

# THE EAGLE

BY THE PUPILS. FOR THE PUPILS.

ISSUE NO 58 | SEPTEMBER '19 |



## Welcome Year 7!

This issue is all about welcoming you to our school!

There is a welcome letter from the head boy and girl, as well as handy hints and tips on how to survive your first year at Saint Edmund's.

Your head of learning, Miss Holt, has been interviewed by our assistant head girl and we hope you get to know her a bit better this year. Please enjoy this issue and remember to see Miss Chapman in 213 if you would be interested in contributing to The Eagle!

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Dear Students,

We hope that you have settled into another year at St Edmund's, no matter whether this year is your first or last. Remember that each year is important, even if you don't think it is, and that it is very important to pay attention and work hard throughout the year.

It doesn't matter what happened last year, whether you were good or bad, hard working or lazy; each year gives us the chance to become better. So take into consideration what happened last year, what went well, what wasn't as good, and improve.

Before you know it, your St Edmund's experience will be over, so make sure that when you get to the end of Year 11, and you look back at what's passed, you have no regrets. School is a crash course for life, so make mistakes, and then learn from your mistakes, so that by the time you leave, you're ready for whatever happens.

If you're in Year 7, then this your year to learn, adapt and mature into secondary school students. For those in Year 8, it may feel like this is a year where nothing is happening, and that you can muck around; but this is the year where you lay the foundations of your learning, and start considering your future before you have to make real, impacting choices. Year 9s, you have a lot to look forward to, and this is when you need to start making decisions that put your education into your hands.

In terms of Year 10, this is the first year of GCSEs, that doesn't make it any less important than the second year, as this is probably the only time you'll touch on the information you're learning before the end of Year 11. And finally, those in Year 11, you know what to expect from this year, the most important year of our secondary school education.

We hope that whatever happens this year, you enjoy it thoroughly, and make sure that you both work hard on your academic subjects, but also on yourself.

God bless,

Head Boy and Head Girl

# Has BoJo lost his mojo?

By Caitlin Jones, Y11

Since Johnson's actions were seen as 'unlawful' by the Supreme Court, parliament has reopened to quite a hasty beginning. Johnson strongly states his disagreement to the overruling of his actions, however; this is just the latest stage in the ongoing Brexit saga.

Due to the issues surrounding the temporary closure of parliament, under Prime Minister Boris Johnson's orders, a vote of 'no confidence' is scheduled to be held next week in the government to aim at replacing Mr Johnson. The aim of this vote would be to place an interim to secure a short Brexit delay before calling a general election. Mr Hosie, leader of Scottish National Party, claims that it is necessary because "there is now no confidence that the prime minister will obey the law and seek the extension that Parliament voted for only a few weeks ago." He remains hopeful that the vote could happen as early as Monday or Tuesday.

Liberal Democrats claim that Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, is a 'too divisive' figure. Although, Corbyn claims that talks with the opposition parties have been "productive", with the chance of an emergency government becoming "more and more likely every day."



Hilary Benn, Ken Clarke and Harriet Harmon are all currently considered as viable options for the interim position. Clarke and Harmon are both long standing MPs from the Conservative and Labour parties whilst Benn's submission has been inspired by his strong views of having a no deal Brexit.

The previous record for the shortest serving Prime Minister was George Canning who served for one hundred and nineteen days before his sudden death. To not uphold that title, Johnson will need to remain in power until the twenty-second of November. Currently, this is seeming a while due to the fast-paced world of politics.

If a general election occurs, there is a chance of this country being locked in this Brexit paralysis for the foreseeable future due to the lack of a majority or any major agreement. Three years since the EU referendum, the Brexit journey still continues.

# Saffron Sorts It!

Our friendly neighbourhood agony aunt is here to help with all of your worries and woes.



## **Dear Saffron, what if I get lost on my way to class?**

Well, you're still new to the school so it's okay if you get lost; always make sure you check your timetable, see what room you're in and use the helpful signs around the school. The school is quite large so just explain to your teacher that you got a bit lost on your way and I'm sure they will be understanding. I got lost when I was in year 9 and had to ask a year 8 to help me!! Ask anyone to help you and they will be more than willing!

## **Saffron, what should I do if this new school is too much and I feel anxious?**

Honestly, just talk to someone. New schools are scary! But you are far from alone, there are plenty of people to help you such as your teachers, head of year and someone at home.

Just make sure you talk to someone and don't keep it all bottled up inside of you until it all of it comes out at once. It's okay to be scared, but make sure you reach out.

## **Dear Saffron, how do I make a good impression?**

Be yourself!! Don't change in order to make friends, as then you will feel trapped and upset because they won't know who you are. Be yourself, talk about what you like and socialise if you can because then you will find other people who have similar interests as you, have the same sense of humor, or just enjoy the same films! Just be yourself and don't change; you're perfect already!

## **Meet the Teacher: Miss Holt** **(Head of Year 7)**

By Caitlin Jones, Y11

### **What inspired you to be a head of year?**

I had a fantastic secondary school experience and really admired my own Head of Year. I realised very early on that I would like to emulate what she did when I was older as she had such a positive impact on myself and others.

### **What's the most important lesson you've learnt since starting in September?**

Don't be afraid to ask for help – everybody is more than happy to offer their support and guidance. Saint Edmunds genuinely has that family feel and I very quickly felt supported and knew that people would be more than willing to answer my MANY questions.

### **If you could describe the school in one sentence, how would you describe it?**

Saint Edmunds is an encouraging, family focused school which backs its student's 100 percent and leaves no man behind.

### **What do you do in your spare time?**

I like to watch sport, I am a huge Manchester United Fan. I only moved to Portsmouth in April so I am still spending time getting to know the area and experiencing all that it has to offer. In the summer I spent a lot of time at the beach reading Rio Ferdinand's autobiography!

### **What was your favourite subject as a pupil and why?**

I was and still am very passionate about sport so I LOVED PE. I also really enjoyed Philosophy and Ethics at A level as we would have detailed discussions and debates about a range of ethical issues. I think it was here I started to develop good listening skills.

### **What's the one piece of advice you would like all of your year group to know?**

There is always somebody to turn to for support when you need it. Myself, tutor, chaplain, teachers, prefects, sports captains...Saint Edmunds is a family and there's always somebody there to offload to and guide you.

### **Where is your favourite place in the world and why?**

Keswick in the Lake District. That is where I lived until I was 18 years old before heading to Leeds to go to university. I try to get back there as much as I can to visit my family and friends. It is a stunning part of the world!

### **Who is your role model and why?**

I have two.

My mum is an incredible lady who has faced some tough times but has always maintained a positive, friendly, happy and caring attitude and is just so positive! I also admire Sir Alex Ferguson as to me he was an incredible leader and of course lead Man Utd to so much success.

### **How would you describe yourself as a pupil in three words?**

Enthusiastic, committed & focused. (I loved school)

### **Why did you choose Saint Edmunds?**

Saint Edmunds has a fantastic reputation and is of course an outstanding school. The values and ethos stood out and reminded me so much of my own secondary school – it was somewhere I knew I would love to work.



## **School Info: Tutor Groups**

By Marci Steger-Lewis, Y9

### **Why are we put into Tutor groups?**

When you join St Edmunds in year 7, you will be put in class called a tutor group. This is the class that you will remain in until you leave school in year 11, though obviously you won't be with your tutor all day, every day. From year 7 to year 9 you will share almost all of your classes with the people in your tutor, aside from lesson where you are put in sets like English and maths, or lessons like technology. When you reach year 10, your tutor won't change, you'll just have less lessons together as everyone chooses different options to take.

### **Who are our tutors?**

Our Tutors lead our Tutor group and, considering we'll see them almost every day over our time at St Edmunds, chances are they are likely to be the teachers we are closest with. It's good to keep in mind that your tutor is always available to talk, and they will be willing to listen to any problems or questions you have.

### **What is the point of tutor time?**

Tutor time gives us time to prepare for the day ahead, so that we aren't going straight into lessons just after arriving at school. Whether you are reading, doing maths, preparing for the future, learning new skills and information, or doing the weekly quiz, tutor time is an opportunity to help you get started for the day and allow you to get to know the rest of your class.

## **School Info: Homework Tips**

By Darcy Hester, Y9

1. If you're struggling with it, then complete it over a few nights/take regular breaks so it's not as daunting.
2. Write down due dates where you will see them (e.g on a post it in your room/ a set reminder on your phone).
3. If the above doesn't help then write down the due date a day or two before it's due to prevent procrastinating.
4. If there are multiple options for the homework, do the one you would most enjoy.
5. If you are struggling to do it at home then on a Wednesday after school there is a homework club in the LLRC, with access to computers, books and help.

# **School Info: Top tips to starting a great year**

By Hast Ismail, Y11

## **Have the correct mindset when going to school:**

What I mean by this is that you need to know the reason to why you want to do well in school. For example "why do I need to listen in class today?" because I'm order for you to improve you need to. Everyday counts in school, wasting the days by messing about will not do any good.

## **Make sure you have the correct equipment:**

Every night before bed, you should make sure you have the correct equipment and books for the next day. This way you can wake up in the morning knowing you're prepared for the school day. This is not only a very organised method, it also can allow you to have that extra 5 minutes of sleep.

## **Put your hands up in class:**

If you don't understand something in class don't stay quiet. It is extremely important you ask the teacher or your peers. Not only will this allow you to learn more effectively, it will also allow you to not feel confused. If you're worried people will make fun of you, then remember there might be other people who don't understand.

## **Make a good impression on your peers and teachers:**

This may be your first year or it may be your second+. However remember it is a fresh new year, meaning starting fresh. If you didn't behave in the best ways in the previous years there is always room for improvement. Starting of on a good note may motivate you to stay that way through the year. Showing the teachers your new morals allows them to see you want to do better in school. However if you're already well behaved then well done!

## **Revise occasionally:**

Revising is key. Not just for tests however. It is important to revise even if you don't have an exam. This way if you do have an exam you will be prepared; this is great for you physically and mentally. We all know cramming in revision is exhausting, therefore knowing you have revised anyways can save you a lot of panic. If you procrastinate a lot then find the reason to why you procrastinate and try and overcome it.

## Rise of the Planet of the Polymers

By Rebecca Lee, previous Head Girl

The forecast for the future: Welcome to earth. Where the scorching temperatures soar to 40° with no cooling wind or refreshing breeze. The world will be receiving occasional shower of acid rain and sudden drop in global temperatures. The climate globally will be at its usual humid and malaria ridden heat tsunami, with the growing cancer creating hole in the ozone layer, letting the spectrum of intense UV light burn pleasantly on your mutated twelfth arm. Enjoy your stay!

Imagine drifting through a sea of plastic, bobbing with very little effort beside you. Heaps of branded bottles scale the skyline, like folded mountains made entirely of polymers. Bright vibrant oranges and concentrated lime green scatter amongst the swarming of caps and coiling wrappers that engulf your waist to your toes. Waste water flowing abundantly, a swirl of murky brown sludge that drifts chaotically down the torrent of bile. Great sheets of white plastic veil the hardened artificial landscapes, bubbling with toxicity.

This will be our fate all because a few people didn't like the texture of paper straws against their lips at their local McDonalds. Our planet is on the brink of total and irreversible change and the young population of London are complaining that the latest modification in plastic collection makes the city look ugly.

Here is an idea, maybe if we spent less time moaning and more time caring for the environment, we could point out a luscious bushy tree to our children in 2050, instead of breathing through an oxygen tank strapped to our backs. I'm not sure about you but I would much rather live in a world where we aren't shrouded in smog.



**Waterfall on the Fjord river Norway, with the flowing fresh spring water and chilling waters. Misted with clouds and shrubbery. Nature flowing down the mountainside with no trace of trash.**

After doing some research, I discovered that the average use of a plastic bag is 15 minutes! How can something that takes weeks to produce and centuries to decompose have a lifespan of 15 minutes? You might as well carry the food in our hands if you are going to use a plastic bag purely because you are too lazy to hold a single item. It is estimated that 25 million tons of plastic fragments are found flowing with the ever-growing tide of high-density polymer plastics.



## Rise of the Planet of the Polymers

By Rebecca Lee, previous Head Girl

Polymers are long chains of hydrocarbons that make up the majority of all packaging we see around us. There are many types for example: LDP (low density polymers) and HDP (high density polymers). All of which have amazing and effective ways of making hard and soft plastics due to their structures. In fact, 90% of plastics are able to be recycled effectively with little effort. However, one of the hardest forms of plastic that the environment and companies struggle to recycle is called Polyvinyl Chloride. They make up credit cards, synthetic clothing and cables.

Considered one of the hardest recyclable plastics in the world because of the cost and management behind them. Companies decide to stick it into the ground for years and hope that the poor worms will munch down on the lump of waste.

Interviewing two teachers of science about the topic of climate change:

One claimed that “the low lying and developing countries such as Bangladesh experience flooding and an increase of extreme weather hazards due to global warming. If the weather continues to escalate people who rely on the coast will need to relocate due to the swamping of sea water. The real issue isn't the ideas put in place, it is the execution and the funds backing such projects.”

The head of the science department with a degree in environmental biology claimed that the problem lies in the hands of the bigger economically stable countries. Claiming that “with the worlds digital platforms and outreach, we should be promoting change on a global scale and telling other about the impacts of global warming”. The action he believes lies with those with a sphere of influence such as celebrities holding the worlds eye line to the issue.

If we do not change, we will obliterate exotic species, cut down all beautiful trees and sap oil from the ground through McDonald's corporate straws. After all that...will people truly be satisfied? Mr. corporation, will it worth it? Was the cost of the latest mahogany binge pay the price for oxygen? Did the world cost so little to us that even the air we breathe will one day be taxed? Perhaps if we stopped moulding all the plastic problems into a baton and letting our generations children solve the doomsday of the economical empire, we wouldn't have articles like these urging change. We are all disposable to the world; the question is, are humans smart enough to recycle their junk and cleanse their closed minds?

## Ditching plastic toys in children's fast food meals?

By Charlotte Golding, Y11

Two sisters from Southampton started a petition to ban plastic toys from children's meals in an effort to battle the problem of plastic pollution.

Ella, 10 and Caitlin who is 8 years old, have been amazed by an announcement made by major fast food chain, Burger King.

Burger King UK will no longer give away plastic toys in children's meals in order to reduce plastic waste.

Burger King's aim is to reduce its plastic output by 320 tonnes annually through banning free toys.

On top of this huge success, the fast food chain is also encouraging customers to bring in old plastic toys so that they can be melted down and transformed into new play areas and restaurant items including interactive trays.

Caitlin and Ella McEwan also spurred on McDonald's to reduce their plastic output by allowing parents to swap out Happy Meal toys for a bag of fruit.



McDonald's already made changes to help the environment such as switching its straws from plastic to paper, as well as removing the plastic lids of its McFlurry ice creams. Together these changes will reduce plastic waste by 1005 metric tonnes annually.

Hopefully these positive changes will influence other major companies to cut down on their plastic use.



## **Review: Disenchantment Series 2**

By Philip Collins White

Matt Groenig, the creator of famous cartoons such as Futurama and Simpsons, tries to make the audience invested in his characters in the second season of his new fantasy series, however by doing so he neglects the interesting plot he set up in the first.

In the first series, Groenig created an interesting subplot about an evil society, helping the audience to sympathise with the characters, as there was an element of danger that made them feel like they can be hurt. However, this is quickly discarded within the first three episodes, with the main villains from this subplot discarded within the first episode, and any ramifications from the first series are quickly fixed within the third.

Whilst also taking away the sense of danger, removing this subplot and any sense of consequence from the show, loses the loose sense of continuity the show previously had, with episodes feeling rambling and aimless within the series; and making the ending even more jolting when it attempts to make predictable twists in the plot surprising and interesting.

However, one thing that the series does well is the character development, with the shows original characters being fleshed out and becoming proper people who you can associate with. This keeps the audience invested in the show, and while the plot may not be interesting, the characters are.

Finally, the show often leaves the mundane setting of Dreamland throughout the series, meeting a variety of wild and quirky characters, and bizarre places, such as the steampunk Steamland. This gives the artistic team to create great imagery, with the overall art style great, and the character design unique and interesting.

Overall, while the plot of the second series is bare-bones at best, the amazing characters and their design keeps the audience interested; and when this is partnered with the comedy of Groenig, the show makes for an interesting, if not the most intelligent, viewing.



## Top 10

By Lily Robson, Y11

**In this month's new edition, we will be counting down the, 'Top 10 Items to Bring to School', making the list is:**

1. Pencil Case- doesn't have to have anything in it though, you can collect those throughout the year until you've got the whole set by July.
2. A Potato- in case you get hungry.
3. A Variety of Socks- you're going to need to keep your feet warm in the winter.
4. An Issue of the Portsmouth News From 1982- light reading.
5. A Whisk- to mix things up a bit.
6. Volcanic Ash- add a bit of seasoning to Friday's fish and chips.
7. A Complete Metamorphic Rock Collection- now you can bring all your pets to class.
8. A Miniature Size Painting of one of Bob Ross' Works- this should be framed and preserved as its needed to pass any equipment checks.
9. A Bath Bomb- to discreetly drop in the pool.
10. An Army of Ants- to clear your route through the corridors.

Check back next issues to see more fresh Top 10s!