

# Sixth Form News



## A Night to Remember

Jess Hoyle

Shed Seven kick started their most recent tour with their new album *Instant Pleasures*. Just three weeks after the release of their first studio album in over a decade, coming back with a bang is an understatement for the Kings of Indie-Rock. Their regular tour (every other year), #Shedcember, has never disappointed, and this year is no exception. The band exploded onto the stage with Track 1 of their album, 'Room In My House' setting the night up to be a memorable one. The supporting act, Cast, did an excellent job of warming the crowd up with songs from their new album, set to release early 2018; however, they also played crowd favourites such as 'Alright', 'Fine Time' and 'Guiding Star'. The lively atmosphere they created were the perfect set-up for Shed Seven to take the stage and rock the crowd. Nothing could hold back the excitement of the crowd: seated guests didn't adhere to the no standing rule, and the standing guests took to crowd surfing to catch a better glimpse of the stars. Rick Witter (frontman) riled the crowd up by jumping in and handing the mic to drunken guests. Rick's son, Duke Witter, is clearly following in his fathers footsteps as he joined the band on stage for his own rendition of 'Going for Gold' and later joining the crowd to cheer on his Dad one last time as the band closed with 'Chasing Rainbows'. After selling out on all tour dates, Shed Seven was, most definitely, a night to remember. 10/10.



## A Prayer for Advent—Mr Bayne

I love Advent. It's full of contrasts. A time of peace and joy we stress about; a celebration of light at the darkest time of year; a time of preparation yet we want everything now. It shows us as the most social of creatures, from parties and gift-giving to Christmas traditions of all kinds. Advent is a time of relationships, and our 2 week holiday is ideal for spending as much time on people as we do on gifts. Advent is a preparation for the most transformational event in human history – the birth of Jesus. Pope Francis said Advent is 'a journey towards Bethlehem ... drawn by the light of God made Man.'

I hope your Advent has been full of light and you find joy over Christmas. A huge thank you to all students and staff who have contributed to our school and Sixth Form community this year. Wishing you a Merry Christmas, Buon Natale and Frohliche Weihnachten.

O God our loving father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, so that we may share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



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## OLIVER!

Ethan Pratt

**DISCLAIMER:** This review is based entirely on the performance of *Oliver* on its opening night (Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>). The focus of this review does not devalue later performances.

As opening nights go, *Oliver!* was enjoyable in many ways, with occasional 'stellar' moments for an amateur production. For me, this was due to the varied, nuanced and energetic acting of St Roberts' own Sixth Form dramatists. That is not to slur the performance of the titular orphan boy – if anything, Isabel Kerr's performance was more impressive because she is A) a Y7, and B) a girl playing a male character. While I felt opening night nerves encroached on her performance the most, being the youngest principal cast member taking the titular role deserves notable praise – especially in *Where Is Love? (Reprise)* where she maintained a gravity on stage which kept my attention focused on her, despite the stage being invaded by Camden Market at the time.

To me, exactly 5 actors made *Oliver!* successful: Morgan Seed as Mr Sourberry, whose Cockney-cum-Aussie accent and puppet-like movements proved his commitment to such an eccentric character; Grace Donkin's Mrs Bumble, who impressively maintained a flawless Cockney accent throughout *I Shall Scream* while reaching notes so high they induced temporary tinnitus, and whose lasting impression went beyond her three scenes; the small but mighty Siobhan Hill as Dodger, who stole Act 1 with energy, charisma and a semi-improvised tap routine that worked the stage; Jack Hindmarch's Fagin, whose solo performance of *Reviewing the Situation* brought audience interplay and comedy elements that enriched Act 2 with his sassy rendition of a classic character; and female lead Isobel Donkin, whose matronly Nancy brought a powerful, nuanced undercurrent to a renowned character that developed throughout Act 2, culminating in an emotional *He Needs Me (Reprise)* that cemented her position as a rising star of tomorrow.

Special mention has to go to the supporting students who made *Oliver!* a success. I'm talking especially about Liz Charlton and Charlotte Tilley's spotlight team and the Sixth Form orchestra, led by pianist Ross Blackwood. Both teams balanced their roles effectively to support the creative. It would be easy for a dozen brass, wind, and string instruments to lose cohesion as a production wears on, so it was particularly impressive how well the orchestra was conducted and timed – aside from one off-key trumpeter in *Food Glorious Food*, I didn't hear one flat note throughout the entire play!

Anyone present would acknowledge a few technical issues—delayed pyrotechnics especially—but these are to be expected on the opening night. Likewise, the occasional lapses in group performances, especially in the closing vocal of *Be Back Soon*, can be counterbalanced by how difficult it is to get 25 students perfectly in sync before they sing and dance together under constant audience scrutiny, so I can't blame anyone for being out of time.

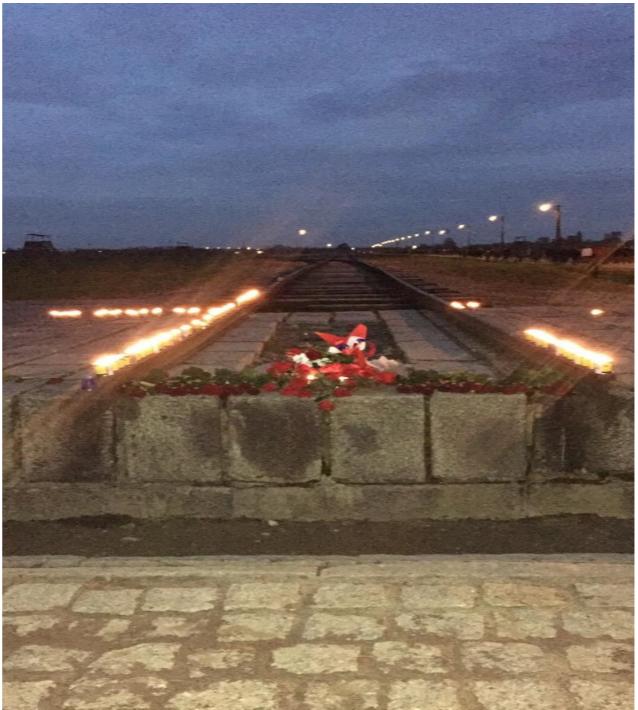
This aside, *Oliver!* brought vibrant reinterpretations of well-known characters to the St Roberts' stage, making it a night to remember, and a show I would personally recommend seeing.



## Reflections on Auschwitz

Kirsten Crowther and Leah Wilce

In October 2017, I and three other students had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, a Nazi extermination camp where over one million people lost their lives, as part of the Holocaust Educational Trust's *Lessons from Auschwitz* project. A key concept of the project is that 'hearing is not seeing', and with this maxim in mind, the LFA aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust for young people.



We arrived in Poland at 10am and were taken straight to the town of Oświęcim. This site which previously was home to over 8,000 Jewish people—today there are none. The town was devastated by the Nazi invasion of 1939, becoming home to one of the most infamous death camps of the whole regime. The Jews of the town were among the six million Jews who died, just minutes away from their homes.

Life goes on as normal in Oświęcim, with only one small memorial in the town square to commemorate their dead. Whilst on our tour of the Auschwitz camp, we saw rooms covered with piles of shorn human hair. Shoes. Pots and pans, rusting away in silence. The personal belongings of those who entered the camp—and never left. The sheer volume of items enclosed within the museum took us all aback: this was the first time we had been able to fully appreciate the true scale of the atrocities that took place during the Nazi Holocaust.; it gave human context to that label, 'genocide'. Towards the end of our visit, we participated in a memorial service in a room filled with recovered photographs of the victims of Auschwitz and their normal lives before the war. The *Lessons for Auschwitz* project places great emphasis on looking into pre-war Jewish life as a way of individualising those who lost their lives, of personalising the 'tragedy' behind the 'statistics', to cite Stalin's infamous phrase.

The memorial had a profound impact on us all. The reason behind this display and the importance of focusing on life before the Holocaust is to stress that the six million people who were killed were **more** than just numbers, **more** than merely a 'statistic': every person executed in gas chambers were people with lives and vibrant futures. They belonged to sports teams, enjoyed art and music, were active participants in the community. They had hopes and dreams for the future. All of this was taken away by an ideology who condemned them to death for the simple fact that they were Jewish.

As a follow up to our visit, we will be participating in the Next Steps Project, which will involve multiple school-wide projects to ensure that the message from LFA is disseminated across the school. Please be aware of these events which will be taking place in Holocaust Memorial Week in January 2018.

## University Challenge

James Kerr

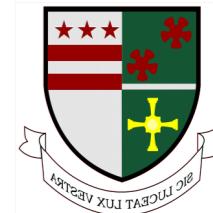
Category	York St John	University of Huddersfield
Entry Standards	302	334
Research Quality	2.04/4.00	2.65/4.00
Graduate Prospects	61.3/100.0	72.7/100.0
Academic Services Spend	1080	1385
Good Honours	56.4/100.0	70.9/100.0
Student Satisfaction	4.04/5.00	4.17/5.00
Research Intensity	0.29/1.00	0.32/1.00
Student-Staff Ratio	17.4	18.9
Facilities Spend	537	495
Degree Completion	86.4/100.0	80.7/100.0

Ultimately, this shows us an example of universities with entry requirements on the lower end of the spectrum. Both universities have lower entry requirements compared with other universities such as Leeds or Newcastle, which is a reflection in other statistics. Huddersfield University has a superior student to staff ratio when compared to York St John, while York has a higher percentage of students completing their degree. Huddersfield, however, does have a better score in terms of good honours, meaning that more of their students are receiving a first or upper second honour degrees.

## Your Deputy Head Girl Interview

Millie Whiteford

Two months ago, your Deputy Head Girl was elected: **Charlotte Cairns**. In the interview below, we hope to give you an insight to your new Deputy Head Girl and what she wishes to achieve.



### How did you find the application process?

At first it was daunting, but I am so glad I did it as the overall process has built my confidence levels and interview skills, which will be useful life skills for my university and job applications later on.

### What did it feel like when you were first told you were Deputy Head Girl?

I was shocked, as the rest of the girls who applied were studious and hard-working and I didn't think I stood a chance. But it just goes to show that, if you're thinking that you may not 'stand a chance' and pondering whether 'there is any point' - there is!

### Do you have any ideas or plans for the school so far?

At the minute, the Student Council is discussing any Sixth Form problems which have been raised by pupils. The most immediate issue is the lack of space in the Sixth Form Library. We're looking into ways we can realistically improve that situation, as well as hopefully to expand food choice in the canteen.

### Do you have any messages for people wanting to apply next year?

If you are reading this and thinking about applying next year, I urge you to **JUST GO FOR IT!** If it's your lack of confidence or self-doubt that's holding you back, all I can say is just push that aside and try. Speaking from experience, I am ecstatic that I went for it! And even though I won the position, I know that everyone who applied gained something from the overall process, and so can you!

# The Conundrum of Managing the Management

**Emmet O'Leary**



Public services need extensive support. The NHS, education, security: these complex beasts require constant oversight, scrutiny and a complex network of non-operational support to ensure efficiency, maximum impact and thus return on taxpayer investment. For instance, myriad departments work behind the scenes in hospitals in essential roles like administration, but also new frontiers like talent-scouting and skills development. Similarly, professional management teams monitor efficiency by pinpointing problems and implementing policy for systemic improvement.

But in this age of service control, is it possible to have too much of a good thing? An exploration of public documents on tax distribution makes for interesting reading. Between 2004 and 2014 over 50% of NHS England staff worked in 'support' based roles with no clinical involvement in patient care. This includes not only core staff like porters, but also back-office administrators and 37,078 'managers and senior managers' who collectively earn a basic rate of £2.1bn per year – before bonuses.

We must remember this management plays an essential role, and it is easy to demonise these indirect employees of the NHS. After all, their oversight boosts efficiency. There is, however, an argument that these functions should be improved in wards, not offices: the reintroduction of matrons is a primary example that allows systemic reform to be based on patient experience.

## **All the Fun of the (Xmas) Fair**

**Ethan Pratt**

The St Roberts' Christmas Fair took place this Monday (18<sup>th</sup> December) and was a roaring success all-round. In support of the local community, CAFOD-associated charities set up a broad range of stalls selling local, homemade produce in the form of jewellery, clothes and dolls, and Christmas baubles and ornaments – all at reasonably affordable prices, even by teenage standards!



According to Mr Green, the success of this event can be gauged by how few products were left after this year compared to last year: in almost every stall, all stored reserve products had been sold by closing time at 5.00pm – which was brought forward due to stalls not having enough left to sell!

Of course, it wasn't only the wider Catholic community that were involved in this event. Students of St Roberts' were recruited to run stalls on behalf of other local groups. A notable example would be Jess Madden, who raised almost £100 pounds selling baked goods and woodwork ornaments handmade by her local Girl Guides troupe. A portion of the proceeds support CAFOD charities, and what remains is put towards fundraising for the Tall Ships Race 2018, in which she will compete. This remarkable effort and outcome is reflected in the revenue of every participant vendor, and due to the faultless gratitude of students throughout the school.

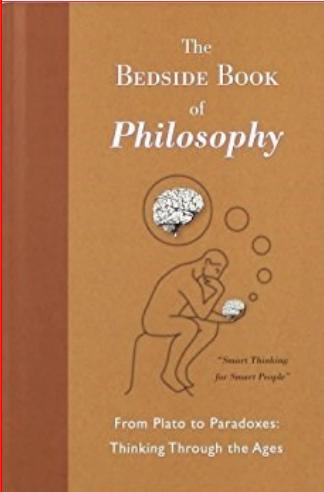
## A Tall Ships Adventure!

**Millie Whiteford**



### **THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2017**

From Norway to Holland, one of our own students will forge exciting new paths on the opportunity of a lifetime! Jess Madden (Y13) was chosen with 12 others in *the whole county* to be accepted and trained to compete in the Tall Ship Races 2018. The easy part was getting picked—now Jess has to raise £1400 to allow her to compete. While some may be discouraged by this prospect, Jess has picked up the gauntlet. Raising money with Save the Date raffles and selling Christmas stocking fillers (such as reindeer dust and tree decorations at our recent Christmas Fair) both in and out of school, Jess has successfully raised a sizeable amount. As a school community, we support Jess in her journey to August 2018. Jess will be selling many different gifts and goodies once we come back for the New Year, so don't worry: you haven't missed your chance to support this remarkable member of the student community!



## **Book Reviews**

**Olivia Mulligan**

The Bedside Book of Philosophy is invaluable to those studying A-Level Religious Education or Philosophy. Packed with intriguing, mind-blowing theories and challenging exercises, the book is a fascinating read. Reading each chapter is an excellent way to revise Year 12 topics in R.E, from The Soul to Philosophical Language and Thought, from Utilitarianism to Ethics. For those studying Philosophy alone, there are theories and facts in abundance, with detailed explanations of advanced content. Either for revision or wider reading, this book is both educative and extensive: a must-read for those seeking wider research or brief revision.

**Veronica Roth 'Carve The Mark':** The author of the critically acclaimed *Divergent* series debuts her new novel *Carve The Mark*, a science-fiction novel focussing on the stories of Akos and Cyra, two young people from opposing cultures whose fates are intertwined. Life for the pair, however, is threatened by these opposing cultures, and living in a world where their planets have different virtues will test their relationship, as they struggle to escape the bounds of their cultures threatening to destruct society.

