

THE MO

WRITTEN BY THE STUDENTS,
FOR THE STUDENTS

2017
TREND REPORT

NEW BEGINNINGS
NEW PERSONALITIES

HURRICAN MARIE: IS
GLORBAL WARMNING
HERE?

BEDROOM MUSICIANS &
THEIR SUCCESS STORIES

BACK TO
SCHOOL!

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

With the start of a new school year- The Marlborough Oracle comes back and it's better than ever. Summer has allowed our team (and let's be real pretty much everyone else too) to disconnect and relax. Which means our inspiration is ready and flowing.

We are joined by new feature writers that will bring an autumnal breeze of fresh air into The Mo. On that note, we are always looking for new writers. So, if you believe that this is something that interests you then simply email us and your article will be featured; no matter the theme or length. If you want to truly feel part of the team and get behind the scenes - we meet weekly at the LRC on Wednesdays period 5, so come and say hello.

Only a year ago, The Mo was completely remodelled. We worked hard and achieved (a much appreciated) positive feedback, also a few nominations at the Media Shine Awards- so this year we're determined to turn them into awards.

Without further ado, in the first issue of the school year we bring you, an incredible variety of articles: from a report on the latest fashion trends; a discussion of London Fashion week; a welcome to the new school year; as well as a "how to" on creative writing.

We have set the standard high for the forthcoming year of new issues and articles.

All you need to do is sit back and enjoy the recent issue of The Mo!

Candela x

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LONDON FASHION WEEK

-RECOUNTING THE RUNWAYS

The 'Big Four' have graced us yet again with their electric presence and the fashion world is a buzzing, exciting place to be during their Fashion Week – even to just briefly poke your head around the curtain at all its glitz and glam. The September fashion weeks showcase everything we could and should all be wearing next spring (yes, they were *that* ahead of the game); however, some fashion houses are choosing to do the oh-so-modern 'in-season' shows displaying everything that is in fashion now – Tommy Hilfiger even made an extra stretch to put on 'see now, buy now' shows where you can order the clothes *as* you see them, *in* the venue.

London Fashion Week lasted five days, coming to a quick end on the 19th, prompting eager journalists and aspiring fashionistas to travel the globe in order to see what England's Capital had to offer. So to make sure you didn't miss a thing,

here is a run down...

Burberry's show included plenty of tartan in rainbows of yellows, greens, reds and blues with models wearing coats so over-sized—almost like dresses—hey reached the floor along with woollen tank tops and knitted dresses that looked almost African in their geometric patterns and earthy colours. What stood out most, were the long, straight vinyl coats in soft pastel colours that were translucent enough to see the ghostly outlines of clothes underneath. The kind of coat that made being out in the rain fashionable – especially with a nod to the 1990s jaunty Burberry cap.

Ralph and Russo's Spring/Summer 2018 collection started with a procession of pristine white dresses with geometric cuts and angular shaping, however as the show progressed we saw full length gowns with softer edges appear,



made with layers of material so thin and delicate the models seemed to float down the runway. Key things to take back from the show, were the use of ruffles that appeared on several dresses which, often layered, created a rippling effect as the models walked past and the use of shiny, metallic-looking material (a bit like the inside of a sweet wrapper) that's proving very popular this Autumn. The jewellery also looked incredible.

Like Ralph and Russo, Topshop also had reflective outerwear in metallic hues, and the brand merged the two worlds of girly blush pink with the more punk shades of red and black. Some fashion houses, however, chose an even edgier look for their Fashion Week collections such as Versus Versace and Tommy Hilfiger.

This leads us to one of the biggest highlights of London Fashion Week, the '*Tommy Now Rock Circus*' which closed the week by showcasing the new TommyxGigi collection (the House's third collaboration with the 22 year old model Gigi Hadid) and was their first show since 2010 to include both male and female fashion simultaneously.

The show was inspired by the rock and grunge era of the 1990's, and the colour palette featured heavily in muddy blues, reds and black. Think: black Latex trousers, ripped denim, leather jackets with fur collars, high neck woollen tops, cropped tees, and floor-reaching, *Matrix*-style coats like Gigi's tartan number that opened the show. It had an air of Vivienne Westwood's tartan, punk days, only with a sportier feel.

Finally, something that made a glittering reappearance this month were sequins. Whether adorning a model from head to toe, or as part of simple embroidery, thousands of sequins were seen twinkling madly under flashing camera lights on the runways of designers such as Halpern, Molly Goddard, Simone Rocha and JW Anderson.

So in summary, tartan has definitely made a return this September whether to reflect classically British country attire or to make a rebellious statement, and both blush pink and the excessive use of sequins have made epic comebacks on London's runways, setting new trends in this ever-evolving world of fashion.

By E.C



THE AUTUMN



LIST

Okay, okay, I know that a dose of summer blues is normal- especially if your summer has been full of experiences that you're not ready to let go of. And yes, yes, okay, I know that it also means we are back into the routine, and that isn't the most exciting thing ever either. However, do not fret it's not all bad (at least I don't think so). Autumn brings so many things to look forward to and here is a reminder of the simple, yet beautiful autumnal things will brighten up a your day. Who knows, it may even help you to forget a those blues, even just for a while!

THE CLASSICS:

Halloween!

Also known as the perfect excuse to eat as much candy as you like, dress up in the most outrageous way possible and have fun with your friends at numerous halloween parties.

Sweater Weather

It is time to store away the summer clothes and bring out those comfy ones! Sweaters are here and they allow us to feel like we are wearing a portable blanket, hide inside them and not have to worry about our summer bods – so push that bikini to the back of the drawer and reach for a turtle neck!

Hot Drinks

Do not get me wrong, smoothies, milkshakes, iced teas and the lime cooler from Starbucks are great, but compares to a hot chocolate. Now that the chillier days are coming you can embrace the joy of a hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows now that it is freezing outside. If hot chocolate isn't your thing, then welcome back your favourite dream and start posting those Pumpkin Spice Latte snapchats all over again!

Cuddle Weather

A movie, a blanket, popcorn and someone to snuggle up next to. It doesn't sound too bad at all, does it? And do not worry if you're a single pringle or simply don't enjoy human con-

tact or a genera snuggling – it is also fireplace weather. You, a fireplace and comfort food- surely that doesn't sound bad at all too... Am I right?

NON-CLASSICS:

No more guilt

I feel that in the summer, there is an unspoken rule that you have to be enjoying every second of every single day, living life to the maximum, making hay and all that... but that stresses me out. What if I want to stay home instead of going to a BBQ? What if I want to sleep all day rather than being the early worm... what if I just don't want to lather up in factor 50? In the summer these scenarios are unacceptable and you too may feel guilty about the fact that you're not out there trying to get amazing photos of you doing fun things so that you can post them on Instagram and make everyone jealous. HOWEVER, the fact that it's cold outside means that no one is going to judge you if you stay at home with a warm drink, in your onsie watching movies or reading.

New TV shows

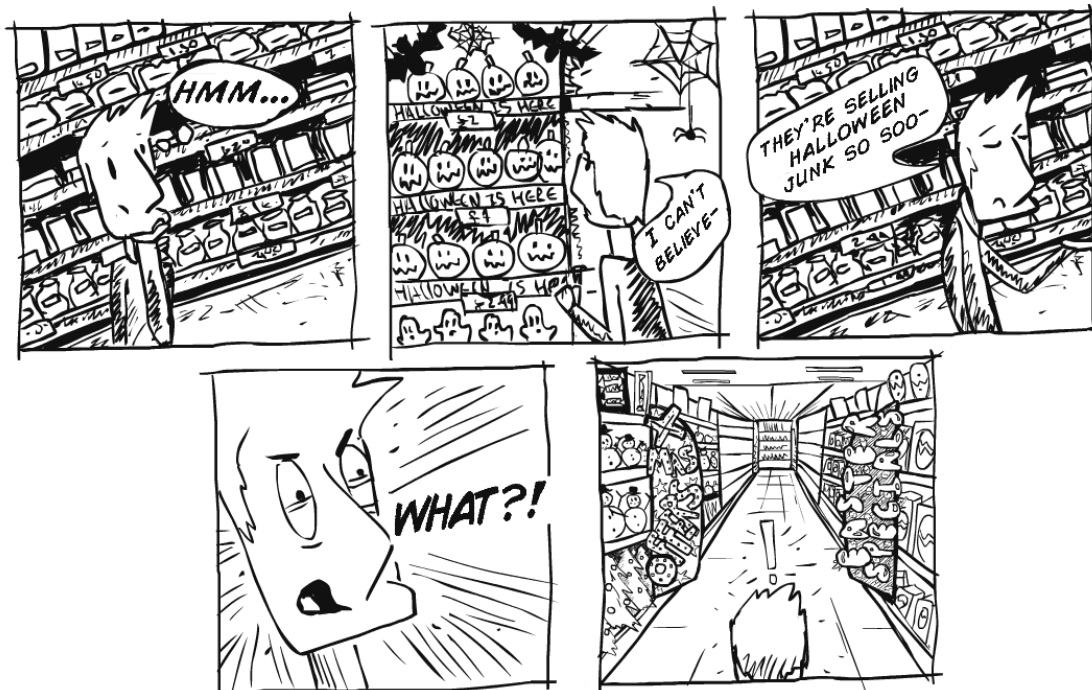
No more wondering on Netflix for hours trying to pick what to watch (or rewatch lets be real). With autumn, as well as the cold, comes the new seasons of all our favourite shoes- meaning more and more content to binge watch and obsess over.

Dark Lipstick and Fewer "BAD HAIR" days

Beauty routines in autumn compare to summer is another different world. Yes, we are paler and our skin doesn't glow as much. However, you know what goes well with pale skin? Dark lipstick!

Additionally, that devil called humidity which makes our hair untameable disappears; with autumn we say goodbye to bad hair days. If for whatever reason things aren't quite as they should be, grab a beanie and remember, the bigger the bobble the better!

All in all, I hope I have convinced you that the return to school, to the routine and to autumn is not all bad. So, bye-





NEW BEGINNINGS?

NEW PERSONALITIES.

By Victoria Brown

We all go through that stage when we want to change. A new sense of style, a different taste in music, or a new food to add to our menu. It's evolution; however, for some this change happens more often than others thought.

So then, what does it mean when somebody says 'it's a new beginning', is it a chance to start over? Do we scrub ourselves clean and rinse away everything that has had a negative effect on our lives? Or do we pack up what's happened and take it with us to the next new challenges?

The answer is, B. You shouldn't erase your past and try to forget that none of it happened, but carry allow it to shape your future, letting all that you are lead you down the right roads, reminding you not to make the same mistakes and look for different corners to turn. Yes, a new beginning means a fresh start, but with extra knowledge that experience can help you get through life's trials and tribulations.

Let's think about the people who are more widely known in the world. What do they mean when they say they have a new beginning? Well for starters, actors might think to do a new genre of film is a new start for them, and for singers they might move on from country style to pop, to even rap. Moving from genre to genre would definitely be a challenge for them.

Miley Cyrus is a prime example of who to look at when the idea of new beginnings pops into our heads. Miley has changed herself and the way she conducts herself a few times. She went from being such an inspiration for children as Hannah Montana, to driving a long dark path that nearly cost her her reputation, she lost her boyfriend and probably many of her friends. Yet here she is today, raising thousands of pounds for charities, inspiring more children (even adults)

and having what seems to be good, honest fun.

How did she come back to the light? A new beginning. She didn't bin what wasn't working and move on without looking back; instead, she drove backwards and tried to fix the things she could. She made new music that didn't have the dark melancholy meaning behind it and she found a way to be happy.

When faced with a new beginning, don't automatically think you have to change your personality, your life. Just be aware that you might have to take a different approach when it comes to a certain situation. Do not do what Taylor Swift has done, which is to throw away her 'old self' in a bid to reinvent. Oh, and never think that you have to remake yourself each time you want to change, you can add to yourself, develop.

Taylor Swift's new album, *Reputation*, has really left her fans confused. Sure, when an artist wants to start a new album, it's normal for their genre to mature, they want a change and they want a chance to express their different sides. What really got our minds digging was that we all love the old Taylor, some of us grew up with her, and we were pretty certain that she loved her old self as well. Yet here in her new song 'Look what you made me do' she strongly implies that she has no interest in her past. If I'm being honest, she's made a mistake discrediting her history, by throwing it away who does 'new Taylor' have to?

If you get given the chance to evolve, grab it! Even if you are in a good place. Evolution not reinvention is key. And remember, never, ever throw away your old self in order to build the dream image, instead, add onto it.



2017 A/W trend report

It definitely doesn't feel like a year since I wrote the 2016 trend report as my first article for The MO- but we are back and stronger than ever. Personally, I am so incredibly proud of how far our little school magazine has improved- a fact that was celebrated with our two nominations in The Media Shine Awards for 'Best Overall Editorial Content' and 'Best Cover'. Anyhow, now, I introduce you the pieces, patterns and vibes you will be seeing everywhere this autumn and winter straight after being presented in the New York, London, Milan and Paris catwalks.

RED-TO-TOE

Red has arrived and red is here to stay. You will see it everywhere and everyone will be wearing it. And it's not a surprise as it is known as the most flattering colour on all skin tones.



DAZZLE

Some designers such as Chanel seemed to have been inspired by the future and introduce us metallic colours and sharp lines.



SUITS

This trend has been with us for a while now, but this autumn/winter it is making a statement. Is there anything stronger, or classier than a woman in a suit?



CORDUROY

If Chanel was inspired by the future, other designers such as Prada were inspired by the past - mostly specifically the 70s- so be prepared to see outfits that could be seen in 'That 70s Show'.



SOFT LEATHER

Year after year, leather is a must. However, this autumn and winter leather is soft. So enough with making the automatic link between bad girls and leather, think soft cuts and feminine silhouettes.



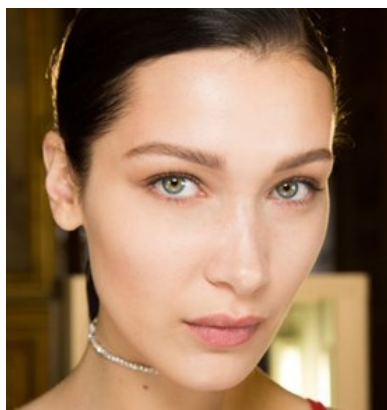
SUPERSIZE SWEATER + SKIRT

If you thought that you had to say goodbye to your maxi-skirts think again. This new combination will allow you to combine this trendy piece into autumn and combine it with one of the most iconic trends of the colder season.



GROOMED MINIMALISM

When it comes to beauty, the look takes a sophisticated turn. The focus is those finishing touches that make for a flawless, subtly groomed supermodel glow. Think curled lashes and impeccably groomed brows that define the look.



MOTHER NATURE *BITES BACK*

Looking back on the last few weeks it seems our planet has been through its fair share of trauma. It's hard not to think that perhaps our time for ignoring climate change is coming to an end. If this is the case, is the end is neigh? Our small world has taken beating after beating from floods, wild fires, tropical storms and of course the formidable hurricanes that completely and utterly wiped the Carrabin islands off the map. Homes have been destroyed, lives have been lost and whole cities are in a desperate state of emergency, and all this while the world watches. as their entire lives are swept away.



Is global warming finally starting to catch up with us? Has the planet had enough of the way we treat her? Is mother earth fighting back on her own disastrous terms? It certainly seems so... Right now Puerto Rico is in an SOS state emergency with horror stories appearing, such as how in one ICU unit every patient died. To make matters worse, not only has Puerto Rico suffered at the hands of this extreme weather—Donald Trump has claimed they are a selfish nation who can't do a thing to help themselves. He also commented that the Mayor was “nasty” and was being “rude” to him whilst he did all the work—when you can see in the photo to the right, she was doing quite the opposite. It seems that they are barely getting any help and are struggling to survive. It got me thinking, yes these horrors may be directly due to global warming. However, when Irma first emerged Trump had just warned the USA about DACA renewals and deports; one can't help to think that mother earth really is giving some kind of pay back for all the world's evils. In the photo above you can see hurricane paths over the Atlantic ocean in the last 300 years. Do they look familiar? If not, these hurricane paths are extremely similar to the path slavers took when transporting slaves from Africa, USA and England.



In fact when you line the paths up side by side there is barely any difference in the pattern. So, am I trying suggesting that this is a punishment for our pasts sins? I am not a superstitious person, but you have to admit they are eerily similar. It's enough to send shivers down my spine to think that the earth knows of the horrific genocides we have committed and wants to make sure we get what we deserve. However, looking past what may be the cause for these apocalyptic weathers, how about we discuss what can actual-

ly be done to help these countries migrate out of this state of emergency. The most obvious thing, as we are non US citizens is to donate, but don't just donate to any random charity, use well known have a proven record of ensuring that monies raised goes to those in need. Additionally, you could look for more unique registered charities, for example you can donate to Ko-fi, a bidding place where authors put up personalised items for auction! There are countless ways to help. I am also failing to mention the simples





Void versus Passion

Many of our country's young people may feel their creativity diminishing as they become absorbed by the increase in stress, work, and everyday issues that seem to crop up in life.

Imagination and the unique gifts of the arts, be it: playing, listening, writing and composing have arguably mellowed into a dark slew of uninspired smoke.

It saddens and fascinates me how society gives very little breathing room for passions and inspirational projects to shine. It isn't just me, but many others have said that allowing your mind to find and exercise its creative muscles means that shortly after, the brain find access to those corners that seem so spiky and impossible to reach.

The human mind is truly gifted;

it is able to find escapism and creativity and at even the darkest of times. So what I would say? If you have those dark thoughts remove them whenever they appear and project them into something that gives you pride and happiness. Find something that allows you to find a sense of mindfulness and contentment. Once you have found that place, there really is no stopping you.

A medium of escapism:

Exercising your imagination gives you the opportunity to enter a boundless world of distraction from any day to day feeling of awkwardness, sadness, loneliness leading to spontaneous feelings of happiness and excitement. The ability to escape enables you to expand. Writers like J.K. Rowling and C.S. Lewis grew their creativity and embrace their innovative minds.

IMPERIUM

WORLD
CREATION

People, often, find their passions have originated from the creativity of others who intrigue them. Those who felt that they perhaps couldn't create instead try to emulate, which fills the void between those who create and those who don't. It brings people together, promotes conversation. A few examples include popular entertainment programmes like: Rick and Morty, Doctor Who, BTS and Harry Potter. Platforms have been built where people are able to create something based on what they have grown to love—things like fan-lit, sequels or covers of music. The list is infinite.

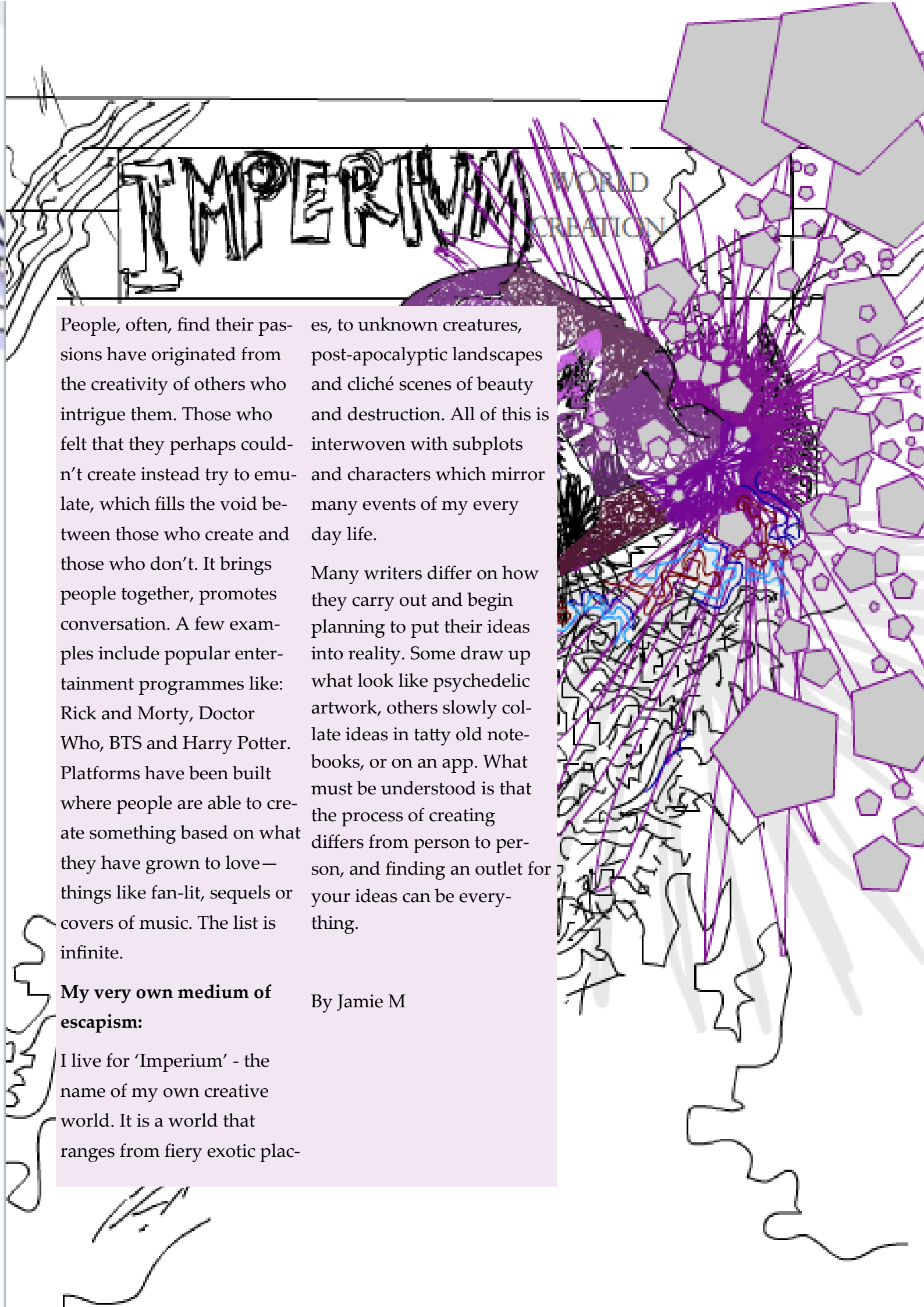
My very own medium of escapism:

I live for 'Imperium' - the name of my own creative world. It is a world that ranges from fiery exotic plac-

es, to unknown creatures, post-apocalyptic landscapes and cliché scenes of beauty and destruction. All of this is interwoven with subplots and characters which mirror many events of my every day life.

Many writers differ on how they carry out and begin planning to put their ideas into reality. Some draw up what look like psychedelic artwork, others slowly collate ideas in tatty old notebooks, or on an app. What must be understood is that the process of creating differs from person to person, and finding an outlet for your ideas can be everything.

By Jamie M





The *Adorkable Misogynist* Trope



The adorkable misogynist troupe is something you may not recognise straight away but it's something we see every day on television. A perfect example of the adorkable misogynist trope are the main characters on the TV show *The Big Bang Theory*; however, there are also countless other examples of this character list throughout TV and film. The characters in *The Big Bang Theory* are stereotypical nerdy types and we see in many film and television shows, but they also represent a toxic and harmful stereotype that we just seem to ignore. A simple way to describe these adorkable misogynist is that they are geeky, "nice" guys who are meant to be seen by us as pathetic yet endearing. However this status lets them get away with all kinds of creepy, predatory and sexist behaviours.

These men are not the stereotypical, masculine and misogynistic men; they are not "macho" and womanising instead they are considered the sensible and reliable option. However, if you look closely at these adorkable misogynists they often engage in harassment and sexist behaviours which should entitle them to women. They consistently stalk, spy on, lie to and manipulate women all while brushing it off because after all, they are "nice" guys who deserve to have women adore them. Consequently, these men completely ignore the basic concept of equality and give women none of the respect they deserve.

The Big Bang Theory is a perfect example of this trope. We have Howard the creep with a good heart, throughout the early seasons he harasses, objectifies and tricks hundreds of women. He is conniving, manipulative and he often clearly crosses the line of consent. However, some argue that since he is married he can't be all that bad, but I'd like to remind you how sexist his views are when it comes to his wife, Bernadette. He is so uncomfortable with the idea of her earning more than him that he often refuses to partake in any domestic responsibilities.

Raj, the socially awkward nerd is also problematic; he can only talk to women when intoxicated. This leads to a variety of predatory and sexist behaviour, but because he's had a beer or two his conduct isn't taken seriously. Leonard is the boy's enabler in all this, the "normal", down to earth one of the group. Yet he still participates in this behaviour and struggles to take no for an answer, instead pursuing women when they clearly have no interest in him. He also enables the misogynistic behaviour of his other friends and never calls his friends out for their views, rather offers an eye roll or shake of the head. His mild protests simply condone the sexist behaviour of his friends.

Sheldon harbours the most casual sense of misogyny, his characteristic is that he is too smart to care or understand the feelings of others, which leads him to devaluing nearly everyone and their feelings. When Sheldon belittles and dismisses women it is often simply because they are women and like stereotypical feminine things.

Many of the jokes on *The Big Bang Theory* are based around serious issues, like sexism. It may not immediately seem it but these jokes are incredibly harmful as it teaches us to laugh off these very serious issues and without critique or challenge. It simply acknowledges that these issues haven't gone away. Acknowledging this bigotry is not the same as criticising it, especially when punch lines make fun of serious issues.

While *The Big Bang Theory* isn't saying "sexism is great" the implications of the writers condoning it are just as bad as it is simply dismissing it and saying it is okay if it comes from "harmless" nerdy men. The adorkable misogynist trope is just presented as another character trait and as something that deserves a sigh and not something that should be challenged and condemned. At the core of this trope is the stereotypical idea that boys will be boys, this is clearly not true and it suggests that men are inherently sexist which clearly they are not. On the rare occasion one of the characters are told off for their sexist behaviour the audience are made to sympathise for the poor man who got told off for his sexist attitude. His feelings are nearly always portrayed as more important than the women's safety and comfort.

The adorkable misogyny of the four main characters on *The Big Bang Theory* is tolerated. It's tolerated by their peers, by their girlfriends, and by their employers. This is not okay. Tolerating sexism is not okay; it devalues the issue and makes it seem a source of comedy because after all they are nerdy "nice" guys. It's damaging, it makes it seem okay for women to suffer at the hands of sexism. It's damaging to women's sense of safety, to their well-being, and to their careers.

Additionally, this questionable script writing is damaging to men; it shows other men that allowing sexism to exist, even when they know these attitudes are wrong is harmful. On screen these men suffer no real consequences but in real life there are, whether they are targeted at you, or the comments make your toes curl and infuriate you, the sexist comments always affect someone. The television companies and script writers must realise that allowing this behaviour to persist is incredibly harmful; it's about time that this source of comedy is abandoned and we lose the adorkable misogynist trope.



BEDROOM MUSICIANS

Back in the day, to get somewhere in the music business you had to either play live and hope someone who wanted to sign you to a label was there watching, or spend all your time and money recording demo tapes and sending them to the major labels in the hope that somebody would like it. But times have changed with the arrival of that wonderful thing called the internet; its arrival seems to have turned all of those hours that tortured musicians spent trying to get themselves heard on its head!

Today, it's easier than ever for a musician to make, release, and earn money from music online. Sites like YouTube allow musicians to connect with their fans and post new songs for them to listen to – along with posting links to sell their music. Similarly, websites like Bandcamp and easily affordable recording equipment mean that somebody could write, record, produce and release an entire album in their bedroom.

The first breakthrough for a musician self-releasing on the internet was arguably the Arctic Monkeys in 2005, who posted their first singles to MySpace and gained a huge following of teenage fans who had to share unofficial copies of their live shows with each other on message boards because the band hadn't released an album yet! They signed to the independent label Domino in June that year and have been hugely popular ever since.

It isn't just the 'indie band' types that have used the wonders of the World Wide Web, in fact some of the biggest pop stars have started on the internet. This year's Mercury Prize winner, Sampha, began his career on MySpace in 2007. A little known songbird, Adele, also started on MySpace, where a friend posted her demo in 2006 and got the attention of XL Recordings, who released her first album 19 two years later, which won a BRIT Award and was nominated for two Grammys.

Justin Bieber was discovered by a talent manager after he posted videos of him singing R&B songs on YouTube at the age of 13 – which shows that you're never too young to get a start in the music business!

So, just how easy is it to sell your music online? It only takes a few clicks – you set up a Bandcamp page, enter your e-mail address, upload your tracks, and the money from selling them is sent directly to your PayPal account – it's so easy anyone could do it!

Bandcamp is home to a generation of independent musicians who find it easier to post music online to sell than to try and get a label's attention. The band, Car Seat Headrest's, lead singer Will Toledo began his career in 2010 recording in the back seat of his car for privacy, before releasing a string of albums that gained huge acclaim in underground music circles. He then went on to form his own band and record their major label debut, 'Teens of Denial', in 2016, which got to #22 on the US Billboard Rock Chart.

Bandcamp is also home to many established artists who decide to sell their music directly to fans rather than working through a third party. Indie-folk musician Sufjan Stevens, whose last album *Carrie and Lowell* made it to #6 on the albums chart, made his whole discography available to buy on Bandcamp recently, as well as physically in record shops. Mac DeMarco also makes his catalogue available on Bandcamp, and indie pop band Alvvays released their newest album on Bandcamp at the same time as releasing it on a label.

So, if you're a musician who wants to be noticed, to make money or just have your music heard it's easier than ever to get started in music on the internet!

By Ben McKenzie



SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

Luther Blissett, England and Watford legend, is now educating today's youth on the consequences of racism in society as part of the Show Racism the Red Card charity. Blissett and his colleagues came into The Marlborough Science Academy, to work with Year seven and eight students. From observing the day, the charity wanted the students to feel comfortable enough to be able to talk about someone's skin colour, whilst at the same time, acknowledging the right and wrong ways to describe someone's appearance.

In a glistening career where he famously became England's first ever black goal scorer, Blissett paved the way for black players to play a part in the English football team. He described this achievement as "a great landmark." He followed on by highlighting the massive importance of representing his country. "As a kid you want to play for your country, you want to put the shirt on, you want to play at Wembley stadium, and if you're a striker you want to score at Wembley. And for me it all came true, it was a boyhood dream."

The late Graham Taylor also had an impact not only Blissett as a footballer, but as a person too. "He made everyone feel together, he gave you good direction and he was always straight and honest with you." He followed on to state the impact Taylor had on him as a young player. "He was very organised and focused and he wanted his players to be the same. He kind of blended all of us into a fantastic unit of players." Blissett also explained how he has used this in the sessions he

runs for Show Racism the Red Card. Blissett said "when I do the racism days with the kids that's what I try to get across to them, that they're so much stronger when they work together."

Although holding the record for Watford's most appearances, and being their top scorer, Blissett was very modest about his career achievements. "Everybody keeps telling me that [being a Watford Legend], but when I played it was never something that ever crossed my mind. And now people say you're the top goal scorer, but it doesn't mean anything in that respect, even now." He continued to say that he is optimistic that someone will break his records. "I hope somebody will be at the club long enough to hopefully go on and beat that and set another bench mark for someone else to go along to."

The Show Racism the Red Card charity is such an amazing organisation. They work across the UK, using sport to tackle racism in young people. Volunteer Ose described what the charity aims to do "It's an anti-racism education charity. We're doing some educational workshops with Year 7 and 8 trying to let them know how racism works and what we can do about it, as a community, a school and society." Tackling racism from a young age is so important, not only in sport, but in life. Developing young people to be respectful in an ever growing racial, religious and differentiated society is vital, and the volunteers at the Show Racism the Red Card are doing a fantastic job.

By Sammy Parker

HERE'S TO A



NEW TERM

One teacher looks at the new term, and shares how her new term routines are the same as ours!

What is it about the very last sleep before school starts? It seems that it doesn't matter how old you are, or how many terms you have completed, that last sleep is always broken by midnight fears about "the first day back"!

You know you have fabulous new shoes: they're sitting side-by-side by the front door, all perfect and sparkly. You know you have packed your bag for every possible eventuality, no freak weather or natural disaster is going to catch you out, oh no! You know that every pen in every colour that waits patiently in your brand new pencil case works. You know this because you spent two days in PAPERCHASE perfecting your stationery stash! You know that your blazer has sleeves that are slightly too long, and you have been reassuring told time and again that "you will grow in to it". However, the thing that seems to keep you awake is the what ifs:

What if the layout of the school has changed so fundamentally that it feels like you've been dropped in to the middle of Ikea, without a map and with no idea how to get to the deli!

What if your form tutor has grown two heads, shaved their head, or indeed has no head?

What if your friendship group is no longer your friendship group? What happens if all those 'grams, those snaps, and those DMs were all in vain?

What if? What if? What if? I too share these anxieties (well, maybe not about the blazer; sadly, my what if is more about discovering another wrinkle or grey hair) and I am a fully-fledged adult, a teacher even!

However, there is something wonderfully reassuring knowing that we are all in the same boat. We have had a summer of blue skies (well, I'd like to imagine that we did), a summer of lazy mornings and a summer of reading trashy novels in our jim-jams, and now it is back to reality... the hard slog... the start of term. But is there anything to be anxious about?

True, there are going to be new challenges: new levels, new deadlines, new skills... but, remember, we are in it together. When you are sat in class and feeling as though you have the weight of the world on your shoulder, look to the person either side of you, they're going through the same thing – they can help. Look to your teachers, they're there to help you (believe it or not, we actually want to help!), look at how far you have come and the steps that you put in place to get where you are – you are greater than you realise... and you can do this!

So, what is this brief article about? Is it new term worries? A little. Is it touchy feel inspiration? A little? Is it the gentle reinforcement that we're a school whose sense of community is greater than the individuals within it? A lot. Yes, the new term is here – bring it!

OPEN EVENING

HEADLINES

Their stunning field, fit for football

Amongst the chorus of excited voices heard on Open Evening, one primary school student was compared the size of our school field to what their own primary school playground. It seemed that what really left students so surprised was that they would be able to play at break and lunch on acres of open grass. These comments followed the Hertfordshire LEA's recognition of the good work that our PE Faculty achieved in the last academic year.

Many other primary schools also suffer from not having enough outdoor play and sport facilities. Meaning that for some students they don't have the opportunities to play and be as fully active as they would want to be during their break times. The enthusiasm shown towards the size of the field, the outdoor sport facilities and the PE offered at school is a major contributing factor when they are choosing their secondary school. Whilst many of our students take the field for granted, comments heard by guides from all years reminded us just how lucky we are to have a 'stunning field, fit for football.

"Science blows all minds"

Open Evening was a huge success and many visitors praised the amazing and interesting experiments on show in the newly refurbished science laboratories. One particular student from Prae Wood Primary school said the experiments she saw were the highlight of her visit. Seeing explosions, dancing flames and even being taught how to use Bunsen burners were all on her checklist of things that made her visit great! She commented that these were things that she doesn't see at primary school, and that whilst she knew about the equipment she had never actually touched any of it. Early in Year 7 we are taught how to conduct ourselves safely around the labs and we now take it for granted that we can participate in experiments as these are things we often do here almost every day but for these primary school children, they are new and exciting prospects. Many people also praised the enthusiasm shown by our Science teachers and the students that they had in to help; they also commented on how and how great our science labs look – in short, Science blew her mind!