

## RIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

On ordinary school days, lunchtime heralds the busiest period for walking across the field, but on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March, the final day of the Spring Term, most areas outside were deserted.

The heavy rain may have caused some to retreat back to their tutor rooms, but the majority of the college were gathered in the school hall, thanks to the refugee awareness event organised by Miss Watt and the Amnesty group.

The team sold cakes and bags of sweets as a number of CVCC pupils and teachers gathered to showcase their singing, dancing, and musical instrument playing talents. With Mr Simpson as compere, the high-class acts performed in front of a dauntingly large audience. In fact, the supportive crowd was so large that the canteen doors had to be opened to accommodate them all!



The audience enjoyed musical hits such as 'Defying Gravity'; a selection of handwritten raps; several singers with their takes on modern chart-topping songs; guitar and clarinet solos; and a humorous dance based 'ballad-off' by Miss

Watt and Mrs Oldfield.

Alongside providing entertainment, the 45-minute talent competition raised money for Amnesty International, a charity that places human rights in the spotlight. The entrance fee and the funds generated from the cake and sweet sale totalled over £215!

However, the lunchtime competition wasn't the only event organised by the Amnesty group. Throughout the day, year 7 and 8 classes were invited to the school hall for a series of presentations and games surrounding the role of Amnesty International in the wider world, and the European refugee crisis.

Whilst having fun, pupils were encouraged to write letters and cards to teenage refugees, who, as they all learnt, are not too dissimilar from themselves. Additionally, preconceptions about refugees were dismissed with a snappy 'myth busting' session. This all linked back to the Refugee Awareness Week that the Amnesty group organised near the end of 2015, as the students were provided with raw, unbiased facts.

Students also learnt about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the key UN (United Nations) policy that is used to defend our fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression, and about a group called Good Chance Calais, who arranges theatre performances in The Jungle refugee camp in Northern France.

Furthermore, as with Good Chance Calais, the Amnesty day also had an impact on foreign shores. Throughout the event, the group collect-

ed food, clothing, and bedding to be sent off to refugee camps in France with the help of Miss Borny and RAFT (Refugee Action From Taunton).

What started out as a small pile quickly turned into a mountain of donations for the refugee camps, requiring both Miss Borny's car and a van to take it all to Taunton. Both RAFT and the Amnesty group offer their thanks to everyone who donated to the charity.



Although the Amnesty group prepare human rights awareness events annually, this day felt very special. Alongside the fun had by all and the donations raised for both Amnesty International and RAFT, the group managed to reflect poignantly on the tragic events that are occurring far too close to our doorstep to ignore. As Dr Bawn put it, 'A great way to end the term.'

*If this event inspired you to join our Amnesty group, please come along to EN7 on Tuesday lunchtimes. New members are always welcomed.*

Erin Santillo

## WHAT'S IN YOUR PACKAGING?

For the past fifteen months, students from six different schools across Devon have been involved in a study at the University of Exeter to determine three different questions:

- Can you moderate your exposure to BPA through your diet?
- Can we see corresponding change in the expression of BPA responsive genes?
- Is this moderation possible in the real world?



BPA stands for Bisphenol-A; a chemical widely

used in plastics that protect food, such as packaging. Recently, concerns have been raised that contact with this plastic could lead to a multitude of conditions such as heart disease, diabetes or even cancer.

Traces of the chemical can be found in blood and urinary samples. The risk of the chemical is profound and affects populations all over the world- but what can we do about it?

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One of the purposes of the study was to discover if we could consciously prevent a dangerous intake of BPA. An experiment conducted in 2014 established that three isolated families who were explicitly given BPA free food to eat for a week were able to decrease their BPA intake by 66%. However this investigation was unrealistic, as people in actual life would find it extremely difficult to source such carefully packaged and prepared food.

With this in mind, scientists at the University of Exeter contacted six schools within Devon: South Dartmoor Community College, Exeter Mathematics School, Exeter School, Exeter College, Honiton Community College and Clyst Vale Community College- to be included within the study. Teenagers were targeted as they were believed to be the age group with the highest level of BPA in their blood, as well as providing a large sample size.



Each school contributed to the planning and execution of the study; from designing the way we'd record our BPA intake; advising which

foods to eat and which to avoid and the implications of our investigation on the public.

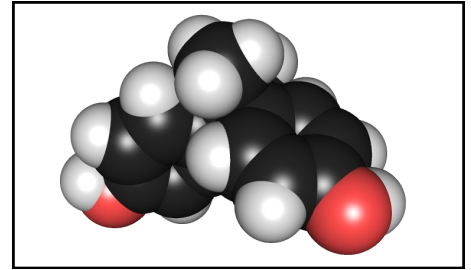
To answer our first question, of whether we can moderate our own BPA intake, we had to spend seven days actively trying to reduce our contact with plastics containing BPA. This occurred last September. At the start and end of the week blood and urine tests were taken to compare the BPA levels within our body before and after the diet, which were sent off to laboratories to be analysed.

The results proved that we cannot effectively moderate our exposure to BPA through our diet. It was revealed that as a sample, although 85% of people from the six schools showed evidence of BPA in their urine samples, it was actually a very low amount - with a mean measurement of 1.73 ng/ml, compared to the previously recorded measurement of around 4.0 ng/ml. After the week of the diet, our BPA levels actually hadn't changed even with deliberate regulation.

There was a surprise discovery however, in that the researchers found that the ESRRA gene (a gene thought to be affected by BPA—similar to the ESR2 gene) produced two forms of a particular protein. As the levels of BPA in our bodies decreased, shorter 'isoforms' of this protein were produced, which is an unexpected result of the study.

It was also found that there was no overall change to the gene expression of ESSRA and ESR2. Previous data acquired suggests that it should have been changed, but due to our already low levels of BPA it means we would need

more people to partake in our study to see this. Also, the genes aren't exclusively affected by BPA, as other factors occurring in our bodies could also lead to differences in the gene expression.



It was also found that a BPA-excluding diet would be quite impractical in the real world. 70% of people reported that the diet was hard to sustain, as the diet was restrictive; food was hard to source and prepare; it was hard to identify which foods had contact with BPA in the first place.

To conclude, the effect of our study showed that we cannot alter our own exposure to BPA. Also, the results of our study indicate that perhaps improved legislation needs to be implemented for plastics containing BPA so people can make a more informed choice of their exposure when buying food and drink. Scientific papers produced from the study will be presented to the government in an effort to execute these changes.

Ferne Kelly

## IT'S ALL UP TO EU: IN OR OUT?



Last Friday saw an exciting event take place in the sixth form block. Students were able to hear arguments for and against Britain staying in the European Union (EU). Thanks to the well-connected Miss Padden, speakers came to the school in an attempt to gain students' votes in the upcoming referendum on 23rd June.

Sir Graham Watson is in support of staying in the Union. He is a former Member of the European Parliament, which is someone who represents Britain's interests in the rest of Europe. The counter argument came from Tony McIntyre, UKIP's Devon county chairman, who felt that Britain would gain more by becoming independent from the rest of Europe. There was then a mock referendum, in which students had their say in whether or not Britain should remain in the EU.

As we have explored in previous issues, the European Union is a collection of countries that work together to better themselves. Formally set up in 1993, the EU has expanded to include more and more countries, but no one has ever left before.

So, why are we having a referendum? The EU has generally been seen as a positive thing, it has improved living standards, it has helped former socialist dictatorships become democratic societies, it has improved environmental standards and it has strengthened trade and prevented wars.



However, more and more people are beginning to feel restrained by being in the EU; concerns about immigration, a joint European military and about a loss of 'British identity' are leading some to feel that we may be better off leaving the EU altogether.

Thus, on Friday 15th April at Clyst Vale, both speakers were given five minutes each to present their arguments in order to promote their campaigns. Sir Graham took the floor first, highlighting the inherently good ideals upon which the EU is based; democracy, a free market economy, and a focus on human rights and climate change.

His argument that the countries support each other in these areas was hard to fault. He went on to say that to leave the EU would be a "blunder"- people only want to leave because they are unaware of all the good that it does for the country. He also pointed out that staying gives us security in trade, as we sell and buy goods and services from other European nations. "There are also 3 million jobs that rely on this trade, and we don't know how trade negotiations would work if we left." Sir Graham informed us that 50% of exports from the South West go to other European countries; this could potentially drop if we were to leave the EU.

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He stated the peaceful relations between EU nations would no longer apply to Britain if we were to leave, and speculated whether this could mean war. To stay is a positive thing, he said, as it means cooperation between nations. Police forces across the EU cooperate with each other, sharing intelligence to combat criminal and terrorist threats, "We are safer in the EU."



His final point was that to have 500 million people across the EU sharing values, cooperating and promoting prosperity, creates opportunities that we wouldn't have if we were to leave.

Tony McIntyre then made his case to the room. He opened by telling us that the government is currently split about 50/50 on whether or not Britain should remain in the EU. McIntyre de-

scribed the referendum as "an amazing opportunity," as we are currently "tied to a world economy" which isn't always beneficial to us. If we were to leave the EU we would keep trade links with European countries, according to the Leave campaign.

Tony McIntyre's arguments were based on the negatives of staying in the EU; the Union is ever expanding, meaning more and more people will eventually be members. This will result in more migration to Britain, as we have high living standards and a high minimum wage in relation to the rest of the EU. However, Mr McIntyre stated that we cannot cope with the levels of immigration as it stands.

He then addressed the question of Britain's influence in Europe, which would inevitably lessen if we were to leave. In Tony McIntyre's view, this would not be a negative thing. The EU Freedom and Direct Democracy Group is responsible for the rules we have to abide by anyway, our say is very small as it stands. According to McIntyre, to leave would only give us more freedom.

Students then directed questions at the speakers, addressing topics such as studying abroad, trade, free movement of people, industry and the advantages and disadvantages of leaving. It is fair to say that everyone was well informed on

the issue by the time it came to the mock referendum. As many sixth formers are of voting age, it was interesting to see which way the vote would swing. An overwhelming majority of 80% voted that Britain would benefit more from remaining in the EU rather than leaving it.



For many 6th formers, this will be the first vote they have ever cast, and will probably have the biggest effect on their future. Of course, young people make up a small part of the electorate and the outcome of the vote on June 23rd may look very different to this.

Neave Cunningham

# REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST

In March, myself, Kellie, and Vimbai Mukonoweshuro were given the opportunity to visit Auschwitz in Poland, one of the most infamous concentration camps during the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was a genocide enacted by Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany that was responsible for 6 million Jewish deaths. There were three main camps in Oświęcim; Auschwitz I, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Auschwitz III which no longer stands. The first camp was a containment camp where prisoners of war and political prisoners were held whilst Birkenau was the death camp. Auschwitz III connected to the chemical plant so it was easier to get workers in there.

Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) funded a visit to Auschwitz where over 200 students would be allowed to visit the camps in Oświęcim, later renamed Auschwitz by the Nazis.



We needed to attend two seminars before the trip and one after, the former seminars being required to prepare us for the visit. These two seminars had us meeting a survivor of the Holocaust named Zigi Shipper who told us about his experiences in ghettos and during a death march.



They also showed us pictures and asked us to tell them where we thought each person came from. Few people guessed correctly because they were all dressed in an ordinary way – there were no features that defined them as Jews or criminals or nurses. There was nothing to separate them from one another.

The intent of the trip was to re-humanise the victims but also the perpetrators; it was all based upon showing us that they were people

and not a statistic. It really brings home the idea that evil is not something that can be seen, but is rather conveyed through a person's actions. A lot of the people at these seminars questioned whether we should in fact re-humanise the perpetrators as it may be seen that they aren't deserving of compassion or acknowledgement as humans on account of their treatment towards their fellow man. The majority of the seminar though was about the victims and the fact they were actual living people like you and me with aspirations and a family and a future that was taken from them.

We gained a sense of compassion from this trip in regards to the people involved that we never got to meet and stories they may have told that we never got to hear. It gave us a sense of empathy for the victims of the Holocaust as well as making sure that the next generation were educated on the events and may pass on their new knowledge to the younger generation. The trip showed us it was an actual place too and not a story – often textbooks tend to depart from the reality of what happened. They state facts and statistics rather than individual personal stories of what happened – how it *felt* to be in that situation.

Kellie Ayres and Eloise Atkins

# REPORTING FOR CLYST VALE

BBC School Report turns ten years old this year, and exciting prospects lay ahead. The BBC programme that enlightens children about the world in which news is made and produced has had immense success in previous years, and upon its tenth anniversary the BBC hopes to look back on some of the most impressive school reports there have been.

Clyst Vale has taken the opportunity to be part of this project for the last six years, with English teacher Miss Haynes leading an ever enthusiastic and driven team of students. With the help of Spotlight presenter Simon Clemison, CV students have been able to produce some incredible reports over the last six years.

This year's school reporters have more compelling prospects ahead, as the budding journalists have been given the opportunity to write for this school newspaper. The articles below show case what the students came up with this year.

Neave Cunningham



One of the most memorable reports to come out of Clyst Vale was in 2011, when three girls from year 9 carried out an hour-long video call with students in Tunisia, whose country was undergoing a revolution. The girls interviewed the students about how social media had affected their lives and compared the different ways in which it was used in our countries. The report gained national attention and was a huge success for the girls and the school.



## LOUD-ERHAM CASTLE?

Excitement is building for BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend. Finally, it is Exeter's turn to host this festival. The acts will be performing at Powderham Castle, including Ellie Goulding, Coldplay, Bring me the Horizon and Chase and Status.

It will bring more publicity to Exeter, but is this a good thing?

*'I am really excited. I am hoping to get tickets, especially to watch Coldplay.'* – Miss Foulds.

Although it will be a great experience and a good family day out, many things can go wrong and Exeter could be left with a bad reputation for a long time to come.

In our report we are investigating what people

think about the festival coming to this small city. We are also looking at how the environment and the wildlife around the castle can be affected.



Because there are drinks being sold, like all festivals, some people are worried whether Powderham is a suitable venue for this type of concert and if the events staff are prepared for the pop-

ularity they have not had before.

*'I think our beautiful and tranquil city will be ruined.'* – Mr Bailey

There may be trouble, there usually is at every big event (usually caused by boisterous youth), but accidents can be prevented and the festival could be a very successful if organised and managed well.

Overall the Big Weekend is a great popularity boost for Exeter and most of the peaceful city's residents are extremely excited for the coming of the famous concert.

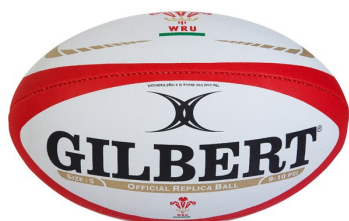
Maddy, Mia, and Ellie

## A TRY-ING TIME FOR RUGBY

Do you think they should ban school contact rugby?

Clyst Vale students said 'Rugby should be optional, not compulsory'.

'So far this year we have only had two injuries and that is not a lot at all.'



We think contact rugby is a great opportunity to learn something new and have fun. Banning it would affect clubs outside of school because people wouldn't get a chance to learn the game and see if they like it. It would also give them a chance to join a club outside school.

In addition England's National rugby team would be negatively affected because kids would be learning completely different rules and in ten years time they would have players who had learnt different rules.

We think that contact rugby should not be banned but perhaps could be made safer. For example we could stop neck rolls and unnecessary contact.

The official decision will be made over the following months.

Ben, Charlie, and Edwin



# COMING UP TRUMPS?

It seemed like an impossible bid. Unheard of. The idea that Donald Trump, the 69 year old business mogul, who had never held or even run for elected office in his life, could even hang on until the Iowa Caucus on 1<sup>st</sup> February appeared completely implausible.

And yet, Donald Trump has exceeded expectations, beating all odds and baffling political scientists' predictions completely. Trump, as well as acting as Chairman and President of The Trump Organization, is a published author and television personality, and has no experience in the complicated web of Washington politics, or even the slightly different world of state governorships and Congress', making him the ultimate "outsider candidate."



When his bid for President was first announced in June 2015, the idea was largely scoffed at, with pollsters believing the unlikely hopeful would be gone before the end of the pre-primary debates.

This idea could not be further from the truth. There are only 16 of the Republican primaries (an election within each state where people can vote for their chosen representative for the party, having a say in who will represent Republican or Democrat in the presidential election, including the Caucus, an unusual proportional primary) left to be won.

So far, "The Donald" has claimed 27 states out of a total 31 so far, making it look increasingly likely that Trump could be walking away with the official Republican Party nomination by July 18<sup>th</sup> at the party's National Nominating Convention. Trump has only achieved 954 delegates, which is still a long way from 1,237; the magic number needed to secure an uncontested bid from the party.



Yet this is still far closer than any other Republican candidate has reached; only Ted Cruz and John Kasich remain in the race, with 547 and 153 delegates respectively. It is becoming more and more unlikely that either of them can possibly overtake Trump, with only 16 Republican primaries remaining.



This leaves the GOP (Grand Old Party/ Republican Party) with only two options; allow Donald Trump to take the nomination, provide he reaches this number, or overturn everything and cause chaos by supporting an outside candidate who has not cast a bid and awarding them the delegates.

Too late was it before those in charge of the GOP realised what a serious and dangerous threat Trump is. The party leaders have been thrown into a state of panic, trying to stop the mogul. The establishment poured \$2 million into negative campaign television and digital ads into trying to stop Trump at the latest Republican primary- Wisconsin on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Whether the party can call the results a success is a difficult question. Trump was stopped from winning, and Cruz took 26 delegates, leaving Trump with only 6 of his own. However, the primary did ultimately end with Wisconsin governor and previous hopeful for the Republican nomination, Scott Walker, declaring his support for previous rival Trump.



Trump's policies have been described as "eclectic, improvisational." Trump, like many Republican nominations, tends to favour a more socially conservative view, as well as maintaining a fiscal conservative stance, and an aggressive foreign policy. Trump calls himself a Conservative Republican, while others describe him as more moderate.

His often controversial views on illegal immigration, free trade agreements, and military inter-

ventionism have caused divisions between himself and the Republican Party. Perhaps Trump's most popular and notorious policies is his complete intolerance of illegal immigration, with his promises to ban all Muslims from entering the United States and to build a wall separating Mexico and the United States.

His other policies include a pro-life stance on abortion and a desire to close Planned Parenthood; strong support for the second amendment, "The unabridged freedom to bear arms"; an aggressive foreign policy towards the ongoing issues in the Middle East, particularly ISIS, whom Trump has stated he will "bomb the hell out of them"; a repeal of Obama's Affordable Care Act (dubbed "Obamacare") and a decrease in taxes, stating that he personally "try and pay as little tax as possible... because I don't like what they do with my tax money."



With only a few months remaining until the Republican nominating convention, where it will be officially announced who the Republican Party will endorse, it is looking more and more likely that Donald Trump will snag this victory, and prepare for a battle against the Democrats, aiming for the end goal of the White House.

Now, all eyes will turn to the next primary, in Indiana on May 3rd. The question remains as to whether it will be certain that Trump takes Indiana delegates, and if so, how much closer will that take him to the nomination?

Izzie Sheldon

Upcoming Primaries:

May 3rd - Indiana

May 7th - Guam Democratic Caucus

May 10th - Nebraska Republican Primary, West Virginia

May 17th - Kentucky Democratic Primary, Oregon

# A PRESIDENTIAL PRECEDENT

Parliament in Brazil has voted in favour of beginning impeachment proceedings against current President Dilma Rousseff over charges of manipulating government accounts in the build up to her re-election in 2014. Ms Rousseff is accused of allowing creative accounting techniques involving loans from public banks to the treasury to be used, which resulted in an artificially enhanced budget surplus.



Those of the 'yes' camp, in favour of impeachment, comfortably obtained the required two-thirds majority in the vote held in the lower house in Brasilia. This means that the process will now be referred to the upper house, the Senate, which is expected to suspend Brazil's first female president while it carries out a formal trial and the proceedings against her.

Ms Rousseff herself denies the allegations, with her supporters describing the vote as a 'coup against democracy', and the ruling Workers' Party promising to continue its fight to defend the president both 'in the streets' and 'in the senate'.

And it is 'in the streets' where Ms Rousseff is battling most against her own poor reputation within Brazil. She does not possess the popularity of her predecessor and mentor Luiz da Silva, and her lack of popularity is made worse by the country's severe economic crisis- the worst since the 1930s. GDP is expected to shrink by 9% from the second quarter of 2014, when the recession first struck, to the end of this year, whilst inflation and unemployment are both high at around 10%.

As impeachment supporters netted 367 votes in the lower house of Congress, well above the 342 votes required, victory celebrations were loud and colourful among the hundreds of thousands of demonstrators who watched the vote live on large television screens on city streets across the country.

So what happens next?

In early May, the Senate will vote on whether to put the president on trial. If the vote passes, Ms Rousseff will be suspended for a maximum of 180 days, and replaced by Vice-President Michel Temer, who instead represents the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party.



If at the end of this possible six month process two-thirds of senators were to vote to impeach, then Dilma Rousseff would be out of office permanently.

The effect this could have on a country gripped both by an economic recession and the possibility of an 'explosive pandemic' in the form of the Zika virus remains to be seen.

Ben Howkins

# A TAXING PROPOSAL

Just over one year ago, German newspaper, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, was contacted by an anonymous source, with information on Panama based law firm Mossack Fonseca. Over the following year, the newspaper received over 11.5 million documents concerning the law firm and its business dealings.

The documents, now known as the 'Panama Papers', were concerned with offshore shell companies that were set up to hide many high-ranking figures' business dealings. But what is a shell company?

A 'shell' company is a company that is set up as a front for a person or organisation that wishes to hide their identity. While setting up a shell company isn't illegal, questions have been raised over what these companies were being used for.

An offshore company is one that is set up in a foreign country. This is typically to lessen the taxes that the specific company pays, as other countries may have lower tax rates.

Shell companies in some cases are used to protect trade secrets. For example, if company A wanted to invest in company B without others

finding out, they could hide their investments in a shell company. Another legitimate use for a shell company is hiding personal secrets, in the case where if information were to be leaked, people could be in serious danger.

However, shell companies can also be used for illegal activities; such as evading taxes, bribing officials or even financing terrorism. Shell companies can be set up in places with very low tax rates, to minimise the money that the people who own it have to pay. Another use for the offshore companies, detailed in the papers, is bribing officials to look favourably upon certain individuals and companies' views.



There were many high ranking officials named in the papers such as Sigmundur Davíð

Gunnlaugsson, the Prime Minister of Iceland. After the papers leaked, there was significant outrage in the country, and many residents took to the streets and called for his resignation. As of 7th April he is on leave from his position.

Another significant finding from the Panama Papers scandal was that Ian Cameron, father to current UK Prime Minister David Cameron, had offshore trust funds. There are concerns that the PM would've benefitted from these funds, which ordinary British people feel is wrong.

There have been calls for him to resign from his position, though this is unlikely as it is difficult to distinguish whether any of this behaviour is illegal.

The sheer amount of data means this story will continue to unfold for months to come, and the newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* enlisted the help of the International Consortium for Investigative Journalism (ICIJ). Together they plan on releasing a list of all the companies involved in this leak in early May.

Sam Wincott

# A NEW CHAPTER

Clyst Vale's library has recently undertaken some changes to the layout, courtesy of librarian, Sarah Foulds. The library is not only host to many books containing magical worlds and interesting information, but also enriches the lives of members of the wider community.

Changes to the library included improving the layout to maximise space, allocating an area for the public and the children's stories, and a sixth form area for post sixteen students to study. Although primarily being the school's library, it is also open to members of the public. Making the library more accessible to all users, whilst retaining the special qualities it has, was an important part of the revamping process to the librarian. Taking time out of her busy schedule reorganising all the books, Miss Foulds talks to us about the recent changes to the library.



**Q:** What inspired you to renovate the library?

**A:** I wanted to create a space that was inclusive and welcomed whilst providing lots of different facilities and services to different users. I envisioned this as a multi-functioning space providing areas for the public, from small tots up to the older members of the community, sixth formers wanting to study, students wanting to read, play board games and use the computers, as well as providing space for library and research lessons and facilitating students (and occasionally staff) who want to have some quiet reflective time. With so many different needs to accommodate, I felt that the layout could be improved to better suit the needs of its users.

**Q:** What is your favourite addition or change you have made to the library?

**A:** Can I have two favourites? First, the new student fiction area. Since starting at Clyst Vale a year ago, I have noticed that there was not a lot of space dedicated to fiction books, and that both students and staff (including me) struggled to find books they were looking for on the display spinners. Because of the lack of space I was often forced to get rid of books as there was nowhere to shelve them. The new fiction area is a bright and open space, with plenty of comfy seating, and most importantly, the books have been shelved alphabetically by surname, which

makes finding books a lot easier and means that series of books can be shelved together. It is a lot more organised this way.



Second, I love the new sixth form study room. I remember from my own days as a sixth former that common rooms are not always quiet and contemplative areas for studying! I wanted to provide an area exclusively for post sixteen students to use. There is a school computer and a public computer in this area, along with some comfy seating and a work table. I plan to approach all the teaching departments for sixth form resources, including text books, past papers and other supplementary materials so that I can provide relevant reference and loanable stock for the sixth form space. Already, it is being used as an effective quiet study area, which is great.

**Q:** Was there any particular change that was hard to make, or did you welcome the transformation?

**A:** I completely welcomed the changes and, although there is still a lot of work to do, I am utterly delighted with the transformation. I would like to impress upon everyone how grateful I am for the hard work of the maintenance team – the standard of work they have achieved here is fantastic.



**Q:** Were there any changes you wished to make that you were unable to, or have not implemented yet?

**A:** I still have grand plans for the library, most importantly, to replace the carpet and put in new ceiling tiles and lights – but that will re-

quire serious amounts of cash, so they will have to wait for a bit. But I am planning to implement a few more changes, including some new library signs and a new external bag store.

**Q:** Was there anything you wanted to preserve in the library?

**A:** The friendly atmosphere and the fantastic standard of stock.

**Q:** Clyst Vale's library is important, both to the school and the wider community. Do you think that the special nature of the library impacted the changes and additions you made?

**A:** It was the reason for making all the changes in the first place. I particularly wanted a light and bright space accessible for the public and very importantly a dedicated space for young families to enjoy. I am delighted with the new children's area and plan to hold rhymetime sessions fortnightly to encourage parents and grandparents to bring their tots in for rhymes, stories and craft activities.



**Q:** What is the most special aspect of the library in your opinion?

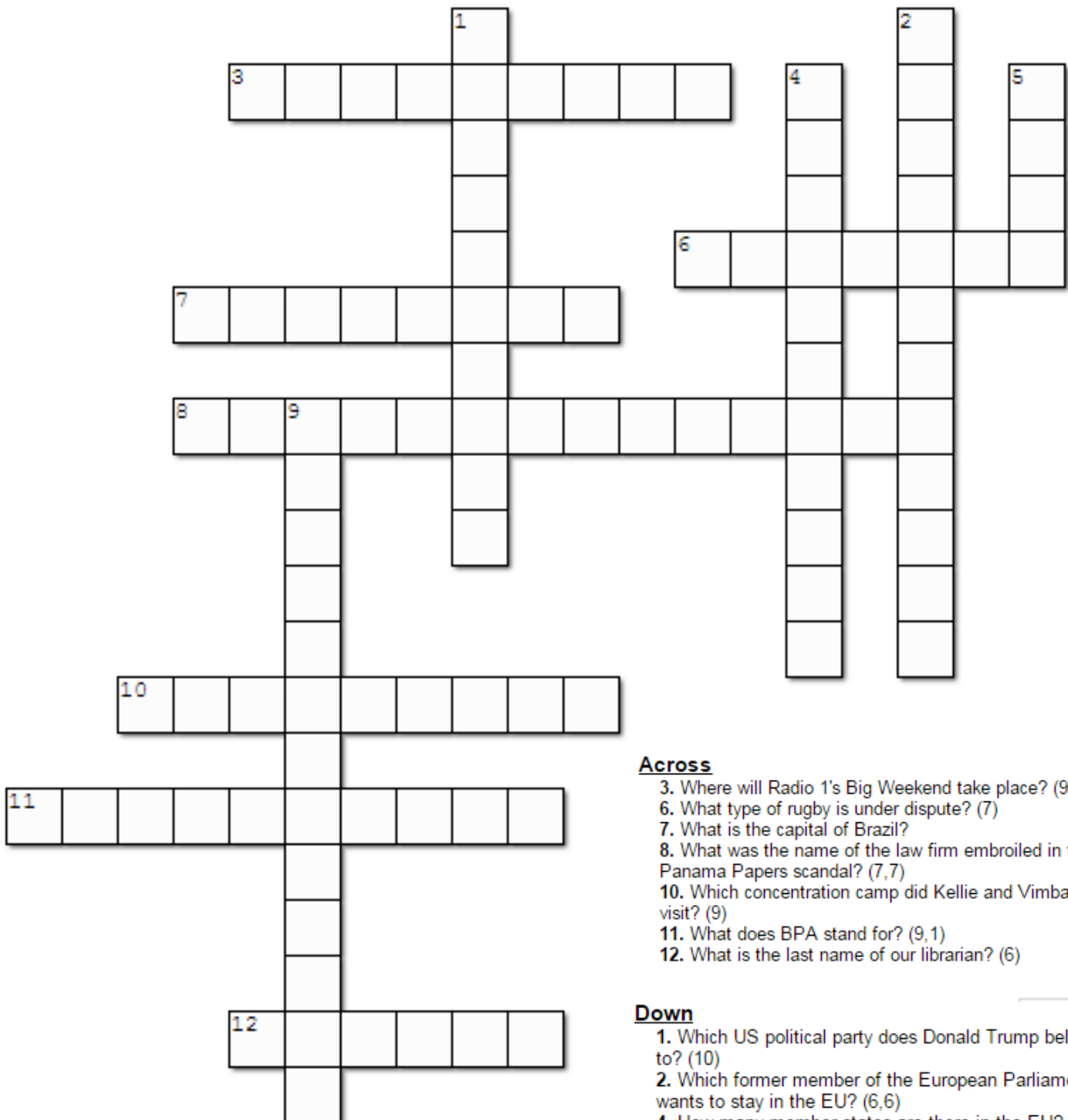
**A:** The users! The students and staff and the general public make the library what it is and it is a fantastic place to work.

On behalf of Clyst Vale and the wider community that the library serves, we would like to thank Miss Foulds for not only answering these questions, but also for organising the fantastic renovations of the library. We hope the library continues to be a special place, both to work and for its users.

Beth Collins

# What Have You Learnt?

Complete the crossword below with facts from this month's articles.



## Across

3. Where will Radio 1's Big Weekend take place? (9)
6. What type of rugby is under dispute? (7)
7. What is the capital of Brazil?
8. What was the name of the law firm embroiled in the Panama Papers scandal? (7,7)
10. Which concentration camp did Kellie and Vimbai visit? (9)
11. What does BPA stand for? (9,1)
12. What is the last name of our librarian? (6)

## Down

1. Which US political party does Donald Trump belong to? (10)
2. Which former member of the European Parliament wants to stay in the EU? (6,6)
4. How many member states are there in the EU? (6,5)
5. Which charity collected donations for refugees on Amnesty Day? (4)
9. Which BBC Spotlight presenter helped the school reporters this year? (5,8)

**Answers for March 2016.** Horizontal: 5. Train, 6. BMA, 7. Saudi Arabia, 9. Ireland, 10. Winton. Vertical: 1. Chris Martin, 2. Hadi, 3. Checkmate, 4. Brussels, 8. Bronze.