



by the pupils, for the pupils
March 2018



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LEICESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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

Percy's Notes



This is the last issue of The Peacock to be edited by Kaneeka and Jasmine. They have been at the forefront of the newsletter since their earliest years in the Senior School and their effort, energy and organisation will be much missed.

We wish them well in all their future endeavours and, perhaps, they might like to contribute an article from afar for old time's sake...

“The greatest enemy
of knowledge is not
ignorance, it is
the illusion of
knowledge.”

Stephen Hawking

Florida School Shooting

On 14th February 2018, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida was wracked with terror and grief as seventeen people were brutally shot and another seventeen were wounded, making it one of the world's deadliest school massacres.

After entering the school the perpetrator, Nikolas Jacob Cruz, pressed a fire alarm and students across the campus began heading for the exits. Whilst students tried to exit from the building, Cruz fired mercilessly with an AR-15 style semi-automatic rifle. Once Cruz had fulfilled his evil intentions, he fled from the crime scene. Later, he was found walking along a quiet road where a patrolling police officer arrested him.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting is the most lethal school shooting since the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, which claimed the lives of twenty children and six adults. After the Sandy Hook shooting no new laws were enforced and, consequently, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting occurred.

A similar incident occurred in Britain on 13th March 1996: the Dunblane School Massacre. A gunman invaded a primary school in the small Scottish town of Dunblane and shot to death sixteen young children and their teacher before committing suicide. In the aftermath of the carnage, residents of Dunblane initiated the Snowdrop Campaign (named after the spring flower that was in bloom at the time of the horrific shooting) to seek alterations in British gun laws. Due to the campaign's petition, about 750,000 signatures were gathered. A letter was also written by the mother of one of the slaughtered children which was published in two national newspapers. Almost a year later, in February 1997, Parliament acknowledged this horrific incident by passing a law which prohibited

private ownership of handguns above .22 calibre. Fortunately, in November 1997, the ban was extended to all handguns. Due to the enforcement of those new laws, the incidence of gun massacres in the UK plummeted significantly.

Two to three days after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, survivors of the incident decided to speak up and voice their opinions. The mourning students of the massacre have launched a nationwide movement called 'Never Again MSD' that could potentially spur new gun laws. The movement commenced on social media using the hashtag #NeverAgain.

Furthermore, many students have confronted state and congressional lawmakers, stressing the need for a ban on assault weapons like the one used to slaughter their friends and teacher. After much confrontation, the gun control legislation seems to have gained traction.

“Guns do not provide safety, instead they promote danger.”

Shootings in the USA have been occurring too frequently and nothing has been done to avoid them – gun violence has become far too common. Something must be done to stop this. Stoneman Douglas students say that they will continue to advocate for tighter regulations to prevent gun violence. They will continue to fight until they succeed in their mission. Senior, Demetri Hoth said, 'I'll definitely be speaking out until changes are made.'

To stop these massacres guns should be banned or stricter regulations must be put into action. If guns are banned, then ordinary people won't be able to access them, meaning that the number of massacres will certainly decrease. It's a simple formula: no guns will equal less crime. In addition, education about guns should be incorporated in the school curriculum to teach children about the dangers so that, in the future, they restrain themselves from using them. Inadequate

education about these major crises leads to people misusing the weapons. Mentally unstable people aren't conscious about their environment and so if they get access to a gun, then they can cause disaster. America must act with precaution and ban the private ownership of guns because doing this will ensure the safety of the present and future generations.

On 14th March, exactly one month after the slaughter of seventeen people at the school, students across the country will walk for seventeen minutes to commemorate the sacrifices of Stoneman Douglas students. In addition, on 24th March, gun control activists nationwide will participate in the 'March for Our Lives' in Washington.

Hopefully, these considerate attempts by the youth will have an impact on the current gun laws. The government will be forced to stop and contemplate the disaster that guns are causing – hopefully, they'll be able to realise that guns do not provide safety, instead they promote danger. I urge everyone in America to join the movement, help to enforce change and ensure that this never happens again. If they want to stop these massacres, then they must all work together – they must all unite to end this once and for all.

Rameen Masood

LGS Car Park

On arriving at school each morning, it is evident that the car park, and roads leading in, are not designed to accommodate the plethora of cars. It is easy to see since, having a good perspective from the school bus, there's a line of traffic trailing down the roads either side of the school entrance. Now, there is ongoing building work, but even before the workers and their machinery had arrived the queues were, and probably always will be, atrocious.

This obviously affects the parents or guardians who need to commute, clearly impeding them from sticking to their time schedule and getting to work promptly. Now, this isn't a usual occurrence but the heavy traffic can cause impatience and "road rage", therefore there's the occasional collision with another driver - creating an even more gruelling delay. It also causes issues for the pupils. For example if they have an

extracurricular lesson, or a trip they need to attend, it delays their entire schedule and inhibits their ability to get to destinations on time. The near-misses that sometimes occur should never have happen and are a confluence of factors: the car park's design, and our use of it as pupils, and teachers, and drivers.

So, what can the pupils do? Although there is an expense, taking the bus is a sensible option since it cuts down on the number of cars going through the car park, and this would increase the flow rate meaning there's a decrease in waiting time. Furthermore, the Sixth Formers who are able to drive could share lifts so the parking spaces aren't over-subscribed and so the queues wouldn't be as excessive.

Now, the layout of the car park does not suit the amount of traffic entering and departing the school grounds – nor does it lend itself to pedestrians walking from alternative drop-off points. This is only a suggestion, but there should be a means of expansion to lessen the amount of time wasted by queuing. Or, there could be an alternate bus route along with an alternate drop off point which would consequently mean the buses aren't taking the same roads in as the cars, so the bus drivers can also stay on schedule.

Possibly there is no solution to the issue of space but the issue of safety is in all our hands. We would love to hear any sensible suggestions from pupils, parents or staff. Please send your thoughts to the usual address.

Emily MacTaggart

Top Six *Worst* Films of 2017

This list is my own opinion, not the universal decision of the editorial team at the Peacock. Also, just because these movies are bad, it does not mean that they are not enjoyable.

6. *'The Dark Tower'*

'The Dark Tower' is a movie with an all-star cast involving the likes of Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey, with a western/horror style. At first glance it looks quite appetising, as it is about Elba's character stuck in a never ending fight against McConaughey's character. This was not the case, the movie comes from Stephen King's book, but it does not live up to it at all. Idris himself was good but even he was suffocated under a plot-heavy story and inconsequential nonsense. It's hard to follow although the trailer makes the movie look great; there is a clear anti-climax when you see it for real. It is possibly the worst Stephen King adaption yet.

5. *'Flatliners'*

'Flatliners' is a remake of the first 'Flatliners', which was a good film. This one, like the Dark Tower, sounds like a good and interesting plot on paper. Some doctors explore death by killing and then reviving each other. Unfortunately, also taking after Dark Tower, it was rubbish. The execution of the original plot was done terribly and instead of being a new and innovative remake, it was just a grouping of weak horror scenes cobbled together. The film felt as though it was running along and then remembered that it was supposed to be scary so just threw in a sudden meaningless spooky death scene.

4. *'Geostorm'*

'Geostorm' is set in a world where we have control of the weather thanks to a large space station in space that drops little pellets that create storms. The film includes Gerard Butler, which may interest some viewers and the plot is decent. However, we all know what happens to films with decent plots. They are often abysmal messes. 'Geostorm' is no different, as the actual performance does not resemble people facing Armageddon and is more laid back. The action is boring and lacklustre and the entire movie is underwhelming and dull.

3. *"The Mummy"*

'The Mummy' was meant to be the first in a long line of Universal's new saga, the Dark Universe, which would be about monsters. It features Tom Cruise, and the movie has the whole Live, Die, Repeat sort of feel, as the protagonist dies and comes back and it sounds like a line of movies people would go and see. This would be true of course, if 'The Mummy' were not terrible. It set out to be a monster film, but lacked every trait for the genre and was more an action or fantasy film. On top of that, it was also a bad film with a flimsy plot and, was overall, a huge disappointment to all who went expecting to see a monster film.

DECENT
FILM

2. “Transformers: The Last Knight”

If you thought that the first four movies were bad, then you are in for a treat with this one. ‘Transformers: The Last Knight’ stars Sir Anthony Hopkins and Mark Wahlberg and these stars are some of the only redeeming qualities of the film. I personally did not mind this movie but I am aware of the multiple flaws. The action sequences are completely unfathomable and are just messes. The plot has no relevance and is thinly based on the end of the world. The entire movie is just a cacophonous jumble of CGI and animation. (The animation is actually quite good, but since all the Transformers do is wrestle each other, it goes to absolute waste.) The characters are bland, with minimal actual personality. The humans take up most of the movie, either being tough, snarky guys or scared comic reliefs and the Transformers just serving as a comedy aspect or cannon fodder. Overall, I think that people who are fans of Transformers were not that happy with this sequel at all, and that this film is one of the worst films from 2017.

1. “Emoji movie”

The only good thing that happens in the Emoji movie is that it ends. It stars the likes of T.J Miller, James Corden and Patrick Stuart. Boy were they put to waste, especially Stuart, who played Poop, yes, Poop, and James Corden’s man-baby character is so annoying. He makes Jar Jar Binks look like R2-D2. The movie was only given the go ahead as the producers called it ‘Inside-Out with phones’ as Inside-Out was a smash-hit. The movie is about the life of an emoji in a maturing teenager’s phone and how all the emojis live in a city inside the phone. T.J Millers character and his insignificant friends discover a plot that could destroy the phone and their home. The movie has many continuing gags that are never funny, along with head-in-hand moments that are childish even in a six-year-old’s eye. The movie shows no actual understanding of the smart-phone user, only showing that it understands that grandparents are always moaning at the fact children are devoted to their phones. It paints apps as great magical, creative worlds and mobile-pirates as computer-generated people instead of real-life hackers. Overall, the Emoji movie is a dismal and unimpressive attempt at conveying the life of a computer generated statement of emotion.

Thomas Mann

RAZZIES



Forget Valentine's! Bring on National Hate Day!

Forget Valentine's! Bring on National Hate Day! Valentine's Day, on 14th of February every year, is a day that is synonymous with love, passion and all-round romance. However I think we as Brits should come together in our mutual hatred of things rather than of our mutual love for them. Being a deeply cynical person, there are many things in the world that annoy me. These vary from the things like Britain First and the level of poverty that is still present within our society, to people who do not "Thank you" when you open the door for them and people who think Coldplay are a decent band.

Valentine's Day only really works if you are in a relationship and this can theoretically cut out half of the population from enjoying the benefits of Valentine's Day. Whereas everyone hates at least one thing and therefore my National Hate Day is more universal and welcoming than Valentines Day will ever be. According to a study carried out by Buzzfeed who took stats from Hater, an app that matches people based on things that they hate the most, the most hated band of 2017 (among their hundreds and thousands of users) was Nickelback; the most hated food was Hawaiian Pizza; the most hated clothing was Crocs; and the most hated person of 2017 was unsurprisingly the orange- faced, bloated, racist Donald Trump.

I would like to take a few of these most hated things and show you just how much easier it is to hate something than it is to love something. First, we shall start with Nickelback, who have made some of the most misogynistic, meat-headed music that has ever been made. Nickelback are Foo Fighters for people who can't read - they are the whipping boys of the genuine rock scene and deservedly so. My main problem with Nickelback is just how big they have become and the number of fans that they have amassed by playing the same chords over the top of sexist and pointless lyrics. Nickelback can sell out the O2 and headline festivals up and down this country.

Hawaiian pizza is my next point of hatred: there's a reason that it is the most hated food of 2017 and that is because, both as a concept and in practice, it is a catastrophe. You do not see a hot dog and think: "I know what that needs, strawberries on it!" I'm a passionate hater of pineapples in general, especially when they are placed on top of arguably the greatest food of all time - pizza. The people that like pineapple on pizza are the same people that like Coldplay and believe that it is a good idea to wear crocs and we do not need these people on the Earth. It's already crowded enough as it is. People who share these hatreds will be more likely to be vocal about them and in turn it is easier to form a bond on a combined detestation of things. We should take pride in the things that enrage and annoy us because these are the things that make us individuals. Otherwise we would just be another brick in the wall, a faceless creation of a society devoid of emotion and individuality.

I believe that my hatred helps to define me rather than my love for things and people. Valentine's Day in its very essence is isolating those who do not have anyone to share their life with, and they are seen to be inferior. An Anti-Valentine's Day is needed for people who despise any and all aspects of society (and the faceless commercialism of modern day Valentine's Day) to come together and show their annoyance at the everyday things that anger them. People think that the reason single people do not like Valentine's Day is that they are jealous. While this argument does hold some value so does the idea that people do not want to have to compete and be challenged as to how much they love their partner. An Anti- Valentine's Day would not only be cheaper, it would be more universal, welcoming and light-hearted. It would also allow for you to see what people are like on the inside -and if they like Coldplay or Hawaiian pizza they should be sent on a one-way trip into the centre of the sun.

(WARNING: This view is not the view of the Peacock just the smug, self-centred provocateur that has written this article).

Henry King-O'Reilly

Awards Season 2018

With Awards Season pretty much over, it's that time of year when we sit back and truly appreciate the Film Industry and their work over the past year; a year which has been full of controversy, satirical speeches and ever-evolving stories. The #MeToo movement and the Time's Up campaign have seemed to overtaken the actual awards themselves, but I will not be talking much about that in this article, except in passing (for an article on this, see the previous issue).

First came the Golden Globes, on 7th of January. The main receivers on this night were 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri' and 'Big Little Lies' with them each receiving six and four awards respectively. Best Actor and Actress went to Gary Oldman and Frances McDormand (a pattern repeated multiple times!) with Best Films going to 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri' (drama) and 'LadyBird' (comedy).

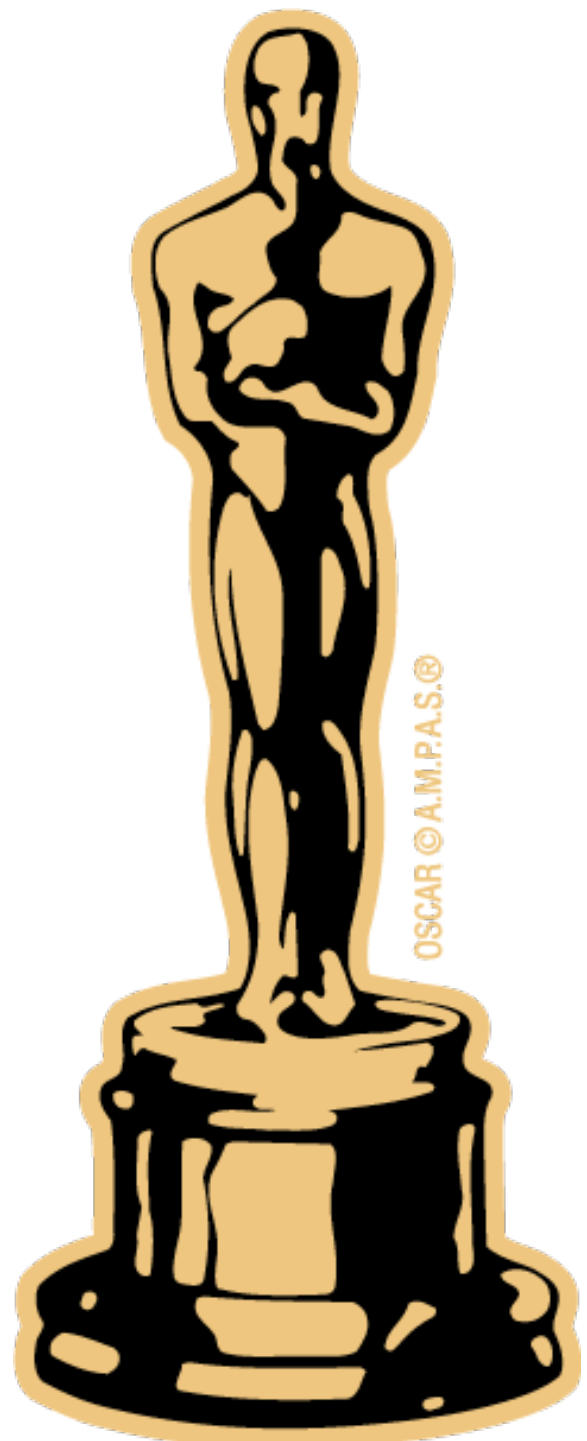
Then came the BAFTAs on 18th of February, hosted for the first time by Joanna Lumley. 'Three Billboards' again took the night by storm, sweeping up Best Film, Best British Film, Best Supporting Actor and Best Actress for Frances McDormand. 'Get Out' star Daniel Kaluuya was voted EE Rising Star by the British public for his role in the Horror film. The other big acting awards were given to Allison Janney (Best Supporting Actress) for her role in 'I, Tonya' and Gary Oldman (Best Actor) for his groundbreaking portrayal of Winston Churchill. Best Director was awarded to Guillermo Del Toro for 'The Shape Of Water' and Ridley Scott took the BAFTA Fellowship Award for his work over the years.

The final and biggest awards ceremony of the year was the Oscars on 4th of March. This contained more doses of the #MeToo movement and various jibes at Trump (which we all love). With Jimmy Kimmel hosting, we saw pretty much the same winners as we had all awards season with Best Actor and Actress being garnered by Gary Oldman and Frances McDormand respectively. Guillermo Del Toro again took Best Director and also claimed Best Picture for 'The Shape of Water'. Best Supporting awards went to

Allison Janney for 'I, Tonya' and to Sam Rockwell for 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri'.

Honestly, I felt a bit disappointed by Awards Season this year. The same people won – and I'm not denying it wasn't well deserved – but I believe that some other people deserved to win as well. Next time, they should be awarding more people the awards and not the same people at every ceremony.

Sophie Puffett



Pyeong Chang Winter Olympics 2018 Round Up

The latest winter Olympics has just finished. It lasted from the 9th February to the 25th February. It was described as a huge success by the Olympic committee.

Norway finished top in the medals list, winning 14 gold and earning 39 medals in total. Germany were second, winning 14 gold but earned 31 medals. Britain won a gold medal in the skeleton bobsleigh. Despite finishing 19th, Team GB earned a pleasing 5 medals.

On the final day of the games, OAR (Olympic Athletes from Russia) beat Germany 4-3 in the men's ice hockey final. The team, who were competing as neutral athletes because of a doping scandal, defied the rules by singing their national anthem during the medal ceremony. Sweden won the women's curling, beating South Korea. The Swedish team ended the fairy-tale run by the home team, known as 'the Garlic Girls'. Sweden's victory meant it was their third gold medal, in curling, in the last four games. With South Korea earning silver and Japan gaining bronze, it sparked a major breakthrough for the sport in Asia.

Germany earned victory in the bobsleighbing, with Francesco Friedrich driving his four-man bobsleigh to victory against the Koreans. They finished their four runs in 3 minutes, 15.85 seconds.

Norway's Marit Bjoergen, thirty-seven, won her 15th Olympic Medal in the 30km cross-country ski. Bjoergen, the most decorated Olympian of all time, finished almost two minutes ahead of Finland's Krista Parmakoski.

Tom S Ellis



Interview with Mrs Midgley

How did the library celebrate World Book Day this year?

This year our theme was book covers, and our main activity was a school-wide competition for forms to decorate the doors of their form rooms as a book cover. Lots of forms got involved, and some staff members who don't have a form joined in. There were some amazing pieces of artwork on the doors round school.

We also had a treasure hunt for more book covers on other doors. We took 'Bookface' photos, where a book cover with part of a person on the front is held in front of a person and photographed. Hopefully everything lines up and you get a really clever photo. The photos we took are on display in the library right now (13th March).

There was also a book sale of old library books and nearly £60 was raised for Book Aid, a charity which buys books for schools overseas who need financial help.

What is your favourite part about World Book Day?

I love seeing students doing things that are fun and make them happy. In school everyone works very hard, and learns lots of useful things, and that is very important, but it's also good for us all to relax from time to time. And books and reading can do both – improve our literacy and help us achieve higher results, but also enrich our lives with stories, hopefully helping us to be happier people.

Do you think the staff and students should be allowed to dress up as their favourite character as was allowed in younger years? If so, who would you dress up as?

Yes, I do. Especially as everyone here is old enough to think about their own costume – it's not a burden for all your mums. Maybe I would dress up as Jackie, from Judith M Berrisford's pony books, because then I could wear my wellies.

Do you have a favourite book or author?

There are so many books I love, so it's difficult to choose a favourite. One book I love to reread is 'Middlemarch' by George Eliot. It's pretty long, and has a big cast, but there is a happy ending for my favourite character. I have lots of favourite authors – Kate Atkinson, Tracy Chevalier, Jennifer Donnelly, C J Sansom

Which year groups get most involved in the activities held?

Definitely Years 6 and 7, but I like to think there's something for everyone.

Which door do you think should have won the competition?

Gangsta Granny was a worthy winner – not only did it look amazing with all those sparkly jewels – but it was a real class effort. George's Marvellous Medicine was excellent too.

The majority of you will have heard of World Book Day. While some will recall the excitement of dressing up as your favourite book character, during younger years of school life, parents will recollect toiling over intricate costumes for their child. They will remember the dreaded days of pulling all-nighters, frantically creating a last minute costume for their child (who sprang the news of World Book Day just the night before). They will remember desperately wishing for the day their little treasure reaches Secondary School so that dressing up days will be over. But, what actually is World Book Day? And where on earth did this event come from?

Well, World Book Day is a celebration! In fact, it's the biggest of its kind, where over 100 countries all around the world come to celebrate books, authors, illustrators and (most importantly) reading. The charity event was started by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) which aims to help promote reading for children all across the world. The day is celebrated on April 23, a date chosen as it marks the day in 1616 that saw the deaths of Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (all writers regarded as some of the greatest of their time), although the UK holds their celebrations on the first Thursday

of March, mainly to work around the school holidays. In the UK and Ireland, every child in full-time education is given a token to be spent on books. This is aimed to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books and reading by providing them with the opportunity to have a book of their very own.

Anyone visiting Leicester Grammar during World Book Day would have found themselves in hysterics after discovering all the class room doors plastered in the students' takes of their favourite book covers. I walked through the school corridors during the days preceding World Book Day, frantically trying to find Walley (or in this instance Mr Fishpool and Mr Ellis) on 8A's door. Those in the lower forms desperately tried to figure out what book 12SDS's form door was supposed to portray (unsurprisingly the Sixth Formers took it upon themselves to ignore the rules and create a cover with reference to the risqué novel 'Fifty Shades of Grey' by E.L James). I'm sure you will not be surprised to hear that World Book Day was a huge success. World Book Day is an event that all students treasure, it is one that all of them seem to enjoy.

Ella Berman

An Interview with **Mr. King**



As we're sure you're all aware, Mr King is leaving LGS at the end of the academic year. His next job is to become Chief Executive of IAPS, otherwise known as the Independent Association of Preparatory Schools – this organisation represents over 670 different independent prep schools and Mr King will be fulfilling his position this September. His role as Headmaster will be taken by Mr Rich during this interim period to ensure the 'smooth running of the trust'. Here we have an exclusive interview with Mr King himself: We asked: 'What do you think you will miss most after leaving LGS?'

He replied with 'I will miss all of the school events, the concerts, the plays, but mainly I will miss seeing all of the pupils grow up.' It is quite heart-warming to see that Mr King has overseen children's education for 18 years and has devoted lots of time and effort to the school and the pupils.

A teacher of LGS said that Mr King is 'Considerate, knowledgeable and sensible. He always wants the best for the school.' This shows what an influential pedagogue Mr King is. We also asked him what his favourite duty was at LGS. In answer to our question he replied with 'My favourite duty is to give offers after the LGS entrance exam.' This shows again how thoughtful Mr King is as he enjoys giving opportunities to those who have the potential to excel in certain areas of school life.

Mr King has been at the school for 18 years, since the beginning of the millennium and he is fond of almost every memory, but the memory he is most fond of is, 'Welcoming the Queen to the opening of the Leicester Grammar School.'

If you didn't know, Mr King teaches Geography to the Year Sevens. He teaches them about Mt. Everest and the difficulty of the climb and the harshness of the weather. He also creates great interactive lessons, such as when he brought in a backpack with different weights in it for the Year Sevens to carry, to give a taste of what it is like to be a Sherpa. We asked him how much he thought of these lessons and he said he enjoys the lessons very much. We asked some Year Eights who had experienced his lessons and they said that his lessons were 'intriguing' and that they enjoyed them.

What you might not know is that Mr King is not only the headmaster, but he is actually the Chairman of HMC – The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference – and he leads an 'independent group of heads at the top of their professional game.' This shows what an accomplished manager Mr King is and it reflects very much on LGS.

We asked a teacher at LGS how he/she would describe Mr King in a few words and what they thought of his departure. The teacher said: 'He is calm, has a 'clear direction', and is 'creative.' and they thought it was sad to see him go, but they think he will do well in his next job. Overall we, the pupils and the staff think that Mr King has made the school have extremely high academic standards and he has fostered an enjoyable environment for each of its students. It will be a shame to see Mr King leave, but we wish him a great, exciting and successful future.

Declan Musto and Tom Onions



It's safe to say that the trip to Toledo was a very turbulent one.

It was off to a good start when we got on the 'Gary's Travels' minibus to be told that it had broken down and that we would have to wait two hours for the AA to arrive. However, after some stern words from Mr Allen and Mrs Manktelow, Gary kindly arranged for two taxis to take us to our hotel at Luton airport.

We were up bright and early the next morning at five a.m. (albeit with some stragglers), to head to the airport, before discovering that our plane had a malfunction and that we were delayed by an hour. After some more difficulties, we eventually made it to our first stop: El Escorial.

This was not where the struggles of the trip ended: between lost personal possessions, lost teachers and almost missing the train both to and from Madrid, Mr Allen claimed he has returned to Leicester fifty years older. However, this trip was undoubtedly highly useful and enjoyable, and we appreciated a range of historical artefacts, from the Catedral de Toledo to the works of Bosch in the Prado museum. Many thanks to Mr Allen and Mrs Manktelow, and to Mr Picknell for organising the trip.



Amnesty International

It took one General Studies session to change my behaviour and outlook on life. A man named Kenneth Knowles, a member of Amnesty International, explained to my peers and me the hardships and injustices people face. He made us less ignorant about matters such as the problems for refugees in Iraq; the Rohingya people (who have been persecuted and how it was genocide); and women in Lebanon, for instance, who don't have the right to vote and are abused and imprisoned if they simply make a peaceful protest.

These hard-hitting stories changed my outlook on the world as it made me feel as if it was my purpose and duty to help those in such horrific situations and to help them to receive the justice they truly deserve. Amnesty International is the organisation that will help those people to receive justice and to be free.

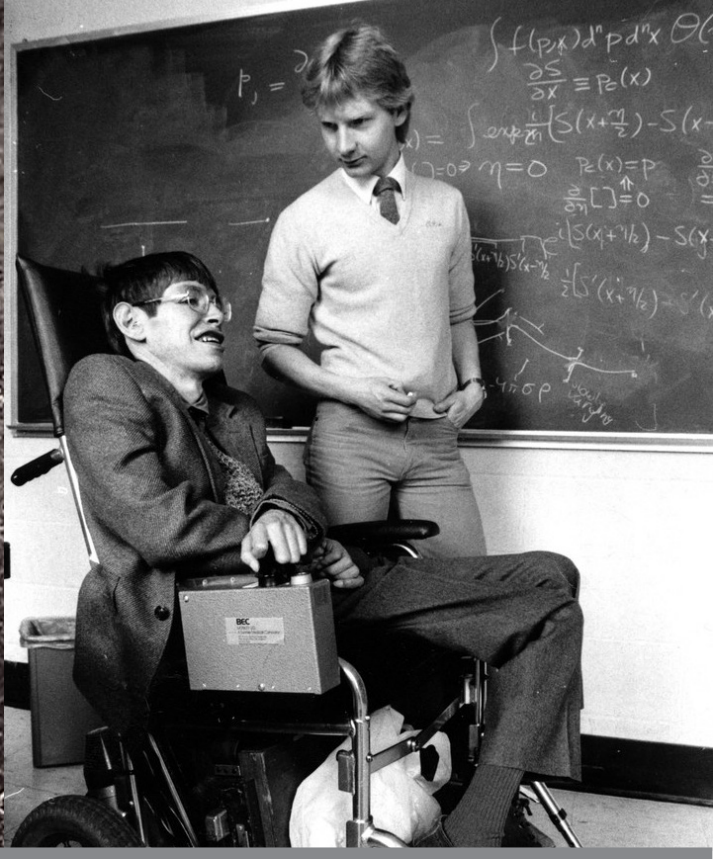
After that General Studies session my two friends, Sophie Rayner and Ella Berman and I took it upon ourselves to begin an Amnesty International youth group so we ourselves could actively fundraise and campaign for those who are being persecuted or wrongly punished. I began to search on the Amnesty International website itself, looking for what the organisation actually does for those treated unjustly. They firstly look at the facts and experts accurately cross-check them to see if there are any human rights violations by governments in the certain country. They also use analysis to influence and press governments, companies and decision-makers to do the right thing. Finally, they strive to free those being persecuted by using petitions, letters and protests. Campaigners worldwide press for action from the people and institutions who can make change happen.

We took it upon ourselves to stage our own campaign specifically on the zero tolerance of female genital mutilation on 6th of February (this was the specific day Amnesty had associated this worthy cause). We thought one way to create awareness was for the Sixth Form and Staff to wear purple as that was the colour of the charity itself. On Tuesday girls (only girls,

thankfully) came in purple dresses or purple make up and the boys wore purple ties, shirts and, unfortunately, I was given the information they were wearing purple pants too! Also, many donated money for the specific charity which was much appreciated. This is an incredibly important cause as girls in Kenya and Nigeria as young as 15 (not far from my own age) are forced to have female genital mutilation and it is completely unjust. The World Health Organisation (WHO) have stated there are no health benefits to this practice. The tradition in Africa is to force girls to have female genital mutilation to control their sexuality which is, frankly, ethically immoral. The UN have stated FGM violates human rights. So, I hope our youth group can campaign further to make a difference and free these young girls. Also, in the coming weeks I hope to have chosen a specific person on whose behalf to campaign. I hope every Tuesday lunchtime, at 1.10pm, many people will join me and my team to free as many people from the unjust treatment they receive.

Urjaa Chudasama





Stephen Hawking achieved what every Physicist yearns to do and made the unexplainable explainable. Even though he was operating at a higher level than the vast majority of his audience, he was able to communicate clearly and accurately, despite the complexity of the theories and concepts he discussed. In our opinion, this is a fundamental part of enthusing people about our wonderful subject.

In spite of his illness and medical predictions, he continued to work, live life and he never gave up. This is an example to us all, no matter what field of interest we choose to study or teach.



*“My goal is simple. It is a
complete understanding of the
universe, why it is as it is and
why it exists at all”*

Stephen Hawking
1942-2018