

BYRON VOICE

ISSUE 1 • KEY STAGE 5 • DECEMBER 2020

“But words are things, and a small drop of ink,
Falling like dew upon a thought, produces
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.”

LORD BYRON



Byron College

THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society, where none intrudes,
By the deep Sea, and Music in its roar;
I love not Man the less, but Nature more,
From these our interviews, in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the Universe, and feel
What I can ne'er express – yet cannot all conceal.

Stanza 178 from Canto IV of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*

'Tis strange—but true; for Truth is always strange,
Stranger than Fiction: if it could be told,
How much would novels gain by the exchange!
How differently the world would men behold!

Stanza 101 from Canto XIV of *Don Juan*

Lord George Gordon Byron

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A word of thanks

A big thank you to our student contributors who got on board with this first, major launch issue of *Byron Voice* with alacrity and wonderful creativity, even under such unprepossessing circumstances. Well done!

Thank you to colleagues across the School for your support, encouragement, and ideas – in particular to the Sixth Form Tutor team for your invaluable (and indefatigable!) support.

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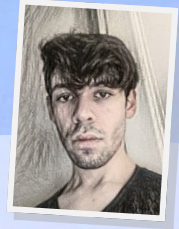
Elisa Zeng (Year 13A) **Front cover:** *Lily – Pencil on paper*
Inner front and back covers: *The Chinese character "Goodness" – Seal carving and vermilion inkpap*
Back cover: *Bamboo – Ink on rice paper*

Messages from the Head Girl & Head Boy

"As a student finishing her final year during a pandemic and under unknown circumstances, it can be pretty confusing but nothing has helped me more through this year than the strong community which stands behind me: my school, my friends, my teachers. During this pandemic I have learnt patience, understanding others, and being active in the life I have, both mentally and physically. Also, I realised how vital it is to communicate with everybody you care about, even if it's just for five minutes - it shows how much you value them. Finally, the most important lesson of all is never to take anything for granted; I truly believe everything happens for a reason with a purpose we might never know. I know I will personally come out of this so much stronger and ready to cherish any opportunity that comes my way and I hope you do too."



Liya Aksir (Year 13A)



"For the most part of my life, I held the belief that too many bonds only serves to weaken resolve and focus. However, this year, my belief has altered to a degree. Although one must have an ideal to strive towards, without any connections away from that, the slightest deviation can cause immense anxiety. As I implored myself to take on greater roles of responsibility, I implore you to do the same. For taking on a role has nothing to do with yourself - it is impersonal, only designed to serve others - and it is precisely that which pushes the content of our own character. It is bonds that serve as our support network, not isolation."

Christian Vourakis (Year 13B)

Messages from the Deputy Head Girl & Deputy Head Boy

"The significance of routine, order and ritualistic activities have proven to be highly prominent this year. Taking into consideration the chaotic, unprecedented reality this pandemic has ordained, it is crucial to maintain a healthy mindset to guide us through this lockdown that will enable us to stick to our goals and appreciate the limited time we have with our friends and family, and most importantly with ourselves. We should all use this time to reflect and comprehend our internal ordeals and use them as vehicles for improvement, success, and optimism for this upcoming year. Always remember that external factors are only as important as we allow them to be and that being grateful for what we have will assist us in understanding others in worse positions than ourselves. STAY SAFE."

Andriana Radou (Year 13A)



"Now more than ever we realise the importance of human connection and in a time where we cannot see each other face to face, it is important to reach out to your friends and family and in unity we shall prosper through the final weeks of this year. Take time to connect with your close ones and take the opportunity of this lockdown to prepare for the future."

"THE STRONGEST PERSON IS THE PERSON WHO IS NOT AFRAID TO BE ALONE."

Jason Markianos (Year 13B)



Messages from the Class Representatives for Years 12, 13A, and 13B

“Most of us will agree that the year 2020 hasn't been one of the best and it's probably one of the most stressful and difficult years so far, but we have to focus on the positive aspects of the emergence of Covid-19. During the first lockdown I realised how important my friends are to me – I never knew that not going out for two weekends would cause so much distress. Moreover, I recognised that both my friendship and family relationships have improved and I realised how grateful I am that I'm under a roof with food and water during such turbulent times, things we should all appreciate. We are going to get through this, but we have to work together and follow the restrictions so we can go back to living a normal life without masks!”

Phoebe Andrikopoulou (Year 12)



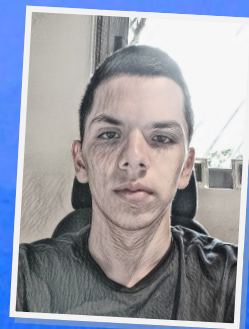
“Although this year has been quite challenging for most of us, it is safe to say that we have all learned valuable life lessons from it. We learned the importance of friendships and family: we realised that when we come together, we are stronger and we can get through anything. We also learned how to be more empathic, and to be grateful for the little things in life. As 2021 is coming our way, we must remain positive, motivated, and remember that nothing is permanent: this situation will not last forever.”

Wadad El-Khoury (Year 13A)



“Despite all the hardships that the world is facing this year we all learnt the importance of social interactions. No one ever truly appreciates something until they lose it. Despite that, we must be patient until we can return to our normal routines, while following the directions of health specialists to the letter to stay safe!”

Alex Kiayas (Year 13B)



STUDENT COUNCIL DISPATCH

YOUR VOICE IN BYRON & A MESSAGE OF KINDNESS

Kindness
Matters.

Greetings from Quarantine!



As Secondary School student and Head Girl, I would like to begin by asking everyone reading: "How are you?" I truly hope you are all doing well and pushing through these difficult, unfortunate times. The purpose of this piece is to introduce you and give you a small glimpse into what goes on behind the scenes of School Council meetings in Secondary, namely, ideas, discussions, how it is held now, and what the overall purpose and rationale for these meetings are.

At Byron College, we seek feedback from all of the student body in order to improve school quality, as school is our home away from home for many years! The Byron College School Council is where elected Class Representatives for each Form come together to convey vital issues and ideas to the Head Girl and Boy and Deputy Heads. These issues are then discussed, with the aim of arriving at possible solutions that can help us to conquer these issues together. I believe that in unison everyone becomes stronger, and you are able to generate solutions that are more suitable for the student body. Therefore, in the Student Council we consider all students' ideas and thoughts extremely seriously and we try our best to address them in a positive way.

In our first Secondary School Council meeting of this academic year, one of the main issues we discussed, and which was indeed brought up by many different Forms, was the lack of entertainment during these hard times as per the stringent pandemic regulations – for example, no sports, staying two metres apart, masks always remaining on – so that, as lockdown wears on, these restrictions gradually become frustrating and demotivating, which is understandable. Therefore, a solution that we recommended here was to try as much as we can to create groups of two or maximum three to play board games, or create any games they would like. While since lockdown we have not been able to come together physically to discuss such issues, we do hold Council meetings online: gathering through the virtual community space enabled by Teams, everyone is punctual and ready to bombard us with issues and questions, which is great! I think that even though we are not able to be with one another, the adaptation to the online format on everyone's part went extremely smoothly: the way hands were raised, solutions and recommendations brought up, and the respectful and serious manner in which every participant approached their role. I was impressed and very proud of this cohort of representatives, as it was clear for all to see how strong and flexible we are as a school, adapting even to the most surprising of circumstances.

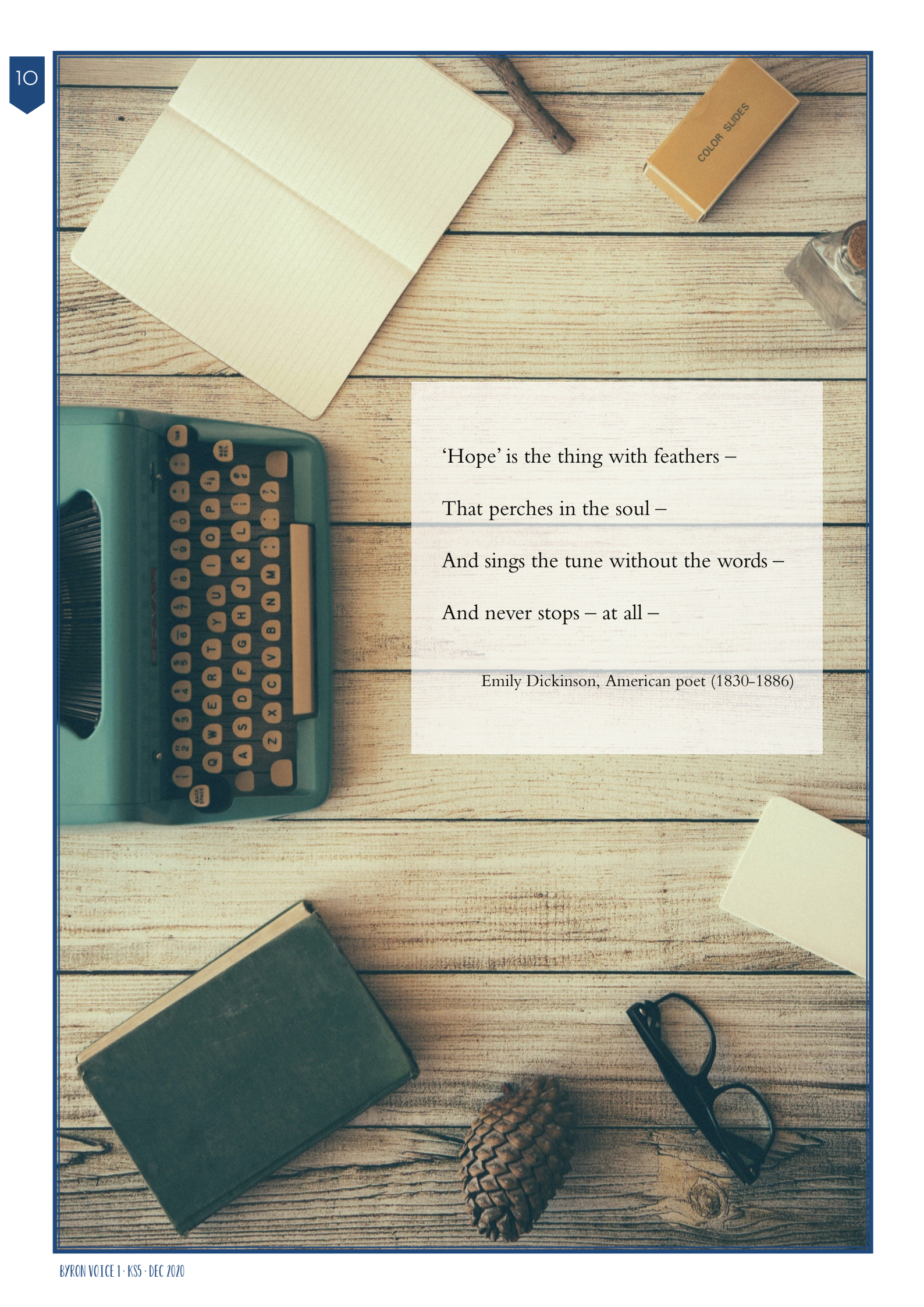
In a broader sense than the way in which the Student Council constitutes your voice within our school community, I believe that ending this update on a more personal note in these weird and crazy times might be helpful. I know sometimes it can get lonely and difficult to stay quarantined far from friends, loved ones, and staying at home all the time. But please know that we're all experiencing the same difficulties and I want each of you to know that we are in this together. The Byron community is stronger than it has ever been, all of your friends and teachers are supportive, and know that we all need one another, to be comforting, loving, and understanding.

In fact, think about it: we can actually take the opportunity that these difficult times present to become the best versions of ourselves. Why not take one minute of your day to ask anyone you care about, "Hey, are you ok?". Let them know they have someone to talk to and have a conversation with - meet new people you have never spoken to - make groups and have a laugh, Zoom, do something fun with your friends online! Remember that this will pass and we will all come back stronger, better, and healthier, ready to move on with our lives and mindful of how much these experiences have taught us and helped as to grow as individuals. And if you just take away one thing from this letter, may it be this:

"Be kind to one another, love one another, and remember that we are going to push through this together."



Liya Aksir, Year 13A



'Hope' is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –

Emily Dickinson, American poet (1830-1886)



ARTICLES

FROM 'CITY ON THE HILL' TO FALLEN GRACE:

HOW THE NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE US FACES AN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DILEMMA

Divisive is American politics, divisive more its global impact; so, when a change at the helm is announced, new tensions and new trajectories alike emerge. No different is it in the case of the 46th President-elect, Democrat Joe Biden, and the problems placed before him. While it is true that a bipartisan system is intentionally constructed – for it is the very engagement of creating binary opposition that allows a unitary form of governance, in the absence of which, as in the case of all empires, this falls upon its own weight – it seems that America is in its own decline regardless. The economic sphere is as fragile as it was in the lead-up to the 2008 crisis; the political role it plays in international relations is even more doubtful; in the meantime, the societal damages done to the local population are evident. Therefore the problems can broadly be categorised into these three pillars, and the treatment of such will not only dictate the direction of America as a whole, but the entire global landscape.

The economics governing the current American system is perilous, to say the least. The Public Debt America Joe Biden woke up to on the day of his victory was \$24,974,171,868,164.35, or roughly \$80,000 per individual within the country (more than the average income). Furthermore, research and development investment has had increased stagnation, whilst multinational trade ties have

been put into question. Therefore, what is the overall picture these components represent? Put simply, a nation that is sacrificing future development for current burdens and putting themselves in an ever more isolated position amongst international trade. This is a far cry from the nation which held near half the world's wealth in the 1900s. However, what does a mere numerical evaluation mean when the rate of inflation is increasing at a rapid pace due to the excessive central bank lending programs installed to revive the economy? What we see now is a devaluing of their own debt by devaluing their currency itself, but the consequences of this are profound. The increase in cost of living is rising at a faster rate than the increase in wage, but what we see then is individuals who not only have an inflated holding of currency, but the purchasing power of it is even lower than before. Therefore the conclusion of this, put simply, is that inflation is happening to everyone, not just the individuals who have to pay for food and rent. There is a known phenomenon in economics known as the multiplier effect, essentially referring to how one input circulates throughout an economy and generates a substantial amount more than its initial value. To avoid boring one's eyes with mathematics, essentially within America for every one million extra invested in the economy, 1,050,000 is generated and used. Therefore, if we



PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE BIDEN AND VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT KAMALA HARRIS AT THEIR VICTORY SPEECH

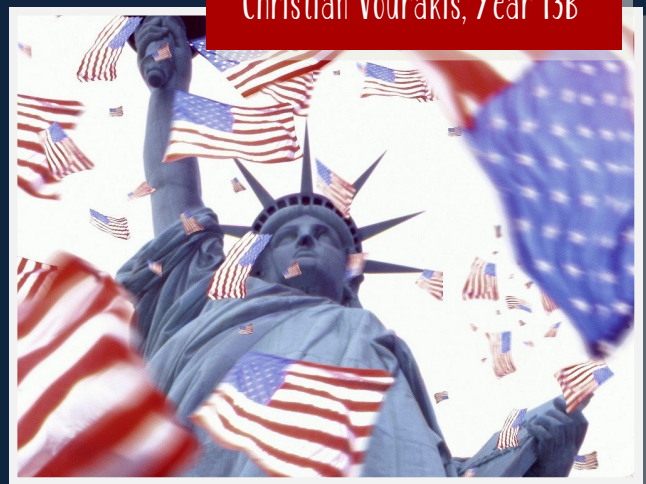
view debt in a different light, as rather the restriction of capital, we can see that the overwhelming debt is cutting out nearly 26 trillion in potential stimulus. Not to mention, indeed, that an unburdened economy circulates inputs more efficiently: calculating that in, the number can easily reach 35-40 trillion depending on the change of the efficiency variable. All of this is to say that the US economy is a monolith: too big to be efficient, too inefficient to last. This leads to a lack of innovation and advancement in the fields that America has been known for, the very fields which allowed investment and value creation to begin with. Thus, it is unclear whether it is a dead economy operating, or a genuine problem that can be solved. It appears that all analysis points towards the former.

Politically and sociologically, America fares no better, the strain of economic restriction causing unrest and fuelling narratives of injustice further – all to the end of driving the wedge further between people and state. It does seem, however, that in the crucible America has gone through more engagement in the youth has been found, and that is a positive indicator at least. For that is Biden's number one priority: any economic change, any political change, any change at all at this point, is only possible if you devise a new narrative where the individual feels they play a role in society, that they are not some pawn to be moved around for a greater design. Forms of communication must be opened up, otherwise increased social apathy leads to feeling of disillusionment; and if one has nothing to lose, aimless and destructive social strife emerges, as can be seen in recent times with the burning of

New York and so forth. However, Biden is in the unfortunate predicament that he cannot respond to all social demands. America has reached a boiling point and all groups, one way or another, have aired their concerns. Yet to meet all is to be inefficient: too many conflicts of interests, too little time. Decisiveness will be the necessary hallmark quality, to restructure the economy in a way that is profitable enough to last, whilst dealing with the demands of a more engaged population. This is a thin line and falling on either side will lead to a fall-out that will effectively end the continuation of a nation that has formerly been at the forefront. This is the final issue: not only is a fight for local stabilisation needed, but a reinventing of identity in the geopolitical world. America has historically exerted tremendous 'soft' power in cultural terms as well as geopolitical influence across the globe, in the form of its economic and political clout as well as interventionist foreign policy. However, given that the US is no longer the economic power it once was, political deference to this nation is no longer as apparent. Isolationist, exceptionalist behaviour on the part of its leaders can no longer be afforded, especially given that their major trade wars are also with the very people holding the majority of their debt, China being a pertinent example.

Ultimately, America presents as a nested issue, from the individual, to its markets, to its international status. None can be neglected at this point as they are all interconnected variables. Thus if Biden is to make any success of the position he has won, it must come with choosing all focuses in the hope you do not lose all. •

Christian Vourakis, Year 13B



TIME TO BRIDGE THE GAP:

HEALTH IS A HUMAN RIGHT STILL OUT OF BOUNDS TO MILLIONS

In Japan, the life expectancy is 84 years, whereas in Chad it is only 54. Children born in Angola are 75 times more likely to die than those born in Finland. Suicide rates are nine times higher in the homeless population.

These facts are just a small portion of an excruciatingly long list of health inequalities that our world faces today. The access to care and treatment differs depending on various factors such as income, ethnicity, and residential area. However, in reality, if we truly think about it, the chances of living a healthy and long life ultimately depend on luck: if someone happens to be born in Japan, they get to live an extra thirty years compared to someone born in Chad, for example. It is extremely unfair that a factor that is out of someone's direct control can determine and shape the rest of their life.



MATERNAL DEATHS IN THE AFRICAN REGION

Giving birth to a human being is one of life's miracles but in Africa it is pretty much like a lottery: two thirds of the maternal deaths occurring worldwide happen in Africa. Mothers can die because of excessive bleeding after giving birth, infections, complications from delivery or unsafe abortions. Women often bleed to death because there is no professional to help deliver the baby. However, today, in the 21st century, we have the resources and knowledge to easily avoid such deaths. Although this is a very complex issue, there can be a few realistic solutions such as solving the lack of information, educating individuals about delivering babies effectively, as well as providing cheap and effective contraceptive methods.

HEALTH IS A HUMAN RIGHT



FAMILY
PLANNING



ANTENATAL
VISITS



SKILLED BIRTH
ATTENDANTS



VACCINES



ANTI-RETROVIRAL
TREATMENT



TUBERCULOSIS
TREATMENT



INSECTICIDE-
TREATED BED NETS

THAT 400 MILLION ARE WAITING FOR

MENTAL HEALTH IN CONFLICT ZONES

Health is often perceived solely as a physical concept, but it is important always to remember that mental health is equally as important. One in five people living in a conflict zone have a form of mental disorder. These people are often traumatised by violence, by losing loved ones, or their homes. The World Health Organisation is already doing a lot to help such individuals: they have created guides to help establish mental health support, for example. However, our world still remains ignorant about mental health issues, and it should be one of our goals to destroy the stigma associated with mental illnesses. In order for measures to be taken to help these affected people, our societies should first of all acknowledge the importance of mental health.



It is easy for us to think that there is nothing we can do to help these people, and that the government or NGOs should do more to solve these problems. Although it is true that extensive measures should be taken (such as improving the access of medical technology, educating societies, and creating more public policies), there are still things that we can personally do to help out. Any small contribution can even drastically improve someone's life. We can donate hygiene products, volunteer at organisations or social services, and spread awareness.

It is extremely important for us to recognise how lucky we are. Not everyone has the luxury of simply booking a doctor's appointment whenever they feel ill. This privilege should not be taken for granted. •

Be well
Stay well
Do well

Value
your
mind

Wadad El-Khoury, Year 13A

A DIDACTIC HIKE: AN ALTERNATIVE REFORMATION PROCEDURE IN A CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE SYSTEM



Terre des Hommes' is a Non-Profit Organisation that fights against child abuse, sexual exploitation, child trafficking, child labour and provides emergency assistance to children around the globe. Their mission is to fight child exploitation and to ensure that children who find themselves accused of violating the law are not deprived of their fundamental human rights.

Being a member of 'Terre des Hommes' and defending children's human rights has been an eye-opening experience. Indeed, meeting online due to Covid-19 has been an interesting encounter that has shown me that persistence and willingness will always guide us to find innovative solutions. In our last online meeting, Ms Moustaka, an advocate within the NGO, gave us an amazing opportunity to be profoundly impactful in the EU justice system. We were informed that the EU has requested us to contribute to the formation of a strategy on topics that need to be improved in order to create a child-friendly justice system that will secure children's protection and rehabilitation. In this meeting we were introduced to the way in which children's rights intersect both with the law for offenders and for victims. In our discussion of the topic we mentioned the thin line that can distinguish a child from a perpetrating role to a victim one, as due to their young age these are often interchangeable.



seuil

TÉMOIGNAGE

"GRÂCE À CETTE MARCHÉ, J'AI CHANGÉ. JE PENSE QUE JE NE SERAI PLUS LE MÊME D'ORÉNAVANT. A VOUS TOUS, JE VOUS DIS DE FAIRE LE CHEMIN. FAITES-LE POUR VOUS, PAS POUR LES AUTRES."

Joris, 16 ans

©SEUIL

terre des hommes 
stops child exploitation



TRANSLATION:
"THANKS TO THIS HIKE, I'VE CHANGED. I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO BE THE SAME AS I USED TO BE. I URGE YOU ALL TO DO THIS HIKE. DO IT FOR YOU, NOT FOR ANYONE ELSE."

JORIS, 16



Moreover, we were shown a video of a girl who had been kicked out of her home and subsequently fallen on the wrong side of the law; after some arduous months she was given the opportunity to join an individual educational walk, literally. The 'Association Seuil' offered her the opportunity to walk 1700 km in 90-105 days with an adult and a supporting group across medieval pilgrimage routes. The rules are that the child is completely distanced from any form of electronic devices and that every day they need to spend some time in total silence. This alternative reformation procedure aims for these children to give up their everyday comforts, distance themselves from their previous toxic environment, and refocus on their goals and aspirations. This highlights the need for children of this generation to be distanced from plaguing external distractions as due to age and inexperience they are unable to properly filter and comprehend all the excessive information they inadvertently internalise.

TRANSLATION:

"TOWN AFTER
TOWN, KILOMETRE
AFTER KILOMETRE,
I AM CHANGING
DAY BY DAY."

YSIA, 17



The case of this girl, amongst thousands of children who have found their lives at a dead end through no fault of their own before their lives have even truly begun, exemplifies the multiple unconventional and innovative solutions that can be found before labelling a child as undesirable and a lost cause. For me personally, after reading journals written by the children who embarked on this journey of self-discovery, it gave me hope and filled me with encouragement for future ideas that will ensure that children all over the globe will be treated with the esteem, tolerance, and compassion they need. •

Andriana Radou, Year 13A

OVERCOMING THE ODDS: SPORTS AND DISABILITY



**"COURAGE DOESN'T MEAN YOU DON'T GET AFRAID.
COURAGE MEANS YOU DON'T LET FEAR STOP YOU."**

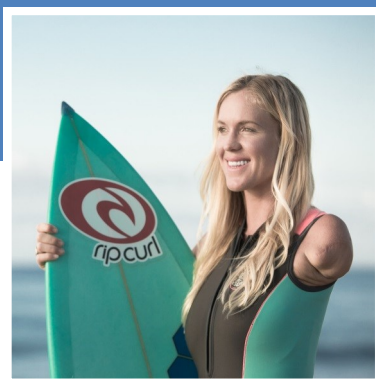
The above words are spoken by Bethany Hamilton, a girl raised by surfers in Hawaii who was attacked at the age of 13 by a vicious shark. She lost her hand, but one month later she was back on her surfboard with a positive attitude and determination to become even better. There are a vast majority of athletes who have made great and overwhelming achievements despite their disabilities. Another amazing example is Oscar Pistorius, an Olympic runner with no legs who has set world records in the Paralympics.

Unfortunately, many countries do not provide the same opportunities for athletes with physical disadvantages as they do for regular athletes. People with disabilities face major barriers that do not allow them to participate and to be physically active due to the lack of special facilities, equipment and the creation of specialist teams for disabled athletes. However, in more recent times there has been a push to promote disabled participation as events such as the Paralympics were created and societal perspectives have become more understanding and positive. The Paralympics have allowed disabled individuals to become 'heroes', role models, and to push themselves and be admired by society for their great success. The Paralympic Games not only try to highlight the ongoing inequalities faced by people with disabilities, but they also emphasise that sport should be accessible to all people.

Besides being fun to play, sports can give you an emotional boost and make you feel proud of your accomplishments. There are numerous physical, mental, and social benefits just from sports participation. It is really important therefore to reduce these inequalities and to develop a sense of awareness, as well as respect and acceptance for those with physical difficulties. Only then can disabled athletes finally be allowed to have equal opportunities and to meet their physical goals. •

Ana Koula, Year 13B

**BETHANY HAMILTON,
AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL
SURFER**



**TOP AND BOTTOM:
PARALYMPIC ATHLETES**

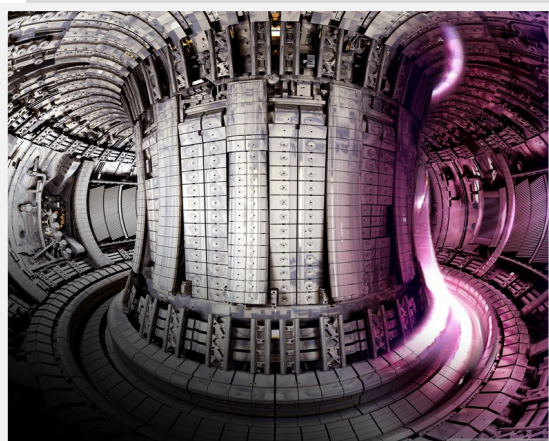
FUSION ENERGY AND THE ITER PROJECT: HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE SUN ON EARTH



Fusion energy is one of the most promising future energy sources along with renewables. But what is it? In simple terms, it is a star on earth. Fusion is the reaction that occurs on the surface of our sun and in all the stars of the universe. The basic principle of nuclear fusion is that when atomic nuclei combine, high amounts of energy are released. Nuclear fusion is exactly the opposite of nuclear fission, which is what happens at nuclear power stations. Nuclear fusion is eco-friendly as its only major by-product is helium gas. In addition there is no way a Fukushima-type accident would ever occur due to fundamental differences in the physical principle. Assuming that there were a leak in their high-tech safety system and radioactive waste released into the environment, the atoms released would not pose any serious danger. The biggest project which has been attempted to build an efficient fusion reactor is the ITER project.



The ITER TOKAMAK reactor weighs 23,000 tons, and can generate temperatures that reach ten times that in the core of a star (150 million degrees Celsius). It achieves this with a very simple principle. Hydrogen isotopes are inserted into the reaction and quickly become ionised. The temperature of the gas increases rapidly and becomes plasma. Huge magnetic coils around the reactor make sure that the plasma does not touch the reactor walls; otherwise these will be destroyed. The particles are heated to such an extent that they overcome their natural electromagnetic propulsion and fuse, releasing huge amounts of energy. This process occurs in about 600 seconds and at that moment the output of the reactor is 500 MW.



ITER is currently under construction in France and the infrastructure for Phase One is almost finished. The first scheduled test for first plasma will take place in 2025 and, if all goes well, it will be fully operational by 2035. The project's costs are roughly \$20 billion but this value is likely to increase as it has in the past.

**TOP: PHASE ONE OF THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE ITER
NUCLEAR FUSION REACTOR**

**BOTTOM: THE JOINT EUROPEAN
TORUS (JET) FUSION REACTOR**

To conclude, if the ITER project is successful there is a high chance that in fifteen years the world will be benefitting from fusion energy which will create a sustainable future for humanity, as opposed to our current dependence on unsustainable and harmful fossil fuels. •

Alex Kiayas, Year 13B

WHO WILL WIN THE RACE, THE CROWN OR THE CURE?

THE RACE FOR A CORONAVIRUS VACCINE*

FIG. 1: CORONAVIRUS

Predominantly the crown-like spiked Coronavirus denoted as COVID-19, is a respiratory illness triggered by an enveloped, single-stranded RNA beta coronavirus, systematically referred to as SARS-CoV-2. Obscurely, coronaviruses in humans were first detected in the 1960s.

Thus, fast-forwarding to 2020, the peak of the eclipsing COVID-19 pandemic, vaccines have emerged as a resolution. In fact, the introduction of a vaccine will prevent 'the loss of 375 billion dollars to the global economy every month.'

COVAX is a global scheme co-led by Gavi and WHO with 189 participating member states pledging to ensure equitable access for all world nations. Profoundly, it has secured at least 200 million doses with private sector funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

November witnessed a breakthrough by the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine sparking hope globally as a vaccine with up to 95% effectiveness was developed at unprecedented speed. Being a novel RNA vaccine, it utilises tiny fragments of the virus genetic code enclosed in minute fat bubbles as a gateway to enter cells in order to stimulate an immune response against the coronavirus, which will be provided in 'two doses, three weeks apart.' A sample size of 43,500 volunteers in six nations partook in their COVID-19 inoculation, resulting in 'no safety

concerns raised.' The expectation is to release '50 million doses by the end of 2020' and distribute 1.3 billion doses by the denouement of next year.

The Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine was developed by Oxford scientists who engineered a chimpanzee common cold virus 'to become the building block of a vaccine against almost anything.' Sample data was collected from two separate trials, one in Brazil and the other in the UK, and they concluded 'that the full dose vaccine was 62% effective but the half dose 90%.' Albeit due to the laboratory dosing error violating the trial's protocol, a significantly reduced number of people received the half-dose than the full-dose vaccine, which casts doubt on the small sample sizes and consequently undermining the reliability of the results. AstraZeneca has stated that it will produce 3 billion doses for the world in 2021.

Russia's Sputnik V vaccine's mechanism is similar to that of the Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine. Further enlightening, its developers claim that it has 91.4% efficacy in a sample of 18,000 people. Currently, it is predicted that 1 billion doses will be produced in 2021, with January marking the commencement of its international distribution. Technically, it deploys adenovirus "vectors" to provide a gene that codes for spike proteins of the surface of SARS-CoV-2.

BEST AND WORST SUPPLIED

Canada has pre-ordered almost 9 doses of COVID-19 vaccines per person.

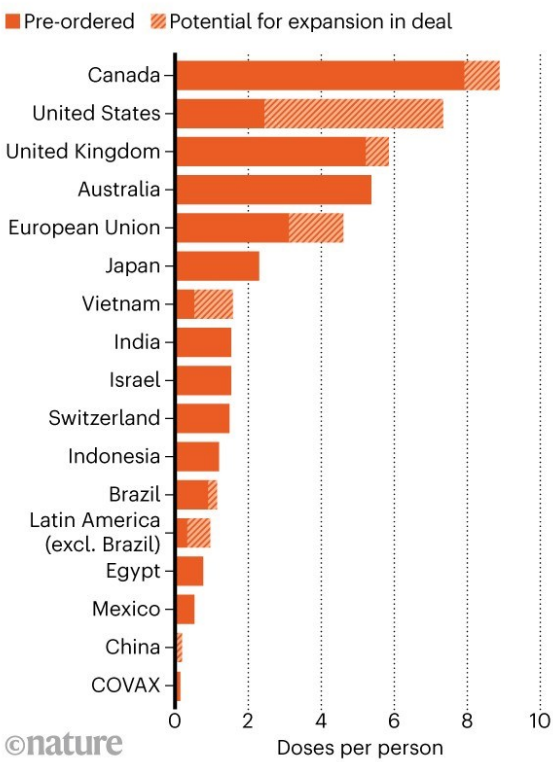


FIG. 2: COUNTRIES' VACCINE DOSES PER PERSON

Deriving from recipients of Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines, 2% of them developed fevers of 39°C to 40°C. Despite Moderna's advantage regarding transport over Pfizer/BioNTech, an independent interim analysis of both administration trials corroborated that relatively fewer partakers in the Pfizer/BioNTech jab experienced side effects, with 5.9% less fatigue and 2.5% fewer headaches than participants in Moderna's trials.

An immunologist at the University of Pennsylvania, Drew Weissman, professed that the side effects "mean the vaccine is working well, [it] means you had such a good immune response to the first dose and now you are seeing the effects of that."

Tackling the disparities that lie in vaccine accessibility, UNICEF in efforts with PAHO (Pan-American Health Organization) have committed to vaccine 'purchase and delivery for 92 low and lower-middle-income economies as quickly and securely as possible.' Steps in this direction have been made with arrangements established with both global airlines and cargo shipping, both to be deployed as means of transporting almost 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine doses and 1 billion syringes in 2021. •

FIG. 3: COMPARING COVID-19 VACCINES

**All references available upon request.*

How some of the Covid-19 vaccines compare

Company	Type	Doses	How effective*	Storage	Cost per dose
Oxford Uni-AstraZeneca	Viral vector (genetically modified virus)	x2	62-90%	Regular fridge temperature	£3 (\$4)
Moderna	RNA (part of virus genetic code)	x2	95%	-20C up to 6 months	£25 (\$33)
Pfizer-BioNTech	RNA	x2	95%	-70C	£15 (\$20)
Gamaleya (Sputnik V)	Viral vector	x2	92%	Regular fridge temperature (in dry form)	£7.50 (\$10)

*preliminary phase three results, not yet peer-reviewed

Source: Respective companies, WHO



Noha El-Hajj, Year 13A

UNTOLD SPOILS OF WAR:

THE BITTER TRUTH OF ART THEFT IN NAZI GERMANY

Germany's establishment as a Nazi state wreaked havoc across Europe, inflicting insurmountable death and trauma on its victims, mainly during the years of the Second World War from 1939 to 1945.



Another terrible aspect of Nazi Germany that is often overlooked is that of art theft across Europe. The Nazi regime looted about 20% of all of Europe's art during the war years, and unfortunately over 100,000 art artefacts were never returned to their rightful owners. Art was stolen from churches, monasteries, and museums, as well as from people's personal belongings.

Such looting was most notable in Poland and Austria. In Poland, the loss of art is abhorrent. Its loss is valued at approximately 20 billion US dollars, and aside from monetary loss, this loss accounted for 43% of Poland's cultural heritage at the time. Regarding the return to their rightful owners, there have been negotiations between Poland and Germany on this issue; these have been, for the most part, futile in truly achieving their intended purpose. Also worth mentioning is art theft in relation to Austria. Austria was one of the main storage sites for looted art, such as in the Altaussee Salt Mines where nearly 5,000 pieces of art were stored, taken both from Austria but also from other occupied territories.

A notable case of art theft during Nazi Germany was that concerning the portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I, 'The Woman in Gold', which was stolen by the Nazis in 1941. It was stolen from a Jewish banker, and upon the collapse of Nazi Germany, given to the Galerie Belvedere. It was established that the Galerie Belvedere contained several works stolen from Jewish owners during the war, and that the gallery had refused to return the art to their original owners, or to acknowledge that a theft had taken place. After a legal battle lasting for more than seven years, the portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I was finally returned to its rightful heir, Maria Altmann, in 2005, 64 years after it was stolen from its rightful owners.

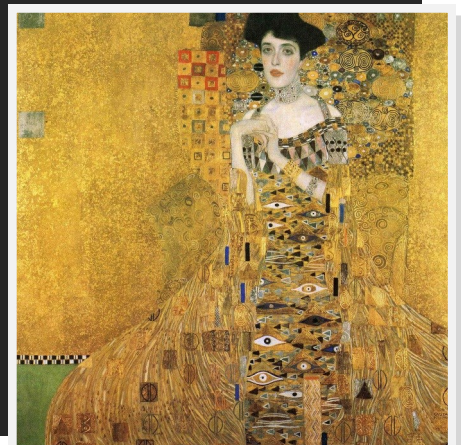
The theft and complete loss of artworks during the Nazi onslaught on Europe is emblematic of the scale of damage wreaked by occupation and war, taking so many more things in addition to the worst impact of all, the death or long-span mental and physical injury of innocent individuals. •

Fotis Giannousas, Year 12

**TOP AND BOTTOM:
PLUNDER OF
ARTWORKS AND
ILLICIT STORAGE**



**RIGHT: GUSTAV KLIMT – THE WOMAN IN GOLD
(PORTRAIT OF ADELE BLOCH-BAUER I) (1903-7)**





“OUT, OUT, BRIEF CANDLE”: THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE PERFORMING ARTS INDUSTRY

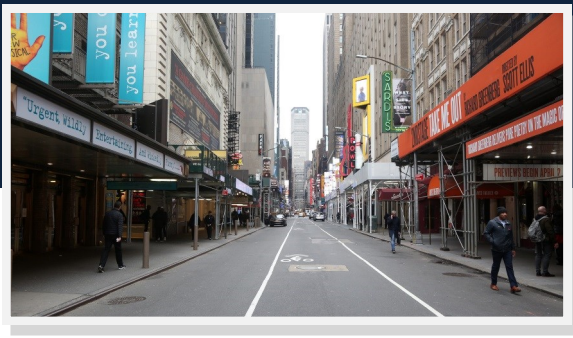
The COVID-19 pandemic has had a

significant impact on the performing arts, mirroring its impacts across all arts sectors. This is due to physical distancing requirements and closure of physical venues, curtailing not only public performances but rehearsals as well.

Many performing arts institutions have attempted to adapt by offering new digital services. In particular this resulted in the free online streaming of previously recorded performances of many companies, especially orchestral performances and plays. In response, there were intensive efforts to provide alternative or additional services through digital platforms, to maintain essential activities with minimal resources, and to document the events themselves through new acquisitions, including new creative works inspired by the pandemic. Many performers have gone to social media platforms to continue to entertain people and support themselves financially during these unprecedented times.

The fine and performing arts industries will be hit hardest, suffering estimated losses of almost 1.4 million jobs and \$42.5 billion in sales. These estimated losses represent 50% of all jobs in these industries and more than a quarter of all lost sales across the US. The West End show *Waitress* and *Frozen* on Broadway announced that they are closed permanently, despite believing at the time of their announcements that they would be able to reopen after the shutdown. While *9 to 5: The Musical*, *Beetlejuice*, *The Inheritance*, and *Thriller* had been scheduled to end, they were forced to close earlier than expected. Both *Hangmen* and the revival of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* on Broadway cancelled their entire run, though they managed to have a few preview performances prior to the Broadway shutdown.

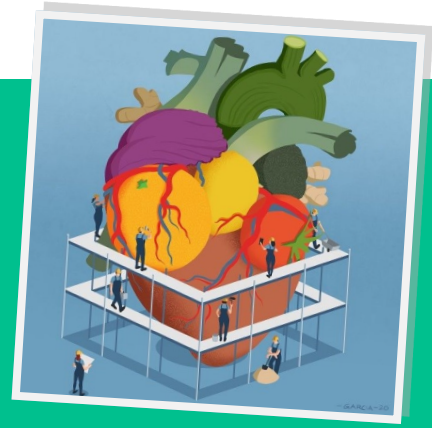
Overall there has been a massive impact on the actors but also many plays are being forced to shut down as they have no money to stay open, nor do they have an estimated time for reopening. They have tried their best to come up with different ways to express their talents or stream old performances, but this alternative isn't sustainable for their survival. This will simply not be an option if the theatres stay closed for much longer. •



Alex Velissarios, Year 13B

BROADWAY SHOWS SHUTTERED

VEGANISM: MANNA FROM HEAVEN OR DIFFICULT TO STOMACH?



You might have heard of the term 'veganism' as it has grown increasingly popular nowadays with the rise of the grave issues of climate change and global warming. However, have you truly understood the meaning of this term? Why has it become such a hot topic, and for what reasons have people begun to practise it?

Veganism is a lifestyle which wishes to omit any forms of animal exploitation and cruelty. This includes the removal of meat or any products with ingredients derived from animals as well as purchasing clothing that is not made from animals or avoiding products that have been tested on animals (however, in some cases this may be inevitable, for example, to test medicine). A major reason as to why many people have decided to adopt this way of living is animal cruelty. This is basically the neglect or abuse of animals which is a huge ethical issue in today's society, especially since cases of animal cruelty involve living animals experiencing pain and suffering. Cases of animal abuse can be found in multiple factory farms and this is one of the major triggers making people resort to veganism.



Other reasons as to why people become vegan include multiple health benefits such as lower blood sugar levels and improved kidney function as well as decreasing the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. This last benefit has been proven by a study by the American Diabetes Association and National Cholesterol Program, demonstrating how a vegan diet is more efficient in reducing blood sugar levels in diabetes. It can also protect one from multiple types of cancer such as prostate, breast, and colon cancer. Furthermore, it is associated with lower risk of heart disease.



Beesan Abu-Salah, Year 12

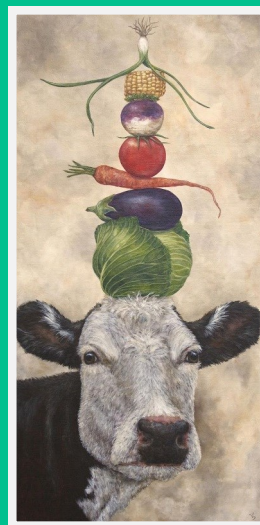


Now, you may be questioning how veganism is related to climate change and how our diet can help slow down the process of our planet heating up. By boycotting meat, there is less demand for animal agriculture (which is a major contributor to climate change). Animal agriculture has profound negative impacts on the environment, since trees are cut down to provide land for animal populations and the process of transporting animals is also detrimental due to the release of large amounts of carbon dioxide into the air. Further, these animals produce large amounts of a gas known as methane, a greenhouse gas that further amplifies our issue of global warming.

Nonetheless, veganism is no perfect practice. There may be some health risk factors when making this decision. People who wish to become vegan may struggle with ensuring that they are provided with enough iron, zinc, vitamin D, calcium, and more. Additionally, if they were to develop a vitamin B12 deficiency, this can result in irreversible damage to the nerves or nervous system.

Although the term 'veganism' was established in around 1944 by a British woodworker called Donald Watson, the concept of not eating meat was existent long before that and was most predominantly practised in ancient India and eastern Mediterranean societies.

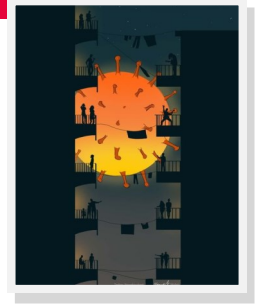
In conclusion, one must evaluate this concept and approach it with an open mind in order to explore new ways of bettering one's life and making the best decisions one can possibly make. •



HOW TO LEAD A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Having experienced the previous lockdown we can all say that it wasn't very easy to stay motivated and optimistic. By being deprived of the opportunity to see our loved ones and interact with other people it is normal to start feeling frustrated after a while. During this second lockdown we have the opportunity to make things better for ourselves; by following some simple techniques we can make our time at home much more enjoyable.

It is important to realise that when we talk about health we are referring to two main aspects of it, physical and mental. Mental health is all about our psychology and physical involves our diet and fitness.



PHYSICAL HEALTH



STAYING ACTIVE

During the lockdown we don't have the opportunity to go to our local gym and exercise. Even though it might seem difficult to stay active at first we need to remember that there are many ways in which we can preserve our fitness. Going for a brisk walk or jog outside in uncrowded areas outdoors is really easy to do and a great way to stay fit away from the gym.

MAINTAINING A HEALTHY DIET

While no foods or dietary supplements can prevent or cure COVID-19 infection, a healthy diet is important for supporting our immune system. It is important to eat a variety of foods to ensure an adequate intake of important nutrients and also to drink water regularly to stay well hydrated and to help boost the immune system. Another key thing to consider is to limit the intake of foods high in fats, sugar and salt and to avoid ordering food frequently.

DURING LOCKDOWN



MENTAL HEALTH

With all the change and uncertainty in life at the moment, taking care of your mental health has never been more important.

SELF-CARE

Taking the time to care for yourself is very crucial during such a difficult period as it can help improve your overall wellness. An effective way of reducing stress and anxiety that many of us struggle with especially now is by meditating. It's a great way of promoting emotional health and relaxation. Given that during the lockdown we have a lot of extra time on our hands we can use some of it to spend quality time with our families. While we do that we can take our minds off our daily worries as well as build even stronger connections with our family.

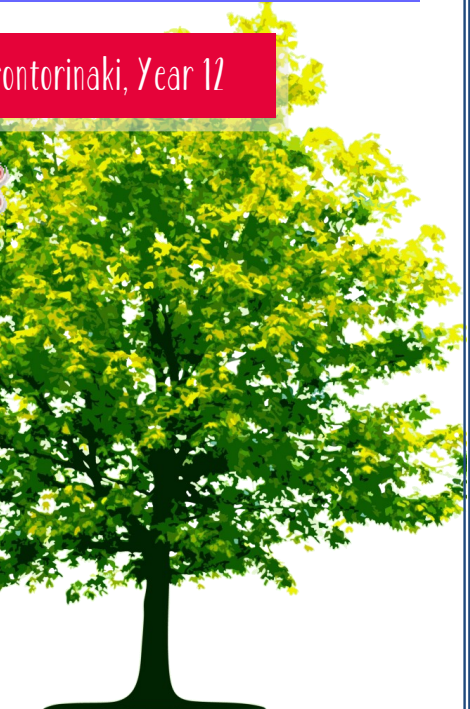
ADEQUATE SLEEP

Sleep plays a fundamental role in mental health. However, now that our daily routines have been disrupted, it's easy to fall into bad sleep cycles. We can achieve a good sleep schedule by focusing on maintaining a regular bedtime, taking some time to relax at the end of the day and avoiding having caffeine or alcohol late at night. •

Elena Vrontorinaki, Year 12

10 TIPS TO STRESS LESS 10

- LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES IN LIFE'S CHALLENGES
- GO FOR A WALK WITH A FRIEND
- FOCUS MORE ON THINGS YOU CAN CONTROL
- ASK FOR HELP
- YOU GIVE SOMEONE A NICE COMPLIMENT
- GET INVOLVED WITH A CAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN
- REMINISCENCE
- GO TO BED EARLIER
- BREATHE
- TAKE A DANCE CLASS



To-do
- write a
to-do list

BEING ON TOP OF A PROCRASTINATION EPIDEMIC

We've all done it before. We've all decided that we'll watch just one more episode of the series we're currently watching before starting our 700-word essay, and before we know it we're in the season finale with zero words having been written. Everyone does this constantly; in fact, even me writing this is a way of procrastinating and not doing my physics homework.

The lockdown has made this worse. Whereas before we were all more or less aware of our procrastination habits, many of us seem to be finding it difficult to understand when we are procrastinating when we are at home constantly. Lockdown has taken a toll on all of our mental health and increased our negative feelings, and therefore procrastination increases.

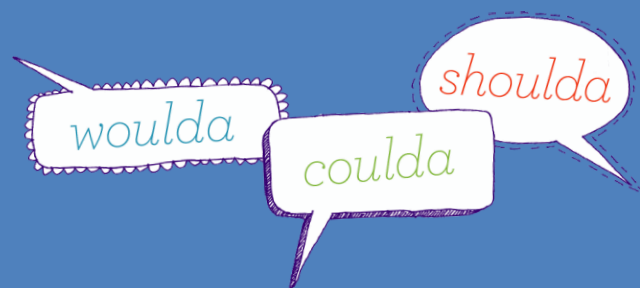
Procrastinating is an easy way out of difficult situations. You simply ignore all your problems and replace them with some

instant gratification that you get from a simple activity, such as watching a movie or playing a video game. However, this can often become detrimental when you realise that you have one day to finish your 2000

-word report that one third of your exam is based on. Obviously, the work eventually gets done, but in the process you lose so much potential for improvement while also having to go through the extreme stress of rushing it at the last minute.

You might say that at least the work gets done on time. What if there is

no deadline? Procrastination doesn't only happen with homework, but it also happens with exam revision, and even more things later on in life. In that case, a month of procrastination can be extremely harmful to your future and have detrimental, long-lasting effects. That's why the habit of procrastination has to be suppressed before it is too late.



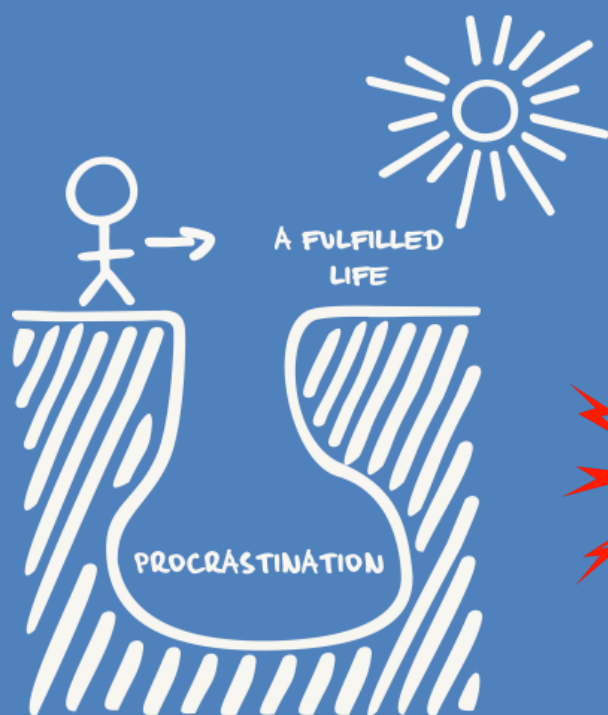
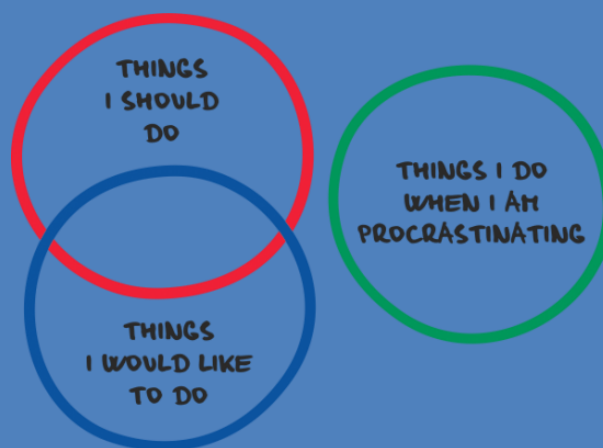
**“Better three hours too soon
Than a minute too late.”**

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR ACT II SCENE 2
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



So what can we do? During the times of Covid-19, it is important to try and maintain positive mental health, thus removing the need for the instant gratification that procrastination gives us. Firstly, to do that, it is important to have walks often enough to change our environment and get some fresh air during this time when we have to stay home. Secondly, it is really important for our mental health to talk to people, and therefore having calls with our friends or texting people can help lift our mood. Exercise can be extremely helpful as well. Even though many people, including me, despise the idea of exercise, it can help release ‘happiness hormones’, such as serotonin and dopamine, which eventually lead to a feeling of joy and relaxation, as well as other positive feelings which are

much needed. Finally, spending time watching a TV show or a movie, or doing a hobby of yours such as drawing, playing an instrument, or whatever else, can help; however, you must make sure not to overdo it and end up neglecting your work, which would be procrastination.



In the end, what's important to realise is that even though we are at home throughout the day, our free time is approximately the same with things such as online school, and therefore we do not have extra time to procrastinate. •



Dimitris Sideris, Year 12

THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF

We live in a world where it is sometimes a challenge to be the best version of one's self. In our youth, we are taught to dream big, to conquer the world, to be the change we want to see in it. However, in the hustle and bustle of what is today's world, we rarely stop and think of what we are doing right now, in this very moment as the earth orbits the sun. So let's put some notions into perspective:

1 Who are you when nobody is watching?

The hurtful truth is that we are all somewhat different when we are on our own or with people we are completely comfortable with. I guess it comes down to having no one to impress or no one to shield one's self from. But what would it be like if you were you with everybody else?

2 If the world was blind, how many people would you impress?

Unfortunately, we live in quite a vain world where physical appearance governs in a plethora of situations. But if the world was blind and one could only explore another by their inner world and character, I am pretty sure your opinion on that cute boy/girl who you spend so much time thinking about would be completely different. I can guarantee more meaningful relationships would develop and it would probably put an end to discrimination.

Tia Gabriel, Year 12

3 Would you like you, if you met you?

I recently asked a few friends this question and it didn't astonish me that the majority of them would fall in love with themselves. However, actually think about it. This is an interesting question and one some people might not wish to dive into: a bit like looking at the mirror and seeing your inner world instead of your reflection.

4 When was the last time you did something for the first time?

It all comes down to the busy schedule we stick to. Honestly, I cannot remember the last time I did something for the first time. Like most people our age, I stick to a programme and I nearly always choose the productive one – but I encourage you all to do something you have never done before this month. Eat ice cream on Christmas Day, send Christmas letters to your friends, randomly tell a friend how much they mean to you.

5 Seven billion people experienced today in a different way.

This makes one feel special in a different kind of way. We all live in a social bubble and sometimes forget that there are other people out there breathing the same moment we are: people who might be having the best day of their lives or a moment they will remember forever.

Remember that everyone is fighting their own battle. So be the reason why someone believes in the goodness of people – be the stranger who smiles if eye contact is made – because at the end of the day, we are all endlessly creating ourselves. And actually, life is beautiful and you have time. •



DELICIOUS PASTA FLORA

You will need:

130g butter
100g sugar
1 tbsp vanilla
2 eggs
210g all-purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
500g fig marmalade



In order to do the traditional Pasta Flora top, roll the remainder of the dough out and cut 12 long strips. Lay 6 of them horizontally and the other 6 vertically.

Tip

Add butter, sugar and vanilla into a bowl and mix until combined. Add one egg and separate the egg white and the egg yolk from the second egg and add only the yolk. Keep the egg yolk aside for later. Increase the speed and continue to mix until combined.

Incorporate flour, baking powder and salt and continue to mix until crumbly texture. Place the contents onto a lightly floured surface and knead until a beautiful dough is formed. Wrap the dough in cling film and refrigerate for 1 hour before use.

Now we can preheat the oven to 190°C on the fan setting.

In the meantime, we can remove the dough from the fridge and place it on a lightly floured surface and knead the dough before we roll 3/4 of it out to the size of our ideal baking pan. The rest of the dough will be used for the design on top.

We can now fill the dough with our fig marmalade or any marmalade of your choice.

This can either be store-bought or homemade.

Now the fun begins and we can design the top layer of the pasta flora with any design of our choice.

Before we bake the Pasta Flora, we beat our egg yolk and brush over the pastry for an extra golden brown and crunchy Pasta Flora.

Place the pasta flora in the oven for 30-40 minutes. We have to let the marmalade get cold before we can serve it, so we must let the Pasta Flora cool for 30 minutes.

Enjoy!





HOMEMADE FIG JAM

You will need:

- 1 kilo of figs
- 96g sugar
- 50g water
- 2 tsp lemon juice

Put your figs into a food processor and blend until mostly smooth. Transfer fig paste into a saucepan and add sugar, water and lemon juice and stir. Bring to a boil over medium heat and stir constantly. ALWAYS BE CAREFUL NOT TO BURN YOURSELF.

After about 10-15 minutes it should be ready! Either place in a jar to let cool or let cool in a saucepan and use in Pasta Flora.



REFRESHING SWEET TEA



You will need:

8 regular black tea bags
 1 cup granulated sugar
 to your preference of
 sweetness
 2 large lemons
 2 cups water
 3 cups ice

In a small saucepan combine sugar and 2 cups of water over high heat and let this boil whilst stirring. Turn the heat off. Tie the 8 tea bags together and add to the saucepan and let steep for 2 hours max. Add tea mixture to a pitcher with 3 cups of ice and enjoy!



Our sweet tip:

When serving the sweet tea, we recommend serving it with ice and sliced lemons for ultimate flavour!



Ada Dyer (Year 13A) & Milana Malyan (Year 13B)

MRS PARADISSI'S MELOMAKARONA - GREEK HONEY MACAROONS



Beat together first 4 ingredients. Sift flour, baking powder and soda 3 times. Add the sifted dry ingredients to the oil mixture and knead gently. Pinch off small portions of dough the size of an egg and form into little patties. Roll them to make oblong rolls. Place on ungreased baking sheet and bake in moderate oven for 25 minutes.

Boil honey, sugar and water for 5 minutes. Pour syrup over "melomakarona". Allow to soak for 15 minutes, take them out of the syrup and place on large plate. Sprinkle with chopped walnuts and cinnamon, if desired. Makes 40.

Χρόνια πολλά  Hronia polla

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!



2 cups olive oil
3/4 cup sugar
3/4 cup orange juice
1/4 cup brandy
7 1/2 - 8 cups sifted flour
2 tps baking power
1 tsp soda
cinammon

You will need:

For the syrup:

1 cup honey
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup water

MRS PARADISSI'S KOURAMBIEDES - GREEK BUTTER COOKIES

Editor's treat



Mix butter and sugar until very light and fluffy. Stir in egg yolk and brandy. Then add sifted flour with baking powder, a little at a time. Knead well until dough is smooth. If it is too soft, add a little flour. Take small pieces of dough and shape into balls, the size of a small egg, or shape into crescents or into small pears and insert a clove in the top of each. Place on lightly greased baking sheets. Bake in moderate oven, about 20 minutes. Roll "kourambiedes" while warm in confectioner's sugar. Then sift sugar over as they must be very well coated. Makes about 3 1/2 dozen.

For "kourambiedes" with almonds, add to the dough 1/2 cup blanched and finely chopped almonds.

Χρόνια πολλά  Hronia polla

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

You will need:

1 cup unsalted butter
3 cups flour (approx.)
1 cup confectioner's sugar
1/2 tsp baking powder
1 egg yolk
1 pound confectioner's sugar
1 tbsp brandy



Kourambiedes are the national cookies of the Greeks for Christmas and New Year's Day.



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UNO FLIP DUEL

A man was sat down in front of his table when three knocks were heard. He stood up and went calmly to open the door. There was another man.

'I bet you were expecting this, Mr Christensen. We informed you yesterday, I'm sure you remember.'

'Yes, I do,' replied Mr Christensen, exhausted.

There was a short pause. 'Well, I see you aren't exactly in tip-top shape, sir,' remarked the guest. 'Anyway, we did not tell you why I would be here, or who I am.'

He shows Christensen his card, which had a small square 1:1 photograph of himself, name "B.C." and another name: "Hunter." 'That's the name they gave me,' he said.

'Anyway,' continued Hunter. 'I've come here to... uh...'. He checks the mission report they gave him. "... analyse the individual in question if they are worthy of life in this world." Well, that's an odd way of putting it, but whatever, my methods remain the same.'

He whips out a box from one of his jacket pockets and shows it to Christensen. With excitement, Hunter exclaims 'UNO Flip!'

Christensen looked at him with confusion. 'Oh, but it's a good one,' Hunter replied. 'Y'know regular UNO? Well, there is now a mysterious...' A short pause for dramatic effect. 'Dark Side. With new symbols,' he states, while trying to stifle his excitement.

'Anyway, let's have a seat,' he said, pointing at the nearby table. They sat down and Hunter got the rules out. 'I recommend you read them,' he said to Christensen, who read it quite quickly. Hunter pulled the cards out, light side facing away. As he shuffled them, he noticed that Christensen was worried by his

unusual excitement over this game.

SLAM! was the sound two cards made as they were, well, slammed onto the table, dark side facing up. ‘Alright!’ Hunter exclaimed. ‘Flip the card I gave you, and I will flip mine.’ Christensen had a 7, while Hunter had a 6.

‘Ah,’ he said with disappointment. ‘This means...’ A pause. ‘Okay...’

He inserted the two cards below the bottom of the stack as if he were loading a gun with a fresh magazine, and gave it, dark side up, for shuffling, to Christensen, who seemed to have a long history with card games. ‘Seven cards each,’ Hunter reminded him.

Christensen complied and remembered to take one more card from the stack and place it on the table, light side up.

Hunter started, as he wasn’t the one who dealt the cards. He opened with a green 7. A thud was heard as Christensen shifted the colour to yellow, with another 7, thus keeping Hunter on alert.

A few cards later, *BAM!* was the noise created as Hunter landed a blue 2, shifting the game again. Neither of them were safe.

Later, a “*KA-BAAM*” made Christensen realise that the game was never going to be the same again. The Flip Card. ‘UNO,’ Hunter yelled as they were flipped to the Dark Side. In this twisted version of reality, Christensen checked the windows in worry. A pitch-black void was ahead. Hunter, however, was not at all concerned.

‘Welcome to the Dark Side!’ he shouted excitedly. He pointed at the discard pile, which had a Dark Side orange 5 facing upwards. Christensen hastily slammed a card while standing up in a legendary fashion.

‘Ah, real shame, though,’ stated Hunter. ‘You didn’t say UNO.’ Two cards lifted themselves from the top of the card stack, and were given to Christensen, one of which was a +5 Card, which would make an opponent take five cards.

A few more cards later, Christensen’s +5 was inserted on the discard pile, with a loud-and-clear “UNO.” Hunter gained 5 cards, and his turn was skipped.

‘Well...’ he spoke. ‘This isn’t looking too good for me.’

A figure of pure Darkness smashed in through the nearby window.

‘What?!’ bellowed Christensen as Monopoly money was handed to the Darkness. ‘What is this?’

‘Calm down,’ Hunter stated in a condescending tone. ‘They are quite interested in pure Earthly objects. There’s nothing like them in this strange world.’ The figure of Darkness vanished afterwards.

‘Don’t worry, they aren’t the only ones who gain an advantage from our transactions. The advantages I get... well... would be considered unbelievably unfair to a person... worthy of life in our world.’

6 of the 7 cards he possessed had been exchanged with other cards in the stack.

Christensen's final card would not match. He would have to take a purple Skip Everyone Card from the stack, a foreshadowing of his doom.

A +5 from Hunter. 'It's time I told you a few things,' he began. 'I'm sure this is no surprise to you, but I am part of a secret global organisation that is completely unknown to the public.'

He viciously placed a Skip Everyone Card. 'The division I'm currently in focuses on vigilante action, as we believe that there isn't enough proper justice in our world.'

'I'm sure you're quickly beginning to see how you tie into all of this, don't you?'

Two more Skip Everyones were put. 'We have occasional contact with this world and its Darkness and worked with them to modify this game box.'

Purple. 'When you read those instructions that quickly, I knew I had found the right guy.'

Hunter breathed in and back out, before he placed his penultimate card. The legendary Reverse Card. 'Uno,' Hunter softly whispered, as if the ghost of the word "UNO" dissipated out of his partially open mouth.

'One last thing. It's not the reason for your imminent fate.'

'The C stands for Christensen.'

As Christensen was beginning to understand what he meant, a figure of Darkness was unleashed to the right of him that began to attract him in. The windows shattered to allow in even more figures of Darkness. Hunter placed down one of his first seven cards: a purple Flip Card.

He then found himself back on Earth. He checked the cards from his father. The points system of the game added them all up to an interesting number.

'Nice,' commented Hunter, before lighting a cigarette and calling his friend at the organisation. 'The job is done,' he told them.

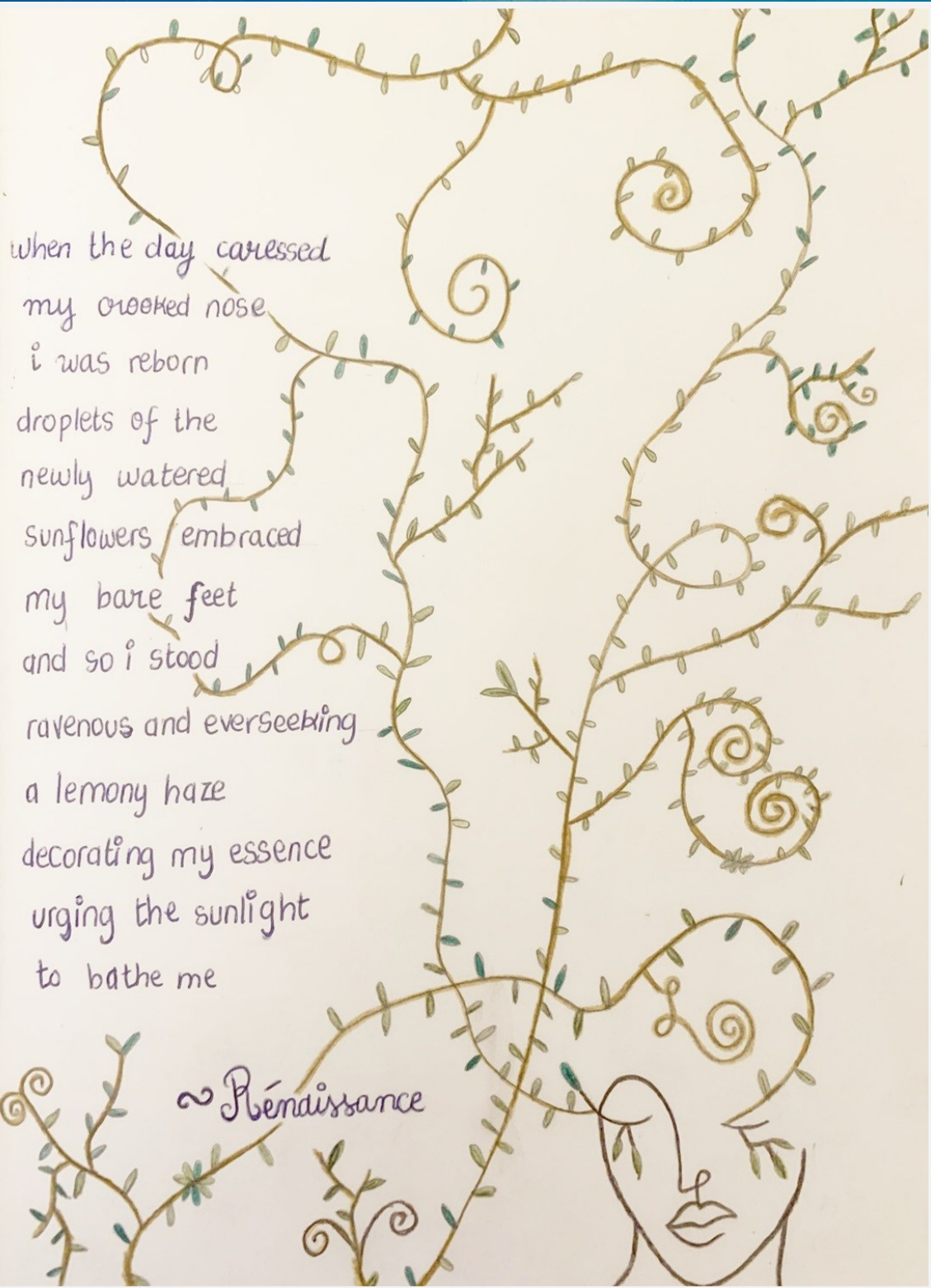
As he was walking to the door, he endured a powerful cough. 'No, no, mate, I'm not, don't worry,' he reassured his friend. He opened the front door. 'It's just... the cold, yeah,' was the last thing the house interior heard before the door was closed for the last time.

Nick Chionas, Year 12

GEORGE FLOYD WAS HIS NAME

A COLOUR IS NOT A BARRIER
 IT IS A SYMBOL OF CULTURE,
 THAT WE FAILED TO FATHOM
 WHY *SHOULD* IT OBSTRUCT FREEDOM?
 IT REFLECTS BEAUTY THAT IS DIVERGENT,
 BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE THAT ARE BENEVOLENT
 A CULTURE THAT INTRODUCED A NEW WORLD,
 A WORLD WHICH RESHAPED OUR HISTORY
 THAT GAVE US THE MUSIC OF CHUCK BERRY
 AND BOXING GREATS SUCH AS MUHAMMAD ALI.
 A VARIETY OF ETHNICITIES AND CREEDS,
 USAIN BOLT AND HIS REMARKABLE SPEEDS.
 THEIR TALENT PUT THEM AT THE VERY TOP
 LIKE MICHAEL JACKSON DUBBED THE "KING OF POP".
 IN ORDER TO UNIFY AND END INJUSTICE
 WE CAN MIRROR NELSON MANDELA'S MORALS
 TO BREAK THE INVISIBLE WALLS,
 SHAKE OUR MISLED MINDS
 AND ALTER OUR FALSE BELIEFS.
 THOUGH THINGS BEGIN IN VARIOUS WAYS
 THIS MOVEMENT BEGAN IN DEATH
 WHEN AN INNOCENT MAN LOST HIS BREATH,
 GEORGE FLOYD WAS HIS NAME
 HIS DEATH WILL NOT BE IN VAIN.
 AS ONLY CHANGE CAN STOP THESE OUTCRIES,
 WHEN WE RIGHT OUR WRONGS AND ABANDON LIES.
 STAND UP BEFORE ANOTHER LIFE SHATTERS
 BECAUSE EVERY SINGLE BLACK LIFE MATTERS.

Rupak Raihan Islam, Year 13A



when the day caressed
my crooked nose
i was reborn
droplets of the
newly watered
sunflowers embraced
my bare feet
and so i stood
ravenous and everseeking
a lemony haze
decorating my essence
urging the sunlight
to bathe me

~ Renaissance

and the sunlight
ripened my being's
fragility, unapologetically.

~MORTUALLY



Charlotte Mavrou, Year 12

Μορδιασμένες, ραγισμένες.
 Λαγούν για μια αιώνη,
 να κοιτάω, μια φορά αιώνη.
 Πως ο αέρας δριψεί τον αέρα και τις νεφέλες ;
 Πως το νερό μελαγχολεί το μελάσι ;
 Πως μονάχα ένα άγγιγμα φρονιάει για γαλήνη ;

Τα νιμφάτα, ωξίωρα
 υποδέχον τον ήλιο τα βράδια, με
 γιατί ;

Μορδιασμένες, ραγισμένες.
 Λαγούν για μια αιώνη,
 να κοιτάω, μια φορά αιώνη.

Μορδιασμένες, ραγισμένες
 ωξίωρα χίμα.
 Πάνε οι αέροι και οι νεφέλες.
 Πάν' τα νιμφάτα, οι μωρακιές και το μελάσι.

Numb, in a haze.
They thirst for a sensation
to feel again, for one more time.
As the wind whips the fields and clouds,
As the freezing metal rends the silk,
How can just one touch awaken a soul?

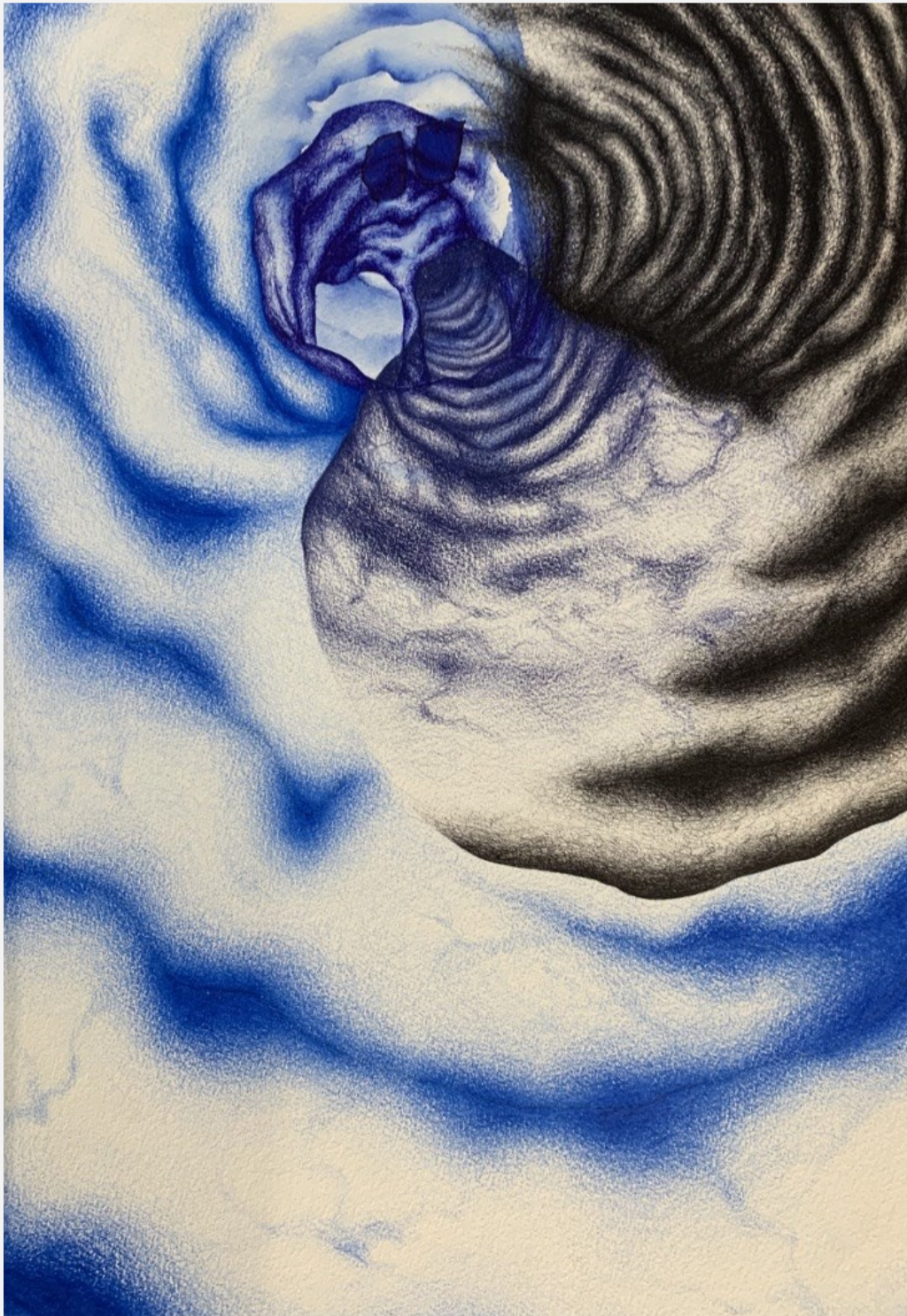
The immense waves
Surge towards the rocks, but -
why?

Numb, in a haze.
They thirst for a sensation
to feel again, for one last time.

Numb, in a haze -
they fall, lifeless.
The fields and the clouds, all vanished.
The waves, the almond trees and the silk.

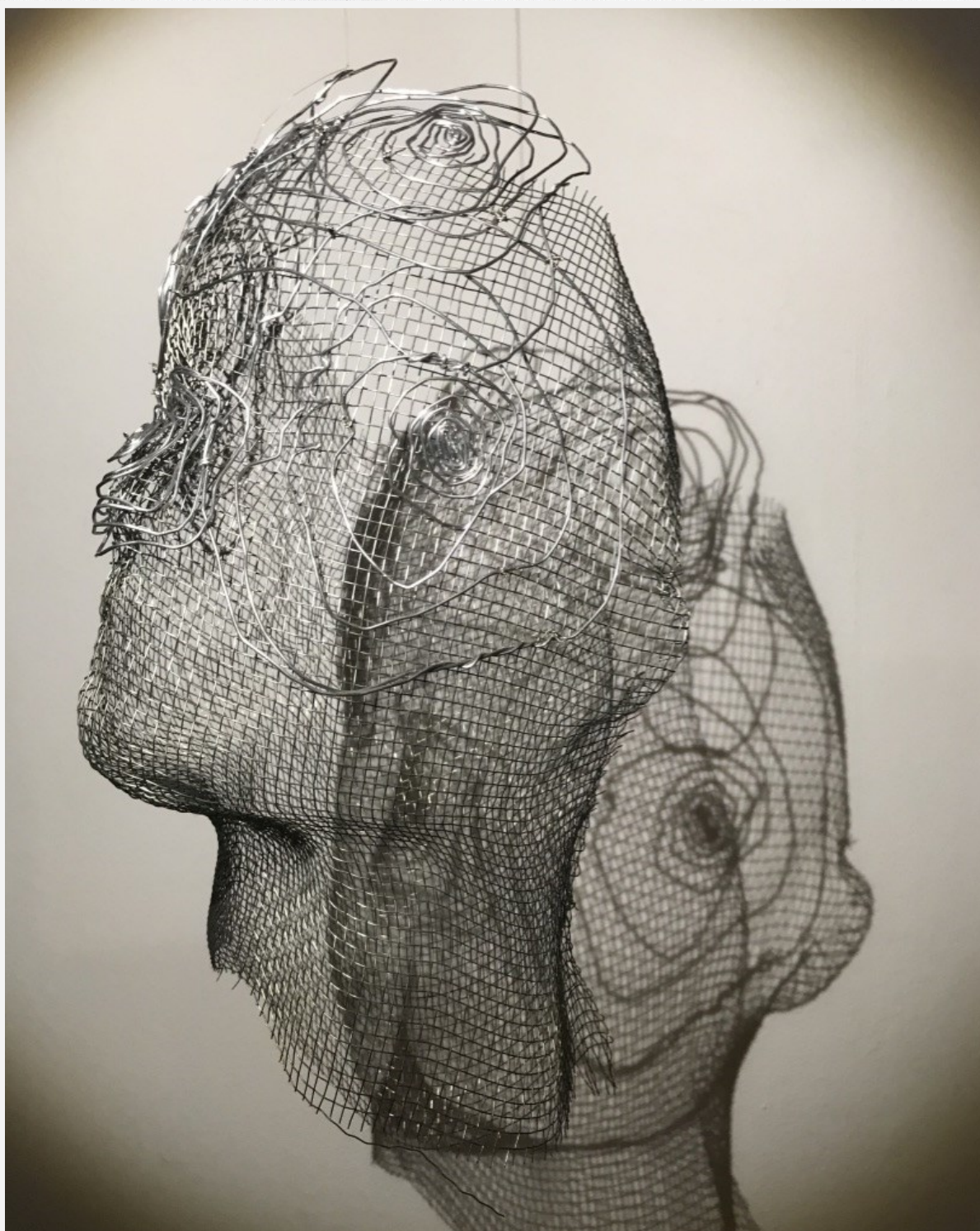
Aithra Anagnostopoulou (Year 13B)

Copperplate calligraphy - Ink on paper



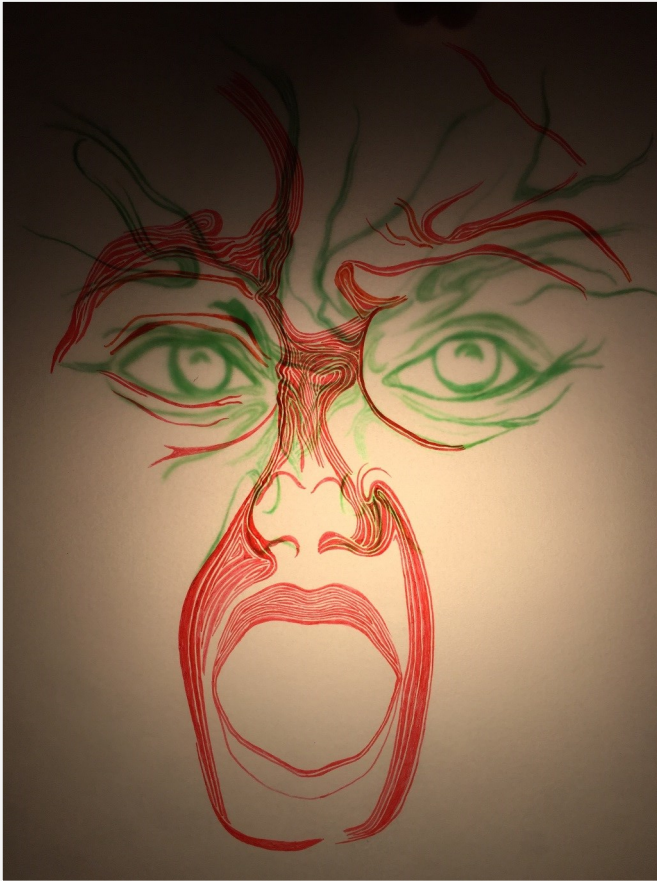
Danai Polemis (Year 13B)

'BLOCKAGE - RELEASE' - Pen and coloured pencil



Danai Polemis (Year 13B)

'Wearing my headaches' - Wire sculpture



Danai Polemis (Year 13B)

Left: *'Double emotion of anger and scream'* - Felt tip pen

Bottom: *'DRAINED'* - Felt tip pen





Danai Polemis (Year 13B)
'My Screaming Headaches' - Pencil, paper, cardboard



Elisa Zeng (Year 13A)

Abstract colours – Oil pastel on paper



Elisa Zeng (Year 13A)

Clockwise from top-left:

Flower sculpture – Wire and varnish

Wing – Photograph of cut-out

Anthropomorphic figure – Wire

GREEN IN THE CITY

A PHOTO-
ESSAY



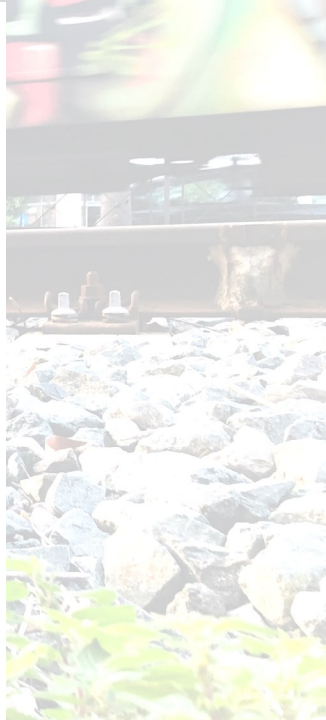
City: when this word comes to our mind, the first impression is always of these regular-shaped skyscrapers with cold and shining colours. Plants are deemed to be irrelevant and thought to be unable to survive with this terrible pollution of the air and water.



However, in reality, plants are extremely tough and they are excellent survivors: the tiniest chink could be their place to grow. People plant trees on the streets as well; in Greece in particular, bitter orange trees are wherever you look.



Mina Ren, Year 12



resilience

Messages from the Key Stage 5 Form Tutors

"IN THE MIDST OF DIFFICULTY
LIES GREAT OPPORTUNITY."

ALBERT EINSTEIN

"That couldn't be truer today! Give yourselves a pat on the back for respecting the rules and staying safe amidst this pandemic turmoil. You are doing great! You have achieved more than you give yourself credit for, as this year you took on the challenge of learning in a different way, you dealt with the uncertainties of the future, you became problem-solvers, critical thinkers and resilient individuals. You should be proud of your accomplishments, developing your social consciousness, the way you took care of yourselves and your friends and how you embraced the 'new normal'. It takes great maturity and courage to do that! As we are still being challenged, do yourself a favour, and remember that the way you see things shapes the way you experience them, so stay positive and you will come out of this stronger."

Ms Voulpioti (Year 12 Form Tutor)



Strong communities are



"NEVER LOSE HOPE. STORMS MAKE PEOPLE STRONGER AND NEVER LAST FOREVER."

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

"Byron is your classroom and the people in it are your assignments. Every interaction you have encountered with the people in this school is a lesson to teach you something you need to learn."

Mr Papaioannou (Year 13A Form Tutor)

"LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE PRESENT YOU ARE CONSTRUCTING:

IT SHOULD LOOK LIKE THE FUTURE YOU ARE DREAMING."

ALICE WALKER

"This year has been the ultimate exercise in resilience - for you, your families, and your teachers - a rollercoaster of a year, but we're extremely proud of the ways in which you will come out the other side stronger and more connected. Let us all appreciate the blessings that we have - make space and time to enjoy the simple pleasures in life and value the things that really matter - and know that even though we're not able to be together as a physical community right now we are still very much a community, in the full sense of the word. Take care of yourselves and each other, and see you all again soon!"

Ms Vekinis (Year 13B Form Tutor)



the roots of resilience

"ALONE, WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH."

HELEN KELLER

Letter from the Headteacher

I hope that you have enjoyed the first edition of *Byron Voice*. I am particularly proud of this publication as it is for our students and by our students. This is the first of many more issues to come and it, the *Byron Voice*, will be published three times a year at the end of each term. I wish to thank all of the contributors for getting the first edition off the ground and a big thank you to the English Department and in particular to the meticulous Ms Vekinis for overseeing the production.

As 2020 draws to a close, the prospect of a potentially exciting and normal 2021 for the Byron College community is inevitably at the forefront of my thoughts. 2020, what more can I say, but what a year! I continue to be so touched by the overwhelming positive responses we receive from so many members of our community, especially you as parents. We sincerely do appreciate the way that you have approached this situation and we really do value the trust you place in us. Thank you.

In our attempt to recreate normality I am delighted to announce that in the absence of our usual school production, 'The Byron Bards' have been hard at work piecing together a Zoomtacular performance of 'A COVID Christmas Carol' for our community to enjoy before the end of term. Our resident drama teacher, Ms Winter, has been working tirelessly with a dedicated group of students to produce a twist on the classic Charles Dickens tale. Alex B. from Year 10 takes the lead; I am also told that there are a few special guests making an appearance again this year, and in particular you should look out for the 'Charitable Gentleman'.

Our intention is to show the performance to all students on the final day of term (Friday 18 December 2020): whether at school or online, the show will go on. This will be a rather fitting end to the calendar year for what has definitely been the toughest year we have all faced within school. The performance will also be made available for parents to view as well. If you haven't seen our Facebook trailer, check it out via the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/ByronCollegeGR/videos/699336297391492>

The end of the year is always a time of reflection and as I ponder the events of 2020 I do know that I could not wish to be the Headteacher of any other school. Especially at a time such as this, to work with such a wonderful group of people is indeed a privilege. Again I must thank all of the Byron Teachers and Staff who have continued to work against the odds and deliver an online education to each and every one of our students. You are all truly amazing. I would also like to thank the amazing contribution of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) not only for their continued support but in particular for creating such a memorable Halloween event before half-term.

To conclude, I wish to thank you all again for your support and when life returns to normal, which it will, we should all remember how we came together as a community. We should all ensure that we remember the positives that we have experienced and never forget the many small acts of kindness that we have given and we have received, as it has improved our community for the better.

All that is left is to wish everyone in the Byron family a very happy festive season and a happy and memorable start to 2021!

Stay safe and continue to take care.

With kind regards,

Matthew Williams - Headteacher

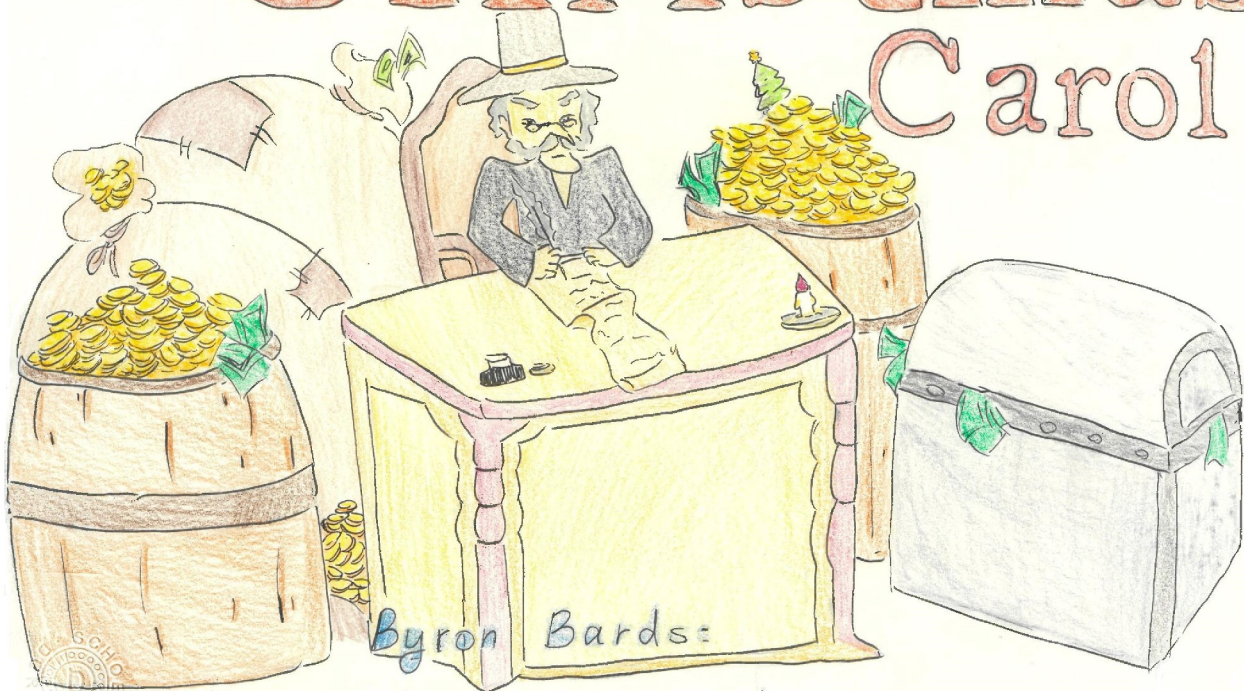


Coming to a screen near you in December 2020



A COVID

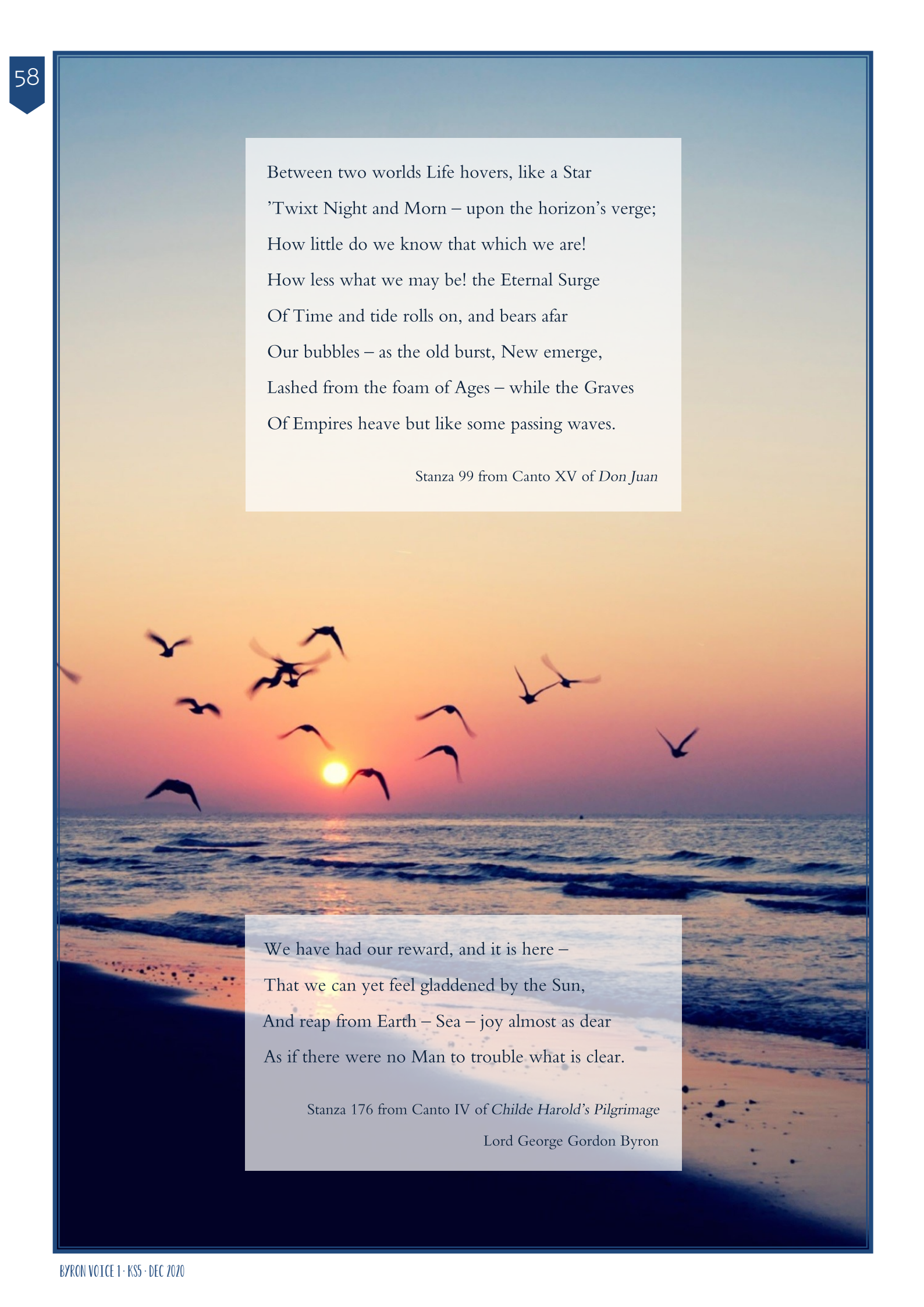
Christmas Carol



Byron Bards:

Staff and Semor production 2020



A sunset over the ocean with many birds flying in the sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the water and sky. The birds are silhouetted against the bright sky. The waves are breaking on the shore in the foreground.

Between two worlds Life hovers, like a Star
'Twixt Night and Morn – upon the horizon's verge;
How little do we know that which we are!
How less what we may be! the Eternal Surge
Of Time and tide rolls on, and bears afar
Our bubbles – as the old burst, New emerge,
Lashed from the foam of Ages – while the Graves
Of Empires heave but like some passing waves.

Stanza 99 from Canto XV of *Don Juan*

We have had our reward, and it is here –
That we can yet feel gladdened by the Sun,
And reap from Earth – Sea – joy almost as dear
As if there were no Man to trouble what is clear.

Stanza 176 from Canto IV of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*

Lord George Gordon Byron





Byron College

THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL