



by the pupils, for the pupils
February 2017

Hands Across The Water...



Interest • Interviews • Current Affairs • Debates • Reviews • Music

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Also a massive thanks to Mrs Hunt for letting us use her office and her computer to edit.

“Tears are running down the cheeks of the Statue of Liberty tonight as a grand tradition of America, welcoming immigrants, that has existed since America was founded, has been stomped upon.”

Chuck Schumer - Democratic Leader in the Senate

In the news.

Mr Trump is president. That's a big thing for a start. And things aren't looking quite so alarming as they originally seemed. He has agreed to review the Special Relationship with Theresa May after she sent him a letter with a Churchill speech attached regarding it. In an interview with Michael Gove, for The Times Newspaper, Mr Trump revealed that they were "gonna get something done very quickly" and that "Absolutely, [I'm going to review the special relationship] very quickly. I'm a big fan of the UK, we're gonna work very hard to get it done quickly and done properly, good for both sides. I will be meeting her [Theresa May] – in fact if you want you can see the letter, wherever the letter is, she just sent it."

On Friday the 27th of January, Mr Trump and Mrs May met in Washington for talks on the special relationship and NATO. Although Mr Trump may have some policies that Britons may find alarming, he did make the point of holding meetings with Theresa May before any other European leader. They discussed NATO's current role, and the Special Relationships in modern society. The results of the meeting were fairly successful, but Mr Trump strongly criticised the NHS.

Also in the news is the verdict of The Supreme Court. Britain's highest-ranking court said that Theresa May cannot take Britain out of the EU without Parliament having a vote first. This means that MPs and Peers in the House of Lords will have to allow Theresa May to trigger Article 50. Despite needing the vote, it is thought that Parliament will support the majority of the people's wishes and not block Brexit.

Additionally, the famous Maracana stadium was broken into and had some objects stolen. The Rio 2016 stadium has been the subject of a debate about who should maintain it. Local football bosses have called for urgent action to keep the stadium safe.

Harry Potter fans are looking forward to 2nd February when Harry Potter Book Night comes around. This year is the third year running and the theme is 'Professors of Hogwarts.' This June is also a big point for Harry Potter, as on June 26th, it is the 20th anniversary of the release of the first book, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

One of Tehran's most famous landmarks has collapsed after catching fire. At least 30 people are thought to have died in the blaze and many more have been injured. Also, in the news is the failed Trident test which Downing Street covered up for over six months. The incident took place off the coast of Florida when a test missile aimed for the Atlantic Ocean went the wrong way and went all the way over the American Mainland into the Pacific Ocean.

By William Wale

Trump's Inauguration

It's safe to say that Donald Trump's inauguration was not an event that many of us were looking forward to. We were expecting that we wouldn't be able to make it through the day without some sort of controversy - after all there were the Women's marches, the vague hope that there might be some sort of "accident" just before the inauguration, and the general fact that people just don't like Trump. However, I don't think anyone expected a fight over something as petty as statistics.

Obama's 2008 inauguration was watched by a crowd of 1.8 million people, a number which broke the record for the total amount of people in the National Mall at any time. However, the New York Times estimated the crowd watching Trump's inauguration to be roughly a third of the size of Obama's. This, of course, is unsurprising given that Obama was the first black president of America. This was an event that changed history, and for the many black people living in the USA, gave them the representation

they've been waiting a mere 43 presidents and 219 years for (it was about time). Therefore, it makes sense that millions of people would travel from all over the country to watch Obama's inauguration. It is, however, unsurprising that a smaller number of people would be willing to put in the effort to see yet another white (questionable), middle-aged (also questionable), heterosexual, Christian (questionable) President be sworn in - after all, it's not like we've never seen one of those before.

But as much as I hate Donald Trump, I have to admit, there's no shame in the figures for his inauguration. After all, the video became the most streamed on Twitter during the site's ten-year history, with over 6.8 million views. Even then, he's already won the election, so there's no point in continuing the opponent-trashing now. To be honest, I find it ridiculous that in such a short amount of time into Trump's presidency we've already been pulled into such childish games of "my crowd's bigger than yours". It's alarming that we have to put up with

with a man this immature as President of one of the most powerful countries in the world for the next four years.

However, even more alarming is the fact that the Trump Administration blatantly lied about the turnout. Sean Spicer, Trump's White House Press Secretary, said that the crowd "was the largest audience ever to witness an inauguration, period, both in person and around the globe", despite this being an obvious lie to anyone who has so much as glanced at the photos. Although this might be viewed as a light-hearted issue compared to the rest of Trump's first week as President, I see a darker problem. The whole thing is rather reminiscent of '1984', and I believe we have a serious issue when the government starts lying to us, especially when there is clear evidence showing the contrary. Maybe it starts out with "How many fingers am I holding up, Winston?" or a childish game of "my crowds bigger than yours", but who knows what comes next? Government cover-ups? Innocent people being accused of being terrorists? Illegal weapons of mass destruction in the Middle-East? Oh, wait...

Fake news is a scandal that Donald

Trump has criticised and it is becoming increasingly prominent due to its dangerous effects on politics. We saw the dramatic result it had both on Brexit and the American election, but it concerns me that the Trump administration would be so quick to blatantly lie about something that, in the end, doesn't really even matter. If they get riled up about this, I'd hate to see how they'd act in any situation regarding precarious international relations. I can't help but worry for the state of the world over the course of the next few years, especially given Trump's first actions as President. I can only hope that, whatever happens, the Western world doesn't transform into a dystopian Oceania over the course of the next few years.

By Jasmine Parker

Illustration by Thomas Mann



Girls Just Wanna Have Fun... damental Rights.

2017 feels incredibly reminiscent of 1917. Instead of an unpopular Tsar, we have an unpopular President, and instead of marches to highlight the lack of food and supplies, we have marches to highlight the threat Trump's administration poses to Women's and Human Rights.

The 20th of January will go down in history as the day a wannabe-playboy business tycoon became the leader of the most powerful nation on the planet. However, I would argue it is the following day that is truly more historic. Nearly five million women and men participated in the Women's March, held in over 600 locations worldwide. The first protest was planned in Washington DC, by the 'Women's march on Washington' organisation with the aim of "send[ing] a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world, that women's rights are human rights." Over 500,000 people demonstrated in the capital, a figure exceeding

both the original expectation of 200,000, and also exceeding the crowd at the Presidential Inauguration. The volume of people who turned out was so unexpected that Interim DC Police Chief Peter Newsham told Associated Press: "The crowd stretches so far that there's no room left to march."

Demonstrations were also held in Britain: in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, and the largest in London, where over 100,000 people took to the streets to stand in solidarity with all the women and groups Trump's administration will marginalise. Politicians and celebrities, including Sadiq Khan and Lily Allen, were also in attendance, with many addressing the crowds at Trafalgar Square. Yvette Cooper (a Labour MP) told the rally: "When the most powerful man in the world says it's okay to sexually assault women because you are rich and powerful, we have to stand up and say no way." In Washington, several public

figures made speeches, one of whom was Madonna, whose colourful language was broadcast nationwide: “Yes, I am outraged.” She said, “Yes, I have thought an awful lot about blowing up the White House.”

Although Trump has given relatively few details on his policies towards women's rights, his own behaviour in the past has given rise to justified concern: the infamous ‘grab her by the p****’ tape made headlines last year (inspiring women to wear pink cat-eared hats as they marched), along with the sexual assault allegations that go into double figures and the numerous tweets and comments reducing women down to their looks. The most pressing concern, however, is his stance on Abortion Rights. Since *Roe vs Wade* in 1973, American women have had the right to abort an unwanted pregnancy, but Trump vowed to defund Planned Parenthood, an organisation set up to provide free reproductive healthcare to the poorest Americans, and Mike Pence on many occasions has said he wants to see *Roe vs Wade* reduced to dust. On his first day in office, Trump signed an executive order banning federal money going to international groups that perform or provide information on abortions

- directly endangering millions of women, globally. Although this policy only affects countries outside the US, Trump has remarked in the past that he is behind an abortion ban in America. His ‘global gag’ is a devastating blow to pro-choice supporters everywhere.

The marches aimed to unite women and men from all diverse backgrounds to “affirm our shared humanity and pronounce our bold message of resistance and self-determination” (Women's March on Washington website). It must be recognised that there are a multitude of reasons why so many people took part in the rallies, including a call for comprehensive LGBTQ+ rights, refugee and immigrant rights and workers' rights and an end to police brutality. The signs on display across the world each had a different aim and brought to light a different issue, but it is undeniable that the overriding feeling was a sense of unity and solidarity against those who threaten constitutional and moral rights. The women's marches were a trigger, empowering people all over the world to stand up for what they believe in, and recognise that they have a voice and have the power to make a change.

By Kaneeka Kapur

Ask Prab



Consumer Electronics Show Round-Up

It's that time of the year again and the Consumer Electronics Show has just wrapped up in Las Vegas. Just like every year, this year's show gives a glimpse of the up-and-coming technologies which will be released into the consumer market this year. This year's focus however, was very unique: it was all about Human-Machine Interfaces.

Human-Machine Interfaces are any way in which a human can interact and get feedback from a machine. In previous years we have seen basics such as touch screens and some basic speech-integration into devices like Siri or Cortana.

This year – on the speech front – Amazon's Alexa is everywhere. Literally. At almost every booth there was some sort of integration with Amazon's virtual assistant, named Alexa: from TVs and speaker systems, to fridges and thermostats.

In an attempt to provide a seamless integration of one virtual assistant across your entire home, it seems that companies have opted for (by far) the most advanced consumer AI, developed and licensed by Amazon. Despite only being released in late 2014, as opposed to Siri being released over 5 years ago, it is advanced enough to control several smart home features and applications, all at once, resulting in a single command changing the entire atmosphere of a home.

Another attempt at making our lives easier through Artificial Intelligence has been Faraday Future's FF91, their first ever production car. Starting as a highly-funded Silicon Valley start-up in April 2014, Faraday Future is the closest thing to a direct competitor to Tesla's resounding grasp on the smart electric car market. After having only shown an impractical concept model at last year's CES, this year's event was highly anticipated – and rightly so.

They unveiled their first mass-production vehicle, named the FF91. It is marketed as an all-encompassing smart SUV with basically any feature imaginable. It has two on-board 4G connections to provide unlimited Wi-Fi to its passengers; it has facial recognition to optimise the driving experience to each driver's preferences based on their online profile; the FF91 also has a huge 130 kWh battery, making for a much longer range and higher speeds than Tesla's flagship Model S. Last but not least, it is capable of Level 4 Autonomous Driving, which is defined as: "Fully autonomous vehicles which are designed to perform all safety-critical driving functions and monitor roadway conditions for an entire trip, but limited to the operational design domain (meaning it does not cover every driving scenario)". But with all this comes a price, and at that not an affordable one unlike Tesla's recently announced budget Model 3 for just \$35,000. It is going to cost upwards of \$200,000 although no official price has been announced, only that it "will cost less than 2 million Yuan (\$290,000)."

Along with these big innovations, the computers to power those devices have also been updated. The long awaited AMD Ryzen processors have been released alongside a sneaky glimpse at their Vega graphics cards,

both of which are desperately needed to challenge Intel and Nvidia's strong grasp on the consumer market.

This is a problem with much of the electronics market at the moment and in the next edition I will expand on this ever-growing issue. Without competition, prices have slowly risen with processors without considerable improvement in compute power. Hopefully some fresh competition will instil enough fear to bring prices back to a competitive rate, because £1700 for a consumer-grade processor truly is overkill...

With competition however, also comes spite. This was recently seen as Razer's two prototype products – Project Valerie and Ariana – were both stolen after the end of the show. Some speculate it was corporate espionage and sabotage, others believe it was simply an attempt to make some cash out of stealing something worthwhile to Razer. Both of the products were winners of many awards at CES, and rightly so. Valerie is a laptop with three 4k displays built into it which would fold out of the back as it is opened. Ariana is a projector, unlike any other: it scans the environment and the display used for playing the game, then expands the field of view by projecting what isn't on the screen beyond the monitor and onto the walls beside it. The last we saw of it was a

mention on a Chinese auction site, but nothing has been confirmed.

Aside from the new, never-seen-before technologies, we saw many improvements across the board. Starting with televisions, LG released their new OLED line of televisions with the model letter “W” for “Wallpaper” as they are literally just 2.75mm thick, being held up by magnets. Unfortunately it seems that its price means we won’t be seeing them anytime soon in many of our homes: starting at £8000 for the 65-inch model. Similarly, Sony unveiled their first 4k OLED panel in the form of the A1, and they came out swinging. Not only is it one of the most accurate and bright Ultra-High Definition panels on the market, but it also has no speakers. Yes, that is a good thing. Instead it uses vibrations in the glass of the television itself to create sound, which reportedly sounds distinctively better than the competing “soundbar” solutions to a thin television.

Of course there was also the absurd, yet somehow beautiful, products of this year’s CES. The most talked about, the Acer Predator 21X: a “laptop” costing a cool £8500. Why so much? Simply put, it has some of the highest specifications ever seen for a desktop computer, crammed into a laptop form-factor, along with absurd

amounts of super-fast storage and a curved 21-inch display (which is ultra-wide and has g-sync capabilities). In layman’s terms, it’s everything you could ever need as a laptop - however you would have to deal with its whopping mass of 8.8 kilograms.

This year’s CES I believe has been one of the most accurate representations of the year ahead we have had. The strong showing of virtual assistants and more intelligent Artificial Intelligence is what everything appears to be tending towards. A clear sign of this was the selling of Amazon’s Echo and Echo dot, which have Alexa integration. They have sold millions of them, with last year’s holiday period selling “nine times as many” as the year before. The future of a fully-connected smart home is slowly becoming closer and closer to a reality.

By Prab Grewal



CES 2017

How Green Is Our School?

Why does being green even matter to us? Is being green important? If it is important, then what are we doing and what can we do?

To be fair, being green is very important to us, as the environment is at a huge disadvantage when we excrete greenhouse gases. For example, on the fifth day into the New Year (2017), London had already breached its annual air pollution legal limits.

So, what are we doing to help and how can we improve? Currently, at Leicester Grammar, we are recycling most of our waste paper, with almost all classrooms in the senior school having a recycling bin. We have also recently 're-vamped' the orchard, planting new trees and therefore becoming greener.

However, we still have room for improvement. We could be using school supplies made out of recycled materials; we could start a recycling programme at school; we could use non-toxic cleaning materials; have a rota of students who check that the

light is off every time they leave the classroom; switch off the heating in summer...

However, some more eco-friendly things aren't very realistic for our school, such as solar panels – they would require a lot of resources and even if we had a lot of them, then it still isn't clear whether they would work to the highest standard – there could be many architectural problems, and so on.

Overall, though, we are doing a good job but we could try some of the ideas stated above.

By Emma Demetriades



Interview With Mr Fishpool

Why did you choose to study Geography?

I chose Geography because I like the broadness of the subject. There are lots of subjects encompassed in Geography such as Political Affairs and Economics. It's a very contemporary subject and is always changing which makes it more interesting. There's always something new developing and I find that really interesting.

Which aspects of Geography do you enjoy the most?

I particularly like Human Geography and topics such as Globalisation and Development. I think it's really interesting how it's harder for some countries to escape that zone of poverty. I also enjoy Economical Geography too!

Other than Geography, which subject would you like to teach?

I would either like to teach Sports,

so perhaps a P.E. teacher, or perhaps Economics and the theory of how economics works.

Which activities do you like to do out of school?

I really enjoy playing football: I used to play for my town's football team and my university's football team so that's one thing I really enjoy. I also really like spending time with my friends and family too!

By Nishika Bhatt, Pruthvi Nakuleswaran, Preesha Lad and Inayah Patel



Trial Exams

We think that it is fair to say that every Year 11 at this moment in time is fed up. The ‘mock’ examinations that we have had to undertake over the past two weeks have taken their toll on us as a year group but have taught us a great deal. They have both enlightened and exasperated us and allowed us to understand that failures and successes are all a part of the process and we have learnt how to deal with the accompanying stresses that exams bring with them.

Our first exam was the beast itself: English Language. This was tactically combined with Maths and Chemistry to ‘compound’ our misery. Those of us with extra time were treated to a three-hour exam with all the joys that that entails - lucky us. However, not all exams were over within one day. Chemistry had two ‘elements’ to it

and in the summer we will be glad when both ‘Argon’ (sorry, I should take these chemistry jokes and ‘Barium’). If there is one thing that we can deduce from our experience, it is that fifteen exams in the space of a week and a half is a big ask. The fact they were all compressed into this short space of time also gave us some peace of mind when considering our real exams in the summer.

Study Periods. Let’s just say that if study periods were as long as this paragraph, the entire experience would have been considerably more enjoyable.

We would like to offer our gratitude to Mr Pilbeam for his ongoing encouragement and the effort that he injected into our experience. Whether it was getting the perfect volume for the listening exams, or reminding us of our many ‘malpractices’, he was vital in ensuring that the process ran smoothly and was as true to the real exams as possible. Also, on a different note, a huge thank you must be given to all the teachers who did their best to make the experience as... ‘comfortable’ as possible by staring over our shoulders and walking with what

could only have been bricks on their feet. We really appreciated it.

All in all, having had the pleasure of ten days of Pilbeam Positivity, three hour exams and revision over Christmas, we have learnt one thing - mocks have been useful but essentially do not mean anything. They are called trial examinations for a reason and are merely a learning curve for students that offers a preliminary indication of the experience ahead.

If you were wondering why there were 125 calculator cases and water bottle labels left outside St Nicholas' – they were all victims of 'malpractice'. Save the teachers the effort (and you a penalty) and just get rid of them before the real thing.

Before taking the trial examinations, we were repeatedly told that mocks were purposely harder than the real exams. This mindset should be considered when receiving results although this may simply be something told to us to give us some much needed confidence, similar to the renowned ITBK (if taught by Kendall) grade boundaries.

Our next piece of advice is to put your previous paper behind you. If

one exam went badly, do not take it into the next exam. It is equally important to not have any post-mortems immediately after each exam. They will undoubtedly fill your head with possibilities of how you could have answered certain questions. Focus on the exam in front of you and it will result in the best eventualities.

Our final piece of advice is this: don't take heed of all the paranoia and 'advice' given by Year 11s; we are all currently fueled by a disdain for the system and so all our advice should consequently be given an appropriate level of disregard!

By Rosalind Rashid and Kashan Panmanathan



House Competitions

There are so many House events, sometimes it's hard to keep track of what's going on. Here's a quick update on what's happened so far: The first event was the Senior Spelling Bee on the 23rd September. This event was won by Judges, giving them an early head start.

House Music took place on the 12th October. This event was a huge success with many different styles of music to hear. All the performances were amazing but in the end the win went to Judges.

After half term, on the 31st October, it was House Chess round one. Round two was on the 7th November and on the 14th was round three. Judges took the win again.

On the 28th and 29th November and the 1st December House Hockey was held. The Junior

competition was won by Judges but it was a very close score with Masters. The Inters round was won again by Judges. However, the Senior round was won by Masters securing them the overall win due to some good results in all the rounds.

On the 5th December Inter House Rugby took place with Masters coming first. On the 16th was the Seniors with Masters gaining another win. Junior rugby took place on the 8th December and yet again Masters secured the win. This meant that they took the overall win with 22 points.

On the 14th December, many people participated in House General knowledge. For the Junior round, V-Cs came first, for the Inters, Masters took the win and for Seniors, Judges were the winners. Overall, the win was secured by Masters.

The current score, after House General Knowledge, is: Masters in first with 118 points, Judges in second with 110 points, Vice Chancellors in third with 94 points and Dukes in fourth with 78 points.

By Holly Teasdale and
Jagdeep Bajaj

In the Interest Of Balance...

We sat and tried to write a piece which didn't mock poor Donald
(Apparently he looks a bit like TE's* granddad, Ronald).
Will** looks like Trump, in a swimming cap - a rather frightful frump.
We tried to write a balanced piece – sorry, Mr Trump.

We tried to think of ways around this rather thorny prob
Of sounding calm and balanced on the subject of this blob.
We're trying very hard to find a journalistic way –
No probs if you're not Mexican, a Woman or you're Gay.***

The thing about a President is NOT to cause surprise
And so at least, so far, all of his promises weren't lies;
Though looking at those promises – and, yes, we're being fair –
The vast majority of us would prefer it if they were.

Truth to say he's honest in the way he bends the facts -
We love the way he shares that truth in ranty Twitter tracts.
His twisted logic constitutes a federal assault;
If America is carnage then we'll know it's not his fault.

*Tom Ellis

** William Wale

*** Or anyone else offended by DT.

By The Peacock Editing Team