

Caistor Focus



Buck-ause she's the best!

Caistor Grammar School has seen many Headmasters spanning hundreds of years, but now we are proud to present the school's first ever Headmistress. We welcome Mrs Buck, our old Deputy Head and long-time Caistor Teacher into her new position, having started as teaching PE and coming out at the very top. In case you were wondering how such a powerful lady takes on such a daunting position, Mrs Buck has special K for breakfast! She also says that all the support that she has received from staff and students alike has helped her settle into the role and feel confident in taking on new challenges.

A swimmer, gymnast, cross-country runner, and a basketball player from a young age, (talk about impressive resume) Mrs Buck says that her background in sports has given her both independence and a high level of determination, but also the ability to work in a team, all qualities of the perfect head.

While you might spot Mrs Buck back in the PE department from time to time, she has unfortunately had to leave a lot of her lessons, something that she misses due to the personal aspect of knowing a class and the students by name. We miss you too Mrs Buck! Though I

think we can all agree that we are happy to see her running the school more than she's running round it.

Students, particularly female students have told the newspaper the significance of our first female head, with one saying, "It's so inspiring to have such a powerful woman in charge for the first time" and I'd like to see anyone argue with that!

Mrs Buck finished off her interview by confirming that while she has noticed the trend of old Heads wearing odd hats, she does not have a hat in mind to continue this tradition, but hey, you can't win them all. We

salute Mrs Buck for stepping up to the role in a time of crisis, and so far, we have seen nothing less than brilliance from our new Head. She has helped welcome back both old and new students in September, accompanied the SPT on the Remembrance Day service and delivered a couple of amusing speeches following important school events such as the school production and house music competition. Well done Mrs Buck, and to quote one of your very speeches, we think you are the absolute "rats pyjamas!"

By Emily Quill 13DW

Mrs Hollo-slay

By Alice Robertson 11Y

Our new resident French teacher, Mrs Holloway, joins our language department as, I'm sure, the first to paddleboard in Scotland with seals whilst simultaneously having a firm competitive bone and partaking in Badminton. Even though she only works 2 and a half days per week, she has been warmly welcomed by both the teaching staff and the students, saying that they were friendly, and the students are a pleasure to teach. Before working at Caistor, she worked in a sixth form college in Doncaster, originally teaching both German and French however the school ultimately stopped offering German due to the lack of interest. Her consistent passion to convince upcoming Year 12s to take modern languages for A-Levels

was one of the reasons why she likes teaching secondary school, even though she previously preferred teaching older students. Before teaching at the college, she worked as a translator for 3 years and then before that, at another secondary school for 9 years. Her love of fitness shined through on the Year 11 Paris trip, taking frequent early-morning runs and even running her first half-marathon this year!

Katrina Donner, 11Y, said that Mrs Holloway is a great French teacher and structures her lessons in a way which make topics and grammar easier to understand.



He's got it covered!

By Zara Zafar 10X

With his love for football and fun personality, Mr Hargreaves joins CGS as a cover supervisor. However, before joining us, he was a stay-at-home dad for 10 years, which he found nice and relaxing although he says it was stressful when his children were younger. Mr. Hargreaves' favorite thing at Caistor Grammar is the daily football games on middle court, he has a passion for football and finds watching over students play on Middle Court enjoyable. From sports to hobbies, he enjoys playing guitar and ukulele in his spare time, although he doesn't believe he'll be a professional anytime soon. He commented that he really likes being a cover supervisor because it has a wide variety of things to do from helping with sixth form study sessions to supervising middle

court. The year 11s and Mr. Hargreaves share a common hatred of surds, Alice from 11Y says 'Mr. Hargreaves really understands my disgust for surds.' Students say they appreciate Mr. Hargreaves' understanding demeanor and how he makes lessons entertaining.

A Year 11 student said that he is a cheerful edition to the school and that they enjoy having him as a teacher in study periods as he is easy to get along with. From football to guitar, being a dad to being a great teacher, many are thankful and happy to welcome him to Caistor Grammar.



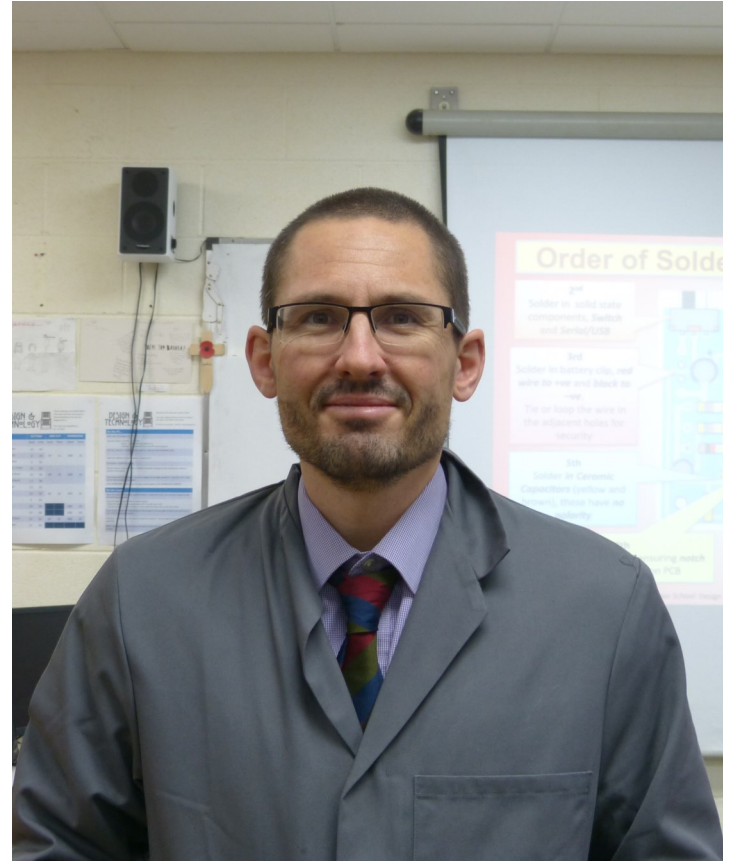
Mr Worldwide

By Charlotte Phillips 11Z

Although I may not know what a router is, Mr Collins certainly does. If you don't know him, Mr Collins is the new addition to the Design & Technology department. He teaches years 7-10, as well as sixth form. On the side, he teaches Maths to year 7. Before joining our Caistor cohort, Mr Collins had been a primary school teacher at Caistor and Nettleton, for 5 and 1 years respectively. However, teaching isn't his only passion. Mr Collins has had a variety of jobs over the years. He was a windmill heritage worker for 2 years at Waltham Windmill. He also moved to Central America and volunteered there for 4 years. Surprisingly, this is his first time working in a secondary school. Having fallen in love with CGS instantly, it was a hard choice

when asked what his favourite thing about our school was. Mr Collins said "my department is pretty cool, Mr Donington and Miss Thompson are probably the coolest people in the school". Some fun facts about him are that he enjoys DIY and gardening in his spare time, but also participated in the Caistor pantomime as an old king.

After Christmas, he will be taking up a new role in the Latin department during Miss Wildman's maternity leave. Having completed a degree in heritage conservation, Mr Collins is looking forward to further exploring his interest in history and languages. He enjoys learning about the structure of languages, and the origin of words; which he will be able to learn about even more while covering Latin lessons!



Grove court

By Alice Robertson 11Y

Grove Court - previously Bottom Court - is the new building which houses the modern languages (French and German). Due to this, other classrooms have had a switch, with Latin moving from P1 to O12 and Geography moving from P3 and O12 to M1 and M2. With heating and a clean-feel, it is a new modern edition to the school, only being built in close to 5 months.

Speaking to Charlotte Phillips, 11Z, she said: 'It's a modern building that I find really fun to learn in. There are enough posters on the wall to have a fun feel yet not feel overbearing.' With three classrooms, two toilet blocks and a small court outside, Grove Court is the perfect place to not only learn, but also to sit with your friends at break. Erin

Ingham, 9Z, commented that her and her friends meet there at breaks and lunch, not only because of the quiet feel, but because there is also a speech stand where they can make up mock speeches on topics, reading poems from English and reading own work.

New Deputy Head, Mr Croft, stated, 'It has excellent views - you haven't been able to see all of that landscape from that position anywhere else! So great position, great use of the space and nice airy classrooms!' Resident French teacher, Mrs Holloway commented, 'It's a really nice building, everything runs smoothly and I feel that we're very privileged to have it.' It's safe to say that Grove Court has been a success, with its quick construction, to the positive response to it.



A Spot-tacular Day!

By Megan Allison (12VS)

Last month, we once again embraced the spirit of Children in Need! “A time when students come together to raise money for an important cause.” The day had us transported into many multiverses from the pixelated world of Mario to Pixar’s world of Toy Story and finally reaching our destination at the colourful and imaginative world of Dr Seuss. Each costume displayed creativity and dedication all to help towards a brilliant cause. In total the school managed to raise over £1000! The money was brought in by cake sales, hot chocolate stations and a fabulous costume competition

(more on this on the next page!). Children in need this year set out to help with the aftermath of the virus that shall not be named. Especially focusing in on the mental health of children who are now suffering from anxiety and hopelessness; this is important now more than ever, so any donation you made is helping to support those in need. When all the cake was sold and the prizes were handed out, we said goodbye to the vibrant costumes for the year. To summarise, Jack Dowthwaite Year 12 remarked that, “It was funny to see the extremes people go to with costumes—especially Robin as an 8ft sloth!”



CGS Changed into Various Wardrobes

By Rafael Mitros (8z)

On Friday 18th November, Children in Need (one of the best days in the year) happened. With only £1 to come in your own clothes or costume, the day hit and struck CGS with joy and a wonder. We had many astounding, magnificent, and bright costumes! There were video game characters (Donkey Kong and his crew!), traffic cones, movie characters (Darth Vader) and TV characters, we even had a Teletubby! All the costumes were wonderful, and everyone was in a great mood, until at lunch time that is, then the rivalry of the costume competition broke out. People had to pay 50p to enter, there were four winners, each awarded for a different category. The groups were: best individual, best group,

funniest costume and the most realistic! The prize winners names will not be included in this but we do have a quote from a prize winner from the best individual category: "It took me a week to make and I didn't even spend a penny," said Sam Auty Year 8. We also got a quote from a person who was present for the day but didn't compete: "It was great!" was what he said and then for our last quote I got: "I loved the day, I was waiting ages for it and I loved everyone's creativity!" Children in need day was a massive success shown by everyone's comments! We can't wait to see all the costumes next year and hope to see our Children in Need Costume Competition running again, perhaps with even more charisma and inspiration!



Fun—draising!

By Erin Ingham (9z)

Children in Need. It's the day that we spend an eternity planning our costumes for. It's the day that monopolises our conversations weeks before. It's the day that's for many, is the highlight of the school calendar. But why do we do it?

Founded in 1980, The BBC Children in Need appeal is an organisation that focuses on supporting children with disadvantages such as disabilities, illness, neglect, living in poverty and trauma. Using our money raised from the fancy dress day (this year a phenomenal £1040!) - along with many other participating schools' and businesses' donations—Children in Need distributes it amongst its supported charities.

Wanting to beat the previous years total raised, this year's

Senior Prefect Team needed to get creative in how they were going to raise so much money! One six former commented that they had to brainstorm ideas in form and used process of elimination until they found fundraising activities that's suited them. From here, they had a short turnaround to turn their plans into reality ...

And so, the day arrived. Casterby Kitchen was transformed into a make-shift Starbucks and served hot chocolate at break. Bella Genney 9z mentioned "The hot chocolate was perfect—they should sell it every break!" At the same time, a cake sale was being run outside the staffroom. The only mistake they made was not enough cake; it was so popular it sold out in seconds!



The fantastic French trip

By Stella Deans 10Y



For the first abroad trip after the long wait of COVID19, the French trip surely was spectacular. Mrs. Bradbury with her expertise planned the trip with the help of Mrs Holloway, Mr Cook, Mr Hargreaves, Mrs Brown and Miss Roberts, taking on a record breaking 66 students. We started the trip at 4.15am meeting in the Caistor market place with everyone looking tired. However, this didn't stop the students as they ran to the bus to get the best seats, dragging the suitcases behind them. The bus ride consisted of students sleeping, talking to their friends and many mugshots being taken. Then we went on the Eurotunnel after going through passport control. Eventually 14 hours since we had set off and we had made it. The

accommodation was very welcoming, and our guide was amazing throughout the trip. We had our meal and participated in a French quiz, where we all struggled, but enjoyed it thoroughly.

Unfortunately, we had to wake up at 8am to the sound the Mrs Bradbury's signature knock while opening the door in our pyjamas. Once we collected our packed lunches, we were on our way to the centre of Paris. We arrived at the Arch de Triomphe where we spilt into two groups to adventure up the 284 steps. After being exhausted, we were able to have about 2 hours free time walking up and down the Champs Elysée's (one of the worlds most famous commercial streets). There were a range of high-end shops to explore yet most of use went

to McDonald's. Surprisingly, there was a Stranger Things pop-up store where teachers like Mr Cooke and Mrs Brown were found. Then we travelled to the Musée D'Orsay where students were allowed to look around the wonderful exhibitions, which all the students enjoyed.

On the 3rd day, we saw the spectacular sites of Paris including the River Seine, the Eiffel Tower and Sacré-Cœur in Montmartre. We got the opportunity to ride across the River seine which gave the students "time to relax" before the busy day. The view from the Eiffel Tower wowed the students. Montmartre was a lovely small town surrounding the Sacré-Cœur where many of us enjoyed the exquisite food and atmosphere around us.

The Disney dream

By Izzy Baylis 11y

On the fourth day of their France trip, the excited French students visited Disneyland Paris. The day was magical for both the students and the teachers. For many of them this was their first experience of Disneyland, and it did not disappoint! A day to fulfil their childhood dreams of meeting some of their favourite Disney characters and to make the magic of Disney movies come to life. Mrs. Bradbury's favourite rides were Tower of Terror, Spiderman (where she is proud to say that she beat Mr. Cooke), Big Thunder Mountain and Buzz Light Year. The highlight of the day was watching the parade where they saw many of the classic Disney characters such as Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Peter Pan, and Buzz Lightyear.

The students were provided with a lunch however they could not pass up the opportunity to try some of the various Disney-themed food and drink available from the wide range of cafes situated around the park, which one student said was "to die for." We can't forget the gift shops where Minnie mouse ears and Simba hats were very popular amongst the students. It was a day that exceeded many of the students' expectations and was not to be forgotten.

The fifth and final day of the French trip, the journey home, was a tiring one. 11 hours of traveling by bus; not to mention the thought of school the very next day however its was all worth it for the amazing once in a lifetime opportunity which was enjoyed by all that went on the trip.



Going for gold

By Libby Jackson 10Y

On the 23rd to the 27th of September, a group of brave adventurous set off on their gold DofE expedition. On the four days and three nights they spent in the Lake District, they experienced lots of rain and wind but pushed through to earn their reward. I spoke to Emily Barton in 13FC who said: "It was very wet and very windy but we had a great time." I also spoke to Mrs Dodsworth who is the head of DofE here at Caistor Grammar and she said: "I was really proud of how well the groups did and especially how well they coped with the route as it was changed. One group lost a member due to being ill and still managed to cope really well so I was very happy." I also asked her if there was anything funny she can remember from the trip, she said: "One of the

groups got stuck in the mud and we could hear them giggling and screaming. It was very funny." Finally, I asked her what she thought was the most important thing about the expedition and she said: "I think the most important thing is how much the groups actually took away from the expedition." The groups walked near a place called Keswick town and around the beautiful Derwentwater. Everyday they walked eight hours so that they made their final destination on time. Each night they set up their tents in a different camp site and cooked their meals that were very different to the pizza they ate on the Friday night before they left! From all the students who took part in the DofE as well as Mrs Dodsworth herself, thank you to all the volunteers who made it all possible.



Future Fringe Festival

By Libby Jackson 10Y

After the Fringe Festival this year Mrs McNeilly knew we had to do it again as it was a big hit. This year there are two exciting competitions you can look forward to. These competitions mean that anyone can compete as there is one for the arty people and one for those who like writing. It's a win win! The art one is asking you to create a landscape picture that "represents mindfulness through nature". It can be of any media and needs to be handed in to Miss M Roberts by Friday the 31st of March. Winners will have their artwork displayed around the school site with the hopes of spreading positivity to all who see them! The English writing competition is all to do with the mental elf. You have been asked to create a piece of writing that "focuses

on the benefits that Nature can have upon our emotional well-being". This could be a story, a poem or even a descriptive piece whatever floats your boat. If you choose to partake in the mental elf writing competition, email your entry to the mental elf email by the 9th of February however, be careful as there is a 500 word limit. Winners will have their work published and recorded for it to be performed at the

Caistor Fringe Festival. Winners will also receive a prize! This is why these competitions are a great opportunity because you can test your skills, have other people see your work, win a prize, or just cure your boredom. Just like last year, the fringe is likely to include everything it did this year and more! Hopefully, we will be seeing lots of plays and drama or listening to all our amazing talent we have here at Caistor

Grammar school as people perform songs and instrumental pieces. Also listen to the amazing speeches that are read out by all the inspirational people at our school. Trust me, you don't want to miss a thing! So get out your paintbrushes, get ready to type up a storm or just get ready to have some fun. The fringe is returning to Caistor Grammar School and it's going to be a great one!



The Holocaust Memorial Trip

By Zara Zafar 10X

On the 20th of October, year 10 visited the National Holocaust Centre near Laxton in Nottinghamshire accompanied by Mrs Buck, Mr Davey, Mr Hay, Mrs Holloway, Mrs Lane and Miss Roberts. On the visit, students were given the opportunity to take a look at the history of the Holocaust, through the museum and a number of educational workshops, building on work they have done in year 9 RE. Unfortunately due to the weather, they were unable to visit the memorial gardens and therefore, the students couldn't lay a remembrance stone this year.

The trip started with being separated into 2 groups, one of the groups was sent to the underground museum while the other stayed in the auditorium to listen to videos about Holocaust survivors and learn key terms and facts regarding the Holocaust. The museum consisted of a collection of items from art and publications to documents, film and images

of those who suffered in the Holocaust. While being led by the staff at the centre, students were given the freedom to respectfully look at the collections and videos as they eventually made their way back to the auditorium. Inside the auditorium students were shown a modern hip-hop video, collaborated with Kapoo to present Janine Webber's (a Holocaust survivor) escape and hiding from the Nazis. The video is named "Edek" by the man who helped hide Janine, her Aunt Rouja, Uncle Selig and 11 other Jews. Janine claims him to be her hero and says, "his bravery is almost unimaginable." Janine now lives in London and is an ambassador for the National Holocaust Centre & Museum. As always, the most powerful part of the visit came when students heard the testimony of one of the survivors of the Holocaust.

This year Eva Clarke told the students her remarkable story and how she was born in one of the Nazi concentration camps. Libby Jackson 10Y says she was "inspired" by Eva Clarke's

bravery and believes "every cloud has a silver lining". After Eva's story we were free to ask her questions about her life, family, and experiences. She very kindly donated to the school the Wendy Holden 'Born survivor's book, which tells her story in further detail. Before students made their way to the

bus, they were told about "The Forever Project." Using voice recognition and artificial intelligence this project enables you to not only watch and hear a survivor sharing his or her testimony, but also allows you to ask that survivor hundreds of questions.



A Cat-appealing Trip To The Factory

By Jack Douthwaite 12VS

The Autumn term of school this year has seen two trips for the Design and Technology department at Caistor Grammar, the first of which being a trip to the Caterpillar (more commonly known as Cat) factory near Peterborough on Tuesday 15th November. On

this Trip the department's sixth form students were given a guided tour around the factory and given insight as to the production lines and manufacturing processes used to create Cat engines and generators. The aim of this tour was to widen students' options for the future and display new

career paths in engineering; managed by not only seeing the site but also talks to trained professionals about the intricate roles different jobs play for the overall manufacturing process. According to Megan Allison (12VS), the trip seems very informative, as she quotes,

"The trip gave me an insight into different career paths I hadn't thought of before. It was eye-opening to see the different roles people play in aiding the manufacturing of a project."

**4 PAGE PULL-OUT
SPECIAL!**



**"It's delightful,
delicious, delectable,
delirious, dilemma,
de-limit, deluxe, it's
de-lovely"**

'Bon Voyage' to another production!

By Olivia Adams 8Z

What— Ho! Faces were tense as the curtains opened on this performance of *Anything Goes*. With everyone ready for showtime, the lights lifted; and the opening actors were ready to launch their audience into a journey through the world of theatre. Directed by Mr Harris and Mrs Thompson every performer was perfected in their performance. From the beloved costumes made and sourced by Mrs Jago, Mrs Donoghue and the sewing club to the dazzling sets and effects created by Mr Robinson, Miss Roberts and the tech team this show was ready to go with each and every sailor fit to dress.

This heart-warming love story follows Billy Crocker, who chases Hope Harcourt, the girl he is in love with, aboard a 1930s cruise, unaware his own admirer, Reno Sweeny and Hope's fiancé, Lord Evelyn Oakleigh are also aboard. This

fun filled comedy has, romance, gangsters, sailors, overbearing mothers, a particularly fabulous nightclub, enough laughter to fill a battleship, and even a side of jail time for being the Public Enemy Number One. Each thrilling performance left all faces flabbergasted.

So many de-lovely cast members were involved in this performance, particularly our y13 leads who we have had to say bon voyage to after their final performances on the town hall stage. They have managed to excite and impress all who entered the hall to watch this beautiful display, Maddie Bray 13DW said; "It was amazing. I just loved all of the dances and singing, everyone was so talented, they should be so proud." This play sparks enthusiasm in all ages watching from the opening act. We certainly got a kick out of this show, and can't wait to see what they do next!







It's Del - over!

By Lydia Middleton 82

Behind the perfectly poised posture of elegant dances was hours of antagonizing work from the cast of this year's school production: Anything Goes. Loading and unloading vans; photography; costume designing; set making; music arranging and so much more. Everyone did extensive work bringing this whole production together. The teamwork shown in all departments was truly exemplarity. We all came together to perform one of Caistor Grammar's 'greatest productions yet', a comment heard every evening at the exit of the audience.

From small cast rehearsals in the new hall on cold September Sunday mornings, to a full-blown jaw-dropping performance carefully designed in Caistor Town Hall. We all new

that it was a challenge, but no-one could have foreseen this.

The orchestra worked tirelessly and brilliantly, creating an indescribable ambience. The choir added volume and sang angelically with the cast. Needless to say, the show would not have gone ahead without the efforts of the Tech Team, making sure everyone was seen and heard, as well as erecting a complicated set and giving so much of their time to give us the best show possible. Our greatest thanks

go to them overcoming every hurdle that came their way: steps were breaking, lights stopped shining and curtains were going off the rails, but they pushed through and created a beautiful show.

Catherine Hargreaves said being

in the cast was 'an incredible experience', with Emily Quill noting the equality between all members involved 'there was no ego, just everyone in this together to make a great show'. With lots of laughs had to come lots of tears though, as this was the last school production for many Y13 students. Pollyanna Paterson was one of many with mascara down her cheeks, and said how 'significant these school productions have been in my life' and how she's forged 'life-long friendships'. The most important thing was to get the most fun out of the experience, while working hard, and we can all agree we had every success at doing so.

Now for the fab four, the elite few who have the unspeakable power to create such a masterpiece. Our Director: Mr Harris, our Musical Director:

Mrs Thompson, our Technical genius: Mr Robinson and our Producer: Mrs Jago. Their extensive efforts are appreciated by both performers and audience, as their vision time and time again creates a show that gives CGS our musical theatre reputation.

Four wonderful people who create a show that is 'the absolute rat's pyjamas' as Lord Evelyn Oakleigh would confirm.



The Battlefields Trip

By Austin Priestley 9Y

From the 15th to the 17th of September 2022, Year 13 students spent their weekend discovering more about the battles of the two world wars. They explored Northern France and Belgium; taking the Eurotunnel to Belgium and discovering more about the impact of these battles on war for their A level literature course's paper 2: War and its aftermath. Led by Mrs. McNeilly and Mr. Harris, the year 13's visited many historical sites including Ypres, Wellington Quarry and the Thiepval monument which was built near the battlesight of the battle of the Somme's to commemorate those who were

missing in war.

In Ypres, they went to the Menin Gate memorial in Belgium where their tour guide was David Nun. The memorial itself is home to 54,389 officers and men who died in conflict before the 16th of August 1917 from the commonwealth. Wellington Quarry is an underground network of tunnels built in World War One and has many rooms for soldiers to sleep in and an infirmary to treat the wounded. It joins on to Roman and Middle Age tunnels. Opened in 2008, this quarry in Northern France has a museum which commemorates those who fell in the battle of Arras.

This entire trip allowed students to consolidate their knowledge of world changing conflicts which was described as "moving and enlightening" by Emily Quill. Pearl McCann said that the most impactful part was seeing the German graves

which contrasted the English graves and how they were portrayed in the war. She also mentioned how they were almost belittled. This trip expanded the knowledge of many and will do for years to come.



A Meeting With Royalty in D&T

By Jack Dowthwaite 12VS

The second trip the department has seen this year was to RAF Waddingham on Thursday 24th November, which contained an exciting competition named Project X for a select group of enthusiastic students in year 8. The team competed against six other schools from the local area in a STEM competition, where they had to construct a model plane to a theme, the students choosing the Mario series and creating a Bullet Bill character, which was then sent down a zip wire with the mission of dropping an egg safely to the ground, as if in a "downed pilot" scenario. The students had spent time during lunch breaks in school and time out of school, to plan the model including a PowerPoint about

its development, presented on the day of the visit.

After safely bringing the egg back down to Earth and displaying the team's efforts,

the CGS team were given an award for the best presentation and performed well throughout the day, ending up with a talk with Prince Edward! On another note as to winning CGS STEM

teams, our group of year 9's that previously attended a different STEM challenge earlier this year is soon arriving at the finals for this competition on the 6th of January next year.



Opinion and Editorial

Top 7 most irritating Christmas things!

By Tiah Lyth 7X

Christmas, the most wonderful time of the year! Not to be a Grinch, but have you ever thought about the teeny-tiny, blood-boiling things that make you want to explode with anger? Read on for my top 7!

No.1, the chocolate spoiler! When your sibling yells what's behind your chocolate-filled advent calendar door! Sometimes they just won't shut up! No.2, all I want for Christmas is... no homework! The worst thing at Christmas is getting homework over the holidays. Imagine having a homework-free Christmas; that must be fairy-tale. No.3, la la la! Everyone loves singing Christmas songs, right? Well,

not if it isn't December yet! It's very annoying when you sing them any other time of the year, so stop ruining the Christmas spirit!

No.4, the adverts. No matter where you turn this holiday, all you can hear is Christmas commercials! No matter what you do, you can't escape the claws of Christmas. No.5, wrapping presents. Some of us were born gift wrappers and some of us not. For us non-wrappers, Christmas is chaos! When the stupid wrapping paper won't cut or you can't find your scissors, you just want to give up. Family dinner... awkward silence. It isn't Christmas without the big family roast dinner, but the table conversations are really

something. You must explain for the thousandth time that you ARE 12 and you WON'T tell them what TikTok is. Finally, no.7, the rubbish. The Christmas packaging fills up your bins and when you want them emptied, the binmen won't because, "It isn't closed!". The rage!

However, it's all worth it in the end, for the delicious mince pies and the beautiful Christmas trees!



Taylor VS Ticketmaster.

By Alice Robertson 11Y

With 318 awards, an education centre in her name and the world's richest cat, it's safe to say that Taylor Swift is one of the most loved celebrities on the planet, and with the release of her tenth studio album 'Midnights' (holding all the top ten spots), this has boosted her popularity in the past few weeks. This has recently been further proved by the US federal government, with the American Justice Department now investigating Ticketmaster after Swift upcoming 'Eras Tour' causing uproar in the world of Swifties. For the presale, over 3.5 million fans registered to it by purchasing one of the four

vinyl or CD variants. Sale for these tickets went online on Tuesday the 15th of November, however an estimated 15% of user's experiences were impacted by the high demand of the seats. Because of this, over 1.5 million people missed out on tickets, who were behind the ones impacted in the virtual queue. The high demand of the tickets and the added issues surrounding availability and the site crashing, the whole tour sold out at the point at which it was estimated that only half of the tickets were put aside for the intention of being sold in the presale. On the day, which was due to be the general sale, Thursday the 17th of November, the general sale was cancelled.

With now millions more fans missing out, Swift posted a statement on her Instagram Story, saying: 'It's truly amazing that 2.4 million people got tickets, but it really annoys me that a lot of them feel like they went through several bear attacks to get them.'

Whilst doing research for my English Speaking speech (and definitely not listening to Taylor Swift's discography as a way of relaxing), I found that resale tickets are now going for as much as \$36,000, with the cheapest I can find being \$2,200. It's easy to say that most of the demand is driven by the ferocity and passion of the fans, however bots and resale sites plagued

Ticketmaster, buying multiple tickets that should have been rightfully sold to the fans. Even though this is an issue which Ticketmaster has commented that they will fix multiple times, it is still a problem on the site.

With over 44% of Americans estimated to be Taylor Swift fans, it's safe to say that you could find a Swiftie in any establishment, including the US Government Headquarters. The Justice Department is currently scrutinising the company for their dominant role in the music industry and the lack of competition in the ticket-selling industry. However, this isn't out of the blue as Ticketmaster have been watched closely since the cruel summer of 2010 when they merged with Live Nation.

Opinion and Editorial

Issues in Iran

By Charlotte Phillips 11Z

The Islamic Revolution of 1979 brought extensive changes to Iran, especially for women. It can be hard to keep up, as these laws are constantly changing. For example, in the 1930s, police were ordered to forcibly remove headscarves; however, in the early 1980s the new Islamic authorities required all women to wear the hijab. Prior to the revolution, women were able to obtain higher education, or freely walk down the street. Now, their rights are decreasing which has drawn global attention.

As you may know, there are protests happening in Iran due to the lack of rights that women

have. These protests began after the death of Mahsa Amini, who was detained by morality police for allegedly not wearing her hijab properly on 13th September 2022. These nationwide protests are challenging four decades of clerical rule. The first death sentence was issued over these protests due to alleged arson on 14th November, two months after Amini was arrested. However, these protests are nothing new. In 2021, thousands of people were punished for peacefully exercising their human rights.

Women have faced discrimination in Iranian law for years, in relation to marriage, divorce, employment, and so

much more. Many of these laws are incredibly damaging. For example, the legal age of marriage for girls is just 13 years old, however, fathers could acquire permission for their daughters to be married even younger. Between March 2020 and March 2021, there were 31,379 girls aged between 10 and 14 who were married. This was a 10.5% increase over the previous year.



Year Eleven: A How-To Guide!

By Poppy Porter-Mascull
11Z

It's exam season. The Christmas tree is up, the mistletoe is hanging, the baubles are shining, but there is something looming over every Year 11 student. It's not whether Santa will deliver their presents or if they'll receive coal in their stockings this year; mocks and GCSEs are scarily close! But not to fret, everyone is in the same boat, allegedly.

As a student, I am going through it right now, so for this editorials segment, here is a How-To Guide on the infamous school year of Year 11. The one thing to remember about this year is it isn't just about school. It is important to maintain a healthy balance between school work and relaxation, or else you'll be so overworked you

might perform poorly on the big exams! As some teachers might tell you, reading is a great way to wind down, whether you're sun-bathing in Portugal or tucked into bed on a winter's night. It is an escape, where you don't even have to stand up to experience another world. As well as reading, there are TV programmes, movies, video games and much more to help take your mind off the blatant stress caused by the school year. Not only that, but non-technological activities such as cooking or sport are important to support you mentally in these challenging times. For example, Alfie Smith, 11Z, stated, "Kayaking out of school takes my mind off the stress of exams and I enjoy the fresh air." It is good to see the students of CGS taking part in beneficial activities out of the school zone!

However, alongside these fun and games, the balance is necessary. Avoiding revision and schoolwork could be detrimental to your learning, so staggered, healthy revision is key. Since it is compulsory to take so many subjects it can be challenging to tackle this work load. I find revising difficult to get into, especially with the distractions of the modern world like an Instagram notification or a pigeon flying past the window. Ideally, you want to be able to understand the subject as well as memorise the key facts, although this doesn't always completely work out. Making clear notes or revision cards is a great tactic in terms of meeting these expectations. "Little and often", as you may hear among your teachers, is vital. Whether you're sweating over the reactivity series or stressing

over soft engineering strategies, revising for a short period of time and repeating this method regularly will help engrave the key points into your brain, so you can be exam-ready! After all, everyone's mind works differently and everyone revises differently. Some people might learn better reading through a text book, or reciting their studies out loud to their mirror.

The one thing to remember is that you are not alone. There is support all around, from helpful websites like BBC Bitesize to mental health services. Even the teachers, whom you may find scary and threatening, strive for your success. Trying your hardest is the best possible thing you can do during exam season, but most importantly, have a merry Christmas!

Ayscough On Top!

By **Dheethya Ananth Ramesh 9X**

On Tuesday the 30th of November, lower school shone bright with talent again, as pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9 seized their opportunity to represent their house in Junior House Music. It truly was an eye opener for everyone, to witness the astounding talent of our peers. It was an opportunity to stand up and do something for your house, whether it was in a group, or by themselves. The crowd was undoubtedly one of the most encouraging we have seen! It is no question that as a school we support and encourage our peers; this was evident during House Music and many other events! In the end, Ayscough sang and played their House to a win! It was a definitely close call, but Ayscough took the lead by 4

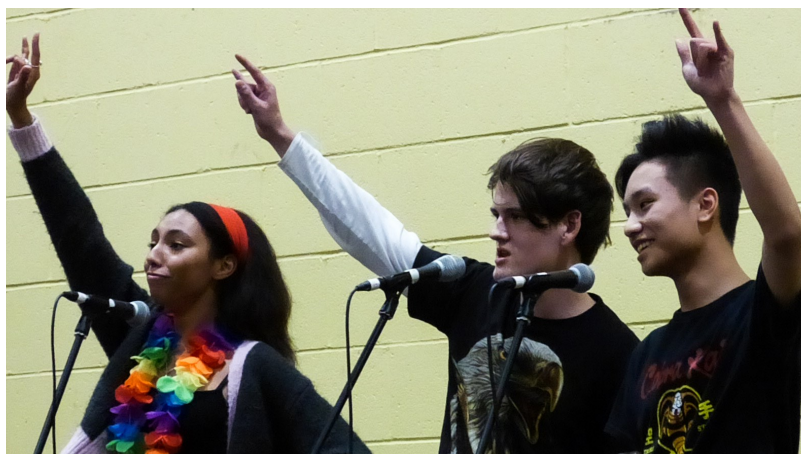
points. Rawlinson, in 3rd place received 83 points, Hansard, the runner up, received 88 points, and our winner Ayscough crawled its way to success with 92 points! Without a doubt, one of their highlights of the performance was Rawlinson's Junior Vocal Solo. Arjun Babu knocked us off our feet as he 'Flew us to the moon,' along with some merry stage presence as he danced away with 17 points for Rawlinson! It was an unforgettable performance and a strong start for Rawlinson, Once again, Renyi Chong does not fail to shock us with his breath-taking cello performance, which won Ayscough a perfect score of 20 in the Junior Instrumental solo. He says, "I enjoyed the experience a lot and I was glad to be a part of it.



The Junior piano duet was again won by Ayscough, with "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" played by Kevin and Becky Lin. It was a light-hearted show of talent and clearly very well-rehearsed. Kevin played a large role in Junior House Music, also a part of the winning instrumental group. He says, "It was a fun event, and it gives people the opportunity to express their talent to the general public. The piano duet was nice because I got to play with my sister. Leading the instrumental group was a bit scary, because I didn't really know what I was doing at first, but it was good after a week or so. Winning felt really nice, and I felt really accomplished to do something for Ayscough." House Music is an opportunity for pupils to lead, and develop confidence. Abhi and Ashi for Hansard yet again didn't fail to impress us with their fabulous piano duet. After the piano duets, came the Instrumental groups. It is essential to applaud

each group for the hefty amount of rehearsal time and effort everyone put in. Ayscough won this with their unforgettable piece, "Black Jack." It consisted of 10 people and was put together incredibly and got a perfect score of 20! Singing is a great way to have fun and enjoy yourself and this was distinctly shown through all the Junior Vocal Groups. Hansard opened the door to a win with their piece from Frozen "Love is an open door," and won the section. It most definitely got the crowd moving as well as themselves! Ayscough and Rawlinson shared second place with 17 points. However, every single piece was entertaining, and this concert would truly have not been possible without each and every one of the performers, the audience, and the teachers and House Captains. These include Miss Thompson, Miss Allan and Sue Baker. It surely was a prestigious event which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

How about Hansard?



By Anna Miroshnikova 9Z

Let's set the scene, years 10-13 preparing for a tough house competition- one of the most exciting annual battles at Caistor Grammar School. Rehearsals had everyone buzzing about the performances that had been so highly praised although, of course, the majority of students were just rooting and wishing that their house would outshine the rest. And so, during the afternoon of Wednesday the 30th: flutes were tuned, drums were set in place and cellos perfectly aligned. The long but adrenaline-filled rivalry had commenced. Renjay Chong was the first of many to win for Ayscough in the instrumental solo section, allowing the blue house's winning streak to continue from the day before. Second place was taken by Thomas Hart, with a piano rendition of 'Somewhere over the Rainbow,' and third place went to Jonathan Murthwaite

and his accordion, playing a medley of folk songs. A determined, junior house music winning house set their eyes on the prize of being triumphant before the end of the day. Unfortunately for them, a certain Hansard's Eva Phillips had enticed the judges with her memorable vocal solo which certainly didn't rain on their parades, which scored them their first victory of the day. I might be in Hansard myself, but Eva was truly something to hear as Libby Jackson, a year 10, commented that, "I thought that they all worked really hard and were so cohesive together. You could really see the effort that Eva had put in during her solo." Despite that win, their moment was interrupted by Ayscough's graceful piano duet. Claudia Smith and Mia Chong put on a spectacular show and managed to snatch Ayscough's second victory of the day, with another rendition of 'dance of the sugar plum fairy', clearly a

winning tune. Instrumental groups had a running theme of movies with Hansard doing Up and Ayscough doing Ratatouille, but Rawlinson still wowed the audience with their performance of Jessica, the Top gear theme tune. Another appearance of Renjay and his amazing violin skills came to play within Ayscough's winning Ratatouille performance. A tie between Hansard and Rawlinson followed for the vocal groups. Debatably; one of the most fun groups throughout the whole competition is the vocal groups. The mix of voices makes a very congenial performance for the seniors to listen to, and each group featured some memorable moments, with Hansard's beach balls and impressive choreography, and Rawlinson's very own Spice Girls to name a few. Ayscough and Hansard's major successes may have given Rawlinson a run for their money, so far but the thrilling

band arrangements shocked the crowd once they found out that all three houses tied. Sue Baker, our judge, must've enjoyed 'Teenage Dirtbag' from Hansard, with a seriously cool new hair look, and some impressive vocals from Performing Arts Captain Harry Giles, 'Buddy Holly' by Rawlinson, featuring a mean guitar solo from Charlie Henderson, their Performing Arts Captain and 'Any way you want it' from Ayscough as she made the decision to give all three houses 18 points. Ultimately, Hansard grasped onto that final win of the day and left the seniors astonished and the crowd in the evening impressed by the talent we have. An optimistic ambience for all the houses carries on and all our thanks go to the tech team, house captains and participants. We can't forget our judge Sue Baker who made the event possible. We can't wait for next year and all the house spirit, once again- well done!

Heat of the Houses

By Alfie Smith 11Z

The house system here at Caistor Grammar School is an integral part of the school. On these pages we hand over to the House Captains of Ayscough, Rawlinson and Hansard, to tell us what makes their house so special this year.

Here at Caistor, houses are so much more. Whereas other schools will only use houses in activities such as sports day, Caistor provides a wide variety of activities that provide for all student's interests, whether is sports such as cross country and football, or house quiz and house chess, this wide range of activities allows all students to participate in something that

they are passionate about. The sense of community in each of these events is what makes it so rewarding. As a smaller school with only three houses the results at the end of the year are always extremely close making them unpredictable, providing a greater sense of reward to the students when they win. Mrs Cooke, Mr Wood and Mr Markham are ours heads of houses, for Rawlinson, Hansard and Ayscough. These are the people who lead our house meetings and are always there to support their students in competition. Without these houses the school wouldn't be the same and would most definitely have the community spirit it has today.



Roaring Rawlinson



By Max Robinson 13SM

This year Rawlinson has been prowling its way to success yet again. Year 13 House Football has been a highlight so far for many Sixth Formers in Rawlinson and the other houses. A competitive but friendly experience provided a final opportunity for most of these Sixth Formers to represent their house and edge themselves into Sixth Form history. Not only did Rawlinson come out on top but this time with new players taking centre stage. Former youth prospect Brandon Mckie guided Rawlinson to a win for his first, and most likely last Rawlinson event. Although he guided us to success it was the enjoyment and teamwork which is created by house events which helps many external students develop into Caistor Grammar School

life. Another good point to mention is how house events like House Football and House Plays are always open for all. As well as external students like Brandon joining, we have also had new players come into the spotlight that haven't competed before. Iconic figure Kieran Green, Senior Prefect, joined the lads for the first time since he arrived here in 2016. He may have brought a new style of Football, walking football, though he thoroughly enjoyed the experience. With House Chess on the horizon, one thing is for sure Kieran Green will be chasing Rawlinson glory for another time. Overall we've had a very successful year so far, achieving top spot in most events and we can hope for more success to come.

Hansard Hits Hard

By Oliver Morton 13SM

This year for Hansard students has been a busy one with plenty of house points at stake. Some of our most notable performances have come from the Hansard seniors and Hansard juniors coming 1st and 2nd respectively in this year's house music competition, giving us an impressive 2nd place overall. Over to sports performances: in the inter-house football Hansard boys came a close second, losing to a strong Ayscough team and managing to edge it in the 14th minute of extra time. As far as the netball results go, the Hansard year 8 girl's teams absolutely smashed the competition, reminding the rest of Hansard how they need to play next year. The overall standing of the house points is a well-kept secret, with even the

house officials being left in the dark, so we remind the whole of Hansard to get involved with the upcoming events such as the great house drama competition put together by our beloved performing arts captains and House chess competition in the next couple of days. As always, we remind years 7, 8 and 9 to keep collecting their merits to keep us in the running for the House cup. As far as individual house members this year, Alice Fearn led a very impressive run in the year 11 cross country, gaining herself another win for Hansard, and Sam Taylor's halfway line goal in the 6th form interhouse football which deserves extra house points in itself.



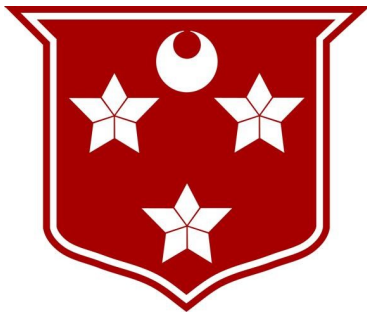
Ayscough's Return?



By Jonathan Omonbude
13JK

ASYCOUGH!!! The best house with the best people, and the most skilled. Let's start with our captains, Beth Roberts, the female house captain, and house general manager. Her emailing skills have weaselled us out of many precarious situations and her pragmatic mentality is contagious. Holly Freeman, our female Arts captain, brings immaculate vibes to the house proceedings, and bounces well off her male counterpart, Kalo Beeson. The boy is a powerhouse, carrying us heavily through house plays of last year and playing a pivotal role in house music of this. I don't exactly know what our sports captains do, but I do know that Alice and Isaac are hardworking and dedicated to making Ayscough stay sporty.

Finally, Jonathan Omonbude, from a purely unbiased perspective, he is undoubtedly the best house captain the school has ever had. He partakes in almost every house event, from football, to being organiser maestro of both plays last year and music this year. He's impeccable, and words cannot describe how vital he is in maintaining the Ayscough house machine. As a house we're in a good position, last year we broke our slump of coming last place in house plays and replaced it with a W for juniors and joint second in seniors. In other words, Ayscough is on the up, and we need to keep this momentum going with maximum effort and dedication to the house regime. Soon we shall be dizzy with success and bring good old Mr. Markham his shield back.



Focus Sport



Hip Hip Hansard!

By Grace Hutson 8Y and Jessica Wall 12VS

As students ventured down the hill on the 23rd of November, excitement was buzzing through the cold, wet November air. Students were preparing to show off the commitment, resilience and hard work that they had been putting in throughout their PE lessons. Runners were warming up, sixth formers were showing their support, and teachers were easing the nerves as Rawlinson, Ayscough and Hansard were all hoping to come out on top in the annual House Cross Country competition. This year the athletes would be running a new course, adding an added sense of excitement and nerves. The Year 7s had their first taste of the competitive atmosphere of the

house sport competitions and they were the first to approach the starting line.

Whilst everyone else fought the cold with stretches and jumping jacks, the Year 7 students prepared to race. Some were excited, some were nervous, and many were both. They all did tremendously well in their first cross country competition, but ultimately Jemima Peart came 1st for the girls, and Myles Elliot 1st for the boys, both gaining points for Ayscough.

The Year 8 and 9s were the next to run. For the girls, the winner was Mollie Grant, from Rawlinson. For the boys, Oliver Spray, from Ayscough, came first. Finally, the Year 10 and 11s had their turn. Alice Fearn was the winning girl, and Jasper Fox the winning boy.

For the Year 11s, this was their last House country competition.

As the overall results were being counted and checked, anticipation was felt throughout all attendees. Cheers were heard as it was announced. Hansard, first place. Rawlinson, second place. Ayscough, third place.

The top 8 athletes of each race went to the London Road Pavilion, Louth in the Superzone Cross Country, competing with students from other schools. This took place on the 25th of November. Of all our athletes, 24 students qualified to run at County level. These students will compete at the start of January, 2023.



Got it in the net!

By Grace Hutson 8Y and Jessica Wall 12VS

The Under 16s netball team has had a great season so far. The team, consisting of Year 10 and 11 students, competed at the Local Superzone competition, and after playing strongly against 5 other schools, they gained 2nd place, qualifying to the next stage. Annabelle Peart was named player of the match after displaying mature sportsmanship and incredible team work.

They went through to play at county level in Stamford, on Saturday the 12th of November. It was an early start for the team. They won, drew and lost, but eventually came in 6th place overall, making both themselves and the school very proud.

Mrs Ellerby stated that the team had made great progress since past competitions. The school are looking forward to seeing what they achieve in the future.