

FREE
E-ZINE

60 SECONDS with

MRS KNIGHT



- Star Wars Reviewed! - Volcanoes! - Your views on #Kexit! - Rush Hour Crush! - Sell-out Ads!!!

PLUS



Dr McKee's music tips!

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EU-an Healey takes on the referendum!

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Fish play Rugby!! (Yeah it's that sort of magazine...)

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Latest edition of E-Zine is 'HUGE success'

After months of article-writing, magazine-designing, coffee breaks and general messing-around, this year's latest edition of the E-Zine has been completed - and may be the greatest copy yet! Many readers were shocked to see such a dramatic change in layout, opting for the traditional newspaper design, rather than go for something modern and fancy. In a totally legitimate interview with E-Zine CEO Mr McBrien, reporters found out

exclusively that he believes this issue will be a "huge success", stating that "every year we try to improve the online mag, but it's hard to improve on perfection. This is why we chose to rip off... I mean, be inspired by the far more successful METRO newspaper". Basically, we put a lot of effort into directly copying someone else's work - enjoy!

- E-Zine Team, 2016

'SEMPER IUVENIS'

Headmaster chips in! Is this the demise of the print press? Are reporters too sensationalist?? Are headlines too DRAMATIC!?!?

The recent demise of the print version of the Independent newspaper is a reminder that in the not too distant future, physical papers will be just a memory and electronic publications such as the E-Zine, the norm. Using the template of the Metro can be seen as the E-Zine showing respect to an ailing, elderly relative but nevertheless pointing the way to the future.



As ever, this edition of the E-Zine gives an up to date view of life at Aston as the school is today albeit sometimes with its tongue firmly in its cheek. Despite the gloomy nature of much national education news, the E-Zine shows that this has not stopped Aston students experiencing much fun in their learning and sometimes just having fun. In these austere times this must be seen as one of the key strengths of the school.

Once again the school is indebted to Mr McBrien and his team for producing another edition of the E-Zine whose publication has fast become a key moment in the school year.

C. Parker
Headmaster

Meet your E-Zine Team!

Chief Editor and Designer: Cameron Gordon

Content Editor: George Bottrell-Campbell

Psychics: Tom Abbott and Joshua 'Jedze' Jellicoe

Ballin' designer: Vikram 'Van Damme' Chohan

Photoshop Wizard: Ben Heywood

Staff Editor and Taskmaster: Mr McBrien

Thanks to all the staff who agreed to be
'advertised'

Special thanks to the IT Dept. and to all the
contributors

E-ZINE BITES

- How do you open a John Locke?
With a Dr McKey!!

- What's the English department's favourite sauce?
Miss Toland-aise!

- What type of jacket do the Senior Leadership Team wear?
A Parker!

Iqbal wins Public Speaking by ‘talking rubbish’

When I stood up in front of my class that day my heart skipped a beat. This was it. I stood up and began, little did I know that this speech was going to be the winning speech for that year. Luckily, I don't seem to panic before an event, or even during an event, it is always after. I find this a bit peculiar.

“I am going to talk about rubbish, that’s right rubbish.

The most effective way to reduce waste is with the four Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repair.

The main reason for reduction is that imported rubbish replaces other heating and electricity production. It also means rubbish won’t be lying in a heap in its country of origin spewing out methane, which, as we all now know is terrible for the environment.

If we don’t reduce soon, various precious marine creatures such as whales will be found washed up on beaches, their stomachs full of plastic bags. Is this really how we want to leave this planet for future generations?

I am now going to touch on global warming. The rubbish you produce affects global warming. Global warming affects the whole earth. Global warming affects us. Some things it can cause is acid rain, ice caps melting in Antarctica and rising sea levels globally.

It is said that solid waste will rise from 1.3 billion tonnes a year to 2.2 billion tonnes a year by 2025! This is not good news at all.

Hey everybody, I’ve got a little slogan if you wouldn’t mind repeating after me ‘Don’t delay Recycle today’ come on everybody.

Look around you when you’re on the street next, what do you see. Everywhere I look I see rubbish. Do you think it is acceptable to litter on our streets?!

Think before you litter it’s not just your street, it’s not just me trying to get this point across even our very own headmaster Mr Parker is. I urge you to think before you litter. Keep it in your pocket until you find a bin.

There are many things you can do to reduce waste. But what I want to know is what will you do now? I want you to make a difference even if it’s the slightest thing like recycling. We can all do that can’t we? You must be thinking surely nothing can happen in one day, one day well rubbish grows silently on a daily basis.

I would like to finish my speech by saying thank you to the Iron Man, the one and only garbage man, because without them maybe this earth would be covered in trash. And also thank you to the people who actually care about the environment”.

Raess Iqbal - Year 8

Rubbish Quotes

“Plastic bag usage down 78% since introduction of 5p charge, says Tesco” – Guardian



“We throw away **7 million tonnes** of food and drink from our homes every year in the UK, and **more than half** of this is food and drink we could have eaten. Wasting this food costs the average household £470 a year” - Love Food Hate Waste

“Scientific research indicates sea levels worldwide have been rising at a rate of 0.14 inches (3.5 mm) per year since the early 1990s” - National Geographic.

Actual picture of the Earth right now:



Five blockbusters you should definitely check out

Captain America—Civil War (27 Apr)

The third instalment in the *Captain America* franchise sees hero turn on hero as an act to make all superheroes members of the US government. Cap's (Chris Evans) team fights for freedom and square off against Iron Man's (Robert Downey Jr.) pro-government group. If the *Civil War* comic is anything to go by, expect massive battles and moral conflict.



X-Men: Apocalypse (18 May)

Set in the 1980s, the third in the *X-Men* prequel series sees an older Charles Xavier (James McAvoy) and the rest of the X-Men face off against supremely powerful mutant Apocalypse (*The Force Awakens'* Oscar Isaac). Director Bryan Singer returns for his fourth *X-Men* movie which hopefully delivers.

Finding Dory (29 Jul)

Thirteen years after the release of *Finding Nemo*, this belated sequel is set only a few months after the first movie and sees forgetful fish Dory (Ellen DeGeneres) set out to find her family with Nemo and father Marlin supposedly in tow. Let's hope that Pixar gives us a worthy sequel to the animated classic.

Suicide Squad (3 Aug)

With an amazing cast including the likes of Will Smith, Margot Robbie and Jared Leto, DC's flick revolving around a team of villains that are forced to go on suicide missions for the government looks to be a gleefully insane and fun ride, presumably with some dark and harrowing moments tied in (the main characters *are* villains after all).

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (14 Dec)

The first of Disney's *Star Wars* Anthology Films is set between Episodes III and IV and centres around the ragtag group of Rebels that have to steal the plans to the Death Star from the Empire. We've already got one great new *Star Wars* movie; let's hope this will be another.

Hayder Shafi - Year 11



SPIDER-MAN - Super Hero or Super Zero?

See the Daily Bugle for more!

Or just watch Spiderman (2002), it's a great film.



ASTON CLASHERS



The game Clash of Clans is an application available on most devices. In this game, you are set with a large landscape in which you can build your own base. You get given basic buildings and defences at the start, but with gold and elixir (the in-game currency) you need to upgrade and improve your base. To then upgrade the buildings in your base you will need to upgrade your townhall. By upgrading your townhall (the base of all your buildings) you get more defences and advance. Sounds easy right? Think again. A couple of things are there to stop you. These are as follows:

You can only upgrade buildings with your builders. You start off with two, but you can buy up to five. The problem with this is that, as you improve you have more buildings and defences to upgrade and buy. The more of these you have, the more builders you have, the better. If you have two builders, you can only upgrade two things at a time.

Another problem is other players. You can team up with your friends in groups called clans, but other people can attack your base, and steal your loot and trophies. You cannot upgrade without loot. So remember to keep your base well protected, but don't worry, you can get them back with your own troops of which you train in barracks.

- Kenan Esmerguzeli and Spike Guest-Nichols – Year 7

Here are some Aston clasherers who have something to say about their favourite and least favourite things about Clash of Clans:

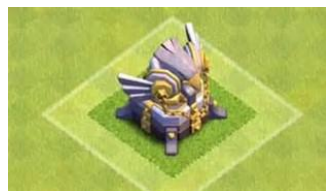


Pro Gamer: Kenan



Stylish: The Game's Promo Art

"I am a nearly maxed Town Hall 7. My favourite part about Clash is the new defences. The eagle artillery is the best looking defence ever, and that's really all that matters



All the rage: New Artillery

for me. I like the new air defence because when people used to do mass dragon raids my base used to get destroyed, but now the most they can get is two stars". – Kenan Esmerguzeli

"I am a Town Hall 6 and enjoying playing the game. I find the game easy to play, yet hard to master. I am right now still trying to improve and perfect my base with upgrades and defences. I find that Clash of Clans is fun and a good way to challenge your brain on ideas and methods. My favourite part of Clash of Clans is wars. When in a clan with your friends you can work together to attack an opposing clan. You need to

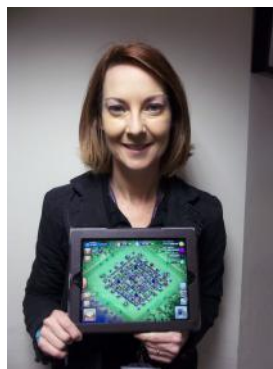
attack and defended to gain stars and win the war. I find wars fun and clever. My least enjoyed part of the game is the building time of town halls. I find it annoying when you are pumped and excited to see the new



Literally can't wait: Spike

things in store for you... and then it says that the building time is really long. This is not such a good thing and does push you deleting the game if you are not patient. Luckily I am, but still find it a pain". – Spike Guest-Nichols

"I love attacking with golems because they go on forever and I also like using hog riders as they get to those places other troops can't reach. P.E.K.K.As are also really good. I hate people with inferno towers and people who steal all my loot". - Mrs Parrans-Smith



Playing Clash of Clans is like music to her ears:
Mrs Parrans-Smith

Camping it up - Eurovision Time!

The Eurovision Song Contest has been blessing Europe's screens for 61 years and since the first one in Lugano, Switzerland, we have seen over 3000 acts ranging from the exceptional Celine Dion in 1988 to the likes of the barmy meter-high hats of Moldova in 2011.

Sadly the students here at Aston (and perhaps even some of the teachers) would struggle to remember a time when the United Kingdom did well in Eurovision. That said, we have had a long history with the contest and we have had our ups and downs. We first won with Sandie Shaw's 'Puppet on a String' after a string of top five placings. A lot of famous stars like Lulu, Cliff Richard and American band Katrina and the Waves who sang the iconic song 'Walking on Sunshine' have made their names on the show over the years.



To experience a true Eurovision God, watch Eric Saade's entry for Sweden from 2011

Swedish band ABBA represented the Nordic nation twice, the second time producing the iconic 'Waterloo'. It was actually the second time they went to Eurovision. Previously the group entered with a song sung in Swedish which placed poorly. If it wasn't for their second chance they might never have achieved the success that followed.



Britain's most hated pop act of 2007 meets Scooch

The following year's winner, the memorable Loreen got around a 10/12 average while Ell and Nikki got an 8/12. Yet they still won and after the contest, the nation seemed to become more and more integrated within Europe. In 2015, Azerbaijan hosted the first ever European Games and such a situation would have been less likely without the exposure of Eurovision.

Lots of planning goes into every aspect of Eurovision. There's promotion, stadiums, makeup - but the selection for songs in some countries is on a totally different level. In Albania, the *Festivali i Kongos* (Festival of Song) has been running for 54 years. The singing contest was organised during communist rule by the broadcaster RTSH (Radio Televizioni Shqiptar) and became a highly respected show. The festival survived the imprisonment of all the organisers and a decrease in viewership to the pop based contest Kenga Magjiko in the early naughties. This was when RTSH decided to regain viewers by taking part in Eurovision. In this country, it would be comparable to The Voice on BBC trying to overtake The X-Factor then ITV deciding to send Sam Bailey to Eurovision. This all happened in Albania as acts from across the nation tried their luck. Emotions were high as Anjeza Shahini won and performed 'Image of You' in Istanbul 2004. One act who came second was so distraught that she destroyed the Green Room and cried uncontrollably as the winner collected her trophy. Anjeza came in the top ten, Albania's second highest placing.

The contest's influence stretches wider than the European community. Azerbaijan is a former Soviet country tucked in the farthest reaches of Europe in the Caspian Sea. Its capital Baku, hosted the 57th Eurovision Song Contest and this has led to many opportunities for the oil rich nation. They were desperate to win and reportedly spent millions of euros on promotion for Safura's 2010 song 'Drip Drop' but it took little effort for Ell and Nikki to win in Düsseldorf the next year. This was reflected in their points as they received one of the lowest average point hauls from each nation ever.



EU Leaders meet to discuss refugee crisis: That is what I am looking at...? Right...?

Eurovision Song Contest

But not all Eurovision fairy tales are that turbulent. In Estonia, ERR are the national broadcaster and they decided that the nineties, just after national independence, was Estonia's tune to enter Eurovision. They had little success until 2001 in Copenhagen where the song 'Everybody' won the contest for the small Baltic nation and made them the first former Soviet nation to win the contest ever and became a part of a four nation group: Estonia 2001, Latvia 2002, Ukraine 2004, Azerbaijan 2011, to do so. After their win, Europe was worried that the nation, which is one of the smallest in the contest, would struggle to bring up enough funds to host such a large event but ERR confirmed that in May 2002, Tallinn would host the Eurovision Song Contest and they gave it the motto 'Modern Fairy tale' which wasn't too dissimilar to their neighbour Finland's 'True Fantasy' in 2007. But after a long night Latvia came first followed by the UK and hosts Estonia in joint second place.



Joe and Jake who should win douze points for that pose

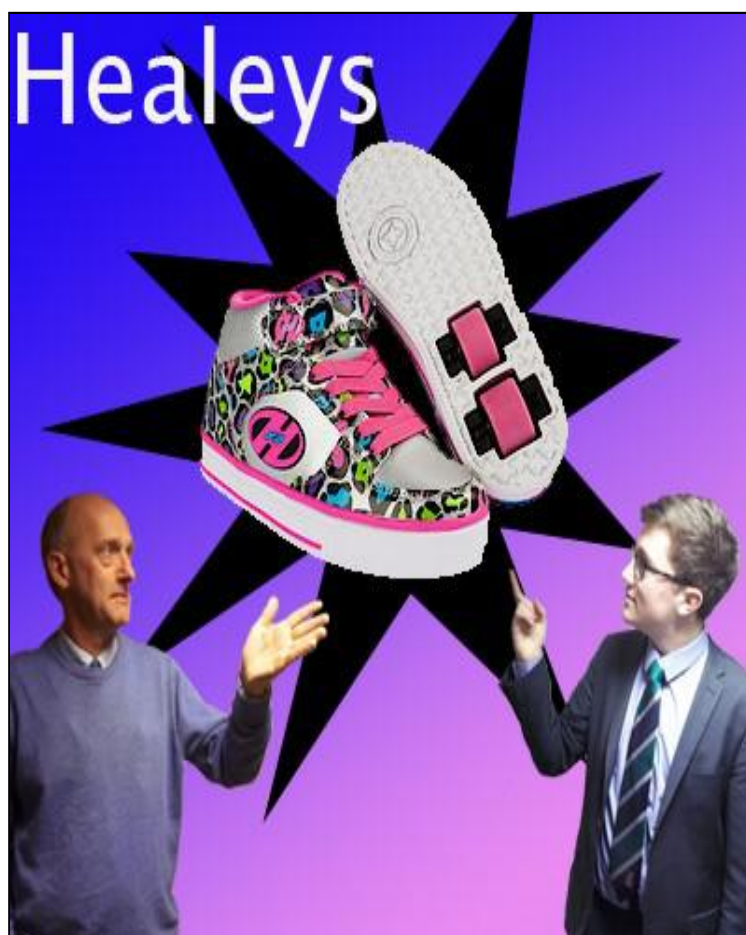
This was Estonia's last major success in the contest as they couldn't replicate their previous success with the EuroLaul Festival. They didn't qualify for a single Grand Final after 2002 and after calls for change, ERR unveiled Eesti Laul or Estonian Song for their song selection in 2009. They sent Sandra Nurmsalu as a part of Urban Symphony with the song 'Randajäd' (Traveller) to the €31 million stage in Moscow, the largest and most spectacular show ever, featuring 33% of all the LEDs in the world at that time. Estonia came 6th, a place behind Jade Ewen of the UK and hundreds of

points behind Norway's Alexander Rybak and his 'Fairy Tale' which earned him the most amount of points ever (although rather ironically, Norway has received the dreaded 'Nul Point' more times than any other country).

Estonia has fared better since, failing to qualify in 2010, 24th place in 2011, 6th place in 2012, 21st in 2013, failing to qualify in 2014 and coming sixth in Vienna 2015. Now it is selecting its 7th entrant and is going stronger than ever.

This year the United Kingdom will participate in the Eurovision Song Contest with the song "You're Not Alone" written by Matt Schwartz, Justin J. Benson and S. Kanés. The song will be performed by Joe and Jake.

Edward Catterell- Year 10



You threaten to leave every year, are you actually leaving?

Yes I am, yeah.

Do you think you'll miss any of the students?

I think I'll probably miss all of the students.

Any in particular?

What, are you fishing for me to say a name Vikram?

I don't know, like are you gonna miss me?

I think I will miss all of the Sixth Form. We started at the same time and we finish in the same year. I think

60 SECONDS with

MRS KNIGHT

Careers advisor, cover supervisor and a regular sight in the library, sadly Mrs Knight is leaving Aston after 7 years.

I'll miss some of Year 11 and then I think I'll miss less of years 7 to 10 (especially with year 9 and they know who they are).

Are there any students you'll be glad to see the back of?

No, I think everybody is lovely and I think that they all have their best bits. I think some need to do a little bit of growing up, but I think everybody will turn out alright in the end.

What would you say inspired you to become a careers advisor?

Well, when I started here I started as a cover supervisor and not a careers advisor. When the previous careers advisor left, Mr Parker asked if I would do the job to help out. So I said okay.

You are a massive inspiration to the rest of the cover staff. How do you think they are going to get on without you?

When you say 'they', do you mean just that one person who is left, Mrs Sagheer?

Yeah...

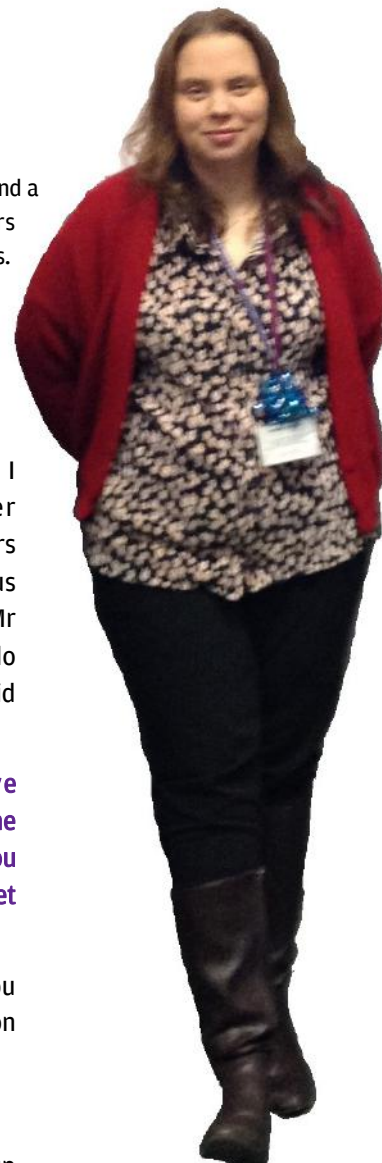
I think she's gonna end up doing quite a lot of cover. Quite a lot of 9T and 11F, or she'll get someone else to do 9T and 11F.

What would you say were your favourite moments from working at Aston?

Coming joint first at the maths quiz at Birmingham University. Watching you guys doing incredibly well at sports day. Feeling incredibly proud when you get your Oxbridge offers or your first university choices, then you go off and you do well. It makes me feel very proud.

Is there anything you regret doing or not doing at Aston?

I regret not being around



Introducing: Mountain Dew



Available in all good maths rooms

for my second photo seeing as the whole school photo is imminent.

Do you think you'll ever come back to Aston?

No.

Have you ever had a supernatural experience?

Yeah, every morning around 8 o'clock when kids start coming into the library.

And what was it like training to be a Jedi Knight?

I couldn't tell you because either you feel the force, or you don't.

Are you running out of ideas?

Interrogation:

Vikram Chohan – Y13

Dr McKee's Top 5 Bands

Dead Kennedys: The legendary San Francisco punk band that changed my life when I first heard them at the age of fourteen. Politically aware, smart, sarcastic and fearless; a uniquely creepy surf sound meshed with angular punk rock. I started reading the newspaper to try and understand their lyrics and thus began the path of political engagement that led me to studying Politics at university (joint honours with Philosophy of course!) and never really ended. This band opened my eyes to a whole new world of underground music I had no idea existed, as well as a culture and ethic of DIY punk that I still live by to this day.



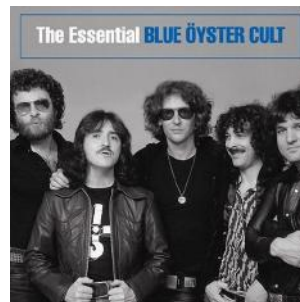
Bad Religion: Smart and blistering punk music with phenomenal, multi-layered harmonies, fronted by a lead-singer/songwriter with a PhD in zoology. What more could you want? How about lyrical content that asks huge philosophical questions and became the soundtrack for my intellectual development at a very early age? Grab a thesaurus and a dictionary and then dive into the unholy trinity of "Suffer", "No Control" and "Against The Grain" to get your real education.



No Means No: Bass-heavy jazz-punk from two lunatic brothers from Canada with no parallel. Never imitated and impossible to duplicate, I stumbled upon this one-of-a-kind band when the lead singer for Dead Kennedys, Jello Biafra, sent me a sampler CD for his record label, Alternative Tentacles, back in the 1990s. The track "Lost" blew my mind and I have devoured everything by these eccentric maniacs ever since. Now the brothers are in their late-fifties and early-sixties and this band still blows everyone they play with off the stage and continue to rock harder than bands half their age.



Blue Oyster Cult: A sentimental favourite. I quite arbitrarily decided in around 1995 that my "favourite song of all time" would be "(Don't Fear) The Reaper" by this band because the lyrics were quoted as an epigram in Stephen King's book, "The Stand", and the song featured in the TV miniseries of that book during a scene where everybody dies of super-flu "Captain Trips". It was cool and creepy and weird. Then my best friend bought an actual album of theirs — "Fire of Unknown Origin" and we got lost down a nutty rabbit-hole of Blue Oyster Cult weirdness — songs dealing with aliens, monsters, zombie Hollywood legends, murder, mayhem, apocalypse, and the righteous saving power of rock and roll. I own their entire recorded output and never fail to find a lyric that amuses me: "Canadian Mountie, baby. Police-force that works. Red and Black. That's their colour scheme. Get their man, in the end." What!? Exactly.



Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band: Hands down the best live act in the world (seems to be a thing with musicians over sixty!). I have seen The Boss perform for over three hours in the cold and rain and still get calls for an encore. With a career spanning over forty years, Bruce Springsteen has chronicled his own journey from youth to adulthood whilst making important social commentary about issues that matter along the way. Able to step deftly from politically conscious protest song to throwaway bubble-gum party rock, often within a few tracks on the same album, Springsteen is a true artist and showman without equal. Feel-good music that makes you think, all accompanied by the "heart-stopping, house-rocking, earth-quaking, booty-shaking legendary E-Street Band."



Honourable Mentions

First a disclaimer — music is an inherent part of my existence, and can't really be confined to a mere five bands. Although the following five sit at the top of my list — today — due to their sheer longevity of influence in my life, and this "top five" is fairly constant, beyond these five bands are so many more, equally amazing, bands and artists, who are all equally deserving to be in my top five. My iTunes folder contains over 25,000 songs and is growing every week. Nor does that even contain my entire music collection! Music is beyond such arbitrary ranking... but for the purpose of this piece, I'll give it a shot, a snapshot, of this particular moment in my life. However, besides the following "top five", honourable mentions go to NOFX, Green Day, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, Ghost, The Stooges, Ramones, Subhumans, Muse, Foo Fighters, The Divine Comedy, David Bowie, Propagandhi, Editors, Kendrick Lamar, Charles Mingus, Mike Patton, Ford Pier, Marilyn Manson, Descendents, Fugazi, Black Flag, Langhorne Slim, Manic Street Preachers, Lagwagon, No Use For A Name, Placebo, Queen, Rancid, Titus Andronicus, and Tom Waits... amongst many, many others...



McKee's 5 New Music Tips!

New releases: Personally I'm always excited about new albums from my favourite bands. Bad Religion and NOFX have both been in the studio lately, and there's new albums due from Weezer, Kanye West, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, and they're just the ones I know about. The great thing about music these days is you never know when an artist is going to surprise you with something unexpected — David Bowie's final two albums were both released without much or any warning, and the Foo Fighters randomly released their *St Cecilia* EP without any announcement late last year. Plus there's all the bands I don't even know about yet. Future favourites still waiting to be discovered. Without Spotify, I think I'd be bankrupt!



When you play the game of rock, you slay or you die

Listen to people: One of the best ways I find out about interesting new music is to hear about it from fellow music fanatics. My lifelong favourite source for turning me onto new sounds is punk rock icon, Henry Rollins. Rollins has a weekly radio show you can listen to online at <http://www.kcrw.com/music/shows/henry-rollins> and his eclectic, bespoke playlists will always open your ears up to something new. Similarly, the Marc Maron podcast is full of interviews with great musicians you've not always heard of, and sometimes they even play a song or two live from his garage. Both Rollins and Maron have cost me a lot of money over the years by introducing me to something new and awesome.

Try something new: don't shut your mind off to genres and styles of music just because you currently don't listen to it. I try to force myself to listen to things I think I won't like to discover something new, hence a music collection bursting with jazz, soul, hip-hop, pop, art-noise, classical, spoken word, folk, country, movie scores and world music alongside all the punk rock. Also, when you find yourself somewhere new — on a holiday to a different country perhaps — check out the local music scene and try something new. As those I taught in January can attest as they walked into E5 and found me listening to something, I came back from a New Year trip to Sweden with a weird and wonderful mix of new Swedish music from people like Bob Hund, Ghost, Rotten Mind and The Dahmers. I'm going to Berlin in June and look forward to finding something new and interesting there.



Dr McKee is just like Dewey Finn in real life. Pay attention guys, we need to earn some demerits!

Go see shows: Obviously the more live music you see first-hand, the more support bands you'll discover and get into as you wait for the headline act. And then there's the cool covers that bands often do live, which can often get you into someone you didn't realise you liked. I'm most excited about seeing Muse on their Drones tour later this year, but also have tickets to see Manic Street Preachers do their "Everything Must Go" show with Editors. I also hope to play a few shows of my own if my band ever sort themselves out! Speaking of which...



Some proper 90s Green Day, probably Dr McKee's era. I personally prefer *American Idiot* (ed.)

Start a band: I know of at least one band starting up at the school (in Year 10) but hope to see a lot more in 2016. I started my band when I was in Year 9 at school, and it has been a continuing source of enjoyment and artistic expression in my life ever since. I've toured across the UK, Europe and America with my music, all because me and my mate at school decided that if Green Day could do it, so could we. Mess about, experiment, *create*. There's nothing finer than making music yourself. We used to book out our school's main hall as private citizens every so often and put on punk rock shows after school with whatever other bands the school had to offer at the time. We roped in teachers to supervise, and even got our deputy head up singing "Johnny B Goode" with us at one show. We sold our own CDs and started building an audience. I hope that the biggest musical tip for 2016 turns out to be a brand new and exciting band from Aston who go on to conquer the world!

Back to Brownie Basics

INGREDIENTS

- 100g butter, chopped
- 200g dark chocolate, chopped
- 4 eggs
- 250g golden caster sugar
- 100g plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 30g cocoa powder



METHOD

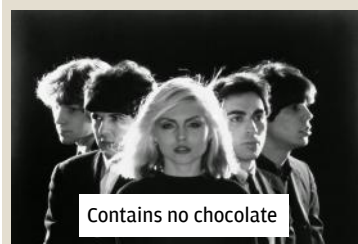
1. Heat the oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4. Line a 22cm square brownie tin with baking parchment.
2. Melt the butter and chocolate together in a microwave or in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water. Cool to room temperature.
3. Whisk the eggs and sugar together until the mixture is light and fluffy.
4. Fold the chocolate mixture into the egg mixture and sift on the flour, baking powder and cocoa. Fold this in to give a fudgy batter.
5. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until the top is cracked but the middle just set. Cool completely, then lift out of the tin and cut.

To this basic recipe you can add, chopped walnuts, chopped pecan nuts, zest of orange, mini marshmallows.

- Mrs Paradissis

History of the Brownie

A chocolate brownie is a flat, baked square developed in the United States at the end of the 19th century. The brownie is a cross between a cake and a cookie in texture. Brownies come in a variety of forms. They are either fudgy or cakey, depending on their density, and they may include frosting, whipped cream, chocolate chips, nuts and other ingredients. A variation that is made with brown sugar and no chocolate is called a blondie.



There are three main myths about the creation of the brownie. The first, that a chef accidentally added melted chocolate to biscuit dough. The second, a cook forgot to add flour to the batter. And thirdly, the most popular belief, that a housewife did not have baking powder and had to improvise. It was said that she was baking for guests and decided to serve these flattened cakes to them.



Episode Seven is a force to be reckoned with - Hayder Shafi, Yr 11

THE FOLLOWING REVIEW CONTAINS SPOILERS FOR *STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS* AS WELL AS THE PREVIOUS *STAR WARS* MOVIES! READ AT YOUR OWN RISK!

Star Wars is arguably the most iconic movie franchise of all time, so when a new instalment starting off a brand new trilogy was announced the anticipation was indescribable. The resulting hype was met with *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, the most anticipated movie ever since *Star Wars: Episode I: The Phantom Menace*.

Directed by JJ Abrams, the man who managed to reboot rival franchise *Star Trek* with style, hopes were high that *Episode VII* would be a 'proper' *Star Wars* movie, which many felt had not come about since *Return of the Jedi* in 1983.

The movie begins three decades after the events of Episode 6 and follows Rey (Daisy Ridley), a scavenger on the desert planet Jakku, yearning for a greater purpose in life and Finn (John Boyega), a Stormtrooper working for the sinister organisation The First Order, who, after his first battle, vows not to kill for them. With the help of hotshot Resistance pilot Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac), they escape the clutches of the First Order. The plot brings the pair to smuggler Han Solo (Harrison Ford) and Wookiee Chewbacca (Peter Mayhew) as they face off against the First Order and the mysterious but deadly Kylo Ren (Adam Driver), racing to find legendary Jedi Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) before The First Order can do.

First of all, this movie *looks* amazing. The cinematography is brilliant and each location has its own unique characteristics (from the huge shots of long-dormant Star Destroyers and AT-AT Walkers on Jakku, to the numerous corridors of Starkiller Base). The visual effects are also brilliant, with practical effects being used as much as possible and blending in seamlessly with the CGI used. The action scenes are masterfully handled, from the TIE Fighters chasing the Millennium Falcon - which is *full* of breath



Rey and Finn leaving lessons at 12:44 heading towards the canteen

taking moments - to the climactic lightsaber fight - which has its own definitive brutally realistic style that sets it apart from duels of old. Humour is more evident in *The Force Awakens* more so than any of the movies in the franchise so far and it rarely doesn't work (highlights include BB-8 giving Finn a thumbs up and a hilarious exchange with Finn and Han on how the Force works).

The characters are very well-realised as well. The movie gives the fresh-faced cast time to breathe and develop their characters, introducing members of the old cast much later on, providing the perfect synthesis of old and new. Ridley and Boyega both give terrific performances, with both characters having great chemistry. Oscar Isaac, although with less screen time than would have been liked, is *extremely* likeable as Poe and his character's role is one of interest for the future instalments for me personally. Poe and Finn's brotherly connection is also very well-realised and believable. BB-8, the new droid in the movie, is *brilliant* and is the centre of many of the movie's funny moments. Harrison Ford is also great as an older, more experienced Han Solo, and the character *feels* like he's been through things since we last saw him. He feels wiser, but at the same time still feels like Han Solo, which was, in my opinion, the perfect way to present the character in this movie.



“Be sure to get the film on Blu Ray!” - someone, probably...

Adam Driver’s performance, along with the script by *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi* scribe Lawrence Kasdan and director JJ Abrams, ensures that Kylo Ren is a great character and a lot of depth is provided for the character. This gives him a sense of purpose and his fear that he will fail to live up to Vader’s legacy is very well-communicated.

There are unfortunately some problems with *The Force Awakens* however: the plot has many beats similar to the original *Star Wars*, some somewhat forgivable (unlikely hero on desert planet, older mentor figure to the young cast killed by the primary antagonist, etc.) and others not (Starkiller Base pushes it being the *third!*) Death Star in the franchise).

Overall, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is definitely a brilliant return for the franchise, managing to have the heart of the best *Star Wars* movies, with development for the returning characters, as well as being able to create great new characters that are more than capable of being the focus of the continuing adventures in a galaxy far, far away.

I’m going to give *The Force Awakens* a 9 out of 10.

★★★★☆



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Photography Trip with Beeb-er



In December, the Photography department was visited by William Leitch, an employee of BBC Northern Ireland, who gave a lesson about how the BBC film their news reports.

Mr Leitch taught the Year 10 enrichment class, as well as doing another class later on in the day. He started off by introducing himself and what he did and then moved on to showing us a video about an airport in Northern Ireland and just asked us to watch.

He then discussed the details of how the film had been made, telling us that only one cameraman had been involved despite the wide variety of shots within it. We then watched another video, this time about the NHS, then we re-watched it, only this time, we were told to count how many different shots had been taken. We counted twenty, in the space of 2-3 minutes.

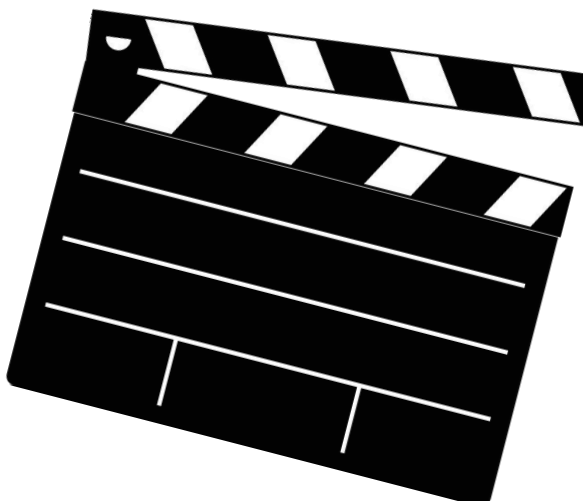
Once we had covered the basics, we were then put to work to make our own masterpiece. Each group of about four people were given a camera and a task. Though the tasks varied, all had one common factor: we were to take five shots, lasting exactly ten seconds... together! We soon set out to work and completed the task to varying degrees of success.

Then, once filmed, we edited out pieces. We weren't allowed to use the fancy effects that the software provided, as they would seem rather out of place on a news report. All we had to do was make a ten second film that portrayed what our task was.

Overall, the lesson was very interesting, particularly for anyone who has interests in journalism and filming as well as cinematography amongst other careers. It was also nice to know more about the TV that we watch every day. It made me more appreciative of what hard work has gone into news reports you see each and every day.



Fergus Holmes-Stanley - Year 10



The ins and outs of the In/Out Referendum

In June this year Britain will vote on a question which will shape Britain's future for at least the next 50 years. So here we go - Europe - yes, or no?

The ramifications of the last referendum ring still loud in the ears of the Scottish people. Electoral Reformers remain hurt by the referendum result in 2011. Memories of the Good Friday Agreement, devolution, and independence are still clear memories. But this referendum will mark a first. The first second referendum on the same issue. Europe.

In 1975 Britain held its first UK wide referendum, on the question of Europe, and now more than 40 years later we are asking the same question. Is it time to take a leap away from our neighbours across the water, or is it more important that we stay united in these tumultuous times for our world?

When David Cameron promised a referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union back in the election campaign, it was written off by most as a simple act to appease the right wing Bruges Group within his party - but then he wrote it into law and now everyone is sitting around, not 100% sure on exactly what to do. Even UKIP, arguably a single issue party on this exact question, have been relatively silent considering its gargantuan potentiality. But which side is right and which is wrong? I'm going to look, as impartially as possible, at a few key arguments for and against our membership of that funny glass building in Brussels.

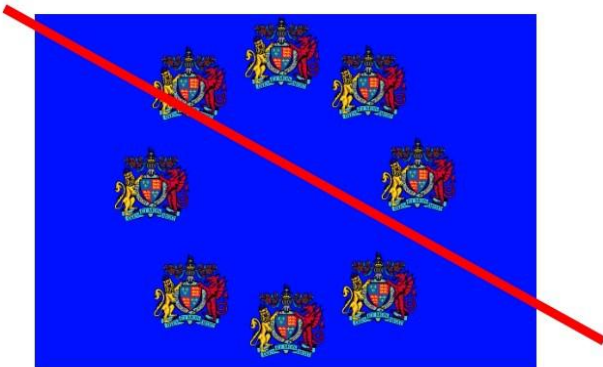


Brexit through the gift shop

One of the key arguments as to why we should leave the EU is the cost. The UK currently pays in around £55 million per day into the European Union according to UKIP figures, with the figure contested by all sides. The EU website suggests the figure sits at around £14 billion per year, putting the daily figure at something more like £37 million per day. These

#Kexit

On June 23rd, King Edward Aston students will have the vote of a lifetime. It is time for us to leave the Foundation and retake our sovereignty. We have been pushed around by faceless Foundation bureaucrats for too long. It is time for #Kexit



#MakeAstonGreatAgain

figures are equal to around half of what we spend on the military each year. Those against our continued membership of the EU argue that the British government would serve us better by spending this money on infrastructure, the NHS, or other things within the UK, arguing for Britain keep money within the UK as opposed to spending money on other countries, or the bureaucracy that is the European Union itself. Those backing Britain's continued membership of the EU argue that our membership of the EU means that while this money might appear to be leaving the country, in reality it is simply being reinvested by a different channel. £6 billion of the money we pay to the EU is reinvested back into the UK directly through agricultural and fishing subsidies and such like. Furthermore, they would argue, that through the free trade agreements, free movement of labour, other investment funds (such as the regional development fund), access to European Courts, membership of the European arrest warrant, and such we essentially receive the same amount of money or more back into Britain that we give away. This is argued as better, in fact, than if the government had full control over it because it opens up different investment and support channels for people normally ignored by the government at Westminster. Similarly, the predicament of Norway and Iceland shows that they have to pay quite a bit of money to the EU exchequer, in order to access the trading bloc, but they don't get much of a say on the rules they still have to follow - living out the principle of taxation without representation - showing that a future outside the EU is not quite as glistening as any UKIPers might have you believe, according to those against Brexit.

The Referendum - EU'all ready for this?

In addition to this, any legislation to pass through Brussels must pass through this highly democratic house, then through a council of European leaders (David Cameron, Philip Hammond, or George Osborne for example, would represent Britain at some meetings depending on their topic - with representatives always being democratically elected). This shows that sovereignty has never really been lost, simply transferred to another, equally democratic and representative location. Plus, they would argue that the free movement of people is no great issue like the right profess it to be given that studies by a number of institutes but most notably the Office for Budget Responsibility show that immigration is currently fuelling Britain's economic growth, with every migrant being beneficial to the country with each paying more into the economy than they take out. Similarly, those backing our membership find the notion that if we left we'd have more border control laughable, taking Switzerland as an example that they were forced into an open border agreement in order to access the full single market for trade, again showing that if we leave we may still have to follow the EU's rules nonetheless. They would also remind Britain that we have overruled the EU before, on the issue of votes for prisoners, for example - reminding us that not everything is set in stone across the pond. Those backing our membership (although no the Tories who back membership, I would hasten to add) would say that the EU rules have protected us from David Cameron infringing on our rights, removing us from the ECHR and essentially writing out some of our rights from their new "British Bill of Rights" so that the government would be allowed to intrude on personal data and such, which is currently forbidden under EU laws.



Those are the main two arguments for the membership of the EU with the issue of migration playing heavily on both issues, especially during this time of migratory turmoil with the Schengen agreement in flux and thousands of refugees

trekking across Europe on foot to find a better life.

Those against the Brexit continually reminding that we still have full control of migration from outside of Europe, and those from within Europe do continually benefit us.

The question of sovereignty, migration, and money are to many but nothing. The principle that in an ever more dividing world, Britain should actively take a role in moving away from our peers terrifies many. With fighting occurring in nations in almost every continent, with the world's climate spiralling out of control, with sea levels rising, populations booming and the world becoming a more and more terrifying place day by day, is isolationism the best decision right now? Should we not be standing shoulder to shoulder, fighting the world's dangers as a team? Or is detachment a much safer bet, allowing us to protect ourselves more effectively?

What will happen? We'll have to wait and see...

EU Referendum	
<small>Place Cross in one box only</small>	
IN	
OUT	
SHAKE IT ALL ABOUT	

Euan Healey - Y12



The website with news and comment that's like a newspaper. But on the internet. So it's not quite a newspaper. Like the name of the website says. Huh.



Not Quite a Newspaper

For more articles by Euan Healey about news and politics visit:

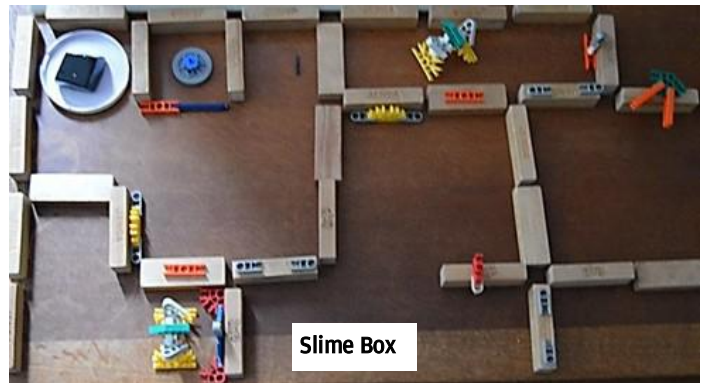
www.notquiteanewspaper.weebly.com

You've been game-framed!

Entertainment has evolved from simple materials; those board games you used to play as a child, now barren and stacked as a dusty decor in your wardrobe or shelf. Interactivity between friends has taken to servers and hosting online, leaving you with frustration: Frame-rate issues, aggression over losing, addiction to violence, "Freemiums" and online multiplayer modes are possibly a reason why we all change attitude. Then you come back and play again... and again... and again, until you cannot define the difference between reality and the virtual world. This isn't a negative protest, but more of a timeline of how we all communicate to each other via gaming. What I am saying may make you realise what you are truly playing.

Going back to the board games we used to love, there are advantages as to why gaming physically more advantageous than online gaming. In light of this, I have created games which are a mix between physical and strategic gaming, inspired from the frames of board games and education. As well as being easier from coding management, the games I generated would provide stronger communication between players of all ages.

There is no pay to win scheme, financial concerns or server



disconnection, but rather engaging concepts that provide enjoyment and true cooperation or competition... for free – like outdoor sports. My games also require educational skills: mathematical logic, creative art, navigational, geographical and communication skills and more. This is the baseline of how my games are played.

Over 30 ideas (and continuing) are made, with newcomers investigating the concepts of my uniquely built games. They are made using construction kits and other unused bric-a-brac that can symbolise game mechanics, characters or objects. Together, the games are perceived as perplexing or bland at first, but when playing through, you can understand the game concepts clearly. The most encouraging part of these games is not the victory, but the gratification of letting your mind free, instead of taxing yourself with controls and an eye-straining screen. And yes, when you win a virtual game, you get virtual rewards; but when you win a game from mine, you get promised prizes – mostly confectionery.

As long as I'm free, I'll provide you with the best of entertainment, no matter what age or skills.

-Aryaan Awais - Year 11



Board? Here's a list of the top selling board games of all time!

5. Monopoly

The game itself was introduced in 1934 by Parker Brothers, though some say it can be traced to as early as 1903 when Elizabeth Phillips created a game called The Landlord's Game. Monopoly involves players moving around the board trying to buy as many properties as possible. Rent is then collected from opponents that end up 'on' the property. Players who become bankrupt are out of the game.



4. Scrabble

Scrabble has been around since 1938 when Alfred Mosher Butts designed the game and James Brunot published it. Players place their pieces (that bear a single letter) across a board either from left to right or in a downward fashion to form words and score points. To avoid debates about the existence of the word formed, there is an official scrabble player's dictionary available, though they can also agree to make use of any other dictionary as basis for verification.



1. Chess

Chess has its roots in India way back in the sixth century, though the modern game can trace its origin to around the year 1200. It is played with 16 pieces of six different types, with each type being able to move differently. The objective is to capture the opponent's king or to force the other player to resignation. Draws, in which neither player wins, are a common occurrence.



If you are interested in joining the school Chess or Go clubs, speak to the Maths department.

3. Backgammon

As proven by excavations in Shahr-e Sukhteh in Iran, backgammon has been around since at least 3000 B.C. The game is a combination of strategy and probability, with a lot of tactics involved. A pair of dice is used to determine the number of spaces that a player can move his pieces. The pieces must be moved judiciously as it is also important to anticipate the counter moves that an opponent may make.



2. Checkers

Also known as draughts, checkers have been around since 3000 B.C., with a board for the game being found in Ur as well as reference towards it being made by the likes of Homer and Plato. The game is for two players, in which they make diagonal moves with the aim of capturing the opponent's pieces by jumping over them. It actually has several variations: the international form of draughts is played on a 10 by 10 board and there are several variants that are played on a 12 by 12 board. The popular version called American checkers, which is also called English draughts, is played on an 8 by 8 board.



Jackets for D of E

Whether you are looking for a tent or a pair of gloves, it is always wise to do some research before you buy. Hopefully this article will be able to guide you through the things to keep in mind before purchasing an outdoor jacket, especially for Duke of Edinburgh.



Choosing the right waterproof jacket that best suits your needs is essential. Your choice is likely to be influenced by price, fit and personal taste and where and when you plan to wear the jacket. Understanding a jacket's waterproof capabilities will help you make an informed decision for the conditions you are likely to use it in.



When looking for waterproofs there are a few features that are good to keep in mind. A good jacket should be durable, you will want to be able to use it for at least a few years under rough conditions. It should have a degree of waterproofing (a high level of Hydrostatic Head or HH). If it happens to downpour however a 2000 mm HH coat wouldn't be of much help as after around 5-10 minutes in constant rain, water would start to seep through the layers. 3000mm HH and upwards would protect you pretty well for most UK conditions.

For maximum 'waterproofness' it's best to aim for 10000 mm HH. With this you should encounter no problems for most conditions across Europe. Jackets that go above 10000 mm aren't necessarily needed for use in the UK as weather conditions are not that extreme, however you can find items at reasonable prices that have 20000 mm of HH.

But it's not all about the rain, a good jacket should also be breathable. When you're walking you won't want to be stuck under a layer of material that gets very uncomfortable. Breathable fabrics let air in and out of the material of the fabric. Key words to look out for when buying a coat are HyVent, Gore-tex, Pertex and AquaGuard. All of these materials are waterproof and breathable.

Last but certainly not least a good jacket will be light, you don't want to feel like you are walking up a mountain in chainmail. A weight of around 500g is reasonable. So, some of the top jackets I would recommend would be the Rab Fuse Jacket, The Evolve II Triclimate, ideal for active mountain men, The North Face Men's Evolve II Triclimate Jacket, a 3-in-1 breathable, waterproof, versatile shell jacket with a synthetic layer or a combination of both for warmth and waterproofness. Happy shopping!



Mr Rean: Rock Star

Following his rocking performance at Bo-stock, Rean returns to the UK

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Vrishan Dagar - Year 10

Rating	Resistance	Weather Conditions
0 – 1,500mm	Water resistant / snowproof	Dry conditions or very light rain
1,500mm – 5,000mm	Waterproof	Light to average rain
5,000mm – 10,000m	Very Waterproof	Moderate to heavy rain
10,000m – 20,000m	Highly Water-proof	Heavy rain

My Musical Journey -

Nathan's a pretty sharp guy

Originally, I really wanted to play drums in Year 1 because my brother played them. I auditioned at my primary school among six others in my year. Unfortunately, I was unsuccessful so I auditioned for brass because my older sister played French horn and I wanted to play it as well. The music teacher was called Mr Fisher, and I managed to receive music lessons for cornet and I was happy playing that instead of French horn.

For about three years I played cornet and I was expected to practise 20 minutes each day. Then in Year 2 and 3 I passed Grade 1 and Grade 2 and joined the Birmingham Schools Training Band. Once I was in Year 4, Mr Fisher gave me a trumpet to complete Grade 3. The trumpet is very similar to the cornet but it produces a brighter tone.

While in Year 5 I worked on my Grade 5 and joined the Birmingham Schools Concert Band. In January 2015 I took my Grade 5 exam. I passed and started to explore some Grade 6 pieces of music until the end of Year 6.

Since coming to King Edward's Aston, I have joined Trumpet ensemble, Trumpet Quartet, Big Band and I have started music lessons with Mr Stubbs. I am hoping to achieve higher grades on trumpet and join more musical groups in the school.

Nathan Mander - Year 7



Mander's shaking his Brass



Cornet Vs. Trumpet

The Trumpet and Cornet are similar members of the Brass instrument family but are generally used for different styles of music. Many advanced players will be competent on both but what exactly is the difference?

Similarities

Firstly, and most obviously, they are both made of the same material, Brass, have 3 valves and the sound is produced on both by 'buzzing' your lips. The tubing is also of an identical length (4 1/2 ft approx without valves depressed), although it is wound much tighter on a Cornet giving the initial appearance that it is shorter even though they are both the same length.

Cylindrical v Conical Bore

The fundamental difference between the instruments is in the shape of the bore (tubing diameter) throughout the instrument. On a Trumpet the bore is Cylindrical, having a consistent diameter throughout the instrument, whereas a Cornet has a Conical bore which gradually increases in size down the length of the tubing. This makes a huge difference to the type of sound that is produced with the Trumpet giving a very piercing, direct sound (think Fanfares) and the Cornet a warmer, softer, rounder sound (think Hovis Bread/Coronation street!).

Younger Children

The vast majority of high brass players originally started their lessons on a Cornet as it is the easiest to hold/handle from a young age. The Cornet and Trumpet are the same length and pitch, but because the Cornet tubing is 'wrapped' tighter it is more comfortable for a small child to hold.

Is One More Popular?

In pure worldwide production terms Trumpets outsell Cornets, predominantly because the Brass Band is a very British ensemble and Trumpets were more popular in the American market.

Motorhead Live with an Aston Old Boy

Motorhead Live at the NIA, Thursday 6th November 2014

Motorhead singer Lemmy Kilmister passed away in 2015. Here follows a recent concert review from Aston Old boy Luke Hawtin:

How in the world is Lemmy still alive? That is the question that has been on everyone's lips since he was admittedly for a lengthy stay in hospital in August '14 due to a haematoma, kidney and heart problems. Half a century in the rock'n'roll business has clearly taken its toll on the aging rocker, his continued alcohol abuse and smoking have almost finished him off on many occasions, however, through what must be miraculous divine intervention, the old sod is still going! And boy, can he still put on a good concert!

So, for what could very well be the last tour the battle-hardened heavy metal trio, they chose a brilliant line-up of support acts. The first band to assault our eardrums was an American Country Rock band from Berlin, called the Bosshoss. Yes; Berlin. They certainly looked as if they were trying a little too hard to seem Texan, with cow skulls adorning the cabinet stacks, and comically large Stetson hats, however this was part of their appeal. The band consisted of four guitarists, a singer, two percussionists and half a mariachi band at the back, and played very moderate country rock, which bordered on cliché, however the overall sense of humour and light-heartedness that the group radiated was infectious, and soon the crowd of awkward looking men clutching pints and bored girlfriends was transformed into a head banging mass of friends, all laughing at the strange nature of the spectacle before them.



Stick this one in your timetables...



Smart Productions™

After the Germanic Hillbillies had vacated the stage area and the weak-bladdered audience had returned with what was most likely beer, the real support act began. The ancient relic of the 1970s London punk rock scene, the Damned, instantly transformed the mood to that of ecstatic nostalgia. The bearded middle aged men suddenly forgot their bad backs and their sore feet and began jumping with energy comparable to a small power station. It then occurred to me that I didn't know any of their songs, let alone any lyrics, and so I began to mumble incoherently along with the vocal line, as is common practice at rock concerts. My X-factor debut was cut short, however, by an arm clobbering into the back of my skull and a swift "SORRY!" the mosh pit had started. Soon enough my lack of lyrical knowledge became obsolete, as all that was now required was boundless energy and two firm legs for jumping. Eventually, the Damned finished their set, and the commotion subsided as men, women and children began another exodus to the toilets. After being lent an extra 10p by a kind stranger, we refuelled on the contents of an overpriced bottle of 'Scottish spring' tap water and returned once again to the mosh pit. To our amazement, the crowd appeared to have doubled in size, and so pushing to the front was incredibly hard work, but making it safely to the railings, we waited for the arrival of 'the loudest band in the world'.

And my god, was it loud! The instant energy of 'Overkill' send the crowd into a frenzy of biblical proportions. The crowd became like a tornado, you would be sucked into

“There I learnt the true degeneracy of Rock’n’roll, and I loved every moment of it. “

the centre by a mass of bodies and quickly shot out in a random direction, hoping to collide with something more solid and less embarrassing than a pair of rather large breasts. While there is no denying the pit could be intimidating at times, the mood was that of frenzied excitement, rather than of aggression. Sure, there were elbows flying in from every direction, but if a man went down, he would swiftly be returned to his feet by those around him. The occasional jumped-up prick would attempt to start a fight with a fellow reveller, but they would often conspicuously disappear, most likely “sorted out” by an aging hells angel, as many dotted the crowd as an unofficial peacekeeping force. Unfortunately, the constant ecstasy took its toll on yours truly, and I had to find the nearest bar for a drink or ten. It was just my luck that as I topped the stairs, the bar’s shutters promptly closed, leaving me with little alternative to stealing a cup and using the dubious water supply in the toilets for refreshment. Returning to the crowd, intricately weaving to the front, the wall of noise hit me again, I began to question whether I would ever be able to hear again. But then it dawned on me that I really could not care less. The entire concert was catnip, the atmosphere was electric, the crowd was incredible and the fact that I was watching living legends who stuck there middle finger up at old age and carried on rocking was surreal. The entire feel was different to any concert I have been to before or since, it harked back to an older time. A time when crowd surfers only had to face the prospect of being stripped of all valuables, rather than being thrown out, where drugs were passed freely from

person to person and the security guards didn’t give a toss if you offered them some. All in all I left bruised, deaf and plastered in sweat but bands, ultimately, euphoric. So I would recommend going to see old bands, as although they may have long gone grey, they were the pioneers of anti-establishment counter-culture and they know how to rock.

There I learnt the true degeneracy of Rock’n’roll, and I loved every moment of it.



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GUITAR HERO

Learning a new instrument. . .

I have wanted to play the guitar for years, and now at Aston I can! When I started playing the guitar in Year 7 I didn't know a single note, I didn't even know what the strings were called but after my first lesson with Mr McBrien playing the intro to the original batman theme song I felt quite confident. I worked my way through the first two Guitarist Way books very quickly and before I knew it I was beginning my Grade 1 practice. At the end of year 7 Mr McBrien said I had made excellent progress from knowing nothing about the guitar to doing my Grade 1.

I was soon confident enough to join the school Training Band and so I did and ever since I have enjoyed playing with a group of other people and earning achievement points while doing so.

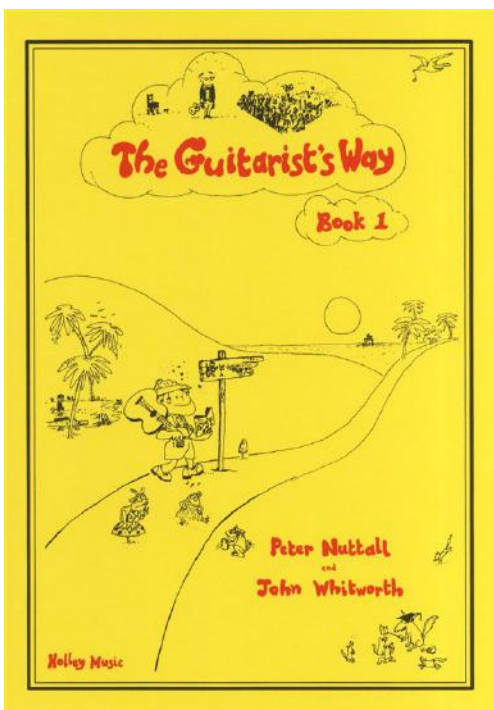
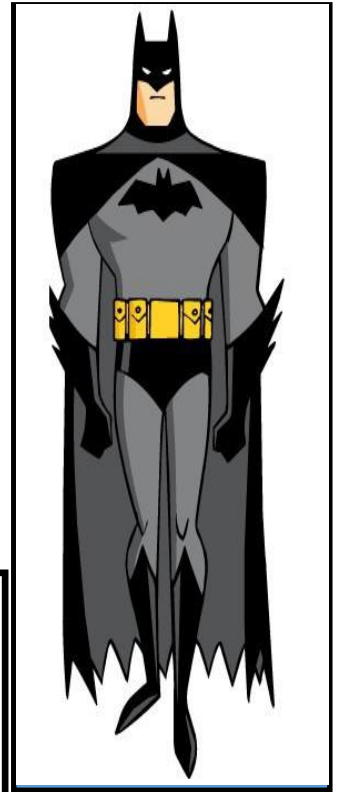
Now in Year 8 I am one month away from doing my Grade 1 and now I had Mr Phillips to help me get my pieces perfect and now I'm almost there. I need to perfect my last piece "Marrakech" and I will be good to go.

I have really enjoyed playing the guitar and in doing so have been able to use it during curriculum music lessons. We got to perform our blues pieces in groups where I could use my guitar and our group sounded great.

I would like to thank Mr McBrien and Mr Phillips for teaching me how to play the guitar and I hope I manage to get my Grade 1.

Thaminder Gill – Year 8

The music department at Aston provides tuition on a wide range of instruments so if you are interested in learning something new just ask a member the music staff.



Is Gill the next guitar legend???

Earth is restless! Needs 5 more minutes?

Everyone knows that the Earth isn't exactly dead; it has been constantly moving and changing over the millions of years because of tectonic plates. These plates move very slowly but over the years, the impact these have on the world is amazing: super continents like Pangea appear every now and then, then they break up into smaller chunks and drift aimlessly before clashing into each other again. Living on top of these plates is not that bad but living on plate boundaries well, that's a whole other story.



Photography with
Mr Healey is lit

Why is it dangerous to live on a plate boundary? Let's see: there are volcanoes which are living time bombs as there is no telling when they may erupt; there are earthquakes which are devastating and there are tsunamis, walls of water moving at ninety miles per hour, with devastating consequences. Quite lovely don't you think? But let's focus on volcanoes for the meantime.

Ever seen one of those simulations of a nuclear bomb exploding? Now imagine a force that is about one hundred times more powerful than that. That's a typical volcano: blowing its top off ejecting millions of ash particles into the atmosphere that circles

the globe, although there is the regular small, quiet eruptions that occur more often than the massive eruptions. As they are very unpredictable, there is just no telling whether a volcano is dormant or active or when the next eruption will be. A prime example is Vesuvius, Italy. August 24, 79 AD, the volcano showed signs of eruption; small earthquakes rumbled in the Roman city of Pompeii in the morning. Then suddenly at noon, Vesuvius blew its top off sending an ash cloud twelve miles into the sky. The eruption lasted for eighteen hours according to Pliny the Younger's account. In the first stage of the deadly eruption, it hailed pumice over the city along with ash and other debris. Then the ash cloud ran down the sides of the volcano, burning and destroying everything in its path, collapsing buildings, burying two thousand bodies of people who had died from the toxic gas and the deadly pyroclastic flow. The ash cloud continued its descent, wiping Pompeii from the map covering it in sixteen feet of ash and dirt.



Ever since this disastrous eruption, Vesuvius has been active, erupting a few dozen times since it destroyed Pompeii in 79 AD. The last time it erupted was back in 1944 joining in the biggest wars the world has ever seen: WW2. The Italians were taken by surprise with some of their air bases were destroyed in the eruption: there's another reason why we won WW2. But this was nothing compared to the eruption back in 79 AD. Ever since, the volcano has remained silent, sleeping as Naples and other small villages thrive. Scientists believe that another eruption is imminent but they are unsure when it will occur but also,

they are unsure if the next eruption will be a catastrophic one.

However, there is another greater threat across the Atlantic; a threat so big that it will shake the world to its core and it will push humans to our very limits: Yellowstone. Now if volcanoes are one hundred times more powerful than nuclear bombs, a super volcano is a thousand times more powerful than a standard volcano. The main differences between a super volcano and a volcano are quite obvious: they are much more powerful (hence the name), they form calderas (formed from a collapsed

magma chamber) and they erupt less frequently and by less frequently I mean their eruptions are a few hundred thousand years apart.



I Lava You - Volcano erupts as he confesses his love in ukulele song

For more information see:
Inside Out (2015)

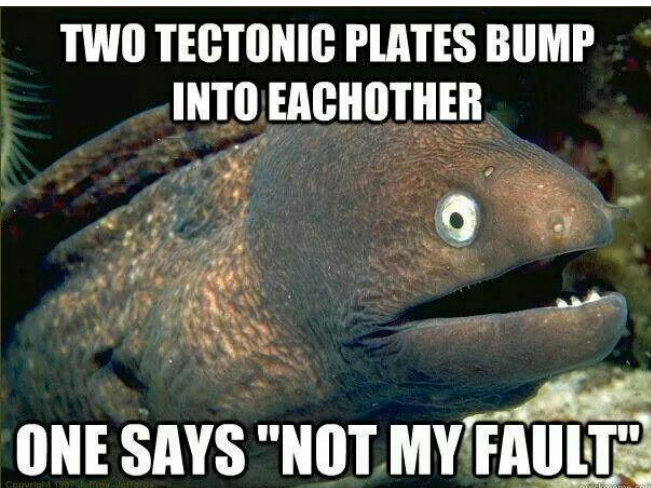
Earth is still restless - should probably go to bed earlier

It is estimated that Yellowstone should erupt every 600,000 years but the last eruption was roughly 640,000 years ago. Put simply, we are overdue.

Back in 1815, the eruption of Mt. Tambora, Sumbawa, Indonesia, was the biggest eruption ever recorded by humans in the last 10,000 years. The eruption was classed as a VEI 7 (Volcanic Explosivity Index provides a relative measurement of eruptions) This VEI 7 eruption altered the globe's climate change in the next year ejecting enough debris and ash to cover Singapore in 245 meters of it. Vesuvius was classed a VEI 5 so Tambora was 20 times much more powerful than Vesuvius as the scale increases by a factor of 10 as you go up the scale. 70,000 people died during the eruption in 1815 however, hundreds of thousands may have perished in the aftermath. As the eruption ejected 175 cubic kilometers and the ash cloud was high in the stratosphere with all the other gases it produced, the world temperature dropped a couple degrees with the temperatures at night in the autumn seasons reaching below freezing point.



The Earth looked like this before she suffered a pretty bad break-up



happen, Yellowstone is a force to be reckoned with.

If a VEI 7 eruption can do this, then imagine what a VEI 8, a supervolcanic eruption could do. Climate changes will occur with the global temperatures going down by at least 10 degrees causing famines in the summer and freezing cold winters. Food would be scarce and it could potentially plunge the Earth into another ice age. If Yellowstone erupted, we would have millions of refugees with ash falling around the globe at about 4 feet while millions will die of suffocation and in the pyroclastic flows. It would definitely be a global disaster.

Luckily, some scientists believe that Yellowstone wouldn't have another VEI 8 eruption anytime soon: it has only had 3 major eruptions in the last 3 million years. However, just because there may be an unlikely chance that this may

It's actually quite good to have these huge giants in our world because they are there as a reminder of how powerful nature can be and how unpredictable it is. They are there to always remind us that even though we have taken over the world as a race, there are just some things that we cannot control on our active planet.

- Kenneth De Leon - Year 10





QA with
Joe Morris

We caught up with our very own

England U18 rugby player who
played for Worcester Warriors

Men's 2nd team and trained with the 1st



Why Rugby, isn't bowls much safer?

I enjoy the cold and wet weather, getting muddy and risking life and limb with chance that there will be some good banter. Bowls is too safe for me!

Ever had any injuries? Ever caused any injuries?

Yes I've had a few injuries in my time. Have broken my nose a couple of times, concussion, mallet finger (if you know what that is?) and recently dealt with a shoulder injury, for those science enthusiasts amongst you, officially known as neuropraxia in the brachial plexus nerve bundle. That put me out from playing for 10 weeks this season sadly, but not that I want to put anyone off from playing rugby, of course! No one intends to cause injury, I hope, but I guess I may have done some minor damage to some opponents since starting.

Who are your sporting heroes?

Quite surprisingly I look up to players that are not a part of the English rugby circuit, but are instead a part of the Southern Hemisphere breeding ground for excellent rugby players. David Pocock was a particular inspiration when I became interested in rugby as a back row player and I read his autobiography and watched him play, admiring his ability in the breakdown and in open play. More specific to my position, I am inspired by two props Owen and Ben Franks, known as the Franks Brothers. Both are strong and versatile players in relation to other props in the professional game at the moment and I aspire to play in a similar style to these two players.



Did any of the teachers at Aston help/inspire you when you were younger?

In Year 8, Mr Ibbetson encouraged me to join Sutton Coldfield RFC, which really boosted my interest in the game and it was at that point that it became more than just a hobby. I probably have to mention all of the rugby coaches that I have encountered since Year 7 because they have all made a contribution to my rugby pathway. Particular thanks must go to Mr Finn for helping my development in the most important years, leading to my selection for England U16, U17 and now U18 teams.

What sort of training do you do?

A lot. At the height of the season, a weekly programme would consist of: three rugby training sessions, four or five gym sessions and usually one game per week, occasionally two games per week. There is more than just physical training that goes on however. Game reviews, watching professional matches, mental prompts and tactics. A bit of rugby homework to take my mind off the stresses of school homework!

What about diet, bet you could eat a whole lettuce in one go?

Not a fan of lettuce sadly! Chicken is the mainstay of my diet; my mother is like a personal chef and regularly cooks a batch of chicken with some carbohydrates and usually a pepper and spinach combo. The shameless cheat day still comes around every week or so however, not quite into 'eating clean' 24/7 just yet.

Have you ever been to Rugby?

Actually no, I know some people at Rugby School but I have never been to Rugby itself. I should probably head on over there sometime.



Hooker, line and sinker

Mr Ibbetson replaced one type of tackle with another in 'plaicing' fish into rugby positions. As crazy as it sounds, Mr I is proving that 'any fin' is possible with this ofishal lineup of freshwater beauties. Whilst Mr Ibbetson himself is probably fishing for compliments, many believe it's all a load of pollocks.



Mr Ibbetson's living room - apparently...



Mr Ibbetson's Freshwater Fish Rugby XV

Perch

Bream 1 2 3 Common Carp

Tench 4 5 Mirror Carp

Zander 6 7 Dace

8 Pike (captain)

9 Gudgeon

10 Salmon

12 Chub

13 Barbel

11 Grayling

Brown Trout 14

Rainbow Trout 15

Subs.
- Roach
- Rudd
- Bleak

1. Thick set and inmoveable	6. Destructive	11. Speedy
2. Ferocious and tenacious	7. Dace	12. Solid Lump
3. Inmoveable	8. Don't mess with these	13. Quick and powerful
4. Solid	9. Quick and agile	14. Elusive
5. Solid but mobile	10. Ask Mr Finn about his encounter with these!	15. Quick, elusive and powerful

He don't swim half fast!

Jude Zenatti-Daniels (Year 8) is swimming with the fishes at an elite level

I used to participate in Heather Bradbury's swimming group until I received my gold award. From there, I was asked by my instructor, Charlotte, whether I'd like to participate in the elite swimming regime. It involved the same people, and I thoroughly enjoy it.

We participate in water polo, stamina swims (aka seeing how many lengths you can do in one hour without stopping!), timed swims, various techniques and touches and even competing with the other swimmers.

We're divided into three ranked groups (from worst to best) and while I may be at the bottom now, we have time trials to see if you can go lower or higher. Overall I'm very fond of swimming, even though when I started out I was afraid of putting my head underwater!



Poolfinder

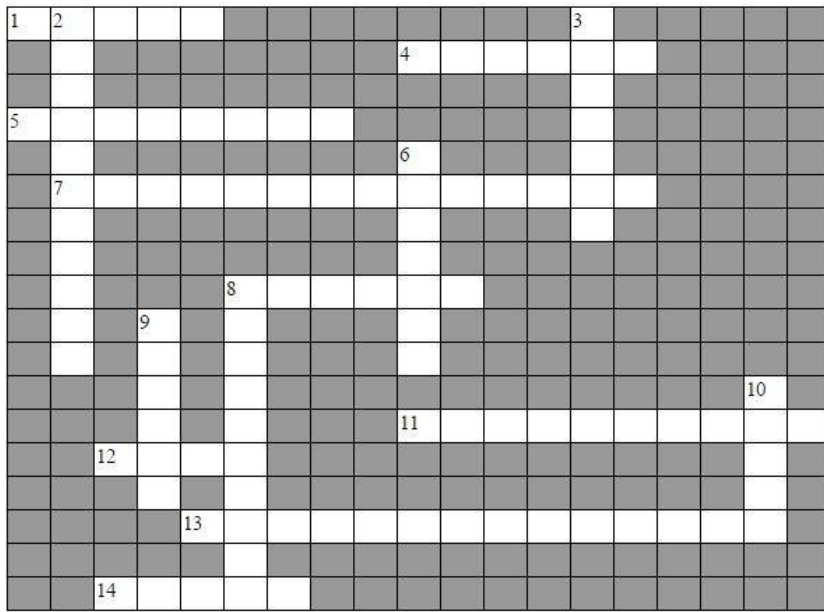
Use this link to find your nearest swimming pool:

www.swimming.org/poolfinder

Puzzles

E-ZINESCOPEs

QUICK CROSSWORD

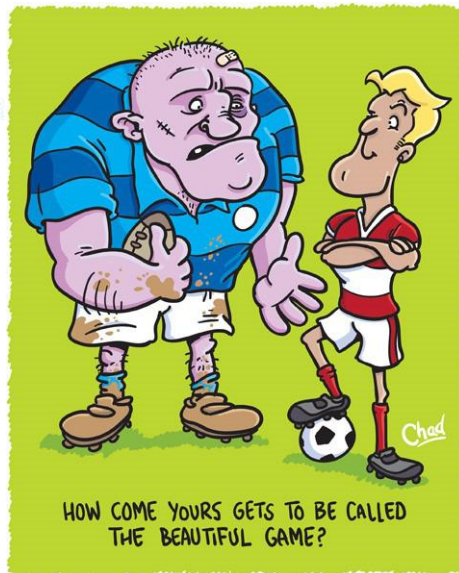


ACROSS

- 1. Requires 16 pieces of 6 different types
- 4. Mr Finn's favourite fish
- 5. Somewhere between a cookie and a cake
- 7. Forever young
- 8. Clashers' currency
- 11. General vote by the electorate on a single political question
- 12. A force sensitive individual
- 13. The art of photography and camerawork in film-making
- 14. Answers to this crossword can be found here

DOWN

- 2. Equilibrium of liquids
- 3. Vesuvius buried it
- 6. Waste material: refuse or litter
- 8. Katrina and the Waves won this
- 9. Like a trumpet but more mellow
- 10. Joe Morris has never been here



Crossword Answers:

- ACROSS
- 1. Chess 4. Salmon 5. Brownie 7. Semper Iuvenis 8. Elixir
 - 11. Referendum 12. Jedi 13. Cinematography 14. Ezine
- DOWN
- 2. Hydrostatic 3. Pompeii 6. Rubbish
 - 8. Eurovision 9. Cornet 10. Rugby



Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

The Ram inside you wants to get out. Have a heart transplant.

Taurus Apr 21-May 21

Destiny holds many cats. Not the furry "miaow" "purr" type creatures, more like Common Assessment Task beasts.

Gemini May 22-Jun 21

Your intellectual nature will lead you to make a deal at a crossroads. If you reject this deal failure shall be yours, if you do not, failure will be yours eventually.

Cancer Jun 22-Jul 23

You sometimes get the feeling that you're more related to lobsters and woodlice than you let on. Don't let this get to you; just because you have a hard shell and pincers doesn't mean you're not special.

Leo Jul 24-Aug 23

Greed will haunt you. Ovals will be your enemy. Anger is your friend. Toblerones will slay

Virgo Aug 24-Sep 23

The influence of Venus means your love life will pick up soon; perhaps, at last, the name of your sign will no longer be appropriate.

Libra Sep 24-Oct 23

Mercury threatens your relationship with your greatest ally. Be sure to keep your life in balance and keep a healthy lifestyle while also keeping your dental hygiene top-notch. Bad breath stinks!

Scorpio Oct 24-Nov 22

It's not always easy having a large stinger on your back. Eight legs do not mean an easy life. You may face discrimination for this. If you do, your own unique venom will see you through.

Sagittarius

Nov 23-Dec 21

Back of the class. You need to work on your marksman skills. Please contact pinarusInventius5@notmail.com for more advice.

Capricorn Dec 22-Jan 20

Everyone dies at some point. You will never, unless you do.

Aquarius Jan 21-Feb 19

You will one day cover 70% of the Earth's surface.

Pisces Feb 20-Mar 20

Your small brain relative to your body size will not determine your future. If it does you're doing it wrong.

Our qualified psychics have communed with the celestial spirits who govern our lives to produce these predictions that we've tailored specifically for you, dear reader! In need of further psychic advice? Do you have problems with the supernatural? If so, email PsychicsRUs@gmail.de

Talk



The E-Zine has declined in quality over recent years

But could the new journalist team make a difference?

- Jennifer Lawrence got it bang on the nose with her opinion piece (E-Zine, Friday). This year's setup is so much worse than it was before. I remember when this magazine gave us *proper* journalism - investigating such worthy causes as abuses in the Headmaster's expenses, misuse of the sports equipment, deep-rooted corruption in the Senior Prefect Team. Now, I am appalled to see the E-Zine run borderline *clickbait!* And the ads! *The ads!* To think that I would live to see this bastion of fine journalism sell out. Absolute disgrace.

Henry, Royal Sutton Coldfield

- New E-Zine team are clearly the best editors Aston has ever had. J-Law should stick to the day job.

Vikram, Swansea

Hungry for more

Hunger Games star Jennifer Lawrence wants a change in the E-Zine team, arguing that they need more Year 7 representation

Our headline from last Friday

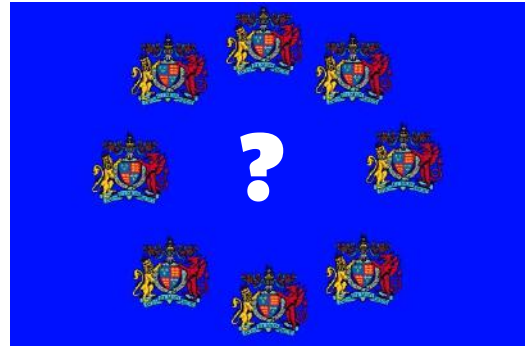
- Bravo to Jennifer Lawrence, saying what everyone else is thinking but doesn't dare say.
Meredith, Melbourne
- Why can't people see that the new team has transformed the E-Zine? It is ridiculous that closed minded imbeciles ignore the facts presented to them just to carry on some elitist rant. If people had more faith, they would see that the E-Zine is delivering the same top-quality journalism as before, only now in a much more visually appealing format.
Cameron, Staffs

♥ RUSH-HOUR CRUSH ♥

Love (well, lust) is all around us, as shown by the messages left by our E-Zine cupids. Are they talking about you? Don't forget to tell us if you hook up!

- Boy with the generic black school bag. I saw you at the start of the year when you dropped your bag beside mine outside the main entrance. I think we've had the wrong bag ever since. Maybe we would get on well together?
Boy with the same bag as you
- BORED teacher with a red pen. Attractive stack of books. How's about you pencil me in sometime?
Homework that hasn't been marked in 2 years
- IMMACULATELY DRESSED boy in school uniform. How do you get your shirt to stay tucked in and your tie tied longer than an inch? Let me into your fashion secrets.
Scruffy McSmelly
- Slightly angry P.E teacher. I saw you when you were 30 minutes late. Do you always shout so loudly? If so, then sign me up! X
Timid student





#KEXIT - King Edward's Foundation is a waste of school resources

But is Aston better as part of the team?

- Leaving the Foundation would be a huge mistake - 84% school income comes from exporting DT creations and Food Tech brownies (pg. 11) to the different King Edward Schools. And don't think that leaving will mean better relations with KES! Their recent announcement concerning the 10 years-worth of negotiations necessary to restore DT trade to other schools just shows why we should remain. *SJ Whittaker, Samberdown*
- Yes! Yes! A thousand times, yes! Too many of our school rules are made in the foundation, and it is ludicrous that our democratically elected school council can be overruled by a bunch of shadowy, overpaid bureaucrats in Edgbaston. Now is our opportunity to regain our power as a school and to regain control over our own gates. *Handsome, Walsall*



AND ANOTHER THING...

- It is totally ridiculous that Tony (Ezine, Tue) thinks that about the Frosties' Kid. Everyone knows he was dead all along and was a hologram brought about by CGI. Duh!
Iain, Glasgow
- It is totally ridiculous that Tony (Ezine, Tue) thinks that about the Frosties' Kid. Everyone knows he was dead all along and was a hologram brought about by CGI. Duh!
with grass. Clearly no concern for hayfever sufferers such as myself.
Snuffles, Lancaster
- Ashamed. Ashamed. Ashamed.
Indira F, Kent
- Difficulty buying scollops at the local chip shop CAN NOT be attributed to neighbouring geese. Their honks may be distracting, but it is your own problems that make you unable to buy them.
Marr, Oxford
- Very disappointed in the school for replacing the lovely concrete in the plaza
- Year 7: I'm the one who's been taking all your shoes. If you want to know where they are, you'll need to give me a tenner and a packet of Quavers. **Clare, Birmingham**



Great: Is the Frosties Kid dead? Or CGI?



Roswell Daily Record

RAAF Captures Flying Saucer Ranch in Roswell Region

THREE BATTERED IN FISH SHOP

Man gaoled for assault

PRESIDENT KENNEDY IS KILLED BY SNIPER!

Shot To Dallas Hospital
From Head

EXTRA HEADLINES EXTRA

JULY 21, 1969

DIANA WAS STILL ALIVE HOURS BEFORE SHE DIED

Springfield Shopper

BOY DISCOVERS COMET



EXTRA! EXTRA! OMG!

"Beatlemania" SW

How It All Started



MAN WALKS ON MOON

LOCAL MAN THINKS WRESTLING IS REAL



Man found dead in graveyard

THE SUN

HE WAS 42 AND ALONE KING ELVIS DEAD

City unsure why the sewer smells



WALL STREET

£50,000 BINGO

FREDDIE STARR ATE MY HAMSTER

Comic put a live pot in sandwich, says beauty

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

BREAKING NEWS!!!

New York Times

STOCKS COLLAPSE BUT RALLY AT CLOSE

LATEST NEWS

JEWEL IN MY CROWN

DAILY NEWS

EXTRA! EXTRA!