



By the pupils, for the pupils
September 2019



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and all of our guest writers.**

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In the News

Following the Brexit vote in 2016, Britain has been plunged into a state of turmoil. In amongst all this, a change of leadership has taken place. Boris Johnson took up office on the 24th July 2019 and since then has made many decisions which seem radical to some people.

One action he has taken which can be viewed in this way is claiming that Britain will leave the EU on the 31st October, 'No ifs or buts'. This will mean that, if no deal has been created with the EU, we will leave the EU without a Brexit deal. This has pleased some people as it means that we will hopefully leave behind this Brexit mess and be able to return to a more independent and organised country. However, lots of people view this as a bad thing because if we leave without a Brexit deal

then it means there would be many consequences such as trade difficulty and more intense border controls for British people, for example. Another thing that Boris Johnson has done is to suspend Parliament. This means that no new laws can be passed since the proroguing. Critics argue the reason Boris did this was to try and meet that all-important deadline of the 31st of October. This, however, has led to much controversy in Parliament as many Members of Parliament believe that it is unfair, undemocratic and unlawful. Some MPs have even gone a step further and gone to court to appeal the decision Mr Johnson has made, declaring it unlawful.

Currently, no action has been taken to overturn the suspension and it appears that

Boris Johnson has been abiding by the law. Meanwhile, other MPs have been taking different actions, holding up signs outside Parliament reading ‘Silenced!’, as they protest at the prorogation limiting their ability to speak on the matter. Some people do agree with Boris’ actions as it prevents further delay of the whole Brexit shambles, but, without Parliament, others wonder whether Boris will be able to remain in control of Britain and the Brexit process. It is only a matter of time before we find out if this Brexit mess will continue to rumble on past 31st October or, if under the new leadership of Boris Johnson, Britain will leave and emerge from the EU as a strong and independent nation.

By Thomas Onions



All information was correct at time of writing (23 September 2019). All views expressed are those of the author and do not represent the views of the Peacock or Leicester Grammar as a whole.

We would love to hear your opinion on Boris, Brexit or the state of Britain in general.

Please email us at:

peacock@leicestergrammar.org.uk or speak to a member of the editorial team.

Samsung S9+ Review

The Samsung Galaxy S9 series, Samsung's ex-best phones, were not too well received by the masses; only an estimated 45 million sales were made from launch to the end of 2018. Compared to the iPhone X's estimated 150 million sales in the same time period, this isn't very impressive. Given S9's time of release (just after the iPhone X) it is easy to see why these phones weren't too significant and why they were more of a stepping stone.

The Samsung Galaxy S9+ is a beautiful phone, with a near bezel-less design and rounded screen corners, although it is quite big.

The Samsung Galaxy S9+ is a beautiful phone, with a near bezel-less design and rounded screen corners, although it is quite big.

Powered by the Snapdragon 845/Exynos 9810, the S9+ can run anything with ease: games, word processing, video viewing, media consumption. While the Snapdragon variant of the Galaxy S9+ is slightly more powerful, the Exynos still manages to hold up quite well.

With two 12MP cameras on the rear, this phone can take excellent pictures. The low light mode, called Night Mode, is great. It really helps bring out small features in a setting with minimal lighting. The one front camera is quite well hidden within the black colour of the phone's bezel and can take good close up selfies but isn't great with taking photos which require zooming.

The ability to record 4K videos in 60fps isn't very useful as

display 4K, therefore it will be downscaled back to 1080p which the Galaxy S9+ can record in 240fps. As a result, recording in 4K is only relevant to a niche part of the market that can display 4K but is on the rise as it has grown by 21% since 2018.

Having a 128GB storage option on this phone is great. It allows you to keep lots of music and photos on it while still having space for numerous games and apps. If even 128GB isn't enough for you, having the option to expand it is amazing. Unfortunately, it is not recommended to install apps onto the SD card as it slows down loading times. But, if you don't mind that, you can move everything onto an SD card and have plenty of free space.

Samsung claims that the phone can last up to 15 hours of use when using 4G for browsing the internet; but in my experience, it only really

holds up to about 4 hours of heavy usage (such as gaming or browsing social media) which is plenty enough for most users, but for a small group of potential users, it could be an issue.

Specifications:

Dimensions (h x w x d): 158.1 x 73.8 x 8.5 mm

Weight: 189g

Display: 6.2" (157.48mm)

Front Camera: 8MP

Rear Camera: 12MP Wide-Angle Camera

Recording: 4K 60fps, 720p 960fps (Super Slow-mo), 1080p 240fps (Slow-mo).

Processor: Exynos 9810 (Europe & Other places), Snapdragon 845 (USA, China)

Storage: 64/128GB, up to 512GB expandable memory with microSD. 6GB RAM

Battery: 3500mAh

By Jeremy Russ

Mr Anderson Interview

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

It is great to be here and I am really enjoying my new role. I teach five classes, and it is great to meet new pupils and to get to know them. I have been really impressed by the focused approach to study pupils have shown in my lessons, and I have also enjoyed some of the (terrible) banter!

Apart from teaching, my job is to think about the academic and co-curricular sides of school life, and to ensure that our pupils gain the maximum benefit from everything that is on offer. I have really enjoyed meeting my new colleagues and understanding how we do things here. There is so much that goes on that is excellent, and so many teachers who are really committed to doing their best for the pupils.

2. Why did you decide to join LGS initially?

The truthful answer is that my wife was born and raised in Leicester and she has been keen to move back here for some time. So when the job was advertised she made it clear to me that I would be applying!

Apart from that, I wanted to work in an outstanding, co-educational day school. There are a few of those across the country, but when I came up to LGS and started to meet people it felt like I was a really good fit to the school.

3. What led you into teaching Physics?

I worked in several jobs before I started teaching. For five years I worked for the NHS at the National Institute for Clinical Excellence as well as in hospitals in the UK and Australia. I then worked in the Democratic Republic of Congo for a medical charity before coming back to

the UK to work for a strategy consulting firm.

I loved all of my jobs, but had always wanted to try teaching. Working in a school is genuinely exciting every day. It is such a dynamic environment and it is a job where every decision you make and every interaction you have can make a real impact. Physics was always the subject I wanted to teach: it explains so much and if you think about it the right way everything just slots into place.

4. How do you spend your free time?

I am married with two small children, so most of my time is spent making lego, painting pictures and reading stories... plus I look after the children too (ho ho!). Apart from that I like to cycle and I am just getting back into climbing. My aim is to start sailing again next year and have a boat on Rutland Water.

5. Are you looking forward to any school events in particular?

So many! I have already watched a bit of rugby, and will be making

time to get out and support our hockey teams. I also can't wait to see my first LGS concert and of course the big drama production. But most of all I am waiting to read my first issue of the Peacock!

By Svaraji Odedra and Aditya Mathur



Hong Kong Protests

Hong Kong is a sprawling metropolis, housing many of the world's largest banks and business centres, but since the 31st of March millions have taken to the streets in mass protest, resulting in huge disruptions across the alpha+ class city.

But why?

Ever since the former British colony was handed over to the PRC in 1997, the Chinese Government has slowly made moves to integrate the territory into the mainland. For example, in 2014, the Beijing government stated that each Hong Kong Executive Candidate must “Love the country [China] and love Hong Kong”. China has been trying to tie the HK territory closer and closer to the mainland over the years; now they have made another attempt to undermine Hong Kong's democracy.

The Extradition Bill would allow Hong Kong citizens to be tried on

the Chinese mainland, where the courts are under Chinese political control. The Beijing government claims that the Bill would stop Hong Kong being a ‘safe haven for criminals’. The Bill was proposed after a 19-year old man from Hong Kong was accused of murdering his pregnant girlfriend in February 2019; the man was arrested in Taiwan, but since Hong Kong and Taiwan do not have an extradition agreement, the man has not faced trial. Critics of the Bill say that it could be used to arrest and silence political opponents, journalists, Western charity workers and human rights lawyers.

Just two days after the Extradition Bill was announced, hundreds of thousands of residents took to the streets in protest against the Bill and Carrie Lam, the current leader of Hong Kong. On the 12th of June the organizers claimed that over 1.03 million protestors had gathered in and around Victoria Park and the Legislative Assembly;

the protests were largely peaceful but as night fell protestors stormed the legislative council complex. They met little police resistance and smashed furniture, defaced the Hong Kong emblem and wrote slogans in the conference rooms. On the 12th of July Carrie Lam announced that 'The Extradition Bill is dead' - but she stopped short from completely removing it. The protests had been going on for 14 weeks in a row and the police were becoming increasingly violent; they used tear gas, water cannons, rubber bullets, controversial undercover police and facial recognition software. The Hong Kong police have been accused of torture, assault on women and children, live ammunition and even fabrication of terrorist events.

One video, posted on the website Reddit, shows police entering a subway train from both ends and indiscriminately gassing and brutally beating the passengers, only stopping when the press turned up. Another video posted onto YouTube shows an injured protestor being strapped down in a hospital where he was savagely tortured, beaten and waterboarded

for over half an hour. Hong Kong protestors told CNN that the police had been collaborating with the Triads and the crime syndicates in order to attack pro-democracy protestors without legal consequence. As of now, Carrie Lam has stated that there will be no investigation into police behavior.

The protestors have no leader. This clever decision has prevented the police from arresting ringleaders, but it does mean that there would be no obvious negotiators if the government would attempt to negotiate with the protestors. Currently, the protestors have five demands: the full withdrawal of the Extradition Bill; the release of imprisoned protestors; an independent inquiry into police brutality; universal suffrage for the legislative council and chief executive elections; and the resignation of Carrie Lam. So far, none of these demands have been met.

Many companies have been hugely affected by the ongoing protests in Hong Kong; Cathay Pacific, one of the world's leading airlines is based in Hong Kong and has faced huge backlash over

their actions. They had initially released a statement stating that any employees who participated or helped the protests would not face any consequences, but, after a huge social media campaign in China urging Chinese citizens to boycott the airline, the airline was eventually ordered to change their policy on the matter – any employee found to be participating in or encouraging the current protests would be fired or face negative consequences. Many international companies have remained silent on the matter. Across the world people have come out to protest in their home countries, to show support for the Hong Kong protests. Multiple rallies and marches were held in Germany, Canada, Taiwan and the US. But, in reality, there is little anyone in the West can do. No matter the outcome, the 2019 Hong Kong protests are a pivotal and important moment for the former British colony and will go down in history. One can only hope that it will not be remembered as Democracy's last stand in the Far East.

By Lucas Hoffmann



School Council

1. What are the key differences between the old and new School Councils?

There will be three new School Councils – one for the Lower School (Years 6-8), another for the Middle School (Years 9-11) and a third for the Sixth Form. Each of the School Councils will be chaired by one of the Senior Prefects, with a second Senior Prefect acting as Secretary.

I think that the feeling was that, with the previous School Council, pupils did not get enough feedback from the Senior Leadership Team, so this time we intend to ensure that the SLT reports back to the pupils more regularly.

2. How can the pupils put forward an idea for the School Council's consideration?

An agenda will be drawn up in advance of each meeting, so any pupil who wishes to raise an issue can do so by emailing the Senior

Prefects acting as Chair and Secretary of the Council, or they can email me and I will pass them on.

3. How often will they be meeting?

Meetings will be held with each of the three School Councils once every half term, but it is hoped that the time in between the meetings is when the School Council Representatives will actually be able to get the majority of the work done and put the ideas that are approved into practice.

4. How will the School Council's voice be heard?

I will attend the School Council meetings so will hear the pupils' ideas directly and the discussion that ensues. I will then be able to pass on these ideas to the other members of the Senior Leadership Team and will forward them the minutes from the meetings. We appreciate that it will be vital that the School Council receives **12**

prompt feedback from the Senior Leadership Team in order for the School Council to feel that it has a real voice within the community. Our aim is to empower the Representatives, enabling them to put their ideas into practice, where approval has been granted.

5. What sort of issues will the School Council have any influence over?

The School Council will have an influence over a wide range of issues, starting with some of the issues raised by the responses from the recent whole school pupil survey.

6. What will be the priority for the School Council to discuss?

Mr Watson has already mentioned in his first Assembly some of the key issues raised by the pupil survey. We will be looking at what is on offer to pupils at lunchtimes, for example, and deciding on indoor seating areas for pupils. We will also be considering your views on how we deal with bullying in school and what more we can do to support pupil well-being and happiness. Many of you

raised environmental issues in the survey and these will be addressed through the Eco Club in the first instance. Similarly, many ideas were shared regarding the School Refectory, so we aim to set up a group which deals specifically with catering, in order to free up time at School Council to discuss broader issues.

7. If a pupil were interested in being on the School Council, how would he /she get involved?

The Form Tutors will ask for nominations for School Council Representatives from within each Form group and voting will take place (where necessary) to ensure that each form is represented.

Any pupil who is keen to join the School Council should speak to their Form Tutor in the first instance. I do hope that many of you will be keen to get involved and to consider representing the views of the student body in this way. I am eager to get started, so that, together, we can put some good ideas into practice as soon as possible.

Mrs C L Jess
Assistant Head (Community)

Lights, Camera, Reaction

If you asked someone 1965 what their favourite movie was, nine times out of ten, they're going to say *The Sound Of Music*, the latest 007 iteration or a *Carry On* film. They are most likely going to come to this decision just considering that they liked the story or the songs or something very simple. If you ask someone from the 21st century what their favourite movie is, they are going to first say, "That's a very difficult question," and then consider a lot more than just the songs and story before they give you their answer. The reason for this is simply because the cinematic world has changed.

Cinema has adapted to bring up current world issues. Since the explosion of the LGBTQ+ community and the climate crisis, the cinematic world has been coming up with metaphors, similes or just telling the audience that these things have been going on, and cinema has been doing this for a very long time, and it's the one thing that hasn't

really changed. Diversity has been one of the biggest factors in this change and in present day the biggest directing-names in Hollywood are casting black and female characters in their movies; Michael B. Jordan and Brie Larson leading this charge, both having starred in hard hitting biopics and blockbuster movies of recent date. Originally, it was just biopics and dramas that represented these previously under-represented groups, but now other genres are being affected as well. Sometimes, a movie can overplay the fact that it's star is a black man or woman, but if done correctly they can be soaring successes, what with the massive release of *Black Panther* in 2018, and the upcoming *Charlie's Angels*, which I am very excited for.

As anyone is aware, Hollywood has passed just noticing that franchises mean big pay checks, and it is now moving into the days of sequels and reboots.

Obviously, it's not like this isn't 14

unprecedented, with the massive success of the MCU or Star Wars, it's only natural for the rest of Hollywood to create their own, multi-movie universes. However, as a result of this, most of, if not all we see today are sequels or remakes of titles we've seen before, especially with Disney in the process of remaking all their classic animated films into live action big hits. The MCU continues to pelt out movies, what with them having just released their Phase 4 line up, alongside Sylvester Stallone (yes, he's not dead) coming back for yet another Rambo movie, the revival of a lot of Stephen King's adaptations, as well as the 2017's orientation of Murder on the Orient Express. While, of course, original films are still produced, they are usually only found in the drama and comedy genres and anything else is either really bad or so small time you can only see it for a week in a small independent cinema in Devon. There are exceptions, but they are few and far between; it is beginning to seem like the cinematic industry is running out of ideas.

However, on the topic of

successful franchises, the genres of sci-fi and action are really being picked up and looked into by directors all over the world. As I mentioned earlier, the MCU is taking the world by storm, and series like Rambo are making a return. It's not just violent, special effect-filled genres either, with musicals making a steady return, with recent successes like The Greatest Showman, Bohemian Rhapsody, Rocketman, La La Land and Yesterday. However, because of this, other genres are going into decline. Comedies at this point are either streaming-service-exclusive or only appear in cinemas once or twice a month. Horrors are also losing popularity, with only the recent adaptations of Stephen King's books like It and Pet Cemetery, alongside the Halloween sequel, making it into mainstream media. Other than these reboots, the genre has produced only one movie of late that is noteworthy: 2017's Get Out. With movie-comers' fear tolerance rising, cinema is struggling to come up with new things to make people scared, and so the Horror industry declines as Hollywood's best flock now to the new age of

Sci-fis and action remakes.

A new direction that cinema is now continuing to take is to create new and immersive worlds, through CGI. Set builders are amazing people, but even they cannot make the entire city of Gondor, but luckily, a sprawling team of computer nuts can, alongside much more. The reason why Sci-fis are so popular these days is because cinema can now create the immersive world that used to only exist as an idea or a Yoda puppet, and can be done so well that sometimes it can be indistinguishable from real life. The starfighter battles of the recent Star Wars iterations now seem so realistic that you believe the crew behind it have actually been in one. We can go to the moon with Neil Armstrong and see it as he saw it, Spider Man can swing through the hurtling remnants of a moon on an alien planet in crystal clear clarity and nobody has to put on a 91kg rubber suit to play Godzilla anymore. CGI has been used for a while in cinema now, but it has never looked so real, with characters being completely animated - this year's Lion King is entirely computer

rendered, except for the opening shot of the sunrise.

Alongside CGI, there is the new technology of 3D. 3D came about when James Cameron made Avatar in 2009, and it involves using different layers of film on top of one-another, alongside the viewer wearing special glasses, to give the effect the movie is in 3D. However, since then not much has been noticeably improved, other than CGI and camera resolution. But change is definitely coming: James Cameron has revealed his plans to make Avatar 2, 3, 4, and 5 and he says he also plans to revolutionise 3D again, and how he is tired of movies being shot in 2D and remade into 3D. Cameron wants to completely get rid of the glasses, and instead have movies shot in 3D, which will revolutionise the way we watch movies. It's not just camera work that's changed; very recently, the cinema Showcase released its new 'X-Plus' screenings, with wall to wall screens and speakers around the room so the sounds come from different directions, and it's almost like you yourself are in the movie.

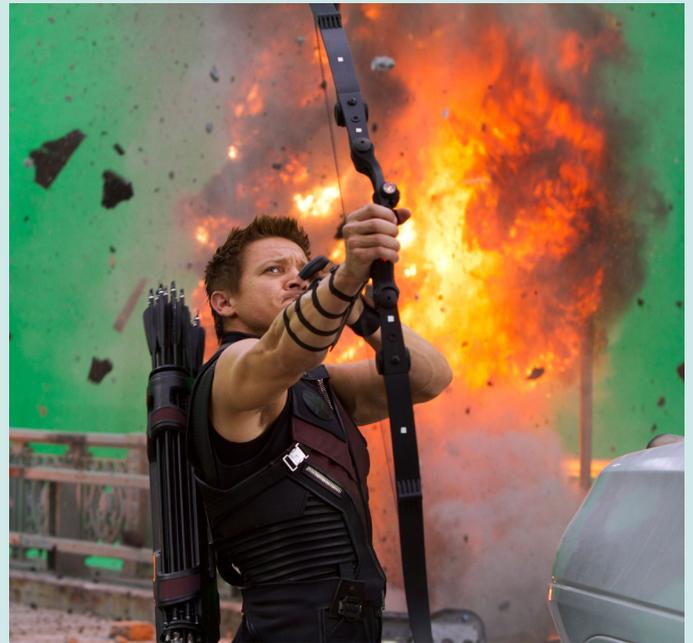
Another concept which

Hollywood is exploiting is advertising. At the release of any new Star Wars or Marvel movie, the screens of Time's Square and the sides of London's buses will be plastered with the protagonist standing next to Fanta's new Blueberry Burst drink. Branding has become an essential part of a movie's success and advertising has moved far beyond just movie posters and T-Shirts. Adverts will be broadcast all over television and radio, social media will be full of cast interviews and behind the scenes looks and merchandise will be sold left, right and centre. This is another reason why Sci-fis are so popular nowadays, because all those things mentioned above can be applied to them easily. Sadly, if you end up as a movie that can only be viewed in a small independent cinema in Devon, then you better hope that either Tom Hanks is a cast member or Empire gives you a good review because otherwise you will not be noticed next to the barrage of blockbusters being produced today.

So, while cinema is definitely completely different to what it was a decade ago, not everyone

is going to like the direction it is going in. Yes, it is moving forward in diversity and quality of visuals and audio, but it is also missing a lot of originality and if you don't like superheroes or action movies, then you are going to be hard pressed to find something you want to watch.

By Thomas Mann



School Life Liabilities

The first term of yet another school year has begun. After an extremely long summer break, we the student body have been thrown back into a rapid routine of work, tests and homework. Some might say we have literally hit the ground running. For those of us who crave work and being pushed to our limits this is ideal, whereas some long to be back on some idyllic beach next to crashing waves. However, we are all back at school - whether we like it or not.

We are actually very lucky to be here as around 260 million children around the world don't get to or can't go to school. We are some of the luckier ones who get to have private education and, more often than not, we take this for granted by not concentrating in class or saying we hate school. Even though at times school can be trying - like

when you fall out with your friends or your teacher gives you a D on an essay you spent hours on - we should be glad that we are getting a good education where our teachers push us to our limits. School gives us a range of opportunities to grow as people such as co-curricular activities, debating, DofE and so on. Many people across our country and across the globe don't have half the opportunities we get here at LGS, so we should make the most of them. It's a new year: why don't you try to embrace something new?

Even though it takes a bit of time to get back into a routine, it's important to start working hard from the beginning of the year. Making notes and concentrating so that you are not in that position everyone ultimately finds themselves in at least once in their Senior School career

- stressed out of your mind in the half term before exam week because you can't remember anything that you have learnt in the first term.

I know adults always tell us to get a good night's sleep and our usual response is to roll our eyes and say it isn't important. However, having a good sleep is key in order to function optimally throughout the day. Sleep deprivation has an impact on mood, behaviour, cognitive ability and academic performance. Research has shown that most teenagers need nine hours of sleep every night. I am sure that the majority of us do not get this much sleep. Eating well and keeping physically active are also very important for our physical and mental health.

Over the course of this year I aim to explore the ups and downs of school life from the perspective of the student body, for example bullying, exam stress and impacts of social media. We hear a lot about

these issues from various faculty members.

However, I would like to get pupils and teachers opinions on these issues so that changes can be made if necessary to make everyone's time at school the best it can be.

By Keira Beatty

