



It's time to write
a new chapter...

EDUCATION
Tute



Shelf Care
English Society



Half Term Four

Shelf Care English Society

Creative Writing, Creative Thinking

Believe
 in
 Yourself

trust your
JOURNEY

THE JOURNEY IS HARD, BUT THE VIEW IS WORTH IT.

**WHO
 AM I TO
 TELL
 YOU?**

YOUR passions.

YOU WANDER YOUR OWN LAND

March to April has been a very busy period for all of our students here at Tute. Our writing has reflected this too, as Spring is often the moment for change or the moment for trying something new. What are you doing to help define who you are? Make sure that, even in the busiest times, you make time for yourself to do something you love the most. You make time for your passions and hobbies and things that bring you the utmost joy. Have those moments of happiness because they can get us through any kind of day.

I HOPE YOU GET YOUR DREAMS

We are getting into a rhythm with Shelf Care for this edition. I think it is because we all need to resonate with something that might help us through the upcoming challenges that May and June might bring - so if you are studying for your GCSEs or A-Levels and you need to revise, make a playlist of all your favourite songs or some good background music. You can even use the melody to help you memorise and remember key things - that's how I passed my Spanish speaking and listening exam! Ask your teachers for top tips!

**GIRL, PUT
 YOUR
 RECORDS
 ON**

Tell me your favourite
 author



Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

MIA, KS3

The Fall Of The Blakes

In the middle of Hollywood, the Blake family are clutching for the life they have become accustomed to, but not all goes according to plan... With a financial struggle and a new way of life, the Blake family have to adjust to a small village called Pine Ridge. With no money and no income, how and will they survive...?

YUNA, KS4

Laughter and grinning faces light up the dark room, the gleeful expressions of fascinated children relaxing in every corner. A boy's face -partially obscured by a virtual reality headset- sits bright with childlike joy, absorbed in a fantastical world.

Fluorescent screens adorn the walls, painting the inky-black walls with a rainbow assortment of colours. Captivating games litter every visible surface, giving the darkened room an ethereal atmosphere.

A cacophony of colours lies across the screens, ranging from relaxing blues to neon hues of every shade. The monitors are framed with bright, lime greens, giving the children like windows to another world.

In contrast, the room itself is dim and pitch-black, illuminated solely by the glowing screens and lights that brighten the walls. A wonderful array of games dances across every surface, exhibiting a lively field of alluring colours. Most prominent, however, is the joyous way the place secretes childish innocence, delight and laughter.

HIDDEN VOICE, KS4

I can hear a lot of chattering because they are enjoying their time together. If they have been playing all day, they must be sweaty, and the children must be having a lot of fun. The feeling of the BR headset must be heavy because he is just a young boy. He is well-focused on the game that he is playing, and he must be really pleased with himself because he must have won a lot of game.



Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

JOSEPH, KS4

The need to win engulfs me, this game is comparable to an out-of-body experience. I am mesmerized by the vibrant and valiant colours, and the echoing snuffles of my classmates around me aggravate me, but I decide to pay it no attention.

In the snap of a finger, I lose consciousness and wake in a complete contrast of reality. "Wait a second, am I inside what I was just playing?" I query curiously to myself. The birds swoop in synchrony around me, and I feel the silky golden sand retreat from my feet as I work my way to a tree and cut it down like a lumberjack.

TESS, KS4

A cold green glow rippled through the room. The darkened room of the arcade had become submerged in a new reality: the stench of sweat began to radiate, squeals and howls punctuated each minute, and machines whirred, hot and bothered, worn down by the unrelenting clack of keys.

To its inhabitants, this was not an arcade room - instead, they were cornered by rolling mountains and deep forests, and icy castles and stubborn mazes. What they'd known as headsets moments before had now become heavy helmets, warm under the heat of the sun.

JAMES, KS4

A cold green glow rippled through the room. The darkened room of the arcade had become submerged in a new reality: the stench of sweat began to radiate, squeals and howls punctuated each minute, and machines whirred, hot and bothered, worn down by the unrelenting clack of keys.

To its inhabitants, this was not an arcade room - instead, they were cornered by rolling mountains and deep forests, and icy castles and stubborn mazes. What they'd known as headsets moments before had now become heavy helmets, warm under the heat of the sun.



Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

MIA, KS4

The fairly big computer screens, colourful and eye-catching, shimmer at its users, dragging them into their long gameplay, all stacked up next to each other, giving a wall of moving light, illuminating eyes. The smell of the wiring after being overheated all day, comes off of the monitors, though the mostly children that play, don't pay attention as they are sucked into the pixelated worlds made, not darting an eye on the other half dozen distracting rectangular screens.

MAX, KS4

All around, the smell of excitement and anticipation entered my nose, sharp and electric, mingling with the faint scent of fresh popcorn.

I could see children, a whole row of them, engrossed by the screens ahead. All eyes facing forward, they didn't even notice that their bodies were tense with focus, leaning in towards the glowing rectangles, completely lost in their digital worlds.

I heard the faint click of buttons, the occasional cheer, and the muttered words of excitement, but the overwhelming silence of concentration enveloped them.

It sounded like the hum of machines and the tap-tap-tap of fingers against controllers, a rhythm that almost seemed to blend with the flickering lights.

Then I noticed the boy with the VR headset on. He seemed utterly disconnected from the world around him, his every movement guided by the game. To me, it looked like he was battling something only he could see, dodging, ducking, and weaving with intense concentration.

His headset felt like a second skin, wrapped tightly around his head, weightless yet firmly holding him in his immersive reality. It was the same colour as midnight blue, sleek and futuristic.

Then I saw the colourful screens and all of the flashing, neon-like graphics on them. They illuminated the faces like strange, glowing masks, casting an eerie glow on their expressions—both tense and ecstatic at the same time.



Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

HARRY, KS4

The First Shriek: Flash Fiction

In a remote village of Ireland, a mother and her child live in peace. They pass the time by combing each other's hair.

Then, the child suddenly disappears. The mother shrieks, turns around, and sees a man fall to the ground, dead. Then, she hears the shout, 'Killer.'

She looks out, and everyone is outside, preparing to chase, or kill, her. She runs for her life, out of the village, out of sight. She now lives on a lone hill, shrieking out into the empty surroundings.

The last thing they see is her combing her hair, before they see black ...

CHLOE, KS4

The sea was crashing and thrashing against the rocks in an angry manner, creating a spray of water that climbed the side of them. The waves reflecting the light in the most magical way, creating moments of pearly white but always coming back to the familiar blue. The sea's deep blue colour was mysterious, leaving you wondering what was occurring underneath it.

The greenery hung over the edge of the sea, dipping in and out when the breeze got strong. They swayed in the wind, dancing with each other. Creating a sense of peace against the rough crashing and thrashing of the waves. The cliffs were enormous, towering over the water, making even the largest trees look minuscule. They were rough and jagged after years of erosion, making them look worthy of being so magnificent.

Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

JESS, KS4

The scar was haunting: torturing her of a chaotic past that no longer can stay hidden. Her face revealed secrets, secrets her mouth couldn't expose, concealed like a whisper in the wind.

LIBBY, KS4

I stand almost frozen, my eyes looking in the direction of the large screen in front of me but unfocused. Some guy is lurking next to me, asking me whether I prefer Xbox, PC, or PlayStation, but all I can focus on is the coffee he drank this morning hitting my nose. The parent next to me is trying to listen to her son enthusiastically explain the game in front of us and how all his friends at school love it, all whilst tending to a screaming toddler. I feel like the world around me is spinning as I feel my throat tighten, my hands becoming damp with sweat, and my hair sticking to the back of my neck. I let out a dry cough, my tongue feeling dry as I realise I haven't drunk anything in hours, only adding to my dissociation. Get me out of here.

ISLA, KS4

Gazing over the chilling water rippling as if it's cheering for the show, you can hear the whistling tune and roaring crowds of the circus. Illuminating the abyssal sky stands a radiant, towering tent with beams of lights slicing through the dense, inky sky. You smell the rich aroma of sweet and savoury food swirling in the air, enough to lure anyone in. As you move closer, the warm air wraps around you as if it's inviting you in to come see the show.





Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

CHLOE, KS4

The luminescent lights moved around in swirling patterns occasionally reflecting off the tall peaks of the circus tent. The way they were lined up along the entrance gave it the most welcoming and enticing effect making you wonder what was behind those colossal doors. The London eye was rhythmically spinning in the background, gleaming when the light hit it, but it was nothing compared to the magnificence of the tent. Its soaring white and red peaks gave it a classic and old fashioned look that automatically fills everyone with a sense of anticipation and joy. The clear night sky was shining with specs for white flashing through it making everything more magical.

You could hear the melody of children laughing and chatting in the background as they waited to enter the tent. It was an intense and rowdy environment with children running around and the circus music booming out of the tent. Yet it was a beautiful noise to be surrounded by. Although it may be overwhelming this is what made the circus irresistible.

All around you there was an overriding smell of the city and its pollution. The river was producing unpleasant smells of sewer and rubbish mixed together and the cars were giving off the most awful petrol smell yet as you walked closer to the tent it all changed. There was suddenly the sweet smell of popcorn and delicious smell of freshly made cotton candy. They created an overwhelming feeling of calm, leading to you becoming totally overwhelmed by the smells of the circus.

Walking into the tent all you can feel is the humid air around you. Its hot and stuffy environment leaves you feeling sticky and uncomfortable but is worth it to see the magic of the circus. Picking up a cold drink was the most relieving feeling as the numbing temperature of the can was a shock to your hands. The coldness of the drink was welcomed as the feeling of icy cold can in your hands would leave you feeling refreshed.



Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

JAMIE, KS4

As I stared off into the dark distance, I saw the great circus. Standing in all its glory, the balloons waving at me to come towards as it towered next to Big Ben. The smells of fresh popcorn seemed to grab me and take me towards this empire. As I stood there staring, the sounds of children's laughter drowned out any other noises that could've been heard. The circus looked like it was shot with multiple vibrant colours. Just looking at the circus was enough to make you want to beg the person with you to go to this wonderland and have fun. The sky was dark, and clouds loomed over most of London, however, that was hardly noticeable when you are standing in front of something that came out of children's dreams.

However, the circus lights started to flicker almost as if they were running out of power in this mammoth-sized building. The sounds of screaming scratched at my ears, forcing me to cover them with my hands. There were huge groups of people all storming out of the tent and running in various directions, blinding my sight. I jumped to the floor to try and compose myself and think of a way to escape this rampage of people. It started to pour down with rain. The rain slightly drowned out the noise of the screaming, therefore, allowing me to take my hands off my ears; however, the only thing I could taste was the cold and dirty rainwater.

People trampled over others to get away from the circus, almost as if they were being chased. Perplexed, I walked closer to the circus to see what all this commotion was about.

Then I saw it.

I turned and sprinted in the direction of everyone else, trying to find the nearest train station so I could leave this horrible place. I don't even remember most of what happened after, as my adrenaline consumed me, and it all just feels like a dream - but this was real... I know it was. I saw it with my own eyes: people stamping on people to get away, climbing up London bridge, hoping that it didn't get them. The circus was never seen again in London, almost as if it had moved to another area to capture more victims.



Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

RUBY, KS3 (PAGE 1 OF 4)

Once upon a time, a few hundred years ago, there lived a teenage girl called Rosey in a cottage by the sea. Her parents were at home, but she loved to explore. You see, she was a girl who loved to be wild; she loved to sing loudly and dance along too, she loved to make art, you see, that was her speciality.

"She's remarkable" her friend said to a bully at school, who made fun of her art and said it was as much as a toddler could do. But a boy called Michael, he said to Sheila "Well if you don't like it and Rosey's friend (called Evie) likes her art well then let's make a vote and I will be in it too! And just to make it fair"

He shouted to Jack, his best friend, "HEY Jack come over here we're doing a vote and to make it fair, we need you to vote too!"

Jack shouted back and said, "I'll be there in a second mate!"

As Jack sidled over, Rosey blushed behind Evie as this whole voting thing was totally unnecessary. When Jack finally reached them, Michael said, "Okay Jack, you need to stand next to either person you agree with, which are: Rosey, who says her art is good, or Sheila, who says Rosey's art is bad, which person do you agree with?"

As soon as Michael finished saying the word 'bad', he went over and stood by Rosey. Jack then did his vote and also stood by Rosey and, of course, you know which side Evie chose.

Michael then said "Looks like you're outvoted, Sheila!" Sheila looked angrily at all of them and she stomped off.

Rosey finally said, "You... you didn't need to do that you know..."

Michael just gave her a cheeky grin and said "Well, I did, I can't wait until the summer holidays, I heard Sheila has to go to summer camp. Imagine that! A whole summer without a single nasty word coming out of her mouth for once!" They all laughed.



Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

RUBY, KS3 (PAGE 2 OF 4)

Evie said, "Bet I can beat you at a swimming race at the weekend though."

"Haha, I'd like to see you try! To me, you're practically known as Mrs Sloth!" said Jack, laughing again.

At the weekend, Rosey was sitting outside her house sketching the beach as Jack, Michael, and Evie came up the hill.

"Heya there," said Jack, they all had towels with them as they reached her.

Evie said, "Hey instead of drawing the beach, why don't we go down to the beach and swim in it? My aunty gave me a whole 10 pounds we can have ice cream!"

"Ok," said Rosey; she jumped up and picked up her towel, grabbed her money, ran in the kitchen and told her mother she was going to the beach. She gave her a hug and then ran down the hill with her friends.

After they had set up on the beach, they ran up to the shore and tried to swim up to the rocks that were further out but, when Rosey tried to climb up, she slipped and cut her leg. She cried out in pain as the rock cut her and tears brimmed her eyes.

Michael heard her and swam round the rock to her ,and asked her what was wrong. She said tearfully, "I hurt my self against the rock" and turned to show him the badly bleeding cut. As she moved her leg slightly, she winced because it hurt.

Michael said to her, "Are you going to be ok to swim back? That cut looks nasty!"

"Yes, I can swim back..." Rosey replied.

"Wait," said Michael, "Let me go get the floaty from shore, then you can lay on that and I will push you back - that way when we get back to shore, I can take one of the buckets and run to the tap by the supermarket, on the board walk, and then we can make sure it's clean."



Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

RUBY, KS3 (PAGE 3 OF 4)

"That seems quite a lot of fuss though," she said.

"It's fine, wait there a second!"

Once he went back to shore, Rosey started to climb down the rock to the sea. Suddenly, a big wave splashed up the rock and she lost her grip and she fell off the rock. As she splashed down into the sea, she kept her eyes open under the water and she saw the coral reef just a few millimetres away and many fish as well as... legs? And a plastic float? They were hovering above. 'Well this could only be Michael,' she thought, as she swam back up to the rock. She clambered out onto the floaty breathlessly.

"Big wave...knocked me off my feet...I need air..." she panted. As she lay there, the waves were buffeting the sides a little; the sound of other children laughing rang through her ears and, as she sat up and looked across the sea into the dark abyss, nothing but the vast ocean met her eyes.

She felt the bump as the floaty hit the shore and she clambered up. Michael helped her get to where they had set up. The sand was hot, and the towels were warm, they had brought extra towels, just in case someone got wet cold. Phew! Michael picked up two of them and put them around the cut on Rosey's leg. Bits of grain from the sand was dotted around it, dried bits of salt stuck to her leg too as Micheal poured the cold water on it and washed it with the wipes he had bought, then he dried it and then grabbed a few notes of money from the beach bag and headed off in the direction of the pharmacy.

Rosey watched him go wandering what he was getting. He soon came back with a box of plasters and a bag of gumballs; she laughed as he approached.

"Really?" she laughed, "Gumballs?"

"What? They're tasty!" said Michael as she laughed again. He called over the water to Evie and Jack.

Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

RUBY, KS3 (PAGE 4 OF 4)

" GUYS I GOT GUMBALLS, COME GET 'EM BEFORE THEY'RE ALL IN MY TUMMY!" he shouted, grinning at Rosey. 'What was this?' she thought, it felt like she had butterflies in her tummy and it definitely was not the gumballs.

She looked at Michael again - there was that feeling again - she decided to forget about it, for now, as she took the box of plasters from beside the picnic basket and opened them. She got one out and put it on her cut, then she stood up and grabbed her purse, feeling much better.

She said to Evie, who had just got back to where they had set up, "I'm going to get some Coca Cola cans from the gas station, we forgot to bring drinks!"

I'll come too," said Michael.

As they walked across the beach, they climbed the stairs up to the boardwalk. As she was crossing the road, a car came hurtling round the corner and the distant sound of police sirens sounded. Michael grabbed her hand and dragged her back just as the car sped past the place she was just standing. Rosey, breathing fast, stood there shocked.

"Lets go?" said Michael.

"Yeah..." Rosey agreed.





Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

BROOKE, KS4 (PAGE 1 OF 2)

Red Pandemonium?

Picture this: the end of an era for not just red pandas but for all the animal kingdom. Corpses spread around a desolate field of mud, dread, and sorrow. How do you think your children would feel knowing there's no life outside of their window in the morning? This will become the reality. This is now the time to act. Now or never.

We have ruined a species. Humans have used red pandas to their advantage. We have reduced their species by 50,000 since 1904 to present time (there are only 10,000 left in the wild) the reason why their population has gone down so drastically is due to: traditional Chinese remedies and herbs; their distinctive red fur; and hotter climates leading to unhealthy living spaces for the red pandas to thrive. You can help make this big change in our society by calling +44 07339054552.

Red pandas are so popular, they are known for their cute and cuddly appearance, and losing their whole species would become a tragedy. 40% of red pandas are poached for human dress attire, isn't that just despicable? Due to us humans using greenhouse gases, we have made their environment uninhabitable; these adorable creatures are struggling to find food sources because of our actions. Recently, I have had the opportunity to visit Gretta Morgan, she has a lot to say about the red panda catastrophe. She said, "By 2042, if us humans don't stop the poaching and destruction of wildlife for the red pandas, they will succumb to their demise."

How would you feel if you were struggling to find food due to it being completely contaminated by greenhouse gases? How would you feel if your family were dying when this could've all been completely avoided? How would you feel if your home used to be a luscious land of greenery and now is crumbling into ashes everywhere you go? I'll say it again, us humans have ruined life on earth, especially nature's cutest and most cuddly creature. This is our wrongdoing, now we must face the consequence.

Student Spotlight

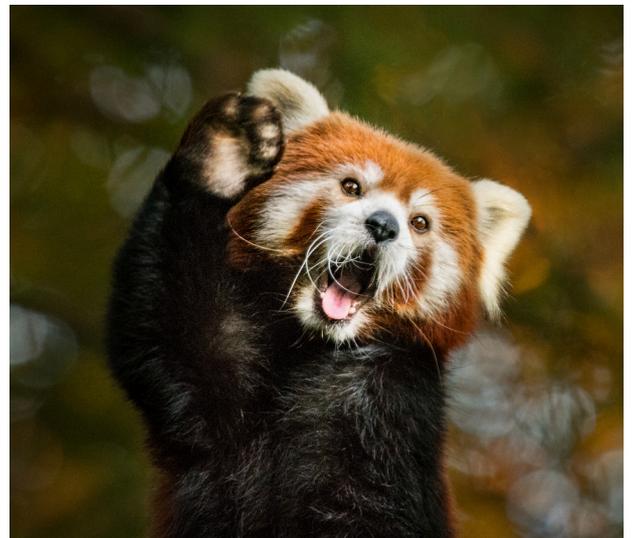
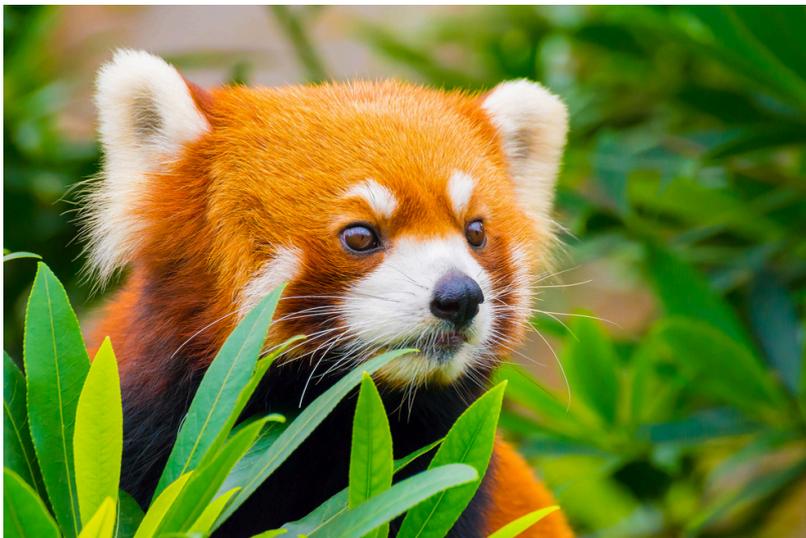
What have you been doing?

BROOKE KS4 (PAGE 2 OF 2)

I have encountered many endangered species in my lifetime, but never have I seen one as precious and lively as the red panda. Seeing them struggle now makes my heart ache; their own mothers can't care for them due to them being too weak to climb up high trees to become safe from predators down below the canopy. I've seen it with my own eyes, and it is truly something I wouldn't ever want to experience again. You can help the Red Panda Organisation by donating just £1 to our funding towards housing red pandas at our facility.

Some people may say that red pandas aren't as important as other endangered species and do not need the extra charity and support. However, from my understanding, red pandas contribute to helping the ecosystem by building homes that other creatures could live in, therefore making red pandas just as important as any other species.

Picture this: When you wake up in the morning, you'll hear the soothing sound of birds humming their morning chorus. When you wake up, you'll see succulent, fleshy leaves swaying in the wind. When you wake up, you'll know that the animal kingdom, including our precious red pandas, has been restored by your actions. How does that sound? Now's your time to make that happen, contact us! We are waiting for your call.



Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

NATALIE, KS4 (PAGE 1 OF 2)

Inside the exam hall, Jane's pen stays still in her quivering hand. The other students don't notice her trembling – or perhaps they just do not care – as their pens rapidly scratch against their exam papers as they frantically write; Jane can see the anxiety in their dark eyes flickering like candlelight. From its lofty place on the grey wall, the clock produces an irritable tick-tock noise – an imminent reminder that time is steadily running out. Jane should be writing. She stares down (vision misty with tears) at the exam paper laid before her; the black words on the white page twist and shift until they melt into an incomprehensible blur that maliciously mocks her stupidity. Pressure hangs over Jane like an executioner's sword; she can't disappoint her parents. They want her to succeed and aim for the stars, eventually becoming one of them, blazing radiance streaking weightlessly across the ebony sky. However, Jane feels heavy. An unbearable weight – her family's unrealistic expectations and the stress that has siphoned all her energy – drags her down, down, down into the earth's embrace where an early grave patiently waits.

Jane's story is just one of many; a singular drop of water in an ocean of misery. All over the world children find themselves crushed under exam stress. In a survey done by Childline, 96% of respondents said that they felt anxious about exams. This statistic is completely unacceptable; the young minds (overflowing with untapped brilliance) of this generation shouldn't be smothered by stress and pressure. Instead of on weeping students' desk, exams belong to one place and one place only; a hellscape of eternal torture, agony and suffering – personally tailored for its unlucky visitors – that goes by the name of Room 101.





Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

NATALIE, KS4 (PAGE 2 OF 2)

Let me share a series of worrying statistics: 59% of children claimed that pressure from their parents impacted their results, 82% of teachers believe that exams negatively impact their students and 62% of students don't receive any support for their rapidly declining mental health. Even I have struggled to cope with the stress of taking exams. I find myself increasingly irritated and overwhelmingly sad. Often, I can't sleep at night, lying awake until midnight, mind squirming with worries – just like Jane. As I stated previously, these stories and statistics are outrageous. How can we, year after year after year, subject our children to the horrors of exams with a clear conscience?

Only one solution will fix this; banishing exams to Room 101. Abolishing exams will ensure the happiness of our children; one day, without the weight of exams hanging over their heads, they can become vibrant stars – flying across the black sky – and inspire the future generations to shine just as bright. Myself, Jane and millions of students scattered across the wide world will finally be able to rest at night knowing that exams are locked safely and securely in the screaming nightmare that is Room 101.

TESS, KS4

It's calm by the riverside. Trees dance, encouraged by the breeze, and the ripples along the river cradle the reflections. Plastic debris floats along- wait, how did that get there?

Animals deserve an environment where they can live in peace. Where they can rest uninterrupted and lap at lakes without our waste creeping towards them. It is our responsibility to provide them with this - but instead, we're only making the situation worse.

It is imperative that this changes.

It is estimated that around 35% of people regularly litter. That means around 35% of YOU reading this article are part of the problem.

Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

KS3 STUDENT SNIPPETS



CHLOE

My dog jumped up with his leash in his mouth, dropped it on my lap, wagging his tail. Once his leash was on, we stepped outside into the beautiful sunny day and locked our door. We saw beautiful flowers and bugs and skipped along the beach excitedly.

ARJELO

The cheerful pup trotted along the winding path, tail wagging like a flag of joy. The crisp breeze carried the scent of blooming flowers, while playful barks echoed through the sunny park. Every step felt like an adventure, as both dog and owner basked in the simple delight of their walk together.

NATASHA

So I set off, locked the door, and went. My head was in the clouds and dreaming about the dogs next door.

Whilst being dragged down this narrow pathway, there was Sarah. Sarah is the one nobody talks to, so when she starts, she won't stop. I crossed. However, she crossed! I panicked. My dog stepped out into the road and I shouted, "BENNY!!!"

WILLOW

The man walked his dog through the dog park, its yellow lead being an equal contrast to the beautiful landscape of the park. There were dogs catching balls, eating treats, and being silly. The man got some treats out of his pocket, fresh chicken-flavoured doggo bones, and threw one at the dog, and off it chewed the bone in bliss. The young girl quickly prepared her dog supplies and grabbed her pomsy called Pompom, and off she went. She then put Pompom on a lead and let her grab some flowers in her mouth. They then went to the doggy treat shop and bought some toys for it to play with, and they went to a field, where they played together.

Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

KS4 STUDENT SNIPPETS

MAX

The sky is dominated by dark, swirling storm clouds, their deep shades of grey and black creating a dramatic, ominous atmosphere. The clouds seem to churn and twist, as if preparing for a downpour, with occasional tempered flashes of light breaking through the storm.

MILEY

The clouds slowly sneaked across the sky- fighting the sun for dominance. They spilled out like blood, striking fear for everyone below. They looked the colour of smoke thickening the air with darkness and distress, breaking their way into everyone's happiness, stripping away the light.

CALLUM

The dark cloud slowly passed across the sky, almost fighting for the centre of attention. As the cloud got closer, the sky began to blacken, almost as if we were being caged in! It was trying to corner us like a narcissist.

YUNA

Bright neon lights bloom in the brilliant black night, a tremendous stage framed with a rainbow of colours against the dark sky. I stand tall upon my podium, arms spread wide and chest puffed with pride. High on endorphins, I bask in the glory of my victory. Gleeful as can be, my grin sits high on my face, straining my cheeks with pain that I ignore with ease. 'Nothing can stop me,' I think, feeling as proud as a lion as I stand before a crowd of roaring fans.



Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

WORLD BOOK DAY! STUDENT SNIPPETS - LIVE LEARNING

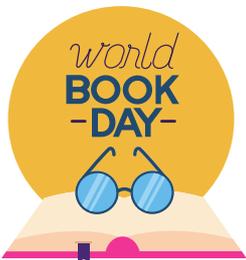
Happy World Book Day!



First of all, I'd get the dogs to bite her ankles. Miss Trunchbull will jump up and down. Harry Potter will cast a spell and a dinosaur will appear. The dinosaur will rip out her neck. He'll then transfigure her into a slimy toad. Spiderman will fill the Chokey up with his web. The dog will drag Miss Trunchbull into the Chokey by her legs. Slam the door! Spiderman locks her in by wrapping his web around the cupboard. The Cowardly Lion will find her key and eat it. Dorothy will hold everyone's hands and take them home by clicking her heels. They lived happily ever after. The End.

What would happen if fictional characters came to life and had to defeat a fictional villain?

In the depths of the woods in a castle is Dracula, wreaking havoc among the village is what he does best. However, Spiderman, Robin Hood, Livesly & Hawkins and Gandalf have had enough. The morning struck - 8am and with Dracula asleep they devise a plan. One that shall surely work. Spiderman with his web will be close combat keeping him down for as long as possible, Robin Hood shooting garlic rubbed mountain ash arrows, Livesly to help with any harm that may occur and Jim who will hire more people(pirates) to help out clearing the missing portion ,close combat, keeping it a fight rather than a defence. As for Gandalf - he's the most powerful and he's there in case it starts going wrong as he can summon any magic source, any energy from his wand at the cost of his energy, his knowledge should be the powerful force to defeat Dracula and put him back to sleep once and for all.



Our line up against Darth Vader:
Ironman
Mario and Luigi
Scooby Doo
Link

Set in space on a planet similar to Greenland (very icy).

Scooby Doo would sit on him. *
Mario uses his plunger to take off Darth Vader's helmet. Mario realises it is his other brother (Tony) under the helmet. **

Tony tries to make a break for it to get his pasta gun by distracting Scooby with snacks.

Mario and Luigi put a pipe up his nose. Iron Man shoots a beam into Tony/Darth Vader's nose. Link does a backflip then uses his sword skills to attack Tony/Vader like a sous chef. Link turns him into sashimi

Scooby eats the scraps and the mask (which he secretly does at the end of every Scooby Doo episode).

*Darth Vader yells "Yoinks, Scoob!"

**Tony says, "I would have got away with it if it weren't for you meddling kids!"

How we defeat

tear lain?



Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

COLLABORATION CORNER - SUPERHEROES!

World Book Day Superhero Fictional Battle!

Special thanks go to its KS3 authors: Freddie, Gwen, Dora, Ella and Kieran.

It was a blustery March day when Dora reminded her teacher that her World Book Day story should be ready for publishing. "Yes, Dora: here is it! Your group story is better than any Marvel film. Congratulations!"

Freddie whooped with excitement as he announced that his hero would set alight an army of undead soldiers and send them charging at the enemy whilst raining fireballs from above. The power of Freddie's magic was unleashed!

Yoda had been elected to lead the team of feline warriors on their mission! If the heroes could succeed, the Squid Sisters would make a special appearance (on account of Dora being a fan.)

'Pyramid shaped bomb full of paint!' was Freddie's mode of attack. Yoda's side kick, Link, was more than capable to making the enemy suffer with this dastardly plan!

Things came to a terrifying conclusion, one bleak, fog-soaked night, when the Joker was making his way along a narrow path next to a canal. Behind a wall lurked a heroic gang including Yoda and Link. They were biding their time... waiting for their moment to strike...

The Joker coughed and gave away his exact location. The heroic team pounced, a few of them holding him down as the rest of them just spammed their attacks.





Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

COLLABORATION CORNER - SUPERHEROES!

World Book Day Superhero Fictional Battle!

Special thanks go to its KS3 authors: Freddie, Gwen, Dora, Ella and Kieran.

Meanwhile, co-writers, Dora and Gwen, despaired at Freddie's violent means of dealing with the enemy. Gwen proposed that they use therapy instead and Dora concurred, suggesting that Hello Kitty might make an excellent counsellor. Gwen also wisely added that they were probably neuro-diverse!

But unfortunately, Freddie had other ideas. 'Just have Link slice him up,' Freddie said.

In Freddie's fantasy, he invited us to imagine: a bunch of balloons and confetti... The Joker floated up into the sky and then he fell back down and got turned into a pile of mushy guts. Alternatively, the villain could get shot with a high-power confetti cannon. Take your pick!

Following a frenzy of violent possibilities, Dora restored calm (momentarily) by suggesting a more respectful fate for our enemy: 'Shouldn't we give cat joker back to the owner?'

Ultimately, our amazing World Book Day writers decided on a grisly end for our Joker's evil antics...

Freddie insisted: "Kill the Joker... No reviving." Freddie pursued the more violent option: "Public execution. Use confetti, just to celebrate his death."

Dora suggested prison.

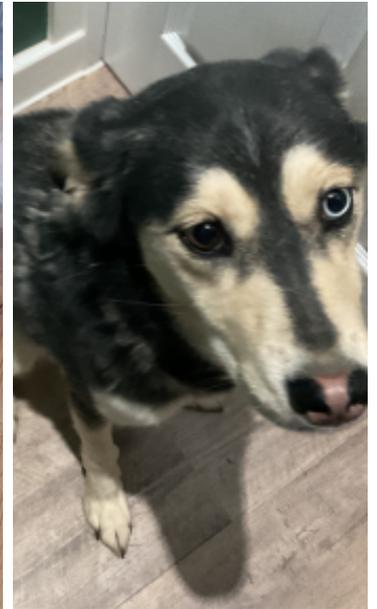
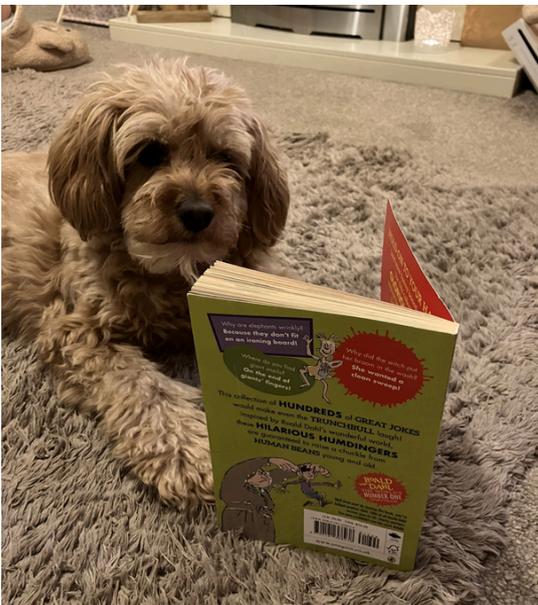
Ellie ended their disagreement, declaring that they would kill the Joker. And the Squid Sisters sang their triumphant tune (as Dora hoped they would!)

The End!

Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

WORLD BOOK DAY!



This was an EPIC World Book Day this year.
 Our prompt was: If Your Pets Could Read, What Books Would They Choose?
 Here are just a few of your pets who enjoyed World Book Day!
 Thank you for sending them in!



Awareness Check



Respect Check

HIDDEN VOICE, KS3

A student's views on respecting our differences

Can you think of important boundaries or rules of yours?

Don't invade people's privacy; this might include someone invading your space, touching your stuff, asking too many questions etc.

Right now, I blame Trump for worsening misunderstanding; he said he was going to change the LGBTQ to LGB. It's not his decision! It is so unfair; it makes me want to say to Donald Trump: 'Mind your own business, Orange.' (I call him 'Orange,' because he does a stupid tan thing and it makes him look wild!)

Do you think PEOPLE NEED TO EARN RESPECT?

Yes, if you can't show it, then why have it?

Some people say 'Everyone has a right to be treated with respect.' Do you agree?

If they're not a bad person, then yes.

Respect means being truthful and accepting.

Respect and tolerance should involve being nice to someone no matter if they are male, female, nonbinary etc.

Think about it, trans people should be better respected and understood too, because they're still human; they're just not the *right* gender. A lot of trans people go from nonbinary to transgender.

I know many people who are trans having changed their gender, but people don't always understand it. Disrespectful people should mind their business.

No matter what our gender, race, homosexuality, religion etc, no one should be disrespected.



Analytical Angle

What are student's writing in their essays and how could it help YOU with your GCSEs?



TESS, KS4 - LANGUAGE PAPER 2, QUESTION 4

'Compare how the two writers convey their perspectives on the harmful effects of gaming.'

There is a clear juxtaposition between the sources. Whilst source A intends to caution people on the risks of gaming, source B draws from the positives. This may be due to the contexts of the texts: source A was written before the Covid pandemic, where gaming wasn't as likely to be used for social interaction, whereas source B was written at the height of the pandemic, when video games provided a safe means of social interaction.

The view that gaming is 'a harmless escape from reality' is addressed immediately in source A. However, connotations of obliviousness in the phrase 'escape from reality' are utilised as this view is contrasted with the introduction of 'gaming disorder.' This is escalated with the use of an anecdote: a public figure describes their experience of gaming addiction as a way to avoid 'confronting the real issue at hand.' The use of an anecdote adds to the pathos in the text through its personal nature, emphasising the real harm gaming can create and building reliability by showing consensus with a well-known figure.

In contrast, source B focuses on the positive impact gaming can have: here, gaming is described as 'calm,' 'relaxing,' and as an 'outlet.' This is furthered by the use of an expert opinion- a figure from Oxford University remarks that gaming builds social connection, handing 'a sense of choice,' over to players. Furthermore, an opposing opinion is addressed- 'we've heard the headlines, playing video games can lead to poor mental health. Just as in source A, this is soon countered- 'according to a new study...there are more benefits to their mental health.' This immediate recognition of a conflicting view, followed by a clear counter-argument, shuts down any doubt or concerns of bias the reader may have. It reinforces the reliability of the text as it indicates the viewpoint of the text is a result of a thorough assessment of a variety of perspectives.



Vocabulary Vacation



Don't be basic. Say what you mean!

Truculent - Have a fierce, savage nature

Unabashed - Not embarrassed.

Pulchritudinous - Beautiful or attractive.

Puissant - Powerful.

Untoward - Inconvenient.

Sybarite - Someone who indulges in luxury.

Panache - Distinctive and stylish elegance.

Inundate - Flooded.

Hubris - An overbearing pride.

Arrant - Complete and wholly.

To say that James was anything but an **arrant** narcissist would be a lie. The man was **truculent** in nature and **unabashed** about it. He didn't see that he was being **untoward** in his requests for **panache** - he saw it as a must to maintain his status of being a **sybarite** in the modern world. His **hubris** fell from his vanity - he had always been told he was **pulchritudinous** and that made him feel **puissant**, and therefore he felt the world should acknowledge that, so if he wasn't **inundated** with compliments, he wasn't happy.



How can I find more?



It is time to be curious! Time to be a logophile and adopt an interest and a love for words. But what can you do to naturally expand your vocabulary?

- Play word games, like Wordle!
- Listen to songs, TV shows, and movies, and keep an ear out for any interesting words that you haven't heard before.
- Look at synonyms.
- Be curious and follow Words of the Week.
- Read, read, read!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoNMDoX90gU>



Coming Soon

On your Tute radar



MAY - JUNE

Shelf Care continues to be growing to be bigger and better and even more fantastic, and we love every single moment on it here in the English Department.

Is there anything you would like to see more of? This issue is very reflective after all, so why not share with us what you would like to see more of?

Remember, you can write about absolutely ANYTHING you want to. Shelf Care is an outlet for you as a writer, so when we receive your stories, series, poems, and awareness writing pieces - we love them! But don't let that stop you. We also love to see your drama pieces, your essays, your brilliant work in or out of class... The list could go on.

For this month, to inspire you and start a break from writer's block, we are challenging you with 'Look to the Future'. We have spoken a lot about time and how we would spend it, but what would you look to the future for? And how can you compare it to a piece of history? Write about your take on the future, a dystopian or utopian, an article on future technological advances, a gripping poem about Sci-Fi - the sky is the limit.

UNIQUE FACTS

Dogs tilt their heads when you speak to them to better pinpoint familiar words.

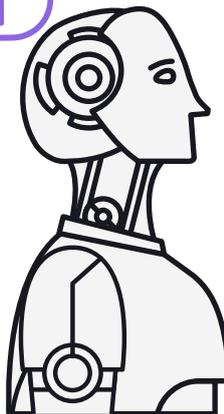
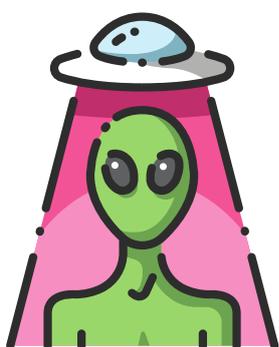
Fish form orderly queues in emergencies.

The Universe's average colour is called 'Cosmic latte'

The Sun makes a sound but we can't hear it.



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT



Shelf Care English Society
May June

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE THIS HALF TERM WITH OUR THEME:
THE FUTURE

DISCUSS AND EXPLORE FUTURE TECHNOLOGY OR WHAT THE FUTURE MAY HOLD OR
OR
CREATE A PIECE OR SCI-FI OR DYSTOPIAN WRITING.

submissions due on:
may 30th 2025

Shelf Care English Society

Creative Writing, Creative Thinking

Believe
 in
 Yourself

trust your
JOURNEY

NEXT EDITION: MAY - JUNE

**THE MOST
 BEAUTIFUL
 THING YOU
 CAN EVER
 SPEND.**

You have time to be.

**TIME ON YOUR SIDE, IT WILL NEVER
 END.**

What does time mean to you? In a world where we have, supposedly, all the time, how do you best spend it? It can feel as though time is running out this year as we enter Half Term 5 and rapidly approach the end of the academic year, so before we look ahead to summer and wish our time away, what do you want to do with it? What do you want to achieve? Spend that time wisely and do something that makes your time worthwhile. Be a time being.

DON'T STOP BELIEVING!

At this point in the year, we love to remind you that you should hold on to those beliefs you have. Keep climbing that mountain. Keep persevering when the going gets tough. Don't stop - stopping slows your momentum, and you need that the most to keep moving forward over whatever is thrown your way. Good luck with whatever is on the horizon for you, and if there is nothing yet, then believe and dream, and then achieve and beam! We believe in you!

**HOLD ON TO
 THAT
 FEELING!**

You can do this!