

# THE STRATTON STANDARD

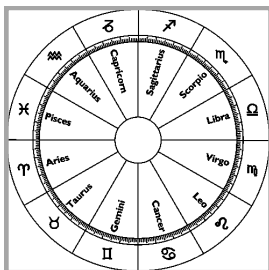
Wednesday 1st November 2017 (Issue 002)

Poland trip—  
read about it  
inside!



*Poland—Food—Netflix—Music—Politics—Classroom Q and A—Horoscopes—Celebrities—  
Conspiracies—Aunt Aggie—Sport*

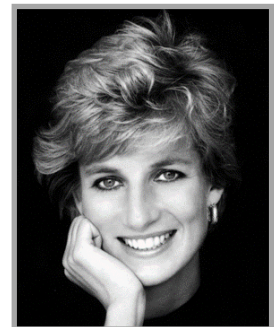
***In this month's issue:***



Brand new November  
Horoscopes!



*Stratton Standard: Meet the team*



Princess Diana: Was her  
death an accident?



# THE STRATTON **WELCOME** STANDARD

Welcome to The Stratton Standard- a monthly magazine run by students, for students. November's always an exciting month, with the darker evenings drawing in, bonfire night on the 5<sup>th</sup> and Christmas just around the corner. This issue is jam packed with exciting content - including what's hot on the music top ten and an account of the Poland trip. We all hope you enjoy reading The Stratton Standard and would love to hear your feedback. If you've got any questions or comments, feel free to email us at [thestrattonstandard@gmail.com](mailto:thestrattonstandard@gmail.com).

Happy reading!

The Stratton Standard team x

## Meet the team:

Hannah Penwright- Editor & Food writer  
Lauren Neagle- Creative director  
Noah Adams- Social media, Politics & Film/TV reviews  
Tamara Dunn- Social media  
Caitlin Godfrey- Social media & Caitlin's corner  
Harry George- Teacher Q&A  
Alfie Oliver- Sport  
Becky Harvey- Celebrities & Music  
Harry Dilley- Conspiracy theories  
Megan Dessent- Horoscopes



## Social Media

Don't forget to follow up on Instagram and Twitter for updates, polls and competitions.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Amazon voucher from issue 1: Bradley Ramsey!



@SUSStandard



@SUSStandard

## Biscuit of the month:



## Teacher quote of the month:

*"I'm not Jesus, I'm close though."*

## Meme of the month:



# THE STRA **POLAND** STANDARD

*Caitlin Godfrey*

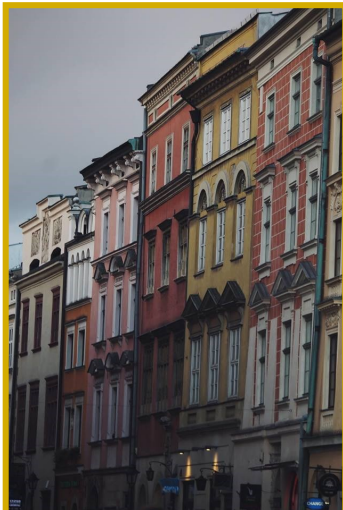
Personally, I'm finding it really difficult to talk about my experience of Poland. It almost feels wrong to say, "I enjoyed the trip" because of how heavily focused it is around the Holocaust. I'm sure I can speak on behalf of those who went on the trip when I say that it was emotional, as well as incredibly challenging and eye opening. I enjoyed my free time, and I really enjoyed the company and have definitely had a great time, but there are definitely some things I've taken from the trip and want to share.

I said I found the trip challenging, this was simply because of how much you learn about the holocaust. Others on the trip clearly had some of the things we saw or heard of, hit home, whereas others struggled to process what was going on. I realise now that those 5 days will stay with me for a long time. In total we spent 4 days out and doing things, and the fifth day was only waking up early to catch our flight. We looked around the town at Auschwitz (Oswiecim), visited the ghetto in Krakow (pronounced: Crack-ov), looked around the Auschwitz concentration camp and finally its sister camp; Birkenau. For each of us there, it hit us at different times. For some, they were upset after just the first day, and for others it still hasn't hit them. As for myself, it hit me in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Despite how heavy the trip was, I'd still really recommend it. But if given the opportunity, don't take the decision lightly - the places we visited aren't for a 'nice week abroad' and certainly weren't a break from home. Before I went, I thought I knew a lot about the Holocaust and how it was carried out. I realise now; I didn't. I'm beyond glad I went, but in some ways, it feels as though ignorance is bliss. If I hadn't have gone, I wouldn't have to know about some of the awful things and I wouldn't be trying to process how something so awful could have happened, right under everybody's noses. As sick as I felt hearing of the things that happened in these places, I personally believe it is incredibly important to remember the things that happened during the Holocaust and remember all

those that it impacted.

I can also say on behalf of all of those who attended the trip, we're never going near mushroom soup again, especially after we found half an egg in one bowl. But also that we'd recommend the trip if you're interested in, or want to know more about the holocaust - and finally that we're glad we attended that trip. I know I am.



Front cover and left: @bethprodger\_photography



# THE STRATFOOD STANDARD

*Hannah Penwright*

## **Poland**

I went to Poland very excited to experience another culture and to learn about the Holocaust, but slightly apprehensive about the food. Having read up on the food beforehand, dishes such as Borscht (beetroot broth) which was described to me by fellow classmates who had been on the trip previous years didn't sound appetising at all. However, I went with an open mind to try everything given to me, provided it didn't contain meat. Trying to explain I was a vegetarian proved tricky at times, but there was only one time where I had to persistently give away the sausage soup. This soup (top picture) was definitely the grimmest looking dish, with overcooked hard-boiled egg, mushrooms and sausage in an indescribable liquid, all topped off with a greasy sheen. From what I've been told, it didn't taste much better than it looked. However, 90% of the time, the food was delicious and often, I had to stop myself eating it all so I could fit in the next course. My favourite was the breaded cheese with chips, salad and cranberry sauce, as this was delicious. If breaded, gooey cheese had no calories, I'd eat it all day, everyday. How traditionally Polish it is, I'm not sure, but that didn't stop it tasting incredible.



### **10 Foodie Blogs you need to know about!**

For cooking inspiration and success, check out the blogs below:

1. The Little Loaf Blog: <http://www.thelittleloaf.com/>
2. Izy Hozzack- Top With Cinnamon: <https://topwithcinnamon.com/>
3. Zoella: <https://www.zoella.co.uk/category/food>
4. Hemsley + Hemsley: <http://www.hemsleyandhemsley.com/>
5. Baking With Granny: <https://bakingwithgranny.co.uk/>
6. My Cupcake Addiction: <http://mycupcakeaddiction.com/>
7. MyVirginKitchen: <http://www.myvirginkitchen.com/>
8. Sorted Food: <https://sortedfood.com/>
9. Tanya Burr: <https://www.tanyaburr.co.uk/category/food/>
10. How To Cake It: <https://howtocakeit.com/>



# THE NETFLIX AND FOOD

## Netflix Review: Black Mirror—Hated in the Nation

Noah Adams

Black Mirror is terrifying. And it wants to be. It's not a horror show, but instead a blunt fantasy on the world's obsession with technological advancement, and the stories it tells vary from emotionally manipulative, to fear-inducing. But each episode tells a different story, and leaves a different moral. While *San Junipero* wins mass plaudits for the story of a virtual world, acting like an afterlife, where you choose where, when, and how you live forever – *Hated in The Nation* tells a grittier story, hitting closer to home than anything else the series has looked at yet.

The episode revolves around the mysterious deaths of controversial figures – a Katie Hopkins-esque writer who had just released a controversial article, a rapper who ripped into a dancing child on live national TV. As the controversy increases, and the social media reaction intensifies, a new figure is targeted each night. The episode's focus is with a group of 4 police figures, who originally investigate the first death, but start to pick up the overall pattern after the second death. It turns out an account on social media has started to advertise a game online, where using the hashtag #DeathTo with a name and image will lead to the person most mentioned dying at the end of the day. The murders are carried out by seizing control of AI bee replacements, and attacking the brain with the small insects. The police attempt to protect the next victim, but the bees swarm – and it soon turns out that the perpetrator was simply using the hashtag to collect the images and data of everyone who used the hashtag – turning the AI on them, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths.

The episode is a harsh, exaggerated look at the hivemind of social media. While the dog-eat-dog mentality of the hashtag seems entirely inhumane, it reflects a potential future world if we continue to separate actions on the internet from our actions in the real world. As with all Black Mirror's deep dystopian stories, the story is far-fetched, but never enough to stop you from believing it could happen. That's why every episode makes you question everything you know, and that's why the series works so perfectly.



## Ultimate chocolate brownies

Hannah Penwright

People can be very fussy as to how they like their brownies- some like them so fudgy they stick to the roof of your mouth; others prefer them to be lighter and more cake-like. Please everyone with this delicious recipe, with the perfect balance of richness, sweetness and fudginess. I've lost count of how many times I've made these- they're unbeatable! Recipe adapted from Jamie Oliver's *Bloomin'* brilliant brownies.

*"Amazing and full of flavour!"*

Recipe:

Ingredients-

250g baking margarine or softened butter

200g dark chocolate

80g cocoa powder

65g self raising flour

360g caster sugar

½ tsp baking powder

½ tsp vanilla extract

4 eggs, at room temperature



Method-

Preheat the oven to 180C/ 160C (fan). Grease and line a 25cm square baking tin with baking parchment.

In a large glass bowl over some simmering water, melt the dark chocolate and margarine/ butter. Don't let the bottom of the bowl touch the water. When it's melted, leave to cool slightly.

In a separate bowl, sieve together the flour, cocoa powder and baking powder. Stir in the sugar.

Fold the dry mixture into the melted chocolate mixture until completely combined. Whisk in the vanilla extract and eggs, until smooth and glossy.

Pour the batter into the tin and bake for about 25 minutes, until a skewer inserted is mostly clean but has a few crumbs attached still.

Allow to cool for 10 minutes and then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Cut into chunky squares and enjoy!



# THE STRAMUSICSTANDARD

Becky Harvey

## Upcoming Tours



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14	LONDON, ENGLAND AT EVENTIM APOLLO
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15	LONDON, ENGLAND AT EVENTIM APOLLO
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17	MANCHESTER, ENGLAND AT MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18	GLASGOW, ENGLAND AT O2 ACADEMY GLASGOW

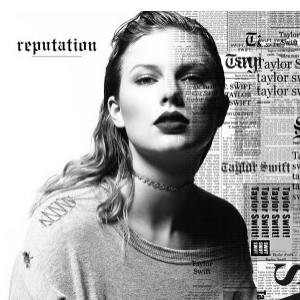


NIALL HORAN Live	
03/29/2018	3 ARENA
03/27/2018	BRIGHTON CENTRE
03/26/2018	BIC
03/24/2018	MOTORPOINT ARENA
03/22/2018	O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON
03/19/2018	SEC ARMADILLO
03/18/2018	SEC ARMADILLO
03/16/2018	O2 APOLLO
03/15/2018	O2 APOLLO
03/13/2018	THE SSE ARENA
03/12/2018	3 ARENA

### Taylor Swift ~ Reputation

Hannah Penwright

Taylor Swift is one of the most talked about music artists around today, and she's currently causing a stir with her new album 'Reputation'. Although it isn't being released until Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, she's already released the three singles 'Look What You Made Me Do', '...Ready For It?' and 'Gorgeous' with videos for the first two. Her first single 'Look What You Made Me Do' shows us a side of Taylor we've never seen before, with the iconic line: "I'm sorry, but the old Taylor can't come to the phone right now. Why? Oh, 'cause she's dead." Many people are speculating what the rest of the album holds, but we won't know for sure until the 10<sup>th</sup> November.



### Top Ten iTunes Chart

(week commencing 20/10/17)

1. Havana (feat. Young Thug) – Camilla Cabello
2. Reggaeton Lento (Remix) – CNCO & Little Mix
3. rockstar (feat. 21 savage) – Post Malone
4. Lonely Together (feat. Rita Ora) - Avicii
5. What about us – P!nk
6. Perfect – Ed Sheeran
7. Hurtin' Me – Stefflon Don & French Montana
8. Too Good at Goodbyes – Sam Smith
9. What Lovers Do (feat. SZA) – Maroon 5
10. Finders keepers (feat. Kojo Funds) – Mabel



## Why are so many elections in 2017 ending in hung parliaments?

Noah Adams

In the UK, three elections have ever ended in a hung parliament, meaning that no individual party has a majority of seats within parliament. One of these was in 1974.

The other two have come in the last 7 years. While some countries simply face a hung parliament every election due to a national vote-sharing system, which means a party would need 50% of the national vote to govern alone, the British system operate differently. Each seat gets a representative, elected by the people of that area, and in a traditionally two/three party system, this usually ends with a large number of the seats going to these parties directly. When only the Conservatives and Labour are realistically competing to lead the country, as was the case for decades, one of the two will have a higher vote share in enough places to govern. But in the past 10 years, this has seen a shift – starting with the 2010 election. Nick Clegg’s Liberal Democrats took 23% of the national vote, the highest for any iteration of the party since 1929, splitting voters away from both the Tories and Labour, leaving neither with a majority, and the Lib Dem’s as kingmakers – they got to choose who would form a government by creating a coalition with them – choosing the Tories. 5 years later, the Tories won a majority alone, at the expense of the Lib Dems, who saw their vote share drop by 15% as they got blamed for the errors of the coalition. However, when Theresa May called an election 2 years later, the Conservatives did not strength like they had hoped, instead dropping seats to a resurgent Labour Party, and rebounding ex-MPs from the Lib Dems. Once again, the Tories created a coalition – this time relying on Northern Ireland’s DUP – but the second time in 7 years signals a shift in the voting patterns of the British people, who are instead looking at smaller alternatives in wider numbers.

And it isn’t just in Britain – Germany, a country used to hung parliaments, has seen a new scenario where no coalition seems likely in the near future, leaving a minority government as the only option for Angela Merkel’s CDU. Once again, this comes down to a rise in smaller parties, with the establishment CDU and SPD seeing heavy vote share drops, while far right Alternative für Deutschland, and free market liberals Freie Demokratische Partei take a massive role at the forefront. These global trends seem to be just one of many which may help to create one of the most unstable global landscapes in recent history – with unstable governments in major economies, and hugely controversial figures in charge in the world’s two historic superpowers. Let’s just say the next few years might be...unpredictable.



### Upcoming events & notices

31<sup>st</sup> October onwards- Home study will be granted. Those who are not eligible will have been informed.

3<sup>rd</sup> November- If you haven’t already, UCAS applications must be submitted to Mrs Layton.

9<sup>th</sup> November– Sixth form parents evening.

8<sup>th</sup> December- OAP Party (details from form tutors to follow)

14<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas social (information to follow from the events committee).

Free rooms are available for 6<sup>th</sup> form to use for private study; please do not eat and drink in them!



# THE CLASSROOM Q AND A

Harry George

The common perception of teachers is that their lives are pretty boring and average, they come to school, teach, go home, lesson plan and mark, and repeat. When you talk to them, they might try and tell you that this is gospel. But then you realise that actually, they've probably seen a lot more, said worse things and been in more humiliating situations. But obviously, you can only find out this information if you ask them, hoping they don't feel too embarrassed to tell you. Not only did we want to find out what kind of shameful things teachers have seen or done, but also just general information about their interests. So, we decided to interview Mr Warburton (Head of History) to find out more.

## Mr Warburton

1. *Do you make your own shoes?*

In truth, no, but I do sometimes say yes to keep the rumour going. Mrs Walsh from the front office once stared at my shoes through a staff briefing trying to decipher whether my shoes were handmade or not.

2. *Where do you buy your t-shirts?*

Honestly, usually the Paul Smith sale shop in London. Sometimes TK Maxx.

3. *Who cuts your hair?*

Some hairdressers in St Neots. I don't get it cut very often though.

4. *Do you smoke your own Kippers?*

Never, but I do smoke some salmon and some mackerel.

5. *How many kids do you have?*

2, unlike the 6 that Mrs Walton claims.

6. *If you had to go back in time to one historical period in any country, where/when would you go and why?*

Berlin in the 1920s. All that culture, night life and cabaret. But you'd have to time it carefully. Make sure you get out of there before Hitler comes to power.

7. *What is your favourite historical fact?*

Did you know that after Sitting Bull won the Battle of Little Bighorn, he was captured and made to perform in the Buffalo Bills Wild West Show.

8. *Who is the biggest caffeine addict in the humanities office?*

Mrs Walton probably drinks the most tea. But Mr Macwhinnie definitely drinks the least. He doesn't drink any hot drinks.

9. *What's the most embarrassing thing you have ever done?*

I once refused to cross a road unless my friend (Mr Leasure) held my hand.

10. *Who do you think is the funniest teacher at the school?*

It was Mr Maerecka, he would always put a smile on my face. But since he's left, it's probably Mr Macwhinnie due to his dry sense of humour.





# NOVEMBER HOROSCOPES

Megan Dessent



## **Scorpio (23rd October–21st November)**

You are usually set in your ways, but recently you are feeling unmotivated and not sure what direction you're heading in. Creative arts may help sway this feeling. Take time to focus on what you love before returning to studies as this will benefit you in the long run.



## **Sagittarius (21st November – 21st December)**

You are on top of your work and have bright things coming in your future. You've been feeling optimistic, lucky and persistent and with continuing your work this will continue. However, something may be coming that will make you question your desired career path – but don't worry! Your decision will be the best thing for yourself.



## **Capricorn (21st December – 19th January)**

You're taking charge of situations in your life right now, but it may be good to share the profits between you and someone else. You are usually cool headed and rational, but someone in your life may be acting problematic which makes it harder to keep this. It's best to stop this at the source, before it boils over and creates more problems.



## **Aquarius (19th January – 18th February)**

Love may become a big thing in your life in the weeks to come as a special someone comes to light. You may be struggling handling your work load and social life right now, but soon this will even out and you will feel relaxed. It may be worth treating yourself now and then as you may have been feeling a little under the weather. Make time for yourself.



## **Pisces (18th February – 20th March)**

There is lots of good luck surrounding you this month. You are focussed on your work and finally understanding a subject you couldn't quite grasp before. You may want to impress your friends, but you must remember that those who want to be around you, will be. Romance may be on the horizon, but it's not something in the forefront right now.



## **Aries (20th March – 19th April)**

You are feeling at ease and don't want it to end. Lots of opportunities will arise in your school work and you find yourself more excited by your school work. You are focussed on your favourite subject and are working hard to achieve the best you can. Your relationships with your friends are in their peak and you find yourself surrounded by love and appreciation.



## **Taurus (19th April – 20th May)**

You are going to be rewarded for your hard work this month and success will come your way. Your romantic attraction has shifted slightly and someone who you'd least expect has caught your eye. You may be feeling tired this month, but you'll want to power through and continue with your work. Make sure to take breaks and this will continue to reward you.



## **Gemini (20th May – 20th June)**

You are well balanced this month and find time for work, business and your social life. You might find it hard to keep this balance after a while and may find yourself drifting into more social situations. This is the perfect time to rekindle a lost friendship or revisit old friends.



## **Cancer (20th June – 22nd July)**

You are in a rush this month and want to show people that you are capable. You are more confident than usual and you should use this to your advantage. You may take this opportunity to take charge in a group project. It might be wise to wait on accepting any tempting offers as it may not be the right thing for you.



## **Leo (22nd July – 22nd August)**

This month is a great time to plan something with your friends. You're feeling creative and dreamy and are living in the moment. You may not be seeing people in their true colours so be cautious. You are feeling focused and are ready to take your goals. This month will bring you success.



## **Virgo (22nd August – 22nd September)**

It may be responsible to put aside social situations to focus on your work. You are dedicated to your subjects and you want to do well – and you will. Saying this, you need to learn how to relax after working so hard. Try not to burn yourself out.



## **Libra (22nd September – 23rd October)**

You're feeling very romantic this month and want to be surrounded by friends and loved ones. You're feeling a new inner confidence and it's definitely showing. Maybe consider taking a short trip somewhere soon as it will help you focus and will give you a new lease of life.



# CELEB AND CONSPIRACY

## *The Internet's Obsession with Kylie's Baby*

*Becky Harvey*

It's the most recent conspiracy to have taken over the internet, but is Kylie Jenner's baby really for Kim and Kanye? Is she even pregnant? It has been reported many times over the past few months that the pair plan to have a surrogate, with confirmation in September that the 'hired' surrogate was pregnant. Shortly after, rumours surfaced about Kylie's 'baby bump', therefore making the theory that she could be pregnant for Kim all the more likely.

So why does the internet care so much about a baby, even people who deem the surrogate conspiracy wrong? Kylie has been a top

influencer for the past few years, inspired trends - as well as being the target of a lot of online criticism. For anyone who hasn't heard, (where have you been?!) the youngest of the Kardashian-Jenner clan has been deemed '6 months pregnant' by the internet for weeks now. With past claims from Kylie that she 'never got the chance to be normal', is it really such a surprise that she's hiding away? In a recent appearance from the family, the star was accused of hiding from the limelight, a family Christmas portrait posed for without her presence.

With any celebrity pregnancy, there is increasing pressure to reveal to the public what is happening as if it is everyone else's business. With all three of Kate Middleton's pregnancy's, she released details on it early on to let the public know. Yet some celebrities manage to keep it under the radar, even with rumours surfacing. For example, Cheryl Tweedy's recent baby with Liam Payne, where she didn't announce the pregnancy until she had the baby and posted an Instagram upload, though it was confirmed for many people with a photo of Cheryl in her L'Oréal campaign just a month before the end of the pregnancy. An absence from the public eye allowed the celebrity to keep it private until she decided herself that she wanted to release details. Why is it that some celebrities feel the need to share their whole life with the world?

The question we should be asking, 'should celebrities be obligated to release details to the public as a result of the life they chose?' Though the ultimate question is, pregnant or not, why do we care?

## ***Conspiracy: Was Diana's Accident Really an Accident?***

*Harry Dilley*

On 31<sup>st</sup> August 1997, Princess Diana was killed in a fatal car crash in Paris. But was this an accident? If you read any official report, the answer will always be yes. They will say the driver was drunk, Diana wasn't wearing her seatbelt (even though she never forgot to put hers on), and her car was chased by the press. But many people believe this isn't the case, and I'm inclined to agree. The main reason there are so many conspiracy theories, and the reason they're so believable is that the Princess of Wales predicted her own death. In a letter she wrote to her former butler 10 months before her death she said 'this particular phase in my life is the most dangerous. [The name here has been removed for legal reasons] is planning 'an accident' in my car, brake failure and serious head injury to make the path clear for Charles to marry'. This letter is compelling enough, but there's more; a TV interview in 1995 known simply as 'The Diana interview' which was secretly filmed without the establishments knowledge. The mood of this interview was low and serious, with Diana speaking of Charles' affair with Camilla Parker-Bowles, to whom he is now married. She said, 'there were three of us in this marriage, so it was a bit crowded'. Also in this interview, Diana stated that she knew she would never be queen, 'I don't see myself as being queen of this country, [the establishment I'm married into] would not like me to be queen... because I do things differently'. After dragging the monarchy for a solid 10 minutes, with a live audience of over twenty-two million, the Queen wrote to Diana advising her to divorce the Prince of Wales. It seems suspicious to me that Diana spoke out about the establishment, and predicted her death before being involved in a car 'accident' in which she dies. What do you think? Vote on our Instagram poll @susstandard



# THE STRATTON STANDARD

“Dear Aggie, I have no idea what I want to do with my life! Help!”

Dear anonymous, don't worry! I can one hundred percent say that there are so many people your age going through the exact same problem.

There are so many options available, so of course it's very hard to decide which path to take, however, there are many things you can do if you find yourself in this situation.

Speak to a careers advisor! You can do this by booking an appointment via email or asking your form tutor to arrange this for you. careers advisors are incredibly helpful and have a lot of knowledge on all the options available to you so use this to your advantage!

Ask family and friends! The chances are that your friends may currently be in the same situation as you and one of your family members may have found this decision difficult when they were your age. So, your family members may be able to advise you and tell you what they did when they were in your shoes, take this on board! On the other hand, ask your family and friends for their opinion, they may give you a suggestion for a career choice that they feel you'd be great at, and you might want to consider it.

You could also approach a subject or form tutor. They have a lot of experience with students who have gone to certain universities, applied for particular apprenticeships and who have needed help with personal statements. So, if you already have an idea of the route you want to take, ask for advice on what universities or apprenticeships are best for that career choice!

Lastly, think about your own subjects and which one/s you do best in. This alone shows you what you could be successful in, so take this into consideration. Take the time to browse careers, companies, universities and apprenticeships to see what you like and could see yourself doing. After all, you know yourself best!

I hope this has helped you!

*Love, Aunt Aggie*

*If you need advice on any topics, whether it be friendship, school or relationships, please don't hesitate to send in your questions! Simply email [thestrattonstandard@gmail.com](mailto:thestrattonstandard@gmail.com)*



## ***Paul Merson: Football luminary***

*Alfie Oliver*

Paul Merson is football punditry's saviour; he has more knowledge of the world of football than any of the other Sky Sports pundits, and is always attentive to changes in popular tactics and the way they play. For example, he has always backed current Watford manager Marco Silva, even when times have been tough.

In fact, Merson knows the game of football so well that he even thought to become a manager, taking on Walsall between 2004 and 2006. He was sacked in February 2006 following a 5-0 defeat to Brentford that left Walsall one point above the relegation zone, but without him, the club were relegated, finishing bottom with only 47 points. It's clear to say the board made a mistake sacking Merse.

Moreover, Paul Merson has made several, brief comebacks to football, illustrating that form is temporary, but class is permanent. He has played one, three and one game for Tamworth, Whitton Athletic and Welshpool Town respectively. Just last week he played for his fourth post-

retirement club, Welsh side Caerau. The Merson class even runs in the family. He has a son, Sam, who is a semi-professional and he plays for St Alban's City; he has played for Biggleswade Town in the past as well



Paul Merson has had a glittered playing career, a gifted managerial career and a talented punditry career. He knows so much about football that it's only fair he gets to project his in-depth opinions to the nation every Saturday afternoon.

### ***Elsewhere in Football this month***

- José Mourinho moans about injuries; three days later he moans that other managers moan about injuries but that he would never himself.
- Gordon Strachan is sacked as Scotland manager; football luminaries David Moyes, Malky Mackay and Owen Coyle are the early frontrunners to replace him.
- The USA men's national team crash out of World Cup 2018 qualifying on the last set of games, losing 2-1 to Trinidad and Tobago. Manager Bruce Arena is sacked; Sam Allardyce is the favourite to take over.

