

LOCAL VOICES GLOBAL STORIES

The fashion event of May

What we've all been waiting for, the "biggest fashion night out," the Met Gala took place in the beginning of May and despite being over now, still lives rent free in our heads. This year's theme "Superfine: Tailoring Black Style" was the first theme to focus on men's fashion since 2003. As always there were many looks that stunned on the carpet, but here are a few that caught my eye. A multitude of standout designs such as the "no-trouser" look were worn by celebrities such as Lisa, Doja Cat, and Sabrina Carpenter, exposing the industry to this powerful play on fashion. Anthony Pratt stunned in a fully recycled suit, putting his own twist on the "tailored to you" theme. Twisting the theme also, Andre 3000 wore a zip-up parachute suit by Burberry, which was overstated by the piano he carried on his back and up the stairs. This was definitely one of the most memorable looks from the Met. Celebrities such as Teyana Taylor, Jeremy Allen White, Alicia Keys, and Swizz Beatz all subtly incorporated a variety of pinstripe tailoring in their designs, reimagining to reflect both its heritage and creativity within black tailoring. During the evening, Rihanna revealed her pregnancy through a custom Marc Jacobs creation, featuring a black cropped woollen jacket, a wool bustier bodysuit, and a pinstriped, tailored skirt, indirectly matching with ASAP Rocky, who wore a tailored wool-twill suit with a Marmot jacket. Safe to say we're all excited to see what the Met brings next year!

- Naomi, Year 12

Upcoming school events

Term 5 has been busy with the field opening and everyone enjoying the sunshine, but as we say hello to the sun, we have to say goodbye to the Year 11s and 13s. They all had successful and fun leavers' days, and we wish them luck for the rest of their exams.

The final term of 2025 always brings lots to look forward to. Arguably, the main event is Sports Day - an exciting day to get involved with for the whole school. Sixth form have also been given the chance to participate in their own Sports Day which will hopefully go forward this term!

There will also be many trips taking place for each year group. For Year 12, this includes a history trip to Hampton Court Palace, and down to Devon for the Biology classes.

There is something for everyone to look forward to and enjoy this term, especially the summer music concert, where you have the chance to enjoy being outside and listening to Hardens' amazing musicians. And even language week, to celebrate different cultures - an important aspect of school. Then at the end of the term it's the summer holidays - a chance to enjoy the sun and have a break from the academic year. Enjoy the sunshine!

- Hope, Year 12

Politics - 5 items you might've missed

1. The 82-year-old former president of the United States, Joe Biden, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, according to a statement released on Sunday 18th May.
2. The EU and the UK have formed a new agreement in post-Brexit politics. This deal covers a breadth of items, from EU boat access in UK waters, to British use of e-gates at European airports.
3. A new plan for reducing net migration to the UK has been announced by the Labour government. This will include the removal of a specific visa to social care workers and firmer language requirements and qualifications to work visa applications, along with other stricter criteria.
4. President Donald Trump has announced a new missile air defence strategy, which he has labelled the "Golden Dome," with the allocation of an initial \$25bn in funding.
5. The United Kingdom, France, and Canada, have called for a ceasefire and hostage release by the Israeli government over the conflict in Gaza.

- Laura, Year 12

Here's what you missed in pop culture during May

On Tuesday 13th of May, Austria brought home the glass microphone trophy of Eurovision with its performance of 'Wasted Love' by the performer JJ. The ballad won Austria the title of this year's Eurovision champions due to its powerful and emotional nature, winning and dethroning Israel in a tense final.

Later on in the week, Jimmy Fallon and The Weeknd surprised Fordham University graduates on Friday the 17th with a surprise performance. With 200 graduates in attendance, this lifted the spirits of the graduates and was a welcome surprise. Also in recent pop culture, Peppa Pig and her family welcomed a new addition - a daughter named Evie, which many news sources covered the birth of.

With many films set to release soon, none are quite as popular as Tom Cruise's final instalment to the Mission Impossible saga. It is titled 'Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning' and was released on the 21st of May. Despite many thinking this is where Cruise's career will end, he has expressed his opinion on the matter and reassures that this will not be his final film. Another fan-favourite film was released on the same day; Disney's live action re-make of Lilo and Stitch. As it's still out in cinemas now, you still have the chance to be hit with a wave of nostalgia from one of Disney's most beloved stories.

A new month comes new music, so here are some albums to look out for in the next few weeks.

Addison Rae's debut album "Addison" releases on the 6th of June, and has been highly anticipated for ever since she featured on Charlie XCX's award-winning album "Brat" last summer.

The Cure are adding another album to their impressive discography on the 13th of June. "Mixes of a Lost World" is the sequel to their album from last year, which received 5 stars from the Guardian.

Lorde is returning with her fourth album "Virgin", which will be released on the 27th of June. Many are speculating this will be the album of the summer, so keep an ear out.

- Grace, Year 12

Suffering from exam stress?

Has your TikTok for you page been flooded with people vlogging their ten hour study days? Or have you gone online as soon as you finish an exam to see how other people answered the questions, only to make you worry more?

Exams are a tricky time, but here are some of our best tips to detox after a test:

1. **Don't go on social media** → If you feel anxious about how you did on a maths paper, looking at what other people did may not help you. It's best to leave that exam hall with that paper in the past, as you can't go back and change your answers.
2. **Give yourself a moment** → After a tricky exam, you may not feel motivated to go straight back to revising, so it's better to take a moment, and start later that day. Don't force yourself to cram for the next exam if you aren't in the right headspace.
3. **Learn from your mistakes** → If you can't leave that paper in the past, instead of worrying about everything that went wrong, evaluate how you can learn from your mistakes. If you ran out of time doing a ten marker, then think how you can use your time more effectively for the next paper.
4. **Look ahead** → You're almost at the end, so after an exam, perhaps think about how you'll spend this extra long summer holiday.

Remember! Those people you see on social media who revise for 12 hours straight, are most likely exaggerating how much they've done. Revising is different for everyone, and so are exams. So try not to compare yourself to the person on your phone screen.

If it all gets too much, try to prioritise your mental health; take a break and talk to a loved one about it or your teachers or pastoral managers, who are always there to help you.

If you have any questions or queries about this issue of the Stag Spectator then contact us at stagspectator@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk

Breakthroughs in Biology

Ever wondered how the material you learn in biology could actually feed into breakthroughs within modern medicine? Throughout the UK there is a rising demand for personalised medicine that aims to tailor treatment to a patient's unique genetic profile and health needs, which can avoid trial and error and unnecessary side effects that are not only detrimental on the patient, but expensive for the NHS. Empowering patients, as it shifts the focus from reactive to proactive healthcare, allowing for better disease prevention and early detection. In GCSE, you learn about mRNA and its role within protein synthesis, carrying genetic code from DNA in the nucleus to the ribosomes in the cytoplasm where proteins are built. MRNA technologies hold significant promise in this regard due to their inherent ability to be designed for specific genetic profiles and target specific disease variants. They work by using mRNA to instruct our cells to produce a specific protein from a virus. This protein (usually part of a viral protein found on the virus's outer membrane) triggers the body's immune system to produce antibodies which can then recognise and target the virus in the future, providing protection. Currently, vaccinations for COVID-19 are the only authorised mRNA vaccines, but mRNA technology is being explored for conditions like influenza and tuberculosis and is also being investigated for application in cancer treatments, allergies, and heart conditions.

- Immi, Year 12

Editorial

We hoped you enjoyed the fourth issue of the Stag Spectator: Hardenhuish's student-led newsletter. We hope you all had a restful half-term, and wish everyone luck with the final term. Thank you, your editors - Alice, Laura, Claudia, and Sophie

Advancements in radiotherapy

Ministers have announced that cutting-edge radiotherapy machines will be installed in 28 hospitals across England, including one in Bristol. This £70 million investment from the Government is said to free up capacity so that many more patients are treated on time. The Linac machines are being privatised in hospitals where machines there are over a decade old. These radiotherapy machines are said to be safer for patients as they can closely target tumours and cause less damage to healthy tissue. The Department for Health and Social Care say "There is a revolution taking place in medical technology which can transform treatment for cancer patients." Due to long NHS waiting lists, some patients don't receive the treatment they need. However, with this investment from the Government, they hope to reduce these waiting lists, and offer state of the art treatment. Charity Macmillan Cancer described the announcement as an "exciting step forward for cancer treatment in England".

- Alice, Year 12

Race across the universe

The age-old question: why does our universe exist? And now, perhaps we are finally on the verge of finding answers.

Scientists based in a cavern in South Dakota are in a race against a team of Japanese scientists - who are years ahead - to solve the mystery of how our universe came into existence. The team are investigating how matter (what our universe is mainly made up of) and antimatter (the complete opposite) interact using a sub-atomic particle called neutrino, in the hope of discovering how our planets, stars and galaxies exist; something that is not explained by the current theories.

The scientists plan to fire beams of neutrino and anti-neutrino (its antimatter opposite) 800 miles, deep underground from Illinois, to detectors in South Dakota. If they discover why the matter and anti-matter particles don't cancel each other out, like they should, it could lead them to the answer of how the universe was created.

However, these results are only expected in a few years' time, so until then, the question of why the universe exists remains unanswered.

- Libby, Year 12