

# What The Heck?

February – Valentines Edition



In association with Sixth  
Form newspaper enrichment

# 1 Table of Contents and Editor Letter

## Team Intros (pages 2-3)

- House points update

## Student Life (page 4-5)

- Sixth form Oxford trip

## Sport (pages 6-7)

- Is Luke Littler the great teenage sportsman of all time?
- Student interviews

## Stem (pages 8-9)

- An investigation into AI within the health sector
- Sugarcrete – low carbon building for the future

## Puzzles (page 10)

- Sudoku, coding puzzle and club ad

## News and History (pages 11-12)

- Historical figure of the month – King Louis XIV
- Climate change extremism – the louder we scream the less we are heard

## • Art and Culture (pages 13-17)

- Love in all its forms
- Western influence: Ancient Greece
- Natural Disasters – a shaky start for Noto
- Film review – the hunger games: the ballad of songbirds and snakes

## Puzzles (page 16)

- Poem and crossword

## Student Art (page 18)

**Welcome to What The Heck**, the student run newspaper that I am sure you are familiar with. If you have previously been a reader of the newspaper, you may recognise a rather drastic shift in style. This is due to the new team who are now leading the newspaper. On the next page, you will be able to read our short personal introductions – and hopefully gain some understanding of who we all are and what we are interested in.

**We would like to say thank you** to the year 13s who set up and ran this newspaper with expertise that we can only hope to follow. They have been more than welcoming to us as we joined them at the start of the year, and I wish them all luck with their A-levels going forwards. A special thanks to Alyssia Evans, the previous editor, who worked tirelessly to create editions of high-quality writing and illustration – and has given us a brilliant guide even as we adapt the style to suite our interests.

**This being our first edition**, we have not outsourced many articles, and so, much of the writing was done by the team, who have all worked very hard in the past few weeks on this project. In the future, we hope to allow students of all ages to send in articles, illustrations, or suggestions – to ensure that the newspaper remains engaging and insightful for the rest of the school.

All this being said, we **hope you enjoy** this edition, whether you read through everything, or just try your hand at one of the puzzles, your support is appreciated.

Your editors,

**Emma Dye & Alice Cheesbrough**

# Team intros

## and picture



**Name:** Shyla J. Velasquez-Fox

I write articles for the arts and culture section of the newspaper. As one of my passions is mythology, a lot of my articles will be focused there. I also enjoy singing – which is why I am a part of the senior choirs in school!

**Name:** Emma Dye

I edit the newspaper and my own section: art and culture, as well as writing for said section. I am a talented designer, and I am passionate for environment issues and animals. I play the saxophone and sing, my favourite genres of music are jazz, soul, and blues (and a little musical theatre).

**Name:** Oliver Marques

I'm an editor, and writer, for the history and politics section. I like to think my main calling in life to be the study of early modern European history, so, many of my '*historical figures of the month*' will be from that period.

**Name:** Laura Hatherly

I write for the STEM section of the newspaper mainly specialising in computer science as this is my desired career path, as well as editing the Student Life section. I love to listen to music, sing, crochet and read (not all at the same time!)

**Name:** Kyran Russell

I am one of the co-writers of the music and film section alongside Krish Patel, in which we review new songs, albums and films. I play instruments and like music.

**Name:** Krish Patel

I am one of the writers for the music and film section of the newspaper reviewing various recent songs, albums and films. I often read poetry, listen to music and play all sorts of guitar, not necessarily in that order. I most often play bass with it being my main instrument.

**Name:** Katie Hodgson

I am an illustrator for the newspaper which includes me making the newspaper covers.

My main interest is art as I would like to have a career in animation which is fueled by my love for TV and film.

I am a huge rock and metal fan with my current favorite bands being Ice Nine Kills and Ghost with my other interests being true crime and video games.



**Name:** Beth Griffiths

I write for the arts and culture section in the newspaper. I have a large interest in Geography so most of my articles will be surrounding this.

Outside of school, I also enjoy a wide variety of sports with my favourite being swimming.

**Name:** Zakiya Dar

I'm the editor for the STEM section of the magazine as well as a writer. My articles will be very animal science and biology related since it really is an underrepresented area and one, I'm very interested in.

I will frequently find myself knitting, spinning and oil painting.

A quick tip if you're interested in oil painting - buy odourless spirit! This way you won't go crazy!



**Name:** Alice Cheesbrough

I am the person who formats and designs the interior of the newspaper as well as editing and doing a few illustrations throughout.

My main interests are art and design and I wish to be an architect, or similar, in the future

My favourite songs are Underwater by Red Velvet and Circle by SAAY



3

## Student Life: House Points Update

1 Houldsworth – 61.5 points

2 Priestley – 57 points

3 Clarke – 52 points

4 Bronte – 40.5 points



## 4 Student life – Latest School Trips and Events

### Year 12 Oxford Trip – Edited by L.Hatherly



Year 12 were kindly invited on a trip to visit Worcester college as part of Oxford University, spending the day learning about Oxford, university life and sightseeing the gorgeous buildings and nature that populate the university grounds, visiting the Ashmolean Museum and the Radcliffe. They got to speak to attendees of the university about their experiences, as well as discuss admissions processes and ask any questions they had. After an early start, they were grateful to arrive home finally after a long journey and a fulfilling day!



“ I really enjoyed the trip, definitely worth the long commute there and back. I enjoyed walking around the grounds of the college and seeing the lake. The explanation of the admissions process cleared any queries that I had. The student ambassadors were very helpful and answered any questions that we had. I found the Ashmolean museum fascinating to explore and enjoyed learning more about Greek and Roman history. ” –

**Review by Luke Drury (year 12)**

“ Overall, the trip to Oxford was great: not only was it an enjoyable day out, but it was also very insightful into the admission process and the educational style, as well as life at the university and the city. Upon arrival, we were greeted with a picturesque landscape of one of the many gardens at Worcester College, which set a welcoming tone right from the start. The morning consisted of a briefing by one of the admissions staff members, who answered our questions regarding admissions and the different style in which Oxford (and Cambridge) teach (through one-on-one tutorials with tutors, and small seminar groups). After the meeting, we were given a tour around Worcester College, exposed to its aesthetic scenery and abundant facilities.

At noon, we were taken to Worcester's dining hall, where we were served delicious meals, accompanied by hearty chatter with the humorous admissions officer. After enjoying our lunch, we were taken to the Ashmolean museum, where we were showed around the Ancient Egyptian, Sudanese, and Middle Eastern exhibits, which were very fascinating, seeing as the methods of which they wrote messages and manuscripts was demonstrated to us: we observed that, in ancient times, those in the Middle East used clay tablets as a writing medium, which was both efficient and sustainable, as they could be burned up and reused. Learning about the stark cultural differences between our current era and the days of old was very interesting as beholding the differing routines and ways of life gave us insight into how truly disparate our times are to one another. The trip concluded with a visit to Oxford's famed Bodleian Libraries, which are renown for being the home to the second largest collection of British manuscripts, dating back to third century B.C. We were also able to behold the iconic Radcliffe Camera, a landmark linked to the Bodleian Old Libraries by the underground Gladstone Link. ”



– Review  
by Astrid Martyn  
(year 12)





## GCSE and Sixth form Amsterdam Trip – Written by A.Cheesbrough



Friday 9th February to  
Sunday 11th February  
2024

As we reached the end of the first half term back to school after the Christmas holidays and after an unexpected bout of snow causing school to close early on the Thursday. GCSE and A-level sixth form art students were preparing to embark on a long day of travelling on our way to Amsterdam. The opportunity a chance to find inspiration at the source of art as it was made, acting as a visual start to both year eleven and year twelves new projects. As an art student keen to take my creative studies further, into higher education and beyond I found this opportunity highly beneficial both educationally and culturally – allowing me to see not only new art, but also visit and explore another country by foot. Taking in the food and the people first hand, in a way that found similarities to England in the likes of weather but differences in extravagant architecture and language. I will definitely take up the opportunity to go on this trip next year where we will go to another European country, and I would recommend you too Aswell!

After a drive up to Newcastle on the coach, we set off on the ferry – after a long night and quick look in the duty-free shop and snacks section we arrived in Amsterdam, the first stop on our journey was body worlds. After a brisk walk to the museum surrounded by beautiful architecture and Dutch chips, we were surrounded with certainly the most interesting set of 'items' I had ever seen. A vast compilation of bodies surrounded us, both whole and non, allowing a closer look into human anatomy at a level only seen in the donation and restoration of real human bodies – the visit was highly insightful yet also comedic in the many different activities the models were positioned doing, from dancing to playing the saxophone (badly). At the end of the visit, most of us made use of the museum 'body scan' section, allowing us to do a scan of our body and its physical state, both internally and externally. I highly recommend going to visit this attraction if you go to Amsterdam, just not if you are squeamish!

Next up we walked through dam square to get lunch - After this we ventured to our first gallery, full on food – the Moco, this was a modern art gallery which focused on the work of artists such as Basquiat who explored more abstract forms. Personally, I really liked Basquiat's work, however after a look around the rest of the privately owned gallery, the other standout pieces included abstract glitter mickey mouse (not in a good way) and other thought-provoking pieces such as short video screenings and impressive marble busts. If you are an enjoyer of modern art and other pop art elements, I would recommend this gallery



My favourite galleries of this trip would be the Stedelijk and the Van Gogh Museum for entirely different reasons. Whilst the van Gogh presented a real life viewing of many of the most famous artworks in the world, showcasing immense talents and understanding of the creative arts in a diverse way. The Stedelijk instead showcase art from all over the world, with artists smaller and larger providing a detailed insight into not only Post-impressionism but most art movements both old and new. Having subject matter that includes short films all the way to recycled tapestries that spanned an entire wall. Personally, I find the Stedelijk more visually and sensually appealing – with deep and personal meanings that explore social issues at the forefront of many of the pieces. This preference also comes from my love for abstract art that ties in multimedia sources. Some of the work even being interactive, allowing you to take part of it with you and away from the gallery – adding to the experiences tenfold. Both are a quintessential part of a visit to Amsterdam, and I highly recommend visiting all (and the amazing Van Gogh gift shop!)

## 6 Sport – Is Luke Littler the Greatest Teenage Sportsman of All Time?

**Luke Littler** announced himself to the world by making the world darts championship final, at the young age of 16.

**Littler** became the youngest player to win a match in the tournament's long history, defeating Christain Kist in the first round. Averaging **106.12**, this was the highest ever average recorded on debut in the World Championship. (Sport, 2024). If this wasn't impressive enough, he then went on to record another **five victories**, most notably against two **former world champions** – Raymond Van Barneveld and Rob Cross. However, he eventually went on to lose the final in an enthralling game versus Luke Humphries, although many have still hailed his fantastic achievements throughout the tournament. Performing to this incredible standard from such a young age is almost unheard of, which brings about the question: **'Is Luke Littler the greatest teenage sportsman of all time?'**

Below is a list of the youngest sportspeople to win major titles.

Athlete	Sport	Age
Martina Hingis	Tennis	16.4
Michael Chang	Tennis	17.4
Wilfred Benitez	Boxing	17.5
Pele	Football	17.8
Ronnie O'Sullivan	Snooker	17.11

**There** is no way to definitively conclude whether Luke Littler is one of the best, if not the best, teenage sportsman of all time. For some, they would argue that he is and for others he isn't. However, nobody can dispute the immense talent of Luke Littler and his future in darts is looking very bright.



If **Littler** were to have won the event, he would have ranked second on this list. However, he didn't get over the line, and so some would argue that all those on that list had a greater achievement.

Ronnie O'Sullivan, the current world number one in snooker, was the youngest winner of the UK Championship in 1993. To win it before turning 18 is nothing short of remarkable. However, he was older than Littler at the time of this success. The same argument can be proposed when comparing Littler's achievements to Martina Hingis and Michael Chang. They were both competing in one of tennis' four Grand Slam tournaments. This means that they have four chances in a year to win a Grand Slam event, whereas Littler produced his run to the final on the single biggest tournament of the year.

Pelé became the youngest player to win a World Cup at 17. This tournament is seen as the epitome of football and to be part of a winning team is probably the biggest achievement in the sport. However, considering that he was competing in a team, Pelé played a part in the eventual success, but by no means was he the main reason for the win. Hence, given that darts is an individual sport, it could be argued that Littler's is a more challenging feat.

## SPORTS QUIZ Answers on next page

- 1) **Darts:** Who was the winner of the most recent World Darts Championship?
- 2) **Football:** Which Premier League team did German forward Timo Werner recently sign for?
- 3) **Formula 1:** Guenther Steiner left his role as team principle after 10 years. What is the name of the US-based team he left?
- 4) **Athletics:** Kenya's Agnes Ngetich recently broke the record for the fastest time for a female in which long-distance race?  
A) 5km  
B) 10km  
C) The Marathon

Article written by **G.Heald**

## •Which sport do you do?

My sport is taekwondo. Taekwondo is a Korean martial art translating to ‘the art of kicking and punching’. And is characterized by high, fast kicking, and dynamic movement. It requires high levels of fitness, discipline, and respect. There are two styles of the sport: the International Taekwondo Federation (ITF) which focuses on a more practical self-defence and disciplined style of taekwondo; the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) which focuses on full contact Olympic style fighting with high complexity sparring. The style of Taekwondo that I do is the latter, as I prefer more ‘hands on’ aggressive aspects of the sport.

## •At what age did you start playing the sport and what motivated you to start?

I started taekwondo at eight years old (2016) as a white belt. Previously, I had done some karate, but I transferred to taekwondo as I preferred the fast style of kicking, and I found a taekwondo club near to me.

## •What is your favourite part of the sport?

I love that the sport always keeps me on my toes as I am now competing at a high-level, meaning there is always something new to challenge me. I often find it hard, but it is equally rewarding. I believe that taekwondo has helped me gain confidence and discipline. It has also made me not only physically, but mentally strong and robust.

## •What is the most challenging part of the sport?

Taekwondo is a serious commitment. I train for two hours every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evening, and three hours on a Wednesday and Friday evening. I also train for the GB Olympic development team over a Saturday and Sunday in Manchester once a month. I often find it hard to balance schoolwork with this training, as well as attending multiple musical clubs in school.

## •Before a fight, do you have a practice routine? If so, what does it involve?

Before we fight, we warm up every muscle in our body to avoid strains during the match. I also do an intense full body stretch so that I can kick high without pulling any muscles. After my general warmup with the team, I do some individual warmups consisting of a few basic kicks on the pads and some movement and ‘shadow sparring’ with another team member. I then wear a jacket to keep warm and listen to some music until my match.

## •What are your plans/hopes for the future in the sport? What achievements are you working towards?

As a member of the Junior Olympic Taekwondo Development squad for Great Britain (GB), I take part in multiple national, international competitions, and training camps representing team GB. I hope that my time in the squad will help me develop my confidence in fighting people abroad while also giving me the opportunity to medal at high-level competitions such as Junior Europeans and Junior worlds. I am currently in the process of creating my application for the Junior Taekwondo World Championship next year. To achieve a place in the Junior Worlds, I need to achieve highly at international competitions this year and the start of next year. This is an incredible opportunity for me to represent team GB so I hope that I can do well this year to secure a place.



Article written by  
E.Linsell-Fraser



## QUIZ ANSWERS

1- Luke Humphries 2-  
Tottenham Hotspur 3-  
Haas 4-B) 10km

To have your own sports journey displayed in the next edition simply email us at:  
**WhattheHeck@heckgrammar.co.uk**



As the NHS has been stretched thin since the Covid-19 pandemic, the pressure on healthcare is at an all-time peak, with ever-growing waiting lists and particular strain on mental health services. A study by Lancet Psychiatry in 2022 found that over the past 2 decades, across 204 countries and 12 different diagnoses, there was a 48% increase in mental disorders. This is just one statistic that illustrates the clear need for better options and treatments – but could Artificial Intelligence be the answer?

AI's ability to evaluate vast amounts of data, to find patterns that reach a conclusion efficiently, and effectively, makes it ideal for dealing with medical data. **There are many ways AI can be utilised to improve and optimise mental health services.**



### Data analysis

Due to its capability of dealing with vast amounts of data, AI can be used to track data from various sources such as, medical records, phone calls and even search history to analyse an individual. This can be used to trace patterns in behaviour that may indicate health issues, such as a sudden reduction in energy levels suggesting early signs of depression. A study by IBM and the University of California found that machine learning had a “high accuracy” at predicting and classifying a range of varying severity mental health problems such as suicidal thoughts, depression, and schizophrenia. This can be used to offer advice, suggest treatments and in some cases seek professional guidance.

AI may also be used to analyse the best treatment approach for patients, predicting how they likely are to respond to talking therapies and whether this may be a more effective approach than medication.

### Personalised healthcare

AI may also be used to personalise healthcare, benefitting each individual patient in specific ways. This could be in the form of personalised reminders to take medication in response to an individual's schedule. Further Research is being conducted about using AI to personalise treatments for different mental health conditions and adjusting treatment plans accordingly.

**Content warning:** This article contains discussions of healthcare and mental health including named mental health conditions. However, these are only briefly mentioned where relevant and not described in depth.

### Chatbots

Possibly the most well-known use of AI within healthcare, chatbots are being used increasingly, to offer advice and support for those dealing with mental health issues. These chatbots may ask patients questions regarding mood, stress, sleep, etc., identifying key words and then using these to suggest various treatments or diagnoses. Alerts can also be sent to medical practitioners when there is an immediate risk to a patient's safety.

Another benefit of chatbots is removing the need for human-to-human interaction. For some people, a significant barrier to opening up about mental health is a reluctance to share issues with a professional. Those with autism who struggle with face-to-face interaction may find talking to a virtual therapist or chatbot more comfortable, and this can also benefit those with depression or chronic conditions who wouldn't otherwise leave their house to go to therapy.

### Trust

Removing the ‘human’ aspect of healthcare creates a barrier between patients and professionals in the field of mental health. There are many factors such as empathy and relationships with patients that an AI cannot reliably replicate, raising the question of how the introduction of AI in healthcare will impact trust in healthcare services. The feeling of security surrounding patients and their trust in the system that keeps them healthy is arguably one of the most important parts of any treatment, how this will be affected by AI is still unclear.

### Bias

A study by WHO found that there were “significant flaws” in the way AI processes statistics with little evaluation of bias. AIs may be trained on biased databases that lack information on certain factors. This biased data therefore leads to biased diagnosis and evaluations, so thorough checks must be put into place to counteract this risk.

Article written by **L. Hatherly**

### Conclusion

Whilst AI has many valuable applications in mental healthcare, careful human monitoring is necessary to ensure decisions made by AI also focus on feelings of the patient, not just on data, combining both to come to an overall evaluation of what is best for the patient.

## Summary:

This project is managed by experts of the University of East London - who offer construction solutions for carbon pollution, using bio-waste as their core material.

The concept is to use wasted sugarcane to replicate concrete in a sustainable and property sufficient way - aiming to replace concrete in buildings.



References and information taken from UEL website

**Sugarcane** is the world's largest crop by production volume, with the processing of cane into sugar creating enough by-product to entirely replace previous building solutions, like concrete or brick. The growth is extremely fast, with the cane taking twelve months to be harvestable, and when grown in large quantities, this creates a highly efficient system of reaping and re-growing - which overlaps across the annual calendar. As a point of reference, this is around 43 times as efficient as forestry.

Article written by  
E.Dye



The processing of the cane creates a by-product called bagasse, which is used - in most cases - as a biofuel (is burnt in aid of heat, energy, electricity, and pulp production). Despite bio-fuels being environmentally considerate in comparison to fossil fuels (the bagasse is renewable, in opposition with finite), this burning process still pollutes the environment with an extortionate volume of carbon.

The University of East London have created an alternative usage for the leftover bagasse; one which does not involve burning and polluting - but actually aims to improve the sustainability of the building industry.

**Sugarcrete**, as it is aptly named, consists of tightly woven and interlocking fibres, creating unbelievably strong building blocks which can be used in replacement of concrete. The material is prototyped using advanced digital modelling and robotic fabrication, and augmented reality, and it presents consistent qualities of: fire resistance - tested to industry standards; absorption of shock; high insulation; industry grade tensile strength.

The bricks are shaped as a tapered polyhedral and because of this, can be geometrically interlocked, ensuring that the blocks need little more reinforcement, merely requiring a steel bar through the edges. This is estimated to reduce steel content in slab by up to 90%. In reducing this steel content, the slab should avoid cracking, which is common with traditional concrete, especially in areas that are prone to earthquakes. The sugarcrete's characteristic of high shock absorption will prevent this happening, which is efficient because in such countries that are earthquake prone, sugarcane is cultivated at a high rate. Furthermore, the current estimation of the environmental benefits, state that using these blocks causes carbon emissions to drop by 2000% and reduce curing time to just one week (compared to the standard rate which is at least twenty-eight days). Other benefits include the product being five times lighter than concrete and the substantial drop in expense.

It is important to note, that whilst this by-product would be extremely beneficial to the environment, it runs the risk of increasing the area of land used to farm sugarcane, which is already very high, and causing further damage to rainforests that are already suffering deforestation from this crop and many others. Saving the environment is a complex task which requires a lot of thought and consideration and can cause even more issues if not all consequences are taken into account before solutions are put in place.

Overall, using Sugar Crete as a replacement could catalyse the improvement of the construction business, and aid the carbon neutral movement. Additionally, the bricks are socially advantageous because countries where sugarcane growth is high will be able to fund their own building and manufacturing - rather than exporting concrete into the country.



## Sudoku!

1		5	9	7	8		4	
8	7		6	4		5	3	
2		6		3	1			8
	5	4	1	2	3	7		9
9		7		5				3
	2		7			4		6
		8	3			2		4
5	6	3	2	1	4			7
	1	2	8	9	7		6	

EASY DIFFICULTY



## Did you know?

Giraffes are 30 times more likely to get hit by lightning than people.



All the world's bacteria stacked on top of each other would stretch for 10 billion light-years. - When combined, all of Earth's 0.001mm-long microbes could wrap around the Milky Way over 20,000 times.

LEGO bricks withstand compression better than concrete. - An ordinary plastic LEGO brick is able to support the weight of 375,000 other bricks before it fails.

Giraffe icon by Darius Dan on Freepik

## Coding problem – The Fibonacci Word

Problem Written by L. Hatherly

The Fibonacci sequence is a sequence in which each number is formed by taking the sum of the previous two values beginning with 0 and 1, e.g. 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, ...

The **Fibonacci Word** is formed in a similar way, repeatedly concatenating the previous two letters instead of addition of numbers. For the purpose of this problem, we will use 'a' and 'b' as our two letters, and begin the sequence with b, a.

For example, this sequence will be a, b, ab, bab, abbab, bababbab, abbabababbab, ... **where each new value in the sequence is the previous two values concatenated.**

Create a program that takes in an input **n** and returns the **number of a's and b's of the n<sup>th</sup> element** of the Fibonacci Word sequence (with the index of the first value, a, being 1). If **n < 2**, the program must output "invalid".

Your program should **not** take any input **n > 30** for the sake of efficiency (or take more than a few seconds to run – this will depend on your device).

### Example Test Values

Input: 1

Output: **invalid**

Input: 7

Output: **a = 5, b = 8**

Input: 15

Output: **a = 233, b = 377**

```

place(/+(?=/g, ""), a = a.split(""), b = [], c = 0; c
(c); } return b; } function liczenie() { for (var a = 5
a = a.replace(/+(?=/g, ""), a = a.split(""), b = [], c = 0
push(a[c]); } c = {}; c.words = a.length; c.unique = b
for (var b = [], c = 0; c < a.length; c++) { 0 = use_array(
function count_array_gen() { var a = 0, b = {"#user_logged"
replaceAll("", "", b), b = b.replace(/+(?=/g, ""); inp
for (var b = [], a = [], c = [], a = 0; a < inp_array.length
(inp_array[a]), b.push((word:inp_array[a], use_class:0)), b[b
inp_array)); } a = b; input words = a.length; a.sort
indexOf_keyword(a, ""); -1 < b && a.splice(b, 1); b = ind
b = indexOf_keyword(a, ""); -1 < b && a.splice(b, 1); r
replace(new RegExp(a, "g"), b); } function use_array(a, b) {
a && c++; } return c; } function czy_juz_array(a, b) { for
+) { } return 0; } function indexOf_keyword(a, b) { for
word = b) { c = d; break; } } return c; }
&& (b = -1, a = a.substr(1)); return function(c, d) { r
} function occurrences(a, b, c) { a += ""; b += ""; if
= 0, f = 0; for (c = c ? 1 : b.length; ) { if (f = a.i
break; } } return d; } } ($("go-but
init_val").a()), a = Math.min(a, 200), a = Math.min(a, pars
""); if (init_val = a; $("init_val").a(a); update

```



## King Louis XIV of France and Navarre



Illustration by A.Cheesbrough

**There** are three men in recorded history who have ever made France irrefutably the dominant power in Europe, those three men are those men being: Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne; Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte; and King Louis XIV of France and Navarre. However, of these men, one seems to be far less known than the others. This man is Louis XIV, history's longest reigning monarch.

**Louis**, more than anything else, was an absolutist. He ruled France without the **estates general**, and this trend would continue until France's fatal 1789 estates general. Louis' opinions of monarchical power lay staunchly in line with the concept of the 'divine right of kings', which argued he was hand-picked by God himself to rule, which was Louis' main motivating factor for ruling in an absolute manner. Louis would act as he pleased due to his totalitarian power, for instance, he revoked **the Edict of Nantes**, and undid the settlement of the French wars of religion only to restart the oppression of **Huguenots**, as he viewed their very existence as an affront towards the **Bourbon** dynasty. This act was understandably unpopular with Huguenots and would play into the anti-Catholic narratives of Britain under Louis' cousin James II, leading in part to the usurpation of his throne in the Glorious Revolution. He also brought France into a series of brutal conflicts in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with every European superpower, which left her more powerful as a result.

Article written by O.Marques

**This** is not to say Louis simply concerned himself with a blend of warfare and **autocracy**, Louis was also one of the most prominent patrons of the arts of his time. If nothing else, this can be seen in the palace of Versailles. When Louis took the throne, the palace was but a hunting lodge (built for a King of a global superpower) and when Louis died, it became a seven-hundred-and-twenty-one-thousand square foot symbol of his power, forged in baroque architecture and shining gold. Louis' construction of Versailles is no mean feat, many estimate that if Louis were to build it today, it would have cost him an unfathomable £1.5 Billion, a staggering sum, even for Louis.

**Louis** was not only an architecture fan though, but Louis is also in fact known to be the founder of the World's oldest ballet company, as well as a celebrated performer of ballet in his own right. His most famous ballet piece was his '*ballet royal de la nuit*', which featured Louis, portraying Apollo, adorned in an outfit as effeminate as it was regal, it is believed that this outfit is how he became known as the 'Sun King.'

**Louis'** legacy is one of the more polarizing in history. Where many view him as the very epitome of what autocracy can be, he was a king who had his ego endlessly indulged by his subjects, who adored the man endlessly. Some in France, and globally, however, would also view him as the man who dug the very grave Louis XVI's severed head would fall into just seventy-four years after his death. This is largely since in his reign as the longest of any monarch in history, he not only failed to ever summon the estates general, but in his revoking of the Edict of Nantes, and his wider religious policy, set France on a collision course towards the infamous French Revolution.

**However**, arguably the most damaging thing to France regarding Louis XIV, was his own image. Louis was the Sun King, feared in Europe as much he was respected, he championed a system of successful absolutism, and led France to become a country which waged war on all the largest powers in Europe, proving that France was no negligible power, rather one which demanded respect.



**In summary**, King Louis XIV is, if nothing else, one of history's most prominent autocrats, hence why, upon reference to his name, many historians seem to exclaim, '*L'état, c'est Moi!*' (*The State is me*) And while this phrase's murky origins led it to be deemed apocryphal (read: fake), I hope this account of the King's life will lead you to the revelation it is in fact epitomic of King Louis XIV.

Footnotes

- Estates General* – the French Parliament at this time
- Huguenot* – a type of French Protestant
- Bourbon* – a French Dynasty spanning 1589 - 1793
- Edict of Nantes* – King Henri IV's settlement to the French wars of Religion
- Autocracy* – Totalitarianism



**Recently**, in July 2023, the University of Bristol carried out a study into what people thought would be an ample punishment for Climate change extremist protestors, and most commonly, they were somewhat sympathetic, though they still felt that they should be punished; just not imprisoned. Well, I believe a key word used in the article to describe these types of protests, and why the groups receive such a dismal show of support, is that they are 'disruptive'. These groups simply disrupt the lives of the British people, as is shown quite clearly in the 2021 insulate Britain protests.

12 NEWS AND HISTORY

– Climate Change Extremism - *The Louder we Scream, the Less we are Heard.*

**There** was a time, in 2023, where it seemed no-one was safe from having some form of orange powder thrown at them by Just Stop Oil Protestors. From ex-Chancellor George Osborne, and the soon to be Mrs. Osborne on their wedding day, to Snooker Players Robert Milkins and Joe Perry, Just Stop Oil Protestors seemed to spoil your day. However, very little has really changed in regard to a government policy being announced in their favor, in fact in recent news, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced his plans to 'max out' Oil and Gas expansion in the North Sea. But why, in a country where only 4% of the population would describe themselves as 'not very concerned' with Climate change, do these groups receive so little support?



Article written and researched by **O.Marques**

11



**These** protestors blocked off the road in Hanger Lane, and, with the intention of causing maximum disruption, picked Rush Hour to do this. A number of horns were honked as the public's expression of discontent, and in removing these activists from the road, the police had to make a number of arrests. Following this, there was no rallying cry for their release from people across the UK, nor was there a resounding call for homes to be insulated, rather this incident is, by now, all but forgotten by the British public. The fact this protest is forgotten is due to one factor, these protestors do shout, they shriek in fact, but their shouts do not echo as much as they desire.

**These** groups are heard, make no mistake, however where they wished to be heard by the climate secretary, it appears they have only ever really been heard by the law makers and metropolitan police, leading to not only a series of arrests, but also a series of restrictions on Climate Change protests. This, alongside the public's antagonism of these groups, leads to a lack of support, and a lack of real impact on British politics when it comes to climate change.



World Snooker Championship in Sheffield





Article written by S.Valesques-Fox

Due to its inherent nature and our whole school audience, we must brush over some details of myths.

**Mythology** has a history of being used to explain the unexplainable, a variety of abstract concepts – one of which is the ever-elusive love that so many these days set out in search for. A way that love is explained is through either their deities or their more general stories, that usually ends up resulting in the rise of a great hero and/or a complete tragedy in some way or another. This article is here to explore two of the many deities involved in this 'love language' – both from different bodies of myths. So, kick back, pull up a chair and please enjoy learning about these two figures.



O  
S  
H  
U  
N

Art by gravelgirly on DeviantArt

### Oshun:

A deity you may not have heard of in comparison is one African goddess of love, fertility and beauty, who is actually a similar concept to Aphrodite herself. Her name is Oshun from Yoruba culture, and she is extremely cool. She is the creator of the first freshwater river, which she created out of honey and saltwater, and she is wife of the sky orisha<sup>6</sup>. However, even without him she is one of the most powerful orishas in Yoruba religion. Oshun is a warrior, full of the flaws of vengeance and vanity like Aphrodite yet, as seen with the creation of rivers, she is a nurturing spirit. A great example of her kindness is how she became the messenger of Olodumare<sup>7</sup>. To summarise the tale, the orishas felt like Olodumare was too distant and so... they didn't need him. As can be expected, he caught wind of this and withheld all the water from the Earth, essentially sending a drought to all of humanity. The orishas tried to stop this by continuously trying to reach Olodumare to plead for relief. But no one could reach him until they finally allowed Oshun, in peacock form, to try. She succeeded but at a great cost to herself – transforming into a vulture upon her arrival. Nevertheless, she and the Earth were rewarded with blessed rain.

But what can be learnt from this radiant duo? And why is it important that we see the connections between them? Together, these deities allow us to see that love is both generous and petty, vain and eternal, and full of sacrifice. It is both contractual and unconditional. By having these similarities, despite them being from two different sects of the world, demonstrates how similarly people so culturally separated felt about love in its totality. But who knows? Mythology – and love – is open to new perspectives.

### What are your thoughts on love?

<sup>1</sup>Two

<sup>2</sup>Details have been slightly brushed over.

<sup>3</sup>If you want to see real drama when fighting over women search 'Helen of Troy'!

<sup>4</sup>Search it up, Psyche rocks!

<sup>5</sup>After they forgot to honour her; she turned them into lions!

<sup>6</sup>The term for a god.

<sup>7</sup>Supreme God of the Yoruba pantheon.

### Aphrodite:

Iconically born from a seashell in the painting 'The Birth of Venus' by Sandro Boticelli as well as a mixture of Uranus' golden ichor (aka god blood<sup>2</sup>), Aphrodite – otherwise known as Venus – is probably one of the most renowned love deities across the globe, acting as the Graeco-Roman goddess of Love and Beauty. She is desirable and petty like any other god and has been caught up in many a scandal. The main one would be her marriage to Hephaestus (or Vulcan, as is his Roman name) the undesirable god of blacksmiths, and her later affair with the god of war Ares (or Mars – of whom the month March and the planet Mars was named after). Our beautiful goddess, because she was indeed *just that desirable*, was given away by Zeus to Hephaestus to prevent any brewing fights for her hand<sup>3</sup>. Of course, as earlier mentions suggest, this didn't exactly work as Ares and Aphrodite ended up having an affair behind the divine blacksmith's back. In an act of justice, though, Hephaestus decisively caught them in the act with a golden net while they were still... very unclad<sup>2</sup>.

Nevertheless, Aphrodite is a symbol of love and beauty for the Ancient Greeks and Romans, either with her distinct jealousy, notably seen within Psyche and Eros's acclaimed love story<sup>4</sup>, or her more beneficiary side in her hand with helping Hippomenes win over the hand of Atalanta using apples<sup>5</sup> or even turning a statue into a real-life woman as she did with the woman-hater Pygmalion.



The **vastly reaching** influence of the ancient Greeks has had a direct impact on much of modern-day life, namely: scientific discovery; the art of theatre; literature; traditional art; and mathematics and philosophy. I will focus on language and art in this article; however, I encourage you to do your own research into the other sections.

### Language:

Most people are aware of ancient Greece because of the rich, detailed mythology of the Olympians, led by Zeus - king of the gods. The story of Prometheus shaping humanity from clay and standing among us as equals, is just as well-known as Pandora releasing all the world's evils from a box. However, the influence of mythology does not end with storytelling. It is estimated that over **150,000** words in the English language are taken from Greek, which is around **30%** of the language as we know it. Many of these words relate to technical and scientific terminology, however some familiar words are also of Greek origin, for example, phobia - as in **arachnophobia** (fear of spiders) \*, or micro - meaning small, used in *microscope*. There are so many, in fact, that a previous Prime Minister of Greece, Professor Xenophon Zolotas wrote two unique speeches in English, using only Greek words - one of which can be read using the link at the bottom of this article.

Ancient Greece also influenced language within expressions. Even if you are not aware of their meanings, you will likely recognise these phrases: '**Achilles heel**,' '**Midas touch**,' '**Crocodile tears**.' All three of these phrases are based upon Greek literature and mythology. The first two being the most obvious, Achilles being an almost invincible warrior, excluding the back of his heel, where he was fatally shot. After him we named the Achilles tendon. Midas's touch is in reference to King Midas, who is remembered for his superficial gift of turning everything he touched into gold - which is not as advantageous as it may sound, as Midas realised, once his wife and child were turned into a set of golden statues. 'Crocodile tears' originates from philosopher Plutarch, who wrote regarding crocodiles crying as they eat.

\*According to the British psychological society, 6% of the world's population suffer from debilitating arachnophobia, making it one of the most prevalent phobias.

\*\*The Parthenon remained intact until the 17th century - and can still be visited today, with much of the outer structure being in near perfect condition.

Illustration by K.Hodgson

Article written by E.Dye

It is **audacious** (read: bold) to say that western society would not exist without the ancient Greeks, however it is true that our lives would have much less emphasis on learning and appreciating environmental beauty, the subjects being fundamentally altered.

### Art:

**Ancient Greek** sculptors had an infatuation with capturing the human form, displaying life and emotions, movement, and personality within their art. It is this focus on realistic human anatomy which lit the fire for future civilisations to continue sculpting in stone and marble, creating breathtaking work which still feature in museums around Europe. The Greeks began a journey within sculpture where they depicted the people they had conquered in battle. The opponents' contorted faces and bodies aimed to show the brutal reality of war in Archaic Greece, beginning the **art of storytelling** - directly opposing the previous trend of portrait sculpture and creating a new form of expression that can still be seen prevalently in modern society.



This affinity for **sculpture** was not isolated to art on display, but also bled into the architecture of the period quickly. The Parthenon was and still is one of the greatest known buildings in the world; originally built as a temple to Athena (overlooking the aptly named Athens). The pillars encasing the building feature characteristics of life-like sculptures. This fusion of art and architecture has followed forward from the Greeks to western society through history - where now - the desire for buildings to be beautiful, to inspire, overrules the industry. \*\* The influence of the ancient Greeks continued into the 1500s, where uncovered fragments of Greek masterpieces inspired the infamous figures of the renaissance era - like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. This era of artwork had a wide effect of influencing the rest of Europe to adopt the styles of the ancient Greeks, despite them being unaware of its origin. Consequently, ancient Greek style remains relevant even three thousand years later.

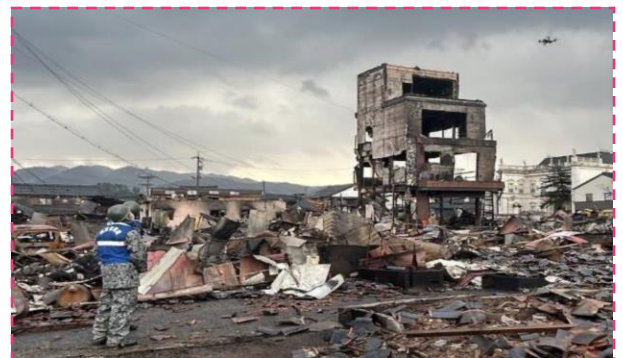
**Buildings** being washed off their foundations; the first tsunami alert for 12 years; the deadliest earthquake for 8 years; extensive shaking and thousands injured. This may be unimaginable to most of us, but this became a reality for the thousands of citizens on the peninsula of Noto, situated on the largest Japanese island (Honshu). On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 16:07, a catastrophic earthquake struck Noto, measuring at a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale\*, the largest earthquake to hit Japan for nearly 9 years; the epicentre of the earthquake being only 7km north of the coastal city of Suku. Due to epicentre of the quake being very shallow\*\*, large tremors were felt through the entire Noto Peninsula, and despite the shaking only lasting 50 seconds, the damage caused to infrastructure, housing, and transport systems was immense. In the 3 weeks following the quake, one-thousand five-hundred and forty-three aftershocks were felt along the west coast of Honshu with fifteen being measured at magnitude 5 or above, causing even more damage to the already largely devastated peninsula. As of January 29<sup>th</sup>, the local government has confirmed 236 fatalities with 19 still missing and 1287 injured, making it the deadliest Japanese earthquake since 2016, a catastrophic event and loss for many small towns, villages, and farms situated on the Noto peninsula, some of which were destroyed by the earthquake.

The earthquake triggered a major tsunami warning (the first since the Tohoku earthquake of 2011 in which nearly 20,000 people were killed, which measured up to 12m in places). The tsunami warning covered nearly 300km of coastline and initial predictions predicted a tsunami of up to 5m. 62,000 people were ordered to evacuate just minutes after the tremors stopped however the first waves arrived just eleven minutes after the initial earthquake struck, meaning very few people were able to evacuate in time. The largest waves were observed in the coastal city of Suzu and were estimated to be 4.7m, damaging the existing sea wall that has protected the city from tidal incidents in the past. Due to the damage sustained, some waves passed the coastal defences, destroying most of the coastal homes and washing many off their foundations and pushing the debris further inland. In its entirety, the tsunami caused up to 4m of flooding throughout the east and west of the peninsula.

Article written by B.Griffiths

**Earthquakes** are generally triggered by the lateral movement in tectonic plates, however in some cases this plate movement can occur longitudinally causing the land above the plate to move in an upwards direction. Suku's coastline has risen by 200m, and previously coastal houses are now hundreds of metres inland. **Over** 36,000 households lost power for many hours (or days in some of the severely affected regions) with major transport links (trains and expressways) that connect regions being brought to a stop. At Tokyo's Haneda airport, a Japan Airlines commercial plane collided with a Japan Coast Guard aircraft carrying aid - while the coastguard aircraft was attempting to land. Five passengers on board the coastguard aircraft were killed during the impact however all 367 passengers from the commercial Japan Airlines aircraft were rescued. **Recording** from December 2022, Japanese seismologists have observed an increase in the number of seismic events around the Noto peninsula, however the cause of this sudden increase is yet to be fully verified. Some scientists and seismologists have speculated this is due to a rising volume of fluid from the upper mantle through faults in the Earth's crust. This increase in deep fault movements has added stress to minor faults higher up in the Earth's crust causing earthquakes to be larger than normal.

The aftermath of the earthquake included a major humanitarian impact, especially to those in the most affected areas. The Japanese government has pledged an additional \$1.02 billion from state-budget funds for a relief package for all areas hit by the earthquake, however the Japanese government has expected the total damage could eventually total between 7 and 17 billion. Tourism to the Noto Prefecture has greatly suffered since the earthquake, leading to total losses of \$140 million.



#### Footnotes:

\*The Richter scale measures the energy released by an earthquake, with a scale from 1.0 (micro) to 9.9 (extreme).

\*\*Literally, not going very deep underground.





Answers  
down below

## Fun fact!



Nearly 250 million roses are grown per year especially for Valentine's day

## Crossword

### Down:

2. Run-of-the-mill (6)
5. Prison \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
6. Cops (6)
7. Microsoft machine (2)
8. Morning period (2)

### Across:

1. Synonym for kiss (6)
3. Characters in 'ice age' and 'Madagascar' are \_\_\_\_\_s (6)
4. Odd (4)
8. \_\_\_ of it (3)
9. Woman (3)
10. Far from flustered (4)
11. Ready or not, here I \_\_\_! (4)

Love is a rose.  
They come in many shades,  
And shapes  
And in many forms.  
They wilt and die with time...  
And yet, sometimes, they bloom once more.

A rose never lasts long,  
But leaves an impression of where it were,  
Stealing away its brightness from the scene  
Then leaving a quiet darkness where the mind wanders deeper.

Some have thorns,  
Sharp and full of pain,  
Ready to cut through your heart like a blade.  
The others are blunter,  
But they will still cause some pain.  
Yet is a rose still a rose without its thorns?

You never know how long a rose will last,  
I hope you enjoy the time we have.  
Sometimes we'll regret,  
And other times, we'll mourn.

Just remember that love is a rose.

## Roses

By Shyla Velasquez-Fox

## POETRY



Formatted and created by  
A.Cheesbrough

Answers: 1, smooch 2, common 3, animal 4, even 5, escape 6, police 7, PC 8, AM 9, man 10, calm 11, come



Article written by K. Patel and K. Russell

**Within (1)** a cinematic universe rife with many sequels and reboots, rises the prequel “The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” which further develops the onto the franchise through a captivating exploration of the origins of Panem’s dystopian society. Directed by Francis Lawrence, this film takes audiences on a riveting journey whilst providing a deeper understanding of the events that set the stage for the Hunger Games we have come to know and love. Set against the gritty backdrop of a post-apocalyptic Panem, the film is an adaptation of the 2020 novel of the same name by Suzanne Collins that delves into the early life of Coriolanus Snow portrayed brilliantly by Tom Blythe. The plot unfolds in the aftermath of The Dark Days, a period of rebellion against the Capitol that resulted in the establishment of the annual Hunger Games.

**Cinematographer (5)** Jo Willems creates breathtaking visuals by capturing the stark contrast between the opulence of the Capitol and the desolation of the districts. In addition, the arena for the 10<sup>th</sup> Hunger Games is a testament to the film’s commitment to its world building by transporting the audience to a time where the Games were raw and unrefined through the dilapidated amphitheatre.

Composer James Newton Howard returns to the franchise delivering a haunting and impactful score that complements the films sombre atmosphere with the use of music, especially Lucy Gray’s performances, further enhancing the emotional depth of the film.

In conclusion, “The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” is a triumph in prequel storytelling, offering a new perspective on the origins of Panem’s dystopian society. The film is a masterclass in character development, delving into the Snow’s twisted psyche and weaves a compelling narrative that challenges preconceptions and adds layers to a familiar world. Whether you’re a die-hard fan of the series or a complete newcomer, “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” is a must watch that leaves a lasting impression on viewers and invites them to contemplate the previously established line between hero and villain in a world gone awry.

## Film review - The Hunger Games: The Ballads Of Songbirds and Snakes

**Central (2)** to the narrative is the relationship between Snow and Lucy Gray Baird, portrayed by the talented actress Rachel Zegler – known for the role of Maria in Steven Spielberg’s remake of West Side Story. As a tribute from District 12, Lucy Gray brings a fresh perspective to the Games. The chemistry between Zegler and Blythe adds a layer of emotion to the film that is often excluded from other dystopian narratives. Zegler’s musical talents, successfully serve as a subtle symbol of rebellion throughout the film, challenging the Capitol’s oppressive regime.

**The (3)** film sheds light on the twisted evolution of the Hunger Games from a tool of suppression to a televised spectacle that captivates the oppressive Capitol. The storytelling allows the viewers to witness the transformation of a young Coriolanus Snow from a charismatic and ambitious teenager to the cunning, calculating president we encounter in the original trilogy.

**One (4)** of the film’s strengths lies in its ability to humanise Snow, a character previously depicted as the embodiment of evil. We witness his struggles, ambitions, and ethical dilemmas, making it difficult to categorise him simply as a villain. Blythe’s portrayal is magnetic, capturing the complexity of Snow’s character and leaving the audience torn between empathy and contempt. We particularly enjoyed the way that the film portrays Snow’s character development throughout – of course, credit for this goes to Suzanne Collins, however the visuals of the on-screen adaptation complement his character changes; both the appearance of Coriolanus himself, as well as the environment that the story takes place in, evolves over time and perfectly represent the transforming persona that Collins originally created.



Digital drawing  
done by Yr10



Drawing done by  
Yr12 Katie Hodgson



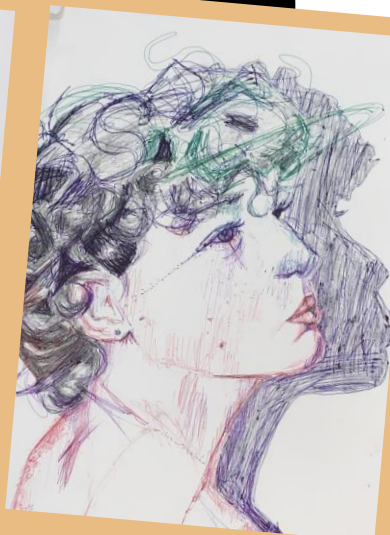
Drawing done by Yr7 Hafsa  
Khan



Drawing done by Yr12  
Emma Dye



Drawing and etching done  
by Yr10 Mary Kernick



Drawings done by Yr8 Nirvi  
Lohiya



Painting done by Yr8  
Naisha Mody

To have your  
artwork included in  
the next edition  
email:

**WhattheHeck@hec  
kgrammar.co.uk**

## CREDITS

**Writers:** Emma Dye, Laura Hatherly, Krish Patel, Shyla Velasquez-Fox, George Heald, Oliver Marques, Kyran Russell, Esther Linsell-Fraser, Alice Cheesbrough

**Illustrators:** Katie Hodgson, Alice Cheesbrough

**Editors:** Alice Cheesbrough, Emma Dye

**Formatter:** Alice Cheesbrough

For any questions, requests or volunteers, feel free to email us at:

[WhattheHeck@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:WhattheHeck@heckgrammar.co.uk)