



Sixth Form Newsletter

16/12/25

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS AT YSGOL ABERCONWY

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It's almost time for Christmas



So here is a word from our Head Girl- Amelia Northrop

Amelia- "As we finish the term, I want to wish everyone in Sixth Form a Merry Christmas and a well-earned break. This has been a demanding term, particularly for our Year 13s with personal statements and UCAS, so good luck with any upcoming interviews and offers over the next few weeks. Make sure you take time over the holidays to relax, switch off, and enjoy the festive season with family and friends before we head into the busy new year. Enjoy the holidays!"

Our teacher of the week



He gave up his ham sandwich to feed a cat... it's Mr Roche!

Mr Roche kindly gave up some of his time to talk to us this week.

Q- Why did you choose to become a teacher?

A- "I originally wanted to become a policeman, but I actually couldn't due to a neck injury from rugby. I then decided that I want to help people through education and I really enjoyed history, even if I wasn't a teacher I'd still be reading up on it [history] everyday."

Q- Do you have any advice for our year 13 university applicants?

A- "I would just say, be yourself and make sure you're certain on the subject you choose because it's a big part of your life. Also embrace anything that comes your way and take any opportunity that's up for offer."

Q- A Christmas message for sixth form?

A- "Have a lovely, relaxing Christmas with your friends and family!"

Scan the QR code below to vote for the next teacher of the week.



Stressed about the lack of jobs?



Here is some advice...

The job market is at an all time low due to rising costs of employment and AI. As the cost of living increases so does the retirement age, causing a constant viscous circle.

This can sound scary for young people looking for jobs after university, however it's important to remember that many employers focus on skills and qualities (as advised by Manchester University) that can be transferred such as teamwork and digital skills.

On top of this, one degree can get you far as many employers in the UK are open to applicants from a range of degrees. This means that most degrees open up many opportunities for you, so don't feel like it's completely necessary for you to stay in the box of your degree subject.

Remember that many opportunities will come your way in life and it's important to take them, especially the ones that draw you in the most.

This week's Film Review



Delivered by A-Level Film Studies student Isaac Kitchen

Die Hard- released in 1988 and directed by John McTiernan.

For starters, I see this film as one of the most influential action/thriller films as it paved the way for many others like it. It transcended the genre and helped redefine it in a time when action films felt all the same with either Sylvester Stallone or Arnold Schwarzenegger behind the lead character. One of the things I feel makes this stand out as a genre defying film was its main character, John McClain. He stood out from the rest not making him an invincible superhero but a grounded, vulnerable police detective. He's sarcastic and exhausted from all the running and jumping through glass windows and is sometimes terrified of what could happen. You can't not appreciate Bruce Willis portrayal of John. He was able to bring the charisma and sarcasm perfectly which helped make the film feel grounded and personal. Another stand out performance for me had to be Alan Rickman's performance of Hans Gruber. He was so convincing with his performance that in the end I wanted him to die, which tells me that he did a very good job at making me hate his character. Another reason I feel this stands out as a genre defying movie is its location in Nakatomi Plaza. Although the building is very big and has many floors, the director opted for more of the confined spaces of Nakatomi Plaza. Rather than having massive set pieces and massive explosions and gunshots running off every 5 minutes, the film opts to build suspense. Having John run through the tight corridors makes it feel like a cat and mouse game. Keeping the action clear and impactful also helped the film stand out, along with its score by Michael Karmen with action beats that further elevates the tension. Constantly throughout this film you get a wave of emotions every minute. One minute, you're cheerful and jolly looking at all the Christmas decorations and the next you feel your heart racing as John jumps out the side of a building with a fire hose with his bare feet. It's truly an emotional rollercoaster throughout the whole film.

If I were to ask you to think of a Christmas film you would think of snow and Christmas trees, lights, reindeer, Santa, elves, presents, happy films and films that make you feel jolly and hopeful for the Christmas season. I think making Die hard a film set around Christmas helped it stand out from other action films. It's unique and defies what a Christmas film is and that's why I love it so much. One thing action movies do well is engage the audience throughout its runtime. I personally don't like Christmas films because I feel they are always the same old 'help someone save Christmas' or find some way to make Christmas better. Die Hard has the same sort of Christmas message but puts it in an action-packed thriller which will engage all audiences. Having such a memorable script with so many quotable lines helps this film stand out. What other Christmas films have quotes like "I have a gun now ho, ho, ho" or "yippee ki-yay mother*****"?

It may be my nostalgia of the film I've watched every Christmas since I was young, but I love this film so much, and therefore it gets a 5/5 from me!



ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Congratulations to Nell Shannon, Ashleigh Bellis, and Ethan Thomson for passing their driving test!
- Well done to Isaac Kitchen for his 'player of the match' rugby victory for Abergele vs Colwyn Bay!

REMINDERS:

- Year 13 rewards trip- fill out the form sent by Harry Senior on the Year 13 Team.
- Friday the 19th of December- last day of term.

Thank you for reading!