



SIXTH SUPPORT

THE MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

Friday 5th March 2021

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All previous and future editions of the Sixth Support magazine can be found online at <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/coronavirus>.

CURRENT EVENTS

BY HARVEY M.

For the last month the return of schools has been a particularly important goal of the Government and has appeared in the news extensively. To make this happen as soon as possible Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has said they will implement a number of measures to try and ensure a safe return, namely the wearing of masks everywhere in school, asking secondaries to test all pupils three times over the first two weeks and allowing a staggered return over the week of 8th March.

The Government has also sought to reduce overall restrictions, which has instigated a surge in holiday bookings. This is unsurprising given the Government's plan that indicates the removal of practically all restrictions on or after 21st June, including legal limits on social contact. A moderate amount of reopening can occur as soon as 12th April. All shops will be allowed to open in addition to recreational facilities and 'close contact services' such as hairdressers and beauty salons.

The US President has recently addressed the nation about the country's passing of 500,000 Covid related deaths. A moment of silence was observed outside the White House and he called for all Americans to fight the virus together. This comes after a number of proposals and implementations by President Biden to hopefully stem the already devastating impact of the crisis, such as the creation of additional virus-related task forces to ensure American hospitals do not become overwhelmed, testing is accessible to the population and misinformation is controlled.

PHYSICS

Mars Rover Landing

BY TOM S.

On the 18th of February a NASA rover named Perseverance touched down on Mars with one of its missions being to look for signs of previous life on the planet. The rover is the most advanced yet containing 19 cameras, two microphones and seven primary payload instruments. The advancements also extend to the landing system and mini-helicopter onboard. This therefore allowed for the landing to be the most accurate of all the rovers landed on Mars thanks to new steering technology and the use of a “sky crane” as pictured below. Additionally pictured below is the mini-helicopter known as Ingenuity which serves 2 main purposes for NASA. One is to demonstrate flight in Mars’ thinner atmosphere and lower gravity. The other is to explore areas which are inaccessible to the rover.

The “Sky Crane”:



Ingenuity:



Whilst also looking for signs of previous life, the rover is also tasked to identify environments which could support life via collecting rock and soil samples ready to be collected and brought back to Earth in a future mission. This is in addition to testing oxygen production within Mars’ atmosphere. It is often said the first humans to be on Mars are alive today and the successful landing of Perseverance is another step in accomplishing this goal.

HISTORY

Aberfan Disaster

BY EMILY N.

By 1966, the Welsh village of Aberfan had a population of approximately 5,000, the majority of whom were employed in the coal industry. Surrounding the village, there were 7 spoil tips of waste material that had been removed during mining, the first of which had been begun in the 1910s and the most recent, tip 7, had been begun in 1958 and was the only one still in use in 1966.

Early in the morning of the 21st October 1966, after heavy rainfall for the previous three weeks, the peak of tip 7 caved in and the rails used to transport the waste fell into the hole. When this was discovered at 7:30am, the supervisor decided nothing could be done that day and a new tip would be chosen the next week. However, at 9:15, a significant amount of water-saturated debris broke away from the tip flowed downhill at speeds of up to 50mph and waves that were 20-30 feet high.

Meanwhile, the children of Pantglas Junior School, Moy Road, Aberfan began to fill the classrooms for the final day before the half-term holiday. As the teachers started to record attendance of the students, the landslide slid down the mountain, destroyed two farm cottages, killing the inhabitants before travelling across the canal, railway embankment and into the village. The avalanche engulfed the junior school and filled classrooms of children with thick mud, sludge and rubble.

Nansi Williams, one of the school's dinner ladies, dove on top of five children, saving all of their lives by sacrificing her own. When she was found, she was still clutching a pound note that she had collected as lunch money. The deputy head teacher, David Beynon, tried to use a blackboard to protect himself and five of his students. He and his class of 34 children were all killed. Despite

efforts to rescue those trapped under the rubble, 144 people died in the disaster including 116 children mostly aged 7-10.

An investigation followed into the National Coal Board (NCB) who held jurisdiction over the tip. Blame was placed on the NCB for the incident. It was known that tip stability was dependent upon water conditions and it was known that tips 4, 5 and 7 had been placed on streams or springs. In May, 1963, tip 7 had shifted slightly but the NCB stated this was not a "slide" and waste continued to be deposited on the tip. Residents complained about the "Danger from Coal Slurry being tipped at the rear of the Pantglas Schools". Whilst the NCB had agreed to take action on the clogged pipes and drainage ditches in early 1965, no action had been taken over a year and a half later when the tip collapsed. The day of the collapse, when Lord Robens, the Board's chairman was informed of the disaster, it was decided that he shouldn't go and visit the site. Instead, he spent the evening at a ceremony in which he was made chancellor of the University of Surrey. He also received a copy of the inquiry report ten days before it was published that criticised him for misleading statements and lack of clarification about the placement of the tips. Robens then went on a tour to strengthen his position.

The NCB was not prosecuted and no staff of the Board faced consequences as a result of the disaster. And whilst the NCB offered compensation of £50 then £500 to the victims' families, Aberfan was never the same. In the year following, death rates for the close relatives of the victims were seven times higher than normal. Later, a local doctor reported that "By every statistic, patients seen, prescriptions written, deaths, I can prove that this is a village of excessive sickness." An investigation in 2003 found that half the survivors experienced PTSD after the tragedy.

SOCIOLOGY

Sociological Research

BY EMMA H.

Sociologists need to conduct research to try and prove their theories about society. They use a variety of different methods and select the method that will provide the most accurate, reliable or representative data.

As sociology is the study of society, there are often topics that need researching that may be sensitive which means the researcher needs to be aware of this and make adaptations to their research. For example, the researcher may ask the participants to remain anonymous in order to make them feel more relaxed and aware that the results aren't linked back to them. This means that the researcher may be able to gain more reliable results as participants may answer questions truthfully if they are anonymous.

There are 2 types of data that is usually collected: Quantitative data and Qualitative data.

- Quantitative data is data that typically contains numerical answers. This type of data is usually presented in tables and charts and graphs.
- Qualitative data is data that is typically written. Data tends to be longer sentences and is typically about a person's feelings, thoughts or beliefs. This sort of data can be collected by asking open-ended questions or analysing letters or diaries, looking at data collected from interviews etc.

There are also many different ways that researchers can choose to conduct their research. These methods where the research collects their own data is called primary research. Some of these methods include the use of...

- Interviews
- Observations
- Questionnaires and surveys
- Laboratory experiments

Researchers also have the option to use secondary sources to collect data. This is when they can access pre-existing data and research that someone else has conducted and apply it to their own research. Some examples of secondary data include...

- Official documents and statistics
- Historical data and paintings
- Looking at past photos, diaries and letters
- Analysing newspaper articles

One example of some sociological research is a field experiment conducted by Keizer. The researcher placed a £5 note in an envelope and placed this in a highly visible area in two different letterboxes. One letterbox was in a clean environment with no litter or graffiti, the other letterbox was in an area with litter on the floor and graffiti covering the letterbox. Keizer found that in the first location 13% of people stole the £5 note, whereas in location two 27% of people walking past stole the £5 note. This research allowed Keizer to conclude that the location and appearance of an area had a strong correlation with the amount of crime in the area.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

World Book Day

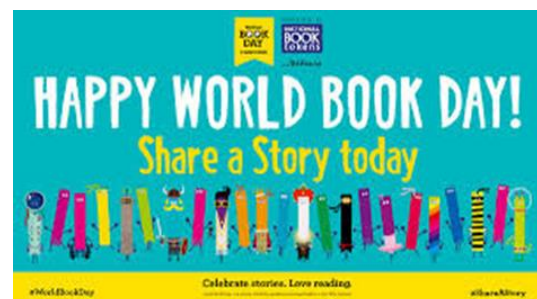
BY AMBER M.

World Book Day, first celebrated in 1997, is a charity event that takes place on the first Thursday of March each year in the UK and Ireland. It was created to encourage children to find pleasure in reading and celebrate the accomplishments of books and authors. The founder of the day explained that “We wanted to do something to reposition reading and our message is the same today as it was then – that reading is fun, relevant, accessible, exciting, and has the power to transform lives.” Today it is still responsible for creating an element of excitement concerning reading and is in partnership with schools all over the UK. Every child in full time education is given a voucher to be spent on books and the organization now delivers over £15 million of £1 vouchers to young people.

This year World Book Day took place on the 4th of March and obviously it was slightly different than usual due to children being off school as a result of lockdown. Normally, primary schools encourage children to dress up as their favourite book characters, however, being at home didn't stop children from dressing up as familiar faces such as Harry Potter, Mary Poppins or even The BFG! Several free digital events also took place including a live stream about how to bring books to life, hosted by TV presenter Nigel Clark and starring Tom Fletcher. This year's theme was 'share a

story' in the hopes to encourage young people to share their stories with those around them. For example, many children used video to read stories to grandparents or other family members.

Reading from an early age encourages children to learn about the world around them, develops their imagination and improves concentration with studies showing that those who read regularly from a young age achieve better in school. Therefore, if you have younger siblings or family members, try spending time with them talking about books and reading. World Book Day does not have to be for just really young children though, use this week as encouragement to read something new or look back on your favourite books!

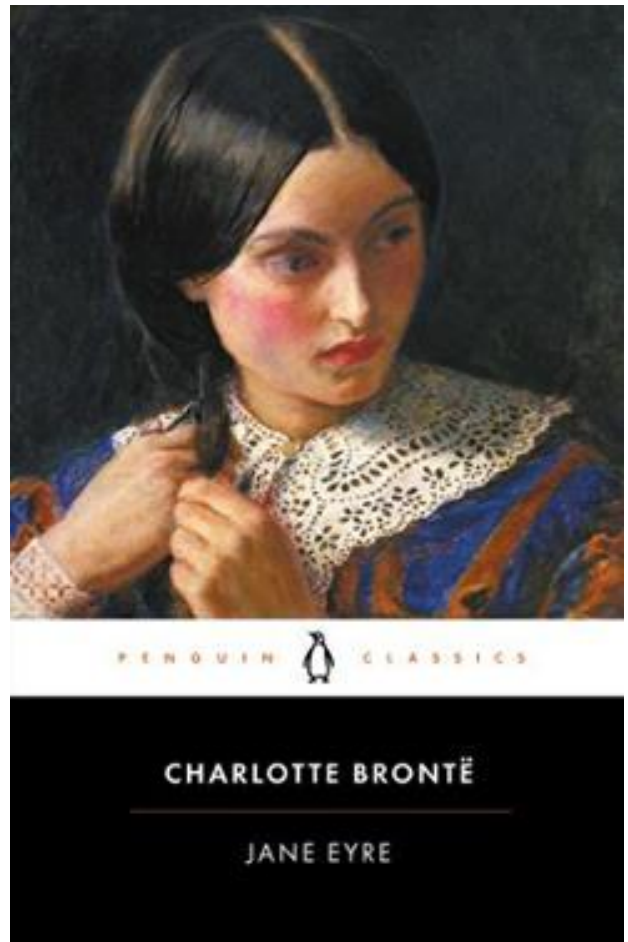


BOOK COMMITTEE

Jane Eyre

BY ZOË J.

Charlotte Brontë's 'Jane Eyre' is a novel surrounding love and the impact it has on the relationships between the characters. In conjunction with this, despite the novel being written in 1847 and therefore set in a patriarchal society, Brontë incorporates the idea of feminism as a significant aspect of, main character, Jane Eyre's character profile. Furthermore, this also acts as a factor within their relationship that juxtaposes the idea of the simplicity of love and highlights issues caused by patriarchal expectations. The novel follows different time periods of Jane Eyre's life, from her upsetting experiences as a child in school to her journey through adulthood. I would most definitely recommend reading this novel as it not only an incredibly engaging and interesting read, but also arguably recognises various issues within the 1800s society and applies them to the lives and relationships of characters that Jane Eyre meets.



The man behind the colours

BY TEGAN T

Everyone knows of Andy Warhol's artwork which has stunned people with its beautifully bright colours and celebrity or sometimes odd subjects. What most people don't know about him is his story, his family and this is what makes him who he is. I think it's important for any art lover to truly know who an artist is when looking at their work. Fear not - I've made this short guide to Andy Warhol for when we might (eventually) be able to go and see his work in a gallery.

His childhood – Childhood for Warhol was not normal as he was plagued by many illnesses such as Sydenham's chorea and scarlet fever. As such, he spent a lot of time in hospitals and he said this may have contributed to his fear of hospitals. Spending so much time out of school meant he didn't learn the same way other children do by interacting with others and thus, he didn't have many friends. However, his family was always there for him by his side, sharing books or games with him when they could. He was said to remember his brothers spending time with him when they could but this doesn't change the idea of Warhol's childhood being considerably stunted by his tough time with illnesses.

His early work – Warhol had a revolutionary take on pop art as he used bright colours and everyday objects but repeated up to 100 times per canvas which was something people of the 1960s had never seen before. His work was hugely popular as he came to explore celebrity life in his work, mixing this new subject with the same bright colour scheme. A great example of this is his twice repeated painting of Debbie Harry where he uses his characteristic turquoise, yellow and red to create a piece that truly pops! However, his interest in celebrities was taken to new realms as he created 'Marilyn Diptych' just after she tragically passed away in 1962. His repetition

of her face in full colour which changed to black and white before fading away alludes to some strong opinions of the media. Specifically, many interpret this to show his opinion that her death was so over reported that the true Marilyn was lost and her death gradually had less and less impact on readers.

The 'Incident' – The tale of his 1968 incident will most likely shock you as he was going about his day when Valerie Solonias, an actress with a paranoid grudge against Warhol, shot him. Warhol was rushed to hospital, struggled through and luckily survived the ordeal. Valerie was later arrested after claiming she attempted to kill Warhol because he "had too much control over [her] life".

His later work – After the incident, Warhol's art seemed to change to be much darker and somewhat depressing as he swapped bright fuchsia or turquoise for darker shades of red, green and black itself. The best example of this is his self portrait (1986) where he uses black for the majority of the piece and adds red, creating a sense of sadness mixed with danger. I interpret this to be a clear indication of his feelings after his experience.

Conclusion – In conclusion, Warhol had a rough time during both childhood and adulthood which many people only know a little about and I hope that now you have read this you will see the true Andy Warhol in his art. Feel free to use any information from here and add to it if you feel inspired to do any projects or studies on Warhol – particularly if you want to take up art as a new hobby!

As always, we would love to hear from you if you have any work you would like to share or events that you know of!

SUDOKU

The aim is to fill in the grid below so that each row, column and 3x3 section contains the numbers 1 to 9. Some of the squares are already filled in: complete the puzzle!

8		2						5
		4					3	8
5			9			2		
				4		6	9	
		5			6	4		2
				2	9		6	
		6	3				1	
3	4		5					

ARITHMETIC CHALLENGE: 60 seconds each with no calculator.

19	x5	DOUBLE	-2	HALVE	-2	x2	+4	2/3 OF THIS	?
77	+14	x2	1/7 OF THIS	-2	/4	SQUARE IT	-15	x6	?
63	+1	3/8 OF THIS	SQUARE IT	/9	/8	CUBE IT	/16	x7	?

COUNTDOWN NUMBERS 1:

Can you use the 6 numbers below to make: 888?

25

100

9

8

9

6

WORD SQUARE:

You can only use each letter once. Can you find the nine letter word?

E	R	U
T	V	R
E	O	S

COUNTDOWN NUMBERS 2:

Can you use the 6 numbers below to make: 746?

50

10

7

1

3

5

POLITICS

How effective is the judiciary at holding the government to account?

BY JESSICA M.

Last week Matt Hancock the secretary for health has been found guilty of breaking the law because he didn't disclose the contracts from obtaining PPE quickly enough. He was obligated to publish them within 30 days and the high court ruled that that he broke the law by not publishing them. The public and media have been questioning the health secretary as there have been issues with insufficient PPE either due to the lack of or the quality. Furthermore, evidence suggests that there's cronyism as large contracts have been given to the friends and associates of Hancock despite their inexperience. For example, Frances Stanley was given a £14.4 million PPE contract after her husband donated £5000 to Hancock's office. In response to the ruling the Media focused on Harry and Meghan giving up their royal duties and Matt Hancock has refused to resign or even apologise. So, this begs the question- can the judiciary really hold the government to account?

Separation of powers ensures that the judiciary is neutral and independent from political influence. In theory then judges have

the power and safety to hold ministers and parliament to account for their actions without repercussion. However, after this ruling it is clear that not much has been done. This was not a criminal offence and the purpose of the claim was to get the health secretary to carry out his legal duty and publish the contracts and he was being assessed as a minister and the head of his department rather than as a private citizen. This means that in this case the court couldn't do much and Hancock would have to resign by choice and without public pressure this was unlikely. Was this the first time the judiciary has found the government has broken the law and yet nothing happened? Of course not. In September 2019 Boris Johnson tried to prorogue parliament and the supreme court found that he broke the law trying to stop Parliament from enacting their democratic right to scrutinise the government regarding the Brexit deal. Lady Hale ruled that Boris Johnson broke the law and yet he didn't resign, and nothing came of it. So it is clear that despite the powers of the judiciary and their independence it isn't enough to always hold the government account as they are elected and have a mandate to govern.