 22 2017.

She calculated the trajectory for Alan Shepard, the first American in space.

John Glenn requested that she personally recheck the calculations before his flight aboard Friendship 7, on which he became the first American to orbit the Earth.

MAIN EVENTS SUMMER 2025

Monday: Football & Gymnastics	Tuesday: Talent Show & Dodgeball	Wednesday: Football & Arts and Crafts
Thursday: Nerf Wars & Disco	Friday: Inflatable Friday	

We will also include the following activities at some point during each week:

CHARITY

A week of pink for charity



by Emmie Todd and Alfie Webster

A time to wear pink for Candle Lighters this year's school charity.

Candle Lighters is a charity that aids and support young people like Max Staniforth, a former Hummersknott student who battled cancer.

For the final week of raising money, Mrs Musson had the idea for the whole school to wear pink accessories to show support for the charity's symbolic colour: PINK! On Wednesday June 11, we had an amazing team of year ten student leaders on duty with glitter, face paint and hairspray.

For a donation of 50p to a £1, you could have your face glittered up, so you shone pink

the whole day through.

You could also get pink face paint on to show your support - or even get your hair sprayed a shade of pink.

Although, one of our teachers, Mr Barker, went a bit overboard with a full face of paint, glitter, and spray - now that's commitment! Lots of people took part in this, and you couldn't turn a corner without seeing a smiling face with something on it.

It was brilliant and people enjoyed it a lot, pupils, and teachers alike.

At lunchtime, we also had a pink bake sale with cupcakes and other delicacies on offer for a small donation ranging 50p to £2.

All the treats were covered in a nice coating of lovely pink icing.

The cupcakes were delicious and the sale raised £156.37. After school, students and teachers also ran two laps of the large fields wearing pink. With the help of Year 10 leaders marking the course and cheering, everyone involved had a fantastic time raising money.

Although it wasn't a race, many took it seriously - but none more so than Mr Barker and Mr Webber, who were the first teachers to finish. After a week of pink and many activities the school managed to raise an additional £275 for Candle Lighters.



PROVINCES



Conflict at home and abroad marks start of Donald Trump's second term

by Benji Tait

PRESIDENT Donald J. Trump has launched a sweeping and controversial new chapter in his second term, marked by bold military action, volatile trade moves, sweeping executive orders, and a renewed culture war at home. In just under two months, Trump has defied both domestic opponents and international critics—leaving allies reeling and adversaries rattled.

On May Day, Trump signed an executive order slashing federal support for public broadcasting, targeting PBS and NPR, and redirecting funds to “real American voices.”

He followed this with a challenge to Congress, moving to cut \$5 billion in education formula grants—ignoring bipartisan opposition. Critics accuse Trump of turning governance into “executive vengeance.”

His defenders call it “cleaning house.”

In late June, Trump stunned markets with the announce-

ment of a major trade pact with China, ending a costly tariff war that saw some rates as high as 145%. Under the new deal, tariffs are set at 55% on Chinese imports and 10% on U.S. exports—though some carve-outs were made for rare-earth materials and pharmaceuticals. Simultaneously, Trump hinted that the controversial Section 899 retaliatory tax—which punishes foreign countries for taxing U.S. tech giants—may soon be withdrawn, signalling rare compromise with Republican moderates in Congress. The world gasped as, in mid-June, Trump authorized airstrikes on Iranian nuclear sites. Iran retaliated by launching missiles at Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Trump declared “complete and total victory” and claimed to have brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, which he called “eternal.” Neither Israel nor Iran officially confirmed the ceasefire.

But the White House insisted the crisis was over.

Iran, however, issued a chilling warning: “You may start this war, but we will be the ones to end it.”

Closer to home, Trump ordered the National Guard and U.S. Marines into Los Angeles to “protect federal buildings” during large-scale protests over immigration enforcement.

Constitutional scholars warned of a crisis brewing, with state officials threatening lawsuits over what they see as illegal militarization. At the NATO summit in Brussels, Trump demanded—and received—commitments from nearly all members to increase defence spending to 5% of GDP.

But a critical omission in the final communiqué—no mention of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine—sparked fury in Kyiv and unease in European capital.

Perhaps the most bizarre twist: Trump floated a proposal to annex Canada as the

51st U.S. state.

He linked the idea to Canadian inclusion in a joint missile-defence pact, though Ottawa immediately rejected the notion.

Trump later back-pedalled, calling it “just a suggestion—for now.”

In the Republican-led House, several lawmakers introduced bills to further enshrine Trump’s legacy. Proposals include putting Trump on the \$250 bill, renaming the Washington Metro as “WMAGA,” adding his face to Mount Rushmore, and declaring June 14 (his birthday) a federal holiday.

Most are unlikely to pass—but the symbolism is unmistakable.

In less than 60 days, Trump has reshaped the political landscape—at home and abroad.

His moves have delighted his base, terrified his opponents, and set the world on edge. Trump doesn’t like to play by the rules.

CULTURE

Glastonbury's triumphant return



Picture by Anna Barclay

by Autumn Watson

The infamous festival, Glastonbury has just happened and everyone loved it. This three-day festival has been a long-standing tradi-

tion in the music scene since the 1970s and more than 200,000 people attend every single year. Lots of music artists from all over the UK and the world performed this year, includ-

ing Olivia Rodrigo, Raye, Doechii, Charli XCX, and many more. Glastonbury was held in Pilton, Somerset, as it has been for five decades, and is an especially important part

of British pop culture. Each day of Glastonbury, seven acts performed from 12 am to 11:45pm - that's almost 12hrs every day! Despite the rain it was an experience no one will forget.

Calamity Jane cracks the whip once again



by Esther Schilbach

Calamity Jane is a classic musical that hit the west end in January 2025 and went on tour in the same month. Calamity Jane (played by Carrie Hope Fletcher) is a light-hearted, rom-com musical set in Deadwood, South Dakota during the late 1800s. The show follows the story of Jane, who falls for Lt. Danny Gilmartin (played by Luke Wilson), but the whip-cracking cowgirl realizes the men of South Dakota long for what they see as a 'real' woman - i.e. someone who behaves in a traditionally 'feminine' manner. Calamity travels off to Chicago to bring back the one and only famous singer Adelaide Adams (Molly-Grace Cutler). However, when she gets there, she mistakes Adelaide for her maid - Katie Brown (Seren Sandham-Davies). They head back to South Dakota together, and Katie performs, and everyone loves it. She continues to perform

until she confesses to everyone that she isn't the real Adelaide Adams. Calamity is furious and tells Katie she should leave and never come back. Everyone wonders where Katie went and when they find out Calamity told her to go, they are not happy. Danny reveals that he has feelings for Katie which crushes Calamity. Katie comes back and confesses her feelings for Danny. The town decides to have a ball and now that Danny is with Katie, Jane goes with her friend and rival, Wild Bill Hickok (Vinny Coyle) who she realizes she has loved all along. Katie and Calamity became friends again, and Katie marries Danny and Calamity marries Bill. I loved this classic musical with its charming story, funny jokes, and great songs. The actors completely immersed me in the plot. Overall, this was a great musical performed to an amazing standard.

UNRAVEL

The epic adventure to Paris in Summer 2026



by **Sophie Clark, Heidi Scotchbrook and Akshadha Jindal**

Get ready for the adventurous trip to Paris in France in July 2026! This trip will be the most

unforgettable trip for the current Year 8s that will go as Year 9s who will experience the full panoramic

views of Paris and tour city with many fun activities. From the 7th to 10th of July 2026 a wonderful group of Year 9s will be going to an exciting trip to Paris, with their lovely accommodation being the PGL Chateau de Grande Romaine that is located just twenty miles away from Paris. Students will have comfortable multi-bedded on suite rooms, access to an outdoor heated swimming pool and plenty of outdoor space for enjoyable activities on an evening.

The Eiffel Tower

The Eiffel Tower is Paris's most famous and recognizable landmark. From its intricate ironwork structure, there will be amazing views for you to admire.

Parc Asterix

A thrilling theme park based on great French comic book characters, Asterix and Obelix.

Bateaux mouches

An open top sight-seeing boats cruising on the River Seine through Paris.

Champs-Elysees

It is a world-famous avenue perfect for shopping and getting a French pastry at a

nice café and it offers lots of great photo opportunities. We're excited to announce that all Year 8 students who applied for this trip have been accepted!

The application letter was handed out by their French teachers in April, and we really appreciate all parents who promptly returned them.

The trip fee is £790, which will be covering everything: return coach from school (including the channel crossing), accommodation with all meals from our first evening meal to a packed lunch for journey home, all local excursions and entrance tickets to Parc Asterix, an evening entertainment programme and PGL insurance. Students just need to bring a packed lunch for the day we leave school and can bring their own money to spend, though they will be responsible for keeping it safe. Also, trip will be a great opportunity to explore French landmarks making our virtual trip from Year 8 into reality during this journey in Year 9. They can earn a chance to learn more about the culture, people and their language. This is expected to be an unforgettable trip for Year 9 students who will undoubtedly create lasting memories.



by **Alfie Webster**

Welcome, readers, to another edition of ALFIE'S ADVENTURES! This time, we are going to get a bit of peace at Create and Paint Ltd and a bit of rage out at The Axe House. So, let's start, shall we?...

Create and Paint

You know when you just want a little bit of peace, and do a little bit of painting, but just don't want to spend loads of money on materials? Well, then here is an option to solve that problem. Create and Paint is an affordable and mindful place where you can craft, paint and create different little things of your choosing! It has great service, lovely staff members and an all-round friendly local feel to it. I have loved every visit and have produced so many amazing things.

Axe House

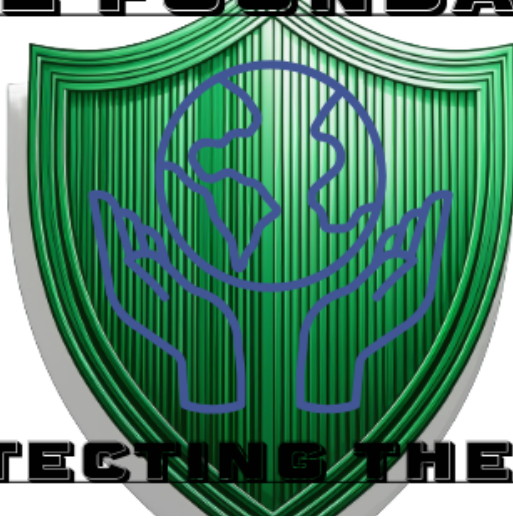
Peace is nice, but what about the thrill of throwing an axe in a lovely place? We have found your place! Based in Spennymoor, this modern axe throwing studio is great for a fun night of laughs. With lovely owners, this business modernizes an age-old sport in a way that is accessible to the public. It will really bring out your 'inner Viking'! I know it did for me! They also do festive events and can be hired to drive a truck to your house or for a local event so you can enjoy it more locally.

CREANVMECORNER

The Dertigor

Eye creatures of the city sewers

THE FOUNDATION



PROTECTING THE WORLD

by Alfie Webster

Within the city streets of London lie underground sewers. Within the deepest depths of these, those who the rational person would never venture into lie the home of the horrid creatures. Even though they live in the deepest and dirtiest parts of the sewers, the creatures always seem clean and bright, wearing top hats and bow ties to show a high class. They are around 3 feet tall and weigh lighter than a feather. They have spindly little legs, like lines drawn on a page. And their main body and face... is one eye, the pupil deep and dark. Through the middle of the body is a jagged line which is, when opened, their mouth. They always carry a large scroll with them. No-one has seen what secrets are hidden within the long parchment. But we know that if they were to read the parchment, their powers would be

beyond the feeble minds of homo sapiens.

POWERS

The Dertigor are powerful, powerful creatures that could be capable of much more than we know, but this is what we have learned from our team. We know that they have slight teleportation techniques through all materials other than bullet-proof glass, hard concrete, and (surprisingly) wet sand. Through the other materials, they can teleport through walls of it and anywhere within a twenty-foot radius of their body. They also can create minor images, for example a symbol appearing in blood on a wall or a fire starting.

These are illusions and cannot hurt or affect you in any way. Just be worried if they open the parchment. Sources have told us they gain unimaginable powers if they do read it.

Dertigors are mischievous

beings that thrive on the enjoyment and dismay of some. But those from the deeper depths of the dirt piles can be worse, with a hole in their hearts that can only be filled by the death of a human. Do not trust them unless they burn their parchment in front of you.

This is a symbol of trust in their culture, and they will serve you if you save them from anything. They are loyal creatures and loving with the right mindsets.

So, now you know how these creatures behave, you can be ready if you see one in the street. And if you do, write down your experiences.

We at the Foundation would love to see your art interpretations and tales of meeting and culture.

Send them to our database, and then we will document them. But, for now, we bid you farewell, until we reveal the next monster to you all. Goodbye.

Keep smiling

by Elspeth Robinson



You always have to be smiling,
Whether you're happy or you're not,
They say it's okay to feel but then,
They leave you alone to rot,
But all the pretty girls are smiling,
And you notice the ugly girls are not,
Because society has standards,
So, the pretty girls keep smiling,
But the ugly girls let the blood clot,
They tell you you're not pretty,
Or too heavy or too fat,
But when you're gone all they do,
Is left to gossip and chat,
And they don't know the damage they make,
Because words hurt the most,
And sticks and stones can break my bones,
But words are the pain my body hosts,
And they don't know what happens,
At home or the world around us,
They are trapped in their bubble of pretty,
While the rest of us turn to dust,
So, you have to just keep smiling,
Or society falls apart,
But the pretty girls don't feel the way,
The ugly girls do at heart,
So just keep smiling.

Natural Disaster

by Luke Price

The natural disaster they call me,
I bring chaos with visibility so low people can't see,
For example, tsunamis bring damage, so you start to care,
With everything turned to debris, there's nothing there,
Those who have messed with me know me too well,
For many have gone to the bottomless depths of hell,

More extreme than tornadoes and seismic waves of earthquakes,
Everything in my way falls and turns to bits and pieces,
Cyclones, blizzards, volcanic eruptions, and storms,
That's a small amount of what my anger forms,
If you want to live don't mess with me,
For it will cause disasters if you mess with me.

REVIEWS



Thunderbolts

New heroes?

The Avengers' days are numbered as Marvel has killed off or retired most of the superhero team. However, a brave group of heroes have banded together taking the role of the world's mightiest heroes. Thunderbolts is a brilliant movie showing a group of misfits and outlaws settling their differences to take down a common enemy, each tackling their past to accept themselves as who they

are.

The cast includes Florence Pugh as Yelena Belover, Lewis Pullman as the Sentry, Sebastian Stan who iconically plays Bucky Barnes and finally Hannah Dominique playing ghost.

Antonia Dreykov was meant to play Taskmaster - a villain who can copy fighting styles on sight - however even though this character was in the trailers, the published movie killed her off within the first two minutes she appears on screen, making many fans wonder how the story would have been altered with her in it.

This movie is a comedy on the surface with funny moments such as Yelena's dad being embarrassing in front of her teammates and the Thunderbolts huddling together to try get up an elevator shaft, but it also has a very sentimental message, telling you to talk to dear ones when you're feeling isolated and to find people who love and understand you instead of fake friends whose pur-

pose is to manipulate you.

Like the story, the music is sensational with the best song in my opinion being nothing's going to stop us now which I adored before the movie but enjoyed even more when seeing it played on screen.

In the post credit scenes of the movie, we see a ship flying through space which many fans believe to belong to the Fantastic Four foreshadowing that they might not save their planet and take refuge on the established Earth of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

This is backed up from Marvel who said "All the post credit scenes are connected"

Overall, I believe Thunderbolts is a very good movie and the best Marvel has made in a while. Every Avenger fanatic should give it a try, I guarantee it will surprise you.



By Sam Johnson



Hidden Figures

Hidden Figures is a daring, underrated film that visualises the discrimination faced by even the most influential black people in a gritty, segregated

1960s America.

Should this film be getting more recognition?

Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan were three black women... and were also heavily involved in NASA's first ever missions that pushed beyond the limits of our atmosphere.

The trio were all incredible in their own ways: Katherine worked surrounded by white men on a special space flight project; Mary was the first black woman to be a NASA engineer; and Dorothy led her own team of amazing African-American women to run calculations on a vital IBM. The film explores not only these enormous feats, but also the blatant segregation the three faced in a white, male-dominated field.

It's the perfect mix of remembering the full story instead of just the happy ending, how it should be remembered. While many schools do teach about American laws of segregation, some argue this film should still be added to the curriculum.

Segregation and discrimination aren't

foreign concepts for most schools.

Katherine Johnson is quite a known figure in the movement for racial equality and women empowerment, but Mary and Dorothy tend to blend into the background a bit more.

The story doesn't focus as much on the two, probably as there isn't quite as much to say, but they're still key parts of the plot.

It's important to have them because it highlights that Katherine wasn't the only black woman working in NASA at the time, as a whole team of them were selected, albeit very few.

There are so many amazing people like Katherine who all deserve recognition for their service to our planet.

Overall, Hidden Figures is a rebellion against 60s standards from the view of a minority.

Despite the brutality, the resilience of the black community in America was never faltering, and this film is just one example of it.

By Erin Kelly

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 Mr Webber

for the chance to see it our next issue!

ewb@hummersknott.org.uk



AYDEN'S ARCADE

GAMES ARE SERIOUS BUSINESS FOR AYDEN SMITH

Death Stranding 2



KOJIMA Productions is set to release the newest instalment of the Death Stranding series this year.

Death Stranding 2: On the Beach released on June 26, with a high bar being set thanks to the first games popularity and achievements. Though quite convoluted, the original game gained significant popularity and awards thanks to its game design and other key factors, with it winning three game awards in 2019 and BAFTA in 2020 for technical achievements. Set in a post-apocalyptic world after an event known as the Death Stranding, you are tasked with reconnecting

the now scattered cities of America in hopes to rebuild and finish what many others could not.

Thanks to many dangers that lay within the apocalyptic land, only specialised 'porters' can travel the world and deliver vital materials. From stranded souls known as BTs, to a mysterious phenomenon called Time-fall, this game is a must play if you enjoy a great story and moments that feel like they been plucked from a movie. Many characters are played by popular actors such as Norman Reedus and Mads Mikkelsen, with their performances garnering an award

for best performance and high praise from critics. Thanks to motion capture these actors and many more (such as Tommie Earl Jenkins) can have their likeness almost fully put into the game.

Its sequel however, whilst sharing very similar themes and undertones, has seemed to completely diverge from the original in terms of gameplay. Now more combat based, and with updated features found in the first game, it seems to be trying to hit back at critics who disparaged its predecessor's combat system.

Is the battle over for Star Wars?

by George Billington

Five years after EA stopped updating Star Wars Battlefront II, it seems like the fire that made the game and its predecessor so special has been re-ignited.

Star Wars Battlefront is a Star Wars-themed version of the modern military game Battlefield, a third person shooter game set in the galaxy far, far away.

These games allow you to play as iconic Star Wars characters such as General Greivous, Darth Vader, Yoda, and more.

Upon its original release in 2004 Star Wars Battlefront was a hit, selling four million copies.

In fact, it was so popular that just one year later Star Wars Battlefront II released in 2005 - outselling its predecessor by seven million. Due to the success of the first two games the developers decided to begin developing Battlefront III, but in 2008 Lucas Art decided to abandon the project.

Seven years later, the new Battlefront arrived, and out-sold both originals combined by selling a whopping fourteen million copies.

However, Battlefront II sold short of publisher EA's expectations, selling nine million copies - largely due to controversy over its randomised 'loot box' rewards system.

Just three years later, EA chose to stop working on the game, but they kept the servers online for old and new players to enjoy.

However, after over five years of acceptance that Battlefront III was never happening and neither would we get another update on Battlefront II, many fans of the series banded together to begin the movement for Battlefront III.

The movement quickly started gaining attention from a much wider audience when some actors such as Muhanad Ben Amor - who plays Wilmon in the Star Wars Andor series - expressed an interest for the series to return. Even some of the former developers for Battlefront II have said they would love to return to the series.

Gaming champions

HUMMERSKNOTT students have won a local Esports competition against many other Darlington schools. Hosted at Carmel College, five students were selected to represent Hummersknott, being chosen out of a large pool of volunteers.

Huwie Burnside, Lennon Raine, Rhys Mackintosh, Bradley Forsyth, and Elliott Bethell took part in the competition, going up against schools including St Aiden's, Carmel College, and Wyvern Academy.

The competition used the game Overwatch 2, a popular game that involves two teams fighting for points or objectives.

They have the choice between multiple characters, each with their own unique set of abilities.

The game as a whole has seen a decrease in players, yet tournaments and competitions such as these are widespread and common throughout both the UK and the world.

This competition has only

seemed to strengthen esports in the Darlington area, which may give way to a variety of tournaments, competitions and events being held by schools.

After much trouble and teamwork, the team was able to beat some of the best players in other schools, which has set a high standard and this is a first for Hummersknott Academy.

Hopefully there will be many more opportunities for the victorious team to compete again.

PUZZLES

SUMMER Wordsearch

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

PICNIC HOLIDAYS SANDCASTLE
 SUNGLASSES ICECREAM BARBECUE
 SWIMMING BEACH
 CAMPING SUNSHINE

Hummersknott Sudoku Challenge

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

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

Horoscopes

Divined by Alfie Webster

CAPRICORN ♑

You'll feel the need this month, the need for speed. But rather than try to become a fast jet pilot, you'll play Mario Kart all the time this weekend. Have fun defeating Bowser, buddy!

AQUARIUS ♒

As meteors and comets fly through starry skies, this tells me that at some point this month you will have a fall. I agree, it's a bit random, but maybe a skydive trip might come up. To be honest, you could fall in love or fall into a pond. Your choice...I guess?

PISCES ♓

If life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Surprise your family with your own homemade drink! (It's good iced btw) (btw means by the way btw)

ARIES ♈

100 percent of the answer to your question is PEPSI MAX CHERRY! (amazing flavour in an amazing drink) PS- this horoscope is not sponsored by Pepsi max... or is it? No. It isn't.

TAURUS ♉

As Saturn slows its rings, this is a sign that you should take a break from your work for a little while. The summer is coming and the time to chill for you has already begun! But this only means doing less work. We don't want complaints.

GEMINI ♊

You've been a bit off the handle recently. Do you remember that alarmingly dramatic incident where you nearly lost your pinky toe? I guess you were being just overly dramatic. Surprise.

CANCER ♋

This is your month to shine! The stars are all over the place for you this month. I spy a vacation coming up. And by vacation, I mean a low-budget trip, and by low-budget trip, I mean you must drive over to Japan tomorrow. Good luck!

LEO ♌

As the sun burns ever brighter, your happiness will rise to the limit like a capybara with wings. You will be overcome with joy for the rest of the month and have a spring in your step and a song in your heart! So, be ready to be happy!

VIRGO ♍

Isaac Newton once said "every action has its equal opposite reaction." This is a phrase that comes to you this month. For the expanse of the month, your karma won't take long to whack you back! Ha ha! Suckers...

LIBRA ♎

The sun may be up, but sadly this month your happiness will be down. And I'm sorry to tell you that it may take a while to pick yourself back up from the sadness. But don't worry, you'll get through. You always do.

SCORPIO ♏

This is the answer to the question you asked the universe last week. The question was "how many cats are too many?" Seven. Seven cats are WAY too many. Just stay with like 3. That's a magic number.

SAGITTARIUS ♐

An apple a day keeps the doctor away. A well-known saying to most and probably you too. Although, I'm sorry to tell you that this month you should consider not holding or consuming the fruit. Jupiter's moons are orbiting at increased speeds, meaning the chance of an injury is higher. So, get your apples and shove them in your... compost bin.

SPORT



Hugo – Hummerksnott's hurdling hero



by **Hannah Smith**

STAR school hurdler Hugo Douglas-Reeves beat his personal best while also setting a UK record. Over the half term holidays,

the Hummersknott student ran a new Personal Best of 13.02 seconds in 100-meter hurdles, moving to 1st place in Under 17s 100m in the UK.

In addition to this, he was ranked 12th in Europe and 54th worldwide as an Under 18s 110m hurdler.

Why not try rugby?

by **Robbie Burton**

The origin of rugby traces back to 1823, invented by William Webb Ellis who picked up a football and ran with it in his arms during a football match.

The sport rapidly spread all over the UK and Scotland. On the March 27, 1871, the first international rugby match took place.

Around 4,000 people came to see England and Scotland play.

Scotland took the first international win by just one extra try.

Even though they won the first game, they have not beaten England for an exceptionally long time.

Right now, the England rugby team is touring all over the world and bringing some true stars with them, like Marcus Smith and Jamie George. Mrs Burton is an avid fan of the sport, and said: "I believe that rugby is a fantastic sport but can be very rough at times."

"Furthermore, I believe that it is a sport of gentlemen and has mental and physical benefits, such as keeping you fit and helping you learn to work together as a team."

I have been playing rugby for around 4 years and have been really enjoying it and I think that everyone should give it a shot, especially if you are a big or powerfully built person, or even if you are small and nimble. If you can take a hit, this is the sport for you.

Rowing to success

by **Ella Smith**

HUMMERKNOTT'S Seren Williams has represented the North in the C final at the junior inter-regionals rowing regatta.

This was held at the national water centre in Nottingham on Saturday 26 April. Seren was the only girl in her team to advance to regionals.

Before the race, Seren said it was "nerve racking" but the final was "really good", as she gained a good lead and kept ahead for the whole race! Seren got into rowing because her brother entered a competition and won which got him into the sport.

Then, Seren's mum got her into rowing, and she has been rowing ever since. This is a huge achievement for Seren and Hummersknott Academy, especially considering that traditionally, North Eastern state schools receive less funding and students get fewer oppor-

tunities to compete in niche sports like rowing.

In the future, Seren has said that she would like to attend a university with a good rowing team, such as Oxford Brooks.

Teesside team takes trophy



by Sam Johnson and Robbie Burton

HUMMERSKNOTT's Mitchell Tinkler and his team have cemented their place as the UK's top powerchair football team by winning the Wheelchair Football Association (WFA) Championship. The WFA has hosted one of the most well-known powerchair football club leagues for around 20 years, promoting opportunities for people with disabilities to play this fast-paced game.

Teesside PFC had to face many tough sides like last year's winners West Bromwich and runners-up Leeds Chariot, but in the end won by a close margin of three points. Mitchell didn't just win the championship - he also received awards for getting the goal of the season and young player of the season. Mitchell has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, which makes him unable to walk.

But this has evidently never held him back. He said: "I have worked hard in training this year and feel that I did all I could to be the best. "Being voted Premiership Young Player of the Season made me really pleased with the growth I have made this season." Mitchell's mum, Kate, said: "Teesside have really matured this year as a team and have demonstrated strength

and consistency across game weekends. "They've kept their heads during tough games with a steely belief and determination to win. "As a mother and a fan, I couldn't be prouder." Just like Mitchell's mum. Hummersknott Academy is proud of this phenomenal student and wishes him the best in his future career.

Leeds Rhinos netball success



by Heidi Scotchbrook

YEAR 10 GCSE PE student Elle Robson has got down to the final 20 athletes to represent Leeds Rhinos at the U15 Netball school games. This is an amazing achievement as over 70 girls trialled. Leeds Rhinos are a Netball Super League team and to get this far for such a prestigious team is really impressive. Elle currently trains weekly with the under 15s for three hours every Thursday at Coach Lane campus at Northumbria University, though training will soon move to Maiden Castle at Durham University. They also have had a training day in May half term.

Year 10 footballers retain Town Cup

by Heidi Scotchbrook

HUMMERSKNOTT'S Year 10 football team beat Hurworth in a tense final to retain the town championship. The game was played at Middlesbrough's training ground at Rockcliffe Hall Hotel, in Hurworth. Despite the opponent's home turf advantage, the Hummersknott side triumphed 4-1 to retain the town cup from last year. Goals were scored by Martin L, Ollie M and two from Rowan E to seal the win. Man of the match was Jake O'H who controlled and dictated the game from midfield to stop a lot of Hurworth's attacking play.