

**Letter from the Editor**  
**Issue 1**  
**Lea D**  
**Year 11 Editor in Chief**

I am delighted to present the first newspaper release of Beyond the Horizon. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the creation of this newspaper; with each department giving their full efforts towards this, it's undeniable that this newspaper is full of amazing writing and images created by the members. With this being a first release, I'm excited to see how everyone will improve as time progresses. Everyone has such potential that cannot be expressed through words alone and it's wonderful to see how everyone is willing to share their work with the community.

I hope that this will become a bigger and a more prominent part of Horizon, so when people say Horizon, they go 'Oh don't they also have that famous newspaper club or something?'. That would be a big achievement that I'm sure is achievable through everyone's hard work; I'm enormously glad that this has been created as it allows students and adults to know more about the school. I think it's so important that everyone can know what happens within school and how students feel about certain things, be it from serious matters to the more casual. It's great to allow students' opinions to be shared and allow changes to be made as a result.

I cannot wait to see how this newspaper will progress. Who knows, maybe it will become well known. Or even win an award. As long as there is consistent effort, anything is possible. So as Editor-in-Chief, I will ensure that everyone will constantly give it their all so that everything stated is truthful and in its best condition. Thank you for reading this and I hope you enjoy our first issue!

Lea



**Winter Showcase: A night you will never forget!**  
**By Jamie S**

*Jamie is a confident, smart individual who can usually be found playing video games with his friends, or playing with his dog, Rio.*

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of December, we are proud to announce that Horizon Community College is hosting the Christmas Showcase. Both children and adults alike can visit the show and experience the wonders of the festive season. This year, students from across Year 7 to 11 will perform masterpieces from a variety of different plays and films, including Shrek, Frozen and A Christmas Carol. In the past, the college has only done one summer show; this year we're going all out!

Recently, we interviewed all 3 heads of the performing arts team, to ask about the production and what is going on behind the scenes...

**Music**

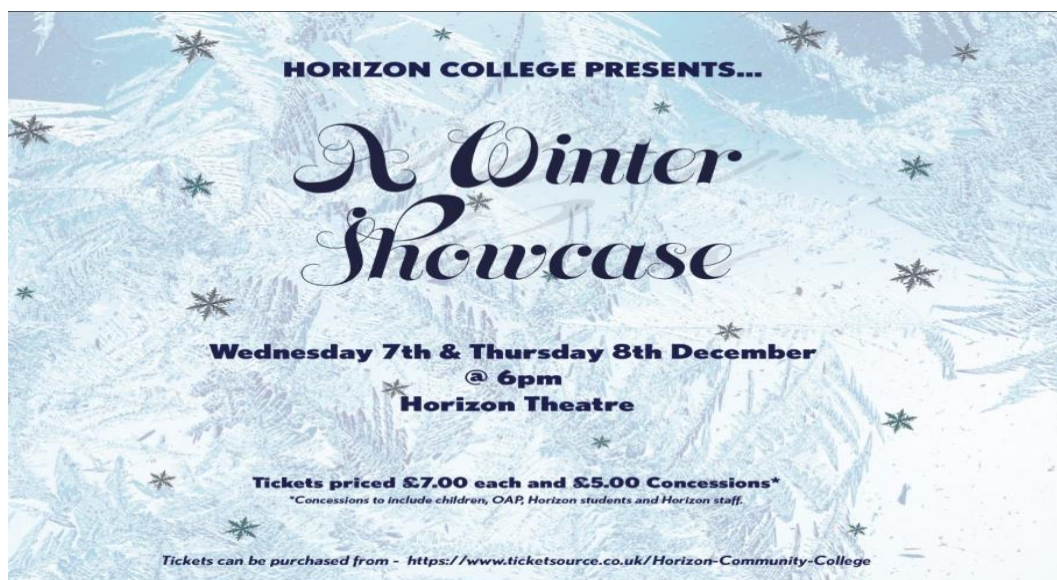
Miss Lingard - who is teaching her music students the songs from the play - is a talented and enthusiastic teacher that is great at getting her students excited to learn! She claims that "the students are working really, really hard!" and that by preparing for this show, it is getting all the students "into the Christmas spirit". Miss Lingard said that there will be an inclusion of songs from multiple different movies like "The Polar Express" – we can't wait!

**Drama**

Mrs. Firth, Head of the Drama team, is a very energetic teacher who makes sure everyone loves their learning experience! She informed us that "the actors are doing brilliantly" and that she loves her involvement in the show! Some of the actors who are part of the school show were willing to be asked a few questions too. Molly Sidebottom, one of Horizon's students, who will play "Elsa" from the movie "Frozen" claims that "it is nerve racking". Nicole Bea, Molly's counterpart and show-sibling, explained how she will play "Anna: "I'm actually feeling quite confident!" but did admit that she is still quite nervous to be on stage.

**Dance**

Finally, we paid a visit to Miss Hunt, leader of the dance team. We were enthralled to witness the dancers perform a rehearsal in front of us and, on a personal note, I would be super excited if I were you! Miss Hunt was surprised to find that it was going "better than most school shows usually do" given the short amount of time they've had to perform. She says that "the students are doing great" and she is thrilled to see how it turns out. We interviewed one of the 16 year 7 dancers asking her how she felt about the show so far. Year 7 Olivia-Leigh Hawke says that she thinks it is "overall, really good" and she is "really confident" but doesn't want to be in the direct line of sight of the crowd. This year the school show is a lot more intense with a variety of songs, shows and other new and interesting ideas. This is going to be a sight to see!





**Spotlight On Extra Curricular – What have Horizon students loved this term?**  
**By Gerda S and Pola P**

*Gerda is a photographer and a writer for Beyond The Horizon. In her free time, she likes to hang out with her best friend and walk her dog.*

*Pola writes for Beyond The Horizon. In her free time, she likes to spend time with her loved ones and cook... although she isn't the best.*

**Pride Club**

**“A place where you can be yourself.”**

The Pride Club at Horizon is an inclusive club for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. This club is where a bunch of bright and positive students can get together to enjoy themselves in a place where they feel safe and valued. There are some arts and crafts activities where students can relax and students also have access to the school computers to research about upcoming LGBTQ+ events.



**“A place where everyone can hang out.”**

Miss Hensleigh, who runs the club, states “everyone is welcome here; it’s open for people who are from the LGBTQIA+ community and gender non-conforming individuals.” Miss Hensleigh says that she loves the club and enjoys the activities included. In the club, they also plan fundraisers and raise money for great causes.

**“Everyone here is really nice and fun to be around.”**

Overall, the Pride Club is pleasant and supportive for the LGBTQ+ community. It’s a safe place open for all year groups. Find the club after school on Thursday’s in 10.09.

**Jam Session**

**“We can get together with mates and have fun.”**

The Jam Session is a club at Horizon for students that are captivated by music. Students have full access to all the instruments; this club is an opportunity for you and your friends to form your own band or even just to have fun and play music together.

**“An amazing club, I look forward to going every week.”**

Altogether, the Jam Session is a place for a music lover to enhance their passion. This club is open for all year groups after school on Mondays and Thursdays, in the Practice Rooms near PA05.

**“You get to chill with people with the same interests...A chance to make new friends.”**



## MFL Club

**“It is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn about the wider world.”**

This is a club that will take languages outside the classroom: the MFL Craft and Culture Club, led by the Languages Department. This place will encourage you to develop your skills and knowledge about different cultures in many fun ways.

Activities include:

- Cooking Spanish and French dishes
- Online games
- Pétanque - a French outdoor game played by two opposing teams who must throw boules as close as possible to a wooden sphere.
- Arts and crafts
- Watching foreign films

**“it is an opportunity to learn something culture based.”**



## Deadline Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of November

Design a Christmas card which must include 'Happy Christmas' in another language. The winning design will be printed and available to buy for staff, parents and students. The winner will receive a £10 Amazon voucher. Other prizes will be up for grabs too! All proceeds will go to charity (Limbo).

**MFL CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Form: \_\_\_\_\_  
Design a Christmas card which must include "Happy Christmas" in another language.  
Spanish = ¡Feliz Navidad! French = Joyeux Noël.  
The winning design will be printed and available to buy for staff, parents and students.  
All proceeds will go to charity. Other prizes will be up for grabs too!



Get your entry template from your MFL teachers in the MFL office / your lesson!

**Christmas card competition!!!!**  
Open to all years! Y7-11





## **Horizon Christmas Market**

### **By Lea D**

As we wait for the cheeriest time of the year, Horizon has decided to host our own Christmas Market!

It is to commence on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, from 15:30 to 17:30 in the Heartspace; it lasts for only 2 hours so don't miss out!

With a wonderful range of activities, this is sure to get you feeling festive! From live music, food stalls and arts and crafts, be sure to attend for general Christmas cheer and to begin your Christmas shopping early.

Not only will this wonderful event showcase the fantastic products created by our entrepreneurial students, but all the money made from this event will fund future young entrepreneurs and the school charity Limbo. So don't be shy, come on the 7<sup>th</sup> and donate to a great cause while also having a great time!



**Photography by Tom J, Year 11**

### **Word search**

Can you find the festive words in the quiz below?

- |            |               |                |              |
|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Snowman | 4. Peppermint | 7. Gingerbread | 10. Frost    |
| 2. Tinsel  | 5. Mistletoe  | 8. Bauble      | 11. Elves    |
| 3. Santa   | 6. Scrooge    | 9. Pudding     | 12. Nativity |

do a e g h c e p e p p e r m i n t l o a r v  
h o t s o r f p u d f t y u e l h o s h d c d t  
s k o n g r c f h e l v e s z d g q g p o k t p  
n c l p k g e r u y s a n t a d i n f f s h o l f  
a p r g o s r o o f p w e g d s e d l e g o o  
t s e o j g d g k s y h o p g l e s n l t n h a  
i l a w o u o d f h e l o n b a s b r d f c o e  
v l o e l g i n g e r b r e a d h l l c u q a c  
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T o b a u b l e m i s t l e t o e o n l m l n  
y u e o d p g t s e s n o w m a n o e o f s

## **From Student to Student: How do you maintain your mental health?**

**By Elena I**

*Elena is a talented writer and avid reader in Year 10.*



As the end of the year approaches, it is natural to feel down. While there are a lot of celebrations like Christmas, Halloween, and a more generally festive mood, it is also getting darker, colder, and school is beginning to lose the freshness of September. The end of the year is coming and with it, you feel as if you are wasting time. Well, the worst thing to add to that is feeling that you are completely alone and helpless to the threat to your mental health. In assembly, teachers have shown us what they do when they are feeling down, but those activities may be unachievable for some of us. So, I have conducted a survey of what students of Horizon do themselves to cope with mental health; let's see what people suggested...

Many agreed that staying away from social media often has made them feel happier. They have instead suggested going outside, trying new clubs and being active to distract yourself from the urge to sit and scroll. But it is understandable that some people may not want or can't go outside or commit to a club or activity. Some students suggested little things like playing with pets (dogs, cats and even hamsters were mentioned) and 50% of them suggested spending time with friends and family as something that makes them happy, even if this is as simple as a movie night or bingeing a box-set.

The big question, though, is what do you watch? Everyone has different tastes, and many movies

and series today are miserable and sometimes make you feel worse. So, here are feel-good suggestions that defy this: Bob's Burgers, Brooklyn Nine-Nine, FRIENDS, Heartstopper, Spiderman: Into the Spider Verse, Pitch Perfect, Rapunzel, Matilda and Little Women. As well as this, music was a popular suggestion so if you don't have time for a movie or series, go on Spotify and find what makes you smile.

Students also gave additional advice on maintaining health and the general message was to be kind to others and remember that you are not alone. 40% of students advised talking to someone you trust. This can be the hardest step of all, but also seems to be unanimously the most helpful. Remember, if you trust someone it is likely that they will not laugh at your problems but try to work with you to solve them. If



absolutely no one comes to mind, then remember, it doesn't have to be another person. Some students said they prefer talking to pets or even to themselves (through a journal). What was clear,

though, was that keeping it bottled up and inside and trying to run away from it will never truly make the problem go away.

Hopefully, seeing other students' perspectives and methods of maintaining mental health has been helpful and has given you ideas on improving yours. I know mental health awareness has been done to death in school but that's because you and your mental health will always be important. Naturally, not all these methods will work for everyone, but remember that there are hundreds of people on the Internet with their own advice. So please, just give these things a try and try to remember that you are not alone and there will never be a person with perfect mental health, and that is okay.

## **Tis the season of giving...each other the Flu** **By Adam O**

*Adam is a member of the Beyond the Horizon Newspaper as a writer in both the aspects of internal affair report and research of general interests typically revolving around medicine.*

Influenza – also known as the flu – is probably one of the most well-known of diseases. It's a respiratory virus that is mostly seen to appear in pockets of infection in spring and autumn. The condition itself causes tiredness, coughing, sneezing, and other upper-respiratory (mouth, throat, upper-lungs) symptoms. The disease itself spreads via coughing, sneezing, and talking/proximity.



Influenza can be vaccinated against, making it preventable but those allergic, elderly, young, or possessing a weakened immune system. In these people it strikes worse – causing more complications. The elderly and young are at risk of severe respiratory issues including pneumonia and other severe symptoms.

To keep those around you safe there are a few things you can do. Firstly, as previously stated, vaccination is possible against the flu. Check your eligibility for vaccination, this can be checked via the NHS' site (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>)

Another thing you can do is to isolate when sick if possible. Disease is mostly unavoidable if you have a job, an extensive social life, or go to school but if you feel sick, it's best to try to avoid contact. If you need to go somewhere, try to remain as isolated as possible during your travels. Other precautions you can take involve avoiding the ill, avoiding crowded places mid flu

season, and keeping a window open when others around you are sick.

However, what else should you do for Christmas? It's the season of giving, then again the context of the phrase is presents, not disease. So how do you prepare for this holiday? Well, first, keep air circulating. If possible, open a window, or keep a door open. Have tissues ready for coughing fits. Make sure your Christmas meals are made after a person washes their hands to avoid contamination and make sure to not cook if you're coughing or feeling unwell.

Sadly, pass the parcel may become a problem if someone is sick. So, make sure to check on the health of anyone involved. Maybe think of a less risky party-game, or better yet, bring hand sanitizer! Remember to wash your hands from time to time, it's all festive until you contract influenza. Keep warm! Wear a coat or a sweater, whichever you feel comfortable in. Or keep the house warm. Preferably keep the house at an approximate temperature of 20°C. Keep hydrated, water is your best choice to recover or just enjoy the festive seasons, tea also works for the most part, however, avoid coffee as it is dehydrating and can cause your symptoms to be exaggerated! Also, while it may not be the most Christmassy, keep bins close to throw away tissues. Keep tables clean and remember to clean any surface after its use. Especially tables where you are going to eat any foods.

Let's make this Christmas a Merry one by sharing only peace and presents, and leaving the flu-particles out of it!





**Top ten most desirable teenagers' gifts for Christmas**  
**By Lily A**

*Lily is a Year 8 student who enjoys reading and writing, especially fantasy; she loves animals and has a pet bird, and also writes about animals sometimes!*

With Christmas just around the corner, 'What do I get?' is the top question on every parent's mind. If you are looking for a great Christmas gift for teenagers, we are here to help!

**1: A new gadget or two! £££**

People – younger and older alike – love to have the latest technology, so getting something electronic might be a tremendous help! There are many varied brands and different devices, so asking the gift-receiver what they enjoy might be the best place to start.



**2: A board game or activity! £**

Although multiple games have been remade online, nothing beats the feeling of gathering around a table with family or friends to play a game together! To keep costs down, head to charity shops to find pre-loved games and spread some joy this Christmas season.

**3: Tickets! £££**

Sports games, shows, theatre, special events – so much is available, if you are willing to pay. Getting a teenager a ticket or invitation to something they enjoy but might not be able to afford with just pocket money could be a pleasant surprise!

**4: Festive Fashion! ££**

If your teen is more interested in fashion and clothing, then a set of wonderful clothes may suit them! Just remember that everyone has a style; ask them to share any trends that they have spotted on fashion Tik Tok to use as a starting point.

**5: Warm and cozy! £**

During the winter, things are cold, so a fluffy blanket or dressing gown could both cheer and warm someone up! Just remember to get something they would want, not you – and if you both want the same thing, to not get too jealous!

**6: An enjoyable book, or multiple! £**

If your teen enjoys reading or books in general, a delightful book is a great gift! However, if they happen to be a fast reader or like multiple books, a series is a smart choice. Supermarkets and charity shops often have great book options, so keep your eyes peeled!

**7: Good old sweets! £**

Maybe not everybody likes sweets, everyone has preferences, but if you know what your teen likes, a bag of chocolates or candies is a (slightly overused) but good gift. Make sure you know what kind of sweets they would like, or you will just end up with a sad snack.

**8: Something to ride! £££**

It does not matter if it is a bike or scooter, many will enjoy riding around on something sporty or fun. A great gift for those who like sports, want to get into sports, or just want something to collect!

**9: The standard, oh well! ££**

This year, it could be better to hand over some pocket money in a card letting them choose what they want. You could even plan a post-Christmas shopping trip

**10: Family time! Free!**

Maybe there is not a physical gift you could think of, but a movie night or trip to a family favorite place could help! Sometimes us teenagers want nothing more than your time.

## **Wait, teachers actually get presents?**

**By Elena I**

*Elena is a talented writer and avid reader in Year 10.*

Contrary to popular belief, teachers do have a life outside of school, which includes getting Christmas presents. And, like students, they have also have to smile and pretend that they've liked presents before. But in the spirit of Christmas, this article won't just focus on the worst presents teachers get, but also their most cherished presents. Here are the answers of several teachers when asked about their favourite and least favourite presents:

Many of the worst presents seem almost comical. Some examples are the purple-spotted shirt that Mr Fagan received one year and Mrs Wakefield's car bumper. Others, however, just seem like common sense to stay away from, like Mr Mclellan-Young's broken helicopter or the boring horse-racing game that Mrs Hughes got one year. An unexpected dislike, though, when it came to presents, was chocolate. Some teachers, like Mrs Hope simply didn't like the taste of mint chocolate and for Mr Addy, it was the fact that they were insincere chocolates that made him dislike them. The moral of the story seems to be that, when buying sweets and chocolate for others at Christmas, make sure to ask their preferences beforehand: otherwise your present may end up on their worst present list!



When it came to the best presents, many teachers reminisced about their childhood, showing that presents can be fully appreciated

whenever. For example, Mrs Wakefield says that her best present was a chemistry set she received as a little girl. A common theme of childhood best presents was the teacher's first experience with technology; Mrs Hughes named her first mobile phone as the best present and Mr Addy said his first PlayStation, the PS1!



Some teachers, instead, named recent presents that they received. Complimenting Mr Addy's PS1, Mr Fagan more recently received a PS5. While it may seem like these best presents are unachievable, some teachers clearly showed that a minimal present was all they really wanted. For example, Mr Mclellan-Young's favourite present was a football kit of his favourite team. Another thing teachers showed us was that presents don't have to be tangible to be great. Mrs Hope says the best present she got was getting to see her family again for Christmas after the long and uncertain lockdown.

While teachers are obviously not in the same age group as us, when it comes gift-giving, we can learn almost as much as in class. So, to anyone planning gifts, I hope that this article has been informative on the dos and don'ts of presents. Merry Christmas!

## **Festive Movie Magic**

### **By Lea D**

*Lea is a year 11 student who enjoys reading and playing RPG games. When she has spare time, she is often found spending time with her two dogs.*

Do you find yourself acting a little like Scrooge? Being unable to enjoy your evenings as Christmas is creeping closer? Finding it impossible to put yourself into a cheery Christmas spirit? Well, there's no need to worry now, with these festive film classics, you will inevitably find your Christmas spirit as the holiday nears.

In this list, 10 Christmas films were chosen to ensure your adoration for winter will increase.



### **Nightmare Before Christmas:**

Although there are many debates whether this is a Christmas or a Halloween film, it's still an amazing Tim Burton film. With a balance between spooky and festive - it is a must watch to lovers of Halloween that aren't fully letting go that October is over.

### **Home Alone:**

It's one of those movies that everyone has watched at least once, but it's never bad to return to a great film at this time of year. It's always a pleasant watch that always makes everyone excited for winter.

### **It's A Wonderful Life:**

It is a heart-warming classic that makes people realise that even if they feel like they lack importance, there is always someone who looks out for them. Therefore, if you're doubting yourself, this is a definite watch to allow yourself

to realise that you are important and that you matter.

### **Elf:**

It's just another classic, a film that is upbeat and a promotion for kindness. It's a perfect watch with family as it just brings the family together.

### **How The Grinch Stole Christmas:**

A classic that everyone knows and adores; what isn't there to love about a tall green man trying to steal Christmas? Just make sure you don't try and act like a Grinch, you'll be breaking the law for a start!

### **The Polar Express:**

A film for everyone: a boy embarks on a train journey to meet Santa. A wonderful film that will even spark the memories of being a child on Christmas Day within the more mature people. It's always nice to reminisce on the times where things were much simpler.

### **A Christmas Carol:**

Everyone knows this one and everyone knows a Scrooge too. Although everyone hears about it every year (a ridiculous number of times too) it is always a good watch to make you appreciate what you already have.

### **Arthur Christmas:**

Although it isn't as popular as most of the others, it's an amazing creation that builds suspense throughout. With a glitch in the system, a little girl's gift has been misplaced and Arthur has decided to fix his mistakes by delivering the gift on time before it's too late.

### **Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas:**

It's always great to include Disney. With three heart-warming stories put together; this is a must watch if you're a lover of Disney and just cheesy things in general.

### **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer:**

Granted, the animation isn't the finest quality yet that makes it much better; it will make you laugh, either from the animation or the actual scenes. Therefore, it's one of the best to watch amongst friends or family.

Hopefully that will give you plenty of ideas to get you into the festive spirit. Why not really heighten the Christmas countdown by watching one film per night in the run up to the big day?



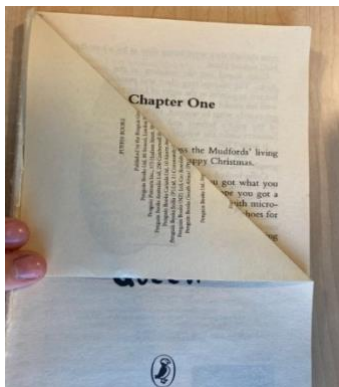
## Craft Corner – Christmas Tree Book Craft By Gracieanna W

Gracieanna is a Year 10 student at Horizon Community College, in her free time she reads thrillers.

Are you looking for a fun easy craft to do at Christmas? Our in-house craft expert is here to help you create the perfect present to save money and the planet!



1. Take your book and remove the cover. If you want to you can remove further pages if you are not happy with their 'look'

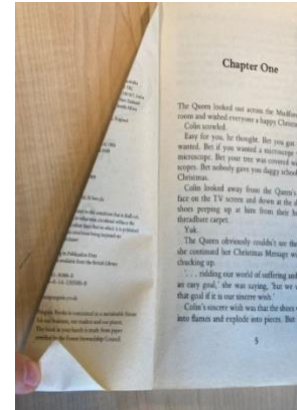


2. Take just the first page and fold the top right corner down onto the spine of the book



3. Now fold the same sheet again in the same direction so that the outer edge of the sheet lines up with the spine of the book as shown below.

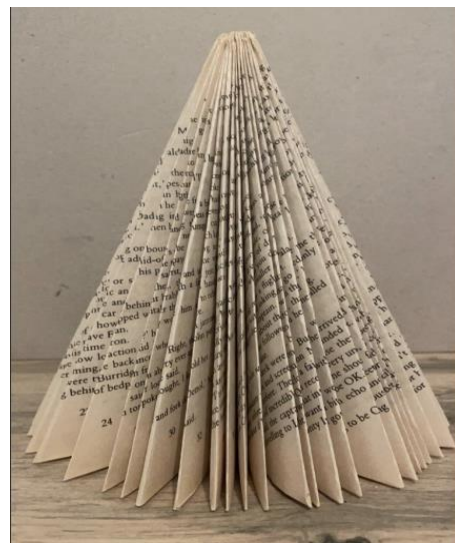
4. Now you need to turn that page as if it were still a book. Then turn the bottom of the page (that sticks out below the book) up inside the folds of the page.



5. Now the bottom of the folded page should line up perfectly with the bottom of the book. Now simply repeat this step with all the pages.



6. Stand back and admire your masterpiece!



**New Kid on the Block**  
**Year 7 Student, Freddie, looks back at his**  
**first term at Horizon**  
**By Freddie K**

*Freddie is a Year 7 Student. He loves to ride his bike, play games and spend time with family. He also loves to be with his friends.*

Looking back to the first day I started school, I felt nervous & scared because it is a big school, and I did not know where to go. As the day went by, I started to feel less nervous, and I started to feel happiness because I was excited...I was in a new school!

For the past weeks I felt happier and more confident because I knew that I was improving. My teachers let me know what I needed to do to get better, which is a really good feeling.

Although when I first started, I worried about not fitting in and being left alone, I quickly made really good friends.

I enjoy English the most because I'm in class with most of my friends and it's just fun!  
I also have a funny and nice teacher in Maths: Mr Simmons.  
I also really like science because I have my form tutor (Mr Ball).

My favourite memory at Horizon so far has been the first day because I got to see all my new teachers! I am already looking forward to going into year 8 so I can see my new teachers!



**Fancy making your own Christmas Crackers this year?**  
**These fascinating facts and jaw-dropping jokes will be a great addition!**  
**By Libbie M**

*Libbie is a lover of all things scaley or furry, and often spends her time watching YouTube or Netflix. If you can't find her doing that, she will probably be drawing Jack Skellington.*

**Interesting facts**

A group of penguins are called a huddle and a group of polar bears is a sloth.

**Adorable facts:**

Do you know what a female and male deer are called?  
the male is called a bull and the female a cow.

**Joke of the day:**

What did Santa pay for his sleigh?  
Nothing, it was on the house.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?  
Frostbite.

**Spotlight on Staff**  
**Editor in Chief Lea interviews the founder of**  
**Beyond the Horizon: Miss Bickerton**  
**By Lea D**

I met with Miss Bickerton in the English Block after-school to interview her; I thought that this would be an awkward and nerve-wracking situation. However, as soon as I sat down, she made me feel comfortable and confident with my questions.

Miss Bickerton is a diligent English teacher within Horizon; she exudes enthusiasm and passion that is sure to engage other students within their work. She is very content with working at Horizon, believing that it allows her to see people come from different life experiences: "Barnsley brings a lot of interesting and lively personalities that make teaching enjoyable" and it makes her smile and be proud of each student within college. However, it's best to not fiddle around with pens in her lessons as it's one of her biggest pet peeves when it comes to teaching!

As the founder of the newspaper, she told me that she had initially created this club as a platform so that students' voices were heard and to encourage them to see that their voices were as equally important as an adults' voice. Miss Bickerton strongly concluded that "it would be very beneficial for everyone to have access to alternative ways of writing; it allows students to gain an experience that could possibly help in the future too." She also has high ambitions for this club, that with hard work from everyone, it can become large and successful. That successful that it could be an award-winning newspaper. "I want a trophy!" she said with a smile.

Yet, surprising as it may be, every teacher has a personal life too. Outside of school, she spends her time cooking regularly. Miss Bickerton's favourite type of food to cook is South-East Asian food, anything spicy is good for her! However, for three years she has been vegetarian, so of course meat has not been included in her diet but rather replaced with healthy protein alternatives. She also confided that if there's one thing she can't live without, it's bread. (We have to agree with her there!) Alongside this, she goes on frequent walks due to her adorable dog Murphy. If it wasn't obvious

that she dearly loved her Lhasa Apso, her 'Dog Mum' cup is a clear indicator that she is obsessed!

It was a pleasure to conduct the interview; it made me feel more confident in interviewing members of staff – so look out teachers, you might be next!



**Photography by Tom J, Year 11**



**Magic, Monsters, Marvels**  
**Lily shares her top tips for fantasy writing**  
**By Lily A**

Fantasy writing can be difficult, even if you have heaps of experience. Many fantasy writers – including myself – like to build their world before their characters. Keep reading for my top tips on how to create your own world of wonder!

**Worldbuilding**

Worldbuilding is important for a story, it involves creating the setting – both things included and things not. Even if you don't mention them in the story, having little quirks and features can help create characters, storyline and even inspire parts of this fantasy world you haven't thought of yet. For example, your world could be split into two kingdoms, continents or towns, depending on its size. You could base the story on only half of this area, but just the fact that there is a whole, new, unexplored land to the story could inspire more than just the storyline you already have.

Next – the infamous landscape. This could mean anything, is there a mountain in your world? Is there a marsh? A desert or a skyscraper? What's the climate like? Is it warm and dry, or humid and cold? There are many questions to ask, so answer them gradually. Maybe try creating a list or organized file, or a map if you enjoy drawing.

Animals: everyone loves animals, but for fantasy authors, they can become an annoyance if not planned well. You could go various routes with the animals, you could bring back extinct animals with your ideas, use already existing and alive animals, or maybe create a whole new species! We, however, are going to focus on creating a species. They could be an evolution of something already alive, they could be from legends or myths (like dragons, elves, fairies), they could be mixtures of many animals, or you could make up a whole new concept. Think about limbs and body shape. You could draw sketches until you finally find something you like, you could write descriptions first and draw them to what you imagine, you could reference real animals maybe. Think about these creatures' skills. Are they fast, slow? Can they fly, or dig underground perhaps? Anything is possible, so follow what you'd like to see. If you want a creature that works in packs, they could work in

packs! If you want a creature that has magical abilities, it's all possible in fantasy writing. Are you ready for the challenge of creating a species? Just remember: anything is possible!

**Characters**

Characters can be annoying to create, you must take in interests, dislikes, personality, appearance and more. Think of where this character lives, and who with. Think of how personality can affect appearance, are they sensible and careful? Boring and timid? Or maybe they are exciting and dangerous? Take note of this, even if you've made a design (which is perfectly fine to do first!), it may change with personality.

Maybe your character, for example, likes coffee. Let's say, for example, they have a favorite local café. Maybe they won't go to this café in the story, maybe it isn't even mentioned – but to know a character like you know a friend is a big, big help. Think about what hobbies your character might have; if they like to garden, maybe they could have house plants?

The things that make your character more real could be the things that make them fail. Even flying superheroes with infinity powers of the universe have flaws. Are they clumsy? Too curious? Careless? Scared? Or are they anything else? Anything could happen, fantasy writing is like spewing every idea you have onto a page and arranging it together.

Just remember, this is your story. Do anything, create anything, fantasy is anything! And finally, make sure you pick up our next issue for more fantastical writing tips!



## Euro 22: the tournament that changed football in England forever.

As the end of the year approaches, Lilia Hamer looks back at the sporting highlight of 22.

**By Lilia H**

*Lilia is a Year 10 student at Horizon. When she isn't at school, she can be found on the football pitch or watching some form of football, especially women's football, as the players have inspired her from a young age.*

31<sup>st</sup> of July 2022. One of the most iconic days in women's sport. England became European champions for the first time in the country's history. Thousands crammed into Wembley stadium and millions turned on the TV to watch England lift that trophy... let's look back at the moments that led up to that memorable day.

### England vs Austria

The Lionesses kicked off the Euros with a bang at Old Trafford. With players like Manuela Zinsberger in the net and Laura Wienroither further up the pitch: Austria were a strong side. The only goal in the game came from England and Arsenal superstar Beth Mead in the 16<sup>th</sup> minute. She looped the ball over Zinsberger the half volley with the side of her foot. The Austrian defence scramble towards the goal line but it was too late. A super save from England goalie Mary Earps kept the score line 1-0 England at full time.

### England vs Norway

England's next game really showed their dominance in this tournament. This game broke records as it became the game with the most goals scored in a European championship. A penalty scored by Georgia Stanway at 12 minutes meant England were leading against Norway. A goal from Lauren Hemp 3 minutes later made it 2-0 England. 2 goals from Beth Mead and two goals for the Lionesses' all-time top goal scorer Ellen White meant it was 6-0 by half time. The second half began and a goal



from a star player from the tournament Alessia Russo and another goal from Beth Mead left the score line at 8-0

### England vs Northern Ireland

England came out dominant after their last victory, but their opposition weren't going down without a fight and kept their back line strong before a stunning strike from Fran Kirby on the 40-minute mark put England in the lead. A goal from Beth Mead put England 2-0 up. Two amazing goals from Russo made the score line 4-0. Alessia Russo's second goal was created by Ella Toone. Ella and Alessia are best friends who became the "super subs" of the tournament. An own goal from Northern Ireland left the score at 5-0. England were sailing to the quarter finals at the top of their group.

### England vs Spain

Tournament favourites Spain were England's next opponent. England still looked strong but scoring goals like they did in the group stage would almost be impossible due to the possession-based football that Spain played. The first half ended goalless and then the breakthrough came for Spain in the 54<sup>th</sup> minute. A brilliant team goal broke the English defence and was finished at the back post by González. After a change in the lineup, Spain could not deal with England's strength, leading to an equaliser from Ella Toone. A header from Russo made it easy for Toone to slot it home. As the goal came in the 84<sup>th</sup> minute, the game went into extra time. What happened next will go down in history. A precise pass from Keira Walsh opened the space around the Spanish

box and Georgia Stanway struck the ball and scored a screamer. 2-1 England were through to the semi-final.



### England vs Sweden

With players like Stina Blackstenius at Arsenal and the captain of the Chelsea women's team Magdalena Eriksson leading them out, Sweden look threatening. Sweden shows their strong game play straight from kick off and forced a save from England's goalkeeper Mary Earps. A cross from Lucy Bronze was taken down well by Beth Mead as she fired at goal. 1-0 England. The second goal came, and Lucy Bronze was left unmarked at the back post making it easy for the defender to head the ball through many Swedish players and into the net. 2-0 England. Great build up play from Keira Walsh and Fran Kirby lead to a low cross to Russo. After striking the ball straight at the goalkeeper on her first attempt, Russo adapted quickly with a cheeky back heel that went through the keeper's legs. The final goal came from Fran Kirby who chipped the goalkeeper. 4-0 England.

### The Final England vs Germany

Germany had beaten France in the semi-final and were looking unstoppable. However, star striker Alexandra Pop got injured in the warmup meaning she couldn't play. The first half was end to end with both teams having chances. England scored first with an amazing goal from Ella Toone. A brilliant pass over the German defence by Keira Walsh meant that the ball was perfectly placed at Toone's boots. Seeing the German goalkeeper off her line, Toone got her

foot under the ball and looped it over the keeper. 1-0 England in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute. Germany built a goal from their own half and with Magull arriving in the box she was able to slide it past Mary Earps. At full time the score was at 1-1 leading to extra time. After forcing corner after corner from Germany, Lauren Hemp once again places the ball by the corner flag. The cross hit Lucy Bronze as she jumped, and the ball fell to Chloe Kelly who poked it across the line with the very tip of her boot. The goal led to Chloe's iconic celebration as she ran around the pitch swinging her T-shirt above her head. 110<sup>th</sup> minute 2-1 England. England held onto their lead for the last 10 minutes and then the final whistle went.



Players fell to the ground and broke down in tears of joy as they all knew that they had finally done it. A country starved of silverware finally had some. Captain Leah Williamson lifted the trophy with the team. Watching the team play has inspired thousands of people across the country especially the younger generation. This is just the beginning for women football and this day will help it continue to grow in the future. Since the victory for England at the Euros, attendance at women's games has grown dramatically. The North London derby between Tottenham and Arsenal filled the Emirates stadium and broke the record attendance for any game in the women super league. Week after week the game is growing; the future looks bright.



## **Mystery Profiles**

### **By Pola P and Lily A**

You think you know your teachers...but how well?!

We interviewed three teachers from across the college and have prepared these facts for you to guess who they are!

#### Our first mystery teacher...

- Studied Mathematics at Sheffield University
- Used to be an investment advisor
- Once owned their own micro-brewery
- Says their favorite part of teaching is the wonderful students!



#### Our next mystery teacher...

- Studied Printed Textiles at University
- Used to work in a supermarket before becoming a teacher
- Can sing all the French National Anthem - in French!
- Says their favorite part of teaching is seeing the students be so proud of their work



#### Our final mystery teacher...

- Studied French, Spanish and International Business at University.
- Worked as a waitress before becoming a teacher
- Has in-laws who have a farm and themselves own two rabbits and a lamb
- Says their favourite part of teaching is seeing happy faces after good test results.

Can you guess who they are?

Submit your guesses to  
[gbickerton@Horizoncc.co.uk](mailto:gbickerton@Horizoncc.co.uk) to find out the answers in the next issue!



## A Brief History of Christmas

### Adam Oliver explores the roots of the festive season.

#### By Adam O

*Adam is a member of the Beyond the Horizon Newspaper as a writer in both the aspects of internal affair report and research of general interests typically revolving around medicine.*

#### The Pagan Influence

The festival of Christmas has been around since 336CE, started by Romans due to the increase of Christian belief within the Roman Republic. Long after the end of the Pax Romania had taken its effect and during the rule of Constantine – a year before his death – it was originally a Pagan holiday that was merged with the Christian tradition in order to satisfy both.



#### Old Saint Nick

You may have heard of one Saint Nicholas: a Christian priest whose work in early Christianity forever morphed Christmas and to some degree, Christianity. He is partially responsible for the origin of gift-giving during later Christmas, perhaps stemming from his acts towards those in need and general charity, or perhaps due to the early Christian focus on maintaining community. A kind-hearted character giving gifts over the festive period? Sounds familiar!

#### The Ultimate Scrooge

Incredibly - and in the most Scrooge-like of political manoeuvres – Christianity, and so Christmas, was prohibited in Britain due to Puritan influence from 1647 to 1660. 13-ish years passed without any Christmas (which is ironic considering the connotations of the number 13 and its direct correlation to Christian faith through the last supper, but I digress). The ban was proposed again in 1664 but was denied.

#### A More Recognisable Christmas

However, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the focus on Christmas became more intense due to the Oxford Movement, which aimed to reinstate the key traditions of faith within the Christian Church. This gave rise to the gift-giving tradition and a renewed emphasis on peace and kindness, which further progressed in the years following.

#### Modern Traditions

While we may think of kissing under the mistletoe as a more modern tradition, this act of romance has an interesting history. It originated from Norse mythology when Höd was deceived by Loki into shooting his brother Baldr with mistletoe. This killed Loki and as such Baldr's mother blessed mistletoe. This is where the concept of mistletoe and romance originate from.



While the history of history may be complex, we hope that your Christmas – however you choose to celebrate – is full of the simple moments of joy that bring happiness to last the whole year through.



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**If you would like to contribute to  
Beyond the Horizon as a writer,  
editor, artist or photographer, come  
along to IT11 on Monday after  
school.**

**No experience required, just lots of  
enthusiasm!**

**For more details, email  
[gbickerton@horizoncc.co.uk](mailto:gbickerton@horizoncc.co.uk)**