

Sixth Form News



A Commonwealth Contender– by Millie Whiteford

Sportswomen are often overlooked. Most must work harder in order to get the recognition they deserve. The Commonwealth cyclist, Genevieve Whitson, isn't taking this lying down. Whitson, who started her journey in New Zealand, has now travelled all the way to Edinburgh to pursue her dream of becoming a world-class European cycling champion. She did not let the negative attitude of others impede her goals. Leaving her family aged 24, she had people practically laughing in her face, telling her she couldn't do it: "I came into the sport at the age of 21 and by that point you're considered too old for National Federation or Olympic Academies"



Whitson claims, "I was 21 and showing talent, but not extraordinary talent - so I wasn't given funding." Whitson goes on to talk about how she didn't give up on her dream and how without support from family over 11,000 miles away she wouldn't be where she is today. In the little time we had together, Whitson showed that positive mental attitude (PMA) was vital for her "keeping sane". Despite people telling her she wasn't good enough, she still pursued her dream; even without sponsors, she trained and succeeded. Her PMA paid off this year, as Genevieve competed in the Commonwealth Games Qualifiers and she should know if she has been selected by February 2018.

During the interview, we inevitably discussed feminism and how it affected her career. "Women in sport, in general, are really stamping their ground now. It really is absolutely absurd in this day and age that we still aren't getting equal pay." Whitson really focuses on how women in sport are gaining recognition for their rights, and are moving towards gender equality faster than ever before – although there is still a long way to go. Her attitude towards the obstacles she has overcome and what challenges still lie ahead is what really makes Genevieve inspiring. The Commonwealth Games are only a peek at what Genevieve is really capable of.

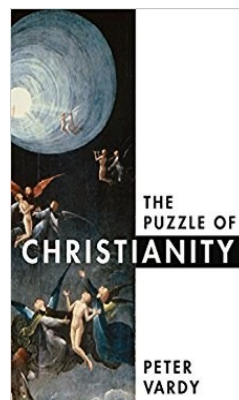
Book Review— by Olivia Mulligan

Joining the reading list this autumn is a light hearted, witty young adult novel about a concept that baffles us all– romance in the movies. Bourne appeals to a wide audience of young adults, using the relatable college/sixth form setting we all know too well. The story focuses on Audrey, who after a troubled relationship has little faith in romance. Bourne follows her journey navigating through college,



work and social life in a way that feels familiar to us all, with its hilarity and joy, as well as its stress and heartbreak. Movie fans will find this new novel a must read!

An incredibly useful text for wider reading and increasing understanding of changes in Christian thought and attitudes. Perfectly compatible with the Developments In Christian Thought side of the AS Religious Education course, it can provide valuable information for essays and assignments.



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Remember, Remember...- by Sarah Rooks

Memorial Day and Remembrance Sunday give millions every year a time to pause for reflection, out of respect to those brave men and women who risked their lives to save ours – and continue to risk them to this day. These unsung heroes, both in the trenches and today, shaped our future for the better.



Armistice Day is held on the 11th November and at 11 a.m. It is followed by the Two Minute Silence to show respect for, and reflect on, the soldiers killed in the First and Second World Wars. Its timing is significant: the Armistice between the German and Allied High Command was signed by military leaders on November 11th, 1918 at 11 a.m. On that day, the church bells rang in Britain for the first time since 1914. There is also a formal Two Minutes Silence at 11 a.m. on Remembrance Sunday to give silent thanks to the soldiers killed in all wars, not just the First and Second World Wars, and to remember those who gave their lives to save ours.

Our region shows its gratitude for their sacrifice in many ways, but largely through statues. In Newcastle City Centre, there is a large statue of a soldier – the 'Centenary Soldier' - stood outside the Theatre Royal.

Likewise, in Seaham Sea Front, the 'Tommy' statue has had a permanent place since August 2014; since then, he's been joined by his mate, a soldier's statue called 'The Coxswain.'

The University Challenge– by James Kerr

	University of Newcastle	University of Leeds
Location	Newcastle City Centre	Leeds City Centre
Student Satisfaction Rating	4.15/5.00	4.15/5.00
Degree Completion	94.0/100	92.6/100
Entry Standards	423	427
Graduate Prospects	82.5/100	81.3/100.0
Academic Services Spend	1466	2185
Good Honours	81.0/100.00	84.2/100.00
Research Intensity	0.80/1.00	0.75/1.00
Student-Staff Ratio	14:6	13:2
Facilities Spend	466	567

Overall, both universities have their respective pros and cons: Newcastle offers higher degree completion rates and better graduate prospects; whereas Leeds invests more in the academic services and facilities provided for its students. However, the student satisfaction rating is equal for both universities, suggesting that students from both universities ultimately prefer their own place of study. In the end, it depends on what course you choose to study at university. Really consider your choices! If you haven't viewed any university websites yet, I highly suggest you start looking at them!

Remember, But Don't Surrender, to The Pain of November!

It is the month of November and students are wrestling the abstract enemy – EDUCATION.

November throws obstacles as challenging as UCAS applications and mind murdering personal statements, to mock exams and course work. But as students we must persevere and slave ourselves to succeed in life.

Predicted grades are the largest contributor to student acceptance in universities. They give universities an indication as to whether the entry requirements can be satisfied based on estimations of the academics' capability, and for those who fall under the category of: failed or re-sitting AS Levels, have no AS Levels- the significance is magnified.

So it is not surprising to see that every November, there is a power struggle between teachers and A2 students, the teachers want to give realistic predicted grades based on previous exam results whereas the students are desperate for at least one grade above their past results in order to qualify for good universities. The great expectations parents have for their kids contribute to the predicted grades; research has shown that 24% of 2016's UCAS applicants from low-income families were underestimated in their results whereas 20% of pupils from high income families were over-predicted. Those from families with uni-graduates expect to also qualify for universities of the same worth and those with no relatives with history of higher education tend not to emphasize or understand the importance of predicted grades.

In 1963, researchers Robert Rosenthal and Lenore Jacobson commented to select number of teachers that certain students will exceed expectation and become high achievers, lying that it was based on 'psychological and IQ research'. Actually, the students were chosen randomly but when the researchers' data was examined, they found that the selected students surpassed their peers.

This comes to show that if someone believes in you, you can believe in yourself and overachieve. The moral of the story is, do not let low target grades kick your be-hind, and let self-belief and hard work determine the results. Prove to your teachers that you are more than capable of getting that A*/B. Don't forget to nag for them grades!

"There hath no temptation taken hold of you but such as is common to man. But God is faithful; He will not suffer you to be tempted beyond that which ye are able to bear, but with the temptation will also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Translation:

We are all born with the power to live and succeed, so do not discourage yourself as you will need courage and confidence to endure the storm ahead. Life cannot give you an obstacle you cannot overcome, whether you can do it is mentally subjective-if you have faith in yourself and in God's recognition of your hard work, you will survive or even surpass expectations.

By Melan Muchegwa



The Mission—Unbroken: Won by

One— Ethan Pratt

The mission is an all-inclusive project that has taken place over the last week. On Thursday 23rd of November, the Youth Ministry Team (YMT) held a Family Night full of all kinds of entertainment. It showcased the talent of not only the school but the community as a whole. From Wednesday, the YMT (who have helped run The Mission) have included the Sixth Form students in activities such as Reflection and 'Emoji Run'. Many students - myself included - thought the Mission was going to be all about religion and God; in fact, it was about discovering who you are and finding What has been lost when you most need It. The Mission is a journey of self-discovery that displayed how the love of God redeems us all.

The Family Night showcased our entire school and allowed the both Y12 and Y13 to discover their role in the St Roberts community. Their many sessions also included the younger years. Members of the Sixth Form helped make these events a reality, coordinating events and showcasing, once again, why Sixth Form is a crucial part of the student body as a whole.



Your Head Boy Interview—by Millie Whiteford

About two weeks ago your Head Boy was elected: Josh Hurn. In the interview below, we hope to give you an insight to your new Head Boy and what he wishes to achieve.

How was the whole application process?

I found it quite surprising as I'd never really involved myself with something like this at the school before, even though I'd been here quite a while

What did it feel like when you were first told you were Head Boy?

I was a bit shocked to think I'd actually been trusted with the role, but then I was really happy about it afterwards. At first I was nervous because of things I'd never done before like doing assemblies but I became more relaxed after a while.

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

I often see people in various years and in sixth form by themselves and I hate to think of people being lonely when they should be having the best years of their lives, but clearly it happens. I hope that Sophie and I can try to help this problem any way we can!

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

I think, if you feel like you'd enjoy doing something like being a head girl or boy then definitely go for it, because what's the point of not trying something and then regretting it? I think it's a mint opportunity to improve your confidence and feel like you can make a positive input into the school.

