THE RUISLIP EYE

The latest news and updates from Ruislip High School



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What has happened over the summer?

This summer has been a great one and we are here to tell you all about it!

by Tommy B (Year 7)

The summer has been great, with eye-catching movies like Barbie and Oppenheimer. The Disney movies for this summer are Elemental and Haunted mansion. More information can be found in the box office.

Whether you love school or not, this news headline got us all pondering. The concrete crisis has closed several schools in the UK, with many students having to stay at home instead of at school. Luckily, Ruislip High opened in 2006 and these schools opened over 60 years ago. There was no way this school had this concrete. This concrete was cheap a long time ago, but is now described as an aero bar. For more information, see Ethan's article later in this edition.

In other stories, this summer has been the 8th hottest in the UK record. Although, it has also been the UK's rainiest summer on record. It's a bit annoying that the hot weather started on the first week of school, though! Students were sweating, especially in the history corridor. Luckily, the weather has now cooled down, and we can look forward to a more sweat-free rest of the year.

Over the summer holidays, the former Year 11s (who did their GCSEs) got their results. One Year 12 student said: "I couldn't sleep all night, came into school with only 4 hours of sleep and recorded myself opening my results. I was shaking as I have only applied to RHS sixth form and feared that I didn't get the grades to get in. However, I proved myself wrong and did better than expected. Having Ms Vora there who supported me made it a lot better as she knew I had struggled but also worked my hardest to get where I am today." Clearly, from this student, it shows us we need to try hard at school, especially in Year 11, and find supportive teachers who can guide you.

Another student said: "I felt proud of some results, however, I was disappointed in some other results. I had quite mixed feelings at first, but now I realise I should be proud of my results." Lastly, this person said: "Results were good, better than expected, it was positive because I knew that all my hard work had paid off." We are all proud of the results and it's always good to try our best.

We also asked the current Year 12s what advice they would give to the current Year 11s. Here's what one student said: "Take notes from the start, don't let the revision pile up, until the last few weeks. start revision early and do a small task every day for revision. If you can purchase the CGP books because they explain the topics in a simple way especially for science. Don't spend too much time making notes, spend time learning the notes and use online resources, such as Physics and Maths Tutor. You can find a lot of resources online, and don't be scared to ask your teachers for more help, it's literally their job." Another student recommended "start revision early! Start making notes as soon as you finish each unit so that when it comes to your final revision for PPEs / GCSEs you already have your notes to look through and you can immediately start with exam questions which will help you more when it comes to sitting exams." So, Year 11, if you're reading this, make sure you start revision now!

The summer box office of 2023 has been one of the most money-making summers of a long time. With films like Barbie, Oppenheimer, Elemental and Haunted Mansion.

The first movie we will be looking at is Barbie: The Barbie Movie stars Margot Robbie as Barbie. The blonde haired, blue eyed stunner Barbie and Ken embark on a journey to the real world, as she has creeping thoughts of death. 41 million tickets were sold. At the end, there was a heart-breaking scene with an old lady (or so I've heard!). The rest, you will have to watch to find out! The film had songs with famous singers. The most popular songs were:

- Dance the Night (Dua Lipa)
- Pink (Lizzo)
- I'm Just Ken (Ryan Gosling)

Another film that succeeded in the box offices was Oppenheimer. Oppenheimer is a film about a nuclear bomb that was planned to go off during World War II and the masterminds behind it.

Haunted Mansion is a Disney film about a man who comes to a mansion, haunted with ghosts! The owner (a lady and her son) showed him around. He thinks it's a joke because he doesn't believe in ghosts. Eventually, he starts getting haunted by these ghosts. For the rest, visit Disney+ to watch it! Another popular Disney film of the summer is Elemental. Elemental is a movie about all the elements living in a place called Element City. The main character is Ember, and she falls in love with the water guy called Wade. They have to learn to live together despite their opposing qualities. Watch the film to find out more!

Overall, this summer has been a great one in general. We hope to see you in the next article, when we will have more headlines and fun for you!

The 2023 Academic Year Begins!

The perspective of a Year 7 student at RHS, and what's new this year!

by Hayley W. (Year 7)

Welcome to the new year of RHS! I am Hayley W from 7F. If you're reading this, this can help you understand how it feels to be new with older kids in a new secondary school and what great things you will learn! Firstly, I would like to share how I felt joining the school. I will also be interviewing a few students and sharing their opinions.

When I first started at Ruislip High, I felt overwhelmed and scared. I had many stressful moments, and, at times, I really wanted to go home. I did meet new friends, though, but I didn't really talk much. It was a pleasure to meet the teachers around the school; they all had different things to share. I met my tutor group, and some of them I recognised from Induction Day.

Things that I would advise you to do:

- If you have no friends, you can try to meet someone new. You're not the only one who's worried about fitting in!
- To make some friends that rely on you, listen to what they say. When someone who you don't know is looking at you, smile at them! They might even smile back at you!
- Be a good person like you would be to your parents.
- Don't worry if you made a few mistakes, just try and learn from them.
- Join clubs as you might make new friends!

This year, we all moved up a year. Let's hear from a few year 7s.

The first people I interviewed were Emma P and Lucy.

How did it feel on your first day?

"I felt very lost that I would go into the wrong class."

What was your biggest fear?

"I'm worried about whether I get bullied by older kids!"

What advice would you give to future Year 7 students?

"Join the clubs, they are great! Traveling around the school will seem chaotic at first, but try and get used to it! Remember the ups and downstairs and always follow the one way system."

Next I asked my friends Summer P, Maya R and Sophia T the same questions: "I felt very awkward because I didn't know any people." Another student said, "Having not enough friends and feeling left out because people think I'm weird and different." A piece of advice we received was to not "be so worried about not making friends, I'm sure they will come very soon. Nobody in our form has any friends yet; it's a learning experience for all of us. If you want lots of friends, you have to be confident, loud and proud."

In school, we all learnt new things about the subjects we will be studying and our friends. The new Year 7s have started to get used to the way things are run at RHS and seem to be adjusting really well!



Mr Davies with some of the new Year 7 students.

A couple of changes this year include the timings of the school day. The school day used to end at 2:45 but now it ends at 3 PM.

Some of us might want some improvements around the school, like for instance getting to get lunch quickly. Some stairs might be crowded so we try to go another way. Overall, though, we've made an exciting start to secondary school at Ruislip High.

Holiday Hotspots Under Attack by Wildfires this Summer

No, literally, the world was on fire. by Eleftheria (Year 8)

While most of us here have enjoyed our summer, many countries in Europe have had to fend for their homes and lives. Some countries that were hit were Greece, Croatia, Italy, Portugal, France, Turkey, and Spain. But why? In the Condé Nast Traveller, Sarah James states: "The three factors that impact the spread of fires are high temperatures, drought and high wind". Therefore, the heatwave meant that a small flame could lead to a huge, devastating forest fire.

I have personal experience with this. I visited Greece this summer, and I went to an island called Evia. As we were there, people near where we were staying were evacuating because of fires. Luckily, they didn't come close to where we were.

Later in the holiday, at my grandma's house, someone set fire to some straw for an unknown reason, and there was ash EVERYWHERE. My aunt and cousin lived closer, and they had to evacuate their house! The lesson? Don't set fire to things.

Scientists are warning everyone that there will be more wildfires, and they will cause more damage than ever, and are more likely and easier to happen. This is because of the worsening situation with climate change. More peoples' lives will be put in danger. Already, more than 60,000 people have died this summer, a devastating number. Everyone is wondering what will happen next, and how the authorities will try to stop this from happening again.

To those reading, please take a moment to grieve for the lives that have been lost this summer due to the devastating wildfires.



Image taken from: https://cdn.who.int/media/images/default-source/health-and-climate-change/fire-fighters-at-forest-fire-c-quarrie-photography.tmb-1920v.jpg?sfvrsn=8b60f828_4%201920w

Striking Earthquake in Morocco

by Aamina and Lorena (Year 9)

A 6.8 magnitude earthquake, struck on the night of the 8th of September at 11pm. Many people were unaware of what disaster would strike them. This tragic event struck on the high Atlas mountains,70 km away from the capital Marrakech. Majority of buildings in the epicentre, the centre of the earthquake, have collapsed.

Also villages were nearly destroyed like Tafeghaghate which is 37 km from the capital. These few minutes damaged most of the capital city. On the next page is a photograph which shows the zone that was affected.

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How can we help?

There are many charities that we can donate to like Global Giving; this charity asked for donations to its Morocco Earthquake Relief Fund to help the survivors with long-term support. You could also collect food for a food bank as many are left without food and water. Even the littlest of food and money would help them.

<u>How many people were affected and what help</u> <u>did Morocco receive?</u>

Three thousand people were killed and over 300,000 people were affected by this unexpected event, including being injured and their homes being destroyed. Unfortunately, lots of young children died due to them being stuck in rubble for too long.

Aid had to be brought by the helicopters to people in the Atlas mountains. They bought food, water, medicine and shelter. Even though many countries offered help to Morocco, they only accepted aid from four countries: Britain, Spain, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, leaving many other offers with no response.

Lots of people will need to rebuild their homes and many are left without jobs.

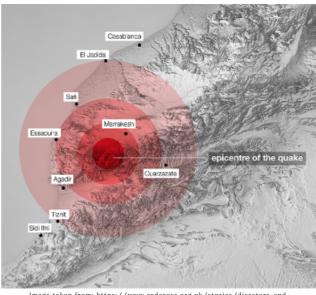


Image taken from: https://www.redcross.org.uk/stories/disasters-andemergencies/world/morocco-earthquake-2023-latest-news-and-updates

A victim of the earthquake, Abdel El Amrani stated' "We felt a violent tremor, and I realised it was an earthquake. I could see buildings moving." Lots of people are staying outside and many fear more aftershocks.

In conclusion, this catastrophic event damaged countless people's lives as the survivors barely have anything. Most of them are left with no family, food, water or shelter. Lots of people have died and many buildings shattered to the floor. Despite this tragedy, we wish that Morocco has a speedy recovery.

The Tip of the Iceberg: RAAC in Schools Disrupting Education

Use of cheap building material called RAAC is causing children to lose out on education.

by Ethan (Year 8)

RAAC is a type of concrete that is cheaper and more lightweight than concrete, and has been found in many buildings built around the 1950s. Buildings that have been built with RAAC (or reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete) have had to close down because of buildings collapsing due to it losing its stability when wet. Over 145 schools in the UK have found RAAC in their buildings, meaning their students have had to do online learning. RAAC has also been found in other important buildings, such as Loughborough University, Heathrow and Gatwick airports, and even in the Houses of Parliament. Concerns were raised in the mid-1990s over the material's stability and its tendency to collapse when wet, which led to its effective abandonment in 1996.

Although schools all across the country have been found to have RAAC in their buildings, less than 1% of schools across the country have been affected. Though, some that have been affected include Abbey Lane Primary School, East Tilbury Primary School and Pippins Primary School. These have all been closed and they had to cope using online learning for up to 4 weeks in the early parts of the school year.

Overall, the RAAC concrete was a cheaper material but was less structurally sound and has disrupted the school lives of thousands of students across the country.

Escaped Prisoner Captured

Daniel Abed Khalife, the prisoner that filled headlines, has finally been found and captured in Northolt. by Joshua (Year 7)

Daniel Khalife reportedly laughed as he was apprehended in Northolt on Saturday morning of the 9th September 2023.

How did he escape? Approximately at 7:30 Wednesday morning, earlier that week, a vehicle arrived which had made a delivery to the prison's kitchen, and then left HMP Wandsworth - the prison where Khalife was kept. When a guard went to his cell during the daily checks, he was not there.

The way he escaped was by tying bed sheets to the bottom of the truck before it left. He was sent to prison because he was planting fake bombs around a military base and was discharged from the army after his arrest earlier this year.

During his escape and the search for him, the London Counter Terror Police had offered a 20,000 pound reward for information leading to his arrest. Eventually, he found on a canal in Northolt, West London by plainclothes officer, and has since been returned. His trial is set for sometime this upcoming November.



Boris Johnson: Who is he, and what did he do?

by Ethan (Year 8)

Recently, many politicians have resigned their roles in Parliament, including Nadine Dorries, Nigel Adams, and most notably, ex-Prime Minister, Boris Johnson.

These politicians have resigned following what is called the "COVID-inquiry", where Boris Johnson, other MPs and cabinet office members had a gathering which was against COVID rules that his government made. This event was dubbed 'Partygate'. During a time when people were suffering in isolation and forced not to socially integrate, this served as a shocking surprise to the public.

However, this event is not the only controversial thing to happen during Boris' terms as MP and Prime Minister; others include: Brexit, where the UK left the European Union; and he backed Dominic Cummings when he had driven hundreds of miles during COVID lockdown restrictions. To add to this, he had a £112,000 refurbishment of his No. 11 flat, allegedly using money given to him by the Cabinet Office and Lord Brownlow (a member of the house of Lords and conservative party donor), when there were clear areas of underfunding in the UK, like the NHS. Nationally, Johnson's administration has focused on infrastructure development, increased funding for the National Health Service (NHS), and promises to level up uneven economic developments. These initiatives have collected both support and criticism, as critics question the implementation and long-term impact of these policies.

Boris Johnson's tenure as Prime Minister has been eventful, marked by significant challenges, policy decisions, and controversies. His leadership style, characterised by charisma and boldness, has both captivated and divided the nation. Whether it is Brexit, COVID-19, or domestic policies, his actions have left a lasting impact on the United Kingdom.



lmage taken from: https://www.redcross.org.uk/stories/disasters-andemergencies/world/morocco-earthquake-2023-latest-news-and-updates

International Cricket: The Coming of the Cricket World Cup

by Shaunav (Year 7)

Cricket is a well-known sport, loved by many. For those who aren't familiar with how it's played, it contains two teams of 11 and they try to score runs by batting. Both teams have some bowlers who bowl the ball to the batsmen and the batters who aim to set or chase a high target. The cricket international community attracts 2,500,000,000 people all across the globe.

Interestingly, the British Empire led the rise of dozens of countries across continents to learn the British game from the English locals in popularity. The colonialism factor has brought a hefty amount of competitiveness when it comes to beating your conquerors at their own game. It has brought 108 countries to select their best players including India, Pakistan, South Africa, England, Sri Lanka, Australia, Netherlands, Bangladesh, New Zealand, the West Indies, UAE, USA, Kenya, Ireland and Scotland and 93 more nations.

The first three cricket world cups were held in England. This battle for the cup is held every four years, and the winners of the past cups are as follows: 1975 West Indies; 1979 West Indies; 1983 India; 1987 Australia; 1992 Pakistan; 1996 Sri Lanka; 1999 Australia; 2003 Australia; 2007 Australia; 2011 India; 2015 Australia; 2019 England. Now, we anxiously wait for the results of the 2023 matches!

Glastonbury Music Festival: The Line-Up



by Lucy H. (Year 7)

The Glastonbury Music Festival is considered to be one of the largest performing arts festivals in the world. It takes place most summers, and this year's line-up included some amazing, well-known performers: Lovejoy, Arctic Monkeys, Foo Fighters (under the stage name of the 'Churnups', as the surprise mystery band), Guns 'n' Roses, Lewis Capaldi, Lizzo, Elton John, and many more.

Glastonbury went on for several days, starting on June 21 and continuing until June 25. The festival first began in 1970; back then, the tickets were £1 including free milk from the farm. In 1990, riots broke out, which resulted in 235 arrests. This caused the festival organisers to take a break for a few years before bringing it back again.

Glastonbury has already announced that they will be continuing the festival this year, and the tickets go live early November; they are £355 and over. Overall, though, the Glastonbury Festival is an amazing celebration of music, and if you have the time and money, you should definitely consider going in 2024 or watching it live on TV.



Lovejoy's lead singer (William Patrick Spencer Gold or professionally known as Wilbur Soot) performing at the 2023 Glastonbury Music Festival | Image taken from: https://readdork.com/features/photos/lovejoy-glastonbury-2023-in-photos/

The 'Good Girl's' Life

You were not meant to live a life that's only purpose is to be consumed by others. by Laylah (Year 10)

'The Good Girl' who doesn't stand up for herself, because it's too much of a bother for others, will turn into 'The Good Woman' who doesn't interrupt and stays quiet. We then will watch her morph into 'The Good Wife' and slowly observe her transform into 'The Good Mother'; we don't watch her transform into a literal 'good mother', we see her change into a quiet, shell of a woman, an anxious one, she is no longer perfect. She is no longer young.

She isn't a girlish twenty-something anymore, happy to be in the presence of anyone that accepts her. Was she unhappy during this time? Of course she was; who wants to be confined to a stereotype all of their lives? But she was 'The Good Girl' and she was 'The Cool Girl' and she was 'different and not like the rest'. But now? She is old. Tiring. Nagging. A bore. Where had she gone wrong? She was 'The Good Girl', wasn't she? Not anymore. The 'Good Girl' act went so far to get her through the 'To-Do List' of life, but now, there are no more checkboxes for her to tick, nothing left for her to do, no more marks left to make on the world. She had fulfilled her purpose.

She looks down at her old, tired hands. They are wrinkled, not by a fulfilling life, but through years of washing, cooking, cleaning, years of wiping her offspring's tears, years of wiping away her own. She inspects her left hand, the ring fingerL it held one small band of gold, a tiny handcuff to a man she did not truly love. She looks down at her body: it was no longer beautiful; she had fat in 'all of the wrong places' and her skin stretched around her bones looser than it had when she was a young-twenty something 'Good Girl' - how she wished she was looking down at those hands, even though they never really belonged to her. Those hands were someone else's. The 'Good Girl' could never really be in charge of her own body, not truly, because then she'd be being a

nuisance to someone. "Lighten up a little" or "don't be a prude" are not things 'Good Girl' would have said to her. A 'Good Girl' would smile, 'make it easier' for the male fantasy of entitlement.

"Was it worth it?" she asks herself. "An entire lifetime of suppressing what I need, and want. Going through my twenties as a walking, talking, pale delusion of 'perfect' for others' consumption? Surviving my thirties and forties as a mother, not living them with my children; trying to maintain my imagine of perfection, grasping onto any straw I can find until now I stand here at 52. A disgustingly genuine depiction of the woman I was never meant to be. I was the 'Good Girl' until I wasn't 'Good Enough'."



I think of this story as I sit as my desk. I hear the rowdy shouts of boys in the class; they don't understand the concept of 'Women Being In Control Of Their Own Bodies'. Their ignorant screeches seem like distant murmurs to me, I can feel the tears threatening to fall.

Is this really what we've come to? After 200,000 years of homo-sapiens walking (and ruining) Earth, can we not understand that existing to be validated by someone else is a waste of time? And not just a waste of time as in going to the shops and not finding the right shirt for the right occasion but a waste of time as in living and dying an unfulfilled eighty(ish) years. Dying and leaving nothing to your name apart from worries of what others think? It's not worth it; I know it isn't.

This short story, this collection of 484 words, shows that a woman should never ever conform to what someone else thinks she should be. She can be: a strong, independent, loving, nurturing woman or she could be the most intimidating, captivating girl in the world but still love and uplift her sisters around her. At any age, at any time, it is never too late to seek out justice, love, and hope in the world.

Leaving your mark means to live a life full of fulfillment, love and kindness: a life that you want to lead, not what anyone else wants you to live.

The Taylor Swift Eras Tour

The latest competition: No it's not sports; it's the Taylor Swift UK Eras tour! by Maisie, Meriam and Anna K (Year 7)



Image taken from: https://fabukmagazine.com/taylor-swift-theeras-tour-uk-europe-dates-announced/

The Eras Tour is a celebration of all of Taylor Swift's albums throughout the 17 years of her career. She picks out the best hits and performs them live. Importantly, these tours are a form of her compensation for when the pandemic hit, and she couldn't perform her music for her fans in 2019.

So far, the Eras Tour has had an amazing 146 shows, beating records. The whole tour earned a total of 2 billion dollars so far! And it's not surprising because Taylor Swift has been popular since 2008 when her album 'Fearless' came out.

Every show has an average audience of 72,000 people. She performs 44 different songs from 9 of her studio albums and 2 surprise acoustic songs. The tours are usually very loud and extreme. Some audiences caused an earthquake of 2.3 magnitude! Sometimes there are errors during the tour; people collect and compile these and call it 'The Errors Tour,' in celebration of her being human and showing us that it's okay to make mistakes.

Taylor Swift has some of the biggest hits in the world, her biggest ones being;

- I Don't Wanna Live Forever (featuring Zayn),
- Shake It Off,
- You Belong With Me,
- Blank Space,
- Love Story.

Interestingly, the Taylor Swift Eras Tour is one of the most controversial pop culture conversations in the world. Obviously, if you were lucky enough to get tickets you are on the side of it being the best thing that has happened in her 17 year career. But for many others who did not get the tickets even with the sale, you may think it is a bit unfair that they were all sold out before anybody could even look for them!

But why is this tour different from all the others? Well, this tour is different because it shows all the different parts of her career and spotlights them. And you may be thinking, well, if it's so good why are so many people complaining? There are a number of reasons: first, going back to the start with all the tickets seemed like they all just disappeared in the quick snap of a few seconds! It's also important to consider the typical size of a concert: regardless of size, it's usually quite loud. But with 9000 people in the audience – and that's just in the UK concerts – there have been reports of noise complaints, especially if you live near the concert venues.

The albums she sings from include: Fearless, Speak Now, Red, 1989, reputation, Lover, folklore, evermore, Midnights. 'Fearless' has its own little signature move; a little heart that Taylor Swift makes which the audience mirror back to her. 'Speak Now (Taylor's Version)' was announced on 5th May 2023 and '1989 (Taylor's Version)' was announced on the 8th of September. A lot of personal events have happened too, during the concerts, including people proposing to their significant others during key ballads, especially the hit 'Love Story'.

After months of high demand for international dates, Taylor's famous concert 'The Eras Tour' is coming to South America, Asia, Europe and Australia! Even more excitingly, she'll be visiting us here, in Wembley Stadium. Here are some of the upcoming dates to look forward to:

Local concerts:

Wembley Stadium - Friday 21st June 2024
Wembley Stadium - Saturday 22nd June 2024
Wembley Stadium - Sunday 23rd June 2024
Wembley Stadium - Thursday 15th August 2024
Wembley Stadium - Friday 16th August 2024
Wembley Stadium - Saturday 17th August 2024

Although tickets are no longer on sale, there was a pre-sale during July - almost like the spare tickets have been thrown in the bin! However, you can still watch the concerts on the internet such as lives on TikTok and Youtube. You can also stand outside the stadium to sing along with the crowd inside! More recently, an official recording has been made of one of her concerts that can now be viewed in cinemas.

Book Recommendations

Here are some book recommendations if you are looking for something to read! by Emma (Year 7)

My first book recommendation is *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman. This is a heartwarming graphic novel, and is a beautiful representation of the LGBTQIA+ community. The art is amazing and needs to be appreciated. The age rating is 12+. As well as being a great book, it covers some serious topics like mental health problems and eating disorders. I really recommend it for anyone 12 and over. I love this book, and I would give it a 5 out of 5 rating.

FIRST EDITION

Heartstopper has also been made into a Netflix series that you can also appreciate after reading the series!

My second recommendation is a book called Jamie by L.D. Lapinski. It's another LGBTQIA+ story about a non-binary child called Jamie. Jamie and their friends are in year 6, choosing high schools. But the only ones near them are a girl's school and a boy's school. Jamie wants to change this. Read the book to find out more! This book also earns a 5 out of 5 rating. Like *Heartstopper*, it also provides readers loads of information about the LGBTQIA+ community.

Thirdly, the Warriors series by Erin Hunter is a collection of adventure books with cats and many clans. The series features many mysteries and thrilling excitement. It is also quite graphic at times - perfect for gore-lovers!

Another excellent book series is called Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston. It's an amazing fantasy story about a girl called Amari, whose brother has disappeared long since and she is now finding out why... She ends up at a magical



https://www.rottentomatoes.com/tv/heartstopper/s01

school, and everyone is at assembly finding out their magical powers, until things start to turn sinister. It then turns into an adventurous mystery story as she uncovers secrets about her world. Its sequel is Amari and the Great Game, and the book is soon going to be made into a film.

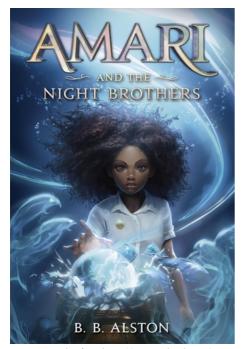


Image taken from: https://www.goodreads.com/ book/show/53240817-amari-and-the-night-brothers

My next book recommendation is a murder mystery called *Murder Most Unladylike* by Robin Stevens. It is about an allgirl's school where murders keep happening. There are many books in this series, and they have a friend group of girls trying to figure out why the murders are happening. There are 10 books in the series, so if you do find you're enjoying them you're in luck! It's ideal for Year 7 students and up.

My final book recommendation is *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman! It's a great children's horror and dark fantasy book, and it has a great storyline. Whilst the story in the novel is great, there is also a beautiful stop-motion movie and graphic novel version that must be experienced. Either way you read the story, it is definitely a must-do experience for all secondary students.

I hope this list of book recommendations has been useful and you'll now feel inspired to pick up a book or check one out from the LRC. It's all about finding the right book and immersing yourself in the world it creates!





Dear Agony Aunt,

I'm feeling a lot of pressure from my parents to do well at school. Whenever I don't get top of the class in a test, or at least 95% correct, they ground me or just give me a disappointed look and say that that is a bad mark.

I've been okay with it until now, as I've always found tests very easy, and been top of the class. However, I've recently struggled with all this new information in high school, and I've been getting worse and worse grades. I literally haven't seen my phone for months. I don't know how to tell them about this, but I will crack under any more pressure. Imagine how it'll be like in my GCSEs!

Please help, Pressurised Perry



Dear Pressurised Perry,

My dad was like that too. However, I sat down with him, and told him that I feel really pressured by his constant remarks and high expectations. And actually, he told me that he just didn't want me to fall back, and he thought that even when I got good grades, if he acted really happy and was quite chill, I'd stop trying because I'd think I was already great. Talk with your parents, and tell them that you will always work hard, no matter what happens.

Best of wishes, Agony Aunt.

