



The W.A.T.C.H. Word

Editor: Philia Sanoj

Sports Correspondent: Alice Fuller
Media Correspondent: Joe Cox

XI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum
Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart



CHOSEN HILL REMEMBERS THE FALLEN

We sent Joe Cox to the side lines of Chosen Hill's Remembrance Parade.

On the Tuesday 11th November, in memory of those who sacrificed their lives for our safety, Chosen Hill held it's annual Armistice Parade.

The parade marks a special moment every year, where the school, as a community, stands still, in memory of all those who lost their lives fighting for our country.

Over fifteen students waited, in uniform, patiently for the parade to begin. Cadet groups from the Army, Marines, Air Force, Scouts and Guides marched in unison, poppies gleaming on their every uniform. Acting Headteacher, Mr Bardgett, delivered a moving speech. He thanked those who weren't there on earth, and the expressed the immense pride of the country in what these people had done. The cadets, standing full attention, listened intently and respectfully.



It was then our two-minute silence. We had, in previous assemblies, been encouraged that there was no right or wrong thing to reflect on during this time. For me, it was a time to think about who made the ultimate sacrifice. Who fell and never got up.

After the two minutes of silence, dignitaries from many branches of the military, as well as Mr Bardgett and Year 11 student Ruby Dix, lay their wreaths before the Chosen Hill flag poles. Even the birds seemed to pause in their singing, as if they knew that this was an important occasion.

Year 7 Student Hiranyamayi Dobariya read her competition-winning poem for those gathered and, as emotions ran high, we were reminded that, no matter how long may pass, those who have fallen will never be forgotten. As Hiranyamayi observed:

"We will remember - not in tears,
But in the hope they gave through years.
For even through our grief and pain,
The poppies grow- and peace remains"



138'796 Points



137'136 Points



141'963 Points



149'326 Points

House-point update

Well done, Whittle! You've taken an early lead!

But with the other houses not too far behind, can they hold on?



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HOUSE MUSIC

Alice Fuller went behind the scenes at this year's House Music Competition. With thousands of house points up for grabs, the competition this year was hotter than ever!

House Music 2025. What a day! It was bigger and better than ever before. All houses raring to go, and Masefield ready to defend their title. Would they beat all odds and win back-to-back?

The day started with Carne putting on "the greatest show". Their theme was the Grammys, so many stand-out songs that everyone knows. They started bursting through the doors to the main school hall and having the house choir sing The Greatest Show from The Greatest Showman. Carne house lead's announced their next act - Who would the Grammy go to? We were all filled with anticipation. 'And the Grammy goes to... Sapphire and Fabian singing Price Tag by Jessie J'. This was by far the best performance throughout Carne's piece. Sapphire's voice projected her sweet harmonies through the hall and projected her emotions to the audience, Fabian's rap showed how much he cared about winning house music. Making this the most enjoyable performance.

We then moved on (or down should I say) to Masefield as their theme was Heaven vs Hell! The house choir started with their very own rendition of 'Welcome to the Jungle' or Underworld as they sung. The absolute best performance of the day came from (the angel) Matthew singing Angels by Robbie Williams. His emotions and passion reverberated of the walls making it clear to the audience that he was all in.

After break Scott came on and 'blue' us all away. With their theme of 'Record Breakers', it's no wonder that we could not help but fall in love with them! Their house choir certainly brought out the hits with Mama Mia, and I Can't Help Falling in Love. Ethan on the drums playing smooth criminal BLINDFOLDED and with ONE HAND was legendary. Easily one of the best performances from Scott. They looked like real rock stars. Scott was clearly giving their all, but was it enough to secure the win?

Our final performance of the day was home to Whittle. With their theme Best of Britain they were a strong contender. Their house choir singing Valerie was the best Choir performance of the day not only was it a great song choice, but they had power in numbers. Their sixth form house open was astonishing the best of the competition. They clearly, desperately want to be crowned house champions.

With the competition performances over there was nothing to do but wait as the judge mulled over his decision.



And... the winner was... WHITTLE! The underdogs nobody thought they would win but they proved them wrong. They really spiced up the competition then took it for themselves. We already can't wait for next year and to see who wins. Will Whittle defend their newly earned title, or will another come and snatch it up for themselves?

Whatever happens, you can be sure that The WATCH Word will be following, every step of the way!



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CHOSEN HILL SPORTS PAGE

CHOSEN HILL NAILS NOVEMBER

By Emily Prentis-Hart



It's been quite a busy month for our sports teams, with multiple games and matches having gone ahead, despite the plummeting temperatures!

We start things off with the U14 County Netball Tournament, where our team played brilliantly. Everyone worked hard, and it was great to see how much confidence and teamwork they showed throughout these incredibly tough games.

Later in the month, our Year 10 Rugby team made their way into the next round of the National Cup with an incredible 53–5 win. The whole team played with so much energy from start to finish, a well-deserved victory.

Our Year 8 rugby team also had a strong performance, winning their latest training match 7–4. They showed great teamwork and some really impressive plays to secure the win.

In girls' football, both the Year 7 and Year 8 teams had great games, coming away with a win and a draw. They played with loads of determination and didn't let the cold weather get in their way.

Finally our Year 7 netball team took on Henley Bank. They made the school proud, playing with maximum effort, resulting in a brilliant performance all round.

December Announcements

- The House Christmas Tree decorating competition kicks off on December 1st! Don't forget to go along and help your House score points!
- Thursday 4th December is Chosen Hill's Evening of Dance, 5pm - 9pm. Go along and witness to our awesome students showcase their amazing abilities.
- The You are Awesome Christmas Fare takes place on Tuesday 9th December at Lunch time and P5. Bring cash to partake in the festivities!
- Year 7 have a Disco on Monday the 15th December, 6pm - 8 pm in the MSH.
- Chosen Hill's annual Come as You Like day takes place on Friday 19th December, so don't forget to get those costumes organised!





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THE VI FORM FORUM

VI FORM'S ICE-BREAKER EVENT

Our resident columnist, Sophie Sysum, takes us inside the highly anticipated Icebreaker Event. What's it about? Why do they do it? What's the point? Read on to find out!



The Icebreaker. The event in the sixth form calendar that, along with Vale Ball, everyone loves. This event is to allow the sixth formers to get to know each other as we now have mixed tutor groups which we never had lower down the school. Like the name suggests, the icebreaker helps the new Year 12s and Year 13s break the ice of new friendships and grow more comfortable with one another. We do share tutor groups after all.

Now there was a lot of hype and excitement surrounding this social event. Before going into it I really didn't know what to expect though I knew it was going to be a fun night. I mean, how do you plan for an event you've never been to? I had made sure that I'd readied my outfit before school, so I knew exactly what I was wearing when I got home. I did my makeup, curled my hair, checking everything was perfect. I'd definitely recommend getting a lift with your friends! It's a great way to get into the party spirit!

Our names were checked when we entered the club which I had never experience before and made it seem very official. Music was already blasting from the amazing DJ at the corner of the dance floor as everyone piled in. This was overwhelming at first as it was a very new experience for me but soon it felt more welcoming.

All night, people were out on the dance floor, having fun together, doing the cha cha slide and YMCA. It can get a bit much at times so don't forget to use the outside area to cool off if you need to. Even the mirrors steamed up which showed how many people were packed into the club.

This was an extremely fun event to be a part of and something that I'm really looking forward too next year. It definitely helped me feel more comfortable with the Year 13s and made Sixth Form feel more like a community.





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VI Form Film Studies Crush CineYouth

A cold, but bright, November day saw a contingent of Chosen Hill VI Form Film-Studies students descend on the University of Gloucestershire's Park Campus, to get up close and personal with some of the nations up and coming Short film makers.

Run by the Cheltenham International Film Festival Ltd, CineYouth is the festival's attempt to get more young people into film. Students from several schools, colleges and the university itself were treated to a showing of 8 short films, broken down into groups of four, with question and answer sessions commencing with the makers of the films that were shown.

Of the eight directors in attendance, students seemed to think several stood out. The first was Susan Wokoma, who has been named a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit. Her film, *Dark Skin Bruises Different* seemed to hit home with many of our students, who in response asked some intuitive questions about her creative process.



Another was Anna Pavlova-Garshyna. Coming from the battle zone of Kharkiv, Ukraine, Anna's personal experience was a revelation for the young people there. Her short film, *Drift*, along with personal testimony to the hardships of filming in, what has now become, a warzone had a serious significance to what is happening in Ukraine today.

John Morrish, MC and co-organiser of the event, seemed particularly happy with the proceedings. "I thought it was resoundingly successful," he said. "Everyone responded brilliantly"



After the main screenings and some intuitive questions posed by our VI Form Students, There was a chance to network and mingle with the industry professionals.

"If there is one thing I hope the young people took away," said John Morrish, "it's this: *film is not that hard!* You just have to really want to do it, have unstoppable self-confidence, and be prepared to persist."





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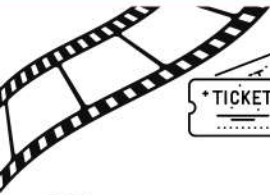
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Media Corner



Game of the Month



Parkitect

Will you enjoy building your dream amusement park? Then Parkitect is the perfect game for that! The thrill of a roller-coaster... it's unbeatable. However, there's always the problem of them being out of reach. That's why I like playing games that let me have that theme park fun.

This game is a cute theme-park builder full of creative possibilities. You can build whatever you can fit into a theme park! Wanna build a haunted house, or a chilled out cozy room for weary quests? It's all in your hands! However, the main objective is to build the best theme park ever. You also have to manage all your financial problems that come with running a fully operational park.

I think this is a calming game that relaxes me, but also makes me strategise on how to maximise profits. In my opinion, it gives you so much creative liberty to explore and have fun. My favourite bit is the roller coasters. They have so many options on what to place, and where. You can create many fun curves, barrel rolls and loops. I also personally enjoy the cute, chibi art style.

If you love building roller coasters, you'll totally enjoy this game!



Book of the Month



By Alice Fuller

The Great Gatsby

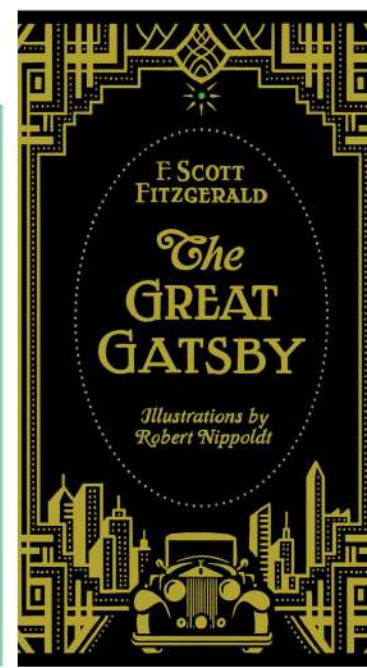
F. Scott Fitzgerald

This great American novel has been a classic on our book shelves since its publication in 1925 and is one of my personal favourites.

This novel sits at just 9 chapters and follows the story of Mr Nick Caraway and is set in a time of American economic high. Mr Caraway moves to the rather luxurious area of West Egg - a lavish area where only the richest live. Nick meets our title character Gatsby at one of Gatsby's luxurious parties unaware of the romance with Nick's cousin that once blossomed and may be sprouting new leaves. Will Gatsby win back Daisy and save her from her cheating husband Or will he fail?

Read the book and let us know.

I give this book 5 stars for its themes of romance and the drama running throughout. Let us know what you think?





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Show of the Month



By Emily Prentis-Hart

Blood Brothers

Blood Brothers, written by Willy Russell, is a really emotional and dramatic musical that follows the lives of twin brothers, Mickey and Edward, who are separated at birth and grow up in completely different lives. One is raised in a poor, lower class family and the other in an affluent, middle class one. They are unaware of their true connection but fate brings them together and they form a strong bond, calling themselves 'blood brothers' without realising they actually are. Their innocent friendship as kids makes the story even more intense when we realise how different their futures will be.

The story is really powerful because it shows how class and money can dramatically change a person's life. Our character's friendship starts to change as they get older, we see how their surroundings influence their choices and bring them apart, but in the end their paths always end up crossing, reminding us how strong their connection is. The narrator is always there and reminds the audience that something bad is going to happen and guiding us through the journey.

The songs are memorable, especially "Marilyn Monroe", which keeps coming back throughout the story but sounds more serious each time sung. The final song, "Tell Me It's Not True," is really heart-breaking and made the ending even more emotional and powerful.

Overall I loved this musical because of the way it makes you think and connect with the characters emotionally. It's an unforgettable experience filled with emotion and drama. I rate it five stars but you should definitely bring tissues.

NOW BOOKING INTO ITS
20TH PHENOMENAL YEAR

WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD
Brothers



BEST MUSICAL
ALL MAJOR AWARDS

PHOENIX THEATRE

The WATCH Word Writing Competition - Update

Friday 21st November saw another Watch Word Writing competition come to a close. As a team we were blown away by the volume of responses that we received. It was lovely to see someone from every lower school year group get involved.

And now the real work begins. Not only are the team hard at work creating December's Newspaper, but they now face the somewhat daunting task of judging this year's entries. It'll take some time, but it will be worth it we're sure.

Once we've made contact with the entrants, we will announce the results of the competition through the Student Bulletins. We will also be publishing the top six articles in December's paper so that you can see just how high the standard this year was! Keep your eyes peeled, and watch out for our Rookie Reporters making a debut in January!





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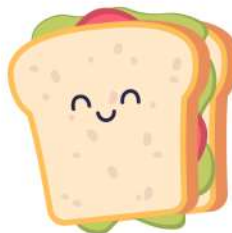


Ask the Department



We asked one of the awesome P.E. department one simple question. You won't believe their responses!

"Chicken, pesto,
mozzarella,
tomatoes. 10/10"
- Miss Miller



"Brie, Bacon, Chilli
Jam"
- Mr Pettifer

This month we asked:

"In honour of national
sandwich day on the
4th: what is the best way
to fill a sandwich?"

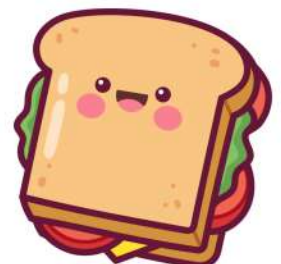


"Marmite and
Cucumber"
- Miss Kay

"Chicken, Bacon
and Mayonnaise 🍳"
- Mr Rees

"Chicken Mayo,
Bacon, Avocado
and Lettuce 😊"
- Mr Piper

"Chicken and
Bacon"
- Mr Webb





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Meet the Teacher: Mr Blake

1. What is your role in school?

Drama teacher, plus a little bit of Music, Wellness and sharing a couple of sixth form LM groups.

2. What do you enjoy doing at the weekends?

Spending time with my wife and kids, watching football, leading worship at church, getting a takeaway and going to the cinema. I like being creative too - writing songs, poems or making a collage.

3. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Maybe Ethiopia to meet a girl that I sponsor through the charity 'Compassion', which might also present the opportunity to hop over to Tanzania and climb Kilimanjaro.

4. If you didn't work in a school, what job would you want to do outside of your subject and why?

Maybe something like conservation or photography - getting to be in amongst nature alongside animals would be pretty wild. Or working with the England men's football team, to see them finally bring a trophy home!

5. If you could ask any celebrity to dinner, who would it be and why?

Jesus, Saviour of the world - that would be an uplifting chat!

Steve Irwin, 'Crocodile Hunter' and childhood hero - he'd have some fun stories.

Mr Blobby, 90s TV character - just for the chaos, especially in a restaurant.

6. What item on your bucket list are you most looking forward to doing and why?

I don't know. While predictable stuff like skydiving sounds fun, it's probably family moments: seeing my kids grow up, walking my daughter down the aisle at her wedding, holding my grandchild for the first time...

7. If you were stuck on a desert island, what book, film, song and food would you want to be stuck with and why?

The Bible - it can be different every time I read it and I need to read it more. .

Film - 'The Lord of the Rings' trilogy is immense and hit me as a teenager with a sense of awe I wasn't ready for.

Food might be my toughest category; it'd probably be a showdown between a roast dinner swimming in gravy or a burger - whichever would cope better in sand.

8. If you were a kid again for a day what would you do and why?

Have a massive sleepover. That kind of escapism was so exciting - just hanging out, eating, gaming, playing, laughing. It was like everything else disappeared for a while.

9. Did you do any other jobs before becoming a teacher, if so what was it?

Straight out of uni I knew I didn't want to be in an office, so I worked in a kitchen to help pay for my wedding (plus, I love food). Then I worked in a care home for adults with learning disabilities, which was eye-opening. I think that's what led me to consider teaching, even though I'd previously said out loud, "I would never be a teacher!"

10. What is your favourite thing about teaching and why?

Actually, I struggled at school, so the chance to help somebody in a similar position is compelling. Getting to see young people's creativity and confidence grow is amazing.

