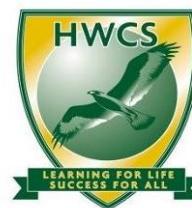


THE RAPTOR



HARROW WAY'S NEWSLETTER FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS

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THE SOLAR "ECLIPSE"

Beautiful, wonderful, an experience to remember. These three phrases that do NOT describe the solar eclipse that took place in March. Sure, it was a brilliant sight in most areas, but here in Andover, it was hard not to feel underwhelmed by how little we saw. It even inspired its own Twitter hashtag— '#ThingsMoreDisappointingThanTheEclipse'—but it wasn't all doom and gloom in the end. Let's be honest, you have to admire the amount of preparation that went into it, all students were out on the tennis courts on time to witness this event, with their specially-ordered eclipse glasses. While perhaps the event didn't deliver, the school did more than its best to prepare for it. Also, I know my friends and I enjoyed being out there even if nothing happened, regardless of what we saw as it was a nice break from our lessons.

But why did we see nothing? Short answer: it was cloudy; long answer: I'm not sure... so I decided to ask Mr Woods. He said "The partial eclipse happened however the effect was not as noticeable as expected. Although it actually did get slightly darker, it was mainly the clouds. We did everything right but you can't fight the weather." So there was a logical reason for what we saw (or didn't). Either way, the reactions at the time were not greatly positive. Some found it amusing, laughing as they said "Is that it?"; others found it irritating and some people were very angry and disappointed. Mr Woods also had something to say: "BE NICE TO ME, IT'S NOT MY FAULT," and "Every kid in the school now knows what an eclipse is, so it's an educational triumph."

However, while the sky cleared right as the eclipse ended, I think we all agree it was at least an interesting activity. Also it wasn't like nothing happened, the light did dim and the temperature dropped a lot, so we felt the eclipse, even if we didn't see it. Besides we'll be joking about this for years to come and I guess we also learned a valuable lesson: not even the alignment of the sun and moon can defeat British weather!

By Peter Josephs

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon 5th May: Yr 11 GCSE exams begin
Mon 11th May: Yr 7 parents' evening
Tues 12th May: Nepal fundraising event
Mon 18th May: Yr10 English Literature exam (paper 1)
Fri 22nd May: Yr10 English Literature exam (paper 2)
Sat 23rd May—Sun 31st May: Half term holiday
17th June: Yr 11 GCSE exams finish

HOUSE POINTS

BUZZARDS - 2930

HAWKS - 2030

KESTRELS - 1560

THE ATTENDANCE CUP

BUZZARDS - 92.27%

HAWKS - 93.43%

KESTRELS - 93.11%

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HOW DO YOU COPE WITH EXAM PRESSURE?

With exams coming up, I am here to answer the question on everybody's lips (mainly those of the teachers who seem to be panicking more than the students are): how do you prepare for exams?

The short answer: I have no idea. People prepare for exams in different ways. Some people make mind maps, and others revise frantically up until the last night. Others wait until the morning before the exam and cram it all in and the rare few make bonfires out of revision guides and dance around conducting satanic rituals (very few people actually do that last one).

No matter how you revise, there's probably one thing some of you may have decided by now. You aren't prepared. You aren't confident in your abilities, you certainly aren't ready to do the exams that will decide the path that the rest of your life will take, and you've been studying since the day you first drew breath (I'm not helping am I?).

Truth be told, I can't really help, besides telling you the cold hard facts:

- You are almost an adult and you need to act like one. Learning, Working and reaching deadlines are big parts of being an adult. Just like buying milk, doing laundry and ironing (all important parts of adult life, apparently).
- You have been building up to this for nearly 12 years, you can manage another month. You've been doing maths since you were five, and reading and writing since before then. You've come a long way since pre-school. Your skills are better even if your handwriting is the same. As long as you were actually listening in lessons, you can do it.
- You actually need to turn up for the exam to pass
- You are a child. They know that. They don't want to ruin your future. (That's your job.)
- Panicking doesn't help.

SO DON'T PANIC! (these tips might help)

- Stay calm. Don't stress. The last thing you want to be doing is sobbing into your hands every night.
- Relax. Even if you still have an entire course to learn, take some time off. Read a book. Sleep. Play video games. Find some friends.
- Eat. Food is good. Try bananas (they're a good source of potassium).
- Compartmentalise (do it a bit at a time). Don't cram, because you'll forget things. Try a section a night. Or a line a night or just a small paragraph.
- Take days off. I prefer the weekends. Go out with your family (or not). Hide from civilisation or meet up with friends. They all need to relax too. Try to spend some time not fixated on exams.

YOU CAN DO IT!

By Alex Morling

PROM PREVIEW

Prom is getting closer and closer and as everyone is frantically searching for the perfect dress or suit, the others are probably wondering what is going to happen. Well, I have some things to tell you about our prom. Some of you may already know this, but the theme for this year is Grease (1950s America) and the colour scheme is black and pink. There are going to be milkshakes and vintage hot dogs (hopefully not out of date) and a chocolate fountain. Themed music is going to play at the start, but later on in the evening the music will return to this century, so you do not need to worry about the DJ! Themed dancing such as jive will take place at the beginning of the night too. There may also be possible awards but that all depends if people would be interested, if so please talk to Mrs Essop.

By Martyna Krawczynska



INSURGENT REVIEW

When watching Insurgent, I had not read the books beforehand so the film took me by surprise. When walking into the cinema I had no idea what to expect but I was counting on something good to follow up the first movie of the series. I can safely reassure you that I was not disappointed. The movie was filled with something exciting happening throughout the entire two hours and kept me on the edge of my seat. I must say that the film was full of plot twists and was definitely one of the better films that I have seen this year, and the ending was also a surprise to me. I would seriously recommend this film to anyone who liked the Hunger Games, Divergent and The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones or anything similar to those films. You will not regret spending two hours of your life watching this film.

By Martyna Krawczynska



Editor-in-Chief: Harry Smallbones

Contributors: Alanis Fell, Alfie Smith, Alex Morling, Brendan White, Martyna Krawczynska, Peter Josephs

Blood, sweat and tears of toil were put into this month's issue of the Raptor, please consider this before you turn it into a paper aeroplane and/or rip it up.

THE HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET - PART TWO

I disappeared through the gaping mouth of the house and ran fast paced through the condemned building until I stood in the centre of the first room. The darkness felt as if it was trying to weave into my mind, scratching at my eyes and making it impossible to see. All around a dark night's blanket covered the furniture, only allowing me to properly identify one piece: a display case that showcased nothing but dust. I walked over to it and brushed my sleeve over the top and the dust rose in a stormy, grey cloud in front of me. It was then that I felt the presence of a cold shadow next to me and I backed away to signify that I meant no harm. I could sense the sorrow and mystery that this house contained and in a way I wanted to continue to explore though I could also sense anger and threat that longed for me to leave.

I walked towards the door and stood in the doorway. I gazed at the neighbourhood that stood cowering in front of this house—the house that I had entered! I was hoping to be greeted by the group and they would admit to being wrong, but the road leading up to the house remained empty with no one daring to set foot on it as it had always been.

Suddenly something fell on the floor behind me and I spun around in shock. A rock now lay less than a metre away from my feet. I focused on the gloomy darkness concealed within the room as I walked over to it and picked it up cautiously. On closer inspection the rock had an engraving scratched into its surface though I was only given a few seconds to read it before the ground below my feet engulfed me whole! I don't remember much after that. Falling. Screaming. Ground. Pain. Eyes closing. And the repeating message I had read off the rock: RUN!

I awoke in panic and distress. Above I could see the hole that had not long ago transported me to this new room, though it was out of reach and not an option for my escape. I sat up and looked for a staircase or ladder but the darkness yet again limited my eye sight. I wanted to cry though the shock from the fall felt as if it had stunned and frozen my tears. I stood up and turned around only to find myself facing a figure.

I gasped and stepped back, though the figure's face didn't suggest any sort of threat and seemed almost trustworthy despite this being our first encounter. On closer inspection the figure appeared to be a young girl that looked about the same age as me, though the clothes she wore were strange and not from the present. From my knowledge she appeared to be dressed in a Victorian style which puzzled me slightly until I realised she was glowing!

I was definitely about to speak to—"A ghost yes. I am a ghost before you ask." She smiled, answering my thoughts for me. "But don't let that bother you," she continued, "I'm going to help you get out of here, in return for favour."

I was so eager at the idea of escaping that I didn't consider what the favour could be and I had replied "OK," before the ghost girl could explain.

She grinned. "Be careful—you do not yet know what my request is though you've agreed now so no going back!" she teased.

"Please don't hurt me, Miss Ghost!" I wailed, regretting my impatience with my past answer.

"I do not want to hurt you though the evil spirits in control of the house do. They don't care for anyone and don't deserve to control the house but this is where you can help!" The ghost exclaimed.

"How? I can't fight evil spirits!" I cried, "I'm too scared!"

The ghost looked disappointed. "The evil spirits have controlled this house for centuries, trapping me and many other good spirits here and spreading darkness throughout the house. You are the first person who has come into this house in centuries, so if you can do that you have already proven that you can face them. I know that you can free us—so will you?"

She was relying on me to save her and her kind. This was yet another challenge that I had to accept.

"Alright, what do I need to do?"

By Alanis Fell

If you would like a back issue so that you can read a previous part, just email TheRaptor@harrowway.hants.sch.uk.

Hi there reader! If you would like to submit ideas, suggestions and articles about anything you want to be heard about or voice your opinion on, email TheRaptor@harrowway.hants.sch.uk for more info. Also, please complete our superfast 1-minute survey at <http://bit.ly/TheRaptor>.

THE H FACTOR

Harrow Way's most prestigious house event, The H Factor, was held on Tuesday 17th March with the event showcasing some of the best singing talents that the school has. This year's instalment of the event was comprised of thirteen acts who were all competing for points for their house. The level of talent at the H Factor this year was amazing, with everyone showcasing a different singing talent, and every single act astonished the judges in different ways. After much deliberation and tough choices the judges crowned Loren Standfield of Year 10 Buzzards the winner, with Abigail Healey and Katie Phelps of Kestrels and Buzzards, respectively, taking second place, and Isobel Laughton of Year 10 Hawks taking third place. Everyone who entered won 10 points for their house with 100 points going to the house of the winner. Well done to everyone who entered the event and congratulations to Loren Standfield for being crowned winner of this year's event. It's safe to say that the talent showcased at this year's H Factor will be hard to beat next year.

By Brendan White

ZUMBATHON

On the 20th March, Harrow Way hosted its very first Zumbathon in the auditorium which ran from half past three to half past six. Overall, everyone had fun and enjoyed themselves. Zumba instructors from the Andover Leisure Centre came to Harrow Way to teach everyone who attended the event. The idea of hosting this event at Harrow Way was thought up by Daisy May from Year 10, who wanted to raise money for the Hampshire and Isle And Wight Air Ambulance after the passing of a close family friend who died at the early age of 20 due to not receiving urgent medical attention that she needed. Daisy requested that all money raised in her name would be donated to the charity. Daisy brought a number of friends to help out and organize the event with many teachers and students turning up from all years, it really was a fantastic time. Overall, £60 was given to the fantastic charity on the day, with more donations still to come. We cannot wait until next year's Zumbathon!

By Brendan White



HOTTEST GAME OF THE MONTH

Imagine if, instead of humans in a Disney suit, there was a poorly programmed animatronic. However, unlike Disney, who have immense power and wealth, you work in a second rate pizzeria, with limited power, and robots who kill the first unfortunate they meet. This is the iOS and Android game *Friday Nights at Freddy's* in a nutshell. This game is easy and fun to play, but you should be aware that it is creepy, and will make you jump. There is not any 'slasher-horror-blood-and-guts' type scare, but you will be off your seat, rather than on the edge of it.

The title of the game refers to 'Freddy Fazbear's Pizza' where Freddy and his two friends, Bonnie and Chica, are the main attraction for the crowds. However, their programming has gone awry...From your small office, you must watch the security cameras carefully. You have a very



Guys? Please stop that. It's kind of creepy. I thought you were off for the night!

limited amount of electricity that you are allowed to use per night. That means when you run out of power for the night there are no more security doors and no more lights! The trick of it all is the battery bar at the bottom of the screen. Every action you take drains it, and drains it quickly, so keeping the lights on or the doors closed for half of your shift means the power to the whole place gets killed about 20 seconds before you do, in one of the most sudden and terrifying jump scares ever executed in any medium. Survival is a matter of conservation, observation and timing.

The pizzeria may be all singing and dancing during the day, but at night, it is silent. And dark. And scary. The silence (there is no music in this game, except Freddy's Torreedor March rendition, which is nothing short of creepy) is only punctuated by sound effects like footsteps and screaming. Animations are simple but effective too.

It is a very fun game, and I would rate it 9 out of 10. Despite the fact that not a single drop of blood is shed, it is a good game for horror lovers. You will be sitting there, with only 3% of your power left, hands shaking, doors closed, praying for the clock to strike 6am, signalling the end of your shift and the saving of your life....



By Alfie Smith