

THE



FALCON

March 2024



Climate Crisis

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Be Allowed?**

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Easter egg hunt! There are six Easter eggs hidden in this edition of The Falcon – can you find them all?

Everybody cut 'Footloose'!

By LB, Year 12

On the last week of half term, the cast of Footloose put on an incredible production for three nights in a row! Their energy was high, their talent was strong, and their performance was incredible. Here, I'm going to show their amazing but tiring journey, and how it goes from an initial idea to a breathtaking show!

The production is open for all years, including sixth formers, and starts at the end of September at the start of the school year. The show is usually announced at the end of the previous school year, or at the beginning of the new one. There is then an initial meeting to see what numbers we would be looking at. This meeting is usually the busiest, as many students simply come to see whether they'd enjoy it.

Then there are rehearsals almost every Tuesday and Thursday. Next, in roughly October, auditions are held for the main roles, which are called 'Principal Roles'. If you are unfamiliar with them, they

essentially consist of a group of students who sing part or parts of the soundtrack – the songs within the production. This is to test their vocal range, and their ability to sing well with others. This is essential if they are going to be given a role with a small group. Then they will be asked to individually sing a line or lines from a song. This is to test their soloist voices, as well as their confidence levels.

Next, after careful consideration from the staff, the Principal Roles are decided and announced with both an announcement in one if the rehearsals and a cast list outside FS2. Around this time is when the after-school rehearsals start! These can be very long hours but are necessary for all of the dances that need to be learned and the staging that needs to be done!

This continues to the end of January or start of February. This is when we start practicing on the stage. The seating also goes up at a

similar time to these rehearsals, which is often where many of the students give up their time to help set it all up.

We have two Sunday rehearsals; one rehearsal to cover anything that still needs tweaking and the next to have a full dress rehearsal. We also have another full day rehearsal on the Monday before opening night, where we often manage to go through the entire production

twice! Then, once that final rehearsal is complete, there is nothing else than can be done. It's all up to us to get it right on opening night!

We had a fantastic opening night (in my opinion the best opening night I've experienced so far) and then two more phenomenal nights! All of the students did extremely well and gave it their all. A massive well done to all of them!



Revision – what works for you?

By LB, Year 12

Revision, something that many of us are already familiar with, often appears to be harder than it sounds. No matter how many guides you look at, until you start experimenting with what works for you, you will never know what way your brain retains information, and what the best method or methods are to succeed.

Here are some of the most common methods of revision:

- Flashcards
- Mind maps
- Past papers
- Practise essays
- Pictures
- Key words sheets
- Test yourself
- Summaries notes
- Read revision guides

When I was doing my revision for my GCSE's, I especially found that past papers were useful for my own revision. By learning the exam question structures and looking at mark schemes to review my own answers, I was able to then answer the real exam questions easier. It also helps you cope better when

some of the exam papers have 'curve balls' to throw you off.

Something that I found helped significantly was tracking my revision. Being able to mark off how many hours I'd spent revising each subject. I used OhMyGoodnight's GCSE revision guide, who was previously a teacher at this school. This guide also helped me manage my wellbeing and revision, as well as finding new methods that I could try out!

The worst thing is burnout. It's something we all experience at different times, yet I feel it is especially prominent during exam season. We can burn ourselves out by doing too much work or revision, and end up not remembering anything you revised, or freeze up during an exam. Do avoid this, you must find a schedule that works for you, and make sure that you are taking breaks to wind down, especially before going to sleep.

And finally, here are my simplified revision tips:

Don't overload yourself, space out your revision.

We've all been there and crammed before a test, but there is no benefit to cramming in five different subjects in one night when you could instead spread it out over a couple of days.

Try out different methods.

You never know until you try whether a method might be the best way for you to remember. Don't force yourself to stick to a method just because you're afraid to try something new.

Experiment with group work.

Most of the time it's good to work independently when revising, but if a group of you all want to revise the same topics, it might be better to work together rather than struggle alone.

Make sure to take breaks. After a certain amount of time your brain won't be able to cope with revising more information. This point is different for everyone, so make sure you find yours and work around it.



Is our government doing enough to stop a current world crisis?

By LD, Year 9

First of all, I want to establish the definitions of both Global Warming and Climate Change. The terms "Global warming" and "Climate change" are sometimes used interchangeably, but "Global Warming" is only one aspect of Climate Change. Climate Change is a change of climate, which can be other things like weather, rising sea levels and melting ice. Yes, Global Warming can cause some of these issues, but Global Warming is only a part of Climate Change.

Now that I've got that established. I'm going to start discussing whether I feel our government is doing enough to limit the effects of Global Warming and Climate Change.

Incase you didn't know, one of the main causes of Global Warming and Climate Change is greenhouse gas emissions. These are things like Carbon Dioxide (CO_2), Water Vapour (H_2O), Methane (CH_4), Surface-level ozone (O_3), Nitrous oxide (N_2O) and fluorinated gases (halocarbons). All of the gases mentioned above absorb some of the energy from the sun's rays, stopping the rays reflect with as

much energy in order to leave the ozone layer, which in term, heats up the earth.

Why is Global Warming and Climate Change a problem? Two main reasons: species extinction and rising sea levels.

Species extinction is caused by multiple things. It could be drought, flooding, extreme temperature change or melting of ice. Most, if not *all*, of these reasons can be linked back to Climate Change or Global Warming. Yes, in some cases it may not be from that, but it is quite possible.

Rising sea levels are what cause flooding and hurricanes. Sea levels rising will eventually cause islands that are just above sea level to be fully submerged under the sea.

So now I've established why it's a problem, it's time to discuss potential solutions and whether or not our government is doing enough to stop this global problem.

Last year in July 2023, the UK Government unveiled its third

National Adaptation Programme. Which sets out a five-year plan to protect homes, school and our cultural heritage from climate change risks such as drought, floods and heatwaves.

Some of the commitments made in this plan are; to review standards and regulations of infrastructure, extend support to vulnerable communities worldwide and have a dedicated response to overseas climate risks, including supporting climate vulnerable communities globally, to protect lives and wellbeing across the UK during heatwaves by building on existing health services to adapt to an increase of frequency and severity

of extreme weather events, pilot a dedicated Local Authority Climate Service which will provide easy access to localised climate data, ensure a healthy and thriving natural environment.

But so far, in 2024, most people agree that although they've set these commitments in place, the Government is yet to really follow through with it. So, in my opinion, I think the Government should be trying to act on these commitments a bit more. But we shall see what they do with the rest of 2024.

For more information go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-adaptation-programme-to-tackle-climate-impact>

What's the buzz?

By CC, Year 9

Bees have pollinated our fruit, veg and flowers for millions of years and, let's *bee* honest, without them, humans and all of earth's other magnificent species wouldn't *bee* alive.

Our bee-loved bees are facing problems. Studies found that a third of the pollinator species (butterflies, bees, etc.) have declined from 1980-2013. Most of their problems include pesticides, Climate Change and invasive bugs and plants.

Pesticides disrupt learning and memory in bees and larvae. At higher levels, the chemicals impact reproduction, such as reducing the viability of sperm, leaving to lower offspring and population.

Extreme rainfall can affect bees' foraging patterns. Wildfires and floods may destroy bee habitats and food sources. Drought may also

reduce available forage and discourage land managers from planting new areas for bees as water homes are less readily available. Climate Change is a big problem for bees as well.

Invasive bugs and plants are also affecting bees and other native wildlife. Invasive bugs can cause more problems by eating and killing the bees and plants such as the Venus fly traps can also cause harm. Introducing more competition for bees can cause more habitat loss.

Many bees are losing their habitats and their world, more bees are in danger of being endangered every year.

If the bees go down, humanity goes down with them.

Save the bees.

Before it's too late.



Should animal testing be allowed?

By FM, Year 8

Cruelty and harm, medicine and money are some of the many words that are constantly repeated when the question, 'Should animal testing be allowed?' comes into conversation. It is a subject that many people feel strongly about, obviously, with groups such as PETA (people for the ethical treatment of animals) and HSI (humane society international) who are consistently campaigning for animal rights.

However, the arguments for pro animal testing are also fairly predominant, although mostly viewed as circumstantial and have rings of capitalism. This article, for the most part, aims to put across many arguments involved in animal testing and harm.

Some would say that there is moral obligation to this argument, one that describes animal testing being ethically wrong, however others state a more watered-down opinion, indifferent from the reality of the harm that the animals experienced,

simply ignoring the issue, and continuing to buy from and support the brands that still use animal testing to this day. Animal testing is something that can be used for many different things, but cosmetics, medicines and psychology are the main three.

Across the world, 45 countries have banned cosmetic animal testing, which includes every country in the European Union, Australia, Canada, India, South Korea and here in the UK. However, still major cosmetics producers, with countries such as the USA and China, haven't banned or stopped the cruelty inflicted on the animals for cosmetic testing. The type of testing these animals are put through isn't thoroughly talked about in these arguments due to the upsetting and abusive processes.

With the matter of animals being tested for medicine and psychology, it is a much more widely accepted practice that basically every country proceeds with. They use the

animals to find usable and safe vaccines and cures. In the period of time that the animal is being tested, anything can happen to them as it's a safety test for humans and definitely not for them. Addiction, severe physical and mental damage, and death all occur in these tests. The damage and addiction are usually caused by the drug, if it is unsafe to use, but death is extremely common as many animals are devastatingly killed to be examined once the test is over. But the argument for animals being tested in this way is also very strong, as some animals have major biological similarities to humans that make it simpler to find the medicines and research that is needed.

In conclusion, the cosmetics industry is disgustingly using animals for no other reason than the luxury and money that comes from the products, whereas the medical and psychological practices are there for genuine cures and research that will benefit people as a whole. Despite the benefits, I personally think that sacrificing millions of animals for these reasons, seems selfish and impersonal as killing them isn't necessarily a survival need. Overall, the matter of animal testing and harm seems negative and selfish due to the number of animals that are used and the cruel practices that occur in them.



Ecosia Petition.

If you are reading this, you are probably looking to save our planet. If not, then you may as well stop reading and do whatever else it was you were doing before. But if you **are** interested in saving our planet (and only home) then read on.

Brief Overview:

Ecosia is a search engine, just like google edge or any other browser, but it has a difference: it uses 100% of its profits to plant trees and save the planet, whilst boosting local economies in the process. If you wish to learn more, please visit their website:

<https://www.ecosia.org> or just search Ecosia in your browser!

To vote Please scan the QR code below.

Thanks,

Johnathan



Ecosia Petition



Easter Trivia

By EF, Year 7

1. Why do people celebrate easter?
2. What day of the week is easter celebrated?
3. Easter happens on the same day each year, True or False?
4. Which religion is Easter based on?
5. What do children hunt for at Easter time?
6. Easter is in spring, True or False?



Easter Wordsearch

Easter Wordsearch

T	S	U	L	E	N	T	N	E	H	I	B	I	O
T	L	E	T	E	K	S	A	B	K	Y	L	A	K
P	Y	S	H	P	R	L	C	K	R	D	A	G	K
N	K	U	O	E	D	N	Y	R	N	Y	B	N	U
O	S	N	T	E	A	S	T	E	R	N	B	I	I
B	P	D	C	O	Y	U	T	Y	E	E	B	R	L
E	S	A	R	O	S	C	C	B	Y	G	E	P	S
L	T	Y	O	I	U	P	E	O	Y	K	T	S	S
S	I	T	S	G	B	E	K	C	I	H	C	L	E
S	K	N	S	A	E	Y	O	G	T	E	N	K	H
T	E	I	B	B	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E
G	Y	E	U	T	C	C	E	B	U	N	N	Y	E
L	U	C	N	T	C	L	G	E	N	Y	L	A	C
E	U	L	S	H	R	T	G	H	N	H	Y	R	H

SUNDAY
CHOCOLATE
HOT CROSS BUN
EGG
EASTER
CHICK
BASKET
SPRING
LENT
BUNNY

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6875202/>

