

Westbourne Word

EDITION #17

Westbourne's student-led newspaper



Westbourne

Independent Co-educational School 4-16

Articles in this edition include:
What is Natural History?, The Tale of Timothy Dexter, How to hold a spooky Halloween party and lots more!

Also included in this edition are some of the best poems from our National Poetry Day workshop!

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Editors' Note

Hello and welcome to another edition of the Westbourne Word! As the autumn term falls upon us we are preparing for the year we have ahead. Whether you are stressing about exams or you have just joined us, the Westbourne Word is back to supply a range of exciting new articles.

We would love for more people to join, especially from Y9 and Y10!

Until next edition from Elena Larkin, Bethany Rowson, Sam Kasher, Leila Young, Ayaan Ahmad and our new film critic, Harry Carter :)

The tale of Timothy Dexter, the luckiest idiot in history - By Sam Kasher



Timothy Dexter was born on the 22nd of January, 1747 in Malden, Massachusetts. He dropped out of school in 2nd grade to work as a farmhand at his family's farm, but always thought he deserved better. So in 1769, he married Elizabeth Frothingham, a wealthy old widow in need of company. Now begins the part where you start to see how much of an idiot he was. Since every other rich person he knew was in a position of power, he decided to run for office. However, he was rejected, because they didn't want a bumbling idiot in a position of power. But get this: he sent in so many application letters, that they eventually caved in and made up a random job just for him. He became Malden's new "Informer of Deer". It was his job to record every deer, buck and doe in the county, and after countless days of hard work, he came to the same conclusion everyone else had: there were no deer in Malden Massachusetts.



At this point you're probably wondering, "How did this guy make any money at all?" And the answer to that question is simple: dumb luck. In 1776, due to America's growing independence from the British Empire, they made their own currency, the Continental Dollar. But once the American revolution started, the value of these dollars dropped by a very large amount due to the government printing far too much of it. Its value dropped to less than it was worth in paper and ink and the majority of America's military was paid with this currency. So once the war ended, and America had won its independence, the rich took pity on the soldiers that had tons of this worthless currency and bought it off them for pennies. Dexter saw all his rich associates doing this and decided he wanted in. He bought thousands of continental dollars, using up the majority of his savings. This should have bankrupted him, but by sheer luck, the government started trading the old dollar for the new one, with 100 of the old ones being worth 1 of the new ones. And Dexter bought thousands of them! After he had done all his buybacks across the country, he had made an absolute killing.

However, this also made him a few enemies, not that he knew it! His fellow rich people didn't like how he had made his money, and gave him purposefully poor investment advice to try and bankrupt him. One thing they told him was to "ship bed warmers to the Caribbean". Now, for those of you born past 1850, bed warmers are pans with a long handle that you put hot coals in to warm up your bed; not very useful in a tropical climate! But Dexter, ignoring all logic, shipped over 40,000 of them to the Caribbean. However, the locals didn't know what the warmers were when they arrived, so they used them as stirring ladles for vats of molasses that were being made there at the time. As a result, Dexter was able to sell all 40,000+ of the bed warmers and made a lot of money.



A bed warmer ^

Another thing Dexter's associates told him to do was to literally "carry coal to Newcastle", which was an idiom back then for a useless task, since Newcastle was one of the biggest coal manufacturers in the world. But, when Dexter's coal shipment arrived, all the Newcastle coal miners were on strike! And he made another gigantic profit by sheer dumb luck. Other examples of profit through dumb luck include; buying tons of whale bones just before the demand went up due to men starting to wear corsets in France and shipping a bunch of stray cats to the Caribbean that were bought up very fast to deal with the new rat problem. Now, at this point in my research, I was beginning to think, "Is this guy actually a misunderstood genius?" Then I found out about his life outside of business and found this was most certainly not the case. When he was nearing his death, he wrote 2 memoirs, called "A pickle for the knowing ones" Yes, that is the actual name. Both of them were written in a very certain style: random capitalisation, no grammar, no punctuation and the worst spelling I have ever seen. (A reminder that he was a 2nd grade dropout.)!



IME the first Lord in the younited States
of A mercary Now of Newburyport it is the
voise of the peopel and I cant Help it and
so Let it goue Now as I must be Lord there
will foller many more Lords pretty sounne
for it Dont hurt A Cat Nor the mouse Nor
the son Nor the water Nor the Eare then
goue on all is Easey Now bons broaken all
is well all in Love Now I be gin to Lay
the corner ston and the kee ston with grat
Remembrence of my father Jorge Washing-
ton the grate herow 17 sentreys past before
we found so good a father to his shildren
and Now gone to Rest Now to shoue my
Love to my father and grate Caricters I

Above is an extract from one of his books. I would provide a translation, but I don't hate myself enough to even try to decipher this gibberish. However, his luck continued and the books still sold like hot cakes.

Soue in Kunklushun Timothy Degster wasnut A Geenyus but a Vury Looky ideeot Prubublee thee lookyest In aal Oof heestoury

(Translation of the gobbledygook above: So in conclusion, Timothy Dexter wasn't a genius, but a very lucky idiot, probably the luckiest idiot in all of history!)

Tricks for a Treat of a Halloween party

The leaves are falling, the nights are growing darker, and the most spine-tingling day of the year is right around the corner—Halloween! If you're looking to host a Halloween party that will have your classmates talking for weeks, you've come to the right place. With creativity, planning, and spookiness, you can throw the greatest Halloween party. In this guide, I will take you through the essential steps to ensure your Halloween party provides a hauntingly good time.

First, you need to pick a date and location that works for you and your friends. Whether it's on Halloween night or a weekend close, make sure everyone can attend. Your location could be your home, a friend's house, or another venue. Just ensure it's accessible and safe for all.

Themes add a whole new level of excitement to your party. Consider themes like : Haunted Mansion, Classic Horror Movies or a glow-in-the-dark gathering. The theme will guide your decorations, games, and even costume choices.



Now comes the fun part—decorating! Transform your space into a spooky wonderland with cobwebs, fake spiders, carved pumpkins, and eerie lighting. Use your theme as a guide.

Plan some Halloween-themed games and activities to keep your guests entertained. Here are a few ideas:

- Bobbing apples
- Pumpkin decorating contest
- Scavenger hunt with clues leading to Halloween treats
- Mummy wrap race
- Costume contest



Music sets the mood, so create a playlist with hauntingly good tunes. Mix in creepy sound effects, classic Halloween hits, and some dance-worthy tracks. Don't forget to dim the lights for an extra eerie atmosphere.



No party is complete without tasty treats. Prepare a Halloween-themed menu with goodies like Witches Brew (juice with dry ice for a smoky effect), Monster Eyeballs (boiled eggs with olive pupils), and Cobweb Cupcakes (chocolate cupcakes with melted marshmallow stringed on the top).

With these tips, you're well on your way to hosting a Halloween party that will be the talk of the school. Remember, Halloween is all about fun and imagination, so let your creativity run wild. Have a blast planning your party, and when the big day arrives, enjoy the eerie ambience, the fantastic costumes, and the spooktacular memories you'll make with your friends. Happy haunting, everyone!

The Natural Wonders of Natural History - Leila Young & Bethany Rowson

This year our old DT room has been wiped clean and replaced with a dazzling new learning space: the natural history room. We recently talked with Dr Twitty about the questions we had to give us a more in depth view of what natural history is. This article will give further insight into our discoveries.



So, what is natural history, and why is it an important subject to learn about?

Natural history focuses on the natural changes through the environment, as well as human interventions and discoveries. Things like the evolution of plants and other organisms, as well as rocks, will be featured; the environments

they live in, the problems they face and their behaviours with the holistic world around them. 50 years ago, children would've spent a lot of time exploring the natural world around them, whereas now research has found that children as young as 3 can easily name corporate logos but when it comes to naming trees and birds, they noticeably struggle. This is especially evident in teenagers.

Similarities + Differences

The two subjects that have most in common with natural history would be geography and biology. However, biology is now becoming more and more lab based, to do with genetics and the human body. There is very little focus on plants and animals, and this is where natural history comes in. It is a subject that focuses on case studies and more specifically on our local surroundings, rather than the geographical landscapes and formations, which is taught with more detail, in geography. Natural history helps students discover discovers wildlife and ecosystems, with a plentiful amount of outdoor engagement.



When interviewing Dr Twitty, she explained her fascination:

Whilst at Westbourne, she has always taught biology, which though fascinating, does not investigate the environment as much as human anatomy. Therefore, she never really got the opportunity to delve into the environmental part of biology and so when the opportunity arose to learn to teach natural history, she took it.

Trips

Throughout this first half term of natural history, students in Y7&8 have been to Edale, to experience field study work. They have been using quadrats to calculate the population sizes of different plants. They explore areas which have been grazed, and land which has been left for 25 years, to observe the difference in the environment, when it is left to its own devices.

In conclusion, there are multiple purposes of the new subject, Natural History, which will make a difference. One way it will have an impact is by helping pupils to understand the world and the impact they have on the environment. In addition, it can lead to a growth in careers about the economy and

environment, as well as development in multiple skills: observation, description, analysis and field study. So, there are useful impacts from this subject. Whilst it can increase the understanding of climate change and other environmental issues, multiple techniques are also developed by students which can be useful in other lessons and many careers.



Take Refuge... in a Poem! *By Ayaan Ahmad*

National Poetry Day is the annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October that encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry with family and friends. Each year people come together with their own voices, words and stories to help to bridge understanding in our community. National Poetry Day generates countless activities nationwide and thousands of incredible events take place across the UK every year. In homes, schools, libraries and public spaces, both online and offline, many people are all celebrating poetry's power to bring people together. The day starts conversations, it encourages a love of language and, best of all, it's open to everyone to join in in any way they want. Every year, they aim to showcase the ways in which poetry adds value to society and inspire others to start writing too. This year, National Poetry Day was on Thursday 5 October 2023 and its theme was Refuge.

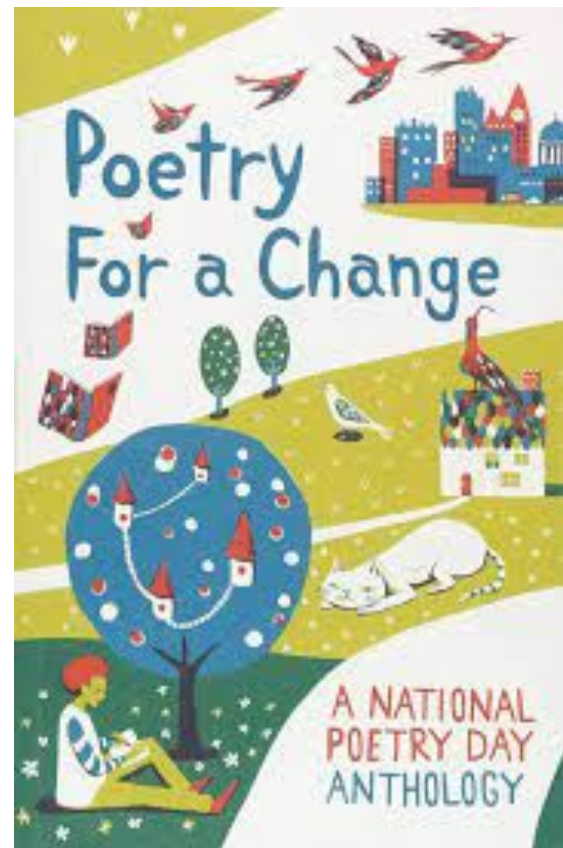


How did it start?

National Poetry Day was founded in 1994 by the charity Forward Arts Foundation, whose mission is to celebrate excellence in poetry and increase its audience. The day has the support of the BBC, Arts Council England and leading literary and cultural organisations, as well many booksellers, publishers, libraries and schools.

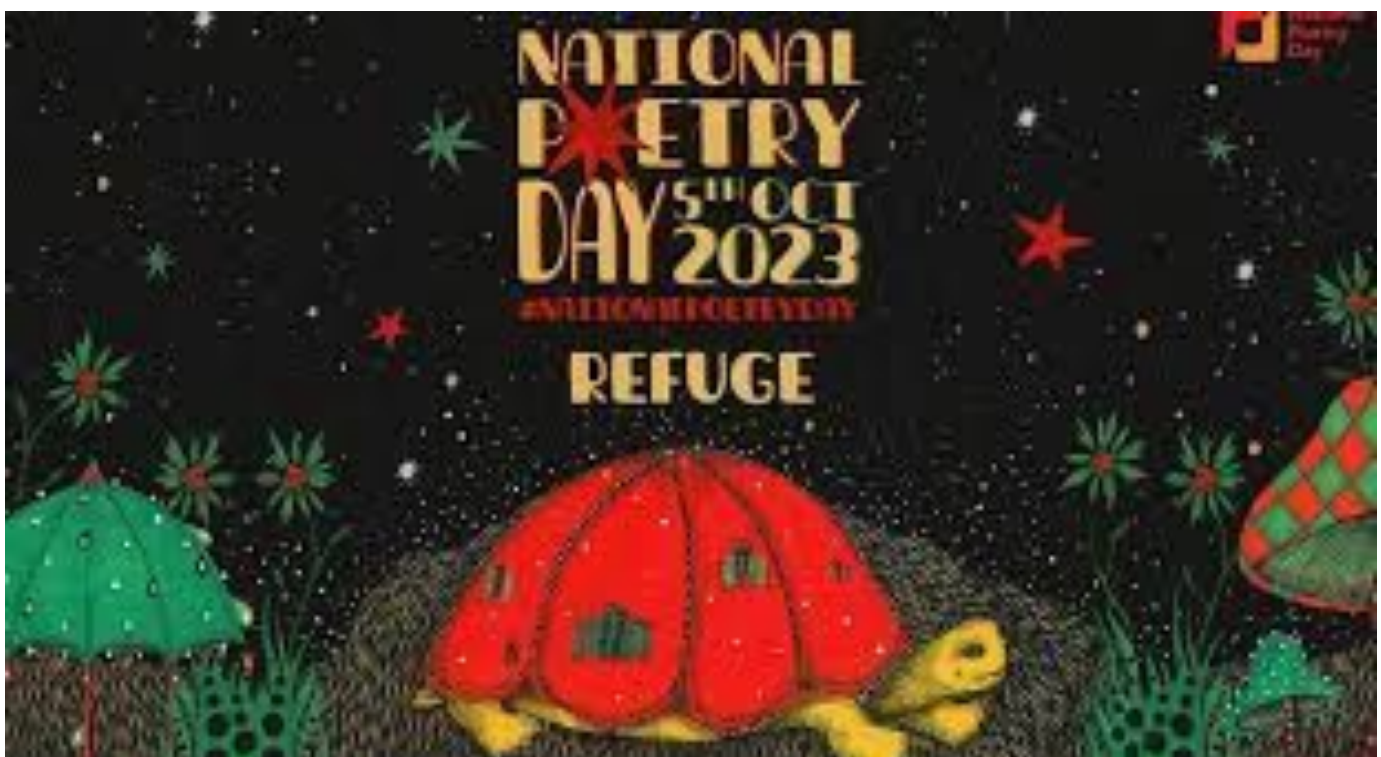
Why do we need National Poetry Day?

- 6.5% of children said that writing poetry made them feel better during lockdown
- 54% of children have said they do not currently engage with poetry- The National Literacy Trust.
- 2.3 million people connected through Project #Haiflu which generated thousands of moving haiku poems on the Coronavirus Lockdown
- Poetry is an important vehicle to explore individual identity and the identity of others - CLPE The Power of Poetry.
- Poetry is the most common way for secondary students to encounter a Black, Asian or other minority ethnic author
- Poetry is easy to insert into the curriculum



Why is the theme 'Refuge' for this year?

Many associate the word 'refuge' with a shelter to protect them from a storm or another country to live in when escaping from a warzone. However, refuge can also be simply an escape from the troubles of life such as reading a book or a hug from someone you love. It is the theme for this year because National Poetry Day wants everyone to find refuge in poetry and each other. Reading anything can be an escape but in a poem, every small space and silence matters. That slowing down can be crucial and can provide light, guidance and clarity in lifelong ways. In addition, writing poetry empowers people to find refuge in their own creative processes and can help them to verbalise their thoughts, feelings and hopes in their own special way. Finally, this year's theme is an opportunity for people to connect with one another and the world around them. *By Ayaan Ahmad*



How can you celebrate and support National Poetry Day?

- Read a poem - try and understand any deeper meanings it has and whether they can teach you something new or make you think about something you thought you knew differently
- Share a poem - share your experiences with family and friends and help them to try something new
- Write a poem - there are no wrong answers when it comes to poetry and you can share a piece of you with the world that others can enjoy too
- Create an event - you can inspire many people to learn more about and enjoy poetry and it is completely free (talk to a teacher about it first if you want to do something in school)
- Check out their website for support and ideas at <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk>



National Poetry Day - Yr 8 Poetry Workshop

In their English lessons this year, students took part in a poetry writing workshop on the theme of “Refuge” to celebrate National Poetry Day. Here’s a selection of some of the best poems from the day - enjoy!

REFUGE by Betty Zhou and Chloe He

My bedroom is my perfect place,
The king size bed is my space,
And when I close my door
It is like I am in my own world.
The bright lamp shone in my room,
It is like I am on top of the sun.
I drink the hot chocolate next to me,
I feel the warmth travel through my body
The warm breeze that flows through the door
Touches me like there is another person beside me.
At last, I read a book to keep my mind off things,
Like I am in a dream with interesting characters.



My Refuge by Misk Al-Tamimi

*My favourite cook,
My cafe buddy,
My shopping partner,
My refuge,
My mum.*



*When I think of my Paradise,
I think of her,
After all she has done,
Keeping her family happy,
After all she has been through,
Keeping her parents healthy,
And I wish I could do the same,
As you did one day,
So until that day,
You will stay my refuge,
And I will do the same for you.
For my refuge,
My Mama.*



Families by *Mohammed Hashim and Zach Cattley*

Families.

They're mean and terrible.

They're rude and horrible

So don't tell me,

They're not your foe

Because you clearly don't know,

They're evil and bossy

They're Chaotic and fussy

I won't believe you if you say

You're not their prey

That You really need them

They're part of your stem.

Families are the most important things.

Now read it backwards!



A World of 64 Squares *By Stelios Oikonomou, Y8*

Life is full of mistakes
Some minor, some major
And there are consequences
Either positive, negative or neutral.
However, the trouble with life is
When a mistake is made you,
Can't ask to undo it.
It's not always our fault.
Sometimes you're cornered,
Sometimes the clock runs out,
Sometimes you see your outcome,
And sometimes it's just out of your
reach.

So when life hit me hard
I can seek solace and comfort
In a World of 64 Squares.
Here I can undo my mistakes,
See and change my consequences
And here, I'm always in control.
Here, my life can progress:
One step at a time/ slow, steady,
Methodical;
With the rules slightly bent
With an unorthodox stride;
Confidently advancing two steps;
As many distances as I wish to achieve
With a side-step and a backwards stroll
For a break;
With infinite possibilities or,
A small, significant step.
And when I'm ready
To re-enter life
I smile, confront my pain,
And say,



My Greatest Refuge by Muneeba Qureshi



My light at the end of the tunnel

Your smile lights up my world

Remembering your hand in mine shifts the clouds above

Eternally I will know you're looking down at me

Fiction or reality you'll always strike my eye

Under the moonlit sky you're the brightest star I have recognised.

Greatest soul I have set my eyes upon.

Everyone will see the admirable dignity inside you

I wish I could see you more

I love you more than you know

For you are my refuge,

Zunairah



My Refuge by Alexandria Eyles

Every time I leave to go to school,
Every time I open the door,
They are always both sat there, staring up at me.
They are my safety and my home.

As they both brush past me
I can feel their love and care
And as I sit down on the sofa
They jump up and sit on me.
They buzz and purr and sometimes scratch me
But I know they always love me.

My cats are what I feel most safe around,
They both look after me wherever I am.
This is my paradise that I live in,
They are my safety and my home.



Carter's Guide To The Classics

“The Outsiders” Review

Director/co-screenwriter Francis Ford Coppola and co-screenwriter/author S.E. Hinton present this action-packed coming-of-age crime drama film. Few people have seen this film released in February 1983. However, it is an absolute classic, not to be missed. The book on which it was based, written by Hinton and published in 1967, was inspired by her frustration with class division. She began writing it at the age of 15. Many of the cast went on to be major stars in Hollywood films, including Patrick Swayze (Darrell Curtis), Tom Cruise (Steve Randle), Rob Lowe (Sodapop Curtis) and Ralph Macchio (Johnny Cade).



PG



The main protagonist, 14 year old Ponyboy Curtis is a part of a lower-class group of youths living in Tulsa, Oklahoma who call themselves “Greasers” because of their greasy long hair. The Greasers’ rivals, the Socs, are the upper-class youths from the West side of town who cruise around in their flash cars and beat up Greasers for fun. These rival gangs have several encounters, but one night things are taken too far costing lives...

The film is a cinematic masterpiece. The acting and character development throughout is incredible. Amongst the heroic outsiders, a strong bond is formed between the gang. They are all without adult support, but all have each other’s backs. Each character is unique and has their own complex backstory. Considering that the film was made in the early 80s, the mise-en-scene and the non-diegetic soundtrack are iconically classic.

Take a look at the trailer and see for yourself, but don't judge a film by its trailer. If you watch the full film, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

[The Outsiders - Official Trailer 4K | Patrick Swayze, Tom Cruise, Matt Dillion, & Ralph Macchio](#)

Anagrams!

By Leila Young

Try to see if you can work out these tricky anagrams! Good luck! Check the answers at the end!

Mirven Tenton

Kupminps

Edomthy Iterxt

Slasccsi

Dropte yay

Cotebor

Minatecic

Ugfere

Royanlit Urlasht

Estowunrbe



Answers



Environment

Pumpkins

Timothy Dexter

Classics

Poetry day

October

Cinematic

Refuge

Natural History

Westbourne



Advertisements



MUSICIANS WANTED!!!



Do you play a musical instrument?

We'd love for you to...

JOIN ORCHESTRA

Year 7-8 Book club

Year 9-11 HAPS Book Group

If you have a passion for reading then you should contact either Miss Smith, or any of the librarian team and they will add you to the Google Classroom.

Writers for the Westbourne Word are always welcome! Just email or speak to Ms Smith and she will give you more information



Debate Club

Did you like arguing? Maybe plan to have a career in the future regarding persuasion, well this is the club for you! Contact Layla Clayton It is on Wednesdays in AG Hall - 1pm-1:25pm, be prepared for anything

The senior school choir is up and running again! If anyone is interested please get in touch with either Mr Collis or Mrs Pritchett!

Thinking of setting up a club?

Let us know and we can advertise your group in the Westbourne Word!

Photography Club

Join this club to take part in different art/model/photography challenges - Talk to Mr Farn if wanting to join!

Sheffield Lifesaving Club

Are you a strong swimmer? Keen to understand how to keep your family and friends safe in water? Interested in learning a skill to provide a social service, obtain a fun summer job? Or earn part of your D of E Award by investing some time one a week in? Then walk (or swim) this way! Sheffield Lifesaving Club is associated with the Royal Lifesaving Society and follows the RLSS's syllabus for Rookies' Bronze, Silver and Gold Modules. Some of this training takes place on land and some in the pool.



The Club is based at Graves Centre Pool and meets every Wednesday during term time at 19.40 for first aid training and then water based training from 20.00 until 21.00. It is £5.25 per session and you don't need to acquire any specialist equipment- just have swimwear, a thin t-shirt and shorts to swim in.



Anyone from 8 years old can join and if you want to learn more come and have a chat with either me (Heidi Shackleton) or Nell Lidster in Y11.

If you would like to understand a bit more also have a look at the website [link to website] and let one of us know if you want to come along one Wednesday evening and we will look out for you! The first couple of sessions are free!

By Heidi Shackleton

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Thank you for
reading this
edition of the
Westbourne Word!
See you next
time!!