

THE RUISLIP EYE

The latest news and views from Ruislip High School



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School Spelling Success!

All six schools of the Trust gathered together on Wednesday 22nd January to participate in, and celebrate, the 6th annual VLT Spelling Bee at Ruislip High School.

The room filled up with audience members from the schools, including several Ruislip High Year 7 forms, 'buzzing' to see their peers take to the stage. And what a performance it was!

Each team of four took turns to spell increasingly difficult words out loud, a feat of not only academic prowess, but also admirable confidence. Every participant excelled, achieving points for their teams

and even spelling words such as ‘gargantuan’, ‘tortoise’ and ‘distracted’. The rapid-fire round increased the tension even further, with a 2-minute timer ticking away as the students scrambled to fit in as many correct spells as possible. Even the presenter was struggling to keep up with the pace of these eager 10-year-old spellers!

It was anyone’s game for most of the competition, but Oak Farm started to creep ahead in the final round. However, they were pipped at the post by Vyners, our worthy winners! Their victory was well deserved, and helped along by star-speller Lisa taking home the crown of ‘Best Speller in the Trust’, as well as 10 points for her team. Two incredible 6th Form volunteers assisted the organisers with the scoring, and general running of the event, and definitely deserve a shout out for their efforts. Dr Lecky and Mr Davies were both present at the awards ceremony, and conveyed their pride for all the students involved.

Overall, the afternoon was a huge success, offering all the schools of the trust a fantastic opportunity to learn, collaborate with others and develop their confidence.

Sonic 3: Review

By Emma (Year 8)

At the end of the Year of Shadow (2024), we were absolutely blessed with, in my opinion, the greatest movie that year: Sonic 3.

I went to see this cinematic masterpiece on 21st December, the day of its UK release, with my equally Sonic-obsessed friend to watch this beautiful artistry. They were selling themed cups with little figurines of the main cast (I obviously got Knuckles - he's the best. Go on, argue with me. See, you can't).



After two years of waiting due to the two year gap in between every Sonic movie, we finally have Sonic 3! We have 'Team Sonic' already, Tails, Knuckles and Sonic, and obviously the human characters too! However, we were also introduced to some new characters. We have Shadow now, played by Keanu Reeves, who I think did an amazing job capturing Shadow's personality. Jim Carrey is also back, now playing two characters: Dr Robotnik and Gerald Robotnik! He did such a good job with these two, and made the whole theatre laugh, a lot.

Now, about the movie. It was amazing. They did such a great job tying in Shadow's dark past and how he was able to get past that, while also keeping it family-friendly and humorous. It was also fun to see the other characters like Tails and Knuckles interact with each other throughout the film! There were also a bunch of sneaky Sonic references, from Sonic Adventure 2 obviously, since that is the video game this movie was inspired by, but also from a variety of the Sonic games, which were also fun to notice!

About the ending... in previous movies, they introduced a new character from the Sonic universe in the end credits scene. The first movie ended with a scene with Tails, the second movie with Shadow, and this time they didn't fail to do the same! I won't spoil anything, but if you're a Sonic fan, it will excite you!

I really, really recommend watching this, especially if you've seen the first two movies, because I and a lot of others believe it to be much better than the others, and it will definitely exceed your expectations. If you haven't watched the first two, then get ready for a movie marathon!

St. Patrick's Day

By Vedansh (Year 8)



Every year on March 17th, people around the world come together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, a festival honoring the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. While originally a religious feast, the day has evolved into a vibrant celebration of Irish culture, identity, and heritage. St. Patrick's Day became widely recognized in the 1700s, largely due to homesick Irish soldiers serving in the British military. In 1762, these soldiers marched through New York City to honor St. Patrick, marking the first recorded St. Patrick's Day parade. This tradition has since grown, and today, cities across the globe—from Dublin to Chicago—host grand parades, festivals, and celebrations.

A significant factor in the global spread of St. Patrick's Day is the Irish diaspora. The Great Irish Famine in the 19th century forced many Irish people to emigrate, with a large number settling in the United States. These immigrants brought their customs with them, and their love for St. Patrick's Day helped it become the major event it is today. For many, celebrating St. Patrick's Day is a way of staying connected to their Irish roots and fostering a sense of belonging no matter where they are in the world.

Traditionally, people mark the occasion by wearing green, a color associated with Ireland and its lush landscapes. The day is also filled with symbols like leprechauns and the mythical pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. While these fun elements add to the festivities, it's important to celebrate Irish culture respectfully. Avoiding stereotypes, refraining from mocking Irish accents, and recognizing that not all Irish people drink Guinness are ways to show genuine appreciation for the holiday.

Ireland is an independent republic and not part of the United Kingdom, a fact often misunderstood. St. Patrick's Day serves as an opportunity to educate others about Irish history, language, and traditions. The Irish language (Gaeilge) is an important part of the nation's heritage, though it is less commonly spoken today. Using a few Irish phrases, such as "Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona duit!" (happy St. Patrick's Day to you!), can be a meaningful way to embrace the culture.

Whether you attend a parade, listen to traditional Irish music, or simply share the spirit of the day with friends and family, St. Patrick's Day is about celebrating Ireland's rich culture and global influence. So don your green attire, appreciate the history, and enjoy the festivities in true Irish spirit—without the stereotypes!

LGBTQ+ History Month: Why Is It Important and How Is It Celebrated?

By Ethan (Year 9)

Every February, LGBTQ+ history month is celebrated across the world to bring light to the past and achievements of queer people throughout history and secure the present and future of the LGBTQ+ community. Since 2005, UK LGBTQ+ history month's theme has been something prevalent and significant in queer history, and this year is no different: Activism and Social Change. This is something that has shaped the community into what is today, and related to the founding of this celebration; In Stonewall, in June 1969, there were riots to combat government and police forcefully putting queer people down. The phrase that seems to be ever-growing in importance, "pride is a protest", came about because throughout history LGBTQ+ people have been activists, helping shape and create social change, and advancing society for everyone using many different forms of activism.

The importance of recognising queer achievements and the past of the community is something that is growing in necessity as the world's most powerful countries seem to be leaning towards policies that erase people who don't conform to the standard gender binary. With the US implementing laws that prevent transgender and non-binary people to change their gender marker legally, and at times refusing transgender individuals passports. The UK government may also be banning the only safe form of gender affirming care for minors despite many reputable medical organisations, including the British Medical Organisation and the World Health Organisation, stating that people suffering from Gender Incongruence (where people feel a consistent disconnect between their gender and their sex assigned at birth) should be ensured access to gender affirming healthcare. If people don't raise concerns about these severe misjudgments by the government, it could lead to the harm, even deaths, of a very large, very real group of people.

Throughout history there have been many brave individuals who have fought, not just for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, but for all that have been oppressed. All those who have the courage to stand up for people not like them are also celebrated for their actions this month. For example, Octavia Hill was a famed social reformer born in 19th century England who heavily campaigned for social housing and co-founded the National Trust, as well as creating a charitable organisation for social work - now known as Family Action. In addition, a man called Charlie Kiss, who has faced hardship throughout his life, campaigning for queer rights, nuclear disarmament, facing discrimination and hate for being transgender is also being celebrated for his contributions to UK politics. He was the first openly transgender individual to stand for parliament in the 2015 general election and, despite not winning his seat, obtained a record-breaking 8% of the vote in his constituency.

To conclude, this year's LGBTQ+ History Month is an important and necessary event just as any other, however, its significance is multiplied in this troublesome socio-political climate, where the oppression of the queer community worldwide is more observable than ever in the most powerful nations, and the need for social activism is more and more necessary, reflected in this year's event theming. The celebration of queer achievements and the acknowledgement of queer culture throughout history is a necessary tradition, and it will hopefully lead to a future of acceptance and tolerance for all people, irrespective of sexual orientation and gender identity.

How Did People React to the ‘Gavin and Stacey’ Finale?

By Tommy (Year 8)

On Christmas Day, approximately 20 million people sat down on their sofas to watch the long awaited finale of Gavin and Stacey, one of the most popular British sitcoms since Only Fools and Horses. If you haven't watched it yet, beware of spoilers, because I might just ruin the suspense...

When the finale of Gavin and Stacey was released on Christmas Day 2024, a myriad of mixed emotions flew around the country. We were sad, happy, angry and amused within the space of that programme. Fans were shocked to see Sonia (whom many fans hated) instead of Nessa (Smithy's co-parent of "Neil The Baby", who proposed to him at the end of the 2019 Christmas special) preparing for their marriage.

Throughout this 90 minute episode we had shock after shock after shock! Not just the surprise of Sonia and Smithy's wedding, which we waited 5 aggravating years to get an answer to, but we also had a new love interest involving a long-standing character, Gwen. And the revelation of this mystery lover blew our heads off; it certainly shocked me and my family!



The comeback included all of our favourite and most-memorable characters, showing how each of their storylines had developed over the five years, leading to some comically genius outcomes. Sadly, not all of our favourite characters were in the finale, or the previous episode, and that was "Doris", who was the funny, crass, elderly next door neighbour in Barry Island. The actress sadly passed away before filming, leaving a hole in the Gavin and Stacey family for the final episode.

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There have been overwhelmingly positive reviews from fans across the world, with one member of the public being left with “goosebumps” after watching the long-awaited episode. Another even said “For an hour and half the whole of Britain went on that journey. Shock, drama, tears and a happy ending” and another member of the public said it had “just about the most satisfying ending ever.” People laughed, cried and shouted at the television. It really shows how memorable a TV show can be, with even a Guardian reporter saying that the finale would “make you sob uncontrollably”. There were negative reviews, too, with some viewers saying “nah, I’m turning it off already” just by seeing Sonia’s face, but I’m not sure they gave it a chance! It feels like this amazing episode let everyone’s true emotions out, in an effective and highly entertaining way.

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Valentine's Day

By Mia (Year 7)

This term saw Valentine's day come and go once again, so let's learn a little more about it:

How did it begin?

Valentine's Day has its origins in both ancient Roman and Christian traditions. One of the most popular stories traces the holiday to Saint Valentine, a Christian priest who lived during the reign of Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd century. The emperor banned marriages for young soldiers, believing single men made better fighters, but Valentine defied this order and continued to perform marriages in secret. When his actions were discovered, Valentine was arrested and executed on February 14th. Over time, this day became associated with love and romance, as the celebration of Saint Valentine's sacrifice evolved into the modern day Valentine's Day.

How is it celebrated?

Valentine's Day is celebrated in many different ways around the world, with expressions of love and affection being the most popular. In many countries, couples exchange cards, flowers (especially roses), chocolates and thoughtful gifts to show their love for each other. Some people plan romantic dinners or weekend getaways, while others might take part in sweet gestures like writing love letters or sharing special moments together. In schools and workplaces, it's common for people to exchange cards often with sweet or humorous messages, and children sometimes hand out Valentine's cards to their classmates. While traditionally it's a day for couples to celebrate together, it is also an opportunity to celebrate friendships and appreciation for loved ones.

What to get your Valentine:

Personalised gifts such as engraved jewellery or a photograph/album of you together

Experiences like a surprise dinner, trip to London or a weekend getaway

Their favourite flowers and sweet treats

A card with a genuine, heartfelt message inside

Hobby-based gifts, like sports kit, baking sets, books or games

Luxury items like perfume, watches and accessories



Ultimately, it's about making them feel loved and appreciated, so anything that reflects their personality or your connection will make a lasting impact.

International Women's Day

By Mia (Year 7)

Each year on 8th March, people gather around the world to celebrate the women in their lives: mothers, sisters, friends, coworkers, and other female role models. This positive event strives to achieve equality between the sexes by reminding us how lucky we are to have these incredible female figures in our lives. Let's learn more about it:

Who celebrates it?

International Women's Day is celebrated globally by individuals, organisations, governments, and communities. It is recognised and celebrated by a wide range of groups including Women's Rights Activists, schools and corporations, and by people from a huge variety of cultures in their background.

How is it celebrated?

Public rallies and marches are commonly held to support gender equality and women's rights, and many organisations hold conferences, workshops and discussions to raise awareness on issues like workplace equality, gender-based violence, and access to education and healthcare for women. In workplaces and schools, special events such as seminars or assemblies might take place to acknowledge women's accomplishments. Social media campaigns play an important role, with people sharing stories, quotes and images to encourage gender equality. Some countries even recognise the day as a public holiday!

When did it start, and why?

The celebration began in the early 20th century as part of broader labour and suffrage movements, driven by the need to address the inequality and oppression women faced. The idea first was proposed by Clara Zetkin, a German socialist, in 1910 during the Second International Socialist Women's Congress. She suggested a day dedicated to support of women's rights, including better working conditions, the right to vote and equal pay. The first official International Women's day was celebrated in 1911 in several European countries, and quickly spread world wide.

Colours:

Purple, green and white are used to symbolize International Women's Day. The purple stands for justice, dignity and loyalty, green stands for hope, whilst white stands for purity. The colours came from the UK Suffragette movement in 1908.

Did you know?

In some European countries, particularly Italy, they have the yellow flower, Mimosa, as the symbol for International Women's Day. It was chosen by the Italian feminists in 1946 after the Second World War to represent strength and sensitivity. On March 8th, it is customary for men to give bouquets of Mimosa flowers to the women in their lives.



Donald Trump's Presidency So Far

By Scarlett (Year 8)

Monday 20th January 2025 saw Donald Trump's inauguration, a swearing-in ceremony which formally marks the start of his four-year presidency. Starting that same day, he made executive orders which have been the source of much controversy in the USA, and across the world.



One of the most controversial thus far is the 'Diversity and Gender Order', which declares that the US will only recognise two genders: male and female. He has also stated that these sexes are not changeable and are grounded in incontrovertible reality. Despite much American support of this, we know now, in our modern world of diversity, equality and inclusion (which Trump labels as being 'radical and wasteful'), that these concepts are untrue. It is widely known now that there are no longer just two genders, or perhaps even a solid definition of gender at all, but instead many people identify as non-binary, transgender and gender-fluid, as well as the traditional 'male' and 'female'. As roughly 1.6% of America's population is either transgender or non-binary, this is a major concern for some. This order is expected to affect all current policies regarding transgender people, including in areas like schools, workplaces and passport documentation.

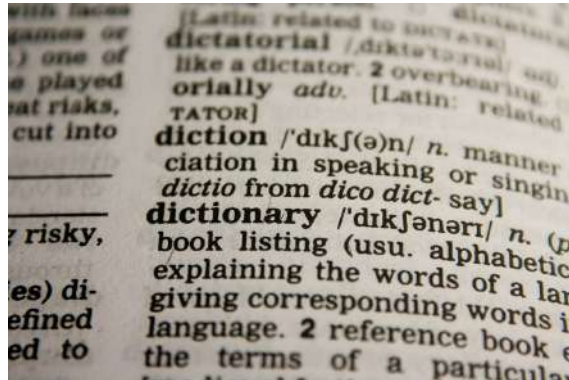
Since his inauguration, Donald Trump has also shown much interest in Greenland. This is not, however, new. In 2019, Donald Trump wanted to buy Greenland, as he saw it as an opportunity to increase the US's influence in Arctic areas, and harness its natural resources of oil and gas. Now he has renewed his efforts by emphasising Greenland's importance in national security. A supporter of his has even introduced legislation, "The Red, White and Blue Land Act of 2025" in an effort to rename Greenland. However, so far, this has faced significant opposition from Denmark, who has controlled Greenland for over 300 years.

As well as this, Trump has also proposed a controversial plan to take control of the Gaza Strip and turn it into the 'Riviera of the Middle East'. This means relocating approximately 2 million residents of the area, using military force if necessary, and building a luxury resort-like city for holiday-goers. The UN labels this as ethnic cleansing, and it is likely even Trump has no clear concept of how, or if, this would ever happen.

In essence, Trump has certainly been busy, and we have all been busy following him on the news. No doubt more controversial and large-scale plans will be proposed before long, so stay tuned!

New Words of 2024

By Scarlett and Ethan (Year 8 and 9)



The legitimisation of new words through placement in official dictionaries, like the Oxford English Dictionary, marks a significant cultural focus on that word, and shows that it has become ingrained into society via widespread, common use.

These new words that people create can be formed in various ways, for example: being derived from already existing words (for example: “rizz” being a shortened version of “charisma”), coming from other languages, or simply being created out of nowhere, to describe a thing that existing language does not contain the vocabulary to explain.

These new words entering mainstream usage can cause massive cultural shifts, and also permanently change the common vocabulary. In this article we will explore some words that came to use in just the last year, and their cultural impacts already visible in today’s society.

So, from barbiecore to global boiling, here are some of my favourites:

Mid:

Mediocre, unimpressive and disappointing.

Barbiecore:

An aesthetic featuring playful pink outfits, accessories and decor, based on the model of the Barbie doll.

Touch grass:

To participate in normal “real world” activities as opposed to online experiences.

Global Boiling:

(non-scientific term) A term used to emphasize the trend towards the climate crisis and especially extreme heat events.

The Ick:

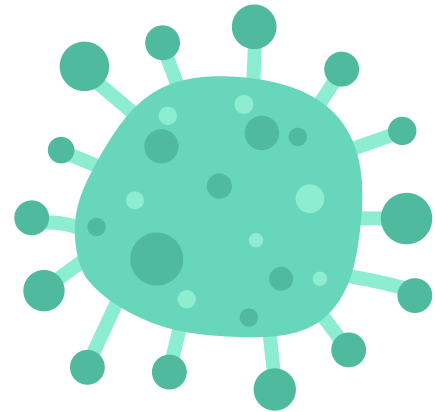
A sudden feeling of disgust or dislike. Especially for a romantic partner.

The Flu: Harmless Inconvenience or Killer Virus?

By Ethan (Year 9)

The flu, also known as influenza, is a common virus whose symptoms include:

- an increased temperature
- aching body
- lethargy (tired, sluggish behaviour)
- headaches



Many can shake off their symptoms with a couple of days' rest. However, between the end of November and the new year, the amount of people hospitalised with the flu quadrupled. This caused a cold weather health warning to be issued by the UKHSA (UK Health and Security Agency) as weather has been forecast to drop below freezing frequently. In the week prior to the 3rd January, there were, on average, 578 patients in hospital every day with the norovirus - a figure 40% higher than the same time last year. With the added pressure that the coronavirus outbreak left on the UK's national healthcare, this unprecedented increase in flu cases has put immense strain on the National Health Service, despite the preparation of an extra 1,301 beds for patients with a winter disease.

Secretary of State for Health, Wes Streeting, has acknowledged the "tidal wave" of flu cases and the "huge pressures" that it has placed on the shoulders of the NHS. The NHS' National Director for Urgent and Emergency Care, Professor Julian Redhead had this to say on the matter: "On top of flu there is also continual pressure from Covid, while RSV and norovirus hospital cases are also higher than last year... low temperatures can be dangerous for those who are vulnerable or have respiratory conditions... keep warm and make sure you are stocked up on any regular medication."

One term that appears repeatedly in official documentation regarding this extreme outbreak is "quad-demic". This refers to the circulation of the 4 common viruses, peaking at different times in the year - winter is the time of year when the flu is at its most infectious, which can be attributed to multiple things, such as the cold weakening our immune systems, and even things as specific as the air being less humid, allowing the virus to reproduce easier. The Labour party pledged to free up 2 million more appointments per year and end the doctors' strikes in their manifesto, and whilst the doctors have returned to the frontlines to help in this epidemic and further money has been allocated to the NHS' funding, the number of appointments has not risen greatly and A&E is under greater stress than ever before, and recommend people get the free flu vaccine.

So, it is time we all took the flu a little more seriously. Look out for each other, maintain daily hygiene and be respectful of personal space, and we may be able to make a positive difference in this worrying health crisis.

A.I. in Schools

By Zaynab (Year 9)

There has been great debate on whether education is ready for Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI is technology that enables a computer to think or act in a more 'human-like' way. It does this by taking in information from its surroundings, and producing its response based on what it learns from the input.

It is currently being discussed by pedagogical specialists and politicians as to whether AI should be introduced into the education system for purposes such as personalised learning, classroom management and automated task setting.

AI can be extremely useful for saving time, especially for teachers and educators. Many teachers are currently forced to spend hours undertaking long and tedious tasks, such as summarising texts, creating questions and model answers, which can be easily completed by AI in a few seconds. This efficiency will lead to increased productivity, allowing teachers to dedicate more time to aiding individual students and providing feedback on work.

Furthermore, AI is going to be a significant part of our future, and ignoring it would be impractical and unproductive. The aim of schools and education is to prepare young people for the world, and if this generation is not prepared to deal with AI in every sphere of their life, it could have very detrimental effects.

While there are many benefits of AI technology, there are also many disadvantages. A major issue that exists is mistreatment. Although AI is not yet commonplace, students everywhere still take advantage of this innovative technology to complete work assigned to them. If we cannot trust students to use AI sensibly when it is not introduced in schools, then how can they be trusted to handle this technology responsibly when its use is at their fingertips?

A primary concern raised by many debating this topic is cost. Introducing AI in schools is expensive, and would take an enormous chunk out of the government's financial reserves. Additionally, the government and educational institutions may lack the correct judgement and data to be able to adapt AI correctly for schools and students.

Another potential disadvantage voiced by many teachers is that AI may replace them. AI is an extremely powerful tool and can be used as a personalised teacher in order to educate students in the future. Will we stop needing teachers? Could AI overtake this fundamental job? Though this seems unlikely anytime soon, it is still a valid concern.

Furthermore, AI can be extremely unreliable. If an AI software is asked a question which it did not know the answer to, it often produces an incorrect answer because it does not have access to the correct resources and it adopts the common mistakes of others, resulting in invalid outputs.

In conclusion, although there is a very long list of disadvantages to Artificial Intelligence such as cost, possibility of the reduction of the work force and its unreliable nature, it is not without its advantages. On balance, the list of disadvantages outnumber the advantages which leaves us with the question, how afraid of AI should we be?

The Climate Crisis Might Just Be Worse Than You Think... Here's Why:

By Ethan (Year 9)



Do you care about the ruination of our home? Do you feel that you have been let down by those in power who claim to protect you?

Well, you should feel that way, because as of this year, the well-known target set by the richest, most pollutive nations in order to curb the effects of climate change has been missed, the Earth's average global temperature has risen by more than 1.5 degrees centigrade.

This essentially means the effects of climate change are now irreversible. This is due to years of constant abuse of our planet from the monolithic corporations and the corrupt billionaires that own them. You have none other than people like Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg to thank for the fiery destruction of our beautiful home.

The last decade has been the hottest on record, what has been claimed to be an era of development and prosperity for people, has come at a severe cost to the environment, wildlife and human habitats too, even our lives. The brutal effects of this corruption and mistreatment of our home planet have caused visible effects throughout the world, some more recent examples include: the California wildfires, rising sea levels in Tuvalu making people's homes unlivable, and even examples closer to home, such as when where London experienced temperatures above 40°C in 2022. Last year, the global average temperature rose 0.32°C, which may not sound like a lot, however it is very important to acknowledge the average increase per year is 0.06°C, meaning it has risen by more than 5 times the normal amount.

If anything, I see this as a metaphorical "call to arms" to take action to save our home. By saying this I am not saying that violence is the answer for this specific problem, but that we must protest these oligarchs and politicians that profit from the destruction of homes, not just humans', but also the home of the incredibly diverse wildlife that lives on Earth. Through deforestation, the burning of fossil fuels and unethical fishing practices, the planet is slowly being destroyed in the name of profit, rather than being preserved in the betterment of humanity.

The Rise of the Ottoman Empire - Explained

By Zohaán (Year 8)

What was the Ottoman Empire?

The Ottoman Empire was formed in Turkey in 1299 and it was one of the largest empires ever known to humanity. It spanned three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.

Who was Ertugrul and why was he important?

Ertugrul was a very significant person in Ottoman history. He was the leader of the Kayi Tribe (the tribe that later formed into the Ottoman Empire), and his father, Suleyman Shah, the previous Kayi Bey (leader), had started to conquer and evolve the tribe. Conquering Söğüt, a huge market, but more importantly a key road, allowed him to then conquer Dorylaion and Nicea (renamed to Iznik afterwards).

Who actually started the Ottoman Empire?

The Empire was started by a man called Osman in 1299. He controlled most of Western Anatolia and was fighting the Mongols at the time. Later in 1281, Ertugrul's son, Osman the First became the Bey (leader). He was 23 when he started to rule and in his first seven years of ruling, he conquered a castle called Kuluchaisar. The Ottomans were severely outnumbered as, at the time, they only had 300 soldiers, compared to the 1000 that the enemy had. Despite being outnumbered, they won and all the Christians and other minorities accepted Osman's rule; none were hurt.

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How did the Empire come to an end?

The Ottoman Empire survived for 624 years, but sided with Germany in World War 1 because they didn't get accepted by Britain or France for an alliance and were desperate to save their already dying empire. Once Germany lost the war, Britain and France conquered Turkey, leading to the end of the once great Ottoman Empire.

Osman I had a close relationship with a local religious leader named Sheikh Edebali, whose daughter he married. He was invited to stay with Edebali in his camp. There, Osman had a dream, where he saw a tree rise from the ground and cover the entire world with shade. He saw this as a vision of the whole world being protected under one empire, and that became his ambition. Within three years, he conquered Iznik and Nicea. He wanted to conquer Bursa, but was never able due to an onset of gout in his foot. Before his death though, his son told him that he conquered Bursa for him in 1326. Osman was overjoyed, and asked for his funeral to be held there.

How did the Empire become so successful?

The Empire was very successful because it controlled very important trade routes, such as the waterways and lands around Constantinople and the Silk Road.

Top Six Best Japanese Cars

By Haroon (Year 8)

6. MAZDA MIATA

The Mazda Miata is a car designed for fun. It's extremely fun to drive and is a convertible. The classic version is better. I rate this a 6/10.

5. TOYOTA TRUENO

The Toyota Trueno is a car for drift. This is used for racing and is a sports car. This is mainly for the looks. It was only manufactured in Japan and wasn't manufactured anywhere else. It was popular in the 1990s. This was so popular there is even a show about it. I rate this a 7/10.

4. TOYOTA ESTIMA

The Toyota Estima is a huge car. It is manufactured in Japan, where a lot of people import it from. This is often used for big families but can also be used for transport or business owners. Some variants of this car are very luxurious: it has 7 seats with recliners and a TV built in. A few downsides for this car is that the Estima battery costs about £3000 if it's a hybrid. This is also a disadvantage since most families can't afford its battery. It's also a big hassle to import it from Japan. I rate it an 8/10 because of the expenses.

3. HONDA CR-V

The Honda CR-V is a great reliable car. It's one of the best SUVs since it's made by Honda and the reviews on this are mostly positive. It's got good functioning and is a great size, fitting a lot in its boot. I rate this 8/10 because of the lack of problems and the simplicity.

2. TOYOTA COROLLA XE

The Toyota Corolla XE is like a tank. It is so reliable and will most likely keep you safe if you treat it well. I own this car and it is absolutely superior. Unfortunately this is not made in the UK and is made in Japan and some other South Asian Countries. I rate this car a 9/10 due to its reliability and cost to maintain.

1. TOYOTA RAV-4

The Toyota RAV-4 is a great SUV. It's considered better than the Honda CR-V. It is a petrol hybrid which is, in my opinion, the best kind because it can reserve fuel and you can save money. It is a family car. It has 3 variants. The Icon (the cheapest), the Design (which is the default), the Dynamic (a bit better than the Design), and finally the Excel (the luxurious one). My rating for this car is a 10/10.



Your strange questions answered!

By Anna (Year 8)

Following on from our last edition, here are some more of your strange questions answered...

Who decides what words are considered 'real words'?

At least once in your life someone has told you in the middle of your sentence "that isn't a real word". But what is considered a real word? Well, all words in the English dictionary would have gone through this long process. First, they enter the Oxford English Dictionary's 'watch list' database. After that, editors begin reviewing information about the word. Once the editor has gathered enough information it can be drafted for a dictionary entry. The last step is for all teams to sign it off (including the finalization team) the word can be put into the dictionary, and made 'real'!

What will the world look like in 50 years?

If we look back 30 years ago some of the predictions were quite close to life now like 'viruses stealing people's money' and then there's some that are very, very far from today like 'major surgeries using holograms'. Then we go back 40 years ago and look at the movie *Back to the Future* where they predicted some things that are right on the mark, like hoverboards, CGling dead celebrities and thumbprints as keys. However there are some ideas that were quite outlandish such as flying cars or lawyers being banished. Using the history of predictions of the future, we can confidently say that there are no clear future ideas other than the plans that have already been confirmed.

Why do people like horror movies?

There are many genres of film but out of all of them the one that really stands out is horror. The jumpscare and suspense are one of the main reasons for watching horror movies but according to a psychologist, the reason we watch them is for the thrill of triggering our flight or fight responses. They can also offer 'catharsis', which is a process where we can let out of repressed or negative emotions by getting a shock of adrenaline during thriller or horror films.



Top 10 Most Dangerous Animals In The World

By Vedansh (Year 8)

10 - Bull Sharks

With a short, blunt snout and a mouth filled with 350 razor-sharp teeth, the bull shark is one of the most dangerous shark species found in the world. It is known to be aggressive towards humans and can attack unprovoked. Sharks only kill an average of 10 people per year, despite their famous reputation of being blood-thirsty killers.

9 - Grizzly Bears

The grizzly bear is a large brown bear subspecies found in North America. Large populations hunt in rivers in Alaska and in the national parks. Grizzlies are known for being aggressive towards humans — mostly in defense of their young or over food. Human-grizzly bear encounters can be fatal due to their sheer size and strength. For example, a couple and their dog were killed in Canada's Banff National Park in 2023.

8 - Cape Buffalos

The cape buffalo is the largest and most common subspecies of the African buffalo. It lives in large herds in grasslands and is considered one of the "big five" most dangerous game animals in Africa, with hunters often injured or killed when hunting them. The cape buffalo is notoriously aggressive and unpredictable and can charge at speeds of up to 37 mph (60 km/h), according to Denver Zoo.

7 - Indian Red Scorpion

The sting of any scorpion species will hurt — a lot — but the Indian red scorpion is the most dangerous in the world. The Indian red scorpion sting is filled with a potent neurotoxin venom, which can cause swelling, pain and eventually cardiac failure, resulting in death within 72 hours without medical treatment. Found in India, Sri Lanka and Nepal, the Indian red scorpion mostly tries to avoid human encounters but will sting if it feels threatened. Most victims are children from rural communities.

6 - Elephants

The sheer size and strength of this large land mammal can make both the African and Asian elephant a danger to human life. In rural communities, there have been reports of elephants trampling villages when they feel threatened. In India, around 400 people die each year from elephant attacks. A 2019 report found that elephant-human conflict is often caused by increasing competition for natural resources, putting elephant populations at risk.

5 - Grey Wolves

Wolves tend to avoid humans and rarely attack unless they feel threatened, however human fatalities have been reported; a family of four was attacked by wolves while camping in Banff National Park in 2019. A 2021 study into wolf attacks on humans between 2002 and 2020 found that most human fatalities resulted from contracting rabies following a wolf bite. Only 26 fatalities were recorded over an 18-year period worldwide, with most taking place in Turkey.

4 - Dogs

Man's best friend can be deadly – a bite from a rabid dog causes 99% of human cases of rabies worldwide, according to the World Health Organization. Most cases of rabies are reported in Asian and African countries where there are large populations of stray dogs that carry the disease and less medical treatment available. The rabies virus attacks the central nervous system and causes death within 1 to 3 months on average. Death by dog mauling is uncommon. Fewer than 1% of dog bites cause fatality in the United Kingdom and United States, although the number of dog attacks in the United Kingdom has risen. Freedom of Information requests show 5,248 more attacks in 2023 compared to 2022, with 16 of these attacks reported as fatal. In the United States, around 4.5 million people are bitten by a dog annually.

3 - Hippos

Hippopotamuses are the world's most deadly land mammal, killing on average 500 people a year in Africa – more than lions and other apex predators. Despite their ungainly size – male bull hippos can weigh up to 2,065 kg – the common hippo is an aggressive and territorial wild animal that can charge at short speeds up to 20 mph (32 km/h), making them incredibly dangerous to humans, according to San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. Hippos also have sharp teeth and are known to capsize boats in farming and fishing wetlands. The BBC reported an attack by a hippo in 2023 that capsized a boat in Malawi and killed one child.

2 - Humans

Humans (*homo sapiens*) are one of the world's most dangerous land mammals. A 2019 report by the World Health Organisation recorded 475,000 deaths by homicide globally in member states. Central America and the Caribbean reported the highest murder rates, with over half of deaths caused by a firearm. Violence-related injuries, which can encompass traffic collisions and suicide, kill 1.25 million annually, according to WHO. Despite the relative fragility of humans compared to other predators, it is our ability to use complex tools (weapons) and opposable thumbs that makes us so dangerous.

1- Mosquitos

The world's most deadly animal is the tiny mosquito. Mosquito-borne illnesses, such as malaria, kill an average 780,000 people a year. This flying, blood-sucking insect is commonly found in hot, humid environments near a water source, which enables them to breed and thrive.

So, if you ever see one of these animals... run for your life. Unless it's a mosquito, then grab a fly swat!



Jeremy Clarkson: Who Is He?

By Haroon (Year 8)

Jeremy Clarkson is an English TV show host and a journalist. He is most popular for the TV show Top Gear with Richard Hammond and James May. He is also known for Clarkson's Farm and The Grand Tour.

Jeremy Clarkson was born on April 11, 1960. His first ever job was a travelling salesman selling Paddington toys, as this was the family business. Clarkson, his parents and his sister formed a modest family, which lived near Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

While Top Gear catapulted Clarkson to public attention, his profession is now significantly broader than that of car journalism. In 2015, after departing from Top Gear amidst a highly-publicised dispute with a producer, Clarkson asked his co-presenters Richard Hammond and James May to join him in co-creating The Grand Tour on Amazon Prime Video. The series has been a box office success across the board, with viewers keeping Clarkson's sometimes problematic views in check, but also maintaining him as one of TV's leading entertainment personalities.

Apart from television work, Clarkson is also an author and a journalist. He has authored several books from memoirs and historical critiques to commentaries about the social ills of today's world.



(Mostly) Spoiler-Free 'Ninjago: Dragons Rising' Season 1 Review

By Thomas (Year 8)

Running for over 13 years, Ninjago has been around for ages, and has basically become an icon of Lego, being one of the longest lasting Lego themes along with Lego City and Lego Creator, and it won't go away any time soon, especially with the show's reboot on June 1st 2023. In this article, I'll be writing a spoiler free review of the first season.

Firstly, don't get bored by the first episode. This is what I see so many people doing. The first episode should be slow to introduce the characters and it should not be diving straight into action immediately. The action starts in the second episode, don't worry!

The next part will include spoilers for the first few episodes and anything that was revealed in the Lego sets of it, so be warned. All of the Ninja are separated in the start, which really makes it much more welcoming to beginners. The new characters (Sora, Arin and Wyldfire) fit right in and work with the old characters. My favourite character is Wyldfire as she emits pure 'America' energy.

The action is great, but there isn't too much of it. Each episode is different and the villains are great, with them basically being creating a dictatorship, while still being presented in a fun way. The integration of the sets were pretty good as well. While some sets didn't appear much, a lot of them had a strong presence in the show, making buying it more worthwhile. The transition from the first part to the second wasn't the best though, as they seemed to have quite different aims.

Overall, however, this is a must-watch! Let's see what Lego produces next...



Crossword - How Well Do You Know Ruislip High?

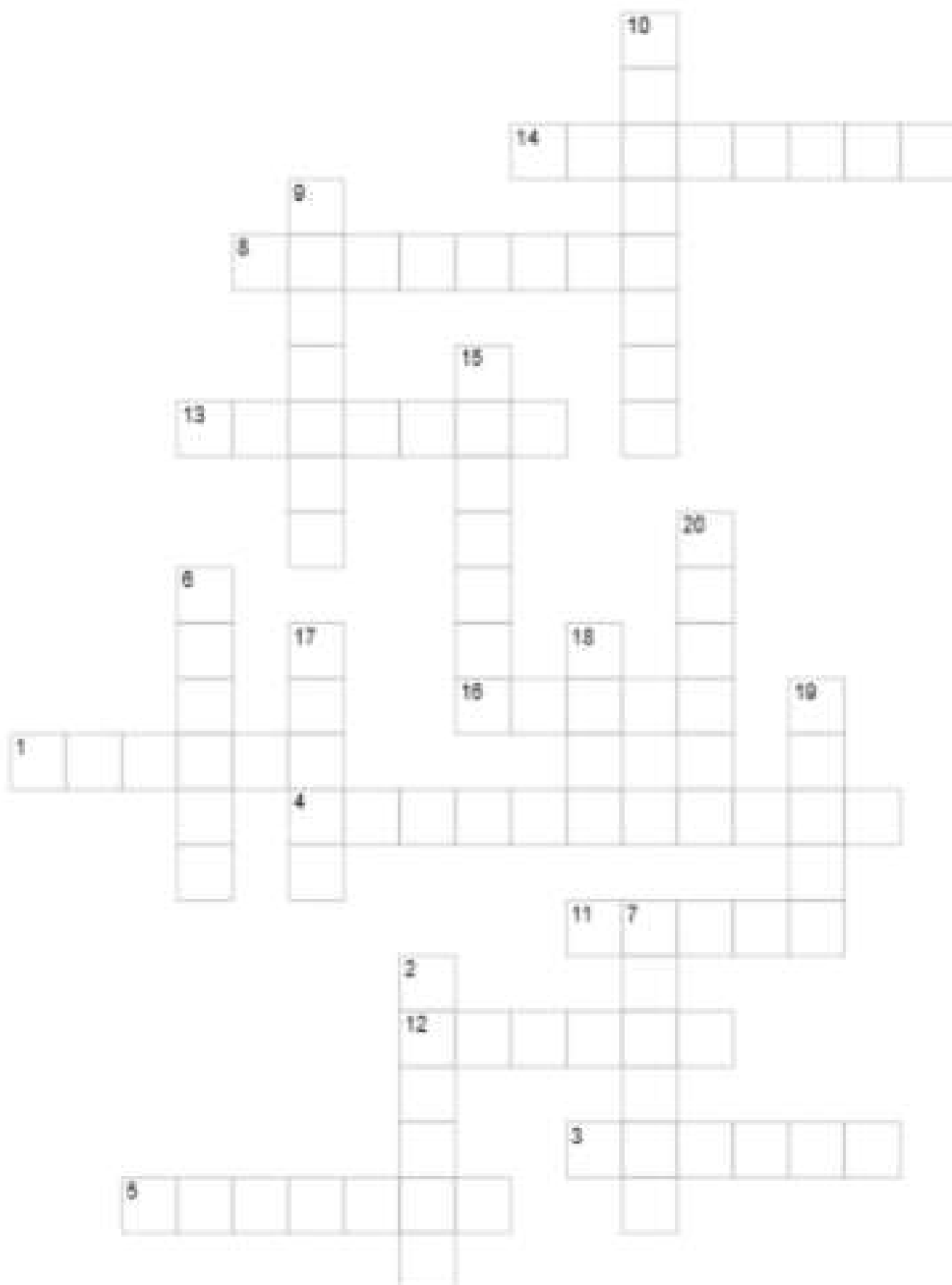
By Zaynab (Year 9)

ACROSS

1. Which continent are the Sixth Formers given an opportunity to go to every 2 years? (5)
3. Fill in the blank: "The Head of the LRC is Ms _ _ _ _ _" (6)
4. What compulsory GCSE do all RHS students have to sit in Year 10? (11)
5. What does the 'C' of YTC stand for? (7)
8. How many academic years have passed since RHS first opened? (8)
11. The Head of the Trust that RHS is a part of, is called Dr Martina _ _ _ _ _ (5)
12. Who is our amazing Head of Year 7? Ms _ _ _ _ _ (6)
13. What is the name of Ruislip High School's pet snake?
14. Fill in the blank: "From grass roots to _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ for the sky? (8)
16. How many times has RHS received an Outstanding rating from Ofsted? (5)

DOWN

2. What is the first name of the Head Student of 2024? (6)
6. What is the name of the brand that sells our school meals? (6)
7. In which area of the school do we keep frogs, beehives and geckos? (6)
9. What subject does our Headmaster teach? (7)
10. What value is represented by 'L' from Ruislip? (8)
15. What does the 'R' of Ruislip stand for? (7)
17. What does the 'T' in BOT stand for? (5)
18. True or False? There is a nursery directly opposite RHS (4)
19. What value is represented by 'U' from Ruislip? (5)
20. What is the name of the other secondary school in the trust that RHS is a part of? (6)





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