

The W.A.T.C.H Word

Friday 8th November, 2024

Sophie Sysum: Chief Editor Elizabeth Bird: Lead Journalist Rosie Guy: Social Editor
Alice Fuller: Chosen Hill Events Correspondent Joe Cox: Media Correspondent



The Ghosts of Education: Britain's Most Haunted

Schools



by Elizabeth Bird: Lead Journalist

For this edition, the W.A.T.C.H Word is on a mission to scare your socks off! We braved the gaming realm to discover Plants Vs Zombies, peered within the floorboards of the library for Dracula, then finally, we uncovered a scarily adorable Guinea Pig. Not to mention the rest of the frighteningly good articles within this edition.

This school has its very own Casper, the Green Lady. This lovable being has become a staple to the school and is not there to scare. There is much speculation about the origin of the Green Lady, theories fly from a caretaker to a dinner lady and, sadly, a



Roath Park Primary school's main building

While the Guinea Pig was cute enough to die for, the truly terrifying discovery made was haunted schools! Roath Park Primary – in Cardiff, Wales – is a prime example of a haunted school, although it might not be as terrifying as you might think.

teacher lost in the first World War.

The Grey Lady has many tricks up it's sleeve, from creaking doors to flying pencils across a room for no clear reason. However, this

friendly ghost is well invested in the school. The Green Lady is loved by the parents, staff and pupils alike and it never



St John's College - Oxford University.

fails to appear around Halloween!

But it's not just primary schools that have their own ghostly guests. St John's College at the University of Oxford houses its own Headless Horseman.

This headless spirit is well known and has

lots of fun with its predicament. The rider can be seen kicking his head down the hallway, and even practicing a gruesome game of bowling!

While official sightings are not recorded, those at the college are sure that this mischief-maker will continue his tricks for centuries to come.

It's certain that there are many ghostly goings on around the school, and you can rest assured that, should a ghost appear in Chosen Hill, we'll be the first to let you know.

We hope you have had a very scary Halloween, and bring on November!

House Standings



32'116 PTS



28'194 PTS



25'448 PTS



29'799 PTS

Well done Carne, leading the way!

We're looking forward to seeing how the points from house music do to the competition next month! Stay tuned!



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Chosen Hill News

Students Smash House Music!



By Alice Fuller: School Events Correspondent

House Music is one of the most treasured traditions at Chosen Hill.

We at The W.A.T.C.H Word spent the day interviewing the judges, staff and House Captains, as well as watching the performances play out live. What a day to remember!

We started by talking to Mr Pauling and our Lead Judge: Mr Harvey Sullivan. Mr Sullivan told us he was looking for an ideal winner to be ambitious, daring and to 'wow' him.

We spoke to all the House Captains and asked them all about their House's performances, most importantly who their biggest rivals were.

However, if you want to find what they said, you'll have to check it out on the school's

The day officially started with Carne. Their theme was 'carnival' and they did it justice. Their whole house choir song was the "Greatest Show" from the blockbuster



Getting ready for Carnival!

The Greatest Showman. They had interestingly split their choir, with the two sides of the timetable, Chosen and Hill, alternating parts throughout the song; only coming together for the chorus.

Our next house brought the same energy and fun. It was Whittle's turn with the amazing theme of 'Hollywood'. Whittle's performance was full of laughter; with a tenor

horn rendition of the Star Wars Theme, by Robert in Year 7, and a raging light-sabre battle in the background.



Six Form ready for the show!

Tragically one of the light-sabres broke halfway through the performance, but the actors bravely continued.

Then came an outstanding performance from our next house: Masefield. Their theme was 'opening night at the theatre'. They had a unique staging of their performers being portrayed at rehearsals and their house open being the opening night of their 'play'.

With the day coming to a close, it was Scott's turn to take to the stage; with their theme of 'summer', in which they told a summer love story. Scott's choir was the smallest of them all. However, although they were small, they were mighty, with a standout performance from Ethan playing 'Summer of '69'.

As Scott's performances came to a close, everybody wanted to know if their house's performances had earned them the win. This year, that award went to Masefield. They were defiantly deserving winners and we cannot wait to see if they pull it out of the bag again next year to reclaim their new title.



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Chosen Hill News

House Music In Pictures



Chosen Hill Sports Teams Have a Spooktacular Month!

This month has been a wonderful month for sports across the whole of Chosen Hill School. The Year 8 netball team have started the month strong, with 2 wins against Cleeve and The High School Leckhampton.

On the same day, the Year 8 Boys Rugby team battled through an overcast sky to make the district semi-finals!

Following a tremendous win, the Year 9 boys football team beat Cleeve, 2-1, in a nail-biting game to reach the next stage of their national cup competition.

Back at the netball, and despite a last minute change in location, both the Year 8 and Year 9 teams travelled away and triumphantly beat Pitville.

Another team on fine form this month were the Year 9 Boys Rugby, becoming district champions in a captivating match.

Overall it's been an amazing month for Chosen Hill and we cannot wait to see what they do in November!



Year 9 Boys Rugby: District champions



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November Announcements

- We are looking for more writers! Check out the poster at the back of the paper for more details!
- The poppy appeal will be in full swing this month! Don't forget to bring a cash donation to buy your poppy and show your support for the appeal!
- November 11th our Armistice celebration. If you are a member of the Scouts, Guides or Cadet forces, you are invited to attend school in your uniform as a sign of respect and memorial to our fallen soldiers.
- Mock Week starts on Monday the 11th November, good luck to all our Year 11's!
- Ensemble and Choir cast for the school play have now been announced. Check out the list in the Upper School Hall to see if you made the cut!



Book of the Month

Dracula

- by Bram Stoker

Bram Stoker's Dracula is a gothic masterpiece that has captivated readers for generations. This chilling tale of a vampire's reign of terror is a classic of horror literature that continues to resonate today.

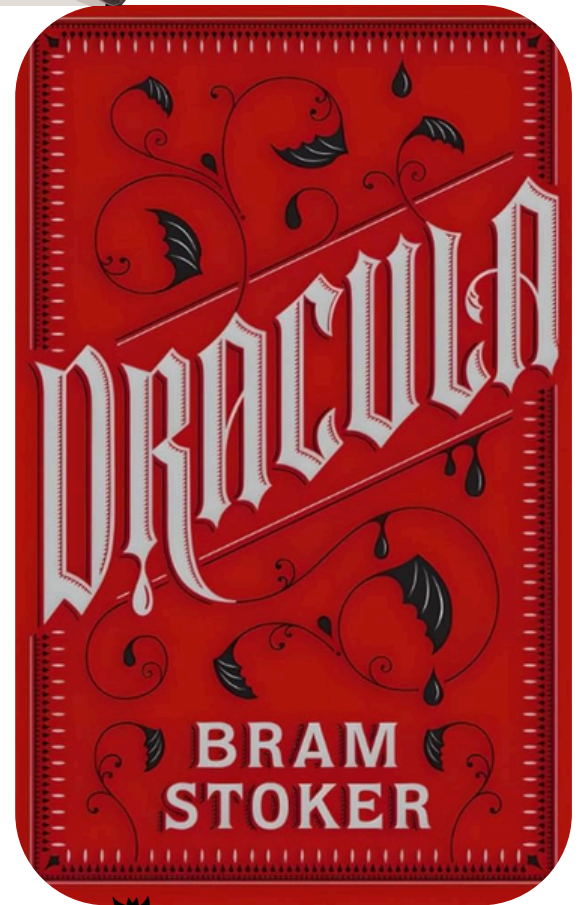
Stoker's masterful storytelling weaves a complex narrative filled with suspense, mystery, and supernatural elements. The character of Dracula is iconic, a truly terrifying villain who embodies the darkness and evil that lurks beneath the surface of society. His cunning, his thirst for blood, and his uncanny ability to manipulate others makes him a truly unforgettable antagonist.

Beyond Dracula, the novel introduces a fascinating cast of characters, each with their own unique perspectives and roles in the story. Jonathan Harker, Mina Murray, Lucy Westenra, and Dr. Van Helsing are all memorable figures who bring depth and humanity to the narrative.

The setting of Dracula is equally important, with Transylvania serving as a dark and mysterious backdrop for the vampire's reign. Stoker's descriptions of the Transylvanian landscape, its customs, and its superstitions create a sense of foreboding and unease.

Dracula is a book that has stood the test of time. Its themes of fear, desire, and the supernatural continue to be relevant today. Whether you're a fan of horror, gothic fiction, or simply looking for a thrilling read, Dracula is a must-read classic that will leave you haunted long after the final page.

Rating: 5*****



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By Joe Cox: Media Correspondent

Media Corner

Film of the Month: The Corpse Bride



Tim Burton, time after time, creates stop-animated masterpieces. Can the love blossom outside the realm of life? Will it live up to the fame and gory glory?

In this animated marvel, Victor is a somewhat shy and nervous person. Victoria is a sweet-hearted, gentle lady. Each have a fond liking to each other, but neither of them want to admit their love. Fortunately, their families agree to a wedding for Victoria and Victor. Whilst at the wedding disaster strikes, possibly changing everything...

When I first saw Corpse Bride, my jaw dropped at how much storyline there is in this outstanding movie. Not only at the stunning attention to detail within the clay models, but also the dark, mature theme of death. In my opinion, this movie would easily be in my top ten of greatest movies. These sinister, yet playful tones make it impossible not to shed a tear when it's only just started to get melancholy. At the film's saddest moments, I couldn't help but bawl my eyes out!

The character build-up is absolutely incredible. The challenges Victor faces make this movie truly immaculate to watch. Victoria's home life perfectly encapsulates the mellow and hollow feelings of sadness, without even saying a word. A picture represents a thousand words, so a movie can tell oodles and oodles of perfect, minute details to make a movie achieve. I would highly recommend if you like movies to cry to, and remember for life.

Rated: 5*****

Video Game of the Month: Plants Vs Zombies

Everyone can agree that people don't give a second glance towards mobile games. However, at the W.A.T.C.H. Word, we believe they deserve their recognition. If you are an enjoyer of tower defence / strategy games, you'll have a limb-tearing good time playing Plants vs. Zombies. But, will the brutal, botanical battle captivate all of our garden-gamer minds?

The main objective of each level is to fend off the zombies. Zombies come in all shapes and sizes, all having different strengths and weaknesses. Every level is different, from the

amount of zombies, or which zombies are there in the first place. In each level, you'll get a variety of different plants and power-ups to clear the waves of zombies. Different plants serve different purposes, depending what their key attribute is, and what purpose they fulfil.

In my opinion, this game is an incredible work of art, its steep learning curve can really challenge the mind and should inspire others to create games similar. The key point I particularly like is how hard some of the levels are as they progress through the main story

line. Eventually, You need to have perfect Plant-placing capabilities to even clear the first wave, let alone the whole level. Furthermore, this game can be incredibly addicting, trying to beat all the levels you can attempt, collecting all of the items you can get you're gardening gloves on and having a spook-tastic time! In addition, this game might be so addictive, you'll suddenly be craving brain soup for lunch!

Rated: 5*****



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By Rosie Guy: Social Editor

Meet the Teacher

Mr Witham



What is your role in school?

Deputy Head teacher

What do you enjoy doing at the weekends?

Watching my daughters play hockey which involves a lot more travel these days. Going for a Sunday morning run (they are getting slower every year) followed by a good Sunday roast dinner (which is probably why they are getting slower).

In the theme of Halloween, what is your biggest fear?

Mice. I know they are very small and cannot harm me, but I find them terrifying! It is a ridiculous fear.

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

I would love to go to New Zealand and watch a British Lions test series. The next series is in 2029 - maybe I will have retired by then.

Do you have a secret talent? If so, what is it?

Those that have watched my Go Green assemblies will know it is not: Juggling, keepy-uppies, telling jokes, or memorising playing cards. However, I can play the Piano, but not as well as Mr Day.

If you weren't a teacher, what job would you want to do?

I always wanted to be a journalist when I was a teenager. Ideally, as a sports journalist travelling the world reporting on the England cricket team.



If you could ask any celebrity to dinner, who would it be?

David Attenborough. It is amazing to think that he is 98 years of age now.

What sport would you add to the Olympic games?

There are lots of new sports that have been added recently like skateboarding and climbing. However, I would choose Netball. It is a well-established sport at the Commonwealth games and we would have a very good chance of winning a gold.

What item on your bucket list are you most looking forward to doing?

I don't have a bucket list. Maybe when I retire I will put one together. It will probably involve travelling to new places.

Meet the Pet

Meet Biscuit sent in by Julia. Biscuit is a mischievous little Guinea Pig, who loves nothing more than nibbling on a yummy carrot stick and snuggling up in something warm like a jumper or fluffy blanket.

Julia tells us that Biscuit once escaped from a book maze that they had set up and was only discovered after he had nibbled his way through her brothers bag! What a rascal!

If you would like your pet featured in next month's The WATCH Word send a short description, and your cutest picture, of your pet to TA@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk.



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ARE YOU A BUDDING JOURNALIST?



JOIN The
W.A.T.C.H Word!



Years
7 to 10

WHAT TO DO?

Write an article on an aspect of the environment that you are passionate about.

RULES

Articles must not exceed 250 words

Judging criteria include originality, clarity, structure, and adherence to the theme provided.

WHAT'S THE DEADLINE?

Friday 22nd November
2024

HOW DO I SUBMIT?

Send your article in WORD Document to:

TA@Chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk