



by the pupils, for the pupils
December 2016





“Year’s end is
neither an end nor
a beginning, but a
going on, with all
the wisdom that
experience can
instill in us.”

- Hal Borland

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In the news.

Perhaps one of the most shocking stories in the news is the plane crash that killed most of the Brazilian football team, Chapecoense. Around 71 people died in the crash in Columbia and only around six people survived. The crash came after the pilot reported low fuel reserves and an electrical issue then he repeatedly asked for permission to land.

There have been two main EU stories in the news. One is the High Court Brexit ruling. This relates to when Theresa May announces the triggering of Article 50, thereby starting the process of the UK leaving the EU; she had planned to do this without the confirmation of MPs. The High Court said she may not do this. This statement started a debate between government officials as to whether the High Court ruling was right and as to whether or not to ignore it.

UK courts are likely to make yet another ruling, this time concerning the EEA. They are likely to rule that Britain can leave the EU but stay in the European Economic Area or EEA. This could massively reduce the cost of Brexit and the impact it has on Britain's economy. (Perhaps we all overestimated Brexit, and now the original shock has passed, maybe it won't be so bad after all – Ed.)

On 2nd of December, Sarah Olney became the MP for Richmond Park, in London. She is a Liberal Democrat, a member of a party which everyone thought was almost gone for good. The news came after Zac Goldsmith resigned over the Heathrow runway decision and stood

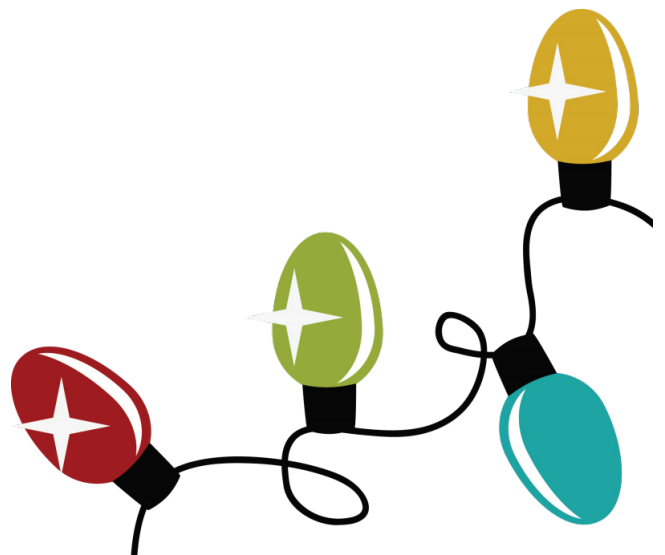
as independent candidate in the bi-election he caused.

Talking of MPs, the UKIP leader has once again changed. This came after Diane James was supposedly forced to resign after only eighteen days in the party's driving seat. The new leader, Paul Nuttall, was elected towards the end of November. His election is likely to put pressure on Labour in their traditional safe seats in the North and the Midlands. (It will be interesting to see how long he lasts! – Ed)

The news is very election-related at the moment with elections also in France, Austria, Italy, Germany, and Holland. It is said that these elections may alter the course of the European Union's future. In Italy, there is a referendum to see whether the Italian Government should be streamlined. Proposed changes include reducing the number of senators from 325 to 100, and stopping them from being elected democratically; instead, using councilors, mayors and other political figures. (STOP PRESS: Italian Premier resigns after overwhelming defeat; Austria turns its face against Right Wing parties.)

Also, in the aftermath of the US election, three recounts have been requested by the USA's Green Party presidential nominee Jill Stein in three key states: Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Jill Stein used her six million dollar donations to request these recounts. After the recounts were requested, Donald Trump attempted to find a legal way to stop this recount.

Sarah Inchley and
William Wale



The American Election 2016: The Saving Grace

Donald J. Trump is the new president-elect of the United States of America. We cannot change this result. The American Public voted and this was what they decided and no amount of campaigning or protesting will change this. I must admit that I was disappointed to say the least to find that Trump was indeed elected to be president. Gender equality is something close to my heart and important to me and the prospect that the 45th president of America could be a woman was exciting. It was another step towards this world being fairer.

Let's face it, everyone has their flaws, and Hillary's just happened to be concealing a number of emails she sent from a private email server when she was Secretary of State. However, this piece of information was re-released at the wrong time for Hillary, on October 7th 2016, a critical one month and three days before it was the big reveal, just as most Americans were making their decision as to who they would vote for.

Hillary graciously accepted defeat and conceded to Trump. Her concessional speech was performed with grace and dignity considering she had just been beaten to the presidency for the second time. But Hillary sent out a further message. She showed that through all of the bitter insults she and Trump exchanged, she was human and wanted to be president for a reason. No matter how inhumane the insults that Clinton and Trump hurled at each other were, both candidates are inspirational in their own way.

Clinton also said something in her speech that made me admire her even more as a person, rather than just a candidate. She made the following comments about young women: "And to all of the little girls who are watching this, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams." This sentence may have only been made up of words, but the way Hillary said this in her speech made me think. She looked down the camera and said these words, and addressed every female too young to vote in this election, which meant so much more to me than her winning the American Election.

Lili Mephram

“And to all of the little girls who are watching this, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful.”

Let's Talk About Sex (Baby)

In all my time at this school, and in all the PSD sessions I've sat through, the word "consent" has not been uttered once. In Year Seven we learn purely about the science of sex; in Year Nine we are told about HIV/AIDs; in Year Ten we learn about parenting; and in Year Eleven we look at alternative ways of having children. Whilst being able to label a diagram of the male reproductive system and name the stages of the menstrual cycle is all well and good, it's not particularly useful after the Year Seven exam. Furthermore, it would make far more sense to teach people about STDs like HIV/AIDs after we have first taught them about the issues surrounding consent. Although our PSD programme has now been changed to deal with the absence of this important idea, this is not the case in most schools.

A study in 1978, conducted in Los Angeles, asked 432 teenagers when it is okay for men to force sex on women. Hopefully, anyone reading this will immediately think "never!", but apparently there is a large group of people who would disagree. The study revealed that 51% of boys and 42% percent of girls said it's okay if "she gets him sexually excited", and 43% of boys and 32% of girls said it's okay if "they have dated for a long time". However, the most shocking statistic is that a mere 24% of boys and 44% of girls believe that it is never acceptable for a man to force sex on a woman. Although the study was conducted a long time ago, I can't believe that the statistics would be much better now. In fact, a study in 2013 showed that half of young people who have sexually offended said that the victim was "completely responsible". Furthermore, three out of four victims were a romantic partner and "coercive tactics (32%) such as pressuring, arguing and guilt and anger (63%) were vastly

more common than use of threat (5%) or physical force (8%)".

Clearly something is going dangerously wrong in our Sexual Education programmes.

Rape culture is a huge problem in our society, so big in fact that no one will talk about it. This attitude claims that the victim is at fault: they wore revealing clothing, they walked home alone, they drank too much alcohol. We warn young girls to be cautious and not to do these things from a young age ("stranger danger!") but never explain why rape is not okay. There is no use in educating one person in how to not get raped (which increases victim-blaming), when someone, somewhere else, as fully deserving of safety, is in danger. We need to teach people that consent is of the utmost importance and unless someone explicitly says "yes", without the influence of drugs or alcohol, the act is wrong. Unfortunately, many don't seem to understand this simple idea. In the case of Brock Turner, after he had been convicted of three counts of sexual assault against a 22 year old woman, who he left unconscious and naked behind a dumpster, he still insisted that the only "crime" he had committed was that they had both drunk too much.

The sad truth is that far too many people simply don't understand that, without the word "yes", it is rape without exception; far too many people joke about rape until it becomes normalised; far too many people unknowingly propagate victim-blaming by slut-shaming females for what they have chosen to wear. This is the issue that we need to be tackling in schools, and we need to hit it hard because if we continue in the way we are going our society will become toxic.

I'd recommend starting by reading the letter from the victim of Brock Turner here: https://www.buzzfeed.com/katiejmbaker/heres-the-powerful-letter-the-stanford-victim-read-to-her-ra?utm_term=.rl5AVrlpb#.gc2PAYw3q

Jasmine Parker

Cracker Jokes!



“So here it is, Merry Christmas, everybody’s having fun”, as the famous song goes. And we’ve been focusing on the ‘Merry’ with our favourite Christmas Cracker jokes.

With thanks to everyone who posted a joke into the box in the library throughout the past week, here are the top twelve jokes that are guaranteed to make you laugh.

1. Q. What’s Red and White and comes to your house?

A. *Santa Claus!*

2. Q. What sort of a lawn do you need if you keep chickens?

A. *An impeccable one.*

3. Last year after Christmas my dad’s sister came into the room, spinning and turning.

“My giddy aunt”, I said.

4. My mate asked me to buy him a stretcher for Christmas. When I went to buy it, the salesman asked me if I wanted to try it out for size. I said, I didn’t want to get carried away.

5. Q. What do you call someone who is afraid of Christmas?

A. *Claustra phobic!*

6. Q. Why didn’t the skeleton go to the dance?

A. *Because he had nobody to go with.*

7. Q. What do you get if you cross a snowman with a vampire?

A. *Frostbite.*

8. Q. What is the tallest building in the world?

A. *A library: it has the most stories!*

9. Q. What did the fish say when it swam into a wall?

A. *Dam!*

10. Q. Why do seagulls fly over the sea?

A. *Because if they flew over bays they would be bagels.*

11. Q. What did the triangle say to the circle?

A. *You’re pointless!*

12. Why was the student’s report card wet?

A. *It was below C level.*

End of Topic Tests - Should We Take Them Seriously?

In every subject, when it comes to the end of a topic, there is an exam but should they be taken seriously? Some people will say that they don’t matter and that only end of year tests are remembered, and they’re right to some extent. Topic tests aren’t the biggest thing that should be worrying you but they are remembered and can benefit a lot more than some people think. In order to be ready for the end of year exams, which will be harder because they combine multiple topics, it would be advisable to take all tests seriously to some degree.

End of topic exams can be used as an indicator as to what needs to be focused on more than other areas. For example, if you took a geography test and scored well on the industrial geography but didn’t score as well on the physical geography then you know that, when it does come to bigger exams, that physical geography is something worth going over more.

These results are also shown on termly reports but effort is taken into consideration as well. Marks that are lower than expected do not immediately lead to a bad report. So, try hard and do your best.

End of topic tests can give you confidence in a subject and even give you practice on revision tips. If you write notes for every topic test, then you have no notes to write at the end of the year because you have written them all. Revising now will make it easier for the end of year. Find the method of revising that works best for you, such as flashcards, mind maps, or anything else that works for you.

So, end of topic tests should be taken seriously but in the end if you don’t do as well as you hoped then you can improve for the next time. See it as a practice but still aim for a reasonable level.

Holly Teasdale and
Jagdeep Bajaj

Year Seven: An Insider's Perspective

Year 7 has been really good so far, with a large range of activities. One of the main things I have really enjoyed is the Y7 music scheme. We have had an opportunity to play a wide selection of instruments, like the violin and the drums. I have also enjoyed our games lessons because I have developed a liking for rugby, which I enjoy playing and learning. Year 7 has been busy, partly because there is more homework than last year, but mainly because of all the events happening round the school, like the Lower School Music Concert.

There are lots of clubs, like debating, which so far has been very intense and most of the debates have been so persuasive that my opinion has completely changed on the different motions before the house. Space Club has been lots of fun; we learn lots about space and we have even tried to parachute eggs out of windows. We also have opportunities like being able to go to America to see a rocket launch!

Aditya Mahur



Christmas Song Lyrics!

You've been hearing these songs since 1st November. How well have you been listening?

Come and trim my Christmas tree
With some decorations bought at Tiffany

Got on a lucky one
Came in eighteen to one

The children will sing
He'll be back at Christmas time

Santa Claus won't make me happy
With a toy on Christmas Day

A face on a lover with a fire in his heart
A man under cover but you tore him apart

The choir of children sing their song
Ding dong, ding dong, ding dong, ding ohh.

Later we'll have some pumpkin pie
And we'll do some caroling.

When the snowman brings the snow
Well he just might like to know

Throw your arms around the world
At Christmas time

Wish I could be dancing now
In the arms of the girl I love

To lay before the king, pa rum pa pum pum
Rum a pum pum, rum pa pum pum

Then all the reindeer loved him
as they shouted out with glee,

And it's been so long, But I will be there
I sing this song, To pass the time away



Leicester's Losing streak and football, generally

In their epic premier league title win, Leicester made history, winning the title in the most spectacular of seasons. But after the selling of N'Golo Kante, Leicester have not fulfilled their objectives for the start of the season, with 3 wins, 3 draws and 5 games lost; it has proved Leicester could do with Kante again. But with the signings of Islam Slimani, Ahmed Musa, Luis Hernandez and Nampalys Mendy, Leicester still have a chance of at least the Europa League.

With the downfall of Leicester in the current Premier League, there has still been a bright spark in Leicester's season, which is the UEFA Champions League. After 3 wins and 1 draw and a 100% clean sheet record, they look well placed to go into the next round.

Leicester City are not the only ones who have underperformed in the league; those with poor starts to the season also include West Ham and Manchester United. West Ham are a great side with good players that include Dimitri Payet and Michail Antonio but they just don't seem to perform on the day. As well as West Ham, Manchester United haven't seemed to be performing to expectations after suffering 3 losses and they are 6th in the Premier League table. Manchester United are slowly regaining their form with the likes of Paul Pogba and Jesse Lingard playing well; they could still get a Champions League place.

After writing about teams that have not been performing, it is hard not to talk about the teams that have been performing well above expectations, Chelsea and Liverpool. Chelsea have performed excellently in their last few matches including a 5-0 win against Everton that made everyone think: "Hmm... Maybe Chelsea could win the league this year?" Another team that has performed excellently is Liverpool. They are top of the league and have scored 30 goals already this season, the highest in the league.

Those goals have mainly been scored by one of the best attacking forces in the league: Sadio Mane, Philippe Coutinho, Roberto Firmino and English star Adam Lallana.

An intriguing start to the season - who knows how it will all pan out?

Tom Ellis



Our Top 12...

Markets

Viennese Christmas Market, Vienna, Austria.
Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square, Prague, Czech Republic.
Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen, Denmark.
Winter Wonders, Brussels, Belgium.
Christkindlesmarkt, Nuremberg, Germany.
Christkindlesmarik,

Strasbourg, France.
Toronto Christmas Market, Toronto, Canada.
Winter Wonderland, Hyde Park, London, UK.
Frankfurt Christmas Market, Birmingham, UK.
WeihnachtsZauber, Berlin, Germany.
Stuttgarter Weihnachtsmarkt, Stuttgart, Germany.
Liseberg, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Pantomimes

Jack and the Beanstalk (starring the Chuckle Brothers) – Nottingham Royal Concert Hall
Jack and the Beanstalk (not starring the Chuckle Brothers) – De Montfort Hall, Leicester
Cinderella – Derby Arena
The Snowman & Peter and the Wolf – Nottingham Royal Concert Hall
Captain Sprout and the Christmas Pirates – Guildhall Theatre, Derby
Dick Whittington – Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
The Lost Present: A Christmas Adventure – Curve Theatre, Leicester
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs – Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield
Cinderella – The Montgomery Theatre, Sheffield
Beauty and the Beast – The Montgomery Theatre, Sheffield
Aladdin – Hippodrome Theatre, Birmingham
Rapunzel – Palace Theatre, Newark

Gifts

Fashion giftcard
Nail vanish
Garden equipment for adults
Biscuits
Hamper

Chocolates
Book vouchers
Computer kits
App store/iTunes vouchers
Gloves
Stationery
Christmas jumper

Books

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child (Parts One and Two) – J.K. Rowling
The 5th Wave series – Rick Yancey
A Court of Mist and Fury – Sarah J. Maas
The Hidden Oracle (The Trials of Apollo) – Rick Riordan
Forgotten – Cat Patrick
13 Minutes – Sarah Pinborough
Tales of the Peculiar – Ransom Riggs
Passenger – Alexandria Bracken
The Lie Tree – Frances Hardinge
The Girl From Everywhere – Heidi Heilig
The Serpent King – Jeff Zentner
The Love That Split the World – Emily Henry

Songs

2008 Alexandra Burke - Hallelujah
1984 Band Aid - Do they know it's Christmas?
1979 Pink Floyd - Another Brick in the Wall (Part 2)
1985 Shakin' Stevens - Merry Christmas Everyone
1957 Harry Belafonte - Mary's Boy Child
1973 Slade - Marry Christmas Everybody
1963 The Beatles - I want to hold your Hand
1952 Al Martino - Here in my Heart
1975 Queen - Bohemian Rhapsody
2015 Lewisham and Greenwich NHS choir - A Bridge over You
1992 Whitney Houston - I Will always love You
2000 Bob the Builder - Can We Fix It?

Movies

Love Actually (2003)
Elf (2003)
It's a Wonderful Life (1947)
Home Alone (1990)
The Polar Express (2004)
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)
Die Hard (1998)
The Holiday (2006)
Nativity! (2009)
About a Boy (2002)
A Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)
The Snowman (1982)

Traditions

In Ukraine and Russia, Christmas is celebrated on the 7th January instead of the usual 25th December.

In Ireland, it is traditional to leave a mince pie and bottle of Guinness out as a snack for Santa.

In parts of Italy, Spain and Portugal, it is traditional to build a model village of Bethlehem, including the stable. In it contains Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and a Caganer (pooper in English)!!

Every 40 years, in a town called Gavle in Sweden, they burn a straw model of a baby goat as the beginning of the holidays on the 24th December.

In Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, the roads are closed to cars on Christmas Eve morning so people can roller skate round the city.

According to Norwegian legend,

witches and evil spirits come out and steal all the brooms, so it is a tradition to lock them all up.

In the Netherlands, children who have been good wait for Sinterklaas and his sidekick- Black Pete to come and fill their stockings with sweets and nuts.

In Japan, the traditional Christmas dinner is KFC!

In Slovakia, it is traditional for the head of the table on Christmas Eve dinner, to throw up a special mixture on the ceiling. The longer it stays on the ceiling, the better his crops will be.

In France, they call Father Christmas 'pere Noel

Merry Christmas is spelt Annum Faustum in Latin.

Merry Christmas is spelt Nadolig Llawen in Welsh.

