



Fyling Hall Matters

Friday 2nd December (Issue 11)

Jack Explores Genetics...

Humans have been messing around with genes, albeit rather crudely, since as early as 12,000 BC. Since then, humanity has come a long way, from the mapping of the human genome to cloning sheep to identifying genetic disorders. Despite all this success, the practical applications of modifying genes have been somewhat limited until recently.

Researchers discovered CRISPR-CAS9 when looking at how bacteria defend themselves when attacked by viruses. They discovered that despite a high casualty rate, the remaining bacteria had developed a resistance to these viral attacks. This was discovered to be due various proteins which could “scan” DNA and then replace segments with other genetic information.

CRISPR (which stands for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats) is a revolutionary new technology which could change the very building blocks of mankind, but to understand its importance, we must first understand our previous limitations in gene editing. While it is possible to edit the DNA of an organism with traditional methods, there are limitations and issues: the main one being the risks.

Traditional methods of gene editing usually have to be done on individual cells and carry many risks. They are also expensive and precise procedures. CRISPR is a medical procedure which shall allow gene editing to be done at any stage of a person’s life. The risks are much reduced and more precise editing can be performed. Procedures are as much as 99% cheaper and can be done in several weeks. While the risks are lower there is still a chance of mutation.

There are many concerns about this technology. Some fear that an increase in designer modified may be caused; which is seen to be both unnatural and could cause a divide in humanity. Others are more focused on other immediate ethical issues involved. Needless to say, many people are concerned about this technology being abused. Is it right for this technology to be privatised? Can we be trusted to use this technology ethically and responsibly? What would happen if dictatorships abused this technology? Are the risks involved too great too big to make this

technology viable to be used commercially and when should it be used?

I have talked about the medical applications of this treatment but I feel I may have under-exaggerated the importance of this technology. Scientists believe that, by modifying mosquitoes` genes in such a way, they can eradicate malaria for good. Malaria is thought to be responsible for up to half of all of human deaths in history. Over one million people a year are thought to die from malaria and as many as 40 per cent of people are at risk. Modified mosquitoes would be able to target and kill the malaria they carry. In addition to this, their edited genes would also mean that their genes will always be passed on to their offspring leading to an entire population of mosquitoes that would be immune to malaria and would actively fight it. This leads us to question whether “it is unethical not to use this technology to help people.” Could we eradicate disease forever?

Some scientists have even suggested that they could, given enough time, halt the aging process opinion altogether. While this may be an exaggeration and would take a long time to develop, humans modified at birth is more than likely to be a possible future. Could this be the next scientific breakthrough which will irreversibly change mankind, both ideologically and physically, or will the risks be too great? Should we change our very genes and what possible future could this bring about? Is the human genome just too complex to ever fully understand, never mind within the foreseeable future?

Jack Dudley



Words of the Week

	This week	Next week
Tricky:	raging	tumbledown
Trickier:	turbulent	decrepit
Trickiest:	tumultuous	dilapidated



GCSE and A Level Musical Concert

On Thursday 24th November, Fyling Hall enjoyed a fantastic concert in the barn. The evening had a variety of performances from all different year groups.

The barn was a picture that evening, with all the tables and chairs out; the light was twinkling in the glasses. Connor was at the back doing an excellent job on lighting, whilst I kept a watchful eye over the sound and the challenging recording to accompany.

Back in September, we started the long process of deciding which pieces we were going to perform, and unsurprisingly, these were still changing up until a couple of weeks before the concert. Everyone was fully committed to practising which mean that we could achieve the best performance that we could. Lots of hard work was put in, in advance of the concert, by everyone. This ranged from group performances, solos, and the technical work that was the backbone for the night.

In the week leading up to the event, Mrs Wormald,

Alfie, myself and many others were busy ensuring that everything would run smoothly. We had to make sure that all the guitar amps and drum kit were set up correctly and then also had to do a sound check following on from the line check.

Justin and Carolina were introducing us to each performance as they came on, and gave us a detailed insight about the music and the performers.

The concert was very successful and the highlight act was the school choir, singing Hallelujah, by the great Leonard Cohen. To finish the whole evening off, the A-level music group performed their version of Stevie Wonder's "Superstition" and "Higher Ground". This was an unusual take on both these songs due to the interesting harmonies that the girls in the A-level music class had come up with, giving the songs an unusual style.

Well done to everyone involved with the concert.

Sam Thorogood

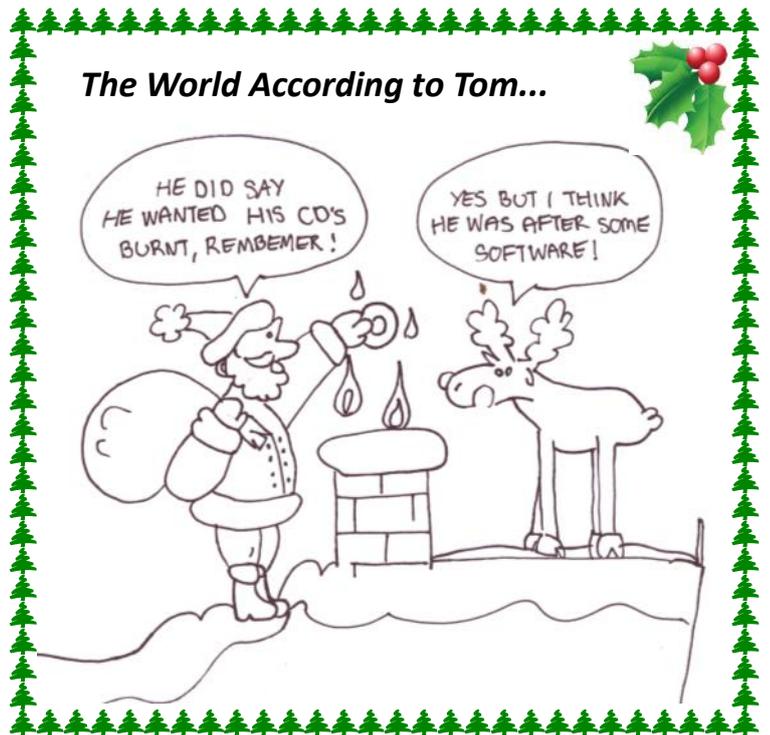
Why does Snow Fall?



Snow Falling
 Snow falls all around
 Softly falling on the ground
 Presents, baubles,
 Trees and lights
 Fills the children with delight
 In the snow the children play
 Santa's nearly on his way
 And when it's time to go to bed
 We watch the falling snow instead.

By Toby Richardson

The World According to Tom...



Early Christmas Shopping: Good or Bad?

Pros:

- It saves you from doing all the shopping in one day and allows time to think about what to get.
- Saves you from shopping in a really crowded shop the day before Christmas Eve.
- Gets you in the festive mood and it can make you happy.
- It can make shopping easier and more organised.

Cons:

- It can make people who maybe can't afford to buy anything in the shops feel left out.
- It can get you all excited about Christmas but then you might find out it's still a month till Christmas.
- By the time it gets to Christmas you might already be fed up.
- You miss the fun Christmas atmosphere

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK - ARE YOU FOR OR AGAINST EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

Tomas Richardson



Write For Rights!

Dear Parents,

Can you imagine living in fear that your child can be killed because of superstition? This is the reality for Annie Alfred parents. Annie was born with albinism. In Malawi people believe that her body has magic powers- they want to steal her heart and bones.

Dear Students,

Can you imagine being sentenced for 20 years for sending texts to your friend? That happened to Famusho Ivo Feh and his friends for passing to each other humorous texts about how difficult it is to find a good job without high qualifications, joking that even Boko Haram (an armed group) won't take you unless you do well on your exams.

Amnesty International's movement "Write for Rights" gives us an opportunity to fight against abuses of Human Rights. Every year, in December, people from whole world send millions of letters, e-mails, symbols and faxes in the defence of human dignity. Amnesty focuses on so called "prisoner of conscience", that mean people who are sentenced for actions which we in the western world do not perceive as crime, for example, their political views or sexual orientation. However, the organisation also aims to encourage the governments to improve their laws to become more human-rights friendly. So, how can you help?

Visit the website: <http://write.amnestyusa.org/cases/>. Chose which cases you want to stand for. _Download

"case sheet" with details of cases and addresses on which you can send your letter, email or symbol.

You probably doubt that it will make difference but it does. Every year people are released from prison. Every year laws are changed.

This is just one example from Amnesty International website: "In July 2012, Yecenia Armenta was taken into police custody in Mexico and brutally tortured. The police beat her for hours, raped her and threatened to kill her children. In spite of independent medical evidence, that torture took place. The 'confession' was used to charge Yecenia with no proof at all. She was released in 2016."

On Wednesday, during tutor time, students have been given a chance to take part in a Letter Marathon. However, we also encourage you to do it at home. Can you imagine that 10 minutes of your time can save someone's life; bring back someone's freedom and stop people from living in fear? And now imagine the feeling of satisfaction when this vision becomes reality. It is possible. It happens every year. All you need to do is to take action.

I think it is especially important during Christmas time. The magic of Christmas has its source in love and benevolence. Let's spread this magic all of the world. Let's make miracles happen.

Karolina Gruzal

British Heart Foundation

British Heart Foundation is our chosen charity for some of the events that are taking place in this week, like the Santa Dash (a whole school Christmas activity) and the Junior School's Christmas play 'Robin Hood'. All the money raised will go to the British Heart Foundation.

The British Heart Foundation is a charity that helps people with heart disease, cancer in their heart, a growth on someone's heart or someone who has suffered from a heart attack.

The British Heart Foundation carry out research on people's hearts to help prevent heart conditions and develop a better understanding of the human heart. Sometimes researchers take heart tissue from someone's heart and do lots of tests and will use it for further research. This is why the money we will be raising will go to the British Heart Foundations.

Olivia Coates

School Maths Challenge

Last Wednesday, Fyling Hall School sent our best and brightest mathematicians to a university in Teesside.

It was an opportunity to represent the school while simultaneously having fun while trying to complete a variety of mathematical challenges. Everybody tried their hardest and, despite not winning, our team came back proud.

Our team managed to secure an admirable 6th place out of 18 schools. According to our team, the food was worth the trip and the experience will stay with them for many years to come.

School maths challenges are a good way for students to represent the school.

Jack Dudley

JOIN THE INTERGALACTIC WRITER'S GUILD!!!

Free after school on a Thursday? Eager to flex your creative muscles and learn to write exhilarating and thought provoking stories?

THEN JOIN THE INTERGALACTIC WRITER'S GUILD! Every Thursday from 4:30 till 5:30 in the Physics Lab.

However, I must ensure that you dear reader have the full picture of what you'd be signing up for should you choose to join our wonderful group. First of all it is a guild not a club because we are a group of master craftspeople. Words are the tools of our trade. We have 12 regular members, not all of whom attend for the express purpose of writing a story; some come

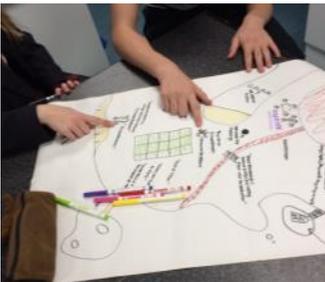
purely for the creative exercises, to help them build the skill and confidence to write stories.

All of the stories and poems written by the members of the guild are to be collected in an anthology, to be published and sold by Easter next year. All profits going to charity of course. However even before this stage once the book is physically printed a book launch will be held wherein authors can read their works and a cover design competition will also be held. And you can be a part of this; all you need to do is show up and just let the creative juices flow.

Damilare Williams

Inspirational Quote:

Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.



Sophia Talks Sports

Many people in Britain love sports, however did you ever wonder about how sports differ in different countries? If so, this article is for you!

'What are the different sports in America, and how are they played?' you may be wondering. Well they have American football – simply known as 'football' to them – which is quite a rough sport rather like Rugby in which you try to throw a ball between two goal posts. Basketball is also much more common there – in fact, it most popular in the US than in any other country. They also have quite a few sports that we have here in England; they're just not as popular.

The top 5 weirdest sports around the world are as follows:

Number 5 is a Wife Carrying Competition, which is a race that men run while carrying their spouses. Number 4 is the World Gurning Contest in which the ugliest face wins. Number 3 is chess boxing which is a hybrid sport that contains chess and boxing in alternating rounds. Number 2 is Bossaball which is a game similar to volleyball played on an inflatable court. And number 1 is sports with no clothes, which is fairly self-explanatory!

Sophia Ferrer

Christmas Jokes

Knock knock
Who's there?

Hanna

Hanna who?

Hanna partridge in a pear tree

What did the sea say to Santa?

Nothing! It just waved!

What athlete is warmest in winter?

A long jumper

News Team

Editors	Jack Dudley Amy McMorrow
Reporters	Damilare Williams Olivia Coates Sophia Ferrer Karolina Gruzal Toby Richardson Tomas Richardson Samuel Thorogood
Cartoon	Tom Clarke

Photos of the Week



A team participating in Monday's Santa Dash



£1500 given to the North Yorkshire Air Ambulance, raised from last year's Rose Garden Concert.



The Junior School perform Robin Hood for this year's Christmas performance.



Year 8 re enact Horrible Histories in drama.



School choir performing at the Bay Tree care home



The choir practising for the end of year Christmas carol service in St Stephen's

Photos of the Week



Senior musicians performing in the GCSE and A Level music concert.



Juniors taking part in the 'Santa Dash'



Filip, Suyean, Ross and Harrison battle it out during this year's Senior Maths Challenge.



Year 8 made a 'Band Aid' style CD to send to Africa via the Samaritans



Mrs Freer and Miss Anders enter into the Christmas spirit.



Form 1 say 'cheese' at the end of their performance of 'Robin Hood' performance.