



The Squawak

Wishing you a
**HAPPY PRIDE
MONTH**

The voice of Craigmount students

MEET THE SQUAWK

We have a new team of Squawkers here to give you the school headlines this year. We are ready and excited to give you all the information you need to know from across the school community. Before you get stuck into all the new articles that await your eyes, meet the team working hard behind the scenes to make it happen.

Thank you for reading and supporting all our hard work, have a great summer and enjoy this edition!!

I'm **Kaitlynne Bryce** and I've joined the Squawk as I want to pursue journalism in the future. I want to give a voice to the voiceless, share information that wouldn't otherwise be known, and bring people together through the written word.

My top 5 letterboxed: Edward Scissor Hands, The Mandalorian and Grogu, The Addams Family, The Secret Garden, and The Little Princess.



Hello, I'm **Charlotte Grant**, I'm a part of the Rights Respecting Schools PAG, and I play cornet in the school wind band. I chose to join The Squawk because I have a passion for writing, and I felt this was the perfect opportunity to embrace it. My favourite subjects are History and textiles.

If you want a **book recommendation**, read The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. As for **TV recommendations**... anything the Six Idiots are in!

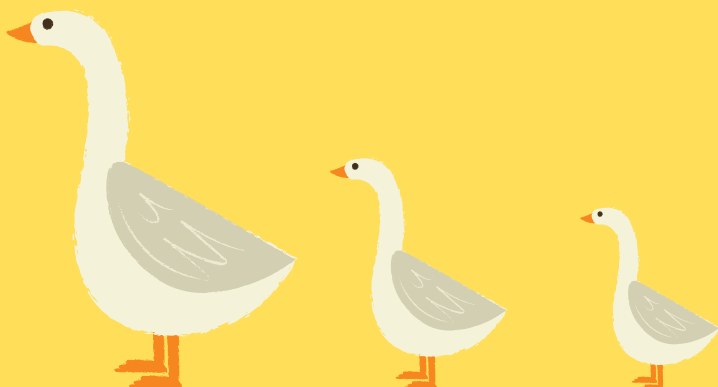




Hi, I'm **Hannah Kelly** and I joined The Squawk because I'd love to get my opinion out there and share what's going on in the school.

My Letterboxed top 4: Dead Poets Society, Fantastic Mr Fox, Me and Earl and The Dying Girl, The Goonies.

I'm **Eve Wright**. My Letterbox top four are Little Women (2019), Little Miss Sunshine, Death Becomes Her, Mamma Mia. I joined because I like writing and am interested in journalism. My favourite subjects are media and sociology.



My name is **Caitlin Crozier**. I joined the Squawk because I'm interested in journalism and I think it's really important to be able to use writing to express ourselves.

My letterboxed top four: Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Baby Driver, The Shawshank Redemption, The Perks of Being a Wallflower. My favourite subjects are History, languages, and Politics.

I, **Ollie McLean**, journalist and author, promise to you, people of Craigmount High School, that every single piece of journalism I present you is perfectly biased and one-sided. I aim entirely to enthrall and amuse both myself in writing and others in reading. Tirelessly working to both avoid failing all my classes and to provide to you the best piece of modern-day literature these tired old fingers can offer. On a personal note, I am interested in Physics, Dungeons & Dragons, and good-naturedly poking fun at staff members in a school newspaper. .



I am **Tola Ogunrinade**. In the future, I want to write shows and movies. I enjoy exploration-based games like Hollow Knight, and Metroid. I joined Squawk because I enjoy writing stories, and I think it would be helpful for me to do something I enjoy, as well as the school to get some more school material for newspapers.

My favourite shows are The Owl House, Amphibia, and Invincible. I like those shows because they're very heavily driven by their plots and every character feels well thought out.

**In S1, S2 or S3 and want to be involved with The Squawk?
Come along to Room 220,
Thursday lunchtime.**

My name is **Baneen Zahra** and you probably recognise me from last year's Squawk paper.

I've stuck to The Squawk to build my skills in writing, and so that I could write about some stuff I like in general. In the future, I wish to be a lawyer alongside being an artist. Some stuff I do out of school would be drawing, playing bass, and making my own music. I hope this year I can contribute good articles about actual interesting stuff and super cool art pieces that bring more colour to The Squawk!



I am **Tyler Jarvis**. In the future, I want to write for TV shows/ movies. I enjoy fast paced video games, I also like tv shows and movies. Though, I do like tv shows better because you have more time to develop a story. I joined The Squawk because... to be honest it's a win-win, I like writing and you get school information.

My favourite shows are The Owl House, Amphibia, and Avatar, the Last Airbender. I like those shows because they're well handled by their creators and because they're very plot driven.

And not forgetting...

Olaf Krzysztofik
Conlaoch Neiran





SPORTS DAY: The School Tradition

by Tyler Jarvis

Races! Hurdles! A fun time for friends and teachers alike! And possibly rain (it is Scotland so you never know)! The all-day sport event returns yet again with a home run. At this point you should know what's up, but what if you're new to the school? You would have questions like: "What is it? Who is it for? What is it like?" Well, luckily for you, I am going to answer all those questions and more.

What is it about?

Sports Day is generally held at the East Field. It is a day where it could be summed up as a "day where you watch others play sports and just sit there." But it is more than that! I know that it sounds boring if you're not one of the players, but surprisingly the day is more than a day of sports. It is a day where you get to have **fun** by hanging out with your friends, **eat** snacks that the school offers (or bring your own they don't mind), **support** your houses by cheering them on as they play.

What sports are involved?

If you are one of the players, you get the honour of playing one of many sports. Some of which including:

The 60-metre sprint: As you probably already guessed this sport involves racing. The houses; Arthur, Braid, Calton, Pentland, and Swanston compete in a high-stake race. Each race is a 60-metre race. It'll start with the S2 race then race through the other years and then end at the S6 race!

Relay Races: This sport is like if racing had a child with teamwork and for some reason a tube is involved. It is again a foot race against houses. However, this time each racer has partners. During the race, the people must hold a baton, complete a small section of the track before passing their baton to their partner, then the partner finishes off the race.

Hurdles: This is again another race against the houses! What strikes Hurdles as different from the other races, is that the track is covered in obstacles of various heights. In order to win this race, you must jump over the obstacles and reach the end!

Who is it for?

Despite it being “Sports Day,” you can argue that it can appeal to people who aren’t into sports. Yes, sports are a big part of the day. But even for those who aren’t taking part in the activities you get time off school to relax, cheer, chant, spend time with friends or even eat snacks! I know that the whole concept of Sports Day centres around sports, but sometimes there is a bigger picture even for the insignificant things.

What do people think of it?

To get a completely unbiased opinion I asked a student about what they think of sports day. To keep the person anonymous, we’ll call them Red. I trusted Red to give me honest answers because they are one of my closest friends.

To keep things simple the first question I asked Red was “What do they think about Sports day?” They responded with: “Horrible. Leaves nonparticipants sit for hours. They may be watching and cheering on friends, otherwise, there is nothing to do.”

In the second question I asked them, “what are they most looking forward to?” Red replied with a simple, quick yet nice answer, “being with my friends.”

By the third question, I realised that they don’t necessarily like certain aspects of Sports Day. So naturally I asked them, “what they would change about Sports Day.” Red being Red said; “I’d try to make it more engaging, trying new things such as teacher vs pupil games throughout the day, more stalls.”



What were the results?

The House Champions this year were **SWANSTON**.



S1 Champions:

Aidan, Toby, Rohan, Orla, Keira, Zoe

S2 Champions:

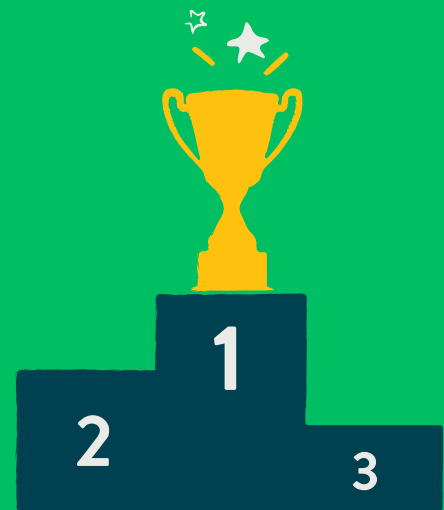
Maggie, Eilidh, Frankie, Igor, Leo, Tim

S3 Champions:

Krishiva, Fraser, Tommy, Annie, Ella, Daisy

Senior Champions:

Sarah, Abbie, Amelie, Evan, Felix, Caleb



SUMMER MOVIE PICKS

What to watch over your summer break...

Summer break is swiftly approaching and what better way is there to spend your free time than going to the cinema or having a movie night in? Here are the Squawk's top ten summer picks!

Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in awhile, you could miss it."

A personal favourite of mine, Ferris Bueller's Day Off is the ultimate classic of the 80s which is full of whimsy and pure entertainment. The film follows Ferris Bueller, a professional high school slacker who fakes sickness to stay at home and spend an unforgettable day with his best friend and girlfriend. The trio go on a series of adventures throughout Chicago all the while trying to outwit his wily school principal and fed-up sister. The movie screams summer break as it expresses the art of simply living in the present and acts as a timeless mental health day manifesto. Allow yourself to hit pause on your life and the pressures of school and dive into a film that cherishes the small and spontaneous moments of life!



10 Things I Hate About You (1999)



*"But mostly I hate the way I don't hate you.
Not even close, not even a little bit,
not even at all."*

An iconic teenage rom com from 1999, which follows new student Cameron who instantly falls for the most popular girl at school, Bianca Stratford and will do anything to be with her. The only problem is that Bianca is forbidden to date until her antisocial, completely un-dateable older sister Kat goes out too. In an attempt to solve this problem, Cameron singles out the only guy who could possibly be a match for Kat; a mysterious bad boy with a nasty reputation of his own. The movie effortlessly captures a nostalgic and carefree spirit of a summer break before the new school year begins. Ultimately if you take anything from this film, let it be that you do not settle for a man who will not learn French for you!



Jaws (1975)

"You're gonna need a bigger boat"

A timeless, 1975 Steven Spielberg classic with arguably the most recognisable soundtrack in the history of films. Jaws is the prototypical summer blockbuster, with the film inventing the modern definition of a summer movie. The plot is set in the seaside community of Amity where it finds itself under attack by a dangerous, great white shark who takes no mercy on its victims. The town's chief of police, a young marine biologist and a grizzled shark hunter embark on a desperate quest to put an end to this beast's killings before it strikes again. With its typical seaside town setting, John William's masterful music and a slow building tension, it is a quintessential summer movie night pick.

Mamma Mia (2008)

“Typical, isn’t it? You wait 20 years for a dad and then three come along at once.” Mamma Mia is an unforgettable jukebox musical full of abba songs and joyful moments. The story follows 20-year-old Sophie, who is preparing to marry the love of her life on a small Greek island where she secretly invites three of her mother’s ex-boyfriends in hope of finding her biological father to walk her down the aisle. The film is a euphoric summer movie that combines idealistic Mediterranean visuals and an infectious energy that transports you to a warm, sun-drenched holiday. Its upbeat musical numbers and vibrant aesthetic provides an escapist viewing experience where you will become enthralled in its iconic soundtrack.



The Odyssey (2026)

“After years of war, no one could stand between my men and home. Not even me.” The highly anticipated Christopher Nolan film, The Odyssey, is coming to UK theatres on July 17th, bringing Homer’s legendary tale to screen. With its star-studded cast including Matt Damon, Zendaya, Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway, Robert Pattinson and so many more, the film follows the story of Odysseus, the legendary king of Ithaca who embarks on an enduring and perilous journey home following the Trojan war. Throughout his voyage, he is forced to face many battles including the whims of God, mythological monsters and trials that stretch both his cunning and his humanity to breaking point. Grab your popcorn and get to the cinemas this summer to watch the Odyssey!



Stand by me (1986)

"You guys wanna go see a dead body?"

An 80s Rob Reiner classic, *Stand by me* is based on the iconic Stephen King novella *The Body*, where four friends set out on a trek one summer to find the dead body of a missing boy. The boys' adventure evolves into a defining event in their lives as they begin to learn more about one another and their vastly different home lives. The film takes place during the late summer of 1959 where it perfectly captures sun-soaked Oregon backgrounds, outdoor campfires, and marshes full of leeches. Overall, *Stand by me* is an unforgettable coming of age story with its plot and setting being defined by the fleeting freedom of the summer season.

500 Days of Summer (2009)

"I love the Smiths"

After hopeless romantic Tom has been dumped by the girl he believes to be his soulmate, he begins to reflect on the 500 days he spent with her to try and figure out where things went wrong and how he can win her back. The film displays a perfect balance of humour and heartbreak, with an underlying theme of expressing how two people can experience the exact same time period in two different ways. With its vibrant colour palette and seasonal timelines, the movie reminds us that no matter how much we want to hold on to a perfect summer, it eventually has to come to an end, allowing for a new season to begin.



The Parent Trap (1998)

"You wanna know the real difference between us?"

The 1998 parent trap follows Lindsay Lohan playing identical twins Hallie and Annie who were separated at an early age due to their parents' divorce. Coincidentally, the girls are sent to the same summer camp without the parents' knowledge where they discover the truth about their relationship and come up with a plan to switch places in an effort to reunite their mother and father. It is an ultimate summer film as its setting reflects cozy cabins in summer camp, lush vineyards in Napa Valley and townhouses in London. Alongside its iconic wardrobe choices with pastel sets and bucket hats, you will become enriched in an iconic sisterly bond and family reunion.



Little Miss Sunshine (2006)

"No one gets left behind! No one gets left behind!"

A dysfunctional family setup loaded with colourful characters go on a road trip to California in a dusty van for little Olive to compete in a beauty pageant. With sunshine in the name, it is a quintessential summer road trip movie as the film's aesthetic leans heavily into a sun-drenched colour palette where yellow plays a starring role, captured in both physical aspects with their renowned yellow van and symbolising the films warm and slightly chaotic energy. Little miss sunshine is an absolute must watch for the summer months where you will be presented with an unhinged, heartwarming classic.



By Hannah Kelly

Unless you've somehow missed the blindingly bright pink set that's been taking over the entire concourse, you'll all be aware of the school's recent musical production of Grease. With two equally talented casts and an amazing ensemble, Grease really shined with the amount of enthusiasm from each and every student, as well as some incredibly hard work from the backstage crew and teachers. To learn a little bit more about the process of getting a show on its feet, I spoke to various cast members and teachers to hear what they had to say, and their advice for any aspiring actors looking to participate in future shows.

Celia's favourite memory: 'realising we had a show'

I talked with Celia - Cast 1's phenomenal Rizzo- about her experience in the show and what she learned from this. For her, it was all about the group effort- "A show can't just be one person, so it's all about working together"

Elliot's favourite memory: 'Eugene's entrances'

Elliot - One of our brilliant Kenickie's- also heavily valued the sense of community Grease created, and the idea of contributing to your role to the best of your abilities. Elliot states- "Make sure you dedicate enough time to something in order to properly master it".

Looking at both interviews, it's clear that acting and performance is all about the collective effort, trust between one another, and a community you can rely on.



GREASE



Sathvik's favourite memory: The hand jive

Finally, I spoke with Sathvik, a cast member whose Grease performance was his first ever show! Playing Radio show host Vince Fontaine, Sathvik tells us that the amount of work that went into the shows construction really surprised him- *"I haven't appreciated up to this point how stressful it is being able to get changed out of and into costumes in between scenes"*

Whether you're working on sound, lighting, costumes or mic changes, the contribution those crew members put in is vitally important, and without them we wouldn't have had a show

Miss Lynch's favourite memory: Seeing everyone perform

To learn about the behind the scenes, I spoke to Miss Lynch- the beloved musical director in charge of keeping us all in tune- to discuss her individual role in the production. Miss Lynch was not only on vocals, she was also responsible for helping with mic changes, advertising and she was a part of the crew, so here's what she had to say about the process.

I asked her to explain a little about how she was involved. She stated *"throughout the year, it was helping out with rehearsals, in terms of singing, a mixture of working with the ensemble and principle parts as well. Then as the show was ramping up it was the full rehearsals, then things like instagram and doing the mic changes. Just a little bit of everything"*

The work put into grease from each teacher was not just one thing, there were so many positions needed filled and so many wonderful teachers who impressively managed it all, to which I'm sure the whole cast were grateful for.

Grease was an incredible experience for young pupils to make friendships, challenge themselves, and express themselves. Whether it was onstage or offstage, everyone should be really proud of the finished piece and especially the teachers. Even if theatre is not your thing, I urge everyone to try it or watch it at least once to appreciate every single element put into it because truly, it's an entirely unique art form that relies so much on the audience. So next time you hear about the Fringe or the school's next production, give it a go! There really is nothing like it. Go Grease Lightning!

**“Take every
opportunity you
can!” - Miss Lynch**

**“Just go for it cause
you never know
what's gonna
happen”- Elliot**

**“Just get into it, push
yourself, give it a go”
- Sathvik**

**“Never be
embarrassed to
audition!” - Celia**

CRAIGMOUNT LEADERS: DEMOCRACY OR DICTATORSHIP?

By Ollie McLean and
Kaitlynnne Bryce

Leadership: the highs and lows of showing a people how they should live their lives; the splendour and accolade associated with presiding over a group; the downfall and dismay of a ruined supreme power. Within Craigmount High School, our greatest leadership role comes in the position of one Mr Meikle, leader, scholar, and exemplar. However, below this paragon of the future, the role of leadership falls to many. Staff members and students alike, our school is- at its core- a type of democracy.

On the student side, this is mostly displayed via our School Captains, each current candidate battling it out to score their place among our most revered in a bloody war of attrition. Indeed, both writers Ollie, and Kaitlynnne, have taken their place in our democracy, having viewed and applauded each candidate in the Hustings on Tuesday. We have also both been given the opportunities to speak with multiple of the candidates for School Captain, as well as one of the primary staff voices of this process, Mr Pye.

Mr Pye gave multiple clear examples of what he expects from our new leadership team when they are decided, stating he wanted the group

to be ‘intrinsically motivated and with ambition to promote both themselves and the school community.’ He claimed one of the most significant values the candidates could show was ‘preparation to go above and beyond’, and that they needed to display a ‘clear set of values, both demonstrating their own and those of the school.’ Throughout our interview, Mr Pye appeared to hold the consistent view that the leadership team are an incredibly positive part of the school, yet held no disregard for those who were unable to make it into the process: stating ‘There will be disappointment as it is a funnelling process, but these disappointments are not limiting.’ This disappointment, Mr Pye explained, was a necessary part of creating a space in which people are placed in the position they deserve and the position the staff leadership believes their unique talent will be best suited in, be it a captaincy position or within the Pupil Action Groups. Upon asking Mr Pye’s favourites to win the captaincy positions, he listed “No Comment” as his first choice, followed shortly by “Can We Move On.”

On the topic my S6 peers will care for most, a common room, Mr Pye stated

one word “Realism,” followed shortly by a statement regarding the idea that funds for a common room would be better spent on events to bring the year together. All in all, Mr Pye wanted to leave the S6 leadership team with a message: ‘If you give us a direction by which you want to progress the school, we will support you as much as we can with that. Find the gaps in our school community and fill them. Good luck.’

Kaitlynn and I approached all our captain candidates, asking three short questions. Some declined but we were approached by Layla, Kaitlynn, Alekha, Annabelle, Rishi and Maya. Here is what they had to say:

Q: Why did you run for captain?

Layla: “I want to give back to the school after being here so long, I feel there is a lot of opportunities more people should be able to hear about. We need more trips!”

Alekha: “It is my last year here, so I want to improve the school experience for both my peers and those of younger years.”

Rosie: “I wanted to ensure that younger years have a more generalised understanding of leadership roles and remove stigmas associated with them.”

Kaitlynn: “I have passion for leading people and further developing the school community’s positive environment. I want everyone to be heard.”

Maya: “I’m very passionate about helping out with the school community

and I want to give back for the many opportunities I’ve got from the school.”

Rishi: “I like the school, I have experience as a year ambassador, and I feel I can contribute well to the school,”

Annabelle: “I believe I can be a voice for the people, not to change the school but to make positive improvements to what is already there.”

Q: “Which specific part of the school would you change/focus on?”

Layla: “The financial side. Ensuring more people are able to do things freely and without the fear of not participating due to financial burdens.”

Alekha: “I would focus on creating a positive teacher student relationship. While there have been plenty student versus teacher events, I feel there should be more cooperation between teachers and students.”

Rosie: “I would tackle the issue of cliques, giving people an easier time making a wider web of relationships outside of their group, using events and trips.”

Kaitlynn: “Ensuring that every person’s voice is heard because I feel that this is a key aspect of developing extra curricular activities, trying to stop bullying, and running better events.”

Maya: “I want to improve the sense of community across year groups

and fix how disjointed each year seems from one another.”

Rishi: “Improving study and social spaces, right now if the library is closed we cannot go anywhere.”

Annabelle: “Inclusivity; in our year and the years below, aiming to bring us all closer and make our time more memorable.”

Q: If you had some words of wisdom for the younger years, what would those be?

Layla: “Keep trying at everything, it’s all gonna be ok.”

Alekhyia: “Take every opportunity given to you. It may be a drag now, but it’ll help greatly in the future.”

Rosie: “Take advantage of all opportunities and listen to your teachers, especially regarding exams.”

Kaitlynn: “Take part in extra-curricular activities. Have fun, don’t isolate yourself.”

Maya: “Take down all embarrassing TikToks before losing access to the account, @RaidenShogurt still haunts me...”

Rishi: “Step one: have fun. Step two: study to some extent, don’t study too much, no one cares what you studied from S1 to S3. Step 3: Take subject you enjoy and that are useful for your future. Step 4: Have a basic knowledge of maths and English but have fun and take part in extra-curriculars.”

Annabelle: “Study and have fun. Don’t focus too much on knowing everything, shoot high, but don’t burn yourself out.”

Each candidate that answered our call

seemed to know what they were talking about, having clear goals and aims for the school. To those who did not... I’m sure you are equally passionate... We are watching.

To close out our gorgeous literary masterpiece, we offer you the input of some of our previous leadership team members, Adam T and Joanna R. When asked about their relationship with the senior staff members, Joanna stated “Each debate we had between our respective teams was civil, they never rejected anything without good reason. The main issue we had between both teams was the scheduling of events... there was quite literally just no time to do everything we wanted.” Adam provided a key insight into what being a House Captain was like, stating they would often find “ourselves stepping on each other’s feet.” Both were asked any advice for the up-and-coming leaders, with Adam suggesting “You’re no longer working for your year, you’re working for the entire school. Make yourself known to each individual year group,” and Joanna stating “Just give it a go! You can’t lose anything.”

To each of our new leaders, we wish you nothing but luck. And please, in the words of our very own Rishi, do not disappear after the election. We are counting on you.

Want to be involved with The Squawk?

Have an idea for a story?

**Want to take photographs, animate or
work on a podcast?**

Get on board!

**In S1, S2 or S3?
Come along to Room 220,
Thursday lunchtime.**

**Senior student? Email us:
squawk@craigmount.edin.sch.uk**

