

The Static Vessel

A. C. CHOUDHRY

Parrs Wood Pigeon Spring 2026

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From Draft to Bookshelves

Writing a book isn't just about putting words on a page; for me, it's been a journey of months of hard work and late nights. My debut book, *The Static Vessel*, started as a massive 280-page manuscript. After working closely with professional editors at Author House, I've refined it into the 201-page story it is today.

Being published at 14 has been one of the biggest challenges I've ever faced, especially balancing schoolwork with professional edits and countless phone calls about marketing services and more. I wanted to share this story with my peers at Parrs Wood to show that you don't have to wait until you're an adult to chase a big goal. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed the (very!) long process of creating it.

<https://www.authorhouse.com/en-gb/bookstore/bookdetails/872514-the-static-vessel>

Anoud Choudhry

The Static Vessel

A. C. Choudhry

authorHOUSE

CHAPTER 1

The Calm Before

As the final bell reverberated through the polished halls of Oakshore High School, a palpable sense of unease hung in the air, like the stillness before a storm. Students shuffled through the corridors, their laughter echoing off the walls, but an unsettling tension lingered just beneath the surface. Outside, the sky was a slate grey, heavy with clouds that loomed ominously, casting long shadows over the school grounds.

"And where do you think you are going?" Ruby asked, snatching Jamie's bag off him.

"No-nowhere, my dad's waiting for me in his lab. I was just . . .," Jamie replied.

"Aw, you can't make it far without your daddy helping you? How sad. Boys, grab him," Ruby demanded. The group now huddled around Jamie, swarming him in. As Nora punched his face, he fell unconscious.

"Drag him to the roof," Ruby pointed at another member of the group.

The group of bullies was now dragging Jamie by his legs until they finally reached the roof, now dropping Jamie as if he were an object. As he began to open his eyes, he felt a sudden urge, a tingling sensation to rise and fight back. Jamie stood his ground and immediately shot up, startling everyone around him.

"Bryan, now!" Ruby shouted. Bryan tried to smack Jamie's jaw, but he immediately dodged it and kicked the boy to the ground.

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"So that's how it's going to be?" Nora said, now picking up a large metal pipe she had found next to the rooftop door. She struck one hit towards his skull, but to her surprise, Jamie was unharmed. All of a sudden, Jamie began to transform into something—something unimaginable. His eyes twitched, his head turned, and his bones snapped. He was no longer Jamie. He was . . . a *zombie*.

The group fell back, startled at the sight before them. Jamie lurched forward, his movements unpredictable. Ruby had now grabbed the metal pipe off Nora and used it to push Jamie off the roof.

"Take this, you scumbag!" Ruby yelled. Jamie was met with his death, but this was not over. He was still *alive*, but not in his normal form.

"Ruby, what have you done? Were in such deep shi—" Nora crossed her arms.

"Run, everyone! We were never here," Ruby replied. She was left with a horrifying sight as she bent over the rooftop to see Jamie lying on the pavement. His bones were no longer connected to his body.

Food Glorious Food!

Here is a selection of the incredibly scrumptious dishes our Year 11s have cooked up for their Food Exams.

Everything is made from scratch - every pasta, pastry, bread, sauce... even the mayonnaise....

Miss Lyons

















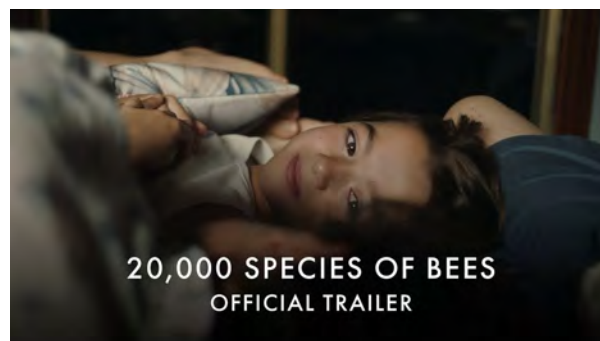


20,000 Species of Bees



Our Year 10 Spanish GCSE students enjoyed a fantastic study day at HOME Cinema, where they watched *20,000 Species of Bees* and took part in inspiring workshops led by an MMU professor. Students were a real credit to the school, demonstrating excellent engagement, knowledge, maturity and curiosity throughout the day. They thoroughly enjoyed the film and contributed thoughtfully to discussions and activities. It was a brilliant experience for all involved.

Miss Alsaka







Didsbury Arts Festival

On 19th March, we had a Didsbury Arts Festival workshop with KS3 Art Club students, who were creating artwork linked to the theme of plastic pollution. Students created plastic fusion sheets, which will be made into a large inflatable fish. They also made painted coral from melted bottles.

The artwork will be part of this year's Didsbury Arts Festival in the summer term. This was a fun, creative project, allowing students to create art with unusual materials while also highlighting a strong environmental message.

Please look out for the inflatable fish displayed at this year's festival, created together with help from several primary schools in the area.

Mr Davison



Spanish Pen Pals



This week, we welcomed 14 Year 9 students from one of our partner pen pal schools in Murcia, along with two members of staff. The Spanish students were paired with their pen

pals and spent the day at Parrs Wood on Tuesday. Our visitors were very impressed by our school and community, and commented on how fortunate our pupils are to have such fantastic facilities.

On Wednesday, we met our pen pals in the city centre, where our students led a tour using pre-prepared speeches about Manchester's main tourist sites. We all had a great time despite the awful weather conditions, and our students enjoyed their final day practising their Spanish with their new friends.

Miss Lopez







Disneyland Paris Science Conference



Our recent visit to Disneyland Paris turned science learning into a truly magical experience for 40 of our students. Throughout the trip, students were immersed in a world where imagination meets scientific discovery, and their enthusiasm was clear from the very first day. During the science conference, they explored the forces at work on roller coasters, linking classroom physics to the exhilarating twists, turns and drops of some of the park's most iconic rides. Learning about motion, acceleration and gravity while surrounded by real-life examples made the science feel exciting, relevant and unforgettable.

Students also delved into the science of life itself, investigating biodiversity within the parks and discovering how carefully designed environments can support a wide range of species. Biology came alive as they learned how the body responds to thrilling experiences, exploring the roles of adrenaline and endorphins - knowledge that many were eager to put into practice on the rides. The science behind Disney's spectacular fireworks and drone shows was another highlight, revealing how chemistry, physics and cutting-edge technology combine to create moments of wonder in the night sky.

Of course, no Disney experience would be complete without a little extra magic. Students were delighted to meet some of Disney's iconic characters around the parks, and mornings began with what can only be described as enthusiastic scientific investigations into the structural integrity of Mickey-shaped waffles at breakfast. From racing between rides to watching the sky light up above the castle, the trip was filled with laughter, excitement and curiosity. It was an unforgettable experience that left students inspired, smiling and even more excited about science - proof that learning really can be magical.

Miss Rogers







RHS Biodiversity Grant

In February, we were fortunate to secure a grant from the Royal Horticultural Society to support biodiversity around the school (thanks to Lindsey Moore for organising all the admin). You may have noticed an increase in planters and gardening activity around the site. The funding has been used to purchase a variety of plants, seeds, planters, compost and bird boxes.

Inclusion's Outdoor Skills groups have been busy planting bulbs, filling tubs and moving soil. Two Year 9 pupils successfully built some wooden planters, which have since been filled with herbs. Similarly, Re-route students, Sixth Formers and the Eco Club have all been involved in enhancing different areas of the school grounds. Areas that have received particular attention include the staff entrance, the Memorial Garden, the Sixth Form courtyard and the Re-route area. Other spaces have also been improved with additional planters, saplings and wildflower seeds.

You may also have noticed several bird boxes with cameras (thanks to Kevin in IT and Lee in Construction for their work and support). We hope to encourage more nesting birds by increasing the number of flowering plants and, hopefully, capture footage of future broods. We also intend to install wildlife camera traps near the Environment Centre, where fox and badger activity has been observed.

We have also received a free delivery of copse and hedge saplings from the Woodland Trust, which we are currently planting around the grounds.

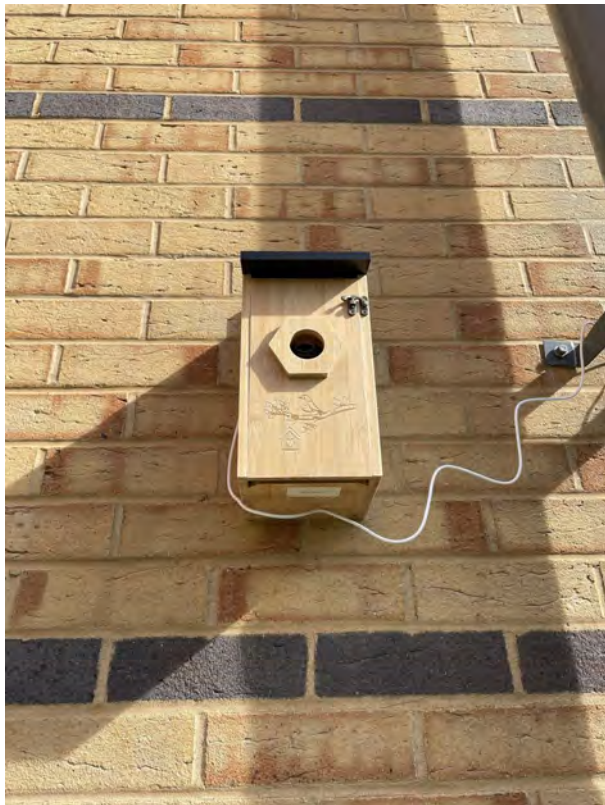
It has been fantastic to offer these opportunities to so many students. They genuinely enjoy taking part and develop a strong sense of pride and ownership. It also provides a valuable opportunity to build positive relationships and can be particularly effective in supporting pupils who may be dysregulated or having a difficult day. Many students actively request to get involved.

In addition to the educational benefits, the project has enhanced the school environment with colour and fragrance, making it an even more welcoming place to work and learn. A huge thank you to the students for their hard work, and to the many staff who have supported the project in a variety of ways: Maggie Pritchard (particularly for her vision for the Sixth Form), Hannah Mahapatra and the Eco Club, Amanda Fletcher and the Re-route students, and the Site Staff for their help in delivering materials.

Here's to a greener spring and summer.

Mr Largan







Storytelling and Public Speaking Workshop

As part of National Storytelling Week, 31 Year 9 students took part in a workshop with Andy Cops in collaboration with Manchester Libraries. Students enjoyed a range of activities, including breathing exercises, storytelling games and speaking challenges. They also learned about the science and psychology behind confident speaking, and why many people feel anxious about public speaking.

I was very proud of how fully they engaged, even when they initially felt apprehensive about the tasks. A special mention goes to Jacob Udogu-Matthews, who successfully improvised a speech about toilet paper for 60 seconds.

Ms Crispin



Deep Dive into Contemporary Art

In February, Year 11, 12 and 13 art students travelled to London to visit galleries and develop research for their art exams. Students viewed collaborative work by three contemporary artists - Shepard Fairey, Damien Hirst and Invader - at Newport Street Gallery. They also visited Tate Britain to see the Lee Miller photography exhibition, before exploring the collection of worldwide artists at Tate Modern. It was an enjoyable and enriching day, with students experiencing a wide range of inspiring artwork in the capital.

Mr Davison



Life in the Legal Profession

Parrs Wood was fortunate to welcome two trailblazing women from the legal profession.

Mrs Harrison, the only Black female judge in the North West, and Miss Penni, who practises as both a barrister and a judge, delivered a talk to Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students. They spoke about the skills, qualities, opportunities and pathways into law, including routes to becoming a solicitor, barrister or judge.

We are extremely grateful for their generosity in taking the time to speak to our students about the realities and challenges of working in law. Our students were greatly inspired.

Dr Dore



Poké Club

Long term attendees of Pokémon Club have been awarded badges to celebrate their attendance at the club.

Students have been enjoying playing Pokédoku, PokeRogue and various Pokémon console and mobile games as well as showing off and trading their Pokémon cards and talking about all things Pokémon!

Mr Seymour



Warhammer Club

Warhammer Club launched this year and has gone from strength to strength, becoming hugely popular among Key Stage 3 students. Thanks to the Warhammer Alliance Schools Programme, we have received a free resource pack that provides students with everything they need to begin collecting, building, painting, playing and reading about the worlds of Warhammer through a series of engaging activity sessions.

A special mention must go to Paddy Ruane in Year 7 who has led the club since day one.

Mr Jacques-Williams





1 - What the resource pack contains

Beneath the Great Wave

On 2nd April, The Whitworth Gallery invited Year 10 students to visit *Beneath the Great Wave: Hokusai and Hiroshige*. This was an amazing opportunity for students to see the iconic *Great Wave* print by Hokusai, along with many other works from the British Museum's collection. The Whitworth curator also delivered a talk to students about the exhibition and the woodcut process used to create these highly detailed prints. Students then had the chance to work with an artist and produce their own drawings in response to a journey or route on a map. It was a fantastic day of art at The Whitworth Gallery.





FUTURE CHOICES



SPRING

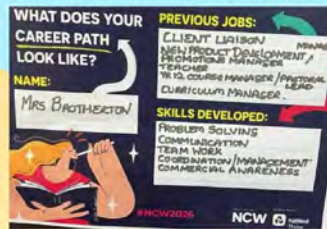
NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

In early March, students from each year group welcomed a range of employers, including a political researcher (University of Manchester), a law firm partner (Brabners), an environmental specialist (MMB), researchers (Ipsos), and an alumni safety case engineer (Cavendish Nuclear).

The student council prepared thoughtful questions, gaining valuable insight into each visitor's career journey.



We also asked staff to complete a career path poster to display to students, helping them understand that life and career journeys are 'wiggly' and can involve a variety of roles and experiences over time.



Y9 Choices Assemblies

Year 9 students took an important first step in their career journey by exploring their GCSE options. Through assemblies, they discovered their choices after school eg 6th Form, further education and apprenticeships.



1:1 Careers Appointments

Students had the opportunity to meet with our qualified independent careers advisor to discuss their future choices.

Y9 Unifrog Interests Quiz

During Computer Science, students engaged in a Unifrog Interests quiz, discovering careers that may be in line with their interests.



Y9 Choices Evening & Careers Fair

Parents and students had the opportunity to speak with apprenticeship provider Elevated Knowledge, Parrs Wood Sixth Form, and Stockport College about academic, vocational and technical qualifications, helping them make informed decisions about their next steps.





FUTURE CHOICES



SPRING

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6th Form PWC Visit

On 18th March, students received the opportunity to talk to a range of employees, finding out about their career paths, current jobs and so much more...



UA92 Y12 ASSEMBLY

This term, a visitor spoke to students about an alternative option for those looking for a university experience with smaller class sizes.



Y12 FUTURE CHOICES DAY

On 2nd March, students attended morning sessions on career pathways, university life, and the differences between university and degree apprenticeships, with opportunities to speak to current university students, & staff, medical professionals from Allied Health, and researchers from Ipsos.

In the afternoon, they visited the UCAS Discovery Fair at Manchester Central and had the opportunity to speak to hundreds of universities and a range of apprenticeship providers.



IBM ASSEMBLY & WORKSHOP

On 26th February, Sixth Form students explored pathways into IBM—including internships, graduate roles, and apprenticeships, learning how to secure them.

They also discovered job roles such as content designer, software engineer, technical architect, and business analyst.

