

LITTLEHE WRITE VANGLE

Issue 3

The speed of light, F1 Predictions, Kerry's comfort zone, and much more..

Letter From the Editors

Welcome to the first issue of 2026!

If you are unfamiliar with *The Write Angle*, it is the official Exeter Mathematics School newspaper released at the end of each half term.

The Write Angle is run and maintained by a small group of students with anyone who attends EMS being able to send in an article to be published. As always, a huge amount of work has gone into creating this issue from everyone involved, so we would like to thank you for taking the time to read it.

This half-term at *The Write Angle* we have been making some changes behind the scenes, just in time to release this before half term. We are actively looking for more people to take part in editorial and formatting work so if you would like to learn more, send a message to the Editor-in-Chief. It's always a great thing to add to your CV if anything else.

This half-term also featured the return of the Festival of Culture with the Exeter College Reach Academy. It was an incredible event and thank you to everyone who stopped by *The Write Angle* stall. You can find the articles that were submitted later in this issue, including one from our very own headteacher...

As always, links to submit an article or feedback can be found at the end of the issue.

So, kick back, relax, pour yourself a hot chocolate as you shelter from the rain, and enjoy the issue.

Upcoming Events

- 09/02/26 Last day of the first half of Spring Term
- 23/02/26 First day of the second half of Spring Term
- 05/03/26 Year 13 EMC conference
- 09/03/26 Year 12 Parents Evening

News Round-up

This issue's news round-up covers news from the 20th December to the 9th February

Happy News

Climber Alex Honnold has added to his list of records by becoming the first person to climb the Taipei 101 skyscraper in Taiwan without any ropes or safety gear. The 508m climb, which was broadcast on Netflix with a small delay in case something were to go wrong, was completed in 1 hour and 31 minutes. Alex Honnold previously set the record for being the first person to free-solo the 915m tall El Capitan in Yosemite National Park in 2017.

At the end of December, 14 people from Jersey completed a four day trek through the Avenue of Volcanoes in Ecuador, raising £25000 for the 1600 people living with dementia on the island of Jersey. Dementia Jersey, the charity which organised the event, celebrated its 15 year anniversary in 2025. One member of the hike described it as an “incredible adventure”.

The Hershey Bears ice hockey club held the annual teddy bear toss in December where 81796 teddies were thrown onto the rink of an American Hockey League game in Pennsylvania. The club has said that the teddies will be distributed across more than 60 local charities.

Statistics released by the UK Office for National Statistics have shown that the number of homicides across England and Wales in the year to September 2025 was at the lowest level since 1977, with it dropping by 7% from 2024. This is largely due to the number of people killed by knives being down by 23%. Additionally, both knife and gun crime offences have fallen by 9%. These statistics reflect a similar drop in Scotland.

On January 14th, the world quietly broke the record for longest period without a declared or detected nuclear test explosion since 1945, lasting over 8 years and 4 months. This is due in part to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which has not yet entered into force due to its failure to be ratified by 9 countries, one of which is North Korea which completed the last recorded test in 2017.

A new law passed in Scotland has made it so that every house built in the county is required to include a ‘swift brick’ in the structure. The hollow brick would allow birds to nest in them in an effort to curb the declining rate of swifts in the UK. Swifts are known to pair for life and once they have found a place to nest, will return to the same place each year.

World News

“It is now 85 seconds to midnight” as declared by the Bulletin of Atomic scientists on the doomsday clock. The universally recognised indicator of the world’s vulnerability to global catastrophe is reviewed at the beginning of each year, and is now the closest it has ever been to ‘midnight’ since its conception in 1947 where it was set to 7 minutes. In a statement released by the Bulletin, they declared the reason for the drop from 89 seconds in 2024 was due to countries becoming “increasingly aggressive” and a rise in threats such as Artificial intelligence and Climate Change. The clock is not changed every year but has been on a decline since 2010.

A bill to ban social media networks for children under the age of 15 in France has been backed by the French National Assembly, passing with 116-23 in favour. The bill will now go to the senate for approval. Similar laws are being debated in other countries including Spain and Ireland, with the UK launching a 3 month consultation into the subject. This follows the law which banned social media for under 16s in Australia in December. Another clause of the French bill would ban the use of mobile phones in senior schools. The UK has also been looking into banning mobile phones in schools with teachers recently being told by the government to enforce stricter guidelines.

The Sudan military led government has returned to Khartoum, the capital city, after being driven out by the Rapid Support Forces in 2023. The Prime Minister of Sudan, Kamil Idris, declared that 2026 would be a “year of peace” and that the government will begin working on improving lives for the people living in the capital. The Sudanese civil war has been declared one of the worst humanitarian crises, with both sides having been accused of committing atrocities throughout the conflict.

The current mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, has been blocked from running to become an MP in the upcoming by-election on February 26th. Burnham has previously held a range of ministerial positions before becoming mayor of Greater Manchester in 2017. He is widely seen as a possible leadership challenge to Sir Keir Starmer and stated that he was not trying to “undermine the government” and was instead trying to “fight the politics of Reform” in the region. A Labour party statement revealed that his bid was blocked to prevent an “unnecessary election” for mayor which would have a “substantial and disproportionate impact on party campaign resources”, referencing that the cost of the last mayoral election for Greater Manchester in 2024 cost £4.7m. However, many have criticised this choice including the MP for Nottingham East who said that it was “petty factional manoeuvring”.

At the beginning of January, US forces launched strikes on Caracas, the capital city of Venezuela, before capturing the president Nicolás Maduro to face trials in America. Trump has long accused Maduro of “forcing” inmates from “prisons and insane asylums” into the USA and being a “narco-terrorist” responsible for large amounts of drugs like fentanyl and cocaine entering the US. Both claims have been disputed with the American Drug Enforcement Administration not including Venezuela as an origin of fentanyl to the US in their Drug Threat Assessments, however it is mentioned as a trafficking route for cocaine into the US from other countries. Maduro has denied being a drug cartel leader and has accused Trump of using his “war on drugs” as an excuse to control Venezuela’s vast oil reserves. Venezuela currently holds the world’s largest proven crude oil supply but due to mismanagement and sanctions imposed by the US, it accounts for less than 1% of global production. Maduro became president in 2013 and his regime is often criticised for human rights violations and widespread corruption. In 2024, tallies collected by the opposition of the presidential election suggests they should’ve won by a landslide. Trump has since announced that the US is going to “run the country” and control the production of oil

“indefinitely” to “start making money” for Venezuela. Reactions to Trump’s takeover have been mixed with Keir Starmer saying the UK “regarded Maduro as an illegitimate president” and “shed no tears about the end of his regime”, but called for a “safe and peaceful transition to a legitimate government”. Many others are glad to see Maduro’s presidency end while others have criticised the actions taken by Trump as threatening international law and stability.

Donald Trump repeated his threats to annex Greenland stating that he needs it on a “standpoint of national security” to prevent it being controlled by Russia or China. Trump originally made an offer to purchase the Danish territory in 2019 but was told it was “not for sale”. Trump has claimed that the island would be a strategic position for defence systems and would act as an early warning system for missile attacks. Greenland also has a large amount of rare earth minerals and is suspected to have reserves of oil and gas. Europe and NATO allies have made it clear that they do not agree with Trump’s demands which resulted in a small amount of military troops being sent to Greenland to “show the US that NATO is present”. Trump responded by threatening 10% tariffs on all goods exported to the US on many countries against his actions. Keir Starmer called the threats “completely wrong” as did many other European leaders. Trump has since backed down on his threat of tariffs and announced at the World Economic Forum in Davos that he would not take the island by force and instead has a “framework of a future deal” in place after discussions with the Secretary General of NATO, Mark Rutte. Very few details of the possible deal have been revealed and it had not been discussed with leaders from Denmark or Greenland at the time.

During a signing ceremony at Davos during the World Economic Forum, Donald Trump officially launched his ‘Board of Peace’. The idea stemmed from last year during the US efforts to end the conflict in Gaza and was backed by the UN security council. Since then, the ambitions of the board have grown to a global scale with Donald Trump as its chairman. A new leaked charter now appears to be designed to replace functions of the UN, with the text describing it as “an international organisation that seeks to promote stability”. Additionally, the charter states that Trump remains chairman after leaving US office. Many countries have already accepted invitations to join the board, however it has failed to gain the support of the EU. According to Yvette Cooper, the UK Foreign Secretary, the UK has held off on accepting the invite due to concerns over Putin’s involvement and broader global issues. She added that the UK supports Trumps plan to end the war in Gaza and would like to “play our part”. Trump has made his views on the UN clear over the past few years, stating that he likes its potential but believes that it does not live up to it. In December, the US pledged \$2bn for humanitarian aid to the UN but threatened that it must “adapt or die”. The UN has been struggling for funding for many years and has been criticised for lack of action on global issues in the past.

Protests against the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) rose in Minnesota over January after the killing of two people. The protests caused in part to the killings of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti involved thousands of people marching in the streets and many businesses closing. U.S. law enforcement are allowed to use deadly force if someone is posing a significant danger to them or other people and the U.S. government claimed that the ICE agents were acting in self defence. However, neither of the victims, Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti, appear to be posing a threat in videos released online. Donald Trump initially threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act and send military to quell the protests and claims of attacks on ICE personnel but has since appeared to back down due to global backlash to the shootings and the response from the U.S. Government.

There have been calls for the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, to resign following the release of documents in relation to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein which lead to the resignation of multiple members of the Labour Party. This began when the former cabinet minister, Peter Mandelson, resigned over links to Epstein in order to not “cause further embarrassment to the Labour Party”. Starmer told the House of Commons that he was lied to repeatedly about the “sheer depth and extent” of Mandelson’s relationship. This was followed by the resignation of the former Chief of Staff, Morgan McSweeney, saying that he takes full responsibility for the appointment of Mandelson. The former Director of Communications, Tim Allan, has also resigned to “allow a new No. 10 team to be built”. The Scottish Labour Leader, Anas Sarwar, called for Starmer to step down saying that “too many mistakes” had been made at the top of government. Starmer has made it clear that he has no intention to resign as Prime Minister and has gained the support of many Cabinet Ministers and MPs.

NASA's Artemis II mission launch, originally expected to be around February 6th, has been delayed to the beginning of March at the earliest due to hydrogen leaking during a prelaunch fuel test in a practice countdown which had to be stopped with 5 minutes still remaining. The rocket, which will be the first crewed mission to the moon since the Apollo 17 missions in 1972, will not land on the moon surface and will instead complete a lunar flyby and orbit the earth to test the systems of the Space Launch System and Orion Spacecraft. The next crewed mission to land on the moon, Artemis III, will launch no sooner than 2027 and will land on the south pole of the moon. One of the four crewmembers aboard Artemis II, Canadian Jeremy Hansen, will make history as the first non-American to travel beyond low-Earth orbit. Europe and Japan have also both secured seats for astronauts on later Artemis missions.

Comedy Wildlife Awards 2025 EMS Vote

Last issue you all had the chance to vote for your favourite photo from a selection from the Comedy Wildlife Awards. After 33 votes I can reveal that the winner is:

Baptism of the Unwilling Convert - Grayson Bell



Happy LGBTQ+ History Month!



Founded in 2005 by the charity 'Schools OUT' after the repeal of Section 28, February 2026 marks the 22nd UK LGBTQ+ history month. The charity describes it as a way to claim the past, celebrate the present, and create the future.

June is Pride Month, and Exeter Pride is on the 9th May. It is an amazing city-wide event open to anyone no matter who you are, I highly recommend it. They are currently looking for volunteers to help out on the day so if that interests you, the sign up form can be found on their website.

You can find out more about LGBTQ+ history on the Stonewall website.

Poetry of the Issue

James Rankin, my first poet this issue, is a Mathematician at Exeter University. However, a few years ago, he developed Very Severe Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME). This poem stuck with me, and has been a comfort to me through my own experience with ME and I, like Rankin, want to share its message to anyone who relates.

Rankin has given me this context to say about his poem, so I will allow him to introduce it:
“My hope is this poem would be appreciated by anyone going through a tough time. I wrote it for someone experiencing severe sensory problems during long term illness. Having suffered the same, I wrote a minimally digestible poem originally intended to be read as just two words per day. The recipient’s name can be substituted on line two.”

A Poem for Sophia

By *James Rankin*

Here's Solidarity	Journey's tough	Reach tomorrow	You're loved
Sophia's poem	Shepherd yourself	Sweet victory	World's waiting
Delivered daily	Foster kindness	Ride again	Open arms
Keep going	Keep going	Keep going	Keep going

The song Piano Man by Billy Joel is one that most people are familiar with. I think that the following factoid about it will be interesting and entertaining to anyone who enjoys the song:

According to Joel in a 2023 interview, “*the lyrics are like limericks*”.

I think this makes for great fun on two counts. Firstly, you can read verses from the song to a limerick rhythm. Try these ones here:

extracts from Piano Man

By *Billy Joel*

1	2
Now John at the bar is a friend of mine He gets me my drinks for free And he's quick with a joke, Or to light up your smoke But there's someplace that he'd rather be	Now Paul is a real estate novelist Who never had time for a wife And he's talkin' with Davy, Who's still in the navy And probably will be for life

It goes the other way, too; secondly, this means that you can take any of your favourite limericks (such as from other issues of the Write Angle) and put them to the tune of Piano Man, to hilarious effect. I encourage you to find a version of the song with the words removed (such as for karaoke) and try this out.

Poetic Analysis

Pushing the Speed of Light is the 1983 song by Anne Harlan Prather and Julia Ecklar, which I think of as poetry in all but medium. It has been modified - only slightly - in order to be presented here as written word.

It's a poem about a lot of things:

Ostensibly, 'Pushing the Speed of Light' is a poem about science-fiction. It imagines a future where grand spaceship freighters travel to distant planets, moving supplies interstellar distances.

As with so much sci-fi, it is also about science. Understanding the poem requires an overview of a particular scientific concept which I will explain now - for the benefit of non-physicists in my readership. The speed of light (called c) is the absolute speed limit of the universe. This leads to the poem's title, Pushing the Speed of Light; the ships get as close as possible to the speed of light. At these near light speeds, objects undergo time dilation, where time is stretched relative to a stationary observer; every second for the ship, around a minute passes on earth.

This leads to the poem:

Pushing the speed of light

By *Anne Harlan Prather and Julia Ecklar*

Now the big ships fly to a hundred suns
By pushing the speed of light
And they want good men for the deep space runs
Pushing the speed of light
And the pay is good, and you're young and strong
And you tell yourself that it won't be long
So you sign on board, hear the drive's deep song
Pushing the speed of light
Pushing the speed of light

Now it's two months out and it's two months back
When you're pushing the speed of light
Twenty years on your homeworld's track
Pushing the speed of light
And your friends are gone and your lovers too
And there's damn-all left that you can do
And you try to lie, but you know it's true
Pushing the speed of light
Pushing the speed of light

So you sign back on for another run
Of pushing the speed of light
And you swear to God that your pushing's done
Pushing the speed of light
But that one run turns into four or five
And your heart beats time to the humming drive

And there's nothing left keeps you alive
But pushing the speed of light
Pushing the speed of light
Now you've spread your seed with the star drive's
flame
By pushing the speed of light
Left sons behind you to carry your name
Pushing the speed of light
And you watch them age, and you watch them die
As you race the light-wind across the sky
And the gods are silent when you ask them why
Pushing the speed of light
Pushing the speed of light

Now, the speed of c is a wall, they say
When you're pushing the speed of light
That cuts you off from yesterday
Pushing the speed of light
But you know someday you're gonna win that race
And fly back the years to your starting space
And you'll stay awhile 'fore you're back in space
Pushing the speed of light
Pushing the speed of light

The poem is also about sailors. Having grown up in Devon, surrounded by our maritime history, and being interested in folk culture - this is why the poem has stuck so well with me: because, Pushing the Speed of Light is not about fictional sailors. It is a song of the plight of real sailors.

Prather and Ecklar's music is of a genre called 'Filk', which styles itself as Folk music for an imagined world. Pushing the Speed of Light is from the album Space Heroes and Other Fools, which contains 18 or these songs. As such, it is rooted in real folk songs and sea shanties.

A major theme from the sea shanties I grew up with, which is very present in the poem, is about the time that is lost to sailing. Real sailors might not have time dilation to combat, but still many a sailor has lost his entire life in service to a ship, with coercive employment or press gangs, on voyages which - once out of harbour - are impossible to leave.

The poem is also about addiction. Stripped of all the maritime context, and the sci-fi top layer, the story told is of an ordinary person who starts the poem "*young and strong*", and takes one trip out to the universe. Then, they find when they return that the world is not as happy as it was, so "*[they] sign back on for another run*" but swear it's their last; then "*that one run turns into four or five*" until they are totally reliant; in one of the most powerful lines "*And your heartbeat's timed to the humming drive and there's nothing left keeps you alive but pushing the speed of light*". In the fourth stanza, they have a family, but they see that life leave them behind entirely - without ever connecting - while they "*race the light-wind across the sky*".

I've used a lot of quotes here because, once I state the framing of addiction, the poem tells an extremely potent story without any further input from me. That framing is useful for my final point:

It is a poem about tragedy. The tragedy, as a narrative, is ancient. In Greek tragedies: like Orpheus who travels to the underworld to rescue his wife, we see - throughout the story - that Orpheus is unable to trust so, when he is offered the deal and at the last moment he turns around and loses her because he does not trust Hades, we know even before it happens that it is the only way the story can have ended. This poem is a tragedy, and that comes from the most prevalent poetic technique: repetition. By the end of the poem, we know that every stanza ends the same way "*pushing the speed of light. Pushing the speed of light*", so when the protagonist hopes beyond hope they can run the impossible speed and escape, we know the poem will end this same way: still pushing the speed of light.

*But you know someday you're gonna win that race
And fly back the years to your starting space
And you'll stay awhile 'fore you're back in space
Pushing the speed of light
Pushing the speed of light*

This Half Term in Music

Lots of notable albums were released in the past couple months. On January 9th we saw The Cribs release “Selling a Vibe”, their ninth released album and their first since 2020’s “Night Network”. It comes in at 12 tracks long, with a total length of around 40 minutes, with various magazines and newspapers providing positive reviews of 4-4.5 stars. The tracks continue their general musical style; alternative, indie, and overall a joy to listen to. Selling a Vibe is similar to their most popular album, “Men’s Needs, Women’s Needs, Whatever”; the Smiths-esque bleak outlook combined with a hope for better times making it a perfect blend of indie and rock. In particular, “Summer Seizures” gives an upbeat melody with heartfelt lyrics.

We also saw Cavetown, the pinnacle of bedroom-pop, release “Running with Scissors”, providing a more sonically advanced and varied album than he has released before. He teased the album as far back as August 2025, releasing track 4 of 13, Baby Spoon. Coming in a little over half an hour, it serves as a good introduction to Cavetown’s unique indie/lo-fi style. It also fetched good critic reviews, with Dork awarding a 4/5, and fans on various social media speaking in favour of the more audibly interesting and diverse tracks that he has produced.

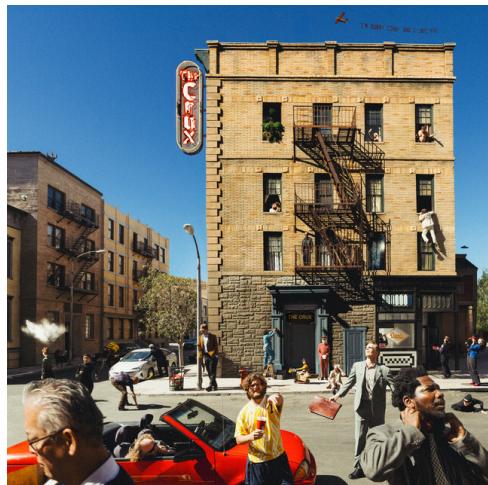
The charts for the past month or so have seen familiar faces, with Taylor Swift clinging onto spot 4 with the Fate of Ophelia, and Olivia Dean sneaking a second single from the Art of Loving into the top ten. The K-pop Demon Hunters rage has only barely died down, with Golden in the teens and two other songs in the top 40 alongside it.

Mr. Brightside Counter: 490 weeks

The album that I would like to recommend for this issue is one near and dear to my heart; Good & Evil by Tally Hall. They first rose to fame with their internet show and album release of Marvin’s Marvelous Mechanical Museum, a quaint and pleasant album in its own right, however Good & Evil is what happened when they pushed themselves to produce something truly great. Many tracks became famous outside of the album (Turn the Lights Off for one example). The album explores the theme of duality: in relationships, on and offline, and even in life and death. The alt-rock genre provides the perfect platform to write interesting and punchy songs that sound good both on their own and in the context of the album as a whole. The repeated motif first presented in “&” provides a sense of completeness, being introduced early and used in the last song, furthering the theme of duality.

Also during this year, we saw the 68th annual Grammy’s award ceremony, celebrating music culture and highlighting the most important accomplishments of the year. We saw Kendrick Lamar, hip-hop and rap artist, surpass Jay-Z as the most awarded rapper of all time, with 27 total awards across 11 ceremonies. We saw the first Spanish album receive the best album award, with Bad Bunny’s “Debí Tirar Más Fotos” contributing to his three wins this year. Billie Eilish’s “Wildflower” had the honour of Best Song, providing the artist and her brother with the most awards in history in the category. Olivia Dean, with her many hit songs from “The Art of Loving” won the Best New Artist, providing a promising start to her flourishing career. Unsurprisingly, “Golden” from K-Pop Demon Hunters won the Best Song Written For Visual Media, beating three separate songs from Sinners, and becoming the first K-Pop song ever to win an award.

The Grammy awards also introduced the “Best Album Cover” award, this year given to Tyler, the Creator’s “Chromakopia”, the nominees setting a precedent for future awards of well-composed and high quality covers that fit the album well.



You should watch F1



Figure 1: Red Bull Racing F1 Car 2026

We are currently in the winter break of F1. That means it's the perfect time to get informed for the start of the new season.

In F1, there are eleven teams; each team has two drivers. In 2025 there were only ten teams, but this year the Cadillac team will also be competing. Here is a list of the 2026 teams and their respective drivers:

Team	Drivers in 2026
McLaren	Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri
Mercedes	George Russell and Kimi Antonelli
Red Bull Racing	Max Verstappen and Isack Hadjar
Ferrari	Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton
Williams	Carlos Sainz and Alexander Albon
Racing Bulls	Liam Lawson and Arvid Lindblad
Aston Martin	Lance Stroll and Fernando Alonso
Haas	Esteban Ocon and Oliver Bearman
Audi	Gabriel Bortoleto and Nico Hulkenberg
Alpine	Pierre Gasly and Franco Colapinto
Cadillac	Valtteri Bottas and Sergio Perez

The 2026 F1 season comprises of 24 races starting in Australia on Friday 6th March and ending in Abu Dhabi on Sunday 6th December. Each race weekend lasts from Friday to Sunday. The times of each race change depending on the country its hosted in.

Free Practice

There are three one-hour free practice sessions split between Friday and Saturday. This is where drivers can practice on the track to get ready for the subsequent qualifying and race. The teams can make small alterations to the cars during this time, as the cars need to be tuned to the specific track. All the drivers lap times are recorded and released so you can get an idea of who's going to do well in qualifying and the race.

Qualifying

Qualifying happens on Saturday after the last free practice session. Qualifying is a multi-stage time trial, that all drivers compete in, to set the grid (decide the order the drivers start in) for Sunday. There are three sessions in qualifying: Q1, Q2 and Q3. All drivers compete in Q1, the slowest six get eliminated and their positions are set. So the driver with the slowest lap time in Q1 will start in 22nd place, the driver with the second slowest time will start 21st place. All the drivers' times get reset and the sixteen drivers left start in Q2. The slowest six get eliminated and the last ten drivers battle it out in Q3 for pole (starting in 1st).

The Race

The race lasts ~one hour and the number of laps is the fewest number of laps needed to exceed 305km (between fifty and seventy laps). The rules of F1 (set out by the FIA - the governing body of F1) mandate that every car must have at least one pit stop each race. A pit stop is where the car comes into the pit lane to change their tyres. Having tyres that are worn down from driving can be disadvantageous as the tyres lose grip so the driver cannot achieve top speeds. However, a pit stop will lose that car between 20-25 seconds, so the fewer pit stops the better. Depending on the track and conditions on the day determine how quickly the tyres degrade (lose grip) which determines how many pitstops will happen. Most tracks are either 1-stop or 2-stop. As well as changing the tyres during pit stops, drivers can have parts of their car replaced if they are damaged or serve time penalties. During the race, the team can communicate with their drivers via a radio system. The main person to communicate with the driver is that driver's race engineer. The race engineer will inform the driver on changes of strategy, when to pit, ect.

Points

The drivers are awarded points depending on the place they finished the race in. Only the top 10 finishers receive points.

Finishing position	Points earned
1	25
2	18
3	15
4	12
5	10
6	8
7	6
8	4
9	2
10	1
11+	0

The Championships

There are two championships in F1: the drivers Championship (WDC) and the constructors championship (WCC). The 22 drivers all compete in the drivers championship, at the end of the season, the driver with the most points overall wins. The eleven teams will compete in the constructors championship, each team's points is the sum of their two drivers' points. This is arguably the more important championship, because each team's finishing position determines their prize money for the next season. Meaning if you do well in a season, it's easier to do well in the next season. Sometimes if one driver or team has had an incredibly dominant season, they can win the respective championship before the last race of the season. This means there is no possible mathematical way that any other driver/ team could overtake them in points.

Where to watch

There are many ways to follow F1. I would recommend downloading the BBC Sports app and adding F1 as a sport. This gives you access to a host of articles keeping you up to date on the sport for free. You can also see the dates and times of the races, race results, championship standings and a list of teams and drivers.

On a race weekend, you can watch whole weekend live on Sky Sports or listen to it live on Channel Five (which can be found on the BBC Sports app). If you don't want to pay for Sky Sports but still want to watch the race, Channel Four shows extended highlights of qualifying and the race later.

F1 Jargon

Rookie - A driver in their first full season of F1. This year, there are two rookies Arvid Lindblad and Franco Colapinto

Pole - First place in qualifying. E.g if a driver is "on pole" that means they won qualifying and can start first in the race

Grid - The starting positions for the race e.g after qualifying the "grid is set" or Colapinto is starting 13th "on the grid"

P - A short hand for a drivers starting position e.g Hamilton is starting P17 after an atrocious qualifying

Silly season - The time before all the contracts have been signed for the next year, this means drivers are in negotiations with their current team and other teams to secure a contract for the next year

Pit lane - A section of track that splits off from the main track and then joins back up again later on. All of the cars' garages are located on the sides of the pit lane. In order to keep the mechanics safe there is a pit lane speed limit of 80kph (~50mph) and violating this speed limit could lead to a time penalty

The Pits - An informal term for the pit lane

Box - This is an informal term used by the race engineers when communicating with their driver. It means come into the pits. E.g "Box this lap"

--Stop - the refers to the number of times the driver pits E.g "we're going for a 1-stop" means they are planning on only pitting once during the race

Lock-up - When the driver breaks too hard going into a corner and the wheels stop rotating, causing the car to stop turning. This can lead to the car spinning off the track or hitting a competitor. E.g "I had a lock up in turn 4 which lost me some time" if a car locks up in qualifying, they could lose out on positions

Livery - The specific colour scheme, design and branding that cover the F1 car

Predictions

These are some predictions made by students for the 2026 season; some are more serious than others.
WDC - World Drivers Championship. **WCC** - World Constructors Championship.

If Max Verstappen wins the first race of the season, he will win the WDC

Liam Lawson will win the WDC

Lando Norris will win the WDC

Mercedes will win the WCC, but a non-Mercedes driver will win the WDC

Mercedes will win the WCC before the Brazil race (8th November), George Russell will win the WDC and Williams will be top 5 in the WCC and both the drivers and constructors championships will have been won before the last race in Abu Dhabi race (6th December)

Charles Leclerc will win a race

Mercedes will win the WCC with Ferrari in second

Cadillac will win the WCC

Alonso WDC

Festival of Culture

An introduction by our Editor-in-Chief

On the second of February, EMS hosted the second ever Festival of Culture joint with Reach Academy. It was an incredible event, and we would like to thank everyone who helped make it possible. We were lucky enough to have a stand where people were able to write short articles about anything they wanted. The articles all amazing and ranged from a movie review to a defence to six-seven and everything in between. Below is a selection of the submissions including an exclusive article from Kerry Burnham. We hope you enjoy.

(Sorry to the person who submitted the Bee Movie script, unfortunately there was not enough space for your masterpiece)

Out My Comfort Zone

Kerry Burnham

My comfort zone is teaching maths. To be expected I guess? I'm head of a maths school. But this was not always the case.

Raising my child alone, there was no such thing as a comfort zone. What are "they" thinking letting us become parents untrained?! You can't quit as a parent, you dig deep and find reserves you never knew you had. The lesson: you are capable of so much more than you thought. Now I reap the rewards, enjoying an adult relationship with my son whilst looking back with rose tinted spectacles at his childhood. Probably the best thing I ever did.

I became a teacher so I could spend the school holidays with my son but when I was training I almost quit, having no confidence in my ability to manage and motivate a class, cope with workload and teach them well enough. It took five years before teaching became comfortable, at least for some of the time. But it's brought so much joy. I love working with young people, their optimism and energy are a joy to be around. It's one of the best things I've done.

When I became a Headteacher I was once again working completely beyond my sphere of expertise and discomfort scarcely begins to describe the overwhelmingly steep learning curve I was on. In my most self-doubting moments I drew on the knowledge that I'd done a fairly good job as a parent with no training and became a mighty fine teacher (if I do say so myself) despite my early doubts and fears. I could do this too. Surely.

It did get easier. I became more proficient. Thirteen years on, I sometimes even think I'm doing a good job and I'm meeting familiar challenges. Back in my comfort zone, at least some of the time. The most fulfilling and rewarding job I could imagine.

But now I'm embarking on a new chapter. Tasked with raising much needed money for the school, I am attempting to become a fundraiser. Oh so painful! But I'll do it. I'm beginning to see a pattern here. The most challenging, out-of-comfort-zone things are also the most fulfilling, life-affirming and joyful!

Still, wish me luck...

An Unbelievable Article

Student Submission

A peanut is a type of nut. An almond is a type of nut. A cashew nut is a type of nut. A walnut is a type of nut. A brazil nut is a type of nut. An apple is a type of nut. A pistachio nut is a type of nut. A coconut is a type of nut. A hazelnut is a type of nut. A chestnut is a type of nut.

*Only two of these sentences are true.

Anonymous teacher

As a teacher, I have deep respect for the 67 phenomenon. It is postmodern poetry. It is a signifier with no signified. Utilised to bamboozle, baffle, stupefy, and signal the end of logic, the death of reason. In a world cobwebbed with ideology, propaganda, and institutionalism, 67 cuts through the noise. Sure, it derails classes, curtails conversations, but one cannot deny its power as a piece of performance art.

The role of linguistic markers in social identity formation (brief summary)

Exeter College Student Submission

Social identity is defined as one's perception of themselves in relation to similarities and differences between groups. Social identities are formed and maintained through social categorisation and social comparison.

Language is essential in forming social identities online in several ways:

- social identity performance - deliberately performing a group's linguistic norms (e.g. "What's up my sigmas 67 fr fr no cap") alters other's perception of you. Social identity formation is a social process, and requires external validation in order for a self perception to exist. Therefore, without language, we cannot acquire new social identities.
- Forming new social categories - labels are made from language. You cannot call someone a trad wife without using words, nor cottagecore. New language = new social identities.
- Manifestation of social identities: when a social identity becomes salient, members would behave in accordance to the norms of the group. This group normative behaviour includes linguistic norms. Think about how you text your friends and compare that with an email written to a teacher. You use different words.

QED.

Review of 'The Great Escape'

Anonymous Student

The Great Escape, produced in the 1960s, presents a somewhat impartial and impersonal spin on the second world war. It depicts the endeavours of a gaggle of the most elusive PoW escapees in the most heavily guarded camps. The movie uses the context of the war not to demonise the Axis, as many in the industry would be encouraged to, but as the basis for a thrilling and compelling narrative (much like Where Eagles Dare and the like). Despite detailing the Gestapo's violation of law and morality, this serves as an addendum to a completed arc – a sharp reminder that through the excitement and adrenaline of international law, everyone is made to suffer – including those enforcing the law.

Recipe of the Issue: Chocolate Brownies

Throughout my childhood I have made these brownies more times than I can count, they are my go-to if I need food for a party, a picnic, or just a treat for myself. The original recipe comes from 'The Usborne Children's book of Baking' but has been slightly altered by myself.

If you end up making these brownies, please send a photo to be included in the next issue!

Ingredients

Makes 16 squares

- 100g dark chocolate
- 2 large eggs
- 125g stork
- 275g caster sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp vanilla essence
- 50g self-raising flour
- 25g plain flour
- 2 tbsp cocoa powder
- icing sugar to decorate

You will need a 20cm square cake tin, at least $6\frac{1}{2}$ cm deep.

Method

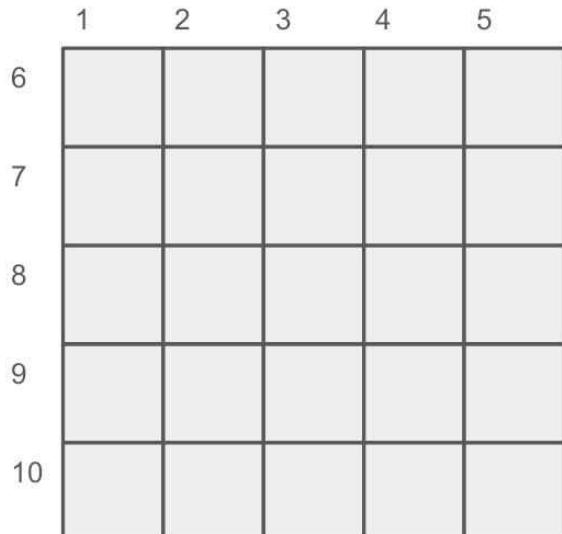
- 1 Heat the oven to 180°C, 170°C fan, gas mark 4. Grease the inside of the tin and line with baking paper
- 2 Pour and boil a small amount of water in a pan. Once the water is boiling, place the chocolate in a heatproof bowl and place it inside the pan. Stir the chocolate with a dry spoon until melted.
- 3 Beat the stork, sugar, and vanilla essence in a large mixing bowl until fluffy. Once fluffy, gradually add in the eggs, beating the mixture between each addition.
- 4 Sift the flour and cocoa powder into the bowl, pour in the melted chocolate, and mix together.
- 5 Transfer the mixture into the tin, smooth the top with the back of a spoon, and bake for 25 minutes or until they have slightly risen, a thin crust has formed on top, and a knife comes out clean. They should still be soft in the middle.
- 6 Leave the brownies in the tin for 20 minutes before cutting into 16 squares. Optional: finish by sifting a thin layer of icing sugar onto the top of the brownies.

Café of the Issue

This half term's café that I'd like to recommend is Chococo, found on Gandy Street (not far from EMS). Specialising in hot chocolates, but also offering other hot and cold drinks, they offer the café classics: scones, brownies, ice cream, loyalty cards, and the nicest staff you'll ever meet. Their array of hot chocolates boasts a variety of percentages, so you can order your desired sweetness: a 100% Ecuador for those days that are too sweet, or a 47% Blondie to brighten your mood. Variety is the spice of life, so try them all and find your favourite!

Puzzles

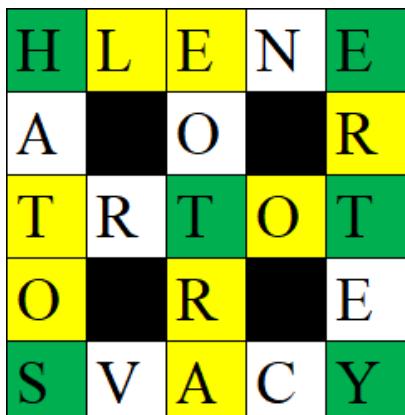
The Micro Crossword



1. Frantic
2. Solitary
3. Scuba _____
4. Ward off
5. What an Australian snowman does

6. _____ I'm Adam
7. It's _____!
8. New book
9. A lack of chemistry
10. Dead _____; guaranteed

Waffle



Multi-part cryptic question

Why might the birth month of the mother of radiation; Rutherford's scattering particle; an Argentinian partner dance; and the poet of "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" have an interest in aviation?

The Waffle is a word puzzle. You are tasked with rearranging the letters in the grid such that every 5 square row and column is a real word. The colours give you clues to solve this. A green square means the letter is already in the right place. A yellow square means the letter in the square appears somewhere in at least one of the words that intersect that square. A white square means the letter does not appear in that space. For example, we know that the solution to this waffle will have an I in the top left square; an R in either the middle row or left column (but not the space where the R currently is); and no E in the left second-bottom space.

The multi-part cryptic question contains a series of clues with answers linked by a common theme. Try to answer all the clues and figure out the theme (you may find it helps to guess at the theme once you have a few clues solved to give you a hint at the others). It is expected that you may need to use a search engine or reference book, but see how far you can get without them first.

Mathematical Problem

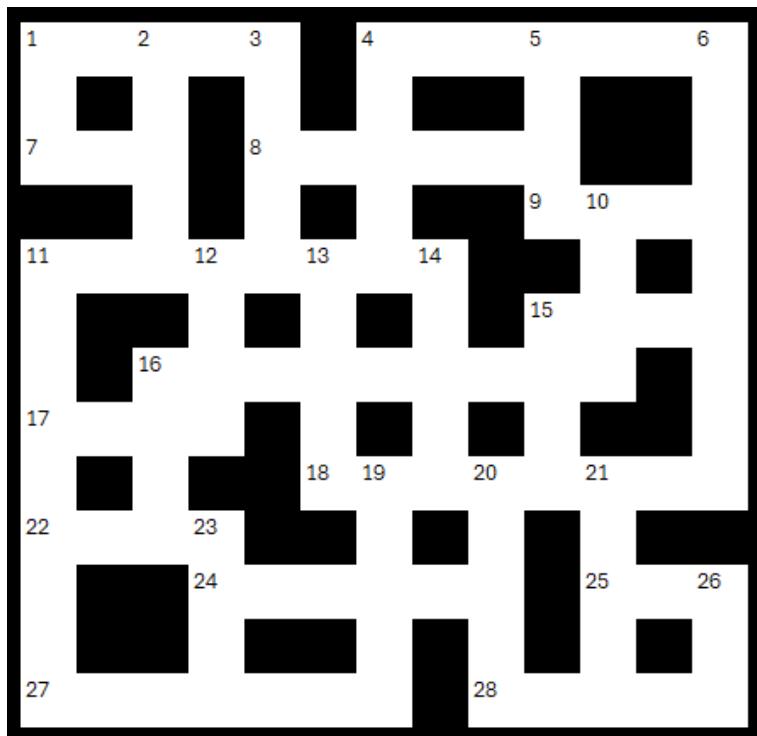
Consider that you are a spider that spots a fly on the wall; you desire to eat the fly, but you also desire to travel the shortest distance to do so. The room is 10 metres long, 5 metres wide, and 3 metres tall. You and the fly are on opposite walls, separated by the length of the room, with the fly being 1 metre above the ground and you being 1 metre from the ceiling. The fly is at the centre of its wall, whereas you are 1 metre to the left of the centre of your wall.

- A)* What is the shortest distance to the fly from where you are?

- B)* If you can shoot a web that is at most 1 metre long that can cut corners, what is the shortest path that you can travel then?

Hybrid Crossword

Elementary (my dear Watson)



Across (Cryptic):

- 1 Crib held by Saint of the Antarctic (5)
- 4 Proof of identity puts Ray back in land (7)
- 7 Black and white philosophy: Cold binary. Inherently imprisoning (3)
- 8 Perfect copy of titular primary character (6)
- 9 Ancient, wonderful with oddly glib zeal (4)
- 11 Beware thorns when taking stem cuttings, or alternatively use red. See, so organised (4,4)
- 15 Wintr hoiday! (4)
- 16 BAM. A tenth solve for the world's greatest detective (3,6)
- 17 Umami soup ingredient! (4)
- 18 Westcountry kingdom is weirdly UN domain (8)
- 22 Programming statistics are unusual (4)
- 24 Before Rodrigo Diaz even ordains were rotten (6)
- 25 Von Neuman hides a truck (3)
- 27 Talk passionately to online partner (7)
- 28 Recentering footpath crossing for aesthetics (5)

Down (Standard):

- 1 Tinker, tailor, soldier, ___ (3)
- 2 What might be heard from Old Macdonald's pigs (5)
- 3 Turns, diagonal to the wind (5)
- 4 Slang for 1000 USD (5)
- 5 Counter to 7A (4)
- 6 Tibetan spiritual leader (5,4)
- 10 Major magnetic element (4)
- 11 Edgar Allan Poe's "Murders in the ___" (3,6)
- 12 Admirer of Narcissus (4)
- 13 HTML code to display an external image (5)
- 14 Single piece of statistical information (5)
- 15 $\ast 10^{-9}$ (4)
- 16 Slavic nobleman (4)
- 19 King William IV's relation to Queen Victoria (5)
- 20 Points in a network (5)
- 21 Manual labourer, e.g. railroad ___ (5)
- 23 Hence (4)
- 26 Named at birth (3)

Answers

I	N	F	E	R
N		L		H
E	L	E	G	Y
R		A		M
T	A	S	E	E



Mark Hamill	→	Alexander III (the Great)
Alec Guinness (or Ewan McGregor)	→	Aristotle
Liam Neeson	→	Plato
Christopher Lee	→	Socrates

Sequence explanation

The “?”s are replaced by “Christopher Lee” and “Socrates” left to right. The names on the left are actors of characters in the Star Wars film franchise. The characters and historical figures belong to runs of 4 notable figures each trained by the previous and are paired up in order. So, Mark Hamill’s character Luke Skywalker was trained in the Force by Alec Guinness’ character Obi-Wan (Ben) Kenobi (also played by Ewan McGregor), and likewise Alexander III of Macedon was trained in philosophy and rhetoric by Aristotle. Liam Neeson’s character is Qui-Gon Jinn. Hence, we want the actor of Qui-Gon Jinn’s teacher in the Force, Christopher Lee (character Count Dooku) and Plato’s teacher in philosophy, Socrates.

Its all Greek to me Cryptic explanations

1A. anagram TOGA for GOAT, the GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) is the best man **3A.** last testament = WILL, select 2nd from C[O]RINTHIANS, select foremost from [W]E, in botany; weeping WILLOW (are the weepers) **6A.** an example of the solution is POE (Edgar Allan), select 1st from [T]ENNYSON, (!) Tennyson 1st (Alfred Lord) is an example of a POET **8A.** obeys 1st law of thermodynamics = replace Q for W, decays to = replacement, replace Q for W replace AU (a uranium) for O (oxygen) in [Q][U]RK for [W][O]RK, in thermodynamics; heat is WORK **11A.** god of a battering = ARES, I (one roman) in (enter) ARES for AR[I]ES, ARIES is a ram **12A.** concealment BRON[ZE TA]BLET, ZETA is the letter z (ezekiel’s second) in the greek alphabet **13A.** homophone THAI NOT = TIE KNOT, to tie knots is to PIONEER, to invent first is to PIONEER **14A.** select first from [U]NIVERSE, U in NOM back for M[U]ON, in physics; a MUON is a heavy lepton **15A.** homophone EYE = I, two Is in DOT for [I]D[I]OT, to be an IDIOT is to have no brain **17A.** select capital from [M]IKE, select junior letter from E[D], archaic spelling (scheme) of WEIRD = WYRD, replace (buys out) D for M in WYR[D] for WYR[M], a WYRM is a dragon; so a wealth hoarder **20A.** (?) baking (baker’s dozen) = switch 12 for 13, (?) in playing cards (of Hearts); the QUEEN is valued 12 and the KING is valued 13, a tzar is a KING **21A.** select midway BR[E]AK A[R]M, EXERCISE sub ER for EXCISE, an EXCISE is a type of tax **22A.** welsh [GOOD][bye] = sub translation GOOD = sub DA, BADASS sub DA for BASS, in music; BASS is a low sound

Mathematical Problem Solution

Last issue’s problem covered probability. The only important fact that you needed was that the sum of probabilities is one. The probability tree question was purely to help visualise the later parts, and to unlock the alternate method for the second part.

If you consider the probability tree, the branches are symmetrical in terms of p and q (for $q = 1 - p$), and the probabilities of any combination of wins will also be symmetrical. This means that the probability of Ava winning the best of three will be equal to the probability of Bob winning it, thus giving rise to the answer of 0.5.

You could also use a polynomial; ultimately it simplifies to $2p^3 - 3p^2 - 5p + 1 = 0$, with the only solution in the range $[0, 1]$ being 0.5.

Supposing Ava improves her skills such that $p = 1$, the probability she wins overall is the probability that Bob wins twice in a row after Ava’s first win. This means that the probability she wins is $1 - (1 - 1 * 0.5) * (0.5 * (1 - 0.5 * 1)) = 1 - 0.125 = 0.875$, thus she wins 7/8ths of the time if she can improve her skills the maximum amount.

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- Be factual and up to date (provision of sources if necessary)
- Have no use of AI/LLMs
- Remain unbiased and politically unmotivated
- Be mindful and respectful of others' opinions
- Be clear in structure and content

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