

What The Heck?

April – 3rd Edition



In Association with Sixth
Form Newspaper Enrichment

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Welcome back to the third edition, the April edition, of 'What The Heck?'

Eid Mubarak to all those who celebrate, I hope you all had a wonderful day/days off! I hope you'll all find something of interest in the newspaper to read.

This has been a quick turnaround, as the first two weeks we would have been working on it were spent on the end of term break. We have worked very hard to finish this edition for today so that we can stick to our self-imposed deadlines.

Thank you to the guest writers in this edition, we greatly appreciate your input and articles, which have been brilliantly written. A special thanks to Mrs Thomas for proofreading all the articles in the newspaper and helping us where we need the assistance.

Your editors,

Emma Dye & Alice Cheesbrough

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Student life - House Update

1 Priestley – 93 points

2 Houldsworth – 87.5 points

3 Clarke – 79 points

4 Bronte – 65.5 points

Upcoming Events

- Junior Boys Cricket
- Senior House Chess
- Senior E-Sports

Ski-riously fun times in Folgarida!

When we arrived back for a new school year in September there was no ski trip planned for 2024 - the general consensus being that there wouldn't be any availability as these types of residential visits are usually booked up to 12 months in advance. Enter MaxSki, a family run company from Leeds who had served me well some 13 years ago when a trip I organised nearly left 75 students stranded due to the sudden eruption of Iceland's brilliantly named Eyjafjallajökull volcano, saving us all from sleeping in an airport terminal!

Following a quick re-introduction after 13 years, Managing Director Tom Bedford had organised a trip to Folgarida in the Dolomites for 50 students and 5 staff (Mr Tipler, Mrs Bailey, Mr Drake, Miss Genevieve and Mrs Carter). The buildup was shorter than most ski trips, but the excitement grew as we got closer to our departure date. Teams were made, X accounts were created, skiing lessons were had at SnoZone in the Xscape, rooms were organised (eventually!) and finally Friday 22nd March arrived, and we were off.

Due to the late booking date we had to fly to from Stansted so a coach journey ensued, followed swiftly by a long queue to make it through security safely. We were dotted all over the Ryanair 737 aircraft, and before we knew it, we were in Italy and on the coach from Milan to the ski resort of Folgarida. Arriving at about 9.30pm, 14 hours after we set off, we quickly settled for the evening ready for an early start the following day to have our boots and skis fitted and begin the first ski lessons.

An Article Written by **Mr Tipler**



The first dawn we saw was beautiful: A gloriously clear blue sky, radiant sunshine and a freshly bashed piste – what is known as a bluebird day among skiers. Having collected our equipment, we excitedly headed up the gondola to the ski area and awaited our instructors. The students quickly gathered into groups by skiing ability and with that, they were off on their first lesson. We all reconvened again 2 hours later for lunch on the mountain – consisting of double carbs to keep the students going! In the afternoon, the afternoon lessons continued with the beginner groups gradually inching their way up the mountain, and the advanced skiers pulling off some seriously gnarly off-piste moves! Before we knew it, we were sad to realise the first skiing day was over, everyone quickly stored their personal skis, boots, poles and helmets and we headed down the mountain for a hearty dinner and some well-earned rest.



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Student life – Ski-riously fun times in Flogrida cont.!

Evening activities were varied, on the first full evening we had a quiz, and other events such as team challenges (thanks to Mrs Bailey) and the infamous MaxFactor (which was essentially Karaoke with the teachers as judges). The winner, with an amazing rendition of a K-Pop song (that I can't remember the title of, sorry) was Rameesha.



As the trip progressed, it was great to meet with the groups around the ski area and spend some time with each of them, experiencing the incredible views of the mountains that we were fortunate to have. The skillset of the students vastly improved through the week, as is the beauty of the ski trip - **EVERYONE** makes progress - and **EVERYONE** gets better at skiing, to such an extent that **EVERYONE** who went on the ski trip can now consider themselves a skier!



I would like to thank all of the students for their impeccable behaviour, and the way the represented the school so brilliantly at all times. Well done, you are an absolute credit. I would also like to thank the staff for giving up their time with family and friends to support the trip, and their hard work both before during and after it.

Stayed tuned for the details of next year's trip coming very soon!



We asked some students to sum up their experience, here are just a few of the responses:

"The ski trip was very enjoyable! The staff at Hotel Renzi and the instructors up on the mountains were very polite and approachable, and the fact that the hotel was so close to the gondola was a life-saver (I can't imagine having to walk even further with our ski gear on). The planned activities after skiing were also really good, with some favourites of mine being Taskmaxster and Karaoke Night, two evenings filled with laughter! All in all, it was an amazing experience and I would love to do it again!" – **Ben (Y8)**

"The instructors were very helpful, I went from zero experience to ending up in the intermediate group. The gondola rides up to the mountain were pretty funny, same with dinner, and Hotel Renzi did some great desserts. Overall great trip, just a few minor issues with language barriers for the local shops and the service station." – **Oliver (Y9)**

"I forgot to put sun cream on all of my face, so the bottom half of my face is now ten shades darker than the top. I also learnt something after racing Oliver multiple times down the number 18 slope. Would I lose? Nah, I'd win." – **Tinh (Y8)**

"Personally, I thought this trip was a great opportunity for me to get to know people I otherwise wouldn't have talked to. Skiing was always exhilarating (even if I did fall a few times) and the views were spectacular. Plus, the apres-ski activities were a great addition to an already top-tier trip. I think I speak for everyone on the trip when I say that every moment of this experience was unforgettable." – **Eric (Y10)**

"Daniel's iconic 57 falls" – **Eleni (Y10)**





Year 10s recently visited the beautiful venue of Leeds Playhouse to watch a performance of Macbeth in preparation for their English GCSE next year, a text they are currently studying. **Anastasia Feier** reviews her experience watching this captivating experience and shares some thoughts on the show:

The performance at Leeds playhouse theatre was riveting from: costumes, set design, lighting and most importantly acting! The actors were lively and portrayed the characters with such confidence you could not imagine them being played any other way. The cast featured a deaf and nonverbal actor who played Macduff well and vividly presented his joy, anger, and sorrow through his physicality.



Whilst the acting helped cement the characters further, as a drama student I was also particularly impressed by the set. This was my first time seeing a platform that moved through various levels, especially with the actors still on it. It was a useful design choice as it perfectly illustrated the power shifts in Macbeth and status. I thought that this worked particularly well when an actor was stood on the platform and the rest of the cast were beneath it but also minor details like how far up the platform a character stood compared to the others. Another aspect of the set I found interesting was a small puddle they had on stage, that was featured in quite a range of scenes from witchcraft to murder, to the plain act of washing your hands. It was not a particularly big detail, but it was something they kept coming back to as it acted as the site where most of the sins in the play were committed.

The costume was also a good illustration of status and wealth but at the same time it also let us see the morality of the characters. I thought the choice to dress the Macbeths in white for their coronation was great as it highlighted the idea of appearance vs reality as they dress how they want to be perceived: innocent and noble. Ultimately, it's also ironic as their white robes, a symbol of purity, are a jarring contrast to the brutal regicide they have just committed.

In my opinion, the lighting really elevated the performance. Alongside the typical overhead lights were tall pillars topped with lighting fixtures that moved in all angles and directions, allowing them to cast multiple shadows and spotlights, both of which had strong dramatic impact. Casting multiple shadows portrayed the duplicity of certain characters, again highlighting the idea of appearance vs reality in Macbeth. The spotlights were cast in a way that covered most of the actor's face with shadows a literal representation of the fact that even when they are out in the open they are still hiding, they are never truly honest, their appearance will never truly match reality. The entrances and exits were not always lit but when they did, they pulsed red. This happened during moments of sin, the flashing light acting as warning coming from the outside, a reminder to the characters on stage of the consequences of their actions and of the world outside their unchecked ambition.

Overall, it was an exceptional performance from both the actors and the set and design team, who all worked well together to create an elevated and cohesive performance that is definitely worth seeing!

Review written by **Anastasia Feier**
and edited by **L. Hatherly** and **E. Dye**

SPORT – The Upcoming Cricket Season

What can we Expect?

County Championship (Division 1)

The clear favourite for this County Championship is Surrey, who, if they win, would become the first county (since Yorkshire in 1968) to win the title for three consecutive seasons, a very impressive feat. On paper, they have the strongest batting lineup in the entire competition, including the likes of Rory Burns, Dom Sibley, and Dan Lawrence, who have all previously played at an international level for England. Despite this seemingly dominating team, a potential outsider for the championship is Essex, who have top bowlers such as Simon Harmer, Jamie Porter, and Sam Cook in their attack. They provide Surrey with real competition – threatening their place as the previous winners. In terms of teams most likely to get relegated, Worcestershire and Kent are two teams that may be in danger. Worcestershire's lack of experience and squad depth at this level may prove costly. As for Kent, the departures of Jordan Cox and Sam Billings may hinder their progress in trying to improve on their eighth placed finish last season.



Written by Alex Heald and G. Heald

The Hundreds – Women's and Men's

The draft for this year's players has been completed, with many star names being involved.

Men:

In the men's edition, the second highest ranked T20 batter, Phil Salt, is playing for the Manchester Originals, joined by English star Jos Buttler. This incredible pairing makes the Manchester Originals one of the favourites for the tournament. The Northern Superchargers, another team, are one of the underdogs, having performed quite poorly in previous years. However, they have made some considerate and intelligent recruitments in this year's edition of the draft, including the highly regarded West Indian batter Nicholas Pooran.

Women:

In the women's edition, Southern Brave, who won the previous two years of the competition, are undeniably the team to beat this tournament. However, there will be fierce competition from many of the teams around them. The Oval Invincibles, for example, have made some astute overseas signings, and have a top bowler in Tash Farrant - returning from injury. In addition, The London Spirit is a team which could also be a contender to win the tournament with new signing Meg Lanning being a standout pickup for the team.

ICC Men's T20 World Cup



This eagerly anticipated tournament begins on 1st June with Australia being one of the early favourites for the trophy. They have a very experienced line-up and have proven their worth in this very World Cup many times before. A fierce bowling strike force of Starc, Cummins and Hazlewood have the potential to topple many other, very talented, teams. Another likely contender would be England, who won this tournament last time around and have a high chance of doing so again. India, however, may have a stronger team - with Kohli, Sharma and Bumrah being their standout players. This suggests that they may offer great competition for Australia and England. Despite this, they have spurned opportunities in previous major tournaments, even when being one of the favourites, losing their chances. What goes to say they won't do the exact same again? Another team in the competition, who many don't consider, is Pakistan - who have the formidable opening batters of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan.

THE HUNDRED



1. Who is the Premier League's all-time top scorer? _____
2. Which cricket ground in England has the biggest capacity? _____
3. What was Muhammad Ali's real name? _____
4. What colour medal did Tom Daley win at the London 2012 Olympics? _____
5. Which British driver finished third in his very first Formula One race in 2007? _____
6. Which sport takes place in a velodrome? _____
7. Which nation won the 2019 Rugby World Cup? _____
8. What country is Roger Federer from? _____
9. In karate, what colour belt comes right before black? _____
10. In darts, what is the highest score from a single dart? _____
11. Which football manager is known as 'The Special One'? _____
12. How many gold medals has Usain Bolt won? _____
13. How many regulation strokes are there in swimming? _____
14. What Five colours make up the Olympic rings? _____
15. In which sport would competitors use a piece of equipment known as foil? _____
16. What international rugby team are known as the Pumas? _____
17. Which sport involves tucks and pikes? _____
18. Who has won the most Sport's Personality of the Year Awards? _____
19. Where did Sir Alex Ferguson start out his managerial career at? _____
20. How many world titles has Phil Taylor won in darts? _____
21. Which famous footballer was famously never given a yellow card? _____
22. In cricket, who is England's all-time leading wicket-taker? _____
23. In which event at the London 2012 Olympics did Jessica Ennis-Hill win gold? _____
24. Who is England's most captained football player? _____

Answers

1. Alan Shearer, 2. Lord's, 3. Cassius Clay, 4. Bronze, 5. Lewis Hamilton, 6. Cycling, 7. South Africa, 8. Switzerland, 9. Brown, 10. 60, 11. Jose Mourinho, 12. 8, 13. 4, 14. Blue, black, green, red and yellow, 15. Fencing, 16. Argentina, 17. Nigel Mansell and Damon Hill, 18. Diving, 19. Andy Murray, 20. East Stirlingshire, 21. 16, 22. Gary Lineker, 23. James Anderson, 24. Heptathlon

After decades of a stigmatized toxicity surrounding mental health in (male dominated) sports influencing millions of young minds and their perceptions of mental disorders, it would be great to say that we, as a society, are beginning to overcome this stigma as seen in recent years. Unfortunately, headlines like ‘Emotional Richarlison in tears and opens up about depression’ reinforce this idea that continues to surround sports: showing any emotion makes an athlete weak.

Article written by C.Bromby



That being said, if we ignore the media’s reaction to a premier league footballer speaking up about his experiences with mental health, this really is a step in the right direction. The Tottenham Hotspur striker Richarlison shared in a recent press conference how his club helped him get into therapy after the FIFA World Cup in 2022 to rehabilitate his mind and body. The 26-year-old said that ‘everything fell apart’ during this period due to his limits being pushed, but that talking openly about his experiences ‘saved his life’. Therefore, hopefully encouraging many young children who idolise this footballer to understand that speaking to others and expressing their own feelings can be hugely beneficial when struggling with any mental health problems. As a Brazilian international, Richarlison has an undeniable media presence and is using this platform to spread awareness about mental health and how many sports disregard its seriousness. Attention is being brought to the fact that a sports person can be open about their feelings, and that does not take away from the fact that they may have 120 career goals or 395 appearances.



We have seen other high up footballers talk about their struggles, for example Jesse Lingard revealed his battle with alcoholism as well as his mother’s mental health issues, and how this impacted his own life. Similarly, England international Tyrone Mings previously shared with The Guardian that he felt as though he had to hide his struggles with depression due to the taboo of sharing about mental well-being. As a result, it is becoming increasingly normal for athletes in the public eye to talk about troubles they may be facing; something that would have caused absolute uproar about 30 years ago.

In spite of these efforts from advocates for mental health, a valid argument stands that mental health is something that is not spoken about enough in sports. It is still a common occurrence for young children playing sports to be told that they are ‘overreacting’ and need to ‘toughen up’, meaning that we are -to this day- teaching that emotions should more or less be ignored.

However, if more and more athletes can muster the courage to share their stories about mental health and show their (younger) fans that everyone has feelings and can struggle, this outdated concept that an athlete without perfect mental health is no longer viewed to be as strong or respectable might just die out.

Such a phenomenon has taken place in the past, where old-fashioned opinions were pushed out. So, if David Beckham can normalise extreme vanity amongst footballers, **maybe** Richarlison can pave the way for the destigmatisation of showing emotion in sports.



Article written by K.Patel, Drawing Illustrated by A.Cheesbrough

The astronomical phenomenon of a solar eclipse happens quite rarely, once every one to three years, where the Moon passes between the Earth and Sun, obscuring the view of the Sun from a small part of the Earth. Eclipse chasers and civilians gathered across America, Mexico, and Canada in the path of the solar eclipse to capture a breathtaking view of the complete coverage of the Sun as a total solar eclipse passed through the three countries on Monday the 8th of April.

A solar eclipse's occurrence is attributed to a couple of distinct factors: the distance between the Earth and Sun is approximately 400 times that of the Earth and Moon, and the Sun's diameter is 400 times the Moon's. Because these ratios are so similar, the Sun and Moon appear to be the same size from Earth. Another factor is that the Moon's orbit around the Earth and the Earth's orbit around the Sun, are slightly elliptical (oval, rather than circular) which causes the apparent sizes of the Sun and Moon to vary. This allows for total and partial eclipses to occur.

The eclipse America experienced on April the 8th was a total solar eclipse, however there are two other solar eclipses that can happen during eclipse seasons: annular and partial solar eclipses. Annular eclipses are rarer than both partial and total solar eclipses, taking place once every one or two years. These occur when the Sun and Moon are exactly aligned with Earth, but the relative size of the Moon is smaller than the Sun, meaning it is not fully eclipsed. Therefore, the Sun appears as a very bright ring (or annulus) around the shadowed moon. On the other hand, partial eclipses are the most common type of solar eclipses that can happen, occurring about twice a year. Certain cities across the United Kingdom were able to view a partial eclipse during the event on the 8th. Sometimes, eclipses can only be seen as partial eclipses due to the Moon's shadow passing above the Earth's polar regions – missing the Earth.



Solar eclipses are most likely to happen during the new moon phase, when the moon is positioned between the Earth and Sun, however they do not fall on every new moon. This is due to the Moon's orbit being tilted by 5 degrees, relative to the Earth's orbit. Often, this leads to the Moon's shadow passing above or below the Earth - missing it entirely. It is these factors which create a small window in the year for an eclipse to occur called eclipse seasons.

Eclipse seasons are periods in which eclipses take place, repeating roughly every sixth months, each lasting around 35 days. These seasons guarantee that at two or three eclipses will occur, alternating between solar and lunar. If an eclipse occurs early in the season this allows time for two more to occur, otherwise the season is limited to two.

The millions of people who congregated to view the solar eclipse were, however, were disappointed as clouds blocked much of the view during the initial partial eclipse. Luckily for some, in Texas and other specific locations, the clouds parted during the point of totality allowing spectators to gain a breathtaking view.



9 STEM – Dark patterns: the hidden secret of the internet

Dark patterns are techniques used within websites and apps that trick or manipulate users into doing things they would not usually do, such as signing up to something by accident. This may range from very subtle to blatantly deceptive. Often, dark patterns use confusion or hidden information to manipulate users, and there are many methods of doing this which will be explored further here, to potentially help you as a user to recognise and hopefully avoid these tactics.

Some common examples of dark patterns include:

- **Activity messages** – these tell you information about what other people are doing on the site/app, such as purchasing a certain item, influencing you to also buy or view this item.
- **Trick questions** – when questions use confusing language or design, making it unclear how you opt out of a service or cancel a subscription.
- **Low stock messages** – messages while online shopping stating that a certain item is running out of stock or in high demand, pressuring you to buy it quickly.
- **Countdown timers** – messages about a sale ending in a certain amount of time, with a timer to increase the influence of time pressure.

Spring Sale: Pro Access 80% OFF 0 days : 05 hrs : 40 min : 57 sec

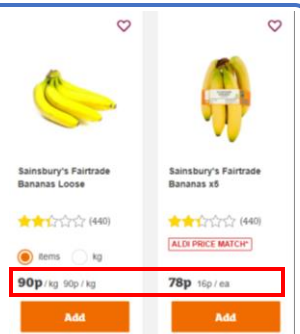
- **Nagging** – a repeated pop-up or advert interrupting your activity on a website/app.
- **Forced continuity** – after signing up for a free trial, immediately charging your credit card when the trial ends, with no warning beforehand. This is common with streaming services such as Netflix.

Some less common but more dangerous examples:

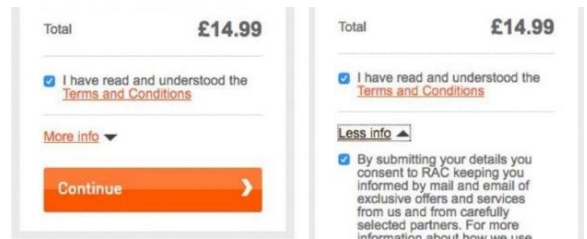
- **Sneak into basket** – adding items to your online shopping basket that you haven't added, just before you purchase.
- **Malware ads** – pop-up adverts that look like a real 'download' button for a file or software but really give you a virus.
- **UI switch** – switching up the user interface (layout or design of the website/app) to trick people into clicking the wrong button by accident and signing up for things without meaning to.

Case studies:

Shopping websites such as Sainsbury's does not allow comparison of prices of products as it displays price of some items per weight and some per unit, making it difficult to choose the lower cost option.



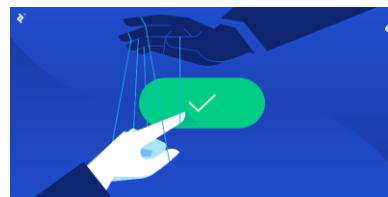
Some companies will hide consent to things such as mailing lists in the terms and conditions:



Some websites make opting out of services or mailing lists very confusing or difficult:

Do not uncheck this box if you wish to be contacted via email about product updates, upgrades, special offers and pricing

Often these sites make it very difficult to select the option you actually want, using techniques, colours, buttons and boxes typically used in user interface design to direct users towards a certain option.



Article written by L. Hatherly

If you have spent any time on the internet, it is probable that you have come across at least one of these "dark patterns", and these often influence people in some way, whether by just causing brief annoyance, or the more sinister impact of causing people to buy products or signing up to services they didn't intend to. However, becoming aware of what these are and how to spot them, as well as taking a few extra seconds to consider what you are clicking before simply clicking on something, can ensure you are less likely to fall into these online "traps". To find out more information, a useful place to start is <https://www.deceptive.design/>, which has a lot of information on dark patterns and many more examples of where they have been used.



Sudoku!

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

EASY DIFFICULTY

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

MEDIUM DIFFICULTY

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

HARD DIFFICULTY

Positive news stories!



In honour of Easter celebrations and World Simpsons Day (April 19), this mysterious crafter has created a post-box topper to brighten the local area, and also sells past creations to raise money for charity!

The Secret Yarn Bomber

A knitter who goes by the name “The Secret Yarn Bomber” has struck again in Ely, Cambridgeshire.



Coding problem – String anagrams

Problem Written by L. Hatherly

Write a program that takes two string inputs and determines whether the second string contains an anagram of the first string. For example, anagrams of "cat" are "cat", "cta", "act", "atc", "tac", and "tca". Since none of those anagrams are in "cart", the answer is false. The letters that make up "cat" are in the string but they are split up by the letter r, therefore this is invalid.

Note: all inputs must be valid strings made up of lowercase letters



Example Test Values

Input: "car", "race"

Output: True

Input: "nod", "done"

Output: True

Input: "bag", "grab"

Output: False

Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte

Article written by O.Marques

Revolutions seem to breed hypocrites. From Cromwell and the English Revolution to Lenin and the Russian, it seems every revolution has one or two men spearhead its radical ideals only to betray them for power, and none more so than the French Revolution. There are two stand outs of course, Maximillien Robespierre, libertarian turned dictator, and Napoleon Bonaparte, army officer turned absolute monarch, but one other proved to do so with such laughable hypocrisy, yet such skillful pragmatism, his dynasty stands today. That man is **Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte**, or as the Swedish would know him, **King Charles XIV John**.

Bernadotte was born with as much claim to the Swedish throne as most, that being **none**. Rather, he was born into a (relatively) low class family in France, at the tail end of the enlightenment period. At the age of 17, Bernadotte joined the French army, and excelled as a member, his charisma, valiance and daring intrigues made him the idol of those who served with him. Bernadotte gained much of the prestige he had in the army during the revolution of the 1790s, and it is not premature to liken him to Napoleon, many even estimate he was one of **Napoleon's greatest competitors** within the French Army. Being able to just as easily have taken his place, thus, those who feared Napoleon's clear absolutist aspirations attempted to use Bernadotte to prevent these dreams from becoming a reality, they were (clearly) unsuccessful. Bernadotte was still appreciated by Napoleon, he was **appointed** a Marshal of the French Empire, and after great successes, and with an imminent promotion to Governor of Rome, something Bernadotte likely never expected in his wildest dreams happened, he was offered the throne of Sweden.

To understand why this is the case is fairly simple, many countries believed that if Napoleon was to keep winning, they may as well be his ally. Many countries had their monarchs overthrown and replaced by ones Napoleon favored, Spain gained his brother, Naples took another of his Marshals, Murat, but Bernadotte was sought about by the Swedes, largely as he had no foibles with converting to **Lutheranism** to gain the post. Napoleon and Bernadotte were amicable, and when it became apparent Bernadotte was to leave the French army to rule Sweden, Napoleon only asked one thing of him, a promise never to raise arms against France in Sweden. Anyone with a slight bit of foresight would have thought better than to **refuse** this promise, Napoleon had become the most powerful man in Europe, he had butchered the Holy Roman Empire, leading to its dissolution, he had made a fool of Prussia, and he had rocked the Iberian peninsula with genocide and immense horrors, but Bernadotte **denied this request**.



Illustration by A.Cheesbrough

Bernadotte, now **King Charles XIV John**, would raise arms against the French. Now King of **Norway** and **Sweden**, he simply could not tolerate Napoleon's alliance to their sworn enemy, the Danish, thus Bernadotte's Sweden and Norway fought to defeat Napoleon, and were **successful**. Europe was massively re-ordered during the Congress of Vienna that followed Napoleon's final defeat in the 100 days war, and sadly for our friend Bernadotte, lesser powers such as Sweden, the crippled Spain and Portugal had little voice to advocate for themselves. It is because of this that Sweden lost Pomerania to the Prussians. The story ends well for Bernadotte in spite of this, however, the same cannot be said for many others who surrounded Napoleon, he retained his throne until the day he died at the age of **81** many years after Napoleon himself passed away. On his deathbed, Bernadotte is said to have noted '**no-one had a career quite like mine**' and he was right. He went from French Marshal to the founder of a dynasty which still reigns today in Sweden, the Bernadotte dynasty.

Footnotes:

French Marshal: an eclectic mix of great generals in France's Napoleonic era

(Joachim) Murat: another of Napoleon's marshals, later King of Naples

100 days War: Napoleon's last attempt to regain power

Iberian Peninsula: Spain and Portugal

Lutheranism: a type of Protestantism

Congress of Vienna: where peace was settled following the Napoleonic wars

Pomerania: a region once held by Sweden in Modern Day Poland

France adds abortion as a human right to its constitution, a great, and forward-thinking choice.

Article Written and Researched by C. Bromby

As of 8th March 2024, 3:30 pm at Versailles, France is officially the first and only country to include **guaranteed abortion rights in its constitution** – as now stated in **Article 34**. The official change received 780 votes in favour and 72 against, surpassing the necessary 520 votes to change the constitution. Huge support from women around the world has followed this happening, civil society organisations seeing it as an immense success because the move ensures that people can make safe and informed decisions about their own lives and bodies.



Despite being a huge step in equal rights, President Macron faces allegations that this constitutional amendment was done to bolster his left-wing credentials rather than out of genuine concern for the right to abort being at threat of removal from French people's rights. Additionally, Macron is facing opposition from French Catholic bishops who, for religious reasons, believe that no one should be able to take an unborn life.



Nevertheless, feminist groups applaud the French government and fully respect their decisions, promoting this as a victory for women everywhere: the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network describes it as 'incredibly important, with such an amazing majority, such enormous support and in such a democratic way... We really hope it will reverberate', highlighting the hope that has been sparked that other countries will see this change and follow suit.

After celebrations with the Eiffel Tower being lit up with the message 'My body, my choice,' French President Emmanuel Macron delivered a passionate speech declaring that France is sending a 'universal message' that abortion rights are necessary around the world for women to feel safe in the fact that they have their bodily autonomy. Human rights groups have expressed fear concerning French people being potentially denied the right to abortion following the controversial US Supreme Court to overturn the 50-year-old right to abortion in 2022 and leaving it up to individual states to decide its legality: 'This right has retreated in the United States. And so, nothing authorised us to think that France was exempt from this risk' said the Fondation des Femmes rights group. Similarly, human rights group Amnesty International voiced that 'The United States has shown how devastatingly dangerous and retrogressive it is to undermine abortion as a right', openly criticising the American government and its actions. The French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal stated, 'abortion rights were in danger,' despite being legal since 1975, and now this addition to the constitution guarantees that this right will not be taken away from French people regardless of the government in power.

The movement is widely considered a call out to the rest of the world, and the French parliament's aim to signal this commitment to other countries around the world and call out countries which are neglecting abortion as a basic human right.



On the 4th of April 1949, twelve countries of the Western World gathered to sign the North Atlantic Treaty - formally establishing the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). This organisation, for 74 years, has provided collective securityⁱ for democracies in Europe and North America; and with the accession of its 32nd member - Sweden - on the 7th of March 2024 it is time we look back and to the future of this alliance.

NATO was undeniably formed as a response to the growth of **Communism**ⁱⁱ in the world; at the time seen as a moral evil by western powers as the Soviet Unionⁱⁱⁱ grew in its influence as the opposing superpower to the United States. With fears of Soviet invasion, NATO was created as a **defensive** alliance - operating under the principle of collective security; and would soon expand into a large military organisation serving to integrate member states' militaries together. By the **1990s**, with the Fall of Communism^{iv} across Europe, NATO's mission turned into that of a global policeman and an assurance of protection in the East of Europe. In the years post 9/11, NATO would be involved in various interventions across the world as to handle the "**peaceful**" world order because of America invoking Article 5 due to the 9/11 terror attacks, and the wars which followed imminently in response.



To look forward, NATO is tragically at one of its weakest points in living memory. Across the Atlantic, the United States has an increasing faction that threaten to jeopardize the alliance's integrity by withdrawing the security guarantees they provide. These guarantees single handedly give most of the teeth to the Alliance by virtue of America's defence industry and capabilities. In Eastern Europe, with **Russia's** invasion of **Ukraine**, allies understandably seek guarantees of security that I believe that Western Europe cannot provide. Western Europe often does not uphold its end of the deal and match **2%** spending requirements, and with a growing lack of willingness amongst populations to serve, I believe there is a growing possibility that NATO grows into a paper tiger as the "**mind unfettered in deliberation**"^v grows ever more divided.



Footnotes:

Collective Security: The idea that if one nation is attacked, all others in the organisation will help defend it.

Communism: A left wing ideology believing in collective ownership, as opposed to Capitalist private ownership.

Soviet Union: A country from 1922-1991, comprising many countries including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic States, Kazakhstan and others.

The Fall of Communism: The Revolutions of 1989 saw the collapse of Communist Governments in Eastern Europe. It is thus known as the "Fall of Communism"

Mind unfettered in deliberation: NATO's Motto is "Animus in consulendo liber" - "A mind unfettered in deliberation"

With the Islamic holy month of Ramadan coming to an end, and as the celebrations of Eid-al-Fitr begin, I thought I would take the opportunity to explain more about Ramadan, what the month involves for Muslims and the celebrations of Eid-al-Fitr that follow. Just to preface the content of this article, I myself am non-Muslim, and so do not have personal experience and a direct connection towards Ramadan or Eid-al-Fitr, however this an area of study I find extremely interesting and informative, and if anything, I hope you can learn something from this article.

The UK (along with most countries) follows the Gregorian Calendar, a solar calendar with 12 months and 365/366 days every year. Days begin at midnight and end at midnight on the following day. Whereas the Islamic religion follows the Lunar Islamic Calendar (also known as the Hijri Calendar), which also has 12 months but only is 354-355 days, the days begin at sunset and end at sunset the next day. The 9th month of the Islamic Calendar is called Ramadan - the holiest month and the month of compulsory fasting.



Article written by **B.Griffiths**
and edited by **A.Cheesbrough**

Islam as a religion is centered on the **5 pillars**, (5 compulsory rituals and actions Muslims must observe throughout their life), the 4th pillar Sawm¹ commanding fasting during the month of Ramadan for all Muslims who are able. The 3rd pillar is Zakat, which commands Muslims to donate a portion of their income to charity, however at the end of Ramadan every Muslim must make a charitable donation if they are able. This money aids poorer Muslims to be able to celebrate Eid-al-Fitr to its fullest.

All Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the direct word of God, revealed through the Angel Jibril who delivered the first words of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad on the Night of Power (Laylat al-Qadr), which Muslims believe occurred during the holy month of Ramadan in 610AD.

All Muslims are commanded to fast in the Holy Qur'an by Allah and to fulfil the 4th pillar of Islam. Only those who are ill, pre-pubertal, elderly, menstruating, pregnant or travelling are exempt. Fasting is from sunrise to sunset when no liquid or food can be consumed. Muslims also abstain from smoking, swearing, sexual activities and listening to music during the fast. To prepare for the fast, Muslims eat a meal before sunrise (Suhoor) and a meal following sunset to break the fast (Iftar). Many Muslims break the fast at sunset by eating dates, as this was the tradition of the Prophet Muhammad whom Muslims believe to have been the perfect Muslim and so follow his actions to better themselves.

Eid-al-Fitr marks the end of the month of Ramadan and the end of the fast, therefore Eid-al-Fitr is always on the 1st of the 10th month of the Islamic Calendar (Shawwal). Eid-al-Fitr translates to 'the Festival of Breaking the Fast.' Muslims will attend the Mosque for a special prayer service, and many will donate additional money to Islamic charities. Families celebrate together and often with the wider Muslim community; children may receive gifts and new clothes.

In 2024, Eid-al-Fitr was declared on the 9th of April when the new moon was sighted in Saudi Arabia. Eid Mubarak to all who celebrate!

¹Fasting





There are many types of **peoples** and beings within mythology – some very mortal, and others being noticeably not human. A lot of the time we focus on the divine and the godly, all those who shine like precious jewels and metals. This time we will look at an elderly couple created by the poet **Ovid**. A simple, normal and loving couple who lived life without any divine intervention, until one day it came knocking (quite literally).

The Tale

The story begins with none other than a rumour – a whisper on the winds – that us mortals were not following **Xenia**, the sacred law of hospitality¹. This rumour drifted all the way up Mount Olympus to none other than the Mighty Zeus and Hermes who promptly came down to **Phrygia** (where the rumour had begun) to investigate. There they – disguised as two random strangers – came upon a humble straw-roofed home, after travelling throughout the rest of the richly-laden town, which had shunned them, just as the rumours had suggested. On this final house, they knocked, rage probably filling their veins and humanity's punishment imminent². But then the door was opened up by the subjects of this story: the old **Philemon** and **Baucis**.

Immediately, they rushed these weird guests inside with a smile on their faces and a warm welcome in their hearts, before preparing them an elaborate feast with their meagre store. Oftentimes, there were warnings to treat every guest well because they may actually be a god³, but Philemon and Baucis' response was **genuine** and heartfelt. So, when they all set down to feast together on this homely meal, everyone was content, which was, of course, when the dear mortals of this story noticed that something was different about these strangers. Their bowl was never empty, and their wine never seemed to dry up – and it was with this realisation that Philemon and Baucis began to fear for their lives, for what could they **really** offer these gods enough to please them?

What ensues is the couple attempting to catch their goose around the house to offer to their guests, failing with their old age in a twistedly sad and humorous way, until the gods – finally – reveal themselves. Commanded, the old couple follow them up onto a hill overlooking their entire town, hobbling on their walking sticks, but when they look to their town... it is gone. Wiped away as **punishment** for not following through with the sacred laws, all except for their own home which is now a white marble and gold temple. As **Madeline Miller**, author of some Greek myth retellings, says it is a **"miraculous and upsetting moment"**.

Written by **S. Velasquez-Fox**
Edited by **E. Dye**



Despite that, Hermes and Zeus look to give them a **reward**, which their only request is to serve their gods in the new temple and to let them die at the same moment, not wanting or able to bear a life alone without the other, so great is their love. It is granted and the couple lives their final days in the temple, until in their final moments they see themselves being transformed, and all that is left in their place are two trees wound around each other and together – an **oak** and a **linden** tree, Philemon and Baucis.

What is your judgement? Are they not so very ordinary in that world of monsters and mayhem, and yet... unique? That idea of the ordinary can be seen across a great many places, as well as the idea of hospitality and loyalty – like in the Bible or fairytales, even legends like King Arthur. Just as every word counts, each individual person has power. **To be Normal is to be Great, sometimes.**

¹Guests in Ancient Greece were sacred to Zeus himself.

²The punishments are steep – especially if someone served up their own son as food for the gods (*we're looking at you Tantalus*).

³An idea echoed within the Enchantress in Disney's 'Beauty & the Beast'.

ETHICAL VARIANCE

To live ethically (Oxford definition of ethics: moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity) is the **permanent questioning** of what is desirable or 'good'. This can be selfish, or, opposingly, as close to selfless as is realistically possible. Humans have an inbuilt (innate, intuitive) ethical base, where we generally accept certain actions to be **'wrong'**, for example, **'murder is wrong'** is something I hope we can all agree with (in some situations) - however, how do we know that these ethics are indeed correct? To answer simply, we cannot. No ethical or moral expectation is objective, there will always be a situation or individual equipped to counter it. To use a rather obvious example, much of our student population believe that drinking alcohol is **objectively** wrong, never justifiable. This is due to the theological beliefs of Islam. This belief can be easily countered by other theists or atheists in the school, who (ethically) have no issue with drinking. To some of us, drinking is immoral, whereas many others believe it to be perfectly acceptable.



ETHICS

Apply this concept to any other ethical belief that you hold; **can you think of people who disagree?**

Article written by
E.Dye

If you find yourself **struggling**, and believe that you have found an **objective** moral, try to imagine how you would feel if you: lived on a remote island; lived without technology; struggled financially; had a disability etc. Different ethical bases evolved from differing **perspectives** - occurring naturally from humanity's vast outreach on the planet.

It is **important** to recognise how ethical beliefs vary in the same way it is vital to know of **alternative** faiths and cultures. People derive a lot of self-worth and acceptance from how they live, which includes all the aforementioned elements - especially morals. I can say, with one hundred percent certainty, that I would not be the person I am today if I was not raised with the moral belief and expectation that all animal lives are as **significant** as my own. I certainly wouldn't have the same level of empathy, or the humility to accept that other things may matter more than myself. Because I was raised in this way, and as a vegetarian, it was significantly easier for me to become vegan around five years ago - and I genuinely believe that I am a better person for it.



So, my innate ethical beliefs tell me it is **immoral** to hurt animals, some people's say that drinking is wrong, some the same with murder, some think stealing is okay if it is from a large corporation - there are a myriad of combinations and expectations.



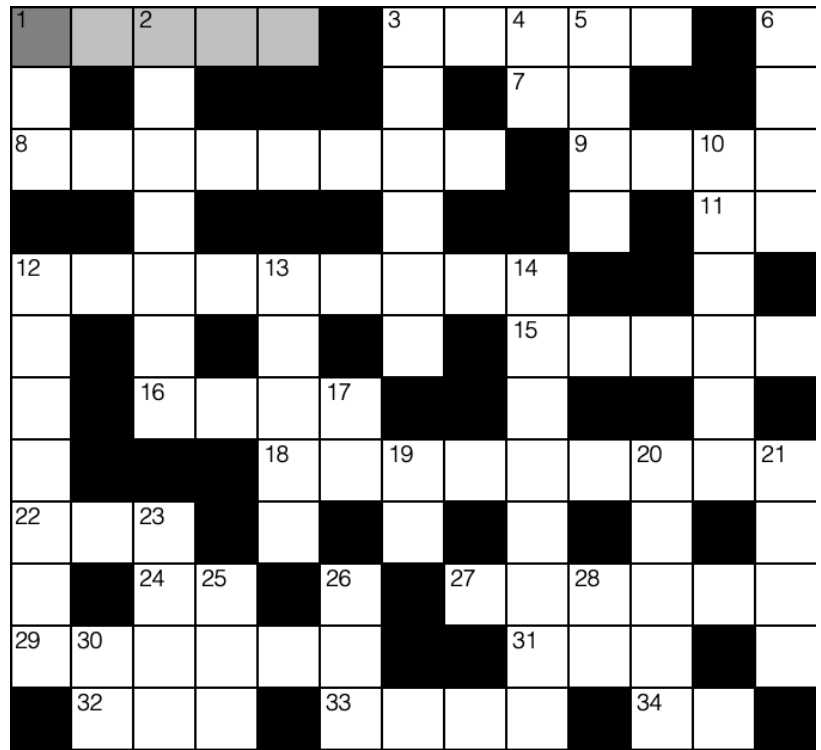
It is **easy** to forget that people don't believe the same things as you - and even easier to forget that you may be doing something that another - be it in your classroom, or halfway across the globe - deems **heinous**. Diversity is not merely skin deep, and you must accept that in being human, you will interact with people who have different ethical **values** than your own.

In **summary**, recognising how your own ethical beliefs shape who you are, and how you act, is important as it helps you to understand yourself in a much more personal way. You can often find you have one belief that rules over the rest, so to speak, the **'most ethical'**. This understanding will aid you in understanding other people and cultures in a well-rounded way.



ACROSS

1. A woman who is about to get married or has just got married (5)
3. An instrument that shows the time of day (5)
7. _____ thank you (2)
8. They can be used for cutting paper (8)
9. A very popular food in Japan (4)
11. Is _____ your brother? (2)
12. He got up and answered the _____ (9)
15. She _____ her new room very much (5)
16. Unwanted e-mails (4)
18. My husband reads the _____ every morning at breakfast time (9)
22. You use this to write a letter with (3)
24. I _____ very happy today (2)
27. The sixth planet from the sun (6)
29. It is coloured red and can be used in salad (6)
31. Kenta is _____ a good boy (3)
32. Past tense of feed (3)
33. It is worn around the waist (4)
34. We can see Mount Fuji _____ a clear day (2)



DOWN

1. A large vehicle which carries people (3)
2. Long pointed pieces of ice (7)
3. A long orange vegetable (6)
4. What's _____ the television tonight? (2)
5. I usually eat _____ flakes for breakfast (4)
6. Not costing any money (4)
10. Solid food made from milk – it can be used in sandwiches (6)
12. A brass musical instrument (7)
13. A large musical instrument (5)
14. A large animal with grey skin (8)
17. Please tell _____ your telephone number (2)
19. My wife and I both play golf and _____ love it (2)
20. This planet was discovered in 1930 (5)
21. This is worn on the finger (4)
23. Yamato is a very popular _____ in Japan (4)
25. Stupid or crazy (3)
26. Work, employment (3)
28. I'm going _____ school now (2)
30. A box _____ tissues (2)

POETRY – Ambrosia, Love

Sweetest tongue of honey and wine I call her,
 delicacies of the Gods - and like the ambrosia she tastes of,
 she makes me drunk
 on that addicting nectar of immortality; it is
 perilous to surround myself with her
 soothing tongue: all crashing wounds slow into streams of pain -
 ones I don't mind enduring to see her
 chocolate eyes - Light up with the history of every love
 before her.

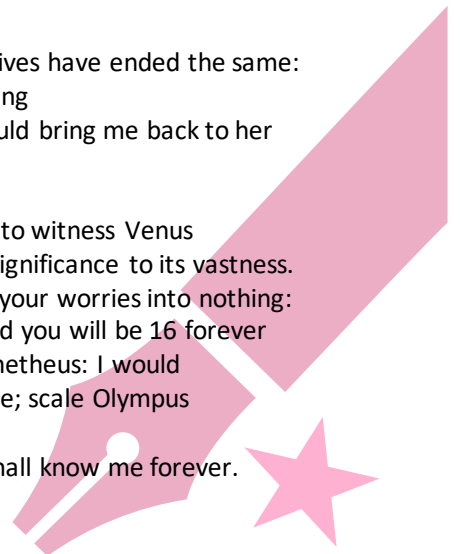
I am certain
 each of my endless past lives have ended the same:
 thinking of her and knowing
 my gifted invincibility would bring me back to her
 again, and again forever.

To talk in her presence is to witness Venus
 fill the sky despite her insignificance to its vastness.
 To think of her is to melt your worries into nothing:
 to drink them and pretend you will be 16 forever
 She is the fire to my Prometheus: I would
 break every rule and more; scale Olympus
 if she called me to.
 My sweet Ambros, you shall know me forever.

Written by E. Dye

ANSWERS Found on
 Back Cover

Crossword sourced from: Crossword.info





! Note: This review contains spoilers for **Dune 1**, so go watch that first before reading this review!



After a three year wait, the sequel to Denis Villeneuve's critically acclaimed 'Dune' (an adaptation of the best-selling sci-fi novel by Frank Herbert) continues the epic journey of Paul Atreides and his pregnant mother, Lady Jessica. Following them as they make their way through the vast deserts of the planet Arrakis. Whilst the first film set up the plot of the destruction of House Atreides, it is during the sequel that we really get to see Paul's character (portrayed by actor Timothee Chalamet) really unfold.

We previously saw Paul join the Fremen (the inhabitants of planet Arrakis) following his victory against the warrior Jamis. *Dune: Part Two* follows him through the battles he must fight to truly become a member of the tribe and the drastic effect this has on his character. Meanwhile his mother, faces her own battles of power and corruption, which initially feels unrelated; however, throughout the movie, Jessica's story becomes cleverly intertwined with that of her son's.



While 'Dune' featured a promising cast list with Timothee Chalamet, Zendaya, Rebecca Ferguson and Dave Bautista, 'Dune: Part Two' boasts even bigger names, including the likes of Austin Butler (who recently starred as Elvis Presley in Baz Luhrmann's 'Elvis'), Florence Pugh (Midsommar, Black Widow, Oppenheimer), Christopher Walken (A View to a Kill, Batman Returns, Pulp Fiction) and Lea Seydoux (Blue Is the Warmest Colour, Spectre, No Time to Die).

The film's length of nearly three hours never feels drawn out, as Villeneuve introduces and develops the characters played by all these actors, whilst maintaining a sense of continuity throughout. This prevents the story from feeling scattered and difficult to follow, and the way that the links between the many characters and plot points are gradually unveiled is masterful and creates constant mystery and surprise.

One of the stand-out elements of both films for us is the immersive soundtrack, created by the legendary Hans Zimmer. Who is undeniably the most highly revered modern film composer. Typical of his iconic style, Zimmer uses many unique acoustic and electronic instruments to create an encapsulating atmosphere. Perfectly complementing the other-worldly surroundings seen in the film. He worked with his team to build both, new hybrid instruments and recreate historical instruments to create innovative sounds – in an interview, he recites how he "created a 3,000 or 4,000-year-old Armenian instrument out of PVC piping". The lengths that Zimmer goes to fulfil his inventive ideas which cater perfectly to the films he scores for are what makes him such an incredible composer. He perfectly blends these new sounds with more traditional orchestration and compositional styles to craft a score which feels alien like and yet not completely unfamiliar to the listener.



Villeneuve's epic storytelling is furthered by the talents of cinematographer Greig Fraser. Fraser (whose resume includes Dune Part One and The Batman) deftly balances grand spectacles with intimate character moments to create a testament to his artistry. We felt that one of the most striking aspects of the cinematography throughout the film was the use of vast, sweeping landscapes to underscore the sheer scale of the story. The towering dunes of Arrakis are successfully captured in their majestic beauty, while the sprawling cities of the Imperium are shown with a both awe inspiring and ominous sense of grandeur. In addition to its grand vistas, "Dune Part Two" excels in its portrayal of the film's central characters. Fraser's intimate close-ups and dynamic camera movements help immerse the audience in the story, allowing them to feel every emotion as if they were right there alongside the characters. Whether it is the determination of Paul Atreides or the anguish of Jessica, every moment is captured with a remarkable level of detail.

Article written by **Krish Patel** and **Kyran Russell**

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