

PLATANOS COLLEGE



KS4 NEWSLETTER



Editor's Welcome

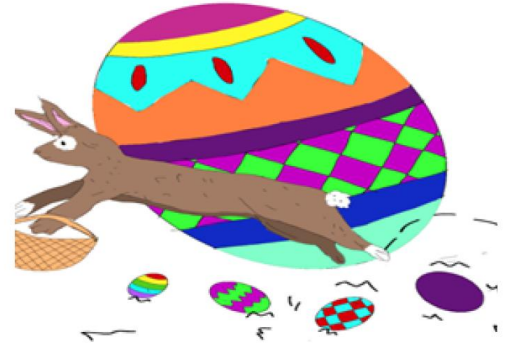
WRITTEN BY REBECCA OBADINA-ADEBOWALE (EDITOR IN CHIEF)

Welcome to the Spring 2020 Edition of the *KS4 Newsletter*! At a time when we are all facing global uncertainty regarding Climate Change, Coronavirus and Brexit, we hope that this Newsletter serves to brighten your day!

We're delighted to provide a range of articles on the Spring Term Special theme of Climate Change; but don't worry, this isn't intended to be a series of lectures on the threat of Climate Change. Instead, we try to present the facts whilst debating a variety of issues such as why some

people are Climate Change deniers, whether some Climate Change protesters are hypocritical and how Eco anxiety can affect our Mental Health.

As usual, we would like to thank all of our readers – we continue to plan and create this Newsletter with you in mind so that it is genuinely a publication written for Key Stage 4 pupils, by KS4 pupils. On behalf of the *KS4 Newsletter* Team, we would like to wish you and your families a restful and healthy Easter holiday.



STUNNING SPRING BEGINS

WRITTEN BY ADORA FITSUM

Yellow, feathery creatures begin to hatch from eggs whilst chirping loudly.

Plants begin blooming into bright, warm colours as the alluring smell of nectar fills the air.

Ancient trees breathe with translucent, green leaves - a contrast to their decaying nakedness in the season just passed.

A sun-kissed sweet atmosphere instils colour into all, breezing past the bitter, frigid chill of winter's weak clutches.

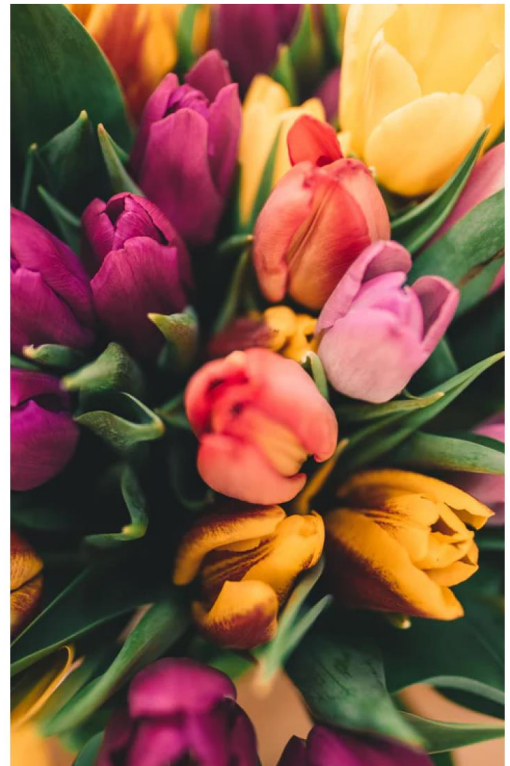
The warmth of the luminous, radiant rays begins to bless the earth, as the gloomy, pitch-black skies fade away.

This is Spring.

“

***Blossom by
blossom the spring
begins.***

***-Algernon Charles
Swinburne***





learning lounge

WORK EXPERIENCE TIPS

WRITTEN BY JAMIE HEPBURN

Work Experience is just a couple of months away for our Year 10 pupils, so here are a few tips to help clear any worries you might have. Work Experience is an important part of school life, so having doubts and worries is normal, but if you follow these tips, then you may find they just disappear!

1) Make a good first impression. First impressions really do count. Make sure you turn up on time and are suitably dressed (if in doubt, go with smart, not casual clothing). If you display that you are friendly, reliable and competent from the very start, then you are likely to get more opportunities come your way.

2) Be organised. Listen carefully to instructions and note down important details like meetings, dates and deadlines, because nobody is going to hold your hand through Work Experience and you will have to show some independence.

3) Get involved. Get involved because actively engaging in tasks will enable you to retain their value and lessons more effectively.

4) Ask questions. There's no shame in asking for help - most employers will respect that you have the guts to ask.

5) Make suggestions. Be an 'ideas' person and show that you can think for yourself.

6) Help out. Be pro-active and helpful – people will remember this and appreciate it.

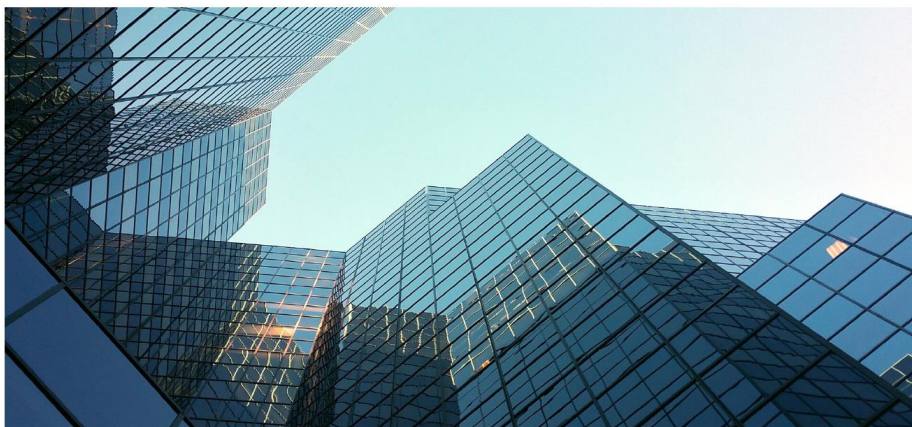
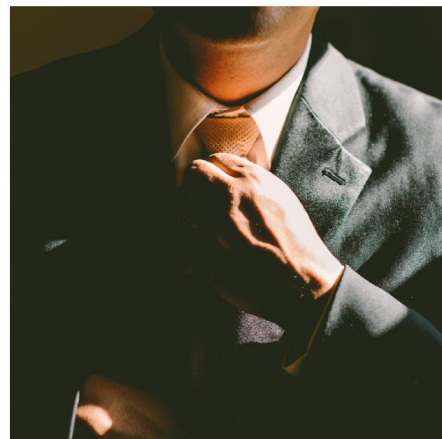
7) Make notes. Write down key things to remember, skills you are learning and jobs you have done; all of these will be super useful for future job applications!

8) Ask for feedback. OK, getting feedback and constructive criticism isn't the easiest thing in the world, but we're all here to learn and improve, so don't be afraid to show you're willing to reflect upon your progress and keep striving for better.

9) Stay in touch. It's useful to stay in touch with people who could be prospective employers in the future or who could provide you with a great reference.

10) Enjoy! Make sure you enjoy Work Experience as it should be a highlight of Year 10.

Don't forget: if you want more detailed tips or ideas for getting a Work Experience placement, check out the Spring Term 2019 Edition of the *KS4 Newsletter* which has a really awesome, 'Work Experience and Careers' Special.





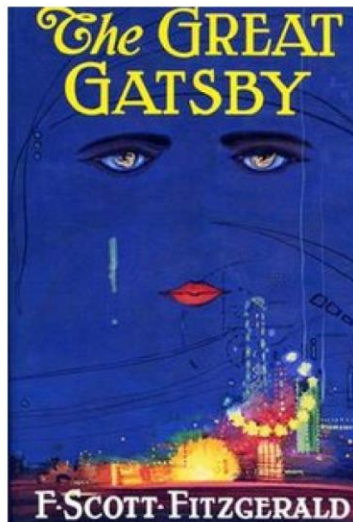
CLASSIC LITERATURE: BORING, RIGHT?

WRITTEN BY REBECCA OBADINA-ADEBOWALE



English teachers constantly urge us to ditch *Diary Of A Wimpy Kid* and marvel at the greatness of the Masters of Literature! Yet classical novels seem to deter many of us adolescents. Many of us view reading them to be an exasperating experience. Surely there should be pictures? Where are the slang and abbreviations?

However, whilst focusing on the reasons why we can't be bothered to read such books, we overlook the many beneficial and riveting advantages of Classic Literature. Most classic texts divulge moral messages; they also introduce to us words we didn't even know existed, as well as increasing our historical and cultural knowledge. Classic Literature is enthralling and fun! You simply have to find what suits you best! But where do we commence in this search? Shakespeare? Harper Lee? F.Scott Fitzgerald? Gothic literature? Tragedies? The collection is broad indeed, but this list of Classics may help you find something that floats your boat.

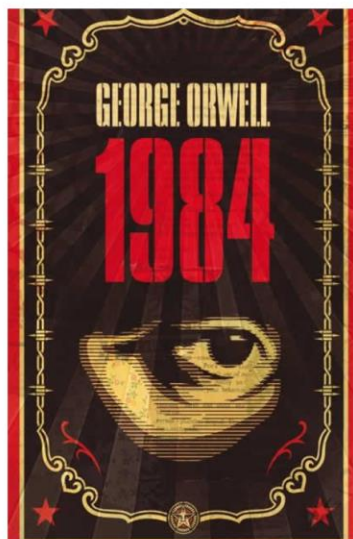


The Great Gatsby: for readers who enjoy romance and luxury - focuses on the theme of love, wealth, loss of morals and the American Dream.

Nick Carraway spends his summer in *West Egg*, next to Jay Gatsby, an illustrious and wealthy, yet mysterious man living the sublime American Dream. Yet even after all the extravagant parties and lavish events, Gatsby feels incomplete without his lost love, Mrs Daisy Buchanan.

1984: for readers who enjoy alternate worlds, dystopia (relating to an imagined state or society where there is great suffering or injustice) and rebellion. Focuses on the themes of oppression, love and totalitarianism (a system of government that requires complete subservience to the state).

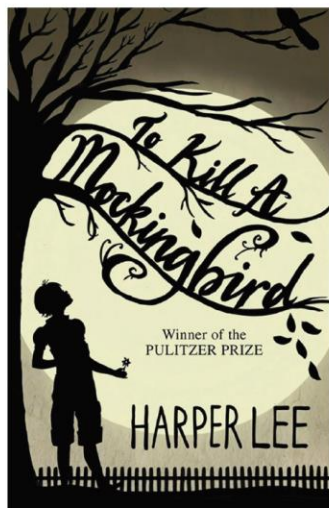
1984 is a book based on the theory of how life would be if the Nazis or the *Soviet Union* ruled. *London* is submerged by Totalitarianism; everyone is constantly controlled, watched and regulated – no one has liberty or free will. Love, friendship and individuality are prohibited. Winston Smith is not a fan of this, but suffers in silence due to the repercussions of going against the rules. But things change when he meets Julia. Can he adhere to the regulations or will he break them?



“

I do believe something magical can happen when you read a good book.

-J.K Rowling



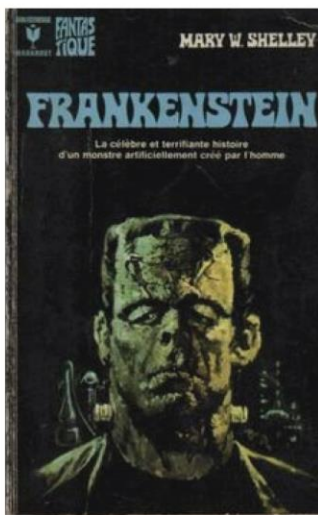
To Kill A Mockingbird: for readers who enjoy the exploration of innocence in youth. Focuses on the themes of morality, innocence and racism.

Told from the viewpoint of young Tom-boy Scout Finch, *To Kill A Mockingbird* tells us the story of an attorney, Atticus Finch, who tries to save black man Tom Robinson who is falsely accused of rape.



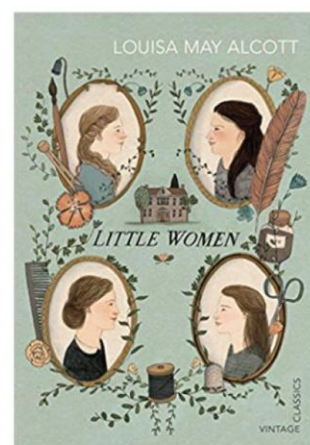
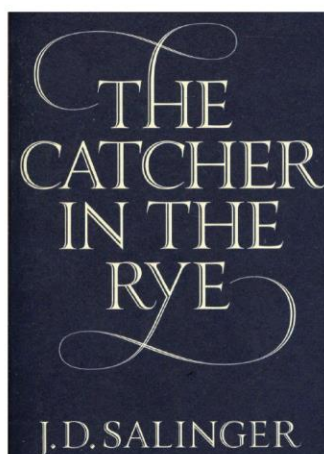
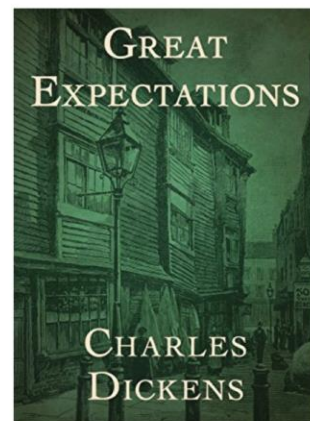
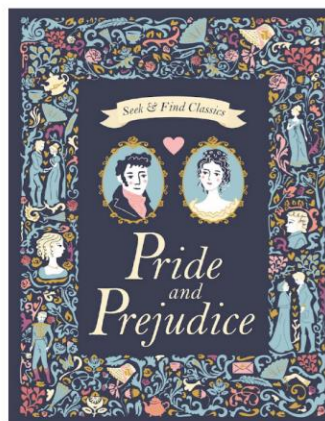
Wuthering Heights: for readers who like novels on romance and gothic genres. Focuses on the theme of destructive love.

In the house of *Wuthering Heights*, a servant tells a traveller the star-crossed love story of Cathy and Heathcliff, who share a passionate, profound love, but are forced to live their lives away from each other, with some devastating consequences!



Frankenstein: for readers who like gothic and horror stories – focuses on the themes of immortality, religion and revenge.

The story of a skilled scientist, Victor Frankenstein, who strives to give life to his creation made from dead body parts. The creation then turns out to be hideously grotesque and is shunned and rejected by Victor and all of society. The monster, feeling abused and abandoned, then begins a vengeful journey of violence and horror.



So, do any of these interest you enough to want to read them? If not, take a look more genres and books at <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/classic-literature>. You're sure to find something that you like!



GUESS WHICH MEMBER OF STAFF

WRITTEN BY REBECCA OBADINA-ADEBOWALE

Who would have thought that the staff who roam the corridors of *Platanos College* were once younger than us?

1)



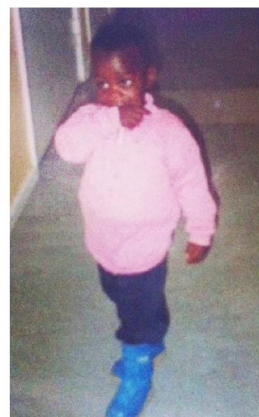
2)



3)



4)



5)



6)



7)



8)



9)



10)



11)



Answers :
1) Mr Anyanwu 2) Ms Bajaj 3) Mr Garry 4) Mr Kabaka 5) Mr Tannam 6) Ms Amenedo 7) Mr Mason 8) Ms Eden 9) Ms Fletcher-Thomas 10) Ms McAteer 11) Ms Thompson



INTERVIEW WITH A PAST PUPIL #1

WRITTEN BY ALAMAGAN SHRIFJUMCO

What can a past pupil teach us?

We got in touch with a previous *Platanos College* pupil, Misky Shrifjumco, to find out what she believes helped her during her Secondary School experience, in particular, the dreaded task of revising for GCSEs!

1) What is your routine for revision?

I usually start with cleaning the place I am going to work in; a clear environment helps to keep my mind clear. Then I set my work in front of me and start with the subjects I am weakest at, gradually testing myself on different topics over time.

2) How do you deal with distractions?

Listening to music is something that helps me to concentrate. I also time myself and use Apps that stop me from getting distracted by my phone.

3) How long do you usually study for?

I study for four and half hours; this is split into five sessions of forty-five minutes with 10 minutes of break after each session. This structure helps me to stay focused while studying.

4) When do you advise we should start to study for exams?

I know many people will try to cram it all in the night before, but it's important to avoid doing that as it can overwhelm you, making it harder to recall key information later. The best way to revise is to make a clear study plan with breaks factored in so as not to exhaust your brain.

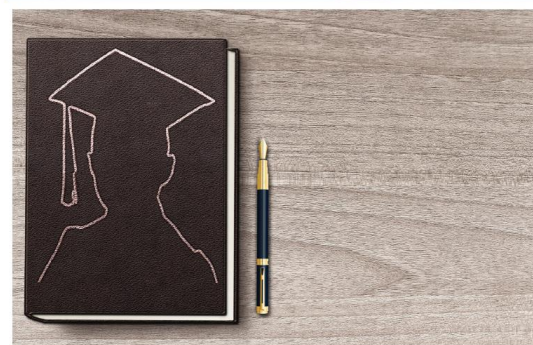
“

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.
-Nelson Mandela



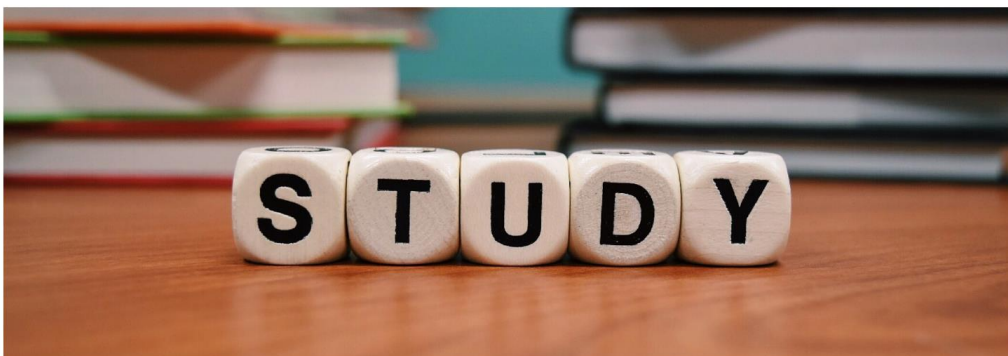
“

The roots of education are bitter but the fruit is sweet.
-Aristotle



“

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.
-Benjamin Franklin





WHICH GCSE OPTION WILL YOU CHOOSE?

WRITTEN BY UMayMAH YASSIN

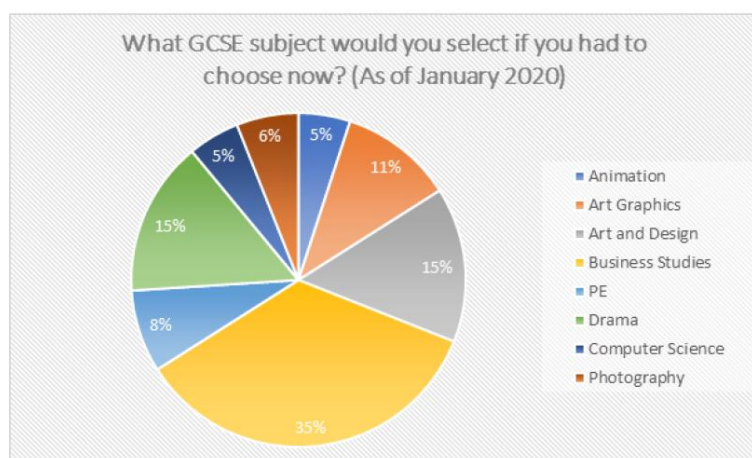
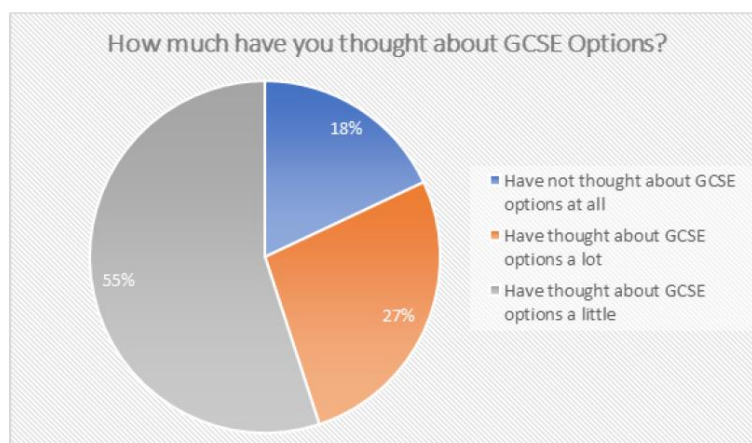
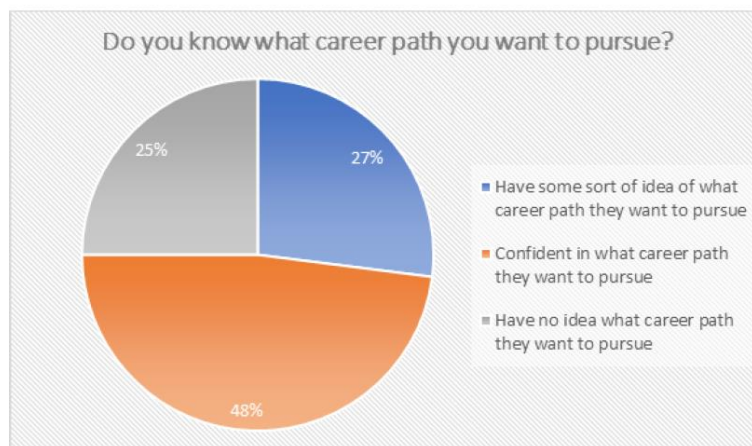
We are now only a matter of weeks away from the Year 11 GCSE examinations. Although this Newsletter is intended for KS4 pupils, we are aware that lots of younger pupils also read it. So, we thought we would provide a breakdown of the Options choices to KS3 pupils. What options are available and why might you choose them?

Here at *Platanos College* pupils can choose from many GCSE options: Business Studies, Computer Science, PE, Art and Design, Art Graphics, Photography and Animation.

Music and extra Languages can also be taken as additional GCSEs. When it comes to choosing GCSE options, selecting what you are truly interested in and what may help you to follow your future career path will help you to narrow down your choices.

We asked 60 Year 9 pupils 3 key GCSE Option and Career-based questions and here's what they had to say...

We all know that GCSE options are important as they help to open up possible A-level pathways and can form crucial foundations for our future careers. You should aim to choose a subject that genuinely interests you and intrigues your mind. So, which of the *Platanos College* Options above floats your boat?





INTERVIEW WITH A PAST PUPIL #2

WRITTEN BY ASHIA WRIGHT

Miguel Carvalho, a former *Platanos College* pupil, graduated in 2014. 5 years later, he is happy to be interviewed by our *KS4 Newsletter* team to give beneficial advice to current pupils.

1) What did you enjoy the most about attending *Platanos College*?

I enjoyed learning new things and being around my friends at the same time. There were a couple of lessons that I always looked forward to, which were PE and Maths. This was because I enjoyed participating in Sports and was also very good at Maths.

2) What life skills did you gain during your time at *Platanos College*?

The most important skills I developed were my organisation and time keeping. In life, if you want to be successful, you always need to be organised - everything you do needs to have a structure to it. My time keeping and organisational skills help me plan out my days, so I can make sure that I am always active and occupying my time.

3) How did you prepare for your GCSEs?

I wasn't the best when dealing with exams, so I made sure I attended every revision class that was available for my GCSEs. I also went over my notes and topics at home.

4) What advice would you give to pupils preparing for their GCSEs?

Use your time wisely. I would recommend that you keep going over the topics that you are least confident on and make sure that you ask your teachers any questions that are bothering your mind.

5) Did you attend Higher Education? What would you recommend for those who will be transitioning next year?

Yes, I attended *Richmond College* and went to *Kent University* soon after. I would say that you should find something you enjoy and study that further - for me it was IT, so that is what I studied at College and University. If you haven't found your passion yet, then I would recommend doing something you are good at and excelling even further in that.

6) How did you deal with life after school? Did you find it difficult?

I prepared myself and my time so that College wasn't too different to Secondary School. I adapted to College easily and ended up meeting some good friends for life.



Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.
-Martin Luther King Jr.



climate change special



What is going on with our planet? Is Climate Change real? Are we in immense danger?

Our Year 10 Writers have created articles which allow us to have our say on the controversial topic and debate the issues being discussed globally.

THE HEAT IS ON!

WRITTEN BY SUMAYAH ABDULRAHIM

Did you know that the global average temperature has increased by 1.1°C since the pre-Industrial period? This may seem like nothing, however its effects are detrimental. Climate Change is a devastating issue that is heavily impacting our earth and will continue to do so if we do not take action. Yet the Leaders of the world sometimes seem to find it difficult to prioritise real issues! We as human beings have had a significant role in causing Climate Change and it's our responsibility, our duty and our obligation to help decrease it and save our planet together.

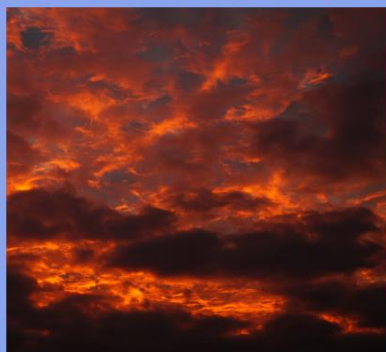
Pollution is a main factor in the causes of Climate Change and over 26% of the emissions come from modes of transport. It is undeniable that vehicles are major contributors to air pollution as the combustion of petrol and diesel releases Greenhouse Gases into the atmosphere, including Carbon Dioxide and Methane. Over 57% of CO₂ released is emitted by the combustion of fossil fuels; by introducing more renewable sources

of energy such as solar and hydroelectricity, we can help lower Greenhouse Gas emissions.

The Paris Agreement is an agreement that involves over 175 countries who are trying to create an awareness of the consequences of our actions. As a collective, these countries aim "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels". But, is this realistic and achievable? Only time will tell...

“

Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.
-Aldous Huxley



THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET?

WRITTEN BY CHELSEA ALBUQUERQUE

The Earth: the place we call home. The one known place in the entire Universe where life exists. Yet the very species that relies on this one planet - human beings – is slowly, but surely, destroying it. We are gradually damaging our planet by causing Global Warming and Climate Change. It's easy enough to plan the future we want for ourselves – university; raising a family; starting a business.

But what's the point in making plans for our individual futures if the collective future of the planet is at risk? Climate Change won't only affect the lives of us human beings, but the life of every living organism on the planet. As the Earth's temperature rises, the ice in the *Arctic* begins to melt, gradually decreasing the land mass for animals like polar bears. Additionally, the melting of the polar icecaps increases the ocean sea levels; if this continues to happen, it could cause coastal cities to go under water in the years to come, causing millions of people to lose their homes.

Plants, which are crucial for life on Earth, are also affected, because extreme weather patterns often cause droughts and heat waves. Many hot countries don't see rain in months, causing plants to dry. As you'll know from Science lessons, plants and trees are crucial for the production of oxygen that we all rely on for survival.

Isn't it absurd that we are abusing the very air we rely on to survive? It is evident that we need to take urgent action to save the only planet we have and the one we all call home.



GRETA GOES GLOBAL

WRITTEN BY MARIA DIAS

You must by now, have heard of 17 year old Climate Activist Greta Thunberg, who famously began striking from school every Friday in front of the *Swedish Parliament*. She started her Movement in August 2018 by herself and since then, has inspired millions of students to also strike from school. By December 2018, more than 20,000 pupils had held strikes in 270 different cities.

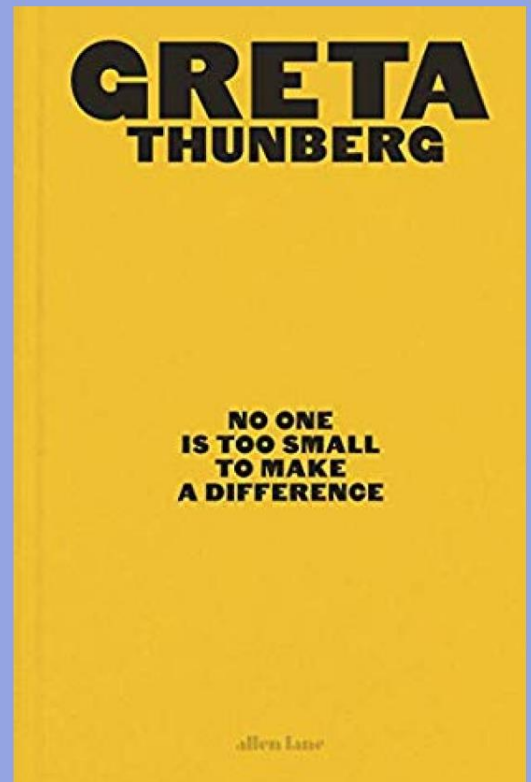
On September 20th 2019, a general strike was held worldwide, which meant that adults as well as youngsters could take to the streets and demand action. In *London*, over 200,000 people attended. After praising everyone at the protest, Jeremy Corbyn went on to blast Donald Trump for pulling out of the *Paris Climate Agreement*, an agreement made by countries to lower everyone's carbon footprint for a more sustainable environment. Corbyn was outraged, stating, "*What is disgraceful is to have the President of a major country like the United States saying he will walk away from the Paris Climate Change accord. Let's have no more of this hand-holding of Donald Trump.*"

As well as this, there are many Climate Movements such as *Extinction Rebellion* (XR), who use the strategy of non-violent and civil disobedience in order to be heard by the Government. In April 2019, XR held a protest at which 2000 people were arrested. Additionally, XR also held protests last October, when over 1400 people were arrested, with hundreds going to court. During the October protests, Greta Thunberg came to *London* to encourage protesters to "*keep going, you are making a difference*". She also addressed Parliament,

reprimanding the *UK* for exploitation of *North Sea* oil and gas fields and expanding airports, which all clearly damage the environment. The protests gained support from scientists, doctors and religious leaders, many of whom were among those arrested. Almost immediately after the protests started, police banned the XR protests from the whole of *London*; this was later ruled by The Supreme Court as '*unlawful*' and '*an abuse of power*'.

XR demands that the *UK* Government tells the truth about the ongoing Climate Emergency, adopts a target of zero carbon by 2025 and sets up a Citizens' Assembly to decide future policy on the environment. As more and more people speak out, the Government is forced to address the concerns of the nation.

Although it is certainly true that Climate Change protesters and activists existed before any of us had even heard of Greta Thunberg, isn't it astonishing that one school girl could inspire so many to fight for change across the world? She is living proof that none of us is too young to make our voices heard.



FLAMES DOWN UNDER

WRITTEN BY ALYFIA OGBOYI

What do you get when you mix powerful winds, immense heat and a seemingly never ending drought together? *Australia's* deadliest bushfires. Beginning in September 2019, the fires continued to rage for months. At the time of this Newsletter going to print, the bushfires had scorched millions of acres, killed 24 people and destroyed an estimated half a billion animals. The fires annihilated 1588 homes and damaged hundreds of others, forcing people to evacuate to beaches. One of these beaches in a small town in *South-East Australia* called *Mallacoota*, had 4000 survivors who were evacuated by boat or plane: "*Mallacoota is under attack. It is pitch black and very scary*", describes Andrew Crisp, the Emergency Management Committee of the *State of Victoria*. Adding to the terror of the situation, the skies across *Australia* turned red due to the flames and reached skies in *New Zealand*.



But who or what has contributed to the demise of *South-East Australia*?

Well, Climate Scientists believe that the conditions of wildfires are getting worse as the fires continuously release Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere, which drastically amplifies Climate Change.

This means that the Earth will gradually get hotter and hotter and *Australia's* temperature may raise up to 5°C by the end of the century according to Science Agency the *CSIRO* and *Bureau of Meteorology*.

But what does this all mean for wildlife Down Under?

At least 480 million koalas, kangaroos and wombats as well as other animals have perished in the fires. Some animals such as kangaroos and koalas have been killed directly by the fire, by being either burned by flames or inhaling smoke. An estimated 25,000 koalas have died, with the charred remains of animals scattered across forests and roads.

Many species have even been threatened with extinction, for example, Potoroo, which are a part of the kangaroo family. These strange creatures are important in maintaining healthy forest soil. If the fire kills Potoroos, some plant species may be unable to exist any longer, therefore killing off other species that rely on vegetation to feed.



Luckily, animal hospitals, rescue groups and zoos are doing what they can to care for the surviving animals. One way in which they achieve this is by spreading awareness for people to knit small special pouches for young marsupials (koalas, wombats, possums and kangaroos), as they need pouches to grow.

According to one *UN* Expert, "*Due to enhanced evaporation in warmer temperatures, the vegetation and the soils dry out more quickly.. So even if the rainfall didn't change, just the warming in itself would already cause a drying of vegetation and therefore increased fire risk.*"

However, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison claims that there is no "*credible scientific evidence*" that a reduction in emissions would reduce the effects of Climate Change. Peter Gleick, a Climate Scientist from *California*, asserts that "*... record heat, unprecedented drought, lack of rain — all contribute to drying out the fuel that makes these fires worse. What we have are fires that might have occurred anyway, but the extent, the severity, the intensity of these fires is far worse than it otherwise would have been without the fingerprints of Climate Change.*"

Only time will tell if the hellish fires that have caused such apocalyptic devastation to *Australia*, will become a deadly annual cycle.



SCIENTIFIC SOLUTION?

WRITTEN BY REBECCA OBADINA-ADEBOWALE

We interviewed Ms Yin about her views on Climate Change and what can be done to tackle this detrimental problem.

As a Science Teacher, what can you tell us about the impact of Climate Change?

It is evident that the Earth is warming up. Extreme weather patterns such as floods, droughts, storms and bush fires are happening around the world more frequently. Natural disasters cause social and economical damages and these can be both emotionally and physically devastating.

2) What can we all do to help improve this issue?

There are many ways to help with Climate Change and we have to act now. Some might think that drastic changes to our lifestyles are needed to help reduce our Carbon Footprint, but actually, small changes in our daily lives can go a long way. For example, recycle as much as possible walk, cycle or use public transport for travelling, shower instead of bathe, turn lights off when you leave the room, do not leave electrical appliances on when they are not in use and eat more local produce.

3) What do you try to do to combat Climate Change?

I try to recycle as much as I can and I am trying to eat less meat. Whenever possible, I walk or travel by public transport.

4) Why do you think some people are Climate Change deniers and what would you say to them?

It is more convenient to continue the way we were living before the evidence for Climate Change. For the few who deny Climate Change, they should look more closely at the facts and compare the differences between the global temperatures before and after Industrialisation. Reducing carbon footprint and minimising Climate Changes can be as simple as reducing waste (which can also save resources).

5) Do you think adults need to be careful of creating a culture of 'Eco Anxiety' amongst young people our age?

Adults are not necessarily creating a culture of Eco Anxiety; instead we are raising awareness of global changes and the impact of global warming and Climate Change. Being more aware of our surroundings is always beneficial. There is still time for us to act on this, and so we should try our best to live in a more sustainable way, regardless of our age.



I SEA...BUT SO WHAT?

WRITTEN BY SAMREEN AMANULLAH

Do you ever feel that sometimes, we are so bombarded by awful cataclysmic news about Climate Change and yet, when we think about it, do some things really matter? OK, we all know that rising sea levels are potentially a terrible consequence of Climate Change, but who really cares about some random species of fish that might become extinct? And come on, rising temperatures mean hotter summers, right? Surely that's great news for us Brits? When it comes to Climate Change and the oceans, do we need to ask ourselves the simple but important question, 'So What?'

At risk

- Blue whales are the largest mammal on earth and they are endangered. **Causes:** due to human activities like toxic chemicals, blue whales are at risk.

So what?

- They are really important for our environment because they help to balance out the ocean life and make sure that one species does not overpopulate. Do you know that even their faeces help the environment? This is because it acts like a fertiliser that increases phytoplankton growth. This in turn leads to atmospheric carbon dioxide removal.

At risk

- Polarbears are one of the most important sea animals that are at risk because of Climate Change. **Causes:** the reason for this is because the ice glaciers and sheets are melting.

So what?

If polar bears become extinct, this could result in the loss of other species. They are important because they help maintain other populations.

At risk

- Corals are another species that are endangered. **Causes:** when coral is exposed to warm ocean temperatures, pollution or too much sunlight, they release algae; the whitening of the coral is called 'coral bleaching.' This causes the corals' bodies to become more exposed to various diseases.

So what?

- Coral protects coastlines from the damaging effects of storms and wave action. It also provides shelter for many other creatures.

At risk

- Sharks! **Causes:** the reason why sharks are endangered is because of human activities, chemical pollution and over fishing, as well as targeting sharks for medicines and local delicacies.

So what?

- Forget what the movie industry tells us about sharks, they are vitally important to the ocean as they balance out the marine food chain.

At risk

- Sea turtles. **Causes:** extreme weather changes lead to problems in nesting beaches. Just like other sea creatures, the turtles also mistake plastic waste for food and eat it, which causes them to suffocate.

So what?

- Sea turtles play an important role in the ocean by maintaining healthy seagrass beds and coral reefs, providing habitat for other animals.

5 tips on how to save our oceans:

- Use less plastic
- Take care of the beach
- Learn about the marine life
- Avoid ocean harming-products
- Try a plant based diet



THE POLITICS OF OUR PLANET

WRITTEN BY MARIA DIAS

Politics: let's face it – a word that can fill us all with dread. Many young people see Politics as tiresome and dreary, not to mention confusing and complicated. No wonder it's easy for our generation to be put off learning about it.

However, there's no escaping the fact that Politics pervades every aspect of our lives, even if we don't always realise it. When it comes to Climate Change, many people our age hold passionate views, but Climate Change Action is inextricably linked to political policies and laws.

On 24th September 2019 at the *UN Climate Summit*, members agreed that since the landmark *Paris Accord* in 2015, we have developed better clean technology and yet, global Greenhouse Gas emissions keep rising. Unfortunately, the Summit showed that leaders are often distracted by other economic and social issues. Some of these are due to their own actions, such as Brexit, and others are geopolitical, like the *US-China Trade War*. It is clear that when it comes to Climate Change, there are a number of factors that get in the way of real progress.

Arguably the most powerful man in the world, *US President Donald Trump*, dismissed the issue of Climate Change, saying that the climate is already "*clean*". Talking outside *The White House*, Trump stated that he does not "*believe it*". On 1st June 2017, Trump quit the *Paris Climate Agreement*, which is an agreement between nations to decrease our carbon footprint in order to combat Climate Change.

The reason why Trump did this is because it will cost the US "*billions of dollars*." Now the future of *America's* deal with the *Paris Climate Agreement* will all be determined in the 2020 election.

Closer to home, although Brexit is Prime Minister Boris Johnson's "*top priority*", many agree that he also needs to recognise and act upon the Climate Crisis in order to keep the environment safe for everyone. In the *UK*, the ruling Conservative Party announced a *Carbon Reduction Plan* - a pledge to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. However, Scientists argue that we need to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 or it will be irreversible; Boris Johnson however, seems to believe that this goal is not possible. But does that mean we don't try? The British public seem to be crying out for the Government to do more; indeed, 6 out of 10 people in Britain believe that our current Government is not doing enough to stop this catastrophe.

As a Londoner, do you believe that enough is being done to tackle the potential climate catastrophe?



CONTINENTAL CLIMATE CHANGE

WRITTEN BY EMILY SANDOVAL DE FREITAS

How is Climate Change affecting different continents and what is the world doing about it?



MEDIA MISGUIDANCE?

WRITTEN BY EMILY SANDOVAL DE FREITAS

Media: defined by Urban Dictionary as "a source of information that many take at a face value some are truths, some are lies, everyone has some sort of bias and the media does as well." So what does this really mean? It's straightforward actually; the media guides individuals on what is newsworthy or of importance and often influences what we think of such matters.

Media outlets such as newspapers have been around for so long and inform so much of what we think of the world around us, that sometimes it's hard to recognise fact from fiction. We are constantly absorbing media across a range of genres including television, newspapers, magazines, radio, billboards, social media and the internet. This is referred to as "mass media" because it reports to a mass audience comprised of a very large number of people. Through time, mass media coverage has been established to be a key contributor in public perception and action. But what about the media's relationship with Climate Change? How do different media forms choose to highlight or downplay this issue?

Statistics show that in the UK, 31% of 18-34 year olds are "very" or "extremely" worried about Climate Change, compared with just 19% of the over 65s. Could the media partly explain this discrepancy? The UK already incorporates a 2050 goal to cut back emissions.

The actual phrase "net zero greenhouse gases" target will deliver on the commitment that the UK made by signing the Paris Agreement.

On the other side of the world, the US seems to be taking a different approach. Several reports state that the US government is not willing to help combat Climate Change. Recent surveys show that around 55% of Americans think that Climate Change is mostly caused by human beings and surprisingly around 7% think Climate Change is definitely not happening. Could this be because the President of the USA is himself, a Climate Change denier?

Check out these headlines from different news outlets...just look at the conflicting information being conveyed to readers about Climate Change. So, isn't it about time we all started questioning what we are fed by the giant media corporations?



“

Whoever controls the media, controls the mind.

-Jim Morrison

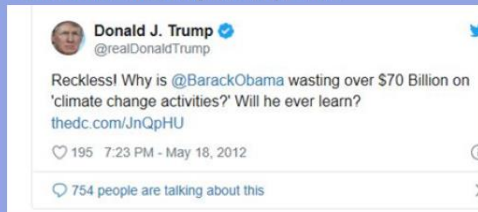


IMPENDING DOOM OR FAKE NEWS?

WRITTEN BY CRESHIA LINDO

Rising sea levels, severe droughts, inconsistent weather patterns... they're all thrown at us by the cruel hands of Climate Change... proven by the most knowledgeable Scientists in the world, right? Or just an elaborate hoax?

Believe it or not, there are many people who are certain that Climate Change isn't real, including one of the most powerful men in the world – none other than U.S. President, Donald J. Trump. His Twitter feed is frequently filled with tweets about Climate Change being completely fake, even attacking his predecessor Barak Obama for wasting money on it.



Trump has even gone to the extent of leaking emails between Scientists, saying that the data used to support Climate Change is "manipulated" and "unreliable".

But why is the one of the most prominent world leaders so adamant that Climate Change is a load of nonsense?

Climate Change deniers argue that the Earth's climate has always changed... which is true, but statistics show that 17 of the 18 warmest years took place after 2001. Donald Trump continuously posts tweets such as...

Now, this may be easily explained because there was nowhere near enough technology in the 1920's to accurately determine global events and changes... but Trump decides to see it as...



...which contributes to speculation that China has fabricated the concept of Climate Change for financial gain.

Another argument is that Climate Change is not real because it is cold... which sounds logical unless you do your research... Yes, Global Warming is causing the Earth's average surface temperature to increase, but it's not only making heatwaves and droughts more likely, it's also causing changes to our natural climate systems such as making extreme weather events more likely and more severe than normal. For example, hurricanes and storms are becoming a lot more intense, moving slower and taking longer to die down.

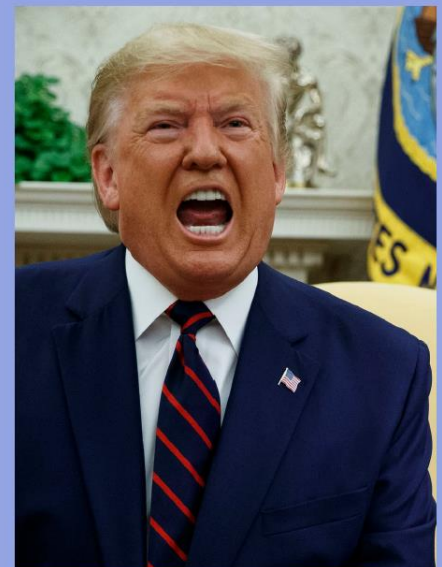
You're probably thinking, "why should I care? The UK hasn't suffered a hurricane since 1987"... but, because of where we live, the UK and Ireland are likely to get more rain and wind as a result of climate change while New York will see more snow. However, this does not stop Trump from tweeting.



However, it is evidently the minority who deny Climate Change. Environmentalist and globally recognised wildlife Broadcaster David Attenborough have stated that... "what Climate Change will do, if we do not act on it now, will cost us trillions more"



So what do you think about Climate Change? Fake news or impending doom?



AWESOME ACTIVIST OR HOLLYWOOD HYPOCRITE?

WRITTEN BY ZAINAB ANIMASHAUN

We are often bombarded with well-meaning messages from famous faces, imploring us to do our bit to tackle Climate Change. After all, regardless of how much money we have in the bank or how well-known we are, we're all in this fight to save the planet together, right? Celebrities often promote the importance of saving our planet on their Instagram and Twitter feeds, but how much can we truly trust that they practise what they preach?

Leonardo DiCaprio

Leonardo DiCaprio is well known for campaigning against Climate Change, even speaking at the *United Nations* and being the Founder of his own charity - *The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation* - one of whose main agendas is tackling Climate Change. Yet, DiCaprio also flies using private jets and has been pictured a number of times in tabloid newspapers on super yachts; private jets alone produce 1600 tons of Carbon Dioxide!

Prince Harry

In a newspaper interview, Prince Harry once stated a two children maximum for '*the sake of the planet*'. He has been vocal about the need for us to address Climate Change and yet, like the other members of the Royal Family, he travels nearly everywhere using private jets and cars. In addition, his recent decision to renounce Royal duties and split his time between *North America* and *England* will surely result in even more air travel between the two countries...

Arnold Schwarzenegger

None other than The Terminator himself, Arnold Schwarzenegger, is an activist for Climate Change. He frequently posts inspirational posts about it on his social media feeds. Yet Schwarzenegger has been pictured cruising around Sydney on a gas guzzling super yacht!

Emma Thompson

British actress Emma Thompson was caught up in Climate Change controversy last year when she flew to the *UK* partly to take part in an Eco-protest in *London*. When questioned about whether she travelled in Economy, she seemed incredulous at the suggestion, even though Economy seats take up far less room than all those spacious First Class places!

Joaquin Phoenix

This year's Best Actor Oscar winner, Joaquin Phoenix, is well known for being an environmentalist. He was raised by parents who led a hippie lifestyle and encouraged their children to care for both the planet and wildlife. Phoenix reportedly wore the same *Stella McCartney* tuxedo to different awards ceremonies, in a bid to live a more sustainably lifestyle. Living a Vegan lifestyle, Phoenix appears to be one of the few Hollywood Elite to practise what he preaches and uses his platform to speak out against injustice (such as the recent *Golden Globes*, which he called out for its lack of racial diversity). And yet....did Phoenix benefit from the reported \$225,000 (£150,000)

Goodie bag that was gifted to Oscar nominees this year, we wonder? And more importantly, did he choose to accept the very generous gift of a 12 day Cruise that was included in the bag? We've all surely attended less swanky parties that have distributed far more environmentally friendly goodie bags than that!

So, do you think that celebrities should uphold the same values they preach?



ARE YOU ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

WRITTEN BY MOHAMED KHIAR

1) How often do you recycle?

- A) Never
- B) Sometimes
- C) Always

2) Which method of transport do you use to get to school?

- A) Car
- B) Bus
- C) Walk or Cycle

3) How often do you go on long haul flights?

- A) More than three times a year
- B) Up to 3 times a year
- C) Less than once a year

4) How often do you drink/eat from plastic materials?

- A) Always
- B) Sometimes
- C) Never

5) Do you re-use your plastic bags?

- A) Never
- B) Sometimes
- C) Always

6.) Do you switch off the lights when nobody's in the room?

- A) Never
- B) Sometimes
- C) Always

7) Would you buy an electric car?

- A) No
- B) Maybe
- C) Yes

8) How often do you eat meat?

- A) At least twice a week.
- B) Once a week or less.
- C) Never

9) You're walking home and realise you have some sweet wrappers in your pocket but the nearest bin is overflowing. What do you do with them?

- A) Throw them on the floor straight away.
- B) Leave them on top of the overflowing bin.
- C) Wait until I get home or pass a bin that is not full.

10) What do you do with clothes that you don't wear anymore?

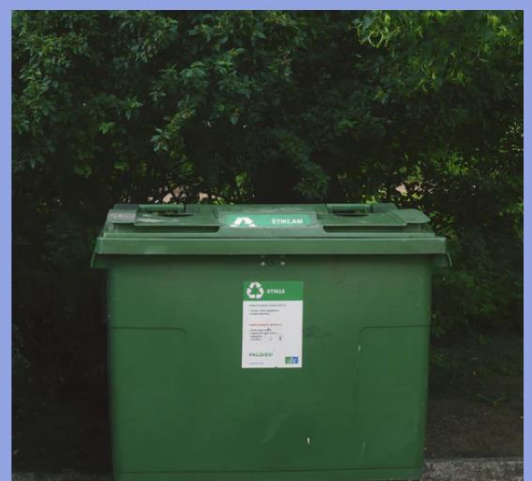
- A) Throw them away
- B) Donate/give them to charity or someone in need.
- C) Use them to make something I would use.

How did you score?

Mostly A's) Hmmm, If you have picked mostly A's, then let's face it...you're not exactly Greta Thunberg, are you? Maybe it's time to consider one change you can make to live a more sustainable lifestyle?

Mostly B's) If you have picked mostly B's, then you're quite environmentally friendly but you are also aware that you can do more to help the environment!

Mostly C's) If you have picked mostly C's, then you're very environmentally friendly and already do your best to help the environment! Bravo!



ECO WARRIOR OR ECO WORRIER?

WRITTEN BY REBECCA OBADINA-ADEBOWALE

How worried are you about the future of our planet? How worried should you be? How worried should any of us be?

Well, increasingly, children and young people like us are facing something called 'Eco Anxiety.' This essentially means that we are being so bombarded by pessimistic news about the impending end of the world, that we are experiencing unhealthy levels of stress and anxiety as a result. In short, *"a chronic fear of environmental doom"*. And believe it or not, it's affecting more and more of us.

Taking inspiration from Greta Thunberg, pupils globally have skipped Friday lessons at school in protest at Climate Change, with some even holding banners that say *"Why Should I Study For a Future I Won't Have?"* That's one way to get out of Maths on a Friday period 5...

But seriously, how do we balance our fears about the future of our planet with protecting our own mental health and wellbeing? Did you know that in a survey of American teenagers taken last year, 57% said that Climate Change made them feel scared and 52% said it made them feel angry; these figures were both higher than the numbers for adults. As young people, we live in a world of social media and instant news, both of which can cause our alarm at the state of the planet to be magnified before our eyes. One American pupil stated: *"It's like, the ice caps are melting and my hypothetical children will never see them, but also I have a calculus test tomorrow."* How do we ensure we remain balanced and don't succumb to our fears?

How do we ensure that we don't all freak each other out to the point that we're scared to leave our homes? In short, how do we keep calm and carry on, whilst also continuing to address the concerns we may have?



1) Control what you can right now rather than fixating too much on the future.

2) Act to help feel more in control, e.g eat less meat, buy less clothes.

4) Look after yourself and do things that make you happy and also reduce stress.

3) Buy less and reduce clutter, which can add to mental stress.



community corner

KENNINGTON KICKS

WRITTEN BY LABIBA MIAH

Born in *Camberwell* and raised in *Kennington*...that's Jadon Sancho – footballer for *Borussia Dortmund*. Jadon pays homage to his background, as he has the words '*Kennington where it started*' inscribed on his boots, showing that he hasn't forgotten about his roots.

Known for his prominent skill, Jadon has amazed the footballing world due to his insane rise at the young age of 18. Jadon established himself as a first team regular in his second season. In October 2018, he received the *Bundesliga Player of the Month*, and was later named in the *Bundesliga Team of the Season*.

Jadon's childhood best friend is Reiss Nelson – footballer for *Arsenal FC*. Jadon and Reiss consider themselves brothers and motivate one another to achieve the potential they both have. In an interview with *BBC Sport*, Jadon spoke about the '*tough*' background they have come from and how seeing each other do well helps himself and Reiss motivate each other. Jadon also spoke about how important his family are to him and wanting to do well for them and make them proud.

However, Jadon hasn't had the easiest of journeys. Moving from *Manchester City* left many shocked. Jadon joined *Borussia Dortmund* where he played for the *Under 23s Team* and gradually broke into the First

Team. Many doubted that Jadon would be able to break through in the team, due to fellow former team-mate Christian Pulisic occupying the position with strong performances. In 2017, Jadon made his debut for the club against *Eintracht Frankfurt*, coming on as a substitute and becoming the first Englishman to play a *Bundesliga* match for Dortmund. He scored his first professional goal in April 2018 against *Bayer Leverkusen* in the *Bundesliga*. Jadon also made his professional debut for *England* in 2018. During the matches of September 2019, he scored his first goal, in a 5-3 win. At such a young age, Jadon is setting records and breaking records with his skilful play. Jadon hopes to empower younger generations to create a new wave of football in *South London*.

In October 2019, Jadon and Nike teamed up together in order to build a new football pitch, giving back to the community that raised him and that has helped him to become one of *Europe's* biggest talents. The pitch is embellished with black and orange to represent the colours of *Lambeth Tigers* and has Sancho's logo in the centre.

Jadon Sancho has spoken a lot about giving back to the area that has helped him get to where he is today, saying: "*Growing up in Kennington has made me the*

man I am today; I owe a lot to South London for nurturing the way I play. I hope the local kids feel empowered to tell their own stories through football and follow in my footsteps — this pitch being just the ignition point."

Just think – so many young people dream of being a footballer and local boy Jadon Sancho actually achieved it! So, what's stopping you from being the next big name in Football?

Source: Nike



Source: Nike



LAMBETH LIFE

WRITTEN BY RIYANA MORRIS-SHOGBENI

The *KS4 Newsletter* aims to reflect *Platanos College* as a community school. We are keen to hear from local residents about their lives in *Lambeth*. We interviewed *Shea Richardson*, a 76 year old resident who lives in *Streatham*.

1) Please tell us something interesting about yourself...

I am a social secretary of the *South London* branch of the *Inland Waterways Association (IWA)* and I own a narrow boat which I enjoy taking down the canals. At first, I just had it for fun as I enjoyed canals as a child. But, the more you're involved with the canals, the more you understand about them, which is why I attend a canal event in *Little Venice* once a year. I'm also chair of the *Streatham Society* and in the process of improving my Spanish by attending classes at *Morley College*, where I previously taught for 30 years; I often get called back to do some teaching. Separately, I am interested in steam trains and belong to two walking groups.

2) What is your biggest accomplishment in life so far?

I received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the *London Borough of Lambeth* for my work with *Sure Start*. Additionally, I have always enjoyed teaching as I also taught Refresher Courses for teachers, taught primary students and children in Early Years because I felt that was probably the most important time for most children. As well as being a teacher for over 30 years, I somehow found the time to write a book on poetry.

3) How long have you lived in Streatham for?

My grandmother was a well known "theatrical person", who lived in a very large mansion in *Streatham Hill* called *Boylands Oak*. My father was captain of the *Royal Marines* and my mother was involved in publishing but, during the war, they moved out of *London* to be away from the danger. I grew up in a little village in *Hertfordshire*, on the borders of *Buckinghamshire*, which is where I first fell in love with the canals. I only came to *London* when I started college, where I studied History; I also vowed I'd never go into teaching. Once I met my husband, we moved to *Streatham* and then shortly after, we moved to where I live now and have been doing so for the past 50 years!

4) What would you like to achieve in the next 5 years?

I would like to stay healthy, travel to *Japan* and live an easier life.

Things we learnt about *Shea*....

- She went to a Polish primary school in *Buckinghamshire* which used to be an *RAF* camp
- She believes that if you live in a community, you should give something back
- She likes the diversity of her local *Streatham* neighbourhood





CORONA CRISIS IN THE COMMUNITY

WRITTEN BY EMILY SANDOVAL DE FREITAS AND MARIA DIAS

By now we've all heard about the potentially deadly threat of Coronavirus. But what exactly is it? The World Health Organisation defines Corona viruses as a "family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases." Common symptoms include fever, coughing, respiratory problems and shortness of breath. More severe cases include possible infections which can cause pneumonia or even death.

During late 2019 and earlier this year, the Coronavirus pandemic was first spotted in Wuhan, China. The coronavirus (aka COVID-19) is believed to spread through people the same way as the Influenza, by respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing and contact with infected individuals. As of March 12th 2020, COVID-19 has been officially declared as a global pandemic.

How do we keep ourselves safe?

- 1) Wash your hands to kill bacteria and stop the spread of the virus.
- 2) Use alcohol-containing hand sanitiser.
- 3) Avoid touching your face to prevent bacteria getting into your mouth, nose and eyes.
- 4) Avoid those who are sick (even if it's just a common cold).
- 5) Wearing masks in public is believed to not be effective, as it is not filtering the air. Instead of this, filtered masks which clean the air you breathe and prevent infectious foreign bodies from entering your immune system are more helpful.
- 6) Keep calm and carry on! Don't panic buy as this drastically reduce stock, which can potentially affect more vulnerable people who cannot leave their homes often. It can also affect those in Healthcare who need to help the sick and vulnerable.

If you believe that you have symptoms of the virus, you are expected to avoid visiting your doctor and to self-isolate and call 111, so that it does not spread to others.

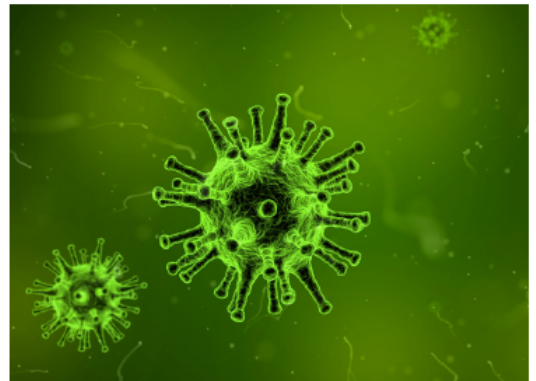
Make sure you look after your Mental Health and Wellbeing if we are asked to self-isolate or restrict our movements. Being at home with family members for prolonged periods of time can make us want to scream! So what can we do to make sure we all look after ourselves and each other?

- 1) Try not to watch too much negative news about Coronavirus – this includes social media!
- 2) Try to use the time at home to pursue interests you might never usually have time for: take up a new hobby; learn to bake; read a book; learn a new skill.
- 3) Sleep and eat well and eat foods that will help protect your immunity such as a range of fruits and vegetables.
- 4) At a time when things seem out of control, try to control the things you can!
- 5) They might drive you nuts at times, but this is probably one of the only times you will get to have all your family under one roof for a number of days or longer – enjoy the time together!
- 6) Meditate or practise mindfulness (for help on this, see our Mental Health Special in the Summer 2019 Edition of the *KS4 Newsletter*).
- 7) If you have an underlying health condition, ask your doctor how you can look after yourself.
- 8) Look after your loved ones and any vulnerable neighbours and

relatives if you can; could you do some shopping for them? Pick up groceries? Call them for a friendly chat?

9) Don't put yourself at risk even if you feel OK – remember, you could unwittingly pass on the virus to someone you care about who is more vulnerable to it.

10) Be sensible and kind when shopping for items; people who clear supermarkets of basic items like toilet roll and medicines are putting vulnerable people like the elderly or those who are immune compromised at risk and making things difficult for people on limited incomes or who can only go to the shops once a week or less. Always be kind. We are in this together!





WHO LIVES IN OUR COMMUNITY?

WRITTEN BY ZAINAB ANIMASHAUN

We interviewed a resident of *Lambeth* who has lived and thrived in the community her whole life. Hina Adachi has been living in *Lambeth* for 60 years, after emigrating from *Japan*. She currently works as a part-time florist.

1)What is the most challenging obstacle you have faced since moving to *Lambeth*?

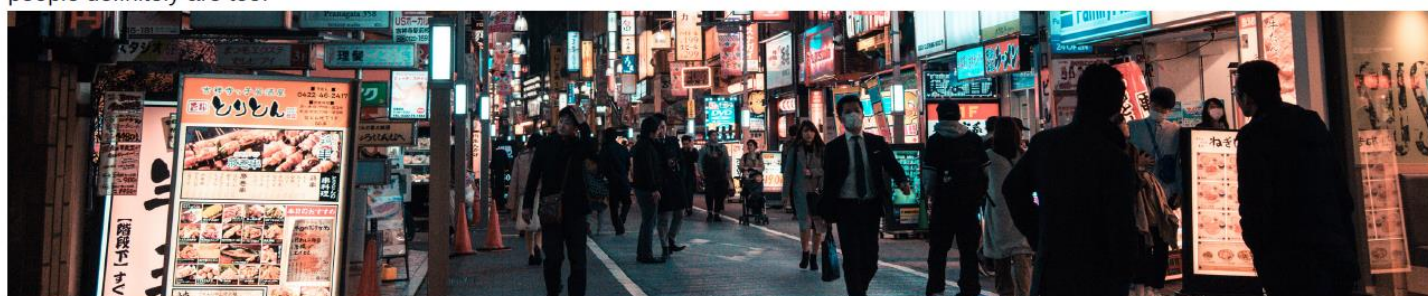
Mrs Adachi: The hardest thing about living in *Lambeth* is that there is a lack of hang out spots, as we used to say, for us over 60s. When I was younger, I used to have fun and gossip with my all my friends back in the day. Don't get me wrong; it's a lovely place to live, but I've seen how they've made changes in the community to satisfy the younger generation and not us. In a way, it's okay as I'm not young anymore.

2)What is your favourite thing about living in *Lambeth*?

Mrs Adachi: I absolutely love the diversity of the community, new people and lovely personalities. It's nothing like back in the day when some people still couldn't wrap their minds around the fact that the community was changing. I've met some of my closest friends in this community and even my husband! That wouldn't have been possible without *Lambeth*. Can I add that, even if I was paid to, I wouldn't move - even after more than 30 years! The world is evolving and people definitely are too.

3)How has *Lambeth* changed over the years?

Mrs Adachi: Although my grandchildren use it too much, I personally love how certain things can be done using technology. Before, we would have to go out and meet people in person or walk all the way to the Council for issues - which, if I do say so myself, could be very tedious! I'm very jealous about all these fun parks all over the place because when I was younger, we barely had any and we had to travel for hours just to play on a slide. This generation has it so much easier than we did!





inspiration station

REMARKABLE ROLE MODELS

WRITTEN BY CHELSEA ALBUQUERQUE

We all know that a role model is someone with admirable characteristics, who inspires others overcome challenges and achieve their dreams. They also don't allow obstacles or negative situations get in their way when they want to achieve their absolute best.

Having a positive role model can be very important, especially at our age, as we can learn from the experiences of those older than us. Types of role model for many young people are often people who are famous: actors, Sport players, politicians and campaigners.

But what some people don't realise is that a role model can be someone you already know. They can be an aunt or an older sibling. Even your own parents - who, let's face it, might get on your nerves sometimes - can be your role model. But if you're struggling to think of who your role model might be, we have compiled a few suggestions.

Oprah Winfrey

Oprah Winfrey is an African-American woman who grew up facing a lot of racism. She struggled at a young age from both poverty and child abuse and she tragically also endured the death of her infant child. However, she didn't let the negative things that happened in her life determine her future. With a lot of hard work and determination, she was able to land her own popular talk show. Oprah is a role model to many today; she is a strong woman who has influenced

millions of people around the world. **"Step Out Of The History That Is Holding You Back. Step Into The New Story You Are Willing To Create"** - Oprah Winfrey

Amelia Earhart

You may not have heard of her, but Amelia was a woman of bravery and dedication. In 1932 she was the first woman to fly solo across the *Atlantic Ocean*. At a time when women still weren't seen as equal to men, this was an outstanding achievement. She motivated other women to follow their dreams and fly high. **"Use Your Fear... It Can Take You To The Place Where You Store Your Courage"** - Amelia Earhart

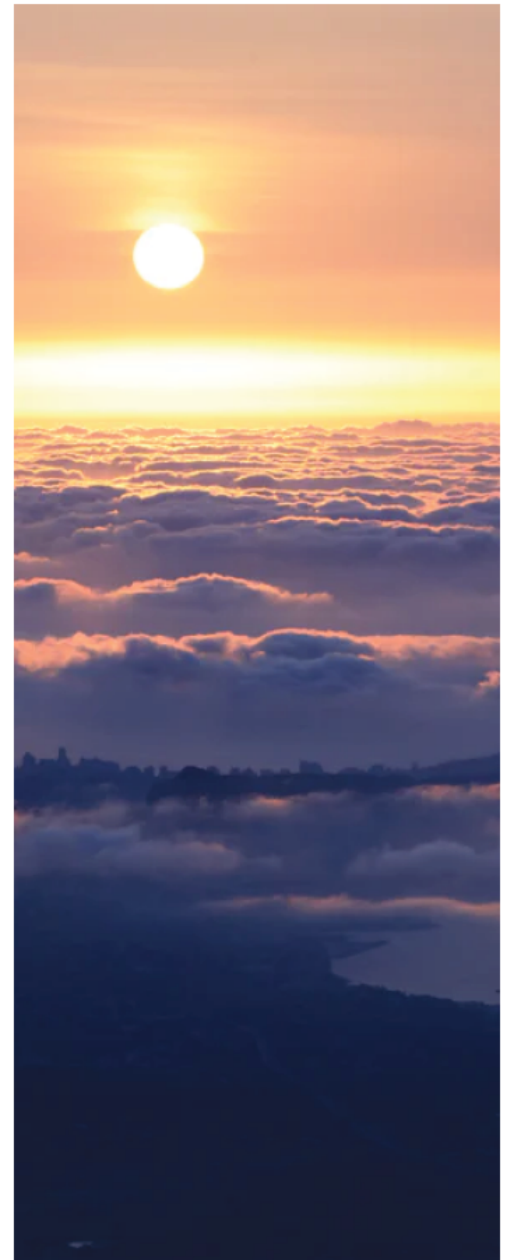
Lionel Messi

This well-known footballer grew up in a working-class family and football has been his life-long passion. Despite being diagnosed with Growth Hormone Deficiency, he continued to work hard to be where he is right now – one of the world's all-time best footballers. **"You Have To Fight To Reach Your Dream. You Have To Sacrifice And Work Hard For It"** – Lionel Messi

Malala Yousafzai

A hugely influential role model for girls growing up in *Pakistan*, Malala stood up for girls' rights and demanded that all girls were able to receive an education. She spoke out against gender injustice when it comes to education, but in 2012, on her way back home from school, she was shot in the head by the Taliban. Miraculously, she survived.

This didn't get in her way and she continued fighting for the rights of girls. In 2014 she was the youngest person to be awarded *The Nobel Peace Prize*. **"One Child, One Teacher, One Book And One Pen Can Change The World"** –Malala Yousafzai





SUCCESS: ACT OR HABIT?

WRITTEN BY MOHAMED KHIAR

'What makes a person successful?'

It is a tricky question because different people interpret 'success' in different ways. For some people, it is to achieve specific qualification, whilst for others it may be to become rich and famous. To many, success is about raising a family.

Regardless of what success means to you, it's important to work towards your goals, taking small steps to achieve them. Success isn't guaranteed in life but can be achieved. Success does not come overnight, so we've got to be disciplined and work hard for it. Without determination and hard work, how can we be successful?

Being resilient to failure is another key aspect of becoming successful. Having resilience will help us achieve our long-term goals; as inventor Thomas Edison said, "I have not failed, I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." So, what's the magic formula for success?

**HARD WORK + DEDICATION +
RESILIENCE = SUCCESS**

“

Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves
-Marie Curie

“

The road to success and the road to failure are almost exactly the same.
-Colin R. Davis





THE MAGIC OF MANDELA

WRITTEN BY FAHAD ABUBEKER

When you think about the issue of fighting for Equal Rights, who would you say comes to mind first? To many, the name on the tip of your tongue is likely to be Nelson Mandela, a man who is praised and remembered as one of History's greatest leaders.

Mandela was born on 18th July 1918 in *South Africa* and was named Rolihlahla Mandela. "Rolihlahla" in his native Xhosa language means "troublemaker." In 1943, Mandela joined the *African National Congress (ANC)*. When the white-only government set up a form of racial segregation called Apartheid, the ANC sought to overturn this system of inequality. Initially, Mandela did not resort to violent methods and the ANC protested through public service boycotts and labour strikes.

However, in 1961 Mandela co-founded *Umkhonto we Sizwe*, which was a militant group; as a result, in 1964, Mandela was convicted of sabotage and treason. He was consequently arrested and imprisoned. Mandela was a controversial figure at times; in 1986, U.S. President Ronald Reagan spoke out against a campaign of "terror" that included "the mining of roads, the bombings of public places, designed to bring about further repression, the imposition of martial law, and eventually creating the conditions for racial war."

Mandela spent 27 years in prison, from November 1962 until 1990. As a black political prisoner, he was subjected to the very worst treatment from prison workers. However, on April 27th 1994, the first ever democratic elections were held in *South Africa*.

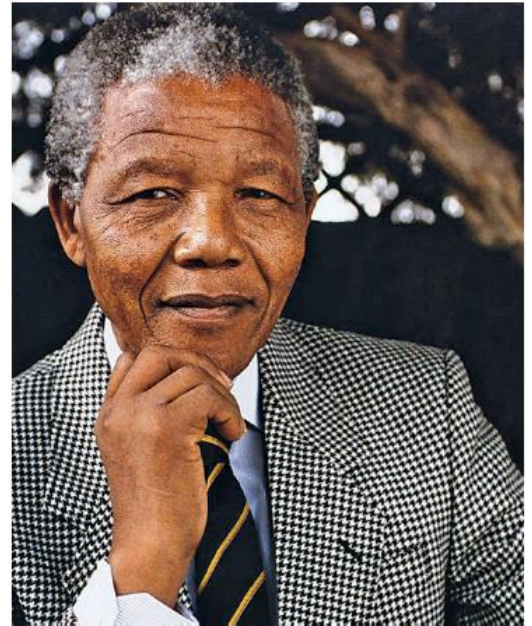
These resulted in Mandela being inaugurated as the country's first black President on May 10th 1994. He was 77 years old at the time and ruled with his predecessor de Klerk as his First Deputy. In 1993, both men were jointly awarded the *Nobel Peace Prize* for their work in destroying the traditional Apartheid ways of *South Africa*.

Mandela will go down in History as one of the leading figures in the fight against racial inequality. He chose never to fight racism with racism and will forever be admired for his inspiring and tenacious resilience and belief that injustice can and will be overcome. ***"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."***

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

"I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lays defeat and death."

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."



“
I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

-Nelson Mandela





ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE

WRITTEN BY SHIAN JORDAN

A staple favourite of the *KS4 Newsletter* are those inspirational quotes that sometimes we all need to read for a little encouragement...

“

I don't measure a man's success by how high he climbs, but how high he bounces when he hits the bottom.

- George S. Patton



“

If it's important to you, you'll find a way. If not, you'll find an excuse

-Unknown



“

The difference between a stumbling block and a stepping-stone is how high you raise your foot.

- Unknown

“

Some people dream of accomplishing great things. Others stay awake and make it happen

-Unknown

“

Good things come to people who wait, but better things come to those who go out and get them.

-Unknown





“

*The only place where
success comes before work is
in the dictionary.*

- Vidal Sassoon

“

*The difference between
ordinary and
extraordinary is that little
'extra'.*

-Unknown



“

*If you're not making
someone else's life
better, then you're
wasting your time.
Your life will become
better by making
other lives better.*

- Will Smith

“

*Am I good enough?
Yes I am.*

-Michelle Obama



“

*Don't let your victories go to
your head, or your failures
go to your heart.*

-Unknown



cacophony of colours

UNDISCOVERED CORPSE

WRITTEN BY KARINA LIMA

A group of mysterious people in white plastic suits pushed into the crowd that had begun to form. Adrenaline coursed through my veins as I stood there, too terrified to move, as if I was in a state of paralysis.

Suddenly, I was awoken from my trance by flashing lights. The high-pitched screeching overtook my ears, causing me to gaze down at the scene before me. Gasping in horror, I shook off the sudden feeling of disgust that threatened to consume me. My eyes scanned the road that contained the remains of what appeared to have once been a young male, scattered on the cold concrete.

The corpse lay fully submerged in a thick red substance. The air filled with the overwhelming stench of his decomposing body, making me feel queasy. Insects had already begun to inhabit the rotting body, indicating that it had been laying on the road for hours.

Gasps quickly replaced what once was silence, as investigators covered the body with a thick white blanket. Almost as if the curtains at the end of a play had closed, people began leaving the scene, whereas I felt obliged to stay: a lone observer witnessing a theatre of doom.



LAST THREE STANDING

WRITTEN BY FOLASADE AKINBINU

They thought about what would happen: they'd be surrounded by the constant murmur of prying adults, all itching to know more about that dreadful night, wanting to know why the kids had entered the woods as four and left as three. But they had made a promise to each other; they were now forever bonded to one another with their dark secret. They had to stick to their sinister cover story.

Despite their efforts to detach themselves from that night, their guilt still lingered in the air like nicotine; the pure adrenaline that had first coursed through their veins, coaxed them to commit the act that had vanished into thin air. They allowed the smoke to spread across their bodies like a wildfire. They felt their lungs being compressed by the severity of what they had done,

the toxicity of guilt dawning on them each day after, as they let their morals be set ablaze.

And yet, no one uttered a word, united in fierce loyalty to the secret that they would take to their graves and that would consume their souls forevermore.





crime and conspiracy

ANONYMOUS CALLS

WRITTEN BY HUDA HASSAN

Imagine an unknown person consistently contacting you, threatening you with malicious calls. Well, this is exactly what happened to Dorothy Jane Scott, the mother of a 4-year-old boy.

Dorothy and her son lived with her aunt in *Stanton, California*, when the mysterious calls started. At times, the caller would admit his undying love for her; at other times, he was violent and menacing, saying that he was going to harm her in unimaginable ways.

On the evening of 28th May 1980, Dorothy had a staff meeting at her workplace. During the meeting, it appeared to her that one of her workers, Conrad Bostron, was ill. She took him to the hospital whilst being accompanied by another worker, Pam Head. According to Pam, Dorothy was with her throughout.

When Conrad had received treatment, Dorothy went to the car park to start the car while Conrad and Pam filled in the prescription. Having not heard from her in a while, Conrad and Pam went outside to check on Dorothy. There, they saw her car speeding away, but the headlights were too bright for them to see who was in the driver's seat. They assumed an emergency had come up and she had had to leave, but a couple of hours passed by and there was still no sign of her. Worried, her colleagues decided to report her missing. About a week later, Dorothy's mother, Vera, received her first call. "Are you related to Dorothy Scott?" the voice asked. When Vera said

she was, he simply replied, "I've got her", and ended the call. The police were unsuccessful in tracing the caller as he had put down the phone too quickly. Following the mysterious phone calls, Dorothy's father insisted on running a story about his missing daughter in the local paper. On that same day, Pat Riley (the paper's Editor) received a call from the same person, this time admitting to having killed Dorothy.

Almost two months later, on 6th August 1984, construction workers found Dorothy's remains; she had clearly been murdered. A ring and a watch were found beside her body and DNA tests proved that the bones were hers. Despite this horrific crime, Dorothy's murder remains a mystery and her murderer is yet to be identified.





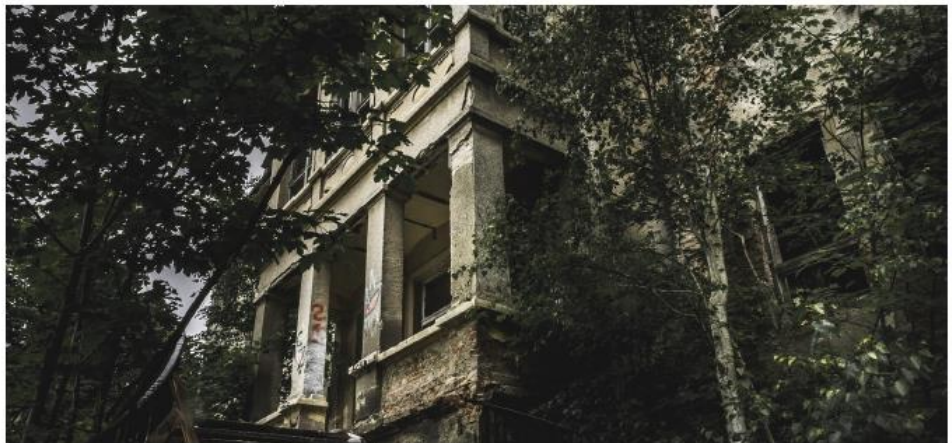
NEWBORN NIGHTMARE

WRITTEN BY VICKIE TIEW

Imagine if you were able to solve a missing person case? Impressive, huh? Well, now imagine that the missing person in question was you...Well, astoundingly, Carlina Renae White, who was born on July 15th 1987, managed to solve her own kidnapping case. Carlina, who is now aged 32, was abducted as an infant from Harlem Hospital Centre in New York City, at just 19 days old. A mystery woman who identified herself as a nurse, seized Carlina between 2:30am and 3:55am after someone had removed her IV line. White was first taken to the hospital by her parents, Joy White & Carl Tyson, because she had gained a fever of 104 F from swallowing amniotic fluid during her birth. However, the family were tragically never to leave hospital together.

The hospital had CCTV; however, the cameras were reported to not have been working at the time. The City of New York offered a \$10,000 reward for the safe return of Carlina. Her parents filed a \$100 million lawsuit against the hospital in 1989 and were given \$750,000 in 1993. However, for years the case remained unsolved. Who had abducted the innocent newborn? Well, Annugetta "Ann" Pettway was later revealed to be the mystery woman claiming to be a nurse. She raised Carlina in Bridgeport, Connecticut as Nejdra "Netty" Nance, only 45 miles away from where her biological parents lived. However, over time, Carlina started growing suspicious since Pettway was not able to provide a birth certificate when she asked her to. In 2005, Carlina tried to claim health insurance since she was pregnant, but she needed her birth certificate; eventually Pettway was able to provide one. However, what White did not know was that her "mother"

had forged the signatures on the documents. One day, Carlina found pictures of her as a baby on the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. She quickly realised these photos resembled photos that had been taken of her as a baby. Pettway broke down and confided to White in a confrontation. White was not as surprised to know the truth as you might think, because she had started realising she and Pettway did not share the same physical features. And so, eventually, after 23 years of living with someone she had trusted was her mother, Carlina was finally reunited with her biological parents.





HOUSE OF HORRORS

WRITTEN BY BRANDON OPOSA

For this case, we dive deep into *The French Quarters of New Orleans, Louisiana*. In 1832, Physician Louie LaLaurie and his wife Delphine LaLaurie, built a 3-story mansion at 1140 Royal Street. They lived there with their two daughters and, like many of the rich landowners, owned slaves from overseas countries.

Delphine LaLaurie was highly respected within the society of *New Orleans* and was known to be intelligent and rather attractive. However, beneath her external persona, LaLaurie was a wicked and sadistic woman. Although she did not show her true colours when she first moved to *New Orleans*, they were soon evident when, in 1833, witnesses spotted LaLaurie running after a 12-year-old slave called Lia, with a whip. Lia had apparently pulled a little too hard whilst brushing LaLaurie's hair and it was enough to enrage her. Lia made it onto the roof of the mansion, but with nowhere to flee to, she leapt to her death to escape the wrath of LaLaurie. The witnesses then saw LaLaurie burying the child's corpse and she was reported to the authorities; they ordered her to pay \$300 and sell 9 of her slaves.

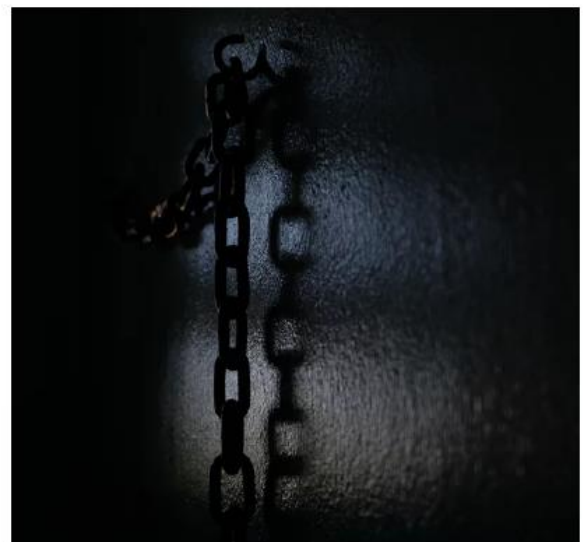
However, LaLaurie's cunning nature lead to her relatives being convinced to buy the slaves back for her at an auction. So, you would think that would be the end of LaLaurie's horrors, right? Wrong, because in 1834, LaLaurie's reputation worsened. Can you believe that LaLaurie kept a 70-year-old Cook attached to a chain in the kitchen of the mansion? The Cook thought it would be preferable to commit suicide than to suffer at the hands of her mistress, so she set the kitchen on fire, in the hope that the flames would consume her and the house. Neighbours

came rushing to fight the flames, but saw LaLaurie protecting her precious jewels and valuable furniture rather than tending to the Cook, who somehow survived the ordeal.

Later, when the Cook was questioned about the fire, she stated that she was the one who started it, in order to rid the house of all its horrors. It is also worth mentioning that the Cook had spoken about a room on the third floor of the mansion where slaves went, but never returned from. Many noticed that a room on the top floor was left unscathed. LaLaurie was ordered to provide the key to the room and although she refused, individuals who tended to the Cook took it upon themselves to kick the door down. What they saw in that room is considered to be amongst America's most horrific scenes...

Dozens of slaves were found, either dead or barely alive. Some were strapped to a table; others were tied to the wall and a few were locked up in cages. They had suffered from horrific injuries and bloody torture. Fortunately, some were still alive and upon rescue, a mob of 4000 people ransacked the house, tearing down everything. Delphine fled to *France*, leaving her husband and her 2 daughters in *New Orleans*. She settled in *France*, but died at the age of 62 on the 7th December 1849.

But what became of that house of horrors, you may be wondering? Well, it was converted into many facilities after being rebuilt in 1838, including a school and a furniture store. Now, the building is owned by an oil tycoon who prohibits people from entering. However, it does not stop many tourists and visitors passing, intrigued by the horrific horrors of the past.





office of opinion

THE UGLY TRUTH

WRITTEN BY REBECCA OBADINA-ADEBOWALE

Think about your fave *Disney* movie as a child...who was your preferred protagonist? And what was the message being conveyed at the end of the film? The moral for us to take away?

Well, in the various fairy tales and stories we were told when we were younger and within all the books we read and numerous movies we watched, we came across the same recurring concept; beauty equals morality. The alluring Snow White – gentle and benevolent. The captivating Tiana – determined and loving. The beautiful Cinderella – courageous and kind. Whereas the villains and antagonists are usually hideous, for example the ugly step sisters or the evil stepmother. Even the lead females in *Sleeping Beauty* and *Beauty and the Beast* are referred to by their aesthetics!

Involuntarily, we've all become conditioned to the idea that if a person is physically 'beautiful' they are good and righteous. But how sound is this theory and why do we subconsciously abide by it? Immanuel Kant, a Prussian-German philosopher, defines beauty as being 'judged through an aesthetic experience of taste.' This suggests that beauty is personal to each individual. Aristotle describes it as 'having order' and 'definiteness.' That's why we associate beauty with morality: the sense of 'order' in one's ethics. However, the overall meaning of beauty in philosophy is ultimate values, goodness,

truth and justice. This suggests that originally the beauty associated with morality was the beauty of one's character, but this over time, has been changed into physicality.

Ok, so *Shrek* turned a lots of these conventions on their head, but overwhelmingly, in the films we grew up watching, you really can judge a book by its beautiful cover. And what does this kind of constant immersion in beauty stereotypes end up doing to young minds? Do they have an impact on how we perceive others in the future in real life? Perhaps it's time for the worlds of *Disney* fairytales to start showing its younger viewers that beauty really is only skin deep.



“

Beauty is the illumination your soul.
-John O'Donohue

“

What you do, the way you think, makes you beautiful.

- Scott Westerfeld





MAKING BRITAIN GREAT AGAIN?

WRITTEN BY AMRAN OMAR

It is no surprise that the *UK* Government's top priority when it comes to making decisions should be based on the needs and wishes of the people of the country. However, recently there has been a lot of controversy surrounding discussions about the possible privatisation of the *National Health Service*. Boris Johnson has denied that the *NHS* will be privatised, but not everyone seems convinced. But what would privatisation mean for us and why are some people so against it? In simple terms, the *NHS* is currently publically funded; the money to run it comes from the taxes of the working population. However, a privatised system would be based on individual patients' health insurance. Many argue that morally, the current system is fairest as it gives equal treatment to all, regardless of their financial circumstances. Do we really want to live in a society where some people can't even have life-saving operations because they can't afford it? Yet this is just one of the issues up for debate in the *UK* today.

Some people may view the younger generation as too immature to have political opinions. But we all have a voice and we are the adults of the future. So, what are the key issues that matter to us?

"Making University free"

"Tackle the issue of climate change"

"To keep the *NHS* free"

"Getting rid of the universal credit system and replacing it with a fair and effective system"

"To be guaranteed a job after having a professional Education degree"

"Homelessness should be on the government's agenda as more are on the street and are not receiving help"

What do you think the Government should have at the top of its list of priorities?





A CULTURE OF FEAR AND OPPRESSION?

WRITTEN BY ASHA ALI

Imagine if your own Government told you that your religion and beliefs were a mental illness. Believe it or not, this is alleged to be the case for many Muslims in *China*. A number of people claim that the *Xinjiang Government* has been indoctrinating Muslims since 2017, but due to the lack of Media coverage and sufficient evidence, there has been little clarity regarding the situation.

Indeed, the international reactions to the alleged infringements of Human Rights have been mixed, with many countries supporting the "*re-education camps*." There have been many reports that prisoners have been forced to drink alcohol and eat pork, both of which are considered a sin according to *The Quran*. Those claiming to be victims have described conditions similar to *The Holocaust*, such as whipping, hard labour, starvation and the separation of families. The Chinese government claims that the camps in the far *Western Xinjiang* area only exist to provide voluntary Education and Training. Although the *BBC* has accused *China* of imprisoning, indoctrinating and punishing people, *China's UK* ambassador dismissed evidence provided as fake news.

So what exactly has been going on? Well, here are some countries' reactions to the *Xinjiang Government*:

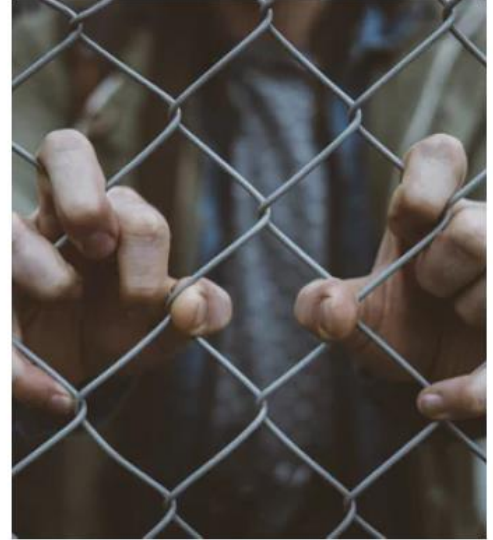
- Along with 50 other countries, *Saudi Arabia* is supportive of the *Xinjiang Government*. In February 2019, *Saudi Arabia's* Prince Mohammed bin Salman defended the camps, saying "*China has the right to carry out anti-terrorism work for its national security*".
- On 3rd July 2018, *US* Senators Marco Rubio and Chris Smith sent a letter urging Terry Branstad, the *US* Ambassador to *China*, to

launch an investigation into the reported mass detention of the Uyghur Muslims.

Many believe that the Chinese Government is restricting the amount of information that the rest of the world is exposed to, which therefore limits our understanding of what is really going on. Whatever the truth, the mere hint of a Government that doesn't allow its own citizens the right to live according to their own beliefs, is surely extremely disturbing? [Source: *BBC website*]

“

*A man who
believes in freedom
will do anything
under the sun to
acquire, or
preserve his
freedom.*
-Malcolm X





sporting celebrations

BRITISH BASKETBALL BOOMS!

WRITTEN BY KAE LAN BOWES

The recent tragic death of Basketball Legend Kobe Bryant rocked the Sporting world. Bryant was a phenomenal player who inspired many young people to take up the sport and his death reminded the world of his amazing skills.

Here at *Platanos College* we are really lucky to have such brilliant Sports facilities, including indoor and outdoor Basketball courts. Basketball has begun to grow in popularity over the last couple of years. This is chiefly due to there being a higher level of exposure to the British public, as the level of recent advertising promotion has exceeded previous years.

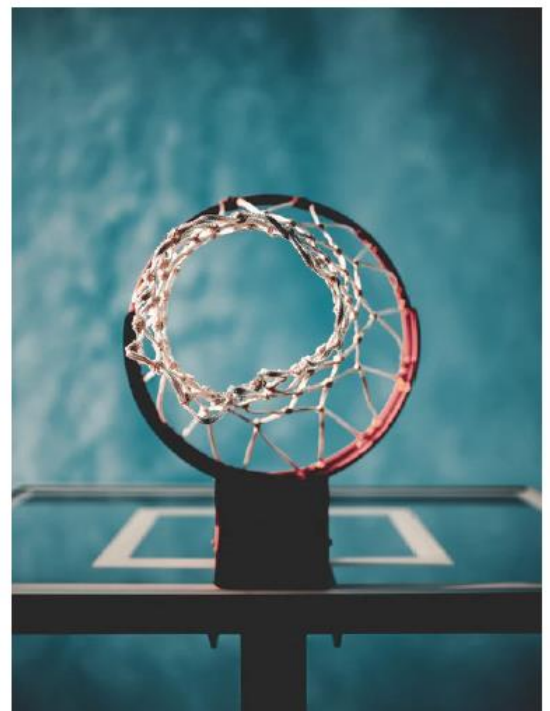
Recently, Ovie Soko (who featured on *Love Island* last year), signed a contract with the *London Lions* - a team that competes in the *British Basketball League*. Ovie has promoted Basketball and shown that it can compete alongside the more traditional British sports such as Football and Rugby.

Another reason for the increase in viewers and players involved in Basketball is due to popular culture. There are various references to Basketball in a number of music videos and movies such as *Coach Carter*. Basketball was featured in the film *Uncle Drew*, which starred former *NBA* Champion Kyrie Irving. It also starred Shaquille O'Neal, four-time *NBA* Champion and current Spokesman on the show *Inside The NBA*. There are even non-visual references featured music lyrics such as "Stephen Curry with the shot" in the song 0-100 by Drake, who was 2019's fifth richest

rapper in the world and had a net worth of \$150 million. The internet has also enabled the popularity of Basketball related products and brand names such as *Jordan*, which is a major branch of the renowned sportswear label *Nike*.

At grassroots level, initiatives to increase the Sport's popularity are being introduced, including *Basketball England's* programme *Slam Jam*, which is designed to attract a younger audience to play. In addition, *Basketball England* "All Girls Campaign" has been designed to increase the number of girls involved in the game of Basketball. Outdoor 3 on 3 tournaments have been taking place across the UK in the last few years, which has reinforced how entertaining the game is; this also promotes exposure and allows anyone to register to take part.

Who knows the heights that basketball could reach in this country? Just imagine if here in the UK, we were one day able to reach the dazzling heights of the *NBA*.





BE A BOSS AT BASKETBALL!

WRITTEN BY KAE LAN BOWES

Different Sports require different factors to help us be successful Sports Players. These are generally composed of Health and Skills-based components.

Health factors include:

- Cardiovascular endurance
- Muscular endurance
- Body Composition
- Strength
- Flexibility

Skills-based factors include:

- Reaction Time
- Speed
- Power
- Balance
- Agility
- Co-ordination

For a Sport like Basketball, playing in both the Offence and Defence require high levels of endurance. Due to the duration of the game, players are constantly changing speeds as this allows them to be effective all the way through. Here are some key components at work when a Basketball player is aiming for the best vertical jump.

Core Contraction: Abdominal muscles + glutes = maximise your vertical jump. Both are needed for optimal power.

Jumping from the balls of your feet rather than your toes creates more force on a larger surface area.

A key action is dorsiflexion, which is when the athlete raises their toes up, allowing them to jump off the balls of their feet.

Our very own Level 2
Table Official!





HISTORY OF THE EUROS

WRITTEN BY DIEGO MARTINS

Just before this publication went to the printers, we heard that this year's Euros will be postponed till next year. Disappointing, but no doubt all football-loving nations will be cheering on their home teams in 2021. Behind all the cheering and pre-match excitement are some really fascinating facts about *The Euros*.

- The first *Euros* had four teams (*Czechoslovakia, France, Soviet Union and Yugoslavia*). In 1960 *The Euros* had four teams, which increased to eight teams in 1980 and then to 16 teams in 1996. Currently, the qualification for *The Euros* starts two years before the scheduled Final.
- Third-place games haven't taken place since 1984. The fan favourites to win this year are Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, England and Belgium.
- The Tournament is scheduled to be held in 12 cities in 12 *UEFA* countries from 12 June to 12 July 2020.
- *Spain* is the only country to win *The Euros* twice in a row.
- The most attended *Euros* game was between old rivals *Wales* vs *England* ; 130,711 fans attended the match that took place in 1968.
- *Scotland* has never been able to make it past the group stage of *The Euros*.

Year	Home team	Away team	Result
2016	Portugal	France	1-0
2012	Spain	Italy	4-0
2008	Germany	Spain	0-1
2004	Portugal	Greece	0-1
2000	France	Italy	2-1
1996	Czech Republic	Germany	1-2
1992	Denmark	Germany	2-0
1988	Soviet Union	Netherlands	0-2
1984	France	Spain	2-0
1980	Belgium	West Germany	1-2
1976	Czechoslovakia	West Germany	5-3 (pen.)
1972	West Germany	Soviet Union	3-0
1968	Italy	Yugoslavia	2-0 (replay)
1964	Spain	Soviet Union	2-1
1960	Soviet Union	Yugoslavia	2-1 (a.e.t.)

So, who will you be supporting when football fever hits next summer?





seasonal specials

EASTER TRADITIONS AND ORIGINS

WRITTEN BY HANNAH PROWSE

As the Easter holidays draw near, we thought we would explore the Christian tradition from different parts of the world.



In parts of the *UK*, a local traditional event is rolling eggs downhill.



Italy holds a re-enactment of the Easter story in the public square.



Cyprus holds bonfires in schools and church yards.



In *Germany*, Eggs are set in the form of trees called Easter egg trees



For *Jamaica*, a big part of celebrations is to eat a spiced bun that may contain raisins with cheese.



In *Australia*, bunnies are seen as agricultural. Instead the Easter Bilby delivers eggs to the children.



In *Greece*, Easter is an important holiday. On the island of *Corfu* residents toss pots of water out of their windows. Dove-shaped cakes are also made called 'kolompines'.



meet the staff

Our hopes for the new government are :

better NHS facilities.
— Umaymah Yassin

more opportunities for people from poor backgrounds.
— Ashia Wright

improve leisure facilities for local residents
— Mohamed Khiar

free train travel for young people.
— Rebecca Obadina-Adebawale

to learn French.
— Chelsea Albuquerque

more youth clubs.
— Shian Jordan



to address homelessness.
— Fahad Abubeker



address the inequalities facing people disabilities.
— Samreen Amanullah

provide better facilities in all schools.
— Asha Ali

to ensure the NHS is not privatised.
— Kaelan Bowes

to enable our Immigration policy to be less strict.
— Maria Dias

reduction in University fees.
— Adora Fitsum

to avoid negative people.
— Huda Hassan

more visible police on the streets.
— Jamie Hepburn

more opportunities for young people's voices to be heard and acted upon.
— Karina Lima



the right to vote at 16.
— Creshia Lindo

to make more community based centres.
— Diego Martins

review setting systems in schools to be based on preferred learning styles of pupils rather than ability.
— Riyana Morris-Shogbeni

getting rid of SATS for younger pupils.
— Labiba Miah

increase salaries for NHS nurses and doctors.
— Alifyia Ogboyi

to make mental health a higher priority in schools
— Amran Omar

closure of schools during pandemics such as Coronavirus.
— Brandon Oposa

reduction in taxes.
— Vickie Teiw

commitment to cleaner streets.
— Alamagan Shirifjumco



Abolish racial discrimination.
— Hannah Prowse



to address over-crowding on public transport.
— Emily Sandoval De Freitas



a broader History curriculum.
— Sumayah Abdulrahim

more equal opportunities for minority groups.
— Folasade Akinbinu





Easter Events!

We've compiled together a few activities that you may want to do in London this Easter – all for FREE!

Tate Britain

Throughout Easter
See the Steve McQueen Year 3 photography Exhibition for FREE! You might recognise someone you know!

Southbank Centre

1:30 pm, 7th April
Try out Indian Folk Dance for FREE!

Victoria and Albert Museum

2:00pm, Daily
Go on a Theatre and Performance Tour for FREE!



Southbank Centre

5:00pm, 6th April
Watch an Orchestra Rehearsal for FREE!

Tate Modern

12:00pm, 1:00pm and 2:00pm throughout Easter.

Flummoxed by Modern Art? Go on a tour to make sense of it for FREE!

Sadly, just before this Newsletter went to print, we were informed that the Government has advised closure of all museums and galleries due to the Coronavirus. However, there are many parks and open spaces for us all to explore. Always follow NHS and Government guidance as and when it appears to protect your health and the health of others.