



**Made for West Hatch, by West Hatch**

## **LOVE LOUNGE**

by Disha Gupta



**Love Lounge** was a vibrant celebration of talent, featuring incredible singing, energetic dance performances, mind-blowing magic tricks, heartfelt poetry, impressive Rubik's Cube solving and lively band performances. Every act brought something unique, making it an exciting, joyful, and unforgettable show that truly showcased creativity and confidence.



“When I participated in Love Lounge, I performed with my band ‘Vivid’, we performed a duet with my friend Zoe and performed three songs with the choir. I had a great experience because I enjoy being on stage, making people smile and performing with my friends as I get to be myself”  
– Odelya Yr8.

# LOVE LOUNGE

continued

“For my first show – I was nervous, but I really enjoyed it! It was such a fun experience. I really enjoyed singing a duet with one of my best friends.” – Diya Yr7



“Love Lounge is honestly the best way to express yourself in school! I am proud to say I join every year. I’m in Year 10 and this year I performed my own song, sang backup vocals for a band and joined in with the choir for 3 songs. Every time I perform, I think to myself: “This is what I was made to do, life feels so rich right now.” If you are somebody who has a talent or something they would like to share with family and friends, Love Lounge is for you - you will not regret it!” – Sarah Yr10

Thanks to the talented students and staff at West Hatch, Love Lounge will return next February.

Maybe the next headline act could be you!

# Why Dave Grohl is the ultimate rock star by A Music Fan, Yr 10

I want to introduce, or if you already know him, celebrate, a man who doesn't just *play* rock and roll, he lives it. A man whose name has history in the musical world. I want to explain why I consider Dave Grohl to be the ultimate rockstar.



Most musicians spend their whole careers mastering only one instrument, Dave Grohl, on the other hand, has learnt 3 different instruments: guitar; vocals and drums. However, he hasn't just learnt them to the point where he's good enough just to get by, he has mastered them.

At the beginning of his career, in 1990, Dave Grohl joined an unknown (at the time) band called Nirvana as their sixth drummer, driving the band's sound with precision and power. During his time with Nirvana, the band released two hit albums on which he played drums and sang backup vocals.

Tragically, in 1994 the lead singer of Nirvana, Kurt Cobain, died after committing suicide due to mental health issues, leaving Dave without a band and hole in his heart. After a couple of rough months without being able to listen, let alone play

music, Dave got a call from Tom Petty (an American rockstar) and was asked to play drums on SNL. Once his gig with Petty had finished, he had found a new inspiration for music and decided he must keep pursuing his musical dreams. It was this moment Dave Grohl founded his band the Foo Fighters.

However, forming a new band didn't come without any challenges as at the time when he was recording the first Foo Fighter's album, he had no band members, leaving him play every single instrument by himself on the record. This didn't matter much though as his first album inspired other musicians to join and together the Foo Fighters went on to release 11 albums and win 15 Grammy Awards. When sick or injured, most musicians who are on tour or doing events they always call off their shows, but not Dave Grohl. In 2015, Dave Grohl and the Foo Fighters were touring around the world and performed in Sweden.



During the show everything was going to plan until Dave attempted to jump off the stage and into the crowd. Instead of jumping in the 100s of thousands of roaring fans, he ended up jumping into an 8-foot-deep gap between the fans and the stage, breaking his leg in 3 different places and completely fracturing his ankle.

Although his leg was completely mutilated, he decided the show must go on and made the decision to keep playing sitting down with a doctor holding his leg intact.

Despite his commitment and musical talent, what really sets Dave Grohl apart from others is his heart. It is often said that he treats his fans like friends, taking time to connect, tell jokes and stories with them.

Whenever a new rock band is just starting out, Dave Grohl is always there to cheer them on, offer any advice and the first to collaborate with them.

Furthermore, off the stage Dave donates a lot of his fortune to charity and volunteers for communities who are struggling and in need of help. For example, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January (his birthday) 2025, instead of going out and partying with friends and family, Dave Grohl cooked for people of LA who were massively affected by the LA wildfires.

So why is Dave Grohl the ultimate rock star? It's because he is a master of his craft, unstoppable in his determination and he shows us that the true power of rock and roll lies in generosity and kindness.

### **If you enjoyed this, check out...**

Nevermind by Nirvana

The Color and the Shape by The Foo Fighters

Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness by The Smashing Pumpkins (genre defining Grunge album)

# Teacher Q&A

Interviewed by Adriana Akramova

**Mr. Mathison**, a science teacher, opens a window into life behind the classroom. From his experience in coaching children, to discovering a love for science, he shares what inspired him to become a teacher and the lessons he hopes students carry with them long after they leave. Over his 20-year career, he has adapted to changes in technology, guided students through challenges, and found joy and humor in unexpected classroom moments.

## **What inspired you to become a teacher, and when did you realise this was your path?**

When I was a teenager, I spent much of my free time coaching swimming to young children many of whom were physically impaired. I used to love the look on children's faces when you help them to do something they have never done before or something that they have struggled with - it's hard to beat that reaction.

By the end of sixth form, I realised I wanted a career where I could experience that regularly. Teaching felt like the natural fit. I knew I didn't want to go into PE—sport has always been my escape, not my job—and I've always been a bit of a science nerd. With a brother in astrophysics and a sister in chemistry, science was everywhere growing up. It also has that "wow factor," especially with practicals, so it was an easy decision in the end.

## **What's one lesson you hope students remember long after they leave your classroom?**

Ideally, all of them—but if I had to pick one, it would be that failure doesn't come from getting something wrong; it comes from not trying at all.

## **How has teaching changed since you first started?**

I started teaching in Scotland in 2005, this is my 20<sup>th</sup> year of teaching! My first lessons were taught using overhead projectors. The obvious answers are the use of IT and AI has changed how we do things. The courses and examinations have all changed. But honestly I could go back 20 years and there were students who wanted to work hard, students who didn't, students who got it, students who didn't and students who were keen to do well and students who were apathetic. That is definitely still the same we just have better WIFI now.

**What's the most challenging part of being a teacher today?**

One of the biggest challenges is "passive disengagement"—students who are physically in the room but not really present.

They're not disruptive, which almost makes it harder, but they're not pushing themselves either. It's that quiet mix of low effort and low expectation. Getting those students to re-engage and realise what they're capable of is often more challenging than dealing with obvious behaviour issues.

**If you could change one thing about the education system, what would it be?**

So many things!!! If I had to pick one thing, it would be the emphasis on testing at a young age.

Learning at that stage should be more about curiosity, exploration, and building confidence—not sitting at desks comparing scores. The more we can make learning feel natural and engaging early on, the more likely students are to stay motivated as they move through the system.

**If you were a teacher, what completely different job would you love to try and why?**

When I was younger, I would have said physiotherapist or sports coach—I've always loved sport and been fascinated by how the body works. These days, though, I think I'd go for something completely different—like being a shepherd in a secluded Caledonian glen. Largely for the peace and quiet and the chance to be around animals that are, on the whole, better at following instructions than my children and students.

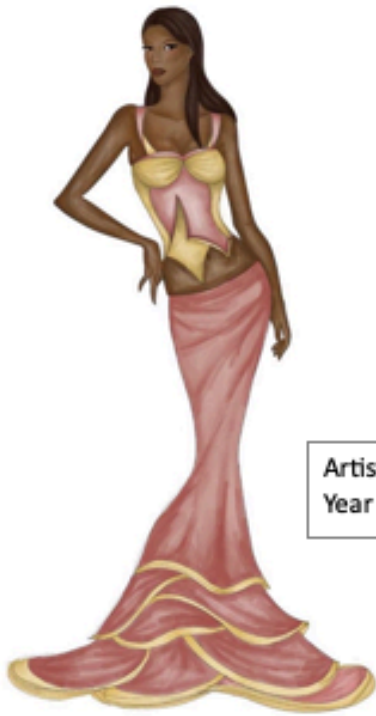
**What's the funniest classroom moment you've ever had?**

In 20 years there have been a lot of very funny moments. With a year 13 Physics class a few years ago I gave a circular motion question that had a student rapidly spinning on an office chair. The students being inquisitive asked if that number of rotations was even possible so we spent much of that lesson gathering data by making members of the class very dizzy trying to spin them on an office chair. Thankfully no one did a learning walk during that lesson!

**What's the hardest part about balancing work and personal life as a teacher?** I travel more than 2 hours to and from work every day. I have three children, six and under. I coach hockey three times a week, plus trying to keep fit myself. The hardest part is realising and coming to terms with the fact that you can't do everything. Balancing work and personal life is about juggling with some balls made of glass and the others made of rubber. You have to keep catching the ones of glass or they will fall and break. But the other balls will just bounce and you can pick them up again at a more convenient time. Some days you drop a few balls, but what matters is knowing which ones you can't afford to.

# The Palette Page

In this page we are going to explore many different art types, from paintings all the way to digital art. Countless people have a deep passion for art, so here are some art pieces from people in this school who have a love for art! If you want to be included in the page please get in touch.



Artist: Sana Afini  
Year 9 student



Artist: Kaasni Dubasia  
Year 9 student



Artist: Asia Haynes  
Year 12 student



Artist: Marta Semchuk  
Year 9 student

# Creative Corner

## The Wonderland of Love

By Saiya Malah

Wonderland

Your smile. Your laughter.

Is it the world of wonder,  
where the trees sway in the breeze of  
bitter air?

It floats through the night like a trail of  
musical notes though the air.  
It hypnotizes me.

Is it a land so far away, no eyes but  
ours can see?

Our eyes made for each other, for no  
others.

My heart belongs in your maze,  
and it's lost in your wonderland,

Will we be forever, or will the world  
of wonder

affectionate wonder, you give me the  
whole.

stop this enchanted journey of  
fondness &

devotion?

Your life. Your security.

Your deep companionship.

Are we in the world of amazing  
things?

Every glance, a new story unfurls.

A new chapter, a new life, but not a  
new lover.

Where life is not the end – but the  
beginning of the  
end.

'Till death us do part' and hand onto  
heart,

There is nowhere else I'd want to be.

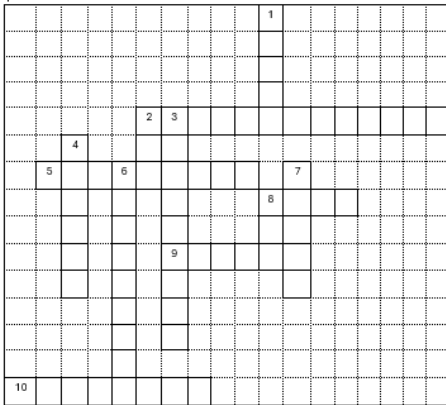
The world goes by, and time flies by -  
but us,

we live here together. Forever.

# Competition Page

## Fun Crossword

### The 2026 Winter Olympics



DOWN	ACROSS
1. How many gold medals did Britain win?	2. Dancing but on ice.
3. This sport is in a popular Pixar movie about emotions.	5. A popular movie called Cool Runnings is about this sport.
4. What country won the 2026 Winter Olympics?	8. How many different types of skiing event are there?
6. A USA athlete performed this popular song on the ice.	9. This country allegedly cheated on the men's curling event.
7. Where did the Olympics take place? (city)	10. A sport with the same name as part of the body.

## CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

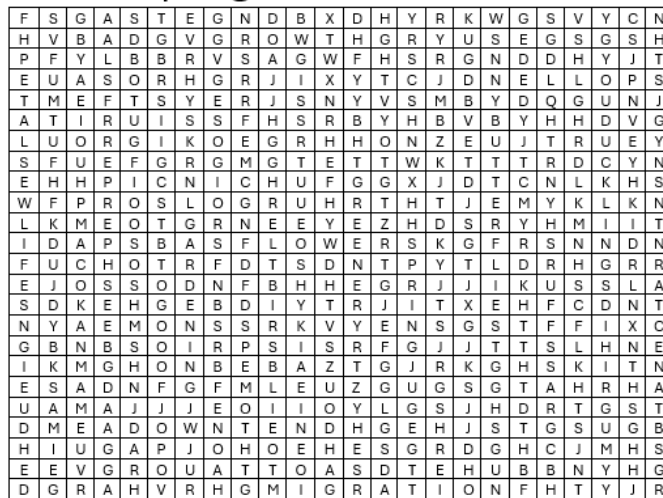
Write a short story about a **high school student** leading a **double life** as a **government agent**, balancing ordinary school life with extraordinary responsibilities.

Showcase your creativity and writing talent for a chance to have your work published—the **best entry will be featured in our school newspaper!**

Please submit your entry to :

[kking@westhatch.net](mailto:kking@westhatch.net)

## Springtime Wordsearch



BLOSSOM	FLOWERS	PETALS	LIFE	BUTTERFLIES
MEADOW	BEES	DEW	GREENERY	MIGRATION
SPRING	GROWTH	DUCKLINGS	RAINBOW	DRIZZLE
GRASS	GARDENING	NECTAR	POLLEN	PICNIC