



The world of magic runs deep!

Every Day's a Learning Day!

By Emily MacNaughtan

Everyday we are called on to answer the teachers questions. Today the tables have turned as they will be answering ours! Ever wondered what it's like to be a teacher? Two (teacher) staff members have agreed to be interviewed regarding their teaching careers. Meet Mr Walker (AW), a teacher at Holywell Green Primary School, and Mr Phillips (JP), a Maths teacher at Wakefield College.

How and When did you become a Teacher?

AW: I qualified as a teacher in 2003, and for the last 18 years I have taught Y6. Prior to that, I worked in the aircraft component engineering industry. I decided I wanted a change of career- eventually deciding to become a teacher.

JP: I did my teacher training in 1998 at Leeds University. I had done a degree in Maths and didn't really know what to do in my life, so I decided to become a teacher. That's pretty much how it began.

What is an average day like in the life of a teacher?

AW: Busy/ non-stop, from the moment you enter to the moment you leave! There are lots of other things to be done other than the actual teaching. Teaching is the fun part.

JP: It starts off fairly promptly, obviously you've got to be ready to go before the beginning of the lesson- you can't just stroll in and start, so there's a bit of preparation time. You have to be in about an hour/half an hour before you start work. It's not a 9-5 job, it starts a lot earlier and ends a lot later. It's very engaging mentally, you've got to be thinking on your feet and engaged with what you are doing.

What are the ups and downs of teaching?

AW: For the most part teaching is a very rewarding and enjoyable career, one I have never regretted starting. It has its moments, but so can any job.

JP: Let's start on the downs, and then we can end on a positive note. The downsides are that you do have to do a lot of work out of hours, and it's hard to

switch off- you're always thinking about what you're going to do tomorrow. The main upside is a sense of worth to society, I can't imagine just making money for money's sake. Helping other people- you just get very used to it, and now the thought of not doing that feels a bit strange.

What qualifications do you need to become a teacher?



AW: There are several different pathways to becoming a teacher these days. All of them need a degree. I did my teaching degree at Huddersfield University. Other than that- patience, tolerance, understanding, humor- the list could go on.

JP: It varies, there are a couple of different ways of getting into it. I did the kind of standard approach which was- I went to school, I got GCSEs and A-Levels, and then with those A-Levels, I



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went to University. There I got a degree, not really knowing what to do with it and after my degree, I did a one-year PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education) and that was that!

Interview with Mr O'Grady!

By Edward Evans

Mr O'Grady is one of the newer teachers to arrive this year here at NHGS. I asked him a few questions this week, to find out how the teaching is, especially with lockdowns and being a new teacher.

Q: In previous experiences, how has this school compared to other schools?

A: That is a really hard question to answer given what a bizarre year it's been! The big thing I've noticed is just how many kids here feel like they aren't very good at maths, when they are clearly very good (and would be in top sets at other schools!) - I suppose that's a consequence of comparing yourself to a biased sample. In terms of maths skills, it appears kids in all schools I've ever seen (probably all schools on Earth, including, I assume, some as yet

undiscovered tribes in the middle of the Sahara Desert) hate negative numbers and trigonometry.

Q: How has your first year here been, with settling in under Covid restrictions?

A: Everyone has been mega welcoming (staff & students) and even though it's felt like the world is burning down around us, I've really enjoyed the year.

Q: What has it been like to change jobs, and to be in a new working environment, especially with Covid?

A: Weird. I still feel like I barely know most people here and it's been strange running around school like a lunatic trying to get from lesson to lesson (though, to be fair, that's what we expect you kids to do in a normal year so it's probably fair we have to do it for a change!)

On the other hand, because it's been a strange year for everyone, that's helped as I don't feel like the only person who has no idea what I'm doing half the time.

Q: How have the first few months of settling in compared with settling in at other jobs? Was it harder, easier?

A: Honestly, no (it wasn't harder). I'm lucky to have some super classes and a great form group, so the day to day has been the best bit. I probably got a few things wrong in the early days (lessons too- hard/too easy, making assumptions about what students would be able to do or not do) but my classes have been really forgiving of my initial mistakes. The real difficulty is never quite knowing who's going to be in your class and who's going to be at home.

Q: Do you think it has been difficult/not too hard to teach maths over lockdown?

A: The main difficulty was having two small humans in my house who wanted to get involved with all the online lessons. I think my daughter Quinn taught at least 30% of my classes.

I'm amazed at how well kids did during the lockdown - it must be so hard keeping yourself going at home.

Q: Have teaching methods improved at all over lockdown, or even worsened?

A: I think getting to grips with working online. I think it will be helpful in the long



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run. We found google docs really useful to let kids get immediate feedback on their work – we'll probably continue that system for homework over the rest of the year. I also found that pre-recording lessons seemed to have a really positive impact on lots of students as they could go through things at their own speed, pause, check and build a bit of confidence.

What has been worse is the lack of real interaction with the students – they are the fun bit of the job and sitting in front of a screen for 5 hours a day was much less fun than being in a room with the class.

Local Baker, Rooji the Foodie's journey!

By Jasmindeer Heer

Gordon Ramsay, Nadia Hussain, Jamie Oliver are all famous faces in the culinary industry. They all have one thing in common, and that is - their love of good food.

After getting in touch with Roojie the foodie, (a baker who sells her baking and advertises her business via social media) I wanted to find out about her journey with baking.

Roojie was introduced to cooking in her early teenage years via her mum. Initially, they began with cooking rice and baking desserts and the sense of inspiration from her mum motivated her to further develop cooking into her personal career.

As she grew older, Roojie realised that experimentation was key to cooking. Whereas with baking, you had to get all the precise measurements to get the perfect texture. She quoted, "cooking is in fact an art, and you can paint your canvas however you desire." She has spent the last 5 years practising baking, perfecting her precision of measurements and methods while only using top quality equipment. After a lot of practice, she claimed to have mastered the perfect fluffy vanilla sponge and gooey brownies.

"I think what makes me such a great baker and cook is that I learn from my mistakes and keep working hard."

Some of her best recipes have been born from her kitchen fails. Roojie started out cooking with her mum, now she owns her own business just by working

hard and being passionate about what she does.

Instagram-

@roojie_the_foodie

Youtube- Roojie the foodie

After school clubs and how they've changed.

By Haniyah Asad

Recently, I interviewed a sixth-former named Emily Lack as I wanted to explore her viewpoints on the drastic changes of extracurricular activities within the school. Prior to COVID, she was heavily engaged with the Saxophone ensemble club, however due to the unfortunate circumstances, has had to engage with this separately.

"I'd still like the saxophone club to carry on even if it's not as fun."

Due to the current Covid climate, many clubs have been put to a stop. Hopes are still high for them to be put back into action. Some positive news is that Choir has still been able to carry on by doing their meets online. In addition, the netball team is still going. Certain regulations are put into place to ensure the safety of participants.



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World News

By Elliot Carpenter

Next to the US, India is the worst hit country in the world, suffering from a third tsunami of Covid cases. On Sunday 25 April, India reported 352,991 new infections, a new global record for a 24-hour period, which came alongside 2,812 deaths. It is thought that many citizens, especially in Delhi, are resorting to the black market to obtain any source of medical assistance - but with suppliers charging up to ten times as much, many cannot afford it. Hundreds are dying as a consequence of this. Charanjeev Malhorta, a worker at Sant Shiv Sewa Foundation, (a charity working on providing food, water education etc), stated to a BBC journalist 'I can't believe we're in Delhi, the capital of India. People aren't getting oxygen and they're dying like animals. We don't even have enough resources to cremate them'. A message reminiscent of the notorious Black Death plague in England. The UK is currently sending ventilators to India, which will be soon be followed by aid from the EU along with AstraZeneca vaccines from the US. Overcrowded,

hospitals are suffering with the influx, resorting to having to turn patients away.

In better news, the Oscars took place overnight on the 25th April in LA. 'Nomadland' took plenty of the honours, winning Best Picture, Best Actress (Frances McDormand) and Best Director (Chloé Zhao). Zhao made history by becoming the first woman of colour to receive the award, and only the second woman to ever do so. 'Soul' was given Best Animated Picture, the film released on Christmas Day 2020 on Disney Plus.



(Film director Chloe Zhao making her mark in history and collecting her Oscar for Best Director at The 93rd Oscars in Los Angeles, CA on Sunday, April 25, 2021)

The row between divorced couple Boris Johnson and Dominic Cummings has continued, after the ex-adviser claimed in his blog that the Prime Minister had planned to have donors

'secretly pay' for the renovation of his personal flat. On the matter, Boris replied 'If there's anything to be said about that, any declaration to be made, that will of course be made in due course.' Neither admitting or denying anything directly. Cummings, infamous for his trip to Durham in 2020 amidst the confusion of the Covid-19 restrictions, also denied leaking details of the second lockdown in England, which took place in November, though schools remained open. He also claims Mr Johnson had contemplated blocking an inquiry into the leak out of fear it could involve a friend of his fiancée, Carrie Symonds. In response, Downing Street states the PM "never interfered in a government leak inquiry".

Over Easter, non-essential retail, gyms, pubs and hairdressers have finally reopened. After over three months locked up, they are opening doors once more. Outdoor attractions, such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in events are also allowed to reopen, but the centre of attention was shops such as Primark and the outdoor pubs, drawing many shoppers, perhaps



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after they had stayed up for their midnight trims and midnight drinks! .



(Soho Area of London, April 12 2021)



(Hair stylist Nas Ganev cuts the hair of Amy Pallister, 27, just after midnight at her home in Balham, south London, after the restrictions were lifted)



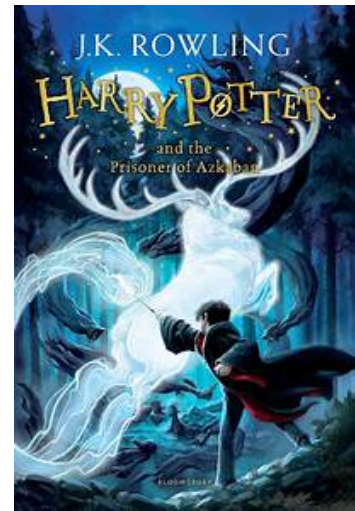
(Shoppers queue outside a Primark in Liverpool eagerly, April 12th 2021)

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban Book Review

By **Seamy Colvin-O'Carroll**

Here we go again. This week, we are reviewing the next instalment of the Harry Potter series; 'the Prisoner of Azkaban'. A book centred around Harry's past and a murderer on the loose from a high security magical prison. Sounds exciting right? You would think so.

After the last reviews glowing feedback on 'the Chamber of Secrets' I certainly must admit that I was definitely expecting a lot more from its successor, and in complete honesty, I wasn't completely disappointed. Although the plot was substandard, the characters now deal with more mature and realistic issues which made the read all the more enjoyable. However the remedying of previous problems to make them even worse really did sour my reading experience.



Before moving on to the positive aspects of this book, I must admit there weren't nearly as many positives and improvements from the second book to this one as there was from 'the Philosopher's Stone' to 'the Chamber of Secrets'. However, the few that were present made the book better in significant ways.

Let's start with the fact that this book deals with much more serious and mature issues than we have ever seen before in a Harry Potter book. These include murder, family conflicts and a continuation of the mentally abusive family storyline pertaining to Harry and the Dursley's. Another continued storyline with real-life themes was the prejudice against certain types of wizards first seen in the first book (mainly second) with the occasional



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quip from Draco towards Hermione.

While I have written a relatively concise version of the ways in which the book deals with more adult themes (while still keeping it child-friendly) in an effort to avoid too many spoilers, the book does a much better job of expanding on these ideas and making the plot one of my favourites so far! Personally, I think the exploration of more mature themes Rowling showcases in the novel gives the book a huge boost, making it much more enjoyable in regards to the story than the first two installments. It makes the events seem more realistic and helps readers who may be on the younger side develop a deeper understanding of the Wizarding world!

Now onto the glaring negative aspects. While there were many smaller issues, the one I am going to discuss today is possibly one of the biggest in the series.

Cho Chang.

While when writing these reviews I do try and separate the series from its author, sometimes it is impossible. As is the case here, where Rowling created such a stereotypical character that it

has caused outrage in both the Chinese and Korean communities.

Cho Chang's first issue comes from her name itself. Her name is actually a combination of a Korean last name and a Chinese last name. This made very little sense to the community she was supposed to be representing and showed how uninformed and unwilling to research Rowling was when writing Chang's character.

Then we have her character. Now, as someone of mainly White-Irish descent, I have very limited knowledge on which parts of Chang's character are seen as inherently stereotypical. So I did some research and found one Chinese writer in particular explain how the way Chang was constantly seen to be interfering with Harry and causing problems of some sort to the main protagonists vilified her in a way that did not reflect very well on the Chinese community and was not the best use of her representative role.

Many others have pointed out the fact that Rowling perpetuated the stereotypical view that Chinese children's

main personality trait is their intelligence. They pointed out the fact that she was sorted into Ravenclaw (the more academic of the 4 houses), and spent much of her debut being shown to be talented in school. While making a character gifted is not at all an issue, diminishing their character down to that singular trait shows that Rowling seems to be working off of her own generalisations regarding the Chinese community.

Chang was a character that could have represented a whole ethnicity of readers to make them feel valid and seen. Instead, Chang was an amalgamation of generalisations, uninformed writing and awful character development that led to her being forgotten by many readers and hated by many more.





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To conclude, I enjoyed this book. It had a deeper plot that dealt with issues in a way that parallels aspects of reality, which hooked readers who would ordinarily be getting bored of a series by now had it been too repetitive with its storylines.

However, the way Cho Chang is written in this book is awful on both a social and writing scale, and cannot be forgotten when rating the book as a whole. Her character made it clear to see that the Harry Potter series with its good plot and exciting setting will forever be tarnished by Rowling's use of tropes and generalisations within her minority characters, and her apparent refusal to represent communities as they deserve.

Overall Rating: 5 stars

All the Bright places

Book Review

By Jennifer Niven

(now a netflix film)

By Grace Allsop

"You are all the colours in one, at full brightness."

"sometimes there's beauty in the tough words—it's all in how you read them."

"The thing I realise is, that it's not what you take, it's what you leave."

A story of hope and love. Theodore Finch wants to take his own life. Violet Markey is struggling with her sister's death. They meet in the most unlikely way at school and from then on, their intricate journey begins. Violet teaches him how to love and have hope and Finch teaches her how to live. But is this enough for them both?



Will they save each other?
Or will this end in more devastation than it started with?

This book is a 378 page young adult contemporary. It is recommended for ages 12-15. What I adored about this book was how it highlighted what is actually important in today's fast paced society. With the importance of books and

nature being a major topic in this book, it makes the reader really re-evaluate what they value in life. Despite its often depressing themes, it is very uplifting and motivating. It also demonstrates the value of friendships and how the most random of people, strangers or even enemies can change your life for the better. It is also an important reminder to treat yourself with the same love you treat others with.

My only criticism of this book is at some points in the book it is slower paced and repetitive but this is a very minor issue compared to the pure joy, yet heartache I experienced from this book along with its millions of other readers.

Happy reading :)

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