

Longbenton High School

The Waffle

10th October 2025

Volume 2

Issue 1



Welcome Back!

We're back. I think a lot of us love that September feeling: the blank, fresh diaries, the new stationery, the rested selves, the resolutions that we make, or refresh, or return to. One of the bright spots in the September calendar is the Longbenton Open Evening, when we invite the wider community to come in, look around, ask questions and engage in some little taster activities (Science is always popular for these as their taster activities inevitably involve fire). What I love about this is that it reminds the Longbenton community of students and staff that we are part of a larger community. In the sense that we are where the children of Killingworth, Forest Hall, Benton and Longbenton spend their days I sometimes think that we're nestled right in at the heart of that community.

Open Day had me reflecting on the idea of openness and its connection to feeling welcome. It's always a day when the staff of Longbenton are their best selves as we're invited to reflect on and to present those things about which we are most proud. (Also, the yearly tradition of scones with jam and cream to keep the energy up definitely helps.) This in turn, I think, helps us remember that we have much to be proud about. Last July, thanks in part to the tireless efforts of Mrs Hutchins, our Equalities Lead and her dedicated student Equalities team, Longbenton earned the School of Sanctuary award. This award is an acknowledgement of schools who put the concepts of welcome and of openness at the core of their ethos. It recognises schools who work to foster a sense of belonging to those people who are newly arrived to our community, sometimes through routes of danger, hardship and fear.

A sense of sanctuary doesn't end there. A few years ago, the staff of Longbenton received some training from the organisation Diversity Role Models, who speak to schools about how to be more inclusive and welcoming to people whose experience had made them doubt their welcome in some spaces. One of the speakers pointed out that teenagers –all teenagers, regardless of their identity–in order to feel included, often need quite explicit signs of welcome. The speaker encouraged us to demonstrate our allyship and our openness without subtlety. So here it is: You're welcome. Yes. You.

-Ms Doucet,
Head of Year 11 and Sixth Form



Art by Ava Frizzell, Year 8

COMMUNICATE

Rowan's Rows

Wheels or doors?

Are there more wheels or doors in the world? It really comes down to how you define both, is a wheel anything circular that rotates, or does it have to help move something? Is a door just something that opens or do you have to be able to walk through it? Almost every building has multiple doors, including cupboard doors, wardrobe doors, front doors - and if windows count as doors then that contributes to the figure massively. However, people fail to consider that the mechanisms in doors often have wheels in them. As well as the thousands of tiny cogs inside of computers and machines that arguably count as wheels.

What do you think?

Poem of the Moment with Ms Doucet

To Be Alive

To be alive: not just the carcass
but the spark.

That's crudely put, but. . .

If we're not supposed to dance,
why all this music?

-Gregory Orr



Alex Katz, Paul Taylor Dance Company, 1964

Upcoming Dates:

- 14 October- Longbenton Careers' Fair
- 15 October- Early Entry UCAS Deadline (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Sciences)
- 23 October - Sixth Form Halloween Party 2:45-3:15
- 27 October-31 October - Half Term Break
- 19 November- Y12 Parents' and Carers' Evening
- 21 November - Staff Training Day. No classes.
- 24 November - 5 December- Y11 and Y13 Mocks
- 4 December- Sixth Form Open Evening
- 19 December- Last day of School for 2025!

Alesia's Deep Dives . . .

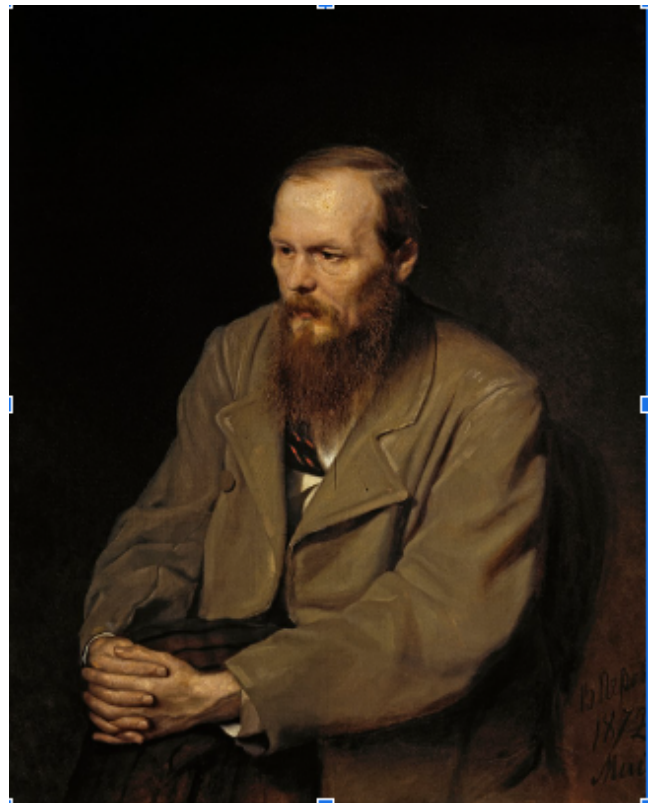
Dostoyevsky

Born November 11 1821, Dostoevsky was a Russian philosopher, a novelist and a short story writer. Dostoyevsky's writings became known widely around Russia, even the Tsar called for him to visit to present his diary. Born into a noble family, though they were not wealthy, Fyodor spent his childhood living on the same hospital grounds his father worked at. As a child, his nanny introduced him to lots of fiction books, while his parents raised him as an orthodox christian and making him read the bible daily. In his own words, his "imagination was brought to life" by his parents' teachings.

At 17, Fyodor had become an orphan, this is where his epileptic seizures first began, which would end up being his cause of death. As an adult, he continued his passion for writing. He began translating books, though they did not perform well so he began writing novels instead. His first novel, *The Double*, accumulated lots of negative reviews, increasing the frequency and intensity of each of his seizures.

His own experiences occur many times in his own books, which he sometimes used to process his own traumatic experiences. For example, Dostoyevsky processed his feelings of being out of place at his school in Moscow, in his novel *The Adolescent*.

Dostoyevsky had two wives in his lifetime, his daughter Sofya passed away due to complications from pneumonia, this shook him to his core. His second wife, Anna, recalled how he "wept and sobbed like a woman in despair" . Dostoyevsky was also addicted to gambling, and though this has not been proven, reports state Anna once had to pawn her own underwear away to cover the debts he accumulated in one night!



On the 6th February 1881, Dostoyevsky went searching for the terrorist group “Narodnaya Volya” (The peoples will) who would eventually assassinate the tsar. A search warrant was called for his neighbour. The day after that, Fyodor Dostoyevsky suffered a pulmonary haemorrhage, though it is not known whether the searching caused it, his wife stated it was caused by a dropped pen holder. Dostoyevsky would experience two more haemorrhages in the following weeks, at this point, it was known that he did not have long left to live and he requested the parable of the prodigal son be read to his remaining children.

His last words included a recitation of Matthew 3:14-15 "But John forbade him, saying, I have a need to be baptised of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness", and he finished with "Hear now—permit it. Do not restrain me!" and his final words to his wife were "Remember, Anya, I have always loved you passionately and have never been unfaithful to you ever, even in my thoughts!" The number of people at his funeral is unclear, though reports state the numbers were anywhere from 40,000 to 100,000.

What did Fyodor Dostoyevsky believe in?

Love: Dostoyevsky is a great example of a hopeless romantic, his book *White Nights* being a great example of this, he explored a large range of different types of love, platonic, unrequited love, soulmates et cetera.

Orthodox Christianity: Being raised a Christian, his faith had a large effect on his stories. He was critical of western Christianity, and he believed it was responsible for the increase of atheism in Europe. Many of his books contained characters gaining redemption through selflessness and he was extremely opposed to the lavish lifestyle he watched others live.

Famous quotes by Dostoyevsky:

- 'But how could you live and have no story to tell?' - *White Nights*
- 'Your greatest sin is that you have destroyed and betrayed yourself for nothing' - *Crime and punishment*

Funky fact:

In 1846 he joined a group of utopian socialists. He was arrested in 1849 and sentenced to death. The sentence was commuted to imprisonment in Siberia. Dostoyevsky spent four years in hard labour and four years as a soldier in Semipalatinsk.

QUESTION

Is intelligence or wisdom more important?

Evie's Politics Round-up

Over the summer, just as we do at school, the House of Lords and House of Commons go into recess. This however does not leave us with nothing to report on. In Britain the labour reshuffle, meaning government ministers move around into different specificities, which involved David Lammy replacing Angela Rayner as Deputy Prime Minister. Following her removal from this role, she resigned for 'failing to pay enough tax on her flat in East Sussex' thus breaching ministerial code. On top of this, Prime Minister Starmer has recognised Palestine formally as a state. Although a symbolic gesture, this is strong and representative of Great Britain's support.

In the USA, arguably the Trump/MAGA (make America great again) campaign is stronger than ever. Although many in the UK may not view his political stance positively, his campaign and his ideology support in the states has grown. With the tragic death of Charlie Kirk- right wing advocate and pro-life enthusiast- a sense of community has been apparent and a further separation and alienation of right-wing supporters. Although this may seem negative, this is Trump's aims and equally the aims of the American citizens who elected him. In bigger news, the US government shut-down occurred on 1st October. This occurs when congress cannot pass funding for the federal government and in this case the House of the Senate has failed to pass multiple times. Causing some to lose work and others to not get paid many view this as a massive weakness and ultimate partisanship, however from the beginning of Trump's final term he has threatened to use a shut-down of necessary.

In lighter work, after the rare occasion of Trump being invited to Great Britain for a second time, arguably to escape American pressure to release the Epstein files, a projection of their friendship appeared on the tower of London upon his stay. This was beamed from a hotel room opposite. Furthermore, a tarp of the two embracing in a friendly hug was displayed in great size for his landing in the country. Despite this not being the relaxing break he was pursuing, it did create a comical irony enjoyed by many.

Student Spotlight with Daisy Jones . . .

What is one thing that you think other people should do more of?

'Stop being massive idiots to other people, just be kinder'.

What's your earliest childhood memory?

'I was on this balcony with a red balloon. I can't remember what I was doing, but I was really excited with this balloon. I accidentally let it go- I was very depressed and sad but my Nana said she'd get me a new one'.

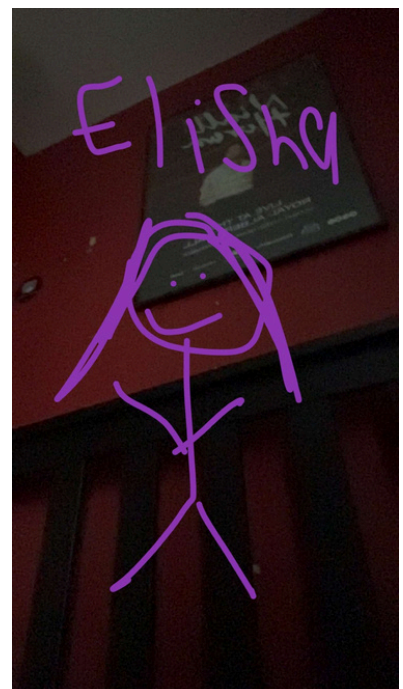
If you could have dinner with 3 people, real or fictional, who would they be?

'Vic Fuentes, from Pierce the Veil
Winona Rider
Kat Valentine'.

What was the last book you read?

'I'm re-reading Girl Interrupted'.

Daisy Jones, interviewing Elisha MacGregor, Y13



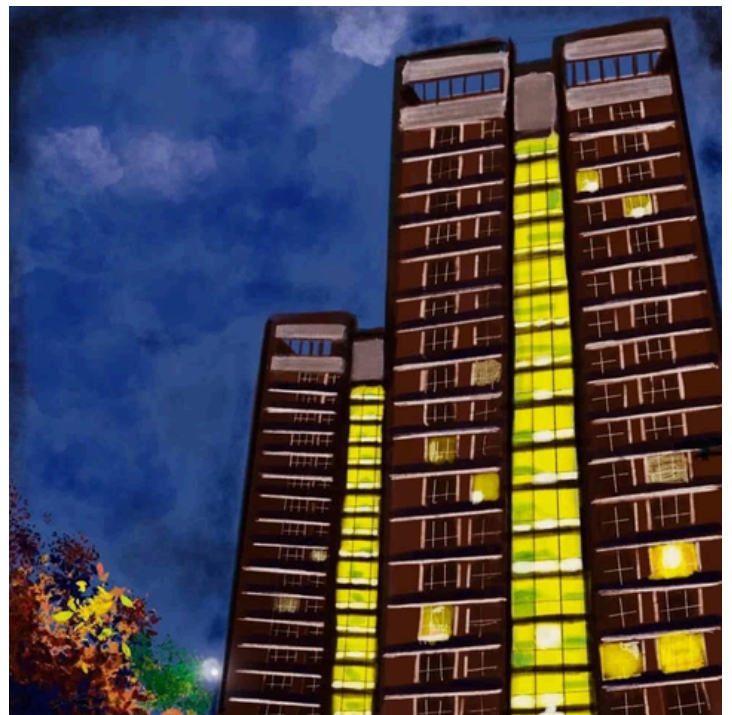
Why I Love: Heaton

Last year, Heaton was described by the Sunday Times 'Best Places to Live' guide (edited by Helen Davies) as having 'just the right amount of grit and glamour' and I could not have agreed more! I can barely describe to you in words how much I love the dirt, sparkle, noise, throb and flow of Heaton.

Heaton makes you look upwards and outwards. Every road in Heaton and its surrounding areas has its own special spirit and you can feel yourself walking through force fields as you cross street boundaries. If you know the area at all, you will know that Chillingham Road, Heaton Road, Heaton Park Road and Shields Road are all legendary streets with wildly different spirits and histories and it's an utter delight to spend a few hours on a Saturday walking through their different energies. You could live in Heaton for years and never be able to sample all of its delights. There is a huge range of places to eat the cuisines of countless nations, from posh and expensive places to 'this-has-a-questionable-hygiene-rating-but-the-food-is-too-good-for-me-to-care' places. There are bars with bands! There are theatres! There are two cinemas! There are sports pitches and climbing centres and flea markets and all sorts of weird, precious little shops! There are churches and a mosque and it's so beautiful to see people gathering as they head to the latter for Friday prayers. There is a lot of vivid graffiti, some of it highly accomplished and some of it simply confusing. People crochet things and hang them on lampposts. People sit on the outside windowsills of their second floor flats and play guitars. One young guy plants flowers everywhere and has made a mini library for the area. When you pop to the local shops, you can smell all different kinds of delicious food, with base notes of suspicious musky aromas and the tang of rubbish, and you can see people enjoying themselves at pavement cafes, and it all feels so very warm and welcoming.

My overall favourite thing about Heaton is how powerfully nature and metropolis overlap here. I so badly love to go for a walk in Heaton Park or nearby Jesmond Dene and think about how the glittering river Ouseburn and busy roads are both rushing, pounding and overlapping nearby. I love to hear the sweet echoing birdsong overlapping distant sirens. I love to look up through the flashing green branches of tall swaying trees and see planes flying overhead. I love to hear the wind blowing through leaves at the same time as I can hear the bass from Sam Fender playing at St James Park on that same breeze. Heaton makes me feel cradled and safe as well as super inspired and alive. And living in this stunning place is accessible to pretty much anyone - how exciting is that?

Art and text by Mrs Porter



Canny Creates - Creative Writing

Thunder in the East

My legs scream at me to stop, to take a break, to give in and give up but I keep going. My chestplate is a traitor as it bangs against my body and rattles loudly, giving my position away to my soon-to-be murderers. I stop momentarily at a brook and haphazardly tear my armour off my body; it takes me long enough that I hear the rapturish sound of hooves following in my wake. My fear gives me back my breath and I change direction, sprinting further into the forest with my sword wildly swinging at my hip, as if trying to swing at my enemies in a futile rage. In front of me is a destroyed tower, a large hole creating a pseudo-mouth for the building although it somehow still stood. I tried opening the door but it seemed to be stuck shut so instead I climbed into the gaping maw of the tower and sprinted up the stairs. I trip and strike my left temple on the stone steps but I force myself up and when I reach the second floor I finally have a moment to take a breath to assess my wounds. My aggressors, formerly my own bodyguards, surely wouldn't look for me in such a horrid location so I will rest here for the night, a former Duke of the land now hunted down and forced into a shoddy tower which I don't remember authorising the construction of but now isn't the time for such qualms with small land owners..... Come to think of it, where am I? I had spent most of the time on horseback before an arrow had brought the beast tumbling and caused me to be thrown down a small hill, my legs still screaming from the mix of exhaustion and pain. Now I seem to be in an unknown part of the Kingdom, stuck with my legs only good for decoration and bleeding all over the floor. I take a moment to scan the surrounding room and see ornate decorations of silver and brass, shelves stocked with various elixirs and tomes and multiple tables with some sort of arcane equipment arranged neatly. I force myself to my feet and stumble over, sitting myself in a nearby chair. As I examine the tomes more I see multiple on the subject of dark magic and ancient rituals of evil and immediately I realise I might have chosen the worst kind of tower to take refuge in yet I am stuck here now so I shall make do with what I have. Snooping around the various things I eventually find a black tome with red spirals detailing the front and back and strips of leather closing it tight. Normally I wouldn't dare touch such a blasphemous book but in the circumstances with no power in my legs and no power over my people I fidget with the leather and tear it off the book. Soon I had it unbound, just in time to hear the thundering chorus of horse hooves, causing me to startle and drop the tome. A loud BANG echoed throughout the tower and clearly to the outside of it as a sharp "I SAY. IDENTIFY YOURSELF HEATHEN". I scramble for the book and open it, desperately trying to find something to save me and I finally found a portal spell. Now to say I was a believer in the occult and wizardry wouldn't be entirely inaccurate but I am also a believer in the Lord and my Lord would not allow such horrid magic to work in our world..... Be that as it may I am desperate and as such I quickly recite the words necessary and the book shakes violently in my hands and spits out a torrent of black sludge.

In the next moment I awake in what appears to be a barren stretch of land, dry dirt covering the area as far as my eyes can see. Nary a bird nor beast makes an appearance and the air is filled with silence and a dust that makes my throat close up. I hesitantly walk forward and hear some infernal screeching pierce the air. Quickly I drop to my belly and hope to God whatever demon made that noise does not spot me. As I lie there I see the tome in front of me and wonder if the portal had sent me down into the very bowels of Hell or if it had not been a portal but rather an enormous explosion, decimating both my enemies and my forests. Soon the demon flies in front of me but it looks not as the Holy Book describes them at all. Instead of a proper body, a ball of what looks like rusted steel floats above the ground; the dimensions of the ball are the same as some of the dwellings I have seen whilst riding through the streets of the Kingdom and a singular red.... Eye? sits in the middle of it although it has more of the properties of torchlight. My heart drums against my chest as I slowly crawl towards the tome hoping that this infernal beast does not see me or simply sees me as not worth killing. I finally reach the tome and grab it hurriedly and flip the pages to the same spell, blurting out the spell as the ball notices me and starts flying down at a terrifying speed. Just before it collides with me I am back in the tower, shaking with fear with my mind terrorised with what infernal demons this book could bring the holder to. I throw the book at the opposite wall and crawl down the stairs crying and sobbing.... Right into the arms of my perpetrators, glad to be away from that thing and hoping the death they give me is swift.



Alma's Nerd Alert - Video Game Reviews

Summer Games Rundown

Now I'm sure you've all been on the edge of your seats to know what I've been playing over the summer. If you are one of my teachers reading this: I have played nothing at all and revised all summer. Otherwise, let me tell you all about it! These are very small snippets of reviews, and don't rule out a more detailed review at some point in the future.

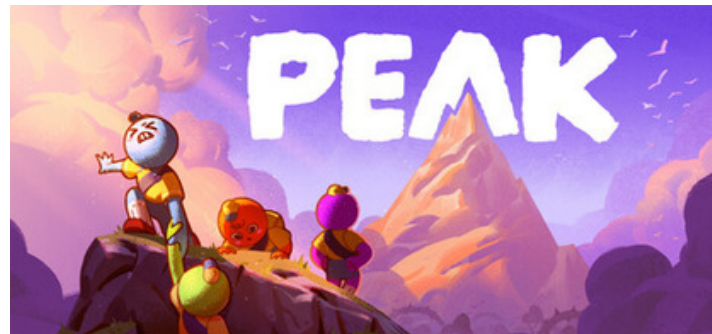
'PEAK', the co-operative mountain-climbing game, exploded in popularity—if only for a brief moment—during the summer. Me and my friends gave in to the craze and bought it. The climbing is super intuitive, the controls are easy and the proximity-based voice chat with echoes and distance fading makes for some really funny moments. Pulling cactus prickles out of my weird blob friends made for some great teambuilding along the way. One of the only places I think this game lacks is in its lack of a save feature. It took me and my friends a good few hours to climb the first two or three peaks, but it was too late in the day to go any further. Unfortunately, this meant that we could not save, and lost all our progress. If we wanted to try again, we'd have to start over at the very bottom—which wasn't peak gameplay at all.

Group cooperation games have become an incredibly popular (and incredibly lucrative) genre of game and have been for the last few years. The earliest member of this current wave of popularity that I can think of being 'Lethal Company', and the craze probably stretches back to the days of 'Among Us'. The only requirement for enjoying these games is, of course, friends. This can pose a problem. Several times I have come crawling to my friends begging them to buy some new co-op game, pressure them until they give in and buy it, then have the game fall out of fashion within weeks. Sorry guys! Beyond that, being able to organise a set time to play with four-or-so people is the greatest obstacle in my quest to achieve value-for-money from these cheap, transient craze-games.

Another group co-operation game I enjoyed over the summer was 'Phasmophobia'. In this paranormal horror game, players have the simple task of locating and identifying ghosts and their 'species' in a series of different households or otherwise haunted locations. I have to say (and my friends can sorely attest to this) that I am terrible at this game. What's awesome about 'Phasmophobia' is the voice activation feature, wherein your microphone is used and your words are detected in-game. For example, if you repeat the ghost's name, it's more likely to show itself (and probably hunt you down too). I just can't for the life of me tell each ghost apart. Each one exhibits different traits or tendencies, some might leave UV traces, some might write in a book if you ask it nicely. But when I've got friends who are far better than me who can do all the hard work, I'm more than happy to be ghost bait.

What I played (Reviewed here, in bold):

- Stellaris
- **Subnautica**
- **PEAK**
- **Factorio (Space Age DLC)**
- Phasmophobia
- **Hollow Knight**
- Rain World



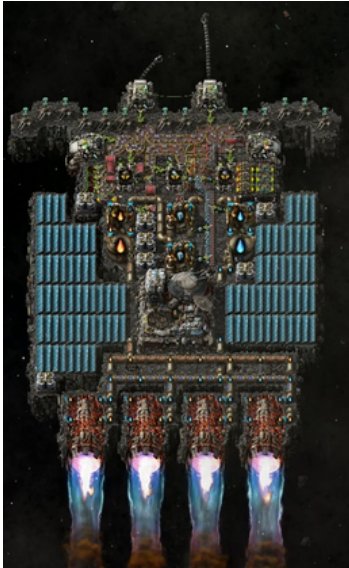
Splash art for 'PEAK'.



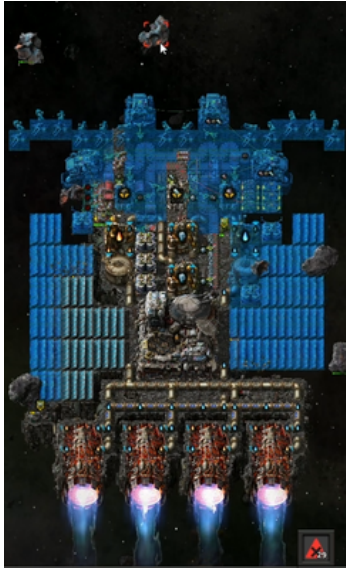
'Phasmophobia'



'Phasmophobia'



'Factorio'. Spaceship, pre-disaster



Post-disaster. (Blue means destroyed)



'Subnautica', looking up at the... Moon? Alien moon?



'Hollow Knight'



'Hollow Knight: Silksong'

If you're up to date on my game reviews, you'll know how much I love 'Factorio'. You may remember that I mentioned the 'Space Age' DLC, and this summer, my brother and I finally got around to playing it. 'Space Age' makes it far easier to progress than it would be if we were playing vanilla, and this significantly added to the fun factor. We managed to create a space station/ship after a several days' graft. Here's the thing: we had decided to play without consulting any guides or helpful tips. Naturally, this resulted in a slight oversight on my behalf in the construction of the spaceship. In space, there are a lot of asteroids. And, while the space station is barreling through space at crazy speeds, these enormous rocks become a little bit of a hazard. You see, I thought I'd accounted for this by sticking a ton of laser turrets on the ship to explode these asteroids. As it turns out, these lasers are not effective at all. 10+ hours of spaceship building for it to be obliterated. But don't worry, brothers notoriously don't tend to hold on to these kinds of memories.

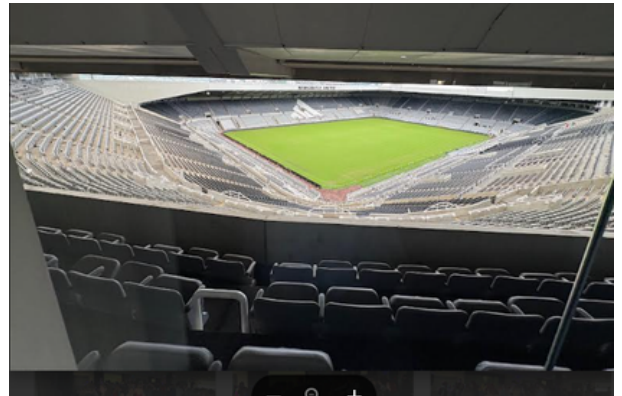
'Subnautica' has always been on my radar, and over the summer a huge sale forced my hand and I bought both the original game and its sequel. I really enjoy how this game feels. That is, until it feels really scary. As you might guess from the name, the game involves a lot of being underwater. It's a survival-exploration game that takes place on an alien ocean planet. Now, it's nice enough in the shallows; the scenery is gorgeous and I love all the funky alien fish. However, the fight-or-flight kicks in deeper down under. Being 200m deep in an underwater cave is scary enough as you're watching your oxygen tick down and working out how much time you need to get to the surface. This is naturally made worse by enormous killer alien fish. I hear that I haven't even scratched the surface of 'enormous killer alien fish' in Subnautica, but big old eels are bad enough for me. Nonetheless, I'm a sucker for an alien ecosystem so I definitely plan to play a lot more of the game, I'm just not far enough into it to do this review justice. I'll have to keep you posted.

'Hollow Knight' is an incredibly popular indie platformer game, that as of very recently as those that are familiar with Hollow Knight will be very aware, just received a very long awaited second game called 'Silksong'. This was the enormous gaming news of the summer. Fans waited seven whole years from the announcement of Silksong, to its release. I, however, had never played Hollow Knight, and up until its recent uproar in popularity approaching the release of 'Silksong', didn't have much interest at all. As much as I thought it would be hilarious to, after so many people had painstakingly waited, play Silksong before playing Hollow Knight, I was informed by multiple friends that this would be sacrilege. So I've sheepishly started the first game. I will be the first person to tell you that I am absolutely abysmal at it'. Not to 'toot my own horn' or anything, but I've spoken about my favourite game, 'Rain World', at length in a previous game review, and guys, I'm really good at it... 'Rain World' is also a platformer game, and is widely considered as more difficult than 'Hollow Knight'. Despite all this, there must be very few transferable skills because I am pathetic. I mean, I am stuck moments after the first boss fight by what is essentially a tutorial with an armadillo. I won't go on for the sake of my own dignity, but Hollow Knight deserves a proper review at some point in the future, but I'm just not far enough yet!

Again, thank you for reading. I'm looking forward to writing my usual more detailed single-game reviews, so stay tuned!

Prom!

What better way to welcome our new Year 12s to the Sixth Form Crew than to have a quick look back at them celebrating at Prom after all their hard work last Spring!





Grace's Film Reviews

Superman

Set within a new DC universe and a few years into his heroics, Superman embarks on a personal quest to understand his Kryptonian heritage and mix it with his upbringing as mild mannered Clark Kent. Things get complicated when ruthless industrialist Lex Luthor frames Superman for an international incident and plans to put himself on top by bringing Superman down. Now with aid from Lois Lane, Jimmy Olsen and the Justice Gang, Superman must embrace his lineage and fully become the hero we deserve in order to stop Luthor's plot and save the world.



Not only does James Gunn's Superman introduce us to a brand new Superman, but it also launches a whole new cinematic universe. Superman wastes no time and throws us straight into the deep end, starting not at the beginning of Clark Kent's ventures as Superman, but a few years into defending Metropolis from an array of big bads. Moreover, this Superman/Clark Kent has no need to 'win the girl' at the end as he is already in a relationship with his journalist colleague Lois Lane, who is fully aware of his Superhero alter ego. This is an approach that I believe is one of the film's strengths. Instead of starting with Superman's origin and recounting a tale we have seen told so many times before, the audience lands straight into this new universe with Superman mid-conflict, completely immersing us in this new world and conflict straight of the bat.



Director: James Gunn

Starring: David Corenswet, Rachel Brosnahan, Nicholas Hoult, Edi Gathegi, Nathan Fillion, Isabela Merced, Maria Gabriela de Faria, Skyler Gisondo, Sara Sampaio

Genre: Superhero, Drama, Action, Comedy

Release: 7 July 2025

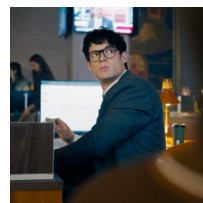
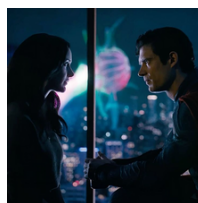
Rating: 12A (moderate violence, threat, injury detail, language)

Runtime: 130 minutes

Where to watch: 130 minutes

My Rating: 9/10

As the latest actor to step into the iconic role, David Corenswet is a genuinely noble hero. Corenswet completely embodies the earnestness of who Superman is as a hero; not only is he concerned with defeating super villains, he also wants to protect all life and minimise collateral damage. Corenswet portrays Superman not as a super being but as an individual with flaws and complexities, turning the character from out of this world to relatable, vulnerable and giving him a layer of humanity. Corenswet's Superman makes it clear that, being a superhero isn't about looking cool or being admired, it's about doing good, leading with compassion and showcasing that kindness is the greatest strength one can possess.



Nicholas Hoult is scene-stealing as tech-genius, megalomaniac Lex Luthor, skilfully navigating the modern media landscape. As mentioned earlier, Superman is already a few years into his heroics, so we are thrown into a world where Luthor and Superman's rivalry has been active for some time; their hatred for one another has been fuelling long before the film starts. It is clear that Lex Luthor is relentless and will do anything in his power to take down Superman, his hatred fuelled by jealousy of Superman's inherent power, power that Luthor deems Superman undeserving of. Director James Gunn states "Lex looks at Superman like artists look at AI. He is the world's greatest man in so many ways. He's done these unparalleled things. And then you got a guy who comes in who's done nothing to deserve the ability to fly and to smash down buildings. And he's also extraordinarily handsome, too. And all of a sudden that's all the world is talking about. And that sort of obsession with being replaced, with being — with your gifts not being seen or passed over — I think is what drives Lex." All in all Nicholas Hoult delivers one of the greatest performances of Lex Luthor ever put to screen, Hoult channels Luthor's charm and intelligence, perfectly embodying this criminal mastermind who shifts between being a charming and trustworthy public figure and using underhanded tactics for his own personal interest, including deploying a network of online bots to sway public opinion and bring about Superman's downfall, amplifying widespread fears of the 'other'.



Rachel Brosnahan's performance as Lois Lane offers a fresh and modern take on the character, with Brosnahan describing her as "Somebody who is ambitious and courageous and hungry and determined to get the greatest story almost at any cost." Lois Lane is no damsel in distress; she is a determined journalist that will do anything to tell the stories that need to be told, uphold journalistic ethics and protect those close to her. Even when interviewing her boyfriend, Superman, Lane does not go easy on him, and he seems to forget that his girlfriend is a fierce, ambitious reporter who questions Clark's ethics concerning him interviewing himself and begins to grill him about his actions as Superman. Brosnahan's ambitious, pen chewing, coffee drinking, punk rock portrayal of Lois Lane has been hailed as the best screen adaptation of the character, emphasising Lane's agency and individuality showing she is so much more than a love interest.



As well as our three leading characters, there is also an array of supporting characters, Guy Gardner (Nathan Fillion), Mr. Terrific (Edi Gathegi), Hawkgirl (Isabela Merced), Lois Lane and Clark Kent's colleagues at the Daily Planet, such as Jimmy Olsen (Skyler Gisondo). There's also Eve, (Sara Sampaio) Lex Luthor's girlfriend and personal assistant who is much more than the blonde bimbo she is perceived as and last but not least is Superman's lovable and undisciplined pet Krypto the Superdog. All of these characters get their moments to shine and display their qualities and quirks. The packed cast helps convey to the audience the feeling that this is a living, breathing world that you're getting a glimpse into. Particularly as this film is starting Gunn's new DC universe, Gunn wants it to feel like its world didn't just start spinning the moment the first scene came up on the big screen. It really does feel like you're just dropping in on the latest issue of DC Comics' Superman and can naturally follow along.



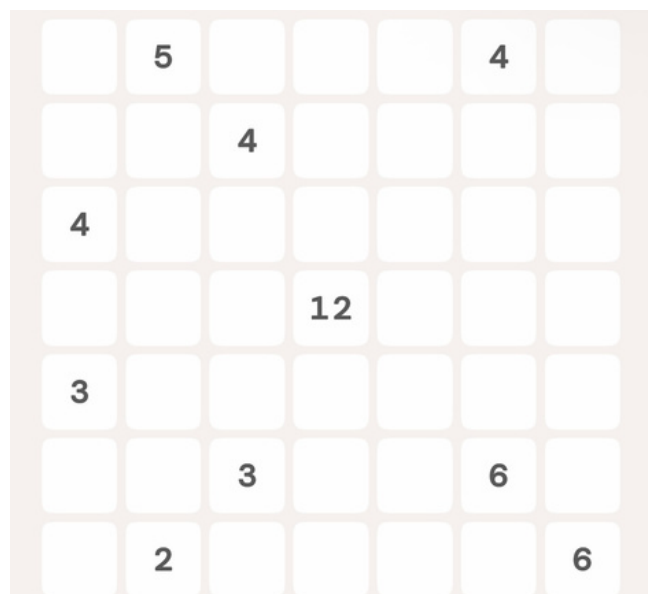
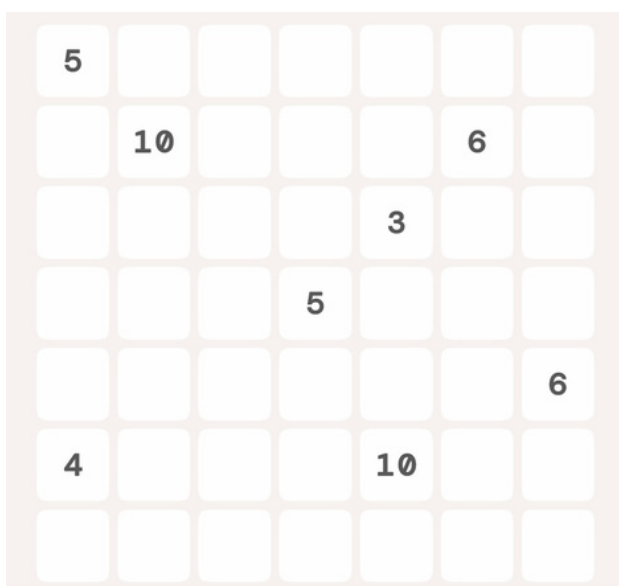
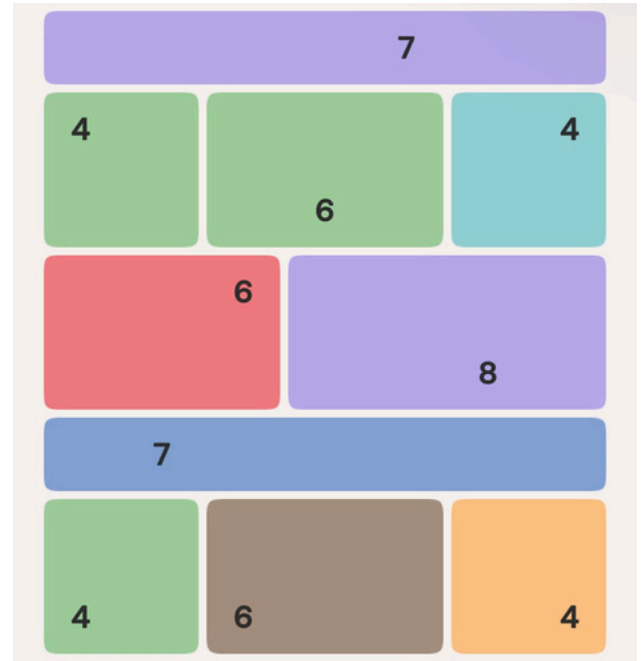
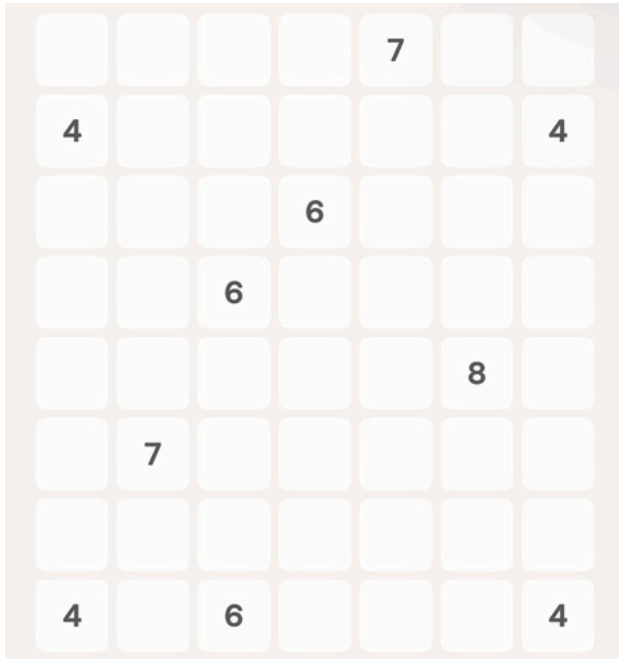
James Gunn's Superman is a fun, colourful, geeky ride that is wonderfully entertaining, full of emotion and hope. It's action-packed, full of stunning otherworldly visuals, and a story that resonates deeply with audiences. It's simultaneously perfect escapism and a poignant and intricate social commentary on the digital age, weaponization of the truth and misinformation and the horrors of abusing power, making it both a fun time, poignant and entirely relevant to modern audiences.



In all honesty, Before watching Superman I wasn't a particularly big fan of the character. As someone who does not read comic books and has also not seen Christopher Reeves portrayal of the character from the 70s, or really many other portrayals, I was unfamiliar with the character in great detail. As a kid growing up in the 2010's, when it came to choosing which superhero movies to watch, Marvel would always been the clear winner, particularly as in the last 15 years, besides Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight trilogy, Margot Robbie's iconic portrayal of Harley Quinn, and more recently Matt Reeves The Batman, there has been little good to come from DC on the big screen, but James Gunn's completely fresh presentation of these iconic characters and world has completely won me over, the DC universe has always had so much potential and even though we are only one film into this world, James Gunn as the new CEO of DC is certainly on the right path to creating a brilliantly successful cinematic universe, certainly with the potential to even rival the Marvel Cinematic Universe. This is especially true considering the line-up of upcoming DC projects, with the second season of Peacemaker, starring John Cena and featuring a few familiar faces from Superman--currently releasing weekly on NOW tv, as well as the new Supergirl movie starring Milly Alcock coming out next June, not to mention the Superman sequel entitled Man of Tomorrow soon to go into production and set to be released 9 July 2027 and an array of other projects currently in production; it is clear that the DCU is not slowing down anytime soon.

Lauren's Puzzles

Example Puzzle



Longbenton's Artists

It's Inktober time! Every year, Mrs Marshall in our Art Department encourages all of the Longbenton community to find their inner artist. It's a month-long art challenge where you draw a different image each day (in biro, please!) inspired by the day's prompt.

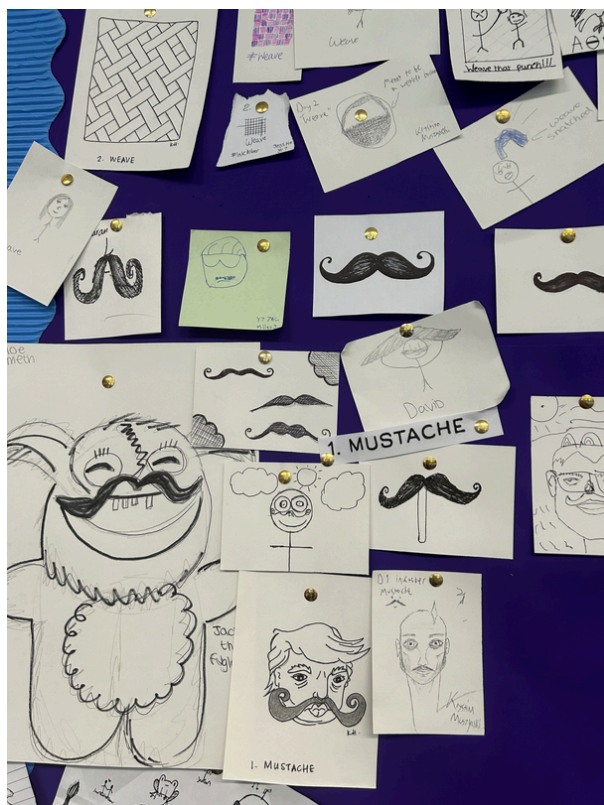
Here are some of the highlights so far. For more, please pop along to CR05 to see the Inktober board!

Inktober 2025

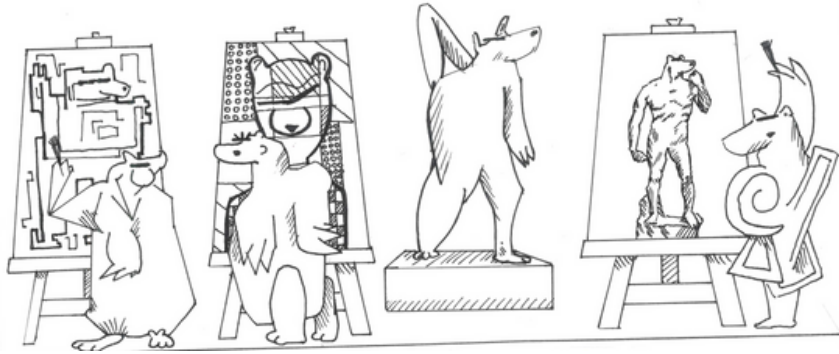
OFFICIAL 2025 PROMPT LIST

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. MUSTACHE | 11. STING | 21. BLAST |
| 2. WEAVE | 12. SHREDDED | 22. BUTTON |
| 3. CROWN | 13. DRINK | 23. FIREFLY |
| 4. MURKY | 14. TRUNK | 24. ROWDY |
| 5. DEER | 15. RAGGED | 25. INFERNO |
| 6. PIERCE | 16. BLUNDER | 26. PUZZLING |
| 7. STARFISH | 17. ORNATE | 27. ONION |
| 8. RECKLESS | 18. DEAL | 28. SKELETAL |
| 9. HEAVY | 19. ARCTIC | 29. LESSON |
| 10. SWEEP | 20. RIVALS | 30. VACANT |
| | | 31. AWARD |

@INKTOBER #INKTOBER #INKTOBER2025



Caption This



Drawing by Aidan Rickard, Year 12

Think you have a funny caption for this drawing? Comment on Instagram (@sixthform_lhs) or email Post16@longbenton.org.uk

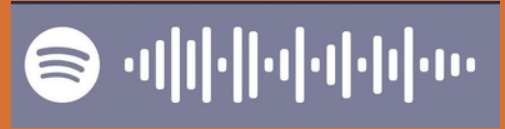
Mrs Jennings' Quotes for Life . . .

'For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, there's something stronger—something better, pushing right back'.

- Albert Camus

What we're Listening to . . .

Ms Doucet



Tilted - Christine and the Queens

Mrs Potts



Howard Shore - Concerning Hobbits

Alma



Cycle Song by Imogen Heap

Grace



Dirty Work by Steely Dan

Emmett



Your Boyfriend Doesn't Scare Me by
The Gentle Men