

# Parkwood

6th form

A-LEVEL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



## Welcome

Parkwood 6th Form offers students from across the Hastings and Rother area the opportunity to study from over 30 different A Level courses. We specialise in A Levels within a school setting.

The articles included in this edition are a flavour of the variety of work which our students are offered throughout their two years in the 6th form. We expect all students to follow a course of enrichment study in addition to their minimum of four A Level courses, sporting and performing arts activities. We know that universities are seeking candidates who have that all-round experience. Whether they are discussing their chosen course of study, or their Kabubbu experience, Parkwood students are strong interview candidates in all of their university applications. We pride ourselves on the tradition of successful Oxbridge application process, which supports students year after year to access outstanding further education.

If you are considering your pathway after school then consider Parkwood 6th Form. Visit the Parkwood website for details of visits and tours of all Parkwood sites.

**Parkwood 6th Form - A Level Centre of Excellence.**

[www.parkwood6th.co.uk](http://www.parkwood6th.co.uk)

## Proud to be a member of the RNLI

I joined Hastings Lifeboat station as a launcher two years ago and half a year later was signed on as a prospective crew and then later, having completed required courses, I became an Inshore and Offshore Lifeboats' crew which I am most proud of. Having seen the dedication of Coxswain and other members of the station who were helping and supporting me right from the beginning, I realized how a worthy aim of saving lives at sea brings people together. Regular training allows the crew to maintain a fast and high quality level of service even in extreme conditions.

Being a member of the lifeboat suggests a high level of responsibility - the moment you



By Lev Kokunko



## Lifeboats

hear a pager, you have to be prepared to arrive at the station and go out to sea. A couple of months ago our crew was at the Pett Level club for the annual fund raising and in the middle of the charity auction we were called out to a yacht in distress - everyone rushed back to station and within minutes the lifeboats were afloat. The rescue of the yacht lasted several hours and was accomplished successfully.

## Harry Potter through a sociological view point

By Daisy Perry and Amber Hudsmith

We've reached the final two instalments of the Harry Potter films and Harry and the gang have survived puberty and joined the student protests (do they have to pay tuition fees at the university of magic?). All this got us to consider whether a link can be made between the Harry Potter films and sociological theories regarding youth subcultures and how "youth" is controlled in the real world. Applicable theories were ones such as labelling, self-fulfilling prophecy, subcultures and crime and deviance.

The main point we found is the role subcultures play within the school environment. This is illustrated in the Harry Potter films through the different houses and clear divides in their behaviour. For example Gryffindor and Slytherin have many different view points on the 'wizarding' world such as their obvious disagreements on whether 'muggles' and 'mudbloods' should be allowed to study magic.

Labelling theory as developed by the sociologist Howard Becker (1971) suggests Dumbledore's own pre-conceived 'ideal' student of magic determines his attitude to the different houses. This is seen in the way he seems to automatically label Gryffindor as achievers and closer to the ideal pupil than Slytherin who are seen as the trouble makers. This then leads to self-fulfilling prophecy and these students live up to their labels. An example of this would be the ongoing war between Draco Malfoy and Harry Potter and their continuous disagreements on what is right and what is wrong.

Crime and deviance is another strong point throughout the Harry Potter films and in the latest film, 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows', we see this more obviously. This is because we see that Draco Malfoy has now become one of Voldemort's followers. He seems to have followed in his father's criminal footsteps. This shows the Harry Potter films reproducing ideas about society that argue that children from a criminal family are more likely to take to a life of crime themselves, rather than breaking the family norm.

Although all these points are shown in Harry Potter, do not let this take away the fun factor of the film; it is definitely worth a visit!

By Leah Humphries

# 1.3 million people displaced

285,677 houses damaged or destroyed and over 222,500 people killed

**These are just a few of the catastrophic effects caused by the Haiti Earthquake, 12th January 2010. But how is it that less than 8 months later in New Zealand, an earthquake of the same magnitude injured just 2 people and damaged around 100,000 buildings?**

Such questions are forcing global policy makers to increasingly recognise the links between the levels of economic development in a country, and the effects of earthquakes. Focussing on the Haiti Earthquake, 12th January 2010 and the New Zealand Earthquake, 3rd September 2010, it has become important to establish whether the level of development of these countries has determined the severity of the effects. It is also essential to factor in to such research the primary and secondary effects of

these earthquakes, including the recent cholera outbreak in Haiti. The disease has spread rapidly due to poor conditions caused by the earthquake and has already killed over 2,000 people. All these factors have to be considered to establish how countries have coped with the earthquakes. As well as this, researchers have to look at the ongoing effects of the earthquakes and hope to be able to discover why the earthquake in Haiti is still causing problems today due to current economic circumstances.

Finally, any research in this field has to focus on political influences and aid relief. Since January, Haiti has been helped by more than 10,000 organisations that have provided accommodation, shelter, medical supplies, food and clean water. This is a complete contrast to the aid

relief effort in New Zealand and this can also be attributed to the economic development of each country.

These are the multitudinous factors and differences determining the impact a natural event like an earthquake has on a community. It suggests that with research we may find the means to manage such disasters more effectively and fairly for all communities rather than allowing material differences between communities to be the main reason why a child in Haiti is more likely to die as a victim of natural disaster than a child in New Zealand. Finally the work of geographers undertaking such research will help the global community to decide which countries to offer aid based on levels of development.

# Size zero models

What is the perfect image? By Angharad Lock

Size zero models, airbrushed photographs and celebrity weight loss diets flood the magazines and, although there are steps being taken to reduce this beauty-obsessed media, the idea of the 'perfect woman' is still being promulgated. We are constantly being told that there has been an increase in the number of eating disorders in young women, and to a lesser extent men, and the finger of blame seems to be pointing towards the "perfect woman" image. Naturally, as a species we are susceptible to the opinion of others, but how far are cultural pressures forcing us to conform? Girls talk and worry about eating disorders and are body conscious, although some people say this is just teenage worry. Whether that is true or not, there is no escaping the fact that the message 'thin is beautiful' is out there and adversely affecting the self esteem of people of all ages and social backgrounds.

Broadcasting companies have huge control over what we see on

our television screens and the money that exchanges hands in the advertising industry could quite easily buy a small country! Obscene amounts of money are spent on perfecting adverts so that the product is shown to be the best of its kind; the fundamental aim seems to be to sell the product to as many people as possible, to make as much money as possible. However, the rules for broadcasting advertisements are as strict as they are numerous and they are constantly being reviewed and updated to ensure the safety of the public. Do advertising restrictions actually make advertisers craftier with their advertisements, and if so, I wonder whether this weaving around laws sends out more mixed messages concerning beauty?

Focusing on beauty products, I have started my personal research to address these issues by comparing modern adverts with those when advertising first

started to grow into an industry. I want to see how much, if at all, the presentation of women has changed. Has it always been that only thin, beautiful and young women have been used to sell products, or is this a relatively new phenomenon? If it has always been the norm, why is there such uproar now? Some sceptics have branded many of these cases as diagnosis de jour - almost as though these cases of self esteem issues are just part of a new controversial fashion craze in which people are again desperate to fit in. Personally, I think there is less of an epidemic of eating disorders than the media would perhaps have us believe, but a small, concentrated minority of people with serious problems. This, I believe, is the crux of the matter: how many young women are affected by what they see in magazines and on televisions enough for it to change their way of thinking, and how many are, as I hear a lot of people say rather dismissively,



just 'doing it for attention'? Before I can start to criticise airbrushing photographs I need to see how much of an issue it really is.

I believe this will be a

fascinating project and, I hope, an eye-opening one. In my opinion Beauty should be in the eye of the beholder - not in the media's bank accounts.

# In Cold Blood

Harry Bristow urges you to read this novel!

A novel which helped to transform modern day writing

**Truman Capote is best known for "Breakfast at Tiffany's" yet it is another novel, by him, which is probably most important in the development of modern writing.**

Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood" depicts the story of a family, in small town Middle America, heartlessly murdered by two ex-convicts. At first the idea seems fairly straightforward for us, the reader, to understand. Countless murder stories have been told before, and no doubt countless will be told after, but what makes this particular story so unique?

He first learnt about the murders of the Clutter family in 1959, shortly before the capture of the two killers. He travelled to Kansas to write about the crime, accompanied by his childhood friend and fellow author Harper Lee, and together they interviewed local residents and investigators assigned to the case and took thousands of pages of notes.

The book itself is billed as a "non-fiction novel". Capote used his notes to construct his interpretation of a world that was alien to him, and indeed most of the world, before the quadruple murders.

The book itself is an extraordinary read, managing to follow the lives of the Clutter family before their eventual death, depicting details, however small and intricate and perhaps even slightly insignificant, as well as the turmoil experienced by the murderers after their capture. The killers, Richard Hickock and Perry Smith, are allowed to be empathised with throughout the later part of the book, which was perhaps an unwise move but, nevertheless, we are now told both sides of a quite incredible story. Were they brutal murderers? Or were they small-time thieves, who got caught up in something far more serious than was ever intended? Capote allows us to decide our own interpretation of the

killers, making no bones about the fact, that's just what they were. By exploring a case, which at first glance seems pretty cut and dried, giving it such depth and substance is something to marvel at.

Truman Capote allows us into a world that is so true and convincing. He challenged the laws of genre and fact to create something so pioneering and new, that the way the world has seen literature has forever been changed. "In Cold Blood" has helped pave the way for so many new hybrid genres of writing, allowing us to find something so true to our individual tastes. I urge you to read this book, it helped me to further understand and love books, and appreciate what a masterpiece it really is.

By Harry Bristow



## A Winner for Christmas

Congratulations to Steve Moran for winning the Christmas Card Design Competition. Steve, who is studying Graphics at Parkwood, wins a £50 voucher and will see his design printed and produced. 2nd place goes to Winni Jarvis and 3rd place goes to Georgia Mannering.



Winni Jarvis

Georgia Mannering

[www.parkwood6th.co.uk](http://www.parkwood6th.co.uk)

Tel. 01424 448207 / 710407

Parkwood 6th Form is based at Helenswood and William Parker Sites in Hastings