

Meopham Monthly



Artwork by Poppy Palmer

MEOPHAM SCHOOL STUDENT MAGAZINE
ISSUE 23: JULY



Welcome

Hello! Welcome to the July issue of Meopham Monthly, with a new design courtesy of year 12 student, Poppy Palmer. This issue features updates and pictures from the latest events around school, information articles and our popular Wellbeing Corner and pets gallery.

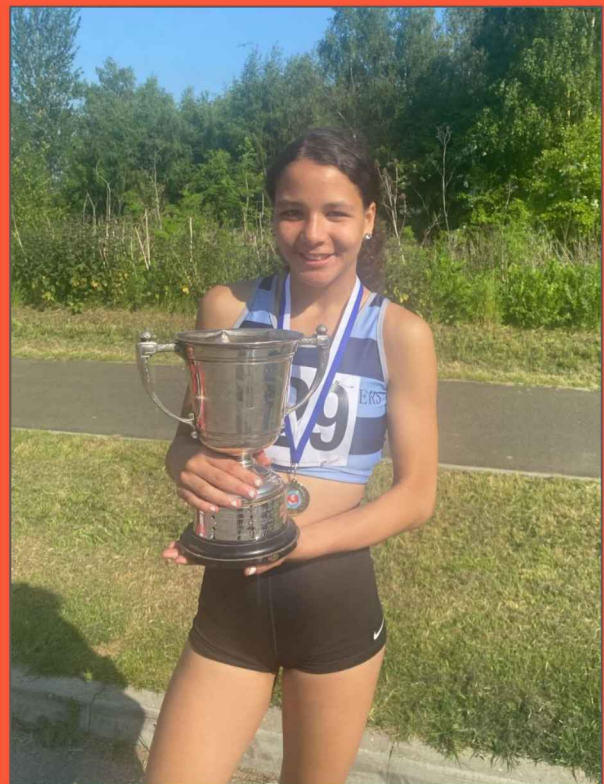
If you would like to submit a short story, article, poem, photos or anything else for our future issues, please contact the team at MSS-magazine@swale.at or come along on a Thursday lunchtime in to EN4 any time from 12.25-1.20pm.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

ISSUE 23 EDITOR: POPPY PALMER

NEWS

Congratulations to Year 8 student Talia Evans, who won at the Kent Schools Games in June and is the current Kent Schools high jump and hurdles champion!



Contents

Welcome and News	2
Contents and Contributors	3
News Breakdown	4-5
Mr Vilday's Final View?	6
Royal Shakespeare Company Project	7
Summer Sizzler	8-9
Little Places, Big Heritage	10
Our 2023-24 Memories	11
Gallery	12-13
Book Recommendations	14
Book Reviews	15
Sports Day	16-17
Film Review	18
Lemon & Blueberry Sponge Cake	19
Wellbeing Corner	20
Teacher Goodbyes	21
The Meopham Pet Family	22
Poem	24

WITH THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED THIS MONTH

Kaya Akyuz (Yr8)
Miss Biscoombe
Sophie Chable (Yr10)
Mia Colledge (Yr8)
Charlie Cooper (Yr8)
Dilpreet Dhesi (Yr8)
Mr Dyer
Mrs Greenwood
Theo Haydon (Yr9)
Mrs Haydon
Jack Hollis (Yr8)
Shanice Jarvis (Yr8)
Phoebe Last (Yr10)

Keira Martin (Yr10)
Florence Maclean (Yr10)
Mrs Metters
Adam Nachyla (Yr8)
Miss Noakes
Poppy Palmer (Yr12)
Sia Palmer (Yr7)
Mr Savory
Archie Scanlan (Yr8)
Kyran Standen (Yr8)
Mrs Vince)
Mr Vilday
Isabelle Williams (Yr7)
Mrs Williamson

News Breakdown

BY: JACK HOLLIS (YEAR 8)

Landslide Labour Victory, Keir Starmer is new PM

Who is Keir Starmer?

Sir Keir Starmer is **Prime Minister** and leader of the Labour Party. He has been an MP since 2015 and Labour's leader for 4 years. Before getting into politics Sir Keir was Attorney General (boss) of the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service). After leaving the CPS he was given a Knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II making him a 'Sir'.

What is the Labour Party?

The Labour Party is a political party founded on the idea of being the voice of the working class. Labour has been the **opposition** (the government's rival) for the last 13 years. The job of an opposition is to argue the other side of political debates and pressure the government on issues concerning the country. Now as the **government**, they will be able to act out their **manifesto** (book of ideas on how to run the country).

What was in Labour's Manifesto?

In their manifesto Labour has made a variety of promises and ideas, here are the plans they want to prioritise:

- Create 40,000 more doctor's appointments per week
- Create 'Great British Energy' an energy company owned by the government
- Recruit 6,500 more teachers
- Create a Border Command Force to stop trafficking gangs and migrant smugglers
- Stabilise the economy by limiting spending and not raising taxes.

Why is this significant?

This Labour victory is significant for a variety of reasons. First of all we have to remember that the Labour Party lost the 2019 general election by quite a bit to the Conservatives, putting them at a historical low point, so the fact that they have gone from a crushing defeat to a supermajority in just 5 years is very impressive. Another reason that this is significant is because they didn't just win with a few extra seats they won by 293 more than the Conservatives who came second with 121. This is why the victory is being referred to as a '**Supermajority**'.

continued...

How did the other Parties Perform?

The Liberal Democrats won 72 seats, a significant increase of 2019's 11. Many people have put this down to their manifesto which included boosting NHS funding and tightening laws on illegal sewage spills. Reform UK gained 5 seats with Nigel Farage getting a seat after 8 attempts at becoming an MP. Reform, despite only getting 5 seats won a significant percentage of the vote and came second in many constituencies. The Greens gained 3 extra seats on top of their existing seat giving them the best result in their history. The Conservatives lost 251 seats, many of those going to Reform, Labour and the Liberal Democrats; this was one the worst results in the party's history.

How is the result being taken?

There were certainly a lot of different reactions to the results. Sir Ed Davie was seen partying to 'Sweet Caroline' as the results came in whilst Rishi Sunak publicly apologised and said he would step down as leader of the Conservatives. Nigel Farage, despite being happy by his party's gains and the fact he became an MP, expressed his frustration at how few seats he won despite the large percentage of the vote Reform got. He has called for '**Proportional Representation**', a different form of democracy where the percentage of votes received is the percentage of seats the party holds.



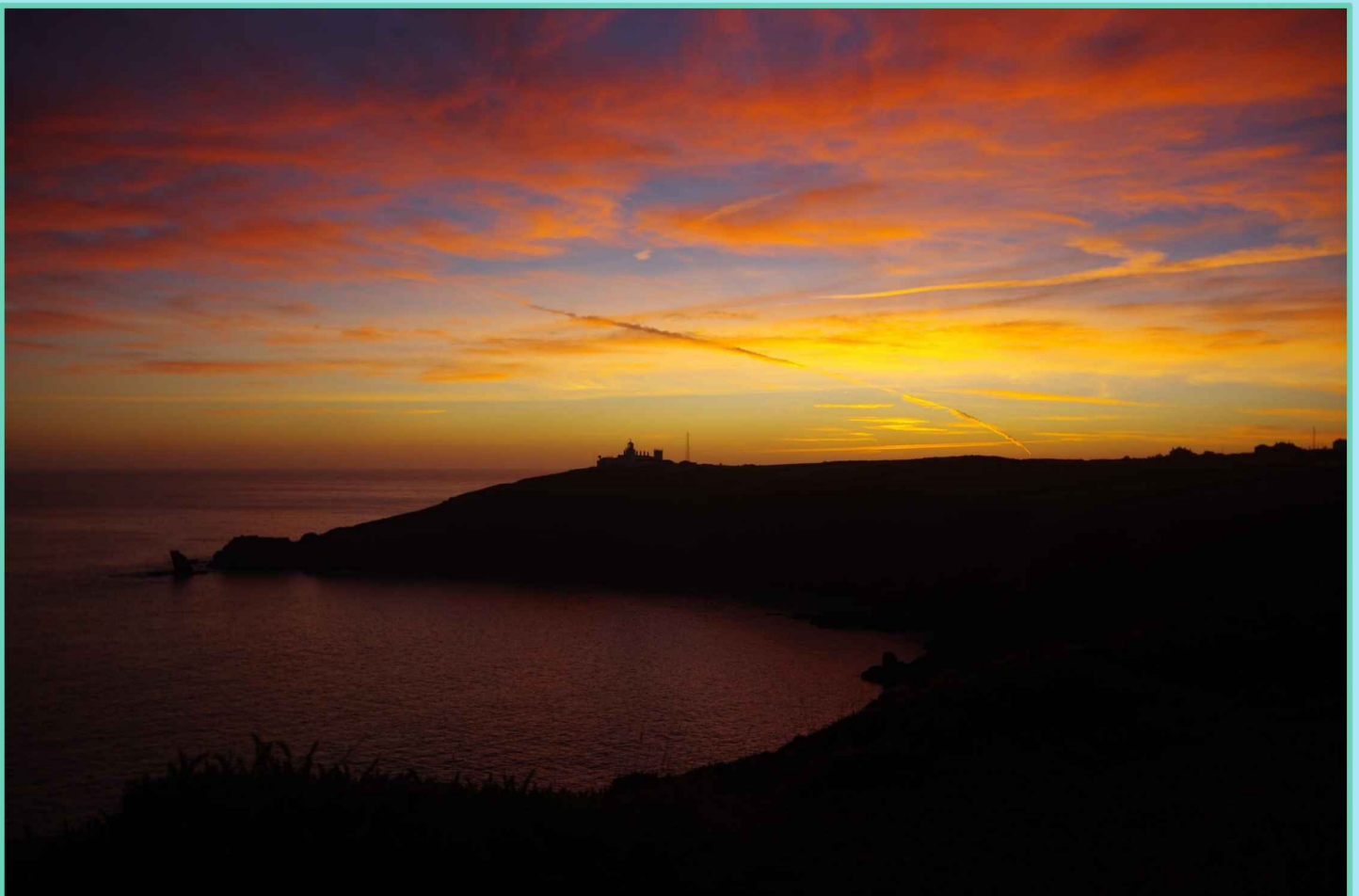
Mr Vilday's Final View?

Sports day was brilliantly organised by the PE staff, thanks for a great day! The students enjoyed it and, although I had to be in that horrible heat, I spent the day getting lots of great photos taken of the different events (see pages 16-17).

As it drew to a close, it's the first time I've really felt any sense of nostalgia about the school. I was visualising past students and their triumphs, the mighty 11K, my tutor group in 2006, who won every event bar one. I could see Alex in his T-shirt which had a label on back saying something like "If you can read this then I'm beating you". A lot of happy memories but also quiet reminders of students taken too young. The last of my Sports Days.

Probably, staying on part-time for a little while has suppressed any feelings like these. Next Thursday is when the final, final, final Vilday in Meopham School happens. Hope the happy nostalgia is what hits me then.

Thanks for reading.



Royal Shakespeare Company Project

INTERVIEW BY MR DYER; PHOTOS BY MISS NOAKES

Interview with Charlie Cooper (Year 8):

What have you like most about this project? Being allowed to go backstage and see how a show works in a real theatre.

Which play were you doing? Hamlet.

Who do you play in Hamlet? Rosencrantz.

Do you like playing that character? Why? Yes, because he has a cool costume and no lines to learn! I just have to be physically funny.

What has been your favourite part of the performance day? The scene in the camp where I played a background soldier. We call it the 'tent scene'.

Why do you call it the tent scene? Because we make a tent out of a bedsheet.

Would you do this project again? Why? Yes, because it's fun and it lets me use my Drama skills.



Sizzling Talent!

REVIEW BY MRS HAYDON; PHOTOS BY MRS METTERS

Wow! What an evening! I had the pleasure of joining staff, parents, carers and students at the **Summer Sizzler** to officially open the new performing arts theatre in the 'New Building'.

We were entertained by many talented individuals: singers, musicians, actors and martial arts experts. I applaud everyone who performed; it takes a great level of courage to stand up in front of an audience to showcase your art. You did Mr Dyer, Miss Moore, Mr Knight and Mrs Greenwood proud.

Talking of art, the creativity did not stop on the stage. During the interval we were treated to some amazing paintings, textiles and tile work provided by Mrs Morgan, Mrs Metters and Miss Hodd from the Art department whilst enjoying some delicious food prepared by Mrs Vince, Mrs Wrighton and the Year 10 catering students.

The evening was a non-stop show of the talent we have at Meopham School. To all of those involved, in whatever guise - on stage, backstage, behind the scenes preparation, getting the audience to their seats, official photographer or ensuring the facilities were at the best for our guests - **a massive thank you**: without you these events could not happen.

Bring on the Christmas Cracker!





Little Places, Big Heritage

BY: ADAM NACHYLA (YEAR 8)

There are lots of small places around the world that are not well-known, but some of them are filled with wonders, man made and artificial.

Malbork, Poland

Malbork is a town in the north of Poland that holds the largest (brick) castle in the world. It has a population of 38,723 in 2018.

A waterfall in the town centre



Pictures of the castle I took



Bled, Slovenia



Bled has a population of 8,500 people and is located in Northern Slovenia, near the Alps mountains.

It is a resort town and brings some tourists to it.

Our 2023-24 Memories

BY: KYRAN S & ARCHIE S (YEAR 8)

This year has been a great year for Meopham School - a very LONG one, but still a good one. New beginnings for new people and summer's on the horizon.

Why don't we look at all the great things that happened this year? We had the opening of the Library in September, the Operation Everest stair climb after school in February which raised £490.50 for the Elliott Holmes Memorial Fund, the grand opening of the new building in April (which still needs a name) and the fun litter-pick in June with cold, refreshing ice cream at the end.



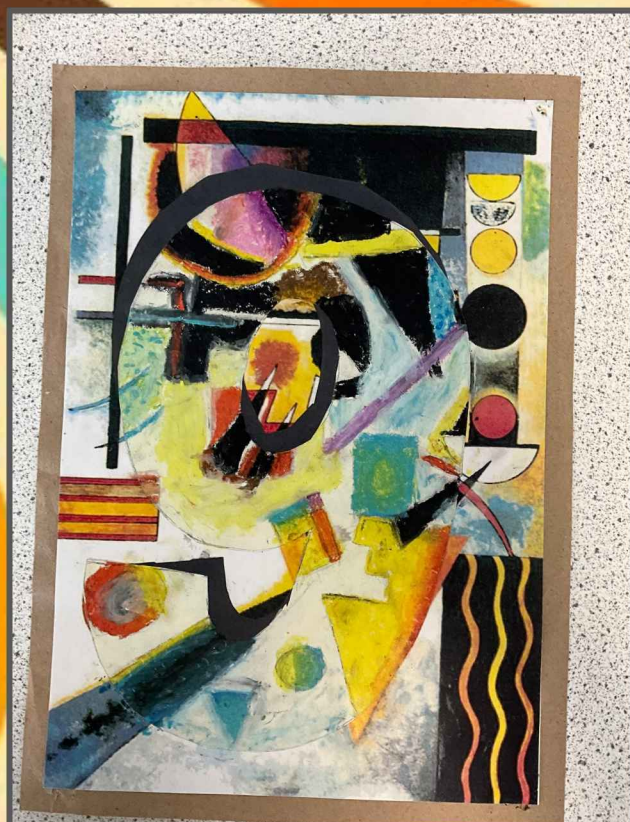
We can't forget the Thorpe Park trip in May: the thrill of the Swarm, Nemesis Inferno, and don't forget The Walking Dead!

At the end of June was the Prize Day awards ceremony, where lots of people were awarded for all of their hard work throughout the school year and the many magazine issues that were made.

And finally, the Summer Sizzler this month!

There is so much we have achieved this year, and so much more to come, like sports day, the year 10 thinking day (which has escape rooms and other things for the year 10s) and the final day of school. What a year!

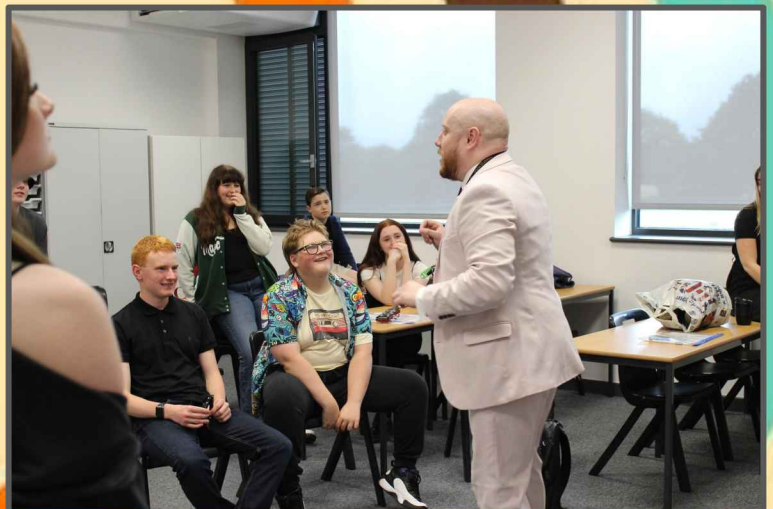
Gallery



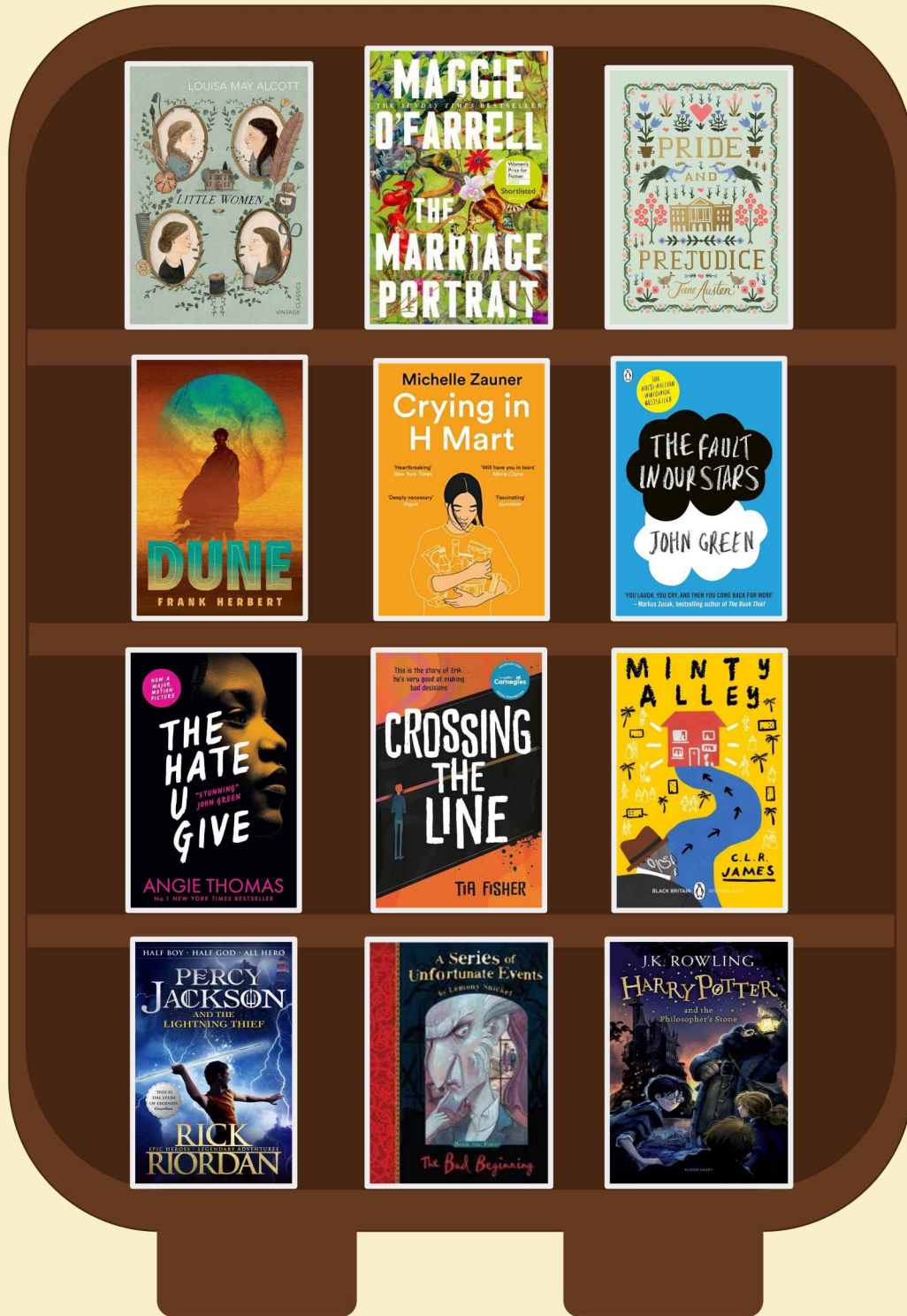
Gallery



“Thank you Miss Biscombe for awarding me my student leader reward. I couldn't do it with the rest of student leaders. And a massive thank you for the teachers.”
Theo (Year 8)



Book Recommendations



12/13

11

9/10

7/8

if you have a recommendation, or would like to write a review for a future issue, email us at MSS-magazine@swale.at

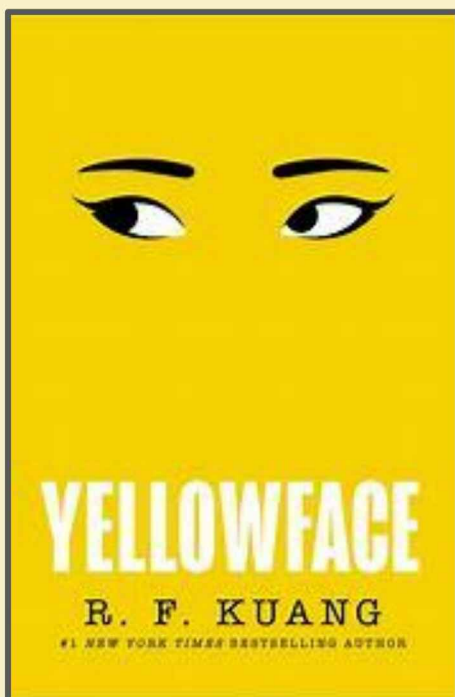
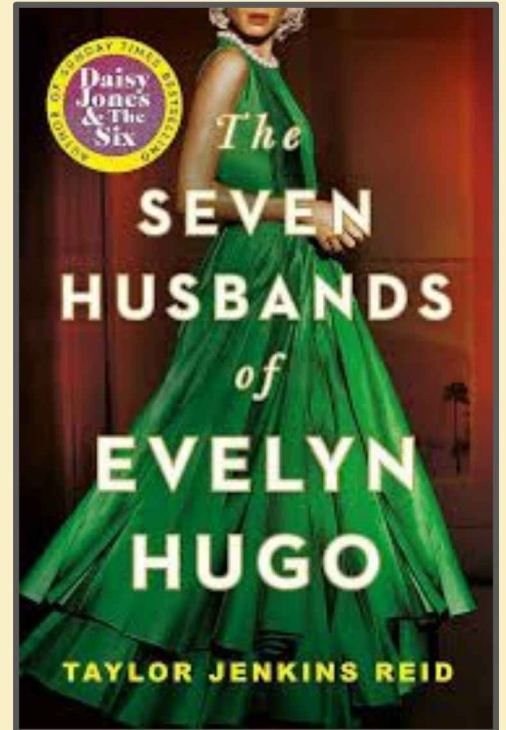
Book Reviews

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo By Taylor J Reid

☆☆☆☆☆

BY: PHOEBE LAST (YEAR 10)

Already being a huge Taylor Jenkins Reid fan after reading 'Daisy Jones & The Six' (which I highly recommend), I found myself reading Tik Tok sensations 'The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo', which explores the life of a fictional hollywood star Evelyn Hugo. She tells her story of her glamorous life to a journalist, Monique Grant, who begins her journey of writing Evelyn's biography. Monique was not living her best life and her work colleagues do not believe in her until she blows their mind with the news that she was asked to write for a famous star. The writer shocks us as readers with amazing stories and plot twists about Evelyn's life, keeping us hooked. I highly recommend this book to individuals of 15 years of age and upward. I also recommend it to people who struggle with their mental health as it allows you to explore another world. It sure does keep you flicking the pages.



Yellowface

By R. F. Kuang

☆☆☆☆☆

BY: KAYA AKYUZ (YEAR 8)

'Yellowface' is a novel that really dives into Asian ethnicity and culture when the protagonist June witnesses her best friend/rival Athena Liu pass away. In that moment June decides to steal Athena's draft of her current novel about chinese labourers in World War I and edits it, making it her breakthrough novel, after her debut book Over the Sycamore failed to make it through a publisher. At a book conference June sees Athena's ghost and everything changes for her...

SPORTS



DAY 2024

PHOTOS BY MR VILDAY



Film Review

BY: SOPHIE C, FLORENCE M & KEIRA M (YEAR 10)

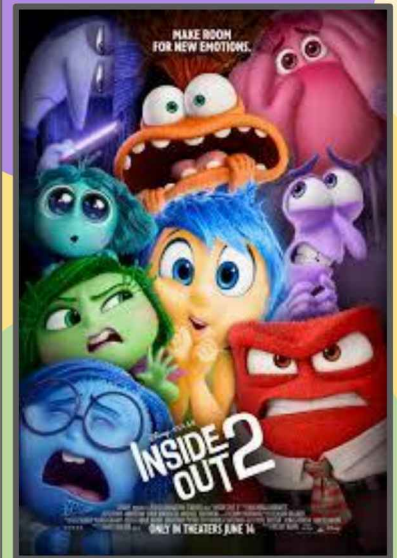
Inside Out 2



The new Inside Out 2 film came out on Friday the 14th of June 2024. On that Friday we went to go and see the film in the cinema. We all enjoyed the film and thought it shows reality in a teenager's life and the challenges they face and overcome. The five main characters/emotions in the film were the same as the first movie but four new emotions were added. The four new emotions in the film are Anxiety, Envy, Embarrassment and Ennui. There is also a side character called Nostalgia who features in certain scenes in the movie but is not a main character.

Our honest review of the film:

There are mixed reviews between us: some of us thought the first film was better, some people thought the second film was better and others thought that they were both as good as each other. Overall, we all really enjoyed the new film, and think it's a good recommendation and an enjoyable movie to watch with your friends or family.



Lemon & Blueberry Sponge Cake

BY: JACK HOLLIS (YEAR 8)

INGREDIENTS:

- 200g of Sugar
- 200g of Flour
- 200g of Butter
- Splash of Milk
- Handful of Blueberries
- 1 Lemon zested and squeezed
- 150ml of Double Cream
- 3 mounted tsp of icing sugar
- 4 eggs
- Baking powder 1 and ½ tsp



METHOD:

1. Whisk together the sugar and butter in a large bowl adding an egg and ¼ of the
2. flour every two minutes until all eggs have been used and no flour is left
3. Wash the blueberries and lemon. Zest the lemon onto a plate for later and juice the lemon into a small bowl.
4. Whilst whisking, add the lemon juice to the point where a suitable lemon flavour runs through the mixture, add the blueberries baking powder and milk into the mixing bowl
5. Whisk this together until the mixture is smooth and creamy.
6. Line two baking tins with greaseproof paper and apply a thin layer of butter to the interior sides
7. Scoop the mixture evenly into the two baking tins and place in the oven at 180 degrees C. until golden top rises (for most appliances this about 25 minutes)
8. Whilst the cake is baking, mix the lemon zest, icing sugar and cream in a glass bowl with a hand-held blender. Keep blending until you have a smooth
9. mashed potato-like consistency.
10. When the cake is completely cooked with a golden top leave to cool until no heat remains
11. Once all heat is gone apply the cream to the inferior layers and top if enough remains

Serve as is and refrigerate (covered) for no longer than 4 days.

Wellbeing Corner

BY: ISABELLE WILLIAMS (YEAR 7)

WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH?

Mental health is the state of yours or others emotional, psychological and social well-being. Everyone has one, and it's important to keep it healthy!

HOW TO KEEP IT HEALTHY

To keep your mental health healthy, you can do some activities, such as reading, listening to music or taking a walk, more below:

Wellbeing Tips

Reading

Reading for just 6 minutes can reduce stress by 68%!

Exercising

When exercising, your body releases endorphins, a hormone which makes you feel happy and relaxed!

Good sleep

People who have more sleep have been proven to be less moody, forgetful and anxious! Aim to have 8+ hours of sleep a night. Put down your device 2-3 hours before sleep for best results!

Eating

Eating release endorphins (the happy hormone), since it's a 'pleasurable' activity! It's important to have 2-3 meals a day. Not eating enough can make you irritable and tired.

Socialising

Being social (face-to-face) with friends and family can reduce the feeling of loneliness, isolation and anxiety!

Limiting screen time

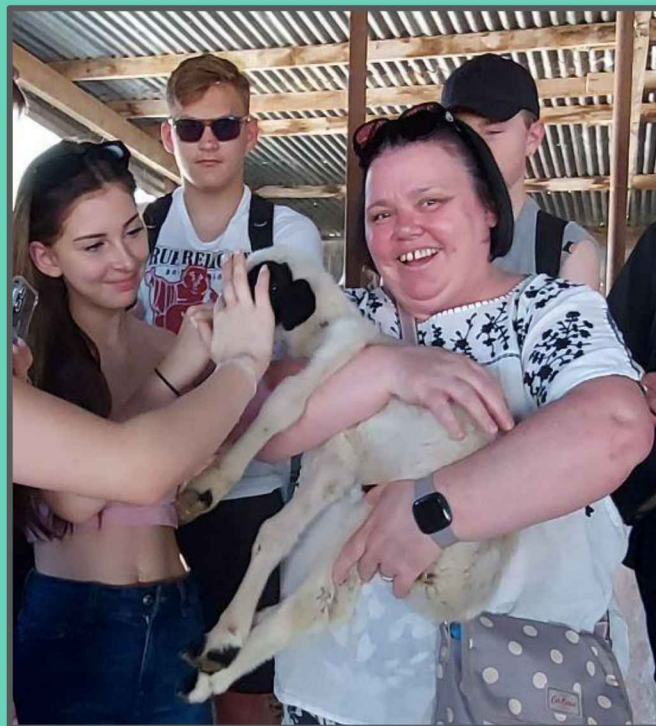
Limiting screen time can improve sleep, reduce stress and and enhance focus! Try to reduce (or keep) your screen time to 2 hours a day.

Teacher Goodbyes

BY: DILPREET D & MIA C (YEAR 8)

Mrs Vince:

Mrs Vince has been teaching at Meopham School for 9 years and has made a huge impact with events inside and outside of school. When asked how she found the school, she replied: **“It has been a privilege to teach at Meopham and the students have been incredible and have worked hard, especially my year 10s. I will be sad to leave the community but I am excited for what the future holds. I wish Meopham the best and you are so lucky to have amazing staff.”**

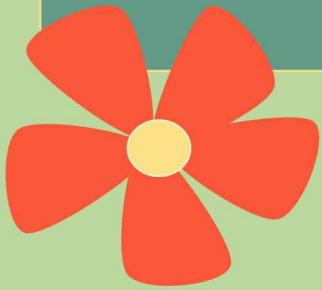


Mr Dyer:

Mr Dyer has been teaching at Meopham School for more than 4 years and has made significant contributions to school events. His favourite memory was playing one of the Ugly sisters in the staff pantomime. He said **“I have enjoyed my time teaching in Meopham and I am sad to leave but I’m excited for the future. I have always liked teaching and have had a good working relationship with students. My advice is to never forget the importance of the arts and remember that everyone shines in their own way. Don't let anyone ever dim your light.”**

Joke: What type of cheese do you use to hide a horse? A: Mascarpone

Meopham Pet Family



Cole - Sia P



Prince - Kyran S



Galaxy - Isabelle W

**Think your
dog is the
cutest/happiest/
best dressed?**

**Come along to
the Dog Show at
the fete on
20th July!**

WWW.MEOPHAM-PC.GOV.UK

★ ★ MEOPHAM ★ ★

★ ★ FETE ★ ★

DOG SHOW

ENTER ON THE DAY £2

MEOPHAM SECONDARY SCHOOL DA13 0AH

SATURDAY 20TH JULY

3PM - 4PM AND 4:30PM - 5:30PM
ENTRY OPEN TILL 10 MINS BEFORE CLASS

BEST PUPPY (UNDER 18 MONTHS)
BEST GIRL
BEST BOY
HAPPIEST / FRIENDLIEST
BEST OLDIE (OVER 9 YEARS OLD)
BEST RESCUE
DOG JUDGE MOST WANTS TO TAKE HOME
BEST DRESSED

If you would like to share a pet photo for a future issue, email it to MSS-magazine@swale.at, along with a note of your pet's name.

MEOPHAM

FETE

MEOPHAM SECONDARY SCHOOL DA13 0AH

FREE ENTRY

FREE ENTRY

FREE ENTRY

SATURDAY 20TH JULY 2PM - 6PM

LIVE MUSIC

TRADITIONAL GAMES

FOOD AND DRINK

CRAFT STALLS

DOG SHOW

AND MUCH MORE

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS/PICNIC BLANKETS

-FREE ON SITE PARKING -

-NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED -

Rotary
Gravesend & Meopham



Meopham Parish
Council



Library Poem

BY: SHANICE JARVIS (YEAR 8)

Libraries are a place to read books,
Not a place to worry about your looks,
Big books, small books,
They have it all,
Looooong books short books,
It's rather cool!

Reading is fun,
Even better in the sun ,
Read a book if you want some space,
If you're sad, it will put a smile on your face,
So next time you're down or want some space,
Libraries are the best kind of place.

If you would like to write a poem or contribute to next year's issues,
email us at mss-magazine@swale.at or see Mrs Williamson in EN4.