

Issue 8

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KING'S EYE ON THE WORLD

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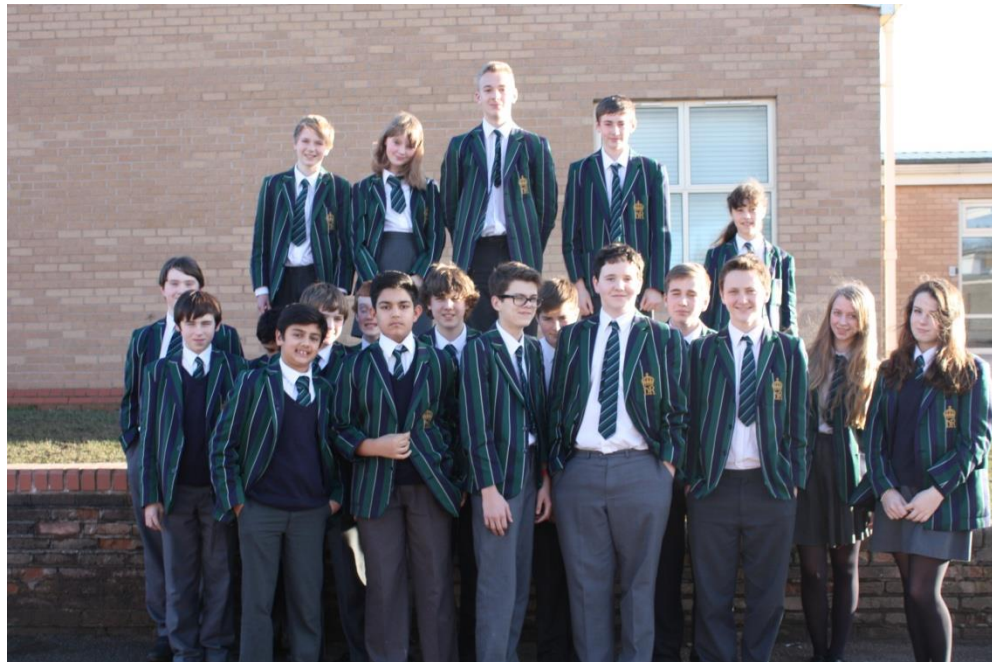
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CURRENT AFFAIRS ENRICHMENT.....READ ALL ABOUT IT!

This week we are tackling the issues in Sport and the controversies around it, including the latest news from Sochi where the cost of the winter Olympics has snowballed to £30 billion. The Olympics have sparked an interest in sport, including Kevin Pietersen being 'bowled out' of the England test squad and the resignation of Nemanja Vidic from United.

We also stride into the news of archeologists discovering the oldest footprints in the world, outside Africa. Following this we look into the engineering 'feet' of 3D printed limbs and the cracking of the peanut allergy. We have also have news from Somerset, where rain has levelled the plains.

Belfast concert disaster

Scot Hodgson 3ML

In Belfast, on Thursday night, around 100 young teenagers were treated by paramedics after a DJ Hardwell concert left extreme numbers of people vomiting as a result of consuming large amounts of alcohol and, in some cases, even taking drugs. The police have obtained a quantity of drugs near the venue and are continuing an investigation into how the manager didn't prevent this atrocity.

There have been numerous claims that underage teenagers were able to buy alcohol and also they had been allowed to whilst clearly drunk. During the concert, fights had broken out and there were apparent sightings of a man brandishing a knife.

Nineteen young people between the ages of 14-16 were life-threateningly ill after over-indulging. The police arrested three people: a sixteen year old girl, an eighteen year old man and another man, aged 21. In a statement a sixteen year old Reece Dempster said that there were people throwing up everywhere.

This never should have happened. Anyone who tried to enter who was drunk should have been denied access. Any people selling alcohol should have been supervised to prevent any underage people from buying alcohol.



Facebook app lets friends borrow money

Will Ashton 3PS

A new Facebook app has been created, which allows you to borrow and lend money to friends. Although it doesn't charge for the service it aims to make money through advertising. The app creators claim the service doesn't need regulation because no money travels through it.

The app is called "Agree it" and is free and easy to use. It allows you to lend money for a business or personal use at agreeable rates.

People using the app "sidestep" credit card checks, making it somewhat easier to use. However, lenders can check the borrowers' credibility by checking past arrangements with other users through the app.

The "Agree It" app is a social obligation rather than a legal one, so lenders have to trust the person they are lending their money to or they risk losing all the money the lent without any legal recourse. If you don't repay the lender then they could name and shame you on Facebook in unpleasant statuses, which all of your friends could see.

Omar Fansa, who made the app, says that "...it enables borrowing between friends and family at affordable rates". He also says that it is different from other social lending sites such as peer-to-peer lenders like Zopa, RateSetter and Lending Works because of the easy credit set up.

I personally think that it is a good concept because of the ease of use, but the fact that there is no legal rules means that it could easily be exploited.



Earliest human footprints found outside Africa

Owen Parsonage ShJJ

The earliest human footprints outside Africa have been found in Happisburgh, on the Norfolk coast. They are more than 800,000 years old - 400 times older than the Romans! They are a huge breakthrough – they could mean a new chapter in the history of Britain. They were first seen in May 2013.

In the era the footsteps were made, Britain was linked to the Continent of Europe by a land bridge, called Doggerland. The sea levels then rose in 5600

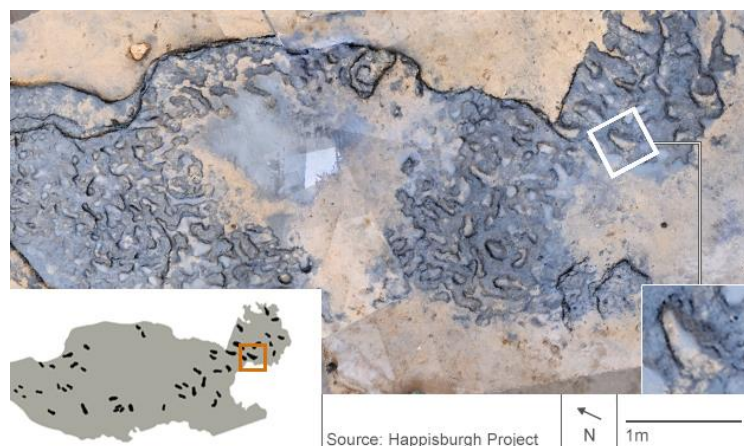


BCE, flooding it and cutting Britain off from the rest of the world. In the meantime, early man crossed this bridge and settled in Britain.

High tides and rough weather had battered and eroded the sand to a point where the

imprints of the ancient people were visible. Dr Nick Ashton and his team, who made the discovery, worked nonstop to scoop out the rainwater from the hollow prints so they could be photographed, said it was "one of the most important discoveries, if not the most important discovery that has been made on Britain's shores". Soon, however, they filled with water and vanished.

They are the fourth oldest footprints discovered in the world, with the other three being in Africa, making them unique. The team took a 3D scan of the footprints and discovered they were human, left by five people: one adult and four children. The largest print was a size 8, they have guessed he was 5 feet 9 inches. The youngest was 3ft, and they were clear enough to see the arch of the foot, the heel and even toes.



A photo showing the actual footprints as they were found.

Vidic to leave United

Kalyan O'Connor 3AI

Manchester United captain and player, Nemanja Vidic, has just announced his plans to leave Old Trafford at the end of this season.

The Serbian Defender has played for Manchester United for eight years, since 2006, when United bought him from Spartak Moscow for £7 million. Later that year, Vidic found that he had developed a partnership with Rio Ferdinand and together, they were known as the solid defenders and no one was better than them.



Vidic first started playing professional football at the age of 20 at the club Red Star Belgrade. In 2004, He moved to Spartak Moscow and had a reputation for being a great defender. After two years, Manchester United signed him and since then he has been a great part of the United team.



Inter Milan is very keen on signing the Serbian defender, as is Juventus; French club, Monaco and Galatasary with a strong, long-term interest as well. Nemanja Vidic has said that he doesn't want to play for any other British or Premier League club apart from Manchester United, despite the offers.

Nemanja was a great player and will be sadly missed by millions of Manchester United fans. In my opinion, he is a great player and is a defender like no other. As well as saving many goal opportunities, he has also created goal opportunities and has scored over 15 goals for United. He has played brilliantly over the years at United and I am a true fan of his.

Amazing breakthroughs in recent prosthetic limb technology

Tasmin Feakes 3AI

Over the last few years, there has been an extreme advance in technology for prosthetic limbs, specifically hands. They have become far more realistic, flexible, and relatively easily affordable for anyone who needs them.

In late September 2013, a young engineer near Bristol created a prototype bionic hand made entirely from 3D printed parts in his bedroom. Just a few months later, this design has been developed and created, and has now been used on a bomb victim.

The most recent technology in this field is a hand that allows users to feel. This advance is very important, because even in everyday life, touch is vital because you need to know what you are doing without looking or being aware of how tight you are holding things.

Robotic experts from around the world carried out the research, focusing not on the hand itself, but on the technology and software that allowed sensory feedback to be sent to the brain. The team of scientists and engineers added sensors to the hand which could detect information about touch.

A Danish man received this hand, which was connected to the nerves in his right arm, following the surgery he received in Italy to have his arm amputated. The man, Dennis Aabo, gave up a month of his life and had two operations to test out the hand. Before human testing, surgery was performed on pigs to ensure that the surgeons knew how to attach the electrodes to the brain correctly, because if this step was done wrong, it could easily be fatal.



Unfortunately, the scientists on the project believe that it could still be as long as ten years before this sensory feedback technology is commonly used.

I think that although this new technology is amazing, it is probably only the start of the unbelievable things that are to come in the future, and that soon, at this rate of progress, it will not be long until this type of surgery seems extremely basic.

Keep Ken and Carrie On

Robert Batson 3RC

On the 1st May 2013, William Patrick Roache, was arrested on suspicion of two counts of rape involving girls under the age of 16 in 1967. He has always strongly denied this. Prosecutors said Roache would appear before Preston Magistrates on 14 May. We have been reviewing evidence and providing early investigative advice to Lancashire Police since 1 March" said Chief Crown Prosecutor, Nazir Afzal.



In the 1960's Roache joined Coronation Street after having success elsewhere on ITV. He had a small part in the film The Bulldog Breed and shortly before joining Coronation Street Roach played the leading role in a play called Marking Time, shown on ITV in 1961. Roache is now one of Britain's longest serving actors with a continuous role on television.

On the 6th February 2014, Roache was found not guilty on the charges he had been accused of. "In these situations there are no winners, and I think we should all be much kinder to ourselves," said the actor, speaking for the first time after being cleared of the allegations. It took the jury just under six hours to reach a verdict on all of the accounts accused. Co-star Anne Kirkbride appeared at the hearing as a witness. She said the case against him was "nonsense", with the trial haunted by the "spectre" of Jimmy Savile. Kirkbride, who plays his on-screen wife Deirdre, described him as being "always a perfect gentleman".



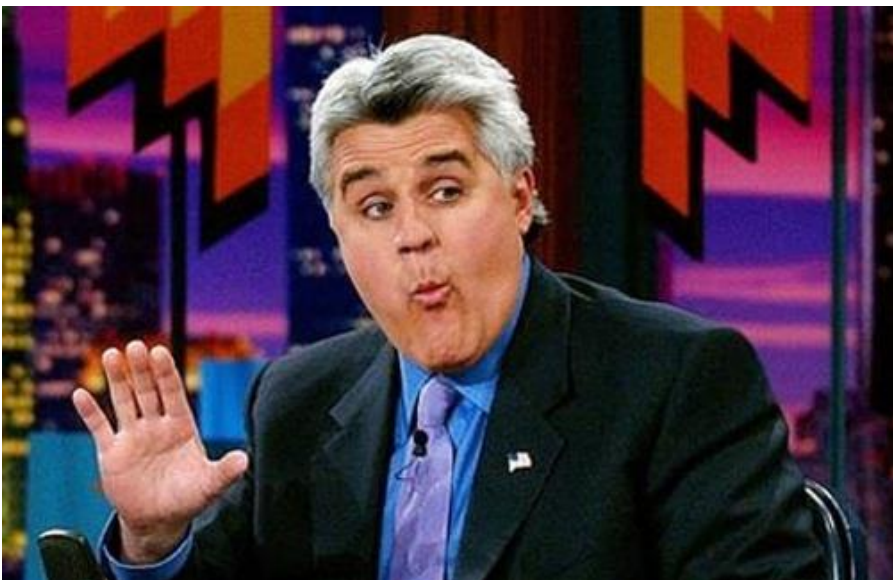
Even though he has been found not guilty, police and prosecutors will still investigate the allegations made about him. Roache is now to make his return as Ken Barlow in the summer. Speaking after he was cleared of all charges on Thursday, he said: "I need to get back to work." Roache is now free to rebuild his career and return to Coronation Street for his 54th year on the cobbles.

Jay Leno leaves

Chloe Morgan, 3RC

Long-time US television host Jay Leno has recorded his final episode of The Tonight Show, which includes interviews with celebrities including Oprah Winfrey, Billy Crystal and Garth Brooks.

63 year old Leno said "This has been the greatest 22 years of my life," in an emotional interview, also thanking his loyal viewers. Leno will be replaced by fellow comedian Jimmy Fallon. The 39 year old will take over on the 17th of February, with his show based in New York.



Jay Leno's departure has sparked discussion over whether the move was stimulated by ageism. Recently Leno's more youthful viewers have been lost to other late night television chat shows, hosted by

presenters such as Jimmy Kimmel. However with his final full week of presenting bringing in the largest audience in four years, his departure could be disputed. An average nightly audience of 4.99 million viewers tuned in to The Tonight Show in January this year. That was up 30% from the comparable month in 2013.

In Leno's final show, he received farewell messages from the US President himself, Barak Obama. Critics rave about the show, saying it should go down in television's historical vault. It wasn't all tears and sadness, Leno joked about his early days as host "Justin Bieber wasn't even born yet," adding "That's why we call them 'the good old days.'"

Jay Leno has always been a benevolent person in real life, and on screen. In 2012, the host took a pay cut to save the jobs of other members of staff as the broadcaster, NBC, moved to reduce the show's costs. His warm and witty personality brought the show's status to a well respected and widely recognised entertainment show. Jimmy Kimmel has large shoes to fill, after the shining legacy Leno leaves behind.

Swansea £850m Tidal Lagoon

Tom Ramsbottom 3AI

Plans have been submitted for an £850,000,000 tidal lagoon in Swansea Bay which may be able to power 120,000 homes for 120 years. A tidal lagoon is a type of tidal power station.

The six mile long sea wall would take two years to build and would create 1,850 jobs. It would be fully operational by 2018. It will span from Swansea



Bay to near the universities new campus.

The Chief Executive of tidal energy Swansea bay, Mark Shorrocks said: "Until now, tidal energy has been heavily promoted by governments and environmentalists as an intuitive source of clean and reliable energy for our

island nation, but the business response has focused on relatively small-scale tidal stream devices."

"The UK has the second highest tidal range in the world and today we are submitting an application for a development that will prove that this resource can be harnessed in a way that makes economic, environmental and social sense."

"Tidal lagoons offer renewable energy at nuclear scale and thus the investment of hundreds of millions of pounds in UK industries and coastal communities."

The sea wall would also host an oyster shaped visitor centre and will be accessible by foot, bike and electric bus. It will bring in £5m a year in revenue.

Furthermore, the Tidal Lagoon will bring in lots more tourists to Swansea as it would be unique in the UK as it encases 11km sq of water. Also the plans are backed by the FoE (Friends of Environment) Cymru because the plans have met the strict environmental requirements.

Sochi Olympics

Francesca Angel ShJJ

With 98 medals to be won over 16 days, the coming Olympics has been said to be the "costliest Olympic Games in history officially.

2,900 athletes have been welcomed to Sochi, on Russia's Black Sea coast. The opening ceremony begins at 20:14 local time. The build-up to the Olympics has been overshadowed by security fear, human rights concerns and delay to preparations. However, the cost of these games has been extortionate - 3 billion pounds, which is the total of all the other Olympic Winter Games to date.

The likeliest candidates to top the Sochi table are Canada, Norway and the United States. Team GB have been given a target of at least 3 medals in Sochi.

If Britain reaches their target, it would be the team's best performance in terms of medals won since, 1936. Hope is high that Britain could win more than one gold medal at a winter Olympics for the first time.

The British women's curling team and skeleton slider Shelley Rudman are both defending world championships, while team-mate Lizzy Yarnold leads at the top of the current skeleton rankings.

"I'm not a canny Scot so I will err on the side of the caution but we have a number of athletes competing at a top-class level in winter sports," commented British Chef de Mission Mike.

Hosting an Olympics for the first time since the Boycotted Moscow Games, of 1980, Russian athletes are under pressure to improve on the embarrassment of 11th place at the last Vancouver Winter Olympics.

Russia has devoted £600 million to elite winter sport since the winning the bid to host these games seven years ago.

Attention will be focused on the men's ice hockey team, by the Russians, who have yet to win Olympic gold since the break-up of the Soviet Union. A popular figure skater, Evgeni Plushenko, who has overcome an injury to feature in the Games but faces a tough task to win a medal.

Norway will look to biathlon and cross-country skiing for the bulk of their medals, while Canada's medals will come from short track speed skating, in

particular Charles Hamelin, who has the potential to be one of the faces of the Games, as well as freestyle skiing and snowboard.

However, the US will be expecting big things from Alpine skiing and bobsleigh.

Lindsey Vonn is absent, due to the fact that she is injured. Her replacement is Mikaela Shiffrin and she is meant to be one of the leading American lights. Shaun White is expected to compete despite his withdrawal from the slope style contest on Wednesday, citing concerns over the safety of the course.

Security in Sochi has been prominent as the world's athletes and media arrive for the Games. Threats in recent months have included repeated calls to disrupt the Olympics from the Imeret Kavkaz group in the North Caucasus, suicide bombings in the nearby city of Volgograd, and a recent US warning about the potential for 'toothpaste' bombs on flights.

Journalists arriving in the region have found hotel rooms and other facilities unfinished amid a last-minute rush by organisers to complete building work, although the Olympic venues themselves have largely met with praise from athletes.

Russian opposition politicians and analysts have attributed Olympic project delays to corruption, which they say accounts for much of the Sochi Games' substantial cost - more than three times the London 2012 budget.

Liliya Shevtsova, a senior associate at a Moscow public policy research centre, believes the Games are "an embodiment of corruption, inefficiency, irrationality, extreme vanity and megalomania".

Sochi's organisers do not recognise the £30bn figure (they claim it includes the costs of infrastructure which may have been built anyway) and insist their outlay has been closer to £4.3bn.

Alexander Zhukov, president of Russia's Olympic Committee, said the authorities had "uncovered no cases of corruption".

On Thursday, United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon addressed another issue facing the Games: recent Russian legislation outlawing "gay propaganda" towards children, widely perceived as reinforcing the oppression of Russia's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

"Many professional athletes, gay and straight, are speaking out against prejudice," said Ban, addressing an International Olympic Committee (IOC) assembly in Sochi.

"We must all raise our voices against attacks on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex people. We must oppose the arrests, imprisonments and discriminatory restrictions they face."

IOC president Thomas Bach has said athletes who oppose Russia's 'anti-gay' legislation are free to express their views in interviews with the media, but must not do so on the podium or during their events.

Indonesian “Zoo of Death”

Jordan Willis 3MI

Last Month in Surabaya Zoo a lion called Michael was found hanged in his cage, the 18 month-old lion had his neck tangled in a cable which the keepers used to open and close his cage, officials claim that he got himself tangled up when he was jumping around. Unfortunately the police were unable to investigate further because the carcass was removed by the time they got there.

The Zoo Director says that she, “Didn’t realise she was meant to wait for the police.” because she thought the death didn’t need to be investigated.

Surabaya Zoo is on the island of Java, it is the island’s oldest zoo and it is home to thousands of animals and birds. Unfortunately the zoo has recently been named the “zoo of death” because of the number of deaths of their animals. Before Michael’s death a wildebeest was found dead in its cage and soon after a goat died of neck injuries.

One of the worst horror stories from the Zoo was reported in March 2013 when a giraffe was found dead with 44 pounds of plastic in its stomach, This is surprising because in the 70s the zoo was named South East Asia’s largest, with more species than anywhere else in the region. However the zoo suffers from animal over population and a lack of funding. The management of the zoo have said, “We plan to expand some of the cages. “

Action is being taken though because the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums say that the animal welfare condition in Surabaya needs to be attended to urgently.

But for now all we can do is hope.



Peanut allergy breakthrough

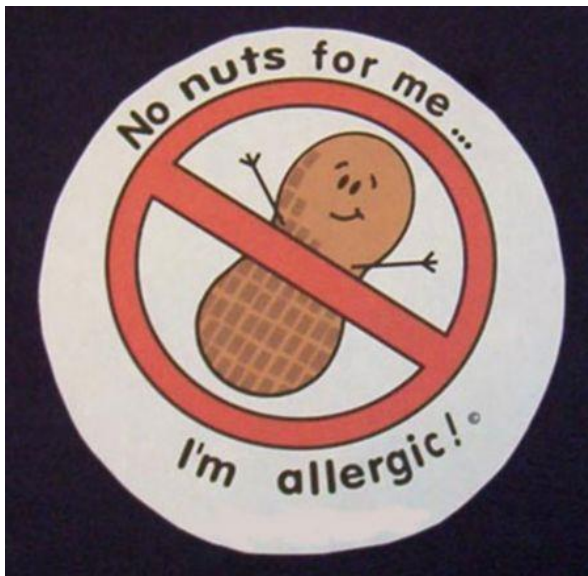
Alistair Smellie ShRL

A breakthrough in treating peanut allergies may have been made by a group of researchers in the UK.

A trial was carried out with 99 children, giving them a tiny dose of peanut protein every day, which was gradually increased. The team found that 84% of the allergic children could eat the equivalent of five peanuts a day after six months. It's really important to remember that this trial was carried out safely by medical experts. If you have a nut allergy, it would be very dangerous to try and eat them on



your own and many more tests are still needed before this type of treatment becomes more widespread. The aim of the trial by Addenbrooke's Hospital in



Cambridge was to train the children's bodies to get used to the peanut protein. Peanuts are the most common cause of fatal allergic reactions to food. Allergy symptoms can include hives, a drop in blood pressure, and swelling of the face and throat – which can block the airways. There is no treatment so sufferers have to avoid peanuts completely, which means checking every food label before eating. Eleven-year-old Lena, who took part in the research, said: "The trial has been an experience and adventure that has changed my life

and I've had so much fun, but I still hate peanuts." One of the researchers, Dr Andrew Clark said "It really transformed their lives dramatically; this really comes across during the trial." "It's a potential treatment and the next step is to make it available to patients, but there will be significant costs in providing the treatment – in the specialist centres and staff and producing the peanut to a sufficiently high standard.

I think that this is a great breakthrough as nut allergies, especially peanuts, cause the most common allergic reaction at the moment.

Michael Gove fires Ofsted chief and sparks debate

Adam Bartlett ShRA

The education minister has fired the chief of Ofsted, Baroness Sally Morgan. She had held this position for three years. He has commented that she made a tremendous contribution but gave no concrete reason as to why he decided to fire her. This has angered many politicians and the lack of reasons has led many to believe that he has political motivations for firing this woman. The chief was a Labour peer and Michael Gove is a Conservative. This decision may have been a slight dig at Labour and Gove may not have had a good reason to fire this woman. There is also a theory that Gove wants to surround himself with 'yes-men' and needed to get rid of someone from Labour who would not agree with all of his policies.

If this idea is correct then it proves that Gove is somewhat weak in his decisions and is not even confident enough to have people around him challenge his somewhat unusual opinions. Others have also argued that the conservatives are trying to politicise Ofsted (the office for standards in education). Many politicians have commented on this event including David Laws who says that he is furious at the situation.



I agree with most Labour MP's and believe that Gove is trying to surround himself with 'yes-men' who will agree with everything he suggests. Indeed Gove is not a very popular education minister and this event will not help to rectify this reputation in the slightest. He has some quite strange views on education, including extended school hours and shorter holidays, free-schools and Charter schools. He even has the quite frankly ridiculous ambition to make every state school as good as the leading private schools! Unless he is willing to pour literal billions of pounds into public schools and increase teachers' pay significantly, this target cannot possibly be met. Private schools can only be as successful as they are because they are funded by the parents who can afford to pay large sums of money which the schools can use to buy state of the art facilities and pay highly sophisticated teachers. Our government is struggling to fund the public facilities we already have and is in no state to pay more money into schools. Gove is clearly misled in his beliefs in education and I think that he is the one who should be fired!

Eurovision Ban Cheating

Sheil Sethi 3HL

It is claimed that within the Azerbaijan broadcast, attempts were made to influence the voting in favour of Azerbaijan during last year's contest. Organisers confirmed rigging attempts were detected by its security systems, but the votes were declared invalid. It added there was no evidence to link Azeri broadcasters to the activity.

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) said as there was no evidence to suggest the TV channels were aware of the attempt to rig the contest, no sanctions would be imposed as there was no evidence.

Allegations of vote-fixing arose after Azerbaijan failed to award any points to neighbouring Russia. It caused Azeri President, Ilham Aliyev, to order an inquiry, as traditionally ex-Soviet republics have regularly given each other top marks. There were claims of attempts in neighbouring countries to buy votes for Azerbaijan's entry in this prestigious contest.

It is hoped tightening rules will increase credibility of the voting and protect the Eurovision Song Contest from further criticism. The contest's board committee, said if cheats and vote-rigging are detected before, during or after the contest in favour of any country, it would automatically start procedures and actions against the country's broadcaster and the country by taking legal action and taking away points. Furthermore, the country could be facing a ban of up to 3 years from the contest.

"Just as football clubs are, in principle, accountable for the behaviour of their fans, we will hold - on a case-by-case basis - participating broadcasters accountable and make them responsible to prevent voting irregularities in favour of their entry," said Dr Frank Dieter Freiling, chairman of the Reference Group.



Somerset Flooding

Jack Mills ShJJ

Somerset is still the worst hit place of this winter's floods. Almost half the county is underwater and many people have had to leave their homes.

The water levels recently rose by one metre in just one night, flooding the vast Somerset Levels. Hundreds of houses are under water and over 17,000 acres of land are completely saturated. Large waves have been battering the



south-western coastline for months and the extra rain in the last couple of weeks has made the rivers in Somerset completely break their banks.

Farmers are frantically trying to rescue their livestock by moving them to hills further north. Some people in the Somerset Levels

have refused to leave their homes and have been given 3,000 sandbags between them to protect and rebuild garden walls. Temporary accommodation has been set up in town halls and churches throughout Somerset.

Electrical supplies have been cut all over the South West and neighbours are having to help each other out with food supplies.

During the last week, the main railway connecting Cornwall to the rest of the UK has been put out of order for at least six weeks in the area of Dawlish, Devon. The costs of repairs will be 'off the rails' as the vicious waves ripped through the old, Victorian sea defence, and has left nearby houses at the edge of a cliff and the tracks suspended above the sea.



The Met Office has issued a warning to residents of the South West, including the potential danger of loss of life, as well as a less-severe warning to Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire, West Sussex, West Berkshire and Surrey. The weather forecast for the next few weeks has predicted more rain to batter the South West of England so the people of the West Country should prepare themselves for the worst.

5-year old girl killed during 'punishment'

Becky Perkins, 3HL

The latest account of child cruelty tells of in a 5-year old girl being killed during a punishment.

Alexa Linboom, the step daughter of Randall and Mary Vaughn, took a drink without asking them, and in return for this she was forced to drink over 2 litres of water and grape soda. Reports tell this amount of fluid caused serious brain damage where her brain swelled.

The couple stopped the punishment after loud screams of pain were heard from Alexa and she 'turned blue' before



collapsing unconscious. She died soon after.

They are now being held in prison pending bail, but a lot of people have strong opinions that her 'carers' should definitely spend time locked up. The other five children who were present in the house during the murder have been taken into foster care.

I am strongly against child abuse, as is most of the world's population, but it seems it may be increasing. One in six adults today were neglected during their childhood, some severely, and 5% of small children are also neglected by parents or carers. To think that so many children's lives may be ruined by such neglect and by the people who should be there to help and support them is tragic. Added to this there are many more children who suffer in silence, and have no one to talk to until it's too late, as it was for Alexa.

As child abuse charities work to eliminate this to an extent, all we can do is hope we don't see cases like this very often.

Adnan Januzaj – Who should he play for?

Will Cotgrove 3PS

Adnan Januzaj is 19 years old and plays for Manchester United in the Barclays Premier League. He can play in a number of positions including winger, midfield or even centre forward. He began his career with Anderlecht when he was scouted at the age of 10, but joined Manchester United in 2011 at the age of 16. This early start proves he was really talented at a young age. Although he has played for United for 3 years he has only recently started playing for the 1st team.



Januzaj was born in Brussels on the 5th of February 1992 when his family had migrated from Albania. This is one of the countries he could play for. Januzaj's father was the oldest of six children and originates from Kosovo. His mother on the other hand had been deported to Turkey by Yugoslavian authorities. This is another country, therefore, he could play for.

So where is he allowed to play internationally? There are many different nations he is eligible to play for. First there is Belgium, where he was born. It would make sense for him to play for Belgium because his family lives there and has done since he was born. Belgian coach, Willmots said after selecting Adnan for a World cup Qualifier, "I wanted to send him a clear signal. Just as Zakaria Bakkali, Adnan is a very promising youngster and I would like to integrate him into the group. I do not want to force his hand. I respect his choice and consider discussing this with Adnan and his family". Januzaj rejected the offer as he hasn't yet decided which nation to play for.

There are other nations he is eligible for but England is the one everyone wants to know about. On 17 October 2013, Januzaj's father discussed his son's chances to represent England and they looked hopeful. Many then expected him to decide to play for England but the decision is yet to be made. Early this month Yanuzaj suggested that England wasn't an option but all English football fans hope he will change his mind!

Striking teachers are lazy and selfish

Jonny Nixon 3AI

The teachers' strike will occur on the 26th March. This will be the third national strike to date if it goes ahead. The government is trying to stop this as they say "it will damage the children's education." It was also said that parents would be outraged with this occurrence: even with all these problems, the NASUWT will still be meeting next week. NUT general secretary, Christine Blower, said the union "regretted the disruption caused to pupils and parents, but teachers felt they had "no other choice". David Cameron is also strongly against all of this.

The teachers are striking because they want more pay and better pensions. Some teachers would also like to be paid based on their performance. The teachers are coming from Cumbria, London, the South East, and the North East and South West. There will be nearly three thousand schools closed down or partially closed. Major rallies have been taking place in Bristol, Durham and London, with smaller events in other areas, including Brighton, Carlisle and Plymouth. Head teacher Roberta Kirby, from Fernhurst Junior School in Portsmouth said the government had "declared war" on teachers. Around 200 schools in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight lost teachers to this. She said, "If we cannot offer good wages and a pension that staff pay into that reflects the work they do, then we are not going to be able to attract the best graduates."

Many parents have not only been angry about the loss of education but also the lack of available child care. Sarah Ransome said, "People in Plymouth have been telling me that finding alternative childcare because of the strike has been 'quite a headache'."



In my opinion I think the teachers are being greedy and selfish and they have not only been ignorant but have not thought through of all the problems this will cause. Parents may have to take days off work to look after their children: this could lead to losses of jobs. Some teachers have claimed they have no wish to disrupt learning and to annoy parents but it leaves one wondering, why must they strike if they are as dedicated as they say?

Why Big Kevin?

Harry Jaquiss 3HL

The England Cricket Board's (ECB) decision to end Kevin Pietersen's international career is still shrouded in confusion after national selector, James Whitaker, refused to divulge the reasons for it.

"I have had some of my most enjoyable times watch him "tonking" the ball over the park." Says Prime Minister, David Cameron.

I think the great player KP will never be forgotten, however as he is not that old he shouldn't retire at this time. He has had a great career, with many ups and downs. He has put 13,797 runs on the board, is the leading English Batsman, and has a tremendous high score of 227. He's played 277 games and has 32 centuries to add to his name.

Kevin has one the most recognisable personalities in sport today, and is a very colourful character in Cricket. For example, he's had many hair cuts during his career including a lovely bold cut, also dyed his usually brown locks blonde. This was a key stage in his career.

He had been asked to leave the England side, but ECB have refused to give the reasons for the decision, at this point there is no way of saying.

