Chosen Hill School

Friday 30th January 2026

The W.A.T.C.H Word

Journalism Editor: Philia Sanoj
Lead Journalist: Alice Fuller
Journalist: Oscar Vaughn
VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Media Editor: Amalie White
Film Critic: Sophie Prentis-Hart
Games Expert: Lacey Cross
Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart
History Correspondent: Josh Saunders

Is AI truly good for Students?

By Alice Fuller: Lead Journalist

The world today is run by computers and AI. At the touch of a button, you can have all the knowledge in the world at your fingertips. However, is this always beneficial?

Well, many students use AI to simply solve questions. With 84% of school aged children and 92% of undergraduate students admitting to using AI to complete their home learning in the UK! Using artificial intelligence defeats the whole purpose of home learning. Home learning tests your ability of your new skills you learnt in class and to enrich your education. Using AI to complete your work is simply and utterly preposterous.

Although, AI can be useful in certain situations. For example, you need a stimulus for a piece of drama you are writing, or a history 16 marker that you want to compare your own version to. It's a great tool for enhancing your work and showing the true extent of what you're willing to go to, to make the most of your education. AI is great to get a starting point for an essay your writing; AI cannot take place for the whole of your writing though because you lose your voice. You can't give the same passion that would be shown throughout if you had written it yourself.

To be honest, I believe that AI has absolutely no place in education! It's the easy way out. You should be able to solve the problems set by your teacher on your own. If not, you must go back to your teacher and get the support you need to succeed. AI should not be your first port of call. If you can't write something or complete your homework you should attempt it first, then talk to your teacher or friends who maybe understood the content to get real human help and with social media in your pocket, reaching your peers is easier than ever!

House Points Standings

Carne	Masefield	Scott	Whittle
187,888 Points	185,888 Points	188,440 Points	201,799 Points

Whittle are holding on to their lead, but there are house competitions a-plenty coming your way in the new Year.

Can they hold on to their lead?

Chosen Hill School

Friday 30th January 2026

The W.A.T.C.H Word

Journalism Editor: Philia Sanoj
Lead Journalist: Alice Fuller
Journalist: Oscar Vaughn
VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Media Editor: Amalie White
Film Critic: Sophie Prentis-Hart
Games Expert: Lacey Cross
Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart
History Correspondent: Josh Saunders

THE VI FORM FORUM

SURVIVING MOCK EXAMS

Its the New Year, and we all know what that means! Last round of mock exams are just around the corner for Years 11, 12 and 13. So who better than our Sixth Form Correspondent, Sophie Sysum, to explore how to crush this vital period?

Mocks. Its one of the scariest words you can utter within the school corridors. As we return to school, the Year 13s are just settling down to a new mock exam season, and Year 11 are staring down their March mocks with a fair amount of anxiety. Now as someone who has been through GCSE's and the stress it entails, I have sure fire tips on how to cope with exam stress and ensure you don't just survive but thrive!

One of the first things that I found really helped was finding something that I really enjoyed that had nothing to do with school. For me this was colouring and reading. I hadn't really done much colouring in a long time but during exam season I did a lot and finished multiple pages. Allowing my brain to loose itself in the task meant that it recovered from the stress of revising; a massive relief after those long study sessions.

Another tip is to make sure you have a good sleep the night before an exam. I know that you might be stressed and feel like you need to cram last minute but honestly sleeping is probably better for you than doing panic revision. This is because it ensures that you are not tired and can smash that exam!

One thing that I also found helpful during long study days was taking small breaks in between like interleaving. Also, try to switch up the subjects you are doing as if you do the same subject for say 1-2 hours it can get boring, speaking from experience.

Now I wouldn't consider myself an expert on how to manage the stress of exams as I still find it hard from time to time but having been through theses experience like GCSE's and next Year A-levels I find I have some tips that I feel everyone should know.

Chosen Hill School

Friday 30th January 2026

The W.A.T.C.H Word

Journalism Editor: Philia Sanoj
Lead Journalist: Alice Fuller
Journalist: Oscar Vaughn
VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Media Editor: Amalie White
Film Critic: Sophie Prentis-Hart
Games Expert: Lacey Cross
Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart
History Correspondent: Josh Saunders

THE VI FORM FORUM

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Sophie Sysum sat down with two Year 11 students, Amelie White and Philia Sanoj, to get the latest reaction to Chosen Hill's Open Sixth Form Evening!

Philia Sanoj

Amelie White

After, the sixth form evening, I had the opportunity to sit down with Amelie and Philia who are Year 11's to get their opinion on the evening.

What subjects are you interesting in doing at A- level?
Philia : Chemistry, Biology and Maths as well as EPQ.
Amelie: Computer Science, PE, German and Gold DofE

What is something that you learnt about sixth form that you didn't know before the evening?
Philia: I didn't know that the tutor groups were mixed with Year 12's and 13's which is quite interesting.
Amelie: I didn't know that variety of different types of courses that each subject offered.

Did you go to the talk at the start of the evening? If you did, was it informative about life at chosen hill sixth form?
Philia: Yes. It did talk about what sixth form is like but not what it is like day to day but it was quite informative.
Amelie: I went as well. I thought it was quite informative and outlined chosen's core values but probably could have gone a bit more in dept in the sixth form area as opposed to school as a whole.

What did you think of the study areas available in sixth form?
Philia: I think they are nice and put more effort into the sixth form study area.
Amelie: I thought they were well equipped and a good use of the space, so Sixth Formers have that little bit of quiet and calmness among the school chaos.

What was one of the biggest selling points of the night?
Philia: Probably the variety of courses available and how the teachers interacted with the students selling their subjects.
Amelie: The opportunities you can have within sixth form like going up for leadership roles, sports day, and house music.

What are some sixth form events that you would like to be a part of?
Philia: Definitely house music! As well as different trips.
Amelie: Probably sports day and doing something like head student or house leaders.

Chosen Hill School

Friday 30th January 2026

The W.A.T.C.H Word

Journalism Editor: Philia Sanoj
Lead Journalist: Alice Fuller
Journalist: Oscar Vaughn
VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum
Media Editor: Amalie White
Film Critic: Sophie Prentis-Hart
Games Expert: Lacey Cross
Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart
History Correspondent: Josh Saunders

CHOSEN HILL SPORTS PAGE

Chosen Hill Sports

By Amelie White

Its been a quietly intense month for our sports men and women at Chosen Hill. Whilst there haven't been many sporting fixtures, the ones that have happened have been quite important. However, we'll get to that in a minute. Let's kick off with our outstanding numbers at sports clubs after school! We have had regular numbers of students attending both the boys football training sessions and badminton sessions which are available for students in lower Years. There are a large variety of clubs running within school with opportunities to learn and develop so get stuck in!

Another club that has started more recently is the running club led by Mr Care. The runners complete an average of 3 miles a week, from running our cross-country route, to running up the mighty Chosen Hill, known for being very steep, making it a more of a challenging run. Nevertheless, the students and Mr Care completed the run no matter the course or terrain and always come back with a smile even if they did fall over along the way!

Recently, we have had an amazing rugby game within school. Year 10 vs Year 11 boys' rugby teams facing off. It was a very close and a competitive game with Year 11 holding their defence well, but the Year 10s penetrated through their wall with great skill and determination scoring a total of 5 tries. The Year 11s put their best squad forward and held on well missing out on chances to score by the smallest of margins, but the odds were against them this time. The final score was 5-0 to the Year 10's. Well done to all involved and to the Year 10 boys for winning!

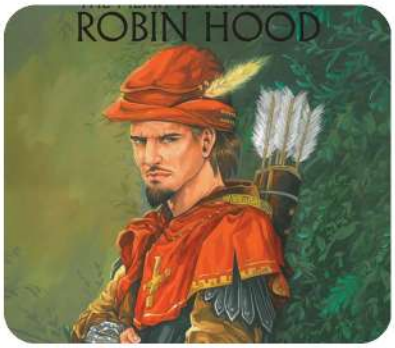
This month in History Corner: Hats

By Joshua Saunders

Top Hats, Bycocker, Baseball Cap. All iconic hats but where did they come from? What is their history? January 15th marks national hats day in the United States. Let us start with one of the most iconic hats synonymous with the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The top hat. It first appeared in 1797, when John Hetherington sparked widespread attention to the hat. Traditionally used to show wealth, this hat was originally made from beaver felt, but a silk plush was later used. Prince Albert began wearing it in the 1850s, which (again) sparked a fashion accessory. Another famous individual who brought the top hat fame was Abraham Lincoln, America's sixteenth president. Lincoln's "stovepipe" Top hat became a popular offshoot of the British original. Whilst not commonly used today, it is still used for incredibly formal affiars, like The Royal Ascot Horse Races or formal dinners.

One of the most famous hats is the Bycocket it emerged in the 13th century and remains iconic with characters such as Robin Hood. The hat came into widespread fashion often when riding or hunting. In the late 14th century rising merchant classes wore it. Women frequently wore Bycockets over veils but by the 16th century this hat fell out of fashion.



The custodian helmet typically used by metropolitan police replaced the top hats and this is where the term "cop" and "copper" came from. Created by Sir Robert Peel in 1829 we still use it today! Famous individuals other than the police include Sherlock Holmes.

Finally, the Baseball cap, introduced by the New York Knickerbockers they wore straw hats for sun protection during games this evolved by the late 1800s with various teams experimenting with designs. But it was in the 1970s when the cap was used for casual fashion and in the 80s and 90s hip hop artists such as Tupac Shakur donned the iconic baseball cap backwards.

Chosen Hill School

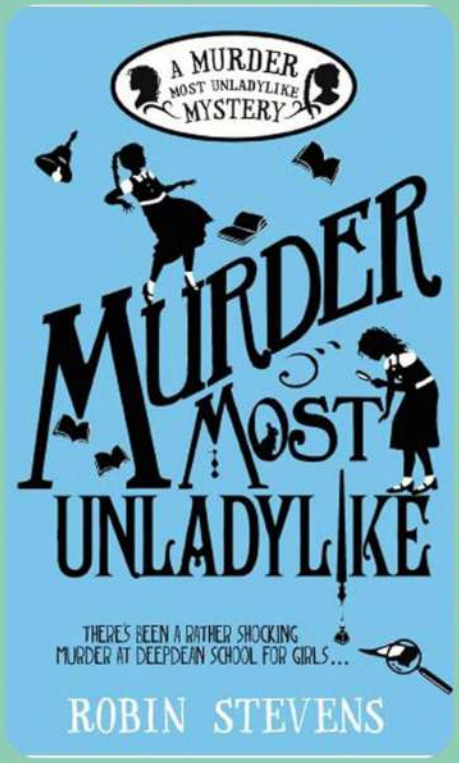
Friday 30th January 2026

The W.A.T.C.H Word

Journalism Editor: Philia Sanoj
Lead Journalist: Alice Fuller
Journalist: Oscar Vaughn
VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Media Editor: Amalie White
Film Critic: Sophie Prentis-Hart
Games Expert: Lacey Cross
Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart
History Correspondent: Josh Saunders

Book of the Month



Murder Most Unladylike

Robin Stevens

by Alice Fuller

Murder Most Unladylike by Robin Stevens is fast-paced, suspenseful murder mystery book that follows two students, Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong, at Depdean School for Girls as they investigate the murder of their science teacher. Set in the 1930s, this story truly immerses you in the time period, making you feel as though you are with the girls discovering Miss Bell's body. This makes you put your detective hat on and reveal the murderer to be the one and only ... -You didn't think I would give it away that easily did you? Read the book and tell us who your number one suspect is.

This book is perfect for any young readers who loves a mystery and suspence. Sherlock Holmes aspires to be as good a detective as the people who read this book and work it out. This book is perfect for the people who love to develop their own theories and expect the unexpected. I 100% recommend this book among the young preteen – teenager audience, as it is super easy to follow and will keep young people captivated for hours.

I give this book a solid five stars and would recommend it to anyone who loves solving mysteries. However, we can't just talk about the first book when this is a captivating series following Daisy and Hazel and their coterie of girls helping them investigate. With 11 books in this series, it will keep you enthralled in Daisy and Hazel's stories for weeks/months depending on how fast you read. This series has my utmost admiration; I give the whole series five stars as well.

5*****

Starlight Express

By Emily Prentis-Hart: Theatre Critic

Starlight Express is a fast-paced musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber that is unique to anything else on stage. First performed in 1984, the show is famous for its performers wearing roller skates and racing around the theatre as toy trains that have been brought to life.

The story follows Rusty, a steam engine who is often underestimated due to him being seen as weak and old-fashioned compared to the other trains. Despite this, Rusty dreams of winning the big race. Competing against confident, experienced, and powerful rivals such as Greaseball and Electra, who are faster, stronger, and more modern, Rusty's journey focuses on confidence, determination, and believing in himself no matter how many times he is told he cannot succeed. These themes make the musical meaningful, while still being fun and entertaining.

What really makes *Starlight Express* stand out is its unique set up. The actors skate through the audience, creating an exciting and immersive experience that makes the audience feel as though they are part of the action. Combined with bold costumes and energetic music, the show feels more like a live event instead of a traditional musical. Overall, Starlight Express is a fun, high energy musical that proves theatre does not have to stay still. It is memorable, unique, and so fun to watch.

Chosen Hill School

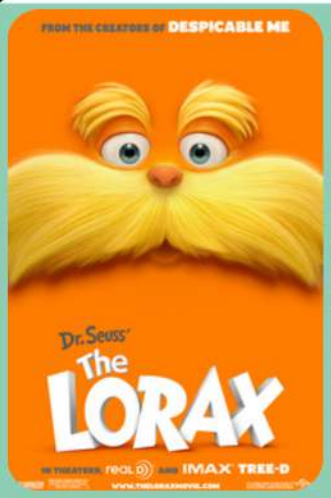
Friday 30th January 2026

The W.A.T.C.H Word

Journalism Editor: Philia Sanoj
Lead Journalist: Alice Fuller
Journalist: Oscar Vaughn
VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Media Editor: Amalie White
Film Critic: Sophie Prentis-Hart
Games Expert: Lacey Cross
Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart
History Correspondent: Josh Saunders

Media Corner



Movie of the Month
The Lorax

Renaud, USA, 2012

By Sophie Prentis-Hart: Film Critic

Based on the world-renowned book by Dr Seuss, the Lorax follows a funny creature with a yellow moustache who "speaks for the trees". Known for whimsical creatures, rhyming stories, and nonsensical words, Seuss's inspiration for this story stemmed from a 1970 trip to Kenya, where he observed the relationship between patas monkeys, thorn acacia trees and a local logging company threatening a forest near his home. This film shows the devasting effects of deforestation and is trying to spread awareness over the consequences if we carry on cutting down trees, in a child friendly way.

I personally loved the bright colours used, the sense of humour and iconic lines such as "if you break my trees, I will break your knees". In addition to that, one of the main characters, Ted, was a kid showing that even children can make a difference to our environment; making it a great film to watch with a younger siblings or friend. I think having a funny character makes the film more engaging and enjoyable to watch. The film makes the viewers think about their actions and how they affect the world whilst still balancing seriousness and humour making it palatable for everyone. The use of two characters switching perspectives added a depth to the story telling, as it created a comparison between teds world and a world with real trees. Overall, I would rate it a 5/5 because I loved the characters and the colourful settings

5 *****

Video Game Highlight:

Wii Sports

By Lacey Cross: Games Expert

"New Year: New me". It's the most popular phrase said on January 1st and, most of the time, when people say this they aim to work out and get healthy. However, by the following week they've already bought themselves 5 meals from McDonalds, and are sat, munching away, watching multiple episodes of House M.D. . That is, until Nintendo decided to create the game Wii Sports in 2006, just in time for the new Year!

Wii Sports has a collection of 4 sporting simulations which include: tennis, boxing, baseball and bowling. The motion sensing controller can help mimic swinging of a tennis racket and a baseball bat, the boxing motions of a player's arms or rolling a bowling ball, it can help you get the exercise you wanted for fun which many agree with since it's the third best-selling game of all time and had won several awards in its life time!

The game allows you to take characters from the mii channel so the player can customize a mii. Mii's are little customizable characters, and you can make anything out of a Wii. From yourself to your favourite TV show characters. Due to the popularity of *Wii Sports*, the game ended up getting a direct sequel called *Wii Sports Resort*, created in 2009 and then another remake in 2022 for Nintendo's new console: *Nintendo Switch*. So, what I'm saying is, if you want to exercise in 2026: go to CeX and pick up a Wii and Wii sports.

Chosen Hill School

Friday 30th January 2026

The W.A.T.C.H Word

Journalism Editor: Philia Sanoj
Lead Journalist: Alice Fuller
Journalist: Oscar Vaughn
VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Media Editor: Amalie White
Film Critic: Sophie Prentis-Hart
Games Expert: Lacey Cross
Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart
History Correspondent: Josh Saunders

Bus-ness as Usual

Oscar Vaughan takes us back to the start of Year 7 to face a daunting challenge: catching the bus.

Summer, for me, was absolutely chaos. As soon as I stepped out of those gates of my now long-gone primary school, I was subjected to intense preparation for September. Ok, that's a slight exaggeration, but it was close to chaos. There was stress around trying to get the right things I needed, trying on the uniform for the first time and trial runs for the bus journey. Skip ahead six weeks and it's finally happening! Secondary school was a-go!

I felt amazing that day, as well as a tiny bit nervous. That, in itself, told me I was going to have an AMAZING time at Chosen. Life would be easy. I'd be fine. I'd practiced over summer. What could possible stress me out now I was at secondary school? Well, as it turns out, that first bus journey was WAY off what I thought it would be like.

I thought it would be a relaxing way to get to school. It would give me a whole lot of responsibility, i thought. Responsibility, ticked! Relaxing? Big, fat cross. A bus packed with children three times my size. All the noise. The jolts! I didn't realise you could be thrilled and terrified at the same time!

But then it hit me; I would be taking this same bus, same route, same time EVERY DAY for the next five Years of my life. How on earth was I going to deal with it? I'm still trying to figure that out now. Maybe I could change the title of this article: "TIPS FOR THE BUS JOURNEY, NEED THEM ASAP". Maybe not. It doesn't have the same ring to it.

Ask the Department

We asked on of the Art and Design department one simple question. You won't believe their responses!

This month we asked:
If you were a flavour of crisp what flavour would you be?

I would be walkers sensations Thai sweet chilli crisps. I'd be that perfect mix of warmth and spark
- Miss Philips

"Posh cheese and red onion chutney crisps: crunchy, comforting, but with a zing. It's British perfectionism."
- Mrs Chodera

I'd be cheese and onion because, like them, I am classic & iconic!
- Miss Hill

I would be Pom-Bears Original Crisp. Like them, I am cute & wholesome and it is hard to not see me smiling.
- Miss Williams

Chosen Hill School

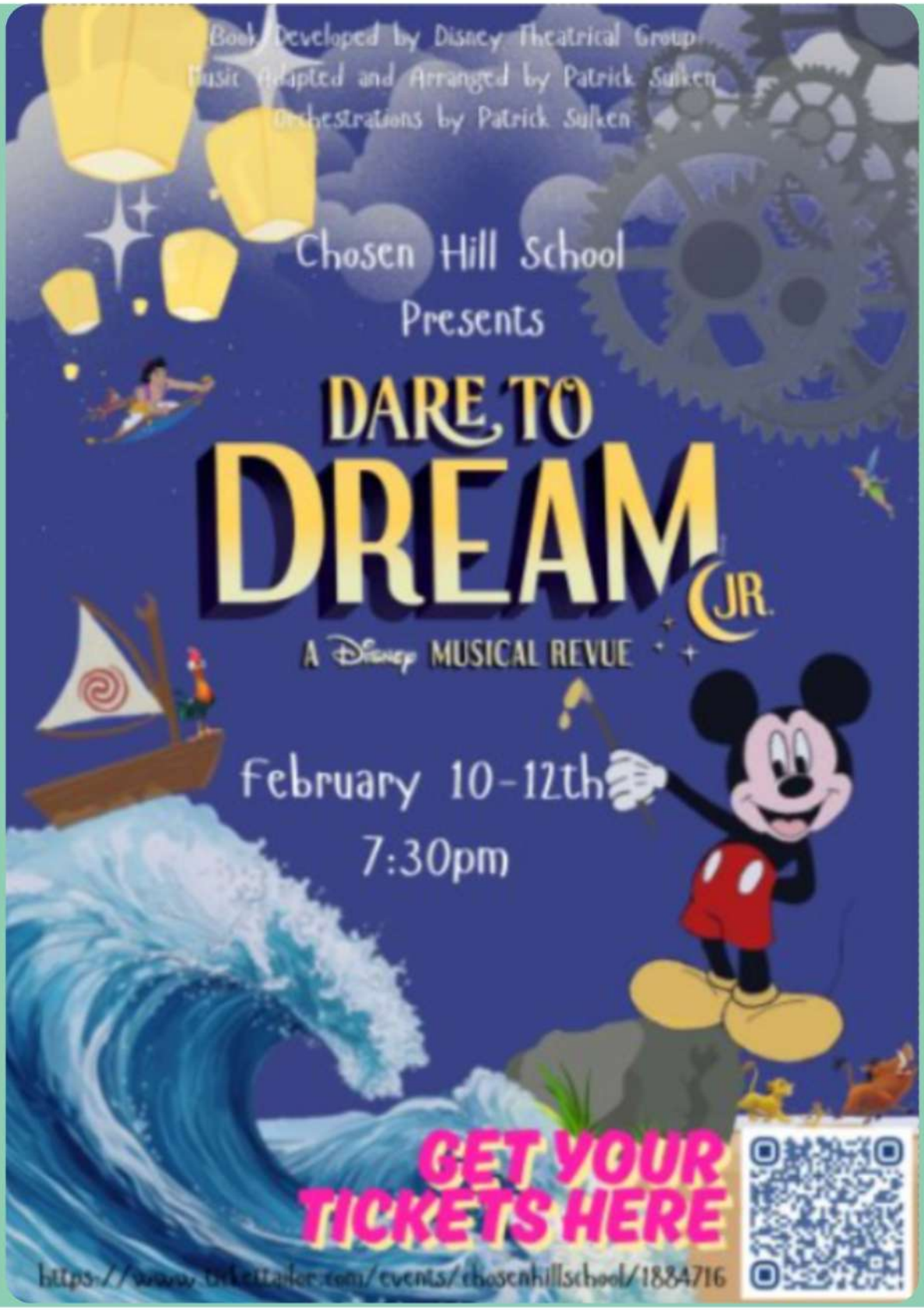
Friday 30th January 2026

The W.A.T.C.H Word

Journalism Editor: Philia Sanoj
Lead Journalist: Alice Fuller
Journalist: Oscar Vaughn
VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum
Media Editor: Amalie White
Film Critic: Sophie Prentis-Hart
Games Expert: Lacey Cross
Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart
History Correspondent: Josh Saunders

Chosen Hill School

Friday 30th January 2026

The W.A.T.C.H Word

Journalism Editor: Philia Sanoj
Lead Journalist: Alice Fuller
Journalist: Oscar Vaughn
VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum
Media Editor: Amalie White
Film Critic: Sophie Prentis-Hart
Games Expert: Lacey Cross
Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart
History Correspondent: Josh Saunders