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The Hayes Herald

Formerly Yr9 Chronicle



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Welcome

Hello and welcome to this edition of the Hayes Herald. We are so pleased to see all the new Year 7s contributing to it! In this edition we have some fantastic book recommendations, a deep dive into the education system, some sports updates and much more. Have a great Easter and enjoy this edition.

MESSAGE FROM MR BROCKMAN

Dear all,

As another term comes to end, it is a fantastic chance to reflect on the many positives that have come of this term. I know there was a real buzz in D1C as Achievement Co-ordinators were busy planning all their Celebration of Achievement assemblies and sharing the successes of so many. Well done to all the prize winners in Year 7, 8 & 9. These assemblies are personally my favourite ones to deliver and sharing the successes of those in Year 9 with the rest of the year group and tutors has such a lovely and positive feeling.

We all look forward to welcoming you back to a term with hopefully better weather, certainly lighter days and full of more opportunities and achievement! I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break, and engage with yet another fantastic Hayes Herald edition- who in your year group has contributed this week?!

Mr Brockman

SPORTS UPDATE

This week in Hayes sport we had a lot of triumphs, including a massive 102-33 win for the basketball team against Gravesend Grammar School in the Kent Cup semi-finals. Just a week later we had the final of the Kent Cup and in a very tight match against Beth's Grammar School, we obviously came out with the win the final score was 68-64. With the MVP of the game and basically the best player in Kent was given to our very own GEORGE NASH.

On Tuesday, the boys and girls of our year represented our school in the biggest Rugby 7s tournament in the whole of the UK at Rosslyn Park. With teams from Wales, Ireland, Scotland, France and Dubai coning down to play. Unfortunately, the day didn't go so well for both our teams as we got knocked out in the group stage, but it was a good fun day overall. That's it for Hayes sport as another great display from our boys and girls.

There was no Premier league this week as it was international break, but our mighty 3 Lions played 2 games in the Euro Qualifiers, winning both games first against Italy as we bypass their low footballing ability with a comfortable 2-1 win. We also played Ukraine where we won 2-0 in an easy game.

That's it from me, thank you for reading.

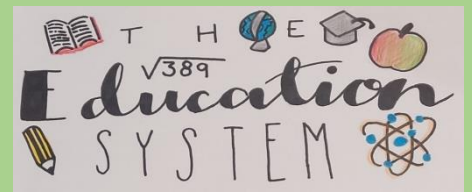
Joe Warnett



- Amelie Townsend

Jacob's Political Deep Dive

An Education System on its knees?



Over the past few years, the UK's education system has seen more than five different education secretaries, an inspection system which many people feel makes the state of schools worse, teachers' strikes and much more. This leads many to argue that the UK's education system is, like other public sectors, on its knees. So, the question is, is the education system really that bad?

Recently, the education system has been caught up in all the political drama resulting in it being headed by five different education secretaries in the space of just two years. Many would argue that this has meant progress in education policies and initiatives has slowed. Therefore, problems that have been raised have, in some people's opinion, not been dealt with fast enough, from updates in exam specifications to looking into how Ofsted actually benefits schools and their students. The latter of those issues has raised a lot of concern in recent weeks.

The head teacher of a Primary School in Reading sadly took her own life. Her family says this was due to the stress that having an Ofsted inspection, one that ranked her school down from Outstanding to Inadequate, put her under. As a result, many leading education unions have called for all Ofsted inspections to be stopped and a review into the way in which schools are inspected. Much to their dismay, the Government said they would not be halting Ofsted inspections with the Head of Ofsted saying that it would not be "in children's best interests".

Since this event, one Head Teacher planned to stop Ofsted from inspecting the school but after talks with her local authority, she later permitted their entry. Ofsted inspections are not the only reason why some teachers are unhappy – in recent months many of them have been going on strike for a different reason.

Over the last decade, teachers' wages have not been increasing in line with inflation, and in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, this has meant it has been becoming harder for teachers to afford the things they need. The NASUWT Union has said that since 2010, teachers have lost more than £50,000 in real terms pay, whilst more conservative estimates by the Institute for Fiscal Studies say teachers have lost around £6500 in the same time period – the likelihood is that the number lies somewhere in-between. Either way, due to a loss of real terms pay, the NEU organised for its tens of thousands of members across the country to go on strike resulting in the full or partial closure of more than 50% of schools in England. Other unions also balloted to go on strike and although in most cases a majority of members wanted to go on strike, they didn't meet the heavily criticised minimum voter turnout of 50%. That being said, many of them said they intended to re-ballot. Earlier this week, a new pay offer was put on the table which offered a pay rise of 4.5% plus a one off payment of £1000, however, the leaders of the NEU encouraged their voters to turn down the pay offer, so they can seek a better one which is closer to the rate of inflation. Although teachers are going on strike for pay, many teachers are pulling their hair out due to the state of behaviour in schools.

According to 'The Headteacher' magazine, more than 50% of teachers with 20+ years of experience report that behaviour in schools has worsened. This could be due to a number of factors, one being that class sizes have increased over the past decade, arguably due to a shortage of teachers, making it harder for teachers to control classes and easier for students to become caught up in bad behaviour. Additionally, the NASUWT union reports that behaviour has become worse since the pandemic, with an increase of abusive actions towards teachers. This added together with arguably unfair pay has driven many teachers out of the profession or into the private sector.

Many argue that the disparity between state and private schools has become greater, in theory driving more parents to send their children to private schools. Class sizes in private schools are usually much smaller meaning pupils are given more attention and many feel this creates a nicer learning environment. Furthermore, private schools frequently have nicer facilities and a wider range of extra-curriculars due to the funding advantage they enjoy. Some would say that all these factors give those who have wealth behind them an unfair advantage in life. The Labour Party have said they would cut private school's charitable status if they were in power, which currently looks rather likely come the next general election. This would mean that private schools would have to pay taxes and likely would make it much harder for people to afford them. However, we live in a society that offers freedom and choice, and if people can afford to send their children to independent schools some would argue it is only right that they are allowed to – parents just want the best for their child.

International Zero Waste Day

The International Day of Zero Waste was on the 30th March aims to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, support the societal shift towards circularity and raise awareness about how zero-waste initiatives contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The waste sector contributes significantly to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution. Humanity generates an estimated 2.24 billion tons of municipal solid waste annually, of which only 55 per cent is managed in controlled facilities. Every year around 931 million tons of food is lost or wasted and up to 14 million tons of plastic waste enters aquatic ecosystems. Zero-waste initiatives can foster sound waste management and minimize and prevent waste, helping to address the triple planetary crisis, protect the environment, enhance food security and improve human health and well-being. A zero-waste approach entails responsible production, consumption and disposal of products in a closed, circular system. This means that resources are reused or recovered as much as possible and that we minimize the pollution of air, land or water. Achieving zero waste requires action at all levels. By opting for less resource-intensive production and transport methods, manufacturers can further limit pollution and waste. Advertising and closely managing demand can further enable zero waste throughout products' life cycles. We can also play a pivotal role in enabling zero waste by changing habits and reusing and repairing products as much as possible before properly disposing of them.



The Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production can guide this transition. Established by the United Nations General Assembly, Member States and stakeholders, the strategy calls for the adoption of sustainable consumption and production objectives across all sectors by 2030. On 14th December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution at its seventy-seventh session to proclaim 30 March as International Day of Zero Waste, to be observed annually. Türkiye, with 105 other countries, put forward the resolution. It follows other resolutions focused on waste, including “End plastic pollution: towards an internationally legally binding instrument”, adopted at the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2nd March 2022. During International Day of Zero Waste, Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, civil society, the private sector, academia, youth and other stakeholders are invited to engage in activities aimed at raising awareness of national, subnational, regional and local zero-waste initiatives and their contribution to achieving sustainable development. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) jointly facilitate the observance of International Day of Zero Waste. Promoting zero-waste initiatives through this international day can help advance all the goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 11 and Sustainable Development Goal 12. These goals address all forms of waste, including food loss and waste, natural resource extraction and electronic waste. We should try to help the planet every day we can and to think about why we are doing this!

Ramadan

We are entering the period of Ramadan where members of the Muslim community will be abstaining from food and drink during daylight hours to honour their faith and where their hunger allows them to empathize with the suffering of others.

Ramadan is when Muslim people celebrate Allah revealing the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad. The Quran is the Muslims sacred book, during Ramadan Muslims go to the Mosque more often to hear readings from the Qur'an.

During Ramadan people fast; they do not eat during daylight hours but they have two meals: one before sunrise called Suhoor and one after sunset called Iftar which consists of dates and water.

Children under the age of 14, pregnant women and the elderly are not expected to fast so they can eat crisps for example during the day.

Ramadan is observed for 30 days. This year Ramadan started on the 22nd March and is going to end on the 21st April. The timing of when Ramadan starts and ends depends on the moon. It precedes the celebration of Eid-UI-Fitr, where people give thanks for their blessings.

This year sees an unusual and interesting convergence of Eid, Easter and Passover in April.

- Cerys Stanley



Book Recommendations

This week's book is called 'A Heart So Fierce and Broken' by Bridge Kemmer. A Heart so Fierce and Broken is a sequel to a book I previously wrote about called 'A Curse So Dark and Lonely' so if you read that book and enjoyed it, I highly recommend you read this one too because as well as it being an amazing book it also continues Rhen and Harpers story's really well as well as continuing to tell Greys story as he get dragged back to Ironrose after fleeing with a horrible secret but as Rhen stats to try and find out what this terrifying secrete and Grey meets an enemy princess will his loyalties change. Will he stay with Rhen and Harper to try and stop Emberfall collapsing entirely or will he join the enemy princess and assist her in her dream to bring peace to their two countries. I really enjoyed this book because it is very well written, and it shows the story from different characters' perspectives, which I love because it makes me feel more connected to the characters and gives the story a whole new level of emotion and depth. I also recently read the final book in the series called 'A Vow So Bold and Deadly'. It was a brilliant book to finish the series as it ends all the characters' story perfectly. Overall, I think my personal favourite book in the series is the first book, 'A Curse So Dark and Lonely' because of its amazing introduction to the characters and story.

This week I spoke to Miss Andrews about a book that she had enjoyed called 'Life as We Knew It' by Susan Beth Pfeffer. It is a young adult science fiction novel that was published in September 2006 and is the first book in the series called 'The Last Survivors'. It's a book that follows a family's experiences after an asteroid hit the moon causing it to crack and because the moon is responsible for the tides amongst other things, disasters start to happen. Miss Andrews liked this book because she found it was a beautiful story that was true to life and wasn't just about one person or hero fixing everything, it was more personal than that. She also thought that it had a lot of interesting writing.

- Emma Prayag-Baltanas

Careers in Sport

This week I will talk about careers in sport. I will go through different jobs related to sport then about professional athleticism.

Variety of Jobs

In sport there are lots of different jobs. As well as playing the sport, you can have a medical job related to sport. For example, you can be a physiotherapist and work with athletes who are injured. Or maybe being something like an agent might interest you and managing the PR for athletes. There are many jobs to do with sport other than just playing them.

Professional Sport

Being a professional athlete pays highly but it can be hard work to get there. Some of you reading this may want to play in rugby or football professionally, however to get there takes a lot of work through academies and specialised groups to do with that sport. To be part of these teams at the top level of sport you have to be extremely fit. Training and a balanced diet is crucial to an athlete staying in top form to play in their sport.

Motorsport

Not many people think about this if they want to be in sport related jobs so I will give you some examples here:

Formula 1

Formula E

Rally Car

MotoGP

That's all for this week, thank you very much for reading.

- Daniel Butcher

Jacob's Political News Flash

Trump to Face Criminal Charges

On Thursday night, just months after announcing his plan to run for Presidency once again, it was announced that former US President Donald Trump would become the first President to face criminal charges. It is related to him, allegedly, paying a person to keep quiet about an affair he had with them and although this is believed to be technically legal, he said it was business expense when it was not. Sources in the US media are reporting that he faces more than two dozen charges, however this is yet to be officially confirmed. He is expected to have his mugshot and fingerprint taken on Tuesday before appearing in court.

More to follow ...

- Jacob Fenwick-Read

Sport and Netball

Hayes School is a brilliant school to play sport. We are inclusive and supportive, and anyone is welcome to participate in any sport. At Hayes, we offer a wide range of unique and different sports whether you want to try something new or you are more experienced. We encourage everyone to try an extra- curricular club and try something new or join a team you have previously enjoyed.

I recommend Netball. I am on the Year 7 A-team with Hayes and I really enjoy it. We run a club every Tuesday for people with all abilities from Year 7 to 9. In netball there is a wide range of positions so you can play a new position each week!

Overall, I recommend trying a sport if you don't already and take a chance because Hayes offers lots of opportunities.

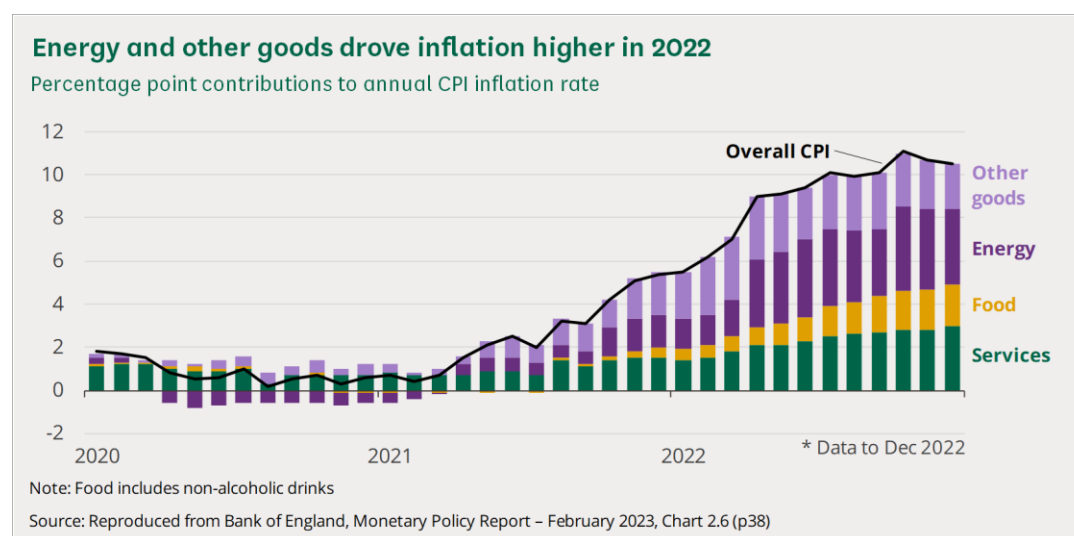
Thank you for reading,

- Caitlin Rouse



The continuing cost of living crisis: Energy and Food

As we reported in January the cost of living increased sharply across the UK during 2021 and 2022. The annual rate of inflation reached 11.1% in October 2022, a 41-year high, before easing in subsequent months. It rose again, however, from 10.1% in January 2023 to 10.4% in February.¹ High inflation affects the affordability of goods and services for households, particularly as higher prices for energy and food (see chart below) have not been matched with increased pay for many workers.



On Thursday 23 March 2023, the Bank of England unexpectedly raised interest rates (for the 11th consecutive time) by 0.25 percentage points to 4.25%². This move was largely fuelled by another increase in food prices as shortages of fruit and vegetables contributed to the price acceleration. Although raising interest rates is the best way to bring down inflation, it has exacerbated the cost of living crisis, particularly hitting people with a mortgage due to increased monthly payments. The Bank of England expect inflation to fall quickly from the middle of this year but in the meantime what can people do to help keep costs down? We have looked at some of the best tips from Which?³ on how to spend less on food and energy.

1. Energy Bills

There is no doubt that the increased energy prices have had a big impact on many households and many people are looking to bring their costs down. Some of the best tips we found include:

¹ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9428/#:~:text=The%20cost%20of%20living%20increased,2023%20to%2010.4%25%20in%20February.>

² <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/explainers/why-are-interest-rates-in-the-uk-going-up#:~:text=On%20Thursday%2023%20March%202023,just%20'the%20interest%20rate'>.

³ <https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/cutting-your-energy-bills/article/how-to-save-on-your-energy-bill/10-ways-to-save-on-energy-bills-aX2RS8b8IIMR>

- Turn your thermostat down.
- Use your appliances more efficiently. With your washing machine, you could typically save around £34 a year on your energy bills just by using a 30°C cycle instead of higher temperatures.
- Only use your dishwasher when it's full to reduce the amount of water you use. Reducing your dishwasher use by one run per week for a year could save you £1
- If appliances have eco settings use them where you can, as they can make big savings on your bills.
- Adding insulation means that your heating bill will be lower. Fitting foam insulation around any exposed hot water pipes will cost around £15. If your heating system has a hot water cylinder conserve energy by making sure it's well insulated.
- Lower your combi boiler's flow temperature. Condensing combi boilers tend to have heating flow temperatures set to 75-80°C, but many homes with one can be suitably warmed at 50-70°C.
- If you only need to heat one room in your home, it may be cheaper to use a portable electric heater and keep the thermostat turned down.
- Stopping heat from escaping through unwanted gaps around doors, windows and suspended timber floors could help you save around £125 a year as well as 215kg of CO₂⁴

2. Food costs

March grocery inflation of 17.5% adds £837 to average household's annual bill ⁵ and people are looking at ways to keep the food shop down.

- Switch supermarkets. Lidl was the fastest growing chain in the category with sales rising by an annual rate of 25.8 per cent. Aldi have seen a 25.4 per cent rise in sales.⁶
- Avoid convenience stores. Which? analysed the prices of a trolley of products at Tesco Express and Sainsbury's Local and compared the costs with the same items at their larger supermarket counterparts. They found a yearly price difference of £817.91. That makes Tesco Express 10% more expensive than larger Tesco stores. The difference between Sainsbury's and Sainsbury's Local was £477.93 more in 2022.
- Buy cheaper label items. Own-brand sales are up 15.8 per cent.
- Stock up. Grocery prices can vary from week to week by up to 284%! This so-called 'yo-yo' pricing means it's worth stocking up when items you buy regularly are discounted.
- Know the difference between use-by and best-before dates. Food with a use-by date must be used by midnight of its expiry date or it could be unsafe. However, best-before dates are far more flexible and don't have the same safety issues.

⁴ <https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/cutting-your-energy-bills/article/how-to-save-on-your-energy-bill/10-ways-to-save-on-energy-bills-aX2RS8b8IIMR>

⁵ <https://www.ft.com/content/9efcc6b4-688b-4004-bb87-440e0438da79>

⁶ <https://www.ft.com/content/9efcc6b4-688b-4004-bb87-440e0438da79>

Notice Board

Thank you for reading – we hope you enjoyed it. Have a great Easter.

The next edition will be published on Friday 28th April.

Last fortnight's riddle was which letter comes next in this sequence: J-F-M-A-M-J-J-A-S
the answer is O because the sequence is the first letter of each month – January,
February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September so the next month would
be October and October starts with a O. This week's riddle is I come from a mine and
get surrounded by wood always. Everyone uses me. What am I?

<https://forms.office.com/e/kb5tnkQpda>