

BEYOND THE



KS4 NEWSLETTER



CONTENTS

Editor's Welcome.	Page 2		
<u>Learning Lounge</u>	Page 3	Social Media: The Platanos Perspective	Page 50-51
A Dead End Job?	Page 4-5	Are You Old Enough to Use Social Media?	Page 52
Is Your Sport Safe?	Page 6	Are Celebrities Free From The Damaging Effects of Social Media?	Page 53
Visit to CMS Law: Climate Change	Page 7	Social Media in "Leverage"	Page 54-55
The World of Film	Page 8		
Update On Ukraine	Page 9-10		
The Origins of Calculus	Page 11		
A History of The Royal Air Force			
<u>Community Corner</u>	Page 12	<u>Crime and Conspiracy.</u>	
Interview With Local Café	Page 13	Sorokin's Swindling Saga	Page 56-57
The Joy of Jamaica	Page 14-15	The Dropout	Page 58-59
Interview With Ms Hall	Page 16	Calciopoli: Crime and Corruption	Page 60
Interview With Mr Ahmed	Page 17-18	The Man Who Could Not Be Contained	Page 61-62
Interview With Young People in College	Page 19-20	Fascinating Forensics Facts	Page 63-64
Interview With An Online Business	Page 21-22		
The Beauty of Buddhism			
<u>Beyond The Screen</u>	Page 23-24	<u>Office of Opinion</u>	
Sussing Out Social Media	Page 25	The State of Cinema Today	Page 65
Do You Know How To Keep Yourself Safe Online?		The Row Over Trans Rights	Page 66-67
The Acceptable Face of Child Exploitation?	Page 26-27	Slapping An Ouch Into The Oscars	Page 68-69
Visit To CMS Law: Social Media	Page 28	How Well Did The Government Handle The Covid Crisis?	Page 70-71
Photoshop, Filters and Falsehood	Page 29		
Twitter Takeover	Page 30-31	<u>Inspiration Station</u>	
Network Career Criminal: The Tinder Swindler	Page 32-33	The Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Page 72
Delving Into DeepFake	Page 34	Streatham's Santan	Page 73-74
Can You Trust Online Information?	Page 35-36	Banzema's Ballon D'or	Page 75
Facing Up To Fake News	Page 37	The Future of Chelsea Football Club	Page 76
A History of Social Media	Page 38-39		
Are NFTs Really The Future of Art?	Page 40-41	<u>Cacophony of Colours</u>	Page 77
Promoting Positivity on Social Media	Page 42	Ai/Aniai	
Why Children Today Need Social Media	Page 43	Meet The Staff!	Page 78
Why Social Media is too Risky for Children	Page 44		
What's The Government Doing to Keep You Safe Online?	Page 45		
Do Politicians and Celebrities Use Social Media to Fool Us?	Page 46-47		
Ye or Nay?	Page 48-49	Cover by Imogen Bowes	
		Back cover poem by Omar Aouchiche	



EDITOR'S WELCOME

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE LE

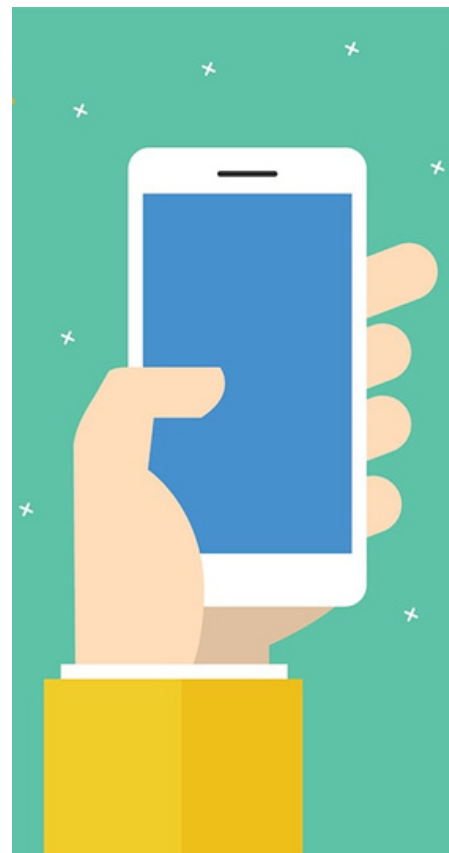
Hello and welcome to the Summer 2022 Edition of the Platanos College KS4 Newsletter! We are already halfway into the year, which has been a rollercoaster of events! Our team have yet again compiled a collection of articles regarding topics that we believe deserve to be brought to light and for your enjoyment.

When it came to the theme of this term's Newsletter Special Edition, we thought about what is relevant to all of us as young people today. This then led us to the unanimous decision of Social Media! We do hope you enjoy our Social Media section 'Beyond The Screen', in which we look at the dangers, benefits and future of social media.

But it's not just social media articles in this Newsletter! We have written about a range of issues from Trans rights to Chris Rock receiving a slap from Will Smith at this year's Oscars!

The KS4 Newsletter Team have worked diligently to create these original and informative pieces. We hope that as you read through the articles, you are able to learn something new - including facts you may not have expected! Trust me, the statistics we have gathered to do with social media in our Year 10 survey may surprise you...

As this is the final edition of the KS4 Newsletter for this year, we would like to wish next year's team the very best as we hand over the baton to them! All the best.



Michelle Le (Editor-In-Chief)





learning lounge

A DEAD END JOB?

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE LE

When you hear the word 'death,' what do you feel? Grief, mourning, despair? There's no doubt that death is at times an unfathomable concept to grasp, as it can seem to be beyond human comprehension. The mere thought of the word can send shivers down your spine - but just as it can terrify, it can fascinate too. A prime example of this is the work of a mortician, a person who specialises in the very field of death. It is a job that undoubtedly takes a lot of emotional stability and a strong stomach to cope with the sight of dead bodies.

Even though people may not realise it, morticians play such an important role in society. If you imagined a world without them, there would be no funerals. Morticians make sure that funerals take place in a respectful and careful manner, so that relatives and dear friends can pay their last respects in a fitting way.

OK, it may not be the first job you think of when someone asks what you want to do when you're older, but there are actually more pros to being a mortician than you may think! For example, if you are the type of person who is always there to be shoulder to lean on, then this job is ideal as you need to be available to support others in emotional pain. Morticians have the skills to help people overcome difficult periods in their lives.



A licensed funeral director, Victor M. Sweeney, expressed how his field of work can prove to be a very emotionally taxing job. He once stated in an interview: *"You see a lot of things you don't want to: graphic injury, decaying bodies, burying children. Those are really hard."* Sweeney then went on to acknowledge the upside of his job: *"But there are good things, too. In those situations, you're in a position to help a family like nobody else can."* So whilst it may not be the first job you'd think of for a future career, perhaps being a mortician is not a dead end option either.



IS THE SPORT YOU LOVE SAFE TO PLAY?

WRITTEN BY JESSICA MARQUES

Do you play a contact sport such as rugby or a martial art? Contact sports refer to activities that require physical contact between players; this contact might take the form of a tackle, punch or kick. Examples of contact sports include karate, wrestling and American Football. Evidence suggests that repeatedly receiving harsh hits over years can adversely affect the brain. So, what can we do to minimise the risk whilst still being able to take part in sports we love?

In December 2020 it was revealed that eight former professional rugby players (all of whom were under the age of 45), had been diagnosed with early-onset dementia. Graham Kirkwood, from the Institute of Health at Newcastle University, requested that the Rugby Football Union (RFU) ban tackles, rucks, and mauls from the game. He was highly critical of the existing RFU guidance that focused on how to manage concussion injuries, instead of on how to prevent it in the first place.



Similarly, Dr Adam White, a lecturer in Sport and Coaching Sciences at Oxford Brookes University, asked that the UK's Chief Medical Officer consider banning tackling in school rugby. White argued *"We should be prioritising brain health and mental health of young people before we even consider thinking about rugby union as a game"*.

But the issue is not confined to rugby; in 2017, former footballer Alan Shearer featured in a documentary that looked at the link between football and dementia.

Later, in February 2022 the Football Association changed their guidance to say advise that there should be *"no heading in training in the foundation phase."* This means that primary school children and under-11 teams should not be heading the ball.

One of the biggest brain injury threats to players of contact sports is chronic traumatic encephalopathy. CTE is caused by repetitive head injuries, which can lead to progressive loss in memory as well as a number of other issues. Most confirmed cases of CTE are found in boxers and football players, however it has been found in rugby and basketball players many times too.





You may have come across the Netflix documentary about Aaron Hernandez, an NFL player who was convicted of murder. He played for the New England Patriots until he was released by them in 2013 following his conviction for the murder of Odin Lloyd. In 2017, Hernandez committed suicide in his prison cell. Doctors performed a postmortem examination on his brain; what they found was that he had CTE. Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy can result in problems with aggression and impulse, with symptoms sometimes not appearing until years after the injuries take place. As a consequence, some argue that Hernandez's aggression and behaviours were not a result of his natural demeanour, but due to the effects of injuries he sustained as an American Football player.

In addition, a study was performed by a post-doctoral Fellow named Churchill, who examined the effects of contact sports before and after games. He scanned the brains of 65 athletes pre-match and was able to determine that whilst they showed no evidence of injury pre-match, after the games they had reduced communication between brain areas. Additionally, those in higher contact sports showed less activity in the brain area involved in vision and motor function.

With increasing evidence in this area, it is important that if you do take part in any contact sports, you are aware of and follow the official rules and guidance. No true sports fan wants to hear 'it's just a game', but when it comes to your health vs sports, there is only one winner.



Aaron Hernandez





KS4 NEWSLETTER TEAM TRIP TO CMS LAW: CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIAL

WRITTEN BY OMAR AOUCHICHE

Back in May, our KS4 Newsletter Team visited CMS Law Firm in Bank along with Mr Ahmed and Ms Thompson, to learn about how corporations and governments affect the impact of human behaviour on climate change and global warming.

CMS Law Firm is a very diversely skilled organisation, with over 30% of the employees being involved in non-Law associated careers. It's a large and internationally respected company with over 80 locations around the globe. CMS have partnered up with Young Citizens UK to educate secondary school pupils about real life issues and the law; this helps to make legal issues more accessible to young people and enables them to integrate Law with their current curriculum-based knowledge. The refined programme is accessible free of charge to every UK secondary school and educates pupils on the United Nations' Global Goals. Of course, we at Platanos College wanted to be part of this exiting enterprise! The overall aim

of the session we attended, was to encourage us to reflect on issues surrounding climate action and how the law can be used to motivate change.

We met and worked with a range of trainee solicitors and learnt about global climate change pledges such as the 2015 Paris Agreement, the 2008 Climate Change Act and other commitments. We were challenged to make judgements on whether they were realistic or empty promises. We also had discussions to try and classify whose responsibility it is to take action on the different issues that contribute to climate change.

We discussed a range of topics: where responsibility for causing and solving climate change lies; the law with regard to solving climate change and global warming; outcomes based on legislation.

By the end of the workshop, we all felt invigorated by what we had learnt and many of us felt a desire to learn more and even pursue future work experience placements at CMS Law! Who knows? In a few years one or two of us might even be trainee solicitors working with secondary school pupils at CMS!





THE WORLD OF FILM

WRITTEN BY PHEBE DAVIES BATES

Every once in a while you watch a movie that really resonates with you or remains in your mind for a long time. The movie industry grabs audiences' attention through both overt and subtle means. Indeed, an immense amount of work goes into creating the finished movies that we enjoy on our screens: camera shots and camerawork; editing; symbolism and metaphors; hidden messages; the soundtrack...the list is endless.

The five stages of film production include:

- **Development**
- **Pre-production**
- **Production**
- **Post-production**
- **Distribution**

One of the key ingredients of any movie of course, is successful casting. Many actors choose to embody their character, to give their performance a more realistic portrayal; this is known as Method acting. Well-known actors such as Christian Bale, Natalie Portman and Heath Ledger are Method actors.

Camerawork and cinematography are also

hugely important aspects of movie-making. With both the director's guidance and experienced editors, camera shots can really piece together a movie. Did you know that there are many different camera angles, all used to create different effects? These include upside-down shots, close ups, long shots, full shots and low angle shots. Switching up the angle of the camera can have the effect of making a character seem either more intimidating or more vulnerable. Ari Aster, Steven Spielberg and Jordan Peele are famous examples of directors who bring their ideas to life using cinematography with the help of their crew.

What about Cinematographers? Their job is to be in charge of colour, camera angles, camera movements, composition and exposure; they effectively oversee the different elements of what you see on screen.

And let's not forget that the movie-going experience is not just about what we see, but what we hear. Indeed, soundtracks and sound

effects are very powerful elements of a film, increasing tension or evoking an emotive response from the audience. We all connect certain movies to songs and pieces of music when we hear them, whether it be the theme tunes to Indiana Jones or Jaws.

So, think about your favourite movie...would you like to pursue a career in the film industry and one day be in a position to make films of your own? Here are some top tips from the Film Industry Network for forging a career in the movie industry...

- Try to get relevant work experience, even if it's just as an assistant on a set
- Speaking of experience, being a runner is a great way to get a foot in the door; this involves lots of hard work (and literal running from place to place and task to task). It's not well-paid and can be very stressful, but it will give you lots of hands-on experience of the industry.
- Use technology and social media platforms to get your work online; this is a cost-effective way of having your work viewed by as many people as possible.



UPDATE ON UKRAINE

WRITTEN BY ORBAN O'BRIEN

Since February of this year, the world has witnessed one of the greatest tragedies of this century: the invasion of Ukraine. At the time of this Newsletter going to print, the BBC reported that every day an estimated 100-200 Ukrainian soldiers are killed, whilst a further 500 are injured. According to the United National Civilian Casualty Update, by the start of June 2022, 4149 civilians had been killed, whilst 4945 had been injured. By the time you read this, the casualty figure will have reached deadly new heights.

Sadly, due to control of the media and major restrictions throughout Russia, there is much Russian support for the war and the idea of rebuilding the Soviet Union.

In early March, I attended a talk, during which an Ukrainian activist who had escaped to Poland, voiced her opinions on the war. She detailed the graphic assaults that she had witnessed and the struggle for trans people who were unable to receive

medication and were forced to flee the country. Further altercations regarding the fleeing of the country included discriminatory border patrol officers turning away black refugees and making them wait for hours whilst other refugees were permitted to pass.

Just before our Newsletter went to print, news broke of an attack on a shopping mall with -according to Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky- over 1,000 civilians inside. The attacking of a civilian site has been described as "*one of the most daring terrorist attacks in European history.*" G7 leaders released a joint statement in which they condemned the assault using two X-22

cruise missiles, an "*abominable attack,*" calling it a "*war crime.*"

President Zelensky aims to end the war by the end of this year, urging the G7 to push for Ukraine's victory. In response to the attack on the shopping centre, the G7 claimed that it "*will not rest until Russia ends its cruel and senseless war.*" But what are the next steps for the global community? Will countries that have hitherto taken economic sanctions out against Russia, be willing to go further? Only time will tell. Tragically, there is little doubt that in the meantime, more innocent lives will be lost.

Anastasia: My family is from Ukraine, and this has been a very stressful time. They have had to take stressful journeys to Romania to escape the fighting and I have family members who have died in the conflict.





THE ORIGINS OF CALCULUS

WRITTEN BY ENOCH DUGUMA

Calculus is often seen as a frustrating area of mathematics – one in which memorising and knowing formulae are key to your success. However, many things can be overlooked when looking deeper into when and where calculus was conceptualised and, more importantly, why it was created and the reason why it is still important in society today.

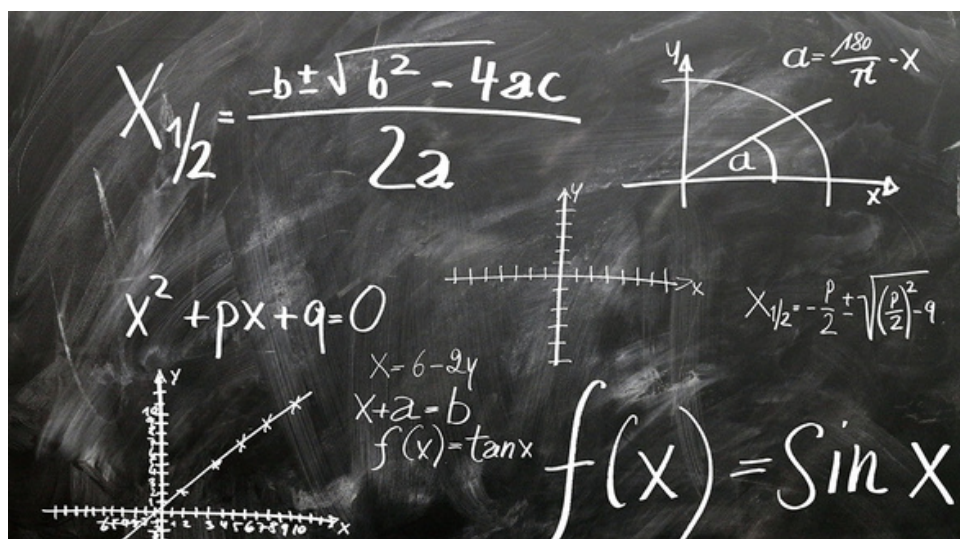
While calculus was created in the late 17th century, concepts of calculus started to form as far back as ancient Greek civilisation. This was as a Greek mathematician called Eudoxus (in 400BC), used a rather clever way of finding areas and volumes of shapes with 'the method of exhaustion'. In 230BC, the famous Greek mathematician Archimedes in expanded on this and used this method to figure out the area of a circle ($A=\pi r^2$) by drawing regular polygons in a circle with so many sides that it practically became a circle (which is quite similar to aspects of integral calculus).

Nearly 2000 years after Archimedes and Eudoxus, in the late 17th century, the physicist Isaac Newton and the mathematician Gottfried Leibniz, needed to develop a system in mathematics to solve problems that could not be explained or solved using existing methods. They did this by developing infinitesimal calculus by building on the works of other mathematicians in Europe (i.e. Rene Descartes, Blaise Pascal).

Many of us have learned how to find the slope of a linear graph (with the formula "rise over run" or "change in y over change in x"), however, the main issue that came to Newton was trying to find the

slope of a continuous curve; nevertheless, through some rigorous calculations, Newton managed to figure it out and called it the derivative. Similarly, Newton also figured out how to find out the area under the curve using a method known as integration and with this new information, Newton established the fundamental theorem of calculus (which states that integration and differentiation are opposites). Later, Leibniz created the mathematical notations that most mathematicians currently use for calculus.

Shortly after the discovery of calculus, the Mathematician Leonhard Euler made a string of contributions to



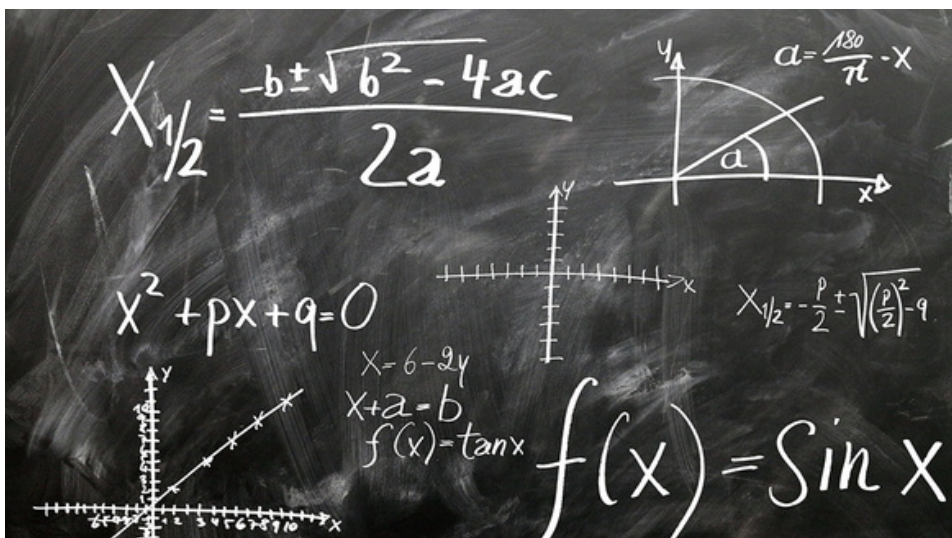
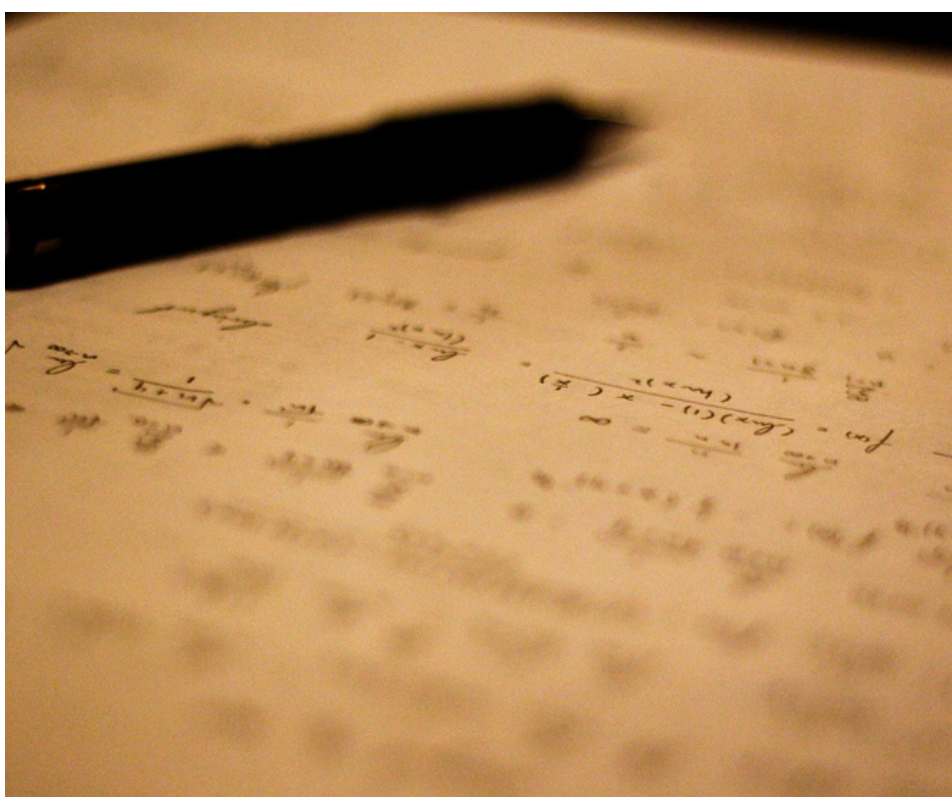
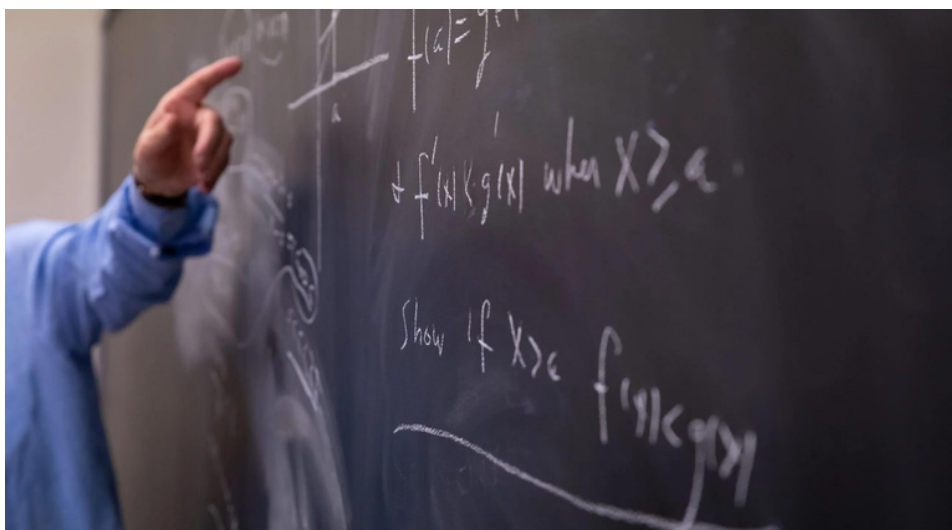


mathematics, such as introducing the mathematical constant “e” as the base of natural logarithms.

Furthermore, using the complex plane, which is an extension of our beloved y and x-axis graph using complex/imaginary numbers, Euler discovered Euler’s Identity. Another mathematician, Bernhard Riemann, is often considered one of the greatest mathematicians due a number of ideas, including the first precise definition of the integral.

While you may not realise it, the reason behind the discovery of calculus was our desire for an explanation of what we come across every day. In fact, many subjects use calculus behind the scenes (astronomy, physics, geography, photography, chemistry, engineering, and more), and while it may not be obvious, it exists in all aspects of our lives.

So, next time you’re challenged to a calculus test, don’t forget where it comes from and where it may take us in the future!





A HISTORY OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

WRITTEN BY CRISTOVAO NUNES

Did you know that the Royal Air Force was formed on 1st April 1918?

Here are some interesting facts about the RAF.

It was the first ever separate air force that the world had ever seen; at the time, the British Army and the Royal Navy had planes of their own.

When it was formed, the Royal Air Force had the largest operating force, with over 290,000 employees and 23,000 planes!

Despite being one of the oldest Air Forces, the RAF is still inventing new aircraft, such as the upcoming Tempest fighter jet.

During WW1, the best German pilot at the time, Baron Manfred von Richthofen (also known as the Red Baron) was shot down by the RAF.

After the war had ended, the RAF focused on civil aviation; this built the basics for aircraft as we know it today, including commercial airlines.

On 5th March 1936, one of the most iconic aircrafts of all - The Supermarine Spitfire - was created. These planes bravely defended the UK during several battles, most importantly at the Battle of Britain. Although outnumbered, the RAF fought so well that Germany halted their invasion.

The Royal Air Force was able to surprise the Luftwaffe and appear at short notice because of the Dowding System. This was created by Sir Hugh Dowding and consisted of radar towers that could spot incoming aircraft. Without this creation Britain may very well have fallen into enemy hands.

The Red Arrows are the RAF's personal display team - they're made up of some of the most elite fighter pilots, who perform the deadliest of manoeuvres to entertain the public.





Community Corner

INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL CAFÉ OWNERS

WRITTEN BY KELLY FREITAS

We interviewed cousins Tania (21) and Tatiana(18) about their family business, Ka Te Espero.

What does your daily routine look like?

Tania: Well, our routine starts with coming down to the office and the first thing we do is obviously check the emails, to see if there are any that we've missed or that have just come in after we left the office the day before. We have a read of what it says and, if it's asking about a job, we obviously ask our dad (the owner) to see if we have staff available. We also organise the receipts and keep track of our finances, such as what we've been spending money on and maybe to see if there's a way we can cut down on our expenses.

What skills did you acquire through your education that you now use in work?

Tania: I would say that a lot of the skills that were brought to this job through education would be based on computer skills - a lot

of computer skills, for example, knowing how to work with Excel and use spreadsheets. Also, when you're putting numbers down instead of having to write all of them, if you know how to do it properly you can use these tools to your advantage. I think computer skills are a major necessity.

Does working with family make it easier?

Tatiana: Yes and no because there are perks to working with the family. For example if there's an emergency, you can just tell them because they'll be more understanding in a way and they'll let you leave - this isn't as easy to do in other jobs. On the other hand, it can be more stressful because if you get something wrong there's that extra weight knowing that your family is watching you and you don't want them to think that you can't do it. Having said that, if you want to make a good impression with your boss, it's not as stressful if your employer is your own family!

What tips do you have for young people who are thinking about their future jobs?

Tania: I would definitely say don't be pushed into something just because it's easier; just go for exactly what you want to do even if it's just for a little bit. If you go into something you don't really enjoy, that will make things a hundred times worse. You know you're going to get up in the morning and you'll just feel miserable going to work and that's definitely what it should *not* be about. Ideally, you want to pick something that you really enjoy doing - that way, you'll be enthusiastic about going to work.





THE JOY OF JAMAICA

WRITTEN BY KADIAN WEBBER

Many staff and pupils of Platanos College and from our local community are from Jamaica. But did you know that Jamaica is the third largest island in the Caribbean? Its flag consists of three colours: black, which symbolises the strength and creativity of Jamaican people; gold, which reflects the natural wealth and beauty of the sun that shines over the country; green, which represents hope and agriculture.

Jamaica is an incredible holiday destination; in fact, 4.5 million people visit it every year! Some of the most well-known tourist attractions are Dunn's River Falls (found near Ocho Rios, in the St Ann Parish) and The Bob Marley museum in Kingston.

A number of notable heroes are well respected in Jamaica. For instance, George William Gordon was a member of the Houses of Parliament; he campaigned against the suffering of the people of Jamaica. A well-regarded Jamaican woman is Nanny of the Maroons, who was described as a fearless

Asante warrior, refusing to surrender to captivity.

Samuel Sharpe is another notable figure in Jamaica history. He travelled from estate to estate in secret night meetings; these culminated in the 1831 Rebellion, which began in St James and spread across the whole island. Lasting 8 days, the rebellion eventually resulted in the capture and execution of Sharpe, at a location that is now known as Sam Sharpe Square.

Here are some bite size facts about Jamaica.

Some of the best Dancehall artists are:

- **Spice known as the Dancehall Queen** (one of her most famous songs is So mi like it)
- **Vybz Kartel known as the King of Dancehall** (one of his most famous songs is Clarks)
- **Popcaan** (songs such as Silence, Ova dweet & Family)
- **Alakline** (top songs – Afterall, Block & Delete, ATM)

Jamaica has many exquisite dishes/desserts such as :

- Ackee and Saltfish
- Jerk chicken
- Curry goat with Rice and Peas
- Jerk Pork
- Gizzada
- Coconut Drops
- Banana Fritters

Ms Anderson: I love being from Jamaica because of the friendly and welcoming people! I also love the exotic beaches and appetising foods.

Some of the best reggae artists are:

- **Bob Marley** (one of his most famous songs is One Love)
- **Desmond Dekker** (one of his most famous songs is Baby Come Back)
- **Sizzla** (one of his most famous songs is Thank you mama)
- **Beres Hammond** (one of his most famous songs is I feel good)

Mr Augustus: I admire The African leaders of Jamaica who made the country so influential. I also love the variety of spices that are produced there.





INTERVIEW WITH MS HALL

WRITTEN BY ANASTASIA SHOVKOPLYAS

We interviewed Ms Hall about her childhood and working at Platanos College.

When did you start working at Platanos College and what do you specialise in?

I started working here in 2018. My first proper year as a fully qualified teacher was when I was teaching the current Year 10s when they were Year 7s. I was here in 2017 as a trainee teacher learning to become a qualified teacher. My subject specialism is Drama - specifically Shakespeare - which was one of my key modules when I did my Masters Degree. I also have a background in directing and acting.

What made you want to work at Platanos College?

I did my second PGCE placement here (the teacher training course) and was mentored by Ms Valmarana; I think one of the reasons I chose to stay here was to work with her. We were really in sync with how we wanted the department to run, our vision for the pupils and what we wanted them to gain. So, really, it was because I knew that working with her meant working in a team.

But also, I really enjoyed teaching here because of the pupils; the kids we taught were so unique compared to the other school I had taught at before. I find it so enjoyable teaching pupils at Platanos College and seeing them grow from children into teenagers, ready for College or Sixth Form.

What do you like best about working at Platanos College?

My favourite thing about working here is working with KS4 and their GCSE performances. I think it is the best because you get to explore topics in a lot of depth and have many more interesting conversations. And you get to watch pupils progress in a way that you don't necessarily at KS3. Although you have got the skills at KS3, you get to see every pupil get comfortable in the role of directors, writers and actors at KS4. I love watching how much they grow creatively!



What job did you dream to have as a child?

Oh, I definitely wanted to be an actor on the stage or in the West End. And Eastenders - I *really* wanted to be in Eastenders! I still watch it now and find it very entertaining.

What made you so passionate about Drama?

I went to see a very famous actor when I was young. I saw him perform in 'Richard III' by Shakespeare when I was 15 and it changed my life. I never even thought I liked Shakespeare until I saw his acting. He was so incredible. I was holding my phone shaking, because I was in the front row. I dropped it and he looked down and just glared at me in character for what felt like the longest 10 seconds of my life, like a punishment for disturbing his performance. He just responded in the moment and I knew that this was what it was all about. Theatre is so important and so exciting, whether you are the audience or the actor. I never looked back.

**What would you say to children picking subjects they might be interested in as an Option for GCSE?**

Do not pick the subject based on the teacher even though you might want to, because there is no guarantee that you will have them. That happened to me in Sixth Form and I ended up having the worst year trying to keep up with everyone. You have to chase what you are passionate about. And certainly, don't pick it because your friends do. You won't realise how different you are from your friends until it's too late.

How would you recommend pupils handle stress - especially at KS4?

I would say learn to switch off and not think about anything else. When I leave this building, I think about things on the walk back and once I get home - that's it! So, switch off! It's a skill and you have to work on it, but you have to completely cut out anything that's stressing you out for at least an hour or two a day.

**Would you recommend Sixth Form or College more for people who want pursue the same career path as you? What about University?**

I would always stand by Sixth Form because I think it opens up many doors. Sixth Form allows you to go on to university and I would always recommend going to university. Even though university is really expensive now, it was without a doubt the best time of my life, hence why I went three times. It's not just about what you're learning; it's also about socialising, meeting new people and gaining life experiences and finding out who you are. You will never forget the memories of university; the friends you make are friends for life. It is the best time ever!

What does the career path for someone in your role look like?

I would say life experience. I went to university and then I went and did my Masters. You don't have to do that, but in that time I gained a lot of experience and it was only after that, that I realised I wanted to be a teacher. I think having a break from university to the PGCE gave me a chance to learn about myself. For me, the teachers that stood out in school were the ones that had life experience and could pass on their pearls of wisdom! So, firstly make sure that you love your subject otherwise you can't expect the children to.

Secondly, go do whatever you want to do before you buckle down and become a teacher, because if you're unhappy, the kids will know about it.

Have you had any difficulties to overcome as a teacher?

Yes, learning not to take anything personally, though I still believe everyone struggles at times with this. And to fight 'imposter syndrome', which is something women tends to suffer from more than men. It's effectively when you don't feel like you should be in a certain position or don't feel that you are good enough. As long as you have done the work needed, you always belong where you are. If you work hard enough, you will always be good enough. That's what I believe!





INTERVIEW WITH MR AHMED

WRITTEN BY JANNAT MARSOU

We interviewed Mr Ahmed about his role as a History teacher at Platanos College.

Why did you become a History teacher?

I became a History teacher because I loved working with young students and History is a passion of mine; I wanted to find a job in which I could get the best of both worlds.

What challenges did you face in the early part of your career?

One challenge I faced was actually deciding what career path I wanted to take. Up until my final year at university, I had thought about many different jobs, but none really fit, while many of my friends had already decided what they wanted to do. During the summer term, I worked at Platanos College supporting Year 11 pupils prepare for their GCSEs. This is when I fell in love with teaching; I knew that this was the career for me.

What did you study at Sixth Form and University?

At Sixth Form I studied English Literature, History, Biology and Classical

Civilisation. It was a strange mix but I really enjoyed it. I went on to study History and Politics at University and then ended up at Platanos College.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

I hopefully see myself continuing to teach children at Platanos College and helping to make a positive impact on the lives of many more young people.

When did you know you wanted to be a History teacher?

After university I knew that I wanted to work with young people because I had worked at a Youth Charity. The charity focused on bridging the gap in education for young people with hearing impediments. I found that working with young people in particular, incredibly rewarding because I was able to witness the impact I had on their lives. Many have since gone on to have successful careers.



Is there anything you dislike about History?

History is a beautiful subject and is vital in teaching us about the past and also helping us to learn from past mistakes to create a better future. However, the past is not always narrated in a true light, so it is our job as History teachers to narrate the true picture of the past objectively and highlight events, whether or not we like what had happened before us.

What do you particularly like about History?

The best part of History is finding out stories about people who existed thousands of years ago and how their lives still resonate with us to this day. A large part of history is narrating a story - a story of our own legacies through our ancestors. This helps us as young people to place ourselves within a community, whilst also being a valuable tool in teaching us to appreciate those who are different to us.



INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

WRITTEN BY KEIGHTLEY TRAN

In this interview, Osesumen Odia, Juan and Courtney explain their views about their day to day lives and the impact of Covid on their studies.

What made you take your current courses?

Ose: I do Biology, Chemistry and Math and in Year One I did EPQ. I love Biology and Chemistry and I love Maths; they were my highest achieving subjects at GCSE. So I thought, why not study them? I also chose EPQ, because the subject I was doing was not essay based, and I wanted to still keep my essay writing skills, obtained in English, alive. I chose it so I can have some writing practice and it was great because I learned how to do referencing, which was really helpful for my biology practical write ups.

Courtney: I have always been interested in video games, how they're made and how they function, so choosing a Game Design course was perfect for me.

Juan: I chose Engineering since both my dad and grandpa are themselves engineers and I also had a decent interest in mechanics and electronics.

Are you working on anything for the future?

Ose: I'm definitely working towards Medicine, because that's what I wanted to do at University. Hobby-wise, I am working towards expanding my sewing business (sort of). It's not so much of a business at the moment! I make dresses for different people, like people at Uni. I want to build my skills! In regards to other hobbies, I am part of the London Youth Board and I have started setting up my campaign. I really want to expand it; my campaign is about neurodivergence in schools and I feel that the government should help more with that. It's the same way dyslexia is not covered under the NHS, but diagnosis is £2000 – to me this seems ridiculous!



Ose

Courtney: Currently I'm working on developing my photography/videography skills as well as creating a platforming game.

What does a day in your life look like?

Ose: Okay, so I wake up at six, get ready, then leave the house at seven (latest five past seven, so I can get to school at 7:15). And then I do an hour of work – mostly just revision now – in the mornings. In school, on my typical day I normally have two subjects which are double periods; either that or I'll have a double period of study. After lessons, I go home and do some more work. I then take a break and finally I get ready to sleep, so I'm prepared for the next day.



Courtney



How has Covid-19 impacted your daily life?

Ose: So right now things have gotten back to normal. But, I would say right now teachers are very good at sending out resources and I'm actually looking at my emails more often! I guess this leads to more maturity now, but I definitely look at my emails so much more now. Most of our resources are online and that wouldn't have been the case pre-Covid. So for my extra curricular, we would do them over zoom. We do quite a few sessions online instead of going into the office in person. However, it's great because I can spend more time studying or relaxing at home and there's no traveling that can take up time. Therefore I didn't feel as tired coming back home.

Juan: Covid mostly impacted how much I went out and how I interacted with people; it made me less social and more of an indoor person.



Juan

How has Covid-19 impacted your education?

Ose: Initially it was very hard because I have terrible WiFi, so I wasn't able to join classes. So when online classes happened, it meant that I missed out some lessons that were difficult for me to catch up on. Also, I guess it really brought out the learning difficulties that I had; I couldn't really hide the fact that I wasn't doing as well in work. However it was also great as I had more support in school.

Courtney: During the height of Covid, my college had to set up remote learning, so we all had to join a zoom call from home during our lesson hours and do the work collectively. We ended up having a lot of technical issues and I personally was motivated to join the calls from home. However, some people didn't turn up. As a result, we also didn't end up doing any practical work.

Do you have any advice for the pupils of Platanos College who are looking towards Further Education?

Ose: Speak to people; it's hard and you won't understand everything. Teachers definitely just want to help. **ASK QUESTIONS!** If you don't understand, ask immediately! Otherwise, if you let that roll over, you will forget. You just have to be open to asking questions and knowing you may

not understand things at the very beginning.

Courtney: To be honest, it is good if you're trying to learn/enhance your skills in a certain subject. Also, some places help provide work experience so that you'll get the skills you need for further work.

Juan: Make sure you research enough about the course you want to apply to, since it might not be one you need or require to fulfil criteria for a job or university. And don't skip classes; they're important-trust me!





INTERVIEW WITH AN ONLINE BUSINESS

WRITTEN BY KEIGHTLEY TRAN

What's your name and how did you come up with the name of your brand?

My name is Ruth and my brand name is ruthisdrawing, which means Ruth (me) is drawing. It is a really simple and straightforward name as I started my account back in 2020 just to share my drawings without thinking about it too much. It was a hobby at the beginning but it made me learn so much and now I can't even think of a better name! I feel like my brand is my art but it's also 'me' as a person! So I really like that it includes my name in it.

How and when did you start your business?

It all started in a free and mindless way! I started sharing my drawing on social media (especially on Instagram) without expecting any feedback - just to have a gallery of my own work! I wanted to be able to look back on my process and I thought that was a good way to have everything in one place. Then the pandemic came in and I discovered TikTok. There were many creatives opening small online shops and selling products of their own art and I quickly thought,

"Hey! I could do this too!". Of course, the beginning was slow and there was lots of trial and error (there still is today)! But I was full of joy and really motivated to make it happen. The love of all the people who started appreciating my art was what made everything make sense.

What was the inspiration for the products you sell for your business?

Right now what inspires me the most are cute and calming things! Specifically, lovely tiny animals interacting with daily life items. I studied Architecture in college and also its Master Degree (even if I'm working fully as a freelance illustrator now). I love to incorporate my knowledge about perspective in objects or isometric drawings! It makes my heart full to be able to mix cute, calming animals with architectural and 'urban' or daily objects. I think it's a good way of turning simple or inanimate things into an interesting scenery or calming place to look at. Also Japanese and Korean cultures inspire me in many ways!

Have your objectives changed from when you first started your business?

When I first started, my objective was to make people happy with my art and to bring

them joy! I think that, of course, I have learned lots of new things during these last two years, but my final goal is the same one as when I started! Whenever I receive a message from someone telling me that my art brightens their day, I feel so satisfied! That's what matters the most to me.

How has Covid-19 impacted your business?

Fortunately, Covid-19 impacted my business in a good way. In the beginning it was crazy how people, being locked at home, started buying online! There were lots of sales coming from around the world and I couldn't believe it! Of course, all of this has decreased now as we are not in lockdown anymore in lots of countries. The way I see it, you need to be ready to adapt to any situation. There will be fantastic times but also low moments too, and that's okay!



**What's your main way of promoting your business?**

My main way of promoting my business is social media! I rely the most on Instagram but I have been trying to be present in Tik Tok and also Twitter. The more you share, the greater the chance that someone sees what you do! It is really rewarding to share your passion, as it is a lovely way to find people who also have your interests and hobbies and who really appreciate your job. Lately, sharing videos of my drawing process has helped me to reach new art lovers. It really is a small world!

Does your business give back to the community?

I try my best to help anyone who needs my help at anytime! In my opinion, your community is what you need to take care of the most. I always try to answer all the messages or emails I receive. I also keep answering as many comments in my posts as I can! I recently started a Patreon page where I'm slowly building a little community to share how I work behind the scenes and to be able to help small artists like me or even people who are just being introduced to this world. I want my presence on social media to be useful to anyone who needs it!

Where do you plan on taking your business in the future?

I dream of creating products that require a little bit more investment such as plushies, ipad or tablet pouches, enamel pins... It is my dream to turn my little characters into 3d objects and I really hope I can turn this into a reality some day! I want to be able to keep designing items that make people happy!

Do you have any advice for other people who want to start a business?

My first thought to say to anyone who wants to start a business is "GO FOR IT!" The second one is "Okay, but start small". It is important to start with big ideas but small products and small investments. It is not that your work is not good enough to sell huge quantities! It's just that in the beginning you haven't reached the people who will love it for sure yet. So don't be discouraged! You will find your place in this online world, and let me tell you that is one of the best experiences I have ever had!





THE BEAUTY OF BUDDHISM

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE LE

With 360 million followers, Buddhism is the fourth largest religion in the world. Buddhists believe that human life is a cycle of suffering and rebirth, but by self-discipline and following factors of an ascetic life, one can permanently escape this cycle. Contrary to what most people believe, the Buddha is not seen to be a God—Buddhists view the Buddha as a teacher. The Buddha was, in fact, known as the first person to reach enlightenment through spiritual practices and taught his methods to others, founding the religion of Buddhism in India more than 2,500 years ago.

The Buddha was born a Prince, called Siddhartha Gautama. He lived a lavish lifestyle, but was shielded from suffering and death beyond the Palace walls. It was only when he was eventually exposed to these aspects of life, that he renounced his worldly possessions and status in order to try to attain Enlightenment.

In the Four Noble Truths, the Buddha taught that life involves suffering, which is itself caused by desire and attachment.



Buddhists focus on personal spiritual development; they aim to follow the Dharma (the Buddha's teachings). Buddhists follow 5 precepts:

1. to abstain from taking life
2. to abstain from taking what is not given
3. to abstain from sensuous misconduct
4. to abstain from false speech
5. to abstain from intoxicants (eg, alcohol)

Did you know that meditation is a fundamental practice in Buddhism? It helps to clear the mind and enables negative thoughts to be replaced by positive ones. Frequent meditation enables Buddhists to develop insight and wisdom and see the truth of matters.

Did you know that there are two main groups in Buddhism? These are Theravada and Mahayana.

Theravada is the form of Buddhism spread by King Ashoka, who lived in India 100 years after the Buddha died. It states that through meditation and guidance from Buddhist monks, each person can find their own Enlightenment. On 15th May this year, Buddhists marked the birth, Enlightenment and death of the Buddha during the festival of Wesak. Theravada Buddhism is the main religion in countries like Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Mahayana Buddhism is practised in countries like China and Japan. During Wesak, they only celebrate the birth of the Buddha.





There are different forms of Buddhism around the world. An annual Japanese event that takes place later this year on 13th August is known as *Obon*, a time for commemorating one's ancestors. Emphasising its spiritual nature, it is believed that during this time, the ancestors' spirits return to this world in order to visit their relatives. Lanterns are traditionally hung in front of houses to guide the spirits of the ancestors, and obondances (also known as bon odori) are performed, graves are visited, and food offerings are made at house altars and temples. Floating lanterns are thrown into rivers, lakes and seas at the end of Obon, to help the spirits return to their home world.

Around 240,000 people in England are Buddhist, though it wasn't until 1965 that the first Thai Buddhist temple was built outside of Asia. Residing in Wimbledon, it is a place of meditation and centres around Thai culture. No photography is allowed inside, but there is a black bronze Buddha statue that was donated by the Thai government and is between 600-800 years old! The temple is surrounded by grass, peaceful lakes and flower-decorated pathways that look especially beautiful in the summer, which create a tranquil environment for those who wish to meditate or be in a state of peacefulness. One of the aims of building the Thai temple in Wimbledon was to promote Buddhism to a

Western audience, so all visitors are welcome daily with free entry to see for themselves the beauty of the culture. So, if you get a chance, why not visit a temple like the one in Wimbledon, to help you learn more about Buddhism?



A festive dance during the time of Obon



The Buddhapadipa Temple in Wimbledon

Beyond The Screen

SUSSING OUT SOCIAL MEDIA

WRITTEN BY LAUREN FIGUEROA MBELEK

Social media: practically everyone has it - your parent, your neighbour and maybe even your grandma! But what happens when you give social media access to one of the most vulnerable groups of society? Yes, we're talking about children. At what age should children be permitted to have a social media account - if at all?

Social media is defined as an *"interactive digital channels that facilitate the creation and sharing of information, ideas, interests, and other forms of expression through virtual communities and networks."* But are those *"informations, ideas, interests"* really appropriate for a younger viewing audience?

Most Social media platforms have an age restriction of 13 - this includes Facebook, Tik Tok and Instagram. Do you use Whatsapp? Well, technically you can only use it from the age of 16. And you can forget about using YouTube until you're 18!

According to The Guardian, a survey found that 83% of 11-15 year olds had internet usage that was

registered on a social media site with a false age; just over 40% of the children signed in stating they were over 18 years of age. Another survey highlighted in the Daily Mail revealed that 6/10 parents would let their children lie about their age online to access social media sites. Surely these statistics suggest that insufficient measures are being taken to ensure the safety of young people online?

Well, have a read of these top 3 risks of social media and ask yourself if more should be done to protect children and young people.

Risk 1: Stranger Danger

The term Stranger Danger has existed for a number of decades now; its intention is to make children more aware of those who may potentially wish them harm.

However, whilst it is easy enough to distinguish between friend and stranger on the street, it is much harder to do this online. Is someone who likes every one of your posts a friend? What about someone you've never met but who gives you compliments and messages you?

A horrific case of Stranger Danger took place in 2014, when Lewis Daynes, 19, befriended Breck Bednar, 14, over the internet. Daynes had, over time, manipulated Breck, convincing him to become more and more distanced from the family who loved him. Eventually, Daynes succeeded in luring Breck to a property in Essex, where he savagely attacked and killed the teenager. The judge, Mrs Justice Cox, said she was *"sure this murder was driven by sexual and sadistic motivation"*, adding that Daynes had *"groomed this boy over a lengthy period of time"* and had *"intended to kill him"*.

The Breck Foundation was set up by his mother Lorin - its aim is to help protect young people. The Breck Foundation's motto is *'play virtual, live real'*, reminding young people to never meet up alone with someone you've only 'met' online.



Risk 2: Poor Mental Health and Low Self Esteem

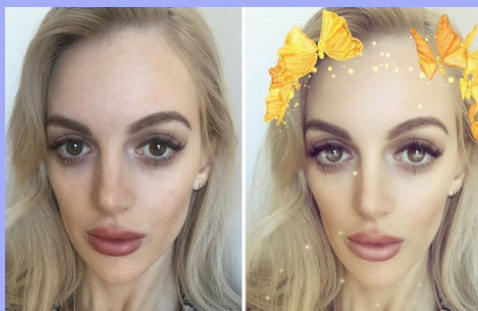
We all know that celebrities constantly flaunt their luxurious lifestyles on social media platforms, whether this be the latest Gucci fashion, private jets or immaculate mansions. Many would argue that there is nothing wrong with this showing off of great wealth – in fact, some believe this gives young people something to aspire to. However, surely there is a danger in aspiring for material wealth alone?

Furthermore, there has been a lot of emerging evidence in recent years about the impact that photoshopped images and unrealistic beauty standards can indeed have on people's self-esteem. Can anyone ever live up to the 'magic' of filters and photoshop?

Risk 3: Fake News

Social media is, without a doubt, a brilliant platform for advertisement; it's a quick and simple way to get your point across to a mass audience. But, can you trust the news that you see on social media? Russian President Vladimir Putin has been accused of spreading fake news on social media in order to detract the world from his war crimes. It's also worth noting that social media creators don't necessarily have our best

interests in mind either, promising profit over wellbeing. So, next time you check your social media feeds, be alert to the potential dangers involved.



DO YOU KNOW HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFE ONLINE?

WRITTEN BY LAUREN FIGUEROA MBELEK

4.62 billion people use social media - that's more than half of the world's population. Did you know that the average daily time spent using social media is 2h 27 minutes, according to smartinsights.com? But, how many of these users know how to stay safe online? Why is it important to be safe online? What are the dangers lurking beyond the screen?

We all know the temptations of social media; many of us love the way it can make us feel appreciated or popular; we love the sense of gratification from feeling like we can connect with friends and family online. Indeed, it is often tempting to share every detail of your life. And why not, given that we're surrounded by influencers who constantly share pictures of their holidays, homes and even what they eat for dinner?

However, oversharing can lead to criminals getting hold of key personal

information, making us exposed without realising it. An article by the Daily Record shared the story of a mum who discovered the horror that her 13-year-old daughter had given out their home address to an online stranger. As social media users, it's important to know how much is too much, so here are three things you should try not to post on social media: travel plans, location data and personal-identifying information.

However, that does not mean you should stop posting altogether: just remember that no amount of 'likes' is worth compromising your safety for.

Additionally, if you make your profile private, you have greater control over what people see of your life; you then don't have to worry so much about a stranger seeing what you don't want them to, since you've hand-approved every person who follows you in the first place.

One risk you may not be familiar with, is how creators use you as profit-making machines...this can have a negative effect on your mental health. Robert Sapolsky researched the use of addictive design in social media apps; one technique used is called the 'magic of maybe.' This is when you look at your phone, subconsciously hoping to see a text or social media notification. When it finally shows up, that high you get is the dopamine levels rising - you actually get a 400% spike; when uploading a new video or photo, we hit a potentially vulnerable part of our minds - albeit without realising that we are doing so! Those notifications that give us that temporary sense of satisfaction, can make us unwitting slaves to our phones; afterall, who doesn't want to feel appreciated, thought of or wanted?

So, one way to break free of this cycle is to turn off notifications on your phone and only check it at times when you consciously choose to. Consider all of the small steps that you could take today to help keep yourself safe on social media.

THE ACCEPTABLE FACE OF CHILD EXPLOITATION?

WRITTEN BY JESSICA MARQUES

If you're a social media fan, you've no doubt viewed a range of family vlogs on different platforms. Family channels are meant to show off a family's happy, healthy and loving life to a demographic of mainly young children. Usually, the videos focus on their home life with the stars of the channel being the children of the family, whilst the parents act as the camera crew and directors.

Of course, since this genre of videos depends solely on children, it's not wrong to assume that it's healthy and child-friendly, right? Well, what if I told you that the highest earning YouTube child star, Ryan Kaji, earns \$30 million a year? Oh, did I mention he's only 10 years old? Does this life-changing amount of money change how you might view his parents' involvement? Is this a case of parents using social media to secure their child's future financial stability or is this nothing more than child exploitation?

Firstly, there's a clear argument here about a child being too young to approve decisions made by their parents; this is surely a concern when we all know that once something is out there on the internet, it never truly disappears. What do we do about issues of consent in these cases? What happens when the child reaches adulthood and realises the potential impact of their parents' decision to record all their most embarrassing and cringeworthy moments? And worse, that these are now a permanent feature of their lives thanks to the internet?



Ryan's Toy Review with his parents, 2018

Many would argue that a little embarrassment is a small price to pay when your parents are effectively setting you up for life.

However, there are many dangers involved in this lifestyle: lack of privacy, potential harm from online strangers and increased risk in mental health issues and stress for the child. There is a real danger in children who are brought up to be made into YouTube stars being unable to detach their virtual selves from their actual reality; this can have serious consequences on their wellbeing. Furthermore, there have been cases whereby parents have deliberately antagonised or provoked their children, just to get Likes and comments – surely this is psychologically damaging?



Youtube channel "SIS VS BRO" thumbnail from "REAL VS GUMMY" video

And what about the shock factor that attracts likes? Well, the Labrant family learnt about the consequences of this the hard way. They posted a documentary entitled 'She got diagnosed with cancer' for their 13 million subscribers. Naturally, everyone assumed their daughter - who featured at the start of the video in hospital - must have cancer. They claimed to be educating their fans about how devastating it is for a family to deal with cancer - however, using their own daughter to mislead their audience was surely a low blow!

Is it every acceptable for parents to post their child online? And if so, where do we draw the line? Facebook? Instagram? YouTube? If it's unsafe for a child to use social media, then is it safe for a parent to overshare their child's personal life on platforms? What do you think?



Kid-influencers can earn as much as \$100 per 1,000 followers!

Loss of privacy, child labour, child exploitation and deprivation of other opportunities (such as missing school) are all common risks of being a 'kid-fluencer'

Without labour laws or work permits, children are exposed to infinite working hours with no regulations around their well-being or rest and recreation times.



"The Ace Family" on Youtube.

KS4 NEWSLETTER TEAM VISIT TO CMS LAW: SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIAL

WRITTEN BY OMAR AOUCHICHE

It's fair to say that the KS4 Newsletter Team made quite an impression on CMS Law Firm when we visited early in the Summer Term - so much so, that when we expressed our interest in visiting a second time, they were more than accommodating! And we had a particular reason for being interested in this particular workshop, because it focused on the relationship between Social Media and the Law - perfect for this term's Specials Edition of 'Beyond the Screen.'

So what did we find out? Well, we started with an introductory quiz on different Social Media platforms to gauge our awareness of global usage. We were then presented with a number of different social media posts and challenged to deduce whether these were appropriate or not, whether any laws had been broken (and if so, what offences had been committed) and discussed the consequences of the posters' actions.

We then went on to explore Freedom of Expression and how this human right is protected by Constitutional Laws, before considering how this applies to Social Media usage. Finally, we discussed what happens when Social Media posts go wrong and the longevity of the posts we put out in the public eye and the consequent lasting impact of past posts years later.

Once again, we had an exciting and impactful workshop with CMS Law - we even got the chance to speak with a lawyer about how we can pursue this field should we wish to in future. The workshop gave us plenty of food for thought for our KS4 Newsletter Special Edition

Beyond the Screen, helping us to develop more informed perspectives by exploring a range of legal and ethical issues concerning social media usage.

Louise Starling, the Responsible Business and Social Impact Manager at CMS Law stated:

"CMS were delighted to welcome students from Platanos College in May and June for two workshops looking at the laws surrounding climate action and social media. Students were engaged, worked well with our lawyers and were a credit to the school."

Keightley: I found it to be an enjoyable and enlightening experience; I was able to effectively develop my skills thanks to CMS' professional lawyers and interactive approach.



PHOTOSHOP, FILTERS AND FALSEHOOD

WRITTEN BY DYLAN THAM

With the advancement of social media and technology, the age that children are being introduced to platforms like Instagram and Snapchat is also getting younger. This means that more impressionable youngsters are potentially at risk from the dangers and hazards of social media. From photoshop to filters, kids on social media have been exposed to it all, but this also leads to one major question: is social media safe for the mental health of children and young people?

We've all had spots and blemishes. Many of us have birthmarks or beauty spots on visible parts of our bodies. However, there are numerous filters online that can portray you with so-called 'perfect' skin. Is the use of filters just a way of say, using make-up to help us feel more confident in ourselves? Or, does the repeated use of filters harm us by altering our self-perception?



Before and after artificial beauty effects

According to a New York Times article released in March of this year, there is a correlation between social media use and how young people perceive themselves; the resulting thoughts could lead to body dysmorphia and self-esteem issues from a very young age. One of those questioned, Sarah, stated *"I have struggled with body confidence and I find myself deleting Instagram whenever it gets too bad because I am subconsciously wishing I looked like the girls on my feed."* And it's not just girls who are affected. Alain shared a story about a photo of himself on social media: *"people commented on any negative detail they could find about me. Some commented on my lanky, lean stature, which led to insecure thoughts."*

One notable user of Photoshop and, of course, surgery, is Kylie Jenner who has made claims that her improved appearance is due to her cosmetic brand 'Kylie Cosmetics'. Can Kylie (whose lip fullness has clearly changed quite drastically over the years), genuinely claim that by buying her lip gloss, her fans can have a plumper pout? Is it morally right to capitalise on and even feed the

insecurities of young people?

In January of this year, Teen Vogue ran an article in which they revealed that a 2021 survey of 200 people aged 13-21, found that young people who use beauty filters weekly are more likely to want to have cosmetic surgery and to alter their skin colour. Amanda Kloer, the campaigns director for ParentsTogether who led the research states, *"We started seeing early information about how teen girls were really suffering from low self esteem, poor body image, lots of mental health issues, and how those symptoms were often correlated with high social media use."*

Whilst social media users and Influencers should be free to use filters on their posts, there need to be ways of preventing the misleading of young people. If we all embraced our natural blemishes and imperfections, maybe we would realise that they aren't imperfections at all, but completely natural and something we all have.

TWITTER TAKEOVER

WRITTEN BY RIDWAN ELMU

We have all heard of Elon Musk, the multi-billionaire genius, who was declared by Forbes magazine to be the richest person on earth. But did you know that back in April, Musk - who has 83 million Twitter followers - launched a bid worth over £36 billion to take over the company? A staggering amount of money!

So, what's the story so far? Well, on 4th April of this year, it was revealed that Musk is the biggest shareholder of Twitter, owning 9%. Just 24 hours later, Twitter CEO, Parag Agrawal confirmed that Musk would be joining the Board of Directors.

However, just days later, Agrawal stated that this would not actually be happening. Then, in an extraordinary twist, on 14th April Musk expressed his intention to purchase *all* of the Twitter shares that he did not currently own.

He stated, "*I invested in Twitter as I believe in its potential to be the platform for free speech around the globe, and I believe free speech is a societal imperative for a functioning democracy. However, since making my investment I now*

realize the company will neither thrive nor serve this societal imperative in its current form. Twitter needs to be transformed as a private company...Twitter has extraordinary potential. I will unlock it." On 25th April, Twitter had apparently agreed to sell itself to Musk.

And what exactly are Musk's other plans for the future of Twitter? Well, he has stated his aim to optimise Twitter, making it the best platform for the promotion of free speech. He has famously declared that he would reverse the existing Twitter ban on Donald Trump (this was enacted following the riots at the US Capitol, with Twitter stating the former President had violated community standards and could lead to "*the risk of further incitement of violence.*") Musk also wants intends to erase censorship on Twitter. He argues that "*Free speech is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and Twitter is the digital town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated.*"

However, in a letter to Twitter's Head of Legal, Musk later stated his

intention to walk away from the deal, claiming that Twitter is "*actively resisting and thwarting his information rights.*" He believed that Twitter had not provided the data he had requested on Twitter spam bots and he therefore had the right "*to terminate the merger agreement.*"

And Musk is not the only one who is dissatisfied; since his takeover bid, existing employees at Twitter have expressed their concerns regarding Musk's erratic behaviour, which they believe could have a detrimental effect on the organisation. In addition, regulators have stated their concern that his Tesla company failed to take allegations of racism against black employees seriously.



Moreover, according to The Independent, on the one hand Musk has described himself as a *“free speech absolutist”* yet on the other has blocked Twitter users whose views don't correlate with his own. Musk has himself stated that *“having a public platform that is maximally trusted and broadly inclusive is extremely important to the future of civilisation”*. But does inclusion only go as far as those who support him?

Another concern is the issue of hate speech; Musk's own tweets have led to the online bullying of those whom he criticises. GlobalData analyst Rachel Foster-Jones, states that *“Musk is clearly serious about promoting free speech for the benefit of democracy, but the line between free speech and hate speech or misinformation is becoming increasingly muddled, and attempts to change Twitter could easily lead to these issues spiralling out of control.”*

Evidently, the entire takeover is drenched in controversy – so what exactly does the future hold? Musk has stated his intention to spend another \$21 billion in cash to purchase the remaining Twitter stock, but will he be successful?



SOCIAL MEDIA CAREER CRIMINAL: THE TINDER SWINDLER

WRITTEN BY AFNAN ABDULALIM

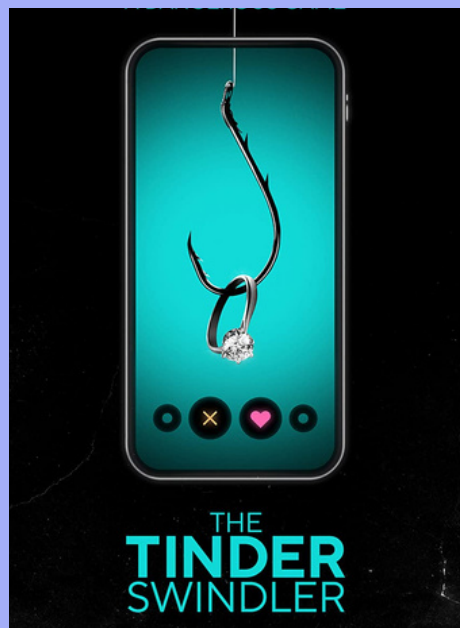
One of the hazards of social media platforms is the risk of meeting people who want to cause harm or defraud you. One such criminal is a man called Shimon Hayut who went by the name Simon Liviev. Earlier this year, Netflix released a documentary about his life called *The Tinder Swindler*, in which it is alleged that Hayut conned a number of women via dating apps.

Hayut's deception came to light in 2011 when he was charged with theft, fraud and forgery in Israel. Having fled to Finland, he was then convicted for fraud there and sentenced to 2 years in prison in 2015. In 2019 he was arrested again back in Israel for the charges against him dating from 2011.

During this period of imprisonment, Hayut was wanted in many countries for fraud. His criminal activity became widely known in 2019 after an article was published by Norwegian and Israeli journalists.

But just how did Hayut go about tricking unsuspecting women through dating apps? Well, he would treat them to lavish dates and by

pretending to be the son of an Israeli diamond magnate, Lev Leviev. Once he had built a relationship and trust with these women, he would then defraud them out of huge amounts of money.



Once such woman called Cecilie, believed she was in a genuine relationship with Hayut. However, one day Hayut contacted her claiming his life was in grave danger; he even went as far as to show her a photo of his bruised and battered bodyguard in the back of an ambulance. Hayut then claimed that he desperately needed money from Cecilie's account, so that he would not be tracked; consequently, after over 13 weeks worth of manipulation, Cecilie Fjellhoy was scammed out of over \$200,000.

Another victim, Pernillia Sjöholm, became acquainted with Hayut about 2 months after he met Cecilie. This time, to avoid suspicion he would claim to have to travel to other places very often for work. Using Cecilie's money, Hayut would throw extravagant parties with Pernillia. Once again, Simon played the same game, showing Pernillia pictures of his injured bodyguard to scare her into thinking his own life was at risk.

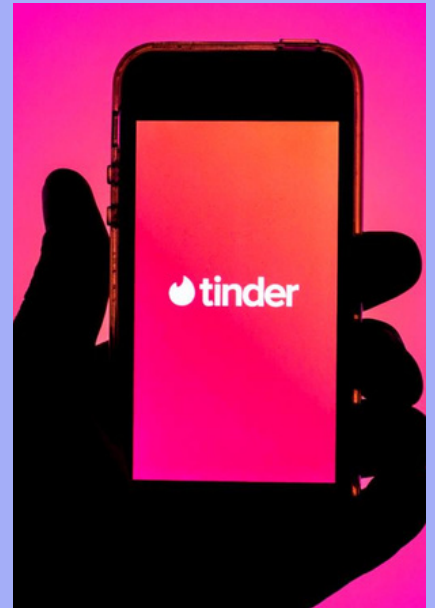
One victim, Ayleen Charlotte, found out that Shimon Hayut had been scamming others 14 months into their relationship. So, she decided to try and beat him at his own game and asked him for some of his expensive designer clothes; she claimed that she could sell these items and generate lots of money for him. Simon agreed, but Ayleen ended up keeping the money and also helped police track down him down in Greece.



Shimon Hayut with his bodyguard

Having realised what Hayut was really up to, Cecilie, Pernillia and Ayleen united to set up a Go Fund Me account, in an attempt to recoup the money they had lost. Despite the scandal, Hayut is currently a free man.

It's astonishing that intelligent and independent women could fall for such deceptive behaviour, but sadly, fraud via dating and meet up apps and social media platforms is all too common. This is worth remembering when we are using any form of social media app through which we meet people who we don't know.



Cecilie and Pernillia



DELVING INTO DEEP FAKE

WRITTEN BY ANASTASIA SHOVKOPLYAS

Have you ever heard of Deepfake? If you haven't, it is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) that can be used to create very realistic hoax images, sounds and videos. The term "deepfake" is a combination of deep learning ideas and fakes and was first introduced in 2017.

Deepfake technology can be primarily used for malicious purposes, such as misleading the general public by disseminating false information or publicity. For example, a Deepfake video can show world leaders and celebrities are saying what they aren't saying – imagine how potentially dangerous it would be to have a convincing video of a world leader claiming that they were about to release a nuclear weapon!

Understandably, Deepfake is a concern as it can potentially pose a major threat to national and international security. Widespread fake news videos created by Deepfakes can spread misinformation with devastating consequences.

Did you know that more than 85,000 harmful

Deepfake videos that were made by professional creators, have been detected as of December 2020? According to the report 'State of Deepfakes 2020', the number of expert-created videos has doubled every six months since it started monitoring the situation in December 2018.

A more recent and potentially catastrophic example of deepfake was when the Russian Government orchestrated a video of President Volodymyr Zelensky urging Ukrainians to surrender. However, in this case, the video seemed amateurish; his head appeared to be larger and more pixelated than his body, whilst his voice sounded deeper. In a video posted on his official Instagram account, the real President Zelensky talked about "*childish provocation*". However, the Ukrainian Strategic Communications Center warned that the Kremlin could use deepfakes to urge Ukrainians to surrender. Just imagine if Ukrainian soldiers believed this fabricated video and gave up? How many innocent lives would have been lost?



DeepFake video of President Volodymyr Zelensky's speech

Deepfake is not only limited to videos and photos; it can also be audio/ voice recordings. You can now use deep learning algorithms to create realistic voice deepfakes using the voice data of the person whose voice has been cloned. Again, this has potentially devastating consequences.

So, just how can you recognise a Deepfake? Here are some key giveaways:

- Unnatural eye movement
- Excessive or lack of blinking
- Unnatural body features
- Awkward positioning
- Unrealistic lip-syncing
- Strange lighting

So, next time you watch controversial news or posts on social media, see if you can spot the signs of a DeepFake. Because when it comes to Deepfakes, seeing is *not* believing.

CAN YOU TRUST ONLINE INFORMATION?

WRITTEN BY CRISTAVAO NUNES TEIXEIRA

We all know that the internet is a wealth of knowledge in our everyday lives, whether you use it to navigate yourself around an unfamiliar place or research your latest Science homework. However, can we trust the information we read and view online – especially when it comes to getting ‘facts’ from social media?

One of the most tragic issues that has plagued 2022 so far, has been the invasion of Ukraine, with many criticising Russia for spreading false news to its people and the wider global community.

For example, the Internet Research Agency which is also known as a Russian troll farm, has been exposed in the past for spreading pro-Putin comments and views all over the social networks and in the West. The reason as to why they have done this is to gain support from the public to become pro-war for the Ukraine invasion.

Additionally, in Russia, a group of hackers was used to invade the accounts of several Ukrainian military officers.

They then uploaded videos to show lower morale and the soldiers surrendering and accepting defeat. These hackers are known as Ghostwriter; they have a history of spreading false information about NATO and they have also attempted to gain access to email accounts.

Russia has banned Instagram and Facebook in order to control what information is shown online to the Russian people. Due to the media being controlled, several conspiracies have been published about America creating secret biological weapons to use in future wars. In addition, one hacker network made up thousands of complaints about Ukrainian users, in order to try and get them removed from Facebook. In order to hide their true intentions, they even concealed their actual activities in a Facebook group about cooking!



Consequently, social media platforms have removed or restricted media forms that are run by Russia; where content is not removed, platforms have labelled the content. Earlier this year for instance, Twitter announced its intention to label all state-controlled media originating in Belarus.

According to The Center for Countering Digital Hate, which aims for greater regulation of social media, more action is needed. Imran Ahmed, CEO, stated that *“Despite taking action against state channels under enormous pressure, Meta is failing badly to contain major disinformation narratives that benefit Putin’s regime.”*

However, as technology develops, so too does the ability of fraudsters to spread fake news. Nathaniel Gleicher, Meta’s Head of security policy, said that those responsible have adapted their tactics and

"We would expect them to keep coming back."

One of the major problems with objectivity when it comes to social media, is the use of algorithms; this means that our feeds become saturated with themes, people and views that we have shown some interest in. Consequently, we end up in echo chambers. Never heard of them?

Well, echo chambers are environments where everyone has the same opinion. This makes it very easy to be exposed to harmful information without fact-checking or considering an alternative viewpoint before making an informed decision. Fake news relies on us clicking without really thinking about things – this then helps us to spread misinformation, which can have devastating consequences.

We also know that Deepfakes are increasingly being used. These are a type of technology called 'machine learning.' They work by mapping an individual's face and mouth movements to create a digital version of them. Back in March, a much ridiculed DeepFake video of Ukrainian President

Zelensky emerged, urging his people to give up their weapons and surrender to Russia. It was so poorly made, that many laughed at it; but Deepfakes give us a worrying foresight of what may be yet to come, as technology becomes more sophisticated.

So, in world in which we receive so much information through social media, how can we ensure that what we are reading and viewing online is true, or, at the very least, objective?

Ask yourself what the content of the news you're receiving is: can you find the same information elsewhere? If not, ask yourself why.

Consider the author: is what you're reading objective and based in fact or is it someone's opinion? Real news usually contains details about the writer.

Check out the website: are there any spelling mistakes? What about the URL? Most trusted URLs end with ".com", ".co.uk", ".net", ".gov", ".org", ".mil" and ".edu"

Check the date: is this news recent or from a while back? Be aware of bots (Computer programs). Bots tends to post whenever they want and frequently – so keep an eye out for their work!



FACING UP TO FAKE NEWS

WRITTEN BY ANASTASIA SHOVKOPLYAS

The epidemic of fake news is constantly threatening to contaminate our social media feeds, with the potential to cause social and political problems. Fake news consists of stories that have no verifiable facts, sources or citations. These stories can be deliberately promoted to mislead readers or designed as 'clickbait' that is created for financial reasons, as the authors get money for every time someone clicks on their story.

So, how do we spot fake news when browsing our social media feeds?

1) Always remember the 5 Ws:

- What is the content?
- Why is this news being told?
- Who is spreading it?
- When did it begin spreading?
- Where else can you turn to verify the accuracy of a story?

2) **Keep bias in mind:** reading a range of sources will help you to determine the accuracy of a story.

3) **Switch up search engines:** try to avoid using search engines that require your personal information -

this can then be leaked without your consent.

4) **Question content material:** fake news headlines are often written to provoke a reaction. Be alert to sensationalist headlines that are written to mislead you or to evoke an emotional response.

5) **Don't take breaking information as fact:** news sometimes needs time to be verified and to get a full picture of events.

6) **Remember that fake news can come in many forms** (podcasts, television, print media, radio..)

7) **Consider your own friendship groups and who you follow on social media:** we all naturally follow and are friends with people who share our views. However, this can lead to us disregarding other viewpoints or developing

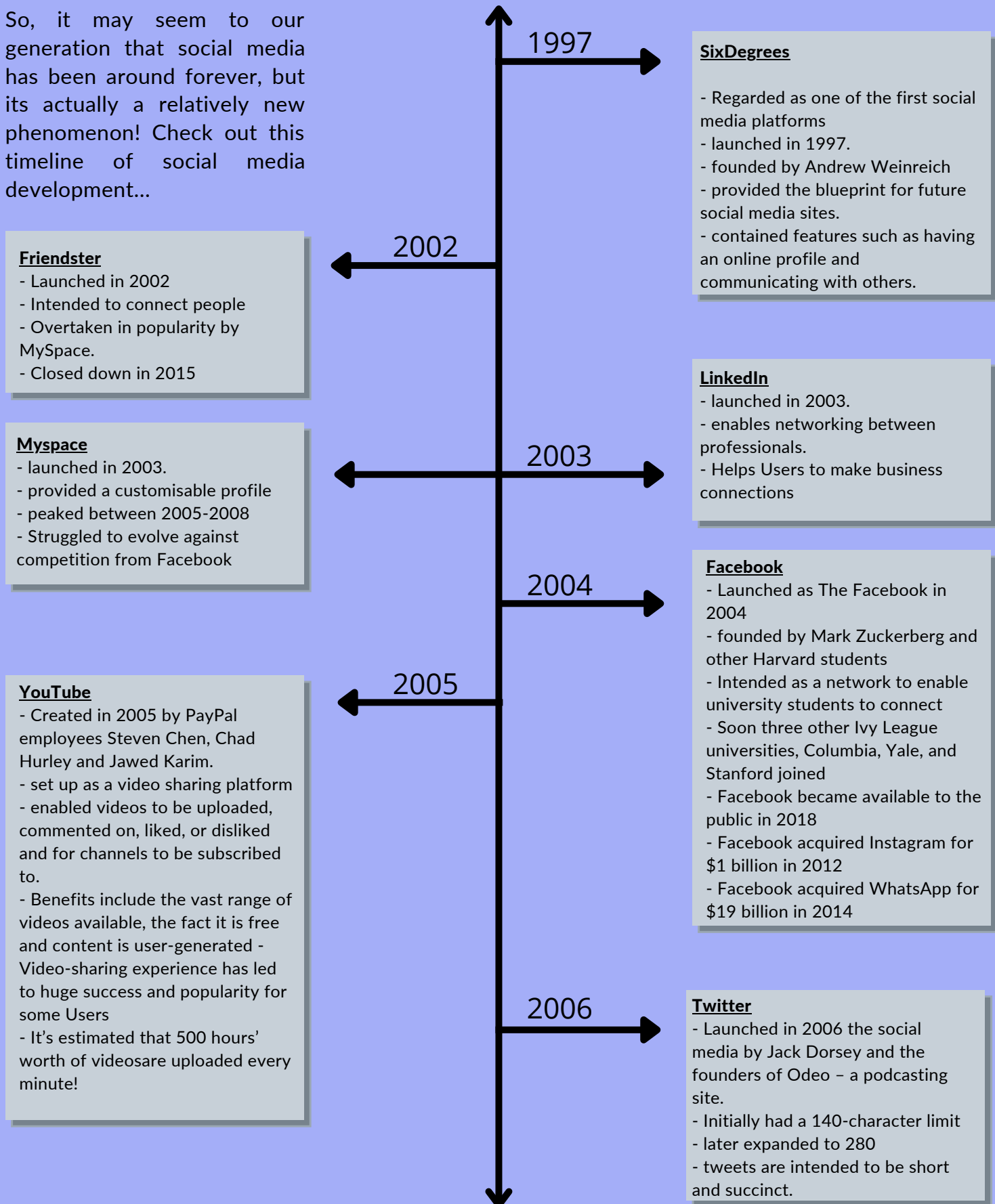
bias. Try to be open to different opinions and views that may influence how we perceive reported news.



A HISTORY OF SOCIAL MEDIA

WRITTEN BY OSARODIAN OBAYANGBONA

So, it may seem to our generation that social media has been around forever, but its actually a relatively new phenomenon! Check out this timeline of social media development...



WhatsApp

- Launched in 2009 by previous Yahoo! workers Jan Koum and Brian Acton.
- provides instant messaging and social networking
- free usage has ensured widespread use and popularity
- acquired by Facebook in 2014.

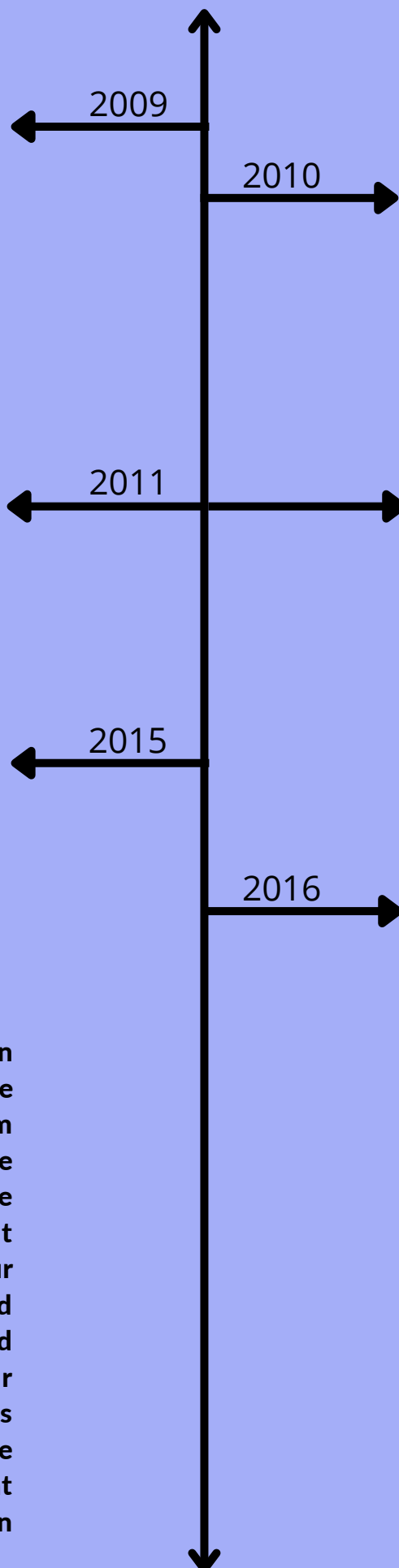
WeChat

- Launched in 2011 by Chinese media and technology company Tencent
- A free instant messaging app
- 78% of people in China aged 16-64 use WeChat
- Has expanded from communication to expanded to shopping, ordering in restaurants, money transfers, payments (WeChat Pay).

Discord

- Launched in 2015 by Jason Citron and Stan Vishnevskiy
- Instant messaging and communication app
- Aims to facilitate communication between gamers
- Users can chat with each other as individuals or in a group through servers.

Social media plays a key role in society, from how we communicate and form relationships to how we entertain ourselves with the content we can access. It encapsulates all circles of our day-to-day life consciously and unconsciously, shaping and forming who we are and our associations. Social media has fundamentally changed the way we live. Who knows what platforms we will be using in the very near future?

**Instagram**

- Launched in October 2010 by Kevin Systrom Mike Krieger.
- first released for iOS in 2010, so it could only be accessed via the App Store
- released for Android users 2 years later – further expanding its popularity.
- Acquired by Facebook in 2012
- Primary focus as a photo-sharing app
- Over a billion active monthly users

Snapchat

- Launched in July 2011 as Picaboo by Evan Spiegel and Bobby Murphy
- Captures the moment with photos
- Photos resemble fast free-flowing real-life conversations.
- In 2013 Facebook attempted to purchase Snapchat for \$3 billion but failed.
- 319 million daily active users.

TikTok

- Also known as Douyin in China
- Launched in September 2016
- Owned by Chinese technology company ByteDance.
- known for its short-format video that provides short burst of entertainment
- currently has over a billion monthly active users

ARE NFTS REALLY THE FUTURE OF ART?

WRITTEN BY NINA LUONG

So, what exactly are these illustrations of apes and lions that have been swirling around the internet as of late? To understand NFT's importance in the art world we must first learn exactly what they are. In simplest terms, NFT is an acronym for "non-fungible token" and in more complex terms, an NFT is a digital asset that represents a real-world object; it can be one-of-a-kind, such as a real-life drawing, or one of many copies, such as trading cards.

NFTs are sold and bought online regularly with cryptocurrency, and are often encoded with the very same underlying software as these cryptocurrencies. NFTs are increasingly being utilised to sell paintings to fine art enthusiasts, with sales reaching as high as £91.8 million!



Despite all this profit, the dark side of NFTs have become glaringly clear. These digital art pieces are tangled up in a web of greenhouse emissions; this is largely because they're bought and sold on digital marketplaces such as SuperRare and Nifty Gateway that use the cryptocurrency Ethereum. This major cryptocurrency is based on a system called 'proof of work' which is highly energy-intensive. However, making a transaction with Ethereum comes at a cost and this fee is known as 'gas', because there is no third party to oversee transactions, such as a bank. Proof of work acts as a form of security system for cryptocurrencies. The method requires people to complete complex puzzles using energy-draining equipment to keep bank

records secure. Solving the puzzles allows users, or 'miners,' to add a new 'block' of validated transactions to the blockchain, which is essentially a decentralised ledger. As a reward, the miner then receives the new tokens or transaction fees. The entire process is extremely energy inefficient by design.

The conclusion is that consuming a disproportionate amount of electricity — and likely paying a high price for it — makes it far less profitable for someone to tamper with the ledger. As a result, Ethereum consumes roughly the same amount of energy as the whole country of Libya. This energy consumption is stacked on top of each of the 15,000 – 50,000 NFTs sold daily around the world.

Another issue with NFTs is the argument of whether they should truly be considered as art or not. Whilst art is subjective, there's no denying the mass opinion that NFTs are, to be frank, ugly! This opinion can be seen with regards many popular NFT collections such as 'The Bored Ape Yacht Club' and 'Lazy Lions'.

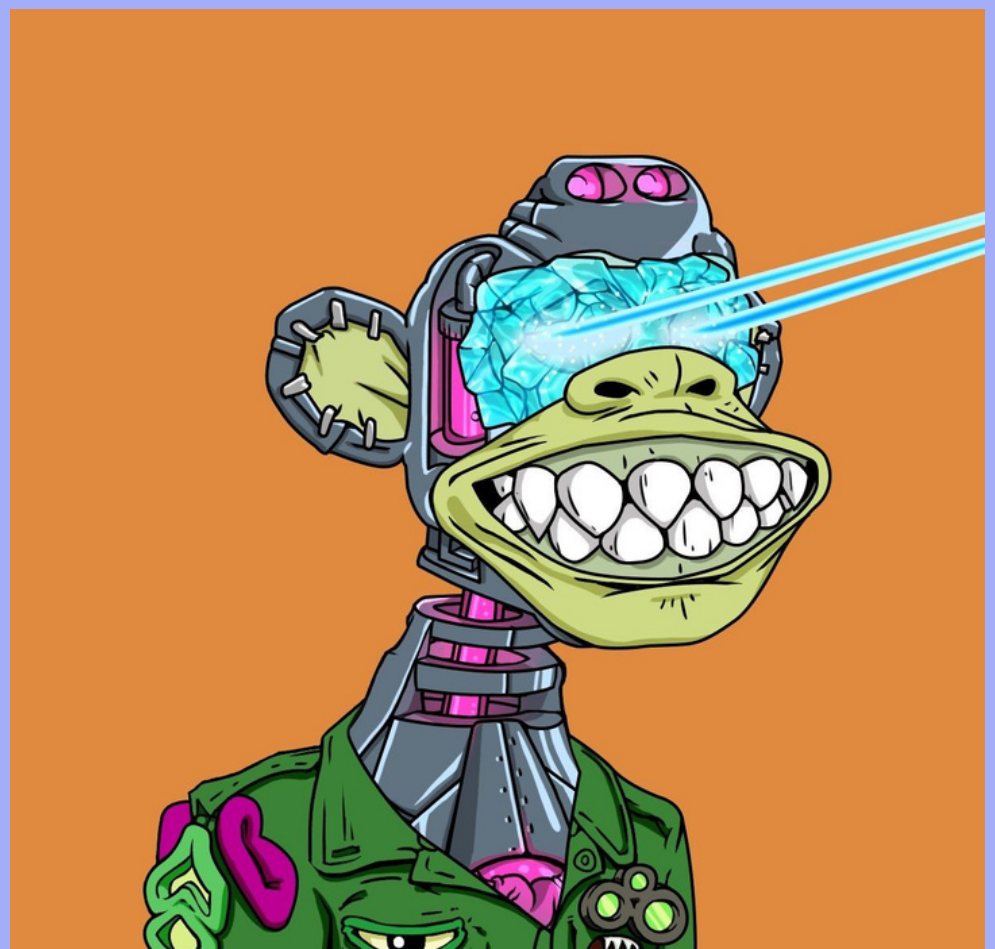
The reason why art for these NFTs seem to be so randomly thrown together, is because they are in fact chosen randomly by a computer.

Each of these projects consists of 10,000 NFTs, which are minor variants on a single face made by running them through a computer that algorithmically randomises layers with various accessories, expressions and skin colours. It's not an onerous operation to follow either. To produce one, you don't even need to know how to code; they're simply pumped out by machines. If all these NFTs are simply machine curated, can they truly be called art? Surely this would be like creating a character on a dress-up game and calling it the Mona Lisa?

Another more recent controversy in relation to NFTs is the use of a deceased artist's work being stolen and produced into NFTs. Qing Han was a popular Canadian artist who was more commonly known as Qinniart. The artist was only 29 years old when she passed away due to cancer on 8th February 2020. After her passing, Qing's brother Ze Han memorialised her art

accounts on social media. However, not even a year after Qing's passing, someone stole her identity in order to sell NFTs of her artwork. One of her most popular pieces entitled 'Bird Cage' was listed on an account on Twinci, an app that advertises itself as the first NFT social marketplace. Twinci then later deleted the account and listing after various reports demanding that it be removed.

From polluting our atmosphere to profiting from the work of a deceased artist, is this truly how the world of fine art collecting should evolve?



PROMOTING POSITIVITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

WRITTEN BY JEORGE ROBERTO

How can social media platforms be used to drive positivity in our world?

One notable project is Team Trees - a collaborative fundraiser that raised \$20 million before the start of 2020, to plant 20 million trees.

Mr Beast (whose real name is Jimmy Donaldson), announced the intention after he reached 20 million subscribers. He declared to his supporters that he has accepted a challenge to plant 20 million trees worldwide by 2020.

Having organised a Twitter campaign to plant almost 1,500 trees in two days, MrBeast then teamed up with the Arbor Day Foundation to develop the #teamtrees website, which allows fans to donate \$1 for each tree planted. This fundraiser starting on 25th October 2019.



The Arbor Day Foundation is the world's largest non-profit organisation dedicated to tree planting. According to Woody Nelson, the organisation's marketing communications president, their purpose is to "inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees."

Within 24 hours of the site's launch, fans and other YouTubers had raised \$100,000. Then within just 55 days, an astonishing \$20 million!

However, Mr Beast didn't stop there... his next pioneering project, The Team Seas campaign, aimed to remove all plastic from the world's oceans, with a \$30 million fundraising goal. One pound of plastic is retrieved from the oceans, rivers, and/or beaches for every dollar given.

Teaming up with two ocean conservation non-profit organisations - the Ocean Conservancy and the Ocean Cleanup - the team set to cleaning up the the polluted beaches of Bajos de Haina, Dominican Republic. They managed to achieve their goal of \$30 million by the end of 2021.



MrBeast

The initiatives Team Trees and Team Seas clearly demonstrate the immense power contained in social media platforms to not only come together, but to do so for the benefit of worthwhile causes.

Yes, going viral, generating internet trends and making funny memes may appear to be nothing but juvenile behaviour, but when these acts are done with a purpose, they can lead to meaningful and lasting change.



CONTROVERSY CORNER: WHY CHILDREN TODAY NEED SOCIAL MEDIA

WRITTEN BY ABDULLAHI MOHAMED

Many people believe that social media is detrimental to children. Whether it is used for games or literary pursuits, social media has long been chastised for its inappropriate and disturbing material – but is this critique really fair?

Exploring and experimenting on social media can help children in a number of ways: gaining important information and skills; learning to recognise potential risks; developing communication skills; learning to express oneself; connecting with family and friends; developing connections and learning to work collaboratively at a community level... the list goes on.

Social Media was created to bring people together and establish bonds and through it, we can strengthen our relationships with others. Viewing images of friends and other contacts or walking through a timeline can help open those lines of communication and understanding of the lives, thoughts and feelings of others.

Moreover, Social media can help young people to cope with stress by giving them a forum in which they can communicate their disappointments, worries and frustrations. It can also give extra social support from a diverse group of people. We all know that social media is here to stay; therefore, we all need to evolve with it – and this includes parents who may have anxieties around their child's online presence and usage. Parents should realise that if used wisely, social media can give direction and aid in a child's growth.

Afterall, the influence of social media is not ultimately determined by the platforms themselves, but by how parents educate and teach their children about how to use them wisely.

By working collaboratively with their children and providing guidance on how to use the internet in an informed way, parents can help open up young people's world beyond the web.



CONTROVERSY CORNER: WHY SOCIAL MEDIA IS TOO RISKY FOR CHILDREN!

WRITTEN BY IMOGEN BOWES

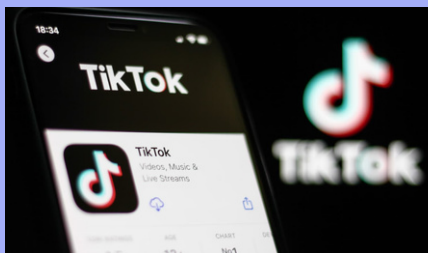
We all know that many young people our age have at least one social media account. But did you know that 30% of children aged 5+ have access to social media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok?

Whilst the majority of parents do choose to restrict their child's access to particular social media applications, some completely overlook or have little awareness of the dangers and how easily a young child can be exposed to them.

There have been reports of children as young as 3 accessing certain applications and coming across inappropriate topics for their age group. In addition, access to social media means that young children are at risk of harm from strangers. This is clearly a huge safety risk for very young children as they are unaware of the dangers of these social media applications and are naive to the manipulative methods criminals may use.

Earlier this year, Ofcom released a report entitled *Children and parents:*

media use and attitudes report 2022. In this report, they revealed that 16% of 3 and 4 year olds have accessed TikTok accounts. Yet, it has been proven that excessive screen time can cause stress, anxiety and depression. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children under 2 years of age use no screen time, with 2-5 year olds being exposed to no more than 1 hour per day of educational or high-quality content. Of course, we all know that social media platforms don't always show such material or any that is suited to under-5s.



In 2019, ITV News reported that 60% of professionals who had worked with vulnerable children in a 6 month period, were concerned about social media use amongst under-5s. They highlighted that it was not just unsuitable content that was a concern, but also the effect on communication skills since aged 0-5 is a critical time for child development.



The children's charity Barnardo's collected information from 80 professionals working across over 30 UK services. They found that 50% reported that children aged 5-10 had been exposed to content that could harm them. This figure rose to 78% in the 11-15 age range. Barnardo's said, "*Children today see the internet as a natural part of their world...Our job as a society is to make sure children are protected online just as they are offline.*"

Do you remember the age you were when you first used or had access to social media? What are your thoughts about age limits? We all know that we need to be aware of the potential harms on social media, but how do you explain these to the very young?

When it comes to social media, should very young children be completely off limits, or do you think it's just a fact of life for anyone born in the 21st century?

WHAT'S THE GOVERNMENT DOING TO KEEP YOU SAFE ONLINE?

WRITTEN BY SUHEED MAHMOUD

Back in March 2021, the UK Government published a draft version of the Online Safety Bill, whose intention is to make the Internet a safer place for us all. The legislation aims to tackle large companies that may be complicit in illegal acts committed on their social media platforms or who fail to effectively prevent harm to users. In fact, the UK Government hopes that the Bill will make our country the safest place in the world to go online.

We all know that now, more than ever, children are spending more time on social media platforms. The Bill aims to block any content that would be produced by individuals who may be attempting to manipulate or groom young people.

At the moment, social media platforms and websites like Instagram and Facebook, are responsible for identifying and removing any harmful content that appears online. However, it's the government's aim that Ofcom (the UK's communication regulator),

will be in charge, telling social media companies what users in the UK should be able to view online. In order to help create a safer environment for all, shield younger users from indecent exposure to illicit material and remove harmful content, the Bill has a number of expectations of tech giants, including social media platforms like Instagram and Snapchat.

These responsibilities include:

- **To prevent the spreading of illegal material** (eg) content related to terrorism, self-harm or child abuse.
- **To protect children** (eg) ensuring more strict age-verification processes to access certain websites and monitoring any private chat involving children.

- **To secure adults from 'legal but harmful content'** (eg) removing content about abuse, harassment and eating disorders
- **To prevent online fraud** (eg) tackling paid-for-scam adverts

However, some have criticised the Bill for curtailing freedom of expression and speech, whilst others have argued that it fails to act on areas such as gaming.

Having considered the key points above, do you think the UK's Online Safety Bill is a significant step in the right direction to protect us all online? Do you believe that the government can achieve its aim of making the UK the safest place in the world to be online?



DO POLITICIANS AND CELEBRITIES USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO FOOL US?

WRITTEN BY FARES OUANOUI

On 31st December 2021, social media influencer Kim Kardashian posted Instagram pictures of her daughter, Chicago and her niece, True, on a day out at Disneyland. Of course, thousands of her followers 'liked' and commented on the post. But, as it turns out, something was not quite right about the picture - more specifically, about True. Some fans started to speculate and rumours began circulating. Eventually, Khloe Kardashian admitted in a tweet that the photos had been photoshopped. The child who was standing next to Chicago in the photo was actually famous singer Travis Scott's daughter, Stormi. Now you may be justified in thinking, "Oh well, they just edited her out. Not a big deal." Or is something more dodgy going on here?

We all know that celebrities love their likes and follows, especially the likes of reality stars such as the Kardashians. When the photoshop situation came to light, Kim stated that the reason Stormi was removed was because her mother Kylie "didn't feel like posting at the moment." Kim also stated that the edit had

been made for aesthetic reasons, claiming that she edited the photo by swapping the colour of Stormi's trousers from orange to pink, to fit with her Instagram account's "aesthetic." However, many have speculated as to other reasons why this change may have taken place...

You may have heard that last year, Stormi's dad, Travis Scott had performed at a concert on 5th November. Tragically, security measures were inadequate at the event, causing ten people to be fatally crushed. Yet while all this was happening, Scott kept performing, seemingly dismissive of the severity of the situation; later he denied responsibility for the tragedy.

Many have speculated that the Kardashians didn't want to ruin their reputation by posting a picture of Travis' daughter only a month later in Disneyland, enjoying herself after Travis' arguably reckless actions at the concert. In other words, protecting the Kardashian brand meant using misleading images that could distract the public from more serious issues.

But it's not just celebrities who use social media to manipulate the public. Let's take the UK government for instance; we all know about the Partygate scandal, which revealed that Boris Johnson and members of his Cabinet attended gatherings at Downing Street, when the rest of us were ordered to stay at home.

Shortly before the Sue Gray report into the Government's handling of the Covid crisis was released, news and social media platforms announced that Johnson had taken a surprise visit to the Ukraine. For many, this seemed like an admirable act of support - afterall, this was a world leader entering what was in effect, a war zone. However, others were more cynical about this act, claiming it to be merely for show and to distract the British public from the more damning news soon to be revealed.



Kim Kardashian's niece, Stormi, being photoshopped on the right

Layla Moran, the Liberal Democrats' Foreign Affairs spokesperson, criticised the trip's timing, stating that Johnson's "beeline for Kiev today smacks of a desperate attempt to duck and dive from the aftermath of the Sue Gray report... The Prime Minister can't handle the heat from the mess of his own making."

So, what do you think? Is the public being lied to and misled by celebrities and politicians on social media? And if so, what can be done to prevent and regulate this in future?



Layla Moran



YE OR NAY?

WRITTEN BY LAUREN FIGUEROA MBELEK

Introspective rapper. Free thinker. Egomaniac. No matter what the public might think of Kanye West, we cannot deny the reverberations that his comments and actions have had on social media.

West joined Twitter on the 28th July 2010 to - according to independent.co.uk - "begin sharing details about his highly anticipated forthcoming album." Six years later he joined Instagram, but it is fair to say that West's use of social media platforms has been controversial.

West's infamous comments range from a declaration of love for Donald Trump to announcing what could be viewed as an asinine opinion of slavery being "a choice." More recently, West's very public and messy divorce proceedings with Kim Kardashian, has led to him being very vocal on social media. Having found out that his oldest daughter North West opened up a social media account on TikTok, West went on Instagram to ask his followers what he should do about the decision, which had not been approved by him.

In response, his estranged wife Kim Kardashian stated that *"Kanye's constant attacks on me ... and on social media are more hurtful than anything North posts on TikTok..."* However, this was met with anger from Kanye who asked *"What do you mean by main provider? America saw you trying to kidnap my daughter on her birthday by not providing an address..."*

Clearly angered by Kardashian's blossoming relationship with Pete Davidson, West took to social media to vent. In one shocking post, he shared an image of a dark figure standing over a grave looking down upon a disembodied paper-mache head resembling that of Davidson. In the real world, this bizarre and disturbing post could be construed as a veiled threat. Indeed, in one post he urged fans to avoid doing 'anything physical' to Davidson, following Kardashian's warning that he was *"creating a dangerous and scary environment."* As a consequence of West's posts, Instagram suspended his account for 24 hours, whilst the Grammy's cut him from the line-up of performers.

Having filed for divorce in 2021, Kardashian stated that *"Mr. West has disseminated on social media the parties' private communications and misinformation about personal family matters and co-parenting, which has caused emotional distress."*

However, around the same time, she seemed to accept an apology from West and stated, *"I think that at the end of the day, everyone has their own way of communicating. And I've always been like a champion of him speaking his truth, and I would always want that."*



So, is West's behaviour just a reflection of the crazy lives that celebrities lead? Is it enhanced for our entertainment pleasure? Is it a mere publicity stunt? Or, could West's behaviour be seen as potentially dangerous and threatening? Separately, are there wider issues that need to be discussed around mental health, given that West's bipolar diagnosis is well known? Surely mental health matters should not be trivialised for the entertainment of followers on Instagram?

Well, one thing is certain – this online battle is not only detrimental to the former couple, but also their innocent children, who will now have access to their parents' conflict for the rest of their lives thanks to the internet. Perhaps the Reality star sums it up best, when she says, *"You have to just really be there for them no matter what...Even in this crazy life that we live."*



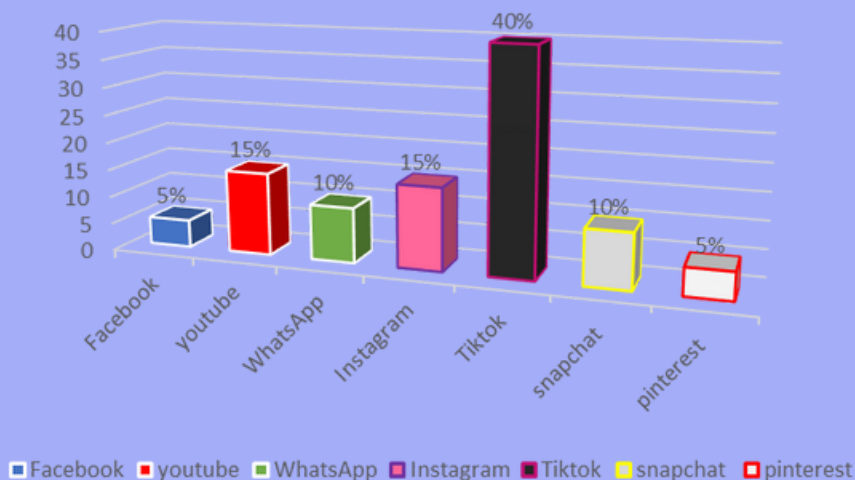
SOCIAL MEDIA: THE PLATANOS PERSPECTIVE

WRITTEN BY NAJMA MOHAMUD

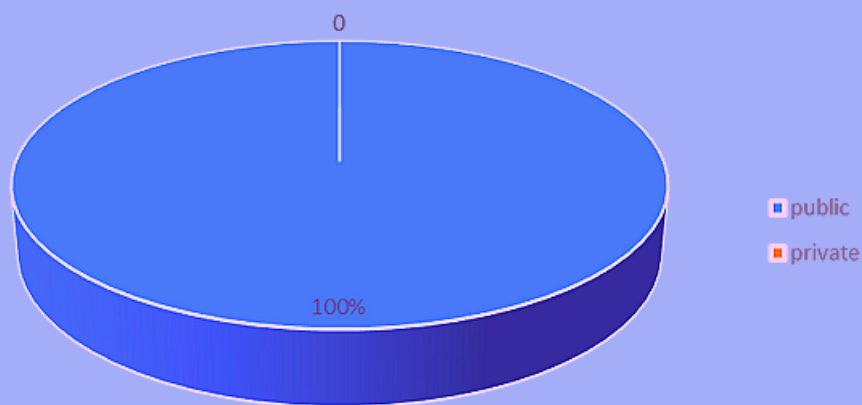
We conducted a questionnaire asking a group of Year 10 Platanos College pupils about their opinions on social media and the impact it has on them. 20 Year 10 pupils were surveyed, comprising of 4 male and 16 female pupils and we also collated views from the wider KS4 Newsletter team.

Our research found that the most popular social media site amongst our pupils is TikTok. Only 5% use Facebook and Pinterest, whilst 10% use WhatsApp. 15% use YouTube and Instagram, whilst nearly half (40%) use TikTok (8). 65% of pupils who were asked, post on social media platforms, whilst the remaining 35% use them without posting.

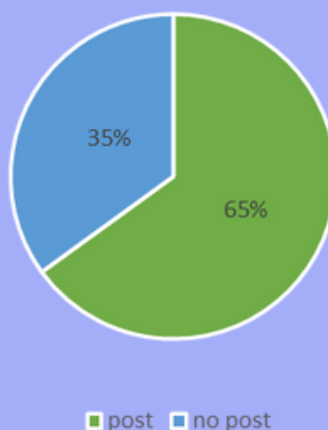
One quite revealing question concerned whether or not their social media profiles are made public or kept private; surprisingly, 100% of those questioned had social media profiles set to public. This suggests that our sample of Year 10 pupils perhaps need to be more alert to the potential dangers of public social media profiles.



Bar chart showing social media sites that our Year 10 pupils use.



Pie chart showing proportion of Year 10 pupils in our survey who have social media accounts set to public.



Pie chart showing percentage of Year 10 pupils who actively post on social media.

Here we share the views of our Year 10 pupils.

Keisha: I enjoy using Pinterest for inspiration.

Sara: WhatsApp is useful when talking to people abroad.

Abdullahi: I believe that children should be able to use social media platforms in order that they can learn how to navigate them safely from a young age.

Khadija: If I could describe TikTok in one word it would be addictive; I can never get off it!

Keightley: I see social media as positive for young people as it provides multiple opportunities for networking.

Lauren: I don't really like Facebook, however it's where I get to see all my baby pictures.

Ridwaan: I've read that social media usage has no value in developing the pre-frontal cortex of children - therefore I don't think it should be used until you're an adult.

Muaze: I see social media as a waste of time and a distraction from more important things in life.

Anastasia: Social media can be dangerous because you just don't know who you can trust.

Omar: Social media can be addictive, which is dangerous at a young age.

Fares: Social media is great for introducing us to new movies and games.

George: I believe social media can improve the overall educational experience of young people, by exposing us to the political and economic state of the world.

Suheed: Social media can be addictive, which is dangerous at a young age.

ARE YOU OLD ENOUGH TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA?

WRITTEN BY IMOGEN BOWES

OK, we know what you're going to say... *"Of course I am!"* Well, some of the research around social media usage amongst teens suggests that we might be less ready for it than we think. According to a 2019 report, 60% of UK teens use social media. So, there's no doubt platforms such as Instagram and Snapchat are part of many of our lives; apps can be an extremely fun and convenient way to communicate with friends, share photos and videos and follow people whom we admire in the public eye.

However, it's really important to recognise how social media can negatively affect our sense of wellbeing and self esteem. For example, have you ever posted a photo and waited for the likes to roll in? Have you ever felt that slight pang of anxiety when, after waiting a while, no-one has liked your post?

This continuous focus on the satisfaction received through gaining likes and attention on posts, can be hugely detrimental.

Did you know that research conducted in 2018 in the USA found that 37% of teenagers felt pressure to post content that would attract likes. Furthermore, 43% of teenagers felt pressure to only post content that made others see them in a positive light. This reveals to us that social media can cause any teenagers to worry more about their looks and the approval of others.

Other teenagers can experience the anxiety of "not fitting in" or FOMO – fear of missing out - both of which cause them to feel pressure to download social media applications and follow the latest social media trends and buy into them.

For some, social media can be highly addictive and disrupt sleep patterns; this can result in problems at school and inability to remain focused and attentive. It has been said that teenagers find it so hard to stay focused on one thing for more than 8 seconds without having the

urge to "catch up" with their social media – shocking, isn't it?

In 2013, a study in the United States found that the average human attention span has dropped from 12 seconds to 8 seconds, largely attributed to the need for a quick fix or burst of satisfaction that we often get through social media usage.

To conclude, the vast majority of teenagers will download and frequently use popular social media applications in order to prevent 'missing out' on recent trends or to create an unrealistic and 'filtered' profile for themselves, in order to be liked and in the hope of being admired by others.

If any of this resonates with you, just remember, you should never compare your worst bits with the best bits everyone posts on social media. Your self-worth does not depend on the validation of others.



ARE CELEBRITIES FREE FROM THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA?

WRITTEN BY KELLY FREITAS

We all know that many celebrities and influencers are habitual users of social media; indeed, platforms like Instagram are a way for them to share, boast about and invite their fans to have a little taster of their seemingly glamorous lives. But, is everything as it seems?

Here are some real-life stories of some well-known names whose use of social media has had a negative impact on their lives.

Zayn Malik – former member of the astronomically popular band One Direction. Despite their worldwide success, Malik reportedly struggled with anxiety, eating disorders and depression, partly due to pressure from social media.

Selena Gomez – Gomez struggled with social media, stating that “It had become so consuming to me. It’s what I woke up to and went to sleep to. I was an addict, and it felt like I was seeing things I didn’t want to see, like it was putting things in my head that I didn’t want to care about... I do think social media is an

amazing way to stay connected, to learn more things about what’s going on outside your little bubble, but sometimes I think it’s too much information.”

Justin Bieber – famously temporarily quit Instagram in 2016 due to bullying of his then-girlfriend Sofia Ritchie. Bieber stated, “I’m gonna make my Instagram private if you guys don’t stop the hate. This is getting out of hand,”

Ed Sheeran – despite his global success, Sheeran is no fan of social media, stating “**One comment ruins your day. But that’s why I’ve come off it.**”

Lena Dunham – the actress posted a photo in 2015 that received a lot of attention, for all the wrong reasons. Reflecting on the incident, Dunham stated, “It turned into the most rabid, disgusting debate about women’s bodies, and my Instagram page was somehow the hub for misogynists for the afternoon.”

Khloe Kardashian – In 2021, the Reality star was criticised for trying to remove an unfiltered photo of herself from social media. Kardashian later stated on

Instagram, “**In truth, the pressure, constant ridicule and judgment my entire life to be perfect and to meet others’ standards of how I should look has been too much to bear.**” However, some argue that she is perpetuating the very problem she says she’s a victim of, by projecting doctored images to unsuspecting fans who may have a lower self-image as a result.

Caroline Flack – perhaps one of the most tragic cases is that of the former Love Island host, who committed suicide in February 2020 after facing charges for domestic abuse. Flack struggled immensely with the media scrutiny around her case, with tabloids calling her ‘Caroline Whack’. An article in The Guardian written shortly after Flack’s death, stated that “social industry has democratised cruelty, ramped up popular sadism and enrolled all of us into these rituals of punishment.”

If this is indeed true, are we partly to blame when social media goes horribly wrong for the people whose lives we love to know more about?

SOCIAL MEDIA IN “LEVERAGE”

WRITTEN BY KEIGHTLEY TRAN

Throughout the entertainment industry, there have always been elements that utilise social media to their advantage; for instance, many movies and shows use social media to promote their brand or spread awareness about current events.

However, the action/adventure and comedy drama *Leverage*: Redemption (produced by Dean Devlin) takes on the use of social media in a different light. By using the power of the media, these characters manipulate it to their advantage; many people can personally control what goes onto the internet today in our society.

But what is *Leverage*? Crime, action and drama: this American television series thrives under the influence of these aspects in order to create an exciting and engaging show for its viewers. Moreover, this series focuses on a skilled team of five: a grifter, a hacker, a retrieval specialist and an ex-insurance investigator who leads the crew to carry out heists in order to tackle injustices from the

government to wronged members of the public. Additionally, they meet their objectives by showcasing their skills on life-threatening jobs by manipulating people and the media to reach a desired target.

Similarly, the team makes great use of social media in order to finish the job. An example of this can be seen in *The Toy Job*, where the crew prevents a hazardous toy product from being sold on the market just before the Christmas holidays.

In this operation the Retrieval Specialist Elliot, uses his grifting skills to convince a group of blogger mothers to spread awareness about a doll that helped his fictitious son deal with his emotions. Much to his surprise, the mothers start posting on their platforms about this product. This leads to many other parents, guardians and community supporting and loving the idea of this doll.

Futhermore, the Hacker, Hardison, was able to slip a potential rival product into the bag of a widely adored child-star and influencer; this provided a window for Hardison to capture an image of the child-star smiling with the aforementioned object. Well, you can just imagine what the effect was once this image was leaked on social media platforms...the Tumbler post *“Sandy Matteo now loves and adores Baby Joy Rage”* allowed the team’s fake product to spike the media's attention. This genius way of using a social media platform to promote their product, led to young children demanding the same toy from their parents.



This example shows how fast information – and misinformation – can spread through the internet (with the blogger's followers being updated whenever they post). Indeed, many celebrities use their Instagram feeds to pose with new items (for which they get freebies). However, it is now a requirement to state whether product placement is taking place, so that followers are not misguided by biased posts.

Although "Leverage" may be a team of con artists, they help the less fortunate and people who face injustice against many forms of corruption (just like a careless CEO who dismissed safety precautions), whether it may be an AI able to find any person in the world (The double-edged Sword Job) or stopping corporations from marketing tainted foods (The Top Hat Job).

Their fantastic execution in effectively using social media, shows how well they understand how to get people's attention when they want to. This is very similar to the way in which many companies market products to targeted groups.

Finally, Leverage reveals how tainted society can be; there are many immoral people taking advantage of the less fortunate for their own benefit. Still, the team are able to reveal the consequences of their actions and give back to society.





crime & conspiracy

SOROKIN'S SWINDLING SAGA

WRITTEN BY DYLAN THAM

Cons. Frauds. Scams: the story of Anna Sorokin, (more commonly known through her American alias of Anna Delvey), entails a life of deception and deceit like no other. The young girl born in Russia would grow up to deceive major American companies for hundreds of thousands of dollars. But how did she hoax her way to the top?

In 2007, when she was just 16, Anna and her family migrated to North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. Moving to an entirely different country with a culture and language she was not used to. Understandably Anna felt very intimidated. However, she maintained her hobbies and like many young people, used social media platforms such as Flickr and LiveJournal. She also used fashion blogs – her favourite being Vogue. This was the beginning of Anna's swindling saga.

During 2013, Anna travelled across the world to attend one of her dream events, New York Fashion Week.

Compared to her previous homes, New York seemed wonderful to Anna and she consequently decided to live there permanently. She found it so much easier to make friends and gain many different connections. However, those unsuspecting people around her had not realised that she had been using her alias Anna Delvey, instead of her actual name. Anna has since stated that there was no actual thought process behind making up her surname and she said she "*just came up with it.*"



Thus her alternative life and identity were born; she realised she could be whomever she wanted to be. After arriving in New York City, Anna presented herself as a wealthy German heiress, enabling her to enter the infrastructure of wealthy figures to well-known socialites. To solidify the false visage of her affluence, she often forged false bank statements or used invalid credit cards.

However, creating a whole new identity is not a walk in the park and of course, Anna faced the dilemma of finding a place to stay. Her solution? To live in different hotels, escaping to a new one before paying her bill.



Of course, living in NYC is not cheap, so Anna decided to create the entirely fictional Anna Delvey Foundation, an exclusive club for art that would help entice the wealthy to donate copious amounts of money. It was believed that she would use donations to further her club, but instead she used the money for herself (her donors were of course, entirely oblivious). Over time, she became well known in the world of the wealthy and managed to make a name for herself. But as they say, the truth will always come out...

Eventually, many of Anna's friends began to realise some strange situations. For instance, every time she attended a party, she would ask others to pay for her, claiming to have left her credit card at home and promising to pay them back. Many of her friends would often pay for her and would never see their money again; eventually, many legal claims were made against her.



In October 2017, Anna Delvey was finally arrested for years of fraudulent activity. She was sentenced to 4 to 12 years in State prison in New York, as well as being ordered to pay a total fine of approximately \$223,000. It was estimated that after scamming her associates, she had stolen around \$275,000.

Netflix released a mini-series around Anna's story, which details how she misled those close to her in order to fake her way to a wealthy lifestyle. The life of Anna Delvey was one built on lies, but her rags to riches story only ended up disintegrating back to rags again. Anna Sorokin currently resides in prison and will do so for many years to come.





THE DROPOUT: “ONE TINY DROP CHANGES EVERYTHING

WRITTEN BY DYLAN THAM

You may not have heard of it, but Theranos was a technological corporation in the healthcare industry. Established by Elizabeth Holmes, it was thought to be a company that would revolutionise the way that blood tests are carried out globally. It was claimed that from one single drop of blood, Theranos could operate a multitude of tests to determine the health conditions of the user. This could be done through a machine small enough to be held in your hand. This was very intriguing for many healthcare professionals as regular blood tests require large vials filled with blood, whereas one blood drop was all that was required by Theranos and could be done in a portable device that pricked your finger. Sounds too good to be true? Well, it was...

Hailing from Palo Alto, California, the company managed to fool America's medical professionals and wealthy investors for a peak value of \$9 billion over the span of approximately 15 years, from 2003 to 2018. But just how did they get away with this?

Whilst attending Stanford University in 2002, Elizabeth Holmes thought of innovating a new type of blood test due to her fear of needles; consequently, she began searching for a way to reduce the amount of blood needed for such tests. However, many of her medical professors disagreed with her ideas and thought that they wouldn't work. Nevertheless, Holmes persevered until she finally managed to convince her Dean at the School of Engineering, Channing Robertson. Holmes succeeded in gaining Robertson's support for her pitch; since he was a key figure in the medical world, Holmes was able to get the attention of Venture Capitalists. By 2004, Holmes had dropped out of Stanford University to focus on her company full-time.



Elizabeth Holmes on the cover of 2014 Forbes Magazine



The name Theranos originates from the combination of two words: therapy and diagnosis. This name became very well-known by financial investors in America. By December 2010, Theranos had accrued over \$92 million in venture capital. Elizabeth Holmes was widely praised and distinguished as someone who would change the medical world forever. She appeared on the covers of many famous magazines, such as Forbes and The New York Times.

In 2014, Forbes magazine dubbed her "the world's youngest self-made female billionaire" with Theranos valued at \$9 billion.

However, what comes up must come down; little did Holmes know that this global attention would slowly lead to the downfall of both Theranos and herself.



But what was the turning point? Well, an American journalist named John Carreyrou had received some information on Theranos, specifically regarding the validity of the blood tests. This information came from some medical experts who had begun to question the efficacy of Theranos's single drop blood tests. During his investigation, Carreyrou interviewed former employees of Theranos and managed to acquire some documents about the blood tests that proved the results were false!

This is when he uncovered the fraudulent truth of Theranos and Elizabeth Holmes, a woman who was able to trick America's medical industry into investing billions of dollars for a device that gave false readings.

In October 2015, Carreyrou released an article exposing the deceitful truth about Holmes and her company.

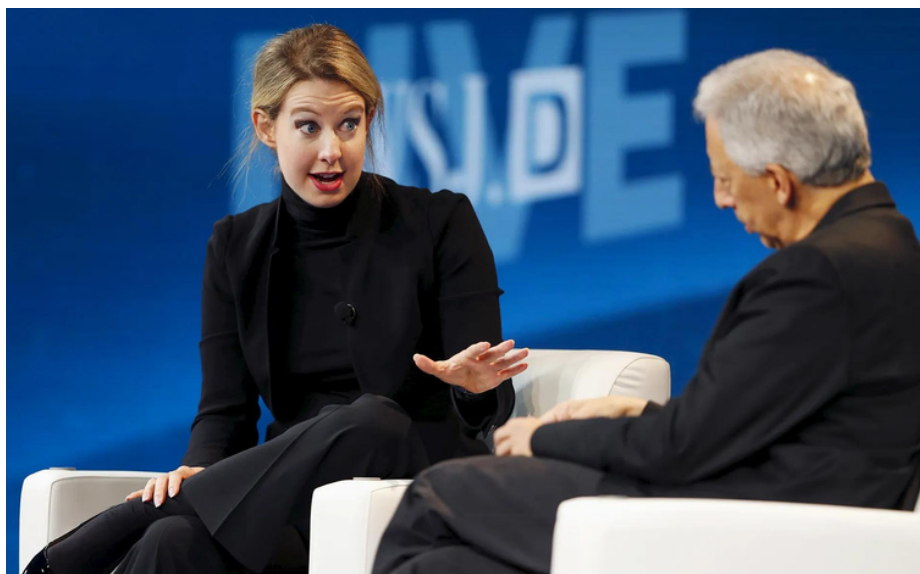


Since the release of Carreyrou's article, Theranos was forced to terminate in September 2018 and Elizabeth Holmes was charged with multiple counts of fraud and a charge of defrauding Theranos investors. She is set to be sentenced on 26th September 2022 and is facing up to 20 years in prison.

As of March 2022, Elizabeth Holmes' net worth was reduced from \$4.5 billion to \$0 - a real lesson in the adage that cheaters never win.



Sunny Balwani, former President and Chief Operating Officer of Theranos





CALCIOPOLI: CRIME AND CORRUPTION

WRITTEN BY FARES OUANOUI

In the last 50 years, football has grown to become the most popular sport the world has ever seen. However, the so-called beautiful game has been tainted with dozens of conspiracies and confirmed cases of corruption, cheating and even the involvement of gangs in some matches. Whether it be Austria and Germany's Football Federations conspiring to knock Algeria out of the group stages of the 1982 World Cup, or the more recent FIFA corruption scandals, where several of its Officials were arrested in their HQ in Zurich, football has had its fair share of corruption and bribery.

Most notorious for its involvement in crime and corruption is the Serie A - the Italian top Division. During this league's almost century-long existence, dozens of scandals have been brought to light. These scandals have involved fraud, embezzlement, the bribery of match officials and referees and organised crime. In 1980, Lazio players were arrested during a match after police

found out that some of the players had been involved in organised crime and were receiving bribes to lose games. A number of other teams were also found guilty, including Bologna, Avellino, AC Milan, Perugia, Palermo and Taranto, whilst teams like Napoli and Juventus were suspected but eventually acquitted of these accusations.

However, one of the most scandalous match-fixing cases was that of Calciopoli. In May 2006, telephone interceptions were revealed that exposed relations between team managers and referees, in both the 2004/05 and 2005/06 seasons. It was discovered that several managers from different clubs would often select favourable referees to allow games be won or lost at their own will. A prominent team involved in this scandal was Juventus, League Champions in both seasons. They therefore had both titles stripped from them, with the 2004/05 trophy being left unassigned, and the 2005/06 trophy being handed to Inter Milan. There were a few other teams involved too, including AC Milan, Fiorentina, Lazio and Reggina.



The teams involved had punishments thrown at them, such as points being deducted, relegation and fines of 75,000 to 100,000 Euro.

However, although punishments were received, many still believe that it is unfair that many of those involved in taking bribes - Club Presidents, managers and referees - are still walking free today. Indeed, many fans are concerned at how easy it may be for corruption to just leak through into the rest of Europe, through world-renowned continental competitions like the Champion's League. Because if that does happen, then what's to stop it from infecting other leagues or even the World Cup? **Indeed, who knows just how far the contamination of corruption has already infiltrated the beautiful game that we all love to watch?**



THE MAN WHO COULD NOT BE CONTAINED

WRITTEN BY ARAFATH KHAN

Back in 1939, a Japanese man named Yoshie Shiratori was forced to confess to a horrible crime that he definitely did not commit.

Whilst imprisoned, he was attacked and tortured every night by vicious prison guards. It was clear to him that he needed to leave the brutal Aomori Prison.

Of course, escaping prison was no easy task, but Shiratori was undeterred. He was able to acquire a metal wire by detaching it from a bucket used for washing. One morning at 5:30am, he made his daring escape, but not before placing floorboards on his bed to trick the guards. Unfortunately for Shiratori, a mere 3 days later, he was caught stealing medical supplies and was sent back to prison.

In 1942, during WW2, Shiratori was transferred to Akita prison. The guards were keen to make an example of him after learning of his earlier escape and would beat him daily. One guard called Kobayashi showed compassion towards Shiratori and would

even feed him. One day, Shiratori found a loose bit of wire which allowed him to unlock his handcuffs and escape by scaling a wall. He managed to reach the small skylight above, where he noticed that the window frame was wooden and starting to rot. Each night, he would climb to further weaken it until it fully broke. Finally, one rainy night, Shiratori took advantage of the sound of the weather to disguise his escape attempt and was successful.

However, Shiratori made a fatal error; he felt obliged to thank the kind prison guard Kobayashi, whom he had not forgotten. The guard was shocked when Shiratori turned up at his home and he called the police. Consequently, the fugitive was transferred to Abashiri jail - a prison from which no inmate had ever escaped.

Shiratori's new cell had steel fixtures that would not rot. He was even given specially designed handcuffs and leg cuffs and was forced to have half rations and wear summer clothes in the dead of winter.

Shiratori's next escape attempt was a masterpiece! Every time he was given a



Yoshie Shiratori

bowl of soup, he would leave half of it; he would then use the soup to melt the screws on his handcuffs and door fixtures - this would work because the salt corroded the metal. However, the hole through which he had to escape was smaller than his body. Undeterred, Shiratori dislocated his own joints, allowing his body to pass through the hole to freedom!

But how? Well, the guards were so conditioned to looking up at their prisoner that he was able to focus on escaping through the floor!



But, in a strange case of déjà vu, Shiratori was once again captured a year later. However, due to changes in Japan's justice system, the High Court had become sympathetic to his plight. They not only dismissed his murder charge but moved him to a more lenient prison, where he was considered a model prisoner.



14 years later in 1961, he was released on parole. He returned to his home of Aomori and was re-united with the only surviving member of his family - his daughter. What an incredible escape story!



Inside Abashiri Prison



Abashiri Prison



FASCINATING FORENSICS FACTS

WRITTEN BY LAURA VASCONCELOS

Where would we be today without forensics? Forensic Science has been used to solve various crimes, from burglaries to murders. You've likely heard of infamous serial killers who have been caught by the most minuscule of evidence. In such cases, unknown victims can be identified years and even decades later, through the use of forensics.

For example, only last year, one of the victims of notorious killer clown serial killer John Wayne Gacy (who stored about 33 victims' bones in his own home), was identified through forensic technology. There is no doubt that forensic science is a truly incredible asset to our society. But how has it evolved over the years and developed to this mind-blowing standard?

Forensic Science consists of using various scientific methods to investigate crime scenes or pieces of evidence in laboratories, which can then be used in court. However, the origin of this can be traced back to Ancient Greece and Rome.

In fact, the first record autopsy was performed in 44BC by Antisius, a Roman Physician who inspected Julius Caesar's body, revealing his cause of death to be one wound in his chest - despite having suffered 23 stab wounds.

Another further development is when the first-ever book on forensics was written by Song Ci in 1247, entitled 'Collected Cases of Injustice Rectified or The Washing Away of Wrongs'. It's one of the earliest pieces of writings to use things such as entomology (the study of insects) and medicine to determine causes of death and to solve crimes.

Another method used in forensics is fingerprinting; this was first used by William Herschel, who recognised the uniqueness of each person's fingerprint. At first, these fingerprints were used to sign contracts. However, Sir Edward Henry created a system of classifying fingerprints, which became known in the 1800s as the Henry Classification System.



Over time, it then developed into the standard method for criminal fingerprinting.

Other forensic developments from the 1800s and 1900s included tests used to identify blood, such as the use of luminol, the use of photography to document crime scenes and evidence and of course, the use of DNA profiling.

There is no doubt that the field of Forensic Science is constantly developing. You may not have heard of it yet, but did you know that the use of inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry/ICP-MS can be used to trace pieces of glass to match small samples at crime scenes?



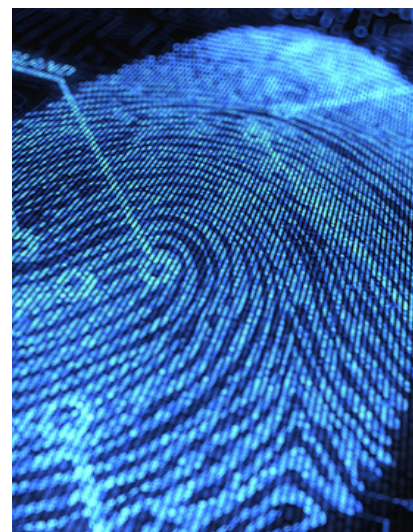
So, what other infamous crimes have been solved using forensics? In the 1970s, serial killer Ted Bundy murdered over 30 people, but by the time he was seriously considered to be a suspect, there was very little evidence connecting him to the crimes. Eventually, he was caught through a bite mark that he had left on victim Lisa Levy. This use of dental records is not widely used on its own anymore. However, this was not the only form of evidence to entrap him though; fibres from the clothes of his 12 year old victim, Kimberley Leach, matched those found in his van.

Another horrific case that used forensic techniques was that of Charles Lindbergh Jr. On March 1, 1932, 20 month year old Charles Lindbergh Jr. was kidnapped and a ransom of \$50,000 was demanded. His rich parents paid the ransom, but his body was later discovered. Police tracked the bank notes to Bruno Hauptmann, who was found with over \$14,000 hidden in his garage. Handwriting analysis matched his writing to the ransom notes and wood in Hauptmann's attic matched the ladder that

the kidnappers had used to access the baby's bedroom.

In the 1980s, residents of Southern California were terrorised by a serial killer known as The Night Stalker. One night, a teenager noticed a suspicious car cruising his area, so he wrote down the license plate and notified police; that night, an attack took place in the same area. Although the car was abandoned, police extracted a single fingerprint, that they matched to Richard Ramirez, whose image was then plastered all over the media. Less than a week later, local residents recognised the serial killer and he was finally caught.

Who knows what the future will hold when it comes to this fascinating field? One thing is for sure: there will no doubt be even more advancements made in the future that will enable investigators to solve crimes quicker and more accurately. If this is an area that interests you, you might even end up playing an instrumental and pivotal role in the development of Forensic Science of the future.





office of opinion

THE STATE OF CINEMA TODAY

WRITTEN BY FARES OUANOUI

During Lockdown, there was a huge increase in the number of people taking out subscription services such as Netflix. Indeed, according to the BBC, in the first 3 months of 2020, over 16 million new Netflix accounts were opened as we all resigned ourselves to months of being housebound.

However, whilst home screening services like Netflix and Amazon Prime profited from a huge boost in revenue, Hollywood took a heavy blow from the pandemic, with cinema sales down 50% as of 2021. With the creation of and huge marketing push towards subscription-based services, people have realised that watching a movie in the comfort of your home has many benefits: comfort, choice and control. Furthermore, going to the cinema just isn't as affordable as it used to be.

But just because people are visiting the cinema less, it doesn't mean that they aren't viewing movies. Indeed, this is evident from the late 2021 Release, Spider-Man: No Way Home, which was a smash hit movie, destroying multiple records, making almost \$1.9 billion.

And the major production companies are not stopping there, with big releases such as Thor Love and Thunder, Jurassic World: Dominion, John Wick 4, Top Gun: Maverick and Avatar: The Way of Water, all planned to be released in the next couple of years. As of April 2022, the US Film industry was worth \$42.5 billion.

Closer to home, the UK Cinema Association reports that ticket sales have decreased dramatically. TV Critic and Broadcaster Scott Bryan states, *"Streaming services saw substantial growth as many of us were having to spend our days staying in. Disney+ and Netflix were clearly big winners and there's also been a change of mindset. We're now more used to watching television when it suits us, rather than rotating our lives around the television schedules."*

So, what is your view of cinema? Do you go to the cinema and if so, how frequently? Did your habits change over Lockdown? And with such interest in subscription services, what exactly is the future of cinema?





THE ROW OVER TRANS RIGHTS

WRITTEN BY ORBAN O'BRIEN

Threats of disagreement and contention are hanging over the 2024 Olympics, which will be held two years from now in Paris. This controversy is regarding trans athletes competing with peers who were born of a different sex to them.

Some argue that trans athletes must be accepted and that with testosterone-reducing hormone therapy, there is little to no athletic advantage over biological women. Others have expressed bitter accusations of unfairness regarding athletes who have the advantages of male puberty which, they argue, cannot be fully suppressed by puberty-blockers and oestrogen (a female hormone). Arguments against trans participation in cisgender categories, mainly involve them having male features such as longer limbs, larger hands and feet, a wider frame, bigger heart and lungs, higher bone density and more red blood cells, which all play important roles in sport, especially at a highly competitive level such as the Olympics.

Consequently, many feel that cisgender athletes who have lost to or been injured by transgender competitors, have been denied opportunities and titles.

Weightlifter Anna Vanbellinghen spoke out regarding her competitor Laurel Hubbard (who transitioned from male to female at the age of 35). She claimed that *"this particular situation is unfair to the sport and to the athletes"*. Both athletes were attempting to qualify for the same weight category at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. In the end, both candidates were selected to compete.



Laurel Hubbard

Swimmer Lia Thomas is an example of how male to female transsexuals, biologically, have an advantage over cisgender women.

Lia began her transition in May 2019 and was ranked #462 as a male swimmer and is now ranked as the #1 female swimmer for the 500 yard race. She claims that she *"belongs on the women's team"*, however to many, it seems clear that her biological advantages have denied her competitors of potential success. According to the group American Principles, Thomas is *"destroying women's sport"* and *"our female athletes deserve better"*. The group argues *"Imagine being a female swimmer who trained your entire life and earned the opportunity to swim at the Division 1 level only to watch as a person who spent the first 21 years of his life as a man destroys the competition."* In contrast, Human Rights Campaign, the largest LGBT+ civil rights organisation in the US, tweeted that *"Living your truth is an incredible and powerful feeling."*

Whilst one might expect other trans athletes to support Thomas, former Olympic Gold Medalist and trans woman, Caitlyn Jenner - known as the *"highest profile American"*



to come out as trans" – has not been vocal in support. Her stance on the matter was made clear in May 2021, when she bluntly stated, "if you're a biological boy, you shouldn't be in girls' sports."

Despite this, the transgender community and other advocates have made clear that it is vital to include and support trans women. The Olympics is one of the largest sporting events of all time, and exposure at such a worldwide level would certainly help spread knowledge and acceptance of trans women, one of the most vulnerable minority communities.

The row also threatens to bring financial chaos to sporting organisations. Already, one pro-trans sponsor has pulled out in protest over the denial of a trans woman's participation in a cycling event. Peter Stanton withdrew his £15,000 sponsorship of the Women's CiCLE race in Leicestershire, calling the exclusion of trans athlete Emily Bridges "totally unacceptable." However, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has shared his belief that "I don't think biological men should be

competing in female sporting events".

Shortly before this edition of the newsletter went to print, the governing body of world swimming (FINA) passed a new rule preventing male to female trans athletes who undergo male puberty after the age of twelve, from competing in events against cisgender competitors. This would mean that Lia Thomas would be unable to compete in women's games at the Olympics. FINA is instead proposing a new category that will be implemented to accommodate transgender swimmers who can no longer take part in their former competitions.

However, details still need to be worked out and nothing seems to be concrete at the moment. Fina president Husain Al-Musallam has said it is important to "protect the rights of our athletes to compete" but also "protect competitive fairness".

Cate Campbell, an Australian Olympic champion argues that FINA should "uphold the cornerstone of fairness". In contrast, another Australian swimmer, Maddie Groves, rejected Campbell's argument, questioning if

She was "OK with ostracising an already marginalised group."

Speculation as to whether this will spread to other sporting governing bodies such as FIFA, seems to suggest that separate divisions for trans athletes may well become the norm.

World Athletics are also re-considering their policies on the subject in response to FIFA's changes, on the basis of the belief that "biology trumps gender."

So, what are your thoughts on this issue? Is the protection of trans rights in sports mutually exclusive with the protection of competitive fairness? Or can the fields of elite sports find a balance that is fair on both?



Lia Thomas



SLAPPING AN OUCH INTO THE OSCARS!

WRITTEN BY RIDWAAN ABDULLE

The annual Oscars ceremony always attracts huge global interest...but this year's events were overshadowed by an uncomfortable and shocking occurrence that made the news for all the wrong reasons.

Following an insensitive joke made by host Chris Rock about Will Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, Smith took to the stage to slap Rock in front of an evidently horrified and confused audience. Initially seeming to laugh about the joke that Rock had made about his wife's alopecia, Smith's facial expression and demeanour quickly changed, before he charged on set to slap the Host. He then furiously sat back down and shouted expletives from his seat.

Upon receiving the Best Actor Award for his role as Richard Williams (tennis stars Serena and Venus Williams' father), Smith delivered an emotional speech, stating *"Richard Williams was a fierce defender of his family. In this time in my life, in this moment, I am overwhelmed by what God is calling on me to do and to be in this world...I know to do what we do you've got to be able to take abuse, and have people talk crazy about you and have people disrespecting you, and you've got to smile and pretend it's OK. But love will make you do crazy things."*

He apologised to a number of people for his violent outburst, but noticeably omitted Rock. A statement released by the organisers of the Oscars, read:

"Mr Smith was asked to leave the ceremony and refused, [but] we also recognise we could have handled the situation differently." Following the incident, Smith said he would be leaving the Academy, whilst bosses for the Oscars stated on Twitter that *"The Academy does not condone violence of any form,"* and banned him from attending the Oscars for 10 years.

But people around the world seem to be very divided on this unique moment in Oscars history. Some argue that Rock's joke about a person's health issues should never have been delivered, whilst others say there is never any reason for violence. 2017 and 2018 Oscars Host, Jimmy Kimmel stated, *"Usually when someone's asked to leave and refuses to go, that's when security comes in and takes that person away. But in this case, they decided to give him an Oscar and let him back on stage to speak."* Support for Rock also came from actress Rosie O'Donnell who tweeted that Smith's actions were a *"sad display of toxic masculinity."*



Will Smith aggressively slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars



However, Tiffany Haddish, who has previously worked with Jada Pinkett Smith, praised Smith's defence of his wife, saying *"Maybe the world might not like how it went down, but for me, it was the most beautiful thing I ever seen."* Others pointed out that it was ironic that Rock produced a documentary called *Good Hair*, about the importance of hair in black culture, yet had gone on to mock Jada's.

Many believe that there was more to the incident than just a joke; the Smiths' marriage has previously come under intense public scrutiny and there was clear change in Will's demeanour when he saw his wife was not impressed by the joke. But whatever was going on in Will Smith's marriage or mind at the time, is this ever an excuse for violence?

What do you think?





HOW WELL DID THE UK GOVERNMENT HANDLE THE COVID CRISIS?

WRITTEN BY MUAZE NUR HUSSEN

Now that we seem to be emerging from the worst part of the Covid crisis, we're all looking back and reflecting upon how those in power dealt with matters. There is no doubt that 2020 was an unprecedented year, full of crises, uncertainty and tragedy; but surely this is what a government exists to deal with? We the public, vote for those whom we believe will best serve us, for better and for worse. But did Boris Johnson and his government meet our expectations or fall far off the mark?

According to an article in the British Medical Journal, the campaign group Keep Our NHS Public stated that the government's handling of the crisis was "grossly negligent," whilst NHS Consultant radiologist Jackie Davis said "We heard time and again how public services, including the NHS, public health, education, and social care, had been run down in the decade of 'austerity' prior to the pandemic. This meant health and social inequalities had widened and the pandemic

exacerbated these inequalities."

Towards the end of 2020, King's College London and Ipsos Mori conducted a survey of 2244 UK residents, finding that 57% of the public did not trust the UK government to control the spread of the virus, with 68% believing the response to that point was confused and inconsistent. Over 50% of those surveyed considered the government's handling of the crisis to be "a national humiliation."

Some of the worst news regarding the government's handling of the crisis came in May of this year, when the Sue Gray report (an investigation into the parties held at Downing Street), found damning evidence against Boris Johnson and Members of

the government. The report found that when the Nation was being told they must stay at home, an email was sent out to some MPs inviting them to a get together at Downing Street. The email stated "Please join us from 6pm and bring your own booze." Is this appropriate for a work email?

On 19th June 2020, another gathering was held in the Cabinet Room to mark the Prime Minister's birthday. In April 2021, two separate leaving do events took place at Downing Street at a time when the public could only gather in groups of 6 outdoors or in pairs indoors. At these particular events, alcohol was consumed and some did not leave the premises till 4:20am.





Ms Gray's report stated that there had been "failures of leadership and judgment in No 10 and the Cabinet Office." She went on to state that the public have "a right to expect the very highest standards of behaviour" from their government and "clearly what happened fell well short of this."

Part of the public's rage arose from the fact that people weren't able to be with their loved ones at momentous times, including through illness, births and deaths. There have been many such stories in the news – perhaps you know of some of these or maybe even have an experience of your own. One such story is that of Anne Best, who was one of the 179,000 Covid deaths in the UK. Due to social distancing measures at the time, her husband was unable to be with her when she died. In May of this year, The Daily Mail reported on a phone-in at radio station LBC, which was flooded with stories of people who had made sacrifices during lockdown. One woman called Tina shared the story of her mother who had committed suicide during Lockdown. Tina stated, "I had to go to a funeral with my siblings

and I couldn't touch any of them. I wasn't allowed to hug my younger brother and sister as they howled and we all stood at a distance from mum. It was unspeakable."

Rhona Huckle took to Twitter to say that she couldn't see her mother during Lockdown because she was disabled and couldn't push the wheelchair downhill to the local park. She died of Covid. There is no doubt that it is stories such as these, that demonstrate the frustration, anger and sense of disappointment amongst the British public.



Furthermore, on 6th June 2022, MPs displayed to the people of the UK how little faith they themselves have in Boris Johnson and ended up calling a vote of confidence in the Prime Minister – this effectively questioned his ability to do his job and serve the British people. For better or for worse, Boris Johnson won the vote of confidence; however, it revealed that 41% (148) of MPs do not have confidence in Mr Johnson and just how much Partygate has damaged his reputation. Just before this Newsletter went to print, the Chancellor and Health Secretary resigned from their posts stating a lack of confidence in Johnson's leadership. By the time you read this article, we will have a better idea of whether the Prime Minister has been able to survive his leadership struggles. What is the next step for the UK government? And are we now seeing how little faith the British public have in its ability to lead?





inspiration station

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

WRITTEN BY SIDRA KADIR

Last month, the UK celebrated 70 years of service by Her Majesty the Queen. Did you know that she is the longest serving monarch in history?

Communities and individuals across the country gathered together to honour the momentous occasion over an extended bank holiday weekend (perhaps sadly for some of us, this period happened to fall during the school half term break)!

On 2nd June, the Queen's birthday parade tookplace, bringing together 1400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians to celebrate the Queen's birthday. The parade then concluded with the an RAF fly-past.

On 3rd June, St Paul's Cathedral hosted a thanksgiving service in honour of the Queen's reign, followed by an afternoon at Epsom Derby.

Finally, on 5th June, communities around the country got together to celebrate the Big Lunch. There was also a Platinum Jubilee pageant where dancers, artistic performer, musicians and volunteers got together to tell the story of the Queen and her 70 years on the throne. So how did you spend the historic Jubilee weekend?





STREATHAM'S SANTAN

WRITTEN BY BOUSHRA HAGOS

David Orobosa Omoregie, more commonly known as Santan Dave, is a compelling rapper whose lyrics reflect on both the social and deeply personal issues he faced growing up in a single-parent household in London. Whilst growing up in a poorer part of South London, Dave had two brothers serving sentences in jail.

Dave aspired to follow a creative career. At first he was interested in Animation, but eventually decided to play the piano. Inspired by his older brothers, he started rapping and playing piano at a very young age. Although he grew up in poverty, he always made sure to prioritise his education. In the end, it was music that he managed to forge a career in.

Starting at the age of 16, when he featured on a UK rap platform called BL@CKBOX, Dave got recognition due to his touching and creative bars and great lyricism. He gained popularity rapping about the real life problems that he faced.

In 2016, he released JKYL+HYD, further showing his great lyricism. He then went on to do two more freestyles on BBC1 radio and released many singles, including Thiago Silva ft. AJ Tracey, which went viral when Dave invited a fan to perform with him on stage at Glastonbury in 2019.

As his hype grew, Dave dropped his first album called Six Paths - he gained popularity when famous rapper Drake remixed one of his singles called Wanna Know.



In 2019, Dave released the album Psychodrama, which included songs about Streatham. The album covered the struggles that many black people faced.

Dave's ability to connect with his audience and the issues they were facing, led to the album's huge success; it debuted at Number 1 in the UK and was the winning album of the year at the BRIT awards. But Dave's creative skills did not end there; he also acted in the Netflix Drama Top Boy, playing Modie.

In 2021, Dave returned with another album called 'We Are All Alone In This Together', which also hit the top of the Charts. He used clever word play and critical and creative thinking by dropping the album at midnight so that when fans listened to it, his songs such as 'twenty-to-one' would align with the time. Such small details kept fans invested in his work, whilst rapping about life in Streatham and his childhood growing up in South London, meant that others could relate to him and often found comfort in his music.

This year has been bright for Dave, who has an upcoming sold out UK arena tour. He also dropped his single 'Twilight', which charted at



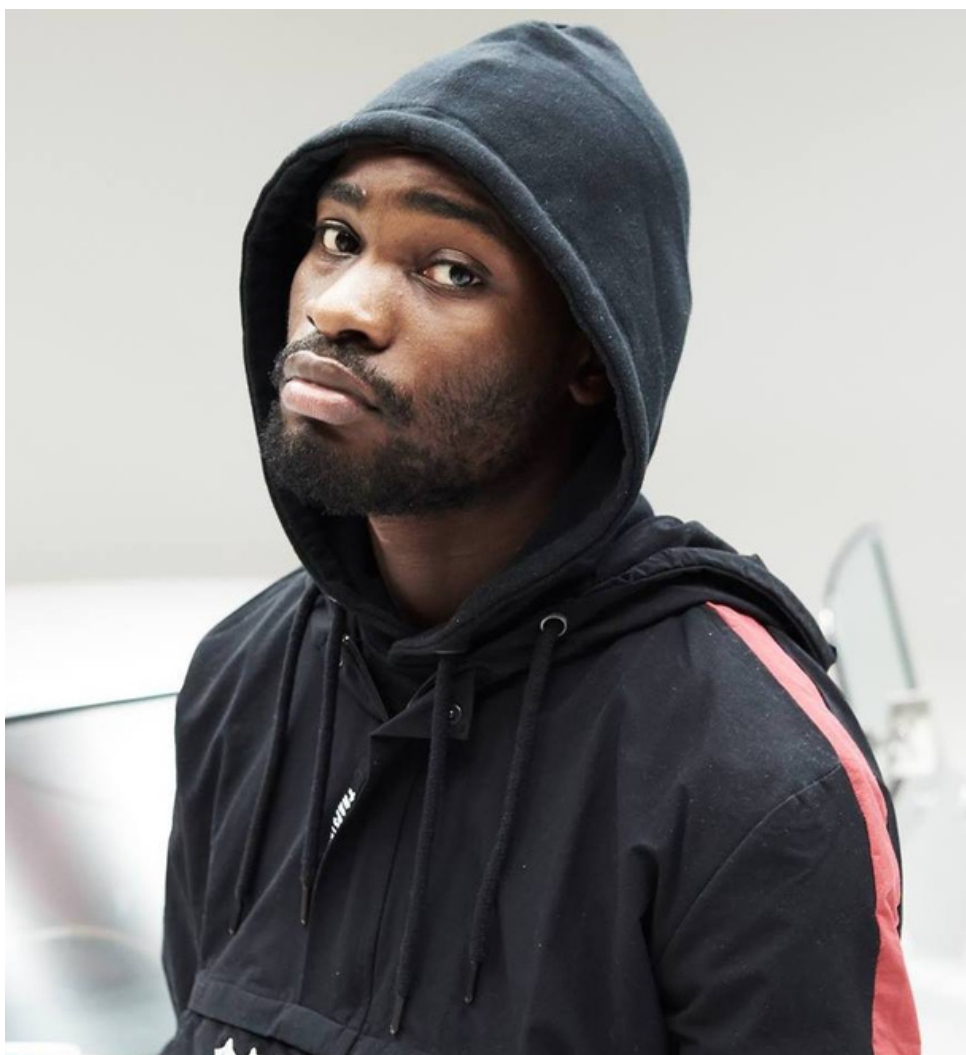
Number 1 and became the longest running number 1 single.

Listening to Dave's music is therapeutic for his fans; he reveals the childhood problems that he faced and witnessed, including issues that others may be facing such as domestic abuse. AllMusic writer Liam Martin stated that "Dave burrowed even deeper into his music, causing him to develop a socially aware form of wordplay that set him apart from his peers."

Being a local boy, keeping true to his roots and using his love of music to forge a successful career for himself, Dave is an inspiration to us all, showing what can be achieved if we persevere.



Dave's single cover for 'Starlight'





BENZEMA'S BALLON D'OR

WRITTEN BY OMAR AOUCHICHE

Throughout the 2021/22 footballing season, Karim Benzema has made a name for himself, manifesting himself as a footballing icon to the World. But just how did Benzema's incredible journey as a global football icon start?

Well, Benzema first came to everyone's attention when he was a youth player in Lyon. Attracting the attention of Real Madrid, he joined the team at around the same time as Cristiano Ronaldo.

In the 2018/19 season, following his participation in 4 UEFA Champions Leagues in 5 years, Benzema amassed 21 goals in 36 games in the LaLiga, 4 goals in 8 games in the Champions League and 4 goals in 6 games in the Copa Del Rey: an astonishing feat for any player! During the next season, with over 30 goals to his name, he won the LaLiga for the first time in 3 years. In the 2020/21 season, Benzema reached the Semi-Finals of the Champions League, before his side was knocked out by eventual champions, Chelsea.

It was in the 2021/22 season that everything changed... Benzema had already won the Nations League with France. During the Group Stage of the Champions League, Benzema carried Real Madrid to the top of Group D with 15 points, having scored 5 goals in 5 games. He also led Real to the top of the LaLiga table with 42 points and an 8 point gap against existing runners-up, Sevilla.

From losing 2-0 aggregate in the first half, he scored a hat-trick to send Los Blancos to the Quarter Finals where they faced Chelsea - the same side who had eliminated them in the season prior.

The game started with a sensational header by Karim and another magnificent volley a couple of minutes later. Then came a rebuttal by none other than Chelsea's Kai Havertz, before a final shut down by Benzema to make it a second hat-trick of the knockout stage. The second leg saw a surprise attack by Chelsea with a 3-0 lead until the 81st minute when the Brazilian youngster Rodrygo scored a goal assisted by

Benzema. Then came a goal in the 96th minute during extra time, to make the aggregate score 5-4 to Real Madrid. Despite their loss in that match, they made it to the Semi-Finals as they had scored more goals over the 2 games.

This match proved to be their biggest challenge yet, this time against Manchester City, the previous year's Runners-Up. Benzema scored 2 goals - including a cheeky penalty in the 82nd minute. The next game was also very difficult as Man City scored an early second half goal to make it 5-3 aggregate. However, last minute goals sent Real and Benzema to the Finals!

The Finals against Liverpool were uneventful until the 60th minute, when Vini Jr scored the only goal of the game to win the trophy for Real Madrid. This was the team's first time winning the trophy since Ronaldo had last taken them to glory.

Should the inspirational Benzema win the prestigious Ballon D'Or with his 3 trophies over 55 goals and over 75 goal involvements this season? Surely with a magnificent record like his, there are very few more deserving players?



THE FUTURE OF CHELSEA FOOTBALL CLUB

WRITTEN BY OMAR AOUCHICHE

Earlier this year, Chelsea Football Club was mired in controversy, when its then owner, Roman Abramovich was sanctioned for his links to Vladimir Putin. This followed pressure from the UK government who had started to penalise those with close ties to the Russian President after he invaded Ukraine.

Following the criticism he received, Abramovich stepped down from his role and on 2nd March Chelsea was put up for sale, with a number of prospective buyers expressing interest in the purchase.

In the end, the Club was purchased by a consortium for a whopping £4.25 billion. The new owners include American billionaire, Todd Boehly who part-owns the LA Dodgers and LA Lakers.

Another owner is Mark Walters, who co-owns the LA Dodgers and also owns a Florida wildlife preserve. The third owner is Swiss billionaire Hansjoerg Wyss, who is 86 years old and made his huge fortune through medical technology. Wyss, who has made large donations to environmental and scientific causes, has promised to donate most of the money he earns.

So, if you're a Chelsea fan, do you think this takeover is positive news for the team or not?



Roman Abramovich



cacophony of colours

AI/ANIAI

WRITTEN BY KEIGHTLEY TRAN

Ai

Why?

These locks don't hold my
smile captive

Drawn to my mindless thought
Please, be exact-

Can't I have that of you?

This will be our chaos, our
future, but

A piercing, painful program
Takes a piece of us away

Let us be your target; I'm tired
of looking.



AniAi

Heart colder than ice - I don't
feel their pain,

There's nothing more in this
world, that I hate, other than
me

How can one be so cruel?

As the one who's always been
entrapped

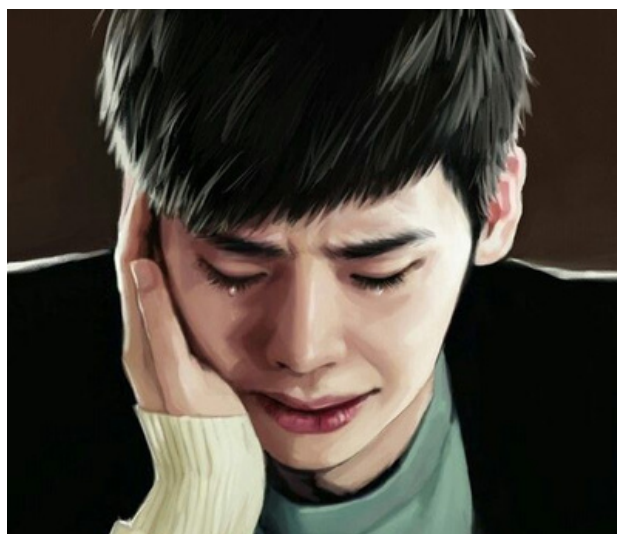
By myself; alone with these
thoughts.

They are sabotaging me, along
with these thoughts.

Just like everyone else: selfish,
ignorant - I want to be full of
greed,

I am programmed to riot. I am
ordered to steal.

I want to keep searching: I
need my next aim.





MEET THE STAFF!

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

I am looking forward to going on holiday.

Afnan Abdulalim

I will be working out in the gym.

Ridwaan Abdulle

I'm looking forward to planning my pilgrimage to Mecca.

Omar Aouchiche

I'll be travelling to Greece.

Phebe Davies Bates

I'll be visiting my cousins.

Enoch Duguma

I will be catching up on some much needed rest!

Ridwan Elmi

I will be starting to work on my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award.

Lauren Figueroa

I'll be travelling to Madeira.

Kelly Freitas

I can't wait for the Notting Hill carnival this year.

Kadian Webber

My family and I are visiting Egypt.

Boushra Hagos

I want to get out and enjoy the sunshine!

Redwan Jaeffar

I will be visiting either Iraq or Germany.

Sidra Kadir

I will be going to the cinema several times to watch new movies.

Arafath Mohammed

I'll be exploring central London with friends!

Michelle Le

I would like to hit the beach!

Nina Luong

I'm going to Somalia.

Suheed Mahmoud

I look forward to going on road trips around Portugal.

Jessica Marques

I will be hanging out with a lot of my friends.

Jannat Marsou

I will be spending lots of time playing Roblox.

Abdullahi Mohamed

I look forward to travelling.

Najma Mohamud

I can't wait to visit my grandparents.

Cristovao Nunes Teixeira

I look forward to the desserts of Egypt.

Muaze Nur Hussen

I will be practicing my Maths skills!

Osarodian Obayangbona

I can't wait to go to Canada this summer.

Orban O'Brien

I'll be visiting family in Algeria.

Fares Ouanoufi

I'll be reflecting upon the political and economic state of the world.

George Erik Roberto

I have organised an internship with a drama school.

Anastasia Shovkoplyas

I will be visiting Vietnam.

Dylan Tham

I will be visiting family in Spain and networking for my future career pathways!

Keightley Tran

I will be exploring London with relatives.

Laura Vasconcelos

I can't wait to hang out with my friends.

Imogen Bowes



Social Media, Social Media

Social media, social media,
Now an encyclopaedia,
To find out news from Crimea,
And the secrets of North Korea.



A vital place to socialise,
Your thoughts can now be vocalised,
The internet now mobilised,
So you can create great social ties.



Yet all the friends that you have made,
May well betray you for self-gain,
Use you to increase their fame,
And in the dirt, they'll throw your name.



Now please, heed this warning:
Use social media safely,
Don't expose yourself unwittingly,
Try to use it beneficially.



On social media, the spreading of news,
Different opinions, altered views,
Any side, you are free to choose,
Now there isn't a single excuse.



Social media, social media,
Look what it's become
In just a matter of a few years,
Considering where it came from.

