

# THE ACADEMY

Student Newspaper, Volume 6 (July 2025)

Dear all,

Welcome to Volume 6 of the student newspaper, *The Academy*. This edition includes yet more creative work from the English subject champions, some of which builds upon previous editions. This edition also features articles written by some of our Year 12 students, currently studying A-Level English Language. Additionally, you will find details and winners from our most recent competition, which was created and promoted by the English subject champions.

As this is the final edition of the newspaper for this year, I just wanted to say a huge thank you to those that have contributed to both this and previous editions. Without them, it would not have been possible! Also, if you know of or see any of this paper's contributors, please congratulate them on their efforts and hard work this year – their work and dedication is what makes *The Academy* a success! Happy Reading.

Best wishes, Miss Hurk



## Hiding – Continued from volume 5

*In the first two scenes of the play, Bea cooked the family a disastrous meal, and her brothers taunted her for this failed endeavour. They later ridiculed her strange behaviour and phobias, indicating that not all is as it seems with Bea. The parents, Millie and Jamie, began to worry for their daughter...*

*In scenes three and four, Bea's parents sent her to 'THE CAMP', fearing her different nature. They decided upon Mrs Monori's Special Camp for Teen Girls. Bea arrived at camp and was intimidated by the strict, routine atmosphere.*

By Olivia (Year 7)

## ACT ONE, SCENE FIVE

*[An outdoor area, with foliage around the edges. The kids are gardening and organising the space.]*



**Guard 1:** Oi! No diggin' 'oles just to hide or get outta here! Come with me! *[points angrily at a kid]*

**Guard 2:** Be careful with those shovels!

**Guard 3:** Grab him! *[they grab and escort one of the kids away]*

*[Sounds of indistinct chatter among the Kids. The guards are seen angrily gesturing at other Kids, and slowly more of them are dragged away until only Bea and one other Kid – Meiae – remains.]*

**Meiae:** *[softly]* Hi, are you Bea? The new one?

**Bea:** Yes... yes, I am.

**Meiae:** I'm Meiae. I know, it's a strange name... but I quite like it. Anyway, why are you here? You seem completely normal?

**Bea:** Honestly, I've no idea. I was told this was a fun summer camp that I randomly got invited to. This was after I started doubting that I'm even a part of my family because I'm so... different. What about you?

**Meiae:** Tried to explain to people that I'm not a witch. They didn't burn me... Instead, they threw me here. So... falsely accused, I guess.

**Bea:** Oh, sorry. Well, what has it been like here? How long have you been here?

**Meiae:** It's okay. We have a tight timetable for the day though.

*[Hands Bea a piece of paper.]*

**Bea:** Oh wow. This is quite tight.

*[Reads timetable aloud]*

"7:30- Wake Up. 8:00- Get to class. 9:00- Crafting. 10:30- Social Break. 10:45- Get to class. 12:00- Lunch And Social Break. 13:00- Club/Enrichment. 14:00- Bulletin/Assembly. 14:30- Gardening. 16:00- IT Time. 17:30- Dinner And Social Break. 18:30- Intervention(s). 20:00- Room Time. 20:30- Lights Out. REPEAT"

That's really busy.

**Meiae:** Busier than school!

**Bea:** You've been to school? Lucky.

**Meiae:** What? You've never been to school? Have you been home-schooled?

**Bea:** Never been to school. I wasn't home-schooled either. I'm just self-taught and naturally talented... Unlike my so-called 'family'.

**Meiae:** Oh. Well, if we ever escape or get set free from this place... We can run away together, and I'll take you to school!

*[Bea hugs Meiae.]*

**Bea:** Thanks!

**Mrs Monori [Over Speaker]:** Meiae Niatimahae and Bea. Please come inside for IT Time.

**Meiae:** Oh Yay! IT Time is the best part about staying here!

## ACT ONE, SCENE SIX

[A room of computers. All computers are occupied by the children. Mrs Monori stands at the front of the room.]

**Mrs Monori:** Meiae?

**Meiae:** Present.

**Mrs Monori:** Bea?

**Bea:** Present.

**Mrs Monori:** Jackvillian?

**Jackvillian:** Present.

**Mrs Monori:** Lydia?

**Lilia:** Present.

**Mrs Monori:** No Lilia. I said Lydia. Where is she? Guards... Look for her please! Anyway... Jasio? Jasio? Jasio Frenosta? Guards! Go find Jasio too.

**Milan:** I saw Jasio with Lydia at Gardening... but then they ran away.

**Mrs Monori:** *[sighs]* Great. Guards! Jasio is also with Lydia. Right, everyone, log onto your computers and do your stuff! I'll be sat here if you need anything. But that means you *DON'T* need anything.

*[Mrs Monori walks over to the chair and sits down]*

**Bea:** She said, 'Do your stuff'. What do I do?

**Meiae:** 'Do your stuff' is like check your emails, play games, make games, do educational work and all of that.

*[Bea nods and everyone starts typing.]*

**Bea:** Meiae... Look at the news...

**Meiae:** What?

**Bea:** 'Two dangerous kidnappers who disappeared 5 years ago have now been spotted on the High Street!' [Shouts] Look at the picture! They are my parents! [Hyperventilating] I'm, I'm I-

**Mrs Monori:** Bea! Bea! What is happening over there?

**Bea:** I- I- I-

**Mrs Monori:** Guards! Take Bea to the SEC!

**Guards:** The what?

**Mrs Monori:** The SEC! The Special Emergency Centre!

*[Guards murmur then take Bea offstage. Bea struggles and moves aggressively. Meiae looks at her, confused.]*



## Discovering Traveller's Wood

By Hazel (Year 7)

I was with my younger sister playing in the woods a few years ago when it happened...

I had just left her in an empty clearing to get some wood. I was only gone for a few minutes, but she somehow disappeared. I had checked everywhere when I saw what magic-believers would call a fairy ring surrounding the area where she last was. I thought nothing of it and, solemnly, went home after hours of painful searching with no luck. My parents were devastated when I told them what had happened. She was gone; it was like she had just evaporated into thin air.

Years went past, and although I missed my sister, my best friend, greatly, I continued to live my life. I was twelve when I lost her, she was eight and, since then, I have graduated from high school, top of my class, got my first job, done all the things she should have been there to celebrate with me.

I had decided to go back to that forest one day and heard a loud noise and saw a bright light. It felt like I was tumbling through dimensions. All I could see was a painful shade of white and I had to shut my eyes, even after only looking for a millisecond. Next thing I knew, I was in a completely different world. I was on the ground. My casual clothes had become a beautiful flower petal dress and standing over me, a seemingly familiar figure, who must have been around thirteen years old. She was wearing a dress similar to mine and her hair was tied in a ponytail. I was confused. I looked at the girl, but she just looked at me, with her pale blue eyes and a sweet smile.

"Hi newbie, the name's Adie," she introduced herself, holding out her hand to help me up.

"Hi," I said, taking her hand and standing up. "My name's Ivy." Suddenly, this flying thing darted in front of Adie's face, shouting.

"You haven't done your chores yet! Why?"

Then it turned to me, "And who are you?" it demanded. I just looked at it, bewildered. "I'm guessing by the look on your face, you've never seen a fairy before," she said to me. "Well, you're probably going to see many more of them, so I might as well give you a tour of this place, welcome to Traveller's Wood".



## Group Story

By Blake, Hazel, Ava and Mabel (Year 7)

*In one of our meetings this term, I tasked the English subject champions with writing a story opening, but they must complete it as a group. The rules were simple – each person added a sentence. Each writer had to continue the opening from wherever the previous person had left it. I hope, in reading, you can agree that their combined imaginations created an engaging and captivating story opening...*

I could barely see through the dingy Scottish fog, as nothing but street sounds echoed through the valley. It was dark and eerie - exactly how a horror book would start. It was said that if you dared to stare at the monsters lurking within the mist, a part of your soul would shatter. They are grotesque and their spines are contorted in disturbing shapes. However, I wasn't here for them – I was tracking down a unicorn that resided within the circular ring of mountains, which formed the Traveller's Passage Valley in Northern Scotland. It was said to hold powers that only Gods could imagine. The powers that it could possess were unfathomable. It was hidden away and untouched for years, until I, a curious young girl, came and unleashed its dangerous powers...



## UEFA Women's European Championship 2025

By Megan (Y12)

This summer, the Women's Euros are back, being hosted in the picturesque country of Switzerland for the first time. Going into the tournament, some countries are undoubtedly favourites, these include England, Spain, France and Germany. England are, of course, going to be one of the ones to watch, especially since they are defending their European title, that they deservedly earned back in the 2022 European championships, having broken the curse and finally bringing football home in the home of English football, Wembley Stadium. So, the

Lionesses now have the chance to defend their title in a different country, hopefully to show off their incredible standard of football to spectators elsewhere.

In 2022, the Lionesses went through the entire tournament undefeated (1-0 against Austria; 8-0 against Norway; 5-0 against Northern Ireland; 2-1 against Spain; 4-0 against Sweden and 2-1 against Germany) and won it on home soil. The 2022 European Championships was the first major tournament the England women's team had won and England, as a footballing nation, had finally won a major trophy since 1966 – 56 years later! The 2022 final took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> July against Germany – of course, it just had to be. In the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute, Ella Toone chipped the goalkeeper after an impressive pass from Keira Walsh, making it 1-0 but, unfortunately, in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute Lina Magull equalised, drawing the score level. After the full 90 minutes, the score was still level, leading to an extra 30 minutes to be played. Luckily, in the 110<sup>th</sup> minute a corner was taken by Lauren Hemp and Chloe Kelly managed to poke the ball into the back of net, letting England take back the lead. After 10 minutes of nervy, traditional, English style of play, the final whistle was blown, crowning England the European Champions.

The success of the women's team caused a surge in popularity in women's football in England, whether it be attendances or those getting involved. In the words of Leah Williamson: "The legacy of this team is winners and that's a start of a journey." This so happened to be true, with the influx of attendances of Barclay's WSL games, as well as more girl's teams being formed up and down the country to allow more people to have the opportunity to get involved in the sport. The 2022 win really did inspire an entire nation but the main questions are: Can they go and do it again? Can they really bring football home again?



## Reflection of Lana Del Rey's Stadium Tour

By Lillie (Y12)

In June/July 2025, Lana Del Rey made her Great Britain and Northern Irish touring comeback, performing in Cardiff, Glasgow, Liverpool, Dublin and twice at Wembley. While fans were hoping this tour would come in response to her new unreleased album, that was expected to be released on 21<sup>st</sup> May, it was still a joy to see her performing in stadiums up and down the country. She sang her hit singles, in addition to new unreleased songs like Stars Fell on Alabama/Husband of Mine, Quiet in the South and 57.5, which was first debuted at the Stagecoach festival in April 2025, where she notably mentioned Morgan Wallen, advising listeners that 'if [they] want the secret to success, [she] suggests not going ATVing with him when [they're] out West'.

Del Rey also sung some of her most well renowned songs, including Born to Die, Video Games, Summertime Sadness, Ultraviolence, Ride, Henry, Come On and Chemtrails Under the Country Club.

On her 4<sup>th</sup> of July Wembley show, many were expecting her to sing the National Anthem, especially as it is rooted in the aesthetic of Americana. In the music video that was filmed in 2012, viewers watch as Del Rey intertwines the narratives of Marilyn Monroe and Jackie Kennedy, with A\$AP Rocky playing the President. She conveys the idea of a lavish family. At the end of the video, she has a monologue inspired by a letter Jackie Kennedy wrote about her husband, ending the video with the sentiment 'and I loved him, I loved him, I loved him. And I still love him', highlighting how love was at the heart of the Kennedy Administration, despite JFK's duty to his country.

However, rather than singing the anticipated National Anthem, Del Rey performed If You Lie Down With Me for the first time ever from her 9<sup>th</sup> studio album Blue Banisters.

Del Rey also had a range of openers, from London Grammar in Cardiff, Banks in Liverpool, Glasgow and Dublin, and upcoming Addison Rae for both of her Wembley shows. She also brought Rae out during both Wembley performances, with the pair singing Rae's Diet Pepsi on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and then 57.5 on 4<sup>th</sup>.

Despite general opinion being that Del Rey's performance was moving and evoked an immense amount of emotion, many believe that the set list should've included a variety of more of her discography. Del Rey has (soon to be ten) nine studio albums: Born to Die, Paradise, Ultraviolence, Honeymoon, Lust for Life, NFR, Chemtrails Over the Country Club, Blue Banisters and Did you know that there's a tunnel under Ocean Blvd? Many expected that she would sing hits from Honeymoon and Lust for Life, as well as different hits from NFR, like California and The Greatest. However, it is important to consider that many of Del Rey's lyrics explore issues like addiction, domestic violence and toxic relationships. For example, last year when singing Chemtrails Over the Country Club, Del Rey adapted her lyrics 'he's born in December and I'm born in June', adding on 'he's born in December and he got married when we were in couple's therapy together', referencing her explosive breakup with Sean Larkin. This is vital to consider when reflecting on her performances, especially as she got married in September last year to alligator tour guide Jeremy Dufrene. In her first show in Cardiff, Del Rey got upset and went to Dufrene for consolidation, when she later apologised to audiences, saying that her emotion was because it was her first big time performing since she got married. She has even altered lyrics during her live performances to make them about Dufrene, most notably changing Chemtrails to 'he's born in March and I'm born in June'.

She also received a lot of criticism for using holograms of herself to perform Arcadia and do a spoken version of Tropico while she went backstage to change, with many saying that she shouldn't have done it.

While criticism is expected of any artist performing, especially in a stadium, Lana Del Rey should be praised for her shows, and fans should be happy for her, especially in light of her recent marriage. She has overcome a lot recently, with criticisms being constantly made where her appearance is targeted and rumours about Dufrene's political views being attacked and assumed. In the words of Del Rey herself, she will always be a 'living legend'.



## BOOK REVIEW

### Frozen II – Forest of Shadows by Kamilla Benko

Rating: ★★★★★

Review by Hazel (Year7)

I would recommend this book to anyone who is a fan of Disney films because this is a twist on the film "Frozen". This book is about Anna wanting to help Elsa, who had just recently become the Queen of Arendelle, with her duties. A mysterious illness suddenly came to Arendelle, affecting crops and animals. This illness seemed to be incurable, no one even knew how it started. Anna then discovers a secret room in the castle containing spell books with notes in her mother's handwriting. In a desperate attempt to help Elsa, Anna incants a spell, hoping it will help get rid of the virus but something much darker and dangerous happens. I give this book a 3.5 because when I was reading it, it took a while for me to understand what was happening. Nevertheless, this is a great book and the twist on the original tale is great- the twist makes the story different genre but seems to fit the tale perfectly.



## COMPETITION WINNERS

### June – PRIDE competition

In June, the English subject champions hosted a competition to celebrate PRIDE month. Students across the Academy were asked to write a letter to an influential PRIDE icon, explaining why they are such an inspiration and the impact they have had on the community. Below are just two of the standout entries...



### Entry by Hazel (Year 7)

Dear Billie Eilish,

I am writing to you to talk about you being LGBTQ+ and supporting it too. This is not negative, I support you and believe who you are and what you do for the community is great!

I understand you are queer and have done many things to support the community like:

- donating to LGBTQ+ organisations like the Trevor Project
- -discussing your sexuality openly
- -using your music to promote inclusivity and acceptance (eg. "Wish you were Gay" and "Lunch")

I would like to thank you for supporting the community and continuing to despise all the negative comments you receive.

I, myself, am bisexual and see you carry on despite all the negativity and to donate to LGBTQ+ charities and organisations is inspiring. It's also great to see that you are a powerful role model and seeing you like this is helping many of us in the LGBTQ+ community.

Thank you.



### Entry by Blake (Year 7)

Dear Oscar Wilde,

I write to you on this splendid evening to address your heroic feats and historical significance – such as the incredible novel you wrote: the picture of Dorian Gray. I also would like to congratulate you on your actions that improved the reputation and rights of homosexuality; you followed your passion and heart after having an affair with Lord Alfred Douglas. Once you failed to sue the Marquis of Queensberry in court, which he so rightfully should have lost, a trial was placed upon you and fate cruelly placed you in a prison. A moment please to highlight your wit and writing style which defined Victorian literature and poetry in absolute brilliance. It is magnificent and inspirational. Even though you are dead, your words refuse to stay silent and your fantasies shock adolescent inferiors to their cores. After the infamous letter you sent to dear Constance Loyde and young Vyvyan and Cyril, they fled to Switzerland and gained the surname 'Holland'. Unfortunately, you wasted away and died with the inspirational words 'My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or other of us has got to go.' Although your demise was harsh, your legacy continues – when people observed the severe, barbaric punishments that you suffered, the sight scarred the public eye and so homosexuality was finally gifted a light of sympathy, which created the base layers for LGBTQ+ rights.

Your work continues to dazzle me and inspire the writing techniques that I do, so please take my thanks and have a pleasant evening.



### SRPA EXCLUSIVE – Newly published books!

Please find below an advert for newly published books from one of our Year 7 subject champions, Olivia. She has signed up to a Summer Writing Camp opportunity, which has allowed her to craft, write and publish her own books online!

#### Books by the rising new author, Olivia Batt Rawden

##### ***Hiding In Plain Sight***

This psychological thriller in the form of a playscript compels readers with a lonesome child who gets wrongly sent to an asylum and becomes friends with someone who might change their life forever...

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##### ***Inside My Cats' Minds***

Explore pure laughter in this comedic book about what my cats are really thinking. Whether they want to attack, or feast on human food.

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To access, search 'Bribooks' and click on the first option, then go to 'book store' then search my name or the book name.



##### ***All The Lies Between Us***

In the shadow of Blackthorn Estate, tension hangs thick like fog. Detective Mara Quinn steps into a world where secrets fester and lies intertwine. Charles Blackthorn, a wealthy recluse, lies dead in his locked study, a bullet wound marking the end of his controversial life. With the room sealed tight and no sign of an intruder, every suspect is cloaked in mystery. As Mara peels back the layers of deception, she must confront the dark truths hidden within the estate's walls. Will she uncover the killer, or will the lies between them keep the truth buried forever?

To access, search 'Bribooks' and click on the first option, then go to 'book store' then search my name or the book name.

She has also recently created a website to advertise and provide updates on her writing journey:

<https://sites.google.com/view/oliviabattrawden-youngauthor/home>



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