



# The Armfield Times

## Armfield Academy's Student Magazine

### Issue 5: Christmas 2019

Teacher Feature

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**Photograph by Ellie Peach**

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The Armfield Times is created  
by the Year 7&8 pupils of  
Armfield Academy.

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## The Editors' Letter:

Hi everyone, we're Chloe and Ellie and we are the editors of the Armfield Times!

It has been a jam-packed first term with lots to talk about. We are happy to say that the secondary pupils have successfully moved into our new building and welcomed our next cohort of Year Seven and Reception students, as well as many new members of staff! Amongst the chaos of the first term, we welcomed many special guests, such as a representative from the Department for Education and even Jimmy Armfield's own sons, who came to officially open our amazing new site! In this festive, fun-packed edition, you will uncover facts about our staff that you never thought you'd know; find out more about our wonderful Drama Department; read all about our House System and much, much more!

The team at the Armfield Times would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Chloe & Ellie*

Interested in contributing to the Armfield Times? We are always looking for new recruits to join our team, so if you're a budding journalist, reporter, graphic designer or illustrator, listen out for information in the new year about the Easter edition.



# House Report



Back in October, Mr Moon (House System Lead) re-launched the hugely-successful House System where all members of Armfield Academy are sorted into houses named after precious gemstone. Students and staff have been encouraged to participate in various challenges in the hope of winning points for their houses.

The challenges kicked off with the tug-of-war which saw Emerald house snatch the early victory. Then followed other exciting challenges such as: dodgeball, hit the wicket, Roald Dahl and Film quizzes, egg drop, design a £20 note and number dash.



**Staff take a soaking for Children in Need.**

As it stands, house point totals are as follows: **Citrine** are in the lead with 720 points; **Sapphire** and **Emerald** are in joint second place with 700 points apiece. **Amethyst** house is in third place with 630 points, and in fourth place is **Ruby** house with 560 points.

**We are looking forward to some fantastic new house challenges next term!**

All House Challenges have been very well attended, particularly our charity challenges: The British Cake Off (where a total of £464.60 was raised for the houses' various charities) and Soak The Teacher where over £166 was raised for Children in Need.



**Just some of the amazing cakes made for the Great British Cake Off!**



# My First Term at Armfield

My first term at Armfield was scary, but not as bad as you would think. I was intimidated by the size of the school and the fact that there were older children around. I was a lot more comfortable, however, when I got into form, as there were some familiar faces there. A large part of me was missing primary school though, and in particular I longed for that place of familiar comfort - a feeling I still get when near the building itself! Also I longed for some of the friendships I had made over the seven years of primary and seeing people I had gotten used to seeing every day.

At primary school, the routine had become monotonous due to having the same classmates, same teacher, same staff and the same building. At Armfield everything is new! Not only is there a new building to navigate (and try desperately not to get lost in!) but there are new teachers to get used to; new subjects to tackle and new classmates to meet. These changes were obviously refreshing and exciting however I initially found this change nerve-racking and difficult to adjust to. The hardest part of this for me was the changing friendships we had to deal with. I was lucky because most of my closest friends moved to Armfield with me, but one friend in particular was placed in a different school which means have had to work extra hard to stay in touch. While I have made some new friends, I know I still have others to meet.

This year we have been introduced to many brand new subjects such as Science, R.E., Design and Technology, French, Geography, PSHE, Computer Science and Performing Arts. These have come with new challenges and this has boosted my confidence and encouraged me to try more new things.

My favourite thing about Armfield is the House Challenges. It boosts teamwork and competition and makes everyone feel included. The teachers who develop the challenges are very creative and I especially enjoyed the 'soak the teacher' challenge!

It helps to remind myself that we Year Sevens are all experiencing these things together and facing the same new and unfamiliar aspects as a group. Although the transition to high school had made me worried, I now feel more comfortable and am thoroughly enjoying the challenges it brings.

**Alexis Thompson**

# Primary News

One of the many special things about Armfield is that we are an all-through academy. We caught up with Miss Isherwood (Reception Teacher) to find out what our primary students have been up to this term!

## Settling In

The new Reception children have settled in very well to Armfield, and the Year 1 pupils quickly readjusted to being back in school after the Summer break. Pupils have found out which houses they are in and have begun to take part in some House Challenges such as The Great British Cake Off. Miss Isherwood is going to become the Primary House Lead after Christmas, and will work with Mr Moon and the other House Leads to plan some exciting challenges which the primary children can take part in.

It's not just the children who have had to settle in this term- several new members of staff joined our Primary team back in August, all of whom are doing a fantastic job and enjoying their new roles at Armfield.

## Primary Learning

Primary learning mainly revolves around creative play and the children particularly enjoy playing in the sand pits and building. Since we currently only have Reception and Year 1 pupils, lessons mainly consist of play and fun but the children are learning important skills such as teamwork and social aspects of learning e.g. sharing and being respectful, as well as basic literacy and numeracy skills. The Reception topics this term have revolved around the season of Autumn. For example the children have read 'Into the Woods', 'The Gruffalo' and 'Foggy, Foggy Forest! Children have completed creative activities within this topic. In Year 1 have enjoyed their topic, 'Once Upon a Time' where they have been listening to The Three Little Wolves and The Big Bad Pig. After listening to the story, they made puppets and retold the story orally before having a go at doing a story map and writing it down. In Science, the children have looked at different materials, naming, grouping and describing their properties.



Primary children enjoying their creative play

## Christmas Stars

The children in Reception put on a wonderful performance for their nativity. They learnt a number of Christmas songs and really enjoyed retelling the Christmas story. Year 1 have performed a fantastic carol concert for their friends and family. They sang some great songs including Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and then enjoyed some fresh mince pies.

**Contributors: Lilyrose Burke, Ruby Draper & Georgia Owens**



# Department in **Focus**

## Performing Arts

In Performing Arts there is a range of fun- themed lessons to create a performance. The Year 7s get a theme to create a performance, whereas the Year 8s are working on pantomimes like Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella and Snow White. Our lessons are planned and taught by Miss Parkinson and Miss Cairns, our two amazing Drama teachers!

From a student's point of view, I really love drama and I am always excited for that day of the week.

### Drama club

Drama club is on once a week, on Wednesdays from 3.05pm to 4pm, where we get into groups and create plays based on the theme selected by a student the week before. Themes that have been chosen by Miss Parkinson and the students this year and last have included some of the following:

- Royalty
- Halloween
- Hitch-hikers
- Christmas
- Lifts breaking down

Students  
working hard  
and enjoying  
Drama

I love drama club as it has so many surprises and experiences for many students like me. And there's so much more to come over the next four years at Armfield Academy.

**Aimee Tomlinson**

# Recommended Reads

Reading is a large part of the culture here at Armfield Academy, especially with the recent relaunch of our Accelerated Reader programme. We are spoiled for choice as well, with our fantastic new library facilities. But if you're struggling to decide what to read, don't panic, we're here to give you some book recommendations!

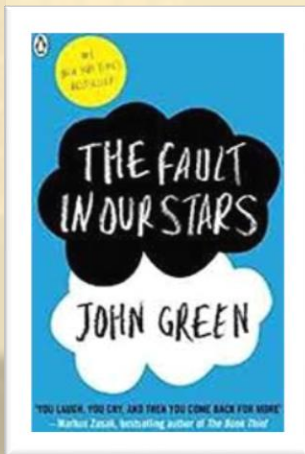
## *His Dark Materials*

- First up is a popular series most of you will have heard of. It has recently been made into a 16-part series on BBC One, and will take you into a world of fantasy and magic. *His Dark Materials* by Philip Pullman has been reviewed millions of times as it is a timeless book. It can be enjoyed by people of any ages, from around eight right up to one hundred and eight! It is aimed at middle ability reading students, though it can be tackled by any ability level who are up for a challenge and some fun! It is great for classroom or bedtime reading and can go everywhere with you as a fantasy companion. Join Lyra Belacqua and her daemon Pan as they go where unimaginable horrors hide: the North.



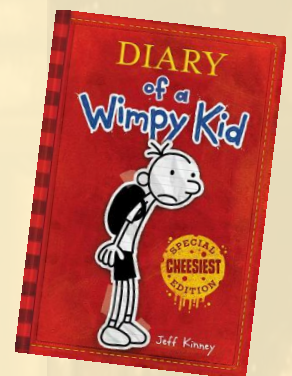
## *The Fault in Our Stars*

If fantasy is not really your type of read, there are plenty of other books perfect for you. One such example is the much-loved novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green. This book tells the tale of Augustus and Hazel, two teenagers with cancer, documenting their journey together and how they try to make each other's last wishes come true. This is an honest book written from a teenager's perspective. It is heartfelt and emotional, not to be read if you cry easily! This book in regards to ability level can be read by absolutely anyone. The language is easy to understand and the storylines flow beautifully into one another to create one fantastic book!



## *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

Finally, a book written for one purpose only: to entertain. In this 18-book (!) long series, you follow the life of hapless American tween Greg Heffley as he navigates his way through daily life whilst attempting not to ruin absolutely everything. There is one special thing about *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid*: it is both written and illustrated by the same talented man, an American author called Jeff Kinney. If you don't fancy reading so many books, they have also been made into films. However, in my opinion the books can carry across the comedy much better than the films (sorry, actors!). Overall, these books are great for all ages and abilities who love to laugh. They are a fun, relaxing series in contrast to the seriousness of other books.



**Chloe Willoughby**



# Christmas Recipe

Try this fantastic recipe for hot chocolate stirrers to make someone a delicious, homemade gift for Christmas (or you could just make them for yourself!)



## How to make hot chocolate stirrers

### Equipment:

*6 cupcake cases*

*Pencil*

*Pastry brush*

*6 empty fromage frais pots (make sure they are washed and dried fully)*

*6 wooden lolly sticks*

*Cellophane and string/ribbon for wrapping*

### Ingredients:

*Sunflower oil, for greasing*

*300g dark, milk or white chocolate (or a mixture of all) broken into squares*

### To decorate:

*Use a selection of chocolate buttons, sprinkles, broken candy cane pieces (peppermint) and miniature fudge pieces.*

### Method:

*1. First push a hole into the middle of all the cupcake cases and put them away for later.*

*2. Dip a pastry brush into the sunflower oil and paint a very thin layer of oil on the insides of the fromage frais pots.*

*3. Put the chocolate into a bowl and place in the microwave for 30 seconds or until runny. If you use different types of chocolate, you should melt them separately.*

*4. Carefully, pour the melted chocolate into the pots, then put the lolly sticks into the middle of each. Sprinkle the decorations on to them.*

*5. Cover the pots in a cake case making sure that the stick pokes through the hole. Put them in the fridge overnight.*

*6. The next day, carefully take them out the pots and throw away the cake cases. Wrap each in cellophane tied at the top with string.*



# Fantastic Festive Films

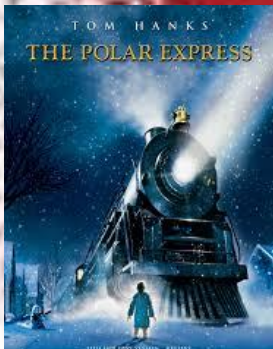
## 1. Home Alone starring Macauley Culkin

When ten-year-old Kevin McAllister is accidentally left behind when his family go off on Christmas vacation, it's up to Kevin to defend his home against a pair of dastardly burglars fresh out of prison. Fantastic festive family-fun with slapstick comedy, witty one-liners and a heart-warming happy ending.



## 2. Elf starring Will Ferrell

Buddy isn't quite like the other elves in the North Pole. For one thing, he's 6ft 3 inches and he isn't naturally gifted when it comes to making toys. So when Buddy finally learns the truth that he is in fact human and was abandoned as a baby, he makes the long and treacherous journey to New York in search of his father. A cracking Christmas film that's sure to get you into the Christmas spirit!



## 3. The Polar Express starring Tom Hanks

A cynical boy, who suspects that Santa isn't real, jumps aboard an express train destined for the North Pole, to discover the truth. A quirky story with amazing special effects, this is a must-see film for everyone, especially those who wish to know exactly where their Christmas presents come from!

# Christmas Around the World

French children leave their shoes by the fireplace in hope that Santa will fill them with gifts.

On 6<sup>th</sup> January Germans hold a feast called the Epiphany where children, dressed as the Maji (The Three Kings) sing songs..

Instead of having a normal Christmas tree, Indians decorate a mango tree or banana tree.

It is customary in Japan to eat fried chicken on Christmas Day.



# Terrific Teacher Quiz

Answers  
at the  
bottom!

Think you know your teachers?  
Find out in this terrific quiz!

**Teacher 1:** This teacher plays guitar and once recorded an album of their own songs (it wasn't very good though!)

**Teacher 2 :** This teacher worked in an American camp driving speed boats.

**Teacher 3 :** This teacher won 'voice of the year' at their primary school.

**Teacher 4 :** This teacher found out they were colour blind in a colouring competition in Year 2.

**Teacher 5 :** This teacher once won a helmet in a magazine competition.

**Teacher 6 :** This teacher once won a free Domino's pizza pass for a year.

**Teacher 7 :** This teacher's thumbs are double jointed.

**Teacher 8 :** *This teacher went horse riding until they were 6 years old.*

**Teacher 9 :** *This teacher once met David Beckham and got his autograph.*

**Teacher 10 :** *This teacher played basketball in college.*

**Teacher 11 :** *This teacher has a dog called Ruby.*

**Teacher 12 :** *This teacher has 11 tattoos.*

**Teacher 13:** *This teacher can breakdance (if you want to challenge them,, just ask!)*

**Teacher 14:** *This teacher taught in Africa for a year.*

1. Mrs Walker, 2. Mrs Beach, 3. Miss Linney, 4. Mr Renouf, 5. Mr Bache, 6. Mr Moon, 7. Miss Wilkinson, 8. Mrs Hall, 9. Mrs Williams, 10. Mrs Ormond, 11. Miss Blackburn, 12. Miss House  
13. Mr Carter, 14. Mr Walters