

Sport+Comic+Puzzles+Photos+Games+Films+Politics+Interviews+Time Machines

BCS Press



Issue: 25

Editor: Harry Grant

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Counselling Service:

The school offers a school time counselling service to all students. It is provided by our counsellor, Debra. It gives you a chance to talk to Debra, about what bothers you with someone who is not connected with family, friends or school. Whatever you discuss with Debra is confidential, unless she believes that you or someone else is being or is at risk of being harmed.

To Contact Debra, You Can:

Email her at: ehelp@buxton.derbyshire.sch.uk
(this can only be used during term time)
Or see her in B6

Editor's Message

As the year approaches its end, I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new Editor of the BCS Press. I am truly grateful for the trust that has been placed upon me as I move into this role and am very excited for what the future may hold.

I hope you enjoy this festive edition, it has certainly been an experience to compile it, and I'm delighted to share the hard work, creativity, and contributions of everyone involved.

Have a great Christmas,

Harry Grant



by Aubrey
Hope

Interviews with...

At the meeting with Embark and the University of Derby, we were lucky enough to speak to a wide range of people in and around the education sector.

I asked them all the same question; if you could change one thing about education in our country, whether it's laws and legislation, finances or just people's general stance, what would it be?

Here are their answers:

Professor Kathryn Mitchell, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of the university of derby:

“To make sure that as a society we really value the importance of education and how it can change lives”

Sir Richard Ranulph FitzHerbert, 9th Baronet and High Sherrif of Derbyshire:

“Make teaching a more attractive job to people, one way to do this would be to reduce class sizes. I've heard of 40 in a class in primary schools and many languages in a classroom due to the backgrounds of all the students, these both can be quite challenging for teachers, and intimidating for new teachers”

Matt Crawford, Embark Trust Leader:

“Off the back of our event this afternoon, increase the importance of the arts in the curriculum as they help to foster confidence in young people and if you're able to bring drama, music, speech debate and all those kinds of things back into the curriculum, that would have a knock-on effect on the other subjects like English and maths having their standards rise”

David King, Chair Of Trustees at Embark:

“There are a few things. On a national level, I would increase the amount of money available for education. Secondly, ensure that the non-teaching money spent is spent in the best way possible, prioritising efficiency, as this leaves the most money available to reinvest on the students in the classrooms.”

Ros Carter, Headteacher, Buxton Junior School:

“Resource the us better. We simply don't have sufficient money to function to meet the breadth and depth of need that we have so it would be all about thinking about how we can increase our capacity of provision, that would be in staffing, building and physical resources”



Parkrun Propaganda



What is Parkrun?

Parkruns are free community 5K events where you can complete the course to receive a time and a position afterwards.

How can I participate?

All you have to do is register online for free and you will receive a barcode which you can use for all Parkruns that you do. This barcode can then be scanned at the end so you can receive your time and position. Then all you have to do is just turn up to whatever parkrun you want to do and complete the course.

Who can do it?

Anyone can do the parkrun, all abilities and ages are welcome, from your 80-year-old neighbour to your 8-year-old cousin. Under 11's are required to be within an arms reach of their responsible adult for safety reasons. You don't even have to run the Parkrun, you can Parkwalk instead if running isn't quite your thing.

When is it?

Parkrun typically takes place every Saturday at 9:00 AM in most places. However, some Parkruns in other places may have slightly different starting times, such as in Scotland Parkruns take place at 9:30 AM.

Where is it?

Parkruns take place all over the world. Buxton has a parkrun around Pavillion Gardens starting at the old bandstand with 3 laps around the park. There are also other local ones that you can try in Bakewell, Macclesfield, Lyme park and Ashbourne.

Why Do Parkrun?

Of course, we all know the basic benefits of exercise such as improved fitness and mental health but there are also many other benefits of doing parkrun. Parkrun is a community event so you can socialise with other parkrunners and members of the local community which is really fun. You can also volunteer at a Parkrun and gain some great volunteering experience. The Parkrun timing also allows you to gain a personal achievement because you can keep coming back each week to improve your time. And most importantly it is free and easy to do!

Scan this QR code to go to the signup form for the Pavillion Gardens Parkrun.



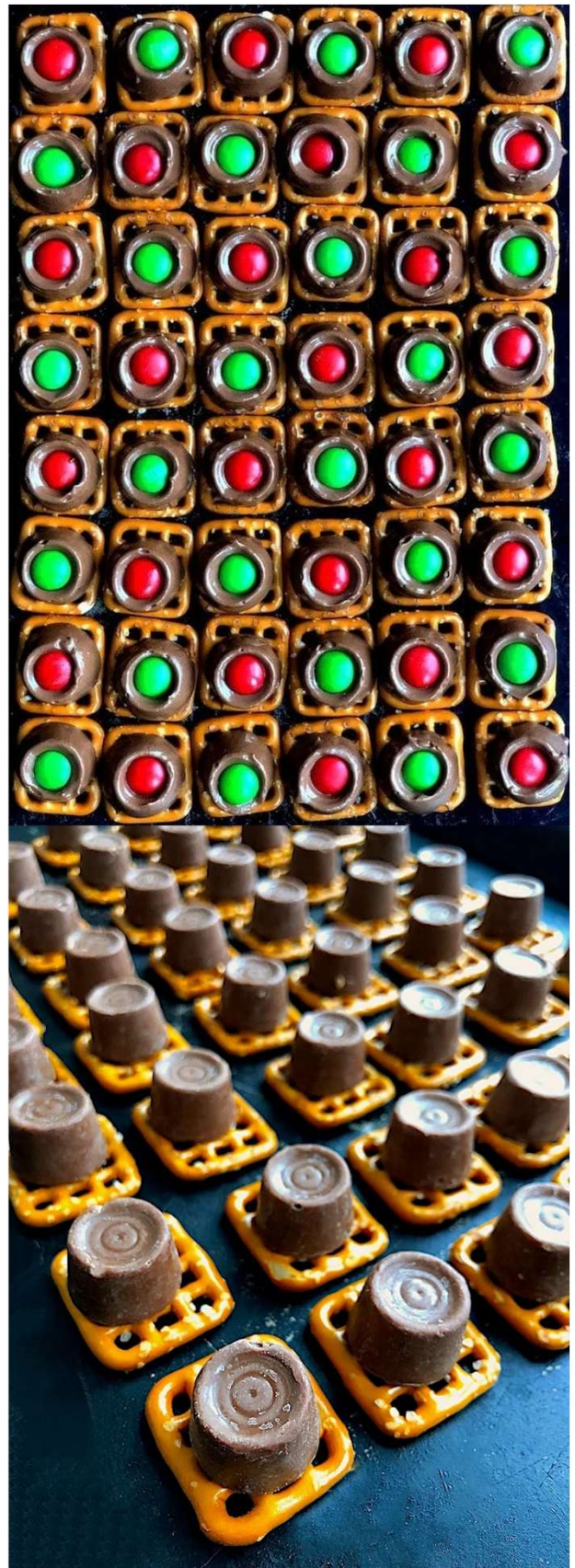
Recipe- Christmas Rolo Pretzels

Ingredients:

- Rolo chocolates (or similar)
- Pretzels (Preferably pretzel squares)
- M&Ms (Green and red for festive colours, but any colour can be used- any kind)

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 150°C
2. Unwrap the foil paper from the Rolos.
3. Place the pretzels in a single layer on a large baking sheet. Place one Rolo on top of each pretzel.
4. Carefully transfer the baking sheet to the oven and bake for 3 minutes or until the Rolo candies have just started to melt. Don't go far! It doesn't take the chocolate long to melt.
5. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and gently press one M&M on top of each Rolo.
6. Let the Rolo pretzels set up until the chocolate is firm. If you want to hurry the process along you can put the baking sheet in the freezer.



New pupil health plans in China

Following a gradually decreasing average mental health in China, especially in students, pupils in primary and secondary schools are being required to follow new guidelines. These include at least two hours of physical exercise every day, homework will be limited, mobile phones will be banned from classrooms, and there is a limit on the number of tests students can be set and how they rank the students based on these scores.

Dong Qi, chief member of the National Advisory Committee for Students' Mental Health, told China Media Group. "The measures are systematic, substantive and comprehensive. But what matters most is how we put the measures into effect and establish relevant procedures for oversight to make sure that they bring benefits to students."



Government shifts towards a complete ban on animal testing



The UK is looking to completely get rid of animal testing. Animal testing for cosmetics has been banned since 1908, but the government are looking to ban it from other scientific applications such as medicines and chemicals. It has been mentioned that they would like to move away from animal testing and prioritise other ideas such as promoting AI, human relevant methods and funding for alternate methods used. They plan to reduce, replace and refine animal testing under the animal act of 1986.

Social media banned in Australia for under 16s

Australia's social media ban for under 16s has come into effect. Platforms required to enforce this ban are Instagram, Facebook, Threads, X, Snapchat, Kick, Twitch, TikTok, Reddit and YouTube, this is all to help younger children under the age of 16 stay safe. This ban is aimed at protecting young people from harmful content, online grooming, cyberbullying and "predatory algorithms". While all of these social media companies object, all apart from X have said they will comply with the ban. While this ban is supposed to help children, critics have said it could isolate vulnerable teenagers and push children into unregulated corners of the internet.



Anyone can come and share their ideas about the club and what activities we can do

Everyone is welcome!

YOWO
Young Women's club!

Run by pupils

"It doesn't matter where you start, it's about the progress you make" - Tom Daley

D35 Monday Lunchtimes, just drop in if you want to come!

"Each time a woman stands up for herself, she stands up for all women."
— Maya Angelou





"We need to encourage girls that their voice matters. I think there are hundreds and thousands of Malalas out there." — Malala Yousafzai

"Sometimes simple things are the most difficult things to achieve." — Keanu Reeves

Lucifer bee

The lucifer bee is a newly discovered insect that has been found by Australian scientists. It is identified that the females have upwards pointing horns that could be used for accessing flowers, competing for resources with others or defending nests. Its original discovery originated from investigating a rare wildflower in western Australia. The word lucifer is a reference to shining light on the need for conversation on native bee species and how many plants are pollinated. Because of where these bees were discovered (with the endangered wildflowers) they are potentially in a lot of danger as people such as miners do not count native bees when assessing the environmental impacts of their work. They are also in danger of the ever-present climate change which could impact them heavily. In the area there are also many other species of invertebrate that inhabit that area.



US Politics

On October 1st, the US government shut down due to a lack of an agreement on a spending bill in the senate. This shutdown would go on to last 43 days, ending on November 12th, making it the longest ever government shutdown in national history. For reference, the US government has shutdown 20 times since 1977, with the average length of time shut down being 8 days. The impacts of this were widespread across the country, focusing on the economic impacts:

- Many federal workers were unable to receive pay, with reports stating ~730,000 worked without pay, and a further 670,000 workers were furloughed (suspended without pay due to economic reasons).
- Nearly 3 million paychecks were withheld from federal employees, resulting in a loss of nearly \$14 billion in missing wages.
- ~60,000 non-federal employees lost their jobs due to the economic impact of the shutdown
- ~\$11 billion GDP lost (adjusted for inflation) permanently.
- Thousands of flights were cancelled due to a lack of airport workers.

The shutdown didn't just harm the economy in the short run, it also eroded people's trust in the government. In areas where federal agencies are important, such as towns near national parks, research centers, or military installations, the effects were obvious right away. Local businesses experienced slowdowns. Small business owners who depend on federal contracts had to wait longer for payments and saw project schedules pushed back, making their financial worries even worse.

Basic public services suffered. Agencies reduced or stopped their work, so services like passports, small-business loans, and federal benefits built up in backlogs. Scientific research funded by the government was halted, putting years of work in jeopardy. Some national parks stayed open but operated with minimal staff. That led to less upkeep, more safety concerns, and parks that weren't as open or accessible as they should have been.

When the government reopened, economists noted that although some things recovered, a lot of the harm couldn't be undone. Furloughed workers missed wages that were never repaid, and lost business never returned. This raised doubts about how resilient the federal workforce and the broader economy actually are.

Overall, the shutdown underscored how closely intertwined government operations are with everyday life in the United States. Even a temporary disruption can trigger far-reaching consequences, affecting everything from household finances to national economic performance, and causing effects that are unlikely to be forgotten for a long time.



UK Politics

They give with one hand but take with the other” that’s what Sarah Smith from Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey told the BBC about her feelings to the budget. But what is the Budget? Well, the Budget is the most important speech delivered in the House of Commons in a year. The Chancellor (the politician in charge of the nation’s money, currently Rachel Reeves) sets out exactly how she is going to get money into the government (through taxes) and how she is going to spend that money.

So how does the budget effect you? Well, most of these measures (what the Chancellor has announced will happen) will not start until April 2026, which is the next tax year (most taxes get taken by the government in April), but there are plenty that will benefit people like you and me

Firstly, if your parents are on Universal Credit (money given to families by the government for a range of circumstances), a two-child limit on money given relating to children will be removed, started under former Prime Minister Tereasa May as a money-saving measure, it has been widely opposed for putting children into poverty as parents cannot access more money to help raise more than two children. Early into the Labour Government last year, a vote was help in the House of Commons on whether or not to remove the two-child limit, Senior Labour MPs forced the other Labour MPs to vote against it in what’s called a “Three-Line Whip” and several Labour MPs where kicked out of the Labour Party for going against this order so with the government now removing the limit, the measure is being seen as a political decision to win favour with the public (especially as it cost the government £3 billion by 2029) rather than effect “Change”.

In a win for young people, the government are raising Minimum Wage for everyone, including young people. Meaning 16-17-year-olds will be able to earn £8.00 an hour and 18-20-year-olds will be able to earn £10.85 an hour! Meaning if you are already employed you will hopefully see more money in your wages. But, especially for small businesses this could be seen as a negative, will wage rises comes higher costs, and with the country still being gripped by the Cost of Living Crisis and the rise in National Insurance (money raised for the NHS and Welfare) last year, it is likely that business may hold off on recruiting more people if they don’t need them to be able to save money. The Chancellor’s aim in this Budget was to stabilise and take a pragmatic approach to how she spends the countries money and she achieved this, the Market’s (the thousands of men that basically decide our countries economy by trading) did not have a strong reaction for or against the Budget (unlike when Liz Truss attempted a Budget which caused the Pound to collapse in exchange rates), which is a good sign. While it does not start to fix the massive problems in the country the government is not currently in a position to do that. In fear of sounding like one of the Prime Minister’s hundreds of MPs all repeating the same line, it takes a long time to fix or change 14 years’ worth of what a previous government did. The economy is the world’s longest waiting game, and in this new world of a public hungry for quick fixes and quick satisfaction, it is going to be hard for the government to continue defending their policy of slow and cautious.

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ECO CLUB



WANT TO HELP CHANGE SCHOOL POLICY?

WE PLANTED TREES TO HELP OFFSET OUR SCHOOLS CARBON FOOTPRINT

WANT TO HELP REDUCE OUR EFFECT ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

WE BROUGHT YOU THE WATER REFILL STATIONS

DO YOU LIKE PUSHING TO GET CHANGE?

WE BROUGHT YOU REUSABLE CUPS IN THE LDH

WE ARE BUXTON'S YOUNG PERSON VOICE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

DO YOU LIKE DOING A BIT OF GARDENING?

DO YOU WANT TO MEET SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE HIGH PEAK?

WE ARE WORKING TO MAKE THE SCHOOL NET-ZERO GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS

THEN ECO CLUB NEEDS YOU!

WEDNESDAYS

A7

The Debate | Do we celebrate Christmas too early?



The facts:

Christmas is traditionally celebrated on December 25th, but in many countries, decorations, music, and advertising begin as early as October or November. Shops often start seasonal marketing well before December, and public spaces may switch to Christmas themes weeks in advance. This shift is largely influenced by commercial calendars, social media trends, and the desire to extend the festive season. While the holiday itself has religious and cultural roots, modern celebrations mix tradition

with consumer habits and personal preferences.

In many places, Christmas lights are turned on before December, and Christmas songs appear on radio playlists long before winter begins. Schools may start holiday activities weeks in advance, while shops promote gift buying earlier each year. Online, countdowns, themed content, and sales events push the season forward even more. For some people, this early exposure feels normal and exciting; for others, it feels overwhelming or out of place.

We do celebrate Christmas too early:

- It builds excitement and gives people more time to enjoy the festive atmosphere.
- Families with busy schedules can spread out celebrations, shopping, and events.
- The months get colder and darker at the end of the year, earlier decorations and celebrations improve the general mood as it gets darker.
- Businesses are under a lot of pressure, especially at Christmas, an earlier start to celebrations spreads out the pressure-
- -avoiding many last-minute orders
- It has become this way for a reason- many people favour Christmas over other holidays, and so naturally will want more time to celebrate it.
- Planning social events around Christmas can be difficult, they can often overlap, with both friend and family gatherings, therefore it is much less stressful if you have more time to plan and schedule these events.

We don't celebrate Christmas too early:

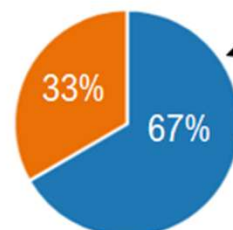
- The actual day of Christmas is supposed to be a special day, a one-time annual event for these celebrations. Celebrating for weeks before December 25th might make Christmas day feel less special.
- Constant exposure to Christmas songs, decorations, and traditions can quickly get-
- -annoying
- Other holidays and events can get overshadowed or ignored completely during the festive season.
- Some people don't celebrate Christmas, they may feel excluded for a longer time.
- The long buildup to Christmas can lead to stress or burnout as pressure builds for people expected to organise celebrations.

Previous Debate's Results:

Are the new digital IDs worth it?

"If someone's phone breaks, they might not be able to prove who they are, which seems unfair"

No



Yes

"It's easy to see the results of the scheme - just look at Europe"

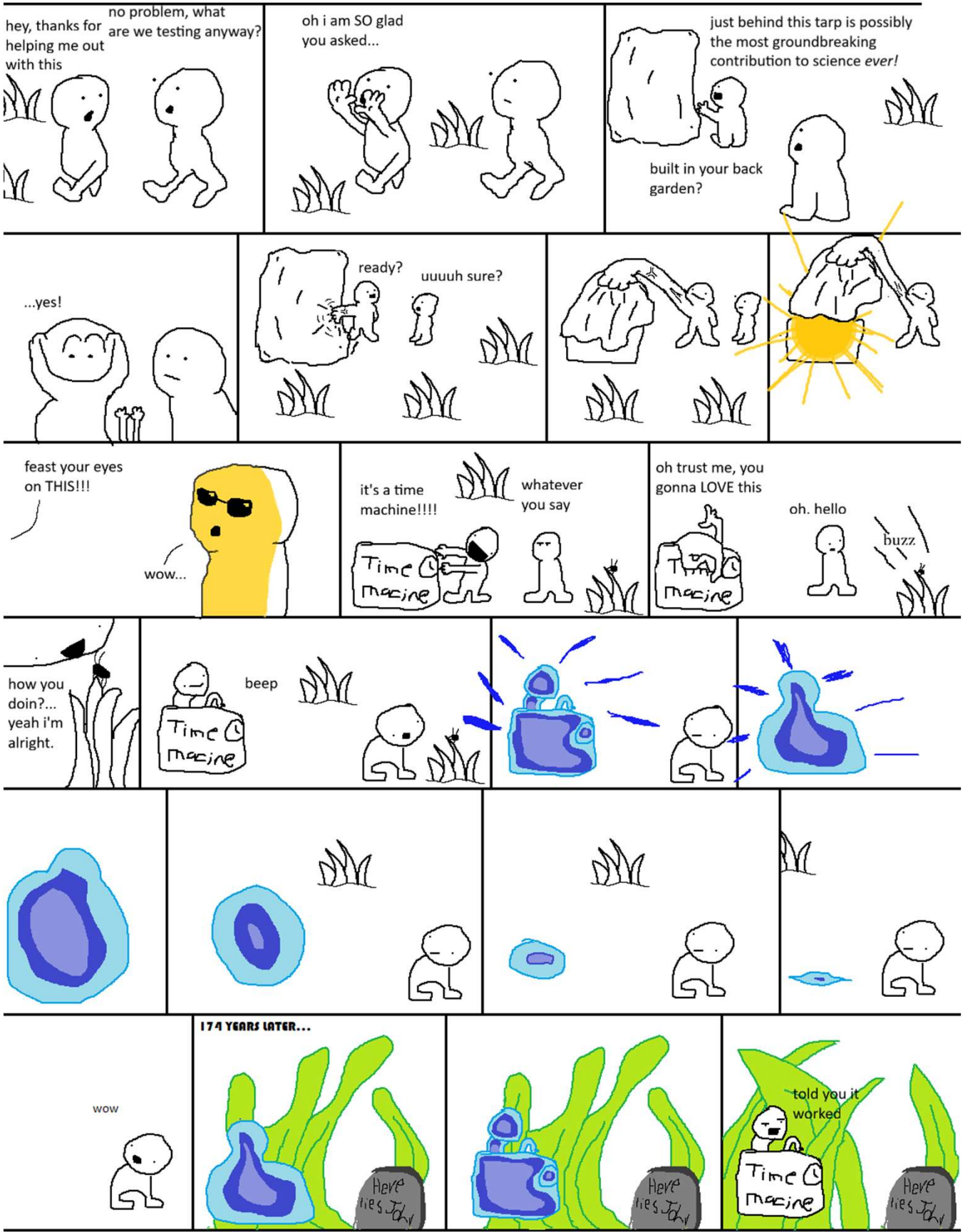
"Feels like it could lead to more tracking since everything would be linked together"

"It makes things easier because people won't have to go places just to sort important stuff out"

Please vote your opinion by scanning the QR code on the right.



Dale built a freaking time machine



PUZZLES

B	G	O	A	W	E	E	S	N	W	E	O	L	C	Y	R	E	I	I	T	S	E	Y	E	C
T	R	D	W	L	N	R	E	K	L	D	D	A	I	N	C	E	I	T	S	I	I	S	G	G
C	C	E	E	L	W	I	E	T	R	E	R	T	A	Y	O	E	C	O	N	L	T	D	I	T
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G	E	E	A	E	A	C	R	C	N	E	C	L	O	H	T	T	A	G	B	S	H	E	N	A
I	T	S	T	N	S	E	L	G	T	E	A	R	I	R	N	L	N	T	K	E	N	O	R	G

Anagrams

Single word:

Chasm stir

Pen rest

Fees it visit

ivy taiNt

aHoy lid

non Swam

Phrases:

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_____.

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HalTs heckleD (3)

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aDhering shown

ThoughtS (4)

_____.

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_____.

Snow
Sleigh
Gingerbread
Wonderland

Gift
Tree
Icicle
Fireplace

Carol
Reindeer
Mistletoe
Decorations

Santa
Tinsel
Stocking
Candycane

	8		3	2				4
	9		8	1		7		2
4		2	6	7	5		9	
1	6		4	9	8	2		
					1		8	
						4	1	3
	2	8		4	3		5	7
	1		2	8		9		
9			1	5			2	

Trivia

- In total, how many gifts were given in the "Twelve Days of Christmas"?
- Who sings "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"?
- What country is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition in the 16th century?
- What does mistletoe mean in German?
- According to the Bible, what did the three wise men bring Baby Jesus?

Film Review – The Muppet Christmas Carol



The Muppets Christmas carol is a family friendly film and was released by Brian Henson in 1992. It had a budget of \$12 million and grossed \$27.2 million at the box office. It has been watched by people all around the world with it in 6 languages including Danish, French, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish and German.

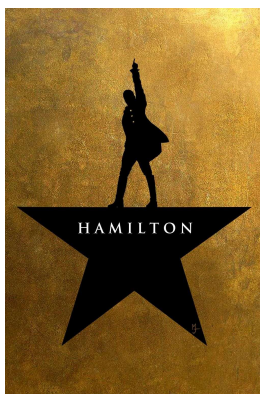
It has loads of classic muppets including Kermit and Miss Piggy. It has ten songs in total. Key scenes include the spirits of Christmas past, present, and future. The story follows a grumpy man (Ebenezer Scrooge) who hates Christmas he's visited by multiple spirits through the film.

Game Review – Rounds

Rounds is a multiplayer free-for-all game that revolves around achieving combos with a flexible card system. Each match is fast-paced, with players trying to out manoeuvre one another, stack powerful abilities, and build unique setups that change the flow of every fight. The aim is simple: kill the enemy and gain a point; earning 2 points gives you a round, and the other player gains a card to help buff their own combo for the next fight. Right now, the game is on offer for £2.39 (50% off) until the 18th of December, on Steam.



Film Review – Hamilton



Hamilton is a popular film on Disney+. It's a movie-musical based on the life of Alexander Hamilton, an orphan who migrated to America from the Caribbean in 1772.

The story follows his rise through the status quo of revolutionary society as he fights for independence, becomes a founding father, and ultimately faces his death in a duel.

The film is rated 12+ and runs for 2 hours and 45 minutes. I highly recommend watching it because of its emotional, moving songs and the way it shifts focus to different parts of his life and legacy.

OUR TEAM:

Harry Grant – Editor

Willow Jones – Deputy Editor

Chloe Hu – Deputy Editor

Charlie Light – Reviewer

Spike Hardy – Reviewer

Sophia Kilvert – Reviewer

Dylan Jones – Comic Artist

Aubrey Hope – Comic Artist

Erin Chip – Writer

Natalie Teeboon – Writer

Oliver Grant – Writer

Zak Chudy – Writer

Rebecca Cudahy – Sports Writer

Luke Adkins – Consultant Editor (Interviews)

Haydn Smith – Consultant Editor (UK Politics)

Finlay Jones – Consultant Editor

JOIN THE TEAM: We meet every Tuesday lunchtime in D28, we welcome anyone with an interest in writing, researching, interviewing and more!

PUZZLES - Answer key

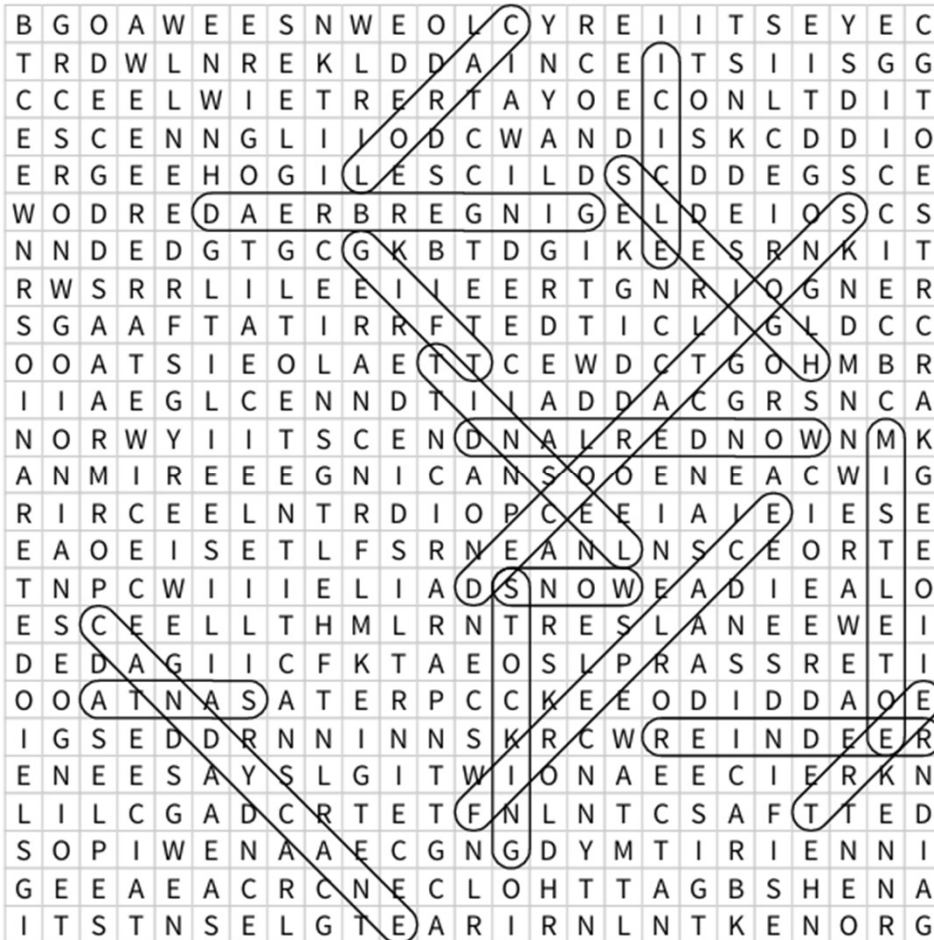
Anagrams

Single word:

- Christmas
- Present
- Festivities
- Nativity
- Holiday
- Snowman

Phrases:

- Merry Christmas
- Deck The Halls
- Dashing Through The Snow

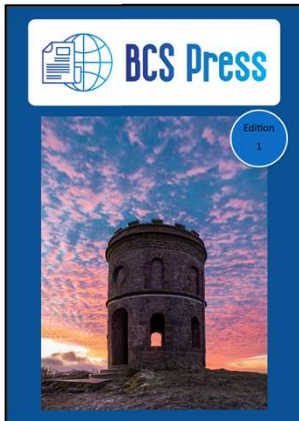


7	8	1	3	2	9	5	6	4
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2	4	7	5	3	1	6	8	9
8	5	9	7	6	2	4	1	3
6	2	8	9	4	3	1	5	7
3	1	5	2	8	7	9	4	6
9	7	4	1	5	6	3	2	8

Trivia

1. 364
2. Brenda Lee
3. Germany
4. Holy Berry
5. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh

We've come a long way...



We meet every Tuesday Lunch in D28, drop-in, join and share your ideas!

Would you like to join us to continue our journey? Well, we want **YOU**. **Any year group, any interests**, its not just journalism if you want to write about something or showcase your skills, why not join us?

PLASTIC

The 400-year problem



As a school, since we removed single-use plastic water bottles, we have saved the equivalent Carbon Dioxide emissions into the atmosphere of **23,000 average phone charges per 1,200 plastic bottles!**

Now that is something to be proud of!
To continue to help your community, remember a reusable water bottle as part of your equipment.