



28 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Appointment of New AHT, CIF Bid Outcome, Staff Leaving and Joining**

Welcome to my last end of week update letter for this term.

Easter has arrived and Full School Assembly is over. Yet again, we have been able to celebrate some remarkable achievements across this term. It is incredibly fulfilling to see our students breaking through the ceiling and reaching new heights, which they seem to do on a more regular basis. I hope that you enjoy reading our accompanying end of term newsletter too, as well as the latest edition of 'The Academy' SRPA student newspaper.

More updates below:

### **Appointment of new AHT**

After a rigorous selection board earlier this week, I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Mrs Selwood as our new Assistant Headteacher to replace Mr Parkinson after his promotion to Deputy. Mrs Selwood has been Head of English at the Academy for seven years now and has led the department to continued successes and consistently above national average examination performance at GCSE and A level. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well in her new role. She will take up post on 1 September 2024 in time for the new academic year.

### **CIF Bid Outcome**

It is disappointing that, despite compelling evidence and written support from our local MP highlighting the need, the DfE have declined our bid for a new heating system for the whole Academy campus. We were two points short of success on the scoring matrix and will appeal as we feel we can address the small concerns noted in the feedback we have received. In a 1953 building we need all the luck we can muster related to the continued upkeep of such a large site. That said, I am not one to give up without a fight and will keep making the case.

### **Staff Leaving and Joining**

As the end of term is upon us, we must say goodbye to some highly valued colleagues who are moving on to pastures new. Miss Norman is moving to take up a trust-wide role leading business studies in the south of the county. Miss Walker is taking up a pastoral role at Sir William Robertson Academy where she will be joined by Mrs Harmer in attendance. Mrs Corah will become Head of MFL at Outwood Academy, Kirkby. We wish them all well in their new endeavours.

Equally, we have recruited strongly. Mr Wiles comes from a school in Doncaster and will take over from Miss Norman in Business and Computing.

He brings much experience with him, including up to Deputy Head level. Miss Burch replaces Miss Walker as Director of RP6<sup>th</sup> and will teach Psychology, Sociology and PE after several successful years as Assistant Director of Sixth Form at Redhill Academy in Notts. Mr Kent replaces Mrs Corah in MFL after a successful stint at Priory Witham Academy teaching Spanish and French.

I have taken the opportunity to further strengthen the Academy staff body with more students joining us in September in Years 7 and 12. Miss Walls joins us in the Humanities faculty to teach Psychology, Mr Hamzeh joins the Art and Design faculty to teach DT and Miss Shelbourn joins the PE department to cover for Mrs Rodgers who gave birth last week to a healthy baby boy!

Finally, Miss Hett moves from Deputy Head of Tudor House to cover Mrs Rodgers as Acting Head of Windsor and Miss Collip joins Tudor as Acting Deputy Head of House whilst Miss Hett acts up.

All in all, it has been a really busy and productive few weeks!

As a holiday beckons and staff and students have just over two weeks to relax, reflect and enjoy some down time, I am reminded of the inimitable words of Albert Einstein, who said “Do not grow old, no matter how long you live. Never cease to stand like curious children before the great mystery into which we were born.”

Have a curious break and try to find some time for yourself over the next fortnight or so. We look forward to seeing our students back at the Academy on Tuesday 16 April 2024 as we have a staff training day on Monday 15 April 2024.

Happy Easter everyone!

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



**Mr D Hardy**  
**Headmaster**



“This is a calm, happy and caring school.”



# THE ACADEMY

Student Newspaper, Volume 2 (March 2024)



Dear all,

Welcome to Volume 2 of the Student Newspaper, *The Academy*. This time round there is a very different feel to the issue, with numerous students contributing creative pieces, including book reviews, poetry and stories, as well as some wonderful insights into life as a member of SSLT (the Student Senior Leadership Team). As with Volume 1, however, I wish to thank each and every one of the students who have contributed to the newspaper – they do so in their own time and often have to juggle various other responsibilities alongside it! Therefore, if you see any of the intrepid authors contained herein, please do congratulate them on their hard work and dedication to making *The Academy* a success! Yours, as always, Dr Kissane.



## Imagine

Heather W., Year 7

Imagine a world with fairness and equality,

Imagine a world where everyone treated people the same,

Imagine a world where no one gets bullied and

It's a happy place to be.

Imagine now our world, where people sometimes feel that they don't belong

And are treated unfairly.

Imagine now our world, the anxiety, the worry, the stress of going

Somewhere and not feeling welcomed.

Imagine the pain out of nothing when someone bullies you:

how would you feel

If you were thrown in a maze with no way out?

Imagine,

Just imagine how, if we take this opportunity to stand up

To bullies, how over time it will end.

Imagine that world where everyone has a chance to rewrite their story.

So, take a moment

to imagine a world, a life, where imaginations can soar!



## The Impact of Celebrities on International Women's Day!

Victoria B. and Abi G., Year 8

International Women's Day was first created in 1911 by a German socialist, Clara Zetkin, which gave women a sense of power for the first time ever. Before then, it was usual for men to hold all the cards but for the first time ever it gave women a voice.

More recently, J.K. Rowling, who wrote the *Harry Potter* series of books, experienced hate online for her writing because she was a woman but, despite this, she kept writing until the series was finished, ignoring all the haters.

One way J.K. Rowling managed this was to write under a fake name (a pseudonym). She chose Robert Galbraith. She did this because she believed some young boys wouldn't read a book written by a woman. Although this is sad, it is important to realise that women are nevertheless able to make choices they might not been able to make previously which is, we think, a very good thing!

## BOOK REVIEWS

In the first of three book reviews, Max and Zac take on the world-famous *Jurassic Park* and explore its similarities and differences to the movie of the same name; Rosie considers a novel of beauty and splendour, *A Sky Painted Gold*; and Alfie explores the war novel *Goodnight Mr Tom*.



### Jurassic Park

By Zac McIntyre and Max Perry, Year 8

The *Jurassic Park* book (written by Michael Crichton) and movie (directed by Steven Spielberg) are very different things but both are equally brilliant. The book is not only dark, gritty, and gory, but it is horrifying and terrifying too. This stands in contrast to the movie, which is lighter and only a little bit scary.

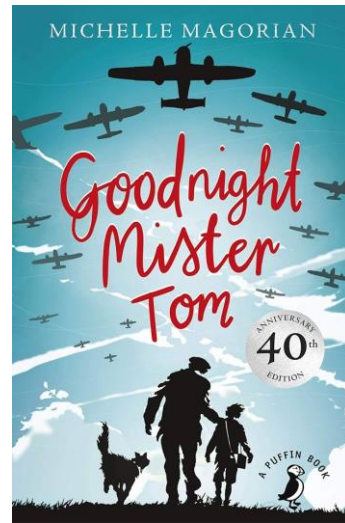
There are also major changes in plot, as the story is often different. An example is how John Hammond is a corrupt, greedy man that, in the end, meets a gruesome fate to a Compsognathus. Another is how the two children's roles change (Tim and Lex), with Tim helping reset the park's security system towards the end of the story (which he doesn't do in the film). A baby is also killed by a Compsognathus, as the dinosaurs are already on the mainland from the start of the book, making the book more terrifying still, and the Tyrannosaurus can swim, which adds more excitement to the chase after the famous paddock escape scene.

Another change between the book and the film is how the dinosaurs are more intelligent compared to their movie counterparts; in particular, the T-Rex is able to follow the characters in a more effective way for longer. Another significant difference in the plot is how Ian Malcom dies in the book when the Tyrannosaurus chases him (much like in the famous scene with the flare, pictured below) but he comes back in the second movie. And to conclude, the final difference is that *Jurassic Park* gets destroyed in the end, killing most of the dinosaurs!



### Goodnight Mr Tom

By Alfie A., Year 7



*Goodnight Mister Tom* (published in 1981) is a book written by Michelle Magorian. The book is set during World War II and follows the story of a young boy named William Beech, who is evacuated to the countryside to live with Mr Tom, a man he has never met before. At first, the pair don't seem to get along but soon they begin to warm to each other's company and bring out the best in each other. I

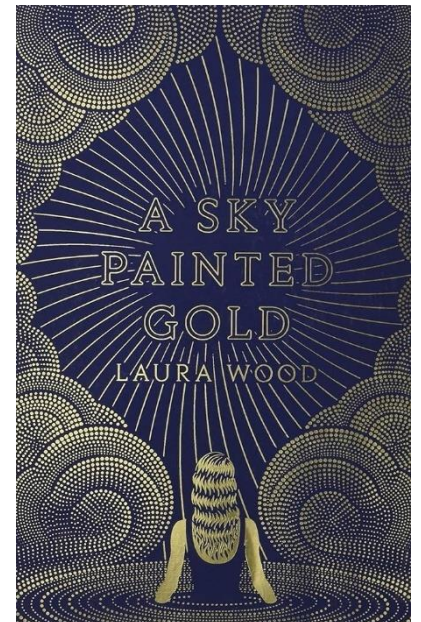
particularly like this book as it deals with all the things that a young World War II evacuee may have had to face. It is also filled with many complex emotions and moments that will be sure to bring a tear to your eye. *Goodnight Mister Tom* is one of my favourite books and I would recommend it to anyone who likes reading about the war or is interested in the history of the mid-twentieth-century.

### A Sky Painted Gold

By Rosie W., Year 11

*A Sky Painted Gold* by Laura Wood is a joy from start to finish. It is an uplifting and light-hearted book set in a small village in Cornwall.

The novel follows the character of Lou Trevelyan who is a seventeen year-old girl who has dreams of becoming an author and who becomes completely enthralled by an uninhabited house on the edge of her village.



During the course of the story, Lou visits the house numerous times and marvels at the untouched library—that is until the owners return.

The owners, the Cardews, live a lavish, elegant life in which they throw parties that last until sunrise. A particularly



poignant scene is when Lou decides to visit the house during one of the first parties. She watches the events unfold from a tree and observes their luxurious lifestyle. It is then she first meets Robert Cardew and her summer of elegance truly begins...

If you like the sound of this, other novel it is similar to include:

-- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, in terms of an outsider viewing the lavish lifestyles of others.

-- *I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith, which reflects the main character's dream of becoming an author.

-- *Duels & Deception* by Cindy Anstey, which explores the themes of luxury, wealth and elegance.



Hereafter follows two very different pieces from the Head Girl and Head Boy about their journey thus far and their hopes and ideas for the future. I shall let their words speak for themselves...

### **A Hello from the Head Boy!**

*By Rhys N., Year 12*

As your current Head Boy at Sir Robert Pattinson Academy, I would like to start off by saying that my team and I have several plans ready to implement in order to enhance your learning environment and make your life at the Academy more enjoyable. So far, during my year in post, I have had several meetings with Mr Griffiths, who is Head of RP6th, where we discussed plans the team have come up with and how to implement them into the Academy. I have also had several meetings with Mr Hardy, who is coaching me in leadership skills; an invaluable experience!

As well as having meetings, myself and Head Girl, Grace Dawson, have discussed plans which the team have come up with. My overall aim during my tenure is to a) ensure that everyone feels safe and secure in the school environment; and b) guarantee that students are getting the best education possible in order for them to move through life into the workplace.

### **My Year in Post**

*By Grace D., Year 12*

As of the beginning of Term 4, I have been appointed Head Girl here at SRPA. From the beginning of my RP6th journey, I aspired to join the SSLT and, when it came to applying, I made sure that my application was handed in on time and completed to the very best of my ability.

When the application process began, my priority was to create a cohesive piece of writing that highlighted all my contributions to the wider community, our school environment, as well as a forum to showcase my hobbies and interests during my free time. Now, as Head Girl, I want to give you some top tips for those who would like to apply for a role within the SSLT based on my own experience, so here we go...

1. **Engage in every opportunity you are interested in.** Opportunities provide you with valuable experience and even if you think that you might not like it, give it a go and find out. You will never know unless you try. Take this from someone who disliked the idea of camping without a shower for a weekend but went on several Duke of Edinburgh trips. I absolutely loved it and have since applied for Silver DofE this term.
2. **Make sure you check your emails and be organised.** This is a general tip for life, but it is worth taking note of if you want to attend the Sixth Form, are in KS4 or are thinking about applying for SSLT. Emails are an effective form of communication, and many teachers utilise them to send out information urgently or to notify people about events or details they have forgotten to mention. It is important you pay attention to your inbox to make sure you don't miss out on anything.
3. **Be genuine and authentic.** From writing your application to presenting yourself in day-to-day life, avoid pretending to be someone and something you are not. The most important thing is to be true to yourself, your beliefs and your values because that is what makes you unique and that is why authenticity is the most valuable skill anyone can have.
4. **Invest some of your free time into hobbies you enjoy.** Your time is golden and to waste it on TikTok or Instagram is almost criminal. Taking your time to invest in your passions or to try something new is a great way of expanding your knowledge beyond your studies. It also provides an opportunity to make connections with a broader range of people that can increase your communication and teamwork skills.
5. **Prioritise your GCSEs and A-levels.** Your qualifications are the reason you are in school, and your education should be the priority. This means you must really consider if you will be able to balance your role or any extra-curricular activities alongside your studies so that you do not jeopardise your qualifications by not focusing enough or putting your efforts into another aspect of your life.
6. **Be comfortable but step outside of your comfort zone.** Everyone loves their comfort zone, and it can sometimes take a lot of bravery to step outside of it and explore what there is to offer but

this is the most beneficial thing you can do. For example, my SSLT interview was with Miss Walker, Mr Griffiths and Mr Hardy, all of whom I had never been taught by or had many previous interactions with. I was naturally very nervous, and even more so due to a fear of the unknown. I knew that this interview was of great importance, and I couldn't back out of it, so I made sure I had my favourite outfit on, my makeup on, and my lucky charms in my pocket. This was my way of being comfortable outside of my comfort zone.

- 7. Take time for yourself and focus on your wellbeing.** Wellbeing is an important aspect of life many people tend to ignore, but it is vital that we not only have a good wellbeing but have clear and manageable routines too. Also, take time out of your day and devote it to improving your wellbeing. Whether that be by going for a run, playing Mario Kart, baking a cake or listening to One Direction.
- 8. Be confident.** Being confident is hard and I'm not going to sugar coat it at all. I found my confidence came from experience. My confidence grew the more I put myself out there, and the more I surrounded myself with people who were extremely confident, the better I felt. I would highly recommend you do the same. You also must remember, confidence won't appear overnight, you must give it time.

I hope that these insights provide you with a bit of support if you wish to apply in the future. As Head Girl, I want to help students be the best versions of themselves they can in their studies and extra-curricular activities. This was my motivation to apply and will remain my motivation for all the work that our SSLT will complete within our upcoming year in post. We aim to increase the visibility of our SSLT alongside implementing and improving schemes and facilities available to the students to ensure that our peers—whether that be in the RP6th or in the lower school—are supported through their studies and enjoy their time at SRPA.



## FICTION

The following fiction by Ivy offers an introduction to the Cogsworth family, who live a life of mystery and intrigue...

### *The Cogsworths*

By Ivy G., Year 8

The world is not ready for the Cogsworth children. Three uniquely designed siblings with uncanny abilities. There's

Orion, the cerebral one, with eyes that can see for miles. Then there's Scorpius, the wild card, who's crossed wires make him feel the wrong emotions at the wrong times. And finally, there's Lyra, the youngest, on whom Doctor Cogsworth is said to have perfected her experiment. But nobody knows exactly what that means. All three born not of flesh but the pure unbridled imagination of their mother, Doctor Eliza Cogsworth. Built and raised in the Cogsworth's fantastical workshop, The Observatory, bound by love and an unspoken pact. The Cogsworths lived in harmony, until the day their mother mysteriously vanished. And now the trio must leave the secluded haven they've known all their lives, into a world that's far less welcoming.

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It all began on a dreary Monday morning when Doctor Cogsworth, a dry and dusty lady of some forty years, began to create some sort of new machine. Orion was in his room polishing his cogs, when he felt something was terribly wrong. At first, he ignored the feeling and continued to look out the window; Orion was the only one of the three siblings who had ever seen the outside world: their mother had blocked up all the doors and windows with wooden planks to "Keep the world away from her beautiful creations," so she said.

But there was one window she had forgotten: the window in Orion's room. He had seen first-hand the world outside, the world that his mother had warned him about. Only it wasn't what she had said it was like; the world was beautiful and full of amazing people and things that looked fantastic. Because of this, Orion had taken a liking to fashionable things and had learnt how to sew and stitch with the materials he took from his mother's room.

Suddenly, Orion snapped out of his reverie and felt a pang of worry again. This time he couldn't ignore it; it was consuming him.

Down the hall, Lyra, his younger sister, was braiding her wired hair. Lyra, like Orion, had always wanted to see the outside, but her mother forbade it. She accepted the fact she would never leave and continued with her life as a new machine. Only today she felt different, she felt as if something strange was coming, and she too was hit by a wave of anxiety and worry. But she didn't ignore it like Orion, she went straight to Scorpius, who was in the dining room setting the table for dinner. As usual, he was talking to himself.

"Yes? Lyra," he said in a smooth tone, "what's wrong now?"

Luckily Lyra was in a good mood and replied cordially, "Something's wrong." Lyra's face had become distorted by terrible thoughts and as he looked up, he could see she didn't look her usual self. The pair called Orion and before long, they all realised that that he felt the same too.

It was then they ran to their mother's workshop, but when they got there, the windows were smashed, the room was destroyed, and their mother's seat was empty. And here's the strangest thing: not one of them had heard a thing...



## COMEDY FICTION

The final piece in our student newspaper is a bizarre fictional interview about crazed turkeys by Oscar, in which, well – you'll just have to read it for yourself!

### Terrible Terrorist Turkeys!

By Oscar T., Year 8

A BREAKING newstory by Oscar FizzWillock-Jeffrey-really-annoying-reporter-man!

According to recent sources, in all of the major turkey production states in the USA (Minnesota, North Carolina, Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Iowa), turkeys have been ESCAPING without warning! According to witnesses, they have been forming gangs, buying up weapons and taking out humans and chickens for no reason! I went to North Carolina to interview the police chief, Oh Diddums, and this is how it went:



**Oscar:** So, tell me more about these terrifying turkeys chief.

**Chief:** Well, all we know so far is that the turkeys are the vilest and most vile things ever! Once they escape, they just go on a rampage – they're crazy! The police, army and secret services have been put on high alert.

**Oscar:** What crimes have been committed?



thinking about it!

**Chief:** First off, these terrible twisted troublesome turkeys stole \$576,000,000 from the Bank of America. Then they committed several murders of chickens and humans by pecking their feet off and drinking blood from their wounds. I get itchy feet just

**Oscar:** But why take chickens, chief?

**Chief:** Because turkeys want to be the main poultry item on everyone's list. Turkey burgers, turkey twizzlers, turkey milkshakes!

**Oscar:** What are you going to do to stop them?

**Chief:** What we are going to do is... AAAAarrggghhh! Run! It's a terrible turkey!

**Oscar:** It's just a pigeon...

**Chief:** Ok but... AAAAarrggghhh! Bye!

**Oscar:** So, there we go folks: an interview with the chief of police—the USA is doomed and perhaps the world as we know it!



## COMPETITION

With World Earth Day coming up on 22 April, we wanted to invite you to write a report, story or a poem about the planet we live on. The stories can be about anything you wish, though they need to explore the theme of the Earth in some way. You could:



- Write a poem about nature or the solar system and Earth's place within it;
- A story about how humans rule the Earth and what the planet thinks about that;
- A report about how and why the Earth is successful at managing and maintaining life.

Or you could write about anything else you wish! The world is your oyster (excuse the pun)!

Entries to be submitted to Dr Kissane by Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> at [akissane@srpa.co.uk](mailto:akissane@srpa.co.uk) or dropped into room C103. Good luck!

