



- 3 EDITOR'S NOTE
- 4 FINDING MY PLACE AT RMGS
- 5 BHM 2025
- 7 THE LIFE OF A SHOWGIRL (LILLY'S VERSION)
- 11 'IF THIS WERE PLAYED UPON A STAGE NOW, I COULD CONDEMN IT AS AN IMPROBABLE FICTION' - A REVIEW OF CHANGELING THEATRE COMPANY'S TWELFTH NIGHT
- 13 FLASHCARDS FOR REVISION
- 14 THE WILD ROBOT- A REVIEW
- 15 HOW RELEVANT IS THE ROYAL FAMILY TO MODERN SOCIETY?
- 17 RE-WRITING THE TEENAGE EXPERIENCE
- 20 THE MARK OF THOUGHT
BY ISLA B
- 21 RACE CHANGING: CULTURAL APPROPRIATION OR PERSONAL CHOICE?
- 22 THE SCIENCE SCOOP
BY RHEA G
- 24 REMARKABLE READS
THE LOST SHOE
THE TRUE SPIRIT OF SPORTS DAY
A COLLECTION OF POEMS BY SKY A
55 WORD STORIES
- 28 THE MARK OF MURDER
BY HOLLY D
- 30 RMGS ARCHIVES
DR. KEEN- RMGS' LONGEST-STANDING
HEADTEACHER

EDITOR'S NOTE

WRITTEN BY MRS STARR

Writing this Editor's Note is an exciting way to start the new academic year. I am thrilled to welcome our new Year 7 students to RMGS, some of whom have already contributed fantastic articles for this issue of The Mark. It has been brilliant to see them sharing their voices and getting involved with our school community.

This issue marks a special milestone for The Mark, as it has been a year since the first re-vamped version of our publication. It has been a huge honour to work with every writer and artist on each and every issue over the past year. The creativity, passion, and collaboration that go into every edition make this publication such a joy to be part of. As we look to the year ahead, we are hoping to expand The Mark even further, and we are looking for writers, photographers, designers, as well as many other roles to join our growing team. If you have ever wanted to see your work in print or contribute to telling the stories of our school community, now is the perfect time to get involved.

Meanwhile, our Year 11 students have returned focused and determined, working hard during their first term back and gearing up for their first round of mocks in December. Their dedication is inspiring, and I wish them the best of luck as they tackle this important stage of their studies.

I am also delighted to welcome our new Year 12 students and our prefect team. They have already been amazing role models to our younger students, showing leadership, enthusiasm, and kindness throughout the school. Their guidance and support make a real difference to our school community.

In this issue, we have a fantastic variety of articles to enjoy, including a review of the new Taylor Swift album, *The Life of a Showgirl*, as well as some brilliant writing by our past editor, Isla B, centred on her A-Level Philosophy studies. We also have some exceptional creative writing to showcase, highlighting the talent and imagination of our students.

This issue of The Mark celebrates the start of a new year and showcases the energy, creativity, and enthusiasm that our students bring to RMGS. I hope you enjoy reading the articles, reviews, and creative pieces included. I look forward to seeing even more of you get involved as the year unfolds. Here is to a fantastic 2025-2026 academic year.

Happy Reading!

FINDING MY PLACE AT RMGS

Written by Ibraheem M in Year 7, this article recounts his first experiences at RMGS, from navigating the school and meeting new friends to enjoying lessons and lunch. Ibraheem reflects on how his initial nerves have turned into excitement and pride in being part of a friendly, supportive school community.



Joining a new school is a big step, especially in secondary school. My first day was filled with unfamiliar faces, fresh opportunities, and conversations I will never forget. RMGS is an amazing school, and let me tell you about it.

On my first day, all the new Year 7s gathered on the tennis courts. I was nervous because I did not know the way to my form. Luckily, one of the teachers helped me and took me to where the rest of my form was. After a few minutes, an exceedingly kind teacher told us to talk to the person in front of us. I spoke with a student called Tristan. He was a nice person, the type anyone would want to be friends with. When our form tutor came to pick us up, she gave us lanyards, which we had to wear at all times. As we entered our form room, she went through a PowerPoint about the school. This was a

very intriguing presentation. It went on for two hours, and then it was break time. There were two very thoughtful students, Oscar and Anne, who guided us around the school and helped us find our classes. The lessons were amazing!

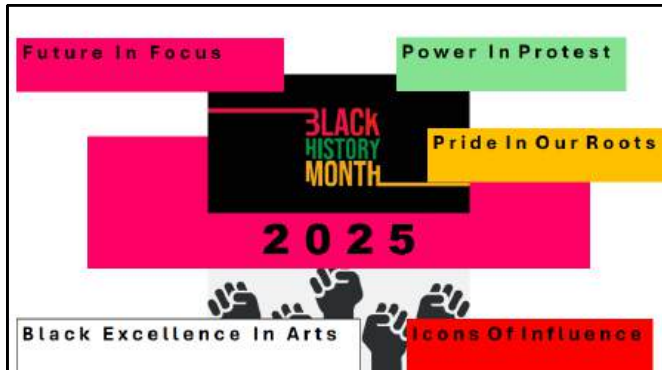
On the second day, I got a bit lost, but a teacher helped me, and the day went on as normal. Over the next week, I had already made three friends: Tristan, Jacob, and Tyler. One of the best things about the school was the lunch – it was amazing, especially the dessert!

Looking back, I feel proud of how far I have come already. What once felt scary has now become exciting. I am glad to be part of a school community that feels friendly and offers lots of opportunities to help you grow.

WRITTEN BY IBRAHEEM M
YEAR 7

BHM 2025

This article explores how RMGS celebrated Black History Month through a range of student-led initiatives organised by the Diversity Team. We discuss the inspiration behind this year's theme, the planning of key events such as the assembly, and the messages the team hopes to share with the school community.



Throughout October, Rainham Mark Grammar School has been alive with creativity, conversation, and celebration as students and staff have come together to mark Black History Month 2025. This year's events were organised by the Diversity Team, who led a range of activities, including a powerful student-led assembly and a thought-provoking photobooth installation. I was lucky enough to sit down with the team and ask some questions about this term's BHM events.

What inspired this year's Black History Month theme?

This year's theme, "Standing Firm in Power and Pride," was inspired by the national focus for Black History Month 2025. Ms Amatriain explained that each day of the month, assemblies explored a different subtheme with each year group, creating a unique experience for everyone. The image at the start of this article represents these themes.

Notable examples include "Excellence in the Arts", which featured in the Year 10 assemblies and celebrated the achievements of Black artists, actors, musicians, playwrights, and poets. The Year 9 assembly explored influential figures and their impact on the world, featuring original student performances. Nathan wrote a poem that he read during the Year 10 assembly and that Abdul later performed in the Year 7 and 8 assemblies. Christina (Year 9) also wrote

a brilliant spoken-word poem titled "This Black Child," which she performed in the Year 9 assembly. The celebrations even extended beyond RMGS. Edie, Lydia, and Nathan visited Twydall Primary School to deliver a Black History Month assembly. Mrs Horstrup proudly commented on how part of it was even freestyled by the team! The feedback from this was overwhelmingly positive, with staff at Twydall describing the trio as "poised and passionate," while the KS2 pupils were in awe of their energy and message.

How did the Diversity Team plan and organise the events?

The Diversity Team, led by Ms Amatriain and Mrs Horstrup, worked collaboratively to design a programme that combined education, reflection, and joy. Their planning focused on creating opportunities for both students and teachers to engage meaningfully with the theme, ensuring that every year group could contribute to and learn from the celebrations.



When asked what they hoped students would gain from these events, Daniel said, "I hope that people will have a sense of pride for their own and others' heritage and strive for the world to be a better place for everyone.". Bea added, "It's important for us to know our ancestry and to respect others." and Abbie-Gail



summed up the team’s goal perfectly: “Inclusion for everyone.”

Can you tell us more about the photobooth and the canteen display?

Ms Amatriain created a photobooth featuring protest signs that students, and staff, could hold while being photographed. These photos now fill the canteen space, representing empowerment, unity, and belonging. “Students see themselves represented and heard as conversations happen around this work,” explained Ms Amatriain. “It’s about community building and sparking discussions in a joyful manner, as well as celebrating Black heritage and contemporary figures. Not just during this month, but beyond.”

The Student Diversity Team also created a stunning mural-style artwork using fabric, provided by the Art Department. This creative piece complements the photobooth display and showcases the talent and imagination of RMGS students.

What was the main message behind the Black History Month assembly?

The student-led assembly served as a central moment in the month’s celebrations. It showcased the talents, leadership, and insight of RMGS students, who explored what it means to “stand firm in power and pride” in today’s world. Combining poetry by Christina and Nathan as well as talks from the team, the assembly highlighted unity, and the ongoing importance of representation and awareness within the school community.

The success of the Diversity Team

The success of this year’s Black History Month celebrations is a testament to the hard work and creativity of the Diversity Team, whose members meet every Friday lunchtime in C4. The group continues to grow and welcomes all students who are passionate about promoting inclusivity, celebrating difference, and building a stronger, more united school community.



Looking ahead, the Student Diversity Team has an exciting calendar of events planned, including LGBTQ+ Day, Children’s Mental Health Day, International Women’s Day, Autism Awareness Day, and Deaf Awareness Day. Of course, the much-anticipated Culture Day will also return later in the year—an event the team is especially excited to bring to life.

**JOIN THE
DIVERSITY TEAM
FRIDAY LUNCH
C4**

**CONTACT MRS HORSTRUP
WITH ANY ENQUIRIES AT
EHORSTRUP@RMET.ORG**

THE LIFE OF A SHOWGIRL (LILLY'S VERSION)

Written by Lilly S in Year 10, this article celebrates Taylor Swift's return with her record-breaking twelfth studio album *The Life of a Showgirl*, exploring its themes, songs, and global impact. Lilly shares her passionate review of the album and accompanying film, praising it as a triumphant new era for the pop icon.

After a well-deserved nine-month break following *The Eras Tour*, the global superstar has returned stronger than ever. *The Life of a Showgirl* is already breaking records and conquering the charts. This brand-new album has become the most-streamed album of the year on Spotify, and the sheer volume of listeners waiting for its release even caused the app to crash.

Taylor's twelfth studio album—and her first since *Reputation* to feature producers Max Martin and Shellback—*The Life of a Showgirl* takes listeners on a journey behind the curtain, addressing the struggles faced by people living under the spotlight. On the album's release date, an 89-minute film titled *The Release Party of a Showgirl* premiered in cinemas worldwide, selling out theaters everywhere. The film debuted the music video for track one, *The Fate of Ophelia*, and included behind-the-scenes footage of the filming process. Viewers also saw Taylor discuss the inspiration behind the album and explain the story of each song.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME COMING...

Swifties believe Taylor has been hinting at this album ever since *Midnights*. The music video for *Bejeweled* featured scenes that fit the showgirl aesthetic, and in the *Anti-Hero* video, two versions of

Taylor appear: one dressed in plain white (the tortured poet) and the other in sparkly green and orange (the showgirl).

During the European leg of *The Eras Tour*, Taylor began debuting new orange-themed outfits, and fans noticed the visuals shifting toward orange hues. At the tour's final show, an orange door appeared on the main screen, which she walked through—symbolizing her entrance into a new era.

On August 13, Taylor made her podcasting debut on Travis and Jason Kelce's *New Heights* podcast, where she announced her new album, its release date, and the tracklist. That same month, she revealed she had finally bought back her master recordings after a long legal battle to regain ownership.

During the two months leading up to the album's release, Taylor kept fans entertained with countdowns on her website. These ended with special CD and vinyl editions, box sets, and even a "showgirl" version of her iconic cardigan.

In the week before release, many radio and talk shows, especially in the UK, teased upcoming appearances by Taylor.

CONTINUE READING ON THE NEXT PAGE





The Release

The Life of a Showgirl dropped at 5 a.m. on October 3 and topped charts within hours. The album has already been a massive success and is expected to sweep upcoming award ceremonies. The Release Party of a Showgirl premiered in UK cinemas at 8 p.m., with most screenings selling out.

Cinemas celebrated with sparkly decorations and Taylor Swift songs playing in the lobby; some staff even wore pink cowboy hats. Many brands joined in the fun, changing their logos to shades of green and orange to celebrate the occasion.

Tracklist

1. THE FATE OF OPHELIA

Inspired by the character Ophelia from Shakespeare's Hamlet, this song explores how Taylor's fiancé, Travis Kelce, "saved her" from sharing Ophelia's tragic fate. Taylor said she wanted to give Ophelia a happier ending—much like she did in Love Story. The music video reflects on how the definition of a showgirl has evolved over

time, featuring her Eras Tour dancers, backup singers, and band members in a joyful reunion.

2. ELIZABETH TAYLOR

This song honours the legendary 20th-century actress, known for her glamour and resilience under the public microscope. Taylor Swift calls Elizabeth Taylor one of her biggest role models and one of the original showgirls. The track feels like a long-lost Reputation (Taylor's Version) vault song.

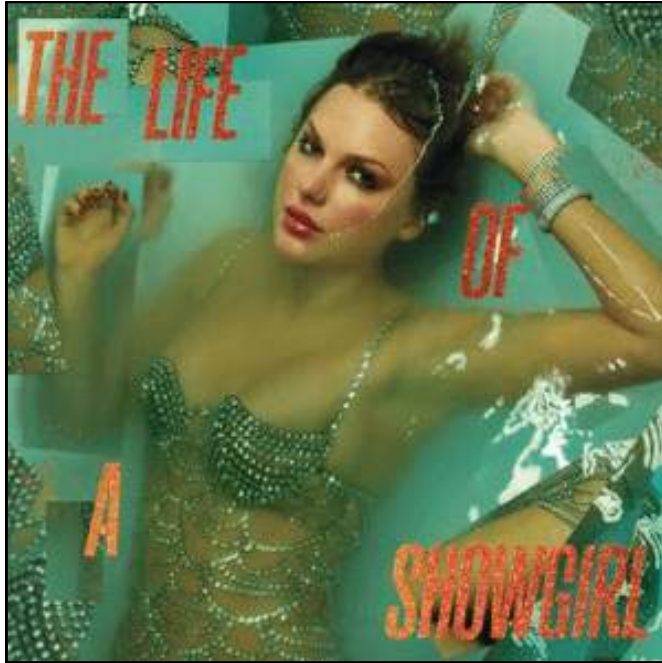
3. OPALITE

Track three is irresistibly upbeat. It's about choosing happiness and creating your own "man-made joy." Opalite, a man-made opal, symbolizes this theme. Since opal is also Travis Kelce's birthstone, the song suggests he's a key source of Taylor's new happiness—pulling her out of the tortured poet era.

4. FATHER FIGURE

This haunting song showcases Taylor's storytelling, reminiscent of Folklore and Evermore. It interpolates George

Michael's Father Figure and tackles the toxic power dynamics in the music industry. Some fans speculate it references Big Machine Records CEO Scott Borchetta, who sold Taylor's masters without her consent.



5. ELDEST DAUGHTER

This song explores the contrast between public personas and private realities, especially in the age of social media. At the release party, Taylor said, "People reward you for being tough and unbothered, but everyone has things and people that matter to them." True to her tradition, track five is the most emotional song on the album.

6. RUIN THE FRIENDSHIP

Taylor revisits her teenage years in this bittersweet song about fearing that confessing a crush might "ruin the friendship." Tragically, the boy later dies, leaving her wondering what might have been. Fans speculate it's about her high school friend Jeff Lang, who passed away at 21.

7. ACTUALLY ROMANTIC

"Actually Romantic" is about realising someone has a one-sided adversarial relationship with you that you didn't even know about," Taylor explained. The song turns the narrative around, suggesting that people obsessed with disliking you are, in a way, "actually romantic" for giving you so much attention.

8. WISH LIST

This song contrasts people's material dreams with Taylor's own: settling down with "you" and building a family. It's a heartfelt tribute to Travis Kelce.

9. WOOD

Wood plays on superstitions—black cats, lucky pennies, knocking on wood—while hinting at deeper double meanings. You'll have to listen yourself to uncover them.

10. CANCELLED!

This track tackles cancel culture and online mob mentality. Taylor reflects on how the internet has turned against her in the past, but she refuses to "cancel" others in return.

11. HONEY

In the Release Party film, Taylor explained that people used to call her "honey" or "sweetheart" sarcastically. Now, she's reclaiming those words with love and confidence. "You can call me honey if you want," she sings, "because I'm the one you want."

12. THE LIFE OF A SHOWGIRL (FEAT. SABRINA CARPENTER)

The title track tells the story of Kitty, a showgirl who warns Taylor's character about the harsh realities behind the glamour. The song ends with real crowd noise from the final Eras Tour show in Vancouver—a perfect, cinematic finale.

REVIEW (LILLY'S VERSION)

I am in love with this album. On October 3, I set my alarm for 4:58 a.m. so I could listen the second it dropped!

The album feels like a full musical; a cohesive story that revisits every one of Taylor's eras. The Release Party of a Showgirl was magical; hearing her talk about her art and singing along with other Swifties was unforgettable. It was my first time in a room full of fans since The Eras Tour, and it felt amazing.

Yes, I'm a die-hard Swiftie and completely biased but I'd still give this album five stars. If you haven't listened yet, what are you even doing with your life?

WRITTEN BY LILLY S
YEAR 10

NO LIMITS

Home work



Written by Blake S. Year 7

BY BLAKE S
YEAR 7

‘IF THIS WERE PLAYED UPON A STAGE NOW, I COULD CONDEMN IT AS AN IMPROBABLE FICTION’ - A REVIEW OF CHANGELING THEATRE COMPANY’S TWELFTH NIGHT

Written by Lizzy K in Year 12, this review captures the vibrant energy and chemistry of Changeling Theatre’s open-air production of Twelfth Night at Upnor Castle, highlighting standout performances and clever staging. Lizzy praises the cast, music, and costumes while noting minor challenges with character resemblance and outdoor acoustics, ultimately calling it one of her favourite Shakespeare adaptations.

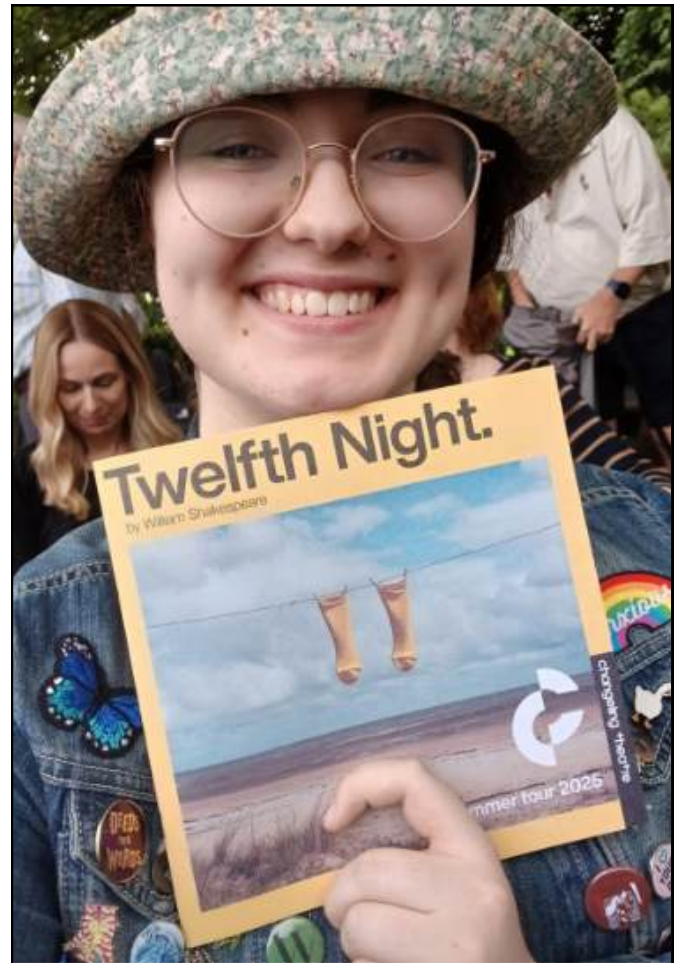


On 23rd July, I found myself walking down a sloped, cobbled street next to the Medway, in the direction of Upnor Castle. Hundreds of years ago, this fort had been abuzz with activity as the Dutch sailed down the Medway to capture the English flagship. Nowadays, it is a relatively quiet English Heritage property – or, on nights like August 23rd, it acts as a host to Changeling Theatre. Changeling are a professional theatre company who tour their productions around open-air

locations in the South East. This summer, they took on Twelfth Night, Shakespeare’s gleefully ridiculous comedy about the shipwrecked Viola, who decides to dress like a man to get a job with a nearby Duke. What she doesn’t know, of course, is that her identical twin brother, Sebastian, is still alive, and their similar looks greatly confuse everyone who happens to encounter them.

One of the first things that struck me about this production was the electric chemistry between all the cast members. From the first moment they took the stage, with the flowing tune of a shanty, to the bows (fabulously choreographed to “Girls & Boys” by Blur), I was hooked. Particularly fantastic in their chemistry together were Charlie Maddison (Sir Toby Belch), Jay Dodds (Sir Andrew Aguecheek), and Morwenna Brown (Maria). Brown’s witty, clever Maria was a perfect balance for Maddison’s drunken antics and Dodds’ gloriously camp froppery. Together with Jonathon Nielsen-Keen’s hilarious performance as the straight-laced Malvolio and Bryony Maguire’s seriously foolish Feste, the five took the audience on a glorious romp through the play’s B-plot. A standout moment was when Malvolio reads a forged letter supposedly written by Lady Olivia confessing her love to him. It’s a credit to Nielsen-Keen that he kept a straight face while Maddison, Dodds, and Jack Medlin as Fabian kept knocking over set pieces and finding ever more awkward hiding places behind him.

Meg Walls was an extremely capable leading lady, and it was easy to empathise with the sheer confusion and turmoil Viola experiences during the play. Her delivery of Viola’s “I left no ring with her” monologue was a brilliantly acted turning point for the character, in which she truly realises how much confusion her presence has created. There to provide this turmoil were Jack Medlin (Duke Orsino) and Ema Cavolli (Lady Olivia). Medlin’s lovable, vulnerable Orsino was a satisfying ‘golden retriever vs black cat’ contrast to Cavolli’s more refined, sheltered Olivia. The three love interests’ characteristics created extremely enjoyable dynamics, however they were paired in a scene — whether it was Orsino’s puppyish affections coming up against the wall of Olivia’s indifference, or Viola’s increasing awkwardness at Olivia’s suave flirtations. Things became even more complicated when Michael Lorchir appeared as Sebastian, and Lorchir’s delightful performance as Viola’s somewhat hapless twin was a wonderful addition to the already established dynamics.



Perhaps this is a somewhat petty reason to subtract a star, but what did throw me somewhat was how markedly difficult it would be to mistake Viola for Sebastian, especially given how much importance is placed on them looking alike. As previously mentioned, the actors embodied their characters fantastically as individuals, but when Antonio proclaims that “An apple cleft in two is not more twin / Than these two creatures” and one ‘creature’ is a head taller than the other, you cannot help but wonder if the collective population of Illyria might benefit from an optician. And, as always, the acoustics of an outdoor production are a difficult aspect to manage, and there were points at which performers were hard to hear — Lorchir, in particular, was often turned away from the audience when delivering lines, which didn’t work so well in the evening’s end-on setup.

Nevertheless, Robert Forknall’s direction ensured the piece was equal parts accessible and complex, which is no light

feat with Shakespeare's words — and not to mention the added challenge of directing a play that must adapt to new surroundings multiple times a week. Bryony Maguire's musical direction brought life to every scene and worked well to set the undeniable party mood with shanties, jigs, and a song after the interval that gave the audience a much-needed breakdown of the tangled plot so far. If music be the food of love, I certainly didn't go away hungry. Coupled with beautiful costumes by Eva Mavrikou, recycled from Changeling's 30-year collection, and a rich, colourful set that juxtaposed the historical location nicely, this performance was not only one of my favourite Shakespeare interpretations, but also one of my favourite shows overall. Funny, lively, and camp, Changeling gave me everything I would want from a production of Twelfth Night and more.

WRITTEN BY LIZZY K
YEAR 12

**WRITERS
WANTED!**

**WEDNESDAY
LUNCH IN L6**

**CONTACT MRS STARR
WITH ANY ENQUIRIES AT
LSTARR@RMET.ORG**



FLASHCARDS FOR REVISION

The following article comments on the benefits of flashcards. Flashcards make studying more effective by promoting active recall, spaced repetition, and engaging, flexible learning.

Flashcards are one of the simplest yet most effective study tools available to students. Whether you're revising for exams, learning new vocabulary, or memorising key facts, flashcards can make studying more active, efficient, and engaging.

One of the main benefits of flashcards is active recall. Instead of passively reading notes, flashcards force you to retrieve information from memory, which strengthens your ability to remember it later. This process helps move knowledge from short-term to long-term memory, making revision more effective over time.

Flashcards also encourage spaced repetition, a proven learning technique where you review material at increasing intervals. Apps like Anki or Quizlet make this easy by automatically scheduling cards you struggle with more frequently and those you know less often. This

method helps prevent last-minute cramming and improves long-term retention.

Another advantage is portability and flexibility. Flashcards are small and easy to carry, so you can revise anywhere — on the bus, between classes, or at home. They can also be adapted to any subject, from language learning to science definitions or historical dates.

Finally, flashcards make studying more interactive and engaging. You can colour-code topics, add images, or work with a partner to quiz each other. This variety keeps revision interesting and breaks up long study sessions.

In short, flashcards transform studying from a passive activity into an active, memory-boosting exercise. With regular use, they can make revision more effective, efficient, and even enjoyable.

THE WILD ROBOT- A REVIEW

Written by Daniel K in Year 8, this article reviews Peter Brown's *The Wild Robot*, highlighting Roz's journey of survival, self-discovery, and her relationships with the island's animals. Daniel also explores the novel's environmental themes, strong character development, and its wider franchise, including sequels and a DreamWorks adaptation.

In 2016, Peter Brown's novel *The Wild Robot* hit the shelves to be met with stellar reviews. Although nearly ten years old, it's truly a modern favourite. In this article, I will guide you through the world of this incredible story.

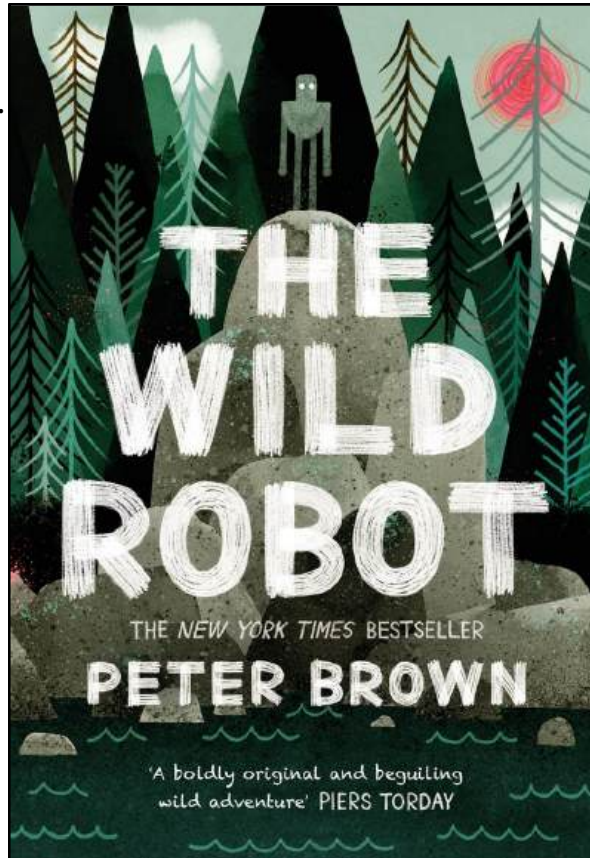
A Summary of the Plot

The book focuses on 'Rozzum Unit 7134' (or Roz for short), who first activates on an island after a storm with no knowledge of what to be or do, only the fact that she needs to survive. After adapting to life among a host of wild animals and raising an orphaned gosling, the island begins to feel like home until Roz's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.

What I Liked the Most

I really liked how the novel made multiple statements about the environment. For example, the story mentions how the island was once sprawling flatlands until flooding forced the animals uphill towards a battle for survival, which emphasises the impact that humans have on the Earth's ecosystem. Another example is the extreme cold of the winter killing off many of the animals on the island, with the nutrients from their corpses contributing to new plant growth. This reveals the harsh, ugly truth of nature, while reminding us of its beauty.

Another strong aspect was the descriptions. This includes describing a



violent hurricane as a 'swirling wall of darkness'. Aside from adjectives, there is also the repetition of imagery, such as comparing Roz breaking free from her crate to a chicken hatching from an egg, and later describing the gosling hatching as like a robot breaking free from a crate. I also enjoyed how both Roz and the animals' characters develop along the way. At first, the robot is unsure about how to co-exist with the animals, and the animals are afraid of the robot. As the story progresses,

both Roz and the animals learn to live together. Roz also goes on a journey of self-discovery to find out what her purpose is.

The Wider Franchise

After a teased sequel, Peter Brown released *The Wild Robot Escapes*, in which Roz adapts to working on a dairy farm while formulating an escape plan. Later, it was followed up by *The Wild Robot Protects*, where the robot goes on an ocean journey to protect her island from a mysterious 'poison tide'. A loosely adapted DreamWorks film also exists, and it is a great motion picture.

Conclusion

Overall, *The Wild Robot* is an unforgettable, heart-warming experience that I highly recommend to readers across the school.

HOW RELEVANT IS THE ROYAL FAMILY TO MODERN SOCIETY?

This article, written by Matilda G in Year 12, explores the continuing relevance of the British monarchy in modern society, examining debates surrounding its wealth, public image, and role within a changing nation. Matilda argues that while the Royal Family remains economically beneficial, it must modernise to maintain social significance in contemporary Britain.



For a period of around 1,200 years, England has been governed by a monarch, with 63 kings and queens since the ninth century. The Royal Family has long epitomised British culture and values, historically serving as a source of national pride. In the 21st century, however, many feel the monarchy is disjointed and disconnected from its people, with questions over whether a monarchy is still relevant or necessary in modern Britain.

One of the greatest critiques of the monarchy revolves around its unparalleled wealth and opulent lifestyle, particularly during a period of mass inflation and a cost-of-living crisis.

Whilst it is impossible to provide an accurate salary for members of the Royal Family, the main way the monarchy receives money is through the Sovereign Grant (which funds the official duties of the Royal Family as well as the maintenance of the Occupied Royal

Palaces), a taxpayer-funded settlement worth £83.3 million for 2024 to 2025. Additionally, the Royal Family receives money from the Duchy of Lancaster, which generates an annual profit of £20 million for the King, and the Duchy of Cornwall, which generates an annual profit of £24 million for the Duke of Cornwall. Whilst the King and the Duke of Cornwall pay tax on this income, these profits can ultimately be spent as they wish.

With the average UK salary being £37,430, the millions that the royals receive annually place them among the wealthiest people in the country, prompting questions about whether this wealth is justified or earned. Whilst the luxurious royal lifestyles previously felt impressive, even aspirational, in modern Britain many now view these lavish lifestyles as ostentatious and absurd. Arguably, the Royal Family is no longer relatable to most people, instead highlighting the stark wealth divide in

England, a country where 21% of the population lives in poverty. Let them eat cake?

Pro-monarchists, however, often justify the wealth of the Royal Family by referencing how the monarchy benefits the UK economy, having delivered a £1.766 billion economic benefit to the UK in 2023. This benefit is mainly achieved through tourism, with an estimated 50,000 people visiting Buckingham Palace annually, as well as through promoting international trade. This economic benefit therefore far outweighs the royals' own income, suggesting that, from an economic perspective, the Royal Family remains as relevant and integral to society as ever. Yet, despite seemingly earning their wealth, there are still questions about whether the Royal Family should maintain such a grand lifestyle. How can anyone live in a palace with 775 rooms while their subjects cannot afford basic amenities?

While the Royal Family has been able to justify its extreme wealth through greatly boosting the UK economy, there are many other factors the monarchy must confront to prove its relevance, most notably claims of being outdated and old-fashioned. With a vast generational divide, the monarchy does not appear to reflect the UK population's political standpoint, as it is perceived to epitomise values of conservatism and tradition within an increasingly liberal population. There has also been a recent rise in



republicanism, especially among young people. This increase could stem from the increasingly secular nature of the population, many of whom may be uninterested in the monarch's role as Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England, a role that may feel superficial. However, it

could also arise from how public opinion of the Royal Family has turned increasingly negative. Unlike past members of the Royal Family, such as Princess Diana, who were internationally adored, the modern Royal Family's image is irrevocably stained with allegations of sexual assault, adultery, and racism. While this image is somewhat improved by the immense number of charities championed by members of the Royal Family (there are over 1,000 organisations with members of the Royal Family as patron or president), this charity work can often feel perfunctory rather than a genuine display of philanthropy.

It is undeniable, however, that regardless of negative public opinion and scandals, the public remains deeply interested in the lives of the royals, with 18 million people in the UK watching King Charles's coronation and 28 million watching the Queen's funeral. Internationally, the Queen's funeral attracted an audience of 4 billion. Additionally, the Royal Family features heavily in magazines and tabloids; however, it is more often their infamy and scandals that sell the most. Do people buy these papers to sympathise with the Royal Family, or is the British public more interested in the potential downfall of its rulers?

Ultimately, the Royal Family maintains relevance from an economic perspective; however, from a social point of view, the monarchy needs reform. Nowadays, the monarchy is most relevant as a novelty, an almost archaic depiction of traditional British culture, yet it lacks modernity. To retain its significance to the population, the monarchy must evolve to reflect modern ideals, or else face becoming irrelevant.

WRITTEN BY MATILDA G
YEAR 12

RE-WRITING THE TEENAGE EXPERIENCE

This article, written by Ella-Blue C in Year 12, reflects on the realities of adolescence as explored in Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, challenging the notion of the "golden years" by highlighting both the highs and the struggles of teenage life. Ella-Blue C discusses how the novel balances moments of joy and despair, ultimately encouraging teenagers to let go of unrealistic expectations and embrace the complexities of growing up.

As soon as the clock strikes midnight on your 13th birthday, your teenage years begin. Artists throughout time have shown a particular fascination with the adolescent years of life. This period is often portrayed as your 'golden years,' a time that no other will ever come close to matching—a time of first kisses, new experiences, and feeling 'infinite.' From the moment you start consuming media, you are told that your life will come down to how brilliant your golden years are and what you have to show for them. By the time you reach your first day as a 13-year-old, your excitement is overflowing, picturing all the adventures you are bound to have.

Stephen Chbosky challenges this view in his debut novel, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. The book is narrated through a series of letters

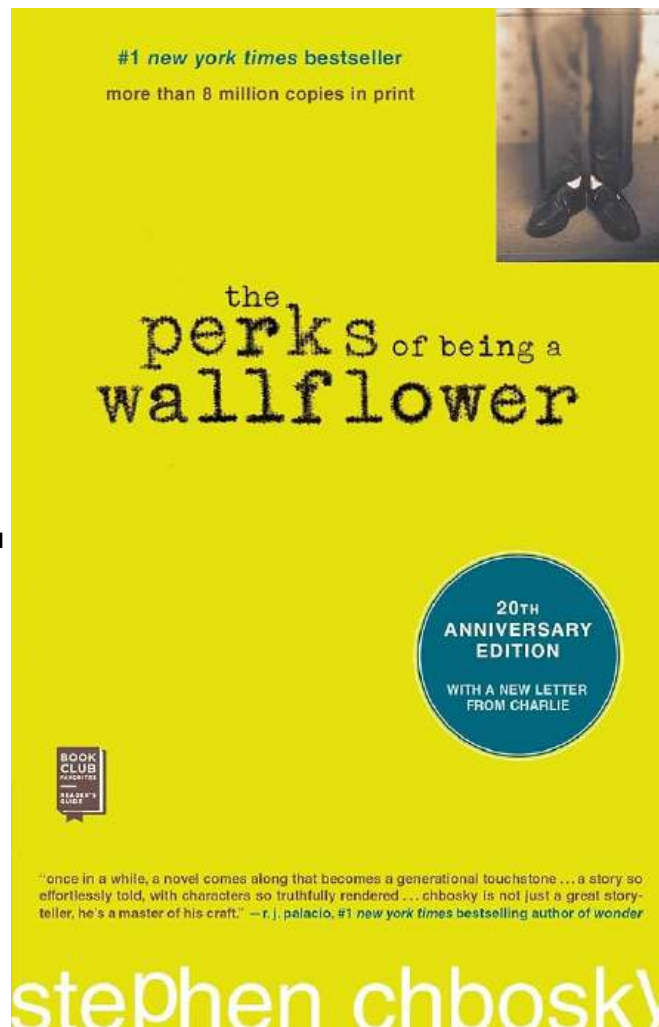
written by Charlie, recounting his first year of high school and the first year of his life since his one and only friend, Michael, committed suicide without leaving a note. Charlie is known as a wallflower; he lives his life in his mind, constantly thinking but rarely acting. He observes everyone he meets: friends,

family, strangers and often feels sorry for them. This novel is quiet, a true slice of life. Charlie is 15, turning 16 later in the book; he is in the middle of his 'golden years,' but do they ever feel that

way? His life feels mundane—because he rarely does anything, nothing ever happens.

This changes when he meets Patrick and his sister Sam, the most beautiful person he has ever seen. From that point on, Charlie's life is filled with excitement and happiness. He falls in love with music, goes to parties, and drives through the famous tunnel downtown, screaming, laughing, and wishing these moments would last forever. But it doesn't. No matter how much his life seems perfect and aspirational, there are still countless moments of depression, panic,

and overwhelming mundanity. The template for expected teenage years falls apart. Some teenagers may feel the same way. And if they were completely truthful, they might explain that this was due to pressures around having an "ideal" teenage experience. However, it could also be due to other factors such as



mental illness, disabilities, financial issues, or loneliness. Charlie struggles with never participating fully in his life; he repeatedly falls into panic attacks where he “breathes fast” or wanders off, falling asleep in the snow. He sees psychiatrists who ask him frightening questions, spends time in the hospital, and still doesn’t know what’s wrong with him—something that terrifies him. He experiences entire weeks of depression and hopelessness, even wishing he didn’t exist, communicating suicidal thoughts. One could look at this and argue that he hasn’t experienced the true nature of adolescence at all.

Yet, these depressive episodes are punctuated by moments that fit the template. Every so often, he creates the perfect memory; moments any director or author would be proud of. The Perks of Being a Wallflower is trying to tell teenage readers that they have been lied to: that they need to stop comparing their lives to an ideal and let go of the pressure to live a perfect life. Perhaps, if you’re lucky, you might occasionally

experience the dream, the template. This may last a night, a day, a week, maybe two. Chbosky manages to portray the ups and downs of adolescence in balance. Charlie experiences almost every negative emotion imaginable. Sometimes his life is ‘terrible’, and he wishes he could drift away; yet he persists, holding onto the hope of experiencing another week where the weather is perfect, where he can participate and feel infinite again. The Perks of Being a Wallflower does not shy away from the negativity of being a teenager and the challenges of life overall, but it does not present them in a completely pessimistic light.

I started reading this book in the library on my very first day of sixth form. I didn’t know anyone else there, and I wanted to fade into the walls, so I began reading. It felt like the natural thing to do. “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” showed me that there is no real standard for how I should live my life. It taught me to be aware that there are difficulties in life but also that there are many wonderful moments to come.

WRITTEN BY ELLA-BLUE C
YEAR 12



ARTISTS WANTED!

WEDNESDAY LUNCH IN L6

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ARTISTS TO
CREATE:

- COMIC BOOK STRIPS
- COVER IMAGES
- LANDSCAPES
- IMAGES OF THE SCHOOL
- IMAGES OF SCHOOL LIFE

CONTACT MRS STARR WITH ANY
ENQUIRIES AT LSTARR@RMET.ORG





BY DANIEL K
YEAR 8

THE MARK OF THOUGHT

Introducing “The Mark of Thought”, a new column in The Mark showcasing essays by Isla B, inspired by her A-Level Philosophy studies. Each edition will explore intriguing ideas, challenge assumptions, and invite readers to think deeply about the big questions that shape our world.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE BORN: SCHOPENHAUER AND THE MORALITY OF CREATING LIFE

Written by Isla B, this essay explores Schopenhauer’s philosophy on the inevitability of suffering and questions the morality of bringing new life into the world. Isla considers both sides of the argument, weighing life’s hardships against its joys, and highlights the ethical responsibility inherent in procreation.

Arthur Schopenhauer is one of the most famous pessimistic philosophers in history. He argued that the very essence of life includes the “will to live,” a relentless force that drives all creatures to strive endlessly. Because the striving never ends, Schopenhauer believed that human life is inseparable from suffering, as it leads to a vicious cycle: when our desires aren’t fulfilled, we feel pain and dissatisfaction; when they are fulfilled, we soon grow bored and desire again. For Schopenhauer, this cycle made life more of a burden than a blessing. His bleak outlook leads us to wonder: if existence is inevitably entwined with suffering, is it morally justifiable to bring new life into the world?

On one side, Schopenhauer’s reasoning suggests that procreation may be ethically impermissible. To choose to



have a child is not simply to create joy and opportunity; it is also to impose hardship, pain, and suffering on another being who never consented to exist in the first place. If suffering is guaranteed and unavoidable, then birth itself may be more harm than a gift. From this viewpoint, choosing not to bring new life into the world could be seen as an act of compassion and the most loving and moral thing to do.

However, it could be argued that Schopenhauer’s pessimism distorts the reality of human life. Suffering may exist, but so do joy, love, friendship, and meaning. Perhaps these goods not only balance the suffering but outweigh it, giving life value even amidst hardship. This view presents procreation not as a moral wrong but as a hopeful act, offering new individuals the possibility of flourishing. To deny that chance, some argue, might itself be ethically worrying.

After hearing both sides of the argument, where are we left? Whilst Schopenhauer doesn't settle the question, he forces us to recognise that bringing new life into the world isn't a morally neutral act. It carries weight, responsibility, and risk. His philosophy challenges us to think about the costs and possibilities of existence rather than blindly believing birth is inherently a blessing. Whether we agree with his pessimism or prefer a more hopeful view, the question he raises remains pressing, especially in a world where suffering is unavoidable, but meaning and joy can still be found.

WRITTEN BY ISLA B
YEAR 13

RACE CHANGING: CULTURAL APPROPRIATION OR PERSONAL CHOICE?

Written by Rebecca O in Year 10, this article explores the ethical and cultural issues surrounding attempts to change one's race, including the influence of beauty standards and pop culture. Rebecca argues that such practices often amount to cultural appropriation and highlight the importance of being comfortable and confident in one's own skin.

There have been frequent incidents on the internet where someone might attempt to change their race, thereby rejecting their ethnic roots. This subculture has become particularly popular due to the rise of Southeast Asian pop culture, which seems to be the race that most people desire to emulate.

To delve into this issue, I will discuss products that promote certain skin colours and perpetuate the toxicity of beauty standards. One of these products, promoting 'whiter' skin, is skin bleaching. The name is self-explanatory. This product is common in countries such as Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Ghana, and others where the majority of the population has a darker skin tone. Skin bleaching has more drawbacks than benefits, including mercury poisoning due to the high percentage of mercury in the product, dermatitis, steroid acne, and other serious health concerns.

All of that for a beauty standard that constantly changes!

Another example is tanning salons, which aim to give people sun-kissed skin. The benefits include improving self-confidence and increasing vitamin D levels. On the other hand, if this procedure becomes a daily routine, it can lead to skin cancer.

A notable person known for RCTA (Race Change To Another) is Oli London, who identifies as transracial due to his K-pop obsession and desire to look like Jimin from BTS, without understanding Korean culture beyond the pop culture aspect.

To conclude, changing races to another is not morally right, as it perpetuates cultural appropriation. Instead of changing ourselves we should learn to be comfortable in our own skin. To celebrate our heritage and genetics. To be totally at ease with who we are.

WRITTEN BY REBECCA O
YEAR 10

The Science SCOOP

Today I'll be telling you all about the discovery that got me interested in science.

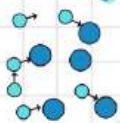
What do you think light is? Of all the things you could have said, I'm sure you didn't say a solid!

What's going on?
Scientists have successfully turned light into a supersolid! This means it has an ordered structure like a solid but can flow like a liquid.

Can light be a solid?

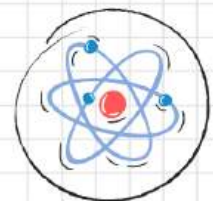
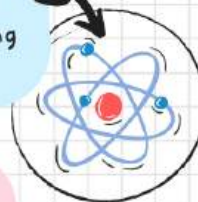
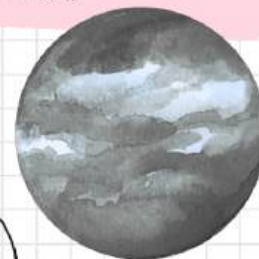


Can light be a liquid?



How did they do this?
They fired a laser beam at a semi-conductor with ridges, which essentially corrals photons (balls of light) into 3 rows...

...Some quantum physics later, this light is transformed into a jelly-like state with the ability to flow with zero viscosity, whilst being perfectly arranged.



Why do we care?
This discovery progresses fields like quantum supercomputing, optics, and may even give us a clue about the structure of neutrino stars!

Word of the week
Viscosity refers to internal friction - stickiness. So honey has high viscosity because it likes to stick to itself, whereas water has low viscosity.

If you're interested take a look at this article:
Scientists turn light into a 'supersolid' for the 1st time ever: What that means, and why it matters

FUN FACT
Superfluid helium is used to cool particle accelerators at CERN (take A-level Physics if you want to know more)

RMGS WINTER WONDERLAND OPEN TO ALL!



RE-MARK-ABLE READS

Welcome to Remarkable Reads, the section that celebrates the boundless imagination and talent of our student writers! This space is dedicated to showcasing the creative works of RMGS pupils, from captivating short stories to evocative poetry.

THE LOST SHOE

Written by Ethan A in Year 7, this humorous short story follows Charlie, a student whose missing shoe causes chaos at school after his friend mistakenly calls the police. In a funny twist, Charlie later discovers the shoe was in his bag all along.



Period 5 was Charlie's favourite time of day, and for one reason only; it meant that home time had finally come. After a tediously long double Maths, Charlie left the classroom and slouched to the gate with his friend Marcus, mentally creating a list of games he wanted to play with him over the weekend, while intentionally "forgetting" about the many overdue homework assignments teachers were trying to take over his weekend with.

Suddenly, Marcus threw what seemed like a leaf at Charlie, and the pair goofed around all the way to the gate - until Charlie slipped.

He hit the cold ground as he lost his footing. Luckily, he had fallen on the grassy part of the pavement, and he abruptly got up, embarrassed. But what shamed him even more was the shock he got when he noticed his right shoe was missing. This was an EMERGENCY.

Despite the strict no-phones rule, Marcus swept out his phone and called 999.

"Hello? Yes, it's an emergency. My best friend has just - and you won't believe it - he's lost his shoe."

The speakerphone wasn't even on, yet

Charlie could still hear the scream on the other end.

“They’ll be here in a sec...” Marcus told Charlie, shortly before police burst through the gate and pushed past the mobs of schoolchildren.

“Alright!” shouted a man with a name tag that read PC William. “NO ONE IS LEAVING THIS SCHOOL UNTIL THE MISSING SHOE IS FOUND!”

There were gasps among the pupils. “We must conduct a thorough investigation to determine where the shoe is, consulting eyewitnesses and extracting evidence from the grounds...”

Such as what?” Charlie asked. “Sock fluff and DNA. Now, please remain calm as we try our best to understand what has happened here.”

PC William shouldn’t have said that.

As soon as those words left his mouth, there was commotion — screaming and shouting. Ambulances and fire engines swarmed around the area. Where had the shoe gone? Would it ever see another day? And WHO COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH A TERRIBLE THING?

In the chaos, Charlie accidentally dropped his bag. When he picked it up, he noticed a shape sticking out. Oh! In his rush to finish PE in Period 4, he must have packed his shoe into his bag with his PE kit and trainers!

As everyone slowly turned towards him, glaring, Charlie whispered to Marcus, “Let’s not talk about this,” and unlocked the gate, slipping out into the street.

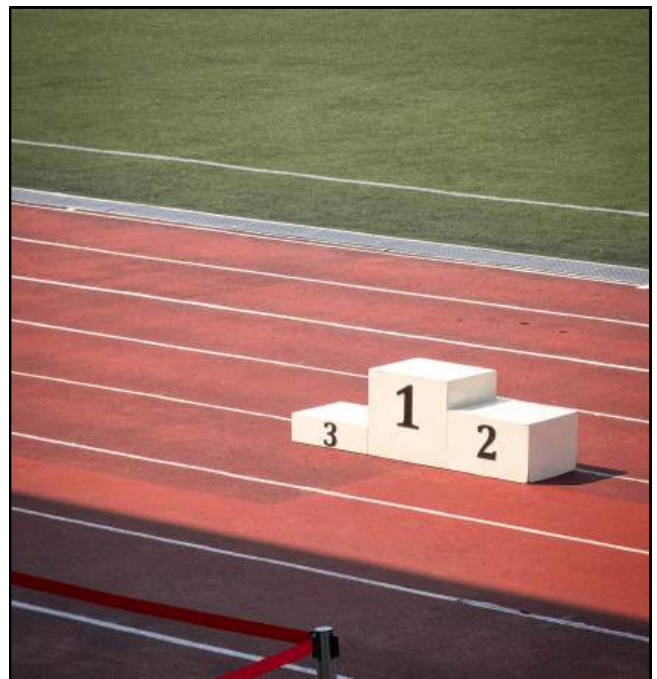
WRITTEN BY ETHAN A
YEAR 7

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF SPORTS DAY

This piece, written by Daniel K in Year 8 at the end of last academic year when our sports day was unexpectedly cancelled due to weather, reflects on the mix of nerves and excitement leading up to the event. Daniel captures how, despite personal fears, the true spirit of sports day is about unity, participation, and shared joy.

We walk out into the field, others watching us from the side-lines. Each of us wearing our respective house colours with pride. But beneath my smiling face, a storm of uncertainty rages inside me. What if it’s all too much? What if I don’t do well? My façade suddenly falters. I’m not really fine. But as I step up to the mark, I take in a deep breath. And suddenly, that storm, swirling and dark, diverts to a soft breeze of tranquillity. The crowd cheers my name. So I get into position and take aim.

There it goes! Flying into the air, then plummeting to earth. Woomp! There it was. Lying on the grass, my personal best. And suddenly, all of that fear died away. I felt united in the crowd and the field was united by this competition. Because really, sports day is about coming together, even though we are different, through passion and good times.



WRITTEN BY DANIEL K
YEAR 8

A COLLECTION OF POEMS BY SKY A

This poetry collection, written by Sky A, explores themes of longing, uncertainty, and inner conflict. Through vivid imagery and emotional depth, “What If We Never Met”, “The Wrong Desire”, and “My Turn” reflect on love, desire, and the struggle for self-worth.

WHAT IF WE NEVER MET?

Alone in the vast vacuum that is space
I cannot imagine my world unblessed by your grace.
While I know I would sit, thinking of such sorrow,
What if this was our very last tomorrow?
Up all in my room with a heart full of regret
Before I’m presented with the question, “What if we never met?”

In such a case, that I’d hate to be true,
The hardest part would be losing you.
For I would feel the missing piece and look up at our star,
Admiring how it beamed and shined from afar.
However, like you in such a lie, my light,
My star is no longer here.
And yet for it I shall look, my dear.

It can’t have gone far. Come on, where are you?
Forevermore, I wish I knew.
All interest is gone and I begin to feel lost.
If we had never met, that must be the cost.
You asked me “What if we never met?”
Despite all odds, you, my star, I’ll never forget.

THE WRONG DESIRE

A lingering scent, needed but unwanted
You roam around my mind, now haunted
Every path I take another wrong turn
And yet to you each time I return
When you talk, echoing like an angel’s choir
Something in your voice informs me of such a wrong desire

For we are not lovers, I’m sure you love another
And this is no fairytale; there is no fairy godmother
But I still stare, as my heart tells me to wait
By now I should know that this is not my fate
A desire such as this, let me free, this is wrong
Yet again, I beg to hear your sweet song

A contagious smile infects me when you pass
Even when I know we wouldn’t last
And yet I feel hope... why I don’t know
Somehow I feel like around you, I glow
I must retire from such a desire
It’s wrong... even if my heart is on fire

MY TURN

Everyone else always seems to learn
 But when will it be my turn?
 All the signs I know that I've missed
 Yet I'm stuck on the waiting list

In my world problems don't hesitate to exist
 Despite my constant beg to co-exist
 Knock knock knock — they bang on my door
 Please can we not do this anymore

I thought that demons were not real
 Somehow they control what I want and feel
 The others are taken into such a beautiful light
 While I am forced to survive another cold night

Replaying every time I've been asked to wait my turn
 Thinking of every flame inside as they continue to burn
 Impatient I grew as I wish the wait to be over
 After what I do, seek luck, my 4-leaf clover

WRITTEN BY SKY A
 YEAR 10

55 WORD STORIES

In their English lessons, Year 9 students were set a deceptively tricky challenge: to write a complete story in exactly 55 words. Each story had to include a clear setting, character or characters, and a resolution. The results show just how creative and precise storytelling can be when every word truly counts.

The Final Jump- Nailan & Ethan

Standing at the top. Board in hand. His heart raced but he was ready. Ready to become the first to hit the craziest jump in history. Running towards the ramp, his heavy feet slams into the skateboard. Finally, going down the ramp with intense speed, soaring through the air, his skateboard slips from his feet.

The Squeal- Evie & Kenzie

An ear-piercing squeal bounced off the walls. A feeling of worry washed over me; I felt uneasy. I scanned every area of the room. The squeal grew louder. Hungry eyes started intensely at me. I placed the bait in the cage. The squealing stopped. Round eyes looked lovingly towards me. My rabbit's belly now full.

Freefall- Lucas, Chigozie & Segun

I couldn't see the ground. All I felt was wind. I watched the clouds pass by as I spun through the air in freefall. Adrenaline rushed through my body. I felt my soul leaving me. I reached out blindly, hoping for a saviour. I found something and pulled hard. The parachute flew up catching me.

The Drop- Neve & Olivia

And then I saw it. My love, plummeting down into the black hole. All I lived for, my only hope in this universe. Gone. My legs gave way, a solemn tear rolled down my cheek followed by an enraged storm of emotion. I stood on my trembling legs to see my sandwich. In the bin.

Mist of Mind- Chizaram

The sound that filled my ears was like a torrential downpour. A mist filled my mind, clogging up my thoughts. Steam filled my mind. It felt like the aftermath of a shower. A suffocating mist. A calm feeling began to settle on me—like water. It soon turned ice cold.

“The test is now over”.

THE MARK OF MURDER

Written by Holly D in Year 10, this thrilling murder mystery will keep readers guessing all year long in the 2025–2026 editions of The Mark. Each issue reveals a brand-new perspective on the same shocking crime and with every twist, you'll get closer to uncovering the real killer.

TRISTON



“Is this just for us?” Audrey whispered, the cold breeze brushing against her face like a ghostly caress. Her blue, doll-like eyes shone as she took in the mansion before her — balconies overlooking the countryside from a giant’s perspective — and I felt a shiver of fear spread through me.

“Sure is, darling. Only the best for a girl like you.” Alan’s teasing voice cut through the otherwise calm evening like a slap to the face.

“Let me take your bags.” Emily beat him to it with a smug grin, scooping up hers and Audrey’s. “I’ve got it covered.” Her ginger hair was loose around her shoulders. A huge difference from the bun she usually wore.

“Of course you do.” Alan’s smile was tight, but he still turned around and trudged up towards the house in front of us with a slight bounce in his step.

“How’d you afford this place?” Ezra questioned, following his friend into the house. His afro looked particularly stunning, soft snowflakes buried in his curls, and I couldn’t help but stare at his face a little longer than necessary.

I felt an arm hook through mine and glanced down to see Leah holding onto me, a smile reserved only for her closest friends softening her sharp features. Normally, a smile looked natural on a person’s face; Leah was the exception.

It can’t be that bad,” she whispered into my ear. “Remember, we’ve got each other’s backs. Always.”

I wanted to believe her, but as I watched my twin open the door to the Airbnb, I couldn’t stop my mind from drifting to my suitcase... and what I had hidden inside.

“Look what I found!” Alan held up a bottle

of vodka like it was a blessing from God. I glanced towards Ezra and Leah, both of whom had the same weary look on their faces — all three of us knew how this would go.

Between us was Leah's newest painting: a dove in mid-flight, peaceful against a clear sky. Above it, a raven glided, its beaded eyes fixed wholly on the innocent bird below. She was just adding the finishing touches while Ezra and I watched in comfortable silence.

We'd all finished unpacking an hour ago and met here to relax.

"Come on, guys! It's a holiday for a reason. My treat!" My twin sat down, forcing himself between me and my friends.

"Isn't this whole holiday your treat?" Emily asked as she entered the room, Audrey close behind.

"Sure is, Ems. But this especially," Alan replied, pouring out a few shots.

"Uh... I'm not sure about this," Audrey said, a soft quiver in her voice. She spoke everyone's concerns, but she was the only one who could get away with it.

Alan's eyes softened when he looked at her. "Then don't drink, darling. But I am." He laughed when everyone hesitated. "Come on, or are you cowards?"

I could have told you it wouldn't end well. But no one could have predicted...

Alan lounged on the sofa, his eyes glazed and sleepy. No one was as drunk as him.

"So, Ems, how's it going?" he asked, his eyes gleaming with a predator's smile as he leaned forward.

"How's what going?" Emily sounded cautious as she twirled a strand of hair through her fingers.

So, Ems, how's it going?" he asked, his "It's gotta be hard... you know? Your love life?" Alan continued, and I saw Audrey stiffen.

"I do know my love life — and I don't have anyone," Emily's voice was sharp, but Alan wasn't deterred.

"Oh, what a sweet lie." He turned to the rest of us. "Ems, our great friend, has something to say. Oh wait. You won't, will you?"

"Stop it," I warned my brother. "If she has someone, she'll tell us when she's ready."

"You don't understand. It's not someone... it's Audrey!" Alan clapped his hands like he'd revealed some kind of great joke, but no one laughed.

It was like all the air had been sucked out of the room; no one breathed. All apart from Alan, who was in hysterics. Then Emily ran. Audrey cried out for her, but there was no point. Emily needed time alone.

Leah got up and pulled Audrey to her feet. "Come on, let's go to bed."

I glanced at Ezra, and we both followed the girls out, leaving behind Alan's drunken laughter.

I was woken by a scream. A horrible, blood-curdling scream. Leah's scream.

I was out of bed before I had even processed what I was doing. I sprinted out of my room and towards Leah's, hearing doors open and footsteps pounding against the floor.

I slammed open Leah's door, but her room was empty. I all but ran to the balcony, and the panic ceased when I saw my best friend, perfectly safe.

But when she turned to me, my blood ran cold.

"A-Alan..."

"What?" I pulled her into a tight hug, her body shaking violently, and forced myself to peer over the railing.

Because there, on the ground below, was my brother's mangled body.

RMGS ARCHIVES

Welcome to RMGS Archives – your window into the rich history of Rainham Mark Grammar School. Each issue, we'll journey through old photos, stories, and memories to celebrate the people and moments that shaped RMGS.

DR. KEEN- RMGS' LONGEST-STANDING HEADTEACHER

This article celebrates the remarkable legacy of Dr. Robin Keen, who led Rainham Mark Grammar School from 1964 to 1997. It reflects on his enduring impact – from overseeing the school's move to Pump Lane to his continued dedication to education through volunteering.

Dr. Robin Keen served as Headteacher of Rainham Mark Grammar School from 1964 to 1997, leading the school through over three decades of transformation. In the early years of his headship, RMGS moved from its original site on Gardiner Street in Gillingham to its current home on Pump Lane – a defining moment in the school's history that marked the beginning of a new era of growth and success.

In July 2025, Dr. Keen returned to RMGS alongside alumni to officially open the newly renamed Dr. Keen Library, honouring his lasting contribution to the school. During the event, he reflected on his long teaching



career and the pride he feels seeing RMGS continue to flourish. Even in retirement, Dr. Keen's passion for education shines on – he still volunteers at a local primary school, helping children discover the joy of reading.

His visit was not only a celebration of the past but also a reminder that a teacher's influence can inspire generations.

If you would like to learn more about RMGS' history you can find detailed information on the school website by clicking on the tab called "Our School" and navigating to the page titled "Go Back Through the Years".



**RMGS is competing in our first ever
STEM Racing event, sponsored by
Formula 1.**

**If you would like to be a team sponsor, please fill
in the form below. Sponsorship rates are on the
following page.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/1sdpzjbzeN>

Follow our teams progress on Instagram





WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR TALENTED:

ARTISTS

JOURNALISTS

FICTION WRITERS

POETS

CRITICS

COLUMNISTS

PHOTOGRAPHERS

FROM ALL YEAR GROUPS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE
JOIN US IN L6 DURING
WEDNESDAY LUNCH.