

# Quinton Chronicle

## Issue 1: Hallowmas



QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL



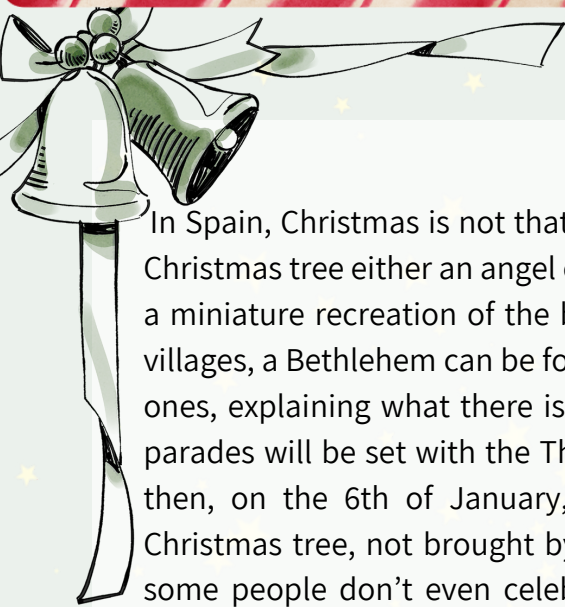
# Around the World: Christmas Edition!

Like Halloween, Christmas has its own variations all across the globe. From eating ginger-bread biscuits, to celebrating the Three Wise Men with sweets, from giving money to kids, to eating potato salads, they all have something which distinguishes them from the others.

In ancient Rome, The Roman Saturnalia, a harvest festival that celebrated the winter solstice —or the return of the sun— and honoured Saturn, the god of sowing, is thought to have inspired the first Christmas celebration.

In the UK, like in many other places, Christmas is celebrated the 25th of December, counting with our winter friend, the Christmas tree. The traditional things to do in this period are eating some tasty mince pies, or maybe some addictive gingerbread biscuits; you might want to kiss under the mistletoe; maybe you'll wear your worn-out jumper — or buy a new one; maybe you like to play in the snow, and even play snow sports; or, as mentioned before, you and your family will set up a colourful Christmas tree, fighting over who will get the privilege to place the star (or angel) on top. However, do you know how other places celebrate this wonderful time of the year?





In Spain, Christmas is not that different. Alongside presents, we commonly put on top of the Christmas tree either an angel or a star. We also set up, in any flat platform, a Bethlehem. This is a miniature recreation of the birth of Jesus in the stable and it's common that, in towns and villages, a Bethlehem can be found in the middle of the town squares. People then go with little ones, explaining what there is to see, and even sing Christmas carols. On the 5th of January, parades will be set with the Three Wise Men (or Los Reyes Magos) on top throwing candy and then, on the 6th of January, children wake up to find even more presents beneath the Christmas tree, not brought by Father Christmas, but by them. This is such a common thing, some people don't even celebrate the 25th of December with presents, and only do family gatherings.

In Japan, Christmas is also celebrated. However, it's considered to be a fun holiday and not religious, because only around one percent of the population is Christian. Christmas is not a national holiday in Japan. Nevertheless, the 25th is not considered just a workday. In Japan, it's also a romantic day, just like Valentine's Day! As of traditional customs, Japan has a few.

As a year-ender, 'Oseibo' was done long before Christmas became popular. People gave a token of gratitude, such as food or other consumable items, to someone who had shown kindness during the year. In today's society, older generations still use 'Oseibo'. However, the custom of exchanging gifts has become more popular among the younger generation.

There is also a New Year's gift-giving ceremony called 'Otoshidama', which is when a parent or relative presents money to a child. Therefore, parents only give their children one present at Christmas. Santa Claus is a popular belief among Japanese children, but he is said to mysteriously materialise inside one's home, not drop off gifts under the tree or slide down the chimney!

For Germans, the Christmas tree is typically only ornamented on Christmas Eve morning. Additionally, they generally use actual freshly cut fir or pine trees, which are offered in all sizes at most supermarkets in the final days before Christmas. Plastic trees are frowned upon. However, homes and gardens are decorated with holiday lights all throughout the season, with the tree being the last touch! Additionally, because Christmas Eve is a fast day, there is frequently very little food ingested during the day. Christmas celebrations begin in the afternoon at a local church, where lots of families with kids attend a cheerful children's service. After worship, families continue the festivities at home by finally lighting the candles or lights on the Christmas tree.

By Martina Pastor Prado



# BITS



# BOBS

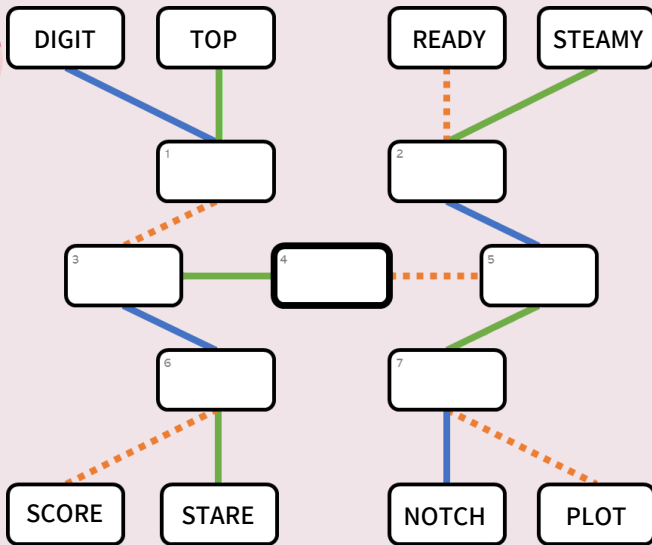
By Ethan Freeman-Smith

## Christmas Edition

Have a crack(er) at these Christmas puzzles to fly right into the festive spirit!



### WORD WEB



Complete the word web by filling in the blank squares with words, following the key below. The goal is to find the word in the centre.

**Hint: the centre word is Christmas-themed!**

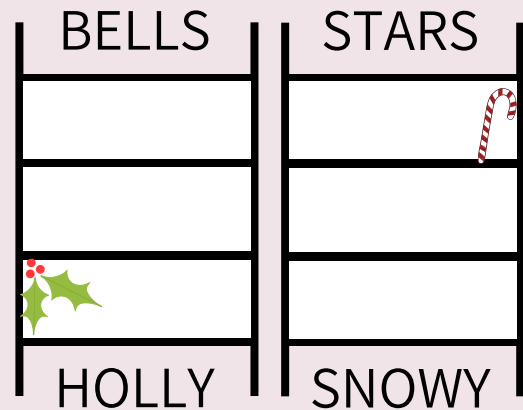
- - - - - - RHYMES WITH
- - CHANGE ONE LETTER
- - MEANS THE SAME AS

### FACTOIDS

William the Conqueror was crowned on Xmas Day 1066  
 Physicist Isaac Newton was born on 25th Dec 1642  
 In Japan, for Christmas, it is typical to go out for a KFC  
 Jingle Bells was the first song played in space!  
 In 2017, British scientists created the smallest ever Christmas card, 200 million times smaller than a stamp (which is invisible to naked eye!)



### WORD LADDER



Complete the word ladder by going from the start word to the end word, changing 1 letter to create a new word each time.

### MONEY PUZZLE

$$\text{snowman} + \text{snowman} + \text{snowman} = \text{£18}$$

$$\text{gift} + \text{tree} + \text{snowman} = \text{£21}$$

$$\text{tree} + \text{snowman} = \text{£14}$$

If I buy 5 present and pay with 4 snowmen, **How much change will I receive?**

### ANSWERS

BANES>BASES>BASKS

GRACE>TRACE>TRACK

1. Pumpkin patch 2. Coffin 3.

Living room

Lie: C

1. TOE 2. STEADY 3. STOW 4. SNOW

5. SLOW 6. STORE 7. SLOT

BELLY>JELLY>JOLLY

SNARS>SNAWS>SNOWS

£4



# ‘Mistborn: The Final Empire’ By Brandon Sanderson Review

What if the bad guy won? And what if the bad guy wasn’t all that bad? If either of these questions even remotely pique your interest, you’ll probably love Mistborn.

Mistborn is based in a beautifully crafted world where ash falls from the sky, the grass is brown and the ‘immortal’ Lord Ruler has commanded the Final Empire for the last one thousand years - and some people aren’t too happy about it. Thieving crews like the one our protagonists are in fight to survive in the capital city, Luthadel. Whilst these crews are much better off than the oppressed, working class skaa (a fictional race), they are nowhere near the grandeur of the nobility.

One of the best parts of this novel (and series) is for sure allomancy, a genetic magic system based on consuming one of eight basic metals which give you special powers, such as greatly improved senses, strength or the ability to influence another’s emotions. The catch? Only very few can use all of the metals. This plays so well into the book’s pacing and action scenes; every fight is filled with cleverly written manoeuvres and intermittent flaring of metals that keep you turning the page time and time again. There are quite a few moments which really show the prowess of our protagonists and push the boundaries of the world.

The plot points of this book are also great. The story has many twists and turns which all feel right and you look back and can’t help but go “oh!”

But what about characters? Well, if you’re a fan of character driven stories you won’t be disappointed either. The main characters share the point of view throughout the book along with some of the more interesting peripheral characters in the later books. They are all well-built and each have a unique personality (not to mention cool names). Vin’s arc is especially good. You see her go from an abused street urchin, abandoned by her brother, to one of the most powerful mistborn in the Final Empire. On the other hand, the side characters aren’t perfect. Whilst they definitely have distinct personalities and are by no means shallow, they are nowhere near some of the best in the genre like Snape in Harry Potter.

Pacing isn’t perfect either. Some parts of the book are certainly speedy but other bits drag on a little too long, especially in the middle – although the climactic ending is certainly worth the wait.

One of the biggest flaws though, in my opinion, is the prose: the writing. There’s not much variation of vocabulary apart from one or two exceptions. For example, I don’t think I’d ever seen the word *maladroitly* before Mistborn but the book uses it four times. Also, some of the language during action sequences can get a bit repetitive. At the start of the book, reminders of the magic system’s rules are helpful but, nearer the end, they can get a bit irritating.


Mistborn isn’t perfect but I love it. 92%

By Francis Pendleton-Crane

# THE QUAC!

**By Autumn Harley**

Welcome to the brand-new advice column for the newspaper!



I'm Quackers, your amazingly wise and knowledgeable guide to the QUAC. This advice column is here for answering student's burning questions on school life and social life. We will answer our most questions in this column in every issue, so please input your queries!

**Dear QUAC,**

**I'm really confused about the amount of homework I'm receiving in my lessons. It takes loads of time and it really feels like too much. Do you have any ideas?**

Obviously, homework is a living hell. My tips are to take some time for yourself.

Do something relaxing, read a book, meditate (We had Global Be Well Day, I expect most know how), have a nap, do whatever is relaxing to you.

In all honesty, your phone is a portal of procrastination, so leave it alone.

Secondly, have breaks. Especially if you're revising! so you can memorise the information, and to care for your wellbeing, so you aren't cramming up until the AM's.





QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL

Please input your questions for next issue. We would love to answer your queries!

We collect the questions from the form every 2 weeks. Your identity will be hidden so no need to embarrassed! You can ask any question on the Microsoft form!

**TO QUACKERS:**

**"I've just joined from a new school and I'm struggling to make friends with people in my form group and my year. I don't know what to do, please help!!**

-----"

Ah, friendship. The best thing to have, but sometimes, the hardest thing to find.

In all seriousness, making friends, especially in new school can be difficult.

What I would recommend is that being yourself is one of the best ways to make friends.

Putting your personality out there, expressing who you are will help you. And, if you can't find friends in your year, you can expand out to other year groups. The students in other years are nice! You can be friends with them! You don't have to stick to your year.

Obviously, you don't have to, these are just my recommendations.



To Quackers,

**"This school feels massive! The numbers make no sense, and sometimes they aren't in order!**

**I'm constantly getting lost or I'm late for my lesson. The yellow cards are piling up in my name, what do I do?!"**

I was in this position once, the Senior School seemed massive compared to what I was used to. But don't fret dear reader, I am here.

Firstly, teachers will understand being late, so don't start think they'll hate you (unless you are truly annoying).

The best thing to do is, ask reception if you're up in the Main Hall, or the PE office if you're at the Sports Hall. They will tell you where to go in, especially if there's an unexpected room change.

Another tip to try to do is memorising the doors, read over your timetable, or walk with someone who knows where they are going.

Other than that, I think these tips will leave you good to go.



**PHEW, THAT WAS A RIDE. WELL, THAT'S THE END OF THE BURNING QUESTIONS, BUT PLEASE INPUT YOUR QUESTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE**



**WE WOULD LOVE TO ANSWER YOUR QUERIES!**

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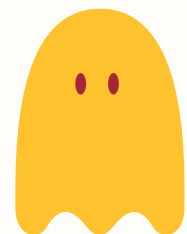
# Around the World: Halloween Edition!

Halloween, the well-known festival we celebrate on the 31st of October, dressing up and trick-or-treating.

Firstly, how did this frightening tradition start? The version of Halloween we know today started with an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to repel ghosts. In the eighth century, the pope said the 1st of November would be a time to honour all saints. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The Celts lived in an area we now call Ireland, and in the 1840s Irish immigrants escaped from the potato famine and travelled to the U.S., taking their customs with them. Then, the U.S. developed the Irish idea and constructed the festival we know today.

Of course, this isn't the only way Halloween is celebrated around the world. For example, in Mexico they celebrate the well-known Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos. This is a two-day celebration, consisting of honouring ancestors and deceased family members. Legend says, on November 1st and 2nd, families are visited by their dead ancestors' spirits. The living celebrate them with flowers, parties, sweets, and images of brightly decorated skulls and skeletons. They have picnics and light candles in cemeteries. While images of death are everywhere, it's important to remember that this isn't a scary or a sad holiday, it's a celebration of life, both past, and present.

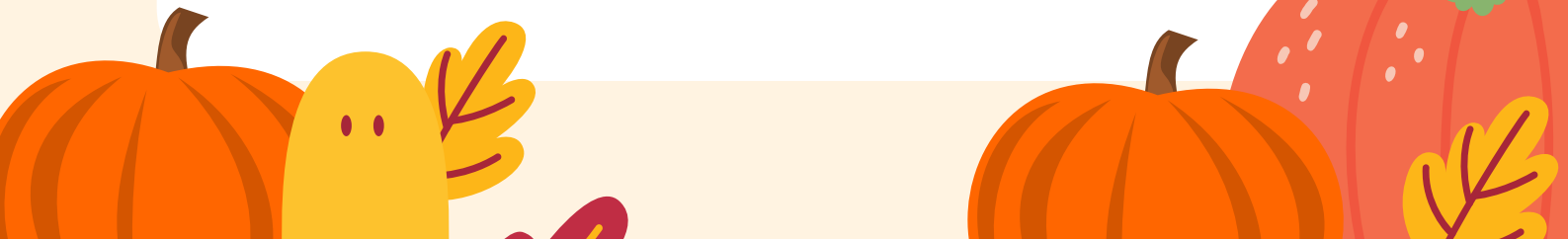
In Ireland, Dublin hosts a Samhain parade every year. Colcannon and barmbrack are the traditional foods. The first consists of mashed potatoes mixed with kale or cabbage and the second is sweet bread with dried fruits. It is used for fortune-telling: charms are added to the loaf, and your fortune for the next year depends on which charm you find in your piece of barmbrack. These charms could be a pea, a piece of cloth, a coin or a ring.



Around the world, Halloween is generally considered for kids. Not in Japan, where Halloween celebrations have a decidedly adult overtone. There's no Trick-or-Treating, but there's plenty of cosplay and plenty of parties. Halloween celebrations have already caused chaos in Tokyo even before the day itself had not even started yet. The most popular and important Halloween event in Japan is the Kawasaki Halloween Parade, featuring around 4,000 customized revellers. However, they aren't allowed to wear any old, worn-out costume. They have standards, and participants must apply at least two months in advance to join the festivities.

Apart from celebrating the modern, imported idea of Halloween, the Italian have their traditional festival, called Ognissanti. Ognissanti translated to All Saint's Day and is celebrated on November 1-2 but people often begin the celebrations a day or two before. During Ognissanti, tradition holds that the souls of the deceased come back to visit their living relatives. People decorate cemeteries with fall chrysanthemums, they leave food out for visiting spirits and, in some parts of Italy, parents leave gifts out for their children on behalf of their dead relatives, almost like a miniature Christmas.

**By Martina Pastor Prado**



# BITS & BOBS



## Halloween Edition

By Ethan Freeman-Smith

Remember the spooky season right with these Halloween-themed brainteasers!



### WORD LADDER

GRAVE	BONES
	
	
TRICK	MASKS

Complete the word ladder by going from the start word to the end word, changing 1 letter to create a new word each time.

### RIDDLES

- 1) Grow Halloween produce here or use me to fix a hole in your pumpkin. What am I?
- 2) The person who built it sold it. The person who bought it never used it. The person who used it never saw it. What is it?
- 3) A zombie, a mummy, and a ghost built a house. It has all the usual rooms except for one. Which room won't you find?

### JOKE



A FUNNY BONE!

What do you call a skeleton that makes you laugh?

### TWO TRUTHS, ONE LIE

- A) This year, Brits were predicted to spend almost £29 million on pumpkins
- B) English footballer Marcus Rashford was born on October 31, 1997
- C) Halloween's origins date back over 2000 years to Native American tribes



### WORDSEARCH

- |         |        |
|---------|--------|
| Witch   | Ghost  |
| Cat     | Spooky |
| Costume | Sweets |
| Bat     | Undead |
| October | Scream |



### FACTOIDS

The Battle of Britain ended 31 Oct 1940.  
 Global population reached 7 billion on Halloween 2011.  
 Pumpkin-carving was a harvest tradition before being a Halloween one.  
 Halloween expenditure for the US in 2020 was a whopping \$8 billion!



## Animals you didn't know exist:

### The Proboscis Monkey

**Status**

Endangered

**Population**

7,000

**Scientific Name**

Nasalis larvatus

**Height**

76cm

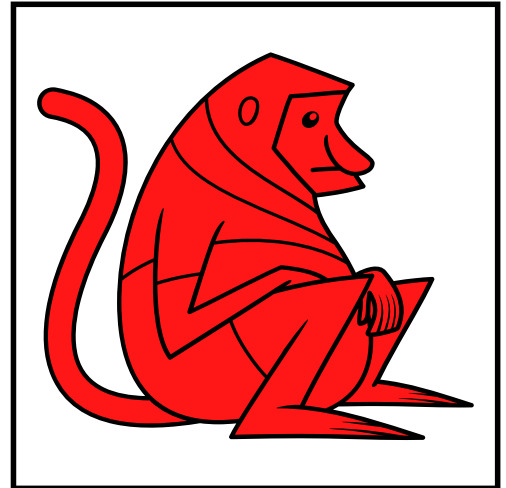
**Weight**

20kg

**Habitat**

Jungles of Borneo

By Andreas Constantinou



The proboscis monkey also known as the long-nosed monkey is a species exclusively native to Borneo, Indonesia in mangrove swamps and forests around coastal areas and rivers, from which they never stray far. They tend to stay close to these rivers due to the easy escape from predators and their arboreal nature (travelling/staying in trees) and lifestyle to which they stick, only ever leaving trees in search of food which is almost never necessary.

Proboscis monkeys live in groups called troops usually consisting of one male, around twenty females and possibly their offspring however this is not always the case as males can form groups as well which tend to be more solitary and stay away from other larger groups. The male will defend their troop by showing their teeth and making loud honking sounds with the help of their nose but two or more troops may unite and support each other and their infants without problems.

The proboscis monkey can vary in colour from grey and orange to pink and yellow and - much like a stag - have a distinct feature that makes it easier to identify males: their nose, which can grow to seven inches (the females do still have a large nose compared to other primates).

Proboscis monkeys are technically omnivores, eating mangrove leaves, fruit and insects although their diet is mainly built up of mangrove leaves due to the abundance of them. Furthermore, proboscis monkeys have extremely complex stomachs relying on a host of symbiotic bacteria for digestion. The females are usually in charge of gathering food whilst the male guards its territory and due to their incredible swimming capabilities and may dive into bodies of water to collect mangrove shoots which are also in their diets. They are one of the largest primates in Asia (only smaller than the Tibetan Macaque and a few grey langurs) but still have their fair share of predators including: saltwater crocodiles, clouded leopards and sun bears. Also, many eagles and owls are threats to babies and, possibly, sickly adults. To escape some of these predators they will take a leap of faith and belly flop into any water surrounding them then swim to the opposite side of it; they have webbed feet and hands which allow them to travel around twenty metres underwater and outpace crocodiles making them the most aquatic primate in the world. If with a baby and a predator is nearby, the mother will make the baby cling to its neck and belly flop onto it and swim as normal.

These monkeys are endangered and need to be protected from habitat loss as, without trees, they are easily picked off by predators they could stay away from before. This is especially true for the babies who are on wide display to threats that their parents won't be able to protect them from.

# YEAR 9 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

By Dylan Dhiman



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, a group of Year 8s and 9s made their way up the M1 to Dixie Grammar School in Leicester. Buzzing with confidence, the athletes were ready to represent Quinton House School (QHS) in the football tournament. Accompanied by Mrs Thornton and Mr Macmillan, the team was ready to shine. QHS was put in a group that consisted of five other schools. The top two competitors from these groups would qualify for the semi-finals, and any further progress would see them with an opportunity to bring the trophy home. The team morale leading up to the first match was high, each player confident in one another's abilities. Starting with an aggressive 4-2-3-1 formation, QHS were out hunting for goals.

The first match was close between two highly gifted teams. The game was end-to-end with plenty of chances being created but, to the regret of the away side, not being put away. The ball looked like it wouldn't go in either goal, but that wasn't to be the case. In the dying embers of the game, the ball was given away, directly to an opposition striker. With a gaping goalmouth right in front of him, he could hardly miss. One game, one loss for the side in red and black.

Next up, an even tougher test for QHS. Fresh off the back of a 7-0 romp, spirits at Priory Secondary School were high. With two Birmingham Academy students and many other quality players in the XI, Priory were nailed-on favourites.

After only a two-game recovery break, QHS was faced with an impossible challenge. The match started evenly, both teams starting with a cautious approach, perhaps fearful of the other. After 5 minutes of timid, passive football, it was the Northamptonshire side who took the game by the scruff of the neck. They knocked constantly at the Priory door and soon enough they got their reward.

After some quick feet to escape the defenders, the ball found itself being rocketed into the bottom corner. But the joy was short-lived; the linesman raised his flag to come to the rescue of Priory. The disallowed goal reflected the match, with many chances for Quinton not being put away. The tie ended 0-0 – more points dropped.

Things weren't looking good for QHS and after only gaining one point in the first two games, another 1-0 loss didn't help the cause. But there was still hope. Yes, the opposition's teams had a large points advantage. Yes, the group were yet to register a win (and yes, the confidence had taken a knock). But Quinton doesn't give up.

By showing courage, resilience and grit the team could still qualify. Utilising the virtues and values which had been embedded within them throughout their years, made them not only better sports players, but better people – a trait required if they were to advance any further.



The squad had been provided with a very steep mountain to climb, but used the challenge to motivate them, push them further. They had to stay together, had keep their heads but most importantly, they had to believe. So, could they, against all odds, defy all expectations and qualify?

No. Despite winning the last two matches 2-1 and 3-0, QHS ended up finishing third in the group, an agonising one point behind qualification. After a brilliant final push from the collection, it just wasn't to be. It was a strong effort, but too little too late from the school from Upton.

# Brazil's Elections

On the 2nd of October, general elections were held to elect the president, vice president, and national congress of Brazil. The last president, Jair Bolsonaro, is considered a populist. By some, he is considered Trump of the Tropics and the Brazilian Trump, meaning it for some in a good way and for others in a bad way.

An important difference between them, however, is that Bolsonaro was once a military officer. All these factors have led to him saying racist, misogynistic, and homophobic comments, and even more importantly, expressing his fondness to a strict, military dictatorship.

These elections will affect Brazil's future and worse, the world's too. During Bolsonaro's presidency, Brazil's part of the Amazon rainforest has been destroyed in large quantities, quicker than expected.

The numbers reached a record high in the first half of 2022. This ended in 3,500 square miles of it destroyed. However, Lula says he will put a stop to the deforestation. The Amazon's global importance for oxygen supplies is massive, making these elections important all around the world, as the future of the rainforest will affect every one of us.

In the elections of 2018, Bolsonaro had to face leftist Luiz Inácio 'Lula' da Silva in the deciding second round of Brazil's presidential election.

Even though most Brazilians would have voted him, continuing a tradition of mostly electing leftist presidents for two decades, but he was banned from doing so, sentenced to twelve years in prison for corruption and money laundering. However, those accusations proved to be wrong, enabling him to pose as a candidate for these elections.

The latest official count, after the first round of elections was held, announced Lula was ahead with 48.4% of the vote, almost winning the elections right away (50% needed), versus 43.2% for Bolsonaro. Now, second elections are held the 30th of October, deciding the unpredictable future of this exotic country. Lula has told reporters in São Paulo he's confident he will win them. However, Bolsonaro states the elections weren't fair, and is raising doubts among the population about the credibility of them.

**By Martina Pastor Prado**



# THE ARTS

BY RACHAEL FAJEBE



QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL



Well, Quinton has an array of activities, ranging from go-karting, football, and The Arts.



## What are The arts?

·Sounds like a bit posh but the Arts are simply multiple branches of creative activity. That could be painting, music, literature, and sculpting etc. Therefore, poems count as art, dancing counts as art and even reverse graffiti!

## So which arts does Quinton House have to offer?

Some of the Arts at Quinton:

- Art
- Music
- Photography
- Drama

## Music

Music is a subject at Quinton; it is a way of expressing ideas and emotions through a blend of rhythm, melody, and harmony, all based on a variety of rhythmic patterns.

In addition to inspiring and educating children, music provides a creative outlet in a classroom setting. Whether it be brass, guitar, or piano, a variety of instruments are available at Quinton.

As one of Quinton's Performing Arts, a variety of music productions are put up from talent shows to musical showcases such as Quintonbury!

## ART

Art. To drawing, painting, sculpting or -----, art is an extremely versatile subject. At Quinton, students start Art from at Prep, honing their skills all the way up to Year 9, where they decide whether they want to do it for their GCSES. I'm a little biased as I am doing GCSE art, but art is one of those subjects where you can't go wrong. Just trying your best and enjoying it is more than enough to create your own bits and masterpieces. At Quinton, they are a multitude of art competitions and contests.

## Other weird art forms

- Light paintings
- Human flowers
- Ice sculptures
- Sand paintings
- Butter sculptures



## **‘Legends and Lattes’ By Travis Baldree Review**

**What more can you ask from a book than good company? Oh, and orcs running coffee shops...**

In ‘Legends and Lattes’ we follow Viv (an orc) after she chooses to give up her life as a mercenary and follow her newfound passion: making coffee. Throughout the book she meets a ponderous craftsman, a more-than-business partner, a marvellous baker and a timid musician, each just as wholesome as the last. But, obviously, it’s not all smooth sailing.

This book is, at its core, about building a new future and the friends – the family – you make along the way. And it certainly writes friendships well. Viv’s interactions, with friends new and old, all feel so natural and, like all good friendships, they band together when challenges inevitably arise. The bonds these characters make feel so wholesome and, if you like great friendships in your books, I would certainly recommend this one.

Every time I picked up this book and started reading, I could almost smell the deliciously depicted aromas and taste the good food. Needless to say, it made me very hungry.

Now for the plot. It certainly isn’t anything to write home about; it’s not bad, just not the focus of the book. The plot is more there as a vessel to carry the characters forward and, at that, it works just fine.

Legends and lattes may not leave you in awe of epic stakes that protagonists heroically overcome but it will leave you saying “aww” at how good these friendships are. 71%

**By Francis Pendleton-Crane**






# 'A Life Discarded' by Alexander Masters

"A nice day in general; just enjoying myself. No particular thoughts, except perhaps I'd like to change my life

'A Life Discarded' is written by Alexander Masters, a writer of biographies. He has been awarded the Guardian First Book Award. 'A Life Discarded' follows 148 diaries found in a Cambridge skip in 2001 and follows Masters' life reading and searching for the mysterious writer. The book flows between Masters pursuing the diaries and his life around them. The book also follows the people linked to the journals. The book follows the journey of finding the writer, from start to end. Masters is very skilled in his way of writing and his genre, as he has written other biographies, all about equally as interesting people. His writing feels informative, yet still easy to read.

The book flips around, regarding the order of the memoirs, following how Masters read these diaries. The chapters flit between topics the accounts cover: the diarist's life in Cambridge, their school years, life in work and their emotions all through this time. Masters was blessed, because of the ability to see a person's true thoughts in their fullness. This book was not a book I would usually pick up, and it didn't meet my expectations the way I envisioned them to. The book was vastly different from how I expected it to be, believing it would be like 'Anne Frank's Diary', presented from the writers perspective and following all their life, However, it impressed me and was an interesting read. I would recommend this to anyone who likes reading biographies, or anyone who likes the mystery or detective genre.

By Autumn Harley



**Status**

Endangered

**Population**

Fewer than 1,000

**Scientific Name**

Ochotona Iliensis

**Height**

8 inches

**Weight**

Up to 250g

**Habitat**

High altitudes in North China

# Endangered Animals: The Ili Pika



The Ili pika, also known as ‘The Magic Bunny’, is an adorable animal that, like the rest of their relatives, you’ve probably never heard of. Its muddy grey fur and copper-coloured stripes which stretch across its face and neck excellently camouflage this small rodent into the barren, rocky terrain to which it is native. Using size as an advantage is the pika’s specialty, hiding in small holes and crevices throughout the mountainous regions it rules to escape predators and to hibernate through the harsh winter. Although pikas have their own dens they actually live in colonies and are very territorial, alerting the others of intruders and defending themselves. Hibernation is a key part of the pika’s life, so they spend most of the summer preparing for the harsh winters collecting grass and hay and making a nest like bed in their dens to keep warm. Furthermore, they will stock up on food like most other hibernators. They do this by packing grasses, herbs and other mountainous vegetation and packing them into crevices making ‘hay piles.’

The Magic Bunny, despite its cuteness, is an endangered species with its numbers rapidly declining; since its discovery in 1983 the population has decreased by around 71% leaving their numbers at fewer 1,000 which is less than the number of giant pandas left. Although you may not have heard of them, they are crucial for the ecosystems they live in for instance they serve as a main food source for predators such as weasels, coyotes and many birds of prey but that is not their only role as they are also ‘ecosystem engineers’ because their foraging highly promotes the distribution of various plant species, in turn increasing biodiversity in the mountains. On the other hand, pikas act as indicator species which we can use to detect the ecological effects of climate change in their habitat, the mountains.

Reasons for the pika’s decline in populations are quite vast but some of the main causes are climate change and China’s infrastructure; climate change is killing pikas so quickly is due to their high adaption to their specific temperature which should usually stay below freezing, unlike other species that live low enough to migrate to higher altitudes making the conditions suitable. They live so high up there is nowhere to go. China’s infrastructure is another reason for the decline of the pika population this is because China has discovered how to build well on its mountainous regions so they can migrate people to these mountains, leaving the pikas with less of a habitat and more chance of pollution.



By Abdul-Rashid Daud

# SPORTS INTERVIEW

The school newspaper decided to interview Christian and Marlon to talk about their triangular (three teams) rugby tournament. Both stated they were happy to be recorded and thought they both performed well as their coach chose them as the standout players.



When we asked Marlon how the games went, he responded, “yeah the first game was a loss but we shouldn’t have lost because they kept running by us on the same side and then the second game we kind of just slammed them.”

We then went on to ask Christian how they thought the team’s performance was, he said, “I think we could have performed better but we performed very well, at least a solid 8/10 performance.”

Our interviewer, Abdul-Rashid, linked in with virtues and values by asking which of them they thought they represented to which both boys replied:

”

“We showed respect to our opponents, we didn’t celebrate massively in front of them, we shook their hands, we showed integrity by coming up with the right answer and we showed courage to go to that game and just – well – win.”

To finish off, we asked them who was better and they both decided that Christian was better in the first game and Marlon in the second.

# QUINTON OPEN DAY

By Charles Baker



This recent open day, a total of 67 families came to experience and view the Quinton School grounds and all they have to offer. With the help of ambassadors, scholars, teachers and students. Here are some of the main subjects and activities that were presented on Open day:



## P.E.

There was badminton, table tennis and basketball activities on offer for the families to join in. In the basketball section of the sports hall, families could practice shooting layups, free throws and passing drills with the help of our sports ambassadors.

## ENGLISH

In English, Miss Smith had a GCSE Romeo and Juliet collage of themes and narratives and Mr Elliott had a sensory description challenge for younger families. He said, "it's great to hear the imagination of our future students."



## DRAMA/MUSIC

The Drama department, run by miss Henry-Moore, had GCSE performances going all day by students, musical performances, a dance workshops and drama games.

## LANGUAGES

In the language room, there was an interactive Linguascope activity and a display of French, German and Spanish books of senior school students. Frau Weir, Mr Macmillan and language ambassadors were talking to families about upcoming trips for languages and a Spanish play that will be performed for the senior school.

## ART

Miss White  
In the art room, Miss White was creating interesting dye art out of fleece and wool by using a heat pressed machine and placing leaves on to them so it created a leaf print.



# SCIENCE

The Science department were:

- Dissecting owl pellets where you could find bones of animals
- Dissecting sheep eyes
- Testing acids and alkalis
- Looking at onion cells under microscopes
- Showing a Van der Graaf generator which creates static electricity and makes your hair stand up.



# GEOGRAPHY

A Geography treasure activity was being run by Mr Justice where you did 4 and 6 figure grid map references to find locations in the outdoor classroom and win a prize.



# Snow Leopards



As many of you may already know, our beautiful species of cats are endangered. The reason for this is because Snow leopards, which live in Mountains in Central Asia, are being poached

**Once you have read this article you will be a Snow Leopard expert!**

So, without further ado, let's begin!

**Q1: Why are Snow leopards being poached?**

A1: Snow leopards are being poached for the illegal trade. People take their fur to make rugs and use their bones for traditional medicine.

**Q2: What can we do to stop poaching and protect endangered species?**

A2: One way we can put an end to poaching animals (like our Snow Leopards) is by decreasing the demand for illegal wildlife products. If no one's buying the products, there will be no need to kill the animals.

**Q3: How else can we make a change?**

A3: You could organise a carwash, bake sale etc. and donate the money to an endangered animals charity such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to put a STOP to hurting the innocent animals of our natural world.

**Fun Quiz:**

**Do Snow Leopards use their tails to balance?**

**How far can a Snow Leopard jump?**



By Nusayba Daud



# Credits

## **Francis Pendleton-Crane:**

- Editor, Writer ('Mistborn: The Final Empire' Review, 'Legends and Lattes' Review)

## **Abdul-Rashid Daud:**

- Co-Editor, Writer (Sports Interview)

## **Rachael Fajebe:**

- Head Designer, Writer (The Arts)

## **Charles Baker:**

- Writer (Quinton Open Day)

## **Andreas Constantinou:**

- Writer (The Ili Pika, The Proboscis Monkey)

## **Nusayba Daud:**

- Writer (Snow Leopards)

## **Dylan Dhiman:**

- Writer (Year 9 Football Tournament)

## **Ethan Freeman-Smith:**

- Writer (Bits & Bobs Christmas, Bits & Bobs Halloween)

## **Autumn Harley:**

- Writer (QUAC, 'A Life Discarded' Review)

## **Martina Pastor Prado:**

- Writer (Christmas Around the World, Halloween Around the World, Elections in Brazil)

**Thank you for supporting the Quinton Chronicle!**