

# The Welland Herald

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## YOUNG EINSTEIN

Over the summer holidays, Year 8 student Mistée O'Connor-Bromwell was accepted into MENSA, the largest, oldest and most prestigious IQ society in the world.

According to the organisation's official website, 'the only qualification for membership of MENSA is a high IQ', and Mistée certainly meets this requirement – in fact, based on the results of her recent IQ test, she can now claim to be smarter than not only Einstein himself, but also Stephen Hawking, Hillary Clinton, Elon Musk and a whole host of other famous celebrities and scientists.

Given that the average IQ score usually lies between 70 and 130, it is clear that Mistée's score of 162 far exceeds the expectations of the majority of the population.

Mistée, in her typically modest manner, stated 'It's not a superpower, but it might give you more confidence'.

Other students and staff were quick to praise Mistée's incredible achievements. Year 10 student Oscar commented that 'she is so smart', whilst fellow Year 10 Hayleigh joked 'Should we put her in Uni now?'. Miss McBrearty, Principal of WPA, believes Mistée is an integral part of our community but was adamant that 'no matter what their starting point is, every student should make progress at Welland Park Academy'. **By Eve, Year 11**

## PROM 2020

Year 11. The year of exams, exams and more exams. Working hard towards those GCSEs and not being able to see that end goal. However, then you are approached by Mrs Burgess with her hopes of creating a "Prom Squad".

The Prom Committee: a group of students from Year 11 have now been working hard and will continue to up until March - baking, selling, advertising and ultimately fund-raising to create an amazing Prom for the rest of our year.

We've spent days at Lubenham Scarecrow Festival and many a night getting students to persuade their parents to spare a pound for one of our homemade cakes; not to mention all the work put in behind the scenes by parents, students and the teachers running the committee. It all of course stems from our meetings once a month in Dr Kendall's science room, perhaps, with a cookie in hand. So, if you're wandering around the school (staff and students) and find a Prom Squad notice, come along and spare that pound or sign up to participate in the many upcoming events which are to be confirmed soon. **By Kesia, Year 11**



# EDULINK OR EDUSINK?

After Show My Homework terminated at the end of last year, Welland Park Academy had replaced the homework site with the "all-encompassing" site Edulink One. It was met with some controversy: according to various students labelling it as being "unreliable" and "frustrating". In other opinions, it supplies so many more resources. Of course, being the successor of Show my Homework, it is hard not to compare the two.

The differing opinions of Edulink and the demographics of those who use it, render the platform a love-hate conundrum.

If you weren't already aware of it, Edulink is a school website dedicated to the organisation of pupils and their latest obligations, such as upcoming tests, their attendance and other outlets. For some things, such as being able to see your timetable, it

comes as a benefit to them. To other students, however, it is seen as unnecessary, when they have the paper-version in their pocket. For Year 11s, exam notifications can be a godsend, but do Year 7s really need to be reminded when their "exams" are imminent?

I spoke to an anonymous parent about her views on Edulink. "Viewing due dates were clearer on Show My Homework," she said, "but I like that I can report absences."

Most of the teachers had a warm reception for the site. Mr Oakland had this to say: "It's a lot better, because I can do registers and put on house points. In that respect, it's better than Show My Homework," He, like most teachers, was in favour of the website. "Let it live," he pronounced.

At the other end of the scale, some

students did not respond very well to it. One disgruntled person said, "There is a problem with Edulink; as when you need to check the site, to perhaps click on a link, as soon as you go back into the website, you have to log in. This can prove tedious, especially when in lessons. It can waste precious minutes of our class' time,"

There are many benefits to Edulink, some of which outweigh the positives of Show My Homework. Anything from absence reporting, to checking timetables, Edulink is an outlet that allows parents, teachers and students to have access over much more than previously seen in Welland Park Academy. The verdict still remains open: whether you love it or loathe it, the site is constantly improving to better everyone's online experience.

**By Mistée, Year 8**

# WELLAND PARK WELLBEING

Whenever you think about enrolling for a school, you want to know about the education but also how they treat the students. You may worry about the school not having regulations in place to keep an eye on the students behaviour or to make sure the students and teachers are working to their full potential. These are really important to us and to prove this, I've compiled a few statements from staff and pupils alike.

Some Year 8's said.. "I really like the

school because there's always someone to talk to." While others said: "I like the school because there's always a teacher to keep an eye on the students." At Welland Park Academy, there are a lot of things in the school for pupils like the pastoral team. One student said that it "is the best place because if you have something that is upsetting you, there is someone to listen and resolve the problem". One staff member reported: "We make sure to cater to every student's learn-

ing needs."

Mrs Gerald (Assistant Principal), has recently become the senior leader for student and staff wellbeing.

It's essential that in a modern day world schools have a stable mental health and pastoral team because of the increase in anxiety and depression surrounding teenagers. It's reassuring to know that Welland Park Academy has a brilliant team for student wellbeing. **By Kitty, Year 8**

# CHILD HOMELESSNESS

There are currently more than 124,490 children across the UK living in temporary accommodation, and by the end Summer 2019, it is estimated that more than 320 of these children will be homeless.

The UK has seen a huge rise in child homelessness over this past year, and I believe that it is not right for so many children to go through the tragedy of being homeless. Every child deserves a home, so why don't these children have one?

One student stated that "the prices for apartments are steadily growing but peoples' wages are going in a downhill spiral." There are calls for the Prime Minister to make housing for children a major priority. **By Elin, Year 8**

## WOULD YOU USE A GOLDEN TOILET?



If your answer was 'Yes!', then you may be out of luck - an 18-carat solid gold toilet, displayed at Blenheim Palace, was stolen at 4:50 AM on September 14th.

The artwork, titled 'America', was created by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan and was first installed in a public bathroom at the Guggenheim

Museum in New York. Over 100,000 visitors queued for hours to use it. In 2017, it was jokingly offered to Donald Trump to put in the White House, mocking his manner of hoarding riches.

Earlier this month, it was installed in Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Winston Churchill. Visitors were invited to come and use the throne and were allocated three-minute windows to use it for its intended purpose.

Thames Valley Police report that a gang broke into the Oxford palace and ripped it out of the wall, causing major damage. A 66-year-old man has been arrested, but the artwork, valued at over £6 million, has not been found.

One of our reporters, Harry, was at Blenheim Palace on Saturday and Sunday and saw the damage that the thieves caused. **By Chris, Year 10**

## THE BIG JAFFA CAKE DEBATE

There is one question that tears families apart, ends relationship after relationship, causes wars, and damages friendships: is a Jaffa Cake a cake or a biscuit?

According to McVities, the company who created the famous confectionary, Jaffa Cakes are classed as cakes, but only to reduce the rate of VAT on the products. However, the opposition argue that, due to their size and shape, Jaffa Cakes must be classed as biscuits.

To settle this age-old debate, we asked the staff of Welland Park Academy to decide on the matter, and they have spoken - 14 out of 19 interviewed believe that Jaffa Cakes are cakes.

However, one MFL teacher said the snacks are neither a cake nor a biscuit, but in fact a fun way to learn the French perfect tense...

What do you think? **By Maisie, Year 9**



## CANCER SURVIVOR SWIMS CHANNEL FOUR TIMES

Sarah Thomas (aged 37) a breast cancer survivor became the first person to swim the channel 4 times non-stop. The 37 year old said that her swim was for "all the survivors out there".

It took her 54 hours and finished early on Tuesday. The challenge was meant to be 80 miles but due to strong tides it was a stunning 130 miles! Fellow swimmer Lewis Pugh tweeted: "Extraordinary, amazing, super-human!!! Just when we think we've reached the limit of human endurance, someone shatters the records." Sarah, who was born in Colo-

rado, USA felt that the hardest part of the swim was the salt water she even said "I'm losing my voice from all the salt water."

Ms Thomas stated to the BBC when she had finished the challenge of a lifetime "I just can't believe we did it". Whilst swimming she was unfortunately stung by a jellyfish but showed true perseverance and carried on swimming.

Becky Baxter, the hero's mother, told BBC Radio 4 "I've been on a lot of her trips .This was by far the scariest." According to Becky, Sarah had a stomach ache and she was having

trouble holding things down during the journey so in order to have energy she had a protein recovery drink with caffeine and electrolytes to stop her from sleeping. Baxter said "It is tied to a rope and we get her attention every 30 minutes and throw it to her" Thomas felt that she couldn't go back once she'd made it to England but through her team's encouragement and own determination she was able to celebrate her major accomplishment with champagne and chocolates. **By George, Year 8**

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# FIRE AT MARKET HARBOROUGH RESTAURANT

A little over a week ago, on the 7th of September, disaster struck the well-known pub 'The Roebuck', situated on the outskirts of Market Harborough. An electrical fault caused the pub to be set on fire. The fire began on the first floor where it quickly grew and spread into the owners living quarters. Luckily, nobody was hurt but 40 firemen worked through all of Friday night to put out the fire and nine customers had to be evacuated.

The pub itself, now barely more than a burned wreck, was loved by some and hated by others. When the upsetting news reached public ears many people commented on social media. However our own head of Drama Mr Oakland, who had organised a singing concert at the pub last Christmas, commented that he was 'very saddened' and hoped that the pub would 'get back on its feet soon'.

It was also a devastating loss for the

manager of the pub, not only because of the fact that the pub he was running had been burned almost to the ground, but all of his personal possessions had been lost in the fire so he was left with only the clothes he was wearing.

**By Kezia, Year 8**

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# SOLAR STARMAN

Last year, multi-billion dollar company SpaceX launched a Tesla Roadster into the abyss of space. It has been over a year and a half since 'Starman' was launched out of Earth's gravity by a Falcon Heavy Rocket, and it has since made a full orbit around the sun.

SpaceX's experts believed that it would take 557 Earth days for the roadster to complete a lap of the sun – however, it has now been out of Earth's atmosphere for 560 days. The reason it was sent into space was

because Elon Musk – the famous South African-American billionaire – was doing an experiment with the most powerful rocket in existence, the Falcon Heavy. He chose a Tesla Roadster because he wanted to show that the rocket could lift such a (pun intended) heavy object.

Mr. Musk said that it could be up there in the vast, empty void of space for possibly millions of years. This is controversial, as many think that it just adds to the tons of space junk already orbiting the Earth and Sun.

However, many others, including space junk expert Darren McKnight, believe that it represents the future of human space technology. **By Dexter, Year 8**



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# PARIS 2019



In June 2019, 47 students and 5 teachers travelled to Paris. The itinerary included climbing the Eiffel Tower, visiting the Louvre and enjoying dessert at a traditional French crêperie.

Mrs Gerald led the trip, supported by Mr Oakland, Mrs Theobald, Mrs Roberts and Mrs Francois.

Mrs Gerald said that she believes that it is "good for bringing different students together" and that she thinks it is "really important to broaden people's horizons". She also added that it is genuinely one of the best school trips she has ever been on. As you may remember, the heat-wave gave most of Europe temperatures in excess of

30 degrees. Mr Oakland (who has taken part in many French trips) said that despite the overwhelming heat, the trip itself was amazing, and the company of "extremely well behaved, respectful and enthusiastic KS3/4 students" made the trip one of the best ones ever.

**By Harry, Year 11**

# FUN FACTS

Flamingos aren't pink, they're grey, but the crustaceans they eat have a pink pigment in them so the colour transfers onto the flamingos.

Birds in the wild tuck one leg into their feathers to reserve heat when there is less food to catch and hunt.

A group of jellyfish is called a smack.

Naked mole rats can't see colour.

A 2-D shape with 99 sides is called an enneacontakaienneagon.

The dot on an 'i' is called a tittle.

But the dot on a dice is called a pip.

The popular ice cream brand, Ben and Jerrys, originally wanted to be a bagel company.

Pope Francis (the current pope) drives a Ford Focus.

# PRINCIPAL INTERVIEW

We interviewed Miss McBrearty, the Principal of Welland Park Academy and asked her questions about running the school.

## **Q1. Why did Miss McBrearty choose to be Principal?**

A1. Miss McBrearty started as a science teacher. She wanted to teach young children about science, which was a passion of hers. She worked up the ranks, and after being deputy head teacher for a few years, she decided it was time for a new challenge, so she took on head teacher.

## **Q2. What is the best part of Miss McBrearty's job?**

A2. Miss McBrearty loves working with children and working with staff to create opportunities for them. While on the other hand she loves seeing the teachers develop in their own teaching methods and helping students.

## **Q3. What is the worst part of her job?**

A3. When students get it wrong, it deeply saddens Miss McBrearty to have to exclude them, and the fact that all the opportunities that they have such as sports day and residential trips won't be a part of their life.

## **Q4. What would a normal day look like?**

A4. Miss McBrearty said that everyday presents new situations. Students have a timetable that doesn't change, while Miss McBrearty doesn't have a timetable as her days are never the same.

## **Q5. How long has she been the Principal at WPA?**

A5. Miss McBrearty has been the Principal here for 7 years.

## **Q6. If there were 3 things that she would like the students to know, what would it be?**

A6. That every student is capable of much more than they believe, that there is always people to help and to talk to, and that when students give their ideas even if they aren't done straight away that their opinions and ideas do matter to the staff at WPA.

## **Q7. What are the most important qualities for someone as head teacher?**

A7. Someone who listens and doesn't assume that they're always right, someone who has the right ambitions for the welfare of the school and someone with patience as you would have to work with lots of different people who are all different and don't always do things the same way as you.

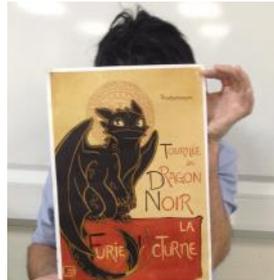
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**Q8. What other schools has she worked at?**

A8. Welland Park is Miss McBrearty's sixth school. She has worked in school in Devon, Bedfordshire, Leicester City and Rugby. **By Zara, Year 8**

## GUESS THE TEACHER



## HONG KONG RIOTS

**EXCLUSIVE: We interview a resident of Hong Kong to get a perspective of what the protests feel like for the protestors.**

**How long have the protests been going on for?**

The protests have been happening every weekend for the last 15 weeks. It's not clear when they will stop.

**How close have they gotten to your apartment?**

We live very close to a police station and the demonstrators have been targeting the police so we can see some of the marches from our window. We were at a restaurant one night near our flat and saw a large number of armed police get out their vans.

**Have you or anybody you know been caught up in the violence?**

The demonstrations are mostly very civilised it's just towards the end of a march the very passionate demonstrators cause violence. I was very close to a demonstration one night after work and could feel the effects of the tear gas that the police had released into the crowds.

**Do you agree with their agenda?**

I agree that there is a lot of uncertainty in respect of what will happen in 2047 and people are becoming very worried that the Chinese will take more power from Hong Kong but Hong Kong people want to protect their rights and their way of life. I do not agree with the violence but I think this is a result of the people's frustration.

**Has anybody you know joined the protests?**

Some of the marches have been in excess of 2 million demonstrators so we do know a lot of people involved but I have never been on a march.

**By Chris**

*Thanks to Mrs F. Horne and her sister (who lives in Hong Kong)*

# CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

A 100% victory rate and a 5 point lead in the Premier League seems promising for Champions' League title holders Liverpool FC. Klopp's men are 'looking to improve', and he is happy by the desire to win that continues to burn deep within the squad.

However, with their campaign launching at the Stadio San Paolo tonight with a match against Napoli, the team still has a lot to prove. Last season, they struggled in the group stages with three consecutive defeats; one of them being Napoli.

This defeat was their worst performance of the tournament. However, Klopp insists the triumphs the team has had has only made them hungry for more.

Only time will tell how well Liverpool will perform this time around, but from their record it seems like they're on track to do well this season in all competitions.

**By Chris, Year 10**

# NEYMAR'S SUSPENSION

Paris Saint-Germain footballer Neymar has been handed a 2-match suspension after he used abusive language against a match official last season.

After PSG were eliminated from the Champions League in March, due to a penalty against them in stoppage time, Neymar, who didn't play due to an injury, unleashed a torrent of abuse on social media against the referee and assistants. UEFA found him guilty of insulting match officials and was originally handed a 3-match ban.

On September 13th, following an appeal by the club, his ban was reduced to just 2 matches. Therefore, this means, that he will miss the upcoming match against Real Madrid and the trip to Galatasaray later. Neymar will be eligible to return to the squad for the match against Club Brugge on October 22nd.

**By Chris, Year 10**

# NETBALL AT CANDOVER

Recently, the school took part in a netball residential at Candover Hall. This included a total of 3 teams. Overall, the tournament had 50 teams compete across the weekend and a total of 240 matches to place. Combined, across the 3 teams, Welland Park Academy played in 30. This trip included not only netball but many fun outdoor activities such as abseiling, tunnelling, high ropes course and many others!

Year 8 came third in the cup and Year 9 ended their last match with a spectacular win. "It was brilliant to see everyone make progress and learn more about Netball. Also, the team spirit and stamina over the weekend was fantastic!"- Miss Gray & Miss McSparron (two PE teachers at Welland Park Academy).

"It would be great to see more people joining these sport clubs and to see more students engaged in various matches in the future!" - Miss Gray

One student who participated in the trip said "I really enjoyed the trip because it had many fun activities to offer such as zip lining, as well as the main reason for going which is netball!"

**By Miranda and Bea, Year 8**



# WHERE IN THE SCHOOL?



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# NEWSPAPER DAY

# SEPTEMBER 2019

## The Newspaper Team

Harry

Amy

Bea

Chris

Dexter

Elin

Eve

George

Hayleigh

Katie

Kesia

Kezia

Kitty

Lidia

Maisie

Miranda

Mistee

Oscar

Rosalind

Zara

Mr Howes