

THE STRATTON STANDARD

Tuesday 6th February (Issue 005)

look at
our pets



nothing to
do with
Stratton
they're just
cute

In this month's issue:

Food—Celeb—Politics—Teacher Q and A—TV—February Horoscopes—Music—Aunt Aggie—Conspiracy—Sport



Learn how to make this
strawberry themed
Valentine's cake



Q and A With Mr
MacWhinnie



Three songs to celebrate
being single



THE STRATTON STANDARD WELCOME

Welcome to The Stratton Standard- a monthly newsletter/ magazine run by students, for students. If you're feeling the love this February we've got lots of articles to help you get ready for Valentine's Day! For those enjoying the single life, there's plenty of stuff to enjoy- check out the interview with Mr MacWhinnie or enter the competition for the chance to win a Costa voucher. 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.

Happy reading!

The Stratton Standard team x

Follow our social media please



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Quote of the month:

"I have more issues than The Stratton Standard"

Biscuit of the month:

Millionaire's Shortbread



Meme of the month:

me posing for the government
watching me through my webcam



THE STRATTON STANDARD

Valentine's Day Cake

Hannah Penwright

This cake is perfect for celebrating a holiday all about love- after all, who doesn't love chocolate strawberries? This recipe shows you how to decorate the cake so you can choose which cake flavour to use- I chose to do layers of vanilla and chocolate sponge, but red velvet would work great too.

You will need...

- 4 layers of cake
- 1600g vanilla buttercream
- Chocolate covered strawberries
- 300g chocolate ganache
- Strawberry slices



Method:

- Level the cakes so they are all completely flat.
- Stack the cakes on top of each other, spreading some buttercream in between each layer.
- Ice the whole cake so it is completely covered in frosting. Leave to firm up in the fridge for 15 minutes.
- Ice the cake again to give a smooth finish. Pour the ganache over the top and allow it to drip down the sides.
- Place the strawberry slices into the bottom of the cake so the points are facing up.
- Pile the chocolate covered strawberries on the top of the cake.

COMPETITION!

*For your chance to win a £10 Costa voucher,
send us your best meme of the month.
The winner will be in the March issue*

**submit via our social media or email in,
thestrattonstandard@gmail.com. Deadline 20th Feb**



THE STRATCELEBSTANDARD

Jelena- A publicity stunt?

Becky Harvey

What better way to kick off this month's Valentine's article than focusing on a major celebrity power couple? Whether you follow Justin and Selena or not, you'll have heard about the on-again, off-again relationship the pair have shared since they met in 2009. Almost 10 years later and the pair have been confirmed an item yet again, so where does that leave their history? Conspiracies online have surfaced surrounding their story and relationship over the years. Let's take a look at the facts and see what you think.

In 2011, the pair were caught having their first kiss and later made their first appearance at an after party for the Oscars. Fast forward a year and the pair split in 2012 due to 'busy schedules'. Believable, right? Yet that same year, rumours are sparked that they're back together, fueled by Justin himself. The pair spent 2013 meeting up and finally confirmed they were back together as of January 2014. Had they been together the whole time? Was it really on and off?

Even when Selena appeared to have a new boyfriend in artist Zedd, the star was still going for dinner with Justin. This romance didn't last long and soon Zedd was moving on with Nina Dobrev. Conveniently, whilst promoting her new album, Selena only had positive to say about Justin in 2015 and doesn't say no when asked if the pair would ever get back together. It seemed that Justin's album 'Purpose' was majorly influenced by Selena; Justin stating at the time that he still loved her.

It seemed in 2016 the duo had some time away from each other. Justin was in a relationship with Sofia Richie and fans weren't happy about it. Once again, Jelena drama surfaced and Selena herself even made comments. This storyline just wouldn't budge.

At the beginning of 2017, Selena started a relationship with sensation The Weeknd, but 10 months later, the couple split after Selena was spotted hanging around Justin. Rumours had previously surfaced that The Weeknd's relationship with Selena was fake, with both artists busy promoting their music, could it have been a publicity stunt? Selena was even spotted with her phone clearly playing a hit from 'starboy' facing cameras. The whole thing seemed odd, so was it just a cover up for Jelena all along?

With such a historic, complicated love story, it's no surprise that there are conspiracies surrounding the relationship of the two young stars. Whether they lied about certain points in their timeline or not, it is clear the relationship works for them. True love here is likely, but are parts of the relationship between the stars amplified for drama and publicity? We can only guess.



Why the Trump jokes?

Noah Adams

Donald Trump is somewhat of an enigma. His actions are so absurd they appear funny, but so incompetent that they are deeply dangerous - which leads to a weird situation when it comes to comedy. Yes - a man who leads the free world saying



'I am a very stable genius' is superficially funny - but it very quickly becomes unfunny when everyone echoes the same joke.

In the aftermath of that 'very stable genius' tweet, hundreds of verified liberal journalists made their Twitter display name 'very stable genius'. That's not witty, nor is it funny. There's no comedic value to it, and all it does is trivialise Trump's actions further than he already does. This happens every time Trump tweets something new - everyone on Twitter etc. echoes it repeatedly, with no original joke, until it loses all meaning, and the danger of what Trump has said is lost. Making jokes about his irresponsibility with the DPRK diverts attention from how reckless his threats of nuclear war truly are.

There is nothing wrong with political comedy - if you make a joke that actually has originality. Much satire can be funny when you take it beyond a Trump voice talking about how great he is, and setting your Twitter name to 'very stable genius'. Taking shots at an easy target makes them seem a joke - even when they're horribly dangerous, something that crippled Boris Johnson (who is a dangerous racist and sexist, not the lovable oaf you think), and is beginning to befall Donald Trump.

Upcoming events

Week commencing 5th February- Year 12 Mocks

9th February- Ski Trip

14th February- Valentine's day

10th-18th February- Half Term



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. This month, we decided to interview Mr MacWhinnie .

Mr MacWhinnie

- 1. What is your favourite aspect of history?**
Nazi Germany, it allows you to look at different interpretations and people's beliefs.
- 2. Since you have been at Stratton, what is the most embarrassing thing you have ever done?**
I fell face first whilst trying to run up a hill during the year 11 Ashwell trip in first 3/4 weeks of teaching here.
- 3. What's the funniest thing you have seen someone else do?**
During Mr McIntosh's first few weeks at Stratton, on the Normandy trip, he slipped and fell face first onto the floor after failing to hit a punch bag on an arcade machine. He scored 1 pitiful point.
- 4. What teacher has the best sense of humour?**
Mr Clarke, always up for a laugh, anything a Geordie does is funny.
- 5. If you were to receive an anonymous valentines card from a member of the humanities office, who would you think it was from?**
Mr Unite
- 6. What is your favourite dish?**
A. Full blown Mexican buffet, lots of guacamole, sour cream, fajitas, and a Corona.
B. Or a full English, the works, Square sausages and potato scones, and a pint of Irn-Bru.
- 7. What is your opinion on Haggis?**
I had Haggis on Thursday 25th, big fan of it, mash potato, if people were to fund it, I would bathe in Haggis.
- 8. What animal would be your spirit animal?**
Albatross, commanding, incredible wing span, incredible jaw line, also the highlight of any golf career.
- 9. Why did you leave the music scene to become a teacher?**
Never really in the music scene, it was aggressive music, you can't really make a career out of hardcore punk rock.
- 10. If you were a darts player, what song would you come out to?**
Snooker Loopy by Chas n Dave
- 11. Do any department rivalries exist?**
Of course, the classic, History vs Geography, we say Geography is just glorified colouring in. Easy subject. Yet, they say we're obsessed with Nazis.



THE STRATTON TV STANDARD

Are the Oscars broken?

Noah Adams

It's awards season - the Golden Globes, BAFTAs, Oscars and the like arrive to much fanfare, with discussion over which movie, actor, director is the favourite to win spanning over the entire year. Phrases like 'Oscar contender' are thrown around all year for the best films, and is the next greatest honour you can get to winning one. But are these awards ceremonies really reflective of what is actually the best film of the year, and should they appeal more to the mainstream?



At the time of writing, the Oscar nominees haven't been announced - but looking at the 2017 ceremony, many of the year's most popular mainstream movies received absolutely no nominations - with blockbuster franchises such as Marvel, and Harry Potter snubbed from Best Picture, Director, or Actor. This is in spite of critical acclaim for films like Doctor Strange (1 nomination), and Fantastic Beasts (3 nominations, 1 win for Costume Design), in addition to their box office success. This begs the question, have the Academy, and critics in general, lost touch with what the majority of viewers want.

Films found nominated for Best Picture often verge on 'pretentious', focusing on niche narratives, with heavy use of unique and new film techniques, or call backs to those of the past. While this may be all well and good to those in the industry, film students, and the like - it doesn't always appeal to the mainstream audience. La La Land - one of last year's Academy darlings - is a rather polarising film, with much of the mainstream audience failing to view it so positively - some not connecting to the characters emotionally, some just blocking it because it's not masculine enough for them. But if this film can walk away with 6 awards, is the Oscars still for everyone?

I'm not saying the Oscars should change itself - but maybe we need a look at how we can incorporate the mainstream into these awards once again. It could be a new awards ceremony, or an overhaul of the Academy, but appealing to the mainstream should not be so difficult.



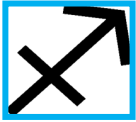
FEBRUARY HOROSCOPES

Megan Dessent



Scorpio (23rd October – 21st November)

A creative flare will find itself in your life this month and you'll be able to come up with solutions for problems you've been dealing with for a while. Take this time to take a break from the world and focus on yourself and getting yourself back in tip top shape.



Sagittarius (21st November – 21st December)

This month is all about self-discovery as you're on your way to finding out what's been holding you back. Take this time to invest in some serious introspection. You'll find the most comfort in the home this month, so get comfy.



Capricorn (21st December – 19th January)

You are unstoppable this month. You have focussed on your goals and how to get to them, so this month is all about working to get there and you will do it! This may also be a good time to change your attitudes towards situations and be more laid back.



Aquarius (19th January – 18th February)

Take February to love yourself more than anyone – self-care is so important. You're feeling a little run down so why not indulge a little and treat yourself. Don't get too comfy though, March may be a little more hectic.



Pisces (18th February – 20th March)

You feel as if you've lost your way a bit this month, but don't worry too much. Let go of all of last year and focus on the now. Your intuitiveness towards others will be rewarded this month as you become more aligned to the emotions of those around you.



Aries (20th March – 19th April)

Your ambitions and responsibilities take over this month and you're able to pursue your passions without much effort. Make sure you're keeping a track of what you've started otherwise you might find yourself swamped with things to do. Keep doing what you're doing but take it easy.



Taurus (19th April – 20th May)

February is time to get your head down and focus on what you want out of 2018. This year is the year of discovery – what do you want to do? Take this month to evaluate what you have around you so you can work hard towards your chosen goals.



Gemini (20th May – 20th June)

There is a lot of passion in your life this month – both good and bad. An argument may be brewing in your closest relationships. This is the perfect time to practice honesty and forgiveness. Be open to love and support this month and you may find yourself needing it towards the end.



Cancer (20th June – 22nd July)

This month is the perfect time to finally let go of the past. What's done is done and you can't change it. Instead, work on bettering your present and your future. You will work hard this month and you'll find yourself in a clear headspace at last.



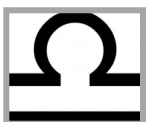
Leo (22nd July – 22nd August)

A new relationship may pop into your life this month. New things are happening and it's exciting. February brings you promises of a new path. This is the perfect time to practice kindness and love towards someone you didn't think could be possible.



Virgo (22nd August – 22nd September)

This month, your opposites may be needed to keep you balanced. Love may also be on the horizon, so keep your walls down and don't be afraid to open yourself up to new experiences and second chances. There's no shame in asking for help sometimes.



Libra (22nd September – 23rd October)

Your friends become the centre of your life this month, and you see it as a welcomed break from things. This month your relationships are improving, including your relationship with yourself, money, parents and friends.



THE STRAMUSICSTANDARD

3 songs to celebrate being single:

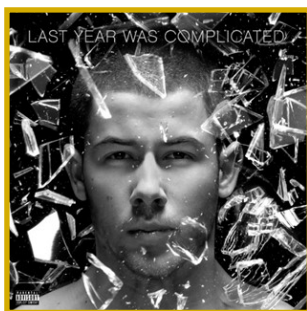
Becky Harvey

Feeling extra independent? Need reassurance about being single from some stars themselves? These songs are for you.



Ridin' solo – Jason Derulo

This song is a total classic and mega throwback to before your early teens in 2010! With 20 weeks spent in the charts, it's one of Jason's well known old hits. It'll always be a feel-good song to blast from your speakers when you're feeling great - or even when you need a boost. This Valentine's, enjoy all the perks of being single like Jason and do whatever you please.



Bacon – Nick Jonas

Nick revealed the intent behind this song after speculation around it, taking to Twitter with: 'It's all about feeling free, feeling happy, and realizing life is so good you might as well throw some bacon on it'. The song holds a light hearted feel to it and will definitely make you feel good about being single. Take Nick's advice and embrace it as much as you can this February.



IDGAF – Dua Lipa

Following Dua's 'new rules' trend, this song is a strong lyrical piece about letting go to the point that you don't care. A recommended track for sure, this song about self-love will be certain to pick your mood up. Give it a listen and remember how much you can do for yourself this Valentine's. Go out with your friends, buy yourself or your friends a present. If another excuse for a fun night in/out, why not?

Love songs for Valentine's 2018:

1. Perfect Duet – Ed Sheeran & Beyoncé
2. Love – Lana Del Rey
3. For You – Liam Payne & Rita Ora
4. Capital Letters – Hailee Steinfeld
5. Him & I – G-Eazy & Halsey

Top 10 iTunes Chart (Week commencing – 29/01/2018)

1. Strangers – Sigrid
2. Feel It Still – Portugal. The Man
3. I Know You – Craig David (feat. Bastille)
4. Barking – Ramz
5. Breathe – Jax Jones (feat. Ina Wroldsen)
6. These Days – Rudimental (feat. Jess Glynne, Macklemore & Dan Caplen)
7. God's Plan – Drake
8. River – Eminem (feat. Ed Sheeran)
9. Tip Toe – Jason Derulo (feat. French Montana)
10. This Is Me – Keala Settle



THE STRATTON STANDARD

“Dear Aggie, a guy I like is getting me a Valentine’s present and I haven’t got him one!”

Dear anonymous,

Valentine’s day is one of the most awkward, embarrassing and cringe-worthy days of the year, that’s public knowledge. I’m sure your situation has been experienced by many people and they’re subtly shaking their heads and shaking and the sheer de-ja-vu. However, don’t fret, I’m sure I can give you a solution!

- Talk to someone who has already been in this situation! I’m sure a parent or friend of yours has experienced this before so try and use their wisdom to your advantage!
- Buy them something! I know this is probably **not** what you wanted to hear but it’s probably the best advice I could give. If the person you like is getting you a Valentines present, they must really like you, so you should show them your affection back! I know what you’re thinking – “but what do I get them?” Well, this is the hard part. It should be something special that is specific to you and your relationship, so try and think about what you guys have in common. If you like this idea, try using a website such as ‘Etsy’ or ‘Not on the High Street’, they have amazing little sentimental gifts! But, if you want to go more conventional, pop to your nearest gift shop or card shop, a little ornament or teddy is super cheap and still shows you made effort!
- Talk to him/her. If you feel uncomfortable with the situation and feel like you’re not ready for gift giving just yet, tell them! **It’s 100% not a crime** and they will understand, if they’re willing to wait until you’re ready, they’re a keeper.

I hope this helps!

Love, 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



THE STANDARD CONSPIRACY

Bodies? In Japan's ocean?

Harry Dilley

In the last twelve months there has been a higher than usual 'ghost ships' rocking up on Japan's coastline; not only ships, but bodies too. These aren't just any ghost ships, all of them bear the flag of the joke that is North Korea. So, what are they doing in Japan? And why are all these ships not making it back home?



As you can imagine, the people in North Korea are not at all wealthy, in fact some reports state that they are some of the poorest people in the world. North Korean defectors have told the outside world that many residents in the communist state are impoverished and literally starving to death in some cases. There have been reports of cannibalism and the eating of rodents such as rats and mice just to survive. These extreme conditions may have forced more fishing ships into the ocean between North Korea and Japan to catch more fish. These poorly equipped boats were forced further into the ocean just to meet the demands of the people. Furthermore, Kim Jong-un has recently increased the pressure on the North Korean fisherman to bring home bigger and more frequent catches to satisfy the trade promises that North Korea made to the Chinese. To raise the global profile of North Korea (no matter how many times North Korean propaganda tries to convince everyone they are better, everyone knows they're not. Shocking I know), the government decided to sign an agreement with China promising tonnes of fresh fish each year. This agreement and the already starving residents of the state mean more and more ill prepared fisherman are braving the seas and not returning home, ending up on a northern Japanese coastline.

This theory sounds plausible, right? But there is a twist in this tale...

When reading around and researching while writing this article I stumbled across a comment on a 'The Times' article. The comment said, 'this would be a really effective way to send a bioweapon'. This got me thinking, is North Korea deliberately sending illnesses to the westernised world? It's well known that currents in the bay between



North Korea and Japan has strong currents flowing west to east. This theory is further supported by the fact that after arresting four North Korean sailors on suspicion of looting, one is currently in Japanese hospital suffering with an 'unidentified contagious illness'. Kim Jong-un has a well-known record for not caring for his people and allowing illness; it is not out of the question that he could attempt to infect Japan with a mystery illness with the hope it wipes out the nation. Japan has already put sanctions on North Korea for its various missile tests and has had various meetings and summits with the US president Trump to try and stop North Korea from being allowed nuclear weapons.



So, are these ghost ships purely just North Korean residents trying to catch fish and survive, being forced out further into the sea when massively unprepared? Or are these 'fishermen' bio agents for the communist agenda? We'll have to wait and see...



How Can Manchester United afford Alexis Sanchez?

Alfie Oliver

Alexis Sanchez has joined Manchester United in a deal totalling over £180 million. On top of a signing fee of £20 million, Alexis has agreed a reported wage of over £14 million, making him the Premier League's highest earner. But how can Manchester United afford this?

It comes down to the club's unrivalled ability amongst Premier League rivals to generate revenue. In 2017 alone, the club raised £581.2m in revenue, despite not playing in the Champions League which is worth a minimum of £50 million per season.

A healthy proportion of their revenue comes from commercial activities where they brought in £268m in 2016, totalling 53% of total turnover. This is through the club's global reach and the use of the *United* brand, raising £72.7 from Adidas and £59 from General Motors.

This means that Man Utd's total revenue was a full £123 million higher than Man City's, the Premier League's next highest earner. With the marketing machine that is Man Utd, they can challenge almost any other club for transfers, apart from State-backed PSG and Man City. Ultimately, it was simple how Man Utd could afford Alexis Sanchez; they have the money.



Want to get involved?

We're looking for a team of students to run The Stratton Standard next year! If you're interested, email us at: thestrattonstandard@gmail.com or DM us on the Twitter/ Instagram page: @SUSStandard.

