



## **Millthorpe Library News**

### **Weekly News to your Library!**

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# **NASA successfully takes sample from asteroid**

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Dusty samples from the asteroid Bennu have successfully been returned back to Earth.

NASA, the American space agency has managed to land the samples back in the West Desert in the State of Utah. They are researching on 25% of the sample, and storing the other 75% for future generations to analyse.

**(Read page 2 to find out more).**

## **Conservatives scramble with HS2 controversy**

The Conservative Party are scrambling to make changes that satisfy their main supporters. The latest polls show the general public seem to be against the party's rule, which they are trying to change due to the risk of being voted out of power at the next vote if unrest continues.

**(Read page 3 to find out more)**

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## **Amazon takes on Microsoft as it invests billions in Anthropic.**

Amazon is planning to invest \$4bn or £3.3bn in a San Francisco-based AI firm Anthropic, mirroring the earlier tie-up between Microsoft and OpenAI. It's the latest billion dollar investment in part of a race between big AI firms to get the best potential out of AI.

**(Read page 10 to find out more).**

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# **Issue No.41 28/09/23**

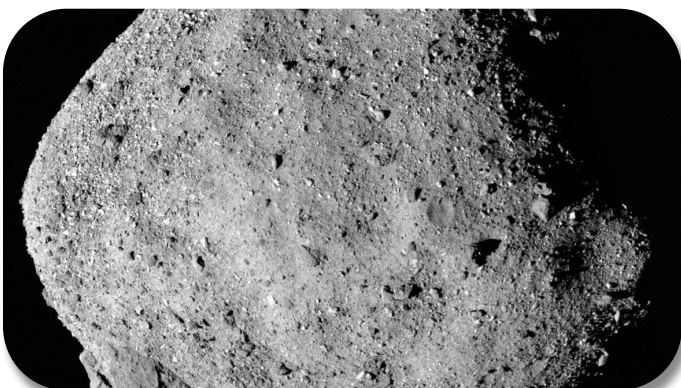
Main News Pages • Around The World • Science & Environment • Book Of The Week • Media Review • Music Review • Latest Tech News • Sports \* Puzzles • Credits



# NASA successfully returns asteroid sample

Dusty samples from the asteroid Bennu have successfully been returned to back to earth. NASA, the american space agency, has managed to land the samples back in the west desert of the state of Utah. The samples, which are thought to be the “most dangerous known in the solar system”, was scooped up from Bennu in 2020 by the space probe Osiris-Rex, the goal being to learn more about the object, which is thought to have a chance of striking the earth in the next 300 years. The sample could provide crucial insight to the formation of the solar system, and potentially how life first arrived on our planet. The sample landed on sunday at 15:52, after careening through the atmosphere above the western US at a speed of 12 km/s, or 27,000 mph - with a heat shield to protect it from reentry and a parachute bringing it to a slow descent shortly after. Tim Priser, the chief engineer at the manufacturer Lockheed Martin has stated that “This little capsule understood the assignment.” “It touched down like a feather.” Some recovery workers told the BBC that the sample return was “awesome”, and Dane Lauretta, the Osiris Rex principal investigator has said that he “Cried like a baby in the helicopter for a while when I heard the parachute opened and we were coming in for a soft landing.

Scientist are currently eager to get their hands on the sample, which some estimates put as weighing about 250g. Though this may not look like much, it is perfectly suitable for the tests NASA wants to run on it. On monday, the sample was flown to dedicated facility in johnson where analysis of samples will commence, and UK scientist Ashley King will be one of six that will conduct the initial assessment of samples. NASA is to hold a conference on october 11th, where they will discuss and give their first take on what has been returned, as well as small specimens being distributed across the globe. They have stated that they will take 75% of the sample and store it away for future generations to analyse with more sophisticated future technologies. NASA hopes to report back on a wide range of results in two years time.





# Conservatives scramble with HS2 controversy

The Conservative Party, which has been in charge of the UK for the last 13 years, is scrambling to make changes that satisfy their edging supporters. With many criticisms and accusations of conservative MP's over the last few years from a lot of people including some who have loved the conservatives their whole life, like the parties at Downing Street during lockdown, £37 billion used to make the Test & Trace app that didn't work, mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic and more, the latest polls into the upcoming elections in November next year are proving to be against their favour. In response to this, Sunak and others have made urgent changes recently with the likes of many environmental pledges being pushed back last week, the huge, unfinished transport project, HS2 (High Speed 2), being ended halfway to the finish line and more.

What is HS2 and what has happened?

Almost a decade ago, on Halloween, it was decided by the Conservative party that a new fast "high speed" railway line would be constructed, connecting London & Birmingham and Manchester & Leeds all in one line. The project was set out to be £37.5 billion in 2013 (at 2009 prices) and in 2015 said that it would have a budget of over £55 billion. It was to be finished in 2033 and by many supporters, it was a greener, cheaper way to travel long distances for many people. However, some disagreed with the plans as it involved many people to be evicted due to buildings being demolished in construction (the civilians were compensated) alongside also deforestation among woodlands and forests along the route. In the end 354 MP's were in favour of the plans with 34 voting against.

There are 2 main phases to HS2; Phase 1 (the stretch of rails between London and Birmingham) estimated to have had a total cost of £35-45 billion in 2019 finances and Phase 2A, and Phase 2B; the ending linking Manchester and Crewe (the plan was altered connecting a town in the East Midlands instead of Leeds in 2021) together from Birmingham at an approximated cost of £15-22 billion (in 2019 prices).

Which brings us to now, where HS2 stands at a key turning point of possible failure in which the only line that could be realistically achieved by 2033 seems to link London and Birmingham in a 140-mile stretch. Phase 2A linking Leeds and Birmingham failed due to the area the route would have passed was highlighted as "safeguarded" territory in 2021 with HS2 revisions coming every 6 months. Phase 2B which was to link Birmingham and Manchester via Crewe seems in dark territory with Sunak suggesting to scrap the final phases. Sources imply that Labour and other parties might have to comply with these rules due to the increasing cost to build the line with estimated costs now soaring to £107 billion alongside one lord from the House of Lords saying that it could now cost around £150 billion. Many senior Tories have slammed Sunak for suggesting to abandon Northern HS2 lines. No conclusion has yet been reached but is certainly not out of the question. The statements have been backed by Defense Secretary of the Conservative Party, Grant Shapps, who said Sunak is not 'crazy' to revise HS2 due to the mounting pressure and costs. Backlash has spawned from many and is growing however, with the Manchester Council Leader stating in an interview with the BBC regarding the ending of HS2 in Birmingham: (it would) "leave the north of England with Victorian infrastructure, probably for the rest of this century". Some have also complained that the Conservative party is to blame for the financial issues and therefore the economic pressures on finishing HS2.

Sunak has also suggested that he will radically change the A-level system to make mathematics a mandatory subject everyone has to study until the age of 18. Labour said the proposal was an "unbelievable gimmick" and the possibility has also proved controversial. About half of the English population are studying 3 subjects for their A-levels, meaning mandatory maths would add pressure to thousands of students across the country.



- A map of the planned routes

Source: BBC



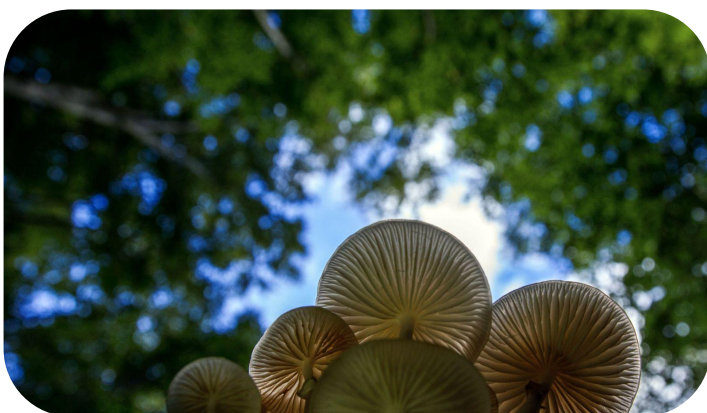
Sunak has also considered making A-level Maths mandatory



# The fungi that eat plastic

Scientists in Australia have found a type of fungi that biodegrades one of the most annoying, stubborn plastics, polypropylene. Polypropylene is a hardy type of plastic that is in many daily products like takeaway containers and plastic bags. Despite generally being recyclable, it often ends up in landfill due to being contaminated, mixed or is just thrown away and lied about.

The fungi (*Aspergillus-terreus* and *Engyodontium album*) is generally found in soil and plant. It broke down 27% of the polypropylene when tested after 90 days, yet fully broke it down after 140 days when exposed with UV light and heat. A professor in the experiment said he was 'very confident' that this process could be scaled up to break down tonnes of plastics around the World. Recently, scientists have been discovering many different enzymes and plastic-eating organisms built to devour plastic and help reduce the impact of plastic pollution.



The fungi can fully break down plastics  
in 1340 days with UV light aid!

# Around The World



## **"Alien Bodies" presented to Mexican government**

A journalist and UFO enthusiast has recently presented what he claims are two alien bodies to the Mexican government. The journalist, named Jaime Maussan, has stated that the alien bodies were found preserved in Nazca, Peru, and he says they are around 1,000 years old. However, critics have said that the bodies are fake, and the US space agency, NASA, has said that samples taken from the bodies should be given to scientists to investigate.

## **Half-million year old wood structure found in Zambia**

A recent discovery of wooden logs within the banks of a river in Zambia has changed archeologists' view on their understanding of ancient human life. Researchers have discovered that the wood had been used to build a structure roughly 500,000 years ago, before Homo Sapiens walked the earth. The discovery is thought to change the current belief that early humans lived simple, nomadic lives. The researchers have also uncovered wooden tools.



## **Canadian women charged for pretending to be Inuits**

Three women in Canada have been criminally charged for "pretending to be Inuit" to receive benefits from indigenous organizations. The police have stated that two 25-year-old twins have been charged with fraud for acting as adopted Inuit children, and both sisters as well as their 59-year-old mother are currently faced with two counts of fraud each, with one Inuit group calling the deception "flabbergasting".



## **Video shows that Russian commander, Viktor Sokolov, is alive**

A video released by the Russian defense ministry has shown that the commander of the Black Sea fleet is in fact, alive, despite Ukraine claiming he had been killed. It isn't clear where or when the video took place, but seems to depict a video link with Sokolov and the defense minister. Ukraine special forces claimed that Sokolov, as well as 33 other officers, died in a missile strike on Sevastopol, Crimea, but no evidence was given.



## **Hopes of Indian moon lander reawakening dim**

The chances of India's Chandrayaan-3 lander re-awakening after a long, freezing lunar night are dimming by the hour; Indian space scientists have stated, but they will keep trying until the end of the lunar day. Last night, space agency ISRO said they had tried to contact the lunar lander, however had no success, and no signals were received. They hoped its batteries would recharge and it would restart on the 22nd September, however, unfortunately this is not the case.



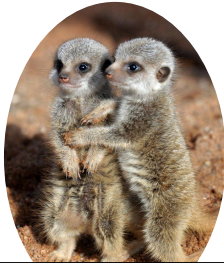




# Science & Environment News



## The psychologists studying meerkat emotions & jellyfish



### Can meerkats be empathetic?

The meerkat, home to the South Western Africa (South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Lesotho), is now being investigated to see if empathy and other 'human-like' social emotions are similar in the tiny, attentive creatures. The species, related to the mongoose family, has previously been notorious for living in packs of up to 50 and having a hierarchy status system with different roles like guard, babysitter, alpha male/female and more. This evolutionary bonus has allowed their average life expectancy in the wild to be 10 years.

Researchers and psychologists from Nottingham Trent University are targeting the meerkats' social behaviours in zoos to see if they can successfully detect emotions like sadness, empathy, happiness and anger from people. The animals are used to being in an environment filled with people coming to look at them, and therefore the scientists theorized that they are likely to be very good at recognizing different human emotions and behaviours, due to their social lives. Dr Samantha Ward reported: "We're keen to know whether these abilities might be influenced by the frequency of human-animal interactions, as might be the case with strangers, or familiarity with known people such as zookeepers. For example, if zookeepers influence the behaviour of meerkats but the visitors do not, then this could impact the management of the animals."

"If it's the people rather than the zookeepers, then that could be considered when undertaking measures such as enclosure design." Experts have already noted that dogs, cats and even horses can easily recognize human emotions. "It is important that we understand how common this ability is among animals, and what the implications are for human-animal interactions." Psychologists will test if they can demonstrate empathy by mirroring the emotions of people. The project is expected to take 3 years and has been funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

### How do jellyfish function without a brain?

Another recent animal study regarding jellyfish has been conducted to see how the animal can function without a brain. The study revealed that they learn from past experiences with a different system than most animals, called rhopalial. Rhopalial are little processing systems that visually record things. For example, a study on the Caribbean box jellyfish concluded that when placed in differently decorated tanks, the collisions with walls would vary over time. Certain tanks were never encountered like stripy black & white which represents mangroves roots that can cause damage to the aquatic animal in a wild environment.

## Hope for 1.5C with 'staggering' green progress



### A vision for a net-zero urban farm in Toronto, Canada.

Recently, with climate change warnings filling the news every day, and new alerts popping up saying that it is almost impossible that the world will achieve certain climate goals and pledges, it's hard to not give up on hope. Despite being a long distance away from being carbon neutral in the fight against climate change, a new report by the chief of the world's energy Watchdog has highlighted that the recent 'staggering' progress in terms of integrating renewables into our current energy supplies.

"Despite the scale of the challenges, I feel more optimistic than I felt two years ago," Fatih Birol, the executive director of the International Energy Agency said in an interview. "Solar photovoltaic (the conversion of light into electricity) installations and electric vehicle sales are perfectly in line with what we said they should be, to be on track to reach net zero by 2050, and thus stay within 1.5C. Clean energy investments in the last two years have seen a staggering 40% increase." Birol continued, greenhouse gas emissions from energy sectors were still "stubbornly high" and that the experiences of climate change have been exhibited across the globe and becoming more common "at frightening speed".

The report also called for developed countries like the UK to step up and achieve net zero (where no greenhouse gas emissions are released) before 2050. Alongside this, "almost all countries must move forward their targeted net zero dates", which for the majority of high income countries is 2050. Bhutan is the only carbon negative (reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere) country in the world, with Germany aiming to achieve net zero by 2045, Austria with a target of 2040, and for many developing nations like China (2060) and India (2070) the dates are trailing behind. However, due to the nature of the country's being economically less fit to invest in such technologies on the scale required, Birol has called for more developed countries for not lending a hand.

International Energy Agency wants to see a tripling in the amount of global renewable energy be produced at the Cop 28 summit this November in Dubai, alongside a 75% reduction in methane (a gas often emitted in agriculture that is 20 times more potent than CO2). The UK, Norway, Australia, the US and Canada alone are responsible for over half of the new gas and oil field developments from present to 2050. Earlier this year, China smashed its renewable targets by achieving more solar and renewable energy than promised. He also told the world: "the most important challenge is international cooperation."

# Book of the Week

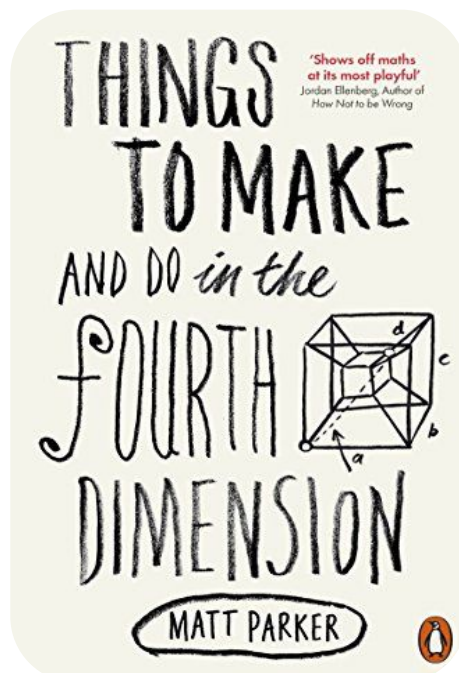
## Things to make and Do in the Fourth Dimension

Maths is boring, says the mathematician and comedian Matt Parker. Part of the problem may be the way the subject is taught, but it's also true that we all, to a greater or lesser extent, find math difficult and counterintuitive. This counterintuitiveness is actually part of the point, argues Parker: the extraordinary thing about math is that it allows us to access logic and ideas beyond what our brains can instinctively do--through its logical tools we are able to reach beyond our innate abilities and grasp more and more abstract concepts.

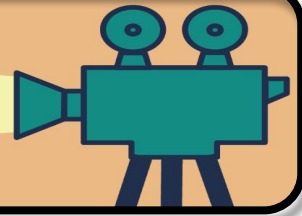
In the absorbing and exhilarating *Things to Make and Do in the Fourth Dimension*, Parker sets out to convince his readers to revisit the very math that put them off the subject as fourteen-year-olds. Starting with the foundations of math familiar from school (numbers, geometry, and algebra), he takes us on a grand tour, from four dimensional shapes, knot theory, the mysteries of prime numbers, optimization algorithms, and the math behind barcodes and iPhone screens to the different kinds of infinity -- and slightly beyond. Both playful and sophisticated, *Things to Make and Do in the Fourth Dimension* is filled with captivating games and puzzles, a buffet of optional hands-on activities that entice us to take pleasure in mathematics at all levels.

## Age Rating:

This book is good for anyone 12+, so almost anyone in the school. Enjoy the read!



# Media Review



## Writer's strikes + Great British Bake Off

*\*may contain spoilers*

### ***Writer's strikes over:***

Last week I talked about the writer's strikes and I said that they were on going. However, that is no longer the case. Just last week the writers have reached an agreement with the studios. The writers were asking for a 5% pay rise and that has been agreed upon with the studios. Among the shows who's writers will be coming back are: Stranger Things, Billions, The Last Of Us etc. Whilst these new changes are good the simultaneous but completely separate actors strike is still ongoing hoping to receive an 11% pay rise. The actors have been offered a 5% rise but this offer was declined.



### ***Great British Bake Off has begun:***

This year famously bold actor Matt Lucas has been replaced by actor Alison Hammond. Thankfully Noel Fielding is still hosting beside her. This year the bake off has invited a deaf person (Tasha Stones) to compete in the competition. This is the first time in Bake Off history. To accommodate for the contestant, a translator has been hired so that Tasha can easily compete. The winner of week one is Dan.

"The Writers got what they want; woohoo!"  
- *George Moir*



Age:  
PG



8/10



# Music Review

## Top of the charts

1. Paint The Town Red  
*Doja Cat*
2. Vampire  
*Olivia Rodrigo*
3. Strangers  
*Kenya Grace*
4. Prada  
*Casso, RAYE, D -Block Europe*
5. Adore U  
*Fred Again, Obongjaya*
6. Bad idea right?  
*Olivia Rodrigo*
7. Cruel Summer  
*Taylor Swift*
8. Greedy  
*Tate McRae*
9. Get Him Back  
*Olivia Rodrigo*
10. Slime You Out  
*Drake, SZA*

## Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift is, at the time of writing this, currently on tour. Her venues include: Tokyo Dome, Accor stadium and Wembley stadium. Taylor Swift's shows have sold out completely, at the peak selling 2.5 million tickets in one day. This means that Taylor Swift's 'Eras tour' is the highest grossing tour ever. It has grossed approximately \$2.2 billion. The previous record holder was Elton John's 'Yellow Brick Road' tour which generated over \$887 million. Swift's shows have not only sold out the seats, but has also gathered crowds of Swifties outside of the stadiums to sing along to Taylor's concerts.



## Guess the song:



**\*Answers will be on next week's puzzles page**

# Latest Tech News

## Amazon takes on Microsoft as it invests billions in Anthropic

Amazon is planning to invest \$4bn or £3.3bn in a San Francisco-based AI firm Anthropic, mirroring the earlier tie-up between Microsoft and OpenAI. It's the latest billion dollar investment in part of a race between big AI firms to get the best potential out of AI. They recently said that they plan on using AI to help with things like Alexa conversations with you. Amazon claimed that the investment could help improve customer experiences. While Microsoft had initially reaped the biggest benefit from the enthusiasm for AI through its partnership with OpenAI, he said others were catching up. They said "Now we're starting to see the other cloud providers investing more in generative AI coming up with their own announcements, their own products, and I think the playing field is starting to level off. In other words, it's no longer a Microsoft-OpenAI show only," Anthropic was founded in 2021 as an AI safety and research company and is a startup that emerged to compete with companies like OpenAI. The collaboration means Anthropic will be able to draw on this huge computing power. This means that Amazon developers will be able to use Claude 2, the latest version of Anthropic's AI model, to create new applications for its customers and enhance existing ones. Microsoft which operates Azure, has a similar arrangement with OpenAI.



# SPORTS NEWS

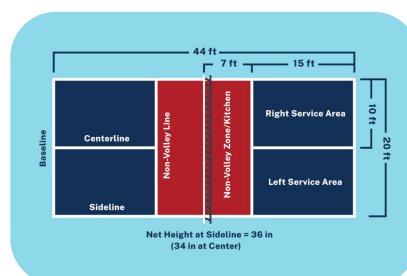
## USA Pickleball

### All about: 'Pickleball'

Pickleball is an American sport invented in 1965 that combines Tennis, Badminton and Ping Pong. It can be played as a 1v1 or 2v2. To play, you will need a couple of paddles, a plastic ball with holes, a net and a badminton-size court. Both people will stand opposite sides of the court, the players will hit the ball across the court to the opposing player, the ball can only bounce once and both players can't step into the non volley zone. Learn more by copying the link below down into your planner:

<https://usapickleball.org/what-is-pickleball/>

Or scan the QR code (For after school use only):





# Puzzles

## Riddles

Easy - How many months of the year have 28 days?

Medium - What gets wet as it dries?

Hard - You'll find me in Mercury, Earth, Mars and Jupiter, but not in Venus or Neptune.  
What am I?

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\*(This sudoku will be cut out next to the issue stand for you to complete)!



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## Last Issue's Answers

Riddles: Easy - Short, Medium - A Comb & Hard - A Bank.

Music: Baby Shark

# Visit Our Website!

Hello! As you may have known, Millthorpe News actually has its own website!

Here, you can read the newspaper digitally, view older newspapers and even take quizzes!

**Note: You must be signed in your school account to access it.**

**All this is available at:**

**[sites.google.com/millthorpe.southbank.academy/millthorpenews](https://sites.google.com/millthorpe.southbank.academy/millthorpenews)**

**Or for after school use only:**

**Scan the QR code:**



**See you there!**

# Credits

## Editorial Team

### Y10 - Oliver Lynch

Head Editor, Puzzles, Book of The Week Writer & Site Editor.

### Y10 - Jared Van Schalkwyk

Head of Graphic Design & Monthly  
Debate and Discussion Writer.

### Y10 - Tom Brook

Head of Marketing & Military  
News Writer.

## Writers

### Y10 - Freddie Newton

Science & Environment News Writer,  
Main News Writer & Around the World  
Writer.

### Y10 - Will Bruce

Writer & Graphic Designer.

### Y10 - George Moir

Music & Media Review Writer.

### Y10 - William Bradley

Around the World Writer & Main  
News Writer.

## You can be here!

Email or ask a member of our team to join.



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# Millthorpe Library News Autumn Term Quiz!



**Millthorpe Library News**  
**Weekly News to your Library!**

N/A

**The News Team.**

# Musk's Mission to Mars



*This weeks MILITARY NEWS topic is...*

# A Modern Disaster: The Ukraine War



## UK Uses inflatable balloons as guns

Defence News

**Overview:** This fantastic story places the reader in the misty, mysterious and marvellous world of LJ Ross' murder mystery 'Holy Island', set in Northumberland. When, on a gloomy morning, a village woman stumbles upon a corpse, something that has not happened in this tightly- knitted community in many, many years. On leave from work, DCI Ryan takes the tolling job of finding the person or *people* responsible for this murder...

## The Ukraine War.

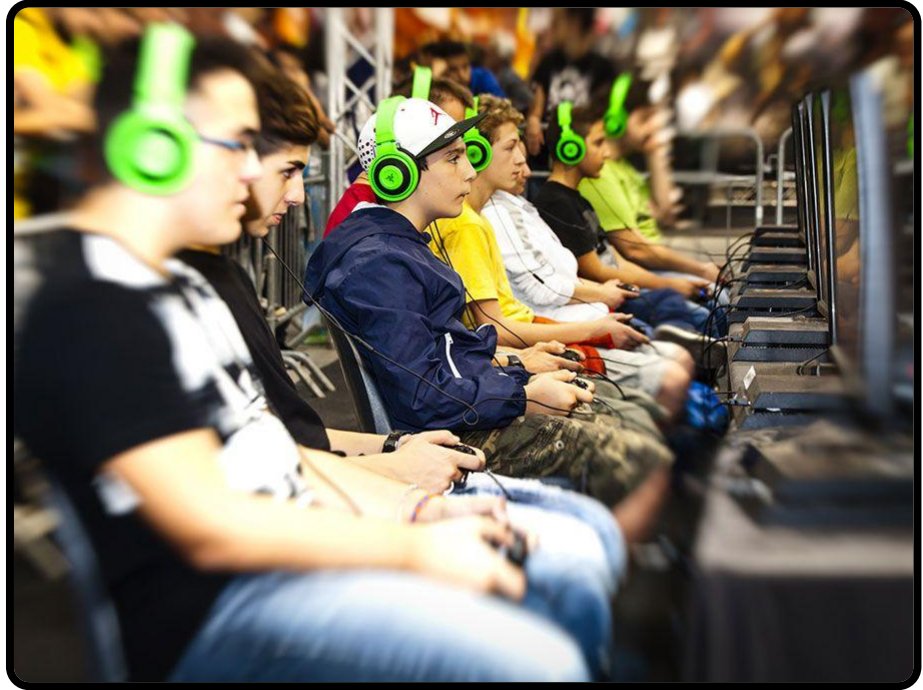
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THIS WEEK'S TOPIC FOR DEBATE AND DISCUSSION IS:

# We should ban the sale of violent video games to minors

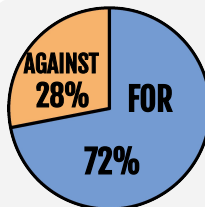
## FACTS:

- In 2011, the US Supreme Court ruled against the notion of banning the sale of violent video games to minors in California, which would have imposed a \$1000 fine on stores who sold video games to children!
- In case you are confused at what exactly makes a video game violent, the California law determined violent video games as "[Games] in which the range of options available to a player includes killing, maiming, dismembering or sexually assaulting an image of a human being".
- Furthermore, They then intimated that their reasoning for the notion was because the government felt violent video games "lacked serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value."



**FOR**

PENDING



Last issue's  
results on:  
Books are better  
than Television.  
Thanks for voting!

**AGAINST**

PENDING

**FOR**

←VOTE→

PUT A TICK IN EITHER BOX TO VOTE

**AGAINST**

THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS CONTENT THAT SOME READERS MAY FIND UPSETTING



# SPORTS NEWS

N/A

Pending.

N/A