

ELLESMERE EXCLUSIVE



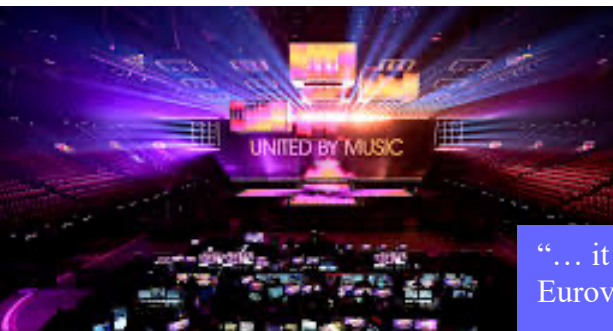
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Eurovision’s 2024

Another year of the flamboyant and spectacular Eurovision song contest has officially passed with the week-long event being hosted in Malmo, Sweden after the country’s Loreen won for the second time with her song, ‘Tattoo’ in 2023. Switzerland’s Nemo was crowned as the 2024 champion with their hit single, ‘The Code’ with 591 points from the jury and public votes but the show wasn’t all as smooth-running as we think. Stay with me as I dive into all the drama, plot twists and controversy regarding Eurovision 2024.

Kicking off with a bang, just hours before the final, Holland’s 2024 entry, Joost Klein, was controversially disqualified following a backstage incident with a female member of the event’s production crew. Klein ,26, had already qualified for the grand final but was absent from Friday’s dress rehearsals. The Dutch broadcaster, who sent the country’s entry, later issued a statement saying that the decision to disqualify Klein was “disproportionate.”

The singer’s disqualification after the start of the five-day event was the first in the show’s 68-year history. Prior to the disqualification, Klien made a controversial and contentious decision when he chose to cover his face with the Dutch flag, signifying that he didn’t agree with the decision to be placed next to the Israeli contestant, Eden Golan, at a conference after the competition’s second semi-final.



“... it will be written in the Eurovision history books.”



|Coming up...

WRITER’S NAME: SAM HENN

The second turning point of the show’s final was when the UK’s Olly Alexander and his song ‘Dizzy’ received 0 points from the final’s public vote. The artist’s position on the leader board after the jury votes was positive and optimistic, being placed in the 13th position on the leader board with 46 points from the jury. The nation was hopeful when it was eventually time to reveal the UK’s public votes and the country was heartbroken when it was revealed that Alexander received 0 points from the public votes.

This year’s Eurovision was full of amazing performances and great artists and despite the controversies surrounding this year’s event, it was still a spectacular show which will be written in the Eurovision history books. It will be recognised for its amazing acts, controversial plot twists and of course, many fantastic singers and bands, all with great performances. Eurovision 2024 will be remembered forever as one of the greatest years of Eurovision of all time and I personally can’t imagine what next year’s show will hold.

- EUROVISIONS 2024
- THE CO-OP LIVE’S OUTRAGEOUS OPENING
- A MOVIE ABOUT STUNS BY A STUNTMAN
- MRS LLOYD INTERVIEW
- BANK HOLIDAYS
- THE LONDON MARATHON
- IT’S TIME FOR A FASHION REVOLUTION
- MR STRETCH INTERVIEW
- MR TUNNEY INTERVIEW

Mae Baxter - Writer/ Designer
Abigail Ma - Writer/ Editor
Zoe Finnegan - Writer
Sam Henn – Writer
Erin Wong - Writer



2024 winner, from Switzerland, Nemo.

LOCAL NEWS

The Co-op Live’s outrageous opening

The UK’s largest indoor arena has wreaked havoc upon opening week.

WRITER’S NAME: MAE BAXTER



The much-anticipated Co-op Live arena has finally been completed and is now open to the public for a plethora of upcoming concerts and entertainment.

However, delayed opening times, and a rocky start has put this £365 million project in a dark light, leaving many fans downhearted, some enraged and others purely disappointed.

Oak View is the American developer of the arena, with names such as Madison Square Garden in New York and Sphere in Last Vegas in their portfolio of work, which is why the string of disasters in its name has come at such a surprise.

After years of hard work, the Co-op Live arena is now welcoming guests, but initial feedback from locals has been mixed. A tester concert featuring Rick Astley had to reduce its capacity at the last minute, leading to frustration among attendees. Subsequent postponements, including a concert by the Black Keys, further disappointed fans and added pressure on the team to address issues promptly. “We look forward to hitting the stage when everything is up and running,” the duo said. Refunds have been made, but that didn’t take away from this devastating news. Over 2,000 workers are now rushing to get everything fixed, the pressure of rebuilding their reputation heavy on their backs. Never-ending criticism and backlash over this beleaguered Arena managed to take a toll on everyone, but especially the general manager, Gary Roden. His resignation expresses the challenges workers face by this grand project, but efforts to improve and deliver successful events still continue.

“As the arena strives to overcome its poor start, [the arena] remains a beacon of hope for all future performances.”

Peter Kay, local comedian, has been the subject of the news lately, after outrage broke out about his shows being postponed not once, but twice. Peter Kay is not normally known for public displays of irritation, but he cannot help demonstrating his frustration at the venue’s calamitous opening. However, he is not alone. Thousands and thousands of ticketholders have had their plans upended by its delays, understandably frustrated by the lack of organisation and words of broken promises. The venue is now plagued by problems, and what was supposed to be a monumental opening has turned into a debacle!

We have all heard about the many setbacks and calamity that our new arena has faced, but what has been the cause? What has generated such a wave of distaste and unsatisfaction?

“Absolute shambles! Been looking forward to this for ages. People will lose money on trains and hotels. My sister and niece included! If it’s a known, on-going issue, you’d think that more notice would’ve been warranted? So sorry for everyone who was excited.”

Following yet another disappointing delay, this time at the hands of pop-star Olivia Rodrigo, more information has finally been revealed regarding issues haunting Co-op Live. The latest update sheds light on the underlying problems with the venue’s infrastructure.

According to a recent statement, the postponement was due to a malfunction in the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system during a soundcheck. This revelation comes after months of vague explanations saying it’s due to “electrical issues”, “technical problems”, and “capacity issues” which has left fans feeling unsettled and confused. The severity of the situation became apparent when a ventilation component fell from the roof, calling to attention the potential dangers lurking inside the ill-fated walls of Co-op Live.

Moving forward, it is vital that the necessary repairs and improvements are made to ensure the safety of all future fans and staff. In order to regain public trust, they must address these issues promptly and swiftly, whilst also rebuilding their esteem as a premier entertainment venue. As the arena strives to overcome its poor start, the promise of a world-class arena remains a beacon of hope for all future performances.

“The Co-op live opening has been a tale of how not to open a venue. The fact that they were ready to open then part of the AC in the roof plummeted to the floor hours before that room would have been filled with people is astonishingly reckless beyond belief.”

Vibrant, Inclusive, Proud

REVIEW

A movie about stunts by a stuntman

WRITER’S NAME: ABIGAIL MA

Would some of the greatest films of all time be as ground-breaking as we know them to be without stunts?

Well, the simple answer is no.

In Oscar best picture winners such as ‘Braveheart’ (winner in 1996) or ‘Lawrence of Arabia (in 19630), stunts have been evident in and crucial to the film’s storytelling and success, yet there is still no real awards and recognition for these feats. Furthermore, some of the biggest box office hits have relied on stunts and stunt performers such as: ‘Avengers: Endgame’ and the multitude of other Marvel films that occupy the list, ‘Top Gun: Maverick’ and ‘Furious 7’ - all of which are key examples of why stunts deserved to be appreciated more. So why hasn’t this happened yet? There is no obvious reason as why institutes have failed to introduce categories that recognise stunt performers’ work but over recent years, we have seen more actors and professionals lobbying for this to change. For years, stunt performers have been performing death-defying stunts on movies, all for their faces to be hidden and for us to never know who performed them. However, a recent cinematic release seems to be a first step into audiences knowing who is behind these marvels.

“In a time where so many films are dark and dramatic, [The Fall Guy] seems like a pleasant break.”

‘The Fall Guy’ released on May 2nd of this year has not only sparked vital conversations but is also an emblem of why we got to the movies in the first place. After leaving the business one year earlier battle-scarred stuntman Colt Seavers - played by Ryan Gosling - springs back into action when the star of a big studio movie suddenly disappears. As the mystery surrounding the missing actor deepens, Colt soon finds himself ensnared in a sinister plot that pushes him to the edge of a fall more dangerous than any stunt. The film is loosely adapted from the ‘80s show of the same name, starring Lee Majors, who - spoiler! - does make a cameo in a mid-credit scene. The star-studded cast of Emily Blunt, Hannah Waddingham and Aaron Taylor Johnson also join Gosling. Stuntman turned director David Leitch - who as previously directed Bullet Train and Deadpool 2- was the mastermind behind the film and I personally believe he was the perfect choice since his first-hand knowledge of the industry shines perfectly in both in the story and in the stunts performed. Similarly, the casting of this movie was excellent; Ryan Gosling and Emily, who were both at the core of the previous summer’s ‘Barbenheimer’, are the leading actors and there dynamic in this movie was really the origin of the true magical joy that this film possesses.



“This glorious entertaining comedy is a love-letter to the unsung heroes of cinema.”

This is a love letter to the stunt team, a film dedicated to showing the grittiness and the roughness of the industry and how the movie industry would collapse without them. Not only that, but this is also a film for anyone who loves films or filmmaking in general. Just how ‘Barbie’ was meta for the toy industry, ‘The Fall Guy’ is meta for the film industry; with plenty of references to ‘Kill Bill’, ‘Notting Hill’ and ‘Miami Vice’. Marketed as an action rom com, in my opinion it succeeded in both of these things: not only was there an abundance of jokes, but there was also a heart-warming romance between Gosling’s and Blunt’s characters Colt and Jody and, of course, there was an array of stunts. The film contained little CGI as it aimed to highlight real stunts and its’ performers. Gosling performed stunts such as being dropped from an 18-story building and being pulled across the Sydney Harbour bridge, but the most note-worthy stunt of the film must be by stuntman Logan Holiday. Holiday executed 8.5 canon car rolls, which broke the Guinness World Record and is truly spectacular to see on the big screen. Gosling, who has had a stunt double "for most of my life," has recently hailed stunt performers as the "unsung heroes" of cinema.

In a time where so many films are dark and dramatic, this seems like a pleasant break from this, since joy does radiate off every scene. Although, the film may not be the sort to win awards I do strongly believe it is the kind of film, we need to see more of in cinemas: a film that does not solely rely on CGI or a massive franchise but is indeed just a film made by people who truly love the industry and is made for everyone - this is by its 83% rotten tomatoes score and 87% audience score. Overall, the film is a truly joyous viewing experience, that I urge you go and see. Hopefully, it will also result in stunts being more widely recognised, as that is the film’s main aim and is something that is long overdue.

“They do all this dangerous, amazing stuff. They kind of come in and risk everything and then disappear. If they do their job well, you never know that they were there," he said in conversation with People magazine amidst the film’s release. "It's just so messed up that they don't get the credit that they deserve.”

Vibrant, Inclusive, Proud

Mrs Lloyd Interview

WRITER’S NAME: ERIN WONG

Our newspaper team decided to interview Mrs Lloyd, Head of Modern Foreign Languages here in Ellesmere. Not only does she motivate students to learn about a different culture, she also always makes lessons enjoyable and interactive, keeping students engaged. We asked several questions about her career, her views on learning Spanish and her life outside of school.

We were very curious about Mrs Lloyd’s journey of becoming a Spanish teacher, “I enjoyed school as I like learning stuff. For me, I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. I thought French was a nice and easy subject to teach. I did GCSE and A-level French but still not Spanish as my school didn’t offer it. Then I took French in university and learnt Spanish at the same time. Over 4 years, my Spanish got to the same level as my French. I lived abroad in both France and Spain to prepare for becoming a teacher. Spanish came further down the line, but I have always wanted to be a teacher and loved languages.”

“It doesn’t matter what career path you take; you will always come across people who don’t speak your language.”

We then asked Mrs Lloyd what she likes the most about Spanish, "In language, generally, I love that there is always something new to learn every day, even in your native language. For example, there was a starter about Eid the other day. I didn’t know ‘ayuno’ meant “fasting”, so that is why ‘desayuno’ means ‘break-fast.’"

Some students might wonder why we have to learn Spanish. Mrs Lloyd explained the importance of Spanish, “For you guys as pupils, learning another language enhances every single thing you do. It does not matter what career path you take; you will always come across people who don’t speak your language. If you can convert the language, it makes such a huge difference to people. My daughter is studying in China and one of her best friends is Italian. They speak English between them. Just being able to speak different languages helps them become friends. Sometimes, it is just for the love of it. You don’t have to consider the career prospect, I wasn’t. For me, I just love doing the language.”

GLOBAL HOLIDAYS

Bank Holidays

WRITER’S NAME: ZOE FINNEGAN

Surely everyone is excited about the recent bank holidays, which are taking place on May 6th and 27th. We might be thinking about what we are going to do for this special day off: shopping, watching a film in the cinema, spending time with family or simply just not having to go to school for a day. But have you ever wondered why we have bank holidays? This article is going to explore what caused the establishment of bank holidays.

What is a bank holiday?

A bank holiday is a national public holiday across the UK, where banking institutions and financial buildings close. It then developed to a point where other types of businesses, government sectors and schools close as well.

When are the bank holidays?

We typically get 8 bank holidays every year in England and Wales, whereas Scotland gets 9 and Northern Ireland gets 10. On some special occasions, we could get an extra bank holiday. For example, in 2023 there were 9 bank holidays because of the coronation of King Charles III. This year (2024), we have 8 bank holidays in England:

UK BANK HOLIDAYS

- * New Year’s Day (Jan 1)
- * Good Friday (Mar 29)
- * Easter Monday (Apr 1)
- * Early May Bank Holiday (May 6)
- * Spring Bank Holiday (May 27)
- * Summer Bank Holiday (Aug 26)
- * Christmas Day (Dec 25)
- * Boxing Day (Dec 26)



MRS LLOYD

“If you are doing something you love, you never work a day in your life.”

Some Year 9 students have picked Spanish as one of their options for their GCSE. We wanted to know what advice Mrs Lloyd has for them, “The biggest thing is to learn the vocabulary. It can be boring, but if you learn them, nothing can stop you. For example, in a listening exam, if you hear these words, you would know what they mean. A bit of confidence with it is nice, but if you know your vocabulary, all the exams will be a lot easier.”

The next question was about Mrs Lloyd’s hobbies and what she enjoys doing outside of school, “I love spending time with my family. I have 2 daughters, who are 20 and nearly 16. We do lots of things together, like going on holidays. We have a caravan, so we do weekends away lots of the time. When we are away, I love walking while listening to ‘80s music.”

We also wanted to know what Mrs Lloyd’s favourite memory was when teaching, “I suppose it is the funnier bits. People often say funny things and mispronounce words. The other thing is being thanked and receiving the cards. I went on a college tour with my daughter and saw the year 11s that have just left school. When they are happy to see you, even though it has only been 6 months, that’s lovely. They can look very different and a lot older, sometimes you can only remember their faces and not their names, but they always remember you.”

Finally, we asked Mrs Lloyd what message she has for all students in Ellesmere, “The best one, which has kind of become the school’s mantra, is to be kind to everyone. It might sound a bit cliché and obvious but treat people how you like to be. Make good choices. Remember that if you are not sure about your future, just ask people and keep your options open. Make sure that you are here to get the GCSE grades that you need so that you get into the actual college and the job you want. It is not always about earning money, but it is nice to be on the right career path that you want to be on. There is a phrase that says, “If you are doing something that you love, you never work a day of your life,” because you enjoy being there, which is most days.”



“These traditions still influence and affect our daily life.”

Why do we have bank holidays?

The first official bank holiday in the UK was introduced by Sir John Lubbock, a banker and politician, in 1871, under the Bank Holiday Act. The purpose of passing this law was to shorten the hours of labour in shops, quicken the repayment of the current national debt, and secure some additional holidays. Another theory for the origin of bank holidays is that before the Industrial Revolution, people mainly depended on agriculture to earn a living, therefore they would celebrate significant dates such as the end of winter and harvests and take a day off. Nowadays, as farming becomes a less common profession, we begin to forget the true meaning behind these holidays. However, these traditions still influence and affect our daily lives.

According to statistics, The UK is ranked 4th out of the countries with the fewest bank holidays, following Switzerland (depending on the area), Mexico and Ecuador. On the other hand, Myanmar, Nepal and Iran are the countries that have the most bank holidays. This is mainly due to its miscellaneous religious festivals and celebrations.

Nevertheless, we should be grateful, cherish our bank holidays and make sure we spend the day wisely.

Vibrant, Inclusive, Proud

SPORTS EXCLUSIVE

The London Marathon

WRITER’S NAME: MAE BAXTER

The London Marathon is a highly esteemed annual event that takes place in London, England. This race serves as a remarkable display of the unwavering determination, resilience, and passion exhibited by its participants. From the dedicated runners to the inspirational signs scattered along the course, the London Marathon transcends being merely a race – it’s an unforgettable experience that leaves a lasting impact on all who take part. As the largest marathon in the world, this year saw an impressive 53,700 individuals cross the finish line and attracting a staggering 840,318 applicants who will be vying for a spot in the 2025 event.

“ Marathon running is mentally testing. Your mind is telling you that you can’t carry on, but physically you have to be strong to reach the finish line. There was so much support from both runners, and the volunteers. ”

The London Marathon entices runners from all walks of life, each with their own story and reason for tackling the challenge. British comedian Romesh Ranganathan proudly acknowledged his critics by stating, “I’d like to thank my haters, the people who doubted me. This is for you,” Despite never having completed a marathon before, Ranganathan’s accomplishment serves as an inspiration for both first-time runners and seasoned athletes, demonstrating that anyone can participate and experience the thrill of this prestigious event.

Participants often showcase their creativity by running in costumes or fancy dress. Some use attire to support charitable causes or make a statement, while others simply do it for enjoyment and motivation. This year, spectators witnessed runners dressed as superheroes, Disney princesses, and even a 26.5kg fridge costume, highlighting the event’s festive and diverse atmosphere.

As runners lace up their shoes and take their places at the starting line, there is a sense of camaraderie and excitement in the air. The cheers from the crowd amplify the adrenaline pumping through their veins as they embark on the 26.3-mile journey through the streets of London.



Arguably one of the most memorable aspects of the London Marathon is the abundance of motivational signs that line the course. Spectators gather in large numbers to display their support, brandishing colourful banners and shouting words of encouragement to the runners. These signs range from clever puns to heartfelt messages, offering a much-needed source of motivation when runners face obstacles. Whether it’s a simple, yet powerful “You’ve got this!” or a humorous reminder that “Pain is temporary, but finishing is forever,” these signs play a vital role in keeping runners motivated and helping them overcome both the physical and mental challenges of the race. Some signs even offer interactive elements, such as a sign that read “Press here to power up” with a red button, or a display of energy snacks and drinks for runners to grab as they pass by. These innovative and engaging signs not only provide a boost of energy but also create a sense of community among participants and spectators alike. They serve as a reminder of the unwavering support and encouragement that surrounds the runners throughout the marathon, inspiring each and every person to push through and reach the finish line.

So much support

This London Marathon victory is the biggest win of my career so far.

In conclusion, the London Marathon is a celebration of human spirit, determination, and community. Runners like Romesh Ranganathan serve as living proof that, regardless of age, gender, race, or experience, this event is inclusive for all. From the dedicated participants to the motivational signs and supporting spectators, this marathon provides a truly unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Vibrant, Inclusive, Proud

GLOBAL CELEBRATION

It’s time for a fashion revolution.

WRITER’S NAME: ABIGAIL MA

What comes to your mind when you think of fashion and clothes? I am sure many high street brands such as Primark, Next and H&M come to mind and even online brands such as Shein or Boohoo. In the 21st century a culture has been created where clothes are mass produced to constantly adapt to the newest trends, this has created a fashion industry that is not sustainable nor is it ethical. This coined the name ‘fast fashion’ and has led to the creation of Fashion Revolution Week.

Fashion Revolution Week was created by co-founders Carry Somers and Orsola de Castro in response to the Rana Plaza disaster. On the 24th of April 2013, over 1,113 people were killed and a further 2,500 more injured when the Rana Plaza factory complex collapsed in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This is just one the many accidents plaguing the garment making sector that could have been avoided. Although the Rana Plaza has not been the front page of newspapers for many years now, it has certainly left a lasting impact on the fashion industry and acted as a metaphorical call to arms. Whilst this tragedy is a symptom of and a reminder of the many industry-wide problems, it has given the World and charities such as ‘Fashion Revolution’ an opportunity and a wake-up call that will hopefully result there being no repeats of the Rana Plaza disaster. However, it is not just charities who need to fight for this change, it is also businesses, governments, and us: the consumers - with all that support just then could we see a cleaner, more just, and fair fashion industry.

The Business of Fashion

When you walk along a street or meet someone new, the first thing you will notice about them is their clothes. What we wear is a crucial part of our identity; clothes are how we express ourselves to the World. Fashion reveals a whole multitude of things about history, culture, customs, and preferences so there is no denying how important it is, not just on the superficial level of modesty and covering. We have worn clothing pretty much from the beginning of time, but fashion was not always made and consumed the way it is now. Mass-produced clothing has existed since the mid nineteenth century and working conditions have been a problem for well over a hundred years. The term ‘sweatshop’ was conceived as early as the 1850’s. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911 was the deadliest industrial disaster of its time, killing 123 women and 23 men in Manhattan, New York City. This problem is just further highlighted by the fact that mill fires in the UK were so common that mill owners often had their own steam fire engines. Fast forward to today and the fashion industry is now one of the most influential sectors, both in terms of financial power and how it shapes wider trends. The global fashion industry (which includes clothing, textiles, footwear, and luxury goods) is worth an estimated \$3 trillion – the industry has proven to be more profitable than even high-growth sectors like technology and telecommunications. As a result of fashion’s growing importance to the global economy, garment manufacturing has become the world’s third-biggest industrial industry — behind only automotive and electronics manufacturing. For the past 20 years, companies have seen an increase in both demand and the sheer cost of manufacturing. Yet despite these factors, what we are paying doesn’t seem to have gone up as much as it should have: why is this? Well companies seem to keep on shifting the location of their factories and businesses into countries with weak laws and a large, cheap labour force. This helps them avoid any high prices in order to keep on getting smaller prices, which inevitably drives more buyers to their products.



We are now presented with a fashion industry that is essentially broken. If we keep on chasing the cheapest labour and exploiting natural resources, eventually they will run out. We’ve seen this rapid development of the industry but perhaps it’s time to slow down and build proper infrastructure and law to hold up this big - but weak - land we’ve created.

Human Rights and Working Conditions

A number of international legislation and standards are in place to tackle human concerns but there is still an abundance of issues in the places where our clothing, accessories and footwear is made. The Global Slavery Index estimates that 36 million people are living in modern slavery today, many of whom are working in the supply chains of Western brands. According to the ILO, there are 215 million children working throughout the world, many full-time. Of these, 115 million are exposed to hazardous forms of child labour. In Maplecroft’s Child Labour Index, India ranked first with over 14 million children in work, mainly in textiles. It also important to note that these issues are not just in countries such as Bangladesh or India but the issues those workers

face such as: excessive hours, lack of job security, discrimination, sexual harassment, and poor health also exist in countries like the USA and UK. The ‘Behind the Barcode report’ in April 2015 found that of 219 brands surveyed, 91% didn’t have full knowledge of where their cotton is coming from, 75% do not know the source of all their fabrics and inputs and only half actually trace where their products are cut and sewn. If companies don’t know how and where their clothes are made, then there is no way for them to ensure that human rights are protected in their supply chains, furthermore, how are us as customers meant to know where our products are coming from? It is extremely apparent that more work

needs to be done to ensure that customers can get full transparency of what they’re buying and for the corporations as well to source fair-trade and sustainable producers. The Fashion Revolution organisation believes that “transparency and due diligence go hand-in-hand when tackling the human rights issues that hide behind our clothing. If we can’t see it or refuse to look at it, we can’t fix it.”

We can be the fashion revolution.

I’m sure we have all seen a cheap piece of clothing and got it purely for that reason, but the truth is that it is probably that cheap because it is not ethically made. Fighting for change and the end of fast fashion does not just mean we will have to pay more: we could get better quality products and live in a World where our fashion not only represents our identities but symbolises a positive, honest industry. We should also try to shop second hand, wear locally made clothes and not buy clothes that depend on what is on ‘trend.’ Fashion Revolution Week may have passed for this year but if you are someone who buys or wear clothes (which is pretty much everyone in the World) you shouldn’t be afraid to ask the question: where do my clothes come from? If you would like to find out more information about the Fashion Revolution organisation and their goals, [click here](#)

“...live in a world where our fashion not only represents our identities but symbolises a positive, honest industry.”

INTERVIEW

Mr Stretch Interview

WRITER’S NAME: MAE BAXTER

Mr Stretch plays a significant role in ensuring that every child receives the highest quality education possible while attending Ellesmere. He not only makes lessons enjoyable and relatable, but also delves into the complexities of English literature, including Shakespeare’s play Romeo and Juliet. Additionally, as an English teacher, he emphasizes the importance of understanding the fundamentals such as how to structure a paragraph. In this interview, we wanted to inquire about his experiences and insights as a teacher here at EPHS.

“To appreciate culture, you need to understand English.”

Why did you choose to teach English here at Ellesmere Park?

“I always wanted to become a teacher because I’ve always enjoyed English and couldn’t imagine sitting in an office all day, so I wanted a job that gives something back, where I can talk about what I love every day. When I visited, I found this school really cool because it’s got a fantastic music department and is incredibly cultured.”

What did you want to be when you were younger?

“I think I always had it in my mind that I was to become a teacher, or maybe a writer. I used to read film reviews in the newspapers every Sunday, so I wanted to become a film critic at one point as well.”

What kind of films do you like?

“I like most of them really, I love independent films. I have a cinema pass so I can see as many films as I want. I watched Barbie and Oppenheimer during that rivalry too of course.”

Who are your favourite artists?

“People who inspired me to become an English teacher were people like Alex Turner, because I love Arctic Monkeys and he’s a really good songwriter. I’m also a big fan of Taylor Swift because her music is very poetic. I really like some film directors too, anyone like that.”

What kind of books do you like to read?

“I like memoir’s because I like hearing people’s perspective on life and what has happened to them. I also like funny and light-hearted books just because whilst at University, I had to read serious and deep books all the time, so now this genre is more relaxing.”

What do you like to do in your spare time?

“I like going to gigs, going to the cinema, cycling classes. Obviously, I enjoy seeing my friends, and reading too. One of my favourite gigs I’ve been to is Pulp, but not many people know them; I’ve seen them a few times.”

“I’ve always enjoyed English and couldn’t imagine sitting in an office all day.... I wanted a job that gives something back.”



If you were to teach another subject, what would it be?

“Maybe history because its similar in the way you do lots of writing and essays. Especially when you do Christmas Carol in GCSE it becomes a bit historic anyway. I love learning about the Victorian times, they’re interesting, but also recent social history like politics in the 1990’s.”

What’s your favourite part of Ellesmere?

“The culture and the community, it’s a lot more cultured than other schools I’ve been to. For example, I could have a chat with a student about music or something other than football which at other schools is quite rare.”

If you were to change anything about the English department, what would it be?

“Definitely more books and a bigger variation, but money is an issue. Then there would be more of a choice of what to teach the students and an expansive collection that suits everyone.”

Why is English important for students to learn?

“It’s linked to everything; music, film, history. Lots of things go back to Shakespeare and playwrights and poets like him. It’s not just the technical stuff like how to write a CV, but the curriculum is so varied and expansive, and is everywhere around us. To appreciate culture, you need to understand English.”

“If you appreciate and love English, you will find the world a much more cultured place to live in.”

What’s your favourite thing to teach in English?

“I never used to like Shakespeare, but I do like song lyrics. I was reading Romeo and Juliet, and Romeo’s dialogue in Act 1, is very poetic. So, definitely that I enjoy teaching now. Maybe Christmas Carol because of the history aspect, and all kinds of poetry.”

What’s your message to students?

“You should all love English; it surrounds us all day every day. If you appreciate and love English, you will find the world a much more cultured place to live in.”

In conclusion, during this interview, we have learnt about Mr Stretch’s perspectives on the value and excitement of teaching English at our school, as well as his interests outside of the school. Mr Stretch’s dedication to inspiring and motivating students to cultivate a passion for the English language is clearly demonstrated through his commitment to his lessons.

INTERVIEW

Mr Tunney Interview

WRITER’S NAME: ABIGIAL MA

Mr Tunney is Head of Maths at Ellesmere and is both a great teacher and Head of Department. He is a core part of our school and inspires students every day with his engaging lessons. This half term we interviewed Mr Tunney to find out about his love for maths and why he tries to share that with students, his childhood and journey and more about his life when he is not at school.

Why is Maths so important for a student’s education?

“Maths is important for everybody because maths is something that you use every day. As a trades person, for example, electricians, plumbers are going to be measuring your distances; in painting and tiling you’re looking at the areas so in the building industry maths is massive. If you’re an engineer everything that you make has to have a high degree of accuracy, it has to be measured so therefore you need to input that information into machines; with 3D printers you’ve got to know about the equations that tell a 3D printer what to do so that it then prints what you want it do but everything is all around the measurements. Data regarding costing and business is all finance so percentages and profit loss so maths is just used in every single job that you can think of.”

What’s your favourite aspect of Maths?

“My favourite aspect of maths I would say is problem solving with algebra and shape. My favourite topic from school was 3D trigonometry and Pythagoras because I could link that to the building industry and just the ability to find out those measurements that you can’t actually measure but using Pythagoras and trigonometry you can work it out.”

“It’s that opportunity for me, to teach from Year 7 and give that love of maths over to the younger people.”

What was your journey to getting where you are now?

“My Mum’s a primary school teacher so when I was at junior school, which was next door to her, I used to go to her primary school and listen to the little ones read, so I think that sort of seed that was sewn to be a teacher was maybe there. Throughout secondary school my main passions mainly were maths and PE. I wasn’t brilliant at maths - I was in top set but I was probably bottom half of top set, I had to work hard at my maths, but I loved PE as well. So, I stayed on to A-level and did further maths, physics, and general studies. From there I went to university and studied maths and PE, so I did 4 years looking at mathematics and PE and human movement. The human movement side was looking at your bones, muscles, how the whole body works and how it’s put together. Then I did a study on a golf swing for the speed of the club hitting the ball and what angle it then went off at so that was interesting. From there I decided then that I wanted to go into teaching so when I was in secondary school, my maths teacher said that I would potentially be a good teacher, so she then sort of re-emphasised that teaching thing. At the end of University, I then went to Leeds University and did a year’s PGC as teacher training and did maths and PE there and in 1994, I became a teacher of maths. At the end of my first year, I became part of the pastoral team as well - I was a maths teacher but then also an assistant head of house, which is like an assistant head of year. I did that for 10 years in Salford then I went over to Warrington as head of year 11, that was my first head of year job and I stayed there for 10 years. Then I got asked to go set up a new school and set up the maths department, that was at a little engineering school, so I did that for 3 years.

“Work hard at what you do because then you can enjoy the rewards you get from it.”

From there I got asked to set up an engineering college and set up the maths department again but that was for 14 to 19-year-olds. 4 years ago, I got asked again to come here to sort out the maths department, interview people and set that up and create a maths team, which has brought me to where I am now.”

What is your favourite part of Ellesmere?

“The people I would say. The students I find are very accommodating, there is a desire to learn, and I think there’s a lot of nice people who have good manners and are caring. For the maths team, they’re very supportive of each other and just the whole staff in general are very much together, look after each other but they also work hard. I think for me because people are working hard, you respect what each other does and as a maths team and also help each other with what we do. It’s that opportunity, for me, to teach from year 7 and give that love of maths over to the younger people so then they’ve got that enjoyment of maths for them to move forward, that’s what I really enjoy. I really enjoy getting to work with enthusiastic students.”

What do you like to do outside of school?

“I enjoy the outdoors, so I love riding my bike, playing golf and I love walking. I’m into my running a little bit but that’s offroad like trail runs. Also, spending time with family and trips away like camping and visiting different places in this country is where I am at the moment but hopefully that will change so that I can see more places abroad and city cultures.” After hearing about Mr Tunney’s love for exploring new places we asked him what is his favourite place that he’s been to, he replied: “In terms of holidays, I really enjoyed skiing, I think if anyone gets the chance to go skiing, they should take it because it’s hard but it’s very rewarding as well. The learning curve that you go on in a week is massive but it’s the air and the scenery and everything else, so I love skiing. I’ve enjoyed riding my bike in places like Majorca because again of the scenery, the roads as well. Canada was a really nice place with really nice people, and we were in the Rocky Mountains. Also, Kenya on safari and beach but seeing the animals and things like that. For me, those are the ones that stick in my head.”

Finally, Mr Tunney shared his message to students at Ellesmere:

“My message to students would be to work hard and get the most out of school that you can, to the point when you’re sixteen because that stepping stone will take you onto your A-levels or apprenticeships, or whatever it is. But work hard at what you do because then you can enjoy the rewards you get from it.”

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