



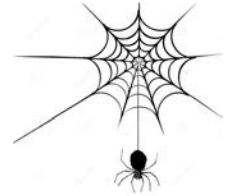
DCGS Chatter

Edition 19

October 2021



A warm welcome to Academic Year 2021-2022



P.M.A + Resilience = Success



After a tough couple of years it is important to remember how far you, as a person, has progressed. In the last edition of Chatter we reported how well our IB students did and this term we bring you news of our fantastic GCSE students of 2020/2021 and the results they received during the summer holidays. 98% of Dane Court students passed in their English and Math GCSE and 45% of students passed their GCSEs at grades 9-7!

Headteacher Martin Jones said that we are “proud of all Dane Court students as they excelled in challenging circumstances” Well done to all of our students on their fantastic results.

Determination

With the start of a fresh academic year it's time to look ahead and think of all the brilliant things we can achieve if we apply a positive mental attitude and determination to our learning.

By harnessing our resilience you have all already shown these past couple of years, we can follow in the footsteps of many other people and overcome challenges, just as the amazing Emma Raducanu did this summer!!! (See page 3 to read her inspirational story)



In this edition of Chatter....



- Can the government really beat crime?
- All things Halloween
- The Chatter team get their creative writing pens at the ready
- Details of all the school clubs to keep you busy.



And much more

In our Spooky DCGS Chatter - Welcome edition...

Page 3 ~ Tennis Superstar

Page 4 ~ Football Season begins

Page 5 ~ Summer work experience & Starting GCSE's

Page 6-8 ~ Clubs around the school

Page 9 ~ Can the Government beat crime?

Page 10 ~ Grofins Guide

Page 11 ~ 'Scarecrow' - A spooky story

Page 12 ~ The Tesla-Bot

Page 13 ~ Volcanic Eruption

Page 14 ~ Lunar Eclipse & Competition time

Page 15 ~ The met Gala

Page 16-17 ~ 'Blackstone Manor'

Page 18-19 ~ COD- What happened?

Page 20 ~ Spooktacular Wordsearch

Page 21 ~ Mini Beasts & Why they exist!



Page 22 ~ Slovakian Food

Page 23 ~ What a Show! Theatre reviews

Page 24 ~ It's in the stars Zodiac

Page 25 ~ Fangtastic Fundraising- a library update

Page 26- 27 ~ Book reviews

Page 28 ~ Scouting at sea!

Page 29 ~ 2021 Film Releases Reviewed

Page 30-31 ~ Creative writing

Page 32 ~ Delicious Banana Bread recipe

Page 33-34 ~ Endangered animals

Page 35-36 ~ Halloween fun to keep you busy!

Words From The Editor

Hello **DCGS Chatter** readers & welcome to Chatter 19!

A **wailing** welcome back to a new school year. We hope you had an amazing summer with plenty of things to do as we here at Chatter did!

We have had some **fabulous** Year 7 students join us as Chatter reporters already this year, that we have a bumper packed Spooky Edition for you this term. We have **short stories** from our creative writers, sports news from our **new sports editor**, and update on al the clubs available at school.

In actual fact we have so many **spooky articles** in store for you along with news from our action packed **summer adventures**, that **this edition was one of our biggest editions yet!**

We really hope you have as much fun reading this as we did putting this edition together for you. The Chatter team would also like to thank the **PTA** for their **continued support** yet again this year!

Have a **fangtastic** half term, and we will see you when we return on 1st November 2021.

The Ed



This Edition's Chatter Team...

Year 7 Team - Leah, Grace, Ophelia, Juliet Megan & Eliana

Year 8 Team - Angel, Aditya, Sophie, Florence, Idunumi, Amelie, Shannon & Harry,

Year 9 Team - George, Hadley, Michaela, Ella, Beatrix, Abigail V, Nia, Sofia, Cameron, Faye, Kerri-Ann, Isaac & Oliver

Year 10 Team - Joe, Will

Year 11 Team - Skye, Ellie

6th Form Team - Jamie, Grace, Gabriela, Nancy, Todd

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



Sports in the news



Sports Editor: Todd - Year 13

British sensation Emma Raducanu makes tennis history with monumental US open victory.

Unbelievable, amazing, extraordinary, meteoric. Take your pick to describe this achievement but no words can really sum up this story. Emma Raducanu, who only turned 18 in November of 2020, stunned the tennis and sporting world after bursting onto the world stage with a breath-taking US open campaign. After battling through the qualifiers, she surpassed seven more challengers to capture not only her first Grand slam title but also the hearts of the tennis world.



She also became the first qualifier to win a grand slam as well as the 9th youngest female to win one of these historic tournaments. This ultimate underdog story began 9 matches before she dominated the final against fellow youngster Leylah Fernandez, who herself was a debutant in a Grand slam final. Raducanu was victorious with a scoreline of 6-4, 6-3 in the final, cementing her place in tennis history with arguably one of the greatest sporting achievements in modern sport. Emma also became the first British woman since 1977 to win a grand slam title since the legendary Virginia Wade winning at Wimbledon.

Two months prior to the beginning of the US open, Raducanu was collecting her A-level results and two weeks before she had already booked her flight home in expectation that she may have failed to come through qualifying but seventeen days later she was lifting the famous title.

Interestingly, Raducanu was raised in Kent in a southeastern borough of London called Bromley. This is where she built the foundations for this huge success story and she received passionate support from the members of her home club, Parklangley tennis club in Beckenham. Not anyone however would have anticipated this astonishing accomplishment and it just shows that a superstar can be born from the humblest beginnings.



Football Season Begins



Oliver ~ Year 9

So, at the moment there are two main football events happening. The main one, and the most notable thing around the world, is the Football World Cup Qualifiers, and the second thing is the football leagues around the world. The most notable for me is the Premier League (the main footballing league in England).

So, to start with let's talk about the Football World Cup Qualifiers. The actual World Cup will start on the 21st of November 2022 in Qatar, a country in Asia.

So, the way the qualifiers take place is the countries from certain continents - for example, Europe - get put into a couple of groups. So, all European countries get put in several groups with only European countries, and no other countries from other continents. So, then all the countries in one group play each other and then, depending on how well they do in all their games, they then get ranked in their table. Then, depending on how many teams are in their group, a certain number of teams make it through to the actual World Cup. So, at the moment, England are top of their group, so hopefully we can keep it up and win the actual world cup.

But now, let's talk about the Premier League and also, some other notable football news about the major leagues recently. So let's start with the Premier League (the main football league in England). So, at the moment in the Premier League, the teams in the top 4 spots are Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United and Brighton. Some of the top transfer news include Cristiano Ronaldo moving back to one of his former clubs in Manchester United. One of the biggest other footballing news stories is that some of the clubs in the lowest leagues of professional football are going bankrupt and are not able to play due to player shortages and players not being fit.

Personally I believe that the larger clubs like Man City should give some of the smaller clubs enough money to stabilise them, so they can play. Some transfer news across the world include Lionel Messi moving from Barcelona (where he has spent his entire career up till now) to PSG and also Sergio Ramos also moving to PSG.



Summer: My Work Experience

Ellie ~ Year 11

RUNNING A SUMMER SCHOOL WORKSHOP!

In the summer, I worked alongside my mother with Haddon Dene students between 6 and 11 years old to create a 45 minute pantomime based on Sleeping Beauty. It was my first proper experience with a job (I was paid to do four days), it was overall quite exhausting but very enjoyable! Every day, I did a 10 minute dance warm up with them and ran a couple of drama games. I also choreographed some dances and helped them when they needed assistance. The children were so lovely and I'm happy to say that they had a fabulous week. I ended up actually being in the panto as Carabosse - the evil fairy - since there was one more person needed to play the role. I was very happy with how it went and I am so proud of them all for the effort they put in, a brilliant turn out for everyone :)



Starting Year 10

Will ~ Year 10

Life in year 10 is very different to life in years 7, 8 and 9. I found years like year 7 very hard because it was a new start and a new school, and meeting a lot of new people e.g teachers, peers and many more people around the school. As time went on it got easier, especially in year 10 as you have a lot less subjects (you get to pick 2 subjects alongside English, maths, P.E., ICE, and a language). For my two subjects, I picked art and computing, which I found my passion for at the end of year 9, as I made one of my favorite cars (Nissan Skyline R34) out of polystyrene. Computing, I thought i would enjoy since I have a computer at home. One thing I have learnt from school is if you focus and just do what you're supposed to, time will fly by. So make sure to enjoy those years.





Clubs happening in school

Team Chatter

Tuesday Week A: Junior Book Club

All Year 7's and 8's welcome



Everyday in B5



Year 7 Games Club

from 1.40 pm

Some of the games for you to try are:

- Scrabble* Chess * Dobble
- Dominoes * Mousetrap * Operation
- Cards * Hedbanz* Draughts
- Boggle * Tiddlywinks * Buckaroo
- Snakes & Ladders * Connect4 * & More!



- Every **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday** lunchtime, **from Monday 18th October.**
- Bring along your lunch and homework to **N8** between **1:40 and 2:15pm.**
- Open to **all year groups** - an excellent opportunity to catch up with your workload.
- Sixth form students on hand will be more than happy to offer any **help and advice** you may need.
- We look forward to seeing you soon!

**Change
of
venue!**



**NEEDED ENTHUSIASTIC CODE
BREAKERS - ANY YEAR
GROUPS**

**THURSDAYS 3:30 - 4:30
(from 23rd September)
S PLAZA**



Clubs happening in school

Team Chatter

Calling one and all! Anyone interested in Dane Court Radio please email Alfie -
15astocker@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

DCRadio



Year 12-13 Students



Do you need CAS hours for your IB course?

Chatter the school newspaper needs you! We need a team of mature students that can help with encouraging younger

students to create interesting news reports, editing or proofreading the school newspaper before publishing and to help with the final layout of the school newspaper articles.

In return you will receive the enjoyment of helping to be part of an amazing, award winning team, something great to go on your CV & hours signed off for your courses.

If you need any further information please see Mrs Cronin or Mrs Finlay.

Appropriate sports clothing must be worn in order to take part in all sports clubs. The usual high standards of behaviour that are expected by the PE Department must also be retained.



DANE COURT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS



HALF TERM 2

| | Other 3.30-4.25 | Field/Hard Court 3.30-4.25 | Sports Hall 3.30-4.25 | Activity Studio 3.30-4.25 |
|-----------|--|---|---|--|
| Monday | | | Netball – inside (week A -year 7 and 8//week B -year 9, 10 , 11) (Miss Metcalfe) | |
| Tuesday | | | Badminton - KS4 (Mr White) | Table Tennis KS4 + GCSE (Mr Argyrides + 6th form) |
| Wednesday | | | Badminton – KS3 (Mr White) | Dance - All years (Jade Bailey) (3.45-4.45) |
| Thursday | GCSE Intervention session every week open to all GCSE students every week M5 (Week A - MrArgyrides Week B - MissMetcalfe) | Football (inside)– (week A - KS3//week B -KS4) (Mr Jordan) | Climbing – (Mr Alderson) | Yoga - 6th form only (Outside agency) |



Clubs happening in school

Team Chatter

Do you love to sing?
 Want a fun time with friends?
 Want to be a part of something great at school?
 Then come along to choir!
 Hosted by Mr Williams - williams@danecourt.kent.sch.uk
 Held every Thursday after school (this may change in later terms)

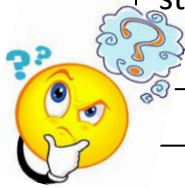


“playing devil's advocate....”

Come along to Debate club!
 Thursdays in the library after school.



Open to 6th form Students (can earn CAS Hours!) Meetings hosted by Mrs Haslam - ahaslam@danecourt.kent.sch.uk



Calling all actors! Come along to drama club every Thursday after school, years 7-10 welcome



Hosted by Mr Stanley stanley@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

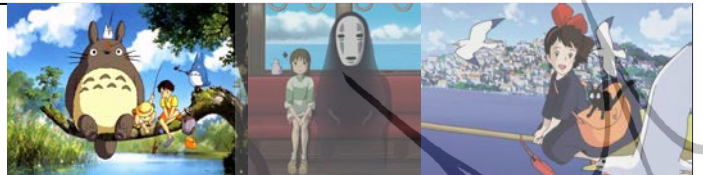
Super Smash Bros club!
 Held in M1, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes, hosted by Ben 15bgeraghty@danecourt.kent.sch.uk



Want your voice heard?
 Join Student council! Meetings held every Wednesday Week B
 Email Macy - 15mboulton@danecourt.kent.sch.uk
 Or Miss Aherne - Aherne@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Keep an eye out in the school for a Macmillan coffee morning being held soon!

Join Japanese film club!
 Classroom code LBLZM3X
 Make sure to listen to the podcast!





Government to beat crime?

Chatter's Political Editor: George ~ Year 9



The "Beating Crime Plan": Will It Really "Beat Crime"?

According to gov.uk, the "Beating Crime Plan" released on the 27th of July 2021 by the UK Government intends "to reduce crime, protect victims and make the country safer". Interestingly, however, it has instead been rebranded as ineffective and discriminatory by many. The main proposition of this plan, and also the main focus of this article, is the proposal to expand stop and search powers. The powers of concern under the plan are the ones granted to officers under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. And the powers given under this section are:

" (4) This section confers on any constable in uniform power—

- (a) to stop any pedestrian and search him or anything carried by him for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments;
- (b) to stop any vehicle and search the vehicle, its driver and any passenger for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments."

" (5) A constable may, [in the exercise of the powers conferred by Subsection (4) above], stop any person or vehicle and make any search he thinks fit, whether or not he has any grounds for suspecting that the person or vehicle is carrying weapons or articles of that kind."

The government is now permanently relaxing the grounds required for the imposition of a Section 60, meaning they can be imposed by a lower-ranking officer and last longer. This comes after a pilot of these relaxations in 7 police forces, started in 2019 and extended to include all police forces across England and Wales in September 2020. The government has justified the permanent relaxation by claiming it would "empower police to take more knives off the streets".

However, the government's justification comes into question when the statistics around Section 60 powers are revealed. Only 4% of stop and searches conducted under Section 60 powers resulted in an arrest. This is in comparison with the 13% of stop and searches conducted with reasonable suspicion that an individual is in possession of a weapon, drugs or stolen property which result in arrest. Issues of discrimination arise when looking at statistics, which show that black people are 9 times more likely than white people to be stopped and searched under all stop and search powers. However, this statistic gets even more shocking, with black people being 18 times more likely than white people to be stopped and searched under Section 60 powers, highlighting how tensions between the police and minority communities may escalate. The entirety of the government's justification of wanting "to take more knives off the streets" can be challenged on discovering that available figures suggest that in only 1% of blanket searches (searches conducted under Section 60) weapons are actually found. Additionally, a government study of an operation using this power found "no statistically significant crime-reducing effect from the large increase in weapons searches".

The National Council for Civil Liberties, a human rights organisation, has said that the permanent relaxation would "compound discrimination in Britain and divide communities". So, will the "beating crime plan" "beat crime"?



Grofin's Guide



Cameron ~ Year 9

Grofin's Guide to Dungeons and Dragons- Classes, Races and Abilities.

I'm a barbarian. A complete damage sponge, with a push-it-back-at-your-face potential. You don't want to make me mad, especially by calling me tiny. I know I am a dwarf but I HATE IT and anyone who insults me shall suffer and know what they did. You could be more than that (if you don't want to be a certain threat on the battlefield). But every class has a different use, and a way to play them to their true potential. Following is a list of what you can play:

Races:

Dragonborn (I mean DRAGON!!!)

Dwarf (Strong and hearty, like everyone should be, right?)

Elf (Dexterous, agile and accurate, despite how much a dwarf, like me, would dislike them)

Gnome (Inventors, intelligent, not garden statues)

Half-Elf (Better, more persuasive and, more well-rounded than the elf, in my opinion)

Halfling (A stealthy, and sociable race)

Half-Orc (STRONG! TOUGH!)

Human (Plain, but surprisingly well-rounded and useful)

Tiefling (Who doesn't want to be a demon; tail, horns - COOL)

But finally, these classes would be nothing without abilities-

STRENGTH - How strong a character is.

DEXTERITY - How agile and maneuverable a character is.

CONSTITUTION - How thick-skinned a character is and is used to measure hit points.

INTELLIGENCE - How smart a character is (from books, specifically)

WISDOM - A wise character learns from experience.

CHARISMA - How sociable and charming a character is.

Classes:

Barbarian (BATTLE RAGE AND SOAK DAMAGE)

Bard (Don't underestimate a 'Charm Person' spell, may just be the end of you, plus bardic inspiration is great)

Cleric (Battle healer, resurrector of dead, love the cleric)

Druid (Harnessing nature and transformation but easy target due to metal interfering in their spells)

Fighter (Trained barbarian, with insane skills and abilities)

Monk (No weapon or armor, but incredible, ki is your power)

Paladin (A holy warrior, sworn with an oath to a powerful deity)

Ranger (Situational, but a familiar animal friend is incredible)

Rogue (Shadow hides, massive damage potential but situational and typically edgy with both parents dead)

Sorcerer (Magic drawn from a gift or bloodline, but low weapon proficiencies)

Warlock (Typically, evil deities gift these casters their magic and Eldritch Blast is a Blast to use *Cricket Noises*)

Wizard (Good caster though copying things down can be expensive and one of the two lowest chances of hit points in the game, but don't let this put you off of an astounding class)



SCARECROW.....

By Michaela ~ Year 9

Inky darkness covered the once bright blue sky. As if the world had been coated in a heavy layer of black paint, not even the shining stars in the sky had been spared. Only the moon which glowed softly lighting up his path and guiding his way for better or worse he wasn't quite sure. On most nights the soft glow of the luminous moon would've been reassuring and kind. Not tonight. Tonight it felt like a warning, eerie and unnatural but instead of the crimson stop signs that foreshadowed danger only a soft glow remained.

Tall stalks of corn and leaves that used to be a vibrant green but now were a light caramel. The field of maize surrounded him, it felt like a labyrinth constantly adapting to his choices. Every move he made was countered to keep him trapped and encircled. He shuddered. Everything was so strange and peculiar tonight.

He originally thought it would be a good shortcut so he entered the field of maize, however the minute he entered the field everything became disorientating. His confidence in the shortcut immediately fell and he tried to turn back but it was futile. Regret pooled into his gut, like an unsettling ice cold weight that instead of keeping him grounded threw him off balance. No matter which direction he frantically turned, nothing worked. Suddenly an intense feeling of fear washed over him. Anxiety was like a frozen snake that curled around his heart gently squeezing until his breathing became uneven. He tried to think rationally and reassure himself that everything was fine. The frozen grip of the serpent had slowly disappeared. He started to formulate a plan, when it began.

What he was referring to was the noises.

Far away, but somehow close he could hear rustling in the stalks as if someone else was there, though unlike him they seemed sure of where they were walking. Weighing up his options he decided to take a chance. "Who's there?" he cried out, his voice coming out more shaky than he intended.

The wind blew through his hair picking up suddenly, almost as if it were answering and not informing but warning him that it was the who when he called who's there.

He paused to hear the rustling but after a few seconds it paused, mocking him. He walked albeit a bit more frantically glancing around every few seconds making sure nobody was going to jump out at him. He paused to hear the rustling but unlike before it didn't pause to mimic him it kept going, getting closer and closer.

That's when he started running, he didn't know where he was going. He only knew he had to get away from the noises then he could think again.

He kept running until he saw through the gaps in the honeycomb stalks, an opening. He ran faster into the clearing and paused to catch his breath listening to his surroundings for the tell tale whispering of a figure moving closing in around him. Only when he was sure it was silent did he take in everything in the vicinity only to find a fractured, broken picturesque scene, encircled with the feeling of something being off.

On a wooden pole a stuffed figure hung. A smile permanently stitched on preventing the hay stuffed figure from talking or smiling. Pitch black buttons stitched on in the place of the eyes. Hay sticking unevenly out of his sleeves almost like each piece was reaching for the boy. The scarecrow's head was tilted down as if observing the boy and the boy swore he could feel the black eyes digging into his soul. He shivered and twisted his body away preparing to set off back into the maize.

His consciousness faded as his awareness slipped away and the last thing he remembered was the hay sticking out of his stomach as if he had been impaled.



**Why did the
scarecrow get an award?
Because he was
outstanding in his field!!!**



The Tesla-Bot



Joe ~ Year 10



Last week, in Tesla's software presentation, Elon Musk announced the Tesla-Bot; a 5ft 8 humanoid robot, that runs off Tesla's current self-driving AI. It is designed to do tasks that humans deem "dangerous, repetitive or boring".

Despite the interesting dance performance at the start of the presentation, people remain fairly skeptical about this new idea from pioneer car company Tesla.

Following the flop of Tesla's incredibly futuristic looking cybertruck, a move as bold as this was very unexpected from the already adventurous Elon Musk, who states that this machine will give an alternative to repetitive manual labour jobs, without replacing them altogether. How this will be achieved is yet to be announced, but Musk hopes to have a functioning prototype by late next year, which is another detail that investors are increasingly skeptical of, following Musk's track record of missing deadlines.



Despite this, the Tesla-Bot is announced to have the articulation of a normal human, and will be able to walk at speeds of up to 5 mph (this has been deliberately capped at this speed, in order to allow for a swift getaway in the event of the AI turning on humanity, Elon Musk says). These reasons have also lead to the limiting of its physical strength, and ability to right itself, so it can be easily overpowered just in case of issues with the AI.





La Palma Volcano Eruption

Gabriela ~ Year 12



On the 19th of September, a crack opened in the Cumbre Vieja volcano on La Palma, and ever since lava has been flowing down the steep mountain and through the villages below, such as Todoque and El Paraiso.

Over 6000 people, including 400 tourists, have been evacuated as the deadly molten rock shows no signs of stopping, flowing down to the sea at five metres per hour. However, to the North, the 12m-high lava flow - reaching 1,000°C - has almost stopped. The lava stream is 3,800m long and 2,100m away from the coast, Spain's Department of Homeland Security (DSN) has said.

La Palma, one of the smallest and western of the Canary Islands, is not as popular with tourists as its neighbouring islands (such as Tenerife, where the evacuees have been taken to). However, the eruption has gained it's international attention. Images show the extent of the damage to communities, surrounded by black cooled lava:



As evident from the photographs, many of the residents have lost everything. The image, to the right, has gained social media attention, with the residence being dubbed the "miracle house" as the lava spares it from a fiery end.



Despite efforts being made to get everyone to safety and out of the path of hot lava, many farmers of which their livelihoods depend raced to save their crops of produce such as banana's, grapes and advocado's before the lava destroyed them.

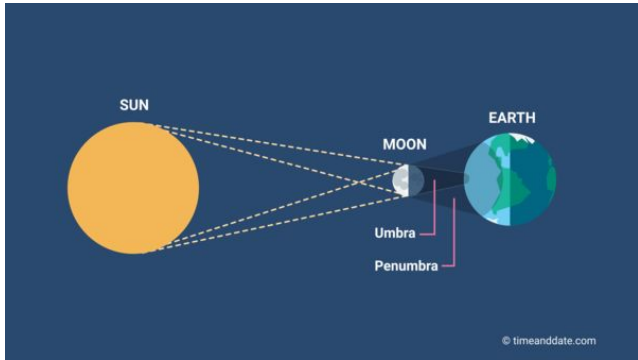
There are now concerns that when the lava reaches the sea, it could create clouds of acidic, toxic gas, as well as severely damage much of the surrounding marine life.



Lunar Eclipse



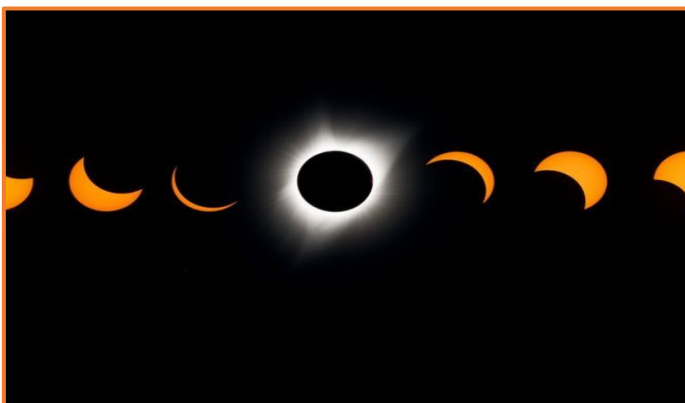
Space Girl: Grace ~ Year 12



We all love space right? I mean.. Space!

One of the most amazing things that can be observed in space with the naked eye are eclipses. Here are some fun facts about Lunar eclipses!

- Lunar eclipses can occur three times a year
- Lunar Eclipses are only visible during a full moon
- They are visible over an entire hemisphere
- Eclipses usually alternate, going lunar solar lunar
- Some lunar eclipses are visible for up to four hours!



- You can see a lunar eclipse from the moon itself
- There are three types of lunar eclipse, total, partial or penumbral.
- The term for when the moon is fully darkened is 'totality'.

COMPETITION TIME



FIND THE PUMPKINS!

Simple really...find the FOUR really really small different coloured hidden pumpkins!

Email the four page numbers to us at chattercompetitions@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

The first correct answer shall win a cauldron full of Halloween Goodies!!

Hint...they are smaller than these on this page.....GOOD LUCK!





The Met Gala 2021: American Independence

THE
MET GALA
ULTIMATE FASHION
MOMENTS

Nancy ~ Year 12

Since 1948, the Met Gala has been arguably the most important fashion event of the year, marking the opening of a new exhibit in the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The fundraising benefit is always attended by celebrities, high society New Yorkers and the biggest names in the fashion industry.

Over the years, the event has evolved from an annual fundraiser into a cultural phenomenon and one of the most talked about events in fashion. The Gala became more elaborate in the 70's when Diana Vreeland became chairwoman, and themes were introduced, the first being 1973's "The World of Balenciaga". Vreeland also began the inclusion of pop culture to the Met Gala, inviting a wide range of celebrities like Cher, Andy Warhol and even Princess Diana.

After the cancellation of last year's Gala, the Costume Institute called for a two-part Gala: "In America: A Lexicon of Fashion" and "In America: An Anthology of Fashion". The first exhibit opened on the 18th of September 2021, with the second set to open on the 2nd of May 2022.

This year's guest list sparked immediate controversy, with rumours of TikTok stars such as Addison Rae and Dixie D'Amelio seated alongside A-list royalty like Rihanna, Timothee Chalamet and the Kardashians. However, the stunning (and the questionable) costumes presented on the red carpet provided watchers with even more to debate.



In this gorgeous gown by Oscar De La Renta, singer Billie Eilish (co-chair of this year's Met Gala) paid homage to American beauty icon Marilyn Monroe after debuting her new, more glamorous image earlier this year.



Lil Nas X arrived in Versace, wearing not one, but three different outfits, including this gold suit of armour. He received mixed reviews, with many people online calling him C3PO from Star Wars.



Supermodel Kendall Jenner has been attending the Met Gala since 2014. This year, she wore a stunning Givenchy dress, inspired by Audrey Hepburn in "My Fair Lady".



Kim's Met Dress was designed by ex-husband Kanye West and Balenciaga's Demna Gvasalia. Initially, most people were confused by the monochromatic look, failing to see the message behind it. Even with her whole body covered, Kim is instantly recognizable. Her silhouette is now iconic to modern American fashion and beauty trends and she doesn't need to be naked to make a statement as many people claim she does.



Addison Rae attended the Met Gala for the first time this year, to many people's disapproval. She received mountains of online hate

for this "vintage" dress from 2003 by Tom Ford for Gucci, especially after the release of her new Netflix film "He's All That". People on social media were also quick to point out the similarities between her dress and new best friend Kourtney Kardashian's christmas dress.



Blackstone Manor



Megan ~ Year 7

Blackstone manor was an abandoned old building perched on top of the hill that overlooked the little village of Starling. It had been an empty shell for years; no sign of life, no soul had been inside. The last owner, the Victorian Lord Blackstone had mysteriously gone missing due to unknown reasons and the grand reputation of the mansion was lost along with its beauty and elegance and the secrets it held were forgotten.

‘Where are we going?’ asked Lainey as her two older brothers Luca and Ryan, led her blindfolded, up what seemed to be some sort of rocky slope. It was raining slightly and was forecast for thunder. ‘You’ll see’. The twins glanced at each other grinning from ear-to-ear. Lainey sighed. She was used to this.

Three minutes later of mischievous snickering and tripping over rocks, the boys finally took off the blindfold. Lainey rubbed her eyes and blinked. Her surroundings certainly weren’t the same as before, in fact they’d changed immensely. For starters, it was now night and black clouds covered the sky causing it to rain a bit heavier. There was definitely a storm coming.

Skeletal trees surrounded a winding drive she had presumably just come up. Lainey immediately hated this place. But then she turned around. Standing there in the light of the moon, was the dark shape of Blackstone Manor.

She gasped, as a streak of lightning pierced the sky. Luca and Ryan burst out laughing.

‘Your face!’ Ryan screeched. ‘It’s hilarious!’ cried Luca. ‘Umm...boys..Can we go back now?’ Lainey said as she stared up horrifyingly at the towering building. ‘Course not!’ said Ryan, relaxing a bit. Luca also calmed down. ‘Not before we’ve explored it! C’mon!’

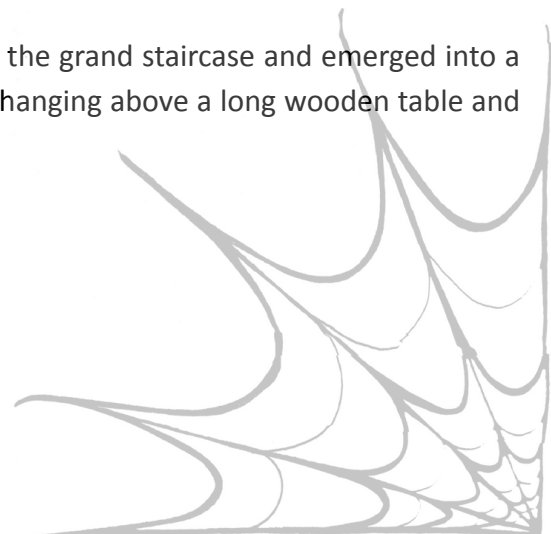
Lainey followed the boys up to the door, unwilling to stand outside on her own. The door was ajar and creaked as they pushed it open. They stepped inside and a gust of wind blew it shut behind them with a BANG that made them jump.

A dim corridor stretched in front of them, doors on either side and a flickering light at the end. ‘Figured we’d need this!’ said Luca, pulling a torch out of his pocket and shining it down the corridor. Ryan had a torch too. They could now make out, more clearly, a staircase. ‘Let’s go then!’ Ryan made his way towards the stairs. Luca followed. ‘Really?’ whimpered Lainey, tagging after them.

The thunder rumbled outside and the lightning slashed. The trio climbed the grand staircase and emerged into a cobwebby dining hall with faded red carpets and a huge glass chandelier hanging above a long wooden table and chairs.

‘You have to admit this is amazing’ gasped Luca.

‘It is..a bit’ Lainey replied, looking up in awe at the swinging chandelier.





Blackstone Manor.... Continued

All of a sudden, there was a whoosh, and the BIGGEST smash you could ever think of!

Luca and Ryan both dropped their torches and yelped. Lainey screamed. Ryan looked around frantically and said 'Don't worry, it's only the chandelier. It fell.. Its chains are old and rusted. Let's get going. There's a door here'. Ryan shone his light on the door. Then Luca exclaimed 'Where's my torch? I can't see my torch!' 'Where did you put it?' asked Ryan. 'I dropped it, and now I can't find it' replied Luca. 'Can you see it Lainey?'

No reply. 'Lainey? Are you there?'

But Lainey had vanished!

CREAK..

'Let's get out of here Luca!' Ryan whispered. 'In there!' He pointed at the door. They rushed inside the room before they thought twice. The creaking footsteps outside the door came closer...and closer.. and closer....until it was right outside the door.

The boys hastily held the door closed with their backs to it.

Three knocks.

One.. Two.. Three..

Luca and Ryan squeezed their eyes shut tight, but silence. Whatever it was, seemed to have disappeared.

Ryan opened the door a notch and peered out cautiously... the coast was clear.

'What a fright!' Luca said.

They left the room and opened another identical door which led into a corridor.

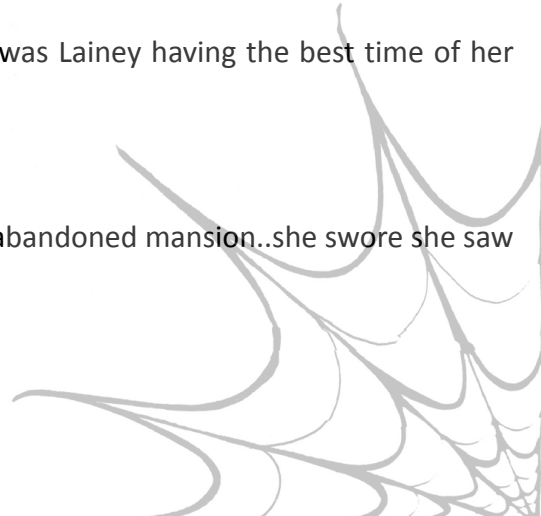
Just there at the end of the corridor in front of them was a ghostly figure - white as a sheet and edging towards them.

They screamed and sprinted as fast as they could through the battered front door and straight home!

The ghostly figure laughed and lifted off its disguise. Underneath there was Lainey having the best time of her life, scaring the boys! She made her way outside using Luca's torch.

Lainey giggled smugly as she exited Blackstone Manor.

But as she walked down the hill back home, Lainey looked back up at the abandoned mansion...she swore she saw a silhouette of somebody looking down at her from the second floor....





Call of Duty used to be good - What happened?

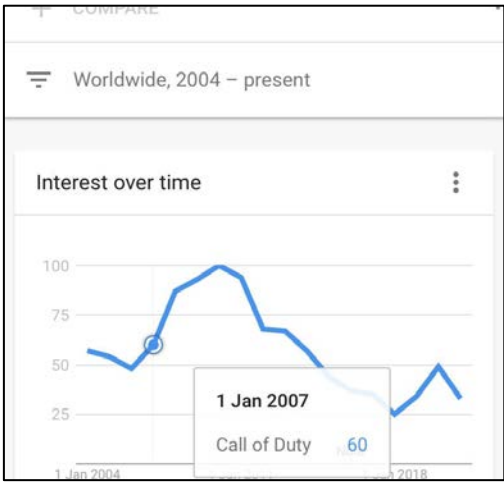
Hadley ~ Year 9

DISCLAIMER: Whilst Chatter values the opinion of each and every individual, Dane Court Grammar School does not encourage the use of 18+ age restricted games and parental guidance is always paramount. The following article is written by one student and it is solely their opinion.

When did the Series Begin?

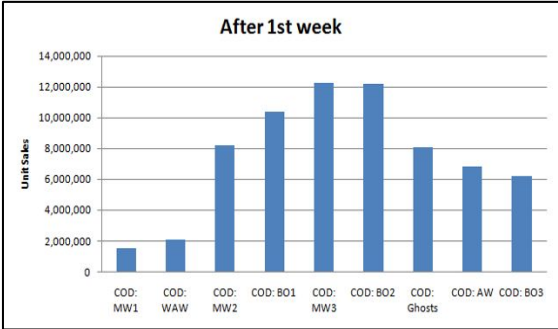
Call of Duty 1 released in 2003, with Call of Duty 4 (arguably the game that blew Call of Duty up) releasing in 2007.

In the graph you can see that searches for Call of Duty rapidly went up the same year CoD4 (abbreviation for Call of Duty) came out. However, by the time Black Ops 3 released in 2015, searches for CoD had already gone down to pre-CoD 4 days. Why did this happen?



Why Were The Old Games Good?

Call of Duty Modern Warfare (MW for short) is very grounded, it isn't some story about a soldier in the far flung future fighting with Energy Weapons, but has two stories of a US Marine fighting in Afghanistan until the bad guy (for lack of a better word) detonates a nuclear bomb and you, Sergeant Jackson, are killed. Meanwhile you also play as John "Soap" MacTavish in Russia, slowly making your way to find the person who detonated the nuke in the first place. Players liked that the story was realistic, and the sales show. As soon as Call of Duty: Ghosts released, the sales had fallen by 1/3 which isn't great, but is expected for the reasons I've already outlined.



The Start Of The Decline

In short terms, bad storytelling and franchise fatigue had begun to set in. A great example of this is Black Ops 3, which has the line "Train go boom". And he's not even using that line ironically. The series began to lean more heavily into tropes and cliches and my worst nightmare: quick time events, where the game forces you to spam a button for something to happen, like opening a 'heavy' door by mashing X. The game is rated M (or 18 if you're in the UK) but after Black Ops 2 the stories have become really simplistic, although CoD: MW 2019 did have a great story and so did Black Ops: Cold War, so with some luck the new games are getting better.

What Really Solidified It

Call of Duty: Ghosts was a game that was released when we went from PS3 and Xbox 360 to PS4 and Xbox One, so the game developers had to make graphics that the now legacy systems could handle, while still looking good on the newer generation consoles. They failed. Miserably.

The people behind the game also focused way too much on small things in their advertising, like how "the fish move out of the way when you swim" and "the dog is modelled after a real navy dog" instead of the story, which I think deserves its own chapter. Also, the game had a silent protagonist, which doesn't work with the rest of the scenes.



Call of Duty used to be good - continued

The Story Of Call Of Duty: Ghosts

In summary, all of South America united and became "The Federation". I'm not joking, that's their name, and the US had these special soldiers called Ghosts who were much better than the rest, but had small numbers. One of these Ghosts is captured and brainwashed by the Federation, and he now hunts down Ghosts. Also, you get stabbed but get up 5 minutes later, which isn't logical, when in MW2 you get stabbed at the end and almost die.

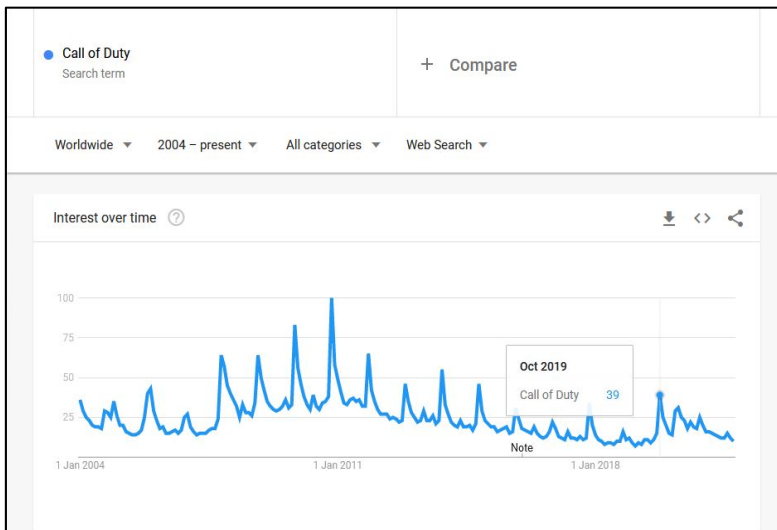
The Final Nail

Infinite Warfare was when most people realised, "Damn, I kinda don't like Call of Duty", as the story follows the same plot points as Ghosts, with some changes. In summary, humanity expands to Mars, and the people there unite and want to take over Earth (sounding familiar yet?). And they do this through terrorist acts, like shooting down military planes, and the first mission; they break into a military research place and they take it over.

Infinite Warfare and Advanced Warfare were the first games to introduce Advanced Movement to the CoD series, which is basically where you can wall run and slide and things like that, much like Titanfall 1 and Titanfall 2. The only problem with this is that the developers of CoD added this new movement without thinking of their map design, hoping that everything would just work - expect the multiplayer maps have invisible walls everywhere, so even though you can double jump and wall run you can't get onto boxes. Despite you clearly being above the box you can't get onto it, whereas in a game like Titanfall 2 you can get to the highest point on the map wherever you want, and the only exception is so high that you really won't be fighting so it gives you 20 seconds to return to area. In the story of Titanfall 2, you can go anywhere on the map.

The Revival?

Ever since 2019, you can see that Call Of Duty has gone up from the near flatline of searches, and then the same month Call of Duty: MW 2019 released the searches have gone up.



They are a bit low as the new game hasn't been released and I haven't seen any more ads about it, but hopefully the searches will go up if the game is good. MW 2019 feels like a return to basics for the series - it wasn't talking about some super deep philosophical meaning that just isn't that deep, but isn't so simple that a three year old could understand it, which for the older fans is a break for once, as MW is in my opinion a great game because its story is grounded in reality.

Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War is a great game, as it for the first time had dialogue options, which means some information is lost as you can just throw a guy off a building instead of questioning him. It also has side missions, which reminds me of Black Ops 2 in a way.

My personal conclusion as to why Call of Duty isn't as good as it used to be...

The fall of Call of Duty can be attributed to a combination of poor map design, a lack of creativity in the story and franchise fatigue. However, the past couple of games have shown a new light for the game series.



Wordsearch time!



Ella ~ Year 9

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



- Mummy - Bat - Vampire - Zombie - Spooky -
- Trick - Skeleton - Coffin - Halloween - Ghost -
- Cauldron - Gravestone - Spider - Treat - Cat - Monster -
- Pumpkin - Haunted - Witch - Scary -



Minibeasts



Numi ~ Year 8

Why do we have Minibeasts?

Minibeasts are all around us but what are they and why do they exist?



What is a minibeast?

A minibeast is basically a fancy word for creepy crawlies or quite simply, bugs and insects.



Where do they live?

Minibeasts can virtually live anywhere because of how tiny they are, but their preferred habitats include under stones, in bushes, trees, grass, flowers, leaf litter and more.



Why are they important?

They recycle dead matter and waste products, help with pollination, are an essential source of food to ecosystems. Although some of them eat our crops, there are also some that eat those pests and protect our food.



Conclusion

Although they might look scary and occasionally be a pest, they are generally just doing their job and helping our environment, so think of that the next time you want to squish one.





Food from around the world



Eliana ~ Year 7

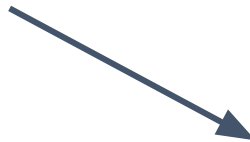


FOOD OF SLOVAKIA

Food in Slovakia is very much different to the food we have here in England, and if I were to describe the food in Slovakia in a few words I would say **potatoes and soup**, because a traditional Slovakian meal consists mainly of these two things



A popular name for a restaurant that serves traditional food in Slovakia is called a salas. They normally look a bit like this.



WHAT I THINK OF SLOVAKIAN FOOD

I think Slovakian food is great, the flavours and textures are amazing and the food is very powerful in taste. I think everyone should try it at least once.

A BIT OF INFORMATION ABOUT SLOVAKIA

Slovakia is a small country in the middle of Europe.

Population: 5.4 million

Slovakia





Theatre Reviews



Bad Cinderella By Grace ~ Year 12

Hold on to your hat, dear reader, because we're off to the theatre!

Andrew Lloyd Webber's new smash hit musical Cinderella has *finally* made its way onto the stage at the Gillian Lynn theatre. I was lucky enough to be able to see the show on opening night and I absolutely loved it!

The show itself is very cheesy, but that works well with the fairytale setting. I really enjoyed the initial conversation between Prince Sebastian and Cinderella and some of Cinderella's dialogue in the show is absolutely amazing ("I can't help being a legend") however, I did find that some of the lines were a touch overdramatic.



Cinderella's introduction song *Bad Cinderella* is absolutely amazing and a total earworm - however the song and the character (and the show as a whole arguably) fall into the *not-like-other-girls* trope. However it is still an amazing show and was performed to perfection by Carrie Hope-Fletcher who is absolutely brilliant in the leading role. I would definitely recommend to anyone looking for a night out at the theatre to watch a feelgood musical.

Wonderville by Mrs Cronin



What better to do at the end of the summer holidays before starting the new school year than to have a trip to the West End with the family! Well that's just what I did, booked tickets to Wonderville- a magic & illusion show being performed as part of the 'Rising Stars Festival' at the amazing Palace Theatre & jumped on the train to London.

Now, if as a family you love the idea of magic and illusions, this is the perfect choice for you. It was also a fairly short show as far as the West End goes (approx 120 minutes long), and so is a nice gentle introduction to the theatre for children. Wonderville was amazing! There were 5 main acts of the show, all varying in their talent.

As part of the Rising Stars festival it featured stars from Britain's Got Talent, Guinness world record holders and multi award winning acts. There was a mix of comedy, mind reading, magic & illusion which was thoroughly entertaining. The illusion duo of Young and Strange are definitely an act to watch out for!

Each week whilst the show was performing in the West End they had a star act, the night we went this act was MAGICAL BONES know for his amazing Magic shown on Britain's got talent. In his act he amazed the audience by somehow getting an audience members playing card to appear from inside a sealed Cadbury's Crunchie bar.....How he did this I have no idea!

Overall this show is a definite must see, whether it be if it returns to the West End at a later date, goes on tour to other theatres or it is shown on TV!



Zodiac: October through to November

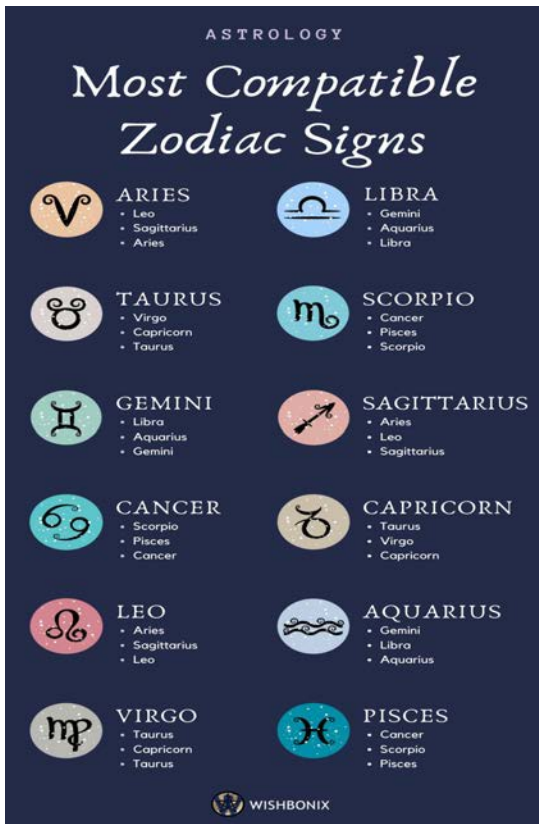


Florence ~ Year 8

Reminder: This is just fun astrology not scientific

October Education

- Aries** - Getting through competitive tests will be difficult.
- Taurus** - Getting through competitive tests will be a lot easier.
- Gemini** - Students of fine art will do well in their courses this month.
- Cancer** - Language students need to put more effort in to be successful in their studies.
- Leo** - Getting good grades on competitive tests will take hard work.
- Sagittarius** - Plenty of effort needed for competitive examination success.
- Aquarius** - Expect unfavourable conditions for academic growth.
- Capricorn** - Almost all students will face obstacles in their studies.
- Virgo** - Professional students will not have problems and grades will not drop.
- Libra** - It will be tough for students.
- Pisces** - Bleak prospects for academic development.
- Scorpio** - Learning will be difficult.



November Education

- Aries** - Students of art will face serious hardships.
- Taurus** - Students of art will excel in their classes.
- Gemini** - Competitive tests will be a tough task.
- Cancer** - Learning and passing examination will be easy.
- Leo** - Will need to be conscious of their mental health.
- Sagittarius** - Language students will find it hard to cope.
- Aquarius** - Competitive tests shall be challenging.
- Capricorn** - Will not get a lot of development in academic pursuits.
- Virgo** - Art students will produce very creative pieces.
- Libra** - Students will fail to make progress in their studies.
- Pisces** - School will stress them out a lot.
- Scorpio** - All classes will be difficult.



Library Update



Mrs. Finlay

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



Thank you to all of you who supported the Scholastic Book Fair. It was great to see you all in the library browsing the book shelves and sifting through the stationery box, as well as enthusiastically grabbing the sought after bags and pointers!



We had a really successful fair, with a whopping £986.97 taken in sales - our biggest and best fair to date. This means that we have earned the school £493.49 in rewards to spend on Scholastic books for the library.



Here are some examples of new books we now have in the library from the fair: *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins (the latest Hunger Games book), *Windrush Child* by Benjamin Zephaniah and *Call Down the Hawk* by Maggie Stiefvater.

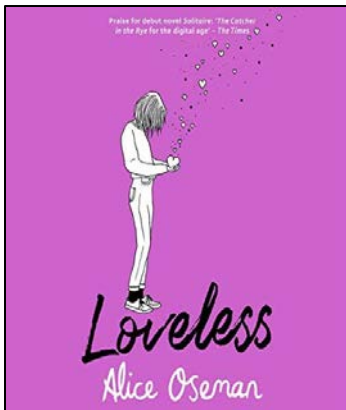




Book Reviews



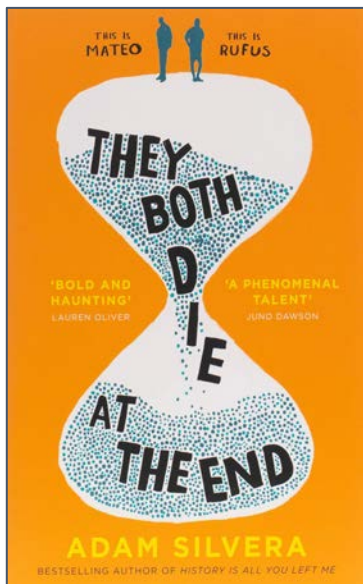
'Loveless' by Alice Oseman Sofia ~ Year 9



Loveless is by far one of my favourite books I've read so far. It's funny and relatable (most of the time).

It is about a girl called Georgia who leaves to go to Durham University, without having any sort of romantic relationships or connections with anyone. You get to come on her crazy journey where she tries to find out her sexuality, with a plan to find love, a rivalry between two LGBTQ+ girls, a battle on a bouncy castle as well as learning that platonic love is just as strong if not stronger than romantic love. Overall it is a book I'd definitely recommend if you like romance behind the scenes, LGBTQ+ based stories, and really strong opinions on certain shows...

'They both die at the end' by Adam Silvera Abigail ~ Year 9



They Both Die At The End is a book written by Adam Silvera. It is about these two boys called Mateo and Rufus who both receive calls for 'Death-Cast' telling them that they will die that day. They both download an app called the Last Friend, and through it they meet up to have the best (and final) day of their lives.

I really enjoyed this book as it is written with a dual-narrative, switching between Rufus and Mateo's point of view, along with a few other side characters which add to the story even more. Seeing the characters from other people's perspectives, and how they see each other and the impact they have on people's lives in the story really makes this book special.

Something I found interesting and really cool about this novel is Rufus' Instagram. In the story his Instagram is mentioned, and if you actually search for that account you find an account with all the pictures mentioned in the book, which also makes the book seem more real in a way.

But overall I really like the plot, the creativity and the amazing twists. It is really nice to see the relationship between Rufus and Mateo grow and honestly it is probably one of favourite books I have ever read and I really recommend it!



Book review - Heartstopper



Grace ~ Year 12

Heartstopper was my introduction into the amazing world of Alice Oseman's books, I read all four volumes in a single day and absolutely loved it. The world felt incredibly real and lived in, with absolutely adorkable characters including Nellie the dog - the best thing to ever happen to mankind.

Heartstopper does deal with very serious themes at times, however on the whole it's very sweet and the love story is brilliant. I would definitely recommend it and I for one absolutely cannot wait for the upcoming live-action Netflix adaptation.



Since reading Heartstopper, I've read Loveless and Solitaire (which I found so interesting I'm planning on writing my Extended Essay about it) and I'm currently reading Radio Silence, which has so far been yet another amazing book by Alice Oseman





Sea Scouts



Isaac ~ Year 9

What are Sea Scouts?

Sea Scouts is a form of Scouts but we sail and go out on the water a lot more.

Some people get us muddled up with the Sea Cadets but there is a difference; Sea Cadets do loads of rowing and very little sailing, camping or hikes.

Uniform:

Sea Scouts wear a navy blue wool jumper, a neckerchief and a royal navy hat.

We get badges for doing challenging activities like hikes. Red rimmed badges mean you completed the activities needed for that badge. When you move up to explorers these badges need to be moved to your camp blanket. Blue rimmed badges have stages depending what stage you have got to - this will be the number on your badge.

What do we do?

As a Sea Scout, you get to go sailing and canoeing in the summer as well as an amazing summer camp where you do activities like axe throwing, archery and shooting with your troupe.

When summer is over we practice knots and expand our knowledge of our country and local area.

Sea Scouts also teaches you how to cook safely, hike, camp, archery, how to use an axe, cycle, do knots, square lashings and much more. Most importantly, it teaches you emergency first aid - **this saved someone who was choking on this year's summer camp!**

Halloween Jokes

What did the ghost teacher say to her class?

'Watch the board and I'll go through it again...' 🙊 😄

What's a ghost's favorite dessert? 1-Scream!



"Why couldn't the skeleton cross the road?"

"Because he didn't have the guts!" 🤡 😄

What can you catch from a vampire in winter? Frostbite. 😄 🤡

How do you know when a ghost is sad? He starts boo hooing.

Why do demons and ghouls hang out together? Because demons are a ghoul's best friend! 😄 😄



Top Three Films Of 2021



Will ~ Year 10

Although 2020 & 2021 have been some difficult years for the film industry, we still had a lot of great films being released, and others that are soon to come! Here are some of the best films released in 2021...



Number 1

Black Widow: Black Widow is a 2021 American superhero film based on Marvel Comics featuring the character of the same name. Produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, it is the 24th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). It stars Scarlett Johansson as Natasha Romanoff / Black Widow alongside Florence Pugh, David Harbour, O-T Fagbenle, Olga Kurylenko, William Hurt, Ray Winstone, and Rachel Weisz. Set after the events of Captain America Civil War (2016), the film sees Romanoff on the run and forced to confront her past.



Number 2

Fast And Furious 9: The Fast Saga, and internationally as Fast & Furious 9 is a 2021 American action film. It is the sequel to The Fate of the Furious (2017), the ninth main installment, and the tenth full-length film in the Fast & Furious franchise. Dominic Toretto and the team come together to stop a world-shattering plot headed by Toretto's brother, Jakob. With a ninth film planned since 2014, Justin Lin was confirmed as director in October 2017, returning to the franchise since last directing Fast & Furious 6 (2013).



Number 3

Space Jam A New Legacy: Space Jam a new legacy 2021 American live action animated science fiction sports comedy film. The film features basketball player LeBron James as a fictional version of himself. The film follows James and his son, Dom, as they are drawn into a Warner Bros.-themed virtual multiverse by a deceitful artificial intelligence named AI-G Rhythm. James encounters the Looney Tunes characters and enlists their aid in a basketball game against AI-G's avatars to rescue Dom and earn their freedom. Space Jam: A new legacy is a sequel to the first film produced by Warner Bros. Feature Animation, and was released theatrically in the United States in July 2021 by Warner Bros.





Creative writing



Breaking

By Nia ~ Year 9

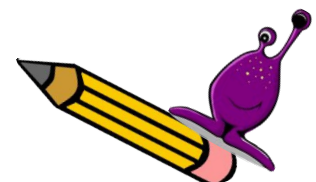
A flash of light
And the camera rolls, plastered
smiles and starched white shirts,
A shuffled script, a subtle sign.

Breaking news, and a bite
of breakfast, between weather forecast
and petty crime, a fleeting frown
As seven killed in a far-flung town,
A hint that all is not benign.

Stats and figures
In the News at Nine, delivered
casually, disease now rife,
Swept away, forced out, took flight,
More hollow numbers of life.
They repeat. Line by line.

A single warning is what
It takes, ignition of frenzied panic,
Scrambling after brief desire.
A reporter at the scene confirms,
That stocks are thus in decline.

Over dinner the nation watches,
An autocue dictate sympathetic views.
Then the screen defuses, the room relights
Radios go static, sound fragments,
Before headlines scream, other issues,
And gloom sets in for worlds entwined.





The Mysterious House



By Ophelia ~ Year 7

It was an Autumn morning, the sun was shining although there was a chilly breeze lingering in the air. Two best friends were out on a walk, not knowing what is about to happen. 'I love walking, Rachel. I don't know why we don't take long walks more often,' one of the girls, Claudia said. 'I know right! It's so peaceful,' Rachel said. As the girls approached a forest, they contemplated whether or not they should turn back.

'Come on Rach, what's the worst that could happen?' Claudia asked. 'There could be bears ...or wolves! We could be eaten alive!' You have an overactive imagination, Rach. I don't wanna go home now. Mum and Dad are probably rowing, so....please?' Claudia pleaded. 'Fine. But only because I don't want to listen to shouting and screaming as well.'

Rachel and Claudia linked arms, and took a few cautious steps in. 'Stop being a scaredy cat.' Claudia rolled her eyes at Rachel and started to walk properly.

The girls got deeper and deeper into the woods, and approached a mysterious-looking house. Thorns were over-growing at the front of the house, as the wind whistled in their ears. The house was old and crooked, and looked like it had been abandoned for several years.

'Ooh, a house! Let's explore!' Claudia was stopped by Rachel tugging at her sleeve.

'Can we go back? I don't like it here' Rachel said, shivering in the icy air.

'I'm exploring. If you want, you can wait here, all alone!' That got Rachel moving. Claudia climbed over the fence, Rachel trailing along behind her.

'This is so sick. It's October as well!' Claudia exclaimed.

'Yeah October...' Rachel said uneasily.

Suddenly, something began to pull on Rachel's leg from the bush near the pathway.

'Ah! Claudia! Claudia!' Claudia spun round, and sprinted towards the bush. She seized onto Rachel's arms.

Luckily Claudia was strong enough to pull Rachel from the bush.

'WHAT WAS THAT THING?' Claudia yelled. She pulled a weak Rachel onto her back, and ran out of the woods as fast as possible.

Would you like to join the Chatter team???

The **DCGS Chatter** team, currently meet in the library on a Monday lunchtimes for Year 7-9 & a Friday lunchtime for Years 10-13. 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!



Banana Bread Recipe



Leah ~ Year 7

Banana Bread Recipe



Ready in **1 hr 5 mins**

Serves **8-10 slices**

268 calories

Tips

This delicious banana bread goes well with whipped cream, honey, custard, chocolate sauce and maple syrup!



Ingredients

- 140g butter, softened, plus extra for the tin.
- 140g caster sugar
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 140g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 2 very ripe bananas, mashed
- 50g icing sugar and a handful of banana chips(optional)

Preparation

1 - First, heat the oven to to 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4.

2 - Butter a loaf tin (around 2lb) and line the base and sides with some parchment paper

3 - Mix the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Next, slowly mix in 2 large eggs and a little bit of the flour (NOT A LOT OF IT).

4 - Fold in the rest of the flour, the baking powder and bananas

5 - Pour the mixture into the loaf tin and bake for about 50 minutes, or until cooked through. Check the loaf every 5-10 minutes as the time may vary depending on the shape of the tin

6 - Cool in rack for 10 minutes, then move it to a wire rack.

7 - Mix the icing sugar and 2-3 tsp of water to create runny icing

8- Finally, drizzle the icing onto the bread and pour a handful of banana chips on the top of the cake



Endangered Species



Aditya ~ Year 8

For thousands of years, humans have been hunting animals whether it is for food, skin, jewellery or, in the case of some historical kings, just for the fun of it. The killing is now getting out of control, and some of the animals are close to extinction.



One of these animals is the cutest one of all time, pandas. Pandas are so threatened that there are only about 1,800 left! The reason for this is because their homeland is cut down to make farms and towns. Pandas only eat bamboo, which means that if we don't stop deforestation, then maybe we will have to say goodbye to these fluffy little Bears. Pandas face extinction.

Another one is none other than the gigantic Blue Whale. There are about 25,000 in the oceans, which may seem a lot seeing as they are about 30 metres (98 ft); compared to the amount of water there is in the world, they are miniscule. An average whale eats about 4 tons of krill a day, which means there will be more krill in the ocean, which has its advantages, but if there is too much of one quantity, it will mean that another species will also become extinct. Blue whales face extinction.



The South China tiger is probably the most endangered of them all. There are less than 20 in the wild. In the 1950s there were about 4,000 recorded, and the numbers have been going down severely ever since. Tigers may have killed hundreds of us in the past, but we have killed thousands of them. South China tiger face extinction.



Endangered Species - continued



Javan rhinoceroses are also having to suffer the fact that we are killing them for their horns. A rhino's horn is sold for tens of millions of pounds and made into jewellery. There are only about 70 of them left! Javan rhinoceroses face extinction.

Asian elephants are due to be under threat as humans are hunting them every day for ivory, which is what their tusks are made of; according to the WWF, the population is decreasing day by day and one day it will end up affecting the next generation. Asian elephants face extinction.



- Only you can stop getting all of these animals to extinction .
- Only you can stop poaching . Only you can stop deforestation .
- Only you can save our planet!





Halloween

Fun ideas to keep you busy



Grace & Leah ~ Year 7

Pipe Cleaner Spider Decorations!



What you need!

- 11 Black pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Googly eyes (optional)
- Super glue or double sided tape (for googly eyes)
- String/ribbon (optional)

How to make it:

- Get 3 pipe cleaners and twist them into a ball
- Get 8 other pipe cleaners and cut them all to 15 cm long
- Stick or twist the pipe cleaners onto the ball (4 on each side)
- Bend the pipe cleaners so that they look like spider legs
- Stick the googly eyes on (optional)
- Attach string to hang it or just leave it around the house!

Pumpkin Slime!

What you need:

Pumpkin guts
1 Cup of clear school glue
(preferably Elmer's)
1/2 cup of liquid laundry starch
(you might need more)

How to make it:

- Pour the glue, liquid starch and 1-2 cups of pumpkin guts into a large bowl
- Using a fork, mix the ingredients together, until it starts to form.
- Cover your hands in the laundry starch and slowly knead the ingredients together.
- Mix the slime until it isn't sticky and continue to add starch onto your hands. Be careful because if you add too much then it will become stiff!
- Leave your slime to set for 5 minutes and enjoy!

Here are some more fun, quick activities!!

Pin the lid on the Pumpkin

Halloween Word Scramble or a Wordsearch (There is one on page XX)

Halloween 'Feel' Box





Why not have a Halloween Hunt?



What you need:

- Pumpkins
- Sweets and chocolate
- Plastic buckets (that you can decorate or are halloween themed)
- Pens and stickers
- Glue (optional)

Instructions:

- Get your pumpkin(s) and carve out the insides with a sharp knife and a spoon! Be careful if you are doing this with younger children, as they may hurt themselves and you may hurt yourself!
- After that, fill your pumpkin(s) with sweets/chocolate
- Decorate the pumpkin(s) and buckets and then make sure they are filled with sweets/chocolate!
- Hide them around the house or in your garden if u have one.
- Have fun finding them! Whoever gets the most wins!

This idea was created by Grace & Leah Year 7

Do you like a quiz?

Why not pop along to join the Parents Association at their fundraising quiz night on Friday 26th November.

A great night out with the family. Have fun, whilst raising funds for the school at the same time.

Booking required. Please see the advertisement for more details.

DANE COURT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION Events 2021 Quiz Night

Dane Court School Theatre
Friday 26th November 2021



Tickets: Adults £7.00 Children £3.00
Doors open at 7pm quiz starts 7.30pm

(price includes ploughman's supper- bring your own drinks, glasses provided)

Teams up to 8 persons per table.

To book a table please contact Mrs Lois Gadd (Maths) (Tel (or text) 07968 687415 or Email gadd@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) by 4pm on Wed 24th Nov

Charity number 1023394

