

SPRING TERM ISSUE

AMVC

# SIXTH FORM NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024



## EDITOR'S NOTE

With the beginning of a new calendar year and the start of Spring, we are excited to offer you all a new edition of the AMVC Sixth Form newsletter, including exciting updates on school events, recipes to try at home over the Easter holiday and student-chosen book and film reviews.

As A-level exams approach, along with coursework deadlines, for all Sixth Form students, remember that it's important to take a rest over Easter, so that you can come back and start afresh.

Edited by Elian Pepper

## IN THIS EDITION...

PRACTICAL STUDY TIPS TO GET  
YOU THROUGH EXAM SEASON



THE BEST RECIPE FOR  
HOMEMADE BROWNIES



AND MORE INSIDE...

BOOK AND FILM RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

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## Practical study tips for exam season

Article by May Muneratti

**As we approach the last few months of school, we are all feeling the heavy weight of revision.** There are deadlines we need to meet, goals to complete and exams to revise for. Naturally, we put these off; we procrastinate and find ways to avoid revising. So, I've accumulated a few tips I personally use to prepare myself for important exams and assessments.



**Firstly, you should always go into revision with a healthy mind, to do this, you need to eat plenty of food.** What helps me revise is having food! Or even just a snack to balance my stress with something that makes me happy. This can easily be accomplished by buying yourself a sweet treat, which you can either have during your revision, or after as a reward. This can make you enjoy your revision as you have something to look forward to.

**If you're an audible learner, try to record yourself talking.** As you will be familiar with your own voice, you'll pay more attention because you understand yourself more- you will engage more as you'll subconsciously listen to the way you speak, absorbing the information more without you even knowing. It's an easy way of learning as you can multitask. Say if you walk your dog on a regular basis, putting in some headphones and listening back is very useful- not only are you educating yourself, you are also exercising.

**Lastly: friends.** Revising with friends can be so refreshing; you might be struggling with a certain topic that they know very well, to which they can then help you and vice versa. You can arrange picnics, go to a cafe, a restaurant or even cook something at home and revise at the dining table. Quizzing each other improves your quick thinking, it reassures you of your knowledge and can build your confidence, and, even if you get it wrong, at least you know what to work on.

***There are so many ways to prepare yourself for exams and assessments— you just need to try and enjoy the process, so that you don't overwhelm and put too much pressure on yourself.***

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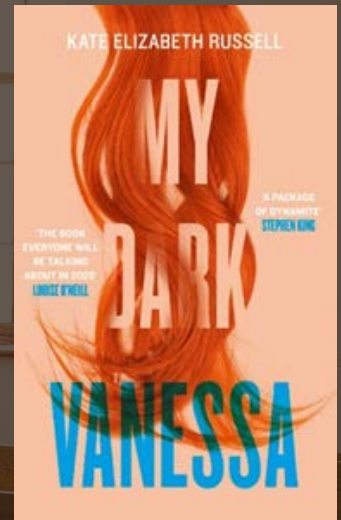
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## Book reviews

### MY DARK VANESSA

Article by Lily Outterside

Originally published in March of 2020 and being rated 5/5 on Waterstones, 4.1/5 on Goodreads and 4.3/5 on Amazon, author Kate Elizabeth Russell enables the reader to follow along and explore the psychological dynamics of the relationship between a precocious yet naïve teenage girl and her magnetic and manipulative teacher.



***A bright, ambitious fifteen-year-old Vanessa Wye who yearns for adulthood, suddenly becomes entangled in an affair with Jacob Strane, her magnetic and guileful forty-two-year-old English teacher.***

Strane has been accused of sexual abuse by a former student, who contacts Vanessa, now leaving Vanessa in a difficult situation: remain silent, firm in the belief that her teenage self was willingly engaged in the relationship or redefine herself and the events of her past. Vanessa finds herself unable to reject her first love, the man who has changed her and been a continuous presence in her life. Vanessa questions whether the man she loved as a teenager- and who professed to worship only her- may be far different from what she has always believed.

**With 'My Dark Vanessa' alternating between Vanessa's present and her past, this book juxtaposes memory and trauma with the excitement of a teenage girl discovering the power her own body can wield. Thought-provoking and impossible to put down, this creative portrayal of troubled adolescence and its consequences raises vital questions about agency, consent, complicity, and victimhood.**

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## Book reviews

PANENKA

Article by Elian Pepper

***“His name was Joseph, but for years they had called him Panenka, a name that was his sadness and his story.”***

This moving novel by Irish author Rónán Hession shows the day-to-day life of fifty-year-old ‘Panenka’, so named for the fateful incident in the past which would turn out to change the course of his life.



Filling Panenka’s life are a carefully-crafted cast of complex, but always relatable, characters, from the previously estranged daughter whose help he must now rely on, to his seven-year-old grandson and the regulars at the local pub, each dealing with their own problems and concerns.

Altogether, Hession creates a complete image of life’s ups and downs, dealing with themes of regret, shame, love and—most importantly—hope, amidst discussions around mortality and one individual’s experience with terminal illness. There is something to be learnt from this book for everybody who reads it, or at least some source of comfort found in the words of each of the characters.

Based in Dublin, Hession first started off as a blues musician in 2003, known under the name of Mumblin’ Deaf Ro, before releasing his debut novel in 2019: ‘Leonard and Hungry Paul’. ‘Panenka’ has earned him three Irish book awards, with a third novel, “Ghost Mountain”, to be released later this year.

***“But isn’t that what allowing yourself to be loved is all about - letting something greater than fear into your life?” - Panenka***

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Film review:

Article by May Muneratti

## Oppenheimer

Oppenheimer, directed by Christopher Nolan, illustrates a cinematic masterpiece through visuals, aesthetics, music and cinematography. The film follows the life of the American theoretical physicist, J. Robert Oppenheimer, particularly his part in the 'Manhattan Project' (the creation and development of the atomic bomb). As well as his brilliance, the film explores Oppenheimer's controversial political views in an American society where tensions are building with the USSR.



During the wrap party for Nolan's 2020 film 'Tenet', Robert Pattinson gifted him a book of the physicist's speeches – to which Nolan was struck by Oppenheimer and his fellow scientists trying to justify and live with the destructive power they had unleashed. This served as Nolan's inspiration to create the blockbuster surrounding the most influential man in the creation of our modern world.

For such an important story, Nolan wanted to be as accurate as possible in his filming locations and visual effects. "We have to find a way into this Oppenheimer's head. We've gotta see the world the way he sees it," Nolan said, "We have to feel the danger, feel the threat of all this somehow." For example, to produce a realistic explosion, Nolan ditched CGI (computer generated imagery) and utilized a mix of aluminum powder, magnesium and forced perspective. He mainly recorded in New Mexico, Los Alamos and Santa Fe, to bring the story to life.

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Film review:

## Oppenheimer



Ludwig Göransson is a Swedish composer and conductor who has orchestrated many innovative scores for films, such as: Tenet (Christopher also worked with Ludwig on this film), The Mandalorian, Black Panther, Venom and the Creed films. Initially, Ludwig cleverly composed 'Can You Hear The Music' (the main soundtrack from Oppenheimer) on a computer, but a live orchestra then played from sheet music which he also provided.

Overall, Oppenheimer won 7 Oscars – including: Best Picture, Best Editing, Best Director, Best Lead Actor, Best Original Score, Best Cinematography and Best Supporting Actor. The film scored 93% on Rotten Tomatoes, 8.4/10 on IMDb and 90% on Metacritic. If you haven't found time to watch the 3-hour long film, I strongly advise that you do.



Oppenheimer is now streaming on Amazon Prime, Google Play and Apple TV

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## Easter recipes

Article by May Muneratti

*I presume we are all looking forward to the Easter holidays: the sunshine, longer daylight hours, lie-ins, taking the dog out and not having to put 30 layers on, being with family, and, the best of all... sweet treats! Everything about this holiday is just a 10/10, and so are the recipes I am going to tell you about.*



*Coming in at number one...*

### MINI EGG BROWNIES

To make these, you will need:

- Mini Eggs (obviously), 1 small bag
- 1 bar of milk chocolate (for melting)
- ½ bar of dark chocolate (for melting)
- 1 ½ cups of granulated sugar
- 75 grams of unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1 ½ teaspoon of sea salt
- 2 large eggs
- 1 ½ cup of all-purpose flour



These take around 45 minutes to make and, once fully baked, leave them to sit for at least an hour (just so you can really embrace the fudginess!). I found this recipe on [Inspiredtaste.net](https://www.inspiredtaste.net)— however, this is simply just a generic recipe and I added milk and dark chocolate to make the brownies ‘fudgier’.

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## Easter recipes

*Next up...*

### HOMEMADE PEANUT BUTTER CUPS

A simpler recipe and one for the peanut butter lovers— you will need:

- 5 tablespoons of smooth peanut butter
- 5-6 tablespoons of icing sugar
- ½ teaspoon of sea salt
- 1-2 bars of either milk/dark/white chocolate
- 6 cake liners

#### Instructions:

- Mix the peanut butter and icing sugar together to be able to roll them into balls.
- Melt your chocolate and cover the bottom and edges of the cake liner (leave a gap in the middle for the peanut mixture) and put the cake liners in the freezer to solidify.
- After about 10 minutes, place the mixture inside the chocolate base and spread around to the corners.
- Once you've done that, pour the remaining chocolate over the top and spread to the corners – place in freezer to solidify and enjoy!



**Now I hope you try these recipes and make them for your loved ones (or yourself... there's no shame in doing that!)**

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## Reflection on term events

Article by Lily  
Outterside

*This term us Sixth Form students have been lucky enough to have had some amazing opportunities, events, and trips to look forward to and participate in.*



Firstly, at the start of February we had the wonderful production of Chicago, which spanned over the course of two nights. Everyone did a wonderful job and it was a tremendously enjoyable show. Congratulations to everyone who participated— you were all amazing.

We then held an 'Apprenticeship Showcase Evening' where business students had the opportunity to come and meet different employers from a range of fields that they have a special interest or passion in to find out more about their own apprenticeship opportunities.

During the half term, a school trip to Austria for a fabulous ski trip took place! Spanning over the course of 5 days, students spent their days full of learning how to ski, lots of food and meals, new models every day for the 'donuts of the day' and 'Incredibles' shirts, swimming and a supermarket trip as well as a last day awards ceremony. A huge thank you to Mr Moffatt, Miss Martin, Mr Neaverson, Miss Maher and Ms Clennett for giving up your time.



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## Reflection on term events

Another trip that also ran during the half term was the **Washington/NY trip**. Students were able to explore places in New York such as Central Park, The Brooklyn Bridge and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as being able to explore the streets of New York on their own and ride the subway! Students then went over to Washington where they visited the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Capitol Building, and The Botanic Gardens. A massive thank you to Mr Zaidi, Mr Pepper and Mrs Ward for also giving up your time.



Finally, at the end of February, A-Level English Literature students had the amazing opportunity to go to London to watch a production of **Yael Farber's adaptation of Shakespeare's King Lear**. Before the show started, students were able to go off on their own to wander the highstreet, shop and grab lunch. We then watched the play which lasted just over 3 hours before going off again to grab dinner and make our way back home. It was an amazing show with an amazing cast; a big thank you to Miss Davis, Ms Kavannagh and Ms Jeffs for staffing the trip.

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## Chicago production [Article by Lily Outterside](#)

As the curtains rose on the evenings of both the 8th and 9th of February, our school's rendition of 'Chicago' burst onto the stage with an infectious energy and enthusiasm. Set in the 1920s, AMVC students dressed in sleek black attire and embodied the jazzy feeling of the age. The audience was transported into the seductive world of Chicago and its characters with its captivating music, dances and drama giving us an unforgettable journey through the heart of the windy city.



I went to the opening night of Chicago and sat second row. As the curtains rose, I could feel the energy radiating off all the cast members. 5 months of rehearsing and some fake American accents later, all of their hard work paid off as their infectious and bright personalities lit the stage and brought the story of Chicago to life. The casting was perfect, and each cast member threw themselves into their roles completely. Such a dedicated cast and well-performed musical about murder and seduction and light-hearted comedy isn't easy to make look good, but once again the drama department and cast outdid themselves and made it amazing.

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## Chicago production

**Special shout-outs to:** Bella Knight, Erin Fisk, Harriet Hill, Gray Post, Amelia Bradberry, Georgia O'Connell, Grace Richardson, Lily Simson, Poppy Hornsby, Sophia Fidler, Roisin Crowley, Grace Unwin, Ivy Freeman-Hall, Liberty Pudney, Lana Hemmings, Libby Wallington, Trinity Harris, Jaiden Anderson, Jess Puck, Lottie Wilson, Ava Wallington, Lucy Markam, Sienna Hunter, Connie Lamb, Jude Cureton, Reuben West, Spencer Wales, Gabriel Claassen, Calum Dow, Theo Dorman, Grace Skinner, Rebecca Collington, Chloe Smithson, Beth Torr, Lily Levy, Josh Townsend, Lewis Ashton, Ellie Haines, Emma Rose Finding, Stefano Ambrosio, Josh Thompson, Marcus Amps Woodard, Jaidan Glendenning, Luke Beeby, as well as all the staff that supported the show throughout the rehearsals as well as show nights.

***Congratulations to everyone, it was a wonderful show!!***



**CHICAGO**  
THE MUSICAL