

Sixth Form Gazette

Easter Edition 2023

Our second newsletter edition of academic year 2022-2023 compiled by our Sixth Form students, ranging from a variety of topics from the Olympic Games, news about Easter and a quiz!



Should Team GB compete in the winter Olympics or should funds go towards winning in the summer Olympics?

By Jack Hetherington

Team GB despite coming from a large fund and training facilities have only won 32 medals since 1896, however in the summer Olympics they've collected a huge 950 medals ranging from bronze to gold. This begs the question: Should team GB solely focus on the summer Olympics to maximise the number of medals and possibly be even more successful?

Eddie 'the eagle' Edwards is now a household name following his famous run in the 1988 winter Olympics being the first British ski jumper, he placed last but inspired the UK to continue to compete. Despite this he has still said 'too much money is being spent with limited results... the UK is not a winter country' and that 'it's impossible to compete with the Austrians, the Swiss, the Germans'. A total of just over £24 million was spent on the last winter games, of which only got the UK 6 medals.



For the next winter games in 2026 in Milan and Cortina over £28 million has been given to Team GB in funding, this figure rising from the last games, is this all worth it? Well one could argue its all necessary and these are fundamental steps needed to push Britain towards doing the impossible – competing against winter nations – and going for gold every year. This same argument could be applied to the three lions who haven't won a major title since 1966. If football is still going pushing for trophies then why can't Team GB continue to push for gold at the winter Olympics?

UK sport responded to comments of pulling out the winter games simply saying they want to 'inspire the nation', if we give up at the winter games then British skiing, bobsleigh, freestyle, and ice skating will most likely die out competitively, what is the point to only represent yourself and never your country? Pulling out now means a generation of young sportspersons can never show off their talent, what if there was a skiing wonder-kid just round the corner? You never know who might come in and represent the UK in the future so continue to pump money in and develop.



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Why is Easter on a different date every year?

By Dominic Farrell

Easter is the most important days in the Catholic church. It marks the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and is the most significant week in the Catholic church. It is important as it signifies the end of the Lenten period. However, every year the Easter week is celebrated at a different date. In this article I will investigate why this is and share some interesting discoveries I came across when researching.

Easter is one of the oldest holidays, however, due to how old it is, Easter confusingly has two different dates, with the West and East celebrating Easter on different days. This is because of the Julian and Gregorian Calendar. The Julian Calendar created by Julius Caesar in 46BC and was a reform of the Roman Calendar used previously. This new calendar was used in most Europe and Americas until 1582 when the Gregorian Calendar was created by Pope Gregory the 13th. This is the calendar which is used today and was created to fix the shortcomings of the previous Julian Calendar as the days would begin to drift out of sync over time. Although both calendars are similar, the major difference is how they handle leap years; with the Julian calendar having 365.25 days a year and no 29th February every four years unlike the Gregorian calendar. Today these two calendars have drifted apart by 13 days.

Why this information is significant today is some traditional Christians still base their calendar off the Julian calendar, and so they typically celebrate Easter around a week later than most other Christians. Traditionally, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is normally after the 21st of March. How they calculate Easter from this is using a Lunar calendar which use 19 civil calendar years of data to predict when the Pascal moon will be every year. The data shows that the new Lunar calendar will usually begin between the 8th of March and 5th of April with a full moon happening a fortnight later. Easter is then the next Sunday after that. Consequently, Shrove Tuesday (or Pancake Day) and Ash Wednesday also change days as well. After this is the traditional period of fasting or giving up something for Lent which lasts around 6 weeks until Easter itself. Thankfully, there will be a solution to this thanks to Doctor Steven Woodcock.

As a mathematician, he has a method of finding out when Easter will be well in advance due to a finding pattern with the days, knowing that the cycle will eventually repeat, the only problem is that the Easter Cycle Woodcock has found is 5.7 million years long.

So, now you know about how the Easter date is decided and how it proves that despite seeming it, Easter is not on a random day every year, it follows on the first Sunday after the Paschal moon.



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Easter News

By Karandeep Sadhra

Chocolate Easter eggs get smaller and smaller!

With Easter around the corner, chocolate eggs are beginning to line the shelves. However, shoppers took to social media to express their disappointment at the decrease in size of the egg and the increase in price. They claimed they were not getting value for money. Although everything has increased in price due to inflation, this seemed like it was the last straw for some shoppers.

Many shoppers took to social media to express their feelings. Many said that the eggs were no longer worth buying as they were not that nice and certainly not worth the price.



Joke of the Lenten Period!

Would February March?

No, but April May!



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University Open Days

By Harvey Thomson

These are upcoming opening days to aid you in your choice of university and course you may wish to study.



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

**Northumbria
University**

23 June 2023
24 June 2023



**Newcastle
University**

Newcastle University

23 June 2023
24 June 2023
30 September 2023
18 November 2023



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

University of Liverpool

24 September 2023
15 October 2023



**University of
Leeds**

16 June 2023
17 June 2023
9 September 2023
14 October 2023



**Loughborough
University**

**Loughborough
University**

30 June 2023
1 July 2023
22 September 2023
23 September 2023



The University of
Nottingham

**University of
Nottingham**

30 June 2023
1 July 2023
9 September 2023
14 October 2023



The University of Manchester

University of Manchester

17 June 2023
24 June 2023
30 September 2023
14 October 2023



**University of
Sheffield**

University of Sheffield

24 June 2023
8 July 2023
9 September 2023
21 October 2023
18 November 2023



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Future Opportunities Presentations

Over the past term, we have had a number of employers, professionals and universities come in to speak to students about future careers and opportunities.

There will be more opportunities available in the rest of the school year, make sure you attend to ensure you are well informed about future steps.



Wriggle Marketing



Create Disrupt



University of Cambridge



Easter Quiz

By Arian Nejati

There are basic facts that most people know about Easter, but how many of the more unusual facts do you know? Find out in this quiz!

1. How many Cadbury Creme eggs are made per year?
 - A) 250 million
 - B) 500 million
 - C) 650 million
2. What was the weight of the tallest chocolate Easter egg in the world?
 - A) 7200 kg
 - B) 6100 kg
 - C) 5300 kg
3. According to estimates, how much did buyers in the UK spend on Easter Celebrations in 2022?
 - A) £1.3 billion
 - B) £800 million
4. True or false: pretzels were associated with Easter.
5. In what century was the first chocolate egg in Britain produced?
6. True or false: the chocolate factory that made the Britain's first chocolate egg was the largest in the world at the time.
7. True or false: in Germany, it is illegal to dance in public during Easter time periods.
8. Traditionally, what has often been the main colour to dye Easter eggs?





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Answers to the Quiz:

1. B-500 million per year. If you stacked all eggs on top of each other, they would be 10x higher than Mount Everest!
2. A-this is around 7 UK tonnes!
3. A-£1.3 billion, growing from 2019's estimated £877 million.
4. True! From the 1950s, a German tradition was to have dinner consisting of a pretzel and a hard-boiled egg on Good Friday, as the twisting middle of pretzels resembled arms crossed in prayer.
5. The 19th century.
6. True-the Fry family ran the largest chocolate factory in the world in 1873, when they made Britain's first chocolate egg.
7. True-everywhere in Germany, there is some form of legal discouragement to dance during Easter as the days leading up to Easter Sunday (including Good Friday, etc.) are "holidays of silence". This is out of respect for Christians who see it as a solemn time.
8. Red-dying eggs this colour has been associated with specific Christian beliefs-such as to represent Jesus' blood.

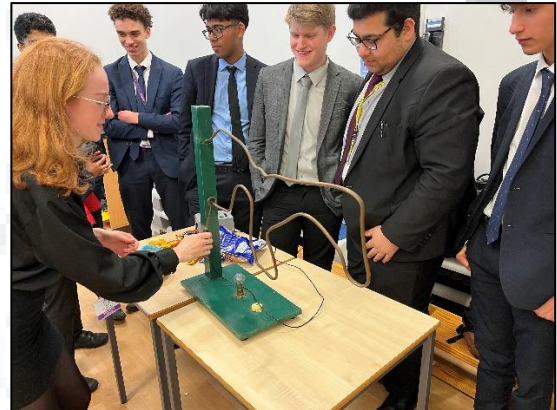


Fun At the Lenten Fayre

Well done to Year 12 and Year 13 who recently hosted our Lenten Fayre in the run up to Easter.

Many activities were run by the different forms for all in the school to participate in including darts, raffles, guess the number of sweets and the opportunity to participate in the buzz wire game.

Well done to all students who participated in activities.



Messages from the Sixth Form Team

Year 12 have progressed from strength to strength as we have moved to the halfway point in the academic year. Year 12 students have continued to enjoy their academic studies and teachers have been impressed with their resilience and hard-working attitude. Year 12 students have also been considering their future by partaking in the wealth of different opportunities available to them, from talks from professionals in the fields of business or engineering, to sessions from universities and apprenticeship providers.

On top of this, Year 12 have continued to make an impact with their charitable work. Before the Christmas holidays, Year 12 raised an impressive £190 by selling a variety of sweet treats at the Advent Fayre; and then continued by then raising another £260 through our Sixth Form Christmas Jumper day, all proceeds going to CAFOD. As well as raising money, Year 12 have made charitable contributions closer to home via our school community. This has been achieved by a variety of ways including reading with the younger year groups, helping in main school lessons and extra-curricular clubs, and partaking in the school's musical production. This all highlights what remarkable students we have at St Mary's Sixth Form.

I know that Year 12 will continue to flourish and remain fantastic role models for the younger years

Mrs Francis (Head of Year 12)

This has been a very busy and exciting term for Year 13. We began the term with the final deadline for UCAS applications and since then we have had a fantastic array of offers for universities all across the country and many students are already accepting offers. These offers have given many of our students a clear goal for the summer exams and offer days and visits to their chosen university have only enhanced their determination!

In the past couple of weeks, students have sat their final set of mock exams and I have been very proud of how Year 13 have risen to this challenge. The Sixth Form has been a hive of activity with students sharing revision resources, tips and running their own revision sessions. This has been reflected in the Sixth Form Star Awards which have been awarded for effort and progress in a number of different subjects.

Despite the challenge of their final exams, I hope Year 13 are looking forward to their final term at St Mary's in which there will be plenty of opportunities to share memories and celebrate the end of their time in the Sixth Form.

Miss Lamb (Head of Year 13)



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As the Head of Sixth Form, it gives me great pleasure to write to you all today about the amazing achievements that you have accrued over the past term. It is always an honour to praise those who have achieved so much, and I am extremely proud of all the sixth formers at St Mary's. You are a group of young adults who have shown an incredible amount of dedication, hard work, and resilience over the past few months.

You have been consistently impressive, putting your all into achieving in your academics, extra-curricular activities, super-curricular activities, Student Leadership Scheme activities and mentoring and volunteering involvement. You have shown that you have a desire to make a positive impact on the world and on our community at St Mary's, and you have worked tirelessly to achieve their goals. It has been a pleasure to watch you grow into responsible and confident individuals who are ready to take on the world (Year 13 that time is not too far away now).

I am proud of you not only for their academic achievements, but also for your resilience during what can be a challenging and difficult time in your education. Studying KS5 courses can present many challenges, and you have faced them head-on, adapting to new ways of learning and maintaining your motivation throughout. Your determination and perseverance to achieve your very best has been truly inspiring.

One of the things I appreciate most about our sixth formers is your commitment to serving others in our school community. You have volunteered to serve others in our Mentoring and Volunteering Programmes, in our Student Leadership Scheme and in so many aspects of school life, organized fundraisers, and taken part in various outreach programs. From the Christmas Jumper Day to the Charles Parsons Party to the Lenten Fayres to the weekly fundraising events, there is literally too much to mention. You have shown that you care about the world beyond yourselves, and that you are willing to put in the work to make a positive impact. This along, with the supportive, welcoming and inclusive community that you create, makes me so proud and inspires each day!

I would like to say a huge thank you to all Sixth Form students for your excellent work this term, and the enthusiasm, respect, compassion, integrity, and generosity you bring to Sixth Form every day. It is a delight to be your Head of Sixth Form and I look forward to the Summer Term after what I hope is a restful break for all.

Mr Turnbull (Head of Sixth Form)



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