

# KIMBERLEY *Mar - Apr* COLUMN ] 06 [

## Red Nose Day

We raised  
**£2290.63!**



On Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> March, the Kimberley School relaxed the uniform policies and welcomed Red Nose Day once again, with a wide variety of stalls and entertainment for people across the school to enjoy... continued on pg. 14

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# Bulletin Board



## Upcoming Dates

March

28<sup>th</sup>- Easter holidays

April

15<sup>th</sup>- Return to school

25<sup>th</sup>- Year 10 Parents Evening

May

6<sup>th</sup>- Bank Holiday


8<sup>th</sup>- Year 7 Parents Evening (Lawrence & Nightingale)

14<sup>th</sup>- Year 7 Parents Evening (Boot & Clough)

*Need to relax?*

*Check out the Comfort Column*





Can you find all of the Easter eggs?

We have hidden 20 of Easter eggs on the issue. Can you find them all?

**This year's costume theme for Comic Relief was dress as one of your initials. Check out some of the costumes on pg. 14**

### Extra-Curricular Activity Timetable

LUNCH	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Afterschool	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
<b>Astro</b>	Yr9-11 Football AW	Yr7-8 Football MXB	Yr9-11 Football AW	Yr7-8 Football MWE/LSC	Yr9-11 Football AW	<b>Astro</b>			Yr7-8 Football BC/MWE/LN H/LSC		Staff Football
<b>Gym</b>			Yr7-11 Dodgeball BC	C'Nat Table Tennis MXB	Yr7-11 Boccia LSC	<b>Gym</b>	Yr10 C'Nat Boxing Club (after Half-term) MWE	Table Tennis Club* Coach: Tim Elmer		Taekwon-Do*	
<b>Sports Hall</b>	Yr7-11 Basketball MXB	Yr7-11 Basketball MWE/BC		Yr7-11 Badminton DIS/LNH	Yr7-11 Badminton DIS/LNH	<b>Sports Hall</b>				Yr 7, 8 & 9 Trampoline*	Staff Badminton

If you would like to see something added, please contact us!



# FANGIRLS VS SPORTS FANS

A 'fangirl' is defined by Google as 'a female fan, especially one who is obsessive about comics, film, music, or science fiction' whereas the definition for 'sports fan' is an 'enthusiast for a particular athlete, team, sport, or all of organized sports as a whole'. While fangirl culture is increasingly prominent in modern society, the language used to describe these fans is continuously negative and critical, hence being called 'obsessive' by definition and not 'enthusiasts'. In comparison, sports fans have very similar actions of screaming, cheering, buying merchandise, crying, and idolisation and yet are mainly viewed as enthusiastic and passionate. So, why is there such a double standard?

## — The history of fangirls —

While fangirls may be seen as a modern idea, the concept of a mass group of screaming, excitable fans can be traced back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century with Hungarian composer Franz Liszt. Previously, attending performances and listening to music had been a civilized affair, but in the presence of Liszt, women would reportedly cheer, scream, swoon and swarm him. People were so regularly asking for locks of his hair, he had to buy a dog with fur matching the colour of his own hair and would give that to audiences instead. Poet Heinrich Heine coined the term 'Lisztomania', which later became a medical term used by European doctors to explain the 'manic disorder' Franz Liszt seemingly caused.



▲ A painting of a Liszt concert

Libby Bales

In the 50s, the next big fan craze was Elvis Presley. His suggestive dance moves caused such a stir among crowds that in 1956 he was taken to a local judge in Florida and was told "No hip-swiveling and no suggestive body movements" as the response from fans was becoming such an issue for local authorities.

Arguably the most notable fangirl craze of all time was what became known as 'Beatlemania'. The culture surrounding the Liverpool band, *The Beatles*, began in the British media in 1963 and only expanded from there. The band's true international fame became truly evident following their performance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in February 1964, in which a record-breaking 73.9 million US televisions (roughly 40% of the US population at the time) broadcast the performance. Only 6 days after this, the band landed in Miami and were greeted by 5000 fans, who had broken several windows in the waiting room and caused attendants physical harm and asphyxiation due to cramped conditions. Other notable fan behavior includes a fan who climbed through the sewers under Abbey Road recording studio to hear the band record their 1965 album 'Rubber Soul'.

In 1996, popular boy band Take That announced in a press conference they would be officially splitting up as a group. The reaction to this broadcast was so dire, The Samaritans set up a special hotline to help support fans through the difficult time.



▲ One Direction performing on the Today Show in 2013 🌈

In modern times, fangirl culture has accelerated through heart-throbs such as One Direction and Justin Bieber. Despite only coming 3<sup>rd</sup> on *X-Factor* in 2010, One Direction achieved international fame, selling over 50 million records worldwide before their hiatus in 2016. In 2014, one 16-year-old fangirl was sent to hospital due to collapsed lungs after screaming too much at the *Where We Are* tour the previous night. Justin Bieber's career began in 2008 on YouTube, gaining the attention of Scooter Braun and Usher and gained him a record deal. From there, the so called 'Bieber Fever' became a worldwide phenomenon, with the University of Ottawa stating it may be 'the most contagious disease of our time' in 2012 based on mathematical models and extensive research.

### **The media perception of fangirls**

Since the craze of Elvis Presley, fangirls have been ridiculed for their enthusiasm over pop culture and music artists, often being labelled as 'obsessive', 'crazy', and 'hysterical'. In an infamous article from the *Newstatesman* in 1964, Paul Johnson discussed his thoughts on Beatlemania, saying "those who flock around the Beatles, who scream themselves into hysteria, are the least fortunate of their generation, the dull the idle, the failures" and "the boys and girls who will be the leaders and

creators of society tomorrow [would] never go near a pop concert". This negative perception of fangirls has only continued overtime, with headlines discussing One Direction fans saying things such as 'One Direction's obsessed fans are like Stan in the Eminem song', 'Cue the hysterical screams from teenage girls' and 'Beware of obsessive and over-emotional One Direction fans'. By pushing such a narrative in the media, mockery of fangirls only continues and causes young women to be embarrassed by what they love. Harry Styles defended his fans in 2017 during an interview with *Rolling Stone Magazine*, arguing "Young girls like the Beatles. You gonna tell me they're not serious? How can you say young girls don't get it? They're our future. Our future doctors, lawyers, mothers, presidents, they kind of keep the world going."

The media also often fails to recognise fangirls' humor, which often plays into the ridicule they are subject to. In 1964, Beatles fans in California started an organization called *Beatlesaniacs Ltd.*, advertising it as 'group therapy' for Beatles fans who felt their emotions had got out of hand. An issue of *Life* magazine was soon published covering the organization seriously, listed under the title "How to Kick the Beatle



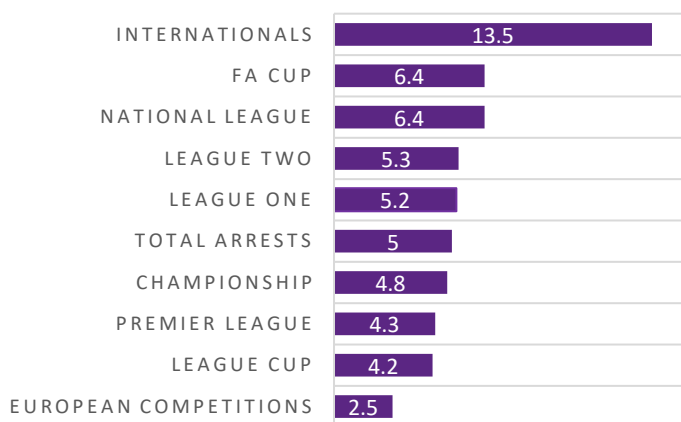
Habit". While the rules listed by the club showed it was clearly a joke, the media failed to see the sarcasm of the same fans they repeatedly mocked.



▲ Beatles fans in 1964

### —Fangirls vs. Sports fans—

In the 2022-2023 season, there were 2,264 football-related arrests, 682 new banning orders issued, and 1,516 reported incidents of football-related anti-social behaviour, violence and disorder (according to the Home Office official statistics). Researchers have also found that reports of domestic abuse rise by 26% when the English national team won or drew and increased by 38% when the national team lost.



Arrests per 100,000 attendees

▲ Football-related arrest rate per 100,000 attendees by competition, 2022 to 2023 football season, ONS

While anyone can be a football fan, the Football Supporters Association found in 2023 that 83.8% of football fans identified as male. The majority of these fans will not be involved in the anti-social behaviour, violence, and disorder of the matches, but the violence that has plagued the game is so often seen as 'boys being boys', 'enthusiastic', and 'part of the game', while fangirls are continuously characterised as obsessive, hysterical, and crazy. It is entirely reductive to blame all football and sports fans for any incidents involving their favourite game, just as it is equally pointless to excuse all fangirl behavior which has, in many incidents, been harmful for artists' and celebrities' physical and mental health. However, the complete difference in attitudes towards both groups by the media is an unfair, sexist double standard which has belittled women for generations.

The media and society alike need to alter the language being used to describe fangirls from obsessive to enthusiastic, just as violent sports fans need to be held accountable. At their core both groups are simply passionate fans who share a desire to support their favourite artists and teams by buying merch and jerseys, screaming, shouting and celebrating their successes, so should therefore be treated with the same level of respect.



▲ Football fans celebrating an England win in 2018

Mar 1st

# St. David's Day



Although less internationally renowned than Saint Patrick's Day due to the significantly smaller size of the Welsh diaspora in comparison to its Irish equivalent, Saint David's Day is just as important for the preservation and celebration of Wales's unique religious tradition and cultural heritage, and so is deserving of the same global respect and appreciation. In particular, it is the role that it plays in helping to preserve the Welsh language and oral tradition that makes Saint David's Day such an important part of the preservation of what makes the Welsh, Welsh.

## What is Saint David's Day?

Since the early Medieval period, Welsh people all around the world have celebrated the feast day of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales. This festivity takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, the day Saint David is traditionally believed to have died on. At its core, Saint David's Day is a religious celebration of the man who helped to establish several monasteries and churches in Wales and Brittany and is said to have been giving a sermon to his congregation before a hill rose up beneath his feet and a dove landed on his shoulder. Although the celebration has taken on a significant cultural role, the influence of Saint David himself can still be seen in the parades and festivals held in Wales's major cities to this day. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, the flag of Saint David, which consists of a gold cross on a black background, is just as prominent, if not more so, than the national flag of Wales with its snarling dragon. Those of Welsh nationality often wear a leek upon Saint David's Day, which was the Bishop's personal symbol, in order to demonstrate pride for their patron saint and their country. This is often worn alongside the daffodil, or *cenhinen Bedr* in Welsh, which is a generic symbol of Welsh nationality and in fact the national flower of Wales. Other cultural celebrations take place, the most notable of which is perhaps the donning of traditional Welsh dress by women and girls in Wales.



▲ Traditional Welsh dress

## History of the Welsh Language

It is the role that Saint David's Day has in the preservation of the Welsh language and oral traditions that concerns us here. It is therefore necessary to establish why language and literature are so crucial to Welsh culture in a way that cannot be said for some of its neighbours. The Welsh language has been spoken in Wales for around 1500 years, with its ancestor, Common Brythonic, potentially having been spoken in Britain for over a thousand years prior. However, when Wales came under the rule of the English, Welsh



became less and less popular, declining in usage over the second half of the second millennium. Henry VIII's Acts of Union between England and Wales, passed in the late 1530s, essentially removed Welsh's status as an official language. Among other things, this made it much harder for school children to learn Welsh, meaning that it was harder for the language to be passed from generation to generation. In the Victorian age, children could be punished for using Welsh in schools, as the number of Welsh people fluent in their own language fell below 50% by 1900. Although these measures were lifted during the 20th century, it has required a tremendous effort to



### **Why is Saint David's Day important for the preservation of the Welsh language?**

The Welsh language forms the basis of much of Welsh culture, and without it the heart of the Welsh identity would be lost, Welsh identity would be lost, even for the 70% of Welsh people who do not speak Welsh. Poetry, oral storytelling, and Wales's famed male voice choirs are examples of this, with many of these using the Welsh language. In the Middle Ages, bards would travel the Welsh landscape whilst composing poems and songs for their noble hosts. In the early medieval period, fictional prose (stories that are not poems) written in a language spoken by everyday people (as opposed to Latin and Ancient Greek) began to emerge in Wales, including the collection of stories known as the *Mabinogion*. This emergence marked one of the first instances of prose being written in a language spoken by everyday people, although similar trends had already started to emerge in other nations, including Ireland. In the 19th century, Welsh male voice choirs began to emerge, singing

both in Welsh and English, forming a key part of the preservation of the linguistic tradition that was coming under threat. Therefore, it is obvious that much of Welsh heritage is reliant upon the Welsh language and oral tradition. If the Welsh language was lost and this oral tradition ceased, Wales would lose much of what makes it unique. It was therefore essential that Welsh underwent a revival during the late-20th century. Although successive devolved governments and other institutions have had their part to play in preserving Welsh, so too has Saint David's Day and the tradition that takes place every year on the 1st of March: the

### **Why is the Welsh language so important for Welsh culture?**

A common occurrence in Wales on Saint David's Day is the holding of *eisteddfodau* (the plural form of *eisteddfod*), which are competitions in music and poetry in which the competitors are ranked and must perform in Welsh. Given that these often take place in schools, they provide an opportunity for Welsh children to remain in contact with their language and how their language is used in order to tell stories of the past and to create new ones as well. This is because these contests provide a chance for Welsh schoolchildren to engage actively with their culture and make it part of their own identity, as well as to see their language as a living and evolving staple of their nation's culture. These competitions were crucial in the revival of Welsh culture that has taken place since the relaxation of oppressive English policies and continue to be a manner in which Welsh identity is preserved today, the importance of which I hope I have already demonstrated. The *eisteddfodau* are so important for the preservation of Welsh culture and have proved so successful over the last two centuries that other nations that have had less success protecting their linguistic





▲ An example of a *eisteddfodau* at the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfodau

heritage, including Ireland and Scotland, have begun to adopt their own versions of these competitions. Wales has been arguably the most successful of the Celtic nations at preserving its own language. Although a higher percentage of Irish people claim to know Irish as a second language, over 400,000 Welsh people use Welsh on a daily basis, compared to just under 100,000 Irish people who use Irish. Therefore, thanks in part to the opportunities afforded to Welsh children on Saint David's Day, Wales has excelled at linguistic preservation and has ensured that future generations will be able to immerse themselves in its rich culture.

Saint David's Day, like the entirety of Welsh culture, is often simply ignored by those without a connection to Wales. This is in part because of Wales's small population, but it is also a result of a depressing cultural ignorance that manifests itself in shows such as *Gavin and Stacey*, which often depict the Welsh as backwards and, in some cases, such as in *Notting Hill*, as downright stupid. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Saint David's Day, therefore, deserves much more respect. It is not only a chance for the Welsh to express themselves culturally, but also as a manner of protecting the bedrock of a culture and language that has existed since the fall of the Roman Empire. It therefore deserves the same respect as Saint Patrick's Day or

Saint George's Day and should not be viewed as a celebration of being Welsh just for the sake of it, but as a rebuttal to the assertion that the Welsh are somehow less educated or intelligent than the Scots, English, and Irish. The contribution that Wales has made to global culture range from Dylan Thomas to Cerys Mathews, with Saint David's Day being the perfect time to recognise these contributions, whether you are Welsh or not.

### **Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant Hapus.**



Mar 17th 🍀

# St. Patrick's Day



Saint Patrick's day is an annual feast day which occurs every year on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. It celebrates one of the most recognised patron saints of Ireland within the Catholic Church and occurs on this day in particular to commemorate his death in the year 491. From leprechauns to the colour green, this event is celebrated by thousands in many different ways.

## St Patrick himself

Many people don't realise that that Saint Patrick wasn't even Irish born. In fact, he was born to Roman parents in either Scotland or Wales. At the age of 16, he was kidnapped from his family's estate and taken to Ireland as a slave. He was sold to a Celtic priest in the area now known as Northern Ireland to become a working shepherd. He was credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland in the 6 years he remained there before later escaping back to England to be reunited with his family.

## Why was he so significant?

One of the most renowned myths surrounding Saint Patrick's name is that he explained the Holy Trinity to Irish people using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock. Another of the popular legends associated with his name is that he stood atop a hillside and banished snakes from Ireland, prompting all serpents to slither away into the sea. However, it's recently been proven that snakes never resided in Ireland and so the 'banishing of the snake' was really a metaphor for the eradication of pagan ideology from Ireland and the triumph of Saint Patrick and the Christian beliefs he brought with him.

## Leprechauns

A prominent figure associated with this Irish holiday is the leprechaun. The original name of these figures of folklore is 'lobaircin' meaning 'small-bodied fellow'. The belief in leprechauns stems from Celtic belief in fairies. In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were cranky fellows responsible for mending the shoes of

the other fairies. However, they are probably most well known for their trickery often used fellows responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies. However, they are probably most well known for their trickery often used to protect their much-fabled treasure. Even though they are associated with St Patrick's day, leprechaun have their own holiday on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May.



▲Chicago river dyed green for St Patrick's Day

## How can you celebrate St Patricks day?

Probably one of the most common ways to celebrate this special day is to wear the colour green. This tradition is tied to folklore that states wearing green creates invisibility against leprechauns which like to pinch those they see. However, this could just be a myth, instead the reason you will see so many adults sporting the colour is to bring them good luck or to honour Irish ancestry. Some cities such as Chicago even go to extent of dying their river green in honour of its Irish inhabitants.



# International Day of Happiness

Mar 20th

The 20<sup>th</sup> of March is the International Day of Happiness. It is a day organised by the United Nations with the aim of serving as a “beacon of light, inspiration, and hope for all of those who aspire to live happy and fulfilling lives,” according to the official website. This year's theme is “happier together,” chosen to remind the world to connect with each other and the community amid uncertainty and conflict in the modern day.

## The Happiness Report

Alongside the International Day of Happiness is the Happiness Report, published by the UN, detailing the ‘happiest’ countries in the world, along with trends of happiness, globally and regionally, and rates of benevolence and trust throughout the world. The rankings of a country's happiness are based on a three-year average of citizen’s life evaluations. In 2024, the top three happiest countries in the world were Finland, Denmark, and Iceland.



▲ 2024 top 20 happiest countries from Happiness Report

The report also outlines what institutions, such as governments, should prioritise to improve well-being in a country, with those priorities being physical and mental health, human relationships, income and employment, character virtues, social support, personal freedom, lack of corruption and effective government.

## Happier Together

For the theme of this year's International Day of Happiness, “happier together,” we must consider ongoing global conflicts. In 2022, following the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, life evaluations fell by about three-quarters of a point across Ukraine. Furthermore, 50% of Ukrainian respondents to the Happiness Report said they experienced worry in 2022. Despite this, the number of benevolent acts, like making donations and helping strangers, increased between 2021 and 2022 in Ukraine. The report attributes this change in numbers to Ukrainians being united in a common cause, which can be the case during wartime. This goes to show that, even in wartime, we can see that people can come together and connect with each other. Comparing the global rankings of life evaluations between the years 2023 and 2024, it shows us that there has been a decrease in the life evaluations of both Israelis and Palestinians, following the start of the Gaza conflict that started on the 7th of October 2023. In 2023, Israel was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in 2023, falling one place in 2024 to 5<sup>th</sup>. Palestine was ranked 99<sup>th</sup> in 2023, which decreased to 103<sup>rd</sup> in 2024.

Not only has war affected the countries in which they are happening, but the world has also been affected by these conflicts. They have divided the world, as well as families who have been torn apart due to people leaving war-torn countries to seek refuge in safer ones. Overall, war plays a major part in citizen's life evaluations, due to the consequences of conflict as well as the conflict itself. However, this year's theme aims to remind people of the need to connect with people despite times of uncertainty.

### — Happiness on a global scale —

Looking to the top three happiest countries in the world according to the 2023 Happiness Report, they all have one thing in common: they are all Nordic countries. It is often assumed that everyone in the Nordics is happy all day, every day, and whilst that is not the case, they do seem to be the most content with their lives. There are many reasons as to why they are ranked so highly, most of which link to the reports list of things that institutions should prioritise to improve their citizens well-being. But alongside their happiness as a nation, we must consider their individual happiness. There are many reasons why individuals in the Nordics are so happy. You might have heard of a Danish and Norwegian word that often comes up when talking about Nordic happiness: *hygge*, meaning a cosiness that comes from simple things. For Danes, in particular, *hygge* is a way of life. It affects how you feel and your overall wellbeing. However, you cannot just buy something that is *hygge*. You have to seek it and create it yourself, and things such as baking, spending time with loved ones and furnishing your surroundings with soft textures and warm lighting, can make a person feel more “hygge”, as they emphasise slowing down and being in the moment, as well as enjoying life's little pleasures, which is exactly what *hygge* is all about

The Nordics also highlight how important nature is to a person's well-being and happiness. In Norway, *friluftsliv* means to spend time outdoors no matter what the weather is like. This can be as simple as taking a walk with your family or going on a bike ride with your friends. I think that everyone should take a leaf out of the Nordic's book when it comes to living a simpler life and improving our wellbeing.



### — Happiness and social media —

It is often said that social media plays a key role in decreasing feelings of well-being, and whilst this is definitely true, there are positives of social media. Undeniably, it can negatively affect our happiness, and the Journal of Happiness Studies found that the more people compared themselves to others whilst using social media, the less happy they felt. They also found that although people used social media more when they were lonely, time spent on social media only increased feelings of loneliness and that offline social interaction has the opposite effect of social media and had an incredibly positive impact on our emotional well-being. However, Harvard research from their School of Public Health found that social media as part of routine use can “overcome barriers of distance and time allowing people to connect and reconnect with others” which can, in turn, have a positive impact on in-person interactions and relationships. An emotional connection to social media was said to be negative social media use, like constantly checking apps for fear of missing out on something, which can contribute to increased anxiety symptoms. Therefore, you do not have to completely give up social media to improve your wellbeing, but potentially changing your relationship with your phone can improve your happiness.



## — But what actually is the feeling of happiness we, as individuals, — feel? —

There are many hormones that are involved in the 'feeling of happiness' so to say, with those being oxytocin, endorphins, dopamine, and serotonin. They all contribute differently to the body and your feelings. Oxytocin helps with promoting trust, empathy, and bonding in relationships, which is an important part of your well-being. Endorphins are known as the body's "natural pain reliever" and is produced in response to stress or discomfort. Dopamine is known as the "feel-good" hormone as it is involved in short term feelings of happiness. It is involved in memory, attention, mood, and learning, meaning increasing dopamine does not just improve well-being, it can also help improve performance at school. There are many ways a person can increase their dopamine production, such as engaging in activities that make you feel relaxed, like exercise, playing with a pet or reading a book. Serotonin affects long term well-being. It is involved in mood regulation, which is why it affects longer term feelings of well-being. Spending more time outdoors can improve serotonin levels and decrease symptoms of depression. Combining your time outdoors with exercise can boost serotonin levels even more.

## — What can you do to actively improve your happiness and wellbeing? —

Facts and figures only paint a picture of what other people are doing and have researched, but time and time again, exercise makes itself onto lists of habits for promoting well-being and even a small amount can make a difference. All it takes is taking a walk after dinner, or starting the day with stretching, to boost your mental health and well-being. For this year's theme, "Happier Together," doing

a simple act of kindness is a great way to make yourself happier whilst also making someone else feel good about themselves. Most importantly, sleep is essential for good health, brain function and emotional well-being. Teenagers need between eight to ten hours of sleep a night, and a consistent bedtime can be a great way to ensure that you are getting the sleep you need.

It seems like we can learn a lot from scientific research and the culture of countries abroad on how we can improve our mental health and wellbeing, for this year's UN International Day of Happiness. You do not have to overhaul your entire lifestyle to improve your happiness, making little changes is more than enough. Regardless of this, happiness is subjective and one person's happiness, as well as what brings them happy, will be different to what makes someone else happy, but International Day of Happiness is a great way to remind ourselves, as individuals, as well as on a global scale, that a little happiness can go a long way toward social cohesion and living a fulfilling life.

For more resources on happiness, go to the International Day of Happiness website:

<https://www.dayofhappiness.net>





# RED NOSE DAY FUNNY IS POWER



On Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> March, the Kimberley School relaxed the uniform policies and welcomed Red Nose Day once again, with a wide variety of stalls and entertainment for people across the school to enjoy. The costume theme for the Sixth Form was anything that begins with one of your initials, which resulted in a wide variety of outfits being worn, from Star Wars characters to cans of beans, a truly unique day. The kind donations for the highly successful tombola and the goods kindly baked, and brought in for the cake stall, alongside many other stalls, led a total amount raised of £2290.63. Wrestle-Mania also made a successful return to the Gym, with Archie Leake of Year 12 proving triumphant over fellow Sixth Form competitors. Thank you to all of the Sixth Formers who put on a thrilling spectacle for those who donated a pound to watch it.

All of the money raised by the Kimberley School will be donated to Comic Relief, an international charity that relies on kind donations. The money raised will help tackle poverty, provide food, shelter, and healthcare for people not only in the United Kingdom, but also the wider world, particularly in economically deprived nations. The money raised is life-changing and has saved countless lives throughout the organisation's 39 years of existence and over the last few years they have helped over 10 million people. Overall, another fantastic event ran by the Sixth Form charity committee, and the donations made by the Kimberley School can go a long way for people elsewhere. So, a massive thank-you from the Kimberley Column to the school, to those who ran stalls and events and to those who donated.



Sam Gensler-Woodcock






# International Women's Day

On the 8<sup>th</sup> March, International Women's Day was celebrated across the world, in many different countries, by many different people. We have celebrated the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women on this day since 1911, to reward the work of many unrecognized women and to raise awareness about the discrimination that they had to overcome and that still exists today. However, the aim of this day is not only to celebrate women of the past, but also to promote inclusion today and in the future. We want to create a diverse, inclusive world; one in which difference is valued, celebrated and encouraged. The aim is to drive gender parity – meaning the equal representation of men



 The Barbie Movie shows a President Barbie

One perfect example of the celebration of women's achievements alongside the recognition of women's struggles is the new Barbie film. The film highlights the insanity of the patriarchy in which we have lived in for hundreds of years. Barbie Land is a world run by women, in which men cannot vote, work, have opinions or their own houses. As much as the Kens try, they cannot gain the attention of the Barbies. Their world is contrasted when they visit the real world, in which Ken is admired and thrives, while Barbie almost immediately faces abuse and sexual assault. However, by the end, Barbie Land has been turned into a place where everyone is equal and valued, just as we should aim to make our world. Some have argued that the film is 'too feminist', however the argument that any film is 'too' pro-equality is completely invalid.

Sarah Pickard

## National Barbie Day

On the 9<sup>th</sup> March, National Barbie day was celebrated. This once again brings up the brilliance of Barbie in promoting feminism through a children's toy. In 1956, Ruth Handler, the co-founder of Mattel Inc. created a doll inspired by a young girl named Barbara who was on holiday with her family. Barbie teaches girls from a young age how women are capable of independence and power. She has over 250 different jobs and roles, proving to young girls that they can do and be anything that they want to. Barbie does all of this without dependence on her boyfriend, representing the independence women are very capable of. She allows girls to dream and hope for the future.



So next time someone calls Barbie sexist or misogynistic, you can tell them that Barbie is not there to promote unrealistic beauty standards, but rather to prove that beauty is not all that a woman has and she should not be judged by her looks, but by her intelligence instead.



## Why do we celebrate Easter?

Easter is celebrated at the end of the 40-day fasting period which is called Lent and marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This year the festival is celebrated on the 31st March and is when joyous practices begin. The Bible story is that Christ died on the cross on a day now called Good Friday as it marks Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. Jesus was then resurrected two days later on what we now know as Easter Sunday. It is celebrated by Christians worldwide through many traditions that have now become modernised such as chocolate eggs.

## Why is Easter celebrated with chocolate eggs?

Easter eggs are seen as a symbol of life and were traditionally hard-boiled eggs decorated by hand. In the earlier churches, eggs were one of the foods "given up" for Lent as a part of the fasting so, the return of eggs to the menu was a very important part of the feast at the end of lent. Nowadays most Easter eggs are made from chocolate and covered in decorative foil. The first chocolate Easter eggs were made in Europe in the early 19th Century. The modern-day Easter bunny brings these eggs and treats for children worldwide during Easter but the Easter bunny originated as a pagan symbol of spring and rebirth.

Lucy Stokes



## Modern day Easter

Easter today represents a time for celebration of new life and spring. This can be seen through giving of decorated Easter eggs as gifts, Easter egg hunts and familiar images of young bunnies and chicks. Chocolate has become so influential around Easter time that consumers spend as much as £415 million on Easter egg chocolate in the UK. Furthermore, the most popular egg globally is Cadburys Creme egg. If you piled all the Creme eggs manufactured every year on top of each other it would be taller than Mount Everest.



## What activities take place during Easter?

There are many popular activities around Easter. One activity celebrated during Easter is egg rolling. The aim is to roll your hard-boiled egg the furthest distance down a hill without it breaking. Many people also colour their eggs with dyes creating beautiful patterns on the shell. Easter egg hunts take place where children find and collect Easter eggs that are hidden.



## **6 Nations:**

February saw the start of the 2024 6 Nations, where defending champions Ireland were looking for a record second successive grand slam. England, looking to bounce back from a semi-finals defeat at the World Cup, were victorious in Rome, narrowly scraping a win against a much improved Italy side. England then went on to win a Twickenham against Wales before losing 21-30 to Scotland at MurrayField. In arguably the game of the championship, Marcus Smith kicked a last minute drop goal beating Ireland by a single point to bring the title fight to the final round of matches. England needed a bonus point win over France and Ireland to lose to Scotland for them to win the tournament. But it wasn't to be: Ireland grinded out a 17 - 13 victory over Scotland, winning the championship as England lost to France in Lyon 31 - 33 leaving England finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 6 Nations. Overall, England looked promising throughout the tournament with strong performances from the likes of player-of-the-tournament, Ben Earls, George Ford, and breakout players, Immanuel Feyi-Waboso and Ollie Lawrence and will look to build on their strong performances against Japan and New Zealand in the summer. In contrast, Wales had a tournament to forget, coming 6<sup>th</sup> and losing all 5 of their matches. Italy look vastly improved from last year's tournament, winning 2 games and drawing against France, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> overall. After beating England on the final day, France secured 2<sup>nd</sup>, but Ireland became champions again with another 1<sup>st</sup> place.

**Thomas Graham**



▲ Ireland win 6 Nations championship

## **Football:**

Nottingham Forest and Notts County have had a disappointing and turbulent start to 2024, both experiencing poor runs of form in their leagues since the new year began. Forest have just one win in the Premier League this year, a 2-0 win against West Ham, and look set for a tough battle to avoid relegation after a 4 point deduction for a breach of the League's financial rules sees them plummet into the relegation zone- just one point from safety in 18<sup>th</sup>. Forest now has just 8 more matches to avoid relegation against the likes of Luton, Everton and Brentford and will hopefully cement their place in a third successive Premier League campaign next season.

Notts County now find themselves down in 14<sup>th</sup> place on 51 points in League 2 after challenging for promotion toward the start of the season. After losing their manager, Luke Williams to Swansea in January, County have yet to rediscover their form under their new boss, Stuart Maynard and the chances of reaching the playoffs are becoming less and less likely. With only 2 wins and 3 draws in League 2 since January, Notts County look a long way off their old form during the first half of the campaign. With 7 games to go in their first season back in League 2 since the 2018-19 season, County will hope for results against the likes of 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Stockport and 4<sup>th</sup> placed MK Dons as they look toward rebuilding and challenging for the playoffs next season.

# SPORTS



# Hi, Agony Aunt...

Hi everyone, welcome to my column where I answer much asked questions on the troubles of secondary school and life as a teen.

"I'm really questioning whether sixth form or college would be most suited to me"

Hello, thanks for the question. As a student here myself I would definitely say there are many pros to attending Sixth Form. Whilst this may sound a bit biased, I feel I have so much freedom and a sense of separation from the rest of the school, meaning you feel independent whilst not having to learn your way around a new environment. I also feel my teachers give me more respect, something I didn't feel as much when in younger years. Alongside this they give a lot of support and make you feel like they genuinely care about you succeeding and reaching your full potential. From knowing people who currently attend a college I know they are left to their own resources and don't know any teachers personally, but you have the option of a greater range of courses e.g. hairdressing and animal care which aren't available at our Sixth Form, which may interest you. If you are someone who prefers to work entirely independently and wants to start fresh after secondary school, I believe a college could significantly benefit you. For further help deciding, I would visit sixth forms and colleges and pick up their brochures to give you further information on what experiences they could provide. Hope I could help!!



SIXTH FORM



“I was wondering where I could buy good quality but cheap jewellery”

# JEWELLERY



Hello, as someone who loves jewellery, I can definitely give you recommendations!! Amazon have a good selection of sterling silver jewellery such as different hoops and studs whilst Warren James has sterling silver and gold-plated necklaces and bracelets. But, if you're more on the creative side, I would recommend buying a jewellery making kit or simply some clear necklace elastic and beads with can be found online or in most craft shops. You can have a fun time following cute designs from Pinterest and then showing it off to your friends. Hope this helped.

If you have any questions for Agony Aunt, please DM us on Instagram @thekimberleycolumn or leave an email at [kimberleycolumn@gmail.com](mailto:kimberleycolumn@gmail.com). All questions will remain anonymous on the paper.

Daisy Gillaspy

# Reader Submissions

## Pets of the Paper 🐰



Hugo, Chloe Tooth, Year 7

### Reader's choice

Pets of the paper is a reader-submitted competition where readers submit their pets to be voted on by readers and editors over the course of a school week. More information will be posted closer to the date of the next publication on our Instagram account for the next competition.

@thekimberleycolumn

We hope everyone enjoyed the competition and wish everyone good luck in our next campaign.

### Runner up



Murphy, Mille Clark, Year 8



# Teachers' Pets



Jasper, Miss Taylor, Music


“He’s a very large orange cat called Jasper. In true orange cat style, he doesn’t have many brain cells and will eat anything and everything left out on the kitchen sides (highlights include an entire stick of butter and half a duck from the local Chinese takeaway...).”

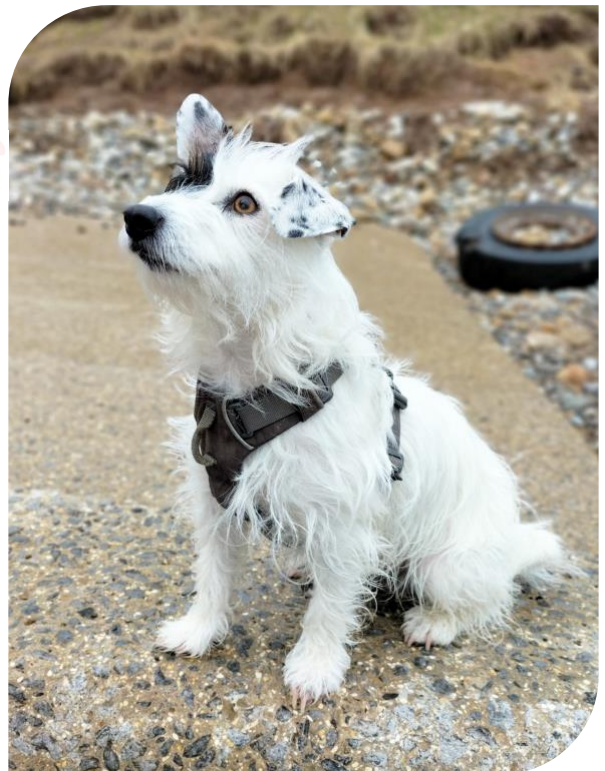
## Teacher’s pet

“Bramble, AKA "bouncing bomb", a long haired Jack Russell. Full of energy and enthusiasm always.”

Teacher’s pet is a section of Pet of the Paper, with submissions sent in by teachers and staff. The winners are not selected by public vote, but instead by the editors.

Thank you to all members of staff who submitted their pets.

Bramble, Mr Smith, Geography 



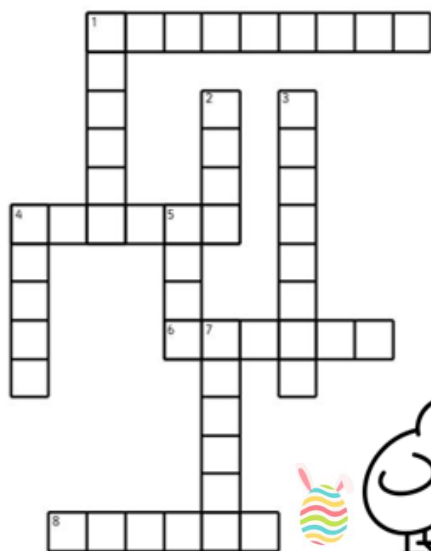
## Teacher’s pet



# THE COMFORT COLUMN

Need a break?

## Crossword



### Down

1. These hatch out of real eggs.
2. You may go on an Easter egg ....
3. Cheerful, yellow spring flower.
4. He brings you chocolate every year.
5. We paint and decorate them at Easter
7. You put them on your head at Easter.

### Across

1. Easter eggs are oft en made of this
4. You may collect your eggs in this
6. The season in which Easter is celebrated.
8. You may wear one in an er parade

## Wordsearch

S	P	O	R	T	B	H	P	E
D	E	G	S	S	A	H	A	S
F	A	N	G	I	R	L	T	O
E	S	V	W	L	B	G	R	N
X	T	F	I	R	I	T	I	D
N	E	W	A	D	E	D	C	E
O	R	N	E	M	O	W	K	R

### Wordsearch words

- Fangirl
- Red nose
- Easter
- Patrick
- David
- Sport
- Barbie
- Women

## Need to talk?



Bullying, Self-harm, exam stress. Share if you need to talk; there's always someone

Beat provides helplines for people of all ages offering support and information about eating disorders. If you or someone close to you has been affected. Talk to someone



Non-judgemental confidential emotional support 24hrs, 365 days a year



Free, confidential messaging and support via texting 852



Offers clinical sexual health services (pregnancy, contraception, sex and STIs) as well as education and wellbeing services for young people aged 11-25

Evie Ratcliffe

## TV Shows



**Derry Girls (15+)**  
Follow the story of the personal exploits of a 16-year-old girl and her family and friends during the Troubles in the early 1990s in Northern Ireland.

**Our Planet**  
Our Planet is a Netflix original documentary series, that explores the rich natural wonders, iconic species and wildlife spectacles that still remain, and reveals the key issues that urgently threaten their existence.



**The Haunting of Bly Manor (15+)**  
After a nanny's tragic death, Henry hires a young American nanny to care for his orphaned niece and nephew who reside at Bly Manor with the chef Owen, groundskeeper Jamie and housekeeper, Mrs. Grose.

## Movies



**Hop**  
On Easter Island, a young rabbit named E.B. is intended to succeed his father as the Easter Bunny. Intimidated by the calling's demands and ignoring his father's orders, E.B. runs away to Hollywood to pursue his dream of becoming a drummer.

**Pitch Perfect**  
Beca, a freshman at Barden University, is cajoled into joining The Bellas, her school's all-girls singing group. Injecting some much-needed energy into their repertoire, The Bellas take on their male rivals in a campus competition.



**School of Rock**  
After being kicked out of his rock band, Dewey Finn becomes a substitute teacher of an uptight elementary private school, only to try and turn his class into a rock band.



# News in a Nutshell



Quick headlines from across the globe

## Global

- Greece legalises same-sex marriage. It is the first Orthodox Christian country to do so.
- France makes abortion a constitutional right becoming the first country to do so.
- Putin wins another election in Russia.
- Ireland Prime Minister resigns for 'personal and political' reasons.

## United Kingdom

- The Millennium Falcon 50p is the latest collectable Star Wars coin to be announced.
- Banksy's new tree mural in London was defaced with white paint days after the artist confirms it as his own.
- Speculations on the whereabouts of Kate Middleton arise after she was not seen in public in 3 months.
- Rishi Sunak rejects call for immediate general election.
- World's largest trees, giant redwoods, found to be flourishing in the UK.
- Work on 'England's largest' fish pass in Colwick is complete.

## Technology

- Apple had apparently cancelled their plan for to build electric cars.
- Many shops have faced IT issues including Sainsbury's, Tesco and Greggs.
- TikTok CEO calls for US users to 'protect their constitutional rights' and oppose the potential ban.
- Customers of Vans were warned that they might be at risk of fraud following a data breach.

## Humanitarian

- UK sent their largest aid package to Gaza amid warning of 'imminent famine'.
- Prime Minister of Haiti resigns as armed groups increase their grip on the capital city.
- Civilians caught up in Sudan civil war give graphic accounts of the current situation to BBC journalists.

## Environment

- The UK has withdrawn from a treaty that would allow fossil-fuel companies to sue governments for loss of profits due to climate policies.
- Hottest February on record for England and Wales.
- Manchester City have submitted plans to build solar panels on their Joie Stadium.

## Entertainment

- Taylor Swift becomes the only artist to win Album of the Year at the Grammy's four times.
- Ryan Gosling performs 'I'm just Ken' at the Oscars.
- Speculation over who will play the new James Bond continues as Aaron Taylor-Johnson is rumoured to have been offered the role.
- Bafta award nominations are announced with Netflix's The Crown receiving the most nominations.
- Louis Vuitton creates the most media impact value of Paris Women's A/W Fashion Week with \$36.3 million with 25% of this generated by Lee Felix of Stray Kids.

# The Back Page

The Kimberley Column is a student run newspaper, written by students for students. If you would like to see anything in our next issue please contact us, we would be grateful for your input.

## Contact Us!



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Kimberley Column Press Team