

Meopham Monthly



Nessa says:
"Hoppy
Easter!"



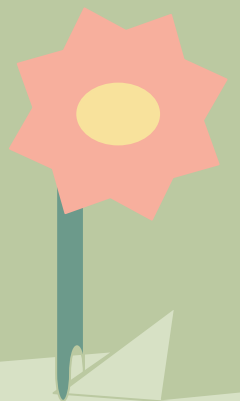
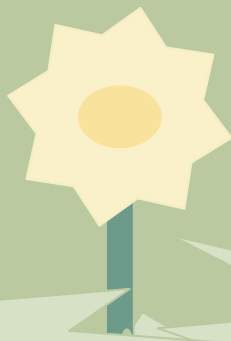
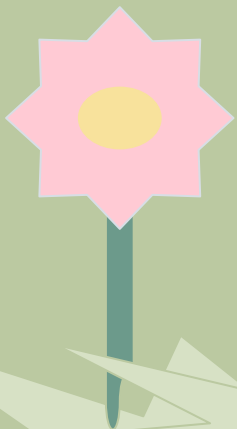
Welcome

Welcome to the March-April issue of The Meopham Monthly, featuring Mr Roberts's pet house rabbit, Nessa, as our Easter Bunny on the cover!

In this issue you'll find news features on the latest happenings around school, including Swalestock, World Book Day and the amazing Year 9 girls' football win. We also have short stories, artwork, poetry, puzzles, reviews and more.

If you would like to submit a short story, article, poem, photos or anything else for our future issues, please contact the team at MSS-magazine@swale.at or come along on a Thursday lunchtime in to EN4.

We hope you enjoy this issue!



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With thanks to everyone who contributed this month:

Kaya Akyuz (Yr9)
Mrs Briscoe
Mia Colledge (Yr9)
Gracie Cooke (Yr9)
Charlie Dalton (Yr7)
Dilpreet Dhesi (Yr9)
Isla Eloie (Yr7)
Sam Fowler (Yr11)
Lola Gardner (Yr9)
Miss Garnett
Charlotte Gorton (Yr9)
James Holden (Yr7)
Jack Hollis (Yr9)
Mr McQuillan

Mrs Nicolaou
DG Kneif (Yr7)
Poppy Palmer (Yr13)
Sia Palmer (Yr8)
Henry Price (Yr11)
Mr Roberts
Pat Roberts
Amelia Rogers (Yr9)
Mr Savory
Archie Scanlan (Yr9)
Louie Simms (Yr11)
Albie Snelson (Yr11)
Molly Turner (Yr7)
Mrs Williamson

Football Champions!

**By: Mia Colledge &
Charlotte Gorton (Year 9)**

Earlier this year, the Year 9 girls entered the Kent Cup U14s competition. In the competition there were 64 schools. The Year 9s had to play a series of six games to reach the final. The final took place at Herne Bay stadium on the 1st March. The result of the final was 1-1. Although we drew, the competition's rules state that if the match ends in a draw, the cup is shared between both schools and therefore Meopham Year 9 girls are the joint holders of the Kent cup! Well done to everyone on the team and thank you to Mr Savory for supporting us!

The Team:

Manager: Mr Savory

1. Lucy Hodges
2. Bettie Fowell
3. Lana Hadaway
4. Violet Taylor
5. Emily Reader
6. Freya Hicks
7. Mia Colledge
8. Evie Watkins
9. Holly Payne
10. Talia Junaid Evans
11. Jasmine Howard
12. Charlotte Gorton
13. Scarlett May

Route to the Final:

R1-Meopham 14 -0 St John Fisher
Goalscorers: Talia[4], Mia[3], Jasmine, Lana, Freya, Violet, Holly, Emily, Bettie

R2-Meopham 6-2 Rainham SFG
Goalscorers: Talia[5], Charlotte

R3-Meopham 7-2 Maplesden Noakes
Goalscorers: Talia[5], Mia, OG

QF-Meopham 6-5 Dartford S & TC
Goalscorers: Talia[5], Mia

SF-Meopham 4-0 Maidstone GGS
Goalscorers: Talia[3], Charlotte

F-Meopham 1-1 Bullers Wood
Goalscorer: Mia



Thank yous from Mr Savory:

Thank you to Mr Huggens for taking the Year 10 Sport Education winners to Gravity, Bluewater.

Year 9 girls' football team went to Folkestone to complete the Go Lead programme to become young leaders. Thank you to Miss Flavelle for taking them.

Ramadan 2025


By: Kaya Akyuz (Year 9)



Ramadan is an Islamic holiday which is celebrated on the ninth month of the Islamic Calendar. It is a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community.

During Ramadan you are not allowed to eat, drink or smoke in daytime hours. You eat one meal just before dawn, referred to as Suhoor, and one after sunset, referred to as Iftar. After you complete your fast, which this year will be finished on the 30th of March 2025, you celebrate a festival called Eid-al-Fitr, where you get money, sweets and gifts. However, if you fail your fast, you will have to make it up at some point in the year.

Ramadan Facts



By the Gregorian solar calendar, Ramadan comes **10 to 12 days earlier each year.**

At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate the **three-day holiday of Eid al-Fitr.**

The beginning and end of Ramadan are **determined by sighting of the moon.**

During Ramadan, Muslims abstain from **eating, drinking, smoking and sex from sunrise to sunset.**

Exempt from fasting: **children, sick or elderly people, women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or having their period.**

Mr McQuillan's Musings

In search of the truth?



We are living through some extraordinary times. We often don't always realise we are living through

history until long after the event, when people ask us if we remember what happened years later.

If you are reading this, you will probably remember the start of the Covid lockdowns 5 years ago and will definitely know where you were when you heard about the death of Queen Elizabeth II. These were both hugely important historical events that you have lived through.

We are living through a real historical political shift at the moment; seeing an American president and the leader of another country engaging in a heated argument in front of the TV cameras is not something I have ever seen in my lifetime. Politicians are usually very controlled when they argue and debate - seeing them getting angry and arguing openly was both shocking and unexpected.

Young people often get criticised for not taking an interest in politics or the news, but I have had a number of interesting discussions with students about Donald Trump and the USA in recent weeks. There have been a number of views shared and it is safe to say that he gives rise to a lot of strong opinions.

You will, of course, need to make your own decisions about whether you think he is taking the right, or wrong steps in his efforts to bring peace to Ukraine. In order to make your decision, you will need to listen to different points of view, look at the facts and try and see who is telling the truth. Unfortunately, doing this is becoming more and more difficult for us all.

These days, we are bombarded by more information than we have ever been before - social media means that we have access to any idea and any viewpoint that might be put forward - about any topic.

Continued...

However, because the algorithms that social media uses targets us with the things we like and want to see – this means we are shown lots and lots of ideas and viewpoints that match our own. This can mean we miss other people's views and opinions and start to think that our view is the correct one, because most other people seem to agree with us. This is a mistake.



In addition, some of the things shared are distortions of the truth, or not truthful at all. People often don't bother to check the facts before sharing the post, or repeating the lie – and then the lie becomes accepted as truth. AI has made this problem worse as deep fakes are now used to make clips that seem to be real, but are in fact fake.

A famous quote that is often repeated states 'A lie can be halfway around the world, while the truth is still getting its boots on' and this is now true more than ever.

What does this all mean for us? Well, we cannot always be sure that what we are hearing online is the truth. It is often best to fact-check any claims or statements, to see if they are really what they seem. We should also understand that everyone has their own opinions and nobody is completely free of bias – even our parents, teachers and friends.

What advice can I give you when deciding which view to believe?

- **Seek out different opinions** before making up your own mind.
- **Use fact checking websites** to see if the things that are being shared are actually true.
- **Keep an open mind**, even if you disagree you will learn something.

Student Leaders are Back!

By: Jack Hollis (Year 9)

Who are the Student Leaders?

The student leaders are a group of students who meet weekly to discuss projects and school improvements. We are made up of lots of different year groups so everybody is welcome! On a typical day we will talk about new ideas and put our solutions and improvements into action.

What projects do Student Leaders do?

Some of our past projects include:

- Helping out at open evenings;
- Tree planting;
- Eco Afternoons;
- Environmental surveys;
- Surveying students;
- Charity events;
- Community events.



We currently have a £3,000 grant to create a herb and vegetable garden and would love to have input from students on designs and other ideas on how it could be run.

Why should I become a Student Leader?

Student leaders get to take an active part in school life and find creative solutions. Their work is crucial to creating a positive environment for all students. You don't have to commit forever, you can just pop in a few times a term; all help and participation is appreciated!

How can I join?

Come along to Maths 8 every Wednesday lunchtime or speak to Mrs Greenwood. We would love to see you there!

Corner of Wonder

Quote of the Month:

“What is not possible is not to choose. I can always choose, but I must know that if I do not choose, that is still a choice” - Sartre

Does fate exist?

**Do we really
choose our own
futures?**

*Do coincidences
really happen?*

**Can
someone be
lucky?**

Is there ever a
wrong decision?



Hidden in Plain Sight - Part 1

I never wanted to be invisible, or for my sister to be hurt, or for my parents to split up. I feel like it's all my fault. You might be confused right now, so let me tell you the whole story.

When I was 7 there was an accident to do with me and my sister. It all started when one evening my dad came home from work and had the idea to build a mini race car with us. My dad is a scientist and loves to build crazy things with us, but that's where it went all wrong.

My sister, Sarah, and I walked to the shed to grab my dad's building tools. As walked, we were both filled with excitement as we pictured the magnificent race car we were about to build. We spent the whole morning painting and cutting wood until it was done. Right in front of my eyes was a car of my dreams: a small red race car which had just enough space for me and Sarah to ride in together. Our dad had set up a small petrol station on the other side of the garden, since we had an actual engine and needed petrol to start the car. Our mum stood at the garden door with a cup of tea for our dad, beaming as she watched us laughing. As our mum and dad walked inside to get petrol for us, something shiny caught my eye: a mysterious, metallic powder in a strange, glass tube.

I stared at the powder in awe, not knowing that it was a dangerous chemical that our dad had accidentally left on his chair. He always bought chemicals home from work, but he kept them away from us so we couldn't see. Soon, I found myself picking up the strange tube, gazing at the shiny substance inside. I looked at my dad through the sliding glass doors. He had grabbed the petrol but had sat down at the table to talk to our mum. Being impatient I sat down on the chair annoyed, the tube still in my hand. Suddenly, I had an idea. I sat up excitedly and ran over to Sarah to explain my plan to her. I told her my idea of putting the chemical inside our car instead of the petrol so glitter would fly out of it. She grinned and immediately ran over to the car, jumping in the black leather seat inside. I ran after her and hopped in the car. I plugged in my seatbelt, not knowing that it would be the biggest regret of my life. I carefully poured the chemical into the tank but at first, nothing happened and Sarah unplugged her seatbelt, disappointed. All of a sudden, the car zoomed up the garden and she fell out, leaving me stuck in the driver's seat.

Everything was blur. I hurriedly tried to undo my seatbelt but the car was driving too fast. I heard the panicked screams of my parents as the car drove uncontrollably around the garden. Suddenly, I crashed into the garden fence and the small wooden race car smashed into pieces and I was covered by the strange, glittery, metallic chemical. Because the car had stopped, I hurriedly unplugged my seatbelt and sat up. I looked around and saw Sarah laying on the ground crying. I hurried over, shouting her name as I ran. My parents looked around startled and asked where I was. That was when I looked down. I was invisible.

continued...

A Short Story by: Isla Eloie and Molly Turner (Year 7)

Sarah was immediately rushed to the hospital but because I was invisible, I was forced to stay at the house with my dad. Our mum had refused for him to come as well as she blamed him for what had happened to Sarah and I, but I knew it wasn't his fault. It was mine. I was the one who put the chemical in the race car. Eventually, news came back about Sarah. She had broken her spine and was now paralyzed on her lower body. I never forgave her myself that day and I know I never will.

After Sarah finally came home from the hospital, the first thing I did was sneak into her room to see her. Her broken body lay motionless as she stared at the white patterned ceiling. A single tear trickled down her lonely face. I was too scared to say anything as I didn't want to scare her. She had no idea that I was invisible yet. Suddenly, I heard shouting. Earsplitting shouting echoed from downstairs. Each yell sounded like a roar that had immersed from a fearsome lion that was protecting its cubs.

Curious, I snuck out of Sarah's room. The guilty feeling that haunted me had slipped away for once, but soon it crept back to me as I heard the shouting continue. I carefully tiptoed down the narrow stairs. All though my palms were like a river of sweat, I was still able to grip the banister to keep me from falling. Quietly, I peeked through the the small crack in the door. In the living room I managed to glimpse who was fighting: it was my parents. I gasped, a little bit too loud for my liking. As I peered through the the crack once more, it felt like all of my breath had been snatched from my throat. Luckily my parents were in a world of their own, shouting at each other to hear me. As they yelled at the top of their lungs, their faces glowed with rage and boomed with thunder. I had never seen them like this before. I stood there, frozen, like a bear cub lost in the woods. All of a sudden, I jumped back as the white, wooden door was slammed shut.

All I could do is wish for it to stop, but it never did.

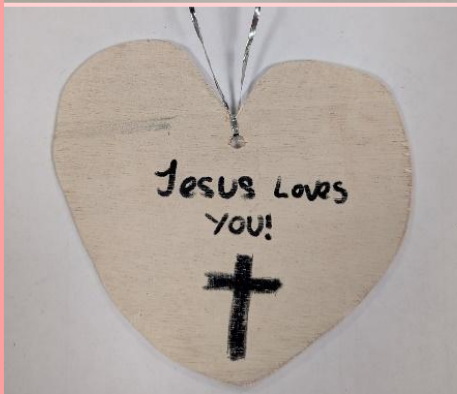
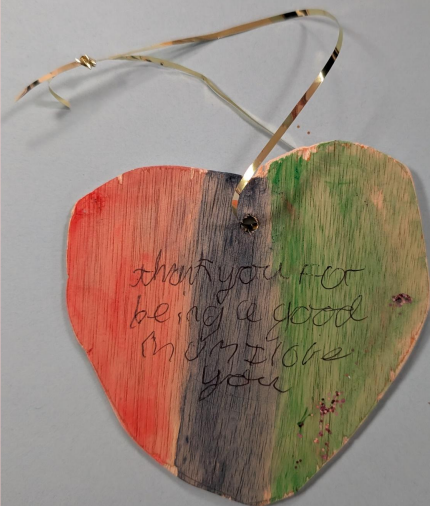
A few months later, I had been told the devastating news of our parents' divorce. It had accidentally slipped out when we were all eating dinner together. Like always, our parents are arguing again. Out of their rage, they blurted out the whole story. Our mum blamed our dad for what has happened to us and tried to insist that she kept both of us. However, our dad fought back and, in the end, I was to stay my mum and Sarah was to stay with my dad. I didn't want to let her go, but I had to. I couldn't let myself hurt her anymore. I slowly watched my dad's white car drive away. Invisible, salty tears flowed down my face as I watched from my window while my mum watched from outside. I knew she was upset but she tried act as if she didn't. My bad memories flooded back but I locked them away quickly before the tears could prick my once more. Ever since the accident, my mum kept me inside, all the time. I couldn't stand it. That was when an idea popped into my head. I was going to sneak out...

Gallery



During term 3, Year 8 DT students enjoyed creating 2D hanging ornaments for Valentine's and personal gifts.

They used a range of tools and materials, such as using a coping saw to cut out their shapes and adding colour as a personal touch.

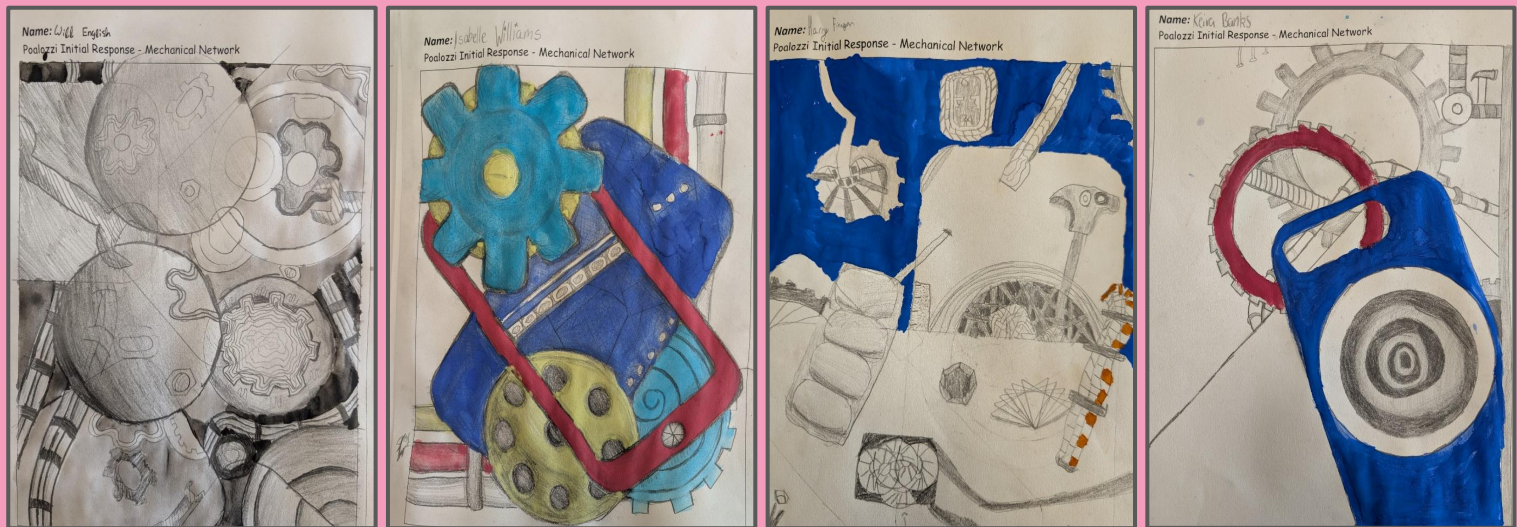


Thank you to Mrs Nicolaou and the Art department

Gallery



During term 4, Year 8 and 9 DT students have been busy creating a range of 2D bookmarks for themselves or to give as gifts. They have enjoyed exploring a range of media and materials, such as card, beads and thread to add personal touches. Well done Year 8 and 9!



During terms 3 and 4, Year 8 students have been creating work based on mechanical forms in art. They have demonstrated effective use of line, shape, colour and composition inspired by the artist Eduardo Paolozzi. Well done to Will English, Isabell Williams, Harry Finnigan, Keira Banks and everyone who worked extremely hard in their art lessons this term to achieve their best personal learning outcomes.

for sharing this work and supporting students.

World Book Day Display Competition

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2025

World Book Day Competition



Use this form to showcase your favourite book OR your class reading book. You should write a description below and draw an image or images in the box on the right.

Book Title: *The Book Thief*

Describe your book and explain why you like it:

The book is set in Germany during WWII. The book is about a German girl who has been orphaned by a gas attack. She lives in a basement and steals books to give to the people who are hiding there. She finds a way to survive and eventually finds love.

I love this book because it teaches me about the world and how people survive. I found the story very interesting and it is definitely one of the best books I have ever read. I would recommend it to everyone. If you are interested in the book, you should read it. It is a very good book and it is very interesting.

Student Name: *Isla E*

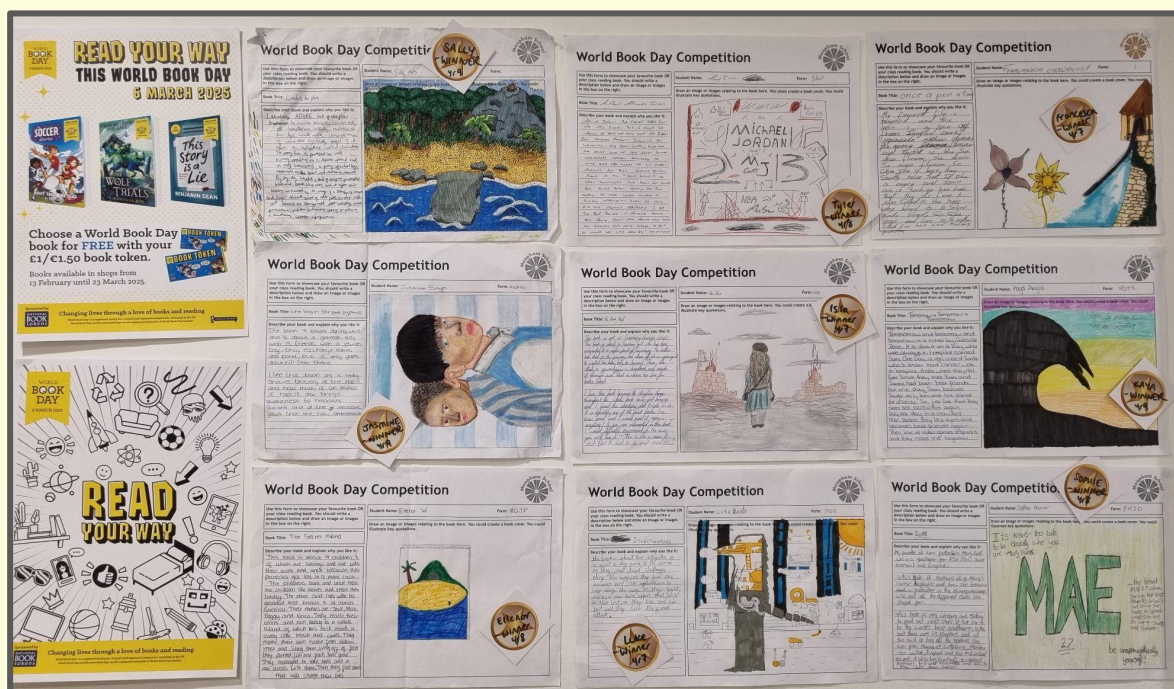
Form: *7B4*

Draw an image or images relating to the book here. You could create a book cover. You could illustrate key quotations.



Congratulations to our winners!

Year 7 - Isla E, Luke E & Francesca C
Year 8 - Sophie H, Ellenor W & Tyler C
Year 9 - Kaya A, Sally I & Jasmine S



Well done to everyone in KS3 who created posters for the corridor display - it looked amazing!

World Book Day Event

By: Mrs Briscoe

On Friday March 7, 2025, a group of Meopham's KS3 students travelled to Westlands School in Sittingbourne to celebrate World Book Day. The event was an exciting opportunity to learn about creating rhythm through rap.

A brilliant workshop was organised with the Guinness World Record Holder for Human Beatboxing, Testament, and it turned out to be filled with magnificent moments despite microphone mishaps!

After opening with "sick beats" that revealed how multi-talented the writer and producer is, students were treated to a freestyle that incorporated the various texts being studied at Kent-based Swale Academies Trust Schools.

As the day progressed students found themselves creating poetry about their identities, titled *I come from*, by drawing inspiration from their life experiences and hobbies. They produced some absolutely stellar work and even performed it out loud to the other schools.

Well done to all the students involved on the day.



testament

/ˈtɛstəmənt/

noun

something that serves as a sign or evidence of a specified fact, event, or quality.

Thank you to Mrs Briscoe and Mrs Courtney for running this trip!

Interview with the Band:

Mouldy Bagel & the Hazardous Spoons

(Albie S, Sam F, Penny I, Henry P & Louie S - Year 11)

**Interview by: Sienna Simmonds
(Year 7) & Jack Hollis (Year 9)**

How did you form a band?

[Albie, Henry and Sam] - We all took Year 6 music together and had to play Tetris in front of the school! When we met Louie in Year 7 he joined us and we started practising Seven Nation Army for about a year!

What's your favourite thing about it?

[Sam] - I personally think it's good to be in a band to spend time with each other, make fun of each other and build relationships with people with similar interests. [Albie] - It's great to have a passion for music, but also you have to be friends. [Sam] - Entertaining a crowd. We can mess up the entire song and no one gets mad, we have a laugh about it. It's the spirit of it.



Who are your inspirations?

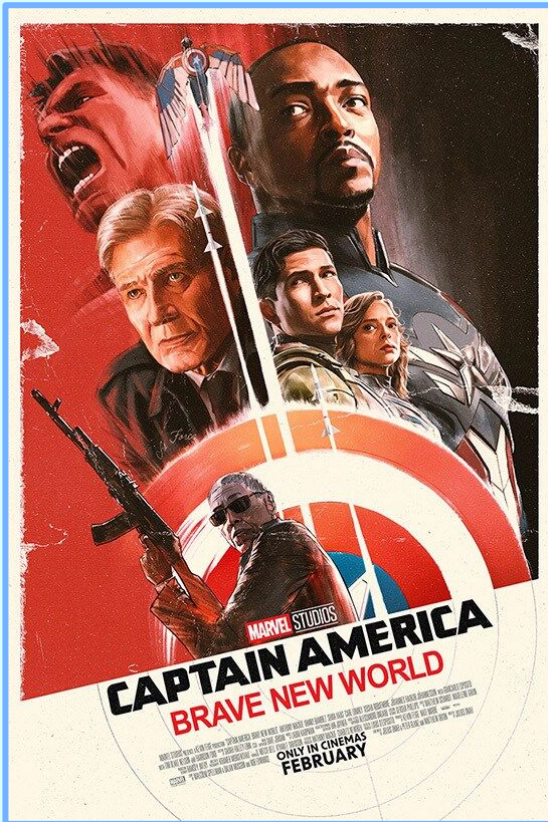
We have very different music tastes. [Sam] Drummers who I look up to are Steve Gadd, Jeff Porcaro and even Roger Taylor. They're people my dad was into when I was younger and I've grown up with that. My dad is a Jazz drummer. [Albie] My inspirations are Fred Durst, David Bowie, Elton John - people who are not necessarily objectively the best, but are brilliant performers. [Louie] I look up to Corey Taylor, because he is so inspirational and when he performs, it's really alive.

When and where do you perform?

[Henry] - We have Swalestock at school on 18th March. We will be performing Sweet Caroline in the style of Metallica! We have been talking for 3 years about how we live near Cuxton and want to perform at the pavilion there - we're hoping to get a slot soon.

Film Reviews

By: Archie Scanlan (Year 9)



Captain America: Brave New World

Captain America (Anthony Mackie) finds himself in the middle of an international incident after meeting with President Thaddeus Ross (Harrison Ford). Sam must soon discover the reason behind a nefarious global plot before the true mastermind has the entire world seeing red. I think that the movie is a 10/10 and i highly recommend that you see this film. There is a post credit scene that teases the future of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.



Coming Soon: Lilo & Stitch

Lilo and Stitch is a movie about an alien called Stitch landing in Hawaii and making new friends like Lilo. The Live Action Disney version is coming out in May 2025 and looks brilliant!

“Ohana means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.”

Death at Dinner

Part 2

No one dared to utter a word, as both the Duke and Duchess lay sobbing on the floor, traumatised by the horrifying sight before them. There, rigid as stone, with skin pale as ivory and faint traces of blue ebbing from his lifeless wrists, was Beetle. His usually radiant smile, the one that could light up the dimmest of rooms, was gone, ripped away along with his future.

After five minutes of gut-wrenching silence, Weasel spun around, his tear-streaked face twisted with rage, eyes burning like embers in the dark. The grief carved into his features was raw, primal.

“Shot in the chest and left shoulder,” he growled, voice quivering with fury. “Who dares commit such a vile act against my beloved brother?” His words roared through the hall like a lion’s command, echoing off the cold stone walls.

“Control yourself, dear...” Ophelia interjected, her voice deep and unwavering, though laced with dread. She clasped Weasel’s trembling hand, her knuckles white. “We will uncover the monster behind this wicked deed. They will face retribution. They will—”

A sudden commotion interrupted her, footsteps echoing urgently down the corridor. Diane burst into the room, her face flushed, breath ragged. Bailey trailed closely behind, eyes sharp as daggers, scanning every corner with unsettling precision.

“Come quick!” Diane commanded, her voice slicing through the tension like a blade. But there was something peculiar in her tone, too composed, too calculated. Bailey exchanged a brief glance with her, a silent conversation flickering between them.

As the others rushed after Diane, Ron lingered. His gaze remained fixed on Beetle’s lifeless form. His face was an unreadable mask, but his clenched fists and trembling jaw betrayed the storm within. Slowly, he sank to his knees beside Beetle, his fingers brushing lightly over the cold hand that once held his so tenderly in stolen, secret moments.

“You promised me forever,” Ron whispered, his voice breaking, barely audible beneath the growing chaos around him. A tear slid down his cheek, landing on Beetle’s collar, an echo of memories now lost to silence.

continued...

A Mystery Story by: Amelia Rogers & Dilpreet Dhesi (Year 9)

Moments later, Diane's sharp voice echoed from down the hall, "We've found something."

Everyone gathered around the small study, where Bailey stood holding a blood-streaked handkerchief. It wasn't the embroidered cloth that captured their attention—it was the unmistakable insignia stitched into the corner: the mark of the royal secret police.



Weasel's breath hitched, "Why would this be here?"

Bailey's expression didn't waver.

"Because justice isn't always delivered in daylight."

Diane stepped forward, her eyes gleaming with authority. "We should have told you sooner. We're not just guests here; we're with the royal investigation bureau. We were sent to uncover a traitor within these walls."

The room spun with shock, betrayal and fury.

"And now," Bailey added coldly, "we have more than treason to investigate. We have murder." Ron didn't react. His heart was still with Beetle, his mind replaying every moment, every hidden glance, every forbidden word. But somewhere beneath the grief, a new fire began to burn.

Vengeance.

And this time, it wouldn't be kept in the shadows.

- **Who's the murderer?**
- **What will Ron do now?**

Your queries may be answered soon...



Autobiography of Vinicius Jr

By: James Holden (Year 7)

Vinicius Jr is a great player who plays for Real Madrid and for the international team Brazil. He might be the new Pele [a player who played for Brazil in 1957]. He plays with the great Jude Bellingham and Kylian Mbappe. He has won with his team a great 14 Champions League cups.

He wears the number [7] for his team Real Madrid and for his country Brazil. Also he is only 24 years old, so he should have a great future in his career.

Vinicius José Paixão de Oliveira Júnior, commonly known as Vinicius Júnior or Vini Jr., is a Brazilian professional footballer.

Born: 12 July 2000 (age 24 years),
São Gonçalo, State of Rio de Janeiro,
Brazil

Current teams: Real Madrid CF (#7 /
Forward), Brazil national football
team (#20 / Forward)

Height: 1.76 m

Dates joined: 2019 (Brazil national
football team), 2018 (Real Madrid CF),
2017 (Clube de Regatas do Flamengo)

Salary: 20.83 million EUR (2025)

Parents: Vinicius José Paixão de
Oliveira, Fernanda Oliveira





Minecraft News



By: DG Kneif (Year 7)

Notch, also known as Markus Persson, is the creator of Minecraft. He was born in the 1st of June 1979 In Sweden. Until he was seven, he lived in a small town called Edsbyn. The town is surrounded by forests and he spent a lot of time walking in the trees. One of Notch's favourite quotes was 'I think the only way I could be something fun and big is if I don't expect it to be'. I hope Notch would be proud of what Mojang has made of Minecraft.



The Minecraft experience is something Minecraft will be doing for a while now and this year we are lucky since The Minecraft Experience is coming to London! I hope they will get many bookings.



Minecraft Monthly is something where Mojang gets something random and makes it in Minecraft!



Four misfits; Jason Momoa acting as Garrett "The Garbage Man" Garrison, Sebastian Hansen acting as Henry, Emma Myers acting as Natalie and Danielle Brooks acting as Dawn find themselves struggling with ordinary problems when they are suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into the Overworld: a bizarre, cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination



Monthly Masterpiece

By: Poppy Palmer (Year 13)

Matthew Davis

Matthew Davis is a British artist, born in Colchester in 1969, has gained recognition for his approach to oil painting, where he builds up layers of pooled paint to create intricate, multi-dimensional surfaces. His work explores themes of light, movement, and perception, often drawing inspiration from natural phenomena, architecture, and human activity. By challenging traditional methods of painting, Davis creates pieces that feel both organic and structured, inviting viewers to engage with the interplay of colour, depth, and texture in a unique and immersive way.



Davis has developed a distinctive painting technique characterised by the meticulous application of oil paint in small, pooled layers. This process involves slowly dripping oil paints to form tiny pools, allowing each layer to dry over several days before adding the next. The result is a dense, multi-dimensional surface that offers a unique visual experience.

His work often explores the interplay between abstraction and figuration, drawing inspiration from natural phenomena such as clouds. Davis is interested in how clouds retain and diffuse light, leading him to contemplate the mechanics of vapor and light. This fascination translates into his paintings through the use of dots and patterns that evoke mist and mystery. He combines modernist painting techniques with a romantic sensibility, aiming to understand the illusion of light and pictorial space not merely for analysis but to evoke deeper emotional responses.

In his earlier works, Davis depicted objects like gloves, which served as metaphors for the artist's hand and the act of creation. These paintings functioned on multiple levels, being both figurative and abstract, and highlighted patterns inherent in other art forms, such as knitting. Over time, his subjects expanded to larger-scale themes, including stadiums and sports events, reflecting the chaotic yet disciplined patterns found in these environments.

Davis's paintings raise questions about the process of painting itself, representing the very act of their creation. By engaging with both the techniques of modernist painting and the emotive qualities of romanticism, his work invites viewers to explore the fluid boundaries between form and content, offering a rich and layered aesthetic experience.



Birthstones



By: Sia Palmer (Year 8)

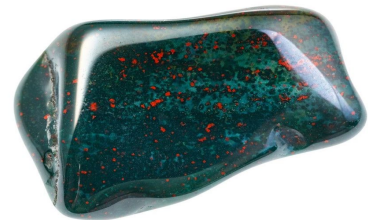
Hello! This is the birthstones page, where I focus on the certain stones based on your birthday. This month and April I'm focusing on the four birthstones of March and April.

Aquamarine

March is the host of this gorgeous gemstone, when translated to English from Latin it's 'seawater' due to its bluish tint. Sailors at sea used to carry it around on the boat for protection. According to legend, the god Neptune was believed to have found it in a sirens' jewel box and washed up on the shore.



Aquamarine



Bloodstone

Amethyst

This crystal is probably one of the most well-known crystals due to its beautiful purple hue. Did you know that it was found 25,000 years ago, that means prehistoric people were using it!



Amethyst



Jasper

Jasper

The name Jasper comes from the Greek word 'iapsis', meaning spotted stone. The name comes from the swirls and spots on it. In ancient civilisations, it was thought to ward off dark and negative forces and was used for courage and determination.

Heritage Transport Show

By: Charlie Dalton (Year 7)

There is a Heritage Transport Show at Detling showground on Saturday 5th April 2025.

It is all about classic cars, buses, motorbikes, tractors, steam trains, stationary engines, commercial and military vehicles.

There is also the South East Bus Festival! There is a free loop in the showground where buses go round and round the showground.



South East
Bus Festival

2025

Saturday 5th April



Puzzle Time!

**By: Mia Colledge,
Charlotte Gorton &
Gracie Cooke (Year 9)**

Boggle:

You may only use each letter once unless there is more than one of that same letter. You need to make as many words as you can, as well as finding the 6 Easter related words. How many words can you find? Can you find more than we did?

E	I	K	S
R	T	N	U
G	R	B	G
B	A	H	E

Last issue's answers:
Magic Squares:

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

2	7	6
9	5	1
4	3	8

6	1	8
7	5	3
2	9	4

8	1	6
3	5	7
4	9	2

Wellbeing Corner



Compiled by: Miss Garnett

How Anger Hides other Emotions

© Linda Meredith

Anger is often referred to as a "secondary emotion," as it often masks or covers up other, more vulnerable emotions that are harder to express

- Fear:** When we feel threatened or unsafe, it can be easier to lash out in anger rather than admit to feeling afraid.
- Sadness:** Sometimes, when we're feeling sad or hurt, we may get angry as a way to protect ourselves or avoid feeling vulnerable.
- Frustration:** When we feel stuck or unable to accomplish something, it can be easier to express anger than to acknowledge our own limitations or failures.
- Disappointment:** When our expectations are not met, we may feel angry instead of admitting to feeling let down or hurt.
- Insecurity:** When we feel insecure or unsure of ourselves, anger can be a way to mask those feelings and project confidence.
- Shame:** When we feel ashamed or embarrassed, anger can be a way to deflect attention away from ourselves and onto others.
- Jealousy:** When we feel jealous of someone else's accomplishments or relationships, we may express anger instead of acknowledging our own feelings of inadequacy.

 healingfromcomplexptsd.com 

If you require support or advice regarding a mental health crisis, please contact one of the following national services.

- **Samaritans** – Call **116 123** (free, available 24/7) or visit www.samaritans.org
- **NHS Mental Health Crisis Services** – Call **111** for immediate advice or find your local urgent mental health helpline at www.nhs.uk
- **Childline (for under 19s)** – Call **0800 1111** or visit www.childline.org.uk
- **Mind** – Call **0300 123 3393** (Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm) or visit www.mind.org.uk
- **YoungMinds Crisis Messenger (for young people)** – Text **YM to 85258** (available 24/7)
- **Shout Crisis Text Line** – Text **SHOUT to 85258** (available 24/7)

If this is an emergency, please call **999** or go to your nearest **A&E**.

Pat's Poems

Pat Roberts has worked as a cleaner at Meopham School for over 20 years! She is also a keen poet.

20-20-20 Rule by Pat Roberts

It's a long time since I went to school.
No computers in my heyday,
no headaches or eye strain.
Just a fatty lump on my finger
from writing page after page
again and again.

I will explain the name:
Stop after 20 minutes, pause for 20 seconds.
Focus your gaze 20 feet away.
Even if on your mobile phone games you like to
play?

Well, yes, I guess...

Poem

The Weight of School By Anon.

The bell rings loud, the day begins,
A long list of tasks that never ends.
Books in hand, my mind feels slow,
As lessons rush and hours go.

The homework piles, the exam on the way,
A heavy load, I start to wait
For a break, a breath, a chance to rest,
But school keeps pushing me, puts me to the test.

The pages turn, the numbers fly,
My eyelids heavy, I can't deny,
A tired soul, but I still try,
To make it through, to reach the sky.

Each day is a challenge, each day a fight,
But in the end, I'll see the light,
For though it's hard, I know I'll grow
Through all the stress, I'll find my flow.

If you have a poem or any other contribution for the magazine, hand it in to your English teacher or Mrs Williamson, or come along on a Thursday lunchtime to EN4.