

Arthur's Articles

CONTENTS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

China trip.....2

MEDIA REVIEWS

Book reviews.....3

SELF HELP & EMPOWERMENT

Agony Aunt.....4
'Bi The Way'....5/6

MISCELLANEOUS

Self care.....7
Student quiz.....8
Easter.....9/10/11

Hi everyone - we hope you all had a great half term! Welcome back to Arthur's Articles.

In this 4th instalment you can expect to find a wide variety of quizzes, tips, and articles written by our astounding writers for your enjoyment:

China trip: find out what this beautiful country has to offer.

Book reviews: ideas to fill out your 2019 reading list.

Agony Aunt: solving queries and answering your questions confidentially.

"Bi the way": LGBTQ+ education, advice and fun.

Self care during the exam season: how to stay calm and healthy during this stressful time.

What student are you?: an insight into your true learning style.

'Easter Special' article: for anyone who's ever wondered where our traditions come from, or which chocolate egg is truly the best!

In other news, well done to everyone who did EPQ recently. They all looked great!

As always, if there is anything you want to see in this, don't hesitate to speak to the team or Mrs Gilbert to suggest your ideas!



China Trip



BEIJING

On day one we arrived at Beijing international airport after 24 hours of travelling. Our first destination was the Temple of Heaven which is an ancient and historic tourist location. Here we experienced snow and freezing temperatures of -7 degrees. On our second day of exploring Beijing we visited the iconic location of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden city. Later that day we visited the Hutongs and visited a local family for lunch which was a fantastic cultural experience. After this we experienced a Rickshaw Ride around the beautiful sights of Beijing, and later in the evening we watched The Flying Acrobatics Show at Chaoyang Theatre. On our third day we were able to visit one of the seven wonders of the world, The Great Wall of China which for most was a highlight of the whole trip. This was then followed by a visit to the Sacred Road to end our time in Beijing.

SHANGHAI

We departed Beijing on our fourth day and went on the Bullet Train to Shanghai. Upon arriving we visited the Bund area and we also got to visit the Oriental Pearl TV Tower where we reached heights of 351 meters. The next day we visited the stunning Yuyuan Garden and the Old City. After this we were able to visit a cultural market which was followed by an evening cruise on the Huangpu River. On our final day we visited Shanghai Disneyland for a full day and were able to watch the magical fireworks.



Book Review



Book/Series: Demon Road

Author: Derek Landy

Rating: 7/10

My thoughts:

This is an incredible book filled with fast-paced action and loveable characters. If you're a fan of the supernatural, blood, guts and the occasional well-placed humour, or even if you're just a fan of all things Landy, I definitely recommend this book to anyone who's interested. The premise may be ever so slightly cliché with the main character finding out that she's a demon after reaching the long awaited age of 16 but it's still a book that is intriguing and well written the whole way through. With cars that eat people, cannibal parents, Glen the Idiot and a whole host of bad omens out to get the main character, this book is definitely jam packed with interesting plot devices and characters that will have you on the very edge of your seat, awaiting the end of the drama in the main character's life. This is definitely worth a read, and a book I myself hope to reread and add to my collection.



THE HUNGER GAMES
COMPLETE TRILOGY
SUZANNE COLLINS

Book/Series: The Hunger Games

Author: Suzanne Collins

Rating: 7/10

My thoughts:

Many will have watched the films but this is a wonderfully crafted book series that had me on an emotional roller coaster the whole way through the book and I absolutely adored it. I definitely recommend to any fans of the Hunger Games, or just anyone in general who's interested in this sort of book. Between the death and romance, this is at times a heart wrenching tale that really made the characters loveable or hateable in their respective sides of the story, The Capitol painted in all their dystopian glory, and Katniss in her perseverance to fight to protect those she loves most.

Agony Aunt



Auntie Anne's Advice

For all your agonies <3

Dear Arthur Mellows,

How do we cope with our families' dysfunctions? That's the question brought up by someone who wishes their family doesn't fight and that they would love each other like a "normal" family.

Firstly there is no way to define "normal"; whether you're in a nuclear family unit or not, every family has their issues - I'm afraid life isn't that simple. As for the fighting, a relationship can come into strenuous times especially when they share responsibilities like a house and family. However, this doesn't mean that they don't love each other. Love is subjective but fighting is most definitely objective. Your family may just be struggling to find a solution to opposing views, regardless of how they feel about each other.

If their fighting is really starting to trouble you though, don't be afraid to confront them. Tell them how the arguing is bothering you and remind them that no matter the issue, they should be conscious not to throw you or any siblings in the middle of it. Remember that you are their priority and they love you very much.

Lots of love,

Auntie Anne xox

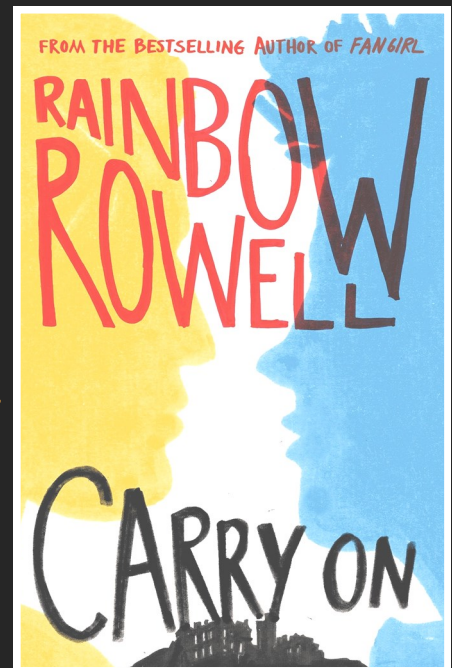
‘Bi The Way’



Hello everyone, welcome to another instalment of Bi the Way. This week's issue is on book descriptions.

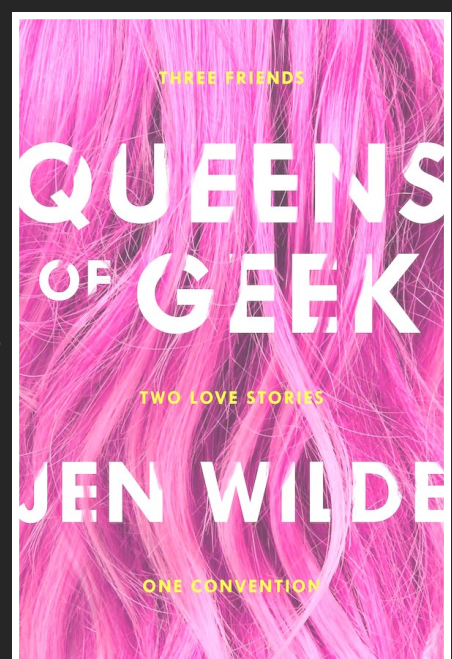
Carry on by Rainbow Rowell:

Simon Snow just wants to relax and savour his last year at the Watford School of Magicks, but no one will let him. His girlfriend broke up with him, his best friend is a pest and his mentor keeps trying to hide him away in the mountains where maybe he'll be safe. Simon can't stop worrying about the evil git. Plus, there are ghosts. And vampires. And actual evil things trying to shut Simon down. When you're the most powerful magician the world has ever known, you never get to relax and savour anything.



Queens Of Geek by Jen Wilde:

Charlie likes to stand out. She's a vlogger and actress promoting her first movie at SupaCon, and this is her chance to show fans she's over her public breakup with co-star Reese Ryan. When internet famous cool girl actress Alyssa Huntington arrives as a surprise guest, it seems Charlie's long-time crush on her isn't as one-sided as she thought. Taylor likes to blend in. Her brain is wired differently, making her fear change. And there's one thing in her life she knows will never change: her friendship with her best guy friend, no matter how much she may secretly want it to. But when she hears about a fan contest for her favourite fandom, she starts to rethink her rules on playing it safe.



‘Bi The Way’



Homophobia and transphobia

According to the Oxford dictionary, the mass noun homophobia is the dislike of, or prejudice against homosexual people. As well as this, Transphobia is the dislike of or prejudice against transgender people. There are many other terms for hate against the LGBT+, such as: biphobia, bi erasure and a plethora of others. Using these definitions, we can simplify them to negative behaviour against LGBT+ people.

Whether it is something you accidentally say or purposefully do, an act of homophobia or transphobia is never okay. The problem is like racism and misogyny; it is a suppression of a group of people. Just like the old saying goes: ‘If you have nothing to say, don’t say anything at all’. These issues are so pressing as they are causing not only homelessness in young adults and teens, but also physical abuse and sometimes acts of murder or suicide.

It is extremely detrimental to people’s mental health and contributes to mental health issues especially in extreme cases or cases of bullying. Your sexuality, gender expression and gender identity are all personal things that cannot be changed, should not be judged by others. Everyone is unique and should be treated with respect.

Homophobia is also something that people have grown up around so it will stick with them throughout their life, however this can be changed as people can become more accepting. There is also something known as generational homophobia. This is since, recently in our own society, being LGBT+ was still considered criminal.

However, this is changing and more importantly can change. People from the older generations are becoming more accepting which is an amazing push forwards to LGBT+ equality. We may not be where we want to be, but we are getting closer.

LGBT School news:

This school has been awarded with the ‘Rainbow flag award’ by The kite trust. The Kite Trust partnered with organisations (like The Proud Trust in Manchester, Allsorts in Sussex and DISC in the North East) to run a project under the Government Equalities Office, via the Department for Education. The award shows that Arthur Mellows can effectively combat and prevent homophobic, biphobic and transphobic (HBT) bullying. It also encourages a whole school approach in order to help tackle HBT bullying and promote LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans) inclusion. It is leaps and bounds forward with the LGBT equality movement which is fantastic. It shows that our school is a LGBTQ+ friendly space allowing pupils to be who they are.



Self Care



Self care during exam season

Although it may seem far away, exam season is fast approaching. It's a stressful time and often people get stressed and snappy so here are tips on how to survive the exam season.

1) Manage your time well

For every half hour that you work, it's ideal to take a 5-10-minute break. Be cautious not to go over the time limit. Don't dedicate every day to studying either - make sure to take some time to be social and look after yourself. Strive to start revising now instead of the week before your exam.

2) Avoid distractions

If you get distracted easily but want to listen to music when you're revising then you can turn off notifications. iPhones have a 'do not disturb' feature which allows you to mute notifications and then turn them back on again when you're ready. It will still let certain people contact you if you allow it. It's ideal to study in a quiet and clean room so that you don't find your mind wandering. It should also be noted that if you are listening to music, try to use music without lyrics, as this can also provide a distraction.

3) Make sure to take care of your physical health

Don't let stress cause you to neglect your needs. Eat healthy foods and, although it may not be appealing to some, exercise. It's a good idea to always have a bottle of water on hand so that you don't have to keep moving around when you need to study. Try to sleep regularly and avoid all-nighters because they're worse for you in the long run.

4) Study what you need to work on, not what you're good at

It feels great when you know the content you need to know, but don't let the feeling of success overpower you. Although it's amazing to know what you're good at, it's necessary to work on what you're bad at. You'll feel extremely gratified when you finally triumph over a topic you couldn't do before.

5) Get help

If you're really struggling or something just doesn't make sense, ask your teacher. They're here to help! If you're worried about juggling homework and revision then talk to them; the two of you can work out a schedule that works for you. Look after your mental health - you'll work better when you're in a good mental state.

Remember that as long as you try your best, you'll be fine. If you're a perfectionist it can cause you to hesitate or avoid doing work. Don't worry about being perfect - it's better to hand in a bad essay than to not hand one in at all.

You'll do amazing!



Quizzes



Do you attend all of your classes and silents no matter what?

Yes

No

Would you go to a party if you had an early start the next day?

No

Yes

Have you ever been late to school because you wanted an extra couple minutes in bed?

Would you ever rush a piece of homework to go out earlier with friends?

Is it more important to spend your money on school equipment that you really need, or a ticket to see your fave band?

School stuff

Band, duh

You roll in from a night, its 3am, you realise you forgot to complete a piece of coursework that is due the same day. Do you stay up and complete it, or just leave it and sleep?

My coursework can't be that hard, I'll leave it for a week!

Always on time

Yeah

Quality is key

Of course

Complete

Sleep

Sooner the better

My motto

Do your friends refer to you as the 'sensible' one?

Is your idea of fun a night in with a book and a packet of sweets?

College is a good way to gain academic knowledge, like skills and good friends?

Although the holidays are times for parties, they will be spent working for the deadlines due when you are back at school, as well as socialising.

Life's wasted if you ain't getting wasted!

Yes

Perfect

No

Ew no

Yeah

Get it done!

It's a waste of time

Absolutely not

Party time!

Amen!

THE GEEKY ONE

Student life is all about the education to you. You came here for only one reason, to get A levels. That's the point of college, right?

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD

You like to work hard, play hard. Yes, you came here to gain A levels, but who said you couldn't have fun along the way?

WHAT A LEVELS?

You think the money you receive is your monthly booze money, what else would you spend it on? You're down for the ride and not the results.

Easter



Why do we celebrate Easter?

For Christians, Easter is associated with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ approximately 2,000 years ago.

Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected at the time of the Jewish Passover. Lent, a 40-day period that leads up to Easter Sunday, is a time of reflection that represents the 40 days that Jesus Christ had spent alone in the wilderness before beginning his ministry.

At this time, Christians believe that he had survived many temptations by the devil. The day before Lent starts, known as Fat Tuesday is a final celebration of fun and food before the fasting begins. The week before Easter is known as the Holy Week. It includes several important days, including Maundy Thursday, which commemorates the last supper, Good Friday, which honours the crucifixion day, and Holy Saturday, which is associated with the transition time between the crucifixion and resurrection.

Easter takes place on a Sunday, after the 40-day period called Lent. Lent is referred to as a time of fasting, but participants focus more on giving up one significant indulgence.

The Sunday immediately prior to Easter is called Palm Sunday, and it commemorates Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, when followers laid palm leaves across the road to greet him. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, which ends on Easter.

Eggs were dyed in ancient times by the Egyptians and Persians, who then exchanged them with friends. It was in Mesopotamia that Christians first gave eggs to their friends at Easter to remind them of the resurrection of Jesus.

On Easter Sunday, many children wake to find that the Easter Bunny has left them a basket of goodies, and that he has hidden eggs decorated earlier in the week.



Easter



Most popular Easter chocolate

With Easter only around the corner I am going to be discussing the most popular Easter chocolate in this article. I will be showing you what is worth spending your money on when it comes to purchasing gifts for your family and friends. According to the Independent, the best chocolate egg you can buy for someone is the Giant.

Belgian chocolate egg by Asda

This egg weighs 1kg and costs £10.00.

This chocolate egg has beaten many high end chocolate brands for their flavour. An article was written comparing this egg to another which costed £25.00. It beat the other egg, proving to people that a higher price doesn't mean better taste.



However, although we know what the so called 'best' Easter chocolate egg is, now lets look at the most popular Easter chocolate!



Lindt's white chocolate Easter egg

This egg has been rated the best of 2019! The egg is £8 at Asda. It beat the creamy white egg, along with 225 other egg entries!

Easter



After seeing what the most popular Easter egg is, we decided to research and find out what the most innovative egg of 2019 is!

The most innovative egg of 2019 in our opinion is 'Heston from Waitrose *The Chocolate Teapot*'. Inside this egg is coco nib 'tea leaves' which fit with the aesthetic of the tea pot shape. Then accompanying the egg there is crunchy 'sugar cube' truffles.

We think that this egg is the most innovative because it fits in with a specific theme instead of just being a chocolate egg with some added chocolate. It also has intriguing flavours which further fit with the theme.

However, although this egg may seem like the best out of the ones we have chosen, it is also the most expensive. It retails at £20.00!



Pictured on the left:

'Heston from Waitrose *The Chocolate Scotch Egg*'

(£6/110g)