

The Coulsdon Chronicle

'Excellence through rigour, resilience and passion'

Xmas Edition 2022

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Christmas Jumper Day

By Oliver Killeen, Y9

A feel-good atmosphere was evident at Oasis Coulsdon as the annual Christmas Jumper Day arrived on the 8th December. This is an annual event at the school. Students pay £1, and got to wear a Christmas jumper to school. From brightly coloured penguins to sparkly reindeers, there was an incredible variety on show. Alongside the fashion wear, the canteen served up a delicious Christmas lunch. As you can see, the team at the Chronicle got involved as well.

A Note from the Editor, Nicolas Deeks



Welcome to the Coulsdon Chronicle! It is our pleasure to present the latest Christmas edition. This Autumn term has been action-packed, and the dedicated team here at the Chronicle have captured just some of the highlights. We have lots to share, including some of the entries from National Poetry Day, the PE department's World Cup Tournament, and Movember. We also have some other Xmas-related articles, such as a guide to fashion in the holiday season, and a tutorial on how to survive Christmas. We hope you enjoy this issue and, from everyone on the team, we hope you have a restful Christmas break.



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Archie's Christmas Round-Up

By Archie Prescott, Y8

It's that time of year, and Oasis Academy Coulsdon has been busy with Christmas Preparations. The Coulsdon Chronicle has also been getting ready for the festivities. Here is a list of some of the many activities that have been taking place, and a guide to what they are.



Christmas Card Competition

The OAC Christmas Card Competition was launched. The premise was - submit a card design and earn 4 merits and be in with a chance of winning further merits for you and your House if your card is selected as one of our winners, with the overall winner having their design published in CR5 and used as the Academy Christmas Card this year! The winning design was from Jake in Year 7.

Children in Need- Friday 18th November

We were supporting Children in Need again this year by inviting all staff and students to wear something spotty to school on Friday 18th November. Students could exchange an item of their uniform for a spotty alternative by paying £1, with all money raised going to Children In Need.

World Cup- Monday 21st November

We were also raising additional money for Children in Need by selling snacks and treats for students to have whilst they watched the first England game of the tournament. This was cash only and we sold all items for either 20p or 50p and we asked students to bring in a small amount of cash on the day.

Christmas Lights Switch On in Old Coulsdon- Saturday 26th November

The Christmas lights in Old Coulsdon were switched on at 5pm on Saturday 26th November. Prior to this there were stalls selling refreshments and goodies along Court Avenue. The Friends of Oasis Academy Coulsdon (FOAC) were there with a stall, so pupils and their families were invited to: 'please come along and support them and start getting into the festive spirit'.

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Christmas Jumper Day- Thursday 8th December

We took part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper day again this year. Students paid £1 via ParentPay to wear a Christmas jumper in place of their shirt, tie, and blazer. It was a fantastic day with lots of festive jumpers to be seen.

Christmas Miracles

We will be spreading Christmas cheer again this year with our Christmas Miracles. Year 10 will be leading the campaign where we hope to collect for the East Surrey Children's Ward, Crisis at Christmas, Purley Food Stop, as well as delivering good deeds around our community.

Student Christmas Lunch- Thursday 8th December

We're sure the lunch was enjoyed by everybody.

Carol Service-Tuesday 13th December

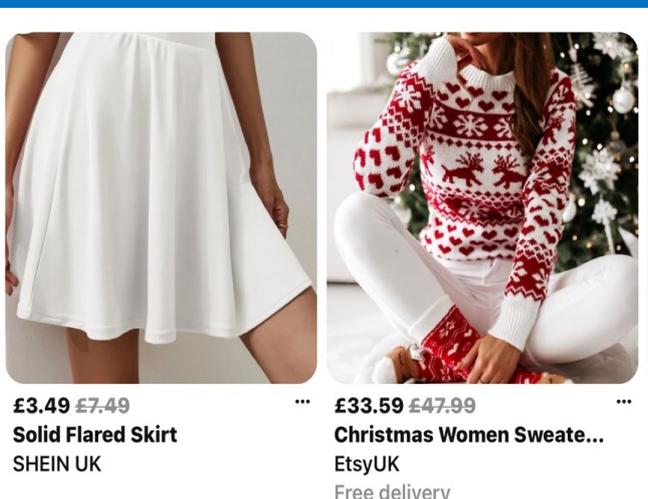
Yet to happen (at time of writing), though we're sure it will be great.

Latest Xmas fashion trends

By Rosie Kilpatrick, Y7

Now, everyone is thinking about what they are going to wear for the party season. Here are the latest trends for your Christmas festivities.

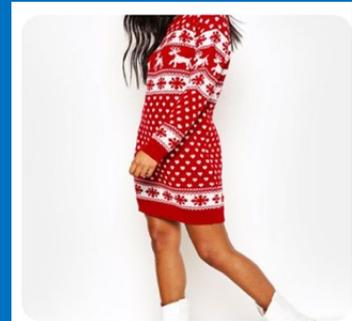
If you are going for a chic/preppy look, this jumper from Etsy and this skirt from Shein would be your best. Maybe add a white beret to make things all fall together.



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If you are staying in this Christmas, this dress from Boohoo is what you need.



US\$22.00 ~~US\$55.00~~ ...
Womens Reindeers And Sn...
Boohoo
★★★★★ 1

If you are staying in this Christmas, this top from Etsy and these leggings from Boohoo will bring you pleasure.



£19.99 ...
Santa Baby Christmas Ju...
EtsyUK



£18.00 ~~£20.00~~ ...
Ponte Pocket Detail Check...

Finally, if you and your family need some PJs, Visionary has got you covered. PJs are the best thing to lounge around in this Christmas.



US\$15.00 – US\$39.90 ...
Christmas Family Pajama
Sets

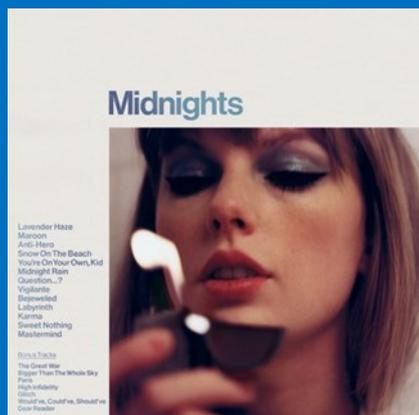
 Promoted by
Visionary

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Taylor Swift–Midnights Album Review

By Nicolas Deeks, Y10



NOTE: This album contains infrequent explicit language.

Taylor Swift should need no introduction. She's a global pop superstar - one of the best-selling artists of all time, with over 200 million record sales to her name. She has won 11 Grammys, including 3 for Album of the Year, which makes her one of only four artists to have achieved this feat, and she is considered one of the greatest songwriters of not just the decade, but of all time. So, when she announced her 10th studio album, *Midnights* (describing it as "the stories of 13 sleepless nights scattered throughout my life"), I think most people could guess how popular it was going to be. And

sure enough, when it released on October 21st of this year (plus a deluxe "3am Edition" with six extra tracks only a few hours later), it was a major commercial success. It received the most streams, around 186 million, in a single day on Spotify. It sold 1.5 million units in a week, skyrocketing her to the top of the UK Charts, the Billboard 200, the Canadian Albums Chart, and more. On the Billboard Hot 100, *Midnights* secured all 10 of the top-10 spots, a feat that has never been done before, without any airplay (plays from the radio) or digital sales of any of the songs. It is incredibly impressive to see, but does the album's quality correlate with all of the commercial success it's been having? Let's take a look.

I won't be going through all of the 20 tracks on the 3am Edition in this review, but I'll pick out some of the more noteworthy songs. The album starts with *Lavender Haze*, which features a simple but catchy drumbeat, a rumbling bass, and some synth melodies which are sprinkled throughout. Taylor's vocals on the track are really nicely layered, and the chorus is a highlight - the melody is really smooth and helps to make this song one of my favorites. *Sweet Nothing*, the penultimate track of the album, is also a favorite of mine. It's much less upbeat than a lot of the songs on this album, but it really works with its repeated electric piano riff taking up most of the instrumentation here. It definitely works really well with the "idea" of *Midnights* - "the stories of 13 sleepless nights" - and, in my opinion, should have been the final track on the standard edition instead of *Mastermind*. Speaking of which, *Mastermind* is a nice closer to the standard release, and the groove of it is emphasised by the synth arpeggios throughout the track, but it's not a song I see myself coming back to. *Anti-Hero*, which is the main single from the album, is also a solid track, if not just because of the incredibly catchy "It's me, hi / I'm the problem, it's me" line in the chorus and the pleasant upbeat production, but the lyric "Sometimes I feel like everybody is a sexy baby / And I'm a monster on the hill" is just odd to me, and I end up remembering that line more than the song as a whole. *Maroon* plays with the idea of colours in its lyrics and it works out to be a great dream pop track, with moody vocals and a droning bass. *Bejeweled* is a joyful disco bop with synth melodies dominating the soundscape and another catchy chorus - "Best believe I'm bejeweled / When I walk in the room, I can still make the whole place shimmer". There are several other songs which I enjoy but don't have lots of opinions or feelings about, like *Snow on the Beach*, *Karma*, *Labyrinth*, & *Midnight Rain*.

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However, not every song on the album is as good as these. *Question...?* and *Vigilante* are both songs that I didn't enjoy, particularly the latter because it always sounds like it's about to crescendo, and although it does towards the end, it doesn't quite work for me - I just feel disappointed with the track, it definitely could've been much more. The former, on the other hand, is a much different vibe to *Vigilante*, which is nice, but I just find it boring in comparison to other tracks. Some of the other songs on this album that are similar to this one (such as *You're On Your Own, Kid*, which honestly didn't stick out to me) still feel richer and more expressive than this. In addition, the deluxe tracks (aside from *The Great War, Glitch & Paris*, all of which I enjoyed more than some of the standard songs) just felt a little unnecessary, and kind of dragged down the album as a whole. They're nice to have, sure, and they have their fans, but I think I would be entirely satisfied to just have the original 13.

So, that's *Midnights*. There's a lot of genuinely quality material here on this album, and it shows that Taylor can still create great songs after 16+ years in the music industry. Even on some of the lacklustre tracks, the production from Jack Antonoff is generally really good. However, there's obviously some areas where it feels lacking. There are certain songs which I either dislike or don't care for, and it's those tracks that leave me feeling conflicted on this album. Despite these tracks, *Midnights* is worth a listen for the few tracks that you'll enjoy, but it's definitely nowhere near Taylor's best work (*folklore* for me). I've seen a lot of debate around this album, some call it a masterpiece while some call it garbage, but it definitely doesn't belong to either of these camps. It's a mixed bag, but definitely a mixed bag that's worth a look.

Score: 6.9/10

Favourite Tracks: Sweet Nothing, Lavender Haze, Bejeweled

Least Favourite Track: Vigilante

National Poetry Day

By Rose Bishop, Y7

On Thursday 6th October, it was National Poetry Day, themed around the environment. In the English department at Oasis, the staff held a poetry competition where students could enter their own poems.

Since 1944, National Poetry Day has got the nation involved with writing poetry, joining in with live events and web-based activities through the country. Each year, the theme changes. This year, it is the environment.

Thank you to all students who entered the competition this year. Here are a few highlights.

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Jenna Abbott—Year 7

The damage isn't done, We still have a choice,
If we act right now,
People will here your voice.
The damage isn't done Don't give up now,
We can still fight this Don't ask me how.
The damage isn't done, This is our last chance, Don't let us down,
We can still advance.
The damage is now done,
Or so that's what others thought, This is a lesson,
We can all be taught.

Aaryan Patel—Year 9

I wake up in my warm, delicate and cosy bed,
I see the fierce but distant bright sun shining through the window, I hear the exotic and very beautiful birds chirping,
I head outside to see all the magnificent wonders of the earth.
There is lovely, green and pure trees
There is fresh scented plants.

Gemma McInally - Year 9

When the sun doesn't shine bright,
To bless us with the dark,
And to when our scenes are blessed with light,
So when you're feeling down or blue,
We must take this responsibility upon us,
Now we must leave it to the next generation,

Erin Taylor—Year 7

The tiny bud starts to bloom
It starts to grow starts to move
As it grows it starts to have life
It's small but quite bright
Over time it grows till eventually its time to go
It withers and shrinks, now it's time to go
Soon enough a new flower will bloom
Just remember to be you!

Elena Saad—Year 9

Ice barely in sight
Cold and white
Polar bears are dying
And humans are sat lying
Ice is melting past
People just slip on ice blast
Why can't they see
What is our world turning to be?

The moon and stars over the spotlight,

There will always be a spark.

It makes us feel such delight,

Know there's always something better for you.

To keep our planet fresh and full of trust

Before we leave this earth and go to heaven With levitation.

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How To Survive Christmas

Written by Molly Hughes and Robyn Marshall, Y7

Firstly, we want to make sure EVERYONE knows that this is a guide on HOW TO SURVIVE CHRISTMAS!!!

We know Christmas is a hard experience with:

Family around and always wondering what you're doing. WHAT IS UP WITH THAT???!!!

You having to sleep in the LOUNGE because a GUEST has your room. Unfair, I know.

Having to PRETEND to like all the presents you get. Yes - I even mean the scratchy jumper your aunt knitted for you.

Here are some steps to help you with Christmas:

Step I

Firstly, find a place where no guests or family can find you (this will be your hideout).

Secondly, fill it up with pillows, blankets, snacks, hot water bottles and something to entertain yourself! REMEMBER NO PRESENTS!!!



great hiding spot (not).

Make sure to leave a PERFECT feast for Santa (but obviously we are going to have to eat most of it).

Be EXTRA good!!



Now get comfortable.

Step II

Christmas is VERY tempting when it comes to presents and surprises, so step two is to help you with that. We must TRY not to have a peek at the presents. However, sometimes we just can't help it. In the unfortunate event that you do fall to the temptation, do not let yourself get found out.

Step III

Here's how we'll help you get onto the nice list. He probably isn't going to check it twice:

Eliminate ALL presents from view, even the ones on top of the fridge,

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Step IV

Here's how to have some fun:

Invite a TRUSTED FAMILY MEMBER (such as your favourite cousins) into your hideout to have more FUN (as there is nothing better then chatting with someone).

PILLOW FIGHTS GALORE!!!!

Sneak LOADS of chocolates to munch on with your FUN FAMILY MEMBER!!

A fun Christmas recipe

Ingredients

- 140g icing sugar, sieved
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 egg yolk
- 250g butter, cut into small cubes

To decorate

- 200g icing sugar sieved
- edible food colouring, optional
- edible gold and silver balls

Method

STEP 1

Tip the icing sugar, vanilla extract, egg yolk and butter into a mixing bowl, then stir together with a wooden spoon (or pulse in a food processor until well combined). Add the flour and mix to a firm dough. Shape the dough into two flat discs and wrap them. Chill for 20-30 mins. Heat oven to 190C/fan 170C/gas 5 and line two baking sheets with non-stick baking paper.

STEP 2

Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to about the thickness of two £1 coins. Cut out Christmassy shapes (use a cutter if you like) and place on the baking sheets. Using the tip of a skewer, cut a small hole in the top of each cookie. Bake for 10-12 mins until lightly golden. In this time I like to watch a Christmas film such as the nativity 3.

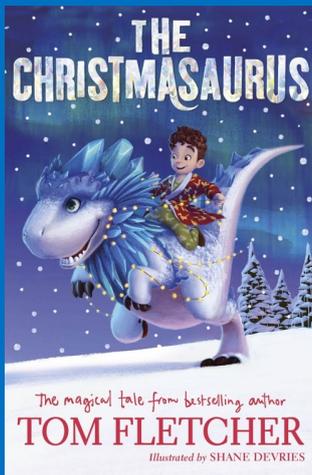


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STEP 3

Lift the biscuits onto a wire rack to cool. Meanwhile, mix the icing sugar with a few drops of cold water to make a thick, but still runny icing. Colour with edible food colouring, if you like. Spread it over the cooled biscuits, decorate with edible balls and thread with ribbon when dry.



Step V

After your cookies are made, snuggle down to your favourite story or a Christmas story such as the Christmasaurus.

This is the end of HOW TO SURVIVE CHRISTMAS!!!

Hope you enjoyed it!