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Dino bones found under new Pitch!



by Alice Fuller

As you may have seen or heard Chosen Hill are installing a brand new artificial pitch. Now something very exciting has come to our attention while building the pitch. A paleontological wonder. A dinosaur skeleton found under our very own school field. Would you believe it?!

The discovery was made within a few weeks of construction beginning and was kept quiet until palaeontologists had discovered what type of dinosaur it was a Megalosaurus (from the middle Jurassic period) which happened to be native and many have been found in the area around quarries.

Why would a dinosaur fossil even be anywhere near Chosen Hill? Well I'll tell you many local historians have said that this area of Gloucestershire and in particular Churchdown was rich in prehistoric history and many fossils are thought to be underneath car parks and homes throughout the county. I guess you really could say Churchdown was its very own Jurassic Park.

This discovery has come as a shock to many and has made construction halt on the new pitch as many more bones could be found. The history department seem to



be very happy with this discovery as local history can help inspire a new generation however, the PE department don't seem to be thrilled with this as they would very much like to have their new pitch ready sooner rather than later.

Now I'm sure you have heard absolutely nothing about this discovery for it being as big as I'm sure is coming across. That's because it simply isn't true. The month is April so you know what that means... APRIL FOOLS! There have been no discoveries under the new 3G pitch at this moment but we here at the W.A.T.C.H Word are always look with our trowels and magnifying glasses to make sure we don't miss a story. Now with this I hope that we didn't cause too much excitement however a good price of news is that Gloucestershire was actually quiet a Jurassic World back in its day as it was home to over 100 native species.

Hope we didn't get you too much!



239,388
Points



228,388
Points



233,940
Points



249,299
Points

Final House Standings

Gosh, what a year its been! Whilst whittle have secured their win, it was an intense battle for second place, with Carne only just beating out Scott to clinch the silver medal.

Let's hope next year's competition is just as tight!



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THE VI FORM FORUM

I'M ON THE ROAD!



Oh my goodness! Sophie's driving!! With many of our older sixthformers taking to the roads we thought we'd get our resident Year 12 to give us the inside scoop on what learning to drive is really like.

Learning how to drive is something that most people look forward to when moving into Sixth Form. At least, it was one of the things that I was looking forward to. However that doesn't mean that its not a daunting experience. Currently, I'm learning to drive, practicing ready for my test. I've also, recently, purchased my first car. So I figured that, this month, I might explore what driving means for our sixthform.

I had my first lesson on my birthday, which was very fun and allowed me to jump straight into it. I was quite nervous as driving is a very big responsibility and can be dangerous if not done right but my driving instructor was very reassuring and was always prepared to use the dual control in the car if needed. This put my mind at ease knowing that my instructor could help me if needed.

I was advised by my instructor to book my theory test as soon as I had my provisional licenses and try to have it as close to my 17th birthday as possible. Mine ended up being 7 days after my birthday. This was very helpful and I would recommend doing this to anyone, mainly because you can't book a practical driving test until you have passed your theory test, so it makes the process smoother. The theory test is, whilst tricky, not impossible. There are plenty of resources out there to help you study for it. In fact, there's even a couple of apps which coach you through the whole process.

My practical test is not too far away, and I can't wait to drive. Being able to drive gives you a lot of independence and I think is one of the first real responsibilities young people have. Buying my first car gave me a sense of achievement as it was my first big purchase. I was most looking forward to decorating my new car and making it my own. its amazing what a difference an air freshener and cute decorations can make to such a small space!

Whilst there are certainly drawbacks (like the cost of everything) driving is an amazing skill that gives you a freedom unlike any I've expereincd yet. So roll on that practical test! This sixthformer is getting her wheels!





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April: Autism Awareness Month

By Josh Saunders



Autism is a term thrown around more frequently in the last decade, but what is it? Autism is not a disease or an illness; simply your brain does not work the same as another person. On average, 1 in 100 people are on the autistic spectrum, however this number could be much higher as having autism does not stop you from having a good life, and so people might not notice that they are on the spectrum themselves and therefore go unrecorded.

Autistic people experience a wide array of symptoms (as I made clear this is not a disease there is no magical “cure” only treatments to help individual) but they may include finding hard to communicate, hard to understand feelings or emotions, finding bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, getting anxious over social events or unfamiliar situations. You may also take longer to get something, or you do the same things repeatedly.

Nobody knows what causes it, and, at times, autism can be paired with other conditions like ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder) or dyslexia. Unhelpfully, our society is saturated with misinformation and unhelpful opinions on autism. But this is certain: it is not (and never will be) caused by “bad” parenting or what you eat or vacancies or paracetamol. Be careful what you read on social media. Amazingly, not all of it is true! And whilst we’re on the topic of unhelpful stereotypes:

no having autism does not guarantee you are not going to be incredibly smart. Of course there are examples, Satoshi Tairji developer of Pokémon, but it’s not the same for everyone and sometimes that assumption can be really damaging to the individual with Autism.

So what is there to be done? Well, put simply: nothing. As I’ve said before, people with autism don’t need a cure; they need compassion. The best way for us to help is to simply be open-minded, patient and welcoming to everyone so that, no matter where they are on the spectrum, they feel included and supported. In an age where fear is grappling with truth, the least we can do is be kind.



NOTICIES!

Dates for your diary in: MAY

What an essential month May is! With exams galore its easy to miss some of the other things happening. Luckilyly we’re here!

- Look at that! **Monday 4th May** is a **bank holiday!** Enjoy your lie-ins everyone!
- **The Chemistry Analytical challenge** kicks off our month on the **5th May**
- **Science Thinking competition** swiftly follows on the **7th May**
- On the same day, Our year 11's **GCSE Exams officially begin** on the **7th May**
- We say goodbye to our Year 13's in their **Leaver’s assembly**, taking place on the **8th May**
- The Broze Duke of Edinbrough teams have their Bronze Training expedition offer the Friday 8th & Saturday 9th May.
- Year 12 have their **parent’s evening** on the **11th May**
- Year 13s **A level Exams** also officially **begin** on the **11th May**
- The **Silver** Duke of Edinbrough teams have their **Assessed expedition** on the **15th May - 17th May!** Good luck guys!
- House Quiz Week & Fundraising takes place on the 18th May
- Our **Summer Concert** takes place on the **21st May**
- And our **final day of this term** is the **22nd May!** Enjoy your break everyone!!





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Chosen Hill Sports

By Emily Prentis-Hart

In April, there were some really good results across different teams, with lots of strong performances.

The First 11 football team had a great game, beating Churchdown 2–1 in a really competitive and close match. The team worked hard throughout and showed good determination to get the win, which they definitely deserved.

Well done to the Year 7 football team as well, who made it through to the District Cup final after beating Cotswold 5–3. It was a really exciting game, and the team played well together to secure their place in the final, which is a big achievement.

We also had fixtures hosted by St Peter's Sports, so thank you to them for having us. It was a good run out for both teams and a chance to gain more experience, even though the weather wasn't great and we had to play in a hailstorm. Good luck to everyone competing in the county finals next week.

Finally, a huge congratulations to the Year 9 rugby team, who became County Bowl champions with an amazing 45–0 win at Kingsholm. They played really well and should be proud of their performance.



House Gaming Competition!

By Joe Cox



House gaming this year was unique to say the least. Whilst it isn't our most popular event or the most cared about, in my heart this event is the most fun and laid-back house event, perfect for relaxing, with that edge of competitiveness. This event was a super casual, non-serious event where whichever house won, would move on to the final.

In the Mario Kart element of house gaming, each team had 2 people. The four tracks we raced were Mario circuit, Coconut Mall, DK Snowboard Crossing, and Wario's Goldmine. As one of the competitors myself and having a bountiful amount of expertise, I thought this race was going to be a piece of cake. To say my beliefs were mistaken is an understatement. I was taken aback to discover how challenging I found this and as a result Scott performed decent for half of the races but horrendous on the others. Me and my fellow racer tried our best... but to no avail. Carne came out on top represented by Favian Amos.



On the Fifa side, Masefield, represented by Toby Beachum, who won their game. Players had

to navigate the ancient FIFA 16, with many of the characters being retired. It was elimination style, so who ever lost was thrown out of the arena.



After a full week of gaming the results are in:

Coming in at 4th place we have Whittle

Bronze was claimed by Masefield,

Silver Claimed by Carne

Meaning that Scott claimed the title of this year's House Gaming Champions!

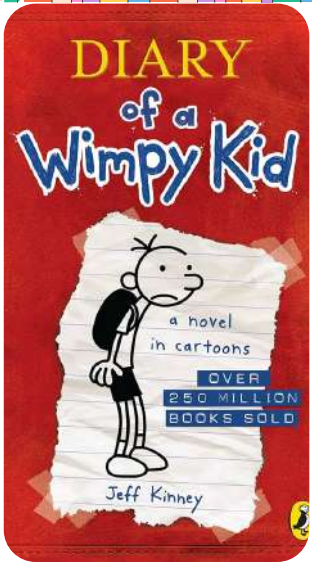
SCOTT, SCOTT, SCOTT!!!!



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Book of the Month



The Diary Of the Wimpy Kid

E. B. White

by Sophie Prentis-Hart

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series are some of the funniest books I've ever read. It's written by Jeff Kinney, and tells the story of Greg Heffley's life, a middle school student trying – and often failing – to become popular.

The style of this book is great, because of its unique blend of writing and cartoons makes them easy and quick to read whilst still being entertaining. I like how exaggerated Greg's life is, as well as the simple illustrations that accompany the events. They help show what is happening in the story. This makes the book feel more interesting than just lots of writing. Also, the diary style makes it feel like you are reading Greg's real thoughts, which is cool.

I love how all of the characters have completely different personalities and styles. Greg never really learns his lesson and repeats the same mistakes, which makes it funnier every time. Rowley's innocent and kind of clueless, but you can't help but chuckle at personality. On the other hand, on the other hand, Fregley is just chaos. His random comments and weird habits catch you off guard

making the series even more enjoyable.

Overall, I would rate this series five stars because they are fun and quick to read. I would recommend these books to anyone who wants a shorter read and wants a laugh.



History Corner



The London Marathon

By Joshua Saunders

The London Marathon is one of the biggest races in the world, and since 1981 it has raised over £1.3 billion for charity. What is the history of it? Who won the first race? All these questions, and more, I shall answer.

In 1981 Olympic steeplechase medallists Brasher and Disley are took inspiration from by the New York City Marathon to create it. Their aim was simple to showcase the best of London and bring people happiness and a strong sense of achievement. The first race captured imaginations and over 22,000 people applied. In the end 7,747 were accepted but who won?

American Dick Beardsley and Norwegian Inge Simonsen. In 1982 the course moved from Constitution Hill to Westminster Bridge and this race is significant because Joyce Smith became the first woman to win back-to-back London Titles. Notoriously, Joe Strummer of the punk band 'The Clash' raced after drinking 10 pints of beer! Whilst the course has remained the same the finish line was moved to the Mall in 1994.

In 1983 the First Wheelchair race was added. Guinness world record holds the London Marathon as the largest fundraising event globally raising over £360 million pounds a year. The fastest male runner was in 2023 with Kelvin Kiptum racing it in two hours and one minute and Paula Radcliffe for the women raced it in 2 hours and 15 minutes!



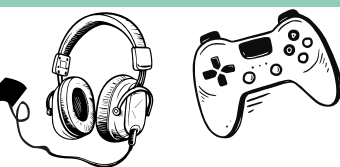


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Media Corner



Movie of the Month Rise of the Guardians

Ramsey, USA 2012

By Sophia Rowe

Rise of the guardians is a 2012 film based on William Joice's book series: *The Guardians of Childhood* and *The Man in the Moon*. The film's reviews remain very diverse with some viewers claiming it is 'dark' and 'mean spirited' while others thought otherwise and thought the focus on Santa Clause and protecting children's innocence was 'sweet' and 'A nice touch to the film'.

The main characters of the film consist of Jack frost, played by actor; Chris Pine, the tooth fairy played by actress; Isla Fisher, along with additional characters. On the whole, I enjoyed aspects of the film with the voice-overs being clear and easy to understand and the storyline being sweet and well thought through.

although, I will have to agree with the majority of reviews claiming that the movie is 'slightly bland'. I also think that the idea of bringing children's character's into the movie was magical as it added a sense of nostalgia and peacefulness to all ages who were watching. However, I was slightly confused as to why the 'Sand man' was needed amongst better-known character's like Santa, the Easter Bunny, Jack Frost and the Tooth Fairy.

Overall, I enjoyed the movie, with my overall rating being 4 ½ stars.



Video Game Highlight:

Mario Kart: World



By Oscar Vaughan

On the 5th of June 2025, the long-awaited Nintendo Switch 2 released, and with it, a new edition to the Mario Kart series. Enter Mario Kart World. With new 4K world support, Free Roam and a new type of race: Knockout Tour. 24 player races, 4 laps of madness. It's bound to get chaotic.

I had so much fun playing this, the enhanced graphics and 120fps made gameplay so much smoother and nicer to play. One downside to it, is that it only is supported on the new Switch 2, so if you don't want to be spending £400 on a console, on top of the £80 for the game, just do what I did! Steal my brother's (I do hope he isn't reading)! In the short period of time before my brother noticed, I noted down and rated some of the new mechanics of racing:

Wheel Grinding: A new and very important part of gaining a slight boost to secure that win! Simply find a way onto a rail or the side of a ramp and watch as your character balances itself! Verdict: AN ESSENTIAL!

Photo Mode: This isn't new, but instead of having to press the capture button, you can launch photo mode in-game and watch as the new filters enhance our capture! Verdict: Not really important, but a nice little touch.

I, personally, love the game; however, I think £80 is way overpriced! Thanks for reading!





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Ask the Department

We asked on of the *legendary Learning Assistants* one simple question. You won't believe their responses!

"Chocolate Hobnob!"
- Ms Staite

"it is a crime against biscuits to dunk them in tea!"
- Ms Viljanen



This month we asked:
What is the best biscuits to dunk into a cup of tea?

"Chocolate digestive. Soft biscuit and melted chocolate, what more do you need?"
- Ms Mallaburn

"Shortbread as they rarely break and absorb lots of tea"
- Ms Mayo



"Chocolate digestive. Can't get better than that!"
- Mr Wheeler

"Chocolate digestive: a perfect dunking biccyy. The edible coaster"
- Ms Mallaburn





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Meet the Teacher

1. What is your role in school?

I teach History and am an Assistant Headteacher. I also sometimes get asked to teach Sociology or Politics.

2. What do you enjoy doing at the weekends?

My favourite weekends are visiting my best friend in London. I also enjoy trips to the lido, yoga lessons and spending time with my family. I like to be busy.

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

This is a tough question as I have a long wish list. I have never been to South America, so maybe a trip to Argentina? I like the idea of visiting busy cities like Buenos Aires and seeing the beautiful landscapes and wildlife.

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

I would love to be a music journalist so that I get to see my favourite bands and musicians without paying.

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

I'd invite Madonna to dinner because she is a 'queen'. I'd ask her what inspires her to stay so motivated. She is 67 and is releasing a new album on July 3rd!

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

I don't have a bucket list, but I'd really like live in another country and challenge myself to live/work there. I think it would be scary, but I think it's good to be outside your comfort-zone sometimes.

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

I'd take along Saint Etienne's 'Nothing Can Stop Us Now' to listen to - it's a 90s dance track. Bags of crisps to eat (as I like to snack), the Muppet's Christmas Carol to watch and Donna Tartt's Secret History to read.

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

I'm not sure I want to be a kid again, but if I really have to I'd probably spend the day hanging out with my first pet cat.

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

I've done a fair few jobs - highlights include working in Gloucester Wetherspoons and a chip shop. I also lived in London and worked in journalism and marketing before becoming a teacher.

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

Teaching is never boring and you learn new things everyday. It is really rewarding to learn from students, colleagues and the topics we teach. I also like buying new stationery every September!



Mrs Hanwell



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Wild Wonders | Poetry Competition | Ideal For 4-18



Poetry competition for 4-18 year-olds

Celebrate the wonders of the natural world

From the loud roar of a lion to the soft flutter of a butterfly's wings, nature is full of amazing sights and sounds. *This is your pupils' chance to celebrate the wonders of our world and to share why it matters.*

Do they love the tall trees of the rainforest, or the gentle beauty of a field of wildflowers? Maybe they're fascinated by colourful coral reefs, or whales gliding through deep blue water. They can write about a favourite animal, the places they love outdoors, or how we can protect our environment for the future.

Encourage your pupils to look at the natural world around them and put their ideas down on paper. **Poems can be written in any style**, so pupils can explore techniques that inspire them - haiku or acrostic, free verse or riddles.

Download the entry form, or ask pupils to type up their poem. Then you can email, upload, or post entries to us. See the How to Enter tab for all the details.

Poems have the opportunity to be published in a special anthology, and our favourite entry will win a prize!

We can't wait to read your pupils' poems and see how they bring the natural world to life.

Closing Date: Friday 29th May 2026

