

# THE RUISLIP EYE

*The latest news and updates from Ruislip High School*



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## **The LRC's Vending Machine for Books**

*Yes, you read it right, there is now a vending machine in the library and what is more exciting is that it is not a food vending machine it is a vending machine exclusively for books.*

*by Lorena (Year 9)*

Found right when you enter the LRC, the vending machine contains from your favourite the diary of the wimpy kid to the mystery of The Night Bus Hero. The machine will be updated every time a book is taken out.

Students won't be able to get books whenever they want from the machine. They will have to earn a golden coin, which should encourage them to want to earn it more - almost like a competition. For students to earn the golden coin, they will have to earn rewards from

assemblies or have the most reward wheels in their class for a period of time. As the year with our new vending machine evolves there will be many more opportunities to earn a book.

Even though you can keep the books that you earn, why not recycle them? For somebody else to enjoy the story! Why not take on the philosophy of the vending machine? 'A book is a gift you can open again and again'. You can do this by donating the book back to the LRC and letting someone else enjoy it too.

Get prepared to earn lots of rewards!

# From Halloween to Christmas and Everything in Between!

*Everything you need to know about this festive season, whilst we all struggle wading through the endless rain and beginning to put up the tree!*

by Tommy (Year 7)

Every year, lots of people around the world spend October decorating their houses with one-time-use plastics and try to spook their local communities. This year was no different to any other year.

In addition to trick-or-treating, Halloween movies have such a vibe! They have amazing autumnal atmosphere, spooky areas and creepy supernatural events. Some of the most iconic Halloween movies are Hocus Pocus, Labyrinth and Ghostbusters. Look at this list to find out more about these movies!

## **Halloween Movies to Watch:**

**Hocus Pocus (1993):** It's a film about three old haggard witches who become young through a magical potion and take over the town. 3 children try to stop the witches and succeed. What makes this film perfect for Halloween is that it starts a good theme for the festive months. I thought this film was fun and exciting to watch because the people (especially the witches) were hilarious because they are sarcastic and iconic.

**Labyrinth (1985)** - This is movie about a girl who has to go through a maze to save her brother from the goblin king. What makes



this film perfect for Halloween is that it gives an eerie atmosphere and gets your brain functioning to look for clues. I thought this film was amazing because it is a classic and has a good duration. The movie always has something going on and you can also watch it throughout the year.

**Ghostbusters (1984)** - A group of 4 men catch ghosts. In one film they catch a marshmallow man! What makes this film perfect for Halloween is that anyone who is sci-fi. I thought this film was fun because they try to get rid of ghosts.

Now it's time for the build up to Christmas!

It's finally time to put the tree up! After months of waiting for this good year to reach its end, it is finally time to put the decorations up. So, before you read this festive article, make some hot coco and relax.

At Christmas time, we spend time with family and open up our gifts. Then, one of the family members host a roast dinner. 'Santa Claus' gives presents to the children on the 'nice list'. Treats are made and we have a lovely time spending Christmas with our close friends and loved ones. School breaks up in December with a half day.

The iconic adverts are back: the adverts we all know and love like Kevin the Carrot of Aldi, Coca Cola and more. Excitingly, the Jingle Bell Ball this year is going to be held on the 9th December and the 10th 2023. Their sponsor is barclaycard, a banking agency that does bank cards and more. Over the weekend, people rapidly bought their tickets to listen to songs. The sales have already run out. Although, people could sell their Jingle Bell Ball cards online - so keep on the lookout, but beware of the dodgy websites!

# Happy Yule: All About the Oldest Winter Celebration



*Happy winter solstice! It's almost time for yuletide. It is the oldest winter celebration.*

*by Lucy and Emma (Year 7)*

Yuletide is celebrated from 21st of December to the 1st of January. This year, Yule is the day we leave school! Yule has celebrations for every day in the full the length of holiday, but we are in the northern hemisphere, so most of the celebrations are December 21-22. Many pagans (believers of Greek, Norse and Roman gods or any ancient gods) celebrate Yule by decorating their homes with red, gold and green decorations or candles and make an altar to honour the gods.

Traditional Yule was celebrated for years: it even dates back to the 5th century AD by Germanic pagans. Farmers would gather at the temples bringing ales, food items and livestock they would sacrifice. Rather gruesomely, they would splatter the blood of the sacrifices on their altars. They would

also make sacrifices and toasts to gods, often Odin, the Norse god of war and the dead.

Nowadays the traditions have become less gruesome, and wiccans and neo-pagans celebrate Yule. Wiccans are people who are part of the wicca religion. Wicca is a nature-based pagan religion formed in the 20th century. Wiccans worship nature, which is often personified as mother nature and father sky. Because they are polytheists - people who believe in multiple gods - they can have many different titles for their deities. Neo-paganism or modern paganism is a term for a religion that is influenced by pre-Christian beliefs and pre-modern people in Europe and adjacent areas of North Africa and the near east. Happy Yule for all those who celebrate!

# Government Calls for the Ban of this Beloved Dog Breed!

by Ethan (Year 8)

From 31st December 2023, it will be illegal to breed, sell, advertise, re-home, abandon or allow XL Bully Dogs to stray. This decision was made by the UK government due to the high volume of attacks caused by XL 'Bullies' in past years.

In order to own an XL Bully, you must own one before the ban takes effect, get insurance for your dog, pay the £94.20 fee for keeping it and apply for a certificate of exemption from the ban, as well as getting the dog microchipped. This ban will add the XL bully to the list of breeds in 'The Dangerous Dogs Act of 1991'.



This comes after 14 dog-related human deaths since 2021 and the shocking fact that 43% of all dog attacks are caused by or involve XL Bullies. It was only intensified by the terrible event that happened in March of 2023, when 2 dogs of this breed broke into a farm and killed 22 sheep before being shot by the farmer.

In conclusion, the XL Bulldog Terrier breed of dogs (colloquially known as the XL Bully) will be banned on 31st December this year due to the multitude of

attacks in recent years. What do you think about this new law? Is it unfair, or completely justified for the safety of human life?

## Book Review: The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

by Eleftheria (Year 8)

*The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* is a very emotional book. The story is set in 1942 Berlin, World War II. It follows a young German boy, Bruno, as he moves to a new house that is nowhere near as nice as his old one. His new house is in a desolate area next to a concentration camp. For him, the only thing that is interesting about "Out-With", as Bruno calls it, are the people that always wear a uniform of striped "pyjamas" and are separated from him by a long fence. Then, Bruno meets Shmuel, a boy of his age, who also wears the striped pyjamas. Through the lenses of their innocence, they struggle to realise what is actually happening. In an attempt to help Shmuel find his missing father, Bruno enters the concentration camp - which has devastating effects.

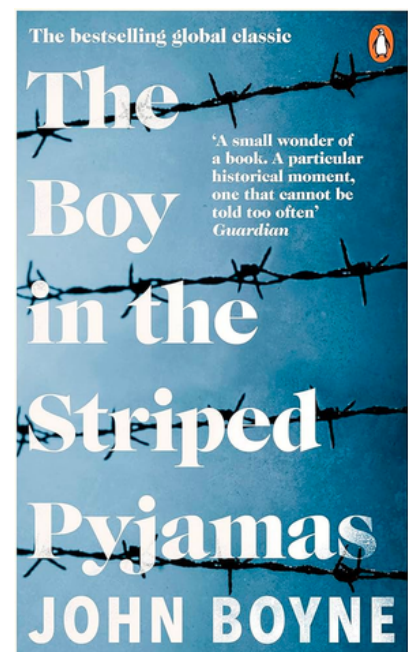


Image taken from: [https://m.media-amazon.com/images/I/81BxQEi6PPL\\_AC\\_UF1000,1000\\_QL80\\_.jpg](https://m.media-amazon.com/images/I/81BxQEi6PPL_AC_UF1000,1000_QL80_.jpg)

When I first read *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, I only had a limited understanding of what took place during the Holocaust. As I was reading the story through Bruno's eyes, I began to understand more about what the quote on the blurb meant: "What happens when innocence is confronted by monstrous evil?" I would recommend this book because it is relevant even in today's world, and a stark reminder of the horrors, cruelties, and the crash of innocence. This book is a must read for all older children and adults to help keep in mind the cruelties of wars, no matter how little or much we have been affected by war.

Additionally, although I prefer the book, there is a movie which could be preferable for people who struggle to read novels and would like a visual accompaniment after reading it!

# What's Happening to the Sea Turtles?

by Anna (Year 7)

Since 1970 to now, sea turtles have been endangered; the turtles have lost their own homes and have been left on the beaches.

A story about the massive change in sea turtles' lives was last year when a turtle was found washed up, dehydrated and a thousand miles away from her home on the beach of Lona in Scotland. She was taken in and looked after by SeaLife in Scarborough. Then she was released back into the ocean healthy and well, so it was a happy story at the end luckily!

But it showed the reality of what is really happening in their lives and how they are affected everyday. But what can you do to help? One way to start is you could stop using one use plastic or even participate in cleaning the local beaches.



Image taken from: <https://cdn.cnn.com/cnnnext/dam/assets/190705142851-baby-sea-turtles-2-super-169.jpg>



What is happening this year that makes it so important? This year, the population is decreasing by 16%, mostly from fishing. That means almost 5 out of 30 turtles don't make it. Other causes include global warming, poaching, destruction of their habitats and plastic in the waters. There are a lot of things the turtles are fighting and facing in this horrible time. Really, it's what we do and we could easily fix that.

There are some people who do try to help sea life and know how important it is to help; some even take donations to get more help. There are websites, charities and people who help, but also some people who are doing small acts that they might not even realise like using a reusable water bottle that can help with reducing our human impact on sea turtles.

# The Environment is in Grave Danger

by Shaunav (Year 7)

You must have all heard of the phrase “carbon emissions”. The meaning of the term is when we release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere by our human activity. Carbon dioxide - also known as CO<sub>2</sub> - warms up our atmosphere. As industry has evolved, our average temperature has been increasing at a faster rate every year. Due to this excess heat, eventually crops will start to dry and water will start to evaporate.

When the warmth reaches the north and the south pole, the water melts, spreading to the world. This causes major flood risks for cities near the rising sea levels.



At an individual level, we can do little things that together will make a huge difference.

- 1) Use Bus 11 (your legs!) to cover short distances.
- 2) Try to carpool, and use trains and buses more than cars.
- 3) Encourage people around you to decrease paper usage.

Ruislip High School should also look to partner with other schools in the area to work together to find sustainable solutions to environmental threats.

The biggest threat to humanity is the thought that somebody else will save our world. If everybody expects to do nothing, who will protect our planet's environment? I urge you to spread the message. If you have any ideas, you can tell it to your teachers and it will certainly be thought about. Inform your family, friends and your community about the climate disasters. Together, we can make a change.

# The Human Toolbox: Is War Ever Justifiable?

by Laylah (Year 10)



Imagine that human behaviours are what you find in a toolbox. The Screwdriver fastens things - it sets things into place. The Screwdriver is our sense of fairness: the one who talks of justice and peace for all. The Hammer is heavy; the Hammer is used to ‘fix’ something- but hit it too hard and everything shatters into compact fragments to be swept away and forgotten about. The Hammer represents war and our seemingly biological sense to distinguish and harm outsiders. Lastly, the Carpenter’s Pencil: this is used to draw out plans, to imagine a future project. The Carpenter’s Pencil is often overlooked but is fundamental to a successful product; this seemingly insignificant and negligible pencil is our idea of an ideal society.

We all know of this metaphorical toolbox; humans are able to use any of these three tools in order to find a solution to anything (or thereabouts). But why should we? Why should we have to find peace through war? it's impossible to find a nation of love and security, while simultaneously trashing those we don't recognise as 'us'; we cannot find love through hate.



Upon taking a closer look at our toolbox, The Hammer is the easiest tool to pick up and use: it does not require thought or precision, nor does it need evaluations of nuanced areas like The Screwdriver; instead, it simply pummels the enemy and renders them helpless. This is deemed as attractive to our minds - it's not supposed to be. War is not innate to humans: there is nothing that proves that war is something humans were meant to do. We have evolved from something calm and kind to something that seems physically trained to fight, but we have evolved mentally too. We have gone from peace to conflict. Friend to foe.

This is not to say that humans cannot create war. Obviously humans have the capacity to engage in warfare, but our brains have never been hardwired to identify and exterminate other human beings - this is something that has been conditioned and indoctrinated into us. After thousands upon thousands of years that humans have walked the earth, we have created war. From the ancient relics of the Roman Empire, to the seemingly forgotten medieval churches, and to the years of Nazi Germany and ongoing Syrian war, it is no

surprise that humans train, fight and die 'for their country' - for the sole reason of 'human nature'; that it's 'natural' to do so, that we almost must in order to create peace. A contradiction in itself.

We craft nature with two juxtaposing tools: on one the hand, 'human nature' is an excuse, a blame. Something that just makes humans... human. We can hurt people because our nature allows us to; we can rule over people unfairly because it's 'in our nature'. Is human nature inherently evil? Are we inherently evil? I do not believe so, because an awful lot of people use gentle, kind words and tools to describe the ever-flowing beauty and love that true human nature allows humans to possess. People know that human nature isn't something that allows humans to create organised armed conflict; they know that our 'nature' is the thing that allows humans to heal after the war is done, after the soldiers fall, after the political leaders reap the pride and psychologically twisted 'reward' of winning a war, while millions are left injured, traumatised: broken.

Human nature isn't something The Hammer can break. Nature is the flowing water that our sorrows drown in; nature is the breeze that seizes our hateful minds; and nature is the green meadow that will replace and replenish the hope we have left for the design of our future. For The Carpenter's Pencil.

It doesn't take a lot to realise this: we do not have to use The Hammer.



# Behind the Scenes of this Year's Winter Production: Little Women

by Ellie and Ethan (Year 8)

The drama team has been hard at work, working to bring us an amazing Christmas production of *Little Women* on Wednesday, 20th December. This article features interviews and a review from the auditions, and an interview with the cast.

Ellie and Ethan (Year 8) had the amazing opportunity of seeing the drama auditions. Everyone there was so friendly and were very enthusiastic and eager to help us with writing this article. When asking the auditionees who were the sisters in the play, they replied: "Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy". We managed to get a small comment from Ruby in Year 11, who told us that "Drama is amazing, because the teachers are great and it's all really fun. Choose drama as a GCSE! I'm doing drama, and I'm obsessed with it!" The auditions, once they started, were amazing! Everyone did very well; we were so impressed!



In interviews with the cast, we got some exclusive info on the actors' favourite roles, other plays and even some weird skills! When asked about alternative plays that the actors would enjoy being in, there were many interesting answers, including a Shakespearean version of *Star Wars* and *Hamlet* in the form of an episode of *Jeremy Kyle's* chat-show. How niche!

Many of the actors' favourite characters were Beth March because they liked her themes of love and forgiveness. Then, we asked them why they chose to audition for this; many actors said that they enjoyed acting in the previous year's production of *Macbeth* among other shows. Finally, we asked them why they think drama is important, and their answers included inspiring confidence and public speaking skills, as well as being able to be anyone they want to be on the stage, and as they say: "All the world's a stage!"

If you see any member of staff - Mr Randall, Ms Pennell, Miss Rickards and Miss Garner - or students who have worked hard to bring us this performance at the winter showcase, be sure to congratulate and thank them for their wonderful performance of *Little Women*.



# Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Asexual +

*What you need to know about pronouns and pride!*

By Lucy (she/her) and Emma (Year 7)

The LGBTQIA+ community has a vast amount of people, with different labels, pronouns and gender identities. But lots of people don't know much about this, so we are here to inform you and answer any questions you may have had.

## **The Acronym**

First let's discuss the acronym, LGBTQIA+. The first one is L, for Lesbian. Lesbians are non-men who are attracted to non-men. Non-men refers to a person who doesn't identify as a man. So, a woman will be attracted to only women, but a gender-neutral person can class themselves as lesbian too!

The second letter is G for Gay - probably the one everyone thinks of when they see LGBTQIA+. Gay is usually the word for a non-woman attracted to non-women.

The third letter is B, for Bisexual. Bisexuality is the attraction to 2 or more genders, most of the time man and woman. They can have preferences of which gender they like more or not but this doesn't make a bisexual person less Bisexual.

There are actually more sexualities that fall under the bi-umbrella, like Pansexual, Polysexual and Omnisexual. Pansexual means attraction to all genders, with no preference at all; this can be referred to as genderblind. Polysexual is the attraction to all genders except for specific ones. Omnisexual is the attraction to all genders, but with a preference for any gender/s they choose

Our next one is T, for Transgender. Transgender is when a person will transition from one gender to another. For example, a man could feel more comfortable as a woman and transition to that gender. Same applies with a woman. There are surgeries available for trans people to allow

them to feel more comfortable with their bodies. Another identity that falls under this umbrella is nonbinary, gender neutral and gender fluid. Non-binary people do not feel like they are male or female because they don't want to be trapped by genders binaries.

Q is for Queer. Queer is simply a person in the LGBTQIA+, someone who is not straight (only attracted to the opposite gender) or someone who is a different gender than their birth gender. Also under this category is Gender-Queer, which is any transgender identity that's not male or female.

The I is for Intersex. Intersex people have genitals, chromosomes or reproductive organs that don't fit into a male/female sex binary. They might seem feminine on the outside, but have male genitals. This can be identified at birth, adulthood or later on.

The last one is A. The A is for Asexual, but also for Aromantic, Aroace or Allies. Asexual means no sexual attraction to any gender. They can still have romance in their life but feel sexually attracted to people or desire sexual relations with another person. Aromantic is a bit of sexual attraction. Aroace is a mix of both, so little to no sexual or romantic attraction.

The + is to symbolise all the other gender identities or sexualities, because there are way too many to put in one acronym. However, it is always important to remember to respect someone's identity and how they identify themselves, and ask for someone's preferred pronouns if you're unsure. We hope this article helped clarify some of the terms so that you feel more informed about LGBTQIA+.



Image taken from: <https://images.immediate.co.uk/production/volatile/sites/3/2023/11/1m-a-Celeb-2-2edcb6b.jpg?quality=90&resize=980,654>

# “I’m a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!” is Back!

by Tommy (Year 7)

‘I’m a Celeb’ - one of Britain’s favourite survival challenge series - has returned this year. For those of you who aren’t die-hard fans, you may be familiar with Total Drama Island, a TV show that came out in 2007 about campers trying to win extreme challenges involving life-threatening situations. If you survived, you would win a million dollars (or for us, pounds!). They have different seasons in different places across the globe. Our British-equivalent is ‘I’m a Celebrity’, although Ant and Dec aren’t as cruel as Chris Mclean!

For those of you keeping up with the show, you’ll know that two new ‘I’m a Celeb’ stars have entered the jungle: Tony Bellew and Frankie Dettori. The show involved teams for a few days, and the winning team would get a nice breakfast. The home team were in a nice area in the normal place in the jungle and the away team were in a not-so-great place in the jungle, to put it kindly. The home team won the breakfast due to winning the most points in their challenges. I wonder who will be the King or Queen of the Jungle? Well, that answer will not be revealed yet as we do not know. We will have to watch to find out...

This year’s cast includes a range of exciting celebrities:

- Jamie-Lynn Spears - singer and songwriter, sister of pop-icon Britney Spears
- Sam Thompson - ‘Made in Chelsea’ star and podcaster
- Josie Gibson - ‘This Morning’ presenter
- Fred Sirieix - TV presenter
- Nella Rose - TikTok and YouTube influencer
- Nigel Farage - former MP
- Grace Dent - food critic
- Marvin Humes - JLS singer and TV personality
- Tony Bellew - former professional boxer
- Nick Pickard - ‘Hollyoaks’ star
- Frankie Dettori - Italian horse-racing jockey based in England

# Calling all Doctor Who Fans!

The latest season of Doctor Who is here! Here's all you need to know.

by Joshua (Year 7), Ethan and Eleftheria (Year 8)



Calling all Doctor Who fans: the new Doctor Who series featuring David Tennant is here! However, this time, he is not the doctor - it is Ncuti Gatwa (pronounced: SHOO-ti GAT-wa). This will be its 15th season, since the programme first aired on 23rd November 1963! This season marks 60 years since its first episode - starring Doctor William Hartnell (first to ever enter the TARDIS!).

This season involves many twists and turns! The Doctor even becomes the president of the Time Lords, and the Sontarans return. The show describes their brief, but terrible rule over the Time Lords' home.



Unfortunately, David Tennant will only be in three special episodes. The tenth Doctor, David Tennant, has been in 3 total series and special episodes. However, we're sure it will still be amazing! The New Doctor - Ncuti Gatwa - is a Rwandan-Scottish actor who began, as many actors did, on a small stage in the Scottish city of Dundee. He's so good - he even won an award for his role as Mercutio in a 2014 production of Romeo and Juliet. You may have also seen him in the Barbie movie last summer. Keep an eye out for him - he's a real talent.

Images taken from: <https://www.radiotimes.com/tv/sci-fi/doctor-who-ncuti-gatwa-second-season-episodes-newsupdate/>



by Christopher (Year 7)



Dear Agony Aunt,

*I have been struggling with the stress of high school - especially bringing all my equipment from home. In primary school, I never really had to bring a lot in - and if I forgot something, nothing would really happen. However, now, I constantly worry that I won't have my calculator, or my PE socks will have fallen out of my bag on the way to school. I'm getting constant anxiety and panic attacks, and I can't focus on anything until the problem is resolved. I need some way to calm down, and to not get so worried over little things.*

Thank you,  
Worried William



Dear Worried William,

I completely understand what you're talking about. I often worry about such things, and get very panicked and worked up. I have found that in such scenarios, I need to take a minute, stop, and say/think about what is worrying me - helping me to think logically. I admit that this can be hard to do, but talking to someone really can help! Even if that someone is yourself. Of course, it's better to speak to someone with more experience with things like these. Additionally, I do something called the "Triple Check." Firstly, I put some things I need in some very easily accessible areas. Then, I check my bags to make sure I have everything that I need. Finally, as I'm leaving, I check those easily accessible areas - for example, I carry my calculator in my inside-left pocket.

I hope these tips help you, and please don't feel afraid to talk to someone -they will help you.

Best of luck,  
Agony Aunt.



To anyone reading feeling stressed and/or anxious, and to those who don't know who to talk to, many people are here for you. The school has an amazing safeguarding program and team, who will always be available whenever you need them. However, all teachers in Ruislip High School have safeguarding training and will know what to do or who to direct you to if you feel more comfortable talking to them.