

# Make the Leap...

Issue 12

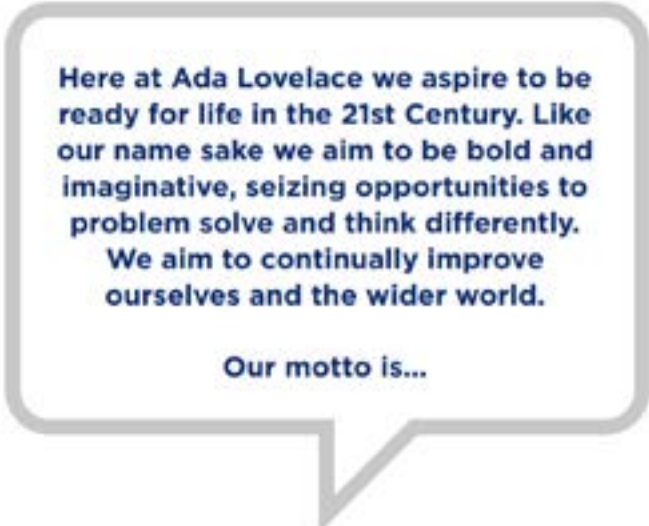


# Introduction

Welcome to the 11th issue of 'Make the Leap', the Ada Lovelace School magazine.

The school magazine is curated by Miss Sullivan, Head of Art, as well as Maya in Year 12 and features several submissions from pupils.

If you have any ideas or submissions for future issues please email:  
ksullivan@adalovelace.org.uk



# Ada Lovelace Day

On Tuesday 15th October, the school celebrated Ada Lovelace Day. Ada Lovelace Day (ALD) is an international celebration of the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

The school marked this special day with talks, industry panels and workshops from IBM and Amazon.

## “Make the leap”

Our Aim – help everyone to gain work and tech skills

- Workshops
- Talks
- Projects
- Work experience
- Visits

Make the leap



# In memory of Levon - Art Competiton

This term we held the first art competition in memory of our year 10 student Levon, who very sadly passed away in January last year. The theme of the first competition was cows, as this was Levon's favourite thing to draw.

This is a special competition we will hold every year in the Autumn term. And the winner will get the chance to have their work displayed in the school and win £100 prize fund.

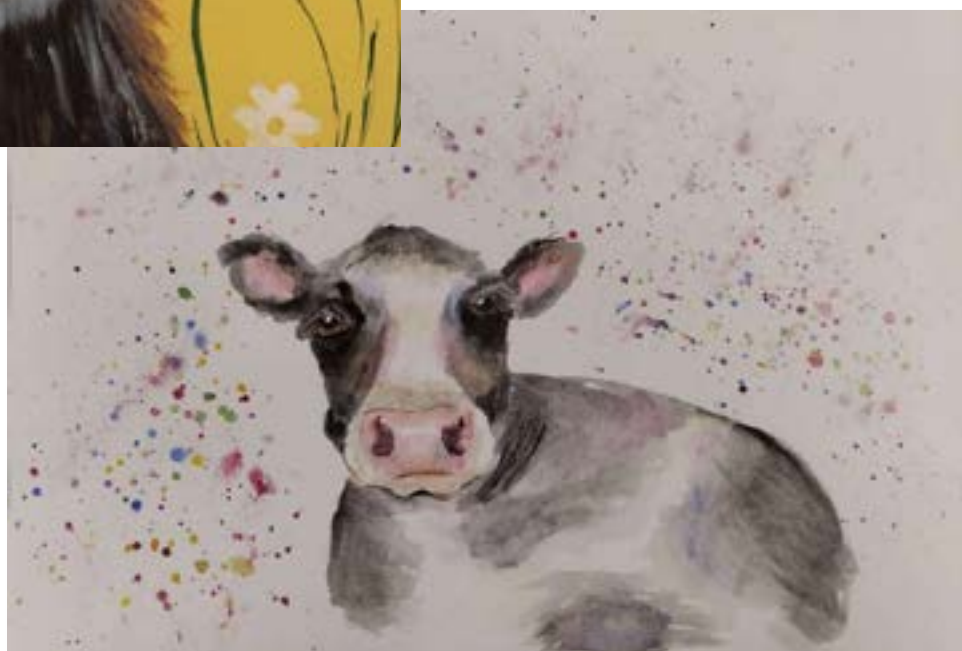
Lots and lots of you entered and Levon's mum came into school to judge the entries last week. She was absolutely blown away by the effort that was put into the entries and she wanted you to know that choosing the winner was a very difficult decision. So I am going to announce the winner and runner up and we can give them a massive round of applause. The prize will be given a bit later on.

In runner up position and winning a prize of £50 was Emilia in Year 7.

The chosen winner was Kate in Year 7. Thank you to all who entered in memory of Levon.  
- Ms Dixon and Ms Adler.



Emilia (Year 7)



Kate (Year 7)

# World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day is an international holiday that was formed in 1998, to promote kindness throughout the world and is observed annually on November 13th as part of the World Kindness Movement.



## Pupils' reflections on acts of kindness:



# Black History Month

## Magazine Club reflected on black people who inspire them:

Someone inspirational to me is the poet Karl Nova because he writes very intricate detailed poems that I enjoy reading/listening to.

I find Simone Biles inspiring because she worked really hard to become a skilled gymnast and has won three home gold medals in the Paris Olympics 2024. Her determination and dedication is admirable.

Malcolm X because he stood up for what he believed in and is Muslim and I am Muslim he inspires me.

I find Bessie Coleman inspirational as she had been the first African American woman to obtain an international pilot's license.

I enjoy learning about pilots who've done exceptional things that have changed views in the air forever.

I find the footballer Marcus Rashford inspirational because he is skilled, talented and enjoys what he does. He always perseveres after he loses matches (which is NOT often) and helped raise money for charity last year.

I find Martin Luther King inspiring for his meaningful speeches, for example his "I had a dream" speech, and his non-violent resistance to achieve equal rights for black Americans.



# Sporting achievements

It has been an exceptional term for sporting achievement at Ada Lovelace!

Some of the highlights have been:

The Year 10 Girls made a fantastic start to their season with an amazing 28-4 win against Brentside! The girls showed fantastic teamwork, sportsmanship, and effort, dominating the Brentside team.

Later in December I am delighted to share they came 3rd in the borough tournament, beating other trust schools to get into the semi-finals to unfortunately lose to Ellen Wilkinson.

This is a tremendous improvement from last year and a reflection of their hard work and determination. They all played fantastically and supported each other in the games. Captain: Imke. POMs: Imke, Nina, Curacao, Maia, Franka. Goal Scorers: Maia, Nina, Curacao, Franka. - Ms Higgins

I am pleased to share that our Year 7 football team beat Alec Reed 7-0 in the borough cup this evening and are through to the next round. Captain: Laith. PoTM: Laith. Goal scorers: Matias (x1), Pedro (x2), Dawson (x1), Josiah (x2), own goal (x1). - Mr Green

I'm delighted to share the news that our U14 girls football team beat Twyford 2-0 this afternoon. They all played their part in what was a real team performance. They now progress to the semifinals! Captain: Rene (Y9). PoTM: Holly (Y7). Goal-scorers: Holly (Y7) and Jessica (Y8).

I just wanted to share the good news that our U14 girls beat Elthorne Park this evening, in a game that went into penalties. Shout outs go to Amarissee who went in goal and saved two Elthorne penalties. Yasmine, Eva and Amiee all scored their penalties, as well as captain Rene who took the final penalty under pressure to win us the match! Captain: Rene. PoTM: Amarissee. - Ms Moran

Please do congratulate the Year 9 boys football team for their fourth consecutive win. This one meant more as it was a league and cup double, and I believe their first borough cup win ever!

It was a very gritty and tough 2-1 victory against Ark Soane whereby we had a long period at the start of pure domination followed by little spells throughout the rest of the game of being dominated at times.

Captain: Jawad. Goalscorers: Abdelrahman & Illya. PoTM: Abdelrahman (1 goal and 1 assist). Highlight of the Game: Jawad with a match saving goal line clearance in the last five minutes with the score at 2-1. - Mr McCutcheon





# Reading corner

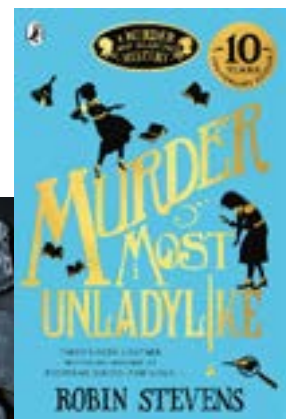
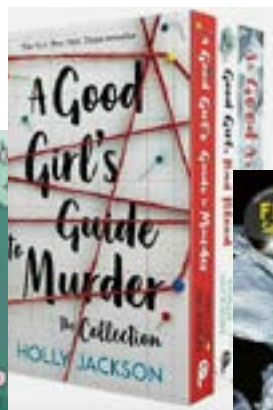
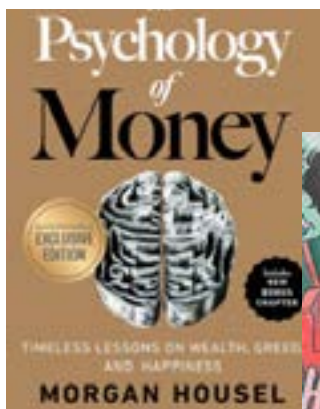
My favourite book is 'Psychology of Money' because it explains some principles about money and could help you in the real world.

One of my favourite books/films is 'Heartstopper.' I like Heartstopper because it's a really interesting story about high school love.

My favourite book/film is 'A Good Girl's Guide To Murder' because I like murder mystery. I also like the other two books! - Alaia

One of my favourite books is 'As Good As Dead' by Holly Jackson because I found it extremely captivating and thought it was a good end to the trilogy.

My favourite book is 'Murder Most Unladylike' because it's a type of murder mystery and I enjoy murder mystery a lot.





# MFL

## European Day of Languages by Ms Michels

On Thursday the 26th of September we celebrated the European Day of Languages at Ada Lovelace! To raise attention to the linguistic diversity we have in Europe, students could participate in two different activities – a Bake Off and/or a Scavenger Hunt. For the Bake Off, they could choose between a recipe for a French Tarte au Chocolat or a German Apfelstrudel and then ready, set, go – they went off to bake and decorate their cakes. As a result, the MFL Department received these pictures of absolutely delicious looking cakes!

Students were also able to participate in a Languages Scavenger Hunt. For this, students had to find the 24 official languages spoken in Europe amongst members of staff. Staff had been given greetings in different languages ahead of the day and were then able to greet students in 24 different languages. By the end of the school day, we had a number of entries from students who did indeed find 24 greetings amongst staff.

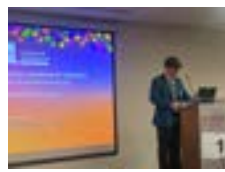
Students had a lot of fun that day and put a lot of effort into their baking – we are looking forward to the next European Day of Languages already!



# Other key highlights:

Congratulations to the following, who represented the school at a national headteachers conference last week. These pupils presented in another language and really impressed the MFL experts and headteachers from across the country.

Delphine and Thiago Y7  
Zainah and Jerry Y8  
Jessie, Mariam, Yusuf Y9  
Lukas and Uma Y11



## Enterprise Day



## Christmas Concert



**Geography Field Trip**



**Remembrance Day**



**Wuschel auf der Erde: A New Adventure in Learning German**

# What do you love most about winter?

Spending time with my family at Christmas

I like the snow and the cute outfits we can make with winter clothes

I love winter for the snowy weather and the colourful lights/ decorations people decorate their homes with

My birthday is in winter, I also prefer the colder weather as I can wear warmer clothes!!

I am Muslim. So I celebrate Eid. I love to visit my family and getting cool presents. I spend lots of time with my cousins we play Gartic phone on google. It's so funny to see what everyone comes up with

The things i like most about winter is my birthday, Christmas, new year and (if we're lucky) SNOW. I also prefer the cold to the heat but everyone else disagrees

I like how in Eid we celebrate together

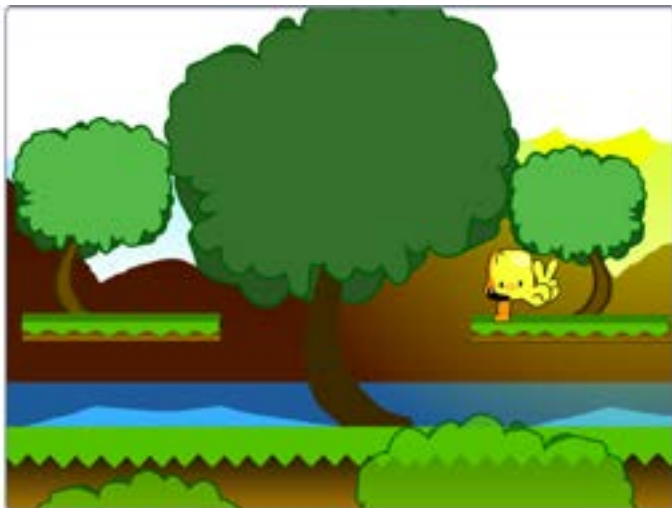


# Creative corner

## Oofer's Adventure: Scratch game project

Check out Leon's (Year 9) unique game made on scratch using his own character designs. He has developed through a comic series seen in previous 'Make The Leap'.

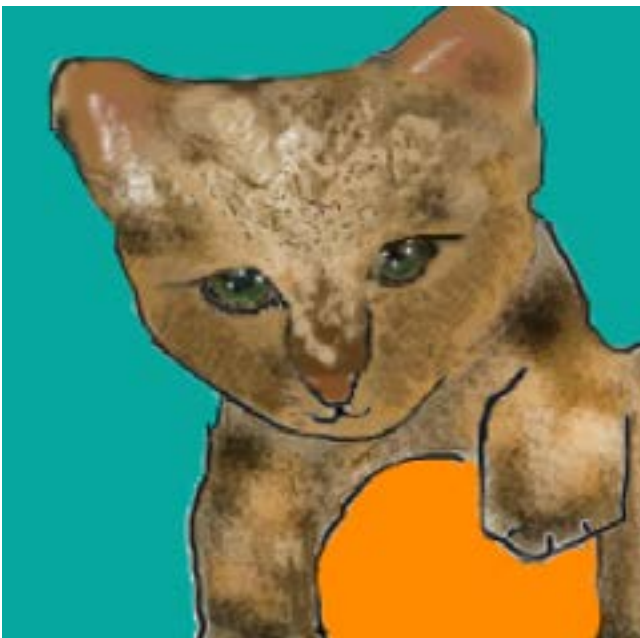
<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/1070454484/embed>





## **Photoshop skills by Hayyam (Year 7)**

This is my work with the help of Kaja .We worked together to develop this piece and I helped Kaja learn Photoshop during this period.



## **Photoshop skills by Holly (Year 7)**

# **PAWBALL**

by Maleehah



# **KITFORD**

**(NOT TO BE MISTAKEN FOR PICKFORD)**

**1<sup>st</sup> of December 2024. This amazing Cat Keeper saved one of the hardest goals known to kitty and human kind! Unfortunately, he broke one of his paws trying to save the goal due to the power of the kick. The shot was taken by Kitty Kane. PLEASE DO NOT MISTAKE HIM FOR ANOTHER NON-CAT PAWBALLER. Anyways... this is him and his friends deciding a new Cat Keeper:**





## Story page by Irina

It was a matter of life and death; but who knows? Maybe it's just death. Over and over, over and over, until Katherine draws her final peaceful breath of true life back in the light and shallow waters. I can tell she's stressed: back when I met her by the waterfall the smile she always had was held so perfectly, so radiant and tranquil... now I see a face of concentration to keep that same serenity, that same positivity.

Neither of us spoke. It wasn't a matter for speaking, I suppose. The vast curtains of crystal drops greet us as we stand. I do know Hish is behind me, but for now I just feel that I want to be alone. Am I feeling? Am I even alive anymore? My empty vessel body aches for the feeling of true human life, yet would it be a good idea anymore, from how many blows Kath has had purely from her SOUL being the thing giving us life?

\*\*\*

The sight was... strange, to say the least. I don't know what's at my feet, but it feels slimy. We tread through the area, the weird substance grasping and slipping off my feet, hands and face. I didn't want to talk. I feared whatever was around me. Did I fear, or am I saying this to make a story? I'm not aware.

The droplets of crystal bump against us. It seems to smoothly change through colours. As we continue treading for what felt like forever, the milky white diamonds turn to eye-catching red rubies to what looked like vibrant orange calcite. Hish spoke up, at least I think it was him. The water felt like it was going to cave me in with the pressure. It was a strain to hear anything.

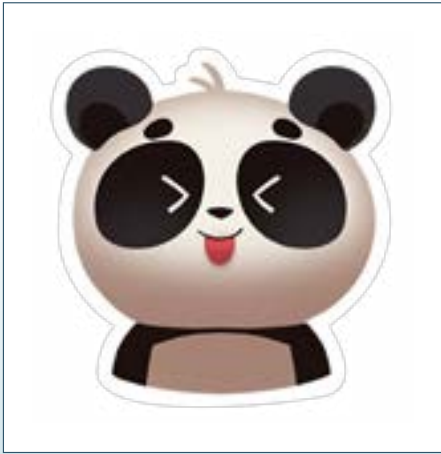
I took a gulp. Hopefully not of the water.

Pushing away a string of beads, I tilted my head, my eyes creeping up and up the string until the darkness seemed to engulf it. I shuddered, and this time not from the cold. Turning my head back down, I noticed the party stopped moving and stared.

A single pellucid string stood, three teal crystals starting at the bottom. Teal, like the colour of Kath's soul. Three, like the amount of times she's died and resetted. The Unul Luminos really took stretches to count our progress in this world.

"Lucie. You look troubled."

We just kept staring, and I didn't bother speak to risk whatever life I had inside of me. When did I get a name, a identity?



## Jang Wonyoung and K-Pop by Summer

### How has K-pop made a rise in the west?

- ▶ One of the most known groups, BLACKPINK has help made K-pop rise massively in the west.
- ▶ Most K-pop groups have very well thought through choreograph along with their songs.
- ▶ Most idols go through intense training before debuting to ensure they are at the best.
- ▶ K-pop has started to become more popular worldwide as the artists tend to mix some global music trends into their songs.
- ▶ K-pop has started westernising their songs to the point some songs cannot be differed from the style of western music!



### Downside of K-pop for China



- ▶ Whilst K-pop does have a lot of Chinese fans, the Chinese government tends to ban most K-pop music videos as they believe anything that has influence on citizens poses a threat and therefore it's much harder for Chinese fans.
- ▶ As for K-pop groups its harder for them to get places to perform around mainland China, so you would find mainly on K-pop groups world tours they visit Hong Kong instead.
- ▶ Chinese government found that K-pop was getting more popularity than Mandopop so they decided to 'ban' K-pop, though it is still possible to listen to K-pop in China.
- ▶ Despite this there are still many Chinese K-pop idols!
- ▶ BLACKPINKS Lisa was supposedly banned from using Weibo (Chinese social media platform commonly used) and BLACKPINK has an unofficial ban from China.

## Who is Wonyoung?

Wonyoung is a music artist in the group IVE. She was born on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004, and is now 20. She has an older sister, Jang Da-ah who is an actress.

Wonyoung joined the entertainment industry at 13, only training for 1 year in a survival show called produce 48, in this survival show she topped 1<sup>st</sup> with 336K votes, coincidentally when she found out she was 1<sup>st</sup> place, it was her birthday!

She debuted at 14 years old in the group Iz\*one, her group had 11 other members. Her group debuted with the album COLOR\*IZ, and the title track was La Vie en Rose.



## Why is she famous?



Wonyoung gained attention on a video of her showing her stretch routine, many fans were shocked to see how flexible she is. Fans are shocked due to when she was in Produce 48, she struggled with simple sitting stretches, and now she is the most flexible member in IVE.



She is very famous for her sense of fashion; she is known for having a 'flawless' appearance from her hair down to her outfits. She also shocked fans due to her height, being 173cm.



Her group holds the title for the fastest group to get a music show win, after 7 days of debuting her group got there first win, and their debut song ELEVEN continued to get 13 wins.

## What is Wonyoungism?

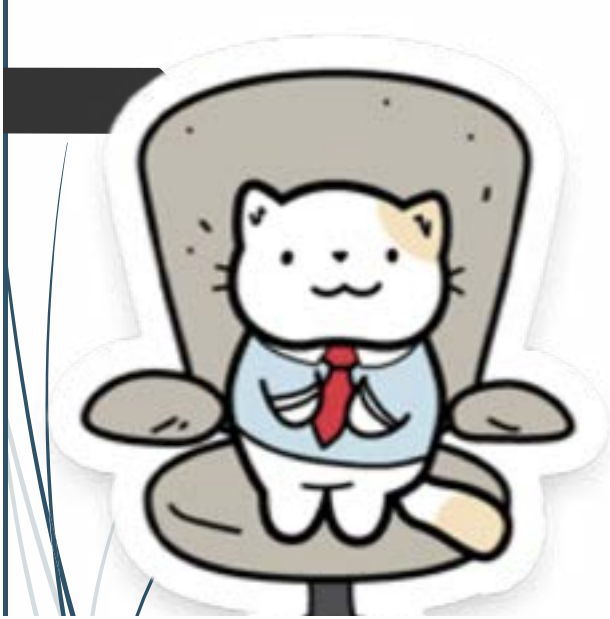
One part of how Wonyoung has become so popular is Wonyoungism, so what is Wonyoungism? Wonyoungism is a way of living to be the best version of yourself and includes self-management.

A trend some fans do is show how they looked before they started listening to Wonyoung's lifestyle and after. She went viral for her quote "You are you; I am me!"

Wonyoungism is quite like the "clean girl" trend that started around 2022.

Wonyoungism is very popular for Chinese girls, they often share their journey on the app 小红书 which translates to little red book.





## Fun facts:

- Her Favourite colour is said to be red.
- She tells her member Yujin, who was with her in Produce 48, IZ\*ONE and IVE.
- She almost always wins when playing rock paper scissors.
- She was the youngest trainee on Produce 48
- She had violin, piano, flute and swimming lessons and was tutored in maths and English.
- Wonyoung can speak 3 languages: English, Japanese and Korean
- Wonyoung can speak fluent English as she went to an English kindergarten

Dream Like, released 2020  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, from the album  
BLOOM\*IZ  
With\*One, released June 15<sup>th</sup>  
2020, from the album Oneiric  
Dream  
Mine, Shine With me, released  
April 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 in the album I'VE  
IVE  
OTT, released October 13<sup>th</sup>  
2023 in the album I've MINE  
Blue Heart, released April 29<sup>th</sup>  
2024 in the album IVE SWITCH



# ADAM'S FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2025

## **Definitions:**

**Budgeting:** When you use a tactic to save money

**Inflation:** When something becomes more expensive

**Stocks and shares:** Investing/taking a risk

For those who do not know what inflation it is when a product rises in price or something negative happens to it.

Inflation will rise to 2.5% and is projected to stay on for the remainder of the market decade.

Shrinkflation is an arising problem with some products from certain giant companies reducing with a few ounces.

Plus, skimpflation which is using fewer quality ingredients in foods to save money.



Shrinkflation, Skimpflation and inflation are 3 of the biggest types of inflation but some more are market-adjusted inflation where many big brands raise prices and everyone else follows hyperinflation, exceedingly rare, but when a price RAISES 50% every month.



It was cheaper to use the paper than this money

Photo: Brett Jordan



100,000,000,000 dollars in Zimbabwe used to equal \$1 USA

Photo: ricketyus

But we must ask why **inflation** happens?

There are many reasons why this happens but most notably:

- **Market-Adjusted inflation** (definition on bottom)
- When the market or many big brands simultaneously increase prices
- **Supply-Demand inflation** (when there is more demand for the item than supply)
- **Cost-push inflation** (when the costs to produce the item increases and they push it on to the consumer)
- **Service industry challenges** (challenges with the market)
- **Supply chain vulnerabilities** (the market becomes riskier)
- **Increased housing demands** (with real estate becomes more expensive everything else follows suit)



## **But what can you do to stop it?**

- You can use better budgeting!
- This can be done by using an inflation related budget structure
- Some people buy tiny amounts of precious metals to make you financially unbreakable because they are not prone to inflation.

Budgeting structures range from 60 20 20

60% necessary

20% wants

20% for savings or investments and donations

They also could be 70 20 10 or even 50 30 20.

And that concludes inflation highlights for 2024/2025

Stay for the next copy of "Things you can do to increase income as a child". Ma Salama/Goodbye! And thank you for reading.

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# SPACE DISCOVERIES

By Elyse Faulkner

About me  
and why I  
am writing  
this 😊

When I am older, I would like to be anything to do with science, specifically space. My biggest interest is black holes as they puzzle EVERY scientist, and we don't know so much about them.

I also love how space is infinite, how we only know what's in our observable universe and we can't know anything else beyond it. There are also many theories that determine how life came and whether there is any elsewhere.

Lastly (well not lastly but there is too much to say to fit in this page), all the matter and forces that we don't know exist yet would be something that I would like to discover. Ok after all of this about me, you can continue and read about space...



## WHAT WAS THE FIRST BLACK HOLE DISCOVERED 🤔?

- The first black hole discovered was called Cygnus X-1
- It was discovered by Paul Murdin and Louise Webster in 1964
- It's located in the swan constellation
- According to NASA, it was discovered when a rocket detected x-rays around the black hole
- It is 14.8 times the mass of the sun and 5 million years old but 7,000 light years away from earth



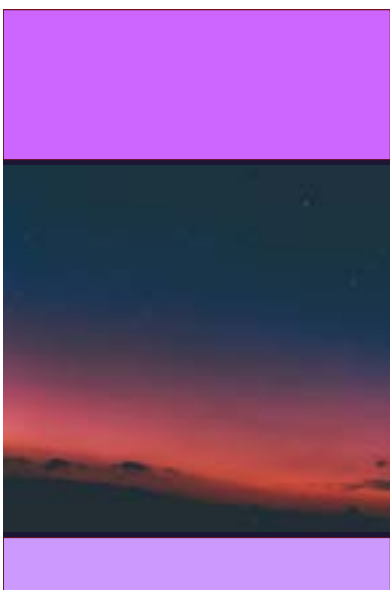
## Facts about cygnus x-1

- Cygnus x-1 is the largest stellar black hole known
- It has a surface temperature of 30726.85°C
- It is in orbit of its blue companion star, HDE 226868
- Although it is in our galaxy, we are in no danger of being consumed by it 🙌



## What is the biggest black hole 😊?

- The biggest black hole is TON-618 (although some people think it is phoenix a or Sagittarius a\* but they are not)
- It is 66 billion solar masses, and our earth is only 333,000 solar masses
- This has resulted in scientists having to create a new name for it: an ultra-massive black hole



## What else about TON-618

- it is 10.37 billion light years away so no generation on earth will ever get to see it 🙄
- This is because its light will take 10.37 billion years to reach us, but earth will die in 7.59 billion years
- Although it is the biggest black hole in existence, it can't consume a whole galaxy so TON-618 will also never reach us



## The structure of a black hole

### hole 🌌

- On the very outside, there is the relativistic jet, which-when focused on gas, dust or stars- can produce jets of radiation and particles from both of the black hole's poles and can extend for thousand of light-years into space
- The accretion disc is superheated gas and dust that spins at incredibly fast speeds and can release electromagnetic, infrared, radiation and x-rays
- The event horizon is the threshold between space and the inside of the black hole. Anything that gets past it will never escape, not even light, which results in black holes being the darkest objects in the universe
- The singularity is the core of the star that died and collapsed to create the black hole. They are the second most dense things in the universe after neutron stars and are the center-point of the black hole



## How do we detect black holes and what happens when objects get absorbed? 🌌?

- Black holes can be detected because of their gravitational field strength or the way cosmic objects behave around them
- If space debris was being pulled towards a specific point scientists would suspect, it would be because of a black hole
- Or if time seemed to slow down/stop in a specific place, a black hole could be the cause of it
- If an object like a person was to get absorbed, they would be SPAGHETTIFIED which is when gravity intensifies on the point facing the black hole, stretching out the object until it can go for miles and gets absorbed
- Make sure that you do not go past the event horizon of the black hole! 😬

The history of dinosaurs by Alaia (Year 7)

# Dinosaurs

## Why are they dead?



Sixty-six million years ago, dinosaurs had the ultimate bad day. With a devastating asteroid impact, a reign that had lasted 180 million years was abruptly ended. Prof Paul Barrett, a dinosaur researcher at the Museum, explains what is thought to have happened the day the dinosaurs died.

## Fun facts about dinosaurs

The word 'dinosaur' originates from the Greek words 'deinos' which means terrible and 'sauros' which means lizard.

They are 65 million years old!

The longest dinosaur was 40 metres long.

Some dinosaurs chewed rocks to grind up their food.

Stegosaurus had brains the size of walnuts.

## Dinosaurs and their 'children'

Some people believe crocodiles are the descendants of dinosaurs but that is not true! They are in no way related to dinosaurs.



Are chickens and dinosaurs related? Well, no but they are the closest relation to dinosaurs we have.

## My favourite dinosaur!

My personal favourite dinosaur is the Parasaurolophus because of the huge crest on their heads. The crests are used to either spot other members of its species, to communicate with others by blowing air through the crest to create loud sounds, or to control its body temperature.



They also glow in the dark, creating a luminous glow especially in caves. They have bioluminescent marine lifeforms incorporated into their DNA.



## Most popular dinosaurs.

- Tyrannosaurus (more commonly known as T-Rex)
- Spinosaurus
- Stegosaurus
- Triceratops
- Velociraptor
- Brachiosaurus



## What do they eat?

- It is found through research that 65% of dinosaurs are herbivores (plant eaters) and 35% are carnivores (meat eaters)



## More weird dino facts!

- The longest dinosaur name was the Micropachycephalosaurus.
- The dumbest dinosaur was the Stegosaurus with a brain the size of a walnut.
- The most complete skeleton of a dinosaur was the Deinonychus which was named Hector.



# Autumn Art COMPETITION!



Thank you to all who entered ☺

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Alessandra 70

# Autumn Art COMPETITION!

Thank you to all who entered ☺



2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Kate 70



# Autumn Art COMPETITION!

Thank you to all who entered 😊

3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Abdallah 8E



# Autumn Art COMPETITION!

Thank you to all who entered 😊

Runners up 😊



# Creative Writing Club

Run by Mr McGovern

Charlie

**Elyse: Year 8**

Sharp icicles of damp autumn air penetrated Bob's olive skin and the gentle breeze combed his straight brown hair. His hazel-brown eyes absorbed the image of the surrounding trees in a tunnel over his head. Charlie (his loyal border-collie) trotted in front and curiously looked around at all the vegetation, any thoughts of his caring owner slowly dissipating and being replaced with excitement with his new environment. Bob sighed in content at the blue sky, which was littered with miniature gey clouds. His breath developed into a misty ghost and dissolved into the country air. Bob removed his phone and headphones from his pocket and resumed his playlist to drown out the sound of crunching dead leaves. But as soon as he played the music, he heard a snap and looked at the carpet of fiery colours before him.

There was no broken twig in front of him, no trace of any disturbance to nature. He looked up and whistled for the dog to return, as he couldn't see Charlie anywhere. No sound of paws. Bob whistled again, louder this time, searching for any flash of black and white fur. No familiar panting. He called now "Charlie!" as images of the worst situation plagued his mind.

No scattering leaves.

This was it.

Fear overtook Bob and his stomach descended into the pits of the earth. He started to run and frantically searched for his Charlie. But right in front of him, just as he lost hope, a pile of fur lay shivering on the ground. Black and white fur. It was a small pile, but it sent small shocks down Bob's spine. And a red leash that nearly camouflaged with the red blanket of autumn leaves. There were letters on the collar of it: C-H-A-R-L-I-E engraved in the leather. But that wasn't Charlie. The colour drained from his face and his eyes pooled with tears of grief. He looked around for the culprit and committed himself for searching for the 3-week-old dog. He looked

## Letter by 'Arthur Softpaws'

*A letter written by Mittens, a famous spy cat, to her brother Marcus while in Puppостan in the Kittyyear 194656. Enjoy reading!*

My dear brother,  
I am not on the trip you think I am on. Nothing like it. In fact, I am in Puppостan. The country where no spy for cats is safe. The citizens are obsessed with their multiple Gods, including 'Bonetreato' and 'Humanownerperson'.

They are, admittedly, very skilled at the art of making humans adore them- although not *quite* as skilled as us cats. To them, our race is the Satan- they ferociously bite anyone who mentions them (the scar from yesterday on my leg is proof).

They have very firm beliefs- they call this loyalty. More like *stubbornness* if you ask me. Their teensy little pea sized brains have not the capacity to believe in the almighty power of cats. Their brains cannot process the truth of the One God Of Catnip.

The only thing they are good at is chasing after another item of worship- 'Tennisballthingy'. *Very impressive*. They can't even *hunt* properly. They are not *kind* enough to bring their Humanpeople

scrumdidlyumptious food like... birds, toads, rats, mice, frogs, snakes, rotten apples and frogs (which they devour shortly after receiving the presents). So easy to make them love you. Speaking of which, the food here is **YUCKSOME**. So bland, so plain, so *boring*. Our kind, eat a wide variety of yummyfish.

I can't wait to get out of this *stinkfest*.  
See you soon, Marcus.

Lots and LOTS of love,  
Mittens (your sister)

P.S.: Please don't play with Tiddles (my mouse toy) while I'm gone.

P.P.S.: Love you!!!

P.P.P.S.: I'm gonna stop P.S.ing now.

P.P.P.P.S.: Sorry, couldn't help myself!

everywhere until he saw bike tracks embedded in the dirt. Bob had thought there was no one else in the forest but he still removed the headphones and paused the music. The birds' tweeting filled the forest with a contradicting positivity and Bob's desperate panting in fatigue contributed to their sound. He began to follow the track as they led him deeper in the forest and uncertainty and hopelessness showed themselves in his heart.

A faint sound revealed itself to him. A whine. A whine he had heard frequently at home. Excitement presented itself to him and Bob found himself sprinting towards it.

After 10 minutes of unsuccessful looking, he found Charlie curled up with no leash and a jagged cut that bled profusely on the forest floor. But speeding away was a figure cloaked in a black hoodie on a high powered electric bike with black and white fur entangled in the chain.

## **Mother Nature's Garden**

**Abdulrahman: Year 8**

Mother Nature's Garden

An early morning before the sun rises to greet the day,  
a garden is sewn in the dark of night.

Underneath the soil where shadows dwell,  
a garden of glory grows, a soul exposed.

A thought or two blooms meet flowers of pleasure.

Burdened by guilt, forced to make it stressful,  
this garden lives, too, beyond the boundaries of time.

to challenge the purity of that which it can disrupt.

From the lows of depression to the highs of anger.

We understand such temperatures exist upon the spectrum of humanity.

A late night that binds us, our awareness becomes illuminated.

We do it cohesively, we grow it perfectly, with the ideal, a national and  
international appeal.

So don't allow the whispers to overpower;

Because we thrive in symphony;

Let's nourish the wants we've repressed and restrained,  
emit the daylight and allow the blossoms to bloom.

For when we appreciate the quiet we've created and change from our  
missteps,

And with every breath, we need to acknowledge we breathe our realities  
into existence

## Seasons

### **Sophia: Year 8**

Autumnal leaves spiralled in an elegant silhouette from the towering trees that covered the land. The atmosphere was quiet, to the exception of the songs of birds, accompanied by a swift, gentle breeze, which carelessly scattered frail, amber leaves across the vast expanse of the forest floor, alongside a drizzle of rain. Animals were ubiquitous and their warm fur embraced them like solace as the weather became colder. Upon rare occasion, a person who encounters the twisting pathway in the forest is guided through their journey with looming streetlamps as darkness engulfs the sky earlier with each passing day. A limp squirrel ambled toward a tree to secrete in its home.

Many months pass.

In the predawn hours, frost blankets the forest floor, and glacial wind violently tosses the dry, decrepit leaves from the trees, leaving them bare and exposed. The forest colours no longer glisten in the sun, nor mesmerize a glance, but rather convey an aura of sorrow and bleakness that envelop the abundance that used to be. Though time had remained unaltered, the days felt shorter as the sun set earlier and was replaced by dismal night. The surplus animal population appeared to have minimised greatly, and the number of strangers that used to tread along the forest pathway reduced to none, as people stayed in the comfort of their homes during these times. The arrival of winter had been indicated through change, but the warmth of autumn had been neglected.

Small, helpless, fragile; a hedgehog stumbled behind an evergreen bush, where it lay to be awakened again in spring.

## **Not Without a Plan**

### **Yara: Year 9**

Amara and Jack sat in the grand hall of the Castle of Creation, their faces lit by the golden glow of the sun streaming through the glass-stained windows. The hall was alive with anticipation, a quiet hum of whispers buzzing through the crowd. At the front of the room, stood the leader of creation: clad in emerald robes, stood on a raised platform, addressing the assembly.

“Nature is the world’s greatest treasure,” the leader proclaimed, his voice echoing off the stone walls. “Those who explore its depths, embrace its beauty, and unlock its secrets will be greatly rewarded, for the land rewards those with hearts open to adventure.”

Amara glanced at Jack, her green eyes wide with excitement. Jack returned her look with a reassuring grin. Just the thought of adventure stirred in their restless spirits.

“We have to go,” Amara whispered.

Jack nodded, agreeing as he added, “Tomorrow, at dawn.”

The next morning the two set out with nothing but some food, water and their unshakeable curiosity. The outskirts of the country were a place of whispered legend. Dense forests stretched endlessly, their dark canopies hiding secrets untouched by human hands. Rivers twisted through the wilderness, and ancient ruins lay beneath thick vines.

At first, their journey was enchanting. Birds sung melodies in treetops as wildflowers bloomed in vibrant colours beneath their feet. Jack gleamed at a herd of deer crossing a meadow, while Amara collected luminous, glowing stones and crystals she stumbled upon on their path. However, as the sun dipped below the horizon, the air grew colder, and an eerie stillness settled



over the forest. Shadows stretched, swirled and shifted as the unknown lingered in the atmosphere.

“What is that?” Jack muttered under his breath as his eyes widened.

Amara turned to see a pair of sinister, red eyes staring at them from the darkness. Before she dared to respond, another set of eyes appeared. The first creature stepped into the moonlight. Its body was a twisted, disfigured mess of fur and scales, with claws like daggers and a mouth that stretched wide open and curled into an unsettling grin.

Amara clasped Jack’s hand as they tore through the forest, dodging low branches and tripping over roots. The creatures pursued them mindlessly, their screeches sending shivers down their spines. Amara and Jack darted into a narrow route, hoping to find their way home as fast as possible.

Back in the village, though their legs ached, and their hearts raced, they still hurried to explain what they had seen to the leader of creation.

“The land is cursed!” Amara said while gasping for air. “But we have seen its wonders. There is more out there than we could have ever imagined.”

The villagers murmured in awe at the tale, as the leader of creation looked down at Amara and Jack, with his smile filled with pride and joy.

“You have done what no-one dared. For your courage and bravery, we honour you, and you will be remembered as the first to take on such a challenge. Well done.”

Jack whispered to Amara, “Do you think we will ever go back?”

Amara grinned, “Not without a plan.”

THE END.

## Night on the M25

### Ryan: Year 10

The M25 was a nightmare, but tonight it felt like something more. Snow had started falling an hour ago, thick and heavy, turning the road into a frozen mess. Thomas sat in his old Land Rover, his knuckles white on the steering wheel as he stared at the endless line of brake lights ahead. The traffic hadn't moved in what felt like forever, and the weight of stillness made his neck tighten.

The radio crackled: "**Accident reported near Junction 24. No word yet on when the delay will clear. Stay tuned for updates.**"

Thomas looked at the clock and it said 5:43 then he sighed. The snow was falling harder now, covering the windshield faster than the wipers could clear. The car felt like a tiny island stuck in a sea of ice. Another flash of light.

At first, Thomas thought it was just the storm, a trick of the snow. But then it came again yellow and bright, cutting through, followed by a low, rumbling sound that shook the car. Not thunder.

His pulse quickened. He wiped at the windshield again, but the snow only thickened, swirling in front of him like smoke. The rumbling came again, closer this time, and his gut twisted. Something wasn't right.

Suddenly, a sharp, metallic scrape echoed through the stillness. Like metal dragging against the road. Thomas froze, his eyes snapping to the side. He saw nothing but snow, thick and unforgiving. The scrape stopped.

Then came the footsteps.

Slow, deliberate, crunching through the snow. They were far away at first, but each step grew closer. Too close. His breath caught in his throat. He turned to check the rearview mirror, but the storm had swallowed everything behind him. There was nothing but the swirling white.

The footsteps stopped.

Thomas's hand hovered over the door handle, heart pounding. He glanced around again. No movement, nothing. The snow had made everything too still. Too silent.

Then, the headlights flickered. The car sputtered.

And then... silence.

The engine died, leaving nothing but the quiet hiss of snow against the window.

Thomas held his breath. He didn't move. Didn't dare.

Then a voice, cold and low, whispered from just outside the window: "I wouldn't open that door if I were you."

Thomas's hand froze on the handle.

The voice came again, closer this time: "You're not alone."

And in the sudden silence, something thudded softly against the side of the car. Something large. Something alive.

## **The Orb of Creation**

### **Raeann: Year 7**

Darkness. Then light appears with a flash.

"Open the gateway and lift the curse of these poor Woodragons!" says a mystifying voice.

"What gateway? What are Woodragons?" exclaimed Skygem.

10 moons later...

"Happy moon day Skygem!" announced Skygem's mother Aquacrystal. Then suddenly the ground began to shake, deafening everyone's voices.

"Wait Mum, do you know what a vision is?" questioned Skygem.

"Wait-" Aquacrystal hesitated.

"It's time, she needs to know." whispered her father.

"What are you talking about? What do I need to know?" she replied. Silence filled the room. Aquacrystal closed the blinds and lit some candles."500 moons ago, a dragon called Mapledeteran wanted to find the legendary Orb of Creation."

Suddenly, the candles blew out. A thud interrupted.

"Get to bed Skygem and we will tell you more tomorrow," her mother said.

Suddenly, darkness appeared again.

"Open the gateway and lift the curse of these poor Woodragons!" exclaimed a familiar voice. Then she saw the gateway again but this time she finds the Leader attacked by Woodragons. "This is what happens if you don't convince the leader now!" boomed a low voice from above.

"What will open the gateway?" she asked.

"The Orb of Creation!" the voice replied. Then light appeared...

## Well-fed

### **Charlotte: Year 7**

A blissful sun rises over a dense forest of pine, its warming rays casting long shadows that stretch across the frost-dusted ground. The soft, melodic tweets of birds resonate around the clearing, their songs echoing in the stillness as they dart through the crisp, glacier-blue sky. A deer bends its graceful neck down to nibble on the deep red berries of the bushes.

I crouch down, blending in with the towering clusters of ferns. My hands clutch the daggers I hold, turning my knuckles a ghostly shade of white. Every steady breath I take rises in plumes of steam, ascending into the sky before dissolving into the bitter cold air. The pine needles beneath me are encased in delicate frost, sparkling like tiny crystals.

Gold-yellow, pearl-white, deep cream; the deer's pelt glistens in the sun's light, shimmering like silk. Slowly, I raise my dagger, a predator hunting prey.

Through my guilt and mercy, one thought resurfaces in my mind: if we are to be well-fed for the next moon, it would cost the price of this deer's life.

# Next issue:

Term highlights

Sporting successes

Drama production review

Creative Writing club submissions

Pupils' personal work

Art competition winners and runners up

**Artwork by Kate (Year 7) in memory of Levon**

