



# THE RICE REPORT

## THE RICE REPORT RETURNS!

We are delighted to publish a new issue of The Rice Report, the magazine written by students for students.

In this issue we have a wide range of articles, including reviews, personal experience, fiction and satire.

We hope you enjoy the read!

### Inside this issue:

A Review by William R 2-3

Experience: Sierra Leone 4-5  
by Gabriel K

Footballers V Malevolent 6-7  
Press By Jacob A

Enrichment at Ambrose 8  
by Jamie F and Tom B

'A Long Way to Go' by 9-10  
Jeswin J

The Bread Detector by 11  
Mohammad S and  
Matthew B



THE RICE REPORT

REVIEW: THE HITCHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY BY DOUGLAS ADAMS

Douglas Adams' "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" is a science fiction novel that explores the comedic adventures of a group of characters as they journey through space. Originally published in 1979, the book has become a classic of the genre and has been adapted into various media formats, including radio, television, and film.

The story begins with the destruction of Earth to make way for a hyper-space bypass. Arthur Dent, an ordinary human, is saved from certain death by his friend Ford Prefect, an alien journalist who had been stranded on Earth for several years. Ford takes Arthur on an incredible journey through space

and time as they hitchhike on various spaceships and encounter a variety of strange creatures and bizarre situations.

*"an incredible journey through space and time"*



*Martin Freeman played Arthur Dent in the 2002 film adaptation*

One of the most entertaining aspects of the book is the titular Hitchhiker's Guide, a device that provides information on the galaxy and the many different species that inhabit it. The guide is often humorous and offers a unique per-

spective on the universe. The guide's entries on Earth are particularly amusing, as they are written from an outsider's perspective and provide a satirical commentary on human behaviour.



## REVIEW: THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY BY DOUGLAS ADAMS

Another highlight of the book is its cast of characters. Arthur and Ford are joined by Zaphod Beeblebrox, a two-headed alien who is the President of the Galaxy, and his companion Trillian, who is the only

other human survivor of Earth's destruction. Marvin, a depressed and sarcastic robot, also becomes a key member of the group. Each character has their own distinct personality and adds a unique flavour to the story.

Adams' writing style is clever and witty, with many puns,

wordplay, and humorous observations. His use of absurd situations and surreal imagery creates a sense of unpredictability and adds to the book's humour. At the same time, the novel also touches on deeper themes such as the meaning of life and the futility of trying to find meaning in the vastness of the universe.

*“clever and witty, with many puns, wordplay, and humorous observations.”*

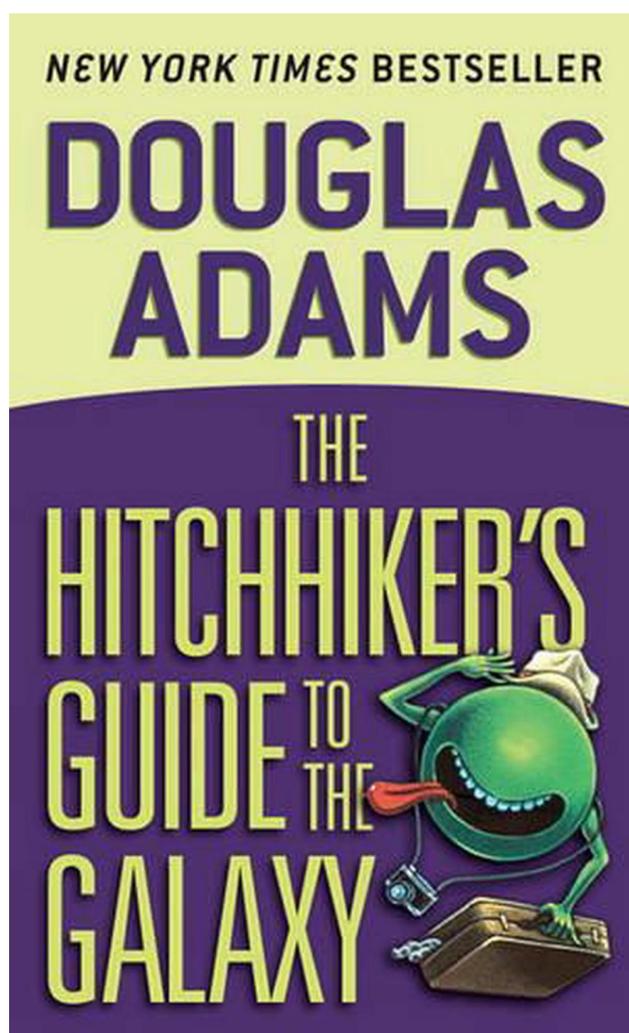
While the book is primarily a comedy, it also has elements of science fiction and adventure. The characters travel to various planets and encounter a range of strange creatures, from the Vogons, a bureau-

cratic alien race, to the super-computer Deep Thought, which was designed to answer the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything. .

*“entertaining and thought provoking”*

Overall, “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” is an entertaining and thought-provoking book that has become a classic of science fiction. Its unique blend of humour, satire, and adventure has captivated

readers for over four decades, and its influence can be seen in many other works of popular culture. Fans of the book will also enjoy the sequels in the series, as well as the various adaptations that have been made over the years.



By William R in year 10

## THE RICE REPORT

### EXPERIENCE: SIERRA LEONE BY GABRIEL K YEAR 12

In February half term, myself and 12 other students of the sixth form travelled to Sierra Leone in Eastern Africa.

It is very easy to make assumptions about a foreign country and I certainly did.

I think a lot of us were questioning what we were doing 1000s of miles from home, but despite the nerve-racking introduction, over the next 9 days, Sierra Leone began to welcome us and it was something I have never experienced before.



*“It is very easy to make assumptions about a foreign country...”*

At the centre of Sierra Leone are the people- that fact is undisputed. If you look into the history of Sierra Leone, there are numerous tragedies, which would threaten anybody’s belief in justice or even a higher being. I think everybody has had that moment where they question why something has happened or what they’ve done to deserve it but Sierra Leoneans aren’t defined by their past but how they act in the present. It

was these same people that jumped for joy when they saw us on the bus, or who would engage in arguments with us over the best football team- they saw no differences or disparities with us, they just saw us as equals.



All I can say is that you should not feel sympathy for those in Sierra Leone, as at the end of the day, they are content. I think that is a lesson we could all learn. That is why over the next year, I hope the whole community will fully engage in raising funds for St Ambrose Academy, as if we were ever in need of anything, they would

not hesitate to help us. Life in year 12 can be tough, with exam pressures and essay deadlines, but I will always remember the feeling of being truly excited to spend another day in the sun-soaked paradise which is Sierra Leone. I feel so lucky to have had this opportunity and would highly recommend it to future students and staff.

**By Gabriel K in year 12**



*“I will always remember the feeling of being truly excited to spend another day in the sun-soaked paradise, which is Sierra Leone”*



## THE RICE REPORT

### THE MALEVOLENT PRESS WILL CONTINUE TO RAVAGE VULNERABLE YOUNG FOOTBALLERS

Athletes represent the peak of human potential but can also reflect human weakness. To perform consistently at the highest level of a sport requires an extraordinary mindset. LeBron James once said, "I think the mental side of the game is way over 50%, probably around 80%". An illusion surrounds professional sport that to reach the elite levels one merely requires skill, when in fact

a variety of factors can reduce a sportsperson ability to perform. From the outside, it may appear that athletes live the perfect life, living in luxury and given the opportunity to do what they truly enjoy. Whilst these are certainly major advantages, the difficulties that come alongside them are often looked past. Throughout this article, I intend to explore the ways in which living the life of a footballer can damage one's mental health.



*“Prying eyes are ever waiting for footballers”*



Firstly, there is the press. Aggressive interviewers, rude questions and constant invasion of privacy are just a few of the struggles the media can inflict on a player. Prying eyes are ever waiting for footballers to appear in public view, almost waiting for them to do something even slightly imperfect, to capture it and plaster it around the world. The most famous example of a player crumbling under the spotlight is Paul Gascoigne, whose life and career serves as signposts in our own stories of hope and disappointment.

Like so many of today's young players, 'Gazza' wandered into the scene like a new-born lamb, only to be manipulated through an invasion of his personal life from the inside. The press scandal involved instructing reporters to ruthlessly hound every one of his steps, to follow his every move. Paul Gascoigne was treated in a way which violated his human

rights. The Human rights act of 1998, Article 8 states 'Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence'. The treatment of Paul Gascoigne clearly breaks this. Privacy is essential to who we are as human beings and protecting privacy is key to ensuring human dignity, safety and self-determination. Given the importance of these values in professional sport, the media is a significant problem.

## THE MALEVOLENT PRESS WILL CONTINUE TO RAVAGE VULNERABLE YOUNG FOOTBALLERS



However, examples of the traditional media causing such problems in the modern game are few and far between. Instead, social media stands as a platform for footballers to be relentlessly abused. A study found that 7 out of 10 Premier League players face abuse on Twitter alone, simply because of their profession. Furthermore, a report published by the media regulator Ofcom and The Alan Tu-

ring Institute found that of the 2.3 million tweets sent during the first half of the 2021-2022 season, more than 60,000 were abusive, exposing the tendency of a football fan to hate from the safety of their computer screen. This can have a detrimental effect on a player's mental health, which is so important to maintain in professional sport. A horrific example of this occurred after Euro 2020. After each

missing a penalty to hand the trophy to Italy, Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka received floods of hateful comments, including racial slurs and emojis. Racism is never acceptable, in any circumstance, and alongside missing a crucial penalty, the players would have been left devastated by the experience.



The story of Marcus Rashford's last few seasons highlights the impact of mental struggles on a player. Rashford was a young player blessed with talent, bursting onto the scene at the age of 18. The start of his career went tremendously, as everything went his way. However, in the 19/20

season, a series of injuries began. During the season, Rashford was out for 149 days, with the following season also plagued with injury. When he returned to action, he simply wasn't the same player. He opened up to Sky Sports in a recent interview, saying "Too often last season, I wasn't in the right headspace for games. I wasn't surprised by some of

the stuff that was happening." Rashford had been swept by a wave of criticism, and his performances didn't hide it. Throughout the 2021/22 season, Rashford accumulated just 4 Premier League goals in 25 appearances, his career low.

*"Society needs to wake up to the ugly truth about the supposedly beautiful game."*

However, this season, Marcus Rashford has inspired millions through his return to form, tallying 26 goals in the campaign. As reported by the Daily Mail, Rashford pinpoints a "completely different energy around the club and training ground", further commenting, "that puts me in a better headspace, and I feel really motivated. I

struggled mentally and with things off the pitch. That's the biggest difference,". This transparently shows the difference in a player's ability to perform when in a good headspace compared to a bad. In a profession where consistency is key, this is a problem which needs to be tackled promptly.

Society needs to wake up to the ugly truth about the supposedly beautiful game. Even today, footballers have less access to psychological support than a member of the public. Despite being in a position of extreme pressure, players often bottle up their emotions in fear of judgement from the press. Occasionally, this ends in tragedy. A young man takes his own life, highlighting the toxicity of the environment in professional football. How far can this problem go before any sign of response?

**By Jacob A in year 10**

## THE RICE REPORT

# ENRICHMENT AT AMBROSE: WHAT CLUB TO CHOOSE IN 2023

*The guide to choosing the club that's best for you.*

With so many clubs on offer at St Ambrose, it can be hard to choose what to go for. This is our comprehensive guide on what to choose. We have chosen three categories to make sure you choose the club that

### **Best Sports Club: Water Polo (all years)**

#### **All week at lunchtimes and after school**

If you want to get involved in school sports, or just want to get some exercise, sports clubs are the best for you. You don't need to have played for a team to take part in a club at school, so you can try it and if you enjoy it, carry on, because you never know, you might make the team! Being in a team can create opportunities to make friends with players from other forms that you don't usually talk to. Also you can play competitive matches other schools, which can be incredibly fun (and give you time off school).



### **Best music club: Orchestra**

#### **Friday 12:30 Room 2305**

If you play an instrument and want to join a music club, this is the best one for you. Coming straight from an exciting trip to Disneyland Paris, orchestra is a great club if you plan an instrument but don't know where to start, with a wide repertoire including film music and pop songs. Orchestra is deeply rewarding and a great club for musician wanting to play in a group.



### **Best academic club: Chess Club**

#### **Monday 12:30 Room 2408**

Chess is gaining popularity right now and whether you are a complete beginner or a grandmaster, this club is for you. With regular tournaments and prizes, this club will surely bring out your competitive side. If you are just a casual player, there is always someone to play against. If you want to improve your game, or just want to have fun, make sure to go to chess club.



By Tom B and Jamie F in year 8

## THE RICE REPORT

### 'A LONG WAY TO GO' BY JESWIN J

Chris lay down on the rust coloured leaves and stared up towards the night: it was all over.

A few hours earlier, Chris had been sitting on a worn-out seat on the Time Train, the only device that could take daring spies like Chris back in time. For his final assignment for the MI5, he had to travel 40 years back in time to stop a ruthless serial killer, who had murdered ten innocent people.

40 years back in time: it was a long way to go.

Although the killer's identity remained unknown, Chris was provided with a confidential image of a shadowy figure clad in a hooded cloak with a strangely familiar posture. Even though Chris had worked with the MI5 for many years as a brave spy, this case stood out – he had never gone so far back into the past to stop someone, particularly someone as intimidating as this current target. A momentary look of discomfort crossed his scarred face; his hands began to tremble and his teeth ground together in anxious worry. However, just before his body completely succumbed to fear, one thought kept him going: his valiant father.

His father was a brave army officer who had fought selflessly in numerous wars. However, many were disturbed by the brutal tactics he would utilise to bring revenge on his enemies. Once, when he had been back home months after ruthlessly defeating his adversaries, his father confessed to Chris that the sight of fear in the eyes of his enemies during their final moments of life would bring him pleasure. Despite this, the integrity of his father's spirit empowered Chris to undertake each mission fearlessly, and so he followed in his father's footsteps.

The train gradually came to a stop. The year was 2022 and the train doors, discoloured with Time Rust, opened to a gloomy woodland. Now was the exact last known time and location of the killer. The familiar flicker of fear passed over Chris' body, but with the thought of his father's heroism, he forced himself to leave the train. Cautiously, reigned in on all sides by darkness and gloom, he walked through the forest and deep into the jaws of death.

Suddenly, he saw the hunched silhouette of a menacing figure moving through the woods; instinct told him that this figure was the serial killer. The dark figure had a foreboding presence and held a sharp knife as it crept, like a snake slithering towards its oblivious prey. The piercing sounds of its ominous footsteps were soon consumed by Chris' heartbeat, which became increasingly louder. He

THE RICE REPORT

'A LONG WAY TO GO' BY JESWIN J

He knew he had to act and thinking once more of his father pulled out his loaded pistol and aimed it fearlessly at the killer.

“Show yourself!” Chris roared. The figure paused and straightened its back. It calmly removed its dark cloak and turned around to reveal its face in the pale glow of moonlight.

It was his father.

Christ stood still, frozen in isolation. He grew sick. Thunder struck. A horrific sensation flooded his limbs as an understanding settled itself in his mind like a bullet into the barrel of a gun. Chris knew that killing his father would prevent his own existence, but if he didn't stop him now, he would have to share the guilt for the murders of those ten innocent people. Could he do it? Kill his father and destroy himself to save the lives of ten strangers? He had looked up to his father all his life; yet now he had discovered his true self and the reasons for his bloodlust. The shocking revelation brought the sweat on him like running.

His heart exploded and disbelief calcified his fingers, now unable to squeeze the trigger. However, he knew there was only one outcome: he dies a hero, or kills the hero he once knew. Eventually, with a new self-discovered courage, he knew what to do.

Silver bullets ripped through the night sky and struck his father, who fell clutching at his chest. The knife clattered on the wooden roots of a tree. Chris sat down and dropped his pistol. His eyes met his father's one last time. Although he had won, he accepted that he had destroyed his own existence. Now it was just a matter of seconds before he was taken away.

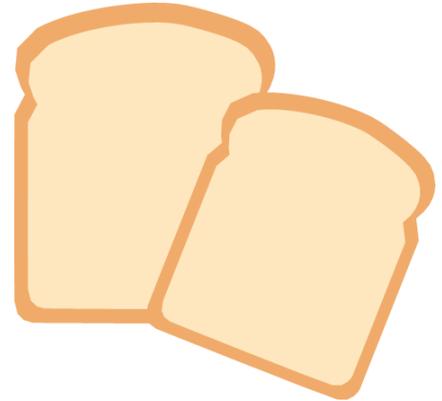
Chris lay down on the rust coloured leaves and stared up towards the night: it was all over.

By Jeswin J in year 11

# THE BREAD DETECTOR

Why did the bread film itself? Because it kneaded attention. Have you been giving your bread enough attention? If not, sounds like you need to purchase a bread detector.

Welcome to an introduction of electronics - where we make weird electronic circuits and projects solving useless problems. Order now and detect all the bread you ever wanted!



By Mohammad S and Matthew B in year 7

### Order Form Title

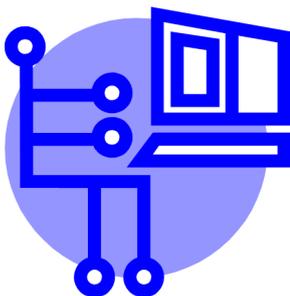
Item #	Description	Qty.	Price	Subtotal



### Special Offer

Order seven bread detectors now and get the eighth one for free!

(bread not provided)



Order total: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Method of Payment

- Check
- Bill Me
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



#### HP

Primary Business Address  
 Address Line 2  
 Address Line 3  
 Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555  
 Fax: 555-555-5555  
 Email: someone@example.com