



HALLOWEEN

The W.A.T.C.H Word

Editor: Philia Sanoj

Sports Correspondent: Alice Fuller

XI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Media Correspondent: Joe Cox

Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart

THE ORIGINS OF HALLOWEEN

It's spooky season here at The WATCH Word, and Joe Cox dives into the hauntingly interesting world of Halloween, seeking out its historical origins. Where did it come from? What are the traditions? Read on, dear reader. Read on!



We all know it, Halloween is an incredible time of the year where everyone unites and makes the world a haunting place. Many people love it, myself included, but... Have you ever wondered where this terrifying tradition came from?

Halloween began in Ireland. On October 31st every year, the superstitious folks of Ireland would dress in scary attire, to actually fend off the bad omens and spirits. They often dress up in werewolf costumes, but also witches, beasts, or other scary ghouls. They would often have different assortments of disgusting and outright fearful accessory to really push away the evil spirits.

When the Irish sailed across the Atlantic in the 1700s, they brought this tradition with them to America. For the first years, the Americans didn't really understand it. However, eventually they were curious on why they kept dressing in these hideous outfits. It took them quite a while to fully understand this utterly confusing ritual, but when they did, they fully embraced the newfound event.

People would dress in all sorts of costumes and wacky attire. Once the word spread about this newly adopted culture, soon everyone participated in the once-a-year event. People added their own ideas and traditions to Halloween night. They gave the night a name, Halloween.

The actual name refers to the day on the first of November, 'All Hallows' day. So, Halloween means 'the night before all hallows day' which in my opinion is fascinating. People also started handing out small sweet treats for people who came to their house.



Originally, they were for the poor, and they were called soul cakes in exchange for souls of the dead, which to be honest is terrifying, but culturally important. Nowadays, I feel Halloween has lost its sense and origin and purpose. People don't just dress as witches anymore, they dress as anything they want, from superheroes to hotdog suit. Halloween is changing to what's now new and trending.

I wish Halloween could return to its original purpose, but that's my opinion. People can dress however they want to, but I feel we need to keep the core of Halloween safe.





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DIWALI: LIGHTING UP GLOUCESTER

Whilst October is known for its Halloween festivities, Alice Fuller takes a second to look at another massive festival held in the same month: Diwali.



Diwali is the five day Hindu festival of light, celebrated by roughly 1.2 billion people around the world. Like Easter for Christians, there is no exact date for Diwali; instead the festival falls between October and November. This year Diwali begins its celebrations on Monday 20th October. This is because the Hindu calendar is based on the moon. Throughout this festival, Hindus celebrate to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. These themes and ideas go towards symbolizing new beginnings and hope, at the same time, honouring the Hindu goddess of wealth: Lakshimi.



The festival of Diwali is one that is not only steeped in a rich history, but has attached to it a riveting tale. There was once a warrior prince named Rama; he was married to the stunningly beautiful princess, Sita. Whilst the two lived There was a despicable king who lived near them called Ravana — he had ten heads and twenty arms. Ravana was jealous and kidnapped Sita. Rama realised Sita had been kidnapped and went out on a search. This is where he met the monkey god, Hanuman.

Hanuman agreed to help look for Sita and he eventually found her, trapped on the island of Lanaka, in a spectacular garden. Hanuman prepared an army to fight Ravana. They went in to battle but despite their best efforts it seemed like Ravana would win. However, Rama produced a magnificent magic golden arrow and fired it at Ravana's chest impaling him. Ravana was defeated and the loving couple were reunited. Rama and Sita returned home at night and their friends and family in the village had lit lamps to guide them home. This is why Hindus light lamps in celebration of Diwali.

Diwali is known as the festival of lights because houses and all manner of public spaces are decorated with small oil lamps called "Diyas". This also allows the goddess Lakshimi to find her way into their homes by leaving their windows open during this time to allow for an entrance which Lakshimi can enter through to their homes. People also deep clean their houses, wear new clothes, exchange gifts typically sweets and dried fruits, preparing festival meals, decorating large buildings with eloquent lights and, putting on enormous firework displays





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XI FORM SECTION I'M BACK Y'ALL!

Former editor, And WATCH Word Co-founder, Sophie Sysum is back from her Summer and ready to dive into Chosen Hill's VI Form! Here she'll bring you her latest take on life as a brand new Year 12 student!.

Hello all, I'm back! After my long summer holiday, I have rejoined the school as a Year 12 meaning I'm entering my sixth year at Chosen Hill School.

Now, there are many differences between Sixth Form and Year 11. For example, in sixth form you get a lot more independence and take a lot more responsibility for your work. The Sixth Form Study Centre and the Study Cafe is where we sixth formers complete most of our out-of-classroom studies. In the Study Centre you can even borrow a laptop. However, I do miss the more structured days of Year 11.



Also, within both the tutor groups and our social spaces, you mix with the year above. Whilst this is somewhat daunting at first, it makes you feel more included as a team. Add to the mix the Icebreaker social and House Music and suddenly the Sixth Form takes on a more communal feel.

It is a big jump from Year 11 to the Sixth Form as there is a lot more independent studying expected of you. However, the Sixth Form team work around the clock to ensure that all students are welcomed and supported as much as possible.

Overall, sixth form is an excellent community to be a part of, and I'm excited to be back!





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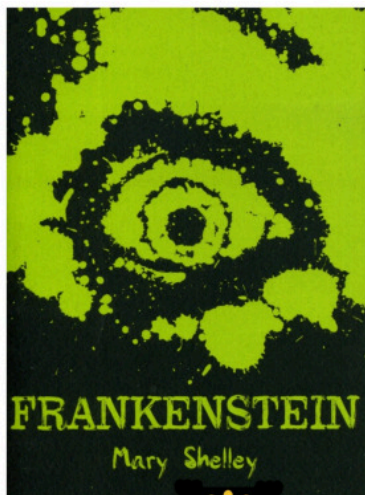
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Book of the Month



FRANKENSTEIN - MARY SHELLEY

Looking for a chilling read this spooky season? Frankenstein, by Mary Shelley, is the ultimate classic horror story; dark, chilling and totally unsettling. Because it was hard for women to publish then, Mary Shelley first published Frankenstein anonymously in 1818. Her identity was only revealed in the second edition.

Counter to popular belief, Frankenstein tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a mad scientist working in Ingolstadt, Germany. Using dead people's body parts, and the power of lightning, he creates a monster, which he then abandons. After several months of suffering his own mental breakdown, he receives the news about how a family member has been killed. He then finds out that the creature has been hunting down and murdering his loved ones. Feeling guilty of his actions, he decides to kill his own creation.

made the creature  the rampaging monster, but made him a thinker which really made me reflect on who the actual villain really is here. If you're looking to read something new this book is for you. Even with all the adaptations, Frankenstein would always remain classic. In the end Victor Frankenstein gets the misery he deserves, and Mary Shelley makes sure we understand the consequences of playing God.

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ENTITLED SON'S COME TO CHOSEN HILL

By Emily Prentis-Hart



On the 8th of October, we had the opportunity to experience an amazing live performance from The Entitled Sons, a talented rock/pop band. The group has gained attention not just for their music, but also for the meaningful messages they share, exploring personal themes such as mental health, healthy relationships and the challenges faced by young people today. In some of their songs they have raised awareness for important charities, including cancer research through some of their songs, one of them being called These Days.

During their visit, the band not only performed their music with enthusiasm but also took the time to engage in an open conversation with the audience, talking about the positive and negative effects of social media and how it can affect younger people. They were very genuine and relaxed, encouraging answers to their questions from the crowd. This created a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, allowing everyone to feel included while sharing their answers. The combination of live music, open discussion, and a good messages made the experience both fun and educational.

Overall, it was an enjoyable and memorable event that left everyone feeling entertained, and more aware of the important things in life - a big message they were talking about was how important it is to make time for doing the things you enjoy.





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Media Corner



K-Pop : Demon Hunters

We all love different genres of music, don't we? From country, to rap, to jazz, everyone has a preference. Now, one of my favourite genres is K-Pop, with the 'k' standing for "Korean". This movie, is full of K-pop, and animation that will blow your mind into a craze! But, will this movie refresh your melodic mindset?

K-Pop: Demon Hunters follows Huntri/X, a trio of pop stars, who descend from a long line of demon hunters. These girls protect the boundary between the human world and the demon world, known as the Honmoon. Powered by admiration, Huntri/x keep the barrier strong with the power of their adoring fans! But a group-tearing secret is lurking in the shadows, one that might just tear the team apart for ever!

To make matters worse, the demons are trying to beat Huntri/X at their own games. The five strongest voices from the demon world come together to create a Boy band, known as the Saja Boys. As the Saja Boys become exponentially more popular, it seems that Huntri/x are powerless against the charm of their new rivals. Will The group fall

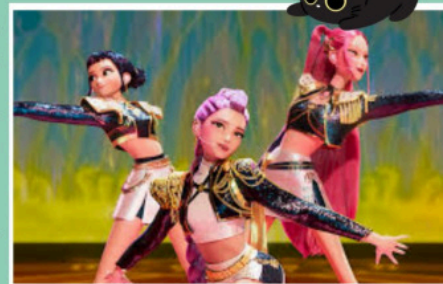
and crumble under the deceit if the psychopathic demons?

In my opinion, the songs in this movie are literally one of the BEST I've ever heard. They seriously cannot get out of my head! Whilst the film's soundtrack contains many great hits, Golden made waves by leaving the world of film to dominate the Billboard Hot 100, a feat not achieved by an all-women group in 24 years.

My favourite character has to be Bobby, the manager of Huntri/X, who is voiced by Ken Jeong. In my opinion, he is the funniest of the cast, and his design is also so charming, at the way he looks, so cute and trustworthy. An honourable mention goes out to Baby Saja, because his cute demeanour, and his on line he says "Goo-Gaa" made me laugh hysterically.

If you like movies with deep messages and catchy tunes, this movie is for you!

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Luigi's Mansion

The spooky season is almost here, so I normally check out some spooky-themed games. I love spooky games because they mix fun, mystery, and just the right number of scares. One of my favourites is *Luigi's Mansion 3*. Are you ready to explore the unknown?

This game takes place like any other game, arriving at the destination. Every room has its own secrets and surprises, and you never know which ghost might appear next. At first, during the day, everything is perfect, beautiful interior, good rooms and vibes but at night, everything takes a spooky twist. In the morning you'll see that your friends have been taken away somewhere, as you can't find them! You need to explore the different rooms and areas. The big question remains, will you ever see your friends again?

I love this game because the story plot has different ghosts and bosses you encounter which in my opinion, really are unique. My favorite has to be the gardening room, because I love it's spooky, dark, mysterious ambience. It really sets the scene perfectly. I also love the gameplay, because feeling the ghosts being eradicated into your magic vacuum is truly satisfying.

For anyone who is thinking it's too scary, don't worry, this game is perfectly suitable for ages 6+ in my opinion. It also has a solid price for a game of such high quality!

If you like games where you explore your surroundings, and enjoy an amazing storyline, this game is for you!

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Meet the Teacher: Dr Walji

1. What is your role in school?

Teacher of chemistry

2. What do you enjoy doing at the weekends?

Activities with my children like trampolining, arts & crafts for Halloween or celebrating the Autumnal colours.

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

Dominican Republic or Caribbean

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

Work for MI5

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

Denzel Washington

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

Scuba Diving in the South Pacific Ocean

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

Book: Break Every Rule by Brian Freeman, Film Shaw Shank Redemption, Prawn curry, cooked with freshly caught prawns.

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

Go camping and hunt for food.

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

Worked in a the Oil & Gas Industry as a production chemistry, Worked as a Senior Petroleum Engineer for an Oil & Gas Operator, Worked in the Paints Industry formulating coatings, Researcher developing potential drugs to combat Alzheimer's Disease

10. What is your favourite thing about working at Chosen Hill School and why?

Working with supportive members of Staff and Students, as they have their own individual personalities and making me feel part of the CHS community since coming to Chosen Hill.



ARE YOU A BUDDING JOURNALIST?



WANT TO SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT?

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



**Years
7-12**

RULES

Articles must not exceed 250 words

Judging criteria include originality, clarity, structure, and adherence to the theme provided.

WHAT TO DO?

Write an article on an aspect of Chosen Hill that you are passionate about.

WHAT'S THE DEADLINE?

**Friday 21st
November 2025**

HOW DO I SUBMIT?

Send your article in WORD
Document to:

TA@Chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk

WHAT DO I WIN?

Winning entries will have their work published, be invited to join the WATCH word team, earn a badge and win an edible prize!