



## **Emma Williams - former student takes the world of arts by storm**

**Emma Williams:**  
**Former student to**  
**successful actress**

**By Skye Fairhurst**

Emma Williams was born in 1983 and after attending North Halifax Grammar School, she went on to excel as a talented performer. Throughout her life, Emma has appeared in many mainstream productions such as 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' (as Truly Scrumptious) at just 18 years old. Emma has also been nominated four times for the Olivier Award, used to recognise excellence in professional theatre.



While at NHGS Emma's curriculum was not too different from ours. Drama was not an academic option then, though music was. Emma stated that although she enjoyed music, her favourite subject was Latin.

Emma described her Latin teacher, Mr Edwards, as 'the most incredible teacher', as he helped her fall in love with languages. Emma also enjoyed German and French. One of her career plans was to go into translating, but she chose to follow acting instead. Even now, Emma enjoys foreign languages. She even tutors in her spare time. Emma also enjoys writing as a hobby, sharing that she thought her knowledge of languages (especially Latin) helped to improve her writing abilities. NHGS also played a part in helping Emma to write. Particularly in the form of essays. NHGS also gave Emma the ability to 'look for alternatives, ideas, things that intrigued me'.

Not only did NHGS give Emma a great work ethic but it also allowed her passion for learning to thrive, and even now she enjoys learning new things.

Growing up, Emma attended drama groups,

dancing classes and singing classes. These extra activities allowed her to build a creative outlet. Her parents were very supportive and understanding of the fact that this was important to Emma. Their understanding of her enthusiasm for drama helped guide her down the theatre path. Not all Emma's school days helped her thrive. In primary school, Emma was bullied and as a response to this, she began singing, giving her a way to healthily express her emotions. Emma described herself as being uncomfortable in her skin and awkward at times, which are both still things she feels occasionally. 'Being able to be creative and be another person was a brilliant way for me to do something different'.

Emma fervently took part in the annual performances put on by Mr Crawford allowing her to get a taste of what acting was like. Due to Emma's good work ethic and the effort she put into school, she was allowed to leave school for short



# *The Gwyneth*



*Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News*

periods to take part in filming and at one point she even missed a few months of school. When Emma did find her grades slipping, her teachers aided her at getting them back up, allowing her the option of a plan B.

After A-levels, Emma took a gap year in which she tried to get some work and decided that if she didn't succeed she would go to university, but luckily for her, she managed to get some work. She described a feeling of missing out over the fact that the people she knew were going to university and some had even gotten a degree at the open university. Emma advises that you should 'run like heck for those dreams' but also have what she called a mattress plan in place to fall back on. Emma had her 'head in the clouds, feet on the ground' which worked out for her.

One big pastime for Emma is running as she feels it clears her mind. It is important to keep straightforward and motivated in such a competitive career as

Theatre. She said that 'it would be hilarious if the PE teachers knew I was a keen runner'. The last time Emma ran at NHGS was in year 11 and she reminisced that 'I got 500 metres around the 800 metres and promptly threw up'. Showing how much interests can change throughout life. Like how having a daughter changed Emma's life. She still manages to run anyhow and even takes her 17-month-old daughter along with her in a running buggy. Emma is also a big reader. On the side she has written novels, fingers crossed that she gets some published. Along with running Emma tries to sing and exercise daily to stay happy and healthy. Emma calls herself an 'extroverted introvert' and enjoys spending time alone. It will be harder with a baby now. Just 7 weeks after having an emergency c-section, Emma was back in the recording studio. She wanted to show that 'being a mum doesn't define me'.



The pandemic hit many industries, most of all the arts. Emma continues to go to auditions and believes it is important to trust in yourself and try new things, even if they scare you. To the people out there who want to go into the arts, Emma advises that you have to want it and that you shouldn't go into it for fame and fortune, as it is unlikely that you will get either. You should also research which area of the arts you would like to go into, as many important jobs are behind the scenes, which people often don't think of as a career path. You should be able to accept rejection as 'the number of job interviews will become overwhelmingly hard to cope with'. At one point, Emma went 3 years without work but had to force



# *The Gwyneth*



*Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News*

herself to keep going. 'Having the strength of character to keep going even when everything inside of me had become anxious and concerned that there wasn't going to be a future for me as a performer' was something that Emma found challenging. Emma found it useful to have a sense of humour and not take everything too seriously. Not all jobs in the theatre will last so it is always important to have a sideline. Emma also said you should be able to be malleable in your acting. It's important to be able to say 'here's my idea,' and give your own unique spin to a character.

Emma believes that self-acceptance is so important to everyone and the ability to love yourself is a skill that everyone struggles with throughout life. Stating that it's ok to change things about yourself, especially in your teenage years as that is when you are finding who you are. As long as you are doing it for the right reasons. An example of this is your appearance to which Emma said 'do you need to

change how you look or how you think?' Adding that kindness should be at the core of everything, 'you will never regret showing kindness to others, but you will regret not showing kindness'. The things you say sometimes leave an impact on people which can last a lifetime. It is important to have an awareness of how you are impacting others, and that we can all be 'mouthpieces for change'.

Emma's final piece of advice was that you should enjoy your school years and not take them for granted. Emma also said she cannot wait to be performing live again, which will hopefully be sooner than later. So, go and enjoy the arts as they have been a major part of our pandemic lives, whether it was a programme on Netflix or a song on Spotify. You could even check out Emma on Youtube and look out for her in future performances. As a final reminder, if anyone is interested in the arts, just go for it, as you never know what will come of it.

## **The Busy Brains of the Head of Years!**

**By Elliot Carpenter**

Ever wondered about what goes on inside your Head of Year's mind? What they do when they're not complaining about how many behaviour comments their year has racked up? I caught up with Miss Proctor (Head of Year 9) and Mrs Hurl (Head of Year 10) over Easter to ask them a little bit more about themselves...

### **Miss Proctor**

**Q: How long have you been working in teaching, and have you worked at any schools we might recognise?**

*A: I've been a teacher for 7 years now. Before I moved to NHGS 3 years ago, I worked at Oakbank School in Keighley. I had attended when I was a student and I loved it - it was just time for a change for me! I also did a placement at Skipton Girls' High School when I was training. All three schools are very different but all wonderful places to work.*



# The Gwyneth



Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News

**Q: I know working from home is a totally different experience for everyone. Within both lockdowns, did you miss being in the classroom or were you a fan of home learning?**

*A: I wasn't a fan of home learning at all. I think the Google Classroom lessons worked quite well and I did like seeing everyone trying their best. It was brilliant to see the resilience and determination of NHGS students, it made me very proud to be a teacher and to know such wonderful children, but I really missed being in the classroom.*

**Q: Is there any particular memory from your time so far at NHGS, good or bad, that stands out for you?**

*A: Results days are always memorable, seeing my students open their envelopes and realising that all their hard work has paid off never gets old.*

**Q: With nearly 35 million vaccines in arms, if I dare say so, the end of the pandemic does seem to be in sight. What are you**

**most looking forward to being able to do after all of the restrictions are lifted?**

*A: I'm mostly looking forward to going to the cinema! I usually go weekly; I'm a bit of a film buff and so not being able to see new films in that environment for a while has been rubbish for me. As soon as they're open, I'm going to be there every day making up for lost time.*



**Q: It's been over a year since the last live events, in March 2020, were cancelled. What was the last concert you went to?**

*A: The last concert I went to was the Spice Girls reunion show in Summer 2019. It was so much fun dancing to all the cheesy songs in the pouring down rain with my friends- not the coolest, but definitely a laugh!*

*(I would like to object to this answer, actually, Spice Girls are very cool).*

**Q: And finally, who's your favourite Beatle?**

*A: My favourite Beatle is John Lennon. I once read an article where he admitted that neither he nor his band mates were great technical musicians, but their passion to make noise was what made them great. I like that idea - you don't always have to be perfect, that's not what's important - what is important is that you give it your all, that you go after your dreams, push limits and believe in the greatness of yourself.*

*(Unless of course you're writing a PETERC paragraph in one of her lessons. Then you do have to be perfect).*

## Mrs Hurl

**Q: What difficulties - or advantages - did you find from being a Head of Year working from home in the 2021 lockdown?**

*A: As one of my main duties is pastoral support and wellbeing, I found it really difficult not being with the pupils in school or have the ability to have a direct*



# *The Gwyneth*



*Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News*

*conversation with anyone. I missed hearing the buzz of everyone within the corridors and being able to be there when I was needed.*

**Q: I spotted the ‘MBACP’ acronym tagged on the end of your emails. What does that mean?**

*A: MBACP is a counselling acronym and stands for ‘British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy’. This ensures that I abide by the ethical framework for the BACP.*

**Q: What kind of roles had you taken on elsewhere prior to arriving at NHGS?**

*A: After leaving Rastrick High School, I secured a job in Leeds as a personal assistant. After a year, I decided I wanted to explore the world so I booked a one way ticket to Australia. Here I had various jobs including bar work, cleaning and working in coffee shops, all of which helped fund a year of adventures travelling around South East Asia.*

*Returning home, I began working as a receptionist and managed to work my way up the ladder to become Head of HR. My career then took a different turn. I retrained and set up my own business as a makeup artist. This allowed me to utilise my creative side within the wedding and fashion industry.*

*However, following a family bereavement, I quickly realised the importance of mental health and wellbeing. I left my business and decided I wanted to retrain. I qualified as a counsellor and discovered that my passion is to work with children and teenagers. I began working within an early years setting with children of all ages. Seeing the impact that my work can make to an individual is invaluable to me. This then led me onto applying for my role at NHGS.*

**Q: If you could have followed a completely different career path, what would you have chosen?**

*A: Many jobs have taken my fancy over the years, from*

*being a travel writer in my early twenties to then considering being a midwife shortly after having my own family.*

**Q: What is your favourite film of all time?**

*A: Dirty Dancing because it’s an absolute classic!*

**Q: And finally, who’s your favourite Beatle?**

*A: Oh that is a tricky one, although I do love ‘We All Stand Together’, or as my kids call it, ‘The Frog Song’ – so it has to be Paul McCartney!*



That’s all for now! Who would you like to see us interview next? Let us know via the following email address:

[16shahnazm@nhgs.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:16shahnazm@nhgs.calderdale.sch.uk)



# The Gwyneth



Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News

## **Local Law & Order**

### **By Emily MacNaughtan**

Ever wonder what it would be like to work in a law firm? Well, you're in luck! That is exactly what Natalie Lang does. She works as a Partner at Ramsdens Solicitors, an award-winning law firm based in Yorkshire. As a Solicitor, Natalie is qualified to deal with conveyancing (the drawing up of wills, and other legal matters). In an interview, Natalie has spoken to me about her experiences while working in law/at Ramsdens.

### **How did you become a Solicitor?**

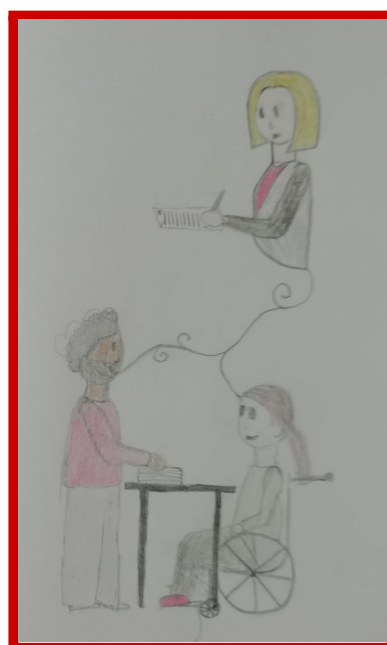
I got a French and Spanish degree at quite a good university, having a good first degree always opens up doors. Then I went abroad and during that time decided that I wanted to do Law Conversion. So I came back and did that. Then you have to do the professional bit of your qualification which is called your LPC (Legal Practice Course), I did that at York. After that I got some work experience at a firm in Huddersfield. They liked me and wanted to give

me what was called a training contract, which is two years of professional work that you need before you qualify as a Solicitor. But unfortunately before they could offer me one they merged with another firm so they didn't have any new jobs. Luckily the supervisor on my work experience saw one of the Partners here at Ramsdens, Helen, at court and said "*I have a really good work experience person who really deserves a work training contract but I can't give her one, have you got any openings?*" And she did. So, after a fifteen minute meeting I was given a training contract!

### **What kind of work do you do?**

It's about complex things, and you're not in court all the time arguing about things. The court is what we call a mediatory, before you get to court you have to have explored all the ways that you could mediate through it and come to some kind of agreement with people before you get in front of a judge. We need to try and find the common ground between our

positions before we say *right, we can't do it* or end up in front of the Judge. It's just about advocating for the



person in the middle of it. For every one of my files there's a person in the middle of it who unfortunately often doesn't have a voice because they've lost capacity, or they're elderly or disabled. So, you've got to remember at all times you're speaking for the person in the middle, and that's the bit you have to concentrate on, rather than making the best argument, or winning.





# *The Gwyneth*



---

*Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News*

## **What is a day like in the life of a solicitor?**

Incredibly varied! As well as boring stuff like answering emails, I meet people to talk about things like our plans and how to protect the interests of the people who I am looking after. But also, I've got a team of people who work for me now, so pointing them in the right direction, making decisions about what they are doing. Signing things! I do a lot of signing things. My job has got steadily less fun the more responsibility I have! When I was first qualified I would do everything for the client, I would hire them plumbers, I would sort them out with new residential homes, and I would know them all personally. As time's gone on I've got people around me that do those fun things now, they all go out and meet people, I'm the one that they come back to and say '*Can I buy Jeff a new television because his has conked out*'. So, I do like it but it's got steadily less fun and more serious over the years.

## **What are the different titles as a solicitor?**

After you have trained for two years you become a professional practising solicitor. And then, when you've been working for a few years and want to progress you become an **Associate**. Then the next step is you become a **Partner**, which is what I am at the moment. The partners in the old days were the people who actually owned the business, so you've got two types of partners-you've got **Salary Partners**, who get paid a normal wage like other people, and then you have **Equity Partners**, who as well as being paid a higher wage, get the profit from the business as well which they split up. So that's the progression - Trainee, Solicitor, Associate and Partner.

## **Do you have any advice for aspiring solicitors?**

The people who want training contracts with me will need to have at least an A, B and C in their A-levels, and a 2:1 or higher at degree level before we really look at your application. But

then, everyone needs to have those requisite qualifications, so you have to bring other things to it as well. Things like - volunteer work, legal clinics, but also, are you an interesting person? Do you play sports? Do you have an outside interest? Because those are the people who tend to have a lot of contact. That's really attractive to a lot of law firms, being a nice rounded person is a good asset.

## **Did you always want to become a solicitor?**

I definitely didn't always want to be a solicitor, though my family were always quite law-abiding! After my languages degree I didn't know what to do, so I had a year out during which I was introduced to working in law. By chance I started reading lots of books about law, and speeches about law and I thought I quite fancied that! So when I came back I did a law conversion course, and that's how I got where I am today.



# *The Gwyneth*



*Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News*

## **Where are they now...?**

**By Jasminde Heer**

School is a long arduous process, every year is a struggle, a breeze or just plain confusing. However, what happens at the end of this journey? How do you know what to do? How do you know which path is right for you?

In some interviews, former NHGS students give their opinions and stories as to how they got where they were, and where they hope to be in future.

One student - Ruby Hinchcliffe-Kilner - decided to study medicine at the University of Sheffield. Leaving school in 2019 when she secured a place at university. After, she spent a year volunteering and travelling around Europe. She claimed that NHGS immensely guided her with putting together a marvelous personal statement and they provided endless opportunities, allowing her to develop extra-curricular activities, such as First Bow.



All of the students interviewed agreed that NHGS helped them choose a career path. They provided an abundance of opportunities and insights into what different courses would entail in order to aid students to understand what each career pathway would be like.

Another student, named Joe Heathcote, was involved with the Rocket Competition whilst in school. The competition had to involve the rocket being in the air for a certain time and it also had to reach a certain height. The aim was for three eggs, placed within the rocket, to survive the launch and landing. Having qualified for the National Competition, Joe had the opportunity to travel to France, in order to take part in the remaining stages of the competition and due to this expedition, he met the French Prime Minister and several astronauts.

Marvellously, they won the competition! This opportunity helped him choose the course he went on to do at university, (Mechanical Engineering). Joe claimed that he chose the course because he was fascinated with the subjects that were related to this course. In addition, he claimed that school encouraged him and informed him of different opportunities that involved his course.

However, everyone has a different journey and there are other options after sixth form. Yukta Vasand decided to do a degree apprenticeship (where you work full time for the organisation and go to university part time to complete a degree). She now works for Aspire Development and is studying Digital First Marketing.

During her school days, she was a huge technology fan and enjoyed Graphic Design. She aspired to enter a career field which would combine her interests. Describing herself as a very





# *The Gwyneth*



*Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News*

practical person, she decided that university full time was not for her. From the age of 16 she had attempted to get lots of experience. She managed to get herself a part time job at The Range and then later at Aspire, where she used her graphic design skills to redesign the banners and flyers. Yukta said that NHGS helped her by teaching her to write a strong CV and by hosting mock interviews in preparation for real interviews.

Everyone interviewed said they would not be where they are if NHGS had not given them the guidance they needed to follow the paths of their choosing. Most advise current students to take every opportunity available to them in their school life.

## **World News**

**By Shruti Hadimani**

### **AFRICA**

**More than 1,800 prisoners escaped from a prison in Nigeria after it was attacked by a few gunmen, officials say.**



Reportedly, the attackers entered the prison in the southeastern town of Owerri to blast the administrative block in the prison using highly dangerous explosives.

6 prisoners were reported to return while 35 prisoners refused to escape.

The police have appointed the “banned separatist group”, to have executed the attack but they denied any involvement.

The Nigerian collectional service has confirmed that approximately 1,844 prisoners have escaped from the prison.

A police representative reported that the attackers held possession of, “rocket-propelled grenades,

machine guns, explosives, and rifles.”

President Muhammadu Buhari called this attack an “act of terrorism” and he called upon security officers to retrieve both the attackers and the escaped prisoners.

### **ASIA**

**Floods and landslides in Indonesia killed over 100 people**

At least 113 people have been reported to have died in the flash floods and landslides in Indonesia and East Timor on Sunday 4th of April.

Torrential rains resulted in widespread destruction across the Southeast Asian neighbours, with water that caused dams to overflow emerging thousands of houses in the water.

The affected areas of this outburst stretch from eastern Indonesia to the east of Timor.

In Indonesia alone, approximately 86 people have died and dozens are still missing. “Officials warned that tolls could still rise.”, says BBC News.



# *The Gwyneth*



*Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News*

"We suspect many people are buried but it's not clear how many are missing," says Alfons Hada Bethan, head of the east Flores disaster agency.



## **Leeds Rhinos Strike again!**

**By Isabel Johnstone**

Last week, Leeds Rhinos once again took to the court on Monday 29th of March against London Pulse and came away with their fifth win of the superleague this year. This was a much needed win on Rhinos part, especially after the loss against Manchester Thunder on Sunday 28th, only the day before. A day that will continue to haunt my nightmares - you think I'm being dramatic! I'm never dramatic...

Thunder are the current NSL (netball superleague) defending champions and have won three times in total, making them the second most decorated team in the league. Looking at

that now, you think: "right, new team Leeds Rhinos going up against defending champions, easy win for Thunder"- but that would be wrong. Before the match, Rhinos were 6th on the leaderboard and Thunder was only 5th, and their performance on court hasn't been to the usual show stopping and impactful standard that we're used to from this Manchester Thunder side. This match was undoubtedly one of the most competitive I've seen barring international netball. Rhinos were up by three at the end of the first quarter, down by five at the end of the second quarter, but they brought it back level at the end of the third quarter at 33-33! Rhinos in excellent form, matching the Thunders point for point. However, in the last five minutes of the last quarter, Manchester Thunder picked up the pace and ran with it. They put pressure on Rhinos, resulting in turning over the ball and kept possession of their own centre passes.

When you get momentum in a game, it really pumps up

your team and places a lot of stress on the other, forcing errors that you can then capitalise on. This was what Thunder did, demonstrating the process of the defending champions. Regrettably, the Rhinos couldn't catch up, and the final score ended at 48-41 to Manchester Thunder.

Despite Their loss to Manchester Thunder, Rhinos won on Monday against London Pulse. It was an extremely difficult win, both sides brought their a-game. However, Rhinos played with the grit and fierce work ethic we have come to associate them with. The match ended at 40-38 to The Rhinos. The scores were: first quarter- 15-9 to Pulse, second quarter- 22-20 to Pulse, third quarter- 29-26 to Rhinos with the final score at 40-38 to Rhinos.

It was a tough match. Head coach for Rhinos, Dan Ryan, firmly stated this was a "must win", and his team did not disappoint. The third quarter in a match is the one to win, as if you go into the fourth quarter with a lead or



# *The Gwyneth*



*Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News*

even, for the last 15 minutes (or 12 due to covid restrictions), you will have a much better chance of winning. The fourth quarter is predominantly the most tiresome and disillusioning; especially if you're down points. Everyone is exhausted and morale often begins to drop. Even more so if the other team is on a winning streak. Games are usually won or lost in the third quarter, which is why it is commonly called the "championship quarter"- in this spirit, Rhinos brought everything to the third quarter, pulling an even score with the opposing side 22-20.

Last week, on Monday 12th, Rhinos had a rematch against Manchester Thunder- the Battle of the North continues intensely. And remember, if I happened to dance a little around the room or screamed harshly at the TV...it's definitely not done dramatically.

## **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** **Book Review**

**By Seamy Calvin-O'Carroll**

After my recently published scathing review of the first book in J.K Rowling's infamous 'Harry Potter' series, I think you can guess that when I opened the following story I had even lower expectations than when I started 'the Philosopher's Stone'. This time however, Rowling proved me wrong, delivering a tale with much more depth and plot than the first novel.

This isn't to say that 'Chamber of Secrets' is devoid of problems. The impact of these issues will be reflected in my book score. I believe the reason the problems in this book are nowhere near as monumental as those in Rowling's debut tale are due to the degree in which they harm the main sequence of events. Despite my dismissal of the 'Philosopher's Stone' plot in my first review in the previous edition, I don't believe the lacklustre plot itself was the reason the book only received 2.75 out of 5 stars. Instead, it was the effect the main characters

and the timeline had on the storyline which made it such a boring read. This is nowhere near as much of an issue in this new and improved tale in the magical world Harry Potter and his friends call home.



One element this book did best (in comparison to its predecessor) was the timeline of events in the story. In the first novel in the series, an absurd amount of time is spent observing lessons at Hogwarts, and while I understand that this was semi-necessary in what was essentially an introduction to the much loved school of wizardry, it grows boring when not enough time is spent on developing the main plot. This book however, took this down a notch, instead



# *The Gwyneth*



*Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News*

putting more of a focus on the 3 main characters and other more serious undertones within the plot which made for a more relatable story.

This solves two of the biggest issues I had had with Rowling's work up to this point.

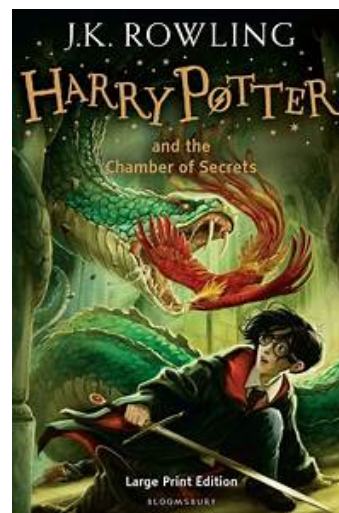
First of all, there is now greater character depth. In my first review, I expressed my disappointment at the lack of any substance with the series' 3 main characters; Harry Potter, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger. However, in this book there seems to be more to the trio; Harry now has more of a charm than he did initially, with his hero complex making fewer appearances (though tragically it is still present), Ron develops a more natural human side to his character, in stark contrast to the quite frankly annoying and repetitive comedic relief role he filled in the first book. Then there is Hermione.

In my opinion, Rowling's strengths in writing characters are perfectly displayed in Hermione Granger, the academic of the three, and the one with

the most natural character. While I won't repeat the praises I gave Hermione in my first review, I will discuss the extra depth this book gave her, which also ties in with my second point regarding what spending more time on the plot solves in the Harry Potter book series.

So, secondly there is now a more natural school environment that better reflects the real world. This can be seen through the undercurrent of bullying and prejudice within the halls of Hogwarts, mainly regarding whether or not students are 'muggle-born' (born of at least 1 mortal, non-wizarding, parents). This is primarily seen from Draco Malfoy towards the aforementioned Hermione Granger, which as I said gave her greater depth and made her much more relatable. Children reading this book will be able to see this prejudice towards one of the main characters, see her resilience in reaction to the verbal abuse and be able to either relate themselves or see a somewhat accurate reflection of the toxicity regarding one's unchosen

traits that can be seen still thriving in our society decades after this book was written.



Now I must start this next part of the review with an apology to all observing Harry Potter fans, and a warning to possibly look away, as I begin to discuss the many downsides of the second book in Rowling's highly acclaimed series.

I believe the most glaring issue with this book is the exact same as the first one; there is still no real representation! Now for the sake of not repeating myself, I won't rehash the same things I said last time, but just for the record no problems regarding real representation for minorities were solved by 'the



# *The Gwyneth*



*Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News*

Chamber of Secrets'. One element to combat this negative is that Rowling does create a race based minority in the book, the 'mudbloods' of Hogwarts can be linked to the prejudice of other minorities in our world. This doesn't change the fact however, that in terms of reading the book, most primary characters are not minorities.

The next issue with this book is the lack of important plot regarding setting up for the remainder of the series. Whilst the first book introduced all the main characters and set up the larger plot that would be carried through to the final book, the 'Chamber of Secrets' doesn't accomplish nearly as much when thinking about the plot on a series-wide scale. Now, don't get me wrong, the plot within this book itself is actually very enjoyable, in fact I would argue it is much more enjoyable than the simplistic plot in 'the Philosopher's Stone'. However, it doesn't add much of anything to the series as a whole. The only things of importance it

really adds are in regards to Voldemort's personality and backstory. Now this is in no way me calling the 'Chamber of Secrets' a filler book. I don't believe it adds little enough to be classed as such, instead I think Rowling should have simply done a better job in connecting this novel to the rest of the series. However, I will say, in comparison to the issues I had with the first book this is a minuscule issue that makes the book itself no less interesting!

To conclude this week's book review, I believe this was a very good sequel to the boring and predictable start to the series which I reviewed last time. It had a good plot with a playful element that ensured you wouldn't be half as bored as you were reading the dreary first edition in Rowling's saga.

While the issues of representation and plot importance, along with a new surge of infuriatingly annoying characters (I'm looking at you Dobby) put a little bit of a damper on the book as a whole, I feel like the enjoyable plot made this

book on the whole, very entertaining.

I know there is some animosity towards this book in stark contrast to what seems to be a widespread love for the 'Philosopher's Stone' within the book community, but I would have to disagree with all those who agree with that statement. I would choose the 'Chamber of Secrets' over Harry Potter's debut any day of the week. It's a great read that I recommend you pick up if you can overlook the problems mentioned above.

Overall Rating: 3.5/5 stars

## **Top Albums**

### **By Grace Allsop**

"The UK's Top 100 biggest artist albums of the week is compiled by the Official Charts Company, based on sales of CDs, downloads, vinyls and weighted audio streams."

02.04.21-08.04.21

The past week's top album was [Ben Howard's](#) 4th album, [Collections from the whiteout](#).





# The Gwyneth



Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News

Recently, Ben has been working alongside Taylor Swift on Folklore and Evermore. His album is incredibly unnerving, yet absolutely genius with each song presenting a story, for example "Finders Keepers" which is about the body of a friend's father who was found floating down the Thames in a suitcase.

His genre has dramatically changed during the album as it incorporates elements of jazz and even historical fiction.



Currently, placed second in the charts is [Justice](#) by [Justin Bieber](#). In his 6th album, he opened with part of Martin Luther King Jr's speech and another half way through which sparked a major controversy. In this album, he experiments with ideas that are new to him and his married Christian lifestyle which is a massive

juxtaposition from his criminal activity and his "wild" times just a few years ago. It has 16 feature artists including Khalid, Chance the rapper and Lil Uzi Vert. After his change to R&B in "changes" he returned to his pop roots in this album.



## **Soul - Behind the Scenes** **By Haniyah Asad**

Joe Gardener is the centre of attention in the movie, 'Soul' as he is a middle school music teacher placed in America. Jazz music is his true love, however things begin to turn south once he gets a gig... His soul leaves. Then Joe meets a soul named 107337217322 but they shortened it down to 22. Twenty two is a soul which has never been to earth. She's had mentors and lectures but she thinks it's painful and immensely difficult. On a mission to

convince her otherwise, he might have a chance to save his soul.

### **Jamie Foxx as Joe Gardener**

The incredible actor, Jamie Foxx is the lead star in Soul, amongst several other movies. He was perfect for playing Joe because they're both musicians and he's a really dramatic actor. He also understands music. Everyone on the crew thinks Jamie is the best actor to fit Joe Gardener. "If there was a computer and you put all the aspects of Joe into it, it would say JAMIE FOXX!"

- Kemp Powers the co-director / writer.

### **Curley as Questlove**

Former student of Joe, Curley is now a drummer, playing music alongside Dorthia. Questlove is a musician and explains about where musicians go when they experience the bliss from playing music. "When musicians make that weird face and close their eyes they are in another world."

### **Notice from the Environment Club**

Always remember not to litter. The world is changing





# *The Gwyneth*



---

*Volume 1 - Issue 2 - Exclusive News*

slowly in fear of upcoming climate problems. Make a little act go a long way by helping out in the community to pick up litter, but locally sourced food and clothing, but most importantly of all. Hold all big corporations accountable for their overwhelming majority percentage of pollution.

**Editor - Momnah Shahnaz**

**Managing Editor - Valeria Wilding**