



School News

Autumn 1 2023

A Series of Unfortunate Events: Arran

Cara

On the 7th -13th October 27 pupils from year eight headed up to Arran, an island in the north of Scotland famous for its mountainous land. Mr. Stout, Mr. Cheetham and Mrs. Lambeth took us to take part in many activities; hiking, abseiling, archery and more. But then it all went wrong...

We drove up to Arran as planned on Saturday: we stopped off at Gretna Green services on the way. After a four-hour bus ride, we arrived at the ferry port and then disaster struck. One of the minibuses had broken down. We figured it would be okay because it would be fixed by the time we had gone to Arran. We had to wait in the minibuses for a while until we decided to go and wait in the ferry terminal.



Disaster two: There was a problem with the ferries, and this meant that the next ferry to Arran would be at six o'clock - a three-hour wait. The six o'clock call was later cancelled and the same with the next one in the morning. This left us with little choice about what to do because we couldn't go home, and we couldn't go to Arran and no accommodation was available. Since we were hungry, the teachers decided to take us to Asda for some dinner but of course to make everything better the café was closed. Eventually they managed to persuade the Asda employees to let us eat

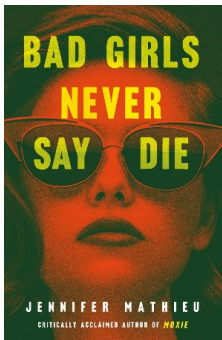
Sleeping in a scout hut!

there. We all had a pizza. This was also my birthday, not the birthday I had hoped for, but I got a birthday cake.

After a while, we finally found somewhere to stay that night. We would be staying in a local scout hut. It wasn't a luxury hotel, but it was the best we could find and was okay since it would only be one night. Because of the situation we had no duvets or mattresses. This meant that Mr. Stout had to buy a duvet for everyone, and we were provided with mats to sleep on. When we arrived at the scout hut the Scottish police came and thankfully gave us blankets. Everyone was very positive about the situation and supportive towards others. This was easily the biggest sleepover I've ever had for my birthday!

In the morning we went to the beach since we were still waiting for a new minibus to take us home. By the time we got back the bus had arrived and we set off home. When we got back, we were very tired but relieved to be home.

We will be going back to Arran after Christmas. Hopefully we will have more luck!



Bad Girls Never Say Die

Over the past few weeks, I have read a book called "Bad Girls Never Say Die" which is by Jennifer Mathieu and was published on the 7th October 2021.

It is set in Houston, Texas in 1964 and the book is a gender flipped reimagining of S.E Hinton's The Outsiders and is basically about a group of girls who you would say are quite troublesome and 'bad'. One of them who is called Evie Barnes is involved in a murder and she is saved by a 'good' girl. The good girl is called Diane, Evie's friends refer to her as a tea sipper since she is posh and fairly rich. What happens is a boy tries to assault Evie but Diane saves her and kills the boy accidentally in the process so they have to dodge the police constantly and keep their heads down. This causes a really strong friendship between the two girls and they learn what it really means to be a bad girl.

Overall, I would really recommend this book. It's incredible and you really get stuck in when reading it, it only took me around 2 or 3 weeks to complete the book as it was that good.

The age rating of this book is 12 and up due to the violence throughout the book. By Nicola Year 8

LIBRARY MONITORS By Neela 8KS

At the end of last year, you may have entered the library to see year 7s working on the desk. Well these students are now the year 8 library monitors and I am one of them. Our jobs are to scan books at the desk, put returned books onto the shelves and make sure the shelves are tidy. If you ever come into the library, we will be happy to help! Here are our names and the days we work in the library:

Neela: Mondays and Friday lunch

Phoebe: Mondays Leila: Tuesdays Sofia: Tuesdays Tom: Tuesdays Zoe: Wednesdays Leo: Thursdays

Cara: Friday breaks Callie: Fridays

BOOK FAIR We have had a book fair in the last few days of half term and it was really suc-



cessful! It was sponsored by scholastic which means that we will get more books for the library after the book fair is complete.

At the book fair they had a vast variety of books for pupils to enjoy. Some books were on their own but others came in complete sets. They also had many

different stationary items including finger pointers, pens, pencils, rubbers etc. Look out for the next newsletter to find out how much we raised! By Ayla and Eliza



Reading challenge

In GEMS we did a fun challenge called the reading challenge. The reading challenge is where you have to read at least once a day. The highest amount of stamps you can get per day is 2. Your teacher will get given a chart with 30 little sections per person and the first one to finish is the winner. You will get a fantastic prize as well. This is a fun completion designed to encourage children to read more. This is also made so children can have fun in reading.

After the reading challenge everyone should hopefully have a strong passion for reading like lots of others do as well.

GEMS think this challenge is very good and fun to compete in. Izzy and Maia

High school musical JR

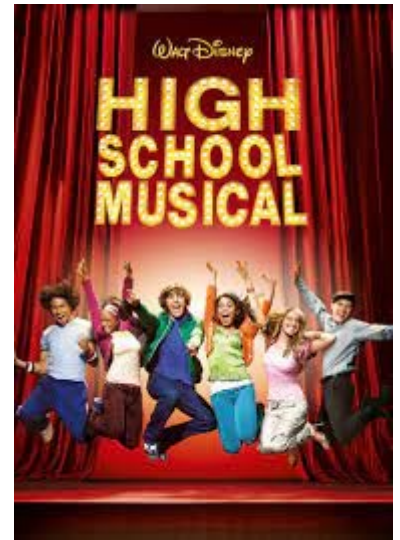
GEMS has been doing junior musicals for a long time now and this year's show is HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL.

The first rehearsals were on the 26th of September and continue to be after school every Tuesday.

The show is partly double cast so as many people from y6 7 and 8 can be a part of the show.

Last year it was Madagascar and this year it is High school Musical. The reason it is High School Musical is because Mr Williams let all the previous Year 7s who are now in year 8 vote on which show they would like to do, as this will be their last school production here They chose High School Musical!

For the people who are in it, they are really enjoying the rehearsals, learning all the songs and listening to main characters out on an American accent on!!!!The cast list will be published when we have it and know it isn't going to change! By Ayla and Amelia



Lockerbie



In assembly me and all of the Year 5s were told about the best trip in the world Lockerbie Manor. They said that it is great fun and everyone loved it! We spend 2 nights and 3 days all full of activities and they said the food is great. Also they said that we get to do loads of activities such as:

Archery, Canoeing, Kayaking, Climbing , Abseiling, Obstacle course, Problem Solving. We can't wait to go! By Ella S and Megan F Year 5



Shine Night Walk

On Saturday the 7th October at 7 pm the GEMS team walked the 10km around Newcastle and raised £1600 for Cancer Research. They were wearing T-shirts and flashing lights throughout the night.

The event began with a warm up from a local radio DJ. The walk began at the Baltic (on the south bank of the Tyne) and two hours of walking later they had finished the loop and were back at the Baltic. Even though it was raining throughout the duration of the walk, the atmosphere was great and everyone still had fun.

Thousands of people participated in the Night Shine walk and in total they raised over £81,000 in Newcastle alone. Maybe you could get included next year. By Ayla 6PW



THE HALLOWEEN DISCO

On Tuesday the 24th of October all of GEMS (if they want to) are going to the Halloween disco. The tickets are £3 including a hot dog and drink; you will have loads of fun! The hall is currently being made to look scary ready for the big day! We are all looking forward to it - we always hear people talk about it. The Halloween disco is on from 4:30 pm till 6:30 and you can either stay at school or you can go home and get changed then come to the party at 4:30 it is your choice. There is a teacher called Mrs Bhatt who is going to do hair and make- up; we are getting our hair and make-up done to help make us really look the part! By Ella 5KR and Megan 5NSK





Halloween Disco...in pictures





Year 5First impressions of GEMS

Megan

Before I started GEMS in the summer holidays I felt nervous and worried but actually on my first day I was only a little nervous and I loved lining up with my friends laughing talking about how we felt. That was such a remarkable day for me and my best friend Beth.

Then I made a TON of new friends such as my friend Emma, Ruby, and so on...

I'm so lucky to be a pupil at GEMS

I was moved to sit in my permanent seat and that's when me and my best friend Sophia felt like we were really a part of GEMS.

My friend was very worried about leaving our old school GPFS to move to a totally different environment. Yes she cried on her first day. Yes she felt like she had butterflies in her stomach. Yes she wanted to go back to her old school. But that is alright; that very is very Normal. Now she loves this school.

This has been a overwhelming journey for a lot of people but now all of my friends feel so welcomed and happy to be a part of GEMS.

Megan

My first thoughts of GEMS is that it is the best school and even on the weekends I want to come. In my first school I wished it was the summer holidays every day. I love computer club already and I have only done one session. Also GEMS has a million more clubs than my old school -I want to join every single one. But I am cutting down so I can only join 4 clubs because if I didn't have a maximum I don't think I would ever be at my house.

By Ella

I have only been at GEMS for a few weeks and I already think that it is the best school ever! my favourite lessons are: 1, games 2 Food Tech, 3. PE

Sahib Singh

It's been an amazing first few weeks settling into GEMS. For me the highlight was food tech because we got to have crumpets. Another one of my favourite lessons was ICT because I love computing. I hope everyone is enjoying their first few weeks like I am.

Emma

When I first started GEMS I was very scared. I started off with only my old school friends, but then I made some new friend called Megan, Sophia, Ella, Alia and so on. I was very worried on my first day. At GEMS everyone has made me feel so welcome. I hope I will have a great time. It already feels better than First School.

Ethan

When I was in first school, I was quite worried about coming to GEMS. But when I arrived I had the best time of my life. I got put in 5NSK with Mrs Skelton I was very happy and I felt more confident. With the help of my friends I'm very happy about coming to GEMS. I love all lessons, they're great fun!

Press Club...new Year 5 recruits ➡



All the clubs

Press Club

Press club where you write this newsletter and interview fellow students. You can also write your own page or 'have your own column' about what you want as long as it is appropriate. So get an early lunch pass on Tuesdays and join the Press Club now.



Drama Club,

For me, drama I find really fun. I love acting and being in role. At drama Club we play funny and silly games, act out adverts and even practice scripts! I've only been there for 2 weeks and I love it so much.



Book Clubs for all years

Book club is on at different times for the different year groups and is run by Mrs Leahy. These are the different times: Year 5 Monday after school, Year 6 Thursday after school, Year 7 Wednesday lunchtime and Year 8 Thursday lunchtime.

During book club we decide on a book using a voting system and read a certain amount each week to discuss. Give it a try!

RUGBY CLUB and resilience

STARTED WITH MY GOOD FRIEND GRAYSEN. I REALLY DIDN'T GET IN THE GAME BUT GRAYSEN TOLD ME TO HAVE PERSERVERANCE SO I STARTED ASKING FOR PASSES. PEOPLE DID PASS AND I GOT A GOOD RUN. HOWEVER, I GOT TAGGED SO I TRIED AGAIN AND WAS SO CLOSE BUT WAS TACKLED. I TRIED AGAIN AND AGAIN AND NEVER GAVE UP. TEN MINUTES LATER I SCORED A TRY AND ALL WITH THE HELP OF GRAYSEN.

BY JUDE



Coding club

Coding club is basically where you create some games by using simple coding or if you don't want to code you can just play games that have already been coded. It's on a Thursday after school so if you can do it I would suggest it.



Page put together by
Grayson and William
Year 5



500 GAMES Y6 GIRLS FOOTBALL



The year 6 girls did very well in the 500 games because they came 1st in the final. Yes, you read it correctly it does say final. They managed to get into the final and then won.. It took place on the 5th of October.

The players were: Emily G, Poppy G, Lily P, Jorja P, Lauren C, Martha H, Evie T

The girls played another match on the 12th October and they won. Look out for future scores in our newsletter. By Eliza Year 6

GIRLS FOOTBALL TRIALS

On Monday the 25th of September. Loads of girls wanted to get on the GEMS girls football team. We played a few matches for Mr Jordan and Andrew to see how good we are at football. Then they said that football comes second and what comes first is how good of a person you are. When we were playing the match we had an odd number of teams so 4 teams were playing meanwhile the 5th team would be practising in the 2 big goals next to where we were playing. Every time a team scored a goal they swapped around. All my friends said it was soooooo much fun. We are now waiting to find out who will go into the teams. There will be one team and we are all excited to see who gets on the team. By Megan and Ella

Y6 BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

This team is a newly formed one and they have been training really hard.

On the 21st of September they played very well because they won every round with no goal conceded. They are now through to the finals and are training very hard to win.

Seb is the team's goal keeper and he had a clean sheet. Throughout his time playing the matches. At home he has a cabinet with 70 medals. He has been doing football for 7 years which is equivalent to 10 medals per year. Seb plays for Wideopen football club, Newcastle United Academy, the County team and the School team.

Camron is the team's left winger. He isn't in another football club but he joined the school football team to try and win a trophy or medals. Seth, James and Louie are our teams goal scorers. They all play for Kenton and Louie also plays for Widopen Football Club.

They're really enjoying the tournament so far and hope we win. Guess what we won!!! By Eliza Year 6



500 GAMES RUGBY



I played in the 500 games rugby [not literally 500 games just 6] we came 4th or 5th.

There were two GEMS teams on the day, 1 and 2. I was in 1 and we were a decent team.

I was the captain and got to decide the substitutes and the play style. loved it even though I got hurt a few times...I'M OKAY now :) Graysen D