



PEACOCK

by the pupils, for the pupils

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With thanks to Mr Kidd, Mr Hunt and Mrs Kendall

Editors' Notes



Welcome back to the New Year, and another edition of the Peacock! This issue is packed with news from LGS over the last month. It brings us the results of the “My Favourite City” essays that we all wrote and – finally – the Five Word Horror Stories. We have even more interactive activities - like the general knowledge quiz for you. The weather is cold at this time of year but snuggle down and get reading - we hope you can all enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed creating it for you!

Leanne Potter

“I do not agree with
what you have to say,
but I’ll defend to the
death your right to
say it”

Voltaire

Five Word **Horror** Stories



WINNER: “A levels are next year” – Harry Potter

“Where have the children gone?” – Daisy Walker

“I thought spiders couldn’t fly...” – Anonymous

“Santa’s stuck in the chimney” – Megan

Well done to Harry Potter who we feel has hit the nail on the head with his entry! We would also like to congratulate everyone who made the effort. The diversity of ideas was brilliant as we feel is demonstrated by the ones we have chosen as our personal favourites.

Percy P

In the news...

A simple line drawing of a hand holding a newspaper. The newspaper has a small picture on the front page and some text. The hand is drawn with simple lines, and the newspaper is held in a way that it appears to be being read.

On the 16th January, LGBT Youth North West announced in *The Guardian* plans for a school specially catering for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender pupils who find it difficult to be in mainstream education. Their strategic director, Amelia Lee, says the school is 'about saving lives' since the number of gender and sexuality related bullying incidents and suicides in Britain has risen massively in the last decade. The school is not exclusively for LGBT students, however, as young carers and children with mental health problems will also be welcomed. The question being asked is whether creating a special environment for children who are 'different' will actually have a negative effect in the long run. Surely LGBT groups should be focusing on educating children on equality and tolerance rather than 'segregating' small sections of society who run the risk of getting bullied? Whilst Manchester City council have publicly backed the proposals, gay rights group Stonewall have said that a specialist school 'isn't the answer to solving difficulties faced by some young gay people'. What do you think?

Over at *The Independent*, questions have been raised over Al Murray the 'pub landlord's' decision to run for election in opposition to Nigel Farage later this year. Not unlike Farage himself, the 'pub landlord' is a comedic character never seen without a beer in his hand, and many have accused Murray of 'hijacking the democratic process for a publicity stunt'. It is expected that he will in fact be detrimental to UKIP opponents, as he will split the anti-Farage vote, leading many commentators to condemn the

use of comedy in politics. Farage himself has said that he welcomes some 'serious competition' in what is looking to be the most controversial election in the country.

To *The Washington Post* now, where Ann Hornaday criticises the Oscar nominations that show a 'lack of diversity in a year when films didn't'. It was a story echoed around the world as it emerged that the nominations for each category were around 90% white, despite many celebrated black performances this year, including David Oyelowo's 'electrifying' acting in the civil rights film "Selma". And the controversy didn't stop there, as *The Guardian* attacks British actor Eddie Redmayne's Oscar-nominated performance of Stephen Hawking, saying that 'we wouldn't accept actors blacking up, so why applaud 'cripping up'? Frances Ryan argued that actors 'walking away – literally – with an award' for playing disabled characters understated the seriousness of disability, and overlooked the wealth of disabled actors that could have played the part instead. However, many others remarked that it is an actor's job to portray something that they are not, and that Ryan was simply 'missing the point'.

Meanwhile BuzzFeed, as always, cut to the heart of the news this week, reporting that 'Ed Miliband pledges Labour will not ban Snapchat', which I'm sure is a relief to all those Labour-voting teens out there.

Rowenna Patten

Junior House General Knowledge

The 2014 Junior House General Knowledge was run by Mr Willis and the result was that Masters won and Dukes came last. With Masters never being anything but first all the other teams were on minuses for a while. Dukes finished in the low single digits after just getting out of minuses. To test your general knowledge we have created a quiz:

What is the longest river in the world?

How many legs do butterflies have?

What is the common name for Aurora Borealis?

In what country was golf first played?



What does NASA stand for?

What are the colours on the current Greek flag?



Who won the world cup in the year 1994 and where was the match held?

Who was the first prime minister of Britain?

What language is spoken in Brazil?

What is the capital of the United States?

What is the name for a mammal that can live in both land and water?

Come and find Mr Kidd for the answers!

Ella Davies and Ellen Blaire



Peamount United is an Irish football club that the majority of people had never heard of and, likewise, Stephanie Roche (a player at the club) had never before been a household name in football. However, this all changed when the unfamiliar striker hit the headlines towards the end of 2014. Roche became the first woman ever to be short-listed for Fifa's 'Goal of the Year'. The exceptional nature of this feat only became more obvious when it was revealed that her two competitors on the short-list were James Rodriguez of Real Madrid and Robin Van Persie of Manchester United, two of the most distinguished football players at present. It is thought that a mere 95 people witnessed her sensational goal first-hand (an average attendance at Real Madrid's Bernabéu Stadium is c70,000, and at Manchester United's Old Trafford is c75,000), but it has now earned over three million views on YouTube. Unfortunately, Roche didn't become the first female winner of the award; she narrowly missed out to Rodriguez, but it remains a prime example of the increasing popularity of women's sport.

There is a widespread belief that women's sport is 'sidelined, underfunded and ignored', and it is a great shame that female sporting events do not appear on our television screens as often as male sporting events. I am by no means discrediting male athletes and their achievements, nor am I suggesting that they are not worthy of the viewing time, I simply believe that there ought to be a greater sense of gender equality in sport. It is absurd that

women's sport is only credited with 5% of all media sport coverage. We are certainly not lacking female athletes, as Roche has shown, so why are they hidden from the public and kept out of the spotlight?

There is an absence of female role models in the publicised sporting world. As a result, women (teenagers in particular) are much less likely to play sport and keep active. With no-one to look up to and no-one to emulate, it leaves the female gender in a difficult position. To combat this, Sport England has introduced a new campaign called 'This Girl Can', which intends to encourage women to take up sport, or continue playing. It aims to promote female sporting successes and serves to highlight how the world of sport is one shared between the two genders. It would be wrong to equate sport and sporting successes to male athletes, as some naïve and male-biased individuals do.

Stephanie Roche, amongst many others, proved that there is a firm place in the media for women's sport and has helped to dismiss such misconceptions. She has drawn attention to the fact that there is no reason for there to be disparity and inequality between men and women in sport; despite her low profile, she has demonstrated that she is capable of scoring goals of a better standard than the majority of male professional footballers. One thing is certain: when it comes to Stephanie Roche, this girl can.

Sarah Turner



The Work of Greg Harris

Following the success of last term's art exhibition at the school, Greg Harris' work is now in the spotlight. Unfortunately, I expect that most of the students here won't have even taken a second glance at the work, let alone stood and pondered it, and since walking down the corridor every day and ignoring the work next to you is not the point of the exhibition, I hope that the background story of the artist may inspire you to take a brief moment out of your day and stop and look.

Harris' connections with Leicester start in 2009, when he completed a Fine Art degree at De Montfort University. After this, he did not stay in Leicester but went travelling in the Far East. When he returned to England he came back to Leicester and started painting in a studio.

Since this moment, Harris' work has been shown in exhibitions not only in Leicester, but around the country. In 2013, a portrait of his was chosen for the BP Portrait Award and shown in the National Portrait Gallery.

Harris has been choosing his works for the "Solo Show" at Leicester Grammar since last April which all feature bold brush strokes and confident colours. A lot of Greg's work is portraiture and he seeks to reintroduce "the familiar" (the everyday) to his audience.

So, now that you have some insight into the exhibition, I hope you appreciate the paintings in front of you rather than stating the usual, seemingly uneducated comment of "he looks weird."

Jasmine Parker



Foundation Day Essay Competition

I'm sure we can all recall the essay competition that the whole school took part in on Foundation Day this year; every LGS pupil sat down and wrote an essay on their "favourite city". This provoked a lot of brilliant essays - some sarcastic, some analytical, some imaginative... One pupil wrote about their favourite city in the world: the capital of North Korea, Pyongyang. Another described the fictional city of Mos Eisling, from Star Wars. One pupil put his own twist on the essay subject, and wrote about his least favourite city: Khartoum, the capital of Sudan.

The winners of each year category were:

Upper Sixth	Rhona Jamieson – London through literature
Lower Sixth	Nadir Osman – Khartoum, Sudan
Year Eleven	Emma Nisbet – Cairo
Year Ten	Ami Ganatra – Mumbai
Year Nine	Sophie Imlach – Venice
Year Eight	Hannah Shakespeare – Kandy, Sri Lanka
Year Seven	Adam Liu – Danu Talis (from a book series called "The Alchemyst")
Prep	Rory Ratemen – Belfast

The essays from Year Ten were particularly noteworthy, and a selection of pupils were taken to Birmingham on the 20th January for the Original Writing Day, which was, by all accounts, edifying.

Mary Osborne



DESERT ISLAND DISCS

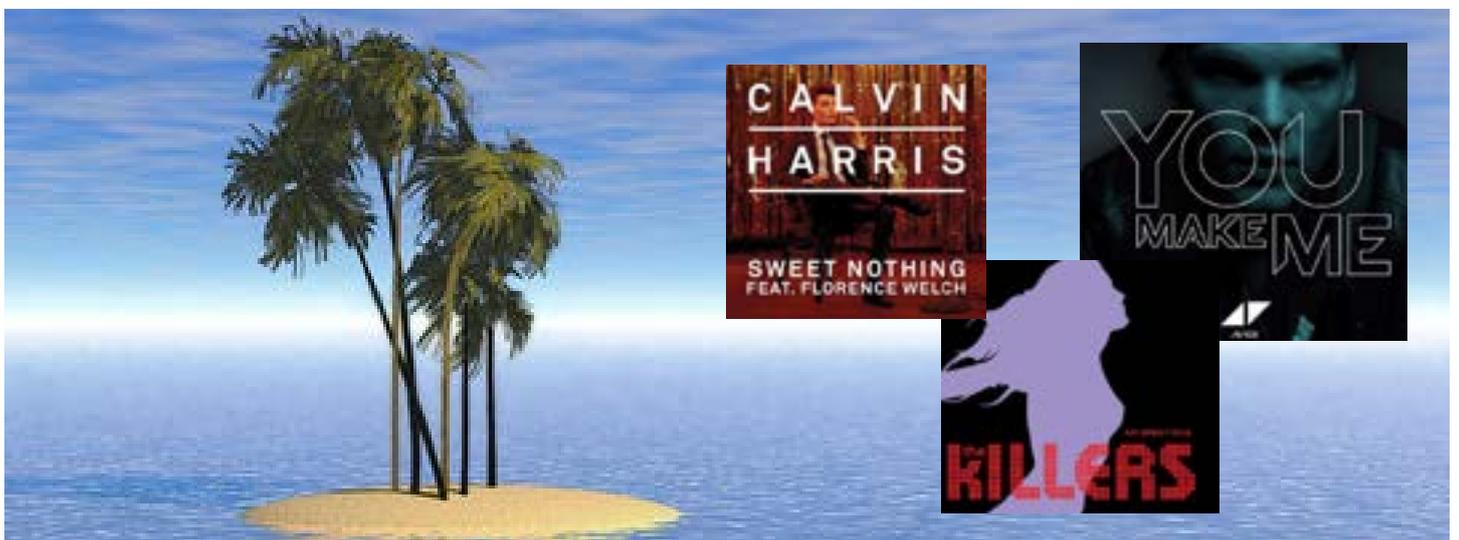
This feature is inspired by BBC Radio Four's "Desert Island Discs". In this issue we interviewed Mr Peake.

Favourite songs: The Killers – Mr Brightside
Avicii – You Make Me
Calvin Harris – Sweet Nothing ft. Florence Welch

Favourite book: "The God Species: How the Planet Can Survive the Age of Humans" by Mark Lynas. This book develops on the idea of human induced climate change as well as looking into the potential impacts and solutions into this global issue. A very interesting read for those pupils who want to take Geography, environmental science/engineering at degree level.

Best moment in teaching: This has to be when pupils share their interest in Geography and opt to take it for GCSE, A-Level and for some even to degree level. As a teacher you feel a sense of achievement, but also excitement as you then impart even more knowledge into enthusiastic and highly motivated individuals, that will one day make a difference in this world.

Leanne Potter



The Private School Socialist



Money, Money, Money!

In my last column, the question was raised by someone about where money fits in a socialist state.

First, let me clarify. Money itself is not the paper that we receive. The paper represents the wealth behind it; at the top of each note, it says: "I promise to pay the bearer on demand the sum of (five/ten/twenty) pounds". Of course, the bearer of the bank note doesn't demand the sum of (five/ten/twenty) pounds of gold from the giver at any given point; they give the promise of however many pounds in exchange for goods worth that amount. Our whole concept of money runs on the idea of promise and trade.

So, why do we need an official currency? Why don't we cut out the middle man and just trade goods for goods like we used to?

Well, money is a very easy way of making sure that people aren't swindled. It is reliable. Say I got a loaf of bread by giving the baker five eggs for it; if the baker has received a lot of eggs that week from other customers, then he is less inclined to take just five, and

might ask for eight. The whole system of bartering and trading would rely on how plentiful eggs were in the local area, and so value and wealth would fluctuate massively.

On a more basic level, commodities go off. Say someone was considered wealthy because they had a hundred eggs; if they do not trade those eggs in a week and they go off, then they would have effectively lost their fortune. Money in the form of paper does not become worthless after a given amount of time, and so it enables people to have savings.

It is the same in a socialist state: money is an efficient way of exchanging goods. Arguably, it more easily allows the sharing of wealth.

Mary Osborne



A Whiff of Success

The current perception of infectious disease control is that it is all about white-suited health-workers fighting Ebola, or massive pharmaceutical companies grinding out new drugs at a glacial speed. However, research in university departments also plays a very important role; not just with drugs and vaccines but with new ways of testing for diseases. I recently read a newspaper article announcing that a team of chemists and microbiologists from the University of Leicester had developed a new method of rapidly diagnosing the disease *Clostridium difficile* (C. diff). These bacteria cause diarrhoea and are a particular problem in hospitals, infecting already sick patients. They are resilient and can live for weeks, or longer, on surfaces; thus, if the disease is not quickly identified and contained, it can spread rapidly.

Professor Monks, a member of the team at Leicester, and an analytical chemist, kindly agreed to talk to me and give me an insight into the work and its potential. One of the most interesting aspects of the research is how one fundamental principle can be applied to such a wide range of areas. In essence, what is being done is “fingerprinting” air, by taking a sample and identifying the gases present - or Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) as they are generically called - and measuring their quantities. The test is effectively a more sensitive version of what the human nose does, as we can often smell these chemicals. This data can then be put to a variety of uses: for example, to track air pollution; or test breath to determine the length of time since someone last had an alcoholic drink; or even to tell when mangoes are ripe. This same technique can be used for rapid, non-invasive tests for a variety of diseases, from cancers to C. diff.

The principle is simple. Bacteria, like C. diff, are living organisms and carry out a wide range of chemical reactions in their cells to stay alive. The gaseous products of these processes can be analysed. Thus, the diarrhoea of a person suffering from C. diff would give off VOCs that a sample from a non-infected person would not. Testing for this can be carried out by a mass spectrometer, not dissimilar to the devices we learn about in Chemistry at GCSE and A-Level, though a gentler form less likely to cause fracturing of the molecule under test. Unlike standard laboratory tests which take 24-48 hours, this test can take as little as five minutes. Furthermore, one of the most interesting aspects of the research is that the test can even differentiate between different strains of the bacteria, not all of which are pathogenic [disease-causing], on account of their different chemical fingerprints. This information is not given by standard tests currently in use.

This work is fascinating from an academic point of view but the important question from a practical standpoint is whether this test will work in a real-life, clinical setting. The answer is that the research is currently what Prof. Monks calls “discovery technology” and it will take further work and investment before a cheap, simple and practical sensor can be developed that will give a simple yes-no answer on a sample. The good news is that this may only take a couple of years, a very short time in the context of clinical advances. Finally, the best bit about this research is that it is only the tip of the iceberg and over the next few years we could not only see a rise in the use of these rapid diagnostic tools but also of other applications of “fingerprinting air”.

Dominic Clearkin

Life Stories: Sonia Odedra



Three Sixth-Form students interviewed three sports professionals. Here, Mohini Kotecha talks us through the process of interviewing a cricketer. Look out for more on Life Stories in the next edition!

Before the interview I was nervous and running over the questions in my mind, trying to perfect a non-invasive tone. I relaxed the moment I sat down; the bright lights prevented me from seeing into the audience so I was able to give my full attention to Sonia. She was shaking and looked more frightened than I expected her to be, so I started with gentle questioning and soon we were chatting away quite freely. She explored ideas regarding the novelty there still was to female cricketing, which was shocking considering the advancements of gender equality. She talked about her career and her involvement with the CCA. Overall, the evening was an inspiring experience with a great contrast between athletes at the end of their career, and Sonia who was just beginning her story. Her journey and struggle to overcome conventional attitudes through sheer determination alone proved inspiring to all who witnessed it.

Mohini Kotecha



Serene's Column of Calm

North Korea: The Truth

Hello All! With the recent release and controversy of 'The Interview', a film about a TV show presenter and his producer who have the opportunity to interview Kim Jong Un, I decided to do some research on North Korea and the lives of the people who live there. Whilst none of the following can be verified, for obvious reasons, the following worrying rumours abound. When North Korea appears in the news, it is normally drowned out by memes and silly photos of Kim Jong Un. Things such as, 'North Korea Best Korea!' 'ROR!' and 'You are now banned from r/pyongyang!' appear all over the internet. Any discussions about the concentration camps or human rights abuses are completely lost because of these memes and photos. They exist because North Korea presents itself as an evil kingdom out of a sci-fi book which the West has willingly devoured. Kim Jong Un is already associated with memes in the eyes of many young people. But he is not a cartoon villain, and The Workers' Party are not his evil gang. Arguably, these men are completely sane, no different from you or me, and yet they torture and imprison regular people.

Hoeryong concentration camp currently holds 50,000 men, women and children - all these individuals suffer slavery, torture and experimentation. There are accounts of people being sent to juvenile concentration camps where kids are beaten and raped by the guards. These camps also are where kids had their feet cut off for attempting to escape. There are accounts of people seeing a fresh corpse on the street every day as they walked home from school, corpses left on the pavement because of the Great Famine. It is

also alleged that Prisoner's fingers are also inserted in a compressor to inflict pain.

There is a 'three generations of punishment' sentence system. This means that when a person is sent to a camp, that person's entire family is sent and the two subsequent generations of that family will be born in prison and face their entire lives living there.

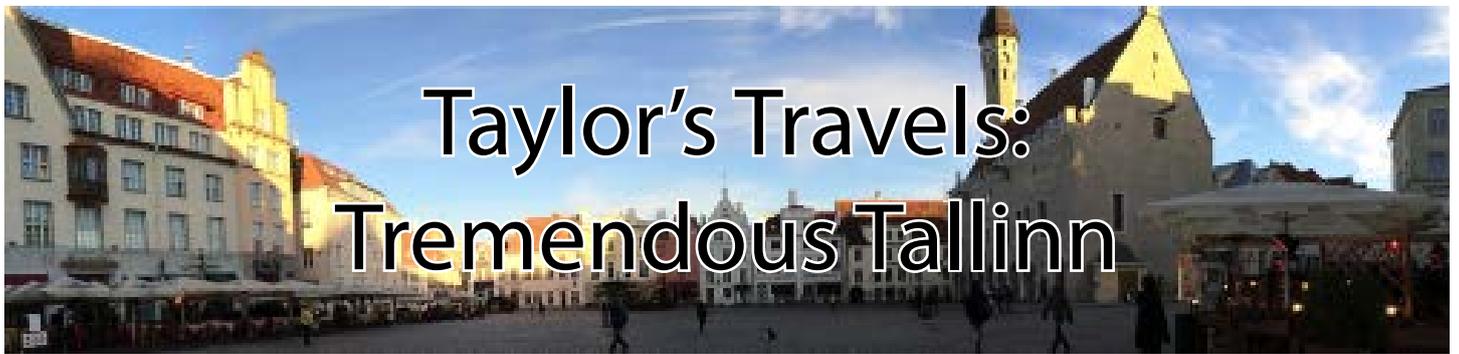
So what else happens in North Korea besides imprisonment, you may ask?

- A six day working week and another day of enforced 'volunteer' work ensures that the average citizen has no recreational time.
- There is an election held every five years in which the ballot paper only lists one candidate.
- North Korea's economy was larger than South Korea's until the 1970s. Its current GDP is about 2.5% the size of South Korea's.
- Every North Korean household and business is fitted with a government controlled radio that cannot be turned off, only turned down.
- North Korea sells its own people to slavery in Russian logging camps.

In what ways can we help? Websites and organisations such as libertyinnorthkorea.org; prosperoworld.org and Amnesty International show various ways of getting involved, with ideas such as fundraisers, events and a chance to become more directly involved in their activities. This could be greatly beneficial to North Korean refugees.

Soyez Sage!

Serene Dholakia



Taylor's Travels: Tremendous Tallinn

In the cold October half term, Rachel and I ventured on our first solo trip; parent-free, to the even colder country of Estonia. If you can point it out on a map, I congratulate you, as Estonia is a little known gem in the Northern Baltics, bordering Latvia and Russia.

"Where is everyone?" The first thing that struck me when flying over Estonia was how sparsely populated it was. There were no housing developments, big shopping centres nor skyscrapers; just undulating green fields and, near the coast, pristine white beaches—although swimming was quite out of the question in October! Throughout our stay, the temperature was at a balmy -13 degrees; although the sun shone all week, the bone-chilling cold made it impossible to have extremities exposed for any length of time.

Despite this, we ventured into the capital city, Tallinn, for some sightseeing. This historic Old Town is perfect for exploration, due to its compact size. The picturesque main square is at the heart of the Old Town, with an array of different coloured buildings, a striking cathedral and Ræapteek, the longest running pharmacy in Europe, which has been serving the people of Tallinn for over 590 years.

After an exhausting climb up what seemed like hundreds of cobbled steps, we arrived at the district of Toompea, and were greeted with a spectacular view: the contrast between the old and new parts of Tallinn was clear to see from such a great height. We visited the Kiek in de Kõk, a stone tower that was built to keep out invaders, and we had an underground tour of the tunnels that run under the city walls. We also explored the wonderfully ornate Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, which was built when Estonia was part of the USSR (it became independent in 1991).

Having been to the cinema to watch 'The

Maze Runner' (Labürindisjooksja), complete with Estonian subtitles, we fully appreciated the complexity and beauty of the Estonian language. It is like Finnish, and although lovely to listen to, is almost impossible to pronounce any word properly. As Rachel and I have a love for languages, we always try to make the effort to learn a few words of the country we are visiting, so here are some basic words and phrases: "Tere hommikust"—("good morning"), "Aitäh"—("thanks"), and most appropriately; "Ma räägin tõesti vähe eesti keelt" - ("I only speak very little Estonian").

One interesting fact is that Estonia is a surprisingly technologically savvy nation, and its claim to fame is that the Estonians invented Skype, which is used by millions of people each year. If you want to learn more about this fascinating country and enthralling language, wave "head agea" to England, and "tervist" to Estonia. But remember to take your gloves.

Lucy Taylor

