



PLATANOS COLLEGE

Crime &
Conspiracy

Learning
Lounge

Office of
Opinion

Inspiration
Station

Cacophony of
Colours

Community
Corner



KS4 NEWSLETTER

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Cover By Salih Karkin

EDITOR'S WELCOME

WRITTEN BY ASMAA OTMANI (EDITOR-IN-CHIEF)

WELCOME to the Summer 2021 Edition of the *Platanos College KS4 Newsletter*!

2021 perhaps hasn't been the rollercoaster that 2020 was, however, this year sure did have a couple of twists and turns here and there, starting the year with another Lockdown and the rollout of Coronavirus vaccines. We finally seem to be on the path to the return to normality... step by step and together as a community, we seem to be getting there, slowly, but surely.

This term, we have decided to focus our Special Edition on the theme of 'The Fight For Female Freedom.' This comes following the tragic murder of local woman Sarah Everard back in March. We explore opinions and facts about the safety of women on our

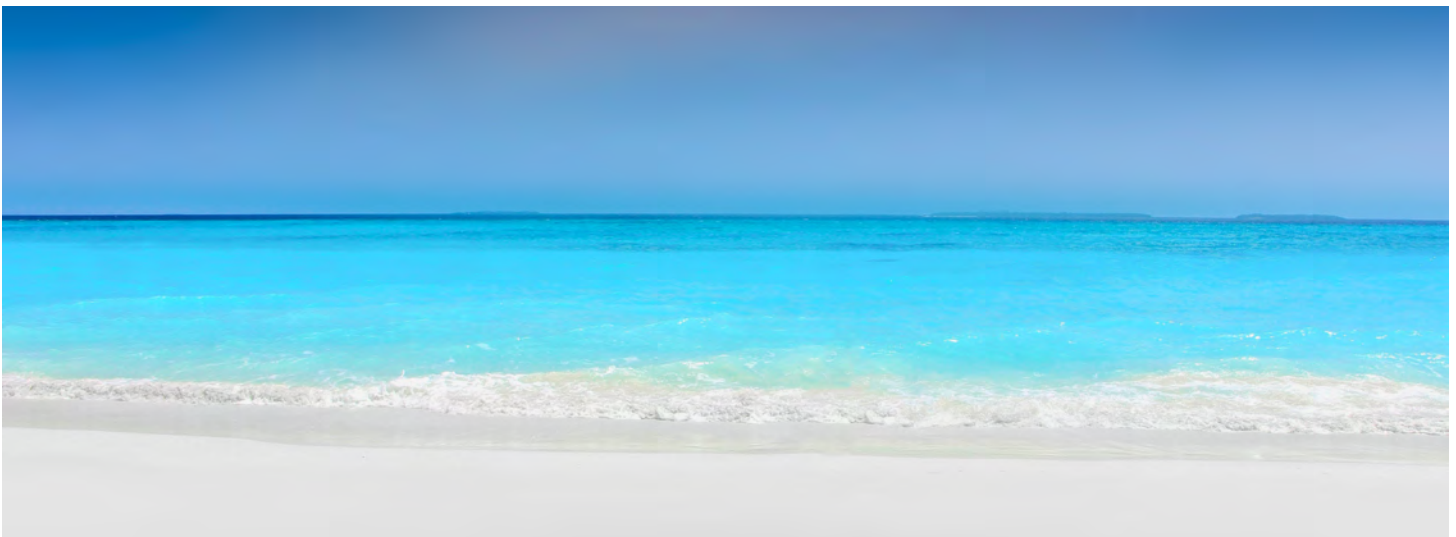
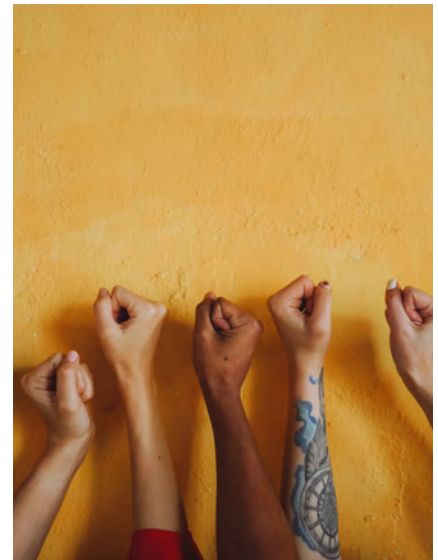
streets and what is being done to ensure that all girls and women can walk around London safely and without fear.

As usual, we present you with a variety of articles within each section of our Newsletter, from *Crime and Conspiracy* to *Office of Opinion*. We continue to be a publication written *by* pupils, *for* pupils.

So sit back, grab yourself a snack and something to drink and enjoy the selection of articles we have written for you. On behalf of the whole of this year's KS4 Newsletter team, we wish you a wonderful summer holiday, with fewer restrictions in place.

Asmaa Otmani
Editor-in-Chief

2021



learning lounge

THE EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN ON SCHOOLS

WRITTEN BY CHUKWUEBUKA OLISAEDU

By now, we are all pros at what happens during a national Lockdown. Aiming to do their part in the fight against the spread of COVID-19, schools across the UK have utilised new technologies and implemented strategies to ensure our academic attainment and progress. From Zoom, to Teams, to Google Meet, teachers have interacted with pupils via these platforms and the effects of these online lessons are evident.

Whilst many pupils have been able to keep up with the challenges of online learning, others have struggled due to having fewer home resources, less space at home to learn in and commitments to family members that they've had to juggle with lockdown learning.

Even though schools have returned to some normality, there are many concerns that Lockdown has adversely affected all of our learning and mental health needs. A survey by YoungMinds found that 74% of school staff believed that Lockdown has

had "a negative impact on the mental health of young people." The National Foundation for Education Research found that Lockdown periods affected boys' progress more than that of girls and that the learning gap for poorer pupils had widened by at least 46% at this point last year.

Consequently, suggestions have been made for schools to offer extended days and summer sessions this year to help pupils catch up.

So, what are our peers' thoughts about the effects of Lockdown on our learning and mental health and general wellbeing? Here are some of their views...

"Lockdowns have slightly limited the amount of socialisation in schools; it really isn't what it used to be."

"Many children have added weight as a result of a lack of physical activity in school, and some even have health concerns."

"I'm a bit anxious about what the future holds. Some of us are already at an educational deficit; we may not be able to achieve our full potential"

"Lockdowns have taught schools that anything can happen at any time. You can't just depend on formal GCSE exams."



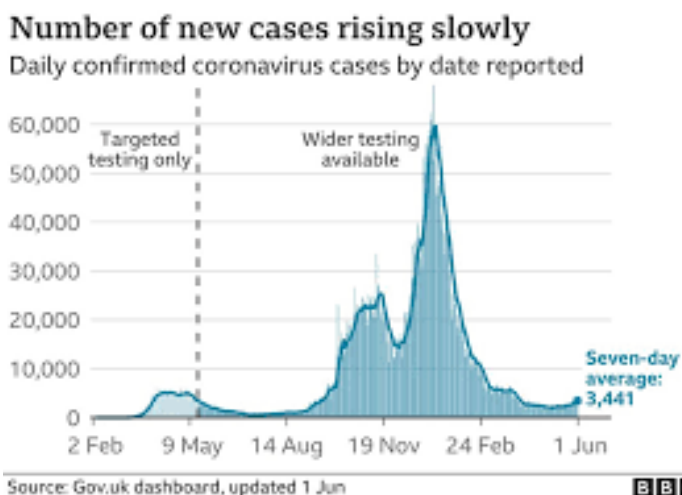
THE WORLD OF SPORTS MAKES A COMEBACK!

WRITTEN BY CHUKWUNWIKI OKOLI

There is no doubt that Coronavirus has had a huge effect on our ability to attend, watch and participate in sports events. From Tennis' Madrid Open to Netball's Superleague season of 2020, most aspects of sports have been affected by Coronavirus, with matches postponed or cancelled altogether.

Even with sporting venues now opening, few fans are allowed in stadiums and social distancing measures remain in place. The impact that Covid-19 has had on sports so far has been pretty devastating, but with the number of daily cases dropping, there is hope for everyone that their favourite games can resume once again.

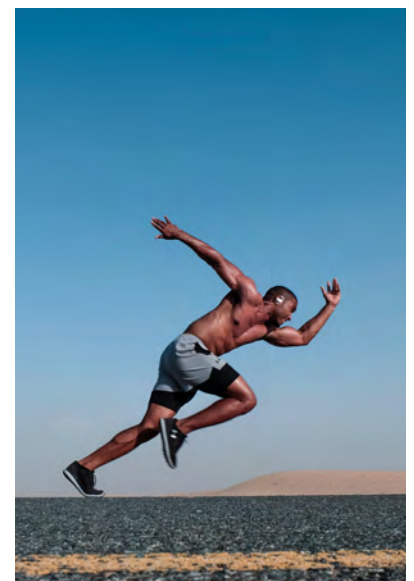
Statistics:



And what about in school and extra-curricular clubs? Loads of us have really missed playing our favourite sports and weekly fixtures. Luckily for us, as society gradually returns to some semblance of normality, so does our ability to practise the games we love.

So, if you got a bit lazy over Lockdown or maybe put on a few extra pounds, now's your chance to get back out there and get active again. Don't forget, Sports helps improve our mental as well as our physical wellbeing. Even if you don't want to play any sports in particular, go outside for a stroll to your local park to get some fresh air.

Afterall, for a large part of last year, fresh outdoor air was a bit of a luxury. So, what's stopping you now?



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

CREATED BY REUBEN BOWES

M	N	T	X	S	Y	Q	H	O	H
A	R	A	W	P	E	M	T	A	I
C	B	N	D	A	C	R	H	Y	S
S	C	I	E	N	C	E	X	C	T
P	Z	M	N	I	H	P	L	B	O
M	Q	A	F	S	F	K	D	U	R
A	E	T	T	H	W	I	S	I	Y
T	D	I	J	D	J	A	I	W	L
H	S	O	T	O	D	I	K	J	S
S	E	N	G	L	I	S	H	A	G



Can you find:

- Maths
- English
- Science
- Spanish
- RE
- PE
- History

There is a secret options subject hidden in this crossword - can you find it?



GUESS THE MEMBER OF STAFF

WRITTEN BY KAELEE DALEY

1) Which member of staff has been bungee jumping, loves travelling, reading and music?

- a. Mr Kabaka
- b. Ms Damoo
- c. Mr Scott

2) Which member of staff has over 100 pairs of trainers?

- a. Ms Bartley
- b. Mr Kabaka
- c. Mr Smith

3) Which member of staff does capoeira (Latin martial arts) ?

- a. Ms Amenedo
- b. Mr Gent
- c. Ms Rosa

4) Which member of staff is half Indian?

- a. Ms Cooke
- b. Ms Damoo
- c. Ms Cleasby

5) Which member of staff practises Asian yoga?

- a. Ms Amenedo
- b. Ms McAteer
- c. Mr Boyles

6) Which member of staff loves cats and has a pet named 'M'Lady'?

- a. Ms Brown
- b. Mr Edwards
- c. Ms Hall

7) Which member of staff was Head Girl when they were in school?

- a. Ms Daniels
- b. Ms Cooke
- c. Ms McAteer

8) Which member of staff has been skydiving?

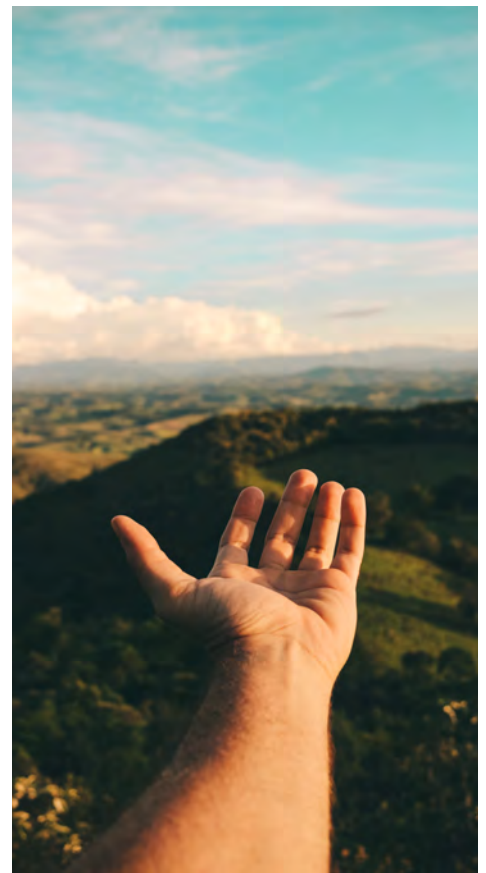
- a. Mr Bourke
- b. Ms Graham
- c. Mr Rigby

9) Which member of staff has eaten crocodile?!

- a. Mr Klassen
- b. Mr Swaby
- c. Ms Henry

10) Who played rugby for their University?

- a. Mr Carroll
- b. Ms Kernon
- c. Ms Graham



Answers: 1) c, 2) b, 3) c, 4) b, 5) a, 6) b, 7) b, 8) b, 9) a, 10) c

INTERVIEW WITH MR CARROLL

WRITTEN BY AYOUB GUTIN

We interviewed Mr Carroll about his own life as a pupil and what inspires him today.

What did you most enjoy about your school life?

Unsurprisingly, English was my favourite subject at school and easily one of my favourite things about school. I have always been fascinated by language and words and the power that they can have and it is one of the main reasons I have such a deep passion for music and hip hop in particular. I was also lucky to have an amazing English teacher named Mr Slattery, who inspired me greatly – I am still reminded of him regularly when I teach lessons. He was passionate and eccentric but what inspired me the most was how little he cared about what people thought of him and how he was never afraid to be himself. I also enjoyed History – especially Irish and African history. I loved learning about different countries and cultures and still do – since moving to the local area, I have loved learning about the amazing and rich history of South London and its incredibly vibrant and fascinating community.

What challenges did you face as a young person and how did you overcome them?

I was lucky enough to have a very happy childhood that I remember very fondly, but that doesn't mean it was without challenges and difficulties. As a family, we moved around a lot, living all over Africa in places like Kenya, Zambia and Uganda. Whilst this was an incredible experience, I definitely struggled to fit in due to moving around so regularly and found it even more difficult to adapt to life back in Ireland when we eventually returned there to settle. Funnily enough, I also found school quite challenging at times. I had difficulty concentrating in lessons and often tried to be a bit of a 'class clown' instead of focusing on learning, which led to me getting myself into a bit of trouble now and again. School in Ireland is very different to the UK and I never had a pastoral manager to speak to or support me when I found school difficult and this meant that I didn't always know how to deal with emotions in the best ways. However, my mother always taught me that you can't always control the things that

happen in life but you can always control how you react to them; this is something that still resonates with me as an adult whenever I face any challenges.

In my penultimate year in school, I also lost a close friend of mine to knife crimes – something that affected me in a very profound way and that I was very angry and confused about for a long time. It was shortly after this that I took up boxing as a way of channelling anger and emotions in a positive way and this was the best thing I ever did. I learned a discipline that I had never known before and boxing became a very important outlet for me in my life and one that I continue to practise today. It helped me overcome difficulties and I learned about the power of resilience, perseverance and determination.

Mr Carroll



What was your motivation for becoming a teacher?

Again, it sounds cliched, but my parents were probably my biggest inspiration in becoming a teacher and they continue to inspire me today. They have both dedicated their lives to helping other people. I have always had a desire to help, guide and support young people and teaching gives me this opportunity every day. I also understand that school is not easy and, having found school challenging myself, I feel a need to give young people the support that I didn't really have in school when I found it hard. I also love learning and try to instil this love of learning into all of my pupils. I feel we are all learners and the pupils at Platanos College have taught me just as much as I have taught them!

What advice would you give to Platanos College pupils about how to overcome challenges in life?

Here are some of the things that I have learned when trying to navigate some of the challenges I have faced:

- Try to always be brave and positive in the face of difficulties – life has a funny way of rewarding you for always staying optimistic when it throws challenges your way.
- Don't be afraid to go outside of your comfort zone – you can achieve amazing things when you take risks.
- Don't be afraid to fail and embrace these failures – you learn more in failure than you ever do in success.
- Be an individual – don't be afraid to stand out from the crowd and do your own thing. You'll grow into a better person if you do.

Always remember: you can do whatever you want to do and achieve whatever you want to achieve. Always believe in yourself. There is nothing you can't accomplish with hard work, dedication and pure commitment.



THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

WRITTEN BY RUQAYYA KHAN

Sleep...the one thing most of us feel we rarely get enough of!

One of the effects of Lockdown is that our sleep patterns have become pretty messed up, especially after the re-opening of schools! Disrupted daily routines, a sense of uncertainty, worries about the effects of Coronavirus on our lives...all of these have an effect on our sleep.

Melatonin - released by the pineal gland - controls our sleep patterns. The body produces melatonin just after dark, making us sleepy. It acts on receptors in our bodies that encourage us to sleep. Circadian rhythms or circadian cycles are physical, mental and behavioural cycles that follow a 24-hour cycle. One of these cycles is known as the sleep-wake cycle. This determines the hours that we are awake and asleep, thereby enabling us to stay awake during the day and asleep at night.

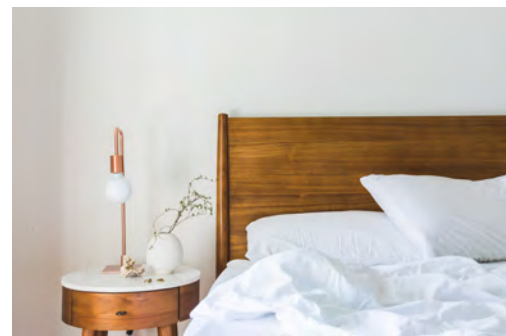
Sleep is a vital function that allows our bodies to feel refreshed and alert when we wake up. Not enough sleep? The body will fail to function at its optimal levels. Without sufficient sleep, we end up feeling fatigued, whilst constantly depriving ourselves

of sleep can lower our immune system, making us more vulnerable to the common cold or flu and other infections. An insufficient amount of sleep can also affect us in the long term, for example, increasing the risk of obesity and Type 2 diabetes. These in turn, can contribute to other conditions such as depression and anxiety, cardiovascular disease and even lower life expectancy! So, what can we all do to ensure we get more and better quality sleep?

The recommended amount of sleep is a minimum of 8-10 hours of sleep for teens. Studies show that young people our age perform better when the school day starts later, which is what lockdown and Covid-19 has taught us, with many schools using staggered times for pupil arrivals.

There are certain factors that can prevent us from going to sleep such as blue light exposure, which can stop the body's production of melatonin, therefore making it more difficult for us to fall asleep. Blue light can be found in many electronics such as our phones, laptops, televisions and tablets - so be sure to avoid them before bed if you want a good night's sleep!

Also, caffeine can have a disruptive effect on our sleep as it interrupts our circadian rhythms. It makes us feel much more alert and awake as it blocks the adenosine receptors in the brain that function to make us feel sleepy. In addition, snacking when it's time to hit the sack can keep us awake and affect the quality of our sleep; so, be sure to avoid eating close to bedtime. A consistent sleep pattern allows us to feel relaxed throughout the day and tired at night, so be sure to try and keep a constant and regular sleep schedule and avoid sleeping in on the weekends as it'll disturb your sleep pattern. No lie-ins at weekends, you say? Yep, we feel your pain!



the fight for female freedom

THE CRIME THAT SHOCKED THE NATION

WRITTEN BY KAMIL OLOYEDE

We have all heard about the shocking disappearance and murder of local resident Sarah Everard. Sarah, a 33-year old marketing official, vanished in South London after leaving a friend's house close to Clapham Common on 3rd March of this year. The main suspect, a serving police officer called Wayne Couzens, was held soon afterward on suspicion of kidnapping. He was further arrested on suspicion of murder and a separate accusation of indecent exposure. There is no doubt that part of the reason the case was so horrifying, was because of Couzens' duty to protect and serve the public as a serving member of the Metropolitan Police.

But, who was the innocent victim at the heart of this crime and whose face so many of us became accustomed to seeing plastered around the streets of South London?

Sarah Everard was born in Surrey in 1987. She attended Fulford School near York

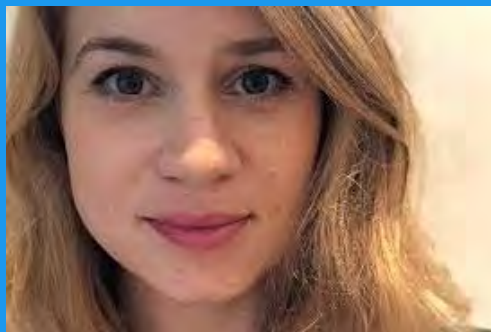
(where she was raised). Later she read Human Geography at Durham University. She was a successful business woman and executive for a digital media agency and at the time of her death, resided in Brixton Hill.

On the day of her disappearance, Everard left a friend's house near Clapham Junction at around 9pm. The last time she was seen was at 9:35pm, spotted on a passing bus' CCTV footage. She had been on a phone call with her boyfriend, but then failed to meet up with him on the following day as arranged.

Tragically, despite intense media coverage, police revealed on 10th March that human remains had been found in a woodland area

close to Ashford, Kent; they were confirmed as belonging to Sarah. Public outrage followed, with thousands of bouquets and tributes being laid at Clapham Common's bandstand, and even the Duchess of Cornwall stopped by to lay flowers.

On the 11th March, the Home Secretary deemed the streets "unsafe" for women and girls. The Mayor of London further backed this statement, announcing the introduction of new laws to enable women and girls to feel safe on the streets and protect them from sexual harassment. Despite the outrage that followed Sarah's senseless murder, only time will tell if true change in harassment and violence against women will occur.



Sarah Everard

↓ *Suspect has admitted kidnap*



STREET SAFETY

WRITTEN BY KARINA ROBERTS

Following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard, much has been discussed about how girls and women feel about their safety when walking the streets of London. But what do our fellow pupils and friends think? We decided to ask Year 10 girls about how they feel about their safety when out and about.

"I tend to feel quite apprehensive walking home from athletics training due to the fact our training hours can vary from me getting home at 8pm to as late as 10pm in the night. At times I carry my key on my middle finger. I usually avoid walking through dark derelict alleyways for my personal safety so I try to stay on main, heavily populated areas to feel safe."

"I am quite afraid, especially in the winter because it gets dark at an earlier time so once I leave school it's already dark. I make my way straight home as rapidly as I can through main roads where there are lots of people. However, to get to my house I need to walk through a little alleyway which makes me uncomfortable."

"I'm quite frightened in the dark because there's no one really around and there are many dark corners that anyone can come from"

"Generally I feel quite safe because I aim to be in my house at late times so I can make sure nothing can happen to me"

"When I am outside and the sun has set, I tend to lower the volume on my headphones so I can be very aware of my surroundings just in case."

"To be honest I don't feel much because I can defend myself and I carry a self-defence keychain, but there are times when I have to be more self-aware about my surroundings."

From what our fellow pupils say, safety - especially when it's dark - is not always something girls feel secure about. What about you? Do you feel safe walking around the streets?

Here are some tips for keeping safe when out and about:

- If you know you are coming home late at night, ask someone to meet you. Always tell others when you will be back.
- If you have to be out in the dark, try to go with other people.

- Do not walk through parks or any poorly lit and uninhabited places.
- Avoiding walking on the road behind parked cars as they can block your view of the road.
- Stay alert - this means not being distracted or having your hearing compromised by music.
- Stick to busy and well-lit roads - try to avoid short cuts through alleyways.
- Don't carry weapons because - as well as being illegal - they are more likely to be used against you.

"MY GIRLS AND SARAH - THEY DIDN'T GET THE SAME SUPPORT, THE SAME OUTCRY"

WRITTEN BY KAELEE DALEY

Earlier this year, we all became aware of the awful events that took place in March, when 33 year old Sarah Everard was kidnapped and horrifically murdered, her body later found in woodlands in Ashford, Kent.

The death of Sarah Everard understandably shocked many across the UK and has caused a stir in the media and the public, touching all of our hearts.

However, whilst the name Sarah Everard may be familiar to us all, many of us will not have heard the names Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry.

Nicole Smallman, 27, and Bibaa Henry, 46, were two sisters who were brutally murdered last year. Their bodies were found on 7th June, two days after they had celebrated Ms Henry's birthday.

The two sisters were enjoying a night out in their local park, Fryent Country park, Wembley, when a young man - now identified as Danyal Hussain, 18 - stabbed them sometime after midnight. Hussain had allegedly been stalking the two sisters. The

post-mortem examination revealed the causes of death was due to multiple stab wounds.

The family of Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry feel they have been let down by the police saying *'they were slow to act'* and describing this as *'betrayal.'* Consequently, the family took matters into their own hands and went out searching for the two sisters themselves. It is said that Nicole's boyfriend went to search where the pair were last seen and then found their bodies.



Nicole Smallman



Bibaa Henry



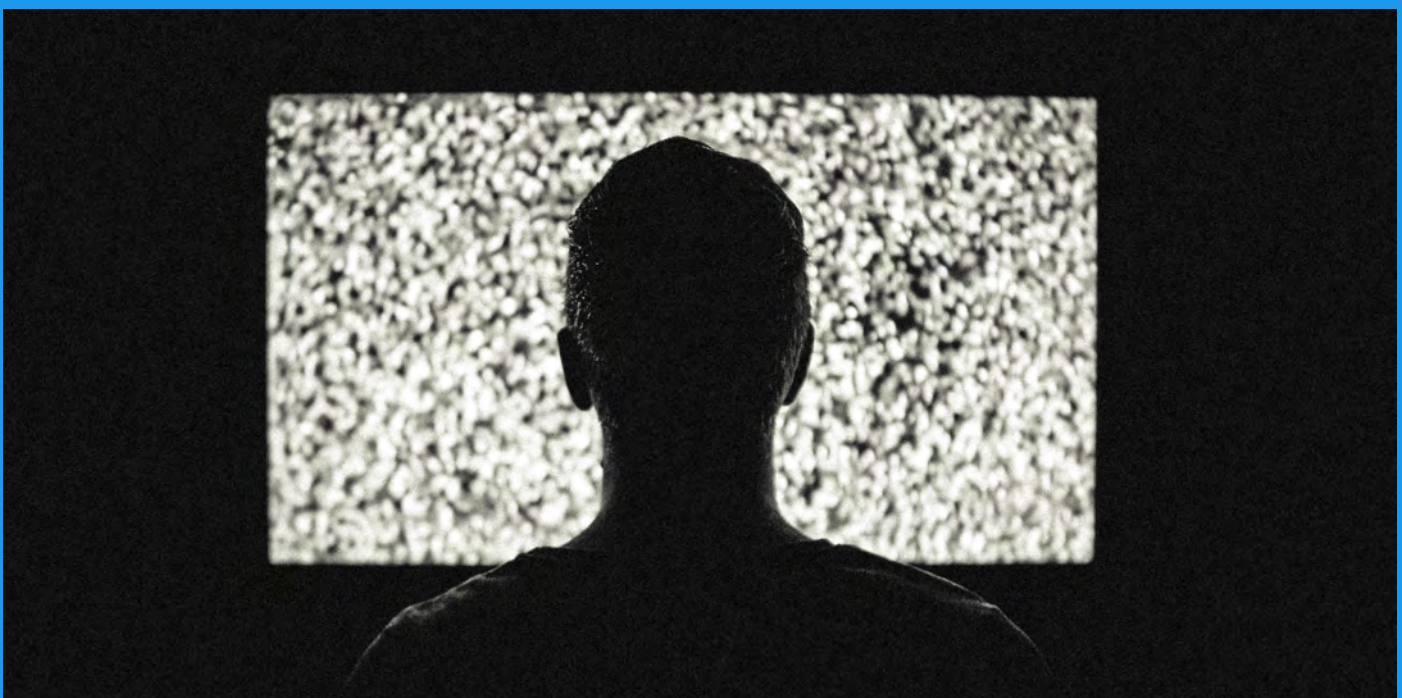
Some believe that race may have been a factor in why the sisters' brutal murder received such little publicity or media coverage. In a statement by Mina Smallman, the victims' mother, she stated: *"My girls and Sarah – they didn't get the same support, the same outcry."*

The deaths of Nicole and Bibaa have left their family in despair and devastation - in an interview Mrs Smallman said *"I am broken beyond words....their deaths were not taken seriously."*

In 1998, the UK passed the Human Rights Act (HRA), one of the aims being to protect people from racial discrimination. However, it seems that this is not always reflected in the ways some cases are dealt with. In the Smallman and Henry case, as well as police being slow to

act, two officers have been suspended for disrespectful conduct. During the investigation, the officers in question took inappropriate selfies with the two bodies and shared these photos across social media. Shocking, right? Following this, Ms Smallman stated *"those police officers dehumanised our daughters."*

There is no doubt that the brutal murder of Sarah Everard was a horrific event whose shockwaves reverberated through the nation. However, some would argue that the disparity in media coverage and public outrage compared with the killings of Nicole and Bibaa, exposes the institutionalised and widespread racism that still lurks beneath the surface of the police, media and wider society.



SISTERS STRIVING FOR SAFER STREETS

WRITTEN BY ASMAA OTMANI

The case of local woman Sarah Everard's kidnapping and violent murder in March of this year led to unrest across the nation, as well as multiple discussions about women's safety. Women all over the UK came forward to speak out about how safe they really feel on the streets after dark.

Views were honest and forthcoming, with one woman who was interviewed by the BBC stating that *"We're...kind of sick of the fact that this is a shock to men."* Another commented, *"This has been my reality, since I was about 14 years old, walking down the road in a school uniform and being harassed by passers-by."*

Anyone who took a walk by Clapham Common's famous bandstand in the days and weeks after Everard's disappearance, would have witnessed the sheer volume of floral tributes for her. But amongst the flowers were angry and defiant messages against the violence and misogyny that has for too long afflicted women. Placards stating *"Men do Better, Protect all women"* and *"she was only walking home"* as well as images of women who have been the victims of violence by men, screamed out the frustrations felt.

On 11th March 2021, one day after Everard's remains were found, MP Jess Philips told Parliament *"dead women is a thing we've all just accepted as part of our daily lives - dead women is just one of those things,"* before listing the 120 names of women murdered by men in the previous year. Usually, it is prohibited to read out lists in the Houses of Commons, however, an exception was made for this topic.

When interviewed by LBC, The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, admitted that London's streets aren't safe *"for women or for girls and it is really important for people of my gender to understand that..."*

He then committed to making the streets safer by *"design[ing] out crime"*. This would be done by spending £25 million on better lighting and CCTV, as well as putting more plain-clothed officers in pubs and clubs.



"Every woman you know has taken a longer route.

Has doubled back on herself.

Has pretended to dawdle by a shop window.

Has held her keys in her hand.

Has made a fake phone call.

Has rounded a corner and run.

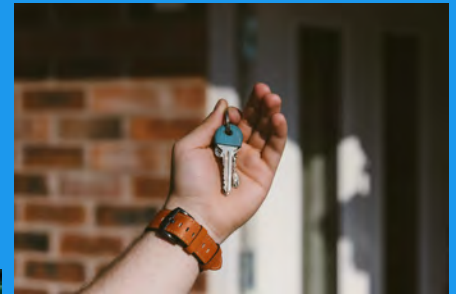
Every woman you know has walked home scared.

Every woman you know."

— Harriet Johnson (@HarrietEJohnson)

March 10, 2021

There is no doubt that Sarah Everard's murder was a tragic waste of life; perhaps one sliver of hope is that through it, the safety of all women on the streets of London is not only recognised, but finally addressed.



"Her name was Sarah Everard. She was just walking home. She did everything we're supposed to do to stay safe; covered her body, stuck to main streets, called her partner. She was just walking home."

— Melinda Salisbury (@MESalisbury)
March 10, 2021

"Sarah Everard kept to all the *"rules"* that society has set out for women to stay safe and she still wasn't able to walk home safely. We need to stop blaming the victim. Women should be able to leave the house without looking over their shoulders. #SarahEverard"

— Ashleigh (@ashdux)
March 10, 2021

A POLITICIAN'S PROTEST

WRITTEN BY JESSICA FERREIRA

You may not have heard of her, but Sarah Hanson-Young is an Australian politician who has been representing Australian Greens since July 2008. She is the youngest woman to have been elected to Federal Parliament, as she won the election at the age of 25 and took up office at the age of 26.

Hanson-Young was born in Melbourne and grew up near Orbost in East Gippsland. In 1999, she was awarded the Australia Day Young Citizen award of the year. She graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Social Studies in 2002. She then worked as a bank-teller until she took Office in 2008.

A few years ago, Sarah Hanson publicly called out several male Senators for their childish and humiliating behaviour. She spoke about her experience in Parliament and how women were being mistreated even in their workplace, arguing that women from all sides of politics were fed up of being treated unfairly and not taken seriously because of their gender.

Hanson-Young highlighted a range of issues about those in power being unwilling to accept responsibility for sexist views, as well exposing the tendency to victim-blame based on women's appearances. She is a great role model for young women, encouraging them to stand up against sexism and fighting for their voices to be heard.



"Real men don't insult and threaten women, ... and they don't attack them and make them feel bullied in their work place."



"You are not fit to be in this chamber, you're not fit to represent your constituents, and you're not fit to call yourselves men."

WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

WRITTEN BY SIHAN AHMED

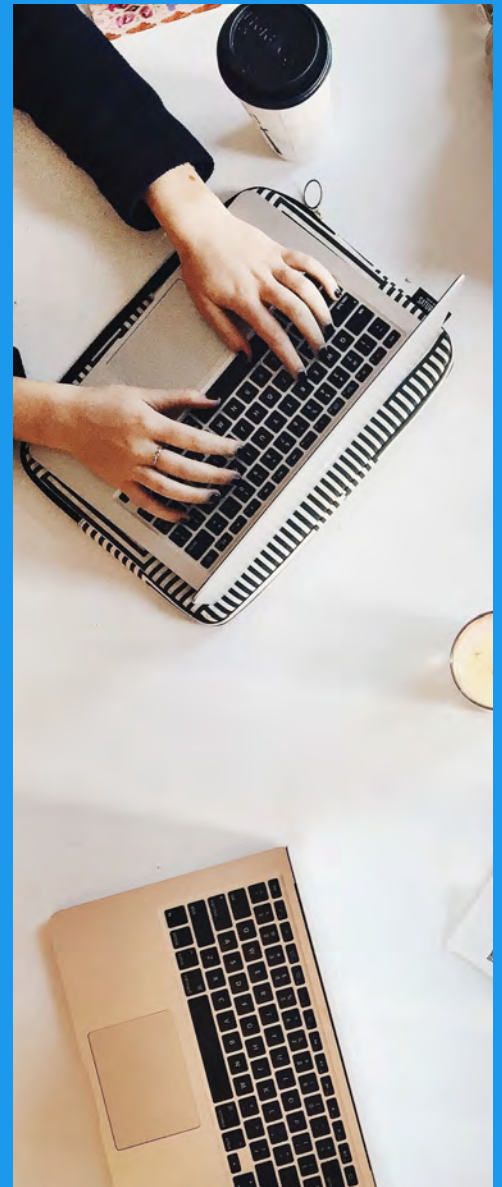
Over the last few months, there has been a rise in feminist activism and exposure of issues such as sexual assault, unwanted advances by men and misogyny. It has been made clear that today's society isn't as safe for women as some may have previously thought. But what about the treatment of women in the workplace?

Did you know, on average, women are paid 83p to a man's pound, and are paid 17.3% less than men? (ONS statistics 2019). Although decreasing steadily, the pay gap is still large, with only a 3.3% decrease in a decade. The largest occupational gap is in carpentry, with a gap of 44%, which is incredibly high. This means that women are only paid 66p for every pound that a man earns - an absurd difference that the government should strive to address. It is statistics such as these that truly show the inequality of today's world when it comes to gender differences.

Surely one should want to work on this blatantly unfair gap, especially the government, right? Well, the government has put up advice on their website, gov.uk. One piece of advice states: "Include multiple women in shortlists for recruitment and promotions."

The aforementioned is clearly common sense, but does not really allow for any real improvement in the disproportion in pay. On top of this, the advice provides no real assistance to employers, as the vast majority of companies do this already.

Another statement on the same official government website says: *"Women are less likely to negotiate their pay. This is partly because women are put off if they are not sure about what a reasonable offer is."* The generalisation of women, something that has been spotted and called out multiple times in history, is reinforced in these sentences, and it portrays them as perhaps timid and dim-witted compared to men.



Sadly, this isn't the only issue that women face in the what can be the daunting environment of the workplace. The Guardian tells us that 50,000 women lose their job per year due to pregnancies, although fathers are required to raise and care for their children, just like the mothers. CareerAddict argues against this beautifully, asking *"Why should we continue to deal with this kind of discrimination? Men don't have the same issue when becoming a father, but they too sacrifice as much of their personal time when raising a child."* Clearly the reasoning behind this isn't the burden of children; it's discrimination against women - a recurring theme in the world of work.

Sexual assault is unfortunately rampant as well, with the likes of Harvey Weinstein and Bill O'Reilly making headline news,

but there are many lower profile cases of misogynistic co-workers making provocative and explicit remarks to their female colleagues. According to a BBC survey taken in 2017, 40% of women were subjected to sexual harassment, compared to 18% of men. Both statistics are horrifying, however it must be recognised that there are more than double the amount of cases concerning women than men.

Surely it's time to make a change, to move away from sexism and misogyny, and move towards equality for all? We, as a society, as a population and as human beings with decency and empathy, must do something against this monstrosity that is inequality, and help women across the world to thrive.



"CHIVALRY IS NOT ONLY DEAD, IT'S DECOMPOSED"

WRITTEN BY NATHAN BEAUMONT

"Chivalry is not only dead, it's decomposed" is a statement made by a man called J. D. Hackensacker III. What do you think of this? A bit harsh, or an honest reflection of society today?

Whilst many would argue over the idea of chivalry and whether it is dead or alive, we can all surely sit in agreement that respect for women is in desperate need of a boost. In today's society, some might argue that our younger generations are in danger of forgetting how to treat women with respect or kindness. But why is this? There are many factors that could be the cause for this decrease in respect for women, for example, social media, influence of family and friends and even schools, can all contribute to women receiving discriminatory treatment.

Let's take social media for example; arguably, social media is the main factor in declining attitudes towards women. Nowadays, it's very easy for young people and children to gain access to online material that is demeaning towards women. For example, on platforms such as Instagram and TikTok, a child can read any

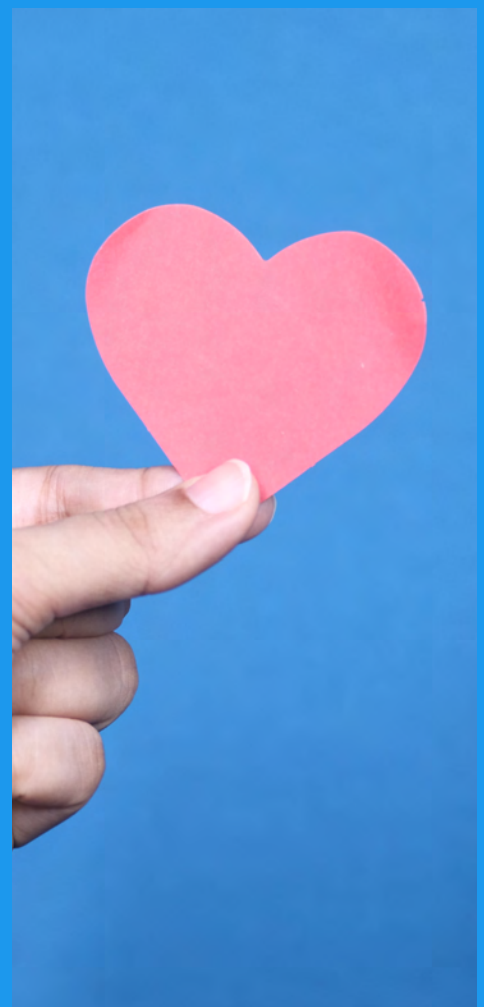
comments made by others on the internet. On TikTok especially, there are many trolls who are unfortunately very misogynistic and downright rude towards women. There is therefore a significant risk of young, malleable minds soaking up all of these comments and digesting them and adopting such views as their own. This can then lead on to children acting in a similarly discriminatory or demeaning manner, even going beyond the keyboard to actually voicing those same comments to girls and women in real life.

A research project by King's College's Global Institute for Women's Leadership, found that 38% of Britons and 37% of Americans believe that the #metoo Movement has made a positive impact on society.

However, there's been a reduction globally in the percentage of individuals identifying as feminists - 37% in 2018 vs 33% in 2019. This implies that perhaps the term 'feminism' carries negative connotations, maybe because some feel that it has moved from the pursuit of female equality to a greater focus on hatred of men.

So, what's your opinion on

this matter? Have attitudes towards women become more misogynistic or has support for feminism seen a decline? Whatever the shifts in societal attitudes, surely we should all reflect on how we respect and treat women?



WHO CAN WE TRUST?

WRITTEN BY RUQAYYA KHAN

Trust is a necessity for all of us in all aspects of our lives – in relationships, friendships, jobs and school. It can be essentially what makes or breaks us. It is *"the firm belief in the reliability, truth, or ability of someone or something."*

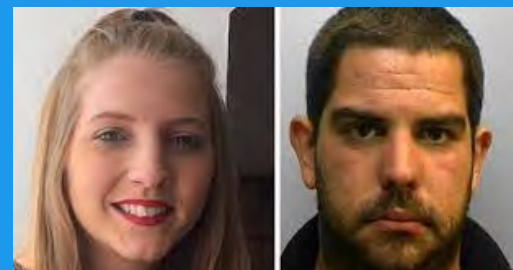
One of the main roles of a police officer is to protect members of the public and their property. However there have been many times where some officers jeopardise that vital trust between the public and the police force. One case that came to light very recently was regarding Sarah Everard who is suspected to have been abducted and murdered by a police officer. We all know that police officers have a vital role in making the public feel trusted and safe and most importantly, the police have a duty to protect the public. This policeman who has been arrested is believed to have breached his civic responsibilities in the most heinous of ways and shattered that integral trust between the police force and the public.

More widely, there have been some controversial reports that the police have not taken victims' claims seriously. Statistics show that the number of suspects being charged for reported crimes

has fallen. In the year to March 2019, a suspect was charged in only 7.8% of crimes recorded by police in England and Wales, which is a drop from 13.8% in 2015-16, according to The Times. Many crimes that are reported are not taken as seriously as they should be. For example, Shana Grice was a young teen who sought help from the police who rejected her claims of an abusive ex-boyfriend.

Consequently, Shana was tragically murdered by her ex-boyfriend Michael Lane, after she persistently reported him to the police for stalking her five times. Five months before her death, she was even fined £90 for wasting police time as she failed to mention that she had been in a relationship with Lane. The police who interviewed her even claimed that her accusation was *"a smokescreen to disguise her affair"* as Lane told them that the two were still together.

Such cases make us wonder whom we can actually trust, if we can't rely on the very people who exist to protect us. Furthermore, do such cases suggest that the police force is actually guilty of having a foundation of misogyny?



↑ Shana Grice

↑ Her murderer



PATRIARCHY AND THE PANDEMIC

WRITTEN BY CHUKWUEBUKA OLISAEDU

Patriarchy: the ideology of men exhibiting power and women being excluded from it. All over the globe, patriarchy continues to show itself in the decline in economic power, education and overall wellbeing of women.

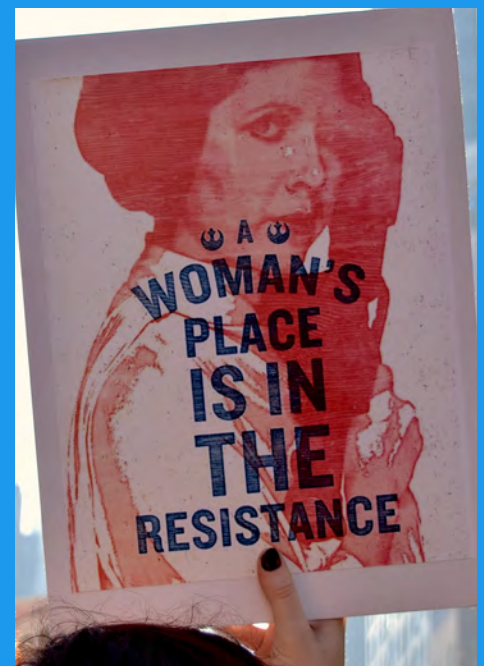
But how has Coronavirus affected women's rights globally? Some of us struggle to understand the adversity Covid has introduced, because we are somewhat fortunate and don't see *exactly* what is going on. The thing is: *how do we possibly see exactly* what is going on in lockdown, under the roofs of countless homes all over the world? And that's the problem. Corona has set forth a new avenue of maltreatment towards women: intimate terrorism and domestic violence in lockdown, which has turned the so called 'home' into a setting of trauma for many. The prison-like confinement and fear of contracting the virus were all apt ingredients for domestic abuse. Furthermore, when working women were forced to work from home, they had to balance employment with caring for families; research suggests that this affected women far more than it did men who were forced to work from home during lockdown.

The impact of Coronavirus and Lockdowns on women globally is stark. Did you know that in Peru, hundreds of young girls have gone missing since the implementation of lockdowns. Moreover, in Mexico, handlers of emergency calls received the most calls in the country's history and the number of women who sought domestic violence shelters multiplied drastically during lockdown. To make this worse, several governments have reduced funding for women's shelters when they were most needed.

Since the start of the pandemic, millions of women's jobs were lost because much of their work revolved around public interaction, such as in restaurants, shops and healthcare environments. Furthermore, many women were frontline health workers without adequate PPE. Many nurses (traditionally a female dominated career), undertook shifts lasting longer than 10 hours in hazardous conditions. Furthermore, the rate of unemployment for minority-ethnic women, especially Black, Asian and Latina women, was higher before the virus, and now it appears even worse.

Covid has exposed that women's rights can be too

easily violated; the dangers of patriarchal roots are constantly lurking around, ready to re-assert themselves when the opportunity arises; indeed, patriarchal standards in many societies across the world have never really been properly deconstructed, so when Coronavirus came along to de-stabilise our communities and societies, it was far too easy for women's rights and freedoms to be abused once again.



Many US restaurant workers have been paid a shocking wage of \$2.13/hr (£1.50) for the past 22 years.



More than 5 million of women's jobs were lost between the start of the pandemic and November 2020 in the US.

In the United States, 77 percent of hospital workers and 74 percent of school staff are women.

In Italy, calls to the national anti-violence toll-free number increased by 73% between 1 March and 16 April 2020.

606 girls and 309 women went missing between 16th March and 30th June last year in Peru.

Unesco estimates that more than 11 million girls may not return to school once the Covid pandemic subsides.

Women who work in restaurants are sometimes subjected to 'masculine harassment' where male customers insist that waitresses remove their masks so they can determine if and how much to tip them based on their looks.



STARTLING SAFETY STATISTICS

WRITTEN BY SHANI JOHNSON

If you've ever wondered just how problematic the issue of harassment against women is, here are some truly concerning statistics that we have collated.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimated in the year to March 2020, 4.9 million women had been victims of sexual assault in their lives.

71% of the women in the U.K say they have experienced sexual harassment in public.

Only 3% of the women aged 18-24 for one survey said they have never experienced any form of sexual harassment or violence.

In the year to March 2020, 207 women were killed in the UK.

According to the Femicide Census, across the UK, 1425 women were killed by men in the 10 years to 2018 (this equates to 1 every 3 days)!

One in five women has been the victim of stalking since the age of 16 – incredibly, this is twice the number for men.

Over half of women have experienced catcalling.

1/3 women have been followed.

A recent YouGov poll for UN Women revealed that 7/10 women had experienced some form of sexual harassment in public. This figure rose to 9/10 for younger women.

4/10 women have been groped or faced unwelcome touching.

1/5 women has faced indecent exposure.

What do these statistics tell us about our society's attitudes to women?

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

WRITTEN BY ASMAA OTMANI

No matter how bad things get, there are always people ready to help. You can speak to a trusted adult if you ever need to, or you could call one of these numbers and the organisation would be able to help.

Samaritans

Number: **116 123**

Opening Times:

- Everyday, 24/7

Susie Lamplugh Trust

Number: **08088 020 300**

Opening Times:

- Weekdays: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Wednesday: 1p.m. - 4 p.m.

Refuge National Domestic Abuse Helpline

Number: **08082 000 247**

Opening Times:

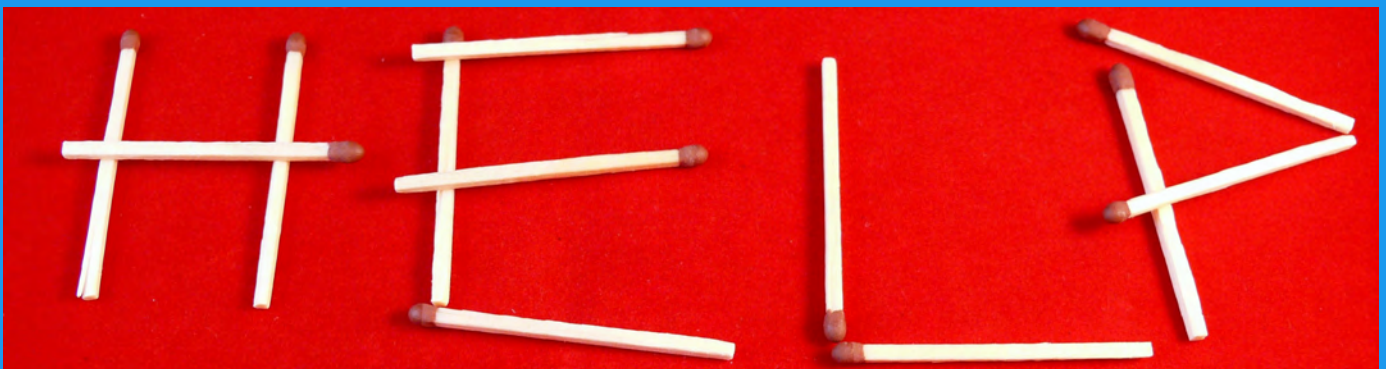
- 24 hours a day

Survivors Trust

Number: **08088 010 818**

Opening Times:

- Weekdays: 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Sunday: 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



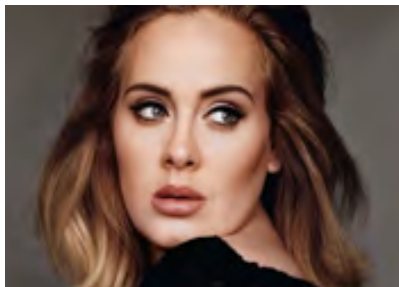
community corner

LOCAL LONDONERS

WRITTEN BY JEHAN KELIFA

Daniel Radcliffe

Daniel Radcliffe was born and raised in London where he made his debut in the BBC 1 film *David Copperfield*, released in 1999 when he was 10. In the same year, he starred in the worldwide hit *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, resulting in an immediate rise to fame. He continued to play the Lead in the Harry Potter movies and has now turned his hand to more adult roles, such as the recent film *Escape from Pretoria*, based on a true story of an anti-apartheid prisoner managing to escape from jail!



Adele

Born in Britain, Adele was raised by a single mother in different working-class neighbourhoods of London. She took an interest in singing modern pop music from an early age and in her early teens, she considered a career in music. After graduating from the BRIT school, she released her epic No 1 Hit Album 19. Currently living in the USA, Adele has gone from strength to strength in her incredible musical career.



Harry Styles

Harry Styles' career started on the *X Factor* in 2010. Although he was eliminated in the early stages, he was brought back to form a group you might just have heard of, called *One Direction*. The band went on to become one of the best-selling boy bands ever, releasing top hit singles such as *What Makes You Beautiful*. When the group disbanded, Harry released his debut solo album through Columbia Records - it went on to become the best-selling album of the year. Styles has received many awards at the Brits and Grammys and he was the first solo man to appear on the cover of *Vogue* magazine.



INTERVIEW WITH A PAST PUPIL

WRITTEN BY ANTHONY ALEXANDER LAGOAS DOS SANTOS

We interviewed former *Platanos College* Pupil, Lara Santos, to find out what she's been up to since leaving our school and all about her dreams for the future.

Key Details...

Name: Lara Santos

Age: 19

Currently: Studying, Music Artist, Small Business, YouTuber

Ex-student of Platanos College - Class of 2017

What are your ambitions in life?

As an Artist I would like to be selling out arenas, concerts, making Platinum records, travelling the world and meeting fans and so on. Academically, I always wanted to study Psychology but I don't know, sometimes I just don't *feel* Psychology. So, here's a word of advice: when you pick something to do for the rest of your life, choose your Uni course wisely. Overall, I still do enjoy Psychology at times and I hope to pursue a career in this field, but hopefully my music becomes big in the music industry.

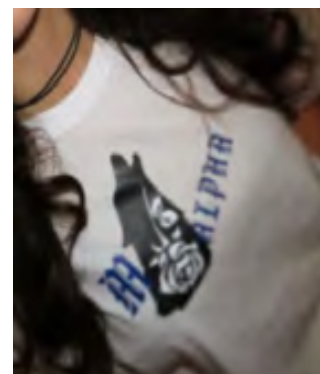
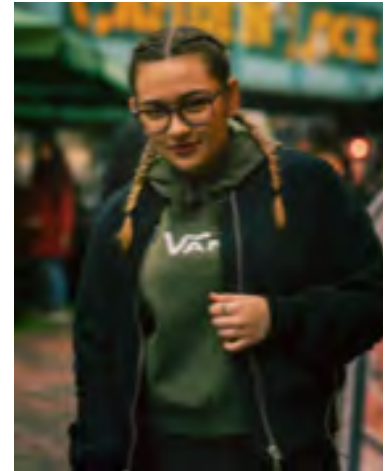


What have you achieved so far?

I took a year out of Education once I had finished Sixth Form. Sometimes we all need to give ourselves a break to think and reflect on what we really want to do. I had a lot of time; I travelled, entered a TV talent show in Portugal and made music. At the moment I'm 19 and attend Uni whilst running a small business on the side.

How has Covid impacted your life?

Before Covid I was very small-minded, but then I began to think that I should do something that may be life-changing. I wanted to make money but also have fun at the same time. So one day, whilst I was looking in my wardrobe at some plain T-shirts, I thought of trying to create some designs; people I knew really liked the designs, so myself and a friend started our small business called Midnight Alpha.



If you could change any of your decisions, which ones would they be and why?

No, I wouldn't change anything. I've made quite a few decisions. I took a gap year so I could think about what I really wanted to do in life. At times, I look back and think that I made the wrong decision, but in the end things turn out to be the right decision; it's really made me understand that each decision you make has a purpose and at the time you least expect it, things will turn into the path you want and make you grow and learn as a person.

What's your advice for younger pupils?

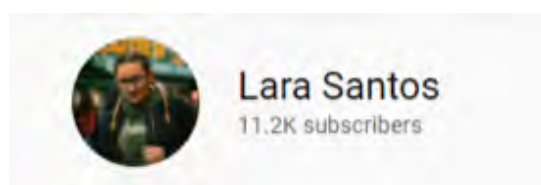
My message to young people is to support each other, go to school and don't judge each other because at the end of the day we are all human beings. Sometimes when your so-called "friends" are not there, there is always someone else to give you the support and the confidence to pursue what you want to be. Take advantage of being in Secondary school, because once you leave, a lot of aspects of life will get harder!

For more information on Laura's music, check out her First EP - available on all streaming platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music.



"Each decision you make has a purpose and at the time you least expect it, things will turn into the path you want and make you grow and learn as a person."

- Lara Santos



KNIFE CRIME

WRITTEN BY LEVAAN BAIDEN

We have all heard of Knife crime, which is an offence that can include threatening someone with a knife, carrying a knife, or using a knife as a weapon in a burglary or robbery. Buying a knife when you are under the age of 18 is also considered to be a part of knife crime.

Knife crime is often caused by a fear of gangs of safety on the streets, leading to some people carrying a knife for protection, as they believe it will keep them safe. However, carrying a knife can significantly increase your risk of the weapon being used against you – not to mention being a criminal offence.

In 2020, there was a 2% decrease in knife crime from 81 offences per 100,000 in 2019 to 79 offences per 100,000. This is more than likely attributable to the Coronavirus pandemic, when we all had to stay at home under national Lockdown rules. According to the Ben Kinsella Trust, 46,015 offences involving knives or sharp instruments were recorded by police in 2020. In the same year, 237 murders were recorded that involved the use of knives.

The government is promoting the teaching of the consequences of knife crime

in schools, in order to help young people to understand why knife crime happens and what the consequences are if they were to commit it.

Furthermore, they are investing in youth services, social care and extracurricular activities as well as working with families to educate and support young people. This is because data shows that ages 0–24 are the highest age group committing knife crime.

However, many would argue that governmental cuts to youth services funding has only made the problem worse, as young people have fewer safe places to go to during non-school hours and have fewer opportunities to engage in safe and healthy social interactions and hobbies.

There is no doubt that knives destroy lives: a victim whose life has been prematurely cut short; a grieving family whose lives will never be the same; an offender who faces years in prison and whose criminal record will follow them for the rest of their life. Did you know you can be punished with 5 years in jail even if you haven't used the weapon? Having a criminal record can stop you from getting into the college of your choice or university. It can also stop you from getting

a job and can prevent you from travelling to places such as the United States. When it comes to knives, there is only really one choice to ensure everyone's safety – **don't carry one.**

You can call *Childline* on **0800 1111** at any time if you're worried about your safety. You can call *Crimestoppers* anonymously on **0800 555 111** if you want to report a crime that has happened.



HOW SAFE IS YOUR JOURNEY TO SCHOOL?

WRITTEN BY SHACKAYE BRISCOE

What does road safety mean to you? Many may think it's just exercising caution when waiting at a traffic light or looking both ways before crossing the road, but a lot more factors affect our safety than ever before.

Electric Scooters and Bikes

Over the past couple of years there has been a surge in the amount of young people using electric scooters and bikes to travel around. Whilst both of these methods are convenient and time-efficient ways of getting around and about, they also have certain risks. Always ensure you wear high visibility gear when cycling and wear a safety helmet. It's also wise to do a cycling proficiency course as the roads of London especially can be hazardously busy.

You may not know this, but E-scooters are actually illegal to ride on a road, pavement, buses and bike lanes. £300 fixed penalty charges can be given to anyone who breaks the law. However, a government pilot scheme may result in E-scooters being legitimised in the future.

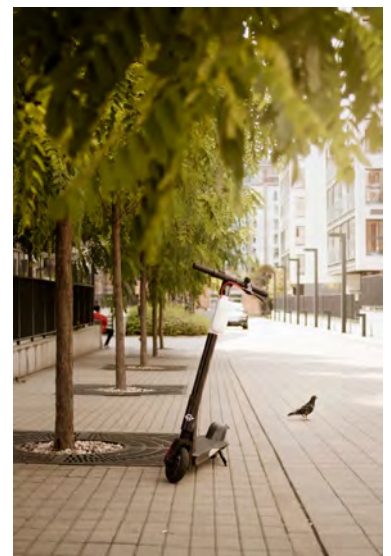
Walking

OK, you may have been walking since you were a year or so old, but how aware or alert are you when doing so? Many of us like to listen to music or use our phones whilst walking, which can seriously compromise our sense of awareness of our surroundings and therefore our safety.

New Cycle and Bus Lanes

The new controversial cycle lanes that popped up all over London during Lockdown, have not only been accused of impeding emergency service vehicles from passing through, but have also in some places caused even more congestion and therefore pollution. Many people, including those with potential vulnerabilities such as old age, disability or sensory needs, may find the need to walk into the road to get on a bus very daunting. Indeed, we all need to be aware when having to cross part of a busy road to get on a bus.

So you may have taken your journey to school a million times before, but what changes are occurring that could affect the safety of you and those surrounding you?



inspiration station

NEED A BIT OF INSPIRATION?

WRITTEN BY DENNIS LOPEZ GARCIA

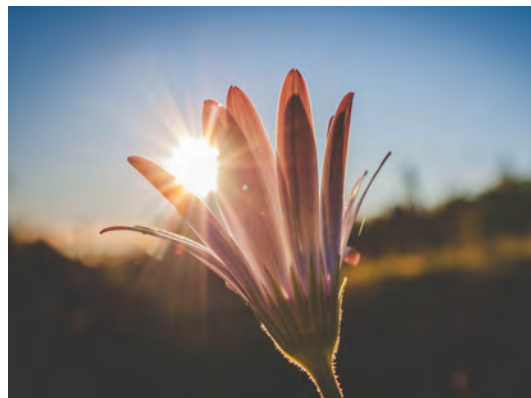
We all know we had a shaky start to 2021 with the commencement of a national Lockdown; it has been challenging and frustrating for many of us. But don't let all this affect your mindset or sap your motivation. We've rounded up some key inspirational quotes to help us maintain a positive attitude throughout 2021, because even with the return to normality, there will always be the odd challenge to overcome. Remember, "Attitude Determines Altitude."

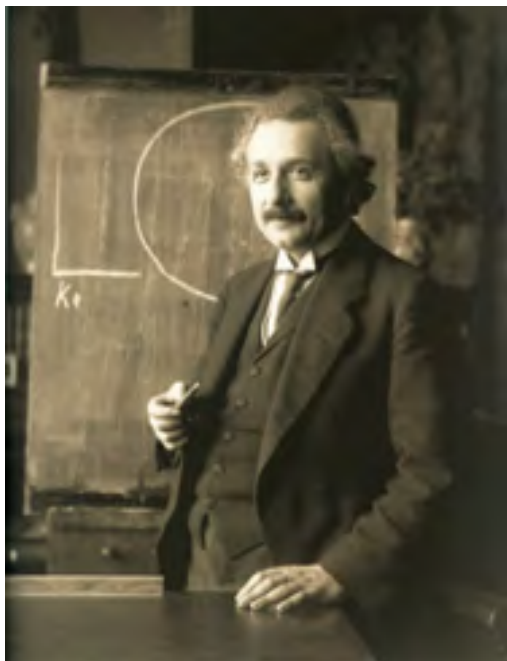
"It's not the years in your life that counts. It's the life in those years."
- Unknown

"The key to success is failure."

- Michael Jordan

"Always remember your focus determines your reality."
- George Lucas



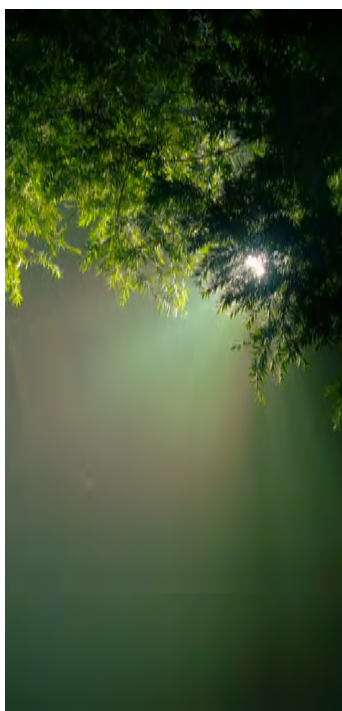


"When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too."

- Paulo Coelho

"Stay away from negative people. They tend to have a problem for every solution."

- Albert Einstein



"Self-love is the highest frequency that attracts everything you desire."

- Unknown



"Success is not final; failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts."

- Unknown.

GIANNIS THE GIANT

WRITTEN BY MUHAMMED ALI

Have you heard of Giannis Antetokounmpo? If not, let us take you on the journey of his life, from poverty to becoming one of the most astonishing players in NBA history.

Giannis Antetokounmpo was born in Athens, Greece, but was refused citizenship for both Greece and Nigeria, where his parents came from. This was a difficult time because both Giannis' mother and father were immigrants, making it almost impossible to find a job. Consequently, the family of 7 found themselves living on the streets.

To make a living, Giannis and his brothers sold anything they could find in the city of Athens: watches, handbags and sunglasses. Despite their brutal life in Athens, this was a necessity for them to survive.

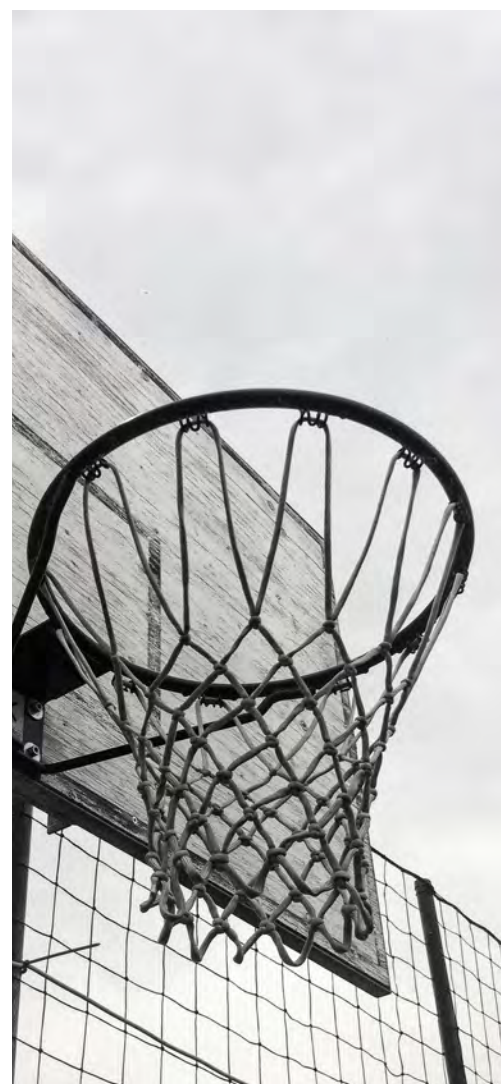
But this was all about to change....

As luck would have it, Spiros Velliniatis, a coach who could barely pay his bills and who lived in the neighbourhood of Athens, came across the Antetokounmpo brothers playing on a basketball court; quickly he realised that he had been lucky enough to have discovered one of the greatest basketball players of his age and generation.

However, Giannis wanted to pursue a career in his first love, football. In an attempt to persuade Giannis to play basketball, Spiros gave him the opportunity to play for his team. Giannis repeatedly refused until it was agreed that his poverty-stricken family would be paid 500 Euros a month.

Despite quitting basketball 10 times, Giannis finally decided to commit to the sport, even though he felt vulnerable and scared. He started to work out in the gym and practise more on the court; soon, things started to change for the better. Eventually, he was selected by the Milwaukee Bucks in the 15th overall pick in the NBA Draft. He made his debut at 18 years of age, becoming the youngest player to play at such a level.

Giannis' story is incredible because it truly proves what we can achieve, regardless of the circumstances we are born into. Remember,
Attitude Determines Altitude!



PRINCE PHILIP - A LIFE REMEMBERED

WRITTEN BY HAMZAH AHMED

On 9th April of this year, the world was hit by the news that Prince Philip had died, just 2 months shy of his 100th birthday. Although not unexpected, it was still a momentarily sad day in the history of the British monarchy.

Prince Philip was born in 1921 in the Greek island of Corfu. His mother was Princess Alice of Battenberg. Philip's family was forced to leave Greece when he was only a year and a half old; he ended up attending Gordonstoun School in Scotland, where he was taught discipline, which later on shaped his future when he joined the Royal Navy in 1939 as a cadet.

In the 1930s, his four sisters married German princes and his mother was placed in an asylum following a diagnosis of schizophrenia. One of his sisters to whom he was particularly close, was killed in an aircraft crash along with her young family when Philip was still a schoolboy.

In 1939, Princess Elizabeth and Philip met. Princess Elizabeth took a liking to Prince Philip while they were playing croquet. Despite being only 13 at the time, this was the start of the couple falling in love; Philip asked her father, King George VI, for her hand in marriage in 1946.

On 20th November 1947, the couple got married at Westminster Abbey. The day before the wedding, Philip was given the royal title of The Duke of Edinburgh. None of Philip's German family was allowed to attend the wedding in post-war Britain as the country was still being re-built and recovering from the devastating effects of WW2.

On 6th February 1952, whilst holidaying in Kenya, news broke of the death of King George; the young royal couple immediately returned to England and the Princess Elizabeth was crowned Queen on 2nd June 1952. Despite having been promoted to Commandeer and being given his own ship in Malta, Prince Philip left his military life so that he could stick by his oath to serve his wife for the rest of his life.

During the last years of his life, he retired at the ripe old age of 96. During his retirement, the Duke divided his time between Windsor Castle and Wood Farm, enjoying hobbies such as reading, painting watercolours and entertaining friends.



Funeral of Prince Philip



Prince Philip died of old age when he was 99 at Windsor Castle. He was the longest serving Royal Consort in British History and the Queen was said to have been by his side when he passed away.

There is little doubt he lived a most privileged and fascinating life, but also experienced much pain and loss.

Here are some fascinating facts about Prince Philip...

He was born on a dining table!

His mother became a nun.

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip are both great, great grandchildren of Queen Victoria.

He was the first member of the Royal Family to be interviewed on TV.

He was one of the youngest Lieutenants in the history of the Navy.

The people of Yaohnanen, a village in the Pacific Islands nation of Vanuatu, believe Philip is a god-like figure.



↑ Prince Phillip's mother: Princess Alice of Battenberg

↓ Prince Philip when he was younger



Prince Philip as a teen



Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth II

cacophony of colours

FORGOTTEN FAITH, HIDDEN HOPE

WRITTEN BY ENIOLA OMONOJO

The lethal microorganisms sitting on the surface
of my skin multiply,
Strands of my hair detach from their roots every
nanosecond.
My lower abdomen clams up in fear as though
it's being threatened -
The constant demand to cough squeezes
through.
I thought I was a tough guy but persistent
burning consumes me from the inside.
Differently sized sores rest on my leg, preparing
to explode like a nuclear weapon.
This pain is so unbearable!
God, please take me to heaven.
Blood escapes through my nose and ears as
though my insides are poisoned,
I feel like a plague running through the streets.
Hope and faith are strangers in my life.



BLANK PAGE

WRITTEN BY ASMAA OTMANI

A blank page could be a nightmare,
Sometimes it is hard to fare.
A blank page could be an invitation,
Inviting you to form a new creation.

A single mark could be a deterrent,
Telling you that you just can't...
A single mark could be a beginning,
The start of new ideas forming.

A start could be a threat,
Reminding you to finish what you regret.
A start could be encouraging,
Pushing forwards toward the finished thing.

A finished product could be embarrassing,
Making you wonder what was the point of starting?
A finished product could make your pride increase,
For creating such an amazing piece.



THE NIGHTSHIFT

WRITTEN BY ANTHONY ALEXANDER LAGOAS DOS SANTOS

It was Saturday night, 11:00 pm, and I was working the night shift for my fellow buddy. He was stuck in San Francisco because his car had broken down on its way to the highway.

The job I had been given was a simple one, working at a gas station in the middle of nowhere. Most of the time, people would just fill their tanks up and be on their way, so I spent much of my time on my phone. My shift lasted from 12:00pm to 7:30 am, which suited me as I could use this time completing my school assignments.

However, during the first two hours, I started to feel weird and as though someone was watching me. I got up and started cleaning the place and checking through my to-do list, just so that I could distract myself a bit as I was feeling more and more unsettled...

That's when I heard a loud bang in the storage room. Heading to the back to see what had happened, I noticed saw some rats and bottles of disinfectant. Suddenly, the store's bell indicated that the doors had opened, so I cleaned up quickly and got back to work.

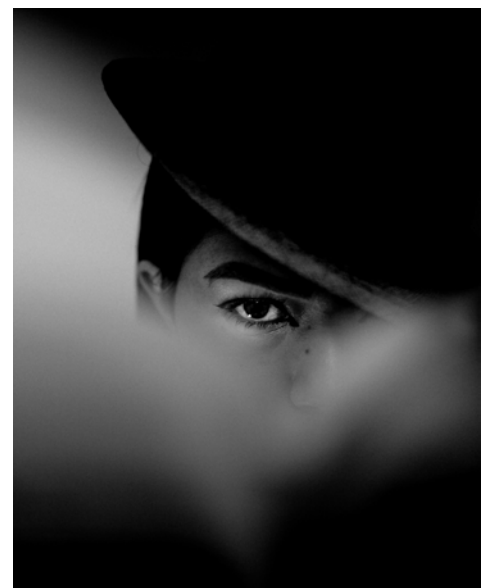
Once back at the counter, I realised that no-one was

around, so I assumed the door had been opened by the wind. Even though this didn't really make sense as it was a very still and quiet night, I only had 3 hours and 30 minutes left, so went back to my assignments.

A few minutes later, I stood up and a person was standing in front of the counter, despite the bell not ringing to alert me. All of a sudden, the mystery man started making a screeching noise, like the door of a haunted house.

Unnerved, I quickly finished up and said *"Have a nice night"* in a unsettled tone. The time to go home could not come soon enough.

A few hours later when I did finally arrive home, I received a call saying that the gas station I had been working at had been attacked by a gunman. Luckily, despite a number of customers being on the site at this time, only one person was only rushed to the hospital. As I watched the news reports unfold on my TV screen, I couldn't believe it when I saw the photo of the lone gunman; my eyes widened in horror as I realised it was the very man I had served just a few hours before.



crime and conspiracy

JACK THE RIPPER

WRITTEN BY SAID ABDI

You have no doubt heard of the sinister presence of a serial killer on the streets of London back in the 1800s... Jack the Ripper roamed the streets of Whitechapel in East London, hunting for victims. Between 7th August and 10th September 1888, he murdered at least 5 women.

The murder victims who are definitely thought to have died under Jack the Ripper's hands were Mary Ann Nichols (August 31), Annie Chapman (September 8), Elizabeth Stride (September 30), Catherine Eddowes (September 30) and Mary Jane Kelly (November 9). Because of the horrific nature of the crimes, the police suspected that Jack was a barber, surgeon or butcher due to his tremendous precision in violating the bodies of his victims.

But who was responsible for these horrific crimes? Well, one prime suspect was a man called Aaron Kosinski, a Polish immigrant who had moved to the Whitechapel area to open his own barber shop. Other suspects were also put forward, such as a famous painter called Walter Sickert and even – can you believe it – the grandson of Queen Victoria!

It is believed that the killer sent letters to the police at Scotland Yard, deliberately taunting and provoking them about the crimes and hinting of more murders to come. In one case, half a human kidney was sent to the police!

Unfortunately, Jack the Ripper was never caught, resulting in one of the most gruesome murder mysteries in London's history remaining unsolved, even to this day!



THE ICEMAN

WRITTEN BY SALIH KARKIN

Have you ever heard of The Iceman? Well, Richard Leonard Kuklinski was arguably one of the deadliest criminals in the world.

There is some speculation that Kuklinski's murderous streak has its roots in his childhood; he was abused severely as a child, which led him to wanting 'revenge'. In an interview, Kuklinski alleged, *"My father would beat me just because he felt like it"*. This caused him to resent his father who was so violent towards his children, that his first son died at the age of 7 due to the injuries inflicted. The father later abandoned his family.

As he grew older, Kuklinski adopted the view *"that it was better to give than to receive,"* justifying his desire to hurt others. He met a man named Roy DeMeo who taught him that he could make money as a professional Hitman, so Kuklinski began working for the Gambino crime family. He would kill anybody that he was hired to, without any remorse whatsoever.

Having passed the gruesome initiation test, which involved killing a random dog-walker, Kuklinski soon became an experienced and dangerous killer who used all kinds of methods to murder, including

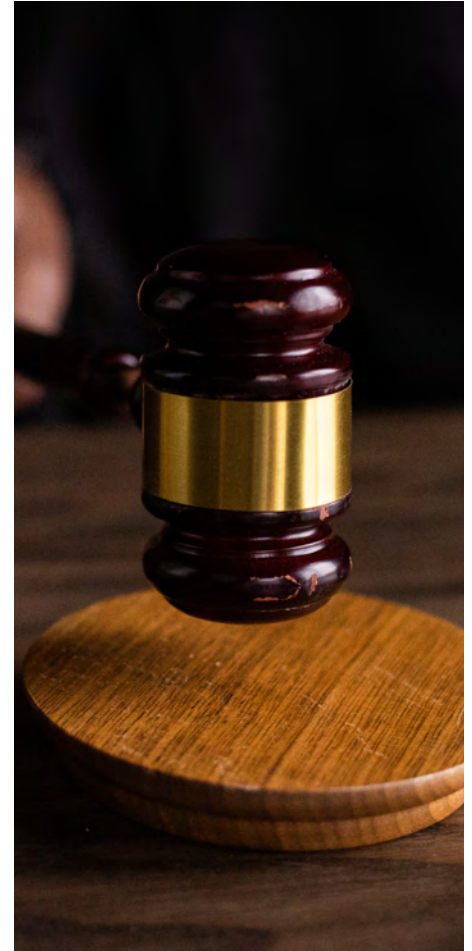
guns, knives, cyanide and even crossbows.

But why did Kuklinski become known as The Iceman? Well, apparently this was because he showed absolutely no feelings towards the people he killed. In addition, he would freeze some of the bodies of his victims so that once found, it was harder for pathologists to determine a time of death.

Kuklinski claimed to have killed over 100 people. Living a double life, he had a family who had no idea about any of his horrific crimes.

As he got older, he started to make mistakes that resulted in him getting caught. One example was the murder of Gary Smith, who was killed by cyanide before his body was placed under a bed in a hotel. He was found 5 days later and the police thought that he died due to a drug overdose, but further investigation found signs of him having been strangled.

In 1986, Richard Kuklinski was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment. But it was only once interviewed that the gruesome details and extent of his crimes were revealed...



Richard Kulinski



THE KENNEDY CURSE

WRITTEN BY REUBEN BOWES

You may be familiar with the name 'Kennedy.' The most famous member of the Kennedy family was the 35th President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1963. The Kennedy Curse is the name given for the string of tragedies that prematurely befell members of the Kennedy family and those close to them. The regularity and seriousness of how these events affected the family are seen as massively suspicious to some - and downright supernatural to others. Thus, the Kennedy Curse was born.

Joseph P. Kennedy is the first of the Kennedys whose death contributed to the curse - he was killed as the plane he was piloting exploded over Britain. The model of the plane was a BQ-8; a B-24 Liberator converted into a mobile explosive, activated at the wrong time. Four years later in 1948, Kathleen Kennedy died in a plane crash in France. The relationship between these incidents as both being aircraft-related is the first indication of the Kennedy Curse.

The next Kennedy death was in 1963, which was the death of Patrick Kennedy, who died of infant respiratory distress syndrome on the anniversary

of Joseph's rescue from another accident. In the same year, the infamous assassination of John F. Kennedy took place. Not only was John - the US president at the time - killed by gunshot, but his supposed assassin (who restlessly argued his innocence) was killed in the same way before any conclusive evidence could be gathered. This event alone is the subject of a multitude of conspiracy theories and scepticism worldwide.

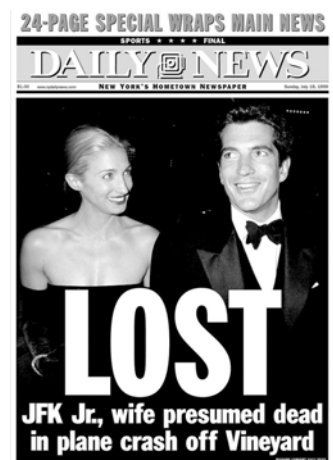
Beyond this, John F. Kennedy Jr. died in a plane crash alongside his wife and sister-in-law in 1999, followed by Kara Kennedy suffering a fatal heart attack in a Washington DC gym after surviving lung cancer in 2011. In 2012, Mary Kennedy committed suicide, whilst Saoirse fatally and accidentally overdosed in 2019.

Most recently, however - and exactly 364 days after the overdose of Mary, Maeve Kennedy McKean and her eight-year-old son disappeared - only to be found dead a few days afterwards.

Despite the evident string of catastrophic events regarding the Kennedy family, the apparent 'curse' is disputed by many. Some argue that

Joseph Kennedy's accidents were commonplace for the tens of millions of soldiers who fought in WWII, and the numerous plane crashes beyond this occurred under the influence of substances or in unfavourable atmospheric circumstances.

Despite this, the seemingly cyclical and certainly conspiracy-inducing events surrounding the Kennedy family, still leave many feeling sceptical and dubious about the mundanity of their deaths.



MARRIAGE ... MURDER ... MISTRIAL?

WRITTEN BY HONOUR BAILEY

Barton Key was a former US district attorney and was known for being the son of the writer of the American National Anthem. Sadly, he became well known for another, less desirable reason in 1859, following a love affair with a married woman called Theresa Sickles.

The lovers would secretly communicate with each other with a handkerchief in the window, but on one fateful day, Theresa's signal was intercepted by her husband Daniel, who was a friend of Key's.

What happened on that Sunday 27th February, resulted in the first time that a temporary insanity defence was used in a murder trial in America. So, what exactly occurred on that fateful day?

One day, Daniel Sickles received a letter, revealing the affair between his wife and friend. The letter was so specific that Sickles decided to investigate. The mystery letter stated:

"He hangs a string out of the window as a signal to her that he is in and leaves the door unfastened and she walks in..... With these few hints I'll leave the rest for you to imagine. Most respectfully, your friend RPG."

Sickles decided to investigate Key's residence and found out that his friend was sometimes seen with a lady who covered her face. When Sickles confronted his wife Theresa about it, she quickly confessed to everything.

The next morning, Sickles had a few friends over to ask them what he should do about the affair. While Sickles was talking, he happened to look out of his window to see Key waving his handkerchief for Theresa.

Key spotted Sickles leaving the house and walked towards him. Reaching out his hand to greet him, he was instead greeted with a bullet through his hand. The two men struggled for a moment and witnesses later said they heard Key cried out, *"Don't murder me!"*. Sickles was pulled away after Key was shot in the chest and a bullet aiming for his head misfired.

Sickles kept asking if Key was dead and when he knew he was, he surrendered at the District Attorney General's house. This crime would have been dealt with by the US District Attorney of Washington D.C, but he had recently died and been replaced with a close friend of Daniel Sickles.



↑ The murder of Key at the hands of Sickles.



Theresa Sickles



So, how much did this twist of fate affect the outcome of the trial?

Well, Theresa's letter of confession was used by the Defence in a way that we would think was sexist today. The Defence told the jury that Sickles had been driven temporarily insane by a man who had violated the sanctity of his home and virtue of his *'property'* (his wife Theresa), resulting in him being unable to differentiate between right and wrong.

Consequently, Sickles was found Not Guilty because of this unwritten law. Amongst the public, more people sided with the murderer Sickles than the victim, Key, including the jury that was made up of all men. The Defence was successful in showing that it was impossible to punish someone who killed their spouse's lover – an idea that did not change until the 1950s!

Theresa was treated as property, like a lot of women at that time, and Sickles was not punished at all although he had many affairs and had killed someone. Theresa was denied any agency and was the one who was cast out of society, receiving all the blame for Key's death.

After the trial, Sickles forgave Theresa and they stayed married. Sickles did well career-wise, becoming a

Major General during the Civil War.

So, what do you think of this case? Do you think Sickles was led to become temporarily insane? And do you think he could use this defence today?



Barton Key's



Daniel Sickles

The Trial



office of opinion

PANDEMIC PREJUDICE

WRITTEN BY LEA ADEYEMI

One would think that due to the horrific consequences of prejudice, racism wouldn't be such a 'thing' anymore, but let's face it, we all know it still exists. Coronavirus has only highlighted and caused an increase in the abhorrent, micro-aggressional forms of projected xenophobia towards the East Asian community.

Many people don't realise that their simple *"harmless banter"* along with blatant racist remarks are actually *"that deep"* and they do have a deeply harmful effect on members of the Asian community.

As you all may be aware by now, earlier this year, a shooting in Atlanta prematurely ended the lives of 6 women of Asian descent. The shooter allegedly held the perception that all Asian women fit certain perceived stereotypes perpetuated in society. Statistics show that anti-Asian attacks have almost doubled since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic - and will no doubt continue to increase if we do not take action against anti-Asian hatred.

Here are some terrifying facts about the rise in anti-Asian crime in the past year and a half...

Between January and June 2020, the Metropolitan police recorded 457 race-related crimes against people of East Asian descent.

In February of last year, a UCL Law student was attacked by a gang saying *"we don't want your coronavirus in our country."*

In March 2020, the number of crimes against those of East Asian descent rose to 101, which was nearly three times as many as the same period in the previous two years.

A 37 year old from Southampton was attacked by a group of men, who shouted racist abuse and punched and kicked him.

There is no doubt that the world has seen an increase in such acts of violence; it seems that Coronavirus has truly brought out the ugly side of racism.



GEORGE FLOYD - ONE YEAR ON

WRITTEN BY ADAM ALI

It is little more than a year after the shocking killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis on 25th May 2020. The case - which saw Floyd being the victim of police brutality - resulted in anger and protests around the world.

Derek Chauvin, the police officer who was on 20th April of this year, convicted of a string of offences including murder, was found guilty of kneeling on Floyd's neck for close to nine minutes, causing him be unable to breathe and lose consciousness. However, he then kept his knee on his neck for a full minute and 20 seconds, which led to Floyd being pronounced dead an hour later.

Floyd's family attorney, Benjamin Crump, stated that the conviction of Derek Chauvin marks '*a turning point*' for America, as police officers can no longer use excessive force and expect to be dealt with leniently.

Indeed, statistically, despite only accounting for 13% of Americans, out of the 765 people killed by police in 2020, 28% were black. Furthermore, according to research from the Harvard T.H. Chan School Of Public Health, Black Americans are 3.23 times more likely than

white Americans to be killed by police.

But how has the killing of George Floyd changed society across the world?

In October 2020, a letter was delivered to US Attorney General William Barr from Amnesty International. It had 1,000,000 signatures from across the world, calling for justice for the killing.

Street artists created murals to honour George Floyd.

Colleges and universities across America set up scholarships in Floyd's name.



Derek Chauvin



George Floyd

Global protests were held immediately after the killing, with citizens across the world protesting against excessive police force and lack of police accountability. The words '*I Can't Breathe*' was used all over social media to reflect the violation of freedom and rights felt by many.

A GoFundMe account was set up to help raise money for Floyd's funeral costs; it ended up breaking the site's existing record for the total number of different donations.

In America and the UK, statues and monuments of those historical figures with links to slavery, have been toppled or taken down. Some argue that such actions erase history, whilst others suggest such statues should be in museums, rather than being displayed or celebrated publicly.

US Representative Sheila Jackson Lee has proposed a bill called The George Floyd Law enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, whose purpose is to address police brutality and ensure national standards of policing.

Whilst shocking and tragic, hopefully the killing of George Floyd is a turning point for America and all other countries around the world; in future, we all hope for a world where everyone's basic human rights are honoured and where the role of the police is indeed to protect and serve.



WILL WE EVER GO BACK TO 'NORMAL'?

WRITTEN BY RIHANNA JOHN

Covid has been around for a while now and some people are starting to think that it isn't going to go away anytime soon – not completely, anyway. Some argue that Lockdowns aren't making any difference. However, others argue that it's the fault of people who don't follow all rules issued by the government.

Experts predict that life globally will not return to normal for 2-3 years. Just take a moment to digest that!

Assistant Professor of Global Health Policy at the London School of Economics, Dr Clare Wenham, stated, *'At the moment, the data is showing it's going to be 2023/24 before the global vaccines are distributed to everybody...this pandemic isn't going to be over until it's over globally.'*

Dr Wenham also said *'We're still going to be living in some form of restrictions - travel restrictions, border controls - even when we're vaccinated, until it's over round the world,'* implying that practically everyone in the world needs to be vaccinated before all restrictions disappear from our lives. This will definitely take a huge amount of time, because even though Britain has one of the highest levels of vaccine rates in the world,

there are many countries that haven't even started to roll out mass vaccination programmes.

So, what do you think? Will we be living with Covid and national and international restrictions for another few months, years or maybe forever?

Here are some interesting Covid conspiracies and theories!

Covid deaths are inflated.

Covid doesn't exist.

The US military imported Covid into China.

The virus escaped from a Chinese laboratory.

Covid was created as a biological weapon.

Covid is a plot by Big Pharmaceutical companies.

Covid is caused by 5G mobile signals.

GMOs are somehow to blame.



HOW LOCKDOWN ROCKED THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

WRITTEN BY REUBEN BOWES

It is undeniable that Covid-19 has impacted our world substantially. All manner of companies and institutions suffered dramatically, whilst others, such as supermarkets and Amazon, were relatively unscathed or indeed benefitted from restrictions. One of the most hard-hit industries is the entertainment business.

Cinemas and theatres have long been an example of the damage of Coronavirus. Such businesses rely on a great number of people converging in a single location. The closing of Broadway and West End shows was once unthinkable, though with the risk of Covid 19, this has become an inevitable consequence. 290,000 individual members of the theatre industry have been impacted severely and a number of independent venues have been barred from business-both temporarily and permanently - as a result of the pandemic.

The art of cinema itself has not been as significantly impacted as its venues however, as quite a few companies have established a number of streaming services upon which to launch their

shows and movies. Apps such as Netflix and Disney+ have seen massive international growth and viewership throughout the pandemic.

A number of internationally-known television fixtures were forced to halt production or temporarily migrate to apps such as Youtube. Productions such as the American Tonight Show continued with production, though filming took place in the home of its host Jimmy Fallon and received guests via video-chats.

Videogames were relatively unaffected by the lockdown and even thrived in the solitary environment that the quarantine enforced. Online games such as *Among Us* continue to garner massive player counts, forming online platforms and communities for people to converse and interact upon.

Overall, Lockdown has had both positive and negative effects upon international entertainment, bringing new light upon cinematic masterpieces and inventive video games. Though a number of classical establishments and forms of entertainment have suffered,

new interest has been introduced into the newer, more distinct and technological content. These effects are sure to persist even when the fallout of Coronavirus has been muted, opening the industry up to the possibility of further innovative forms of entertainment.



INDIA'S COVID CRISIS

WRITTEN BY JOSHUA ZACK

A Perfect Storm: at the beginning of this year, India only reported 10,000 cases of Coronavirus per day. By May, this number had increased by nearly 4000%. Terrifying isn't it? India's healthcare system is struggling to cope with the dramatic rise in Covid cases. But why has one of the fastest growing economies in the world suffered such devastating effects?

Here are some of the reasons that India seems to have been particularly vulnerable to the ravages of Coronavirus.

Large Gatherings

Kumbh Mela (a religious festival) is one of the largest of its kind on the world. With millions taking part, it involves dipping in the Ganges river to cleanse sins and bring salvation. 2021 was no different. Millions gathered, without wearing masks. Similarly political rallies attracted large crowds, sans social distancing.

Low Vaccine Coverage

Only 152m Indians have been vaccinated to date. That might sound like a colossal figure, but that's actually only 10% of the 1.3 billion members of India's population. That's not nearly enough for herd immunity, which - with our

current knowledge - would require 70% of the population to be vaccinated.

New variant to blame?

We now know that a new double mutation variant of Covid-19 emerged in India. However, it is currently unknown if human behaviour, the variant, or both are to blame for the violent second wave in India.

Population Density

In India's largest cities, population density is a major contributing factor. This leaves Covid-19 with a perfect breeding ground, where it can spread easily and rapidly.

Hospitals Can't Keep Up

The drastic rise in hospitalised Covid cases is engulfing Indian hospitals. ICU beds are running out, leaving many pleading for help on social media. Furthermore, transportation and storage issues with the Oxygen supply chain used to treat severely ill patients, has led to an Oxygen shortage in hospitals.

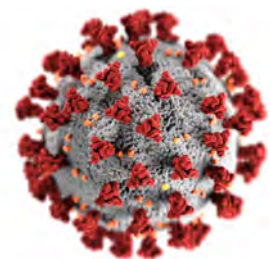
The second wave of Covid has hit India like a tsunami. This storm could have been prevented, from preparing hospitals to banning or heavily reducing large

gatherings. The Covid crisis in India has taught us that Covid is still here and it's still spreading.

How can you help?

By donating to one of the many charities such as UNICEF and The Indian Red Cross.

Figures correct at time of writing.



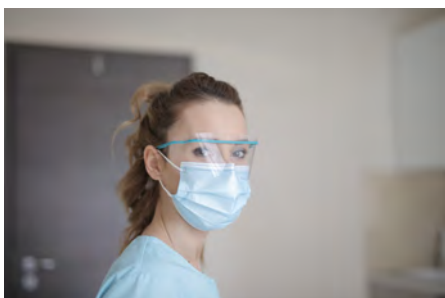
SHOULD WE FEAR CORONAVIRUS VACCINATIONS?

WRITTEN BY SHREYA SINGH

Although most people welcome the mass rollout of vaccines, there are many who remain sceptical or fearful of harmful side effects.

The AstraZeneca COVID vaccine has been linked to an increase risk of developing blood clots, including in the brain. This does not necessarily mean it is the vaccine that causes this; the clots may be attributed to the virus itself. At the time of this article being written, 30 people out of an astonishing 18 million who have been vaccinated with the AstraZeneca vaccine, have died from an 'unknown cause' of blood clots.

Although 30 people have died from this vaccine, a spokeswoman for the AstraZeneca company has stated *"Patients safety remains the company's highest priority"* whilst experts state that the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh the potential side effects.



There have been rising concerns in other countries, such as Germany, France, the Netherlands and Canada, where each country has restricted the vaccine to only be used on elderly people. All adults in the UK who are under the age of 40, are being offered an alternative to the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have all been approved for use in the UK, whilst the Novavax and Janssen versions are, at the time of writing, still pending approval.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that over 259 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines had been administered to Americans between 14th December 2020 and 10th May 2021, concluding that *"vaccines are safe and effective" and that "long term side effects are unlikely."* Indeed, whilst many are concerned about the rapidity with which the vaccines were developed, experts seem to be in agreement that the vaccines are safe and that any risk is minimal compared with the potential dangers of the virus itself.



MEGHAN AND THE MEDIA

WRITTEN BY CAPRI O'CONNOR PALANGAFKAN

Since her engagement to Prince Harry in 2017, there has been a media frenzy surrounding Meghan Markle. Each subsequent year has brought a new chapter in the couple's lives. In 2018, they got married, followed by the birth of their first child in 2019. This was followed the next year by the shock revelation that Meghan and Harry would be renouncing their royal duties and emigrating to the USA.

Coverage of the couple has varied hugely between different news outlets. As you may know for example, The Guardian and The Daily Mail are of opposing political beliefs, and this is seen very starkly in their coverage of any stories about Meghan Markle.

Daily Mail columnist Piers Morgan, has been particularly scathing about Meghan, making comments such as stating she *"ruthlessly disowned her father...continues to cynically exploit her royal titles."* Those who recognise Meghan for her charity work in raising awareness of gender equality and the empowerment of women, have been quick to point out that Piers' disgust at her, allegedly derives from a time years ago, when she did not return the journalist's calls.

It's interesting to compare and contrast different news outlets' views of Meghan and the opposing images they present of her and Kate Middleton, who remains a media favourite. For instance, when Kate was pregnant, the Daily Mail ran a headline stating *'Pregnant Kate Tenderly Cradles Her Baby Bump'*. However, when Meghan was pregnant, the same newspaper asked *'Why Can't Meghan Markle Keep Her Hands Off Her Bump?'* Similarly, whilst The Guardian contained a Kate and William wedding article whose headline read *'Kate Middleton's Homegrown Bouquet of Lily of the Valley Follows Royal Code'*, the Daily Mail stated that for her own wedding, *'Meghan Markle's Flowers May Have Put Princess Charlotte's Life at Risk.'*

There is little doubt that the UK media coverage of Meghan can be particularly scathing and vicious. However, many UK citizens feel a sense of outrage that Harry and Meghan chose to do their now infamous Oprah interview, during which allegations of racism within the Royal Family and ostracising of the couple were made. Some argued it was distasteful to make such claims, especially when Prince

Phillip was so unwell at the time. Others believed the couple had every right to voice their concerns.

So what do you think? Are Meghan and Harry better off renouncing royal commitments and choosing to reside in the United States, or, do you agree with The Sun that *'Meg's Mugged Us 'Off!'*?



KHLOE KARDASHIAN - SOCIAL MEDIA VICTIM OR PART OF THE PROBLEM?

WRITTEN BY JESSICA FERREIRA

American media personality, socialite and model Khloe Kardashian, has recently been both praised and criticised following the release of an unedited photo of her in a bikini. The image, posted by the Kardashians' grandmother, went viral, mainly because she appeared to look completely differently to how she is typically portrayed in social media.

The Kardashian team responded to the controversy by stating that years of cruel comments online led her to use filters and editing to shape her self-image into how she wishes to be seen. She posted a lengthy explanation to justify these actions, claiming that she has always been compared to her sisters, referred to as *"the fat one...the ugly one,"* and has even had people question who her biological father is as she looks so different to her sisters.

She continued to argue that her body and her image are her choice, and neither is put into the public domain specifically for other people's judgements and opinions. Kardashian stated that she would continue to unapologetically post what

she wants and that others should do the same *"regardless of who you are"*. Additionally, she added that she tries to live her life with kindness and compassion, but that it is difficult not to crumble under the weight of the public's judgement and setting of impossible standards for women to uphold.

However, many argue that because Kardashian has such a large platform, she should not have tried to take down the picture, as it gives people an awareness that not everything posted online is a reflection of reality. Indeed, when it comes to the perceptions of young, influential fans, perhaps more realistic images are exactly what is needed. Some have argued that her continued promotion and benefitting of advertising beauty and weight loss products is also misleading, when filters and editing software are used to minimise her *'flaws.'*

Overall, despite the negative comments, Kardashian has also received many supportive comments, as she has opened up about her insecurities and sense of pressure to live up to society's

expectations and beauty ideals.

So, what do you think about this matter? Is Khloe Kardashian a victim of social media's unrealistic beauty standards and the cruelty of trolling, or is she part of the problem afflicting the mental health and poor self-image of many of her followers?



TURNING THE SMILE UPSIDE DOWN?

WRITTEN BY BENJAMIN ADUBOFOUR

You may know of *Amazon* as the global company with insanely low costs and super fast shipping. There is no doubt that this phenomenally successful company has made many of our lives easier, in enabling us to get items we want as soon as possible. We have all come to recognise on sight the brown cardboard boxes with the well-known smile on the packaging. However, are you aware of the measures that are taken to ensure consumer satisfaction?

Behind the well-oiled machine that is the Amazon enterprise, is a multitude of employees working diligently to get our orders to us on time. One former employee who spoke to *The Guardian*, claims worker safety is almost an afterthought and *"There are days I say I'm just at the mercy of God."* Can we really celebrate the successes of Amazon and Jeff Bezos when there is so much controversy surrounding the treatment of his employees?

Even after a report was published about the high rate of injury for warehouse workers, the whistleblower stated, *"There has been no real change. There are still injuries."* In its defence, Amazon did install video monitors, saying, *"workers' safety is the*

company's number one priority." However, there has even been use of wristband technology that tracks employees' hand movements, using vibrations to prompt them. Workers' rights have been hampered by Amazon trying to prevent any protective union activity, allegedly altering the traffic light signals outside an Alabama warehouse to prevent workers from talking to unions.

While the company has done many admirable things such as donating to homelessness charities and raising \$135 million dollars for charity through Amazon Smile, there is no doubt that controversy has followed it over the years.

Another key element in Amazon's fast delivery times is the wellbeing of its delivery drivers. Some have also come forward, giving their accounts of the horrible 14 hour – yes, 14 hour - shifts! Allegedly, some drivers have been forced to use a plastic bottle to relieve themselves because of fears that going for toilet breaks might slow down the delivery speed and that could result in losing their job.

Even though Amazon proudly boasts that they provide one of the highest minimum wages in America at \$15,

delivery drivers at the company are still paid less than the average wage of delivery drivers at other companies.



A quick look at Amazon's mission statement shows that, *"We aim to be Earth's most customer centric company. Our mission is to continually raise the bar of the customer experience by using the internet and technology to help consumers find, discover and buy anything, and empower businesses and content creators to maximise their success."* However, in its bid to constantly improve customer satisfaction, it seems that sacrifices have to be made.

Furthermore, for a company that prides itself on being *"Earth's most customer centric company,"* one might question the harm that all that paper and plastic packaging that usually accompanies even the smallest of items from Amazon, is doing to the planet.

Furthermore, whilst Jeff Bezos has made an astounding \$200 billion from his lucrative company, Amazon apparently only paid £293m in tax in 2019, despite the receiving UK sales amounting to \$17.5 billion. Whilst small businesses and high street retailers are subject to standard tax laws, why is one of the most profitable companies in the world able to get away with paying so little tax that could go towards benefitting the very countries that have helped it become so successful?

These are all questions it might be worth mulling over the next time you are tempted to choose the unparalleled convenience of Amazon.



amazon

THE CO-EXISTENCE OF SCIENCE AND RELIGION

WRITTEN BY CHUKWUEBUKA OLISADAEU

Sometimes in the midst of life's circumstances, leisure and entanglements, we forget the bizarreness of our human existence. We forget how strange and unreal it is to have life present in our body that enables us to think, coordinate, interact, and come to logical conclusions responsible for technological developments, moral values and a civilised world.

Completely fixated with the aim to achieve accolades, riches, success and recognition, we may lambast or abuse people, not really caring about who we really are and how we came to be.

No human being has ever asked to be born, but all of a sudden, we feel that every event in our lives, is as a result of our efforts, and we don't attempt to understand what our purpose is. It's like we continually end up in this ever revolving cycle.

From the tiniest molecules, to the most vast of galaxies, to the very existence of space, time and life, the universe has always been everything. Multiple scientific theories have tried to explain the mysterious genesis of the universe, but the most common explanation is the

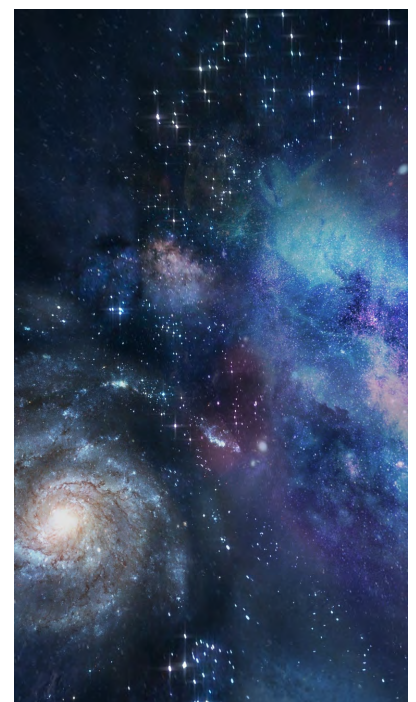
Big Bang theory.

This theory states that the universe began as an extremely hot and infinitely dense point, and about 13.7 billion years ago, this tiny singularity exploded violently. Scientists believe that from this explosion, all matter, energy, space and time were created.

This theory brings about some form of confusion. One of the most fundamental laws of science is the Law of Cause and Effect which states: *'For every material effect we see, there is a cause that came before or was simultaneous to it, and that is greater than it.'*

However, surely the Big Bang theory goes against this very scientific law? If there was an extremely hot and infinitely dense singularity, how did it come to be? Where could that point have been, if there was no space to place it? It could not have even been there in the first place, if there was no matter before the existence of that dense point. We are left to think that out of the utmost nothingness, such a material effect emerged. That can't have been possible, because nothing is literally nothing; it can't be envisioned, it can't be spiritual or physical: it is void.

Cosmologists and scientists suggest that the singularity that brought about this Big Bang was somehow natural



but behaved supernaturally and wouldn't have followed the laws of nature. If the Cause must be greater than the Effect, and super-nature is greater than nature, this doesn't make sense.

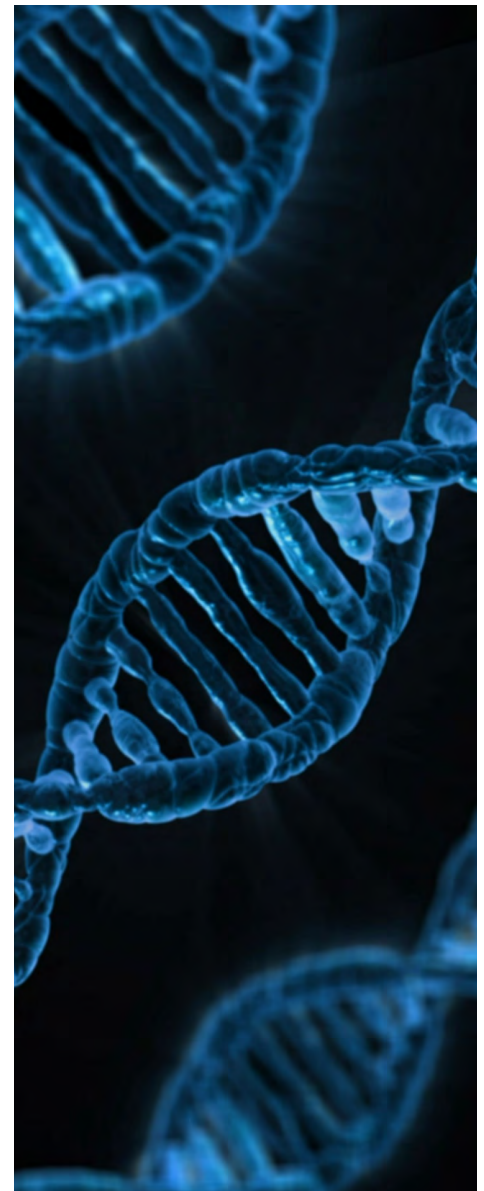
So what are we left with? We're left with the idea that the universe had a beginning that could have never been a natural cause. It was maybe something above nature. It was maybe something supernatural. Maybe, when we see the material effect being the universe, we can only come to the realisation that there was a supernatural creator that formed the universe.

This is a truism that everybody understands: the universe looks immaculately designed. When we look at the various aspects of nature: the birds, trees, squirrels, and all manner of life forms, and we see all of the things that they do so naturally well, many times we as humans try to copy and mimic these natural designs. However, we often fail in the process and often don't do nearly as well as the original design that we see in nature. From birth to old age, we look at the design of the human anatomy: the human hand, the arm, the leg, the joints, tendons, organs, nerves, the brain, and we see that those are some of the most advanced pieces of equipment ever put together, in working order. The starry

sky at night to the unique fingerprints on your hand, to the ability for humans and animals to procreate and not lose 'quality' in reproduced species, the design is overwhelming and it's omnipresent.

The idea that this material world is all that there is, all that there was, and all that there will ever be, just doesn't seem plausible. It wouldn't make sense that all that is going on in our brains is just electrons bouncing around, and we are just the product of those continual bounces. If that's so, how can we trust our own decision and reasoning processes and the thoughts that we think on a daily basis? If we were just products of blind chance, and random processes over multiplied millions of years, reasoning in its entirety, moral values, and the laws of reasoning simply would not have any explanation.

In my opinion, there has to have been an uncaused first cause, an infinite being that was always there, never bounded by matter, space or time, that brought about this beginning. It's a concept that really tests our human mind, and it's one that probably will never be comprehensible. To me, and many others around the world, the only possible explanation is the existence of a higher power...God.



THE STRUGGLE FOR THE STREETS OF LONDON

WRITTEN BY ASMAA OTMANI

You may have noticed that getting around London has changed somewhat in the last year or so...in fact, whilst these changes may have the environment, climate change and congestion at the heart of them, you may now find it takes longer to get from Point A to Point B. London's Mayor, Sadiq Khan, has been widely criticised for new traffic controlling measures that were brought into effect over Lockdown. Back in January, the High Court ruled that Khan's Streetspace Enterprise was actually unlawful.

Justice Lang ruled London's Streetspace scheme was '*seriously flawed*' and '*took advantage of the pandemic*.' Lang further criticised the '*radical*' changes to London's roads.

In addition, legal challenges have been made by those representing black cab drivers, who are furious that they have been banned from a new bus-only route on the A10 in Bishopsgate. Supporting black cab drivers, Justice Lang stated that the scheme should be abolished. Many drivers have found the cycle lanes cause further traffic; indeed, one busy lane in Kensington High Street was removed after residents and

drivers complained.

So, what are the traffic control measures that have been put up around London and how do they affect your journeys?

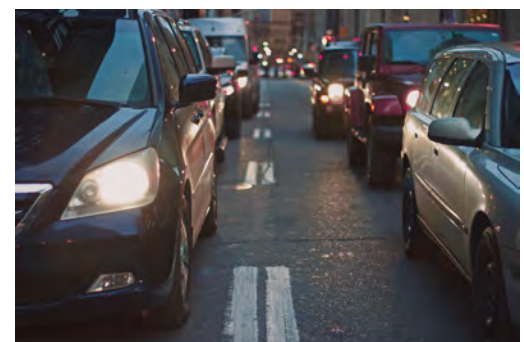
ULEZ

Its purpose is to improve air quality, which is why some areas in central London have been cut off for vehicles that don't meet the ULEZ standards. If those vehicles do cross ULEZ areas, they could be fined between £12.50 - £100. When first introduced, it operated at specific time. However, it now it operates 24/7 throughout the whole year (except Christmas Day).

Oval Triangle

First introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic, its purpose is to encourage people to walk and cycle rather than drive to "*free up the streets to be enjoyed by those that don't have outdoor space*" as stated by Lambeth's Deputy Leader and Sustainable Transport Councillor, Cllr Clair Holland. It covers areas between Stockwell, Oval and the Vauxhall Tube stations, resulting in short drives to become ten times longer. It has resulted in the 40% of

residents that do own a car, finding difficulties in accessing their estates and an increase in cars driving through Mursell Estate to shorten their drive and avoid the scheme. No signs have been put up warning drivers about the Oval Triangle; those who unfortunately cross it, have to face a fine of £60!



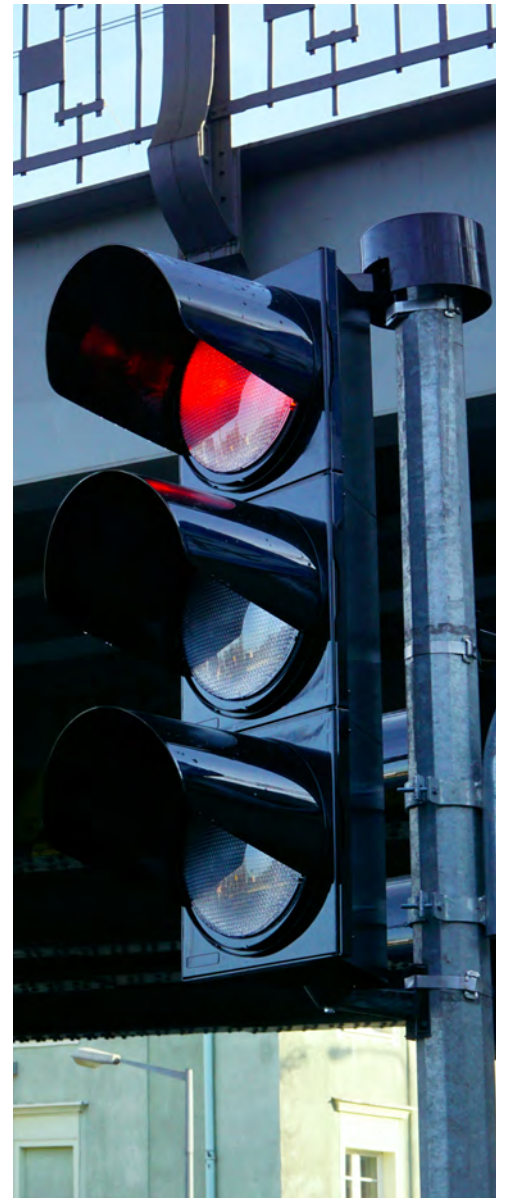
Cycle Lanes

There is no denying that cycling routes have narrowed down our roads, resulting in an increase of traffic on some roads. Despite its sole purpose being to encourage people to cycle by giving them space to do so, some argue that there aren't many cyclists using them, and the bus lanes being moved into the roads have caused further congestion and delays. Furthermore, the posts signalling cycle lanes have been shown to cause problems for emergency services vehicles, not to mention require all bus users (including the elderly and those with disabilities or sensory processing issues) to have to stand amongst busy traffic. Many local businesses display 'Re-open our streets' posters, as cycle lanes have also deterred parking and therefore customers.

Bus Lanes

An unmistakable long white line with 'BUS LANE' in block capitals painted on the road, makes it clear that vehicles other than buses, licensed taxis and cyclists, are not allowed access. Driving in a bus lane can result in a fine ranging between £80 - £160; thankfully, accidentally driving in a bus lane won't result in points on your license. All bus lanes are now inaccessible to drivers, resulting in greater congestion in some areas where vehicles are limited to one rather than two lanes.

So, what do you think? Have the Mayor's traffic calming measures been a boost for the climate, commuters and local residents and businesses? Or, have these strategies just achieved the opposite?



NOT SO SUPER LEAGUE...

WRITTEN BY BASIL MUHUDIN

You may recall hearing about the controversy surrounding plans to set up a Super League in football earlier this year. But what exactly was this all about and why did the plans collapse?

Six English Premier League teams were set to join the so-called Super League: Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham. The plans were that they would join the European teams of AC Milan, Atletico Madrid, Barcelona, Inter Milan, Juventus and Real Madrid. The premise behind the Super League was that these elite clubs would not only play in the national games, but also rival one another in European competitions that would take place during the week.

With talks of this happening for a long time, the majority of fans clung to hope that these clubs would not proceed with the plans. The competition intended to be sponsored by the American bank, JP Morgan, with a staggering \$3.5 billion being given to the clubs who joined the competition!

However, fans across the UK were outraged, arguing that football would become unfair and uncompetitive. A team

such as Arsenal (who have not qualified for the Champions League since 2016/17) would automatically have been allocated a place in the Super League, regardless of their poor performance in English football matches. In contrast, a non-Super League team that might go on to win the Premier League, would have not qualified for the elite games, consequently losing out on millions of pounds of funding.

The plans sparked outrage throughout the football community and Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that *"no action is off the table"* in stopping the Super League from proceeding. The whole footballing community detested the idea. UEFA even warned players who joined the League that they would be banned from playing in international matches. Fans accused those involved in the

Super League of trying to destroy the morale of the game.

Former England footballer Gary Neville was particularly critical, stating that the Super League plans were *"a criminal act against football fans in this country."* He went on to state, *"I benefited from football hugely, I've made money out of football, I invested money into a football club and now I'm not against money in football, but the principles and ethos of fair competition and the rights to play the game, so Leicester win the league, they go into the Champions League."*

Following widespread uproar, the Super League plans were forced to be annihilated. There is little doubt that in the end, the passion and sense of fairness from true lovers of football, triumphed over the greed of those in power.



seasonal specials

IS SUMMER STILL ON THE CARDS?

WRITTEN BY THELMA NIMAKO

Being asked *"what are you going to do this summer holiday?"* used to be an exciting question full of the possibilities of relaxing days in a foreign country. This year however, we are still not completely out of the gloomy imprisonment that we faced in 2020's Summer Lockdown.

As the Summer of 2019 began, you could hear the endless laughter of people in the park, the lively chants of revellers in the night and the roaring screams of children at local funfairs. But the start of 2020 brought with it a time of uncertainty, when normally well-behaved citizens were suddenly jostling to push each other out of the way to get their hands on the last roll of toilet paper...since then, whilst shops have been less chaotic, we still appear to be far from back to normal when it comes to holidays.

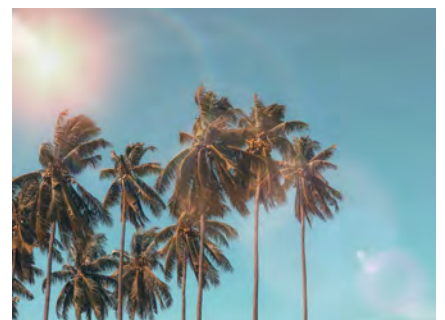
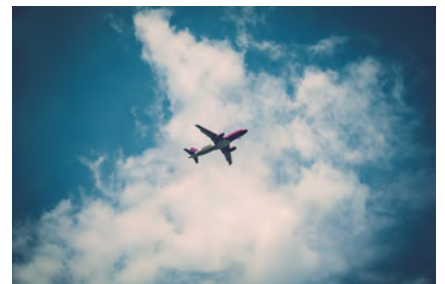
At the time of this article being written, the UK Government had announced greater freedoms from Lockdown restrictions. For this those asking if you can book a holiday abroad... well, the answer is yes, but you must take a lot of caution and may not be permitted to

travel to the destination of your choice. Furthermore, even if the UK allows us to travel to a certain country, they might not be so willing to allow UK residents onto their shores - take Australia and New Zealand for example.

Although many countries may not allow you to enter due to the current travel ban, it is not illegal for you to plan your next holiday, but, just be aware that government guidelines can change at the last minute!

With global travel restrictions in place, many Brits have decided to take so called 'staycations.'

Indeed, statistics show that nearly three quarters of Brits have stated that they would like to explore the UK more in 2021. With a multitude of stunning UK locations to visit, from the stunning beaches of Bournemouth to the historical heart of Hastings, perhaps 2021 is the year to explore our very own country and support its local businesses. So, where are you off to this summer holiday?



MEET THE STAFF!

The summer holidays is a time that everyone looks forward to, so, what does the KS4 Newsletter Staff look forward to this summer?

I'm looking forward to doing calisthenics. Said Abdi	I would love to sleep all day! Rawaan Abulle	I will be trying to improve my Japanese. Lea Adeyemi	I look forward to relaxing. Benjamin Adubofour	I'm hoping to go abroad this summer. Hamzah Ahmed
I will be going out with friends. Sihan Ahmed	I am looking forward to playing football. Adam Ali	I'm looking forward to going biking. Muhammed Ali	I will be playing on my PC. Levaan Baiden	I'm going to CentreParcs. Honour Bailey
I will be improving my boxing skills. Nathan Beaumont	I will be visiting family in London. Reuben Bowes	I can't wait to spend time with my family. Shackaye Briscoe	I will be enjoying a visit to the beach. Kaelee Daley	I hope to make some new friends over the summer. Jessica Ferreira
I'm looking forward to sleepovers. Ayoub Gutin	I'm going to enjoy being outdoors. Rihanna John	I'm going to Jamaica!. Shani Johnson	I'm looking forward to having time to read more.. Salih Karkin	I want to visit new places. Jehan Kelifa
I look forward to the easing of Covid restrictions. Ruqayya Khan	I am going to grow my YouTube channel along with my cousin. Antony Alexander Lagoas Dos Santos	I am going to Thorpe Park. Dennis Lopez Garcia	I'm going to spend time with my Youth Group. Thelma Nimako	I will be enjoying this glorious weather. Capri O'Connor Palangafkan
I will be re-connecting with God. Chukwuebuka Olisaedu	I look forward to having few responsibilities over summer. Kamil Oloyede	I would like to go on holiday. Eniola Omonjo	I can't wait to explore new places around London.. Asmaa Otmani	I can't wait to have a break. Karina Roberts
	I will be visiting friends' houses, after not being able to during Lockdown. Shreya Singh		I will be looking forward to watching summer sporting fixtures such as the Euros. Basil Muhudin	



The Fight For Female Freedom

On a street by the Common, nothing alight,
The darkened gap between two streetlights,
A steady footstep, assured, alright,
Then approached by a stranger, panic ignites.

A few strides behind, keeping pace,
An act of threat, could be seen as a chase,
Oblivious and arrogant, no regard for her space,
Her steps mirrored, her path traced.

A fearful step, worried, afraid,
An innocent woman, rules obeyed,
Nothing should appear, nothing should invade,
And yet keys in hand like deadly blades.

Too many times - an egregious sum,
Conflict and protest - a social coliseum,
Reform the state of male fiefdom,
Join the fight for female freedom.

- Reuben N. Bowes

