

THE RAPTOR



HARROW WAY'S NEWSPAPER FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS

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SCHOOL COUNCIL INSIDER



We go inside the school council at their first meeting of the year last term. If you have ever wanted to know what happens in these meetings and to get some inside information, read this!

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The school council is a way for the student body to express their opinions about the school. This is also how they make changes around the school: the water fountains having water bottle features and the outside food pod are some of the most recent ideas that have come true through the meetings held at the school council. I was lucky enough to be chosen for my tutor group along with a female representative to represent our tutor group at the meetings held every half term. Any of the ideas or issues that are raised are passed to the senior leadership team and Mr Serridge to try and make a difference to the school community. It is our school so we should make a difference to it.

Year 7 school council have been thinking about how we could improve the school so that it is beneficial to pupils' life at the school. We spoke to our tutors and came up with ideas to improve the school. We narrowed down our ideas to two: a school garden and a school raincoat being added to the uniform.

We felt that having a school garden would improve our school because it could add an elegant touch to the school, though we would need to have a



teacher/teachers look after the garden to make sure that it does not get vandalized or damaged in any way. We thought that we could utilize the garden to potentially hold a gardening club sometime after school. It is beneficial because it means that we could have a quiet, relaxing spot other than the library and for the undeniable fact that gardens provide a wealth of opportunities for kids to get their hands dirty while learning lessons in many different areas of curriculum. Students could study plant anatomy and botanical life science. We are very keen to make this possible with money that has been raised from school activities and fundraising.

Another idea that we had was to have an official school raincoat, instead of having to buy one from a shop. This would reduce the hassle of having to go to a normal coat hop and to try and conform. We think the coats are a great idea. They would give warmth when they are needed to, so we thought that having a school raincoat would be a good idea. Although the colour has not been decided, it will be a thick water-proof coat to add to the school uniform.

If you have any ideas on how to improve the school then speak to your tutor group's school councillors and they can inform their head of year at their next meeting.

By Finley Mayes

2016 was another great year. We have given our top 20 for what we think sums up 2016.

It was full of many new trends, headlines, movies, music and sadly we also said goodbye to many celebrity faces such as David Bowie, Terry Wogan and Prince.

Some of the music this year has been incredible. A few that were very popular and made it into the top charts were: Heathens-Twenty One Pilots, Closer-Chainsmokers, Cold Water-Major Lazer, Starboy-The Weeknd and Let Me Love You-Justin Bieber.

The movies last year were very popular and millions of people went out to the cinema to watch them. Some of these

Top 20 of 2016

were: *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, *Batman vs. Superman*, *Suicide Squad* and, for younger watchers, *Finding Dory*.



There was some shocking, devastating and great news in 2016. Some of the top headlines were Donald Trump being voted US president, Brexit, Andy Murray winning Wimbledon, Hirambe getting shot and the Samsung Galaxy S7 Note being found to explode whilst charging.

2016 opened the door to many new trends as well, such as Bottle Flipping, Pokémon Go, Killer Clowns, Dabbing and the Mannequin Challenge, many of which have carried into 2017 too.

2016 was full of fun new games, gadgets and gizmos, and fantastic films. 2016 left us wanting more of everything and we hope that 2017 will fulfil that for us. In the first month of it we hope it is like this for the next 11. Bring on 2017!



By Lottie Percival and Amelia Partyka

Why our school snacks should change

Unwillingly having to wake up early for school can irritate the most adaptable of us- but it's the school food that's daunting.

Every break time is an unexciting repetitious snacking routine that those of us who don't have the care or time to pack school lunches must face up to. For years running, we've come to expect the usuals: brownies, pizza, BBQ baguette, toasties (however I will admit, we've recently had the thrill of the 60p toasty introduced) and bacon butties.

It's been noted that the school has been forced to cut portion sizes and make snacking healthier. But are brownies and pizza going to do the trick? I'm sceptical of it. Don't get me wrong, it's my favourite food, but being served these snacks daily becomes only an incentive to ask my mum to buy higher calo-

rific food, in response to my growing bad food habits at school. I think the change is long overdue.

Now, the most adventurous food we can look forward to are international taster lunches, but why can't we incorporate these foods into our snacks? I prefer to buy my food during break times so that I can snack during the day rather than eat overwhelming amounts of food in one sitting. Thus, some varied options would be amazing. I think that ideally, we could have different fruits (contained/ chopped to



to a bigger size), breakfast muffins and fruit tarts. Like the example beside.

I may have been very negative towards the general idea but there are some positives. Lots

of schools do not have access to hot food or have food they can buy at break and lunchtimes. We also have lots of small supermarkets in close proximity to the school if you have a problem about this, but I can guarantee that your food will not be hot by lunch time. So many students also go to these shops on their way to school.

What do you think? Come and tell us and we can change it.

By Kamile Simkute

Want to Write?

At the Raptor we are always looking for new talent. Got a story to share? Got a film or book you want to tell us about? Got a trip you want to review? We would love to hear from you and hear your contributions. Come to our regular meetings (Wednesday Lunchtimes in E10) and you could be soon doing our jobs!

Year 11's Jim-min' revision day

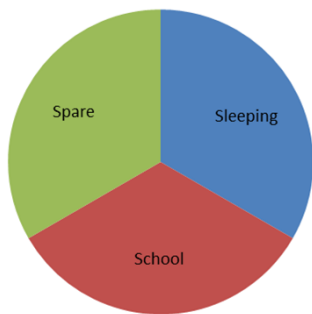
The first day back after Christmas may be daunting for some but lately Year 11 were thrown in at the deep end with an almost surprise revision day. Yes, an entire day dedicated to revision.

We had specialized timetables for each tutor group on a rotation to spend the six periods of the school day on different revision methods with different teachers.



The special guest for the day was a favourite of past Year 11's—teacher and motivational speaker Jim Roberson. He had a way of connecting an entire room together to realise how we can do better in the exams in just over four short months time. Time

management is a problem for many people who have to revise and teenagers in general. Now, Uncle Jim (yes he kept referring to himself as that) said that he was not very good at time management but it is simpler than you would think. He explained how there are 24 hours in a day; eight of them can be given for when you are asleep because you need it; eight hours for school because you are there for six hours but after you have got there, got home and done your make-up and other things it tots up to eight hours. This leaves eight hours left of free time. He drew it out like the pie chart beside. If you slowly decrease the spare time and make it revision time, it increases your chance of success and getting the grade that you deserve.



This wasn't the only thing that happened with Jim, or throughout the day, but it was the one that made the most people realise that those eight hours were always there but they never realized until it was said to them. It was the thing that made the biggest impact.

Jim was the highlight of the day for most of us and the entire day was an eye-opener as to what is going to happen over the next few months. I would like to thank all of the teachers that made that day so special and an extended thank you to Jim for coming back year after year. We think it helped and we will see the result in seven months' time!

By Katie Scratchley

Rogue One is yet another Star Wars story from the ever-growing and ever-changing franchise. It is set in between Episodes 3 and 4. The main storyline is about a group of rebels fighting to retrieve the plans of the Death Star.



The film was exciting from the beginning, to the unexpected end. The Storyline follows Jyn Erso, as she finds out the truth about her father's job, and her new friends Chirrut Imwe, Cassian Andor and Baze Malbus, as well as an Empire robot turned rogue, called K-2SO.

By Emma Mewes

After being captured the rebels realise the importance of Jyn and use her to help them get the plans for the Death Star, which they have realized is an ultimate weapon of destruction, and threatens everyone's lives.

Rogue One was widely popular with many Star Wars fans; however the film was also seen as controversial, as it did not fit in with being an Episode. This also proved confusing with some fans, as they thought that *Rogue One* was actually Episode VIII. However fans will have to wait a bit longer before *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* is released. Both



Leia and Darth Vader are also in the film, however they are not played by actors, and are computer generated.



As one of Disney's longest running franchises it is still as popular as ever with *Rogue One* being the seventh film and with two more definitely confirmed to be out by 2020. This gives us Star Wars fans a lot to look forward to.

Overall the film was highly successful, gaining ratings of 85% on Rotten Tomatoes, as well as $\frac{4}{5}$ from the Guardian. It also got 5/5 on Den of Geek, which proves it a hit with original Star Wars fans. It has also

Rogue One Review

gained box office takings of 1.011 billion USD, proving its popularity. I think that it was a great film overall, even if it was not an Episode. I would recommend it to all, whether they have seen the films before, or not, especially as it is coming to DVD on April the 28th 2017. My Raptor Rating for Star Wars Rogue One is 4.5/5. Keep your eyes out for the film in all good retailers.

Sky Hawk book review

Sky Hawk is a book about two kids (Callum and Iona), who live in Scotland. Despite Callum's other friend (Rob), who hates Iona, they become very good friends. Iona then shows Callum something that hasn't been seen on his farm for over one hundred years... an Osprey! Callum and Iona can't tell anyone about this amazing discovery, but how long can they keep it a secret? Callum and Iona call the Osprey Iris, and when it is time for Iris to migrate for the winter, Callum and Iona are able to track her via a transmitter that they have fitted onto her back. Iona then dies suddenly and unexpectedly, making Callum promise look after Iris. But soon, the word gets out that there is an Osprey somewhere in Scotland, and news reporters and journalists try to get any information they can on the Osprey. Callum then becomes very afraid because, if any-

one finds out where the Iris is, they could try to steal her eggs, because Osprey's are very rare in Scotland.

When Iris is in the Gambia for the winter, she goes missing! Callum



then begins to worry, so he tries to contact anyone he can in the Gambia. He soon receives an e-mail from a girl called Jeneba, who is in a hospital in the Gambia. Iris is then found and the Gambian People look after her until she is able to start flying again, as when they found her she was injured. Jeneba then soon

almost has to get her leg amputated due to infection. Callum and his friends (Rob and Euan) receive this information, and decide to raise money for her to fly to the UK and get the surgery to stop her leg from having to be amputated. When Jeneba arrives in Scotland to meet Callum, after her surgery, Iris is due back a few days later and Jeneba goes with Callum to see her return to Scotland.

I rate *Sky Hawk* four-and-a-half stars and I would thoroughly recommend the book to anyone who loves animals, and is up for reading a heart-warming story.



By George Chivers

Sherlock Review (spoiler alert!)

As always with the new year comes a new series of BBC's *Sherlock*. Episode one kicked off the three-part series on New Year's Day with the next two episodes being broadcast on the following two Sundays. This contemporary interpretation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's detective stories was first aired to the British public in July 2010 after the BBC decided that the unaired 60-minute pilot would better suit a 90-minute format. The show follows private detective Sherlock Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) and Dr John Watson (Martin Freeman) as they solve seemingly impossible crimes to assist Scotland Yard's detectives as well as constantly battling with Sherlock's arch nemesis James Moriarty (Andrew Scott).



Season four began with "The Six Thatchers" an episode that saw a lot of the back story surrounding the show's lead female Mary Watson (Amanda Abbington) and ended in her unexpected death, leaving devastated fans in its wake. It brought back the funny, clever and serious scenes but, ended in a rather glum twist as Mary jumped in front of a bullet to save Sherlock, leaving a now widowed Dr Watson and a motherless baby.

Episode two "The Lying Detective" sees the nations favourite detective face one of his darkest, most chilling, seemingly untouchable villains yet. Celebrity Culverton Smith (Toby Jones) hiding in plain sight as a serial killer. The episode cleverly explores a serial killer's addiction of killing and drops clues and plot points throughout without the audience noticing, all to be important in the next episode, the series finale "The Final Problem". The clever episode fits well into the series and serves a purpose to restart the relationship between Watson and Sherlock.

Finally, "The Final Problem" wraps up a long storyline that runs through the entire history of the show. James Moriarty lives on through video and audio snippets which are used by Sherlock's secret sister to taunt Sherlock and Watson as they are trapped in a prison-turned-puzzle, each room presenting a different case in order to buy time to solve a larger case. The conclusive episode answered many questions yet left the fans anxiously waiting for more next year.

By Caleb Percival