

the quarterly gazette

Easter Edition

Festival Season: What to look forward to

With the summer sun peeking out the clouds, festival season is nearly upon us. With this, comes the ticket sales going live, line-ups dropping and anticipation rising.

Glastonbury

Glastonbury has announced its dates to be Wednesday 26th - Sunday 30th June 2024. The anticipated lineup was revealed last week, with famous artists such as Dua Lipa, Coldplay and SZA taking the Pyramid Stage. Tickets will set you back £355 with a £5 booking fee, however, these illusive tickets are currently sold out.



Wireless

Wireless festival is returning to Finsbury Park, London for 12th-14th July 2024. Starring: Nicki Minaj, Ice Spice, Sean Paul and others on just Friday the 12th alone. Each day hosts surprise guests as well with special guests on Friday and Sunday. The lineup for Saturday contains 21 Savage with hits such as 'Creeping' with The Weekend and Metro Booming which has over 1 million streams on Spotify. Finishing off the weekend with Doja Cat and special guest TBA. The day tickets ranging from £94.60 on Friday and Sunday and £148.00 on Saturday on sale now.

Festival Season: What to look forward to

Reading

Reading festival is taking place in Richfield Avenue, 21st-25th August 2024. The main stage headliners are: Fred Again., Lana del Ray, Liam Gallagher, Gerry Cinnamon, Catfish and the Bottlemen and Blink-182, favourite of the stepson of missing Titan submarine passenger. They are accompanied by over 50 artists in the lineup. With these impressive frontliners, the day ticket prices range from £115.00 to £125.00 with Saturday completely sold out!



Boardmasters

Another festival that a lot of people are excited for is Board masters! This is happening 7-11 August 2024 in New Quay, Cornwall. The main star lineup includes Chase & Status (electronic music artist duo known for Liquor & Cigarettes) on Friday; Sam Fender on Saturday and Stormzy on Sunday. Board masters is also hosting several other artists such as Becky Hill, Declan McKenna and Tom Odell. Tickets are £95+BF to £109+BF for the day and are quickly selling out.

Plenty of other festivals are playing too, there is a whole world of music to explore.

-Zara Travers

AI in schools: What you need to know

With AI having increased in popularity over the past few years, we have already seen major changes in the way AI has impacted how we work and study. You may have been issued warnings by teachers on the dangers of using AI in your coursework and have increasingly seen others face penalties for using it in their work. However, with so many people now using AI in their schoolwork, and it being harder for schools to catch up with this, surely there will be a point where schools eventually accept this use of AI as a normal aspect of school work.

In fact, this is already starting to be the case, with teachers embracing the wonders of AI. Although it does not seem AI will replace teachers any time in the near future, it can greatly benefit teachers in terms of their workload. Furthermore, the online learning platform Oak National Academy has already invested an upwards of £2 million in AI tools to help develop new, free resources for teachers.

So, what about the students? What ways has AI directly benefited pupils in education besides from helping them cheat? AI can be personalised for each student according to their own abilities and learning preferences. This will make education more catered towards each student's own academic level to ensure they get the most out of their education.

With plans for GCSEs to go online in 2025, could AI also perhaps play a role on how school assessments are assessed? Sooner or later, we will see as AI continues to rapidly advance.

JCO CIC AI and Assessments
A quick guide for students

What is AI?
AI stands for artificial intelligence and using it is like having a computer that thinks.
AI tools like ChatGPT or Snapchat My AI can write text, make art and create music by learning from data from the internet, but watch out – they can also make things up and be biased.

How can AI be misused in assessments?
AI misuse is when you take something made using AI and say it's your own work.
THIS IS CHEATING!

How do I make sure I don't misuse AI?

- 1 Know the rules**
 - You're **not allowed** to use AI tools when you're in an exam.
 - Your teachers will tell you if you're allowed to use AI tools when doing your coursework – the rules will depend on your qualification.
 - Even if you're allowed to use AI tools, you can't get marks for content just produced by AI – your marks come from showing your own understanding and producing your own work.
- 2 Reference reference reference!**
If you're allowed to use AI tools, you must reference them clearly.
 - Name the AI tool you used.
 - Add the date you generated the content.
 - Explain how you used it.
 - Save a screenshot of the questions you asked and the answers you got.
- 3 Declare it's all your own work**
When you hand in your assessment, you have to sign a declaration. Anything without a reference must be all your own work. If you've used an AI tool, don't sign the declaration until you're sure you've added all the references.

What happens if I misuse AI?
If you've misused AI, you could lose your marks for the assessment – you could even be disqualified from the subject.
DON'T RISK IT!

REMEMBER
Misusing AI is cheating!
Know the rules
Talk to your teachers
Reference clearly

-Hannah Alon

A Guide to passing your driving test

Common driving Test misconceptions:

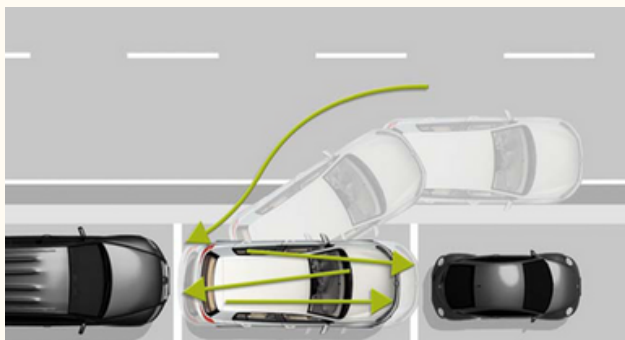
Stalling automatically equals failing!

This is the top driving test Myth! You can stall the car in the test, and it not necessarily be classed as a major/serious fault. Often, stalling in the test is as a result of nerves and unless it results in the car being in a dangerous position or seriously affecting other road users, it does not mean that you instantly fail the test. Instead, Stalling is often classed as a minor, unless you repeatedly stall. The best advice regarding this is to be both confident in what to do when you stall to enable you to recover quickly, as well as practicing often to ensure that stalling is not a frequent habit by the time you take your test.



Manoeuvres need to be done perfectly first time.

Parking manoeuvres including the parallel park, forward and reverse bay park are often thought to be incredibly strict. However, whilst you do have to end up within the parking bay lines, without a wheel touching them, you are able to readjust your manoeuvre to get into this correct position. You do not have to do it all in one movement. It is more important that you carry out the manoeuvre with effective observations and demonstrate good control of the car.



A Guide to passing your driving test

If you think partway through the test that you've failed, you should just give up.

Oftentimes students on their test believe that they have failed early on to later discover that this was only a minor fault, therefore even if you think you've made a mistake, it is better to focus on driving to the best of your ability for the rest of your test. Even if you have failed, you still then have the opportunity to receive feedback on your driving and what you need to practice and improve upon before the next test.

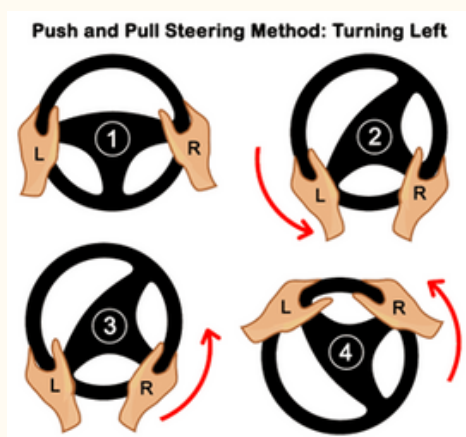
Confusing directions is a fail.

On your test you are likely to be nervous and anyone has the ability to get confused on directions. As long as you continue to drive safely, your examiner will just redirect you and continue with the test by getting you back towards the planned route. Exceptions to this are only in instances where you drive places road signs indicate you legally cannot go, for example the wrong way into a one-way street.



You will fail for crossing over your hands when steering.

Although the push-pull steering method is the preferred method of steering, if your hands cross over whilst steering during the test out of habit or even just nerves, this is not a fail. Push-pull steering is recommended but not compulsory, it is more important that you have sufficient control of the car.



In summary, there are numerous misconceptions about what can cause someone to fail, however what's most important on your driving test is that you strive to drive as you normally do instead of constantly focusing on what not to do, as it is instead this distraction and fear that leads to mistakes.

-Elizabeth Bailey

LITERARY REVIEW

The Fig Tree Metaphor by Sylvia Plath

The Fig Tree metaphor from Sylvia Plath's esteemed novel *The Bell Jar* is renowned for its vivid imagery and intense symbolism. The protagonist, Ester Greenwood shares this vision of a fig tree with each fig representing a different choice that could alter the trajectory of her life. She becomes paralysed by the idea that choosing one fig- for example, an artist, a mother, or a traveller- means losing out on others.

The Metaphor poignantly captures a universal human dilemma: the fear of making one choice that excludes all other possibilities. It highlights the conflicting societal expectations imposed upon women in the 1950s. Reflecting upon Plath's own struggles with identity and choice, she visualises her own anxieties with the symbol of both opportunity and loss.

“I saw myself sitting in the crotch of this fig tree, starving to death, just because I couldn't make up my mind which fig I would choose.”



“I saw my life branching out before me like the green fig tree in the story.”

The Fig Tree metaphor is emblematic of broader themes of paralysis from social pressures, personal insecurities and mental illness that permeate *The Bell Jar*. The enduring and emotive image encapsulates the very human challenges of choice and anxiety. Plath's fig tree remains a powerful symbol that resonates still with young people across the world.

-Sadie Wilson

THE LATEST IN CREATIVE ARTS

A Review of the 24 Hour Musical

Upon first hearing about the 24-hour musical, I was admittedly apprehensive in regard to what the final product would look like, but looking back the musical was nothing short of a miracle. Being able to sit in on the auditions for the roles of Mr. Ray and Nemo, as well as the learning of songs, gave an insight into the rush of it all. With the casting of roles, all willing to play the role would promptly line up and preform a short extract before either Mr Olden chose or the cast played out a quick round of rock-paper-scissors, and with the songs being learnt as the day went along. As I entered the gym, I was greeted with an intense anticipation despite already knowing the play. The foreboding of the lack of preparation created a certain buzz within the musical itself that is difficult to replicate. The reliance on each other throughout the piece to improvise lines and carry each other through seemingly brought everyone together similarly to that of a play with months of prior rehearsal. The costume department deserves a praise of its own, not only for the comic relief it provided, but for the forced creativity that comes along with improvising, with the Dory costume consisting of washing up gloves and 2 layered skirts, while Nemo was constructed with orange jumpsuits with painted stripes. While I initially expected noticeable flaws in the musical, it was nothing less than seamless to the unknowing audience despite a solid 60% being improvised on the spot; a skill that is only possible in a cast holding so much talent. To conclude, the play was pure brilliance, from the unexpected choice of musical that worked perfectly, to the cast and backstage crew who this all wouldn't have been possible without.



-Kemi Williams

PERIOD 7 SPOTLIGHT:

Relax, Refocus, and Reset with Mindfulness colouring

Can you remember when you were younger, and you would get a colouring book for your birthday, or given a colouring sheet and crayons at a restaurant? The hours would pass by, and you would keep focusing on staying inside the lines, deliberating on which colour to use, and using your creativity to bring to life the image before you. You may not have realised during this time, but this is a form of mindfulness. The ability to focus and stay in the present moment, allowing yourself to concentrate on a specific task and disconnect from surrounding thoughts.



Although, colouring is often seen as an activity used for children, mindful colouring is known to be a healthy technique to relieve stress in adults. Mindful colouring can be used as a form of mindfulness and art therapy, which can improve focus and attention on your surroundings or your emotions at that time. Recent studies have also shown mindful colouring to reduce anxiety and depression, so can be a helpful tool in managing unhelpful thoughts and feelings.

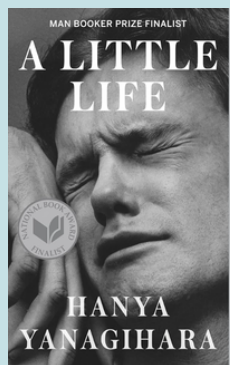
Colouring also encourages creativity and can be done anytime or anywhere. We have a period 7 on Tuesday that focuses primarily on mindful colouring in but also on a range of mindfulness techniques to support your wellbeing. There are so many positive benefits to mindfulness, so why not give it a go!

-Miss Wadham



Recent Recommendations

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A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara

The devastating novel from Hanya Yanagihara has become an international sensation, accumulating many accolades and awards. It follows the story of Jude, a young man with a deeply traumatising past, as he builds friendships and relationships and begins to heal. One of the most emotive and provoking stories of our time, this novel truly is a masterpiece.

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The New Abnormal by The Strokes

Featuring the hits like 'The Adults are talking' and 'Selfless' the latest album from one of the most influential bands of the early 21st century, The Strokes, is perfect for the slow transition to summer, with upbeat catchiness infused with The Strokes' signature rock sound.

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A Good Person

A heart-breaking drama following a young woman (Florence Pugh) who navigates a fatal accident, addiction and grief under the guidance of a surprise donor (Morgan Freeman), while learning to forgive herself.

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@thequarterlygazette_gordons

SPORTS HERE AT GORDONS SCHOOL:

6th in England for 1st VII Netball!

For the first time in Gordon's History, 1st VII Netball went to National Finals, the accumulation of many years of hard work, determination and commitment from our amazing coaches and players. They won an incredible 5 out of 8 matches, only ever losing by 2 or 3.



Against the best of the best England has to offer, Gordon's thrived, putting out a massive team performance that finished with them coming 6th. 6th in all of England is an absolutely outstanding achievement, congratulations to all involved. We go again next year!

Rosslyn Park Rugby Sevens

Senior Boys

Rosslyn Park Rugby 7s, one of the biggest rugby sevens tournaments in the world. After some incredible performances against the likes of Stowe and Fisher, the ACE 7s squad qualified for day two with three wins and 1 loss to finish top of their group. With wins against Whitgift and Bromsgrove, during day 2, Gordon's made it to the semi-final, an outstanding achievement. They finished 3rd in an extremely close game.



Senior Girls

A building, very new squad of senior girls played fantastically in their group, coming away with a win and a draw. For many of the girls, it was their first proper game of rugby, with players stepping up to fill in. It was truly a special day for Girls Rugby at Gordon's, and provided much excitement for the future!