

THE EAGLE

BY THE PUPILS. FOR THE PUPILS.

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This issue features news stories that mention world leaders, global issues and a crisis in Australia.

One Y11 student also shares their experience of using the Trinity Suite and how it is a fantastic facility for students to use in school.

Please enjoy this issue and remember to see Miss Chapman in 213 if you would be interested in contributing to The Eagle!

ARTICLES

Trump
Impeachment
Iran tensions

Australian
Bushfires

Top 10...Ways to
brighten up your
winter

Review:
Trinity Suite

Top 10

By Lily Robson, Y11

In this month's issue, I will be listing the 'Top 10 Ways to Brighten Up Your Winter'. Making the list is:

1. Lighting As Many Candles As Possible- A great way to provide a bit of warmth to your house in this dark and gloomy season- but don't try this at someone else's house, as you may be arrested for arson.
2. Enjoying Homecooked Classics- In this cold period, treating yourself to some warming meals from scratch will be sure to brighten up this winter. Find the full selection in the ready meal aisle.
3. Having Hot Drinks- Missing the heat? Well indulging in a warm beverage like hot chocolate will give you that much needed boost.
4. Hitting the Gym- Feeling guilty now that the festivities are over? Same.
5. Hibernate
6. Stay Active- Even though it may cold, getting out is a great way to cheer you up, even if it's something simple like going for a stroll in the park.
7. Going On a Holiday- The best way to beat the winter chills is to get away to an exotic location, like Cornwall.
8. Having a Movie Marathon- appropriate films only.
9. Long Showers- Having hot showers is a brilliant way to relax and provide heat from the cold.
10. Turn On All The Lights- It will make it feel like summer. You might even get a tan.

Check back next issue to see more Top 10 listings!

Trump: Acquitted and Still Fighting

By Philip Collins White

On December 18th of last year, Donald Trump was impeached for two charges: obstruction of Congress and abuse of power.

The charge of abuse of power was based off of an anonymous whistleblower, as well as the following investigation and 28,000 page-report. This came after Mr Trump's phone call with the Ukraine's president in which he supposedly threatened to withhold £300m of security aid. According to the Democrats, Mr Trump was holding this money ransom until the Ukrainian president investigated Hunter Biden and his father, Joe Biden (one of the democratic candidates for 2020 presidential elections). His concern was supposedly related to the fact that Hunter Biden had held a board position at a Ukrainian natural gas company while his father had been vice president and in charge of American-Ukrainian relations.

Whilst this investigation was occurring, the White House also blocked testimonies and documents that the House investigators were searching for. This led the Democrats to also charge Mr Trump on the grounds of obstruction of Congress.



Now, 5th February 2020, the Senate, mostly made of Republicans, voted to acquit him of both charges (52-48 on the abuse of power and 53-47 on the obstruction of Congress). This means while Donald Trump was impeached and brought to trial over his actions, he was not convicted and no sanctions will be given. Now, Donald Trump is attempting to run for president next year, the first impeached president to ever do so. His campaign said that he 'has been totally vindicated', and that 'the do-nothing Democrats know they can't beat him so they had to impeach him.'

On the evening before his expected acquittal, Donald Trump made his State of the Union address (an annual speech made in January by the President, outlining the administration's plans for the next year), and while no mention of his impeachment was made, tensions were high between Mr Trump and the Democratic Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Mrs Pelosi was the person to first launch impeachment efforts last year. At the beginning of the speech Mr Trump ignored Mrs Pelosi's offer of a handshake; then at the end of the speech Mrs Pelosi shocked the audience by tearing a copy into two. Whilst many critics have said that this was an improper and rude action, the Speaker claimed that it was the 'courteous thing to do, considering the alternatives'.

While Trump may still be in power, the long-term effects of this impeachment trial, especially those directly involved in the election, remain unknown. For some, the reputation of Mr Trump may seem to be shattered beyond repair by this ordeal, however Trump's core support base are often strong-willed and unlikely to be dissuaded. It may in fact be that Biden suffered a greater damage to his reputation, as he is still in the democratic primaries for presidential election.



School Facilities: Trinity Suite

The Trinity Suite is a new resource provided by the school, designed to aid students with their emotional well-being and provide 'first aid' for their mental health; they also offer bereavement support and counselling. The team of staff is specially trained in supporting students and frequently attend courses to further their experience in aid of helping arguably the most important part of the school- the students.

Inside the room (above student services), the mood is comforting and warm, there's a sofa in the corner with various books and colouring available, and the other side of the room is decked out with six new computers with desks and headphones. Also available are school resources such as scissors and glue, pens and pencils- or the ability to have work collected from lessons. However, most importantly, there is always a teacher there for you to talk to and confide in, who is dedicated to trying to help you work through your problem, whether it be school-related or not.

In the Trinity, there is a space for all students, from all years, to come to in order to relax and calm down away from the stresses of normal lessons where it can all feel just a bit too overwhelming.

Or if your school life is fine and you simply want somewhere to shelter from the cold with your friends, the trinity is also available. The Trinity Suite is open every breaktime with Miss Layburn and a multitude of clubs are available at lunch times, although you can just go for a bit of peace and quiet:

Monday: colouring/board games with Mrs Simmons

Tuesday: colouring/board games with Mrs White

Thursday: Friendship bracelets with Mrs Candish

Friday: word searches and puzzles with Miss Layburn.

School Facilities: Trinity Suite

Personally, I have found The Trinity Suite to be of great help to me, as it has offered me a quiet space in times where I have needed to get away and calm myself down. I feel lucky to still be able to continue with work instead of being sat in the head's corridor or in the medical room as in Year 11, there is a lot to do with an increasingly finite amount of time. The work gives me something to focus on that is not the problem at hand, which is helpful when I am overwhelmed; the quiet atmosphere allows me to breathe away from people's questions, which although kindly intentioned can be overbearing at times.

The Trinity is open to everyone, no matter your year, or history within the school and is a resource that I recommend to anyone struggling with something that is impacting your school life.

TRINITY SUITE
NEW THIS YEAR
Come and take a look!

- Are you needing a quiet space and/or someone to talk to?
- Are you feeling stressed, anxious or overwhelmed about anything?
- Drop into the Trinity Suite at breaktime.
- Lunchtime clubs for all.
- Offer 'first aid' for mental health and emotional well-being.
- Bereavement support and counselling.

Break: 10.45 - 11.10 am
Lunch: 1.15 - 1.45 pm

St Edmund's Catholic School

Caelum Dives Ingredi

Are you needing a quiet space and/or someone to talk to?

Are you feeling stressed, anxious or overwhelmed about anything?

Drop into the Trinity Suite at Breaktime & Lunchtime!

We offer clubs for all, 'first aid' for mental health, emotional well-being, and bereavement support and counselling.

Break: 10.45 – 11.10 am

Lunch: 1.15 – 1.45 pm

(Located upstairs, above pupil services)

Is this the beginning of a new low?

By Caitlin Jones, Y11

More than fifty people have been killed as a result of a large stampede of Iranians gathering for the burial of a leading commander that was killed in a US drone strike.

Qasem Soleimani's hometown of Kerman, Iran, held the overwhelming gathering. The deaths have resulted in the ceremony being delayed. This burial is the last of a series of funeral events that have brought million on to the streets of Iran. Soleimani's killing has raised fears of a conflict between the US and Iran.

The head of the Quds force, which is an overseas operations arm, was tasked with defending and projecting Iranian interests abroad -he was hailed as a hero by many in his home country. Iran immediately threatened retaliation after his death. On the other hand, to the US, Soleimani was a terrorist, leading President Donald Trump to state that he was acting on an "imminent" threat. Vast numbers were drawn into the south-eastern Iranian city of Kerman as the funeral procession was approaching. Eyewitnesses stated that the "streets were not wide enough to hold the number of people and, with other roads closed off, there was nowhere to escape to."



A coroner quoted on Iran's Isna news agency that the death toll has reached 50, with those injured surpassing 200. Reportedly, the mourners in Kerman chanted, "death to America" and "death to Trump".

Across the globe, reactions have occurred. Reportedly, the US denied a visa for Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif to visit the UN in New York this upcoming week. This move appears to breach an agreement guaranteeing foreign officials access to UN headquarters. Additionally, America has denied that it has pulled out of Iraq, despite a previous letter from a US general suggesting that there would be a withdrawal.

Is this the beginning of a new low?

By Caitlin Jones, Y11

Iraq continues to mourn in the funeral procession of Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who is the head of the Kataib Hezbollah militia group. He was killed alongside Soleimani, supported as a powerful leader amongst Iraq's Shia militias and listed as Iranian's top adviser and ally in Iraq.

Heading towards a troublesome future, Iranian parliamentarians respond back by approving a motion designating the US Army and the Pentagon as terrorist organisations, and allocating extra funds for the force that was previously headed by Soleimani.

BBC Persian analytic, Kasra Naji, states that the events "send the message that a war with Iran would rally Iranians behind their leaders in the event of foreign aggression, and that any war could well be long and costly."

Chinese New Year

By Marinela Pervataj, Y8

Chinese New Year, is a sensational and vibrant celebration, spanning across two weeks and rejoiced by over 200 million people globally. The festival has a history of over 3,000 years. Celebrations on lunar New Year's Day can be dated back to 3000 B.C. Over the centuries new traditions were added and celebrations became more extravagant . January 25th marked the year of the rat, however amid fears of the coronavirus meant that many celebrations were unfortunately impeded.

Consequently, China has taken the extraordinary step of extending the Lunar New Year holiday, in some places by more than a week, in an effort to contain the deadly coronavirus. Some cities have also been effectively quarantined which has caused major issues for the world's second largest economy.

Beijing was flourishing with red lanterns last week, with colour engulfing the whole city. Every street, building, and house where Spring Festival is celebrated was decorated with red. It is the main colour for the festival, as red is believed to be auspicious. Red Chinese lanterns are hung in streets; red couplets are pasted on doors; banks and official buildings are decorated with red New Year pictures depicting images of prosperity. As 2020 will be a year of the Rat, decorations related to rats will be commonly seen along with red rat dolls for children and New Year paintings with rats on.



Chinese New Year

By Marinela Pervataj, Y8

It has long been a Chinese tradition to set off firecrackers from the first minute of their new year. Fireworks have increasingly been added to the cacophony. From public displays in major cities to millions of private celebrations in China's rural areas, setting off firecrackers and fireworks is an indispensable festivity. This year more than 100,000 fireworks lit up the skyline for the hundreds of thousands of spectators crowding the city centre.

In China, people are becoming less superstitious, but traditionally people believe that the year's start affects the whole year. It's believed that what something looks like and what its name sounds like, gives it auspicious or ill-fated properties.

What will the year of the rat bring this 2020?

The Rat is the Chinese zodiac sign known for being inquisitive, shrewd, and resourceful it is also the first in the rotation of the 12 zodiac signs, meaning that a Rat year is a year of renewal. So, when a Rat year comes, it generally delivers new experiences with favourable outcomes for all of the signs, however it can also bring spells of misfortune.

In the Chinese zodiac, each sign is influenced by the five elements of wood, fire, earth, metal and water. Each time it is a Year of the Rat, the sign is associated with one of those elements. Due to the fact that this year is for the metal rat, people born in this zodiac symbol, will become increasingly stubborn and will be able to overcome the toughest of challenges.



Climate change and pollution challenging Venice?

By Charlotte Golding, Y11

The well-known, now climate-challenged, 'City of Water' has suffered multiple, severe floods over the last few months: due to the rise of sea levels. You may have heard about this in the news; however, you probably have not heard about the other huge threat imposing on Venice - air pollution.

Hundred of diesel-powered vaporetti commuter boats, or water buses, spew out tonnes of carbon as they coast through the canals.

Although, there is a *partial* 'solution' in the works: alternative vaporetti powered – not by diesel, but by hydrogen, a fuel that only emits water vapor when burnt.

But if you weren't already aware, water vapour is actually a greenhouse gas. It is accountable for roughly 60% of global warming!



Now, you may be wondering – how is this an answer then?

Well, if I'm totally honest I don't think it is an answer to this great threat. The water vapour produced by these new commuter boats will just increase the warming of our planet. The slight positive is that these alternative vaporetti will improve the air quality in Venice but they won't be used on a large scale for quite some time anyway.

So, it sounds to me like the major problem of air pollution and climate change in this Italian city is far from being solved.

Australian Bushfires

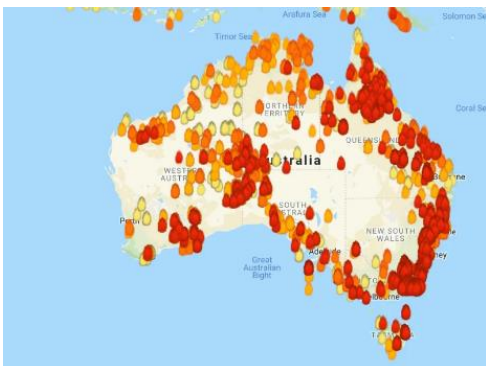
By Mia Laver, Y9

28 people have so far been killed including four firefighters and an estimated 10 million hectares bush, forest and parks across Australia has burned. Over 1 billion animals have been killed.

It is believed that the fires were started by people. One third of koalas have been wiped out from existence.

About 130 fire continue to burn across New South Wales state, destroying more than 900 homes, with 31 more fires raging in neighbouring Victoria.

Australia burned so hot that it created its own thunderstorms and lightning, conditions similar to a volcanic eruption or atomic bomb blast.



Meet the Teacher: Mr Bull

By Caitlin Jones, Y11

What inspired you to be a teacher?

I had amazing History teachers at school and was lucky enough to grow up getting told stories about WWII by my grandma. I've always loved watching films, documentaries or short clips of history.

What is your secret talent?

I'm really good at multitasking (eating whilst watching TV).

How would you describe yourself as a pupil?

I was a good student but liked to have a laugh with friends. Played most sports and even tried my hand at Frisbee, rather unsuccessfully I might I add. My favourite subjects were History, P.E & Drama.

What is your advice for year elevens?

They're most likely bored of all my pearls of wisdom by now but if I was going to give them more advice I'd say REVISE, REVISE, REVISE!

What is your favourite history event to teach and why?

I really enjoy military history so teaching about WWI or WWII is the most enjoyable for me!

What do you do in your spare time?

I like to watch or play football, relax with friends, walk my dog, go on little adventures.

Why did you choose Saint Edmund's?

Working at an 'outstanding' school with such a fantastic department was too good an opportunity to turn down.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Machu Picchu in Peru

Where is the strangest place you've ever been?

Summit of Mount Toubkal in Morocco. It was amazing to see so many mountain peaks and the clouds below us!

Who is your role model and why?

Michael Scott from The Office (US).