



By the pupils, for the pupils
May 2019

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LEICESTER
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SCHOOL

Chief Editor:
Lucas Hoffmann

Assistant Editors:
Svaraji Odedra
Aditya Mathur

The Editing Team:
William Wale
Thomas Mann
Tom Ellis
Jennifer Ewington
Dorothea Shipley
Neal Kulkarni
Nishchal Mistry

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

In the news...



Climate Change is expected to cause an additional 250,000 deaths between 2030 and 2050 due to malnutrition and disease. Furthermore, it is speculated that it will generate USD 43 trillion of losses. Factors influencing this include an increase in the demand for healthcare, and food production which will be jeopardised as a result of the loss of biodiversity.

This movement against Climate Change was inspired by Greta Thunberg, a 16 year old Swedish Climate Activist, who has recently been nominated for a Nobel Peace prize, as a result of her determination to make a change. Last year she began #FridaysForFuture where she announced that she would strike every Friday until her

government in Stockholm agreed to actively help to minimise Climate Change. “I don’t want your hope, I want you to panic.” In her hard-hitting speech at January’s World Economic Forum Annual Meeting she compared the globe’s rapidly increasing climate to a house on fire. This was a powerful metaphor which evoked an awareness of the devastating effects of global warming, amongst a worldwide audience.

The 32nd strike was on Friday the 29th of March, the largest



global strike so far being on Friday 15th of March. On this Friday, strikes took place in 123 countries, including Sweden, Australia, the USA and the UK. It is estimated that over 1.5 million students took part in protest all over the globe. The students are calling for the governments to listen to their views, and to implement a global state of climate emergency. Greenpeace outlined the movement's motivation as "fear for our future, love of our planet and anger at our leaders' failure to act."

Despite the overwhelming success of the Movement, the strikers faced strong criticism from a handful of individuals. Australian finance minister, Mathias Cormann stated that "during the school time kids should be in school", suggesting a controversial idea that the protests were causing more damage than good, through putting the students' education at risk. Moreover, the former editorial manager at the Institute of Economic Affairs said that the students were "fundamentally wrong" in their

actions.

Disregarding these critics, US Senator Bernie Sanders completely supported the student's demonstration, summarising the message of the Youth Climate Strikers on Twitter: "We must come together to take bold and aggressive action to solve the existential crisis of Climate Change".

These students have shed light on an increasingly problematic global issue. Their determination has inspired many more to get on board and rally the government in order to make a much-needed change.

By Ellie Goodman and Ellie Moore



Mr Watson Interview

How are you finding Leicester Grammar School and your role so far? Currently, what do you like most about Leicester Grammar School?

Everyone has been very welcoming so far and there is plenty to keep me occupied and entertained! I have already had lots of meetings – with staff, students, parents, governors and visitors – so I am beginning to get a good ‘feel’ for the school. I like the friendly and very positive atmosphere, as well as the can-do approach.

Why did you decide to join LGS initially?

I wanted to lead another school whose educational values aligned with my own. It's a school with outstanding opportunities where students

achieve remarkable things (both in the classroom and in their co-curricular activities) - but it still succeeds in remaining ‘grounded’; students grow naturally in self-confidence without becoming pretentious. I also have the interesting strategic challenge of working with other heads in the Trust.

What is your favorite subject and why? Did you teach any subject at Bablake School?

I took English, French and Latin at A level, and also really enjoyed Maths, History and German. My degree was in French and Latin and I have taught those subjects as well as German and Classical Civilisation at various times in my career. Next year I intend to teach Latin to Year 7. Whilst I

have less opportunity than in the past, I still really enjoy teaching.

How do you spend your free time?

My free time during school weeks is limited, but I enjoy walking, going to the theatre, gardening, reading, the Arts in general and DIY. We visit the RSC in Stratford on quite a regular basis, and we recently saw a dramatised version of 'A Thousand Splendid Suns' at the Birmingham Rep. My wife and I often combine a weekend walk with a visit to a National Trust property or tea shop (cake obligatory!). We especially like the Peak District and the Cotswolds. During the holidays, we enjoy travel and are very much looking forward to a family holiday in Brazil this summer.

Are you looking forward to any school events in particular?

A great privilege for me as Head is that I can attend such a variety of events and meet so many different people. I have already enjoyed a brilliant concert, intend to watch school sport whenever my diary permits and am looking forward to drama productions and the Art and DT exhibition. This is one way of getting to know you all beyond the classroom.

Interview by Aditya Mathur, Svaraji Odedra, Shashank Bhandari



Shazam!



Almost every single child, especially ones today, have dreamt, at some point, of becoming a superhero. With a long, billowing cape, muscular build, identity-concealing mask and laser-shooting eyes, they would dream of flying through a city, weaving through the skyscrapers at break-neck speed to go and fight the evil wizard who yearns for domination. *Shazam!* takes that dream and puts it on screen.

The plot follows Billy Batson, a fourteen year old orphan running from foster-home to foster-home because of his troublesome tendency to run off. However, he is, according to magic, pure of heart, so the wizard, aptly named “Shazam”, gives Billy his magic powers of super strength, speed, durability and laser-fingers, oh, and the body of a thirty something year old man (a padded-up Zachary Levi). He has the ability to switch between old and young by shouting the name ‘Shazam!’ At first he has some fun with his powers alongside his friend Freddy (who is in crutches to hit the realistic punch) but

then must do battle against Mark Strong’s Doctor Sivanna, who is in control of the seven deadly sins.

This movie is meant to symbolise what we would actually do with super powers, and it does that perfectly. Angel Asher, who plays Billy, puts on a great display of a fourteen year old orphan, being able to be both comical and serious at the same time. The movie is absolutely hilarious when he first starts out as a superhero, with funny, well-written scenarios Billy finds himself in and gut-splitting training montages as far as the eye can see, but it also packs an emotional value underneath and even a cheeky dosage of horror.

Overall, *Shazam!* has proven that DC can make their superhero movies original and stand out, and they obviously took what they’ve learnt from Wonder Woman and Aquaman to light and fix it into this hilarious, child-friendly and enjoyable movie that will surely give rise to young stars like Angel Asher.

By Thomas Mann

Death of Gordon Banks and Emiliano Sala

On the 19th January 2019, Emiliano Sala was unveiled as the club-record-signing for Cardiff City. He would cost a total of around £15 million, beating ex-player Gary Medel's of £11 million in 2013. Sala was the third highest goal-scorer in France, behind Kylian Mbappe and Nicolas Pepe with a total of 13 goals in all competitions. Sadly, on his travel over from Nantes to Cardiff, his plane, flown by pilot David Ibbotson, lost communication with traffic control just north of Guernsey. It was later confirmed on the 21st January that he had died on his journey across the English Channel. Searches were conducted for the wreckage and men but it was later confirmed that Emiliano Sala had died on his flight to Cardiff, on board the Piper

Malibu aircraft. His body was uncovered and later identified through finger print analysis. David Ibbotson's body has not been found. An interim investigation is expected to happen which will conclude between 6-12 months from the present time.

Gordon Banks, England's 1966 World Cup-winning goalkeeper, passed away on the 12th February aged 81. The English shot-stopper has been regarded as one of the beautiful game's best players in his position, Banks is perhaps known for his goal-defying save which denied Pele at the 1970 World Cup. Born in Sheffield on the 30th December 1937, Banks won the League Cup with both Stoke City and Leicester, before retiring aged 36 in 1973. He joined the Foxes in 1959 after a

switch from Chesterfield for £7000 brought him to the club, where he would stay for 8 years. In that time at Leicester, he reached the FA Cup Final twice and won the League Cup in 1964, the only major accolade he collected with the Foxes.

Gordon's family reported that he had peacefully passed in his sleep on the night of the 11th February. He will go down in history as a legend in English football and in footballing history as one of the greatest goalkeepers of all time.

By Tom S. Ellis



(Above)
Emiliano Sala at Nantes

(Below)
Gordon Banks in action



Chinese Censorship

Since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1950, the Communist Government in China has heavily censored and oppressed freedom of speech in mainland China.

Now, with modern technology and media, the government has developed new ways to dictate how their citizens communicate and express opinions.

Heavy censorship first started in 1979, where famous and outspoken writers, including Lao She, Fu Lei, and Deng Tuo, were rounded up, tortured and killed. Around 2,600 people were executed by the ministry of culture for their works of art and literature. The film industry was also hit hard. A book titled: “400 Films to be Criticized” was published: it contained names of actors, actresses, writers and directors who were all rounded up, tortured and killed by the Ministry of Culture.

But censorship still continues today within China. CNN said that “China’s internet censorship mechanism is considered more extensive and advanced than any other country in the world” and

Amnesty International states that China has “the largest recorded number of imprisoned journalists and cyber-dissidents in the world”. Even Wikipedia is blocked by the Chinese Government.

The government blocks any form of political discussion which is deemed ‘dangerous’; information about historical events such as the Tiananmen Square massacres and Chinese history are heavily censored; simple communication tools such as Gmail are also blocked. Some sites and platforms that we use daily are blocked by the government, including Google, Yahoo, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, the BBC, Bloomberg News, Voice of America and many more.

But how do they do it? Well, the Ministry of Culture uses many ways to censor internet freedom in China. Some of the ones we know of include simply blocking certain http links, deep packet inspection (which includes looking at keywords within searches and then cutting off access to websites) and the

‘Great Firewall System’ which can locate and block known VPNs and filter search results from search engines. The extent of the censorship is massive and disobeying Chinese laws online can have grave consequences. In 2001, Wang Xiaoning was arrested and convicted for sending emails, via Yahoo, to other activists. In 2008, Liu Shaokun was sentenced to ‘1-year re-education through labour’ for posting pictures of the school he taught at, which had collapsed. China’s highest court issued guidelines stating that: “a slanderous message forwarded more than 500 times or read more than 5,000 times could result in up to three years in prison”.

But the reach of China’s surveillance and censorship system goes far beyond Chinese borders. By Chinese law, every company in China must allow the Secret Service to access pre-installed back-doors and databases. This means, that by law, your Huawei phone, Reddit account, Supercell account, Epic Games account and your AliExpress account can be accessed by Chinese officials at any time. The head of MI6, Alex Younger, gave a rare speech

outlining his concerns about Huawei’s products and possible security breaches. Fairly recently the social media platform, Reddit, took a \$150 million investment from Chinese tech giant, Tencent. The company’s notorious reputation for leaking credit card information from the Epic Games launcher and forcing users in China to register themselves with the police caused a backlash from users on the platform. Three posts about the Tiananmen Square massacres were removed on that day, leaving users furious and pictures of the Taiwanese flag, articles about Chinese human rights abuses and even pictures comparing President Xi Jinping to Winnie the Pooh circled around the site for the next few days.

So, next time you bag a bargain on a cheap phone, or purchase a new game, keep in mind: who has access to your data and, most importantly, what they will do with it?

By Lucas Hoffmann

(Any opinions expressed in this article are those of the author only, and should in no way be interpreted as the opinion of the Peacock magazine or Leicester Grammar School.)

DofE Special

Expedition Experiences with Maya Thompson

Which section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award did you find the hardest when doing it?

Definitely, the qualifying walk! I thought the training practices were hard but really they were to prepare us for the real thing. The weather had been awful for all the training practices with hail, snow, rain and fog- one even had to be cut short! But that was nothing compared to the qualifying which was extremely physically and mentally challenging. I had injured my hip and back on the second day, but my team kept me going, I couldn't have done it without them, especially when it came to keeping motivated and mentally positive. We got each other through the hardest challenges - especially when we got lost and had to go on a huge detour!

Do you have any advice for any further Duke of Edinburgh Award participants?

I would definitely recommend doing the Award but make sure you are motivated to see it through: we lost two members of our team throughout the training process. My advice would be to make sure you bring a few changes of clothes as they tend to get muddy, also have something that you are looking forward to at the end of each day and pack lightly - the bags are very heavy. Don't forget about the other parts of D of E: skill, volunteering, residential and physical sections are just as important. Most importantly, have fun when doing it and appreciate all the memories you make on it.

What drove you to do the Duke of Edinburgh Award in the first place?

Having done Bronze, I wanted to continue the scheme to Gold. I had some friends that also were interested so we all signed up as a team knowing we could do it all together. I've always loved the outdoors and am up for an adventure. Plus, I couldn't pass up such an amazing opportunity. It also enabled me to meet so many new people in the other sections of the scheme in volunteering at Oxfam and my NCS residential, along with learning a new skill and continuing to improve my physical fitness.

What do you think are the main benefits of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme?

It helped me realise I could do anything I put my mind to. I learnt a lot about myself and my mentality with the huge plus of creating deeper friendships with everyone involved. It is such a good

scheme to be involved in. It also made me appreciate the basic things I have: a bed, a shower, clean water and a decent meal every day. The views and nature we were surrounded by were phenomenal, especially as our team did the wild camp which consisted of camping in the mountains - waking up to those views in the morning was incredible.

What do you think was the most exciting part of the award?

Getting to know everyone even better than I already did! The incredible views and expedition, also the opportunities to meet new people in all the sections of the Gold Award. I have been humbled by D of E but also been faced with one of the hardest challenges I have done so far. From it, I have gained a better understanding of myself and those around me.

Interview By Aditya Mathur

Mr Cox Interview

What is your motivation for Co-ordinating the Duke of Edinburgh award?

I have been a member of the Scouts since I was 6, working my way up from being a Beaver to now being an Assistant Leader. This has meant I have had a lot of experience in doing outdoor activities. I did both DofE Bronze and Gold when I had the opportunity, having a particularly memorable Gold Qualifying Expedition in Morocco. At university in North Wales I would climb mountains every weekend with the Mountain Walking Club. This makes DofE a very natural fit for me. I also really enjoy seeing students learning something new, be it navigation, campcraft or simply teamwork and problem solving.

What is the most annoying thing you must deal with while running DofE?

The kit store tends to take up a lot more time than I would like. We are in a very lucky position here to have a good deal of the more expensive equipment available for the participants to borrow and use, but I think too often they take it for granted. I spend a lot of time drying, cleaning, fixing, folding tents and chasing people for missing kit items and I don't think students always appreciate the amount of time it takes following an expedition and how lucky they are to have access to this kit for free.

How does the DofE award scheme benefit those who participate?

A lot of companies, universities and institutions recognise the Duke of Edinburgh Award as something worthwhile for people to have on CVs and applications. This is still very true, but it is not just down to having the Award itself. The reason is that participants

have committed a good deal of time to learning a sport, improving a skill and helping in some voluntary capacity, which is all valuable experience. It also shows the passion they have to have committed to an activity for up to 18 months. The expedition component also provides a challenge, which is something not a lot of people have faced before. The benefit comes from how the young person deals with the challenge of a tough expedition and how they develop the teamwork, navigation, campcraft and resilience necessary to overcome this obstacle. These are things that don't just benefit their CVs but can help them throughout the rest of their lives.

What do you think is the most difficult part of the DofE scheme?

I think the most difficult part is the second night of a Gold Expedition and, to a lesser extent, the single night on Bronze. The young person has done half the expedition and

has arrived at their campsite. They could be wet, tired, aching and yet have just as much still left to do. If it has been a particularly taxing day, this is probably the lowest moment and the hardest to come back from. However, if they are able to sleep well that night and get up the next morning they are then on the return leg. Everything seems easier from that point on and the most difficult challenge is having the resilience to deal with that middle night.

Why would you encourage people to take part in the scheme?

Because it is a challenge. Because you can show your commitment to something. Because it's fun. Because you can find activities that you may continue to do for the rest of your lives. Because it can build friendships. Because you might have good weather. Because it's an adventure.

By Svaraji Odedra and Lucas Hoffmann

“It’s not the load
that breaks you
down, it’s the
way you carry
it.”

- Lou Holtz