

Chace Chronicle

EXCELLENCE HAS NO LIMITS

Summer 2024

Second Edition

In this edition we are reviewing some of our favourite games and albums, getting insights on education from our amazing teachers and taking a closer look at the fabulous Art department here at Chace.

**We hope you enjoy this paper and remember:
Excellence Has No Limits!**

In this edition:

- Review of 'Spirited Away' by Evie Dart
- Teacher Insight by Bronte Willis
- A Dose of Realism by Paige Downey
- Pac-Man championship edition review by Jackson Green
- Are Vocaloid Concerts Worth Going To? By Naomi Martinez
- A poem by Ronan Mangat
- 'The Tortured Poet's Department' Review by Eloise Geraghty
- Count Binface Article by Lily Foster
- On/Off Curriculum by Evie Dart
- Art at Chace by Chloe Waters

Review of 'Spirited Away' By Evie Dart

'Spirited Away' is arguably acclaimed Japanese animator, filmmaker and manga artist's Miyazaki's best work and a global phenomenon. It was predicted that the masterpiece would become a theatrical adaptation sooner or later and here it is. The plot may be distinctive and unusual, yet it remains magical and captivating, nonetheless.

On screen, the scenes flow and create an alluring sense of magic. The film almost leaves you in a daydream, contemplating the different conclusions it could have. The plot isn't too open-ended, it still leaves you imagining what is happening on the other side of the tunnel.

Those who have watched the film will agree: what happened to the world Chihiro was 'Spirited Away' to? This is what makes the film so magical, as well as the characters and plot, which create the allegory depicting the dangers of greed and capitalism.

On stage, the production is just as enchanting. It flawlessly aligns with the plot and its required finesse does not disappoint. The characters' outfits also look completely identical. From the length of their hair to the shoes that each character is wearing; their outfits were constructed with vigilance and care. Each scene is also made to look very similar to the movie. The elevator doors have the exact wording and font as the original film, which is extremely impressive. All the actors' emotions are portrayed very clearly and their admiration towards their character is noticeable.

Since the two productions were made differently, some aspects will vary. One feature that is different is that the stage version is not dubbed. I am more familiar with hearing it dubbed. However, listening to the production in its native language really makes the culture surrounding it come to life.

The use of breaking the fourth wall is seen when all stage effects are clearly hand-controlled. This reminds the audience how it is a remake of an animated screen production. However, a change to the set is also made. In the film, Chihiro is made to clean a massive round bath. Yet, in the play, the bath is extremely small. The effect of the bath being originally very large shows how vulnerable the protagonist is, and how her job is quite intimidating. This is not seen in the play, which is slightly disappointing.

Overall, the play is marvellous. Everything about it is carefully directed and planned, enabling it to be carried out very effectively. This production is a triumph by both genius and inclination. Screen or stage, this Miyazaki piece will not fail to impress by how visually stunning and complex it is.



Picture Taken By Evie Dart, London-Theatre District, 4th May

Teacher Insight with Ms Sahaye by Bronte Willis

Do you enjoy teaching and why?

Yes, because there are many students who are willing to learn and are interested in their subjects.

Who is your favourite student?

Dawit in Year 8.

Do you have any hobbies or interests?

Yes I like boxing and reading.

What's your favourite food?

Italian, Indian, Japanese and Chinese (but more Japanese than Chinese!)

Who's your best friend out of all of the teachers?

Ms Koroglu

Which class do you enjoy teaching most?

10zfr1d

What teachers do you see in your spare time?

I have dinner with MFL colleagues and sometimes coffee and chat.

What kind of teacher are you?

Too nice, would love to be in the middle because if you are too nice nobody listens to you but if you're too strict nobody likes you.

If you weren't a teacher what job would you have?

I would be an organic farmer and have a big farm and grow lots of vegetables.



A Dose of Realism by Paige Downey

In the modern age, opinions and beliefs run rampant. Political parties destroy our spirits, women of entire nations can no longer receive the life-saving procedures they need and genocide is still prevalent in today's society. It's time we took a step back to really see what is going on in the world and what we, as the future leaders of these nations, can do to save it.

Social media. We know it, we love it, it's accessible to us at all times. Some of you may think that Instagram or TikTok are just fun platforms to post pictures and videos of daily activities. But they can be so much more than outfits and breakfasts, they can be valuable tools to raise awareness about social injustices happening around the world just like they were in 2020 with the Black Lives Matter movement. The use of social media to raise awareness brought justice to the Floyd family in August of 2022 and made people really wonder how corrupt the US police system really was.

Now, in 2024 we can use social media to raise awareness about the injustices and genocide happening in the Congo where "Sexual and gender-based violence remained prevalent, with over 38,000 reported cases in Nord-Kivu province alone during the first quarter of the year." (Amnesty.org on violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2023) and Palestine where at 8:20 on June 7th 2024, footage surfaced showcasing 2 Palestinians being pursued by Israeli forces in an armoured jeep shortly before being shot from behind. This is the world that children are being forced to grow up in and we need to fix it.

America. The land of the free. Or is it?

After the overturning of Roe v Wade, a legislation that allowed women to terminate their pregnancies, the United States have become divided. Some believe that banning terminations will be good as the foetuses will be able to live their lives however others are incensed.

Women all over the world have been speaking out about this decision but it doesn't look like the US government will go back on it now. This will impact many women's lives. Abortion was outlawed from 1880 up until 1973 when it was first legalised in the US.

Here in the UK, some members of the conservative party wish to 'amend' the equalities act of 2010 so that biological sex is considered more important than the gender you identify with. This is harmful as it could mean that transgender women will be barred from women-only spaces, increasing the risk of discrimination and gender dysphoria for these women.

Former US president, Donald Trump has recently been found guilty on all 34 counts of hush money. For those wondering what the former president has done, AP News sums it up nicely as they say "Donald Trump became the first former American president to be convicted of felony crimes Thursday (30th of May) as a New York jury found him guilty of all 34 charges in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election through a hush money payment to a porn actor who said the two had sex." Many were cheering on the streets below the courtroom as Trump was found guilty possibly because of his past term as president or possibly because of what he has planned for the US if he gets re-elected. Which is not likely now that he has been found guilty; however his over 900 page "Project 2025" struck fear into the hearts of millions across the nation.

A Dose of Realism continued...

The Project 2025 document (https://staic.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf) outlines four main ideas: restoring the family as the centre of American life, dismantling the administrative state, defending the nation's sovereignty and borders and finally securing God-given individual rights to live freely.

But what does this mean? This means eradicating everything that so many people have helped build within the nation such as women's rights, following a different religion or no religion and refusing any sort of refugee or immigrant who attempts to gain entry legally or illegally to the US. Just to name a few.

Trump's Gileadean ideology will not only destroy the nation he claims to love but it will also be the push for climate change to go past the point of no return. If he gets re-elected and this project is put into place, we won't be able to stop it and that is the scariest part.

Happy Pride Month

In other news, pride month is here! The US government first recognised the month in 1999 when president Bill Clinton declared the month of June as gay and lesbian pride month. In 2009, this was updated, with president Barack Obama declaring June LGBT pride month and in 2021 it became what it is today with president Joe Biden declaring it LGBTQ pride month.

Pride is celebrated during June as it is a commemoration of the Stonewall riots of June 1969, which took place after the raiding of the Stonewall Inn by police officers on the 28th of June 1969. This raid sparked a 6 day protest and violent clashes with the NYPD. On the 2nd of July the riots stopped and the gay rights movement was no longer a fringe issue in the US as it was now headlining every newspaper in the country.

It's history like this that makes me proud to be bisexual. Happy pride everyone!



THE BOTTOM LINE: Pac-Man championship edition review– Jackson Green

For years now, Pac-Man has existed underestimated by the public and even among the tighter video game community. Some say Space Invaders; Some say Donkey Kong. we believe Pac-Man however sits as the original great video game.

Pac-Man's been a brand instead of a game since... well about since Ms. Pac-Man released in 1981, which we believe contributes to this shadowed legacy and has mutated into nonsense like, say, Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures today in 2024. The truth is, as any true game detective would agree, you can't truly make Pac-Man into a franchise. What Bandai Namco's money men miss is that Pac-Man is more of a sport than a narrative after all, as many arcade games of the time were, where the goal is simply to beat your own high score. Quietly, subtly, in 2007, in spiritual spite of Bandai Namco, Pac-Man's original creator, Toru Iwatani, dropped Pac-Man Championship Edition for Xbox 360, as a promotion of Microsoft's brand-new leaderboard system, allowing players across the world to compete for high scores in a new version of Pac-Man.

Pac-Man Championship Edition, to us, kicked off the whole idea of a "modernised classic" which we've seen additionally in games like Space Invaders Extreme and, more recently, Tetris Effect. If what we've been saying seems nebulous to you so far, Pac-Man Championship Edition is the Tetris Effect of Pac-Man.

Much like Pac-Man, the game is extremely simple; You navigate a maze, eating dots. Eventually, a bonus fruit will show up if you eat half the dots on screen. Eat it, and that half will refresh with an all-new chunk of maze. This effectively turns Pac-Man into a never-ending game tube, where any round of the game takes place in entirely one cut.

Much like Pac-Man, the game is extremely simple; You navigate a maze, eating dots. Eventually, a bonus fruit will show up if you eat half the dots on screen. Eat it, and that half will refresh with an all-new chunk of maze. This effectively turns Pac-Man into a never-ending game tube, where any round of the game takes place in entirely one cut.

Let us put it like this. If we asked you to do 50 push-ups on the nearest floor right now, you could probably do it, however there is an almost 100% chance that a mafia boss doing hard time could do that way better than you could right now. You are Roblox. The convicted felon is Pac-Man Championship Edition. We've decided we like the convicted felon more than we like you. He does one thing extremely well in there compared to you doing lots of things just okay. Hot damn, I pretty much only play JRPGs these days. Never die hungry.

Read more at <https://ggapp.io/NiGHTS108/reviews>



Are Vocaloid Concerts Worth Going To? by Naomi Martinez

With the rise of interest in Japanese culture and music, vocaloids and vocaloid concerts have become popular over the last few years. But are they worth going to?

One of the most popular vocaloids are Hatsune Miku created by Crypton Future Media, INC. Hatsune Miku quickly evolved into a cultural phenomenon and has gained much attention as a character and now her popularity has spread across the globe.

The cheapest tickets to the upcoming Miku expo 2024 in London are over £70. Some people think that paying lots of money to see a hologram isn't worth it, but the popularity of the ABBA Voyage suggests that this phenomenon is set to grow and grow.

True fans of vocaloid don't mind paying to experience these shows because they appreciate this new hybrid art form which combines artistry and technology.

Although the vocals are played digitally, there is usually a live band playing alongside, which ensures that the show is always about highlighting the power of music.

In an online review, American student, Kasper Morton, said after going to the Miku Expo 2024 "It was absolutely worth it, and I can say that with absolute certainty."

Personally, I think that if you are passionate about vocaloid music then it is well worth investing your money to experience these unique and inventive concerts.



A Poem by Ronan Mangat

In a world of likes and perfect feeds,
Where filters hide our realest mes ,
Young hearts chase the look of approval,
Though it's often a game of removal.
We seek validations,
while often forgetting what's real.
Scrolling through a virtual land,
where comparison holds a heavy hand.
We're expected to be flawless,
have perfect skin,
the perfect amount of fat lining us within.

Likes and followers will come and go,
But self worth should not be based on this fake show.
We laugh when our parents say "It's the damn phones"
but they were right, it is the damn phones.

Our parents sit there and watch us wail and moan
over this new found fear of missing out.
The internet at our fingertips
Has done nothing but plant this seed of doubt,
This seed blossoms and blooms
With every google of symptoms we convince ourselves we have.

We crave notifications in this digital haze,
Where popularity is measured in digital praise.
Remember you are more than a digital profile,
your values transcend this digital aisle.

Seek depth and meaning,
forge real connections.
In this social media age
defy the projections.



‘The Tortured Poet’s Department’ A Review by Eloise Geraghty

Welcome to The Tortured Poets Department era! My name’s Eloise, I’ll be your host for this article. Recently Taylor Swift dropped her new album known as TTPD. (Ikyk) She then released a surprise second album called The Anthology with 15 extra songs. Thank you mother!

Obviously I think the album needs multiple listens due to there being so many songs it does become a bit overwhelming. The media love to speculate about which song is about which man but we true fans understand that’s not the point she is trying to get across. Taylor lays bare her experiences with love in ‘loml’ where she talks about her boyfriend of six years becoming ‘the loss of her life’ but at the end of the day that’s not the point. TTPD is about Taylor. And Taylor only.

In ‘I can do it with a broken heart’ she includes a lyric saying ‘I cry a lot but I’m so productive it’s an art’, which I think we can all relate to in some way. She is saying, yes she does have bad times, but she always gets back up and continues to do her job and impress her fans. In another song, ‘The Prophecy’ has a lyric saying ‘don’t want money just someone who wants my company’, suggesting she would give up anything just to feel loved.

TTPD echoes some of Taylor’s classic albums like Reputation with the song ‘Who’s Afraid of Little Old Me?’ and more recent albums such as Evermore and Folklore with the songs ‘I Hate it Here’ and ‘How Did it End?’. In ‘Down Bad’ she states ‘how dare you think it’s romantic leaving me safe and stranded’ which harks back to the song ‘New Romantics’ on the album 1989 she says ‘please leave stranded it’s so romantic’.

I believe the main theme in this album is loss. We get a glimpse of Taylor feeling like she’s not enough due to losing the ‘love of her life’ but we also get the sense she feels she is losing herself. She feels like she lost herself to the fans and their hatred towards her even though she was trying her hardest, but in the end she gets up again and calls them out. In the song ‘Who’s Afraid of Little Old Me’ she says ‘I was tame, I was gentle till the circus life made me mean’ using a metaphor to say I was dragged through the dirt but came out tougher and stronger.

Overall, I think the album is a solid 10/10, some might say that’s biased due to me being a big swiftie. I do feel only a true swiftie would understand what she means. Like Taylor says, try to come for her job, which I think not many people will be doing very soon!

If you have a different take, come join us at Chace Chronicles on a Friday after school to share your opinion and biscuits! ;)



COUNT BINFACE; UNNECESSARY JOKE ACT OR CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY? By Lily Foster

Across the galaxy, alien species are still a mystery to the human eye but one particular warrior has sparked voters' attention all across London. This candidate has a particularly interesting manifesto showing an interest in... croissants. Dive deep into this article to find more about Count Biface and his democratic purpose in the 2024 mayoral election.

Picture this, an intergalactic warrior from Sigma IX running for London Mayor? Sounds a little odd right? Now add a rubbish bin on the head; Count Biface sums up political humour in a nutshell, funny and a little bit humiliating. His manifesto includes: cutting the costs of croissants to £1.10, renaming the London Bridge after Phoebe Waller and the newest policy, making Thames Water bosses take a dip in the Thames, to see how they like it... Biface made his earliest debut as England's first extraterrestrial politician on December 2018, certainly causing quite a stir with politicians on the bad side of Biface's jokes.

Moreover, Count Biface has a deeper reason for his 'unconventional' joke. Firstly his campaigning gain [money] is donated to a worthwhile charity, Shelter. Biface speaks passionately, even in his humour, about supporting the less fortunate. Furthermore, Count Biface is ardent about showing the importance of the English democratic system and how justice rules supreme. To celebrate and defend British Democracy, including the right, we all have to stand for election, no matter how idiotic the get-up' Quoted by Count Biface, BBC news appearance. Biface embodies the meaning that we all are important and we can all do anything [anything within logic] that we can put our minds to.

On the other hand, many people may disagree with the novelty joke that Count Biface represents, as they believe it's a sign of disapproval and dissatisfaction with society and to the election candidates that represent legitimate issues. The term 'protest vote' is commonly utilised in these circumstances, implicating a vote cast to display discontentment with the current political system. Some people may argue that a 'protest vote' is disrespecting the benefits of English rights and the sacrifices made to achieve democracy. Numerous voters deduce voting for Count Biface as a declaration of protest against the modern election system and its importance. Has anybody thought about the possibility of a novelty candidate, like Count Biface, winning the mayoral election? Would it have a positive effect on London, or would our city fall into chaos under a comedian's control?

In conclusion, Count Biface is an interesting subject of debate that has relit people's engagement in the mayoral election. His humour and appearance has reimagined the more stern idea that's usually associated with mayoral elections. Finally, the question for you to decide; does Count Biface have the capabilities to be our next London mayor or is his campaign doomed for failure?



On/Off Curriculum By Evie Dart

With the extent of subjects in schools, it can feel that the curriculum is filled to its full potential. However, are there any other subjects that would be more beneficial to have than others? Who better to ask than teachers themselves ...

Ms El Sayed:

"I would say life skills, but not the life skills that we have in Chace already. I mean how to change a tyre, or how to complete mortgage applications. I think these are skills that would benefit students because they would gain more confidence and a more realistic understanding of being an adult. Also, nowadays some children have lots of things done for them by their parents for example, and they become reliant and less independent. So, life skills would be beneficial."



Ms Willis:

"Sculpture lessons. We could do separate sculpture lessons with materials provided. I think this because a lot of students are much more practical and hands-on with things. Because of this, students would get more out of art lessons if they were practical."



Ms Lytle:

"Philosophy. I believe it would give students a space to critically reflect on a variety of topics. As well as this, all political structures are based on philosophical things, and this would be interesting for students. Moreover, I believe that Latin would be a very interesting subject to teach. If you can understand the root and origin of the English language, you can definitely get a greater understanding of things. Also, by studying Latin, you also study classical civilisations. This would be more in depth and interesting for students."



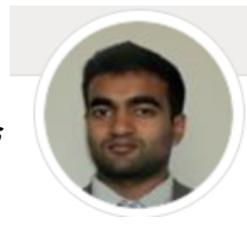
Ms Sahaye:

"I believe more subjects about general knowledge would be more beneficial. It would be beneficial because we are a very diverse school and knowing more about things eg. current affairs and culture would help students in the wider world."



Mr Nowaz:

"Economics. Students definitely need to know about money, business and finance. We need to understand money for our adult lives, and compared to some other subjects, it would help students a lot more."



So according to our teachers more practical skills are required to help us in everyday life. I believe the school curriculum was designed to include everything necessary that students need, yet could there be more? What do you think?

Art at Chace Community School By Chloe Waters

At Chace Community School, art is celebrated widely throughout year groups. Spectacular pieces are created which represent the creative minds in the school. From year 7 all the way through to post-16, art is one of the most popular subjects in the school. In this article you will find out about art at Chace, and why you should pick it for GCSEs and A-levels.

At Key Stage 3 students develop an understanding of how to produce a first hand study of various objects as well as still life creations. Students also explore animals, cultures, patterns and decorations all whilst testing different methods of drawing and painting. Whilst producing art work, students will also learn how to apply a variety of techniques and reflect mood. End of term assessments are used to test how much the students have learned throughout the academic year.

At Key Stage 4 students have chosen to study art for their GCSEs. They are required to respond to a theme given to them, for example natural forms or reflections. Within this, the students research primary and contextual sources to broaden their knowledge of artists and different methods of creating.

Also students are expected to develop and explore a critical understanding of art practitioners and therefore demonstrate a critical understanding of sources.

Across the two year course, students work towards a final piece by developing their sketchbooks to show their artistic journey and their progress. The final piece represents the end of the topic, demonstrating all of the techniques they've learnt and their response to the topic as a whole.

A-level art is about developing skills, knowledge and technique learnt from GCSE. A-level art students explore a range of initial ideas via visual mind maps to direct them through the topic. Year 12 and 13 students add on to their previous skills by critically analysing their work and making improvements. The final pieces and essay at the end of the course summarises everything they have learnt in terms of technique and knowledge. Many extraordinary pieces are created during the two-year course including coursework, which showcases the true talent of the students.

As an A-level art student, I have experienced every stage of art at Chace and the amazing art department, which is full of imaginative and kind art teachers, has helped to nurture my own talents. I am proud to be a part of art at Chace as it enables me to broaden my creativity every day.



Meet the Writers...

Hi, I'm Evie and I am in 8CAL. I'm interested in researching music, languages, education and books/ films. I also like writing- if it wasn't obvious. :)



Hey, my name is Eloise Geraghty and I am in 8CKA. I'm interested in writing stories about reading and music because they are both my main interests at the moment as well as Taylor Swift.



Hi! I'm Jackson Green and I am in 12EKC, I write about video games because, like any great video game journalist, I don't have anything else in life! Please read my writing in a Jerry Seinfeld voice, you might think I'm much more annoying than I actually am otherwise.



I'm Bronte and I am in 7PSA. I'm interested in history because I love the past and what we plan to do in the future.



Hey! I'm Chloe, I'm in 12VEK and a passionate writer. I am interested in all things art and I am super excited to write articles for the Chace Chronicle!



Hey, I'm Paige! I'm in 12 EKC and I love everything science, horror and books. I'm super excited to bring my journalism to you and I hope you love reading my stuff.



Hi, I'm Lily Foster from Year 7, 7MMC and I'm passionate about writing about political issues concerning young people and exploring both sides of the debate.



Hi, my name is Ronan and I am in 7EPA I'm interested in reading and dance.



Hii, my name is Naomi and I'm in 7PSA. I love video-games, lo-fi music and cute stuff. I joined the Chace Chronicle because it is fun to write something that you like and other people will read it! I hope you have a great day! ^-^

