

TYPOGRAPHIC



Spring

Issue 2 - 2023

Dear Reader,

Quick Notice: Due to scheduling and editorial issues, we were unable to publish the Spring edition on time. Instead, we have decided to release it now with the Summer edition. For this reason, please excuse any outdatedness that may be present. Thank you for your consideration!

Welcome to the second edition of *The Typographic* magazine, Blatch's student-led paper that hopes to present the views and interests of the entire student body. From news, to recipes, to sports, to options information, we hope to have you covered!

But to begin, let's recap. Our mission is to provide a balanced view on all news and issues we cover, while hopefully still providing worthwhile analysis and information. Anyone, from anywhere in the school and staff body, is able to contribute, providing it fits with our [core values](#); just send your poetry, short story, article, art or anything else to magazine@blatchingtonmill.org.uk and it will be considered for publication.

The team is, as said before, student-led, with nearly all articles and art provided by anyone from Years 7-11. However, the final copy will be read through by Senior Leadership before publication, and we are grateful to members of staff such as Ms Holland, for kickstarting the project and organisation, and Mr Sladden, who is heavily involved in the arts and creative sections.

We deeply wish this second edition will be to your liking, and that it is by no means near the end. It is our greatest hope that many more issues will be created in the future, and each and every one reflects, at least in some part, the needs and wants of all members of our student body.

- *Typographic Team*

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INTERNATIONAL



Giorgia Meloni

Prime Minister of Italy



Giorgia Meloni, Wikimedia Commons

By Max F

In October 2022, **Giorgia Meloni** was elected as prime-minister of Italy- the first woman to be in this position. This may seem like great progress, however her party (known as the “Brothers of Italy”) has neo-fascist roots related to former dictator **Benito Mussolini**.

At the age of fifteen, Meloni became a part of the Italian Social Movement; a far right wing group founded by supporters of Mussolini. The Prime Minister has publicly praised the dictator herself.

She is expected to make ‘more robust anti-immigration policies’ in future, as well as ‘pursue more restrictions on civil rights’, according to the London School for Economics. Does this mean a return of fascism to Italy, or will there be no major changes? So far we are yet to find out.

Benito Mussolini

An Italian dictator from 1925-43 (when he was arrested by members of his own party) . He originated the idea of fascism and terrorised Ethiopians in a brutal conquest in their country, as well as deporting a vast amount of Italian Jews to concentration camps in order to gain Hitler’s favour.

Sources:

- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Giorgia-Meloni>
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Benito-Mussolini/Role-in-World-War-II>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/24/fears-lgbtq-rights-italy-giorgia-meloni>
- <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/2022/09/29/what-giorgia-melonis-policy-agenda-could-mean-for-italy-and-europe/>



A Striking Dilemma

By Logan B

Unsplash

For the first time since 2008, teachers have gone on strike. This is an issue that has affected everyone at the school, some more than others. In this article we will be outlining the causes and effects of striking and how the decision to strike has been really difficult for teachers.



There are over five hundred thousand teachers in England and three hundred thousand in the NEU (**N**ational **E**ducation **U**nion). Teachers pay a monthly amount to be part of a Union and unions help to protect teachers' rights & conditions. **S**chool **T**eachers **R**eview **B**ody (STRB) - is an independent pay review body - they advise the Government on teachers pay & conditions.

Government - They decide how much money schools get each year - so schools must pay teachers what they demand, as much of the budget it takes up.

Why are teachers striking?

At first glance, teachers are striking for better pay; like many other public sector staff: nurses, ambulance drivers and firefighters, teacher pay has decreased in 'real terms' since 2010. This means that as the cost of living has increased, teachers' pay rises have slowed down - this has means although teacher pay has technically increased, it has declined by 13% from 2010 for experienced teachers.

But many teachers are also striking about the recruitment and retention of teachers and broader funding issues that impact on students' education. The NEU says that "Parents hear their children talking about 'new' teachers in the middle of the school year; of lessons being 'covered' by supply teachers, of teachers leaving." Also they found 44% of teachers plan to leave schools by 2027 and over half saying their workload is unmanageable.

In some schools as a result of increased costs they have had to reduce numbers of teaching assistants and equipment, which also impacts on our education.

The government argues that they have given an extra £2 billion pounds to schools (in line with the STRB recommendation) this year so schools should be able to give teachers a bigger pay rise. The Unions argue that this is not enough and schools will still not be able to pay the teachers extra without cutting other things from the budget.

[Read More Here](#)

XR - Noble Rebellion or Whining Whingers?



Nearly everyone knows Extinction Rebellion - and perhaps its daughter groups Just Stop Oil and Insulate Britain - but no one in the same way. In one view they are vanguards of the truth, battling against a society blind to its own failings, and destined to be written in the history books in the same tones as the suffragettes; persecuted in their time, perhaps, but celebrated on reflection. In another, they are the middle-class whingers who held up your car for hours on the M5, in your view contributing another few tonnes of CO₂ to an already buckling world. They are loud, noisy and disruptive, and have done nothing to win you around to their cause. As the debate continues, it is perhaps important to consider each side, and look to the future - how will we address climate change and protest in the years to come?

Over the next few months (this article is being written in mid-January) this discussion will come into sharp relief. Extinction Rebellion have announced their intention to move away from outright disruptive action - gluing themselves to public areas, breaking windows, closing motorways, etc - saying they will 'prioritise attendance over arrest, relationships over roadblocks', but will not end mass protest - they plan to surround parliament with 100,000 people on the 21st April.

At the same time, the government is considering new laws to combat the very tactics they have moved against. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, as well as the [Public Order Bill](#) still in progress, has given the Home Secretary new powers to decide the forms of protest deemed acceptable, as well as giving the police more powers to prevent disruption, with a maximum jail term of 10 years. In addition, the government is considering proposals to affect the slow marching tactics used by many climate organisations, like Just Stop Oil, to attract attention to the climate emergency.

[Click to Read On](#)

INTERVIEWS!



An Interview with Author and Illustrator Chris Riddell

Chris Riddell is one of the UK's most celebrated authors, illustrators and satirists. Famously known for his incredible books 'Goth Girl' and 'Ottoline' as well as his political cartoons in the Guardian Newspaper.

1. WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALISE YOU HAD A TALENT FOR DRAWING?



I WAS FIVE AND I SCRIBBLED ALL OVER MY FATHER'S STUDY WALLS. AFTER THAT MY MOTHER KEPT ME SUPPLIED WITH PAPER & PENS...

2. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CREATE THE BEST SELLING BOOK 'GOTH GIRL'?

I WAS INSPIRED BY READING ABOUT LORD BYRON THE FAMOUS POET AND HIS DAUGHTER ADA LOVELACE WHO GREW UP TO BE THE FIRST COMPUTER PROGRAMMER...

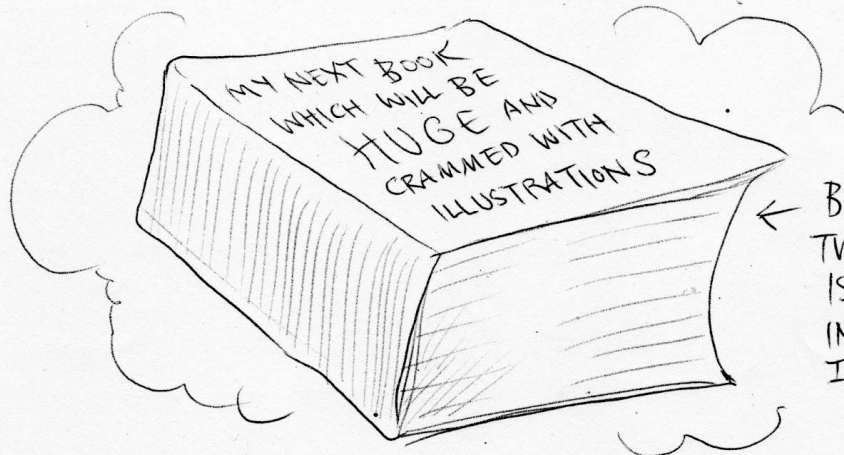


← LORD GOTH - 'MAD, BAD AND DANGEROUS TO GNOMES'



← ADA GOTH - WHO WEARS CLUMPY BOOTS BECAUSE HER FATHER BELIEVES CHILDREN SHOULD BE HEARD BUT NOT SEEN.

3. IS THERE A BOOK YOU DREAM OF ILLUSTRATING?



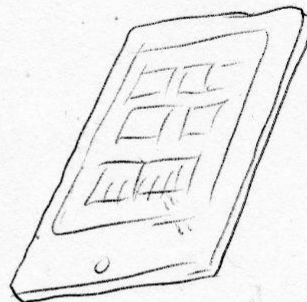
← BASED ON TWO IMAGINARY ISLANDS I INVENTED WHEN I WAS EIGHT.

4. WHAT CURRENT ARTISTS DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

SHAUN TAN
LEVI PINFOLD
EMILY GRAVETT
MINNIE GREY
CHRISTOPHER PRIESTLEY

AUDREY BENJAMISON
TOM GAULT
KATE BEATON
VIV SCHWARZ
ALEXIS DEACON

LOOK THEM
UP ON
GOOGLE...



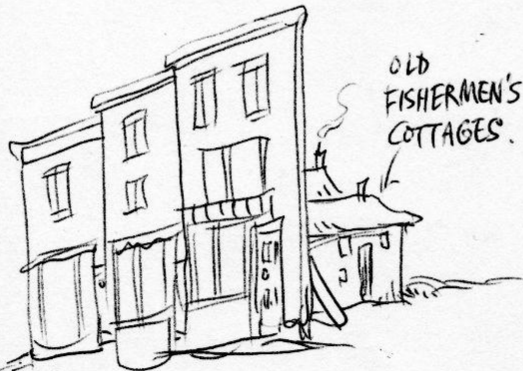
5. ARE ANY OF THE CHARACTERS IN YOUR BOOKS BASED ON PEOPLE YOU KNOW IN REAL LIFE?

I PUT THIS
CHARACTER INTO
'GOTH GIRL
AND THE
WUTHERING
FRIGHT'



SIR CHRISTOPHER
RIDDLE-OF-THE-SPHINX R.A.
CANINE
CARICATURIST.

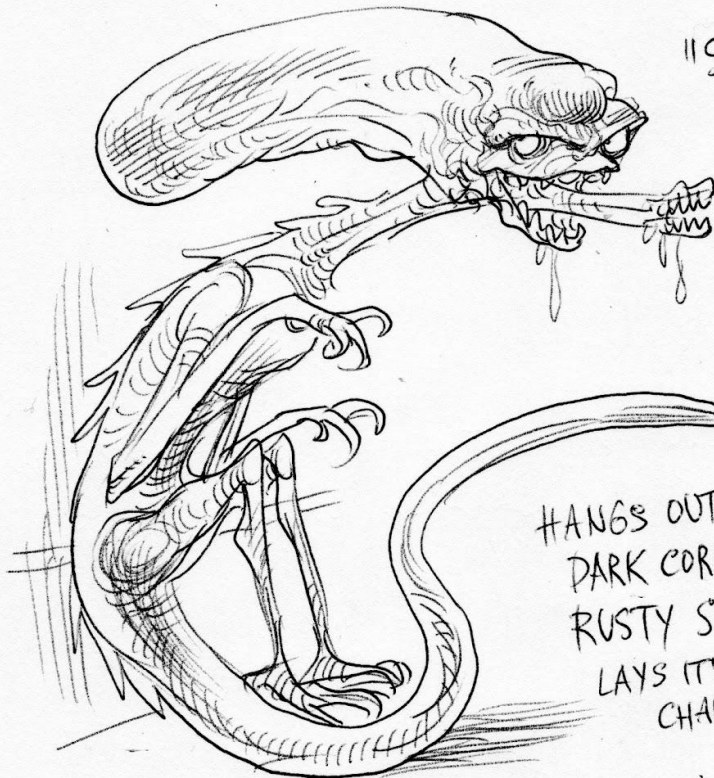
6. DOES LIVING IN BRIGHTON INSPIRE YOU AND YOUR WORK? IF SO, HOW?



I SET
'GOTH GIRL AND THE
PIRATE QUEEN' IN
BRIGHTON
(BUT NOT HOVE
BECAUSE IT HADN'T
BEEN BUILT YET...)

GRAND PARADE IN
THE NEWLY FASHIONABLE
SEASIDE RESORT OF BRIGHTON

7. WHICH ONE OF YOUR BOOK CHARACTERS WOULD YOU LEAST LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH IN REAL LIFE?



"SMILER" from
'ALIENOGRAPHY -
HOW TO SPOT AN
ALIEN INVASION
AND WHAT TO DO
ABOUT IT!

HANGS OUT IN
DARK CORNERS OF
RUSTY SPACE FREIGHTERS -
LAYS ITS EGGS IN
CHAIR CUSHIONS...

8. YOU DO WONDERFUL POLITICAL CARTOONS FOR THE OBSERVER ;
WHERE DO YOU GET THE INSPIRATION FOR THE SETTINGS
IN WHICH YOU PLACE POLITICIANS ?



I'VE ABSOLUTELY
NO IDEA...

9. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU HAVE FOR SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO START A CAREER AS AN ILLUSTRATOR?

NEVER USE AN ERASER -
IF YOU MAKE
A MISTAKE,
PRETEND YOU
MEANT IT!

ALWAYS
HAVE PENS
IN YOUR
POCKETS



KEEP A
SKETCHBOOK
AND DRAW IN
IT EVERYDAY -

IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
SHOW ANYONE ELSE.

10. DO YOU HAVE ANY UP COMING PROJECTS THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO SHARE?



I HAVE JUST
ILLUSTRATED
'THE LITTLE
PRINCE'
BY
ANTOINE de
Saint-Exupéry

PUBLISHED
SPRING
2023.

CHRIS RIDDELL

An Interview with... ...Peter Kyle

1) What got you into politics?

I experienced barriers in my life and I want to play a part in making it possible for every young person and community to fully explore their potential without needing to battle their way forward.

2) What is your biggest worry about the future, whether local, national or international?

That our country gets left behind as the rest of the world moves forward, and locally that we don't act swiftly enough to keep young people safe from criminal gangs.

3) What is your biggest hope for the future, under the same criteria?

That we can get our city going again - looking great, with homes that are lovely and affordable for local people, and an economy that's full of great jobs for people with all talents.

4) What would you say to someone trying to get involved in politics?

Brilliant! Keep an open mind, but explore loads of opportunities and gets lots of experience and skills in other areas of life too - Politics is best when people bring experience and skills in with them.

5) Do you feel the youth, people in secondary school and sixth form, should be getting more involved in politics, or are incredibly involved already?

Both! I wish youngsters had more faith in their abilities and confidence to engage - what they say matters.

6) What is your role in the Shadow Cabinet and what does it entail?

I'm Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary. It means I lead the Political and Policy team on matters relating to Northern Ireland, and report to the Leader of the Opposition directly and attend shadow cabinet meetings to participate in the overall leadership of the party as we set out our offer to the country ahead of the election.

7) If a large company were to offer you a vast amount of money for your politics, what would you spend it on?

I'd suggest they spent it on something more worthwhile than me - like Blatchington Mill school for example!

8) What makes you smile at work?

Everyone focuses on the problems with politics - but I have brilliant friends and colleagues here and there's friendship and laughter to keep me going.



Image supplied by Peter Kyle's office

Last year we said Goodbye to... ...Mr McCormick

1) How long have you been at the school for?

I was at the school from September 1998 until August 2022, so 24 years!

2) How has freedom of speech impacted the school?

Students were always encouraged to voice their opinions and forums were always available to allow this. 'Student Voice' surveys are a useful way for subject leaders to get feedback from students on their views on the curriculum, lessons and other issues.



Image supplied by Mr McCormick

3. How has the school changed?

Since I joined, the school has changed massively in many areas. Physically, the building has been improved with the addition of the C block (between the old west-wing and east wing); when I joined, there was no C corridor and you had to cross open ground to get from one half of the school to the other. The addition of the all-weather-pitches is just one example of developments which make the school better for students and the community; others include the improved canteen, sports-hall (which didn't exist when I first joined), quad cover etc.. New teaching aids such as interactive whiteboards, PCs in every room and Chromebooks for students has hugely improved learning opportunities and benefits. The Headteacher changed three times between me joining and leaving and each had a different ethos, approach to management and leadership and each created a different culture within the school.

4. How has the Duke of Edinburgh evolved?

The 'Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme' (DofE) was running at Blatch before I became involved. A Science teacher managed it successfully but on a much smaller scale than when I left. As an Assistant Headteacher, I was asked to simply 'oversee' the award scheme and at first I wasn't much involved as the Local Authority ran it for us and I just supervised it at a distance. When the LA withdrew their support, I had to either let it die or run it properly, and I decided to throw myself into it fully. I trained as a DofE Centre Manager, Expedition Assessor, and organiser and I undertook expedition training to qualify as an Expedition Leader. Using this knowledge, we started with a very small cohort of 14 in the first year (2015) and when this proved very successful and popular, we expanded the scheme the following year and recruited around 120 Year 9s onto it.

We took almost 100 on the Bronze expedition the following summer and these numbers have grown since then. From our second year onwards, we never recruited less than 110 and some years it was around 140.

5. What important policies have been introduced during your time here?

Between 1998 and 2022, many policies changed, both at the in-school level and nationally. Nationally, education policy shifted massively between 2005 and 2012; the introduction of Vocational Learning through programmes such as The Diploma was huge and had a huge positive impact on a number of students; the removal of this in 2011 (by Michael Gove in favour of his EBacc) was a real detrimental step in my opinion (as one who saw first-hand how much this benefitted a number of students) and our national education offer is all the poorer for it. Changes in the subjects which must be offered (due to the EBacc in 2010/11) reduced opportunities for students at Key Stage 4; the impact of this is ongoing and continues, in my opinion, to reduce the life-chances of a number of young people. In school, the length of lessons changed a couple of times which impacted on teaching and learning, and staff workload! The approach to mobile-phones has changed a number of times over the years, along with the school uniform, behaviour and discipline approaches.

6. What was your experience joining the school?

Very positive; I joined at an exciting time when standards were rising and money was available to education like it hadn't been before 1997 and hasn't been since 2010. This allowed many of the developments I described earlier to be completed which much improved the experience for students joining the school.

7) Who was the headteacher when you joined?

The Headteacher was Neil Hunter and the two Deputy Heads were Richard Wing and Tony Willis; all three were excellent to work with and determined to improve Blatch in many ways.

8) Has what is taught in Design lessons changed over the years?

Some aspects of D&T teaching have changed massively e.g. the use of computers to aid designing and manufacturing - Laser cutting and CAM machines (computer aided manufacture), the ability to research square brackets key information online and the use of micro-electronics. But key skills such as designing, sketching and making using tools and machines have not changed - and rightly!

9) I hear you were involved in more vocational training- can you explain what the benefits of that were for students?

Vocational education allowed a number of students to learn in a different way, in different environments and be assessed on things they can do, not on knowledge which they lack! We set-up a separate Construction Training centre in Hove (in partnership with Hove Park school) and we taught a number of construction trades skills to students who would otherwise have never survived in school to the end of Year 11. A large cohort remained with us into the sixth-form (sharing their time between us and City College) and many went on to successful careers in construction, and attending college. We also offered off-site training in Engineering, Motor Vehicle Studies, Equine Care, Hospitality and Catering, Hairdressing and Small-Animal Care. We also ran 'The Diploma' in Media and Communication. These courses were appropriate to some, but by-no-means all students. We're all different and the traditional 'school' model of learning doesn't suit everyone. The courses offered allowed those who attended them the chance to learn in a different way; it reduced educational disengagement, allowed students to build relationships with colleges and offered insights into real jobs and careers. The benefits are too broad to cover here, but suffice to say, I know from experience how Vocational Learning opportunities were life-changing for a number of students. Their removal [nationally] in favour of a more narrow, 1950s grammar-school type offer was backward thinking at its worst. Sadly, I'm sure a number of young people will have disengaged from education and been denied genuine career opportunities because of it. Rant over!!!!

RUN OF THE

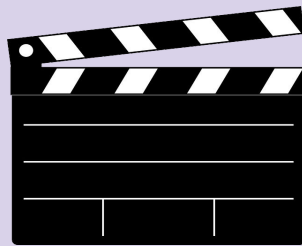
MILL



Options Information!

We know by the times this goes out it'll be too late for Y9s to make use of this information, but never too early for Y7 and 8s! A quick acquaintance with what you'll be getting, in case you've forgotten already, directly from the heads of each option subject.

Media Studies - Media Studies is the study of the mass media: film, television, music videos, video games, websites, advertising, newspapers, magazines, radio and social media... If you're interested in a few of those topics, you should definitely consider choosing media studies. (It's not just watching films!)



Sociology - Sociology is the study of society, we divide the course into different sections - methods, family, crime and stratification and look at how people are influenced by the world in which we live.

Design - Choose resistant materials if you enjoy learning about making with plastic, metal and wood.

Music - We explore music from other cultures, countries, genres and eras in a practical and creative way, learning how to use these influences and traditions in your own performances and compositions.



RE - In Religious Studies you ask questions like: 'Why in this age of science, technology and the internet, is religion woven into so many lives? Is this a good or bad thing? And you will not be told the answer. You will make up your own minds. And if your argument is convincing you will be right! And get 9s! Religious studies is known to have a high pass rate, because it's not about you remembering the right answer, but creating your own answers to important questions, and supporting your ideas with reasoning.

MFL - Learning a language is like having the key to unlock a door to new ways of life, new cultures, new people, new places and new ways of thinking about the world around us. Without the key we can merely stand in the doorway and look through the keyhole.

History - History is challenging but very rewarding for anyone who wants to understand how the past links to the world we live in today. If you're prepared to put the hard work in, this could be the GCSE subject for you!

Computer Science - Computer Science is the most relevant and applicable subject in the world today.

Latin - A brilliant mixture of 3 subjects in 1: learning a new (old!) language, ancient history and classical literature.



Geography - If you want to study a subject that's relevant, varied, fascinating, current and diverse which mixes facts, opinions, discussions and decision making, then Geography is the subject for you.

Food Prep - Food Prep and Hospitality and Catering are both practical options which give creativity and freedom to experiment. If you like to learn the science behind food then the food prep course is for you. If you prefer learning more about the kitchen and cooking skills then Hospitality and Catering is a better fit for you. With both courses you gain a qualification as well as learning a life skill.



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Teacher on trial: Mr Haque



What inspired you to become a science teacher?

In Year 9 science was my worst subject - both in how I felt about it and how I performed in it. I had a teacher that just couldn't engage me. In Year 10, I had a new science teacher who completely changed my view on the subject. It became my favourite subject in one year. I found this transformation so powerful and felt I could really enjoy a profession where I could do the same for other disengaged students.

How do you come up with your inspiring assemblies?

What I like about assemblies is that I have free rein to talk about anything - I am not restricted by a curriculum. Of course, what I talk about has to have a context that makes sense for our students, but there is an overwhelming amount to choose from. As someone who has quite a short attention span and can zone out quite quickly, I start by thinking - *what would sustain my interest? What will hook students into wanting to listen to what I have to say? Is it an engaging story or an interesting photo or video clip?* I think about what I want students to leave with and try to make the reasons for me talking to them explicitly clear. It also takes a lot of time to rehearse so I get the tone and pace right. It's such an important platform where you can instigate real whole-school change just through the power of voice. I feel it is important so I don't let opportunities like this go to waste. Also - I have a *healthy* fear of failure and public speaking. Both these fears drive me to do my best.

What area of science interests you the most and why?

I get a lot of joy from using simplistic models that help me understand impossibly complex and abstract ideas. I was always really into theories and grand ideas in school e.g evolution, the big bang etc... I was less keen on practical work for some reason (but acknowledge that students tend to feel differently about this). I also love puzzles and mysteries - and science is filled with them.

What advice would you give to students who want to explore more into the science industry?

When it comes to information resources, we are spoilt for choice. There are so many good science-related youtube channels - that would be my first port of call. Also - speak to your science teachers!

What do most students not know about you?

Hmmm....not sure - I talk a lot about my personal experiences to contextualise my teaching of science.

A few things I can think of - unlike many science teachers, I didn't do chemistry and physics at A-level as I didn't want to narrow my options (I loved a lot of subjects!) I was also very much into music and art as a student and both of those subjects strongly influence how I use my spare time.

Who is your favourite scientist and why do they inspire you?

Easy - Richard Feynman. My all time favourite teacher of science. A legendary physicist who just oozed charisma when he spoke. He spoke about science in such a fascinating and engaging way. I highly recommend watching the few clips that exist on YouTube.

What is your favourite aspect of being a science teacher?

I enjoy 'teaching' really. Science is just the platform I use to do it as it makes a lot of sense to me. In terms of teaching, my most joyful experiences are when I see students overcome barriers and succeed. It's why I am still doing this job after 18 years. Also - I can't sit still! I could never do a desk job. Teaching is wonderfully dynamic. It changes every year! I also love working with teams of people. The science department are a phenomenal bunch of people to work with - we get on well and it makes working at Blatch a lot of fun.

Why should more people take an interest in science?

It feeds into every aspect of our lives. Everything in our world is the product of a scientific process. Science is a pretty essential tool that helps people get the most out of life. It's both fundamentally important and fascinating. Also - new jobs tend to be in the STEM industry.



Creative

An Interview with Brighton Artist Pauly the Painter

Pauly The Painter is a famous Brighton artist known for his incredible street scenes celebrating Brighton and Hove's architecture. See him out with his easel and paints around the city in all weathers.



What is it about Brighton's architecture that particularly appeals to you?

Brighton and Hove's architecture was built by the finest builders and craftsmen at the height of great financial wealth when craft and individuality were sought after qualities from architects. As a consequence a lot of Victorian and Regency buildings have wonderful styling and embellishments.

When did you first realise you wanted to become an artist?

I realised I wanted to be a Creative after my wonderful mum took me to the National Gallery at the age of six years old.

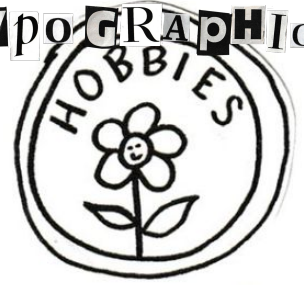
Like Monet, do you enjoy painting the same scenes in different lights/ times of day?

Like Monet, I never tire of painting in similar locations to capture the ever-changing nature of sunlight.

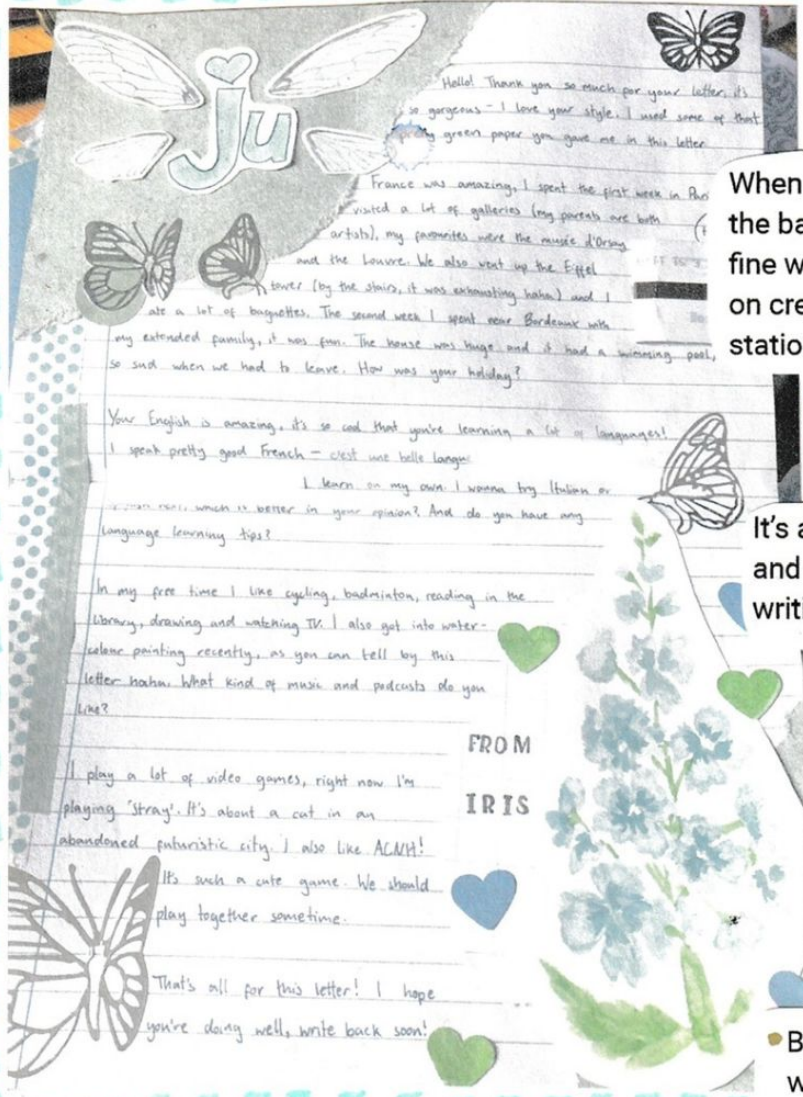
Do people who pass by ever ask to feature in your paintings? If so, what do you say?

I never mind featuring people in paintings especially youngsters. I paint them on the front of the canvas and then they write their name on the back so they are spiritually involved in the artwork!

Penpalling



Penpals (or pen friends) are people who regularly write letters to each other, which is usually their main form of communication. Its an old tradition, which has sadly died out a little with the rise of the internet. I'm here to bring it back with this column made to introduce readers to new and fun hobbies!



When you think of writing letters, what do you picture? Usually the basic idea: paper, a pen, and a lot of words. This is a totally fine way to do it, however modern penpalling has a big focus on creativity and art, with beautiful layouts, drawings and stationery.

It's a great way to connect with people, practise a language, and make friends. You can find penpals online, or even start by writing letters to your friends!

IMPORTANT INFO!

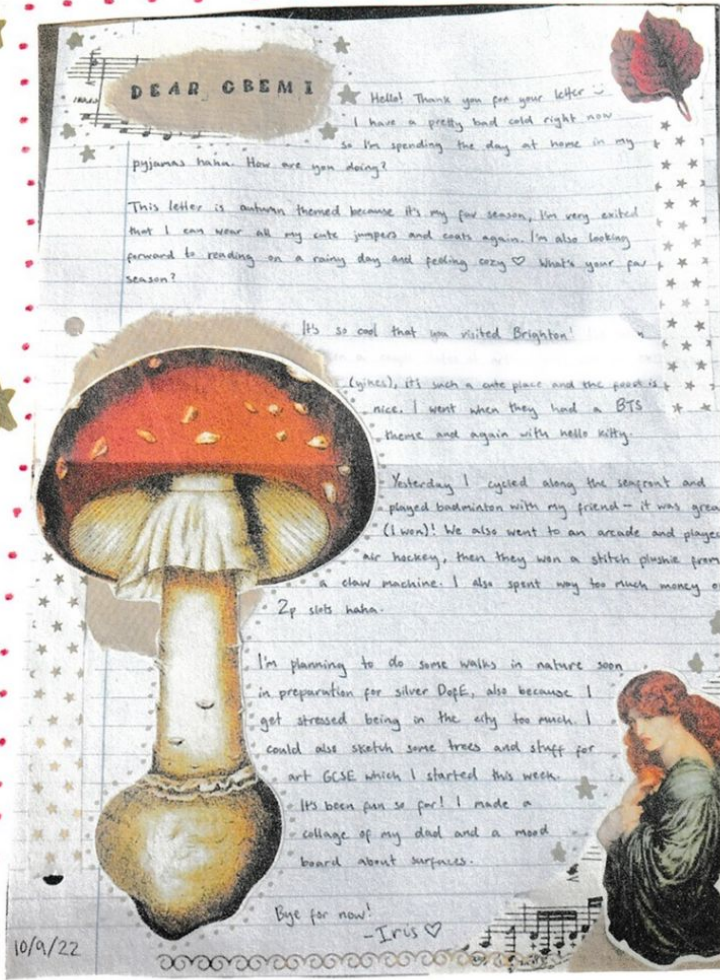
- Be safe online, verify that the person you're talking to is who they say they are
- Write about yourself, your day, your interests, but don't forget to ask questions
- If you are mailing internationally, keep the envelope relatively light and thin - it's cheaper
- You can make your own stationery! Look up "DIY stickers", print out things to stick in your letter, make drawings etc
- Take photos of all your letters in case they get lost in the post, so you can just send your penpal a photo to respond from

- Tea bags
- Flat origami
- Friendship bracelets
- Art
- Postcards
- Stickers
- Washi tape samples
- Polaroids

cute things you can include in a letter!



The royal mail can be tricky to figure out, but its a great system! If you are sending a letter within the UK, just put a 2nd (cheaper but slower) or 1st (more expensive but faster) class stamp in the top right-hand corner, and write the receiving address on the front of the envelope. Make sure to write your address on the back. If you are sending internationally, just go to the post office (there is one in One Stop near Blatch) and they will weigh and send it for you. Be careful who you give your address to, and ask your parents first.



Autumn themed letter :)

get creative!
I sometimes use water-colours



You can write letters to relatives as well!

Written by Iris Dury

Chatting online with strangers

Be critically aware - assess whether who we are communicating with are truthful and think about what impact it might have on us. If unsure end communications.

Look for warning signs - are they asking for too much information, phone number, address, photos etc.

Is the person you're chatting to a fake friend? Are they asking you to keep details of your communication a secret? Are they offering you gifts etc? If something is too good to be true, unfortunately it often is. Be wary of how they talk to you are they being over complimentary and then insulting?

Meetings If they are asking you to meet up, never do so without an adult present and never at a private address.

Keep hold of your privacy! Don't share anything that might help them find you in the real world, like your school or where you live or anything you wouldn't want anyone else to find out and certainly not videos or pictures.

If you have any doubts end communications and talk to a responsible and trustworthy adult.

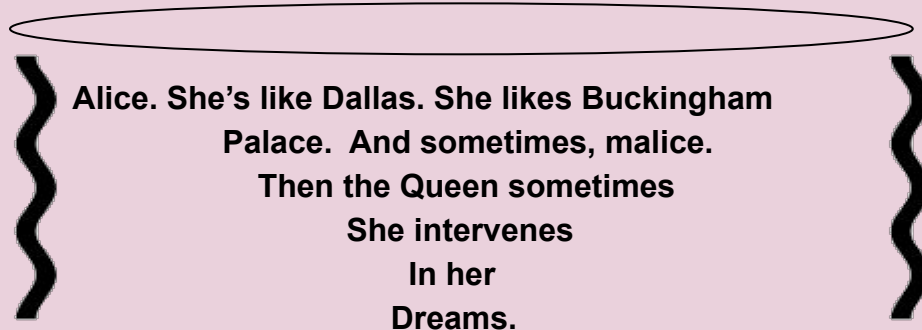
See here for more advice:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

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Welcome to Poetry!

This issue our poetry comes from both last year's poetry competition (with the theme Elements) and Y7 pieces on their recent topic of Alice in Wonderland. We hope you enjoy!



**Alice. She's like Dallas. She likes Buckingham
Palace. And sometimes, malice.
Then the Queen sometimes
She intervenes
In her
Dreams.**

Leo P

Far away in a distant land,
The bones of fish lie on the sands,
And in a crevice high above,
The stench of ash covers the walls,
Hidden among the stones and dust,
An ancient creature slumbers.

With a tang of salt from the rumbling shores,
It turns to sky with a focused mind,
Flash! With a glint like polished bronze,
The dragon dives and sinks below,
Then rises gracefully,
From the silent, watchful depths.

His mouth opens wide with sharp-bared teeth,
And clutching tendrils,
Of flame reach towards the nearest trout,
With one last faint scream it falls now still,
It is clutched by sharp claws and flying away,
The fabulous beast shines with the last dying rays of light,
Like an eternal, everlasting crown of the burnjewel sunset.

Owen G

Ashes.

The fire between us never completely burnt out
 At times, it raged and at other times it flickered
 Sometimes it just produced a faint but comforting glow
 Almost saying 'I'm here, I won't give up on you just yet'

I could never tell when the fire between us would completely extinguish
 At times, you raged and showed devotion; passion
 I'd feed you more fuel; more and more wood to keep you burning
 Scared I might put you out and contaminate the air with thick smoke

Sometimes you even scorched me

More often than not, the fire between us felt like meek embers smothered by pieces of
 wood

Embers that chatted amongst each other trying to produce a flame together
 I'm not sure when we will reignite that flame once more

But I do know

Even when there is only one last ember glowing
 The fire between us will never completely burn out

Matilda W

THIS TEA PARTY IS MOST ABSURD

EVERYTHING IS RANDOM AND NOTHING MOVES FORWARD

ALL AROUND THE TABLE THERE ARE ANIMALS WITH ONE BRAIN CELL

PEOPLE TELLING STORIES ABOUT GIRLS LIVING IN A TREACLE WELL

ANIMALS WEAR WATCHES, TIME IS COMPLETELY STUCK

RANDOM WORDS AND PHRASES THAT MAKE YOU WANT TO CHUCK

TEAPOTS AT THE PARTY MEMBERS SO THEIR NECK IS A ROAD OF BENDS

YOU WOULDN'T WANT THIS TEA PARTY TO BE THE ONE THAT YOU ATTEND

Zach B-T

The Milky Way—my version of what had happened in the past...

Around 13 billion years ago there was nothing but one planet and a black surface. No stars, no sun, no light—just boring darkness. A girl, around sixteen years old, wanted to get rid of the infinite darkness. She lived on a planet where there was no light or love. People were freaking out, they didn't know what to do. Or rather aliens because there were no humans back then. Not even the sixteen year old girl was a human, not even her. The inhabitants of this planet began to be very aggressive and killed each other to achieve meaning in life. But the girl knew that there is no success with violence.



Pixabay

Once a dangerous dragon visited their planet and started to burn it with his fire. Everyone was begging for help but there was no escape, that was for sure. After a few weeks of constant fear the girl decided to step in and approached the dragon with slow, short steps. For some reason the dragon had no intention of attacking her. He crouched down in front of her legs so she could climb onto his back. But she wanted to know first why he chose her and not someone else. Then he told her that she was the chosen one because he felt that she was a good being and needed someone like that to be able to change the world. ‘Change the world?’, she said. He explained to her his plan in full detail. After a few minutes of silence she asked: ‘Why do you need me then, if you can do it by yourself?’ His voice was so smooth and calming when he started to talk: ‘I must form a friendship and confidence with some other being, so that this dust will free itself from me. When the plan will work out we will have the ability to form stars with the dust that will come out of me. So I chose you because you’re the only one I can trust here.’ The dragon could get rid of the dust only when the love of friendship reveals itself. With friendship everything was possible. ‘I’ll help you if you explain to me what stars are’, she said and waited for the answer. ‘Stars are about the same size as your planet is and produce light that will make you want to live until your last breath. Light will open your eyes and you will automatically look at the world from a different perspective. Stars are the most beautiful things that can ever exist. Trust me, you’ll have a lot of fun.’ The girl took a deep breath and climbed onto the dragon’s back...

[Read the Rest](#)

Samaha H

The eye is an age old symbol for both outer and inner vision.

A wonderful colourful portrayal of the colours the eye can detect to create beautiful images for our brains.

One can't help imagining the face that this eye might belong to.



Emma G



Inside this well-drawn profile can be seen lots of positive and encouraging symbols. Big dreams, music and aspiration are here. A figure leaps over a rainbow, the sun shines on the blue sea as the waves lap imaginatively inside the chin.

This is a delightful portrait of positivity.



A skilful recreation of Henri Matisse's painting of his wife (Amélie Matisse/Parayre).

The original came to be known as The Green Stripe or Madame Matisse.

Matisse rebelled against the convention of painting carefully merged colours. These would often hide the individual brushmarks. Matisse made these marks important in their own right.

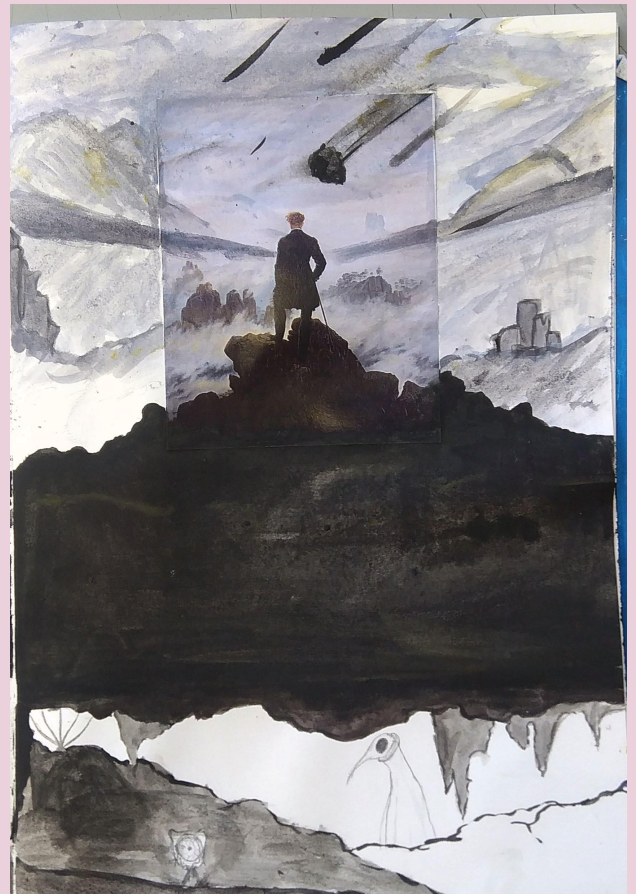
This recreation is accurately observed, the colours sit well together, the whole piece has a clear authority of its own.

The central image is a painting by Caspar David Friedrich (1774 - 1840) and is called The Wayfarer Above a Sea of Mist. It was painted in about 1818.

Friedrich's work often portrays landscapes with awe-inspiring and haunting themes. Here this Wayfarer finds himself looking out on to a mysterious landscape.

The additions extend both the borders -note the change in colour- and the vision of the wayfarer now he looks out on a dynamic and cosmic scene as asteroids fly past him. These asteroids were not in the original 1818 picture.

Pan H



Nina M-R

The floral design is confident, the flowers appear to push the buildings way back into the distance. Nature in bloom is the main theme of this successful piece.

The composition is held cleverly together by the three circular forms, the two seed heads and the glowing evening sun. Although black and white there is certainly a sense of colour in this work.



Anima K



This is a very well-composed piece which lets the imagination wander in a fairytale-like land. The natural forms are beautifully portrayed to have a story book charm.

The piece has a confident use both of line and wash giving a variety of textures and mark making.



Recipes with stories

Recipe for Falafel and Hummus

I love falafels but this recipe is my favourite.

Falafel is not only accidentally vegan but it is also gluten free! This recipe has been passed down from my grandma who loves to cook and bake but she truly loves the rich green colour when you bite into this falafel. These falafels in particular reflect my grandmother's heritage from the Middle East. There are many different ways of making falafel - all of them delicious. Falafel is a Middle Eastern street food made with chickpeas, herbs and spices. It is usually served with pita bread, a fresh salad and hummus.

This recipe makes approximately 40 falafels

Ingredients for Falafel

- 500g dried chickpeas
- 1 whole lime
- 5 large cloves of roughly chopped garlic
- 1 teaspoon of coriander powder
- 1 teaspoon of cumin powder
- A bunch of fresh coriander
- A bunch of fresh parsley
- 1 teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda
- 2 teaspoons of salt
- 2 teaspoons of gram flour (chickpea flour)
- 1 roughly chopped white onion
- Oil for frying- approx 2-3 cups of oil



Ingredients for the Hummus

- 1 can of chickpeas
- 2 cloves of garlic (to taste)
- Half a lime
- salt to taste (at least half a teaspoon)
- 3 tablespoons of Tahini
- 4 tablespoons of olive oil



Making the Falafel

Soak the dried chickpeas for at least 8 hours. Add all the ingredients in a mixer and pulverise until nicely mixed together (you should have a lovely, green thick paste). Then heat the oil in a wok until it's hot on a medium to high heat. Using two spoons, use a spoonful of the mix to create the shape of the falafel, this will form an oblong shape. Then carefully drop them into the hot oil for around 1 minute on each side until nicely browned. Have a bowl prepared with a kitchen towel to soak any excess oil. Serve with hummus, pita bread and salad.

Making the Hummus

Drain the can of chickpeas and add them into a mixer with the rest of the ingredients. Then pulverise until beautifully smooth, taste to make sure it is to your liking. Serve with a drizzle olive oil and a sprinkle of paprika.

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By Jada S

Healthy Cereal Alternative



[Pixabay](#)



[Pexels](#)

Most of us in the mornings are in a rush or are just too sleepy to cook so we have cereal with milk for breakfast. It is a good option. It's fast, it's reliable, tastes sweet and makes you feel good...until you look at the back of the box and see how the nutrients are distributed. Most cereals have more unhealthy nutrients in them (e.g. fats and sugars) than healthy nutrients (e.g. protein and fibre). These foods will make us feel lethargic, put us at more risk of getting sick, and will make it harder to perform day-to-day activities. Not to mention, making us less healthy overall. Still, after looking at it we continue to consume the calorie-dense meal because we have no other option. But, there actually is another healthier option. Don't worry, it won't just be some lettuce or some other bitter vegetable. No, it is simple oats which take 5 min to put together in the evening and by morning you have delicious, healthy breakfast.

For the recipe you will need :

1. 40g oats
2. 100g greek yogurt
3. 200ml milk (could be cow, almond or vegan milk, no difference)
4. 1 ½ tablespoons of milk powder product eg Nesquik, Horlicks, etc

Note: to give it flavour you should add extra ingredients. Some ideas include:

- Chocolate - a teaspoon of cocoa powder
- Pb & J - a tablespoon of peanut butter and a teaspoon of jelly (preferably low calorie)
- Coconut - coconut powder and 2 crushed digestive biscuits

Toppings: not needed but if you want you can add:

- Chopped fruits eg strawberry, raspberry
- Crushed nuts
- Cinnamon

Recipe:

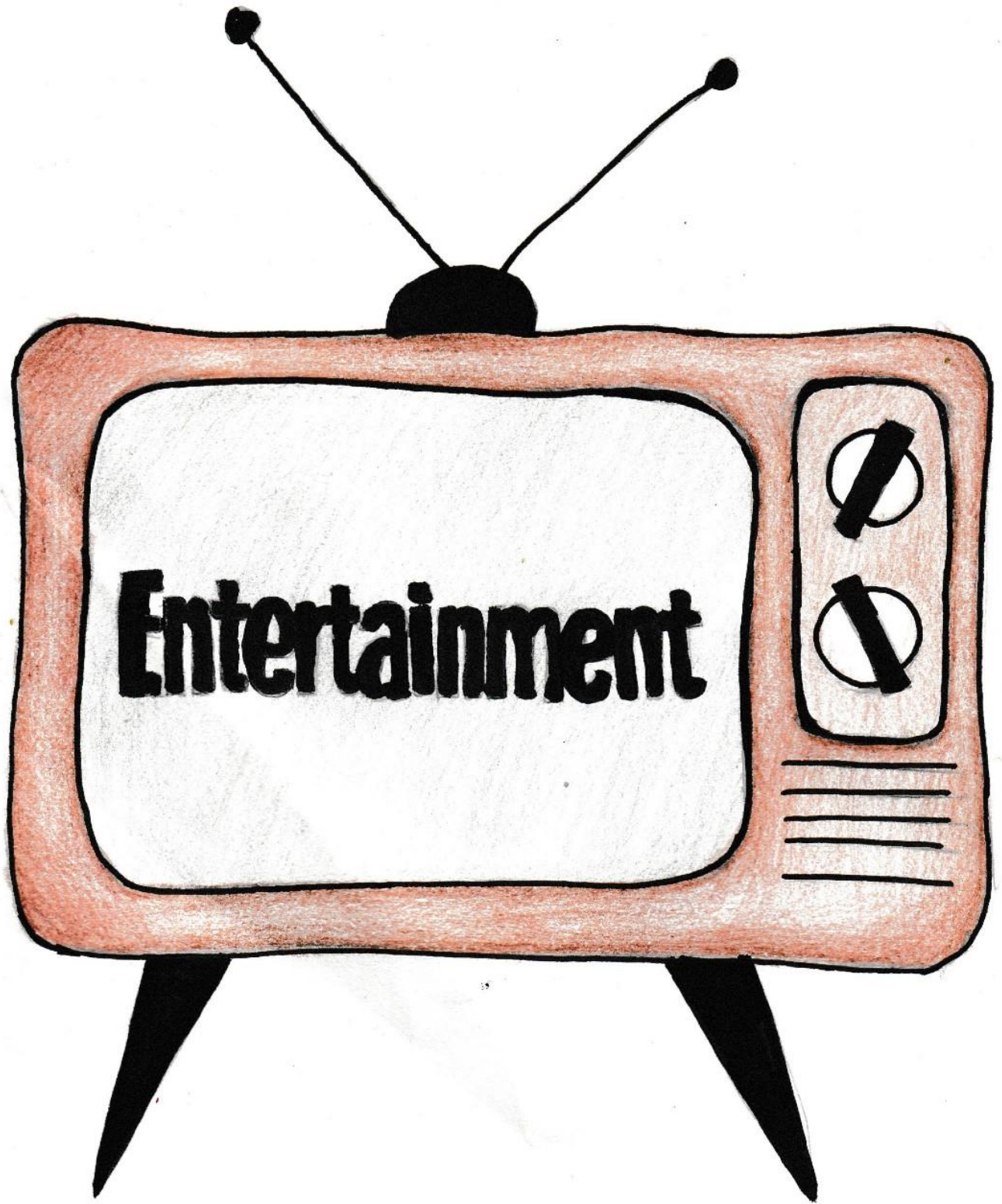
1. Mix required ingredients and options together in a jar or large mug and stir well
2. Put in the fridge overnight or for minimum 2 hours
3. Take out and enjoy

Reference/source idea:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmsTFJ6B-k2Ks6KmPWZVAOA>

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By Lov K





Spring



Word Scramble

DRBBI
 WOSLRF
 AWRMRE
 AIRPL
 RHMAG
 REEGN
 SRGPNI
 NGDARE
 IWNORBA
 OOBML

Word Search

M	P	N	E	S	T	A	I	H	N	F	D
B	U	K	Q	A	P	N	D	R	A	I	N
I	Z	D	L	H	E	W	R	E	R	C	B
R	G	T	X	E	F	R	O	G	M	J	U
D	N	F	R	B	A	S	P	R	I	N	G
S	A	G	D	W	Y	F	J	H	B	O	S
T	E	L	K	O	B	L	D	S	M	P	C
N	V	E	S	R	H	G	I	X	A	B	W
Y	G	T	D	M	O	L	P	F	Y	E	I
S	R	V	A	S	J	K	I	T	E	C	N
A	O	M	E	L	T	H	B	R	S	W	D
C	W	U	P	I	D	F	T	M	Q	A	R



BUDS	GREEN	MELT	SPRING
BURS	GROW	MUD	TREE
BIDS	KITE	NEST	WREN
DROP	LEAF	RAIN	WIND
FROG	MAY	SEEDS	WORM

GONCHAROV: THE GREATEST MAFIA MOVIE NEVER MADE

Goncharov (1973) is one of Martin Scorsese's most prolific films, along with *The King of Comedy* and other famous films. It has an all-star cast including Robert de Niro and Al Pacino, but one of the most important factors of this film's brilliance is the fact that it never existed in the first place.

It all started in April 2020, when tumblr-user *zootycoon* posted an image of a bootleg shoe they had bought which had the title for a movie, *Goncharov: the greatest mafia movie ever made*, in place of the logo. But what really kicked off the trend was the Goncharov poster, created by user *beelzeebub* in November 2022.



Beelzeebub, Tumblr

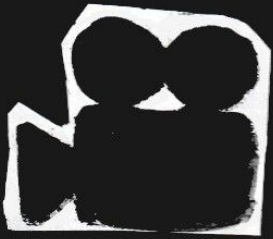


-Zootycoon, Tumblr

This started a wave of hundreds of unique creations, showing what Goncharov could be. Soundtracks were created, trailers, shots, plot points. The Goncharov concept was quickly expanding with so many incredibly creative and well-made ideas.

And with this, Goncharov grew to be something greater than any real Mafia movie could ever be. This joke idea has ended up bringing so many people together, sparked so many creative endeavours, and made so many people laugh, that no movie could ever beat it. With it being a joint creation, whatever anyone wants to make about it is true. People have made their own perfect movie in the world of Goncharov, and that's what makes it *The Greatest Mafia Movie Never Made*.

By Remy T



Film Reviews

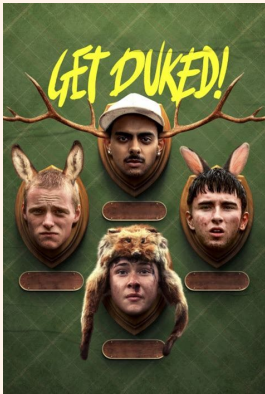


Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) → 5/5

Puss is on his last life, and he needs the last wish to get the others back. But there's one problem, everyone else wants the wish too! Puss is joined by Kitty Softpaws and Perrito on this exciting journey of fate!

Review:

WOW! This movie is so beautiful! It looks truly amazing with the watercolour style and all the colours! And not only is it beautiful, but it's funny, exciting, perfectly paced, and fun! This movie really blew me away. It's crazy how they managed to include 3 villains and still have them all work and not have it feel bloated. There's also an emotional core with Puss' character arc, which is handled really well. WATCH THIS MOVIE!!!!



Get Duked! (15) → 4.5/5

Four teenagers have a chaotic journey through the Scottish highlands as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. Three were forced to do it as a punishment for bad behaviour, and one signed up. Chaos ensues as a conservative land owner starts hunting them down through the highlands.

Review:

This movie had pretty much a laugh per minute, and considering the 87 minute run time, that's quite a lot of laughs! This movie is silly and stupid, but it doesn't try to hide that and is all the better for it. It's a wild ride from start to finish and you won't regret watching it!



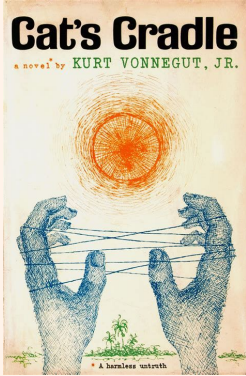
Aftersun (12) → 3/5

A girl remembers her holiday to Turkey with her dad. VCR tapes and memories show us the story of this melancholy holiday.

Review:

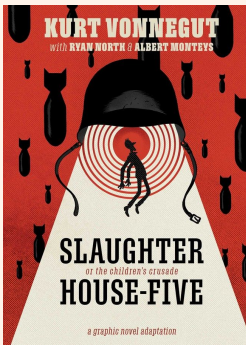
I don't know, you might like it. There sure are a lot of five star reviews for it so I must be the odd one out. But this movie is just so predictable. It was a super formulaic art house film; with the stilted dialogue, long lasting shots of the environment, droning synth at seemingly random moments. It's a movie that feels a lot better after you've watched it, but the actual viewing experience was pretty boring.

Book Reviews



Cat's Cradle → 4/5
 Cat's Cradle is a science-fiction story by Kurt Vonnegut. It follows a journalist trying to find out about an invention created by the scientist Felix Hoenikker. It's a small scale story that somehow still encompasses the whole world.

Review:
 This book is simultaneously funny, sad, and insightful. Don't let the genre deter you, this is not a story about aliens and space warriors. It's a story about people, community, and harmless untruths. It has a lot to say about religion and hope, but it's a very enjoyable read. I think everyone needs to read this book, and much more from Kurt Vonnegut, my favourite author.



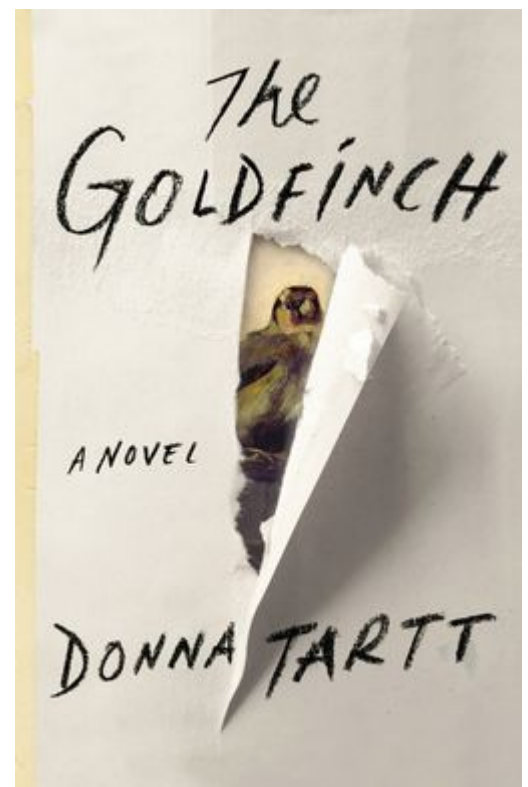
Slaughterhouse - Five
 The graphic novel
 5/5
 Listen, Billy Pilgrim has become unstuck in time. In Kurt Vonnegut's magnum opus, we follow a traumatised soldier, optometrist, and zoo attraction as he flows through time at random points, unattached to a linear progress from A to B.

Review:
 Despite the premise, this book manages to keep you emotionally attached throughout the whole thing. It basically acted as a sort of therapy for Kurt, opening up about all of the crazy and horrible people he met and wartime horrors he went through. It's a book with some adult topics, but it's well worth a read. Both versions carry emotional weight in different places. The repeated phrase 'So it goes.' feels more impactful in the book, but some of the imagery in the Graphic Novel carries a lot of power. Pick a version and read as soon as possible!

THE GOLDFINCH - 5/5

The Goldfinch is an introspective and twisted tale of Theodore Decker's life, as he learns to grow up without the guiding hand of his mother who has recently passed away in an explosion that occurred at her favourite museum. The thing is, Theo was there when this explosion took place - and he managed to escape, miraculously unscathed - but wielding one of the museum's most sought after paintings. In need of a home and somewhere to hide this painting, Theodore Decker is left aimless in daunting New York City.

I think this book is classic-worthy, for the future. It is absolutely beautifully written, and has some of the most amazing character writing and development, as well as having some of the best plot I have ever read. Tartt is nothing short of a genius, and I am so glad that her work does not go uncelebrated because everyone should read her work at some point in their lives. This book, dare I say it, changed my life a bit. It definitely changed my outlook on writing and the world in general.



SHATTER ME - 4.5/5

The 'Shatter Me' trilogy, and the 'Restore Me' trilogy, are two captivating sets of books written by the author Tahereh Mafi. Following the dystopian story of Juliet, a young girl who has been taken in at a mental facility for being the cause of a child's death, and the reason her family are regarded with distaste and avoidance - she seemingly has no one who sees her as anything more than an animal. Until a mysterious boy is sent to watch over her in her quarters, and she is sent off to the lair that is Aaron Warner's property. Battles and relationships arise in this terribly beautiful sequence of books, as Juliet learns to master her craft, one of which could take over the world.

REVIEW

Personally, I believe these books are an absolute must read for any dystopian fantasy, YA enjoyers. They are perfect for anyone, and they have a set of extremely loveable characters who at times you just want to punch. But that makes them the best, am I right? The pacing keeps you on the edge of your seat and seeing Juliet progress from being such a weak, defenceless girl to a powerful woman is just wonderful.



THE FOLK OF AIR TRILOGY

The Folk of Air trilogy tells tales of twisted hierarchy, fae, battles and the history of Elfame. Jude Duarte was stolen from her home as a child, by none other than the man who killed her parents. With only the clothes on her back, and her sisters with her, Jude has to adapt to life as faerie royalty. Little does she know how good she will become at this.

The Folk of Air trilogy is one I recommend every time someone asks me for beginner fantasy recommendations. I think this trilogy of books has the most amazing world-building, character-building, and an extremely enticing plot that is a stimulus for reading other fantasy. It is also one of the few series of books that I believe increases in quality of writing and plot throughout the series, rather than decreasing in quality.





OPINION

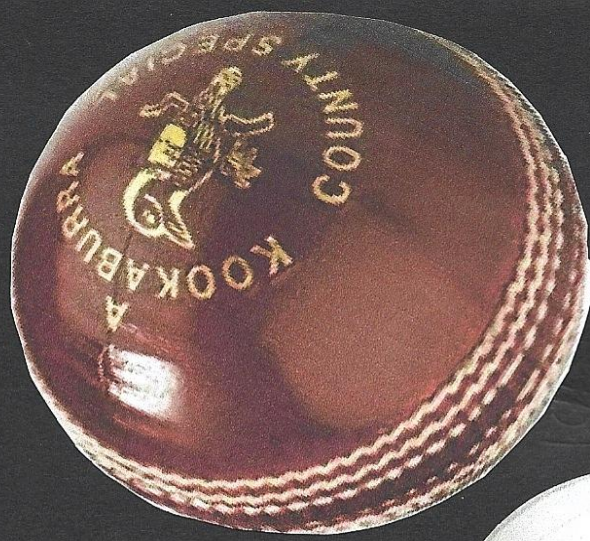
The Tulip Fever

To anyone interested in a certain kind of history, the one found in random Wikipedia rabbit holes or select Youtube channels, the name 'Tulipmania' may ring a certain bell; one of economic follies and woes, with comparisons to modern phenomena such as crypto, all wrapped up in 1600's Netherlands. I won't aim to provide an in-depth explanation or analysis - there are far too many brilliant articles and videos for that - but will give a brief introduction for the newcomers, or a recap for the rest. For anyone interested, further links will be provided at the bottom of the article.

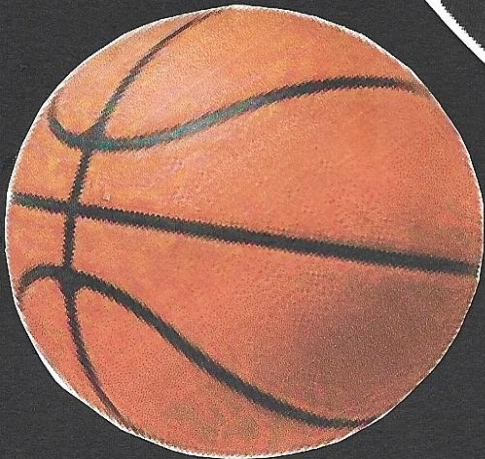
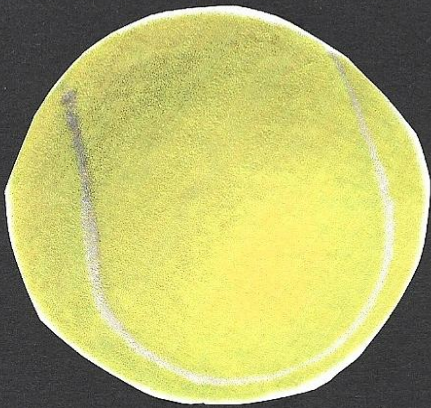
It was 1634, so the story goes, and a newly independent United Provinces, a precursor to the modern Netherlands, was relishing the new found opportunities of its wealth. The burgeoning state, with the highest per capita income in the world and hordes of wealthy merchants, was booming. With no landed aristocracy, meaning with prestige directly tied to the land they owned, the upper class was formed of wealthy merchants, profiting by massive margins from the Dutch East India Company and new colonies in Indonesia. There was just one problem though; what to spend all that money on?

You see, the new Dutch Republic, at least in leadership, was largely Calvinist, a protestant theology and relatively new at the time. Under Calvinism, the large, decorative, even frivolous displays that adorned most Catholic churches were banned, in addition to all images of saints or holy figures. This too covered art and music created in the service of religion, and, as an example of how different the Calvinist Netherlands were from the surrounding monarchies of Europe, hard, honest work was seen as one of the holiest actions someone could do. If you were a merchant, wanting to spend some of your vast wealth, this posed a problem. You couldn't sponsor works of religious art, or fund a new altar to show your devotion; you could buy a house, but you can only really have so many; funding a piece of religious music was frowned upon; and a frugal life was expected of a Calvinist, so to flaunt your wealth too opulently, with carriages and gilded furniture, was seen as improper. The tulip provided the perfect solution; it required work to plant and nurture, was a creation of God, so couldn't be sinful, and, perhaps most of all, it was attractive, and could grace any garden beautifully. And so the craze began.

[Read the Rest](#)



S P O R T



Blatch Enters Finals in Bouldering Competition

On the 18th of January, twelve Blatch climbers competed in the Boulder Brighton annual Inter-Schools competition. They were each given a score based on the number of climbs flashed*, completed or zoned* out of the twenty five set.

Blatch scored second in qualifiers (Dorothy Stringer won by a small margin of 174 points).

Unfortunately, we didn't have as much success in the finals- some competitors were members of the GB team. Despite this, Sadie, Toby and Charlotte collectively scored 5 tops and 7 zones, an impressive feat as the routes set were incredibly challenging.

The school came fifth out of the six schools in the under 16's category.

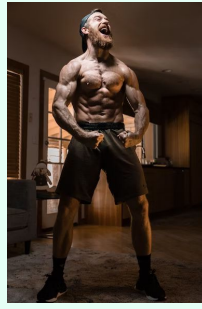
*Flashed- when you complete a climb the first time you try it.

*Zone- a hold around the middle of the boulder. If reached, it gives the climber some points but not the same amount as if they were to complete the whole climb.

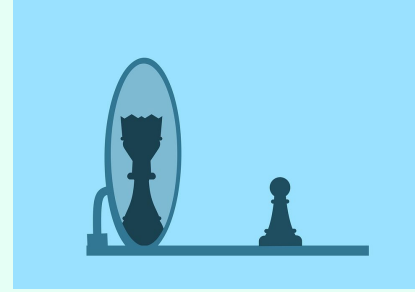
Should celebrities be allowed to use steroids?



[Pixabay](#)



[Unsplash](#)



[Pixabay](#)

It is common knowledge that many popular people like celebrities, actors, and influencers use steroids or other types of performance enhancing drugs (PEDs). We see it so often that we don't necessarily question it. In fact, some youtubers even base their content on discussing how they think an individual is "Natty or Not". Nevertheless, the fact that it is commonplace doesn't affect whether it is right or wrong. Unnatural physiques in the media have ripple effects on the viewers. This article will go over the negatives of influencers using PEDs and reasons they might choose to do so.

First off, let's clear one misconception. Steroids and PEDs don't automatically make you look good. They simply make it easier to get in shape and give results which are near impossible and sometimes even impossible to gain naturally. Technically using these is cheating as you are essentially doing less work to look the same as someone who might do 1.5 times your work. This is why bodybuilding competitions don't allow them (plus health risks). But this isn't Mr. Olympia, this is social media and nothing is stopping influencers from using steroids. The fitness industry is very competitive and not having a slight edge might cost you a career. Influencers reach their natural peak but still feel like they can't compete with the rest online. So they turn to steroids. It is understandable why they would like to be discreet about it as if they reveal the truth they will lose a large following. However, influencers like Noel Deyzel prove that it is possible to be successful while being honest.

Others take PEDs to look impressive and sell their products be it programmes, supplements, cook books, or anything else. The recent Liver King incident has made people question who to trust. Brian Johnson (aka Liver King) has gained a large following online for promoting an "ancestral lifestyle" and eating unusual food including animal organs. He has always claimed to be natural and got angry when accused of lying. He had his own products that he sold. Not long ago, though, his order of \$11,000 for the human growth hormone omnitrope got leaked. His career fumbled and he was also sued by customers for lying about his products and his results.

The most important discussion point about PEDs is body standards. These celebrities create unrealistic and unachievable body standards. No matter how hard you work you will never look like them. I'm not talking about one gender either. Boys might feel bad that they don't have a shredded 8 pack, a V-taper or big arms. Girls might get upset when they see a woman with a thin waist, an hourglass look, or big breasts. They don't realize that these influencers are cheating. Not only does this decrease self confidence but it might also make the viewers feel like there is no point in trying. However, you could argue that this does the opposite and sets a goal for others. John Cena for example has rumors about him and his strength is suspected to be unnatural but he serves as an inspiration to so many children who would be heartbroken to find out he was cheating and they can't be like him.

Overall, I suggest to any and every fitness influencer/celebrity to have a good look at themselves in the mirror and think about how they affect others with their actions.

Reference article:

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By Lov K

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2022/12/06/liver-king-steroids-apology-ancestral-diet/>



Wellbeing.

5 steps to wellbeing

Step #1 - Connect with others

Maintaining relationships with others can help build a sense of belonging and self-worth. Emotional support is needed to prevent loneliness and help us deal with difficult things. If possible, try to spend more time with family/carers and friends every day. Engaging in conversations means switching off technology when talking to people, and asking questions about their interests and problems.

Step #2 - Be physically active

Getting exercise is crucial in maintaining good health - mental and physical. It is proved to release chemicals in your brain which help to positively change your mood, as well as improving self esteem. Keeping a healthy body can improve all aspects of your life, making it easier to move and manage various health conditions. Exercise can be difficult, so it's important to find something active that you enjoy - such as going on walks or playing sports.



Step #3 - Give to others

Giving to others is one of the most important ways to improve our wellbeing and connections. Giving gifts, no matter how small, can show that we are thinking of someone - but also, giving someone your time and attention makes them feel loved and appreciated. Volunteering is an honourable way of giving back to your community, and can give you a sense of purpose and self worth.

Step #4 - Learn new skills

Learning or improving skills can benefit mental health in several ways, including boosting self-confidence and self-esteem, helping to create a sense of purpose, and helping to connect with others (which is also step #1).



Step #5 - Take notice

Being mindful means slowing down everyday life, and appreciating small things that make us happy. A great way to notice and admire things is to draw or paint them, carefully recording the shape and detail of an object on paper. You can also write notes on your phone or a notebook when you notice people being kind, or even an interesting bird. Being aware of your surroundings and body can help to manage feelings of stress and worry.



♥ Thank you! ♥

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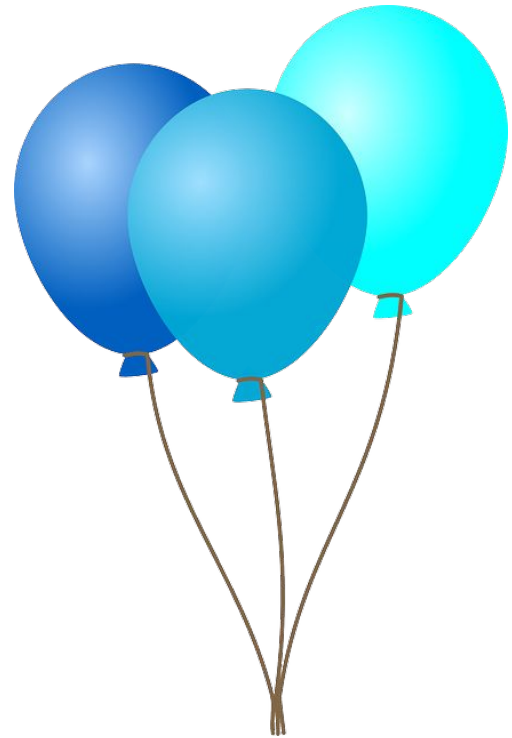
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What is the impact of the strike?

Young people have already missed out on so much of their education as a result of the pandemic. The NFER (**N**ational **F**oundation for **E**ducational **R**esearch) says that children are 2-3 months behind. The EEF (**E**ducation **E**ndowment **F**oundation) say “The gap between disadvantaged children and their peers has widened.” The strikes (plus an extra bank holiday for the King’s coronation) means that students will have missed 5 days - a whole week of school this year. This is a significant chunk of time for student education. For Year 11, this could impact on GCSE results, as well as everyone else. The strike also impacts families, especially those with younger children. Many parents will have to take days off work (annual leave/holiday or not get paid) to stay at home to look after their children. This especially has an impact on families who might be struggling a bit more with financial issues.

Making the decision?

With all of this information, we know that our Blatch teachers and thousands of others across the country will have made a really difficult decision to strike. Teachers will not have made their decision lightly - not only will they lose a days' pay for every day they go on strike, but they care about us and our education and won't want us to fall behind. Teachers across the country also care about the whole education system so they want experts in their field to be teaching their subjects. They don't want there to be teachers leaving the profession or for schools to not have enough TAs.

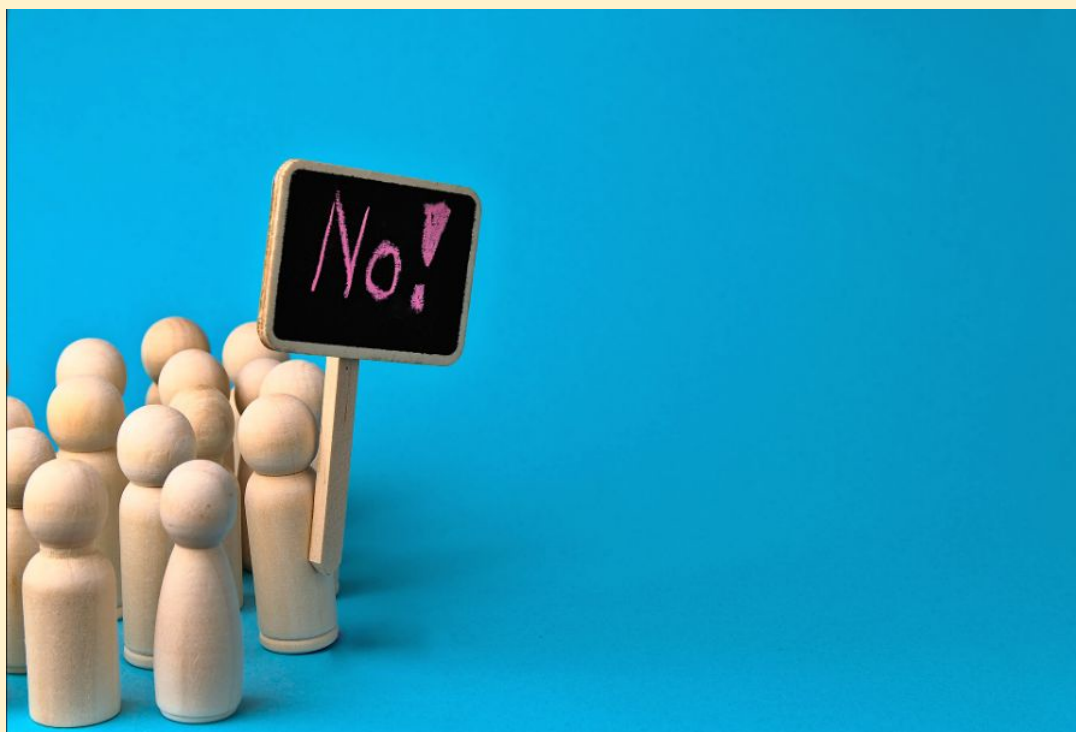
The government says they have given extra money and they can't pay teachers, firefighters and nurses above inflation pay rises. Technically public sector pay is at its highest rate and giving teachers (and nurses, firefighters etc) above average pay will keep inflation high, which means everything costs more for everyone and doesn't help the economy.

So what next?

We wait to see if the strikes do have an impact. Will the government give schools more money or do we have more days of possible strikes ahead? Either way we know this is a really difficult decision for our teachers to make.

Conclusion

We leave the conclusion up to you Dear Reader and please email us with your thoughts. We are looking to publish letters on the subject in our next edition.



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So which side to take? Let's look at the criticism of Extinction Rebellion (XR) to start - primarily that it is too white, too middle-class, and too extreme, focussing on the former to begin. As [this Independent article says](#), lack of diversity is a recognised issue within the general green movement; the environment profession as a whole is said to be the second-worst in diversity out of all industries, and students from an ethnic minority are far less likely to pursue a career in conservation; yet it persists. The reasons for this are diverse - pun unintended, but largely seem to stem from Extinction Rebellion being, fundamentally, a rural and semi-rural movement - set up in Stroud and rooted in a new-age hippy mentality. The organisation is said to ['lack inclusive cultures'](#), being largely formed in small village pubs, leading to its domination by white, often more privileged, members of society. This privilege also comes into greater focus when looking at XR's strategy of sacrificial arrest; in essence, they believe that by showing the willingness to go to prison for their cause, people will take their message more seriously - to a white person, who made up 9 in 10 of the activists arrested by the Met Police in April, and who face the [lowest average sentencing length](#), this may be fine. But to a person belonging to an ethnic minority, who face [a doubled chance of worse prison experiences](#), longer sentences and are more likely to end up there in the first place, this is rarely possible. In fact, this issue has become so decisive that [Wretched of the Earth](#), a coalition of indigenous and ethnic minority groups working on climate justice, publicly published a letter, calling on XR to consider 'an ongoing analysis of privilege, as well as the reality of police and state violence'. This combined seems a damning assessment of the group, but there are positives. Some, such as anti-racism campaigner Priyamvada Gopal, have said 'important discussions around race and geopolitics are starting to happen, and that is welcome', suggesting a more optimistic attitude, and it is vital to note that XR's own website actively denounces racism, along with all other forms of discrimination, as a [core principle](#). Ultimately, it would appear this side of the debate is up for speculation; is XR a rigid organisation fixed in its upbringings in a white-dominated space, or a willing and flexible movement, eager to unite all people in a unified cause?

The next point is class, and seems, perhaps at first or perhaps not, fairly simple. XR say their movement is dominated by the middle class because working class people cannot afford to, and the rich do not want to. Their detractors would argue that the protesters simply do not care for working-class members of society and are a nuisance that get in the way of ordinary working folk.

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The [Canning Town Protest](#), in which two XR protesters scaled a train and had to be dragged off by working-class commuters, drew this issue into the limelight.

The primary issue is similar to the one regarding race, where for a fully effective climate protest, support must be drawn from all areas of society, including ones typically overlooked by the middle-class white people dominating in XR. So what should it be? Someone already living off a low income in many cases can simply just not afford to protest, if they want to protect their family. Of course, XR would argue that climate is the existential threat and one that affects all, but that is countered again by it, at least to a commuter in East London, being a future worry. [Energy bills are now](#). [So is the mortgage](#). This brings me to the point raised at the top of the paragraph; is XR so middle-class because they are the only ones who can afford to, and is this really a bad thing? Protesters for XR are by no means unaware of social inequality, or ignorant that the large-scale global change needed to happen to prevent climate change will affect millions. If they, the middle-class, are able to protest, then they should - to fight for the rights of those who cannot, to fight for change, for reform, for a better future. But here lies the issue. What happens if XR don't? They might fight for climate justice, but will they think of the factory workers, at least some of whom will have inspired concepts for how to reduce the carbon impact of their occupation, or may be adversely affected by too quick change that forces their factory, their employment, to rethink its entire structure? And what of the lorry drivers, unemployed, small scale craftspeople and so on? If we ignore them, it seems, we ignore an ocean of untapped wealth, knowledge and expertise. And so, because this is such a similar issue to the one regarding race in the same organisation, I'll end on the same question; is XR, either deliberately or unintentionally, standing in the way of 'working folk', or is its homogeneity of the middle class just because they are the only ones who can afford to, and so, is it able or willing to unite all people in a unified cause? For both race and class, that seems to be the question.

My last point is on extremism, not referring to XR's motives, but their tactics of mass disruption and protest. Is it effective, and is it moral? On the second, you have figures such as Piers Morgan, along with the current government, that argue all extreme action does is alienate and endanger innocent citizens, preventing them from seeing relatives on time for making them late for work, and so work to curb these actions with measures such as the Public Order Bill (see earlier link).

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Therefore, their actions are immoral, as they endanger the public to promote a cause the government would say it is already [well-focused on](#). Of course in rebuttal, XR would say that, while they understand the struggles that they may cause, climate change is the real threat, able to cause long-term damage to, or destroy, modern society and the government is still [not doing enough](#). In this view, any publicity is good publicity, and publicity is sorely needed.

Therefore, XR's actions *are* moral, as they recognise the imminent, or already upon us, existential threat, and see this as far greater than the damage from any potential disruption. But, talking about disruption, let's return to the Public Order Bill, the government's attempt to limit the activities that in many ways define XR, from large scale protests to locking or gluing themselves to objects. It aims to clamp down on these through the expansion of police powers, from being able to theoretically arrest people for [tying up a loud dog, or locking up a bicycle](#), with the aim to prevent public disturbance. Again it is a polarising issue: on one side the UK government and right-wing media; on the other, [democracy charities](#) and bodies such as the [Council of Europe](#). So I pose a question; do you follow XR's line that large-scale, disruptive protest is necessary, and that a draconian response by the government will affect freedom of speech and protest, or the government's view that XR only serve to endanger lives and bring very little to the actual table? Who you believe will largely depend on your views, upbringing and social group, but in reality it could be seen as rather pointless, at least in relation to XR; on 31st December 2022, We Quit was blazoned across XR's website, as they announced a shift away from public disruption as a primary tactic. Although it is only temporarily, and only away from it as a *primary* tactic, it is crucial nonetheless. Linking directly to the first part of the question posed at the top of this paragraph, it would seem XR, in the face of [falling polls](#), and questions about the effectiveness of such tactics, have made a, or are trialling, a switch. However, this does nothing to discredit the debate; as said, the switch may only be temporary, and other protest movements on the same issue, such as Just Stop Oil and Insulate Britain, still continue with similar disruptive protest.

So, to end. We have covered the struggles XR has faced and faces, from class to race to action, often rooted in how it was formed. We have also seen how XR plans to counter these issues, or the steps taken against them by external forces, such as the UK government. I can only hope something has been learned.

Sources on the next page

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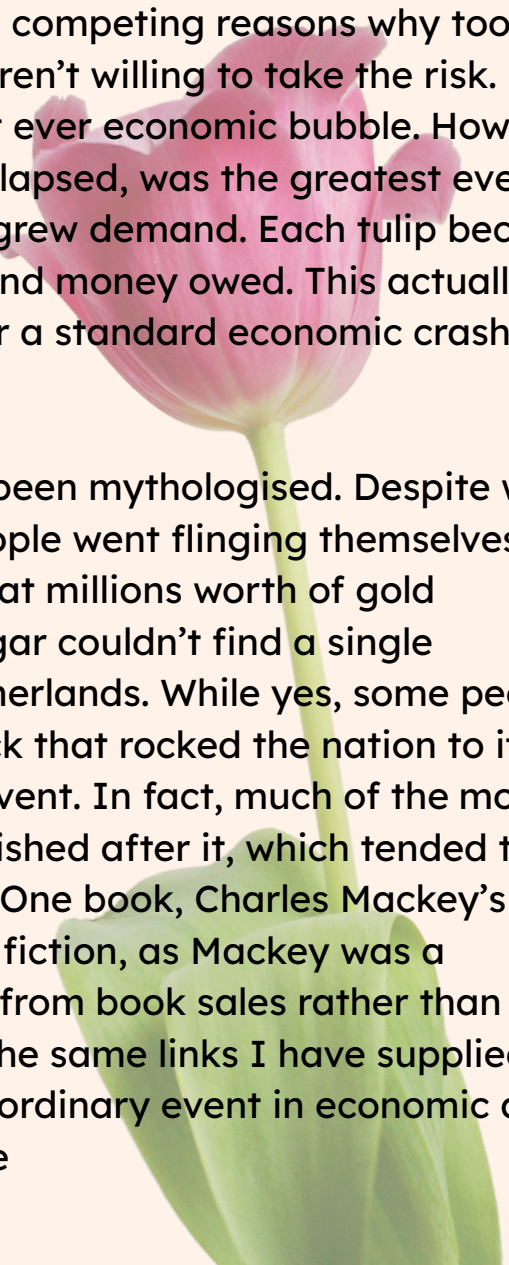
Because of this, a craze started. Tulips adorned the garden and windowboxes of wealthy merchants, and a clear hierarchy emerged; above simpler, single-coloured varieties came the 'broken tulips', those with coloured streaks on any number of backgrounds. Today, it is now known this effect is the result of a virus that sickens and weakens the bulb, making it less able to produce offshoots. This in turn reduced the amount available, making them higher in demand. Prices in some cases shot up to extraordinary amounts; in the book *Madness of Crowds*, although no doubt a sensationalist telling, it was reported a single bulb going for 5 hectares, 12 football fields, of land. Even one of the richest men in the country at the time, Adriaen Pauw, could only afford a few dozen of the finest, relying on a complex system of mirrors to make it appear his gardens were full of hundreds. Entire financial concepts sprang up around the tulips, such as the futures market, selling a specified object for a specified cost at a specified time in the future. Costs rose and rose, reaching higher and higher, till one day, perhaps to be expected, it fell.

Dramatically, too. In just a few weeks, a majority of tulip prices had crashed; in just a few months, some had dropped up to 95%. There are competing reasons why too; in one view, prices simply rose too high, and buyers weren't willing to take the risk. If this were true, the tulip fever may indeed be the first ever economic bubble. However, another is that the crop of 1637, when the market collapsed, was the greatest ever. While seemingly brilliant in the short run, supply outgrew demand. Each tulip became less and less valuable, causing defaulting on debts and money owed. This actually refutes the idea of tulip fever being a 'bubble'; rather a standard economic crash, albeit with tulips.

Finally, what I want to address is how the story has been mythologised. Despite what you may have heard, it is highly improbable that people went flinging themselves into canals or off rooftops in despair at their losses, or that millions worth of gold vanished overnight. In fact, the historian Anne Goldgar couldn't find a single bankruptcy relating to tulips in the whole of the Netherlands. While yes, some people did lose money, the overall image of a financial shock that rocked the nation to its core is overstated, and little really came out of the event. In fact, much of the modern conceptions of the event come from pamphlets published after it, which tended to denounce it as against the moral values of the time. One book, Charles Mackey's *Madness of Crowds* (referenced to earlier), is largely fiction, as Mackey was a journalist, not a scholar, and aiming to make money from book sales rather than accurate research. But overall, I will leave you with the same links I have supplied myself with, to make your own account, of this extraordinary event in economic and world history.

Sources on next slide

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QL5-YbvmYLE> - The first episode of a brilliant series, by a brilliant channel

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Image 1 - unsplash

Image 2 - pixabay

Which artists from the past do you particularly admire?

Raphael and the great Renaissance artists and the Impressionists I admire but I like the work of all Creatives.

Do you have any motifs you like to hide in your work?

I regularly put 'Easter eggs' and narratives in my work. I like people exploring my paintings!

Do you ever get the desire to re-invent your style (go completely abstract for example)?

I have an Impressionistic style but like all forms of creativity from dancing to building sand castles.

What advice would you give to someone thinking of becoming an artist?

My advice would be to never give up creating, it gives your soul food and will always make you a better person.

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The dragon took off into the air and flew up into the darkness. From above, her planet looked like a small ball of gas. She couldn't believe that she spent her whole life in such a small space. 'Hold on tight, because this is not the time to worry about things that don't matter. Your life adventure has just begun.' The girl held the dragon very tight and both started to travel around the space. There it was even darker than on the girl's planet. No eyes that reflected some light. No sounds that reached her ear. Total darkness. She gripped the dragon a little tighter. Thank god she wasn't alone. The dragon was so warm and cuddly that she had nothing to worry about when she was near him. She started to trust him. And that's when it happened; the dragon began to glow. "It's almost done, just a little more and it'll be over", said the dragon with a bright smile on his muzzle. "Okay, I get it!", she shouted. After a few seconds of silence some glittery powder detached from the skin of the dragon. It was the dust with which they could form different kinds of stars. "Look, it worked!", she screamed. "It worked."

The dust spreaded all over the universe. Some of the dust formed glowing balls (stars) and some of it flew with them through the air and formed a pink, beautiful road. The girl could not believe her eyes-the view was gorgeous. Amazing. Beautiful... And so they flew together for the next few hours to form as many stars as possible and left behind the milky way...

- Emi K

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