

FALCON SCHOOL  
INFLIGHT MAGAZINE

# THE CLOUD

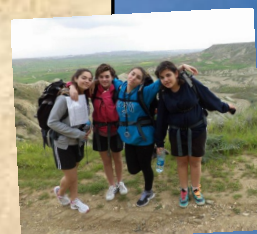
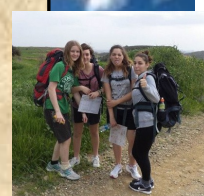
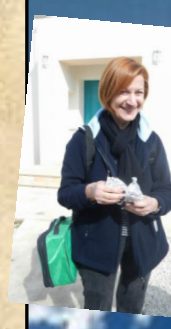
Certifies that

*The Falcon School Students*

Have excelled this  
Winter Term  
7/01 - 1/03 2013

*Falcon School*

Issue #81  
€1



# THE CLOUD

Hello Lovelies!

First of all, Happy New Year! We hope this new year greets you with opportunities, new experiences and good grades!

The Cloud feels like it is high time to dedicate a few of its pages to show you the high academic standard of the Falcon. For that, we would like to thank the teachers who willingly contributed to give us a glimpse of their current lessons. Half way through this issue you will find pieces of work from our fellow students and we hope you can appreciate them as much as we did.

The juniors of the Secondary Department have excelled in their mid-year exams and it is now the senior most part of the Secondary Department to excel in their mocks. We wish you the best of luck and see you in our last issue! :)

Joune & Helena xx



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### Special thank you to :

**Yasmine Amr** for helping with the cover

**Ms. Georgiou** for helping us with this paper

**Mrs. Alexandrou** for letting us use her room

**Face of the Issue:**  
President of CY

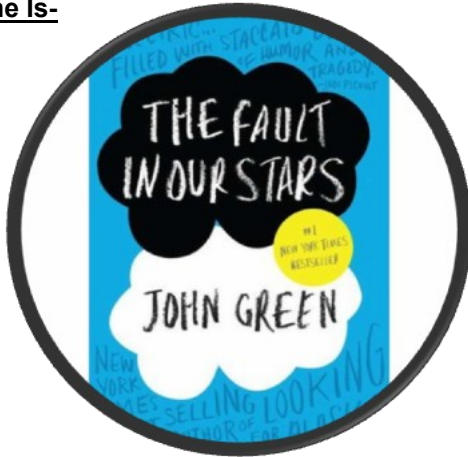


**Photo of the Issue:**  
MEDI.M.U.N



**Book of the Issue:**

The Fault  
in our  
Stars



**Song of the Issue:**

“Macklemore & Ryan Lewis- Thrift Shop ft. Wanz”



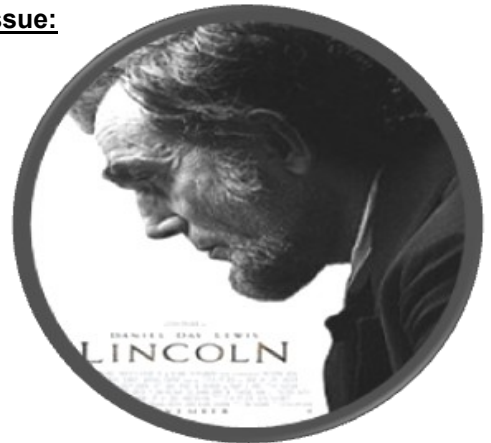
**Animated Film of the issue:**

The  
Croods



**Film of the issue:**

Lincoln



**Product of the Issue:**

Falcon School  
Cookbook



**Word of the issue:**



Iasonas Paphitis

# "Poetry of the Heart"



This year the Grammar School held its annual Poetry Competition with the theme of "Poetry of the Heart". Here at the Falcon School, we are proud to announce that two of our students, Androula Angastiniotis (3 Blue) and Rawan Magdi (6 Blue) won 1st prize for Lower School Greek and 2nd prize for Upper School English respectively. The Award Ceremony took place at the European University on Monday 28th January where internationally recognised poets gave speeches and more importantly discussed the purpose of poetry today. Finally, we would like to congratulate all the students who participated in this competition.

**Rawan Magdi**

## Η Έμπνευσή μου

Σ' αναζητούσα  
 στα μονοπάτια του ονείρου,  
 στις λεωφόρους της νύχτας,  
 στα τελευταία χνάρια  
 μιας πονεμένης καρδιάς,  
 κόκκινη φλόγα με καίει  
 πυρετός της ψυχής μου,  
 την ώρα που απομνημόνευα  
 το αλφάβητο της σιωπής των αστερι-  
 ών,  
 σε βρήκα...  
 Χτύποι τρελοί της καρδιάς  
 καθώς σε είδα,  
 γλυκά μου όνειρα...  
 Στα κρυφά μονοπάτια  
 και στις λεωφόρους της νύχτας  
 σε βρήκα  
 χαμένη μου αγάπη,  
 μου πήρες τη ψυχή  
 μες στα δυο σου τα χέρια.  
 Έμπνευση καρδιάς,  
 έμπνευση του κάθε ποιητή,  
 η μουσική...  
 Η μουσική μιας ποίησης,  
 της ποίησης της καρδιάς μου...

**Androula Angastinioti**

## About a Girl

In her dream, she was a figure dancing away to timeless beauty.  
 Her ashen face illuminated, scattering the shadows of disillusion.  
 But when the silvery night of stars grew silent,  
 Crimson roses fell to the ground.  
 Their vibrancy faded, each petal crinkling with constraint.  
 Her slender, poised arms unfurled monstrously,  
 Enveloping the exhausted eyes of her skull.  
 Frayed were her threads,  
 Clenched by unforgiving ivories on a cracked head.  
 Trapped in her reverie, she soon realized;  
 Her hopes would always be pierced with holes.

**Rawan Magdi**



**Winners:**

**Lower school Greek Poetry - Androula Angastinioti 3B**

**Upper school English Poetry - Rawan Magdi 6B**

# Artistic Achievements!



Tune in, folks, as a particularly musically talented Falcon student has left us in awe and made us all proud with her remarkable achievement: proving once and for all that studying and practicing are worth the treble, **Andri Theodoulou 6B** has had the honour of receiving a High Achiever's Award in IGCSE Music!

A-chord-ing to her, it came as a complete surprise. She didn't find out until after people started congratulating her for it. It was only a minor issue, resolved after Mr. Balkwill confirmed that this was in fact true. It should not have been shocking, however, as this gifted piano player has a passion for music, wishing to learn as much about music around the world as she can.

**Panayiotis Papakyrianiou**



We would like to congratulate **Emilia Hadjicostantinou 6B** who recently received first prize in the young artist's category in the Art competition organized by the Telemachos Kanthos Foundation in collaboration with the University of Cyprus, for her cubism IGCSE art exam piece "Romantic Cello". She chose to do a painting on the cello because she has been playing the cello for ten years and has just finished Grade 8 cello.

Emilia paints in her free time as a hobby and she has sold some of her paintings. She plans on continuing with her art and is hoping to gain something out of it in the future.

**Yasmine Amr**



# Biology Mission: Kritou Terra

**LOCATION:** Kritou Terra, Paphos  
**ARRIVAL TIME:** 13:00  
**POPULATION:** 30 people and 1,000,000 insects

## DAY 1:

It wasn't too long before we realised that us 20 girls and George Marangos were the only specimens of teenage life in this village, which seemed quite eerily uninhabited. After getting off the bus we had no time to waste; we left our things in our rooms and went straight to the environmental centre for the official "welcome" and to our dismay...a lesson!

After an hour or so of torture, the teachers Marios and Panos handed out the equipment. It was THE time for the experiment. Mud puddles, thorns, fallen trees, downhills (that later became uphill), were no obstacles for us as we trod down nature's path to reach the river, where we carried out our muddy experiment successfully. The hundreds of insects we picked up, were kind enough to allow us to carry them back to class for further analysis, by means of your typical Greek yoghurt bucket.

Fatigue, accompanied by our moaning, overpowered the plan of doing a second experiment on that day, so the teachers decided to postpone it for the next day!



## DAY 2:

Having to wake up at 7 o'clock to get breakfast so that we could be in class by nine proved to be harder than expected! Lyndon, our new instructor for the day, was an English man with blue eyes, who used football similes to teach Biology (to girls!).

Lyndon's project had us go on an exciting trip to the beach. The wind was so strong and the waves seemed as if they would engulf the shore and us along with it. Two of the girls decided to walk right up to where waves smash and splash on the rocks, and not too long after, along with the splashing of the rocks, came the splashing of the two girls too. After we took pictures of the amazing scenery, we laid down measuring tapes to mark our sampling areas and got to work, making our way further away from the sea shore every time to compare sample results.

This experiment was then followed by one involving snail population. We first had to collect some and then we mark the snails with a special paint and set them out in the wild again, only to collect them again the next day. Dinner was fun as a few girls and I decided to make a newscast of our time so far, blaming Mrs. Koumas for any psychological, mental or social problems we would allegedly suffer after this experience due to social exclusion from the rest of the world.

**DAY 3:**

For our last experiment, we walked to a nearby field; to “investigate an ecological community found within a garigue habitat” . We then split up in groups of 4, laid down our quadrants within a marked area and searched to find any and all types of creepy-crawlies in the ground or flying about. All creatures were recorded and set free. We went back to fill in the lab report and get everything ready for home.

This was a memorable experience that was both enticing and mentally stimulating. And even though he himself would describe it as amazing, I don't think George would agree to a girl infested bio trip again!

A big thank you to **Mrs. Koumas** and **Dr. Christodoulou** for accompanying us and giving us this opportunity.



# “Youth is NOT wasted on the Young...”

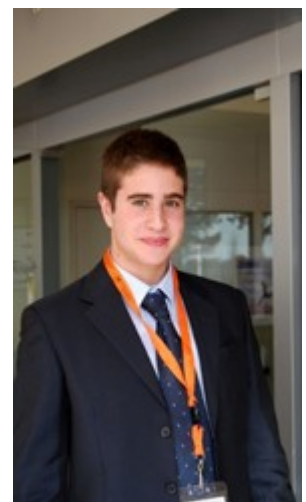
Time and time again, at every Medi.M.U.N. session young adults aged 15-19 gather at the European University in Cyprus to discuss political issues concerning our world today. Our motto every year seems to be to defy the words of George Bernard Shaw “Youth is wasted on the young”. It is often believed that young people waste their youth doing things of little use, but those who are older, and mature enough to do useful things don't have the energy, (or youth) to do more meaningful things.

Sixteen Falcon School students arrived early on the morning of Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, bright-eyed and eager to prove that their hard work in preparing research, speeches and resolutions was worthwhile. The Opening Ceremony of the conference normally causes some participants to stifle a few yawns, but this year's keynote speaker was an exception to the rule giving an extremely interesting presentation; she was the first Cypriot to have ever travelled to the Antarctic. Ms. Stephanie Solomonides, a testament to the Medi.M.U.N. saying asked us a tremendously important question: Is success based on motivation or determination? Or is it based on something even more important? She concluded that her own success, just like success at Medi.M.U.N., relies on something invaluable: Teamwork.

By the second day of the conference the delegates of our school got into their own little debating groove. ‘Points of Order’ were tossed around like hacky- sacks, resolutions passing, failing and, of course, famous “I have a dream” speeches were just some of the excitement flying around during the GAs. In the neighboring building, Special Event, Special Conference and Security Council all had a lot of work waiting for them in cut-throat debate sessions.

Unfortunately, as with all great experiences, the conference came to an end, but not before all three GAs met to discuss the best resolutions during the Plenary Session. Our delegates made us proud by crushing, dividing and conquering the session, in a diplomatic fashion of course. The Closing Ceremony consisted of an address given by Mr. Costas Yennaris, an internationally acclaimed journalist and author. He managed to give a very precise, interesting speech. Concluding the session the Secretary General gave a moving speech, signifying the end of the 3 day conference.

Once again we were able to prove the saying “Youth is wasted on the young” wrong by being active members in our society, participating in trying to dynamically find solutions to problems which puzzle our nations today. Medi.M.U.N. is an amazing experience and hopefully, next year, you too will join us in proving that “Youth is NOT wasted on the young.”



Meet the Representatives of our School!				
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Charis Hadjikiriakou	Ioasonas Pafitis	Leoni Kalavanas	Eleana Demosthenous
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>GA1</b>	<b>GA2</b>	<b>GA3</b>	* <b>Tim Ikramov</b> represented the Prime Minister of Somali in Special Event
<b>Bahrain</b>	Andrea Alexandrou	Eleni Zinga	Yasmine Amr	
<b>RUSSIAN</b>	PANAYIOTIS	PHILIP	SARAH	
<b>FEDERATION</b>	PAPAKYPRIANOU	KARAGEORGHIS	JOHN	* <b>Eleana Demosthenous</b> represented Bulgaria in Special Conference
<b>CUBA</b>	KYPRIANOS SPYROU	KATIE KAPODISTRIA	NICHOLAS ZINGAS	
<b>BULGARIA</b>	CHARIS HADJIKIRIAKOU	IOASONAS PAFITIS	LEONIE KALAVANAS	* <b>Fania Christodoulides</b> represented the Russian Federation in Security Council
<b>BAHRAIN</b>	ANDREA	ELENI ZINGA	YASMINE AMR	**Congrats to <b>Helena Pierides</b> who was the Chairperson of GA1!

## ~M.U.N. LINGO!~

<b>Medi.M.U.N.</b>	Mediterranean Model United Nations is a 3 day conference which simulates UN procedure and activities. It is annually held in early February. The Falcon participates every year, our students thriving in the diplomatic fashion of the debates.
<b>Delegation</b>	A group of people representing a country. This year the Falcon represented four countries; The Russian Federation, Cuba, Bahrain and Bulgaria. Each country had 3 representatives (one in each GA) with the exception of Russia and Bulgaria, which had four.
<b>Delegate</b>	A person who is chosen to represent a country and their views, they DO NOT represent themselves, but in fact they are the spokesperson for their country. E.g. The Delegate of Cuba.
<b>General Assembly (GA)</b>	This is a committee which deals with specific matters of the UN. Each GA is made up of delegates representing all member states, so each GA is made up of 55-65 people. At Medi.M.U.N. there are 3 GAs <b>GA1</b> :Disarmament and International Security <b>GA2</b> : Economic, Environmental and Social <b>GA3</b> : Social, Humanitarian and Cultural
<b>Chairperson or "Chair"</b>	No, it is not a piece of furniture. In fact it is the person in charge of a GA or committee. They have the power to make decisions affecting the course of the debate. The Chair's decision is final. They're kinda like God. Bottom line, don't mess with them.
<b>Resolution</b>	Medi.M.U.N. is a lot of fun, but with it comes a LOT of work. A resolution is a formal document of decisions, and solutions, to the problems given in each committee. Each resolution is merged together and then debated. Then, each delegate votes to determine if it passes or fails.
<b>Security Council Special Conference Special Event</b>	These three committees are special branches of Medi.M.U.N. which each have their own role to play. Procedure differs from the GAs to these committees. Only one delegate from our school is allowed to participate in each of these committees.

**Check out this video to get a feel of what Medimun is like:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=0D2kGgNW2ak](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=0D2kGgNW2ak)

# Bridging the Generation Gap: Falcon Style

We all have one thing in common: We are all human, or, to be more precise, we are all Homo Sapiens Sapiens. Numerous factors, one of which was luck, resulted in the evolution of the monkey-like creatures to the beings we are today. We are different but we've all got the same origins and the same nature. Age, however, dictates people's everyday lives and everyone comes to see the world from a different point of view. Several factors, some of which were coincidental, frankly speaking, led to the creation of a large and ever growing gap between generations, which is obvious in everyday life.



On the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2012, an unforgettable event took place at the Falcon School, Nicosia, which was organised by the 4<sup>th</sup> formers of the school, in cooperation with their teachers. Older relatives of the organisers and younger students of the school were invited to take part in this interactive presentation, inspired by the European Youth Parliament (EYP) and the "2012- Year of Active Ageing". The students aimed to design activities that would actively bridge the gap between the older and the younger generation that led to an insightful, successful and entertaining experience for everyone involved.

Eight groups of students, each focusing on one aspect of life, devised an activity related to their topic, and the guests passed by all of the different stations, getting a feel of how easily this gap between the generations can be bridged. The groups were the following: **work, entertainment, economy, technology, fashion, language, ethics.**

The following few examples are of how we approached these groups and what we learned from them:



**Ethics:** *Aren't you used to hearing more older people talking about religion than younger ones?*

A question was posed, e.g. "Do you support gay marriage?" and the participants split up into two groups depending on their opinion. A tug-of-war then took place. The prevailing opinion on the topic (i.e the team that tugged on the rope harder) was noted down and several conclusions were drawn (e.g. There were more religious people in the room than non-religious). The difference in views of the different age groups was also considered, and it was noticed that some sometimes older people and younger people agreed in their views whereas, other times the older generation proved a little more narrow-minded than the youth.



**Language:** *“LOL”, is this a foreign language?*

The students were trying to see how language changed over the years. Cards were placed on the floor, half of which had “teenage vocabulary”, whereas the rest of the words were examples of language that has changed meaning over the years. The adults had to compete and later on work with the teenagers to define as many words as possible. It was concluded that language has changed a lot through the years and that teenagers are developing new and fun ways to communicate.

**Economy:** *Have you noticed a significant difference in the way younger and older people value money?*

This group aimed to raise awareness about today’s economy and how older people used to appreciate money -earned through hard work- whereas nowadays the younger generation is more careless. A video introduced the subject and then “chocolate-money” was placed on the floor and a younger and an older person had to link arms and, working together, collect as much money as they could. The team that collected the most money was the one which survived the economic crisis.

**Fashion:** *How many times have you heard older people commenting on the “provocative” fashion that prevails nowadays?*

Participants in this activity had to sort different clothes and accessories according to the decade in two minutes. Meanwhile, there was a relevant slideshow, and various views about changing fashion were expressed. It was concluded that fashion has changed a lot through the years but many trends have been recycled over time.



After about an hour of interacting with the various activities, everyone got together and sang a special EYP song, in the tune of “YMCA”. It all turned out to be lots of fun; a message about a serious issue was passed to all of the participants, in an entertaining, yet original and interactive manner.

A special thanks goes to all of the organisers, including the 4<sup>th</sup> formers and teachers of the Falcon School, especially Mrs. Demetriades whose help is much appreciated.

**Check out this video of the EYP Simulation:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=hmKnCAHlle8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=hmKnCAHlle8)

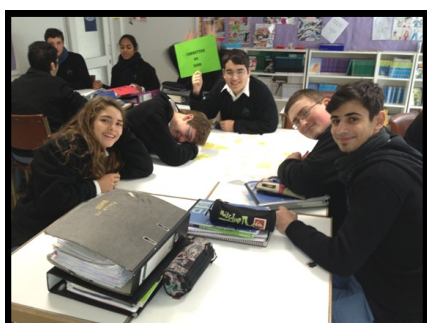
# Big Fat Pony - EYP Fun!

For the fourth year in a row, the Falcon School has hosted a simulation of the European Youth Parliament for the 5<sup>th</sup> Form. This simulation, orchestrated by the English Department, is a continuing attempt to encourage 5<sup>th</sup> Form students to learn about the values of teamwork, leadership and public speaking which has largely proved successful in this year's session. Over a period of 2 weeks, starting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January, the 5<sup>th</sup> form's English lessons were reserved for teambuilding exercises and resolution writing in preparation for the mock debate session that was to be held at the end of the second week.

The aforementioned teambuilding exercises were, in essence, group exercises designed to encourage communication (in English!) and cooperation between classmates, as well as to remove any feelings of embarrassment during the sessions (participants should have fond memories of "The Big Fat Pony"), which served as valuable preparation for the rest of the simulation. Next up, was the committee stage, in which each class was separated into 3 committees: SEDE (The Committee on Security and Defence), IMCO (The Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection) and CULT (The Committee on Culture and Education), all of which were to perform as though they were actually members of the European Parliament. The members of these committees had to cooperate with each other and, with the help of a pre-selected student who acted as an advisor and a supervisor, write a formally written resolution designed to provide a solution to a problem posed to each committee individually by the English teachers. Finally, after half a dozen lessons of preparation and a weekend to research, the committees and their chairs had finished their resolutions and were prepared to begin the mock Debate. This debate followed formal procedure, with time allotted to the defence speeches, points of information (questions) and attack speeches with a final voting procedure on the resolution overall.



This simulation was a great opportunity to get students interested in the world of public speaking and world diplomacy and to give them an opportunity to show off their speaking skills as well as their opinion on current events. I wholeheartedly recommend to students of the 5<sup>th</sup> Form who have found their calling in Public Speaking or found themselves enjoying the debating procedure to sign up and try out for the EYP national session this spring, or perhaps even next year's MediMUN conference.



# Falcon's Got Talent: Volume II

Hello and welcome back to Falcon's Got Talent: Volume III! As seen in previous issues, Falcon never fails to reveal its hidden talents and in this issue, you have the chance to learn about two more of our schools' talented students; **Sarah John** and **Nikolas Drakopoulos**.

**SARAH JOHN**, one of our school's top athletes, is not only a highly credited runner but also a fanatic tennis player, who sees it as not just a sport but a way of life! Let's have a look...

**What makes you love tennis so much?**

Wow, that's very hard. It's the only sport I have ever been so passionate about, and I doubt the passion will ever recede. My coach, the people in my tennis team and generally all people associated with tennis have become a huge part of my life... and I love them!



**When and why did you start?**

I started five years ago and it was definitely not my choice, it was my dad's. I hated it in the beginning! Actually to be fair, I hated sports as a child; I could just not be bothered, and I didn't get why there was so much fuss about results and improvement. However, that changed (thankfully) rather quickly and I'm eternally indebted to my darling dad for making me start.

**Do you have an Idol?**



One word - Federer. He is the true 'King of Tennis,' no matter what his current results are; he's already achieved more than anyone can imagine. His immaculate technique, majestic aura and so much more truly makes him the King... Next in line is Novak Djokovic, whose fun, dedicated and admirable character makes him incredibly popular. In woman's tennis, I'd say that I admire Serena Williams, Li Na, and the recently retired Kim Klijsters.

**Is there a School tennis team?**

I'm not so sure about that, but I do know that Andreas Kazamias and my brother, Alexander John are up-and-coming players too!



### How about competitions?

Well, I have participated in competitions all over Cyprus during the last five years. I've won many doubles and quite a few singles; maybe, if I see significant improvement I will participate in tournaments all over the world!

### What makes a good tennis player?

Working that out for myself actually! Tennis is increasingly becoming a game of great fitness, so now a feature of a good tennis player would be super athleticism. A strong mind is also essential in tennis; psychology plays a huge role on performance. They say that a normal adult does not make as many decisions in one year as a tennis player makes in one match! And third... hard work. Hard, hard work in everything (along with patience!) makes a good player.

### Do you want to turn pro?

Truthfully I don't know... I don't know if I can spare much more time than I already am (nearly 20 hours a week) to become professional. But, nobody knows where life can take us!

### Do you feel pressure having to cope with both school and tennis?

I'm sure you got the basic picture of my life then, if you can ask such a spot-on question! And the answer is yes, definitely yes. Sometimes I wonder how -and for how long- I can sustain this sort of schedule, with pressure from school and even more pressure from tennis! Fatigue has become my best friend this year, unfortunately... Hopefully, I'll find a more efficient and suitable schedule to help improve myself not only at school, but in tennis as well!

After interviewing **NICHOLAS DRAKOPOULOS**, a current sixth former whose hobby might not be common to most of us, I realize that juggling is not a simple matter, and as I spoke to him I felt not only admiration, but also curiosity to find out more about it!

### When and how did you start juggling?

It was Konstantinos Argyrou, a former student of Falcon who got me into it! We started practicing five years ago during first form with yo-yos, and then during summer we were practicing three-ball juggling- which for me is the 'definition of juggling'- with balls every day for 4-6 hours.



### What about it caught your attention?

I was amazed looking at it... It looked so creative and skillful and I was so curious to try it.

### Are there any levels? What level are you on?

There are 4 levels: beginner, intermediate, advanced and expert. I believe I'm at the advanced level as I can perform many tricks but I'm not an expert since it's not my job.



### How many hours of training does one need to get good?

It doesn't work like that... It depends on the person. From the moment you start practicing three-ball juggling for several hours and become used to it then it is easier. For example when I started I practiced a lot, and then it just came naturally. Performing a new trick needs several hours of training, but once you get it right you won't forget it. Now, as I don't have a lot of free time, I practice for an hour and a half, two or three times a month.

### How do you feel when you are performing?

I really focus on what I do and that relaxes me. It is pleasant and fun and is something that keeps me busy.

### Do you get paid?

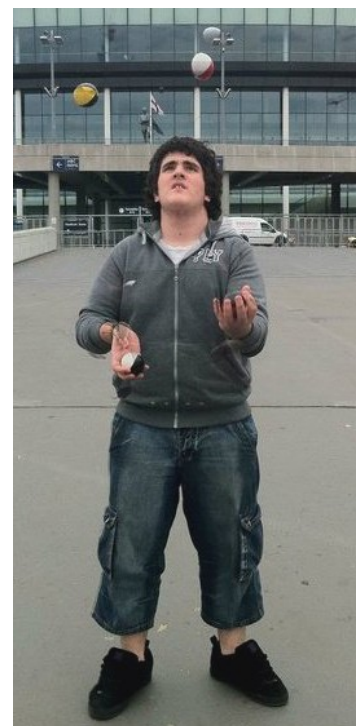
Not really. We have a juggling team made up of 30 people and we save the money we collect at the fire shows in order to be able to organize more of them and pay for any expenses we have. We had only one occasion when someone 'hired' us for an event in Limassol where we got paid, but nothing more.

### Do you have anyone you admire?

Yes! Kris Kremou!! He is the legend of juggling and I really enjoy watching him performing. He is really incredible!

### What does someone need to become a juggler?

They need good hand and eye coordination, speed and of course will and patience because it requires time and determination. It's difficult to start; to continue it's easier because it is something that you'll never forget.



**Artemis Loucaidou**

# So...What Happens Next?

The Falcon School has proudly maintained the position of one of the highest achieving schools in Cyprus, primarily due to the amount of successful graduates released every year. It is a common fact that University Application will probably be the most stressful period of any student's life and in light of this we decided to contact some of the older members of our Falcon Family to give their own top tips to help future Falconite graduates achieve their absolute best and continue our school's legacy. Undoubtedly, we received a response from a number of our ex-students including: **Andreas Tsangarides** who is currently studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Cambridge while **Gabriel Pavlides** (last year's graduate) is still in the Army **BUT** has already attended an interview at the University of Cambridge. **Amina Khatataeva** studies International Politics at City University London while her older sister, **Radima** finished an Accounting and Finance course at the London School of Economics. Here is their advice:

## What inspired you to apply for the Universities that you applied to?

<b>Andreas Tsangarides:</b>	Each university has a different studying time to free time ratio. One has to think well before he/she decides to go to one of the top universities. I personally applied to the best universities for my course and of course, one I was sure I would be accepted in.
<b>Gabriel Pavlides:</b>	Ranking is a big thing for your future, so it does count. It then depends on your character, one might prefer a quiet small town to concentrate on studying, others might prefer a vibrant, multicultural, liberal student life in London. I personally prefer something in between.
<b>Amina Khatataeva:</b>	I began by looking at the ranking of the universities and then according to my grades eliminated the universities which were less appealing to me. But my final five choices were according to opinions from people who studied there and from teachers.
<b>Radima Khatataeva:</b>	I always knew I wanted to study at LSE so the decision for me was very easy when it came to my first choice. Rankings will usually be the first point of reference along with the entry requirements of the universities. The prospect of getting a good job after graduating was also a very important factor when making the decision.

## Did the subjects that you chose for A-Level help you in any particular way during your University period?

<b>Amina Khatataeva:</b>	Literature helped me greatly as it prepared me for the course works in university.
<b>Radima Khatataeva:</b>	I studied accounting and finance at university, so maths was definitely very useful. Physics helped me learn how to think in a logical and analytical way. Being able to critically analyse information is a highly valued skill. I also did economics, which obviously came in very handy for me having chosen to work in the finance industry. Whatever subjects you choose, if you put in the effort, you will pick up useful skills which will help you in the future. All the best in your endeavours!



**What advice could you give to future Falcon Graduates on how to make their Personal Statements more attractive to Universities?**

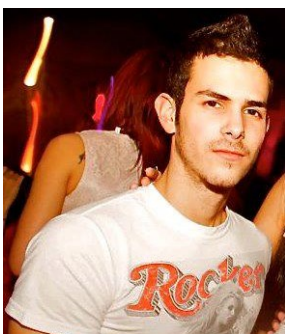
<b>Gabriel Pavlides:</b>	Yes, the personal statement is a challenge because you have to sell yourself in a modest way. You need to have a clear structure (ask Mrs. Demetriades and Mr. Balkwill for helpful tips) and mention why you are interested in this course and what you did to cultivate this passion and confirm it. Do not copy paste quotes to make it look intellectual, it's better to keep it simple in language and to the point! Always link everything back to why you love the course.
<b>Amina Khatataeva:</b>	Participate in as many activities as possible and don't let your summer holidays go to waste, Get some minor work experience (even if it's just making photocopies), believe me this is something I wish I would have done. This will make writing your personal statement is so much easier.



**In your opinion, what do Universities look most for in their candidates when making offers?**

<b>Amina Khatataeva:</b>	Honestly I have no idea; I'm clueless to how their minds function. They read thousands and thousands of applications, and there has to be something about an applicant which will attract them. Just try to participate in as many activities as possible and get good grades (grades are crucial!).
<b>Radima Khatataeva:</b>	Most universities will look for students who are dedicated and will not drop out of university after fresher's week. They are looking for candidates who are passionate about their chosen subject and who have done their research about the course. It goes without saying that grades are very important. Trust me missing that party so you can get some studying done is more than worth it in the long run.

**How did you manage the time for University Applications and Service in the Army? Was it harder or easier than you expected?**



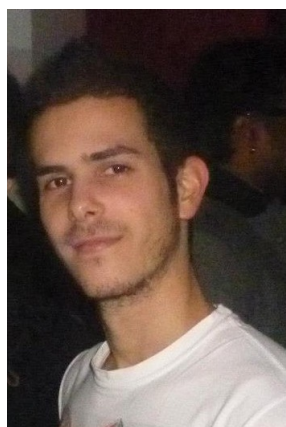
<b>Andreas Tsangarides:</b>	I did my applications in the second year of my service. I don't think the guys will care much about their applications during the first months of their service. It should not be time consuming though, the school teachers help a lot.
<b>Gabriel Pavlides:</b>	Time in the army is not an issue (except if you are in a special place like Stratonomia or Dokimos). Plus if you are passionate enough, the words will flow out of your head like a torrent, I did my first draft during an afternoon! Do not write it over two weeks because it will not be coherent.

Everyone talks about the 'Big Bad Interview'. Could you tell us a bit about your experience? How can future graduates prepare for their interviews?



<b>Andreas Tsangarides:</b>	If you have an interview, practice with Mr Balkwill. The actual questions you will be asked at the interview are irrelevant with Mr Balkwill's questions, but you get the experience and it helps a lot. They are not going to make you sit on an uncomfortable chair or anything, and you do not have to know everything. Just be prepared to face 'new' types of problems and pick up on their hints.
<b>Gabriel Pavlides:</b>	An Interview is not something you can prepare for in a week. If you really love the course, you would have read related articles, books or work experience and thus, you won't need much preparation. You really need to be yourself, reciting info you read on the plane or making things up will not help as the interview is usually a discussion which helps them understand how deep your interest is, (trust me they are not stupid) Ask questions about the course which will show that you researched the university. Do not panic even if you don't do well at some point! I personally saw the interview as a chance to have an exciting, intellectual discussion on something that I am passionate about.

Having spent a few evenings contacting and speaking with some of The Falcon's ex-students, I've grown to truly appreciate the strains of University life-styles and the stress that these people have undergone in order to be ranked amongst some of the best. Hence I'd like to, firstly, say 'Thank You' to the graduates for answering my questions as it shows that they still remember us and, like any family member, are willing to aid us in achieving our highest goals. Secondly, I hope that the information presented here will not only provide a large amount of assistance to all the Readers of The Cloud in future years or months but will also allow them to see a slight glimpse of what lies ahead.



# University Experiences...

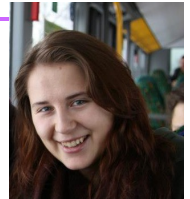
## from Ex-Falcon Students!

For most of us, university is portrayed as one step further than school. Subjects become difficult, friendships become difficult and it seems life in general just becomes difficult. However, in addition to the responsible and mature behavior that you start to adopt, you slowly realize your life is changing for the better, and you're not necessarily being surrounded by books and stress all the time...



"Uni has truly been one of, if not the most amazing experiences of my life, and I know it's so cliché, everyone says it's amazing, but truth is it's only what YOU make it. Some people don't enjoy their time here, and they spend a lot of it homesick, but I came into it wanting to make the most of everything. It's very different from school, in the sense that there's no set routine. Every day you'll have lectures and seminars at different times, and you'll remember how your teachers used to nag you about 'time management' because it's so true, you really need to learn how to manage your time, and deadlines are strict; you can't just say you had other work to do, it's never a good excuse! What's more is, uni offers you so many opportunities (at least my uni, University of Warwick, has one of the best student unions in the UK) from sports and dance to cultural societies, so if you want to actually get involved in those you need to make sure you have the time to." **-Dina Alawneh**

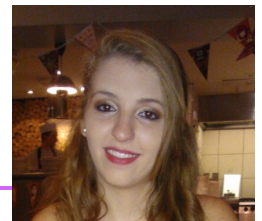
You get to do a lot of crazy things at university. "One day, we decided that we would visit all the of the universities libraries in one day - there are 19. That day my feet were really sore... but we completed the mission successfully! It took us 5 hours.



On carnival night I painted myself as a mime artist and I painted a friend of mine as a zombie, which scared off lots of people!

The best times I had was when my two friends and I all cook. We always have a laugh."

**-Svetlana Kozyritskaya**

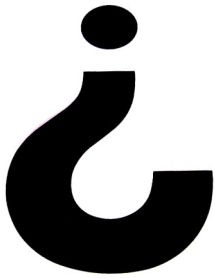


"There are just so many new experiences, just the whole being completely on your own in a new place, having to do everything by yourself, it just makes you feel like you are your own person. It's more the sense of freedom you have that's very refreshing and liberating. Freedom and fun has to also be balanced with the workload you have to do. University really teaches you to find that equilibrium in your life and that's the most important aspect in my opinion." **-Dima Alawneh**



"Every day I look forward to my French lectures as French has always been my favorite subject. I do a Philosophy course as well where you get to understand a lot of the ideas of famous philosophers such as Frederick Nietzsche. I also love the fact that I can go early in the morning and pass by the gym that my university offers. I get along with teachers, students and I enjoy my course. I am so grateful!" **-Garin Tashdjan**

# Pestering our Peers



**Antonis (P3):** Creepers on Minecraft! They're awesome!

**Nicki, Leoni (P4):** My family because they're kind, they take care of us and help us.

**Roy, Youssef (P1):** I love electronics and snow. They're so much fun!

**Ryan (P4):** I love building and creating things, so I love Lego the most!

Who or what do you love the most?

**Mark (P1):** WORK!

**Constantinos (P3):** BEN 10! He's my hero!

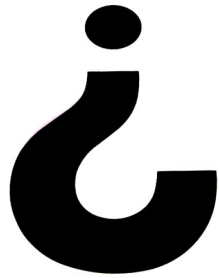
**Kyra (P3):** My cat, because she's cute and warm.

**John (P3):** Mmmm I love PIZZA!

**Eva (PR):** I love my dog. She's so tiny and cute..

**Most common answers:** My mummy/ family and my iPad or Playstation





**Annie Christoudia (S3):**

A horse, because since I was small I really liked them and always wanted to go and have a ride!

**Kyprianos Spyrou (S5):** I think I was a mute... I've done enough talking in this life-time!

**Mr. Renos:** A dinosaur, because I love eating!

**Panayiota Ef-stathiou (S1):** A dog, because I would be a man's best friend and very loyal.

**Who do you think you were in your previous life?**

**Alexandros Agrotis**

**(S3):** I think I would have been a turtle; slow and steady, and enjoying my life the way I want to!

**Zak Bridger (S5):** William Shakespeare, because I have this tendency to put an extra 'e' at the end of many words.

**Emi Had (S6):** I live life as if I was in a comedy sometimes, so I'd say I was a movie character.

**Most common answers:** I don't believe in past lives and various anatomical part.. (takes a lot to wonder why)



# English Praise

From France to Greece to the 1800s, the English Department have also taken us to the UK and back. Without forgetting the official language of The Falcon School, the following passages are from some of our talented Falconites:

## MY FAVOURITE PLACE

My favorite place in the entire world where you can find no other place like it, is Christmas Island.

Christmas Island is situated in the middle of the Pacific and Indian Oceans; it is a tiny island but has much to offer. It is like a tropical paradise. In the middle of the island there is a national wildlife preservation park with exotic trees and bright, colourful flowers that you could find in no other place. The wildlife is buzzing around you with such diversity; from bright little fish in the ocean or from the monkeys swaying on the tree branches.

Christmas Island has one of the world's most amazing beaches, with white soft sand and the clear ocean reflecting the sky's beautiful blue colour.

You can go bird watching on the coast and watch them for hours on end, and if you find time you can always take a stroll through the town.

The glowing red sunsets have never failed to take anyone's breath away. If you sit outside around that time of day you can hear the insects humming and buzzing around you.

When you wake up in the morning you can hear the bird's soft melodic chirping urging you to go outside and exhaust yourself with all the different activities; from picking shells of the beach or hiking in the national wildlife forest or even snorkeling or scuba-diving. It is always fun you will never get bored.

Lastly, the people are very polite and helpful to tourists and when you check out of your hotel they wish you a safe flight back and give you a complimentary fruit smoothie of your choice.

When you get home do not forget to plug in your computer and transfer all of your pictures onto a hard-drive disc, to show all of your friends your amazing holiday.

**Asymina Aza**





### EVERYDAY

Everyday they tried a new technique to get me to tell the truth, and everyday they didn't get anything. Everyday I get stronger.

It was the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. They whipped me and told me to get out of bed. I stumbled over to the showers and let the water soothe my wounds. They then handcuffed me and threw me into the torture room, as I called it. A few hours later, they once again had got nothing out of me and I smiled at them through the pain.

I glanced at the clock hanging on the bare white walls and I counted in my head, "5,4,3,2,1, BINGO!" Suddenly, a massive hole was blown into the wall at the other end of my room. Bricks flew out in all directions and the ceiling started to cave in on itself, sirens started blaring so loudly that the noise pierced my ears.

I was dragged onto my feet and a muscular man wearing a gas mask flung me onto his broad shoulders. The man sprinted out and leapt through the large hole in the wall. He then raced towards a helicopter and pushed me into the soft leather seat. The noise of gunfire erupted and the area was filled with the noise of bullets hitting metal.

Unexpectedly, the whole building behind me burst into flames and smoke billowed out of it, like a dragon had just breathed on it. The helicopter jerked into life, rose off the ground and sped noisily into the distance. I turned back and all I could see were the remains of the building enveloped in flames and hundreds of paramedics and firemen arriving at the scene.

I then felt a sense of relief and gratitude towards my rescuers who hadn't forgotten about me. The man who saved me was being treated by a doctor as blood was gushing out of a wound to his shoulder. He had been caught in the cross-fire.

After so long, the realization that I was going home made me, tears well up in my eyes. The tears rolled down my cheeks and were swept away by the wind as we flew through the bright sky. I'm going home..... That was the only thing I thought of the whole journey back.

**Michael Ladomatos**

### THE CREATURE

The car skidded violently. He struggled to regain control. Close to panic, he turned the steering wheel to the right. The car started spinning crazily and then it crashed through the road barrier and he and his car fell.

When he opened his eyes, it was night-time. It'd been several hours since the crash. He couldn't remember a thing. He could only faintly recall turning the wheel to the right and crashing but anything that had happened before was gone. Lost in the vast emptiness of the human mind. It had always fascinated Stanley. The mind. He struggled to move his arms. After some pulling though his right arm got free from the steering wheel where it had been caught. He then freed his left arm that had been tangled in the seat belt. As he pulled at the seat belt, he realized that the car was overturned and that one of the windows was partly shattered. He tried to bring his legs closer in order to kick at it and then a sharp pain came from his left leg. He hadn't felt this pain since he was a boy and had fallen off his bike. He'd broken his leg. Then his mother had come running out to help but now he was alone, and scared.

He finally managed to bring his right leg to the window when something caught his eye, in the rear view mirror that had survived. For a moment, he was silent. He heard some crickets singing, enjoying the gloomy fog that had begun to form; the snow falling off the trees' branches. An owl, hooting and then flying away. There was nothing there. He kicked the window as hard as he could and it shattered and broke. It took all his power and bravery to exit the car and once he crawled out he realized the seriousness of his leg injury. It was so agonizing that he had to bite his sleeve so as to not scream while exiting the car and dragging his leg with him. He tried to look around and noticed something moving in one of the trees. He crawled towards it and then he realized that a pair of hungry, vicious and deadly eyes were staring down at him.

**Constantinos Demetriou**



### UNREALITY OF REALITY

Have you ever thought about the concept of reality? You might've, just before you went to bed, or when you're bored to death in a lesson and have nothing else to think about... But have you ever sat and thought about it purposefully? Have you ever wondered: what is reality, exactly? Probably not.

So what is reality? Is it the world we wake up to every single day? Or is it the vivid dreams at night, which are so much more interesting and real? Some might say both. Technically, they are both. In dreams, the unreality of perfectly real situations seems much more solid and substantial than the drab and dull decisions we have to face in our everyday life. But everyday life, when you're in it, destroys all sense of reality. It seems too cruel, too unfair, too long to be in. Some people live in dreams, some live in reality. Which is better?- you might ask. Dreams? No. They shatter someday, no matter how strong they were in the beginning, and you fall, hitting reality very hard. Then real everyday life? No, because you can't live without dreams. Without dreams you'd just be empty, a shell with no meaning or reason to live. So which is better? Frankly, I don't know. I chose dreams. That's where it all started.

Everything was blank. Empty. I stood in a white misty nothingness. Really, there was nothing around me but white matter. No color, no smell, no sound. The silence was so deafening, I couldn't take it anymore. So I screamed. No sound came out. Instead, a light vibration brushed the air, and a moment later a black pool appeared in front of me. I peered into the still sable waters, which reflected nothing. Sighing, I looked around. There was still nothing. So I made a decision. I jumped into the darkness, and as the freezing icy shadows engulfed me, I faded into unconsciousness. I came to minutes, hours or maybe even days later. I don't know. In this place, time didn't exist. The first thing I noticed when I opened my eyes was color. Then a low hum of voices reverberated through me. Startled, I jumped up, trying to locate from where the sound was coming, and finally saw where I was. All around me was a dense forest, the beryl grass softly blowing in the light breeze. Gigantic, majestic trees entwined their branches and their crowns, creating a living archway ceiling. It was so thick, the rays of light leaking through turned a creamy green nowhere near before they reached the forest floor. The forest was old. Very old. The very air seemed to crackle with long-forgotten mysteries and magic.

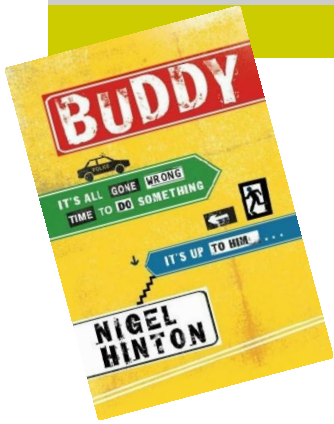
The hum of voices grew slightly louder as I turned toward the arch-tunnel of trees. Mesmerized by the music, I followed it. It lured me to the very end of the emerald tunnel, where a gate stood. The hum seemed to issue from there. The gate stood, old and rusted, yet still opulent somehow, cloaking secrets inside. Runes and faded jewels encrusted the metal and the handle, both of which were a deep but now dim brass. Inexplicably, I outstretched my hand, and, gently, carefully, skimmed the top of it with my fingertips. An electric spark burst from the contact, and I watched, fascinated, as it restored the gates' previous glory. However, I had no time to admire the sight with awe, as the heavy doors swung inward and I was sucked inside by some unseen force.

Now I was floating in the night sky, the universe. Shimmering veils of powder descended from the sky, twinkling stars cascaded everywhere, like glowing fireworks. Planets floated by, god-like in their slow movement. And then I was propelled towards two worlds in the distance. One a shapeless cluster of grey, always changing, the other a perfect sphere, black and white. And I slowly began to understand. They were ours: the world of dream and the world of reality. I watched, captivated, as they collided, and the indigo heavens were illuminated for a brief second with a gilded flash of light. Colors trickled, seeped and poured out from the worlds, merging, creating a new world, transparent, like a marble, where they swirled and entwined, creating patterns and ornamenting the gem in thousands of ways I'd never seen before. Iridescent insignia, opalescent signs descended from the sky. Glass, sparkling towers and cities appeared, shining with myriads of colors and textures. Sapphire, cyan, lavender, amethyst, beryl, peridot, azure, rose, amber, florid sunsets and lilac sunrises, radiant crystal blue lakes and oceans, golden nights and silver days..

And the hum rose with the birth of the new world. Finally, I could hear what they were singing. Finally, I heard the message and I understood. Although dreams could exist without reality, they weren't solid enough to last long. Reality without dreams was an empty existence: a white nothingness, devoid of almost everything good the world had to offer. But when mixed together, the powers, shapes and colors mold together, creating a new, perfect world. A blazing, burning gem, a blooming flower of new hope, new love and new life.

Around the marble, lucid, transparent golden petals unfurled, and the flower radiated happiness and energy. So don't choose the dream or reality. Don't restrict yourself to limited choices. Just mix the dreams and reality together, let the unreal become real and the impossible possible!

# Lovely Literature



Photos of work produced by 2 Red after reading "Buddy" by Nigel Hinton. They produced models of **56 Coxley Street**.



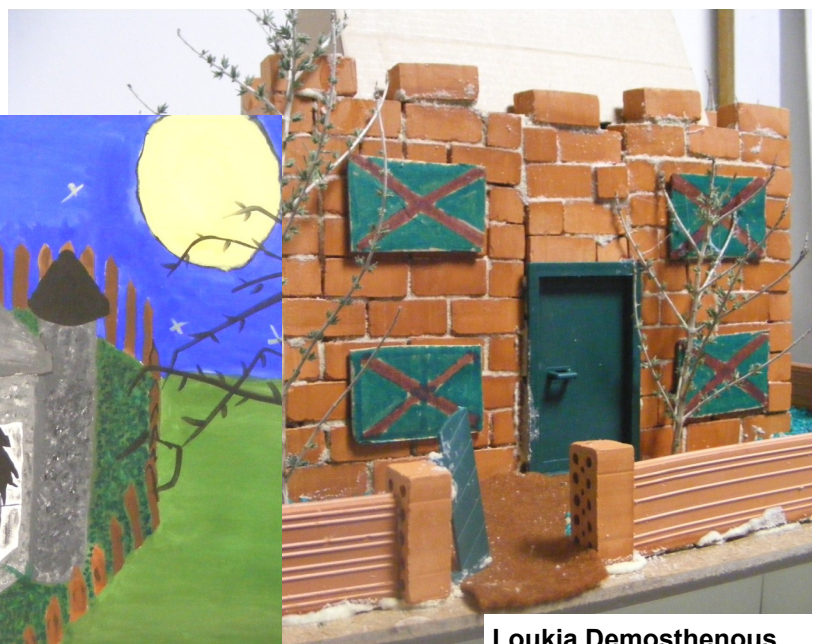
A collage of the interior by **Anastasia Kokkinou**



**Ersie Christodoulou**



**Maria Codrou**



**Loukia Demosthenous**

We urge you to go check out an interpretation of Macbeth by **Panayiotis Papakyprianou** on youtube with the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBr1aPijtOE>

# Parlez-vous français?

The French Department have exceeded their limits and have not failed to make us feel like we are in France. The following French letters are by some of our fellow students:



Cher Michel,

Salut! Merci pour ta dernière lettre. Comment vas-tu? J'espère que vous allez tous très bien. Nous allons très bien et nous attendons ton arrivée avec impatience!

Dans ma famille, il y a cinq personnes: ma mère, mon père, mon frère, ma sœur et moi.

Nous avons aussi deux chiens adorables qui sont appelés Havana et Juicy. Ma mère est assez grande, mince et belle. Elle a les cheveux raides et noirs et les yeux bruns. Mon père a les cheveux courts et noirs et les yeux verts. Il est très grand et fort. Ma sœur a huit ans et elle est très timide et généreuse. Elle est jolie et mince. Mon frère a quatre ans et il est très sociable et bavard. Il est très amusant! Moi, j'ai quatorze ans, j'ai les cheveux longs et noirs et les yeux bruns. Je suis mince et grande et je suis timide. J'adore ma famille et mes amies et j'aime travailler à l'école.

Ma maison est confortable et grande. Chez moi, il y a cinq chambres, trois salles de bains et quatre toilettes. Il y a aussi une salle de séjour et une salle à manger. Dans le jardin, il y a beaucoup des belles fleurs. J'ai ma propre chambre au deuxième étage. Dans ma chambre, on trouve mon lit, une armoire et un placard. Les murs sont blancs et les rideaux sont rouges.

Dans mon quartier, il y a beaucoup de grandes maisons et des parcs où on peut jouer. Il y a aussi une église et une école. Dans mon quartier, nous pouvons aller au parc ou nous pouvons visiter l'église. Nous pouvons aussi aller au centre commercial qui n'est pas très loin de ma maison. Qu'est-ce que tu veux faire pendant ton séjour ici?

Aussi, mon école est située à Strovolos et donc loin de ma maison. Mais elle est énorme; il y a un terrain de jeu magnifique et une ambiance conviviale. À mon école, tu vas étudier les mathématiques, la physique, la biologie, le français, l'anglais, le grec et la littérature. Tu vas apprendre beaucoup de choses cette semaine!

L'année dernière avec Sophie, qui est venue le 17 de septembre, nous avons eu beaucoup de plaisir. Nous sommes allées du centre-ville, et puis nous sommes retournées à la maison. Nous avons visité le musée, puis nous sommes allées faire du shopping dans le centre commercial et nous nous sommes promenées dans le parc qui est près de ma maison.

J'attends ton arrivée avec impatience!

Amitiés, Raphaëlle Ioannou



Chère Pauline,

Comment vas-tu? Nous allons très bien. J'étais heureuse de lire ta dernière lettre. Je suis impatiente pour le moment de ton arrivée à Chypre. Nous préparons notre maison ainsi elle sera confortable pour ton séjour. Ma maison est grande avec un grand jardin. Nous avons décoré notre maison avec des décorations de Noël et à l'entrée il y a un énorme sapin de Noël. Mon quartier est également décoré. Tout le monde attend Noël avec enthousiasme.

Dans ma famille il y a quatre personnes; mon frère, Constantin, ma mère, Eleni, mon père Nicos et moi. Ma mère est une institutrice et mon père un professeur. Mon frère et moi vont à l'école 'Falcon School' à Nicosie.

Mon école est grande elle a quatre étages. Pendant cette semaine nous allons faire l'anglais, l'histoire, les mathématiques et le français.

Après l'école nous pouvons aller au cinéma, au centre commercial au jouons des jeux Noël à ma maison. Chaque Samedi matin nous rencontrons des amis dans le parc de notre quartier. Le dimanche nous allons à l'église pendant une heure et alors la famille entière mange chez ma grandmère.

Pendant la semaine nous pouvons aller à Limassol pour voir le château de Colossi et le jardin zoologique. A Paphos il y a les tombes des rois et à Larnaca le château médiéval à la place de Phinikoudes. L'année dernière ma vieille correspondante est venue en été et tous les jours nous sommes allées à la plage et nous avons joué plusieurs jeux. Encore nous sommes allées à un voyage à Paphos.

J'espère que tu vas t'amuser pendant ton séjour à Chypre! J'attends ton arrivée avec impatience.

A bientôt,

Ta correspondante

Andròula!

Chère Marie,

Salut! Comment vas-tu? J'ai lu ta lettre et j'ai été très heureuse quand j'ai découvert que tu restes chez moi pendant ton voyage à Chypre. Je suis sûr que nous allons nous amuser ensemble!

Dans ma famille, il y a quatre personnes mon père qui s'appelle Nicos et a quarante-deux ans, ma mère qui s'appelle Vasiliki et a quarante et un ans, mon frère qui s'appelle Andreas et il a neuf ans et va à la Primaire et moi Antonia. Ma maison est assez grande avec un grand jardin et elle a deux étages. Chez moi, au rez-de-chaussée, il y a la salle à manger, la cuisine, le salon et une salle de séjour. Nous avons aussi quatre chambres (une pour mes parents, une pour mon frère, une pour moi et une de rechange) et trois salles de bains. Dans ma chambre, on trouve mon lit, une armoire et un placard. Nous avons décoré notre maison de Noël et je pense que tu vas l'aimer! Nous habitons à Nicosie, à proximité du stade GSP.

Je vais à l'école Falcon qui est à seulement cinq minutes de chez moi. C'est assez vieux, mais agréable et nous passons un bon moment là-bas. Les leçons que nous faisons sont le dessin, la biologie, la chimie, l'anglais la langue, la littérature anglaise, le français, le géographie, le grec, l'histoire, l'informatique, la musique, l'éducation physique, la physique, la religion et ;'espagnole!

L'an dernier, quand un autre correspondant français est venu rester chez moi, nous avons amusés! Nous sommes allés au parc, à l'église, à l'épicerie etc. Nous avons appris l'autre vraiment bien et sont devenus des amis proches. Nous avons parlé de nos expériences et vu des films.

J'ai hâte de vous voir et je suis sûr que cette fois nous aurons encore plus de plaisir!

Amitiés,

Antonia Psalti



Cher Paul,

J'espère que tu vas bien. J'ai été heureux de lire votre lettre.

Il y a quatre personnes dans ma famille. J'ai un père, une mère, une sœur et moi! Ma sœur s'appelle Connie. Elle a douze ans. Elle est petite et mince. Elle a les yeux verts et les cheveux bruns et longs. Elle est très active et amusante. Ma mère s'appelle Joanna. Elle a quarante-deux ans. Elle est grande et mince. Elle a les yeux bleus et les cheveux bruns et raides. Elle est sympa et patiente.

J'habite à Nicosie, Chypre, dans une maison. J'habite dans un quartier résidentiel. Dans la maison, il y a huit pièces. Dans ma maison, il y a un salon, une cuisine, deux salles de bains et des toilettes, un jardin, une piscine et quatre chambres. Dans ma chambre, il y a un lit, une télévision, un bureau et un ordinateur. Près de ma maison, il y a des parcs, beaucoup de cafés et un cinéma.

Mon école est assez vieille et elle est petite. Il y a une piscine, un théâtre, un terrain de sport et une cantine. Normalement, je me réveille à six heures et l'école commence à sept heures et demie. J'aime la biologie, les mathématiques, la géographie et le français. Je deteste le dessin, la chimie et le grec.

L'année dernière, mon correspondant est arrivé en juillet et il faisait très chaud. Nous sommes allés à la plage, au cinéma et on a fait des visites touristiques. A chypre, en été il fait chaud et en hiver il fait beau.

Qu'est-ce que tu veux faire pendant ton séjour à Chypre? J'attends ton arrivée avec impatience.

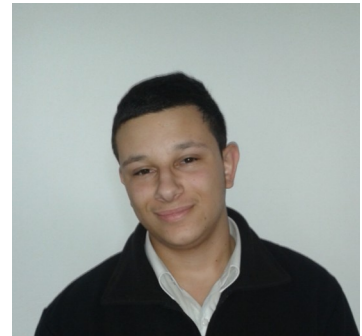
Amitiés,

Andreas Christofi



# Grecian Goodness

Mr. Renos' beginner Greek's never fail to amaze and the following essay is by **Ibrahim Azimli**



## Ένα ταξίδι στην Ολλανδία

Πέρσι το καλοκαίρι πήγα στην Ολλανδία με την οικογένειά μου. Είναι μια όμορφη χώρα και όλα ήταν πράσινα. Παντού υπήρχαν αγελάδες. Η Ολλανδία είναι κάτω απο την επιφάνεια της θάλασσας και ο καιρός είναι πάντα βροχερός και κρύος.

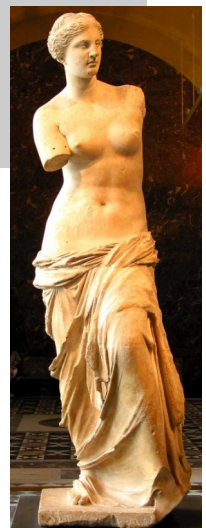
Μείναμε σε ένα πολύ ωραίο ξενοδοχείο το οποίο ήταν μόλις δύο χιλιόμετρα απο το αεροδρόμιο του Άμστερνταμ, που είναι η πρωτεύουσα της Ολλανδίας.

Το κέντρο της πόλης είναι πολύ μεγάλο και έχει πολλά καταστήματα. Η μητέρα μου ψώνισε πολλά πράγματα. Την πρώτη μέρα έφαγα μία απολαυστική πίτσα που είχε φρέσκο τυρί. Στην Ολλανδία τα πάντα είναι φρέσκα σε όλα τα εστιατόρια. Την δεύτερη μέρα πήγαμε σε ένα αγρόκτημα και μας έδειξαν πώς να κάνουμε τυρί. Το τυρί ήταν πολύ νόστιμο και είχε φανταστική γεύση.

Το όνειρό μου είναι να ζήσω εκεί γιατί είναι ένα καταπληκτικό μέρος.



**Ibrahim Azimli**



# Revolutions Everywhere!

## What were the main causes of the revolts across Europe in 1848?

The main causes of the revolts across Europe in 1848 can be categorized into three groups of varying importance: Economic problems, social problems and political problems. Most of the causes were long term, since they had been brewing since the beginning of the industrial revolution in Europe.

First of all, the industrial revolution (which serves as a backdrop for most of the revolts) led to an increase in population in all affected countries. This overpopulation, though it was necessary (more people were needed to work the land in order to feed the growing population), proved to be unsustainable and, due to the shortage of arable land it created, many peasants began to move to cities in order to make a living. These peasants were not used to working jobs most commonly found in cities (factory work) and were usually forced to live in poverty.



These population problems invariably led to more problems within the European community. Most importantly was the growing class-consciousness and emergence of the “bourgeoisie”, since with the wealth produced by factories meant that populations were no longer divided into “peasants” and “aristocrats”. This subdivided the populations of Europe into groups which (arguably) had their own consciousness and goals for bettering their lives.

These social problems and their causes can perhaps be explained by the political situation at the time: since 1815, all major European powers were ruled by monarchies and governments which followed conservative policies which favoured the very rich and the aristocracy (i.e. the rich land owners), a policy which basically ignored the rights and the demands of the working and middle classes. This trend, in conjunction with a generation of remarkably incapable monarchs, encouraged the growth of revolutionary ideas including liberalism (which appealed to the educated middle class which had been excluded from the political process for some time), socialism and communism (which, though it was supposed to appeal to the working classes, did not inspire as much as liberalism had among the bourgeoisie).

Finally, the economic problems in Europe were the closest cause of the 1848 Revolts which could be described as ‘triggers’ for the events. This is because even though they began three years earlier in 1845, they were the shortest term causes that can be identified. The economic crisis began with bad harvest of potato and cereal crops across Europe which, due to poor communication within the food market, speculation by merchant buyers as well as panic buying by consumers, made the problem even more serious and raised crop prices substantially.

This rise in prices led to another perhaps more serious problem within the European economy: the industrial crisis. Since prices for food were so high people could no longer afford to buy manufactured goods, which forced factory owners to sack employees in order to maintain their profits. This in turn caused more poverty and further reduced consumption, which eventually bankrupted factory owners. The already weak governments could not handle these economic problems and were incapable of silencing the dissenting voice in the three years before 1848. These economic problems created a strong “core” of dissatisfied people from both the middle and working classes, and, even though the revolts only began one year after the end of the economic crisis, the “trauma” experienced was perhaps enough to encourage these dissenters to react in 1848. This, in turn, could be attributed to the lack of action undertaken by the government to attempt to alleviate the effects of the crisis on the population which all but widened the scope of revolutionary feelings among it. It can clearly be seen that, throughout the explanation of the problems occurring in Europe, it was the social situation that offers the most reason for revolt in 1848, since it had been present many years prior and the social tension can clearly be seen relieving itself in the revolts and demonstrations in 1848.

# The Walking Website

Over time, there have been many rumors about this website. Some true, some not. Many think it's a huge online virus, made solely for the purpose of contaminating your computer. Others say it's just a myth. But, stay assured, it does contaminate your computer. Let me tell you, though, that it definitely exists. It exists like any other specter or ghost that you have heard of in your life. It just hides there, in the swirling shadows, unseen by all but those who truly seek the truth.

This website is referred to as the '**shapeshifter**'. Now let me explain what it truly is, and why it is called so.

The walking website is a unique thing, and you may come across it many times in your life and not even realize it was there to begin with. This website changes its html code browser address once in two days, picking a completely random site for the new one. The website then proceeds to fold over the real website, retaining its front cover and design, of sorts, but having no real information on any of the links or subjects on the real website. It may even swear at you with inappropriate words (showing them on the screen) if you take the link to another page! But usually, the browser simply gives out 'connection lost, please refresh page'. Ever seen that when your internet is in perfect condition? Then you've encountered the great Shapeshifter.

Many people might agree with me and my friends. We think that the Shapeshifter is being run by one or two people at most. There is no harm in the huge virus, and running it, once you've got the program going, isn't a big deal. We think that the website was simply created for fun. You see, when it was first launched, 3-4 years ago, the program was still fresh and running, and imagine the looks on peoples' faces when (for example) you were on Facebook, and instead of the usual newsfeed you get a hilarious smiling face, swear words and completely random articles that make no sense whatsoever!



The creators probably erupted in fits of laughter once they imagined your faces. And besides, you get to know a lot of stuff if you're the co-worker of such a huge living mechanical creature... It was fun to run it and invent new ways of randomness... Now you know what the Walking Website is, and how it works. So beware of the Shapeshifter, and try not to get mad if you ever encounter those old jokes and smileys!

By: Zlatovesta Vasilyeva

# The Ultimate Study Guide!

The **first step** is to open the book. Yet, when you do so, the words keep swimming swiftly away from your grip. After some hours the throbbing in your head becomes unbearable, and you start feeling both mentally and physically exhausted. This is the time when many of us would stop or the more determined would continue 'studying' pointlessly, when in the end the work you have done would be of a much lesser value than a good night's sleep. Studying for exams is an extremely stressful process, especially for the higher classes, who can't help but feel the pressure of an impending future based on these exams. Dealing with the stress can be tricky, but preparing well and learning how to study productively can help eliminate most of it.



1.

Cramming and all-nighters may sound like good a idea, but they are definitely not. Sleeping well before an exam is vital for your concentration and therefore your performance. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), after conducting re-searches, highlights the importance of sleep especially for a teenager. They advise that we get 9 to 10 hours of sleep.

2.

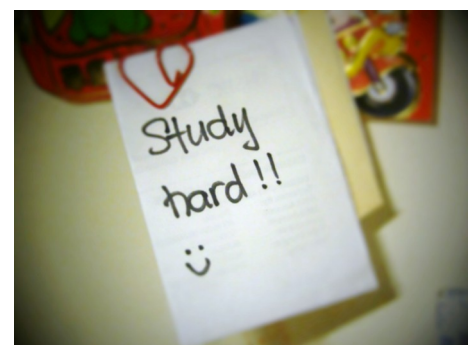
It has been proven, that we can concentrate to study only for 25-50 minutes. So, after 50 minutes of work, you should just put some music on and start dancing or working out. It might sound illogical to do this while studying for exams, but it actually helps a lot as bad posture while sitting can cause back pain. In addition, the exercise helps you lower your stress level and improve your performance. Then recommence studying.

3.

Try stimulating as many of your senses as you can. For example when reading something try reading it out loud, as it is easier for someone to retain the information. In addition, using spider diagrams, pie charts and various other diagrams, are additional simple visual stimuli which make it easier for you to remember complex knowledge.

4.

Caffeine and sugar may appear as the optimal choices to boost your energy when studying, but they really are not. Both, have a short lasting effect and they tend to increase stress levels. Snacking on fruits and nuts is the best option. In the morning before the exam you have to make sure to eat a good breakfast, like oatmeal.



# When in Rome

Rome is a city which embraces its past empirical status. It is a city where the line between past and future is blurred into magnificent buildings and unforgettable scenery. The city manages to express itself artistically in many forms, including the well-known Italian fashion as well as the masterpieces of artists such as Michelangelo, Bernini, Caravaggio and Raphael.

## A State within the city: the Vatican



Saint Peter's Square

The Vatican City state is the smallest independent state in the world both in area and population, as it is only 44 hectares big with a total population of about 800 people. It was established as an independent state in 1929 by the Lateran treaty. As it is already well known, the Vatican is an ecclesiastical state, ruled by the Pope. Pope Benedict XVI, who recently just retired, was the 265<sup>th</sup> Pope in charge of Vatican City and the Catholic Church. You might be surprised to hear that he is of a German nationality.

Saint Peter's square, in front of Saint Peter's Basilica is well worth visiting, as well as the Sistine Chapel with all the magnificent art of Michelangelo.



Fontana Di Trevi

It was finished in 1762. The statue in the middle represents 'Oceanus', the God of all water, and was made by Pietro Bracci.

The Italian Fashion company Fendi announced a 2.2 million, 20-month restoration in January 2013.

**Don't forget to toss a coin!**

It is considered as one of the most magnificent examples of Roman architecture and engineering. Built in 72-80 AD, it was the greatest amphitheater in the Roman Empire. It could house up to 50,000 spectators, who would watch gladiatorial contests and various other public spectacles.



The Colosseum

## La cucina romana

**Suppli al Telefono** are rice balls with a heart made of warm, melted mozzarella cheese. They are a favourite amongst students, because of their delicious flavour and cheap price. The Italian cuisine praises itself for the freshly made, cheese-stuffed pizza crusts, as well as its flavoured packed pasta dishes. Tasting either one of them in Rome is a must that will immediately immerse you into the culture. For a different twist on pizza you can try **trapizzino**, which is basically a 'hot pizza crust pocket' stuffed with traditional roman sauces and various other ingredients like meatballs, vegetables etc. As for dessert...Rome can satisfy any kind of demanding sweet tooth. There are **biscotti**, which are the equivalent of cookies in Italian, there are also **cannoli** that are tubes of fried pastry dough with a creamy filling containing ricotta cheese, and finally, a Roman staple, the **maritozzi**, which are sweet buns filled with whipped cream.

Have a nice time fellow students!

Andrea Ellina

# Desperate to Decode!

N	E	C	X	T	I	S	S	U	E	S	P	O	R	T
S	D	A	R	Y	H	Q	P	A	N	S	G	M	W	C
O	H	C	I	O	N	Q	R	Z	E	Q	G	H	G	A
A	T	R	G	P	A	S	G	N	P	T	T	T	I	R
S	R	A	C	S	O	T	I	G	X	D	Z	F	Q	N
R	O	E	Y	L	I	T	I	S	Y	S	Y	R	Y	I
D	O	G	K	V	N	P	Z	A	Z	B	O	K	O	V
L	J	R	R	E	N	T	R	A	G	M	U	A	B	A
I	V	J	L	N	E	V	E	L	E	H	W	L	B	L
V	R	A	V	P	I	C	D	K	D	I	Q	I	D	A
R	V	H	H	R	Q	Y	F	T	H	R	E	Q	L	Y
J	E	R	V	G	G	M	Q	J	P	P	B	E	D	M
K	J	C	G	C	F	Y	V	M	J	B	Z	R	T	Y
G	D	V	S	N	Y	W	N	G	N	Z	R	S	Y	U
O	O	W	Q	H	V	H	G	B	S	D	I	H	E	L

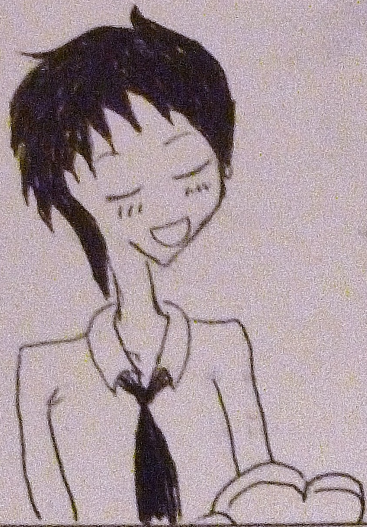
## Instructions:

Find the answers to these clues in the word search and then use the letters which are left behind to spell out a

## **SECRET MESSAGE!**

1. What is the name of the saint which is celebrated on the day commonly associated with love this month? (9)
2. What is the surname of the man holding the current world record for longest skydive? (11)
3. How many candidates ran for the Cypriot presidential elections? (6)
4. Where are Falcon students going to be vacationing this March? 4)
5. What is the name of the famous movie awards ceremony which took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February? (6)
6. What is the famous event that Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil, is particularly famous for hosting? (8)
7. Which country is going to be joining the European Union this year? (7)

SECRET MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_



I bought these chocolates  
with the thought of  
you and how much I  
love you.



Aww, how  
sweet!



But I  
Kinda got  
hungry so  
...



CRUSH

Love is  
hard people  
Wolf

“Food...It brings us closer together!”



Dear Falcon family,  
Thank you so much for your  
inspiring and mouthwatering  
recipes! I really can't wait to  
try them all! Everything  
sounds so delicious and I par-  
ticularly like that it's from  
different cultures around the  
world.

Well done to all of you  
who thought and com-  
piled this fantastic  
cook book.  
Let the cooking com-  
mence!  
Lots of love,  
A big fan

## A Falcon Family Feast



THIS WAS ONLY A SMALL PRESENTATION OF OUR  
SCHOOL'S TALENTS.

DO NOT MISS A BIGGER, LIVE PRESENTATION OF  
SOME MORE OF THE FALCON SCHOOL TALENTS ON

27/03/2013

at the European University in Nicosia

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THE  
FALCON  
SCHOOL  
TALENT  
SHOW  
2013

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BE THERE.