

A WADHAM SCHOOL STUDENT PUBLICATION

THE QUILL



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

EMPIRES FINEST

Empire editor and author Nick De Semlyen gives the lowdown on movie masterpieces



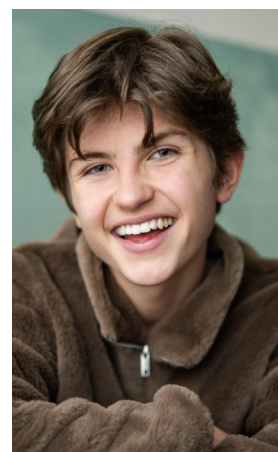
AN EYE FOR TALENT

Casting director Catriona Dickie on looking for the next big thing



THE ARTFUL DODGER

Billy Jenkins shares his life in the limelight



TOMORROWS CAREERS START TODAY

Wadham pupils planning for the future



WADHAM REMEMBERS

Wadham School
Battlefield Trip 2024



Plus Reviews, Previews and Opinions



01460 270123



@wadhamschool



office@wadhamschool.co.uk



Wadham School
A Church of England Community School
Business and Enterprise College
Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7NT

Seasons greetings, welcome to the 16th copy of the Quill and I hope it finds you looking forward to the forthcoming Xmas break.

Since our launch in 2021, we've continued to develop the magazine with the help and support from the student body, something I look forward too seeing more of when the next school year begins in January.

Until then please enjoy what the creative minds of Wadham have to offer.

Inside this edition you'll find...

- ♦ Interviews with Empire magazine editor Nick De Semlyen, casting director Catriona Dickie and TV star Billy Jenkins
- ♦ Wadham students planning for their futures
- ♦ The 2024 WW1 Battlefield Trip
- ♦ As well as the usual stories and articles on what's interested the great and good at Wadham.

Happy reading!

Peter Hopwood ~ Editor

Inside this issue:	Page
History Matters—Wadham School WW1 Battlefield Trip 2024 by Jessica Henley	3-4
History Matters—Wadham School Students pay respects to the fallen	5
Wadham School Gets Creative—Poetry Corner	6
Wadham School Gets Creative—Short Story Time: Fifteen Years by Lucy Wood	7
Wadham School Careers—By Beth Church	8-13
INTERVIEW—Empire Magazine editor Nick De Semlyen by Izaak Gregory	14-19
Wadham School in the Community—By MJ Jones	21
INTERVIEW—Casting Director Catriona Dickie by Jessica Henley	22-26
Time to think about...Break Point Part 2 by Patrick Cummins	27-28
INTERVIEW—Actor Billy Jenkins by Edie Pattison	30-32
Wadham School Gets Creative—Artwork by Vivian Dawkins	34
Outdoor Learning Group by Jessie Vowles	35
Movie Reviews—2001: A Space Odyssey by Izaak Gregory	37-38
Movie Review—Shawn of the Dead by Alfie Burkhardt	38
Shall we play a game? Ultrakill by Edward Oleen	39
Shall we play a game? Sonic X Shadow Generations & Sonic Generations by Luke Pearce	40
Shall we play a game? Fortnite by Yevhen Ivasiuk	41
What's worth a read? <i>We Were Liars</i> by E. Lockhart reviewed by Lily Joy Jeffery	42
What's worth a read? <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak reviewed by Josie Bulmer	42
What's worth a read? <i>Where the Light Goes</i> by Sara Barnard reviewed by Emma George	43
Incredible Engineering—The Golden Gate Bridge by Bertie Pattison	44
Thank You	45



History Matters

WADHAM SCHOOL WW1 BATTLEFIELD TRIP 2024

By Jessica Henly

The year 10 and year 11 Wadham school students had the opportunity to go to Belgium this year to sites linked to the Great War of 1914-1918.

During this trip we saw various places like memorials from the Battle of the Somme and World War One. Seeing the memorials really puts it into perspective how many people were killed, because when somebody tells you how many people were killed you think like wow that is a big number, but when you actually see it you can visually see how many people it is. And it is a lot of people.

This was such a great experience as we also got to explore into some German and English trenches. We even saw some caves from World War One and World War Two which would have been used to keep away from the Germans but also to transport things from place to place and they had some of the original writing on it from World War One telling you which tunnel was in which direction.

One of the coolest thing that we went, and saw was a place called 'Talbot house', this was a place where the soldiers actually stayed during the war. In this house they encourage you to use their pianos and the chess boards. They also have an original chapel from when the house was first built, and it is incredible to see how it has all changed over time.

During this experience I learnt a lot about the impact war had on local towns, even now after all the time you can still see the environmental impact it had on them.





Not to forget that we got to go to a traditional Belgium chocolate shop and then explore the local town/ city. The trip also meant time spent with friends but also to learn about this crucial part of history in such a different way than a classroom.

My favourite part of the trip was definitely going into the trench's museum or Talbot House.

I recommend this trip to anybody who was considering going, it is such an amazing experience that I will remember for a long time.



History Matters



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Let's We Forget

Various students represented the school at remembrance services this year in the local community. We thank them for volunteering their time to do this.



THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM,
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.
LEST WE FORGET.



REMEMBRANCE DAY
11TH NOVEMBER



01460 270123



@wadhamschool



office@wadhamschool.co.uk

Wadham School Gets Creative

poetry corner

Terror by Amy White 9LJM (1st Place)

Sometimes terror has me in its hold,
My skin is fire and my blood runs cold,
My brain desperately keeps my emotions
withheld.

My vision is blurred,
The wild beating of my heart is all I heard,
The terror is still ruptured.

The world's axis is a-shift,
Like reality is all adrift,
But for terror there is never a rift.

Please find below our winners of the Year 9
Poetry Competition on the theme of 'Identity'.

Mr Money Bags' Secretary by Elsie
Swatridge 9LJM (3rd Place)

Hello Mr Money Bags
I just wanted to let you know
Your impaired vision
Is starting to show.

Your people and your clients
Are the same things to you,
Not the children suffering
Asking you what you'll do?

Who am I if I am not me
by Dylan Bazley 9LJM
(Joint 2nd Place)

Who am I if I am not me?
Am I a dog or a creaky
tree?
Am I a cat or a Busy
Bee?
Am I the bird who
soared on the sky?
Am I a hedgehog or a...
No I am me and that is
all I'll ever be.

Mirrors by Katie Evans 9KEH (Joint 2nd
Place)

Mirrors reflect a face worn and pale,
Choosing the light, but caught in the veil ..
Each smile a mask, each laugh a disguise.
Hiding the sorrow behind weary eyes.
Try to hide how one feels,
Whilst struggling to eat the evening
meals.
Heart broken and sad,
Starting to get bad,
Not knowing what to do next,
But keeping it secret is for the best.

We come from
many places,
Some hot, cold or
long gone.
But we all have
the same faces.
When you aren't
here, who will fail
to protect us,
Just like you do?



Wadham School Gets Creative

Short story time

Fifteen Years

by Lucy Wood.

I know the words more intimately than I know my own name, their every vowel and letter like a mantra, a cry of defiance I hide behind tight lips and sullen scowls. It has grown second nature to me now to chant it under my breath, and I draw comfort from their every rise and fall, the knowledge that, if not now, if not next week, or next month, or next year, or even next century, one day, someday, they will be over. One day I will be free of this hell, rid of this despondent loneliness. I will feel the cool air sharp like thorns against my face, fresh and undiluted by the foul odours and lingering stench of my imprisonment.

It is a thin hope, a veil of warmth that envelops me during those long, arduous nights when the cold seeps into my bones and whispers in my ear. "Give in," they hiss, "close your eyes and sleep," they say it with such conviction I almost believe them. Almost. But I can just make out that dark undertone, the underlying threat. If I close my eyes for just a second, I may never open them again. And my life is the one thing I cannot lose. They can take my money, strip me of my dignity, my home, my family, but not my life. I will not give them the satisfaction. But I am tired. I'm so tired.

I should not feel so alienated, so hated in this place I have called home since the day I was born. Home should make you feel welcomed, loved, appreciated and respected. It should not make you what I have become.



TOMORROWS CAREERS START TODAY

Wadham Careers Fair – 2024

By Beth Church

At 11.30am our sports hall doors were opened for the 30 different exhibitors to begin setting up for our biggest Fair yet.

In came Henry vacuum cleaners, a variety of plants and soils, Knex, squishy potatoes, a laser demonstration

model and build your own periscopes!

By 12.20 the first set of students arrived and the hall was filled with a buzz of excitement as they all explored the variety of employers, universities, colleges, training providers and voluntary groups that were in attendance.

Throughout the rest of the day, all year groups were able to visit the fair and lunch time was open to everyone who wished to spend more time exploring.

On offer at lunch were raffle tickets – every student who gave up their lunch time to visit the fair and spoke to an exhibitor were rewarded with a raffle ticket. Huge congratulations to the winners of Tesco Vouchers –

£25 Harry Willmott

£20 Bailey Brown

£15 Sonnie Collins

£10 Phoebe Curtis

£10 Olivia Turton

£10 Zizi Jones

£10 Jayden Norris

The fair remained open throughout the evening for parents and carers to visit before or after their parent & tutor meeting.

Some feedback from our students:



01460 270123



@wadhamschool



office@wadhamschool.co.uk

"Lots of amazing information and very helpful".

"I really enjoyed going around all the different stalls and seeing the different types of careers that you can go into and how you got such a wide choice of options".

"Amazing, really good fun and really made me think about what careers I would like to do".

"I liked the Careers Fair and the one I liked the most was the building one where I could be practical. I also liked the henry stand because I could be practical again."

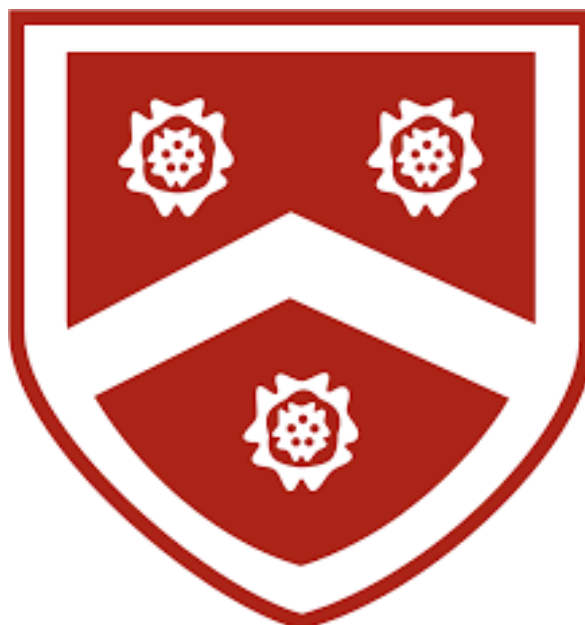
"It was helpful. I liked the stands that had something to play with or build and the construction people were very helpful".

"I now have a plan for the future which I didn't have before. I talked to lots of stalls and they have helped me make decisions".

"I didn't realise there were so many options for me".

We thank all our exhibitors for giving up their time to help our students see the many options available to them in the future:

Branston, University of Bath, Royal Air Force, Numatic, Kingston Maurward College, The SPACE, Civil Service, Yeovil College, NCS, Wadham Sixth form, Go Construct (CiTB), ASMPT, Army, Sheldrake Training, Matravers Engineering, RSPCA, Leonardo, Gooch and Housego, Pattemores, Somerset Skills and Learning, University of Exeter, HK Law, Exeter College, Wessex Water, FJ Chalke, National Horseracing College, Discover Farming, ASK Apprenticeships, Solent University, Bridgwater & Taunton College.



Very nice to see that you're putting the work in now to help pupils and families understand their options and get them ready for the world of work. Well done.

The students seemed really keen to ask about who we were and the Knex really interested them. While they were doing the Knex it was a really easy way to have them engaged and chat about the Construction Industry.

Allowed students to explore many different options and see what opportunities are available to them

I didn't see one student with a mobile phone - Very impressive!

What did the exhibitors think?

I was amazed at how many students came over to us to ask question about what we do. There were a few who had on the spot questions but also others had been really thinking about them.

Your older students were very interested with focused questioning, younger pupils engaged well, but can always be a little over-excited, but exhibited some lovely behaviour nonetheless.

A lot of the parents didn't know what we do, so they would come over for a chat and were amazed at what goes on. Even some parents said they never think of the food industry when it comes to work.

Younger year groups more engaged and came with more prepared questions, although year 11s less engaged those that were interested asked good relevant questions with genuine interest.



Year 11 Mock Interviews – 12th and 13th November

Held annually in school, this is an event our year 11's both look forward to, and dread all at the same time! They've been busy preparing their interview preparation document since September to ensure they knew the type of questions they would be asked and could spend time considering their strengths, skills, personal qualities and practice writing a personal statement.

A new venue this year – the Main Hall, right at the centre of the school. Younger year groups were able to see the set up each morning and now eagerly await their time when they are in year 11.

Over the two days we welcomed 24 interviewers from our local Rotary groups, local employers and further education establishments. Year 11's were invited to dress up in their smart clothes for their interview day to get that real taste of preparing for an interview.

Each year 11 had 30 minutes with an interviewer which included questioning time, feedback time and the chance for our students to ask their interviewer questions too.

It always fascinates me to see how nervous they all are before going in, but on exit they have beaming smiles and say "that was actually really good"!

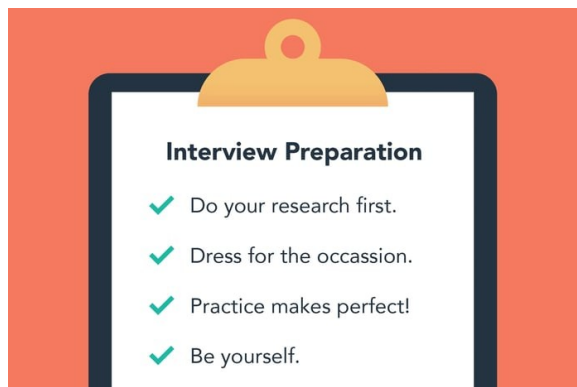
We are super proud of how our year 11's conducted themselves.

Here are some of the amazing comments the interviews have sent to me as feedback:

"Really well organised mock interview event. Timings worked extremely well which allowed us to have great conversations with students. The school should feel very proud of the way students conducted themselves".

"Students were really engaged. Some were more nervous than others however, they all engaged with maturity".

"Fully engaged. Delightful set of students, each of whom prepared to the best of their individual ability".



"Just a lovely school, polite children, staff were great".

"All students were committed to making something of the opportunity and spoke well of the experience at the end".

"My students were perfectly well behaved and interested in the experience".

And here is a snapshot of what the students said after their interview:

"Jonathan Taylor was very helpful in giving me a chance to explain, and then helped me to come out of my shell".

"My interviewer was friendly and made lots of conversation. He was positive and gave me helpful feedback".

"It went really well. It was a helpful insight as to what to expect in the future".

"I feel more confident about interviews now".

"I think that my interview went very well and that it has taught me many different techniques for future interviews. My interviewer was very helpful and supportive. She was lovely in every aspect of the interview and taught me lots".

"My interviewer gave me feedback at the end, on what I could have improved on and encouraged me to be more confident".

"I thought that the interviewer was very friendly and calm. I thought the quality and range of the questions were really good".

"I think this was so helpful. Lisa gave me so many helpful tips for what I can say in a real interview and help me see interviews aren't scary but overall I think it was so helpful.

A huge well done to our year 11's for making such a fabulous impression and the biggest of thanks to the interview team, especially Peter MacKay for helping with the organisation on behalf of the Rotary.

To the interviewers we would like to say a massive thank you to Peter Mackay, Ed Wells, David Welch, Megan Wigley, Rachael Jacobs, Craig Capel, Nicky Downer, Lisa Pearce, Michelle Henderson, Lorraine Warren, Dorothee Fitzsimmons, Alice Parry, Vicki Davey, Tori Masters, Phil Creed, Jonathan Taylor, Ruth Proctor, Clive Sills, Jane Redfearn, Roger Chadbourne, Jenny Norman, Michael Brierley, Ali Hart and Charles Sparey.





Kingston Maurward trip 5th November

9 students from year 11 enjoyed an Experience Day at Kingston Maurward College to explore the courses and opportunities available to them.

Students arrived on the campus and were greeted with an array of large flags on the green displaying every course available at the College. Our students mixed with students from a few other schools and waited by the flag of their choice.

Matt and Nancy tried the Animal Welfare and Science course and Matt explains "As we departed our flags, we got taken on a very long walk to the Animal Welfare area. They took us around the site looking at the hundreds of animals they have. This includes mammals, such as ferrets, bunnys and guinea pigs; and reptiles such as leopard geckos, tortoises and snakes. It's a great place to go if you're interested in working with animals." Nancy adds "I really enjoyed it, having a tour of all the animals all of different sizes of animals. I really can't wait to start at Kingston Maurward next year".

Zena, Sophie, Isobel and Jude were interested in the Equine course and after exploring this area Zena says "Equine studies was really interesting and we got to see a few of the horses and learn health and safety. We got to see the indoor and outdoor arena. I was surprised at how huge the eventing arena was!". Jude says "Kingston Maurward is an amazing, massive campus. The equine management course was very interesting. I enjoyed seeing the venues for competitions. I will definitely be attending Kingston Maurward College from September 2025!". Isobel stated "I really enjoyed the equine experience day. It gave a good overview of all the different levels you can do and the responsibilities they expect from you, other than just what the course requires".

Grace has had an interest in military preparation and Uniformed Protective Services for a long time, so this was a perfect

opportunity for her to experience the college and this course. Grace explains "When visiting Kingston Maurward College I got a tour around the College and got to learn about what they offer for Military preparation, protective services and sport fitness. I saw the gym, the climbing wall facilities, the lakes and the classroom areas".

Neven has an interest in Agriculture and says "I did agriculture when I went to Kingston Maurward. There's a lot of Agriculture Engineering, looking after livestock and we went around and talked about the different courses you can do within the agriculture sector".

Milo experienced the Business department for the day and explains "We went on a tour around the site and learnt about the practical Business aspects like working on parties or weddings, and working with the cases on site. There would be surveys about the business, attending towards the public".



INTERVIEW

EMPIRES FINEST. EMPIRE EDITOR AND AUTHOR NICK DE SEMLYEN GIVES THE LOWDOWN ON MOVIE MASTERPIECES

Foreword and interview by Izaak Gregory

Nick de Semlyen is the editor at Empire Magazine. Throughout his career, he's interviewed A-listers like Harrison Ford as well as more obscure and unusual people like the Gimp from Pulp Fiction, plus hundreds of other actors and directors, travelled across the world and written countless pieces about all genres of film, including two books. I caught up with him to discuss all things movies.

1. What does your daily routine look like?

At Empire we work at the office two days a week. The other three days, we work from home, which means less travel time but more time being pestered by my cat, Winksy.

Lots of video calls, phone calls, meetings, emails... and when I'm lucky I get to do some writing too.

2. What were you like at school?

I was pretty quiet, obsessed with sweets and most often found with a book in my hands (I went through phases of being particularly into Willard Price and the Hardy Boys).

I also enjoyed acting in school plays and got a good reception for the time I played Achilles (I only had one line).

3. What were your most and least favourite subjects at school? Why?

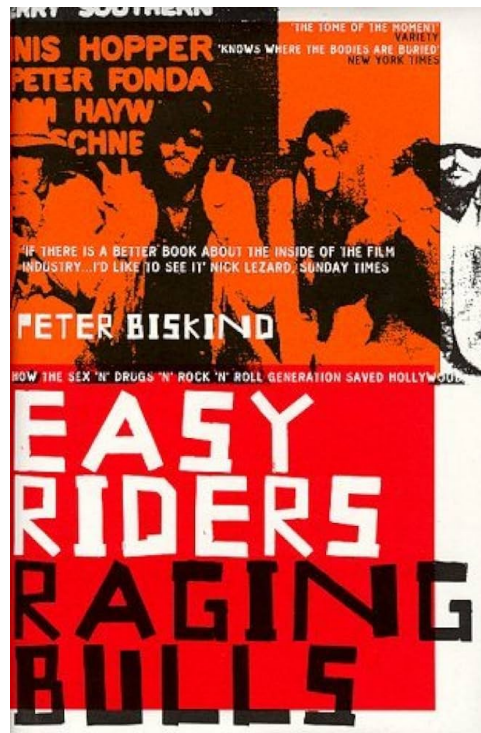
My favourite subjects were English and History: I enjoyed anything where there were stories involved. With Maths and Geography, I was less confident (still not entirely sure what an oxbow lake is).



4. What inspired you to get into writing about film and cinema?

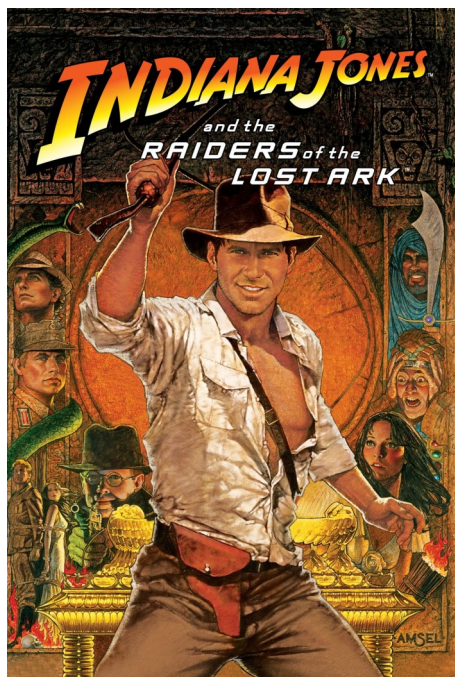
I loved cinema ever since I saw a mind-expanding double bill of *The Blues Brothers* and *Beetlejuice* at an outdoor cinema in Greece during a family holiday.

It was also fuelled by issues of *Empire*, which my brother bought and which still reside in our mum's attic. When I reached university, I was able to take on a module about Hollywood cinema and write about films such as *Terminator 2* and *The Lady From Shanghai*.



5. Did you have a role model or inspiration as you developed your career?

In terms of writing, I have long admired the American film critics Pauline Kael and Roger Ebert. When working on a review, I'll still sometimes read some of their work for inspiration.



And my books would probably not exist without Peter Biskind, whose seminal *Easy Riders, Raging Bulls* gave me the idea to create a biopic of a group of actors.

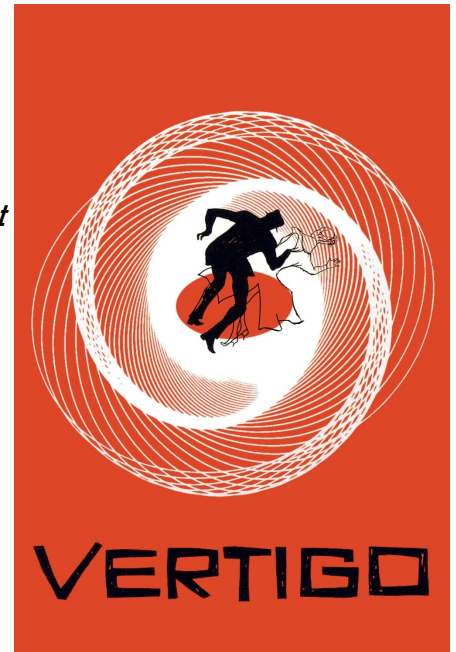
6. What is your favourite film? Why?

This one's easy: *Raiders Of The Lost Ark*. (Despite the title being officially changed in recent years, I will never refer to it as *Indiana Jones And The Raiders Of The Lost Ark* — he's one of the raiders!) It's funny, scary, exciting, full of spiders and snakes... the ultimate adventure. Whenever I see it, it makes me feel like a kid again. And I don't think it's dated one jot.



7. What is in your opinion the greatest film ever made? Why?

My answer for this would change on any given day – I could make a case for everything from *Once Upon A Time In The West* to *Singin' In The Rain*. But there's something about Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* that keeps drawing me back, year after year. A slippery tale of romance and obsession, it's so psychologically rich that you get something different from it on each viewing. Not to mention the cinematography, the lush Bernard Herrmann score and the legendary dolly zoom shot...



8. What advice would you give to young people who want to become journalists and writers?

Read, read, read! The more you take in, the more you'll get inspiration, and learn how other writers do it, while figuring out your own style and voice. Fuel your passion by learning as much as you can about your field. 20 years into my own career, I still feel like I've only scratched the surface.

Another key thing is perseverance: don't give up if you really want it. I had a lot of rejection but eventually got the breaks I dreamed of. From a practical perspective, always approach editors with ideas, rather than just asking generally for work. Editors are being approached all the time, and this will make you stand out.

9. What characteristics make the perfect film?

Many studio executives in Hollywood have tried in vain to answer this. As the legendary screenwriter William Goldman once said of the movie business, "Nobody knows anything." Lots of classic movies were failures at the time. But when all the ingredients work together — bold performances, an original script, clever editing, etc — they fuse like magic.



10. What is your favourite genre?

I love film noir. And I always look forward to 'Noirvember': there's no better way of spending a dark November evening than watching a rumpled detective falling afoul of a sultry femme fatale, in glorious black and white.

11. What's the best part of the job you do?

Meeting my heroes, from Robert De Niro to James Cameron. Plus, seeing an issue we've spent a month slowly constructing go out into the world — I still get a thrill seeing a copy of Empire in WH Smith.



12. Which part of your job do you think people most get wrong or misunderstand?

We sometimes get accused of taking money in exchange for a positive review (including once by a famous British TV personality on social media). This is not true and has never happened. In fact, we agonise over our star ratings: debate still rages in the office over our 4-star review of *Cowboys & Aliens*.

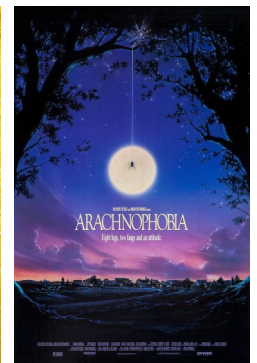
13. Who do you think is the greatest living director? Why?

Martin Scorsese. Because he is.

14. What do you feel are the most underrated and overrated films? Why?

Off the top of my head, *Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping*, an incredibly funny comedy from 2016 that flopped when it came out. I also think the '90s creature feature *Arachnophobia* deserves a lot more love (I got to write an oral history of it for Empire a few years back).

In terms of overrated films, *Saving Private Ryan*, to me, is one great set-piece – the storming of Normandy beaches on D-Day – surrounded by some pretty unremarkable drama. I also don't get the fuss over *Joker*.

**15. Is there any genre or category you don't particularly enjoy?**

Sports movies mostly leave me cold (probably because I don't love sports) and I find legal dramas a bit of a chore too. Probably for the best I didn't become a lawyer, like my mum wanted me to.

16. What has been the proudest achievements of your career so far? Why?

Having two books published. Becoming editor of Empire, a magazine I've loved since I was a teenager.

Playing a named character, Edmund, in the film *Jurassic World*, though I'm only in a single shot, barely visible, getting splashed by a water dinosaur.

17. Is there anyone in the film industry you would want to interview?

Steven Spielberg and Tom Cruise. I would probably ask them both about their cameos in Austin Powers 3.



18. Which decade had the best films? Why?

I'd be wildly off-brand if I didn't say the 1980s. Despite Quentin Tarantino insisting it's the worst decade. That said, every single decade has gems aplenty – you just need to look.

**19. Why did you decide to write a book about the action heroes of the 1980s film industry?**

I've loved the genre ever since I watched *Total Recall* from behind the sofa as my older brother and his friend played a rented videotape of it.

And those guys, from Schwarzenegger to Van

Damme, are so unique and larger than life – their rises to power, feuds and friendships are a gift to any storyteller.

**20. Was there anything surprising you learnt whilst writing the book?**

I learned that Sylvester Stallone was responsible for Jackie Chan's career in Hollywood. A nice discovery given that Stallone was often wildly competitive when it came to other action stars.

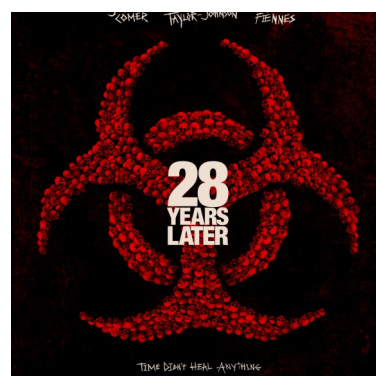
**21. If you had to define the greatest film action hero who was it and why?**

Arnold Schwarzenegger transcends them all. Not only was he the size of a small truck, but he had the comedy skills as well. He made action movies FUN. And there's nobody on Earth who hasn't attempted an impression of him.

**22. What upcoming films are you most looking forward to watching and reviewing?**

Danny Boyle's return to horror with zombie film *28 Years Later*. James Cameron's *Avatar: Fire And Ash*.

The new Predator movie. I'm also fascinated by the reboot of The Naked Gun, starring Liam Neeson.



23. If you could have a dinner party and invite any four people from history, who would be on the guestlist and why?



- ♦ Roger Ebert, so we could talk movies and writing.
- ♦ Alfred Hitchcock, for his droll wit and tales of thriller-making (though he had a phobia of eggs, so we'd have to keep an eye on the menu).
- ♦ Marilyn Monroe — she was much smarter than people generally believe (her IQ was 165), and I'm sure would make a great conversationalist.
- ♦ Robin Williams, so he could impersonate the other three.

24. What's next for 'Nick de Semlyen'?

An exciting 2025 for Empire (we have some very cool exclusives lined up).

But first, some sleep and my customary Christmas viewing of *The Muppet Christmas Carol*.

25. What five words describe 'Nick de Semlyen'?

Lover of cats and commas.



Coming Soon!

ODDMENTS
THEATRE CO

THE HIDING PLACE

The true story of
Corrie Ten Boom

A family's struggle to save Jews from the Nazis.



Rated 5 stars by our audiences

"The Hiding Place was brilliant, a very moving and heartfelt performance."



"It was an excellent and incredibly moving production which I can thoroughly recommend."



"An excellent production of The Hiding Place. A very powerful production. I didn't know what to expect but I found it a very moving performance - so much more than 'theatre.'"



"A strong story well told - stage set is wonderful."



Coming to
Wadham Tuesday
11th February 2025.
A Professional
theatre
production for
only £2.50 per
ticket.
Booking forms
will be sent home
in January!

THE HIT SHOW, SEEN BY OVER 20,000 PEOPLE, IS BACK ON THE ROAD!

FROM WATCH SHOP TO CONCENTRATION CAMP...

The Hiding Place is a riveting production based on a true story of bravery during the Second World War. Despite immense personal cost, Corrie ten Boom and her family set out on an incredible mission to hide Jews from Nazi persecution. The play explores how their Christian faith gave them hope in the darkest of places.

EDUCATIONAL

The play provides students with an insight into one family's true experience of the Holocaust. Not only does the story develop historical understanding, but it also explores how the family's faith provides light in the darkest of times, provoking interesting discussions of what religion means to people of faith.



01460 270123



@wadhamschool



office@wadhamschool.co.uk

WADHAM SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY

By MJ Jones

On Monday, the 2nd of December, I had the privilege of attending the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony at Ilminster Church. This special opportunity was given to me as part of my role as a Wellbeing Ambassador. Miss Wells, who always shows such belief in our abilities, chose me alongside two other ambassadors to represent our school at the event.

The journey to the church was, let's say, eventful. Mr. White, known for his unconventional driving style, kept us all on edge with his sharp turns and sudden stops. Despite this, we arrived safely and were warmly greeted by a volunteer who guided us into the beautifully decorated church.

Inside, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and festive cheer. Among the notable attendees was Mike Best, the former Mayor of Crewkerne, who now holds the prestigious position of Chair of Somerset County Council. Reverend Jo (a familiar face who often leads our school assemblies) greeted us warmly, sharing a few kind words about the importance of community during the festive season.

The highlight of the event was, of course, the grand lighting of the Christmas trees. The youngest ambassador in our group, Kaille, was given the honour of pressing the button. As the countdown began—three, two, one—the room was filled with anticipation.

Then, in a moment of pure magic, Kaille and children from other schools pressed the button together, and the entire church was illuminated with the soft glow of beautifully decorated Christmas trees. Gasps of delight filled the air as the twinkling lights brought a sense of warmth and wonder to everyone present.

After the ceremony, we took some time to explore the church and admire the individual trees, each uniquely decorated by different local groups and organizations. One tree that caught our attention was Wadhams' tree, adorned with stunning pink decorations. The vibrant colour stood as a touching tribute to breast cancer awareness, reminding us all of the importance of supporting vital causes, even during the festive season.

The event was a perfect blend of community spirit, festive joy, and meaningful reflection. It was an honour to be part of such a beautiful tradition, representing our school and embracing the true essence of Christmas: unity, kindness, and hope.



INTERVIEW

**AN EYE FOR
TALENT – CASTING
DIRECTOR CATRIONA
DICKIE ON LOOKING
FOR THE NEXT
BIG THING**

Foreword by Peter Hopwood and
interview by Jessica Henley

Catriona Dickie is no stranger to the world of film and TV. Having started as a runner on the 2015 romantic drama *45 Years*, a interest in the casting process took Dickie on a journey into the process of deciding who goes in front of the camera. Since then she has worked on various projects including hit feature, *Catherine Called Birdy* for Amazon Prime, BBC One series, *The Responder* and the tense legal drama feature *The Mauritanian*. Jessica Henley caught up with Dickie to get the lowdown on this aspect of show business.

1. What does your daily routine look like?

It depends on which stage I'm at with casting a project. The early days of casting fall into the pre-production part of a filmmaking. So all the departments will be sitting down with the script and starting to make decisions with the director on what everything is going to look like. It's the same with casting.

In the early days we read the script, start to make lists of actors as ideas for who could play what role, and discuss them with the director. Then we start to call and email the actor's agents to see if they could be free to be involved. They might have another job!

Then we start auditions. These will usually be at a casting studio. Then when the director has decided who they'd like to play which role, my job is to book the actors and sort out their contracts.

At the moment I'm starting work on a few films, so my daily routine is mostly coming up with great actors as ideas of who could play certain roles, which is fun.



2. What were you like at school?

Mostly studious. I like learning, although I have to say I wasn't very good at maths, which is unfortunate as I have to do a bit of maths for my job when I do contracts – because they involve money! My school also had great sports facilities and music and drama so I was lucky with that too.

3. What were your most and least favourite subjects at school?

Why My favourite subject was history. I love learning about the past, and even now I listen to a lot of history podcasts. My least favourite subject was maths, mostly because I'm not very good at it.

**4. What inspired you to get into the media and then into casting?**

I always loved drama at school and originally I wanted to be an actor. But being an actor can be a very uncertain lifestyle so I started working in production instead.

I worked on TV sets and film sets as a runner – basically the person who runs around and helps people. When I was working on a film called *45 Years* I also helped by casting all of the extras.

The film was shot in Norfolk where I grew up, so I knew a lot of local people. I enjoyed the casting process so much that when the film finished I decided to try get work in a casting office.

5. How did you get to do what you do now? Did you have a role model or inspiration at the start of your career?

When I finished working on *45 Years* I decided I wanted to try working in casting. Luckily I knew someone who worked in a casting office so I called him and asked if I could do some work experience.

Then I went to work for several casting directors; first as an assistant, then an associate and finally for myself. I don't have a role model exactly, but I have learned something new from every casting director I've worked for.

6. How did you know that being a casting director was for you?

I enjoy it! I think that's very important for any job.



7. What is one thing that you look for when deciding what actor should play what role?

Ooh, that's a tricky one. Ultimately it is not the casting director who decides that, it's the director and sometimes also the producers.

What I decide is who could play the role. I decide that, by knowing a lot of actors and their work, and having the experience to think outside the box when it comes to how a role could be performed.

8. If you could change anything about the casting process what would it be? Why?

There is quite a lot of administration to do.

9. What do you most enjoy about your job?

Being in the room with the actors and holding auditions.

10. Which part of your profession do you think most people don't understand or know about?

That the casting director doesn't have final say on who gets cast.

**11. Have you ever thought about switching career?**

If you weren't a casting director what do you think you'd be doing right now?

I don't think I'd switch career but I do enjoy writing so perhaps I'd be a casting director and a writer at the same time...

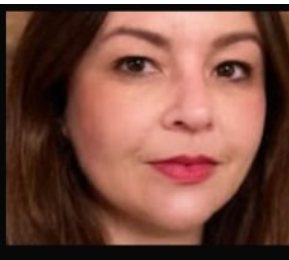
12. What is your favourite film or project you have worked on so far? Why?

It's a film called *Catherine Called Birdy*. The script was brilliant, and as soon as I read it I knew I wanted to work on it. I could just imagine all the characters immediately.



The director, Lena Dunham, was great to work with because she loved the original book so much. It was very much a labour of love.





13. What upcoming projects are you most looking forward to working on (if you can tell us)?

I'm afraid I'm not really able to talk about my next few projects.

14. If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life what would it be? And why?

Probably French Fries. Because they're delicious.

15. What is one thing you would say to your younger self?

It's ok to fail. You just pick yourself up and start again.

16. What is your favourite part about working in the movie industry? And why?

I get to meet really interesting people from all around the world. A lot of people in movies have worked in lots of different industries as well as film so their life experience is fascinating.

17. What would you say are the biggest changes you've seen in the tv and film industry since you started your career?

In casting; self tapes. That's when an actor films themselves on their phone or camera and sends in an audition without a casting director or director being in the room.

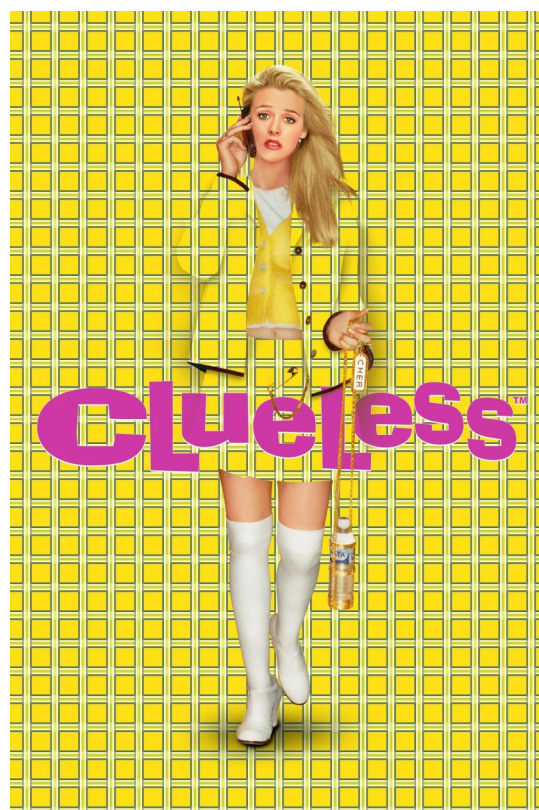
Most first auditions are self tapes now.

The downside is the actor doesn't get any direction on whether they're doing the right thing or not.

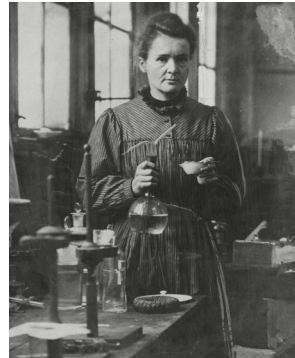
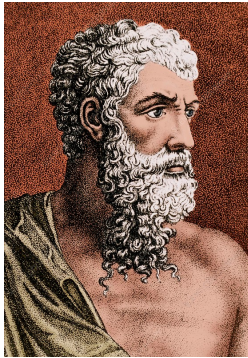
But on the plus-side they can even send in an audition when they're on holiday!

18. If you could only watch one tv series or movie for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Probably the film *Clueless*. It's funny and romantic, with great lines and fabulous fashion.



19. If you could have a dinner party and invite any four people from history, who would be on the guestlist and why?

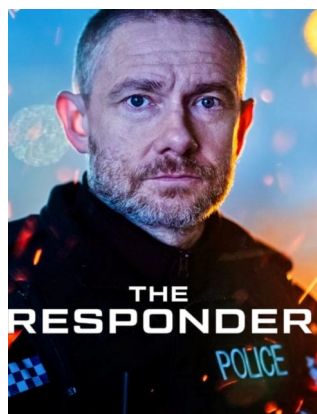


That's a good question.

- ♦ I think Aristotle, because I'd like to know how the 'great thinkers' really thought.
- ♦ Elizabeth I, but when she was younger, as I like to think she was a hopeful queen then.
- ♦ Marie Curie, because I'd like to know how it felt to be a female scientist at the time.
- ♦ Maybe Neil Armstrong because he was the first human to ever step foot on the moon. (sorry Buzz)

20. What five words describe 'Catriona Dickie'?

Calm, creative, thoughtful, organised, ambitious.



Time to think about...

Break Point Part 2: Is it the time for 'The Big 2'?

By Patrick Cummins

In the past 2 years, the sport of tennis has begun a somewhat profound shift. Federer has retired. Nadal is retiring. And even the T17 that is Novak Djokovic has failed to win a title (Save for his Olympic gold) in this whole year. The sands have shifted, as a new generation of players have begun to take over.

Let us take a deep dive into Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner...

Carlos Alcaraz is a Spanish tennis player, who grew up watching the likes of legends like Federer, Djokovic and his fellow countryman Nadal.

It seems that right from the get go, there was something special about him, as he claimed his first grand slam title at the age of 19, defeating Casper Ruud 6-4 2-6 7-6 6-3. Following this, he reached the prestigious World Number 1 ranking for the first time. It was uphill from there.

In 2023, Alcaraz would win his first Wimbledon title, defeating the likes of Holgar Rune (another promising youngster), Daniil Medvedev and then Novak Djokovic in the final. This match with Novak would go the full 5 sets, and lasted 4 hours and 42 minutes.



And this year, he has continued this trajectory, winning Wimbledon again against Djokovic and triumphing on clay in his first French open final.

He now holds the record as the youngest player to win a slam on all 3 surfaces, and has surpassed the likes of legends like Andy Murray in terms of Slam wins, all at 21.



01460 270123



@wadhamschool



office@wadhamschool.co.uk

Meanwhile, Jannik Sinner has had easily his most successful season on tour so far. Seemingly out of nowhere, Sinner has emerged and put his name forward as the perfect rival for Alcaraz, replacing Holgar Rune.

Sinner won the Australian Open this year, besting Djokovic without facing a single break point himself, and then Medvedev in the final. He would fall to Alcaraz in the Semi-final of the French Open (though still securing the World Number 1 status) and then to Medvedev in the Quarterfinals of Wimbledon, in the face of medical issues.



However, recent weeks have marked a return to form for the Italian, as he has been unstoppable. First, he would breeze through the Cincinnati Masters, and then his second Grand slam at the US Open, beating American Star Taylor Fritz in straight sets. Then, he would cruise to the finals of the China open, narrowly losing to Alcaraz. Following this, he would best Djokovic in the Shanghai Masters Final,

and then win the “Six Kings Slam” after defeating Alcaraz, Djokovic and Medvedev (winning a set 6-0 against the latter). And to cap off an already incredible year, he won the ATP finals, bullying the competition despite the fact that all of them were in the top 10!

Against each other, Alcaraz leads in slams 4-2, as well as in the head-to-head. However, rarely is a match between these 2 boring. They are like fire and ice.

Alcaraz plays with passion, and can burn to an 11/10 on a good day, where he becomes near unbeatable, but can also dwindle and crash, leading to upsets and poor performances. Sinner is ice-cold and steady, playing consistently at a high level, which at the tail end of this season has been rewarded, going 26-1 since Cincinnati in August and 70-6 for the whole year.

At their best, Alcaraz is the better of the 2 in the eyes of the majority, however Sinner can maintain his level for far longer. One thing that can always be counted on is that when these 2 face off, it will be an incredible match. What might the future hold for these new talents?



**WADHAM SCHOOL**

PRELOVED UNIFORM SHOP

SAVE MONEY AND REDUCE WASTE

We are pleased to inform you that we now have a preloved Uniform Shop, where we hope to be able to offer a range of uniform at reduced prices. Please see ipay for prices. These are items that have been preloved but we feel can still be utilised and offer equal accessibility.

All donations of used, no longer wanted uniform would be greatly received. Please bring to reception.

**Please purchase through ipay
or by emailing**

Uniform@wadhamschool.co.uk



01460 270123



@wadhamschool

office@wadhamschool.co.uk

INTERVIEW

PICKING THE
MIND OF THE

ARTFUL DODGER

- ACTOR BILLY

JENKINS

Foreword and interview by Edie
Pattison

Billy Jenkins is a 17-year-old actor who is currently portraying 'the artful Dodger' in *Oliver* (the musical) on the West End stage. I was lucky enough to be able to secure an interview with him to ask him about his journey from playing *Royalty* on Netflix—to being a Victorian pickpocket both on CBBC and on stage. This is how it went.



1. Did you always want to be an actor?

No, not exactly, however I have always loved drama, music and performing.

2. What inspired you to become an actor?

I watched my older sister perform when I was very young, and I suppose I wanted to join her in the acting groups and this is how it began.

3. What was your first major acting job?

My first acting role was young Prince Charles in *'The Crown'* for Netflix.



4. What role were you most excited to play?

Oh, that's difficult, however I loved playing Squirrel in *'Cursed'*. It was set in medieval times and involved lots of action scenes, where I got to do some stunts and ride horses.



5. Who has been your favourite person to work with?

Oh, I have been lucky to work with so many great actors but I have to say it's got to be my buddy, Ellie-May Sheridan (aka Polly from Dodger).



6. When you did the DP world tour 'little interviews', who were you most excited to interview?

I was most excited to interview Rory McIlroy.

7. A lot of fans want to see a second series of *Dodger*, if that were to happen, would you be happy to return to your role as *Dodger*?

So we didn't actually do a full second series of *Dodger*, but we did do four special episodes, so that was exciting to get the chance to play him again and work with such a fantastic cast. If they asked me, I would consider it, for sure. However, maybe I'm getting a bit too old for the part now!

8. Are you still in touch with your co-stars from *Dodger*?

Yes, we all became very close after filming the first series of *Dodger* during Covid restrictions and we all keep in regular contact still now.

9. My 10-year-old brother, Stan, went as *Dodger* on world book day, what was your go to world book day character?

Oh my go to was always Dennis the Menace from the *Beano*!

10. Are you looking forward to being on the west end stage as 'the artful dodger' in *Oliver*?

I am so excited to play *Dodger* in the West end. I am in rehearsals now as we speak. It's going to be such a fantastic show and I hope all the audiences will love it as much as I do.

11. What is your favourite song in *Oliver*?

I have to say 'Consider yourself', don't I? That's my song! No, that's a very difficult question, I love both Nancy and Fagin's solos. Shanay and Simon, who play these characters are amazing!

12. I love going to the theatre and I'm currently saving up to buy tickets to see *Oliver* next year, what is your favourite thing you've seen on stage?

It would have to be *Les Mis*, although I actually never got to see it from the audience, only backstage, when I played Gavroche, the music is incredible!



13. Has being an actor changed your social life?

I don't get much time to have a social life, that is true, but when I do get a break, I make sure I meet up with my friends.

14. What is your comfort film?

Back to the Future, always!

15. If you could go back to any time period, which would it be and why?

Ha! That's a great question, um maybe go back in time, meet William Shakespeare, see if I could get a part in one of his plays! Or go back and check on the Egyptian or Roman times, think that would be pretty cool.

16. My 12-year-old brother, Bertie, is a sports fanatic. His favourites are cricket, golf and football, what are your favourite sports?

I love football and tennis.

17. How do you balance school work with your acting career, especially through things such as GCSE's and A-Levels?

I am actually in the last year of my A-levels now so it's difficult with being in a West End show, but my school and teachers are fantastic and very supportive, so I'm very lucky.

18. Other than singing, can you play any other musical instruments?

Oh, I'm glad you asked that, I love music. I play the guitar and piano quite well. However, I do have a saxophone and accordion, which I'm trying to master. Oh, and if you come and see the show, you'll see me playing the Banjo. I managed to convince the production team of Oliver that the artful Dodger would play an instrument!

**19. Me and my friend, Sophie, are going to see Olly Murs in the summer, if you could see any musician (past or present) in concert, who would it be?**

Too many to choose from, but I'd love to see Bruno Mars.

20. In my house, choosing a film that all four children and our parents agree on is difficult, what is your go to family favourite film?

Oh, I think it would have to be, Indiana Jones and the temple of Doom.





DESIGN THE NEW PTFA LOGO

COMPETITION

What is the PTFA and what do we do for you ??

**PTFA stands for Parent Teacher Friends
Association**

**We form a committee to support the school by
raising funds and organising events.**

**The money raised goes towards school
equipment, trips, and other activities to benefit
the students.**

**Please make sure your design is no bigger
than A4 size and that it is bright so that it
will stand out.**

Please incorporate the letters PTFA

**The winner will have their logo used by the
PTFA and receive a prize for their design!**

**Designs to Ms L Rogers
by January 10th**

Name and Tutor on the back



Wadham School Gets Creative

Enjoy this artwork by Year 11 student Vivian Dawkins



WADHAM SCHOOL DOES...



By Jessie Vowles

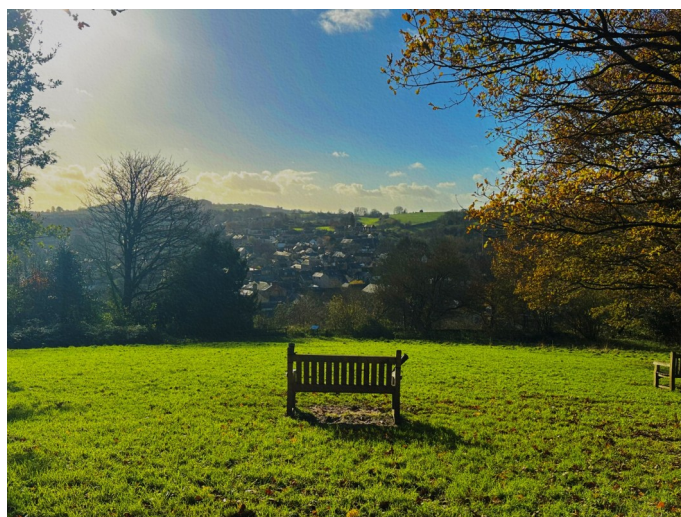
The Outdoor Learning groups have been decorating pebbles which we used in a 'pebble hunt'.

The students needed to find the pebbles and then answer a corresponding question.

The teams that won were Lola Hart and Poppy Baker from year 9 and the team who won from year 7 were Daniel A'Court and Oscar King.

They all had fun finding the pebbles and enjoyed being in the great outdoors!

Oscar also took a lovely photo from the view point which he wanted to share.



01460 270123



@wadhamschool



office@wadhamschool.co.uk



CALLING ALL
JOURNALISTS OF
WADHAM!



The Quill is a magazine for Wadham students and is open to anyone! It's full of exciting opportunities and always looking for new members, from photographers to interviewees, we want YOU!

Speak to Mr Hopwood in B23 or email Phopwood@wadhamschool.co.uk to find out more!

A WADHAM SCHOOL STUDENT PUBLICATION

THE QUILL



MOVIE REVIEWS



2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

THE GREATEST FILM OF ALL TIME (in my opinion)

By Izaak Gregory

I am fully aware that this is a controversial opinion, but I believe that Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY is the single greatest movie of all time. It is above The Godfather, Citizen Kane, The Empire Strikes Back and all the other films that are often stated as the greatest. From the ground-breaking special effects combined with the beautiful music, to the amazing handling of the 'universes greatest questions', 2001 remains the most influential and powerful film

ever made. The genre of science fiction and even the media of cinema would not be the same without it

2001 is a look into tomorrow. Directed and produced by Stanley Kubrick, this film remains his triumph. A controversial, avant-garde director, Kubrick used only the most recent and revolutionary techniques and technologies to create a truly unique experience of music and image. And these effects still hold up. In fact, the fully practical and chemical effects created for this film look miles better than any CGI or other practical effects made since. It is just something about the way the light bounces of the miniatures that make them feel so real and grand.



The opening shot of the movie is a great demonstration of this. With the musical piece "Also Sprach Zarathustra" playing as the camera rises to show the earth, the moon and the sun all in line, it makes you feel you are watching the national anthem of the solar system. The scale and impact of this has never been able to be replicated.

The plot of the film is tricky to describe, mainly as this was a film intended to be experienced and felt, as opposed to watched. But I will try to sum it up.

The film opens during the dawn of man, millions of years ago. Life is harsh for the primates that inhabit the barren lands. One day however a strange monolith appears before the apes. Upon inspection of the extra-terrestrial object, the apes gain new knowledge and a new perspective. Suddenly one ape, named Moonwatcher in the novel, realises how a bone can be used as a weapon. The first tool is created. The first weapon. And the first man. Millions of years later, the year is 1999. Humans have



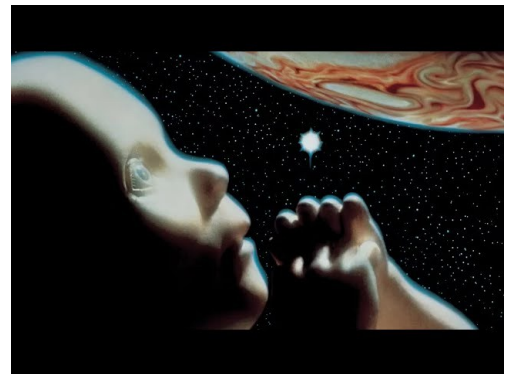
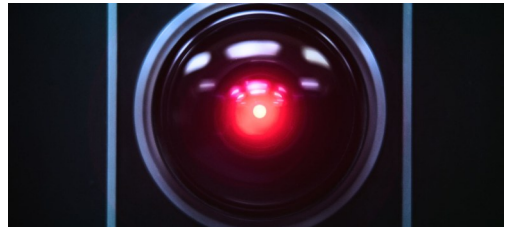
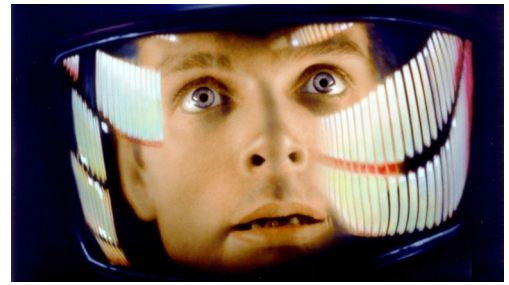
commercialised space travel; the cold war is still very much being raged and nuclear weapons have been placed in space. The Americans discover another obelisk buried under the surface of the moon, which when touch by a human the same way it was once touched by an ape, emits a signal far of into the solar system.

The rest of the film follows the Jupiter Mission, a voyage into space to uncover the meaning behind the alien structure and maybe even make contact with the aliens that originally sent the first monolith so many years ago.

If this seems like a thin plot, its because it is. The real backbone of the movie is the exceptional blend of sound and imagery that creates a one of a kind film.

This film is the perfect showcase of how cinema is not just entertainment, but art. It is capable of exploring the greatest questions, without at any time verging into being pretentious.

The ending may leave audiences with far more questions than answers, although it is this lasting impact which makes the film so excellent. It forces the audience to think and dares the audience to try to answer its questions. The film was scored 92% on rotten tomatoes and an 8.3/10 on IMDB. It was nominated for four academy awards, of which it won one, which was for Best Special Effects. This is the film that will forever come to mind when I think of the word epic.



Shaun Of The Dead

By Alfie Burkhardt

The British comedy *Shaun of the Dead* premiered on the 29th of March 2004 and this year celebrate its 20 year anniversary.

I think is a very important movie for the horror\comedy franchise because it cleverly balances good scares and pinpoint satire to make for a great zombie film. Loaded with witty jokes written by Simon peg and Edgar wright, the films main cast of Pegg as Shaun and Nick frost as Ed, deliver a comedy duo (recreated twice more in *Hot Fuzz* and *The Worlds End*) trying to survive in a world quickly overrun with the undead.

This masterclass of cinematography was heavily inspired by the 1999-2001 television sitcom *Spaced*, the popular *Resident Evil* video game franchise and lots of references to the George A Romero film *Night of the Living Dead*. The film is described as a roller coaster of emotions but mostly just hysterically funny.

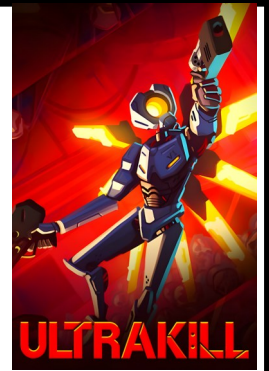




Ultrakill

By Edward Oleen

Ultrakill is an intense, fast-paced shooter that challenges you to beat each level as quickly and stylishly as possible. You play as V1, a robot with a twist: its only fuel is blood. Since humans are extinct, you're forced to dive into the depths of hell, hunting demons to stay alive.



Healing Mechanic

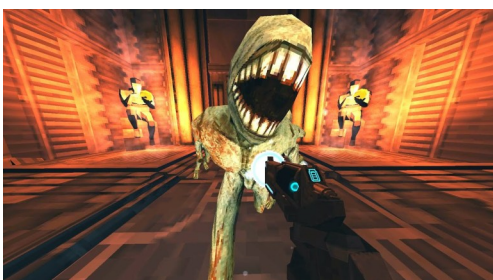
Healing isn't your typical health pack pick-up. To restore health, you literally have to get in your enemies' faces and absorb their blood mid-fight. This means you can only heal while in combat, and it encourages close-range play. Plus, when you take damage, you don't just lose health — your max health temporarily drops. This "Hard Damage" effect raises the stakes, so you really need to stay on your toes. Luckily, you can bring your health back by boosting your Style meter.

Style System

Style is the name of the game here. It's one of the three key factors that determine your score at the end of each level. The more stylish (and daring) you are, the higher your score. You can rack up style points by pulling off complex moves, like hitting enemies in mid-air or wiping out entire groups at once. Even finishing off bosses with a punch scores extra style! You can't stick to just one weapon, though; using the same weapon too long drains your style multiplier, so you have to switch things up often.

Weapon Arsenal

Ultrakill's weapons are both awesome and unique, with each weapon having two extra modes. The starting weapon is a revolver, which is perfect for high-powered, single-target shots and even has a chargeable piercing attack. Then comes the shotgun, great for close-range damage and crowd control. It can even shoot mini-grenades, which is perfect for breaking barriers or taking out groups. The third weapon, the nail gun, works like a mini-gun and even has a magnetic shot that attracts bullets, ensuring you don't miss. The railgun is your heavy hitter, with massive damage but a lengthy recharge. Finally, there's the rocket launcher, which causes an explosion on impact and an even bigger one if it hits airborne enemies.



Overall Thoughts

Overall, *Ultrakill* is just amazing. The voice acting, story, and gameplay all come together brilliantly. Since it's still in early access, I'll give it a solid 9/10. If you have Steam, I highly recommend trying this game!



Sonic x Shadow Generations

By Luke Pearce

Sonic x Shadow Generations is the latest game in the Sonic series. The game is available on Nintendo switch, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 5, Xbox one, Xbox series x/s and PC. The game is split into 2 which is Sonic Generations and Shadow Generations. Both games are about 5 ½ hours long which is great for fans of Sonic and Shadow. They are both set at the same time with Shadow being a bit of a darker story while Sonic's isn't as dark as Shadow's. In this review I will review each part separately.

Shadow Generations

Shadow Generations explores the sad backstory of Shadow the Hedgehog as the evil alien Black doom tries to make Shadow his ultimate weapon for the Black arms. Shadow must conquer his past and confront Black doom. You get given 6 abilities one of them being Shadows signature move chaos control where time freezes for about 5 whole seconds! You have to unlock the other 5 but they are all worth it as the story progresses. There are 6 stages in Shadow Generations with each one have 2 acts one 3d and one 2d. Unfortunately Super Shadow does not appear in this game as Sonic is using the chaos emeralds to defeat the time eater while you play this game.

The story of this game is near enough perfect and Shadow's character development is amazing and some of the best I have ever seen. This game is very awarding and the amount of references are insane. The boss fights are amazing and call backs to Shadow's past. What would've made this game better is if they gave Shadow a gun like they did in 2005. But this game really does show how 2024 is the year of Shadow and prepares us the 3rd Sonic movie. I will definitely be picking up the DLC when it releases. I am proud to give this game 5 whole stars.

Sonic Generations

This game is an amazing remake of the bestseller originally released in 2011. This to has a great story containing 2 Sonic's. It takes place during Shadow Generations and on Sonic's birthday. You must defeat the Time eater who is tearing through time and space. Plus, this time there are 2 Eggman's so there's double the trouble. But don't worry as there are also 2 Tails to help you. You get to play as both Modern and classic Sonic. Classic sonic takes on the 2d original play style from the 90's of which he began whereas Modern Sonic takes on a mixture of 2d and 3d play style while boosting though the levels which is the gameplay more people are used to today. There are a total of 9 levels in this game with 2 stages one being for classic Sonic and one for modern Sonic.

There are 4 boss battles and 3 rival battles. They are each fun but most of the boss battles are for modern Sonic. Once you defeat a boss or a rival battle you get a chaos emerald. Find all of them and fight the Time eater as both classic and moder Super Sonic. Each level is a stage from a game in Sonic's past. Although most of the stages are great I dislike 2 of them. Those 2 are crisis city and planet wisp. They aren't bad just rather difficult and can get a bit boring. This game really is amazing and a love letter to all sonic games and I am going to give it a whole 5 stars.



Fortnite

By Yevhen Ivasiuk

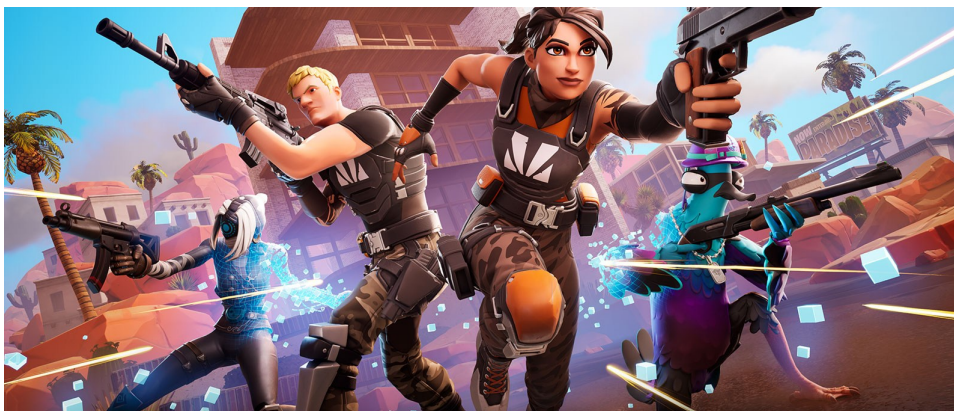
In my game review I'm going to be writing about Fortnite.

Fortnite was created by Epic games which created a lot of other famous games. The game is available on PS4, PS5, PS3, Xbox, etc.



The game is about to win a game alone or with your partner or partners, and the goal is to get your opponents down to win a game from 100 people to get a victory crown and gain experience points for skins and items to customise your avatar.

I really like this game because it is free and the graphics for a free game are amazing, and it is really fun to play with friends or alone. Compared to the other games like it i still think that its better then other games like it, because the other games are not free, yes maybe the graphics are better then at the free game but I don't think its worth paying for them games because its a waste of money for other games that are similar to it and nearly the same.



So I would recommend it to other players because it is really fun the graphics are great and there are a lot of good things in the game.

If I was to rate the game out of 5 i would rate it 4.5 out of 5, I only took the $\frac{1}{2}$ of it because you unfortunately have to buy the skins you cant get them for free but everything else in the game deserves 4.5 out of 5 because there are no other bad things in it.



What's worth a read?

We Were Liars – by E. Lockhart

By Lily Joy Jeffery

We Were Liars by e. Lockhart is a plot-driven young adult thriller which tells the story of the troubled Sinclair family.



We follow the narration of teen Cadence Sinclair as she and her family spend their summers on the luxurious Sinclair private island. Sinclairs are brought up to be rich, beautiful and athletic, and “No one is a criminal. No one is an addict. No one is a failure.” What happens when that turns out to be untrue?

‘The Liars’ know their family isn’t perfect, they know how undeserving Sinclairs truly are. They dream of freedom, true love and the future. Years later, tragedy strikes through an act of rebellion, and Cadence is left feeling lost and confused. The Sinclairs are about to discover the true price of ‘happiness’.

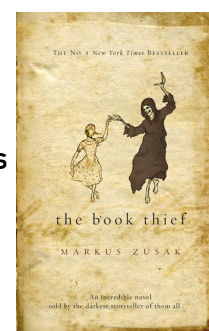
We Were Liars immediately reeled me in. I became completely immersed in the book and read it within a day. It is filled with lies, truths, twists and turns that will leave you wanting more. I loved Cadence’s character, and those of the other three ‘liars’, Johnny, Gat and Mirren. The only part I felt could be improved was the directness of the ending, although perhaps that makes it feel more powerful and real to readers.

I would recommend it to those 13 years old and above, as it deals with some difficult themes and emotions. It can be found in the school library.

The Book Thief – by Markus Zusak

By Josie Bulmer

The book thief is a book set in World War II Nazi Germany and focuses on Liesel, a young girl living with a foster family, along with the many characters in her life including her best friend, Rudy, and a Jew that her foster parents keep in hiding, Max. Without spoiling, it shows many points of view and how Liesel and the people around her deal with the war, along with, as the title suggests, quite a bit of thievery on Liesel’s part.



This book manages to be hopeful, even funny in some places, and still tragically realistic to the time period and the place. I personally love how each book Liesel steals is representative of a different point in her life, or in the war. It gives them a sort of sentimental value in both the reader’s and the character’s eyes. The book is also notably written by death, and I find that despite this it manages to keep a peaceful tone throughout the whole story.

I’d definitely recommend this book, it’s a long read but absolutely worth it, portraying very well both the happy and sad events of the characters’ lives. It’s very good with its imagery and makes you feel very immersed.



Where the Light Goes – by Sara Barnard

By Emma George

As much as I love working in the library, it does make choosing my next read quite tricky when there are so many good books to choose from.

Titles on my recommended list for this year include:

- ♦ *One of Us is Back* by Karen M McManus
- ♦ *When the Sky Falls* by Phil Earle
- ♦ *Crossing the Line* by Tia Fisher
- ♦ *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

A book that really impacted me was *Where the Light Goes* by Sara Barnard, which is a book that tackles the difficult subject of grief. The book follows Emmy who loses her older sister Beth when she takes her own life. Except Beth is known to the world as Lizzie Beck and is a world-famous singer.

Emmy struggles with the over-whelming media attention, her anger with the way she felt Beth was treated and her struggle to find her place in the world without her sister and her best-friend.

The book is filled with empathy and hope. I thought it did a great job of exploring what an emotional roller-coaster it can be when you lose someone close to you and the difficulty of coming to terms with loss.

Sara Barnard has written a number of novels tackling various mental-health issues and I look forward to seeing what else she has to offer readers.



BOOK CLUB

**MONDAY
LUNCH BREAK IN THE
LIBRARY**

**YEARS
7 & 8**



INCREDIBLE ENGINEERING

By Bertie Pattison

THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

WHAT IS THIS?

The Golden Gate Bridge is a suspension bridge spanning a whopping 2740 meters and links California to San Francisco. A suspension bridge is different to other bridges because they are usually above ground and have cables to support them.

Modern suspension bridges are lighter and aesthetically pleasing to the eye. James Finley was the first engineer to make a suspension bridge and is widely recognized throughout Europe and the world for that matter.



WHY IS IT SO IMPRESSIVE?

The Golden Gate Bridge took a whopping 4 years to be built before they finally opened it to pedestrians in 1937. The bridge construction took the lives of 11 men before finally being opened. The cost of this bridge was over \$35million that's almost \$1.2billion in today's money.

To cross the Golden Gate Bridge it will cost you just \$7.50 and although that may not seem like much the amount of cars that cross that bridge on an average is 100,000 so that's over \$750,000 on a daily basis so in a year that's \$27,375,000 in a year!!!!!!!



01460 270123



@wadhamschool



office@wadhamschool.co.uk



...to everyone who has helped put this edition of *The Quill* together.

MJ Jones - Lily Joy Jeffery - Emma George - Bertie Pattison - Josie Bulmer - Luke Pearce - Edward Oleen - Beth Church - Izaak Gregory - Patrick Cummins - Yevhen Ivasiuk - Vivian Dawkins - Jessie Vowles - Jessica Henley - Lucy Wood - Edie Pattison - Alfie Burkhardt

***The Quill* is a magazine for Wadham students and is open to anyone. We want writers, artists, reporters, photographers, reviewers, critics, etc from all across the school.**

If you'd like to get involved in our next edition please speak to Mr Hopwood via teams or in B23 at break & lunch or via email on Phopwood@wadhamschool.co.uk

