

# THE CURRENT



*Easter Eggs  
Tried and tasted*

*Guest speakers  
\*tap, tap\* Is this thing on?*

*St. Bede's on Tour  
Vive La France!*

*Which teacher are you?  
Take the quiz!*

---

# CONTENTS

---

Show and Tell	<i>Eve D</i>	03
Fashion Weeks '24	<i>Harry H</i>	06
Top footwear '24	<i>Harry H</i>	07
Books books books	<i>Eve D</i>	08
Get fired up for Easter	<i>Katie T</i>	10
Live Laugh Live Lounge	<i>Eliza C</i>	11
Bunnies on Film	<i>Hana M</i>	15
Vampires!!	<i>Maria W</i>	6,6,16
St Bede's on Tour	<i>Daniel P</i>	17
Teacher Quiz!	<i>Katie T</i>	21
Easter Egg reviews	<i>Jemima L</i>	22
This month in history	<i>Daniel A</i>	24
An un“bear”lievable story	<i>Grace K</i>	25
Puzzler's Paradise	<i>Jemima L</i>	26
Rosi's Rules	<i>Rosi B</i>	28

---



Scan here to access a digital copy  
on our school website

Want to get in touch? Email us at  
[newspaper@stb.bwcet.com](mailto:newspaper@stb.bwcet.com)

# SHOW AND TELL

BY EVE DONKIN



We all want to snuggle into blanket with a bowl of popcorn and maybe a glass of wine while watching a good show or film to watch... but the problem occurs when you have searched the deeps of Netflix, Disney plus and Amazon Prime and still haven't found anything that doesn't arouse disappointment. But don't despair the Current is here to save your viewing experience!

Agatha: Darkhold Diaries release date: Late 2024

Available on: Disney plus

After multiple name changes (Agatha: House of Harkness and Agatha: Coven of Chaos are no more) and a delay from winter 2023, the MCU series is now set for release in early fall 2024. Kathryn Hahn reprises her role as the titular witch first seen in WandaVision, and she's joined by new cast members Aubrey Plaza, Joe Locke, and Patti LuPone.

Our favourite witch of darkness from Wandavision is back and better than ever!



Marvel not your style? What about Doctor Who?

Doctor Who season 1: May 2024

Available on: BBC One and BBC iPlayer

Are you a Whovian (A fan of doctor who) well this is for you. Following the Doctor Who Christmas Special, Ncuti Gatwa and Millie Gibson will be returning for their first proper season in May. Now, you might be confused why season 14 is suddenly being called season 1, but showrunner Russell T Davies describes it as a fresh start for all things Who. We don't know too much about what enemies the pair will be tackling in the new season, but Davies and the cast have shared a few clues. But I will leave that for you to discover!



Fallout release date: April 12, 2024

Available on: Prime Video

Based on the video game franchise of the same name, Fallout is a retro futuristic apocalyptic drama set in an alternate version of Los Angeles where people live in underground bunkers to stay safe from radiation, mutants, and bandits.



Ever wonder what happens when we dream? Who or what controls them?

Sandman Release data: TBD

Available on: Netflix

With the overwhelming success of the show in the early summer of 2022, Sandman has been renewed for a second season. Critics and audiences loved it. They thought it was a breath of fresh air compared to some of the recent comic book fare from Marvel and DC. The original creator of the comic books and executive producer of the show, Neil Gaiman has said he was “surprised about the success of the show and is interested to see how the writers continue Morpheus’ (Dream/Sandman’s) journey”

This is a must watch for fans of fantasy!

Stranger Things Season 5 release date: Late 2024, early 2025

Available on: Netflix

Possibly one of the most anticipated shows since the cliff hanger of the 4th season. Stranger Things Co-creator Matt Duffer has mentioned that the final episodes of Stranger Things will return to the show's origins. Fans of the show have been speculating for a while what the fifth season will bring for our favourite characters and how the Duffer brothers will play with our heart strings.





## NOT A FAN OF LIVE ACTION? MORE INTO ANIMATED SHOWS? MORE INTO GAMING?

Arcane season 2 release date: November 2024

Available on: Netflix

Arcane finally returns to Netflix this year with its second season. The show will pick up with League of Legends champions, and sisters, Vi and Jinx as they head in very different directions. The first trailer for the new season promised plenty of drama ahead, as well as some gorgeous animation when the animated show returns.

Hazbin Hotel release date: Already released

Available on: Amazon Prime

Although the show has already released, fans of the show since the pilot released in late October of 2019 on YouTube have praised the commitment of the show's creator who goes by the name Vivienne Medrano, also known by her online alias VivziePop for her dedication to releasing the show.

The show follows Charlie Morningstar, daughter of Lucifer and heir to the throne of hell in her attempt to rehabilitate sinners in her hotel in the aim of them "Checking out" into heaven. This adult musical show is sure to have you singing your heart out with some of its catchy musical numbers. Be sure to watch the pilot before watching the actual show!



# FASHION WEEK

BY JASMINE WRIGHT

Fashion week is an extravagant occasion which controls our media platforms, all throughout the year.

Fashion week was initially a style of the season debut, conducted for spring/summer outfits and autumn/winter outfit in 1903 at a shop in Manhattan called Ehrich brothers.

Now annually, New York kicks off fashion week which has sprouted into not just a singular annual event in New York, but a global phenomenon in a variety of places like Paris, London, Milan and Copenhagen.

The recent disperse of culture into fashion week has become a moment in history and milestone we look forward to seeing develop every year.

## AROUND THE WORLD

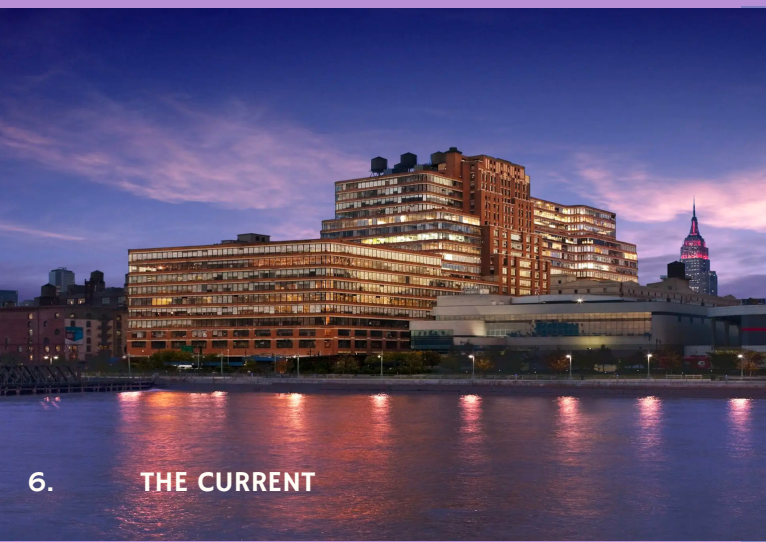
February 9-14th 2024- New York's week of showcasing fascinating fashion alongside it's brand-new beautiful building- the RXR's Starett-Lehigh building in Manhattan. Some new and on the rise names to look into for this year's event are Callas Milano (founded in 2020), Jane Wade (previous designer for Alexander Wang launched in 2021) and Bishme Cromartie (building a clientele by working with artists such as Lizzo).

February 26th-5th March 2024- Paris fashion week where we see celebrities from all over the world showcasing their new season 'fits'. A one that shocked most of us was Sydney Sweeney modelling for Miu Miu wearing a sequin-studded blazer. Sweeney's appearance wasn't the only celeb that shocked us with their presence, we also saw Kristin Scott Thomas on the runway for Miu Miu with Sydney's front row supporting smile.

August 5-9th 2025- Copenhagen fashion week. Although Copenhagen's fashion week hasn't occurred yet, it sets itself up with some promising ideas including their 18 point sustainability in fashion score, being one of the best yet. Usually the country has a 'sweater weather' memo to embrace the Danish culture of the area yet 2025 we are left wondering what they will bring to the table, but their egalitarian ethos I'm sure is something I'm sure will be suitable to everyone.

February 16th-20th 2024- Is for London fashion week! What's better than a fashion week in our own country? This year was a particularly special fashion week, marking the 40 years of London and fashion week's time together. Some of our new generation designers like Tolu Coker and FEBEN, brought some new and interesting styles to the table, which I'm sure are going to find their way into our fashion collections in the near future. Other designers we saw in London consisted of MYL Berlin's lavish leopard print and Le Monde Beryl's classic and contemporary accessories. This year has took a little bit of a different tone to last, with an emphasis on the new and popular street-style and corset crafts we have never seen before.

Anyways, that's a wrap on this year's fashion week, watch out for these trends and designers slipping into our fashion this year.



# BEST FOOTWEAR 2024

BY HARRY HEWITSON

## ADIDAS GAZELLES

Once a symbol of football hooliganism, the Adidas Gazelles are now a staple of fashion becoming a very popular choice in the world of streetwear. Originally introduced in 1968 as a training shoe for athletes it was the first Adidas shoe to be from suede, groundbreaking change from the traditional leather footwear. A huge positive of the gazelles is the incredible variety of colours available with the timeless design, comfort and versatility making it very appealing. Whether you're going to the gym or on a night out, the Adidas Gazelle is a symbol of style and authenticity that transcends generations.

## NEW BALANCE 550S

The New Balance 550s are becoming one of the most popular pieces of footwear with numerous celebrities such as Adele and Jack Harlow spotted wearing the trainers and orchestrating the growing trend. New Balance saw record sales in 2023 which shows the increasing popularity of the shoes. Similar to the Nike Dunks, the 550s were once basketball trainers which have seen a significant rise in sales. In late 2020 the shoe was reintroduced with limited addition collaborations. Since then it has grown in popularity and now is a must have for many.

## WINKLE PICKERS

A truly iconic piece of footwear. Not much else needs to be said.



## NIKE DUNKS

The Nike Dunk has evolved from its origins as a basketball shoe to a symbol of fashion. Initially introduced in 1985 as a performance basketball trainer, the Nike Dunk gained popularity both on and off the court due to its versatile design and comfort. Over the years, it has transcended its athletic roots to become a cultural phenomenon, embraced by celebrities, athletes, and fashion enthusiasts alike.

One of the key factors contributing to the popularity of the Nike Dunk is its timeless design. The simple yet stylish aesthetic allows for lots of customization and personalization. The numerous collaborations and limited-edition releases have also benefitted sales. From partnerships with iconic brands like Supreme and Off-White to collaborations with artists and celebrities, the Dunk has become a canvas for creativity and innovation. These collaborations often feature unique designs too.

Moreover, the Nike Dunk's influence extends beyond the realm of footwear, inspiring fashion trends and subcultures. Its impact can be seen in streetwear, hip-hop culture, and high fashion, as celebrities and influencers frequently sport Dunks as part of their signature style. This crossover appeal has cemented the Dunk's status as a cultural icon, beloved by generations of fashion enthusiasts.



Some say they are a doorway to a world from our dreams; others say they are a doorway to knowledge. I say it's both!

Reading isn't everyone's cuppa tea (or coffee whichever you prefer) but the way I see it, and most other book lovers see it, it is a way to escape from reality.

There are many benefits to reading whether that be fiction or non-fiction. Reading has been proven to be a healthy habit to be in.

# Books books books

BY EVE DONKIN

It increases intelligence.

As Dr. Seuss once wrote, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Diving into a good book opens up a whole world of knowledge starting from a very young age. Exposure to vocabulary through reading (particularly reading children's books) not only leads to higher scores on reading tests, but also higher scores on general tests of intelligence for children. Plus, stronger early reading skills may mean higher intelligence later in life.

It can boost your brainpower.

Not only does regular reading help make you smarter, but it can also actually increase your brainpower. Just like going for a jog exercises your body, reading regularly improves memory function by giving your brain a good workout. With age comes a decline in memory and brain function, but regular reading may help slow the process, keeping minds sharper longer, according to research.

Reading can make you more empathetic.

Getting lost in a good read can make it easier for you to relate to others. Fiction, specifically, has the power to help its readers understand what others are thinking by reading other people's emotions, according to research. The impact is much more significant on those who read fiction as opposed to those who read nonfiction. "Understanding others' mental states is a crucial skill that enables the complex social relationships that characterise human societies," David Comer Kidd and Emanuele Castano wrote of their findings.

Reading can help you relax.

There's a reason snuggling up with a good book (perhaps with a good cup of tea?) after a long day sounds so appealing. Research suggests that reading can work as a serious stressbuster. One 2009 study by Sussex University researchers showed that reading may reduce stress by as much as 68%.

"It really doesn't matter what book you read, by losing yourself in a thoroughly engrossing book you can escape from the worries and stresses of the everyday world and spend a while exploring the domain of the author's imagination," cognitive neuropsychologist David Lewis told The Telegraph.



Don't forget that school has a library with a wonderful variety of books and is always accepting of readers and people who need a quiet space for homework.

But remember... be quiet.

Reading before bed can help you sleep.

Reading a real book helps you relax more than zoning out in front of a screen before bed. Screens like e-readers and tablets can keep you awake longer and even hurt your sleep. That applies to kids too: fifty-four percent of children sleep near a small screen, and clock 20 fewer minutes of shut eye on average because of it, according to research published in Paediatrics. So, reach for the literal page-turners before switching off the light.

Did you know? According to research conducted in 2023, the average screen time for users around the world aged 16 to 64 – across different platforms and devices – is 6 hours 37 minutes per day.

Reading is contagious.

75% percent of parents wish their children would read more for fun, and those who want to encourage their children to become bookworms can start by reading out loud at home.

While most parents stop reading out loud after their children learn to do it on their own, a report from Scholastic suggests that reading out loud to kids throughout their primary school years may inspire them to become frequent readers—meaning kids who read five to seven days per week for fun.

More than 40% of frequent readers ages 6 to 11 were read to out loud at home, but only 13% of those who did not read often for fun were. Translation? Storytime offers a good way to spark an interest in the hobby.

## Book recommendations

Like History? Why not try *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller.

Like English? Why not try *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

Like Health and Social Care? Why not try *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio.

Like Science? Why not try *The Alchemist's Daughter* by Katherine McMahon.

## What the writers of The Current Recommend:

Y13 Rosi - *Stepsister* - Jennifer Donnelly

Y12 Katie - *Vicious* – V.E Schwab

Y12 Grace - *Watership Down* - Richard Adams

Y12 Jemima - *Tangerine* - Christine Mangan

Y13 Daniel - *Hitch 22* - Christopher Hitchens

Y12 Eve - *A Court of Thorns and Roses* – Sarah J Maas





# GET FIRED UP DURING EASTER

FIGURATIVELY PLEASE....

On the 14th of April, Consett Fire Station are opening their doors to members of the public to explore and investigate the life of firefighters. From real life drills to ice cream vans and tombolas, the station is offering a day of fun and opportunity to all ages.

## What's on?

The station is offering visuals of a working at heights drill, a road traffic collision response drill and other fun activities that would resemble the life of a firefighter. Additionally, visitors will also be allowed and supervised on the aerial - which takes you an astonishing 32 metres (5 stories) into the air. And if you're not a fan of heights, then you're welcome to an exciting teacups ride and a face paint.

## Why should you go?

For those looking for a career or are generally interested in firefighting, there are a multitude of opportunities. Making an appearance will be the Youth Firefighters – they are eager for new members and the only requirement is to be above the age of 12. Furthermore, there will also be opportunities to talk to qualified and experienced firefighters who each have enlightening stories to tell. To top this off, if you're above the age of 17, then you can sign up for the apprentice firefighters and outwardly pursue a career in firefighting.

## Easter arson campaign

Although we want your spring break to be filled with fun and celebrations, it may not be the brightest idea to start a fire. With everyone off school and eager to meet with friends, fires increase 250% during the Easter holidays. This places a heavy toll upon firefighters across the Northeast as many stations only contain 1 fire engine - Consett alone have only one truck for 62,000 people! Just last year, there were a whopping 514 fires in the county Durham area, with 126 of these being within 500 metres of a school. Though don't let this dull your spark, there are plenty alternative ways to enjoy your break.

And if you see a fire, remember to dial 999!

BY KATIE THOMPSON



**CONSETT FIRE STATION**  
 SUNDAY 14TH APRIL  
 11:00 - 15:00  
**FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

CONSETT FIRE STATION, VILLA REAL ROAD, CONSETT DH8 6BN

# LIVE LOUNGE





# LIVE, LAUGH, LIVE LOUNGE

By Eliza Carr

20th February saw the highly anticipated St. Bede's Live 2024, in which musical members of the school community came together for a wide variety of incredible performances (with a dash of obscure bus trivia thanks to compère Matthew Hill). Spotlights shone, glowsticks were held aloft, occasionally tears streamed: it was truly a night to remember.

Many students, such as Sydney Northey, Lizzie Harris, Tom Hobbs, Alansay Carlyon, Eliza Carr (**me!**), Lucy Seymour and Ruby McDermid took to the stage singing solo. They were accompanied by house band *Old School*, featuring Mr Shaller on piano, Mr Davis on bass, Mr Thompson and Adam Jackson on guitar and *The Current's* very own Mr Springett on drums. However, student bands and musicians also rocked the house, including Stitch, Bluestar, Helena Ritson on piano accompanying Hope Connolly, Las Mariposas and the trio of Lizzie Harris, Angelie Carr and Eliza Carr (**hello, me again**).

St. Bede's Choir, Riley Rafferty and Lewis Elliot brought rap to the school hall with a rousing rendition of Gangsta's Paradise, reportedly a culmination of years of rap battles between the two Year 9s.

An undeniable highlight was the long-awaited return of fan favourite Mr Muggerridge's Music, Maths and Buses – the latter of course provided by Matthew – in which he captivated the audience by daring to answer such burning questions as “Is this the way (from Lanchester) to Amarillo?”, with beautiful graphs presented each step of the way. Fans eagerly look forward to subsequent instalments.

St. Bede's even opened its doors for celebrity talent, or rather celebrity impersonations by Mr Beaufort-Jones and Mr Lambert as George Michael and Elvis respectively.

A few familiar faces returned to school after leaving last July... They can't keep away! The audience were impressed by Adam Jackson, *Old School* guitarist, and vocalist Jack Hobbs, who sang Mustang Sally. Lana Bendelow closed the show with a moving performance, singing Piece by Piece and I Want it All.

Photography provided by the lovely Mr Cheong.





BY HANA MADELEY

# BUNNIES ON FILM

Hop

Released : 2011

Starring : James Marsden, Russell Brand, Kaley Cuoco, Hugh Laurie, Hank Azaria

Hop is about a young rabbit who is the heir to the title of 'Easter Bunny'. However, he would prefer to play the drums (obviously). So he goes to Hollywood where he is run over. It doesn't end at that stage though, as that would be quite a short film. Fred (the runner-over) takes in E.B. and they have to face struggles in California, then fight a huge easter chick on Easter Island, because this is totally and completely normal.

Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

Released : 2005

Starring : Peter Sallis, Helena Bonham Carter, Ralph Fiennes, Peter Kay, Mark Gatiss

Viewer discretion is advised for this scary Wallace and Gromit film, with some unnerving scenes containing the vegetable destroyer: the were-rabbit. No need to worry though, he has a bow tie.

Rise of the Guardians

Released : 2012

Starring : Chris Pine, Alec Baldwin, Jude Law, Hugh Jackman, Isla Fisher

Whilst Rise of the Guardians doesn't focus solely on Easter, it deserves a special mention due to Hugh Jackman's portrayal of the Easter Bunny who does look a bit more like a kangaroo. The guardians of the different holidays and special times in the year have to protect all the children from Pitch Black. However, the worst happens as no-one can find any chocolate eggs.

Peter Rabbit 1 and 2

Released : 2018 and 2021

Starring : James Corden, Rose Byrne, Margot Robbie, Daisy Ridley, Domhnall Gleeson

Peter Rabbit is based on the classic tales of Beatrix Potter. The much loved James Corden plays the title role, which I'm sure helped the ratings, and he wars with McGregor's nephew. The stereotypical farmer vs animal gets a bit out of hand with electric fences and dynamite. In the sequel, Peter and the others all head to London in hopes of publishing a book about themselves. However, Peter encounters a fraudulent rabbit who convinces them to steal dried fruit, then allows them to be captured. In this film, the relationship also has to improve slightly between the rabbits and the person who had previously attempted to kill them, which sounds easy enough.



# A VAMPIRE'S GUIDE TO PROSPERITY

Vampires, you know them, you love them. They're a staple of the western monster pantheon!

We all know the basics of the life of a vampire, posh, aristocratic, living in castles and mansions and donned in nothing short of the most pretentious clothing known to man, but how on earth do those brooding brutes come to acquire affluence on such a large scale? I mean, in this economy? Well, wonder no longer, I have compiled a guide to how your average vampire goes from penniless to plentiful in under a century!

Disclaimer, this applies to Nosferatu (vampirised 1875 or earlier) and assuming they follow the canon of Bram Stoker's "Dracula"(1897), Sorry Twilight fans, that is one line I refuse to cross

So, it's the year of our lord 1875, Hans Christian Andersen has just died, Queen Victoria sits on the throne and you, after some weeks of sleepwalking and unexplainable paleness, find yourself navigating life as a blood sucking scoundrel.

What now? As a labourer you make a mere £20 annually, but surely with your newfound lack of the need for food that should be more than enough to keep your head down and get by fine, right? WRONG, however will you dramatically play the organ in a room with far too many stairs and very high ceilings on that salary?

Since, as a functionally immortal being, inheritance isn't a viable means to "get rich quick" and the entrepreneurial lifestyle would bring more attention than your average serial murderer would want on them, supplementing cashflow is a necessity granted you don't want to spend eternity living in mediocrity.



While any average Victorian era peasant would have likely been held back from their true potential by morals and the boundaries of human ability, you no longer have to worry about such petty things!

As a malevolent spirit, you are obligated to feed on the blood of the living daily; that small footnote on your sense of virtue opens a whole new world of opportunities! Though you're unlikely to drink enough blood to drain your victim every time you get peckish, it wouldn't take long for any haemovore to build up a sizable kill count, and with so many deaths around you, it would be a shame to let all of that go to waste, wouldn't it?

That's right! The answer to all your woes is as simple as the sale of your empty juice boxes. Throughout the 19th century, most medical schools suffered from a drought of cadavers with which to teach medical students, usually supplementing the legally acquired corpses of criminals with the delightfully illegitimate practice of body snatching.

Kidnapping the dead was a rather common practice among those whose desperation outweighed their moral qualms, and with the pay only getting higher the fresher the corpse, it's unsurprising it was unlikely for anyone to question the source of the subject of their next dissection. With the opportunity of a lifetime essentially served to you on a platter, it would be downright wasteful to let the perfect moneymaker decompose.

A corpse could go for anywhere between 2 and 20 guineas, with 1 guinea being worth around £66 in today's currency, meaning that even on the low end of the scale, there is nothing but profit found in the dead.

Not forgetting, one beyond this mortal plane will find themselves with the ability to dissolve to fog, which makes a bit of supplementary pilfering easily the simplest method of padding your net worth.

So, my venerated visitors, my suggestion is simple, as an enthusiast of the gory and gruesome your squalor can only stem from the limitations of your own quick-wittedness. Settle for naught but the Gothic mansion of your dreams and remember, a stake to the heart kills more than just vampires.



# ST BEDE'S ON TOUR





In the week preceding the February half-term, a group of students set off from St Bede's to France on a trip in which they visited Amiens, Disneyland, and the Eiffel Tower. Fortunately, my sister, Bethany Pine, was one of the students to be selected for the trip, and upon her return, I interviewed her about the experience.

First of all, I inquired about the initial journey, which started at 4am on a Sunday morning. Given the early get up, it is understandable that Bethany said that she spent most of the journey down the country asleep in the coach. When I asked her how long the journey was in total, she helpfully replied "many hours".

Following a stop in Cambridge and a change in bus drivers, the group continued down to Dover, where, at 2pm, they boarded the ferry to France. Bethany, a staunch hater of marine travel, was pleased not to have been ill on the journey. On the first night, due to a mix-up, Bethany was unable to sample an extravagant French dish which included rabbit, and instead had to settle for bread. I know which one I'd rather have!

On the second day, the group went to a war memorial, commemorating the lives lost during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Bethany commented on the difference between the German and Allied graves, stating that the Allied graves had "more intricate designs", as well as the fact that they were generally nicer than their German counterparts. Additionally, she said that it was an "enjoyable but sombre" experience.

On day three, the group attended a local school in order to speak to students and teachers, practise the local language, and share the different cultures. Bethany said it was an opportunity to make new friends, however, she most enjoyed the climbing wall in the school's physical education facilities. On a trip to a local park, Bethany expressed her surprise at seeing llamas, and also her joy at being reunited with goats – however, unlike the "mountain goat" in Spain, these goats were real.





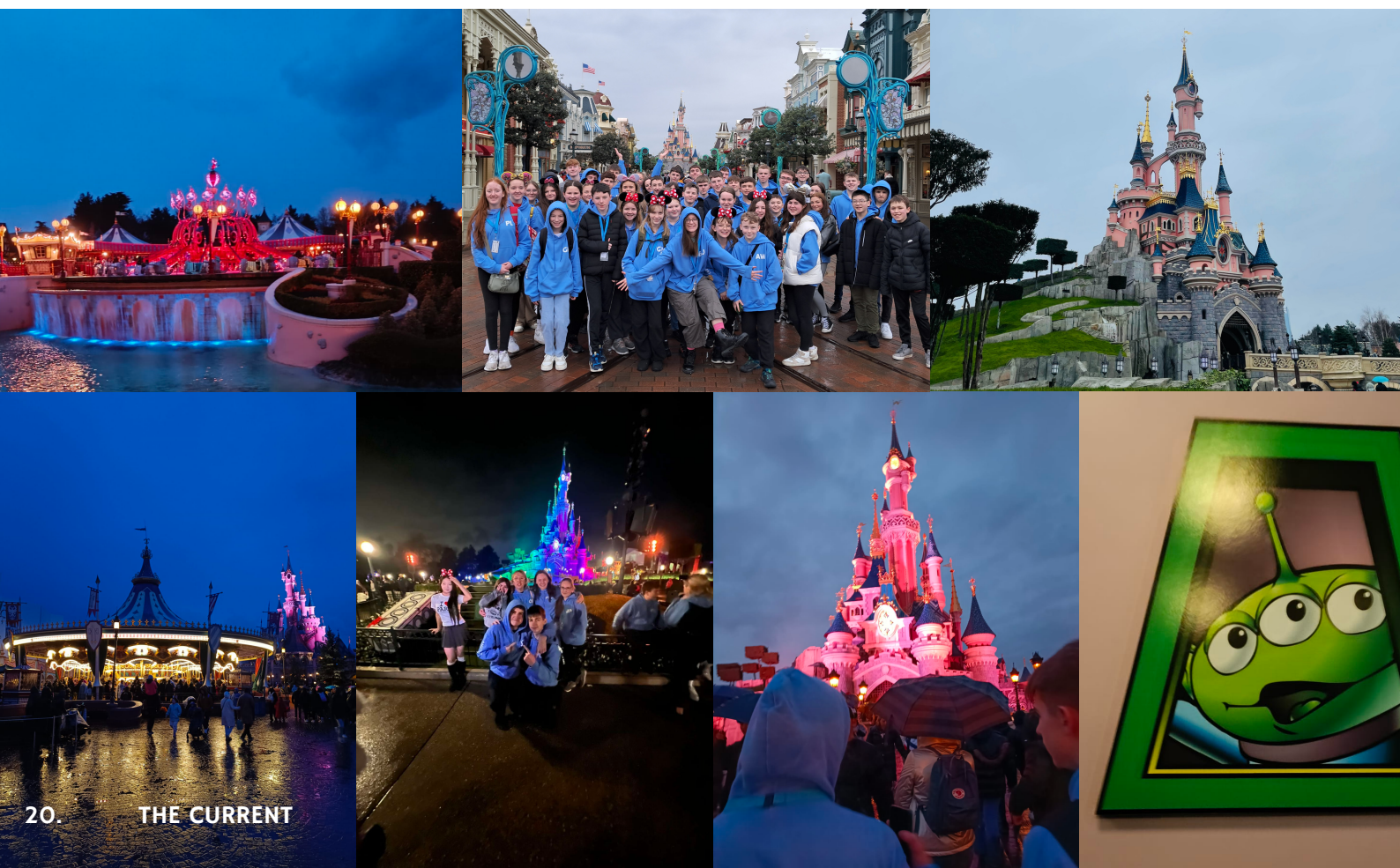


A trip to Paris was in store for day four. After a few hours of travelling, the group arrived at their next accommodation before a boat trip on the Seine. Bethany said that whilst it couldn't surpass the experience of Lake Geneva, it was a close second. I can only imagine, given her aforementioned resentment of marine travel, that it must have been very scenic and have provided a new angle from which to view the city of Paris.

Next the group saw the Eiffel Tower (or La tour Eiffel, if my GCSE French still serves me well). Unfortunately, whilst they could not ascend the magnificent iron structure, the group were able to go up Montparnasse Tower, a viewpoint from which they could see the whole city. Bethany said it was as if she was up in the clouds, and said it was probably the highlight of her trip, at least in Paris.

One final highlight before returning was the visit to Disneyland, thoroughly enjoyed by all – especially Mr Watson, who is said to be able to do a really good Mickey Mouse impression! Bethany was able to name the two rides she enjoyed the most, which is impressive given her usual indecisiveness: “Hyperspace Mountain” and “Tower of Terror”.

After an exhausting but exhilarating trip, the group set off for England, which, much to the annoyance of Bethany, commenced at 5am. Overall, Bethany clearly enjoyed the trip as she was able to convey an unusual amount of detail about it to me in describing how much she liked it. However, I still rank the experience of interviewing my sister as slightly harder than pulling teeth.



# EVER WONDERED WHICH TEACHER BEST RESEMBLES YOU?

## TAKE THIS QUIZ TO FIND OUT!

BY KATIE THOMPSON

What is your favourite movie genre?

- a) Action
- b) Comedy
- c) Comedy
- d) Romantic comedies
- e) Horror
- f) Critically acclaimed
- g) Thriller
- h) Science Fiction
- i) Gangster films
- j) Musicals
- k) Romantic Comedies
- l) Fantasy
- m) Daniel Craig 😊
- n) Silence of the Lambs

What is your favourite music genre?

- a) Indie
- b) Soul
- c) Rock
- d) 80s
- e) Electro-Pop
- f) Indie/alt
- g) Funk
- h) All music
- i) Hip-Hop
- j) Swing
- k) Classical opera
- l) Prog Rock
- m) Everything
- n) Anything played at studio 54

What is your favourite holiday destination?

- a) Gran Canaria
- b) Peru
- c) Japan
- d) French Alps
- e) Croatia
- f) Italy
- g) Slovenia
- h) Disney World Florida
- i) America
- j) Italy
- k) Scotland
- l) Hawes
- m) Florida
- n) Stasi Museum

What is your favourite takeaway food?

- a) Pizza
- b) Mexican
- c) Chinese
- d) Sweet and sour prawns
- e) Indian
- f) Chinese
- g) Curry
- h) Indian
- i) Chinese
- j) Pizza
- k) Chinese
- l) Indian
- m) Pizza
- n) I like to make my own

What do you reach for first at Christmas ?

- a) Prosecco
- b) "Always eyeing up the mash."
- c) Pigs in blankets
- d) Anything but the meat
- e) Turkey
- f) Stuffing
- g) Wine
- h) Turkey
- i) Pigs in blankets
- j) Pigs in blankets
- k) Sprouts
- l) Red wine
- m) Pigs in blankets
- n) Sherry

What is your favourite past time?

- a) Listening to music
- b) Pilates
- c) Drumming
- d) Reading
- e) Gym
- f) Rock climbing
- g) Playing football
- h) Darts
- i) Watching football
- j) Dancing
- k) Meeting friends
- l) Ham? (No comment)
- m) Horse riding
- n) Cooking

What would you take to a desert island?

- a) Phone
- b) Radio
- c) A ... bread maker?
- d) Bible
- e) Water filter
- f) Sharp sword
- g) Book of physics problems and a calculator
- h) A loaded gun/fishing rod
- i) Your family
- j) Playing cards
- k) Coffee
- l) Radio
- m) Horse
- n) Hoop earrings

What is your favourite animal?

- a) Dog
- b) Goat
- c) Dog
- d) Cat
- e) Kiwi Bird
- f) Dog
- g) Dog
- h) Mexican red kneed tarantula
- i) Elephant
- j) Dog
- k) Dog
- l) Dog
- m) Horse
- n) Mustelids

Describe yourself in one word

- a) Crackers!
- b) Kind
- c) Silly
- d) Mathaholic
- e) Entertaining
- f) Awesome Humble
- g) Enthusiastic
- h) Malevolent
- i) Caring
- j) Fun
- k) Happy
- l) Gulp!?
- m) Cute and fluffy reliable
- n) Bombastic

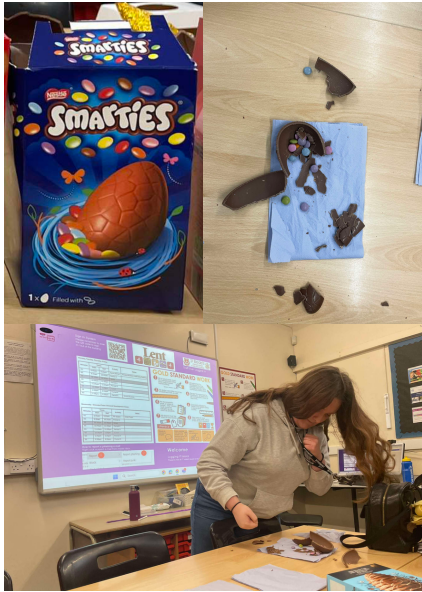
## THE RESULTS ARE IN:

Mostly a? You really are crackers! It's the one and only Mrs Marsland  
All about the b? Don't worry, b happy, it's Miss Henson  
C's all the way? Springett it is!  
D-lightful - you're Mrs Pine!  
Eeeeeeeeeeeeee you're Miss Hare  
Fffffffffflipping heck, it's Mr Dunn  
G-whizz, Mr Lambert

All h's..... sorry..... you're most like Mr Bunting..... go and find somewhere to cry  
Whey I - Sixth Form leader himself, Mr McCarthy  
Loving the sound of life as a J? Mrs Whitaker it is!  
Kool kool kool - it's Miss Eddy  
Rock n rollllllllllll - Mr Davies  
M m mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm, you're Mrs Oliver  
Made strange choices as an n? Fear not! You're Miss Proudlock!

# EGGS-PERT EGG REVIEWS

BY JEMIMA LYONETTE



## Nestlé Smarties Easter Egg

**Box Appeal-** Overall, this packaging has a good eye-catching ability and very bright colours! However, it's interior gold foil wrapping was said to be distasteful and somewhat cheap. 6/10

**Bonus Items-** There was a distinct lack of smarties inside the egg, which many agreed that (if there were more) they would have been the highlight of this purchase. 3/10

**Crackability-** Grace 'The Cracker' Kearney stated that this egg 'could not cope with excessive force,' almost exploding under pressure and leaving our chief egg-opener with very 'chocolatey knuckles'. 5/10

**The Egg-** We were left slightly disappointed that the chocolate in the egg wasn't the same as (and didn't taste as good as) the Smarties. Therefore, the egg itself can't be given a greater score than 3/10

**Value for Money-** It cost £1.50 for this purchase, so although the quality wasn't amazing, we agreed that it was good value for money. 8/10

*Overall Judgement 4/10*

## Thorntons Milk Chocolate Dinosaur Easter Egg

**Box Appeal-** This box showed a true-to-life image of the egg which although initially was great when buying the egg, turned out to be not so great as it took away from the excitement when it first emerged out the box. There was a complete absence of interior packaging, leaving it exposed to potential threats. 3/10

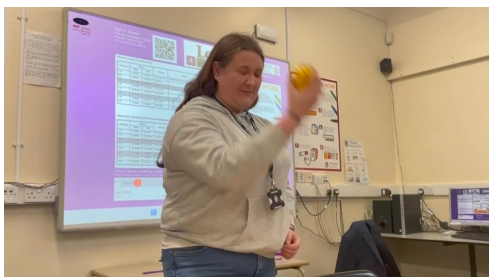
**Bonus Items-** There were no bonus items. Egg-stremely disappointed. 0/10

**Crackability-** Due to its questionable softness, there was limited wow factor when struck. Yet the dinosaur on the front managed to stay intact, which was a relief to many. 5/10

**The Egg-** Other than the cool dinosaur on the front, this egg was bare! The taste made up for this, however, as it was classic delicious Thorntons chocolate. 7/10

**Value for Money-** There was an air of dissatisfaction, which gave me the impression that this egg was not worth the £5 that was paid for it. 4/10

*Overall Judgement 6/10*



## Maltesers Milk Chocolate Easter Egg

**Box Appeal-** This iconic red packaging is egg-ceptional as not only does it show us EGGS-ACTLY what you eggs-pect get in the box, but also is said to be the most eye-catching colour. Miss Henson was certainly impressed by the little basket that the egg was delivered in, but the gold foil, yet again, was not very appealing. 8/10

**Bonus Items-** Just as we expected, the bag of Maltesers in the bottom was substantial and delicious. These deserve no less than a 10/10

**Crackability-** When it struck Grace's forehead, the egg dented rather than cracked, possibly due to the temperature of T5. However, this result was still rather underwhelming. 2/10

**The Egg-** Overall, this egg got good reviews, partially because the chocolate actually tasted like Maltesers and so we believed that it deserved recognition for its integrity. However, the taste of it was deemed not as delicious as the Thorton's Dinosaur Egg. 5/10

**Value for Money-** As a general consensus, this was a bargain, at £1.50, and absolutely it would be bought again. 9/10

*Overall Judgement 5.5/10*

## Specially Selected Ruby and Raspberry Geometric Egg

**Box Appeal-** We decided that this box was the most striking out of the eggs that we reviewed, which gave us very high expectations of the interior. Mr Springett's jealousy over not being chosen to model the egg in the photos that we captured, should tell you just how pretty this box was. 8/10

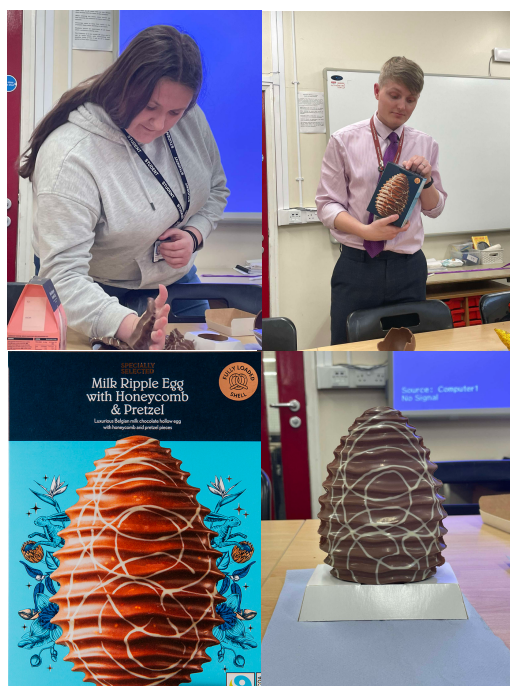
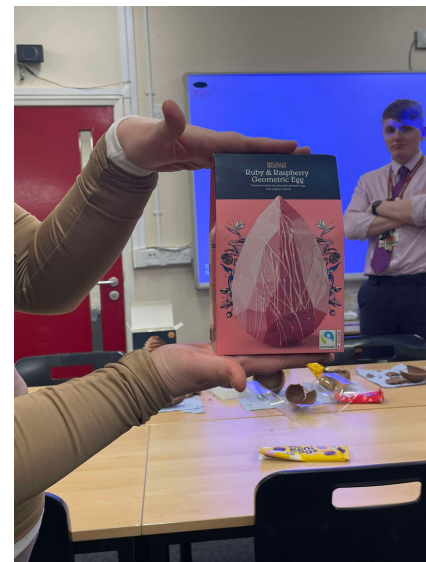
**Bonus Items-** Yet again, there were no extra treats, although due to the glamour of the egg, this wasn't particularly picked up on by our professional taste testers. 3/10

**The Egg-** This egg was certainly unique, as it had a large sharp point which almost protruded through the top of the box! It was agreed that if in the wrong hands, it could definitely take someone's eye out. Collectively, we decided that it tasted cheap and sweet and therefore, not to our liking; not to mention that it was smaller, and not to scale with the image on the side of the box. 2/10

**Crackability-** Due to this egg becoming a safety hazard, we chose to just bash it off the table. It was discovered that this was rather difficult to snap, but instead just was soft and folded under pressure. 4/10

**Value for money-** Because of the general dislike of this egg, the majority decided that we definitely wouldn't buy this egg again, especially at the £4 that was originally paid for it. 1/10

*Overall judgement 2.5/10*



## Aldi's Milk Ripple Egg with Honeycomb and Pretzel

**Box Appeal-** This box will have you scrambling to get these off of the shelves with its appealing colour scheme, although Mr Springett was seemingly unimpressed by the tacky Sellotape which made the box hard to open. Despite this, it gives off a luxurious kinda vibe, which is especially good considering the price. 8/10

**Bonus Items-** We thought that the egg by itself was sufficient enough to satisfy, but I reckon an extra chocolatey surprise wouldn't have gone amiss. 5/10

**The Egg-** To our surprise, it was a completely different shape which sparked our interests but appeared to be much thinner than every other egg we reviewed. Also, there were swirls of white chocolate on only one side which is pure laziness if you ask me. However, the egg itself was absolutely beautiful in both taste and texture. It was flavoursome and salty but not overpowering, which leads me to rate this nothing less than a 9/10

**Crackability-** It was extremely satisfying to watch this Easter egg being karate chopped 10/10

**Value for money-** At £5, it was deemed the best value for money overall, albeit more expensive than others, as all said they would buy again. 9/10

*Overall judgement 9/10*

## Handcrafted Golden Blond Chocolate Egg by M&S

**Box Appeal-** This box certainly attracted the attention of our chocolate testers and we quickly assumed that this was going to be the most popular of all. There was sufficient interior packaging to protect the egg appropriately so when it came out of the box, it looked exactly as advertised on the packaging, if not bigger in real life! 9/10

**Bonus items-** the team of testers eggs-pressed their disappointment at the lack of bonus items, especially considering the price that was paid. 3/10

**The egg-** It was decided that it would have been better if it were smaller, as it was slightly sickly and therefore couldn't be consumed all at once (devastating, I know). Regardless, the taste was good, and the presentation was exquisite. 8/10

**Crackability-** When separated, it made an unforeseen, yet very satisfying pop. 7/10

**Value for money-** In spite of the mainly positive reviews, it wasn't agreed that it was worth £12 as it wasn't considered 8x better than Maltesers and smarties. 4/10

*Overall Judgement 7/10*



## OVERALL RANKING



# This month in history...

As we flick through the pages of history, the months of February and March feature striking passages and pivotal moments in time that define both our lives today and the course of history itself. Join us on a trek through chronology as we recount both jovial and bleak times passed.

1917

In February, the annals of history witnessed a seismic shift as the Russian Revolution reached its climax. The month began with the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II, marking the end of centuries of Romanov rule. The revolution, fuelled by discontent over economic hardships and political repression, culminated in the downfall of the autocratic regime. This pivotal moment paved the way for the establishment of the Soviet Union and transformed the course of Russian and global history.

1587

Another February highlight was the tragic end of Mary Queen of Scots. On February 8th, 1587, the Queen was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle after being implicated in various plots against her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I of England. Mary's execution marked the culmination of years of political intrigue and rivalry, further entrenching the divisions between Catholic and Protestant factions in Europe.

1964

On a lighter note, February also saw a cultural phenomenon unfold as The Beatles made their historic appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show on February 9th, 1964. This iconic performance introduced the Fab Four to American audiences and catapulted them to international stardom. The Beatlemania that ensued reshaped the landscape of popular music and set the stage for the British Invasion of the 1960s.

1936

In the realm of aviation, March witnessed a milestone with the first test flight of the English Spitfire. On March 5th, 1936, this iconic fighter plane took to the skies for the first time, heralding a new era in aerial warfare. The Spitfire's agility and firepower would prove instrumental in the defence of Britain during World War II, earning it legendary status among aviation enthusiasts.

1797

Amidst these monumental events, the spirit of resistance shone brightly in Wales, where the Ladies of Fishguard valiantly fought back against a French invasion. In February 1797, approximately 1,000 French troops landed near Fishguard with the intention of supporting a larger rebellion in Ireland. However, the local women, armed with pitchforks and makeshift weapons, successfully repelled the invaders, earning them a place in Welsh folklore and inspiring future generations with their bravery.

1681

March heralded the dawn of new beginnings as Charles II granted William Penn permission to establish colonies in North America. On March 4th, 1681, Penn received a royal charter for the land that would later become Pennsylvania, marking the genesis of one of the thirteen original American colonies. Penn's vision of a colony founded on principles of religious tolerance and democratic governance laid the groundwork for the birth of a nation.

1858

March also marked the resolution of a tumultuous chapter in British colonial history with the end of the Indian Mutiny. On March 21st, 1858, British forces captured the city of Lucknow, effectively quashing the rebellion against British rule in India. The suppression of the mutiny solidified British control over the Indian subcontinent and ushered in an era of direct colonial governance under the British Crown.

1757

However, March also bore witness to moments of tragedy, as exemplified by the execution of Admiral John Byng on March 14th, 1757. Byng's controversial court-martial and subsequent execution by firing squad sparked debate and controversy in Britain. His case raised questions about military accountability and the efficacy of command decisions, leaving a lasting imprint on the British naval establishment.



*As we reflect on the historic events that unfolded in February and March, we are reminded of the inexorable march of time and the enduring impact of human endeavour. From revolutions and royal intrigue to cultural revolutions and military milestones, these months have borne witness to the triumphs and tragedies that shape our collective history. As we move forward, let us draw inspiration from the past and strive to build a future worthy of remembrance.*



# The un“bear”lievable story of Margret Hooper

The remarkable story of the possession of Edumundbires resident Margret Hooper as reported by 12 independent eyewitnesses.

The story was originally published in the pamphlet *Most fearful and strange news from the Bishopric of Durham*.

In the autumn of 1641, an illness befell the residents of the Hooper farm, which subsequently fell into disrepair. In her irritation at her husband's lack of dedication Mrs Hooper exclaimed “May the devil take me if I could not do better myself!” a proclamation which would prove to be of significant consequence.

Within days of this utterance M.Hooper becomes victim of a sickness of the mind. Babbling incoherently and foaming at the mouth she is confined to bed, where she claims to envisage a great bear which had followed her home and precedes to fight off invisible creatures.

That night a deep growl can be heard growing louder and a great beast, “much like a bear without head nor tail” bursts into the room. In his surprise, Stephen Hooper shatters a stool on the creatures back who continues, unflinching, towards wor Margret.

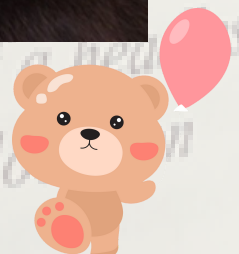
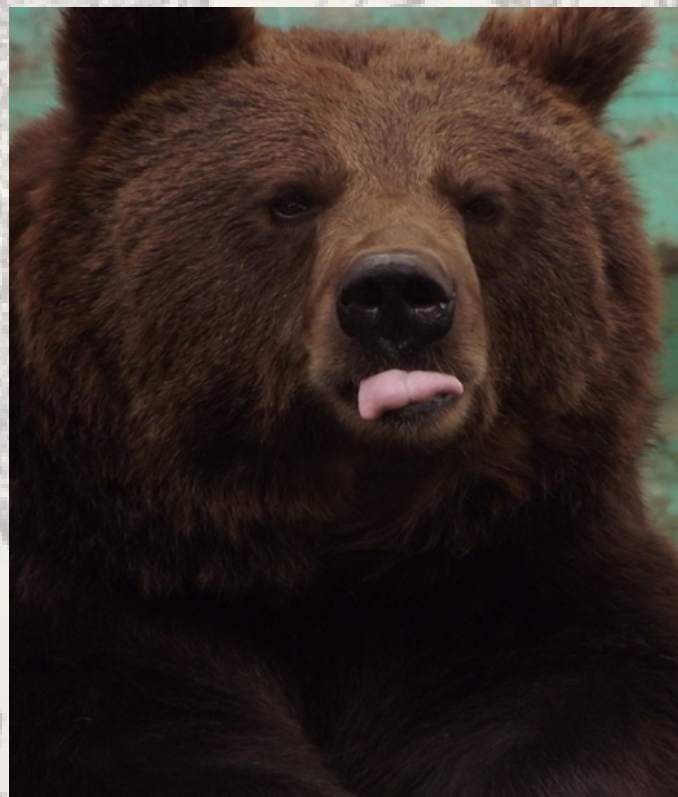
It is reported that the “bear” strikes Mrs Hooper three times then contorts the poor woman's body into a circular shape before rolling her down the stairs and out of sight. Her terrified friends and family stood covering for 15 minutes fearing the worst and praying for deliverance as a smell of sulphur and glow of fire drifted up the stairs.

Suddenly, Margaret screamed and ran back upstairs to the window. Simultaneously, a large fire and accompanying black smoke enshrouds the village, the smoke shifts, spirals and take the shape of the great bear, reaching out to the window ledge where its desired prey stood quivering.

Just as this demonic creature stretches up to the ledge the candle on the bedside table burns with an unearthly brightness and an angle with the face of a young girl took form and commanded the creature to be gone. The bear, repelled by the light, retreated just as swiftly as it had arisen.



This woodcut, created in Somerset in 1614, tells an identical story of the horrors suffered by Margaret Hooper, a vision of a headless bear terrorises a bedridden woman while an angel looks on  
(Picture courtesy of the British Library)





# Puzzler's Paradise



Z S  
J E N L  
J S A A C E  
F E L S E R E B  
C S I T B E G U  
E B U D E Y A G N H  
T A S O R L S S N O  
A S D F S L T Y I T  
F L K U F U E E A E C K  
C O E C A N J R H S R A  
H C T K D D F E C T O W  
I O C L G A C G H L S D  
C H U I L Y N G T T S T  
K C L N K G G N N I B I  
S E A G N H F I I N U G  
B J M S Q X J R C G N O  
A B W U M Q P A Z S  
S R R Q J S Y Y  
S K M K W H

- |              |          |              |
|--------------|----------|--------------|
| DAFFODILS    | LAMBS    | DUCKLINGS    |
| EASTEREGG    | HYACINTH | JELLYBEANS   |
| HOTCROSSBUNS | BASKET   | SPRING       |
| BUNNIES      | CHICKS   | EGGS         |
| CHOCOLATE    | JESUS    | EASTERSUNDAY |

# The Current Crossword



## Across

- 5. Royal Family's surname
- 7. Lanchester's Roman name
- 9. Clear layer of skin at the bottom of your nail
- 11. Scientific genius, Albert
- 14. Famous director of Jurassic Park, ET, Schindler's List - Stephen
- 16. Apple, Granny
- 17. Silent horror by John Krasinski
- 19. Ancient Egyptian preserved body
- 20. Ideal pasta for cheese, especially when baked
- 21. L.E.D - Light Emitting
- 23. Fly trap, planet, Goddess

## Down

- 1. Stylish American festival in the California desert
- 2. Half man half bull of Greek legend
- 3. Manufactures of the Galaxy phone
- 4. Cadburys honeycomb delight
- 6. British singer with age-related albums
- 8. Garden where Jesus was arrested
- 9. Creamy Italian pasta with pancetta
- 10. Hard shelled nut requiring a tool to open
- 12. Local football's rising star, Lewis
- 13. Barbadian superstar singer and businesswoman
- 15. World famous festival at Worthy Farm
- 18. Too small to still be planet
- 22. Area in front of a fireplace taxed by Charles II

# Rosi's Rules

BY ROSI BIASI

## Rosi's best musicals\*

Watch the films. Listen to the albums. Definitely don't watch bootlegs.

*Dear Evan Hansen* – my all-time favourite musical, essential for any would-be-baseballer.

*Something Rotten* – with bangers like “The Black Death” and “It's eggs”, what's not to love? The MVP, however, is clearly “God I hate Shakespeare”, which got me through English GCSE.

*Epic, The Musical* – my absolute favourite musical at the minute, which is being released in sagas. Best line is still “You killed my sheep. My favourite sheep.”

*Les Misérables* - a theatre classic. Fabulous quotes include “I was born with scum like you, I am from the gutter too,” “No one cares about your lonely soul, we strive towards a larger goal, our little lives don't count at all,” and “You're on your own. You have no friends. Give up your guns or die.”

*Wicked* - “It's mint” - Josie Elliott. This musical literally defies gravity.

*Sweeney Todd* – Who doesn't love a mass murdering barber?

*Heathers* – Another great show with lots of deaths.

*Rent, Cabaret, Chicago* – great shows, questionable plots.

*Moulin Rouge* - Ewan McGregor. Nicole Kidman. Just watch it and thank me later.

\*To any great musicals I have omitted, I apologise.



## Friendly Advice - how to stop a coup

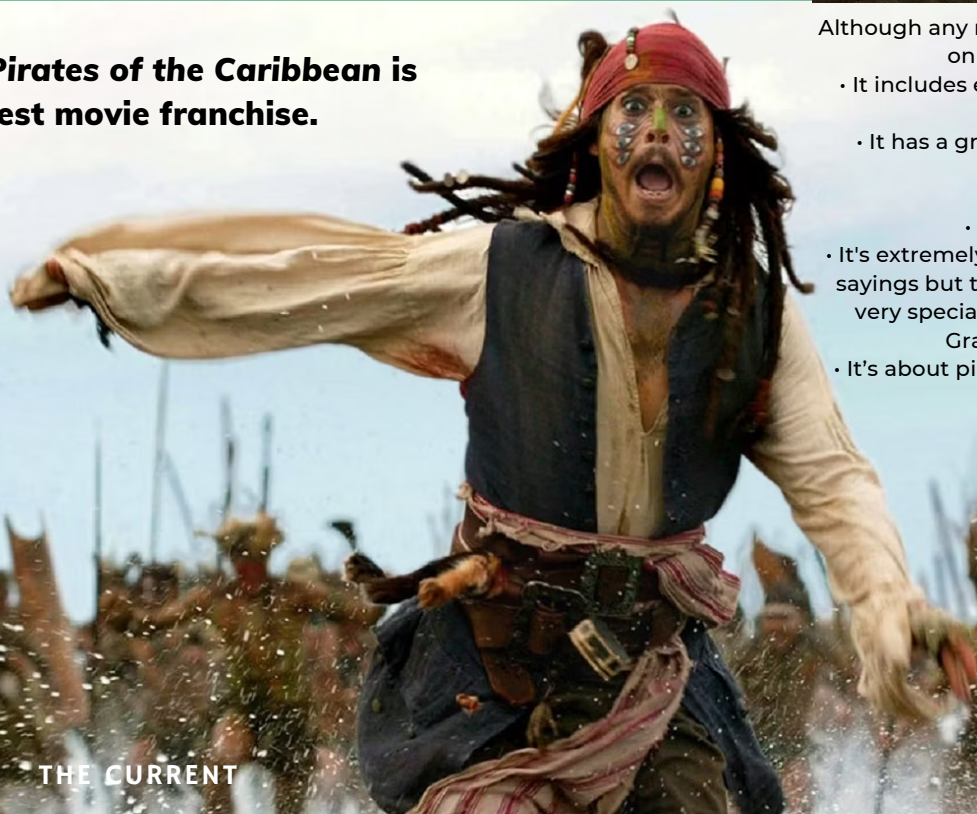
Be warned, most coups are inside jobs. Keep your friends close and your enemies closer. The best way to stop one is to prevent one happening in the first place. You do this simply by keeping everyone happy. Should be a breeze.

However, if you fail to do this, simply ensure that your power base is unsurpassable. Remain more popular than your opposition, and you will succeed. Act quickly against them, and ensure the people are unwilling to support them (mysterious whisper - use propaganda or fear). If all else fails, sabotage them to ensure they fail too. This includes destroying resources and being a general nuisance.

And, as always, it is helpful to have your own army.



## Why Pirates of the Caribbean is THE best movie franchise.



Although any movie CAN be your favourite, this is why only one (franchise) is the best.

- It includes every genre possible: comedy, fantasy, history, romance ...
- It has a great soundtrack, as anything by Hans Zimmer does
  - It also has great fashion
  - Its cast is full of hot people
- It's extremely quotable, including not only poignant sayings but things like “I think we've all arrived at a very special place, eh? Spiritually. Ecumenically. Grammatically,” and “Nice hat.”
- It's about pirates and freedom, honestly, what else do I have to say?
  - It's swashbuckling