

# THE RAPTOR



HARROW WAY'S NEWSLETTER FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS

VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 5

MARCH 2014

## WORLD BOOK DAY

Harrow Way was busy celebrating World Book Day on the 5th of March and we can all admit that our inner book worm came out on that day. A lot of things happened across the school in order to celebrate the day. A book cover treasure hunt took place along with tutor quizzes, a cake sale and a grand Big Book Bake Off. Many people put in entries and some of the best entries included a gorgeous rose cake, Gruffalo cupcakes and the amazing The Fault in Our Stars cake. £110.10 was raised from the cake sale and a big thank you goes out to everyone who participated in any activity during the day. All the money raised from the cake sale will go to our partner school in Ghana so that they too can enjoy some books.

*By Martyna Krawczynska*



### IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 23rd March: Yr 8 parents' evening  
Wednesday 25th– Friday 27th March: School musical 'Into the Woods'  
Monday 30th March—Wednesday 1st April: Yr 7 core subject exams  
Monday 30th March—Thursday 2nd April: Yr 10 mock GCSE exams  
Thursday 2nd April: Term ends  
Wednesday 15th-Friday 17th April : Yr 10 and 11 Easter Revision Camp

### HOUSE POINTS

**BUZZARDS - 2180**

**HAWKS - 1850**

**KESTRELS - 1410**

### THE ATTENDANCE CUP

**BUZZARDS - 92.06%**

**HAWKS - 93.37%**

**KESTRELS - 93.12%**

THIS ISSUE

**1 WORLD BOOK DAY**

**2 TRIP ROUNDUP**

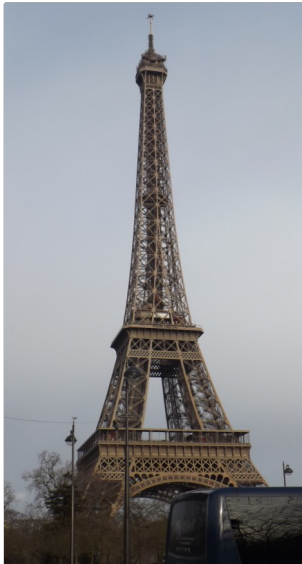
**3 SHORT STORY PART ONE AND NEW COMPUTERS**

**4 SHERLOCK AND NEW LIBRARIAN**

# TRIP ROUND-UP

## I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST THURSDAY...

I know what you did last Thursday. Well not last Thursday. Several Thursdays ago. Back in half term. I don't actually know what all of you did either. Sleep, maybe?



That was a terrible start. I'll try again. I'm actually talking about the Paris trip during the February half term. That's right. We went to Paris and it was great. That is if you don't mind getting up at 5 AM and going to the school during half term. Oh and sea sickness might have caused a problem.

So we set off at 5 AM, in a coach, in the dark. It was cold. We arrived in France at about 12:30pm local time. It took a few more hours to get to Paris itself. We had to drive on the wrong side of the road which felt odd. The weather was nice enough too. That was probably the biggest difference between England and France. It wasn't raining.

In Paris, we saw the sights. We stood outside Notre Dame, went up to the top of the Eiffel Tower, had a boat cruise and even visited the famous Tuileries Garden. It was raining. We also lost two people. I won't say whose fault it was... That wasn't fun. I suppose the most important thing most people want to hear about is Disneyland. It was raining there too. I'm almost certain it rained all day. There were some awesome things there (even a Star Wars simulator). There was also a rather scary French man who wouldn't let me cross the road – that was a terrifying experience. I nearly had to watch the Princess Parade.

Personally, my favourite day was when we had a chance to look about. The Eiffel Tower was a highlight. Notre Dame looked awesome, especially with the stormy sky behind it. We didn't actually have an opportunity to enter the Louvre, although I would have loved to, but a glance is enough for now. We visited a modern art gallery, which was, like all modern art galleries, confusing and generally obscure. We faced the terror that is "Flunch". Self service is evil to the core.

Anyway, Paris was great. Sure there were some things that were awkward. We were hounded by street salesmen (No we do not want five for a euro!) and plagued by our own 'developing' French. People were lost, numerous times, especially a certain teacher. I had a great time, (we had an awesome coach driver too) and I should probably say thank you to everyone involved in arranging the trip.

*By Alex Morling*

### BLUE FUSION TRIP

On Wednesday 25th February, six Computer Science students from Year 10 visited IBM Hursley to take part in a competition dubbed 'Blue Fusion' alongside nine other schools in and around Hampshire. There were six tasks in total for the team to compete in and try and beat other school's scores from programming a LEGO Mindstorms robot to creating a virus and even using augmented reality to uncover programming themed questions to solve. Despite gaining full marks in both the LEGO Mindstorms task and augmented reality task, the team finished 4th out of 11th with a very respectable score of 483.

*By Brendan White*



### SKI TRIP

Harrow Way's Ski Trip was truly amazing! After a year of preparing through ski training and gathering our equipment together it felt almost unreal that we would be spending the next week in a winter wonderland at Les Menuires in France!

The early departure at 1:00am was far from popular with everyone though we all arrived on time and began the journey without delay, via coach and plane. On the first day of skiing we were split into groups and learned the basics of how to stop and go although before long we were off on the ski courses!

The second day was full of many ups and downs (particularly for those who kept falling over!) though we all still had a great time and all made incredible progress despite it only being the second day.

By day three everyone was using the ski lifts and as the week continued we skied on many different courses and had chances to experience once in a lifetime views of the winter wonderland while skiing through the snowy mountains all at the same time!

We also had the chance to get involved in a number of evening activities including: bum-boarding, sports evening, quiz night and even got a chance to go on the mini rollercoaster through the snow, speed mountain!

The end of the week came too quickly and before we knew it we were on the plane back home again! However the Harrow Way ski trip proved to be a great experience and truly memorable - I wish I could go back and do it all again!

*By Alanis Fell*



Editor-in-Chief: Martyna Krawczynska

Production Editor: Harry Smallbones

Contributors: Brendan White, Jacob Percival, Alex Morling, Peter Josephs, Alanis Fell

*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.*

# SHORT STORY SHOWCASE

## THE HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET - PART ONE

There stood a house at the end of the street, deserted, alone and falling apart with sorrow. The boarded up windows concealed its past, only letting small fragments of dark secrets creep through the broken walls. No one came out, no one went in...

Except me.

It was all because of a dare game; a dare game that was taken too far. We were sat on the grass outside my house, all eager to hear the next dare and who it was for. My eyes darted frantically as I looked for the next victim though inside I'd already realised that I was the only one who remained.

I looked towards Ella, the group leader, nervously though I received a jeopardizing smile in return. The evil look within her eyes told me I was going to struggle to accept the challenge. The dare fired from her mind and shot like a bullet through my ears.

"I dare you, Lilly, to enter the house at the end of the street!"

At first there was silence throughout the group so that only the sympathetic cries of the summer's breeze could be heard but then began an uproar of laughter.

"No one will ever go in that house- especially Lilly!" Sam laughed "she's way too scared!"

"She wouldn't even climb the tree in my garden when I dared her too last week- remember?" Reminded Bella, satisfied that she had contributed to the list of my past failures that was being formed by the group as they spoke.

"I can't even recall a dare that Lilly did accept!" Bob sneered "Why does she even hang out with our group when she's nowhere near as good as us?"

Every sentence spoken that moment felt as if a bunch of tiny knives were tearing through my heart. Every insult circled my brain, continuously building up more pain and anger with every lap. Though there were no stops to change anything or to get rid of the insults; instead, I had to prove them wrong.

I stood up and fled from the cloud of laughter that moments ago had imprisoned me. I sprinted towards the house at the end of the street and tore the boards from the door. I stepped inside and paused to allow my eyes to filter the houses inner darkness. I propped the door open and breathed in slowly. In the distance I could hear the group questioning what I was doing, in concerned shrieks and yells. Though I had already made my decision. I was accepting the dare.

*By Alanis Fell*

## NEW COMPUTERS

Just in case you haven't noticed, the school has bought a range of new computers. Rooms S1 (Mr Woods), DT2 (Mr Stewart), L3 (Mr Peebles) and L7 (Mrs Torres) have been fitted with the new up-to-date fast devices. Although some old computers were moved to L6 (Mrs Gregson), the rest are being lovingly donated to our partnership school Fayef International in Ghana to help with the computers that we have previously donated to the school earlier last year. The computers have not yet been delivered to Fayef but will be picked up from Harrow Way soon by Partner West Africa. Meanwhile, enjoy the school's super-fast new computers!

*By Brendan White*



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](mailto:TheRaptor@harrowway.hants.sch.uk) for more info. Also, please complete our superfast 1-minute survey at <http://bit.ly/TheRaptor>.

# BBC SHERLOCK, SHERLOCKED

The character of Sherlock Holmes has captivated the nation for over a century, with many incarnations of the role making their mark on TV and film history, but the BBC has found the perfect way to pay tribute to this popular icon with its ground-breaking series 'Sherlock'. Sherlock gets everything right from the get go, the cast are all great--as one would expect when you have Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman taking the reins as Sherlock and Watson--but what really sets this modern day adaptation of these classic characters from the rest is the writing team: Steven Moffat (co-creator and head writer on 'Doctor Who' also) and Mark Gatiss were born to write a Sherlock Holmes adaptation, with their witty dialogue and fast paced scripts.

What keeps the series alive is Cumberbatch's performance as the high functioning sociopath, his line delivery is spot-on as well as his co-stars Martin Freeman and Andrew Scott equally giving extraordinary performances. The camerawork and editing are also great aspects of the show, with its movie style shots as well as the superimposed test appearing whenever Sherlock is solving the crime. This, in my opinion, is what keeps Sherlock from falling into the trap of just being an ordinary crime show, as it thinks the audience is as smart as the protagonist and therefore does not insult their intelligence.

You could argue that only having three episodes in each series is like eating dinner with nothing on your plate, as you are left wanting more, but to me this is only a compliment to the production team as they have accomplished the impossible and made Sherlock Holmes relevant again.

Sherlock will return for a Christmas special later in the year followed by its fourth series in 2016.

*By Jacob Percival*



Sherlock jumping to his 'death' - a cliffhanger that gripped the nation for almost two years.

## MEET THE NEW LIBRARIAN!

There's a new sheriff in town. Well, not town. Harrow Way's library.

That place that used to be run by Mrs Caulfield, now has a new librarian. Mrs Todd helped us get organized (well most of us anyway) but we still needed someone to fill that position. Now we have one.

I was asked to ~~interrogate~~ interview our new librarian: Miss Myers, to find out a few things about her, and what she has planned for our library, so let's get to it. In some areas I am paraphrasing, just so you know

Interviewer: So, why did you decide to work with children of this age range?

Librarian (LB): Well, I've had previous experience with kids of this age group, and I'm just very enthusiastic and interested in being part of such an important time in their lives.

Interviewer: What plans do you have for the library?

LB: I want to work on the garden, improve it a little, and maybe add to it slightly. I also want to put some new books into the library, to give it a more modernized sense of literature. I was also going to try to create a relaxed reading zone for people who want to use it, and I was also going to try to set up some literacy groups.

Interviewer: Have you ever been a librarian before?

LB: I've worked with this age group before but not in this position

before.

Interviewer: What drew you to this job?

LB: I saw the library, and it really liked it and wanted to be a part of it. I also wanted to improve literacy and creativity, and make that my focal point.

Interviewer: What's your favourite book?

LB: (Looooong Pause) I really like Freakonomics, which I'm reading right now, but I also like 'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo', that's a pretty big difference (Laughs). I also really enjoy Michael Morpurgo's books, I've read nearly all of them.

Interviewer: Do you read graphic novels or comic books?

LB: Not really, wait, actually I do read Graphic Novels, but I don't read comic books.

Interviewer: Ok, last one. What's your favourite genre of book?

LB: I really like crime and thriller. They're probably my favourites.

That's all folks. If you want to meet our new librarian, come down to the library during any school day. Unless you choose a day she's not in. Then you won't be able to meet her. The library is in E4, opposite Mr Peebles' room. I'm sure someone knows where it is. Probably...

*By Peter Josephs*