

# Netherhall

19/12/2024

## Sixth Form News



### **Health & Social Christmas Dinner**

“The Health and Social team, invited down the local residents to have Christmas dinner complete with a festive sing-a-long and raffle. Overall, the residents thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and are already looking forward to next years festivities.”

- Molly Howard , Year 13



### **Netherhall School and North Lakes Foodbank**

“Netherhall School gave an overwhelming response to the sixth form charity committee’s Christmas foodbank appeal. Students generously donated over 50 bags which were collected and delivered to the foodbank. A huge thank you to all who generously donated.”

-Mr Pattinson, Head of Sixth Form

# **Contents**

In this exclusive Christmas edition of the Netherhall News termly paper, you can expect to find:

**‘The Best Way To Spread Christmas Cheer Is Singing Loud for All To Hear!’**, Pg. 2 - a musical based article revolving around Netherhall School’s junior band, senior band and the school choir performing at the Mayport Christmas Light Switch-on and at the Health & Social dinner.

**‘Christmas traditions from around the world’**, Pg.3 - written by Alfie Volkaerts, explore the various traditions celebrated across the globe over Christmas time.

**‘Newspaper, Film & Book Review’**, Pg. 5- reviews on a series of books and movies, such as ‘The Polar Express’, ‘Elf’, ‘Nativity’, and ‘Before the Coffee Gets Cold’ from Amber Walker.

**‘An interview with Mr Pattinson’**, Pg.7 - conducted by Kadie Harrison, learn about what the head of sixth forms biggest inspirations are; what he wanted to be when he grew up; what he thinks of Netherhall and his advice for pupils.

**‘Politics around the globe’**, Pg.9 - an in-depth article by James Williamson that dives into politics in both the USA and UK, the cause and affects of the election, and the wider impacts these political decisions have globally.

**‘Young Enterprise’**, Pg.14 - learn what and how some of the year 12 students plan on making and selling to create a sustainable and profitable business venture.

**‘Christmas Puzzles’**, Pg.15

# **The Best Way To Spread Christmas Cheer Is Singing Loud for All To Hear!**

*Article by Harri Mossop*

The Netherhall music department has been nothing short of festive this year, from playing a concert at the Maryport Christmas Light Switch-on, with each band playing a selection of songs, to the school's choir playing around care homes and playing at the Christmas Dinner hosted by the health and social department to spread Christmas spirit!



On the 16th November, each band (Junior Band, Intermediate Band and Senior Band) all played a selection of songs with the set time of an hour (the longest set that the band has played yet!), and each band would all play together to cover Band Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' as a final song.

Another group from the music department is the school's choir, a group of young voices singing together, has been performing a variety of Christmas carols at different care homes around Maryport, to spread festive spirit to the residents over the course of the December half-term. The group's work to bring cheer would not end there however as they would also perform at the Rotary Christmas Concert held at St. Mary's Church on the 4th December, as well as the Netherhall Christmas dinner that was held on the 12th December for care home residents. However, that's not all that the department has to offer! On the last day of term, the school band and choir will be performing a selection of Christmas carols at the end of term church service, with the band playing the Christmastime hit 'All I Want for Christmas is You' by Mariah Carey at the end of the service.

# Christmas traditions from around the world

Article by Alfie Volkaerts

Everybody in Britain is well adjusted to the classic British Christmas with dazzling lights, large decorations and a jolly atmosphere. In other parts of the world however this is not the case with other countries all having their own unique ways to

## **Iceland**

One of the more unique festive traditions we've heard of comes from Iceland, where a giant cat is said to roam the snowy countryside at Christmas time. Traditionally farmer would use the yule cat as an incentive for their workers, those who worked hard would receive a new set of clothes, but those who didn't would be devoured by the giant cat-like beast.



## **Japan**

Back in 1974, the American fast food restaurant KFC released a festive marketing campaign in Japan. The seemingly simple slogan “kurisumasu ni wa kentakkii!” (Kentucky for Christmas!) spawned a national tradition that still thrives today. Although Christmas isn't a national holiday in Japan, families from all over the country head to their local KFC for a special Christmas eve meal.



## Ukraine

In Ukraine people will use decorations that mimic the natural formation of spider's webs shimmering with dew where we would expect to see baubles, tinsel and stars. Not a tradition for those with a fear of creepy crawlies! This tradition goes back to a folktale about a poor widow who could not afford to decorate a tree for her children. Legend has it that the spiders in the house took pity on the family and spun beautiful webs all over the tree. Spiders webs are also considered to be lucky in Ukraine.



## Austria

Finally, is the scary tradition of Austria. British kids are well acquainted with father Christmas, Santa Claus or saint Nicholas, but you will find something more sinister lurking around Austria. That's because its here that a ghoulish creature by the name of 'Krampus', the evil accomplice of saint nick is said to wander the streets in search of badly-behaved children. During the month of December, you can expect to see terrifying masked figures out and about scaring kids and adults alike with ghastly pranks. Austria even has an annual Krampus parade in Vienna.



# Newspaper, Film & Book Review

Article by Amber Walker

**Book** - Before the Coffee Gets Cold – Toshikazu Kawaguchi

**Films** - Elf, The Polar Express, Nativity

‘Before the coffee gets cold’, whilst a simple-to-read novel, holds such an immense, emotional impact that you can easily lose your placement through your tears. Toshikazu Kawaguchi utilises his intertwined 4-story premise to explore the key questions of time-travel – what you would want to change and who you would meet. The rules for this process may be restrictive, yet the possibilities are endless, allowing the reader to become immersed with the setting. Each segment captivates the reader, thus resulting in endings that are either happy or bitter-sweet. Many questions are left up to speculation, but with four sequels following on, I’m sure Kawaguchi will successfully answer them!



A classic for many, there's a reason for why 'Elf' is so well-renowned. It sparks joy and has jokes that all ages can cackle at. I can't imagine anyone else other than Will Ferrell nailing the lead role of Buddy, and the moments where Zoey Deschanel's vocals get to shine are immensely appreciated. For anything feel-good around Christmas time, this hits the spot!



Whilst 'The Polar Express' is not for everyone, there is no doubt that it is still a significant film for the majority. The animation, whilst quite uncanny, is very well-executed and allows for any viewer to become engrossed into the film. This is further exemplified by its storyline, which is rather simple yet those fantastical moments make this a key Christmas film – perfect for Christmas Eve specifically!

A British Christmas staple, 'Nativity' has all the nostalgia factor for the adults reminiscing on their own primary school performance, whilst also retaining the fun factor for the kids. With immensely catchy songs and both Martin Freeman and Marc Wootton as Mr Maddens and Mr Poppy respectively, there's no wonder why this should be classed as a British cult-classic Christmas film – bringing festive glee and delight to all.



# **An interview with Mr Pattinson**

*Interview by Kadie Harrison*

## **Who is your biggest inspiration and why?**

“The human race is full of amazing people”, but my most recent inspiration has been Lee Spencer. From birth Spencer has endured a troublesome life continuing into adulthood, as he perused a career serving for the military. Although mentally and physically draining he appreciated the time he spent serving for us. Whilst returning to his barracks, Spencer endured a life changing freak accident in which both his legs required to be amputated below the knees. Despite this he exceeded all of what was thought to be possible beating the paraplegic record for rowing the Atlantic amongst four others. As though not impressive enough,



Spencer pushed his body to limits successfully beating the able bodied world record on his own. “Spencer claims to be an average guy, and I think the message behind this is that anybody has the capacity to do well in life”. If you haven’t heard of him he truly is an inspirational person and you should research further of his wonderful accomplishments.





## **If you could give young people one piece of advice what would it be?**

“The only time I believe I’ve regretted something is when I have missed an opportunity”. Sometimes by taking the immediate harder option you achieve greater and accomplish far more than you could ever expect to be capable. So the motto here is that “you always regret the things you haven’t done more than the things you have”.

## **If you weren’t a teacher what would you be?**

“When I was a little boy I always wanted to be a pilot, and that’s never really left me. I’ve done a couple of lessons as a grown up” it’s the idea of being able to start somewhere local and end up in a completely different area that appeals me. “It’s as close to teleporting as we can get”. Had I not left my guitar skills behind I would have loved to possibly even be a musician.



## **Who was your biggest role model growing up?**

Rather commonly my first response to that would have been my parents as they provided me with a life I am truly grateful for. If I had to say someone else though I would say my French teacher who inspired me to become the teacher I am today.

## **What about this school stand out most to you?**

After previously working with Mr Tromans I appreciate the genuine passion he has for his work and the school as a whole. Continually though I believe that the student body of this school is incredible with its “amazing humour, friendliness, openness, enthusiasm and talent”.

# **Politics around the globe**

*Article by James Williamson*

## **As of recent:**

- USA election, Trump wins
- UNC conference
- Labour budget
- Assad's regime toppled in Syria
- Martial law enacted in South Korea
- More conflict in the Ukraine

## **USA Election**

In politics, the biggest news of the past couple months is that of the US election. The United States election is arguably the most important election in world, with the president known as the 'leader of the free world'. Following the unpopular first term of President Joe Biden many Americans felt as if they would rather have former president Trump, a right-wing republican, than Biden, a left-wing democrat. The growth of Trump was further exemplified by Biden's incoherent performances within the electoral debates, with him seemingly being completely out of it and forgetting what he was saying. Due to health and age concerns about the 82-year-old, he was recalled from the race and replaced by vice president Kamala Harris.



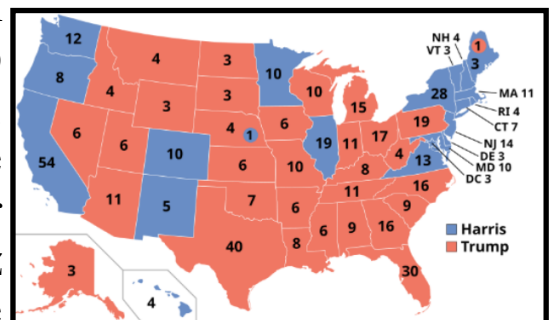
Due to Kamala being a woman of Indian descent, many Americans supported Kamala, when they wouldn't have supported Biden as they felt as if she may have been a better fit for president than Biden or Trump. Kamala's electoral campaign was based on making a more liberal



America, while Trump's campaign was built on creating a strong, Christian state, and for the USA to stand alone on the world stage. During Trump's campaign, he ended up getting shot in the important state of Pennsylvania. However, Trump survived and this attempt also increased his popularity. He would make many claims at events that he would 'Make

America Great Again!', and would dance to the tune of the 'YMCA' and would say things such as 'Kamala you're fired' and that the Haitians in Springfield were 'eating the cats and dogs'. However, Trump is arguably not the nicest of people. Many crimes have been linked with Trump such as attempting to start a revolution (the protests at the capitol building following the 2020 election, trying to overturn the presidential result in the swing state of Georgia and misplacing classified documents following his departure from the White House.

The United States 2024 election was held on the 5th November. The polls had not even been able to call the result of the election, with a mix of Trump and Kamala victories coming out of different polling companies results. However, when the election results came in, it was clear that Trump had won a landslide. By all measures, Trump had heavily beaten Kamala, to the point in which she did not even go to her speech on election night, with Tim Walz having to address eager democrats of the lack of Harris. Trump had won all the swing states such as Pennsylvania and had also won the popular vote, meaning that the majority of Americans wanted Trump to be their president.



In terms of the UK, many argue that Trump's victory will be positive for the UK. Due to Trump's British roots and positive views of the



monarchy, Trump may make the UK exempt from many of his foreign policy laws – such as having free trade with Britain, meaning Britain's economy would be boosted by buying and selling American products. However, Trump as declared that he would only communicate with Britain through his friend, Nigel Farage,

and also that the USA would stop sending aid to the Ukraine during their fight towards Russia. He has also said that he would discuss a peace deal with Putin and Zelensky, in the hope that the war will end.

## Labour Budget

As of recently, while the world has had full eyes on the US election, there has also been a major political event occurring in Britain – the 2024 budget. The budget is a set of policies put in place by the government to decide everything to do with money. This involves how the government will spend their money, taxes and other minor things such as bus fares. Whilst it may seem incredibly boring and complicated, it will have substantial effects on everyone in the UK.



Many new rules from the budget will have effects on the youth of Britain. One of these is the increase in bus fares. While it currently cost £2 per bus ticket, a subsidisation brought in by the conservative party, it has been announced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves (the woman in charge of the economy) that bus fares will still be subsidised, but increased to £3. This means for a return journey from Maryport to somewhere such as Workington will now cost £6 (£2 more) and a return journey to somewhere such as Cockermouth will now cost £12 (£4 more).

While this increase in price was always going to happen, as the subsidy was only funded for so long, it still will have a negative impact on young people in which this is the only way for them to get from place to place, especially during the cost of living crisis.

Another impact from the budget that will also affect young people is the changes in minimum wage. The minimum wage for 18-20-year olds has been increased from £8.60 an hour to £10. This will allow young people to earn better wages at a young age at their part time jobs, better helping them deal with the cost of living crisis. This will especially be helpful for students, as they will be able to increase their standard of living while not having full time employment. However, this will not be very good for businesses as they will have to lose out on more profit by paying their employees more, which could be harmful for small businesses. Also harmful for small businesses, the tax threshold has been almost halved, meaning these ventures will have to pay tax at a lower revenue than they previously would.



In terms of other impacts from the budget, there has been increases in funding to a variety of services such as the NHS, defence, and social housing. The affordable homes budget will be increased by £500m. however, stamp duty, employer's national insurance and inheritance tax for farms will all be brought up, which will harm employers, farmers and people trying to buy their own home. The national insurance increase for employers means that they will need find some more money to pay to the government meaning that a couple things may happen, such as wages being lowered or prices being increased, overall having a negative impact on the working class.

Supporters of the budget believe that this budget will do well in making life better for the worker, and taking more from the rich. This is due to the budget increasing money put in for social housing and the NHS. Supporters also believe that the increase in national insurance is, as it means the usually richer employers will in theory have to have their income reduced. Supporters also agree with the fact that the farmers should have their estates taxed, as many farmers have lots of wealth due to their large amounts of land and equipment. Wealth is not just the amount of cold hard cash you have, it is also the value of everything you own.



There are also many critics of the budget. Critics find that the budget is a burden on business owners and farmers, many of which earn very little profit due to the costs included in running their own businesses. Many people may also find the national insurance hikes to be 'sneaky', as the employee will not see this come off their bill. Many farmers are also angry at Labour due to how they may not have the money to pay for the inheritance tax as farmers sometimes do not have the highest profit margins.

# **Young Enterprise**

*Article by Laila Brown*

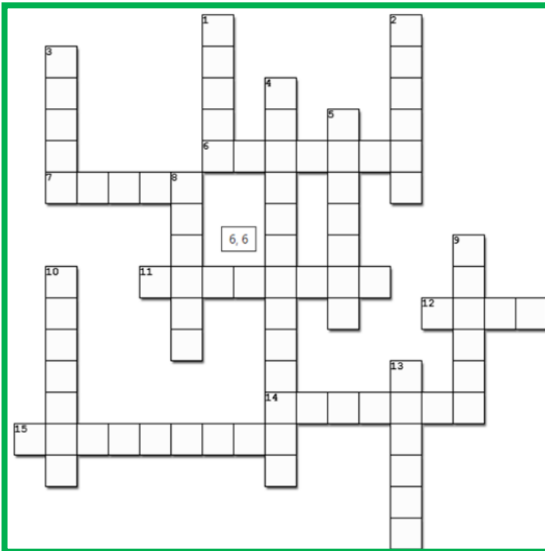
We are a group of students here at Netherhall who plan on earning money through young enterprise. In order to do this, we plan on creating seasonal crochet products using sustainably sourced materials.

When selling our items, we plan on going to local markets. Some items we plan on selling include snowmen, penguins and Santa hats at Christmas, flower bouquets, bunnies and frogs in the spring, heart themed items for valentine's day and much more, our crochet goods can be used for many purposes such as coasters, decorations, gifts, toys, clothing and accessories, this adds versatility to our product allowing more people to want to buy it.

Through young enterprise we get the opportunity to earn money whilst developing a product and learning the process included with it. This is a great opportunity and will allow us to work as a team to make our own designs and products. So far this year we have organised a Halloween themed raffle with a prize consisting of sweets and a crocheted pumpkin for the winner.

In the future we plan on doing this again in order to raise the money we need to produce our product. In the near future we plan on traveling to local markets to sell these products in hopes to earn money from this experience. Overall, we hope that our crochet products will bring happiness to those who buy them.

# Christmas Puzzles

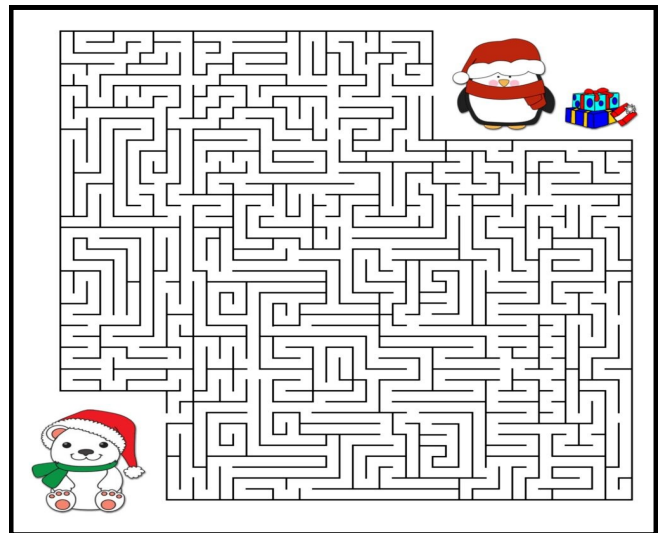
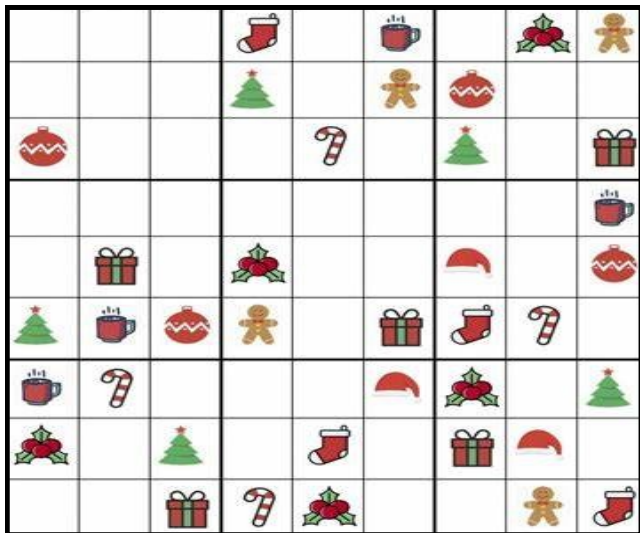


## Down

1. Santa's helpers
2. Main part of Christmas dinner
3. The man that Christmas is about
4. The main Christmas Decoration
5. Santa's favourite food
8. Messengers of god
9. He's a mean one
10. A special day of celebration
13. Santa's mode of transport.

## Across

6. Bah! Humbug.
7. Big, red & jolly
11. The month of Christmas
12. Santa's favourite drink
14. Santa's gh reindeer
15. A mint sweet with red and white stripes



1. BELLS
2. CANDLES
3. CANDY CANE
4. CARDS
5. CELEBRATE
6. CHIMNEY
7. CHRISTMAS
8. RUDOLPH
9. SANTA
10. SEASON
11. SLEIGH
12. STOCKING
13. TREE
14. WREATH

15. ELVES
16. FROSTY
17. GIFT
18. GIVING
19. GREETINGS
20. HOLIDAY
21. JOLLY
22. JOY
23. MERRY
24. MISTLETOE
25. NOEL
26. NORTH POLE
27. REINDEER

O P R I N L I G G Q Q R G L U N H Z E F  
 C H Z Q E J A O R E I N D E E R I R L Q  
 M B M O L S Z T V W U P O B N D T T V V  
 N H N J O L L Y N U Y E N M I H C C E U  
 X P M N P P S F I A G K A C L Y V H S Z  
 D L A E H X C E L B S F P G C E T Q E G  
 Z O M N T H E D A Y S G N I T E E R G M  
 S D Z I R V T Q P S G S B W C C P W V Q  
 P U I Z O V A J A E O R U A C F S O G S  
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 Y M I S T L E T O E Y R D E E S M C I U  
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