

The magazine for clued up Youth



MUSE



Issue 2 Summer 2007

CHANGING SCHOOLS

Making the big leap
to secondary School



Cover star Ben gets biking

EXCLUSIVE

Craig Pickering Interview!

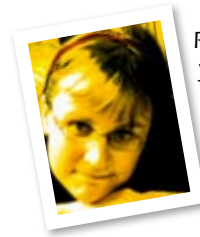
Figure out the maths in athletics

Poems • Story • Puzzles
Plus much more

Hi again!

Welcome to your latest edition of Muse. This issue we are celebrating all things **Summery** featuring top **athlete Craig Pickering**, ideas to keep you amused over the holidays, and even some comforting thoughts about **changing schools** for those of you who are making the big step up this Autumn.

As usual we also are featuring your work- please keep sending in your creations as I want Muse to be filled with your input! We have a great article on **Haiku** writing which hopefully will inspire even the most reluctant of poets out there, plus **fun puzzles** to while away the sunbathing hours!



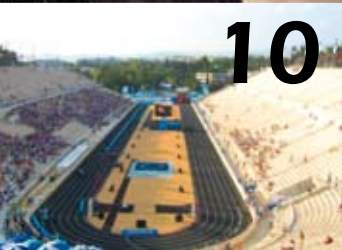
Phew! I think that should keep you going for a while. Remember to share your magazine with others too – spread the word about NAGC!

I'll catch up with you again in the Autumn, Bye for now!!

Zana



6



10

Contents

3 Space News
Get up to date on everything out of this world!

4 Haiku by Alice Evans
The history of Haiku and examples to enjoy

5 A Year in Haiku by Alice Evans
- This is a very clever poem, great stuff!

6 Youth Aspire
Find out about top athlete Craig Pickering and get some hot tips for you.

8 Youth Wise - Transition
Help for anyone facing a change of schools

10 Youth Wise - The maths of athletics!

12 My Best Ever Birthday
By Desiree Grafton-Clarke

14 Cover Star
Get the lowdown on our cover star Ben!

15 Youth Think
Puzzles to make you think. Can you work them out?

Back Page
How to contact us and helpline info



MUSE

EDITOR Zana Bayley • DESIGN AND ART DIRECTION Catherine Horsley

NAGC, Suite 14, Challenge House, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6DP. Tel: 0845 450 0295

Copyright © 2007 NAGC. All rights reserved. Muse ISSN 1477-3325 is published by the National Association for Gifted Children. The views expressed in Muse do not necessarily reflect those of the National Association for Gifted Children. Should you wish to use articles or other material from Muse we are happy to consider requests and will require full source acknowledgement.

FANCY A TRIP TO MERCURY?

It might be a bit hot for you, but the European Space Agency is planning a trip there in 2013! Of course it will be unmanned as the probe called 'BepiColombo' will have to endure temperatures of up to 350°C and intense sunlight. The expedition will help to find out more about the planet and the solar system we live in. Here's a challenge for you- why not find out why it has that name?!

If you're into space you might want to visit the Science Museum's space gallery in London over the summer holidays. It has some great new additions including a full sized model of the Huygens lander (the probe which is

currently on and around Saturn's moons) a telescope from the space shuttle and some astronaut underpants (??-ed). It also focuses on British space scientists to show that space science is a real career possibility for people in the UK.

- ★ www.esa.int more info on the Saturn mission under space science section with great images and a real time tracker!
- ★ www.nasa.gov is a wonderful website with great videos of launches and has a launch calendar to help plan your trip to Florida and see one live!
- ★ www.stars4space.org is a site useful if you like the link between space and art as Osnat has. It also looks at music inspired by space.

Lucky Northern Ireland pupils will get to study more about astronomy and space science as it is being added to their curriculum, with pilot schemes from next September. Sounds great, and I hope the rest of the UK will follow soon after.

AMAZING ART



This great picture was created by NAGC member Osnat who is 11 years old and from London. Osnat discussed with us about how she made the image: I was messing around with the program I use, which is Paint Shop Pro 8. I used plenty of layers, the smudge tool and the negative image function, which I have an obsession with due to the fact it creates alien and yet familiar landscape.

Osnat loves rainbows and planets, and those themes can be seen in this colourful creation. Osnat hopes you will agree the soft texture of the planet resembles the clouds on a gas giant, and the light tubes of differing size resemble stars.

If you have some drawing software on your PC, why not have a go creating a cool picture like this and send it in? How about something which depicts Summer? Try using some of the more obscure tools like Osnat and see what happens!

Haiku

By Alice Evans

Haiku (High- koo) is a type of traditional Japanese poetry. They're very short and have very strict patterns in syllables. There are lots of different patterns, but the most common is 5, 7, 5. For example:

My dog needs a bath.
She was rolling in the mud,
Now she really smells!

Haiku History

Haiku came from a style of Japanese court poetry called "Tanka". The pattern for this was 5,7,5,7,7*. The first part of the poem was known as "Hokku"; this is where we got haiku from. *For example:

My dog needs a bath.
She was playing in the mud,
Now she really smells!

She hates having baths,
She splashed, barked and made
a mess-
At least she's all clean!

Famous Writers

These are the three most famous haiku authors:

Matsuo Basho was born in 1644 near Ueno, and he died in 1694 in Osaka. When he was young, he was a servant working for Todo Yoshitada. Basho loved haiku, and he realised that Yoshitada did, too. His first poem was published in 1962. Zen Buddhism inspired Basho, and a lot of his work was based on it.

Yosa Buson was born in 1716 in Kema and died in 1784 in Kyoto. Buson was taught poetry by Hayano Hajin. When Hajin died, he learned from his work. Once he'd got married, and had a baby girl (Kuno), he stayed in Kyoto and taught others the art of haiku.

Kobayashi Issa was born in 1763 in Kashiwabara and died in 1828 also in Kashiwabara. His family lived on a farm and were very troubled. Issa's mother died and his farther remarried, sadly. One of the people who he studied haiku under was Mizoguchi Samaru.

Expert's Examples

These poems were translated, so they don't fit the syllable rule.

Oh snail
Climb Mount Fuji-
But slowly, slowly!
By Issa.

Evening wind
water laps
the heron's legs.
By Buson.

First winter rain-
even the monkey
seems to want a raincoat.
By Basho.

They are really
easy and fun to
write, why don't
you give it a go?

A Year In Haiku by Alice Evans © Alice Evans 2007



I have described a year using haiku...

January	A crisp, fresh day dawns. Another year, another chance. You could change a bit.	February	Love is in the air. It fights off the biting frost - Hearts of ice will thaw.
March	Daffodils peep out. The chill is disappearing. A time for new life.	April	Umbrellas go out. For little April showers. A rainbow follows.
May	M ay may be sunny, You can never really tell, May may be wet, too!	June	S ummer's started now. Ice in drinks at BBQs. Melting in the sun. 
July	F lowers in full bloom. Winter in Australia - Chilly kangaroos! 	August	W hat a sizzling month! Better get the water guns! Ice-lollies all round!
September	Leaves fall off the trees. Squirrels start to gather nuts. Autumn has begun.	October	Devils! Witches! Ghouls! Come right to your door for sweets! They're just friends really.
November	Bomb King James the 1st? No Chance, Guido, we've found out! You are in trouble!	December	Frozen over lakes, Looking for pine trees to cut. Hot chocolate awaits!

For further information on Haiku's go to: www.mouthfulofmoonlight.com/randomhaiku.html
Alices very own website: www.alicegirlgenius.com

Going for Gold

Cheer Craig on at the World Trials and UK championships in Manchester July 27th -29th and the London Grand Prix meeting August 3rd



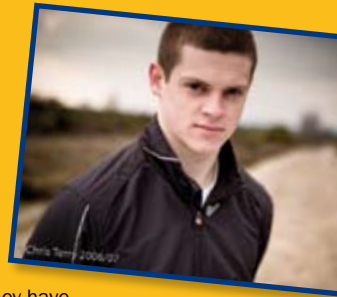
PICTURE BY GARY MITCHELL, MK Citizen

Factfile

60m/100m Sprinter
Born: 16th October 1986 (Crawley)
Club: Milton Keynes
Personal best: 10.22 seconds
Coaching team: Mike Leonard, Greg Bopf

Craig Pickering

Craig Pickering is a top young athlete who has been amazing crowds with his speed and ability, and is hoping to go on achieving and winning. This year he is currently ranked 44th in the world for sprinting (IAAF), and is proving himself to be a fantastic prospect for the UK.



Muse managed to stop Craig for a few seconds to answer a couple of questions before he sped off again, and he had some great advice for any aspiring sportsmen!

Craig's talent wasn't even noticed until he started Secondary school and he stunned everyone with a 11.65second 100m run time. His PE teacher recommended he joined a local athletics club. Craig recalls 'I was very hesitant at first, because I assumed everyone would be a lot better than me. However, I went along and won my first race by half a second and it just spiralled from there.'

Craig improved and strengthened throughout his school years and he remembers how supportive his school were. 'My secondary school allowed me to go home when I didn't have any lessons in the sixth form in order to get to training early, and they always allowed me time off to go to important competitions.'

TALENT

It is surprising that Craig didn't realise his running ability until he was into his teens. When questioned over whether he thought talent was born in people or could be taught he agreed it was a bit of both 'Talent is funny. I believe that you are born with certain physical characteristics which make you suited to one type of sport. For example sprinters require a high proportion of fast twitch muscle fibres. You are born with this proportion of fibres, and no

amount of training will really alter this amount. But having the mental attributes to succeed can be taught via your environment when you are younger. My parents always taught me to see things through, and they used to motivate me, and they helped to make me mentally strong when it comes to competing. The skills required to succeed in sport can often be taught, so I guess talent is both born and taught.'

COPING WITH LOSING

Being able to cope with losing is an important element of any sport, and Craig has some excellent advice on this area 'Losing generally means that I was not good enough 'Keep cheering for me when I race!

The more noise, the more motivated I get!'

on the day. It is important to lose sometimes, as it motivates you to try harder, and you can look at what you did wrong in the race, and how to improve it. Part of top level athletics is the fact that you will lose, so you just have to accept it, keep working hard, and remember that the next race could go your way.'

Despite still being only 20 years old, Craig also had some useful advice for any promising athletes. 'They just have to stick with it. They may not be the best when they are young, as people mature at a different rate, but if they master the basic techniques such as starting,

they have a reasonable chance of success. But don't put all your eggs into one basket, carry on working hard at school, and try your hand at other sports. When you are young, you should just take part for enjoyment. Finding a local athletics club should be easy, your school should have contact details or try UK athletics.'

This is sound advice. Craig is still studying despite being a top sportsman, and is busy on his degree in sport science at university. This is not only useful for him now, but for his future plans 'After my competitive career is over, I would quite like to get into coaching, as I feel I have a lot to offer in that aspect.'

Just before Craig dashed off to training, he had one last comment to share with you all 'Keep cheering for me when I race! The more noise, the more motivated I get!' I hope you will all be cheering Craig on over the summer and supporting him in his running career. Muse thinks he has given you guys a lot of great advice and tips and we would love to hear your thoughts about athletics and whether you could be the next big thing?

Good luck Craig!

LINKS

www.ukathletics.net for info on local clubs and groups and athletics news, plus a great kids area.
www.boja.org Youth athletics information
www.talentadder.org Government initiative to support sporting talent

Transition

Now I know you've only just started your summer holidays, but for a lot of you out there this is a time of transition; a change of schools. We thought therefore that it might be useful to talk a little about this so that you will feel more confident in moving on.



Firstly be positive! This is a great opportunity to make new friends and try out new subjects. Don't be worried about losing your current friends or pining for your old school- look forward to new experiences and exciting options to do much more!

Get organised!

Spend some time over the summer getting things together. Make sure you have everything you need, and the day before you start get your bag and uniform ready so you can get up relaxed with plenty of time to get ready and make your new start. Getting organised also means knowing what to take on which days. Create a visual plan to remind you at home.

Make sure you get contact details for all your current school friends, especially if they are going to different schools. It's nice to keep in touch and you can support each other in those nervous first few days.

Be friendly! Remember everyone else is like you - new and nervous. If you try being chatty and friendly to your classmates chances are they'll respond and talk back to you. By the end of your first day you will already have made some friends!

Be realistic about change You may find your old primary friends are making new contacts and hanging out with new people. That's ok. Use this opportunity to make new friends yourself, maybe people you have more in common with. Everyone widens their social circle at senior school and friendships do change. Don't lose touch with your old friends though, give them a call or have a chat with them over lunch.

Be yourself, be sociable and everyone will want to be your friend!

The first week is going to be tricky in class. Your teachers will probably be giving you lots of information and advice so try to stay focused and listen. If you haven't got super memory skills make a note of things you are told to remind you.



The big leap

New schools often appear huge and confusing places and you may well be worried about getting lost. Try staying in your class group to avoid any problems and keep a map in your pocket. Memorise useful landmarks in the school (canteen, toilet, office) and use them as markers. If you do get lost, don't panic or feel embarrassed- it happens to us all- just find a teacher or sixth former to ask the way. It is expected in the first few days.



Everyone worries about the work being too hard. Teachers do not expect you to know everything and understand that some children will have been taught different things, and within the class there will be different levels. If you are finding one subject really tricky or don't understand what the teacher is saying then go and have a chat after the lesson. It may be your teacher can give you some pointers or guidance to help, or be more lenient with you on the homework. Don't hide any problems as it will just get worse and never resolved.

Changing schools

can affect how we feel inside, and you might feel a bit down about leaving your old school and starting a new stage in your life. For some people it takes longer to settle down into a new system than others, and you might benefit from talking to someone at school or your parents about how you are feeling.

Quote

Jack Doran is in year 8 at the Royal Latin School in Buckingham and recalls his first experiences at starting senior school.

On feeling nervous: "I was feeling really nervous about the teachers and the lessons. What would I do if I got lost? But when I sat down in the main hall, I suddenly realised that there were 170 odd other pupils feeling EXACTLY the same as me"

On making new friends: "I looked at all the new faces I had never seen before. Some of these faces are now my best friends and people I hope I will know for the rest of my life."

On school clubs and groups "I have represented my school in four different sports: football, rugby, cricket and badminton, three of which I had never played competitively before."

Bullying causes

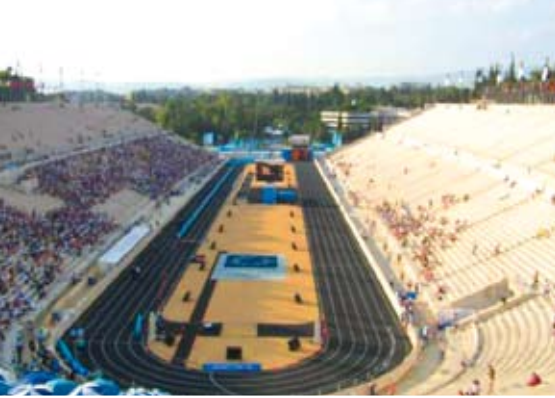
a lot of concern to new pupils in new schools, but the reality is it is often overly exaggerated with myths and made-up stories. That's not to say it doesn't happen- it does- but don't let it worry you. Get to know your classmates and have a group of friends you can rely on, plus find out who and where to turn to if someone does try and bully you in any way.

The main aspects of changing schools which pupils are most looking forward to are making new friends, learning new things, and doing more practical subjects. The main areas pupils are most nervous about when changing schools are getting lost, not knowing anyone, getting picked on and having more homework. So realise you are not alone in worrying about these. Everyone else is too!

Running in Circles to win?

Summer weather often means summer sports, and one of the most popular is athletics- where whatever your skill you should find something to enjoy. Running, jumping, throwing all play a part but for the this article we are going to look at running and the maths involved in strategies to help you win!

GREEK ATHLETIC TRACK



In athletics the competitors must run in circles if they are going over 100metres. Early tracks were very long and thin with tight bends around the corners. This can be a problem for both those on the inside lane who need to run a very sharply around the curve, and those in the outside lane who have to go a much further distance to get around!

MODERN DAY ATHLETIC TRACK



The problem was reduced a little by giving staggered starts, however because all tracks are different sizes, the distances do vary. The only stipulation is that the inside lane must be 400metres. Conventional tracks today are normally uniform with straight sides of around 85m.

Another issue which affects the size of the track is the javelin which is thrown inside the oval. Javelins can travel nearly 100metres, so there needs to be this length. Plus, there needs to be a degree of error in direction as not all javelins end up going in a straight line down the middle! A too narrow track would end up with a javelin potentially landing on the running lanes... rather messy if a race is happening!

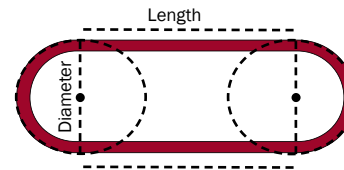
Working out the extra length of an outside is easy if you know your numbers

There are two ways to go about this. Firstly, you can use your understanding of $2\Pi r!$ At each end of the track there is a semi-circle, so in total the track is two long straights (which means every track is the same length) and two half circles. To work out the length of the half circles you can measure the diameter of the circle and multiply by Π . If this is then repeated for each track, you

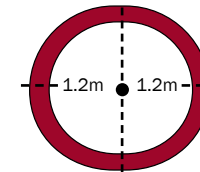
can soon see how much further each runner has to travel.

If however you don't know or do not want to calculate the diameter, you can still work out the difference. Each track is approximately 1.2m wide, so the difference in diameter is 2.4m. If this is multiplied by Π , it will give you the difference between each running track.

THINK
If you want to check this is true, why not look at your school or college's running track and measure the distance for yourself? Of course you can get more accurate and think about where on the track the runner runs? Ideally close to the inner line as possible - but this affects the distance too!



$Length + Length + \Pi d = \text{Track Length}$



$Width + Width = \text{Difference}$

TRY DESIGNING SOME TRACKS OF YOUR OWN WHICH COMPENSATE FAIRLY FOR THE CURVES OF THE ENDS!

The strategy of running

Shorter distance runners like Craig Pickering may well use the strategy of running as fast as they can from the start. But this isn't necessarily the best way to run a race, especially for longer distances! Here are four possibilities for error:

- 1 Start too slow, so fade at the end
- 2 Start too slow, so too far back to catch up
- 3 Begin the final sprint too early and lose speed at the end
- 4 Delay the final sprint too long

So which tactic should a runner use? Well clearly it depends on the runner, and possibly their trainer. It means thinking about what works for you and not being swayed by the other competitors to go faster, or slower than you have planned for your strategy to win.

Further Studies

- Beating the Odds: The Hidden Mathematics of Sport by Rob Eastaway and John Haigh Due out August 2007
- John Wesson, *The Science of Soccer*, IOP Publishing, Bristol, 2002
- Mathematics in Sport by M. Stewart Townsend
- www.racemath.info is an excellent website looking at motorsport and the mathematics behind it! (Also has some physics)
- www.plus.maths.org is the

website of the maths magazine plus and has archived articles on all subjects - search for Beckham or World Cup and you'll see what we mean!

Some universities offer courses in Mathematics and sports science such as the University of Birmingham, Loughborough and Swansea.

There are many opportunities for mathematicians to study, research and work in this field, so have a look at uni courses for the future.

Check out different strategies

Even if you don't feel up to running around a track this summer, hopefully you might get to enjoy some TV coverage. Muse recommends you check out the different strategies the runners use to try and win. Which ones start off quick? Is the person who gets away first always the winner? Is there a benefit to starting in the inside lane? Work out some averages of which lane produces the most winners during a competition! You might even like to get along to an event and see it first hand. Check out our interview with Craig Pickering and go along and cheer him on.... You might even want to recommend which lane he starts in !?!

MY BEST EVER BIRTHDAY

By Desiree Grafton-Clarke – aged 11

Perfect. That's how I would describe my best friend Narcissa. Well, in reality I'd never dream of being best friends with her, if she wasn't rich. I wouldn't even dare be friends with her if she wasn't popular or at least as popular as she says she is, but I'm stuck with her, I guess. My name is Georgina by the way. Georgina Thomas. I live with my mum and my dad as well as my little brother Jake. Narcissa is lucky enough to be an only child and maybe that's why she's so spoilt.

I'm fourteen years old, just like Narcissa and I go to the St Hall's local secondary modern, unlike Narcissa who gets 'privately educated'. As I said Narcissa is perfect in every single way so it's not hard to imagine her swanking off to her posh school in her own personal flash limousine whilst I trudge off in the opposite direction. It all changed dramatically one Saturday morning.

"Georgina. Georgina wake up" called my mother from the bottom of the stairs. I turned onto my side sluggishly ignoring my mum's call. "Georgina!" she bellowed so loudly I jumped to my feet in an instance. Shortly I made my way down the stairs of our semi-detached apartment in my jim-jams and made my grand entrance into the kitchen, where mum was shovelling down baby goo into Jake and dad was reading a newspaper.

"Morning mum" I groaned. "Oh Georgina, get dressed quickly, Narcissa wants to go and play with you in the snow" she gushed happily, with Jake dribbling down orange mush. "Ok then" I replied thinking this would be a brilliant chance to show off my new football signed by Frank Lampard. I made no hesitations in running upstairs to get

into my casual jeans and shirt not forgetting my football. I ran outside and mum was right. Snow carpeted the whole ground displaying not a single blade of grass, and of course there was Narcissa in her pretty little snow suit.

"Hey Narcissa, you'll never guess what I got?" I said smugly. "You got a present for me! Well, you shouldn't have, let me guess, you got me chocolates, right?" Narcissa said cheerily. "Wrong, I brought my football to play with you" I retorted proudly.

"Yuk! I have a better idea, I brought my gold tennis ball to play with, we could throw it to each other, how about it?" she said slightly disappointed.

I thought this was a good chance at the time to show off my sporting skills so I ran over to the other side. She swung her arm gently throwing it to me but unsuccessfully, it landed nowhere near me. "What was that supposed to be?" I asked. "I.. I..I just don't know" she said shamefully. "It doesn't matter, just run and get it" I said forgivingly. She ran over in the wrong direction and stupid Narcissa ran straight onto the ice and went right under. I screamed and ran to get help. I just stood there hopelessly as the rescue team got her out and took her to her dad.

"Daddy, my ball, my gold ball's gone" cried Narcissa in hysterics. "Everybody started at me as if I was a criminal." "Georgina, the kitchen please" mum said calmly. I knew she'd be letting it all out any moment now. "But I" "I stammered. "NOW!! She screeched. I followed her into the kitchen like a dog. My dad invited Narcissa and her dad in for a coffee while mum would blow her head off at me. I sat down on a little wooden stool

and everything was silent apart from the chink of a spoon hitting the side of a cup while my dad was preparing a coffee for Narcissa and her dad. My mum split the silence soon enough. "Disgraceful, absolutely disgraceful" she snapped. "You pushed your friend onto the ice and lost her beautiful ball and who knows whatever else".

"Are you saying that her ball is lost for good?" questioned her dad. "Well, yes is that a problem?" she said stiffly. "Not really, apart from the fact it cost me half a million pounds" he shouted in a rage. "Georgina, take Jake upstairs, I think Narcissa's father and I need a.. a little chat shall I say" mum commanded not taking her eyes off Narcissa's dad.

It would be impossible for me to tell you how upset I was, come to think, I could have cost my family their house. I put Jake in mum's room and I sat on the bed gazing around the piles of unwon lottery tickets in the bin. About an hour later Narcissa and her dad had left and I made my way downstairs for the second time into the kitchen where mum was sitting glumly on the phone to the bank. I know exactly what was going to happen next.

Mum hung up the phone. I sat down on the little stool again obediently. "I can't believe this" she cried. "Look, " I said, "I'm sorry and..." I snapped. "Georgina, love, I'm the one to be sorry not you" she apologised. "What? But mum I ... you..." I stuttered. "I guess I was too hard on you, I'm sure it wasn't all you, I mean, if it was, they were such good friends they would have let you off so I bet it was a plot to get every last penny off you" she reasoned, ".. even if they have millions already?" I asked. "Yes even if they have millions already"

she sighed. "What's the way on from here then eh?" dad questioned. "We haven't got much choice; I mean, we can't escape having to pay them, so we'll have to sell our house..." mum explained. "No mum! No!" I screamed. "But we haven't any choice sweetheart, it's just the nature of these people I'm afraid" mum sighed again. "But no mum, don't let them win, not this time, I can't let you" I boomed. "Georgina, I've told you once; there is nothing that will ever change their minds, nothing at all". "We ... we could take them to court... hah... see if there is a way out of this and then we could get all our money back and..." "GEORGINA!" she shouted. "Even if we did manage to win at the court, we wouldn't be able to afford it because of the legal fees and she has legal rights to fine us" mum garbled, mum and dad came over to comfort me clearly seeing I was upset. "Look love, it's going to be hard so we need you to stay happy as a girl of fourteen should be, please". "I'll try" I replied, forcing a smile on my face.

The next few weeks were manic. Selling the house and packing etc, etc. It was one day before our house removal and I had just come in from school. Most of our unwanted objects were sold and the only things we kept were objects we really liked and needed. I scampered into mum and dad's room where the only remaining things were mountains of boxes, their bed, mum's mirror, a conked out T.V. and a bin which used to be full of supposedly unwon lottery tickets. Mum said she was packing them in as all she ever won in her years of lottery was ten pounds. Something then caught my eye under the dresser. I got on my hands and knees curiously when mum came in to collect some more dishes. "Oh Georgina, what are you doing?" she moaned. "Seeing

what's under this dresser" I replied reaching under it. I pulled out three lottery tickets. "I've not seen this type of lottery ticket before; they even have letters on... NIM 771M Oh" I said confused. "That's because they're new, they're called win tickets" she explained picking up dishes. "Bit of a lousy name" I cringed. "You've a good point" she agreed. I flashed them in her face. "Oh no, not for me, keep them, I'm packing them in now remember". I slipped them into my pocket as a keep safe. The next day we moved into our house. I hated it. We hated it. But it was our home and we had no other option.

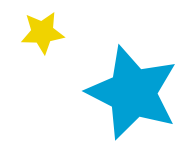
After a while we started to get used to our new home. I came home happily from school without a single worry. But who could blame me, it was Friday night at last and everyone was tucking into the lasagne mum had made for dinner. "Mum, could we go shopping tomorrow by any chance?" I asked politely. "Birthday shopping eh?" mum guessed correctly. Have you ever felt really special? It's every year in my family. I happen to share my birthday with my mum. I will be fifteen and mum will be forty. We planned it all out to have a party at the village hall and I would wear my new black sparkly dress with my blue coat, the one I wore on that dreaded day. It was 8o'clock and the party was really getting started. I went upstairs to go and help mum set up the film, it was on T.V. at exactly 8.30. "Ok everybody upstairs, we've set up a film for you all" We were half way through the film when the adverts came on - "...And. The win lottery codes are: NIM771M Oh, with a winning jackpot of three quarter of a million pounds, I froze. "MUM" I shouted. You could probably imagine the excitement and in all of that we had an unexpected guest. "Narcissa, why are you here?"

I asked dumbstruck. "I just wanted to apologise, are we still friends?" she asked handing over a gold package tied with a ruby red ribbon. I opened it with ease, and there in front of me was the gold ball that went under the ice that very day we played with it. My family and friends were all starting to crowd around me astonished. "But Narcissa, how?" I asked still in awe. "Your mum suspected you'd lost it because your mum said you had, for a while even I thought you had, as I hadn't seen where it went as I was under the ice. "Are you still with me?" she said in her posh 'privately educated' voice. "Yes" I nodded. "I then remembered I never actually picked up the ball because when I ran to find it..." "... you went in the other direction" I chirped. "So are we still friends then?" "I guess" I replied. "Be honest Georgina". "No" I said with the biggest grin on my face, "we're best friends" I smiled almost as sweetly as Narcissa. Her sparkle in her eyes came back and we both gave each other a friendly squeeze. Everyone around us started clapping. We invited Narcissa and her family to join the party. Everybody started to bop along to the music. "Are you going to sell the ball then?" she asked. "Nah, I think I'll keep it" I said showing her the lottery tickets. She observed them very carefully. "They seem to spell something" she realised. NIM771M Oh "No they don't" I disagreed. "Turn it upside down" she was right, take a look for yourself because I'm going back to 'My Best Ever Birthday'.

Do you have a story to share and would like it printed in the next issue of Muse? Send the form on the back cover along with your work or email them to me at zanabayley@nagcbrtain.org.uk

Here's the lowdown
on our
summer
cover star

Ben!



Ben is 12, and lives in Milton Keynes. He enjoys watching Primeval and The Simpsons, and reading Michael Morpurgo novels.

the Albert Hall with his school choir. Ben told Muse he has a cat called Ollie who is really cute and rubs up against his leg. I hope he'll send us a photo of Ollie to put on the website?

Ben has a good group of friends who he feels he gets on well with as they all like the same things, but it annoys him when his best friend plays on his PSP when he is trying to talk!

Ben reckons his parents can be kind at times, except when they won't let him have a phone, a PSP or a playstation because apparently he NEEDS them!!

He enjoys music, art and history and confesses to being a history fanatic (Ed- good choice!), although homework isn't popular, I don't think you're alone in that opinion Ben!

Need (néd)
verb require (something) because it is essential or very important

Want (wônt)
verb have a desire to possess or do; wish for

The best thing that has ever happened to him was singing in

Ben reckons his parents can be kind at times, except when they won't let him have a phone

Can you work out what words or phrases these diagrams represent?

1 G E S G	2 tide ↑	3 1 3 5 7 9 BALL
4 STANDING MIS	5 THRIL LER.	6 BANANA BANANA

Dot to Dot
Connect each of the nine dots using only four straight lines and without lifting your pen from the paper!
Can you do it?

ANSWERS
Answers will be printed in the next issue of Muse. If you are unable to wait until the next issue, you can email me at: zanabayley@nagcbrtain.org.uk and I will email you back with the answers

Got an idea to share with Muse?

Got something that you want to see in print?

Want to be a Cover Star?

Use this form below to get your thoughts to us today!

Send it back to us at NAGC, Suite 14, Challenge House, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6DP, or email me at zanabayley@nagcbritain.org.uk

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Tel: _____

Comments on Muse: _____

Title of any work submitted: _____

Additional comments: _____

Do you want your work returned? _____ Yes/No

Can NAGC use your work in publications? _____ Yes/No

Are you reading this and not a NAGC member?

Then get in touch to find out more about NAGC membership and how to get your own copy of Muse Magazine direct to your door every quarter! Yes! I want to know more! Send me details about NAGC and Muse Magazine.

Send to: NAGC, Suite 14, Challenge House, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 6DP

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

COOL WEBSITE NEWSFLASH

At NAGC HQ we've found a great website for you to check out at:

www.talentedyoungpeople.com

It's full of inspiration for you to get out there and do something!

They can help sort out your life, achieve those dreams and help your talent get noticed!

Take a look

Helpline
0845 450 0221

**A confidential FREE service for
Anyone needing support in issues
associated with giftedness**

**Young People • Parents • Children
Boredom • Bullying
Depression**

**Contact our education consultants
We offer immediate, individually tailored
advice to suit your needs**