

# THEMO

OCTOBER EDITION

COVER ART BY  
LILY OATES



# NOTE FROM THE CHIEF ON BEHALF OF THE EDITORS

KAYLEI CALLAGHAN, JENNA HUTTON &  
LAUREN CROPPER

There is no denying that this has been a strange start to an academic year. We have returned to an even newer normal - a phrase, which, might I add has quickly become one that frustrates the life out of me! That and "New Year, new me", which seems to do the rounds at the start of every New Year! However, we have returned, and it is new and things are different. We can't escape that. Yet, what has stayed the same is the passion and enthusiasm Marlborough students have for our school. There has been kindness shown towards new staff and students, a desire to make our school, not only a more beautiful environment to work in, but a greener and more sustainable school... and of course, lest I should forget, there is the determination to make *The Mo*, the magazine written *for the students by the students* the very best it can be.

Like all things truly wonderful, *The Mo* has weathered a period of uncertainty. Our team were juggling revision with the uncertainty of exams, and the very real fear of another lockdown, whilst managing to produce wonderfully engaging, provoking, and considered feature articles.

Our three new editors, Kaylei, Jenna and Lauren are working together to bring you a magazine that is as glorious as it ever has been. Never one to shy from contentious topics, under their steerage, *The Mo* will be as bold and brave as ever.

If you are in KS5 and would like to write for us, we meet in the LRC Friday Week A period 3. If you are in KS3 pr KS4, just drop me an email.

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*Read and joy.*

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THIS ARTICLE IS SUITABLE FOR KS4+

# SEX AND THE GRAECO-ROMAN CITY

BY MATT WARD

Sex. An uncomfortable term to hear at the dinner table to say the least. YouTube videos headlining sex-ed or relationships are much more likely to get buried by the algorithm than any other. Statistically speaking over 80% of us will have experienced it by age 20, so what exactly is it that we're scared of? Be it the nagging finger of an overbearing grandparent, the social disapproval of others, or our parents' religious views - something in the modern day has put a blackout curtain around the topic of sexuality.

Since the 80s, LGBTQ+ terms are becoming more commonly spoken, especially since the sexual revolution prior to it. For years we have heard the same rhetoric reprobating the husbandless mother or rebellious teenager. Rhetoric that gained attention, and disapproval, to these seemingly "new" ways of living and for the people who identify with them.

Now, consider the ancients. Zeus, king of the gods – a deity so tenacious, so infuriatingly unfaithful to his wife, Hera, so furiously fecund that half of Graeco-Roman legend involves him having sexual relations with anything that had a pulse. Even Thetis, mother of Achilles (famous for his mortal heel), had at one point in her life been courted by Zeus. The heteronormative ideals of marriage and monogamy seemed to pale in comparison to the inane number of affairs, debauches, kidnappings and on-the-hoof liaisons causing the vast majority of legends and stories that gripped the ancient world.

One of the most famous poets of his time, Catullus, was no outlier to the hypersexuality of his time, with his all-too nonconformist epigrams containing risqué language to make even the sternest Roman turn the same shade as Caesar's

boots. A large portion of his repertoire was written to or about a woman he was having an affair with – a woman he nicknamed, Lesbia. As the name suggests, there is, of course, a sexual connotation here too: Sappho, renowned poetess, writer of equally blush-worthy poems and undeniable homosexual lived on the island of Lesbos (also the root for the English word "lesbian") – maybe a questionable choice of nicknames for his girlfriend, but given the tone of his later poems it did seem to have its desired effect.

"Let us live" and "let us love", the two exhortations with which Catullus begins his love elegy. One calling her to enjoy life, to live it to the fullest. How? Well by loving him, of course. He calls her "my Lesbia", a part of him. To the poet, she should be as one with him if she is truly to enjoy life in her "brief light" before "eternal night" (common Latin metaphors for life and death). We may assume that Catullus is inviting them to spend many nights of their own together as well:

*Vivāmus, mea Lesbia, atque amēmus,  
rūmōrēsque senum sevērīōrum  
ūnīus tantum aestimēmus assis.  
Sōlēs occidere et redīre possunt:  
nōbīs, cum semel occidit brevis lux,  
nox est perpetua ūna dormienda.  
Dā mī bāsia mīlle, deinde centum,  
dein' mīlle altera, dein' secunda centum,  
deinde ūsque altera mīlle, deinde centum,  
dein', cum mīlia multa fēcerīmus,  
conturbābimus illa, ne sciāmus,  
aut nē quis malus invidēre possit,  
cum tantum sciat esse bāsīōrum.*

*Let us live, my Lesbia, and let us love,  
and let us value all the talk  
of stricter old men at just a penny.*



*The sun may rise and set:  
we ought, as soon as that brief light sets,  
to sleep for an eternal night.*

*Give me a thousand kisses, then a hundred,  
then another thousand, then a second hundred,  
then still another thousand, then a hundred,  
then, when we have made many thousands,  
let us jumble them up, so as not to know,  
nor some evil eye,  
just how many kisses there have been.*

Catullus talks about the “sen[ēs] sevērīōr[ēs]” and the “rūmōrēs” that remark about their love. Like in modern times, Catullus is talking about the condemnatory older generation disapproving of his and Lesbia’s love. It comes to no surprise that the same people labelled as ‘stuck-up’ nowadays were being given the disapproving wagging finger back in ancient times too. Catullus was a Neoteric. One of many poets, Roman and Greek alike, who turned away from the earlier Homeric standard of writing epic poems about the tales of ancient heroes and gods - instead choosing to write about much more human affairs. From the joys and sorrows of love, to the anger of a friend’s betrayal, even to accusing a friend of insurance fraud. These poets were very relatable to their Roman audience, yet often scorned by more traditionally-minded readers. The poems are characterised by judicious vocabulary, puns, genre and allusions much more frequent and complex than in the storytelling poetry of previous centuries. This style of writing seems to resound much more in Adele’s love ballads, Lil Nas X’s rap

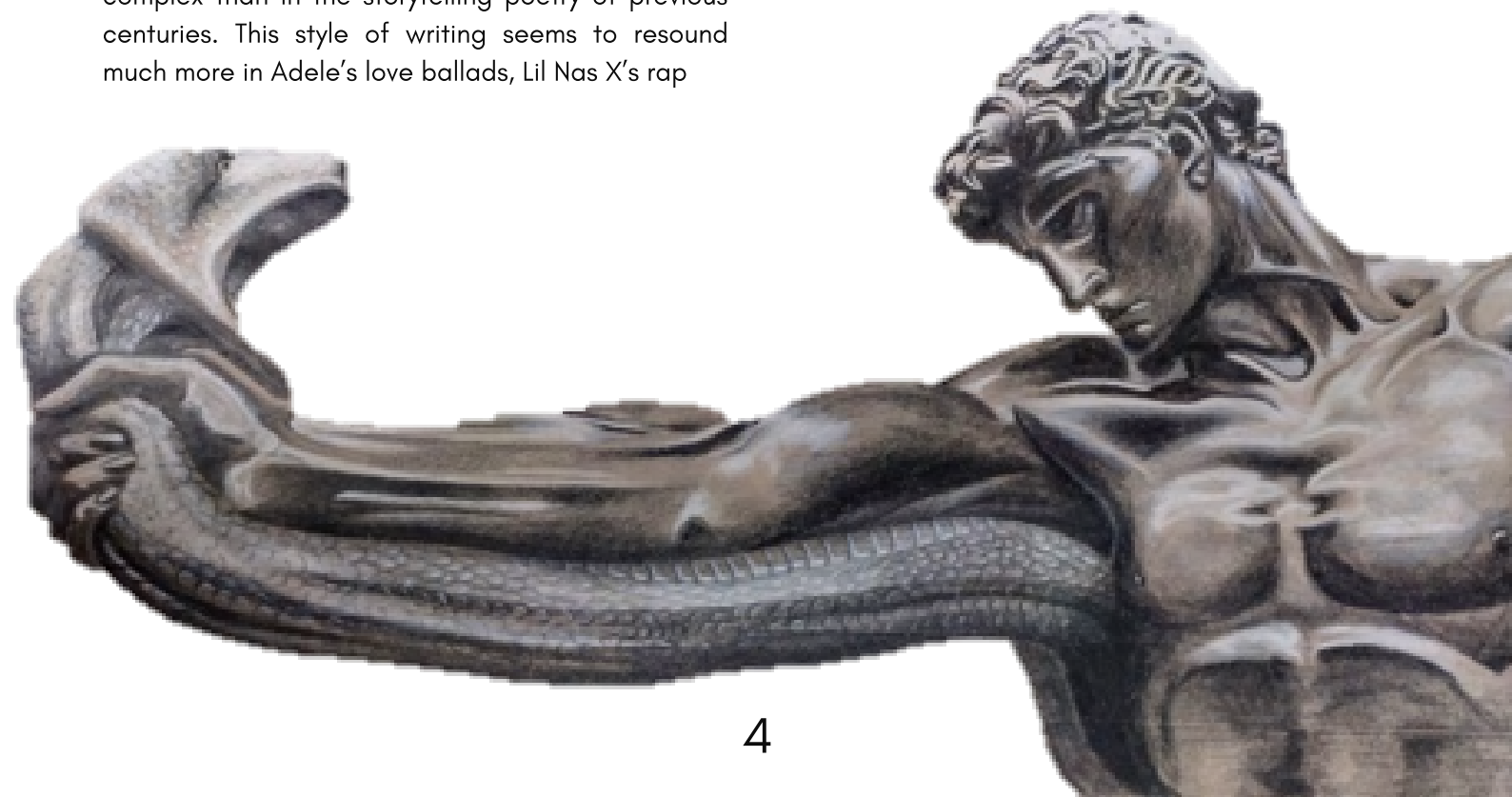
medleys, and MCR’s punk-rock revolutions we know and love in our music today.

*Quæris quot mihi bāsiātiōnēs  
tuæ Lesbia, sint satis superque.  
Quam magnus numerus Libyssæ harēnæ*

*You ask how many of your kisses,  
Lesbia, would be enough for me.  
As many as there are sands in the Sahara.*

He speaks of his insatiable appetite, his metaphors for infinity dispelling any chance of him ever leaving her alone. Catullus may not have been reported to have the body of a god, but he certainly had the urges of one (or of Zeus, at least).

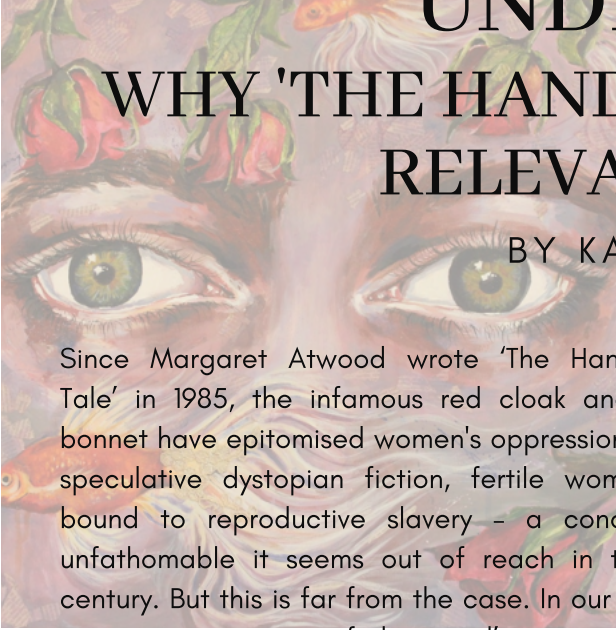
While it may not pose the best encouragement to the modern world that the disapproving older generation have been wagging their finger at the youth since records began, that even the ancient poets who nearly faded from the public eye were subject to the same criticism and judgement that modern artists are bombarded with today. It may be worth bearing in mind that there have likewise been those telling these same people to go stick their opinions ‘where the sun don’t shine’ for just as long too.



# "UNDER HIS EYE"

## WHY 'THE HANDMAID'S TALE' IS MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER

BY KAYLEI CALLAGHAN



Since Margaret Atwood wrote 'The Handmaid's Tale' in 1985, the infamous red cloak and white bonnet have epitomised women's oppression. In this speculative dystopian fiction, fertile women are bound to reproductive slavery - a concept so unfathomable it seems out of reach in the 21st century. But this is far from the case. In our modern society, impressions of the novel's events can be found occurring everywhere. In the prologue to 'The Handmaid's Tale', Atwood explains that everything she wrote is a fictionalisation of something that has happened somewhere - at some time. Atwood even took newspaper clips of real-life events to her publicity interviews to show her plot points had real-life roots.

The book is from the point of view of the protagonist, Offred, whose name derives from her 'Commander', Fred (Of-Fred). She commentates on her life as a 'Handmaid', depicting horrifying scenes of oppression. The 'Republic of Gilead' is suffering from an infertility crisis and the population is diminishing, there is also environmental chaos - including nuclear war, radioactive waste, toxic pollution, and ecosystem breakdown. All the rights of women have been revoked. Infertile women are sentenced to a slow death of cleaning up toxic waste, and fertile women are assigned to families and are subject to a monthly 'Ceremony' which is essentially a government-sanctioned rape.

When it was published in the 1980s, the novel seemed implausible and was regarded as a distant dystopia; after all, was it really possible for developed societies to significantly regress in civil rights? In a Radio Times interview, Elisabeth Moss (who plays Offred in the TV adaptation) emphasises: "It's shockingly relevant. It's important to hold a mirror up to society and to ourselves to try to get people to face what's going on before it's

too late." Indeed, we can draw a frightening number of parallels between the novel and today's international civilization.

Although there are many echoes of the novel which would be relevant to explore, by far the most important idea is that women are the mothers of society, they are reduced to nothing more than their biological capabilities. As a result, birth control and abortion are outright banned, and anyone caught breaking these rules (or any rules of the Republic for that matter) will be subject to public hanging and have their bodies strung up on 'The Wall' as a reminder to all other citizens of their potential fate. This tyrannical regime can be closely linked to broad issues of contraception and abortion that humanity is still facing in many different regions today.

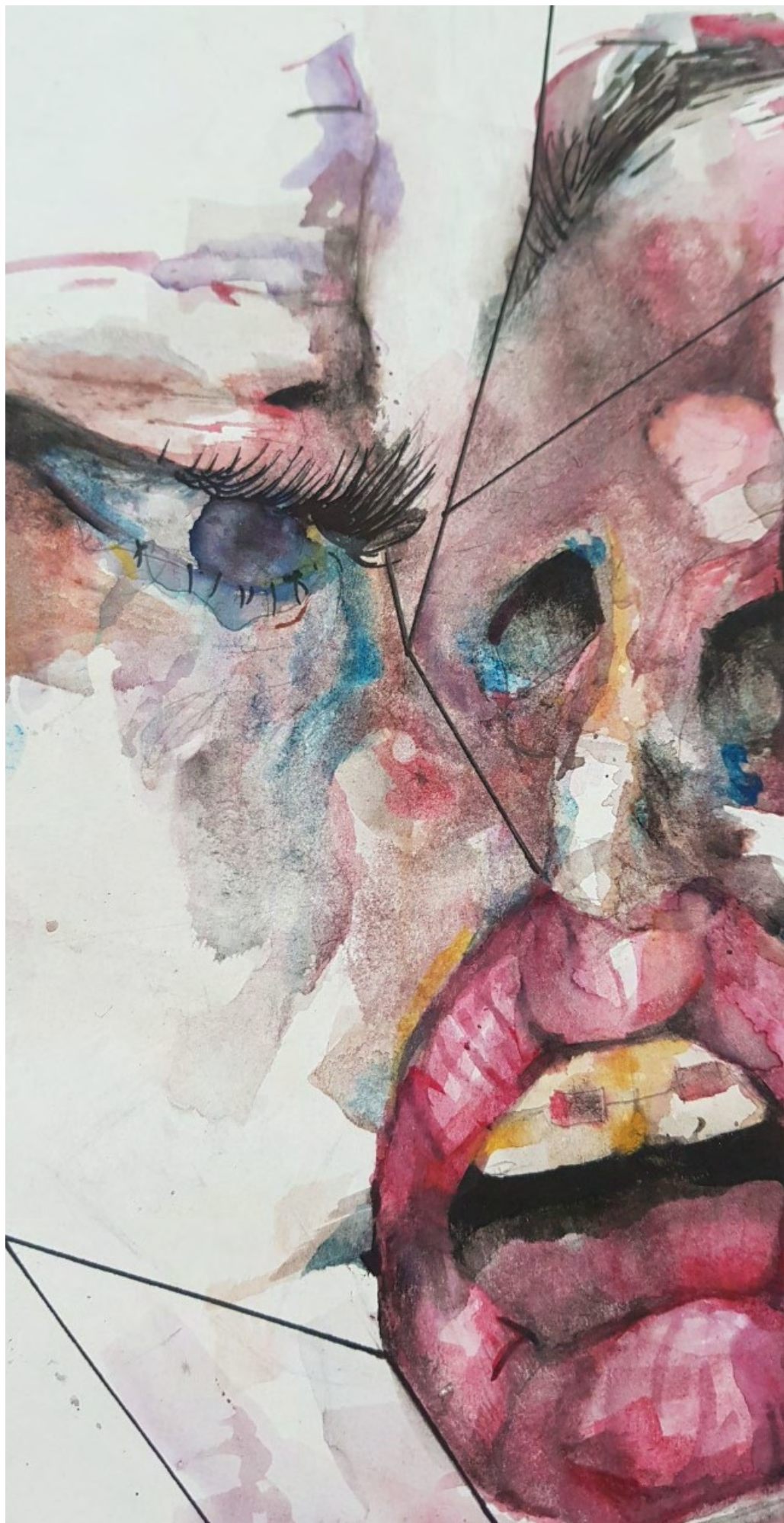
In 2019, Alabama voted to pass the most severe abortion restrictions nationwide, In March 2021, Governor Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas signed a law to ban abortions except if the mother's life is at risk. This has now been blocked but it was expected to enter force in November 2021. Plus the most recent appointment of Justice Amy Coney Barrett means the fate of abortion and contraception laws across the entire US continue to hang in the balance. In Europe, things may appear slightly better, yet there are still some countries where abortions are still met with societal condemnation laws. One of which being here in the UK, where Northern Ireland has only recently abortion legal. The stark anomaly of Europe is undoubtedly Poland, whose abortion laws radically changed earlier this year to mean that abortion is only legal in cases of rape or incest, or when the pregnancy puts the mother's health at risk. These are just a handful of examples in the West - countries which we would expect to be developed past the point of the oppression of human rights - not to mention the countless number of places



conditions of human rights are found to be so much worse than we could imagine.

So, the past few decades have proved that nothing is impossible and that individual rights and civil liberties remain fragile to maintain or even progress. While we are not living in 'The Handmaid's Tale', social events constantly remind us that a Gilead-like society is plausible. As Atwood highlighted shortly after Trump's election in 2016: "We're not living in Gilead yet, but there are Gilead-like symptoms going on". Sales of Atwood's novel even skyrocketed a massive 200% after the election of Trump in 2016, thus highlighting the fear that draconian state leaders will continue to attempt to legislate away the deserved rights of women.

The might of literature, and The 'Handmaid's Tale' specifically, helps to inspire and warn, and remind us why we must continue to fight.



# FIERCELY SCARY HALLOWEEN TRENDS

BY ANONYMOUS

No, I don't mean sliders and socks, cropped jumpers, and peekaboo dresses (although these also send a shiver down my spine). I'm talking about Halloween! Who doesn't love Halloween? It's the festival of All Soul's Eve, the night when the dead come out to play! Well.... so say the myths!

However, like all great themed festivals, there's a pressure to look fabulous and original, whilst making it look as though you haven't made any attempt at all. If you can achieve all of the above, well done you! I, however, know only too well that the struggle is real. I know there'll be parties... and judgements... and cameras.... and millions of photographs that will be posted on every single social media platform.

At the moment, there is the strangest dichotomy between looking the creepiest, spookiest, and scariest of everyone at the party (let's face it, we all love the accolade of looking fabulous!). However, there's a tendency to still want to appeal rather than repel! Sadly, the essence of Halloween seems to have been lost as quickly as the amount of material some costume manufacturers require for the costumes themselves. Halloween was once a time when you could be someone else for a day. Masks were THE thing when it came to spooky costumes and if you were able to accomplish scaring someone you had achieved the ultimate Halloween goal.

All too recently there has been a focus on the over-sexualised costume. Walk into any costume retailer and you'll see that there is an expectation for women to look provocative and men to look funny. If you browse the web for costumes to wear, too many female costumes feature the adjective 'sexy' in their description. This isn't right. By all means, if a woman wants to be a 'sexy nurse' or 'sexy zombie' go for it.... if you're comfortable and you are owning

your look, you'll look amazing; but why should it be so blinking difficult to find a costume that doesn't set feminism back! The most important thing is to feel comfortable in your own skin and what you choose to wear. Yet, if you want to wear a full Pokemon suit (mask included) go ahead, you too, are going to look fabulous. And gentlemen, if you want to dress up as your favourite character from a TV show that your "mates" don't watch - do it. You don't have to all be Money Heist! Not only will you feel amazing, but you will be teaching everyone a lesson about originality and staying true to yourself.



Now, let's talk about originality. The Americans have been celebrating Halloween for generations - they know how to do originality! However, it's only really been in the last 10 years or so that Britain has embraced the festival. Therefore, we're a little behind the times and still rely on the cliched go-to of: ghosts, witches, vampires, a scary medic, or a cat! This year, consider breaking the mould: books, TV series, movies, politicians... even something to do with current affairs... why not come as a massive 3G sign? That truly is horrifying!

The message I am trying to convey is to enjoy Halloween wearing the costume that you want to wear; because at the end of the day, Halloween is an opportunity to have fun and create memories.



# OPEN EVENING AT MARLBOROUGH

BY ANONYMOUS

Open Evening at The Marlborough Science Academy is heralded as one of the most important nights on the school calendar. Every year, staff and students participate to showcase the great work that's produced all day, every day, to potential new students and their parents. This year's Open Day was no exception; in fact, despite threats of rain and in the days leading up to Open Evening the sun shone and mirrored the warmth felt in every classroom and shown by every staff member at our school.

At the beginning of the event, I caught up with a Year 6 student who is thinking about how they might settle into life at The Marlborough Science Academy. Jake told The Mo that he 'loves' drama, science, and English, and is keen to be in every after-school extra-curricular club run by the school. Recalling his experience of our Open Evening, he said, "I thought I was going to get lost but it's really easy. It's just one big circle!" Jake went on to say that the science experiments (setting fire to bubbles) and the live drama around the site during the Open Evening confirmed why he would be making the right choice by putting Marlborough first.

The showcasing of talent certainly didn't disappoint! Gymnastics in DaVinci, a dead body in English, dance in the gym, and our Art department were in full force too, much to the delight of one prospective family. Mrs Joyce, a parent of a potential new student said she loved Performing Arts when she was at school and is "really keen to see her daughter explore the arts here."

We were also told by a parent of twins currently at Prae Wood that both girls are "very talented mathematicians and scientists". Like Jake, he too thoroughly enjoyed the experiments in the Franklin. He also informed The Mo that although they haven't seen many schools The Marlborough Science Academy is the current front runner for his girls and that they are doubtful they will look at any others.

With so many smiling students, excellent tour guides and happy teachers I think any prospective Secondary school parent would be hard pushed to find a better school for their child.



# INCELS: WHO ARE THEY AND WHY ARE THEY A THREAT?

BY LAUREN CROPPER

The word 'incel' is an abbreviation of 'involuntary celibate' and describes someone who is unable to find sexual or romantic relationships despite wanting them. Or at least, that is what it originally meant, before, however, it was adopted by an online misogynistic hate group.

The term was coined in 1997, when a young Canadian woman set up a website called 'Alana's Involuntary Celibacy Project', hoping to connect with strangers on the Internet who could relate to her sense of loneliness. It was a place where all people, regardless of gender, could express their feelings of frustration, isolation, or shame at their lack of sexual activity. Although Alana described her website as a "friendly" and "supportive" zone, the incel community gradually became dominated by heterosexual men who felt bitter and spiteful about being constantly rejected and denied by women. And when Alana moved on from her website in 2000, she was quite oblivious to the fact that a growing sense of hostility bubbled beneath the surface of many incel-related posts. The original incels began to fade away from the community and were replaced by outrage, misogynists who blamed women for their sexual frustrations and felt victimised and entitled to sex.

As well as frustrated, some incels felt completely confused as to why women wouldn't want to sleep with them. So, incels developed explanations and justifications as to why they were being constantly rejected. They came to the conclusion that success in the dating realm was completely determined by appearance and genetics. This theory is called lookism. Men are either fortunate enough to be conventionally attractive (incels loathe these men, and refer to them as 'Chads') or they are, according to them and the other incels they communicate with, sentenced to a life of incel-dom. Women, on

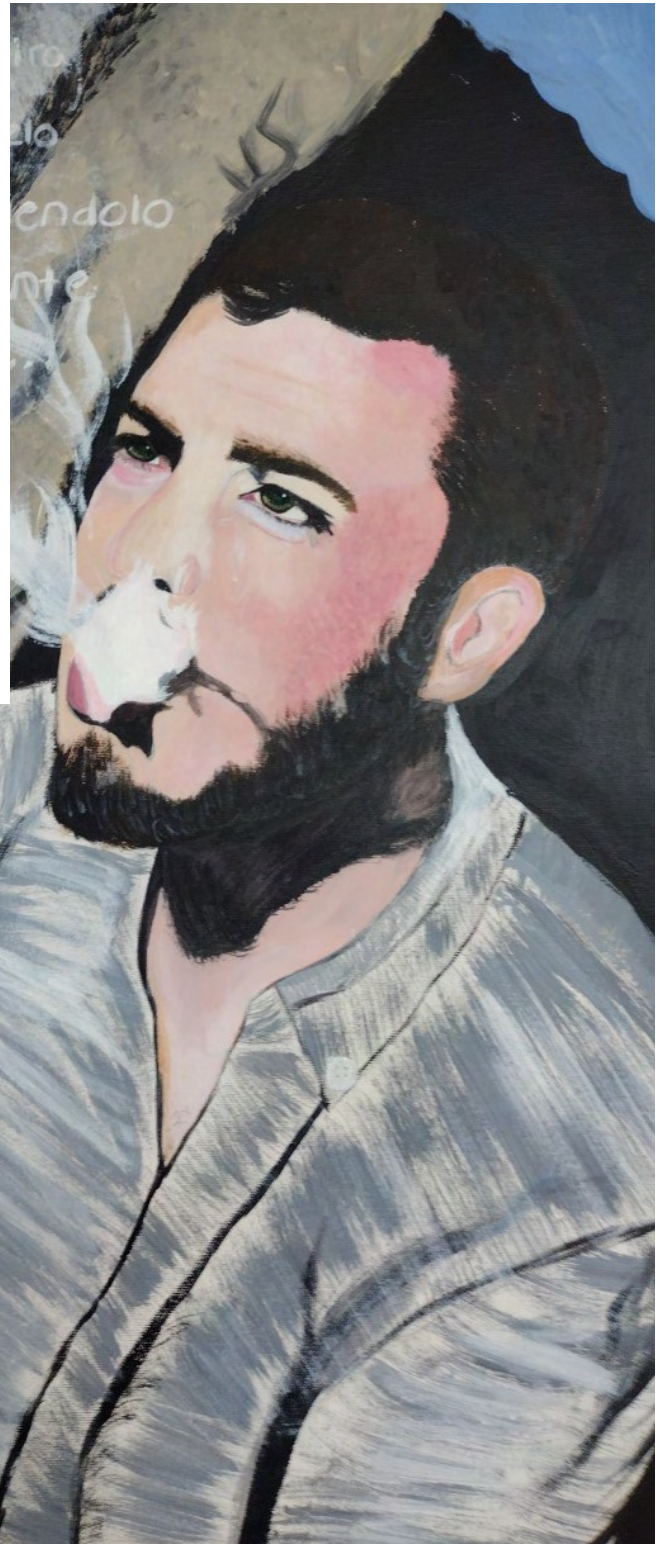
the other hand, are not limited by their looks and can date whomever they please. This presents a disturbing mathematical problem: the top 80% of women (in terms of attractiveness) will only date the top 20% of men, leaving behind a disproportionate amount of men who will never find what they're looking for.

The incel community grew in extremism, and eventually became a dominant member of the 'manosphere' - an online collection of websites, blogs and forums that advocate for men's rights and the call for the eradication of feminism. Communities within the manosphere include 'Men's Rights Movement' (MRM), 'Men Going Their Own Way' (MGTOW), Pickup Artists (PUA), and 4chan. What unites these groups is the belief that female oppression is a myth, and that men, the real victims of sexism, are being silenced and controlled by feminism. In the world of incels, different coloured pills are used to describe the level of extremism a person subscribes to: red pill incels have just woken up to the reality of "male oppression", whereas black pill incels are the most extreme, and turn to violence to further their cause.

Elliot Rodger, the infamous mass murderer who killed six people in 2014, was regarded as a black pill incel motivated by his frustration at his virginity to kill "the kind of girls [he's] always desired but was never able to have." Sickeningly, the incel community hero Rodger and encourage others to follow in his path. Alek Minsassian, who killed 10 people in a Toronto van attack in 2018, took to social media before his rampage, saying: "The Incel Rebellion has already begun! We will overthrow all the Chads and Stacys! All hail the Supreme Gentleman Elliot Rodger!" In August, incel Jake Davison shot and killed five people in

Plymouth before turning the gun on himself, in the UK's worst mass murder since 2010. Many people are calling for these attacks to be recognised as acts of terrorism, which demonstrates the severe threat level that this community brings - a community that is only getting larger everyday.

Concerningly, many of its new members appear to be young men in their teens and early twenties - a frighteningly young age for people to reach defeatist conclusions about their love lives. While there are many reasons why someone might get sucked into incel culture, a large part of it seems to be fuelled by the societal expectations of men to be hypersexual, and the stigma of not having had sex after a certain age. This is compounded by society's failure to properly address men's mental health, making it more difficult for people to open up about their insecurities and emotions. While the social issues facing men do not justify misogyny or violence in any way, they do offer an insight into how we can help people avoid falling down the rabbit hole of incel culture. What can we do? Be better... understand the importance of education, communication and tolerance. All of those things we endeavour to do everyday.





# EMMA RADUCANU: THE RISE OF A STAR

BY JENNA HUTTON

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, where virtually every sporting event was put on hold, 2021 has seen an amazing return to sport. This year's sporting calendar has been packed with famous events: the Tokyo Olympics, the Paralympics, the Euros, Wimbledon - the list goes on, it was the US Open that wowed spectators. This year's US Open saw a particularly special 18 year old tennis star pull off one of the most incredible victories in sporting history.

Just earlier this year, Raducanu was a school girl awaiting her A Level results. Yet her grand slam win in America has promoted her from an unknown wildcard to a record breaking star. Raducanu has become the first British woman to win a grand slam title since 1977, when Virginia Wade won the title. It would seem as though over the course of one summer, Raducanu has gone from a sixth former in Bromley, to one of the most recognized sporting faces in Britain.

Arguably, the most surprising aspect of Emma Raducanu's victory was the fact that she was an 18 year old player whose name was not famous amongst the usual title contenders. For example, just last year, she was ranked to be the 333rd best player. Consequently, the prospect of her winning the US Open, and soaring to be ranked 22nd, seemed like an absolute impossibility. So how did she do it? Did her sheer desire and passion for the sport provoke her incredible mental and physical determination? Or is Raducanu's talent simply unmatched? It certainly wasn't chance! So what was it? Well, it would seem as though a combination of these two ideas are what saw Emma rise to fame within such a short period of time, following an unexpected, glorious victory. In the aftermath of her success, Raducanu was praised and celebrated during the unique US

Open presentation. Here, she was awarded a cheque worth an enormous sum of £1.8m - a mind blowing and life changing amount for anyone, let alone an 18 year old still in school. However, not even the actuality of cold-hard cash could distract Raducanu from the immense joy she was seen to experience following her victory. Her success and inspiring presence has promoted her to be a star amongst both the tennis world, and British sporting history.

The stage is set for Raducanu to prosper immensely, not just simply within her career, but from a financial perspective with the endorsements and sponsorships that will see her bank balance boom. With approximately 20 years left of her champion sporting ability, it would seem as though Raducanu has the opportunity to reach the absolute limit of her potential, whilst simultaneously acting as a well-loved figure amongst the nation. Her next big opportunity would seem to be the Australian Open, which is taking place next year.

The 18 year old tennis champion has already proven to be a real icon of the sport, who's young age and rise to fame has created her to be an admired individual who will continue to be supported by the nation throughout the entirety of her tennis career. If she continues to ride this wave of success in forthcoming matches or slips and falls under the pressure of this new celebrity status, one thing is for sure... her sensational victory in America will go down as one of the most unexpected but brilliant British sports performances in history. A performance we will be talking about for years to come.







# A MOMENT TO GET TO KNOW ANIME GENRES

BY KOFI KYEI-BOARDU

Anime isn't anything new! Far from it. The genre saw its earliest commercial success back in 1917. However, like all good things it didn't stop there, rather it evolved and changed over time. It continued to develop and push boundaries, and the typically manga characteristic style we recognise today really began to emerge in the 1960s. The cartoonist, Osamu Tezuka, was key in making it so recognisable.

For those who don't know, anime is a hand-drawn and or computer-drawn form of animation originating from Japan. In Japan anime describes all animated work, regardless of its style or origin. However, outside of Japan the term 'anime' is used widely to describe any style of Japanese animation, particularly if it is produced in Japan.

Anime is wildly popular for a whole myriad of reasons! Reasons that I don't need to be getting into here! Instead, let's talk about the genres within anime and what they entail. When talking about it there are a lot of Japanese terms thrown around and it can be a little confusing to the uninitiated. Perhaps the most important of these to know refer to some of the different types of anime and manga. Currently, there are three genres that are the most popular.

All of these shows are available on the streaming service crunchyroll. I do advise watching the shows on this official anime streaming platform. You can also use the other streaming platform Funimation to watch the shows too. However feel free to use these safe anime sites such as 9anime and gogoanime.com. These two sites are for those who want to skip the ads but not pay for subscriptions.

Shonen: this is aimed at young males between the ages of 12 and 18, not surprising when you consider

the word actually means 'boy' or 'minor'. The group varies with individual watchers or readers. Shonen is currently the best selling form of anime and manga.

My hero Academia: a Japanese superhero series written and illustrated by Kohei Horikoshi. The story follows Izuku Midoriya, a boy born without superpowers in a world where they have become common. However, Izuku still dreams of becoming a superhero. He is scouted by All Might, Japan's greatest hero, who chooses Izuku as his successor to inherit his power. After some time All Might later helps Izuku enroll in a prestigious school for heroes in training.

Overall, My Hero is a solid 8/10. The story takes on multiple emotional elements while still catering towards the meta of fighting and cool looking animation. The way the story is put together creates an entire world of characters and ideals. The anime also captures the dreams of younger kids who dream of becoming heroes like superman. I loved the show and am still currently watching it as of writing this. The beautiful contrast between fighting and story progress slowly creates this masterpiece of a show.

Shojo: a category aimed at a largely female demographic. Shojo tackles subjects with a focus often on romantic relationships or emotions. Shojo literally translates as "young woman"; however, although there is a target audience for the heroines, the settings and stylistic beauty mean that this is a must see for any anime reader.

Your lie in April: a romantic drama series written and illustrated by Naoshi Arakawa. The story follows a young pianist by the name of Kosei Arima, who loses his ability to hear the piano after his mother's death. This continues until he meets a violinist by the



name of Kaori Miyazono. These two go on to help each other in the world of music. Your lie in April, for me, was a 7/10. Yes, the plot was phenomenal. The way Arakawa chose to captivate the main characters was beautiful. I love how we aren't just drawn straight into the main points of the plot and are given the chance to grow a connection towards the characters. It is amazing. The music was extremely captivating while being able to make me feel as if these characters truly have a story behind the songs.

Slice of life: the depiction of mundane experiences. This refers to naturalism, where the anime takes a person's normal day-to-day life. Slice of life is catered for a wide audience and doesn't target any group particularly. This genre tackles any and all topics.

Don't toy with me miss Nagatoro: a web manga adapted to anime, written and illustrated by Nanashi. The story follows high schooler Naoto Hachioji who one day stumbles upon an annoying group of first years. One day a first-year girl, Hayase Nagatoro, stumbles upon his manga, calls him "senpai" and teases him to the point he cries. She goes on to continue bullying him to assert himself. Don't toy with me is a considerate 8/10. The anime drew me in during the first episode.

I was amused with the concept at first however as time went on I began to like the idiocies and quirks of the characters. The mix of comedy made the show so much more than it was. I love how the characters were played out and actually grew to have a bond by the end. The environment that was created by Nanashi was truly beautiful. This is one of those anime where I will constantly want to rewatch the show over again.

Loving anime is nothing to be ashamed of! It is diverse and cultured, wildly liberating and morally obliging. There's something for everybody with anime, so give it a go. If you want to dip your toes into the genre there is even an anime club in school. If you're interested, just speak to Miss Mitchell and she'll give you all the details.



# MY PROBLEM WITH TIKTOK

BY JADE ALBERT

*Trigger Warning: this article features references of mental health issues and eating disorders*

It's best known for its popular trends, such as the 'renegade' or 'say so' dance, but why is it that we fail to acknowledge how TikTok glamorises mental illnesses such as OCD, eating disorders and depression?

TikTok was made in 2017, and is now the most downloaded app on the internet today, with over one billion active users worldwide. The app has attracted the majority of the younger generation; 90% use Tik Tok on a daily basis. Although the age restriction is 13, many children as young as 7 have been known to use the app. While TikTok is great for entertainment, information and a sense of community, there is also a darker, less known side to it... and this is the impact it can have on your mental health.

If you have depression, you're 'tragically beautiful', and are praised for having the illness. Others without the illness may witness people being 'rewarded' for having it, and may want to present symptoms themselves in order to receive the same praise. This can be explained by Bandura's Social Learning Theory, specifically 'Vicarious Reinforcement', which involves learning through observation of the consequences of actions for other people. A learner observes someone they identify with and the role model receives reinforcement. The learner is then motivated to imitate the behaviour as if they had been reinforced themselves. There is the misconception that depression is just staying in bed and watching movies. However, as soon as people begin to show fewer desirable symptoms, such as not brushing their teeth or not showering, they are judged as deemed 'weird'.

Similarly, within TikTok, OCD is viewed as 'cute' and 'quirky', and that all there is to it is wanting to colour coordinate your pens and make sure things are in the right place. Obviously, this is a false and completely invalidating misconception for people struggling with the illness themselves, and fails to acknowledge the effect that these obsessions and compulsions can have on people's everyday lives.

However, other illnesses such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia are left out of the narrative, as they are not viewed as 'fashionable'. For example, schizophrenics are seen as 'scary' and 'insane'. They have a negative stigma attached to them because people have yet to glamourise or create an enviable profile for them.

Due to TikTok's arguable romanticism of mental illnesses, influencers on the app have sadly begun to make a profit from it. In some instances creating merchandise that circles around anxiety and depression, for example. Sienna Gomez is a Tik Toker known for body confidence and positivity, and recently created hoodies with the slogan 'Have you eaten today?'. This phrase not only is this exploiting mental illness for money but is also failing to take non-restrictive eating disorders into consideration, only focusing on restrictive eating disorders, like anorexia. This is extremely invalidating and is also creates the false idea that eating disorders should be glamorized. Additionally, Corinna Kopf created merchandise based on anxiety, with the slogan 'My anxieties have anxieties, and a definition of anxiety on the back. This is a sickly depiction of the beautification of anxiety; anxiety is neither beautiful nor is it captivating. Branding anxiety as a fashion statement implies it is desirable when the reality is that it's not aesthetic or stylish. Marketing anxiety downplays the severity of the issue.



TikTok's exposure to content surrounding anorexia, and specifically pro-anorexia, can be a very real trigger for those with eating disorders, and could potentially lead people developing one. Certain hashtags are always trending and popping up on the 'for you page', showing videos of people speaking positively about eating disorders. When scrolling through TikTok, I came across a video of someone asking if TikTok has actually caused anyone to develop an eating disorder, and found the comment section rather terrifying. The video had nearly 2,000 comments, most of which were saying that they had indeed developed one. One comment said that they 'started hating how [they] looked more and felt [they] had to look better than everyone [their] age.' Another comment said 'thanks to this app I found out that apparently, I should feel insecure about half of my body.' This is heart-breaking and highlights so many societal misconceptions that there is a stereotypical 'perfect' body.

If you are on TikTok and you do find something unpleasant or are affecting by something (for example the content of a video), you can easily press 'not interested' by holding down on the screen.

Additionally, if somebody is posting content that you do not agree with, or makes you uncomfortable, you can unfollow or even block them by going on to their profile. To block a user, you go to their profile and tap '...', located at the top right corner. You then tap 'block' and follow the steps in the app. Although Tik Tok may contain damaging content, the app's way of being able to change the feed that you see depending on your interests is impressive.

TikTok may be an app filled with entertainment, creativity, and enjoyment, however, more people need to be made aware of just how quickly it can turn into a very damaging platform.

If any of the topics in this article affect you or someone you know, these numbers are available if you want to seek support:

Samaritans: 116 123

CALM: 0800 58 58 58

Childline: 0800 1111

National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK: 0800 689 5652





# EQUALITY

BY ANONYMOUS

Equality.

What does this word mean?

"Ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity

to make the most of their lives and talents."

What a beautiful idea?

Where does this word come from?

Equality - equals

In Maths we are told that Equals means that both sides are the same.

Mmmm

May I, may I ask you

Are we equal?

Did you also grow up attacked by your neighbours, because they were jealous of free tan given by nature?

Did your father come home with bruises and cuts after using public transport?

Was your mother left traumatised after her clothes were pulled from her face and hair, leaving her with invisible yet deep scars, where they hurt?

Are we, are we equal?

When did your parents sit you down for that important talk?

You know, the one where they tell you be careful what you say at school, don't trust the boys in blue, they, they are not on our side?

How many of you have been racial abused at the supermarket whilst buy a block of cheddar cheese, as other people watch on walking away silently?

Were your parents scared to send you out alone, even in board daylight?

Are we, are we equal?

How many of you have seen yourself on the news, slandered against and abused?

In movies as the baddies, never the good guys, always the one who is lost in translation.

The looks I get when strolling down the street are not because they are admiring my beauty.

I have lost count of the many times I was told to go back from where I came from.

They seem to close their ears when I say I was born and bred here.

Are we, are we equal?

Did I grow up in a world of equal opportunities?

Was your job application ever rejected because you have a foreign sounding name, or identity?

I was constantly told, I had to work hard than others, to achieve my dream as a result of the reality.

Do you feel you have to give up your cultural and religious identity to fit in with modern society?

So, I ask you one last time.

Are we, are we equal?

Equality for is me is what I see here. I sea of differences held together with dignity and kindness.

Equality should strengthen my mind and soul.

Equality recognises the heart and its practices.

Whilst championing my skills and rewarding my hard work.

Equality, it allows me... to be me, without fear.

Equality

What does this word mean?

Ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity,

to make the most of their lives and talents.

No one should have a poorer life chance because of the way they were born, where they come from, what they believe, or whether they have a disability.

Equality

What a beautiful idea.





Rise in Racism

"Monkey"

Sharp

"Go Back Home"

Climate of hatred

"Shit"

Monkey Emojis

"Useless Ni\*\*er"

"Get out of my Country"



# ANTHONY JOSHUA: HOW THE MIGHTY FALL

BY ANONYMOUS

On Saturday the 25th of September Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk stunned the world of boxing by defeating England's Anthony Joshua. At the packed Tottenham Hotspur stadium, which holds 65,000 supporters, the results were by a unanimous decision, with the judges scoring it 117-112, 116-112, 115-113. After the fight, Usyk was given Joshua's WBA, WBO and IBF heavyweight titles leaving Usyk with a record of 18 wins and 0 losses, and AJ with a record of 24 wins and 2 losses. The stunning performance from Usyk has sent waves of fear through the heavyweight division as he stunned one of the most elite fighters in the world. However, is Joshua's reign now over?

From the get-go Oleksandr Usyk caused problems for Joshua as he came out of the blocks looking faster and sharper, taking charge of the ring and "dominating" Joshua. The Ukrainian southpaw had left AJ with a damaged eye socket and was left with a lack of vision after a huge blow in the ninth round, so said AJ's boxing promoter, Eddie Hearn. However, at that point some may say the fight was already lost with Usyk dominating almost every round and leaving AJ rocked on the ropes in round 12 as Joshua was and fighting hard to not get knocked out before the final bell went. Eddie Hearn was "devastated" by the result of the fight and said: "It was a devastating defeat, but congrats to Oleksandr Usyk, the better fighter won." He went on to say that he didn't think "AJ boxed a great fight tonight", and that "Usyk boxed an excellent fight. It was all the things we worried about in the night before, the over-thinking, trying to stand and box with him, and he took too many shots early." However, there is light at the end of the tunnel for Anthony Joshua. The fight contract contained a rematch clause, which means if activated by Joshua, he will have a chance to get redemption and to get his belts back. If it goes ahead the rematch will be all or nothing for Anthony

Joshua and could decide his future in the world of boxing... and whether or not he will have a shot at fighting the supergiants of Deontay Wilder and Tyson Fury.

Saturday night's events have left the chances of the fight everyone has been waiting for, AJ versus the unbeaten heavyweight champion of the world Tyson Fury unlikely. However, some boxing fans still have hope. The chances of the £200 million blockbuster fight of the two titans of England may have been shattered by the Usyk victory which will leave the UK, Eddie Hearn and boxing organisers furious as this fight would have been the biggest in UK boxing history. However, people are also left asking the question: is Joshua good enough to be competing against the likes lights of Fury and Deontay Wilder after his last two losses?

Will Joshua get his redemption or is it the end of the line in boxing for Anthony Joshua? Sadly, only time and a couple of big hits will tell.

