

# THE EAGLE

BY THE PUPILS. FOR THE PUPILS.

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## Merry Christmas!



We hope you are well and enjoying online lessons!

In this issue we have another interview with a teacher, updates on our new science department amphibian, a review of the latest video game, and ways to enjoy the holiday period...even in isolation!

Wishing you a happy Christmas and praying you stay safe and well. See you in January!

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## Meet the Teacher: Miss Newton

By Kacper Chmielewski ,Y9

### **What is your favourite food?**

My favourite type of food is Japanese but specifically it's a noodle stir fry called yaki soba.

### **Have you had any previous dream jobs?**

I wanted to be a vet when I was very young. When I was a little bit older I wanted to be a singer. I have played quite a few gigs before so that partly came true!

### **Do you have any fun food facts?**

Recently I found out that vanilla extract is made from a goo that comes out of a beaver's bum!

### **What is your favourite dish to cook?**

My favourite food to cook is profiteroles. They are delicious and they are good to show off because they look so delicious!

### **Do you enjoy any other hobbies which are not food related?**

I enjoy playing on the guitar, singing and walking my dog!

### **What is your least favourite food?**

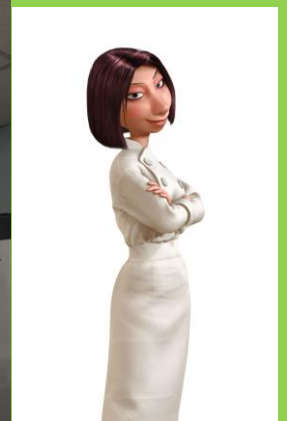
I would have to say that my least favourite foods are brussel sprouts, liquorice and avocado.

### **What is the strangest food you have ever tasted?**

When I went to Vietnam I tried snake soup. It was disgusting as it contained snake bones and skin! I'm sure some people enjoy it though!

### **Not related to food, what is your favourite animal?**

Cats because they are hilarious.



Who Miss Newton bases her appearance on...

## Celebrating Christmas in Isolation

By Deshna Nagarajan,Y9

Christmas is all about festivity, presents and wonder...the Christmas lunch and the presents are obviously the best part. Here are some fun ways you can still enjoy Christmas when isolating!

1. **Firstly, the festivity part.** Decorate your room with everything you think makes you feel Christmassy, for example, a stocking or a Christmas hat. If you have a cat try dressing them up in a Christmas Hat on top of stockings.

Also, Christmas is all about happiness. Find items which bring you happiness. Design party décor on paper to hang around inside your room, make stockings and staple them onto a string and hang them around. There are many fun things that you could do. Challenge your family members to do it and see who the most creative person is...

2. **Watch a Christmas themed film or read a Christmas themed book.** Some of my personal preferences are as follows:

If you are more into romantic comedies, you should definitely watch 'Last Christmas'. If you are more into family adventures, try out 'The Christmas Chronicles'. If you love films that are adapted from books, watch the film 'The March Sisters'. The film is based on a novel by Louisa May Alcott, who also wrote Little Women.

For books, I'd recommend 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, it is a classic. 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' is also enjoyable if you are a fan of Dr. Seuss' books.

3. **Finally, listen to Christmas songs!** My personal favourites are 'All I want For Christmas', 'Last Christmas', 'Santa Tell Me', 'Twelve Days of Christmas' and 'Man with the Bag'. To make it more interesting, play musical chairs with your family members!





# Celebrating Christmas in Isolation

By Deshna Nagarajan, Y9

## Crunchy Chocolate Christmas Pudding

Another way to enjoy Christmas in isolation is to make Christmas desserts. Here is one of my favourites from Jamie Oliver's website (all credit with him...)

### **Ingredients**

- unsalted butter, for greasing
- 150 g medjool dates
- 150 g dried apricots
- 150 g pecan nuts
- 75 g crystallized ginger
- 1 small sprig of fresh rosemary
- 150 g dried cranberries
- 150 g raisins
- 150 g suet
- 150 g plain flour
- 75 g fresh breadcrumbs
- 200 ml semi-skimmed milk
- 1 large free-range egg
- 1 clementine
- golden syrup



- Grease a 1.5-liter pudding bowl with butter.
- Destone your dates, then, by hand or in a food processor, finely chop the flesh with the apricots, pecans, ginger and rosemary leaves. Place it all in a mixing bowl with the cranberries, raisins, suet, flour, breadcrumbs and milk. Crack in the egg, finely grate in the clementine zest, squeeze in the juice and mix it all together well.
- Tip the mixture into the greased bowl and cover with a single layer of greaseproof paper and a double layer of tin foil. Tie a piece of string around the bowl to secure them in place and make it watertight, then sit it in a large, deep saucepan and pour in enough water to come halfway up the sides of the bowl.
- Bring the water to the boil, cover the pan with a tight-fitting lid, and reduce to a simmer for 4 hours. Check the water regularly, and keep topping it up with boiling water, if needed.
- When the time's up, lift out the bowl, remove the foil and paper, then carefully turn the pudding out on to a plate ready to serve, or leave to cool and reheat just before you need it.
- Drizzle it with golden syrup.
- Present it to your guests and sing some Christmassy songs, then when the flame subsides drizzle with golden syrup. Serve with cream, custard or even ice cream.

## Celebrating Christmas in Isolation

By Daniel Aigbe, Y7

In these times, Christmas may seem impossible. However, here are some tips and tricks to help you get into that Christmas spirit.

My first tip is to use video call. If you can't be there in person, you can be there online. You don't have to show your face and if someone is talking about things you don't like, you can just mute them (joking of course). It may not be as good as a shared Christmas dinner, but it is the best we can do.

My second tip is to shop for presents online. You can buy brand new things from Argos or Amazon, but you could also buy cheaper secondhand gifts from websites like eBay. With online shopping you can get anything: consoles, games, shoes, etc. (make sure you can afford them first though). This way you can gift a gift without having to give it to the person in person.

This is the end of all the tips and tricks to keep the Christmas spirit alive!



## Inspirational Historical Figure of the Month

By Emily Newman, Y7

Emile Corteil was a paratrooper who took part in the D-day landings in Normandy on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1944. Private Corteil was made into a dog handler as a punishment for poaching when soldiers in the Second World War were not allowed to. This led to him being given a dog called Glen. However, this was no punishment for Emile. As a child, he loved animals and being in the countryside. He especially loved dogs. He had to train Glenn to jump out of aircrafts, sniff out explosive mines and detect enemies on the battlefield. Not only this but Emile had to be able to understand what the dog was indicating to him. Unfortunately Emile and Glenn died on the battlefield. They are now buried together in Ranville cemetery along with many other soldiers who, like Glenn and Emile, lost their lives for our freedom.

It was heroes like these who led our country to victory. Similarly to Emile and Glenn, our NHS have outdone themselves this year to protect our families and friends. People like this shape the future for generations to come and make it possible to enjoy simple things in life. This year, people need Christmas more than ever. Have a very merry Christmas!

## STEM Review

**By Bethany Ternan, Y7**



STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) offers exciting opportunities to explore all areas of science through fascinating experiments. Using different scientific equipment, such as microscopes, you can discover more about the way the world works, human beings and much more. Every week is a different and more interesting and fun experiment than the last and each week gives you the chance to try something new. Previously, we have used scallops to dissect a chicken leg finding tendons, bones and muscle. We have made bath bombs, lava lamps and coloured slime for Halloween. STEM Club gives you opportunities to do experiments that can only be done in a lab and answer questions about the world around us. Thanks to Mr Ghosh for running this and inspiring me to explore the world of science further!

# Meet the St Ed's Amphibian: Toothless the Axolotl

By Darren Tong, Y10

## What are Axolotls?

Axolotls are aquatic creatures. They have bald heads, button-like eyes, endearing external gills and small smiles which make them amazingly cute. Contrary to popular belief, despite being known as the Mexican 'walking fish', these animals are not fish but amphibians! They are a type of neotenic salamander and relatives to the tiger salamander. Due to axolotls being neotenic, they never really grow up which means that, unlike most amphibians, they never metamorphose (grow up) into lung-breathing, land-living adults. Instead, they retain juvenile features such as gills, tails, and a preference for living in water (almost like a Peter Pan of the animal kingdom).

Axolotls are native to Mexico and whilst many may see plenty of white axolotls in captivity, the axolotl is normally greenish brown or black. White ones are known as 'leucistic' and descend from a mutant male that was shipped to Paris in 1863. They were then bred to be white with black eyes (different from albinos, which generally have red eyes) and that is why they look like that now.



## Why have we decided to get an axolotl?

There are two reasons as to why Saint Edmund's have decided to adopt an axolotl. One reason is because it is a very endangered species. The axolotl is on the brink of extinction in the canals of Mexico City, which is its only natural habitat, due to pollution, predators and human interference. Unfortunately, it is estimated that there may be just over a hundred individuals left in the wild. However, thousands can be found in home aquariums and research laboratories around the world. They are bred so widely in captivity that certain restaurants in Japan and Mexico even serve them up deep-fried as they are regarded as a delicacy. We at Saint Edmunds believe that protecting the environment and animals is a very important action to take so we want to be able to help protect our very special aquatic friend.

The science department of Saint Edmund's have also decided to own our very own axolotl, due to its amazing scientific regenerative properties which pupils in Year 9, 10 and 11 have been studying in Biology. Axolotls have specialised stem cells that can re-differentiate which is very unique and unlike many other animals. To put it plainly, they are able to re-grow limbs that have been previously severed! However, there appears to be a limit to how many times the axolotl is capable of regenerating a limb.

Scientists discovered that by the fifth time, few limbs could regrow to their previous state and instead, scar tissue started to form. Axolotls are very interesting due to their ability to re-grow limbs they have adapted and use this fact to establish a hierarchy in their eco-system. They will actually cannibalise each other and will tear a limb off of each other to assert dominance and status within their colony. Our axolotl is named Toothless (after the dragon) and is still juvenile meaning he will grow much bigger, up to 30cm!

## Game Review: Among Us

By Tania Rahman, Hannah Pacino and Neha Baiju , Y9

'Among Us' is a game, played on multiple platforms, that has only just recently become popular, despite it launching in 2018. 'Among Us' is a spaceship themed game created by the label Inner Sloth. The game is not only based around a spaceship, but also trust. Trust plays a key role in the game as among the 4-10 players there are 1-3 imposters depending on both the number of players and the game play you choose from beforehand. The role of an imposter is to kill the other players with your teammate without getting caught and before the 'crewmates' finish their tasks. The role of a crewmate is given to the rest of the players, these people are given tasks to complete in order to win against the imposters. When an imposter kills, they leave a body to be seen. Anyone can report the body and are given time to discuss their suspicions of other players. At the end of the discussion you are to vote out who dies next. Meetings can also be made by pressing the meeting button found on the map. If you vote out the imposter(s), the crewmates will win.

'Among Us' is a very interactive game, players run around doing tasks and unravelling the mystery as to who the imposter is. Although it is a very interesting game, there are some negative aspects as well. First of all, many servers have hackers ruining the games, making voting time too short and not giving players the chance to vote people off (you can change the settings to stop this happening). However, the good aspects of the game outweigh this. It is very interactive and helps people focus more on what's happening and become more observant. It also helps people around the world interact and can be humorous, which makes people's day a little better. Price wise, it is free on many devices and only £4 - £5 on PC.

To summarise, 'Among Us' is a strategic game, which requires some detective skills, but could be improved by having less glitches. The game is quite new and has only recently become popular amongst the teenage audience, Inner Sloth have announced that they are working to update the game.

*"If I were to rate 'Among Us' from 1-5, I would pick 4. It is a very cool game that requires strategy and trust, but needs a little updating here and there." -Hannah*

*"5/5. I like the simple graphics, meeting new players and finding new tactics. It gives you a way to think and observe who to trust." -Wendy*



*"I like 'Among Us' as it is incredibly simple and it requires skill, unlike some other games. It would be better if there were less hackers who reveal the imposter." - Jacob*