

Ellesmere Exclusive

15th Edition | Christmas 2025



Mr Brown, Mr Morgan, Ms Lloyd, Ms Barton and Mr Loeb pose after a successful game

Staff vs Student Netball

In this edition of Ellesmere Exclusive our new journalists delve into the Staff Vs Student netball match in what was deemed to be an overwhelming success

We also discuss Zodiac signs, how other countries celebrate Christmas, the staff's top Christmas song picks and much more!



Staff vs Student Netball by Remy Watson

In our extraordinary netball game against students and teachers, all of our peers and teachers came together and cheered on their colleagues to victory. The entries were £1 each and all of the money went back to Children In Need. In the end, we made £224 for charity



In the first half, the Y11 were dominating the court, scoring goal after goal and making the audience go wild when the net swung. Even though the Y11's were doing well,

Mr Connolly was defending the multiple attacks that came towards him. Mr Humphries was quick on his feet and moving gracefully up and down the court. Miss Ayre was keeping an eye on the players, ready to smack the ball with full force if necessary. Mr Franklin kept on putting up shots and defending with his height advantage. Miss Holondo knew that she had to score, time was running out and all the eyes were on her. Suddenly, she received a pass right on the edge of the D. This was her chance. She pivoted and to everyone's delight the ball nestled in the net. The crowd erupted and Miss Holondo ran around in glee, receiving high fives from everyone

Staff vs Student Netball by Remy Watson

In the second half, the game turned on its head and everything was equal with goals being shot frequently by Miss Smalley and Mr Morgan. Mr Morgan said that “the Y11 team was well coached and it was evident that they had played previously on many occasions”. Miss Barton was leaping towards the balls, Mr O’Neil was leaping to be higher than his opponents. Towards the end of the game, Mr Morgan had all the eyes on him, the crowd was on edge as the final seconds ticked down, all he could do was pray that this shot would go into the net flawlessly. He took a deep breath and bended his knees to drive all of his power into this final shot. The ball sailed through the air, swishing through the net, sealing the teaching victory and sending his team into ecstatic celebration.

In the end, the Y11 had fierce and sharp skills but when the teachers put the heads up and focused immensely on winning, they came out victorious in the end and it all came to a good cause for the real reason why we all came to watch or play some netball. We witnessed the power of teamwork and dedication, but in the end they didn’t play for just that, they played to make a difference. As we supported the match on this court, children get support because of it. To everyone that attended, you gave them a chance at what we take for granted every day – a chance to education, health and a brighter future. We have made this moment of sport into a movement of change, thank you for your support!

Book Review by Amelia Webb

The Northern Lights is the first book in a trilogy called His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman. It explores themes such as fantasy, friendship, knowledge, authority, rebellion and many others. The story begins with a young girl called Lyra Belacqua and her daemon, an animal companion, able to change form that represents their soul, called Pantalaimon (Pan for short). Lyra lives in Jordan College in Oxford, having been raised by the college staff after her parents died in an airship crash. She spends her time running around every nook and cranny with Pantalaimon and her best friend, Roger

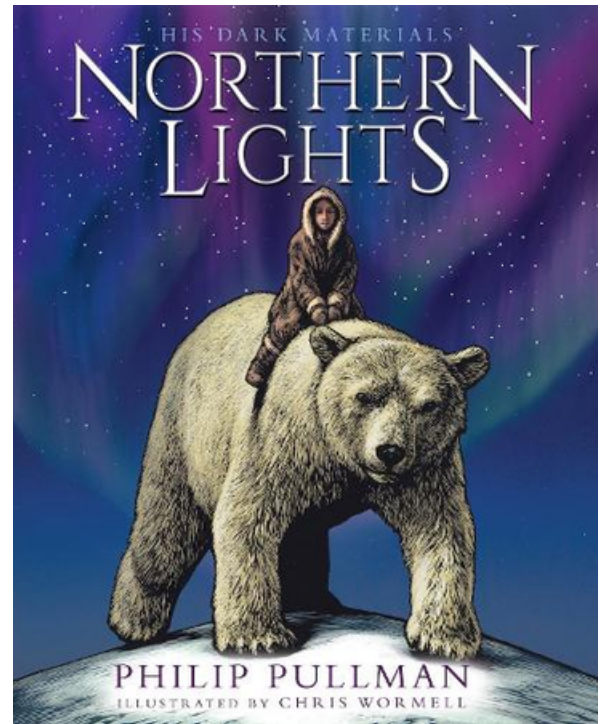


At the start of the book, Lyra and Pan are in the Retiring Room, a place only for scholars and adults. She hid in a cupboard to spy on a meeting, while Pan changed into a moth to stay quiet and hidden. Before the scholars arrived for the meeting, Lyra witnesses the Master of the college pouring, what we are led to believe, is poison in a glass of wine for the expected guest. As the other guests filed into the room, Lyra realised that the main target of the poisoned wine was her uncle, Lord Asriel. Asriel had been in the far North and rarely came back to Jordan College. The Master and guests went to the Palace to dine when Asriel arrived, ordering a butler to get him some coffee. He was about to take a sip of the wine when Lyra jumped out of the cupboard and smashed the glass out of his hand

Book Review by Amelia Webb

As the story continues, Roger goes missing and Lyra makes it her responsibility to embark on a quest up to the icy North to find him. Along the way, Lyra uncovers sinister secrets and meets more people who join her on the mission to save Roger. Twists and turns create a whole new journey for Lyra to go on and some of her actions have consequences which keep the reader on the edge of their seats.

I think that the Northern Lights is very well written and is one of my favourite books. I'd recommend this to people who enjoy fantasy books and things out of this world. The Northern Lights was a gripping story that made me want to keep turning the page. My favourite character has to be Lyra as she is so mischievous and such a lovable girl. My favourite scene is the unexpected battle that occurs whilst Lyra is travelling in the North. The Northern Lights is quite like the Chronicles of Narnia, The Lord of the Rings and The Hunger Games with its main theme of fantasy.



Rating

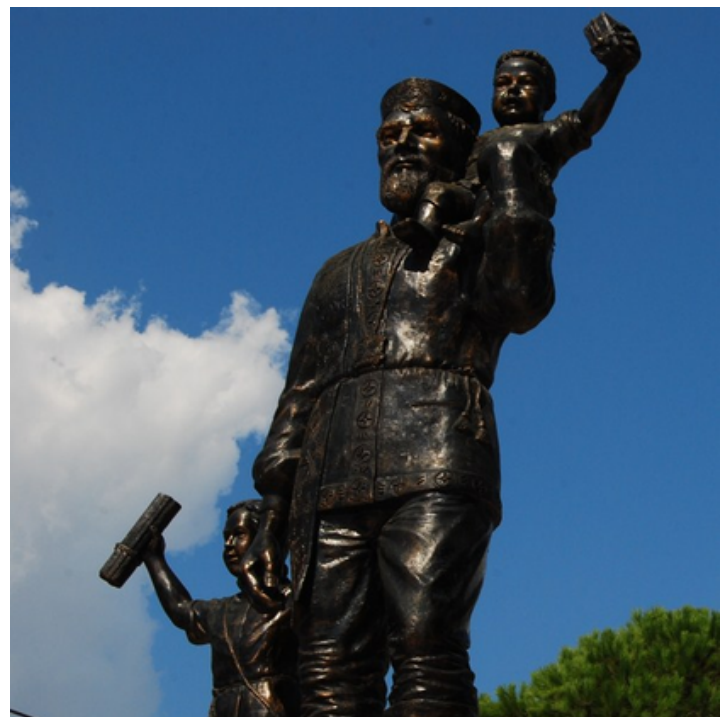


Christmas in Turkey by Jayden Wright

While Christmas isn't normally celebrated in Turkey, there is an interesting alternative.

The New Years Celebration is similar to Christmas in some ways such as the country's festive decorations, Santa Claus (Noel Baba in Turkish), gift giving, and having festive dinners.

This feels overall similar to Christmas but with a Turkish Twist.



Zodiac Signs by Ipek Dolu

When you are born, you are automatically set in to a group of Zodiac signs there are exactly 12 zodiac signs you can get sorted to by your birthdate.

In this article you can find out which zodiac sign you are in and what environmental group you are in!

Which zodiac sign are you?

Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Pisces February 19 – March 20

Aries March 21 – April 19

Taurus April 20 – May 20

Gemini May 21 – June 20

Cancer June 21 – July 22

Leo July 23 – August 22

Virgo August 23 – September 22

Libra September 23 – October 22

Scorpio October 23 – November 21

Sagittarius November 23 – December 21

Capricorn December 22 – January 1

Zodiac signs fall into four categories Water, Fire, Earth and Air signs each group has three of the zodiac signs in it. These are which zodiac signs are in each environmental group:

Water signs : Cancer, Scorpio
Pisces



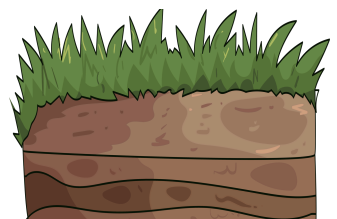
Fire signs: Aries, Leo, Sagittarius



Air signs: Gemini, Aquarius,
Libra



Earth signs: Taurus, Virgo,
Capricorn



Drama Showcase by Remay Watson

In the drama club, Ellesmere Park High School have been working hard to cook up a masterpiece and present it to parents, carers and friends. They put together a magnificent showcase featuring different talents and various performances from different genres from the shows that were picked. Some were even created by members of the drama club too!

The first scene was the crucible, which featured Amelia W, Remay W, Amelia B and Hannah P. This scene is about how all of the women in the village danced around a fire to summon spirits which was considered witchcraft. If they were caught, they would have been burnt to death. They really made us feel a sense of fear for them and did an astonishing job!

The second scene was from Wicked with Naomi singing 'The Wizard and I'. This scene is about Elphaba dreaming in a fantasy where her and the wizard are colleagues and create marvelous things with him and maybe people won't judge her anymore. This was sang majestically and was truly a phenomenal experience.

The third scene was called a Date Night Gone Wrong. This scene was about A man who decided to try out A dating app and met a woman who was social media obsessed and a strict vegan. While all of this is going on, the person who runs the restaurant is watching all the chaos commence. They did an exceptional job and surprised us with a script that they wrote themselves.

Drama Showcase by Remay Watson

The fourth scene was Almost there from the Princess and the Frog performed by Erin K.

Tiana is thinking about the progress she has made in life and mainly the restaurant and how she is almost at her goal. This was sung with stunning range and astounding projection with her voice, always having a smile on her face. The fifth scene was performed by Freya, Anna and Agatha. The scene was about a Zoom call during the pandemic, covid, and they had to do online school work everyday but it was getting boring. With no gossip, they had no interest but started to realise the benefits of being bored. This was astonishing to see them on stage with such confidence.

The sixth scene was performed by Libby and was from Macbeth. In this scene, Lady Macbeth was talking to herself in her sleep trying to get blood stains out that weren't actually there after the murder of the king. She's going a little bit mad. This was stupefying and good to see for her first performance on stage. The seventh scene was by Praise C who sang Stand up by Cynthia Erivo in Harriet. This song is about a girl standing up for her people and tsking them to the promise land that may be far away but she will find home soon. This was sung beautifully and with such emotion that we could feel her boldness through the song.

Drama Showcase by Remay Watson

The eight scene was a proposal which went wrong performed by Erin K. This scene is about a woman who used to be rude and everyone used to loathe her until she met someone and he made her kinder by the day and more polite. Now she is begging him not to marry her so she can go back to her old, cruel ways and not add to the millions of people who are already nice. This was done with such conviction of the way she used to be and got her anger a fury across to the audience. The ninth scene was sang by Naomi and she sang on my own. This is about a girl who expressed loneliness and sadness because of her past lover and imagines that he's still here and not alone. This was done with such sorrow but a strong voice that echoed throughout the auditorium. The tenth scene was done by Lilly-Mae from Little Voice and this scene was about a character called Mari shouting at her daughter and accusing her about starting the house fire and now she's up to her ankles in the char of her own house. This was done with empathy and she really let us know how she felt.

The final scene was the Ghosts of Pineville which was presented by Remay W, Hannah P and Amelia B. This is a scene where Chopper (Remay), Glory (Hannah) and Hank (Amelia) go into the house of Simon to see what really happened to him and his sudden disappearance. This might get them in danger in the long run as they go venture through the house and head toward the attic where they hear a suspicious, loud banging noise. The terror and alarm really spread through the audience and the suspense was what killed them the most.

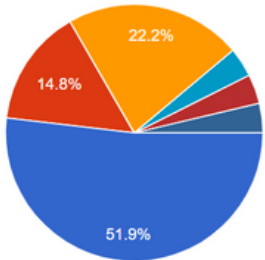
Drama Showcase by Remay Watson

Ms Mayer-Payne was in the audience and she said, “The wide mix and array of talent on display was heart warming and was inspiration to see that students that I’ve only seen in the classroom shine on stage and I couldn’t possibly pick a favorite act because they were all fantastic. Staff and students that didn’t come should come to the next one because you will be entertained.” Mr Green was watching every step of the way and said, “Their hard-work paid off and their acting skills have really boosted over the month. I also learned that having people behind the scenes helped everyone else and made the whole show and process a lot better. Libby really stood out to me because she’s in my form and has never performed before and that was big for me. I find it cool that these students don’t have to worry about life and can escape through the world of acting which can show new perspective of life.

In the end, the drama club blew our socks off yet again with another jaw-dropping show for all of us to watch and go to a new world with each act. Going from witchcraft to a date night and then to a haunted house is a magical experience for everyone that’s in the audience and on stage or cheering for their peers behind the scenes. The shows will be better by the years as their skills progress and get stronger. They inspired us all and showed us what it means to take a step out of your comfort zone and inspire others.



Teachers Top Songs by Jackson McLean



- Last Christmas - WHAM!
- All I want for Christmas - Mariah Carey
- Fairytale of New York - The Pogues
- Rudolph the red nose Reindeer - Gene Autry
- Jingle bell rock - Bobby Helms
- Rocking around the Christmas Tree - Gene Autry
- Santa tell me - Ariana Grande
- We wish you a Merry Christmas - 16th...
- Feliz Navidad - Jose Feliciano
- It's beginning to look a lot like Christm...

At the start of the term we asked teachers what their top Christmas songs were. As you can see Fairytale of New York proved to be number one. Here are some of their comments on their picks

I love Fairytale of New York, it's one that gets everyone singing and dancing along!

Ms Doyle

I love Fairytale of New York as it's sad and I love sad stuff

Miss Bowen

There's something about Last Christmas, it just makes me feel so Christmassy

Mr Hutton

I love Last Christmas, I could listen to it all year round! The video is great and George Michael is an icon

Miss Shah