



EACOCK

by the pupils, for the pupils
February 2018

**There is no substitute for
hard work.
- *Thomas Edison***



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Front Cover Photo:
Oliver Siddons

From the production of The Exam
(2014)

Back Cover Photo:
Statue of Alice Hawkins recently
unveiled in Leicester's Market Square



LEICESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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With thanks to Mr Kidd and Mrs Kendall and all of our guest writers.

In the news...



have their pay reduced some of the names the broadcaster announced had agreed to have their pay reduced were actually yet to do so. But the corporation does still have a large gender pay gap, which is still unacceptable in our society, especially in a license funded public organisation.

William Wale

Boris Johnson has announced that he believes the NHS needs billions more in funding, another example of how Theresa May's cabinet is. It seems that (after the cabinet reshuffle that caused so much confusions over the Conservative party chairman) left Boris feeling safe about his role in the cabinet and so he decided to undermine it.



In other news, one of the largest construction companies in Britain, Carillion, has collapsed after it fell into huge amounts of debt and was unable to form an agreement with creditors. It has now been revealed that the company also had a pension shortfall. The collapse will lead to many job losses and many contracts, including schools, prisons and HS2.



Over the new year, the chip giant Intel was forced to reveal it had been keeping secrets about issues with its chips, with two bugs, called Meltdown and Spectre, that allow the chip to predict the user's next move. But this portion of the chip was left vulnerable and if malware was placed on your computer, could over time be used to gather passwords and other personal data.

And finally, the BBC's Carrie Gracie resigned as the state broadcaster's China Editor over the corporation's large gender pay gap, on the day she was guest editor of the Radio 4 Today programme, which lead to difficulties over how she was allowed to report on herself. Eventually many male presenters did agree to



Time's Up

Within the last year, it has been those in the theatrical industry that have really brought to light the issues faced by women in the working world. Following the many sexual abuse allegations against Harvey Weinstein in 2017, more women than ever came forward to share their stories under the 'MeToo' campaign; women from all backgrounds and industries were encouraged to come forward and make their cases known; this became known as the "Weinstein Affect". The sheer number of people who came forward – bravely – to admit their cases of being sexually assaulted resulted in a national "wave" of accusations. Anyone who had been too embarrassed before, believing they would be blamed for being the cause of assault, were given a new opportunity to let themselves share what they had kept secret. It bred confidence across the nation to begin taking serious steps to eradicate sexual mistreatment of women. Awareness and actions on the issue followed hence and from that came the 'Time's Up' movement.

The 75th annual Golden Globes Awards were held on January 7 this year, but this time they supported a very important cause – Time's Up. The aim of the movement was and is: "a unified call for change from women in entertainment for women everywhere. From movie sets to farm fields to boardrooms alike, we envision nationwide leadership that reflects the world in which we live." Unified, nominees and celebrities showed their support by wearing black. It was inspirational to see so many

people showing their respect for the cause; to see a visual statement made by influential people and spread across social media. In addition to the nominees, celebrities who wanted to show their support and represent the movement attended wearing black too, including Kendall Jenner and activist, Emma Watson.

The few individuals that did not wear black for the event declared their reasons subject to believing wearing black was opposing the step forward to allow women to wear what they want, and not feel vulnerable to sexual harassment. Despite some protest to this, it would be hypocritical to accuse the women who didn't wear black of being "ignorant" seeing as it was in the name of women's rights and the interest of anyone who has faced such sexual harassment.

Oprah Winfrey's poignant speech after being awarded the 'Cecil B. DeMille Award' (an honorary Golden Globe Award bestowed by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for "outstanding contributions to the world of entertainment") sparked further actions into improving the freedom of women in society. Her sensational words addressed the issue of women's rights and conveyed a moving and powerful message: "a new day is on the horizon". Perhaps it is impossible to entirely eradicate sexism, but her speech was hopeful and it will grow in the minds of all who heard it – to make a difference. Winfrey made it clear that it begins with the people who have the

confidence to show their support for women and victims of sexual harassment: “It’s here with every woman who chooses to say ‘Me too’. And every man, every man who chooses to listen.”

“100% Of Proceeds from Each Product Will Be Donated to The TIME’S UP Legal Defence Fund, which provides subsidised legal services for individuals subjected to workplace sexual harassment and abuse.” ‘Time’s Up’ not only supports women who have faced sexual abuse, but all women. Helping to put more women in a position of power and influence in society and prevent inequality between gender treatment and pay in the workplace. ‘Time’s up’ is the movement and the difference it will make to the life of women is already on its way.

Georgina Holmes



Animal Experimentation

Each year, an estimated five million animals are experimented upon in the United Kingdom alone. They are utilised to develop medical treatments, ensure the safety of products destined for human use, and other biomedical reasons.

Animal experimentation has been practiced in the medical world since 500 BC. The philosophy behind this is that man is dependent on lower classification of life to survive. This has happened throughout history and still occurs. Mankind is reliant on animals for food, milk and transport. It is argued that if humanity has been allowed to use animals to a greater degree in the past, then of course they should be permitted to still use animals for this purpose. The overriding principle is that humans are higher beings than animals and, so they can subjugate them for their use.

If we were not allowed to experiment on animals, we wouldn't have found the answers to many questions and humanity would have had to suffer beyond imagination. For instance: now, there are no cases of smallpox evident in the world, whilst previously smallpox was one of the most devastating diseases. Animal experimentation was instrumental in eradicating smallpox. People died by the million and those who survived were left with brutal scars. Sometimes, people became blind or lost their limbs. The very suffering of this disease was so great that it was impossible for the humans to have found a cure without the aid of the animals.

It has been suggested that humanity is much

more sensitive to agony and pain than mere animals who are much less conscious of their existence. However, this doesn't mean that people should maim animals or slaughter them in a manner which would cause undue suffering or misery. Animal experimentation is acceptable for medical research as scientists are trying to extirpate diseases that we have become prone to and, in that sense, using animals for experiments can be deemed permissible.

Scientists should constantly be looking for alternatives to animal experimentation, for instance: in vitro research rooted on human cells and tissues. This is because animals are different from human beings (not all the biological conditions are similar) and there is no guarantee that if an experiment is successful on an animal, it will be harmless for mankind. Often, the results gained from these experiments are irrelevant, due to poorly designed projects or because of the vast differences between humans and animals (for example: the anatomic and metabolic differences). Before experimenting on animals, scientists should consider whether it is actually beneficial for mankind.

I don't claim to be a proponent of animal testing, but I do think that it is acceptable to experiment on animals if the benefits are more than the drawbacks. So, if experimenting on animals means that a disease is obliterated from the world, then animal experimentation is beneficial. However, it is iniquitous to cause undue, unnecessary and unproductive suffering to animals. For instance: using animals for clothing or causing them anguish for the sake of entertainment. Animals shouldn't also be used to develop cosmetics, because it is not essential to mankind. We must be careful about the purpose we're using animals for. Using animals for such activities doesn't provide any life-changing benefits to mankind and thus should be terminated.

It is my contention that if a few animals are sacrificed, who are placed lower in the order of life, less conscious of their existence and which are made anyway subservient to Man, then there shouldn't be any objection to it, because human lives are being saved.

Experimenting on animals is permissible, but only within defined parameters.

Rameen Masood



If you are able to, please give to an animal charity in the UK, who are concerned with the Welfare and Rights of animals.

My Experience On A TV Show

I applied for a TV show in October. There was an advert in the school foyer looking for 12-16 year olds to apply to be in the first series of a show called Spy School. On the last possible day for application I made up my mind and sent the form in. A day or two later my mum messaged me to tell me to be prompt out of school. I had a phone interview! Half way home the phone went off so my mum pulled over and got out the car, allowing me to talk in private. I was asked hundreds of questions, from why I wanted to be on the show to why I would make a good spy. I was talking to the casting producer for about ten to fifteen minutes but it only felt like five.

For the next few days I heard nothing. Every time the phone rang I wondered who it was. Eventually a week or two later I got a text. I had another interview in Manchester that weekend.

I woke up at 5:00am on a Saturday to get in the car for the two to three hour drive there. When I finally arrived I could barely eat and it seemed like hours before I had to go in. However, I needn't have worried for it felt almost nothing like an interview for the most part. First we were given name badges which had, as well as our names, a shape and a colour. We were split into groups by our colours and pairs by our shapes.

The first task was to break a three to five letter code by working out clues. We had to first give our pair a code name before trying to answer the questions before the other four pairs. We then had to do a worksheet on cracking codes.

My group then moved on to the actual interviews. We all waited outside while, one after the other, we were called up into a room. Inside we were given a clip on microphone and asked similar question to the ones from the phone interview.

The final task was a memory game in which we had to work out and memorise a path across a grid.

Then came another week of anxious waiting. The weekend after that, my parents called me to a computer and told me to press play. I watched with growing glee as a voice told me that I had been accepted into Spy School.

Two weeks on I was heading to London to film the assault course section of the programme. We arrived at the studio, which looked like an abandoned warehouse from the outside, and were asked to wait in a bus parked up there. It was there I properly met my partner, the same person I had been with at the auditions. We headed inside and got changed into our uniforms. After kitting up with pads and microphones we headed to face the course. By the end of our filming I was exhausted because I had had to complete the course not once but over five times.

The next filming day was two weeks on and involved missing a day of school. When I arrived I changed into the uniform and was given a vague overview. I would have to complete three puzzles to find out what 'Goldfist', the evil supervillain, was up to. The filming went by in what seemed to me to be a couple of minutes but was actually about half an hour. Then my partner and I, and about thirty crew members, drove to London Zoo to complete our final mission.

It was an amazing experience that I would recommend to everyone. I thoroughly enjoyed it and think that many others would.

Sarah Inchley

You can still watch Sarah's exploits on CITV's Spy School by going to the ITV Hub

Bingeing Box Sets

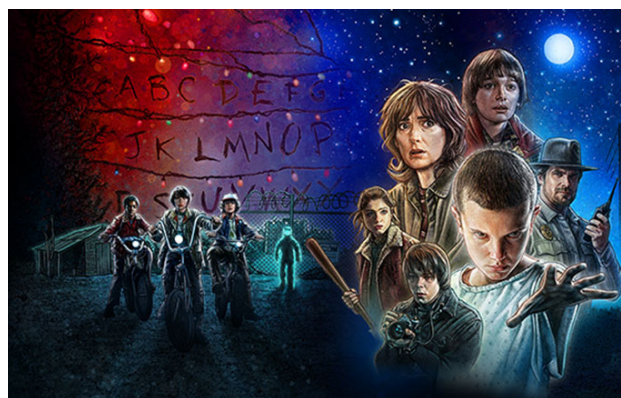
Ironically, I'm typing this while on the third episode of 'Designated Survivor' this evening and I intend to watch even more. "Bingeing Box Sets" is a phrase that wouldn't even have featured in anyone's mind until the presence of excellent and quick streaming services, like Netflix and Amazon; even the ability to watch them through the Sky Box is fantastic.

With subscription service like Netflix, it has become even easier to find the next addiction, with the service dividing its television and film into genre, allowing you to binge on what you fancy watching. With the number of streaming services nowadays, and at least one smart device per household, I believe bingeing is something we are all a little guilty of – whether its watching a few too many episodes of your favourite comedy of an evening or "I just have to finish 'Stranger Things' so I can get some answers" – this probably will include you (and definitely me).

However, we have to consider if there is a detrimental effect on our society. Does this stop people from socialising at home – especially with these services being available on smartphones, closing us off from each other? (Is it any worse than the advent of the video recorder in the 70s or all the extra channels from the 1980s onwards. As far back as the 1950s, television was supposed to be the death of conversation itself.) I think to some degree that it does, but we can call it a guilty pleasure and get away with it. And maybe – just maybe - binge sets create a focus for conversation in a world beyond the couch...

Television gave us the original 'watercooler moments' and now in an age of social media and digital platforms we have an even wider range of ways to share our favourite series at a time of our own choosing. I, personally, find this a great invention and I can't wait to see what more subscription services do to please us. This kind of viewing is a step into the future and great fun at the same time.

Sophie Puffett



A variety of different TV programmes which can be streamed from subscription services.



The January Transfer Window

This January Transfer Window, £419.5 million were spent on players. The most expensive player was Philippe Coutinho. He arrived at Barcelona from Liverpool for £146.2m in the second most expensive deal of all time. Another transfer which cost a huge sum of money was Virgil van Dijk who moved from Southampton to Liverpool for £75m.

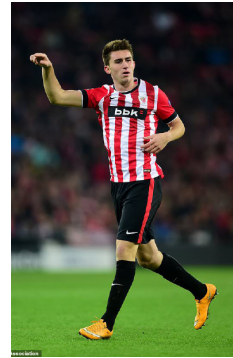
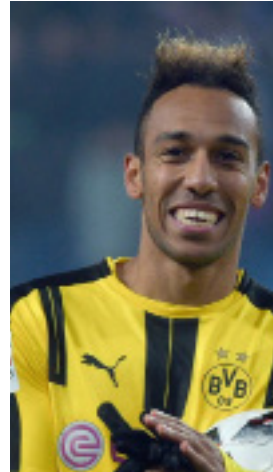
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was the third most expensive transfer, leaving Dortmund for Arsenal in a £60m deal. The fourth most expensive transfer was Aymeric Laporte switching from Bilbao to Manchester City for £57m.

Leicester made some additions to their squad, by signing Fousseini Diabete for £2.1m and Adrien Silva for £20m.

However, Leicester lost a few of their back-up players, with longest serving player, Andy King departing to Swansea, and fellow strikers Leonardo Ulloa going to Brighton, Islam Slimani going to Newcastle, and Ahmed Musa going to CSKA Moscow on loan.

Tom S Ellis

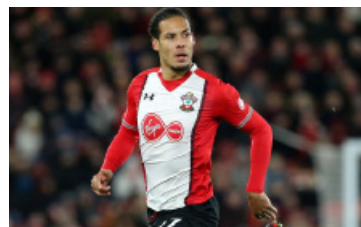
Philippe Coutinho



To the left is Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, above is Aymeric Laporte and below is Adrien Silva.



Fousseini Diabete



Virgil van Dijk

Separating the Art from the Artist

Can we ever separate the Art from the Artist?

In this modern society there have been many well-known figures within the entertainment industry that have committed serious misdemeanours, whether this is John Lennon (who repeatedly beat his first wife Cynthia Lennon), Phil Rudd the drummer of AC/DC (who planned and threatened the murder of his wife) or the more recent sex scandal that has broken in Hollywood, centred around the disgraced producer Harvey Weinstein. Can we really separate the art from the artist, even if the art they created, prior to the exposure of their actions, was brilliant in aesthetic terms?

In the realm of Music over the years there have been many cases of crime and sexual misconduct, however people will still happily listen to The Beatles and AC/DC despite the allegations made and sentences served by their members. It does not matter that the drummer of AC/DC was an attempted murderer, the next time AC/DC turn up to London they will easily be able to sell out two nights at Wembley Stadium because they are one of the biggest bands that have ever existed. However, when it came to light that Jesse Lacey the singer of Brand New was to have allegedly sexually assaulted a fan, his integrity and his band's entire catalogue of work came into question. Is it truly fair to judge and rip apart an artist's career entirely on what they have been "alleged" to have done? Even though it is now confirmed that the singer had solicited lewd photographs of a female who was underage at the time, the incident did take place over fifteen years ago. (Moral depravity does not have a statute of limitations, Ed). Brand New's latest offering, Science Fiction, was pulled from the high profile End of Year album lists despite being one of the stand out albums in the realm of Alternative music. High profile outlets such as The Independent and Kerrang! Magazine both omitted it from their lists of Rock and Metal albums of 2017. I get that it is their duty as a publisher not to look like they are endorsing an artist who is at the forefront of a sexual misconduct scandal, but it

does seem that, in the grand scheme of things, the misconduct that was committed by Lacey some fifteen years ago, is deserving of the recent outpouring of abuse and condemnation. The album should not be dismissed for an action that was committed fifteen years previously as there is no overriding evidence that that incident had any impact on the writing of the album. Science Fiction by Brand New is one of the best albums of the 21st Century and it is not being given the praise that it deserves because the uncovering of past misdemeanours that the frontman committed. I will happily listen to that album and the rest of Brand New's back catalogue because they are one of my favourite bands ever. I believe that if he was a repeat offender and he had a history of offences the matter would be very different. His lapse was clearly wrong but the music should surely be divorced from his personal immorality. The band should still be appreciated for the genius that has contributed to one of the best albums ever made.

Another band, the Polish Death Metal band Decapitated were arrested on alleged gang rape and kidnapping charges. They were held in prison for over a month, before all being released without charge. It was revealed that the victim had made up her claim simply to increase her own social profile. It is impossible to gauge the damaging effect that this had on the band. They had just released a monster of an album and Decapitated were set to join the elite levels of Metal. However, due to the previously stated allegations Decapitated had to drop from both North American and European tours; their support bands, including the ferocious Venom Prison, also decided to drop out of tour supports. Despite all the false allegations many people still hold Decapitated in distain despite them being cleared of the allegations. Nihilism is an amazing album and Decapitated are a soul-crushingly heavy band on the best form. I will happily listen to them because they are an amazing act but, people are hell-bent on setting fire to the band's back catalogue and their legacy is in doubt. What



makes it even more disappointing for Decapitated is that the Death Metal scene is already an isolated and small-scale scene as it is and the controversy that surrounded and jeopardised Decapitated also had a damaging effect on the scene in general. If one of the biggest bands from an already miniscule scene is caught up and victimised within a scandal, then this has genre-wide implications.

I have chosen to stay quiet on the film industry for the most part of this article and this is because it has been written about or commented on by stars, critics and celebrities from A to Z. However, I will say this: the movie, *Seven*, is one of my favourite films of all time and I believe Kevin Spacey's portrayal of John Doe is one of the best villains in the history of cinema (second only to Heath Ledger as the Joker); I will still, despite the allegations against its star, watch that film because I can admire the film as a great film in its own right. The scandal has no bearing on the action on the screen. The only exception that I will make about this is in the case of Ian Watkins the disgraced former lead singer of the Lost Prophets who on 19th December 2012 was convicted of attempting to engage in sexual

activity with minors. This was not an isolated case and Watkins pleaded guilty to multiple cases of lewd and depraved behaviour, including trying to get a child addicted to Class A drugs. The *Fake Sound of Progress* by Lost Prophets was a ground-breaking post hardcore, rock album that was revolutionary in what it did for the British Rock scene. Yet I can see how the album was influenced by Watkins' paedophilic mind. This means that it is a disturbing and uncomfortable listen in light of recent events. There was no "allegedly" with Watkins and the fact that there were multiple serious offences that were committed by the sick and twisted man means that you cannot remove the art from the artist when the artist in question is a blatant and convicted paedophile.

H King-O'Reilly

Any responses to this article should be sent to The Peacock. The views aired in the article are not representative of the editors, nor the school, but are published in the interests of the freedom of speech.

Celebrating 100 years of the vote for women & working man.

A 7ft bronze statue of Leicester suffragette Alice Hawkins has been erected in Leicester's new Market Square.

