

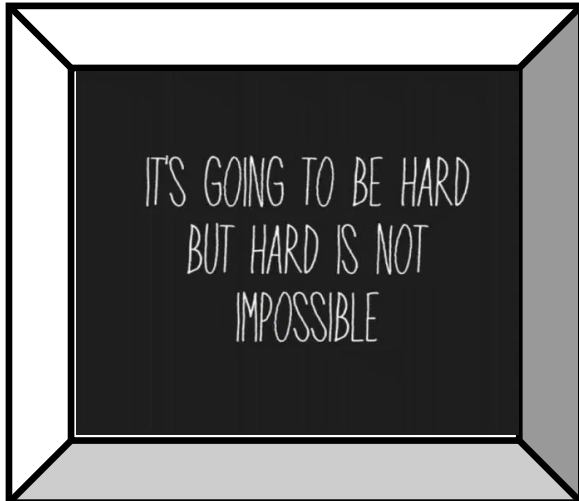
Three black, jagged claw marks are drawn across the page, starting from the top and ending at the bottom. They are positioned behind the text.

WE'RE BACK

THE RAPTOR



HARROW WAY'S NEWSLETTER FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS



STAIRS

At Harrow way Community school we have recently changed to a new stairs system, one where students are required to go up one set of stairs and down the other yet, most teachers are often able to get away with breaking these rules and going up or down the wrong staircase. I believe that this is unfair on us students as we get crushed, shoved and hurt just attempting to get to class on time. Early in the morning and after breaks, one staircase is empty while the other is flooded with students attempting to get to their destination; however with the original 'keep left' system, students could spread out on the stairs equally.. The original system was also much more time efficient as students could use either staircase to help them get to class faster but with the current system, some students are finding it harder to get to class on time due to certain students blocking the stairs and walking at a slow pace. Overall, I believe that we should reinstate the previous system because it was far more beneficial to the students and their needs rather than the current one that does the opposite of its original purpose.

Alyssa Davison

Valentine

I give you an onion.
It is a moon wrapped in brown paper.
It promises light
like the careful undressing of love.

Here.
It will blind you with tears
like a lover.
It will make your reflection
a wobbling photo of grief.

I am trying to be truthful.

Not a cute card or a kissogram.

I give you an onion.
Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips,
possessive and faithful
as we are,
for as long as we are.

Take it.
Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding
ring,
if you like.
Lethal.
Its scent will cling to your fingers,
cling to your knife.

Carol Ann Duffy

Editorial Piece

It has come to my attention through both teachers and students that this school has a problem with its uniform.

Fact is, students and teachers seem to have quite opposite views on what exactly is wrong with this dress code. Many of the students I have spoken to, particularly the girls, feel restricted. Now, I'm not saying we should get rid of uniforms completely, or at all, although I do believe that we should be able to wear them the way we want.

For example: skirts. Skirts have been an issue brought to students' attention time and time again through assemblies, letters home, and various other punishments from both teachers and tutors. I believe we should be allowed to wear the fabrics and lengths we choose to, that we feel confident in. The amount of confidence teenagers have, particularly in their looks, is rapidly declining and taking many other things with it, our grades, social lives, and mental health to name a few.

Teachers say it's distracting, the length of skirts apparently preventing someone from learning, but I would like to challenge you: who is it distracting? It's certainly not distracting us, it's not the reason that those who have bad grades, do, or the reason those who don't pay attention, don't. So who then? There are a multitude of reasons why someone could be distracted in school and I promise you skirt length is very low on that list.

Another example would be hair. More specifically, the difference in how the length of hair is treated. If you let boys grow their hair why can't you let girls have theirs short? I distinctly remember one of my close friends being repeatedly warned her hair was too short when there were many boys in the nearby vicinity with far shorter hair than she had.

How is that fair? How is that equal?

As young people we spend a lot of time at school and we feel we need some way of standing out and feeling unique, feeling like people.

Don't you want artists? Writers? Musicians?

People around you to have ambition and care about what they do?

By Jess Davies



Mental Health

In school, stress is a common trait found among students. At some point throughout your school career you will feel stressed. Stress is generally caused by the need to complete tasks in a set, usually small, time frame. This tends to lead to two main outcomes when the stress builds up. The first is procrastination, the idea of delaying a task until the very last second or doing something else as an excuse to delay the main task. Or the second, far worse outcome: panic attacks. These are caused by an overwhelming build-up of stress and anxiety under the weight of school and all of the tasks and future you have to come. In the short run, a panic attack feels like your entire body shuts down and the only aspect left is the stress. Ways to deal with panic attacks or stress within the school can be teachers that are specifically assigned to dealing with students issues and helping to reduce stress. A way to deal with it yourself is to calmly breathe slowly and just let your mind relax.

By Owen Underwood



On Tuesday the 25th of February Harrow Way held it's first 'Nerf War' competition. A new and exciting way of getting involved in the school was introduced. The students all gathered after school in teams of eight to get involved in and celebrate the brand new House competition. Hopefully the Heads of House will organise another event like this again soon.

By Will Pashley

Meet the new Heads of House

Buzzards-Miss Fowler

1.What would you change the name of your house to? "I'd change it to wild animals, like Panthers instead of Buzzards."

2.Are you proud of your house? "So proud! For the last three years we've won one trophy and now we're on track to win everything-touch wood."

3.What do you think Buzzards could improve on? "Even more participation, I'd love to see more competition in the hallways."

4.If you weren't a teacher what would you want to be? "I actually really enjoyed being a waitress."

5.What made you want to become head of house? "The fact that I love winning and I think I can encourage and inspire people to work hard."

6.Would you say there's been an element of competition with the others?

"100% I'm constantly gloating about how good Buzzards are."

7. One thing you think teachers could improve on? ".Getting more involved in House competitions and encouraging students to get more involved as well"

Hawks-Miss Hamilton

1.What would you change the name of your house to? "I would change all the houses to Harry Potter houses, and have four instead of three."

2.Are you proud of your house? "Definitely, very proud."

3.What do you think Hawks could improve on? "Better participation in cases of house competitions that require time outside of school."

4.If you weren't a teacher what would you want to be? "Fiction writer."

5.What made you want to become head of house? "I really enjoy getting to know students that I wouldn't otherwise teach and I love organizing events."

6.Would you say there's been an element of competition with the others? "Yes definitely, we're a very competitive bunch."

7. One thing you think teachers could improve on? "Entering into more competitions."

Kestrels-Mr Manson

1.What would you change the name of your house to? "I like how sinister our house looks, I'd like to say Jedi, but it'd probably be Sith."

2.Are you proud of your house? "Absolutely. Really, really proud."

3.What do you think Kestrels could improve on? "Definitely participation."

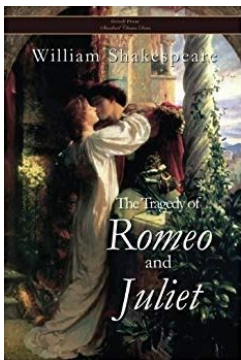
4.If you weren't a teacher what would you want to be? "The oldest and shortest premiere league goalkeeper."

5.What made you want to become head of house? "I really, really love organizing events. I love to encourage people to show off their skills."

6.Would you say there's been an element of competition with the others? "Yeah absolutely, we're always trash talking each other but we also work really well together."

7. One thing you think teachers could improve on? "Taking part in competitions and events."

February's Book Recommendation:



Romeo AND Juliet

Possibly Shakespeare's most famous piece of work. This classic book would be a perfect Valentines read if you like death and unhappy endings.

during your time at Harrow Way; paragraph four— your vision for the role you want to apply for.

If you have any other questions you can ask your tutor or head of year.

The New Prefect System

As you may have noticed or heard: There is a new prefect system that has started for the current Year 10 group which will be put into action at some point this term. This article will explain the changes and how to apply.

First of all, changes have been made to the senior prefect system. There are now only 14 senior prefect spaces: seven sections with two in each category. The categories are: sports, events, charity, anti-bullying, council, environment, and equality aside from this the heads and their deputies will be kept the same.

When working on your application you will need to address it to Mr Serridge and the letter cannot be longer than a page. They suggest four paragraphs: paragraph one— why you want to apply for your chosen role; paragraph two— what skills you could bring towards the role; paragraph three— what you have achieved and been involved in

Teachers' Lounge

Mr Bates, History:

1. What do you think students could improve on?

"Taking ownership of their own success and learning."

2. If you weren't a teacher what would you want to be?

"I'd want to be an archaeologist, even though the pays terrible it's very interesting."

3. What made you want to become a teacher?

"My supervisor at my university said that I should, so I spent a week at a school and every single lesson someone made me laugh."

SAVE THE PLANET

Do we really, at Harrow Way, want to harm the environment? Do we really want to hurt innocent, defenceless creatures? At the school cafeteria every piece of food is wrapped in plastic.

Although plastic used to be an alternative to paper bags, it has been more of a problem in the last few years because of the build up in previously clean and litter free areas: the arctic and areas of the deep ocean are some of the worst affected.

In these areas endangered animals fight for their own existence against can holders, plastic bags, and miniature microfibres that infest the stomachs of turtles and fish .

This all seems very far away from our lives but it's closer than you may believe. In our own diner hall food preparations involve a lot of waste.

We understand that it costs a lot of money and it stops infection but should we be looking into alternatives for these unseen villains?

By Bella Hall-cooper



Writers Wanted!

Are you...

Looking to become a journalist?

Interested in improving your resume?

Then come to E12 on Monday after school

3pm–4pm (on most days)

Stories Wanted!

If you have an idea for a
story come by and tell

us or email:

theraptor@harrowway.hants.sch.uk

IF you want to
advertise some-
thing then tell us
and we'll give you
the space



During the week beginning the third of February there was an inter-house competition in the sports hall during the week's lunchtimes. It was a football penalty

shootout where each contestant would get three penalties against a goalie from a different house. There were many enthusiastic people who came to shoot a penalty and received 50 house points per goal plus 100 participation points. There were even teachers who got involved and managed to score for their houses. There were so many people that some didn't even get their turn but nevertheless each house managed to accumulate a large amount of house points. The atmosphere was very lively and enjoyable while everyone cheered each other on. All in all the competition was very successful with a high participation rate of various people who play football or who turned up just for fun. The results will be revealed in the next House Assembly.

By Wiktoria Gil

