



DCGS Chatter

Edition 20

December 2021

DCGS Spreading Christmas Cheer: Year After Year!

The holidays are a difficult time for a lot of parents, especially after covid, and some just need a little support. Christmas is a time of love, giving and receiving, so this year we decided to give back. Thanks to the generosity of students and teachers across the school, we were flooded with donations from food to toys. Within the school community, we were made aware of 12 anonymous families who were in need of support this Christmas, so we got to work. From collecting your donations for hours to going on spending sprees ourselves, we collected more than enough food for the families, as well as presents to go in the hampers. On the 14th December, the year 12 Health and Social Care class travelled to a local church where we began to create the hampers. We were designated two families between a pair, and spent an hour and a half filling up the hampers with a variety of different foods, squash, festive treats and presents. We had collected so much food that there was even plenty to donate to social services, as well as some toys too. To everyone who donated : thank you. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. By Ruby -Year 12



Once again the wonderful Dane Court community did an amazing job of bringing in Christmas gifts, chocolates, sweets, food and drinks for the Christmas Hamper appeal organised by Mrs Baker and a lovely enthusiastic group of year 12 students. The donations

were taken to Our Lady Star of the Sea church hall ready to be put into hampers for the St Vincent de Paul Society. At this time of year there is a great feeling of wanting to help others, and people have been incredibly generous so thank you. Each hamper contained tea, coffee, hot chocolate, sugar, soups and other tins, rice, pasta, cereal, squash and something sweet, as well as one or two gifts. There was an overwhelming amount to choose from, and the leftover food shall be taken to St Anthony's and the Food Bank in Margate.

Inside this bumper edition....
Festive cheer is spread across
the school!!

Creative talent
from all across
the school.

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Jokes to
make you
laugh

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By our talented
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words from the Editor

Hello **DCGS Chatter** readers & welcome to Chatter 20!

We have, as always, so many delightful articles within this edition- the last of 2021!

We have news from the competitions being held in school, the latest budget, an update on what clubs shall be running when we return in January and lots of festive creative writing for you to read whilst sat with a mince pie.

We hope you have as much fun reading Chatter 20 as we have had putting this edition together for you.

Please enjoy this edition. Stay safe and well, we will see you all back in school when we return in January 2022.

From us all at DCGS CHATTER

MERRY CHRISTMAS

This Editions Chatter Team...

Year 7 Team - Lavinia, Adam, Vraj, Caitlin, Rosie, Eliana, Megan, Grace, Sadie, Bella, Cecilia

Year 8 Team - Sophie, Florence, Idunumi, Aditya, Lily, Shannon

Year 9 Team - Nia, George, Hadley, Michaela,, Faye, Kerri-Ann

Year 10 Team - Joe, Cheyenne

Year 11 Team - Ellie, Skye

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

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





Clubs happening in school



Team Chatter

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



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.



DANE COURT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS



HALF TERM 3

	Other events 3.30-4.30	Field (3.30-4.25pm)	Sports Hall (3.30-4.25pm)	Activity Studio (3.30-4.25pm)
Monday			<u>Trampolining</u> – KS4 + GCSE (Miss Metcalfe and Miss Bolt)	<u>Non-contact Boxing club</u> KS3 (Mr Argyrides)
Tuesday				
Wednesday			<u>Rugby (Boys and Girls) Year 7 and 8</u> All years (Mr White and Mr Wallace)	<u>Dance</u> - 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)			<u>Climbing</u> – (Mr Alderson) <u>Yoga</u> - 6th form only (Outside agency)

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.

Make sure to check out the notice board in school, by the Heart for more information on other clubs running in school at lunchtime and after school.



Clubs Reviewed



Rosie - Year 7

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)



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

Choir is great and is incredibly fun, Book club impressive and Super Smash bros is amazing and a fun way to spend your lunch!
 Eliana

We both agree that drama club is amazing, it is so nice meeting new people and seeing their creative ideas. There was so much room for creativity in all activities, we recommend this club to all.
 Bella & Cecilia

DnD club is cool it is on a Friday after school and is a wonderful way to end the week. Highly recommended!
 Shannon

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



NEW Club Starting soon!!!

This article is aimed at all the Young Carers in our school. If you are a young carer, and having a hard time, why don't you come along to Young Carer's club (YCC).

What is a young carer and what do they do?

Young carers care for a family member/guardian if they have a severe medical need, illness, Mental Health Condition, or Autism. There are many more, but I won't list them all, or I'll be here all day. You will be under 18 as a young carer, and may struggle sometimes. I think this club will be able to help the young carers in our school. As a young carer, I would love to start and run this club, to help.

When is it?

Young carers club will be every Tuesday at the PSO and will start on Tuesday 11th January and the times are 13.45 till 2.15. Mrs Ives will assist as an adult in charge, and you can talk about any problems you have, or just come along and make some new friends. I will be willing to help anyone who needs someone to talk to, who could possibly understand what they are going through.

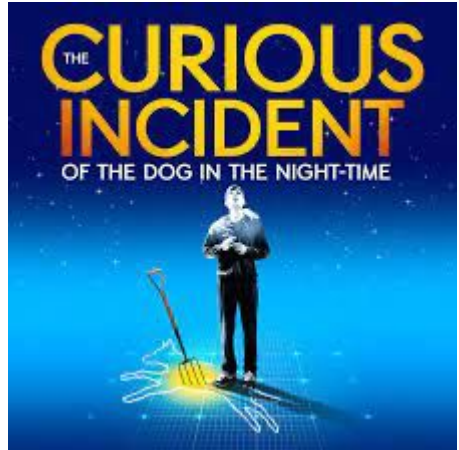
So, I hope to see all of you there, and I'm excited to see you!! **Shannon Year 8**





Nancy - Year 12

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time tells the story of 15 year old Christopher Boone, a young boy with autism and a talent for maths and science. After the death of his neighbour's dog, he takes it upon himself to discover the murder, but ends up finding out much more than he first intended.



On the 2nd of December, Dane Court's drama students attended this award-winning play at the Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre, London. The set was incredible, made up of nothing but coloured lights and small white boxes.

It was one of the most imaginative plays I've ever seen, with the use of lighting and sound to help explain the intricate, literal working of Christopher's mind, allowing the audience to fully experience his emotions as he was going through them. The use of physical theatre, choreographed by Scott Graham and Steven Hoggett, really brought Christopher's dreams to life. This heart-wrenching story is so beautifully told - definitely remember a box of tissues!



I loved it!!!





Act 1 Theatre Group is back with another panto where you will laugh your socks off!

Cheyenne - Year 10



It has been two years since our last pantomime and the last show. Finally, we are back and ready to hear the boos and cheers ringing throughout the theatre.

This year we have one of the best cast we have ever had. When we found out, everyone was excited. Some of the cast includes:

Director: Beckie
Choreographer: Lauren
Dame dolly: David
Fairy nuff: Bernii
Muddles: Ben
Maleficent: Lauren
Prince: Charlie
Sleeping beauty: Amber



When we found out that Act 1 had to shut down because of Covid everyone was devastated. Act 1 had become our lives. I didn't think I would be able to cope without doing theatre, dancing, singing, and most of all performing. It is my way of escaping, my way of dealing with what goes on in my life.

Halfway through the first lockdown, I remembered that I had all the dances and music from the past performances and shows I had done with Act 1. I started rehearsing them and getting myself into shape again. I would go outside and dance as if it was my last performance on the stage. That was when I found my way of coping. A couple of weeks into the summer holiday this year, I got a notification from Facebook. I thought nothing of it because everyone was always posting things about their lockdown life. Then my phone exploded with messages asking me if I had seen the Facebook post so I had a look. When I did, I broke down. I cried and screamed at the top of my lungs:

'ACT ONE IS BACK!'

It was the happiest moment of my entire life. After a few weeks, we found out the show was SLEEPING BEAUTY! My friends, family, and I were ecstatic. My sister and I cried because it meant it was official.

We are now around one month away from performing at the Birchington Centre and I have never been more nervous to get out on the stage. We have just finished setting the whole of act one and we have started act two. When we restarted, it was weird and confusing because we rehearse in a different space. We used to rehearse at the studio but now we rehearse at the Silver Slippers Studio. But we all learned to adapt. Now we love the space. There is more room than there was in the studio. Plus, there is another room that we can use to practice while other people are learning.



Huge congratulations to DCGS students elected earlier this month, as members of the Kent Youth County Council

Sophia Peal and Abbie Latymer were elected as members of the Kent Youth County Council. They both campaigned hard and were well deserving of the result. This election was held across schools in Thanet, not just Dane Court, making it an even more impressive achievement. We're really proud to have such good representation from Year 10 and know they'll be excellent ambassadors for the school and their peers.

Well done.



Oliver- Let's finish what we started

By Ellie - Year 10

Show one-

I stood outside the dressing room, my heart pounding. Two years ago we were supposed to put Oliver onstage, and today (after months of uncertainty) was the day it finally happened. I had my mic, costume and makeup on and I was ready to go. We all lined up, preparing to go into the auditorium. For our first scene we had to travel through the audience and begin the show with Food Glorious Food. Everyone was silent. Then the band started playing. A blanket of goosebumps covered my body and a huge smile crept across my face. The doors opened and we walked slowly in, ensuring we were not seen. It came to our section and we all proceeded to stomp. As I weaved through the audience, my mind was completely focused on my movement and expression. Eventually we reached the stage. At that moment, the singing began. I felt free.



Show four-

I stood in the wings, waiting in anticipation as the final scene occurred. I didn't want it to be over. After such a long time with the cast, they had become my family. I wasn't ready to say goodbye. Suddenly, I heard applause. This was it, the final moment. I glided onto the stage, holding back the tears as I took my bow. There was something about all the voices and harmonies at once, that just made me feel like I belonged. I took one last look at everyone as the whole company took a final bow. Blackout.

What is this years Best Christmas advert?

Written by Mrs Rogers
Voted for by the Chatter team



2021 and the Christmas adverts descended on us, earlier than ever, to cheer up a Covid stressed nation and hopefully they have kick-started the yuletide celebrations.

Viewers have been treated to a selection of sentimental, nostalgic, futuristic and comical storylines, enough to warm the heart of any 'Bah Humbug' soul.

But which advert won the coveted Dane Court 'Best Christmas Advert of 2021' award?

Well... in first place it's a huge congratulation to Aldi and the ever popular Kevin the Carrot and Aldi's version of 'A Christmas Carol' and the morals within it.

In second place... John Lewis and the beguiling relationship between an alien and an earthling boy.

Next there were four candidates, all in joint third place. The traditional Coca Cola advert - always a favourite; the blast into the future with Lidl; Boots with their Bag of Joy and a new look Marks and Spencers one, using their well known Percy Pig character.

Last place was Adsa... with the families and friends ice skating between different seasonal activities with festive plates of food.

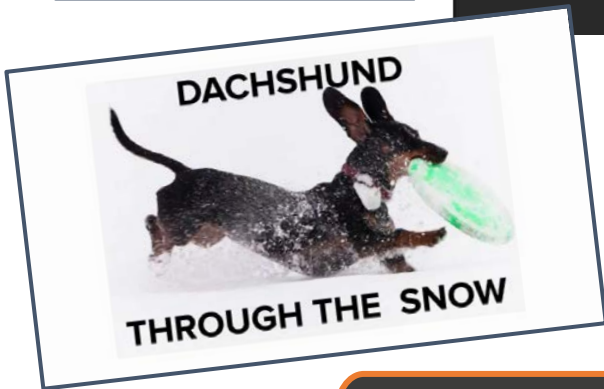
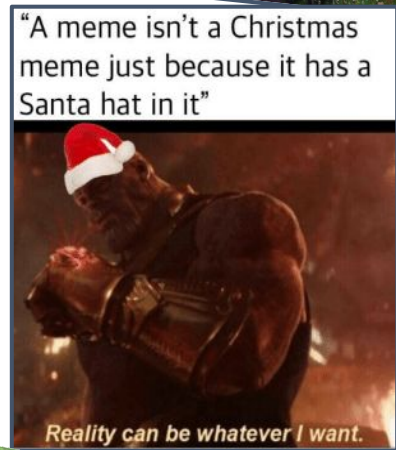
Whatever your favourite advert is this year you always know that Christmas is on it's way and it's time to start the festive fun.



Christmas memes



By Grace - Year 12



Festive Office- Staff competition

This year the pastoral team invited staff to decorate their offices for Christmas, the best decorated office would then win a prize. Mrs Ives and Mrs Rattenbury came around to visit the offices & to judge the Christmas cheer that departments in the school had spread with their decorating skills. The terms and conditions stated that decorating must have been completed by staff; Teachers could not ask student elves to help them!

All of the staff enjoyed the competition and there were some amazing entries. The overall winners were the main office, with SEN department coming 2nd place with their recyclable decorations and Miss Loveday's desk a well deserved 3rd place.





Christmas Jokes



Aditya - Year 8

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?
It's Christmas, Eve!

Why did the turkey cross the road?
Because it was the chicken's day off!

Why was the turkey in the pop group?
Because he was the only one with drumsticks!

Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas Party?
Because he had no body to go with!

What do you get if you cross a bell with a skunk?
Jingle Smells!

How is Drake like an elf?
He spends all his time wrapping

Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars?
Because their days are numbered!

What do you get when an elf takes a picture?
An Elfie

What do elves learn at school?
The elfabet

What is Santa's wife's name?
Mary Christmas

The winner of the Staff Christmas competition was **Mr White- Head of Year 7** with this fantastic tree created by himself and his daughter Barbara.... **Well Done Sir !!**

The Chatter Christmas Tree Decorating Competition 2021





SpaceX Starship

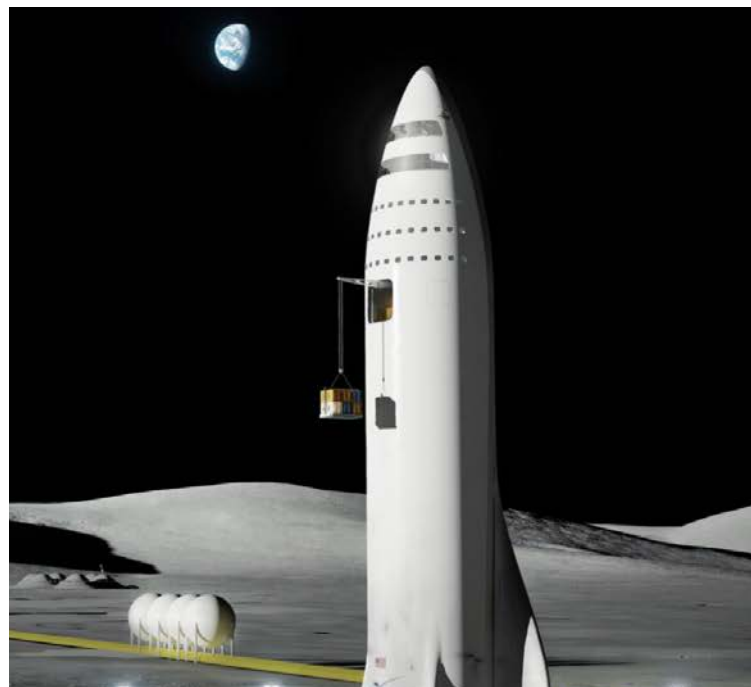


Joe - Year 10



After over 8 months of construction, SpaceX's Starship prototype SN20 is due for launch in early 2022. The exact date is not specified as the FFA still has not cleared the ship for launch due to some potential environmental issues. Unlike previous prototypes, Starship SN20 is capable of orbital flight, as it is fitted with 6 of SpaceX's raptor engines opposed to just 3 in its predecessor. This signifies a great jump in the advancement of starship, as all previous prototypes have only been capable of small "hops" with the largest one being 10km high. Despite this, previous starship prototypes- especially the more powerful ones- have had fairly unsuccessful tests, with only 1, SN15, successfully land after its "hop".

On April 16th this year, SpaceX had beaten competitors Dynetics, and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin, to a \$2.9 Billion NASA contract, to build the spacecraft that will take astronauts to the moon again, this time to stay. The project has been named "The Artemis Program", and it's intent is to "Study the Moon to learn more about the origin and history of Earth, the Moon, and our solar system". SpaceX's Starship will be the first ship to go back to the moon, and hopefully establish a permanent human presence there. The first ships will be sent to deliver resources for the project from 2022, and should hopefully finish by the end of the decade, whether that will actually be the case is still up for speculation.





Encanto review



Grace - Year 12

Draws! Floors! Doors! Let's go....

I watched Disney's latest film *Encanto* in cinemas and absolutely loved it. Not only are the characters relatable and memorable, which is no easy task with such a large cast, but the music is also brilliant, with original songs written by Lin Manuel Miranda (yes fellow theatre nerds - Hamilton himself!).



(I mean just look at that lighting)



The animation was in a word - stunning. Beautiful bright colours, believable textures, especially with clothes, and lighting that just keeps getting better and better with each film from Disney.

The main character Mirabel is easy to empathise with, and I enjoyed the fact that you get a closer look at how other people in her family have been impacted by magic, giving a more nuanced perspective, adding to the magical realism that the film introduces compared to the traditional complete fantasy. It was also great to see the creators love for Columbia shine through.

The film is great and I'd definitely recommend it. I'd give it a 7.5/10.



Christmas Films- Recommended by Vraj - Year 7



This amazing movie is available on **Netflix**
*After two kids (Teddy and Kate) gave Santa a shock they team up with the old man to save Christmas.

My ratings for the movie are a **5 stars**



Home Alone 2

This movie is available at **Disney+**

*Kevin loses his dad at the airport so he mistakenly caught the NYC flight whilst the rest of his family go to Florida. Whilst still in America Kevin tries to stop two thieves. **My ratings are a 4 stars**



*As a little boy this man was accidentally taken too the North pole. He stayed with Santa for most of his life but he thought he didn't fit in. So he left for NYC with his full elf outfit on.

My ratings are a **3 stars**

This movie is available in **prime video**



This movie is available in **prime video**
It is about a boy who (on Christmas Eve) saw a mysterious train that went to the North Pole and on his journey, embarks other children waiting to meet Santa Clause.

My ratings are a **2 stars**





A Winter's Day

A short story



Michaela - Year 9

Icy air whistles near my ears as if calling the snow down from the fluffy white clouds high in the crystal clear blue sky like splotches of paint on an otherwise pristine canvas. The soft but unrelenting wind causing my skin to tingle and burn without the bite of a flame and instead the gentle nip of winter. Nose and fingers numb. Slowly turning a rosy red almost as if to compliment my cheeks that similarly were tinted a pinky red. However, unlike frostbite which seeps into your skin allowing a layer of cold to settle uncomfortably close to your bones. It was a good feeling. Reminiscent of the season and the joy intertwined with the memories that put a smile on my face that was decorated with snowflakes of all shapes and sizes.

The chilly breeze that moves freely unconstrained by nature for they are one in the same. Whisking around like a curious child exploring every inch, nook and cranny of the snow covered land; the fiery and warm palette of Autumn is wiped clean erasing the former glory the vibrant orange leaves held before they fell in order to allow the subtle hues of white to return. The mountainous landscape which reflects the sun glistening because of the snow appears magical and almost ethereal. The layer covering all the imperfections and abnormalities that others may judge fabricates the scene of an equal playing field where everything is the same and fair. The season is a balanced one and although it can be harsh and unforgiving it is accompanied by a gentle melody possibly belonging to a piano or another tranquil instrument. The snow gives us all a clean slate and wipes the traces and scars the past leaves on it and us. Every step I take remains imprinted in the snow crisp and fresh replicating the pattern of my shoes and brings me closer to where it happened. The tears that try to come to the surface in order to be set free are only pushed down and frozen to be relinquished later where wandering eyes cannot peek or question. The trail I leave behind composes the idea that I am the only one to have ever ventured here however I know this isn't true as although the snow can provide a perfunctory cover it cannot conceal my memories or the truth. The branches of trees that accompany me as I walk to my destination replacing the other pair of footprints that used to be by my side bow down but not out of respect but rather the heavy burden the snow leaves as it is piled on top of branches that are no longer allowed to reach for the heavens as long as it is unmelted. Although the snow leaves a heavy obligation it still sparkles like it has had fairy dust sprinkles over it just like the mountains that appear to have icing sugar sprinkled lightly just enough to cover their rocky layers. Everything is almost manufactured to look brighter against the white.

The memories from that day flood in no longer confined by the barrier of fear of company, the solitude freeing the emotions as I let them wash over me. The scene that was meant to be monochrome is now splashed with colour and red as its main actor before it decided to take a final bow.

I remember how Grandma, filled to the brim with excitement and anticipation, walked forward in order to enjoy the snow that fell like tears from the heavy clouds and out of the tall trees it came. Her perception was off because she had been drinking too much eggnog that night and she argued with us, ending with her staggering out the door intoxicated and vulnerable. When we found her the next morning just lying there because of an attack the incriminating marks on her forehead left there by the perpetrator on the victim left no doubt on what had occurred the night before. My heart ached for my Grandmother who had been left alone while we all slept safely and snugly in bed on the night that would forever haunt us. I was dressed in black as I once again returned to the crime scene and although we knew who the villain was that would do this to a little old lady we couldn't get justice.

Because Grandma got run over by a reindeer walking home from our house christmas eve!





Autism and Me



By Grace - Year 7

Hi! I'm Grace and this is my journey of Autism.

I was diagnosed with Autism in August 2020. Both of my siblings also have Autism however I personally display it a lot differently to them. I mask my true feelings, It's like I'm a completely different person in public! Inside I may be feeling hurt and overwhelmed but outside you may see me as happy and calm! You might be asking, how is that possible? But that's just part of my Autism! I've often struggled accepting who I am a lot more since I was diagnosed but I always tried to remember that just because I have Autism doesn't mean that I'm less of a human.

Stimming is something that Autistic people often do. This can be shown in many different ways. For example, I bang my wrists together when I'm excited or nervous, whereas my brother flaps his arms and my sister hits her head on the floor. Stimming is where an Autistic person gets overstimulated causing them to do a certain action, that varies from person to person, which they cannot control. This can be seen as a coping mechanism for Autistic people like me.

Some insulting things neurotypical people say to Autistic people without meaning it are things like "You don't look Autistic" or "Aren't you meant to be in a specialist school" or even "You don't act like a normal Autistic person". This can be insulting for an Autistic person because not all Autistic people are the same, in fact all people with Autism display it in a different way! They may have similar traits but never, and I repeat never, say to an Autistic person 'You don't act Autistic'. **By the way, not all people with Autism go to specialist schools!** We are all people and we don't deserve to be treated differently to everyone else (however if there is a problem we may ask for extra help just like anyone else would!).

When I found out I had Autism I wasn't really sure what Autism was but my mum used to say "Everyone has wires in their brain, and each of them are connected correctly, but for people with Autism their wires are connected differently so in other words Autistic people see things differently". This is so true! For example, someone might be saying something sarcastically and for most people they would understand that it's sarcastic but Autistic people don't understand that they are being sarcastic.

Some people with Autism struggle dealing with loud noises, large crowds, bright lights, overthinking, managing friendships, talking to people in a group, small noises like tapping or whispering and busy places. They also find eye contact and concentration difficult.

Famous Autistic People

Autism isn't a **disability** it's simply an **extra ability**. We all know who Albert Einstein is right? Well he had Autism too! So many companies including Google are looking for more people who have Autism to hire because some people with Autism have certain things they can do better than people who don't have Autism. A few famous people with Autism are: Dan Aykroyd the writer of the ghostbusters movie in 1984, Albert Einstein (People aren't sure but he looks like he would be on the spectrum today), Daryl Hannah an actress in Splash, Blade Runner and Steel Magnolias, Anthony Hopkins an award winning actor, Charles Darwin is believed to have been on the spectrum, Bill Gates, Sir Isaac Newton, Nikola Tesla, Elon Musk, Satoshi Tajiri, Leonardo Da Vinci, Vincent Van Gogh and so many other famous people!

In the next edition of Chatter I shall tell you more about my story & answer some misconceptions people have about Autism.



The Runaway Reindeer



Aditya - Year 8

Tim, Bob and John were very excited; it was nearly Christmas . But as the snowflakes fluttered around them like bees, Bob sighed: 'I wish Christmas was more exciting !' 'Yeah,' agreed Tim, ' It's always the same, just opening presents and food, and waiting for the New Year to arrive so that we can watch fireworks explode into the words: Happy New Year! I mean, what's the fun in that? If only we could go on an adventure.' This was what they said before they went back home , got into their beds, and waited for Santa Claus to arrive and give them presents . Tim had asked for a new laptop, John wanted a new football and Bob had written to get the new PS5, which wasn't really new as it had come out more than an year ago, but Bob hadn't gotten any presents last year as he broke his mum's beloved lamp four days before Christmas, which immediately put him on the naughty list.

This Christmas was different , very different, very very different , very very very different, very, very, very... Well, I think you got the point now. The reason I had to write so many verys was because some people might wonder exactly how different this Christmas was. Anyways, back to the story...

Meanwhile in a land far away, commonly known as the North Pole, an old man in red pyjamas deposited himself on an old rocking chair, and stroking his big belly, he yelled to another person in the room next to him. 'Done yet Elvis?' Elvis the elf came in the room, clutching a mammoth bag, filled every inch with presents. 'Good, I see that they are done.'

Standing up, he looked for his reindeer. Little did he know, he was going to be utterly surprised.. Where his beloved Rudolph usually sat, there was a note:

*Dear Master, I Rudolph is tired of carrying your old body for hundreds of years
and so I have decided to fly away.*

*Not yours truly,
Rudolph...*

What was Santa going to do without the real star of the show??



DCGS Christmas Concert Returns

On Wednesday 8th December the music department had it's first opportunity in two years to share the musical talents of the Dane Court students. It was absolutely wonderful to hear performances from the Orchestra, Steel Bands, Choir and Jazz Band. It is a credit to their hard work this term as we have only been able to start rehearsing together as a group since September. The ensembles have come together stronger than ever and we have thoroughly enjoyed making music as a group again.

We had a small audience who were seated in their family bubbles and the performances were spread out across the Theatre and the Heart to ensure everyone felt safe in these challenging times. As so many family and friends were unable to attend due to our reduced audience numbers, we made videos of the pieces in the rehearsals throughout the day for everyone to enjoy which are available on the school website.





A CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE



Lavinia - Year 7

I usually take the route down past Tesco's to get home but this time I'll take the path through the forest. It calms me down to see the wooden backs of the trees leaning over me because of the weight of the snow and the outstretched arms weaving into an umbrella of white and green, and to tell you the truth I seriously need to cool off before I get home but not that type of cool, burrr. I had to go to choir whilst mum and dad got the tree up and I'm going to freak. I mean who leaves putting up the tree till Christmas Eve and sends their kid to choir which they absolutely hate. Suddenly in the corner of my eye I caught a glimpse of scarlet looping through the undergrowth. Mesmerized, I followed this mysterious figure. I stopped dead in my tracks. Looming dead ahead of me a swirling black hole hung tauntingly, I froze in surprise as a glowing red hand appeared, certainly reaching out for something that I had a sinking feeling was me. As I was swiftly pulled into the black hole a churning sensation spread over me and my skin felt like it would burn off.

Wearily I shook myself into consciousness. My surroundings seemed normal enough, wait no. As I unwillingly rose to my feet I took in the lush land around me, but what surprised me was the violet tint of the ground and the sapphire hue of the foliage, for here it seemed to be mid-summer. I trekked through the forest noticing almost instantly that above me towered what looked like a colossal tree (a weeping willow to be exact). I found myself on a winding golden path which I hoped would lead me to the tree in the distance. As my not totally uneventful journey wound through time my thoughts drifted to the fact that I might be taking myself into unknown danger. I could be walking into a dragon's lair for all I knew but something sang a soothing song from within that showed no violence so I pressed on.



After what seemed like hours I found myself on what appeared to be the door of the 'tree' but with all the lower branches surrounding it you couldn't really tell if it was connected to the tree at all. I tried peeking through the keyhole and you'd think all the light coming out of it would help you see inside but instead it dazzled me enough to temporarily blind me. Once I shook myself out of that I noticed a silver key hanging suspended in thin air. The key was most peculiar indeed with a heart shaped handle and otherworldly writing carved into the metal or whatever it's made of, I can't be certain any more. I pushed it into the hole and let the door creak open as I stared at the sight I saw beyond and a thousand pairs of eyes stared back. In this, I'm not sure what to call it, a collective group of elves, witches, munchkins and so much more stood chatting like they didn't know they were supposed to be enemies. "Hello my dear, what are you doing here? You don't look like you belong in this dimension," an old hag whispered softly into his ear, making him jump.

"I don't th-think I d-do, I-I followed s-something and e-ended up here," I said as the words stumbled out of my mouth.

"Oh those cheeky dwarfs have done it again, don't worry my dear I'll take you home, follow me - girls I've gotta go get this poor darling back, the dwarves have done it again." And with that she wished me away and into a corridor. Now I know what you're thinking, "never trust a hag, run away," but I had nowhere to go. She opened a door and to my surprise there wasn't a pot of stew waiting for me to be thrown in, but my bedroom in the messy state I left it in.

"Now try to stay away from those dwarfs my dear but if you end up back here ask for Emmeline Forge everyone knows me, bye," she said in a rushed flow as she shoved me through the closet door.

And that's the end of that, I never managed to find the black hole again but that's fine. My life now officially has enough excitement to last me a lifetime but nobody has ever believed my story.





Newcastle United FC Takeover



Todd - Year 13

Who are the new owners and how does this affect the football world?

On October 7th 2021, the new ownership of Newcastle United football club was confirmed, ending the tenure of Mike Ashley as the majority shareholder of the Tyneside club. The £300 million deal proclaimed the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund (PIF) to take an 80% stake with the remainder being held by PCP Capital Partners and RB Sports and Media. Valued at £315 billion, the PIF have expressed their desire to use this wealth to help Newcastle United reach the seemingly insurmountable and dizzy heights of other European super clubs.



Mohamed Bin Salman

However, this takeover has been engulfed in controversy, drowning out the delight of the long-suffering Newcastle supporters with the looming human rights issues that surround the Saudi Arabian owners.

The takeover was confirmed after the premier league received “legally binding assurances” that the state of Saudi Arabia would not control the football club, despite the close relationship the PIF share with the Saudi regime, which had been one of the biggest impediments to a deal. This obstacle had been an issue due to the connections between Mohamed Bin Salman who is the son of the king of Saudi Arabia who have faced criticism due to their poor treatment of women, use of the death penalty and anti-LGBT policies.

Despite the clear morality issues surrounding the takeover, the huge influx of money into Newcastle FC will have a hugely positive effect on the club itself and could rapidly deliver success to the Newcastle supporters which have suffered for too long and have indisputably become a ‘sleeping giant’ of football in recent years. Significantly, the city, which likely will face dramatic modernisation, will unequivocally benefit thousands of people, similar to the beneficial impact resulting from Manchester City’s takeover in 2008.

Formula 1 by Adam- Year 7

One thing people at chatter don’t talk about is formula racing, so I’m here to inform you about interesting and dramatic things that have happened this season and in the past ! If you are not firm and have no interest in formula racing there is still some eye-catching news that might amaze you!



There was the dramatic and almost world changing crash that happened in the Bahrain grand prix, now if you were interested Lewis Hamilton the sort of “Cristiano Ronaldo” of F1 won the race yet again with a 11.27 lap time, going back to Grosjean, he suffered 2nd degree hand burns but walked away as a miracle from the fireball his car burst into. AMAZING!!

Here's something your parents might have told you about, this happened approximately 23 years ago. Brazilian Formula one driver Ayrton Senna was killed whilst leading the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix.. He was driving at 183mph!!



Swimming- Why is it not more popular?



By Sadie - Year 7

Swimming is the country's most popular sport but the number of people who regularly swim is declining, why is this? As a swimmer, I am rather curious as to why swimming isn't as recognised as your usual sports, e.g football, rugby and cricket, which bigger competitions are shown across the world very regularly, whereas swimming is only seen during the Olympics, that only occurs once every four years!

The London 2012 Olympics were thought to have increased the number of people participating in sport, and this seemed to be the case with swimming.



But now the Olympic effect has worn off.

Competing alone gives swimmers unique mental strength that trumps that of many other sports. As a result of this, swimming requires immense retrospection and discipline, making it more challenging than other sports.

This mental strength is also key for the extensive amount of training swimmers endure, that doesn't include only the grilling hours in the swimming pool, but weights, cardio, running etc, to train muscles you wouldn't normally use.

Another factor to observe is the cost, for the athlete and the casual swimmer. It is very expensive for a swimmer, but it makes perfect sense if you factor in pool time, coaches, travel and equipment. Furthermore, this means that we do just as much effort in training as anyone might think, so why is it that swimmers don't have much recognition?

This could be a fact that it may need more public funding, private sponsors, and support from the media.

What do you think, do you use your public pool?

Key Sporting events coming up in 2022

There are many exciting sporting events coming up in 2022. Here are just a few....

Beijing Winter Olympics

Football- UEFA Womens Euro 2022 in England, Fifa World cup in Qatar

Rugby- Women's Rugby World cup in New Zealand, Rugby League World cup in England

ICC Women's Cricket World cup in New Zealand

Wimbledon





COP26: The Reality of the Climate Crisis

Skye - Year 11

“We must use this opportunity to create a more equal world and our motivation should not be fear, but hope.” Sir David Attenborough

The global climate summit was held this year in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November. It was the 26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, hence the name COP26. It was organised by both the United Kingdom and Italy. It was attended by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - a treaty agreed on in 1994.



The aims of COP26 are to:

Secure global net-zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach.

Countries are expected to accelerate reducing coal usage, decrease deforestation, switch to electric vehicles quicker and encourage investment towards renewable energy resources.

Adapt to protect communities and natural habits.

Protecting and restoring ecosystems as they absorb and store roughly half of the carbon dioxide emissions generated by humans. Countries have also been encouraged to build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and lives.

Mobilise finance

At least \$100bn, which is the same as over £75 billion, is expected to fund climate change-related solutions in developed countries.

Working together

Countries must collaborate between governments, businesses and society to accelerate climate crisis action. The Paris Agreement is an international treaty, adopted in 2015, to tackle climate change. Finalising the rules for the 2015 Paris Agreement will help support this goal.

David Attenborough made an appearance at the climate summit to explain to delegates how critical it is to limit global temperature increases to below 2C, preferably only 1.5C, as agreed in the 2015 Paris climate conference. Currently, the world is now 1.2C warmer than the 19th century. This has led to extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods and intense forest fires as well as a rise in sea levels. This meeting was so significant because the latest predictions show that the planet is expected to warm by more than 2C by the end of this century which is catastrophic to the environment.

Protests, consisting of both adults and the younger generation described as “the greatest problem solvers”, also broke out to highlight the urgency of the problem for powerful politicians, governments and businesses to become more environmentally friendly.

Greta Thunberg, a Swedish environmental activist, also attended the COP26 summit and participated in protests as she thinks it will be a “failure”. Greta suggests that not enough is being done by world leaders to drastically cut annual emissions and action is needed as an alternative to “blah, blah, blah” from those in authoritative positions.



Turn to page....

For more on COP26 and how you can help to make a difference





CPU Advancements

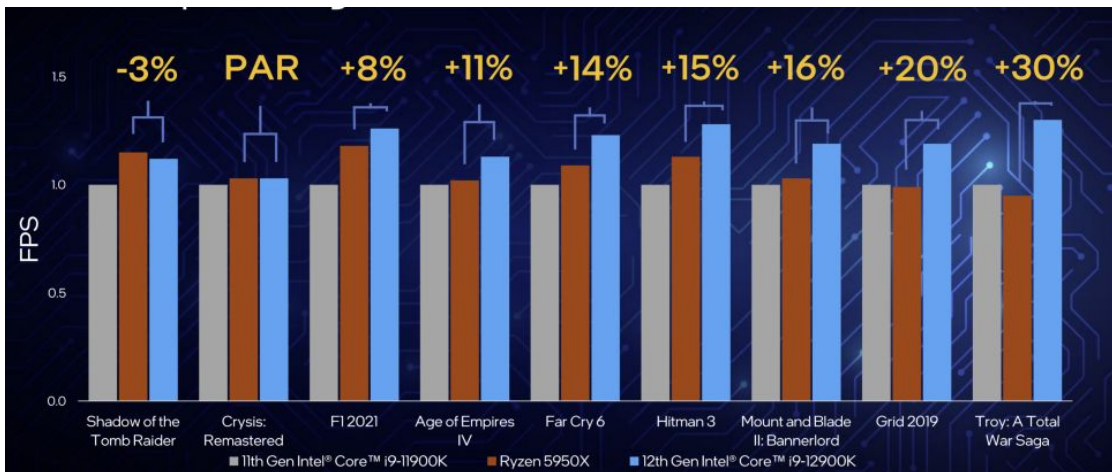


Hadley - Year 9

Alder Lake CPU and How It Challenges Ryzen To The Throne

As some of you may know Intel put their new CPU (Central Processing Unit) called “Alder Lake” on pre-order on the 27th of October and they released on November 4th, near instantly being reported by people like Linus Tech Tips, reporting the performance, and so far I haven’t seen any major stock issues which is very impressive, unlike the 3000 series of GPU’s which are still out of stock.

In terms of performance, well it is a bit better, the Ryzen 9 5950X is the best Ryzen CPU so far, price wise it’s £650 but is incredibly powerful, compared to the i9-12900K price at £817, that is significantly more on amazon, but on other places it is around £650, so it can cost slightly more you do get that extra performance.



In conclusion the i9-12900K can help you gain that bit more performance in your games for that extra cost, and having a motherboard that supports the chip as well, it can help out during simulations (TimeSpy and Blender Runs)

Climate Change: COP26 Continued by Skye- Year 11

Climate change is no longer a problem for an “imagined future generation” but a problem that needs resolving now. We are unable to ignore the necessity of the issue. Sea levels are rising, habitats are being destroyed, animals are dying, forests are on fire, temperatures are rising, droughts are causing famines, weather events are more frequent and perilous. Climate change has no borders. There is no planet B. Climate change is affecting everyone and shall continue to do so until there is action and not “empty promises”.

How can I individually make a difference easily to climate change?

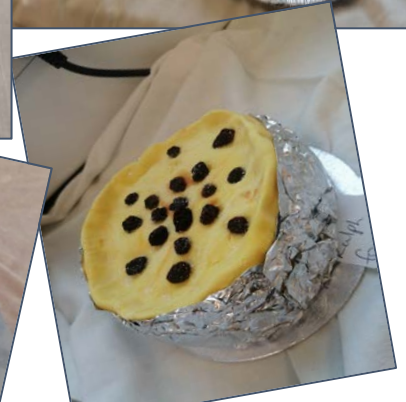
- Change light bulbs to LEDs as they last longer and use 75% less energy.
- Wash clothes in cold water.
- Recycle clothes and reduce your fast fashion intake.
- Use more natural lighting
- Use less water
- Unplug and turn off devices that are not in use
- Hang-dry clothes instead of using a tumble dryer.
- Use less single-use plastic.
- Eat less meat. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation.
- Walk, cycle and use public transport on a more regular basis.





Year 8 Christmas Cake Competition

Well done Year 8



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



Year 8 Christmas Cake competition

By Shannon - Year 8

Week 1 - We prepared our tins to be able to cook the Christmas cake. We used a moderate sized tin, greased the inside and used greasing paper to prevent stickiness when the cake is cooked.

Week 2 - We cooked the Christmas cake... The kitchens smelt delicious!!!:

Week 3 - We designed our cake design. I found this lesson good because I love to plan my designs and work.

Week 4 - We marzipanned our cakes. We needed to bring in:

300g of marzipan

*2 tablespoons apricot jam

*2 tablespoons icing sugar.

Week 5 - We then iced our Christmas Cakes simple... ready to add our final designs at home.



RECIPE for a delicious Nut free Christmas Cake

175g mixed dried fruit

50g margarine

25g glace cherries, washed and chopped

(add to dried fruit)

*50g muscovado sugar

50g plain flour

1 tablespoon orange juice or sherry. Soak your fruit in this at home the night before the lesson.

*1/4 level teaspoon ground mace or nutmeg

OR use 1/2 teaspoon mixed spice instead of mace and cinnamon

*1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon (see above)

1 large beaten egg

METHOD:

1. Mix the currants, sultanas, raisins, chopped peel, chopped washed cherries, and orange juice or sherry in a small bowl and leave to soak overnight.
2. Light the oven, gas no. 1-2. 150 C
3. In another bowl, cream the margarine and muscovado sugar together with a wooden spoon.
4. Beat the egg and treacle together and beat into the mixture thoroughly.
5. Sieve the flour with the spices and fold into the beaten mixture using a metal spoon.
6. Stir in the dried fruit mixture.
7. Tip the mixture into the tin and smooth out.
8. Make a deep hole in the centre with the back of a wet dessert spoon to stop the cake rising to a peak.



Year 8 Christmas Cake Competition

Finalists

Winner of the student vote & Joint 1st Place for the staff vote



2nd place for the staff choice



2nd student vote & Joint 1st Place for the staff vote



3rd Place student's choice



3rd Place staff selection



Congratulations to all the winners.... Year 8 have some very talented students



Into the workshop



Caitlin - Year 7

Liela woke up on christmas morning and instantly sat up eagerly. She quickly realised that she was not in the bedroom she fell asleep in, and she wasn't alone. A small figure with pointy ears and a ridiculous green costume was staring at her from the end of the bed, looking at her as if it was waiting for an order.

"Um...hello?" said Liela. The little person blinked as if waking up from a daydream and smiled.

"Hello, I'm Connor. What's your name?" he replied.

"My name is Liela. What exactly are you? I'm sorry if it's rude to ask." She replied, gesturing towards his long pointy ears.

"I'm an elf. They're quite common actually, we just don't directly interact with humans very often." Connor was still smiling sweetly. Liela studied her surroundings. She could hear hammering and shuffling in the distance.

"Where am I? And why can I hear hammering?" Liela asked curiously.

"You're in a spare room in the workshop. The noises are just my fellow elves working. It may be surprising, but we're already starting to prepare for next year's presents. There's a lot to do, and a surprisingly small amount of time to do it, especially since we take a break on christmas day. Anyway, you'd better get out of bed if you expect to get anything done. You don't need to get changed or anything, we can just start our tour!" Liela's eyes lit up with excitement.

"You mean this is Santa's workshop? Like, the workshop everyone loves and wants to see?" Connor nodded. Liela leaped out of bed and lowered herself to the ground, expecting it to be cold like her wooden floors back at home. To her surprise, the floorboards were warm on her feet, so she followed Connor out of the room and into the delight of the main workshop. Everything was so vibrant and full of colour. There were mini train tracks around the entire room and little toy planes chasing each other across the ceilings. Thousands of little elves in red and green clothes sat at benches and rushed around the room, creating and then delivering toys as quickly as possible. Connor cleared his throat. He held up a cute little snow globe with a tiny recreation of the workshop in it.

"Do you like it?" He said, gently shaking it so it sprang to life. Tiny versions of the elves sat at desks, experimenting with different models of new toys. Tiny parachutes fell from the ceiling, and upon closer inspection Liela could see tiny toy soldiers attached to them. Just thinking about the recreation made Liela smile.

"It's beautiful." She replied.

"Here, you have it." Connor passed the snow globe to her. Liela thanked him and held it tightly. For the next few hours, they wandered around, Connor showing Liela different people and machines that helped the elves. "I would've introduced you to Santa, but he's out delivering presents." Connor said as they slowly returned to the room Liela woke up in. "Maybe he could've given you a ride on his sleigh." Liela laughed.





The Budget 2021



By Mr Politics George - Year 9

On the 27th of October 2021 the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, announced the Budget.

What is the Budget?

The Budget is announced by the Chancellor of Exchequer, currently Rishi Sunak, usually in the autumn. But I say 'usually' because 2020's budget was delayed to March 2021 due to the pandemic, and 2019's budget was cancelled because of the timing of the 2019 general election.

The Budget gives an opportunity for the government to review the current economic situation and set out their plans for spending and taxation. The announcement of the budget will be followed by 4 days of debate on the budget resolutions - the tax plans set out in the budget - with each day debating a different area of policy (e.g. health, education, defence etc).

The Current State of the Economy and Public Finances

One area of the budget is an assessment of the economy and public finance, which this year significantly reflected the impact of Covid-19 emergency spending. Overall, the UK economy is forecast to return to pre-Covid levels by 2022. In September, the inflation rate was 3.1% and this is expected to rise to an average of 4% in 2022, according to the Office for Budget Responsibility. And government borrowing is predicted to fall as a percentage of GDP from 7.9% this year to 3.3% next year and then to 1.5% over the following 4 years.

Wages and Employment

The government have decided to increase the National Living Wage by 6.6% from £8.91 to £9.50. An revealed that wages have grown in real terms since February 2020 by 3.4%. But also, unemployment is now expected to peak at 5.2% in 2022, which is lower than the previously predicted 11.9%.

Additionally, Universal Credit claimants will see the reduction of the taper rate from 63p to 55p. The taper rate is the amount of their benefit taken away for every £1 they earn above the claimant's work allowance. And the current work allowance is £293 if housing costs are included in a claimant's Universal Credit, or housing costs from the local authority due to being in temporary accommodation. And it is £515, if a claimant does not receive housing support. Sunak said this means that nearly 2 million families will keep an extra £1,000 a year on average.

However, it must be pointed out that this is less than the £1,040 a year that was provided by the £20 uplift in Universal Credit over the Covid-19 period, which was stopped at the end of September. Also, as it was best put by Morgan Wild, head of policy at Citizens Advice, "it doesn't cushion the blow of the £20-a-week cut for those still looking for work or the 1.7 million unable to work because of disability, health issues or caring responsibilities."





What is the most 'Christmassy' tradition?

Faye - Year 9

We all know Christmas is a fantastic holiday, full of love and cheer - and presents, of course! Everyone has a special tradition, from putting up and decorating a Christmas tree, to hanging up stockings on the fireplace. But which takes the crown as 'most Christmassy'?

I asked a few people to give me a list of - in their opinions - the best Christmas traditions out there. Here's the results!

- Ice skating
- Christmas Eve films
- Elf on the Shelf
- Advent Calendars
- Putting refreshments out for Santa and his reindeer

I will be ranking all of these traditions from 'quite Christmassy' to 'the most Christmassy tradition you can take part in,' and explaining my reasoning for my choices. Feel free to let us know if you have any even more Christmassy activities, and if you have a different ranking of those in this list.

Ice Skating:

Ice Skating is a fun activity you mainly do in the winter but you can do in any other season too! It's fun and it gets even better when you can have a laugh with friends & family if you fall over. It doesn't take much skill [though when there is skill involved, it's absolutely incredible] and is an awesome, festive experience.

I'd say this tradition is *quite Christmassy!*

Elf on the Shelf

If you have younger siblings, children, or you are the child yourself then you most likely have experienced the chaotic week that is Elf on the Shelf. Leading up to Christmas, an elf appears for usually around a week [my family named ours Buddy, after the film Elf]. Each night, the elf hides and occasionally leaves treats or activities for the family to do. Some elves cause chaos, and some elves don't - you'll definitely know which yours is if you've had an elf before. This activity is very fun, especially for the younger members of the family.

I'd rate this tradition *very Christmassy!*

Christmas Eve films:

Christmas Eve films are a fantastic way to wind down before going to sleep and waking up to a day full of fun and joy, and many people have family favourites! An example of this is my family; we have watched Muppets' Christmas Carol [and of course, other films, but this is our favourite] religiously for around 6-7 years now. It's a lovely way to relax and calm the excitement of Christmas so you can have a nice peaceful sleep on the big night. You can eat cookies & milk, mince pies, or any snacks at all during this activity and it's always incredible.

I'd rate this tradition as *extremely Christmassy!*

Advent Calendars

Everyone has probably had an advent calendar at one point in their lives; advent calendars are a fun [and usually delicious] way to begin the December countdown to Christmas. While some are filled with material gifts such as perfumes, festive trinkets and toys, others are filled with chocolate and delicious treats. Advent really keeps the excitement up from December 1st all the way to the 25th.

I'd rate this tradition *very Christmassy!*

Putting refreshments out for Santa and his reindeer

Another considerably Christmassy tradition is of course, putting treats out for Santa and his reindeer. No matter your age, you've had to have put some out at least once - whether that be under your tree, under your fireplace, or on your dining table. From mince pies & carrots to cookies & milk, every year we lay out refreshments for Santa and his team for the journey. This tradition only multiplies the excitement of Christmas Eve, especially if it is done in the evening/night.

I'd rate this tradition *extremely Christmassy!*



Fun Festive Facts



Faye - Year 9

My Rankings...To make you feel festive

1. Putting refreshments out for Santa and his reindeer

I've put this one in first with the Christmas Eve films as a very close second as this tradition has been going on for years [since the early 1900s] whereas Christmas Eve films have been only really introduced within the past couple of years.

2. Christmas Eve films

3. Advent Calendars

I've put this one in 3rd ahead of elf on the shelf as again it has been happening longer than elf on the shelf and is thus closer to our hearts, although both are extremely fun to take part in!

4. Elf on the Shelf

5. Ice Skating

I've put this one in last as although it is a fantastic wintry tradition, not too many people take part in it annually and you can technically do it all year round. It's not really a Christmas exclusive activity.




Alabama was the first state in the USA to recognise Christmas as an official holiday!
[This took place in 1836. And the last state was Oklahoma, that recognised Christmas as an official holiday in the year 1907]



Christmas trees were first used by ancient Egyptians and Romans!
[They used evergreen trees like pine & fir, wreaths and garlands. The use of modern christmas trees started in Germany in the 16th century, where instead of the sparkly decorations we use today, they decorated them with fruits and nuts!]



The biggest Christmas gift was from France to the USA - the Statue of Liberty!
[The Statue of Liberty was gifted to the USA from France in 1886]




Santa did not always wear red clothes!
[He initially wore green, blue and purple, however Coca Cola dressed him in red to fit their brand better and it stuck!]



Crochet Christmas Decoration



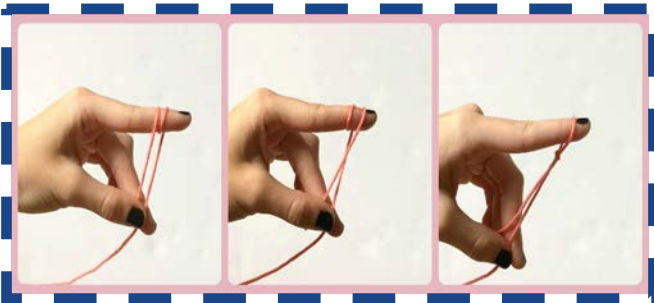
Lavinia - Year 7

Crochet: Great Christmas

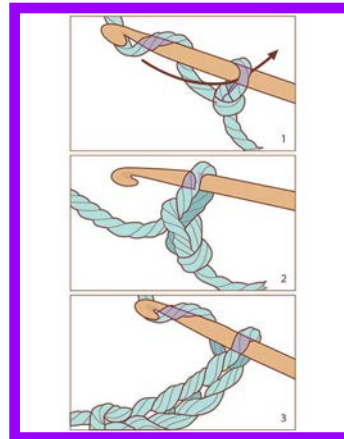
Decorations



These lovely icicles are great home decorations and are unbelievably easy to make. They can be made any colour and are perfect to use up any scraps of yarn lying around.



1. First of all, make a slip knot. Twist the thread around your finger twice starting on the right-hand side. Afterward, take the bottom loop and lift it over your finger



2. Once you are done with that make a chain of as many as you want by grabbing a piece of yarn and pulling it through.



3. Finally turn over, skipping the nearest chain to the hook and make three double crochet in each stitch across and once you're finished knot it off.



Chatter's Christmas Competition



This year Chatter had 2 competitions Years 7-9 were to decorate a Christmas tree & Years 10-13 were to create a Christmas Card- We had some fabulous entries and the finalists are all featured below.



Year 9 winner



Year 7 winner



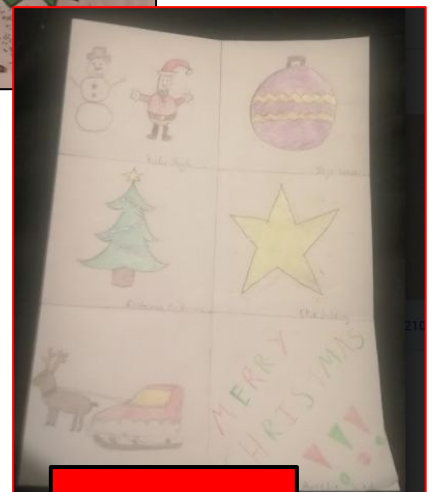
Year 10 winner



Well done to all who entered the competition and well done to our winners!



Year 8 winner



Year 11 winner



Zodiac: Horoscopes & star signs

Eliana - Year 7

**This is just fun, not real science don't take it too seriously !!!*

Everyone has a star sign and all star signs have horoscopes

Find out the zodiacs for the whole year in this article.

There are 12 different horoscope signs, each with its own strengths, weaknesses, traits, desires, and way of viewing the world. Your personal astrological sign is based on the position of the sun on the day you were born.



<p><u>Aquarius</u> Dates: Jan 20 to Feb 18 Traits: Independent and enigmatical Element: Air Spirit Color: Sky blue Lucky Gem: Amethyst Flower: Orchid</p>	<p><u>Pisces</u> Dates: Feb 19 to Mar 20 Traits: smart, creative and deeply intuitive Element: Water Spirit Color: Sea green Lucky Gem: Moonstone Flower: Water lily</p>	<p><u>Aries</u> Dates: Mar 21 to Apr 19 Traits: Ambitious, independent and impatient Element: Fire Spirit Color: Red Lucky Gem: Diamond Flower: Thistle & honeysuckle</p>
<p><u>Taurus</u> Dates: Apr 20 to May 20 Traits: strong, dependable and creative Element: Earth Spirit Color: Pink Lucky Gem: Emerald Flower: Rose, Poppy, & Foxglove</p>	<p><u>Gemini</u> Dates: May 21 to Jun 20 traits: versatile, curious and expressive Element: Air Spirit Color: Yellow Lucky Gem: Tiger's Eye & Emerald Flower: Lavender & Lily of the Valley</p>	<p><u>Cancer</u> Dates: Jun 21 to Jul 22 Traits: Intuitive, protective and passionate Element: Water Spirit Color: Violet Lucky Gem: Ruby, pearl Flower: Orchid and white rose</p>
<p><u>Leo</u> Dates: Jul 23 to Aug 22 Traits: dramatic outgoing and fiery Element: Fire Spirit Color: Gold Lucky Gem: Carnelian Flower: Sunflower & marigold</p>	<p><u>Virgo</u> Dates: Aug 23 to Sep 22 Traits: graceful organised and calm Element: Earth Spirit Color: Silver Lucky Gem: Peridot Flower: Sunflower & marigold</p>	<p><u>Libra</u> Dates: Sep 23 to Oct 22 Traits: Friendly and extroverted Element: Air Spirit Color: Blue Lucky Gem: Sapphire Flower: Rose</p>
<p><u>Scorpio</u> Dates: Oct 23 to Nov 21 Traits: Passionate and independent Element: Water Spirit Color: Black Lucky Gem: Topaz & opal Flower: Hibiscus & geraniums</p>	<p><u>Sagittarius</u> Dates: nov 22 to dec 19 Traits: adventurous creative and strong Element: Fire Spirit Color: Light Blue Lucky Gem: Topaz Flower: Carnations & crocuses</p>	<p><u>Capricorn</u> Dates: dec 22 to jan 19 Traits: detail oriented intelligent and hard working Element: Earth Spirit Color: Dark blue Lucky Gem: Lapis lazuli Flower: Pansy</p>



Creative writing - Poems



Christmas is coming! By Numi Year 8

I've been hearing bells
 I've been doing well
 I've been thinking about somethin'
 Somethin' coming soon
 And it's
 Christmas that's comin'
 It's the Christmas tune we're all hummin'
 It's the Christmas bells that's ringing
 It's this Christmas song I'm singing
 Christmas makes my soul jump with joy
 Christmas makes me ask for new toys
 Christmas makes me warm inside tonight
 And I think I know why
 It's Christmas that's comin'
 It's the Christmas bells that's ringing
 It's this Christmas song I'm singing
 It's Christmas, it's Christmaaaaaaaaaaaaaas!

DANE COURT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Events 2021

Quiz Night

Dane Court School Theatre
Friday 26th November 2021



The total profit raised for this event was an impressive £611.50- Well done to you all!

Look out for the next quiz to be held on 11th March 2022

“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.



Twas the night before Christmas



'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were snuggled, all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads.
And mama in her 'kerchief and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long Winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang out of my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave the lustre of midday to objects below.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.

With a miniature driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be Saint Nick.
More rapid than eagles, his coursers, they came.
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name:

"Now Dasher, now dancer,
Now Prancer and Vixen!
On Comet! On Cupid!
On Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch!
To the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away!
Dash away, all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.
So up to the house tops the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys and Saint Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.
And a bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.

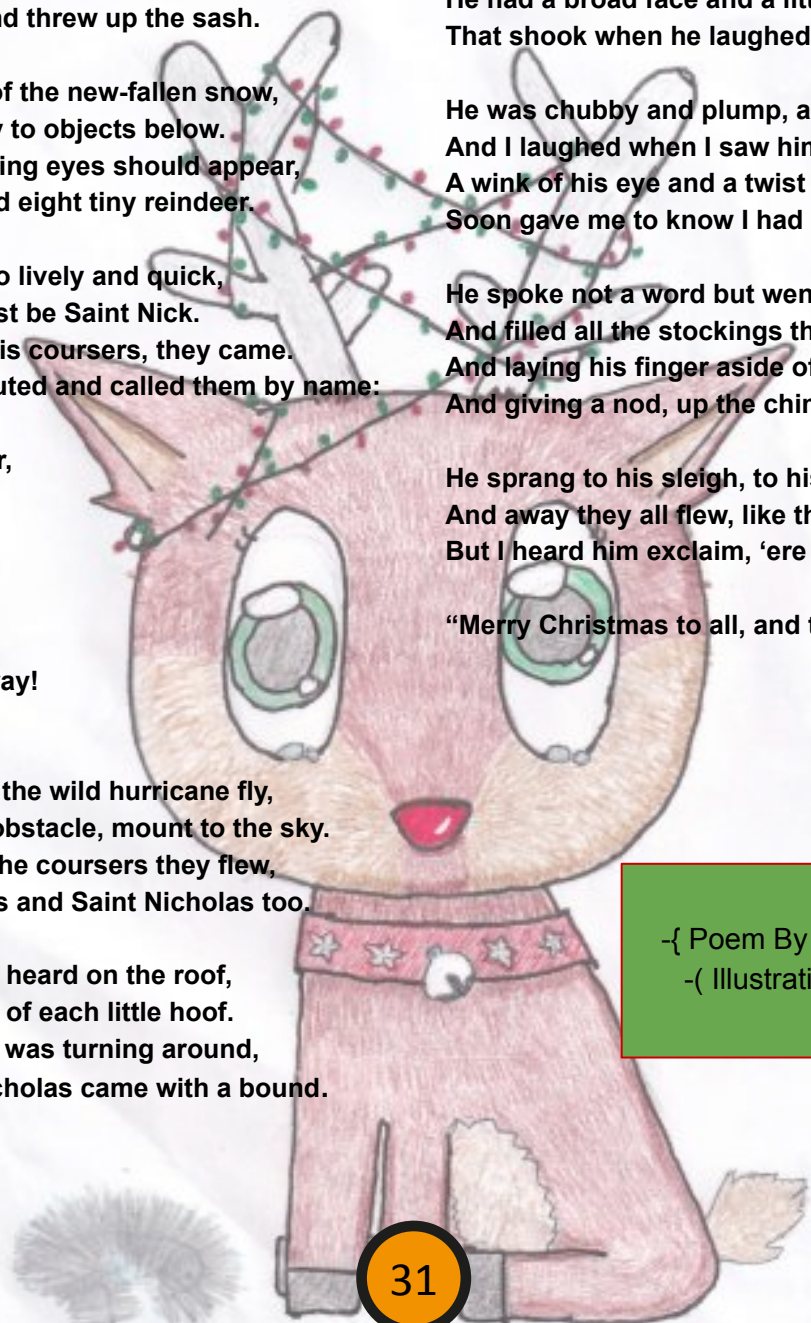
His eyes - how they twinkled! His dimples - how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings then turned with a jerk.
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team, gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight,

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"



-{ Poem By Clement Clarke Moore }-
-(Illustration by Megan Maxted)-



Library Update

Snow is falling and books are calling!



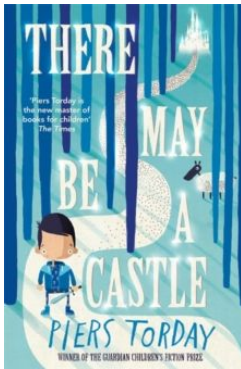
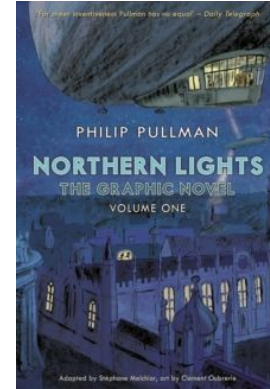
Mrs Finlay



There's snow place like the library and snow many books to choose from.

Here are a few ideas for wintry reads:

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman - the first of *His Dark Materials* trilogy that follows Lyra on her destiny to the frozen north, where witch clans reign and ice bears fight. The library also has this in graphic novel format.



There May Be A Castle by Piers Torday
On Christmas eve Mouse and his family set off through a white landscape to visit his grandparents but the wheels spin and Mouse is thrown from the car, only to wake in a magical landscape, with talking sheep and a bossy horse for company.

Let It Snow - three holiday romances from John Green, Maureen Johnson and Lauren Myracle - the perfect book for a cold winter's night, full of festive cheer.



A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
Mean-spirited Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his former business partner warning him to change his ways. He is then visited by the ghost of Christmas past, the ghost of Christmas present and the ghost of Christmas future that paints a grim picture. He begs for a second chance, and forever after he honours the spirit of Christmas with kindness and generosity.

Japanese Book Week is coming up next term - more details to follow!

Don't forget that there are also a lot of books to choose from on danecourt.eplatform.co





Book reviews



The Ghost Garden

By Eliana - Year 7

This is an amazing book filled with mystery, eeriness and a search for a mysterious burial ground. This book is just flooding with creepy thoughts but it also shows how your mind can play tricks on you when you don't look after yourself. Besides the occasional garden party at the end this book is quite compelling.



Spoiler alert upcoming, you have been warned.

This book is based in the summer of 1914. Fran, a young girl living near Longbarrow house, one day uncovers a bone in the potato patch it was lying deep in the ground, and later on the same afternoon Leo breaks his leg, this is just the first in a series of strange and unsettling coincidences. Leo is left wheelchair bound for the rest of the summer and Fran is roped in to keep him company, forced to listen to his foolish theories about the looming threat of war in Europe. Suddenly the garden that she has loved all her life seems to hold threatening shadows of the future and Fran starts to fear what she and Leo will find next. This is the unsettling blurb of perhaps the most secretive and dark book ever written for children.

Recommendation

I would recommend this book for every child who's interested in mystery and is at least 8-9 years old. You can find this book in the Broadstairs library which isn't very far from Dane Court.



Remembrance Day



This year, many of us found ourselves incredibly lucky to have been able to attend a Remembrance parade or service and show our respect for those who have died fighting for this country. Many Dane Court students attended with their clubs and services they attend outside of school and the school did the traditional 2 minutes silence on 11th November at 11am. Red poppies have been worn as a show of support and respect for the armed forces since 1921. Over 100 years the poppy has been updated but is very much still a symbol of remembrance. The idea of the poppy was inspired by John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields*.

Between July 17th and November 11th 2014 888,246 ceramic poppies created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper swept out of the Tower of London's moat in a moving display marking 100 years since WW1 started. Each poppy represented a fatality.

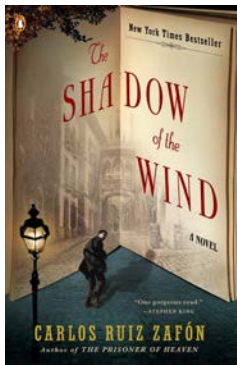




5 Books you need to read in 2022

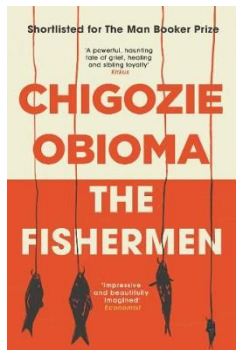
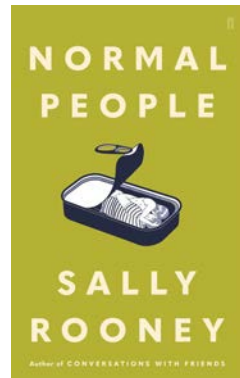
Gabriela - Year 12

It's never too early to plan what you're going to be digging into in the new year, and it's important to know about the top books people have been reading, especially when it comes to Christmas. Therefore, I have composed a list of what I believe to be some of the best books I've read this year, for you to read if you haven't already!



1. **The Shadow of the Wind- Carlos Ruiz Zafon (Mystery)-** Barcelona, 1945: A city slowly heals from its war wounds, and Daniel, an antiquarian book dealer's son who mourns the loss of his mother, finds solace in a mysterious book. But when he sets out to find the author's other works, he makes a shocking discovery, and soon, Daniel's seemingly innocent quest opens a door into an epic story of murder, madness, and doomed love.

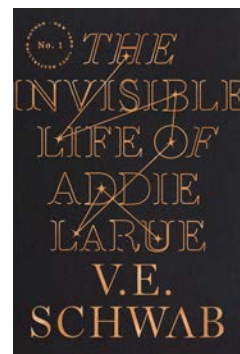
2. **Normal People- Sally Rooney (Fiction)-** A novel that explores the subtleties of class, the electricity of first love, and the complex entanglements of family and friendship through brilliant psychological acuity and perfectly spare prose. It explores the strange, concealed, yet indelible connection between 2 teenagers, Marianne and Connell, as they navigate through their lives.



3. **The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo- Taylor Jenkins Reid (Historical Fiction/Romance)-** The novel tells the story of the fictional Old Hollywood star Evelyn Hugo, who at the age of 79 decides to give a final interview to an unknown journalist, Monique Grant. Evelyn unspools a tale of ruthless ambition, unexpected friendship, and a great forbidden love, a tale surprisingly intersected with Monique's own life.

4. **The Fishermen- Chigozie Obioma, (Domestic Fiction)-** In a small town in Nigeria, four brothers take advantage of their strict father's absence from home to go fishing at a forbidden river. They encounter a dangerous local madman who predicts that the oldest boy will be killed by one of his brothers. This prophecy unleashes a tragic chain of events of almost mythic proportions.

5. **The Invisible Life of Addie Larue- V.E. Schwab (Fantasy, Romance, Historical Fiction)-** When Addie Larue makes a deal with the devil, she has to flee her home town in 18th-Century France, beginning a journey that takes her across the world, yet no one remembers her. Existing only as a muse for artists throughout history, she falls in love anew every single day. Until one day, in a bookshop in Manhattan, Addie meets someone who remembers her.



Exciting New Releases

Beautiful Little Fools- Jillian Cantor (Historical Fiction)- Releasing on January 4th, this is a reimagining of The Great Gatsby, from the perspective of the three women whose lives are unravelled by one man's romantic obsession.

Reminders of Him- Colleen Hoover (Contemporary Romance)- Releasing on January 18th, the heartbreaking story follows a troubled young mother after serving 5 years in prison for a tragic mistake, who yearns for a shot at redemption and tries to pick up the fragmented pieces of her life with her daughter, and the local bar owner.

Don't forget to look at the work of Abdulrazak Gurnah, the 2021 Nobel Prize winner for Literature!





Merit News & A Festive Poem

There were a total of **1500 merits** awarded since the beginning of the school year. Students who received Merits in Term 1 & 2 were entered into a draw to win a 1st place prize (£20 Amazon voucher) & a runner up prize (box of chocolates) for each house. An amazing amount of students were entered into the draws.

The winners were:

Barcelona-	1st Prize Amelia Yr 8,	Runner up Ava Yr 7
Delphi-	1st Prize Sia Yr 9,	Runner up Desmond Yr 7
Helsinki-	1st Prize Nia Yr 9,	Runner up Sophia Yr 10
Neuchatel-	1st Prize Alice Yr 8,	Runner up Isabella Yr 7
Sorrento-	1st Prize Catrin Yr 7,	Runner up Poppy-Rose Yr 7
Tallinn-	1st Prize Abigail Yr 7,	Runner up Charlie Yr 8

WINTER

Winter! Winter! Winter!
The snow falls like glitter.
The cold sun wakes up England,
The snow covers the land.

The red robin flies out of it's nest
But oh so does it want to rest
For it's family, it needs to find food.
Meanwhile the fox is in a mood.

The trees branches bend over like spindly fingers.
The choir of bird all sounding like singers.
The snow like a blanket puts summer to sleep.
Plop! Plop! Plop! The snow falls on a robin in a heap.

Would you like to be under a heap of snow?
All the animals are thinking "Oh no."
The snow falls down: it is a magnificent sight.
The mystical day goes by and turns into night.

By Abraham Bello

