



the torch

MARCH 2022

**TORCHESCOPIES:
YOUR HALF-TERMLY
HOROSCOPES**

**IN CONVERSATION
WITH:
MR COLEMAN**

**CAN CELEBRITIES
BE HELD
ACCOUNTABLE?**

ISSUE 1

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Dear Readers,

We are super excited to be editing the Torch for the next year and cannot wait to showcase all of your fab ideas and articles. Putting this edition together has been an amazing initiation into the role and we can't wait to see what you come up with for future editions too!

In light of the recent senior prefect assembly - embrace the flower power! - and upcoming events to look forward to we'd like to take a moment to really think about the ways in which we can fully get involved in the school community. Whether that just be in your forms or taking on a leadership role with a wider-reach, everything you do has an impact, and we want to emphasise the importance that these have on everyone!

As we are settling into the new year of 2022, it's always great to reflect on what we have achieved so far as a part of celebrating our community. Whether that be participating in the incredible school play, throwing yourself into the team spirit of house competitions, joining a new club or simply stepping out your comfort zone within lessons, we know the past years have been difficult, and want to celebrate moving forward!

So, that being said, you're in for a real treat this edition: experiencing a love for K-pop whilst contemplating the Kardashians, all before some opinion pieces that never fail to entice. Not only this, but the joys of this issue has the always essential Mrs Martin's Must Reads and some enlightening film recommendations for you all to enjoy.

Oh- and don't forget to follow our Instagram account to keep up to date on all matters 'the Torch' and for some super exciting content ;)

Enjoy the read!

Tori and Erin x



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

Muna Ozono, 7F shares her thoughts on the COVID-19 pandemic and our recovery out of it...

As we all know, the past few years of our lives have been dictated by COVID-19. However, this year we have been given the opportunity to relight the spark that makes us CCHS: leaders of tomorrow. Although, COVID is still around the government has given us the A-OK and allowed us to continue with school and competitions and things we would and SHOULD have been able to do in the past. Previously this term, the Year 7 Athletics teams went above and beyond and came 1st overall in the CESSA competition. Things are slowly regaining normality as our dearly beloved house events are back. House Pancake for Year 7s and House Debate for the elder years. To move on to a brighter and better future we have to forget the past. "The past should be the past. It can destroy the future. Live life for what tomorrow has to offer, not for what yesterday has taken away."

Emily Yarham, 11F shares her experience of the InvestIN Young Lawyers Weekend...

During the weekend of the 29th of January to the 30th of January, I attended the Young Lawyers workshop ran by InvestIN, hosted by University College London. The experience was incredibly valuable to me, as it can count as work experience, and I am interested in a career in Law. The fact that work experience in a career such as Law is so few and far between made the experience even more worthwhile for the money spent on attending. It was also fantastically interesting, offering insights into the different sectors of Law, and providing talks on gateways into Law, and the life of a Barrister or Solicitor. It is also important to note that InvestIN offers many different career programmes, not just Law, ranging from Architecture to Medicine. There is truly a valuable experience waiting for everyone.

The first day was my favourite. Professionals from the Family and Criminal Law sector came in to talk to us, and it was an exciting opportunity to narrow down the sector which we found most interesting. During the Criminal Law segment of the programme, we read through a fake murder trial scenario, with our job being to switch between creating points for the prosecution and points for the defence. The scenario consisted of the accused, Stanley Bates, on trial for the murder of his wife Sharon. We also read through witness statements from Hannah Pike and the Police officer who first discovered the scene. It was very interesting and offered a great perspective on how Criminal Trials work, and how points are curated from evidence. The two Barristers also talked us through the differences between an Examination-In-Chief and a Cross Examination. After lunch out, which was also very fun as you could socialise with new friends and discover more about the University and London, we returned to cover Family Law. A Family Law Solicitor and a Barrister specialising in cases with child issues talked us through another fake case of a high-profile celebrity divorcing his wife after 25 years of marriage. It was the part of the weekend that interested me, personally, the most, allowing me to construct points from areas of personal experience, providing me with the passion I needed to demonstrate my points with conviction. The last part of the day was a talk with a Cambridge Graduate on pathways into Law, and how life as a University Law student will look like, followed by a panel Q and A. The professionals were all marvellous individuals, each with their own methods in the way that they worked, constantly pushing us to think deeper into our case, and answering our questions helpfully and with confidence.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

The second day was also amazing. This was the day where we learnt about Corporate Law and the different sectors within it, and Human Rights Law. The Corporate Law portion of the day included us looking into the investments and contracts made between fake businesses and what happens if a contract is frustrated, and what the fallout of this can be for various companies. This was then followed by a segment on Human Rights Law, delivered by two fascinating individuals who have each argued high profile cases in court regarding the protection of human rights. We looked through a case regarding the deportation of a man who immigrated to the UK following political conflict in his home country. This case was rather hard to read through as it covered serious topics such as the treatment that he would receive if he returned, and the subsequent consequences for his wife and children. We also revisited the various human rights that we all have, and the ones which apply to this case and how we could use these to argue for his protection. At the close of the day, we were talked through the differences between the roles of a Solicitor and the roles of a Barrister, and how to enter each career, followed by a final panel discussion.



Emily Yarham and Matilda Forrest

The entire weekend was definitely an experience that I would recommend as someone who is passionate in Law. It helped me to refine the exact parts of Law that I was interested in, and it also cleared my mind on different ways to eventually pursue a career within Law. InvestIn run amazing courses that I think are very worthwhile and valuable, and regardless of whatever course you may choose to take, I can guarantee that it will provide you with a worthwhile experience.

Sam Ericsson, Year 12 and assistant director for the school play shares her thoughts on the recent successes of everyone involved...

The end of January saw the culmination of five months' worth of rehearsing and preparing for the cast, crew, and creative team of this year's production, A Mother's Voice. To say it was hard work is an understatement; the uncertainties that the pandemic has brought had been looming over us since we began auditions in September, with no way of knowing if we would actually get to put on a performance in the same way as previous years. Despite bi-weekly rehearsals fluctuating in numbers due to cast isolations, our company pulled together in a way that I haven't seen in a long time, and to help direct a group of people who were all so determined to see this production through – whether they were in one scene or twelve – was wonderful. It turned out that all the effort put into our play was not in vain: our company took to the stage on the 26th and 27th of January for spellbinding performances all round, not to mention the standing ovation of our closing night. It was an honour to work with so many amazing people, all of whom should be so proud of what they achieved this year and thank you to everyone who came and saw the finished product. Hope to see you all for next year's production, whatever it may be!

CHOOSING YOUR WORDS CAREFULLY

-MISS POCOCK

Despite the best efforts of my German teachers, I cannot describe myself as a linguist. Nonetheless, the evolution of geographical language and the choices we make when selecting the best way to describe places and communities around the world has become one of my main focus-points as a Geography teacher this year. The content of our studies – and the languages we use to learn about the world – reflect the socio-political systems in which the knowledge has been created. In an ever-changing, shifting world, we must therefore commit to updating our use of language to reflect different ways of thinking. In this way we can avoid stereotype and oversimplifications and, even if it is unwittingly, we can ensure that we are actively learning from a greater variety of perspectives.

Take, for example, vocabulary used to classify different countries and communities around the world: despite emerging in the 1950s within a very specific context, the term 'Third World' (tiers monde), coined by Alfred Sauvy in 1952, is still in common parlance. The term was originally used to describe and group together countries that remained neutral during the Cold War era (World Population Review, 2020), but has since been largely used to refer to countries with average lower incomes. Yet not only is this approach seemingly providing a 'ranking' system – with First World countries 'the best' and Third World 'the worst' (wholly problematic in itself) – but both the political and economic arenas in which the term was originally applied have also changed considerably. Not only are we no longer in Cold War, but the global economy – and all the individual economies that comprise this – has also changed dramatically! We must use language that reflects these changes, rather than organising countries and communities around the world into the same 'boxes'.

Another example that has been the subject of great discussion amongst geographers is the way in which we refer to informal settlements within urban areas. In addition to the negative connotations, oversimplifications and inaccuracies that terms such as 'slum' could give rise to, Mayne (2017) argues that such terms have 'reshaped the meaning' (or perhaps even overwritten the meaning) of other words that had previously emerged in specific circumstances: for instance, banlieue and bidonville in France and French-colonized Africa; favela in Brazil; villa miseria in Argentina; kampung in Indonesia; barriada in Spain and Peru, and quartieri periferici in Italy, to name but a few (Anderson, Das and Whittall, 2021). Furthermore, as Mayne states, the term 'slum' 'misrepresents poor neighbourhoods and their residents as being deficient, disordered and unchanging, whereas disadvantaged households and communities actually display strategy, energy and resilience in the face of hardship and constrained livelihood choices' (Mayne, 2017).

We must choose our words carefully.



HOW IS CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTING THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD ?

-ELLA DANIELS 12SCM

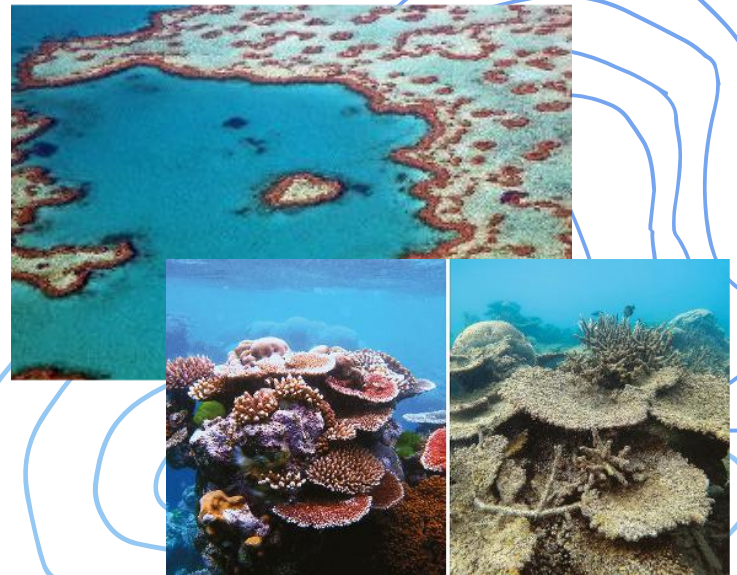
'The Seven Natural Wonders' is an organisation that was created with the mission of protecting and promoting the natural wonders of the world; it was launched in 2008 by Dr Phillip Imler. The official list of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World was compiled in collaboration with the broadcasting network CNN, which allows the global population to have the opportunity to trek across the globe to experience the Earth's most beautiful and astonishing locations.

In 2020, the IUCN World heritage Outlook warned that 7 percent of all natural wonders faced 'critical' threat due to the climate crisis, and that 30 percent were of 'significant concern'. This article will go into depth about how the phenomenon of climate change, brought entirely on by ourselves as a species, is slowly destroying the few wonders we have left – looking most closely at the wonder that is under the most threat: The Great Barrier Reef.

The Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, Australia, is home to the largest coral reef system in the world. Composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and stretching for over 2,300 kilometres, this unique underwater wilderness can be seen from outer space. Covering approximately 344,400 square kilometres of the Coral Sea, this makes the Great Barrier Reef the world's biggest single structure made by living organisms. The reef's resources make an immensely abundant habitat for plants and tropical fish, as well as benefitting human consumption. Supporting 64,000 jobs and contributing \$6.4 billion AUD to the Australian economy, the Great Barrier Reef is a resource network for hundreds of thousands of those in the fishing industry. Since 1985, half of the reef has already disappeared.

Rising water temperatures driven by climate change has caused a mass phenomenon called coral-bleaching. The rise in temperatures is caused by an increase in greenhouse gases that become trapped

within the Earth's atmosphere and are then projected back onto the oceans. The oceans already absorb around 93% of the globe's visible light and heat, but with the increased temperatures seen in the last few decades, the oceans containing this abundance of marine wildlife will see the fate of mass extinction by 2050 if climate change continues in the way it is today. Bleaching is what occurs when the temperature of the water increases too high, past the point where the corals can survive, and the polyps that contain algae which use the sun's light to photosynthesise die, and a white skeleton is left (hence the term bleaching). These skeletons are then consumed by seaweed and other species of algae, turning a brownish-grey, leaving an eerie ghost-town where life, both plant and aquatic, are scarce.



An incredibly well-filmed documentary called 'Chasing Coral' (2017) goes into much further depth of the importance and uniqueness of corals, and the Great Barrier Reef.

THE MAKROPULOS CASE

-MATILDA FORREST 11F

A phrase many of us hear everyday is- 'If only I had more time'. Whether this is in relation to an upcoming examination, or simply the fact that 24 hours seem to be a peculiarly minuscule amount of time to do an infinite number of chores. The context of this statement is normally what we, as a human race, focus on which leads to it being the root of our anxiety and problems. But perhaps it's worth looking more deeply into the statement itself as simply an objective clause rather than a subjective one. Bernard Williams previously did this in a publication named 'The Makropulos Case: reflections on the tedium of immortality' in the 1973 Cambridge University press. This article investigated the philosophy behind how we, as a society, view time, and whether it would genuinely psychologically benefit us if we knew we had an infinite amount of it- the concept referred to by most as immortality. Within his article he contains the following anecdote taken from Janacek's opera:

Vitalia had discovered the secret of eternal life after being given the formula of an immortality elixir two hundred years ago by a man, of the name of Dr. Makropulos. The only binding term was that she couldn't destroy the elixir formula; but apart from that she had the ability to live forever. Over these two hundred years Vitalia had at first what seemed to be a good life. She became an opera singer and a mother- two things that she had always dreamed of becoming. But as she watched her friends, lovers, and relatives grow older she began to feel differently about the immortality she once viewed as a blessing. The quest for extinction had been the main goal within her life; giving her shape, purpose and ambition. And now, without it, she felt that whatever she did was worthless- she was tired and weary of those same 24 hours again and again which to her once seemed so short. .

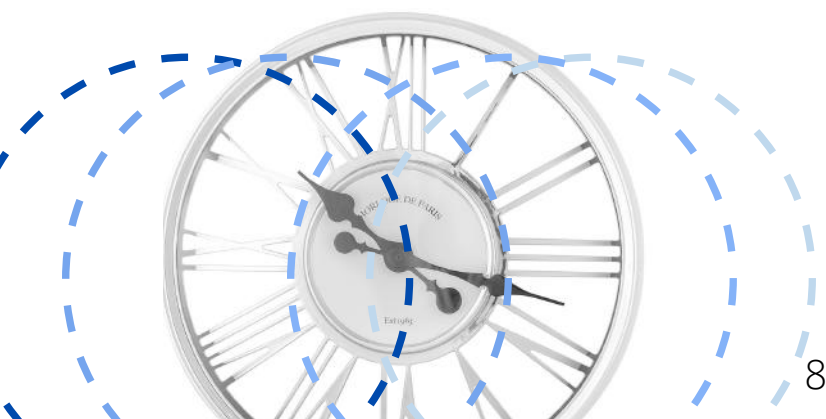
Eventually, Vitalia found the antidote to this elixir and took it, desperate to find a way out of being condemned to life and drank it. Within half an hour- she was dead.

Many things can be taken away from this; it poses a multitude of 'What ifs?' and 'How come's?'. Though one of the most interesting points it brings to the table is that of categorical desire- and how that is often the only ignition humans have to live.

For example, like Vitalia, you could have a categorical desire to get a certain job, or perhaps even visit a different country. However, it is impossible to have an infinite number of categorical desires. When working with the concept of immortality, there would eventually be a clash due to the infinite amount of time, and the finite number of categorical desires one is able to possess. Hypothetical desires, however, offer an attitudinal perspective on desire, and therefore, would not be applicable to this train of thought. You may want to become a doctor, but once you've previously become a doctor 7 times the psychology behind the feeling of desire is no longer prominent (there would be a lack of curiosity as you would not have a desire to fulfil this certain aspect of one's life yet again). Therefore, an infinite lifespan would surely deprive us of these categorical desires, as we either will fulfil them and then be left aimless, or not manage to achieve them.

Due to the infinite nature of your lifespan what would be the point in doing them right now? The idea of immortality at first does genuinely appear to be a fantastic solution to so many day-to-day issues; however, when it is investigated further, the cracks begin to show.

With infinite life comes an overlap of categorical desires which soon enough would surely lead to a lack of hope, aspiration, or ambition. And without that, is life really worth living? Therefore, this leads us to the conclusion that Williams came to, that in order for our minds to work in sync with immortality- we must at all points have a singular categorical desire. That by itself does sound like a small task to hold for the gift of immortality in return- but another condition tends to be found, that doesn't work in conjunction with this one.



THE MAKROPULOS CASE

As humans, our brains are constantly undergoing infinite life, you would have an infinitive number of minuscule changes based purely on our outside environment. When you think of yourself a year ago, you probably don't identify their characteristics with the one's of your current self when you look in the mirror. Even a month ago, a week ago, a day ago- you were, as a person just slightly different from who you are now. And this never stops until you die as the impacts of the outside world are ongoing. Due to outside forces affecting you in ways that you may never even recognize, this would lead to you consistently and constantly changing as a person throughout this so called eternity. By itself this seems to be good and well, as most of us are probably able to accept the fact that we don't really identify now with the characteristics we held ten years ago. However, when we take these two factors that offer a foundation to the psychology behind what pushes you to keep on going in life- and the inevitable changes that will occur within it- they don't appear to work in conjunction with the other.

So what would you be left with if you actually were able to hold the 'gift' of immortality? If you did meet the categorical desire condition, you cannot be said to be the same individual at every point in your life, because your goals in life change and your mental philosophy wouldn't match to what was once your mental philosophy previously. Thus, meaning that there could be no way in which one would be able to identify themselves to the person they were 200 years ago; therefore meaning that there is no way to prove that you're the same person- counter-arguing the idea therefore that you as an individual soul posses an endless immortality. Is being immortal really worth it if every second you lose more and more of who you once truly were? However, if you instead met the fact that instead of mentally evolving you instead had no categorical desires you would be left with a life of apathy and boredom- eventually leading to depression and suicidal thoughts. And then would an immortal life really be seen as a gift if you had no desire to live? Would it instead be a curse?



Nadja Michael leading in a performance of 'The Makropulos case' in 2019

Perchance, it is the statement 'If only I had more time' that needs to change. As proved, it is firstly impossible for the psychology behind the human mind to work in conjunction with the idea of immortality. But secondly, and conceivably most importantly, the focus of the statement should change from the time around us- an aspect that is completely and utterly uncontrollable- to what we can control, being how we spend this time. We as humans know that our life is finite- and perhaps that's what pushes us to achieve and dream. We don't have forever, but what good would it do in wasting this time, worrying about how much of it you have? We periodically blame our problems on things outside of our control, things that will never change. However much we want to have the elixir of immortality like Vitalia, it is almost impossible that we will ever receive it. So in culmination, time is surely the irrelevant thing. As humans maybe we need to put more of our energy into focusing on what we can control, rather than fixating on the impossibility of eternal time. Ergo, the statement, 'If only I had more time' is consequently faulty. Perhaps, we should instead change the focus- and the statement to- 'If only I made better use of my time'.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP TEAM: IS FAST FASHION FASHIONABLE?

-IMOGEN KWEI 12KGO

Fast fashion is a term many of us have heard of but are perhaps unsure of the meaning behind it. 'Fast fashion' refers to replication of high-fashion pieces being mass produced at a reduced cost. The term 'fast' is in reference to several instances in the production of these items- items with fast production rates, items being used quickly and then often not re-used, and fast to be disposed of after wear. Many of us own clothing from fast fashion retailers, such as 'PrettyLittleThing' and 'Boohoo', without paying much attention to the impact these items have on our environment.

The scale of the problem is immense and is only getting worse. The fashion industry churns out a gargantuan 80 billion garments a year, 400% more than it produced 20 years ago. Clothes waste charity TRAIID records the average garment is only worn 10 times before being disposed which is greatly exacerbating the situation.

This diabolical disposable cycle is being fuelled in many ways- clothes are becoming cheaper and quality is decreasing, yet fashion trends are accelerating. New fashion trends are constantly around the corner and averagely only last a month or two - an incentive for people to buy more clothes to keep in touch with the trends.

This vicious fast fashion cycle comes with huge environmental costs. Clothes can take as long as 200 years to decompose, meaning our planet is getting polluted perpetually by unnatural material at the cost of our fashion standards. The biggest problem many of us do is throw away clothes, rather than donating or upcycling them, which leads to 84% of clothing that ends up in landfills or incinerators- something we, as individuals, must change.

So what can we do as teenagers to disrupt this cycle in our everyday choices?

A misconception about neglecting fast fashion is it is expensive and unaffordable. Whereas, just by catering your clothing choices to 'basics' and items we know we will get the use out of is a crucial step. Another popular way to become more sustainable is to shop second hand and buy pieces someone else might not want, but is just what you were looking for. We can still shop at our



favourite brands, but just be informed on the morals of the company and if they are considered 'environmentally sustainable'.

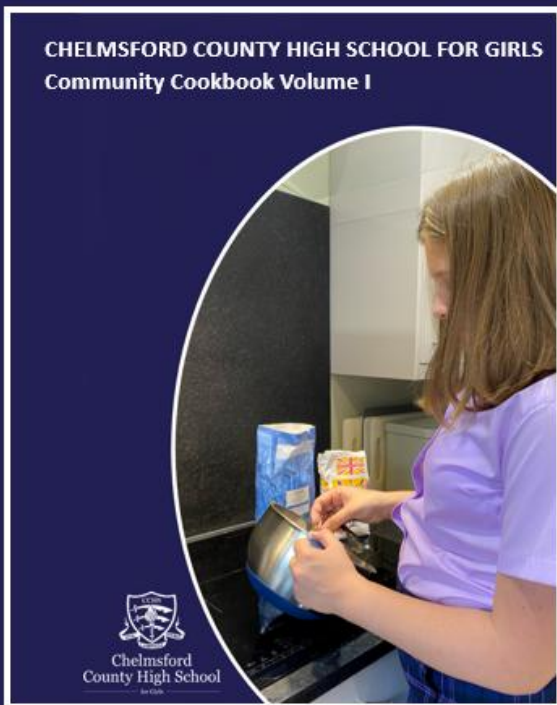
Another key step could be to donate our clothes when they have had their wear; we can do this by giving them to a charity shop, to friends, to a clothes bank or even resell them on online sites such as Vinted, eBay and Depop.

Upcycling is another trend which is environmentally friendly, turning old clothes into something new by reusing the fabric or restyling the piece.

Ultimately, fast fashion is a growing problem for the planet and it can only be stopped by individuals across the world changing their habits. By making sure we are aware of the shops we are buying from and the ways in which we get rid of our clothes, means we can have a greener and better future while keeping fashionable.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP TEAM

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B****Y HECK!: IS IT STILL WORTH CENSORING TV AND RADIO CONSIDERING THE RISE OF SOCIAL MEDIA?

-FEMI AKINTEMI 12VCA

What is and isn't considered acceptable for public consumption has changed over the years, especially with the rise of social media. Some people question the need to censor strong language on daytime TV, since many children are constantly exposed to strong language online. Some also argue that parents should be responsible for controlling what their child watches, rather than pushing that responsibility onto the content creators.

Watershed is the time of the day after which mature/adult programmes are allowed to be aired on TV and radio. The specifics of watershed vary from country to country, but in the UK, according to Ofcom, "material unsuitable for children should not, in general, be shown before 9pm or after 5:30am", and this also applies to advertisements. It was established in the 1964 Television Act, during a time when most children's main source of media was the television at home.

There have been a couple of incidents where the rules of watershed are broken. For example, in 1976, there was an incident on The Today Show, hosted by Bill Grundy, in which the Sex Pistols, a growing punk rock band, came on air and swore after being provoked by Grundy. This caused a huge uproar, since, up until that point, the f-word had only been heard twice throughout the entire history of British television. Bill Grundy was suspended for 2 weeks, and the Today Show was cancelled 2 months later.

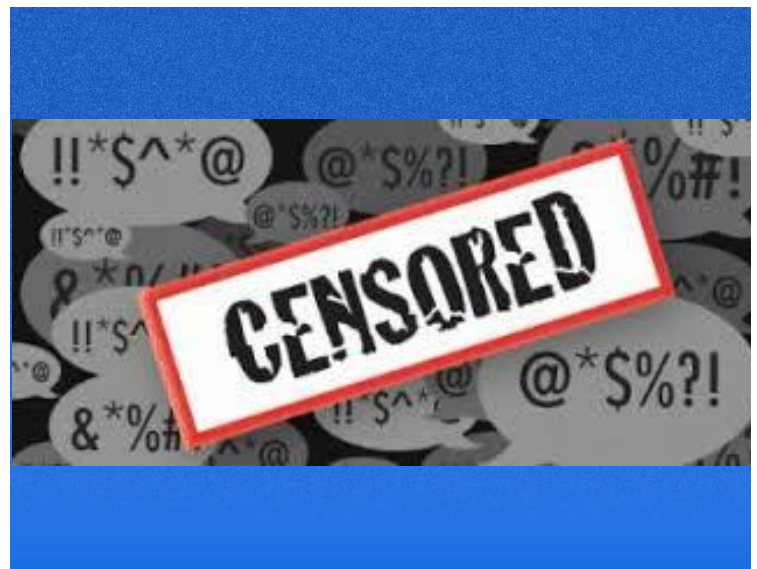
Nowadays, many children have access to streaming platforms and social media sites on which they are not constantly being monitored by parents. This begs the question of whether or not we as a country still need to use the watershed to protect children from mature content. Whilst it is still a personal belief, attitudes towards swearing seem to slowly be shifting. Many parents are still in favour of watershed, but to some it seems unfair that all

content needs to be censored for the sake of the children who may or may not be watching.

There is also the issue of deciding what is deemed "appropriate" and "inappropriate." It is almost impossible to be completely unbiased in matters like these. There is no absolute consensus on which words count as swear words. For example, some people count 'heck' as a swear word, whilst others don't. Profanities like "G** Almighty" are considered offensive to some and they therefore need to be editorially justified according to Ofcom.

It has also been suggested that an age rating could be used instead. Currently programmes rated 15 can't be shown until after watershed and 18s can't be shown until 10pm. There is also the possibility of using PIN-protection for higher-rated shows during the daytime, so that people still have the option to watch uncensored programs during the day.

Overall, many people would agree that there needs to be checks and balances put in place to prevent children from being exposed to mature content, but it's very difficult to enforce this sort of ruling online and so some people argue that the rules are rapidly becoming obsolete.



ECO-ANXIETY AND THE LIBERATION OF DEFYING THE DARKNESS OF THE MEDIA

- ELLIE WHITWAM 11F

A few months ago, I saw a headline of a news article and it read '18 months left to fight climate change before it's too late', when I started to feel panicky inside and on edge. I started to read on until I got to the end, where it suggested that we were too powerless to even attempt to stop global warming from worsening any further. I believed it and I felt even more worried. This huge crisis threatening humanity's future was unstoppable and from what I was being told, there was no way forward in terms of defeating the climate crisis.

When the news and its headlines constantly portray this crisis in a negative light, for many adults and teenagers like me, it's easy to feel hopeless that no climate action will ever take place. We feel worried, anxious and powerless. I suffer with something called Eco-anxiety. This means I constantly worry about the future of our planet, whether the governments will ever actually act on this crisis, and whether my future children, my grandchildren, will still be able to inhabit our world.

However, these feelings of Eco-anxiety are more common than you would think, with a survey concluding that two-thirds of 10,000 16–25-year-olds in 10 different countries were "very or extremely worried" about climate change and 45% of young people said that their feelings about climate change "negatively affected their daily life and functioning". Despite these figures, it's not all doom and gloom, I've realised that just because the media doesn't cover the more positive changes happening every day it doesn't mean they are not happening. You have to look for positive changes yourself. In a concept that psychologists have named the 'Negativity bias', it suggests how Journalists are more prone to writing about the bad things because people react and engage more quickly with threatening or alarming circumstances so when they see a negative headline, they are more likely to read on.

If we lead people to believe that things are so bad that there is no chance of stopping or improving the world, won't people just stop trying to change things at all? Have you ever looked at an Instagram post or an article about an important issue and suddenly felt down, overwhelmed or ended up instead with even less idea on how to change things?

The secret everyone's keeping from you is that change is liberating. If you let it, the negativity that the media bombards you with daily, can spur you onto make change, whilst defying your anxiety. Negative feelings can be cured by positive actions. Every time I pick up a piece of litter while cycling with my dad, or use a reusable cup for my drink, I feel slightly less anxious and slightly more empowered. Things like signing a petition online or donating money to a charity fighting for the issue you care about have so much more power than you might perhaps think.

Nevertheless, this doesn't just go for the climate crisis; It goes for every issue out there in the world. What are you passionate about? What changes do you want to happen in the world around you? It doesn't matter what it is, how small or how big. Is it defeating racism, homophobia or changing the stigma about mental health or period poverty? Whatever it is, look closely at the changes happening every day towards it, because I promise you just because the media and news aren't covering it doesn't mean they are not happening. You don't have to feel overwhelmed by the multitude of problems our world is facing because if you can't find this change you are looking for, make it yourself!

Despite what we're told as young people, we are not powerless. We have the power to make change, even if the media might make us forget this. Because in the words of 18-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg, 'No one is too small to make a difference.'



CAN CELEBRITIES BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR MISTAKES?

- CHARLOTTE PODED 12NDA

Despite perpetually claiming disinterest in the western sphere of reality TV and any pop culture knowledge at all, it is seemingly impossible in this day and age to have no knowledge of the lives of the likes of Kylie and Kendall Jenner. Ignoring the incredibly interesting debate as to whether narcissism is the sole contributor to the women's career prospects, with one sister on the Forbes billionaire list and the other having been named the highest paid supermodel in the world, it is undeniable that they are both successful women. But what's unusual about these two sisters is that they were propelled high into the world of fame and celebrity before they even reached high school.

When the hit reality TV show documenting the Kardashian-Jenner family life was first aired on the 14th October 2007, Kendall and Kylie were 11 and 10 years old respectively. With the first series set out to be a one hit wonder filler show for E network, with a stroke of luck (for who may be debatable), it was renewed for another 19 series, stopping for a short break and a money motivated switch of channels in 2021.

The sisters therefore navigated their way through their teenage experiences through 24 hour camera supervision, something which I'm sure anyone could empathise with. It's hardly a universal experience and is in fact probably something that no one will ever truly understand unless they experience it themselves – although I'm sure you could argue that for most things in life.

Whilst the cameras may not have been following them around every minute of every hour, belonging to a generation that had social media as the new catalyst to their teenage insecurities, Kylie and Kendall pretty much must have felt entirely watched.

The Truman show was a 1998 portrayal of a horrifying social experiment with no consent from the patient himself. Truman Burbank – a man living a seemingly ordinary mundane suburban life had actually been manipulated from his birth by every person around him. Born onto a TV set he was blissfully unaware that his life was actually a soap style TV show. He was essentially interacting with paid actors and actresses replacing every person you would meet in the world, from the coffee cart server, to his own mother. His closest friends and family were literally paid to be there.

Here are a few comparisons I can see from this film to the Jenner sister's lives.

Whilst obviously knowing they were starring in a reality TV show, they were under the legal age in their state to drink, drive or any other age restricting act, possibly even too young to ride on certain rollercoasters at theme parks. So, despite their parents giving permission, it is arguable as to whether their involvement on the show was properly consented to.

I would argue that similar to the way in which Truman was born into his life, the Jenner sisters were born into their world of fame. It is their lack of choice and autonomy to choose their paths that strike me as constricting and the factor in which parallels are easily drawn in this case.

The second (and slightly tenuous?) comparison is that with the rise of social media influencers, and slowly engulfing click bait culture, any endorsement from these sisters is literal gold. Therefore anyone who becomes close to them automatically gains fame and as a direct result - money. Could their friends and family be viewed as being paid to be there? Every living soul under the age of 35 has watched at least a 30 second clip of their lives whether knowing who they were or not, replicating the way in which so many people were intoxicated with Truman Burbank's life, and with Kylie Jenner's best friend Anastasia Karanikolaou having 10.8 million followers, it's not a faceless claim.

Kylie, in particular has been the subject of scrutiny surrounding her body. There are countless conspiracy theories and rumours about her body and how it became to be like that; feminism seems to fade into oblivion where Kylie's body is concerned. Whatever your personal view on the choices behind plastic surgery, the male gaze exists and we've all experienced it. Imagine the intensity of daily headlines about your body in The Sun and having over 100 million followers on Instagram before you hit 20 (the figure has now reached 307 million at the age of 25). It's very hard to know if Kylie would have made the same decisions as she has now if she hadn't have been thrown into the limelight at such a young age.

CAN CELEBRITIES BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR MISTAKES?

Kendall Jenner has made some controversial decisions in which she narrowly missed the daggers of cancel culture, the Pepsi advert of 2017 seems a world away now – something she can undoubtedly thank her PR team for – but arguably a massive part of the awakening of the knowledge that celebrities lead a far more privileged and ignorant life than you'd assume. If you have not seen it – Kendall plays herself, in and amongst young activists and protesters, fighting police brutality. She is depicted to 'save the day' by handing the overly violent police officers a can of Pepsi. There was unsurprising outrage but also an enormous question over how out of touch a human could be? Was she aware of the situations people faced in the society she is supposedly a part of? It was a question of, does she just have no perspective on life, no understanding of what people's lives are like when they're not millionaires? Perhaps it really was because she had never faced any strong type of adversity in her life, that she had no view of her privilege and other's persecution and therefore scarily that this mistake might be repeated.

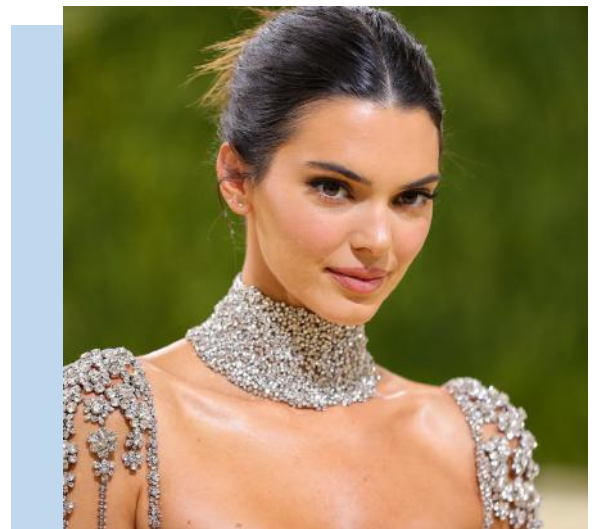
Her older sister Kim is currently training to be a lawyer in the state of California, her goal is to help other lawyers to free wrongly-judged prisoners by using her platform to help them. Kim's father Robert Kardashian was a lawyer before his unfortunate passing in 2003, and she often speaks to his influence on her life. At 26 when the first episode of Keeping Up with the Kardashians aired it's impossible to know if it was her more normal upbringing, simply a calling within her or perhaps the legacy of her father that inspired her to help these people – the age-old argument of nature vs nurture. Kim wasn't locked away from exploring the world and although from a wealthy background not immune to understanding there were people around her who struggled more than her due to circumstances out of their control.

It's an interesting thing to think about, how the act of being a celebrity affects how celebrities live their life. It's an opposite lifestyle. They're constantly scrutinised but they're constantly offered incredible opportunities. They have no privacy but sit in exclusive venues. They're relatable but nowhere near accessible. I can never really tell if I'd love to be one or hate to be one. What I do know is that whilst we're well within our right to judge and criticise, their apologies will never really please us. That's because we idolise these people and the minute they make a mistake, they're no longer an embodiment of what we want but can't

have. Suddenly they're just like us. Normal, complacent, self-conscious people who just want to get by in the world.

People aren't perfect. It's an obvious, trite saying but if a celebrity manages to survive all their storms, chances are they're not really the person you think they are but really, they're just a water tight brand.

There's no authenticity in precisely curated responses, but there is authenticity in mistakes.



WHY YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO KPOP

-AMA AWUAH 9H

I am sure we've all been there, you have shuffled your playlist a million times and you have heard every song on there so many times that you'll rip your eardrums out if you ever hear "Driver's license" or "Bad Guy" ever again. You need new music but everything you've either heard before is all wildly inappropriate. (Looking at you Cupcakke). Well, I am here to help! There are a variety of different K-POP groups that anyone can listen to, and not only do they produce great music they also have a lot of fandom content that can keep you entertained for a long time.

K-pop is vastly different to western music in the sense that K-pop idols do choreography, their song stages and performances have intricate stories and they do fun things like the "Idol Olympics" (which is exactly what it sounds like). Not to mention that there is a tone of comedic content to go along with any group you decide to get into!

Take this short quiz to help you figure out what group you should listen to. Then use your answers to find a group!

Reminder: You don't have to listen to what I recommend if you read the description of a group and like them you can listen to them instead!

Q1. Do you prefer boy groups or girl groups?

- Girls
- Boys

Q2. Which theme/concept sounds good to you?

- Cute
- Horror/ Gothic
- Girl crush (baddie queen energy/ girlboss energy)
- Bad boy

Q3. How old/new would you like a group to be?

- Recently debuted and active (4th generation/ debuted in 2017-2021)
- A lil older but still active (3rd generation/ debuted 2012 – 2016)
- A lot older but still quite active (2nd generation/ debuted 2005 – 2011)

Answers:

If you said a cute girl group is: TWICE and Weeekly!

TWICE:

Twice, commonly stylized as TWICE, is a South Korean girl group formed by JYP Entertainment. They debuted on October 20th 2015. Their songs are cute and playful. Nayeon (vocals), Jeongyeon (lead vocalist), Momo (main dancer), Sana (vocals), Jihyo (lead vocalist), Mina (vocals), Dahyun (main rapper), Chaeyoung (main rapper), and Tzuyu (dancer). Even though it says that Tzuyu is a dancer, all the members do actually sing.

They are 3rd generation k-pop idols.

Beginner song to listen to: **Feel Special**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ymwOvzhwHs>)

Weeekly:

Weeekly (yes it has three 'e's) is a South Korean girl group under IST Entertainment. The group debuted on June 30, 2020, the members consist of: Lee Soo-jin (lead vocalist), Shin Ji-yoon (lead vocalist), Monday (main vocals), Park So-eun (lead vocalist), Lee Jae-hee (sub vocalist), Jihan (lead vocalist) and Zoa (sun vocals).

They are 4th generation k-pop idols

Beginner song to listen to: **After school**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfVuRQX0ydQ>)

If you said girl group with gothic/horror vibe: Red Velvet and Dreamcatcher

Red Velvet!

Red Velvet is a South Korean girl group formed and managed by SM Entertainment. They originally debuted on August 1, 2014. Their songs seem happy but they have a darker undertone - go wild gothic stans! They are more gothic than horror. The members consist of: Irene (vocals), Seulgi (lead vocalist), Wendy (main vocalist), Yeri (rapping) and Joy (vocals).

They are 3rd generation k-pop idols

Beginner song to listen to: **Psycho**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7yNvMzz2zg>)

WHY YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO KPOP

Dreamcatcher:

Dreamcatcher is a South Korean girl group formed by Happyface Entertainment. The group consists of seven members: JiU (lead vocalist), SuA (main dancer), Siyeon (main vocals), Handong (sub vocals), Yoohyeon (lead vocalist), Dami (main rapper) and Gahyeon (sub vocals). They officially debuted on January 13, 2017. They are more horror than gothic.

They are 3rd generation k-pop idols.

Beginner song to listen to: **Silent Night**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2weyi0V8eM>)

If you said girl group with Girl crush (baddie energy): Blackpink and ITZY.

Blackpink:

Blackpink is a South Korean girl group formed by YG Entertainment, consisting of members Jisoo (lead vocalist), Jennie (lead vocalist), Rosé (lead dancer), and Lisa (main dancer). They debuted in August of 2016.

They are 3rd generation kpop idols.

Beginner song to listen to: **Kill This Love**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2S24-y0lj3Y>)

Itzy:

Itzy is a South Korean girl group formed by JYP Entertainment, consisting of members Yeji (rapper), Lia (rapper), Ryujin (main rapper), Chaeryeong (main dancer), and Yuna (vocal). The group debuted on February 12, 2019.

They are 4th generation k-pop idols.

Beginner song to listen to: **Wannabe**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fE2h3IGlOsk>)

If you said boy group with a cute concept: iKON and TXT
iKON:

iKon, stylized as iKON, is a South Korean boy band formed in 2015 by YG Entertainment, consisting of six members: Yunhyeong (vocals), Bobby (vocals), Jinhwan (main vocals), Ju-ne (vocals), Chanwoo (vocals) and Donghyuk (vocals). They debuted on September 15, 2015.

They are 3rd generation K-pop idols.

Beginner song to listen to: **Love Scenario** (this slaps, please do listen.) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vecSVX1QYbQ>)

TXT:

Tomorrow X Together, commonly known as TXT, is a five-member South Korean boy band formed by Big Hit Music. The group consists of five members Soobin, Yeonjun, Beomgyu, Taehyun and HueningKai. They debuted on March 4, 2019. None of them have any specific positions in this band like the others.

They are 3rd generation K-pop idols.

Beginner song to listen to: **Crown**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3iSnJ663II>)

If you said boy group with horror/gothic theme: CIX

CIX is a five-member South Korean boy group formed by C9 Entertainment in 2019, consisting of Jinyoung (sub vocals), BX (main rapper), Seunghun (lead vocalist), Hyunsuk (sub vocals) and Yonghee (sub vocals). The group debuted on July 23, 2019.

They are 4th generation K-pop idols.

Beginner song to listen to: **Jungle**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eqJAKDL2zQ>)

If you said bad boy groups: Super Junior and Stray Kids

Super Junior:

Super Junior, also known as SJ or SuJu, is a South Korean boy band debuted on November 6, 2005, by producer Lee Soo-man of SM Entertainment. They are also dubbed by the media as the "King of Hallyu Wave" due to their prominent contributions in Korean Wave.

They are 2nd generation K-pop idols.

Beginner song to listen to: **Black Suit**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvqB6JsRbsc>)

Stray Kids:

Stray Kids is a South Korean boy band formed by JYP Entertainment through the 2017 reality show of the same name. The group is composed of eight members: Bang Chan, Lee Know, Changbin, Hyunjin, Han, Felix, Seungmin, and I.N.

They are 4th generation K-pop idols.

Beginner song to listen to: **God's Menu** (Stray Kids "神메뉴" M/V)

I hope you enjoyed this quiz! If you do not like any of the songs/groups you can try one of the many others on this

Fat- meaning having a large amount of excess flesh. It's a word that when used, can instantly make a person's perception of themselves switch from positive to negative. But why does this word have so much power? Why does it mean so much? And why do we automatically think of it as a bad thing? My earliest memory of being called fat was when I was in primary school- probably in year 3 or 4 and some boy who used to bully me called me "orobo" a Yoruba word meaning fat. It was a word from a new hit song about how the artist liked "fat girls". This song became my theme song that year and till this day my eyes well up when I hear it or even just the word. To make matters worse my twin sister was skinny as a twig! People would ask why she was so skinny and pretty and why I was so fat. They would even try to make me eat less! And to us back then, fat meant ugly and skinny meant beautiful- still does to so many people around the world today.

Growing up in a country like Nigeria, I found that people are blunt and can say the worst things and get away with it. Although the norm there is that when one is fat, they are perceived to be healthy and wealthy- but it didn't mean beauty. On so many occasions as a child, I would see one of my aunties or uncles and the initial reaction I'd get would be "Ah! My dear you've grown so much! Look how fat you are now, puff puff cheeks! You are almost twice your size now o!" Puff puff is a Nigerian snack which is a round airy ball of dough so it was really more offensive than cute- trust me. All you could do in this situation was smile, chuckle and walk away. Respond at your own risk.

I always thought I was fat and it made me feel ugly. So much so that every day I thought I needed to lose weight and I needed to be skinny in order to be beautiful and, in turn, happy; every single day. I started to feel depressed because it was everywhere- social media, school, everywhere. Even

if it was never actually said it was shown. The consequences of the constant reminder made me eat more and gain more and I only got worse. After years of feeling this way, I decided to get help and I started seeing a life coach.

After numerous sessions filled with admitting a lot of things reluctantly and a serious amount of tears it hit me! Why even does fat have to mean ugly? After all there are countless fat women out there who are absolutely stunning and also numerous skinny women who are not so stunning- sorry to put it that way but it's true. I pondered this thought a lot and it started to bother me. Finally, I looked up "positive meanings for fat", scrolled through google and found the most perfect meaning. FAT- Fabulous And Thick. I'd never seen anything truer to me in my life. This is the reason why I'm writing this article- because I want everyone to know this meaning and not the negative, scarring meaning that has been associated with the word. So next time anyone calls you fat, think "yes, I'm fabulous and thick and beautiful" because you are. And this is why today I don't feel fat, I feel FAT.



HAS DISNEY CREATED THEIR PRINCESSES TO BE AN IDEAL TO WHAT YOUNG GIRLS WANT TO BE LIKE?

-AASTHA GOGIA 9F

If you were to ask a young girl what she wants to be when she grows up, it is likely that one of her dreams is to become a princess, specifically a Disney princess; a beautiful girl with a slim hourglass physique and big blue eyes. From a young age, many people, like me, watched Disney movies, and I had no concerns about this however, looking back at them has allowed me to realise that there are countless things wrong with them, and the fact that young girls are these movies. It creates a variety of expectations they believe they need to have and live up to which could lead to lack of confidence and constant pressure to look a certain way.

The Disney princess series is a Walt Disney Company Franchise; it started in 1938, with the adaption of 'Snow White'. The series has been popular among young girls, and the admiration of the series has kept increasing ever since. All the Disney princess series have had different plot lines, but the physical attributes have been similar in all of them. Most of the characters possess the hourglass shape which is considered to be the ideal body size with ideal curve size, slim waist and large hips. These are some unrealistic images that have been created which do not really exist, and not all women have strikingly similar features. Media has made young girls believe that there are some beauty ideals that they should follow, and it has created a mental model image of how a girl should speak, eat, sit, interact and look. Disney movies have been the strongest influence on young girls' mindsets for how they should behave.

They might seem entertaining to watch but often have the tendency to harmfully impact us in a negative way. The vast majority of Disney movies hold to an unspoken stereotype that women are the weaker sex. For older audiences, these implications might not seem so impactful; however, for younger more impressionable audiences, even such subtle messages can affect the way their psychologies develop. It seems that Disney struggles with presenting strong female characters, for example, have a look at one of their most popular productions



"Sleeping Beauty"; a princess in distress is saved from eternal slumber by a handsome prince, and they fall in love and live "happily ever after." Many Disney stories follow the familiar blueprint of a heroic guy (often a prince) coming to the rescue. Although some princesses are more proactive than others, ultimately, the phrase "rescue the princess" springs up very often, and typically, romance blooms between the princess and her rescuer. The romantic elements of Disney films are enjoyable to many, and subsequently lure you into the film. The susceptible youth are then subliminally bombarded with the idea that women need to be rescued by men, and owe them more than just gratitude.

In recent years, Disney has responded to this critique, and has begun to offer fans a new blueprint. In 2012, they dropped 3D computer-animated "Brave," which introduced the courageous, bull-headed Merida, who became one of the few outliers in the Disney tapestry. Set in Medieval Scotland, the story follows Princess Merida who is the only daughter of King Fergus and Queen Elinor. She's far more outspoken than her mother considers proper for a lady, leading to the two fighting constantly over Merida's lack of decorum as a princess.

The red-headed heroine believes in forging her own destiny, while her mother believes that her daughter should embrace her predetermined fate as a royal figure. When it comes to the time for Merida to marry, the struggle boils over and a selfish wish, granted by a kooky witch, sets Merida and her mother on a journey that later leads the two to develop a deeper understanding of one another. This evidences the progression of Disney princess films as it shows Merida to be more than just a princess in need of rescuing.

TORCH TALKS: MR COLEMAN

-TORI ABBOTT 12KGO

Erin and Tori sat down for a chat with the newest member of the CCHS maths and economics department as way of initiation into the CCHS community.

So, how are you finding CCHS so far? And what did you do before coming here?

Yeah, good- it's much bigger than my last school so getting used to the size and amount of students. It's also nice to teach A-level economics again as I didn't teach that at my last school, so yeah it's nice settling into a new teaching routine. But everyone here is so lovely and I've settled in pretty well, yeah- I'm very happy here :)

Good! So you briefly touched on it before but, what did you do before you came to CCHS?

Well I was at a school in Ongar (about half the size of CCHS!) and I was working there for about 5 years, I think it was only created about 7 years ago, so I was part of helping it grow so that was a different challenge. I taught maths and not economics, but A-level business and then before that I was at a school in another country teaching maths, and economics.

Most important question- What house are you in?

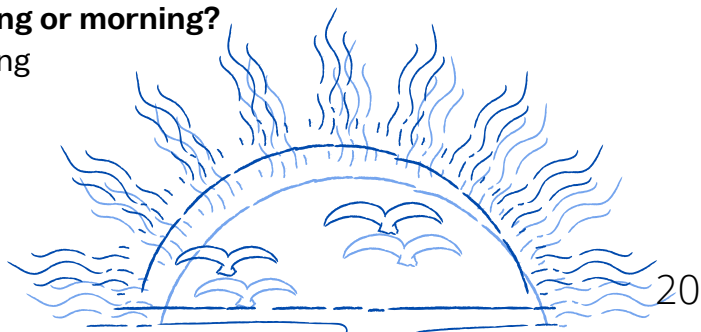
Unfortunately it was at this moment that we realised Mr Coleman had not actually been given a house yet and spent the next while trying our best to explain the complexities of the CCHS house system- whether he is any the wiser is debatable...

Macro or micro economics?

Micro

Evening or morning?

Morning



Pizza or pasta?

Erin kindly reminded that there was in fact only one right answer...

No ahah- I know what you're saying but I'm trying to think which one I could go without for the rest of my life, I would say probably pasta.

Interesting- so spaghetti or tagliatelle?

Spaghetti

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Oh, well my favourite place that I've been to is the Philippines, it's close between the Philippines and Sri Lanka, I really love Sri Lanka as well. But new places – I really want to go to South America and I've never been there before so maybe Brazil or Argentina- definitely would like to go there.

Would you rather be constantly too hot or too cold?

I'm going to regret saying this now – but too cold.

Sitting in the freezing corridor with the wind blowing past Mr Coleman swiftly re-evaluated...

No, I take it back. I think I'd rather it be constantly too hot. I lived in Malaysia where it was constantly around 35°C with really high humidity, and you do learn to live with it over time.

What's your favourite music artist?

Good question- I wouldn't say I'm a huge listener, but I listen on the radio etc. When I was younger- you may not have heard of these- I used to like a band called 'Modest Mouse' and I still listen to them now! But in terms of big bands, I listen to Coldplay and still like most of their songs.

Movie or TV series person? What's your favourite?

Definitely a TV series kind of person. My favourite most recent series I watched was Chernobyl, but that was just a 6-episode mini-series thing. I think my favourite series of all time would have to be The Office, UK version (obviously), although the US one is good too.

TORCH TALKS: MR COLEMAN

Do you cook- what's your speciality?

I'm not bad but my wife is a much better cook than me so she cooks more. I do cook a really nice Malaysian curry (because of where I lived) – it's called a Rendang and it's lovely!

If you weren't a maths/ economics teacher, what would you do?

Well, I haven't always been- I used to work in investment banking for four years so I guess I'd still be there. Although I did leave for a reason so perhaps not... Yeah- I took a year out before uni and went and worked in London and met people there and made some contacts- got a job straight after uni, but it wasn't for me.

What have you read recently and what's your favourite book?

I just finished a really easy read- 'Where the Crawdads Sing' and that was really good, I'd definitely read it again. Another one that I've read recently- Richard Osman's book, 'Thursday Night Murder Club' and that was also a simple read that stood out recently. My favourite book of all time though- there's two actually- 'Papillon', and my favourite classic, 'Moby Dick' which I've read a few times.

Do you have a hidden talent?

Yes- a few I guess... I can do a Rubik's Cube and I used to be able to do them up to the 5x5 ones when I was younger- I can probably only do the normal one now though. But that wasn't hidden, I used to use it all the time in school because I needed things to help me focus and that was one of the things I used. I used to be a black belt in karate but- I haven't done that since I was 18. I did spend most of my childhood doing that though so I could probably do some karate?!



Tea or coffee?

Coffee! But I have reduced the intake :)

Do you have a pet?

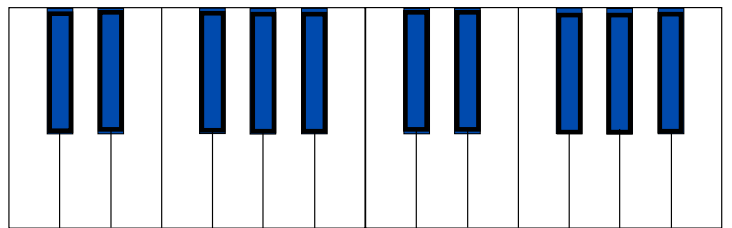
Yes- I have a dog and she's a cockapoo. She's crazy though!

What's your view on socks with sandals?

No- not with sandals. With sliders is acceptable though I think. My wife does think I look ridiculous though ahah.

If you could learn any instrument what would it be?

Piano- I have tried a few times and I keep failing! I remember when I was younger I got to grade one and then I stopped and as an adult I tried again, did the same grade and then stopped but I would like to try again.



Finally, what are you most looking forward to about being part of CCHS?

I think as things are opening up a bit more I would like to get involved in the extra-curricular options here. I'd like to get involved, I'm quite an outdoorsy person; I love running. I'd like to run a club- I am a qualified basketball coach as well (maybe that should have been in the hidden talents part!?) I used to play basketball all through university and then I coached it abroad so I'd like to get involved in that. Also in the maths and economics department we'd like to try and create some more things outside the classroom which I think is really good here. At my last school they didn't have as many opportunities because they were trying to grow. I would potentially also like to organise a ski trip as I did at my last school but we were due to go in March 2020 so never went!

ZOMBIE ATTACK ON CCHS!

**-LILLIAS MANNING, MATILDA FORREST &
CIARA JEEWOONARAIN 11F**

**Disclaimer: Everything mentioned about the teachers was information we found out from interviews, ie, their weapons of choice, their relaxation methods, their ideal companions, what they'd miss most about being human, what non-essential items they would want with them, and other specifically mentioned aspects of the article. Most importantly, we haven't killed any teachers off without their expressed permission that it would be okay ☺ **

Teachers at CCHS. They'll do anything for their students—marking essays, giving feedback, and making PowerPoints. But how far would they really go for them? Staying up late marking? Perhaps. Giving up their lunchtime to a student struggling? Probably. But have you ever wondered what would happen in a life-or-death situation? Probably not...What about if zombies attacked CCHS? Again, very unlikely. But you're about to find out...

It's lunchtime at CCHS. The canteen, usually bustling, full of pupils from every year group, who interweave with each other like bees within a hive, was clouded over. People should have been dashing from one place to another, as if there could be nothing more important than getting the last cookie. Or arguing over which Radnor Fizz flavour is the best. They should have been completing last minute biology homework. But the normal excitable chatter from the younger years and sarcastic remarks from year 10s were displaced by an unspoken knowledge of what was to come. Eyes glued to watches—15 minutes remaining.

Teachers scattered around the school, vainly attempting to gain some sense of peace. Miss Pocock sits quivering in V12, the fluorescent bright lights of the room providing vague senses of normality as she scribbles feverishly in her mindfulness colouring book. A staircase away from Miss Pocock—though the distance from human life felt like an abyss—sat Mr. Harvey and Mr. Warner. Mr. Harvey nervously nibbles creamy Cadbury chocolate, becoming increasingly annoyed by Mr. Warner's Zen chair yoga soundtrack, which blared down the corridors and into every classroom. Solitary in the English office, Mr. Copper cowers within the cupboard - the phone screen illuminating his face as he desperately tries to collect one last Pokémon before the world as we know it changes. Sounds of one-sided chatter tumble from Mr. Lawlor's

office as he tries in vain to have one last meaningful conversation with Mrs. Saw. However, all Mrs. Saw offers in return is panicked breathing and the fizzing of her coke bottle from where she is quivering beneath the desk. Splash. Mr. Bradford enters the water for one last time - desperately trying to recreate the bliss of swimming in the sea in the lukewarm water of the school swimming pool. Mr. Lawlor sits alone, he may as well have been alone considering the lack of conversational reciprocation Mrs. Saw was providing him, in the corner, surrounded by pictures of family and music blaring through his headphones. He begins to meditate, and soon he enters a peaceful oblivion, trying to push away his feelings of trepidation.

And for a moment, just a minute, the school went silent as everybody took a breath. 5 minutes remaining.



One by one, teachers slink from their respective hideouts, following the one-way system as they link arms down the corridor. 'Our father by who's servant, our house was built of old,' Mr. Warner begins, as others begin to join in. Miss Pocock joins the line as the chain passes V12, followed by Mr. Harvey, who was finishing eating his final delicacies. 2 minutes remaining.

ZOMBIE ATTACK ON CCHS!

'Whose hand hath crowned thy children with blessings manifold-'



Beautiful melodies enrich the building, and a sense of community that hadn't been felt since 2017 house karaoke flooded the canteen, as the teachers made their final steps towards it; they were lastly joined by Mr. Copper, who, enchanted by the siren-like voices, had tumbled from his cupboard, a phone blaring the Pokémon theme tune still in his trembling hand.

Mr. Warner, an empath, who claims to understand zombies, grabs a window pole for both himself and Miss Pocock. Mr. Copper wields a knife from the kitchen. Mrs Saw stands tapping her foot with a cup of piping hot coffee, while Mr. Lawlor delicately picks up some biodegradable cutlery in each hand. As for Mr. Bradford—he grabs a year 7, in order to throw it like a javelin.

5 seconds.

4. 3. 2.

Inhale.

1.

They pour through the windows, the doors, the ceiling. An unrelenting ringing slices through the air and does not stop as the zombies' fiery eyes glow and tear through anyone and anything that moves, that breathes, that thinks. Already sprinting towards the main entrance, Mrs. Saw hurls her coffee at those blood orange eyes, ending the creature with a harsh fizzing. She runs from the school, the screams of the students echoing behind her. Mr. Bradford stands on a table like an audience member watching the stage, throwing tomatoes at the actors—only the actors are zombies, and the tomatoes are year 7s. Mr. Lawlor cuts up zombies one by one with his biodegradable cutlery, infusing the situation with irony as he kills the creatures

(which would have eaten him) with the very instruments he himself would use for eating (although he does not intend to devour such rotten bags of flesh and blood). Mr. Lawlor releases a bloodcurdling scream as a zombie makes a beeline for one of the students, but Mr. Copper, quick as a whippet, plunges the knife into the zombie's sternum, shoving the student out of the way. A writhing pile of flesh and bones and blood amasses on top of him, as the creatures form a cage around him. Mr. Copper's noble hand disappears beneath the mound, slowly engulfed. The first sacrifice. Mr. Harvey lets out a muffled cry, trying to conceal his pain at Mr. Copper's passing, and rugby tackles a zombie from behind to avoid its teeth—an excellent distraction while Mr. Warner and Miss Pocock spike the zombies using ranging poles and window openers, Miss Pocock attempting to evacuate the students through the windows.

Seconds, minutes, hours pass—they all feel the same. Time is defined by how many hearts you've staked. There is no room for emotion, no room for fatigue, or fear, or hope. There are only two ways to think of yourself – alive or dead. Miss Pocock drives a final ranging pole into the eye of the last staggering zombie. There would have been a moment of quiet, if not for the array of cacophonous, halted breaths and the overwhelming ringing of death. No one spoke, but everyone knew what everyone was thinking—there wasn't much time until the next wave arrived.

Miss Pocock choked back an ashy cough, stealing a ranging pole from a bedraggled zombie's skull, and limped from the room, beckoning for Mrs. Hopkins to follow her. A funny companion, she believes, may make the time pass quicker. Mr. Warner scoffs, wondering why Miss Pocock would choose someone who is allergic to everything—a zombie could throw a cabbage at her, and she'd have a reaction. He scour the room for a nimble accompaniment—Mrs. Onuegbu. Mrs. Onuegbu follows him, knowing that she has a chance of survival now that she is with someone 'so disgusting he will scare the zombies away'. Mr. Harvey staggers back towards the art block, dragging Mr. Bradford behind him. The vegan. He knows which plants will be edible from the school field if it becomes necessary. Mrs. Saw, who reappeared

ZOMBIE ATTACK ON CCHS!

in the school building after escaping, decided that she may have a better chance of survival in the school-- if she is accompanied by Mrs. Broughton. Mrs. Broughton will be able to improvise, taking on the role of a zombie, and tricking the zombies in the process into not attacking her. Meanwhile, Mr. Lawlor rushes to find Miss Bellamy in the sports block, knowing that she has a loud voice, and will be able to disperse the zombies with a sonic boom.

Mr Warner and Mrs Onuegbu spilled out of the canteen into the hallway, sprinting towards the languages block, but were caught off guard by a shrill outcry. As they turned around slowly, mentally preparing themselves to be faced by a bloodthirsty zombie, their eyes caught a figure looming in the darkness of the corridor. 'One way system!', yelled Miss Stone, an echo of pleading from Mr. Warner and Mrs. Onuegbu entailing. 'No excuses!' replied Miss. Stone, folding her arms, 'And take that coat off while you're at it!'. Mr. Warner sheepishly took it off, revealing a shirt detailed with palm trees underneath- a place where he'd much rather be right now. Screechhhh.

He was brought back to reality as Mrs. Onuegbu (now following the one way system) hauled a window opener pole through the corridor to use as a weapon, as they left behind the rest of their peers. 'Miss Stone! Come on!', Mrs. Onuegbu yelled behind her. 'With great power comes great responsibility', responded Miss. Stone, with an air of tranquility that rather impressed Mr. Warner. She knew what she had to do. She had to protect the one-way system. Realizing that there would be no point in trying to convince Miss. Stone to follow along, the two friends bolted down the corridor, Mrs. Onuegbu's window pole still trailing behind. As Mr. Warner paced along, images of his friends' faces race through his mind, displacing him from the present and dragging him back to a much simpler time, a much happier time, in which they came together for their Munch Lunch every week. He would miss it. He really would miss it, because as he and Mrs Onuegbu ran past Mr Cable's office, he was reminded of Mr Cable's mortality, and therefore his own. Life was about to get a lot more complicated, and he was about to have far fewer friends. He eyed the only doorway to Mr Cable's office, an inexorable pang of sadness rippling through him as he realised that if Mr Cable hid there, he

would not last with such a prime opportunity for a zombie to corner him in. The pair enter the teacher's workroom and Mr Warner grabs a readily prepared can of beans on a desk, frowning at it as he mourned the idea of eating food like pizza and burgers. He did not like beans – or rather, didn't fancy them; but then again--he did not like zombies and, somehow, the can in his hand was the lesser of two evils. All hope seemed to be lost, and yet: an angelic melody bounced through the corridors. It was Mr. Hughes, solemnly singing to the Eurovision soundtrack.

Miss Pocock tightened her grip on the OS map of Chelmsford in one hand, ready to identify higher ground and rivers, while her other hand carried the ranging pole. She looks to Mrs Hopkins as they wander outside, consciously ignoring the 'Keep off the grass' sign as they hastened in their escape. Miss Pocock wonders just how long the two of them would be able to last, unable to shake a haze of dread that made every footstep feel heavy. She didn't have much hope for herself or Mrs Hopkins in the long run. She sighed. All they could do was try, and maybe one day, she would be able to see her family and friends again.



Mr Bradford supported Mr Harvey, who clutched his arm in pain, as they made their way back to the art rooms up the staircase resigned for art students. They locked themselves in the storage cupboard, and in a jolt of horror, they realized what the source of Mr Harvey's pain was. He had been bitten. Mr Bradford sat next to Mr Harvey staring at a discarded final piece from a year 10 mock exam, depicting a peaceful seaside walk. At first, he was drawn in, before he realized that the 3 point

ZOMBIE ATTACK ON CCHS!

perspective used really was more of a half-hearted 2.5, and that the colour scheme used for the fish made him want to gag. Oh, how he wished paintings were portals (just not with the awful perspective change this one offered and perhaps with a pair of sunglasses to dull the vibrant discordance of the fish). His time in the pool earlier only made him miss swimming in the sea more. He looked at his friend and colleague, whose condition was worsening. He hummed sadly, and then burst into song in an attempt to comfort Mr Harvey, who missed the feeling of health greatly. Mr Bradford hadn't thought he'd outlive Mr Harvey, but Fate always had other plans.



Mrs Saw huddled in the silent shadows of the library. She'd seen a lot today. She'd seen more than she'd expected to. To be honest, she hadn't thought she'd survive this long. She wasn't complaining though. Well, not about that. Her solitude in the library was only a glaring reminder of the fact that she missed her children. She had to remind herself that this was better than having a zombie family. That would be a lot of maintenance, she ruminated. As if it had heard her thoughts, a zombie trailed past her, dragging a stack of books with it as neared the exit, setting off an ear-splitting siren that sent it tumbling to the ground, where it lay writhing in agony. Then it went still. Mrs Saw swallowed the scratching terror that was building in her throat. She, against the gravitational field strength which surely felt far more than 9.8N/kg on such a day, stood up, and engaged in an act of pure selflessness and chivalry: re-shelving the books the zombie had callously sent tumbling.

Mr Lawlor ran through the halls of his school, using his speed to his advantage to maintain a reasonable pace, while keeping his footfalls discrete to avoid drawing too much attention to himself. He felt the impending anxiety of feeling incomplete, missing his family as he opened the door onto the seemingly empty field. A hand waved discreetly from behind the Bancroft building, and he started towards it, knowing that it was Miss Pocock and hopefully Mrs Hopkins. He was unsure of how long he'd last, but as he saw Miss Pocock's OS map glisten in the sunlight, he felt a little glimmer of hope bubble up inside of him.

Miss Stone stood in the hallway, listening. The brutal noises were here, high-pitched and jarring. Echoing down the halls, and flooding over Mr Warner's Zen chair yoga soundtrack once more. Like a reflex, she turned to the music block, half expecting to witness the noise coming from year 7s trying to play the recorders. The music block was empty-- but the canteen was teeming again.

It was lunchtime at CCHS, and they were starving.

POEM OF THE MONTH: 'CHILDLESS WOMAN' BY SYLVIA PLATH

-ERIN CAMERON 12AHI

The womb
Rattles its pod, the moon
Discharges itself from the tree with nowhere to go.

My landscape is a hand with no lines,
The roads bunched to a knot,
The knot myself,

Myself the rose you achieve—
This body,
This ivory

Ungodly as a child's shriek.
Spiderlike, I spin mirrors,
Loyal to my image,

Uttering nothing but blood—
Taste it, dark red!
And my forest

My funeral,
And this hill and this
Gleaming with the mouths of corpses.

By Sylvia Plath

The 11th of February marked the 59th anniversary of Sylvia Plath's death; she was one of America's most influential, feminist poets. She is considered a revolutionist of confessional poetry - a post-modern style of poetry which emerged in the 1950s which often deals with private topics, once considered inappropriate to discuss, including experiences with trauma, death and depression. It has a key feature of using first person narrative which produces a more personal, autobiographical tone, and creates the impression that much of the writing comes from the poet's own life experiences.

Plath herself suffered with clinical depression throughout the majority of her life, and was subjected to horrific electro therapy as a means of treating her illness however, she was able to use writing as a means of expressing and releasing some of the overwhelming emotions she faced..

Born in Massachusetts in 1932, she then moved to England in 1955 to attend Newnham College of the University of Cambridge. Later in her life she met the poet Ted Hughes, whom she got married to in 1956; one year later Plath moved back to the states with her husband, and had two children.

However, their marriage was deeply flawed; Sylvia Plath's unpublished letters to her therapist describe the deteriorating marriage, one such letter dated in 1962 details how Hughes beat her during one of her initial pregnancies causing her to miscarry. This was not her only miscarriage in her life, and at times led her to believe she was infertile - an attribute which was horrifically shunned by the society of Plath's time. During the 1950s and early 1960s, conformism had a major hold over society and, in particular, over gender roles. A women's position as wife and mother was heavily emphasised in this era; being unable to have children would be considered a significant failure on the woman's part, causing feelings of disappointment and self-deprecation.

Understanding the historical context of Plath's traumatic experiences, and her vulnerability in her writing, allows us to dive deep into the poem 'Childless Woman'. However, the following analysis is not exhaustive, and merely provides a few ideas to encourage further thinking about the poem.

Even before looking at the content, the title 'Childless Woman' outlines the overarching theme of the poem - Plath's self-loathing and emptiness. The emphatic positioning of the adjective 'childless' enforces the idea that she is lacking as the suffix '-less' falls on the stressed syllable, implying its importance. Additionally, the phrase almost seems paradoxical and mocking, as Plath alludes to the fact that the thought of a woman without a child would be absurd. This point is reinforced in the first stanza as 'the womb rattles its pod'; Plath cleverly utilises the onomatopoeic verb 'rattles' within the opening phrase to create a sense of emptiness. The imagery of a dead pod with dried up seeds reflects Plath's own eggs that can no longer provide her with a child, and the haunting sound echoes as a constant reminder of her self-determined uselessness.

POEM OF THE MONTH: 'CHILDLESS WOMAN' BY SYLVIA PLATH

Continuing with the analysis of the poem, the central theme of emptiness and worthlessness is progressed within the second stanza, and the evocative imagery of a 'hand with no lines'. Her and her husband were very spiritual and therefore, the assumption can be made that the image she wanted to create here was a one of a palm reader. The lack of 'lines' on her hand shows how she feels her body is failing at even the smallest things, as it is lacking. Furthermore, a palm reader would predict the future, and due to absence of lines it installs the idea that she feels her future and purpose has disappeared; it perhaps could be interpreted as though she is now travelling along a 'road', headed straight for death.

In line 8 - which is very short, only three syllables long and emphasised with a caesura to draw attention to it - the resounding phrase 'this body,' highlights how Plath determines her self-worth, and the following stanza reveals her opinion describing herself as 'ungodly'. Moreover, the determiner 'this' places a distance between Plath and her body as she doesn't claim it as her own, brutally evoking a sense of shame. Although Plath largely rejected religion after her father's death, the striking adjective 'ungodly' still makes it seem as though Plath feels she is unnatural, and wrong for not being able to birth a child - something she can't seem to forget as the 'mirrors' constantly reflect this idea back at her.

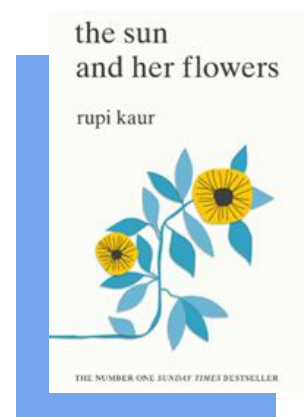
The poem intensifies in the final two stanzas, exemplified by the exclamation mark after the description of her 'red!' blood, as well as the polysyndeton with the repetition of 'and'. This combined with the plosive imagery of 'nothing but blood' creates an aural image of breathlessness and heightened emotion, perhaps implying that she is angry and disappointed with herself. The concluding image of the 'mouths of corpses' is imbued with death, and is perhaps the most distressing in the poem. Its meticulous positioning leaves the reader suspended in a turmoil of painstaking emotions, enabling them to experience just a minute fraction of what Plath herself felt after miscarrying.



Miscarriages have a tremendous affect on women, 20% become symptomatic of depression and/or anxiety and often feel immense guilt. Today, not only is there a greater level of awareness on the causes of a miscarriage so as to prevent grieving women feeling as though it is their fault, there are also help groups, and counsellors which are available for support. In the 20th century however, Plath did not even have the care of a loving partner to help her through this traumatic time. Therefore, she turned to poetry to express her immense emotions, creating a heart-wrenching, yet beautiful, pieces of art with lasting impacts and still appreciated by readers today.

Poetry Book Recommendations

(Disclaimer - some poetry discusses triggering themes and uses explicit words so please read Amazon age rating before reading any of the following collections)



WARNER REVIEWS: THE BATMAN (2022)

-MR WARNER

SPOILER WARNING

The fact this latest take on the caped crusader has the definite article plunked in front of it tells you a lot about the intentions of filmmaker Matt Reeves. This is not part of the chaotic DCEU, Ben Affleck shuffled off stage left, Reeves keen to make a 'proper film', not a 'superhero movie'. For that reason, The Batman will charm critics and divide audiences, some loving its grimdark atmosphere while others will wonder why a story that features a billionaire dressed as a bat fighting crime in a rocket car has no sense of fun whatsoever. I appreciated Reeves' intentions and his commitment to a vision, though he seemed to be impersonating David Fincher most of the time; however, this is a long, dour watch, one that is lit in a way that makes you keep reaching for a pair of sunglasses that you assume must have fallen over your eyes. This is a (The) Batman picture that many will admire but I can't imagine will top many fans best Batman movie list. The Batman (Robert Pattinson) is in his second year as Gotham's vigilante, bringing vengeance and fear to criminals on the streets aided only by Alfred (Andy Serkis, woefully underused). Distrusted by the GCPD, he has one in ally in honest cop Jim Gordon (Jeffrey Wright, perfect) who brings him into a knotty case: someone is bumping off prominent Gothamites - first the Mayor and then a high-ranking policeman - and leaving cryptic clues that suggest the victims were all involved in corruption. Can the Bat track down this Riddler (Paul Dano)? The Batman may have a



new ally too, Selina Kyle (Zoe Kravitz) working for the Penguin (Colin Farrell) at a bar frequented by both the political and criminal elite.



There are a number of influences at play in Reeves's film, based on a screenplay co-written with Peter Craig. The focus on a detective plot with a cypher baiting villain obviously evokes Zodiac (and before it, Dirty Harry) while the grisly nature of some of the murders recall Seven. The pace and lighting also scream Fincher though there's a liberal dose of 70's Scorsese also, complete with a tortured soul voiceover like Travis Bickle. Nolan's trilogy also looms large, this film also bending over backwards to not be a superhero picture. From the comics, there are shades of Year One, The Long Halloween, Zero Year and Cataclysm with some of the revisionism offered up by writers such as Snyder, King, Ellis and Tyrion IV that call into question the look of a rich white bloke duffing up desperate and poor people who have turned to crime while the focus on the Bat and the Cat reflect the prominence given to the couple recently, especially by Tom King in his epic run. The comics have often claimed Batman is the world's greatest detective and much of The Batman has Bruce following the clues and making those deductive leaps. This does mean that the film has a lot more talking than punching, though the action scenes are decent enough, especially a scrap in the dark

WARNER REVIEWS: THE BATMAN (2022)

revealed only by the muzzle flashes of the assailants' guns. This is a film, however, that could do with at least one more big action set-piece, the best bit being a car chase between Penguin and Batman in his Batmobile (the car a mix of KITT and Fast and Furious). The ending ups the stakes a bit but felt a little half-hearted, as if Reeves felt that this was required rather than wanted. There's nothing here to match the Bat-Pod chase from The Dark Knight, for example.

However, enough about what The Batman doesn't do. For those who like their comics books to be called graphic novels, The Batman will delight. It's steeped in atmosphere and neo-noir details, Gotham always either dark, grey, raining or a hopeful pink at dawn or dusk. It's a film that totally commits to a mood, the lighting dialled down, scenes inside often lit with an orange glow as if hell is about to open. The film casts the leads well, Pattinson selling the isolated and vengeful young man who starts to see another way to be the Bat, one that instils hope as well as fear, while Kravitz offers up the most rounded and interesting Catwoman yet. Wright is effortlessly right as Gordon while John Tuturro does well as mobster Falcone. Reeves also offers up novel new takes on well-established villains. Farrell is unrecognisable as Penguin, the make-up, coupled with his performance deliberately evoking Robert De Niro. He's earned his HBO Penguin series. As for Dano, he offers a modern take on the Riddler that is a million miles away from Jim Carrey. Wearing an olive-green mask, specs over the top, and giving a clever balancing act of genius and nutter, an incel psychopath, using the internet to fuel his crusade. He makes a good foil for the Batman, even if the two only share a couple of scenes together. Overall, this is an excellently made film, one that treats the premise with perhaps too much gravitas but that is persuasive in its worldview nonetheless, even though it feels a bit too much like Nolan's. Crucially all this

successful world building means, should the leads and WB wish, they have an alternative Batman sandpit to play in, separate from the DCEU, with a Joker in Arkham making pals with Riddler and a Batman and Catwoman young enough to make a good few more.

Warner Rating: ★★ ★



Mrs Martin's Must Reads!

Shadow & Bone



Fantastic series with an amazing female lead character who summons magic to try to overcome the threat to the kingdom....
Welcome to Ravka... a world of science and superstition where nothing is what it seems



Flip

Don't let the blurb put you off reading this book! It is a well written, cleverly crafted story with plenty of plot twists and a suspenseful conclusion....



Geek girl

Holly Smale is an amazing author of the Geek Girl series which retells the story of Harriet Manning, a character whose life closely resembles that of Holly's own experiences growing up. It is funny, sad and thought provoking

The Thursday Murder Club



Wise, witty, well-written...
And we have the sequel!

The Queen's gambit



The book is definitely better! But the series is still pretty good

KS4

The Marriage Pact



An ingenious idea to make marriages work... but extreme practices overwhelm the happy couple, leading to the ultimate sacrifice

KS5

Room



One of the best books I have ever read! Definitely not for everyone but it has an absorbing storyline, despite the subject matter

The Art of Fairness



Everyone should read this book!

The Torchoscope

YOUR HALF-TERMLY HOROSCOPE!



ARIES

Bring your ideas out into the open this half-term, and see what response you get from the people around you. Creative ideas are the ones that will appeal to you the most, so follow these ones through if you can.



TAURUS

You may feel frustrated this half-term, the days may feel never ending. It's likely that this is due to circumstances out of your control. Don't get upset at yourself, instead leave extra time to do the things you want.



GEMINI

You may normally be reluctant to make a stand with an adventurous idea, but this half-term be an individual. Do something unexpected that shakes up the crowd, make yourself stand out in whatever way you want.



CANCER

Don't be surprised if people who are upset are hurtful to you this half-term. Most likely, the ones who criticise you the most are the ones who understand you the least. They are on a different wavelength to you, don't try to change yourself because of this.



LEO

You may be happy for no reason. If not, examine your situation, you may find that any emotional discomfort you have is due to a lack of personal freedom. Use this half-term to find ways to feel more independence in your world.



VIRGO

This is a good half-term to subscribe to a newspaper or magazine to allow you to keep up with current events in a field that interests you. Keep your mind fresh with news that gives you inspiration to keep striving for your goals.



LIBRA

You may have the urge to take charge, and you definitely have the capability, so what are you waiting for? Stop sitting around waiting for someone to make the decisions. Take a strong and independent stance this half-term!



SCORPIO

Remember, no one can make you feel inferior without your consent, it might seem that they are trying to show you up with their knowledge. Don't let them convince you that your thoughts and ideas are any less valid than theirs, but at the same time try to keep an open mind this half-term.



SAGITTARIUS

This half-term, think about ways to be more efficient. Invest in the things that will help make your life easier and more comfortable. Work smarter not harder! The natural flow of the day will take you where you need to go.



CAPRICORN

Drink more water, it's the most important part of your diet! You may be highly sensitive this half-term so taking care of yourself is the best thing you can do. Otherwise you might be easily manipulated therefore, distance yourself from the people who make you have negative emotions.



AQUARIUS

You might not want to spend much time inside this half-term, you'll most likely want to be out and about, perhaps with friends. Use this opportunity to allow your feelings and ideas to be appreciated by your friends!



PISCES

It's time to put away the sentimental feelings for a while and move onto something else. During this half-term, stop worrying and dwelling on past experiences, instead look to the future and plan new adventures to enjoy.

BY MILLIE AUSTIN



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