



THE EIRIAS CHRONICLE



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THE EIRIAS CHRONICLE:

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WELCOME BACK & THE ENVIRONMENT TEAM NEWS

Welcome back to The Eirias Chronicle! With the first full term of the year coming to an end, we hope that you enjoy this edition packed full of all the events and activities that have been happening around school. Here's a short introduction into how the environment team have gotten on this term and in the page overleaf we also learn about the origins of Easter as we approach the holidays.

The Environment Team held another bake sale in which they raised over £150 to fund green projects across the school. They immediately got to work and began to plant their new tree saplings which they received from The Woodland Trust and used some of their bake sale money to purchase the planters and soil.



EASTER 2025

Easter is a Christian festival which marks the resurrection of Jesus and so for many Christians Easter is a celebration of the triumph of life over death.

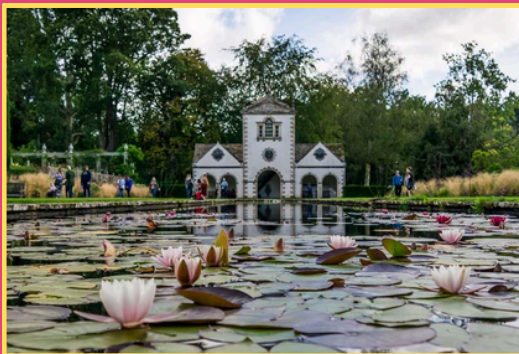
Before Easter, Christians celebrate Lent which is a period of 40 days during which many Christians remember the events leading up to Easter.

Lent is marked by fasting, and generally people will give up things for Lent, such as unhealthy foods or bad habits. Whilst Easter is a time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion.

The symbol of the rabbit (The Easter Bunny) stems from the ancient pagan tradition on which many of our Easter traditions are based. The festival of Eostre, which honored the goddess of fertility and spring links with the rabbit as the goddess's animal symbol was a rabbit, which have long traditionally stood for fertility due to their high reproduction rates.

Easter will be celebrated on the 20th of April this year. There are many Easter activities happening in North Wales this year such as:

BODNANT GARDENS & PLAS NEWYDD EASTER EGG HUNTS



5 – 27 April 2025
9.30am to 4pm

LLYN BRENIG GOLDEN EGG HUNT



17 April – 22 April 2025
10am – 2pm



WHY LEEKS ARE THE SYMBOL OF WALES

To commemorate St. David's Day which was celebrated on the first of March, Emma decided to find out more about the origins of Welsh traditions and heritage. One of the most famous vegetables associated with Wales is of course the leek, read more to find out why...

Have you ever wondered why leeks are the national symbol of Wales?



It has a variety of theories; one of them says that the Pagans and Druids were thought to have believed that the leek had a lot of different uses, including curing a cold, predicting the future, and scaring away evil spirits.

Others think that Saint David told his soldiers to wear the leek in their hats when in battle so they could tell each other apart from their enemies, the Saxons – this must have worked as the Welsh won in the end!

Another story states that in the battle of Crécy, the Welsh soldiers fought in a field of leeks. In memory of the brave soldiers, the Welsh people started to wear leeks in their caps every Saint David's day.

Saint David's day has become a popular festival. People celebrate by holding a huge parade like the one in Colwyn Bay, where lots of children take part waving Welsh flags, daffodils and wearing a leek!



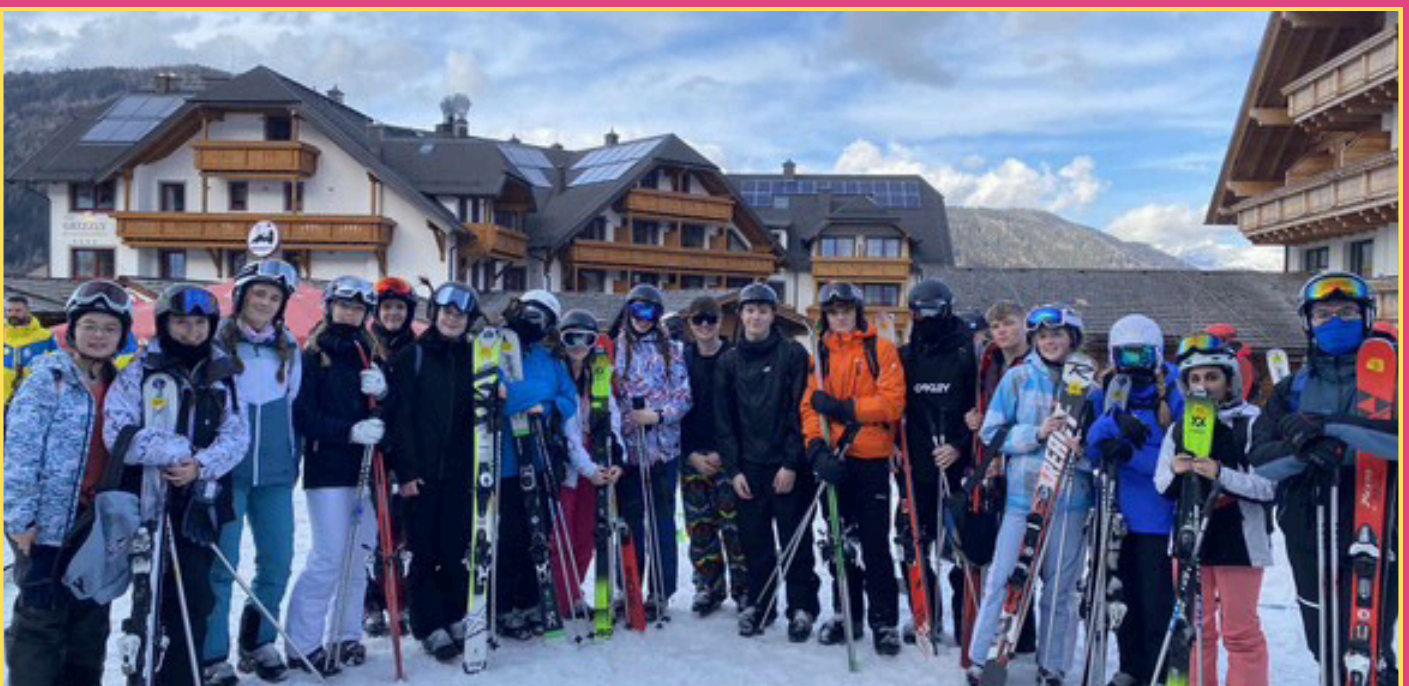
THE YSGOL EIRIAS SKI TRIP 2025

The Ysgol Eirias ski trip 2025 began with an early flight from Manchester on the 21st of February with 50 students from year groups 9 to 13.



After a long day's travel we arrived in the Lungau area of Austria prepared for our exciting weeklong trip together. Over the five days that we were there we enjoyed the amazing views and skied at two incredible resorts, tackling slopes for all abilities. It was incredible to see everyone improve, with beginners confidently navigating blue and some red runs by the end of the week.

Throughout the week we completed a range of runs, varying in difficulty. The instructors we had showed us drills to help us improve and on the last day every group took part in a competition which measured our speed. This was such a great end to our trip to bring all the techniques we'd learnt together and there was clear improvement from everyone! Our fantastic instructors made our learning really enjoyable.

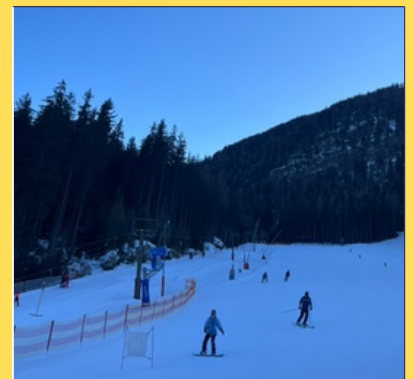


THE YSGOL EIRIAS SKI TRIP 2025

Evenings were filled with fun activities such as a disco, a talent show (where the sixth form girls took 1st place with their amazing performance), a quiz night filled with laughter and a pizza night at a local restaurant. A memorable activity was swimming at a nearby swimming centre, complete with games and a water slide.

Our accommodation at the Mauser youth hostel was a great place to unwind after our long days of skiing and created strong bonds through late night card games and conversations.

Throughout the whole trip everyone developed their skiing skills amazingly and we challenged ourselves as we encouraged each other to step outside of their comfort zone. We had an incredible time and created memories that will last forever.



There will be a ski trip in Easter 2026, for more information visit the post on the student voice channel or contact Mr Hawkins.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

EXPEDITION TIPS

With some practices already in full swing & the official expeditions happening next term, we thought that now would be the perfect time to share some advice with those participating on how to make the most out of their expedition.

"MAKE SURE THAT YOUR FOOTWEAR IS BROKEN IN BEFORE HAND, YOU DON'T WANT THE EXPEDITION TO BE THE FIRST TIME THAT YOU'VE PROPERLY WORN YOUR WALKING BOOTS."



"ENSURE THAT YOU COMMUNICATE WITH THE REST OF YOUR TEAM WHEN PACKING - THERE'S NO USE HAVING MULTIPLE PEOPLE BRINGING ITEMS THAT CAN BE SHARED SUCH AS A MALLET OR COOKING UTENSILS."

"BRING COMFORTABLE SHOES (SUCH AS CROCS) TO THE CAMPSITE SO THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO LACE UP YOUR BOOTS EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE THE TENT. IT ALSO MEANS THAT IF YOUR BOOTS GET WET, YOU CAN LEAVE THEM TO DRY OVERNIGHT AND STILL HAVE A PAIR OF SHOES TO WEAR AROUND THE CAMPSITE."



"WHEN PACKING, TRY TO GROUP ITEMS IN INDIVIDUAL WATERPROOF BAGS. THESE GROUPS CAN INCLUDE NIGHT TIME THINGS (PYJAMAS, TOOTHBRUSH ETC) AND ALL THE THINGS YOU'LL NEED IN THE MORNING. THIS MAKES RE-PACKING MUCH EASIER AND MEANS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE ITEMS OUT OF YOUR BAG ONE AT A TIME AS THEY ARE ALL NEATLY PACKED TOGETHER."



MOANA JR THE MUSICAL



After the success of the school musical last month, our very own Moana Jess Lewis has written an account of her experience acting in the most recent production.

In October 2024, there was an announcement that Moana Junior the musical was going to be the next school show. I got really excited when I heard about this because I love taking part in shows and I particularly love musical theatre.

Anyone interested in a part in the show was asked to attend an audition where we were asked to sing a song of our choice. I sang 'How Far I'll go' from Moana as my audition song. The audition panel was Mrs Howell, Mrs Hammerton and Mr Gregson. Following the first audition, some of us were asked for call backs for certain parts in the show. I was so excited to find out I had a call back for the part of Moana. It then felt like a long wait after the call backs until the cast list was revealed.

Once all the parts had been given out, after school rehearsals started. We got given the scripts for Moana Junior and then started to learn the script and the songs. We attended rehearsals at least once or twice every week. Sometimes these rehearsals were as a full cast, other times they were 1-1 singing lessons, and the rest of the time they were in small groups doing specific parts, songs, or dances.

As time went on, we started to put sections of the show together and so rehearsals increased to sometimes 3 times a week after school and some lunchtimes too. Behind the scenes there were also teachers and students building the set, sorting props and making costumes.



MOANA JR THE MUSICAL PRODUCTION

In March 2025, after about 4-5 months of rehearsals and preparation, it was finally show week. On the Monday of show week, we had a day off timetable for a full technical rehearsal where all the lighting and sound was set, and then we had a full dress-rehearsal during the afternoon. Local primary schools were invited to watch the dress rehearsal.

We then held 2 evening shows on the Monday and Tuesday evening. These took place in the school hall and we had almost sold out shows both nights. The shows went well, and everyone who watched really enjoyed it! The show set and props came out perfectly and a lot of people commented on how effective the set was! The majority of the costumes were also hand made by teachers and students and all the sound and lighting for the show was done by students too

I absolutely loved performing in the show. It was so much fun and such a good experience. I have met so many people by doing the show and I have gotten to know lots of other students from all years and many of the teachers too. The best thing about the show has been the fun we have had doing it. I am sad it is all over now and I would recommend it to anyone to get involved in a school show in the future.



Thank you to all the staff involved with the Moana school production, including Mrs Howell (Director), Miss Hammerton (Music), Miss Hasleshurst (Choreography), Mr Gregson (Stage Manager), Mrs Caton (Lighting), Dr Jones (Costume), Mrs Haslock (Costume) and Mrs Blackwell (Front of house).

HAVE YOU PICKED THE RIGHT GCSE OPTIONS?

It can be very difficult to know if you've made the right decision when it comes to picking GCSE and A level options as they can hugely impact your future decisions and career. Take a look at this guide which will hopefully help you to decide if you have chosen the options right for you.



- Is this a subject that you would like to carry on at A level? Some subjects require a GCSE in the subject before studying at A level such as foreign languages. Although A levels seem far away, it's a good idea to look to the future when making this decision!
- Ensure that you are truly interested in the subject. No matter the amount of work it will take or the grade you think you'll get, is this a subject that you enjoy regardless of these factors?
- Now is the perfect time to try a new subject, especially if your main interests lie with core subjects such as sciences, maths or English. If you aren't sure, maybe research into subjects offered exclusively at GCSE such as Textiles, Computer Science or Business.
- It's never a bad idea to do further research on the WJEC website. Look at specifications and past exam papers to see if you like the course content and style of questions.



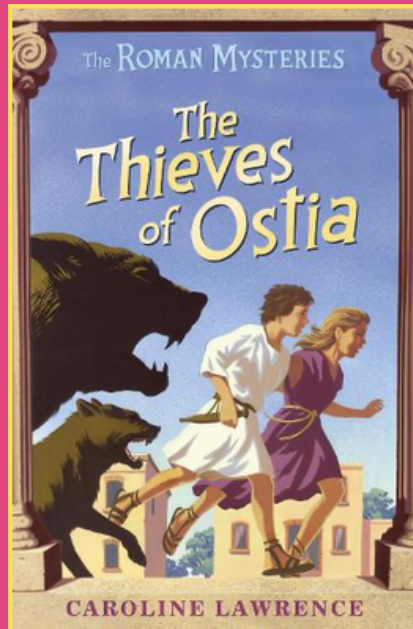
HAVE YOU PICKED THE RIGHT A LEVEL OPTIONS?

- Look into university degrees carefully before picking subjects. For example, if you want to do an English degree, it's probably better to pick English Literature over language as universities generally require an A level in Literature to study an English degree. Some universities such as Cambridge also require maths when studying medicine, which many other universities do not ask for.
- Really analyse how you felt about your GCSE options, think why you liked or disliked your choices. Was there too much content to revise? Did you enjoy learning the content? Is it a subject that interests you outside of school?
- Ensure that you aren't just picking the subject just for the sake of it. Do some wider reading outside of the school subject. You could read a book related to the topic, listen to a podcast or simply just become more aware of the real world links to your chosen subject.
- Although you should generally pick a subject purely for your genuine interest in it, it is still a good idea to look at your GCSE grades as a guide for picking your subject. You need to gauge if this is a subject that might challenge you and therefore you may need to work harder at GCSE than you did at A level.



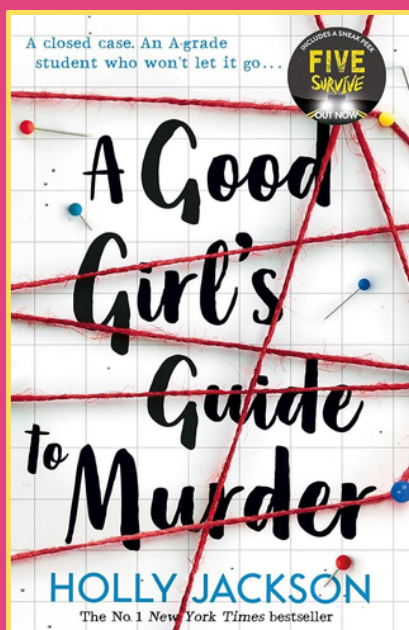
WORLD BOOK DAY READING RECOMMENDATIONS

As it was World Book Day on the 6th of March, The Publicity Team decided to compile a selection of book recommendations for each year group. Here are some of the top picks from the team & pupils in school.



YEAR 7

A GOOD GIRL'S GUIDE TO MURDER



YEAR 9/10

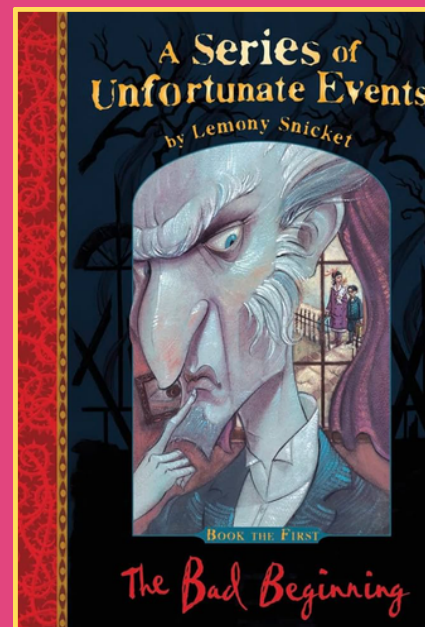
THE ROMAN MYSTERIES

A historical novel series containing over 15 installations perfect for ages 10-14. The books detail 'the adventures of four children who solve mysteries and have adventures in Ostia Antica, Rome, Greece, and beyond.'

A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

Another book series to add to your reading list! This 13-novel series follows the lives of three young orphaned siblings. The books are hugely gripping and contain many plot twists and discoveries. Each book has a unique setting and plotline to the last which makes it a very readable series.

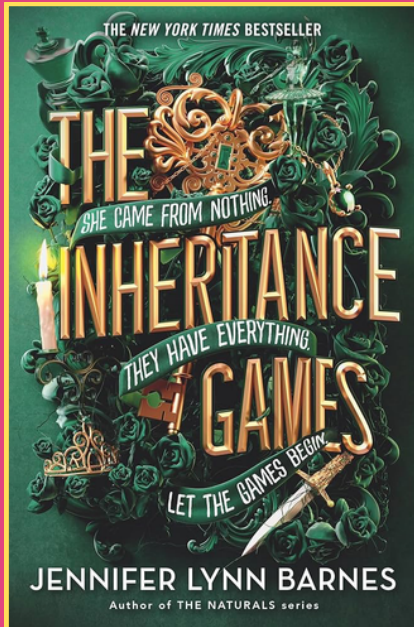
These next two books are perfect for year 9 and 10 readers alike and are both the first books of a 4-novel series. AGGGTM by Holly Jackson is an extremely engrossing murder-mystery in which a high school student decides to solve an open-shut murder case that rocked her home town. She soon discovers that there is much more to it than she first anticipated and takes it upon herself to re-open the case and search for the truth.



YEAR 8

WORLD BOOK DAY READING RECOMMENDATIONS

THE INHERITANCE GAMES



The series follows Avery Grambs, an American teenager who suddenly and unexpectedly inherits a fortune from a billionaire that she's never met.

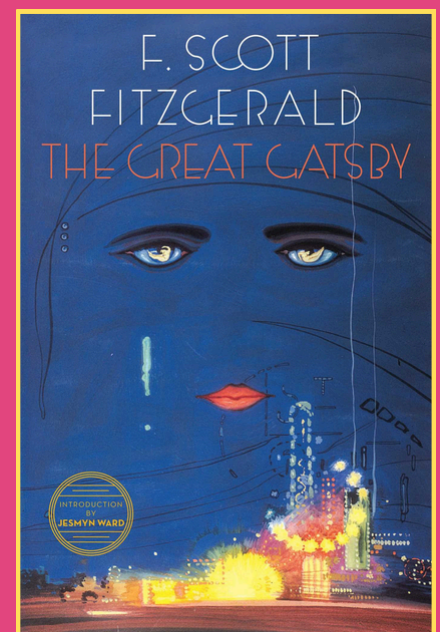
Throughout the first novel and subsequent novels she begins to unravel intricate details and solve carefully-laid puzzles about her own past and the past of the billionaire's family that lead her to discover why she became the heir to the fortune.

YEAR 9/10

Set in the summer of 1922, *The Great Gatsby* is the perfect book to read during the next few months. The novel has sold over 25 million copies worldwide and has been praised for its 'compelling and intricately developed characters'.

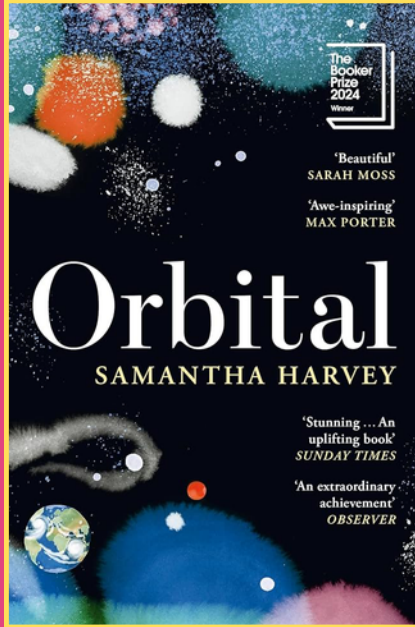
The novel follows the actions of Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire and is narrated by an acquaintance who meets and observes Gatsby over the summer. He depicts Jay's pursuits of Daisy Buchanan, a married woman whom he loved in his youth. The book contains ample symbolism and summarises that the American Dream is simply an illusion.

THE GREAT GATSBY



YEAR 11

WORLD BOOK DAY READING RECOMMENDATIONS



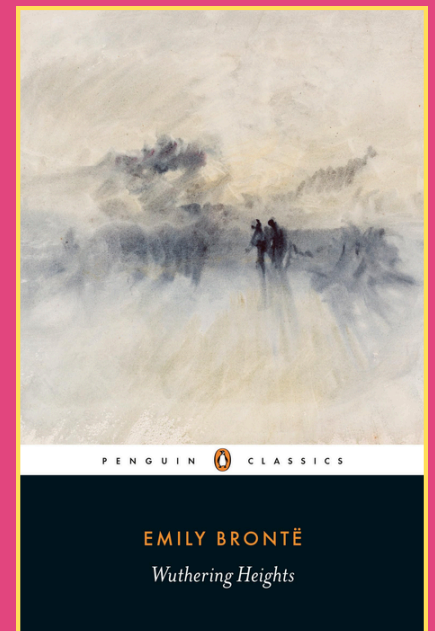
ORBITAL

Orbital is about a day in the life of six astronauts on the International Space Station as they orbit earth. It talks about humanity, and how humans have impacted planet earth and solar system. The characters consider their lives on earth and their lives in space, and think about the positives and negatives of the past and the future.

WUTHERING HEIGHTS & THIS THING OF DARKNESS

YEAR 12

Wuthering heights is a gothic novel written by Emily Brontë and is a classic of English literature. The book depicts the 'destructive power of love' through the 'tumultuous' relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw.



Once you've read the novel, you can then read Mrs N Edwards' novel 'this thing of darkness' which illustrates Heathcliff's actions when he temporarily leaves Wuthering Heights.

YEAR 13

THANK YOU TO ELLA STEER,
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RECOMMENDATIONS!

THE EIRIAS CHRONICLE



If you would like to get involved with The Eirias Chronicle or Publicity Team, please email rothniel@hwbcymru.net

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