The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s Bake Off’s Paul Hollywood

The prized possession you value above all others... My Kawasaki Ninja H2 supercharged motorbike, which I bought last year. I’ve ridden bikes all my life and love the sense of freedom and that thrill of hanging off the back.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Not asking my grandad Norman Harman about WWII. I only found out about his time as an anti-aircraft gunner when I did Who Do You Think You Are? last year. He died in 2003 aged 89.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... First Light. Geoffrey Wellum’s memoir of being a Spitfire pilot in the Battle of Britain. It brings home the harrowing experiences. I’m going up in a Spitfire over the white cliffs of Dover for a TV show next month. I can’t wait.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I’d just sit in a bar eavesdropping. It gives you a proper insight into a city, but I can’t do it any more now I’m well known.

The film you can watch time and time again... Casino Royale with Daniel Craig. He’s my favourite Bond – he saved it after Pierce Brosnan.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Kung fu. I started at 13 because my uncle ran a martial arts club. I was fascinated by Bruce Lee. I got pretty useful on the nunchucks (two sticks linked by a chain).

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Take criticism constructively, it helps you to improve.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Cadbury Mini Eggs remind me of being a kid – I can eat a whole packet.

The person who has influenced you most... My father John, who’s 72. He was a baker and I worked for him from the age of 18. He taught me so much, particularly never to be late. I’m still early for everything!

The unending quest that drives you on... Gaining baking knowledge from around the world. I’ll never stop learning.

The poem that touches your soul... I was baking last year with soldiers suffering combat stress. They’d written poems about it that brought tears to my eyes.

The song that means most to you... Led Zeppelin’s Stairway To Heaven. I used to play it each morning when I started baking for my dad.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... The birth of my son Josh in 2001. I will protect him until my dying breath.

The order of service at your funeral... I’d put it above baking last year with soldiers suffering combat stress. They’d written poems about it that brought tears to my eyes.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... Gaining baking knowledge from around the world. I’ll never stop learning.

The saddest time that shook your world... My grandad’s death. He was the first person in my family I’d lost, so it really hit me. I still miss him.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Know your worth and don’t let anyone put you down.

The happiest moment you will cherish for ever... What a day. I opened the first series of Great British Bake Off! As that fat Northern bloke from Great British Bake Off! I can’t believe it. I feel like I’ve won the lottery.

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