

# ELLESMERE EXCLUSIVE

## IT’S THE END OF A GREAT TERM AT EPHS!



### Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. It’s a festival of lights and special prayers, which takes place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December and ending on the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup>. The holiday commemorates the triumph of a band of Jewish rebels known as the Maccabees in reclaiming their temple from the Greek Syrians. The eight nights of Hanukkah is used to celebrate how long the holy light burned almost four thousand years ago. The story claims that, even though there was only enough oil for the candle to burn for one night, it miraculously burned for eight days. The Menorah, the candle that symbolises this story, is traditionally lit just after dark each night. There are nine candles on the Menorah, eight of them represent the number of days that the Temple lantern blazed, the ninth, is the helper candle that lights the path for others. Traditionally, people used to give money to people for Hanukkah. However, as Christmas became more popular, more and more Jewish people exchange gifts instead. Typical gifts are chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil and handwritten blessings to say as the Menorah is lit.

### GLOBAL NEWS

### Cost of living crisis

**AUTHOR NAME: ZOE FINNEGAN**

With the coronavirus pandemic hitting as well as the war in Ukraine and Brexit, the UK has been under a lot of stress over the past couple of years and people are struggling more than ever due to the cost-of-living crisis. This has been the main cause in things like food and energy cost. Support packages have been made and charities are being created, but what more could be done? A survey shows that 90% of adults have seen an increase to the cost of everyday lives. 1 in 3 children in the UK were already living in poverty before the cost-of-living crisis hit – and it is only



## |Coming up...

### AUTHOR NAME: MAE BAXTER AND SCARLETT SIMPSON

Each night, one individual candle is lit until the last one is burning on the 26<sup>th</sup> December. By this time, lots of fried and spicy foods are eaten, the most popular being brisket and latkes. Latkes are fried potato pancakes which people like to decorate with juicy apple sauce or sour cream. Most of the global news food eaten during this time are fried and it’s no coincidence. People fry their food in oil as a symbol of the miraculous oil that burned many years ago.

getting worse. Families are seeing a rise in almost everything they have to buy including groceries and toiletries. Things as necessary as keeping healthy and fed is becoming a strenuous struggle for vulnerable families. A series of support packages to ease the impact have been announced, including £500 million, for the household support fund, which aim to distribute small payments directly through councils in order to support households in England.

- COST OF LIVING CRISIS
  - THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL WORLD CUP
  - CHRISTMAS
  - CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
  - HANUKKAH
  - INTERVIEW WITH MR BIRD
  - INTERVIEW WITH MISS BOWEN
  - MISS BARRATT INTERVIEW
- Abigail Ma- Editor/ Writer  
Mae Baxter- Writer/ Reporter  
Zoe Finnegan- Interviewer/ writer  
Miley Sharples- Writer  
Olivia Roberts-Miller- Designer  
Scarlett Simpson – Writer
- This means that 8 million of the most struggling households are eligible to receive a one-off payment of up to £1,200. Even though this will help so many, there is still an abundance to be done. People believe we need more long-term solutions to the cost-of-living crisis: such as increasing child benefits and giving people access to free school meals, but there is no one-way to solve this crisis. However, we can continue to spread kindness and support to friends and strangers alike, which is one way to make someone’s life so much easier.

GLOBAL NEWS

# The most controversial World Cup?

## *A tournament where football isn't the only focus*

AUTHOR NAME: MAE BAXTER

This year is the 22<sup>nd</sup> Men’s World Cup, being held this year in Qatar. 32 teams gather in Qatar for what must be the most controversial world cup known in history. Usually, the world cup would have been held mid-summer, but because of the scorching, unbearable heat, FIFA decided it would be safer for both players and spectators if they watched it in winter. This would make it the first FIFA World Cup to have ever been held in winter! Qatar will be the first Middle-Eastern country to host the World Cup and only the second in all of Asia. The last time the FIFA World Cup visited a new region was in South Africa in 2010. Even though Qatar is a country where being part of the LGBTQ+ community is illegal, they offered an extraordinary amount of money to be this year’s host. It is said that Qatar paid \$200billion on getting this spotlight in this huge tournament. Compared to Russia in 2018 who spent \$11billion, this was an offer FIFA simply could not turn down. However, even boycotts and protests didn’t change FIFA’s mind and so we find ourselves still watching this contentious World Cup.

The One Love armband will no longer be worn by captains throughout the World Cup as they have been threatened that if they did, they would be booked. The countries planning on wearing the One Love armband declared that they did not want to put their players in “a position where they would face sporting sanctions.” The One Love armband was being used to promote diversity in protest against Qatar’s laws. Despite this, Harry Kane still wore the band in the game against Iran showing his support for LGBTQ+ and many others continue to protest for equality throughout the world. Rainbow hats and flags have been confiscated from fans and spectators, who are objecting against Qatar’s unequal laws; laws that state being gay is illegal.

FA Chief Executive Mark Bullingham told the BBC that “we’re very keen to wear the armband, we want to wear it, but we need to consider the implications. Normally in this situation, there would be a fine and we’ve said we’d be prepared to pay that because it is important to show our support for inclusion,” he stated. “If the sporting sanction threat is real, then we need to look at that, take a step back and work out if there’s another way in which we can show our values.”

Over the past 10 years, Qatar has embarked on an unprecedented amount of building programs, mostly due to the preparation needed for the World Cup. Seven new stadiums have been added and dozens of major projects are under way. These projects include a new airport, hotels, roads, public transport systems and a new city which will host the World Cup. According to The Qatar Official, the poor treatment of migrant workers has led to around 500 deaths, with 37 of them directly linked to the construction of the stadiums and facilities. This is yet another reason why so many people have opted out of watching this year’s tournament, as a statement that this kind of treatment and behavior should not be allowed. Despite this, the country expects to welcome over 1 million international spectators with an estimation of around 1,300 incoming flights daily. This could turn out to be the largest number of potential visitors in FIFA World Cup history.

Quotes from celebrities and former captains have us thinking about why Qatar was chosen as the location of the World Cup. Beth Mead, a professional English footballer states that “the World Cup should be an inclusive World Cup. Everyone should feel welcome. Everyone should feel safe and that’s just not the case. The trend is dangerous. It’s not a healthy direction we’re heading towards.” This continues to make us question why FIFA are continuing to go through with this deal and makes us wonder what will happen in the future.



INTERVIEW

# An Interview with Miss Bowen

AUTHOR NAME: MAE BAXTER

Our newspaper team went to Miss Bowen - a maths teacher - to interview her about her career and experiences as teacher and to find out more about her journey getting where she is today.

What do you like to do in your spare time?  
“I like to listen to music and watch films. I also have a stepdaughter, so I like to do lots of stuff with her.”

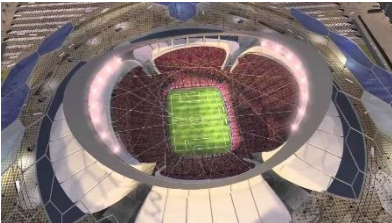
What did you want to do when you were younger?  
“I actually wanted to become a vet when I was younger! Then a psychiatrist when I was a bit older then a police officer. Not sure how I ended up a math’s teacher honestly.”

Have you had any funny/weird experiences in your life?  
“It’s quite gruesome but when I was 5, I chopped my thumb off in a door. My dad came home and duct tape it back on. Then when my mum got home she actually took me to A&E!”

Who was your romodel as a kid?  
“Taylor Swift, definitely! My favourite song from her new album is you’re on your own kid.”

What’s your favourite math’s topic?  
“Probably equations of lines. It may not be fun right now but it gets easier when you take A-levels.”

What do you hope your students take away from your lessons?  
“That it’s okay to get things wrong and to also enjoy time with your friends.”



INTERVIEW

An interview with Mr. Bird

AUTHERS NAME: ZOE FINNEGAN

Recently, Mr. Bird has explained about resilience and determination in assemblies throughout school. So, our newspaper team interviewed him to find out more about his life both inside and outside of school.

What did you want to do growing up?

“A professional footballer, I was very lucky to be one, teaching is a second career. I left school at the age of 16, I went to play for Bolton Wanderers for 4 years, and then got transferred to Aberdeen.”

How did you get into teaching?

“I got some injuries and then fell out of football. Then I went into teaching and went to university - I was actually the first people in my family to go to university.”

What do you like to do outside of school?

“Prior to having children – twins – I played a lot of sports; I went to the gym and I socialized with my friends quite a bit. I loved travelling; I’ve been to the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and a lot of Europe.”

Do you have any funny experiences?

“I’ve met the Hairy Bikers – they’re chefs. They did a program at a school I worked in, a full show. They were in the school for about 6 months, it’s strange having cameras on you constantly. Sometimes you forget they are there!”

How did you get to where you are today?

“I moved from England to Wales at the age of 10. I couldn’t understand what anyone was saying, and I had to learn Welsh in around a year. I did secondary school, got my GCSEs for P.E and Geography, but I didn’t go to college. I’m currently the Deputy Head, but I started off as a P.E teacher in my first year, and in the same year I became a head of year. I took a class from year 7 to year 11. That year group got the 40 best performing in the country and it was a very tough school. I became an assistant head, left, and then became a deputy head – I oversaw progress of students and made sure they were the best they could be, and I did that for 2 years. Then I came here, and I have been here since January 2021.”

Any setbacks?

“We lost a student, we all found it extremely sad. Other than that, there hasn’t been any major ones.”

A message to pupils?

“A big priority for me is our attendance, it is important being at school so you can improve, and also not giving up. The biggest thing I have learnt and tried to pass on is that is doesn’t matter about your background, race, etc. You can still be successful if you work hard, and if you be resilient. If you want to be successful, you can.”



INTERVIEW

AN INTERVIEW  
WITH MISS  
BARRAT

AUTHOR NAME: ABIGAIL MA

For 22 years this teacher has been an integral part of Ellesmere Park High School. Miss Barratt (Assistant Head teacher and Safeguarding lead) has had a positive influence on so many students lives. Sadly, at the end of this term she will be leaving this school and embarking on a new journey, which everyone wishes her the best of luck on! Recently we interviewed her to find out a bit more about her and her job.

How did you get where you are today?

“Hard work and perseverance. Always willing to take on a challenge. Whether it was head of year or head of department so on, I’ve been asked if I’m interested and I’ve never said no.”

What do you like to do outside of school?

“At the moment, I have really been enjoying watching Wednesday on Netflix. Also, I love reading, dancing and meeting up with my friends. I used to go to adult dance lessons but those have stopped now so I do Zumba. And doing things with my daughter.”

What has been your favourite part of teaching at Ellesmere?

“Meeting new pupils every year, especially because I live in the local area since I get to see them grow up. Now, I am teaching the children of past students and people I know which is fun.”

Funny or weird experiences in your life?

“Just some of the things I’ve had to say as a teacher! Once I had to ask a child to stop eating grass and explain that gravity is real! I once had a dream that I had murdered the deputy head at the old building and buried them in the walls.”

What is your new job about?

“I’m going to be doing safeguarding at pupil referral units. It is where students who haven’t managed to stay in a school, I’ll be seeing if they are doing everything they can to keep them safe.”

How do you feel about leaving?

“Sick. Very mixed feelings, I think it’s the right time, but it will be a wrench to go. It has been 22 years at this school, I think I’ve done most of the jobs in the building. So definitely mixed feelings.”

GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS

Merry Christmas !

AUTHOR NAME: ABIGAIL MA

Annually, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, Christmas is celebrated by millions. Even if you’re not Christian or believe in God, Christmas brings families, friends, neighbours or even strangers to share smiles and laughter. When you were a child, I’m sure receiving your new toys on Christmas and to get to play with them was the best thing you could think of. Giving and receiving gifts is a major part of Christmas and is one of the main things that comes to mind when you think of this festive season.

Receiving presents during holidays originated in Roman times. It was a part of a celebration offered to a Roman God ‘Saturn’ who was viewed to be the God of agriculture and the God who presented us with vegetation and fruitfulness all year round. The celebration lasted for seven days through the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December. Whether you prefer to give or receive presents, gift-giving is the perfect example of the kindness shared at Christmas and adorns everyone’s face with a smile.

What makes the holiday precious is the traditions particular to us; it’s those household or individual-specific things we do every year that we keep in our hearts and remember forever. They’re personal, idiosyncratic and maybe even a bit boring. Perhaps for you, it’s sitting down to watch the Christmas specials on TV whilst your little siblings play with your toys. Maybe it’s going for an evening walk in the park or driving around that one street with the amazing Christmas lights and decorations. In 2016, Frank Bruni wrote in The Times “while the rituals vary, the attachment to them doesn’t” which I think perfectly sums up these personal customs. I’m sure this year, you are looking forward to your unique rituals that perhaps have already begun and are looking forward to creating many more in the future.

Gradually Christmas has evolved into the modern-day holiday we know today, which is full of bright, vivid lights and amusing decorations. However, it began a long time ago. The date itself originated from the religious day of Jesus’s (Christ’s) birth, in the time around 6 and 4BC - Christmas meaning ‘Christ Mass’. The multitude of traditions originate from a plethora of cultures all over the world and different centuries.

Overtime, Christmas has changed and is honored in a mixture of ways, with every country across the globe having different adaptations...

Poland- In Poland their festivities begin on St Nicholas’ Day, which is on the 6<sup>th</sup> December. On that day children get presents from ‘Small Nicholas’ placed in a shoe or near a fireplace. On the usual festive dinner table are 12 dishes - they are believed to give you good luck for the following 12 months ahead. Traditionally, the meal is meat free, this is to remember the animals in the manger besides baby Jesus.

Japan- Only being widely celebrated in the last few decades, Christmas in Japan is not seen as a religious holiday and is not a national holiday as there aren’t many Christians in Japan. However, a plethora of customs that came from the USA such as sending Christmas cards and presents are very popular. In the country, this occasion is mainly seen as a time to spread happiness and care. On the contrary to the UK, Christmas Eve is celebrated more than Christmas day itself! Christmas Eve is thought of as a romantic day, in which couples spend time together and exchange presents. This day is many ways resembles Valentine’s Day celebrations that are held mainly in the UK and USA. A custom some may find peculiar is that fried chicken is eaten on Christmas! With it being the busiest time of year for restaurants such as KFC, customers can even place their orders in advance!

To conclude, no matter how you spend this day or who you spend it with, I’m sure it will be an exuberant day that is flooding with acts of kindness. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Ellesmere Exclusive!



