



SPRING

THEMO

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

JENNA HUTTON, KAYLEI CALLAGHAN & LAUREN CROPPER

Happy New Year seems a little late coming! However, welcome to the latest edition of *The Mo*!

We hope that everyone enjoyed the Christmas Holidays, and managed to take some time to relax away from the classroom. We also hope that the first term back was enjoyable for you all.

School returned for the first term of 2022, and thankfully, we are beginning this year without a lockdown, and without having to do our learning online or via Google Classroom. Although everything is still uncertain, hopefully, this year will begin to see life not so heavily impacted by COVID, despite the arrival of Omicron being so prevalent.

This edition of *The Mo* encompasses a multitude of student-written articles, exploring areas such as Skateboarding, COP26, and the recent uncertainty of Novak Djokovic being able to compete in the Australian Open. In addition to these articles, like always, this edition includes a range of student artwork and photography. We have loved including such a wide variety of articles within this edition, from the talented writers who have wished to contribute to our Spring edition. Similarly, we hope you enjoy the topical and informative areas which our writers have chosen to explore and discuss!

Currently, in the Sixth Form we have all been finalising our University Applications, making plans for gap years, and figuring out which path we will take come September. With deadlines so close, it is both exciting and a time of change ahead for our classmates within Year 13. Similarly, with the February 7th government announcement on exam information looming, we are sure the GCSE students are as intrigued as all of us A-Level students are!

We very much hope you enjoy this edition of *The Mo* and find its contents as interesting as we did. Remember, if you want to write for the magazine, all you need to do is talk to one of our writers or to Ms Redfern who can usually be found, when not on duty, in her office under the Merlin stairs or in FB1.

However, for now, all you need to do is sit back, relax and enjoy an edition full of fabulous articles, beautiful artwork and commentary on life.

Thank you for reading!
The Mo team

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CONSCIOUS AND UNCONSCIOUS RACISM

BY SABAH TOORABALLY

Why do we do the things we do?

Why do we lean forward when interested in something, and slouch back to relax? It's something that has often puzzled me. Perhaps it was that that inspired me to look at body language. Did you know only 10% of our actions are controlled by our conscious brain, meaning the other 90% is controlled by our unconscious mind?

You would not consciously slam your hand on a hot stove because you know it would hurt; therefore, you wouldn't do it again. However, the things we do unconsciously are a lot less clear cut, and can sometimes have no logical reason at all, like irrational fears or ingrained ideologies. Ideologies that can last for generations.

When you consider all of this, it isn't really a surprise that everything, whether life-changing something seemingly minor, has an impact on us. Whether we like it or not, whether we want any control of it or not. Everything we experience shapes us, and every little thing starts to mould us into the person we are. Everything. We can be conscious of it, but for the most part, we're not even aware it is happening.

Therefore, if there is subconscious stereotyping it can fuel the unconscious bias: prejudices we have without realising. And sadly, it's rampant... *everywhere*. Statistically, people of colour are less likely to get high-powered or managerial roles; shockingly, some people have spoken about the fear that employers may turn their applications down after reading an ethnic name and may resort to 'whitening' their CVs in order to secure job interviews. Outrageously, despite all of the progress that has been made since the death of George Floyd, people of colour are still more likely to be stopped and searched by the police. Whilst not every police officer... or civilian, consciously holds

prejudices, the fact remains that there is still prejudice out there.

Yet, do we consciously prolong racial injustice?

The term "blackfishing" has been coined in relation to when someone tries to appear "black" to attain status. This involves the cultural appropriation of certain elements of black culture. All too recently, celebrities, like the Kardashians, and Jesy Nelson, have been accused of blackfishing. In fact, in Jesy Nelson's single, she appeared to have a darker skin tone than usual, sporting plumped-up lips, grills on her teeth, and braids.

There might be something to be said for positive discrimination, especially when you consider how scholarships and academic opportunities are being offered to people in Black, Asian or ethnic communities. Yet, do these positive discriminations - even with their good intentions - continue to split people into groups based on ethnicity? If this is the case, does it continue the cycle of racism?

I was actually going to write about these topics separately, as they seem contradictory, but these issues play off one another more than I first thought: Racism is not just a problem we can solve if we try really hard. It is a web of intertwined issues - each matter is not mutually exclusive. Dealing with one will not magically solve the rest but if we begin to untangle this web, we can start to take it down.

So how can we change actions we are not aware of? How can we ensure cultural appreciation does not become appropriation?

Recognise racism. Challenge racism. Tell anyone if their actions are offensive. Recognising racism is the first step to stopping things that go unnoticed; once you recognise it in others' actions, you can spot them on your own. As for cultural appreciation,

remember to always respect the roots of a culture.

I've heard the word "racism" less and less- nobody likes being called "racist" as it now seems like an extreme word, but we must remember: that our actions now are what will become history and we need to be far more conscious of the role we play in it.

Artwork by Christina Eshun



SKATEBOARDING

BY KOFI KYEI-BOADU

Skateboarding is physical. It involves performing tricks and riding a skateboard. Yet, it is so much more than just that. Whilst skateboarding is a recreational activity, it's also - to those who participate in it - an art. However, skateboarding is frowned upon throughout many communities. The sport is often widely seen as rebellious, dangerous, and a blight on civilized society. Others, meanwhile, have come to enjoy the sport or know people who indulge in the activity.

There are many types of skateboarding such as freestyle skateboarding which is technical flat ground skating that involves doing tricks on flat ground. This can either be done moving or in a still position. Street skateboarding involves using the environment around you to perform an array of tricks such as flat tricks, stairs, handrails, planter boxes, drainage ditches, benches, ledges, and other street furniture. You can really skate anything around you if you are creative enough. Vert skateboarding involves skaters going from the flat ground onto a ramp to perform tricks. This originated in the 1970s in backyard pools which were a prime spot to do this type. Park skating is the manmade skateparks that are created to be able to do all of the listed types in a more specialized area. This type allows people, like me and you, to enjoy skating in a more exclusive area. Other types include downhill skateboarding where you head down hills to gain large amounts of speed. Cruising skating is just you riding about on the board not doing anything specific other than getting around to wherever.

Skateboarding originated from surfboarders in the 1950s who wanted to "surf when the waves were



flat" This was originally called sidewalk surfing. The first original skateboards were nothing more than wooden boxes or boards with roller skate wheels attached to the bottom. It has come a long way since then. Skateboarding used to be rebellious. Way back when rebellion was considered the anarchy of the youth... Stop! Have things really changed? Over time the community has grown to be safer and more community-driven. Of course, there are the minorities who still like to hop fences, skate on private property, or where society says we "shouldn't". The masses are the same as everyone else who have activities they enjoy. As with all activities, the thing that stands out the most are the people who don't follow the "rules" and cause problems for others. These are the ones that sadly communities consider the standard. All of the skaters I know are good people who don't loiter around outside public spaces causing mischief and mayhem. They don't skate and damage private property. They don't go around spray-painting buildings and disturbing the public. They don't knock down children or old ladies.... Instead, they skate.

It's as simple as that. So, what is their crime? The skateboard.

Now, the main skaters you see are people like Tony Hawk famous for creating over 100 signature tricks, or Nyjah Hudson who became so good with tricks that it looks robotic. However, the female side of skating is much smaller. 23.9% of skaters are female. Female faces like Sky Brown the 13-year-old British Olympian who won bronze and inspired thousands of girls to start skateboarding, are what we love to see. Another amazing skater Alexis Sablone, is best known for her street skateboarding. The sponsorship with Converse allowed her to finances to make it to the Olympics as part of the U.S.A women's team. This shows just how far the female demographic of skaters have come.

I use my skateboard as transport to get to and from school. I go to quiet areas to learn tricks and earn new skills. Yet, people come up to me and complain about what I'm doing even, I might add, though I'm in my own space, a space that isn't being used by anyone else. They tell me to go skate somewhere else as if I have someplace to go. Everywhere I try to ride my skateboard I get kicked out and end up just going home because there is nowhere else to go. This makes me ask, who is it that decides - or decided - that skateboarders were reprobates, ne'er do wells and trouble makers? Whoever it was clearly hasn't been part of the skateboarding community.

Even now, Skateboarding is officially an Olympic sport. For the Olympic games of 2020 in Tokyo, Japan, skateboarding was a debuting sport in the summer games. It is up for discussion for 2024 games too. 80 Skaters from 25 different nationalities all took part in competing in the Olympic games. Japan, however, actually took the win with 5 medalists; 3 of them being gold medals. The runners-up consisted of Australia and Brazil coming in 3rd. This is a big step for the skateboarding scene showing the world the skill sets and overall "vibe" of skateboarding.

Recently, a man from the council wanted me to sign a petition he organized for a skate park in



St. Albans. I instantly signed it. The disadvantages of not being able to go to a recreational park made for the sport I practice outweigh the advantages heavily. I get judged for skating in places not designed for skating; however, those places are the only places suitable for us. The main issue is financing the project. The committee's chair is hopeful that plans will be approved. It seems that, thankfully, there are some people who realise that not all skateboarders are hoodlums!

This might not have changed your opinion at all, I cannot speak for every kind of skater and how they behave or act. All I can say is to don't look down on us, don't judge us from the get-go just because we use or hold a skateboard.

COVID CONSPIRACIES

BY MATT WARD

If one of my teachers were to ask me to describe my experience of the Covid pandemic in one word... I'd probably be issued a detention for using uncivilised language in the classroom. Unsurprisingly then, I was over the moon when I heard that the long-awaited Covid vaccines were being rolled out to the general public last December. The prospect of being able to gather in town with my friends, to give

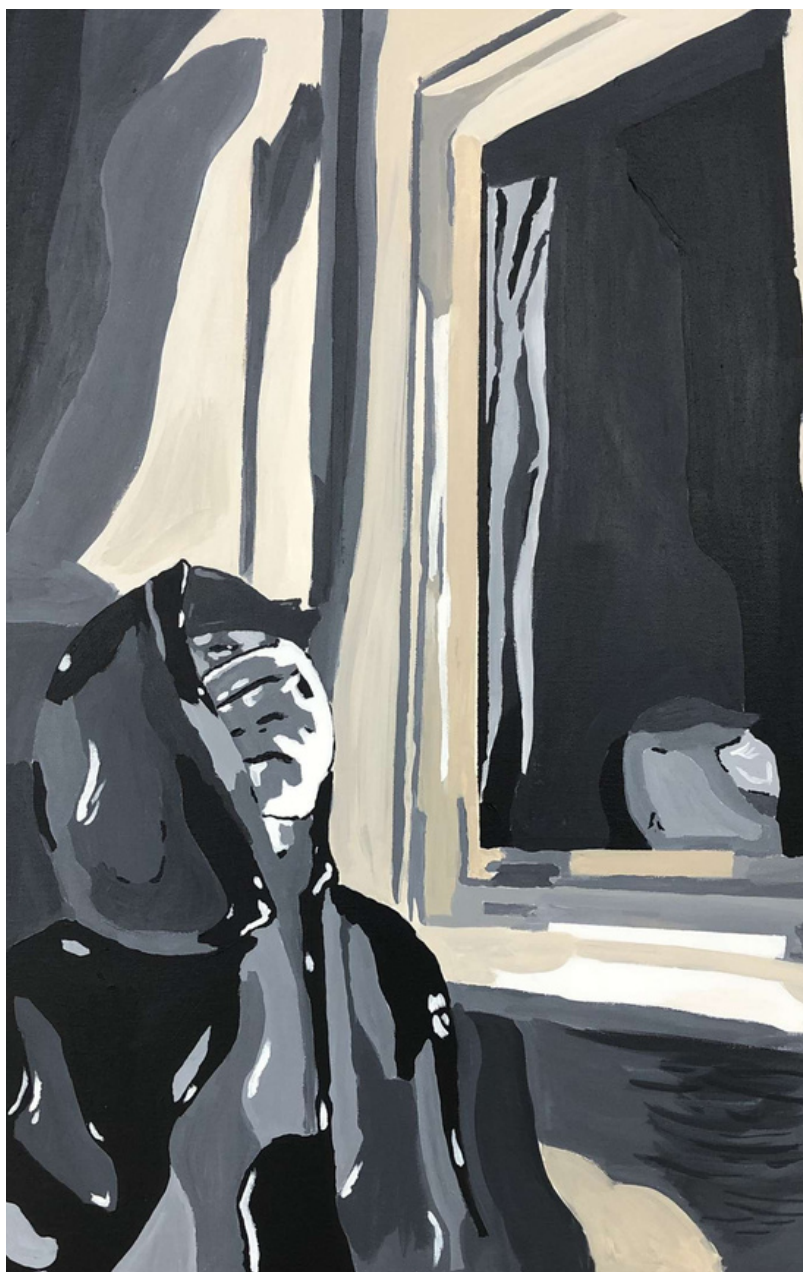
more distant relatives that long-awaited hug we'd all been so woefully deprived of during lockdown, to actually be a teenager again and not just a ball of boredom stuck fast in his bedroom.

Quite the opposite, we've also been seeing groups of people, commonly dubbed *anti-vaxxers*, expressing sentiments rather to the contrary of the indomitable excitement I was feeling at the prospect of easing lockdown restrictions. Instead, they were throwing around words like "conspiracy" and "sheeple" at the very notion of wearing masks and getting vaccinations.

I'm sure each one of us has run into the character: the sort insisting on their own research while disregarding the careers of hundreds of scientists who have devoted their lives to the study of vaccines and epidemiology. Though is there any method to their madness? It doesn't take anything more than a browse on Twitter or Facebook to find more misinformation than you know what to do with; baseless proclamations of vaccines causing infertility, autism, and even one or two people turning into a lizard! Is it really so surprising to find that

people who get taken up in the echo chambers and fake news of the online world are able to find at least some of this information feasible?

As absurd as it sounds to anyone who has gone through a GCSE Biology class, one of the biggest claims that can be heard from anti-vaxxers is that

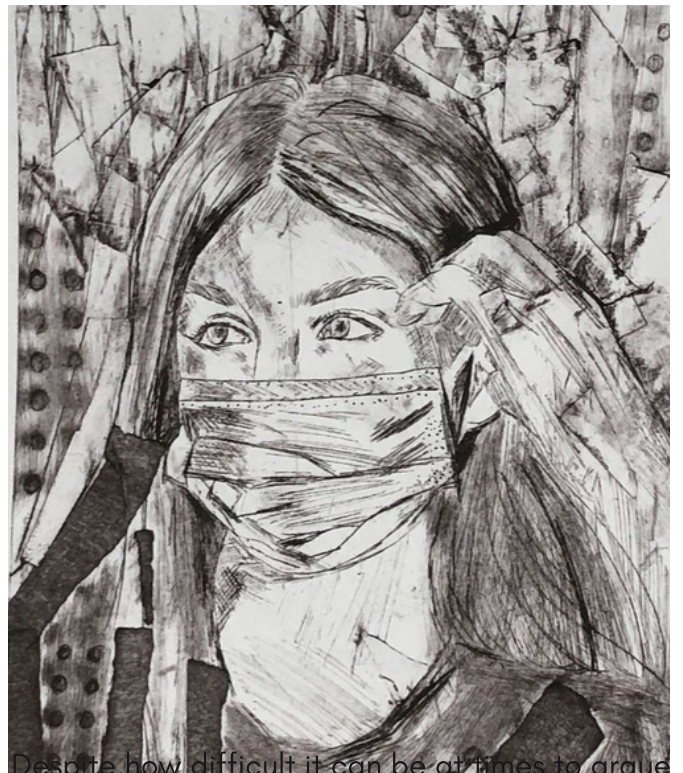


the vaccine implants microchips into people's skin. This hasn't in the least been exacerbated by online conspiracies surrounding Bill Gates, a major contributor to the funding of the Covid vaccine's research. In a world where we are hearing increasingly more and more of governments tracking their citizens, from the FBI announcing it has developed a way to get into Apple phones, to the UK police being accused of using StingRays – a sort of disguised cell tower which allows police to track your incoming and outgoing traffic – in the London Metropolitan area, you can see why people have had some hesitancy to the administering of vaccines and vaccine passports. As to the accusation of actual tracking devices being implanted in the vaccines, we need look no further than the same echo chambers that created these accusations in the first place: stir up fear, and any baseless accusation can be reconstituted as bonafide fact.

This stirring up of conspiracies when people are scared and have no other trusted source of information is in no way limited to the past twenty-five months of Covid; in fact, this sort of conspiracy-forming herd mentality has been seen as long as history has a record of a group of people being frightened. Take the Loch Ness Monster, witchcraft, the Kraken, and Charybdis. All examples of people creating fanciful tales out of things they didn't understand or are elaborated tales from something they had heard from someone else. Take the myrmecoleon – a large ant with the head of a lion – you can imagine how if one medieval peasant is bitten by an ant, making a mountain out of a molehill could quickly lead to the belief in such a creature...

Now re-evaluate these concepts into modern times. As opposed to there being no information available, instead, take a group of people who have been consistently lied to and

ignored by those in power, and add platforms like Facebook and Twitter which create the perfect ingredients for an echo chamber where conspiracies can be reinterpreted as gospel at a whim and fear can spread rife. To make it worse, in a world devoid of punctuation, where blocking and hate speech run rife, it's no surprise that, when these theories get spread around, users develop a "for me or against me" mindset that just leads to heated online wars instead of actually constructive conversation. I'm sure anyone who's used any online platforms will find out soon enough that one of the least commonly-seen interactions on there is an admission of one's own fallibility.



Despite how difficult it can be at times to argue with people who are so sure of their own facts in complete disregard of the stark holes in their logic, it's important to remember that that person could just as easily be us in any other situation. Whenever we run into people who disagree with us, instead of shouting and blocking, we might at least try to utilise the one skill that sets us apart from all other forms of life – the power of discourse.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

BY ANONYMOUS

For a moment, let's be like Ray Bradbury and go back in time. Not to the age of the dinosaurs but rather to the pre-Covid era. Okay, here goes...Let's be honest, 2020 was miserable. Once it was over we were relieved, we thought there would be something better, but there wasn't. We wanted something that was going to make us smile, make us laugh, or simply make us positive.

In short, we are over misery. The pandemic has been tough for so many, in so many different ways - the last thing we wanted in 2021 was another year of television adverts reminding us what a torrid time we were having. We were tired. We were over the doom and definitely over the gloom. It seemed that the advertising executives of 2021 realised this and welcomed in 2021 with a little bit of... fun. Whether that fun was in real life or on our screens.

We wanted adverts that were a marked change from the dreary and earnest pandemic campaigns with their monotone voiceovers and attempts to form a sympathetic alliance with consumers. That all felt just a little samey, and any ad that featured coronavirus messaging made viewers want to switch off. It seemed that by the end of 2020 we had the message and advertisers definitely needed to change tack.

People seemed to talk about silliness, like the summer Walkers advert that featured a rather joyful workman falling off a roof and using the time stuck in a roof light to watch TV on his phone. Yorkshire Tea, for instance, struck gold with its depiction of a man blundering through a presentation at its head office and saying 'My brew' by mistake. Lynx, the stinky deodorant of teenage boys, charmed viewers by showing a freshly deodorised man walking down a psychedelically positive street - without a mask in sight.

Charlotte Wilcox, Head of Strategy at creative agency Impero said that when it came to television and advertising, "earnest was replaced by entertainment." Wilcox went on to say that, "with all of the false starts of the last two years taking their toll, creativity and laughter have really reigned supreme." Do you remember the fancy sausage company, Heck? Their advert, where five factory workers were dancing in the warehouse to a song proclaiming that '*nothing is going to break their stride*' offered a little bit of nonsense to what was quickly becoming a bleak year. So much so that over 50,000 people have viewed the advert on Youtube! The company were one of several brands to use the workplace dance video format and it seemed that this sense of silliness warmed the saddest of hearts.

Consumers, including young consumers, are hyper-aware of being 'sold to' and to counter that, brands need a tongue-in-cheek self-awareness to win our hearts. We want personality and humour.

Where fun wasn't appropriate, we wanted feelgood themes, family and friends. We wanted to know that there was an end to the Covid bleakness. Eloise Shuttleworth, Senior Director of Customer Success at marketing platform, Iterable, said "companies that leaned into this sentiment, and focused on sparking joy and festivity in their message, have largely thrived."

The joy aspect has particularly come through in the nation's response to supermarket Christmas ads this year. A Kantar survey of 3,600 consumers found that Aldi's chippier Kevin the Carrot advert came out as the most effective this year. Was that because it was cute, it didn't feature Covid or any form of drama? Quite possibly. It can't be because of WW2 propaganda about the power of the humble carrot.

Being joyful and sensitivity seemed to have allowed brand managers to place more emphasis on emotion and fun. Which we clearly enjoyed and cherished. Even if the topic was an emotional one (Covid aside) serious topics, such as Carlsberg's campaign on its WWF and a big-eyed, winsome seal, pulled on our heartstrings in the best possible way.

Adverts were vying for our attention. We were spending more time at home and watching more TV; therefore, we were seeing more. Marketing teams have needed to be smarter in 2021. Behind the scenes, they've had to put in the extra hours for their adverts to be seen and remembered. Figures from Ofcom, for 2020, show Britains were spending a third of their waking hours watching TV and online content. This meant that the total UK advertising spend is estimated to have grown by 24.8% in 2021; forcing advertisers to be clever, to bring colour, life and experimentation across our screens.

With 2021 ending like a bit of a damp squib and with very little – other than an early Covid booster – to look forward to, here's hoping that the advertising companies and brand executives of tomorrow's adverts have something amazing up their sleeves!

So, looking back, I suppose it is time to take a moment to "doth our caps" and remember the adverts that made us smile. Why? Well, who doesn't love a bit of nostalgia?

Voltarol: Voltarol's grandad ain't no cardigans and Werther's Originals kind of pops. He used to race motorbikes. And after a quick rub of the joint pain relief, he's down in the garage scrubbing up his old bike.

Coke: Real Magic.

Heinz's beans: Still in her dressing gown, a woman powers to the corner shop, running through a neighbour's kitchen and crashing through another's garden fence, while declaring the "lean, supreme, plant-based protein cuisine".

Malteser: new mum at the bus stop.

Lynx: a few sprays of the stuff gives the protagonist of this ad a completely new and slightly psychedelic perspective on life.

Branson's pickle: A daughter is making her way in the big city. Over a montage of new job nerves and making new friends, a voicemail from her mum and dad plays, reminding her that "they're lucky to have you".

PG Tips: A young girl's cuddly toy tea party addresses "the elephant in the room". She's changing to PG Tips because the bags are biodegradable "whilst some still use plastic". At the end the ad asks if viewers too have "made the switch".



Jaffa Cake: "Is it a biscuit...or cake?" The question that's as old as time is on this occasion tackled by a bemused shop owner.

Walkers crisps: Are you the victim of a potentially life-changing workplace injury? No worries. So long as you have a pack of Walkers crisps and a phone to hand.

As for 2022 and what that will bring? Who knows. So far, some of the biggest viewing figures have been: The Postcode Lottery, Deliveroo, Weightwatchers and Vinted. I suppose at the start of the month we want to get rich, feel trim, wear fancy clothes and sit in! Let's hope the ad execs can do a bit better than this!

GOODBYE DECEMBER

BY ANONYMOUS

Unlike Scrooge, warmth can warm me, and wintry weather can chill. As cold and heartless as some people think I am, there are winds bitterer than me, and falling snow has more intent upon its purpose, and pelting rain is open to entreaty. So - just to be clear - I am no Ebenezer; however, that doesn't mean that I am not delighted to see the back of December. Here's why...

No more Tess "dead behind the eyes" Daly.

The autumn term means many things to many people. To me, it means that Tess Daly will be wearing awful dresses and proving that she gets more wooden with each series of Strictly Come Dancing. Earning a reported £150K for presenting Strictly once a week for 13 weeks, you'd think she'd invest in some form of personality training to ensure that she doesn't seem like an automaton. However, year on year, she proves that she is in fact a 5ft 7inch autocue reading bore.

No recaps, reruns, or countdowns.

Quiz of the Year, Sports Personality of the Year, Only Fools and Horses, highlights of this, recaps of that. Yawn! 2021 sucked, what on earth would we want to watch parts of it back for? Surely, we have seen and heard enough of it? If we didn't see events the first time, do we want to be watching things again in some 'end of year mash-up'?

The sequins can be put away.

All that glitters isn't gold, let's be very clear about that. The start of December means that there is a tendency to wear a bit of glitz and sparkle (even if you aren't a glitter person). Sequins are an ageless, sizeless, perennial fashion trend that anyone can wear - but that doesn't mean we need to see them adorning every jumper or accessory. The sequins need to go, and January is just the time to shove them all to the back of the wardrobe. For those who

are keen to get them out again once November closes, let me tell you this - no, you shouldn't wear embellishments from head to toe!

Turning down a roast dinner.

Turkey, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes? Yes please!
Turkey, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes? Yes please!
Turkey, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes? Yes please!
Then comes the point at which you just need to say, "no thank you!" It is okay to decline and opt for a salad, some quinoa, or even some puy lentils!

Director versus reality.

The reality of a Christmas in Hertfordshire is not white... it is barely even frosty. Rather, December is a little damp, sometimes blustery, and if we're lucky we might have a bit of fog - just for pathetic fallacy's sake! In fact, this is what most Decembers are like all over the country so why do we have to watch shows featuring snow-capped trees, crisp frosty landscapes, and people adorned in bobble hats and mittens? It might be 'picturesque' or a glimmer of the ideal; yet in reality, it is just a sad realisation of the impact of global warming.

Not as cool as January.

Unlike December which etymologists have identified as coming from the Latin root decem- which means "ten", January is named after the Roman god Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions. I am definitely not one for the 'New Year, New Me' clap-trap, but being named after a God is just so much cooler! Plus, January means that we can all start again. We can reset and look forward. Not that I am suggesting that we make resolutions (that will of course be broken by the end of the year) but we can spend some time deciding to prioritise, begin the year with a clean slate, and know that we have a full 12 months to work on being just that little bit better.

Artwork by Hannah Storey-Brown



TAKING OUT OUR TEACHERS

BY ANONYMOUS

So, Omicron is here then? And according to studies, at the time of writing this, Omicron had taken out one in twelve teachers in England's schools. According to a recent data catch in the UK nearly 9% of teachers and assistant teachers were absent in the first part of the term. Over half of those absent were due to Covid related isolation, up on the published figures from December.

In a recent BBC news report, some Head Teachers have said that they are unable to cope with the pressures that Covid continues to throw. Education Secretary, Nadhim Zahawi, has even come out and said that there are contingency plans for rising rates of staff absence and the fall of supply staff able to cover staff absences; however, bringing in retired teachers seems more problematic than anything. Plus, despite the mandatory wearing of face coverings for pupils in secondary schools, the total number of students (including primary students who don't have to wear a covering and have not had the first dose of the vaccine) is up nationally too. This made me start to wonder about our school. Is our school suffering the same as others and are we starting to feel the educational pinch? Hand on heart, it doesn't feel like we are at a crisis point.

Paul Whiteman, the general secretary for the National Association of Head Teachers, said staff absence in the first week of term was significant and likely to worsen by an additional 25%. This is terrible and it will impact the learning; however, I might be wrong here, but I think our school is managing to keep everything ship-shape. There seems to be a 'Stay Calm and Carry On' approach and our school seems to be sailing through the first weeks of the term without too much of an issue.

Now, I am not daft enough to think that there aren't staff out - there are. I am not daft enough to think

that teachers aren't doing cover - they are. I am not daft enough to think there aren't supply teachers in - there are. My point is, that despite all of this, our school still feels like it is business as usual, and we don't have an influx of retired faces or agency staff. So, when more than 90 multi-academy trusts, representing over 2,000 schools across England say that they are unable to find teachers to cover lessons, what is our school doing differently?

The government pledged to provide 7,000 air purifiers to schools (7,000 across the whole country!), yet, we don't seem to have those. Windows and doors are open, face coverings are worn in the canteen queue, daily lateral flow tests are being handed out by tutors, and face coverings are an absolute must with many tutors and teachers keeping disposable ones in their rooms. Teachers are spraying and cleaning, spraying and cleaning, spraying and cleaning... and hand sanitiser stations are always full. Is it this diligence that is helping to keep Marlborough open?

The Education Secretary has said he is expecting an increase in infection rates as schools get into the term; I disagree. I think things are going to calm down. Yes, there is lots of Omicron about but people aren't contracting it anywhere near as frequently. There may well be students who happen to have several of their teachers absent due to Covid, but listening to the chatter around the school and 'teacher spotting' when they are on duty, these students are in the minority. Granted, I don't have any evidence for that... it's just what I have seen and heard. When you look around your class, there aren't scores of students absent either. It really doesn't seem to be picking students off like some invisible contagious phantom anymore. Whatever it is that our school is doing... 'Keep calm and carry on'.

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

BY JASPER JAMES

Novak Djokovic is a professional tennis player from Serbia. The Association of Tennis Professionals has him rated No. 1 in the world. Djokovic has held the No. 1 ranking for a record 355 weeks and has won the ATP Year-End No. 1 title seven times.

The 86-time ATP single titleholder was supposed to attend the Australian Open this year, however, this time participants were required to be vaccinated against coronavirus as a recent spike has occurred.

The omicron variant has swept the world back into a void of anxiety, as people continue to fear for their loved ones in the face of the virus. Consequently, many sporting events have been postponed or adapted for safety reasons. Yet, like the African Cup of Nations, which is run in the first months of the year, the Australian Open (which started on the 9th of January) has been allowed to go on under certain circumstances. The most outstanding rule shines above all - all players must have received the booster jabs against Covid-19.

As it stands, at the time of writing - and things change quickly in politics and sport - Novak Djokovic's chances of winning his 10th Australian Open in 2022 were all but destroyed when he was denied entry into the country. Djokovic, 34, landed in Melbourne late on a Wednesday night, less than a week and a half before the first Grand Slam of the year began on January 17th. He had been granted a medical exemption for the tournament's COVID-19 vaccination regulations, but his visa was finally refused after an unusual day in which he was delayed for eight hours at the airport.

After his visa was denied, Djokovic's lawyers immediately launched an appeal to overturn the decision. A hearing between his attorneys and officials from the minister of immigration's office

was held Thursday, and it was decided Djokovic could remain in the country -- sequestered and isolated in a hotel room -- until a full hearing Monday.

Djokovic was taken to a hotel used to house immigration detainees in Carlton, an inner-northern suburb of Melbourne, where fans gathered in protest outside of the hotel. At the time of composing and planning this article, Judge Anthony Kelly, who presided over the case, said he would not be rushed into making a swift decision, despite Tennis Australia's hopes for an immediate resolution with the tournament's looming start date.



Djokovic, on the other hand, faced and was eventually deported, with Australia's Immigration Minister, Alex Hawke, making his decision very close to the start of the Open. Things for Djokovic couldn't have been worse: confined to a hotel, public speculation and media scandal and time away from the grass. Who knows how he would have performed? Had he been able to play, would he have beaten Nadal?

Fans of Djokovic will be hoping to see Novak play soon; however, it won't be on Australian soil. Who knows when the Australian government will have him back.

SURREALISM

BY JENNA HUTTON

Many of us will be familiar with the image of Salvador Dali's famous 'melting clocks', which have been widely examined for their bizarre and idiosyncratic formation. The Surrealist Movement was founded in the early 20th Century, and quickly spread as an artistic, literary and philosophical movement which focused on the unconscious reality, dreams and one's imagination. 'Surrealist', suggesting 'beyond reality', begins to provoke thought into whether these collection of paintings were perhaps the true definition of an artist's imagination. Similarly, one has to question: are these paintings an expression of madness?

'The Persistence of Memory' is perhaps one of Dali's most famous pieces of artwork. Whilst depicting a sleeping figure, it also encompasses melting clocks, a swarm of ants, and a background of hills and mountains. This bizarre combination of imagery was sparked by one of Dali's dreams, in which he later argued that the concept of time loses all meaning during periods of unconsciousness. Perhaps this was what Dali was attempting to convey with the image of the melting clocks; the idea of time having no meaning, or perhaps the idea of time progressing so quickly that it can distort images and memories.

The concept of these paintings being crafted from images seen within dreams is interesting and insightful. Perhaps these paintings are a mechanism of displaying the unconscious imagination, and how the mind crafts images subconsciously that can only be viewed whilst dreaming. Furthermore, towards the end of his career, Dali formulated his "paranoiac-critical method": his self-induced psychotic hallucinations as a way of creating art. Therefore, when we examine the melting clocks, the lobster telephone and the elephants with never-ending legs, we are actually observing a product of Dali's dreams, hallucinations, and unconscious imagination.

Further to this, Dali was famously an avid reader of Sigmund Freud's theories of the unconscious. Sigmund Freud is known as the Father of psychoanalysis: a method of treating mental illness and deciphering inexplicable human behaviour. One of Freud's most relevant suggestions was that dreams provided the route to the unconscious; information from the mind may appear in dreams in a disguised form. If we are to believe that the unconscious mind has access to one's paranoia, fears, and desires and that this was portrayed in dreams, perhaps we can view Dali's paintings as a kind of diary entry. A series of convoluted images that are representative of him and his mind.

"The interpretation of dreams is the royal road to a knowledge of the unconscious activities of the mind" - Sigmund Freud.

Surrealism seems to encompass imagery that is devoid of logical comprehension. Yet when we picture our dreams, they too can make little sense. The famous dream of free-falling from a great height, being chased, being surrounded by insects- somehow there is often no way of understanding why your mind envisions such peculiar imagery. Similarly, upon studying a piece of Surrealist artwork, it is almost impossible to draw meaning or comprehend why the various objects should exist simultaneously. Yet somehow, it makes more sense once it is understood that they are the product of a dream.

Perhaps Surrealist artwork is the most authentic form of self-portraiture there is. Few other art movements include paintings that are a delineation of the artist themselves. Similarly, these paintings embody the ideas of freedom and expression; and despite being convoluted and confusing, are ironically perhaps one of the clearest methods of understanding an artist's mind and imagination.



COP26 UNPACKED

BY KAYLEI CALLAGHAN

For those who do not know, COP26 is the United Nation's 26th annual climate change conference. 'COP' stands for 'Conference of the Parties', as almost every country on earth gathered together for the global climate summit. COP26 was planned to be in 2020, but due to Covid, it had to be postponed. The conference took place from the 31st of October until the 13th of November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland - it was organized by the UK and Italy; the president of the conference was UK cabinet minister Alok Sharma.

Over 30,000 people were in attendance at COP26. Including famous faces Greta Thunberg and Sir David Attenborough - more than 100 world leaders also showed their faces, President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Prince Charles with the Duchess of Cornwall (filling in for Queen Elizabeth), and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon of Scotland amongst others. Notable absences include Kremlin leader and Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping - both of whom represent vital countries in the fight against climate change.

In order to fully understand and comprehend the outcomes of COP26, we must first go back 6 years ago to COP21 - also known as 'The 2015 Paris Accords'. One of the key aspects of the agreement was to limit global temperature increase to well below 2°C, but preferably restrain this increase to a maximum of 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement required all Parties to put forward their best efforts to reduce their personal impact to climate change; each country's individual agreements differed as stage of development was considered in order to keep it fair. The Paris Agreement included vital requirements that all countries who signed will report regularly on their emissions and on their efforts to implement their goals. There were

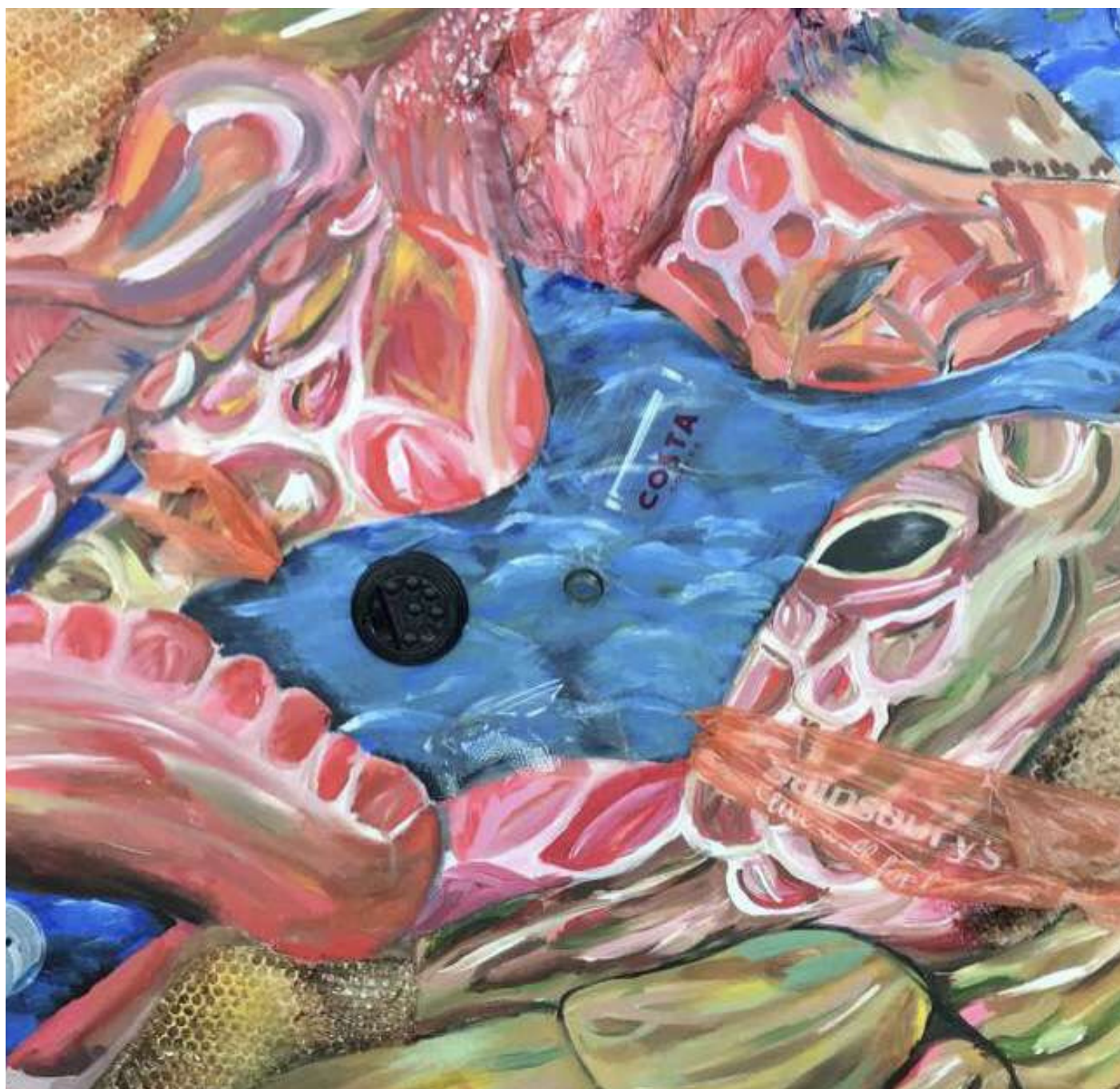
promises on global stocktake to take place every 5 years to assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement. The first global stocktake since the agreement in 2015 was COP26.

The main mantra of Alok Sharma for COP26 was upholding the arguably ambitious temperature target of the Paris Accords - to "keep 1.5 degrees alive". The president of the conference would later be moved to tears as the once optimistic goal slowly began to die. So, what happened?

The world continues to remain off-track to avert a climate crisis and is still falling short of limiting global warming to 1.5 Celsius above pre-industrial levels. They failed to reach this goal despite previous deals to cut carbon and methane emissions, end deforestation, reduce the use of coal, and a renewed pledge of financing for poorer countries that are most vulnerable to extreme weather caused by climate change. One of the most devastating disappointments was an 11th-hour intervention by India in which their final agreement was watered down from "phasing out" coal to "phasing down". Some committees still saw the event as a success, including Britain's own Climate Change Committee which stated COP26 "marked a step forward in global efforts to address climate change". Rob Stavins, professor of Energy and Economic Development at Harvard University, also agreed that the conference was a step in the right direction. In an interview, he explained: "This is a marathon, not a sprint," he continued, "It's a relay race and the fundamental thing about an individual Conference of the Parties in any given year is that you don't drop the baton when you pass it off to the next one. And this was a reasonable pass off to the next Conference of the Parties."

Other activists disagreed, namely Greta Thunberg - dubbing COP26 "a global north greenwash festival". Robert Hales and Brendan Mackey, academics from Australia's Griffith University, took a more on-the-fence approach. Stating, "If we evaluate this using the summit's original stated goals, the answer is yes, it fell short. Two big-ticket items weren't realized: renewing targets for 2030 that align with limiting warming to 1.5 °C, and an agreement on accelerating the phase-out of coal."

In light of all these statements, it's hard to truly come to a conclusion on whether COP26 delivered on hopes or not. Certain aspects were promising, whereas others felt like a bunch of noise. One thing remains true, the whole ordeal was a rollercoaster - and the future of our planet continues to hang in the balance. Was COP26 a success or total failure? That's up to you to decide.



FORMULA ONE: 2022

BY SAM VICCARS

The 2021 Formula One Season reached a controversial end in Abu Dhabi. After a dubious decision by the race director, Max Verstappen was put in a prime position to win his maiden championship, as he ended up narrowly defeating Lewis Hamilton after going into the final race on equal points. However, with the 2022 season commencing in March, we are to look forward to new car regulations, team budgets, drivers switching teams, and a new Miami circuit being added to the calendar. Fans are eagerly awaiting what this season will hold; will the championship battle between Max and Lewis be repeated? Or will another driver take the lead?

The most major difference this season will likely be the new FIA sporting regulations, which encompasses heavier cars, closer racing, and teams being on more of an even playing field. With each car being revealed throughout February, it'll be interesting to see the new team liveries, and the structure of the car each team has decided to adopt. However, it won't be until the beginning of the season that we can decide which team has designed the fastest and most efficient car, and which drivers will be in the running for the world title.

Although last season saw Verstappen and Hamilton significantly ahead of the other drivers on the grid, this year it would seem that a few of the younger drivers are in the running for a shot at success. One of which would be George Russell, who is entering the 2022 season racing for last year's Constructors Champions: Mercedes. Having previously driven for Williams, Russell's success has been limited despite his excellent driving ability. Therefore, as he is now driving for a team that has recently won numerous championships, it'll be interesting to see if Russell can challenge his new teammate and the other

drivers on the grid. Similarly, McLaren and Ferrari are also speculated to be potential title contenders this season, with Norris and Leclerc being particular favourites for a successful season. Perhaps the new regulations will make way for the younger drivers, who's talent won't be hindered by the vast difference in the cars performance.

The biggest speculation going into this season is that Lewis Hamilton might not be returning to the sport, after his defeat in Abu Dhabi. He believes that the decisions made were incorrect, even stating on team radio at the time that it was "rigged". Mercedes have since stated that he will not be making a decision until the FIA have completed their investigation into the decisions made by race director Michael Masi at the season finale in Abu Dhabi. It would be a great shame for the sport if he were not to return, for fans are looking forward to a rematch between him and Verstappen. Hopefully, the 2022 season will live up to expectations, and display a Championship battle just as exciting as last years.



Artwork by Jenna Hutton