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THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS **MAGAZINE**

termactually

In Sixth Form December 14th, **actually.**



Editor's Note



After a successful production of TERM's first ever Halloween Edition, the team was yet again ready to make another fabulous Christmas Edition!

Sixth Form life has been very busy this half term, 18th birthdays have been celebrated, driving tests have been passed and everyone is definitely ready for the Christmas holidays! With only one week to go until the break and 2021 just around the corner, we thought this would be the perfect time to release TERM's Christmas Edition.

I want to congratulate all of the Year 12's who have taken part in this edition, whether that has been writing an article, artwork or photography, you have all been so amazing! Another big thank you to anyone who helped create our Love Actually inspired front cover – it is definitely one to remember!

It has been an absolute pleasure being TERM's 2020 Editor, I have learnt and gained skills that will last me a lifetime. The whole of the 2020 team has been incredible, especially considering the year we have just had! Good luck to the Year 12's next year, I know you'll do amazing things with the magazine.

Merry Christmas!

Millie Evans

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Seasonal Shortbread

Makes 20

Ingredients

100g unsalted butter, cubed at room temperature

50g caster sugar + extra for sprinkling

150g plain flour + extra for dusting

Icing to decorate

Method

1. Preheat the oven 170C/150C Fan/Gas 3. Line the baking tray with baking paper.
2. Mix the butter, sugar and flour by hand until the mixture is like breadcrumbs. Squeeze together and create a ball with the dough.
3. Dust your surface with the extra flour. Gently roll the dough to around 5mm thick. Cut shapes with your Christmas biscuit cutters. Place the biscuits onto the biscuit tray, use a fork to create imprints and sprinkle with the remaining caster sugar.
4. Leave to cool in the fridge for 15 minutes. Bake for 15-20 minutes until pale and golden brown.
5. Transfer the biscuits onto a wire rack, leave to cool, decorate and serve.

GEN Z

Discovers the true meaning of Christmas



Despite the fearful headlines, Christmas 2020 is not cancelled. In fact, I think Christmas this year will be more important than ever to many of us. Due to the coronavirus crisis this year, I feel that Gen Z have changed the way we are approaching the festive season, with priorities and attitudes shifting away from ourself and towards more important themes such as charity and family. We are a generation that have a deep understanding that you have to go out into the world and do well, but also that you have to go out into the world and do good.

If you are still feeling the holiday spirit, you can make this time of year just as special even while safely distanced. It is often so easy to focus on what we can't do right now but many aspects of the holidays can still happen just as they always have. Why not spend some time writing Christmas cards to those you love and appreciate?

Christmas 2020 is not cancelled

You can still decorate your house with dazzling Christmas lights to bring some joy into our life. And, you can definitely drive around and look at everyone's holiday decorations to brighten your spirits!

A Christmas trend report from Marks and Spencer suggests there will be a resurgence in sending cards – particularly charity cards – as people want to give handwritten thanks, as well as send wishes to loved ones. People may send cards to neighbours that they bonded with during lockdown too. Stay positive by getting really excited about all the things you can still do and put your energy into them.

Whilst I may be looking forward to the day when social distancing is over, I feel as though this time has allowed me to understand the most important things in my life; my family and friends. Many people are going through an extended period of time without seeing their loved ones and I'm sure for many of us there is nothing more we want than to spend time with them during the holiday season. This pandemic may be the most radical and life-changing experience for millennials yet. But I feel that this will be a pivotal moment in our generation, the coronavirus crisis has taught us about ourselves and we have realised what is important to us. We have been brought up to have access to everything- from travel to life experiences and whatever career you may want. We had the idea that we could plan life how we wanted and this has now been taken away. The pandemic has taught me about what made me happy pre-covid like my friends and family, therefore I'm hoping to embrace the holiday changes by appreciating those around me.

After lockdown I feel as though Gen Z have learnt about what we actually want or need and realised what we can quite literally live without.

For many, I think the holiday season will mean thinking beyond the superficial and the social, and on to the core values we want to adhere to going forward.

We can still keep the magic of Christmas alive during Covid, so it is important to stay connected with friends and family. I understand that these times are really difficult for everyone; but if you can look at the holiday-related changes that the pandemic is imposing on us as an opportunity to get creative – or a perfectly good opportunity to scale back this year – you and your family will enjoy more time making memories and less time feeling like this year is lacking.





10 TYPES OF PEOPLE AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas, a time for families to come together, celebrate, eat, and drink the year away. A joyous occasion many people look forward to. On the other hand, Christmas is also a time for many different types of people to show a hidden personality you didn't really know existed. So, sit down, relax and I'm going to tell you about the 10 different types of people you will expect to see in your home this Christmas.

The Festive Foodie:

The juicy turkey, roasties roasted to perfection, the richness of Christmas pudding – this is what this person is all about. Forget Santa Claus coming down the chimney, opening presents under the tree, this person is much more focused on becoming a professional chef (with the word 'professional' used lightly here) over the Christmas period. After serving a delicious Christmas dinner, you will then find them passed out on the sofa due to the condition of meat sweats.

The Sleeper:

If I was to be stereotypical, this is usually the Grandpa of the family. They spend the entire day fast asleep in their designated armchair located in the corner of room. To then wake up and have a full Christmas dinner (correlated by the 'professional' chef) and then end up back in their armchair snoring away, whilst still wearing their red Christmas hat.

The Perfectionist:

They go above and beyond to ensure that every Christmas is as good as the last. Some may say their slightly obsessed. The idea of matching PJ's to wear on Xmas Eve, leaving out treats for Santa Claus and his reindeers, kids screaming with joy when finding out Santa came! Then the luscious smell of Turkey whilst all the pre-planned games and fun are going on is what the perfectionist is all about.

The Last-Minute Shopper:

Doing their Christmas shopping on the night of Christmas Eve is basically a personality trait at this point. Arguably, you can meet two types of late-night shoppers. They can have the perfect eye when it comes to finding presents, they see something, and they know exactly who would love it. OR they probably should think of starting to gather Christmas presents a little earlier next year

The Politician:

Due to the family all being reunited together, this member thinks Christmas is the ideal time to discuss everyone's political views over dinner. To them, the topic of conversation has to be based around politics: this year the chosen topic is Trump vs Biden. They also believe the rest of the family are dying to know about their political views, but I can definitely say – that's not the case.

The Hangover:

All I have to say about this person is advice: Leave them alone on Christmas day. Don't talk to them. Don't even look at them. Their head will be banging from all the 90p Jammie Dodger shots they we're experiencing at the local nightclub. They will then join the sleeper in making the rest of the family wait to open presents as they didn't get in till 5 in the morning. Just leave them to it.

The Grinch:

I'm afraid this one had to come up at some point, but this person is the most miserable person at Christmas who complains about anything and everything. Don't mention "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays" unless you want to have a look that could kill. They refuse to get into the Christmas spirit because they just can't till it's over. Also, **KEEP AWAY FROM KIDS**. They will happily ruin the secret about Santa not being real. Maybe it's because they don't understand the joy of it or its religious meanings – I know, its crazy.



The Misplaced Elf:

No matter what age this person is, they still get excited over Santa coming down the chimney. You go to this person for your ugly Christmas jumpers; ones that light up a Christmas tree, have a Rudolf's red nose (aka a red pom pom) sticking out of it, you can guarantee they have them all. They are best friends to the perfectionist, as they both overdose on the Christmas spirit every year whilst jamming out to the Spotify 'Christmas hits' playlist since July.

The Family's Superstar:

Getting all the family together is a joyous occasion, everyone enjoying each other's company, finding out how everyone's been and what they've been up to. Then the cousin who's been to elevenorife arrives. They talk about how travelling changed them as a person, how they fed the elephants, went on camel rides in Morocco, climbed up Mount Everest with their bff Kendall Jenner. Oh, and definitely not forgetting their 3 A*s in Chemistry, History and Biology.

The Re-Gifter:

Along with the grinch, these people aren't popular around the holidays. They're the ones who send out their list first, "I'm not expecting to get all this, Christmas is all about the giving not receiving". Then – you buy what was on their list, they show how grateful they are and how it was so unexpected, they wear it all on Christmas day, use it all on Christmas day. Then it's never seen again. Never spoken about again. It's simply a number in their bank account.

CHRISTMAS TREE, OH CHRISTMAS TREE..

Christmas. Love it or hate it, you can't escape it.

For many people it's their favourite time of year and a beautifully decorated Christmas tree is a key aspect of their annual festive celebrations.

The tree itself has been a major part of holiday traditions for centuries, dating back to late 16th century Germany, but the way in which it is finalised in terms of presentation has changed dramatically over the years.

Here are some of the biggest Christmas tree trends from the last 70 years, showcasing how they started off, have changed and developed into modern day Christmas!

1950's

Starting off, all the way back in the 1950's, pink was all the range. Pink kitchens with pink fridges, pink stoves, pink countertops. This was quickly mimicked for Christmas and pink Christmas trees came about. Adding a bright pop of colour in peoples homes, stemming as far away from traditional as possible.



1960's

Keeping the same bright, untraditional theme going, aluminium trees were the new must have for the festive season this time. First manufactured in Chicago in 1955, these trees became quickly trendy, with the over-the-top tinsel perfectly capturing the retro Christmas of the decade.

1970's

Steering away now from bright colours, home made tree decorations became the new usual, with families hanging homemade cookies and marzipan, peppermint canes among elves and angels, popcorn chains, paper snowflakes and even dolls and ribbons on their trees. European countries sticking slightly more traditional with colourful paper birds and bells made from bright gold paper, and Americans hanging knitted mittens, popcorn chains and orange pomander balls.

1980's

The bigger the better! Christmas trees grew in size over the years and now natural trees began returning to favour, leaving pink and aluminium artificial trees back in the 60's.

Continuing with the popular homemade style, trees were decorated with mismatched ornaments, these could be passed down the family sentimental ornaments or just personal tastes.

1990's

In the 90's, trees began to be decorated by professional designers, and department stores began selling decoration 'themes' with matching textures, ornaments and colours, everyone strived to give their tree the '90's glam' look.

This included framed photos of the era's iconic supermodels and miniature spray-painted cell phones. Patterns were bigger and better than ever, and people started interpreting that in their tree decorations.

2000's

Big, full natural trees were the go to in the early 2000's, with the sales of artificial trees being flat since 2007. The same sophisticated and themed decorations remained with the added popularity of lights this time. Alongside Christmas tree lights, lit up flashy decorations made peoples Christmas trees and homes glow for hours on end for the festive season. To complete the sophisticated look, trees are likely to have their base covered by a tree skirt.

2010

Tree technology: Christmas trees began going wireless thanks to the Aura project, with lights now being powered by a magnetic field ring at the base of the tree. No more messy wires! Themed decorations still remain except now less is more, with trees now becoming more simplistic with a few of the same style ornaments hanging and a couple of stylish ribbons, no more mismatched baubles! As well as artificial trees growing in quality and popularity again.



2019

One of the biggest changes in trends has been in Christmas baubles, in the early 2000's most families Christmas trees would be decorated with traditional round baubles, all of a similar colour scheme and pattern. Now, shops sell all kinds of baubles, from Santa's and angels to butterflies and dinosaurs as the idea of making our trees individual to us has become more widely embraced.

2020

Christmas may be slightly different this year, but that doesn't mean the usual tradition of putting up a Christmas tree has to be! Enjoy his special time with your families, friends, neighbours or whoever else you spend your Christmas with! Who knows, some Christmas trees may even feature a few masks hanging from them this year...



Article written by Alex Sygut

Artwork by Evie Burrows

Things only Christmas babies understand:

My birthday is on December 25th, so I understand the struggles better than anyone. Don't get me wrong I absolutely love the Christmas season, it's cheesy but it truly is a magical time of the year: with the pretty lights and decorations, kindness, and capitalism at its finest. But with all this enchantment where does that leave the people with birthdays near the festive season? An afterthought, that's what. With the Christmas tree shaped birthday cakes and comedians writing 'merry birthday' in Christmas cards, it's easy for Christmas babies to get forgotten about on our special day.

Getting asked if you get 'double presents'... constantly

Why is that something that people think is so amazing? It's our birthday AND Christmas so why is it 'lucky' if we get both, you've already had your birthday so let us have ours. Frankly, a lot of the time we don't get the coveted 'joint presents', often it's just a Christmas present with a birthday card. If we actually get both a present for our birthday and Christmas is most likely from close friends or family, and it's the greatest compliment in the world because they are willing to acknowledge your birthday and you actually feel normal.

Trying to get your friends together is impossible

It's Christmas. Everyone is busy, and so are you, so a birthday celebration is out of the question. So instead of enjoying a real birthday party like everyone else – we spend our time at cringy Christmas parties, awkward family dinners and only seeing your friends for 5 minutes over facetime. I once celebrated my birthday in March, that year especially my birthday was a complete afterthought; we were hosting and my whole family came over so the day went – presents, dinner, nap, Christmas films, more food, sleep so as an excuse to have my friends over later in the year I had my 'birthday party' 3 months after my actual birthday.

Getting birthday presents wrapped in Christmas wrapping

Ok I get it, this isn't really a big deal but come on, is it really that hard to get birthday wrapping? Everyone has that dreaded pile of wrapping and copious amounts of bottle bags stored away somewhere; I know the Christmas wrapping is out already, but I can guarantee that your friend will appreciate the extra effort. Birthdays are supposed to be about you, and getting a present wrapped in Christmas wrapping is just a reminder that your special day isn't special at all, everyone else is getting presents too.

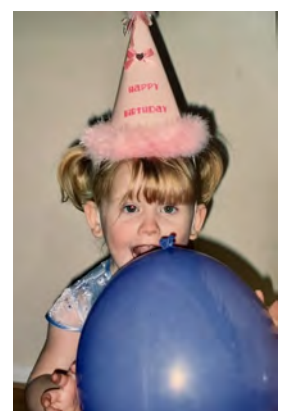
Never getting a birthday cake

This might be reserved for the Christmas day babies but I can't remember having a birthday cake. Christmas is all about the food – dinner, cookies, quality street and more so just adding an extra desert was unnecessary. We started to get inventive – like buying a Christmas chocolate log cake and putting birthday candles on it in a weak attempt to create a birthday but we even threw that cake away a few days later, so I'll settle for blowing out the Christmas pudding instead

Everyone's broke

It's a paradox- you get annoyed about people forgetting your birthday yet you're struggling to afford anyone else's Christmas gifts. So, you can't really get frustrated at anyone because everyone's broke during the Christmas season. Presents for friends, family and people who buy you presents so you have to buy them one, Christmas cards and extra little bits when a present doesn't feel like it's enough. That's a lot that is expected from us all, so having someone pestering you about their birthday is just annoying, so we're quiet about it.

Overall, I think we can all agree that celebrating your birthday near Christmas stinks, but complaining will never change the inevitable – we're always going to be second place to Jesus. Although, there are positives that we often overlook such as always being surrounded by family, always having an amazing meal and never being in school for your birthday. And if all else fails you can read people this article to guilt them into buying you the birthday present you deserve.



HOME BUT NOT ALONE

Creating Christmas Ads in the year of Covid

Quality street boxes in supermarkets, pigs in blankets on roast dinner plates. The new John Lewis advert is now on TV, the countdown to Christmas has officially begun... Big family gatherings are likely to be off limits, as the festive season may not be the same. But coronavirus can't stop Christmas from coming as retailers are prepared to kick-off high status festive advertising campaigns in the face of more challenging times.

When it comes to the festive season, Christmas doesn't officially start until you see that red Coca Cola van, and that John Lewis advert that will be a tear jerker. This year may be a little different but this should be in an opportunity to get creative.

When Covid hit the UK back in March, advertisers slammed on the breaks so they could consider how they might present themselves amid a pandemic. The pandemic has posed a significant problem for the supermarkets and high street giants who famously plan their high budget festive campaigns a year in advance. There are more challenges but I think more than ever this year needs to reflect the importance of family and friends at Christmas by sharing stories, messages and songs that are heart-warming and perfectly capture the essence of Christmas.

Each year, big brands like John Lewis and Amazon can be relied upon to dig deep into their budgets and bring out the money on their emotional ads, as they battle to win the Christmas ad showdown. Due to the general trend of 2020, Covid-19 may lead brands to be more cautious with their spending, do brands have the luxury to go as big?



A CHRISTMAS LIKE NO OTHER



After a tough 2020, you'll be relieved to hear most retailers are avoiding tear jerking 'Man on the Moon' type ads. So far, campaigns have started to be released with a mixed bag attempting to distract customers from the pandemic. As a big fan of Christmas adverts, I feel that Amazon has successfully nailed the brief as it has been widely commended for sensitively approaching the topic in a way that doesn't feel downbeat and exhausting. Not only that TK Max and Asda have touched on the subject sensitively recognising that Christmas isn't going to be the same this year, and both show a small immediate family making the best out of the situation.

As more and more ads are slowly being released, I feel as though brands should create entertainment and escapism that provides people with an outlet, not reflecting the uncertainty and difficulties we are all facing at the end of a bleak year of Covid-19. I hope to see a focus on community spirit, reflecting the closeness we have all gained through this shared experience, without overtly referencing the pandemic. The annual festive ad is a brand's shop window to the world, so it's a time for hope and support, not tired clichés.

This will no doubt be a Christmas like no other.

12 days of Christmas

1 Seasonal Shortbread

Perfect to get you into the Christmassy mood and something the whole family will love!

2 DIY decorations

The Christmas countdown has officially begun. It's time to get your tree up and maybe even add your own personal touches!!

3 Here are three secret Santa or stocking fillers under £10

A mini karaoke microphone Great for those impromptu singing sessions

Grow me Merry Christmas Gift your friend their very own Christmas tree seeds to plant ready for next year's Christmas season!

Nothing for the person who has everything... for the person who has everything you can even buy them nothing. Perfect!

Christmas tree paper garland

You're going to need...

Scissors, Paper, a glue stick, a skewer, String.

Tea stain your pieces of paper.

Once the paper has dried print pages from your favourite Christmas book onto them and cut out tree shapes.

Either use a stencil or go free hand.

Grab your string, I used white and gold, but any colour will do! Make a hole with a skewer at the top of the tree and then thread it through your string. Have fun making your garlands and vary in the lengths and sizes of your trees for a bit more individuality.

Cardboard bubal

You're going to need...

Scissors, cardboard, a white pen

4 Wear a Christmas jumper again!

Yes, it's already been national Christmas jumper day, but it shouldn't stop there!! Nothing screams seasonal spirit more than ugly Christmas jumper!

5 Holly Jolly Hot chocolate

Cold, cosy nights, warm blankets and hot chocolate, Christmas Bliss.

Cut the cardboard into shapes like houses, gingerbread men, and stars. Then just get creative!!

6

Donate to a local Charity

Christmas is of course a time for giving.

So many of us will receive an amazing number of gifts and presents from our friends and family on the 25th December, but this sadly isn't the reality for everyone. During this time of year, we also need remember those less fortunate than ourselves. You could donate to your local food bank or even just donate a couple of pounds to a charity of your choice. Any of these options could help thousands of

People all over the UK will be so grateful for you bringing some Christmas spirit into their lives!



7

Create a Christmas playlist

Read page 13 for some recommendations!!



8

Festive Face mask

Apple and cinnamon anti-inflammatory face mask:

You're going to need

1 peeled apple

1 teaspoon of honey

2 tablespoons of oatmeal

A dash of cinnamon

2 teaspoons of plain yoghurt

Once your apple is peeled cut out the core and remove any pips. Grate the apple, add remaining ingredients and mix.

Apply to your face, leave on for 10-15mins before rinsing off

9

Film night fun

What's better than a Christmas classic to get you into the festive mood?

1. Something new-ish

Arthur Christmas

2. Love it or leave it during the Xmas season... I LOVE IT!

Nightmare Before Christmas

3. A true classic and an absolute tearjerker

It's a Wonderful Life

10

Enjoy a winter walk

And just imagine snow is falling all around us.

11

Spend time with family

Remember to be thankful for what you have and the people surrounding you. Even if we can't see all our loved ones this Christmas, many are only a zoom call away.

12

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

TOP 10 MOST ICONIC CHRISTMAS HITS

1 **"It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas"** **Michael Bublé**

As Christmas returns for yet another year, this Michael Bublé classic is perfect to kick off the years festivities! As the atmosphere is changing, you'll notice a spring in everyone's step as Christmas approaches. So get those lists written and your decorations up, because Bublé is back and better than ever!



2 **"Last Christmas"** **Wham!**



Bing Crosby **"White Christmas"**

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"- aren't we all! Originally written by Berlin, Crosby's version was a worldwide sensation, embodying that warm festive feeling of Christmas. Reminiscing of an old-fashioned seasonal setting really gives you that cozy, Christmassy feeling inside! But really, I think the reason it's such a well-loved classic is because it describes the snowy, picturesque Christmas scene we all long for each December.

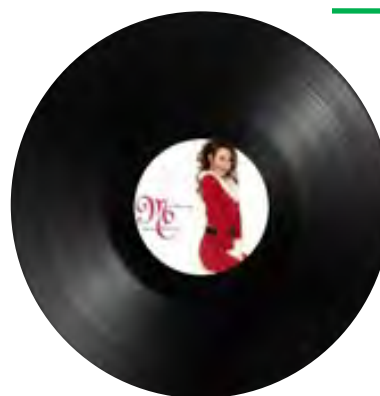


"Last Christmas" is definitely the 'go to' Christmas song for many across the world. This single was released in 1986, relating to many people who are experiencing heartbreak during the festive season. First to be added to the playlist by everyone each year, when you hear this masterpiece, you know the countdown to Christmas has truly begun! Its catchy chorus is known by many, but the real question is, will this Christmas classic ever get old?

"Fairytale Of New York"

The Pogues ft. Kirsty MacColl

Although never beating 2nd spot, this is the most played Christmas song of the 21st Century (in the UK)- and are we surprised? The Irish Folk-Style ballad is a Christmas favourite in every household, and is definitely the best festive tune to dance around the kitchen to on those long, dark nights! And who doesn't dream of having the 'picture perfect' Christmas in New York?



5 **"All I Want For Christmas Is You"**

Mariah Carey

Who doesn't love belting out Mariah's classic feel-good Christmas favourite? As you're decorating your tree, or baking some delicious gingerbread, this is the song we all skip to on our playlist to really show off our karaoke skills. "All I want for Christmas" remains Carey's biggest international success, reaching number one in many countries! Released in 1994, it's an up-tempo love song and Christmas classic! Once you hear those iconic Christmas bells ring in the intro, you know you're in for a treat!

"It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year"

Andy Williams

Whether it's the delicate, outline of fairy lights on the trees, cuddling up by the fire on cold nights, or spending time with loved ones, Christmas is certainly "the most wonderful time of the year".





7 **"Do They Know It's Christmas" Band Aid**

As you scramble to buy all your presents this year, just remember those who aren't as fortunate as you. Take some time to appreciate what you have, and to spend time with your family and friends. This song embodies the warmth and wider perspective we should all be considering this Christmas.

"Driving Home For Christmas"

Chris Rea

We all know that feeling of a long day at school, when we want nothing more than to finally get back home, and enjoy those long, dark nights whilst watching our favourite Christmas film. This song is perfect for those miserable journeys, and will immediately get you into the Christmas spirit!



8 **"I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday"**

Wizzard

...Don't we all! British glam-rock band Wizzard released this hit in 1973, describing the wonderful ins and outs of Christmas, and what really sums it up! A firm favourite by all Christmas lovers, this song makes it's way into our festive playlist year after year!



9 **"Merry Christmas Everyone" Shakin' Stevens**

Picture yourself: it's Christmas Eve and you're finishing off those final touches to make the big day extra special; "Merry Christmas Everyone" is the perfect, feel-good Christmas classic for these intimate moments. "Love and understanding", "having fun" are just two of the lines, and they really epitomize Christmas and all its joys. As soon as you hear those familiar sleigh bells ring in the intro of this festive favourite, you can be sure that Christmas has finally arrived!



LESS THAN ZERO:

The fight for education in a time of uncertainty

When living in a world that at the best of times could teeter into nuclear Armageddon, it is perhaps only natural that we ignore the subtler things going on around us all the time. When so much attention is diverted towards the fire and fury of the US election, or the ongoing controversies surrounding Brexit, we can so easily forget we are still in the midst of a global pandemic that has taken the lives of over a million people globally. But, if we knew more about the very real policy decisions affecting our lives and our education right now; would we realise that not only has the government failed to adequately provide for our schools and our education, but also refuses to listen to its own statistics? Is it not strange that, despite “cases having risen fastest in the 12-24-year-old age group”¹, according to the government’s statistics, schools remain open without the funds and without adequate provisions to the onslaught of a second wave of Covid?



The task seems daunting, but we can change this. It's a matter of will and choice

If we look towards the advice the government has given to the schools, we can see that initially, any Covid cases were supported with advice from Public Health England, an agency within the department of health aimed to deal with these medical crises. Yet, across the first term of school, as guardian journalist George Monbiot reports, advice switched from Public Health England and its local advisors, to privatised call-centre workers with little or no actual experience dealing with Covid, leaving the advice to schools as a scripted piece of paper.

Not only has this process then changed, but so has the advice. In the six months between school closures in March to their reopening in September, a time in which; from the early and perhaps understandable missteps taken in March, policy could have been and should have been addressed, instead no clear policy was given. Consequently, we saw the chaos this caused with both A-Level and GCSE results during the summer, and again see it in regards of sending pupils home. Due to the policy of year-group bubbles, many teachers wondered if this meant that the whole year-group should be sent home if a case was found, a scenario the government did not clarify. Instead, the dominant policy is sending home “close contacts”, which can ignore the unavoidable mingling of pupils inescapable at schools. Again, the effects of this could have been mitigated with the enforcement of face-masks in corridors from when we returned to school, yet this was not made compulsory across the country. The Department for Education’s guidelines mean that neither teachers or pupils have to wear facemasks in classrooms, again leaving it up to the individual to choose, and leaving teachers as the only workers currently working in high density environments without protective equipment.

Looking more generally at the advice of the government, it is continually plagued with contradictions and changing advice, giving a lack of clarity and a lack of meaning that should be so crucial if we are to mount a successful defence against Covid. Perhaps it is then no wonder that “more than 150,000 teachers and support staff have backed a call to shut schools and colleges”² in the November lockdown. This is not an objection to teaching, but instead an objection to the lack of support given to schools, especially considering that budgets for hand sanitizer, extra toilets and supply teacher cover have had to come from already strained school budgets.

But will the government act in the face of this mounting pressure? So far they’ve done less than zero. According to the latest government poll of cases from December 4th, it remains that “the highest positivity rates are seen in secondary school-aged children, older teenagers and young adults”³ and yet it is the young that remain the most neglected in the government’s policies. While we are equally an age group less likely to dangerously effected by the virus, this still ignores the vulnerable members of our communities that could still suffer, or the potential long term effects the virus could have. Instead the government’s focus remains doggedly on the immediate economic damage that corona virus brings, while ignoring the massive damage that government burdens on future generations by ignoring the long-term effects.

We must also not forget the inequality within our education system that has only been widened with the effects of corona virus, but was certainly not caused by it. Despite the government's firm commitment to provide the necessary tools for home learning, the vital laptops were simply not provided, leaving one school needing "17 laptops for disadvantaged pupils", while still having another "40 on the roll"⁴ that needed those laptops to have an equal chance at gaining a good education, like their peers. In the end, that school only got three laptops. Yet, it is not only those who struggle economically that are becoming disadvantaged in this crisis. For those unfortunate enough to have contracted the virus, or been in contact with someone who has, they have missed at least two weeks of being in school compared to their peers, which can escalate to weeks and weeks of school being missed. Not only are we potentially suffering from the virus, but we are denied our equal right to access our education too.

What then can we do as just individuals? On a basic level, we can do what ever we can to maintain our distance in school, wash our hands regularly and wear a face-mask as much as possible. But this is not on its own enough. This is our future, and it is in our hands, not those of a government that has repeatedly valued its money and its ideology above the lives of its citizens. Not only should we strive for the equal opportunity for education we deserve, but when we can, and how we can, little by little we keep on questioning, whether out on the streets or at home on our phones. The government will only change this under pressure, a pressure that we must provide. While we may not have chosen to be in this situation, as we did not choose to be in lockdown, we must fight back for the sake of our education and our future.



Noam Chomsky: "overcome this gross malfeasance"

The famed linguist and philosopher Noam Chomsky asks the youth one question "will enough young people find the ability, commitment and dedication to implement the kind of solutions we know are possible?"⁵. When I asked himself myself, he couldn't stress enough the importance of an active interest in these issues, and a commitment to the future, as with silence, just like the virus we are fighting, these issues only spread within our society. *"There's a lot wrong with the way the government has dealt with the pandemic. In fact, it's grotesque, an international scandal. The right response surely is to join those who are working to overcome this gross malfeasance".*

The task seems daunting, there can be no denying of this. But across the country, our schools and our education are at stake. We have seen just how the government undermines both, either in negligence or poor provisions and we've seen just what a devastating effect this can have on a widening inequality in education. But we can change this. It's a matter of will and a matter of choice.

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Types of Christmas Jumpers (and the people that wear them)

The "Is that really a Christmas jumper?" Jumper

First up we have the "Is that really a Christmas jumper?" category. This category is for the knitted jumpers with the fair isle pattern around the sleeve and neck and maybe a reindeer hiding in the zig zag design somewhere. Or, worst of all, they've just stuck on a red/green jumper and called it a day. The wearers of these jumpers are the ones that are too cool for Christmas jumpers, that don't want to be gimmicky and embrace the Christmas spirit, so find the closest thing to a normal jumper. These jumpers are so vaguely Christmassy, you could probably get away with it all year round.

The Slogan Jumper

Next, we have the Christmas jumpers that have some sort of joke, pun or idiom plastered on the front of it. These have become increasingly more popular over the years and are a good balance of cheesy Christmas gimmicks and a purposeful, cute jumper. The sayings on the front of these jumpers can vary from alcoholic puns like "prosecc-ho-ho-ho" to classic Christmas idioms like "jingle bells" or the weirdly suggestive ones, such as "Santa's favourite ho" that I wouldn't want to wear around my family members, personally.

The Light-up Christmas Jumper

We all know someone who goes that little bit extra when it comes to Christmas, and this person is the proud wearer of the light up Christmas jumper. No other time of year would it be widely



accepted to wear an item of clothing that means you can be identified by multi-coloured, flashing lights in the dark, but at Christmas time, battery powered jumpers are as normal as eating 3 servings worth of pigs in blankets and roast potatoes at once. Wearers of these jumpers have no shame in their love for Christmas, admittedly, they may go at it with slightly too much enthusiasm, but you can't fault their devotion to the season.

The Pop Culture Reference

Nowadays, Christmas time is defined by its abundance of unmistakable pop culture references; and this does not fail to translate on our Christmas jumpers. Whether your jumper is paying tribute to a seasonal film classic or quoting Mariah – its instantly recognisable, and perfectly encompasses the Christmas spirit. This person is less about the classic traditions at Christmas, but rather appreciates the nostalgia that this time of year brings about, and is probably happy they can listen to Christmas music again... without being judged.



The Cute jumper

Basic, but cute, nonetheless. These jumpers are probably the most common of them all, usually displaying some sort of animal, or iconic Christmas character. To make the jumper even cuter, it may even be fluffy or have some pom poms stitched on to maximise the cute Christmas effect. Wearers of these jumpers enjoy the season but won't be waking up at 5 in the morning on the 25th to start the festivities. Cute jumpers; there a solid choice... but a bit average.



No Christmas Jumper

Truly a let-down. Go get yourself an ugly, bulky, Christmas jumper.



Grief at Christmas : *the inescapable reality*

Grief is a funny thing.

One which most people won't talk about.

While grief never goes away, there are certainly different times in the year where emotions are heightened immensely, and the sense of loss can feel even greater. Holidays such as Christmas can intensify the feeling of loss and missing a loved one, especially that gruelling numbness that loss causes; that can affect the whole dynamic of Christmas.

Trying to escape this uncomfortable reality can sometimes seem like the most appealing solution when you feel like you have lost all aspect of control within your life.

It's the panic that doesn't go away. The heavy numbness that you carry with you daily. Shock, anger, anxiety and loneliness are all normal reactions to grief, knowing that whatever you are feeling is valid, is so important.

When I experienced grief for the first time, it stopped everything in its tracks. I almost felt as if there was no meaning to life - if it could just be taken away so easily. For me, the impact of losing my Dad to a sudden death was detrimental to not only my mental health, but almost every single aspect of my life and in turn- affected everything I did. To have someone there one day, and never be able to see them the next, is bound to have long-term impacts.

Going through the stages of grief is an undeniably painful process to say the least. One of the only things in life that you can never prepare yourself for.

It's inescapable.

Sometimes having to cope with the normality of Christmas when all you want to do is crawl up into a ball and cry or frankly disappear, can be exhausting for anyone going through grief. But having a tight, support network around you can really help you change your mindset around this challenging season.

Grief isn't linear, there is no right or wrong way to behave in response to loss. We all have bad coping mechanisms I'm sure, but that's for us to work out and no one else to be the judge of. It is something you can never fully understand until you know the bitter pain of experiencing it first-hand.

The first Christmas without my Dad was an odd one to say the least. A complete blur of anxiety, emotion and darkness - accompanied by the occasional blip of happiness, I guess. Experiencing my first panic attack in a random field near my Auntie's house on the mid-morning of boxing day, was possibly the most bizarre part of my Christmas 2018.

It's just character building, I told myself.

Don't even get me started on the Christmas parties and family gatherings that are meant to be the highlight of Christmas. For me, it's that fear that doesn't go away when I know what's coming up. The dreaded memorial speeches and toasts that create nothing but floods of memories and raging panic attacks in front of the entire family.

No one ever told me that grief felt so much like fear.

The incurable truth is that it doesn't get much better, you just learn to live with it. The overriding emotion and blind sighting anxiety eventually

calms down, but never goes away. **P**ain is undeniable and inescapable, it's just something you learn to live with. However, there are ways of incorporating things in your daily living that can overall just improve your quality of life, especially learning different ways to cope with grief on special occasions and holidays, such as Christmas -

Tips on how to face Christmas after loss –

Coping with Grief at Christmas.

Tips on how to face Christmas after loss

- Don't get lost in your feelings, let yourself feel. Give yourself permission to do whatever makes you happy.
- Acknowledging that Christmas is going to a hard time may help you prepare for what can be an extremely anxiety-ridden time.
- Know your triggers. Maybe listening to certain music or people around you are having conversations that may be challenging to hear, this won't help when you're already feeling vulnerable. Knowing each other's boundaries can be so helpful in these situations, make your family aware if something is upsetting you.

Counselling.

- In my experience, the addition of counselling and therapy to my life has changed my whole perspective, not only in terms of bereavement; but just knowing there are so many people out there that can understand what you are going through, you are not alone, no matter how lonely you feel.

The idea of speaking to a stranger and being so vulnerable in any situation absolutely terrified me, and probably for about the first 10 sessions it didn't get any easier. Until I came to the realisation that if I don't work towards happiness myself, then I can't expect someone else to do it for me and I've never looked back. There are incredible resources and places out there to help specifically with bereavement – the Hospice of the Good Shepherd provides predominantly end-of life support as well as bereavement counselling.

Tips on how to support friends/family that are grieving at Christmas –

- Personally, one of the hardest things is people not bringing it up – often because they don't know what to say or how to act. Your memory of the person you have lost begins to fade away due to the absence of people talking about them. When someone brings it up, it then gives you option to talk about it or not and it is not left as the elephant in the room.
- Another key thing that I think helps a lot of people who are grieving at Christmas is to acknowledge the need for self-care during the holidays. We can all get so wrapped up in looking after and caring for other people that we forget to look after ourselves! No body ever talks about how were expected to cope with 'normality' and act as if it's a normal occasion, when you are feeling so deeply the absence of your loved one.
- Sometimes occasions like Christmas can bring it all back for someone who is grieving, support can be given by letting them be heard and validated, without trying to give them solutions.
- Bear in mind that they don't know how you are feeling, when you talk to them – take your lead from them. Maybe they want to focus on making Christmas enjoyable for everyone else by making an incredible roast dinner, maybe they want to start on the buck's fizz at 8am and be hammered by 11, either way...

Give yourself time to heal, accept and grow. But also give yourself time to be sad, frustrated and angry.

I wish I could have told my 14-year-old self that I will find happiness again and that pain is only temporary.

Grief At Christmas

Living with the loss of a loved one is always hard, but grief can feel more difficult at certain times of the year. At Christmas for instance, when people come together, the absence of friends or family can be more prevalent. After dealing with loss at this time of the year, I managed to find some good tips on how to cope with the heartbreak and complete sense of remorse at what is perceived to be the most joyful time of year.

I found that surrounding myself with close family and friends was helpful as we were all feeling a similar way. Using each other as not only a comfort blanket but also a distraction, we were able to pull together and enjoy the holiday without feeling guilty for enjoying ourselves. The most important thing to remember is that although the loss of a loved one is a horribly overwhelming and upsetting time for the people closest to them, they should never feel guilty for feeling okay.

Make new traditions.

After years of a “perfect” Christmas we knew it was never going to feel the same after the loss of my dad just weeks before. However, my family and I were still able to enjoy our day just in a different way. By making

new traditions it meant that we formed a new normal without forgetting the “perfect” day we used to have, as we now “raise a glass” to the one we lost. Although the first Christmas after my dad's passing was slightly unconventional, by changing our day it meant we were able to grieve whilst not feeling too sorry for ourselves.

Everyone copes differently.

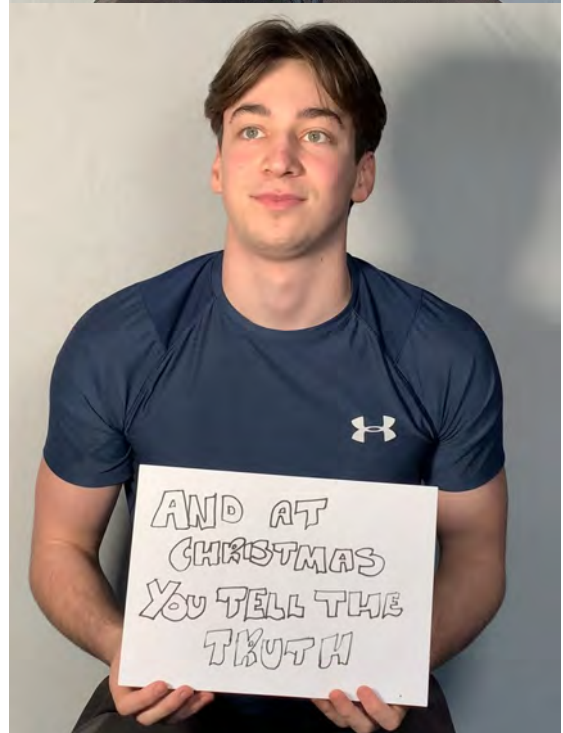
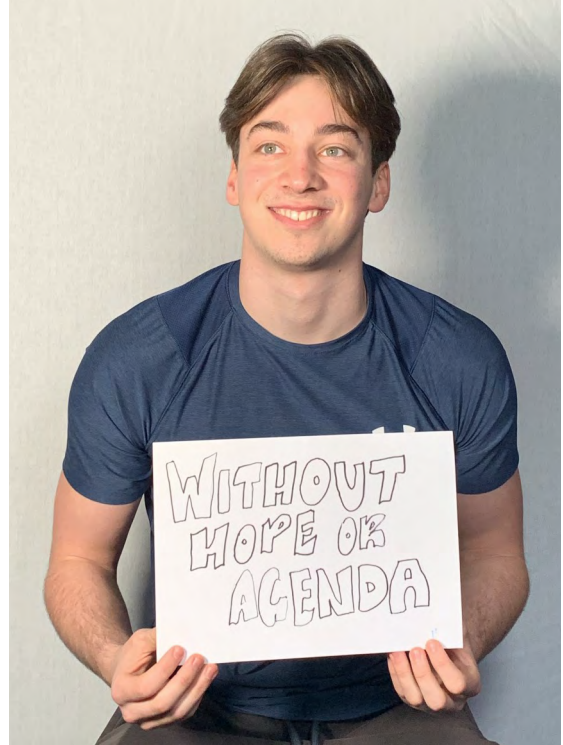
It is okay not to cry or feel sad all the time. Losing someone close will not be easy for anyone to face, however, people will have different coping mechanisms and will inevitably react in different ways. Some people may try to distract themselves in order to try and ease their sorrow although others may like to look at photos and look back on memories they had with their loved ones before their passing. Therapy and professional help can be a big help as it allows the person grieving to talk to a stranger, someone who will listen and give advice personal to you without having any emotional attachments to the person lost.

Christmas is a time for family and friends, living without one at this time will be hard and although grief is a very overwhelming feeling it is okay to have fun and enjoy the day.

Winston's Wish and Cruse Bereavement care both provide emotional and practical bereavement support.

A watercolor illustration of a Christmas card. The central text is surrounded by a wreath of holly leaves, red berries, and a large red poinsettia flower. The background is a light cream color. At the top and bottom of the page, there are decorative overlapping ovals in red and light blue.

MAY THE
memories
OF THOSE WE
love shine
BRIGHTLY THIS
Christmas



Match the Teacher with the following Festive Fiascos?!

1. Which teacher had travelled to spend Christmas with family, then had gone direct to their old University city to party with friends. They left their car in a secure Hotel car park and went clubbing until the very early hours. When they got back to the car the next day, every single Christmas present had been stolen	Mr Chappell
2. Which teacher accidentally slammed the car boot on their Mother in law's head on Christmas Day. There was blood everywhere. She was crying, they were crying, their sister in law was crying. Meanwhile their partner was being sick with food poisoning. They can laugh about it now.	Mrs McMillan (1)
3. Which teacher was reclining on the sofa, sherry in hand after a massive turkey dinner, when the house was filled by the pounding sound of a police helicopter overhead. Seconds later, there was a bang, and a Vauxhall Corsa had been abandoned at the end of her drive. Suddenly sirens screamed up the close, police hot-footed from the vehicle with police dogs in tow and leapt over the fence and into her back garden. The abandoned car had been involved in a chase all the way from the motorway and the driver had fled when he realised he'd gone down a cul-de-sac. Merry Christmas!	Mrs Everton
4. There was a terrible storm one Christmas Eve and the electricity cable came down outside the house, making a cracking sound. In the morning slates were off the roof and in the garden. Which teacher's children heard it all and were sure it was Father Christmas cracking the whip for his reindeer to go faster. They believed he had supped too many sherries and had crashed the sleigh on the roof, knocking the tiles off. It was family lore for years and made for a magical Christmas. Which teacher?	Mr Nuttall
5. Which teacher's wife was in labour on Christmas Day ... then gave birth TWO DAYS later?	Mrs Eaton
6. Which teacher had a baby at 5pm on Christmas Day? She was in labour all day, was offered a hospital Christmas dinner on a plastic tray and endured midwives with their flashing, novelty earrings when she really wasn't in the mood! Obviously the best present ever was the birth of her daughter and they all arrived home to fairy lights and cozy fires - kind of magical really ... eventually! (And they made the front page of the local newspaper!)	Mr Toase
7. Which teacher scrambled over a sandstone wall in a churchyard, heading home and taking a shortcut after a few Christmas Eve beers. The wall crumbled and this teacher narrowly missed out on being crushed to death. Merry Christmas! (This foreshadowed a later disaster!)	Miss Mulholland
8. One snowy Christmas morning two small stockings hung on the fireplace, each containing a perfectly placed catnip mouse. In scurried two eager kittens on their first Christmas. One very eager cat leapt through the air (carefully side stepping ornaments and candles) to retrieve its present from the mantel-piece stocking! The cat then proceeded to take the gift to a safe place and play with the toy. Which teacher had a pet which actually opened its own present?	Mrs Rutter
9. Which teacher is usually abroad with his family every Christmas this year	Miss Richardson
10. The only thing better than Christmas as a child, is Christmas as a parent. Frozen fever had well and truly hit our household and there was nothing my four year old desired more than an Elsa dress ... I awoke on Christmas morning, anxious to see her eyes light up as she opened her gifts. I crept into her room to see if she was ready to begin the grand unwrapping but she wasn't there... I went downstairs and there she was, in front of the Christmas tree, twirling and singing "LET IT GOOOO!" at the top of her lungs; wearing THE dress. My Mother-in-Law had stolen the present opening glory and had allowed her to open every single gift, WITHOUT ME. I took the only appropriate adult response – I cried!	Mr Voyce
11. At my old school we organised a Christmas Party for the elderly. The big day came and my B-tech Construction lads built a grotto in the Sixth Form common room, I dressed as Santa (Yes I know, scary stuff) and we waited. Nobody arrived. It turned out that they were due to arrive the next day?! We froze all the food and served it up the following day, including the sandwiches. The party did go with a bang though and the Winsford pensioners manage to smuggle in enough vodka to get leathered and have a knees up. Two of them were near enough carried out! One of them also asked if they could have the receipt for the chocolate tombola prize so they could swap it for something 'worthwhile'. The cheek of it!	Mrs McMillan (2)
12. Who is fondly known as 'Elf' in her Faculty as she is obsessed with Christmas. Her classroom is be- decked with decorations as soon as December appears. (This is restrained for this person!) She even hides tinsel in her (less enthusiastic) colleagues' desks in Autumn to spread festive cheer irritatingly early.	Mrs Kefford
13. Who organises the staff Secret Santa every year?	Miss Hrywna

Our last Christmas at Tarporley...

2020 has by far been anything but normal for everyone around the world, lives have changed in ways we didn't think was possible, and our new 'normal' is something that in 2019 we would have considered impossible. Appreciating everything going on around you has now become a main focus in everyone's lives, including the things we used to dread pre-lockdown. So, instead of dwelling on all the things I've missed out on this year, I think I should try and make my last seven months at Tarporley, ones to remember.

For most Year 13's, Tarporley has been our lives for the last seven years and like I said above, in seven months it will be a time of our lives that we look back on with the best memories. Our Sixth Form experience has been anything but 'normal', we lost four months-worth of: lessons, breaks, lunches, and Sixth Form life in general. However, my time at Tarporley has still been a wild one, I've made friends for life, learnt things I never thought I would and all of a sudden, I'm applying to universities in brand new cities that I don't even know. I never thought that Year 7 me would be where I am today.

Year 13 is by far the most intense year of school life. A Levels and a global pandemic aren't a perfect match. Endless amounts of flashcards have already been made, mock exams are just around the corner, and we're only half-way through the year. However, this December I'm going to try and enjoy all the Christmas events that are taking place in the upcoming weeks.

Christmas jumper day will have already happened by the time this has been released, which means I don't have to go into too much detail about some of the hideous jumpers that will have been worn. Seeing as it will probably be the last time I experience a Christmas jumper day, a pair of head boppers might not cut it this year so I'll probably have to endure the embarrassment of wearing a jumper just this once!

The infamous Sixth Form dress up day is taking place on the 17th December, which means costume planning is well and truly underway. Although this happens at Christmas, the costumes can vary from a pint of beer (a personal favourite of mine from last year), or the three Wisemen. Either way, this day is by far the highlight of the year and is definitely something I will miss when we leave in June. Unfortunately, Christmas karaoke is not taking place this year due to recent events *cough COVID cough* - pardon the pun. However, our ears are probably more thankful than we are disappointed!

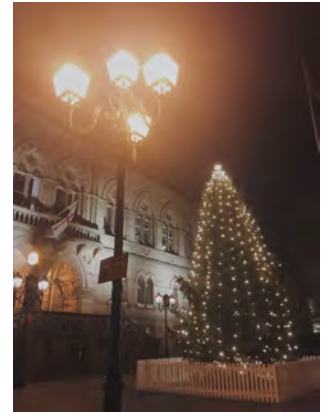
I don't think it's hit me properly that my time at Tarporley is almost over. I think the thought of A Levels taking place or not taking place is at the forefront of my mind, so I haven't had chance to properly comprehend everything. I am sad to be leaving Tarporley behind and finally closing this chapter of my life, however I am also excited for what the next part of my life has in store for me. But I will definitely never forget the wonderful years and memories I have made at Tarporley Sixth Form.

Our Christmas Traditions

Christmas is usually the time when we can get together with our nearest and dearest and be merry.

While this year could be a little different, there is no need to put our usual holidays traditions on hold. Now is the time when our little rituals can mean so much; an evening in spent making cookies with loved ones or even spending just a little more quality time with your siblings. We also may start to create new traditions during this unprecedented year, as well as ways to cope with adapting to the new rules and guidelines adapting our favourite day of the season.

Christmas traditions have a way of feeling timeless -- you may have seen the same ornaments, sung the same songs, and eaten the same foods your whole life. Some Christmas traditions are, in fact to us, ancient. Students at Tarporley have told me about their own unique Christmas traditions and how they celebrate with their family and friends.



03/12/20

No. 1 - "Every Christmas eve my family and I go to visit the Cathedral of Chester to admire all the Christmas trees made by different charities at the annual Christmas Tree festival." The Christmas Tree Festival is returning this year for its eighth year of glistening. In 2020, this year they would like the festival to be a beacon of light and hope for all that visit, obviously adapting to current guidelines. **"Whilst on Christmas day we visit our cousins for tea and lots of family games."** A lot of people enjoy visiting family and loved ones as Christmas emphasises the importance of family unity and meaningful relationships but this year maybe with the twist of a Skype or Zoom call to chat and connect.



12/12/20

No.2 - "The Christmas tree is the main part of our families preparation for Christmas, we go to Peckforton wood and try to find the biggest tree possible to go central in our hall right next to the stairs, then as a family we decorate with baubles, ornaments and lights."

Christmas Trees are a main part of every house at Christmas, I love seeing all the differently decorated and themed trees in windows of houses, twinkling fairy lights and dazzling tinsel. Personally, one of my own Christmas traditions is that I every year, get to place the silver star on top of the tree when all our house is decorated. Surprisingly, the tradition of the Christmas tree started in Germany. When a man was returning home one winter's night, when he was enchanted by the stars gleaming through tree branches. He decided to try to capture the memory by cutting down a small fir tree and decorating it with candles in his home.

No.3 - "All of my family wear matching Christmas pyjamas on Christmas Day" Lots of people spoke about special matching pyjamas and receiving pjs from parents on Christmas eve to wear for

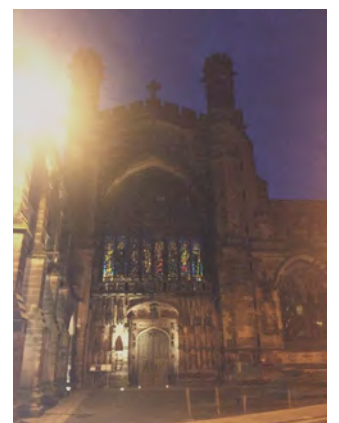
present opening and the duration of Christmas morning. Apparently it originated around the Christmas breakfast as it is shared as a family, opening the presents and having a cup of hot chocolate, also for parents to join the magic experience and emotion and to also create closeness and show how extra special Christmas can be.



10/12/20

No.4- "We go to our local pub with other family friends from the village for Christmas dinner and drinks to celebrate all together." I am sure we're all expecting many surprises to the usual pub visit on Christmas day especially families who traditionally go every year, the uncertainty of whether pubs will be allowing big groups, what time they'll be open till and whether you have to pre-book your Christmas dinner is all very unusual to last year's cosy pub night filled with laughter. Positively pubs and restaurants will definitely be open. So, all the usual family and friends will hopefully have their own special Christmas as usual, plus a few face masks, pumps of hand sanitizer and a track and trace QR code.

No. 5- "We blow up a gigantic inflatable snow man in our garden for the whole of December every year and always leave Santa a mince pie and a carrot." Snowmen are a cute symbol of the festive time, childhood and having fun with family outdoors but also hopefully it brings real snow and frost this Christmas. Whilst leaving out snacks for Father Christmas is a tradition I also remember from my childhood; it is a widespread tradition many young children, and adults everywhere.



08/12/20

No.6- "I always watch my favourite Christmas films on Christmas eve, Arthur Christmas and The Polar Express, definitely classics." Christmas films are a part of the magic of Christmas, usually partnered with a warm hot chocolate and cosy blankets. The nostalgic films remind me of the excitement I used to have of believing and waiting for Father Christmas when I was younger. (They are equally as enjoyable to watch now!) Also, they really put me in the spirit of Christmas along with my family, our personal favourite Christmas films are ELF and Home Alone 2!

Gust of Wind

Gust of wind blows down the Thames,
Carried by the voices of free men.
Faces of all races gather at the sides,
Feel the breeze of changing tides.

1027 new faces and one bright future,
From sperate streams, their rivers merge.
On just one island, spanning the world,
For just one moment, their voices are heard.

All their stories,
all with a past,
The tale of humanity
in the wrinkles of their hands.

It was from these waters the first ships were sent
Looming harbingers on coastlines of their ancestors
Since Europe spilled out of its borderlines
No intention to expand, intent to destroy.

The cotton that clots the whipped wounds,
Had chafed itself through weathered hands.
How many lives could profit ruin?
Free-thinkers are shot where they stand.

Back down that river smog laps the banks,
Blotching out the smear of the Tate and Lyle.
But no sugar could sweeten the deal,
Of life in servitude to the grinding wheels.

*

The body was in chains,
yet the voice rang aloud.
To the cling-clang of metal,
Shaking the dust off the ground.

Now those same hands wrap around the neck,
Of old wood rich with age,
And as the notes are plucked out,
The music sings what the mouth can't say.

A lone guitar and ragged style
faces the darkness with a smile.
Without hesitation, without choice
It all starts with one brave voice.

Out the black and white
The colour seeps in,
Blushing like an open petal,
As the love and hate mix.

They remain silent no longer,
Their voices will be heard
Reach up from out the bloodied water,
Into the brave new world.

One day those first sails will rise again,
Bristling clear in that brave new world.
Ready to explore and ready to begin,
And all it will take is one gust of wind.

CULTURAL CHRISTMAS

Christmas is authentic to every country, as we all embrace different traditions and embrace on the rare nostalgic feelings that December brings. Here are how some of the different countries world wide celebrate Christmas, and how they make Christmas their own.

1. The Czech Republic

On Christmas eve, Czech women turn their backs to their front doors, and throw a shoe over their shoulder. The myth is that if her shoe heel faces the door, then she adheres back to her normal life, however, if her shoe toe points towards the door,

then she's packing her bags and going to plan her wedding, basically a self proposal!

2. Norway

Norway celebrate Christmas eve in a very...authentic way to say the least. They hide away any brooms and similar cleaning items, whilst the men fire guns into the sky at night. This is an ancient belief, and is supposedly the prime time for witches and spirits to emerge.

3. Australia

As we all know, Australia has a hot climate all year round. However, where England's Christmas' are filled with frost and the chills of cold winter nights, in Australia, their summer falls in December! This means that rather than Aussies sitting down for a 3 course, home cooked, warm, feast, they much prefer to, just wait... HAVE A BBQ. Alongside this, they also don't believe that Santa has renders, but instead replace them with 6 kangaroos, and some-times Santa even riding

a surf board!

4. Ukraine

Ukraine seem to spend their Christmas more like Halloween, judging from their Christmas decorations. Ukrainian's use fat spider webs to dress their trees. Why? According to a legend, a poor widow had no money to decorate their tree, and therefore used cobwebs. However, when she awoke in the morning, she found some friendly spiders had decorated her tree with silver and gold. After that, the widow had no financial struggles ever again, making people now associate their cobweb decorations with wealth, prosperity, and good luck.

5. India

Due to the lack of fur and pine trees in India, and a population of 25 million people, people have equated to using mango, and banana trees as a substitute, with people also using the leaves to decorate their home. In Southern India, Christians often put small oil burning clay lamps on the flat roofs of their homes to show their neighbours that Jesus is the light of the World.

6. Ireland

Rather than the typical milk and cookies for Santa, its all about Christmas pudding made with

Guinness or Irish whiskey. This tradition has also been carried over to England, alongside other

parts of the United Kingdom.

7. England

English Christmas traditions begin in early December. Advent

calendars are give to children to build excitement around the

countdown to Christmas, followed

Article written by Holly Richards



1.	Mrs McMillan
2.	Mrs Rutter
3.	Miss Mulholland
4.	Mrs Everton
5.	Mr Toase
6.	Mrs McMillan
7.	Mr Nuttall
8.	Mrs Eaton
9.	Mr Chappell
10.	Miss Richardson
11.	Mr Voyce
12.	Miss Hrywna
13.	Mrs Kefford

