

A WADHAM SCHOOL STUDENT PUBLICATION

THE QUILL



CREATIVE PEOPLE ARE THE BEST KIND OF DANGEROUS

ACTING ROYALTY
Sean Pertwee shares his experiences on stage and screen



STUDYING THE PAST TO DEFINE THE FUTURE

Historian, author and podcaster Dominic Sandbrook guides us through the foreign land that is the past



GO AWAY, OR I SHALL TAUNT YOU A SECOND TIME!
Wadham does Spamalot



ITS FUNNY COZ IT'S TRUE
Horrible Histories writer Ben Ward

APOCALYPSE PERFECTION
Hitting the highways with Mad Max 2



Plus Reviews, Previews and Opinions



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Introduction

Welcome to edition 18 of *The Quill* and again I find myself amazed at what the students have put together for you. Over the next 45 pages you will find a virtual cornucopia of creativity with articles and reports from across the student body.



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

In this, our 18th edition you'll find...

- ◆ **Interviews with star of stage and screen Sean Pertwee; historian, author and podcaster Dominic Sandbrook and the creative genius behind *Horrible Histories*, Ben Ward**
- ◆ **A review of the recent school musical 'Spamalot'**
- ◆ **A reflection on the recent Spring Statement by Chancellor Rachel Reeves**
- ◆ **An in-school performance by singer-songwriter Shao Hao**
- ◆ **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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'Singing yourself well: How channeling grief into music can be healing'

by Mrs Martin and the Wellbeing Ambassadors

Shao Hao is a singer-songwriter who was born in China. He moved to the UK when he was seventeen years old and attended a 6th form college in Scotland. He cites the music teachers that he met here as pivotal in his decision to become a professional musician.

Shao Hao has written music for Anime films that were commissioned by Netflix, but after ten years he has decided to try and make a success of a career as a touring solo artist. Shao Hao visited school for the morning on Thursday 20th March and performed for all students in KS3.

He sung four songs and talked to the students about the meaning behind the music/lyrics, sharing deeply personal tales about his life so far. His first song was about his cultural identity and the prejudice he has faced for 'not being Chinese enough to call China home but not feeling British enough to be considered a Brit, even after being granted British citizenship.' One song, *Dancing in the Dark*, is about his grief following the tragic death of his boyfriend. Despite this hugely sad incident, this song is upbeat and catchy.

Shao Hao's main message to the students was that it is important to talk to each other, be kind and find the thing that helps you channel your emotions into something productive and positive. One student said 'it was very brave of him to sing in front of a lot of teenagers, especially about his mental health.'

Another said, 'the thing I really enjoyed about Shao Hao's performance is that he shared really sensitive topics and that he was actually a really good singer and his songs were great.' We wish Shao Hao every success with his musical career and would love to welcome him back to Wadham School again in the future. If students wish to listen to his music, it can be found on Spotify and other streaming platforms.

LET'S
MAKE
SOME
NOISE!



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INTERVIEW

HISTORIAN, AUTHOR, PRESENTER, SHOWMAN! DOMINIC SANDBROOK GIVES THE LOWDOWN ON HIS VIEW OF THE PAST

Foreword by Peter Hopwood

On Tuesday March 18th, a select group of history students were able to share some time with famous historian Dominic Sandbrook. Over 30 minutes Mr Sandbrook shared his thoughts on a number of questions the students had prepared for him about his work and thoughts on history today. We greatly appreciate his time and insight

1. Why do you think your podcast with Tom Holland, *The Rest Is History*, has become the success it has?

That's obviously quite a hard question for me to answer because it's my own podcast, so I'm biased, so obviously the obvious answer is because Tom and I are unbelievably charming and charismatic, and so people want to listen to us for that reason. However I think the truth is that the real star of the podcast is history itself and I think people actually, love stories about the past. They love stories about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances and they love the great dramas of the past.

I think we were very lucky in our timing because we started the podcast in 2020, during COVID, but also after the whole George Floyd event and Black Lives Matter stuff had kicked off. There was loads of stuff about history in the news and in the media, but the mood music was very negative towards history, historical people being cancelled and statues coming down and stuff. We didn't massively go in for that and I think there was just a huge gap in the market as it were. Without even meaning to and without thinking about it, we knew we definitely didn't set out to for it be an anti-woke podcast or anything like that. But I think because we were just telling stories straight and we were taking people in the past seriously in their own terms.

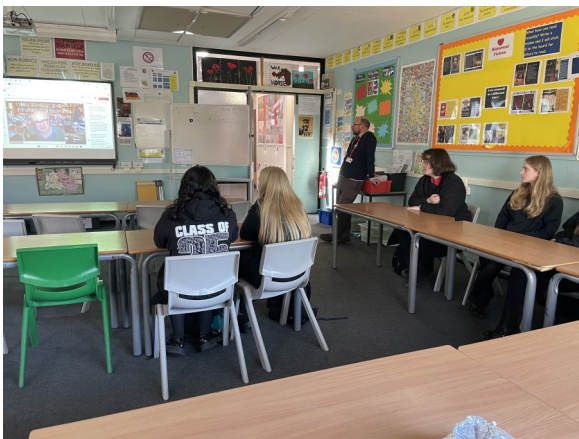


Some listeners found that kind of refreshing and you know we love, we just love history. I think a lot of historians actually hate history. They don't like the people in the past. They look down on them. They think they were very backward or very problematic and we don't really go in for that. I mean, I don't think anybody in the past can be described as 'problematic'. I think it's a strange term to use as I think they are what they were. You know, there are some things we like about them, some things we don't.



So we sort of discussed all that in the podcast, but above all, we loved to tell the stories and we loved to get into the world and into people's heads. So why's is a success? It's a labour of love for us. So when we're doing a subject, we throw ourselves into it. We do all our own reading. We don't have research assistants, which is not true of some other history podcasts. So we do it all ourselves, which means we're sort of buzzing with enthusiasm to share the stories with each other with the producers and with the audience. So yeah. I think we also benefit massively, I should say, from our production team, two producers who are fans of the show and they're really enthusiastic.

So in the end the podcast never feels like it's work, which is basically the best kind of work.



2. What do you think about the status of history teaching today in British schools?

Mr Hopwood, this is a bit of a tense moment for him right there. This is a tense moment for you. This is where basically in about a minute's time, you say, oh, we've got a problem with the with the team's link, everybody. And you mysteriously have to turn it off.

Actually, in reality, I think I do loads of history talks in schools I've probably spoken about over 100 schools. And I'm always in awe of the hard work and enthusiasm of the history teachers and the enthusiasm of the students. I do think the biggest issue is that people do enough history. I think some schools only do 2 hours a week and I don't think that's enough. Some don't even do that. The problem there is that you can't really build up the narrative there. I think there are some things that I would probably put a little bit more emphasis on doing especially earlier that's fun. I think it's funny, my son is 13 and so he and his friends are always like, you know, having to do essays about 'what's the point of doing history' and that sort of thing. My answer is always, you know, all that stuff about 'it teaches about our world' and 'you don't understand politics without history'. Honestly that's all very well, but it's quite boring.

The reality of the best reason to do history is because it's a good laugh, it's really good fun and you'll meet crazy people doing interesting things. Of course, you'll do all the intellectual



stuff, the more earnest stuff, the things I used to trot out when I was a university student and then lecturer. You say 'it's very important', 'it's very worthy', blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. But that's not the best reason to do it. The best reason to do it is because it's really the best kind of entertainment in a way. People have been telling stories ever since. Herodotus, the first historian, was writing stuff down for the ancient Greeks. I think it's something about telling stories about our predecessors which is a key part of being human.

That's an important part of history, but I've completely got off topic from history teaching. I think history teaching should perhaps put a tiny bit more emphasis on the fun side of history, especially at a younger age. You know, there was a term when my son, when he was about 11, was doing the industrial revolution. No one likes the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution is unbelievably boring. You know, all those machines and like spinning jenny's and stuff. I know it's important. It's one of the most important things that have happened in history. But it's so boring reading about it. Well, at least I think it is anyway, so I would probably ban that and have more battles. Yeah, that that. Because that's just I. That's the way I like to live my life.

3. Which parts of the history curriculum do you think need to be added to or changed? Why?

I've kind of addressed that. I think the history curriculum should be based on British history. I think it's weird. It's only in Britain that people have this weird self flagellating attitudes towards their own past. Which I think by the way is a legacy of being having the British Empire and being top nation for so long and that's left us with this sort of slight weird guilt and self loathing. You know, if we went to Ireland and said, oh, I don't, I think we should do less Irish history people would look at you and think you were demented.

So I think it should be a bedrock of British history. I think everyone should learn about the, especially I mean everyone in England should learn about the creation of England by the Anglo Saxons. I think we should do the 17th and 18th centuries when England became part of Great Britain, but also a modernity kind of arrived because I think they're really interesting, really interesting stories. I think we should do a little bit of global history and I don't think it always has to be American.



So in other words, I don't think everybody should do this. I think everyone doing the civil rights movement and the Nazis, you can do other stuff. I'm not too prescriptive. I think teachers actually should be given as much freedom as possible because they know best what will infuse their own students

4. Which part of history do you always enjoy talking about? Why?

I mean all of it, I suppose, except, of course, for the industrial revolution or anything



archaeological.

I think the moments of maximum stress are always the most interesting to discuss. So conflict, war, revolution. We're doing a series or we've done a series quite recently on our podcast about the French Revolution, and I think that's brilliant. A brilliant subject. Love talking about that. Probably the other thing that's really looms quite large for me in the last few years has been the conquest of the new world, the arrival of Europeans in the Americas as it's such a massive hinge moment in human history.

It's called the Colombian exchange. When people from Europe went to the Americas and they brought with them all their kind of diseases and they travelled back with, you know, tomatoes and potatoes and all of these plants and stuff like that. It basically is the moment the world really becomes globalised and I think that's a really, really interesting moment. The fact is sort of that, you know, culturally, sort of almost biologically, it's really important, but it's allied to these amazing stories about the Spanish Conquistadors in Peru and in Mexico and so on. So I love talking about that. We did a series on the show about the fall of the Aztecs that I really enjoyed doing, and I wrote a children's book about it. So I love that.



5. Which figure from history do you think would've made a good history teacher? Why?

So I already mentioned one Herodotus, the first historian, Greek writer. What makes him so good is this boundless curiosity. He's fascinated by everything. He reports, everything kind of writes it all down. Mad stories about Egypt and whatnot. He had a great curiosity which is important. So who else would have made a good history



teacher?

I think you're looking for somebody who's a great leader, I'll tell you who's somebody who was a very good teacher, is Nelson, Horatio Nelson.

He would invite all his captains and officers into his cabin, and he'd set out the plan and he would fill them with a great sense of self, belief and confidence as they went into battle against the French and Spanish. But he was also hugely loved by his men, which most officers in the Royal Navy in the late 18th century weren't. So he was he was seen as a genuinely kind of paternalistic figure who cared for his men's welfare. So I think you could say he actually, genuinely was a good teacher because ships at that time had what we call

midshipmen who were kind of young. They were teenagers, basically, who had joined up to become officers. They would have arrived maybe at 12 or 13, and they would sort of study on the ship. The captain was their teacher. So he would have found dealing with a class. If you can deal with a crew, I'd reckon you could deal with a class pretty easily.



6. What factors do you consider when deciding the focus for your history podcast episodes?

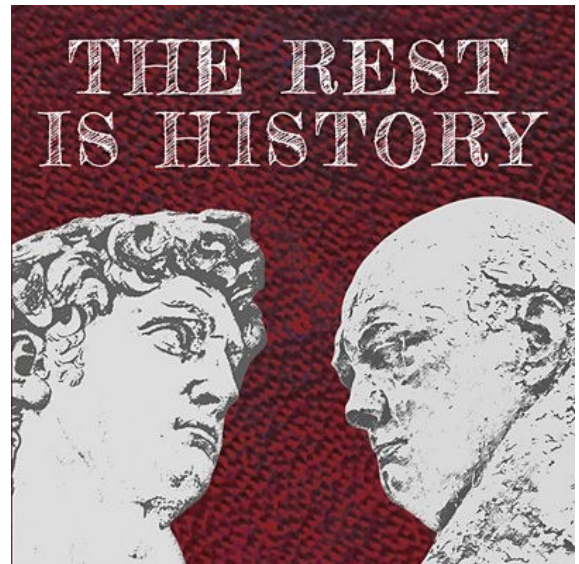
So funnily enough, we were talking about this this morning about future episodes. Basically the single criterion he have is that we've got to really want to do them. So if we're super enthusiastic then that's, you know that's it. So Tom Holland, who presents the podcast with me, he's just been on holiday to Japan and he came back and he the first time we were speaking today and he was like, oh, he's desperate to do something about, like, medieval Japan.

And I don't give a damn about medieval Japan. To be quite honest with you, but his enthusiasm was such that I thought, you know, if you want to run with it, it's your podcast so do what you like.

I'm sure it'll be good because his great sort of love of the subject will come through and will inspire people. That's the single most important factor we have to really want to do it.

We also try to have a bit of a balance. We, you know, we try to go ancient, modern, medieval but also range in geography, we have a bit of a balance. The big sort of blockbuster subjects tend to be wars and biographies but we to try to dilute them with other stuff.

Basically with the podcast, I don't know how many episodes we've done now, loads possible, hundreds, but a single thing that runs through each one. We have to really tell the story, and often that means we're doing stuff that we haven't done before.



So for example, I'm doing a series that I've written all the notes for and prepared about Peter the Great and the rise of Russia. I just did that because I was really curious about it and I was like, I'd love to do Peter the Great. I think people would enjoy it. It has loads of mad stuff going on, interfering with dwarves, pike men butchering people, and a massive war against Sweden that nobody's ever heard of. Loads of fun stuff.

It's about wanting to share your love of the subject, I think and find out things. I think that's a big thing for us is just finding out. So those are the real factors and also always thinking about what the audience do. I try and have a sense of what the audience already know and what they're interested in..

7. Do you think something like the Holocaust could happen in the modern day and do you think its already happening in the world?

The short answer is yes. Well yes and yes. I think it's highly unlikely that that's the last time that will ever happen. There had been other genocides, kind of mass slaughters of people before the Holocaust. Nothing on that scale, of course, but for example, in the Ottoman



Empire in the 1910s with the Armenians, there had been horrendous violence in the Belgian Congo in the 1890s and 1900s. Also German South West Africa, what is Namibia, in the 1900s. Then you have the mass destruction of people under Communism in Stalin in the Soviet Union and then in Maoist China. However the Holocaust is exceptional because of the sheer kind of nihilistic industrialised scale of the killing and the determination of cold blooded bureaucratic determination to destroy an entire people.

Do I think something like it could happen again? Yes, absolutely. I think human nature doesn't change, the darkness in the human soul never changes. I think there are places that have seen genocides since then, for example in Rwanda in the 1990s. Some people would point to the concentration camps in Xinjiang, in western China, and say what's happened to the Uyghurs, which the West has closed its eyes to which is not dissimilar. So could it happen? Yes, absolutely. Could I think it would probably something like it will probably happen in in our lifetimes.

That may sound very depressing, but when you've done enough history, you know that terrible things do always continue to happen. So I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news on that.

8. Where do you get your information from?

If we're doing the podcast or something, we will just find, make a list of the best books on the given subjects and try to read as many of them as we can. Sometimes we also look at academic articles, but not that often. So it mainly comes from books for the podcast. For my own stuff that I do like the books that I've written, histories of post war Britain and sort of 60s, Seventies, 80s, etc, the information there came from government papers, newspapers, magazines, letters, diaries, all kinds of different things, TV programmes even.



We also look at loads of biographies and history books and stuff. Being a historian is largely lots of reading of as many different things as possible, I would say.

9. What sources do you recommend for history students to look at to improve their knowledge?

That's a hard question really, because it depends on the period. There are some brilliant

websites for different things. So for example, when the First World War anniversary took place in between 2014 and 2018, there was a brilliant European funded website all about the war, with loads of articles and loads of resources, and I used that a lot when I was writing my children's book about the First World War.

Then, if you're doing the ancient world, again, there's loads of websites on like I did books on Alexander the Great and on Cleopatra, and there were kind of websites just on the Ptolemies or huge websites about Alexander with all the sources, because there's not that many sources. That's the bizarre thing with doing difference between ancient and modern. Then in the case of Alexander, for example, there's like 5-4 or five different accounts of his life, all written long afterwards. So it really just depends completely on what your interests were and where your interest lies.

I think the biggest thing that I would say about the biggest strength of somebody who's studying history is to know about as many different things as possible. It's very common that people kind of drill down into a subject, especially if they're doing it at a level. I used to be on university admissions team and I used to read all the personal statements and things that people they basically believe me, everybody writes exactly the same personal statement and they would all say, oh, I've done loads of reading on my own, A level subjects and stuff. But actually what I was always looking for was somebody who'd read completely different things, like read outside the subject and could make interesting parallels and links. So I think that's the most important thing, is actually just to read, you know, about historical characters or areas that are maybe not what you're studying at that moment.

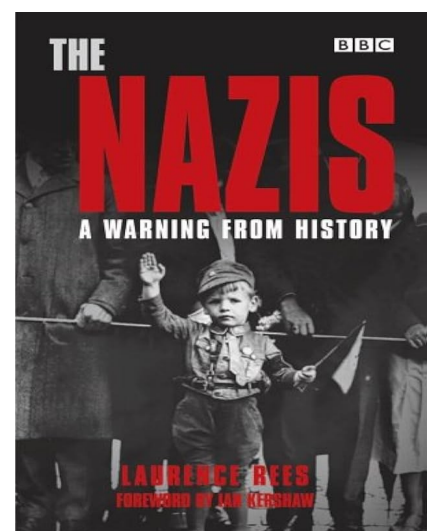
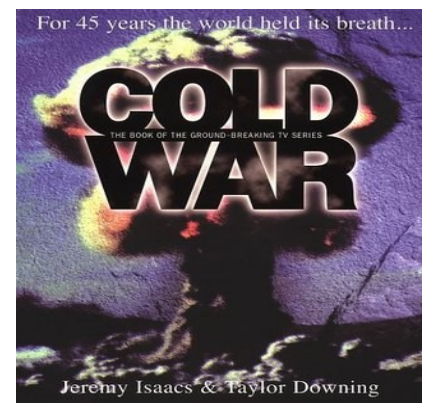
10. At Wadham was study several topics at GCSE – Elizabethan England 1558-1588, The Cold War, Germany 1918-1939 and Medicine from 1250 to Present. Are there any museums, books, exhibitions etc which you suggest would help us to understand their topics better?

Wow, OK. So the Cold War. I think there's a brilliant TV series done by CNN, think in the 1990s. I don't know if you've already watched that. It's like a twenty part series about the Cold War, narrated by Kenneth Branagh. That is absolutely brilliant. I definitely recommend that.

Germany 1918 to 1939. I think the best book on that period is probably Richard Evans's book *The coming of the Third Reich*. And there was a TV series done in the 1990s, I think, *The Nazis, a warning from history* that is really, really good.

Medicine. Actually, medicine is a massive blind spot for me. It's a very fashionable subject to study now, but I'm totally indifferent to it.

Elizabethan England. What's the best books on Elizabeth the



1st? I mean, Tracy Borman has written a lot about Elizabeth. David Starkey has written about Elizabeth the 1st.

Maybe go to some of the sort of Tudor sites like the Tower of London and Hamilton Court Palace and stuff, get you kind of head into the Tudor world.

11. Why did America become a global superpower and why are they still considered such?

Well, they're still considered global superpower because they ARE a global superpower. America ticks a lot of the boxes to be a kind of empire. It has military bases in far-flung bases, Britain included. It projects its power beyond its borders, not just military power, but economically, as we know with Donald Trump, but also kind of soft power like its culture, ideas, values and so on. So America is undoubtedly one of the two world's two great superpowers. It spends an enormous part of its of its GDP on defence, so militarily it remains a huge power, only China rivals it in that area.

When did it become a global superpower? I think the two key moments for the US are the two world wars, no question. At the end of the 19th century, everybody knew that the United States was bound to become a power. It was already overtaking Great Britain, industrially and economically, but it had never really exerted itself on the world stage. It first does that in 1917 and 1918, when it joins the First World War, but it joins it in a slightly desultory way. So actually the fighting is not terribly important. What's more important is that the European empire's effectively bankrupt themselves fighting the Great War, and that leaves the United States standing alone as the world's great financial power.

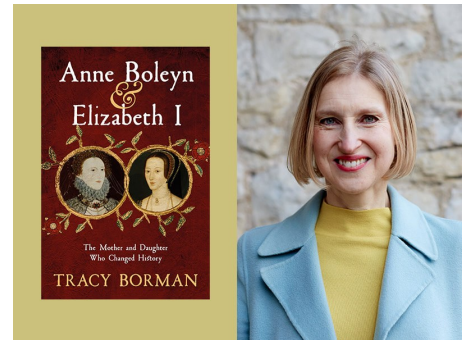


Then it withdraws for the next 20 years, as many of you all know. Then it returns after Pearl Harbour in 1941. I think that is the moment that really marks its arrival on the world stage, because it's a dramatic transformation from 1940, when the US isn't in the war at all, isn't a factor in international affairs. Then 1945, when the war ends and the United States is clearly one of the

world's great really 2 great powers with the Soviet Union. So I think that rise to absolute, unquestioned, unchallenged paramount status happens quite quickly between 1941 and 1945. But it had been coming. It had been coming for 40 years or more. It's a status the US continues to enjoy, obviously to this day.

12. Are we on the brink of another Cold War?

Yes. Yeah, definitely. Not an ideological Cold War, like capitalism versus communism, but an age of superpower rivalry between the US and China. We've been there for 10 years or more. You might have said we've seen a Cold War with Russia, but it seems like not anymore since



the advent of the return of Donald Trump.

But I think for Europe, the atmosphere in the next decade or so could be big, Cold War, like with a division between the kind of Russian dominated eastern flank and the rest of Europe. It's very frightening if you think that the United States is going to withdraw from Europe effectively or withdraw from NATO. That could create a kind of struggle for influence. That might have a bit of a Cold War flavour to it, the superpower rivalry, the antagonism, fear and suspicion of the enemy. Those are the norm in human history. They're not the exception. So that's completely natural.



13. Who do you think will be the next dominant power to shape the world?

The answer is China.

14. You were part of the team which covered the 2024 Presidential Election. Of the panel Alastair Campbell, Rory Stewart, Anthony Scaramucci, Marina Hyde and yourself, you were the only one to correctly pick Trump to win. Why did you think he would succeed in the election and why do you think many commentators got it wrong?



Basically I was part of, the rest is politics team that covered the 2024 presidential election? Alastair Campbell, Rory Stewart, Anthony Scaramucci, Marina Hyde, they all said that Kamala Harris would win. I said Donald Trump would win. Why did I think he would succeed? And why did I think so many people got it wrong? That's easy to answer. Some of those people, the rest is politics presenters, basically got mixed up between who they thought was gonna win and who they wanted to win.



They did the classic thing of basically heart ruling head. I think there's a perennial problem with British people looking at the United States and forgetting there's a hell of a lot of it. An America that's not New York or California, that's not Disneyland or Disney World or the Empire State Building or whatever. In other words, the bits that we go to on holiday or we know people in. Instead there's vast tracts of America, 10s and 10s of millions of people who don't travel to Europe, who don't have European values whose world view is very different from ours. I think a lot of British and European commentators neglect to notice that.



I also think people get massively hung up on small elements of the race, which we think everybody else is following, but actually they're completely indifferent to them. So most people barely even noticing what's going on. The other thing I've I thought was that Trump had already won. He'd won a very close election in 2016, against a Democratic woman in Hillary

Clinton. Basically, the Democrats had nominated and ended up with Kamala Harris, because of Joe Biden's ludicrous self indulgence in not stepping aside, despite the fact he was 600 years old.

I quite like Kamala Harris, but she's basically like Hillary Clinton all over again. I thought, come on, Trump's already beaten someone like this once in a very tight race. He won that first one, and the same will probably happen again. And so it did. I didn't think that took that, didn't take any great insight from me. It just seemed to me blindingly obvious. That if he's done it once before, he's probably got a good chance of doing it once again. So it proved I wasn't mad about it because I not a big fan of Donald Trump. But I just thought the fact that they were also shocked. I just thought, come on, it's pretty obvious that was going to happen.

15. If you were hosting a dinner party and could choose 4 guests from history to join you, who would you choose and why?

First up, Cleopatra. I've written about her and it'd be nice to kind of everything we know about her was written by her enemies. The Romans. Nothing by her, nothing by her supporters. So it'd be nice to find out the woman kind of behind the myth.

I would choose Winston Churchill because, I mean, it would be amazing to say you met Churchill, the most famous character in British history.

I would choose somebody go from a bit further back, so I would choose maybe Alfred the Great, the founder of England. However he's a bad dinner party guest because he had terrible stomach trouble. So that might be high risk. However, I'd steer the conversation towards smiting the Vikings, and that might be fun. He might enjoy chatting and talking about that Churchill.

And then I think one other person, I need another woman. Who would I choose? I would choose somebody who's done on podcast. We did a whole series about the World Cup where we had to choose, do an episode for every country competing in the World Cup, and I drew the short straw, which was South Korea.

My South Korean history is not really tip top, but I chose a poet from the like the 16th century or something called Hwang Jini. Not only was she a great poet, she was said to be the most beautiful woman in South Korea and a very accomplished courtesan. I think she would be an entertaining person to have at dinner. Wouldn't go down well with my wife, but I think she would be. She would be fun. So I think that would be a nice mix of people, you know, powerful women, interesting men and it would be an absolutely splendid evening.



*Time to
think about...*



The Tories 2.0. Cameron-style Austerity and Abelist nature introduced by a "Labour" Government

By MJ Jones

The 2025 Spring Statement was meant to solidify Labour's economic credibility, but it has instead reinforced the perception that Rachel Reeves' fiscal policy is indistinguishable from the austerity-driven cuts of previous Tory governments.

With sweeping reductions to welfare programs and punitive tax enforcement measures, this budget will do little to ease the cost-of-living crisis facing millions of Britons. Worse still, it risks further eroding Labour's already fragile support among voters who expected real change.

Among the most damaging measures announced is the overhaul of Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The government is tightening eligibility criteria, aiming to slash £500 million from support for disabled people.

This will force many struggling individuals into poverty or force them to jump through bureaucratic hoops simply to receive the basic assistance they need. The decision echoes past Conservative welfare cuts, reinforcing the view that this Labour government is not prioritizing the people who need help the most.

Universal Credit will see an increase in the standard allowance, rising from £92 per week to £106 by 2029. However, this minor increase is offset by the reduction of the health element for new claimants, which will be halved before being frozen entirely.

While ministers may spin this as a 'responsible' approach to public finances, it is a direct attack on some of the most vulnerable in society, particularly at a time when food banks are seeing record demand.



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In another move that smacks of Tory-era cost-cutting, the government plans to slash 10,000 civil service jobs. This is being sold as an efficiency measure, but in reality, it will gut essential public services that are already buckling under years of mismanagement.

Fewer public sector workers mean longer processing times for benefits, slower responses to crises, and an overall decline in the quality of governance. Labour campaigned on rebuilding public trust, yet their first major budget delivers the exact opposite.

While Labour has chosen to avoid the blunt instrument of direct austerity, its taxation policies impose a different kind of financial burden on the working class. HMRC's new penalty system will increase fines for late tax payments, squeezing small businesses and self-employed workers who are already struggling. Higher penalties for delays may sound like a technical adjustment, but for those living paycheck to paycheck, it could be the difference between stability and financial ruin.

Labour's polling numbers have already been in decline, with recent surveys showing a sharp drop in support among lower-income and disabled voters—groups that propelled the party to power in 2024.

These budget decisions are likely to further alienate these crucial voting blocs. Many who voted Labour to escape the cruelty of 14 years of Conservative governance may now feel abandoned, watching as Reeves and Starmer embrace the very policies they promised to dismantle.

Labour's rhetoric of 'fiscal responsibility' increasingly looks like a euphemism for austerity-lite. As the cost-of-living crisis drags on, and disillusionment with Labour grows, one question looms: if this government refuses to stand up for the most vulnerable, who will?

RACHEL REEVES' SPRING STATEMENT 2025

- Growth forecast cut to 1%
- £14bn spending cuts
- Increased defence budget





OUR VISION

Our aim as a PTFA is to work with Wadham school to promote a sense of partnership between parents, teachers, and the wider community.

Also to raise funds through exciting and engaging events that enrich lives, opportunities, and experiences of all of our pupils.

We want to also give pupils the opportunity to have their voice heard, and we will value their individual contributions.

Together, we are a powerful voice for children. With your help and support, we can continue to work towards the PTFA goal of a quality education and nurturing environment for every child.

Our current project

We are working on an exciting project to create a calm reflection garden for students.

So far we have raised £710

Contact information
wadhamptfa@gmail.com

What is the PTFA?

PTFA stands for Parent, Teacher, Family Association. We are a newly established group at Wadham School, since December 2024. We hope to expand and welcome more members soon.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR...

- PTFA Logo competition
- Christmas hamper raffle
- Non-uniform day



Meet the team



Hannah Osbourne
PTFA Chair and LSA at Wadham



Elizabeth Webb
PTFA Secretary and LSA at Wadham



Amy Cox
PTFA Treasurer, Cover Supervisor at Wadham and Parent

Wadham School on the move!

Year 11 ASMPT Trip

By Phoebe Lamb

On Tuesday the 4th of February, Year 11 statistics students visited ASMPT in Weymouth for the day to help learn about where statistics can take them and where the skills they have learned in their classes are used in the real world.



Who are ASMPT?

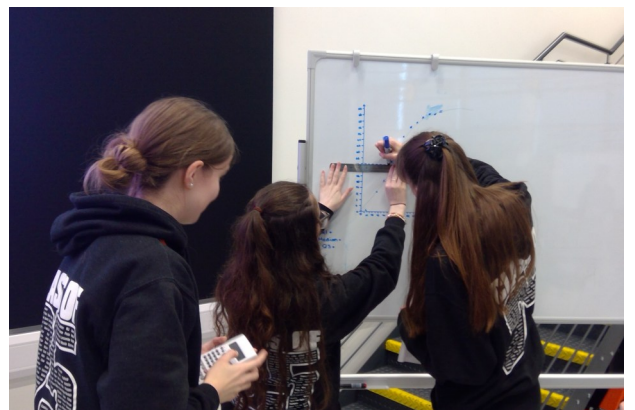
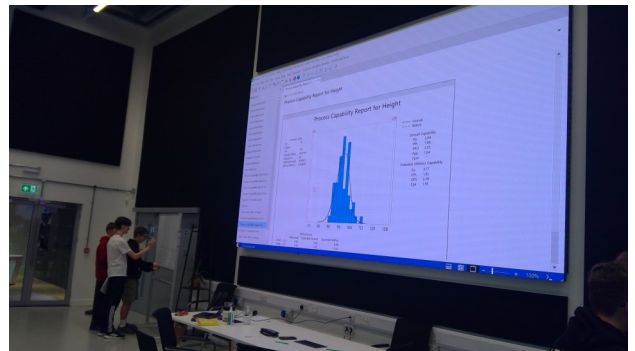
ASMPT is a company that designs and manufactures machines and tools used in semiconductor and electronics assembly industries, ASMPT is the Leading Global Supplier of Hardware, Software and Service Solutions for the Intelligent Factories of our Global Customers in the Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Industry



What did we do on the trip?

Once we arrived at ASMPT, we got to do two activities, one being a chance to see a few of their machines and how they work, and got a chance to ask some questions about the company, the other activity being a chance to use some of our statistics skills we learnt in lessons, showing us where they are used in the real world.

ASMPT very kindly provided us with some snacks, and gave us a tour of their office, showing us the environment they work in and showed us the where the machines are made and the process of making them.



What did we gain from the trip?

We learnt where our skills we learn in statistics are used in the real world, and what kind of jobs you can do in statistics. ASMPT also talked to us about the apprenticeships they offer and how they work, doing an apprenticeship with ASMPT is a great way to get into the business and get work experience while learning, which can lead to higher positions in the business or big roles at other companies in a similar industry!

A HUGE thank you to everyone at ASMPT for giving up their time for us and another massive thank you to Mrs Goddard for organizing the trip! If you want to know more about ASMPT there is much more to learn on their website

'A little note from Mrs Goddard'

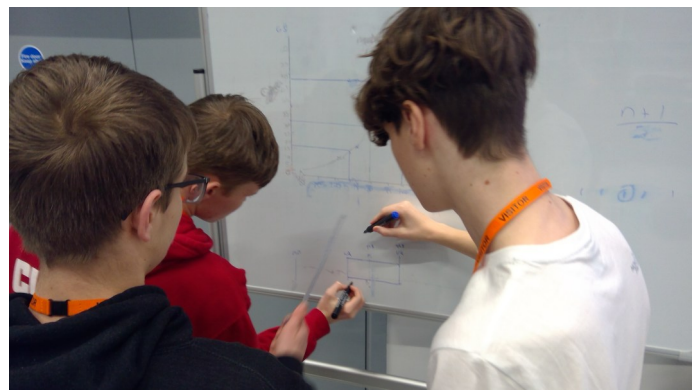
Mrs Goddard would like to say a massive thank you to Abi Cox, David Ody, George Foot, Mark Langham and all staff involved in our trip.

The experience really helped students appreciate how integral statistics are to a company like ASMPT and importantly how the skills they've learnt and developed studying for GCSE Statistics are so beneficial when entering into the workplace.

It's mind blowing to think that 80% of the worlds electronics contain a component produced on a printer designed and made by ASMPT!

ASMPT offer a wide range of opportunities for young people in many different fields - from work experience to graduate programs in anything from HR to Engineering and so much more.

If you would like to find out more please come and speak to Mrs Goddard or Mrs Church in the careers office.



Wadham School Proudly Presents...



By Josie Bulmer

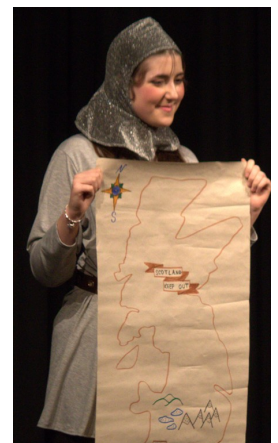
Spamalot is a musical stage show based on the film Monty Python and the holy grail. It focuses around King Arthur, his knights of the round table, and the help of the lady of the lake in the quest to find the holy grail, the cup used at the last supper, through many different problems in the process.

The whole show is full of comedy, wonderful upbeat songs, and a little bit of slightly dubious history mixed in with the jokes, making for an awesome show when put together with a lot of the room there is for improvising.

This year, Wadham did *Spamalot* as the school musical, and this is the sort of experience we've had.



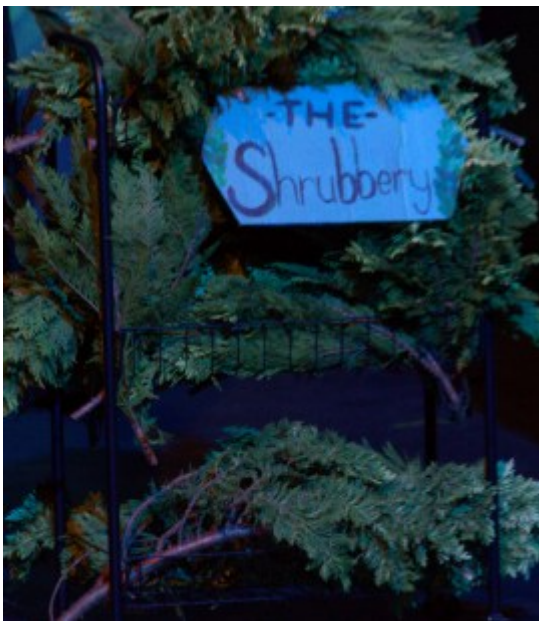
"We are the Knights that say...Ni"



Reflections on Spamalot

By Josie Bulmer

Doing the show every year my favourite part of school without competition, and safe to say spamalot is one of the best times I've had. I loved being able to do such a fun musical, with some of the best people I know, being part of an awesome experience that I don't think I'll forget any time soon. It was just as amazing an experience doing the rehearsals and working stuff out as it was the final result, especially when there would a bit of fun or a mess up and Miss would like it so much that it got into the show. Those were probably my favourite bits. I'm going to miss performing it, and the people who are leaving, but I really look forward to doing whatever we do next year, and making even more memories.



"find your grail!"

My time during the school play

By Eliza Hodgson

As someone on the spectrum, being on stage has been incredibly beneficial to me, helping me be more confident and to find my voice. The school plays build a community, a family, and a safe space for students to find comfort in who may not have that same comfort outside of school. Playing the role of Robin was an incredibly enjoyable experience, and being on stage with so many of my friends was such an enlightening experience. A massive thank you to our director, Miss Middleton, and our wonderful and flamboyant co-director, Mr date. A big well done to everyone who performed alongside me!!



"God be praised, we have a quest!"



Doing the tech for Spamalot

By Ryan Medhurst (Sound)

Working on sound for the school's newest play was an enjoyable experience, sure it was difficult at first, but it was also fun. The software used for the sound was very advanced and Luke Pearce, the person on lights next to me, had the hardest job. It was such an amazing experience, and I encourage others to do the same. Thank you to all the helpful staff at the Warehouse theatre in Ilminster who helped me and Luke with the tech. The play went according to plan. Miss Middleton, Mr Date and the cast had put on a spectacular performance for everyone and created log lasting memories for us all.

By Luke Pearce (Lights)

I usually do acting in the school productions but doing the lights was a great experience and I had a blast. It was great sitting in the small box with Ryan Medhurst as we watched the play, read our scripts and waited for our queue's. It was really difficult at the beginning, but it got easier the more I did it. I loved being able to watch the performance while also being a part of it. The staff at the Warehouse theatre were very helpful at teaching me how to do the tech. I also have to thank Miss Middleton and Mr Date for this amazing opportunity I really enjoyed it and will definitely do it again.



INTERVIEW

**ACTOR, NARRATOR,
PRODUCER, LEGEND!
SEAN PERTWEE
ON HIS WORK ON
STAGE AND SCREEN**

Foreword and interview by Josie Bulmer

Sean Pertwee is an British actor with an extensive career since the 1980s in television and cinema productions. A regular face on both stage and screen he took some time to talk to the Quill on a range of topics. We hope you enjoy this.



1. What does your daily routine look like?

When I'm not working I wake early so I let the dogs out and then drink coffee. Lots of coffee. I find it best to learn lines for some reason earlier in the day, so I talk to myself running lines, pacing about then go for 5K jog. I love cooking so I make a late lunch, blast on COD for 1/2 an hour. Watch a movie or see friends.

2. What was it that got you into acting and subsequently the film industry?

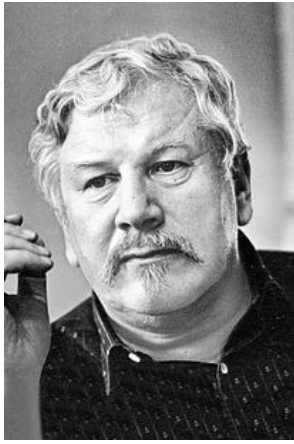
My family have been involved in the arts for over 200 years so suppose you could say it's in the blood? I was an appalling student, I didn't fit in in the many schools I attended but I was lucky enough to have a drama teacher, Mr Hawthorne, who changed my life.

I was at a tough all boys comprehensive but he was able to enthuse, challenge, inspire, laugh with and at us. A true mentor. I enjoyed his classes so much a joined a theatre group so that I suppose was my start in the industry.

3. What is your favourite part about being an actor and why?

Working. I love working and being on a set. One of the many things I love is our profession is that it's not ageist, you work with 8 to 80+ year olds as complete equals. I am blessed to have worked for five years with the likes of David Mazouz (Master Bruce in *Gotham*) from when he was 11 I learnt so much from him, he became like a surrogate son. What did he learn from me? He has most definitely inherited my love of Hip Hop & Rap.

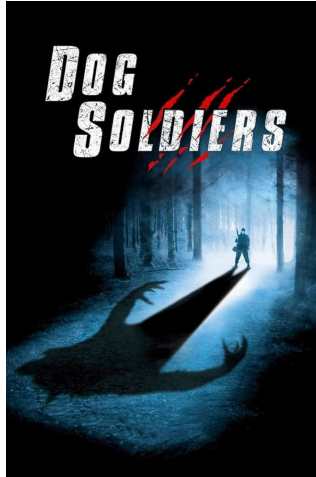




Then there was Sir Peter Ustinov who was 83. Without doubt one of the most hilarious raconteurs , comedians , mimics to of ever lived.

4. Do you have a favourite film you've worked

on, what is it and why was it your favourite?



Dog Soldiers. It was Neil Marshall's first feature. We shot the film chronologically with a great cast , crew and script.

5. Is there anything you'd change about the acting and film industry, and if so, why?

If I was to change anything it would be to have the opportunity to rehearse more and workshop the script.

Stephen Graham has developed an original style by doing just that with his latest projects like *Adolescence* and *Boiling Point* in which he'll shoot entire episodes in one take.



6. Is there anyone in particular that you've taken inspiration from/looked up to?

Gary Oldman. The ultimate Actors actor. My first movie was *Prick Up Your Ears*. Directed by the genius Stephen Frears who was terrifying . It didn't help that I didn't know what the hell I was doing as it was the day after I'd graduated from Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Gary kindly explained during lunch how to hit a mark, not to look down the bottle, stillness, continuity . All the basics. I could never thank him enough.

Now on any job when I see a young actor struggling I try to do the same.

7. As an actor, it likely goes without saying you enjoy films. What would be your go-to flicks on a movie night? Why?

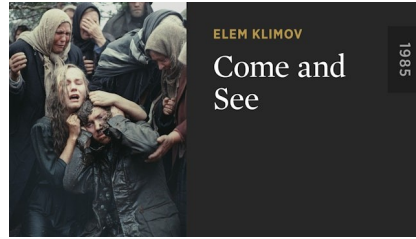
It totally depends on my mood.

I love all film, from the hysterical to the bleak, to sci-fi to the old to the horror.

- ◆ *Citizen Kane* — moved film technique forward like no other

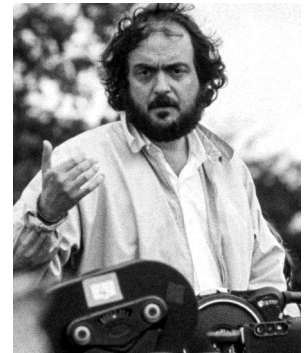
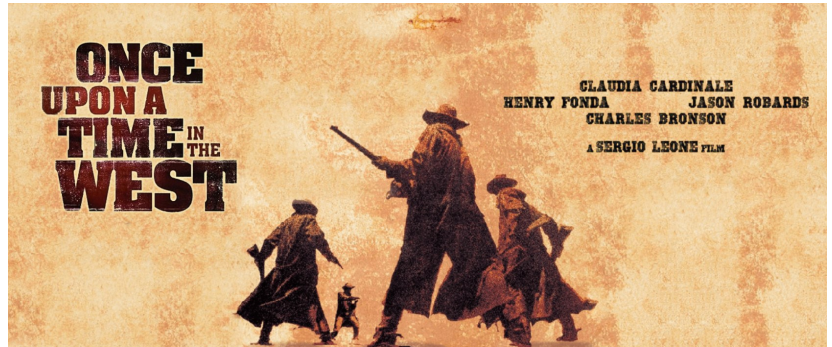


- ◆ *Apocalypse Now & Come and See* – Epic violent anti war films
- ◆ *Once Upon A Time In The West* – birth of the spaghetti western
- ◆ *Pink Panther* films' Peter Sellers at his funniest
- ◆ Anything by Stanley Kubrick



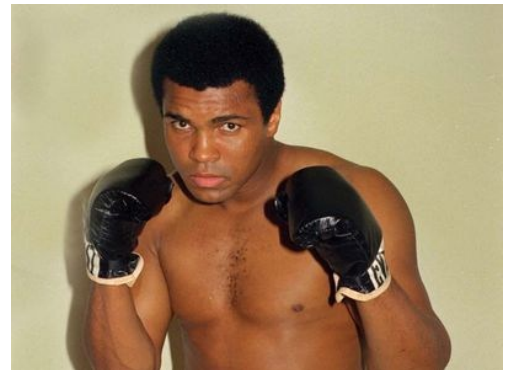
8. Which part of your career both as an actor and producer, do you think most people get wrong or misunderstand?

I don't quite understand the question, but it is a constant struggle not to get pigeon holed. I thought at the beginning of my career I would be involved in comedy, so imagine my surprise to find myself involved in Sci-fi and violent gangster pics.



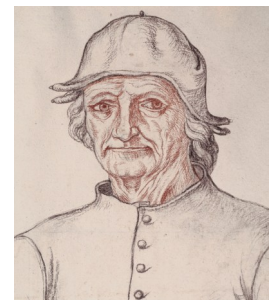
9. If you could have a dinner party and invite any four people from history, who would be on the guestlist and why?

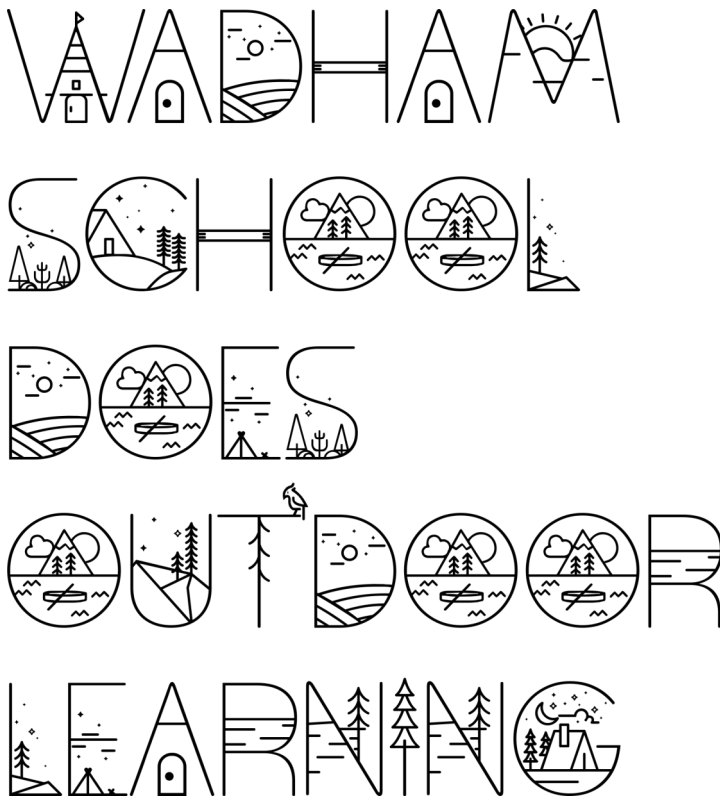
- ◆ Muhammad Ali, as a political activist and greatest heavyweight boxer in history.
- ◆ Stanley Kubrick , my favourite film director.
- ◆ Charles Dickens, I'd like him to write about London now as there's a lot of similarities to Victorian Britain.
- ◆ Heironymus Bosch, stuff of nightmares artist, just to find out what was going on in his mind.



10. What five words describe 'Sean Pertwee'?

Energetic. Traveller. Foodie. Passionate. Loyal



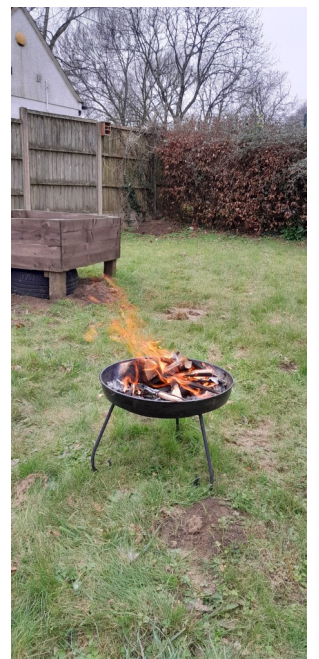
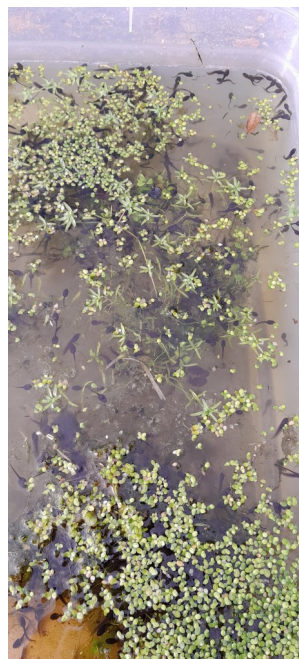


By Mrs Vowles

Both the year 7 and year 9 Outdoor Learning groups have enjoyed watching the frogspawn turn into tadpoles over the last few weeks.

The tadpoles can be seen swimming around and eating the weed and algae in the water. We have added some old pots and wooden planks to give them shelters to hide under.

We hope they will grow into healthy frogs that can return next year to breed in the pond we are digging in the Learning Centre garden!



The Outdoor Learning group enjoyed having a campfire and toasting marshmallows this week. It was a great way to celebrate their last session!

Well done for all of your hard work and enthusiasm this term - Jess, Shiann, Mollie -Mae and Mason.



History Matters

The German Occupation of Jersey and the Bunker of St Brelade

By Hedley Egre

We are aware of the many effects and events that were caused by the German Occupation. For example, Poland, France, the Netherlands, Greece, Belgium, Luxembourg, Norway, Denmark and more places with equally fascinating and inspiring tales of resilient and brave people who stood together even when their country was taken over by a dictatorship. But do we really know about every where's history and how they survived through this time? Even when they might seem insignificant, but are still as important as every other?

This time, although there are many others, we cover Jersey and it's occupation and the lasting effects and landmarks of the occupation.

During World War II, the British government demilitarized the Channel Islands, deeming their defence impractical. The actual German Occupation of Jersey began one week after the British government did this due to the fear of the safety of civilians should there be any conflict. The codename for this was 'Operation Green Arrow' and the initial German Air Force reconnaissance flights mistook the civilian farming lorries for troop carriers. On the 28th of June, the German Air Force, not knowing of the demilitarisation, bombed and machine-gunned multiple sites on the island. The attacks killed ten people and wounded many more. A few days later on the 1st of July 1940, General Richthofen, the Commander of the German Air Forces in Normandy, dropped an ultimatum from the air demanding the immediate surrender of the island. White flags and crosses were placed in prominent positions, as stipulated by the Germans, and later that day Jersey was occupied by air-borne troops under the command of Hauptmann Gussek.

The island's landmarks faced drastic changes by the Nazi's constructing bunkers from St Clement to St Quen. For example, lé Vièr Châté's (A castle in Jersey) towers which faced Grouville and France were reconstructed to disguised shooting points where Nazi's fired at any ships attempting to approach. The highest cliff in St Brelade was excavated and used as a cliff bunker which also faced into the ocean for similar purposes. I happened to of explored this bunker and other bunkers for myself and have uncovered some strange items and facts while taking photos.



RA

Call for entries

An exciting opportunity for students aged 4–18, who are living and studying in the UK, to exhibit their artwork on site or online at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Open for submissions
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Find out more and enter
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Young Artists' Summer Show

2025

Royal Academy of Arts

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INTERVIEW

**TELL ME IF YOU'VE
HEARD THIS ONE.
WRITER AND HISTORY
CHAMPION BEN WARD**

Foreword and interview by Edie Pattison

Ben Ward is a BAFTA winning TV script writer and actor, best known for being head writer for *Horrible Histories* and *Danger Mouse*. Mr Ward focuses most on comedy writing due to his interest in it from a young age. The opportunity to interview him was too great to pass up. In this interview he discusses the effects writing has had on his life and how history inspired him to write such amazing comedy sketches and songs, that we all know at least one of.

1. When did you know you wanted to be a TV writer?

I was a big fan of comedy growing up and so from around 11 or 12 I started aiming towards a career in comedy. I started writing and performing a bit at home, with friends, at school and then when it came to going to university, I focused on finding somewhere that I'd be able to do comedy and find like-minded people. Warwick had a large arts centre, a radio station etc. It seems odd looking back, but I was that focused. The group I put together in the first few months at University all have careers in comedy now, so it's kind of worked for all of us.

2. What does your daily routine look like?

Most days I'm at my desk from about 9 until about 5. Then from about 8 until 11. It depends a bit on deadlines and where the shows that I'm working on are, in terms of production. Sometimes the hours are longer and sometimes I don't work evenings. I usually work half a day or so at weekends.

3. What is your favourite book?

Lord of the Rings, Catch 22, Tales of the City, Being There, Extra-ordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds. I guess *Lord of the Rings*.



4. Do you have a role model that inspired you to become a writer?

Not really. I was a big fan of Galton And Simpsons work, Spike Milligan and Mel Brooks, but I'm not sure I was aware of the writing part of it. I got to know Alan Simpson later on, which was great. I think I've subconsciously borrowed a lot from his shows like Steptoe and Son and Hancock's Half Hour, because my dad used to play them to me when I was little.

5. What do you do to relax?

I'm not sure I do relax very often. Still trying to figure that out.

6. Having been head writer for Horrible Histories, what period of history do you find most interesting and why?

It changes from time to time. As a writer, the Stone Age is great because it's the most challenging. We know very little about it, so creating factually accurate sketches is pretty hard. I like times and places that are new to me too – the Byzantine Empire is fascinating. The old City of Constantinople is extra-ordinary and that part of the world is barely studied in this country. I'm fascinated by the sieges of Malta, Rhodes and Vienna. I love a good siege.

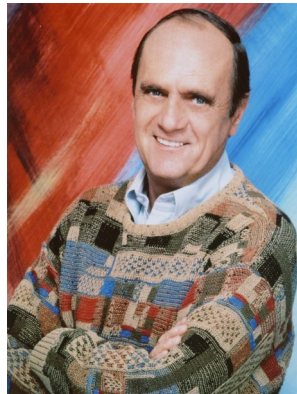
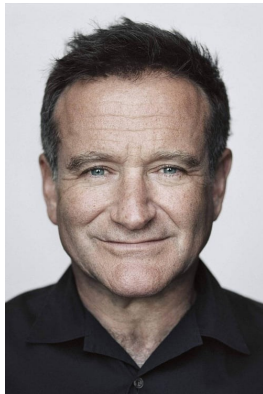


7. If you could invite any five historical figures for a dinner party, who would they be?



Alfred the Great, Constantine the Great, Alexander the Great, Peter the Great and Charlemagne (Charles the Great). That would be a Great dinner party.

The truth is I'd probably choose comedy people like Spike Milligan, Garry Shandling, Buster Keaton, Tina Fey, Robin Williams, Bob Newhart. I'm curious to hear their thought processes.



8. What do you find the best part of writing is?

I enjoy breaking stories with friends. That's where two or more of us take some characters and create stories around them that we turn into episodes of TV shows.

9. What were you like at school?

I really don't know. Annoying? I don't think I was at my best, but I guess few people are.

10. How often do you get writers block, and how do you deal with it?

Never had it. Honestly, I think it's a process thing. Open a book, any book, on any page and pick the 29th word on the page. Now write 10 stories or jokes, or scenes based around that word, or using it as a jumping off point. It might take practice, but once you can do that, regardless of what the word is, then you'll never be short of ideas.

Also don't look for perfection – if you can't write something great, write something average and rewrite it later to make it better. I think as TV writer, I'm exclusively working towards deadlines, so we don't have time for existential crises. I imagine it might be different if you were writing a novel with no deadline. But I bet that 10-joke-thing above works just as well.

11. My favourite Horrible Histories song is probably 'The Marcus Licinius Crassus song', What is your favourite?

Also my favourite – although it's the one that took me longest to write! I like the New World song too. Larry added the De-feet joke and it makes me smile every time. As a performance, Sarah Hadland doing her Kate Bush impression as Bloody Mary is amazing.

**12. I always listen to music when I'm revising (usually Take That) do you listen to music when you're writing, if so, who is most regularly played?**

I used to, but haven't listened to music while writing for a long time. I'm not sure when I stopped. Music can affect mood and therefore the emotion of what you're writing, so if you're writing something funny don't put something serious on. Maybe.

**13. What has been your most memorable job, or your favourite?**

That's tough. I enjoyed writing *Chums* for Ant and Dec (google it) and I was very proud of *Danger Mouse*. But I think sitting in the writer's room with Matt Groening next to me, doodling new Simpsons characters was pretty special.

14. If you could travel back to any time period where (or when) would you go and why?

The late 1990's – felt like the safest, healthiest and most hopeful period. I'd be interested in seeing great events like the Siege of Constantinople (either one) but that would be a very dangerous place to be!

Also, I'd love to see the first moment someone stroked a wolf and thought, you know, this might make a good pet. All dogs stem from that very dangerous moment and dogs are awesome.



15. If you could only watch one film on repeat, for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?

Ghostbusters or Being There.

16. How much time do you spend writing each day?

It varies depending on deadlines but probably 8 hours plus meetings

17. Did you learn anything new while writing Horrible Histories, if so, what fact shocked you most?

There were Woolly Mammoths still walking around, 1500 years AFTER the building of the Great Pyramid.

That still blows my mind. It was an isolated colony in Siberia that survived nearly 10,000 years after the others died out, but they were there!



BEING THERE



18. What advice would you give to anyone who wants to become a writer?

Write things. They don't have to be good. Write – re-write – write some more. And do other things. People who don't have other non-writing things that are important to them, tend to have less interesting and original ideas. It's the combination of your interests and experiences that make your ideas unique. So, take up fencing, learn Greek, breed ferrets... do things that make you different. And write things you might want to read. That helps. I never write jokes that I don't personally find funny.

19. Do you find writing relaxing, or is it just work now?

A bit of both.

20. What three words best describe Ben Ward?

I'm. Not. Sure.



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT...



The video game company that started a revolution

By Thomas Baker

Nowadays, the gaming industry is saturated with companies all attempting to make the next popular game, using the same, boring formulas and uninteresting gameplay elements.

But there was a time where that was different, a time where every new game or console that came out was a big deal, capturing imagination and pushing creativity, the pioneers of this phenomenon? Nintendo.

The creator of Nintendo, Fusajiro Yamauchi, originally never intended to make any games, instead he started off as a card painter, owning a small building in the centre of Kyoto making sets of playing cards for Japanese games.

Nintendo held this card-making practice for nearly a century, starting in 1889 and only stopping once they ventured into the gaming industry in 1975, with the creator of an electronic video recorder, in collaboration with Mitsubishi Electric™.

Nintendo then moved away from video recorders, and, continuing their collaboration with Mitsubishi, created the company's first ever video games: "TV Game 15" and "TV Game 6" (Side-Note, there are no other "TV Games" known of, only 6 and 15 exist, suggesting they did originally make others, but these games have long since been lost to time).



The 1980's were a big decade for Nintendo, as well as purchasing their first American office, 1981 saw the release of the first proper Nintendo arcade game, "Donkey Kong", and the creation of "Mario Segali" (later renamed to just "Mario") based upon the office landlord at the time.

1983 was an important year, as it is the year the company started working on their first console, codenamed "Family Computer", which was reported to have both a CPU and a PPU in just one package, whilst also apparently being affordable. This was unheard of at the time, computers were expensive and had a lot of components, and so Nintendo





squishing it down into a relatively small form-factor, was extremely impressive.

By the start of 1990's, Nintendo had already solidified themselves as a pillar of gaming and with the creation of the "Nintendo Entertainment System" (The Famicom), released in 1985.

1991

started off with the release of the "Super Nintendo" showing that the company did not intend to leave the gaming industry anytime soon, on top of this, it was the primary competitor to the "Sega Genesis", so this conflict and repeated one-upping triggered the beginning of the golden era of gaming.



1996 saw the creation of the "N64", this was an industry-defining moment, as its controllers had joysticks, this may not seem very impressive, but up to that point every controller was binary, either forward or backward, left or right, so the integration of dynamic joysticks were a serious advancement.



By 2001, Nintendo had come out victorious against SEGA and celebrated this victory with the release of the "GameCube", the successor to the "N64", it sold 22 million units and was extremely popular in America. In 2006 the "Nintendo Wii" released, making its way into 101 million homes, this was the best a console had ever sold, and was only surpassed by the "Nintendo Switch" in 2021. As well as this, the Switch, released in 2021, has been the best-selling console ever made by Nintendo.



Even now, Nintendo is still going strong, as they have just announced the creatively named "Nintendo Switch 2", with huge improvements on both the Switch 1 and the OLED version. The company has quite impressively stayed in the public eye after 136 years, truly a testament to the company's staying power and industry strength.



MOVIE REVIEWS

"YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE"

MAD MAX 2: THE ROAD WARRIOR

By Izaak Gregory

Mad Max 2 The Road Warrior is a film about the daily struggles of living in Australia. Directed by George Miller, the same director as the family classic *Babe 2: Pig in the City*, *Mad Max 2* is a gritty, action-packed thriller and remains one of the best action films of the 1980s. Miller gives it his all with his iconic cinematography and direction. The film includes some of the greatest stunt work ever put to film in its action sequences, an incredible musical score, awesome costume design, fantastic performances from the leads and a surprising sparing use of dialogue throughout (which was unprecedented for action movies of the time). It stars Mel Gibson (*Braveheart*, *Hacksaw Ridge*) as Max, in one of his most iconic roles, and Bruce Spence (The Mouth of Sauron in *Return of the King*) as the Gyro Captain.



Plot

Set some years after the original *Mad Max*, the film finds Max, a cynical ex-cop surviving in a post-apocalyptic Australian wasteland and roaming the desert in a constant search for gasoline for his V8 interceptor. When he encounters a settlement of survivors living in fortified oil refinery besieged by a hoard of motorised barbarians, he decides to help them in their escape plan to a fabled green paradise. Along the way he makes alliances and enemies, faces hardships and overall grows from an untrusting loner to a saviour of a community.

Why is it worth a watch

As I mentioned before, the film is one of the best action films of the 80s. Its stunt choreography of the chase scenes is unmatched and makes the film worthwhile on its own, with the cinematography standing out especially. The opening shot of the film alone remains one of most iconic opening shot



of all time. One of the things that makes the film so timeless is the fact that it is the second film in the franchise, but it can be enjoyed on its own as well as a standalone film. The film has 93% on rotten tomatoes and 7.6/10 on IMDB. Overall it is really worth a watch for any fan of classic 80s cinema and action movies.



Doing Wadhams Proud

By Evan Pearce

In January I gave a 10 min presentation about tanks in Normandy to the Crewkerne Royal British Legion. Following this I was asked by the Mayor to do a speech at the Crewkerne civic event in front of eighty people.

Here is what I presented.

"Hello everyone. My names Evan and here are a few reasons why I like Crewkerne.

Crewkerne itself derives from the Anglo-saxon term, 'cruc' meaning hill and 'earn' meaning house. And the hill part is no joke, there is quite a big hill behind us called Bincome Beaches, Bincome woods and the river Parret - great places of natural beauty. This is why the Romans and the Durotrigues tribe lived in the area.

When I first moved here, I had a border collie so when we went on walks he would help us to explore the town. Kithill to Poples well, Ashland's to Severalls and Lang Road to East Street.

Learning of the history and how the town prospered from its location into a great manufacturer of cloth and sails all I can say is that it is steeped in history and you can see this in the buildings that remain. heck, there's even a drainpipe outside boots that's as old as America! But if you are interested in the history, go to the museum to find out more.

Crewkerne has always been a market town with such a variety of shops around. Of course there are the essentials like Waitrose and Lidl but also there are some more interesting shops. I'm not gonna lie but the model shop is my favourite but also places like the book shop and the board house are up there. You can't forget the cafes either because they do fill your stomach with some great food. You can go to Bilbys, Cosy Cafe, Market Street Bakery and Sues Cafe down at the train station. Even some companies outside of Crewkerne can't resist the town when it comes to the Wednesday market.

There are also many things for the youth who are very lucky to live in this town and not in Ilminster. There is a rugby club at Henhayes which I play for, a scout group which I go to on Wednesday. There is also Brownies, majorettes and a boxing club. A football club for



those who prefer diving, and if you're that good at acting then there's a drama club as well. Of course there's a skate park and many play parks around town not to forget the two bowling clubs and a new tennis court.

The town has a fantastic church which is almost like a cathedral in itself. The bell tower above it consists of a ring of eight bells which I ring at every Monday night.

The town also boasts a very aesthetically pleasing train station which Ilminster doesn't have. I also love the school because the students behave so much better than my previous school, so lessons are not distracted nearly as much as my old school.

I am also a youth member of the royal British legion which tirelessly raise money for the annual poppy appeal and look after ex service personnel and their families around the area. We are currently, raising money for a bench by the way.

As a teenager I feel happy and safe to live in Crewkerne, I especially like walking to school with my friends and popping into town for a snack on the way back home.

From Captain Hardy, a 250 year old drainpipe and some fantastic old buildings Crewkerne has plenty to offer, surrounded in the natural beauty of the countryside, it has an abundance of parks and open spaces. Clubs for all ages and above all its a Historic Market Town with a big village community feel.

for all of these reasons I love Crewkerne.

The one disappointment is we are still quite close to Chard.



MUSIC REVIEWS

Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge — My Chemical Romance

By Brooklynn

On June 8th, 2004, My Chemical Romance released their 2nd studio album *Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge* as a concept album extending onto the original story of the band's first album *I Brought you my Bullets, you Brought me your love*. The people on the album cover are known as the "Demolition Lovers" named after their hit song *Demolition Lovers* and the album is about the male demolition lover trying to reunite with his partner by going on a mission to kill 1,000 evil men.

HELENA 9/10

This was my favourite song when I first discovered the band and is the most popular one of the album despite not having anything to do with the story. The song is dedicated to lead singer Gerard way and bassist Mikey way's late grandmother who died while they were touring-fittingly having the music video set in a funeral.

GIVE 'EM HELL KID 7/10

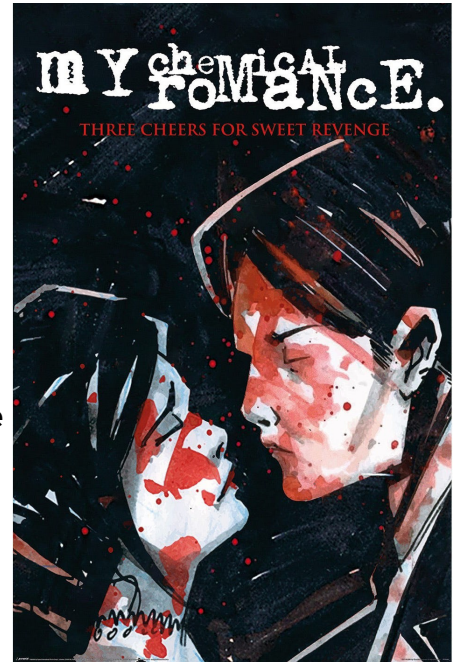
I really liked the riff in the beginning of the song, and I think this deserves more popularity from other fans of the band. However, it is heavily story-based so if you're like me and listen to My Chemical Romance because of how the lyrics personally tie into your life or current circumstance then this may not be your favourite track. It is more of a fast-paced action type song talking about the start of the male demolition lover's mission where he murders the first couple sinners.

TO THE END 7/10

Personally, I consider this one about as good as give 'em hell kid and with the whispering it sounds even cooler with only the right Earphone (I share my EarPods a lot I know from experience). The song is based on William Faulkner's story titled, "A Rose for Emily" and takes inspiration from the Blur song, made in 1994, named "To the End". In terms of the Three Cheers plot it describes the protagonist crashing a wedding to quickly rack up more kills- hoping the reunion will come soon.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DO TO GUYS LIKE US IN PRISON 10/10

This song I proudly am obsessed with due to the sheer uniqueness of the song and how



it ties into the lore of Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge. It starts with “in the middle of a gunfight, in the centre of a restaurant” which is the beginning point of the story where the two demolition lovers get shot dead leading to the point of the tale where the male demolition lover tries to reunite with his other half; whilst losing himself in the process.

Also, fun fact 1: Gerard Way (lead singer of the band) recorded the song in his underwear

Fun fact 2: it contains backing vocals from Bert McCracken (lead singer and songwriter from “The Used”) who Gerard thanks for being his cellmate in the credits page on the CD version

I'M NOT OKAY (I PROMISE) 6.5/10

The song is very compelling at first listen and the music video is equally as such. It has absolutely nothing to do with the narrative of the album itself and is merely an unrelated jingle about the high school experience of the members of the band. Gerard himself expressed in the 2- hour-long video documentary “Life on the Murder Scene” how in high school and middle school he didn't really fit in with the other students and was into things that would be considered uncool at the time.

THE GHOST OF YOU 5/10

This one doesn't particularly stand out to me amongst the other absolute masterpieces produced by the band. But I will admit that some parts of the song sound very atmospheric which is a property My Chemical Romance doesn't often use in their songs since they usually overt to a rockier sort of sound. It captures the first bit of dialogue from the female demolition lover who says “I never said I'd lie and wait forever” presumably because she has little faith in the male demolition lover ever seeing her again. This makes sense because as of all inferable lyrics from the album, nowhere did it state the female demolition lover having any idea about the death Quest the protagonist was assigned.

Besides that, I still believe this is a good listen for a beginner My Chemical Romance fan and certainly deserves the popularity it has. It even scored 1st on UK Rock & Metal Singles Chart between 2005 and 2006

THE JETSET LIFE IS GONNA KILL YOU 8/10

This song may be hard to infer at first however fans speculate that it is to do with the female demolition lover having a drug-like influence on the male demolition lover and him being willing to do anything for her. I don't really have much of a solid idea about the meaning of this one because theories from fellow My Chemical Romance fans are varied.

Aside from the metaphorical side of the song, it definitely is something I feel lukewarm about when it comes to the sound. My favorite part is after the 3rd chorus where Gerard uses autotune on his voice really creatively and has a sort of rolling effect.

INTERLUDE 7/10

This is just a miniature track in the album which is not uncommon for My Chem as they do this in all their albums (example: Romance, Blood (the extended track), Look Alive Sunshine, Jet-Star and the Kobra Kid / Traffic Report and Goodnite, Dr. Death)



Fancy a challenge?

1

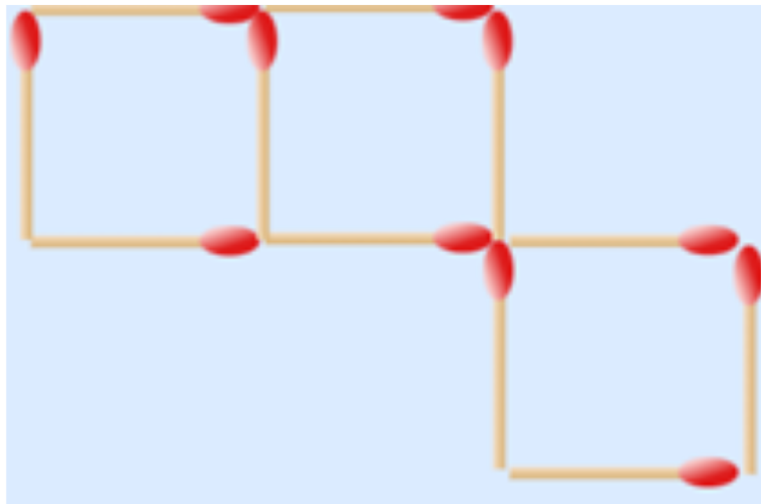


GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!

TERM 4

In this diagram 11 matches make 3 squares.

Your challenge is to move 3 matches to show only 2 squares.



Fancy a challenge?

2

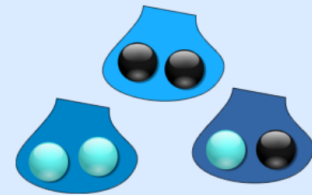
GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!

You have three bags, each containing two marbles. Bag A contains two white marbles, Bag B contains two black marbles, and Bag C contains one white marble and one black marble.

You pick a random bag and take out one marble.

It is a white marble.

What is the probability that the remaining marble from the same bag is also white?



Fancy a challenge?

3



GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!

**SUDOKU
CAN YOU COMPLETE
THIS EASY AND
MEDIUM DIFFICULTY
PUZZLE?**

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

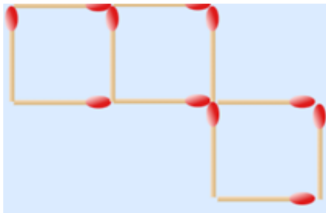


GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!

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GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!

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What is the probability that the remaining marble from the same bag is also white?

GET YOUR MATHS BRAIN WORKING!

3

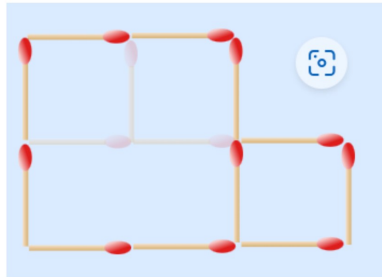
SUDOKU
CAN YOU COMPLETE THIS EASY AND MEDIUM DIFFICULTY PUZZLE?

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

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

Answers

1



2

$2/3$ (not $1/2$)

You know that you do not have Bag B (two black marbles) so there are three possibilities.

You chose Bag A, first white marble. The other marble will be white.

You chose Bag A, second white marble. The other marble will be white.

You chose Bag C, the white marble. The other marble will be black.

So 2 out of 3 possibilities are white.

Why not $1/2$? You are selecting marble, not bags.

3

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



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

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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

