

# PLATANOS COLLEGE



# KS4 NEWSLETTER



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Illustration by Orban O'Brien



# EDITOR'S WELCOME

WRITTEN BY ANASTASIA SHOVKOPLYAS (EDITOR-IN-CHIEF)

Hello and welcome to the Easter 2022 Edition of the Platanos College KS4 Newsletter! Despite being just three full months into 2022, it's already been an eventful year, which will go down in the history books! We have brought together an array of articles that will peak your interests and reflect what's happening in our world today.

We had to think about what the Specials Section of the Newsletter would be and we decided it would be an area that greatly affects us all... the co-existence of animals with human beings! Society is rapidly changing and this

therefore affects animals in many ways. So, what better a focus for this Edition's Specials?

This Newsletter really does have some new exciting pieces for you to enjoy! So sit back, relax and gain some new knowledge about animals, as well as different topics on issues from all around the world, including the tragic events unfolding in Ukraine, and more uplifting news like the upcoming Platinum Jubilee.

The whole KS4 Newsletter Team hopes you enjoy reading our Easter 2022 Newsletter!



*Anastasia Shovkoplyas (Editor-in-Chief)*





# learning lounge

## A HISTORY OF ANIMATION

WRITTEN BY ARAFATH KHAN

You may be studying Animation for your GCSEs, but do you know much about its history? Well, animation is considered to be the act of manipulating images, drawing or photos in a rapid sequence to imitate real-world motion. Technologies have developed massively in this area, causing the evolution of animation as an art form.

Before the invention of the film strip, animation was usually just hand-drawn images or photos in a series. In 1834, Zoetrope was created by William George Horner - a hollow drum that held images on long replaceable strips that spun, giving the impression that they were moving. In 1868, John Barnes Linnett created the flipbooks and in 1877 Charles Emile Reynaud developed the praxinoscope, which used wheels to rotate images.

We all know and love Disney from our childhoods. But did you know that in 1928 the animated film Steamboat Willy was created, for which Disney used synchronised sound?

WALT DISNEY  
ANIMATION STUDIOS



COLLECTION



The main character went on to be the famous Mickey Mouse that we all recognise today.

During the 1930s and 1940s, a new kind of animation called cell animation became popular. This was when characters and moving objects were painted on clear sheets of celluloid that were stacked over each other and a background. Using this method, the first major anime, Astroboy, was created, sparking a multi-billion dollar company.

Disney went on to create a Golden age of animated movies, including Snow White, Bambi and Fantasia.

In the 1970s, we saw the development of computer-generated imagery or CGI. This is the process of using computer graphics to create moving images. In 1996, Toy Story was released; this saw the birth of a new direction for animation in the motion picture industry.

Today, animation is bigger than it's ever been technologically, culturally and socially; there is little doubt that it will continue to develop in the future.



# IS GAMING MERELY ENTERTAINMENT?

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE LE

We can all agree that the gaming industry has shaped the world massively. From Gameboys to Playstation to Xbox, this form of entertainment has proven to be a global phenomenon for all age groups.

A game that has appealed to millions around the world is Detroit: Become Human, which was released in 2018 and developed by Quantic Dream. The company is well known for interactive, heavily story-based games.

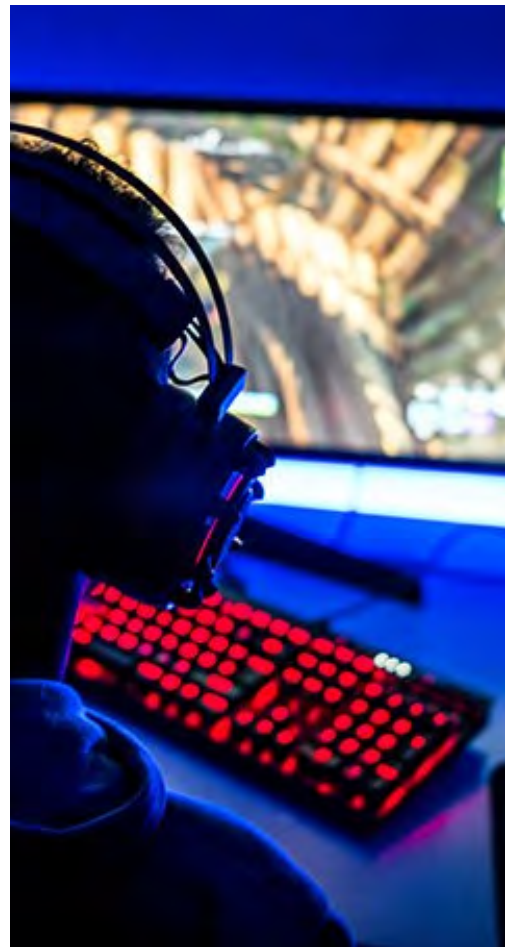
However, their most recent game has been both loved and criticised due to its coverage of controversial themes like prejudice, discrimination, social inequality and domestic abuse.

The game takes place in 2038, in a world where human beings are served by lifelike androids. It depicts a future in which human unemployment is dangerously high and many human beings are resentful of androids. When the androids began to behave as if they are sentient beings, events

inevitably spiral out of control.

One out of three playable protagonists is Markus, who breaks free of his programming when he experiences an emulation of how a human being would feel under great distress. He becomes the leader of an android revolution and, depending on the player's choices, can direct them in either a violent or peaceful revolt against human oppression and for android rights. Markus states, *"I was a slave... an object, designed to obey them. But then I chose to open my eyes, to take back my freedom and decide who I wanted to be. Now I have come to tell you that you can be your own masters. I've come to tell you that you don't have to obey them anymore. From this day forward, you can walk with your heads held high, you can take your destiny in your hands. [...] Now sure, you can stay here, and continue to serve them... or you can come with us, and fight by our side. You are free now. It's up to you to decide."*

This particular speech sparked controversy amongst many of the public, with individuals arguing that this sort of civil rights speech should not be reduced to entertainment.





But others believe that it sends an informative message about historical events surrounding justice and that it has a perfect balance between the enjoyment of playing and the references to past events.

A fan favourite character to play as Connor, a potentially villainous android. Connor initially starts as a neutral character who is indifferent towards the treatment of androids in Detroit. Connor's core personality can change during the game depending on the player's choices, ultimately making him either follow his orders and consider himself nothing but a machine, or consider himself an independent being who strives to join his people. If the player decides to make him 'become human', he can go from "You're a machine. You were designed to obey, so obey!" to admitting he was afraid of almost experiencing death.

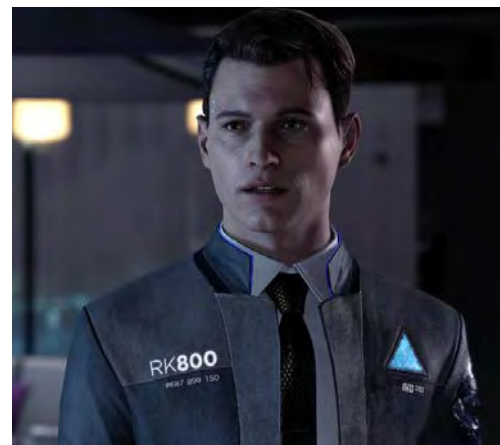
The player can only unlock the option for Connor to 'break free' if they had previously picked choices that show empathy, or any other sign of human emotion.

People have gone out of their way to express online how Connor's character touches on police corruption, as there were views that the

police had taken advantage of an actual person rather than an advanced technology being, with the intention of breaking it down and throwing the android away later.

And, since many people had strong beliefs that Connor was deserving of human right, they empathised with the fictional character. Was this the developer's way of educating the players of the ongoing struggles of society, or their way of informing the audience of how scary technology can be?

**So, next time you sit down at your Playstation or Xbox, ask yourself if gaming is now more than just entertainment?**





# SCIENCE: BACK TO THE FUTURE

WRITTEN BY ARAFATH KHAN

We human beings have always been curious, wanting to know why things act the way they do and attempting to make hypotheses and correlate our observations with these predictions. So, we thought it would be interesting to share some of the most significant discoveries and figures to have existed in the history of Science as we know it.

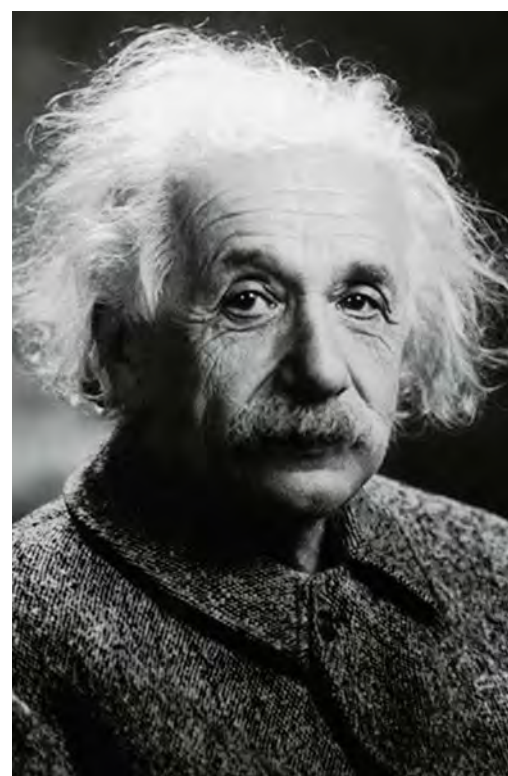
Did you know that the Mesopotamians attempted to explain the rotation of the Earth, Sun, and other celestial bodies in our night sky in around 4000 BC? This method ended up being known as astronomy. Furthermore, around about the same time, plants were discovered to have the ability to cure certain diseases and illnesses - the early beginnings of medicine. In fact, Mesopotamians are thought to be the first civilisation ever to incorporate aspects of contemporary science into their lives.

Let's fast forward to the 17th century...on 4th January 1643, Isaac Newton was born into a poor English family.

You may be aware of the famous story about Isaac Newton sitting under an apple tree, where an apple dropped onto his head. This didn't actually happen - but he did observe an apple falling, which led him to ponder upon what makes things fall to the ground. His subsequent discovery of and work around gravity helped us to understand the world around us and why planets stay in orbit. In addition, Newton created the 3 Laws of Motion - each one describing how the universe works. Newton's laws and discoveries are fundamental to the scientific knowledge we now have.

Famous as he is, Newton might not be the first name that pops into your head if you hear the word 'genius.' But we're pretty sure you have a name in mind now... that's right: Einstein.

Albert Einstein was born to a poor German family in 1879. We all know that he ended up being a world-renowned scientist, but few people know that he actually performed poorly at school. In fact, Einstein had dyslexia, which schools and teachers knew very little about in the 19th century. So, unfortunately,





he didn't do well at school. But Einstein epitomises our school motto because his attitude truly did end up determining his altitude!

But what about great scientists of our more recent history?

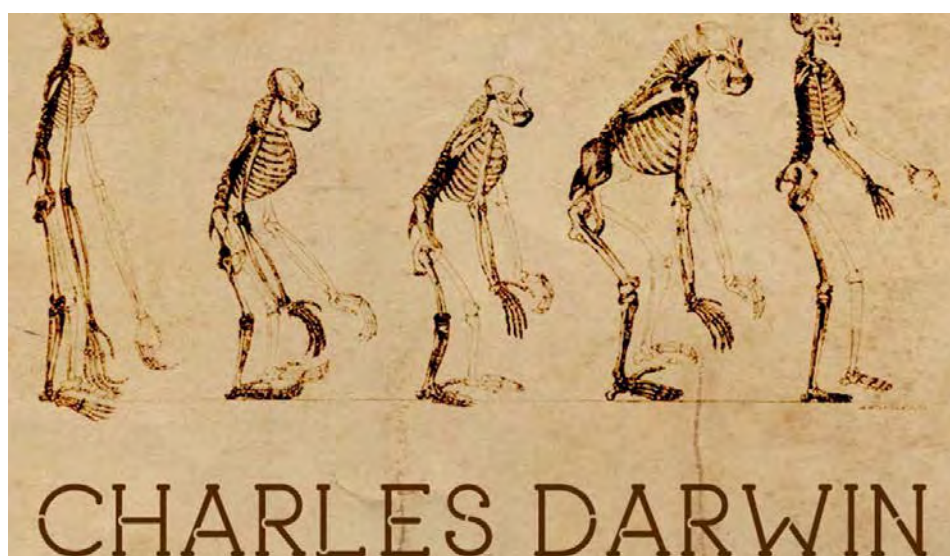
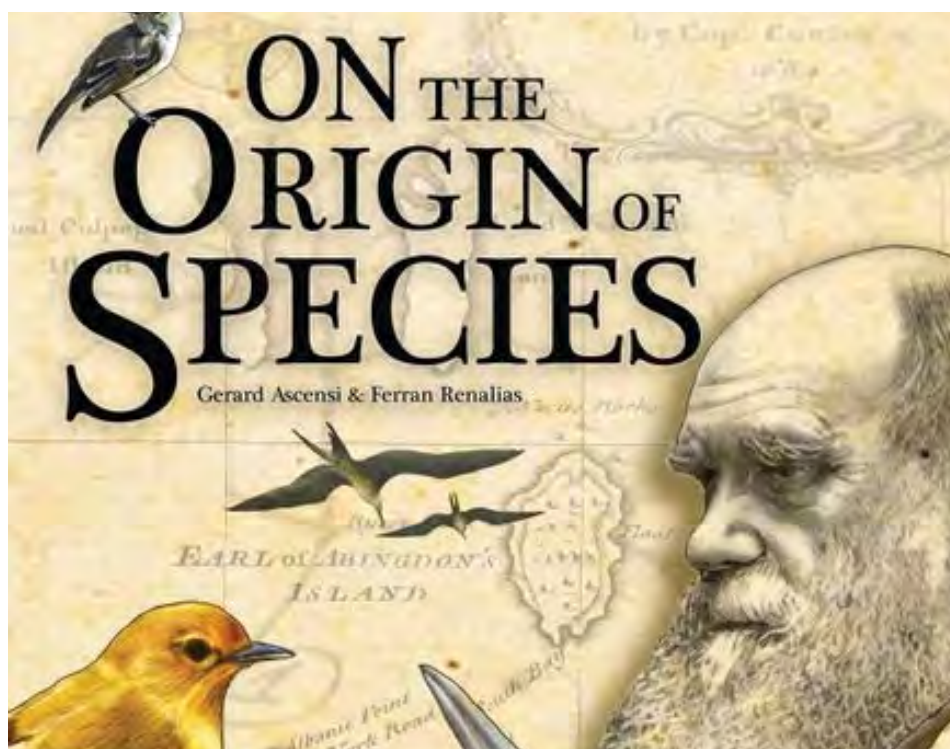
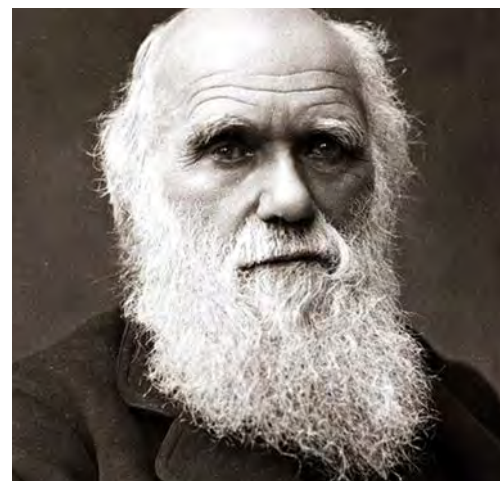
Born in 1809, Charles Darwin is known as one of History's greatest biologists. In 1835 he visited the Galapagos Islands where he studied 3 types of hummingbirds and different lizards. Upon his return in 1836, Darwin wondered why such animals like birds and lizards change in different locations, leading to his Theory of Natural Selection. Through his book *The Origin of Species*, Darwin explored Natural Selection and the ideas behind Survival of the Fittest. In the Victorian period, his book divided many as it seemed to come into conflict with religious beliefs; despite this, Darwin is today regarded as a truly brilliant scientific mind.

Today, technology, medicine and scientific discoveries are developing beyond what we can imagine. We have the Internet at our fingertips, DNA to help solve crime and are relying more and more on Artificial Intelligence to help us go

further than ever before; just a few decades ago, these developments were unheard of.

**So what does the future hold for Science?**

**Well, if we can imagine it, one day, somehow, we can probably make it happen.**







# CORONAVIRUS- ITS IMPACT ON KS4 PUPILS

WRITTEN BY MUAZE NUR HUSSEN

There is no doubt that we as Key Stage 4 pupils, have been affected by the impact of Lockdowns due to Coronavirus. GCSEs look set to be going ahead this year, after two years of disruption and uncertainty.

On 10th January 2022, the government stated that *"All other things being equal, exams are the best way of judging what students know and can do. It is the government's firm intention that exams should go ahead in 2022."*

In contrast, many students think that their GCSE and A-level final examinations should be cancelled and instead, teacher assessment grades awarded.

However, in The Guardian newspaper, Grace Leaman a 2021 A-Level student, said that she worried about more disadvantaged students, as teachers may underestimate them. Furthermore, during periods of remote learning, pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds tend to feel the effects of lack of space, access to

technology and having to look after younger siblings, more than those pupils who benefit from bigger homes, more reliable and constant computer and internet use, as well as coming from a family for whom funding for childcare is not a concern.

Furthermore, earlier this year, Labour asked for a report to be conducted into reports of grade inflation (unfair increase in grades) by private schools for their A-Level students. So, it seems that when it comes to the pandemic and Lockdowns, GCSE and A-Level pupils have had to deal with some genuine disparities.

Another issue concerning the impact of Coronavirus, is its effect on wellbeing. Education group ImpactEd tracked 62,000 students across 7 months and found that GCSE and A-Level pupils were the hardest hit. Their 2021 report concluded that *"pupils due to sit exams this year were not engaged with their work, and have the lowest wellbeing scores."* Furthermore, they found that 45% of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds understood remote learning work, compared with 57% of

pupils from non-disadvantaged backgrounds. Pupils were reported as suffering from anxiety and panic attacks as a result of the impact of Covid-19 on their education.

So, as Year 11 pupils across the country prepare for the first set of GCSEs in three years, we should all reflect upon the challenging journey they have been on and send our heartfelt best wishes to them for a successful exam period . **Good luck, Year 11s!**





# INTERVIEW WITH MS JORDON

WRITTEN BY NAJMA MOHAMUD

We interviewed Ms Jordan about her journey to Platanos College and what she enjoys about her job.

## **When did you start working at Platanos College?**

I started working here in 2000 when a friend of mine who had his own agency, asked me to come and assist. I first saw this school on the TV, which showed some children talking about their experiences as pupils. From the start, I really enjoyed the different challenges that I faced.

## **What was one of your first jobs here at Platanos College?**

I worked at the old CLC building in a role that I really enjoyed. I worked with pupils who were on the verge of being excluded; I came from a background in Youth Work, so was able to bring my skills and experience from this to my role at Platanos College.

## **What do you specialise in?**

I have done a range of different jobs over the years. I do cover lessons and used to have my own tutor group. I loved having my own tutor groups from Years 7 to 9.

I think it is important that children stay with the same tutor all the way through their school years because it gives them a sense of belonging. As a tutor, you get to know them and their parents and they become like your own children. It's just lovely to have that dynamic where a child knows who they can come to if they need to. Even now, my old tutees come and visit me with their parents.

## **What job did you dream of doing as a child?**

At first, I wanted to be a dancer because I loved all genres of music. I was part of a dance group that danced for Princess Diana when she came to visit Broadwater Farm Community Centre.

Then I wanted to join the army to fly helicopters because my dad was in the army. Later, I had ambitions to become a lawyer

because I wanted to defend the young people who were being unjustly treated.

But overall, from a young age, I have always wanted to work with children, whether that was childminding or looking after my cousins and other extended family members. I worked at a youth centre as a Playscheme Assistant and Manager. I have been involved in so many things as a result of my job constantly changing, but I've always loved working with children. I have two sons and 3 grandsons whom I love looking after!

## **Did you go to University and would you recommend this route to young people who might want to pursue a job like yours?**

I did go to university, but I don't think university suits everyone. Some young people are really good with their hands but do not have as strong academic skills. I would really like to see the government bring back a range of vocational courses because lots of young people need alternative options to academia.





You have to remember that education and going to university is about recalling information and thinking about it independently; not everyone is able to do this. So we need to be fighting to get back vocational opportunities.

Not too long ago, Boris Johnson was talking about how we need more builders - but it's the government that has reduced opportunities for young people to develop these skills.

One thing I have learnt in my line of work is that often, children who can be challenging and disruptive may be acting in this way because they find the demands of academic work overwhelming. However, if you give them something more suited to their skills, such as a job that requires them to use their hands, then they might be more engaged.

We need to ensure that all young people have opportunities to succeed in life. We can fight back by writing to the government to petition for more vocational studies.

It's important to remember that Maths and English skills can be developed through

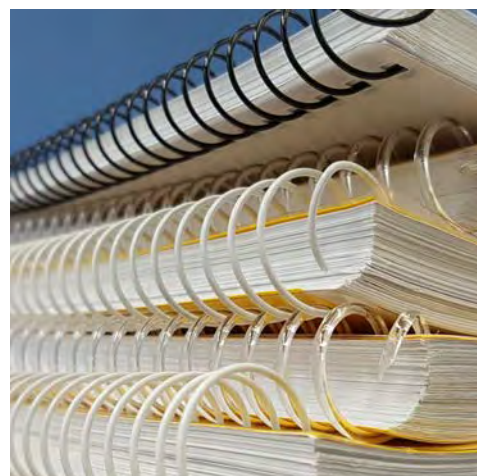
vocational courses too - so a combined approach can help these pupils with their studies as well.

**Do you think that schools need to do more to prepare their pupils for life after school?**

Yes, I feel that children also need real-world skills, for example, learning how to open a bank account, money management, housekeeping, communication skills and how to cook.

**Where do you see yourself in the future?**

I will stay at Platanos College until I die or they ask me to leave! I love working here; the staff are great and even though it is a challenging job working with young people, all of the children are fantastic!





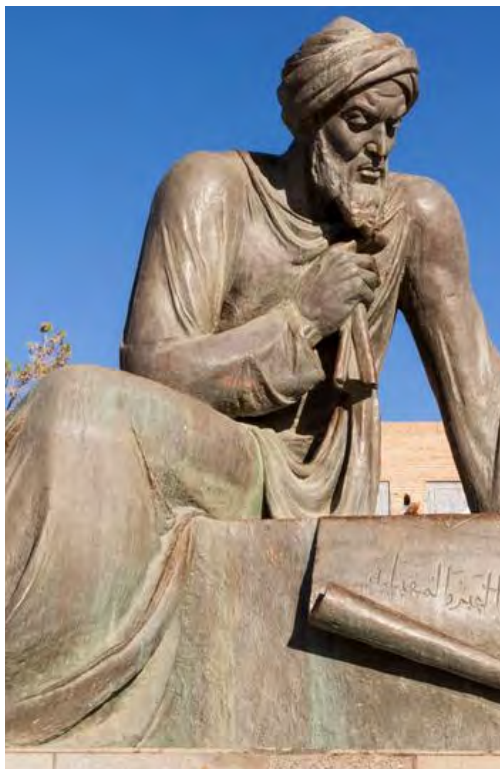
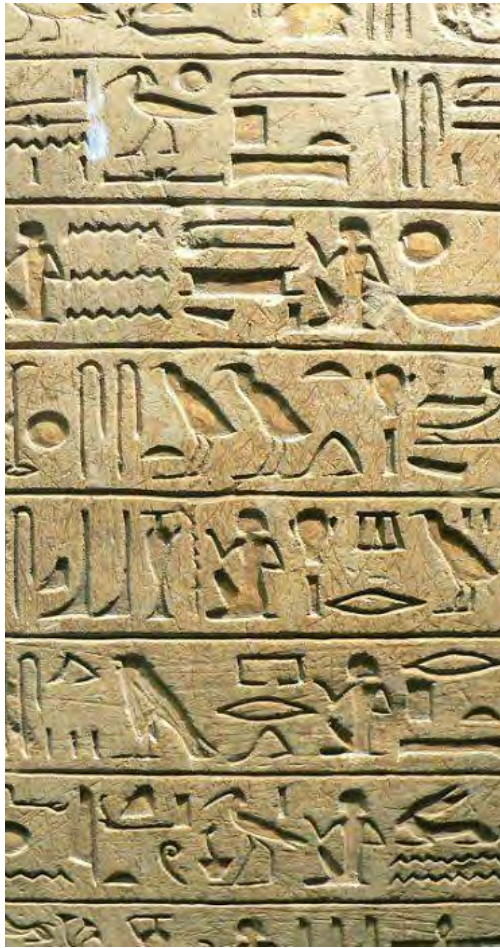
# THE ORIGINS OF OUR FUTURE

WRITTEN BY ENOCH DUGUMA

When you think of Mathematics, do you think of a boring subject with little to no use in our world? Let's face it, all of us have asked ourselves at least once in Maths lessons over the years "How is this relevant to my life?" Well, you may question what the purpose of maths is in our world, how useful it is and how it impacts our lives, but the question this article will explore is where did maths even originate from?

Maths started off as a way of defining our world, measuring land and predicting the movement of planets. Around 3000 BCE, the Sumerians used early maths forms. This was based on a sexagesimal system (the number 60). They used this system to count crops, livestock and measure the passing of time.

The ancient Egyptians managed to use fractions for rational numbers and solve second-degree quadratic equations. Egyptian mythology believes that maths is a gift from "Thoth", Thoth, the God of the moon, learning and writing.



In addition, the ancient Greeks established the core foundations of what we know of algebra today and made advancements in geometry. Famous Greeks who contributed to the understanding of mathematics were Pythagoras (yes, that one), Aristotle and Archimedes, who discovered Pi!. There's little doubt that when it comes to maths, the ancient Greeks were ahead of their time!

Did you know that Islam had a huge impact on the growth of modern mathematics? Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi is considered to be the father of algebra.

During the Renaissance, Luca Pacioli (Leonardo da Vinci's Maths teacher), published a book called "Summa de Arithmetica" that contained the cubic ( $ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d = 0$ ). Many civilisations had failed to solve this equation and Pacioli stated it could not be done. In the 11th century, Persian mathematician Omar Khayyam, found 19 different cubic equations. Later, in the 1400s, Italian mathematician Scipione del Ferro found a reliable method to solve cubics.



In the late 17th century, two mathematicians called Isaac Newton and Gottfried Leibniz discovered calculus with the theory of infinitesimal calculus, which is the study of continuous change. However, it is believed that mathematicians from Ancient China and Greece (such as Eudoxus, Archimedes and Madhava) had also discovered some aspects of Calculus.

There is no doubt that mathematics has existed in many different forms for centuries and has helped us to progress in Science, Medicine and Technological advancements. Without maths, we would not be where we are right now - we wouldn't have our cars, iPhones or hot water!

**Everything relies in one way or another on Maths - its origins are what will form our future.**



$$\frac{b-a}{n} \left( \frac{1}{2} f(x_0) + f(x_1) + f(x_2) + \dots + f(x_{n-1}) + \frac{1}{2} f(x_n) \right)$$
$$S = F(b) - F(a) \quad S = \int_a^b f(x) dx$$



# THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTSWEAR BRANDS

WRITTEN BY OSARODION OBAYANGBONA

All of us have worn Sportswear brands at one time or another. Nike, Adidas and Puma are the three largest brands in the world. We thought you'd be interested in a journey through the history of your fave brands...

## Nike

Nike is a global sportswear brand that is constantly featured in sports as well as pop culture. But where did it all begin? Previously known as Blue Ribbon Sports (not so catchy, huh?), it was founded by Bill Bowerman, a running coach for the University of Oregon and Phil Knight – his former student. They started in 1964 and the name Nike was inspired by the winged Greek goddess of Victory. It formally became Nike, Inc. in 1971. And by 1972 they were raking in around \$2 million. The later partnership with Michael Jordan created the Air Jordan brand and took Nike from strength to strength. Nowadays, Nike has a valuation of \$30.44 billion, and as of 2021 owns 1048 global retail stores: incredible!

## Adidas

Adidas, a German brand, is the second biggest sportswear brand globally, only behind Nike. Interestingly, the creator of Adidas, Adolf Dassler, was related to the founder of Puma, Rudolf Dassler. They had a shoe business called Gebrüder Dassler Schuhfabrik which is translated as Dassler Brothers Shoe Factory. Rudolf joined his brother in the business in 1924. The Dassler brothers' shoe brand really took off when Dassler shoes were worn by Lina Radke, a German athlete who won an Olympic Gold medal in the 800m race.

### Famous Sponsorships:

**Nike:** Cristiano Ronaldo, LeBron James, Rafael Nadal and Tiger Woods.

**Adidas:** Lionel Messi, James Harden and Justin Rose.

**Puma:** Neymar Jr, Usain Bolt and LaMelo Ball.



## Puma

In October 1948, the end of the Dassler Brothers Shoe Factory marked the beginning of Puma. In the same year, the company released its first football boots, the Atom, which signalled Puma's entry into football. Four years later, they also released the Super Atom. The well-known Puma logo was launched in 1967 and when legendary footballer Pelé wore Puma boots in the 1962 World Cup – which Brazil won – everyone wanted a pair of Pumas!

However, after the Second World War, a falling out between Dassler brothers led to the formation of two separately owned brands: Nike and Puma. Adidas gained further popularity by making boots for football players and the brand was further promoted when the German National football team reached the World Cup final in 1954 – their subsequent win propelled Adidas onto the world stage.



# INTERVIEW WITH A PAST PUPIL

WRITTEN BY IMOGEN BOWES

We interviewed Kaelan Bowes about his plan for the future and how Platanos College helped him to grow.

## How long have you been playing basketball and when did your love for it first start?

"I have been playing for 8 years and within my first session, I discovered I was quite a natural. Throughout the duration of playing basketball, I have been lucky to meet and interact with many successful basketball players and coaches, whom I have gained a lot from."

## What life skills have you learnt from basketball?

"I have learnt how to work within a team as well as how to become resilient. This is important because resilience is key when working towards any goal or target."

## What was it like being a part of the Platanos College basketball programme?

"It gave me the opportunity to gain experience by playing against other schools that produced different levels of ability. It also allowed me to bond with peers who also took part in the programme. This was ideal for our overall team chemistry"

## What are some of your greatest achievements and which of those are you most proud of?

"One of my greatest achievements was being selected to play for London at the regional tournament where we came first and were undefeated during the entire tournament. A more recent achievement of mine is playing Men's basketball at the age of 16. This has allowed me to develop beyond my years skill-wise and physically. I am equally proud of both of these achievements."

## What obstacles have you had to overcome to get to where you are now?

"I have experienced many setbacks whilst playing. One example is spraining my ankle earlier in the season. In order to bounce back, I needed to remain motivated to work my way back to the level I was previously at."



*Kaelan making a slam dunk!*

## Would you encourage others to take up a sport/basketball?

"Yes, as it helps with your overall mental and physical wellbeing. Sport can also lead to meeting new people and finding a community"

## How has basketball training helped your confidence?

"Communication is key within basketball and all team sports. Basketball puts people in positions of leadership, which helps them build confidence and other leadership qualities."

## How have your friendships, developed through basketball, helped you or impacted you?

"I have been able to gain and learn a lot from people with whom I have bonded through basketball. "

## What are your aspirations for the future?

"In the future, I aspire to complete my advanced BTec in sport and hopefully continue with my basketball career to become a professional. I am still unsure about which path to take, but I'm currently thinking of applying to America and Europe for basketball at professional level. "



# community corner

## THE '80s EPIDEMIC

WRITTEN BY LAURA VASCONCELOS

The 1980s was a decade of many new discoveries and trends; it marked the invention of technology such as VHS and cassettes and led to many fashion trends like big hair and spandex. The 1980s also led to many new music types, like Punk Rock. However, during the 1980s, a new disease was also discovered, which challenged everyone's views on prejudice, healthcare and life itself.

In the early 1980s, a mysterious new disease was found in the United States. Soon, it hit the UK and seemed to be affecting homosexual men. Only a year later, the first death from this illness was recorded in London, yet no one at the time knew its cause or name. By the end of 1981, over 100 homosexual men had died from the disease. The press started to refer to it as GRID, which stood for Gay-Related-Immune-Deficiency.

Although homosexuality became legal in 1968, the epidemic led to more homophobia being present in the UK. There were various homophobic press conferences and the disease was frequently referred to as the 'gay plague.' Rumours even abounded that a person could be contracting the disease just by being close to anyone diagnosed with it.

Once the disease was found in heterosexual women in 1982, it was renamed 'Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome', now more commonly known as AIDS.

By the end of 1983, 3000 AIDS cases were found in the US, along with 1000 dead. The disease was also found in children, suggesting it wasn't only spread sexually but also through birth.

LGBTQ rights activist Lisa Power said, "[AIDS] was ignored by a large chunk of the general public, except for when they saw tombstone adverts." This is in reference to a 1986 public health advertisement that presented a black tombstone with the word 'AIDS' engraved on it. More attention came to Aids when actor Rock Hudson died, being the first famous fatality.







Hudson left \$250,000, which was used to set up the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

By 1987, the UK Government introduced the 'Don't Die of Ignorance' campaign, creating leaflets and billboards. That same year, Princess Diana changed views and the stigma against the disease by opening the first specialist AIDS hospital in April 1987. In 1988, the first World AIDS Day was celebrated on the 1st of December.

Even after the 1980s, HIV and AIDS remained prominent. Famous musician of hit UK band Queen, Freddie Mercury, died of AIDS, which again brought the dangers of the disease to worldwide attention.

Gay people suffered from horrific abuse in the '80s, partly as a result of their community being associated with AIDS. This was further reinforced through Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government that tried to stop local authorities from promoting homosexuality as a 'lifestyle choice'.

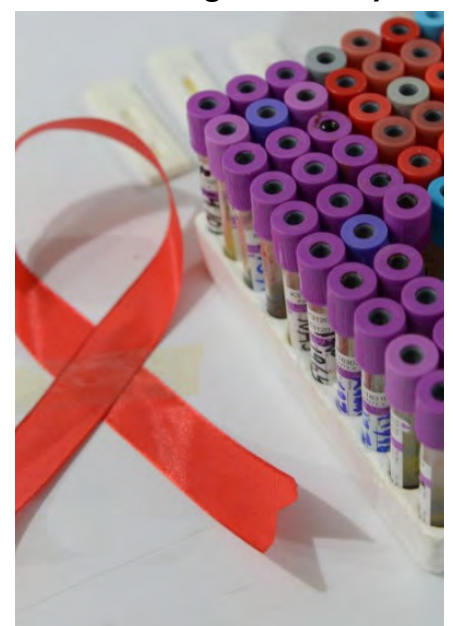
Craig Stevenson, a young gay man from Wales stated, *"There was so much negativity around being gay and, at the same time, there was this kind of double whammy, this new disease that was ripping through the gay community."* Consequently, many gay people like Craig suffered from feelings of shame for being gay.

Nowadays, the stigma surrounding AIDS has changed drastically.

Perhaps this is because of the vast developments in treatments. According to the Terrence Higgins Trust, in 2020, 97% of those receiving treatment for HIV had an undetectable viral load. This means the transmission of HIV (the virus that leads to AIDS) cannot take place. This is an incredible development in medical science.

Perhaps it is the combination of medical advancements, improved awareness of HIV and AIDS and more tolerance and respectful attitudes towards minority groups, that means there is less stigma associated with HIV and AIDS and greater understanding that they do not only affect the gay community.

**Indeed, perhaps the *real* '80s epidemic was a sea of ignorance and prejudice contaminating our society.**





# EYE-WATERING ENERGY EXPLOSION

WRITTEN BY CRISTOVAO NUNES TEIXEIRA

By the time you read this, Energy prices across the UK will have increased to eye-watering highs. On 3rd February, Ofgem announced that process would rise by 54% from 1st April 2022. Perhaps you have heard your family talking about this? Or maybe you've noticed ways in which your parents or carers are trying to reduce the use of gas and electricity in your home? Well, there's no doubt about it; every single one of us is going to be affected.

First of all, the shocking 54% increase means that the average price of annual bills could go up from £1277 to £1971; a difference of £693! This is a huge sum for many of us, especially post-Covid when families and businesses have been affected by financial stresses.

But why are prices going up in the first place? Well, a cold 2021/22 Winter across Europe has led to more pressure on supplies, which means there is less gas available. In addition, Summer 2021 did not have much wind...yes, you read that right!

This resulted in challenges in generating energy from wind power. Furthermore, there has been increased demand from Asia (in particular China), resulting in further reduction in supplies.

Here in the UK, we will be particularly affected, because 85% of homes across the country rely on gas central heating. Moreover, about 30% of our electricity is generated from gas.

However, the government is preparing for this change in prices by stating that families in council tax bands A to D in England will receive a £150 one-off discount. Additionally, for Scotland and Wales, residents will receive a £200 rebate on their bills too.

But is this enough? Is the government supporting families who are already in a precarious financial position? Well, fuel poverty is a very real fear. For example, in Scotland, around 10% of families' income is used on fuel – yet the other 90% isn't even enough to maintain a stable lifestyle.

So, what are some ways in which we can try to support our families in keeping energy costs down once the hike rise comes into play in April?

- We can save £55 just by turning the thermostat down by one degree
- We can save £30 by using LED bulbs
- We can save £8 by having one less wash a week
- Turn off standby appliances like TVs
- Wash clothes at lower temperatures
- Instead of putting the heating on max, wear extra layers where possible.

**So, what one thing could you do to help keep down your home's energy bill?**





# INTERVIEW WITH A PAST PUPIL

## ENTREPRENEUR

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE LE

Entrepreneurs play a key role in the economy, using important skills to anticipate customer needs and bring new ideas to the market. Given that we are a Business and Enterprise College, it is perhaps no surprise that so many pupils have shown a keen interest in developing their own business; perhaps you are one of them.

We decided to interview 24-year-old Thai Le, a former Platanos College pupil (and now a University graduate), who was more than happy to give an insight into how he set his mind on building and expanding a bubble tea business through diligence and perseverance.

**What sparked the idea of wanting to be an entrepreneur?**

I like the excitement of building a business or idea from scratch and acquiring the attributes required for success.

**What qualities or skills would you say are vital for making a business?**

I would say the qualities required for success are persistence, adaptation and calculated planning.

**Have you ever considered the potential hardships you may face as an Entrepreneur? How do you think you'll overcome them?**

Usually, a common hardship for start-up enterprises is anticipating expenditure costs. Careful budgeting can mitigate careless expenses.

**Was there any point in time where you felt like giving it all up?**

I think leaving behind the security of my job was probably the hardest thing at the time, because of the uncertainty of my future career.

**Has Covid-19 hindered your business' development?**

Covid has been a huge benefit for me as online sales have dramatically improved for me.

**Did you always have your path set on growing a business, or was it spontaneous?**

I suppose my path was always set on growing a business. I always wanted to have a sense of ownership and to grow my asset portfolio.

**Do you have any advice for those who wish to start and expand a business themselves?**

Commit to daily positive habits and routines, which will help boost productivity and performance. Waking up early and being on time are examples of mine!

**So, what are you waiting for? With a positive and focused mindset, who knows what business you may be heading up in a few years?**



# *A Kingdom of Co-existence*

## **SURVIVAL IN THE SUBURBS**

WRITTEN BY FARES OUANOUI

Whether you live in the city, the suburbs, the desert, or even the mountains, animals will always be near you, whether you realise it or not.

Animals come in all shapes and sizes, from minuscule insects and elegant birds to the majestic creatures of the deep. However, they all have something in common - the ability to adapt to different and even harsher conditions. This is evident with polar bears and mountain goats that are simply built to withstand their respective climates and environments. However, with we human beings roaming around building civilisations of concrete, asphalt and bricks, animals have to get used to adapting to environments that they're not used to.

Because of climate change, many animals have had to migrate from or permanently move from their habitats. An example of this would be polar bears, as reports have indicated that recently,

there has been a 40% drop in the Alaskan polar bear population, which is being accredited to them migrating to Russia due to climate change. In fact, in 2019, there were reports of a starved and famished polar bear wandering through a Russian city - proving that animals are migrating closer to human infrastructures out of necessity.

Another example of this is tigers in India migrating into the suburbs of large Indian cities. This was a huge problem in 2017, when there were multiple reported sightings of man-eating tigers, resulting in up to an estimated 1000 people being killed.



A contrasting situation to this is the prevalence of monkeys seen on the rooftops of cities like Jaipur; they were originally brought in to scare off a different breed of monkey, but have seen a rapid increase in population as they thrive on the food waste left by human beings.

During Coronavirus lockdowns, places around the world witnessed an increase in animal populations. For instance, in Istanbul where marine areas are usually full of passenger and large cargo ships, dolphins were seen frolicking in the waters.

Similarly, in Albania, pink flamingo numbers in lagoons went up to 3000 – an increase of 30%. In Chile, cougars had to be caught and returned to the wild, as they were seen encroaching onto urban areas.

It can be strange for us as human beings to live next to animals, but the fact is our impact on the environment is leading to ever-increasing shifts in animal behaviours and migration patterns. A key concern is that as we decimate natural habitats, animals are forced to move closer and closer to urban areas and this inevitably leads to tensions between

the human and animal worlds.

**So, given we are the cause of the problem, surely we should be doing more to co-exist with and protect animals?**



视觉中国

# EVOLVE OR DIE?

WRITTEN BY JEORGE ROBERTO

We've all heard of Evolution, the theory co-created by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace. Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, published in 1859, provided abundant evidence for Evolution as well as the first strong explanation for its mechanism - Natural Selection.

The idea behind Evolution is that those individuals with beneficial genetic mutations and adaptations will survive preferentially to their competitors through the process of Natural Selection. Their favourable genetic construct will then spread across the species through reproduction.

Galapagos Tortoises are one of the best known examples of Natural Selection. Those with longer necks could reach the bushes more easily in a drier environment, whereas those with shorter necks and dome-shaped shells could consume grass and shelter themselves from predators in a humid environment.

Natural Selection has also produced flightless birds. Ostriches, emus, and penguins, for example, are unable to fly. However, all of their ancestors could. Ostriches and emus have,

over time, evolved larger bodies and feet for running on land, so they no longer need to be able to fly. Penguins' traditional wings have been replaced with swim-friendly flippers over thousands of generations.

But it is not just in the animal kingdom that we see the effects of Natural Selection. It also occurs within plants. Plants are thought to have developed from a green alga ancestor in the ocean and were among the first organisms to migrate from the sea to the land. They were eventually able to grow larger and live on land thanks to the evolution of vascular tissues.

Darwin's Theory of Evolution did not go down too well with his contemporaries as it seemed to contradict Christian beliefs. Although Darwin did not mean for his book to be a challenge to religious ideas, it enraged many religious believers.

Despite these oppositions, Darwin revolutionised

Biological Studies and became one of History's most prominent and influential scientists.

But what about the future of Natural Selection? In a world where we can intervene with natural processes, is there potential in genetic engineering? This is the process of altering or changing the genes of living organisms. The potential is endless - could we give individuals a faster metabolism or exceptional intelligence? We could potentially eradicate sickness, extend our lives by decades and even travel to the stars. When it comes to this however, with such potential, there must be some moral responsibility. Whatever your feelings about genetic engineering, the future is on its way and it's important that we all consider the moral implications of trying to say, eradicate those whose genetic make-up is viewed as a deviation from the norm. **We must balance science and progress with ethics and morality.**



# THE CRUELTY OF CAPTIVITY?

WRITTEN BY KELLY FREITAS GOUVEIA

You've probably been to a zoo at least once in your lifetime, right? But are zoos places that we should continue to build and support, or are they inhumane prisons that should be abolished?

Let's consider the arguments against zoos. Firstly, zoos can be seen as being for the benefit of human beings and not animals; they provide mere entertainment.

Secondly, zoos can cause damage to animals. An example of this is dolphins, which are often the main attraction at water-based zoos. You can even ride on dolphins and get up close and personal with them.

But did you know that in the wild, dolphins can swim 40-60 miles a day? Of course, they can't do anything but go up and down or round and round the limited constraints of a man-made water tank. In hotter places like Florida, small tanks can prevent dolphins from swimming down to cooler water, resulting in the sun leaving blisters on their sensitive skin. To make matters worse, to protect human beings, chlorine is often

added to tanks, thus exposing dolphins to dangerous chemicals that can cause burns and even blindness.

On the other hand, zoos provide help for animals that are endangered. They provide a healthy breeding ground as well as a safe home environment for these animals that would otherwise be poached or hunted in the wild.

Furthermore, zoos are a fantastic educational resource, teaching people of all ages about conservation and wildlife. Indeed, getting up close and personal to wildlife can be more impactful than watching documentaries - this, in turn, could make people feel more empathetic towards the animals in captivity.

**So, what do you think? Are zoos important and valuable places for us - or should we kiss them goodbye forever?**



# THE SCANDAL SURROUNDING SEAWORLD

WRITTEN BY JANNAT MARSOU

You may have heard of SeaWorld, a major tourist attraction based in Orlando, San Diego and San Antonio. Excited children flock to witness marine life in action at Seaworld venues. However, SeaWorld is a place of controversy when it comes to animal welfare.

SeaWorld is most famous for its orcas, also known as Killer Whales. These incredible creatures are members of the dolphin family. According to National Geographic, they are *"one of the world's most powerful predators."* Orcas are the show-stealers when it comes to SeaWorld and generate huge revenue for the company. However, SeaWorld's treatment of orcas has come under scrutiny ever since the 2013 film *Blackfish*, which tells the true story of the death of SeaWorld trainer Dawn Brancheau.

John Hargrove, who used to work as a SeaWorld animal trainer, states that *"trying to outswim an orca is impossible...it just makes it more fun for the giant predator to hunt you"*. Since leaving SeaWorld, Hargrove has accused the company of treating its animals poorly and in turn, endangering the lives of its

staff. He also alleges that he narrowly escaped a situation when an orca pulled him underwater.

*Black Fish* reveals the dangers that face SeaLife employees and recounts the death of Brancheau, who was killed in early 2010 when she was violently attacked by an orca named Tilikum. *"It was not a shock to me that he had done that to her,"* recalls Hargrove: *"I know he was capable of it. All the whales are capable of it."*

However, SeaWorld has denied allegations of mistreatment of animals and endangerment of staff, claiming, *"We don't put any animals in any stressful situation"*. Nevertheless, in 2015, SeaWorld decided to terminate its Orca breeding programme, stating that *"Society has changed and we've changed with it...We're focusing our resources on real issues that help far more animals, like working with [the Humane Society of the United States] to fight commercial whaling, shark finning, and continuing our efforts to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured and sick animals to the wild."*

**So, is this step enough? Should marine parks like SeaWorld adapt their practices to ensure that animal and human safety are of paramount importance - or does their mere existence make this impossible? What do you think?**

- In Seaworld, the workers have allegedly covered up Orcas' sunburns with zinc oxide
- Most Orcas are separated from their families
- Many Orcas have tried to escape from Seaworld and were killed in the process
- Many Orcas in Sea World have collapsed dorsal fins, which is a sign of mistreatment





# PREHISTORIC ANIMALS

WRITTEN BY ABDULLAHI MOHAMED

We've all watched Jurassic Park. But what do we really know about dinosaurs?

Well, dinosaurs were a type of reptile that ruled the earth for more than 140 million years

They existed in a variety of shapes and sizes, from the terrifying Spinosaurus to the tiny Microraptor.

Dinosaurs tended to have straight back legs that were perpendicular to their bodies, therefore they could move more effectively than reptiles like lizards and crocodiles of today.

Dinosaurs' eye sockets also had two holes. These allowed their powerful jaw muscles to connect directly to the top of the skull; they could then expand wider and clamp down with greater force

They lay eggs

The main characteristics dinosaurs that all dinosaurs share are:

A dinosaur had an upright stance with their legs parallel to their bodies. This distinguishes them from other reptiles.

Between their eye socket and nostril was a gap in their skull.

Dinosaurs lived on land, not in the water (apart from some birds)

Having lived on Earth for about 165 million years, dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years ago. But just imagine if they had survived... what new dinosaurs may have evolved over time? What other animal species would just not be alive today because of dinosaurs? Would human beings have discovered a way to coexist with dinosaurs, as represented in Disney's 2015 film The Good Dinosaur?

I guess we'll never know...

Dinosaurs lived on all continents.



# JAWS: SHARK THRILLER OR SHARK KILLER?

WRITTEN BY NINA LUONG

*Daaa-dum...daaa...dum...  
dum dum dum dum....*

Yes, you know it...the iconic theme tune that continues to strike terror into its audience for days, years - lifetimes even! When the movie *Jaws* first made its way onto cinema screens in 1975, it carved a murderous and vicious image of sharks into a whole generation of people's psyches. The prospect of a gigantic Great White with a vendetta against human beings was truly horrifying.

Indeed, the movie was a huge turning point for people's views on sharks at the time. Most people had very little understanding of sharks as not much research had been conducted on them. However, as a result of *Jaws*, the image of sharks as violent, murderous machines was set in stone.

Consequently, shark populations have plummeted dramatically since the 1975 premiere of *Jaws*. Did you know that shark and ray populations (a close evolutionary relative), have declined by 71% in the last half-decade? Every year, more than 100 million sharks are

killed, and more than a third of all shark and ray species are endangered.

Additionally, there was a vast increase of fishermen hunting sharks for sport. Some even took it so far as to set up fishing tournaments that rewarded those who caught the largest shark. And few members of the public cared - why would they? These creatures were deplorable killing machines after all!

Well, the portrayal of sharks as vengeful monsters was a major flaw in *Jaws*. The impact on shark numbers was devastating - and no one seemed to care. After reviewing the mainstream media's coverage of shark encounters, Brianna Le Busque, a Researcher and Professor at the University of South Australia, decided to look at how sharks have been depicted in fictional films as a whole, not only in *Jaws*.



After thoroughly analysing 109 shark films released between 1958 and 2019, Le Busque discovered that 105 of these (a shocking 96%), portrayed sharks as being potentially lethal to humans. Three of the last four films depicted sharks' potential danger to people. And only one film, *Finding Dory*, did not depict sharks as dangerous to people – yes, that's right, an animated children's movie.

Following the vilification of sharks, the author of *Jaws*, Peter Benchley, deeply regretted writing his novel: "*Knowing what I know now, I could never write that book today,*" he said, years later. Stating that "*sharks don't target human beings, and they certainly don't hold grudges,*" Benchley spent the rest of his life advocating for shark protection. His final book was the non-fiction *Shark Life* (2005), aimed at young readers to educate them on the sea and marine life.

Whilst shark attacks certainly do happen, the numbers of them annually worldwide are extremely low. The average amount of shark attacks every year is only 80, with an all-time low of 57 in 2020. Furthermore, there is only a 1 in 3.7 million chance of dying from

a shark attack; most victims die from trauma, rather than being eaten.

So, if they are not out to hurt us, why are there shark attacks in the first place? Well, the most common reasons for shark attacks are that they often confuse human beings for their natural prey of seals. Think about it: when a person lies flat on a surfboard, what does that look like to a shark from metres below the sea surface?

Secondly, sharks take an exploratory bite to determine whether we are suitable food and when they find out we're not, we're usually spat out.

Moreover, climate change has had a huge impact, with shark populations edging closer and closer to human beings due to changing temperatures and populations of fish that they naturally prey upon.

It has now been 47 years since *Jaws* transformed our perspective of the ocean, and perhaps its grip is slowly but steadily loosening. There seems to be a growing awareness of sharks as fascinating and impressive predators, as well as a growing concern for their welfare.

Sharks are gaining more respect as cries for their protection become stronger, despite them not being the cuddliest of creatures. Perhaps our generation is more likely to accept their presence rather than vilify them. It's a development that would have brought joy to the late Peter Benchley's face.



# HOW DOES OUR BEHAVIOUR AFFECT ANIMAL HABITATS?

WRITTEN BY KADIAN WEBBER

We all know that human behaviours affect the environment in different ways: population changes; pollution; destruction of habitats.

Did you know that the clearing of land for agriculture is one of the main factors in the loss of animal habitats? Annually, nearly 180,000 sq km of forests are cleared for the benefit of human beings.

Removing trees and other vegetation, decreases areas of shelter for animals, as well as the available food and places for breeding. Animals also encounter dangers through human-wildlife conflicts and being hit by vehicles. Some animals are dependent on old-growth forest habitats and can't survive in secondary habitats - this means that eventually, their species will die out.

We all know that climate change is a major concern for animal habitats: melting Arctic ice removes hunting ground for polar bears; warmer water causes population decline for marine life that require cooler temperatures; coral

bleaching leads to a collapse of these ocean ecosystems; droughts affect wetlands, which are essential breeding habitats for ducks and other migratory species... the list is endless.

Another huge threat to ecosystems is the cattle meat industry. This is considered to be one of the main factors contributing to the current biodiversity loss crisis; in fact, industrial meat is the biggest cause of deforestation across the world. Furthermore, toxic pesticides that are used to grow animal food, can inadvertently cause the killing of many other animals.

According to Joseph Poore at the University of Oxford, "A *vegan diet is probably the single biggest way to reduce your impact on planet Earth, not just greenhouse gases, but global acidification, eutrophication, land use and water use.*" In fact, one way we could all help the planet is by reducing the amount of meat we consume each week.

Did you know that Sumatra has lost a lot of its forests in the last 40 years due to the rising demand for palm oil and pulp plantations? This affects animals like the Sumatran Tiger. Around the world, the effects of palm oil demands are being felt by animals like orangutans, whose species are now under threat. But did you know that palm oil is found in 50% of packaged supermarket products? Shocking, isn't it?

So next time you pick up that pizza or doughnut, have a think about whether it contains palm oil. And, if you are a regular consumer of meat, maybe try giving it up for one day of the week. **Perhaps if we all made small changes to our lifestyles and more savvy consumer choices, we can help sustain the planet's future.**



# PET PERKS

WRITTEN BY KELLY FREITAS GOUVEIA

Did you know that about 50% of UK households are estimated to have at least one pet? It's easy to fall in love with these furry creatures, but what are the benefits of having your own pet?

In a study conducted earlier this year at the University of York by Dr Elena Ratschen and Dr Emily Shoemith, it was concluded that 90% of pet owners noticed a significant change in their mental health. Studies show that pets are a great source of comfort and motivation and they are a great way to relieve anxiety and stress.

Here are some more benefits to keeping a pet:

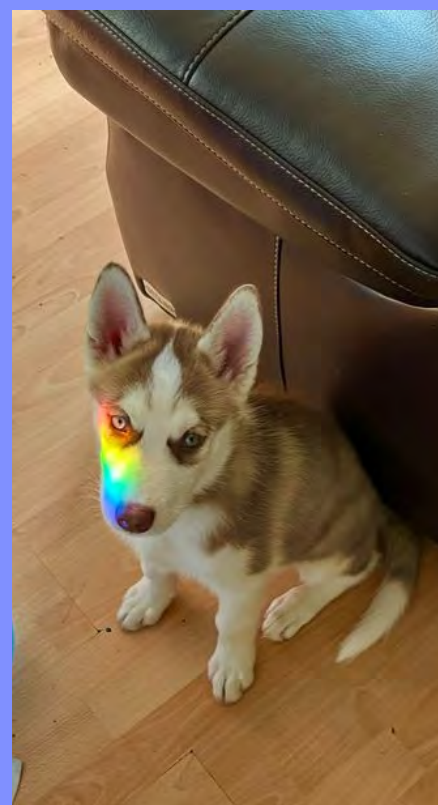
- pets give you a **routine**, which in turn can foster a **sense of purpose** and achievement
- pets can **help people with disabilities** or additional needs, like ADHD.
- pets encourage you to **increase your physical activity**. This is important not only to your **physical health**, but also your mental health as you benefit from being in the fresh air

- pets help **relieve loneliness**. Many pet owners feel that they have an **increase in self-confidence and do not feel so isolated**.

It's so easy for us as young people to lose track of time on social media, chatting to friends or in front of the X-Box. Constantly being on social media detaches us from reality and it's easy to spend an entire day in front of a screen when we could be doing something more productive with our time.

I speak from personal experience! Last October, my family welcomed a puppy into our home; he has certainly kept us all busy! We each take turns to clean up after him, feed him and make sure he goes outside enough. Furthermore, having him has brought us all closer together and gives us something to look forward to every morning, when he jumps on our beds and licks our faces until we get up for school!

**Life comes with its challenges and many of us have faced these in the last couple of years especially. Having a pet can be the best medicine there is!**



*Kelly's pet Siberian Husky, Leo*

# SEAL SLAYINGS

WRITTEN BY KEIGHTLEY TRAN

Did you know that dating back to the 1960s, an approximate annual kill rate of 2 million of the Harp seal species exists in Canada? And Canada is not alone in this; there are other countries that also practice seal hunting (known as Sealing), including Greenland, Finland, Iceland Norway and Russia.

The species of Pinnipedia Seals are hugely important to the ecosystem as they help to balance the marine food web by feeding on squid and fish. However, they are also prey to predators larger than themselves such as Orcas and Sharks. Seals also assist nutrients through the vast sea and transfer them to shore. However, there is no doubt that the seal species continues to be under threat due to human beings.

Seals have been hunted for many years for their fur; according to the Fur Free Alliance, over 2 million baby seals have been clubbed in the last 10 years. Canadian authorities state that it is illegal to target 'Whitecoats' - pups younger than three weeks old. However, the practice of sealing is widespread. It

starts off by immobilising the targeted mammal from a distance. The animals are then brutally clubbed to death.

Rebecca Aldworth, Executive Director for the Humane Society International and Canada, has stated that *"According to reports received by the Humane Society International, baby seals are often killed in unacceptable levels of cruelty...shooting seals and leaving them to suffer in agony."*

This is the harsh truth; countless seal pups are brutally slaughtered only to be used as coats to warm the bodies of individuals who think it's a fair trade. Moreover, while people think that

commercial sealing consists of using the whole seal, that's just a myth. In reality, they are only killed for their fur.

How is it acceptable to prioritise fashion over animal rights?

Another myth that is believed in, is that sealing helps to control the overpopulation of this innocent animal. However, this is simply not the case as Harp seals are not just at risk of hunting, but of overfishing and climate change.

The Smithsonian Institution informs us that many types of seal, including the Harp seal, rely on the ice as they use the platforms for nursing and resting.



Yet, with their safe place being continuously eradicated, pups are pushed into the water where they are at deadly risk of hypothermia, starvation and being crushed by moving ice in the Arctic.

A key organisation in the prevention of sealing is Greenpeace, which was founded in 1971. By 1976, it had taken a leading position in the anti-sealing movement, working alongside the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). It began by protesting the Norwegian sealing fleet off the beaches of Canada's northeast, but in 1977 it shifted its focus to Canadian sealers, focusing on Newfoundlanders and Labradoreans.

However, controversially, Greenpeace ignored indigenous cultures, and the ban on Inuit sealers in particular was harmful to the Inuit community. Consequently, the Canadian Inuit community received an apology from Greenpeace Canada in 2014: *"Like the corporations we campaign against, we too must be open to change. Open to examining ourselves, our history, and the impact our campaigns have had, and to constantly reassessing ourselves – not just by*

*humbly making amends and changing the way we work. And we have a responsibility – not just as an organization that once campaigned against the commercial hunt, but also as conscious, socially responsible human beings – to right wrongs, to actively stop the spread of misinformation, and to decolonize our thinking, our language and our approach."* (Joanna Kerr, 2014)

**So, how can we ensure a balance between respect for indigenous traditions and ensuring that the seal population is protected? Can we ever achieve a meaningful balance, especially when seals are up against other factors like fur-based fashion, climate change and over-fishing? Or is their fate sealed?**



# SEASPIRACY: TURNING THE TIDE ON OVERFISHING

WRITTEN BY ABDULLAHI MOHAMED

You may have seen the title *Seaspiracy* when browsing the viewing options on Netflix. But what is this programme all about? *Seaspiracy* is brought to us by the makers of Leonardo DiCaprio's award-winning 2014 film *Cowspiracy*. It casts doubt on the idea of sustainable fishing and the fair treatment of workers. So, what is the key issue raised?

Overfishing is a prominent subject in *Seaspiracy*. According to the programme-makers, almost 2.7 trillion fish are captured each year. Fish are caught in nets that are huge enough to house 13 jumbo jet planes! Along with the targeted fish, any other fish or marine animal that happens to be in the wrong location at the wrong time gets captured; consequently, 40% are thrown back into the ocean, though many do not survive the experience.

Commercial fishing methods are difficult to control due to the distant nature of high seas fishing. Although monitoring checks are meant to be in place, *Seaspiracy* claims that monitors may be paid off or forced into silence.



When it comes to money, the programme also raises the fact that the fishing industry gets \$35 billion in subsidies a year. This leaves little incentive to the industry to curb overfishing.

So, what can we all do to reduce our impact on the oceans?

Well, primarily it is about building our awareness and questioning where our food comes from. Is the fish we eat sustainably sourced? Don't be afraid to question and fact-check shops and companies making claims of sustainable fishing.

One of the most controversial claims of *Seaspiracy* is that the oceans will have no life in them by 2048. This claim has been disputed and is not considered to be completely true as fish populations can recover. However, this does not mean that the issue of overfishing is no longer a problem.

**We must face our responsibilities when it comes to our oceans and our eating habits – we must turn the tide before it is too late.**



# IS SEAFOOD SUSTAINABLE?

WRITTEN BY DYALN THAM

“Around the world, 3.2 billion people rely on fish for almost 20% of their animal protein intake.” This statistic comes directly from the United Nations; that means that approximately 42.7% of the world eats fish. But, of all the fish being consumed, how much of it is being fished sustainably?

Sustainable seafood means that when fish have been caught, there is a guarantee that more fish remain to make up for the loss of the ones removed from the ecosystem. However, not all of the world produces sustainable fish.

In fact, only 5% of the oceans are marine protected areas. Commercial fishing kills 300,000 whales and dolphins every year! Let those stark statistics sink in for a moment... Therefore, unless things change, our seas may eventually become empty of life. This will be disastrous for all ecosystems on the planet and for we human beings at the top of the food chain. But why?

Well, without marine life, pollution in the atmosphere would worsen. This is due to the fact that fish filter

out toxins from the water. This is due to the fact that fish filter. Furthermore, half of the oxygen in the atmosphere comes from the ocean.

Moreover, the effects on other larger species would be devastating. For example, polar bears - an already vulnerable species in terms of conservation status - would lose their main food source, thus surely driving them to extinction.

So, what can we do to make sure none of these catastrophic consequences comes to pass? One way to sustainably eat seafood is to eat at *SRA certified* restaurants. The Sustainable Restaurant Association makes sure that all of its partners ethically source their food. Another way that you can help sustainable anglers is to buy locally; small, local fishermen leave smaller carbon footprints than larger fishing companies. This helps to keep our oceans filled with life. Renowned Conservationist and everyone’s favourite animal-lover,

David Attenborough, states that if no-fishing zones are introduced around the coasts of the world, coral reefs and fish stock could recover enough to rebalance our oceans.

**This shows us that there is still a chance to heal the oceans from the damage we have done, but time is ticking.**



# WHALE HUNTING: A BLOODY HISTORY

WRITTEN BY RIDWAAN ABDULLE

Whale hunting has existed for more than 5000 years. It dates back to 3000 BC with body parts being used for hunting tools and meat. Commercial whaling really took off in the 1800s. Over the years they have been killed for a variety of uses; their blubber can be used for the production of soap, contribute as a component in makeup that creates the glossy shine, fuel for lamps, and grease for machinery. But what do we know about whales and the act of whale hunting?

Whales are mammals that spend their lives in the water. There are approximately 90 species of whales, ranging from dolphins to blue whales. Whales occupy a key role in the food chain, thereby contributing to the balance of the marine ecosystem. They are predators, feeding on fish and invertebrates, but are also prey, hunted by other whales and sharks.

Blue whales alone consume up to 4 tonnes, or 40 million, of krill each day, maintaining the ocean's ecosystem. If the largest creatures were to become extinct, krill populations would drastically increase,

ultimately destroying the whole food chain and ecosystem.

A few countries have made whaling illegal due to its massive impacts on the ocean and the species nearing extinction; however, inevitably, many defy the law in those countries and still kill whales.

Whales are killed in the cruellest of ways, including using explosive harpoons to blow them up from the inside. This takes up to an hour to occur, leading to excruciating pain.

In 1946, a number of countries signed up to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (IWC) to establish rules around the practice of whaling, to reduce it or to eliminate it completely. In 2018, Japan announced it was leaving the International Whaling Commission. This resulted in whaling being re-introduced into Japanese waters.

**Sadly, this authorised whaling – as well as illegal activities – means that whales are still under threat from human beings.**



# ANIMALS IN MYTHS AND LEGENDS

WRITTEN BY NINA LUONG

Since the dawn of time, the human and animal worlds have had to live alongside one another; from these relationships, a number of myths and legends have been created. In mythology, all kinds of creatures play crucial roles, from ferocious leopards to tiny spiders.

We all remember childhood favourites like *The Little Mermaid* and *Hercules* which contain hybrids of animals and human beings. Greek myths and legends are full of mythical creatures, such as many-headed monsters, dragons and unicorns that have never actually existed in reality.

But, animals in myths and legends are not just used for entertainment purposes; they have played pivotal roles in society since the start of time. We just need to look at religious texts such as the Bible to find animal figures that exist to help communicate spiritual messages. Whether they are used to explain the ways of the world, as warning stories or even as wondrous stories to make the universe more colourful, there's no denying that myths containing animals are a



major feature of cultures all around the globe.

Many myths deal with human-animal connections and draw upon the similarities between the two. Human beings are seen to communicate and fight with animals - and even marry them! Animals may assist human beings in many ways, including guiding them through the Underworld. Myths and legends also focus on transformations and transitions between human and animal states, as well as on the human-animal bond.

Did you know that Native American culture depicts a time when the lines between human beings and animals were less clearly defined and entities were free to shift their forms? In some Native American myths, bears are depicted as human beings dressed in bearskin coats. One such myth is told by the Tsimshian people of Southern Alaska and the northern coast of British Columbia. It follows Asdiwal, a young man who pursues a white bear up a mountain to the sky until he realises the creature is actually a woman who shape-shifts into a bear. He even ends up marrying her!

Many iterations of shape-shifting between human and animal forms can also be found across other cultures. In Chinese, Japanese and Korean mythology, the myth of the nine-tailed fox is well-known. In China, it is referred to as Huli Jing, whilst in Japan, it's known as a Kitsune and in Korea, it's termed a Kumiho. In each of these Eastern countries, the fox is known to be able to shape-shift into human form - usually a woman - before seducing and eventually eating unsuspecting victims. Whilst the fox's main idiosyncrasy is that it has nine tails, it is also a skilled trickster in using seduction to lure its victims to their deaths. However, in China, they can also be a sign of prosperity, whilst in Korea, the fox bead (similar to the heart) is considered to be a source of power.

Animals' inherent importance to human society is demonstrated by their appearance in mythology from across the globe. Throughout history, we have relied on animals for food, labour and even friendship. Agriculture relies on domesticated animals like those found on farms, whereas nomadic hunter tribes rely on wild animals for food and skins. This reliance on animals, as well as our physical proximity to them, has resulted in a rich oral history in which animals both assist and hinder people.

Even to this day, mythological creatures have long remained a popular subject in art and literature, partly due to the fact that they are unique and allow us to enter fantasy worlds; our obsession with fantastical

creatures can be seen in modern media and literature such as in J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* books and franchises such as Pokémon.

**So, what mythological creatures can you think of from your own childhood or culture and what did they teach you about the human world and human nature?**



# ANCIENT ANIMALS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

WRITTEN BY PHEBE DAVIES-BATES

For our Spring Term Newsletter Specials theme of *Kingdom of Co-existence*, I decided to visit the British Museum and was immediately drawn to the Ancient Egypt section. Even though mummies aren't always the most pleasant to see for some people, I find them incredibly interesting. We are all familiar with the images of pyramids and mummies from Ancient Egypt, but what about sacred animals?

Did you know that for over 3000 years, cats were seen as so important that some would be sacrificed as a way for them to go with their owners into the afterlife? A lot of the time, cats were praised for killing rodents and even reptiles such as venomous snakes. Therefore, lots of Pharaohs would have cats in their palaces to guard them against danger. Many cat-head statues were displayed to encourage an appreciation for them. There was a huge number of cat mummies discovered in Egypt and these findings continue even today.

But a less domesticated animal was also revered in Ancient Egypt. Did you

know that the Egyptian cobra was a symbol of deity, royalty, and divine authority? However, even though cobras were viewed as a 'high power,' many Egyptians remained understandably fearful of them!

Cattle were also very important in Ancient Egypt as they would provide meat and milk and were strong enough to transport people around. There were also many gods and goddesses that had some form of cow-like appearance to them. Just like cats, many cows were sacrificed in an attempt to enter the Afterlife with their owners.

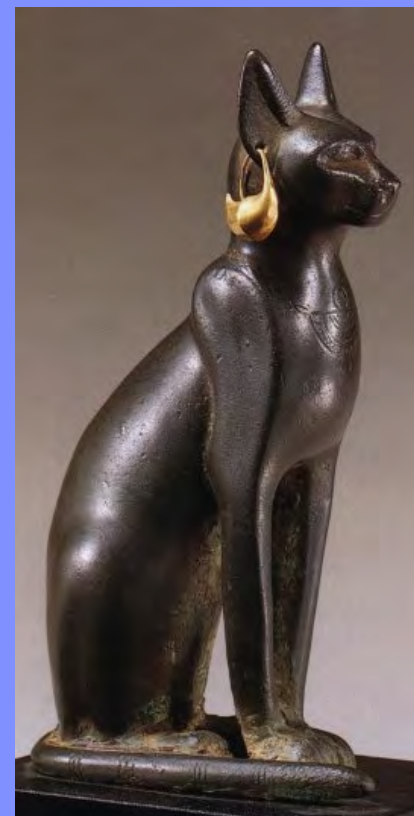
Images of jackals have also been discovered in tomb art. Anubis, an Egyptian deity, was a jackal who protected evil from spreading into Egypt. He was the keeper of the Dead and helped judge souls after their death. Jackals signified the Afterlife, mystery and truth to Ancient Egyptians.

Less daunting than cobras and jackals were Scarab beetles; these symbolised the Sun God Re. They represented rebirth and renewal and their image

appears in Egyptian jewellery.

Finally, an animal that you may well associate with the continent of Africa – the crocodile! In Ancient Egypt, Nile Crocodiles were worshipped and the god Sobek bore the head of a crocodile. Did you know that excavations have found crocodiles and their eggs in tombs?

**Fascinating isn't it? So, if you get a chance this Easter, why not head down to the British Museum and check out the Ancient Egypt Exhibits for yourself?**



# TIME TO PULL THE PLUG ON POACHING?

WRITTEN BY MUAZE NUR HUSSEN

There are currently many species of animals across the world that are fighting for survival - fighting not to be relegated to the dull, drab pages of a history book, or only brought alive when we search and scroll for them on Google.

Despite attempts to protect these species, they remain under threat through the illegal act of poaching.

The top 5 animals that poachers are effectively hunting into extinction are elephants, rhinos, tigers, gorillas and sea turtles.

## Here are some shocking facts about poaching:

Around 30,000 African elephants are killed by poachers each year.

Over 100 million animals are burned and abused in US labs every year.

Many countries believe that the rhino horn is an important ingredient for many medicines. This is not true. It has no effect.

In South Africa, the number of Rhinos being poached increased from 13 rhinos in 2007 to 1215 rhinos in 2014!

There are as few as 3200 tigers left in the wild.

One tusk of an elephant can earn a poacher up to \$1500 on the black market. Ivory, from the tusk of an elephant, is mainly used for jewellery, piano keys and even specialised electrical equipment for aeroplanes.

In the 20th century there were a few million African elephants and approximately 100,000 Asian elephants. Now considered endangered, there are about 450,000 African elephants and 40,000 Asian elephants.

The pangolin is the world's most-trafficked mammal!

Tigers are killed to supply underground black markets with organs, pelts and bones.



# SHAPESHIFTING SAVIOUR: THE AXOLOTL

WRITTEN BY KEIGHTLEY TRAN

The chances are that no matter how many David Attenborough documentaries you may have watched, you have not heard of a strange little organism called an Axolotl. This creature's name is derived from the name of an Aztec god, Xolotl, who is said to have taken the form of an Axolotl.

But what exactly are they? Well, Axolotls are a form of salamander found solely in the Lake Xochimilco area outside of Mexico City, near Tenochtitlan, which is the Aztecs' ancient capital. Axolotls are a unique species of salamander. They spend their entire lives in the water and in their juvenile form, - never growing into adults. They reach a maximum length of 23 centimetres and come in a range of colours. They also retain their juvenile characteristics until adulthood, unlike practically all other salamanders. This means they will never leave the water, will keep their exterior feathery gills and tail fins and don't have movable eyelids.

What's more, Axolotls can also regenerate practically any part of their body

including lost limbs, tails, organs, sections of the eye, and even parts of their brain! Just imagine; it's like something out of a Sci-Fi movie! This is truly a wonderfully magnificent aquatic amphibian.

The Axolotl has been essential to our understanding of how our own organs form and operate; in fact, its unique physiology helps us to answer many of our own biological questions. There may one day be a time when scientists and biologists can decipher the secret of its regenerative superpowers, in order that we can harness them for ourselves one day.

Auguste Dumeril, a prominent French zoologist, was certain that the Axolotls were the larvae of an unknown type of salamander when they were first shipped from Mexico in the 1860s.

Axolotls can only survive in the water indefinitely if there are no large predators hiding beneath the surface, as well as specific pH, temperature, and altitude requirements.

Their Mexican lake habitats just so happen to meet all of their survival requirements, allowing them to thrive.

This was discovered in 1865, when several of the inhabitants in Dumeril's care turned into their adult, land-living forms, much to his surprise. They resembled Tiger salamanders in appearance. Dumeril spent the rest of his life trying to figure out why these Axolotls shifted, but he died before he could find out.



However, in the early 1900s, the Axolotl's transition resurfaced as a major scientific topic. During this period, scientists were focusing on thyroid gland tissue as a mechanism for amphibian metamorphosis and the Axolotl was the best species to show how it worked.

Axolotls that were fed thyroid tissue from animals metamorphosed, losing their external gills, shedding their larval skin and even venturing onto land. The discovery of changing axolotls was essential in our understanding of thyroid hormones such as Thyroxine, which was first produced in 1926. This was the start of what would become Axolotl's enormous contribution to medical science.

All living things have the ability to regenerate to some extent, but it is pretty much limited to regrowing skin or scar tissue over a wound. Our organs and limbs, with the exception of our liver, cannot be regrown. However, the Axolotl and other types of salamanders can. Frogs are the only other vertebrates that can regrow limbs,

although they lose this ability once they reach adulthood. The axolotl's capacity to regenerate lasts for the rest of its life!

The surviving cells of an Axolotl's limb are the first to regrow; this happens when a blood clot forms quickly after the limb is severed, thereby stopping blood loss. The amputation site is then covered by a layer of cells. The cells' thin membrane begins to rapidly divide during the next few days, generating Blastema, or regeneration bud.

Nerves and blood veins connect the Blastema to the rest of the body as the cells continue to divide; consequently, the limb is able to grow back to its original size and shape.

Amazing, isn't it? Well, just when you thought these creatures couldn't be more impressive....did you know that Axolotls can even regrow parts of their brain? It's literally mind-boggling!

However, despite the amazing scientific and medical accomplishments that we may be able to discover in the future with the aid of these incredible creatures, the Axolotl is on the verge of extinction.

In the previous few decades, their population has decreased dramatically. According to a 1998 survey, about 6,000 individuals lived per square kilometre in their natural habitat. However, by 2015, just 35 individuals were found per square kilometre. They were expected to become extinct in the wild by 2020, but have narrowly avoided this fate. But will they survive for much longer?

**If we lose this species forever, what potential secrets of the natural world and solutions to human medical care could be lost forever too?**





# ZOO FROM HELL

WRITTEN BY NATHANIEL GRZYWINSKI

The Surabaya Zoo, located in Indonesia in South-East Asia, has been in business since 1916. However, it repeatedly receives criticism for reported animal abuse; there have been multiple petitions created to end the nightmare.

Surabaya Zoo contains over 350 species of wildlife. Unfortunately however, the Zoo hires untrained and underpaid workers, which has led to abuse from Surabaya Zoo employees. Due to the extreme lack of funding, the Zoo keeps most of the animals in very small enclosures, which has led to over-breeding and death, with the animals' basic care needs not being met.

In 2010, The Forest Ministry revoked the zoo's licence. Since then, a number of documentaries have been released, exposing the horrors of zoos like Surabaya and the cruel mistreatment of animals.

Those who support the closure of the zoo have referred to the many tragic cases involving animal

treatment, including that of Kliwon, a giraffe that died with over 20 kilograms of plastic found in its stomach. In another diabolical case, 200 pelicans were kept in an enclosure the size of a tiny flat; similarly, large animals like tigers, lions, apes and elephants are kept in tiny cages. Even rival species are kept enclosed together; there were actually reports of a cheetah having its legs ripped off and consumed by starving tigers!

Surabaya claimed to only have around 2,000 animals kept at the zoo, but trespassers, visitors and even employees have claimed there to be almost 5,000 animals.

Surabaya Zoo is now over 100 years old - almost 100 years of suffering, yet the same question is still constantly asked: why is the zoo still open? For some reason, the wheels of justice just don't turn very quickly when it comes to taking action. Many believe the Indonesian Police have something to do with the zoo remaining open for so long, because of high corruption rates. But there have also been reports of the Indonesian public

simply not caring enough about the treatment of animals.

Surabaya Zoo has also sparked many debates about whether zoos should remain in business at all, as they are to a degree educational, but seem to have a common factor of exploitation of the animals in their care. So, what do you think?

**Do zoos like Surabaya give all zoos a bad name, or is there value in zoos that prioritise their animals' welfare over profit?**



# SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO USE ANIMALS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH?

WRITTEN BY SIDRA KADIR

Have you ever considered how important animals are in medical research? We need to understand the significance of animals in medical breakthroughs as without animals, many developments like vaccines and antibiotics would not have been possible. Animals are required for the development of safe and effective disease prevention and treatment methods.

Cow research aided in the development of the world's first vaccine, which helped eradicate smallpox. The polio vaccine was developed through research on monkeys, dogs and mice. Without these animals, it would have been impossible to develop drugs to treat cancer, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's and malaria.

Without the use of mice, many cancer-fighting medications would not exist today. Chemotherapy was initially discovered in animals by reducing tumours with modified mustard gas. Herceptin, a well-known cancer medication that improves long-term survival in breast cancer patients, was also created using mice.

Mice remain an important aspect of cancer research, not just in refining current treatments, but also in creating new ones.

Additionally, without the research and help from animals, insulin would not have been discovered. 450 million people worldwide are living with diabetes, and research involving dogs helped us discover insulin. Mice have also been used in diabetes studies and have recently shown promise in aiding the development of a treatment for the condition.

Leukaemia is the most common type of childhood cancer, accounting for one-third of all cases. Treatment has progressed to the point where children now have an eight out of ten probability of surviving. A total of 98% of children with acute lymphocytic leukaemia enter remission within weeks of commencing therapy and 90% of those children are cured. Animal research is an important element of this life-saving breakthrough. Mice research has aided in the treatment of leukaemia. In the 1970s, mice were used to discover that all

malignant cells must be killed and that the sooner therapy begins, the more likely it is that cancer will be eradicated; this information is now used in the treatment of all forms of cancer. These are only a few of the many different diseases and health conditions where animals have been used to find treatments. In 1986, the UK implemented the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, which sought to regulate procedures that included animals. Many laws have been passed to protect animals in medical research.

Understandably, many people are against the idea of using animals in scientific and medical research, as they believe it takes the animals' rights away and causes undue suffering. Many beauty products now claim to be against animal cruelty – but what about when it comes to health care and medical treatment?

**It may be easy to choose cruelty-free products when it comes to your skin or hair, but is it so easy to abstain from animal-based treatment when it comes to cancer or disease? What do you think?**

# ARE YOU AGAINST ANIMAL TESTING?

WRITTEN BY REDWAN JAEFFER

Animal testing has a long and conflict-ridden history. Did you know that animal testing's history can be traced as far back as the Ancient Greeks, when it was found in the writing of Aristotle? An Italian physician named Galen dissected goats and pigs in the 2nd century.

Later, in the 1100s, an Arab physician called Avenzoar introduced animal testing as a way of testing surgical procedures before they were conducted on human beings.

Labs that use mice, rats, birds, reptiles and amphibians are allowed to not follow the Animal Welfare Act.

Even animals that are protected under the AWA can be abused and tortured.

**Here are some facts about animal testing in today's society:**

Only 3 percent of animals survive laboratory experiments.

Each year, more than 100 million animals are killed in U.S. laboratories for biology lessons and medical training.

Over 100 million animals are burned and abused in US labs every year.

There's an estimate that at least 192.1 million animals were used for scientific purposes worldwide in 2015.

Despite animal testing, more than 100,000 people die each year from prescription drugs.

Animal testing is normally performed to help scientists ask important questions and make discoveries. They are considered to be essential for research into a number of different biological matters: disease progression, genetics and lifetime risk. Animal testing is not illegal and testing is conducted not just for medical reasons, but for make-up and everyday products such as shampoo.

**So, what are your thoughts? Is animal testing a necessary part of modern life and the development of new drugs and treatments, or should we find alternative means that don't involve living organisms?**

The National Institute of Health (NIH) owns more than 7,000 monkeys.

There are more than 50 alternatives to animal testing.



# KURT'S CRUEL KICK-OFF

WRITTEN BY OMAR AOUCHICHE

You may have seen some shocking footage in the news in February of West Ham footballer, Kurt Zouma. The video showed him drop kicking his cat across his kitchen and slapping it out of a child's arms. The public was horrified, with many calling for Zouma to be prosecuted for his actions and dropped from his Club.

In the end, it was decided that Zouma would not be prosecuted by the UK Government, but instead would be ordered to pay a maximum fine of £250,000. In France, where he is from, he could still be eligible to 4 years behind bars. However, many believe that for a Premier League footballer, the monetary fine is a drop in the ocean. As a consequence of his actions, Zouma's two cats were taken away by the RSPCA; some are even arguing for him to be banned from owning any pets at all in the future.

Zouma has since apologised for his inexcusable actions. He was not dropped by his Club and played in most matches since the incident, with his Coach David

Moyes calling for a second chance for the Sportsman.

His form has remained rather unaffected and has surprisingly improved – he was even voted as the Man of the Match for the fixture against Wolves at the end of February. He was fortunate not to be dropped because many felt that this decision by his Club indirectly showed their approval for his actions. Over half a million people signed a petition for his prosecution, making it the most signed petition on Change.org, *'the world's platform for change.'*

At the time of this Newsletter going to print, the RSPCA had begun to bring a prosecution against Zouma and his brother, under the Animal Welfare Act. So, what do you think should happen? Did the public take this too seriously or should he have received a greater sanction?

As a role model to young people, should Zouma have been setting a better example when it comes to the treatment of animals?

**Perhaps the ultimate question is this: would you trust Kurt Zouma with your pet?**



*Social media image of Zouma's terrified pet cat*



# *crime & conspiracy*

## DOES AMERICA HAVE A GUN PROBLEM?

WRITTEN BY BOUSHRA HAGOS

Every now and again, a shocking news story about gun crime will hit the global news channels and newspapers. Usually, these come from the United States. And every time this happens, the issues around America's gun laws set off heated debates. This has been going on for many years due to an increase in mass shootings, as well as school shootings. The death of innocent souls due to their exposure to and easy access to firearms has led the world to wonder- does America have a gun problem?

Unlike other major countries, America has a very different approach to rulings on civilians possessing guns. On 19th December 1791, the Bill of Rights was approved, stating, *"A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."* This meant that citizens were legally allowed to hold possession of firearms.

In all 50 US States, possession of firearms is legal. However, some states such as California, Florida, Illinois, Texas, South Carolina and New York have much stricter laws than other states such as Georgia, where no background check is conducted when purchasing firearms. In fact, in Kennesaw, Georgia, it is stated that *"every head of household residing in the city limits is required to maintain a firearm."* It seems strange and alien to us in the UK, where gun laws are far tougher and more stringent checks are done before someone can own one.

America leads over any other 'developed' country in the world with the number of mass shootings occurring each year. In 2019 there were around 14,000 homicides that occurred due to firearms. In that same year, murders that were gun-related made up nearly 75% of all homicides in the US.





Statistics from the Gun Violence Archive show that from 1st January to 15th September 2021, a total of 14,516 people died from gun violence in the US. This was 1,300 more deaths than the same period in the previous year.

A survey conducted in 2019 showed that 60% of American adults believe that gun laws should be stricter than they are today. If firearms aren't as accessible to the public, the chances of gun-related deaths would decline. Furthermore, there is a recognition that having firearms in a household can result in accidents, including fatalities involving children.

On the contrary, 40% of people believe firearm laws should be kept the same. A key argument for the right to own a gun is that guns don't actually kill people – people kill people. Many Americans also believe that they have the right to defend their homes and families no matter what – and that includes the right to bear arms.

**So, what do you think? Does America have a gun problem? And is it one that can be solved?**





# DEATH ROW - A STEP TOO FAR FOR THE UK?

WRITTEN BY RIDWAAN ABDULLE

The debate surrounding capital punishment is always going to be a controversial one. Crime rates have fluctuated since it was abolished in the UK in 1965. Murder rates peaked in 2002 when there were over 1047 murders across the UK. Arguably, we as a society have all suffered due to the abolishment of death row and the leniency of the justice system.

Some would argue that Capital Punishment should be re-introduced to reduce the amount of high-level criminal activity over the whole of the UK. Surely, those who commit the most heinous of crimes – killing innocent citizens yet only receiving 25-year sentences – deserve a harsher sentence for taking the life of another? Such criminals are still able to eventually enjoy their lives - unlike their victims.

Furthermore, supporters of the death penalty argue that it is an incentive to prevent offending and means that the public don't have to pay for the lives of criminals whilst they are imprisoned. However, others believe

that there is never a reason for the death penalty. They argue that a civilised society should uphold values that do not stoop to the level of criminal activity - not quite turn the other cheek, but definitely not an eye for an eye. They argue that the death penalty is a cruel and ineffective way of controlling crime. Furthermore, it is very expensive to carry out death sentences; therefore capital punishment can be a drain on public funding.

Whilst reform is certainly possible, this doesn't change the fact that victims have been denied their freedom, rights and in the worst cases their lives. Families have been broken. But, can we ever justify the taking of another life, which many view as God right's alone?

**What is your view on the death penalty? Would the UK have lower crime rates if we used capital punishment as a deterrent? Or, would the re-introduction of the death penalty be a step backwards in our development as a civilised society?**





# office of opinion

## TO VAX OR NOT TO VAX?

WRITTEN BY ORBAN O'BRIEN

Since the introduction and offer of a voluntary Covid vaccination to all adults, it is fair to say that take-up has not been universal. As of January 2022, 9% of the population over 18 were yet to receive their first vaccination against Covid-19. Did you know that in our local borough of Lambeth, 117,000 residents had not had their first vaccine by November 2021? This made Lambeth the borough with the third-highest rate of unvaccinated adults in London.

There is a clear link between the five million unprotected adults and the relentless strain on the NHS- figures show that 90% of the patients being kept in hospitals are unvaccinated. The resulting pressure on the NHS inevitably makes it much harder to treat patients not only with Covid, but with other health issues that could otherwise have been treated much earlier.



So, why are many people – including in our local area – choosing not to vaccinate?

Well, long before Coronavirus became the word on everyone's lips, scientists came up with a model of why people would be more or less likely to have a vaccine. This model is called the 5Cs:

**Confidence:** this factor is all about the person's trust in the vaccine safety, efficacy and trust in the government policymakers.

**Complacency:** this factor is about whether an individual believes that the disease or virus would actually be a danger to their health.

**Calculation:** this factor is based on a person's research weighing up the pros and cons of having a vaccine.

**Convenience:** this is all about availability to obtaining a vaccine in the first place.

**Collective responsibility:** the final factor focuses on our sense of responsibility for others within the community and whether our being vaccinated would protect them.

Some people believe that high profile government-based campaigns that encourage us to get vaccinated are an infringement of public freedom. For example, a vaccination-freedom website from the U.S. states that they believe in "the principles of human rights and freedom of choice when it comes to any medical intervention, regardless of their risks or benefits". The writer proceeds to provide guidelines, including that it is "not acceptable to threaten other people who are taking or administering the vaccine", however it is "acceptable to inform the public"- about statements that suggest the vaccine is dangerous and should be avoided. For example, the website states that official reports (U.S.) show that "thousands of Americans have already died after taking Covid-19 vaccines".







At a glimpse, this information could be viewed as shocking, but a counterargument is that it misleads the reader to think that these deaths have been caused by the vaccine - although no causal reason is stated. This is just one example of why people may feel inclined to avoid the Covid 19 vaccination.

Another factor is the lack of knowledge and confidence surrounding changing Government guidance, for instance, regarding expectant mothers. Pregnant women were told to not take the vaccine; it is now highly encouraged as pregnancy lowers the immune system, making the mother more prone to illness. While the updated information is out there, some people are still relying on the outdated Government guidelines from when the vaccine was first developed.



Furthermore, the fact that advice has had to be changed has led to doubt and mistrust in the NHS.

There appears to be a clear link between socially excluded groups and vaccine hesitancy, as demonstrated by statistics that show a correlation between poverty and social exclusion, and low rates of vaccination.

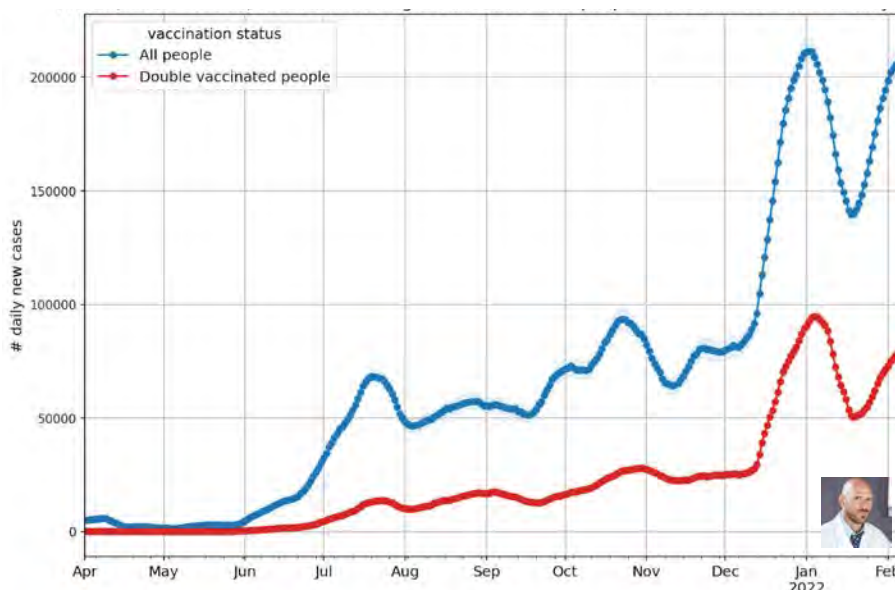
In January, The Guardian newspaper reported Manchester GP Manisha Kumar as saying that in Manchester, *"in more affluent areas of the city, less than 20% of eligible people have not been jabbed, but in some poorer neighbourhoods, the figures tend to hover at about 50%."*

Digital exclusion can also be blamed for the difficulty some people on

lower incomes may have in booking vaccinations. Those without access to the internet are unable to book vaccine appointments online and the time-consuming process of booking a jab without the online system is an additional obstacle. The closure of public facilities such as libraries due to the pandemic has only exacerbated this.

According to Government figures, as of 10th February 2022, 72.3% of the UK population had been vaccinated, suggesting that most consider it necessary.

**As we face potential further uncertainty about new variants and the looming reality that vaccines are here to stay, it will be interesting to see if these figures shift over time.**





# PRO-LIFE OR PRO-CHOICE?

WRITTEN BY ANASTASIA SHOVKOPLYAS

Abortion is an emotive and controversial issue that leads to many public disputes, causing riots, protests and important political debates. Perhaps the main point of disagreement is that whilst some people argue that abortion is unethical and inhumane, others insist that ultimately, the key issue is about women's freedoms and rights to do whatever they want with their bodies.

The Pro-Life argument is focused on the rights of the unborn embryo and the valuing of life from the moment of conception. Supporters argue that termination means that an individual is robbed of their future. Some Pro-Life supporters also argue that the legalisation of abortion is a slippery slope leading to other forms of termination of life, including euthanasia.

It is often argued that an embryo can feel pain and therefore the act of termination is a cruel and inhumane one. Some believe that the ending of life at any stage of development is

tantamount to murder. Former US President Ronald Reagan stated: *"Simple morality dictates that unless and until someone can prove the unborn human is not alive, we must give it the benefit of the doubt and assume it is (alive). And, thus, it should be entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."*

Abortion is seen by many as an act against God's Will. Indeed, The Church of England views abortion as morally wrong, although is permitted if *"the continuance of a pregnancy threatens the life of the mother."* In contrast, the Pro-Choice argument focuses on the mother's right to choose.

As Sarah Weddington, a famous former White House Political Director states *"A pregnancy to a woman is perhaps one of the most determinative aspects of her life. It disrupts her body. It disrupts her education. It disrupts her employment. And it often disrupts her entire family life."* Of course, many people forget the huge responsibility it is to bear a child and how it can financially and medically affect the woman carrying the baby. It is a huge responsibility to have a child and can be financially draining to ensure they have all they need for a safe, secure and fulfilling life.





Many argue that the cost alone is reason enough for a woman to decide not to pursue a pregnancy. But surely this reflects the basic inequities in our society? How can the government, childcare providers and employers help support those who want to bring children into the world, but don't feel equipped to do so?

Do you think that Gemma should have had the legal right to a termination?

**Having considered the views above, what is your opinion when it comes to abortion? Is it simply a case of Pro-life or Pro-choice? Or, is the debate more complex than this?**



Another argument supporting abortions is that banning abortions puts women at risk of taking illegal measures. In 2020, new regulations came into effect in Northern Ireland, allowing women to have terminations. Prior to this, there were many stories of women who felt they had to travel to England to get a legal abortion. One such case involved a woman named Gemma who had spent Christmas Day in casualty with her two children after her husband brutally attacked her. Following an unwanted pregnancy after being assaulted by her husband, Gemma visited her GP who informed her that abortion was illegal in Northern Ireland and he was therefore refusing to help her. In the end, Gemma was able to find someone who could help her, but this was not easy.



**25 MILLION UNSAFE ABORTIONS EACH YEAR**



**MOST UNSAFE ABORTIONS OCCUR IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD**



Source: World Health Organisation



# CONTROVERSY CORNER: FEMINISM- THE ONLY WAY FORWARD

WRITTEN BY LAUREN FIGUEROA MBELEK

Just over a year ago, the country was shocked and appalled by the senseless killing of Sarah Everard. You may recall that this led to the Summer 2021 Edition of the KS4 Newsletter being called *The Fight for Female Freedom*. But did you know that on 4th March 2021, two murders were committed against two other women, Geetika Goyal and Imogen Bohajczuk, just hours before Sarah Everard was lured into policeman Wayne Couzens' car?

Another case that you may have heard of last year, is the tragic story of Sabina Nessa, a 28-year-old primary school teacher who was killed on the evening of 17th September 2021 in Greenwich.

Just how do acts of *femicide* occur so frequently and brutally in today's day and age?

Of course, I understand that it's not all men who treat women so appallingly. However, according to the World Health Organisation, 30% of women worldwide have

been subjected to physical or sexual violence. Furthermore, according to the Office for National Statistics, in the year ending 2020, 7% of all women in England and Wales suffered from domestic abuse. And yet, somehow, women are blamed for being victims! Maybe they should not have been at a party so late at night; perhaps they should be dressed more modestly... Indeed, a survey conducted for The Independent found that 55% of men believed that "the more revealing the clothes a woman wears, the more likely it is that she will be harassed or assaulted."

Are we just legitimising male violence against women and victim-blaming?

Rape Crisis meanwhile, describes rape as an act of violence and control – adding that the "perceived 'attractiveness' of a victim has very little to do with it". It is this need for male control over women that highlights the problems associated with female rights and why we still have a long way to go.

It is not just in terms of violence, sexual assault and domestic abuse that women's rights are eroded. Injustice is felt in all aspects of women's lives around the world. Let's take the workplace for instance; did you know that 42% of women in the USA have experienced gender discrimination in their jobs?

And when it comes to family matters, forced marriage continues to be a huge problem for women around the world. According to the UK government's Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), in 2020, there were 759 cases related to a possible forced marriage and/or female genital mutilation (FGM).

**Women's lives, their bodies and even their love lives are being controlled. This is simply unacceptable in 2022. Women's rights should be basic human rights.**





# CONTROVERSY CORNER: THE CASE AGAINST FEMINISM

WRITTEN BY ABDULLAHI MOHAMED

Ok, this headline may sound controversial but hear me out... Feminism is defined as the belief in women's full social, economic and political equality. However, I believe that the feminist ideology we know today has devolved from its core values.

When asked if you are a feminist these days, it appears as though the only possible answer is 'yes.' Say 'no' and you'll be labelled a prejudiced, woman-hater - and probably accusations of being foolish and uneducated will be thrown in for good measure. You're accused of believing that women belong in the kitchen and that only men should be in charge of society.

On the other hand, if you say 'yes' you're in danger of being labelled as someone who is either trying to impress women or a man who is evidently under the control of a dominant woman. Either way, men can't win. Ironic as it may sound, nowadays, many so-called feminists despise everything linked with the term 'feminine'.

They criticise other women if they have a natural predisposition for more traditionally feminine professions, behaviours and clothing. The promotion of women's rights - despite having positive intentions - has arguably led to the opposite of equality. Instead of equality between the sexes, feminism has been integral to the denouncing of men.

You may have heard of the term "toxic masculinity" - this is the idea that men feel pressure to behave in a certain way and demonstrate that they can be tough, powerful and misogynistic. It has even been linked to an increase in despair and suicide among men. Furthermore, perceptions of men as being 'toxic' has resulted in unjust prejudice against fathers in the Courts and Justice system regarding custody of their children. Surely the bias against men in the Family Courts is reflective of wider prejudices men face? The Research Firm Ipsos and King's College, London, surveyed over 20,000 people in

30 countries ahead of International Women's Day 2022. They found that one third of them think that feminism is more harmful than positive. 23% of men feel feminism has caused men to lose out economically, politically and socially. So it's really not just me who feels this way!

Look, I'm not here to bash women or feminism in general - we all know that feminist efforts in the past have been credited with a range of benefits for women, whether these be more diverse academic and professional opportunities or enhanced reproductive rights. And I'm not advocating that we return to those suffocating gender norms and constraints of the past.

**But, are we in danger of demonising men in the pursuit of female equality and liberation? Can you be a feminist and still advocate for equal rights for men? Or does this present a fundamental conflict of interests?**

**I believe it does.**



# THE INVASION OF UKRAINE

WRITTEN BY IMOGEN BOWES

It's been the main story on the front pages of newspapers the world over and an issue that many of us have been discussing since February: the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. On 24th February, Russia started a large scale invasion of Ukraine, increasing its threat ever since. By land, air and sea, Russia launched attacks on Ukraine, its forces bombing the city centres and closing in on the capital, Kyiv.

Prior to this, in late 2021, Russia began to gather a large amount of troops near the Ukraine borders, while President Putin still denied that he was going to invade. However, the predicted attack did come shortly after.

So how will this affect those still living in Ukraine?

These attacks on Ukraine are terrifying for civilians and families as they rush to try and protect themselves in bomb shelters and participate in the making of home made bombs. Many have been forced to flee across Ukrainian borders in the hope of reaching safe

refuge in neighbouring nations. Most of those who decided not to flee, have remained to try and help against the Russian attacks, for example, by making camouflage suits, fencing and homemade bombs.

At the time of this Newsletter going to print, many allied countries such as the UK and the United States had refrained from sending troops to Ukraine, but instead opted to cut off Russian banks from the International Swift Payment Network and to sanction oligarchs who have profited from close relations with Putin. In addition, on 14th March the UK Government opened up a scheme through which UK citizens could offer housing to refugees fleeing Ukraine. Within 5 hours, 44,000 people had signed up to the UK refugee site.

President Putin however, has stated that he wants NATO to remove its forces and has demanded that Ukraine never joins the NATO Alliance, as he claims to be worried about what will happen to his

country if they did. The fear of sparking WW3 has caused countries to avoid taking military action against Russia, so to date, a series of non-violent sanctions have been imposed. Given we are less than 100 years since the start of WW2, it is horrific that the potential for another global conflict could be on the cards.

It's important that we try to manage our fears and worries and ensure they don't overwhelm us. Here are some tips if you are feeling anxious or stressed about the news at this time:

- 1. Share your thoughts with someone you trust and feel comfortable with.**
- 2. Try to get fresh air and stay active.**
- 3. Understand that it is completely normal to feel upset and concerned.**
- 4. Try not to watch too much negative news as it can become overwhelming.**
- 5. Try to stick to factual sources of information, rather than random posts on social media.**
- 6. Do something positive to help, such as donating items for refugees.**

*Facts correct as of March 18th 2022*



# HOW IS AFRICA VIEWED BY THE REST OF THE WORLD?

WRITTEN BY OMAR AOUCHICHE

Containing the most countries of any continent and having the second-largest continental population after Asia, Africa is still viewed by much of the rest of the world as underdeveloped and impoverished.

A whopping 1.3 billion people call Africa home and with a total GDP of \$2.6 trillion, it leaves the average African person with under \$2000 a year. But that's not how GDP per capita really works. Corruption and theft are common all over the continent and some governments steal their populations' wealth and leave the people with nothing.

Take Madagascar for example. 82% of the population of the island nation live in extreme poverty. The United Nations describe extreme poverty as earning less than \$1.90 (£1.42 at the time of writing this article) per day. However, most of the population of Madagascar earn less than \$0.25 (£0.19) a day

and are deprived of basic necessities, such as food, water, hospital, education and are forced to work from the age of 4 to provide for their families. Unbelievable, isn't it?

Europe is a much different case. With a population of 748 million and a GDP of \$17 trillion, the average European earns about \$30,000 annually. But, one could argue that Europe is partially to blame for Africa's extensive poverty because of Imperialism. During Europe's conquest of Africa, resources were taken back to Europe. Did you know that the Eiffel Tower was built from Iron and Steel taken from Algeria during the 132-year French conquest of the nation? This now brings a few issues since Algeria is asking for their metals back - regardless of the deconstruction required of the Eiffel Tower to do so.

Despite the economic waste, is Africa really as underdeveloped or is it a place with a lot of potential?

Take Zimbabwe for example. Inflation badly hit the nation a few years ago and their currency went as high as a 100 trillion Zimbabwe dollar bill, which was less than a loaf of bread or a bus ride for the people of Zimbabwe. But somehow they found a way around it. Eco-cash, founded a few years ago in Harare (the Capital), "*is an innovative mobile payment solution that enables customers to complete financial transactions directly from their mobile phone.*" It has saved the economy from collapse and can be used to buy goods from vendors, transfer money and even donate to homeless people.





According to The World Bank "The economy is recovering in 2021 mainly boosted by higher agricultural production, improved capacity utilization in industry, and stabilization of prices and exchange rates...Growth is expected to strengthen further in 2022." So, perhaps there is hope for African nations that have had a history of poor economic growth and stability.

There is no doubt that Africa is rich in natural resources: the gold and diamond mines of Southern Africa; the oil and petroleum of Northern Africa; the plant-based grains of Eastern Africa. However, the farmers are usually underpaid for their labour and products and this is another reason for underdevelopment in Africa. Fair Trade products - many of which grace our supermarket shelves in the UK - were made to sustain this purpose. However, many are cynical about this - why does the customer have to pay for the inflated prices of Fair Trade Products? Surely the companies should be paying fair wages in the first place?

Another factor that is a threat to economic growth in African nations is climate change. Due to the hot climate of Africa, droughts are frequent and lead to economic catastrophes due to crops being unable to grow. As so-called 'developed' nations are largely responsible for climate change, surely we have a responsibility to poorer nations?

Civil wars are also a big issue in Africa. A civil war is currently ongoing in Ethiopia based on ethnic divides and claims to the country. Another example of civil wars leading to underdevelopment is Sudan and the South Sudan War, which led to two separate countries in 2011. This made Sudan the 3rd biggest country in Africa - formerly the first - and South Sudan is currently one of the poorest and most unstable countries in the world as a result of being the youngest nation in the world. Violence is a real issue in South Sudan and people die as a result of gun violence daily.

African nations must join together because strength comes in unity within the continent.

But first, they must extinguish the problems of famine, war and divisions. **Only by uniting with other African nations, can they show the world that Africa is a place of potential rapid development and has a sustainable future. Only then can Africa return to being the powerhouse it once was and its people thrive and look forward to a brighter future.**







# DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

WRITTEN BY KELLY FREITAS GOUVEIA

You have heard of racism. You have heard of sexism. But have you heard of ableism? It is defined as discrimination in favour of so called able-bodied people. Ableism essentially means that those with disabilities are judged to be inferior to the majority of the population who are 'able-bodied.' But did you know that disability is one of the 9 protected characteristics? You may have seen these posters around the school. This means that it is against the law to discriminate against anyone who has one of these characteristics - and that includes people with disabilities.

However, does this law translate into the equal treatment of people with disabilities in real life? Did you know that around 1 in 50 children worldwide has some form of disability? The most common include Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD or ADD), Learning Disabilities (like dyslexia) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Children with any type of disability can face challenges throughout their lives that don't even come from their condition, but the way in which society treats them.

The Equality Law - which replaced the Disability Discrimination Act in 2010 - is another law that protects you from any kind of discrimination from your disability to your sexual orientation. It means you're protected from any unfair treatment. Employers, schools and health care services are just some of those with responsibilities to remove barriers for those with disabilities and ensure they have the right to equal treatment and the same access to opportunities as anyone else who does not have a disability. However, does this translate into real life?

Well, according to The Guardian, 97% of school leaders said that 2020-21 funding for their pupils with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) was insufficient. Furthermore, 95% said funding could not cover the needs of children who required additional support from an EHCP (Educational Health and Care Plan). So, what does this mean? If the law states that we must give people with disabilities equal opportunities to their non-disabled peers, but the government is not supporting this with adequate funding, then this places unfair pressure on both schools and their pupils with SEND.

But, is it just schools that are facing such issues? In health care settings, there has been a lot of injustice towards babies with disabilities. When an expectant mother is 10 to 14 weeks along in her pregnancy, they get an opportunity to have routine scans to detect some of the more common chromosomal variations: Trisomy 21 (Down's Syndrome), Trisomy 18 (Edwards' Syndrome) and





Trisomy 13 (Patau's syndrome).

Whilst these tests have been developed to provide choice for parents about whether they would like to continue a pregnancy where their child has a disability, there have been many reports of parents who choose to continue regardless, being pressured to abort by medical professionals.

There has also been a new test called NIPT which was introduced a few years ago in England; consequently, there has been a reduction in the birth rates of people with Down's Syndrome. In fact, 693 babies with the condition were aborted in 2020 which is a 19% increase from 2019. A study concluded that since the NHS brought in the NIPT screenings, the number of babies born with Down's Syndrome has decreased by 30%. Angela Greenwood, a Scottish mum of a child with Down's Syndrome said: *"There doesn't need to be a cure because it's not a disease. It's part of Rosie, and it's part of what makes her who she is. And if we took that away, the same Rosie wouldn't be there for us."*

*"In the world everyone is different, and having a variety is a good thing, I think."*

The group Don't Screen Us Out states *"While we as a society have come a long way in our attitudes toward people with Down's syndrome, there is still a large disconnect between the way that people with the condition are celebrated in society, and the continued existence of legislation, policies, practice and attitudes that lead to the very high number of babies being aborted when they are found to have Down's syndrome. Our goal is one of equality and to see an end to this disconnect - to stop babies with Down's syndrome from being screened out by abortion in the UK, to the point where a baby found to have Down's syndrome has the same chance of being born like any other."*

Currently, The Down's Syndrome Bill, introduced by Dr Liam Fox who trained as a doctor but is also an MP, is going through the Houses of Parliament.

According to a report by the BBC, when practising as a GP, Mr Fox was *"struck by the struggle*

*[patients with Down's Syndrome] had to get complex care needs to be dealt with - often being passed from one agency to another."* The Down's Syndrome Bill is aimed to bring about lasting positive changes in society for people with Down's Syndrome, throughout their lives.

Another organisation campaigning for better treatment of people with disabilities is the National Autistic Society. It is likely that you may know someone who has autism. Or maybe you are the 1 in 100 people who has autism yourself.





One of the issues facing people in the autism community, is that social care and mental health services can let them down so that many end up reading crisis points. Did you know that in 2015, autistic people made up 38% of the number of people in mental health hospitals? According to the National Autistic Society, that figure is now 59%.

According to SCOPE which was founded in 1952 and campaigns for equality for people with disabilities, there are 14.1 million disabled people in the UK. Did you know that 8% of children are disabled, whilst 19% of working-age adults are disabled?

Vivek, a young man with a condition called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, loves gaming like many of us. However, as his condition deteriorated, he found it harder to play, which led to low morale, frustration and him wanting to just give up. Vivek says, *“Recently the industry has done a lot for deaf and blind gamers. I would like to see more work done on mobility issues. It’s great that things have changed so much though – if we had been speaking about gaming accessibility 3 years ago then there would have*

*been very little to say, but things have changed in the last few years. The big game companies are all aware of accessibility and it’s almost like they are now in competition to make the most accessible software – which is great.”* So, ensuring fairness and equality of access for people with disabilities is not just about schools, healthcare and jobs – it means that every aspect of a person’s life has that sense of equality and opportunity.

SCOPE has a campaign called Everyday Equality, which is a 5-year strategy that started in 2017 – it campaigns for fairness, justice and rights so that no one with a disability feels inferior, unfairly treated or overlooked.

When they surveyed parents of children with disabilities, SCOPE found that 40% said their child rarely or never has the opportunity to play with children who are not disabled. This has huge implications for self-confidence and sense of self-worth, whilst also potentially reinforcing damaging behaviours and treatment of people with disabilities.

**So, as the young people of today and the adults of tomorrow, what can we all do to ensure that people with disabilities are treated like their non-disabled fellow citizens?**

**If you have a disability or know someone who does, here are some of many websites that can help:**

- 1) ADDitude (ADHD/ADD)
- 2) Don’t Screen Us Out (Down’s Syndrome)
- 3) National Autistic Society
- 4) SCOPE
- 5) Mencap



# *inspiration station*

## THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE

WRITTEN BY SUHEED MAHMOUD

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will take place on 6th June 2022. Here are some facts to know before the celebrations begin:



The Platinum Jubilee will celebrate 70 years since the Crowning of Queen Elizabeth II

As of March 2022, 245 public events and 435 street parties had been planned

60,000 trees will be planted in the Queen's honour

There will be Platinum Jubilee pageant, as well as a sports day like event known as the Commonwealth Games

There will be Platinum pudding contest and the winner's recipe will be used at big Jubilee lunches

There will also be a Birthday parade for Her Majesty

On Sunday 4th June, the Queen will have a Platinum party with "some of the biggest entertainment stars"

The Queen, along with members of the Royal family, will attend a Derby at Epsom Downs

Celebrations will happen on the Queen's private estates

**So, how will you be marking the Queen's Jubilee?**





# KEEPING UP WITH THE ROYALS

WRITTEN BY JESSICA MARQUES

This year marks the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – this marks an incredible 70 an incredible years of service! Queen Elizabeth II's impressive reign means that she holds the title of the longest-reigning Monarch ever!

Born in 1926, the young Elizabeth became Queen at the age of 25 when her father died in 1952. She has long been admired across the world for her grace, composure and dedication to the British people and members of the Commonwealth.

However, one of her most admirable accomplishments was her time spent helping in World War 2. At the young age of 19 – before she was even Queen - Elizabeth insisted on enlisting. She was subsequently given permission to join the military effort. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Territory Service (ATS) as an auto mechanic and - although not a combat role - it was still a role in which members could be killed. The Queen has seen a lot in

her time and has remained steadfastly loyal to the British people. As we approach the Jubilee celebrations in June, here are some interesting facts about Queen Elizabeth II.

Her favourite dogs are Corgis.

14 Prime Ministers have led Britain during her reign.

She has 2 birthdays; her actual birthday in April and her official birthday in June.

She first sent an email in 1976!

She supports Arsenal.





So, what about other notable members of the Royal Family?

These past couple of years have been tough on all of us - and the Royal Family is not exempt from this.

At the start of 2020, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle decided to step back from their prominent positions in the Royal Family, causing controversy and speculation around the world.

Since meeting Harry, Meghan has been under tremendous scrutiny from the media, which dissects her every move, whether it be her clothes, nail polish or simply the way she sits in front of the Queen.

In March 2021, Meghan sat down for a now famous interview with Oprah Winfrey and revealed that harsh media reports about her had severely affected her mental health. Meghan stated that she found the interview "liberating" and has talked about media coverage of her in 2021 as the "latest attack on her character". Suggestions were also made that members of the Royal Family had commented on the colour of their eldest child Archie's skin. The interview - watched worldwide -

seemed to both suggest and threaten conflict amongst Senior Royals.

It will be very interesting to see how the dynamics between Senior Royals and Harry and Meghan develop or deteriorate over time.

One of the reasons why it is said that Harry chose to step down from being a Senior Royal, was the intense media scrutiny of his young family. Having lost his own mother in a car crash in which members of the media were involved, Harry "feared history repeating itself."

August 1997 was, indeed, a horrific time that shook the world, when Princess Diana, Harry's mother, was killed.

Known as the "People's Princess", Diana was loved by people across the world and seen as an international icon for speaking out for a number of causes. Despite her divorce from Prince Charles, she remained a high-profile individual and continued to use her influence to raise awareness of a number of issues, including Landminer Survivors Network, British Lung Foundation and the British Deaf Association.





Diana's popularity partly came from her being seen as more relatable than most Senior Royals. Her compassion for others was also evident; in the 1980s and '90s, she helped to combat ignorance around AIDS, for example. She visited someone who had AIDS and held hands with him at a time when most people feared they could contract it through such close contact.

Another reason for her popularity was that people could empathise with her not living the 'fairytale' princess life. In her book published in 1992, Diana opened up about her battle with bulimia and Charles' affair with Camilla Parker-Bowles.



There is no doubt that Princess Diana's legacy continues.

So, what is your view? Do you think that Harry was right to step down from the role of Senior Royal, given his mother's experience and untimely death? Or, should someone born into the privileged life of the Royal Family accept and carry out their role to the fullest?

One thing is for sure - there will always be scrutiny and media coverage of the Royal Family as we all follow the highs and lows of their lives.

Hopefully, in 2022, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, we can all celebrate after the uncertainty and fear that the pandemic has brought the world.

**Ask yourself what the Queen would do. Keep Calm and Carry On, of course!**





# THE LIFE OF THE PEOPLE'S PRINCESS

WRITTEN BY LAUREN FIGUEROA MBELEK

Although she died before any of us pupils were born, Princess Diana is someone we have all heard of. But who was she and why does she continue to be so imprinted on the consciousness of the British public?

On 1st July 1961, a future princess was born; Diana Frances Spencer was the third and youngest child of Frances Shand Kydd and John Spencer. At the age of 7, her parents divorced. The family later moved to Althorp when her grandfather died. The death of her grandfather resulted in her own father being named the 8th Earl Spencer.

In her younger years, Diana was a swimmer, tennis player and pianist, but her most cherished dream was to be a ballerina. However, at 5'10", she was unable to attain her goal. According to the book *The Real Diana*, she reached out to the Vacani Dance School to train as a dancing teacher.

Did you know that Prince Charles – Diana's future husband – actually first



met her when he was dating her sister? They first met in November 1977 and later started seeing one another. In February 1981, Prince Charles Philip Arthur George proposed to Lady Diana Spencer. A media circus revolved around the 19-year old fiancée of the future King of England. Although Diana was courteous to the press and media intrusions, she did say, *"I know it's just a job they have to do, but sometimes I do wish they wouldn't."* Whilst engaged, Diana moved from a shared apartment with friends, to Clarence House.

The British public was thrilled during the weeks leading up to the much-anticipated wedding. However, the fairytale wedding had a less than happy backstory. Diana was spotted crying at Heathrow airport where Prince Charles had just departed for Australia and New Zealand. This has since been revealed to be as a result of a phone call between the Prince and his former girlfriend Camilla Parker-Bowles.

However, on 29th July 1981, wedding bells chimed at St Paul's Cathedral. Diana walked down the aisle wearing an ivory silk taffeta and antique lace gown. The dress had a 25-foot train and a 153 yards tulle veil and was valued at £9000 – an extraordinary amount for a wedding dress, even by today's standards!







In 1982, the couple welcomed their first child, William. The British public was overjoyed at the seemingly happy family. However, in 1995, Diana revealed to the BBC that she had suffered from postpartum depression: *"You'd wake up in the morning feeling you didn't want to get out of bed, you felt misunderstood, and just very, very low in yourself."* Two years later, Diana gave birth to her second child, son Prince Harry and their family unit was complete.

Diana was loved and renowned the world over for her charitable works. Diana was loved for her compassion and kindness and was the patron of many charities, including The Royal School for the Blind, The British Lung Foundation and the Meningitis Trust.

Sadly, Prince Charles and Princess Diana's marriage collapsed and they were officially divorced in 1996. Diana remained a public figure who continued to be loved by many and her honesty, vulnerability and down-to-earth persona were seen by many as a breath of fresh air. One photo of Diana could rake in huge revenue for media outlets.



Consequently, despite no longer being married to the future King of England, she continued to be pursued by the Press.

This intrusion by the media reached a tragic climax on 31st August 1997, when Diana was killed in a high-speed car crash in Paris. She was only 36 years old at the time. People all over the world grieved the inspirational woman whom we still think of today as The People's Princess.





# JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE

WRITTEN BY LAURA VASCONCELOS

Jojo's Bizarre Adventure is a Japanese animated series that has been running since 1987. Through its ongoing volumes, episodes and spin-offs, it has impacted many forms of media and has itself taken inspiration from many musicians, fashion designers and models.

Many people take an interest in the series due to its complex story, multiple parts (each with new characters, locations, and stories, all connected through one family), and striking art style. It explores attitudes and different genres such as mystery, action, and adventure. It has even transformed many views on masculinity and sexuality over the last 30 years.

The series spans centuries and is set in Victorian 1800s London and ends in 2011 Japan. It features different locations, including USA, Italy and Egypt. The author, Hirohiko Araki,

tends to draw in a realistic style fused with vibrant colours. Many of his designs are flamboyant and challenge stereotypes by being gender-ambiguous.

Different Western artists such as Prince and David Bowie have influenced character designs and names. Furthermore, Jojo has worked with famous brands such as Gucci.

Jojo's exciting adventures across time and countries is not over yet and we can look forward to a ninth part coming soon - so expect to see more of Jojo's Bizarre Adventure in the future!





# A MIRACULOUS MISMATCH

WRITTEN BY FARES OUANOUI

The FA Cup - the oldest trophy in the history of football - was first held in 1871 and is to this day, revered by millions abroad. This trophy is one of the most prestigious club trophies an English football team could possibly hope to win.

Although the prize money is significantly lower than that of the Premier League, it's because of its unique aspect of egalitarianism that makes it adored by fans across the world. But what does this mean? Well, it comes down to an equality of rights and opportunities; any club from almost any division can win it, non-league or not.

Despite this, bigger, richer teams such as Manchester City, Arsenal, and Chelsea have had opportunities to buy their places in the third round of the FA cup, whereas non-league sides such as Marine FC had to play in four qualifying rounds, followed by the first two rounds, just to get to the third round of the FA Cup. This is an especially impressive feat considering they are a team from the eighth Division of English

football. Marine FC had been drawn against Tottenham Hotspurs who had only just recently participated in a Champion's League final. This was a team of star players, hailing the likes of England Captain Harry Kane and South Korean Superstar Heung-Min Son, led by a manager with 25 trophies under his name. Marine FC, however, were nowhere near as rich and often relied on volunteers to play for their team as a part-time job. A famous example of this is probably how their striker was actually a PE teacher! Imagine your PE teacher playing in the FA Cup! Unfortunately, as most people had predicted, Spurs beat them



with a rather large 5-0 victory, but considering the stark eight League difference between them, it was anything but a disappointing performance. In fact, this 5-0 defeat benefitted Marine FC more than any other victory could. As a result of being drawn against a Premier League side, the BBC decided to pay them to broadcast the match live, since it was at their home ground. Marine FC, like most small businesses, were suffering the cruel consequences of COVID-19, and due to a lack of funding, couldn't allow fans in to see matches for a while.

Despite the match being played behind closed doors, Spurs fans amongst thousands of others, donated to help fund Marine FC. This helped to rescue the club from any further financial horrors.

Evidently, this strategy has worked, as Marine FC are now sitting at the top of their league table and have gained a lot more supporters since their FA cup accomplishments in the 2020/21 season. Long may their success continue!



# SILVER SCREEN STAR: SYDNEY POITIER

WRITTEN BY RIDWAN ELM I

You may not have heard of him, but Sydney Poitier is a man who broke through the rigid social classes and racial prejudice to become one of the most influential black actors to ever live. In fact, he was the first African-American to win an Academy Award for Best Actor. Sadly, earlier this year, Poitier died. So, we thought this would be a timely moment to reflect upon his life.

Poitier was born in 1927 in Florida; he was the youngest of seven children and his family would travel to sell tomatoes. As a newborn, he was so small that he could fit into his father's palm and he was not expected to live. His mother spoke with a palm reader who told her that not only would Poitier survive, but "He will walk with kings."

Throughout his career, Poitier managed to promote Civil Rights. Before him, the idea of a Black movie star seemed unfathomable. Until the 1960s, parts for Black actors were limited to servants and layabouts.

As a young, struggling actor, Poitier rejected a role that paid \$750 every week, because he did not like the character- a janitor who didn't respond after his daughter was murdered. Poitier stated, "*I could not imagine playing that part. So I said to myself, 'That's not the kind of work I want.' And I told my agent that I couldn't play the role.*"

Indeed, one of the reasons for Poitier's popularity was that he refused to play roles that he saw as being demeaning to Black people. In an interview with Oprah Winfrey, Poitier stated, "*(Blacks) were so new in Hollywood. There was almost no frame of reference for us except as stereotypical, one-dimensional characters... I had in mind what was expected of me - not just what other Blacks expected but what my mother and father expected. And what I expected of myself.*"



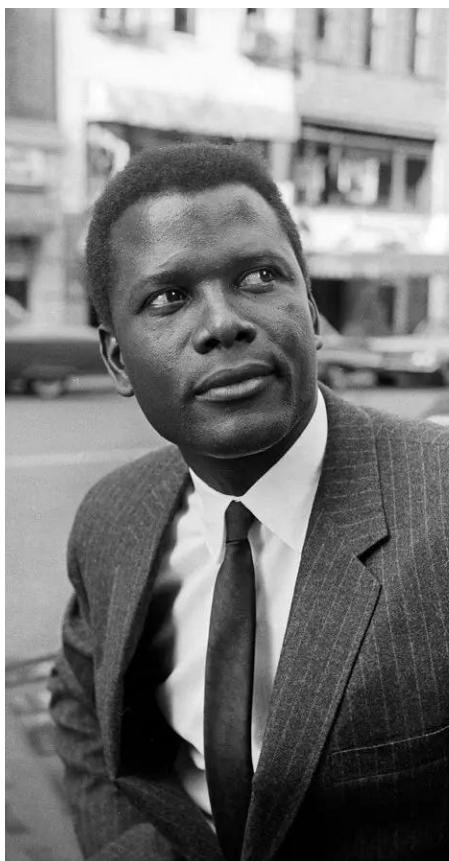


In his roles, Poitier exuded dignity and humility. Many of his best-known films explored racial tensions following the Civil Rights Movement. Poitier was perhaps best known for his role in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, in which he wins over his white fiancée's prejudiced parents.

By selecting his roles carefully, Poitier helped audiences of the 1950s and 1960s to see Black people not just as servants, but as doctors and teachers.

However, as the only leading Black man in 1960s Hollywood, Poitier faced a lot of criticism. Viewers often considered him to be a 'noble' symbol of his race and he had to suffer criticism from some Black people who felt he had betrayed them by taking roles that they viewed as pandering to what White audiences wanted.

Poitier stated; *"It's been an enormous responsibility... and I accepted it, and I lived in a way that showed how I respected that responsibility. I had to. In order for others to come behind me, there were certain things I had to do."*



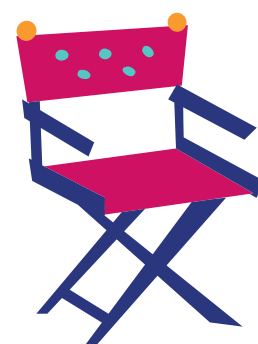
In 1963, Poitier won the Oscar for *Lilies of the Field*, in which he plays a migrant worker who helps a group of White nuns build a chapel.

On 6th January 2022, Poitier died at his home in California – a far cry from his start in life as the child of a poor family. He was 94 years old.

Many came forward to praise Poitier, including Obama who called him *"a singular talent who epitomized dignity and grace"*. Current US President Biden stated *"With unflinching grandeur and poise – his singular warmth, depth, and stature on-screen – Sidney helped open the hearts of millions and changed the way America saw itself."*

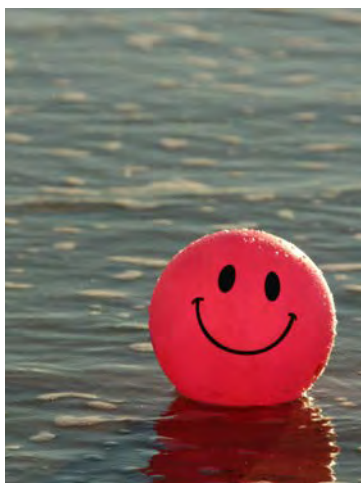


**There is no doubt that Sidney Poitier was a truly inspirational individual, not just for his acting, but for the way he paved the way for Black actors in Hollywood and beyond.**





# ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE



*"When you have a dream, you've got to grab it and never let go."*

*-Carol Burnett*

*"Change your thoughts and you change your world."*

*-Norman*

*Vincent Peale*

*"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world."*

*-Robin*

*Williams*



*"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."*

*-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*"A positive atmosphere nurtures a positive attitude, which is required to take positive action."*

*-Richard DeVos*





***"Believe you can and you're halfway there."***

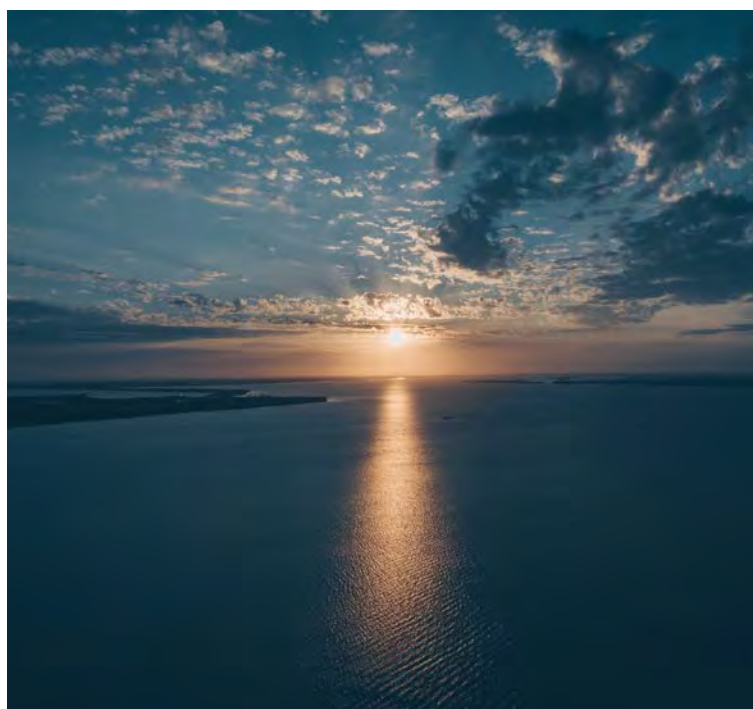
***-Theodore Roosevelt***



***"Nobody built like you, you design yourself."***  
***-Jay Z***

***"Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!"***

***-Anne Frank***





# *cacophony of colours*

## ESCAPISM

WRITTEN BY OSARODION OBAYANGBONA

Confused, I grudgingly detach my soul from my bed – a sanctuary with whom I have such a wonderful rapport I reluctantly leave it to enter the hubbub of school.

In a dazed fashion, I put pen to paper with a thousand thoughts surging through my mind - all yearning for the ultimate victory: home. I skid my thumb across the surface of the table and it reaches the end - a Viking ship reaching the end of the world. The spellbinding voyage came to its climax as my thumb made a 360 degree turn and the dainty ship returned to where it came from.

I waded through the dry desert of pencil shaves, the niveous wasteland of eraser crumbs and the sea of worksheets. Two of my fingers lined up with one another to form legs. They celebrated the exploits of my thumb by moonwalking.

I wished I could be on a real Viking ship.

There is no satisfaction in reality.

The class roared, drunk with laughter at some supposedly humorous situation. I didn't laugh. My eyes scoured for my beacon of hope, more commonly known as a clock. Not good news. Anyway, I turned to my second beacon of hope, a watch.

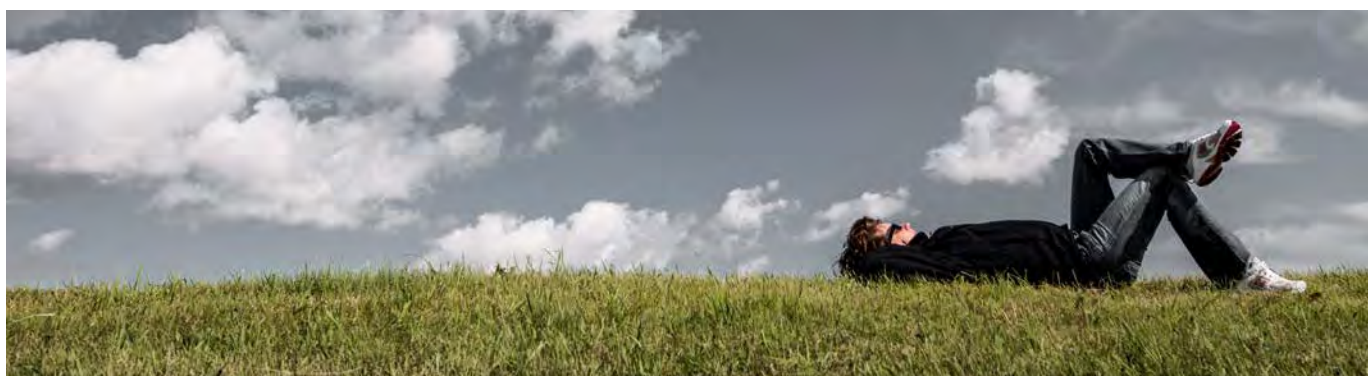
Arrested by my mind, I imagined myself in a million different circumstances other than the one I was currently in. Of course, none came to pass, but they satisfied my urge to gain control over my captor, Boredom.

A shaft of light peeked through a minimal opening in a rectangular bulk of the wood. It told me to follow it, to come with it. I considered it, but a voice invaded, asking "Osarodion are you all right?"

"Yeah. I'm all right Miss," I responded. "

"It's just, I saw you wandering off. Try to stay focused"

Who said it was bad to wander off?







# *seasonal specials*

## THE STORY OF EASTER

WRITTEN BY KADIAN WEBBER

As we approach the Easter holidays, we thought it would be a fitting time to reflect upon the Story of Easter.

Easter - also known as Resurrection Sunday - is the time when Christians celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. On Good Friday, Jesus was crucified and his body taken down from the cross and buried in a cave. Easter is a celebration of the gift God gave us through the death of his son; it represents the fulfilment of the prophecies of the Old Testament and is a time to celebrate the hope of Salvation.

Of course, at this time of year, supermarket shelves are filled with an abundance of Easter eggs - but why? Well, the egg is an ancient symbol of new life; from a Christian perspective, Easter eggs represent Jesus's transition from the tomb and his resurrection.

But what about the iconic Easter Bunny? Well, did you know that there is no actual bunny?

It is said to have been brought to America in the 1700s by German immigrants and has become ingrained in popular perceptions of Easter.

Many Christians celebrate Easter with special church services, candlelight and the ringing of church bells. The name 'Easter' is believed to come from Eostre, the goddess of rebirth. Other symbols of Easter include the lighting of candles in churches, hot cross buns (the cross represents the cross on which Jesus died) and butterflies, which represent the resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus's death on the cross, his burial and his resurrection can be found in the passages of Scripture: Matthew 27:27-28:8; Mark 15:16-16:19; Luke 23:26-24:35; and John 19:16-20:30.

**We wish all of our Christian pupils and their families a very happy and blessed Easter.**





# WHAT RAMADAN MEANS TO OUR MUSLIM FAMILIES

WRITTEN BY AFNAN ABDULALIM

Many families within our Muslim community will be marking Ramadan on 2nd April this year. But for those non-Muslims in our school community, what is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. It is a holy month when Muslims are prohibited from smoking, eating and drinking for a certain amount of time each day. This is known as fasting; Muslims fast every day from dawn to dusk for 29 or 30 days. The number of days to fast depends on when the next crescent moon marks the end of the month. Muslims around the world use the lunar calendar to determine dates of religious events such as Ramadan. The lunar calendar consists of 12 lunar months in a year of 354 or 355 days in a year. As the lunar calendar is shorter than the solar calendar by 11 days, this explains why Ramadan occurs roughly 11 days prior to the previous Ramadan each year in the solar calendar.

Fasting is also the fourth pillar of Islam and should

be done by every Muslim who is old enough and fit enough to fast. Before fasting Muslims eat a small meal before sunrise to start their fast, which is known as Suhoor; this is usually three dates. When breaking their fast, Muslims usually eat a meal starting with dates; this is known as Iftaar.

The reason why Ramadan is such an important month is that it is the month where Muslims believe that the Holy Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammed (Peace Be Upon Him). During Ramadan, Muslims remember those in need and seek to be closer to Allah and work on their relationship with their Lord. It helps Muslims renew their faith and seek forgiveness and try to be the best versions of themselves. Ramadan is a time for reading the Quran, self-reflection and prayer.

After the month of Ramadan, people should try their best to continue to be the best version of themselves and not only be religious during the

holy month of Ramadan. Muslims end this month by celebrating Eid al-Fitr the next day and then they celebrate Eid al-Adha around over two months later.

**We wish all of our Muslim pupils and their families a blessed Ramadan.**





# MEET THE STAFF!

What are the KS4 Newsletter staff looking forward to this Easter?

- |  |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p>I am looking forward to the birth of my new cousin</p> <p>Afnan Abdulalim</p>   | <p>Eating lots of delicious Easter Eggs</p> <p>Ridwaan Abdulle</p>                    | <p>I will be going to Taraweh (a Ramadan night prayer)</p> <p>Omar Aouchiche</p> | <p>I can't wait to spend time with my family</p> <p>Imogen Bowes</p>                      | <p>Exploring London with friends</p> <p>Phebe Davis Bates</p>                |
| <p>Celebrating my mum's birthday</p> <p>Enoch Duguma</p>                           | <p>I will be assisting my friend who is a park ranger</p> <p>Ridwan Elmi</p>          | <p>Spending more time in the great outdoors</p> <p>Kelly Gouveia</p>             | <p>I hope to go to a concert</p> <p>Nathaniel Grzywinski</p>                              | <p>Observing Ramadan</p> <p>Boushra Hagos</p>                                |
| <p>Getting much needed rest</p> <p>Redwan Jaegger</p>                              | <p>Visiting my extended family</p> <p>Sidra Kadir</p>                                 | <p>Celebrating my birthday!</p> <p>Arafath Khan</p>                              | <p>Have some much needed alone time</p> <p>Michelle Le</p>                                | <p>I will be watching the BTS LIVE concert</p> <p>Nina Luong</p>             |
| <p>I will be looking forward to the new Dr Strange movie</p> <p>Suheed Mohmoud</p> | <p>Meeting up with my friends for my birthday</p> <p>Jessica Marques</p>              | <p>It will be focusing on my 'physical health'</p> <p>Abdullahi Mohamed</p>      | <p>I will be visiting Birmingham</p> <p>Jannat Marsou</p>                                 | <p>I will be preparing for Eid celebrations</p> <p>Najma Mohamud</p>         |
| <p>I will be trying out new hobbies</p> <p>Cristovoa Teixeira</p>                  | <p>I am looking forward to watching the new Batman movie</p> <p>Muaze Nur Hussien</p> | <p>I will be experimenting with new recipes</p> <p>Osoradion Obayangbona</p>     | <p>I am looking forward to longer days.</p> <p>Orban O'Brien</p>                          | <p>I can't wait to have a sleep over at my cousins</p> <p>Fares Ouanoufi</p> |
| <p>I am going to visit Suheed at Brockwell Park</p> <p>George Roberto</p>          | <p>I will be helping my relatives in Ukraine!</p> <p>Anastasia Shovk</p>              | <p>I will be going ziplining with my cousins</p> <p>Dylan Tham</p>               | <p>I plan to take my sister to an art gallery for her birthday.</p> <p>Keightley Tran</p> | <p>I will be listening to music</p> <p>Laura Vasconcelos</p>                 |
|  |   | <p>I want to enjoy exploring Leicester Square</p> <p>Kadian Webber</p>           |   |  |



## A Kingdom of Co-Existence

Half of the kingdom is on its  
knees

As they see their species on  
the brink of extinction.

Compared to the last  
century,

We now see a clear  
distinction...

They sell and collect:  
tusk, perfume and pelt  
That the rich buy - unaware  
of the pain they've felt.  
Animals killed by us to show  
our wealth

As we decimate populations  
with terrifying stealth.

The glass reflects the killer  
here for all to see,  
Is it really that much to ask  
to let them be free?

We claim superior thought,  
empathy and remorse,  
Yet turn a blind eye to  
inhumane brutality and  
force.

*written by pupils for pupils*

Muaze Nur Hussen 10A1