

THE ASHFIELD BOYS' INFORM



YEAR 8: ABHS SO FAR!

YEAR 10 TRIP TO NEWCASTLE

ABHS CANTEEN

FOOTBALL SUPERSTARS

NEWS

INTERVIEWS

FICTION

SPORTS

FOR ALL THINGS ASHFIELD

BOYS'

THE ASHFIELD BOYS' INFORM

CONTENTS

ASHFIELD NEWS
PAGE 5

FABULOUS FOOD
PAGE 10

FOOTBALL SUPERSTARS
PAGE 12



2
Contents

3
Message from the Team

4
Meet the Team

5
Ashfield News

6 - 7
Year 8: ABHS So Far!

8
Ski Trip

9
Year 10 Trip to Newcastle

10
Running Club

11
Fabulous Food: ABHS Canteen

Government and Politics: Another Day
at the Office

12
Football Superstars: An Interview with
Mason Ayre

13
From Classmates to Teammates: A
Ganaway Adventure

Fishing and Fun

14
Review: Marina and the Diamonds

15
Fiction: *Snow Problem*

Poetry: 'Moon'



MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

THE ASHFIELD NEWSROOM

Hello again from the Ashfield Inform newsroom!

Welcome to our January issue, full of all things Ashfield Boys' High School. From amazing reviews to fabulous fiction and recent news, there's something for everyone.

The highlights of this term for the team include a number of new members joining our newsroom, an exploration into poetry writing and a look at life in Year 8 so far – just to name a few!

This term, the team have had the chance to interview some amazing people from the Ashfield community. From the award winning canteen crew to running superstars and fantastic footballers.

Thank you for reading, we hope you enjoy reading our issue as much as we enjoyed writing it!



BY THE INFORM TEAM

THE INSIDE SCOOP



If you were to take a walk along the English corridor, you would find a room numbered 31. At first glance, you wouldn't think much goes on in there. It has the name of the teacher, Miss Roy, and the class name 9LJR. But look down a little, just below eye-level or so, and you will find a poster stating: 'The Ashfield Inform.' That's where we come in! I'm one of several Ashfield Inform students who work here and I'm going to give you the inside scoop.

The head of the club is Miss L. Roy, who takes all the articles created and compiles them to make the newspaper. A lovely teacher who treats you right and is fun to work for. Recently, Lewis Campbell has joined us as Editor-in-Chief, he may be new but we're sure he'll make us proud. He's the right sort of chap who's got wisdom to share. Zac Morgan-Winchester is junior editor, he edits and oversees the work of our Key Stage 3 recruits.

Then there's our two photographers, Jacob Craig and Max Heron, who often debate about their vision for the paper's styling. They take photos of events for us and, let me tell you, they produce stellar work! I'm Cain Olszewski (Ol-shev-skee), journalist and fiction writer. I wrote a series of stories for last year's paper and also wrote articles on a variety of topics.

We also have Mikey B who is a ponderous poet. Last year, Mikey wrote a beautiful poem entitled 'Butterfly.' Sam Forsythe and Christopher Fleming are also new to the team this year, working as reporters to keep you updated on all things Ashfield.

With this crew of people constantly creating, you'll always be up to date with school life at Ashfield Boys' High School, so stay tuned!



by Cain Olszewski, 11 KKI

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

MEET THE TEAM



LEWIS CAMPBELL
YEAR 14
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



MAX HERON,
YEAR 11
PHOTOGRAPHER



ZAC MORGAN-WINCHESTER,
YEAR 12
JUNIOR EDITOR



MIKEY B,
YEAR 11
FICTION WRITER



CAIN OLSZEWSKI,
YEAR 11
FICTION WRITER AND
REPORTER



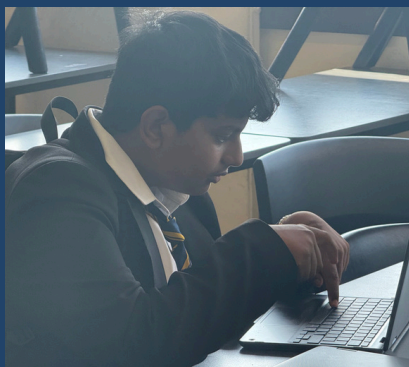
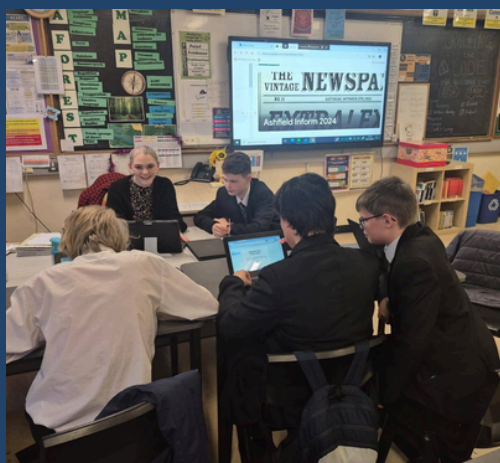
SAM FORSYTHE,
YEAR 11
REPORTER



JACOB CRAIG,
YEAR 11
PHOTOGRAPHER



CHRISTOPHER FLEMING
YEAR 8
REPORTER



Ashfield News

A quick round-up of just some of the stories from Ashfield Boys' High School.

Fantastic Football



In October, the IFA Junior Programme participants and Year 9 football team had the amazing opportunity to visit the National Stadium at Windsor Park for a tour of the stadium.

The boys also stopped off at The Oval. During their tours, the boys learnt all about the stadiums' histories - what a brilliant opportunity!



The Art of Poetry



Ashfield Boys' celebrated National Poetry Day on 2nd October 2025, taking to the playgrounds during their English lessons to share their favourite poems! With chalk in hand, boys across Key Stage 3 wrote memorable lines of poetry on the grounds of Ashfield. Despite it being a wet and windy day, all enjoyed taking part and learning how poetry can be fun.

The Future Awaits

Years 13 and 14 had an enlightening October as the ER&M University Roadshow 2025 rolled into Ashfield! The boys had the opportunity to learn all about Universities in England, Scotland and Wales.

The roadshow provided lots of information, from a presentation to talking face-to-face with University representatives, allowing our boys to start paving the path to their own futures.



Scarily Good Baking!

Halloween saw the return of the Ashfield Boys' Halloween Bake Off. This year, Mark and his amazing canteen team supported the HE department in judging the bakes.

From ghoulish cupcakes to perfect pumpkin cakes and a skeleton graveyard, the bakes this year were terrifyingly tasty - well done to all who entered!



The Sound of the Season

On the 12th December, Ashfield Boys' rang in the festive season with our annual carol service in Belmont Presbyterian Church.

We had fantastic performances from our school band and staff choir before joining together to sing songs of the season.

Thank you to Miss Hill, Miss Collins and Mrs Kerrigan for bringing music to our ears, and to Belmont Presbyterian Church for hosting us once more.



YEAR 8: ABHS SO FAR!

Year 8 tell all about their first few months at Ashfield Boys'!

EBEL SEJO, 8JRC

What primary school did you go to?

I went to Victoria Primary School and started Ashfield Boys' in August 2025.

What is your favourite subject?

I have two favourite subjects! I like Maths and P.E. - we get to try loads of different games and sports in P.E.

What is your favourite memory of Ashfield so far?

My favourite memory so far is when we went on our first Year 8 school trip to Ganaway in October. We did loads of activities there, but my favourite was laser tag!

What's your favourite food from Ashfield's canteen?

My favourite food from the canteen has to be the break time waffles - I have them with chocolate sauce! They're yummy. My other favourite has to be the canteen chips.



JACOB MCBRIDE, 8LAK

What is your favourite subject?

My favourite subject is P.E. because I like sports, especially football.

What is your favourite memory of Ashfield so far?

My favourite memory so far has been our Year 8 trip to Ganaway. It's my favourite memory because I got to spend time with my friends. I really enjoyed the laser tag because we competed in teams - it was so fun!

What school events have you been involved in?

My favourite food from the canteen has to be the Grab and Go wraps. There is always lots of choice and they're really tasty.



YEAR 8: ABHS SO FAR!

Year 8 tell all about their first few months at Ashfield Boys'!

BEN GRAHAM, 8LAK

What is your favourite subject?

My favourite subject is H.E. because we get to cook loads of cool things. I didn't like the chocolate apples at Halloween though!

What is your favourite memory of Ashfield so far?

My favourite memory so far has been going on our first Year 8 school trip to Ganaway in October. All the activities were really fun, but I didn't do the zip line because it was too high and made me nervous.

What's your favourite food from Ashfield's canteen?

I love the canteen's chicken dishes (except the curry - I'm not a fan of curry) The chicken burgers are really tasty, everyone loves them.



NICO KUTCHA, 8LAK

What is your favourite subject?

My favourite subject has to be Games because we get to play football and that's my favourite sport.

What is your favourite food from the canteen?

I love the canteen chips on a Friday, they're crunchy, fluffy and yummy.

What school events have you been involved in?

Our class marked remembrance day with the rest of our year group in the assembly hall. There were readings and a minute of silence. It was very memorable.



By the Inform Team



SKI TRIP

By Jacob Craig



“

It was the trip of a lifetime!

”

YEARS 8 TO 11 TOOK TO THE SKI SLOPES IN BULGARIA!

DAY ONE

I woke up bright and early Sunday morning at around five thirty am to get ready, full of excitement and anticipation. We had to be at the airport at seven am to catch our flight to Bulgaria!

When we arrived at the airport, we had to wait, bleary-eyed, in a big line to check our luggage. After that, we went and got breakfast in the airport – I got a sausage sandwich to set me up for the day, it was delicious! By then, it was time to board our flight. After four short hours, we arrived at Plovdiv airport.

After a two and a half hour bus journey, we wound our way up to the top of the mountain range where our hotel was situated. The snow covered trees and the views during our drive were breathtaking!

That evening, we got unpacked and settled into our rooms before venturing out for dinner together. The food was amazing and just the cure after a long day of travelling.

The rest of the trip flew in, the next few days were filled with more skiing and a different activity each evening. One evening, we even did a karaoke night! If you get the opportunity to go on the ski trip, I would take that chance – it was the trip of a lifetime!



DAY TWO

On our second day of the trip, we woke up early to snow-capped mountains and panoramic views of the mountain range. After some breakfast in the hotel, we all met downstairs at eight-thirty am to get the bus to the slopes.

Our first port of call was to head to the ski depot to get our skis and boots fitted – this was when the excitement really kicked in! Following this, we met with our ski instructors, my instructor was called Addi. In our first lesson, Addi showed us how to move on the skis. It was a tiring but fun morning. The time flew in and soon it was time for lunch in Alex's restaurant – situated right on the slopes! There was an amazing selection of different foods to choose from, I went for their chicken goujons with chips, these were nice as the chips were freshly and so crunchy, warm and fluffy.

After lunch, we went back to skiing for another couple of hours before getting bus back to the hotel. That wasn't the end of our fun for the day though! After a bit of a rest, we met up again for swimming. There was a big pool in the hotel, with the deepest depth being nearly two metres – can you believe that?



IT'S A LONG WAY TO NEWCASTLE, CO.DOWN!



By Cain Olszewski

YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS TRAVEL TO NEWCASTLE.

On the morning of February 5th, the three Year 10 classes scheduled for the trip to Newcastle, reported to the assembly hall to await further instruction. Once each group was assigned a teacher to report to, we were out and onto the bus! We had Mrs Donaldson, Mr Mooney and two LSAs with us. The bus journey took about an hour, but felt like five minutes. I listened to music the whole journey, so my eyes were free to take in the scenery of rolling hills, blue sea and blue skies. I even spotted a Mini Cooper painted orange, a similar model to Mr Bean's car.

As we arrived into Newcastle, Mrs Donaldson pointed out the ever empowering Mourne Mountains - to which someone exclaimed very loudly at their beauty. Soon after, we arrived at the car park in Newcastle and we got off where Mrs Hill joined us and our stroll began.

We first went down the beach and it was a challenge to keep our balance when walking on the pebbles. I got the hang of it as started to eyeball what rocks would shift under my wait and which would stay steadfast. We stopped for a rest against the sea wall, then we travelled over to the groynes (structures that are built to trap sediment and widen the beach) This was an opportunity to take in some of the structures we had been learning about in Geography class. Some of us had to jump over a little water to get to them - but I was prepared! I could walk straight through since I had worn my boots.

Next, we went up along the promenade in search of some lunch. The options were endless, from a Cafe Mauds to local bakeries. After lunch, we spent some time in the arcade, going on the dodgems and playing air hockey with friends! We all went home exhausted, having learnt a lot and seen so much. It was a great day!



“ We all went home exhausted, having learnt a lot and seen so much. It was a great day! ”

Racing in Running Club

The inside scoop on one of Ashfield Boys' High School's most competitive after school clubs.

Ben Hewitt, 12CAH

Ben is one of the running club's most dedicated members! Having attended the club since joining Ashfield Boys' High School in 2021, Ben shares all about why the club is so special to him.

Tell us about yourself!

My name's Ben and I'm in Year 12! I've been going to running club every Friday without fail since I joined the school in Year 8.

Do you run much outside of running club?

Yes! I try to run a five kilometre run every morning at six am to set me up for the day. I'm primarily a long distance runner and was a keen runner before I joined Ashfield Boys'. In the future, I would love to train to the point where I could run in the marathon!

Why is Running Club such an important part of your week?

I love Running Club for the comraderie and support that you get, it's a great feeling! The competition is also a great motivation - at the moment, I have a competition against my friend Zac as we compete each week. I also find that running clears my mind, which is so important for me at the moment as I am studying for my GCSEs.



Friends and rivals:
Ben Hewitt, 12CAH (left) and Zac Morgan-Winchester, 12CAH (right)



Zac Morgan-Winchester, 12CAH

Zac, editor of The Ashfield Boys' Inform and avid Running Club member, tells us more.

Tell us about Running Club!

Running Club is a club where runners of all ages can come together on a Friday to run through Millennium or Belmont park and enjoy the fresh air. I have been a member of the club since my friend Ben encouraged me to join in 2023.

What has the most memorable event been for the club?

In June, we had our last Running Club of the school year! Mr McKnight included some of the Year 14s, who were original members of the club, to race too. I won this race - despite my shoe actually falling off mid-way through our run! I was awarded a mini trophy for my efforts, as was Ben for placing second.

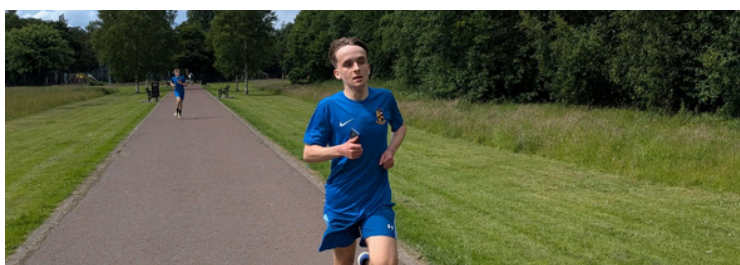


What do you enjoy most about Running Club?

I personally find Running Club the best way to end the week! It's a great way to relax after a long week of school. I also enjoy being a part of the competition. Myself and Ben have had our own personal competition to see who can win most over the year! The year finished with Ben having won 14 races and myself having won 10 - so close!

Do you train much during the week?

At the moment, running is very much a passion hobby for me. I try to run in the afternoons when I have time around my studies, but Running Club is a non-negotiable - I go every week!





FABULOUS FOOD: ABHS CANTEEN



A LOOK AT ABHS'S AWARD NOMINATED CANTEEN

The Ashfield Boys' canteen has been making headlines recently with their fabulous food. Mark and his amazing team were recently short-listed in the Public Sector Catering Awards 2025, coming runner up for the Team of the Year Award!

This is an amazing achievement for Mark and the team, who celebrated at the awards show hosted in London.

The canteen has dazzled us this year with an amazing array of foods available. On Mondays, Ashfield boys can enjoy a scrummy waffle for their break! One of the most popular dishes has to be the canteen's chicken burger, served on Fridays. The boys rave about the fabulous flavour, fluffy bap and perfectly cooked chicken.



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE

Ashfield Boys' burgeoning Politics Department hosted a thoroughly lively, enjoyable and insightful political panel debate on Friday, 12th September. We were joined by DUP Leader Gavin Robinson, alongside MLAs Matthew O'Toole (South Belfast - SDLP), Gerry Carroll (West Belfast - People Before Profit) and Peter McReynolds (East Belfast - Alliance).



From Northern Ireland's future to Kneecap, with the Irish sea border and 'vigilantism' on the streets in-between, the conversation was engaging and refreshing.



Our discussion was all washed down with SD Bell's finest coffee and tea and, to quote Mr. O'Toole, "truly exceptional baked-in-house treats. The Ashfield pupils are well fed!"

FOOTBALL SUPERSTARS

AN INTERVIEW WITH: MASON AYRE

Mason tells all about his fast growing football career!

Tell us about yourself!

My name's Mason Ayre, I'm in Year 12 at Ashfield Boys' High School and I play football for Glentoran Under 16s, Northern Ireland Under 15s and I am also going to be playing for Nottingham Forest F.C.

How did you get started in football?

My dad got me involved in football, I started playing at the age of five and haven't stopped since! I started playing football for East Belfast before joining Glentoran.

Since then, I have also joined the Northern Ireland Football Team. The positions I play are primarily centre midfielder and sometimes right wing.

What does your training look like?

Training takes a lot of dedication. At the moment, I train every night Monday through to Thursday, have Saturday as a match day and Sunday as a rest day.

This has meant I have had to keep on top of all my school work and homeworks, especially as I am currently studying for my GCSEs!



What is the best thing about playing football?

Part of the reason I love football is that it's so fun. You get to make loads of friends as you work as a team. It also keeps me so busy, which is great.

Have you travelled anywhere to play?

Yes! I went to play in Cyprus with the Northern Ireland football team. Whilst in Cyprus, I played against Finland, Cyprus and Hungary - we won every match we played! It was the experience of a lifetime.

What's next?

Recently, I was scouted and selected to play for Nottingham Forest F.C. which is a Premier League team, so exciting times are ahead.

What advice would you give to a younger player looking to progress?

I would say keep working hard - hard work pays off! Although, still make sure to enjoy every moment. If you try hard enough, things will fall into place.





FROM CLASSMATES TO TEAMMATES: A GANAWAY ADVENTURE

By Christopher Fleming, 8JRC



Year 8, Christopher Fleming, recounts October's trip to Ganaway Adventure Centre.

Ganaway is an activity centre full of fun, as I found out in October! It was a cold but dry day as we headed down in the coach towards Ganaway for an action packed adventure.

Along with me, there was my whole form class, 8JRC, and everyone from 8BDK and 8ALM. Mrs Beattie, our Head of Year, was also there.



Our first activity of the day was laser tag. It was so much fun! We were put into two teams and had to compete to have the last man standing. I got 19 of my opponents, although I was shot by other lasers 12 times! This was my favourite activity of the day. After this, we had a break for lunch in Ganaway's yummy canteen where I enjoyed a sandwich with my friends.

Our next two challenges were not for those with a fear of heights! In the afternoon, we went indoor rock climbing. The instructors were really cool and kind, showing us the best way to climb.

The zip line was next, it was so high - it was crazy! I went down the zip line twice because it was so fun. Our class tried to make our form teacher, Mrs Crozier, go down the zip line too - but no luck!



Overall, it was a great trip. I got to know my classmates better and also had lots of fun. I wish I could do the day all over again!

FISH AND FUN!

By Sam Forsythe

Do you feel fin-tastic?

You will in a minute when I tell you about our family fishing trip! It was a cold but sunny October day - a good day for fishing. The water was rowing back and forth from the wind, the sky was grey and looked like it might rain.

We sat talking quietly so as not to scare off the fish, all the while hoping for a bite. Our hosts from NI Cross Community Angling told us about their biggest catches as if they were war stories. For some Ashfield Boys and their parents, it was their first time fishing. Some of the fish caught were small, some were big. Some fish weren't moving much and some were twitching about and slipping out of people's hands, but by the end of the trip nearly everyone had caught at least one fish - some even caught more than one! A memorable day was had by all.





REVIEWS

MARVELLOUS MUSIC: MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS



By Mikey B

Mikey interviews Head of Music, Miss Hill, to get an insight into some new music releases!

Have you ever wanted to listen to a new music artist but you don't know who? Well, I have the musician for you!

Marina is a versatile artist who uses different genres in her music to keep listeners interested and to continue to bring in new listeners. There is such a variety across Marina's music, from pop to slow, sad and deep songs. Some examples of Marina's songs are 'Primadonna Girl' and 'Teen Idle,' which are both from the same album, but have completely different sounds. Currently, she has five albums which include; 'The Family Jewels,' 'Electra Heart,' 'Love and Fear' and then (my personal favourite) 'Ancient Dreams in a Modern Land.'



My favourite sound from 'Ancient Dreams in a Modern Land' is 'Purge the Poison,' because she addresses real life issues, delivering the message with a pop and alternative instrumental that hooks you into the song. Marina originally started on MySpace, releasing her first EP 'Mermaid vs Sailor.' Some songs from 'Mermaid vs Sailor' feature on Marina's debut album 'The Family Jewels.'

Marina doesn't just stop at music! She has recently released a poetry book called, 'Eat the World' which is filled with deep and meaningful poems about Marina's life.

"To encapsulate this feeling I'd had throughout my teens and my twenties that drove a lot of my work at the time. It's like this insatiable need to be loved, essentially, and no matter what you achieve, there's nothing that can really fill it permanently." – Marina.

If you are wondering if she has stopped releasing music, you would be wrong because Marina is currently releasing singles for her new album. The ones released so far are 'Butterfly' and 'Cupid's Girl.' 'Butterfly' has fun lyrics and an upbeat instrumental, but 'Cupid's Girl' has more impactful lyrics.

Our own Head of Music, Miss Hill, listened to Marina's original music back in the day!

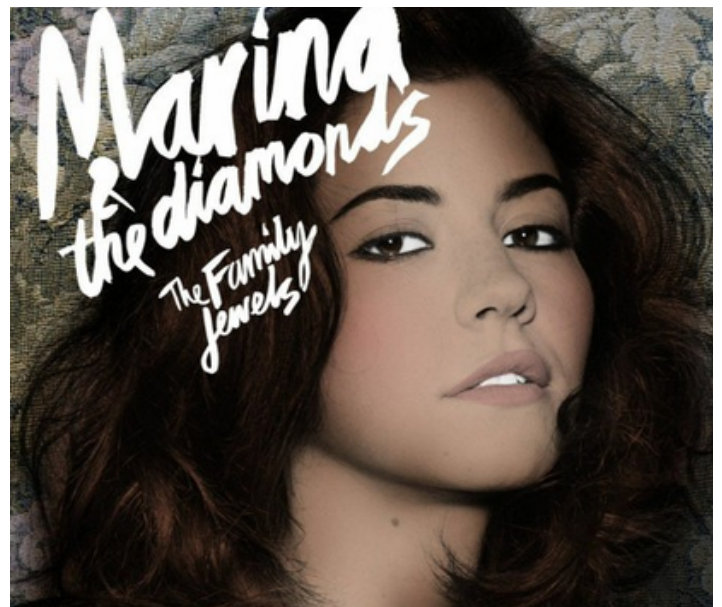
"I was a massive fan of Marina (back then, known as Marina and the Diamonds) during my student years at Queen's University. I have been to two of her concerts – the first was in Mandela Hall in 2010 when she released the album 'The Family Jewels' and the second was in the Limelight in 2015 after the release of her album 'Froot.'

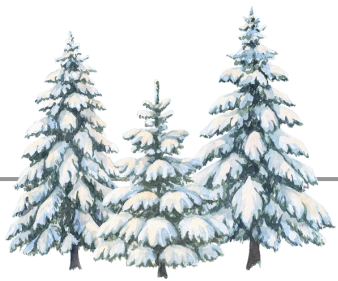
What I loved about Marina was her electro pop sound, her fashion and how well she engaged with her audience and fans. Both gigs were in small venues which made them more intimate – you got to actually see the artist up close rather than a little dot running across the stage!

I always reminisce about the first time I saw Marina in 2010. Something I always remember about going to gigs back then was how the crowd weren't obsessed with taking videos or pictures the whole time – you snapped one or two photos on your old Blackberry or iPhone 4 and just danced and sang the night away! (I'm making myself seem very old here!)"

Well you heard from myself and Miss Hill – you would be missing out if you didn't check out Marina's music!

“What I loved about Marina was her electro-pop sound....”





FICTION

SNOW PROBLEM



By Cain Olszewski

"All righty, let's plow snow laughing all the wa...-what!" As the doors flung open, loco number 32106 could see the ground. "Flippin' 'eck!" It exclaimed in its Cockney accent. "15 days into December and no flake has even dropped from the clouds." He went on, "They export me to a European country for a publicity campaign of me plowing snow and there's nothing!?" They said 'oh the snow will be thick,' yet I can see the ground."

The yard shunter sidled up in front.

"Ach, don't worry," they said with a strong accent. "It's jus' warm wind from the south." They continued, as 32106 was towed out into the crisp winter morning air.

"Still, I think this defeats the purpose of my presence."

"Question," came a reply.

"Shoot," Cockney Loco replied.

"How old are you?"

"Long in the tooth you could say, 108,9,10- Oh (Steam Whistle) I'm really old. BUT STILL RELEVANT!" It said with Glee. "Don't lose that spirit," the Shunter replied. "It may just prove useful for the snow."

"Would that I could if there was any." The old loco replied as he was dragged off for what would be a surprising week.



POETRY: 'MOON'

By Mikey B



**The moon is so cold and cool
It feels like floating in the pool
Humming like it's Christmas time
Under the warm candle light**

**The moon's full cycle is alluring with an ethereal glow
Whether it looks like a frost or crimson moon
When the street lights dim and the cars turn off
You know it's time for the moon to awake soon**

**People say the moon is made out of cheese
Because it is a delicious sight to see
From Sweden to London
The moon's gaze is always there,
Especially if you do stare**

**The moon, delicate to touch and easy to see
Not like the sun which is not as fun
To burn a hole in your eye, instead of a comforting radiance
That only the moon washes over the earth.**

