



BEYOND THE HORIZON

Christmas Issue



Christmas Films



Home Alone Review

Written by W.J.Oliver Year 7

Home alone (1990) is a timeless, quintessential Christmas film. It is second to none compared with other Christmas films and in this review, I am going to tell you the reasons why. Home Alone is a comical, hilarious, engaging film about a huge extended family who leave their charismatic 8-year-old boy, Kevin, all alone at Christmas.

Kevin defends their house against the 'wet bandits', a pair of clumsy robbers who have targeted their house at Christmas. Kevin plans to deter and distract them along with a fair share of booby traps. Elsewhere, his mother tirelessly tries to get her son back. Kevin, played by Macauley Culkin, played the role perfectly bringing a sense of mischief and joy. Overall, this is a great film, and I would confidently give it a 10/10.



Interview with Miss Burland:

What are your opinions on the film?

I never tire of it; it is one of the classic Christmas films that just have to be watched year upon year.

What would you rate it out of 10 and why?

I would rate it 8.5/10 because I think it is a little dated nowadays, however it would definitely have been a 10/10 in its time.

Which character is your favourite?

I think Buzz has some funny brotherly moments with Kevin which add the humour into the film, however, my favourite has got to be Macauley Culkin's character, Kevin.

What is your favourite part of the film?

My favourite part of the movie is the humorous scene when the pizza delivery man comes to deliver an order to Kevin's backdoor. Kevin can't let him know that he is home alone, but he needs his pizza order. So, he cunningly tricks him into thinking his father is talking to him through the door, but it's actually a TV programme talking to him.

What genre would you categorise this film into?

In terms of genre, I would say it is quite comedic and has moments of slapstick comedy in there. But ultimately, it is a Christmas classic, and I would definitely put it into that category, if I had to decide.

ALL ABOUT MARSHA P. JOHNSON AND THE STONEWALL RIOTS

WRITTEN BY: Hanna L Year 7

Hello and welcome to this Newspaper page! It will be all about Marsha P Johnson and what she achieved in her life!

What are the Stonewall Riots?

The riots started in 1969 when a group of "Police" officers raided a gay bar in New York City. Instead of watching, the people decided that they were outraged with all the homophobia, so they rebelled back and that changed the face of LGBTQ+ forever.

One of the most famous leaders of the riot was Marsha P. Johnson. She was a Black transgender woman - responsible for the start of PRIDE MONTH - and a self-identified drag queen. She was also a successful model with her friend Andy Warhol. She was a very empowered woman but sadly she died July 4th, 1992, at just 46 years old but is still remembered to this day. There is a movie biopic about her life called *'The life and death of Marsha P. Johnson'*.

As a child, Marsha liked going to church and was a devout Christian throughout her life. Starting at an early age, Marsha would enjoy wearing dresses from the early age of five years old.



DID YOU KNOW?

The "P" in Marsha.P. Johnson stands for "Pay it no mind" and it was a motto that she followed for all of her life. It is an instruction from Johnson to not pay attention to the haters and the negative comments that you may receive unjustly.

She was also part of a community called Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) which actively accepted gay, bisexual, lesbian and other groups of the LGBTQ+ group. They would raise money and fundraise together so their children wouldn't have to in the future. In 1972, she joined a performance troupe called Hot Peaches and in 1974 Andy Warhol painted her portrait as a part of his 'Ladies and Gentlemen' series.



MY TOP 5 CHRISTMAS BOOKS

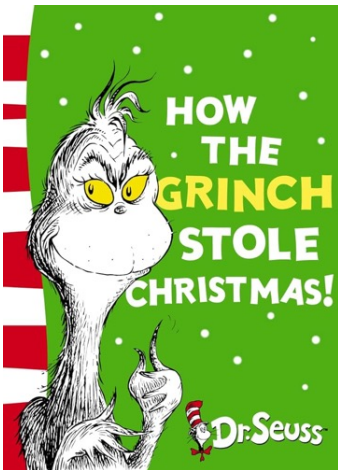
WRITTEN BY: Emily M – Year 7

5. A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

A Christmas Carol is a famous novel by Charles Dickens and is known all over the world. The story is about a man named Ebenezer Scrooge, who hates Christmas until one day his dead co-worker, Jacob Marley Comes back as a ghost to warn Scrooge about his sins. He then gets visited by 3 ghosts named the ghost of Christmas past, the ghost of Christmas present and the ghost of Christmas future. We are asked with the ultimate question: will Scrooge ever change? DID YOU KNOW? In year 10, you read and study this book as part of your English GCSE!

4. How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr Seuss

How The Grinch Stole Christmas is a well-known and well-loved children's-book-turned-film by Dr Seuss and is about a grumpy character named the Grinch who managed to ruin Christmas for all of Whoville, the small town the story is set in. However, will the character ever be able to change his wicked ways?



3. The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg

The Polar Express is a well-loved book by Chris Van Allsburg about a group of children that have been chosen to meet Father Christmas and step onto this magical train. Inside the train, several children are there as well (making it chaos!) On average, £720,000,000 sales were made of this masterpiece!

2. Twas the night before Christmas by Cement Clarke Moore

Twas The Night Before Christmas by Cement Clarke Moore is a classic book that is extremely old, but still is iconic as ever. A must read if you like traditional Christmas books. A lot of people have loved this book, and you may have a similar opinion too!

One student said when they were asked their opinion *"This is a really good book!"*

1. The Nightmare Before Christmas novelisation by Meghan Shepherd

The novelisation of the iconic Nightmare Before Christmas film has arrived! This amazing book is a book version of the film, and it is a masterpiece! The book is an amazing piece of writing which is around the storyline of the film! There is also a sequel about the events after the film named *'Long Live the Pumpkin Queen'* if you are interested! In my opinion, this is my favourite book as I love the film!

Interview with Miss McDermott

What is your favourite Christmas book?

A Christmas Carol!

What do you like about A Christmas Carol?

I love that it has a timeless message about being charitable. It was a message that was relevant when Dickens wrote it, and it is relevant in today's society!

Do you like the book, How The Grinch Stole Christmas and if so, why?

Absolutely! The grinch is relatable to everyone and it shows that you can change for Christmas!

Do you have any Christmas book recommendations?

A Christmas Carol and poetry collections!

Would you read The Nightmare Before Christmas' novelisation and why?

Yes! Absolutely, I would read that, and I think because we are so used to seeing books turned into films so it's really interesting to see how they adapt it!

BOOK REVIEW

WRITTEN BY: Eden P

Percy Jackson and the Lightning thief by Rick Riordan

I give this book...



The reason this story only got given 4 and a half stars is because it is quite fast paced. This means that it would be better to not take a long break whilst reading the novel.

Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is on the most dangerous quest of his life. With the help of a satyr and a daughter of Athena, Percy must journey across the United States to catch a thief who has stolen the original weapon of mass destruction — Zeus' master bolt.

Percy Jackson and the lightning thief is a fantasy book for those whose reading ages are 10+.

The main character is Percy Jackson, a twelve-year-old boy who comes from a family of his mother, stepdad, and himself. Percy's father left when he was young, and due to a devastating event, that he had to endure, he may finally meet him. He now must stay at a camp for demigods! Camp-half-blood will be his new home, until he will finally be safe to return to Manhattan.

Who will Percys biological father be? Who will he become friends with along the way? How powerful is he really?

Personally, I admit that this book is a worthy read. The characters not only have depth, but also mesh well with one another – their chemistry is undeniable. Adding to this, the plot is extremely intriguing. You will be on the edge of your seat throughout the whole read. Not only does the book start off fascinating, the climax, and the finale are too. Gods roam the Earth, Olympia, and the underworld; watching their children go off on quests, some winning...some unfortunately dying. The odds are scary, but necessary to live a successful life at camp-half-blood.

Percy Jackson is an amazing main character. Even though he is powerful, he is not a 'Mary Sue,' he needs help from his friends, but can manage some threats by himself. As well as this, he has a great personality. It is described as "changeable like the sea," with the important exception of staying dangerously loyal to his friends and

family. As well as this, he has ADHD and dyslexia (as do all the rest of the demi-gods) and these topics are represented well in the book, giving the disabilities more of a chance to be learnt about by the youth and the readership.

The books are written in first person (Percy's point of view) and it is wonderfully written. I would recommend this book to anybody who likes the Harry Potter series – though, personally, I would argue that Percy Jackson is much better. Why? The answer is simple, the lessons to learn from these stories are hidden in between the lines, you must figure it out yourself, and that is another wonderful characteristic that make these novels a great read!

Snippet of the first page

"Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood.

If you're reading this because you think you might be one, my advice is: close this book right now. Believe whatever lie your mom or dad told you about your birth, and try to lead a normal life.

Being a half-blood is dangerous. It's scary. Most of the time, it gets you killed in painful, nasty ways.

If you're a normal kid, reading this because you think it's fiction, great. Read on. I envy you for being able to believe that none of this ever happened. But if you recognize yourself in these pages-if you feel something stirring inside-stop reading immediately. You might be one of us.

And once you know that, it's only a matter of time before they sense it too, and they'll come for you. Don't say I didn't warn you"

If you want to read the first chapter, for free, go to the URL:

<https://2.files.edl.io/JHeWjTYaE6vSh3EgfbKWN1X4Odb8EZ4N5SkucuPB03mk1BFO.pdf>

This is where you can read the first chapter, with no charge.

REVIEWS FROM OTHERS

5 stars



THIS BOOK IS ALL I DREAM OF AND MORE

I started reading the series coz my cousin sis recommended it, and boy was I surprised!

I love how the series rotates around mythology, almost all i've not read them all yet) of Rick Riordan's books are based around mythology. Greek mythology, Roman mythology, Norse mythology, Egyptian mythology... is there another mythology as well?

I personally fine Rick Riordan's books quite simulating. They are accurate to their narrators, in case of first person books and honestly, all his books are a good read. Anything else would be a spoiler, so I'm holding back my urge to write a long one hour review for this book.

All I'm saying is if you're into fiction/mythology/ just generally into reading books, all of Rick Riordan's books would please you a LOT.

4 stars



I love this book so very much! This entire series is great in general! I love the humor, the setting, the Greek parts, it's amaaaaazing! You might be wondering why I like it so much, yet put 4 stars. I understand that it's difficult to write a book, and come up with its story, but I feel that Rick Riordan should have written more books in Percy's perspective before the Roman series. Don't get me wrong, I liked that series as well, I loved the new characters and the sudden twists, but I would have much rather continued hearing Percy's story throughout it, rather than switching perspectives every few chapters. It's an interesting concept, but personally, I didn't like it. That doesn't make it any less of a book, I still like it! Everything can't be perfect for one reader, than the other readers won't enjoy it as much. All in all, this is a great book series, and I truly recommend it!

3 stars



Pretty good but i'd prefer if it was a bit more

mature and had the freedom to express it's full potential. the immaturity prevents that and not to mention the greek mythology it was based on is full of incestry and brutality so a lot of that is treated normally with lame excuses. So if the story admitted to the abnormality of itself then i think the story would be more free to create more interesting characters and events. PS the author really could not portray well of how 12 year olds would act in such cases.

1 Star

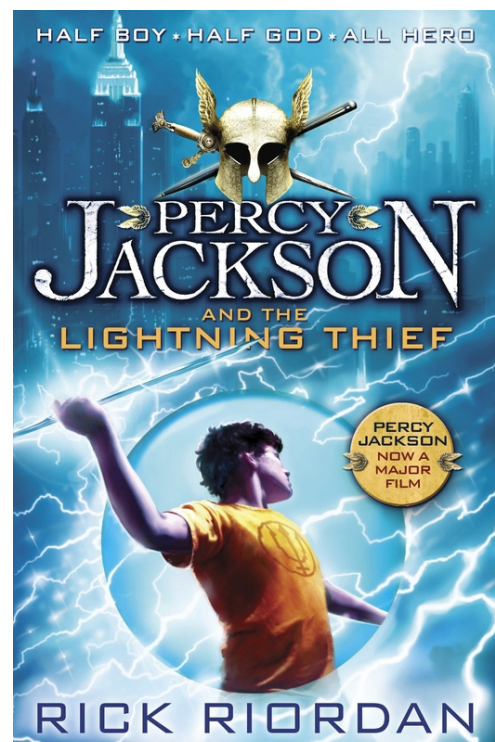


Extremely overrated. There is a weird monster in every chapter and it gets repetitive and tiring.

The only good thing about the series is that I learnt a thing or two about Greek mythology

Explaining why the 1-star review above is wrong

In the one-star rating, they say that there is a "weird monster in every chapter," though this is quite wrong. During the story, Percy Jackson works his way through to fight a 'big boss', perse. In the first book, there are only a few monsters: Medusa, Procrustes, a boar summoned by a God, and a scorpion, summoned by another camper. To say there are 416 pages, I do not think there would be only 4 chapters... (and there are not).



MATCH PREVIEWS

MATCH PREVIEW – A View From Oakwell

BARNSLEY FC VS BURTON ALBION

On the 16th of September 2023, Barnsley Football Club faced Burton Albion. Barnsley's Devante Cole, bagged a goal for the reds to lead them to a win. A goal in which made it another 3 points for them and Burton Albion stays in the relegation zone with only 2 points in total.

So, with that information, let's dive a little deeper and have a look at other moments in the game. Before kickoff, there was a minute of silence for those who died or survived in the life-threatening earthquake in Morocco. Another moving moment occurred in the 13th minute, when every single fan in the stadium clapped because a 13 year old Burton Albion Fan, Season Ticket holder died on the 14th of September 2023 on his way to school. Fans were happy to pay their respects to the young school child.



MATCH PREVIEW

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY VS IPSWICH

Sheffield Wednesday faced Ipswich Town on the 16th of September 2023. Ipswich went on to leave Sheffield Wednesday shaken up as they beat them 1-0. Sheffield Wednesday missed quite the chance near the end of the first half, and it seemed like Wednesday had fallen asleep and stopped playing as Conor Chaplin scored another astonishing goal for Ipswich Town.



MATCH PREVIEW – A View From Oakwell

REAL MADRID VS REAL SOCIEDAD

15th of September 2023 was the day of a crazy, fun-packed football game. Firstly, we should talk about Kepa Arrizabalaga and the mess he created and ultimately made the opposition go 1-0 up. Although he did a brilliant save from Takefuso Kubo, Ander Barrenetxea then scored a simple tap-in goal to take them 1-0 up.



BARNSLEY ON FIRE

WRITTEN BY: Rowan L - Year 7



In the recent years, Barnsley FC have struggled in League One and last season they came agonisingly close to promotion. After a well-fought, energy-sapping season, Barnsley had reached the playoffs, and they were to play their huge rivals Sheffield Wednesday. After beating their rivals Sheffield Wednesday 4-2 and 2-0 in the championship previously, everyone thought it would be the same outcome...

Or would it?

The tension was high, the anticipation palpable: as the players walked out onto the emerald-green grass, Wembley erupted into overwhelmingly loud cheers. Ninety-thousand fans in attendance, Sheffield Wednesday VS Barnsley was about to begin...

Throughout the game it was clear both sides had their moments, but it still left the fans wanting some well-needed action.

Once ninety minutes was over, everyone thought the game was doomed for extra-time but four seconds before the whistle blew the ball was crossed with pinpoint accuracy into the Barnsley box; Josh Windass, Sheffield Wednesday player, leaped through the air, headed the ball and... SCORED!

Wembley erupted into cheers of Victory and the Barnsley fans were silenced by the sudden interruption.

Although, after that disappointing result against Sheffield Wednesday, they had determined that this season the trophy was to be theirs.

After this disgruntling defeat, Barnsley FC were determined to bounce back and go all the way.

First game of the season for Barnsley VS Cheltenham FC. It was a blistery, typical September day and Barnsley were playing away at Whaddon Road (Cheltenham FC stadium). As kick-off approached, the tension and excitement in the quaint stadium was unbearable.

Fifty-four minutes of intense and well-fought game time, Niki Cadden slipped the ball through the Cheltenham defence straight to Devante Cole's feet and he took a minute touch to side of the defender to take it onto his stronger foot: he struck the ball with venom, striking it with pure finesse. The ball curling, it pounded the back of the net. The travelling supporters (Barnsley Fans) erupted into loud, ear-piercing cheers. Cole passionately sprinted over to celebrate with the loyal fans.

Fourteen more days passed before the next game was to be played, although the fans eagerly awaited the next home game, at Oakwell, versus close rivals Burton.

As the players walked out onto the pitch the twenty-five thousand fans in attendance erupted into tumultuous applause and cheers.

BLACKPINK NEWS

WRITTEN BY: Amelia W

Who is blackpink?

Before we get into this question, we must first ask a different question. What is Blackpink? It is extremely hard to explain as a lot of people are not aware of the K-Pop girl group. So, let's have a look! Blackpink is a South Korean girl group that consists of the following members. Lisa, (Or her real name Lalisa Manobal) Jennie, (Or her real name Jennie ruby Jane) Jisoo, (Or her real name Kim Jisoo) Rose, (Or her real name Roseanne Park). They have a LOT of followers and are loved by the blinks (Their 'armies' name).

BLACKPINKS NEW SONG!

Blackpink's new song 'The Girls' has spread many questions throughout the Blinks due to Lisa's rap 'We paved the way'. Many K-POP fans do not believe that they have in fact 'paved the way' and think they are merely an extra in the K-POP world.

BLACKPINK'S QUEEN!



The new Blackpink Queen has finally been decided on between the blinks and finally they have decided on LISA as the new Queen of Blackpink with her spectacular moves and amazing vocals throughout the 7 years of Blackpink.

IS LISA MOVING TO A NEW GROUP?

Lisa from blackpink refused to sign the renewal contract from YG entertainment twice and one of the payments being \$41 million. But it is being rumoured that Lisa will join another group being offered \$81 million. But YG is publicly sharing who is renewing their contract between Rose, Jisoo, Jennie, and Lisa.

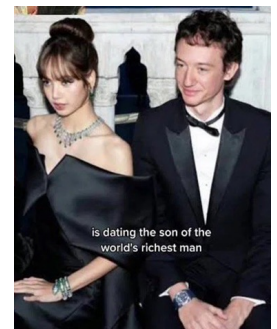
LISA'S PROFESSIONALISM OR BAD BEHAVIOUR!?

Many Blinks are questioning Lisa's loyalty to Blackpink or just bad behaviour. At a recent Blackpink concert a camera operator fell from about 6-7 steps while Lisa was performing her song 'Money'. While you would think that she checked on him or signalled a backstage member she did nothing. She instead continued to dance

and sing the songs. Many people are praising her professionalism while many are criticising her after the video went viral some people say, 'Hit hard'. But as we look at the camera footage of that man, she is worried but as he got up, she was unfazed. While this is a convincing argument from both sides. What are your thoughts?

LISA AND FEDRICK ARNOLD IN A RELATIONSHIP!?

Thai fans of Blackpink have 'reportedly' seen Lisa (From black, pink) on a boat with Fedrick Arnold (A CEO) On Chao Pry River with their parents accompanying them. Plus, they have been seen many times in Thailand enjoying each other's company. Although this could be a relationship, they could just be friends. But once again. Why would a CEO be with a K-POP idle?



BLACKPINKS ROLES

A lot of people wonder is an actual leader of Blackpink, and the answer is NO. This is because they all have different role and as a lot of people say 'They are all the leader and Queens'. But a lot of people want to know the actual roles of Blackpink members Jennie, Jisoo, Rose, and Lisa. So, here they are!

- Lisa- Main dancer
- Jisoo- Vocals
- Jennie- Main rap
- Rose- Main vocals

Fake views!? Fake comments!? Fake love!?

Many haters of Blackpink have been commenting on their recent videos saying how there is no way they could have and that it's all fake. This has got many Blinks wondering about what they have been seeing with Blackpink is all rumour to get them to like them and many Blinks have left because of this. This means that because of these simply false comments Blackpink is losing followers by the second and could eventually lose all their followers ending in them to eventually split up. This is VERY tragic. And I know this would be so devastating for the real blinks and it would leave them heartbroken.

TIKTOK MANIA

If you don't already know, TikTok is a worldwide short-form video viewing platform owned by Byte Dance in China. If you're still not familiar, you might have heard about the old (but still popular) software called Musical.ly from all the way back in 2014. It transformed into TikTok in 2018 and in a couple of months it overpowered all apps.

The start of TikTok

When TikTok was first catapulted into the world of social media, it was still Musical.ly. The platform had over 200 million users, everyone loved it, but as soon as it transformed into TikTok, this took social media to a whole new dimension. Out of nowhere, every single Musical.ly user became a TikTok user. Without any warning too! There was outrage as accounts with thousands and even millions of followers just turned into TikTok influencers.

Trends

As TikTok became increasingly more popular, so did the trends. Popular dances such as 'The Renegade' started to surface. 'Charli D'Amelio' is a great example of a celebrity who has found fame and fortune from the realms of TikTok! She filmed herself dancing to catchy songs and became exceedingly popular for it. D'Amelio is an American social media personality and dancer. Charli started her social media career in 2019 by posting dance videos on the video-sharing platform TikTok. She is one of the biggest stars on TikTok with over 150 million followers. In 2021, she was the highest-earning TikToker, making \$17.5 million from the app.

Interview with Miss McDermott

Do you know about TikTok and if so, where have you heard of it?

Yes, I have the app.

What are your thoughts on how TikTok is affecting our world?

It's a very influential platform and it has advantages and disadvantages about it. The positive things include that you can connect to people with the same interests as you and get inspired by things.

Have you experienced any changes with your student's behaviour due to TikTok?

Yes. The trends that they see and some of the language that they see, and they bring it into the classroom.

Do you know anyone (apart from students) that use TikTok?

Yes, my friends and family.

Do you think that TikTok should get banned?

It should be more closely moderated so that people can stay safer online and also make sure that they are seeing content that is appropriate for viewing purposes.

Why do you use TikTok?

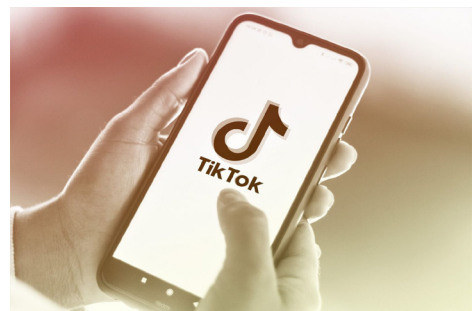
Because it helps bring suggestions and recommendations on things that I like such as book recommendations and travel ideas.

What are your thoughts on the bad trends?

They can be very dangerous, and they should be much more heavily moderated and that if you see one you should tell someone about it.

How often do you use TikTok?

I'll glance on it every day.



Conclusion

I hope that helps you decide if you want to still use or download TikTok! But in conclusion, TikTok is a double-edged sword; it can be a great platform for entertainment and creativity, but it can also be a breeding ground for misinformation and negativity. Just remember to stay safe online and use the appropriately and for entertainment purposes.

10 WAYS TO SAVE MONEY

WRITTEN BY: Ben B Year 7

We all know about the cost of living crisis. Food, electrical, gas and other bills are becoming unbearable for 91% of Britain. In this article, I shall examine some seemingly stupid means of saving money. Try them. They might ACTUALLY work! (DISCLAIMER: Beyond The Horizon cannot be held responsible for anything that is broken by these tips).

TOP TIPS

~To save water, you could add a brick to your toilet cistern! Apparently, this reduces the water used in flushing by a third.



~In the freezing months ahead, the central heating or the boiler will be on continuously. Slip on a couple of jumpers and turn the heating down.

~Several appliances, such as microwaves, may be plugged in constantly when they do not need to be. DO NOT do this as it will cause a rise in electricity bills.

~Don't travel at 70 miles per hour on the motorway. A journey at 50 miles per hour costs, on average, £1, whereas a journey at 70 raises the petrol bills by 50%.



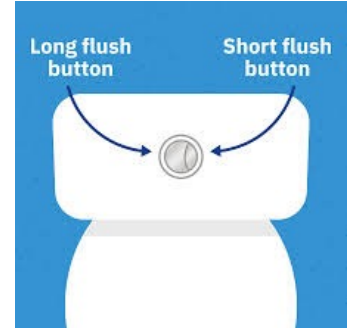
ABOVE: The most economical new petrol car, the Mazda 2. This high-spec version achieved 60 MPG.

~eBay. That scooter you said you'd learn to ride 6 years ago is worth £60. Do you really need it?

~Or even better, learn how to ride the aforementioned scooter and stop getting a lift to

School from your parents. This means fuel bills for the car go down and your parents can work more hours and get paid more.

~Equip your home with a dual flush toilet and save a hundred pounds a year, an investment that (on average) will pay itself back in less than two years! The large flush uses 6-9 liters at a time whereas the smaller flush uses just 3-4 liters.



~To save £90 pounds a year, fit your shower with a low-pressure shower head. This reduces the gas bills and the water bills.

~Simply turn off the tap when brushing your teeth to save £60 pounds a year.

~Fit a water meter-save hundreds of pounds a year. But be careful: if an abundance of water is used the bills will only rise.

Interview with Miss Hopkin

PRESS: Do you have any tips on saving water?

TEACHER: My number one tip would be to wash dishes by hand.

PRESS: Do you have any tips about saving gas?

TEACHER: Cook in bulk, for the week, instead of daily. Ensure the heating is off when no-one is home.

PRESS: What about electricity?

TEACHER: Use a shorter washing machine cycle and use renewable energy, such as wind turbines.

To summarize, there are multiple ways to save money. If the tips in this article are used, everyone will have more money to spend on holidays, gifts and more!

A YEAR 7'S NO-NONSENSE GUIDE TO SURVIVING SECONDARY SCHOOL!

WRITTEN BY: Matilda F - Year 7

Many new year 7s experience waves of emotion about secondary school: excitement; apprehension; anguish; sadness; and very often, the fear of change. We, as humans, value routine and when our routine is changed, we can react negatively. Secondary school is a colossal leap from Primary school, and it will feel like entering a new world.

I assure you; this is the normal way to feel.

The First Few Weeks:

As you settle in, you may get lost or forget your pencil, but I can assure you that your teachers will be lenient and understand why. Every single one of your teachers knows what to expect, as many will have seen year 7s much more nervous than you!

Bullying:

Something that is an area of concern for every student is bullying. It is important that we understand and recognise what bullying is and report it. Horizon has a specific and vigilant anti-bullying policy as well as advice if you are or someone you know is experiencing bullying. College is committed to ensuring that students feel safe and respected within school grounds, writing, "Bullying and peer-on-peer abuse of any kind is unacceptable at our college. If this does occur, all students should be able to tell someone and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively."

Friendships:

A large majority of students will also worry about friendships, building up those relationships and maintaining primary school friends. Making new friends may be easier for others than it is for you and that is okay. No matter how much us humans deny it, we crave human interactions and approval, and friends provide that. Sometimes friendships form naturally, like you and the other person sitting next to each other, and sometimes you need to speak to different people to build a connection. It is also likely that a friend from primary school will not be attending your school, and it is up to you if you stay in touch. However, if you do want to stay in touch with them yet they aren't reciprocating, then put yourself in their shoes and understand that they are adapting to their new school too. However, if they are

keeping in touch, arrange a time for you to meet! If you are struggling to connect with people, then maybe join an enrichment club and find people with the same interests as you.

The Work & Home-learning:

Another aspect that is often a cause of concern is the work and homework. The work you did at Primary school was often things that you fully understood or were given copious amounts of help with; like at any school, you will be given support - if necessary - yet it would be beneficial of you to read the work from another perspective. By that I mean, have another person or teacher read it back to you. If that method does not work, it would be useful for you to take a step back and try again. Another thing is homework: you will be set homework, and inevitably must do it, however, find a time (before the deadline) that suits you and focus on it properly. Home learning is significant in your learning and will genuinely help you improve your knowledge.

Mental Health:

School can be incredibly challenging and sometimes exhausting, therefore it is important that you try to sustain a positive and optimistic mind-set. Mental health is an exceptionally large part of us as human beings, and it is important that we prioritise it. If something feels overbearing, then it would be in your best interest to speak to a trusted person about it or speak to somebody at the well-being office, as they will provide support.

Summary:

School is a tsunami of emotions and ultimately it will feel different every day. However, it is essential that you remain yourself and do not allow it to dull your light.

FIRST TIME FEARS

An interview with Willow (year 7)

While at primary school, Willow said that her biggest worry about Secondary school was getting lost; she admitted that she did get lost within the first few weeks but has managed to find her way to her lessons now! On her transition day, she says that she felt more comfortable than before and managed to gather her surroundings. After the first few weeks, she began to feel more at peace and now, after half-term, she feels familiar with the school and its people. She now finds the idea of getting lost external and feels she has come further than she thought she would.

An interview with Harriet (year 7)

Harriet says a concern of hers, before coming to secondary, was the amount of work and home-learning she would be given. Upon attending secondary school, she says that it “really isn’t that much” in comparison to her preconceived perception. She admits that “Secondary school is a big jump compared to primary, however you will get used to it and succeed.”

