

PEACOCK

by the pupils, for the pupils
July 2017



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With thanks to Mr Kidd and Mrs Kendall, and all of our guest writers.



Donald Trump has fired James Comey, at first denying there was any link to his investigations over the Russia allegations, but later telling the world in a television interview that Russia was what it was all about.

In other news, Otto Warbier, a US citizen who was on a tour holiday in China and North Korea and who was detained by North Korean officials on attempting to leave the country. He was accused of trying to steal a propaganda sign from his hotel and later confessed under pressure. He was sentenced to 15 years hard later and was kept for nearly two years. It recently came to light that he had been in a coma since a few days after his trial. North Korea recently released him on humanitarian grounds but he died a few days later in an American hospital, having never regained consciousness.

On an even darker note, since the last issue we have experienced 2 terror attacks. One at Borough Market in London, where seven people have died, although the attackers were all shot dead within eight minutes of the police being informed of the attack.

The other attack was at Finsbury Park, where a Welsh man drove a van at a group of Muslims coming back home from late prayer. One man was killed and the attacker was arrested, rather than shot dead.

The Grenfell tower fire, believed to have killed more than 79 people, swept through a North Kensington tower block. It is believed that the fire was started in a refrigerator, but quickly spread throughout the rest of the block because of flammable cladding. The surviving residents will be relocated to a new tower block by the end of July.

Parliament has opened after the snap general election which ended in disaster for the Conservatives who called it, as they only were able to form a coalition with the DUP, a Northern Irish party.

William Wale

End of Year Editorial

So many things have happened this year, it is easy to forget that this academic year started in the annus horibilis of 2016. This was also the year we saw the unexpected election of Trump as the 45th President of the United States.

This wasn't the only election of this academic year, the snap election called by Theresa May in April for June also caused some havoc but gave us lots to write about. Over the course of the year, there have been many terror attacks, not only abroad but also closer to home, with England having suffered four attacks in as many months.

Horror wasn't just limited to the terror attacks, with 79 people missing, presumed dead (as of going to print) as a result of the fire at Grenfell Tower, North Kensington. Sadness turned to anger on the streets with protesters calling for reformed social housing plans. 61 people have died in 157 forest fires across Portugal, which perhaps underscores the importance of the Paris Climate Change agreement, recently shunned by President Trump.

In a fortunately bloodless coup, we now have a new head boy, head girl and senior prefects assuming the mantle of power in a seamless succession. Of course, our outgoing head girl, Orla is also one of the leavers from the Peacock editorial team. Goodbye and thank you to Orla, Millie and Sarah.

Continuing the theme of valediction and succession, goodbye and thank you to all the members of the staff leaving us this year and look out in the October edition for our interviews with all the new members of staff. Finally, our last thanks for the 2016-17 run of The Peacock goes to Mrs Hunt. Thank you so much for putting up with us and letting us invade your office.

Terror Attacks

I have not a shadow of a doubt that you'll have heard of at least one of the terror attacks that occurred within the last couple of months. Recently, it feels like the world has been engulfed by hatred - there is so much fear now - because of the unpredictable likelihood of an attack anywhere. The most publicised attacks were in Manchester and London. Why? It is so rare to have an attack in England; we are fortunate to live in a country with very little conflict. So, when something does happen, it creates news stories for days. Other countries outside the UK have still crept into front pages of newspapers due to the huge scale of fatalities: Afghanistan and many others (particularly in Asia).

First off, Manchester: what really happened? The 'Islamic State' have claimed responsibility for the attack that took place, around 22:30 pm, on 22nd May this year. The attack was carried out by 22-year-old Salman Abedi, a 'suicide bomber', using a bomb which he is believed to have made himself. The attack was situated in the Manchester Arena foyer and took place as a crowd was leaving a concert by an American singer, Ariana Grande. A wave of panic spread through the crowd when a horrific sound resonated through the arena: the sight of fire, smell of smoke and remains of corpses and nuts and bolts were left for the terrified survivors to view when escaping. People were told to remain in the arena if they were alone and guards helped to direct fans through safe exits.

The power of the bomb meant that people up to 20 meters away were affected by the explosion. It was "designed to kill and maim indiscriminately the largest number of innocent people" according to a Greater Manchester police officer. Victims were identified by DNA tests and others by clothing or ID. It has been confirmed that 22 people died from the impact of the attack. One victim was only eight years old. Many closer to the explosion were instantly affected but others passed away in hospital from injuries. Around 116 people were admitted to hospital with injuries relating to the attack.

Shortly after the attack Ariana Grande shared a tweet explaining how the attack affected her: "broken. from the bottom of my heart, i am so so sorry. i don't have words." [sic]. In response to the attack, Grande held a 'benefit concert' on 4 June; those who went

to her concert on the night of the attack were given free entries, 50,000 fans turned out for the concert at Manchester's Old Trafford and 11 million people tuned in. Following the 'One Love Manchester' concert, over £10 million was raised for the Red Cross's We Love Manchester Emergency Fund – £2 million was also raised, for families of the victims in the attack, from the concert.

Less than 24 hours before the 'benefit concert' an attack on London occurred. Multiple killings were carried out across Borough Market and London Bridge; eight people brutally murdered and 48 injured. A white van was hired by the leader of the attack, Khuram Butt, who had attempted to hire an even heavier lorry but was denied this. The van was used to hit multiple pedestrians along London Bridge, killing some and injuring many. The attackers left the van and headed to Borough Market. The attacks in pubs and restaurants along Borough Market appeared to be at random; anyone could have been killed. Witnesses, who hurled chairs and bottles at the attackers, claimed they shouted: "This is for Allah". Those who had not been killed, called the police as soon as the terrorists had left for another place. Officers came within eight minutes of the first alert. The armed police eventually tracked the attackers down on the night and fired 50 rounds at them. Khuram Shazad Butt, Rachid Redouane and Youssef Zaghba were the three attackers, killed during the attack by armed officers. All three of them were found carrying long kitchen blades and wearing 'fake explosive belts' according to police investigators.

Khuram Butt was a 27-year-old British citizen born in Pakistan, he was found to have a wife and two children. It was not the first time, however, that Butt had been identified with having extremist views. He was a part of the banned extremist group, al-Muhajiroun, and had been banned from two mosques. A friend of the attacker claimed he had become radicalised by watching YouTube videos and had expressed extremist views. Earlier, in a Channel 4 documentary, 'The Jihadis Next Door', Butt was shown unveiling the black 'flag' of 'Islamic State' in Regent's Park with a group of radical Muslims. The leading terrorist was seen meeting the two other attackers just

days before the attack. Concern has been displayed as to why the attackers, known for extremist views, had not been apprehended beforehand.

The victims of the attack came from all over the world: New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Spain, Germany and France. There were no particular targets, whether defending others or just being a chosen kill, people were stabbed multiple times.

In another event, in a street in North London, close to Finsbury Park, a group of worshippers were preparing for the end of Ramadan and their fast. The attacker presumed these people to be Muslim as they were in the vicinity of the Finsbury Park mosque, therefore, early on June 19th Darren Osborne mounted the pavement in a white van in an attempt to injure the worshippers. The attack has been declared to be in retaliation of the successive ISIS attacks; Osborne had been influenced and, falsely, led to believe all Muslims were bad. Finsbury Park Mosque had been notorious for radicalised Muslims in the past, but that is now no longer the case. Osborne is what Muslims may begin to fear – a radicalised Islamophobe. The father of four had been known to make racist remarks in the past, a fact countered by his sister who claimed he was just “angry at the whole world.” However, on 17th June Darren Osborne was removed from a pub in Cardiff after talking in anger about a pro-Palestinian march. Furthermore, he was heard calling his Muslim neighbour’s son “in-bred” and was found to be following the far right leaders of “Britain First” on Twitter.

A group of people had begun to help an elderly man who had fallen over near the worshippers, whilst waiting for the next set of prayers. As this occurred, the van came round the corner and Osborne began his attack. Calls were made to the police at twenty past twelve and they responded within a minute. Osborne’s behaviour was quite clearly an act of terrorism and officially declared so just eight minutes after the attack.

Waiting for response, people attempted to restrain Osborne and to help the 11 injured. Shortly after the attack 51-year-old Makram Ali, who had fallen over, had died. At the time it was unclear whether this was from his illness or the attack but tests have found his death was from multiple injuries. Osborne was heard shouting: “I want to kill Muslims” when he leapt from the van and was also seen smiling to the camera as he was taken away in an Ambulance.

At the scene of the attack, passers-by had wrestled the attacker to the floor in a moment of fury and in an

attempt to restrain him; the turmoil was stopped when the Imam of the Mosque, Mohammed Mahmoud, emerged from the crowd shouting: “No one touch him – no one! No one!”

He had been informed that a man had attempted to kill worshippers and come to calm down the commotion. He was hailed as a ‘hero’ for remaining calm and not retaliating, as well as keeping peace and ensuring there was no harm done despite the actions of the suspect.

Unfortunately, there have also been multiple other attacks outside the UK. A particularly severe one on the 30th May this year occurred in Kabul, Afghanistan. At least 90 people died and over 450 were wounded; it was the deadliest attack since last summer and the largest since 2001 in the Afghan capital. No groups claimed responsibility but the Taliban and ISIS have been infamous for attacks in the area. In this incident a huge car bomb exploded near the German Embassy at the busiest time of day, meaning many were affected. The ground shook violently and the sound echoed deafeningly across Kabul; it could be heard from the farthest corners of the city.

Sitting and gathering information for this article I was surprised and shocked by just how many tabs I had opened: conflict in this world seems ever-present. Just look at this terrorist map link and you’ll see just how many attacks there have been in 2017 alone: <https://storymaps.esri.com/stories/terrorist-attacks/?year=2017>.

To have to even discuss and be writing this article is horrendous; my and, I am sure, all others’ thoughts and prayers are for the victims of these successive attacks. May all our prayers also be for the families of the victims. But let us not live in fear of an attack, let it not stop us from getting where we want and need to be and, above all, let it not cause discrimination to any one group of people.

Fear not the community or religion; those who act as terrorists are very few.

Georgina Holmes

(Perhaps at the end of such a grim catalogue, we should remind ourselves of Jo Cox’s words: “We are far more united than the things that divide us”. Ed)

Election Special

As many people know, Theresa May called a snap election for 8th June this year. As the previous election was in 2015 another one was not due till 2020, hence this election was three years earlier than it was originally scheduled to be. The Prime Minister believed that she would win a larger majority than David Cameron had in 2015, and spoke repeatedly about how she would lead the country to “a strong and stable” position through a hard Brexit. However, this election was not to have the fairytale ending she had hoped for and, on 9th June, she lost her majority in Parliament and had to wake up to the fact that Jeremy Corbyn had proved credible with more voters than expected. Theresa May then had to accept a hung Parliament and try to form a minority government with the DUP (the Democratic Unionist Party) based in Northern Ireland. In the 2011 Fixed-term Parliaments Act, David Cameron passed law that meant General Elections in the UK would take place every five years on the first Thursday of May. However, the Government can decide to call an early election if there is either a vote of no confidence in Parliament or a two third majority of MPs are in favour of a snap election.

When Theresa May proposed her plan, MPs voted to bring forward the election from its planned date at the end of May in 2020. 522 MPs voted in favour, with only 13 MPs against, meaning that Theresa May had a large enough vote to bring forward the election.

Theresa May's plan, however, was criticised as when she first accepted the job as Prime Minister she said that she would never call a snap election. After the results from the

election were published a number of MPs called for Mrs. May to resign, including hints from some within her own party. Despite this, Mrs May has said she will remain in her position as Prime Minister until the next General Election.

The turnout for the votes, although lower than the Brexit turnout, was up 2.6% from the previous election in 2015. The total turnout was 68.7% which means that out of 46.9 million eligible people 32.2 million voted in the recent election.

The results were as follows:

Conservative 318

Labour 262

SNP 35

Lib. Dem's 12

DUP 10

Other 13

There are 650 constituencies represented in Parliament meaning that, to have a majority, a government needs 326 MPs. The Conservatives are now making a deal with the DUP to form a new government, with the two parties combining to have a 328 majority. The result has already led to several proposals from the Conservative manifesto being dropped, and is likely to have an impact on attitudes towards Brexit. Some people are questioning whether we will have another election sooner rather than later.

Even though most of us at Leicester Grammar School couldn't vote, we had our own election in which the Conservatives came out top but still didn't receive over half the votes.

Sarah Inchley



Wonder Woman: A Feminist Icon?

The recent DC epic, *Wonder Woman*, has been taking the world by storm since its release in early June. Earning over \$600 million at the global box office and over \$318 million in the United States alone, it made Patty Jenkins, the first female director of a Marvel or DC film, break fiscal records as *Wonder Woman* became the biggest live action movie in Hollywood history directed by a woman.

It is undoubtable that *Wonder Woman* is the epitome of female power – inspired by the work of contraception pioneer Margaret Sanger. It was directed by a woman and its protagonists (and antagonists!) encapsulate all that it means to be powerful: inner strength, athleticism and great intellect.

There have been many critics of the view that *Wonder Woman*, or Diana Prince as she is known to her non-Amazonian counterparts, represents a truly feminist icon. Allow me to rip those down for you. Perhaps the greatest aspect people seem to take issue with is that *Wonder Woman* fights scantily clad, in a strapless body suit that could double as a leotard or fancy lingerie. I strongly refute this as one of the basic principles of feminism is the ability to wear what you want without fear of judgement and objectification. For too long have ‘feminists’ looked down on other women for their choice of attire, labelling them as ‘inferior’ because they choose to wear short skirts or crop tops. A true believer in equality would appreciate the positive message of her wearing this ‘thigh baring’ outfit – we can see her muscles and appreciate her true strength. Long gone are the associations that women have to have thighs as thin as arms or a waist that would rival the diameter of a stick but, instead, we are introduced to a realistic warrior icon. Much praise has been given for the ‘thigh wobble’ we see towards the end of the movie. Although this may seem ridiculous to even mention, the significance of this breaking away from the rule of the ‘male gaze’ cannot go overlooked. Tumblr user ‘Creative Words, Powerful Ideas’ wrote a post that summed up the importance of small details like this: “When Diana did the superhero landing, her thigh jiggled onscreen. Did you hear me? *Wonder Woman’s* thigh jiggled on a 20-foot tall screen in front of everyone,” they continued. “Because she wasn’t there to make men drool. She wasn’t there to be sexy and alluring and flirt her way to victory, and that means she has big, muscular thighs, and when they absorb the impact of a superhero landing, they jiggle.

And. That’s. WONDERFUL. The unfortunate truth is that we have been conditioned to expect unrealistic portrayals of women on the screen to satisfy the male audience, a concept that Patty Jenkins shatters in subtle and effective ways. There are no prolonged shots over Diana’s body, dismissing her as ‘eye candy,’ but instead shots showing her fighting in battles, wielding weapons and saving the world.

Another critique of the film lies with the idea that somehow Diana Prince conforms to the Patriarchy. It is argued that when she arrives in London, although she has the aim to put an end to the horrific war and defeat Ares, she willingly obeys Chris Pine’s character Steve Trevor and does his bidding. I find this an absurd notion and can tear it down with one simple line from the movie in the scene where she wants to go and kill Ludendorff but Steve Trevor tries to stop her – “What I do is not up to you.” She grew up on an island of female warriors and will not apologize or bow down for being a woman. Her power isn’t compromised by her love for Steve, but instead her resolve is strengthened. Equally, another scene that shows that Diana has no time to humour the patriarchal society of England is in the big scene that everyone thinks of when *Wonder Woman* is referenced – she climbs into No-man’s land to protect the soldiers, amidst the battalion of men trying to hold her back. She is the woman standing alone in a field of men doing what she thinks is right, and the metaphor is striking. I truly applaud Patty Jenkins.

Honestly, I could write an epic about how uplifted I feel by *Wonder Woman* and how I believe that it is an incredibly progressive film that is making the right kind of waves. As with all films, there are aspects that I may not fully agree with, but overall, the image of a woman who has been brought up to believe she can achieve anything and who stands defiant in the face of adversity (being the only woman in the War council meeting and fighting to get her voice heard is one of the instances that comes to mind) is incredibly refreshing and is an inspiration for women of all ages. Patty Jenkins, once again, I applaud you for your efforts in this movie and I cannot wait to see further projects.

Kaneeka Kapur

The FA Cup and the Champions League

Saturday 3rd June 2017. Today would decide who the champions of Europe would be. Could Real Madrid keep their title or could Juventus steal it from them? Ronaldo started the show after a good cross was put in by Carvajal and Cristiano Ronaldo shot the ball into the bottom left corner after a deflection. The score stood at 1-0 to Real. Juventus played some amazing football in the air until Mario Mandzukic bounced it off his chest and overhead kicked it into the goal. The score was 1-1 at half-time.

Casemiro received the ball from 30 yards out and hit it into the far bottom corner to make the score 2-1. People were starting to believe that Real had an edge over Juventus. Luka Modric received the ball, crossed it into the box and found Ronaldo after a great run and then tapped it in. The score was 3-1 after 64 minutes.

Substitute Juan Cuadrado was sent off for a challenge on Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos. The 20-year-old midfielder, Marco Asensio scored in the 90th minute after Brazilian Marcelo produced some fantastic footwork to supply Asensio with the goal.

When the match ended some records were broken. Real were the first team ever to win two Champions League titles consecutively, Ronaldo became Champions League top scorer (again) and he was also the first player to score in three Champions League finals.

Tom Ellis

Trips - Germany

Eyes reluctantly flickered open; an early start. It was in the car and off to school at 5:00 am – for me at least. It was silent and beautiful as we made our way to school, but the real journey was yet to begin. On arrival, 25 sleepy students slumped into their seats on the coach as their parents waved ‘goodbye’. We were off at 6:00 am and ready to start the unexpectedly long day. 15 hours: four service stops and a missed ferry later, we arrived.

Every weary persons’ eyes lit up with joy and relief when our wobbly, un-used legs stood to take in the surrounding view and our home for the week. It was beautiful: hills, trees and a glimmering river shone in the darkness shrouding the sky. It was 10:00 pm and 25 students took off to find their rooms once granted their keys. Shortly after choosing between the beds – in a slightly over-crammed room – we headed to dinner. If you like eating meat, then Germany is the perfect place: there were dishes of chicken served in three different ways. I never tried the vegetarian lasagne, but I wish I had, because after a week I was looking forward to seeing some vegetables and fruit. It was early to bed for a 6:00 am start the next day.

We woke up to get ready, even got to look out from our balcony and watch over the misty river. It was across to breakfast at 8:00 am where a selection of chocolate spreads awaited us. Chocolate spread? For breakfast? Yes. I decided not to have that option, however, so ended up with a choice of cornflakes or plain bread. I’ll explain the situation now, for later reference: plain bread, or bread rolls, are known as ‘bröchten’ in Germany and it became

the norm, for us (the students), to eat these plain bread rolls for breakfast and lunch. The norm for those who dislike the filling options, that is, and cheese and ham are not my favourite so, yes, I did just eat plain bread. We then packed a lunch for later: bröchten, juice and a pack of Haribo sweets. We all had the choice to fill our bread, and a few opted against doing so... every day.

Day two was a trip to Burg Eltz, a large and beautiful castle on a hill where we got to look inside. Then lunch and a trip to the gift shop.

Next we went to Cochem to a Wine Cellar where we tasted grape juice and learnt some facts about wine in Germany. After that we could buy grape juice, before we were given the freedom to shop in groups around Cochem. It was very nice there. A few of us ordered food: a German 'Bratwurst', or sausage as it were, was the favourite. Afterwards we headed back to the hotel for dinner and then back out for an hour of bowling. A successful first day, which we finished in our hotel rooms discussing everything we had done that day and what we enjoyed the most.

The next day we headed out to Cologne for a visit to a few fascinating locations. First was the cathedral, an intricate structure which we all decided to trek to the top of. In a narrow tower we plodded up 535 steps; at the top we reached a passage which was perfect for

photos. We had scaled so high in the cathedral that our view towered far above the city, all buildings seemed inferior to where we stood. It was tiring and all legs shook at the end, but the destination was worth it. Back down was a little trickier – let's bear in mind that these steps were shorter than my foot, steeper than seemed normal and spiralled round a narrow pole – so that each of us feared we could trip and tumble all the way. Once we reached the bottom we walked across Cologne to - my favourite stop - the chocolate museum. The Lindt Museum focused on the history of chocolate and led us to some beautiful

chocolate creations: a fountain shaped like a tree, a case filled with object-shaped chocolate sculptures and a desk where we could design our own chocolate. At the end I think everyone bought a hot chocolate from the café and I understand why - it was the best I had ever had! We could even go to the chocolate shop and buy something if we wanted. Next, we had lunch before being given the choice of going to the Olympic museum or shopping; most chose shopping although some went to the museum. The museum contained interactive sports activities and a history of the Olympics. Those who went shopping headed to find more German food, and I was successful in finding a pretzel – German pretzels are my favourite –

or to buy souvenirs. In the evening we went to Boppard town, where we were staying, and our teachers bought us ice-cream after a wonderful trip down the river Rhine.

Our week concluded with a trip to the German theme park, Phantasialand, which was extremely enjoyable. At the end of a long day of many rides and a lot of food we headed back for our last evening in Boppard. The evening ended early, we packed and, despite excited conversation about our wonderful trip, we quickly fell asleep to prepare for another early start. Although we wanted to see our families, most of the students did want to stay; we had such a fantastic time that we wished we could be there longer. Alas, it was another tiringly early start to a long day.

A huge thank you to all the students for being friendly and making it so enjoyable, and especially to our teachers for making it happen. Thank you Mrs Stout, Mrs Nelson and Dr Crawford for everything: it was a great and truly memorable trip!

Georgina Holmes

Summer Films

This summer's films look set to be a storm! We have the third segment of the loved Despicable Me franchise being release, with Gru and his minions being more villainous than ever, and the first singular Spiderman since Tom Holland's introduction in Captain America: Civil War, with him set to be the most accurate Spidey yet.

Cars 3 (Rating - U)

Racing car, Lightning McQueen, has a massive crash whilst competing with a younger car, Jackson Storm. Afterwards, McQueen has to improve if he wants to return to glory. To be honest, I haven't heard a huge amount about this film, and I've only seen the trailer once, but it has entirely mixed reviews.

Despicable Me 3 (Rating - U)

In this we see Gru's possible return to a life of crime after he is fired by the Anti-Villain League. He retires and travels to Freedonia to meet his long-lost twin brother. The reunited siblings soon find themselves in an awkward alliance to take down the Balthazar Bratt, a former 1980s child star who seeks revenge against the world.

Baby Driver (Rating - 15)

Getaway driver Baby has his own personal soundtrack to be the best and to drown out the ringing of his tinnitus. After meeting Deborah, the woman of his dreams, he sees a chance to get out of his current life. Coerced into working for kingpin, Baby must prepare as a heist threatens his life, love and freedom. With reviews coming out as "excellent" for this summer blockbuster, I would definitely put

this on your list to see.

Spiderman - Homecoming (Rating - 12A)

After the debut of the new Spidey in Captain America: Civil War, we see Tom Holland in his own movie as Peter Parker is thrust back into normal school life. He attempts to balance a normal life whilst being the newest superhero in the MCU. Personally, I am really excited for this film with many fans saying TH is the most comic-accurate Spiderman yet. Whilst trying to be a 'friendly neighbourhood Spiderman', Peter Parker gets dragged into a new type of battle when the evil Vulture swoops and threatens everything that he holds dear.

The House (Rating - 15)

Scott and Kate Johansen must figure out a way to earn some money after their daughter's scholarship falls through. When all else fails, the desperate couple join forces with their neighbour Frank to start an underground casino in his home. As the cash rolls in, and the good times fly, Scott and Kate soon learn that they may have bitten off more than they can chew.

Sophie Puffett



Release Posters
for Spiderman
Homecoming (above)
and Despicable Me 3
(right)



Trips - Lake District

Day 1: We arrived in bright sunshine at the Youth Hostel, after the five hour journey on a stuffy coach. After supper we walked along Coppermines valley and I got attacked by midges.

Day 2: It rained all night and was still raining when we got up. I had a “Full English Breakfast” in the morning, which tasted very nice. After music rehearsals in the morning, we prepared for our long walk up the ‘Old Man of Coniston’. It was a hard climb, through the clouds and everyone in my group got very tired, but we were the first to make it to the top. I took a small rock from the summit as a souvenir. When we got back, I realised we’d been climbing the mountain for five hours, but I was welcomed by the aroma of hot chocolate, courtesy of Miss Howd and Mrs Patterson.

Day 3: We played our thirty five minute concert to the Coniston primary school, which went well. I was in the Lower School Singers, who sang three songs at that concert. Then we went back to the Youth Hostel where we had a quick lunch before being kitted up with wet suits and safety gear, as two groups were going to do Ghyll-scambling. For those who aren’t familiar with the sport, it is basically walking up a river. A river that had large rocks and boulders, strong currents and plunge pools. It was amazing clambering up it and, I don’t mean to sound sadistic, but it was enjoyable to see people emerge out of the pool with mouths gaping like goldfish. We finished the day with sausage and mash and watching the first hour of ‘Swallows and Amazons.’

Day 4: We had another “English Breakfast”

today before doing what the other groups did on Wednesday: Kayaking. The other group we were with did canyoning, while we got very wet doing kayaking. First we played a game of catch in our kayaks, and we were taught some water self-defence by our instructor. Then we headed down a stream with a rather strong current and then we sailed upstream for a little ride. Then we did challenges like crawling along your boat, which is when I got wet. However, I felt comforted when watching William Wale do it and I laughed. Sorry. After this, we had ice cream courtesy of Miss Graph-Baker. Then we had our final concert which was, in my opinion, a blast. All the girls started crying at the end for a reason that escapes me, but I think one of their friends was leaving. Then, afterwards, Miss Howd got a certificate for singing Ed Sheeran’s ‘Shape of You’ in the shower. Why that was worthy of a certificate I don’t know.

Day 5: This was the day we went home. It was yet another long ride home and I tried to read on the way* but the bus was too loud. When we got to a service station I hoped to buy two comics that were at the last station we went to, but I left my wallet on the coach. I then found that they had neither of the comics, which was disappointing. We got back at three, but I couldn’t summon the energy to go to the last of Maths (Sorry Dr Crawford).

Overall, it was one of the best residential trips I’ve had at school. Thank you to the Music Department for organising the trip.

Thomas Mann

*My book is Assassin’s Creed: Black Flag, which is available in the library.

(Several articles about the trips missed the (very tight) deadline, so look forward to reading them in the next issue! Ed)

Sports Day

