



DCGS

CHATTER

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Year 8 Christmas Cake Finalists
- Staff interviews
- Fantastic amounts are raised for charity across the school
- Creative writers exhibit their work



DCGS CELEBRATES

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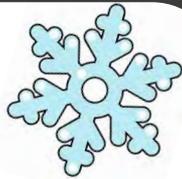
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Words from the Editor

HO! HO! HO! DCGS *Chatter* readers,
Chatter 24 has landed in your chimney,
sorry I mean inbox, ready for you to read at
your pleasure!

We have, as always, got so many delightful
articles within this edition - the last of 2022!

We hope that some of the articles might inspire
you to do some Christmas baking, perhaps
maybe have a go at drawing some Anime, learn
some First Aid or you could even make your
own Christmas mouse.

Please enjoy this edition, perhaps whilst trying
out the '**Huggle up hot chocolate**'.

Stay safe and warm, we will see you all back in
school on 4th January 2023.

The Ed

From us all at DCGS CHATTER

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

This Editions Chatter Team...

Year 7 Team - Ffion, Jecca, Dot, Cooperation
Cliche, Prudence

Year 8 Team - Nikita, Megan, Leah, Caitlin,

Year 9 Team - Anezka, Ollie, Sophie

Year 10 Team - George, Oliver, Beatrix, Abigail,
Sofie, Niroje, Cameron, Michaela,

Year 11 Team - Joe, Edward

6th Form Team- Gabriela, Taz, Joel

**With a little help from Mrs Finlay, Mrs Cronin,
Mrs Rogers & Miss Purdy**



Year 8 Christmas Cakes



Well done Year 8

"Y8 students congratulations on your hard work, resilience and creativity. We are so proud of them - it takes a lot of determination and organisation to reach a finished cake stage." Food & Nutrition Department.





Christmas Cake Winners



Staff and students across the school community voted on their favourite 3 choices of the finalists . The entries were to be judged on the technical skill, creativity, originality and wow factor used.

The winners were as follows:

- 1st Molly 8B**
- 2nd Matilda 8N**
- 3rd Nikita 8T**



Guest Judge, Sally Hart (Head of Facilities) judged all of the students entries not just the finalists and the winners were as follows

- 1st Eloise 8D**
- 2nd Poppy 8D**
- 3rd Ophelia 8H**



The highly recommended entry for this year is **James in 8S**





Advent



By Caitlin - Year 8

As you may know, in December there's an event called Advent. You may just know this time because you bought an Advent calendar with chocolate or toys, but there's actually a religious meaning behind it.

Advent (from the Latin word 'adventus' which means 'coming') is a Christian festival that is either meant to be preparation for Jesus's birthday, or be preparing for the second coming of Christ.

In churches, it is celebrated over four Sundays, where the light one candle every session, and a fifth one is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day - depending on where it is. Sometimes the first four of these candles are white and the last one is red, and these candles are usually on an advent wreath - which is a circle of evergreen leaves.

There are four themes for each candle (except for the one on christmas eve or christmas day) and these are:

- God's people - The Candle of Hope. Hope is like a light shining in a dark place.
- The old testament prophets - The Candle of Peace.
- John the Baptist - The Candle of Love.
- Mary the mother of Jesus - The Candle of Joy.





Sports news



World Cup By Oliver- Year 10

This year the Qatar world cup has taken place and has become the first ever World cup that has taken place at Christmas time. This World cup has quickly become one of the most entertaining World Cup's to watch but has also been surrounded by a lot of controversy with Qatar being homophobic and describing homosexuality as 'damage in the mind' which has quickly led to many people saying the World Cup should not have gone ahead. Other problems with Qatar are the fact that many migrant workers were being forced to build many new stadiums which resulted in a few of them dying in the process.

However a lot of preparation has been put into this World cup with Qatar having spent roughly 220 billion pounds on this and to put that into perspective the last world cup that took place in Russia cost them roughly 18 billion pounds.

Around all of this controversy the group of Fifa officials who selected Qatar to host this world cup have been banned or fined by Fifa as there were reports of Qatar buying votes and bribing Fifa officials.

However even with all of this controversy people thinking that the quality of football would not be as good were proved wrong! This world cup has been one of the best in a long time with many big teams like Germany and Belgium getting knocked out of the group stages and teams like Morocco making it through to the semi-final. Saudi Arabia beating Argentina, Croatia knocked out favourites of the tournament Brazil in the quarter finals and Morocco beating Portugal in the quarter finals.

Unfortunately England got knocked out to France in the semi finals in an intense game that Harry Kane sadly missed a penalty that could have helped take us through. Even in that game there were yet more controversial decisions... but we won't dwell on those. In this tournament England, in the first round beat Iran 6 - 2 then drew with USA 0-0 then beat Wales 3 - 0 taking us through to the Quarter Finals. We then beat Senegal 3 - 0 but unfortunately lost 1-2 to France which saw our end to this World cup of 2022. Football didn't come home this Christmas. Better luck next time lads at the Euro's.

As well as the quality of football being so good this year, many players had to miss out on this world cup due to injuries as this is taking place mid season. So after France are now in the final after beating England and Morocco, they are facing Argentina who beat Croatia and the Netherlands. Who shall win..... The team who plays the best of course on 18th December at 3pm



Comic Strip



By Corporation Cliche and Assassin:N, year 7

1

SCHOOL LAB

2

DETENTION AREA

3

4

SCHOOL PLAYGROUND



Comic strip continued



5



6



7



8





Staff interviews



Interview with Mr Letty

By Cameron, Oliver and Michaela- Year 10

Mr Letty is a psychology teacher who joined our school in September, and helped members of staff before this time, especially during the house competition time and preparation for the first school Sports Day since 2019 last year. As students in his form, we found out some information about his life before he joined the school and his current opinions on Dane Court.

Before working at Dane Court, Mr Letty worked as a volunteer in a homeless shelter- a job which he called stressful, but incredibly rewarding; helping around 7-10 clients with many reasons of being there, including mental health issues, relationship issues and unemployment to name a few.

He then looked around Dane Court- and his first impression was simply awe - the school looked good and students were behaved, and he took the role of Dane Court's newest psychology teacher. Mr Letty enjoys psychology and thinks "it's the master subject" as it allows us to understand interactions between groups of people with much more complexity than if we did not understand the psychology behind these interactions.

Upon mention of the school values, Mr Letty took favourites of caring and open-minded as they, especially open-minded, link to psychology- seeing or understanding people's differences and embracing them. The school does well to push these values - that "make students a pleasure to teach."

Hello ! Here is an interview all about Mrs Zielonko's first two terms at DCGS !!!

By Ffion Year 7 😊:

What subject(s) do you teach ?

Mrs Zielonko: i teach biology and chemistry but mainly biology

Why did you join DCGS ?

Mrs Zielonko: Last year I qualified as a teacher. When I was looking for a teaching job I came across a few possible schools, DCGS seemed to offer all the best qualities for me.

How have you found your time here so far?

Mrs Zielonko : Really good. The school has welcomed me with open arms, all the students are lovely to teach and seem very open-minded and eager to learn. There is lots of support from their teachers !

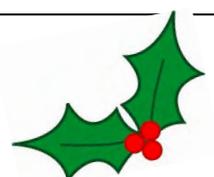
What do you like most about DCGS ?

Mrs Zielonko: like i said the support has been amazing. It's easy to ask other teachers questions or ask for resources. Students are so lovely to work with and they always seem to have the drive to get work done.

What school house are you in?

Mrs Zielonko: 10B

GO BARCELONA !!!!!





Huggle up Hot Chocolate



By Jecca - Year 7

As it is coming up to Christmas, one of my favourite things to do is huddle-up on the sofa with a good book and a mug of hot chocolate. So I thought I would share with you my special recipe.

You will need.....

200g of dark chocolate
10 tablespoons of cocoa powder
5 tablespoons of horlicks powder
5 tablespoons of cornflour
5 tablespoons of icing sugar
A teaspoon of ground cinnamon

Method:

- Grate the chocolate into a bowl
- Add all the other ingredients and a pinch of sea salt (or table salt)

Now your powder is complete so all you need to do is put a heaped tablespoon of it into a pan of simmering milk. The best way to measure out your milk is to pour it into your favourite mug leaving room for some marshmallow and cream to add in at the end.

This makes around 24 servings... so please divide it



You may remember last year that Dane Court student Abigail won the Young Cooks competition.... If cooking is something you love doing, here are the details to enter this years competition....



KM CHARITY TEAM **Young Cooks!**
Your invitation to be a Young Cook

£500 prize money

Young people are invited to take part in the south east's Young Cooks cookery competition with the winners receiving a share of £500!
Roll up your sleeves, get stuck in and discover how much fun cooking can be - while learning vital life skills along the way!

Closing date for entries: 31st January 2023

proudly supported by
PFP southern coop golding+homes MACKNADE brakes Broadstairs College THE DOG

To find out more or enter visit
kmcharityteam.co.uk/youngcooks



It's Panto Season... Oh no it isn't



Sarah Thorne Theatre; Mother Goose

How many years have you played in panto season, and how did you first get into the performing arts?

I have played in panto since leaving drama school in 2000 - so that's 22 years ! I got into performing arts whilst at secondary school - we had a cover teacher come in to take a lesson and she happened to be a professional actor - she got us all up and acting out a modern version of the nativity and when my group had finished she asked me if I had ever thought of performing as a career. I never had! I didn't think acting was for people like me! She then invited my parents to meet her at the school and talked us through how I could look into making the idea a reality and I was hooked!

Do you have a favourite that you prefer playing - the Good Fairy or Wicked Queen? And have you always played just these two panto characters, or have you performed other parts?

I've never played the princess or principle boy - I have always been either the fairy or the evil character - and I have to say I love being BAD! I have also appeared as the cat in Dick Whittington which I loved - and I quite often get roped in to put on the ghost or the gorilla costume to play the baddie in the famous bench scene - the gorilla costume is particularly unpleasant to be in as it is hot, heavy and you can't see where you are going!

How many months, prior to the start of panto season, do you begin rehearsals? And how many times a week/hours duration are spent rehearsing and preparing for that first curtain going up?

We only get a week of rehearsals to be together before the show opens BUT there are many weeks spent learning lines and months before that is the planning about costumes. scenery etc . rehearsals can be long but they are always filled with laughter and lots of biscuits and tea!

Who comes up with all of the 'in', topical jokes and anecdotes that are thrown-in to each panto - is it one person in particular, or do the whole cast/production team add their individual contributions?

Our writer, John is amazing at the comedy aspect of the panto - but he is also really open to the cast suggesting the latest topical things to make people laugh. Sometime current affairs change so quickly we can pop new things in as they occur - without rehearsal - panto is great for that!

How long are you in makeup before going on stage, and how does it feel wearing all of that grease paint, as well as fancy costumes, when under the heat of the stage lighting?

I arrive at the theatre about 90 minutes before curtain up - the stage makeup is heavy and when you add on the flamboyant costumes all I will say is that you need a very strong deodorant and that backstage after the show - we throw the windows wide open!

Have you ever experienced a wardrobe malfunction while on stage, or ever forgotten your lines?

And if so, how did you manage to recover from that?

In panto if you forget your lines the audience seem to love it! I have forgotten my lines once or twice but if I'm playing a baddie - I blame someone in the audience! I have seen some truly hilarious reactions from both cast and audience when people have forgotten their lines - so much so that you almost want to write the mistake into the show! As for wardrobe malfunctions - we have all had them - one time I went on stage as a fairy with my dress tucked in my pants! The baddie just incorporated it into his dialogue with me and again - the audience loved it!

Thank you letting us interview you, Lisa Payne





Oh yes it is !!!



Do you actually manage to get any free time between performances during panto season? And if so, what do you enjoy doing to unwind and relax, ready for your next show time?

On days where we have 2 shows you can sometimes come backstage to see piles of actors on the floor by the radiators getting a quick nap in before the next show . One year we were all really poorly and brought in sleeping bags and had a big medicine box on the props table with cold capsules and cough medicine! The show must go on! Other times you can find us scoffing food - we have a tradition of bringing in treats to share , or we are frantically catching up with things like emails and real life !

What's the largest audience you've ever performed panto for?

Around 200 people

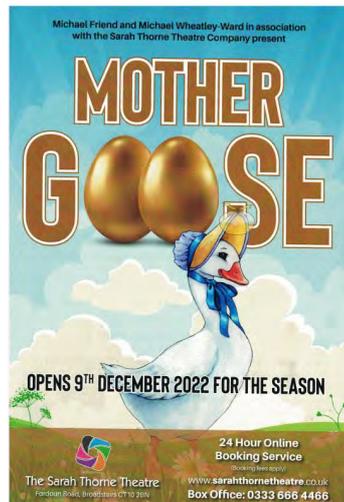
As well as panto, what other areas of theatre and performing arts have you worked in?

Classical theatre - Shakespeare, Children's theatre, street theatre, theatre in prisons, theatre in education, voice over work, a few films, Cabaret and role play training - I consider myself very lucky to have had all these wonderful experiences.

What is your own personal all-time favourite panto?

Cinderella - I love the Ugly Sisters and am quite sad that I will never play one because of the tradition of men playing the role of the Dame), and the idea of a Fairy Godmother and I always hope that one day Buttons gets to marry Cinderella and not the flashy Prince Charming!

Pop along and see Mother Goose this Christmas



Public Performance Times:

Fri 9th Dec - 7pm Rotary Charity Night (Sold Out)
 Sat 10th Dec - 2.30pm
 Sun 11th Dec - 2.30pm
 Mon 12th - for the week "Special School Shows"
 Sat 17th Dec - 2.30pm
 Sun 18th Dec - 2.30pm
 Mon 19th Dec - (No performance)
 Tue 20th Dec - 2.30pm
 Wed 21st Dec - 2.30pm
 Thu 22nd Dec - 2.30pm
 Fri 23rd Dec - 2.30pm
 Sat 24th Dec - 2.30pm Christmas Eve
 Sun 25th Dec - Christmas Day (No performance)
 Mon 26th Dec - Boxing Day (No performance)
 Tue 27th Dec - 2.30pm
 Wed 28th Dec - 2.30pm
 Thu 29th Dec - 2.30pm
 Fri 30th Dec - 2.30pm
 Sat 31st Dec - 2.30pm (Final performance)

Prices: Pre Xmas: Advance: Adult £16, Children £15, Family (four) £60, Doors: Adult £18, Children £16.
 Christmas Eve onwards: Advance: Adult £17, Children £16, Family (four) £64
 Doors: Adult £19, Children £17.
 Groups/Charity Fund Raising Nights by arrangement.
 The Sarah Thorne Theatre is 2 minutes from Broadstairs Railway Station.
 Sat Nav Post Code: CT19 2BN



Christmas Jokes

What is Santa's dog's name?
Santa Paws!

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
Nothing, it was on the house!

What athlete is warmest in winter?
A long jumper!





Fun recipes (Christmas themed)



By Sophie & Niroje - Year 10



Christmas is only a couple of days away. Do some fun baking while you wait. In this article you will find some fun sweet and savoury recipes to make to enjoy with your friends and family in the holidays. We hope that you have fun spending some of your time being in the kitchen this Christmas it will be definitely worth it :)

Sweet recipe - easy chocolate biscuits

Ingredients:

- 250g butter, softened
- 350g light soft brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 350g self raising flour
- 100g cocoa powder
- 200g chocolate chips/chocolate chunks



Method:

- 1) Firstly, you have to beat the butter and sugar together with a optional pinch of sea salt in a bowl until light and fluffy then beat in the eggs one at a time, sift over the flour and cocoa powder into the butter mix then fold through the chocolate chips.
To bake, heat the oven to 190/170C fan/gas 5.
- 2) If the mix is at room temperature, place evenly spaced spoonfuls on parchment-lined baking sheets allowing 2 tbsp for each cookie. If the mix is fridge cold, you can roll it into 40g balls before baking. The balls can be frozen and the biscuits baked from frozen, but they'll need a few minutes more.
- 3) Bake for 12-15 mins until spread out and crusty around the outside. Leave to cool slightly and enjoy warm, or leave to cool completely and eat cold. The biscuits will keep in a tin for three days.



Savoury recipes - blini (блины)

The next recipe can be made all year round, however blini on Christmas or on the countdown to Christmas is really nice! To explain: blini is a Russian pancake that's just smaller + savoury. So I thought I'd share a simple recipe so you could try it!

This makes around 20 blini!!!

Total time: 25 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 Cup all purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon of salt
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¾ cup milk
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon melted unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter

Steps:

1. Combine flour, salt, and baking powder in a bowl
2. Whisk ¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons milk, egg, and 1 tablespoon melted butter together in a separate bowl. Mix into the flour mixture until the batter is fully combined.
3. Heat 1 tablespoon butter in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Cooking several blini at a time, drop batter, one tablespoon at a time, onto the heated skillet. Cook until bubbles form, 1 ½ to 2 minutes. Flip and continue cooking until brown, about 1 minute more. Move to a paper towel-lined plate to help soak up excess butter.
4. Repeat with the remaining batter.



Christmas Reading Tips



By Sophie - Year 9

Christmas is here! So I've put together a few top tips for finding good books to gift and some suggestions about reading in general.

Tip No.1

No matter the book, you have to make sure it's got a good cover. Now don't get me wrong- you should never judge a book by its cover- but I've found it's more pleasing for a book to have an illustrated cover with a cool font rather than a photo and comic sans writing across the front (hey, I'm not dissing comic sans but it's lowkey generic). You can often find different covers for each book, but it's the story that counts.

Tip No.2

Some things that often go nicely with a book are fluffy socks and chocolate. When you wrap it up with a cute ribbon this is a great idea for a gift, it looks super aesthetic but also has good content.

Tip No.3

If you are asking for a book for christmas, a good idea is to ask for the first in a trilogy. Personally, I think that trilogies are the best kind of book series to get because you know it won't go on forever (though for some they like a long series).

Tip No.4

Sometimes someone who can't get into a book just skips to the end- don't do this. I know it may sound like a good idea but it really isn't because you're going to open up to the last page and nothing will make sense, yet the book is still spoiled, you can never go back and try again to read it. Just give up, leave the book alone for a while and read something else, you will likely come back in a few years and read it then.

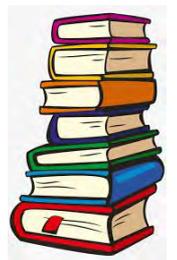
Tip No.5

Always reread books. The second or third time you read something is when you can really appreciate the little plot details or the descriptions. When you read something for the first time often it's rushed because you want to know the ending as fast as possible, so rereading means you're more relaxed and less rushed. Also writing down quotes from books or little notes about certain parts or characters is a good idea, that way you'll look back on these and remember the book better.

Merry Christmas!

Poem by Edward - Year 11

Nothing



*Hope ticks to zero; protestors beseech for time.
Exploitative opportunists abduct domination
With sly strings of sinister speech,
Indoctrinating all with specious optimism.*

*Yet a hero stands valiant, ardent for righteousness.
"Zero harm" is disclosed; they applaud for a second.
With his miniscule and monumental victory,
The oblivious champion is unconquerable.*

*And as his clutch tightens on ubiquitous justice,
He loses grasp on sentience and purpose
For his promised omnipotence.
His triumph is a trinket.*

*One zero from the warranted thousands,
Has been plucked to adulate his psyche.
And despite his altruistic self-preservationist aspiration,
Activists rampage omnipresently.*

Nothing has changed.



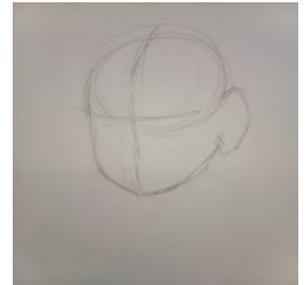


How to improve drawing (people)! :) pt.1

By Abigail - Year 10

(Please bear in mind that I am not great at art, but i just like to do it for fun so this may not be the best)

- 1) First you need to find the reference you want to use, and sketch out the rough head shape. I find that this is easiest to do through using simple shapes like circle.



- 2) Next draw in the body shape, once again try to use simple shapes to map out the shape of the body. Then you can edit and tweak it until you get a shape you are happy with.

- 3) Sketch a faint line from the top and bottom of the ears. Then draw in roughly where you want the facial features to go. Try to make sure the eyebrows are in line with the top of the ears, and the mouth in line with the bottom!



- 4) Then, draw the face in more detail, mostly the eyes. Try to remember that the eye shape is important as it helps to make your drawings more recognisable

- 5) You should then add on the hair and clothes. It's very helpful to keep looking at your reference here, as it can help to get the flow of the hair and creases in the clothes right!



(Here is the reference I used)





How to improve drawing (people)! :) pt.2

By Abigail - Year 10



6) Now it's time for the lineart! First, just go over your pencil, in whatever you want to outline it in (i used a black fineliner). Then go back over and change the thickness on some of the lines. I tend to make the outside of all the lines the thickest! :)



7) After, you should add the colour. Just start by looking at your reference for the base colours and put them on your lineart! You can use whatever you want, but i am using alcohol markers.



8) Now, you can go back over your colour and add the shading!! This is where it is crucial that you look at your reference to make sure you get the shading right. When it comes to picking the colours for the shadows, you can either look for ones similar to your reference photo, or just pick darker colours from the area you want to shade!

9) Finally, just create some highlights on your drawing; you can do so with a white gel pen, or paint e.t.c! I think that this step is really important as it helps your art to look finished!

You have your finished piece!!!



St Johns Ambulance



By Leah - Year 8

St John Ambulance is a volunteering organisation founded in 1887 to educate and teach people about first aid and other emergency responses. The closest cadet units to Broadstairs are Westgate, Ramsgate, Canterbury, Ashford and Dover. The price ranges from units, but it is typically only £6 a month.

Most people join St John's because they want to get a job in healthcare. But there are so many different activities you can do, there's always something for everyone.

Some activities include:

- learning first aid and volunteering at events
- helping your local community
- learning about health and wellbeing
- developing your confidence and communication skills
- helping to teach others first aid
- enjoying a wide range of adventurous activities



Badgers

Badgers is the youngest, for ages 5-10. They participate in various activities based on first aid and other essential topics and earn many certificates and badges. For every 3 subjects they complete, a badger gets an award until they achieve their Super Badger Award(12 subjects).

Cadets

Cadets range from ages 10 to 17; in December 2019, there were around 8,000 cadets. They usually work towards their **Grand Prior Award**, which usually takes around 4 years to complete. This is because you need to fulfil 5 different stages to get it. First is the Membership Award where you can try out first aid skills and learn about the intriguing history of St John Ambulance. After you complete it, you have to get the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award, before you can finally get the Grand Prior Award. As you work your way through the Grand Priors Award, you will study a wide range of subjects, including first aid and event skills, the past and present of St John Ambulance, health and wellbeing, social action and personal development.

As a cadet, you will have the opportunity to go on many different courses across England. These courses allow you to meet new people and learn lots of new skills and information, not only first aid.



Remembrance Day to remember



By Oliver - Year 10

This year for remembrance day I went to Belgium along with other members of my explorer unit and other explorers from across Thanet.

To start the day off we travelled by coach at 7 o'clock to Dover to get a ferry to France, Calais. Once there we took a coach to our first stop in Belgium, Hill 62, a Canadian war memorial and WWI trench site. Here we learnt about weapons used in the war, what the conditions in the trenches were and also a bit more about what Canada did to help us win the war. Our next stop was Tyne Cot, the largest war cemetery in Belgium, there are just under 12,000 graves here, also 8,000 of these graves are unnamed, there are also walls full of thousands of names of soldiers who died in the war but their bodies were never found. This showed us the scale of how many people died fighting in this war and how many died without anybody knowing who they were. After this we went to a German war memorial with 10,000 German graves as well as a mass grave with over 25,000 people piled on top of each other in a hole. This showed that both sides of the conflict lost many soldiers. After this we went to our final stop in Belgium, the Menin Gate in Ypres. The Menin Gate is a huge archway with thousands of names written on the wall, these names each represent one person who died in the war but their bodies were never actually found. This was a very special place to visit as on the walls I found two of my distantly related family members who died during the war. On top of this, at the Menin Gate, every single night the last post is played to commemorate all of the soldiers who lost their lives in the wars. And as this trip took place on Remembrance day weekend, there was a special ceremony along with the last post so we got to see and take part in this special ceremony.



Ffion - Year 7

Why is music such an important part of our everyday lives?

Well I'm here to answer that question! Interests in music can come from many different backgrounds etc.

Cultures : cultures impact a lot of influences on music. This could be from just happy moments at festivals or celebrations that remind you of a special song

Background : a lot of people choose their likes in music based on past events (definitely me !) in their lives. Whether it's music of a celeb's crush or you've been through some dramatic times lately . Or it could be what your parents(s) would play to you when you were younger

Relatable Lyrics : say you are going through something so exciting and happy your most likely going to want to listen to up-beat dance music. And if you've not been so happy lately you're going to maybe want to sing-along to some deep lyrics. Lyrics impact our love on music more than we probably realise.

Singing - Along : singing along to a song can encourage us to listen to music a lot more. It puts us into a good mood and makes us feel bright and breezy.

Traditional Music : some people only listen to music for the classic feeling of Beethoven's smoothing harmonies.

All this helps us human-beings to relax and this is exactly why music is such a sacred part of our lives!



Netflix Show Review



By Anezka - Year 9

Dead End: Paranormal Park is a Netflix TV show (created by Hamish Steele) based off of the graphic novel series “Deadendia” (by Steele) and Cartoon Hangover’s Too Cool! Cartoons web short “Dead End”. The series follows Barney and Norma, who both get a job at a theme-park called Phoenix Parks. The two are joined by Barney’s dog, Pugsley, and Courtney, a thousand-year-old demon. The group face zombies, game show hosts, magic and lots of other supernatural events and beings.

The show has two seasons currently, but Steele has said he isn’t finished with the show and would like to make a season 3 (but it has not been greenlit yet by Netflix). The graphic novel series has 2 books, with Steele currently making a third. Despite the TV show and graphic novels having the same setting and characters, they follow slightly different paths.

The main character of Dead End is Barney (see photo 1; he has blue hair), a 17-year-old gay, trans, jewish boy who is finding acceptance from family to be difficult. He and 17-year-old Norma (see photo 1; she’s next to Barney), an autistic, Pakistani-American, bisexual girl,



both decide to get a job at Phoenix Parks for different reasons; Barney wished to get away from home, and Norma had a special interest in Pauline Phoenix, the owner of Phoenix Parks. Joining these two are Pugsley, Barney’s adorable pet dog who gains the ability to talk (see photo 2; Barney and Pugsley) and a red demon called Courtney (see photo 3), who wants nothing more than to be able to go back home.

The plot is really interesting and the representation is incredibly good. Barney and Norma aren’t the only characters who represent minority groups. Of the side cast, there’s Logan Nguyen (who is vietnamese-american and gay) and Badyah (iranian-american and muslim). In the books, Courtney uses they/them pronouns, but due to the “non human, non binary” trope (which Netflix didn’t want to fall into), it was changed to whichever pronouns the person cast had (they used open casting for her), which happened to be she/her.

Not to mention, if you like music, you’re likely to enjoy this show. There’s quite a few songs and even an entire musical episode, with songs being written by Patrick Stump (who actually voices a side character in the show called Josh).

If this show sounds interesting to you at all, you can find the trailer for it [here](#).





Chatter Creative Sale



Team Chatter

On 28th November and 2nd December team Chatter held a creative sale to allow students

and staff to purchase lots of fantastic craft items made by staff & students since the beginning of term. Due to the cost of living crisis it was decided that everything was to be sold at low cost to ensure everyone was able to buy something if they wished. Prices started at just 20p and the most expensive item was just £2!!!



The students also decided they would like to do a 'Name the reindeer' competition to run alongside the sale and took it around mentor groups the same week. The winning name picked out of a hat was Olaf and the winner was Rupert In Year 7. A guess the weight of the cake competition was also held it weighed 980g, the winner was Sally the Cleaner.... Well done to both winners!!

On behalf of the Chatter team we would like to thank all staff & students for their support with the Chatter creative sale. We have raised an amazing £160.60

This brings the total raised so far this year for charity by Chatter to a fantastic £199.20, so a huge thank you for your support so far!

Next term we have the return of the Chatter Bake Sale, the date is still to be confirmed.





Christmas Craft



By Megan - Year 8

How to make the sell out candy cane mice as sold in our creative fair in just 5 simple steps:

1. Cut out a 11.5cm X 7cm length teardrop shape from a piece of grey felt, and a 11.5cm X 3.5cm length pointed oval shape from pink felt.
2. In the grey teardrop, cut two slits, horizontally and about 2 cm from the rounded end. Then cut to more slits, going in the other direction, 4cm from the pointed end.
3. Slide the pink felt pointed oval through the two slits closest to the pointed end and the ears are finished.
4. Sew on two black beads for eyes and a few threads for whiskers on the pointed end.
5. Slide a candy cane through the first two slits near the rounded end, so that it is mostly underneath the felt, and the curved end is poking out (like a tail).



Farewell Mrs Rattenbury

Unfortunately, the end of this term sees us saying goodbye to a much loved teacher, Mrs Rattenbury. Mrs Rattenbury has been an asset to this school and Pastoral Support for almost 6 years, spreading joy wherever she goes. No matter the mood of a student she never fails to make them laugh and put a smile on their faces.

She will be missed dearly by all students and staff and we hope she settles in nicely in her new job at Christ Church University. DCGS Chatter and the DCGS community wish her the best of luck in the next stage of her career path.





The Nobel Prizes of 2022



By Gabriela - Year 13

Every year, since 1901, 5 Nobel Prizes have been awarded to influential people/organisations from the fields of Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Physiology or Medicine, and Peace, with the Prize in Economic Sciences also being introduced in 1968. Entrepreneur Alfred Nobel died, leaving his fortune to the establishment of the prizes. His will stated that they should be awarded to "those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind." The Nobel ceremony is held in Switzerland, and with each medal, laureates also receive approximately £800,000. This year's laureates have been particularly ground-breaking, with striking advancements being made in each area:

Physics: The 3 Physics laureates this year have made world changing discoveries in quantum mechanics, and ultimately disproved the theoretical insight of Bell's Inequalities. The scientists entangled two electrons, each of which has a property called spin. When one such particle is measured, it begins to spin in one direction. The other instantly spins in the opposite direction, even if the two particles are light years apart. These experiments proved that Einstein was wrong, and that information can pass between quantum particles faster than the speed of light.

Chemistry: This year's Nobel was awarded due to development of click (the synthesis of drug-like molecules that accelerate the drug discovery process by using a few practical reactions) and bioorthogonal chemistry (high-yielding chemical reactions that proceed rapidly in biological environments without side reactions to endogenous functional groups) an elegant series of reactions revolutionised chemical manufacture, and have been helpful in making pharmaceuticals, mapping DNA and developing cancer treatments.

Physiology/Medicine: Prof Pääbo achieved what many scientists believed to be impossible, fundamentally sequencing the genome of the Neanderthal, the closest extinct relative of present-day humans defined at the genome level. He discovered an unknown branch of the human family tree by extracting DNA from a 40,000-year-old finger bone found in Siberia. Neanderthal people became extinct in Europe 30,000 years ago, only a few millennia after the appearance of modern humans, prompting scientists to speculate that their disappearance may have been due to conflict with homo sapiens.

Literature: French author Annie Ernaux has been awarded the Literature Nobel, recognized for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory. The main themes threaded through her work are: the body and sexuality; intimate relationships; social inequality and the experience of changing class through education; time and memory; and the overarching question of how to write these life experiences.

Peace: Awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organization Memorial and the Ukrainian human rights organization Center for Civil Liberties, the Nobel Peace Prize represents civil society in their countries. The recipients have promoted the right to criticise power and protect the fundamental rights of citizens; together they demonstrate the significance of civil society for peace and democracy.



Industrial Action



Mr Politics - George Year 10

The Necessity of Industrial Action

More than 1 in 5 people in the UK are living in poverty. And Resolution Foundation analysis predicts a further 1.3 million people to be plunged into absolute poverty by 2023.

The British Retail Consortium released data showing UK food price inflation has hit a new high of 12.4%, meaning people are resorting to food banks. With 90% of food banks that are part of the Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN), reporting helping people who have not previously accessed support and also more people needing regular food supplies. 60% also reported that if demand continues to increase, they will need to reduce the size of their food parcels or will not be able to provide support.

It is these select few devastating statistics, of which there are countless more, which display the beyond dire state of living in the UK, demonstrating that this government is only working for the rich, and not the working classes.

In my belief, 12, bordering on 13, years of austerity at the helm of consecutive Conservative Governments now joined in conjunction with the impacts of Brexit, has indisputably destroyed public services. NHS waiting lists of millions, the significant lack of social housing, and many other issues are just common news stories now. Public sector services have had their funding slashed year upon year, wages in real terms have experienced the same, and working conditions are alarming. And now too, this is happening to those in the private sector.

But there, thankfully, is hope in the power of the unions. This unification of a profession is undoubtedly vital for change. Since ultimately the waking up of government to the realities and the change necessary requires the strength of a union. And as a last resort, industrial action is unquestionably the justified and reasonable next step to achieve change.

The transport workers of the RMT. The train drivers of ASLEF. The barristers of the Criminal Bar. The nurses of the Royal College of Nursing. The National Highways workers and the civil servants of the PCS. The paramedics of the GMB. The Royal Mail workers, the Post Office workers, and the BT and Openreach workers of the CWU. The staff at 150 universities under the UCU. The teachers of many unions. And the others I'm sure to have missed.

These professions have all either been on strike, are currently striking, have strikes planned, or are in the process of balloting members. Evidencing not only the appalling situations of so many professions, but also the unfortunate necessity of escalation to industrial action to achieve necessary change.

And they will forever have my solidarity.





Creative writing



By Dot - Year 7

None except me.

I am a turtle, bobbing along,
No-one to love me for they have all gone.
Terrible plastic polluted the sea,
So there are no turtles,
None except me.

I am a rhino, strolling along,
No-one to shield me for they have all gone.
Terrible poachers killed my family,
So there are no rhinos,
None except me.

I am a panda, ambling along,
No-one to hug me for they have all gone.
Terrible cities stole our territory,
So there are no pandas,
None except me.

I'm an orangutan, swinging along,
No-one to feed me for they have all gone.
Terrible humans chopped down all the trees,
So there are no orangutans,
None except me.

I am an elephant, trudging along,
No-one to find me for they have all gone.
Terrible hunters took our horn ivory,
So there are no elephants,
None except me.

We are the animals, living on earth.
Humans destroyed us.
Though we were here first.



Prudence - Year 7

The Performance

The crowd, the lights, the rush of excitement,
Blood pumping fiercely through everyone's body,
The audience, the music, the happiness is instant,
Smiles appearing upon everybody,
The elegance of dancers, the expressions of actors, the sound of
the singer,
The choreography, the rhythm, the atmosphere,
The gasps, the applauds, the enthusiasm, the colours, the glitter,
This performance has astoundingly made my year!





The Snowman



By Michaela - Year 10

Lavender and salmon streaks seamlessly blended into each other, racing like thunderbolts across an vast expanse that was once cerulean, like lightning they soared trying to outpace the imperial dictator that apathetically gazed down upon the earth, his fiery fingers invaded every corner of the globe no sanctuary from the persisting wrath that prevailed inflicting suffering on the inhabitants below. He offered no solace nor mercy. But the weight of his bejewelled crown was heavy even more so the responsibility that seemed to accompany it, the heavy crown imposed on his reign forcing the sun to abdicate his throne in the once azure sky reflected in the clear seas below.

The crown that served to assist him to ascend the kingdom of the heavens instead became a chain that pulled the orb down, sinking into the abyss where the brilliant light was vanquished into the pitch-black.

Just like a floodgate opening the jet-black pooled into the sky an ocean of midnight coating the heavens in obsidian and onyx. Twinkling lights sewed into the abyss-like fabric daintily draped across the horizon and skyline shone like blinding beacons, dots of hope, but too far away to grasp in the measly mortal palm, designed for greedy eyes to longingly stare at but never to touch for the immortal, celestial beings couldn't be tainted by human hand. The centrepiece in the stage that was cloaked in shadows no light illuminated the lunar glow except for its own fluorescence that shone brighter than the stars that adorned the galaxy. Grander than the inferno that was the spherical dictator in its simplicity. The sky was so clear, even the blemishes could be seen but it didn't take from its beauty, instead contributing, the ethereal atmosphere that lingered in its presence lingered accompanying it, a subtle assertion of the majesty it commanded.

Unlike the harsh ruler that presided over the hemisphere, its ivory fingers gently caressed the earth's surface, cherishing its inhabitants with unparalleled kindness and care, like a parent watching after its own kin.

Wistfully the moon cast its gaze down on the beings that were so beneath its authority yet it believed they were not inferior or undeserving of its love, praise and charity. The speck of dust in a universe greater than it could comprehend caught the lunar orb's eyes. The dark silhouette comprised of winter stood alone in the vacant clearing and the moon felt a kindred sense of sympathy, omnisciently aware of the suffering that being alone provided the solitary existence with, a suffering that cut deeper than the cold winter day or wind, a suffering that intertwined itself with our beating heart and squeezed as if trying to plea for a warmer future where the silence no longer suffocated lungs already struggling to breathe in the world that threatened to drown him, the kind of suffering the wrapped itself around your ribcage and clenched just like the whitewashed walls closing in on life. Praying to the almighty and any deity that could find a shred of sympathy for the voiceless victims whose hearts were made of pottery, jagged and broken, thrust into the fire of the society they themselves had created, polished and again tossed into unforgiving flames, beauty hidden in each edge crafted by the burning they had to suffer from. The speck of dust had been welcomed by the shift in season as winter arrived, an icy serenade meant to draw warmth from places where ice and frost had frozen over before. Though the cold was numbing the blankets of heaven-blessed snow invited and encouraged play and laughter that chimed like jingle bells, as if the frozen crystals were a blank page gifted by the pearlescent deity designed for our merriment. The rapid pace of the world that seemed to spin faster every second slowed and came to a halt, immobilised by the season and the power mother nature wielded. It stopped. The bustling was no more just tranquil silence that comfortably settled in the air.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS





The Snowman Continued



The snowman stood, the speck of dust that had somehow caught the lustrous orb attention, the snowman was not meant to be cold since he was comprised of crystallised structures of ice and handmade snowflakes but still the chill that permeated the air seeped into the snowman's twiggy arms. Arms that could barely withstand the strong wind that spun with tempestuous might circling with furious wrath, inescapable and horrifying. However once the woollen scarf which had each string comprised not only of material but love and attention, each action and decision made while crafting the burgundy material cautiously considered. The seemingly ineffective scarf that may not have successfully warmed another, warmed the snowman's heart, his heart that once was a jagged piece of pottery morphed instead into a more whimsical and fragile structure, in danger of shattering at the slightest touch. The snowman knew this but his new heart warmed his icy body and decided the exchange was worth it. The snowman just smiled with the dark pebbles they had carefully selected to form his smile as the children that danced around him and played, glee filling their innocent grins infectiously spreading with benevolent inevitability. He smiled too. Smiling as the children said they'd stay with him forever just listened even though the inescapable truth serenaded him with tortuous malice. For the children didn't know that they were humans and our hearts are like a tapestry: stories unwoven and unravelled, spools of thread tangled and jumbled but no less of a masterpiece. For our hearts are vibrant pieces of art beautiful to look at, but embroidered by the skilled hands of a liar. Perhaps the lies passed down from generation to generation, perhaps our fingers learned to weave from our own innate nature. But the truth remained. As the snowman knew the sun had to rise to reclaim his throne and vanquish the bitter winter, its piercing rays of heat melted and reduced the snowman to a puddle. The puddle reflected a pearlescent deity in its mirror-like surface that mourned the loss of those he couldn't protect. But another star then was etched into the fabric of the night sky, a companion to the lonely moon and the bitter cold no longer seemed so overwhelming.

An interview with Mrs Birkett Nikita -Year 8

Why did you decide to study German? My German teacher at school was Dutch and really nice, so that is why I enjoyed the language. We also started it in Y8 so I had some good linguistic foundations from lots of French in y7, so I found it easier than most subjects

Was German your favourite subject when you were in secondary school? No French was, my teacher in KS3 was amazing and I have copied her a lot in my lessons. German was fun in y12 and 13 as every Friday afternoon we had Kaffee und Kuchen with our teacher. I also picked up Italian and thought it was the most beautiful language I had ever heard. Rome is my favourite place to visit!

Did you always plan to be a language teacher? Yes, but there was a time where I wanted to be an air cabin flight attendant. I loved the uniform and the thought of visiting new places every day.

What do you like about German? The pattern, the rules, the grammar & it is a now unusual choice at GCSE to teach/ study, I like being one of not many that can speak it

You also teach French, do you prefer German? French is my 1st foreign language and I lived in France for a year, so I find it easier. I love teaching German though as it tests me to recall what I learnt years ago and I have to work at it to be better, it is a positive challenge and helps me get over my fear of being a risk taker.

How long did it take you to become fluent in German? Mrs Green and Miss Allen still teach me new things now and I am aiming for fluency one day.

Working with Team German at DC is certainly helping and I love it! I can't wait to take our trip to the German Christmas markets next winter, hopefully my German will be perfect by then!



MacMillan Coffee Morning



Some of
Macmillan's
official
Sponsors!!!



On the 2nd of February 2023 Dane Court will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning like none other! At break we will be transforming the heart into a cafe to buy any beverage you please and at lunch a bake sale will be held with so much food you won't know what to pick first. From decorative cupcakes to succulent savouries, we guarantee that there is something for everyone! All you need to do to enjoy the day is donate money to Macmillan Cancer support, a charity that supports patients and families that have to endure the dire impacts of Cancer.

We are fundraising for a worthy cause and it would be amazing if as many people as possible could help, and remember a little goes a long way.

Also to complete such an enjoyable day, it will also be a non-school uniform day, but the theme has to be green and white to match the spectacular colour scheme around school on the day. So dress up and bring some change to enjoy the food and drinks, we look forward to having a cuppa with all of you!

Year 9 Fair - Update by Ollie

On the 21st of October 2022 Year 9 had organised and arranged a fair for all the school to come round, play some games, eat some cake, cotton candy, donuts and more!

Overall Year 9 had raised exactly £313.49 which is a massive amount and we are all congratulating them.

They had around 1 month of planning time and they all did their best whilst doing it trying to come up with the best idea ever!

Mr Stanley was there encouraging everyone to get round the stalls and have a look at every single one, like a town crier, he was supporting each and every one of the Year 9's, making sure it all went smoothly. Mr Spillet had also been wandering around the stalls and checked on almost all the stands! They both were like stars of the show and they got everyone through it.

The busiest stands... If you went to these stalls you would easily know which ones it was.... The cotton candy, the donuts and a few others. Overall the cotton candy raised the most though (hardly surprising!!)

All the stalls were open from the end of mentoring to just before period 5 (basically the whole duration of lunch), it all ended up running smoothly and everyone had raised some money at their individual stalls to add to the total.

Overall everyone had a great time and the total amount raised was a great donation to the Salvation Army!!

Well done Year 9 !!!



Steam Deck Review



By Joe - Year 11

After its pre-orders opened earlier this year. The Steam Deck has generated a huge following within the gaming community, as both a powerful alternative to consoles such as the Nintendo Switch and as a capable portable pc, capable of many functions that your average desktop PC would do. After purchasing one of these console early last month. I am sharing my opinion about Steam Deck, to serve as guidance in case you may be considering purchasing one.

Coming in at a base price of £349.00, the Steam Deck is of comparable price to the OLED Nintendo Switch, whilst vastly undercutting other "Portable PCs" produced by other brands. For your money, your Steam Deck will include the console itself, with 64gb of expandable storage, and also a robust carrying case, which has a slot in the bottom to store the included 40W charger. (Do note that using any less powerful charger whilst under medium-heavy use will not charge the device as fast as it drains. All price points come with the same internal hardware bar the aforementioned storage. With impressive specs that whilst I can't go into much detail on here, are enough to rival a full sized PC of the same price point. From my testing, I have found that many of the games I tested from my personal steam library have worked flawlessly, even more powerful titles that are known for being difficult to run (examples include Cyberpunk 2077 and ELDEN RING).



Furthermore I found the strange looking control layout to be quite comfortable when compared to the Nintendo Switch, which I found to cause hand cramps after prolonged use in handheld mode. The console includes a large variety of control surfaces, including 2 small trackpads, and 4 paddle style buttons on the rear of the console. The triggers are of a much greater quality that that of the switch, and have a nice feel to them normally only found in full size consoles. The LCD screen is of 1280x800 resolution, which whilst lower than the visually superior Switch OLED, does allow for a much greater performance to be pulled out of the console, with only a mild degradation in visual clarity.

To conclude, whilst I have only scratched the surface of what the Steam Deck is capable of, the bulky appearance of the device is justified by the impressive capabilities of the internal hardware, and the many opportunities its portable form factor creates. I would highly recommend the Steam Deck to anyone who wants to enjoy PC gaming on the go.



Parent's Association 2nd hand uniform shop

The 2nd Hand Uniform Shop is open from 3.15 to 4.15 the first Tuesday of each month. If you require any 2nd hand uniform but can't get into school please email any requirements to admin@danecourt.kent.school.uk and we will do our best to sort out suitable items which can be picked up by your child from the main school office. We have a huge array of Blazers, Kilts, Trousers, Pe Kit amongst other items all at a reasonable cost, the monies raised go straight back into the school.

The School Wear Centre in Margate also sells 2nd hand uniform for a small charge to cover laundry costs.

Parent's Association Quiz Night

The PA Quiz Night was held in the Theatre on Friday 25th November, tickets were just £7 for an adult and £3 per child, this included a ploughman's supper!

The quiz night was a great success with 14 teams turning up despite the temptations of an England v USA football match. The questions included a Science and Nature, Kings and Queen and Board Game logos and the music round through the decades proved tricky. All the teams had fun with both the winning and losing team getting prizes. The event raised over £400 pounds for the Parents Association.

Thank you to the committee for organising the evening, Gary the quizmaster and all those who attended, look out for the next quiz in March 2023.

Year 7 Caring @ Christmas



Year Seven have chosen this year to collect food, toys and toiletries for their charity. Each form has been busy collecting and thinking of ways in which to present a special gift for families who could do with a bit of extra support this winter time. The school wide collection last year, which resulted in over twenty bags filled with food basics and goodies, was distributed in the community. Year seven are hoping to do the same this year. "It is not so much the gifts we received, much appreciated as they were, it was the fact that someone was thinking of us", was the response from several recipients. From time to time we all need a helping hand, whatever form it takes. Year seven mentors and students wanted to show that they care for others.

Thank you to students, parents and mentors who have generously supported this project.

Year 7 Mentor team.





Competitions



Creative writing competition

- INTEGER - Mini saga stories inspired by numbers
 - Here is a chance to win £50 and have your story published in a book!
 - <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS3-5/integer>
 - **Closing Date: Friday 23rd December 2022**
 - Only one entry per student
 - Please send your entries to finlay@danecourt.kent.sch.uk
 - Entries must be the students' own original work.
 - Mini sagas have a 100-word limit.
 - If a story starter/ending is used, it must be included in the 100-word limit - see this short clip for ideas: <https://youtu.be/gvmXjFCgpWg>
 - Each student's name, age and school name should be included on their entry.
 - Mini sagas must be inspired by a number.



Find the Christmas Pudding



Chatter Competition

Win! Win! Win!

We all know that the readers of Chatter love the challenge of finding the hidden objects... Well, the good news is that the competition is back! All you have to do is find the 4 hidden Christmas puddings in this edition.

They look like these



but not these ones, that would be too easy...

To make the fantastic prize of £15 cash yours- we shall need you to email the page numbers & tell us which colour christmas pudding is on which page.

Email your answers to chattercompetition@danecourt.kent.sch.uk The winner shall receive their prize on the 4th January when we all return from a well deserved break.





Library Update

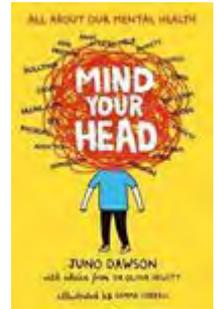
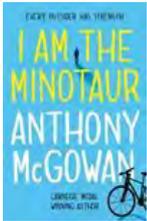


Mrs Finlay



Anti-Bullying week 14th-18th November

The library has a number of Shelf Help books and fiction titles that cover the themes of bullying. Here are some examples:



I am the Minotaur by Anthony McGowan - an emotionally charged short story full of hope that tackles themes of poverty, neglect and bullying,

How Not to Lose It - Mental Health Sorted - a practical and inspiring guide to sorting out issues before they take over your life from trained therapist and life coach Anna Williamson.

Kick the Moon by Muhammad Khan - Ilyas is under pressure from everyone: he wants to create comic-book heroes, but instead he's got GCSE's and troublemaker mates. He finds a kindred spirit in Kelly, but she's caught up in a toxic bet and he has to decide where his loyalties lie.

Mind Your Head - all about our Mental Health - advice from Juno Dawson and Dr Olivia Hewitt in a clear and supportive guide.

The Teenage Guide to Life Online from award winning author Nicola Morgan - covers cyberbullying, social media and wellbeing online.

Booked by Kwame Alexander - from fast-paced football matches to school and family drama this is a gripping novel written in verse.

Felix Ever After by Kacen Callender - an inclusive transgender love story that finds Felix caught in an unlikely love triangle after he receives anonymous transphobic abuse.



Spring Scholastic Book Fair

Exciting news - we are holding another book fair in the library from 24th to 30th March. There will be lots of contemporary new books to choose from, lots of discounts and you can use your £1 World Book Day tokens at the fair too - see you there!

