

# THE STRATTON STANDARD

Tuesday 5th December 2017 (Issue 003)

Don't Forget  
Our Candy  
Cane Sale!  
4th-6th Dec

Exclusive  
Christmas  
Edition!

TV—Music—Politics—Classroom Q and A—Caitlin's Corner—December Horoscopes—  
Conspiracy—Aunt Aggie—Food—Sport—Celeb

**In this month's issue:**



Zoella's Advert  
Calendar:  
It's rubbish



**Satan Clause?!**

Get into the Christmas Spirit with this month's  
conspiracy



Christmas Music Reviews  
and Sixth Form's Top Ten  
Christmas Songs



# THE STRATTON **WELCOME** STANDARD

Welcome to The Stratton Standard- a monthly magazine run by students, for students. This month is all about Christmas- find out what you guys think are the best Christmas songs and, if you're stuck for Christmas present ideas, check out the Aunt Aggie column. Don't forget to come to the candy cane and cake sale at break times from the 4-6<sup>th</sup> December too! 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

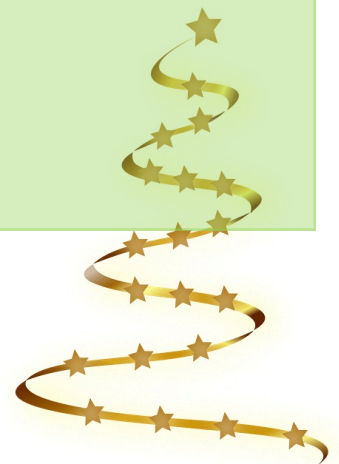
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*Teacher quote of the month:*

*"Just one of the reasons why I'm going to prison!"*

*Biscuit of the month:*



*Meme of the month:*

## Who would win?

A predator with great senses



One succy boi





# THE STRAITH TV STANDARD

## What Makes a Good TV Programme in 2017?

Noah Adams

In the past few years, the state of primetime television has changed rather massively. In 2010, 17.7 million people watched Matt Cardle (who?) win the X Factor final. That was the highest rating programme that year, drawing in more viewers than even England's World Cup loss to Germany. 6 years later, the X Factor final only drew 5.5 million viewers. This was nowhere near the top 10 programmes on TV in 2016 – and reflects the changing market of TV. Instead of the singing competition craze of 10 years ago, now audiences want something new – fly-on-the-wall reality TV.



So far in 2017, two of the most popular TV shows in the important 18-34 demographic have been ITV2's Love Island, and ITV's I'm A Celebrity. Both of these shows have a common theme – the fact they peer in on conversations within a camp environment, hoping to pick up on people insulting one another to create drama which pulls the

audience back in. While a lot of reality TV seems to be focused on manufactured drama, with scenes being manipulated, or entirely set up, to create entertaining premises for an audience – these two shows are showing how audiences value honesty. Rather than an obviously manufactured drama, people prefer something that they believe is real, and that seems to be something they may go through themselves. This key relatability helps to attract a 'millennial' audience, which is surrounded by media which they associate with, on social networks such as Twitter.

Of course, this isn't the only pull factor of the shows – I'm A Celeb relies on the schadenfreude of Bushtucker Challenges – where the audience votes for a camp member to eat some disgusting food, while Love Island relied on eye candy for both men and women. But this shows a move in the type of TV people watch – away from the shows like X Factor, which lacked original content, or notable moments – into a type of TV which is designed to create more moments, things which you want to share and talk about on social media.



# THE STRAMUSICSTANDARD

## Sia—Everyday is Christmas

Becky Harvey

Sia's much anticipated Christmas album was released in mid-November, featuring 10 new, original Christmas songs from the artist. Not only does it get us in the Christmas mood, but it continues to prove Sia's artistry with a mix of slow and upbeat songs to get you through the winter season. Whilst Christmas songs usually carry the title of 'cheesy', Sia has managed to put her own twist on the holiday genre, making it the perfect album to listen to if you want to break away from everyone's favourite classic playlists. The first released single 'Santa's coming for us' is a definite listen, with sleigh bells in the background and a fun, jazz vibe, it's perfect to introduce the Christmas holidays. Also a good listen is 'Puppies Are Forever'. Using the common phrase 'puppies are not just for Christmas', Sia has managed to craft a song together, both being clever on Sia's behalf and helping to spread happiness over the season!



### 3 Recent Christmas Albums You May Not Have Heard Of



**Warmer Winter**  
**Lindsey Stirling**  
**£10.99**

Lindsey is touring her Christmas album around the US over November and December. This experience features a private performance and Q&A with the artist. Some amazing, current artists are featured on her album, including Becky G and Sabrina Carpenter; so make sure to give it a listen!



**You Make it Feel Like Christmas**  
**Gwen Stefani**  
**£4.99**

After having wanted to make a Christmas album for years, Gwen Stefani has finally released one. The album features her unique twist on covers such as 'Last Christmas' and 'Let it snow' - as well as some of Gwen's own songs, a few titled 'My gift is you' and 'Christmas Eve'.



**Christmas & Chill**  
**Ariana Grande**  
**£4.99**

Although technically an EP, Ariana Grande's 'Christmas and Chill' deserves to be spoken about. It was released in 2015 and isn't Grande's first Christmas release, proving to be popular with her fans. If you haven't heard any of her Christmas music yet, this EP is a must!

We surveyed everyone in the common room to find out 6<sup>th</sup> form's favourite Christmas song and here's the result. With a few songs coming in joint positions, we gave an anonymous teacher the deciding vote each time.

Here's 6<sup>th</sup> form's top ten Christmas songs:

Santa Baby (Eartha Kitt)

Mistletoe (Justin Bieber)

Rocking around the Christmas Tree (Lee Perry)

Fairytale of New York (The Pogues)

All I want for Christmas (Mariah Carey)

Merry Christmas Everybody (Shakin' Stevens)

Do They Know it's Christmas (Band Aid)

Baby it's Cold Outside (Tom Jones)

White Christmas (Bing Crosby)

Jingle Bell Rock (Bobby Helms)



### Top Ten iTunes Chart

Week commencing 20/11/17

1. Mona Lisa (X Factor Recording) – Rak-Su
2. Anywhere – Rita Ora
3. Havana (feat. Young Thug) – Camilla Cabello
4. Blinded By Your Grace, Pt. 2 (feat. MNEK) – Stormzy
5. Silence (feat. Khalid) – Marshmello
6. Perfect – Ed Sheeran
7. Walk On Water (feat. Beyonce) – Eminem
8. 17 – MK
9. Hesitate (X factor Recording) – Grace Davies
10. Wolves – Selena Gomez & Marshmello



# THE STRAIGHT POLITICS STANDARD

## What's Happening in Zimbabwe?

Noah Adams

In recent weeks, the African nation of Zimbabwe has taken headlines for a military takeover to remove longstanding President Robert Mugabe. But what is the actual backstory to these recent events? Here's a quick explainer.



**Mugabe (The bad guy)**

Robert Mugabe has been in power in Zimbabwe since they gained independence from the United Kingdom, for 37 years since 1980. However, his reign has been massively controversial, with criticism coming in from the majority of the Western world. Criticisms of Mugabe range from suspected human rights violations towards uprisings early into his reign, in the 1980s, to using violence to scare away political enemies when they seem as though they may beat him, to suspicion of fixing elections in his favour. During his reign, he viewed himself as a patriotic socialist force, fighting the evils of capitalism and colonialism – and anyone who disagreed was a “traitor” or a “sell-out”.

The events of recent weeks began with the dismissal of his Vice-President, Emmerson Mnangagwa, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. This came as he increasingly lined himself up to replace Mugabe upon his death (as Mugabe is currently 93 years of age), while Mugabe wanted his wife, Grace, to take the presidency instead. This attempted move by Mugabe was seen as an attempt to create a personal, family tyranny – something his Zanu-PF party was heavily opposed to. This led to the beginning of a military takeover on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, with tanks moving into the outskirts of Harare, the Zimbabwean capital. Mugabe was placed under house arrest the next day, causing South Africa to send delegates to try and resolve the situation. Mugabe refused to resign, even in spite of calls from colleagues, army executives, and the opposition leader, Morgan Tsangvirai. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Mugabe reappeared to deliver a speech at the Zimbabwe Open University, where he is the Chancellor, with no reference made to the ongoing events. Mass protests follow by Zimbabweans, who call for Mugabe's resignation – the Zanu-PF listen and sack Mugabe as leader, replacing him with Mnangagwa. However, Mugabe remained as an independent president. The Zanu-PF called for Mugabe to resign, or face impeachment – approaching opposition to make sure enough votes can be reached. In a planned speech, Mugabe initially refuses to resign, but he hands in a letter to the Speaker of the Zimbabwean Senate the next day with his resignation. Mnangagwa has since been officially sworn in, and Mugabe will now largely disappear from the public spotlight.



**Tsvangirai (A good guy and hopefully a future leader of Zimbabwe)**

However, fears remain for Zimbabwe's democracy. Even though the tyrannical leader is now gone, his party remains, asking the question of whether they will continue the same actions that he did. With elections in 2018, there isn't long until we find out the long-term effects of Mugabe's ousting, and whether Zimbabwe can finally get a new political party in government.





# THE CLASSROOM Q AND A



*Emily Racher*

**At what university are you currently studying?**

Derby University

**What was the main thing that made you pick the university you did?**

Multiple things, the uni is in one place and the course at this one is completely coursework, because who doesn't thrive on all nighters?

**What course are you taking?**

Business Management

**Do you live in halls?**

Yes

**What's it like living in halls?**

Noise travels further than you think and it echoes a lot; you get to know people well

**What was the transition like regarding the subject?**

A lot of stuff so far was already covered at A-Level, so some lectures seem like revision, feels more structured than A-Level

**What's the relationship like with your lecturers?**

3 Lecturers and 3 seminar tutors, most of them are very energetic and enthusiastic, 1 personal tutor, although I haven't got to know them well yet

**Does it feel weird living away from home?**

I don't know, cooking is the biggest thing to get used to doing on your own

**Is the social life as good as everyone anticipates?**

It is good, Derby is especially good for nightlife, been to a few places round there and also some events in the day

**How did you find the application process?**

It was lengthy, but thorough. You can see why you need to be thorough. I re-did my personal statement 7-8 times, started to annoy Mr Desborough a little.

*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.

But this month, we are doing things a bit differently. We are going to look at what happens after you leave. No, we are not looking at life after death; we are looking at life after Sixth Form. What do students do after they leave? People don't usually get a chance to talk to ex-students to find out what it's like after, but we did. We interviewed Emily Racher, currently in her first year of University, to see how different further education really is.



# THE CAITLIN'S CORNER

*I'm Caitlin, currently doing Maths, Philosophy and Psychology. I tend to impulse spend, mostly on food. When I'm not binge watching a series on Netflix or doing anything else that fills up my day, I like to try and write on my blog, which is sort of why I have this little section in this paper. Feel free to give it a cheeky look!*

## **Tips on how to avoid ending the holidays feeling like you're about to scream at your family over something ridiculously petty**

Christmas is fast approaching, and I won't lie I have mixed feelings about that. Whilst I'd love to focus on how I'm going to watch Elf in my PJs and eat all my favourite foods with candles lit (literally my idea of heaven) I'm realising I'm going to be utterly broke come December 26<sup>th</sup> or just generally feelings stressed! This, amongst other cons-of-Christmas have inspired this; tips on how to avoid ending the holidays feeling like you're about to scream at your family over something ridiculously petty.

- Feeling completely bankrupt after Christmas is easily the worst part. But you wake up on boxing day and realise that you've spent more than you budgeted and accidentally bought presents for anybody and everybody. Sounding familiar? On the plus side, as it's the holidays you can pick up extra shifts at work so hopefully on your next pay day, the damage has almost completely disappeared.
- I could be alone on this, but I'm pretty sure I'm not, so you've spent several days seeing your family and having several parties, but after a while everyone is winding you up and this is when the frustration of Christmas is kicking in. When this happens, it's easy to snap at someone for something minor and that's a huge buzzkill, so to avoid getting so wound up here's what you can do.
  1. Take a break when you need to. Make an excuse to leave the room if you need. Have a quick breather in another room or elsewhere until you've calmed down a little bit.
  2. If there is someone there who you're friendly with, take a minute or so to talk to them about it – they'll probably help you rationalise how you're feeling. Also ranting is a really good way to get everything off your chest, and its likely they'll understand how you're feeling.
  3. Try to get out when you aren't with other people. Being indoors all day can get event the easiest going people frustrated, and nothing bad comes from a short walk or get some exercise. It'll act as a huge stress reliever, and it's nice to have some time alone as well!
- Year 13 mocks after the holidays is one more reason why Christmas is still going to be pretty painful! But just because those of us with mocks will be revising, doesn't mean you can't get in the Christmas spirit. You could try making the area you work in looking more Christmassy (e.g. fairy lights, candles etc.) or if that isn't really your thing and you like listening to music while you work, stick on a Christmas



playlist. There isn't a way to make revision not suck but at least with good snacks and music, it can be a little bit less painful.

Hope with these ways to destress and stay calm, (that when you aren't catching up on work lol) that you have a good Christmas break! If you're looking to get into the spirit early, remember we have our candy cane sale (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>)! See you in the new year!

[www.caitlingodfrey.wordpress.com](http://www.caitlingodfrey.wordpress.com)



# DECEMBER HOROSCOPES

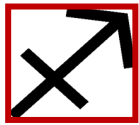


Megan Dessent



## Scorpio (23<sup>rd</sup> October – 21<sup>st</sup> November)

Situations are being changed to accommodate you this month, so it may be good to practice showing your gratitude to those around you. You may also need more dependence on others this month, which will not make you the most comfortable. Take help when offered.



## Sagittarius (21<sup>st</sup> November – 21<sup>st</sup> December)

This month it may be wise to take a break to focus on you. Going into the New Year is a perfect time to practice self-acceptance and to discover who you are more deeply. Your charm and charisma this month may also bring in possible romantic attractions.



## Capricorn (21<sup>st</sup> December – 19<sup>th</sup> January)

December may be the perfect month to try meditation as you're feeling quite overwhelmed. Although love or attraction may not be on the table this month, take the time to focus on your needs instead. You're feeling more refreshed than ever and are excited for what the New Year brings.



## Aquarius (19<sup>th</sup> January – 18<sup>th</sup> February)

You may be viewing things as more difficult than they are this month. Although things may seem overwhelming, once you take the time to step back, things aren't as bad as they first seemed. Your health will improve this month, as long as you stick to a routine.



## Pisces (18<sup>th</sup> February – 20<sup>th</sup> March)

Performance and confidence increases significantly for you this month. There is no need to depend on others this month as you've found your footing and have everything you need. This month is the perfect time to maybe look for someone who raises your goals and aspirations for the future.



## Aries (20<sup>th</sup> March – 19<sup>th</sup> April)

Your desire to travel has increased this month and a trip away from home may result in good things for you. Your work will bring you amazing opportunities and your peers and teachers will recognise your hard work this month.



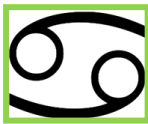
## Taurus (19<sup>th</sup> April – 20<sup>th</sup> May)

Although there is growth in your work life, you may find yourself becoming overwhelmed with the work load. Take time to think methodically before you act on anything. Despite this, your work quality will peak this month, so try to hold onto this going into the New Year.



## Gemini (20<sup>th</sup> May – 20<sup>th</sup> June)

Relationships with family have weakened this month. This may be because you've been spending your time focussing on other things. Make sure you take time to focus on family and friends and don't get too caught up in school work. Make time to socialise and reconnect with your friends as they'll keep you grounded.



## Cancer (20<sup>th</sup> June – 22<sup>nd</sup> July)

This month it may be wise to put your pride and determination aside and focus on your social life as you've been neglecting this part of your life. Work will be feeling hard for you this month, but this won't last long. It is important to take role in your friendship group this month as your friends may need your guidance.



## Leo (22<sup>nd</sup> July – 22<sup>nd</sup> August)

You'll be feeling more comfortable and happy this month due to your hard work. It may be necessary to focus your attention on those not feeling as comfortable as you as you've been pushing them away to focus on yourself. Make this month about sharing your confidence to others.



## Virgo (22<sup>nd</sup> August – 22<sup>nd</sup> September)

Family is the most important thing you need to focus on this month. You will need to build up your emotional strength too. Career wise, however, you're back on track where you should be and this will continue into the new year, too.



## Libra (22<sup>nd</sup> September – 23<sup>rd</sup> October)

You may need to break your set-in ways in order to adapt to the new situations coming your way this month. You may also need to think of ways to make your finances stretch as much as possible as you're likely to overspend around this Christmas time.





# THE STANDARD CONSPIRACY



## Santa Clause and Satan's Cause

Harry Dilley

Okay. This sounds crazy, but bear with me. Santa is Satan. Firstly, the names are almost identical, look at them *Santa Satan*. The only difference is the *n*. You may not be convinced yet, but how about this. December 2 years ago, Ellisedil said that 'Satan wants to be



loved by everyone, even if it's just for one day of a year'. Santa is loved and mainly thought about on one day of the year, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day. And we love Santa on this day, he is the best person we can think of, kindly giving gifts to everyone in the world for no actual apparent reason. Is this Satan trying to gain our trust and love, even for just one day of the year?

It is Satan's goal to attempt to overturn and overthrow Jesus, God knew this and warned us 'Beware of tradition' (Col 2:8). The biggest tradition we have in the west is Christmas, every year a fat bloke comes, breaks in and gives us stuff. He's been doing this for hundreds of years, there are tales of father Christmas delivering presents (to children in particular) that predate the Victorians. It could be said that Santa is eternal. Do you know who else is eternal? Yup, good old (literally) Satan.

It is undeniable that Santa Claus has minions and helpers, we call them elves. They run around his 'factory' making, wrapping and packing up presents for Father Christmas. It is argued that Satan has minions too, other fallen angels. They help him to commit sins and to try and taint other angels, and us humans to join them in hell through temptation. One of these fallen angels was quoted in the Dictionary of Fallen Angels as being called 'Ole Nick'.

He wants to see people at their worst. Therefore, for a single day every year, he provides us with hope. We get one day every year to look forward to receiving gifts, having time off work, and generally relax and have fun. Then the other 364 it's back to the regular grind.

### Upcoming events

- ◆ 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> December- Candy cane and cake sale
- ◆ 14<sup>th</sup> December- OAP Party
- ◆ 14<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas social
- ◆ 15<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Extravaganza (7pm, tickets: adults- £3 children- £2)
- ◆ 19<sup>th</sup> December- Winter Olympics & last day of term- don't forget to wear a Christmas jumper and we finish at 12:15pm

If we didn't have Christmas to look forward to, we could never feel the sinking feeling of disappointment when we receive terrible gifts that we have looked forward to receiving for months. We would never have the abject terror of thinking loved ones will realize we hate their gift, so we rush to plaster fake smiles onto our faces. He gives hope, for the *sole purpose* of then ripping it away.



# THE STRATTON AGGIE STANDARD



**“Dear Aggie, Christmas is coming up and I have no idea what to get anyone! Help!”**

Dear anonymous, no need to fret, here's some ideas:

## Mum

I personally think mums are the easiest to buy for, they learnt to be happy with the presents you bought them at your year 4 Mother's Day market at school, so you'll survive this Christmas!

However, all mums deserve to be spoilt of course so you could go for some gift vouchers to stores such as Boots, Debenhams, Next, etc. Or, if you fancy going that step further, you could book her in for a treatment at a spa or salon, or just get her some vouchers so she could choose her own! If these ideas aren't to your taste and you'd like to get your mum something more personal, you could go for a big picture frame with a collage of all your photos together, or get one personalised!

## Dad

Dads are always hard to buy for, try to think outside of the box instead of getting him the same smelly set you got him last year! How about a hamper of all your dad's favourite food and drinks? You could make him a 'kit' for his next pyjama day! If you'd like to splash the cash a bit more, what about an experience that you and your dad can do together? A car driving experience, go karting, cinema tickets, even vouchers for your favourite restaurant!

## Brother/Sister

For your brother or sister, younger or older, try to think about what they're interested in at the moment, perhaps what they're doing at school or what they do in their spare time! If your brother loves gaming, why not get him some game points/money? If he's enjoying sport, what about some football boots or a basketball? Your sister might like some clothes or beauty vouchers if that's what she loves, or perhaps take a trip to Pandora, always a safe option!

## Boyfriend/Girlfriend

Have you ever heard of Etsy? It's amazing and a life saver! A great idea for your girlfriend or boyfriend is something personalised and meaningful, and it doesn't have to be crazy expensive either! Have a look on the 'personalised gifts' category and I can guarantee you'll find something you love, from personalised bracelets, to wallets, rings and notebooks.

I hope this helps!

*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)*

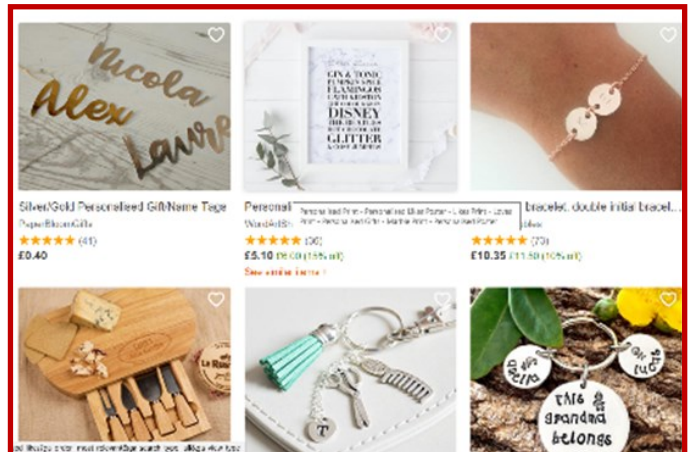
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Aunt Aggie



# THE FOOD AND SPORT STANDARD

## Christmas sugar cookies

Hannah Penwright

Whether you're struggling to buy your friends and family, having a party or simply want to treat yourself, these cookies are delicious and can be iced in any way you want!

⇒ **Ingredients**– 200g butter (at room temperature), 200g caster sugar, 1 large free range egg, 400g plain flour, ½ tsp vanilla extract



### Method-

- Place the butter in a large mixing bowl with the caster sugar and beat until smooth. Add the egg and beat, and then sift in the flour. Beat until just combined.
- Form the dough into a ball with your hands, wrap in Clingfilm and chill for 20 minutes.
- Preheat the oven to Gas 4, 180°C. lightly dust the work surface with flour and roll out the dough until it's about 5mm thick. Using Christmas shaped cutters, cut out shapes and place them on a baking tray lined with baking parchment. Chill for a further 10 minutes.
- Bake the biscuits in the oven for 6-10 minutes (depending on the size) until they are a pale golden colour. Sprinkle with some extra caster sugar if you like.
- Allow to cool for 5 minutes before removing from the baking tray to cool completely.
- Decorate however you like- I like to use royal icing and Christmas sprinkles, but melted chocolate works too!

## How Iceland Reached the World Cup

Alfie Oliver

Iceland shocked the world in 2016 by knocking England out of EURO2016 but on the 9th October 2017, they went even further, beating Kosovo 2-0 to book their place at their first ever World Cup. For measure, Iceland's population is just 329,000, roughly the same as Coventry and the smallest by far to reach a World Cup; no country with less than a million people has ever been to one before.

But Iceland's success hasn't been a fluke; it has been through long term planning and preparation. About 15 years ago, the Iceland FA, Icelandic government, local football clubs and schools implemented initiatives to get as many playing as possible. Today, there are now over 800 qualified coaches and over 150 indoor pitches, allowing young players to train and improve all year round, despite the harsh winters that are so acclimated with Iceland.

Now they are heading to Russia, Iceland can remind the world of the Viking clap that they popularised during EURO2016. With exciting talent like Everton's Gylfi Sigurdsson at the forefront on the Icelandic revolution, they will certainly be a team to watch at Russia next summer.

### Elsewhere in Football this month

- Sunderland, who had sunk to the bottom of the Championship replace Simon Grayson with Chris Coleman and immediately win
- Celtic take the lead against PSG but lose, 7-1
- Manchester City win every game
- Peru become the final team to qualify for the World Cup 2018, seeing off a Chris Wood / Winston Reid Inspired New Zealand 2-0 on aggregate



Iceland popularized the Viking Clap during EURO2016





# THE STRATCELEB STANDARD



## Internet Outrage on Zoella's Advent Calendar

Becky Harvey

With Christmas coming up, now is the perfect opportunity for celebrities to get their face/name on Christmas merchandise to sell out to fans. In the true spirit of the festive season, everyone this time of year is ready to crack out the Christmas songs, decorations and advent calendars. Parents and beauty bloggers have been buying in advance, ready to get organized for the festive season, but when many people discovered Zoella's advent calendar



for this year, there wasn't a lot of positive feedback to be said for the product – and rightfully so too.

Whilst traditional Beauty advent calendars may feature smaller versions of makeup from a particular known brand such as Makeup Revolution or Charlotte Tilbury, it seems everyone is jumping on the trend. In 2017, it seems there may be a calendar for just about anything. Yankee Candle, Jelly Bean and Bluebird's Tea are among the companies who all have a calendar available to purchase.



What were we expecting from Zoella? Miniatures of her new beauty collection 'Sweet Inspirations'? Products from her 'Snowella' Christmas range or her new festive collection for 2017? Something worth having. Whilst the effort to create a new product is appreciated, the disappointment created and stigma around the price has lost the fun of the product for both Zoella and her viewers.

If you haven't already seen reviews, you may wonder what is actually included in the originally £50 advent calendar. First off, the calendar only stretches over 12 days, which is a mistake in itself. What are we supposed to use for the rest of the Christmas countdown? The actual products in the calendar would be more appreciated if less spread out. As it stands, things such as a notepad and pen are spread out over separate doors, which may be accepted more if the full, traditional 24 days were available. With only half the days of the normal countdown, you'd think each door would have to contain something doubly amazing and stunning to be worth the dear price.

Having a range of products in her calendar is something that can also be appreciated. From candles, to cookie cutters, there's a bunch of cute wintery themed gifts. Though ultimately, many of these products are things you could find somewhere else for a much cheaper price. The whole list of gifts follows as: a bauble, packet of confetti, star-shaped cookie cutter, sticker packet, small bag, 'Festive

Cookie' candle, 'Christmas Clementine' room spray, pen, fluffy key ring, gingerbread man-shaped cookie cutter, notepad and a 'Cozy Christmas' candle. It sounds a lot, though when you look at it all together and the price tagged onto the item, it seems a little ridiculous. Whether you opt for the traditional chocolate advent calendar or a more unique one, it's safe to say that Zoella's 2017 calendar has faced the most controversy of any advent calendar in recent years, resulting in a 50% price reduction from boots, making the calendar now available for £25 – a bargain... if people are still interested.

