

A WADHAM SCHOOL STUDENT PUBLICATION

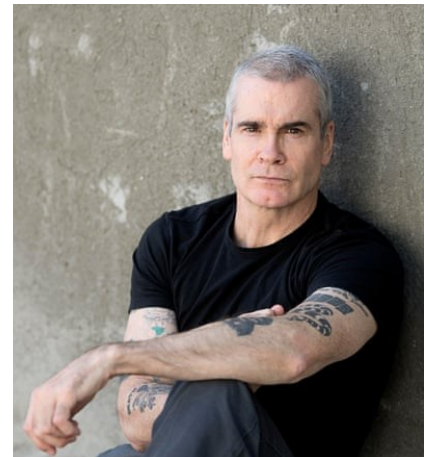
THE QUILL



FRYING HIGH!



A GLOBAL RENAISSANCE MAN
Inspiring individual and Jack of all trades Henry Rollins



TRUMP 2.0
Is there trouble ahead for the Second Trump Presidency?



NATIONAL TREASURE!
In conversation with genius wordsmith and font of all knowledge, Stephen Fry



A FAMILY AFFAIR
Family band *The Entitled Sons* rock out at Wadham



Plus Reviews, Previews and Opinions



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

Welcome to edition 17 of *The Quill*, the first publication of the 2025 season. This magazine remains something I'm immensely proud of as it continues to show the creative talents of the students we have here.

In the time since edition 16, our band of student journalists, writers and artists have been hard at work putting together the content you have in front of you.

In this, our 17th edition you'll find...

- ♦ Interviews with star of stage, screen and the written word Stephen Fry and modern renaissance man and global traveler Henry Rollins
- ♦ Visits to Bristol Aerospace and beyond
- ♦ An in-school performance by *The Entitled Sons*
- ♦ As well as the usual stories and articles on what's interested the great and good at Wadham.

Happy reading!
Peter Hopwood ~ Editor

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The Entitled Sons play Wadham

by Luke Pearce

On Wednesday the 22nd of January a band called

the Entitled sons came to Wadham to play songs and talk about mental health and cyberbullying. Every year came to watch them at separate times, and they did not disappoint.

Year 10 saw them period 1, year 9 period 2, year 8 period 3 , year 11 and 13 period 4 and year 7 period 5. They performed some covers and original songs which were great to listen to. After that they told us how our hobbies could become careers if we try our hardest.

They then spoke about mental health and cyberbullying and how bad it and how it affects others. Once they finished speaking about that they played more songs. They then told us how we can listen to some of their songs on Spotify and their other socials such as Tik Tok and Instagram.

They also gave out autographs after the performance and gave out prints where we can book tickets for their latest performance which is happening during the half term.

Overall it was a great experience, I enjoyed it and I'm sure others did too.



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SOME
NOISE!



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INTERVIEW

NATIONAL TREASURE!

IN CONVERSATION

WITH GENIUS

WORDSMITH AND

FONT OF ALL

KNOWLEDGE,

STEPHEN FRY

Foreword and interview by Edie Pattison

Stephen Fry is an incredibly well known British actor who has starred in a wide range of films and TV shows, from *The Hobbit* - to *Jeeves and Wooster*. Mr Fry has also read audio books, such as *Harry Potter*. In this interview, he answers questions about his personal life, career and challenges he's faced along the way.



1. What does your daily routine look like?

Not very regular. If filming it's dictated by the schedule,, the infamous Call Sheet that tells you what time the car comes to pick you up. Often 5.30 or something similar.

But I get up very early anyway. Do **WORDL**, **CONNECTIONS** and **STRANDS** from the New York Times and **KEYWORD** from the Washington Post, making very sure to avoid news headlines. Can't take the state of the world first thing. Or last thing. Or any time in between.

2. What were you like at school?

Dreadful. I should have been diagnosed with ADHD or something I suppose because I couldn't concentrate or focus academically, hated Games as any sporting activity was called and just couldn't feel that I belonged or connected with anyone or anything.

3. What has been your most memorable acting job?

Hm. One remembers most the earliest professional ones because everything is so new. But probably played Oscar Wilde for the film *Wilde* was the most absorbing, nerve-racking and exciting gig of all. Though playing Malvolio in the Shakespeare's Globe, the West End and Broadway - that production of *Twelfth Night* was something too.





4. *Jeeves and Wooster* is an iconic British sitcom, what was it like to play a role from the 1920's?

It's quite refreshing in a way to play a role and in a period in which there were so many codes and restrictions. Playing in the modern era where all kinds of behaviour and therefore choices are possible is like playing tennis without a net.

But to be in the codified world of master-servant and that decade ... well the limitation of choice is a kind of blessing in some ways. Plus the sheer joy of the cars, the furniture, the frocks and props... silver cocktail shakers and cigarette cases, country houses and glamorous locations... who couldn't love that?

5. Both of my parents love *Blackadder*, did you enjoy working in so many different historical eras?

Oh indeed. Again because comedy so thrives on one thing in particular, British comedy certainly - and that is hierarchy. *Blackadder* really could get his head chopped off by Queenie, or be sent fatally to the front by Melchett.

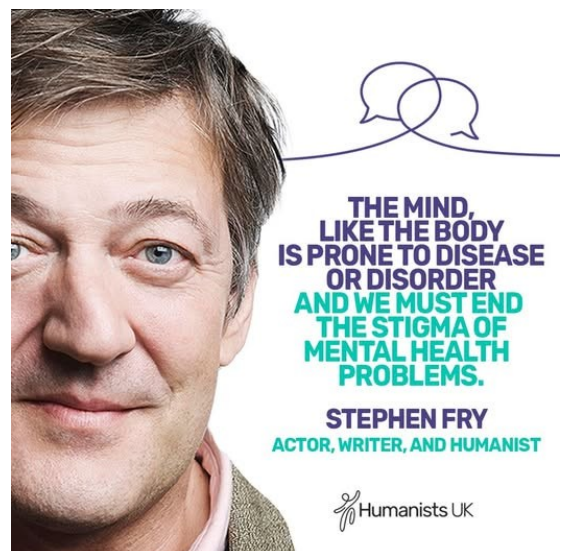
And there is the eternal schoolboy joy of *Blackadder* cheeking and deceiving authority figures like Prince George, Darling and Melchie...



6. You are a campaigner for mental health, having been diagnosed with bipolar, how would you advise people who are struggling with their mental health?

It would take longer than would be appropriate here to give a full response, but at the heart of it is that if it is serious. If it is causing changes in your behaviour like addiction, self-harm and serious mental unwellness then medical professionals are essential.

Go to your doctor first and make it clear how serious the condition is. They should, they must, take it from there. Be prepared for a potentially long journey of testing and trying out different approaches and treatments to help. If it is manageable but starting to make your life difficult, go to mind.org.uk and follow guides to information and support in your area and online.



7. You played the master of lake-town in *The Hobbit*, what was it like to play such a greedy character (and then get crushed by a dragon!)?

Fun! A slow business out there in New Zealand with three huge films all being made at once. But lovely people, lovely locations and sets, and a great sense of comradeship and purpose.



8. You read the audiobooks of Harry Potter, how did you come up with all the different voices for the characters?

Well, that's just something you try out and hope works! I've always enjoyed voice characterisation, from schooldays and impersonating teachers and so on.

When I did the first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, I had no idea there'd be 6 more (each longer than the other!) and that they would become a world famous phenomenon.

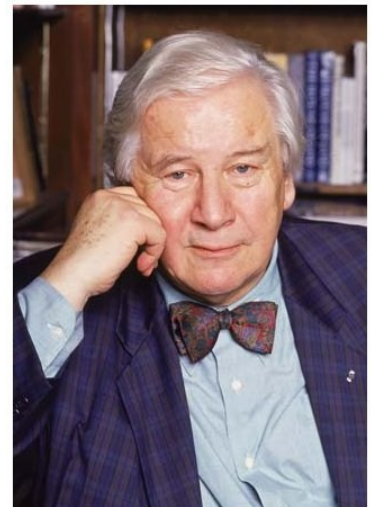
9. When did you first become interested in acting?

From the first pantomime I was taken to all I could think of was how much fun it looked to be on the other side of the footlights and be the centre of attention and applause.

Any actor who tells you they have different motives is surely lying...

10. Did you have a role model or inspirational figure as you developed your career?

Figures like Alan Bennett and Peter Ustinov, who combined entertaining personalities and careers as performers and writers always struck me as demonstrating the perfect kind of life in film, TV, theatre and books.



11. You have worked with a lot of very famous actors and actresses, if you had to choose one that you had to work with on every job you did, who would it be?

Well m'colleague Hugh Laurie of course!



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

It sounds a bit worthy and pompous but the professionalism. The grind of repetition, concentration, technical discipline. The emotional, fun, glamorous elements really do lose their lustre pretty quickly. Unless you can enjoy the technical and professional side, you will find acting a very hard life, even if you're lucky to work a lot. Writing too is - as Edison said of his work - 3% inspiration 97% perspiration.

13. What do you do to relax?

Listen to music. Go for a walk. I know - dull. You wanted me to say shoot up or smoke opium at an orgy. Sadly not.

14. What is your favourite type of music? Why?

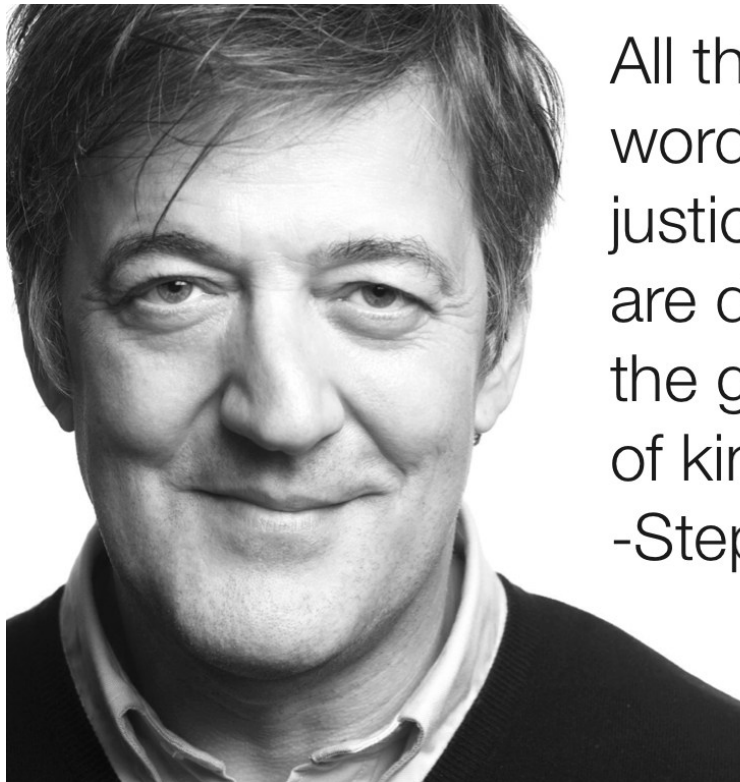
Classical. The depth. The emotion. The joy. The brilliance.

15. My family are going to watch *Oliver* (the musical) in March, what is your favourite musical? Why

Like *Oliver!* very much, but perhaps *Guys and Dolls* - the wit in the lyrics and the exquisite characterisation. Isn't as crassly sentimental as so many. Adore *Cabaret* too .. music and lyrics perfect, characterisation also superb.

16. What four words describe 'Stephen Fry'?

Tall, talkative, teasey and terrible.



All the big words: virtue, justice, truth, are dwarfed by the greatness of kindness.
-Stephen Fry



Up, Up and Away!

MY EXPERIENCE OF FLYING

by Nye Edgar

On Saturday, the 25 of January I went to Dunkeswell aerodrome in Devon which was an old airbase for the D-day landings in WW2. When I got there, I talked to my flight instructor Dave and he told me about the plane I would be flying, a Cessna 152, a two-seater aircraft made in 1979.



Once he told me all about the plane, we headed out onto the runway where the magnificent aircraft was waiting for me. When we got on the plane Dave handed me a safety checklist on things to ask him before we could take off. Once the Engine started, we had to put on a headset so we could speak to each other an air traffic control.



We taxied on to the runway and set off, and Dave had to do the take off and landings but once he had taken off it was my turn. The route that we would be taking was to Ilminster, then to Chard, then back again because I only had half an hour to fly but the time flew by. We were going about 125 mph, so much faster than driving and because of how high up we were (2300 feet) everything seemed a lot smaller, like when we went over Chard reservoir it seemed so much smaller you could even see the ocean from where we were. Once we had turned around, we started to head back.



It takes about 15 minutes to get back, so I got to enjoy the view some more. I had to follow another plane that was also landing to line up the plane with the runway then I handed the controls to Dave again so he could land.

In conclusion I would highly recommend going to Dunkeswell aerodrome if you enjoy aeronautics or planes in general.



This is me in the plane while it is landing

*Time to
think about...*



Trump 2.0, how the new Trump administration is more dangerous than any of one can know about or even fear.

By MJ Jones

"Today is the day America died and January 20th will be its funeral." - An extract from my private diary the day Trump was elected as the 47th US President.

After squeezing a few more votes than his opponent and a near landslide in the Electoral College, Donald Trump was crowned President-Elect in November defeating the then Vice-President and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris. On Monday 20th January 2025, Trump was inaugurated into office becoming the first President to enter as a convicted felon on 34 counts, be declared bankrupt 6 times and have been impeached twice.

So far he has threatened the sovereignty of Panama, Greenland and Canada, establishing that there are "only" two genders, trying to deport Native American's and making a top priority of his Government to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. This may seem surprising to many people but to those who follow US politics this should come as no surprise for those who know and worry about Project 2025.

I watched the inauguration, between all of my tears and personal standing ovation for Biden and Harris, Then Senator Vance took the oath of Vice-President and then Former President Trump took his oath as President. The last hope I had of a possible recount of the 3.5 million votes that were not counted deliberately because Trump deemed so, was gone. During his inguinal address he mentioned several policies such as ending "transgenderism", saying "Drill baby drill" in reference to fracking (a dangerous continuant of climate change) and other crazy stuff that would make even the most pain tolerant person die in shame and 'brodem'.

Trump has signed a plethora of Executive orders, from banning transgender citizens being banned from serving in the armed forces, ICE (Immigration centre enforcement), trying to Abolish 14th amendment to stop birth right citizenship, pulling out of the Paris Climate Change Accord, Pulling out of the WHO (World Health Organisation), renaming the of Mexico to the Gulf of Mexico, denying Transgender people to transition and not allowing them to have their preferred sex on passports and drivers licences and some times not even getting essential Government documents.

As President, Trumps word is seen as valuable in the eyes of many, so it's maddening that in

our real life world is a fake made Billionaire suggesting that the US should or rather will annex Canada, this is as persuasive as it dangerous. He is in addition suggesting that he will annex Greenland for mining and 'defence' purposes as well as take back the Panama Canal located in Panama, South America - ignoring the fact that former President Jimmy Carter gave Panama full sovereignty over this in the late 1970s.

Onto *Project 2025, Trumps manifesto and real life plan of the Death Star*. This is a book published by the Hertitage foundation, a non-profit NGO that derives its ethos on racism and homophobia. It was key to Trumps election platform in 2024 and in it suggests the following:

- ◆ 'All public school children have to take a military entrance exam, while private school children do not.'
- ◆ 'End woke Transgenderism by telling children it's not okay to identify as LGBT'
- ◆ 'The climate hoax industry stealing tax payers money.'
- ◆ 'The Department of Education should be dismantled so that parents can make the right decisions over their children'
- ◆ 'Banning pornograthy nation wide as it gose against Christian values'

These and several others are real quotes from the manifesto. Another one is a nation wide ban on abortion with no exceptions; meaning a 13 year old girl who is the victim of incest and rape would not be allowed to terminate her pregnancy. These polices are an arrange of views from Classism, racism, sexism, homophobia to the idea of possible child slavery.

Trumps new cabinet is some how more deranged and extreme and additionally loyal to Trump and MAGA than the GOP or even the USA itself. Some new members of the Cabinet include:

Robert Kennedy JR, Former President JFK's nephew, who is an environmental lawyer, had a dead worm eat part of his brain in 2009, killed multiple animals and drove around with them in New York City, says Polio is a myth, an outspoken anti vaccer and is the new Secretary of Health and Human services.

Pete Hegseth, a two time divorcee, has been arrest and charged and served time in prison for abuse of woman, his mother said that he was a 'disgrace' and she wanted 'nothing to do with him', said LGBT people and woman are 'invalids' and incapable of serving in the US military and is now the Secretary of Defence.

Tulsi Gabbard, former one term member of the US House, said Homosexuality was curable, said that Vladimir Putin was one of the US's greatest allies and is now the Director of National Intelligence.

In conclusion, what ever way you look at Trump from National to International policy to future Trade Wars and real combat wars, the future with Trump is uncertain, scary and terrifying and no matter what the World and its map will most likely look different on January 20th 2029. We have two options; to continue in this path of hate disunited or unify for Hope and Change. One way we fail the other we win. Which would you rather choose?



Wadham School on the move!

Year 8 Maths Trip

By **Bethany Williams**

On the 30th of January year 8 was invited to Aerospace Bristol for a chance to look at many different models of planes, it was a great experience, and has lots of information you could use for research!

Some people chose to go on a flight simulator which was a cool ride where you could experience what it is like to fly a plane.

There were lots of activities to do including, ride to mars where you created a connect base for a robotic ball you controlled on an iPad. You had to plan out there design and how they were going to make it and how they could attach a magnet on it.



**AEROSPACE
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By Phoebe Curtis

On January 30th, year 8 went on a maths trip to Aerospace Bristol. It's a fascinating museum located in Filton, Bristol. It offers a journey through the history of aviation and aerospace, from the early ages of aviation to modern flight today. This museum educates and inspires many people of all ages.

Early Beginnings

The story of Aerospace Bristol begins in the early 20th century. Filton has been at the heart of the UK's Aerospace industry since 1910 when the BAC (Bristol Aeroplane Company) was established. The museum shows the significant contributions made by this company (and others

in the region) highlighting the development of early aircraft and the evolution of aviation technology.

One of the key exhibits in this section is the Bristol Boxkite. Visitors can learn about the challenges faced by the early aviators and the remarkable progress made in such a short span of time.

World Wars and Beyond

The museum dives into the crucial role played by the aerospace industry during the World Wars. During WW1, Filton became a hub for aircraft production, supplying the British forces with essential aircraft.

Bristol became famous for aircraft manufacture and testing during WW2. The museum features some absolutely iconic aircraft such as the Bristol Blenheim and the Bristol Beaufighter (see images 1-2). Visitors can also explore the stories of men and women who worked tirelessly to support the war effort, from factory workers to test pilots.

The Jet Age

The museum's exhibits on the Jet Age highlight the development of jet-powered aircraft. The Bristol Britannica (image 3), a turboprop airliner and the Bristol 188 (image 4), an experimental supersonic aircraft, are among the standout exhibits in this section.

I think the highlight of the Jet Age Exhibits is the Concorde Alpha Foxtrot. This iconic supersonic passenger jet, which made its final flight in 2003, is displayed in all its glory. You have an opportunity to take a walk through this majestic aircraft and learn all about the engineering marvel that let it fly at twice the speed of sound.

Conclusion

Aerospace Bristol is not just a museum; it's a journey through the skies of history and a glimpse into aviation future. Aerospace Bristol has something for everyone, old and young, aviation enthusiasts or engineering fanatic.



WADHAM SCHOOL DOES OUTDOOR LEARNING

By Mrs Vowles

This term, the Outdoor Learning group are excited to start digging a nature pond in the Learning Centre garden.

It will be a small pond with native water plants and habitats for insects and small animals. Even a small pond in your garden is brilliant for wildlife!

Our year 9 Outdoor Learning group began digging this week and have made a great start already. Well done guys!

We will keep you updated with our progress and hope to share some photos of tadpoles later on in the spring if all goes well!



History Matters

WHAT EFFECTS HAVE GREEK MYTHOLOGY HAD ON THE MODERN WORLD?

By Lucy Wood

LITERAL:

If we look hard enough, we can see, quite easily, traces of Greek Mythology all over the world. This stretches from brand names, popular TV series, and to more poignant subjects such as the Apollo Missions (a well-known program aptly named by NASA after Apollo, God of the sun-although some could argue that position was taken by Helios-in Greek mythology. This isn't the only time in which NASA has used figures from Greek Mythology to name their missions, and certainly won't be their last. It serves as a reflection of the link between ancient mythology and space, a connection that has been around since near the beginning of recorded history).



Another example would be the shoe brand Nike-so named after Nike, Goddess of victory, strength and speed. The perfect representative for a sporting brand. Even back in Ancient Greece, athletes would have worshipped her regularly to gain favour before tournaments or competitions.

There are many more examples of Greek Mythology influence in the media-such as *Clash of The Titans*, *Immortals*, *Song of Achilles*, *Percy Jackson and The Olympians*, and a lot more. There are even certain scenes and characters hidden within famous media that have connections with the Greek Myths: Morpheus from *The Matrix* was assumedly named after the God of sleep and dreams; Firenze from *Harry Potter* was likely based on Chiron- a centaur trainer of heroes.



Another example could be common allegories- sayings we use in everyday life that may seem mundane but have deep roots from the time of Ancient Greece. Like the concept of a "Trojan Horse"- derived from the Greek story of the Trojan War, and the word "Sisyphean" used to describe an impossible task, taken from the story of Sisyphus, a King who was condemned to roll a boulder up a hill for all eternity due to his hubris.

Historically, the entirety of the Greek pantheon and the stories in connection with them,



inspired the culture of one of the most famous civilisations in ancient history, the Roman Empire. One of the key factors that made Rome so great was the dedication to their Gods, in fact many of their most famous leaders (Nero, Caligula) wanted to be Gods themselves, and believed in this possibility so whole-heartedly it paved the way for their infamously awful rules.

And these Roman Gods were originally Greek themselves, the Goddess Minerva had been Pallas Athena, and Jupiter, king of the Gods, had been Zues. Even their stories were virtually the same. A great example of this would be Virgil's Aeneid, a Roman Epic that takes place during and after Homer's Odyssey, detailing the journey of Aeneas, a man considered the father of the Roman Empire. Greek characters that were heroes within The Iliad were twisted into subtly different versions of themselves, villainised and made evil (e.g. Orestes, Neoptolemus (Pyrrhus), Odysseus (Ulysses), Achilles). It doesn't change the fact that the religion of the Roman Empire (before its conversion to Christianity around 323AD) was majorly based off Greek Mythology.

LITERATURE:

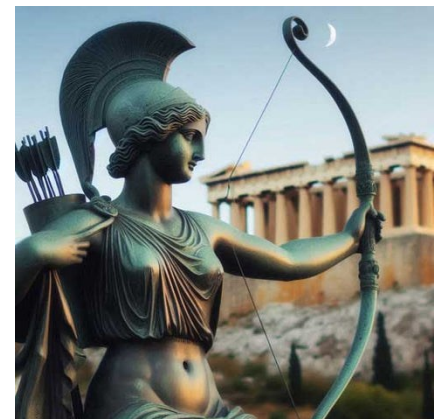
Greek Mythology has served as a starting point for many great works, and that goes for a range of subjects-art, maths, science-but most noticeably, literature. Greek mythology itself is rich with stories, complex tales all with varying morals, meanings, and lessons. There are those that stem directly from Ancient Greek mythology, such as the creation story- the fall of the titans and the rise of the Gods-and those written by famous storytellers, such as Homer's Odyssey. Many of these chronicles have indirectly, or directly, influenced literature in the modern world. This includes common character tropes, storylines, and plot points. Even basic character concepts (monsters, antagonists, protagonists, sidekicks, heroes) may have largely been influenced by Greek epics.



A good example would be the well-known character trope, the damsel in distress-a slightly outdated concept that was, until recently, a popular addition to novels. And Ancient Greek stories were brimming with women portrayed like this, Helen of Troy, Andromeda, Ariadne, Persephone, Pandora, Eurydice. The characters of Helen and Andromeda- both of whom had to be rescued by their significant other from a danger that could have been otherwise avoidable and was usually someone else's fault-are prime examples of this.

However, hand in hand with this trope is a long list of strong women originating from Greek Mythology. Athena, Artemis, Hippolyta, Atalanta, Phaedra, Medea - all of these were strong and very capable women, and unexpected additions to such ancient stories.

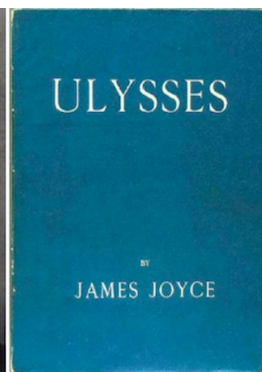
Another example would be the hero's journey, a broad story trope that focuses on a hero's quest, struggle and growth (a trope that could be watered down into a simple set of events in



which a hero finds themselves in a fantastical region far from their mundane world, encounters many an outlandish force, and eventually returns home), and was a very common feature in stories from Ancient Greece. Some of the most famous myths originating from Greek Mythology follow this structure- journeys of heroes like Odysseus, Perseus, Heracles, Theseus.



Much of the fantasy genre has origins from Greek Mythology (and not just Greek Mythology, Tolkien's Middle Earth is a great example of a world that was derived largely from Norse Mythology), the concept of monsters, Gods, and heroes.



And it isn't just the fantasy genre-there is a huge variety of genres that have been inspired by Greek Mythology. This extends from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* (an adaption perhaps of the Ancient Greek characters Pyramus and Thisbe), James Joyce's *Ulysses* (a modern novel that shares certain similarities between Homer's *Odyssey*, while also serving its purpose as a separate work), to modern

adaptions of well-known Greek tales (*Circe*, *The Boy Lost in The Maze*, *Stone Blind*, etc.).

CONCLUSION:

Overall, Greek Mythology at its finest is a perfect representation of the nature of humanity. It is the result of inquisitive humans trying to reason out their existence, of people asking questions and answering them to the best of their abilities. It makes perfect sense as to why these myths have stuck around for as long as they have.

These stories are endlessly entertaining, the remnants of once great empires- the bad, the good, the plainly ridiculous. They explain the universe in a language they at that time understood; human emotion and artful story telling.



History Matters

What was the Auschwitz concentration camp?

By Thomas Gibson

The Auschwitz concentration camp was one of the many German death camps. It was part of the “final solution”. This was the German plan to “fix the Jewish problem”. This was part of the Germans racial and ethical ideas about the German country, the Jews and anyone different.

The 'Final Solution' caused millions of innocent men, women and children to die during the Nazi regime. The main group of people to die were Jews but it also included, mentally ill, disabled, physically ill and political, religious and social opponents.

Construction of Auschwitz began the following month after it was taken over by Germany. The construction of the first part lasted from 1941-1942. The second started in 1942 and finished in 1943. The final construction was finished in 1944.

From 1942 until late 1944 freight trains delivered Jews from all over Germany to its gas chambers. Of the 1.3 million people were sent to Auschwitz, 1.1 million were murdered. The number of victims of the final solution included 960,000 Jews, and 865,000 of whom were gassed on arrival.

There were also at least 74,000 thousand non-Jewish, 15,000 soviet prisoners of war, and up to 36,000 others. Those who not gassed were murdered via starvation, exhaustion, disease, individual executions, or beatings. Others were killed during medical experiments.

The Germans had been able to build a total of around 300 housing buildings, administrative, and infrastructure barracks and buildings. It had also created around 13 km of drainage ditches, approximately 16 km of barbed-wire fencing, and more than 10 km of roads within



an approximate area of about 140 hectares.

Two provisional gas chambers, which are known as bunkers, went into operation next to the Birkenau construction site in 1942, when Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Höss was entrusted with carrying out part of the final solution. They had adapted farmhouses that previously belonged to expelled Poles. The first bunkers began operating in early 1942, probably in March, and the second in mid-year.

The Germans construction of a complex of four gigantic gas chambers and crematories began in mid-1942. The Germans had estimated that around 1.6 million people a year could be killed and burned.

The red army (Russian army) liberated the camp on the 27 January, 1945. A total of 231 red army soldiers died freeing Auschwitz from the German occupation. The red army was use to seeing death and destruction due to the war but this was on a completely different scale to what they were used to.



They found about 7,000 prisoners who had been left behind. Most of whom were seriously ill due to the effects of their imprisonment. The majority of those left behind were middle-aged adults or children younger than 15. The Red Army soldiers also found 600 corpses, 370,000 men's suits, 837,000 articles of women's clothing, and 7.7 tons of human hair.

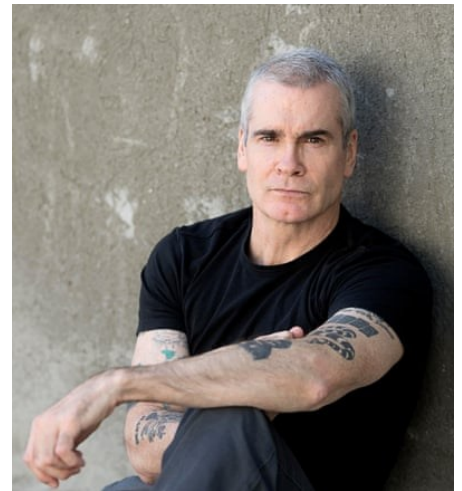


INTERVIEW

**A GLOBAL
RENAISSANCE MAN -
INSPIRING INDIVIDUAL
AND JACK OF ALL
TRADES HENRY
ROLLINS**

Foreword and interview by Josie Bulmer

Henry Rollins is an actor, writer, singer, spoken word artist, and comedian, and already just from that it's very obvious he's never stuck to one thing in his career. With all the different things he's taken up, it was very interesting to be able to catch up with him and talk about his many occupations and how he's balanced it.



1. What does your daily routine look like?

I try to get up as early as I can. Optimum I'm awake and functioning at 0400 hrs. but I rarely hit it. It's usually more like 0600 hrs. I have a list of things I try to get done every day. Currently, it's proofreading a few different manuscripts, scanning flyers and photographs and working on new writing projects. I'll do that for a few hours and then head out to the gym. After that, I go back to work until the evening. I try for 12 to 14 hours. After that, I try to listen to some records, eat, try to read and then get the lights out as early as I can. It's not very exciting but I'm a workaholic and this is what interests me. Also in the workday, intermittently I'm doing research. Looking for things on the internet and cross-referencing information to try and get things right.

When I'm off the road, not on tour, my days are fairly anonymous. I don't really know holidays, especially American ones because they're just consumer opportunities. I work pretty much through the weekend although I do slow down a bit and try to put more music listening in.

2. What were you like at school?

First through third grade I was scared a lot of the time. It was the 1960s and things were racially tense in Washington DC where I was born. I went to a public school where I was one of the only white kids. I got pushed around a lot, hit, my lunch got taken, it was a really bad time. Somehow, I managed to get myself thrown out of the DC public school system. Next stop was two years at a Quaker school out in the suburbs. I failed out of that place cause I wasn't smart enough to keep up. Finally, my parents found a place, an all boys school were in the advertising, they said if your son was a disciplinary problem, this place would straighten them out. From 6th to 12th grade I went to an all boys prep school. I wore a



uniform, was called by my last name by the instructors, which was the school's term for teachers and learned to keep my mouth shut and my head down. Meanwhile, I was being given large doses of Ritalin in an attempt to neutralize my hyperactivity. One of the side effects of this drug is it can suppress your appetite, so for many years I didn't eat much. My grades were very bad except for English class. It was a fairly miserable time. My classmates were okay. There weren't any school bullies to be afraid of. I think we were all just trying to get through like I was. My classmates were for the most part suburban kids and I was from the city so our realities were quite different. In school, I was a poor student, not very able to make friends and probably too weird for the place. I think a lot of my classmates ended up being bankers and realtors.

Upon graduation in 1979 I went right into the minimum wage working world full-time, figuring the rest of my life would be spent on my feet doing dull, repetitive motions, living in small apartments and eating bad food. By July 1981 I was in a band called Black Flag and living in Los Angeles. I never saw that coming.



3. What were your favourite subject at school and why?

I was a very bad student. Pretty much at the bottom of my class until graduation. Being hyperactive, I found it very hard to concentrate, even if I found the subject interesting, which I rarely did. My mother taught me how to read before I was in school so I did pretty well in English class. When the instructor would assign us books to read over the summer, most of the time I'd already read them. I'm not trying to say I was smart or gifted, but if the assignment is to sit in your room and read a book, that's what I was doing already.

On summer vacation, I'd read often four hours a day. I often had a 100+ average in English class because I got all the extra credit questions correct. I always liked a good book and always admired those who could put it across on the page. It seemed far more difficult than athletic prowess, which I know nothing about but I think it might be easier to be a good basketball player than to write like Kafka, Camus or Dostoyevsky.

4. Did you have a role model or inspirational figure as you developed your career?

My role model is probably my best friend, Ian MacKaye. You might know him from the bands Minor Threat and Fugazi. He also owns and operates the Dischord record label. We've been best friends for over 50 years. I think it's my single best achievement. I've been learning from him since we were about 13. It's too bad for me that more of it hasn't stuck. He is smart, honest, patient and extremely practical. He does the right thing. I sometimes do the right thing but usually after doing all the wrong things first. We're very different but I've always admired his great qualities and have tried to adopt them. I'm still learning from him to this day and still wishing more of it would stick.



As far as a performer who has always inspired me, that would be Iggy Pop. As far as hard rock music goes, I don't think anyone went as hard as that guy. I can't think of anyone who came close. In my opinion, he is the best.



5. What has inspired you to get into as many forms of media as you have?

I come from the minimum wage working world of the late 1970s-early 1980s. I'm a mere high school graduate. I don't have an artistic bone in my body, nor am I all that creative. I see all these different forms of media as employment opportunities and consider myself a crass opportunist. I do consider them artistic endeavors but I approach them in a respectful but workman-like manner. This is why I've never felt or hopefully ever acted "famous" and never thought I was better than anyone else. If anything, I'm just a street guy who has been sneaking in to all of these jobs, hoping not to get busted. I find all of them interesting and like I said I come from 3.75 USD an hour, so there's really nothing holding me back from saying yes to being in a film or on the radio or wherever else I've ended up over the decades. I'm just going for it. What do I have to lose? The answer is nothing. I know where I come from so I know what I could go back to.

6. How did you first get into music?

As a subadult, I lived primarily with my mother in microscopic apartments in Washington DC. Iris was a voracious reader and listener of music. There was a really good book and record store across the street from one of the apartments we lived in and we'd be in there one to three nights a week. So basically, I was raised on pretty much whatever Iris was listening to, which, thankfully, at least in my retrospective opinion was pitch perfect: Coltrane, Miles Davis, Bartok, Stravinsky, Beethoven, Wagner, Chopin, Strauss, Carole King, Miriam Makeba, Dionne Warwick, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Glenn Campbell, The Fifth Dimension, Barbra Streisand, Jimi Hendrix, The Doors, as well as the soundtracks of a lot of musicals, including Jesus Christ, Superstar, Hair, Porgy And Bess and Hello Dolly. I can't say that I have all of these records now, but I do have a fair number of them, especially Coltrane, Miles, Bartok and Stravinsky.

I had a small record player in my room and I had a few records for kids with songs you could sing along to, but I mainly listen to Beatles records. Iris would give me and records of hers I found interesting. If I ever asked her about one of her records, she would just give it to me and buy another copy for her herself, knowing my record player would pretty much destroy any LP within a few plays.

As a little kid, I remember at one point my two favorite records were the *Hair* soundtrack and the *Hot Buttered Soul* album by Isaac Hayes. So, it was my mother who got me into music, but what kept me listening to music was the fact that I could do it by myself. I did not make friends easily and was usually picked on in school or at the playground, so I learned to live alone in my room and have music be my friend. Records are great. They never tease you, they never try to steal your lunch and if you take good care of them, they'll take good care of you.

7. What was it like working in the music industry?

Being on a major label was almost like being across a battleline as a spy, working with the enemy and not giving away your identity. To maintain your integrity and sneak the art through the twists and



turns of the major label machine was almost an act of subversion. I did about 10 years on major labels. There were some good parts but there was a lot of frustration. My experience in the independent version of the music industry was much better. It was truer and it seemed that at least what my bandmates and I wanted to do was more in line with what the labels wanted to do. All in all it took a lot of time, attention and calories. It's a lot of quickly made alliances, not always realistic but necessary. For the most part, I kept my distance from the mechanics of the labels and let management deal with them on the business end of things. It sounds a little stupid, but that's why it's not the worst idea to have a manager as a buffer between the artist in the label.

8. How had it compared to other industries you've worked in, such as the film and TV industry?

I didn't work in any industry nearly as long or as in depth as I did with music. Film and television by comparison, for me at least was a far more businesslike and superficial endeavor. There's some art involved but the money aspect shines very brightly and conversations about money intermingle quite comfortably with the concept of what you might be doing artistically in a film or television production.

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

I don't think I'd be able to accurately pinpoint what any single person or people at large would get wrong or misunderstand about anything I do. I simply can't read anyone's mind but hopefully this might answer your question. I've published a lot of books of my writing. I own the publishing company so it's not as if I get a rejection slip stapled to a manuscript I submit to a publisher. Whatever idea I get in my head to make into a book, I just do it. That being said, to develop a manuscript takes years. To proofread and edit the work takes years and literally hundreds of hours spent sitting still and looking at each word carefully. There are a lot of setbacks and a lot of days that are infuriatingly unproductive with several hours expended with little or nothing to show for it.

My weekly radio show, which I get paid 22 USD to make, takes between 4 to 6 hours a week. Finding new music to keep things interesting is time consuming and costly. Luckily, I'm always interested in finding new music anyway and buy records all the time, radio show or not. When I'm on tour, I try to have no nights off. Out of a 30 day month, I often do 28 to 30 shows. I do this with six workouts a week and one and a half meals a day. I'm on stage for about 2 ½ hours and often there's a post show event which is another hour. By the time I'm really done for the night, I'm exhausted and starving. By the 12th or 13th week of a tour I'm often too tired to eat after a show.

The point I'm making is what people might not know about what I do is it takes a lot of work, dedication, discipline, stamina, focus and application. I am at best a mediocre talent and not all that intelligent so quite often I have to put in more effort than you might think. I live alone. For the most part I work alone. I don't hang out, I don't look for friendship, people don't come to my house except on very rare occasions and usually it's work related. I go to the gym 5 to 6 days a week, work between 10 to 14 hours a day, and besides that I go to the grocery store and I go to pick up the mail.

What people might not know or understand is that I am completely dedicated to the work I'm trying to do. I don't think there's any other way to go about it. I'm sure some people would



think this is a bit extreme and it probably is but this is how I get it done.

10. What has been the proudest achievements of your career so far? Why? What is it you've valued most in everything you've done?

I will do my best to answer your questions. They're good ones and I'm not trying to be difficult. I try to keep myself distant from the idea of pride. I know what you mean and it's cool but I've always thought that pride dulls the senses. I can understand a performer, being proud of what they do and by being this way, they would never "phone in" a performance.

Instead of pride, I would rather have intense respect for the craft, for the duty of performance and always accept the level of effort required to try and make it great. Instead of pride, I'd rather be grateful. I'm grateful that the work I do still means so much to me. I'm grateful for the audience who comes to my shows, who checks out my books and listens to my radio show. Pretty much everything I do is geared towards them. It's not about getting rich or being famous. It's about trying to do something beyond yourself and doing your best to not let the audience down. I am grateful that I'm in my mid 60s and I'm still able to work in this way. Perhaps that can be called in achievement, but I'm still at it.

The thing I've valued the most the entire time, more as I get older is the audience. Some artist types say they make music or whatever they do for themselves. I think that's fine. All the things I do, I do with an audience in mind. Again, it's not about selling a lot of copies of anything. Believe it or not, money is never in my thoughts with anything I put out. It never has been. It was never part of any band I was in. We all wanted to pay our rent and eat, of course, but it's not like we got together in a room and wrote songs thinking we were going to make money. You might be surprised how little artist types think about money. I think for the most part they just want to do good work and have someone like it.

Gratitude is like a self-charging battery. The more things you can find to be grateful for, the better your life will be. That's my opinion at least. I'd rather be grateful than happy. I'd rather be grateful than rich.

11. Are there any specific experiences that have stuck with you in your life? Why and how have they affected you?

Perhaps the most life-changing experience for me besides being able to join the band Black Flag in 1981 was in December of 1991. I was involved in a robbery. One of the robbers shot at my friend and I on the front porch of a house I was renting. One bullet went right next to my left shoulder into a door frame. Another bullet went over my right shoulder and was found in the kitchen by detectives. The other two bullets went into my friend and killed him few feet from me. He was my roommate.

The next morning after the cops let me go, I had to get back to the house and clean his brains off the lawn before his parents came by to fight over his belongings. I think this experience changed me. I think from that point to now it's been the most determinant factor of how I regard humans and how I conduct myself when amongst them. I think the experience stripped me of my sense of fear. A lack of fear should not be confused with being brave. I think brave people utilize their fear to stay alive in bad situations. The effect on me has been somewhat like a shot of novocaine.

Before Covid, I travelled all over the world when I had time, mostly by myself. Iran, Syria,



North Korea, Pakistan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Siberia, all over the African continent and with the US, Afghanistan and Iraq. I'd always tell the people at my office that I'd see them later or maybe I wouldn't. They really didn't like hearing that but I figured that's what it would be. I've been almost 90 countries, a lot of times just with a backpack and a camera. There's been some moments that keep the blood thin for sure. I think it would be irresponsible on my part to recommend this kind of travel to anyone.

12. What do you do to relax?

I like to listen to records or read or think of things that make me happy. These are things I do by myself. Being around people, while I don't dislike it, I do find it complicated, confusing and stressful.

13. You've done a lot of different things along with music, like spoken word, film and writing. Has it ever been hard to balance that with other pursuits or life in general?

No. I just do things. I'm not trying to imply that it's all the same but I approach everything I do in pretty much the same way. It's preparation, dedication, showing up on time, being ready to work long hours and being operational while not getting enough sleep. I live for the work so if I go on tour for two years, it's not like anyone is missing me. Most of my associations are work-related. Most of the people I interact with besides my best friend, I pay either a salary and/or a commission to. I pay in full and I pay on time and so we get along. It doesn't mean I don't like them, I do, but we're working and when the shift is over, they go somewhere and I go somewhere else.

14. How important do you feel things like music and spoken word are to people, and yourself?

I'm not sure I'd go to a venue and sit in a seat and listen to someone speak for an hour, nor would I say that music and speaking are necessarily important in and of themselves but I think it's good for people to hear ideas that might be different than their own and music is the best thing humans ever came up with. I'm a firm believer in the power of music and I think the more time you spend listening to it, the better things will be for you. On that level, I think music is vital. I don't have many friends but I have a lot of records.

15. Has any of your work ever helped you through difficult things?

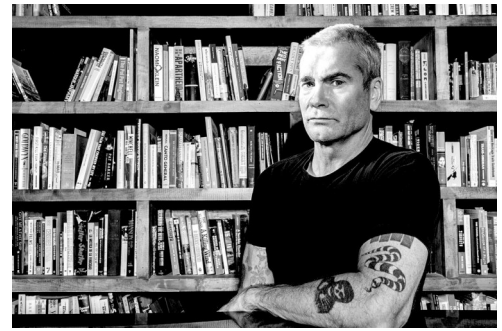
Maybe not the work itself, but the making of it, definitely. Although maybe that might not be entirely accurate. Sometimes I've gone through a tough time but the music we were playing on stage every night helped me push back. Lyrically, that might be why I wrote the songs I did at that particular time. Going out and ripping through them night after night on tour was perhaps therapeutic. On that level, the 1992 tour comes to mind. It was a tough time for me and the music was equal in intensity. Getting to play those songs all over the world that year, I think was helpful.

16. Along with all you've done work wise, you've done a lot of activism for human rights. What has that been like?

To me activism, standing up for civil rights and human rights is an extension of punk rock. What has it been like? Eye-opening, frustrating with a lot of hate mail and death threats. I've



travelled all over the world to learn about how people outside of the west live in order to try to get a better understanding of the human story. Many trips to the African continent have made me understand that activism should be part of any conscientious person's life. The good part is you know you're doing the right thing. The bad parts include realizing the enemy is bigger than you are, far better funded, and will probably win in the end. It's always worth standing up for people who are getting marginalized, but it comes with a lot. Also, I've learned firsthand that quite often when it comes to people it is very, very difficult to be helpful. All human relationships from a marriage to a village to a city to a country to a continent are all incredibly complex. It's very easy to do harm while trying to do good.



17. Do you see things like your music and your writing reflective of what you believe in?

Yes. I don't know how or why it would be otherwise. That's not to say that one doesn't change with time. I've read some of my work from decades earlier and concluded it was perhaps overly judgmental and somewhat intellectually half baked. However, at the time it was where I was at. I'd be willing to bet a lot of people in their lives change with time. However, there's a price to be paid for putting it out there for others to witness. It's evidence that can be used against you in the court of public opinion and it often is, even if it's someone telling you your old material is much better than what you're doing now.

18. Is there anything you've done in your whole career that looking back now you'd do differently?

I can think of at least one thing. Years ago, my band mates and I had in my opinion, reached our potential together. It was time to disband. I could see it. I could hear it in the music we were making. I allowed emotion and record company pressure to keep pushing on even though it probably would've been better for ourselves and the music to have stopped. I think the music we recorded reflects this diminishing returns effort. It can be very hard to separate from something you are so emotionally invested in. Human relationships in music can be very complex and often find their way into volatility. Creativity can be tough.

19. Is there any advice you'd give to anyone trying to find success in any of the things you've worked in?

Before anything, I think you would have to define your version of success. For me it's always been to do something that I wanted to and not compromise. Say it's a record. I'd rather make the record I wanted to make, and have it not sell, than make a record where I listened to all the proverbial cooks in the kitchen, compromised myself to see it sell a lot and make money. I think the artist can have work that doesn't compromise that some people might find worthwhile. I've always believed an audience can tell the real thing from that which is pretending. I have great confidence in that. So, let's say your version of success is to try and do something that doesn't make you cringe when you are done. I would advise that you listen to as little advice as possible. Search for your own voice, your own ideas and apply them with dedication, discipline, tenacity, and great intensity.

Taking ones self seriously is a bit much for me, but taking your work seriously, I think that's



the way to go. To be succinct: to get all you can out of an artistic endeavor you must put in all you can.

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

I'd rather just pick one person and concentrate on what they were saying rather than sit at a table with four other people, not necessarily knowing how they would get along, although that might be amazing. If I could sit and speak to one person, I think it would be Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States. His use of the English language was absolutely without peer. His speeches, which are easy to find online, are incredible. I'd like to tell him what happened to the USA after he was assassinated in 1865. I'm willing to bet none of it would surprise him. It's an interesting concept, the idea of meeting someone who might be dead. You might think they'd have some kind of great wisdom or would at least be fascinating. They might be but on the other hand they might be real jerks.



It might be cool, if you had a translator to hang out with Genghis Khan. He had a lot of children and probably for his own safety, often gave his daughters very important positions. It is speculated that he's responsible for women first being written into history because he made them high-ranking officers of his armies. It's incredible how far into the world his soldiers got.



I think it was in Uzbekistan, I was in a field being careful not to step on bits of broken pottery that the Mongols had smashed when they came through and levelled the place, I guess that would be in the 13th century.

It would be amazing to hang out with Ahmad Shah Massoud. He beat up on the Soviets when they came to Afghanistan. He was known as the Lion of the Panjshir Valley. An absolutely fascinating person. I think there are a lot of people in history that were placed in incredibly difficult situations and there's a lot to learn from them. Everyone gets stuck with the time they're living in. Albert Camus had to deal with World War II. F. Scott Fitzgerald, World War I. I think those who rise to the occasion in their lifetime are potentially captivating and would be interesting to listen to, even the ones you disagree with.



21. What's next for 'Henry Rollins'?

I'm currently working on some large and long range projects. Since they're not finished, I'm loathed to talk about them. I believe that actions are pretty much all you need and the words can come afterwards. These projects are what's next for me but the "next" is in 20 meter high letters. Without a doubt, the biggest things I've ever taken on. Otherwise, I've been doing a lot of writing, proofreading, scanning, and research.

22. What five words describe 'Henry Rollins'?

Resolved. Stubborn. Angry. Determined. Obsessed.



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SPORTS REPORT!



World's Strongest Man

By Ethan Bailey

What is world's Strongest Man

The World's Strongest Man is an international event which is held every year to decide who is the strongest man in the world. This is decided by a series of events which test the athlete's strength in different ways.

For example, the Webster stones and the car walk. However, to qualify for the final you must compete in any of the 4 to 8 qualifying rounds where the top 3 will qualify for the final in May.

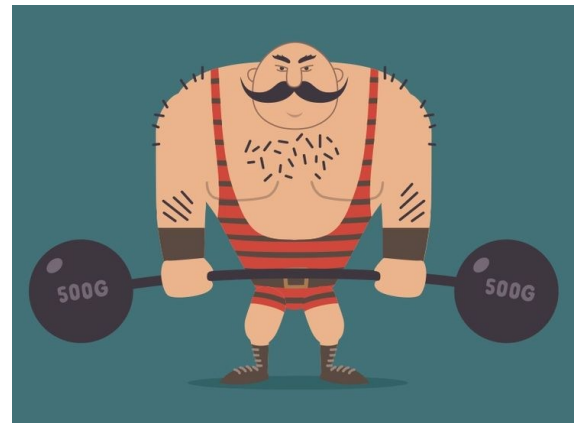
What are the events in World's Strongest Man

In the World's Strongest Man there are many different events each year. For example, the most notorious event is the Atlas Stones. This is when you lift different sized boulders that go up in weight onto a platform. The weight ranges from 100kg to 160kg but the world record was set by Tom Stoltman who lifted a 286kg boulder onto a platform.

The current record for time was first held by Hafþór Júlíus Björnsson [Thor] who lifted 5 stones ranging from 285lb to 410lb in 19.46 seconds. However, this was beaten by Tom Stoltman [The Albatross] who lifted 5 stones ranging from 310lb to 465lb in 19.89.

Another famous event used in the Worlds Strongest Man is the Giant Axle deadlift. This is when athletes perform a deadlift but it's with an axle bar. An axle bar is heavier and wider than a normal deadlift bar. This makes it much harder for the athletes to lift the weight of the floor.

The athletes most also use a monkey grip which means you cannot grip the bar with your thumb. Your thumb must be



over the bar for your deadlift to count. The record for this event goes to Mitchell Hooper [The Moose] who managed to lift 360kg of the ground and for 8 consecutive reps.

My final example of an event used in the Worlds Strongest Man is the Viking Press. This is when athletes raise a special loaded platform fixed on one side for as many reps as they can. The Viking press has led to a lot of controversy in the Worlds Strongest Man World.

In 2020, Hafþór Júlíus Björnsson lost by 1 rep to Eddie Hall [The Beast] on the Viking press which caused a lot of controversy as Hafþór had performed this rep needed but the judges concluded that he had double dipped. [This is when you move your knees twice. You must complete the Viking press in one motion] This therefore led to Eddie Hall becoming the Worlds Strongest Man in 2020 instead of Thor. The record for Viking press is 150kg and was done by the [T-rex] Evan Singleton.

Why should you watch World's Strongest Man?

in my opinion, the Worlds Strongest Man is one of the most entertaining sports to watch. For example, the records are always getting beaten every year. This means you won't be bored every time you watch it with the same weight every time.

Also, every year new events and competitors enter the business with ideas that change the world for the better. World's Strongest Man also pushes the athletes to failure not just physically but mentally too. This leads to an interesting battle between competitors and weights.



SPORTS

REPORT!

Storm Eowyn tackles u15 Crewkerne rugby game leading to early end.

By Stan Glover

On Sunday the 26th of January 2025 Crewkerne rugby faced castle Cary in an away game at Sexeys school.

Despite the chill ,we kicked off and started the game. A couple minutes in, the rain started falling and gradually got heavier and heavier creating tough conditions to play in. Hand and toes numb we carried on pushing through, and its lucky we did because 15 minutes in, flanker Sam Dawson barged his way over the line scoring the first try (followed by a conversion by outside centre George rice) getting us seven points ahead.

Unfortunately after a cracking start, inside centre Max Daly had an injury to the knee during a tackle and had to go off.

Harder and harder the weather got making it harder and harder to play but we kept our heads high and carried on. About ten minutes after the previous try prop Dan Dasilva found his way over the line bringing us another seven points after George rice converts again, making the score 14-0.

Not even five minutes later flanker Riley Woodward scores yet another try, with another conversion. With the score high and the temperature lower we were happier (and colder) than ever. when we heard talk of ending the game early we knew we had to put in 100% more than ever. New winger, Liam Cornish was demonstrating perfect tackle technique on his tough debut game looping around and covering both wings.

Sadly our flyhalf took a serious knock to the head that caused a reshuffle to the backs line. Towards the end of the game unlikely for Crewkerne, castle Cary scored a try but did not convert leaving the score at 21-5 to Crewkerne.

All players played out of their skins and worked together brilliantly, however I have only talked about the highlights.



SPORTS

REPORT!



Break Point Presents: The Australian Open 2025

By Patrick Cummins

This year's Australian open has certainly been an incredible start to the Tennis season, with drama and upsets already beginning to take place. Let's take a deep dive into my three key takeaways from the 2025 Australian open.

A promising start:

One story from this year is the debut Grand Slam of Brazil's Joao Fonseca. Having comfortably won the 2024 next-gen ATP finals, the tennis world was keen to see how the 18-year-old would begin his 2025 season, and he did not disappoint, comfortably qualifying for the Australian open after 3 relatively easy matches.



However, when the draw was announced, Joao had been paired against the world number 9, Andrey Rublev. Despite this misfortune, Joao seemed confident going into the match, and in fact he would best the Russian in straight sets, winning 7-6 6-3 7-6. Despite falling in the second round to Lorenzo Sonego in 5 sets, this marks an incredible start to the year and to his grand slam career.

Tennis has seen its fair share of promising youngsters who have failed to meet expectations, such as the case of Holgar Rune, so it remains to be seen how far Fonseca can take it. However, after reviewing his post-match interviews, it is clear he possesses a winning mentality and is mature beyond his years. Is his impressive Australian Open run a sign of things to come, or will he falter before he gets a chance to shine?

An old dog still has fight:

Novak Djokovic is 37, and is the final active member of the Big 3. One would expect that by now, he would not be capable of competing with the very best. Nadal and Federer both suffered sharp declines at the tail end of their careers. Yet, going into the Australian open, and with Andy Murray as his coach, we saw a still confident Djokovic. Despite taking a little longer to get into the swing of things than we're



used to seeing, Novak breezed through to the Quarter Final, where he met Alcaraz once again. Youth vs Experience is always an interesting matchup, and in this case, experience triumphed in 4 thrilling sets. Alcaraz was not on form, and Novak exploited that, with accurate serving and a surprising amount of athleticism for a 37-year-old.

However, the match had its costs for Novak, as he sustained an injury during the physically intense match. To add to his misfortune, waiting in the Semi-Finals was the current world number 2, Zverev, with the likelihood of then facing world number 1 Jannik Sinner in the Final. In the Semi Final, Novak was forced to retire after narrowly losing the first set to Zverev, which itself lasted near an hour. Overall, I would argue that Novak has good chances against any single player in isolation, however his current position as world number 7 does him no favours. The way Grand Slams are structured, the top 4 seeds cannot meet until the Semi's. However, with Novak outside the top 4, he risks running into these stronger players earlier, and likely in succession. The physical toll these matches will take on him cannot be understated, and so I believe that so long as he remains outside the top 4, his Grand Slam chances for 2025 remain low.

Sinner the Winner:



Another day, another incredible performance from Jannik Sinner. The guy seems unstoppable at the moment. Despite facing some clear physical difficulties, Sinner breezed through the early rounds fairly easily. He lost one set to wildcard and hometown hero, Schoolkate, which was his first set lost since October, and then one to Holgar Rune, who pushed Sinner hard in the

first two sets, but suffered from a recurring issue of cramping and went down fairly easily in sets three and four. The true sensation came in the Final against Alexander Zverev, who was seeking his first Grand Slam title. Going into the match, everyone (including myself) believed we would be witnessing a five-set thriller. In truth, it was a slaughter. Sinner won in straight sets without facing even a single break point, joining Federer and Nadal on the very small list of those who have done so.

In the last half a year, Sinner has simply been unstoppable. Since conquering the Cincinnati Masters in August, he is 32-1, with his single loss coming to Carlos Alcaraz in the thrilling China Open final. This year, Sinner is off to a great start, and is the favourite in any tournament he plays in. In theory, he should win all 4 Slams this year. However, Carlos Alcaraz seems to not care for theory. So, will Sinner be able to replicate his sensational season, or will Carlos prove to great a challenge for the Italian?



Wadham School Gets Creative

Enjoy this poetry
by Year 8 student
Isabella-May
Royle...

Me

The real me...
The real me is sad,
The real me is hurting,
The real me is haunted,
The real me is hiding.

The fake me...
The fake me is smiling,
The fake me is happy,
The fake me is joyful,
The fake me is here to stay.

The old me...
The old me has a real smile,
The old me had lots of friends,
The old me I miss,
The old me is gone.

The Daffodil

Here I am, the daffodil broken and wilted.
I am alone, dull and boring.
I am a bud, nothing more.
Now here I am, trying to find the sun.
But it is nowhere to be seen.
The other flowers always think I have sun.
But I don't.
The other flowers have sun.
But this week, I see a little light with me.
You arrived, and now I have grown big, brave and beautiful.
Without you my sun, I am nothing.
Without you sunshine, I am yet again and old, dull, wilted daffodil.
Without you, I have no reason to live.

...and Year 8 student Ella Priddle

The seasons
Rain falling,
Plants rising from little seedlings,
Into bright bold flowers,
That bees rest on.

The wind creating a warm breeze,
Brushing against,
The waving palm trees,
From an island nearby.

The sunshine glistens,
On the sparking waters of the ocean,
Waves brushing away the hot sand,
Into the depths of the ocean.

The sun cools down,
Leaves falling,
From where they once was,
Bright colours filling the area.

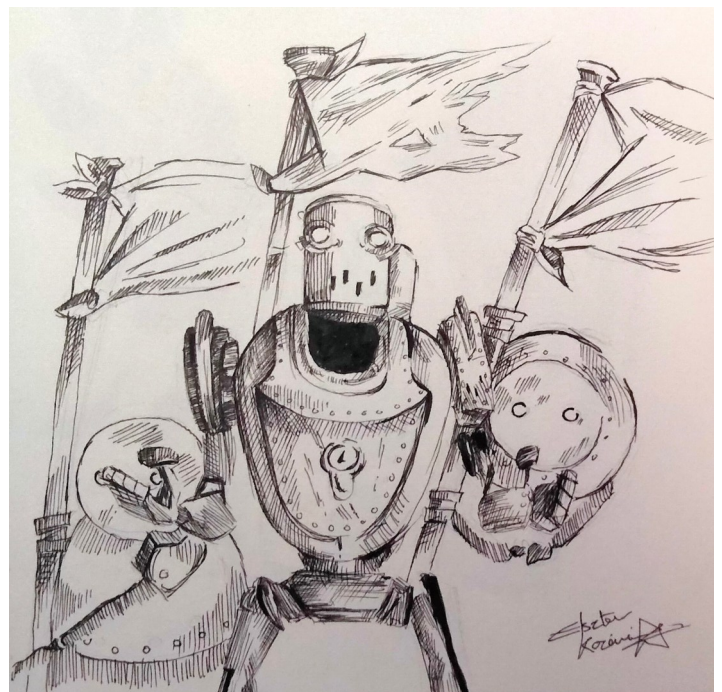
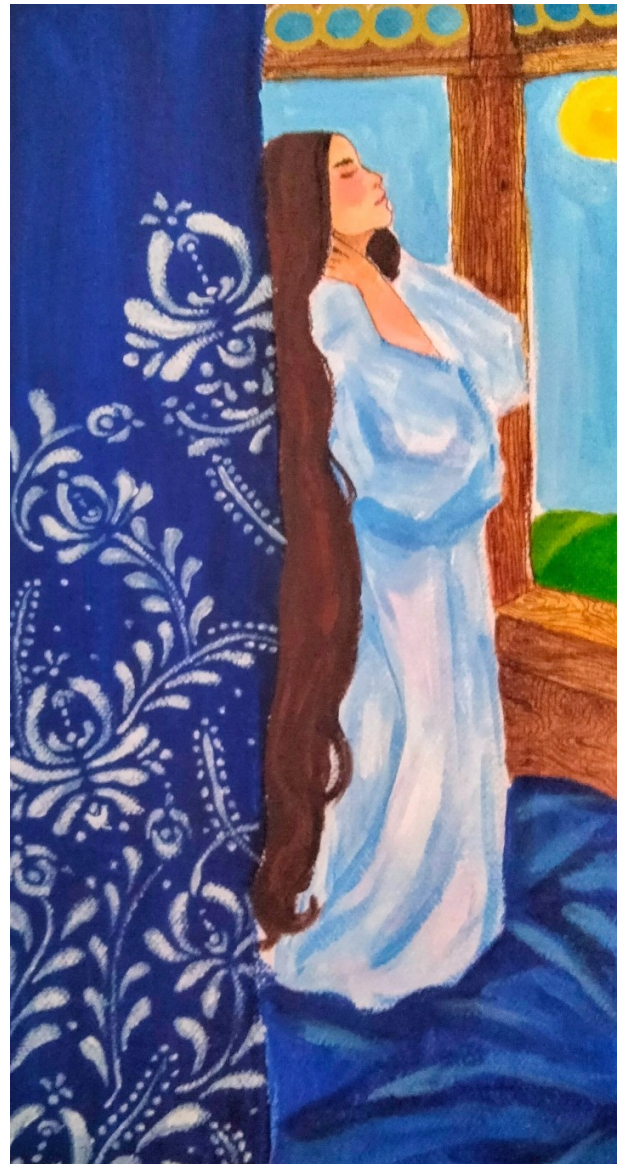
Snow falling on every ground,
Trees, grass, houses,
Covered in a beautiful white cover,
Birds resting,
Or leaving to a new home.

As the snow starts to melt,
The sun comes out again,
And the cycle repeats,
Into a new year.



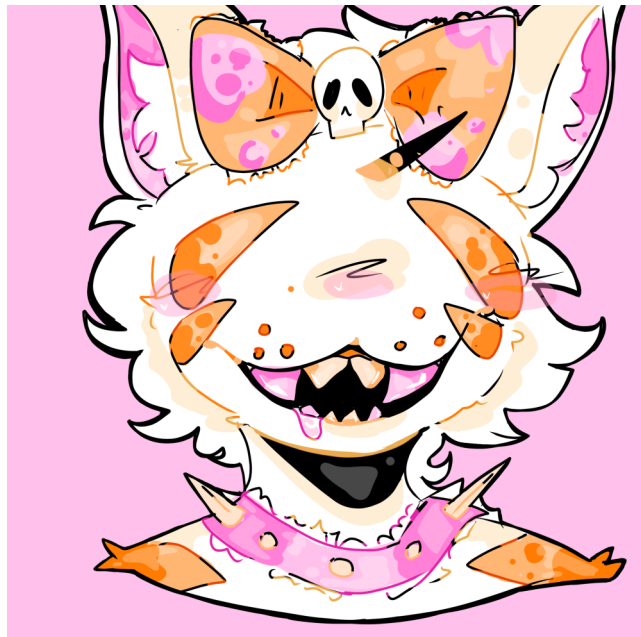
Wadham School Gets Creative

Enjoy this artwork by Year 10 student Eszter Kozari



Wadham School Gets Creative

Enjoy this artwork by Year 11 student Vivian Dawins



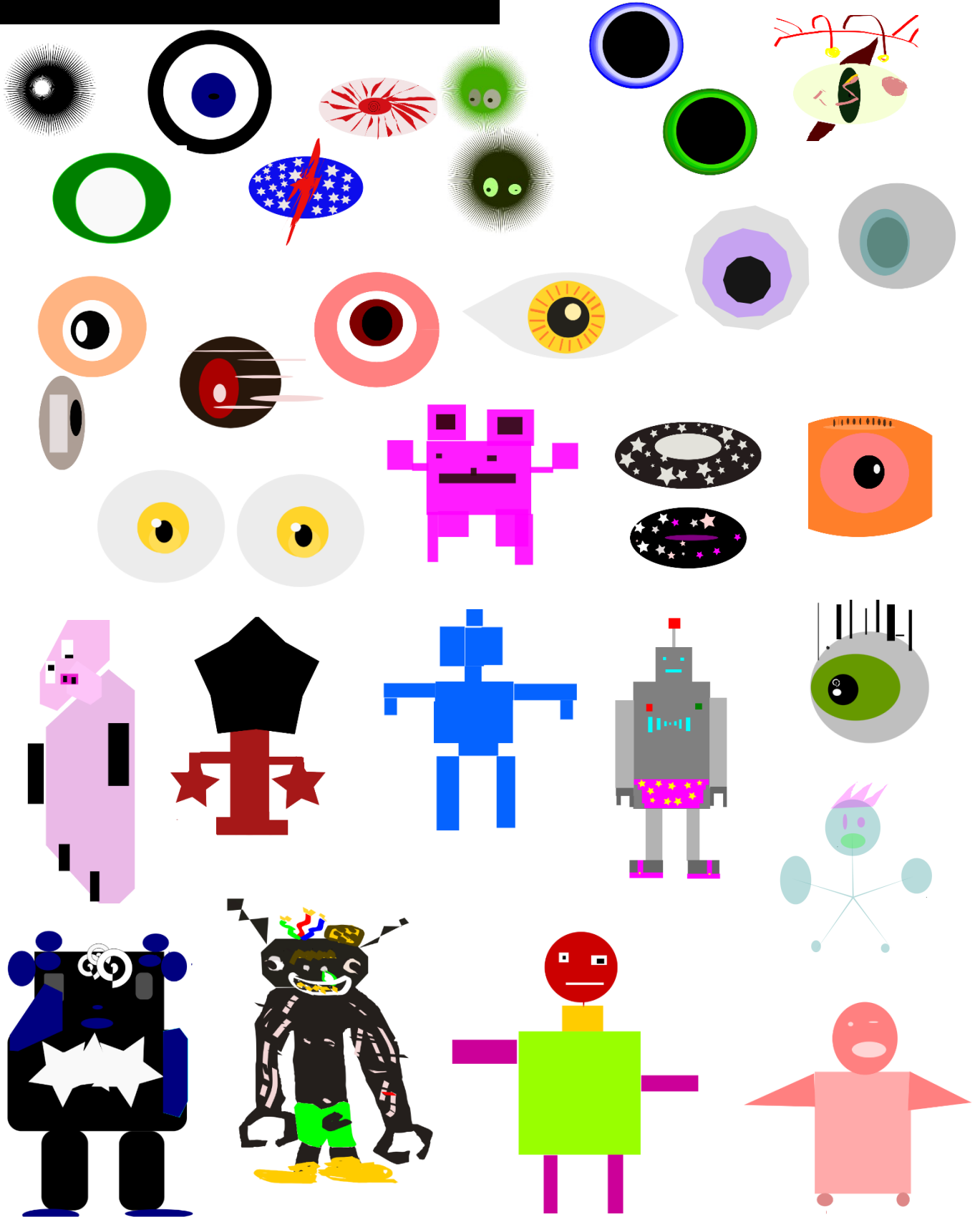
Wadham School Gets Creative

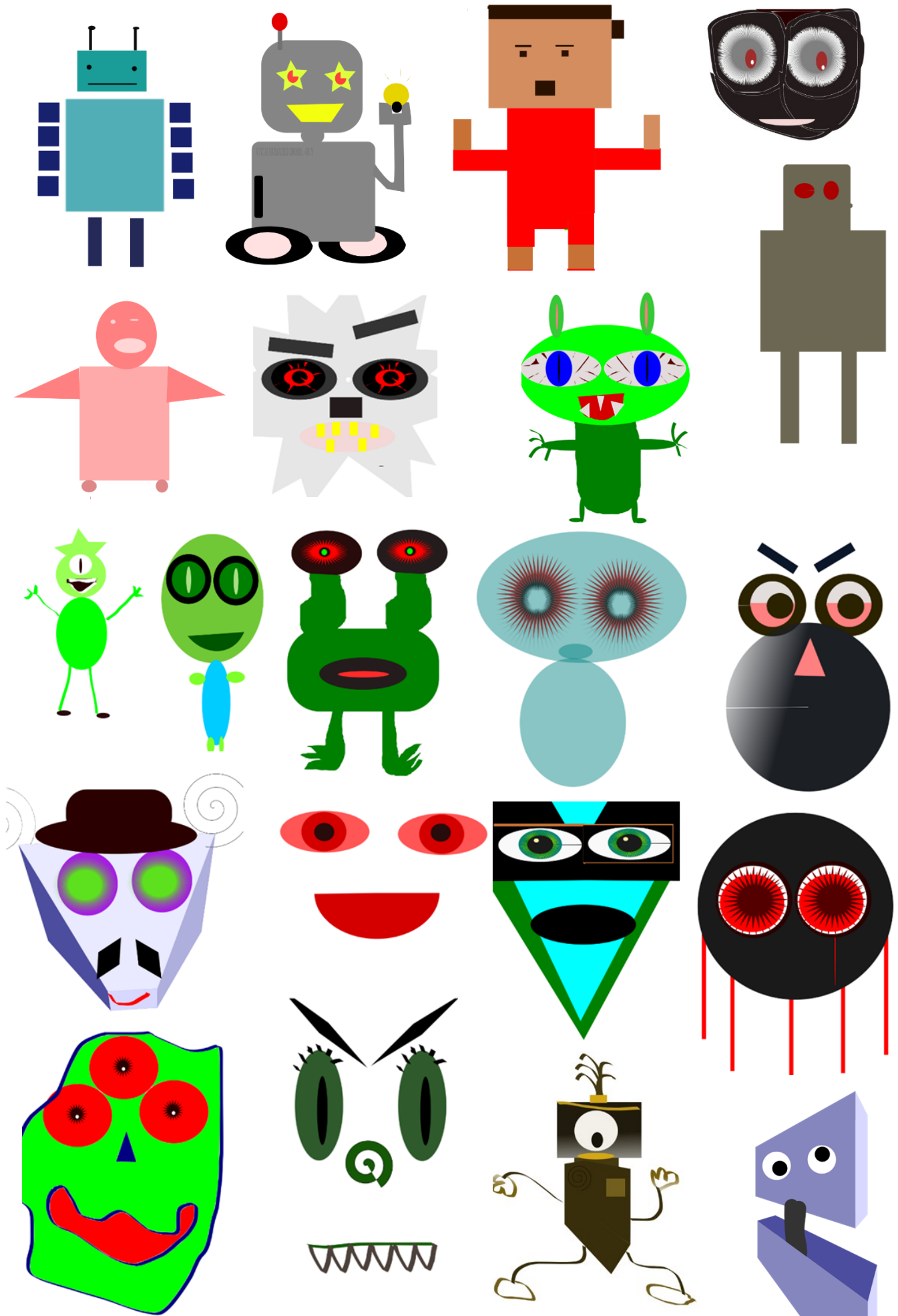
Enjoy this artwork by Year 11 student Vivian Dawins

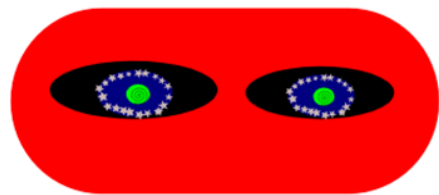
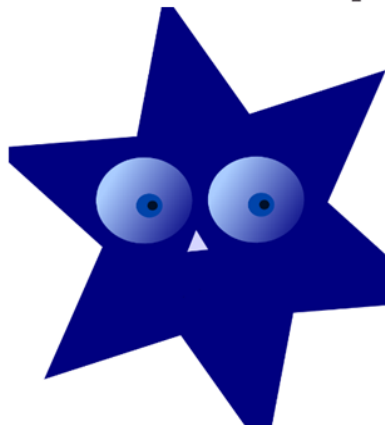
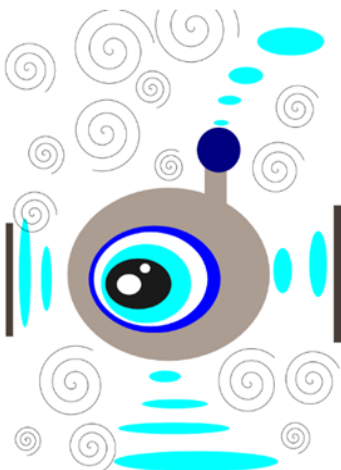
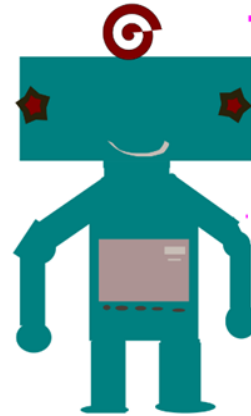
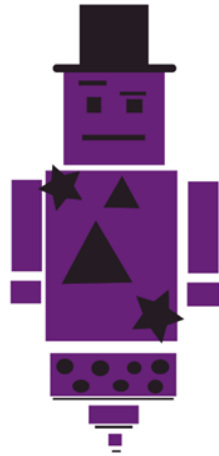
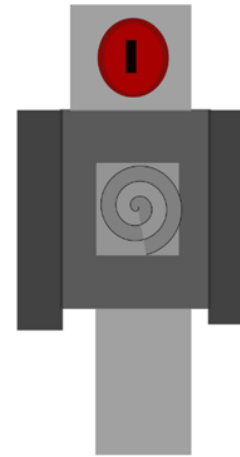
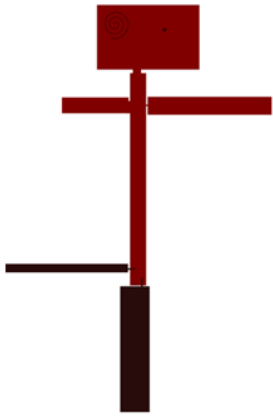
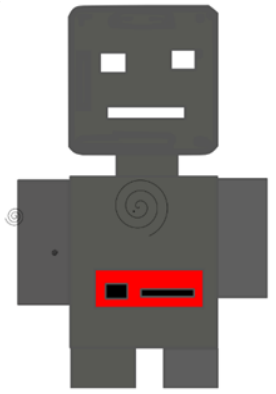
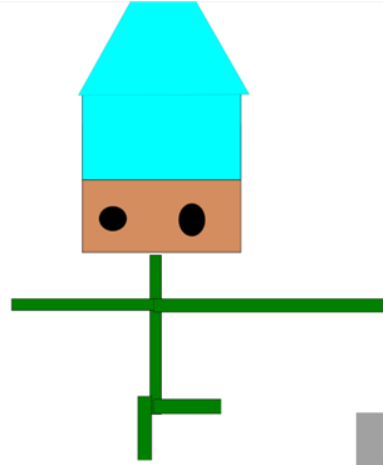


Wadham School Gets Creative

Eyes, Aliens and Robots from
Year 8 Computing using Inkscape
courtesy of Mrs Hutter







MOVIE REVIEWS

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

POSSIBLY THE COOLEST MOVIE EVER MADE (in my opinion)

By Izaak Gregory

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly remains to this day the greatest western ever, one of the greatest films in general and my personal favourite film.

This film is undoubtedly the masterpiece of legendary director Sergio Leone. Clint Eastwood, Eli Wallach and Lee Van Cleef (all titans of the western genre) star in this epic adventure across the wild west. Be it a Mexican standoff or two men eating from across a table, the old west never appeared more ruthless than in Sergio Leone's career defining movie.

Even the titular good character isn't the most clean-cut fellow. After all, to survive such an unforgiving environment the characters all need to be capable of being the best and worst of humanity and they often ride a fine line of moral ambiguity, a trait that is a common theme across this film. The score by Ennio Morricone is his greatest with this film's soundtrack being perhaps the most iconic soundtrack ever.

Plot

The film follows three outlaws, Tuco the Ugly (Eli Wallach), Angel Eyes the Bad (Lee Van Cleef) and Blondie the Good (Clint Eastwood) competing to find \$200,000 in stolen confederate gold buried in a remote cemetery. At the beginning, Blondie and Tuco join together in a bounty hunting scheme to exploit Tuco's wanted status by repeatedly turning him in for bounty rewards and then freeing him.

Their partnership sours however, leading to a brutal falling out. Meanwhile, Angel Eyes is also hunting the gold, killing anyone in his way. Through twists of fate, the three men each learn a different part of the gold's location and are forced into an uneasy collaboration, with each trying to outwit the others.



Their journey brings them through civil war battles and treacherous terrain, with several betrayals along the way. The story culminates in the iconic Mexican standoff in the cemetery, where the trio meets and faces off to see who will finally claim the treasure.

Why is it worth a watch?

The third entry in Leones epic “dollars trilogy” and Eastwood’s final turn as ‘the man with no name’, this film makes their previous spaghetti westerns look like dress rehearsals. The scale and stakes of the film had been unmatched up until that point and few films since have been able to compare.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly is composed of several smaller sections that could’ve easily functioned as stand-alone short films, but the masterful direction and writing was able to seamlessly integrate the sprawling, destructive American civil war, the quiet beauty of the American west and the violent actions and adventures of a few outlaws into the clean overriding plot. Together they make up the most expertly shot, impeccably scored and iconic western to ever grace the silver screen. And when the three anti-heroes finally meet, the result is the greatest showdown ever put to film.



Though upon initial release the film was criticised for the excessive and appalling violence (all of which is nothing today), the film has since been reassessed for the masterpiece it is, with 97% on Rotten Tomatoes and 8.8/10 on IMDB. And most impressively, it sits at number 10 on IMDB’s top 250 greatest films of all time.



MOVIE REVIEWS

By Luke Pearce

Sonic the hedgehog 3 is the latest instalment in the Sonic the hedgehog cinematic universe and is in my opinion the best one in the franchise.

It takes inspiration from the fan favourite game Sonic adventure 2. Its 1 hour and 50 minutes long and is a great watch.

The acting is amazing and has Keanu Reeves acting as the fan favourite character Shadow the hedgehog. Jim Carrey also came out of retirement to come back to this franchise to portray his roll as Dr Ivo Robotnik (Eggman) and also plays the geniuses grandfather Gerald Robotnik an evil genius and the man who created the ultimate life form Shadow the hedgehog 50 years ago.

As usual Jim Carrey delivers a great performance as both of his characters. Keanu Reeves makes an amazing performance as Shadow as well. All the original cast returns to play their roles again. Although the movie takes a lot of inspiration the games there are some minor changes to Shadows backstory, but it gets most of it correct.

The story begins with Shadow waking up after a long fifty years at Prison Island in Japan and immediately starts to wreak havoc being confused as G.U.N tries to contain him once again. Sonic, Tails and Knuckles are recruited by G.U.N to defeat Shadow.

Little do they know that Shadow is much more powerful than all three of them and that they don't stand a chance against him. The soundtrack for this movie is sensational and really fits the mood of the scene. It even includes fan favourite song live and learn made by the band Crush 40 made for Sonic adventure 2.

The movie has some really funny scenes mostly with the two Robotnik's but it also has some really sad scenes especially Shadow's backstory. Although we do finally get a video game accurate Eggman suit and its amazing. This is most definitely the greatest video game movie to have ever been created. The cast is phenomenal and the post credit scene sets up for a great 4th movie and I'm looking forward to it in spring of 2027.

This movie deserves 5 whole stars.



LIBRARY CLUBS

STARTING 24TH FEBRUARY

Monday

Mindfulness Monday

CHILL, CHAT AND RELAX

Tuesday

Crafting

SEE TEAMS FOR EACH WEEKLY ACTIVITY

Wednesday

Creative Writing

WITH MISS COOMBS

Thursday

Lego Club

WITH MRS PAWLING

Friday

Puzzle Club

PROBLEM SOLVING AND JIGSAWS

Clubs start at 1:30pm in the Library

Open for homework and quiet reading every day



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Minecraft By Craig Zwiyo

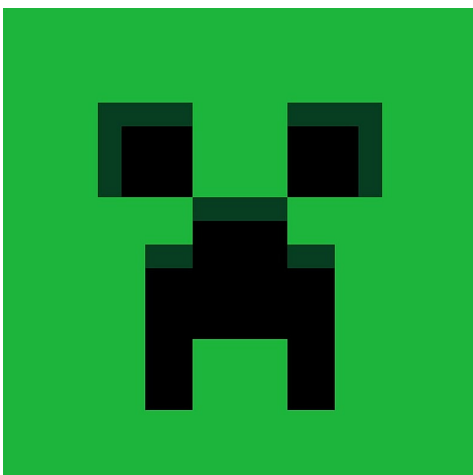
Minecraft is a sandbox that has captured the hearts of millions since its release in 2011. Developed by Mojang Studios, the game allows players to explore a blocky, procedurally generated 3D world, where they can mine resources, craft items, and build structures. The game's creative mode offers unlimited resources, enabling players to unleash their imagination and create anything from simple houses to vast cities.

One of the most appealing aspects of *Minecraft* is its survival mode, where players must gather resources, craft tools and fend off hostile creatures like zombies and skeletons. This mode adds an element of challenge and strategy, as players must manage their health and hunger while exploring the world. The game also features a multiplayer mode, allowing friends to join together and collaborate on projects or compete in various mini-games.

Minecraft's community is vibrant and active, with countless mods, texture packs, and servers available to enhance the gaming experience. Whether you're building intricate redstone machines or embarking on epic adventures, *Minecraft* offers endless possibilities for creativity and fun. It's no wonder that it has become a cultural phenomenon, inspiring countless players to express their creativity and share their experiences.

Minecraft mobs are like the game's lively characters! Zombies, skeletons, creepers, spiders and more roam around, adding excitement to your adventures. Defeat them to get cool items and keep the game thrilling.

Hope you find this interesting feel free to download it and have a go yourself.





Subnautica

By Harry Bayford

Subnautica is a game produced by the company Unknown Worlds Entertainment.

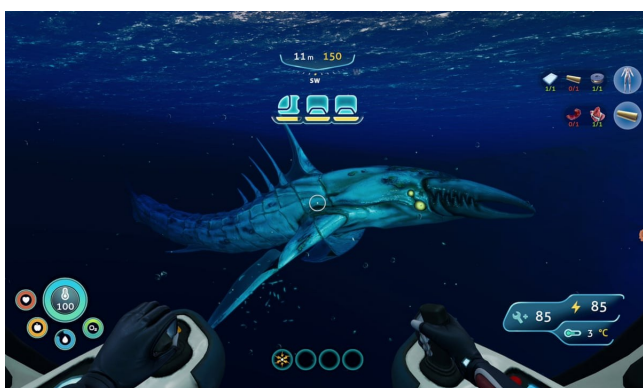
Subnautica is available on many platforms such as ps4 and 5, Nintendo, Steam and Xbox.

It's an open-world survivor adventure game in which you are a survivor of a spaceship crash where you have crash landed on an alien planet in the middle of the ocean and must collect natural materials to survive.

The goal of the game is to survive while completing tasks for the plot and eventually build a rocket ship to escape back to civilisation. However, while you are doing this there are many beasts in the ocean who are ready for some pray such as the sea dragon leviathan and the ghost leviathan and all these creatures can be found in different biomes as you progress through the game's main storyline.

Whilst on the mission you have to make better suits and submarines to go into the deeper and more dangerous parts of the game. To unlock all this, you must make items to assist you on your journey like the scanner which you can use to scan materials for better items.

Personally I really like this game because you are able to do what you want, it has a very clear and easy to follow story with lots of plot twists as you progress but one thing I don't particularly like about the game is how strong the leviathans are because most of them can very easily one shot you.



In my opinion, this is an amazing game that I would very much recommend for people who like survival games because this one is not like any ordinary survival-based game. So out of 5 I will give this game a good 4.6/5 because it is one of my favourite games to play solo with a sequel soon coming out.





**Metal Gear Solid V: the
Phantom Pain
By Andrei Radulescu**



Metal Gear Solid V: the Phantom Pain was made in 2015 by Konami and Kojima productions

The game is the continuation to the previous title called *Metal Gear Solid: Ground Zeros*. MGSV starts with Big Boss (Naked Snake) falling in a coma after the attack on his private army called MSF (Militaries Sans Frontières) conducted by the XOF. While in a coma Big Boss gets cloned and FOX (the good guys) make a mental copy of Big Boss on a combat medic which now thinks, looks and acts like the original. The game follows his adventures and the characters he interacts with.

MGSV: Phantom Pain is a 3rd person stealth-action game set in

Afghanistan and is an open world which means you can explore loads and after you finish the game you still have stuff to do and explore. It also has a Multiplayer Online Mode where you can attack other people's bases. the game has loads of weapons outfits companions you can choose from and you can also upgrade your base to unlock more weapons and features. there are loads for you to explore and do. The graphics are the same as *Red Dead Redemption 2*

I highly recommend this game if you are into shooter and stealth games.

I Rate this game 4 and a half stars out of 5.





Hollow Knight—A Meticulously Crafted Metroidvania Experience

By Edward Oleen



Released in 2017 by Team Cherry, *Hollow Knight* is a 2D platforming action-adventure game that transports players to the haunting yet beautiful world of Hallownest.

As a Metroidvania title (Games like *Metroid* and *Castlevania*), it boasts an expansive, interconnected map teeming with secrets, challenges, and breathtaking environments.

Visuals and Atmosphere

Hollow Knight immediately captivates with its hand-drawn art style, which brings the subterranean kingdom of Hallownest to life. The game's aesthetic is both eerie and enchanting, with meticulously designed backgrounds and character animations that evoke a sense of wonder and melancholy.

The atmospheric soundtrack, composed by Christopher Larkin, further enhances the mood, seamlessly blending haunting melodies with intense, adrenaline-pumping scores during boss encounters.

Gameplay and Mechanics

At its core, *Hollow Knight* offers a finely tuned gameplay experience that rewards



exploration and skillful combat. Players control the titular Knight, a silent, enigmatic protagonist armed with a nail (sword) and a host of acrobatic abilities.

The combat system is both fluid and challenging, requiring precise timing and strategy to defeat a wide array of enemies and bosses.

The game features a progression system



where players unlock new abilities and upgrades that grant access to previously unreachable areas, a hallmark of the Metroidvania genre. These abilities range from double jumps and dash moves to powerful spells, each adding a layer of depth and strategy to both exploration and combat.

Exploration and World-Building

Hallownest is a labyrinthine world filled with hidden paths, secret chambers, and lore-rich environments. The non-linear design encourages players to explore at their own pace, discovering new areas, characters, and stories organically. The world-building in *Hollow Knight* is subtle yet profound, with environmental storytelling and cryptic NPC dialogues that reveal the tragic history and mysteries of Hallownest.

Customization and Challenges

Hollow Knight offers a variety of customization options through the use of Charms—equippable items that provide unique abilities and enhancements. Players can experiment with different Charm combinations to suit their playstyle, whether focusing on offensive power, defensive resilience, or mobility.

For those seeking an additional challenge, the game includes optional quests, hidden bosses, and the infamous Pantheon of Hallownest—a series of increasingly difficult trials that test the player's mastery of the game's mechanics.

Conclusion

Hollow Knight is a masterful blend of artistry, gameplay, and storytelling that stands out as one of the finest examples of the Metroidvania genre.

Its intricate world, challenging combat, and hauntingly beautiful atmosphere create an unforgettable experience that beckons players to delve deeper into the shadows of Hallownest. Whether you're a seasoned Metroidvania enthusiast or a newcomer to the genre, *Hollow Knight* promises an adventure that is as rewarding as it is mesmerizing.



TECH REVIEW

MOBILE APP GAMES

By Evie John and Ivy Hart

Here is a list of some fun apps to play when you are bored.

Block Blast is a block puzzle game where you fit together different blocks. It needs no Wi-Fi needed and is suitable for all ages to play. It is also free to play.

Slither.io is a game where you play as a snake, and you try not to touch other players or you die. You can play against AI with no Wi-Fi or play online, this game is also free to play.

forkNsausage is a no Wi-Fi game where you swipe the sausage and try to get it on the fork. It is also free to play.

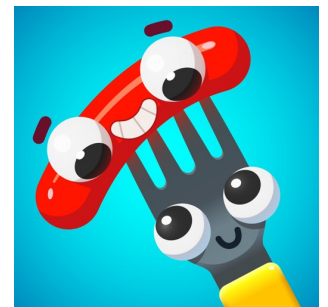
Crossy Road is 8-bit arcade hopper games, collect custom characters and is free to play.

Subway Surfers is a game where you have run as fast as you can, dodging obstacle while trying to get away from an inspector and his dog.

Geometry Dash is rhythm-based platform game where you can unlock new icons it's no Wi-Fi and free to play.

Monkey Land is where you drop different fruit together to create bigger fruit until you get the watermelon.

Candy Crush is a game where you try to match different kinds of candy to each other in tile form.



MUSIC REVIEWS

The Normal Album—Will Wood By Josie Bulmer

The Normal Album is an album released by singer/songwriter Will Wood in 2020, and features 10 equally memorable songs (many of which with strange titles).

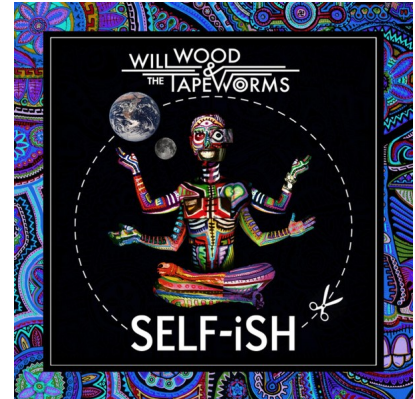
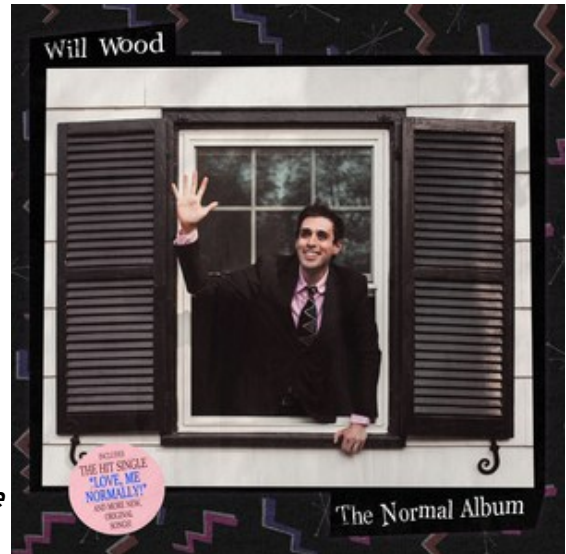
Despite the name, the normal album definitely has some of the more unique tracks I've heard on it, and in my opinion some of the best songs that Will Wood has written (See also albums *In Case I make It*," and, under the name Will Wood and the Tapeworms, *Everything is a lot and Self-ish*).

The album doesn't necessarily have story to it, but it wouldn't be an inept way of describing it, as throughout the whole album each of the songs focus one way or another on the concept of what is normal, and how

anything that may not live up to that standard is perceived. The songs for the most part are fun and catchy but still don't fail to convey emotion.

Even though they all fit under the wide umbrella of dealing with normality, each of the songs focus on something different and so don't feel particularly same-y. "Suburbia overture", the album's opening track, focuses on how often detrimental herd mentality is, whereas "memento mori: the most important thing in the world", the album's closing track, sings about normalising death, and living the best you can.

Overall the album is never boring and though the songs are all technically on the same subject, none of them are really about the same things. Even still, each song is a bit of fun as I previously said, and I love that depending on how you listen to your



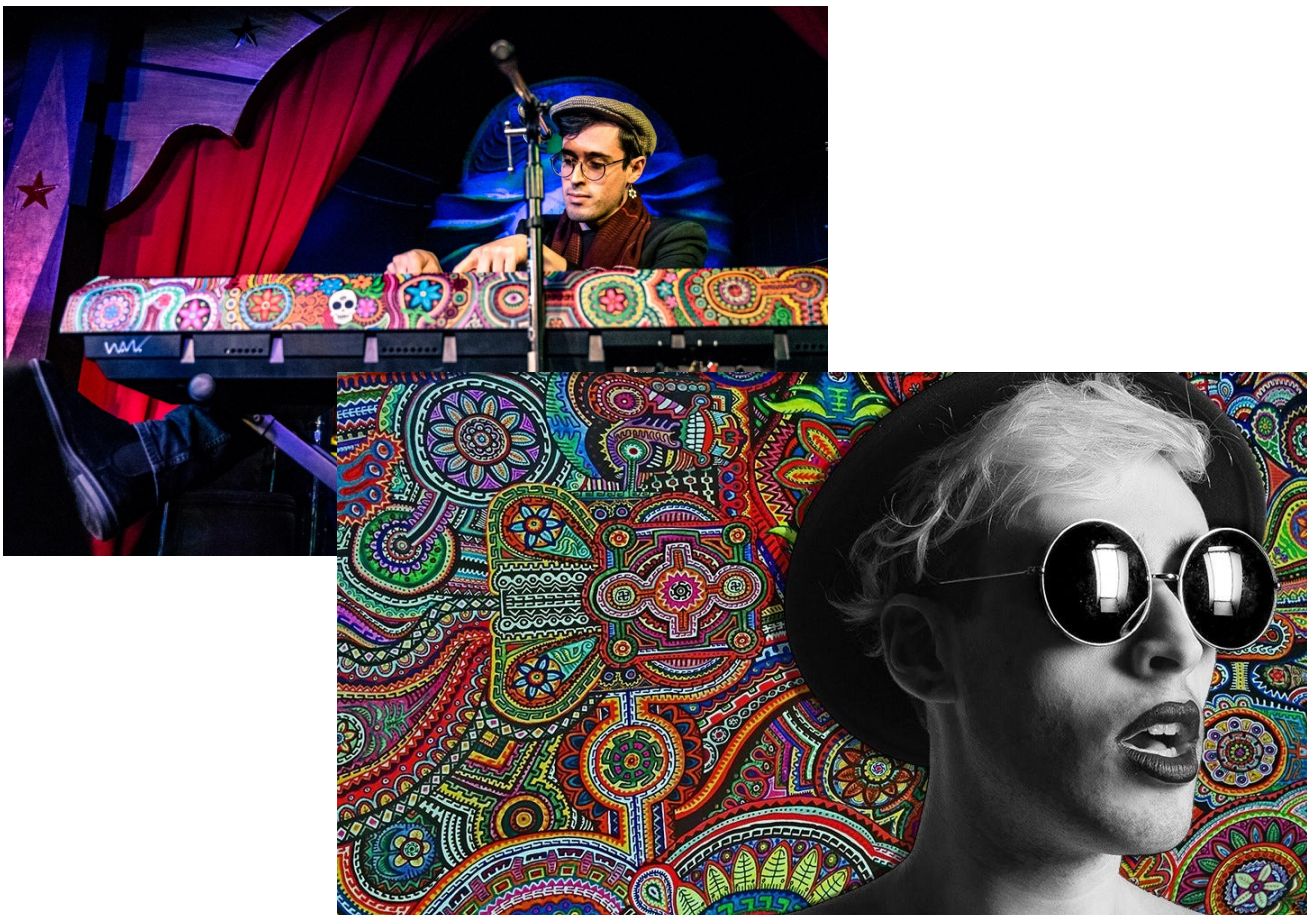
music, it's just as easy to really enjoy them at surface level as it is to sit down and analyse them in detail.

I've already described a lot of the album as quite catchy, but attempting to fit it into a particular genre would be hard, and in my opinion an injustice. It does range on the more theatrical side, but takes elements of many different styles to create something inventive and a tad bit out there, in the best way.

Will has stated he doesn't like to stick to any one genre, and the sound that this album in particular has is not going to be the one sound he has by any means, and that's what I love about a lot of his music (I know I'm reviewing one album, but Will Wood's whole discography is a masterpiece that I'd recommend. Back to the normal album).

The composition is amazing, and Will Wood's piano skills are very obvious in most of the songs. Combined with the rest of the band (formerly the tapeworms of Will wood and the tapeworms before a change of labels to just Will Wood) it makes for some great music to go along with already great singing and writing, both by Will. Out of his 4 main albums it's definitely the most upbeat.

Overall I'd give this album a 9/10. It's not going to be for everyone as no album is, but it offers a lot, especially for an album with only 10 songs. It's the perfect mixture of fun music and meaning, and doesn't fail to be tastefully over the top. It feels a little like a musical soundtrack, so if you're a big fan of musicals, you'd like this album, not to say other people wouldn't. It has a little something for a lot of people, and that's why, in general, I'd consider it definitely worth a listen.



INCREDIBLE ENGINEERING

By Bertie Pattison

PETRONAS TOWERS

WHAT ARE THEY?

The Petronas Twin Towers are an interlinked pair of 88-storey supertall skyscrapers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, standing at 451.9 metres (1,483 feet).

WHY IS IT SO IMPRESSIVE?

The towers are designed to be earthquake proof. To make a building earthquake proof does come at a extra cost but it does pay off when the building is put up against severe storms and earthquakes. To actually make a building earthquake proof there are two basic technologies that go into it, Base Isolation Devices and Seismic Dampers. The idea behind base isolation is to detach (isolate) the building from the ground in such a way that earthquake motions are not transmitted up through the building, or at least greatly reduced.

FUN FACTS

- ◆ It was a race between who could build their tower fastest the winner got to build the sky bridge South Korea beat Japan and therefore got to build the sky bridge.
- ◆ The sky bridge is 192ft long and is not directly attached at either end it is designed to sway in and out and the towers sway in high winds.
- ◆ The towers are home to the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and a petroleum museum.
- ◆ The Petronas Towers stand at a whopping 452m the Petronas Towers were the worlds' tallest towers from 1998 when they were overtaken by the Taipei Tower in 2004.
- ◆ A minor problem that the builders faced that made these buildings even more fantastic is the fact that the Malaysian government gave them just 6 years to build these towers and they went at a work rate of 1 floor every 4 days! But the fact that they did it and made it earthquake proof made it absolutely incredible!



Fancy a challenge?

1



GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!

TERM 3

Can you solve any of these 3 maths problems?
Submit answers to Mrs Goddard (online or in person)
by Monday 10th February - all entries get a prize!

$$\triangle + \triangle = 8$$

$$\circ \times \circ = 100$$

$$\triangle \times \circ = \star$$

What is the value of the star?



Fancy a challenge?

2



GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!

RIDDLE

**“IN A ROOM OF 100
PEOPLE, 99% ARE LEFT-
HANDED. HOW MANY
LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE
HAVE TO LEAVE THE
ROOM TO BRING THAT
PERCENTAGE DOWN TO
98% ?”**



Fancy a challenge?

3



GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!



A

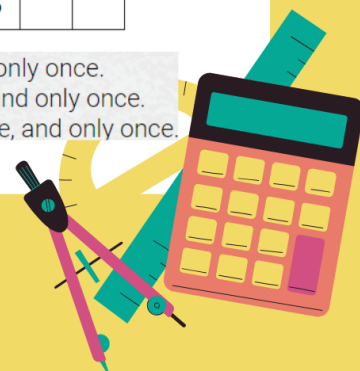
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6	8				2	7		
9	1	4	8	3	5		7	6
	3		7		1	4	9	5
5	6	7	4	2	9		1	3

SUDOKU
CAN YOU COMPLETE
THIS EASY AND
MEDIUM DIFFICULTY
PUZZLE?

B

3	4	5						8
6	1			8	3	5	4	9
7	9			4	5			6
			1	5	7			
				6	4	9		
	7	1	9			4		
		9		2		6		4
	5			1				
2		6				3		

1. Each row must contain the numbers 1-9 once, and only once.
2. Each column must contain the numbers 1-9 once, and only once.
3. Each sub-region must contain the numbers 1-9 once, and only once.



Fancy a challenge?

1

GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!

TERM 3

$$\triangle + \triangle = 8$$

$$\bullet \times \bullet = 100$$

$$\triangle \times \bullet = \star$$

What is the value of the star?

2

GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!

RIDDLE

“IN A ROOM OF 100 PEOPLE, 99% ARE LEFT-HANDED. HOW MANY LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE HAVE TO LEAVE THE ROOM TO BRING THAT PERCENTAGE DOWN TO 98% ?”

Answers

1: 40

2: Riddle:

The answer is surprisingly 50 left-handers have to leave, which is half of total people in the room! Why do so many left-handed people have to leave the room, just so their percentage decreases from 99% to 98% ?

Another way to think about the question is from the perspective of the non-left-hander. The room has 100 people, of which 99 are left handed and 1 is not. This 1 person is 1% of the room. How can we increase this representation to 2%, which is double (100%) of the original amount? We must correspondingly halve (50%) the total room size. So 50% of 100 is 50 people

Fancy a challenge?

3 GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!

A

	7		5	8	3		2	
	5	9	2			3		
3	4				6	5		7
7	9	5				6	3	2
		3	6	9	7	1		
6	8			2	7			
9	1	4	8	3	5		7	6
	3		7		1	4	9	5
5	6	7	4	2	9		1	3

B

3	4	5						8
6	1			8	3	5	4	9
7	9			4	5			6
			1	5	7			
				6	4	9		
7	1	9				4		
		9	2		6		4	
	5			1				
2	6				3			

SUDOKU CAN YOU COMPLETE THIS EASY AND MEDIUM DIFFICULTY PUZZLE?

1. Each row must contain the numbers 1-9 once, and only once.
2. Each column must contain the numbers 1-9 once, and only once.
3. Each sub-region must contain the numbers 1-9 once, and only once.

3A - Easy

1	7	6	5	8	3	9	2	4
8	5	9	2	7	4	3	6	1
3	4	2	9	1	6	5	8	7
7	9	5	1	4	8	6	3	2
4	2	3	6	9	7	1	5	8
6	8	1	3	5	2	7	4	9
9	1	4	8	3	5	2	7	6
2	3	8	7	6	1	4	9	5
5	6	7	4	2	9	8	1	3

3B - Medium

3	4	5	6	9	1	7	2	8
6	1	2	7	8	3	5	4	9
7	9	8	2	4	5	1	3	6
9	6	4	1	5	7	2	8	3
5	2	3	8	6	4	9	1	7
8	7	1	9	3	2	4	6	5
1	3	9	5	2	8	6	7	4
4	5	7	3	1	6	8	9	2
2	8	6	4	7	9	3	5	1



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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

