



THE NEWA TIMES



Included
in this
issue



Kosi examines the arrival of parakeets on the school grounds



Harriet investigates new EU laws around social media use



Tristan shares his thoughts on Christopher Nolan's summer hit

First Edition Of School Newspaper Hits Shelves



Photo credit @ Miss Riley

Over the past few weeks, our students at Ormiston NEW Academy have been working tirelessly to bring you the very first edition of the school's new newspaper – *The Newa Times*.

Student journalists have helped shape your paper, from the design and layout, to the news stories we think you need to know about, and the

human interest columns we think you'll love.

We are so excited to bring you our offering of stories that we feel passionate about. With the assistance of Student Senior Editors Harriet (Y13) and Tristan (Y13), students from Year 9 to Year 13 have crafted some truly wonderful reads for your breaktimes, lunchtimes and beyond.



Photo credit @ The Motley Fool



Photo credit @ Vox

Whilst we are overjoyed with our current writers, we are still recruiting a journalist for our sports page, as well as anyone with a story to tell or an interest in developing their communication and research skills. We are so proud of every writer featured in this issue, and look forward to their next set of articles!

Staff Editor, Miss Crump

AROUND THE ACADEMY

By Kosi N and Miss Crump

Learning To Adapt: Parakeets In The Quad

Newspaper editor Miss Crump and Kosi co-write an academy-exclusive investigation into our new green neighbours.

Upon returning to the academy in September, you might have noticed our new green-feathered friends that have moved into our quad. Ring-necked parakeets – or *Psittacula krameria* – have been spotted by eagle-eyed staff and students almost every morning since our first day back at school. But why are these acid-green avian beauties causing such a stir?

Ring-necked parakeets are not native to England, and instead are indigenous to warmer climates. According to The Natural History Museum in London, ornithologists – or ‘bird scientists’ – have traced the lineage of the UK’s parakeets to northern India and Pakistan. The RSPB describe the birds as “medium-sized with a green body, long-tail, red beak and a pink and black ring around its face and neck” with “pointed wings and a long tail”. The birds are often identified by their distinctive calls.



Image credit @ Miss Riley, amateur wildlife photographer.

Whilst parakeets have become an increasingly common sight to see in parts of London since the early 20th century, the population of these birds has risen drastically during the last decade. Research conducted by The Guardian indicates that the UK parakeet population is now sitting at approximately 30,000 birds, largely due to the prior lack of population control measures in place. A spokesperson from the British Trust For Ornithology stated that they are now looking into monitoring the steadily increasing presence of these birds around London and South East England, out of concerns of the birds becoming a nuisance to residents. As it stands, there is no current evidence that the birds are inhabiting pest-like behaviour, and instead seem to be fairly benign – and bright – little beauties.

Ring-Necked: The Rise of the Parakeets

The mystery surrounding the birds dates back centuries, triggered by the heightened presence of the species in some of London’s most prolific parks, such as Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. The birds have become synonymous with the former location, with many tourists flocking to see their beautiful earthy-toned feathers each year. In the 1950s, rumours circulated that the parakeets had originally escaped from the set of the Katherine Hepburn film ‘The African Queen’ (1951), and that they had simply reproduced over the years. The reality, however, is likely to be much more mundane than this story of Hollywood glamour. Parakeets have long been a popular pet, and they became particularly

popular during the Victorian era. It is most probably that these avians, instead, simply escaped or were released from households where they had been kept as pet budgies. Around the campus, you may have noticed the overzealous English staff, who have been spotted “running” and “squawking” through the morning quad in order to catch a glimpse of these stunning creatures. If you’re looking for a melodic wake-up call, or if you want to take a peek at some truly impressive birds, look to the skies on your way to form – you might just catch sight of a parakeet!

What should we do to welcome our new friends to our campus? Let us know your thoughts by contacting hcrump@onewa.co.uk

Flying High

Resident librarian and literacy legend Mrs. Smedley-Baugh described her surprise at seeing the exotic birds amongst the trees on a rainy, British morning: “Every morning since the beginning of term, staff have congregated outside Pride building to marvel at our new arrivals! The whimsy is unrivalled; gazing up into the skies of Wolverhampton, one does not expect to behold a chatter of parakeets! Crows? Yes. Magpies? Yes. Beautifully vibrant, green winged exotic birds? Not likely. Unless, of course, you happen to work in the little corner of Wolverhampton that has become the somewhat unlikely home of the NEWA parakeets! You’ll hear them before you see them...”

AROUND THE ACADEMY

By Japjit K

How To Become A Recycling Pro In 8 Easy Steps



Image credit @ TBS Energy



Image credit @ BBC/ Plastics Europe

In September, Ormiston NEW Academy celebrated Recycling Awareness Day. Recycling has become a big part of modern life. But why should you recycle at all? Recycling reduces landfill waste, prevents contamination and protects sanitation workers, keeping us all – and our planet – a little bit safer. Japjit K gives us eight easy steps to being a five-star recycler.

1. Dry First – Make sure cardboard and paper containers are dry, as wet paper cannot be processed into new paper products.

2. Empty and Rinse – Wash out food residue as leftover food or liquid mould can ruin other materials.

3. Power Up – Separate batteries and electronics from normal recycling. Never put them in standard recycling bins as they will get crushed and may start fires.

4. Surround Your Sharps – If you are a medical user, ensure that needles, syringes and medical waste are properly and safely disposed of to avoid risks to biohazard workers.

5. Find and Flatten – Cardboard is one of the most common recyclable items that can be found in a household. Cardboard should be flattened in order to save space in collection trucks. Don't forget to remove any packing tape first!

6. Goodbye Grease – Any cardboard that has become greasy (e.g. with food residue) should be torn off and composted. Only pop the clean and unsoiled parts in the recycling bin!

7. Plastic? Fantastic! – Plastic films and bags may become tangled in recycling sorting machinery, forcing it to shut down until a manual cleaning can take place. Bring your plastic bags to supermarket collection bins instead.

8. Make do and Mend – Not just a wartime motto. Always aim to sew up or patch clothing before retiring a look. If you have clothes that are beyond a needle and thread, or that you've grown out of, try to sell or donate instead of binning your pieces. There are community clothing collection bins stationed in your local area, so why not use them?

Follow these quick and easy steps to become a super recycler!

Did You Know?

"Of the 26m tonnes of waste produced in the UK, 11.5m tonnes are recycled, and 14.4m tonnes are sent to landfill sites. This gives us an average recycling rate of 44.6%"

- RecyclingBins.co.uk

WORLD-WIDE WORDS

A Column By Harriet B

Too Young For TikTok?

In recent years, there has been much debate about the long-term effects social media use will have on our younger generations. Harriet B reports on news from the EU regarding potential new social media legislation.

The EU has proposed new restrictions on children's access to social media, but with the UK planning its own under-16 restrictions, what could the future of social media look like for young people?

For many young people such as yourselves, social media is a part of everyday life. Whether you use it to keep up with friends, watch videos, share photos, or follow the latest trends, platforms have become a normal part of growing up for Gen Z and Gen Alpha, leading governments to question whether children should have unrestricted access to them.

On 17 September 2026, the European Commission proposed the EU KIDS Act, which would introduce restrictions on social media and other online services used by children. Under the proposal, children under 13 would not be able to access social media. Those aged 13 and 14 would be able to use a limited "mini account" that would be managed by a parent or guardian, with a daily limit of one hour. Then from the age of 15, young people would be trusted to create and manage their own accounts. The proposal goes beyond simply setting an age limit. It would also require platforms to provide stronger protections for young users. Features such as infinite scrolling, reward schemes and push notifications during sleeping hours could be restricted, while children's profiles would be private by default and unsolicited contact from strangers would be prohibited.

How will this effect you in the UK?

Although the EU's proposal would not automatically become a UK law, British young people are facing their own significant changes.

In June 2026, the UK Government announced plans to prevent social media companies from offering their services to under-16s. The first regulations are expected to come into force in spring 2027, subject to parliamentary approval.

The UK approach differs from the EU proposal in the sense that rather than allowing 13 and 14 year olds to use a supervised social media account, the UK instead plans to restrict social media services for everyone under 16. The government is also planning other protections for 16 and 17 year olds, including overnight restrictions and limits on features designed to keep users engaged for longer.

96% of young people in the UK use social media

The UK Government's consultation received more than 116,000 responses. While the Government reported strong parental support for a minimum age of 16, the responses from young people were more

divided: only 19% of children and young people who responded supported a minimum age of 16 across all social media platforms.

So why are governments introducing these restrictions?

Both the EU and UK proposals are based on concerns about children's experiences online. Governments

**"Harmful content.
Unwanted contact.
Infinite scrolling."**

have raised concerns about harmful content, unwanted contact and features designed to encourage people to spend longer on platforms. However, the debate is not simply about whether children should be allowed online. Both approaches also focus on how social media platforms are designed and how best to give young people a more protected

experience. The EU proposal, for example, specifically targets features such as infinite scrolling ("doom scrolling") and personalised recommendations, while the UK is planning restrictions on certain

high-risk features and stronger age verification checks. This raises an important question: is

the problem children's age or rather is it the way social media platforms are designed to keep people using them?



Image credit @ zoho.com



Image credit @ flickr.com

WORLD-WIDE WORDS

A Column By Harriet B

What could this mean for young people?

For pupils in a school spanning Years 7 to 11, these proposals could have vastly different implications depending on age. Younger students could face restrictions on whether they can access social media at all, while older teenagers could experience changes to features such as going live, personalised feeds and overnight notifications.

However, social media can also have positive uses. The UK's consultation found that children value being able to communicate with friends, learn, be creative and have fun online. The Government has acknowledged that young people's views on the best way to regulate social media are not unanimous. There are also questions about privacy and enforcement. If platforms must prove a user's age, how can they do this without collecting unnecessary personal information? And how effective can age restrictions be in a world where young people are increasingly familiar with technology? These are questions that governments and technology companies will have to consider as the proposals develop.

What happens now? The EU KIDS Act is currently a proposal rather than law. It will now be considered by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, meaning its final form could change. In the UK, the Government intends to lay its first regulations before Parliament by the end of 2026, with the social media restrictions expected to come into effect in spring 2027.

As governments on both sides of the Channel attempt to make the internet safer for children, one question remains: just how young is *too* young for social media, and who should be the one to decide?

“what could the future of social media look like for young people?”



Image credit @ abcnews.go.com

Want to have your say?

E-mail hcrump@onewa.co.uk with your thoughts about the proposed social media restrictions on young people. Your opinion could be published in our next edition!

CULTURE CORNER

By Kosi N

Black History Month 2026: Honouring Our Communities

Black History Month is celebrated every October in the UK, and brings attention to the contributions and stories of influential black figures, both past and present. Kosi N explores this year's theme of 'Honouring our communities' by looking at the life of iconic footballer and veteran Walter Tull, and how he inspired his community both on the pitch and on the battlefield.

Walter Tull : Early Life

(28 April 1888 - 25 March 1917)

Walter Daniel John Tull was an English professional footballer, a British Army officer, and the first football player of African descent to sign for the Rangers in 1917. Tull was born in Folkstone (Kent), to a Barbadian carpenter, Daniel Tull, and his wife Alice Elizabeth Palmer. His grandfather had been enslaved in Barbados, and found a new life in Kent. In 1895, Tull's mother tragically died of cancer. His father remarried a year later, before also passing in 1897 of heart disease. Walter and his brother, Edward, were sent to a boarding school in Folkstone, Kent, where his brother was adopted and Edward eventually qualified as a dentist.

Man Of The Match

Tull's football journey began at Clapton FC, where he quickly began to win trophies, before joining Tottenham Hotspur, one of the most prestigious English clubs. Despite his fantastic footballing abilities, Tull sadly faced racial prejudice from teammates and football fans. Throughout this, Tull constantly displayed professionalism, earning respect, and was finally transferred to Northampton Town, flourishing and becoming a central figure in the sport.

First World War

During the First World War (1914-1918), Tull was enlisted as a soldier in the British Army, and was quickly promoted to Sergeant due to his bravery and skill, serving on the Somme of Rome. Tull made history by becoming the first black soldier in the British army to command and lead British soldiers into battle – showing great leadership and commitment to his communities. Unfortunately, Tull's life was tragically cut short on the 25th of March 1918; he passed away on the battlefield and his body remained unfound. Walter Tull's life will remain a story of loss, struggle, perseverance and determination. He achieved excellence on the field, despite racial prejudice, and fought for Britain, until his very last breath. He will forever be remembered as an inspiration for all, for his commitment to his community, and for his phenomenal impact on Black History in general.



"Be strong and courageous" – Alice Palmer Tull

Image credit @ <https://footballandthefirstworldwar.org/walter-tull/>

SPOTLIGHT ON: CAREERS

By Habeeba M

Super Surgeons



Image credit @ CareerAddict

Habeeba persuasively writes about why she aspires to become a surgeon – and why you might want to consider the profession, too. In this article, she discusses the highs, the lows, and everything in between in regards to life in the operating room.



Image credit @ IStock.

Why would anyone want to become a surgeon? Why not instead a medical researcher, or perhaps a nurse? There are over fourteen different types of surgeon in the medical field, and everyday they serve communities in need, all around the world. They wait to see over seven million patients whose names are on waiting lists. Some are in need of cardiac surgery. Some are in need of neurosurgery. Some are in need of orthopaedic surgery. Can one surgeon fulfil these needs alone? The answer – of course – is no, which is why more surgeons means more lives being saved by the almighty power of medicine.

Respect. Dignity. Honour. Society holds this profession in high regard. Nearly 14,000+ surgeons are fully qualified and training-graded across the NHS. Surgeons face life-or-death dilemmas on a daily basis in order to save lives. They are warriors of medicine.

Historical Surgeries

In ancient medical history, caesarean births were the saviour of infants. Generally, C-sections were only ever performed if a mother had died, and rapid intervention was needed to save her unborn child. Ancient people considered caesarean birth to symbolise divine intervention, super human origins and a sacred mode of birth. Since the procedure would almost certainly prove fatal to the mother, a living child delivered this way was viewed with immense awe, almost giving the child a divine status - all due to the skill and craft of surgeons

Our World

Besides caesarean surgeries, there are many other types of surgeries such as cardiac surgeries, knee replacements, hernia repair - the list goes on and on! Approximately 60% of people in England will undergo surgery in their lifetime, which seems to be a large portion of people, showing how integral this work is to our society today.



Image credit @Magnific.

SPOTLIGHT ON: CAREERS

By Habeeba M



Of course, there are downsides to every profession. Stress. Long hours. Challenging patients. Working 50 or 60 hours a week can increase stress, but this is balanced with the potential for greater earnings through working overtime. Working overtime hours can benefit you with more money. But is it worth the money? This is a question only you can answer, as we all have our own individual career values and priorities in our lives.

Pathways to Practice

Medical school spaces can be highly competitive. First, you will need at least six or seven high-grade GCSE grades, which must include a science subject. After your GCSEs, you have to pick 3 A-levels or equivalent at college or sixth form. Nearly all medical schools prefer A to A* passes in A-level Chemistry. However, many schools may also ask for A-level Biology and others may require Maths or Physics too. Most universities offer courses in the study of medicine. Take, for example, the University of Cambridge - It is

renowned for its traditional research-heavy, pre-clinical and clinical structure. Likewise, the University of Oxford offers a prestigious BH BCh medical degree with rigorous scientific training, preparing you for the trials and tribulations of hospital life. You can apply for a place in a level 7 medical degree apprenticeship, for which you would need support of your employer to apply. However, apprenticeships can be competitive, therefore achieving high grades can aid you in unlocking opportunities. There are different paths to suit individual learners, making sure you get the most out of your medical studies.

Final

Thoughts

Becoming a surgeon is a journey; an intense but ultimately rewarding journey that allows you to aid the world around you and hone a vast array of exciting skills: learning new languages, exploring the human anatomy, encountering and solving different problems. Although there will be barriers and obstacles along the way, saving the lives of others is a noble goal, and one worth toiling for

Interested in learning more about medicine? Use your UniFrog account to explore this challenging but heroic world of work!

Looking into life as a surgeon? Check out Unifrog's helpful careers video, led by Sasha Stamenkovic, consultant surgeon and clinical director at St. Bartholemew's Hospital.



FASHION FORWARD

A Column By Chloe L

Four Timeless Fashion Staples For The Autumn

Pack away your shorts and pick up your umbrella – Chloe L explains how to update your wardrobe for the chillier months, without breaking the bank.

Want a breakdown on the exact fashion pieces you need this autumn? This column will take a leafy dive into all things fashion. The secret to curating your own autumn wardrobe is to focus on purchasing a few budget-friendly staples to create a perfect capsule wardrobe, allowing you to elevate your everyday outfits without breaking the bank. Here are four essentials to guide you through the transition from the summer sun to the days of the chilly autumn season.

UGG boots

This undeniably cosy footwear has claimed its place as an autumnal favourite, providing comfort and style, with a range of monochromatic colours to opt for, allowing them to be cohesive with any outfit choice. These can be purchased brand new, or from charity shops, providing a budget-friendly option. These can be styled with any outfit and provide a go-to formula with very little effort required, whilst also having the benefit of keeping your feet snug and warm throughout the day. Bonus tip: can't find branded UGGs on a budget? Many high-street shops sell their own spin on these fall classics!



Image credit @ Next UK

Scarfs

A scarf is a simple and straightforward way to keep you warm with minimal effort. These add a deliberate autumnal vibe to an outfit. This adds an extra layer of texture and colour to any look, letting you modify and enhance your look easily. You can pick from a myriad of styles, materials, and colours from thick, tartan patterns to a sheer, sophisticated black accessories. This is the perfect versatile accessory; they can be draped artfully over your shoulders, tied together intentionally around your neck to maximise warmth, or slouched over your head for a sleek, high fashion look.

Chunky knit jumpers

A chunky, cosy jumper is the perfect way to beat freezing mornings effortlessly. It instantly brings your outfit more texture, warmth and comfort. This is versatile and simple to style and can be purchased in many alternating styles, colours and aesthetics, giving you the freedom to showcase your own signature look. They can be styled in a multitude of ways, from simplistic jeans and trainers for a casual day out or with an autumnal skirt and polished boots to elevate the outfit for a more elegant appearance.

Wide leg denim

A high-quality pair of baggy jeans offers a solid, foundational base, acting as a cheat code for any outfit to appear cohesive. Denim is widely considered to be a wardrobe essential to throw on for any occasion, and finding the perfect cut and colour for you ensures it will integrate flawlessly into your weekly rotation. Denim can be dressed casually with a simple cosy jumper or sleek long sleeves, or can be made more elegant with a trench coat and elegant boots.

Did you know?

UGG boots were invented by an Australian surfer called Brian Smith.

In Conclusion:

Ultimately, the key to seasonal style is not about purchasing a whole new wardrobe; it is about investing in a couple of good quality pieces tailored to your aesthetic- and remembering the importance of comfort and warmth!

THINKING ACROSS TIME

A Column By Tristan D

Adapting the Past : Dr. Emily Wilson and Christopher Nolan on *The Odyssey*.

After breaking box office records over the summer, Christopher Nolan's Matt-Damon-led epic, 'The Odyssey', attracted high praise from critics around the world. Except, notably, one. In this article, Tristan D ponders the nature of adaptation itself, and shares his thoughts on Emily Wilson's scathing response to the IMAX masterpiece.

Christopher Nolan has stolen the attention of all classicists, literature enthusiasts and fans of Greek culture with his latest film, adapting one of - if not the most - popular stories of all time: *The Odyssey*. Nearly 3000 years old, *The Odyssey*, credited to Greek poet Homer, is one of the oldest known pieces of Western literature, carrying the very essence of the ancient world through to the modern day.

Thankfully, it is no longer required to learn ancient Greek to understand the classical works, due to the numerous translations across the last few centuries. *The Odyssey* was first translated in full English by George Chapman in 1616, and then later by Alexander Pope in 1726. The two most well-known translators of the *Odyssey* in recent history are E. V. Rieu in 1947 and Emily Wilson in 2017. This 70-year gap between translations displays not only the cultural shift from the post-war era to the modern world, but also the changing attitudes towards adaptations and translations.

Certainly, the role of a translator must be to keep the style and culture of a piece of work, whilst ensuring that a modern audience can access this. Dr. Emily Wilson is undoubtedly a phenomenal classicist, yet her

translation is critiqued at times to be more of an adaption, than a true translation. Other translators also have their own flaws, as does Dr. Wilson have her fascinating achievements, but a translator must also view the credits of other adaptations, such as Nolan's latest film, *The Odyssey*. Although translating is a monumental task, it must be remembered that the translator did *not* produce the original work, and any such adaptations of the source material cannot be credited to them.

During the production of *The Odyssey*, Christopher Nolan placed Wilson's translation as a source of inspiration, quoting her controversial first line of translation "Tell me of a complicated man", in reference to the story's titular and complex epic hero, Odysseus. Other translators have described Odysseus as "resourceful", "the man of many ways", and "the man of twists and turns". It is clear, then, to see Dr. Wilson's fierce backlash and criticisms of Nolan's film in her review for *The London Review of Books*, "An Uncomplicated Man", a humorous twist on the supposed inspiration for the movie. It seems that Dr. Wilson hoped that Christopher Nolan would be adapting *her* translation, rather than simply adapting his own interpretation of the Grecian myth. Whilst not a foolish hope, considering Nolan's own supposed inspiration from Dr. Wilson, her review seems bitter and cruel rather than critical, and fails to acknowledge the definite achievements of the movie. Ironically, Wilson herself states that adaptations "needn't and shouldn't

Homer's *The Odyssey*

As part of the new OAT English curriculum, our Year 7 are diving into Homer's epic journey, rewritten into a play script by Simon Armitage.

We asked our students what they're enjoying about the story so far:

"I like that it has lots of adventure and I like how the Gods are deciding what is happening to the characters from above".
Nico, 7BAN

"I like how it explores the harsh realities of life; there's so much going on that it's really fulfilling".
Oishika, 7MPR

"It was like a mystery of what was happening on Calypso's Island and why Odysseus hadn't returned home, so I liked finding out what was happening".
Poppy, 7MPR



THINKING ACROSS TIME

A Column By Tristan D

“Tell me of a complicated man”

follow the original like the exactitude of a translation”, whilst also referring to the original epic as an adaptation. It would seem that Dr. Wilson should then examine ‘The Odyssey’ as a merit of film production, rather than comparing it to a translation of the original poem. This is not the case. The bitter and cruel remarks of Wilson’s review seem less like academic criticism, but more like the stubbornness of a snobbish movie-watcher. Almost like a reviewer who longs for a production ‘just like the book’, Dr. Wilson fails to consider the

“a translator must also view the credits of other adaptations”

limitations of transferring the media of a novel to a screenplay. Of course, none of this is the fault of Dr. Wilson, and her astonishing work is a testament to her capability as a classicist. Being the first female translator of the Odyssey, and a remarkable, published author, as well as literary translator, Dr. Wilson should certainly be celebrated for her achievements, yet her review of Nolan’s ‘The Odyssey’ is uncharacteristically slanderous. The beauty of an adaptation, then, is its ability to provide accessibility to a

wider audience, yet, a translation, especially those faithful to the source material, remain the best way to consume the literature of the past. Adaptations and translations cannot be further from each other, and yet remain parallels in the world of literature, both simultaneously re-writing and transferring the ancient world into the modern day.

Christopher Nolan’s *The Odyssey* currently has a Rotten Tomatoes critical score of 94%, and was rated ‘15’ for strong violence by the BBFC..

Image credit @ IMDB.com



Christopher Nolan’s *The Odyssey* (2016)

Five fun facts about the film:

1. Tickets for *The Odyssey* sold out over one year in advance (BFI IMAX) of its cinematic premiere.
2. Christopher Nolan is a famous director, known for directing *The Dark Knight Trilogy*, *Inception* and *Oppenheimer*. He is known for his use of practical effects – no CGI!
3. Production took place across many different countries, including shoots in Morocco, Greece, Italy, Iceland, Scotland, and the United States.
4. The film was shot entirely using IMAX cameras.
5. The costume department crafted over 5,300 individual costumes!

REGAN'S READING LIST

A Column By Regan A

Cosy Reads For Comfy Nights

Pumpkin spiced hot chocolate? Check. Fluffy blanket? Check. Atmospheric YouTube video of a glowing fireplace? Check. Sounds like you're all ready for a cosy night in with a good book. Luckily, Regan A has three seasonal recommendations below that will leave you thinking "just one more chapter".

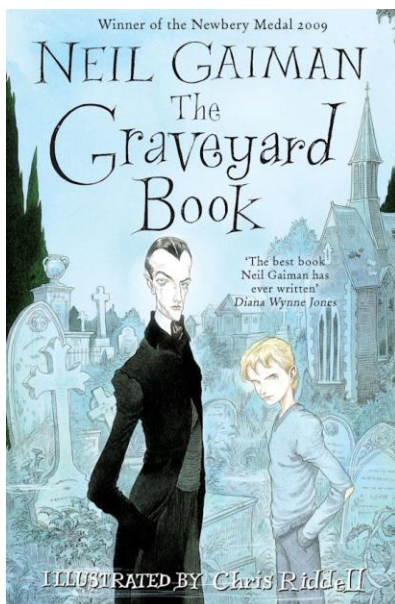
With autumn officially here, it is time we officially dive into the atmospheric and dark secrets that thrive in the stories of the cooler months. With that been said, here are the books you should be curled up with this season!



The Graveyard Book (2008) by Neil Gaiman

"There was a hand in the darkness, and it held a knife."

The Graveyard Book is a fantasy novel about an orphaned toddler that escapes a dangerous killer and is adopted by the local ghosts in his community. The book's aesthetics can be described as cozy-gothic – but not scary! – as it features a unique balance between a chilling atmosphere and a comforting one.



Whilst the book opens with a dark family murder, it also depicts the graveyard to be a tight-knit, cosy village – by doing this, the book successfully achieves a deeply nostalgic yet sinister setting. It is a story that can be enjoyed by all age groups – it resonates deeply with adult readers, whilst also igniting the imagination of younger ones from page one. The book advocates for the necessity of living life fully, despite the dangers. While the graveyard is safe and peaceful, it is also unchanging and fixed. For Bod Owens, true growth requires stepping into the vulnerable world of the living. Through this, the book serves as an allegory for growing up as it mirrors the inevitable and bittersweet transition of a young adult leaving home, making it the perfect read for our new year sevens!

Did You Know?

The Graveyard Book was adapted into a two-part graphic novel in 2015, and was written by Neil Gaiman, creator of DC's *The Sandman* comics.



Recommended age: 11+
Genre: Horror, Gothic, Fantasy,
Young Readers

REGAN'S READING LIST

A Column By Regan A

Twilight (2005) Stephenie Meyer

"I'd never given much thought to how I would die – though I'd had reason enough in the last few months – but even if I had, I would not have imagined it like this."

The first in the series of the same name, this dark and brooding novel depicts the love story between our introverted female main character, Bella Swan, and her mysterious and compelling classmate, Edward Cullen. Throughout the novel, Bella becomes instantly wrapped up in Edward's world – although, something about him doesn't seem *quite* right. Edward is hiding an ancient secret, and Bella can't help but be drawn into his uncanny orbit.

The book explores themes such as forbidden love and temptation (note: the icon of Eve's apple on the now-famous front cover), specifically through the lens of a human falling in love with a predator whose instinct is to kill her. I think this book would be

interesting for young people as the story deals with common experiences such as moving to a new town, feeling like an outsider, and navigating first love.

Having also watched the movie, I feel that in the book, the transition from strangers to lovers feels more gradual and earned compared to the movie which relies on intense staring and Edward's (played by a young Robert Pattinson in the role that springboarded him into fame) incessant "brooding".

However, the real question is: Team Edward or Team Jacob? While this question still lies unresolved between fans, I believe it's important that Bella strives to achieve a sense of

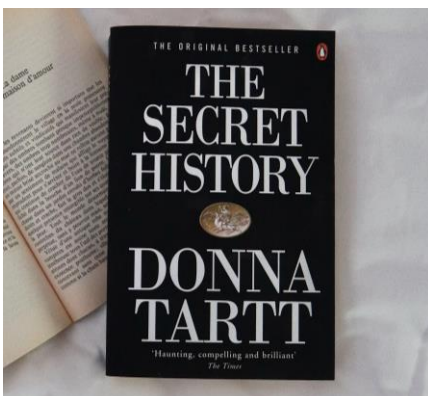
fulfilment in herself rather than relying solely on a man to provide this for her – *although*, I admit, I still think Jacob is the better option!

Overall, would I recommend this book? Absolutely YES! If you're new to reading, I think it's a good book to start with as it doesn't feature complicated world building and is generally an easy but gripping read!

Recommended age: 13+
Genre: Romance, Teen Reads, Supernatural

The Secret History (1992) Donna Tartt

"The snow in the mountains was melting and Bunny had been dead for several weeks before we came to understand the gravity of our situation."



What a journey this book has been to read – although this is my current read, I can confidently say this book is already *clearly* worthy of a five-star rating! Our story follows a tightly-knit group of six elite classics students at a Vermont College, narrated by protagonist Richard Papen – a self-conscious yet sophisticated young man, who is desperate to be accepted by his wealthier classmates. Under the influence of their charismatic professor, Julian Morrow, the six students begin to cross boundaries and find themselves complicit in dark dealings – yes, even murder.

Branded a modern classic (and rightfully so!), this story is

truly captivating and is nothing like I have ever read before! The book, influenced by ancient Greek philosophy, proves that actions have permanent psychological consequences – the characters can justify their crimes under Greek philosophy, but they cannot escape their human prisons of guilt and paranoia. Overall, I would typically recommend this book to older students due to the dark, gothic themes it explores – nevertheless, the narrative's compelling and arguably disturbing structure is worth reading by anyone interested in the classics genre!

Recommended age: 16+
Genre: Coming-Of-Age, Thriller, Tragedy, Classic

SUPER STAFF

A Column By Philip B

Hello, Mrs. Smedley-Baugh!



Image credit @ Mrs. Smedley-Baugh

For our first ever staff interview, we sat down with our academy's fabulous, fantasy-obsessed librarian. Philip B chats to the much-loved queen of the drama club to find out a little bit more about Mrs. Smedley-Baugh.

Philip: Hello, Mrs. Smedley-Baugh! Thank you so much for speaking with us today.

Mrs. Smedley-Baugh: No problem, Philip. I'm very excited to be here!

Philip: Okay, first question. Did you always intend on working in a school?

M. SB: Did I always intend on working in a school? Honestly? No. I considered teaching when I was younger, and then I did my work experience in a primary school at 16. I'll be honest: I hated it. I really

thought "this is absolutely not for me". However, then I wasn't 100% sure what I wanted to do after uni, so I finished uni and went into the NHS because I already worked there, and then I worked there a few years. I was like "you know what? This really isn't what I want to do, actually", and then my mind sort of went back to teaching. Now, here I am in secondary education, and I genuinely do think that it was the best choice I could've made.

Philip: That sounds like an interesting journey. Is there a particular skill or quality that you have, that you think has massively helped you in your life?

Fantastical Features:

"If I could have any animalistic characteristic, I would either want to fly or swim endlessly. Hmm. Could I have gills and fins, please? Yeah, that would be like something that Tim Burton would create. I'm going to go with that." - JSB

M. SB: Hmm. I've always had a big mouth - that's quite helpful, that's always been quite helpful. It tends to get you to where you want to be, by hook or by crook. Confidence is probably a nicer way of saying that, but I'd say that's probably been a defining factor in my career, and in the precursor to my career and my degree. Yeah, I think having the confidence to make things what you want is very important. Make sure the people don't walk all over for you, but also make sure that you do it in the right way. So, yeah, I would say - yeah - that having confidence in yourself has probably been my most helpful quality.

Philip: Confidence is so important! If you could say one thing to everyone on planet Earth, all at the same time, what would it be?

M.SB: That's a really hard question! [Considers] I am a pacifist, so I don't believe in war, and I think it fundamentally causes the vast majority of the world's problems. So you know, let's go with a bit of a 60's slogan: make peace, not war. One hundred percent, that would be it.

Philip: Well, thank you so much, Mrs. Smedley-Baugh!

M. SB: It has been an absolute pleasure, Philip. You can come back any time!

Go visit Mrs. Smedley-Baugh in the library at breaktime or lunchtime - you'll always walk out with a book and a smile!

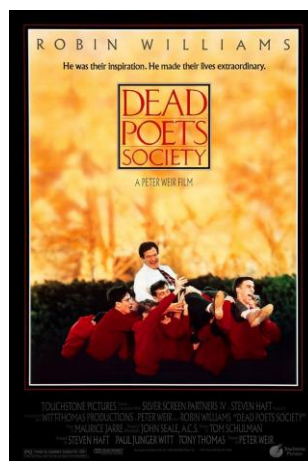
SUMAIYA'S CINEMA JOURNAL

A Column By Sumaiya I

Trick Or Treat? Four Films For Halloween Nights

Sumaiya I talks us through what's on her screen this October – from the frightful to the delightful.

The best autumn films don't always have to follow the usual clichés of the supernatural and ghosts: films can instead create an atmosphere that helps us get through these colder evenings and restless schedules, whether they be in the form of gothic mysteries, dark fairy tales, nostalgic academia, or the warmth of a family bonding together. These films can be eerie without being entirely frightening, melancholic without being solely made to make our days miserable, and they can feel fantastical while still managing to feel grounded which makes them recognisably human.



Sleepy Hollow (1999)

Dir. Tim Burton, BBFC rating: 15+

Tim Burton's *Sleepy Hollow* follows the story of Ichabod Crane, an eccentric New Yorker who has been sent to the isolated village of Sleepy Hollow to investigate strange occurrences of mysterious murders. The villagers initially believe that the killings are caused by the wrongdoings of the Headless Horseman, which forces Ichabod to confront an unconventional case that increasingly becomes difficult to explain through rational means. Through this investigation, he becomes interested in Katrina Van Tassel, who is a young woman whose family has deep connections to the strange events surrounding the village.

The greatest strength of *Sleepy Hollow* is the atmosphere. Burton and the Oscar nominated cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki transform this drowsy village into a storybook version of autumn: notably, in the village's mist covered forests, bare branches, candlelit rooms, and an almost permanently overcast sky. The movie's colour palette is purposefully muted, which gives the film the appearance of an old, rain-soaked gothic painting. It is also worth mentioning that the iconic score composed by Danny Elfman gives the film an ominous quality that makes the setting whimsically theatrical. The movie also

successfully balances horror, mystery, and dark humour well. If your ideal autumn evening is tied around the concepts of foggy woods, gothic houses, supernatural mysteries, yet a slightly theatrical sense of horror, then *Sleepy Hollow* is a great watch as it feels like you are being emersed into a dark yet charmingly humorous story.

“the film romanticises education and the arts and makes it feel almost cinematically empowering”

– On *Dead Poets Society*

SUMAIYA'S CINEMA JOURNAL

A Column By Sumaiya I

Fantastic Mr. Fox (2009)

Dir. Wes Anderson, BBFC rating: PG

Mr Fox, who was formally a chicken thief, settles into a family life and becomes a newspaper columnist. However, his animal instincts become irresistible when living beside enormous farms packed with farm animals tempts him to act on these old instincts. When Mr Fox returns to stealing from the farmers Boggis, Bunce, and Bean, he puts himself and his animal community in danger, as it forces everyone to work together when the farmers suddenly begin to retaliate.

Fantastic Mr Fox's autumnal colour

palette, woodland setting, and its handmade stop motion animation created by Mark Gustafson makes this story feel like an illustrated children's book back to life.

Wes Anderson's usual style of dry humour, symmetrical shots, planimetric compositions, and wonderfully eccentric characters captivate the audiences even further.

But it is the thoughtful story revolving around the themes of family, identity, and growing older from Mr Fox's reconciliation

with his responsibilities with the desires to become the person he once was resonates deeply with society as this is a collective universal struggle that we still struggle to confront to this day.

If you'd like to see an autumn movie that is cosy rather than being traditionally creepy, then I would highly recommend this film as the film balances these comforting aspects while still maintaining its other themes and adventurous spirit. This film is perfect for families – and friends - to enjoy together.

Dead Poets Society (1989)

Dir. Peter Weir, BBFC rating: PG

Within the prestigious Welton Academy, an all-boys boarding school being governed by traditions and discipline, a new teacher named John Keating begins encouraging his students to resist the status quo and approach life and poetry differently. His unorthodox methods encourage a group of boys to revive the former secret group the 'Dead Poets Society', where they begin exploring individuality, poetry, and self-expression outside the restrictions of school. Unlike most films on this list, Dead Poets Society doesn't possess

Any gothic or fantastical attributes - its autumn appeal derives from its nostalgia.

The New England boarding school setting sets the standard for the dark academia aesthetic, from its old buildings to its candlelit rooms. Whilst walking through these wooden grounds, the film romanticises education and the arts and makes it feel almost cinematically empowering. But what truly grounds the movie is Robin Williams's performance as Keating which is central to the film's appeal. His

Portrayal of Keating perfectly balances his warmth and humour alongside his philosophical teachings about holistic growth feel genuinely inspiring. Dead Poets Society is the perfect autumn film if you're aiming to watch something cosy and uplifting. It has the feelings of reading poetry beside a deluging window while being accompanied by flickering flames. Warm and comforting on the surface, it possesses a bittersweet undertone. That will stay with you after the credits roll.

The Phantom Of The Opera (2004)

Dir. Joel Schumacher, BBFC rating: 12

Lastly, The Phantom of the Opera is set in the Paris Opera House – The Opera Garnier - in 1870, in which Christine Daae, who is a young chorus girl who unbeknownst becomes the theatre's leading soprano. Christine believes that she is being taught by a mysterious 'Angel of Music'. Yet, Christine is unaware of this mentor being the Phantom, a masked musical genius who lives beneath the Opera House. When Christine reunites with her childhood friend Raoul and their relationship starts to blossom, the Phantom's infatuation becomes

increasingly complicated as he goes through terrifying lengths due to his possessiveness.

The film's true spectacle is the production and visual design by Anthony Pratt. The Paris Opera House feels grand, as it is filled with velvet curtains, gilded balconies, and elaborate costumes, whereas the labyrinth beneath featuring flickering candlelight and grotesque decay serves as a living metaphor to represent the duality of human nature. Instead of simply providing sceneries and backdrops, the film makes the Opera.

House a breathing character within this story. This contrast between the extravagant opera performances alongside the grounded and mysterious world beneath is indicative of the film's dark and brooding nineteenth-century atmosphere. The Phantom of the Opera is lavish, Gothic, and unapologetically theatrical. If you're someone who especially enjoys films where the setting adds depth to the story as much as the plot and its characters do, then it serves as a break from our mundane realities and into the Phantom's melodic night music.

A PROBLEM SHARED...

Introducing Our Academy Agony Aunts

Our super stealthy academy Agony Aunts are here to answer your burning questions. For our first issue, we asked our NEW Year Sevens what they wanted to know about academy life.

“Dear Agony Aunts, how have you kept yourself happy whilst studying in secondary school?”

Aunt Agnes: Throughout my years in ONEWA, I have been happy because of so many reasons, but one of the main reasons is that I’ve never lost sight of myself. One thing I’ve realised is that true happiness comes from within. Even when your school life becomes stressful and starts to impact your personal life, you should never forget yourself in the process. Being a teenager is very stressful; you are learning to manage friends, family, your education, and your personal growth. You should always give yourself a break when you need it, and find what makes you happy amongst the chaos.

Aunt Mabel: Different things and people can add to your happiness, but my biggest way I’ve stayed happy at NEWA is making sure I have a great set of friends – friends who make me feel good, support me, and *don’t* bring me down. Finding happiness in high school also means keeping yourself out of drama and avoiding being friends with people that try to put you down instead of lifting you up! Happiness is not always about having people around you – but having the right people around you can certainly help. I hope true happiness finds you all, and that you find friends that want the best for you, and not the worst.

I’ve also learnt to focus on what matters to me, do things I enjoy, and not let other people’s opinions or drama affect how I feel about myself. It’s about choosing what makes me feel good, not what everyone else thinks I should do.

Unsure how to revise? Struggling to apologise to your parents after an argument? Conflicted about how to speak to your friend about an issue? Let our NEW Academy agony aunts help you! Email hcrump@onewa.co.uk with your questions. All questions will be posted anonymously – just like the identity of our fabulous problem-solvers.



“Dear Agony Aunts, what is the transition from lower to upper years like?”

Aunt Agnes: In my experience, the biggest jump is from Year Nine to Year Ten. You do need to study still in KS3, and to make sure you’re addressing any issues you’ve found in lessons, but it’s not as heavy a workload as what you’ll find in KS4. Going from Key Stage Three up to Key Stage Four is a really big change, and it can feel a bit scary at first. It gets much tougher because you are balancing new subjects you have never done before, plus BTEC coursework, and all of your GCSE revision. It feels like a huge difference compared to the earlier years.

The move from primary to secondary is different, too. In primary school, you stayed in one classroom with one main teacher. In secondary school, you are navigating your way around the campus, and getting to know lots and lots of different teachers. There’s a lot more to be aware of in secondary school: uniform, attendance, punctuality – the list goes on. It’s completely understandable that students going through these transitions might feel nervous.

Aunt Mabel: My best advice is to build good study habits right now. Even just studying twice a week regularly makes such a big difference! If you get into the habit now, the jump year group to year group will not feel so huge. You will already be used to keeping on top of your work, which makes navigating your assessments – and later, your GCSE years – so much easier, and you will come out with great grades without feeling overwhelmed. And don’t forget, us older students have been through it all ourselves, and will always be happy to support you as you adjust to these big and important life changes within the academy.

PUZZLE PAGE

Black History Month Word Scramble

Can you unscramble the words below and discover the names of famous black Britons?

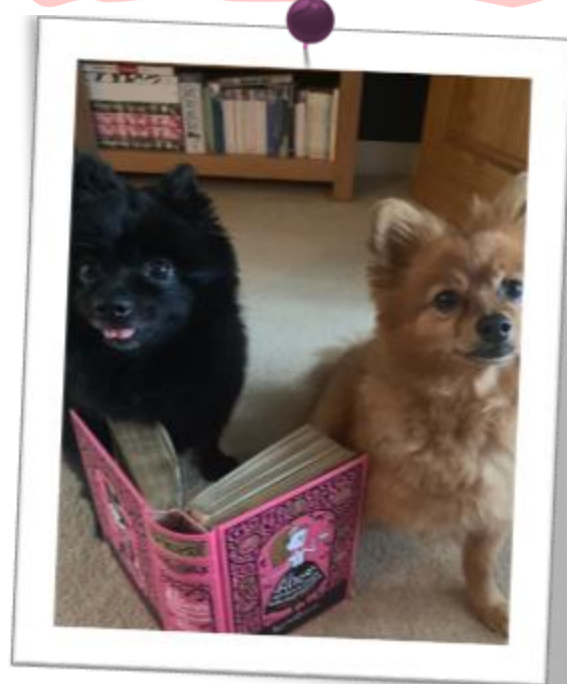
1. AMLROEI BMKCAANL
2. OM AARHF
3. ISDIR ELAB
4. KELLY SEHMOL
5. AYMR LAOCSEE

Trivia Quiz - General Knowledge

1. What type of fruit would you find on a Hawaiian pizza?
2. When did the Titanic sink?
3. Which sport was Venus and Serena Williams famous for playing?
4. What is the capital of Spain?
5. What is the process of water turning into vapor called?

Teacher's Pet!

Which member of staff owns these pampered pooches?



Which NEWA House Are You?

What is your best trait?

- A. My dedication
- B. My confidence
- C. My resilience
- D. My generosity

My ideal holiday would be:

- A. Somewhere magical and fantastical.
- B. Anywhere with sun, sea and sand.
- C. Somewhere high up, with a fantastic view.
- D. Somewhere green and full of adventure.

What are your favourite subjects at school?

- A. IT and Business Studies.
- B. English and Performing Arts.
- C. Maths and Science.
- D. I like them all!

What is your favourite colour?

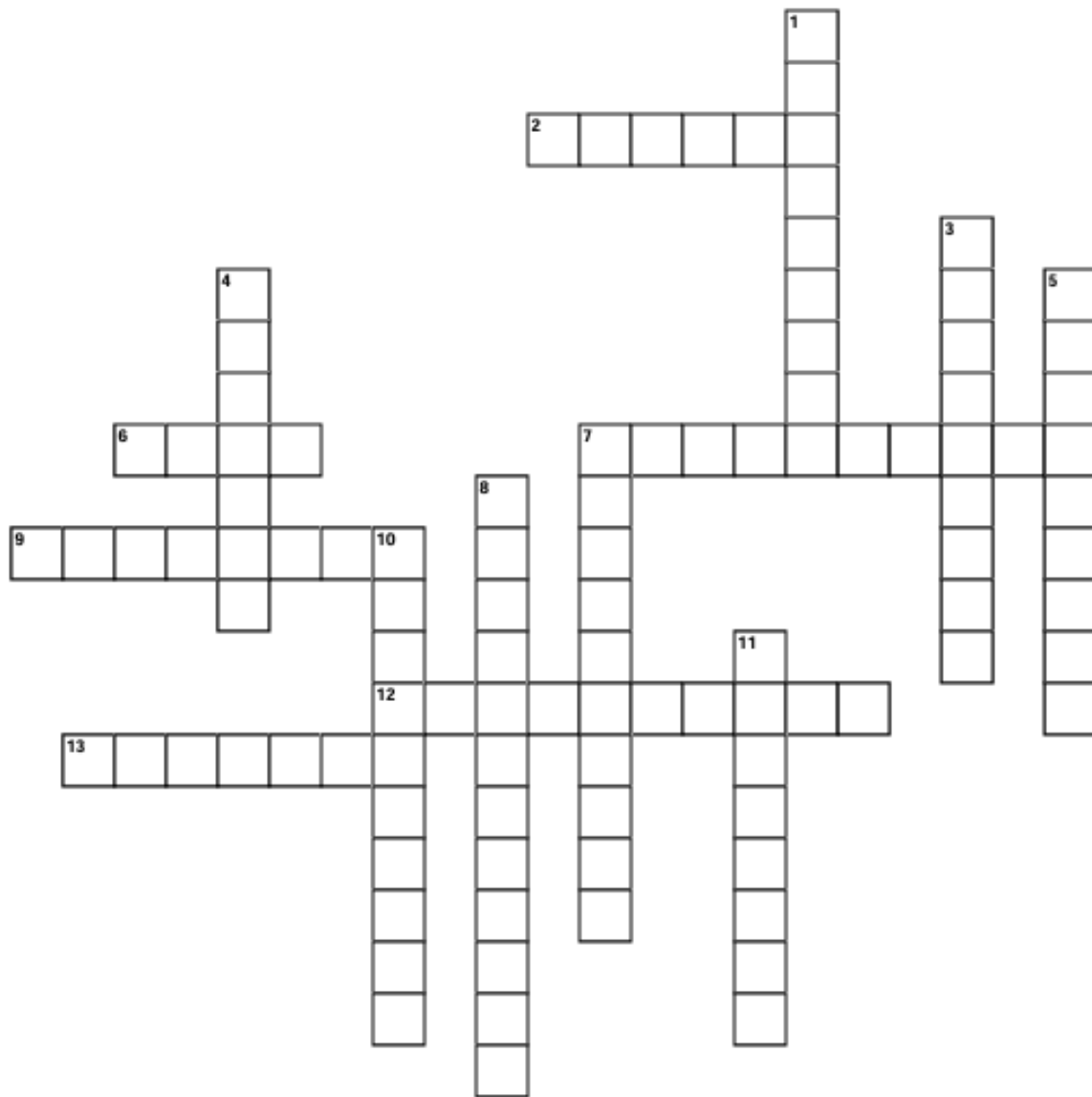
- A. Pink
- B. Purple
- C. Green
- D. Orange

What is your favourite thing about school?

- A. Challenging myself in lessons.
- B. Showing off my best work to my family and teachers.
- C. Making progress in areas I previously struggled in.
- D. Spending time with my friends at break or lunch time.

PUZZLE PAGE

Have you been paying attention? Use words from this issue and your learning to fill out this puzzle! Think you've mastered this month's puzzle page? Send your completed crossword to Miss Crump for an A1!



Across

- [2]** A knitted garment typically with long sleeves, worn over the upper body in the colder months.
[6] [Suffix] Having the quality, state, or character of its root word.
[7] the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry, and using machinery. E.g. computers, mobile phones.
[9] The environment or community concerned with the pursuit of knowledge.
[12] A group of people that make laws for the whole of the UK to follow.
[13] Possessing or showing courage or determination, often associated with soldiers or heroes.

Down

- [1]** A person from Barbados.
[3] The study of the development, structure, and functioning of human society. Also an option subject in sixth form.
[4] A long and epic adventure.
[5] The action or process of converting waste into reusable material.
[7] The process or a period of changing from one state to another, for example from primary to secondary school.
[8] Something attributed to some force beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature.
[10] The process of changing to suit different conditions or interpretations, e.g. a book into a film.
[11] The science or practice of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.

CREATIVE STATION



Scrooge's Journey

A comic by Carmen S

Our Year 10s are currently exploring themes of redemption, social responsibility and transformation through Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'.

Carmen S illustrates Scrooge's transformation from Stave 1 to Stave 5 in this delightful comic strip.

Autumn Nights

A poem by Maria I

The air is crisp, the leaves are turning, and the nights have become cold and dark. Maria I shares a beautiful poetic musing on the autumnal season.



Weary nights, no sound by day,
The amber leaves fall to ground,
With nothing left but to decay,
Left out too long, they turn to brown,
While Autumn skies stay dark and grey.

Weary nights, the damp earth sighs,
Early hours with clouded fog,
Carnivals and mazes filled with cries,
A black cat, a cricket, a jumping frog,
While silver shadows greet the moonrise.

Weary nights and frosted glass,
Bush-less shrubs and boneless trees,
Dewdrops rest on weeping grass,
Winds shift through a shallow breeze,
While fright seems to just fade and pass.