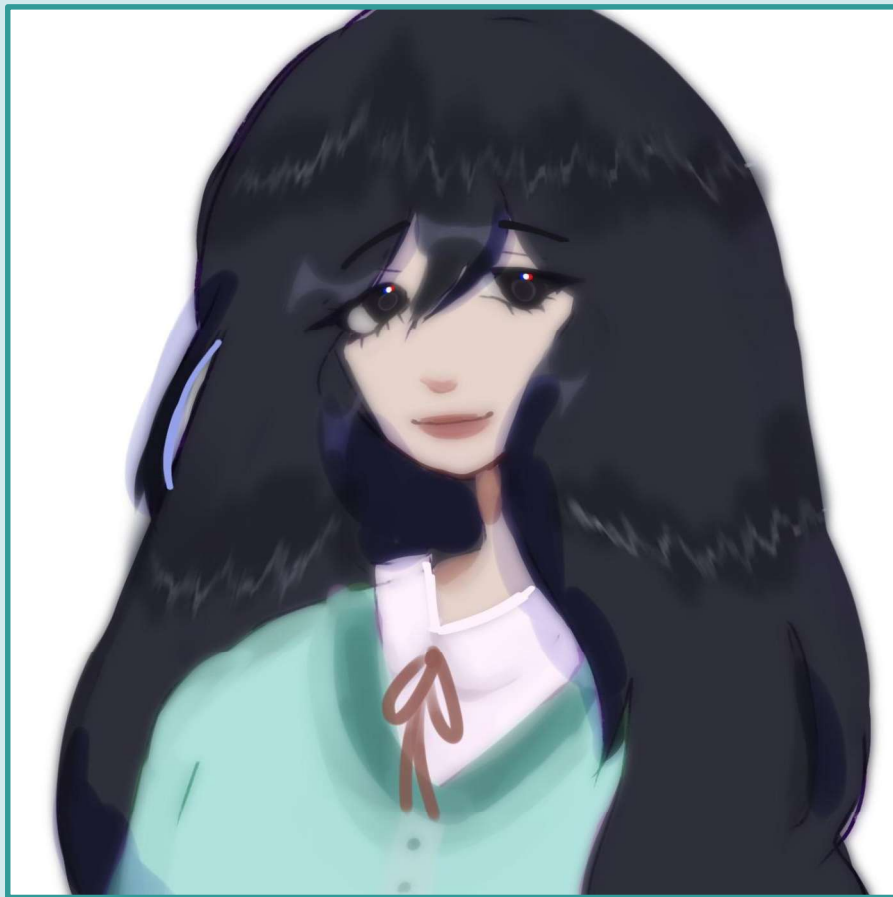


News, opinions, short stories, pets, photos and more!

MEOPHAM MONTHLY

Meopham School's Student Magazine



Cover Art by Vesta Negreckis

ISSUE 13 : MAY-JUNE 2023

WELCOME

Hello! Welcome to our joint May and June issue of Meopham Monthly. In this issue you can find articles celebrating Pride month and the benefits of music on your mental health. There are also contributions from the Sports, Drama and English departments, as well as coverage of our Community Coronation Event.

You will also get to see many of the wonderful library designs, as well as the winner for the library design competition. Keep reading to find out the top three designs!!

If you would like to submit a short story, article, drawing, poem, photos or anything else for our future issues, please get in touch with the team at MSS-magazine@swale.at or come along on a Thursday lunchtime to English 5.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Editor: Robyn Fitzpatrick (Yr 12)

Guest Junior Editor: Nshira Ansah (Yr 7)

NEWS JUST IN!

The Year 7-8 girls' football team are through to the last 16 of the National competition (90 teams entered from around the country)! In round 5, the team beat Varndean School (Brighton) 6-2. The goalscorers were Mia Colledge and Talia Junaid-Evans, with Player of the match named as Mia Colledge. In the next round the team will play Holloway School (Islington & Camden).

Well done to everyone on the team and to Mr Savory:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| - Lucy Hodges | - Ola Frencek | - Violet Taylor |
| - Lauren Bass | - Amelia McShane | - Ava Ridley |
| - Mia Colledge | - Holly Payne | - Evie Watkins |
| - Daisy Evans | - Talia Junaid-Evans | |

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**With thanks to everyone who
contributed this month:**

Nshira Ansah (Yr7)	Vesta Negreckis (Yr7)
Ethan Bathgate (Yr9)	Muhammed Ali Qamar (Yr7)
Miss Biscombe	Sienna Lee (Yr7)
Isabella Bourne (Yr9)	Harriett Pritchard (Yr7)
Kayleigh Campbell (Yr11)	Hope Richards (Yr7)
Leon Coles-Freeman (Yr9)	Mr Savory
Dilpreet Dhesi (Yr7)	Ella Taylor (Yr7)
Charlie Gannaway (Yr7)	Mr Vilday
Harry Gower (Yr8)	Isabelle Websdale (Yr7)
Mrs Greenwood	Grace Westlake (Yr9)
Olivia Hamblyn (Yr7)	Mrs Williamson
Otis Hinsley-Kidd (Yr7)	Kaya Zukowska (Yr7)
Layla Lowe (Yr7)	

PRIDE

By Robyn Fitzpatrick (Yr12)

As Pride Month rolls around for another year, I would once again like to take this time to explore what the acronym LGBT+ stands for, as well as having a deeper look into the community. Whilst Pride Month has an obvious focus on respecting and supporting individuals who are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community, it is incredibly important to remember that this respect and support is necessary all year round, not only during Pride Month.

The acronym LGBT has been in use since the 1990s, but what does it mean?

A common misconception when it comes to the LGBTQIA+ community is that gender and sex mean the same thing. When discussing gender identity, it is important to remember that sex is biological, male or female, while gender is how people identify, and because gender is a spectrum this could change at any given point in someone's life.

Furthermore, conversations regarding gender often bring up the topic of pronouns. While sometimes pronouns do correlate with gender, this is not always the case. The most commonly used pronouns are she/her/hers, he/him/his and they/them/theirs. Some people choose to use multiple sets of pronouns and whilst they could have a preference for one set being used more frequently, the people around them can use their different pronouns interchangeably. There are also neo-pronouns, which are pronouns outside of those commonly used, such as it/its or xir/xem.



2023

By Robyn Fitzpatrick (Yr12)



'L' stands for lesbian. A lesbian is a non-man loving a non-man, and non-man in this context refers to someone who identifies as non-binary, genderfluid, or a woman.



'G' stands for gay. Someone who is gay is a non-woman loving a non-woman, and non-woman in this context refers to someone who identifies as non-binary, genderfluid, or a man. Gay is also used as an umbrella term for the entire LGBTQIA+ community, so anyone in the community could refer to themselves as gay.



'B' stands for bisexual. Someone bisexual is attracted to men, women, and anyone under the trans/non-binary umbrella. Bisexual can also be referred to as the attraction to two or more genders, meaning someone could be attracted to males and non-binary people but completely excludes females from their attraction. Someone bisexual has gender preferences.



'T' stands for transgender. Someone transgender does not identify with the gender identity associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. Some transgender people go through multiple surgeries in order to make them physically appear as the gender they identify with. Transgender people could classify the name they were given at birth as a deadname, meaning that they no longer go by that name and would ask the people around them to use another name that they have chosen instead.



'Q' stands for queer. Queer is an umbrella term for people who are apart of the community, meaning that they do not identify as cisgender or heterosexual, however do not want to label themselves with another label.



'I' stands for intersex. Being intersex means that a person is born with both male and female genitalia therefore not conforming to either a male or female identity.



'A' stands for both aromantic and asexual. Someone aromantic desires little to no romantic relationships, and someone asexual desires little to no sexual relationships. Being aroace is a spectrum, and someone who identifies as either of these identities may experience more or less desire than someone else who identifies as aroace.



'+' stands for all other identities within the community.



Lesbian



Gay



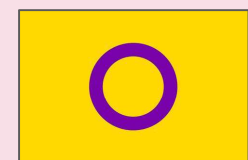
Bisexual



Transgender



Queer



Intersex



Aromantic



Asexual

MR VILDAY'S VIEW

Views from a latter-day Viking

This month I thought I'd reflect on the reasonably memorable 28 days that have just passed.

27 days ago

OFSTED!!!!!! The one phone you call you don't want to happen and yet you do so it's out of the way. So they came, and they went and at some point, we'll know what they thought.

The most telling question I was asked was "How many Ofsted's have you been through at Meopham?" Not entirely sure, but in 25 years here, it's possibly 7 or 8.

23 days ago

Finally caught up with a friend to meet her baby for the first time. Beautiful day at Coalhouse Fort that almost didn't happen. I went to Tilbury Fort; she went to Coalhouse Fort. Lucky my Nokia 3310 was there to solve the problem.



22 days ago

London O2 Arena. Anyone who reads the weirdness I write here knows how passionate I am about music. On this day I finally got to see the awesomeness that is PARAMORE. Dancing and singing to one of the best bands I know, almost getting trapped in London overnight and outrunning 2 people, at least 30 years younger me to get to the final train. Thank you, Hayley, Zac and Taylor, for a night I won't forget.



9 days ago

A mere 42 years since I went up to London, camped overnight on The Mall, almost got squashed to death at a massive firework display and then watched the carriages as Charles and Diana celebrated their wedding. Didn't need to do all that again but I did watch the coronation of King Charles III on TV. Found out afterwards that an ex-student of ours was one of the backing singers for the evening concert – go Tess! 😊 Reminded me also that my Mum and Dad were introduced by a matchmaking great uncle of mine at Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953. So, in a strange way, if we didn't have the Royal Family, I wouldn't be here.



7 days ago

Walked through Jeskyns, Sole St, Camer Park, Cobham Park and finished in Cobham. The village store was celebrating their 10th anniversary and I was happy to help them do so. It's a community shop, staffed by volunteers and well worth a visit if you're in the area.

Thanks for reading. Article and photos courtesy of ✨ productions 2023

CAREERS FOCUS: PUBLISHING

INTERVIEW WITH MRS WILLIAMSON

By Nshira Ansah (Yr7)

How did you get into working in publishing?

As most of you know, I really love books and loved Harry Potter growing up, so I decided to apply for unpaid work experience at Bloomsbury Publishing. I also did unpaid work experience at Penguin. All the time I was there, I was listening out for job opportunities and so when a job as Marketing Assistant became available, I applied and got the job.

Did you enjoy working in publishing?

Yes! I loved it. I loved working with authors and planning book launch parties and creating advertising campaigns. I loved the free books and I got lots of signed copies (*see pictures*).

Did you get to meet the authors then?

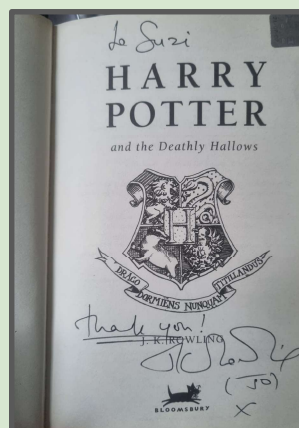
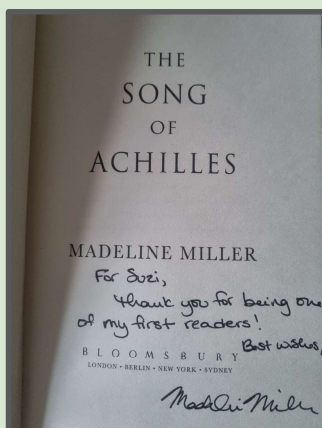
Yes, all the time. We had to get authors into the office to talk about their new books before they were published and to discuss ideas for promoting their books. I also got to see lots of actors at parties, as I worked on promoting new plays that were on at the London theatres.

What were some of your best moments?

There are two that stick in my mind: the first is going to Buckingham Palace with an author to receive a prize for his writing from HRH Prince Philip. The second is helping out at the launch event for *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* at the Natural History museum, where we had to stay up all night because Jo (JK Rowling) was doing a midnight reading.

Would you want to go back to that career?

No. I love teaching. Working in London can be hard when you have a young family and don't want to live in the city, so I stopped working there when I had children. Five years ago, I decided working in an office was too boring for me and I trained to be a teacher.



SHORT STORY

By Kayleigh Campbell (Yr11)

Dead. He was definitely dead, and there was no doubt about it. Whilst the blood poured out, I ran, leaving myself no time to stare back at the little clearing, but instead resisting the urge to turn back. My life seemed a mere streak of events now, events I would never dare to associate myself with again. I entered the forest as Beatrice Cooper, and as I darted towards an abandoned shelter, I left as Samantha Jones.

1 week later...

It had been one week since the murder, and there has been no mention of his disappearance: no flyers, no TV contributions, no radio podcasts. And as I sat in the clearing where he lay under a blanket of leaves and sticks, I felt no guilt. No shame. Nothing. Any rage that consumed me that day was left, left to drift away, to be forgotten.

My eyes shifted to his eyes that were still open, exposing a beautiful wash of emerald green, although now faintly mottled. His lips were pulled into a tight pout; trickles of blood dried from the cracked and rough skin. His furrowed eyebrows danced along with the wind, as a breeze washed over us both, a refreshing silence.

Buzz... Buzz... Buzz...

I was jolted back into reality as the loud buzzing echoed into the woods. A glow of light beamed in the darkness surrounding us, the faint name “Maddison” on the caller ID. Finally, came silence as the buzzing stopped and the lights switched off. The overwhelming anxiety that crept up on me started to take over my body, goosebumps forming by the second. Dim lights in the woods etched their way towards me, becoming bigger and brighter. Loudening thuds hypnotised me, glueing me to the spot.

“EZRA!”

“EZRA!”

“WHERE ARE YOU?” an army of voices called out.

continued...

I started running – this time to get away from a madness I did not create. I quickened my pace, looking behind me, looking frantically everywhere at the looming darkness, the fragmented faces that I could not make out. Stumbling into a huddle on the floor, my phone fell from my pocket, showing several notifications. Checking around that I was alone, I gingerly read the first one I saw. “Ezra Smith missing for 7 days”. A pang of hopelessness engulfed me; tears streaming down my face like a cascade.

For the next 5 days, Ezra's name filled the papers. Adverts were created, the news dedicated time towards him. But each sympathetic post asked the same questions. Why, who and how? The more I saw, the more I wanted to turn myself in, the guilt consuming me alive. My inner turmoil ate at me day and night until I felt I was going insane.

I had no answers about what would happen in the future. I could apply for a plea; I could say it was an accident. I decided I needed to get my story straight first, try and protect myself as best as I can. I was the only one with answers to what had happened that dreadful night, and now they seemed a meek blur of events. I had let my jealousy get the better of me and now look where I ended up.

“Breaking news! Witness describes what happened to Ezra, giving details about the person who has done this. Specialists have put a drawing together of a potential suspect,” the tv echoed.

Nervously turning my head around, I came face to face with the suspect. Now I had nowhere to hide, as I stared back at myself on the TV.

Knock knock..

I felt sick to the pit of my stomach, my hands shaking violently, the glare from the TV shedding light onto my pale skin. I slowly turned the front door knob, the groan of the door making me shiver. What awaited me next was a subconscious thought that had been carried throughout the past few weeks like luggage. I felt the manacles claiming my freedom; I was escorted into the police car. I could not help but wonder where I would end up next, as I admitted my sins.

“Guilty as charged”.

Planning: Library Mood Board

The floor plan is divided into several functional zones:

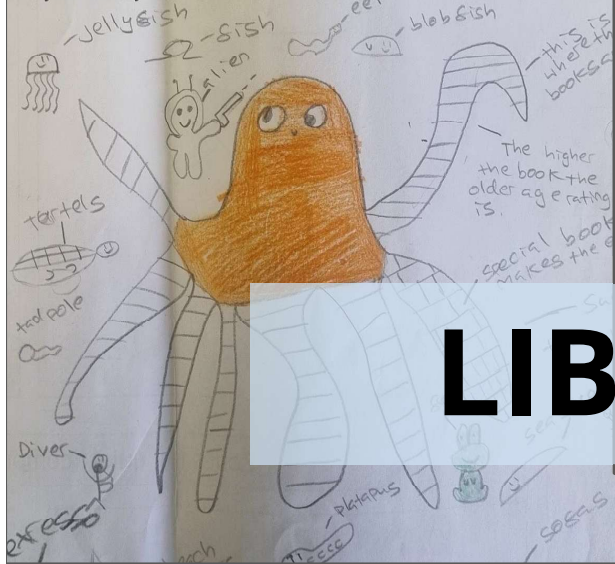
- Colour Palette Ideas:** A table with four color swatches:

Passelle yellow	blue
Light Pink	White
- Shelving design:** A large area with multiple rows of bookshelves. Labels include "New books", "Shelfs", "Shelfs with plants", and "Shelfs".
- Technology Ideas:**
 - Computers to do Homework / Work: A drawing of a computer monitor and keyboard.
 - Charging ports for electronic devices: A drawing of a charging station with multiple ports.
- Zones (eg quiet, computer, audiobooks...):** A horizontal bar defining different areas of the library.
- Decorative and Functional Elements:**
 - Shiny chairs:** A drawing of a modern, curved chair.
 - Water gull:** A drawing of a water gull.
 - Greenery area:** A drawing of a potted plant.
 - Table area:** A drawing of a table with three chairs.
- Other Labels:** "TV for music/lessons" is written at the bottom left.

Student Name: James Calow, Evander Kumar

Form: B

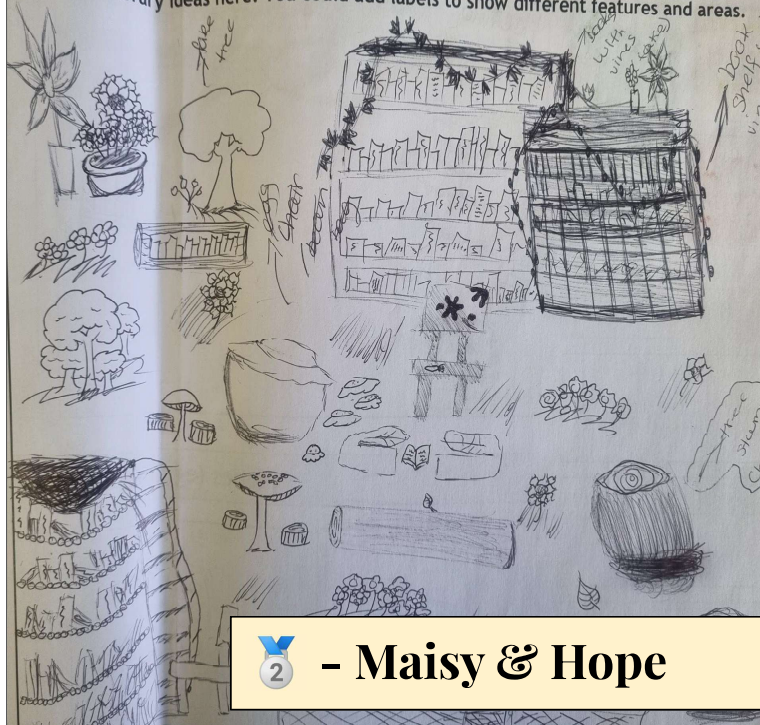
raw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features



Name: Maisy Day & Hope Richards

Form: 7N2 & 7B2

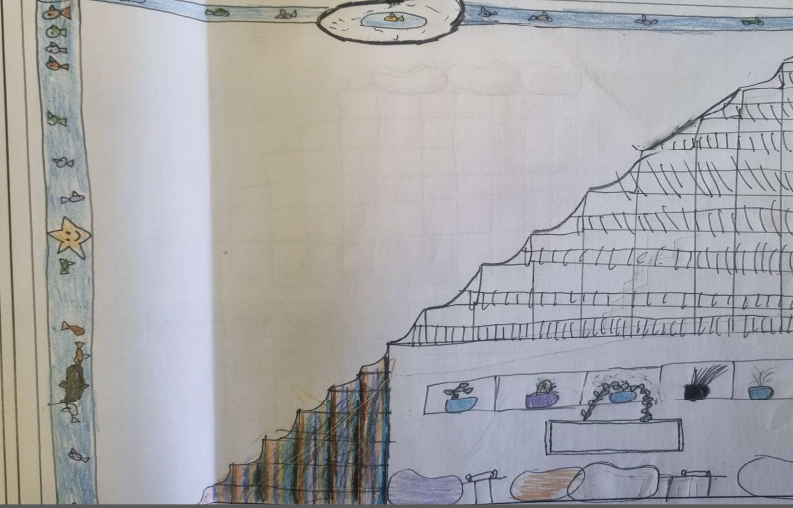
Draw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features and areas.



Student Name: *Millie and Charlie*

Form: 7×2

Draw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features and areas.

[illegible]

LIBRARY DESIGN

Student Name: Oscar Perisón

Form:

Draw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features and areas.



Student Name: Jack Hollis

Form: 7N2

Draw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features and areas.



Student Name: Jay Williams Form: 7B2

Draw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features and areas.

Design the Perfect Library Competition Meopham School

Student Name: Ella Taylor Form: 7B2

Draw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features and areas.

1 - Ella T

Return your form to your English teacher by 23rd March. Your design may be featured in the School Magazine. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative entries.

Describe the features of your library here:

There are multicolour lights hanging from the ceiling. Shelves will be on the floor. Making a flower rug on the floor. Making a rug chair (like a beanbag) but hangs from the wall with heart hooks holding them. A small desk facing the window - on some cases to draw when you don't want to read. A small area for a library for when your stressed as noise or loud talking will be tolerated and music is allowed.

It's a small quiet area for a small amount of children.

Student Name: Mia Colledge Form: 7R2

Draw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features and areas.

Design the Perfect Library Competition Meopham School

Student Name: William Chaddwick Form: 7H2

Draw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features and areas.

ZERO GRAVITY

MEGA BOOKSHELS!!!

Cinema room!!!

Quiet room!

People floating to get books!

Audiobooks!

COMPETITION

Student Name: Perla and Nya Form:

Draw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features and areas.

Design the Perfect Library Competition Meopham School

Student Name: Gabriela Davies Form: 7H1

Draw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features and areas.

Colour Palette ideas

Shelving design

Seating design

Technology ideas

Zones (eg quiet, computer, audiobooks...)

Shelving design

Seating design

Design the Perfect Library Competition Meopham School

Student Name: Sebastian Burdock Form: 7H1

Draw your library ideas here. You could add labels to show different features and areas.

Use this form to create your ideal library!

You can have robot technology. Floating bookcases. Technicolour lighting projections. Audiobook listening zones. Money and reality are no object. Be as detailed as you can be with your descriptions and images so that the judges can really imagine your space.

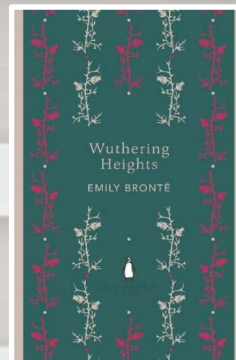
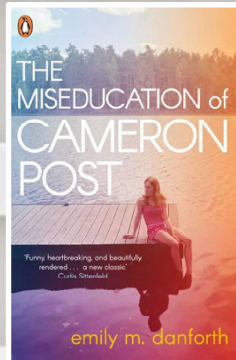
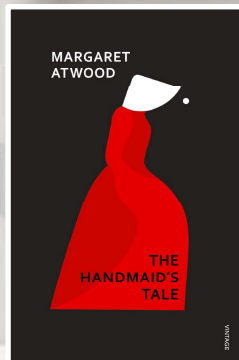
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Describe the features of your library here:

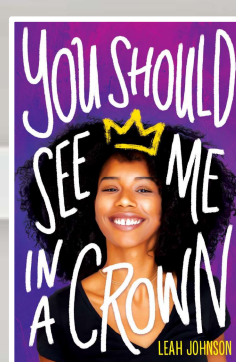
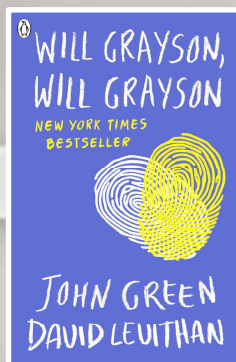
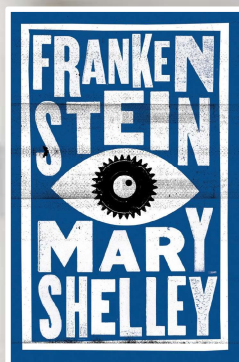
The library is simple, helping you to find on your book. It is very small and easy. It is a good place to read. My library is a personal library. It is that you can find a book. It has lots of comfy places. It can be used for other things.

3 - Seb B

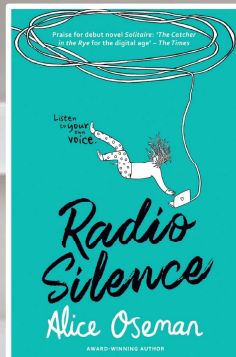
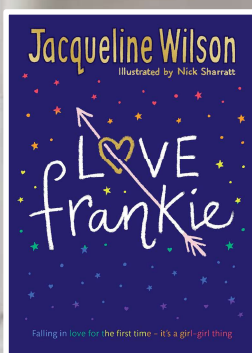
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



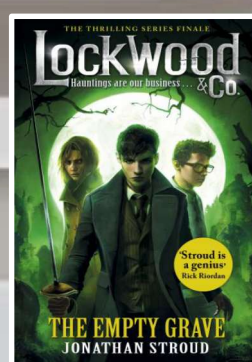
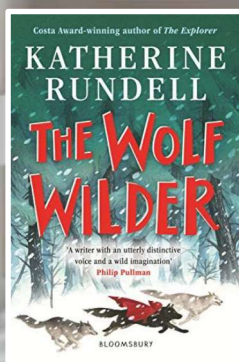
Year
12/13



11



9/10



7/8

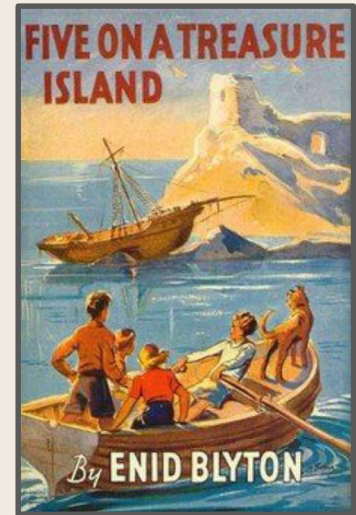
Recommendations by the editorial team. If you have a recommendation, or would like to write a review for a future issue, email us at MSS-magazine@swale.at

BOOK REVIEWS

The Famous Five by Enid Blyton Review by Muhammed Ali Qamar (Yr7)

The Famous Five is a novel series that was published in 1942. It features five young children – Julian, Dick, Anne, George and their dog, Timmy.

The final novel published as a Famous Five Novel series was “*Five Are Together Again*” published in 1963.



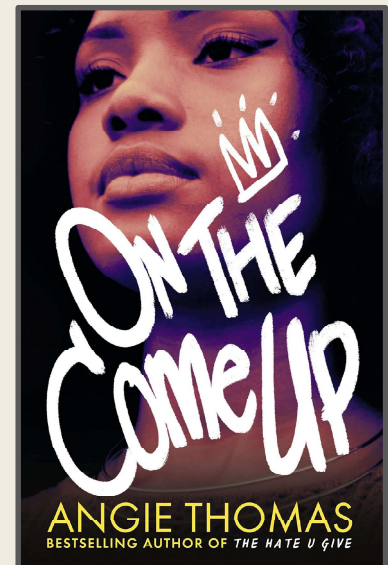
On The Come Up by Angie Thomas Review by Nshira Ansah (Yr7)

On The Come Up is about a 16 year old girl named Brianna Jackson, who dreams to become a rapper.

She'd been hiding it since she was young but at a rap battle, she reveals her secret after a boy named Miles talks smack about her dad, who'd died when Brianna was four, after a neighborhood shooting.

After being ever so slightly arrested, Brianna decides to pursue her dream. She goes on interviews and talks about her song, On The Come Up.

This book basically just talks about how black people are treated poorly in places like America, and how others shouldn't stand there and do nothing.



RSC Marlowe Theatre Trip

By Dilpreet Dhesi (Yr7)

On Thursday the 20th of April, nine of our Meopham students went to the Marlowe theatre in Canterbury from period 3 until around 6.30pm. We were there with two other schools: Towers and Victory. First in the show was the Tower School's production with an amazing play about deforestation followed by the Victory School's show, where they had a robot takeover that was left on a cliffhanger. Finally we had the three Meopham School plays: 'King Killer'!

Whilst I was watching or partaking in each of these I felt inspired and I received a different message from each different play as well as getting a better love for the Performing Arts subject. If you run into Dylan, Dolly or Sienna L in Year 7, Ryan in Year 8, Albi, Penny, Isabel or Toby in Year 9, be sure to congratulate them for writing and performing of such wonderful plays!

Mr Dyer said: "Pupils were given the opportunity to perform at the Marlowe Studio as part of the 37 Plays Project with the Royal Shakespeare Company. This was a culmination of them having written their own plays and it was a true testament to their creativity and dedication. It was a fantastic evening for all involved and allowed a true insight for our pupils into performing on a professional stage! A massive well done to all involved!"



PLACES TO VISIT IDEAS

By Ella T, Olivia H & Layla L (Yr7)

Ella - Greenwich Observatory

I recommend going to the Royal Observatory if you have an interest in space or the solar system. I went to the observatory with my brother and we got to see the planetarium. We saw the outside of the show, there are many pictures and artifacts about planets or rocks from the planet. You will even get the opportunity to see the telescope, The Great Equatorial Telescope, and it still works! The Royal Observatory is an amazing place to visit that I really recommend.



Olivia - Adventure Island

Adventure Island in Southend is an excellent place to visit! There are all sorts of different rides including the Skydrop, City Wheel and Rage roller-coaster and there's also a Sealife centre there. It's a fun place to go for a day out!

Layla - The New Forest

The New Forest is a national park located in the South of England. It's a great place to visit to get some fresh air and enjoy nature. Horses roam free around the forest and village.





COMMUNITY SCHEME

By the Community Team



On Friday 5th May, Meopham School Community Scheme held its first event at the school since its launch. In honour of the Coronation of King Charles III, we wanted to offer the school staff, students, their families and the local community, a place to come together to celebrate. Inspired by the traditional British street party, the event took place in the school hall, filled with dining tables, bunting and tea sets.



During the run up to the event, local schools were asked to take part in a Community Coronation Time Capsule and submit something for the capsule. We were thrilled that representatives of **The Helen Allison School** and **Istead Rise Primary School** brought along their contributions. We were also very lucky to have contributions from the **Meopham Historical Society** from their archives. The Time Capsule will be buried in the Community Garden at **Meopham Medical Centre** with a dedicated plaque sponsored by **Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd.**



A raffle was held to raise money for a Community Scheme Fund to allow us to continue to hold events and support local projects in the community. We received lots of generous donations and would like to thank: **Bartellas Restaurant, Panic Room Gravesend, Woodville Halls, Cyclopark, Fenn Bell Conservation Project, The Salon Meopham, China Garden Meopham, Costa Coffee Meopham, Costcutters Meopham, Meopham Leisure Centre and Flip Out Chatham.**

CORONATION EVENT

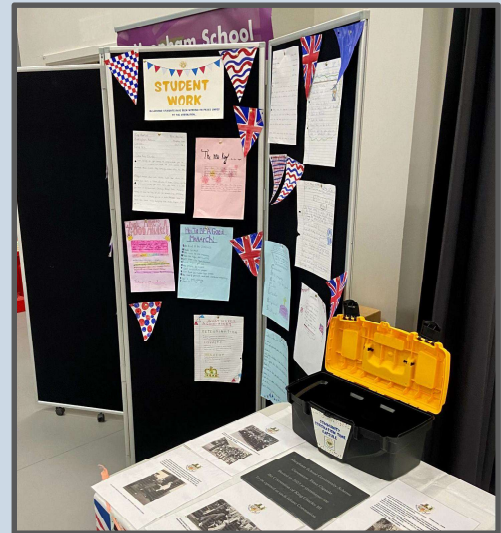
and Mrs Greenwood



The after school event was a huge success, selling out Afternoon Teas and Cream Teas made by our catering teacher **Mrs Vince** and her amazing Year 10 and 11 student helpers. We also proudly announced student performers from years 7 and 11 to entertain our guests and held a Coronation Cake Competition judged by the **Mayor and Mayoress**. We even had a visit from the Ice Cream Man - **Moe's Ices**! We saw an abundance of the community in attendance including the **Parish Council** and local dignitaries from a variety of organisations as well as family and friends of our staff and students.

I would like to thank everybody involved in making the event a success and look forward to many more community events and initiatives as we continue to grow our Meopham School Community Scheme.

Mrs Greenwood



Winner of the baking competition - Silver K, Year 7

WELLBEING CORNER

By Nshira Ansah & Charlie Gannaway (Yr7)

What is mental health?

Mental health is all about your emotional, psychological and social wellbeing and how well you can cope with everyday life. Unfortunately, many people encounter mental illness, which is the opposite of mental good health.



What is mental illness?

Mental illnesses are health conditions involving changes in emotion, thinking or behaviour. Mental illnesses can be associated with problems coping with everyday situations. Types of mental illness include anxiety, depression, stress and eating disorders. Mental illness is nothing to be ashamed of and affects around 30% of people at some point in their lives.



How can music help with mental wellbeing?

Music can be helpful when you are feeling stressed, anxious or sad. Listening or dancing to your favourite tunes can help to distract you and music can have a beneficial effect on the brain chemicals that are linked to happiness. You could try some of Harry's recommendations below!



MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

By Harry Gower (Yr8)

Flowers by Miley Cyrus
Counting Stars by Onerepublic
Green Grass by George Ezra
As It Was by Harry Styles
Run by Onerepublic
Youngblood by 5 Seconds Of Summer
High Hopes by Panic at the Disco
Believer by Imagine Dragons
Thunder by Imagine Dragons
Hall of Fame by The Script

Wake Me Up by Avicii
SOS by Avicii
Danger zone by Kenny Loggins
Demons by Imagine Dragons
Castles by Freya Ridings
Whatever It Takes by Imagine Dragons
Hustler by Zayde Wolf
Titanium by David Guetta
Mayday by The Fatrat
React by Switch Disco & Ella Henderson

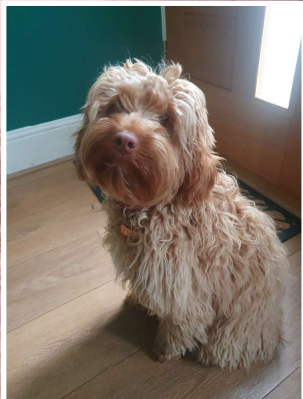
THE MEOPHAM (PET) FAMILY



Marley & Frankie - Grace W



Sahara - Isabelle W



Cookie - Otis H-K



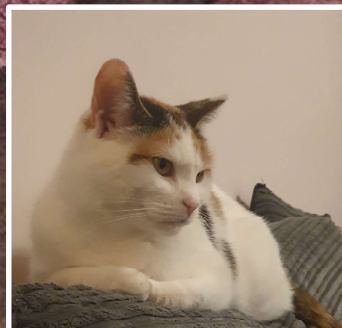
Brisket - Ethan B



Milo - Hope R



Coco - Isabella B



Frankie - Leon C-F

If you would like to share a pet photo for a future issue, email it to MSS-magazine@swale.at, along with a note of your pet's name.

May

By Sienna Lee (Yr7)

May is here
Warm weather is near
And spring is in the air
And trees are not longer bare
The birds are chirping
And bees are working
The sun is finally out
The animals are playing and running
about.