



King Edwards
Aston VI
@KEASTON



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17.7K	419	99.5K	9,209	

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Headmaster's Welcome 60s
@KEASTON

The past year has seen the emergence of individuals and the development of ideas which will undoubtedly have a profound impact on all of our futures and especially those of the current pupils at the school. Brexit, the rise of populism, the possible break-up of the United Kingdom and the appearance of fake news and alternative facts under the presidency of Donald Trump have all made the past twelve months a year to remember. As you would expect, this latest edition of the E-Zine has something to say on most of these events and issues.

By way of contrast, also included in this edition is an interview with James Duff, who at the age of 95 is one of the oldest living Aston Old Edwardians. Mr Duff was, along with his Aston contemporaries, evacuated to Ashby during the Second World War, later serving in the war itself and personally knowing many of those named on the school's memorial; a reminder to us all to keep current events in perspective because of all the challenges facing Aston, I am fairly confident that none will require us to evacuate the school.

As ever this edition of the E-Zine contains items to make us reflect and think as well as the more whimsical, all expertly brought together by Mr McBrien and his team. In a fast moving and ever changing world, the certainty of the enjoyment that the E-Zine brings is greatly welcomed.

C. Parker - May Day 2017

E-Team 2017

Design: Mateusz Kola, William Honeysett & Oscar Whitehouse

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Special Thanks: IT Department, Mrs Blundell, Mrs Lally & Ben Heywood

Staff Editor: Mr McBrien



Mamma Africa
@ReeceMsuya



TWEETS
69.4K

FOLLOWING
243

FOLLOWERS
8.52M

LIKES
11.6K

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Mamma Africa
@ReeceMsuya

12h

I would like to explore some aspects that define the beauty of Africa, with a special focus on Tanzania.

The first aspect is Culture:

Africa is very culturally centred. Whether in the small villages or the capital cities, culture remains the centre of people's hospitality and ideals. In Tanzania for example, the way in which guests are treated is held with the utmost importance. When inviting a guest into one's home, it is customary to prepare a meal for them to ensure that they have a comfortable and welcoming stay, no matter how short a time they will be there for.

There are specific traditional foods such as Ugali (made from maize flour), Mandazi (a coconut donut), Chapati (flatbread), Nyama Choma (barbecued meat) and Maharagwe ya Nazi (a dish made with beans) which are part of an extensive menu of delicious dishes that are enjoyed throughout the whole of Tanzania. Music is an important part of African culture which is used for celebration, worship, partying and dance. Rather than being written down, songs tend to be memorized and passed on by ear through the generations for different events and occasions. Some of the rhythmic patterns are extremely complex. Jewellery and fashion are also another defining aspect of African culture. In some African countries there are rare jewels that can only be found in a specific country or area. For example, Tanzanite is a blue crystal that is only found in the Mererani Hills in Tanzania. Naturally formed Tanzanite is very rare and is used as a gem or as a part of other jewellery.

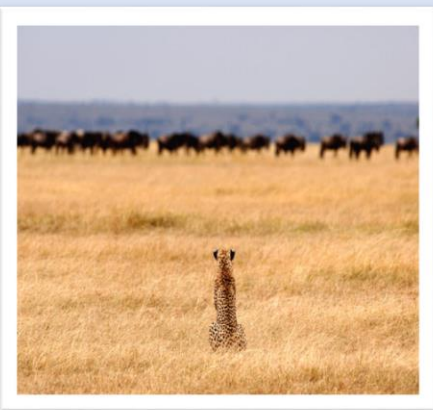
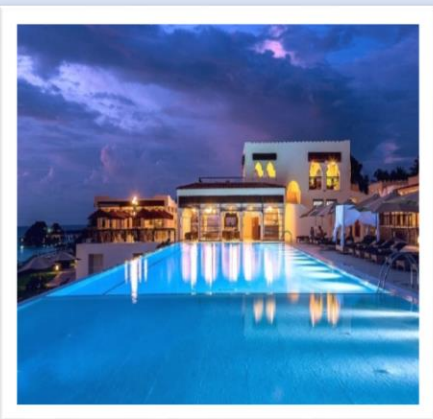
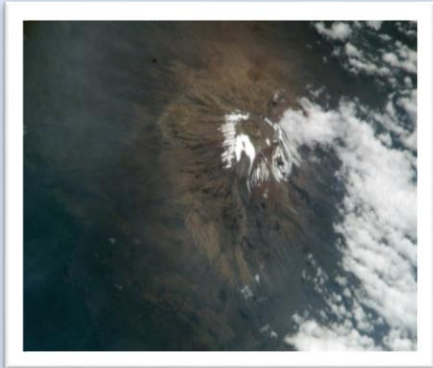


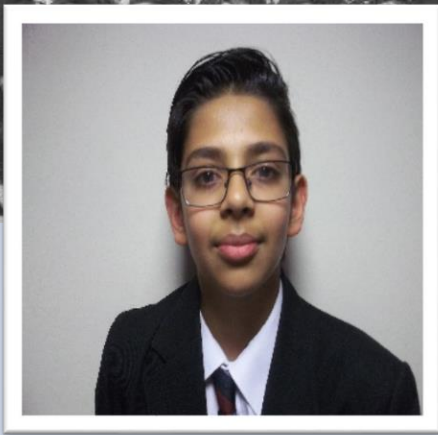
The second aspect is Landmarks and Attractions:

In Tanzania there is the world famous Mount Kilimanjaro. The dormant volcano rises to approximately 4,900 meters from its base to 5,895 metres above sea level. As the highest mountain/volcano in Africa it attracts many tourists and trekkers each year. Tanzania also offers the Serengeti, an ecosystem that holds the largest terrestrial mammal migration, with 70 large mammal and 500 bird species there. African countries also offer luxurious resorts and beaches such as Konduchi beach in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Near the Serengeti National park, there are deluxe hotels that have attracted stars such as Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake. Other safari parks and hotels have welcomed celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Tom Cruise, George Clooney, Naomi Campbell and Bill Gates. Numerous other African countries offer attractions and magnificent structures that never cease to amaze and intrigue people worldwide, the pyramids of Egypt being one such example.

The final aspect is business and enterprise:

African businesses, buildings and establishments are rarely presented or portrayed by the media. However, In Tanzania alone there are a great number of businesses, franchises, hotels. These can be found alongside the beaches, resorts, safaris, national parks and more that continuously attract tourists and citizens. Although there are many parts of Africa that are poverty-stricken and/or developing, there are many established and beautiful parts of Africa. Therefore, I leave with you readers... "The perception and the reality of Africa" and urge you to take a minute to fully embrace the beauty of "Mama Africa."





Interview
@RaeesIqbal

TWEETS
496

FOLLOWING
41

FOLLOWERS
16.9M

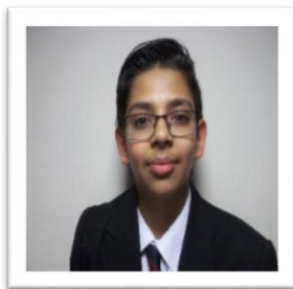
LIKES
3

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Interview with 95 Year Old
Aston Old Boy, James Duff.
@RaeesIqbal

3h

What years were you at Aston?

I entered the school at the beginning of September 1934 wearing short grey trousers, blue blazer and knee socks with red and blue tops and a splendid bull's eye broad-banded blue and red circled cap. I left school after sitting my High School Certificate in June 1940.

Who was the Headmaster back then?

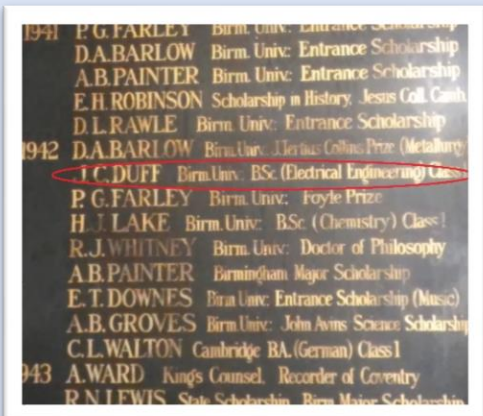
There were two Headmasters during my time at the school, Mr Manton who had started in 1913 and then Mr Brandon who took over in 1936. Mr Brandon was horrified with the various shades of the blue blazers and varying qualities of the caps. He changed the whole uniform to black, maintaining the school colours of red and blue for the ties. The King Edward VI coat of arms was maintained on both the blazers and caps. Mr Brandon always had plans for the future of the school but his main task was to organise the evacuation of the school on 1st September 1939 to Ashby de la Zouche.

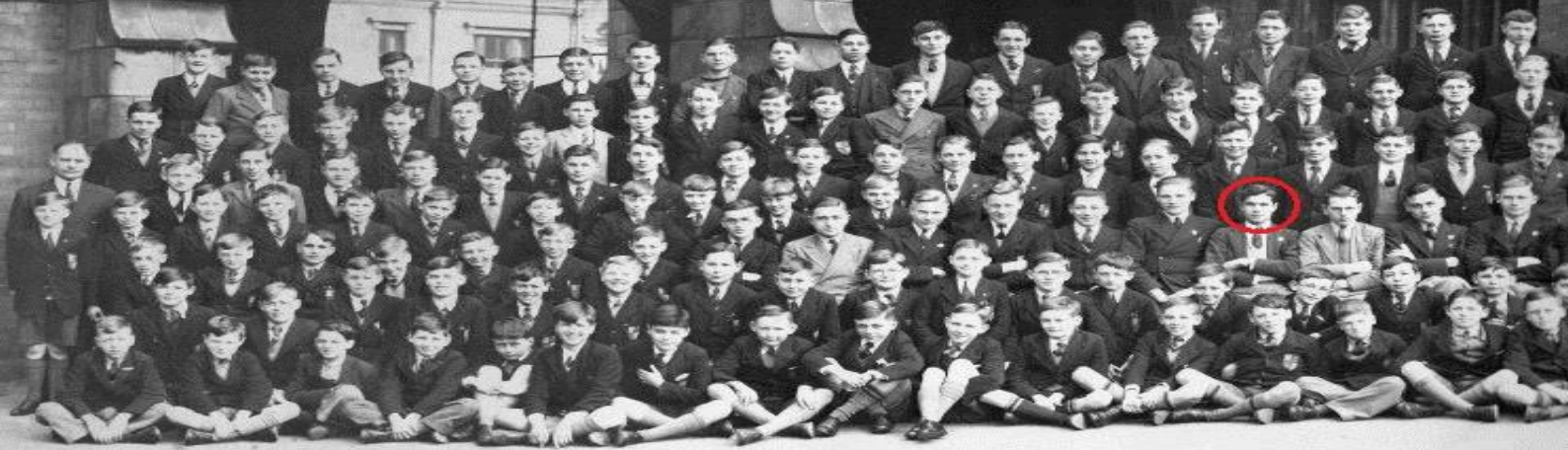
When WWII broke out what was the initial reaction of the school?

The reaction was generally one of relief that war had been declared. Before there was always a fear as to when it might be. Erdington Grammar School for girls was also evacuated to Ashby and we were together in the Ashby Parish Church when we heard about it on 3rd September 1939.

What are the main differences between the school today and when you were here?

In my time there were approximately 420-450 boys. Now I am sure the figure is over 700. There were only a handful of boys in the 6th Form compared to the numbers now. Mr Brandon had foreseen the development of the school across the other side of Frederick Road (there were houses where the main reception building is now). He also envisaged a 6th Form with a three year period. The last year would be a 'scholarship year'. The facilities at the school now are vast compared to my time. For example, there is an indoor sports hall, an assembly hall with a proper stage, spacious labs, etc.





Were there any after school clubs?

Apart from chess there were no after-school clubs. The only two Jewish boys in the school were prominent in that "sport". The school had lessons on Saturday mornings, from which these two boys were exempt and much envied. We used to have a half day on a Thursday.

What were the school lunches like back then?

I usually took a packed lunch, which was eaten with one of my friends in a cloakroom. Later on, I had lunch in the 'cellar' in the wing under the 6th Form classroom. The lunches were cooked by Mrs Hudson and her daughter Margaret. They also ran the tuck-shop. The menus always included a steamed pudding, e.g. spotted dick.

Did you enjoy your time at the school and why?

Yes, right from the beginning I felt I was in a proper academic institution. The prospect of learning French and Latin was exciting. After two years of Latin I switched to German, although I still respected the use of Latin. Latin showed how sentences should be formed with the right grammatical content (just think of all the tenses used and the efficient use of words – fewer that used in English to express meaning).

How much homework did the students have?

The amount always seemed like a lot (probably because I was a slow learner). However, it was a good stimulus mentally. Towards the end of my time at Aston I became a more diligent student.

Did your dad fight in WWII?

My father was head of the Chemistry Department at the Birmingham College of Technology. Evening classes were suspended and 'night school' was transferred to Saturday and Sunday. Like all civilians, my father did Fire Watching one day each week.

What was the most shocking thing you heard/saw?

During the evacuation the school enjoyed living in the country. It was during my time at Birmingham University, I used to cycle every day, including Saturday morning, for tutorial classes. Army training was compulsory one afternoon each week plus three weeks camp at the Royal Engineers HQ in Clitheroe, Lancashire. The camp took place before the summer vacation. On the days I did army training, they coincided with one day a week Fire Watching at the top of the university clock tower. Dressed as we were, in uniform we were part of the Home Guard. Bombing made my journey to the university difficult and when traveling by number 2 Erdington Tram having to dismount before Aston Cross because of bomb damage. I then had to walk to the Bristol Rd tram terminal close to new Street railway station for onward travel to the university. My war service from January 1943 to July 1946 was another story altogether.





What was rationing like?

My mother was an excellent cook and baker and managed very well. That said, on joining the Royal Navy in January 1943, my first meal in the Victoria Barracks, Portsmouth consisted of many courses (six if I recall correctly) followed by a glass of port wine!

How well do you remember WWII?

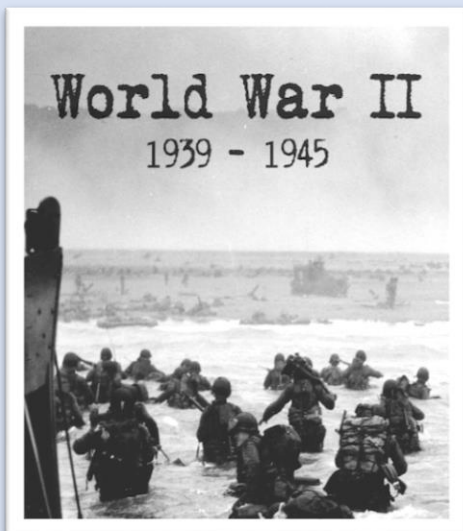
Immediately after the exams at the university we had three weeks army camp training in June/July 1942. Those of us doing engineering, mining and medicine were permitted to continue our degree courses. Everyone else would be allowed to continue their courses after the war had finished. My degree results allowed me to join the Royal Navy as a midshipman (electrical – a green stripe at the bottom of the uniform sleeve). I was only 20 and had to wait until my 21st birthday to become a sub-lieutenant. I finished my naval service in July 1946 as a full Lieutenant. I was never demobbed; the Royal Navy only released you. For several years after the war I was followed by letters from the Admiralty to see if I would be agreeable to be called up again. As a long time member of the Royal British Legion, I have planted a cross each year in the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey in memory of those 'Old Boys' who gave their lives between 1939-1945. I knew them all.

What was it like during the Cold War? Did you believe it would be WWIII?

The threat of WWIII was always present but I was too busy becoming an engineer by doing a graduate apprenticeship followed by my first job with the Central Electricity Board responsible for the 132 KW grid system. Afterwards, I joined the technical department of the Electricity Board for Northern Ireland. After several years I felt I was at last a complete electrical engineer. The Cold War period, in my opinion, continues to this day with the present actions of Russia trying to recover countries once part of the USSR. There is also the actions/behaviour of North Korea to consider.

Do you have any message for current students at the school?

When you leave Aston, aim to take with you a well-rounded aura. **IT IS THE KEGSA AURA!**





Xeption
@TanveerIslam

TWEETS
3,869

FOLLOWING
227

FOLLOWERS
77.2K

LIKES
3,514

 Follow

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Rock Group - Xeption 10h
@TanveerIslam

Inspired by the many musical groups and ensembles that already exist in our school my friends and I decided to form our very own rock group. Currently known as Xeption (the name is still up for debate), the band consists of James Owen, Harmeet Sandhu, Nihal Mohammed, Billy Mills and myself.

Initially we had been thinking about asking a different drummer to join the band, but after a couple of rehearsals we quickly realised Billy's expertise was invaluable. Harmeet is our resident musical genius who first started in the band playing the clarinet (not the most "Rock 'n Roll" of instruments I know). However, as this was a rock band we needed some low end rumble and so Harmeet ditched the clarinet and picked up the bass guitar.

Next we have James, one of our electric guitarists, definitely the more eager and argumentative type. He and Harmeet like to "discuss" musical direction frequently. Nihal is our second electric guitarist, he and Harmeet swapped roles in our most recent concert. Nihal has been kicked out of the band numerous times due to his lack of turning up to practice. That said, the band wouldn't be the same without him so he always makes a return. Last but not least is me, your everyday average pianist. Not the loudest of instruments so if I were to make a mistake I'm sure you wouldn't be able to hear it over two electric guitars a bass and drum kit.

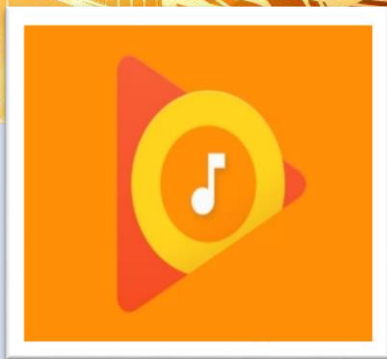
In the short term we assembled this band to have some fun and see what we could do, however, maybe one day you will see us on the Top 50 Spotify Playlist. For now, come see us in our next concert.



ROCK 'N ROLL



WE WILL ROCK YOU



TopChartMusic

@MarcusAtkin

TWEETS
61.4K

FOLLOWING
826

FOLLOWERS
10.7M

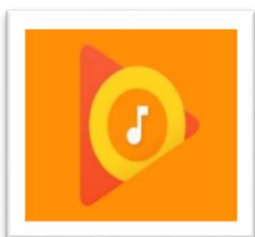
LIKES
77

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**Top Five Albums
From the Last Five Years**

12h

@MarcusAtkin

Blak and Blu - Gary Clark Jr.

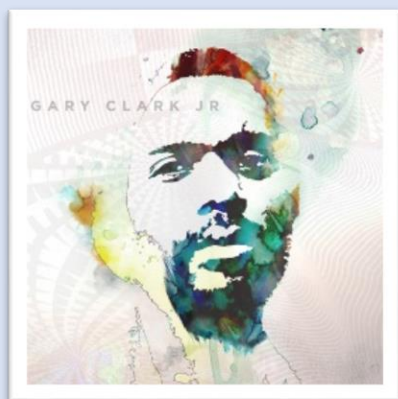
Blak and Blu is the debut studio album by Texas blues guitarist, Gary Clark Jr. It incorporates a myriad of styles including blues, rock, soul and R&B. Standout tracks which showcase Clark Jr's style include "When My Train Pulls In", "Bright Lights" and "Next Door Neighbour Blues." These tracks contain killer blues riffs and Gary Clark Jr's immense skill shines through their respective solos. Clark Jr pays tribute to classic rock n roll in the form of "Travis County" which is another great track. This album is fully rounded off by Clark Jr's soulful singing.

Blues of Desperation - Joe Bonamassa

Blues of Desperation is the most recent album by modern blues master, Joe Bonamassa. Standout tracks "Mountain Climbing" and "Distant Lonesome Train" are built on driving rock riffs while Bonamassa's soloing is immense throughout. If you like guitar based Blues or Blues Rock, this is definitely worth a listen.

Fortress - Alter Bridge

Fortress is a Progressive Rock/Metal album which has heavy riffs and deep lyrics. Myles Kennedy and Mark Tremonti who front the band show of their superb guitar skills and expert vocals. Tremonti takes the lead singing spot for the first time ever with Alter Bridge in "Waters Rising". This is by far the best track on this great album with its emotional vocals and heavy chorus.



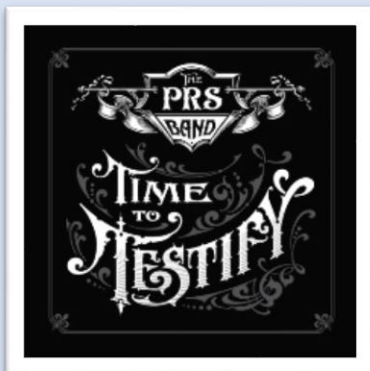


Catalyst – Dorje

Catalyst is the first EP by the band Dorje which is fronted by Youtuber and guitar maker, Rob Chapman. This is another progressive rock affair, which is all about the riff. From the 80's inspired "White Dove" to the hard-hitting "Written" This may be a new band but good things will be coming their way soon with songs like this.

Time to Testify - The Paul Reed Smith Band

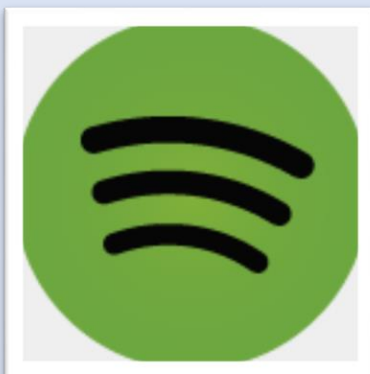
Time to Testiy was released in 2017 by the Paul Reed Smith band. Paul Reed Smith, the owner of PRS guitars, brings together soulful lyrics from Mia Samone as well as guitar riffs and epic solos to create an interesting mix. From Hendrix Covers in the form of "Machine Gun" to rock tunes like "Breathe" and quiet, reflective songs like "Tears in the Rain" there is something for everyone. A truly special album.



Best Albums: "Blak and Blu", "Catalyst"

Interesting Listen: "Time to Testify"

To listen please visit Marcus' Spotify page:



<https://play.spotify.com/user/arrowlegend14/playlist/6ohXhmbSwd3553QD7SITLc>



Brummie Politics
@EuanHealey



VS



TWEETS	FOLLOWING	FOLLOWERS	LIKES	LISTS	+ Follow
22.8K	1,326	87.9K	156	3	

Tweets Tweets & replies Media



The Great Brummie
Vote Off
@EuanHealey

1h

In May, for the first time in recent history, the people of the West Midlands will have the chance to elect a directly elected mayor. At the time of writing, five candidates have announced their intention of running - the candidates for Labour, the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats, the UK Independence Party (UKIP) and the Green party. However, all but the Labour and Conservative candidates are classed as "outside chances" (all are higher odds than 50/1). So, to consider the candidates running for mayor - I've pitched the two leading candidates head-to-head, so you can decide who you want to win on the 4th May.





Siôn Simon (Labour)

Age: 48

Career: Former journalist who became the MP for Birmingham Erdington, in which he served as a member of the government for two years, and as a backbencher for seven. He is also currently an MEP for the West Midlands

Connection with Midlands: Grew up in Great Barr and Handsworth Wood, and attended Handsworth Grammar School. Served as elected representative before.

Key Policy: Wants to nationalise the M6 Toll (make it free), get a better funding deal for the West Midlands (more equal to regions like Scotland and Wales), gain Birmingham a seat at the Brexit negotiation table and reopen the train stations in Moseley and Kings Heath.

Odds of victory: 2/1

Trivia: Appeared on season two of BBC's *Have I Got News For You* and is a season ticket holder at West Bromwich Albion Football Club





Conservatives

Andy Street (Conservative)

Age: 53

Career: Started at John Lewis as a trainee in 1985 and worked his way up the ladder to become Managing Director in 2007, leading the company to increased sales even during the recession.

Connection with Midlands: Grew up in Solihull and Northfield, and attended King Edward's School (KES).

Key Policy: Seeks an expansion plan for Birmingham airport, expansion of the Birmingham metro, build train stations in Moseley and Kings Heath, and to make Birmingham a leader in fighting mental health issues.

Odds of victory: 2/5

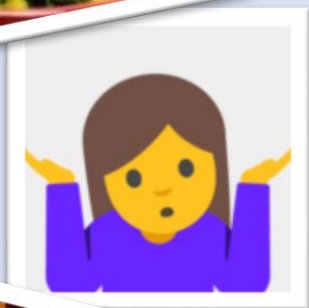
Trivia: Ran adventure camps for young people as school child and is a supporter of Aston Villa Football Club.





Vegetarianism

@AaronSmith



TWEETS
34.1K

FOLLOWING
105

FOLLOWERS
259K

LIKES
16K

Follow

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National Vegetarianism

2h

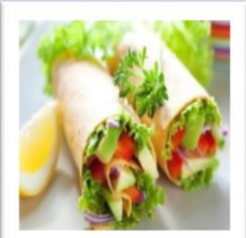
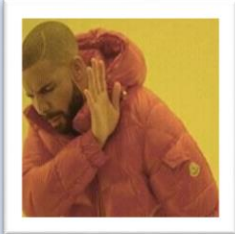
Week

@AaronSmith

National Vegetarian Week this year is between the 15th and 21st of May. It is an opportunity for people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, dietary requirements and religions to come together to explore what it means to be a vegetarian. A time to perhaps question the ethics of what we eat, where our food comes from and why we eat what we eat. There are many reasons why someone may choose to become a vegetarian. These may include ethical, health, religious and budget considerations. In recent years it has been an increasingly popular choice for people to cut meat from their diet, especially in younger generations.

Ethical choices are easy to understand - 50 billion chickens are killed worldwide annually, many of these are caged and spend their entire lives living in a space smaller than an A4 sheet of paper. In fact in 2013, over a billion animals were killed in Britain alone, add in fish and shellfish and the number looks more like 8 billion. This is more animals killed annually in the UK than people on the planet. Gassing of animals such as chickens and birds is supported by the EU but they are also known to be slow and painful deaths, especially when carbon dioxide is used. Stun to kill methods whilst potentially fast have also been found by the Scientific Veterinary Committee of the EU to provide potentially painful cardiac arrest and do not always lead to a loss in consciousness. Sir Paul McCartney described this paragraph perfectly by saying "If slaughterhouses had glass walls, everyone would be a vegetarian".

The environmental benefits of the choice to become a vegetarian are also compelling. Animal agriculture causes 18% of all greenhouse gas emissions, transport in comparison is only 14%. The problem is made increasingly worse because of the fact that methane from cows is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Did you know that eating one less burger a week over the course of a year has the same environmental effect as not driving for 320 miles? The eating of fish that traditionally live on the seabed mean that deep sea trawling is necessary. This damages the fragile ecosystems that live there and is destroying our oceans. Is a BLT or a hamburger really worth more than the planet?



The next most important reason to eat less or no meat is for your health. A vegetarian diet reduces the risk of heart disease by 32%, provides a 12% reduced mortality rate and on average vegetarians have a lower BMI. In a recent study it was also found that 30% of cancers are largely caused by lifestyle choices such as diet. Eating less meat has a clear correlation to a reduced chance of getting such cancers. Simply eating less meat, especially red meat is known to make you healthier overall, so why do we continue to eat so much?

Finally, meat is expensive. Animals obviously need to be fed so producing and transporting feed has an economic impact as well as an environmental one. To buy and maintain land to rear so many animals on is expensive, especially in the present day. To transport animals to slaughter requires large vehicles that can be driving for hundreds, and in places like America, thousands of miles. Overall, meat is expensive. Looking in a supermarket it is easy to see how a vegetarian meal can be made for virtually pennies, using meat will make that several pounds. This is one of the reasons why so many cash strapped students are vegetarians - bulk buying vegetables for meals is both cheap and ethical, perfect for a student. Would you rather eat healthily, cheaply and ethically, and then have money to go for days out and to have fun with your friends, or eat meat and complain about not having enough money?

Hopefully you have learned something about vegetarianism and you are all challenged to take part in National Vegetarian Week, or at least cut down the amount of meat you consume. It is an opportunity to raise awareness, a time to reflect on what we put into our bodies, and a chance to decide whether just because something we are used to, or tastes good - it is acceptable to eat. As Russell Brand once said "I don't understand why something should lose its life just so you can have a snack".

**NATIONAL VEGETARIAN WEEK
15-21 MAY 2017**



DeliciousCooking

@MrsBeech

TWEETS	FOLLOWING	FOLLOWERS	LIKES	+ Follow
991	1	27.3M	1	

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Recipe for a Delicious Pasta Bake (serves 2)

9h

@MrsBeech

- Equipment**
- Sharp knife
 - Chopping board
 - Medium sauce pan
 - Small saucepan
 - Wooden spoon

- Ingredients**
- 150g Pasta shapes
 - 1 onion
 - Clove garlic
 - Tin chopped tomato
 - 1 tsp tomato puree
 - 1 red Pepper
 - 1 tsp mixed herbs
 - Salt and pepper
 - Bread crumbs
 - 100g Grated cheese



Method

- Put pasta in a small pan, cover with water. Bring to the boil and simmer until 'al dente'.
- Prepare all vegetables, chopped onion, pepper, crush garlic.
- Place onions and garlic in a pan with 2 teaspoons of oil, cook for 3 minutes.
- Add vegetables, cook for 3 minutes.
- Add tomato puree and tinned tomatoes. Season to taste.
- Cook for 10 minutes.
- Drain pasta, pour into tomato mixture and stir.
- Place in oven proof dish, sprinkle with cheese and bread crumbs, bake in oven for 10 minutes, gas mark 5 (190°C).



POPULISM EXPLAINED



Populism
@ConorHogan

TWEETS
34.8K

FOLLOWING
45

FOLLOWERS
28.5M

LIKES
48

 Follow

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

What is Populism?

- An appeal to the hopes and fears of common people...
- ...especially in opposition to the political, social, intellectual or economic elite



The Rise of Populism

12h

@ConorHogan

Populism: the global phenomenon that is ripping apart the political landscape as we know it. Its uprising has been unforeseen and has astounded those who witnessed the populist uprising. From Donald Trump to the Five Star Movement, politicians and parties are exploiting their new weapon and are having dramatic consequences on the world as we know it.

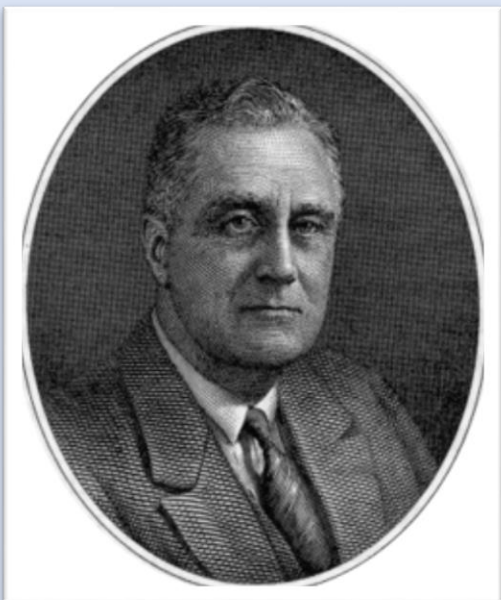
Populism is defined as political style of action that mobilizes a large alienated element of the population against a government, usually juxtaposing the status quo with the interests of the people. The underlying ideology of populists can be from all over the political spectrum. Its aim is to unify the ordinary people (little man) against the so called corrupt elite. The origins of populism can be traced back to the Romans, where leaders such as Julius Caesar tried to rule by mobilising masses of ordinary citizens against the Roman Senate. Other examples of populism include the Reformation of the Roman Catholic Church (1517), the French Revolution (1789), and Hitler's ascent to power through the Weimar Republic (1933). Populism tends to thrive when mainstream political institutions fail to deliver on promises.

It can be claimed that both Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Bernie Sanders have rode a populist wave, but the two are so radically different in political ideology, how can they both be populist? It is because both candidates share the same underlying base ideology; the 'underdog', hardworking majority is being undermined and exploited by a small elite minority. Both politicians claim to defend the interests of the average person, working to unite the country against a common enemy. For politicians, such as Trump this 'common enemy' rhetoric is often directed at immigrants and the establishment. Trump's claims he wants to "drain the swamp", (Washington DC) – the establishment who he believes is putting their own agenda before their peoples. For Bernie Sanders, it's Wall Street and lobbyists who he claims have destroyed politics with money. Sanders often uses rhetoric such as a 1%- pointing to the exponential growth of economic inequality in America and across the globe, indicating that the top percentile of the population equate to having as much wealth as the other 99%.





POPULISM EXPLAINED



Throughout history populism has been associated with charismatic demagogues (crowd pleasers), due to these personality types being successful at galvanising the masses of the people. Populism isn't necessarily categorically a force for good or evil, Adolf Hitler and Franklin D. Roosevelt (32nd President of the United States, serving during WWII) have both been described as populists, appealing to the frustrations of the respective countries. Populism has been prevalent in the United States for some time now, however only recently has it reached the political zenith. Liberals tend to resonate with issues affecting the working class such as income inequality, in 2011 one of the largest protest demonstrations was held called 'Occupy Wall Street' which blamed corporations and big banks for creating economic instability for the rest of the country. Conservatives however, have used populism to tap into voter's frustrations with bearcats and distrust of the federal government. For example, the 'Tea Party' movement formed in the wake of the 2008 financial crash was a protest government overreach.

Populist movements can either lead to legal reforms and meaningful positive change, or can be cultivated in widespread nationalism and nativism (the policy of protecting the interests of native-born inhabitants against those of immigrants). Either way, populism is an extremely effective political tool.





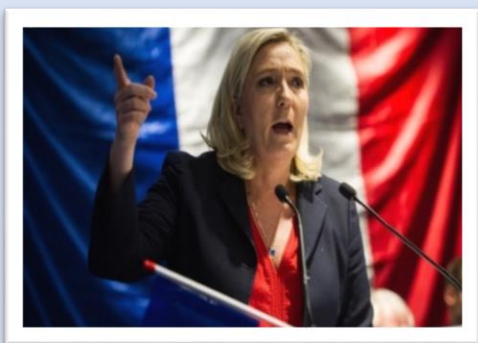
POPULISM EXPLAINED



The potent knife of populism has violently cut through the worldwide political landscape in the past year. However, in a mock student election here at KE Aston, it seemed to be a very different story with over 80% of students voting to remain in the EU. Why was this? What does it actually mean?

This insight to the younger generation's apparent immunity to populism does not seem to be an isolated incident only to be found within the arches of Aston. Far-right populism is dominating the airwaves, engulfing our previously centrist western ideals and yet all over this side of the hemisphere, the younger generation, on the whole do not seem to be listening.

Populism, a political doctrine that proposes that the common people are exploited by a privileged elite and which seeks to resolve this through quick, radical and popular changes. Boris Johnson, Donald Trump and Marine Le Pen have all developed, fostered and exploited this ideology for different means.

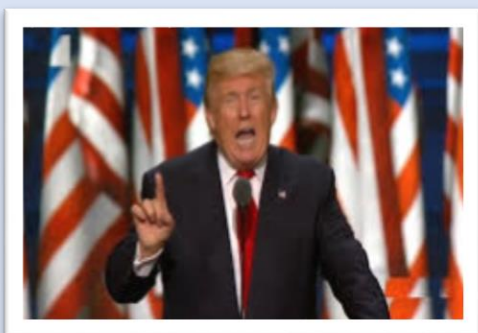


Let's look at some figures. 61 % of over 65 year olds voted to leave the EU in contrast with just 25% of under 25 year olds. This led to claims that the baby-boomers were 'screwing over the younger generations' as the impact of Brexit will arguably have longer term consequences for them. Across the Atlantic, just 37% of under 29s voted for the populist quick fix mantra of Trump "Make America Great Again". This is a clear rejection of a man 55% of the over 65s embraced. It is said that the older we get, the more conservative we become and older generations are typically further to the right than younger ones. There are a number of possible explanations, is it as simple as different eyes seeing different things or is something else at play?

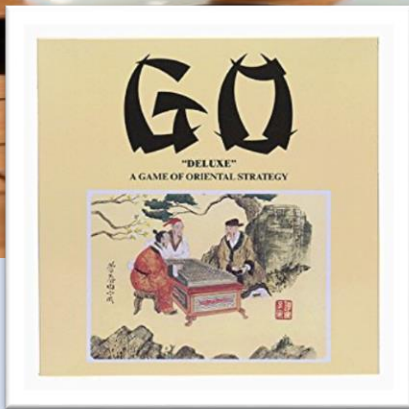


Despite the controversy that follows him wherever he goes, Donald Trump has tapped into deep emotion in the older demographic. Throughout his presidential campaign he constantly talked about people being 'fed up' and used deceptively simple persuasive devices such as 'believe me' over and over again to make himself sound authoritative and trustworthy. When Trump uses simple words he forgoes the jargon which clouts many leading politicians' speeches and therefore counterintuitively causes people to perk up for the TV remote to listen. More than 40% of Americans have only basic literacy skills according to a 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy.

However we now know that in all honesty, Donald J Trump was anything but a bastion of truth in his campaign, on the contrary a recent independent report found 66% of everything he says to be either wholly untrue or at the very least 'factually questionable', older people were taken in by this, the youth were not.



It is possible that we have misdiagnosed this condition without considering the key difference between the two sections of society. In the fast paced arena of social media where Trump regularly shares his opinions and 'facts' are disseminated or dismantled within seconds, many of the older generation have perhaps been left behind. It could be argued that it is not that the older generations are actively closing their minds, but rather, their minds have never been fully opened to the powerful rebutting force of social media in the way that the younger generation of minds are.



Go to Go
@RayyaanHector

TWEETS	FOLLOWING	FOLLOWERS	LIKES	Follow
3,650	3,509	31.2K	335	

Tweets Tweets & replies Media



Go to Go
@RayyaanHector

10h

Go or 围棋 (in Chinese) has become part of the school in many ways. This is evident through Mr Russell's enthusiastic support of the students playing the game, the weekly Go club in W4 on a Monday lunchtime and the introduction of House Go for the Tuck trophy. The game has been played for over 2,500 years after originating in ancient China which makes it the oldest continuously played board game with the name Go literally meaning 'encircling game' which sums up the game very well. A game of Go starts with an empty board with one player taking the black stones, the other taking white. The main object of the game is to use your stones to form territories by surrounding unoccupied areas of the board; during this it is possible to capture your opponent's stones by completely surrounding them. After the first move which is always taken by a black stone, players take turns to make their moves, just like chess. Whilst Go has deceptively simple rules and a single focus on gaining the most territory, it is actually annoyingly complicated and takes much practice and dedication to master. Initially, you'll look at it and be confused but after grasping the basics you will start to understand how it works and what is going on; no-one is expected to play Go for the first time and win. It is all about practicing, learning, improving and asking questions. Nevertheless, it is an absorbing, interesting game to play that seems to expand your mind and as you gain more experience playing Go you begin to see things before they happen on the board and hopefully you can begin to think a step ahead or at least try to, which is what the best Go players do. Unlike Chess, a game that Go is commonly compared to, it is almost impossible to win when you approach it from a 'go by go' viewpoint. I would strongly advise walking into Mr Russell's room on a Monday and asking someone to teach you how to play Go. It is a Game anyone can learn and anyone can master: ANY-ONE! Walk into W4 and talk to anyone who knows how to play and jump in and join the Go community at Aston and you may even bump into me...





KE Aston Choir
@ConnorBryden&NoahSamuel

TWEETS	FOLLOWING	FOLLOWERS	LIKES	+ Follow
9,906	1,134	71.4M	992	

Tweets Tweets & replies Media



Choir 2h
@ConnorBryden&NoahSamuel

Choir is a good place to have fun. We meet each Wednesday lunchtime and sing a range of pop songs and sometimes jazz. We have the opportunity to take part in many different concerts and have put on successful performances in the past. This is all thanks to our wonderful teacher Ms Markgren. She is a kind teacher who set up this group to give students at the school an opportunity to sing. To show how much people enjoy choir here are a few quotes from fellow members:

- Ibraheem - "It encourages us all to sing together and have fun."*
- Jude - "It's a good opportunity to socialise and we get to choose what songs we sing."*
- Dhiren - "It's a very lively lunch time activity that is always fun to attend".*
- Edward - "Choir is dynamic".*





Brexit
@EdwardCotterell

TWEETS	FOLLOWING	FOLLOWERS	LIKES	LISTS	Follow
5,403	284	3.46M	1,587	4	

Tweets Tweets & replies Media



Brexit
@EdwardCotterell 5h

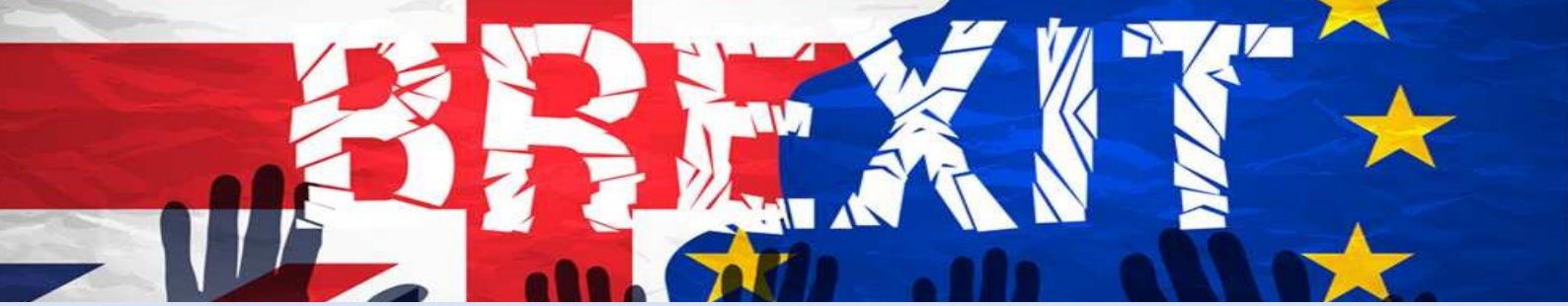
Hello, Hallå, Tere, Zdravo! Europe is diverse in its languages, its food and its culture. The 28 nations that currently make up the EU are different in many ways, for example Hungarians write their names backwards, the French eat frog's legs, the Spanish traditionally have a 'siesta' in the middle of the day and apparently...the British eat fish and chips out of a newspaper! These are stereotypes of course, if one is focusing on 'differences'. On Thursday 23rd June 2016, and in the wake of some questionable politics, the UK voted by a majority of 1.9% to leave the EU. Since then, the word Brexit has left some with a sense of national pride, some with sleepless nights and has no doubt sent some laughing all the way to the bank. So, how much do we know about our 'mysterious' neighbours? Well I ask some international residents for their take on life in the UK and the all-consuming power of Brexit...

So, first up, Sweden... we've all heard of the country best known for its very own international flat pack furniture. In the words of Swedish comedienne Petra Mede "We're strict and we're structured and seldom vent. Not easy to please but we're quite content". Over 20,000 Swedes live in this country including YouTube star Felix Kjellberg aka PewDiePie and the three people I've interviewed may be familiar faces to us...

Mrs Wilander – Piano teacher – Linköping, Sweden

Initially coming to the UK as a student, Mrs Wilander has been living in the UK for thirteen years. She has had relatives living in the UK in the past but not currently. She enjoys life in the UK though she has not given up her Swedish identity reportedly having a big Swedish flag in her house! She has helped her British husband learn Swedish so alongside speaking with family back home, she speaks Swedish nearly every day. As well as being fluent in English, Mrs Wilander also speaks French and German. When she speaks with friends they tell her of increasing polarisation as people become more fractioned. She says that the economic effects are the only thing that worry her about Brexit.





Ms Markgren – Singing Tutor – Sundsvall, Sweden

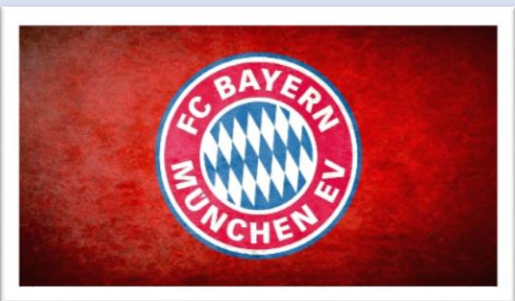
Ms Markgren is a talented vocalist who teaches various students across the city (including me). During our interview she said "I think Britain is a wonderful country with many great aspects and traditions. I love how society here is so diverse and how you encounter people from all walks of life with many interesting stories to tell. I have many friends here in Birmingham and the UK. Most are British, but I still speak Swedish several times a week, staying in touch with both friends and family. I travel back to Sweden two to three times a year to visit family and to perform".

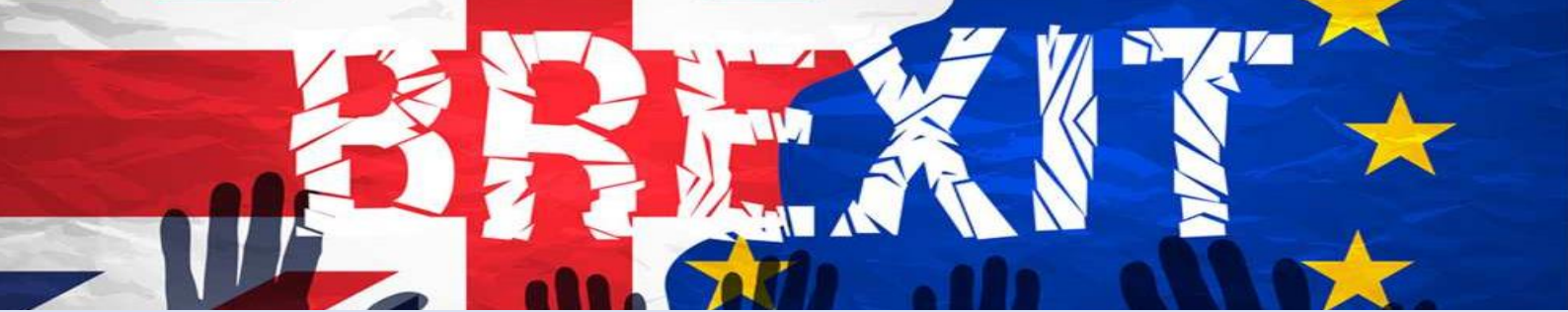
"For all of us, Brexit poses an uncertain challenge for the future, as no one really knows what is going to happen. As an EU national, I of course wonder what this might mean for me, but at this point, we all have to wait and see. I think it is clear that regardless of the final outcome of negotiations and new laws, the future of Britain and the EU will bring significant changes for all of us".

"As for polarisation, I do not believe it is a British issue as such. I would say that for the last decade, most of Europe has gradually moved towards a more polarised view of society and the world. Even in smaller things, I find it is now more common for people to express opinions in an 'us and them' perspective, focusing more on differences rather than the similarities between us. For a long time, I have been very worried about the increasingly callous tone of the debate, where respect for the opposing side seems to lessen by the day. This is also true in Sweden, where the rise of the nationalist party, the Sweden Democrats, has significantly hardened the political debate over the last decade. In Britain, the Brexit debate has of course caused a very visible rift in society, paralleled by events in the US and across the continent. I believe the only way to reconcile these differences and regain common ground is through dialogue and mutual respect and understanding. No matter how far removed our standpoints may be, we must not forget to respect the human being we are talking to, and to show that respect by recognising them and their situation by listening to them."

Thanks to our languages department, we all know a bit about Germany. It's rather large, they have Bayern Munich, er... they speak German! But how much do we really know? Well Germany is a large republic in Central-Western Europe with 82 million people, which is around 20 million people more than us.

They have one of the largest economies in the world and unlike the UK, they are a federal republic, which means that each state has its own Government and it has a president instead of a Queen. It is an extremely popular place to immigrate to second only to the US in immigration levels.





Miss Marquardt - International Student - Essen

A new face in our school, Miss Marquardt is a student from Essen, Germany. She has enjoyed living in the UK since October 2016. Apart from teaching, she speaks German "on average a couple of times a week" when she calls home. Brexit does not faze Miss Marquardt, "I hope it won't affect me – if it does, I don't have any problem living anywhere else. I'm not tied to the UK." She isn't worried about Germany, "I think Germany is a stable country where I can return to if things don't work out elsewhere in the world." She goes back to Germany every other month – "It is cheap and easy to travel and I'm still finishing my degree at a German University".

Next... France. There are 67 million people in France. The country features beautiful windswept seas in the north and warm sands in the south. Paris' Louvre Museum is the most visited in the world. Le tour Eiffel, in the capital, Paris, is one of the most recognised monuments ever and their radical overthrowing of the monarchy in 1789 is famed across the world as one the first republics. France is world-renowned for its top class cheeses, wines and of course 'escargot'. French is widely spoken across the world mainly as a second language.

Ms Bonnet - Language Assistant - Les Sables d'Olonne, France

Ms Bonnet has lived in the UK for around twenty years now. When asked whether she enjoyed life in the UK she said "far less, as I grow older I miss the quality of life in France and I visit France as often as possible". She speaks French every single day because of her job and she communicates with her family online. She is very worried about Brexit – in fact she said, "I am afraid that it will affect me a lot and I won't be the only one". She is worried about France also, she mentioned the debate around French politics with the upcoming elections in the nation. She believes that the UK is becoming increasingly divided.

Ireland, our next-door neighbour, with 4.75 million people was in 2015 the fastest growing economy in Europe beating out powerhouse Germany. It was the first country in the world to vote in two female Presidents in succession back in 1997. Ireland is world famous for stereotypes such as the Leprechaun and Guinness. Although Ireland is officially a bilingual nation, only 39% of people actually speak Irish, Polish is more widely spoken!

Mrs Moy - History Teacher - Born in Birmingham to Irish Parents

Mrs Moy holds an Irish passport but growing up in England meant she never learned to speak Gaelic. While she was a vocal "Remainer", she says that she isn't too worried about Brexit but she is glad that she will still be an EU citizen as she has Irish citizenship. She used to go to Ireland a lot in her childhood but she only returns these days for funerals or weddings! She believes that the UK has always had the views it has but there is a "larger emphasis" today thanks to the rise of social media.





Austria is a small country in the Alps in between Germany and Italy which is home to 8.7 million people. Don't expect any beaches because the nation is landlocked. The nation is famous for skiing resorts and classical composers. The nation has not been part of the EU since 1991.

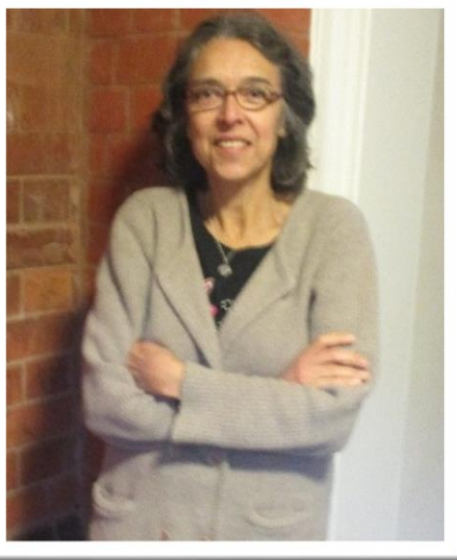
Mr Dirnhofer – Learning Support - Vienna, Austria

Mr Dirnhofer has lived in the UK for twenty three years and his links to the UK are his wife and children. He enjoys some features of British living but as for speaking his native language, he hardly ever does, only visiting Austria five times since he moved away. He has quite a few friends in the UK yet Brexit worries him very much: "The disarray of Brexit means the situation is up in the air". He feels confident about the situation in Austria.

Mrs Leah - Head of Spanish - Buenos Aires, Argentina

Mrs Leah has lived in the UK for 36 years. Her husband, who is from Derbyshire, is her link to the UK. Mrs Leah claims that life in the UK is better than at home. She says "I speak Spanish at school and talk with my mother on a daily basis". Mrs Leah says that she believes Britain is becoming more polarized with Brexit. On the contrary, she has no fears about Argentina. She doesn't visit anymore saying "Not since my mother came to live here. For twenty years I used to go to see her during the summer school holidays".

This concludes the interviews. What has this shown? Well, it shows a sample of the feelings of nationals from six countries across the world and it shows the effects Brexit may have on not only people across Birmingham but some of our teachers who give so much to us but may get very little back from the UK in the days to come.





Circus Skills

@RaeesIqbal



TWEETS
5,964

FOLLOWING
593

FOLLOWERS
29K

LIKES
82

LISTS
1

Follow

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media



One Wheel Wonder

@RaeesIqbal

Interview with Mr Russell:

Why do you use a unicycle?

I decided to get a unicycle two years ago after seeing them being used at a circus club. I have now got four of them, each with different heights and different inch wheels.

Have you always used a unicycle to get about?

I come from Cambridge which is a very bicycle friendly city so I always cycled everywhere before.

Do people often look at you when you're cycling past?

Yes, sometimes people stop to watch. I tend to forget I am riding a unicycle as I am so used to it by now.

Have you always been interested the circus?

Yes, I first got into circus activities when I used balloon animals for an A-Level lesson. This led onto me becoming interested in the Diablo, then juggling and finally unicycling. I have also had a go at tightrope walking.

Do you have any special tricks?

I can do Bunny-hops and ride backwards. I'm working towards completing the 'trials unicycle' which is a range of stunts.

I understand you run a Circus skills class at the Festival of Cultures, why?

I think there is something for everyone, whether it's the magic tricks or balloon making. Many universities have circus skills clubs.





Top Ten Films

@HayderShafi

TWEETS	FOLLOWING	FOLLOWERS	LIKES	Follow
4,161	244	84M	2,100	

Tweets Tweets & replies Media



Top Ten Films

@HayderShafi

1h

Alien: Covenant – May 19

The second *Alien* prequel looks set to bridge the gap between 2012's *Prometheus* and the original 1979 movie. Despite the reception to the 2012 prequel being somewhat split – mainly due to the abundance of questions left unanswered in relation to the origins of the Xenomorphs – this follow up looks to be a welcome return to the claustrophobic, terrifying mood of the first movie.

Wonder Woman – June 2

One of the most iconic superheroes of all time, Wonder Woman finally got her big-screen debut in last year's *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*. Gal Gadot's portrayal of the Amazonian warrior was considered one of the best things in the opinion dividing blockbuster, so this WW2 set solo movie has potential and, for those who weren't the biggest fans of *BvS* and *Suicide Squad*, it could finally get the DC Cinematic Universe back on track.

Spider-Man: Homecoming – July 7

Like *Wonder Woman*, *Spider-Man: Homecoming* also sees a new portrayal of an iconic comic book character, who had their first appearance in a 'superhero versus' movie from last year getting a solo movie. Tom Holland's take on the wall crawler in *Captain America: Civil War* was met with extremely positive reactions and started Spidey's long-awaited inclusion in the *Marvel Cinematic Universe* on a high. With Michael Keaton stepping back into the comic book genre as antagonist Vulture and Robert Downey Jr.'s Iron Man making an appearance, things are looking good for the *third*, and fingers-crossed the last for quite some time, Spidey reboot.





War for the Planet of the Apes – July 14

Another *Planet of the Apes* film was not something most people particularly wanted or needed. But, against all odds, 2011's *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* was a spectacularly constructed prequel and it spawned the arguably superior *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* three years later. *War*, the ninth movie in the franchise, could possibly mark the end of Caesar's (Andy Serkis) story and see a world on the brink of becoming the simian-inhabited planet we see in the 1968 original. The amazing motion capture effects glimpsed in the trailer coupled with what will hopefully be a great plot drawn from an emotional and character-driven core, may result in this becoming a solid trilogy.

Dunkirk – July 21

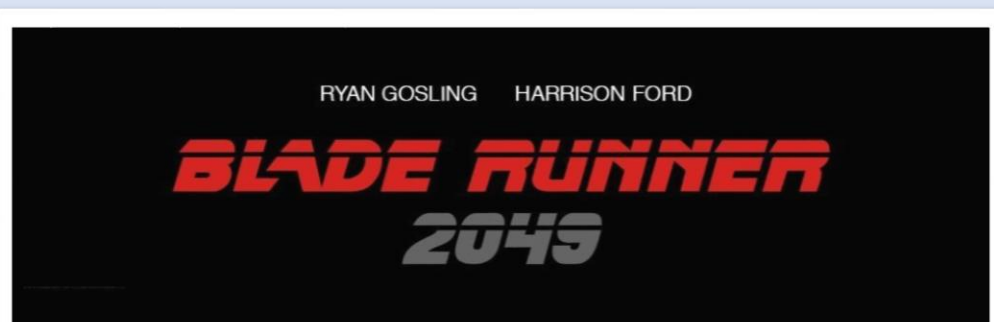
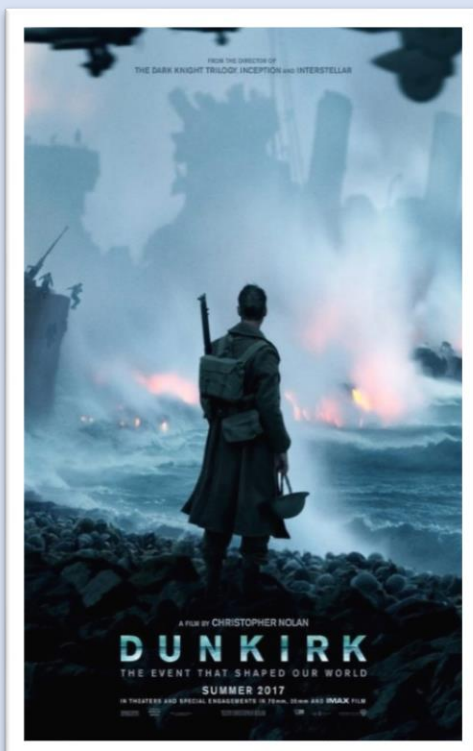
Christopher Nolan's first film in the director's chair since 2014's *Interstellar* focuses on the World War Two evacuation of Allied soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk in the summer of 1940. Anything with Nolan's name attached immediately sparks interest and historical war movies are very much uncharted territory for the accomplished director so *Dunkirk* has a lot of buzz surrounding it. Not to mention the miraculous event it's based on and the incredible cast consisting of Tom Hardy, Cillian Murphy and Mark Rylance to name a few.

Kingsman: The Golden Circle – September 29

2015's violent, gleefully fun spy actioner *Kingsman: The Secret Service* was an unexpected gem and turned out to be one of the best movies of the year. Now director Matthew Vaughn (who also directed *Kick-Ass* and *X-Men: First Class*) is returning for the follow-up which sees the eponymous British agency forced to team up with their American counterpart Statesman. With returning cast members Colin Firth, Taron Egerton and Mark Strong, and new additions like Jeff Bridges, Channing Tatum and Halle Berry, plus Vaughn's impressive track record, this sequel looks set to live up to the bar set by the last film.

Blade Runner 2049 – October 6

35 years after Ridley Scott's original sci-fi classic, Harrison Ford reprises his role as Rick Deckard, now a former blade runner, who is discovered by new blade runner K (Ryan Gosling) after being missing for 30 years. The first trailer elicited a mood of mystery and intrigue and looks very promising. Directorial duties are thankfully in the much capable hands of Denis Villeneuve, the man behind many great recent movies such as 2013's *Prisoners*, 2015's *Sicario* and last year's *Arrival*.





Thor: Ragnarok – October 27

The third movie in the *Thor* franchise sees Thor (Chris Hemsworth), Loki (Tom Hiddleston) and Odin (Anthony Hopkins) all return but this time they're joined by a few familiar faces from other Marvel properties. At the time of writing not *much* has been revealed of the movie's plot, but we *can* expect to see Thor forced to battle his once-ally The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) and try to save his people from the villainous Hela (Cate Blanchett). Benedict Cumberbatch's Doctor Strange, who was introduced in his own self-titled origin story last year, is also likely to make an appearance. With the way things are looking, this trilogy-closer might just be the biggest instalment yet.



Justice League – November 17

Justice League finally sees the *DC Cinematic Universe's* most powerful heroes joining forces on the big screen. The movie lineup includes Superman (Henry Cavill), Batman (Ben Affleck), Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot), The Flash (Ezra Miller), Cyborg (Ray Fisher) and Aquaman (Jason Momoa). The special footage shown at Comic-Con last year showed us Bruce Wayne and Diana Prince attempting to recruit a team for an as of yet obscure threat. Not only does the blockbuster team up movie have the task of bringing all these characters together but it also sees the proper introduction of The Flash, Cyborg and Aquaman – who were all teased in *BvS*, with the former also making a brief appearance in *Suicide Squad*. If this, and *Wonder Woman*, are successful, DC will finally have a cinematic universe to rival that of Marvel's.



Star Wars: The Last Jedi – December 15

Probably the most anticipated movie of the whole year, *Episode VIII* will continue the story of Rey (Daisy Ridley), Finn (John Boyega), Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) and the other characters introduced in *The Force Awakens*, as well as continuing the stories of Luke (Mark Hamill) and Leia (the late Carrie Fisher, who will make her final film appearance here). At the time of writing, hardly anything is known of the plot of the latest installment of the saga, however by the time you're reading this, we will probably have a first trailer. Directed by *Looper's* Rian Johnson, *The Last Jedi* is said to be slightly darker than its predecessor, following the trend set by *The Empire Strikes Back*. One thing's for sure: a new installment in one of the most iconic movie franchises of all time is definitely a great way to end a year full of powerhouse blockbusters.

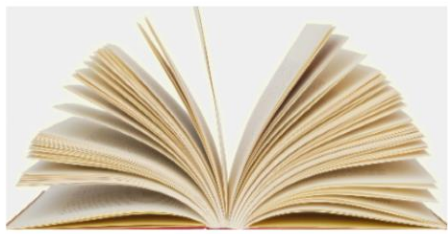
I'M NOT
ADDICTED TO



READING

I can quit as soon as I
finish one more chapter.

Book Club
@FergusHolmes-Stanley



TWEETS
2,590

FOLLOWING
104

FOLLOWERS
283K

LIKES
3

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Book Club
@FergusHolmes-Stanley

2h

The book club is an amazing way to delve deeper into stories by sharing your thoughts with other students and by hearing other member's points of view. Each book that is chosen gives members the chance to explore the story in a way that they may not have done so if they were reading it on their own. Books we have read have taken members from a small Swedish town to the vast expanses of the Indian Ocean; from face to face with Stalin to face to face with a Tiger.

The first book we read this year, "The One-Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed out the Window and Disappeared" doesn't have the most thrilling title but as they say, "Don't judge a book by its cover". Within only a few pages I found myself enthralled by Jonas Jonasson's literacy masterpiece which was a mixture of comedy, politics and world history; it not only entertained but also educated. The second book featured was the acclaimed "Life of Pi" which won the Man Booker prize and was subsequently made into a movie. I can thoroughly recommend it as it was a great read.

I wait with anticipation and excitement to what future worlds the club will plunge me into and I recommend it to anyone, be they a 'book-worm' or somebody who just wants to expand their reading.

Students should see Mrs Baizon for details.

When I've had too
much reality,
I open a book.

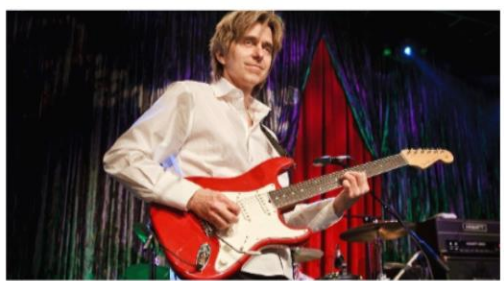


OfftheShelf.com



Best Guitarists

@IdnaanAltaf



TWEETS
359

FOLLOWING
23

FOLLOWERS
218K

LIKES
1

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Media



My Top 10 Guitarists!

@IdnaanAltaf

8h

Joe Satriani

The guitarist's guitarist, Satriani has organised and ran the G3 guitar tour for a number of years, showcasing the very finest in guitar talent. Through his numerous studio albums and live performances, he has proven himself to be a fine instrumental rock guitarist, in my opinion second to none. He has had wide influence in the guitar world, having taught Steve Vai and metal's most popular lead guitarist, Kirk Hammett.

Steve Vai

Known for his quirky and unique playing style, Vai was initially taught by the guitar virtuoso Joe Satriani, quickly establishing himself as a force that rivalled even his mentor. He kick-started his career by working with Frank Zappa for a number of years. Aside from his phenomenal guitar skills, he is also known for his abilities in composition, scoring for orchestra on numerous occasions.

Jimmy Page

A pioneer of classic rock, Jimmy Page shaped a generation of Rock and Roll, inspiring artists such as Slash, Vai and many others. He pushed the accepted limitations of the instrument for example, playing with a violin bow! He also understood texture, using a mixture of clean tones, fuzz tones and overdriven tones when the situation calls for it, playing what would complement the song rather than himself.

Eric Johnson

Born in Texas, Eric Johnson's weapon of choice is the Fender Stratocaster. His tone is very recognisable and is achieved through his use of pedals, tone controls and more. Recently, he has designed his own signature Stratocaster which encapsulates his signature, distinguishable sound that many have come to love.

Slash

Saul Hudson, better known to the masses as Slash is a massive devotee of the Gibson Les Paul, favouring its fuller sound. Setting his distortion to high and having the volume cranked up to 1,1 Slash achieved worldwide success as lead guitarist for the hard rock band Guns'n'Roses. He has subsequently taken part in other ventures, such as Slash's Snakepit and the Rock Supergroup, Velvet Revolver.



Jimi Hendrix

Possibly the most widely acclaimed and celebrated electric guitarist, James Marshall Hendrix brought guitar based rock and blues music to public attention. He was known for utilising feedback and large amounts of overdrive and helped popularise the Wah Wah Pedal. Jimi was a left handed guitarist who insisted on playing right handed Stratocasters which were restrung to be usable for him. He was known to smash up, and even set light to his instruments on stage.



Brian May

Brian May is a name that many will be familiar with, as the lead guitarist for the British Rock giants Queen. Brian May was a unique guitarist, one that was less known for his individual brilliance, but for what he contributed to his band something which is of equal importance. Brian May is also noted for using a unique guitar that he built himself, the Special Red



Jeff Beck

Jeff Beck is one of the three notable guitarists to arise from the British rock group the Yardbirds, the others being Eric Clapton and Jimmy Page. Jeff Beck was an early pioneer of the electric guitar like Hendrix and Page, extending the repertoire of guitar techniques and sounds alongside his fellow guitarists. Although his achievements are often overshadowed, Beck is a charismatic lead guitarist that created his own sound by incorporating exotic scales and unique tones to his playing.



Marty Friedman

Marty Friedman is one of my favourite guitarists. As lead guitarist for Megadeth, he showcased his abilities on the world stage. An accomplished shredder who demonstrates that there is more to shredding than sputtering notes out of the guitar at lightning speed. His interest in foreign music from a young age lead him to incorporate scales from different parts of the world in his playing, this is apparent in his solo album Inferno.

Mark Knopfler

Mark Knopfler is a man of many talents, being the lead guitarist for the Dire Straits, as well as being a producer as well as a film score composer. Knopfler was acclaimed by many other guitarist which he held in high regard such as Chet Atkins and Eric Clapton. In Chet Atkins' words "He is one of the great player around, he doesn't think that but he is". Knopfler is a guitarist with a signature sound, this sound being produced by his fingers. He prefers to play without a pick as it complements the clean tones which he often utilises in his playing.



Best Guitarists @IbraheenAzam



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My Top 10 Guitarists! @IbraheenAzam

8h

Jimi Hendrix

The greatest guitarist of all time. Period. Jimi Hendrix inspired most of the guitarists on this list including Frusciante and Prince. He exploded onto the music scene in the mid-60s, after playing with the legend Little Richard. His psychedelic mix of groove, funk, blues and jazz make Hendrix the biggest icon of rock music. Covering the Bob Dylan track "All Along the Watchtower" and almost completely changing the track and making it even more successful is almost impossible to do, but Hendrix did it. This makes him one of the best musicians to ever live.

Prince

The most talented, influential, and one of the most underrated eclectic musicians ever, Prince was indeed the legend behind "Purple Rain," and the electrifying "Let's Go Crazy" solo. His introductory riff for "When Doves Cry" makes Prince a musical icon, as he utterly destroys the pentatonic scale and makes it look easy. Along with playing 26 other instruments, Prince is an underappreciated legend without a doubt.

Chuck Berry

Funk, blues and straight up groove, Chuck Berry was possibly the greatest blues guitarist ever. His instantly recognisable hit "Johnny B. Goode" has become one of the most famous blues rock hits after it was featured in the hit 80s film "Back to the Future." This along with his other funky hits make Chuck Berry the bronze winner for sure.

Kurt Cobain

Despite being in the industry for such a short time, the legend that is Kurt Cobain took over the world with a pioneering sound of grunge rock with his band Nirvana. He was able to master both acoustic and electric guitar, and his tragic suicide solidified the band as one of the greatest and most remembered of all time.

B.B King

Mr B.B King is one of the very few instrumentalists whose guitar could do all the singing for him. He is the mastermind behind classic blues rock hits such as "Sweet Little Angel" which have indeed stood the test of time. One of the most influential black guitarists of the sixties, B.B King is someone who is well deserved of the top 5 spot.





Jimmy Page

"Heartbreaker", one of the solos that changed our definition of pure rock and roll, was written and performed by the one and only Jimmy Page. He has a wide range of soft, loud, slow and fast, and he can do all of those tempos and pitches in just one song. His clear abilities make him a tough act to beat as a guitarist.

John Frusciante

John Frusciante was the guitarist for my favourite band, the Red Hot Chili Peppers. His amazing guitar skills are demonstrated in the classic funk rock hit "Give It Away" which was written when he was barely an adult himself. In addition to his work with the band, he also has a magnificent and underrated solo career as a guitarist, singer and producer.



George Harrison

Someone who needs no introduction, George Harrison was the guitarist for the biggest selling band of all time, The Beatles. This alone shows that he is one of the best to play guitar, because of the sheer success of his band. His 12 String riff for "You Can't Do That" shows that he is indeed one of the greatest.

Eric Clapton

Possibly one of the biggest veterans in the music industry, Eric Clapton's longevity as a guitar player and singer are the reason that he makes this list. His range of fast songs like "Layla" and slow songs like "Tears in Heaven" show that Clapton is a master of guitar masterpieces with a variety of influences.



Jacky Vincent

A pioneer of a new age of "shredder" guitarists, Jacky Vincent is by far one of the most underrated guitar players right now. He has worked with the bands Falling in Reverse and Cry Venom. His solo album "Star X Speed Story" demonstrates his capability as a thrilling punk rock guitarist.



Staff 'Picks':

Mr Russell – Brian May

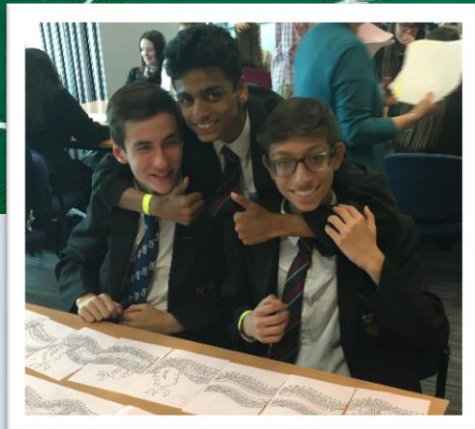
Mr McBrien – Alex Lifeson

Miss Laventine – Tony Iommi

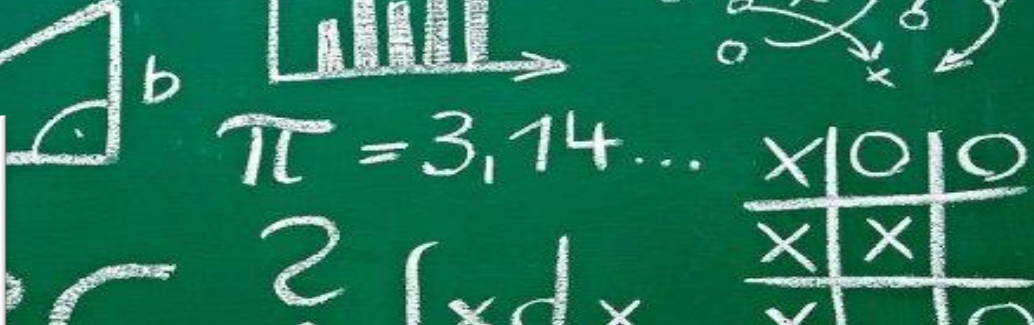
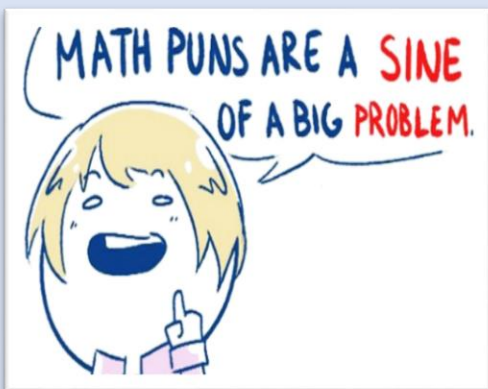
Mrs Leah – Carlos Montoya

Mr Mackie – John Frusciante





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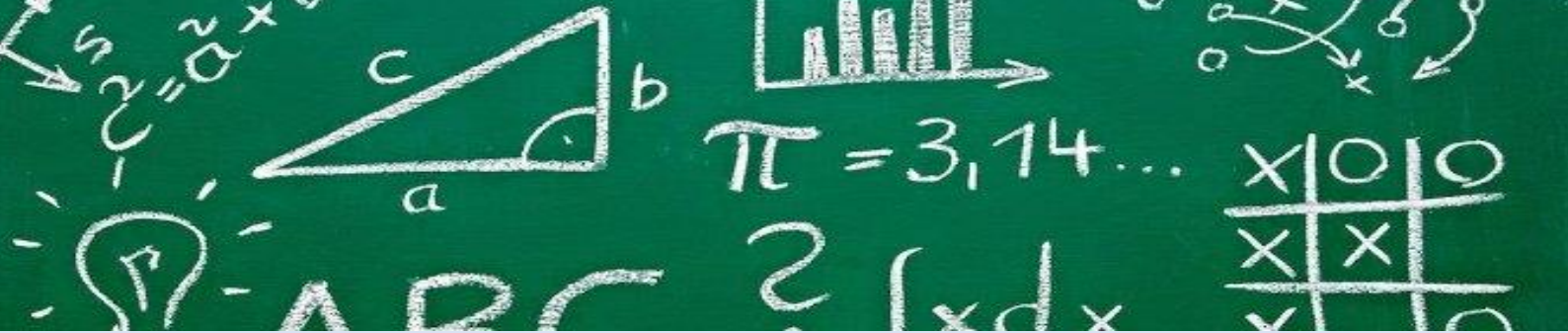
5h

After several weeks of waiting for something, anything interesting to happen, it was finally here: the mathematics trip. It was all we had been waiting for, for the whole term, and we were ecstatic. The weather even made a turn for the best! Following a long and hot minibus journey, several students wandered out of the coach, hoping that the day wouldn't be as terrible as their expectations.

We sat anxiously waiting for some indication that our presence had been acknowledged then someone came over with coloured bands, splitting us and other schools into two different groups: one red and one yellow. I was quite glad that they came quite quickly so that I didn't have to endure any more of Miss Meally's mathematical puns (no offence miss).

Although we were competing with other schools as well as each other, thankfully everyone had friendly smiles as opposed to the whispers, side-glances and bemused smiles that normally come with competitions. We walked into the lecture hall as one giant swarm and we saw several questions appearing and reappearing on the projection on the wall. Those of us who found it easy were beaming when we assumed that we had the correct answers. Of course, Miss Meally gave us a 'pep talk' first and a few, as we would say, "hints" to help us out. They truly were difficult questions and as soon as the answers were revealed to us, all that you heard was either a harmonious but shameful "ohhhh" or a tiny group of people boasting of how "easy that question was".

We then got split up into our two groups. Since we had yellow bands, we were headed up to "Sets". In this session, we played a game which involved several cards with certain traits and characteristics, which we had to sort into groups of 3 which shared those characteristics or: sets. After having very competitive and even heated games, we then went on to find out about 'Non-sets'. This is when we came to find that per deck of cards, rather than trying to find all of the sets, we could instead find out how many non-sets that there are. So, each group played against each other in order to make the most amount of non-sets. It turns out that the highest group got nine non sets, but the number of possibilities were up to twenty!



The second session of the day was "Grime dice". This involved several unfair dice with not so random numbers on them and completely different colours. The aim of the game was to roll a die of your own and for your partner to roll a die of their choice to see who could get a higher score. Naturally, this then went on to statistics to see which die was the most likely to win. After several tables being constructed to try and find out the answer and going to different groups around the class to find out what they got, we found that it was inconclusive. This was due to the fact that there is no winner. Much like the analogy of "rock, paper, scissors", for every object, there is an object that it beats and there is an object that it loses to. For example, with rock, it beats scissors, but loses to paper. It is the same principle with grime dice, but there are five dice as opposed to three objects.

The next session that followed was the "Dragon Quiz". All you had to do was answer the questions on each individual small pieces of paper which, on the back, had small designs of body parts on a dragon. The main mission was to see which group had the largest dragon at the end of it. Each question was just as different and hard as the next, ranging from construction to algebra and even simultaneous equations. It was mayhem: people were moving aggressively and competitively yet still 'walking' as we were instructed to do so. Of the many groups that competed, nobody came even remotely close to Group 1 from our school. Congratulations to them and they were rewarded with bars of heavenly chocolate.

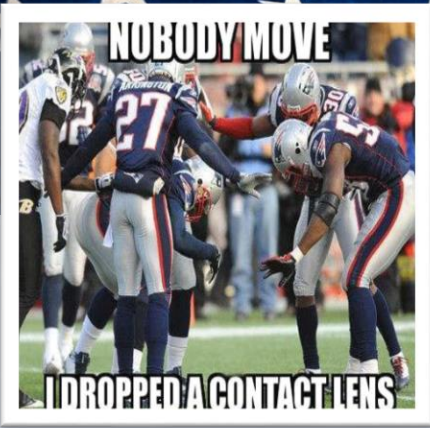
Speaking of chocolate, we swiftly moved on to the next session. After a bit of fresh air and food, we looked at the mathematics behind a chocolate fountain. We had an incredibly enthusiastic lecturer who described the physics behind it and even if different substances were put in a chocolate fountain, or, as we witnessed, a mayonnaise or even a tomato ketchup fountain!

It all boiled down to: viscosity and surface tension. An observation which was made was that chocolate always looks like it is being pulled towards the centre of the chocolate fountain and in order to have a look at the way that substances acted or moved (due to shearing), we looked at cornflour mixed with water. Someone had to mix it together, so after not a very large number of volunteers, none other than Daneel Patel was chosen to come up and put his hands in this slimy substance. As he showed it all the way around the lecture room, it tumbled around in his hands. Thankfully he didn't get it on me, but there were some very unlucky victims in the cornflour matter.

TO ANYONE WHO LOVES CHOCOLATE, MOVE TO THE NEXT PARAGRAPH NOW! It was impossible to have such a high build-up to the chocolate fountain, looking at it, talking about it, learning about it, without having a taste, so we stuck our skewers into the many marshmallows after waiting in a line that felt like forever and enjoyed the succulent beauty of melted chocolate.

We waved goodbye to the university with a bag full of goodies. In all, I was genuinely impressed with the things that we learned and took away from the experience as a whole and it was a very interesting day and I hope that everyone else felt the same way. Thank you very much Miss. Meally for giving us the opportunity to go on such a great trip!

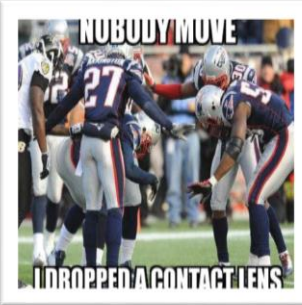




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Football or Football?
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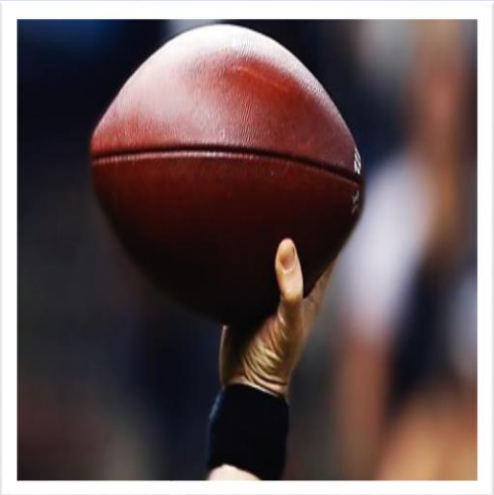
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Football or Football? 7h
@RayyaanHector



American Football is hardly a common pastime in schools this side of the Atlantic, but that doesn't mean it isn't played at all. Here at Aston, the sport has gradually gained more popularity over recent years, with students from several forms taking part in this high energy and enjoyable game. One of the main reasons for this is that in its touch format, it is an ideal sport to play on a concrete paved area.



To the novice, American football might seem to be a complicated game; however, in reality, it is quite easy to get to grips with. Understanding that your primary aim is to run and get to a position where you are 'open' (clear from the defence) to receive a pass is the first step to success. From this point on you can start to progress and begin to understand how to play the game (see link below for rules).

After the basics are covered and you begin to understand the game and how it is played, tactics can be learnt in which more elaborate plays are adopted and more sophisticated skills are acquired mostly through trial, error and practice. Once you know where you best fit in within the game: quarterback, cornerback or receiver (obviously choosing from positions within the touch format) you can begin to play with confidence and join what is a growing sport in the UK.



In fact, in 2016 in its youth Touch format, American Football has seen a participation increase of **90.6%** on the previous year, whilst in U17 Contact format, it has seen a participation increase of **38.8%** which indicates how popular American Football could become in the UK.

So, next time you are walking aimlessly around the school at recess or lunchtime, come to the top courts, have a look and get involved. If you find football difficult, touch rugby boring or basketball not to your taste why not join in with us or maybe start your own game with friends.

To find out more please visit:
www.rulesofsport.com/sports/american-football.html



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