



September 2020 saw a return to face to face schooling... Hoorah!!

Lots of apprehension surrounded a safe return to school in September this year. Questions were left lingering such as 'how were the class bubbles going to work' or 'how were the staff & students realistically going to be able to maintain social distance in a school'.

The positivity & determination of the school community shone through any doubts that were perceived and made the transition from remote learning to face to face class lessons easier than anticipated.

The maturity & commitment from the whole school as a community, have helped us overcome any challenges in the way. Staff & students alike have made the first two terms a pleasurable, safe environment to work in. It's great to be back!!!



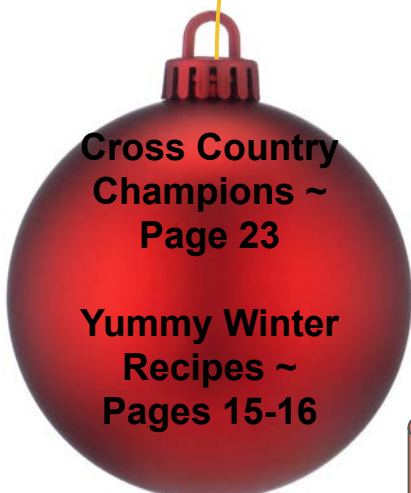
Christmas Tree Competition... Talent Show... Who said Covid has spoilt the festive season!!

Traditionally Dane Court students decorate their 'house' christmas trees with decorations in their house team colours... This year the annual tree competition was held slightly differently with each year bubble having their own tree to decorate. The **overall winners** for the competition was the lovely winning tree from **Year 7**. The judges said that they "loved the grotto surrounding the tree with the fireplace, chimney and homemade snowflakes". **2nd** place went to **Year 8** with a wildlife design, complete with origami penguins & an ice drift at the base. **Year 9** came **3rd** with a colourful tree that would brighten anyone's spirits!

For more end of term event news , along with more pictures of all the lovely trees around the school, please turn to **Page 6**

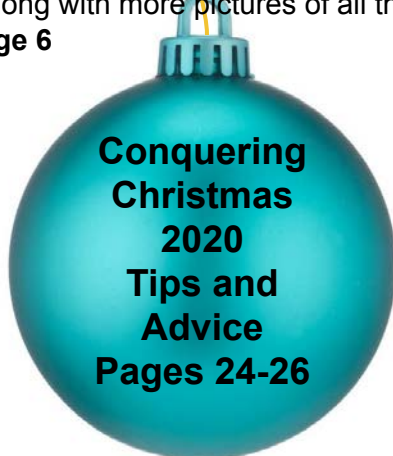


Year 7's winning entry



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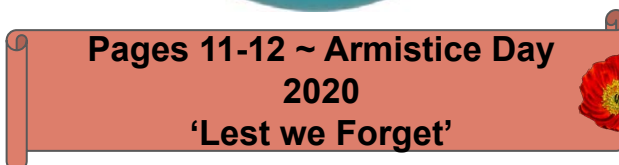
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Chatter Competition Page Win a £15 Shopping Voucher to spend in the sales



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MERRY CHRISTMAS



Words from the Editor



Hello DCGS *Chatter* readers & welcome to our **1st** exciting, jam packed, *Chatter* edition of 2020-2021.

Well what can we say except it's been a while... It was decided that for this school year, to ease the workload for our amazing students that we would only be doing **3 editions** of *Chatter*. Some may find this disappointing, but I know that by making this change we will still provide a **fully fun packed**, loaded edition for you all to enjoy!

We have, as always, so many delightful articles within this edition so we hope you have as much fun reading as we have had putting this edition together for you. Our lovely **DCGS *Chatter* members** have worked incredibly hard to bring you a variety of articles, including some from our **very welcome** new Year 7 members of the team.

Please enjoy this edition over the festive period, stay safe and we will see you all back in school on **Tuesday 5th January 2021!**

Contact us at Chatter@danecourt.kent.sch.uk
The Ed.

This Editions *Chatter* Team...

Year 7 Team - Angel, Daniel, Thomas, Sophie, Florence, Idunumi, Ashvin, Asvita, Mia, Lily, Shannon, Bedrixan & Edwin

Year 8 Team - George, Dylan, Beatrix, Abigail M, Denholm, Kylie, Oliver, Cameron, David, Faye, Kerri-Ann

Year 9 Team - Joe, Cheyenne, Lilah

Year 10 Team - Skye, Ellie

Year 11 Team - Jamie, Grace, Gabriel

6th Form Team- Jacob, Louise, Elliot, Ellie, Kate, Bella & Zara

with help from
Mrs Cronin, Mrs Finlay, Mrs Rogers, Miss Purdy, Mrs Holmes, Ms McGuire & Miss Whelan



First Term @ Dane Cour



September saw us welcome our new Year 7 students to the community at Dane Court. Some of our new Year 7 recruits to the Chatter Team would like to tell you about their experience of starting Dane Court. The Chatter team would like to give all newcomers from across the school a very warm welcome.

Here are 3 interpretations of their feelings and experiences in their 1st two terms at secondary school.

I woke up feeling nervous because it was my first day to go to Dane Court. When I came into school it felt incredibly big and unfamiliar. I wasn't sure on where to go, but soon found my way. **Asvita**

When I first walked through the gates at Dane Court, I was petrified - I didn't know anyone (except 3 people from my primary school) or the teachers. My first day consisted of me keeping my head down for the whole thing; I didn't talk much at all. Day 2 was better, I talked to people more and made a few friends.

By the first week, I already felt like I had been here for 2 terms already! Lots of people were speaking to each other and bonding together as friends. What's most important is that we got to know each other well and get involved more, developing our friendship group. When the first term rolled by, it was like I was back in Primary! I knew everyone in the class and even some people from different forms as well!

So, in my eyes, I had a good first term. Although I am going to have the same feelings when we start to move around the school for lessons when covid 19 ends. I still haven't gone to the indoor cafeteria yet but I have tried the yummy sultana flapjacks from the grab and go outside.

Compliments to the chef!

Thomas

The first two terms at Dane Court have been busy but great, I have learnt so many new things and achieved so much! There have also been a few risks such as forgetting my PE kit but in general there have been more positives than negatives.

I have become Form rep for 7S and have also joined Chatter Newspaper team (of course, otherwise I wouldn't be writing this). I have fully mastered the art of trampolining, even though I was incredibly nervous at first. However once I got the hang of it, I found it really fun! In Food I learnt how to make a yummy basic tomato sauce to be used on pasta for example.. I should have added more salt to begin with, but it was delicious.

I have earned a Biology Merit & completed a Van Gogh style picture in my Art lessons.

I can't wait to see what we get up to when we return in Term 3!

Idunumi





Took you long enough



By The Ravenmeister

In this edition of Jamie's Thinly Veiled Nerd-Out Article, I talk about the Snyder Cut, why I hate it, and why I care.

In the Zack Snyder film *Watchmen*, based on the famous Alan Moore comic of the same name, there's a scene perhaps best described by my inability to describe it in a school newspaper, in which the song *Hallelujah* plays. It was pretty widely ridiculed at the time, and the song's writer Leonard Cohen actually gave an interview in which he mentioned how funny it was that the song was so frequently misinterpreted, given that the song is all about a songwriter struggling to write a song knowing it'll be misunderstood. Snyder at the time probably saw it, laughed because remember this is the man who thinks murder makes Batman realistic, and moved on. Then, three years after he was forced to hand directorial control of his Justice League film to Joss Whedon, HBO Max offered him the chance to redirect the film as a 4-part miniseries. As a metaphor for his creative process, he had Cohen's original recording of *Hallelujah* play over the trailer.

This choice is the first thing I personally dislike about the trailer. Besides being very on the nose, it's pretentious, and besides that, Cohen's version is honestly sounds very boring. Besides that, the trailer and apparently film's aspect ratio makes it look like something I'd find on Youtube in 2009, my comic nerd heart grieves at the continued inclusion of the New Gods so soon, and I don't understand the need for a CGI spaceship of some sort to pick up our protagonists. Overall, the trailer seems to demonstrate the exact same flaws as Snyder's previous DC entries, and assume it can sprint where its greatest influences (Marvel, it's Marvel) pace themselves. This is the same man responsible for the 'Martha!' scene, why are we so eager to give him another massive DC film to ruin?

For the last three years, nearly as long as it took *New Mutants* to come out, fans have been convinced there must be some good version of Justice League, and that Snyder would deliver would he failed. Surely something as impressive as the Justice League can't be bad? And now the Snyder Cut is being made, and I'm reminded of the evidence behind 'soy boys' or doomsday cults retaining conviction after being disproved - people like to be right, and when they're not, they find ways of believing they are. Cognitive dissonance will enable the most diehard of fans to love the disappointment the Snyder Cut is likely to be, especially with so many third parties determined to make the film a success. In a way, the Snyder Cut is the film that is too big to fail.

But flying in the face of all of this, the Snyder Cut must be released. And I'm not saying this to mock those who want it to vindicate their campaigning, I am completely earnest when I say the film needs to come out. Because while Snyder rushed, there's more problems with his films, and one of the big ones is not even his fault - it's the studios determined to have their way, something the new film is determined to avoid. As mainstream stories become increasingly similar, Snyder is getting the chance to create something weird and dangerous and terrible, to push the boat out and make the mistake. Regardless of whether you think the Snyder Cut will be good or not, it's an filmmaking experiment at a time when they're going extinct. The old saying about 4chan goes something along the lines of 'What a terrible place. We must protect it.' And the Snyder Cut is similarly a beautiful, vital, regrettable mess of artistic licence that I will defend to the death.



Back to school



By Dylan ~ Year 8

2020! What a year! But we are finally back at school with our friends, with new rules to follow. Very different to our start at Dane Court last year!

Term 1....I think that the new rules are okay. It is unfortunate that we can't move for every lesson as in Sciences and Food Technology we can't move and do practicals. Obviously not seeing other students in other year groups is a bit strange. However, we obviously right now need to think of safety along with ours and other people's health.

Some new news for Term 2.... Us lucky students in year 8 now have one lesson a term in the kitchens for food and our music lessons are now in the music rooms. Hoorah! We are also having to wear masks to protect our fellow classmates and the amazing teachers, who are still working through this difficult time, from the virus.

I wonder what Term 3 shall bring.. And 2021....

Just for fun... Name the xmas songs

1.

2.

3.

4.



Recycling club update

Unfortunately, all clubs at present are postponed until further notice.

Mrs Cronin took the collage that the students had been working on at school, home during lockdown and completed most of it with the help from her children.

A few finishing touches were added by some students upon the school return in September and Mr Jones is looking forward to finding a place to display this wonderful piece of art made from recyclable materials.





Countdown to the Holidays...



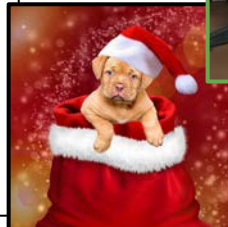
Along with the annual tree competition, the last week of term also consists of the traditional talent show (obviously this year it was virtual) Students showcased their talents via video, there were songs, comedy songs, trumpet playing, piano playing and an animation amongst the winners. **The judges said the standard was so high this year that all entries received house points.**

The judges absolutely loved the **house captains merry christmas message**. The talent show is their traditional farewell from the house captains as the new candidates are elected. This also means that the house trophy is presented to the winning school house.

This year the **House Cup** was presented to the winners in **1st place Neuchatel**...with a strong lead. The rest of the results are... In **2nd place** was **Delphi**, **3rd** were **Helsinki**, **4th** were **Tallin**, **5th** were **Barcelona** and in **6th** place **Sorrento**.



Year 8's tree
2nd Place



I thought that Christmas this year wouldn't have been as good as the other years at school due to coronavirus, however there is still gonna be an amazing talent show going on, which will be terrific if you get involved in it.

It's also really nice how people are decorating their form tutor rooms with a lot of fancy stuff. **Angel Yr7**



News reporters required!!



The **DCGS Chatter** team, currently meet in year group bubbles on Week A only for now. Year 7 Tuesday's (S8), Year 8 Thursday's (T5) & Year 9 Wednesday's (B5). We have an ever increasing team of reporters, who have many different skills to enable the team to deliver each edition of Chatter.

We welcome anyone who would like to contribute by ways such as: supporting the group, organising people, coming up with ideas, writing reports, drawing, being creative, developing competitions, telling jokes, interviewing people or simply telling us what you would like to read about.

Chatter is a drop in club, reporters come along when they can. If you are interested in joining a friendly, fun and lively group with time for everyone, why not come along to your next year group meeting and join us!



Christmas the facts!



By *That Guy*

This year has been one year that we are all going to remember. Locked inside, out of school and most would say a nightmare of a year. However, all is not lost & this year still has a chance for some joy.

At christmas this year we remember all of our family all our loved ones even if we are unable to see them and we think of them. Christmas is all about joy happiness and wonder and this year is still going to be the same.

Many people think they know alot about Christmas but I have some interesting facts for you....Did you know....

Santa was originally green but turned red in the 1870s because of the artist Thomas Nast. (It has nothing to do with Coca-Cola!)

Christmas was originally made to coincide with the Roman festival of Saturnalia a festival that worshipped 'Saturn the Sun God.'

Something I found that was shocking is that Rudolph was a marketing ploy by Montgomery Ward department store. Can you believe it the red nosed reindeer who guided santa's sleigh was a ploy for money!!!Yet we still remember Rudolph as a iconic figure even those he is not even 100 years old yet.

Whilst a very unknown fact is that mistletoe is actually a fungus meaning that a tree that has mistletoe is actually sick, and yet we still collect it for the tradition of kissing.

To sum things up, people say that Christmas is a tradition that we all know well, adore and hold close to our hearts. However, we do not know nearly as much as we think we do about it. Centuries old Christmas has so many amazing traditions, facts and stories that we all do without realising the origins and true meanings of them.

But this year, we all need to just remember that no matter where you are this Christmas, with your family you can still love and enjoy yourself just as much as previous years- **albeit with a zoom call on the table!**

It's a 'Cracker' Jokes for the festive period

Which reindeer has bad manners?
"Rude"-olph!

What is Santa's favourite cereal??
HoHo Pops

What kind of music do Elves listen to?
Wrap music

Why does Santa go down chimneys?
Because it soot's him!



Building a PC 303 (final)



By Joe ~ Year 9

Hello! It has been a few months since the last issue of Chatter, and a lot has gone on in the meantime, but that doesn't mean I can't finish the global phenomenon - "building a PC". So here we are, finishing my series where you should end up (hopefully) with a fully functioning PC. If not, I hope that you have enjoyed reading this over the past 6 months. Anyways, let's dive in!



Step five-and-a-half

Have a look at that motherboard you installed 6 months ago, blow some dust off it, and admire all of that hard work you put in. but it wont work just yet, you have done the hardest part, cable management, now all you need to do is plug these cables in. Plug the power ribbon into the right hand side of the motherboard, the cpu power cable on the top left, and bring the cable for the front panel (the on button at the top) and plug it in to the cable on the bottom called "F-PANEL". Great! You did something!

Step five-and-Three-Quarters

Remember that nice storage that you bought? Good as you can go and take it out of its box, it should come with sufficient screws to mount it to the hard drive rack. In my case NZXT H500i. The hard drives can be mounted either on the back of the PC behind the motherboard, or on a designated hard drive rack, you can choose either, depending on what your case comes with. Route the power cable from the PSU, and the SATA cable from the motherboard, to the hard drive, plug them in the right way round. Good, now you are ready to move on to the best bit.

Step six: The Graphics Card

Now for in my opinion, the best bit. The graphics card should be the most expensive element of your entire PC, and with good reason. The graphics card is in charge of rendering all of the fancy graphics that make games look amazing. It's what separates the boring computers from the gaming machines. Gingerly take your graphics card out of the box, making sure to hold it by the board itself or a strong part of it. You can put your computer on its side for this if you like, it makes a good test of if you built it correctly. Now unscrew the 2 screws that cover the slots of which you will mount your graphics card to. Once unscrewed, pull back on the catch that sits next to the pcie port (the long port that sits under the cpu) and carefully push the graphics card in with the fans facing down, making sure it is all aligned, push firmly until you here a satisfying *click*. Plug the GPU power cable into its designated plug on the graphics card, and dwell in the magnificence of your nearly finished PC.

Most PC cases come with stock fans, and you don't really need to mess with those, in case you bought your own however, just unscrew the old ones and screw in the new ones, and plug them into the fan plugs, you can put the stock fans in other places if you want.



Building a PC 303 (continued)



By Joe ~ Year 9

The finishing touch

I understand how tempting it is to put on the glass panel on your PC, but don't do that just yet. Now I am not one for being superstitious, but trying to turn on your computer with the glass panel on increases your chances of it not working by 107.3%, so don't do it. Here you will need a copy of an OS (Operating System) for your computer to run off, I recommend Windows 10 and you should definitely use it. Take the Windows 10 file and load it onto a usb drive, plug that into your pc (you can download it from microsoft's website). Next, plug in your PC with keyboard, mouse, and monitor (more on that later), and press the on button (it is normally circular, and is a button). Quickly, before it finished booting, press the keys ESCAPE, F1, F12, F10 as fast as you can, one of them will load you into the BIOS. From here you can select your boot drive (the prepared USB one) and press boot. Follow the setup for Windows 10 and you are done!



A Word on Peripherals

Peripherals are the input devices that you use to interact with your PC. They include monitors, mice, keyboards, controllers, headsets, and many more! But for now you only need to focus on three: keyboard, mouse, and monitor. Specialist setups can include many other more obscure items for a specific type of game, but these three are the backbone of modern computers today. To begin with, monitors are relatively easy to choose from. Make sure its resolution matches the recommended resolution of your graphics card (1080p or higher) and has a refresh rate of at least 60hz, so everything is nice and smooth. Also, make sure it is big enough for your needs, 20 to 30 inches will do just fine. Next, keyboards, this one is quite simple, make sure you are buying from a reputable brand, and go for mechanical switches if possible, that's all there is to it. Mice however, are a tricky one to pick; I cannot really make any recommendations to you. The mice you will like are specific to the type of game you are playing, whether it is a first person shooter, MMORPG, or video editing for that matter. Typically, you would want a mouse with high DPI (sensitivity) and a good sensor for first person shooters, and one with a good sensor and lots of buttons for an MMORPG (Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game), same for a productivity mouse. For the best comfort, aim for a mouse that is about 60% of your total hand length, but you can pick one according to personal preference if you wish.

That's all I have for you on this topic. I hope you have enjoyed this mini series, and I hope to make more like this in the future. In the meantime, goodbye!



Digital art

By Kylie ~ Year 8



Misty the ghost



Back to school



A red eye



A childish drawing





Armistice Day 2020

Gone but never forgotten



In school on 11th November, the two minute silence was still held and students reflected upon the lives that were lost and sacrificed during the wars.

Other tributes were made by various students & teachers across the school on Remembrance Sunday itself, some of which are below.

Usually for Remembrance Day my scout group (1st St. Lawrence scout group) would lay a poppy wreath at the memorial outside St George's Church Ramsgate after the remembrance parade. However this year due to Covid-19 we were unable to do the parade, so my scout leader asked me to lay the wreath at the Ramsgate Cemetery war graves to represent the group. I was honoured to do this job as it is very important to my scout group. It is a very important thing to remember everyone who died for us during the wars. - *Oliver Norton 8N*



We weren't able to do anything special this year apart from wear poppies and do the 2 minutes silence, but if I **were** able to do something myself (if I were allowed out without Covid in my way to buy/organise things etc), I would make mini wreaths out of those little fake poppies and I'd hang them on door knobs and larger ones would be on actual doors. - *Faye Elliot*

My family and I made poppies and we also did the two minutes of silence. Mr and my brother are part of the scouts group so we stayed in our uniform for what would have been our annual parade to remember the people who died. - *Kerri Ann Rolfe*

2020 has been an extremely tough year for many, but we still have to remember those who bravely fought and lost their lives during the war. This year for Remembrance Day, I wore a poppy and put up posters in my window. Of course I also took part in the 2 minutes silence. - *Ellie Golding*

During the day (not just the 2 minutes) I was constantly thinking about those who had died in the war because they deserve to be remembered forever. - *Mia Williams*

I went for a walk to see the poppies on Birchington high street. - *Lilah Ainsworth*

On Sunday 8th November, we did two minutes silence in the car before we went for a seaside stroll. - *Cameron Melloy*

I did 2 minutes of silence and thought about that Flanders Field poem and how the poppies bloomed on the field after the soldiers died after the battle, and that it wasn't fair that the people who died first didn't get a medal of bravery, because they were brave enough to go first. - *Kylie Wang*



Our village held a socially distanced service by the war memorial, in the same way they do every year, with the trumpet playing the last post, the two minutes silence, the laying down of the wreaths and poppies, and listing those from the village who lost their lives. This year we stayed in our lane and listened rather than getting too close. We could see our lone soldier on the little green and hear the service, and managed to join in with a bit of singing. It was a beautiful morning and felt more memorable than ever. - *Mrs Finlay*

To mark the celebration of Remembrance Day my family and I had the traditional two minutes silence. We also watched the Queen and the Royal Family visit the Cenotaph. - *Lily Ring*



Remembrance Poems

Lest we forget

By Some talented Dane Court students



*Poppies are red
Violets are blue
Soldiers were fighting
For me and you*

*Fighting for freedom
Fighting for love
Fighting for justice
And what was taken from us*

Idunumi ~ Year 7



A Remembrance Poem

*Lest we forget,
The soldiers that died,
The corpses, the pain, the
suffering*

*In Flanders field
With swords wielded
Soldiers cried
And soldiers died.*

*Every year,
On the 11th month,
On the 11th day,
On the 11th hour,
Lest we forget.*

Kylie ~ Year 8

Poppies

*The poppies we wear
In your coat, or in your hair
Symbolise those who died.
They represent heroes who fought
For our freedom, they sought
And exchanged their lives for ours.*

*From their graves, what flower would
show?
Gorgeous, crimson, poppies would
grow.*

*On the eleventh, we shall remember
All the battles they had to endeavour.
Through World War One and World
War Two
They all fought, through and through.*

Faye ~ Year 8

Soldiers on the Battlefield

*Soldiers, on the battlefield,
Clinging to the weapons they wield,
Without their families, their hearts, with
no shield.*

*Soldiers, on the battlefield,
Some were lost, some were healed,
Every year we remember,
As their tragic stories are revealed.*

*Soldiers, on the battlefield,
In the trenches, they kneel,
With wounded hearts, they keep
concealed.*

Faye ~ Year 8





His Dark Materials ~ TV Show Review



By *The Ravenmeister*

With only one big thing left to review, it's up to me to... make it long, I guess?

You know, it's a shame I have no friends I can talk about this show with, because I really want to talk about it, and it's a bit weird if I talk to myself about it. His Dark Materials is not a show you can really adequately talk about alone, or indeed watch. There's just so much you could say, and I've only got a single page, and only *that* because there's nothing else I can review right now. So, to save myself repeating myself or losing my train of thought or even repeating, here are some bullet points and just what I find so wonderful about this show.

- **The baddies.** You've got some pretty big, pretty surprising baddies that it would be a disservice for me to reveal, and I only really know from their earlier reveals in the books. But the baddies that I can identify are exceptional. They're eerily friendly, and eerily loving, and eerily remorseful. Every single one of them is given their own little subplots, and every single one is all the more engaging for it.
- **The themes.** His Dark Materials is a show I feel very clever watching, and the themes are such a big part of that. Abstract ones, such as religion, corruption and parenthood, and more real-world, real-science ones, like parallel universes and dark matter, all so seamlessly blended that you don't bat an eyelid when they pull the 'Secret Witch/Scientist' plot twist out. Twice. So far this season.
- **The acting.** A lot of the cast of the first season are gone or scarcely present, so most of the primary cast of this season are new or secondary cast from the first season, and they do superbly. Ruth Wilson is obviously a highlight, but I have never had so much fun suspending my disbelief as I had with this season. And I can confirm, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Andrew Scott on screen together is just as beautiful as I expected.
- **The infodumps.** Really, my biggest problem with the books, brilliant as they are, are Pullman's tendency to just take an entire chapter or so out to explain something, a trap the show doesn't fall into. Every moment of padding (which, to clarify still feels vitally important) is laced with some fantastic exposition, and nothing feels out of place. The series is exceptional overall, but this is really the area that improves upon the books.
- **The Magisterium.** It's such a small part of the first season, and a much smaller part of the books, but it's brilliantly realised this time around, and for something that's actually so vaguely described and somewhat made-up, that's seriously impressive.

And the stuff I find a little bit not wonderful.

- **The protagonists.** It feels like a nitpick, since it's only really something apparent to me from reading the books, but a lot of achievements are taken away from the protagonists in exchange for giving the antagonists dimension. In order to make it clear Mrs. Coulter is respected, we have to have Mary be allowed into important places when mistaken for her, rather than Mary working out ways into those places for herself, stuff like that.

It should be fairly obvious that overall, His Dark Materials is one of my favourite shows to come from the BBC, and were it not for Knives Out, certainly the best thing I've reviewed. This show saw everyone saying that the books are always better, and promptly hurled itself at them, punched their teeth out and then politely asked if they had noticed its existence.

10/10, easily.



Art drawn by Mia



Year 8



Is delivery fast food any good?

Reviews by Ashvin ~ Year 7

There are many types of restaurants and most delivered during lockdown. They all have received different ratings, some a perfect 5 some are not quite there yet.

In this article I will be discussing some experiences people had during the national lockdown, and whether using a larger restaurant chain is really worth it.....

The first restaurant I am going to talk about is my father's, Flavours by Kumar. He has two restaurants located in Ramsgate and Garlinge, the food served is indian style. Many people agree that his food is great. He has received 5 stars in his restaurant and for his deliveries during lockdown.



The next restaurant is Burger King. Many people say that they don't want to return to Burger king, a survey on consumers reported that people were delivered the wrong order, didn't get their money refunded but others say it was great.



McDonald's delivery during lockdown had very bad reviews. There was a recent study that showed that 67% of people disliked it because it was dry or covered in too much mustard. Some got the wrong delivery and never got refunded, they were even told to repurchase and only offered 20% off instead of a full refund. Only 14% of people in this study rated their service as excellent!!!





Ellie's Kitchen

By Ellie ~ Year 10



Toad In The Hole

You Will Need:

- 1 ½ mugs, plain flour
- 3 eggs, beaten
- Pinch of salt
- ½ mug of milk
- ¾ mug of water
- 2 tbsp oil
- 6 fat sausages



Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 220°C fan oven/240°/ Gas 9
2. Put the flour in a bowl and add the eggs, salt and a little of the milk
3. Put the oil in a casserole dish and place the sausages evenly apart. Cook in the oven for 7-10 minutes (the oil should be bubbling)
4. Pour the batter in and then cook for another 25 minutes. The mixture should be brown and rise around the edges
5. While this is cooking, make some gravy - ask an adult for help.
6. Serve your Toad in The Hole and Gravy and enjoy!

**Remember to send a picture of your finished dish to
17egolding@danecourt.kent.sch.uk**



PTA News and Thank you

Along with many schools across the UK, fundraising efforts by the PTA have been incredibly difficult in 2020. The PTA held their last fundraising event which many enjoyed just before lockdown. This was a fun Quiz that raised just over **£500!** Wow!

Chatter would like to **thank** the Parents association for their continued support this year. Without them we wouldn't know what to do; amongst other things, they enable us to give you some great competition prizes throughout the year!!

The PTA are a wonderful bunch of people who give up their free time to fundraise for the school throughout the year and we are **truly grateful** for their backing. We are hoping as soon as we are allowed to do another bakesale to raise funds for the PTA as a token of our thanks. **If you would like to get involved with the PTA please email Gloria Riley on riley@danecourt.kent.sch.uk**



Spiced Caramel Loaf Cake



By Beatrix ~ Year 8

Spiced Caramel Loaf Cake



This is a very simple recipe that makes a lovely, warm, autumnal cake. My inspiration for this recipe was that I baked these fiery, ginger biscuits that my family loved but, since we all prefer a cake, I decided to try and replicate the flavour of the biscuits in cake form.

Ingredients

For the cake:

- 120g salted butter- softened
- 120g caster sugar
- 120g self-raising flour- sieved
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1 ½ tbsp cinnamon
- 2 tbsp ground ginger
- 1 tbsp dark muscovado sugar

For the caramel buttercream

- 200g icing sugar- sieved
- 100g salted butter- softened
- 1 tbsp cream cheese
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 30g dark muscovado sugar- *this gives it a caramel flavour*



yummy!

If you are sensitive to heat and spice, feel free to reduce the amount of ginger and cayenne pepper.

Method

- 1) Preheat the oven to 170° fan / gas mark 5 and grease a loaf tin with butter and line it with baking paper.
- 2) **Beat** the butter and sugar **until soft and fluffy**.
- 3) Add the eggs **one at a time**. Then add the vanilla extract.
- 4) **Fold** in the flour, cayenne pepper, cinnamon, ginger and brown sugar.
- 5) **Pour** the mixture into the tin and **bake for 25-30 minutes** or **until the skewer comes out clean**. Cool in the tin for 10 mins, then remove and transfer the cake to a wire rack **to cool fully**.
- 6) For the buttercream, **beat** the butter and icing sugar together **until smooth**. Then add the cream cheese.
- 7) Add the brown sugar and vanilla extract.
- 8) Spread or pipe the buttercream onto the fully cooled cake and serve.



Animal Testing For or Against?



By Angel and Florence ~ Year 7

Should We Be Allowed To Test On Animals?

For some reason, humans think of themselves as being above all animals. We test medicine on them to make sure they are safe for us to use and this has helped us progress greatly. In fact, the reason we have a covid-19 vaccine today is that we have tested it on animals; but should it be allowed?

If we didn't test things on animals then we would possibly risk killing many humans. The reason we create medicine is to save people not to do the exact opposite; besides, don't animals do the same? A wolf remains loyal only to its pack and it doesn't show mercy to any other random animal. So, should we not remain loyal to our kind only? As well as this, many benefits have come out of testing on animals. For example, the cancer survival rates have risen by a colossal amount partly due to animal testing. Furthermore, testing on animals has led to the development of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapies (HAART). AIDS is no longer the death sentence it was 30 years ago. Animal testing, as cruel as it may sound, has no doubt helped us hugely. If someone dear to you was seriously ill would you not rather they had a medicine that has been tested on an animal to give them a chance to survive instead of letting them die?

However, animal testing is very cruel, especially as humans are scientifically classified as animals. It is a known fact that only 3% of animals survive animal testing. Furthermore, last year alone a shocking 3.40 million animals were used for testing. This means that to save humans we are killing other species - what a horrible thought! In addition to this, sometimes animal testing doesn't even help save humans. This is mainly because of the physiological differences between humans and animals; results from animal tests cannot always be translated successfully to humans. This can leave us vulnerable and exposed to drugs that can cause serious side-effects. Fortunately, in the United Kingdom cosmetic testing on animals is banned.

In conclusion, animal testing has its benefits, but can also be harmful to humans. The medicine industry would not exist as it does today if animal testing had not been used, however, there would also be many more mice alive if it wasn't still being used. Despite this most people would probably choose to give their dying relative a medicine that has been tested on animals, rather than let them die. We also believe animal testing should be avoided where possible but as "they" say 'desperate times call for desperate measures'. Animal testing can save lives and isn't that what matters?



Photography page



All images taken by Kerri Ann Rolfe





Getting into the guitar



By David ~ Year 8

The wonderful world of guitar. When I was about 8, I really wanted to learn a musical instrument. Looking at the choices I came to a decision that I would learn the guitar. My primary school had guitar lessons available so I started off learning there. From my experience, I would always recommend having a teacher for at least a couple of years so you get to grips with the basics. This worked for me and definitely helped me out. I then left so I couldn't do them anymore but I think that I learnt enough to play some of the songs I like. This made me want to learn more so I tried teaching myself from YouTube. It did work for some songs and playing but most of them were very hard and not easy to follow so I was stuck. Some guitar lessons are quite expensive and not affordable which is where I struggled to learn, but then I found something that changed this. I came across an app called Guitar Lessons Coach Guitar. This app is free and is easy to follow the steps to learn some of your favourite songs. You can slow it down to your speed and gradually get better and better. I am still using this app now and it really has helped me out. So to all aspiring guitarists, I would use this app and also have a guitar teacher for a few years.



What's the best ever Christmas present?
A broken drum. You can't beat it!





Album Reviews



By Gabriel ~ Year 11

I don't like professionalism dude, it comes across as pompous and occasionally pretentious. Through trying to come across smart, what you're trying to say gets muddled up in the middle. This is a primary reason why I dislike most music journalism, it's mainly white guys in their 20's with [thesaurus.com](https://www.thesaurus.com) saved as a tab. Always giving hollow, cookie cutter opinions, synonyms for good, bad, loud and quiet.

This whole thing to publish these reviews wasn't my idea. I wrote these in lockdown for my dad, you know the middle aged bloke in science, in exchange for the albums on CD. Granted I've never actually put these into a CD player, or used a CD player in recent memory. It's just nice, for me at least, to have a physical copy of these kinds of things. So these weren't really reviews as much as they were overviews and analysis'.

I also can't remember for the life of me what I wrote down, that was months ago. It's bleeding December now, Boris is still a moron and the British public struggle with the concept of a black Christmas advert. However i'd rate that Sainsburys' gravy song over the Dance Monkey any day.....

This edition of Chatter features my review of

Spirit They're Gone, Spirit They've Vanished by Animal Collective.

To classify this record under any one genre is a task near impossible, walls of noise permeate the albums opener (Spirit They've Vanished) and the album's Untitled interlude. Moments of folk spring out in April & The Phantom and the latter half of Chocolate Girl, but contrasting the lighter acoustic guitar sections are screamed vocals delivered by the then 20 Avey Tare. The majority of the album was written when Avey Tare was only 19, some tracks such as the piano led Penny Dreadfuls date back to when he was 16. He is also the albums primary performer, the only instrument not played by him on the release were the drums which were performed by Panda Bear.



The young age of the performers does not detract from the quality of the songs however, a testament to this is the 13 minute closing track Alvin Row. Everything unique about this album takes centre stage on this mammoth cut, rivers of noise flowing into hushed oceans of piano before crashing down into its many screeching climaxes. The track recedes into a repeated sampled mantra, a young child hauntingly repeating "my singing voice is gone, my singing voice is gone, my singing voice is-"

Gone are the eccentricities of the surrounding tracks, the stripped down centrepiece Penny Dreadfuls is the inverse of its peers. Instead of dwelling and thriving in experimentation, it attempts to make the uncanny and simple remain beautiful. Juvenile lyrics detailing simple interactions become pleads to "tell it different". To paint the story in a light where the narrator shines, to make sure these cheap fictions don't leave bruises but leave scars.

Inside these songs, we can hear the scars. The album begins with wretched wails of feedback, the all encompassing nothings of Spirit They've Vanished. If Penny Dreadfuls begged for difference, this track asks for only indifference. Looking back on your youth knowing that it isn't coming back, knowing that the future you could've had isn't coming back. There is no rhythm, only slight melodies that can't help but stay, "It's hard to just kiss our child games goodbye"

The culmination of the albums themes appear on the 5th track, Chocolate Girl. The titular character is a symbol for childlike innocence and throughout the songs verses, the lyrics detail where and how she resides. The song shifts into a coda in its late minutes and repeated are remarks that the girl has become just folly to the narrator, that he can no longer clearly picture her. The single most telling lyric is the one accented in the song repetitions, "I can't see you". A simple phrase with simple meanings. The girl, the childhood, the wonder is gone.

Spirit They're Gone, Spirit They've Vanished is the last grasp on childhood from someone for whom it has recently departed. Instruments conversing about yesteryears and walls of feedback silencing them. It's the admittance, the acceptance and the erasure of the past. The conclusion of youth set to music.



Family friendly Halloween films



By Grace ~ Year 11

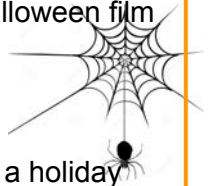
Whilst everything was very different this year, and Halloween might not have gone as planned, we all still had some spooky fun watching these family friendly spooky films! Here are my top 10!!!

1. Frankenweenie

Ah yes, the tale as old as time, a scientist gets carried away with his creation and ends up making... a reanimated dog? Whilst a little strange the premise may seem the film is definitely a Halloween classic!

2. Corpse bride

Who could forget this amazing Tim Burton film! Corpse bride is arguably the best family friendly Halloween film ever made!



3. The nightmare before Christmas

Is it a Halloween film... or... a Christmas film? Whilst the debate continues the film itself is for sure a holiday classic and fits perfectly into this list

4. Coraline

Coralline is arguably the best stop motion film ever made! With the iconic opening scene and button eyes being referenced heavily in pop culture, Coraline is a definite must see!

5. Boxtrolls

Now whilst it may not be a traditional Halloween film, the incredible animation and spooky atmosphere make for a perfect Halloween film

6. Paranorman

One again another amazing film from Laika, the mystery of the town is enough to chill anyone to the bone

7. Monster house

For sure a childhood favourite of mine, the brilliant design of the house makes the film worthy of a watch just by itself!

8. The Addams family (1991)

They're creepy and they're spooky.... The Addams family are on the big screen! Wonder what they'll get up to?

9. Hocus pocus

How could I not include Hocus Pocus in this list! The film has cemented itself as a Halloween classic, and for good reason!

10. Double trouble toil and trouble

Witches, twins, what's not to love?!





World News- The American Presidential Election



By George ~ Year 8



By now, I assume you have heard of this thing called the **American Presidential Election**. We saw rivals collide on election night, **Biden** gave a speech saying, 'ain't over until every vote is counted, every ballot is counted' and 'we believe we're on track to win this election'. While we saw **Trump** take to twitter (surprise, surprise) claiming voter fraud, voter suppression and any other allegations he can conjure up against the Democratic Party candidate, **Joe Biden**. It is now widely accepted that **Joe Biden** now holds the title of President-Elect. But **Trump** is having a bit of trouble when it comes to accepting this fact, this can be evidently seen in the amount of lawsuits brought by Trump's campaign and his allies. It has been estimated that roughly 50 cases were launched while 30 of those have either been rejected or dropped.

It's all well and good that the Democratic candidates emerged victorious, but who are they? And what do we know about them? Hopefully by the end of this article you'll be able to give a sufficient answer to both of those questions.

Joe Biden

After a spell as an attorney, in 1970 Joe Biden was elected a member of the New Castle County Council in Delaware. Two years later in 1972 he won the U.S. Senate seat from Delaware, aged 29. He held this senate seat until 2008.

In 2008 he was selected by Barack Obama to become his running mate. Obama was elected that year and Biden had to resign from his position of senator in order to take the office of vice-president. He was again nominated in 2012 as the Democrat vice-president, and then won his second term with Obama.

What you may not know is that he entered the race for the 1988 and 2008 democratic presidential nominations. He dropped out of both races and this decision in 2008 turned out well. His main reason for dropping out in 2008 is the fact he won less than 1% of the vote in the Iowa Democratic Caucus.

His run in 1987 (for the 1988 presidential nomination) is probably more unknown, this time he dropped out because of controversy over him having allegedly copied the speeches of Neil Kinnock (then British MP and leader of the Labour party). But it was also speculated at the time that he plagiarized part of a paper in his first year of law school. Now with a considerable number of years as a senator and 8 years as vice-president, it is thought that he has more than enough experience under his belt to become the next President of the United States.



Kamala Harris

Kamala Harris started as the assistant District attorney in 1990. Later on in her career she was recruited into the San Francisco District Attorney's office where she was known for her improved approach to teenage prostitution. In 2003 she was elected as the district attorney for San Francisco, the first black woman in California to be elected district attorney. During her first 3 years in this role the conviction rate increased from 52% to 62%. In her second term as district attorney she ran for the attorney general of California and won by only 0.8 percentage points.

Her next landmark achievement was in 2016 when she won her U.S. senate race. She went viral multiple times for her rigorous questioning of senators throughout her senate career.

In becoming the vice-president in January she will become the first woman, first African American and first Asian American vice president in the history of the United States. What an achievement in itself!



Thanet School Cross Country 2020 Winners



Usually, the traditional Thanet schools cross country competition would be held after school at one of the local schools. Dane Court have hosted this event for the last few years. The event contains a different distanced race depending on which year group it is (for example, the year 7s race over a 1.5km course and year 11s race over a 3km course).

Sadly due to covid restrictions the cross country wasn't allowed to take place this year so it was done virtually instead. This meant that each school had to set up there own cross country course for their students to run. There was also the options for students to do the run as a homework task where they would use a tracking device to measure the distance and there time. The top 10 times for the boys and the top 10 times for the girls from each year group got entered into the Thanet competition where their times would go up against the best times from other schools.

Thanet School Games Secondary Virtual Cross Country 2020- Results

The total number of participants in the competition were 494 students. The overall results for the competition were gathered and Dane Court came overall winners... A BIG well done to all involved ! The overall results were ...

1st - Dane Court

2nd - CCGS

3rd - Ursuline

Year 12- Making Christmas extra special for those in need

This term, some lovely Year 12 students with a little help from the food technology department, came together to make food parcels and stockings for families who are in need of an extra special Christmas this year. This project has aided our school and local community, with many donations being brought in by staff and students alike. The food parcels were delivered to a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society, and was distributed from a Church Hall. The many stockings were distributed to the charity Oasis, St Anthony's school and social services, for them to allocate.

I think we all agree that this project has been a great success and rewarding experience. We are incredibly grateful to be able to help those in need in these especially hard times.

Pictured below: our fabulous Sixth form food parcel team 2020





Conquering Christmas 2020



The year 2020 has changed how we celebrate the holidays. We may be Zooming with family members instead of gathering in person. We may be pinching a few more pennies, while missing family and friends even more, but we can't let a few minor details dampen our Christmas spirit.. However you are celebrating this year be it at home or with some family Christmas 2020 isn't ruined, it's just different!!

The useful tips on the following pages may help you to conquer the Christmas blues. .

Shopping at Christmas is stressful any year, let alone this year with social distancing, masks and sanitizers involved. Use some of the helpful tips below to combat the stress

- Write a list (Check it twice)
- Look ahead at extended shopping hours. Try to go at a quieter time.
- Go alone... More people = More stress!

Think positive thoughts: this is very important. Being stressed constantly will damage your wellbeing.

Feeling under pressure to socialise.... Hmmm (maybe next year)

Ok feeling pressure to choose your xmas bubble.

- Prepare & plan early...Decide who you are going to see & stick with it. Don't leave it until last minute!
- Only socialise as much as you feel you can handle.
- Don't feel you have to keep others happy and see everyone.
- Take time for yourself !!!



Take that Covid!!

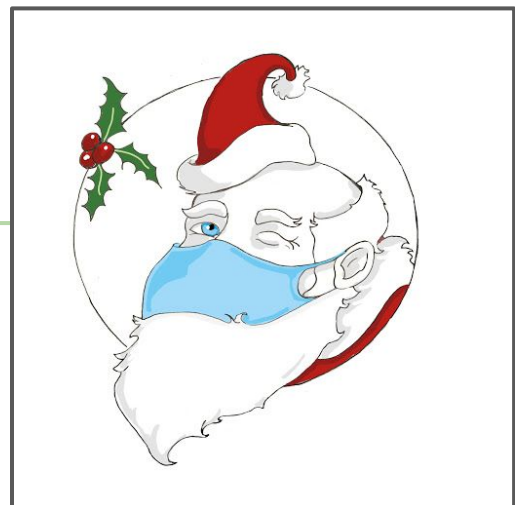
By Abigail Marsden

Covid you tried to take the limelight
Covid didn't you know we'd put up a fight
Covid you tried to steal the show
Covid you needed a weaker foe
Covid we're making a team
Covid we are working on a vaccine

Covid you tried to rule our lives
But covid with the vaccine we will thrive
Take that Covid 19!
We are all gonna work as a team
To prove that you are so mean!

REMEMBER staying safe this Christmas both mentally & physically is the most important thing to do

- Let someone know when it is all becoming too much
- Think before you react....
- Take a deep breath, count to 10 and start again if you can





Conquering Christmas 2020



By Kerri-Ann ~ Year 8

Covid-19 has hit us hard with a long lockdown in March that closed Dane Court for the rest of the school year.

Before I start I would like to give our new year 7's a big welcome into Dane Court. **WELCOME!** Your start to Dane Court hasn't been as great as other years but we hope you have enjoyed it so far!

Christmas in 2020 due to Covid-19

As we all know, 2020 hasn't been the best year, with one big lockdown and shops closed. But there is always a light at the end of the tunnel and for us it's Christmas. However, it might be a bit different with regards to not being able to mix with as many friends and family as we would normally do. (This is the first time we have experienced something like this since the flu breakout and the black death.)

So...what can we do for Christmas?

Decorate!

Most people in the season of goodwill put up Christmas trees and decorate their houses. This year it might be a bit tricky with shops shut and us being in a temporary lockdown. Some people like to put up paper chains around their houses, especially if there are younger children in the house. DIY is the best way as it gives you something to do during these times.

Instructions:

1. Cut strips of paper that you have coloured or decorated paper
2. Link them together like you normally do with paper chains
3. Hang them up to decorate
4. Enjoy yourself!!!



Christmas films

Some people like to celebrate the Christmas holidays by watching films. With a little research I found out that the top 5 most-watched Christmas films on netflix this year are:

1. Christmas Chronicles 2 (New release)
2. Nativity
3. Nativity 3 (Dude, Where's my Donkey?)
4. The Grinch (New version)
5. Arthur Christmas

These are all classic Christmas films made in or after the 90s. This list changes every year, and that's just Netflix; there are many others places to watch films at home; Sky cinema, Amazon Prime, Disney+ and many more.

Did you know???

By Angel & Bedrixan Year 7

Christmas light sales were up 238% in 2020 due to people decorating their homes early in order to spread some festive cheer.

A Cardiff chip shop is set to open it's doors on Christmas day to feed the homeless, the lonely & NHS Heroes.

The Warrington family's Christmas tree has been put up every year since 1922.

Candy canes originated in Germany



Festive First Aid



By Skye ~ Year 10

During Christmas time, many people get injured as they are busy with Christmas festivities. Over Christmas 2019, the NHS treated 2,181,024 in A&E, an increase of 6.5% on the same month last year. More accidents happen each year.

Here are some common injuries that can happen over the festive period and how to deal with them.

Burns

Kitchens can get quite hectic trying to cook turkeys, roast potatoes and other delicious food. People are 50% more likely to die in a house fire over Christmas than at any other time of year. If you do accidentally happen to get burnt:

- 1) Do not touch the burnt area.
- 2) Leave any clothing stuck to the burn unless it is contaminated with chemicals.
- 3) Leave any blisters intact.
- 4) Hold burn under cold water for 10 minutes or alternatively until the pain subsides. As you do this, remove any other constrictive clothing.
- 5) Cover with a sterile dressing or kitchen film.
- 6) If necessary, call 999/111.

* People are 50% more likely to die in house fires, so keep candles away from Christmas trees and pets! *

Allergies

Allergies are prone to be triggered throughout the festive season. Someone experiencing an allergic reaction may have some or all of the following symptoms: previous history of allergic reaction, swelling around face/lips/eyes/fingers, difficulty breathing, fast pulse, anxiety and a rash.

- 1) Dial 999/112 for emergency services if it is a severe reaction or an unknown allergy. Give any information you have on the cause of the casualty's condition.
- 2) Check whether the casualty is carrying any necessary medication and get the patient to administer it themselves.
- 3) If casualty is responsive: help them to sit up in a position that relieves any breathing difficulty (usually sitting up and leaning slightly forward).
- 4) If casualty is unresponsive: open airway and check breathing, be prepared to resuscitate, place in recovery position if unresponsive but breathing normally.

* Don't trip over wrapping paper and ribbon or cut yourself when opening presents! *



Choking

There were 1916 severe choking episodes happened in London during 2016, many during December.

- 1) Encourage casualty to cough.
- 2) If they can't clear the object themselves, support them with one hand while leaning them forwards. Deliver up to five back blows between shoulder blades and check the airway. Stop if the obstruction clears.
- 3) If still unsuccessful, try up to five abdominal thrusts. Stand up behind casualty and link your hands below their rib cage with the lower hand clenched in a fist. Pull sharply inwards and upwards. Stop if the obstruction clears. Check their mouth.
- 4) If obstruction hasn't cleared, call 999/111 for emergency help.
- 5) Repeat steps 2 and 3 - rechecking the mouth after each step - until help arrives, child becomes unresponsive or obstruction clears. Be prepared to do CPR if the casualty becomes unresponsive and not breathing, it may also relieve the obstruction.
- 6) If abdominal thrusts were performed at all, recommend the casualty to seek further medical advice from a doctor.





Christmas films, music and fun!



Some festive flicks to get you in the holiday spirit!

By Grace Year 11



The Chatter Teams Top 5 Christmas

Tunes:

1. Rocking Around The Christmas Tree
2. Do They Know It's Christmas
3. Jingle Bell Rock
4. Frosty The Snowman
5. Jingle Bells
6. White Christmas
7. All I Want For Christmas

Ok we really couldn't cut it down to just 5 songs there are so many great songs to choose from... Which song is your favourite??



Competition Time

Thinking of a Christmas competition for Chatter this year became a little tricky... There were so many options to choose from but the elves had a little discussion and decided on this 'Guess who the Santa is' competition.



Win! Win! Win!

A £15 Gift Card
to spend in the
Sales

The above picture was taken from Christmas jumper day on 11th December 2020...All you need to do is email us with the name of who you think this Santa is!! All of the correct entries shall be put into a hat & a winner drawn out.

Please send your entries to

chattercompetition@danecourt.kent.sch.uk by the 3rd January 2021.

The winning entry shall be awarded their prize when we return to school on 5th January 2021.



Airsoft 101- A must visit (when Covid allows)

By Denholm ~ Year 8

So, hey kids! Welcome to my review of Airsoft 101! Airsoft is a fun sport where you use imitation firearms to shoot other people with plastic 6mm balls!

Sound like fun doesn't it? Where can I get involved? I hear you say....Well go on down to Quex and book a rental session I guess! (**DISCLAIMER: DO A RENTAL SESSION FIRST INCASE YOU DON'T LIKE IT.**)

Once you have tried, tested and discovered you like this game you will need some equipment if you are to take it up as a hobby. Here is what you will need.....

- Gun (preferably M4, its the standard and the easiest to use.)
- Face covering, not for Covid, but to protect your teeth and general lower mouth.
- Safety goggles/glasses, BBs can leave you blind so dont want them hitting you in the eye.
- BB's
- A spare mag which is always useful.
- A rifle bag to carry your stuff around.
- 2 LIPO batteries, preferably above 1000ma and MUST be 7.4v
- LIPO charger, make sure it's LIPO.

Optional to look the part....

- Army clothing & chest rig, tactical vest etc



Obviously you will need an airsoft field to take part on, locally Quex Park does a pretty good one, supplying you with all necessary gear along with a plate carrier or overalls to look well....kinda more army. It has a forest arena, D-day landing arena, CQB (Close Quarters Battle) arena and a bridge arena.

It is all very epic!!

There are many attachments to make your experience more exciting- some are more useful than others! The ones I find particularly useful are...

- **The tracer unit-** This makes your BBs glow and be like a tracer round, incredibly useful for tracing your rounds and seeing how close you got to your target/where you hit your target.
- **Sight (holographic, reflex, scope)-** You probably don't need this if your in a CQB arena, but in woodlands its useful, as my iron sights aren't particularly good, so I don't aim down my sights, but with a good sight, it makes it much easier to adjust your hop up and see enemies Remember to get a sight protector anywhere, your glass WILL smash from a direct impact from a BB, and yeah...
- **Foregrip (Angled, Vertical)-** It doesn't matter what kind of foregrip you wanna use. They're cheap, help you get a good grip on your gun, and while recoil isn't a thing, stability is. It's just very useful IG

The following can be used but I find them particularly unhelpful if I am honest...

- **Bipod-** A bipod really isn't that useful, if you need to set your gun down, you don't need a bipod, hooking it over your foregrip or just setting it down on whatever surface you need to bipod on is usually much easier.
- **Laser-** You can possibly blind someone by using one of these, and people will notice a red/green dot on themselves.
- **Flashlight-** You are really never gonna use it.
- **Mock suppressors-** Not useful unless it's hiding an extended barrel.



So there we have it... Everything you need to know on the greatest game ever **Airsoft 101!!**

Enjoy your experience!



Library Update



Mrs Finlay

Hello happy readers, I hope that you are all enjoying a bit of time out and managing to do a bit of reading during your busy weeks. Don't forget that every wednesday is **READING WEDNESDAY** so please remember to have a book on you every day, but especially on a wednesday.



Year 7

At the moment all year 7's may take books out during their library lessons, if they wish to - YAY! Every Tuesday week B at 1.20pm we are running a **book club** in S5. We are currently reading *Running on the Roof of the World*. All students are welcome to join at any time. There are no biscuits but lunch is allowed at the same time! We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Year 8

Book Club is every Tuesday week A in T4 at 1.20pm. We are currently reading *The Stars at Oktober Bend* - all year 8's are welcome. For any book requests/ book recommendations please let me or your Reading Ambassadors/ Librarians know and I will put the book aside for you to collect during library lessons.

Year 9

Book Club will be running on Mondays week A and **Writing Club** on Mondays Week B in B5 - all welcome.. Please let your class Reading Ambassadors/ Librarians know if there is a particular book you would like to take out or if you have a book suggestion. We can then get the book(s) ready for you for your next library lesson.

Year 10

The lovely **mini library** in your head of house office will be refreshed regularly. In the meantime, if you have any book requests please do write them in the back of the library lending book.

Year 11

Madel, Jaan and Jamie are your librarians. If you would like to take a book out please talk to myself or your librarians and we will put them to one side for you to collect. You do also have a mini library available for use in your head of year office.

6th Form

The whole entrance area of the library is for the sixth form - from careers advice, university information, IB books, senior fiction and classics to magazines and reference books.

If you have any book requests please let me know and I will set the book(s) aside for you or order them in. My email is finlay@danecourt.kent.sch.uk.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR UPDATE

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions the scheduled Scholastic Book Fair that was due to be held at the beginning of December had to be postponed until the new year. Details of when this shall now be happening shall be shared with you as soon as we know!



Book Review



By Sophie ~ Year 7

Book review of:
We Hunt the Flame
By
Hafsah Faizal



This book is about a girl named Zafira who dresses herself as a man so that she may hunt in the forest and feed the people of the town. She is well known across the whole of Arawiya as The Hunter, for she is the only one to head into the cursed forest (The Arz) and return completely sane.

It is also about the son of Sultan Gameq, Nasir, more informally known of as the prince of death. He is an excellent assassin and has never left a target alive, he cannot even remember the amount he has killed. He is not as hard on the inside as he seems on the outside.

Zafira is actually a Da'ira (compass) which means she has magic inside of her which leads her, so she shall never be lost. This is what allowed her to come back from The Arz completely sane, unlike, sadly, her father, who went in without Zafira and returned barely sane. Zafira's mother had to kill her beloved to save her child, which made Zafira avoid her mother for seven years.

Nasir's mother died after having to watch Nasir be burned by a hot poker every time he refused to kill for his father.

This book was so excellent, I have read it seven times (probably more by the time you read this) not counting how many times I have reread my favourite bits. The descriptions stick in my mind, imprinting so many times I can literally quote parts of the book. The story is gripping and magical, the characters feelings blurred into my own as I read it, sending shivers down my spine.

Zafira's courage and defiance is wonderful to read about and the ways the author describes her are so cool. It says about the iciness of her glare, like shards of glass and the sharpness of her face, as if it were cut out of marble.



Nasir is described in a melancholy type of way, saying how his face is a mask that hides his emotion, that when it comes off, a sadness fills his gaze. There are many more characters, each as interesting and creative as the other.

There are five caliphates: Alderamin, Sarasin, Demenhur, Zaram and Pelusia. Alderamin is scorching hot, sand everywhere, it is the home to the Crown Prince Nasir. Demenhur is freezing cold, snows where there should be sands, it is home to Zafira. Zaram is a brutal land where fights to the death were very common, they used to love the sea before The Arz got in the way. Pelusia had once fertile lands are now soiled yet they still provide the whole of Arawiya with food. There are also waste land but nothing is said about those in the first book. The second comes out in February.

For those who are looking for a book this would be an excellent choice. It is my favourite book, and I hope you might like it too if you read it.

Hope you enjoyed! :) I made pretty sure I didn't give too much away!



2020 Bingo!

Happy New Year

By The Ravenmeister



2020 What a year!! Look back at the slightly strange & varied year with a fun game of BINGO!!

- Find some family members to play with, then decide how which format you are playing i.e 1 line, 2 lines, full house etc
- Each player then needs to make a grid (2x6 or 3x5), choose 12-15 of the above ideas to then place on your Bingo card that you have just made.
- Use a random wheel tool such as <https://pickerwheel.com/> to generate the above as a non-biased Bingo caller. And away you go.... Have fun & good luck!