# THE QUARTERLY GAZETTE

Autumn Edition



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AUTUMN EDITION

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# NOTE FROM THE EDITORS



Welcome back everyone! What an amazing start to the academic year we have had across the school! *The Quarterly Gazette* team has been working tirelessly to put together a vibrant edition that showcases the highlights of this term here at Gordon's and around the world: we discover new cultures, films, recipes and stories that range from current affairs to student success. Whatever your interests, there is something in this edition for you!

This term has been full of such vibrant productivity and success from all regions of the school, and here at *The Quarterly Gazette* we want to be the platform to celebrate student and staff success and to get to hear more about them and their journey to success. A new academic year, as it always does, brings new members and students who begin to write and express their opinions through their articles, and it has been lovely to see the development of articles and voices who bring a new level of diversity to our team at *The Quarterly Gazette*.



Personally, the Creative Arts Department have been back to work starting two new Senior and Junior productions of *Big Fish* and *Elf!* They have also already completed a one night only run of *The Little Mermaid* for the 24hr Musical. The Music Department has run Inter-House Music Groups and Solos which went down a storm and led to some fierce competition between the Houses. I love getting involved in all aspects of the school outside of my studies as it gives me new friendships, skills and perspectives which I can apply to both my writing and also academic studies. That being said, I would encourage anyone with a spare ten minutes in their week to sit down and write something. Write a full article, a short quiz or even a potential idea for a podcast episode - anything is welcome here and we love to see the enthusiasm from our fully student team about their writing and chosen topics of interest.

I would also like to thank Year 13, Ben from everyone at *The Quarterly Gazette* for taking the incredible photos on the front and back cover at this year's Remembrance Parade. What a talented student, and what amazing photos!

As we begin to move towards Christmas and the New Year, I would encourage everyone to check in on each other as this is the time where people become tired and are in danger of burning out, and everyone needs someone to lean on. Be kind to everyone and try your hardest in everything that you do! I hope that you enjoy this edition of *The Quarterly Gazette*!

**Kate**

***Print Editor-in-Chief, The Quarterly Gazette***

# NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

As the Autumn Term draws to a close, it is hard to believe how quickly the first term of the school year has passed. From the return to school in September to the many events, competitions and achievements that have filled the weeks since, it has certainly been a busy few months at Gordon's.



The start of a new academic year always brings a sense of change. New students have joined our community, new responsibilities have been taken on and, for many of us, the familiar routines of school have begun once again. Yet, alongside the inevitable deadlines and early mornings, this term has given us plenty to celebrate.



For *The Quarterly Gazette*, this term has been particularly exciting. As editors, we have had the opportunity to bring together the voices, ideas and experiences that make life at Gordon's so varied. From sport and music to politics, current affairs and student opinion, this edition aims to capture just some of what has made the Autumn Term memorable.

We have also continued to develop T*he Quarterly Gazette* beyond the printed page. With our website and social media allowing us to share more regularly, we hope that *The Quarterly Gazette* will not simply be something to read at the end of term, but a space where students can express their views, challenge ideas and celebrate the achievements of those around them.

More than anything, I hope this edition reflects the character of our school. Gordon's is a community full of people with different interests, opinions and ambitions, and it is those differences that make our school such an interesting place to be.

As we look towards the new year, I would encourage everyone to get involved. Write something. Share an idea. Challenge an opinion. Tell us about something you are proud of. *The Quarterly Gazette* belongs to its readers as much as it does to its editors, and we are always looking for new voices to join us.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition, and to our readers for continuing to support *The Quarterly Gazette*. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together

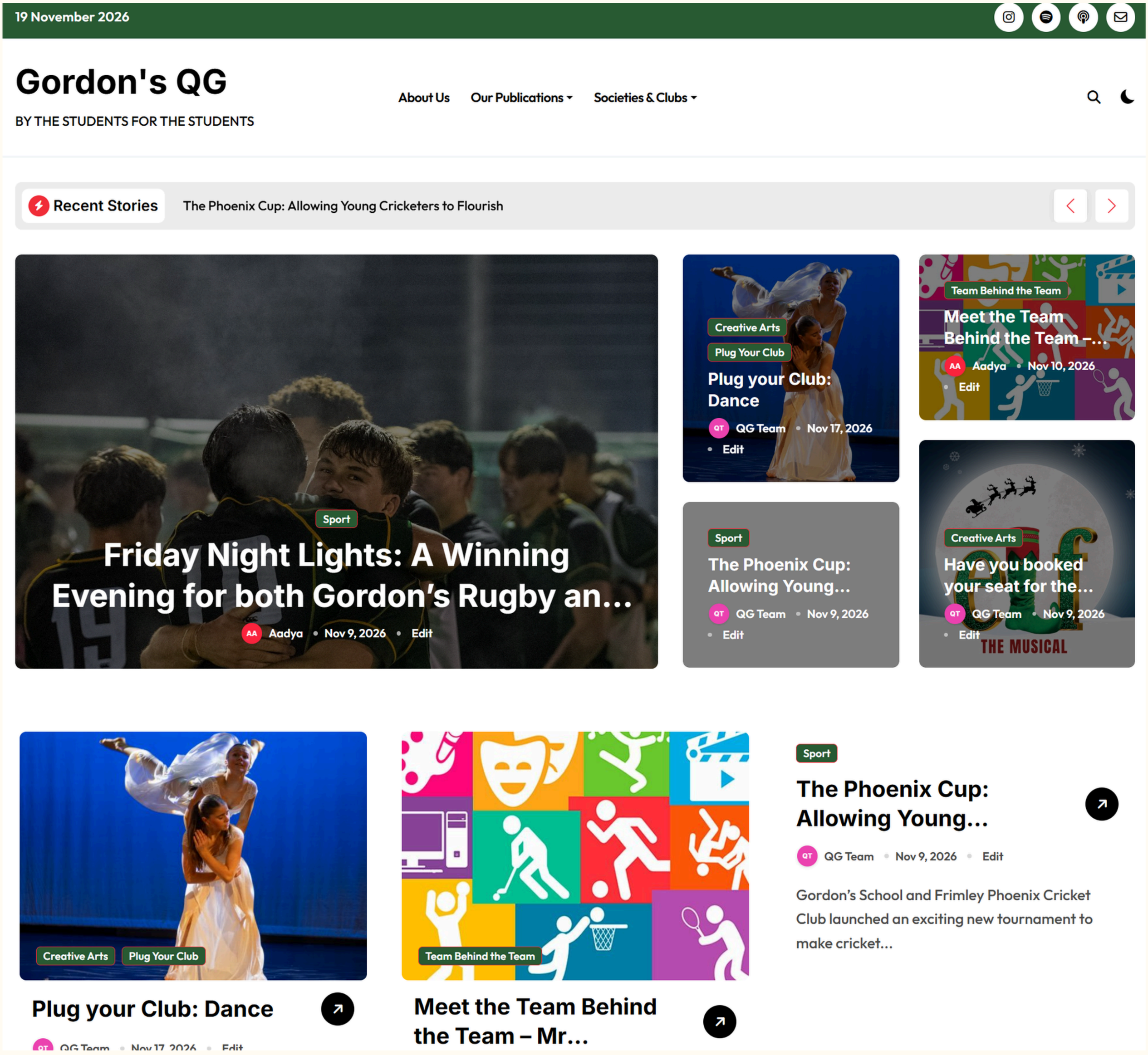
**Aadya**
***Website Editor-in-Chief, The Quarterly Gazette***

# THE QG WEBSITE

## BREAKING NEWS

***The Quarterly Gazette* is sporting a brand new look with fresh features for you to explore. Articles written by the students, for the students.**

**www.gordonsqg.co.uk**







**Plug your Club: Dance**

QT QG Team • Nov 17, 2026 • Edit




**Meet the Team Behind the Team – Mr...**

Sport

**The Phoenix Cup: Allowing Young...**

QT QG Team • Nov 9, 2026 • Edit

Gordon's School and Frimley Phoenix Cricket Club launched an exciting new tournament to make cricket...

# PODCAST EPISODE CATALOGUE




DEBRIEF WITH THE DIRECTOR




AN AUDIENCE WITH AMELIE




OVER THE YEARS WITH MR OLDEN




CATCH UP WITH THE CAPTAINS




RUGBY WITH MR RICHARDS




DANCE WITH MISS BANKS




SCHOOL OF ROCK WITH JESS & EMILIA




GORDON'S WRAPPED! 2026




SO LONG, FAREWELL - BONUS




GIRLS' RUGBY SCHOLARS

**Episodes coming out soon...**

ACE Rugby

ELF JR!

All episodes of *The Quarterly Gazette Podcasts* can be found on the website which also contains links to *Spotify* and *Apple Podcasts*.

THE QUARTERLY GAZETTE

AUTUMN EDITION

# AUTUMN TERM 2026
































THE QUARTERLY GAZETTE

AUTUMN EDITION

# AUTUMN TERM 2026































WINDSOR

# HOUSE NEWS

As the academic year comes to a close, Windsor House reflects on a fantastic year filled with achievement, community spirit and memorable experiences. The final week of term was particularly busy, featuring Summer Arts, House Awards, Prom, MAD Day, the Creative Arts Dinner and Academic Dinner. Each event showcased the incredible talents, dedication and enthusiasm of our students.

We also celebrated outstanding sporting success, with Windsor students contributing to exceptional performances at the Netball World School Games and receiving well-deserved recognition for their achievements throughout the year. A special shout out goes to Year 9 who won every Inter-House sporting competition as Woolwich, alongside Augusta! A thrilling moment was winning the Inter-House Song Competition with a fantastic performance of *Black Magic* by Little Mix, again, as Woolwich, with some fantastic solo's from our Windsor students.





MAD Day provided an opportunity for students to give back to the local community through environmental projects, visits to care homes, support for local schools and community initiatives. Meanwhile, Sixth Form students worked tirelessly to help prepare Windsor House for the new academic year, demonstrating the teamwork and service that are at the heart of our house community.










Above all, we would like to thank our students, staff and parents for their continued support throughout the year. Together, you have helped make Windsor House a positive, supportive and successful home for all.

With the new academic year upon us, and new students quickly becoming part of the Windsor community highlights have included: the Big Bounce, an outdoor screening of *Wonka*, water fights, a huge amount of baking at the weekends, a Gel Blaster Shootout and the annual Halloween trip to Thorpe Park! There is never a dull minute in boarding! We were thrilled for our Sixth Form team who won Inter-House Cross Country, and to our Year 9 and Year 10 bakers from Windsor, Gabby and Rhiona (Aug), who came home with another shield winning Inter-House Baking, with their delicious Pumpkin treats! Congratulations to all the students involved in the 24hr musical, another fantastic evening of entertainment put on in such a short space of time!

We now look forward to Christmas celebrations, trips and House events....keep an eye on our social media pages to keep up with all our news!

# HOUSE NEWS

AUGUSTA

The Summer Term was another incredibly busy and successful period for Augusta House, with students embracing every opportunity to compete, perform, develop new skills and celebrate together.

Sport was a particular highlight. Augusta finished second overall in the Inter-House cricket competition, with our Year 9 team winning their age group. Our Year 9 students enjoyed an exceptional sporting year, remaining undefeated across all Inter-House events, including a fantastic football victory. Sports Day brought further success, with Miley winning the long jump and our Year 9 and 10 4×100m relay team securing victory alongside the Windsor girls. Augusta students also excelled in netball, shooting and athletics.







Beyond sport, Augusta celebrated a second consecutive Longmoor victory and won the Inter-House Song Competition with a fantastic performance of *Black Magic* by Little Mix. Ash and Tia also impressed with their solo performances. Students represented Augusta in debating and school productions, while Kyra was selected for the England U18 Rugby Camp. Precious and Grace successfully completed their Silver DofE expedition along the Jurassic Coast.

We ended the Summer Term by celebrating our Year 11 and Year 13 leavers. We are incredibly proud of all our students and wish them every success for the future.



The new academic year has started brilliantly, with new students quickly becoming part of the Augusta community. Highlights have included the Big Bounce, an outdoor screening of *Wonka*, water fights, a Gel Blaster Shootout and a trip to Chessington World of Adventures.

With Christmas celebrations, trips and House events ahead, we are looking forward to another exciting chapter for Augusta House!

# HOUSE NEWS

KENSINGTON

As always the Summer Term was packed with activities and achievements including House fun and competitive events. In May, we enjoyed competing for the Longmoor Cup and other Inter-House Competitions, which all took place in soaring temperatures. In Inter-House Cricket the girls came first and were second in football, which took place for the first time after Patron's Parade and was a great success. The House ended the sporting year with a respectable second place in the sports table. The Inter-House Song Contest had to take place in the Rec because of the heat outside and the girls enjoyed another second place there, making them second overall in the Arts Cup. Our House trip to Guildford Lido an absolute pleasure on a warm and sunny evening.

After the exams, the older girls enjoyed House meals out of school as well as Prom and Leavers' Dinners in school. Our Year 11 and 13 girls excelled in their public examinations and we were pleased to welcome our 'old' Year 11 girls back as well as five new girls into the House in September for their Sixth Form experience. The new Year 12 team is an impressive group!





The Autumn Term brought us wonderful new girls in Year 7 who have all settled very well into school. All our Year 7 girls did us proud marching for the first time in the Harvest Parade, supported by the Years 9 and 11 girls who gave up their lunch times to help them. Cross Country and Tug of War were the first big Inter-House Sporting Competitions and we were delighted when the girls came first in both these exciting events. In the Inter-House Music Competitions, the Solo Competition was won by Kate  and in the Groups, the girls came second. Baking led to second place for Victoria and Zara, and the older girls made it through to the semi-final for Debating Pizza evenings. Autumn games in the House and Family Competitions brought lots of entertainment and we are looking forward to the fun that the run up to Christmas always brings. To cheer us on, we look forward to the Year 11 Escape Rooms, our evening trip Ice Skating at Hampton Court and our House party.





# HOUSE NEWS

The summer term was a memorable and highly successful one for Sandringham, with achievements across sport, music and House competitions creating plenty of reasons to celebrate.

One of the highlights of the summer term was our impressive performance at Sports Day. After narrowly missing out on victory in recent years, Sandringham proudly claimed first place in both the Year 8 and Year 9 competitions. The wins were made even more special by some outstanding individual performances. Congratulations go to Elnathan and Dan, who both set new high jump records, securing their places in the school record books and demonstrating the rewards of hard work and determination.



Success did not stop on the athletics track. In a result that may have surprised some, Sandringham also triumphed in the annual Inter-House Song Competition. With a memorable performance of Firework, the House impressed judges and audience members alike. Perhaps even more importantly, it was fantastic to see so many boys willing to step outside their comfort zones, take part and contribute to the team effort. The enthusiasm and participation shown by students throughout the competition reflected the strong sense of community within the House.

As always, the end of the academic year brought an opportunity to celebrate our Year 11 and 13 leavers. Their dedication, commitment and contributions to boarding life over the years have been greatly appreciated. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their education, careers and future lives.







The start of the new academic year also brought fresh faces to Sandringham. Our new boarders have settled in exceptionally well and quickly embraced all aspects of House life. They have thrown themselves into a variety of activities and Inter-House events, contributing to success in senior debating while our younger students demonstrated their strength and teamwork in the ever-popular Tug of War competition.

Alongside competitions and achievements, the term has been packed with the trips and activities that make boarding life so enjoyable. Theme park visits, shopping trips and laser tag outings have all proved popular, while BBQs, fire pits, touch rugby, pizza-making evenings and many other events have ensured that the House has remained a lively, welcoming and upbeat place to be.

With so much already accomplished, there is every reason to look forward to the rest of the year with confidence. Well done to everyone who has contributed to such an exciting and successful period for Sandringham.

# HOUSE NEWS

KHARTOUM

Khartoum House has once again been busy making memories, competing fiercely and, occasionally, discovering talents that even we didn't know existed!

Our sporting calendar has provided plenty to celebrate. House Sports Day was an enjoyable occasion, with Khartoum finishing somewhere in the middle of the pack. We may not have swept the board, but enthusiasm was certainly not in short supply. Cricket brought a fantastic atmosphere, while rugby proved particularly fruitful, with Khartoum claiming three shields and winning overall. Football provided another brilliant Saturday morning, with tremendous support and an atmosphere that reminded us why these occasions are so special.



Cross-country also brought success, with our Year 7 boys storming to victory. Clearly, someone forgot to tell them that Thursday afternoons are for sleeping! Away from the sporting arena, the boys have continued to impress. Inter-House Music genuinely surprised me with the quality of performances, proving that Khartoum possesses more than just sporting talent. Debating and baking offered further opportunities to shine, while Tug of War was, quite literally, a test of strength, teamwork and determination. The boys gave it everything, even if a few looked as though they might need a lie-down afterwards.

Longmoor Drill Competition saw the boys make a sterling effort, representing the House with pride. One day, it would be wonderful to see a day House with more than 70 boys in its ranks lift a trophy there. We live in hope!



There were also some particularly memorable moments beyond competition. Our Year 11 boys enjoyed a brilliant Prom, looking exceptionally dapper and arriving in some amazing vehicles. Meanwhile, our Year 13 boys gathered for their Leavers' Dinner, as we said our farewells, reflected on their time at Gordon's and raised a toast to those completing their exams and embarking on their next adventures. Two very different occasions, but both wonderful reminders of how quickly the years pass and how much these boys become part of the Khartoum family.



September also welcomed our newest Year 7 boys, who proudly paraded for the first time. They are already becoming part of the Khartoum family, and we look forward to seeing what they bring to the House. Another six months have flown by, full of laughter, effort, competition and camaraderie. The bond we share with the boys is something special, and they continue to make us proud in countless ways.
Finally, a huge thank you to our fantastic parents for their continued support.

Semper Fidelis!

# HOUSE NEWS

CHINA



And just like that, a new academic year is here! We have loved welcoming back our returning China girls and getting to know our new Year 7 and Year 12 girls. The House is once again full of chatter, laughter and the familiar sight of girls rushing around, trying to remember where they are supposed to be!

Our socials are back and we have already kicked off the year with some fantastic movie and pizza evenings. These are a great opportunity for the girls to relax, enjoy some time together and get to know girls from different year groups.




Our Sixth Form girls also had their own Quiz Night, giving them the chance to put their general knowledge, music and pop-culture expertise to the test. With plenty of competition, questionable answers and lots of laughter guaranteed, the girls had a great night.






Regarding Inter-House, the girls have already competed in cross-country, baking, tug of war and the music solo and group rounds. As this goes to print, we don't yet know the results of the music competition, but we were proud of second place in tug-of war and third in cross country.

And this is just the beginning. We have lots more socials and trips planned throughout the year, so there will be plenty of opportunities for the girls to get involved and create some fantastic new memories.

# HOUSE NEWS

## VICTORIA

What a fantastic year we've had in Victoria. Our girls have shone across Sport, Creative Arts and Academics, with House Captain Emilia collecting an impressive number of awards on behalf of Victoria at the annual Parade. A huge thank you to the 106 girls who took part in Inter-House events this year and brought such great enthusiasm and team spirit to every competition.

In June, our Year 7–10 and Year 12 enjoyed a sunny trip to Thorpe Lakes Aquapark. The girls threw themselves into the inflatable obstacle course and it was lovely to see them having fun and spending time together outside of school.





Our Year 11s celebrated finishing their GCSEs with afternoon tea at Gorse Hill Hotel, while our Year 13s marked the end of their A-Levels with a celebratory meal at Cinnamon Palace. Seeing everyone looking so grown up at Prom and the Leavers' Ball was a very special, if slightly emotional, moment as we said goodbye to our leavers.

Our Family structure continues to bring the girls together across year groups, with plenty of fun activities and opportunities to earn points. We also welcomed 24 new girls to Victoria this year, who have settled in brilliantly and are already getting involved in House life.



We've made a great start to another busy year, with our Sixth Form Quiz Night, Movie & Pizza evenings and a Murder Mystery Night. There is plenty more to come, and we're looking forward to another enjoyable year together.







# HOUSE NEWS

BALMORAL

What a summer term for Balmoral House! As we look back on the final term of the academic year, there is a great deal to celebrate. The boys showed tremendous effort, enthusiasm and, importantly, the sense of community that makes Balmoral such a special place to call home.

For our Year 11 and 13 boys, the summer results marked the culmination of many years in Balmoral. It was wonderful to see them rewarded for their efforts and to celebrate their achievements before they headed off to universities, including in the United States of America and their next adventures. They leave behind a strong legacy and will always remain part of the Balmoral family.

However, the summer term was about much more than examinations. Sport, once again, featured heavily, with Balmoral boys representing the House with great pride in athletics, football and a whole host of other activities. The commitment shown by the boys was fantastic, with many putting in extra effort to improve their own performances, while also supporting their teammates and Housemates.



One of the highlights of the year was, undoubtedly, our success in the Charity Cup and Longmoor Drill competitions. These were fantastic achievements and reflected not just the boys' competitive spirit, but also their willingness to work together and support a cause greater than themselves. The charity cycle ride was another brilliant example of this. The effort, determination and resilience shown by the boys throughout the event was hugely impressive.







There were plenty of opportunities to enjoy ourselves away from the classroom too. Throughout the year, the boys have enjoyed trips and activities including Thorpe Park, Thorpe Lakes, and water battles in the glorious weather. These experiences have helped create many of the memories that will stay with the boys, long after they leave Balmoral. Well done, Balmoral, on a fantastic summer term — and here’s to another successful year.

# HOUSE NEWS

BUCKINGHAM

**Hard work, plenty of practice, and lots of determination pay dividends. As such, we finished the year with plenty of individual medals from Sports Day along with six trophies and cups.**

We are delighted to be able to display six new trophies in House:

- Boys' House Trophy - the best average effort grade across all students
- Gordon Foundation Cup – the greatest number of students achieving school honours
- Rhys-Graham Memorial Trophy for Main Sports Years 7-11
- Steve Monk Cup for Sixth Form Sports
- Academic Cup
- Sustainability Prize

We are immensely proud of our talented students.



The undoubted highlight of the Summer Term was our House Trip to Thorpe Lakes Aqua Park. From wobbly balance beams and towering slides to bouncy trampolines and thrilling climbing walls, we tried them all out! It was enormous fun, and we were very hungry afterwards. Hotdogs, paninis and snacks helped to revive our energy levels, before returning home at the end of the evening.

Years 7-8 Buddies had fun building some Lego Technic Mighty Machines, while getting to know each other. They also expended a huge amount of energy at the trampoline park on their first House trip of the year, before devouring an equally huge quantity of pizza!

We are excited to see what other House trips are planned for later in the year.



WOOLWICH

# HOUSE NEWS

The latter days of the summer term the students took to the track to bump up funds for charity. Within a week our plucky pacers plodded over 1000 laps of the athletics track raising over £300 pounds in donations which went towards the Gurkha Welfare Trust. All this in the wake of enormous success at our annual sports day event. Woolwich was awash with gold, with both girls and boys winning in Year 7 against the other day Houses, a sporty bunch throughout the year!





The year was punctuated with academic success for Woolwich students in the Global Citizenship Awards, with Chesa, Dilani, Nolah, Seb and Riyana contributing excellent effort; Modern Languages Spelling Bee, with Dilani coming first, and Riyana winning a prize for her beautiful entry in the Shakespeare competition.




The year was rounded off with the customary water fight, slip and slide and other diverting ways to keep cool in the heatwaves that blanketed much of June. Another highly successful and enjoyable year in Woolwich.




September has brought with it the new batch of Woolwich boarders, who have landed as gracefully as a bevy of swans on a boating lake in Regent's Park. Abundant enthusiasm has led them all to perform outstandingly in their first parade, with tight, classy marching and the obligatory hat-toss under the watchful eye of Charlie, atop his camel. Alas no lifetime supply of tuck was awarded this year for any student dextrous enough to deposit their glengarry on the camel's nose. An elusive challenge, not featuring in Annual Parade award ceremony but much sought after by the Woolwich students.



Early successes for this cohort have come as a cross-country win for the boys and a first place prize in the prestigious Pumpkin Carving competition, both apt achievements confirming the enthusiasm, talent and hard work these new Woolwich students are exhibiting. A cracking start from all!

# HOUSE NEWS

GRAVESEND

It has been a half term to be proud of in Gravesend. Our boys have pulled together, quite literally, and shown the teamwork, determination and good humour that make our house what it is. Whether on the field, on the stage or simply around the house, they have represented Gravesend with real credit.

**Year 7s march on**

The half term began with one of the proudest moments in the school calendar: our new Year 7s marching on. Watching them step out together as the newest members of Gravesend was a reminder of how quickly they have become part of the house. They carried themselves with real pride, and we are delighted to welcome them and their families to the Gravesend community.



**Tug of war champions**

The standout moment of the half term was our victory in the interhouse tug of war. It is a competition that rewards more than raw strength, it takes timing, grit and complete trust in the person in front and behind you. Our team dug in, held their nerve through some tense pulls and outlasted every house they faced. Congratulations to every boy who took hold of the rope and to all those who cheered them on.





**Third place in interhouse music**

Our musicians also did us proud, taking third place in the interhouse music competition. Preparing a house performance takes weeks of rehearsals, and it was wonderful to see boys of all ages and abilities give up their time to take part. Some were seasoned performers and others were stepping onto a stage for the first time, but all of them performed with confidence and enthusiasm. A podium finish against strong competition is a fine achievement, and it gives us plenty to build on next year. Special thanks to Miss Wigg for helping the boys with this event.

**Looking ahead**

There is plenty more to look forward to. The boys are already excited about our upcoming house trip to the coral reef on the 18th of November.

We are also planning a series of family events. These will include a pool competition and a chess competition, offering something for both the sharp shooters and the strategic thinkers among us.

**Thank you**

None of this would be possible without the commitment of our boys and the support of their families. Thank you for everything you do for Gravesend. Here's to a second half of term every bit as good as the first.

# INTER HOUSE WINNERS



INTER-HOUSE SONG
WOOLICH



TUG OF WAR
GRAVESEND




MUSIC GROUP
BUCKINGHAM




MUSIC SOLO
KENSINGTON



DEBATING
BUCKINGHAM




BAKING
WOOLICH GIRLS

# MEET THE TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM: MR FOX

**BY HARRY & HENRY**

Mr Fox is one of our longest-serving staff members at Gordon's School, so was bound to be interviewed. Two of the youngest members of *The Quarterly Gazette* team sat down with him for our iconic Team Behind the Team series.



**If you were to teach a subject other than marching, what would it be?**

"I would teach Geography because of the navigation you do in it. I have taught navigation for years."

**What has been your biggest honour?**

"Every time I march the parade with the pupils, I feel blessed."

**How do you feel Gordon's marching replicates the Army?**

"Well, the Army don't really do much marching apart from the Household Division, really."



**What do you think is the best school meal?**

"The Sunday lunch with the Yorkshire puddings is my favourite."

**What do you think of the new Year 7s Marching?**

"I think they're keen as mustard. I'm very hopeful."

**What are your Longmore predictions?**

"It's hard to predict, anyone can win!"

**What hobbies do you have?**

"I used to motorbike and do triathlons when I was younger but now, I go swimming and walking."

**What is the one thing in marching that gets you annoyed?**

"When people give bad attitude. It really annoys me, because marching is really all about the attitude."

# MEET THE TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM: MR FOX

**BY HARRY & HENRY**

**What impact do you think you have had on the school?**

"I think you would have to ask somebody else from the school. Several former students have been in the army; a student is now spying on criminals; a former pupil built a village in Africa, and a pupil messaged the other day who is now running a mental health group for men.

I train my students by military standards, one of the best parts of the job for me. But you have to work up to becoming these, I still remember these pupils as Year 7s."

***"When we were at Edinburgh Castle and we put laxatives in our Sergeant Majors' tea when the Queen was coming so he kept going to the toilet!"***






**As some people may know, Mr Fox was in a major Hollywood war movie in the 70's named, 'A Bridge Too Far' so we had to ask him about it.**

**What was it like to film with the movie stars of the 70's?**

Scary! I had to jump from a Dakota aircraft with one door, one at a time. It was relatively safe – as long as you don't collide. There were only eleven aircraft. The twists in the parachute were quite dangerous. I was always scared but I just had to get out of the door – it could be described as controlled chaos!"

**Why are the parachute regiment better than the marines?**

"Because the Paras have way harder training leading up to their red beret."

**How were you selected for the film?**

"You see, there was only one battalion available to do it in 1976 and that was us!

# BREAKING THE MOULD: GORDON'S FIRST FEMALE RUGBY SCHOLARS

**BY MAISIE**



For years, rugby has been traditionally viewed as a male-dominated sport. In October 2020, Gordon's School solidified this traditional path by launching its high-performance boys' rugby scholarship pathway, the Harlequins Partnership Programme, dedicating significant funding toward elite male player development. However, this year, the school officially welcomed its first four female Rugby Scholars, marking a monumental step forward for gender equality in school sports.

Among this pioneering first cohort is Olivia, who was initially drawn to rugby because she wanted to try a team sport completely different from anything she had played before. After following her brother to training sessions, she quickly fell in love with the game.




Olivia brings nine years of competitive experience to Gordon's, having developed her skills with Dorking Rugby Club. Her journey reflects the rapid evolution of the women's game. When she first joined Dorking, there was no girls' section, forcing her to play mixed touch rugby with the boys. She eventually went on to become part of Dorking's first-ever girls' team, competing in the Surrey Cup, the Waterfall Cup, and even playing internationally in Jersey. For Olivia this scholarship is about much more than just her personal athletic development. She views it as a massive opportunity "to inspire younger girls" to pick up a rugby ball and give the fast-growing sport a chance.

Beyond the matches and trophies, she emphasises that the sport offers invaluable life lessons. "Rugby is where I made my lifelong friends and so many memories," Olivia shared. She notes that the game builds far more than just physical fitness, teaching vital skills like "discipline, communication, and problem-solving under pressure": qualities that help students succeed in school, friendships, and their future careers.

As these four pioneering athletes lace up their boots this season, Gordon's School enters a new era of sports excellence: one where the pathway to rugby success is wide open to everyone.

# ON THE PITCH: HOCKEY FOR YEAR 7S

**BY BELLA**

When I first started playing Gordon's sport, it was very challenging. Since I have played hockey in my primary school, and the teachers didn't know what level everyone was playing at, it was very hard. Some teams had good players that were put in a lower team and some less experienced players in the higher team. But Gordon's knows what is best, because after a week, the inexperienced players were playing amazing hockey and became very hard to beat. The improvement the girls have made this half term has been amazing and it is astonishing to see how hard they will work to win.

I asked Chloe (Year 7) what her thoughts were on hockey, since she has never played before joining Gordon's, and she states, "At first I thought it was going to be difficult but soon it became easier and more exciting, and thanks to Mr Fryatt and Mr Simmonds, I have become more comfortable with the sport!"





Saturday school is fun and it is so nice to wake up and play sport. Some days we do training, which includes practicing hockey skills and playing matches against each other. Urania says, "It's a good opportunity to stay active. I can also spend more time with my friends, and it also helps for your future if you want to do sport."

"Other Saturdays we play different schools or we stay and play here on our hockey pitches. So far we have played two matches at two different schools this half term."

Last week the A to D teams played at Reading Bluecoat. I interviewed an A team player, Darcey.

**"How was the game on Saturday?"**

"It was a great game, we played our hardest and despite losing we were proud of our efforts, and we had our mascot to cheer us on all the way."

**"Who is your mascot and what is the story behind him?"**

"Our mascot's name is 'Sir General Moo-Moo' and his story is that in our second match of the half term, the school we were playing at had cows behind the hockey pitch, and every time we scored the goal the cows would moo as if cheering us on!"

**"Last question, do you enjoy Saturday school and why?"**

"I do enjoy Saturday school because I get to play my favourite sport, hockey, with my friends and our coach, Mr Simmonds!"

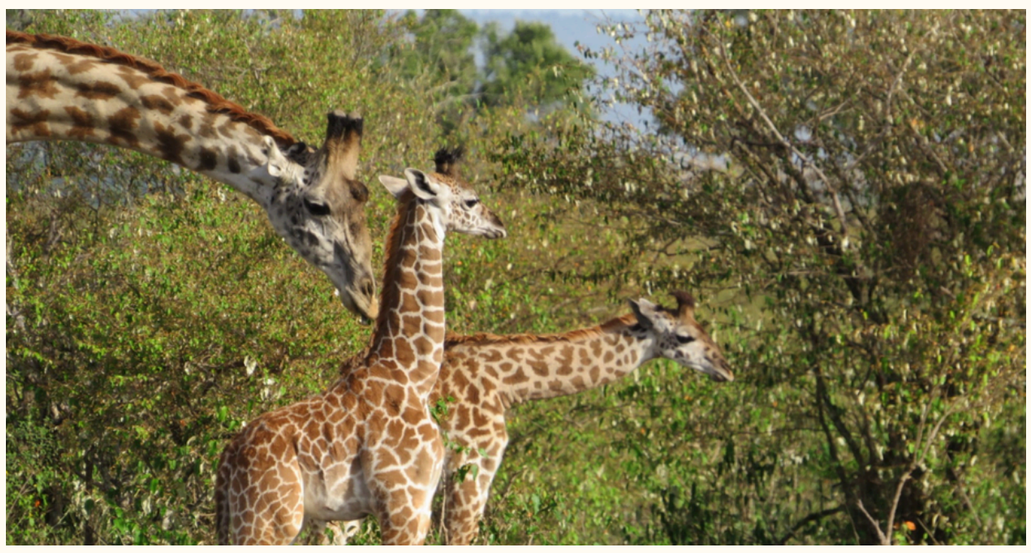
Gordon's also does Inter-House competitions including Inter-House hockey, in which last year (for Year 7) China won. Followed by Victoria and Woolwich. Overall, I think the hockey at Gordon's is such an amazing, fun and engaging activity that has brought me closer to friends and new people. It's a good way to improve skills and learn how to BLEED GREEN!

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SURIAH HIPWOOD

**BY DANIELLA**

*The Quarterly Gazette* interviewed Suriah (Year 13): an animal enthusiast, a conservation volunteer and an advocate for making the world a better place. Having come back to school right after an exciting conservation trip in Kenya, Africa, we talked about her experiences, best moments, and thoughts for the future.





**How were you feeling when you first started, and did you have any prior experience in volunteering/conservation work before the trip?**

When I started, I was full of adrenaline, ready to go and see the world alone… and be completely free for the first time. I've always felt comfortable with the idea of packing up and travelling to the other side of the world for no other reason than, well, why not?

Of course, that includes the sheer amount of excitement I had from being able to directly help and support struggling Kenyan wildlife.

I've grown up around animals and worked with them for most of my life, and I've always worked to protect them and their habitats as well as possible. This wasn't the first time I'd travelled alone, but it was definitely the first time I ever got to travel across Kenya and join an official conservation project by myself.

**What were some of your most striking moments during volunteering and conservation work? Were there any setbacks you faced?**

A few notable examples include:

1. Exploring an abandoned mine… until I found intact buffalo skeletons in the pitch-black darkness. I realised I was both in the centre of a hyena den AND that they were still inside it.
2. Watching how a wake [a group of vultures eating carcasses] naturally behave when they find a large kill. I also got to see them establish their hierarchy amongst each other, which was definitely fascinating.
3. Exploring the conservancy [protected area for wildlife] at night and watching a hyena clan, mid-hunt, stalk a lone male buffalo. The buffalo, spooked, charged away as fast as it could, but it actually ran at us instead of the hyenas.
4. I also got to see many giraffe calves exploring the conservancy and testing the boundaries of the site. The Rothschild's giraffes were our main focus during the conservation project.

A setback I encountered was our Jeep getting stuck in an abandoned burrow. We were following a tower (standing/feeding giraffes) of Rothschild's giraffes, so it wasn't a great situation. My new friends and I had to rock the car until it finally jolted free, and we had to do this quickly due to a large group of male buffalo.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SURIAH HIPWOOD

**BY DANIELLA**

**What were your proudest achievements of the trip?**

Firstly, building eco-friendly stoves from scratch for the local community, formed out of sand, brick, stone and cement. This allowed locals to cool meals quicker and more efficiently, and they'll hopefully last much longer than previous methods.

We got to clear an invasive species of cacti using machetes, meaning we had to slice through huge alien plants just to clear the area. Our efforts meant native plants and wildlife could finally recover from the cacti's oppressive control.

Another achievement was getting the opportunity to join real wildlife rangers on a perimeter check, looking for snare traps to disarm them and keep animals safe.





**What did you learn from your experiences, and what advice would you give for others wanting to follow in your footsteps?**

The most important thing I learnt: just go for it. If you want to make a difference, you have to act quickly on that ambition. For change to occur at the largest scale, there needs to be change at the smallest scale too...

Even if that change is me and my newfound, international friends having sword fights with machetes as a competition to clear the most cacti, it counts.

And if you dream of experiencing true freedom, go. Book that volunteering trip. Let yourself remember what it truly feels like to be alive.



Suriah's incredible experiences show us that change starts with one person, action or word, and can soon impact thousands and even millions of people and animals for the better. The next time you want to help make the world a better place, why not start through volunteering or conservation? You might just make a huge impact.

# MAKING THE TRANSITION: GCSE TO A-LEVEL

**BY JACK**

A-Level is a large step up to GCSE in many ways, which can be both very exciting and quite anxiety-inducing. Whether you're in Year 11 and looking forward or still unsure on what to expect in Year 12, this can offer some information on how this is different to what you're used to and tell you about the new opportunities that this transition can create.

The first thing you'll notice is the larger workload, despite doing significantly fewer subjects. Teachers typically set prep every lesson, which means that the work will stack up faster and, if you are not properly organised, you can build up a large backlog of tasks that need to be done in a short time frame. However, a lot of your Prep will be finishing off stuff done in lessons or doing tasks that are not overly time consuming, which proves very manageable if you can manage your time effectively – especially in study periods. In addition, the subjects are studied in a lot more depth than GCSE (with many students describing each subject as equivalent two or three GCSEs), so you cannot afford to become complacent.





Despite this, in A-Level you are (hopefully) doing the subjects that you enjoy the most or find the most interesting. When you enjoy a subject, you are likely to enjoy revising it more than other subjects and are probably better at it. This can make your A-Levels feel 'easier' than your GCSEs, even though you are doing significantly more work per subject. Furthermore, the additional depth in A-Level can make you enjoy subjects much more than you ever did at GCSE level.

# MAKING THE TRANSITION: GCSE TO A-LEVEL

**BY JACK**

Most importantly, there is the large increase in the amount of responsibility you get when you enter the Sixth Form at Gordon's. When you come back in Year 12, you immediately become a role model for the younger year groups, which lends itself into taking leadership roles around the school. These leadership roles are normally in different Period 7s as mentors for the younger year groups, however there are also the instrumental roles during marching as House Captains and even Head Boy or Girl later down the line.






Furthermore, in Year 12 you will have study periods, and you are expected to manage your time well and work diligently during this time. These are non-contact periods, so you do have the freedom to go off-site or relax for a bit in House. Going off-site during your non-contact periods can feel strange! As long as you remain punctual, you may go to nearby places.

While change can be daunting, settling in and 'getting into the swing of things' is not as hard as it seems. During the first two weeks, many of the new Year 12s have already found their place at Gordon's, whether they are internal or come from elsewhere. Suffice to say, it's a big transition, but an exciting one that brings new, greater opportunities and responsibilities than ever before.



# HOW TO SURVIVE YEAR 7!

**BY ADI**

Year 7, the transition from primary school to secondary school. It can feel exciting but nerve-racking at times. Being a new student here at Gordon's can be difficult especially because of the huge campus and the amount of people here! To make your first year here at Gordon's easier, I have made a 'How To Survive Year 7 guide with three main ideas to help you and your friends settle in smoothly.

## Tip 1:

A few important things to remember is the right place and right time. In Year 7, teachers will be more lenient about lateness as you find your way around the school, but it will really benefit you if you plan ahead and maybe even write out your timetable. Here is some key information that will help with timings.
From 8:20-8:40 you will have your morning activity and they change depending on the day.
**Monday** – Chapel
**Tuesday** – Form Time
**Wednesday** – Assembly
**Thursday** – Form Time
**Friday** – House Meeting

We all knew the feeling of getting lost and confused on where to go before your next lesson starts. Please do not be afraid to ask a teacher or an older student for some help or directions. They have all been through it and they would be more than happy to help.

## Tip 2:

Another tip to help you for this year, is courtesy. Gordon's is very keen on always being polite and respectful. Remember to use basic manners! When talking to a teacher, refer to them as Miss, Mrs, Sir or Mr. Say please and thank you, for example to the catering staff after receiving your food or after a lesson. Kindness and courtesy are something that will not just help you in Year 7 but your entire journey at Gordon's and for your entire life! A simple compliment can make someone's day.

Try and say one kind phrase every day and count how many people you make smile!



## Tip 3:

School is never easy and we will always need help. At Gordon's, when we are struggling or finding something tricky, we use the term 'BOUNCE don't break.'

This means that when we are finding something hard (for example learning), we bounce back up and be resilient instead of immediately giving up. We believe that this helps you during your time at school and in life.

***Gordon's is an amazing school. Have fun and enjoy because your journey has only just started. Also, remember to always BLEED GREEN!***

# 24HR MUSICAL

**BY KATE**



On Sunday 4th October at 7pm, over 45 Gordon's students stepped onto the Wynter Bee Theatre stage to perform a musical that less than 24 hours prior, neither they nor the audience had any idea of.




The 24hr Musical is a great event that occurs annually for students in Year 10 and above, where they arrive on the Saturday to rehearse a show to perform on the Sunday that they do not know. Contrary to what you may expect, the show is not cast prior to the reveal, so students have to battle it out for roles on the stage, auditioning in front of all of their fellow cast members as each character is introduced, so no one knows the full cast list until the entire show has been blocked.  This year, the show was revealed to be Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, a classic turned into a musical based on the 1989 film of the same name.

As well as casting and rehearsing, set and costumes are also created and moulded behind the scenes prior to the final performance. Thanks to Ms Ahmed's extensive collection of period costumes in the Water Tower, and the amazing skill and patience of Amy, her new Year 12 assistant, they managed to costume the entire cast, many of whom had up to five costumes each. From mermaids and mersisters to seagulls and sea creatures to princes and royalty, students took on roles from all walks of life, with quick changes in under 30 seconds.

As Mr Olden said following the performance, the students involved in shows, especially the 24hr musical, are arguably the bravest students in the school. These students put their inhibitions and fears of being judged behind and leave them outside the theatre and step onto the stage with confidence and pride, even if they weren't confident on their lines or choreography! With a full theatre of family, friends and students on their side, everyone involved should be so proud of everything that they managed to achieve in such a short space of time. We now look to January where the full-scale senior production of *Big Fish* will be performed, with definitely more rehearsal time than 24 hours!

# WOMEN IN MOTORSPORT

**BY ERIN**

Formula 1, GT3, Le Mans and MotoGP are all diverse types of motorsports and in those motorsport only 10% of the people involved are women; this means that 90% of people involved in motorsport are men.

No woman has raced in Formula 1 since 1970. That's 56 years since a woman has raced in Formula 1 – one of the biggest, if not the biggest and the goal for most people in junior formulas such as F3 and Karting.
People may argue there are women in the Formula 1 Academy and inside the garage. But why not in the cockpit? Why not racing? Why are there not more female role models inside Formula 1? Another fact is that women in karting peaks at 13% which is not much of a significant difference and drops to 7% in different formulas and GT racing, according to an organisation called 'More Than Equal' which aims to reduce the gender gap in motorsport. They also help promote and sponsor girls and women in motorsport, this helps them reach higher formulas and even get into F1. This is something I am so excited to see. I want to be able to watch motorsports and see strong female role models.




When I am at home watching the Prema racing YouTube channel, I noticed a lack of female role models. But one I did notice was Hamda al Qubaisi, she previously raced for Prema in Formula 4. She set the record for the first podium by a female in Italian Formula 4 race. She also raced in the Formula 1 Academy under Red Bull which has a large junior team.

A main reason for the low amount of women in racing, is the lack of funding and, specifically, sponsors picking up females. Many sponsor 'hesitated' to pick up young girls into sponsorships, with no real reasons given for it. F1 has attempted to add more females, but only a few have even raced in true Formula 1 cars. An example is Doriane Pin, a Mercedes development driver. She was the 2025 F1 Academy champion. She is a highly commended racer – winning the Ferrari challenge in Europe and competing in the 24 hour Le Mans race, a noticeably big event with millions of spectators. So, if she can do all of this and drive a Formula 1 car, why has she not been put into a Formula 1 seat? Another problem is availability. There are only 22 seats worldwide, this means there is an extremely limited chance for a driver to make it to Formula 1. People can't guarantee their seat, unless of course in a multi-year contract. Many drivers only sign these when they are completely sure they are going to stay with the chosen team.

# WOMEN IN MOTORSPORT

**BY ERIN**

I recently became an Formula 1 fan and that fueled my passion for sports media. There is a giant fan girl culture and it is at the heart of the sport, they help the sport feel more alive. But this, for some reason, has been turned into an insult. Causing people to not be taken seriously. Comments are made such as, “You only watch it because the drivers are hot” and “What’s DRS?” (FYI stands for Drag Reduction System) a common question seen in comment sections.




It made me feel devalued as a fan and that I needed to rethink what being a fan was and become more serious. I felt that I needed to know every single statistic; every single driver’s history and achievements. I even felt that I needed to stop laughing at funny memes and thought that my fan page was cringe or that I was being obsessive. However, I realised the definition of a fan is being a person who admires, supports and loves a particular thing. Regardless of gender.




I am not being fake by enjoying the pop culture surrounding it – I’m being a fan. A fan is someone who is not putting other fans down to make yourself feel better; not judging people for their way of accessing motorsport, whether that be watching Drive to Survive or watching entire races or just the highlights.

If we are going to bring more women into motorsports, we need to start by erasing the toxic culture around women supporting a sport typically dominated by men, like motorsport.

Here’s to the rise of women in motorsport – both inside the car and out!

THE QUARTERLY GAZETTE

AUTUMN EDITION

# THE TROLLEY PROBLEM:

# WOULD YOU PULL THE LEVER?

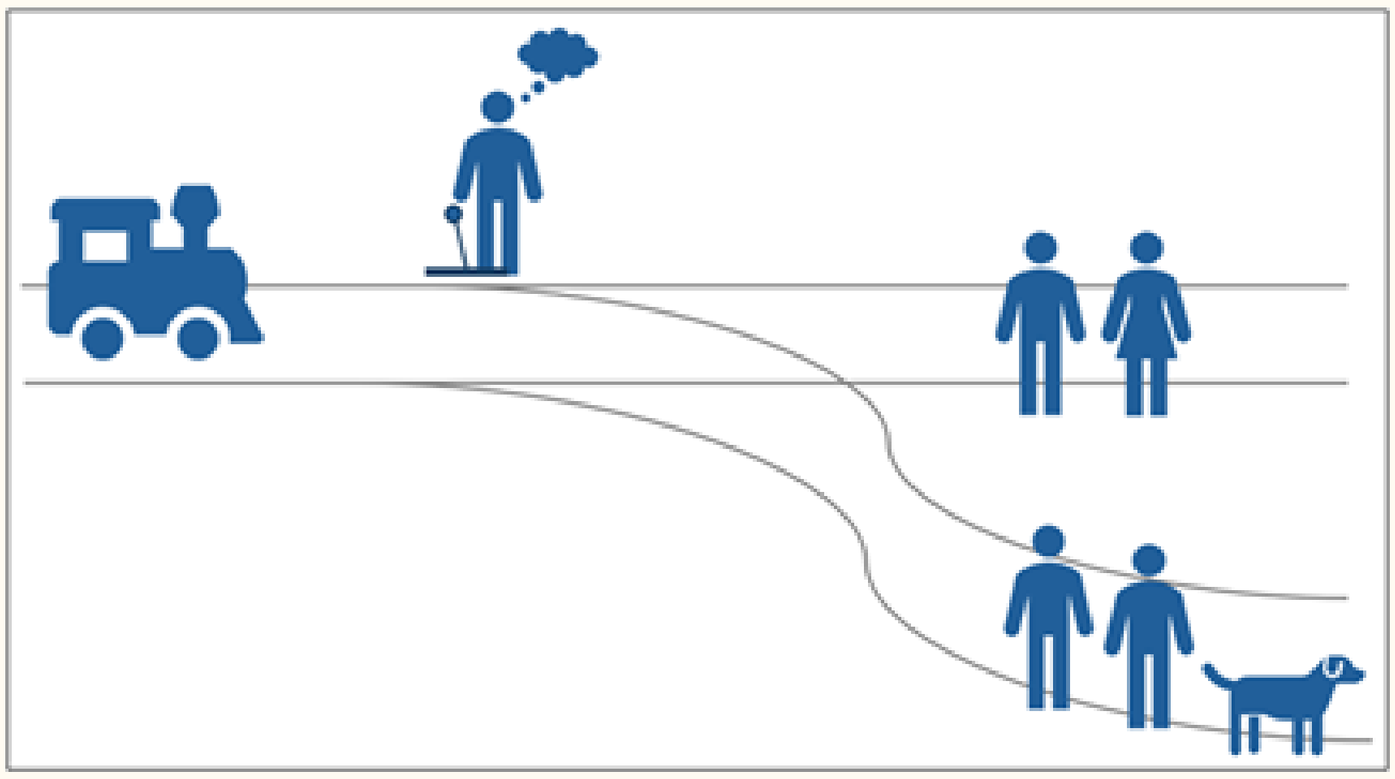
**BY MAISIE**

**Is it ever right to sacrifice one life to save five, or does taking one life cross a moral line that should never be crossed?**

Imagine this: a train is speeding down a track. Five people are trapped ahead, unable to escape. You are standing beside a lever. If you pull it, the train will switch tracks, saving the five people: but killing one person instead. If you do nothing, the five people will die.

**What would you do?**

**There is no easy answer.**



This is known as the trolley problem, one of the most famous thought experiments in philosophy. It sounds simple at first. Five lives versus one. Surely the answer is obvious: pull the lever and save as many people as possible. But morality is rarely that simple. The idea that we should choose the option that produces the greatest amount of good is known as utilitarianism. From a utilitarian perspective, pulling the lever makes sense: one person dies, but five people survive. If the goal is to minimise suffering and save the greatest number of people, the decision seems straightforward.

However, there is a problem: the person on the other track is not simply a number.

Imagine that instead of being a stranger, the person is your best friend, your parent, or someone you care about deeply. Suddenly, the mathematical answer feels much less convincing. You are no longer comparing ‘one’ against ‘five’. You are thinking about a real human being. This is where another approach to morality comes in: deontology. Unlike utilitarianism, deontological ethics focuses on whether an action itself is right or wrong, rather than simply looking at its consequences. From this perspective, deliberately causing someone's death could be considered wrong, even if doing so saves five other people.

But there is still a problem. If you refuse to pull the lever, five people die. So, which is worse: actively causing one person's death, or allowing five people to die when you could have intervened? Psychology may offer part of the answer.

People often experience what is known as omission bias: the tendency to view harmful actions as worse than harmful inaction. In other words, we can feel more responsible for something bad when we actively cause it than when we simply allow it to happen. This might explain why people would rather leave the lever untouched. Pulling it feels like ‘killing someone’. Doing nothing can feel like ‘simply letting events unfold’.

But does that really make us less responsible?

If you have the power to save five people and choose not to, can you honestly say that you had no part in the outcome?

There is no easy answer.

# THE TROLLEY PROBLEM:

# WOULD YOU PULL THE LEVER?

**BY MAISIE**

The trolley problem becomes even more interesting when the situation becomes personal. In a well-known 2006 study, psychologist Joshua Greene and his colleagues examined how people responded to different moral dilemmas while their brains were being scanned. The research suggested that more emotionally personal situations produced stronger emotional responses than more distant, impersonal ones.

Consider another version of the trolley problem. Instead of pulling a lever, imagine that you could stop the train by pushing a person onto the track. The numbers are the same: one person dies so that five can live. Yet most people find this version much more disturbing because the action feels more personal. You are physically causing the harm rather than simply switching a track. The emotional consequences become harder to ignore. This demonstrates how our moral decisions are influenced by emotion.

There is another psychological phenomenon that helps explain our reactions: the identifiable victim effect. People tend to feel stronger emotions toward a specific, identifiable person than toward a large group of anonymous people. Think about the difference between hearing that one person has suffered a tragedy and hearing that thousands of people have been affected by a disaster. Both are terrible, but the individual story is often easier to connect with emotionally.

Numbers can be difficult to imagine. People are not.

This is why the trolley problem changes when we imagine the person on the track as someone we know. The moment we give that person a face, a name, or a relationship to us, the decision becomes much harder.

**So, What Is the Right Choice?**

That is the wrong question.

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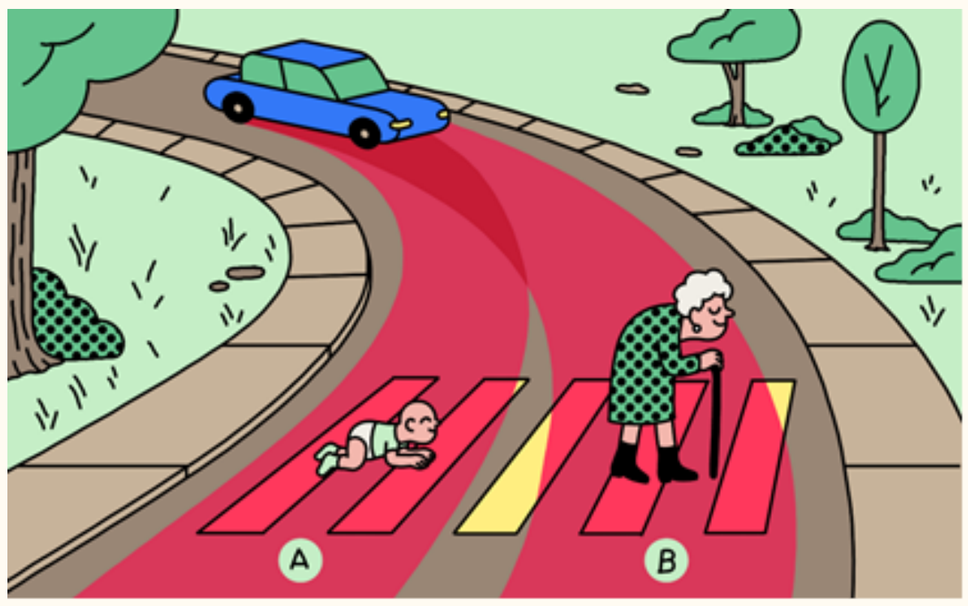



The trolley problem was never designed to give us a perfect answer. Instead, it reveals how complicated our moral reasoning can be. We might believe that saving the greatest number of people is always the right thing to do. But would we still believe that if the one person being sacrificed was someone we loved? We might believe that deliberately causing harm is always wrong. But would we still believe that if refusing to act meant allowing five people to die? Our answers can change depending on the circumstances, our emotions, and how personally connected we feel to the people involved.

As Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn famously wrote, “The line between good and evil runs through every human heart.”

The trolley problem forces us to confront that line within ourselves. Ultimately, it is not really about trains, tracks, or levers. It is about responsibility. It asks whether our moral duty comes from the consequences of our actions, the principles behind them, or the emotions we experience while making them. There may never be one universally satisfying answer. And that is exactly why the trolley problem continues to fascinate us. Because sometimes the hardest moral questions are not about choosing between right and wrong. They are about choosing between two wrongs and deciding which one we can live with.

THE QUARTERLY GAZETTE

AUTUMN EDITION

# ARE WE SUFFERING FROM A CONFIDENCE GAP?

**BY EVA**

Market confidence is not simply about economic indicators but also psychological factors for example your upbringing and later experiences. Our parents may be more cautious and reactive to the market as they have lived through the 2008 financial crash and the dot com bust, where confidence was shattered after massive corporate speculation, fraudulent accounting, and the systematic failure or supposedly safe financial safeguards were exposed. This may mean they lean towards a more traditional investment type such as a pension, real estate or if their confidence is extremely low, they may favour saving. To them these are stable, long term and historical returns.






In summary, Generation X tend to source their information from traditional media and financial advisors and prioritise lower-risk investments to focus on wealth preservation due to institutional trust and loss aversion. Whereas Generation Z tend to source their information from social media and online forums and seek out higher-risk to focus on rapid growth mostly due to herd mentality and over-confidence.

Overall, neither generation's strategy is right or wrong, they simply offer different outlooks on investing. Gen X offers valuable risk mitigation, while Gen Z drives market innovation and liquidity. Also, our future market relies on Gen X's institutional caution as well as Gen Z's digital agility.

Whereas Gen Z, having grown up with the internet and a rounder access to knowledge around alternative investment methods such as stocks and shares ISAs and crypto will be more open to less traditional investment types. However, they may be over-confident. This is due to how easy it is to run into false information online and how much easier investing is, now you can invest using an app on your phone. Their confidence can also be heavily amplified by online communities such as TikTok. This herd mentality may result in them investing according to what social media has told them without further research which can lead to very bad results.

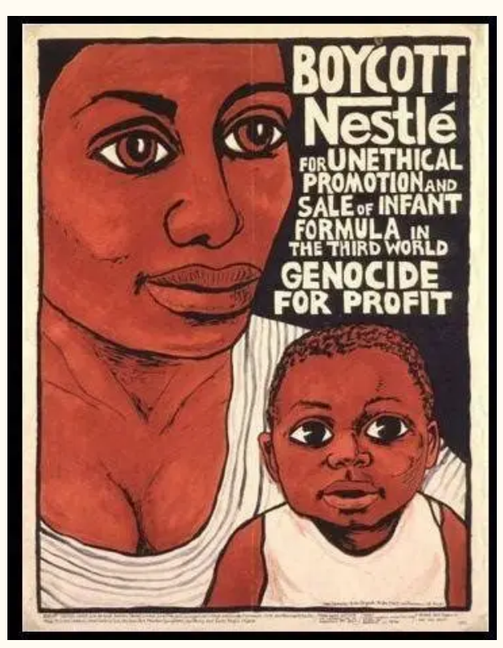


# CORRUPTION IN CORPORATIONS

**BY SURAVI**

Many of us are familiar with Nestlé: the Swiss multinational corporation known for being the largest food and beverage company in the world, recognized for iconic brands like Nescafe, KitKat, Nesquik, Nespresso and Purina. However, with a corporation so influential, it's no surprise that Nestlé tries to hide its immoral ways from mainstream view. At first glance it may look innocent; the iconic nest motif depicting two young birds being fed by a mother bird, yet don't fall for the innocent imagery.




In 1970, Nestlé was involved in a scandal surrounding its baby formula which was being aggressively marketed particularly in developing countries in Africa, South America and Asia. Nestlé claimed the formula to be better for infants leading to widespread infant malnutrition and millions of infant deaths. In addition, the company not only made use of mass media promotion (e.g. billboards and posters) and sample distributions, but they also had salespeople dressed as so-called 'nurses' to visit mothers in hospital and at their home to praise formula and its benefits.

Because of the lack of clean water in many of those countries, which lead to disease in vulnerable infants when the formula is diluted in impure water and the low literacy rates, which meant that many mothers did not know the necessary sanitation methods required to prepare bottles, it's no wonder they unfortunately fell into Nestlé's marketing trap. Additionally, poor mothers would use less formula than required to make the container of formula last longer, which led to babies receiving inadequate nutrition from weak solutions of formula. Despite directly causing the deaths of many infants, Nestlé justified its actions by rejecting responsibility and argued with the freedom of consumer choice, which in the company's opinion allows for formula products to be sold in developing markets.

Furthermore, to this day Nestlé still adds sugar to most baby formulas and cereals in certain markets such as in Africa, where investigations from the Public Eye (A Swiss non-profit organisation) shows that 7.5g of sugar is found per serving compared to healthier versions sold in affluent markets In a 2018 study, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) estimated that 10,870,000 infants had died between 1960 and 2015 because of Nestlé baby formula used by 'mothers (in low and middle-income countries) without clean water sources', with deaths peaking at 212,000 in 1981.

With a large global presence and extensive product range, operating in approximately 185-190 countries limiting alternative options and often being more popular in local markets, it is of course difficult to entirely avoid Nestlé products as many products contain Nestlé-owned ingredients or are co-branded by Nestlé.

However, it is essential though that we pay attention to where our food and drink is coming from and what happens to get it to us. The use of ethical alternatives becomes increasingly important with more brands such as Tony Chocoloney and Candy Kittens providing ethically produced confectionary. So, should we support Nestlé through mindless consumerism, or should we actively try to change our buying habits and understand the wider impacts of funding corporations like Nestlé?

# 'THOSE WHO CAN, DO, THOSE WHO CAN'T, TEACH': HOW THE SAYING LOST ITS ORIGINAL MEANING

**BY KATE**

I recently saw a TikTok video that brought up the aphorism, which I am sure many of us have heard before, 'Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach', quoting it from the 2014 film, T*he Gambler*.

However, this aphorism is actually derived from George Bernard Shaw's 1903 play *Man and Superman* and in the original version, it came up in the *Maxims of Revolutionists* appendix of the play (a section of added notes or context that may include the author's opinions or historical context relating to the play). The original aphorism is as follows: 'He who can, does; he who cannot, teaches'. This original reference in the play had nothing to do with schoolteachers or the, now, colloquial usage of the term 'teach', instead it meant 'teach' specifically in the context of revolutionaries. Shaw meant it to mean that those who can change the world as a revolutionary do it, and those who lack the willpower or capacity lecture others without doing it themselves, so essentially the original meaning was about preaching, not teaching.

The misused aphorism, like the one seen in that TikTok video, isn't just used on TikTok, it's used everywhere. It has become a mutated version that reflects nihilism about academia, framing teaching as a fallback option for those who fail to actually 'do' within their industry and that's why the film *The Gambler* even used it in that sense.



One thought that I found very interesting is the different perspective offered when reversing the quote: 'Those who can, teach; those who can't, do'. Often times the most excellent performers of any skill are those who are completely incapable of teaching it. For example, the top performer in your music ensemble or sports team who, when you ask for help or advice, can't explain how they developed their ability to such a high level. This is known as the curse of knowledge.



However, if you've understood the rationale to fail the task, the mechanisms that lead someone to failure, and most importantly, the psychological disillusionment of failing then you can be a much better guide than someone who has not experienced it.

# 'THOSE WHO CAN, DO, THOSE WHO CAN'T, TEACH': HOW THE SAYING LOST ITS ORIGINAL MEANING

**BY KATE**




The second thought I had was about the pairing of teaching and doing so closely. As a result of polarised thinking, 'teaching' and 'doing' are not mutually exclusive skills, therefore building a false dichotomy whereby a false binary has been created based on the assumption that only these two options were available. For example, some of the best teachers and lecturers that you may encounter will also be practitioners, such as university lecturers carrying out their own research alongside leading your studies, as well as instructors, and therefore the best teachers you will most likely meet will actually 'do'.

I understand that the intention of the TikTok video that I watched was not to berate and criticise teachers. You can be a phenomenal 'teacher' and be a horrible 'doer', a phenomenal 'doer' and a horrible 'teacher' and also be excellent at both and horrible at both - it is a unique art to teach. To be able to teach in an impactful, effective and passionate way is a trifecta of skills that are hard to balance.

This leads me onto a problem that I have with belittling intellectual pursuits. The intention of the common use of the aphorism is to taunt those who approach a skill with theory rather than jumping straight into the 'doing' first. But we all start with theory. Everything you learn, from the simplest things like brushing your teeth or washing your hands and saying thank you and I'm sorry, are all skills first taught in the classroom where none of the thing you learned were really 'doing'. It was a simulation. Your life and all of your life skills that you've picked up along the way were built on training wheels, with the guiding hand of a teacher.

I don't think it is humiliating to teach or humiliating to learn and I think that we are in a time, now more than ever, where dedicating yourself to teaching is an art in and of itself. We can't all be 'doers' without first learning from someone who 'teaches' us.

And as Charles H Mayo said, ***'The safest thing for a patient is to be in the hands of a man engaged in teaching medicine. In order to be a teacher of medicine the doctor must always be a student'.***

# RUNNING AWAY FROM STRESS? WHEN SPORT BECOMES TOO MUCH

**BY AADYA**

Sport has always been one of the easiest ways to clear my head. Whether it was going to the gym, going for a run, or playing netball, exercise gave me a break from schoolwork, deadlines, and the constant feeling that there was always something else I should be doing. But at some point, what was supposed to help me manage stress became another thing to add to the list.

As students, it is easy to feel like we need to do everything. Between keeping up with lessons, revising for exams, maintaining friendships, and thinking about the future, there is often little time to switch off. For me, exercise became a way of dealing with that pressure. If I were stressed, I would go for a run. If I needed to clear my head, I would head to the gym. Netball was another way to escape the demands of everyday life. The problem was that I never really stopped.



I convinced myself that being productive meant making the most of every hour, and that taking a break was almost a ‘waste of time’. Even when I was exhausted, there was always another workout I could fit in or another run I could do. Looking back, I think I had become so focused on managing my stress that I never stopped to consider whether the way I was doing it was actually making things worse.

Eventually, my body forced me to slow down. I obtained a minor tear in my meniscus, and I have now been off sport for six weeks. For someone who relied so heavily on exercise to deal with stress, suddenly being unable to run, go to the gym properly or play netball was so very frustrating. Sport had become part of my routine, and without it, I had to find other ways to cope with the pressures I had previously tried to outrun. The irony is that exercise is often recommended as one of the best ways to manage stress, and for good reason. It can improve your mood, help you sleep, and give you a much-needed break from academic pressure. But there is a difference between using sport to look after yourself and pushing yourself because you feel guilty whenever that small voice in your head starts nagging you.

**Rest is not the opposite of discipline. It is part of it.**



# RUNNING AWAY FROM STRESS? WHEN SPORT BECOMES TOO MUCH

**BY AADYA**

I have learnt that managing stress is not about squeezing more into an already busy schedule. Sometimes, it means recognising when enough is enough. It means understanding that missing a workout will not undo your progress, that taking an evening off revision does not mean you are falling behind, and that you do not have to earn the right to rest by exhausting yourself first.






If it genuinely makes you feel better, gives you energy and helps you switch off, that is a good thing. If it becomes another obligation, or something you feel compelled to do regardless of how tired or overwhelmed you are, it might be time to reassess.

There are also plenty of other ways to manage stress when exercise is not an option. Spending time with friends, getting outside for a walk if you are able to, meditation, reading a book or article (as you are doing right now) listening to music or simply putting your phone away for half an hour can all help. Not every moment of free time needs to be productive, and not every stressful day needs to end with another task completed.

Being injured has been an unwelcome reminder that our bodies are not machines. We can be ambitious, hardworking, and committed without constantly pushing ourselves to our limits. Especially during exam season, when the pressure to achieve can feel overwhelming, it is worth remembering that looking after yourself is not a distraction from success. It is what allows you to sustain it.

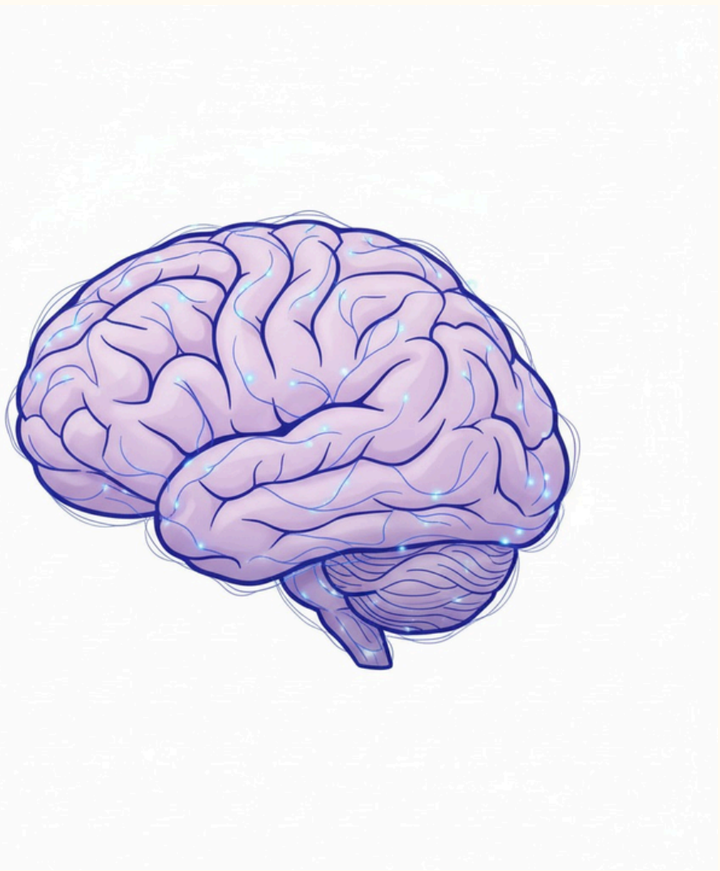
# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BORED

**BY DANIELLA**

Being bored isn't fun.

It can hit you on a flight, in the back of a car or on a lazy Saturday afternoon. It can be morning, noon or night. Yet, whenever that dreaded, antsy feeling of boredom settles in, you know it'll stay with you a while. It's a natural part of life, and somehow we tend to naturally associate it with negative emotions and negative thoughts. It's just something we do.

But should we really?



In the age of technology, instant entertainment, and a society fixated on always being happy, there's about a million different ways to 'save' yourself from that dreaded, awful feeling. Picking up your phone and immediately opening TikTok, Instagram, or any social network that will relieve your pain. Searching for something, anything, to do that will truly convince yourself you're busy. And, in most cases, eventually realising that you're stuck alone with your thoughts.

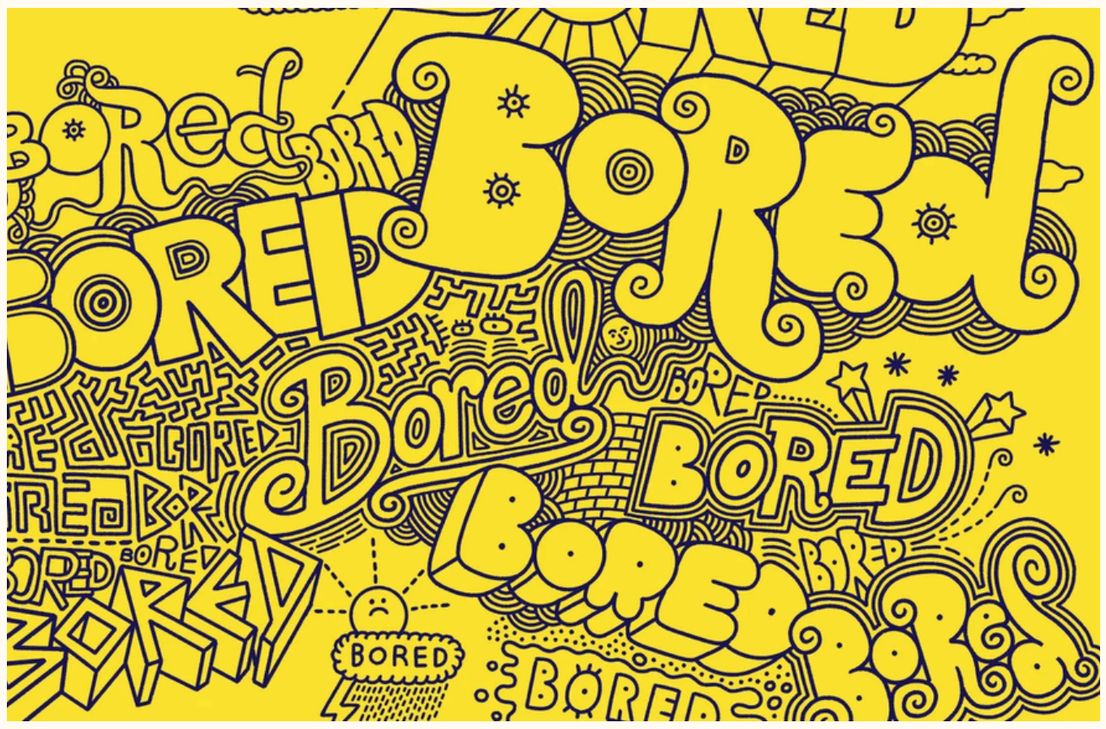
However, new research suggests being bored is actually a pretty beneficial thing. That might sound hard to hear at first – after all, who likes sitting around with nothing to do? But many scientists, psychiatrists, and neuroscientists around the globe seem to agree. For a number of reasons, too.

Firstly, being bored recharges your brain. Taking a rest after a day of long, tiring work (even when it's boring) gives your mind a chance to process all it's seen, prepare itself for what's to come, and most importantly, let go of stress or worry building up throughout the day. It prevents burnout, anxiety and allows your mind and body to take a breather while you're not occupied.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BORED

**BY DANIELLA**




Similarly, boredom – taking a mental break from the whirr and buzz of the world – lets us see things from a different perspective, a new approach, and can often lead to solving a problem. For example, famous 1930s actor and inventor, Hedy Lamarr, created the foundations of communication, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi after spending long hours alone in her trailer between film takes. Boredom gives us a break from whatever we've been struggling on, lets us breathe, and gives us a new way to solve it as soon as we come back.








So, the next time you're on a plane, in the back of a car, or just don't have anything to do, don't see it as an awful experience. See it as an opportunity, a chance to start over and make your work count. In the words of Albert Einstein, theoretical physicist and professional musician, "The monotony and solitude of a quiet life stimulates the creative mind."

# THE TRAITORS: HOW EASY ARE WE TO MANIPULATE?

**BY KATE**

*From convincing performances to carefully constructed suspicions, The Celebrity Traitors reveals that the greatest weapon in the castle might not be deception itself, but our susceptibility to it.*

Why is it that identifying a Traitor seems so much easier from the comfort of our sofas than it does from inside the castle? The latest series of *The Celebrity Traitors* has provided a fascinating insight into the psychology of manipulation, demonstrating how easily our perceptions of others can be distorted. Perhaps the real skill of a Traitor is not necessarily being a convincing liar, but understanding how people form judgements in the first place.




One of the most interesting aspects of the game is the assumption that certain behaviours indicate deception. We associate nervousness, avoiding eye contact and inconsistent explanations with lying, yet research into deception suggests these cues are far less reliable than we think. Vrij et al. (2022) suggest that verbal behaviours, such as providing fewer details, avoiding verifiable information and struggling with unexpected questions, can be more revealing. This creates an interesting psychological imbalance: whilst Traitors must constantly monitor their own behaviour, Faithfuls are attempting to interpret these performances using assumptions that may be fundamentally flawed. The castle becomes a game of psychological manipulation, where appearing trustworthy can be considerably more valuable than actually being trustworthy.

But manipulation does not always have to come directly from the person deceiving us. Confirmation bias means that once we develop a suspicion about someone, we tend to seek out information that supports our existing beliefs whilst overlooking evidence that contradicts them. This can become particularly powerful at the round table, where one contestant's accusation can influence the opinions of an entire group. Through conformity and groupthink, individual uncertainty can quickly develop into collective conviction. In other words, a successful Traitor does not necessarily need to convince everyone of their innocence; sometimes, they simply need to convince everyone else that somebody else is guilty.

Our perceptions are also heavily influenced by the people themselves. The halo effect occurs when we associate a positive characteristic, such as humour or charm, with other positive qualities, making someone appear inherently more trustworthy. Conversely, the horn effect can make an abrasive or confrontational individual seem suspicious regardless of their actual role.

# THE TRAITORS: HOW EASY ARE WE TO MANIPULATE?

**BY KATE**

In *The Celebrity Traitors*, these biases become particularly interesting because contestants already have established public personas. We may find ourselves trusting a comedian because they make us laugh, or doubting someone because their public image does not fit our expectations of a Faithful.

Celebrity status also creates an unusual social hierarchy. The ‘big dog’ theory, coined by Joe Marler and Joe Wilkinson in the first celebrity series, suggests that particularly famous contestants can be considered too influential to murder or banish early. The Traitors themselves recognised this when discussing why they could not simply murder Sir Stephen Fry. More recently, the theory was turned on its head when the celebrities began anticipating the producers’ decisions, eventually identifying Jonathan Ross as a Traitor. This demonstrates that contestants are not simply manipulating one another; they are also attempting to manipulate the expectations of the game itself.









Perhaps this is what makes The Traitors such a compelling reflection of human behaviour. We like to believe that we make rational judgements based on the evidence in front of us, yet our decisions are so often shaped by social relationships, stereotypes and the opinions of others. If we can be manipulated so easily within the relatively controlled environment of a television game, how susceptible are we to manipulation in everyday life?

# HOW DOES SOCIAL MEDIA WARP OUR PERSPECTIVES: THE MODERN MALE VOICE

**BY JACK**

This was initially an article about the modern male voice, and how I feel it has been suppressed in the modern day. However, this point of view lacked any evidence when I looked for it, despite the representation I have seen throughout social media myself. But how has the media produced such a warped perspective and, more importantly, why was it so believable?

A lot of this is down to perspective. Algorithms on social media, which dictate what certain people see online. For example, I saw many videos during lockdown from young girls around 14 and 15 (around three years older than I was at the time) promoting a 'kill all men' message in promotion of radical feminism. Several other people may be learning about this phenomenon for the first time, despite my own experience leading me to think that this was everywhere. This may seem irrelevant, but it shows how someone's view of the world can be warped scarily easily by the media we consume. This results in people being put in 'social bubbles' separated by their algorithms, which dictate their view of the media by consistently showing them the same sorts of things repeatedly rather than differing perspectives.




But how does this affect us in the way it does? From the beginning of time, humans have learnt from experience, and the experiences we have are theorised by many psychologists to be the driving force behind our behaviour (particularly in the behaviourist approach). Therefore, when we consume information online, and the algorithm sees what we consume and feeds us more information that is similar, we end up trapping ourselves in one perspective. Since this is the only viewpoint you see, you are taught that it is the only viewpoint that exists. This can result in a perspective becoming so warped that it loses any form of credible evidence to support it, like how my original article, despite having an abundance of information, had nothing tangible to stand on.

This may seem like an unwinnable scenario, where you can never get all the facts, but that actually isn't the case. The algorithms can dictate what they give you, not what you go and find out yourself. Thinking and doing research about what you see online – without the 'help' of an algorithm – allows you to see other perspectives and make a judgement for yourself, rather than allowing social media to constantly feed us uninformed opinions that are disguised as facts.






Overall, the media will always use algorithms to try to trap us in our own 'social bubbles or echo chambers'. However, by doing your own research and thinking critically, we can maintain our ability to have a balanced perspective.

THE QUARTERLY GAZETTE

AUTUMN EDITION

# THE ODYSSEY: A REVIEW

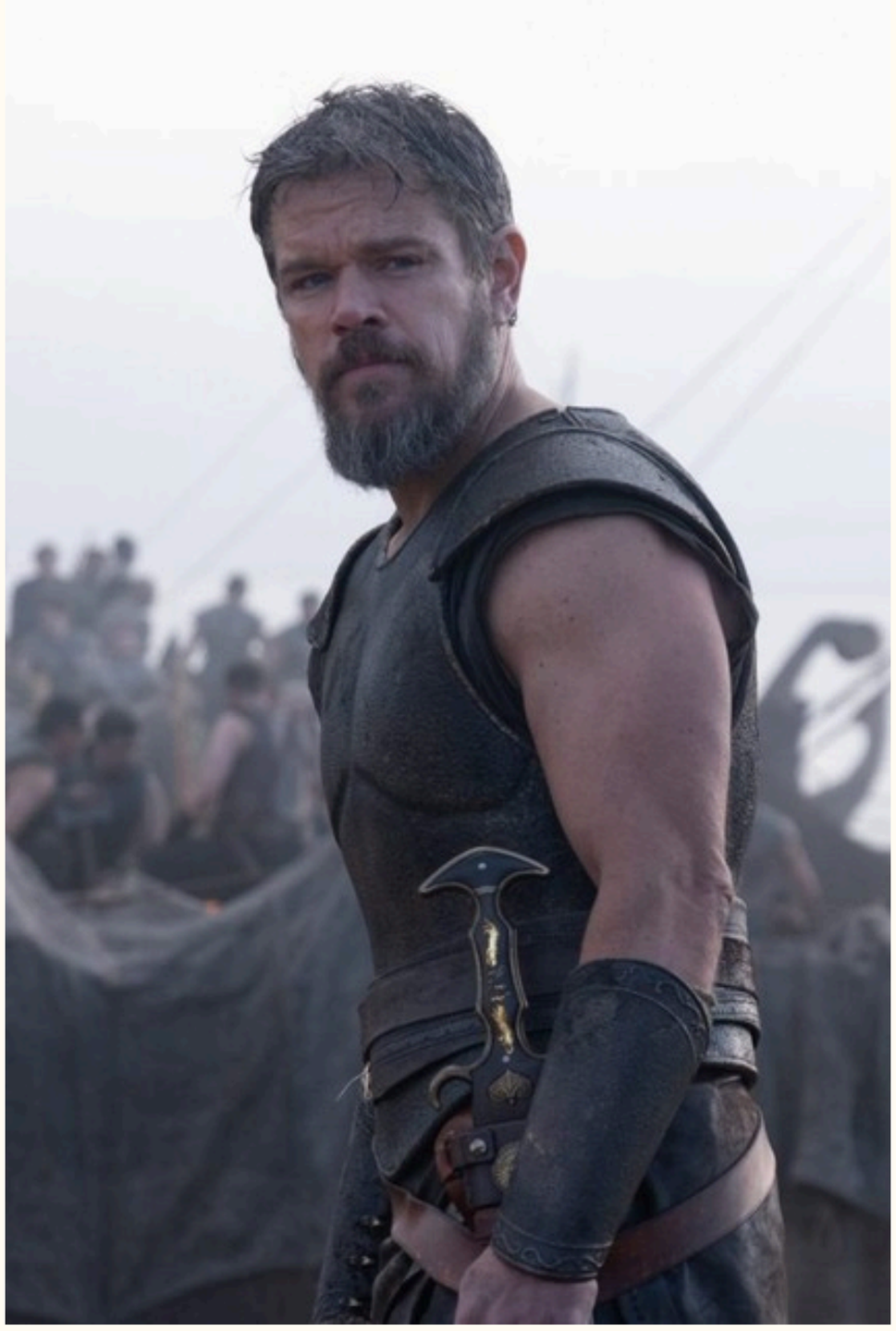
**BY DANIEL**

*The Odyssey* is the latest film directed by Christopher Nolan which first arrived in cinemas in July. The film made over $1 billion within a month of its release and drove cinema attendance up. Firstly, *The Odyssey* was hugely anticipated winning the Astra Midseason Award for most anticipated movie of 2026. This was mostly due to the $250 million budget and the fact that it is directed by one of the most famous directors in the modern age of cinema. The primary reason people flocked to the cinemas for this new release is because it is the first giant production filmed entirely on IMAX cameras. IMAX film is the highest quality of film that exists as believed by Christopher Nolan and the physical film is approximately ten miles long.




The movie itself was widely enjoyed and loved by critics and casual viewers. The most common positive opinions include that the film is simply a fantastic, classic story being brought to life by cinema by one of the most successful directors with an array of Hollywood stars delivering impressive performances.

However, a common criticism is that *The Odyssey* is a poor adaptation of the original epic Greek poem by the poet Homer as they claim it does not focus on the emotions behind the family left behind by Odysseus and that Nolan focuses too much on spectacle using impressive visuals or immersive sound effects instead of focusing on the core story.



My favourite part about the film was the tension built in many scenes throughout the film. One scene that masters tension is the scene involving the cyclops where we see Odysseus and his men coordinate themselves to stealthily escape the terrifying beast. This scene immerses you in the group and makes you feel as if the stakes are real; this paired with the tense soundtrack amounts to an incredible cinematic experience.

One problem I had with the film is its pacing. In my opinion, Nolan spends far too long explaining the family dynamics with multiple long dialogue scenes instead of an alternative storytelling method such as embedding this into the action. This paired with the film running for 2 hours and 52 minutes can make the film feel incredibly long and that watching it is exhausting.

Similar to Nolan's other work, *The Odyssey* fully utilises soundtracks and visual effects as a technique which attempts to maximise the effect of the story on the viewer. This has mixed opinions from critics and viewers. Some believe this works however others criticise this saying the constant sounds and effects are overwhelming making the movie feel like a "three hour trailer".

Overall, *The Odyssey* is a fantastic adaptation to the original story being a remarkable cinematic experience while inevitably having its flaws.

# AUTUMN AROUND THE WORLD

**BY EVE**

## Thanksgiving: America

Thanksgiving is a time for reflecting and appreciating blessings and harvest for Americans. During this time they gather and have a feast to celebrate Thanksgiving on 4th November. There are even some parades here and there to celebrate the occasion, people get two days off from school or work, and it marks the start of the Christmas season.




Most people celebrate with a big roast turkey, and also food like potatoes, vegetables, gravy and sweet pies. It started when pilgrims came to America to settle for religious freedom and faced lots of difficulties but then the native Americans came to help them and they had a feast to give thanks.



## Halloween

Halloween is celebrated in lots of countries and is very popular. It is believed to be when all the dead come back to life. In ancient times, people used to put out offerings (like sweets) out to the dead to ward them away. This eventually evolved into trick or treating where people dress up in spooky costumes and go from door to door collecting sweets. People also put decorations in their homes to make them spooky and Halloween themed. They create things like Jack o' lanterns and put on fake spiderwebs and light up ghosts and candles.

## Day of the Dead: Mexico

Day of the Dead is like a family reunion- only that it's with dead loved ones and celebrating their memory. It's a joyful time where people pay respects to them. It is celebrated over the course of two days and during that time people set up candlelit altars in their homes so the dead can find their way back to them. They also put their favourite food there as well and visit gravestones. Someone might even introduce a baby to a dead loved one who was born after they died. Skeletons are also a big part and people paper mache skeletons or get blow up ones, which can be doing all sorts of wacky poses!



# AUTUMN AROUND THE WORLD

**BY EVE**

## Diwali: India



Diwali is the Hindu festival of light and it celebrates light triumphing over darkness. During this time, people make clay lights, paint patterns on the floor and set off fireworks. Diwali is celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs, and some Buddhists around the world. It signifies that good will always win over evil, and light over darkness. For Hindus, this festival also celebrates the return of Prince Rama and his wife Sita after 14 years of exile and defeating the demon king Ravana.



## Mid-Autumn Festival: China

The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the most important holidays and celebrations in Chinese culture. It celebrates the autumn harvest and the moon being at its brightest. During the festival, lanterns of all shapes and sizes are carried and displayed as a symbol of good fortune and prosperity. It takes place on the 25th September. People eat rich pastries called mooncake while gazing on the moon.

## Harvest Festival: United Kingdom

The harvest festival is celebrated across the UK and it is usually church based and celebrates another successful harvest. People gather round and offer food to put at the altar for charities, and you sit on the pews and pray. It usually happens around September October autumn time and there are displays around the churches to celebrate the occasion. People also sing hymns to thank God.



# POPULAR P7 RECIPE

# PUMPKIN BREAD ROLLS

## INGREDIENTS

- 250g strong flour
- 30g light brown sugar
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- ½ tbsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp ginger
- ½ nutmeg
- 75g butter
- 70g pumpkin puree
- 55ml milk

Maple glaze:

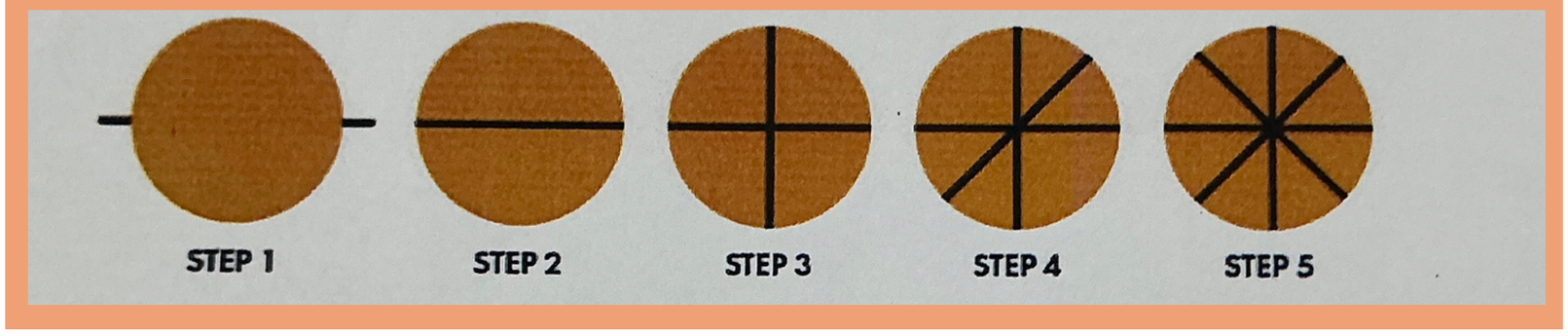
- 4 tbsp maple syrup
- 25g butter
- 1 tbsp icing sugar
- ½ tsp cinnamon

- 6 pieces of string cut into 80cm lengths.



## DIRECTIONS

1. **Preheat the oven to 180 degrees celsius.**
2. **Place the butter, flour, and the other dry ingredients into a large bowl. Rub in the butter until it looks like breadcrumbs.**
3. **Add the pumpkin puree and milk. Mix together to form a dough**
4. **Transfer the dough to the work surface and divide into 6 equal pieces. Roll each into a neat ball.**
5. **Lay a piece of string on the bench and place one of the balls of dough on top of the very centre.**
6. **Use the diagram below to wrap the string around the ball to make a pumpkin shape.**
7. **Bake for 15 minutes at 180 degrees.**
8. **Allow to cool slightly before snipping the string and peeling it away. Then, while the bread is still slightly warm, use the chocolate sticks to make a stalk.**
9. **To make the glaze, add all the ingredients into a pan and bring to boil. Boil the ingredients together for 1 minute before removing from the heat.**
10. **Glaze the bread rolls and coat with cinnamon sugar to finish.**




## QUOTES

“SO FUN!”

“I FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO CREATE THE PUMPKIN SHAPE, BUT IT LOOKED SO GOOD AT THE END”

**BY MOR**

# Autumn Word Search

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

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BOUNTIFUL | HALLOWEEN | SEPTEMBER | NOVEMBER | CRUNCHY |
| FLANNEL | OCTOBER | ORCHARD | PUMPKIN | AUTUMN |
| BREEZY | CHILLY | COLORS | GOLDEN | LEAVES |
| ORANGE | SQUASH | YELLOW | APPLE | BRISK |
| CIDER | CRISP | GEESE | PEARS | TREES |
| COZY | FALL | RAKE | | |

# THE ULTIMATE AUTUMN MOVIE GUIDE: 15 FILMS FOR THE PERFECT EVENING

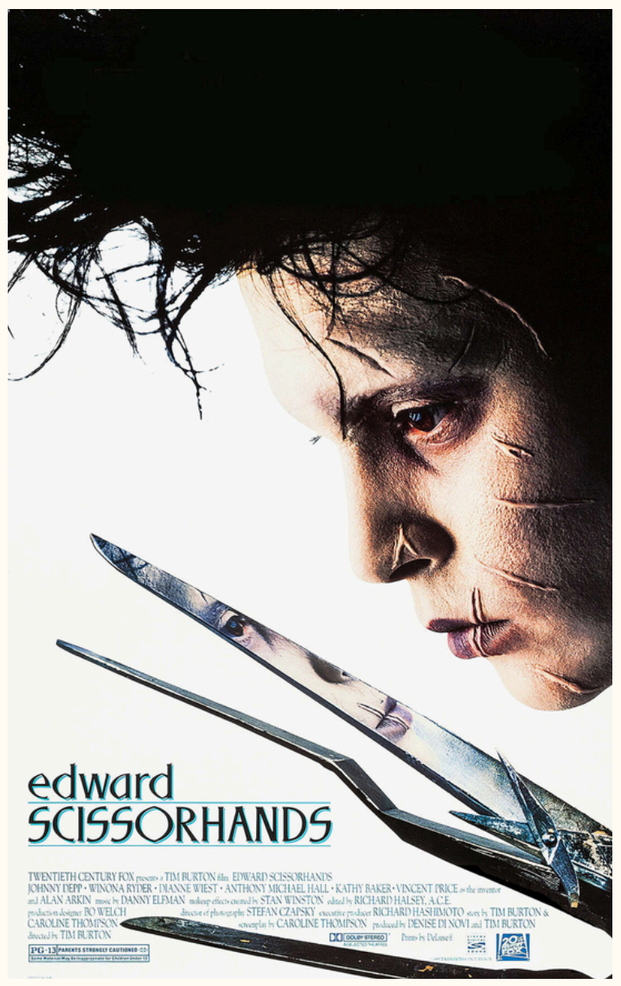
**BY MAISIE**

There is a special kind of magic that arrives with autumn. The mornings become colder, the evenings darker, and the trees slowly transform into shades of gold, orange, and red. Cold air breathes against warm boots, scarves return to wardrobes, and suddenly staying home with a blanket and a good film feels like the best plan imaginable.

Autumn is one of the most cinematic seasons. It suits stories filled with mystery, nostalgia, romance, fantasy, and just the right amount of darkness. From haunted houses and strange creatures to old friendships, impossible romances, and murder mysteries, there is a film for almost every autumnal mood. So, if you're looking for something to watch on a cosy evening, here are fifteen films that belong on your autumn watchlist.

## Gothic, Magical and Strange

Autumn is also the perfect season for stories that feel as though they exist somewhere between reality and a fairy tale. *Edward Scissorhands* captures this beautifully. Its gothic setting, unusual characters, and bittersweet story give it the feeling of a modern fairy tale. Coraline offers something similar, although considerably stranger. Its beautifully designed world is simultaneously enchanting and unsettling. It feels like the perfect film for a rainy afternoon when you want something imaginative with a darker edge.




If fantasy is more your style, *Labyrinth* takes you into a bizarre and dream-like world filled with puzzles, creatures, magic, and adventure. It has the sort of atmosphere that makes you want to curl up under a blanket and disappear into another world for a couple of hours. And for a softer supernatural watch, *Casper* brings together ghosts, friendship, comedy, and nostalgia. It's spooky enough to fit the season without becoming overwhelming.

## Cozy Autumn Classics

Not every autumn film needs to be frightening. Sometimes the best choice is something warm, nostalgic, and comforting. Few films fit this mood better than *Little Women*. Their family home, friendships, books, changing seasons, and intimate atmosphere make it almost the cinematic equivalent of a warm cup of tea. It's a film that feels particularly comforting when the weather outside is cold.

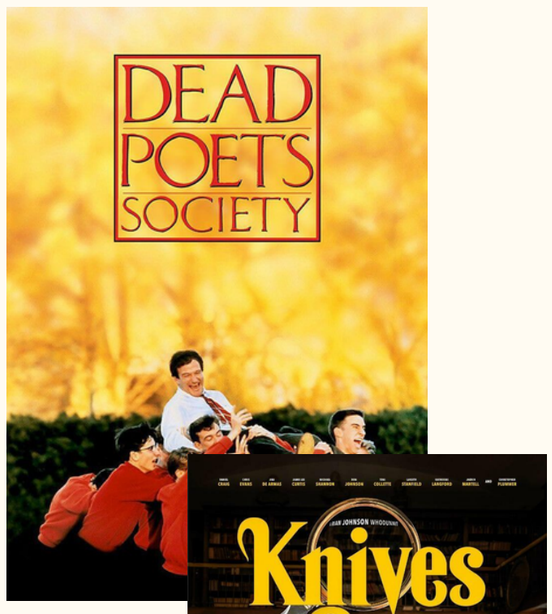
If you’re looking for a film that has a thoughtful and nostalgic quality, watch *Dead Poets Society*. Its school setting, friendships and reflections on youth make it the kind of movie that stays with you long after credits. Then there's *When Harry Met Sally...*, one of the ultimate autumn comfort films. Its New York setting, changing seasons, conversations, humour, and romance make it particularly suited to a quiet October or November evening

THE QUARTERLY GAZETTE

AUTUMN EDITION

# THE ULTIMATE AUTUMN MOVIE GUIDE: 15 FILMS FOR THE PERFECT EVENING

**BY MAISIE**







## A Mystery for a Dark Evening

*Knives Out* is an excellent autumn choice. The enormous house, complicated family, suspicious characters, secrets, and murder investigation create the perfect cozy mystery atmosphere. It's clever without taking itself too seriously, making it ideal for watching with friends or family and trying to work out the mystery together. There's something about autumn that naturally complements mysteries. Perhaps it's the darker evenings or the feeling that there's always something hiding just beyond what we can see.

## Films for Escaping Reality:

Sometimes you don't want horror or romance. You simply want to disappear into another world. *Ready Player One* provides exactly that. Its futuristic setting, virtual reality, gaming references, and nostalgic pop-culture influences make it an energetic choice for an evening when you want something entertaining and escapist.




*La La Land* offers a completely different kind of escape. Its music, dancing, ambition, romance, and beautiful visuals create a world that feels almost like a dream. Beneath all that colour, however, is a thoughtful story about dreams, choices, and the paths people take.




## When You Want Something Completely Different

Finally, there is *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*: a film that refuses to fit neatly into any category. Wild, theatrical, strange, musical, and deliberately outrageous, it is particularly suited to Halloween season. It's the kind of film that works best when you're in the mood for something completely unlike an ordinary movie night. And perhaps that's what makes an autumn watchlist so enjoyable. There doesn't have to be one film that defines the season.

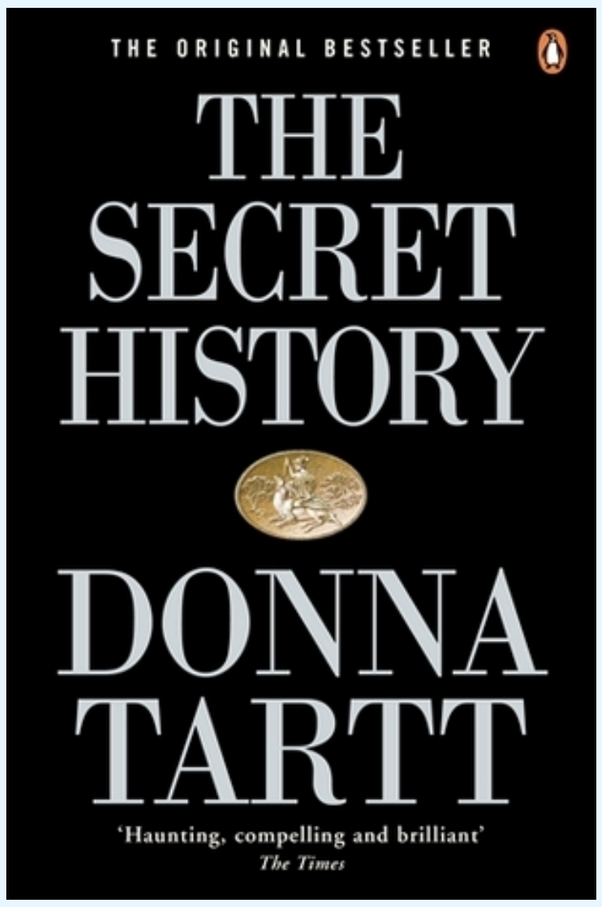



## The Perfect Autumn Movie Night

The beauty of autumn is that it gives you an excuse to watch almost anything. You can spend one evening watching vampires in *The Lost Boys*, another exploring the strange world of *Coraline*, and another getting lost in the romance of *When Harry Met Sally*. Some films make you want to light candles and curl up under a blanket. Others make you want to turn off every light in the house and prepare to be frightened. Either way, the perfect autumn movie doesn't necessarily have to be set in autumn. It simply needs to capture something about the season: nostalgia, mystery, warmth, darkness, romance, imagination, or the feeling of wanting to stay inside while the world gets colder outside. So, make a warm drink, find your favourite blanket, put your phone away, and let the evening begin. The leaves are falling, the nights are getting longer, and there are fifteen films waiting to make your autumn a little more cinematic.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

**BY IMOGEN**



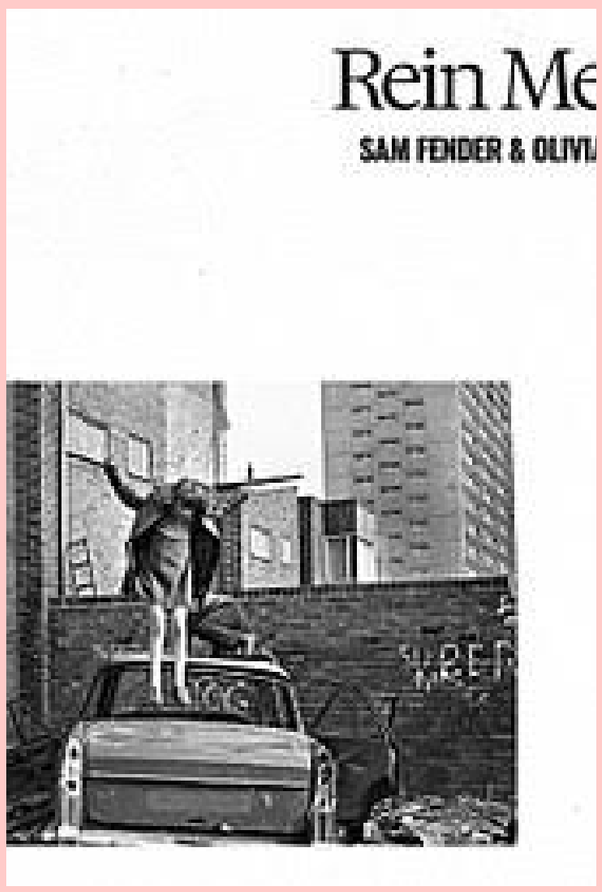

**Book to Read: *The Secret History* by Donna Tart**

*The Secret History* was written in 1992 and is an inverted dectivive story. It follows a group of elite classics students as the main character, Richard Papen, recounts how they murdered their close friend. As the killer is revealed on the first page, the 'mystery' focuses on why it happened, rather than who did it. Despite getting away with the murder, the group unravels, turning the story into a psychological exploration of guilt. This eerie atmosphere creates a perfect read for dark, late autumn evenings.




**Film to Watch- *Practical Magic 2***

The film was released recently just in time for autumn.  This sequal to the 1998 classic focuses on the youngest daughters of the Owens family and the love curse that still haunts them. Critics praise the return of Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman, and the strong sense of sisterhood they present throughout the film. Since receiving such positive reviews, *Practical Magic 2* has established itself as a cozy and fun addition to this year's spooky season.

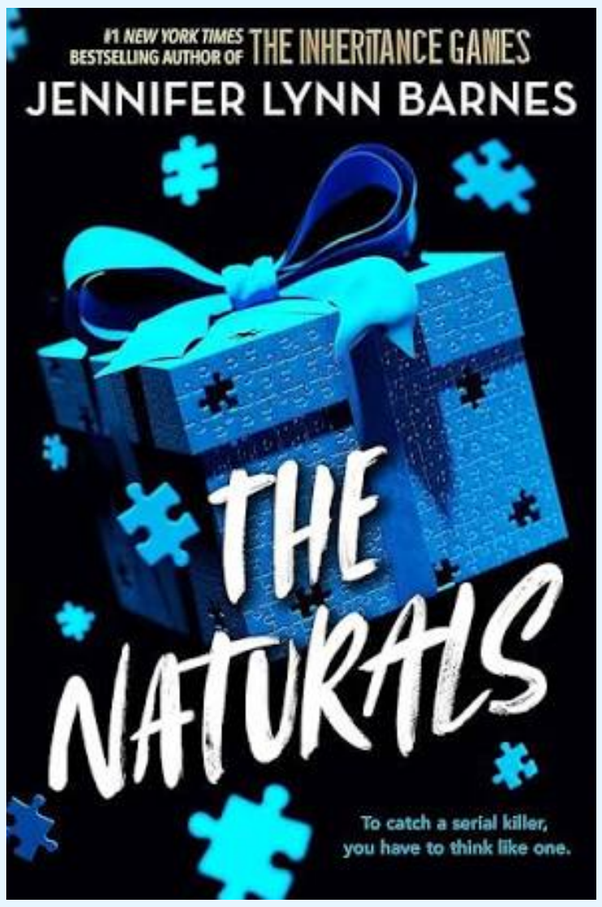



**Music to listen to- *Rein Me In* by Sam Fender and Olivia Dean**

*Rein Me In* spent 20 weeks at Number 1 due to its deeply resonating lyrics and soft rock sound. Olivia Dean's soft and soulful voice blends well with Sam Fender's raw lyrics, creating a deeply emotional and reflective song. This warm sound fits well with the end of the season.

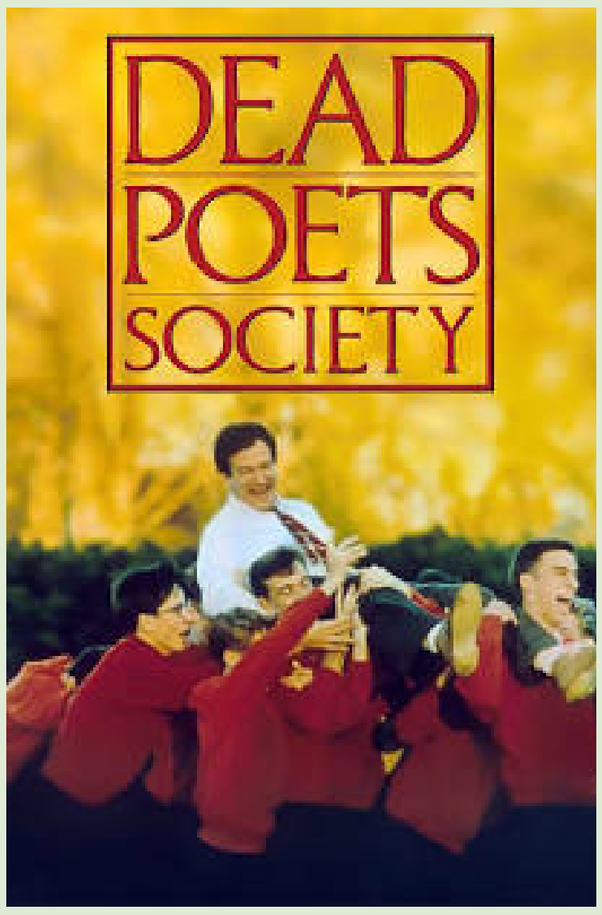
# RECOMMENDATIONS

**BY IMOGEN**




**Book to read: *The Naturals* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes**

*The Naturals* is a young adult psychological thriller, published in 2013. The story follows seventeen-year-old Cassie Hobbes who is contacted by the FBI to join a secretive program after they discover her extraordinary talent for reading people, and profiling killers. The book is full of suspense building cliffhangers and plot twists that make it a fast-paced easy read. The suspenseful and dark atmosphere perfectly matches gloomy nights, making it perfect for reading during autumn.




**Films to watch: *Dead Poets Society***

*Dead Poets Society* is a 1989 coming-of-age film following a group of students at boarding school. It centres around the arrival of their new English teacher, Mr Keating as he encourages the students to live by the motto ‘Carpe Diem’ meaning ‘seize the day’. This guidance encourages the boys to revive the secret Dead Poets Society  and pursue their passions, such as acting . The aesthetics of this film perfectly mirror the cosy back to school transition, through the New England boarding school setting and the introspective mood evoked through Mr Keating’s lessons.




**Music to listen to - *Rhiannon* by Fleetwood Mac**

This song features mystical and witchy imagery, which when blended with Stevie Nick’s vocals, create a perfect earie atmosphere for autumn.

The rest of Fleetwood Mac’s music is also perfect for autumn due to their blend of classic rock and melancholic lyrics.

# MEET THE TEAM



**KATE**
**EDITOR**



**AADYA**
**EDITOR**



**DANIELLA**
**JUNIOR EDITOR**



**NATHANIAL**



**FINN**



**DANIEL**



**MAISIE**



**ERIN**



**IMOGEN**



**MOROLAKE**



**EVA**



**JACK**



**HARRY**



**HENRY**



**EVE**



**BELLA**



**SURAVI**



**ADI**

WANT TO JOIN THE TEAM? HAVE SOMETHING EXCITING TO SHARE FOR OUR NEXT EDITION?
EMAIL QUARTERLYGAZETTE@GORDONS.SCHOOL TO GET INVOLVED!

# UPCOMING EVENTS




| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **November** 2 Half term begins | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Friday Night Lights- Football and Rugby | 7 | 8 Remembrance Parade |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Friday Night Lights- Hockey | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Exeat | 21 Exeat | 22 Exeat |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Wreath Making Workshop | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | **December** 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Friday Night Lights- Hockey | 5 | 6 |
| 7 *Elf, the Musical* Night 1 | 8 *Elf, the Musical* Night 2 | 9 Sports Season Finale | 10 Steinway piano recital | 11 | 12 I-H Rugby and Hockey West End Christmas Fair | 13 |
| 14 Carol Service Night 1 | 15 Carol Service Night 2 | 16 Last day of term | 17 HOLIDAY | 18 HOLIDAY | 19 HOLIDAY | 20 HOLIDAY |
| 21 HOLIDAY | 22 HOLIDAY | 23 HOLIDAY | 24 HOLIDAY | 25 HOLIDAY Christmas Day | 26 HOLIDAY Boxing Day | 27 HOLIDAY |

