



Byron College

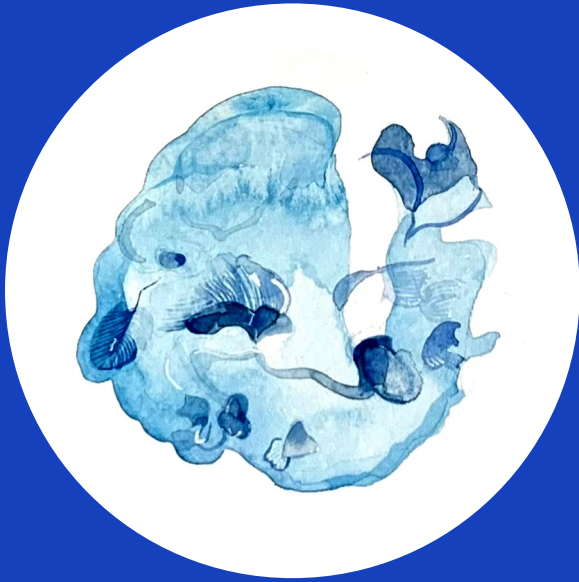
THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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ISSUE 7 — KEY STAGE 5 — DECEMBER 2022





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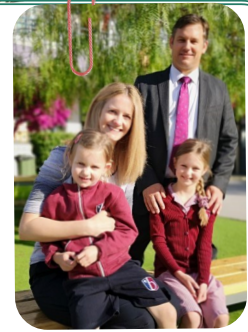


Message from the Headteacher ❄️

≡ Henry Ford ≡

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

I hope that you enjoy the first issue of Byron Voice of this academic year. I am very proud of this publication as it is for our students, by our students, and this version has been put together by the talents of our Sixth Form. A fervent thank you to all the students who have contributed and as always, my appreciation to Ms Vekinis, along with the English Department, for overseeing this wonderful student magazine.



❄️ *Happy Reading!* ❄️

Messages from the Key Stage 5 Tutor Team ❄️

The ultimate gift to receive this Christmas would be... ❄️



a new reading book I could go with *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus or *The Seven Moons* by Maali Almeida Shehan Karunatilaka

Ms Simou (Year 12A Form Tutor)

my late grandmother's delish profiterole and a bottle of the finest Pinot Grigio. Now that's what I call Christmas!

Mr Papaioannou (Year 13A Form Tutor)



Nothing beats a pair of warm socks, a good book or a bottle of mulled cider.

Mr Zimariakis (Year 12B Form Tutor)

the gorgeous luxury of time - to read, drink coffee & tea, be with my cats, listen to music, and not have a care in the world. Bliss.

Ms Vekinis (Year 13B Form Tutor)



the person reading this to be happy!

Ms Efstathiou (Year 12C Form Tutor)

The Perfect Christmas Gift... I could name a few things that money can buy, but the list would be quite long and unimportant as well. This Christmas, the best gift would be good health for me, my family and friends, so that we can get together and celebrate just like we anticipate. I

extend this wish to all of the Byron community and the whole world. Enjoy Christmas and looking forward to a creative 2023 with all of you!

Dr Fragkouli (Key Stage 5 Form Link)



STUDENT COUNCIL

≡ TERM 1 ≡



In October we held a poster competition and pink-themed bake sale to raise awareness and funds for Breast Cancer Awareness Month - raising enough to send 1000 euros to Alma Zois, the charity that supports breast cancer patients and survivors in Greece!



We held a non-uniform day to help support Pakistan after the terrible flooding there. We raised more than 1000 euros and sent it to the Embassy in response to their emergency appeal.



On the basis of the Byron Action funds raised last year for the regeneration of Mantoudi region in northern Evia after the terrible wildfires of 2021, we have now donated 20 beehives and all necessary equipment to Spathari village. This will aid both the economic and ecological regeneration of the area - and in the spring we will visit to learn about beekeeping!



We are holding the Ukraine Winter Appeal, following on from our appeal in spring when we collected more than 26 boxes' worth of vital goods. This time we are collecting warm clothing, blankets, as well as fundraising to buy 50 hand chargers for families without power this winter.



Following on from the success of last year's Christmas Shoebox Presents which were delivered to refugee children in the city centre, this year we are putting together a mountain of presents again for children in Elaionas Refugee Camp. It can make a huge difference to know that you are not forgotten, and that people care.



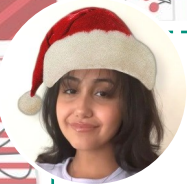
We are also collecting olive oil for the Social Pharmacy of Pallini. There are a few hundred individuals still living in emergency housing after the fire that consumed their homes in Drafi this summer; this donation will allow the municipality to put on a proper Christmas Dinner for them.



Last but most certainly not least, we are making moves to become an Eco-School and attain Green Flag Status to affirm our sustainable and environmentally-friendly credentials in all aspects of our school community. This will take real dedication, and energy, and everyone pulling together in pursuit of this worthy goal - watch this space!

❄️ Messages from the Key Stage 5 Student Leaders ❄️

❄️ *If Santa Claus were real, what would you ask him for?* ❄️



I would ask for Christmas all year round!

BARAN MOHAMMADI, HEAD GIRL (YEAR 13B)



Hoping Santa can get me an unconditional uni offer for Christmas this year.

FADI MOAMAR, HEAD BOY (YEAR 13A)



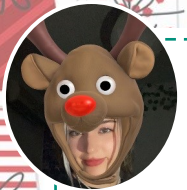
I wish for every child's wish to come true (including mine).

DIMITRIS ECONOMOU, DEPUTY HEAD BOY (YEAR 13B)



There is no if. Santa is real and I want to ask him for joy across the globe this Christmas... and cake!

SUFIA MOSTOFA, DEPUTY HEAD GIRL (YEAR 13A)



If Santa Claus were real. I'd ask for the best baking supplies in order to experiment with new flavours and produce the best-tasting sweets.

YUMNA ABUSALAH, STUDENT AMBASSADOR (YEAR 12B)



If Santa were real. I would love to receive a paid-for holiday. It would be splendid as I need a well-earned rest!

NIKITAS NIKOLAOU, STUDENT AMBASSADOR (YEAR 13A)



If Santa were real I would wish for an end to world poverty.

SOULTANA TZITZIVACOS, STUDENT AMBASSADOR (YEAR 12C)



If Santa Claus were real I'd ask him for more kindness, tolerance and acceptance in the world.

ISABELLA TZITZIVACOS, STUDENT AMBASSADOR (YEAR 12C)



A friend asked me what I wanted from Santa for Christmas. I said, "At least a two-week break and please don't tell Santa about my grades!" Have a relaxing and rejuvenating winter break and Merry Christmas!

JULIA LIN, STUDENT AMBASSADOR (YEAR 13A)

Hō hō hō! As days get shorter and nights stretch longer, radiant lights of all colours saturate the city and evergreen trees are put up with vibrant bobbles and glowing tinsel.

It's that time of year when we sit down, and ponder upon the endless things we want from Father Christmas. So the question remains. If Santa Claus were real, what would you ask him for?

If Santa were real, I would wish, simply for a few seconds, for a heartfelt smile to appear on everyone's faces. Let us not forget the power and capacity a smile can have on the global community, a time where we put all partisan issues away, all minute predicaments but also more prominent plights to the side, and simply smile in the present. As cliché and unrealistic as it may sound, I truly believe a moment of happiness in all our hearts is the answer to seemingly impossible dilemmas.

This Christmas, I urge you all to become a Santa Claus for someone else, make them smile and give them a hug. It could be a friend, a family member, or your pet. The human population has endured unimaginable quandaries in the past weeks, months and years. It is essential we go back to the basics and remember, a smile on someone's face is the most invaluable gift you could ask for, but also receive.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

JOHN ROY AMURAO, STUDENT AMBASSADOR (YEAR 12C)



If Santa Claus were real, I would ask him for health, prosperity, and victory for Perseus.

ANDREAS MICHAS, PERSEUS HOUSE CAPTAIN (YEAR 13B)



If Santa Claus were real, I would ask him for Albert Einstein's IQ, Messi's football ability, and Mr Dedousis' beard.

SWAD KAZI, HERCULES HOUSE CAPTAIN & STUDENT AMBASSADOR (YEAR 13B)



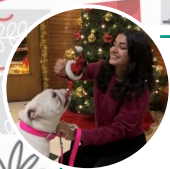
I would ask him for a wish.

ERASMIA KONSTANTINOPOULOU, PERSEUS DEPUTY HOUSE CAPTAIN (YEAR 13B)



If Santa were real I would ask him for a pet white tiger.

TAREK AQLI, HERCULES DEPUTY HOUSE CAPTAIN (YEAR 13B)



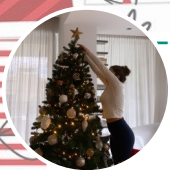
For Athena to have a great first year!

FEROZA BOYCE, ATHENA HOUSE CAPTAIN (YEAR 13B)



If Santa were real, I would wish for Erling Haaland to take a break from professional football at least until Manchester United find generous new ownership.

SALEH ABDUL QADIR, THESEUS HOUSE CAPTAIN (YEAR 13B)



If Santa Claus were real I would ask for one of his reindeers to have as a pet.

GEORGINA ANDREAKI, ATHENA DEPUTY HOUSE CAPTAIN (YEAR 13B)



If Santa were real, I'd ask him to let me know what he does after Christmas!

NICK CHANTZARAS, THESEUS DEPUTY HOUSE CAPTAIN (YEAR 13B)



*Alumni
Letters*

Zhillan Wardana

Class of 2020

To all Byron Sixth Formers,

Hello everyone! I was a graduate of Byron back in 2020 during the Covid pandemic; on the behest of one of my favourite teachers, I will try here to give you insights from my journey through university so far. It is such a pleasure to share my voice with you all, my second home and sanctuary.

University is a great leap forward from secondary school – a massive jump that could intimidate most students who are not yet ready for what is to come. You might find yourself in that position as it's more common than you think. To those who see university as a getaway from your parents, please consider throwing that thought away while you are reading this from a Law student's perspective...

It's not too different from your day-to-day itinerary, with the only exception that your professors and lecturers will not be there to remind you where your assignment is; they will simply move on and grade the work you have submitted. They have full trust that you have everything under control when it comes to academics. Only a minute number of lecturers will give you second chances, so please get your professionalism game up and running the moment you step into your A Levels – or better yet, during your IGCSEs.

Please, please, please, do not bring your disorganisation to your university life! I have witnessed many who are like this, and they fall behind with their academics. Your notebooks and note-taking apps will absorb information like a sponge and if you have no way to organise this, it's going to be difficult and time-consuming for you during critical moments like writing your thesis statement, something that I am working on this year. It's imperative that you are organised from the get-go. You can have a controlled chaos – but not *so* chaotic that you are wasting fruitful time. Do not clock in all-nighters; sleep deprivation is a monster waiting to consume you at the least opportune moment. You can laugh when I tell you all that there was a moment where my lecturer had to nudge a student awake during my legal writing course and the student's reaction was "H-huh...?". The lecturer was kind enough to tell her to wash her face and come back... all the while wearing a sinister smile on their face. A moment of hilarity but also, sadly, humiliation!

Despite all this, it's a guarantee that your chosen university will provide you with a rich working environment. There'll be so many opportunities to meet people from different and exceptional backgrounds that you can learn so much from. In this regard, I should stress one thing above all: the importance of finding and integrating into a circle of friends that will last through your university life and even beyond. You will undoubtedly face time-crunching assignments that could spiral all your plans and schedule, put you in a dark spot to put it plainly, and make you go through experiences you wished you never knew. Developing a strong connection with two to three friends during your university life will save you from that grim predicament, as they are the ones who will help you pull through your darkest and toughest moments. I have been in this situation, and having friends to lean on in a high-expectation environment helps me stay anchored and on an even keel. Surround yourself with a humble community, one that will enrich your character, and detach yourself from ones that you believe will compromise your wellbeing. I so happened to stumble upon an art community within my Law major, and together we have formed such a community of like-minded people who look out for, understand, and care for one another.



Zhillan graduated from Byron in 2020. He studied Literature, Art, and Biology at A Level. He is currently in his third year studying for his BA in Law at the University of Gadjah Mada in Indonesia. His current aspirations for the future include protecting intellectual artists and upholding their rights and obligations to their creations.

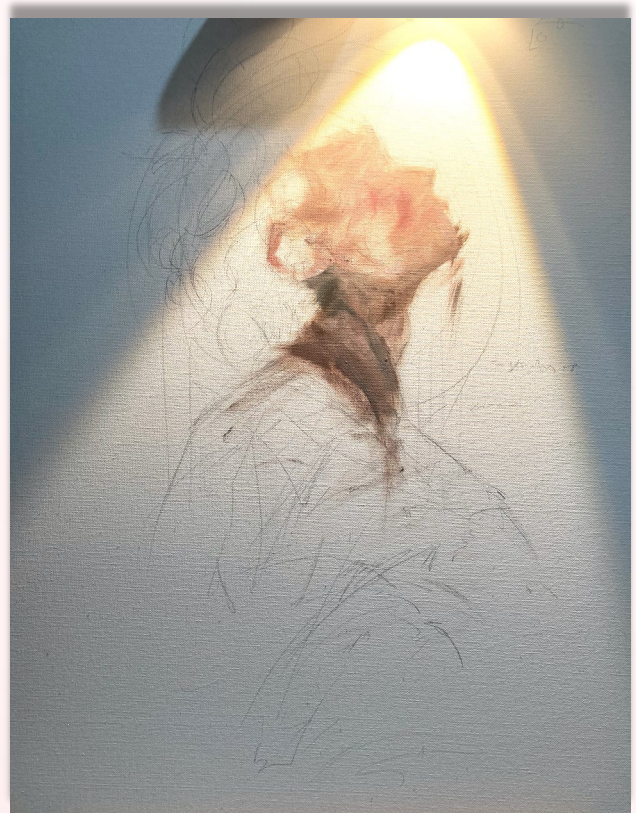
Now that we finally have a sense of post-pandemic normalcy, I want to tell you guys to go out: don't be a hermit, staying cooped up in your bubble! Enjoy your time discovering what your university and the city you are in have and create core memories.

That said: as much as you may love your university studies, it's always a good thing to develop your own personal project quite apart from your academics. Cultivate interests that set you apart from the wave of students that come in and out of those doors, be it having your own art project - this is what keeps me going, as you can see in a selection of my artworks below - making music, a podcast or even... a simple book on your lap to read. Make the time to spend on those personal projects, even if it's just for ten minutes a day. It's a way to take a deep breath away from your studies and to reset your mind.

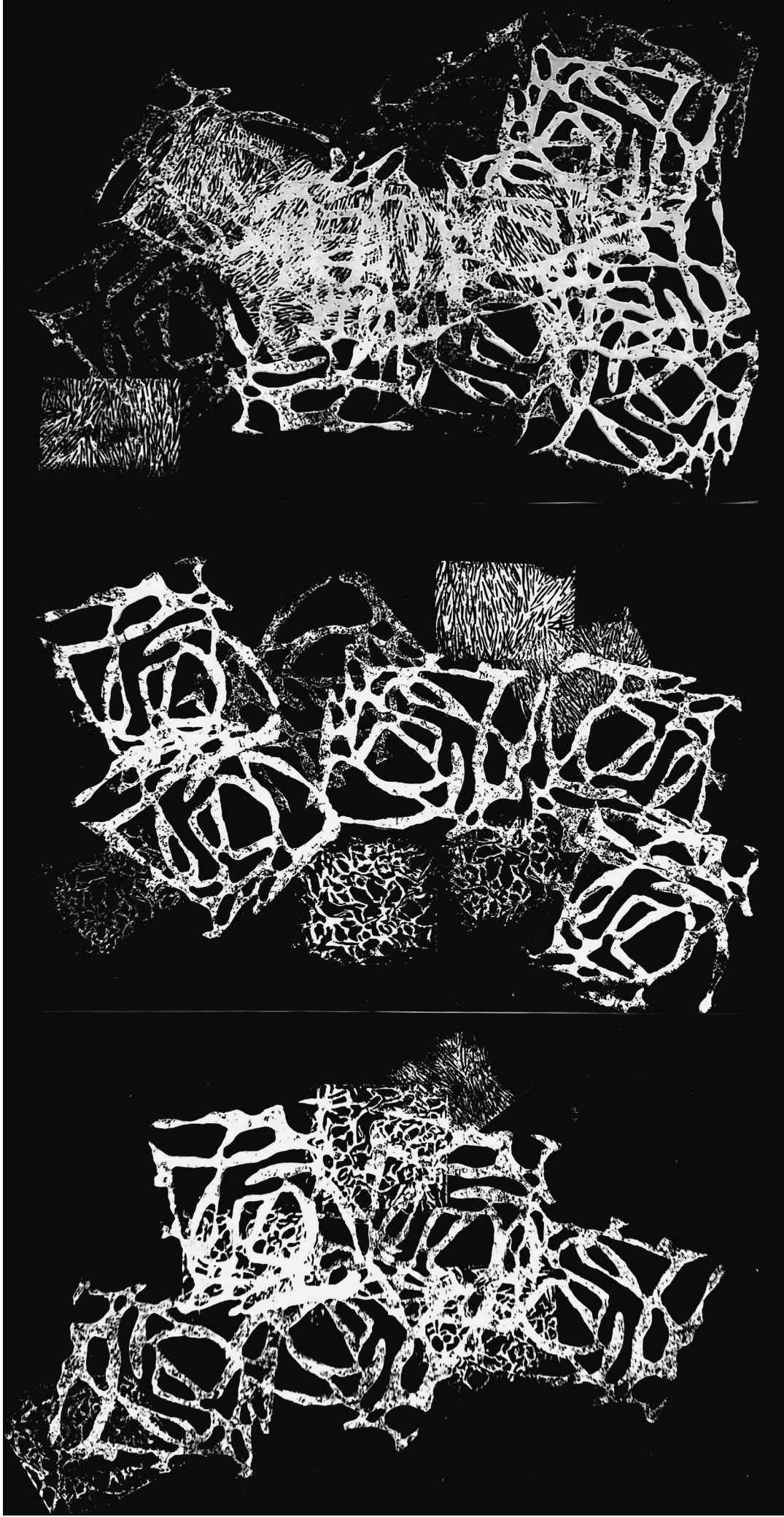
Zhitlan



● Weight ●



● Unfettered ●



Articles



TOGETHER FOR IMPLEMENTATION



Many people believe that the main effect of climate change is increased temperatures. However, this is only the beginning.

Unfortunately, changes in one area can have an impact on all other locations since the Earth is a single interconnected system. Extreme droughts, water shortages, fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms, and biodiversity loss are the current effects of climate change.

Let us look at a simple case study: the Sahel region, home to more than 60 million people has experienced water scarcity due to climate change, becoming synonymous with "drought." Although the Sahel countries have been liberated from colonial rule, they continue to follow the colonial economic model. Agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy. It employs more than 60% of the population. However, the state invests less and less in agriculture, lacks farming infrastructure, has low education standards, outdated production methods, and low levels of mechanisation and water conservation.

Tropical storms are also getting more destructive, which can be deadly for any country. I was born in China in 2005, the same year Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, before making landfall in Florida as a Category 1 hurricane. It made landfall again on the outer coast of New Orleans as a Category 3 hurricane and weakened to a tropical storm more than 12 hours after landfall. Hurricane Katrina has been removed from the hurricane naming sequence due to the unprecedented devastation in the USA. A few years later, in 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, the world's most robust tropical cyclone, the most powerful storm in the Pacific Northwest, and the second strongest tropical cyclone on record in the region, swept through the Philippines. The wind and the resulting massive storm surge caused huge damage in the central Philippines. Officials confirmed that more than 6,300 people were killed during this storm, while the Philippine Red Cross said as many as 25,000 people were missing. More than half a year after the storm, the number of victims in the area continued to increase.

Looking back at the natural disasters I have just described we can see that thousands of people are suffering due to the adverse effects of climate change on the environment. But, if we think humans have it wrong, that is nothing compared to what many animals have to face. Because of all these harsh conditions created by climate change, animals are losing their natural habitats and even face the risk of extinction. Global biodiversity has declined by 68% over the past 40 years, most notably in Latin America, home to the world's most extensive tropical forests, where species richness has fallen by 94% over the past 40 years. According to calculations, the extinction rate of species living in tropical rainforests can be calculated in seconds. Since I started speaking to you, countless species have disappeared from our planet forever since I started talking to you. Human behaviour is the root cause of climate change.

In addition to the noticeable environmental effects of climate change, our economy is also suffering. According to a new study from Stanford University, many experiments show that global warming has increased economic inequality since the 1960s. Temperature changes caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere have enriched more great countries such as Norway and Sweden. However, this has dragged down the economic growth in warmer countries such as India and Nigeria. These results show that economic growth in cooler countries accelerated in years with above-average temperatures but slowed in warmer countries.

Historically, since the 1960s, countries with high emissions have had the highest GDP per capita and the fastest economic growth. In contrast, countries with relatively low emissions have seen GDP per capita decline. Historical data clearly shows that crops are more productive when temperatures are neither too hot nor too cold, and people are healthier and, therefore, more effective. This means that in colder countries, a little warmth might help. However, in places that are already hot, the opposite is true.

All countries will be affected by global warming; yet, especially in tropical countries, where temperatures are often well above ideal levels, economic growth will be heavily impacted.

So, the question remains, what are the ways to save the Earth?

Firstly, we must limit the use of fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas and switch to cleaner renewable energy. We should also work to improve energy efficiency, divest from fossil fuels and increase investment in renewable energy. This will promote the development of the renewable energy industry and become an essential basis for future human industrial operations. Understandably, this will be a blow to the more traditional non-renewable energy industry. We suggest that these companies develop more energy-saving projects and initiatives to transform with the times. Secondly, governments and supranational organisations, such as the European Union, need to subsidise green energy. Most governments have called on the general public to save energy by saving electricity and travelling with low-carbon options.

However, personal responsibility cannot solve the climate crisis alone since consumers have limited power overall. Current data from the International Energy Agency shows that carbon dioxide emissions from the global aviation industry have "increased rapidly in the past 20 years", reaching nearly 1 billion tons in 2019, which is equivalent to "2.8% of global CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion".

In addition, the World Wildlife Fund also described the aviation industry as "one of the fastest growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions" and called air travel "the most carbon-intensive activity an individual can undertake today." Changes in the lifestyles of a few individuals cannot have the significant impact we need. Instead, we should pay more attention on developing new technologies to reduce pollution. I am aware we cannot eradicate air travel; it would be detrimental to us as a human race, not to mention our economy. It is better to start from the fundamentals, promote the progress of technology, and use technical means to reduce the air pollution caused by human travel. For example, we could develop kinetic energy and actively advocate and promote sustainable and clean travel using alternative fuels.

Additionally, more sporty transport options such as cycling and walking should be promoted. Not only will this practice help increase physical activity, but it will also contribute to the prevention of diseases such as diabetes, lung cancer, and heart disease. Finally, we also need to consider historical emissions and the deindustrialisation of western economies. Using the United States and the United Kingdom as examples, these developed countries completed their development at a time when the climate problem was far from being as severe as it is now.

However, many developing countries today are under attack because of their emissions. Just because they started a bit later, will they be deprived of the right to grow? In addition, many developed countries did not reduce emissions, but instead built factories in developing countries with cheaper human labour costs, thereby reducing their emissions. Any country has the right to further develop, and this right should not be taken away. But at the same time, protecting the environment is a joint responsibility as we all share one Earth. Therefore, more developed countries should share their more advanced and environmentally friendly technologies with developing countries. This could mean that developing countries would stop damaging the Earth while they would still be able to progress. For example, a joint venture could be established between two countries, and the more developed country could receive dividends in return.

I do not mean to criticise or offend with what I have just said. I want to appeal to all sectors of society to consider and deal with climate change seriously. Every individual should do their best for our planet. It can be as simple as recycling plastic bottles, or wearing more clothes in the winter to save a few kilowatts of electricity. Also, you can start walking or cycling to the school or work instead of driving or taking a bus.

There are plenty of little things we can do that aren't hard and won't make a big difference in our lives. But if each of us is willing to do a little bit, at least we can mitigate climate deterioration. More importantly, we can call on governments and supranational organisations to take climate change seriously. Only if we take the first step, will the climate problem be improved.

Rico Gao, a student in Year 12, spoke at the COP27 Climate Conference in Sharm-el-Sheikh in Egypt.

Her maiden speech on 'The Economic Effects of Climate Change' on the first day of the conference, and her proposals for tackling this complex issue, can be seen at <https://cult.ly/7NOJUnQ>.

Rico was interviewed by the international press and attended the main venue with world leaders; she also spoke in many sub-committees over the duration of the conference. Rico began her educational journey at Byron College at our Oxford Global Summit for Young Leaders and then joined Year 9 with minimal English. Her determination to succeed and quiet dedication to making a difference are truly inspirational.



In the early morning of 24 February 2022, the Russian President declared in his public address to the world the outlining of a "special military operation" for the "demilitarisation and denazification" of Ukraine.

In the span of seven months, the people of Ukraine have endured indescribable suffering and annihilation. In light of recent developments, it has become evident that Russia has no plan to rectify the crisis or allow any prospect of peace and consensus to thrive. The situation in Ukraine has and continues to exacerbate, bringing unspeakable horrors to individuals – children, mothers, fathers, families – and people worldwide. The UN has corroborated 14,000 confirmed civilian casualties, with numbers continuing to rise. This is 14,000 more than what the number should be. Millions have been forcibly displaced, seeking refuge wherever they may find. President Putin and Russia's actions are not against the Ukrainian government, they are against innocent civilians; they do not seek peace but rather augment warfare. Their atrocities do not end here: targeted attacks on medical facilities, educational institutions and abominable acts of sexual violence continue to transpire. Occurrences which we once associated with the past are now appearing in annexed regions of Ukraine.

It is imperative that we acknowledge the magnitude of Russia's actions. A once inconceivable matter of nuclear conflict has become a worrying subject in debate. A now politically isolated nation is the cause of food insecurity, rising energy prices and agony permeating the globe, striking those in the most powerless conditions. President Putin decided to invade the borders of Ukraine illegally, lacking rational justification. Every

day, the cataclysmic consequences of Russia's actions become ever more prominent. Places of vulnerability have become epicentres for famine, poverty, and hardship. Mariupol, Bucha and Kharkiv are just some of the places Russian paratroopers have employed oppression, terror, torture, inflicting violent trauma. One, however, must applaud Ukraine for standing in solidarity, in unity, during times of agony, and applaud their unshakable will to defend their nation.

A mere 77 years prior to today, core principles embodied in the UN Charter were agreed upon to preserve peace and stability and proliferate international security in every corner of the world. Russia is choosing to exploit their power, exploit their veto authority, threaten NATO, and violate clauses of the Charter. The Russian government must be held accountable for the crime of aggression and war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. This is not what the United Nations stand for; this is going against all principles that the United Nations embodies.

This generation – our generation – must learn from such predicaments and ensure, just like was stated in relation to the Holocaust of World War Two, that "never again" can this be repeated. The crisis of Ukraine and Russia is not part of a supposedly distant history, but one happening right now as we speak. Neither is it a partisan issue but one of defending fundamental humanity and freedoms; all countries must come together to offer sufficient resolutions to a crisis affecting Ukraine, Europe, and the entire world. •

John Roy AMIRAO (YEAR 12C)



Stand
with
Ukraine

Не Зевс, не Пан...

Не Зевс, не Пан, не Голуб-Дуж,
Лиш Сонячні Кларнети.
Ї танці я, ритмічний руж,
В безсмертнім — всі планети.

Я був — не я. Лиш мрія, сон.
Навколо — дзвонні звуки,
І п'тьми творчої жігон,
І благовісні руки.

Прокинувся я — і я вже Ти:
Над мною, під мною
Горять світи, біжать світи
Музичною рікою.

І стежив я, і я веснів:
Акордились планети.
Навік я взнав, що Ти не Гнів, —
Лиш Сонячні Кларнети.

NOT ZEUS, OR PAN...

Not Zeus, or Pan, or the Dove-Spirit
Just Clarinets of the Sun.

I am in a dance, a rhythmic movement,
In immortal dance - all the planets.

I was - not I. Just a thought, a dream.
All around are ringing sounds,
and the tunic of creative darkness
And blessed tiding hands.

I awakened - and already I am You.
Above me, below me
Worlds glow, worlds run
Like a musical river.

And I watched, and springtimed;
The planets harmonised.

Forever I learned that You are not Wrath,
But only Clarinets of the Sun.



Павло Тичина - Pavlo Tychyna (1891-1967), Ukrainian poet and translator

Translated by Michael M Naydan



Destruction for Destruction's Sake

Soultana Tzitzivacos (Year 12C)

Flames, bullets, blood – war. For centuries on end, our world has been plagued by sheer carnage. Millions of human beings face the consequences of the actions of selfish and egocentric men. They are displaced whilst they watch their homes being reduced to mere thumbnails and are internally shattered as their families are torn apart. One would think that as civilisations evolve, people's views would too: perhaps we would adopt a state of acceptance for those who have different

The aftermath of the firebombing of Dresden on 13 February 1945

religions, races and sexualities to our own, and free ourselves from the constraints and restricted mindsets that have been passed down to us from generations before us. Perhaps we would notice the one essential characteristic that make us all, in essence, equal: being human. However, we are proven to be mistaken, time and time again, as we watch our world brutally steal the lives of children, mothers, husbands and fathers whilst being completely and utterly indoctrinated by the people who call themselves our leaders.

In an attempt to define the undefinable, war is a state of armed conflict between different countries or groups within a country. This definition conveniently ignores the true meaning of war and the ripple effect it has on society. We are provided with an overwhelming amount of statistics and images that desensitise us to such an extent that we don't recognise the deep impact it has on people that are on the battlefield or watching their relatives being slaughtered, all to protect their 'leader's' ego or indeed defend themselves from it. We are fed with merely a fraction of the harsh realities people face, in the hope that we can be stung into action by the moral imperative to stop it; but we never do. We have and continue to fail as a society and as supposedly 'free-thinking' individuals, as we watch and merely observe the atrocities carried out every day.



I sit in class and look beside me. On one side I see my Jewish friend and on the other I see my Palestinian friend, both of which I have grown up with. I watch their expressions towards each other change as time passes by, as they become internally bitter and blame each other for the tensions between their two 'religions'. These religions once lived in harmony – and yet they are now in a state of chaos, and I ponder the cause for this change. My history teacher enlightens me that after World War One, with the Ottoman Empire defeated, Britain took control of the area known as Palestine. The land was inhabited by a Jewish minority and an Arab majority. Between 1920 and 1940, the number of Jews arriving in Palestine grew, with increasing numbers fleeing persecution in Europe and seeking a homeland after the Holocaust of World War Two. Tensions grew when the international community gave Britain the task of establishing a "national home" in Palestine for the Jewish people. For the Jews it was their ancestral home; yet it was also the home of Palestinian Arabs. Violence between the two erupted, while British rule was also treated with disdain. In 1947, the UN voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states, and Jerusalem became an international city. This was accepted by the Jewish leaders but was rejected by the Arab leader. During the years since, this stalemate has escalated, resulting in years of war and unnecessary violence. My two friends are forced to see the boys in their families become men in a matter of days, as they pick up weapons and are made to do the unthinkable. This large-scale violence is not due to their 'conflicting' religions – as both of their faiths preach peace – but the result of the conflicting egos of those who call themselves their leaders.



In an age of increasingly advancing technology, we can educate ourselves as to what is happening over the entirety of the world with just a single tap. With this privilege comes responsibility. We are the future of the world: we are the future leaders, and therefore it is our duty to be enlightened about these issues so that we may prevent these atrocities from reoccurring. •

Palestinian women in the rubble of their destroyed homes on 26 July 2014



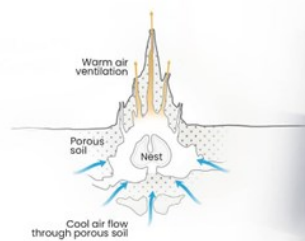
NATURE'S WAY:

BIOMIMICRY IN ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING

As we advance technologically and add to our scientific procedures and knowledge, we begin reaching the limits of human ingenuity. Our designs appear mass-replicated, with similar structures of glass and steel cloned atop the Earth's surface. But at times like this, it becomes especially important to remember the vast natural world cohabiting this planet. Flora and fauna populating each biome are so specialised, they have solutions for issues we haven't even encountered yet. Biomimicry refers to the emulation of models, systems, and elements of nature for the purpose of solving complex human problems; in fact, these appear to be amongst our greatest assets for spurring on inventions and propagating new methods to build our cities. This will be a necessary step in humanity's path to greater eco-friendliness and sustainability in cities. Here are three examples which embrace nature in their design to achieve greater greenness.

Inspiration

Termite Mounds



Main Function

The building's passive cooling system is inspired by the way termites cool their mounds.

Materiality
Concrete slabs and brick

Illustration source: National Geographic



EASTGATE HARARE CENTRE

Unveiled in 1996, this shopping centre and office complex in Zimbabwe takes cues for its design from both the nation's cultural history as well as nature. As opposed to concrete slabs and steel frameworks, these two interconnected edifices are based on Zimbabwean masonry as well as African

termite mounds. The mounds themselves achieve passive cooling via termites opening and closing heating and cooling vents to allow for a minimal fluctuation in temperature throughout the day. Similarly in the building complex, air is drawn in via intake fans on the first floor and travels throughout the building via the central spine, cooling floors in warm weather and absorbing their heat. As the air becomes progressively hotter the further upwards it travels, it exits via the chimneys atop the buildings, significantly warmer than when it entered. The Centre is composed of two buildings linked by steel bridges to ensure the building easily receives air from local breezes. This passive cooling system results in the Eastgate Center using 35% less energy than an equivalent-sized building with HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning).



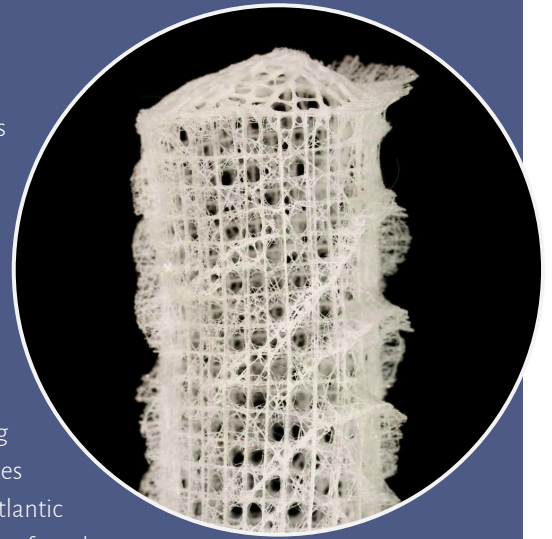
THE GHERKIN

One issue often overlooked by pedestrians in cities plagued with skyscrapers is the increase in surface wind speeds. Indeed, due to the high-rise buildings occupying these cities, wind is deflected to road level. There are various solutions to this issue, such as constructing 'empty floors', as implemented in 432 Park Avenue in Manhattan, New York. This solution involves two empty floors with only structural support beams, elevators and utilities at regular intervals throughout the building. While this was

originally meant to be a solution for decreasing sway of the building, it was not fully successful as the building still frequently experiences sway among other issues plaguing this skyscraper. However, across the Atlantic

Ocean, in London, lies 30 St Mary Axe, commonly referred to

as the Gherkin, due to its appearance bearing similarity to the pickled fruit. Its façade, composed of curved rhombic glass panels atop a steel structure, is based on the Venus' flower basket, a marine sponge. This sponge was unique as its shape meant it dispersed stress and experienced less force from surrounding water currents. The tower also relied heavily on a diagrid, a framework of diagonally intersecting beams, which provided vertical support without the need for internal columns as opposed to traditional buildings, further mimicking the sponge's nature. This all culminated in a building which not only allows for less wind deflection, but also for wind to accumulate and naturally ventilate the entirety of the tower from its lower floors. There are atria, six gaps in each floor, which enable air to flow freely within the building. Due to this natural ventilation system, the Gherkin consumes merely half the energy a building of its size ordinarily requires.



BEIJING NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE – WATER CUBE

A stunning structure built in time for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, its design was inspired by the natural formation of bubbles in soap lather. Each of the 4000 'bubbles' is a separate panel of a translucent polymer, ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE). This building remains the largest structure in the world made of this material, which would be used



elsewhere such as to cover the exterior of the Allianz Arena, the stadium of the highly successful FC Bayern Munich. Among its many benefits include its miniscule density, meaning an ETFE panel weighs merely 1% the weight of a glass panel of equal dimensions. This helps reduce the dead load of the building, that being the constant load acting on a structure due to the weight of its constituents, therefore resulting in lower consumption of steel. Another benefit is the material's high insulating nature, meaning that pools can be warmed with the energy retained within the material, resulting in a 30% decrease in energy costs. Due to the edifice's flexible design, it is also highly effective against seismic activity. This has led to the British engineering and design group Arup, a firm highly involved in the design of the Water Cube, stating that it is "arguably the most seismically-resistant building in the world."

SALEH ABDUL QADIR (YEAR 13A)

The Fascinating Complexity of Animal Emotions

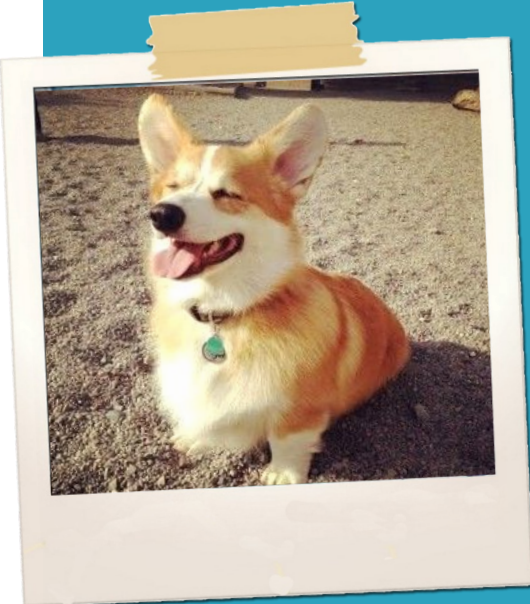
We often disagree about whether any animals, other than humans, are capable of feeling emotions altogether, disregarding the fact that it has now been proven that animals around us also have acute feelings, similar to our own. The compelling evidence from scientific studies not only highlights the full range of sentiments that they experience, but also points towards how crucial it is to delve deeper into the realm of animal emotions in order to better understand our own.



As long ago as 500 BC Pythagoras, an ancient Greek philosopher, was firmly rooted in the belief that animals possessed a complete spectrum of human emotions and later, Charles Darwin and other evolutionary biologists also wrote that, "There is no fundamental difference between man and the higher mammals in the mental facilities." With the assistance of ever-advancing technology, humans are able to explore the behavioural psychology of animals with greater precision, providing compelling evidence that some animals likely experience emotions including fear, joy, shame, resentment, jealousy, rage, compassion, respect, relief, sadness, despair, grief and more. Moreover, it is important to note that feelings and emotions, while often amalgamated, are not the same. Feelings are subjective states only known to those who possess them; emotions can be observed and documented as they come with various physical and behavioural cues.



When observing animals in their own natural habitats, scientists have caught a glimpse of their emotional lives and noticed the unmistakable acts of empathy prevalent in some species. Elephants, highly emotional beings, wrap their trunks around each other as an expression of consolation, quietly stand over their loved ones' deceased bodies for days on end with their head and ears hanging down as if in a depressive state and rush to comfort a fellow elephant in distress. Furthermore, according to biology professor Jan van Hooff, rodents "express anguish through narrowed eyes, flattened ears, and swollen cheeks" and according to recent studies, empathise with their friends. In the experiment, rats quickly learned how to operate a lever to save their rat companion who was soaked in water, rather than abandoning them to eat the treats on the side. It is surprising to also recognise that just like humans, animals also seem to fall in love with one another, further than just courtship and mating. This has been observed, for example, in a pair of southern right whales, who did everything in unison and continuously touched flippers as in a hug.





On the other hand, sceptics argue that the way which animals behave is not inherent proof that they are experiencing complex emotions, rather that our brains have evolved to instantly group certain behavioural cues together and then guess their psychological meaning, linking them to the feelings that we experience. Although we may see animals skulking in guilt, wailing in sadness or howling in joy, it is ultimately a perception, a way in which the human brain is wired to coin specific emotional inferences. This categorisation of emotional meaning is a subconscious, unavoidable occurrence. However, the majority of

scientists stand firmly on the side that non-human animals experience a vast array of emotional responses, all to varying degrees.

Apart from being able to feel their own emotions, domesticated animals, in particular dogs, have become a perpetual mirror for human behaviour. Throughout the last 30,000 years, dogs have lived with humans, involving themselves with our daily lives and acting as a key provider of companionship and trust. Predominantly in the last century, as our stress levels skyrocket, we have turned to companion dogs as the solution, finding comfort from their support. Therefore, it is important to understand that there is a deeper connection between our own thoughts, actions and feelings and those that are exhibited by domesticated animals, in particular dogs, which we

reside with. These feelings, especially if strong, are often assimilated and replicated by our pets which slowly use them to add onto their own personality. This comes as a result of owners and dogs being social dyads which influence each other's stress-coping; dogs mirroring the anxiety and negativity of owners and, in contrast, humans being able to cope better with stress when surrounded by dogs that are relaxed and friendly. Remarkably, research has shown that the human in this relationship influences dogs' coping mechanisms far more than they do ours.



To conclude, we are still far away from having an unambiguous understanding of animals' emotional capabilities. It is crucial that we stop labelling ourselves as wholly dignified and rational, disregarding the fact that like animals, we are also driven by emotions; after all, such erroneous notions provoke the maltreatment of those creatures who we think are less sophisticated than ourselves. We already depend on some animals to treat our mental health issues, so why not divulge more time to appreciate and explore their own mental complexity? •

Nikitas Nikolaou (Year 13A)



JASON ZHANG
(YEAR 12A)

GUQIN

古
琴
今



INSTRUMENT OF THE SAGES

The Guqin is a plucked seven-string Chinese musical instrument. It is sometimes referred to by the Chinese as “The Instrument of the Sages”. The ancients sought to communicate with the gods by playing the Guqin and finally reach the realm of harmony between man and God. In real life, the Guqin, the most important of the four arts of Qin, chess, calligraphy and painting, is used for mutual communication between scholars and literati.

HISTORY

The Guqin is one of the oldest musical instruments in Chinese history. There are many legends about its origin, the prevailing one being that it was invented by the ancient Emperor Shun. This is documented in Chinese writings dating back nearly 3000 years, and examples have been found in tombs from about 2500 years ago.

Ancient and mysterious, the Guqin is nearly always played as a solo instrument since its quietness of tone means that it cannot compete with the sounds of most other instruments or an ensemble. Nowadays, many Qin players who perform in large concert halls usually use electronic pickups or microphones to amplify the sound, otherwise it would not be heard.

CONSTRUCTION

According to tradition, the Qin originally had five strings which represented the five elements of metal, wood, water, fire and earth. Two more strings were later added to represent civil society and the military.

The thirteen ‘hui’ on the surface represent the 13 months of the year (the additional one accounts for the leap month in the lunar calendar).

Each part of the Qin has a unique meaning, such as ‘Dragon Pool’ and ‘Phoenix Pond’.

The Guqin is a very rare instrument. Many people have never heard the music of the Guqin, yet the stories are well-known.

DID YOU KNOW...

In 1977, a recording of 'Flowing Water' was chosen to be included in the Voyager Golden Record, a gold-plated LP recording containing music from around the world, sent into outer space by NASA on the Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 spacecraft. Among them, the musical piece 'Liu Shui (Flowing Streams)' represents China.

**Feng Qiu Huang*****A Story of the Pursuit of Marital Freedom***

Zhuo Wenjun had the best education, excelling in music and poetry. Married at sixteen, she was soon widowed and returned to her parents. Sima Xiangru, a famous poet and musician, was invited to their home by Zhuo. He composed a song called Feng Qiu Huang to express his admiration of her. Zhuo Wenjun fell in love with him when she saw him play the Guqin and did not hesitate to elope with him.

Sima, not being rich, opened a wine shop together with his beloved. Ashamed that his daughter had become a lowly inn-keeper, the father relented and gave them money and servants.

Emperor Wu learned of Sima Xiangru's talent and offered him official status in the capital. Sima then became a very famous writer in Chinese history.

Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove:
A Story of the Pursuit of Freedom

The Seven Sages in the Bamboo Grove were a unique group of Chinese scholars, writers, and musicians of the third century CE.

They were different from the traditional Confucian ideology of actively participating in social politics. They lived in turbulent times and were influenced by Taoist ideology. They eluded the reality of society, indulged in literature and music, enjoyed wine and personal freedom, and celebrated the beauty and power of nature. They provided another ideal of life for later Chinese literati. Their heritage consists of a significant body of poetry, the instrument 'Ruan', and the famous piece of Guqin, Jiukuang (the Carnival of Wine).

The painting 'Ting Qin Tu' (Listening to the Qin),
by the Song Emperor Huizong (1082-1135)

**Zhiyin: A Story of Great Friendship**

One of the most famous stories is that of 'Zhiyin'.

Bo Ya was proficient in playing the Qin. Zhong Ziqi was good at listening to the Qin. When Bo Ya played the Guqin in the mountains, Zhong Ziqi would say: "How towering like Mount Tai!" When Bo Ya was playing in the sea, Zhong Ziqi would say: "How vast are the rivers and oceans!" Whatever Bo Ya thought while playing, Ziqi would never fail to understand. Bo Ya said: "Amazing! Your heart and mine are the same!" After Zhong Ziqi died, Bo Ya broke his Guqin because he thought that no one else would be able to understand his music.

Based on the two men's true friendship, the word Zhiyin was generated to suggest a person who knows music well. In Chinese culture, the word Zhiyin has become a special cultural signifier for close friends who understand each other completely. When talking about Zhiyin, it is generally accepted that this word describes a soul mate. The story of Bo Ya and Ziqi has been considered integral to the philosophy of relationships in Chinese culture, encapsulating the Chinese ideal of friendship.

DIVE INTO STREET DANCE

A POWERFUL EXPERIENCE



Joining a street dance club was a mere coincidence; I started dancing for a somewhat childish reason, a bet between my mother and I. At the time, I did not expect to be dancing for this long. In the dance club, I have experienced all kinds of exciting and frustrating moments. I will always rejoice that I have met my dance teacher and teammates, and I also appreciate all the difficulties I have been through. During my time there, not only have I become more physically capable, but I have also grown in terms of emotional management, responsibility, and compassion.

In my opinion, a place worth going to should be one that leads us to become better people instead of just being carefree.

Street dance club has never been a utopia, nor will it ever be one in the future. On the contrary, it is a small society: we express ourselves assertively through dance moves, we enjoy music, we compete for skills and dares, we love ourselves, we learn how to respect and understand others and we progress together. Everyone is genuine and animated.

EXPLORE INFINITY

Dance is a form of art. Unlike other arts, there are basically no barriers to entry. The greatest talents are passion and effort. The truth of dance is blood, sweat, and tears. Never complain about toughness and tiredness: shortcuts do not exist in street dance.

Geniuses emerge endlessly; we are a young, fresh, and impulsive group. Exploring the limits of the human body is our goal; the desire of expressing is obvious in all our extreme dance moves.

The styles of dance are also unlimited: break-dancing (mostly ground moves), popping, locking, house dance and waacking are all well-known examples of street dance. Voguing particularly supports the culture of LGBTQ and originated from Harlem ballroom cultures. Jazz was initially a blending of traditional African steps with European styles of movement; it was socially-oriented and has always had a performative feel, whereas along with the development of street dance, jazz now has a considerable number of branches such as jazz funk, power jazz and afro jazz.



Although these dance styles have developed from different places, our objective is all about embracing diversity. The idea is that we accept, appreciate and welcome variety and creativity. In contrast, we also hope society can tolerate and acknowledge street dancers' differences and talents, as well as all other groups of people who find it hard to speak up for themselves. •

JIAYAN YE (YEAR 13B)



THE MEANING OF LIFE 101

When we face difficulties, we often find ourselves wondering why we are doing such things. What is the point? How will this impact or alter my life in the long run? These are a few of the questions one inevitably thinks about at some point in their life. It is in human nature to find meaning in completing a task. Some will do it for their own benefit. Others will do it for the benefit to society. Others will do it simply because they are told to.

There are three primary philosophical theories that one subconsciously follows: existentialism; absurdism; and nihilism. The difference between the three is the motive for living.

“ In the midst of winter,, I have discovered within myself

EXISTENTIALISM

Existentialism is the belief that through the combination of awareness, free will, and personal responsibility, one can construct their own meaning within a world that intrinsically has none of its own. In other words, we must create our own lives, our own selves and our own values. Jean-Paul Sartre, a key figure in the philosophy of existentialism, said that “we are condemned to be free”.

One may argue that in life, there is no such thing as ‘free will’. There are two critical aspects to prove this argument: (1) everything that has happened is the result of a previous event, one that you cannot control; and (2) we simply don’t have the ability to act freely due to higher authority, such as restrictions due to religion and laws.

ABSURDISM

Absurdism is a philosophy based on the belief that the universe is irrational and there is no true meaning; if one were to search for rationality, order or true meaning, one would simply be in conflict with the universe.

Albert Camus, a major figure of absurdism, wrote in *The Myth of Sisyphus* that: “there is but one truly serious philosophical problem and that is suicide”. To expand on this, Camus argues that because of the whole concept of absurdism and the irrationality and pointlessness of life, killing yourself amounts to confessing: it is confessing that life is too much for you and your casual joys amount to nothing. This is the basic philosophy of nihilism, one understood by the earlier philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche – yet he did not kill himself, he drove himself crazy instead. Camus disagrees with this concept. Another result of absurdism is philosophical suicide and the philosophical ‘leap of faith’. What this means is that one chooses to believe in something, without proof. One may believe in God and follow a set of morals and rules in order to create personal meaning, yet this once again is a theory that Camus did not accept. Committing to a practice, a condition, a way to behave, something to live for or live out of would be wrong.

Camus believes that one should embrace the absurd and take it as it comes, using the Myth of Sisyphus as a prime example. Sisyphus, the absurd hero, was thought to be the wisest and most prudent of mortals. He was punished by the gods and condemned to ceaselessly roll a rock to the top of a mountain, only for it to roll back down. The gods had thought that there is no worse punishment than eternal labour that is futile and hopeless. How does this relate to us today? The average worker of today works every day of their life at the same tasks and this fate is no less absurd. Sisyphus accepted his fate of rolling a rock to the top of a mountain, yet he rebelled and found happiness in his task:

an invincible summer.”

Au milieu de l'hiver,
j'ai découvert en moi
un invincible été.



“ Each atom of that stone, each mineral flake of that night-filled mountain, in itself forms a world. The struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy”.

That is the meaning of life. •

Stefanos Papapostolou (Year 13B)

TAKE A CHANCE:



YAYUN PAN (YEAR 13B)

In 'game theory', the word "game" does not reflect what we normally play, like chess, computer games or UNO. Instead it refers to a broader picture, particularly business behaviour. Game Theory is essentially the study of predicting the actions and outcomes of what may occur when two or more self-interested agents interact strategically. It is important and relevant in all the fields that may involve engagement between people, such as economics, sociology, computer science and many other subjects.

PRISONER'S DILEMMA

When talking about game theory, the prisoner's dilemma is a good and one of the most famous cases to express the basic principles.

The story starts when two people who have committed a crime together are arrested. The police cannot investigate any further evidence to prove they are guilty, so they question them instead. The police separate them into two rooms and address them with the same dilemma: "If both of you claim that both are innocent, you will go to jail and be released after one year because there is not enough evidence. If one of you confesses and claims that the other is guilty, you will be released immediately and the other will get six years in jail. However, if both of you confess, you will both get five years in jail."

At the same time, it is assumed that both prisoners are self-interested. This does not mean that they don't care about the action the other one will take; it only means that they try to maximise their expected or average gain.

It is interesting when trying to figure out what will be the outcome, because theoretically, both of them could choose to confess, which will lead to the worst outcome: both of them in jail for five years.



It is useful if you think about this question by considering one of the prisoners only, for example Prisoner 1. On the one hand, if Prisoner 1 chooses to cooperate, the total payoff for them is $-1 + -6 = -7$, so the expected payoff is $-7 \div 2 = -3.5$. On the other hand, if Prisoner 1 chooses to betray, the total payoff is $0 + -5 = -5$, so the expected payoff is $-5 \div 2 = -2.5$.



By comparing these two values ($-3.5 < -2.5$), it is reasonable to choose to betray in order to get a lighter punishment. In addition, the exact identical situation applies to Prisoner 2.

| | | PRISONER 2 | |
|------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| | | COOPERATE | BETRAY |
| PRISONER 1 | COOPERATE | -1 -1 | -6 0 |
| | DEVIATE | 0 -6 | -5 -5 |

BEST RESPONSE: DOMINANT STRATEGY AND NASH EQUILIBRIUM

In the above case, choose to betray is the best response for both prisoners since there is no other choice that they can make which will possibly give them a better outcome. We can also use 'dominant strategy' to calculate the final outcome of this game, which is the strategy that presents the best option for each player. When you look at the punishment Prisoner 1 will get when they choose to cooperate, if Prisoner 2 chooses to cooperate as well, they will get -1. If they betray they will get -6; however, if Prisoner 1 chooses to betray, they will get 0 and -5 respectively. Each of them is better than the outcome of cooperating.

| | | PRISONER 2 | |
|------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| | | COOPERATE | BETRAY |
| PRISONER 1 | COOPERATE | -1, -1 | -6, 0 |
| | DEVIATE | 0, -6 | -5, -5 |

Nash Equilibrium occurs when all the players have played the game with their best response; therefore all the players will not deviate from the actions they are now taking, since they cannot get a better outcome. It is called equilibrium because all the players are at a stable point where nothing will change, even if all of them have other choices. Thus theoretically, these are the only possible situations that will result. In the case of Prisoner's Dilemma, although any other outcomes are better than the bottom-right one, none of them reflects Nash Equilibrium.

There is only one Nash Equilibrium in Prisoner's Dilemma, though games which have none, two or more exist as well. For example, say that two individuals are playing a game. They write down a letter, A or B, separately and then view the letter simultaneously. If both of them wrote the same letter, then Player 1 gains one point and Player 2 loses one. If they wrote different letters, Player 1 loses one and Player 2 gains one. There is no Nash equilibrium in this game.

| | | PLAYER 2 | |
|----------|---|----------|-------|
| | | A | B |
| PLAYER 1 | A | 1, -1 | -1, 1 |
| | B | -1, 1 | 1, -1 |

In a more realistic situation, imagine you are riding a bicycle on the road and see a person right in front of you. You can choose to go left or right to avoid an accident; the best outcome will be that both of you go in the same direction from your own side. There are two Nash Equilibria in this game.

| | | YOU | |
|-----------|-------|---------|---------|
| | | LEFT | RIGHT |
| PASSER-BY | LEFT | 1, 1 | -10, -5 |
| | RIGHT | -10, -5 | 1, 1 |

HOW DOES GAME THEORY RELATE TO ECONOMICS AND SOCIOLOGY?

Game theory is a key theory in economics since it can help to predict behaviour in the business setting. For example, if there are two or more suppliers in a market and all of them interact together in relation to price-setting, they are likely to have agreements with each other to avoid competitions which may lead to the worst outcomes for them. Also, the case of Prisoner's Dilemma is likely to exist between firms which produce identical goods and services. Due to the inverse relationship between price and demand and the fact that one company is able to gain much more when it lowers down its price but others do not, this will eventually result in a price war which is what all companies are trying to avoid. Similarly, the Nash Equilibrium only occurs in the worst payoff for both of companies.

| | | COMPANY 2 | |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | | PRICES REMAINS THE SAME | PRICES DECREASE |
| COMPANY 1 | PRICES REMAIN THE SAME | 100, 100 | 50, 200 |
| | PRICES DECREASE | 200, 50 | 50, 50 |

In the social sphere too, socialisation is key to human society functioning properly. We learn basic values, rules, knowledge and build consensus through a range of different agencies such as the family, education and media. Socialisation is maximising the utility of the whole society, since everyone knows what they should and should not do in various situations. In the case of the bicycle, if we do not have consensus and cycle any which way, the possibility of having an accident is raised. Instead we behave in such a way so as to achieve the best, not the worst outcome.

THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION OF GREECE



HISTORY

Therapeutic horse-riding only began in Greece in 1983, thanks to the work of Aideen Lewis. The Therapeutic Riding Association of Greece (TRAG) was established in 1992 as a non-profit volunteers' organisation and one year later, it was recognised as a sports organisation.

Prior to moving to its current location, TRAG was situated in the Riding Centre of Goudi. The functioning of TRAG expanded as a result of having a permanent home and enough infrastructure. It increased its number of horses and broadened its operations to become a fully functional therapeutic riding facility. In addition to treatment sessions, TRAG has created an internship program for students in faculties relevant to rehabilitation and an educational programme for training teachers in therapeutic riding.

HOW TRAG HAS HELPED ME



TRAG has helped me in many ways that I never would have imagined. Since I have ADHD and anxiety, my mom wanted to find a place that would help me outside of therapy. This is where TRAG came in. We waited a year for a placement due to Covid-19, but the wait was worth it.

When I first started at TRAG, I was incredibly nervous as I had never done anything like it before. But when I met Sunny, the horse I would be working with, all the anxiety and fear quickly went away. Sunny, my former instructor Lina, and current instructor Katerina, have all helped me to regain my confidence, become more expressive when voicing opinions, reduce my anxiety, and considerably improve my mental health. I cannot begin to express my gratitude towards Sunny. I am grateful for how I am becoming more conscious of who I am, how I react, and how I interact with people. Sunny encourages a comfortable environment in which I feel supported to learn, heal, and connect with others. •



BENEFITS OF THERAPEUTIC RIDING

The advantages of therapeutic riding are enormous for a wide range of mental and physical health conditions. Horses are useful in family or group therapy because they possess the capacity to interact with people on a personal level. In order to foster teamwork, counsellors may also employ horse therapy.

- » Increased trust
- » Reduced anxiety
- » Lowers feelings of depression and isolation
- » Increased self-esteem, self-acceptance, and social skills
- » Better impulse control
- » Increased critical thinking skills
- » Improved communication skills, including non-verbal
- » Better understanding of healthy boundaries and the importance of assertiveness
- » Learn to break away from negative, self-absorbed thought patterns and nurture another creature



TRINITY OWNHOUSE
[YEAR 13A]

EXTREMELY... GOOD!

E
U
P
H
O
R
I
A

The critically acclaimed HBO series *Euphoria* is a must-see for every teenager as it is one of the most beautiful, depressing and mesmerising cinematic experiences I've seen on television in a while.

The show is centred on a colourful group of American high-schoolers who are all going through huge changes and difficulties in their lives, specifically concerning their sexuality, drug problems and identities. Notable characters that are extremely well-written and well-cast are Rue (Zendaya), Nate (Jacob Elordi), Maddy (Alexa Demie) and Fez (Angus Cloud). All the characters are very eccentric, and the writers centre the conflicts of the show mainly on their actions and their problems. Every conflict is a consequence of how the characters act and feel around each other and inside themselves. For example, Maddy slowly transforms into a more domineering and aggressive character as the show progresses, which is mainly caused by her own personal insecurities as well as her disgust and loathing of Cassie (Sydney Sweeney) who had a secret relationship with her boyfriend Nate.

Another aspect the show should be given credit for is for the cinematography department which won and was nominated for a multitude of EMMY awards. The cinematography in this show is breathtaking, with heavy colours and dark palettes being used in order to institute a true feeling of revulsion and sadness, drawing the audience into the show and the characters' depraved natures. The camerawork is exquisite, with angles and shots being extremely artsy at times, especially when it comes to party scenes or scenes of heavy conflict, with the latter making me very emotional during my second screening of the whole show.

However, the show suffers from two key characteristics that are integral to its identity: the costumes and the representation of its characters' problems. To begin, the costumes are nothing short of normal, flashy, well-designed, expensive clothing, especially for the female characters of the show. They draw you out of the show's storyline, as you are laughing at how ridiculous the characters look, as all audiences know that high-schoolers don't dress with such flamboyant styles on a daily basis. Secondly, the extremities to which the show goes to portray the problems of its characters is off-putting and sometimes annoying. A great example of this is Cassie who constantly wants to be a beauty queen and is obsessed with Nate Jacobs. Even though Sydney Sweeney plays her spectacularly, the character is by nature annoying and, to the fanbase, even hated. These writing decisions are very questionable, especially as she becomes an integral part of the story in Season 2.

Finally, I would like to end this review with a final criticism and that is the overall portrayal of teenagers in the show. Frankly, I'm not a fan as the show is very trope-heavy in this respect. The show's general portrayal of teenagers as violent, extremely sexual and excessive drug-takers paints an awful image of who we are as a generation. Even though such aspects exist within our age group, the show's portrayal is extreme and people who say that this is reality should themselves get a reality-check.

Overall, the show is an extremely well-crafted piece of modern television, and despite certain extremities, it has grown on me due to the characters and beautiful cinematography which deserves great praise.

RANKING: 8/10

THEO CHALVANTZIS-
SARIDAKIS
(YEAR 13A)

GOD COMPLEXES IN FICTION:

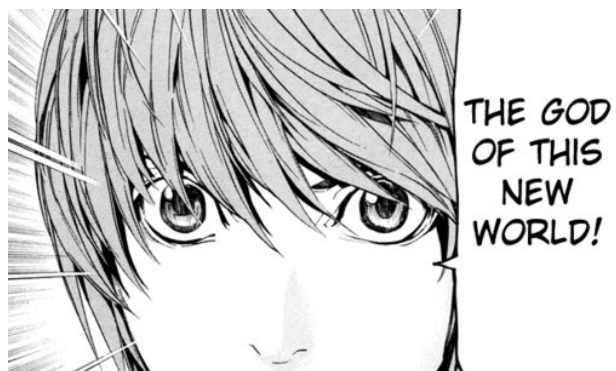
For millennia, human societies have hypothesised about an omnipresent, omnipotent, and omnibenevolent supreme or almighty reality, in the form of a deity, to explain what cannot be answered by science. Many theories and beliefs suggest that such a being is disguised among us. A god complex is defined by an unshakeable self-belief in oneself as that person, characterised by inflated feelings of personal ability, privilege, and infallibility.

This trait is very difficult to encapsulate in a fictional character, simply due to its multifaceted nature. There are so many factors that need to be considered when constructing such a character, and if the 'Goldilocks conditions' are not met, then the character will fall flat and merely bore and confuse the readers. Yet, Tsugumi Ohba, a Japanese writer, has managed to create arguably one of the most well-written characters in history, perfectly portraying all aspects of a god complex, specifically in three pivotal moments of the series.



Light Yagami, or Kira, is the protagonist and main antagonist of the popular manga series 'Death Note,' which is centred around a notebook from the supernatural world that kills any person whose name is written inside it. The manga starts off by showcasing Light's everyday life as a high-school student, and even before he obtains the Death Note, signs of narcissism in his behaviour are clearly spotted. He was a natural genius, being one of the top students in the country, and in addition to that, he was what most perceived to be strikingly handsome. Light was aware that he was different, and, despite his popularity, chose to isolate himself from social groups, implying a feeling of superiority from the general public - that he was too good to surround himself with 'plebeians'. His hatred for violent criminals, possibly stemming from his father's career as a detective, was also one of the key driving factors of the development of his god complex, as he scoffs in disgust at a news report broadcasting the murder of a woman in Chapter One.

The first pivot in Light's character was the moment he obtained the Death Note. He finally had a way to exercise his righteousness and superiority and did not hesitate to do so at all. In fact, Ryuk, the 'God of Death', was astonished as to just how many criminals Light managed to kill in such a short period of time, to which Light responded, "I'm ridding the world of evil and creating a utopia. No matter how much time I have, it won't be enough". This denotes that Light still acknowledges that he is mortal, yet is satiated with the thought of being 'the people's saviour'. Moreover, Light's reaction towards criticism of Kira, exclaiming "I am righteous! I am the hero who's liberating people from fear! I am the saviour who is going to be like a god of this perfect new world!" represents his devotion to being the embodiment of justice, which is one thing that remains unchanged in him throughout the series.



A CASE STUDY



BARAN MOHAMMADI
(YEAR 13B)

WARNING!
THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS
SPOILERS FOR THE MANGA
SERIES 'DEATH NOTE'

As the situation harboured global concern, and the 'deity' behind this phenomenon was named 'Kira', the best detective in the world, known under the alias 'L', was introduced into the series, and was able to outsmart Light in a matter of hours by locating his city of residence. This served as the second pivotal moment

for Light's character. Light could not fathom how a mortal could exist in the world who was on the same level of genius as him. This can be observed when L outsmarted Light for the second time and Light told himself, "I have never been so humiliated in my entire life". Despite not having any effect on his reputation, he was still embarrassed, indicating his frustration with the fact that he was not the smartest; that he was not the Kira the world had prophesised him to be, yet. Furthermore, when Light's father was in hospital from all the stress of the investigation, he and L agreed that the power to kill was evil and anyone with that power is unfortunate. Later, Light rebutted that comment, stating to Ryuk, "I've never once considered gaining that notebook and gaining this power a misfortune. In fact, it's made me happier than I've ever been", which displays Light's love for and obsession with power, with no regard for how it affects others. He does not perceive himself to be just as evil as the violent criminals he kills, despite committing the same heinous crimes, as his vision is clouded with delusion. Any power, let alone this power, feeds into his narcissism, establishing many other pillars of his god complex.



The last pivotal moment for Light's character is when he finally kills L. He had defeated the only person he saw as an opponent; someone who was just as powerful as him, and hence there was no obstacle between him and Kira: the all-knowing and all-able god. Simultaneously, he found the perfect balance between being Light Yagami, maintaining his façade, and being Kira. This was exhibited when Light's father was on his death-bed and Light (the façade) was crying his eyes out for his father, while Kira was more concerned about using Light's father to kill Detective Mello, connoting Light's ultimate detachment from humanity and morality and his complete immersion in narcissism. The peak of Light's god complex is engendered in the final scene of the series, where he is cornered. He realises he has been caught, and starts laughing deliriously, falling into a craze, before announcing, "That's right, I am Kira. And what can you do? Kill me right here?". Light's sarcasm signifies his delusional belief, that he is immortal and omnibenevolent.



He is truly convinced he can get out of this situation without any consequences, that he can still emerge as Kira while defeating the SPK Task Force, which is false as he is the one who has been defeated. At this point, he has fallen into a state of utter insanity as he mumbles on about how he is the saviour of this world. Eventually, he is killed.



In conclusion, Light's descent from an educated, bright scholar into a neurotic, power-hungry tyrant is a complete embodiment of a god complex, as he became the villain of his own story. It also poses many questions to readers: was Light's fate determined as soon as he obtained the Death Note, or did pre-existing factors play a role as well? Was Light truly the personification of pure evil? And finally, if you had the Death Note, what would you have done? ·

SCRUMPTIOUS EGG TARTS

INGREDIENTS:

1 EGG
PUFF PASTRY
30ML MILK
25G SUGAR
200ML LIGHT CREAM

METHOD:

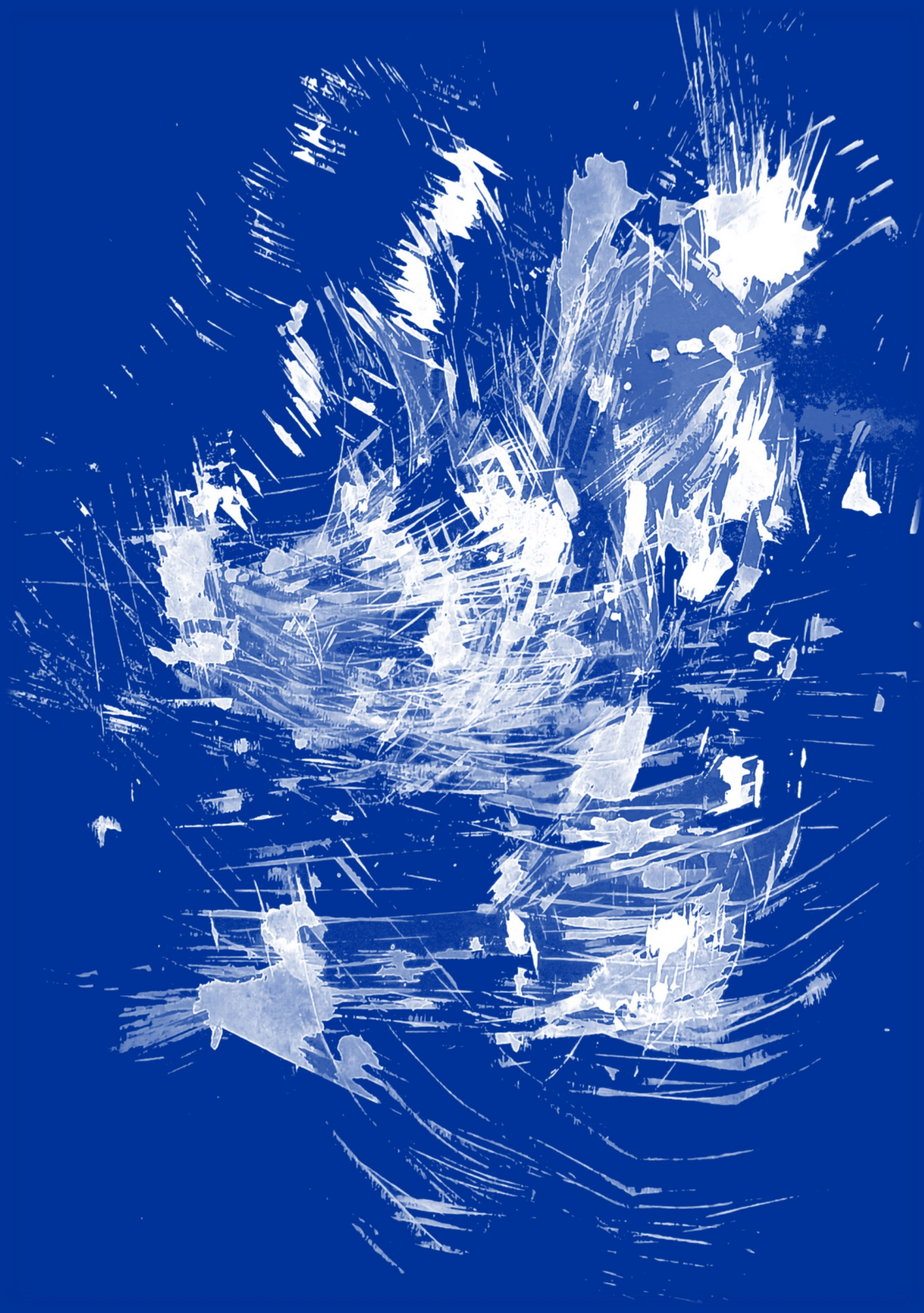
- 1 Place puff pastry in the oven and bake for 3 minutes at 180 °C for a light honey colour.
- 2 Mix light cream, egg, sugar and milk in a bowl and add the mixture into the puff pastry.
- 3 Place pastry in oven again and roast for 15 minutes at 180 °C.

VOILA!

YOU ARE
DONE!

JULIA LIN
(YEAR 13A)

Creative



Expression



The Earth heaved and groaned with the breaking of dawn: a sunlight crown, smiling upward at the black heavens. Hues of gold and orange drenched the garden and castle, bathing them in a glorious light and making the scene look hallowed. The garden was lush with life – an oasis with a variety of flowers and colours – daffodils bloomed and flourished near the forget-me-nots while butterfly bushes hung over the glittering pond, their vibrant violet chroma attracting the elegant butterflies to dance upon their very blooms. Roses thrived across the borders of the castle, protecting the small sanctuary that lay within. One gate was the only way in and out of the garden strewn before the magnificent castle – one gate that had last opened centuries ago. Gardenias stood guard and a cascade of small flora fell down the gates like a curtain – a barrier hiding the internal fragile beauty, preserved from whatever wandered and occurred in the outside world. The trees stretched, leaves raining down and splattering the already rich ground with more colour – the perfect amount of chaos and peace. Flowers became the music of the ground from earth's lips unspoken. A small field of dandelions also found sanctum in the nursery, representing dozens of wishes yet to be made. Enchanting and heavenly smells filled the whole garden, a small paradise – her Eden. Out of the beaten wooden doors of the castle stepped a girl: sun-kissed, flower-sweet and fire-wild. She truly bloomed each day in the most angelic way. She bloomed beautifully, dangerously, softly. Her heart bloomed sunflowers so she would face the sunlight, innocent and pure. She found overwhelming hope in the little flowers; she was a dreamer looking for the stars whenever it got too dark to see and, in the spring, her heart regrew hope. She believed with her whole being that the world can only be saved and remade by dreamers like her.

The girl wore a white dress that fell like liquid gold upon her body, radiating power and mystery as she trod the cobblestone path heading towards the centre of the garden – the cupid's arrow orchid. Her prized possession and labour of love once watered by her lonely tears, it rose from the mud, blooming out of the darkness to radiate into the world and the girl's heart. Her arms, scratched from her years of gardening and planting, were decorated with wounds: seeds waiting to grow. She wore her scars as her best attire – a stunning dress of hellfire that she would never dare hide. On the other side of the border, she knew of the cold world existing: a man's world. Her fate, being sent as a gift to bring prosperity and life into the world, was disregarded; instead, she was mistreated, pushed away into hiding with her scars as a mere reminder of humanity's cruelty and vitriol. Seeking refuge, she created her own little paradise away from the pain and toil – in a place where blood had once stained the soil and ash covered the terrain. A place where no one would think to go. Nonetheless, the past lay forgotten and lost amongst the later-grown fantasia risen from the blood and ash.

Panic settled into her heart as the gates creaked and groaned, breaking the harmonious songs of nature. Contemplating if she should take the risk, not having seen a living human being for a prolonged time, she walked lightly and cautiously through the attunement of flowers until she reached the gate – remaining stagnant until it shook again. Raising her pale and shaking hand, she brushed the waterfall of blooms aside to see who it was and to her bewilderment, it was a young, beguiling boy. His eyes stared into her own in deep wonder as she absorbed his presence; dressed in heavy clothing, his round face, a flushed complexion and hay-like hair were his only visible attributes.

Conflicted, she spoke with a voice hoarse and quiet, "Who are you?", while he gaped at her breathlessly, staring at the miracle that lay before him. Then, gathering the courage to make out a few words he spoke, "My name is Atlas. I am from a village far from... here", tilting his head to the side to view the sanctuary more clearly as she questioned, "And why are you here?", standing defensively in front of the gate, aware of this non-God-fearing human. His cheeks made his eyes almost disappear as they rose for a smile and he did not hesitate to respond: "Outside of these gates there is an eternal winter that reigns the land and with so much ugliness in the world, someone has to believe in something more – in magic!"



Stricken by his words, she lost her defensive stature, leaning slightly against the cherry blossom tree. Noticing this, he urged, "Could I please come in? I promise I will leave and never come back if you wish. I just wish to see life once more". The wind rustled and wove the girl's hair as she thought deeply, ready to deny his request until he whispered, "I have long longed for day and light to break in this lonely world". A heavy shriek reverberated across the land as the heavy gates opened...

As time passed, the boy would visit the garden, entering with the key entrusted to him by the girl. Their aspiring hopes and dreams formed a bond between the two, one they were both yet to comprehend. She gave him access to every part of her world, except the innermost area that no mortal was ever to set foot in. However, time wore her suspicions away and the girl became encapsulated by his words. She felt drawn to him in the most exasperating ways and fell into his eye's dark pools, mesmerised by the way he made her feel wanted... alive. Two lonely people hidden from the rest of the world – two dreamers. He would brush her hair past her face when the breeze sang its melodious tune, braiding it and twisting it at will; he would place his arm tenderly around her waist as their love blossomed under the midsummer night skies. On a fateful day the boy brought her a gift: a crown made of roses. His hands were pricked and the flesh rose-tinged as he placed it on her head while expressing words of love, "If I had a flower for every time I thought of you, I could walk in my garden forever". Swept away by his charm, she would smile softly and voice, "Like flowers ache for spring... I ache for your embrace". Thus day after day, he would bring her a rose from the rose bush borders surrounding the castle, slowly breaking them down. She would cherish and gather the roses, aware of their stone-inscribed destiny: to flourish, then fall apart, petal by petal, eventually decaying into nothing – but for those short moments when they maintained their allure, they were a gentle reminder of what she shared with Atlas.

They spent their days in content: finding comfort in each other's loneliness and with every rose, he would hum the same quote to her affectionately, "Our love is a rare rose, the perfume intoxicating – picked by fingers oblivious to the thorns", to which she would respond sincerely, "But he who dares not grasp the thorn, should never crave the rose", burrowing deeper into his engulfing embrace – where she found the month of June never ended. Passion-driven, they lay underneath the cherry blossom tree, their whole world a garden, understanding that finding solace in each other was all they ever needed.

The moon was ripe with summer's love when she decided she was ready to show him her self-created miracle, her truth, her deepest secret, the cupid's arrow orchid. She grasped his hand, warmth spreading from her fingertips to her heart once more, the familiar feeling addicting, overwhelming. So, without another word, she gently tugged his hand and he followed blindly, trustingly as he was led deeper into the garden, underneath an arch of digitalis blooms, into an area that glowed with iridescent, holy light. He had woken up a part of her that she never knew existed: breaking down her walls and showing her love in all its different colours. As he looked at the blossom for the first time, she could not read his darkened eyes – and the glimmer that was always in his eyes when he looked at her was gone. Following the loud silence that fell upon them both, he exhaled, "I loathe my human heart". Her brow furrowed as she tried to understand, "Why? Do you fear emotion? Be glad of your human heart. Pity those who do not feel anything at all". Silence dominated the conversation once more, before he let go of her hand. Losing that familiar warmth that she had grown attached to, a single worry came to plague her mind; she drowned watching helplessly whilst he gained upon the flower, greedily drinking its elegance...

The forbidden flower was now exposed. The eyes of a man had now laid upon its priceless beauty and with her naïve, pure heart on her sleeve, she had believed in him – in them. There were no more roses left for him to bring and no more petals left to fall. Weeks passed since the day she laid her emotions out before him, and she waited patiently for his presence to fill the garden once more. She enclosed herself in her own internal dungeon, the castle, unwilling to go to her garden, with butterflies her sole companion. The all-too-familiar bittersweet feeling of loneliness blooming in her chest once more. Darkness draped over the garden, and she fell into mourning, hope ebbing away in the passage of time and the colour slowly draining from her eyes.

Her lifeline remained: she mustered up her last spark of hope and dragged her limp body through the wilting flowers to look at what she nurtured and tended for with such devotion. She took in a trembling breath, her eyes refusing to see all she loved gone... thus her tears blurred the memory. Her child was gone. All she truly loved was lost. Anger, resentment and pain rose in her stomach, bringing her to her knees as they buckled and crashed against the fertile earth. With burning tears in her eyes, she blamed him, she blamed the world, but most of all she blamed herself for allowing herself to be fooled again. In a futile attempt to unbreak the broken, she dug – dug until her fingers and hands bled. Her nails cracked and tore as she desperately dug, looking for warmth and the feeling of comfort. She was a depiction of gorgeous chaos as her heart shattered and scattered itself upon the ground where she ferociously dug, but who was there to see her? Who was there when all was lost? Who was there to heave her from the bloody ground and help her stand? No one. Alone and numb she felt her soul ache and she screamed in agony to whoever would hear, wondering what she ever did to deserve such pain and sorrow. Her lips curled to a razor-thin smile while her heart was ripped out from her chest, attempting to mask the overwhelming choking feeling of betrayal but failing as her hands bled ruby flowers upon the dirt. A piece of her died that would never return – she was heaving, suffocating, her heart aching and calling out to him but to no avail. Old wounds reopened and stung – yet she was heedless of it and the canvas of her pale skin, now painted red. The anger slowly diminished, leaving behind bruises, more scars and a pitch-black hole in her heart that swallowed all the life from her. She was left a mere shell, gazing at nothing but the bloody ground without a thought in mind, as the garden drowned even further in melancholy. Empty. Her haven had transformed into a claustrophobic prison, with every corner a constant reminder of him: the butterflies died and dropped from the skies like snowflakes, dusting the bloody ground with their colours. Silence grew heavy across the land as every living creature shared the girl's pain and anguish – it was over. Quite ludicrous is the heart: that shatters over and over yet still lives. Once the heart gets too heavy with pain, people do not cry... they turn silent. Completely and utterly silent.



“And so, the young girl that made her own little safe flourishing world, wasted away. This here is her final resting place where you are all looking. The place reeks of dead plants – I understand, Miss Cathleen, we will leave shortly. The castle lies untouched, swept by the passage of time, crumbling and falling. Now, we can move on to talk about the myth of Pandora's Box. Follow me back to the bus everyone!”



All had their phones out, taking pictures of the grandeur that the castle represented – all but one who noticed a small bulb protruding from the ground at the place where the girl was said to have exhaled her final breath. The girl with hazel hair and a glimmer in her eyes approached it with wonder in her eyes, realizing the small flower that was to bloom was a cupid's arrow orchid. Next to the bulb was a stone engraved with the words, “If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden”. With new-found inspiration, the girl went on to envision the rest of her life differently in a new light – the light of an ever-growing garden:

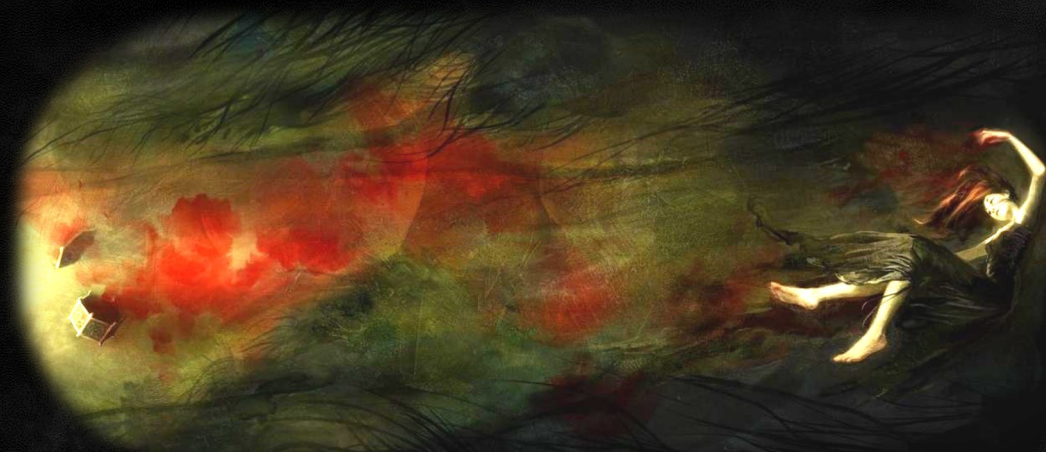


“The world will be saved and remade only by the dreamers”.

I OPEN MY EYES
AND SEE THE WORLD CORRUPTED
A BOX WAS OPENED; A BITE WAS TAKEN
AND CREATION ERUPTED
INTO CHAOS

Humans no longer love.
Abel's in the dirt while Cain with violence rules
The land. A burst of wrath — a bullet cracks the air.
Rage now motivates us. Brother strikes brother; friend betrays friend.
Evil's the world's fuel and fratricide its flaming pyre. Blood is spilt, and the
Devil is glad and rejoices.

Endlessly now people strive for wealth and fame and glory.
Neighbours foster avarice in place of admiration, with
Vengeance always reserved for those who are more successful.
Yearning for contentment, a green gaze ends a life.



Food is plentiful. But still I see a child
Aching from fatal thirst and hunger. His worried
Mother hugs him — she tries to give him comfort.
Idly, the world observes, complaining and protesting, while
Nothing's done at all. And
Every child dies with him.

Infants are born every day that will not
Live even a year in this world. A frail, white-haired man
Lies motionless on a cold bed. He turns, coughs, shakes.
No one is around him. Tomorrow he'll be gone and forgotten.
Early in her life, a young girl succumbs to her mortal sickness.
Scores of ailments plague a wounded world. This
Suffering has no end.

Departure from this earth is preordained for
Every person that has walked upon it. Some may leave
At ninety, some at fifty, or twenty, or none. But for all, the
Time will come to move from one
Hell to another.

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Heaven, though, did leave one
hidden virtue among these evils,
Of a nature most mysterious, an
essence most divine,
Persisting in eternity. Through
hope, we see the will to live,
Expecting justice to return and
the light of life to shine.

ANDREAS MICHAS (YEAR 12B)

Tarnished and worn
 You make a leap of valour
 I clip your wings
 You are in the hail of my sword

Make amends
 For the pain I swallow
 For the ropes of guilt strangling my peace
 For my prolonged silence answering your questions

I contemplate
 You haunt my burdens
 You evoke my past,
 Govern my future
 Your blood stains my hands
 Your final bid

I compromise
 My sins forage for redemption,
 To no avail
 And to no avail I cry for you

My eyes of envy crave mercy
 My heart craving seclusion
 Tonight, my tears dry in vain
 I borrow warmth I cannot return
 And douse your final spark

Tonight, I surrender my hollow pride
 A facade of blame
 Disguising my sorrow
 Stealthily, it salts your wounds and cuts of agony

Disgraced, we are
 In the gates of heaven
 I can no longer wave my flag of defeat
 In the crimson skies of your weakness,

A mauve dusk is at play
 Performing on the stage of my discomfort
 Tranquil
 My breath smothers your flame
 Your wax thaws to liquid

And for eternity
 Your ghost, my monarch
 For eternity
 My deception fooled you
 Ergo one survivor,
 Me
 Tonight, I confess

MATINA PAPAGEORGIU (YEAR 12C)
 & DANAI GEORGIADOU (YEAR 12A)

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I like the sunny days
 Much as I like the grey ones

I like the smile on my face
 When the sun comes out
 Making my sensitive blue eyes flinch.
 But I still enjoy the softness of my skin
 When grey surrounds the morning sky

Clothes start to get shy
 As the season changes
 Grey and yellow.
 But let's not forget about the season
 Where the leaves become green and brown
 For a good reason.



Where shirts and scarves combine
 Pie and wine
 We see parents in good spirits
 As the bipolarity of autumn comes around
 The uncertainty of emotions mutually comes too.

The yes or no
 The should or shouldn't
 Comes along with the seasons
 The yes comes with the yellow
 The no comes with the grey
 And the shakiness comes with
 Green and brown
 Scarves and shirts
 Pie and wine.



Maria Sepulveda (Year 12B)



চিরদিনের ভালবাসা

তার জীবনের এক অধ্যায় ছিলাম আমি,
কিন্তু সম্পূর্ণ একটা বই ছিল সে আমার
জীবনের।

সোনালী সূর্যের আলোর নিচে
আনন্দে মেতে উঠেছিলাম,
হাতে হাত মিলিয়ে
কাঁধে কাঁধ মিলিয়ে
যাচ্ছিলাম একসাথে।

তার মধুর মত মিষ্টি কণ্ঠ,
আমার মনে তৃপ্তি দিত
তার সৌম্য মায়বী চোখে,
আমার চমকপ্রদ স্বপ্ন ভেসে উঠত।

সে কি দেখতে পারতো?
আমার চোখে আশা?
সে কি বুঝতে পারতো?
আমার মনের সীমাহীন ভালবাসা?
সে কি জানতো? আমার সব স্মরণীয়
মুহূর্ত,
তার সাথে হীরার চেয়েও দামী?

দিন শুরু হয় তার কথা ভেবে,
নিদ্রায় তার চিত্র উঠে ভেসে।
প্রার্থনা করি এক দুনিয়ার জন্য...
যেখানে জন্মাবে আমাদের চিরদিন সুখের
কাহিনী
এক গল্প যা লিখেছি আমাদের
জীবনের আলোহীন অধ্যায়ের পাতা ছিড়ে।

ভাবনায় আশে,
সে কি পারবে আসতে স্বর্গের থেকে
নেমে?
ক্ষণিকের জন্য আমার কাছে?

FIMA AMIN (YEAR 13B)

ETERNAL LOVE

I was a chapter in her life
But she – she was a whole book in
mine.

Under the golden hour we rose,
Happiness beaming in our eyes.
We walked hand in hand,
Side by side.

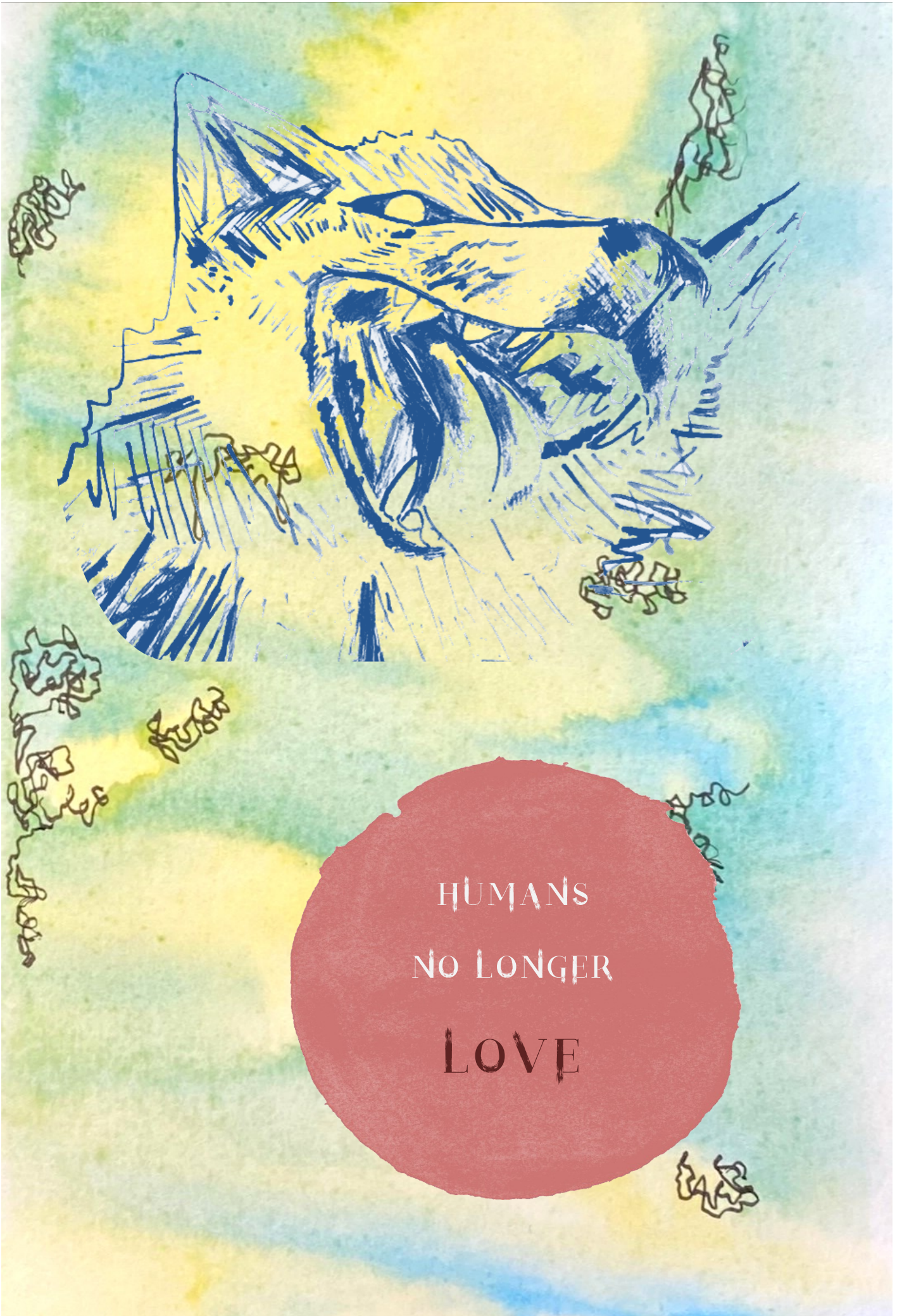
Her voice sweet as honey,
Dripping with mellifluousness,
Made me forget all my worries,
Made me take a fresh breath of air,
Calming my soul.
The eyes that once gleamed,
Locked in my dreams securely.

Had she seen
The hope in my eyes?
Had she perceived
My undying love for her?
Had she known
All my moments with her
Were more precious than
A diamond buried in the abyss?

The day started with misted thoughts
of her,
Her picture engraved on my dreams.
I pray, I pray
For a world that will reinscribe our
love story,
The romance novel that I wrote,
By ripping out the bleak page of my
life

Such thoughts come to me every day,
every night.
My valiant Valkyrie, come back to me.
Let Heaven miss you a little.

TRANSLATED FROM BENGALI BY
AISHA CHAND (YEAR 12A)





LET JUSTICE
RETURN AND THE
LIGHT OF LIFE
SHINE

A Word of Thanks



Well done to our student contributors for this third Key Stage 5 issue!

Thank you to . . .

our Key Stage 5 Tutor Team, colleagues in English and Art, and the whole school community for your support and encouragement;

our Head of English, Mr Papaioannou, as the main collaborator for this issue;

and, last but not least, our readers!

Happy Reading!

Featured Artwork (Year 13):

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Front cover: | Nova Miller |
| | Alessandra Fu |
| Inner front cover: | Ermis Vrelianakis |
| Page 3: | Alessandra Fu |
| Page 11: | Yingtong Zhou |
| Page 33: | Yingtong Zhou |
| Page 40: | Ermis Vrelianakis |
| | Alessandra Fu |
| Page 41: | Alessandra Fu |
| Page 42: | Nova Miller |
| Back cover: | Alessandra Fu |

Editor's Note

Byron Voice is the magazine and creative writing showcase of Byron College, the British International School in Athens, Greece.

Three issues are published in the Secondary School each year: the Key Stage 5 December Issue, just in time for Christmas; the Key Stage 4 April Issue; and the Key Stage 3 June Issue to welcome in the summer holidays.

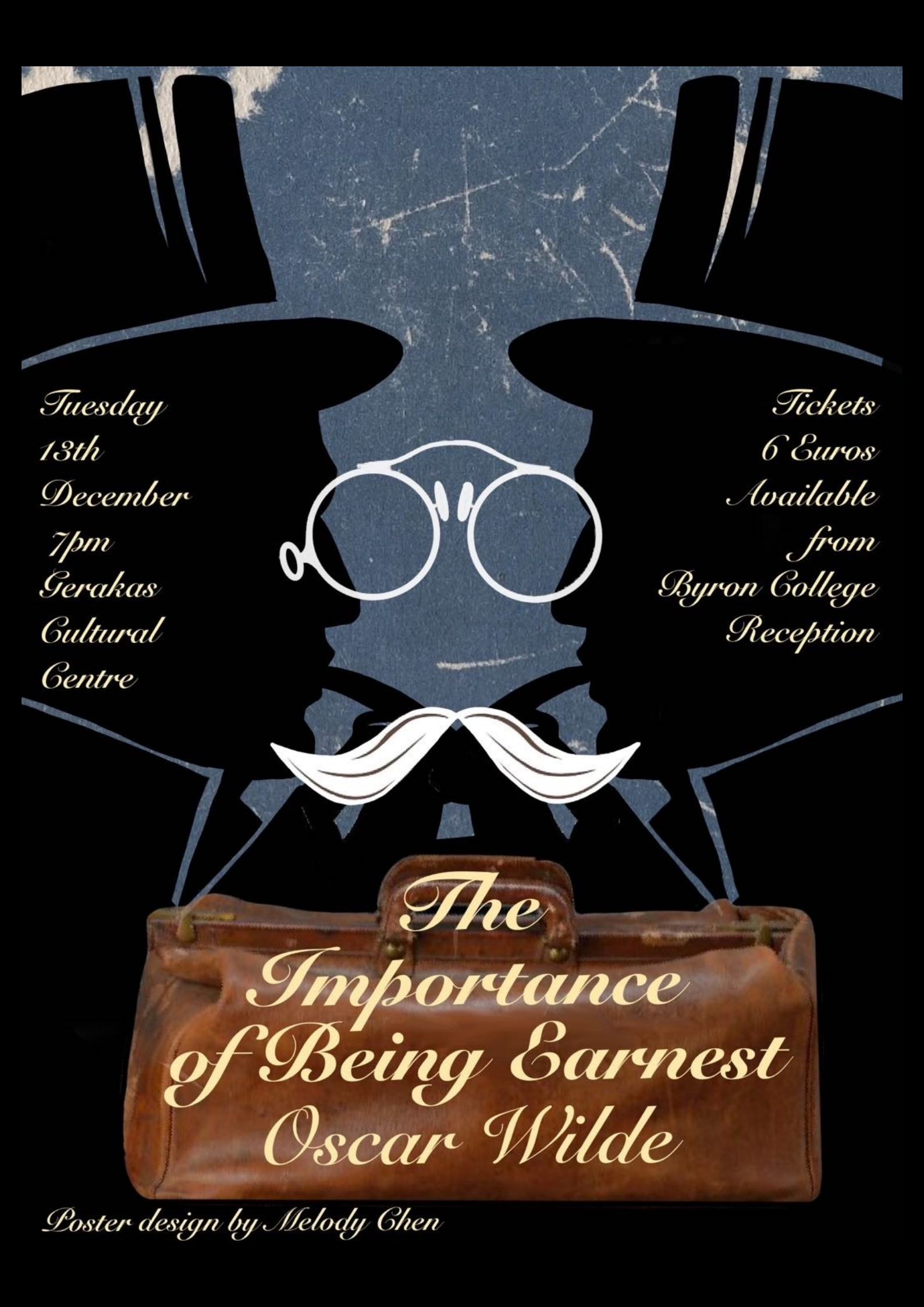
Watch this space for *Byron Little Voice*, our latest offering, this time drawing on the energy, interests, and creativity of our Primary School students - to come out for the first time in the new year!

Byron Voice and *Byron Little Voice* are written by our students for the Byron family and they are offered in a spirit of intellectual curiosity, creativity, generosity, and fun.

Produced by the Faculty of English, Byron College, Athens, Greece

*Tuesday
13th
December
7pm
Gerakas
Cultural
Centre*

*Tickets
6 Euros
Available
from
Byron College
Reception*



*The
Importance
of Being Earnest
Oscar Wilde*

Poster design by Melody Chen



Byron College

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