



## *Adventures with Pudsey*

Dressing up and helping out

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## *Any Dream Will Do*

'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' wows the crowds

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## *House Music*

The best of the best go head to head

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# Doubling Down on Diversity

## Inspiring inclusivity in the hearts of our students

**T**urbulence is the word which best summarises 2020. The BLM movement and LGBTQ+ inclusivity took the world by storm, but how has CGS responded?

'It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognise, accept and celebrate these differences.' - Audrey Lorde.

Since the murder of George Floyd, at CGS we have acknowledged our need for change. As a centre of education, our focus has been on facilitating conversation and inspiring ideas in our pupils.

One such example is our school 'Diversity Think Tank' led by Mrs McNeilly, in collaboration with Y12 students. Here a forum is created where people can voice their opinions—what needs to be changed; how can we do it?

Already great leaps have been made. Between L21 and L22 a reading room promoting diverse

literature such as 'Don't touch my hair' by Emma Dabiri has been created. These books inform and foster new perspectives.

Another noteworthy stride the school has taken towards inclusivity is the philosophy club ran by Ms Nicolaou. Students from Y10 and above discuss their opinions on topics of a variety of subject matter such as 'performative activism'.

### The informed environment is refreshing

Diverse opinion is shared and through dialogue empathy and understanding is manifested.

Our evolution is not isolated to telling our pupils to just 'read a book', it is also evidenced through the diversity displays introduced last year.

Though discussion is one of the most vital strides towards unity, a physical environment which signals to students that they are welcome is

just as important. They know that they are seen, that this is a school which cares about separating divide, a place that refuses to stand for ignorance.

Our most striking exhibits are likely those in the middle court. Walking down the stairs to Lindsey they immediately grab attention. Their sentiments include 'Say no to racism' and additionally vocalise support for those in the LGBTQ+ community.

When we think of diversity, as a school making everyone comfortable is what comes to mind including those of the LGBTQ+.

Thanks to the effort of the school council, a gender neutral uniform policy has been introduced, aiding in our efforts to dissipate disconnect between students and their identities.

Additionally, the usage of pronouns in emails has been encouraged—when you next sign off you email you can put them in brackets e.g. (he/him) or (they/

them). This is personal choice but helps avoid misgendering and signals that you are accepting of people who employ pronouns differing from their sex assigned at birth.

Within the curriculum, breakthroughs with education on same sex relationships through outside speakers has adopted a sense of equality within PSHE: it no longer solely revolves around 'man and woman'.

Furthermore, racial diversity is taught from lower school into sixth form and continues to advance towards informing how to respect others and recognising the hardships which can come with not conforming to society's conventions of being white, straight and cisgendered.

Now, as ever, and as we shall continue to do, we are striving to excel and to recognise, accept and celebrate the differences in our student population.

By LUCY Chung 12SM



New Staff

# Banksy discovered (almost)

By Erin Ravenscroft 9Y

Ms. Banks is a fantastic science teacher who specializes in Chemistry (she always makes science cool). She has always enjoyed Chemistry and working in a lab, saying “Nothing beats the smell of a school lab!”

When she left school, she had started as a laboratory technician apprentice for a pharmaceutical company where she learnt all the analytical techniques you would begin at school, such as titration, chromatography, and mass spectroscopy. She worked fulltime to gain her Chemistry degree whilst studying on a part-time basis. After she had stayed with the company for many years, she was eventually made responsible for the manufacture of many lifesaving drugs. One of these lifesaving drugs was for breast cancer treatment. However, the work she had gotten most satisfaction from was training new graduates who were joining the industry from university. She remarked, “it made me think teaching would be a more rewarding career. It certainly is.”

When Ms. Banks has free time, she likes to paint. She is a volunteer artist for a children’s cancer charity where they paint converse shoes for children undergoing cancer treatment – this charity is called Supershoes. Each pair of shoes is painted specifically for patients decorated with things they love; this is to enhance their physical and emotional wellbeing. She also likes to play music and used to play the bass guitar in a band. Lockdown inspired her to pick up a new instrument: the ukulele but 4 strings are her limit!

She has stated that her most embarrassing moment at this school was in her first week when she had taught Biology to a year 7 class. Having collected snails from her garden for students to observe, she left them in a temporary ‘shoe box home’ in the classroom. But, when the last bell rang, her snails had been forgotten. This led to an interesting email being sent to the technicians where she asked if they could feed them. She said “I think it is only an email a teacher could send!”

She would describe her own experience so far as “brilliant, challenging and special,” so we can only assume she likes it here. Or at least we know she loves the chicken pie. And if she could take an album to a deserted island? It would be “hard to decide” but probably be something by Ludovico Einaudi, an Italian pianist, as she finds his music is very relaxing. Fancy!

So, after this we welcome Ms. Banks to our lovely school we hope you stay for many more embarrassing moments and chicken pies!



# Mrs Coulston?

By Sapphy Dunn 12JK

While many of you won’t recognise Mrs Coulston from any classroom appearances, you may have noticed her ever bright and joyful presence around school. After ‘chancing her arm’ with an application for the role after the deadline had passed, she achieved the position of Mr Hopkin’s PA in September.

Although Mrs Coulston is not entirely new to the area, having grown up in Hull and having family in Lincolnshire, after working in Bahrain in the Middle East, Caistor was a dramatic change. Mrs Coulston once spent her free time basking in the middle eastern sun but has now had to settle for roaming the Lincolnshire countryside and looking after her sons. But there are changes outside of climate. In Bahrain, the Muslim calendar means longer holidays than in the UK, including celebrations of Ramadan and Eid, which

she misses. There were also societal differences such as in dress code and people which made her transition ‘slightly strange’. Despite having to adapt to a new environment, she settled in quickly and feels happy she took the role.

The philosophy behind her joyous attitude is that, ‘if you can make people smile a little bit, it makes the world a better place’. While she believes some people find this irritating, ‘it’s part of the job’. What else does being Mr Hopkins’ PA entail? ‘Organising’. The personal assistant has found a haven in organising everything from spread sheets to kitchen cupboards. But even Mrs Coulston struggles to stay in control of the chaos all of the time, describing herself using a colourful simile; ‘[like a duck who’s bobbing happily on top but frantically swimming underneath the water]’.



# Familiar Face, Fresh Story

By Stella Deans 9Y

Mrs. Binks is one of our lovely Biology teachers. Although she has been here for a while, we have never written about her arrival. Mrs. Binks has always loved Biology, especially Human Biology, so she decided to start studying it at higher levels. She specialized in pathology (virology and immunology) in her final year at university. She never specifically intended to become a teacher, but she was always compelled to do something involving Biology. She was never “too keen on lab-based research.” People often ask why she didn’t do medicine, however instead she decided that it was better, in her own words, that she gets to teach many “future medics.” If she didn’t have a career in teaching, she would be doing something either biomedical or in environmental science.

Before working here, her last school was all

girls! It was a lot bigger, so “there is a great community feel at CGS.” and due to this she feels that she has got to know so many different students. She feels Caistor is “Much quieter,” than where she was before, although the two lockdowns have greatly contributed to that! Her family and herself “really like the area,” and “are enjoying exploring,” since arriving in summer 2020. In three words, she would describe her experience so far as “Bubbles, community, enjoyable.” Her best moment so far was experiencing the science labs now after having the ‘bubbles’ in year groups last year, as well as in her words “teaching such clever, cheerful, polite and keen students,” who challenge her (in a good way)! We are all very pleased that she is enjoying her experience at CGS and hope she will continue to enjoy it.





New Staff

Janseen and Rousell, You’ve Seen Them ‘Round School!

By Paige Leahy-Dale 9Y and Libby Jackson 9Y

Rosanna is a brilliant new edition to our Caistor Grammar School staff. You can find her in the French department helping students and keeping things cool. She travelled to England to fulfil her dream of studying English in an immersive environment. When the opportunity arose, she left her country and began a new chapter of education at CGS. Rosanna felt very welcomed during her first week at the school as Mr. Holland and Mrs. Bradbury instilled her with the excitement of the French department. She loves reading literature, painting, singing and practicing violin which she has been playing passionately skilfully for 15 years! When interviewing Rosanna, an utterance of the canteen evoked a rather humorous and brutally honest reply! ‘I have thirty minutes to eat something and because I’m French it is not enough!’. You may have been lucky enough to see Rosanna in your French lessons, there to push your education further with challenging questions to practice and further boost your vocabulary. She is a kind, helpful and a patient member of CGS, whom we cherish as a member of staff. Rosanna will continue to study here and her love for the area of both the English language, and England itself, will continue to grow more and more every day she spends here.



After Rosanna, we spoke to our wonderful German technician, Alina. Alina for a long time has been excited to visit England, and now, to our great benefit, she finally arrived. She has found that the staff and pupils here at Caistor Grammar School are a very welcoming and closely tied community, ever eager to learn and teach. Dr. Wilton and Miss. Turner were especially welcoming of Alina and helped her with the process of moving over to England. Although she goes on peaceful walks after school, Alina has not had the chance to explore Caistor fully because the pandemic has limited England to her; however, even having seen so little, she has already fallen in love with the area. When questioned about the career that she desires to pursue after her time here at Caistor Grammar School, she said it had been her dream to become a German teacher since 5<sup>th</sup> grade! That’s some passion! She was more than happy to take on the role she has here in CGS. Just like Rosana, her love for the area will continue to grow as she manages to explore Caistor on her walks after school, and I am sure trips further from the Caistorian shore.



Rio Rawlings, Roaring 20’s Artist

By Harry Giles, 12FC

“You can’t trust atoms - they make up everything,” says Mr. Rawlings. Mr. Rawlings’ humour may be for the tastes of very few, but as art technician (more so artist-in-residency) at CGS, bar comedy some might say, his true talents lie in everything creative. At school he takes on a role in graphic design as well as physical artwork, and immerses himself in our Art department, connecting with students and helping them on their creative journey. He is also very musically able, an efficient pianist and now guitarist with his practice in lockdown – so much so that he plays with new artists and has placement as a performer for multiple upcoming festivals (with some double-bass support, naturally). He also likes to bake large scale: think wedding cakes. Edible or

not, his artistic contributions to the school will throughout his time here only develop in significance with time. Outside of school, Mr. Rawlins has a fast-growing role in a company based in the Netherlands in a “design” and “engineering” capacity that he plans to pursue after his time with us. How allusive! Let’s hope he’s not a double agent. The Netherlands sounds like a good creative change for Rio, as he states Lincolnshire’s “depressing” landscape is limiting – although the community is something he finds nourishing...Just to dispel the gossip – I’m sure you’re all curious – he enjoyed the school Christmas dinner.



Mrs. Thomas, Showing Promise!

By Harry Giles, 12FC

Mrs. Thomas joined our school in the beginning of October, although she was familiar with our environment through school-friends “years ago”. She has a university degree in music, and now she’s here to grace CGS with her talent having spent her summer holidays teaching children English in Italy – what a legend! She loves language but her focus in life is performance, something she wants to pursue after her course at London’s Trinity College for a master’s degree in opera

singing, which starts this September. In her spare time, Mrs. Thomas likes to go to the gym, see her friends and travel - and she’s a big Lana Del Rey fan! Caistor Grammar School staff are human too, who would have guessed? It is a pleasure to give you this official welcome to the school Mrs. Thomas. To end from Mrs Thomas with a Christmas cracker, as it were, How do you fix a broken brass instrument? With a tuba glue.





Events

# Children in Need got us buzzing

By ERIN Ingham 8Z & ANNA Miroshnikova 8Z

Ghostbusters, Yoda, a Viking and not just one, two, even three, but four inflatable dinosaurs! Yes, you guessed it: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November saw CGS’ annual fancy dress day for Children in Need. Staff and students alike used their inner imagination to conjure up creative costumes to wear, which was really “exciting” according to Anna Miroshnikova (Year 8).

As usual, Mr and Mrs Cooke brought their A-Game, and having wowed us with elaborate costumes like Shrek and Fiona in the past, this year they stunned us (literally!) with their amazing wasp and wasp exterminator duo! Grace Howard (9Y) stated that the day was “fun, full of great costumes and for a great cause.”

Not only was money raised from dressing up, but also, at lunchtime, the Senior Prefect Team ran many stalls in the Old Hall. Ben Shale (Head Boy) commented that, “We had a range of old-school games like guess the number of jelly beans in the jar, balancing 20p on a lemon, guess the name of the teddy, water ping-pong, Kahoots, which were very popular, and of course a fancy dress competition. It was really great to see so many students participating in the activities and I’m extremely happy we managed to raise £150 in one lunchtime!”

After talking to our peers, we gathered together a list of our favourite costumes from this year. These include: Heathers, prison inmates, Avengers, life-size bananas and Ghostbusters, not to forget Mrs Ferguson’s yellow duck! Xavier Gasper (Year 12) remarked that Children in Need is a “wonderful fundraising event that really

encapsulates the creativity and community spirit of CGS.” A massive well done to everyone who dressed up and added to the sea of colour around the school. This year’s costumes will be hard to beat, so you better start brainstorming for next year now!

Our thanks go to everyone who took part, donated, and helped us to raise an incredible £1072 for a charity close to so many of our hearts. After such a tough year, it is fantastic to raise such an impressive amount of money that will support so many children around the country. Your donations contributed to the incredible £39,389,048 that was raised throughout the nation!



Mr and Mrs Cooke

## Fifa to flowers

By ANNA Miroshnikova 8Z

Presenting Terra Vitrum: an amazing sustainable company created by our fantastic sixth formers that offers “a range of premium terrariums alongside DIY versions but all with eco-friendly ideals at heart.” To raise money to produce these beautiful creations, this Young Enterprise group thought of the fantastic idea to put together a FIFA tournament which did not disappoint. Students all throughout the school entered and even our own Mr Hopkins, Mr Frost, Mr Kay and Mr Wood rivalled each other. It was very fascinating to watch.

This competition lasted from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November to Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November. These were 2 weeks that were filled with lots of screams, goals, penalties and strikes. With the modest amount of £3 to enter, we raised £150 to fund these terrariums. The most thrilling part of this diverse but ambitious competition was that you had a chance to win FIFA 22 on a console of your choice although most people just enjoyed the raised confidence that came along with winning (or saltiness alongside losing). Some of the action can be seen on Terra Vitrum’s instagram page: @terravitrum.ye.

The competition was intense so congratulations to everyone who took part but a special mention must go to the winner, Ryhs

Smaller in Year 10, who was pretty chuffed with himself. Also a well done to Mr Wood who won the teacher round. We asked Kloe Green in Year 8 what she thought of this tournament. She explained, “I thought it was money well spent and if we had the chance to do it again I totally would.”

To see what this awesome competition funded check out Terra Vitrum’s instagram to see where they’re next selling. Their most recent (and first!) sales were at Freeman Street Market and Caistor Market Place and proved very successful with amazing, affordable prices. They are only £9 each and work very well as room decor and presents. All materials they use are eco-friendly including 90% recycled glass. All their packaging is plastic free so they’re doing an amazing job helping the environment.

The FIFA tournament was a massive success so a huge thanks to anyone who entered and helped to support this new Young Enterprise group. Most importantly we hope everyone had fun playing, losing, winning and spectating. Who knows, maybe we’ll have another competition like this soon?



## A Caistor Carol

By ERIN Ingham 8Z

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, the Year 8s were treated to an amazing performance of ‘A Christmas Carol’ from Quantum Theatre in the New Hall to help them with their studies of the play in English lessons. Lasting for around 60 minutes and telling the story of Scrooge finding the true meaning of Christmas, the play was certainly a crowd pleaser as everyone left with enormous smiles! Although it was a 3 person cast, the actors were extremely talented and their incredibly quick costume changes made everyone howl with laughter.

As the main lights dimmed and the spotlights lit up, a beautiful, hand-painted set was revealed and in no time the show began. All of the props were used in a very clever way and everyone in the audience, including all of the teachers, were instantly engaged by the performance. They sang, they acted, they danced and in no time, the last quotation was

spoken, before an uproar of cheering arose from the Year 8s as the performers took their final bows. Everyone left the hall buzzing with excitement, talking about how much they enjoyed it.

Bella Genney, Year 8 says “I really enjoyed seeing the story acted out and definitely helped me understand the storyline of the book more next time we read it in our English lesson.” Charlie Mckay, also Year 8, added “The actors did an amazing job of bringing the book to life and was very enjoyable to watch. I was amazed by how quick the costume changes were!”

Many thanks to Ms McNeilly, head of English, for organising this outstanding performance. We hope the future year 8s enjoy it as much as this year’s did.





# *‘Go Go Go, Joseph!’*

“Building Confidence  
and Character”

Mrs Thompson  
Musical Director

From rags to riches, Caistor Grammar school brings to life Andrew Lloyd Webber’s tale of dreams, hope and success. On his way to becoming ‘Pharaoh’s number 2’, Joseph encounters a possessive millionaire and the occasional camel, wearing his ‘Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat’.





October brings around one of the most exciting parts of the school year: the annual CGS production. Or, at least, it usually does: in 2020, the event was sacrificed to lockdown; which only made us all the more happy that we were able to get back into the Caistor Town Hall for 2021. Auditions for Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat took place as early as May, with rehearsals starting on the last weekend of the summer holidays. For six weeks, the cast, orchestra, choir and members of the tech team gave up their Sundays in order to reach the best production possible – so, when they finally entered the Town Hall, everything was ready to go. Almost. All the hard work was worth it: the play's three performances at the end of October certainly showed just how much hard work and effort had been put into creating the show.

"There was a lot of pressure," explained Jonathon Omonbude, who played Joseph. "It took a lot of time and work, but you really feel as though you've accomplished something." If the giddy faces of all involved after each successful performance is anything to go by, this sense of accomplishment was found everywhere in the Town Hall. "It was so fun connecting with other people and doing what we love the most," commented Amicia Harris, who played one of the five narrators for the show.

But how did the multicoloured coat (not to mention the turbans, veils, and sparkly collars) get there in the first place? Well, for that we must thank Ally Sykes, Mrs Donohugue, and their hardworking team of sewers, who laboured frantically for weeks to prepare the costumes which made their stage debut on Joseph's opening night. "From veils to turbans to dresses, it was amazing to see it all come together on stage," Mrs Donoghue said.

Speaking of people who we couldn't have done without: to the left of the stage, really playing their hearts out (metaphorically, of course – this is Joseph, not Sweeney Todd) were the orchestra. Consisting of 17 extremely talented students and volunteers and conducted by Mrs Thompson, the orchestra "loved the experience and opportunity gave them," to quote Holly Bradbury, who played the flute during the production. She added

that it was "good to be performing again, after so much time of not being able to do that." This was echoed by Mrs Thompson, who said that "after COVID, it was exhilarating to see so many talented students doing what they love."

Another group of talented students who deserve credit are the choir. Built up of "enthusiastic" KS3 students and lead by Miss Thomas, who asserted that they were a "nice group" and "really enjoyed performing", the choir truly added an extra something to the performance. As well as these was the Technical Team, which this year comprised of 13 students, Mr Robinson, and CGS alumnus Rory Longcake, who returned from university to give a helping hand before the curtains rose.

There were quite a few tricky things to get right in this performance, but it all turned out wonderfully in the end. And last but not least, the quartet who made it all happen: Mrs Thompson, Mr Harris, Mrs Jago. Without them, there's no way we'd even have a school production at CGS, let alone one as good as Joseph. It's because of their hard work, dedication, and creativity that Joseph turned out as magical as it did for three nights running, and that we have many more productions to look forward to in the future.





Editorials

The right opinion

By Emma Cowan 12FC

Our A-Level English classes are prone to diverging and a few lessons ago this was very much the case: although I am not entirely sure how the Buchanans were linked to our conversation, Mr Davey ended up having to curtail our heated discussion on “the right opinion”. However, this subject has taken a prominent position in my mind ever since and I therefore believe that is time to broach the question of why our generation refuses to acknowledge or consider any opinion alternate to their own, and how this will impact our society.

As a part of the infamous Gen Z, I will be the first to defend our interest in political issues. Unlike the generation before us, our early access to the internet has opened our eyes to the many problems that surround us, and social media apps such as TikTok and Instagram have made engagement and participation in politics simple and accessible. Yet this wave of enthusiasm has perhaps transformed into a remorseless zeitgeist amongst the young, with teens refusing to accept any set of ideals other than the correct ones. The definition of opinion is “an individual thought or belief about something or someone” and perhaps this sentiment has fallen on deaf ears. Although group opinions are common and popular across all generations, it seems to me that we lack the tolerance to ‘agree to disagree’ far more than our predecessors. Enthusiastic arguments with parents over weighty social problems such as government and discrimination are increasingly common over the dinner table and perhaps the need to differentiate from our family is a cause of the political blinkers our generation seems to wear. It could also be attributed to us just being teenagers: we are merely trying to find our

place in an ever changing world, and by finding an ideology we align with and completely immersing ourselves in that culture, we are protecting ourselves.

However, social media appears to be the dominating factor in this debate. As I mentioned earlier, our early contact with it is (as many of our seniors like to point out) a double edged sword. Without drawing too many parallels to Trump, fake news is rife online: the use of a simplified headline or even entire story to catch the reader’s attention is a classic journalist’s tactic but the consequences can cause havoc. As the world becomes more connected and people’s lives become ever busier, many do simply not have the time to look past the headline and consider the motives behind it or the potential bias of the article. the brain stimulated as well as widening people’s perspectives. Differing opinions are the basis of free speech and that, in turn, is what our Western Democracy thrives on; unless we accept other views we will appear to be clones, conditioned to have a single idea. I urge you to give your ear to a range of judgements and use it to develop your own thoughts and keep discussion alive, even if at face value it is everything you despise.



Greta watch out, Greta not cry

By Sapphy Dunn 12JK

With the last demands of COP26 being hastily shoved under a rug, probably made of polar bear skin, the ever-serious face of Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg, returns. And with it, a storm of backlash. There have been endless comments and tweets spewing abuse at the teenager, going as far as likening Thunberg’s image to ones used in Nazi propaganda. Even former American president Donald Trump found time in 2019 to suggest she should ‘work on her anger management issues’ while Russian leader Vladimir Putin contributed to the condescending comments, describing her as a ‘kind but poorly informed teenager.’ Thunberg seems to inspire a special type of rage in certain middle-aged men. Jeremy Clarkson’s ever enlightening Sunday Times Column highlighted this when he proposed, ‘what she needs is a smacked bottom’. But why is this activist deserving of such deprecation?

Well, not only is she outspoken, but she’s an outspoken teenager. Every parent knows the pain of being lectured by an enraged adolescent, who feels a lack of justice over, admittedly, sometimes trivial matters. Greta Thunberg’s protesting could feel too close to home for parents who face arguments over concerts and dish washing on a daily basis. Robert Shrimley of the Financial Times felt, “the only thing missing [from Thunberg’s speech to the UN] was a threat to never speak to us again if we don’t reach net zero by 2030”.



But one can’t help but question whether the uncalled-for severe criticism Thunberg faces from men in power also comes from a fear of non-conforming, upstanding women. The autistic young woman strives for change in the face of all adversity and makes some good points too. When proven wrong, it can be easy to label the accuser as ‘uppity’ to avoid an incessant guilt trip.

In the midst of the depressing aftermath of COP26, now more than ever, we should all be reflecting on our lives, however uncomfortable it is. The two significant aims of COP26 were to renew targets for 2030 that align with limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and to form an agreement to accelerate the end of fossil fuel subsidies and reduce the use of coal. Neither were enforced. Global leaders have failed us again and it is Greta who tells the truth among the ‘empty words and promises.’ So, next time you read a heart-warming Jeremy Clarkson article, or feel the need to dump some plastic straws in Cleethorpes’ Humber estuary just in spite of Thunberg’s scolding, instead, pause and ask yourself how you can be more like this inspirational young woman.

Too much sicko mode?

By Archit Dhanasekar 12FC

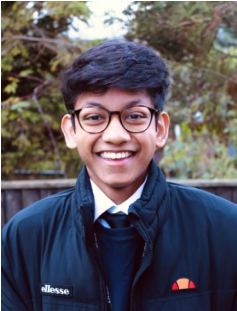
One of the biggest tragedies in concert history took place under the lethal shadow of Travis Scott’s robot. When the world famous rapper took the stage at 9pm on Friday 5 November, 50,000 ecstatic fans broke into raucous cheer, unaware of the horrors the night held in store. When Scott debuted his song ‘ESCAPE PLAN’ exclusively for the concertgoers, he proceeded to auto tune his heart out for over an hour. Unfortunately, Travis’ evident tone-deafness seemed to carry over from his musical ability to his everyday hearing, as the hundreds of screams that filled the twilight appeared to fall upon deaf ears.

Reports show that the crowd was being packed together and was becoming uncomfortable up to 30 minutes before the set began. No action was taken at this point to relieve anyone’s discomfort. Once the Houston musician entered the picture, first-hand accounts describe “all hell breaking loose”, as 50,000 people surged towards the stage at once. Mosh pit experience is perhaps not the most valued in today’s society, but in this case the capability to not panic may have been vital for survival. Others, who had little experience, pointedly the children present at the event (youngest being nine), were not so fortunate. It has long been rumoured that a Travis Scott concert is incomplete without multiple mosh pits, and Scott himself has been known to encourage his fans to take part in the activity. The repeated promotion of this rebellious culture in his performances has made crowd-surfing and “stage diving” indispensable features of a Scott show. His inclination towards these has led to a severe and concerning lack of restraint or security at his shows. Many have reported hearing Scott saying “don’t worry about the security”, and these preventable structural failures in his concerts are now the cause of 10 people’s deaths. Mosh pits and crowd surfing are not the works of the devil by any means, but the escalation in severity and lack of control over the crowds is an issue that should have been addressed before severe damage had been

inflicted upon hundreds of families.

The main area of criticism Scott has faced concerns his behaviour at the concert itself. A video has been uploaded by an attendee of Astroworld, in which the camera’s focus is on Scott ‘dancing the night away’. In the background, screams of pain can clearly be heard rising above the blaring bass. These noises would have been impossible to go unnoticed by Scott, which is what makes the scene of him gyrating even more disturbing. Scott’s excessive promotion of violence-inducing activities, which notably leave him completely safe and unharmed, should be kept in check by an overruling emotion of concern for his fans. Instead, he ignores his reckless fans who climb onto ambulances, just for the sake of defiant chaos.

Relentlessly criticising Scott is not a solution to the problem, nor is placing 100% of the blame on his shoulders. He reportedly stopped the show at least twice when he saw fans in danger, but two people unharmed does not justify the 25 hospitalised and 10 dead. Wishing a financial burden upon someone is something you should never do but a multi-millionaire is not going to be crippled by lawsuits. Maybe Travis Scott can spend his other millions on adequate security protocols at shows.



Not so secret santa

By Will Plaskitt 12FC

In a recent political scandal, a video obtained by the ITV has been released, showing Allegra Stratton and members of the Downing Street senior staff jokingly discussing a party that had happened during the Christmas lockdown of 2020, which was considered enough of a scandal by the public at the time. The acquired leaked footage has caused much uproar within the public once again. With a new variant of COVID and new restrictions being put in place by the prime minister, are people simply looking for someone to blame, or is the government actually at fault?

The view of many members of the public is that the government are very much to blame for how the pandemic has been handled, with these parties being the icing on the Christmas cake, so to speak. In fact 49% of people who voted for the Tory party in the 2019 election now want Boris Johnson removed from the role of Prime Minister, and as I write, a vote of no confidence is growing ever more likely. At the time of the Christmas party, Boris Johnson’s cabinet had just enforced the second lockdown which forced people to stay home and restricted their everyday life during the much anticipated Christmas period. However, Johnson thought he was above his own restrictions and hosted, or was involved in, a total of five parties, where no social distancing was visible (at least not at the one filmed but presumably at all of them), despite Reese Mogg’s claims.

Furthermore, once this information was released to the public, the government continued to deny it even though multiple reports and video evidence have proven otherwise. Another video leaked, shows Jacob Rees-Mogg at one of the Christmas staff events teasingly suggesting how the MET police would not investigate the party. This is the current reality that the police are refusing to investigate due to the allegations being based on retrospective COVID crimes, which is apparently not within their reach, despite having allegedly fined individuals thousands of pounds for parties in that period just weeks

ago. This again represents the sheer corruption within the government and the leaders of our country. This understandably has caused outrage from many people, because of the arrogance and pure lack of ability the Government has in sticking to their own rules which meant they were able to live more normal lives whilst we were stuck at home.

On the other hand some may consider what Boris Johnson has done for this country to be very productive. He was appointed at a very difficult time with the pandemic just beginning and lockdown needing to be enforced and, due to this, he was never seen in a good light by the public from the get go. Although this Christmas party was a colossal governmental error, we also need to consider the many individuals who still ploughed on with their Christmas plans despite the huge risk it placed on the more vulnerable members of our communities.





## House Music Competition

# Rawlinson got it that way!

By CHARLOTTE Phillips 10Z & ALICE Robertson 10Y

The annual battle of the bands commenced on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> with the added challenge of Covid-19 measures being put in place. Despite these setbacks, excitement was in the air surrounding the competition. Taking place in the school gym, students and staff alike were preparing their cellos, cameras and choirs to win the top spot for not only the competitors, but the house as a whole. However many doubts there were surrounding the ordeal, the House Music showcased the best musical talent and the collective passion for music that the participants held.

The performance started off with Vocal Solos: Ayscough's Emily Pein, Hansard's Eva Phillips and Rawlinson's Beth Sykes. All three captivated the audience with their stunning vocals; however, this round was won by Beth, thanks to her amazing performance and the immense amounts of effort she put into it, both singing and playing the piano.

Kicking off the instrumental solo, was Renjay Chong on his violin – clearly a fan favourite – helping Ayscough take the lead in this competitive contest. However, we can't forget Tom Hart sharing his trumpet skills on behalf of Rawlinson, and Jonathan Murthwaite, playing the piano for Hansard, who as an annual participant stated "I found it absolutely amazing. I thought that House Music brought everyone together in a musical sense", reminding us what this house event is all about.

In the piano duets, Stephen and Alex O'Donoghue performed for Ayscough, Jonathon and Amicia represented Hansard and Tom Hart and Alfie Smith brought the house down with a performance for Rawlinson which ultimately led them to win this category. Helping

Rawlinson's flight to victory, Tom Hart expressed "I enjoyed House Music; it was a nice experience to do, and we had to compete in different categories, which was something new to me as an external student here at Caistor Grammar", highlighting the importance of this event to welcoming in new students, and the opportunities the Music department has to offer.

This year's vocal groups were big, brilliant and beyond belief. Rawlinson's performance of 'I Want It That Way' inspired by Brooklyn 99 won the hearts of the audience and the wonderful judge, Sue Baker, with the added comedic value of Ayla Jafri playing Jake Peralta. They bravely started the song off by individually singing acapella before joining together as a group, and this cool helped take them into the lead in this competition.

An incredible instrumental group category resulted in Rawlinson extending their lead with their own rendition of the Avengers' theme song, captivating the audience with the unique use of a brass instrument, making this a show to remember, and added to the excitement of this contest. Catherine Hargreaves, a participant in Ayscough's instrumental group added "It was a really fun experience, but a bit stressful at times. Overall, it was a great way to see everyone's musical talents" confirming first-hand that it is a great way to get involved in social activities at Caistor Grammar.

The long awaited house band was the finale of the show with Ayscough and 'Mr Blue Sky', Hansard and 'Sunday Girl' and Rawlinson and 'Don't Speak'. It was truly a tied performance but ultimately Hansard charmed both the judges and the audience with their performance, winning the category. Pearl



McCann, from the prevailing house, Hansard, explained that "House bands is a manic experience and needs lots of organising put into it, however, when it all comes together, I think it is the best part. It truly shows the amount of work that people contribute."

Then the time came. Although all three houses blew us away with their sensational performances, only one house could win... In third place was Ayscough with 98 points, second came Hansard with 103 points, and a round of applause to Rawlinson, who won with

107 points.

On behalf of everyone, thank you to all who took part, the Music department and the tech team. Finally, thank you to our amazing judge, Sue Baker, who gave not only helpful but informative feedback to the participants. We can't thank these people enough, but we also cannot leave out our amazing Performing Arts Captains: Victoria, Jason, Caitlin, Isaac, Sam and Emily: without them the event would not have run so smoothly, so well done everyone!

## Some things never change... oh wait, they do!

By AMELIA Beard 7Z & SOPHIA Dolan 12DW

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, the school hall was filled with the glorious echoes of song as house events returned once again with a vengeance and the Junior house music did not disappoint. After a year of no competitions, CGS was ready to take to the stage and grasp the glory of the coveted house shield. All three houses battled it out with the power of music starting with the extremely brave soloists having the terrifying task of kicking off events. To start with, Rawlinson junior Ella Chappell did an astounding solo to the song 'Reflection' from Mulan. Also in Rawlinson, was Robin Donoghue on the drum kit to 'Livin' on a Prayer' by Bon Jovi which was a highlight of the night's proceedings; it left everybody dancing in their seats! After his performance he said: "You either like music or you don't- you have to find it within you! I wasn't nervous at all, I just gave it my best shot." From Ayscough, Renyi Chong played the Cello and his performance left everybody spellbound. As a result of his dazzling song, he claimed the instrumental solo title. Hansard's piano duet consisting of Abhiram Allamsetty and Ashirvad left us all speechless. The standard of the

vocal and instrumental groups never fail to amaze. For this year's vocal group, Rawlinson delivered a stunning rendition of 'Pompeii' by Bastille, their tuneful harmonies allowed them to clinch top spot. Singing was not the only talent showcased with the instrumental group impressing the judges with their marvellous music-making skills.

Although all houses did unbelievably well, Rawlinson came out victorious, putting an end to Hansard's long reign. They sang their hearts out and left everything on the stage in order to win. All competitors did everything to the best of their abilities which made this year's House Music an extremely close call. Although Rawlinson was triumphant overall, scoring an admirable 80 points, Hansard and Ayscough followed in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Hansard achieving 76 points and Ayscough obtaining 72 points). However, the main aim of the evening shone through, much like the talent displayed, as the continued hard work and dedication was apparent to all. All who were involved showed extreme enthusiasm and an enjoyable time was had by all who participated; it was an unforgettable show!



## There's no I in Tech Team

By CHARLOTTE Davey 12SM & SOPHIA Dolan 12DW



House Music is always a triumph for not just the Music department, but for showcasing the talents of many pupils throughout the whole school. None of this would however be possible without the hard work of the tech team! Behind the scenes, they work tirelessly to make sure the House Music event runs as smoothly as possible and this year was no exception. The photo above presents Eleanor, Beth, Ellie, Megan and Jack, who put in some hard graft to ensure the event could go ahead, especially with the added complications of Coronavirus: without them it simply would not have been possible. Beth Crowther, a Year 10 member of the tech team, expressed "it was really fun being a part of the Tech team. I learnt a whole lot more about different areas of tech; I can't wait to be a part of it next year!", which shows how this group is more than just an extra-curricular activity, but a chance to work under the spotlight, and showcase your talent from behind the curtain (or the desk in this case.)

In addition to the efforts from our students excelling in their technology skills, we must also thank Mr Robinson for his continued support and co-ordination of such a professional body. Despite the pressure of

organising this event in such a short period of time, he enabled both the rehearsals and performances to function well, supporting all students where necessary. Ellie Stothard, another valued member of the team, stated "I really enjoy taking part in tech team activities. The students come together to create an exciting performance and the musicians always put a lot of work into their pieces, so it's nice to see that all come together." Working together is a key skill needed to provide the audience with such a show so splendid that the Gym roof literally flies off, and Ellie recognises the importance of assisting each other to collectively deliver the students and teachers a showcase of talents, worthy of a standing ovation. Therefore, House Music was a huge success and is rewarding to both the musicians themselves, and the tech team, knowing their hard work paid off, creating a sensational afternoon for all.



Miscellaneous

Caistor Greener School

By Oliver Bateman 7Y

Students at CGS have recently started a new project around the school, bringing people of all years together and helping the school both aesthetically and environmentally, through the new Gardening Club.

The club was created by Ms Nicolaou and Miss Porter, trying to make the school a prettier and more nature friendly place. They wanted to link teens with nature and let them learn about how to take care of plants and trees.

Around 15 members, which vary all the way from year 11 to year 7 have sown many plants and are growing flowers and other greenery from the bottom of the school to the top. They have ordered gardening equipment using the generously given ‘Good to Grow’ vouchers, and have enlisted the help of DT teacher Mr Birch on fixing a water feature which hasn’t been working for years. However, one challenge they haven’t attempted yet is the area outside O7, which has tonnes of moss and an overgrown pond—however this is on the extensive list of areas they plan to beautify around our school site.

The plants that the club plants are winter

resistant, so they can be grown anywhere, including on the soil between middle court and the path at Lindsey, the Judy Howitt garden and the path from the Judy Howitt garden to the benches at the top of the terraces. Students have been working with the site team too, to make this area more attractive, and transform the school into a pleasant environment that anyone would be happy to walk past everyday on their way to class. The club is good for the health of both the students and the planet, and as art teacher Mrs Porter says, “It’s about helping young people’s mental health through the challenges of nature and sharing experiences that the students let themselves do.”

The club meets every Friday, and has so far planted around 40 plants and hopes to grow many more. If anyone donates bulbs then the club will have them swiftly planted at the next meeting. Students come together at each meeting to sow over 20 plants, which may seem like a small number but is a massive feat considering the amount of people and the limited time they have, which has only started recently. In the short time since Gardening Club was established, students have revamped certain areas of the school site into refreshing scenes of greenery.

The aim of the club is to get young people interested in the environment and gardening and upkeep of mental health, with flowers and plants to attract pollinators and insects to the school and create a cycle of pollination for years to come.

Co-creator Mrs Porter says, “It’s building a community spirit between students and teachers.”



Toe-may-toe, toe-mah-toe

By Jacob Carmichael 7Y

To introduce the Year 7s to CGS, the SLT and teachers set up a social evening.

The night started with games by Mr Moloney between the 3 forms 7x, 7y and 7z. Then a building competition began, where students were separated into twelve groups by their star signs: Pisces, Aquarius, Capricorn, Sagittarius, Scorpio, Libra, Virgo, Leo, Cancer, Gemini, Taurus and Aries. The objective was to be able to catch a tomato using a build containing tape, 3 bamboo canes and a bin bag, however before they had even started half of the builds had already broken, and trying to actually drop the tomato in the bag was a whole different story altogether. The energy was still enthusiastic, and everyone was jumping and cheering on their own builds, then laughing and jeering at those who failed. There was screaming and shouting from everyone.

After this, students sat down for a hearty dinner of everyone’s favourite: chicken nuggets. The canteen roared with the chatter of Year 7s laughing about the events that had

happened earlier, and catching up with their fellow students, each one with a different story to tell their friends.

Then, a quiz hosted by Mr Croft, which did not settle the mood, as one would think, but instead added more fuel to the fire, with everyone scrambling to be the ones who got all the answers right.

To round off the night, the Year 7s danced endlessly in a disco, amazingly DJed by Mr Wood, to all the club classics everyone knows and loves, from S Club 7 to Ed Sheeran, everyone taking part in age-old dances like the Cha-Cha Slide. All in all, the newest additions to the Caistor Grammar family were welcomed with a night of fun and friendliness, all that Caistor Grammar is about.



Hair to be different

By Amicia Harris 12DW

Recently, our very own Eva Phillips (12FC) starred in a video campaign for GUAP magazine: ‘Curls on Film’, exploring the processes and transitions of preparing natural hair. Caucasian hair has regularly been portrayed in the media, from movies to music, which has lead to a vastly disproportionate understanding of natural hair and hairstyles, making it hard for people with African hair to find products and stylists, or even being completely excluded due to lack of knowledge.

Speaking to Eva, she expressed that “There is a lot of underrepresentation in black hairstyles and their preparation, and I think those conversations need to be encouraged.”

The importance of exploring different cultures and their hairstyles that aren’t being portrayed to the extent of Caucasian hair has only become increasingly crucial, as we try to move towards a more diverse and inclusive society.

“Black hairstyles for me are a form of expression in a culture that isn’t really dominated by black hairstyles, and it’s a way to just express my culture in the world.”

Eva talks about the liberating feeling of telling a story that hasn’t been heard or even thought about by many people, and how the overwhelming positive feedback was “comforting to know that people are actually interested and that this could really spark a deeper conversation in black hairstyles.”

The persisting dominance and glamourisation in popular culture of wavy or straight Caucasian hair, even on people of colour themselves, has created a type of hierarchy, where natural hair is at the bottom of the scale, and is seen as inferior to other types. Rarely do we see people of colour with their natural hair being celebrated, especially on women.

The explorations of ‘Curls on Film’ share the stories of three black women sharing and embracing their personal hair journeys, shedding light on the beautiful cultures society has shunned for many years, and

bringing them onto the stage of modern cultures and communities.



Images from Terna Jogo



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## May The Course Be With You



By ALICE Fearn 10z & ISABELLE Baylis 10Y

After two years of house events being affected by Covid, it was a triumphant return for House Cross Country this term. All pupils were determined to bring their best efforts and the houses: Rawlinson, Asycough and Hansard had many students who showed admirable willpower and high level skills. The competition was close and despite the cold November temperatures, the sun was shining, and the students were all in high spirits. It was a very successful outcome, and was enjoyable to see so many pupils running for their houses and supporting their fellow pupils. After practicing the course in PE lessons before the race and pushing themselves in the Cooper Run it was time the students' hard work was put to the test. The sixth-formers did the helpful job of spending the whole day marshalling and supporting the runners.

Whilst everyone was trying to stay warm and stretched on the sidelines, the girls and boys were gathered at the start line shivering from either a mix of excitement and nervousness or the cold (it was hard to tell). The first race kicked off immediately, with the Year 8 and 9 girls and boys. The students raced round the track and soon enough the results were in: in first place was Matthew Williams from Rawlinson, second was Jasper Fox from Asycough and third was Isaac Waterhouse from Rawlinson. Although the races were mixed, the

girls results were in: in first Mollie Grant from Rawlinson, second Annabel Peart from Asycough and third Bella Graves from Asycough. Things were looking good for Rawlinson, with both Year 8 and 9 boy and girl champions belonging to Rawlinson.

Next was the Year 10 and 11 girls and boys: Louie Osbourne (Year 11) and Alice Fearn (Year 10) finishing first and second; the two students ran 7 minutes ahead of the rest of the group. The top three boys in the Year 10 and 11 category were: first Louie Osbourne from Hansard, second Robin Smith from Rawlinson, third Callum Miller from Rawlinson. The top three girls in Year 10 and 11 category were a mix of houses: first Alice Fearn from Hansard, second Isabelle Baylis from Asycough and third Niamh Noble from Rawlinson. There were a range of houses gaining points and it was unclear to tell which house would come out on top.

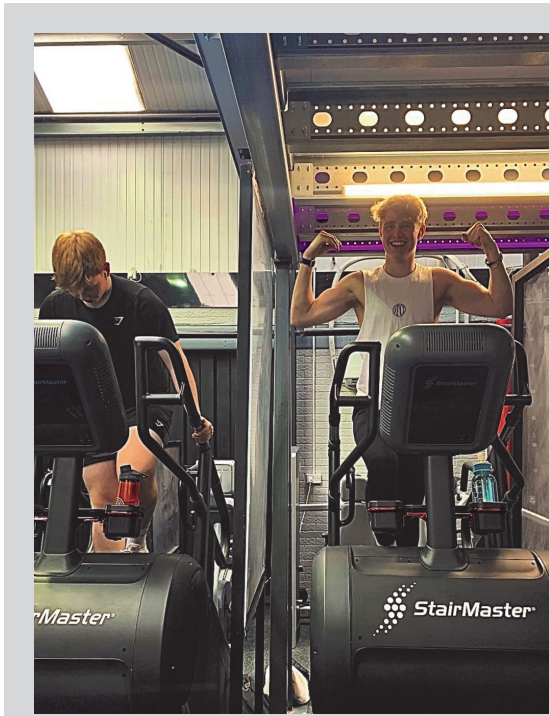
Last was the Year 7 girls and boys. For these Year 7s, this was the first time taking part in House Cross Country and it was exceptional to see how many turned up to run for their house. The top three boys in the Year 7 category were: first Ryan Hailstone from Rawlinson, second Alex Tuite from Hansard and Harry Bradley from Rawlinson. The top three girls were: first Matilda Waterhouse from Rawlinson, second Elizabeth Lingard from Asycough and third

Summer Swinden from Rawlinson.

The day ended with a win for Rawlinson, second for Asycough and third for Hansard. Despite the cold, frosty November it was an extraordinary day that ended in a shared warm feeling of joy and happiness. Everyone leaving with smiles on their faces really highlighted the concept of how PE can enhance our sport and bring people together.

The House Cross Country overall was a joyful but cold experience. Everyone involved showed amazing team work and proved even after 2 years of COVID the school can still unite and organise a fun event that pupils can take part in. A huge well done to all the winners and everyone who gave it their best shot; there is always next year to take the top spot. The PE department and all years are looking forward to the next available House event, which will be well needed after everyone has a relaxing Christmas with a few mince pies which will for sure put on a pound or two.

Next is the Lincolnshire Schools' Cross Country on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December and those who qualify at this race in Hubbard's Hills Louth will continue through to the next round representing the school.



By MAEVE Carey 12SM

### BFit Helping Students Stay Fit

This September, the new Year 12s have been given the opportunity to go down to the BFit Lincolnshire gym located in Caistor. With it only being a 5 minute jog, students have been using their free periods after lunch times to go workout in the fabulous facility. Year 12s and 13s have said how “they are very fortunate to be able to have a range of ways to stay active within school” and also said how thankful they are for such a low cost system making it accessible to everyone. As the temperature has dropped from the heat of summer to the chilling winter months it has been a welcomed Wednesday afternoon activity, especially with a gym that caters to everyone’s workout preferences. At BFit they have a range of cardio and resistance machines as well as a high quality weights section, which our sixth form seem very keen to utilise. The central weights area contains a power rack, Smith machine, benches and dumbbells ranging from 2.5kg to 50kg; overall the gym has a range of things to offer and many students are keen to keep attending, come the New Year. The variety of equipment available allows for all different workouts to be done, including abs, chest, arms, back and legs; the convenience of BFit has really boosted the fitness opportunities at CGS. The gym offers pre-workout protein shakes and post workout smoothies, coffees and frappes; as well as a range of snacks, which boosts the students for their killer workouts and helps with recovery afterwards. Emma Cowan who recently went to Caistor gym for the first time said how amazed she was with how enjoyable it was to workout there. She said she felt no pressure from anyone attending and she can’t wait to go again. Overall, all Year 12 and Year 13 thoroughly enjoy the BFit gym in Caistor and many are excited to go back after the 2 week Christmas break.