



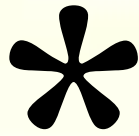
shrewsbury school

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Weathering the Storm





It's cold outside...

As the snow flits past the window of my office once again, it occurs to me that a significant proportion of what goes on in our lives is dictated by the weather. It's not just the clothes we wear or the activities we choose to undertake – the seasons can dictate our mood, the way we interact with each other and can influence profound decisions.

This week's issue, then, looks at the extraordinary power and strength of weather and at some of the ways that humanity has responded to it. Storms have inspired music, poetry and art just as the stillness and tranquillity of a Summer's Day have been subjects for sonnets, murals and even festivals.

I suppose that one of the most fascinating qualities of the weather is it's scale and our inability to control it. It is one of the very few things that can really force us to feel small and to remember our place on this planet – a sentiment echoed in last week's Academic Extension lecture.



Turner's magnificent painting 'Snowstorm' is a splendid evocation of the power of the weather. Painted in 1842, it depicts a steamer just out of the mouth of a harbour. There is a real dynamism and rawness in the approach the artist takes here and the indistinguishability of the sea and sky not only draw the viewer in to the central focus of the picture, but also confront us with the potency of the storm. Click [here](#) for more.



SP1750 John Cage – The Seasons

Although it is Antonio Vivaldi we most commonly associate with seasonal music, many other composers have attempted to give the annual cycle musical articulation. John Cage's score for a ballet is probably the most unusual. Click [here](#) to listen.

SP1751 A Process in the Weather of the Heart

Dylan Thomas' extraordinary poem internalises the weather to create parallels with human emotion and expresses, with real poignancy, the sort of storms that can rage inside and between us. Click [here](#) to listen to it.



SP1752 Meteorology

Best known for what we would consider to be more philosophical works, Aristotle's Meteorology gives us access to the great thinker's views on the weather. Click [here](#) to read his explanations of lightning and tornadoes.

