

# term.

Past Reflections - Tarporley Sixth Form

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## The Ruin of Rigour

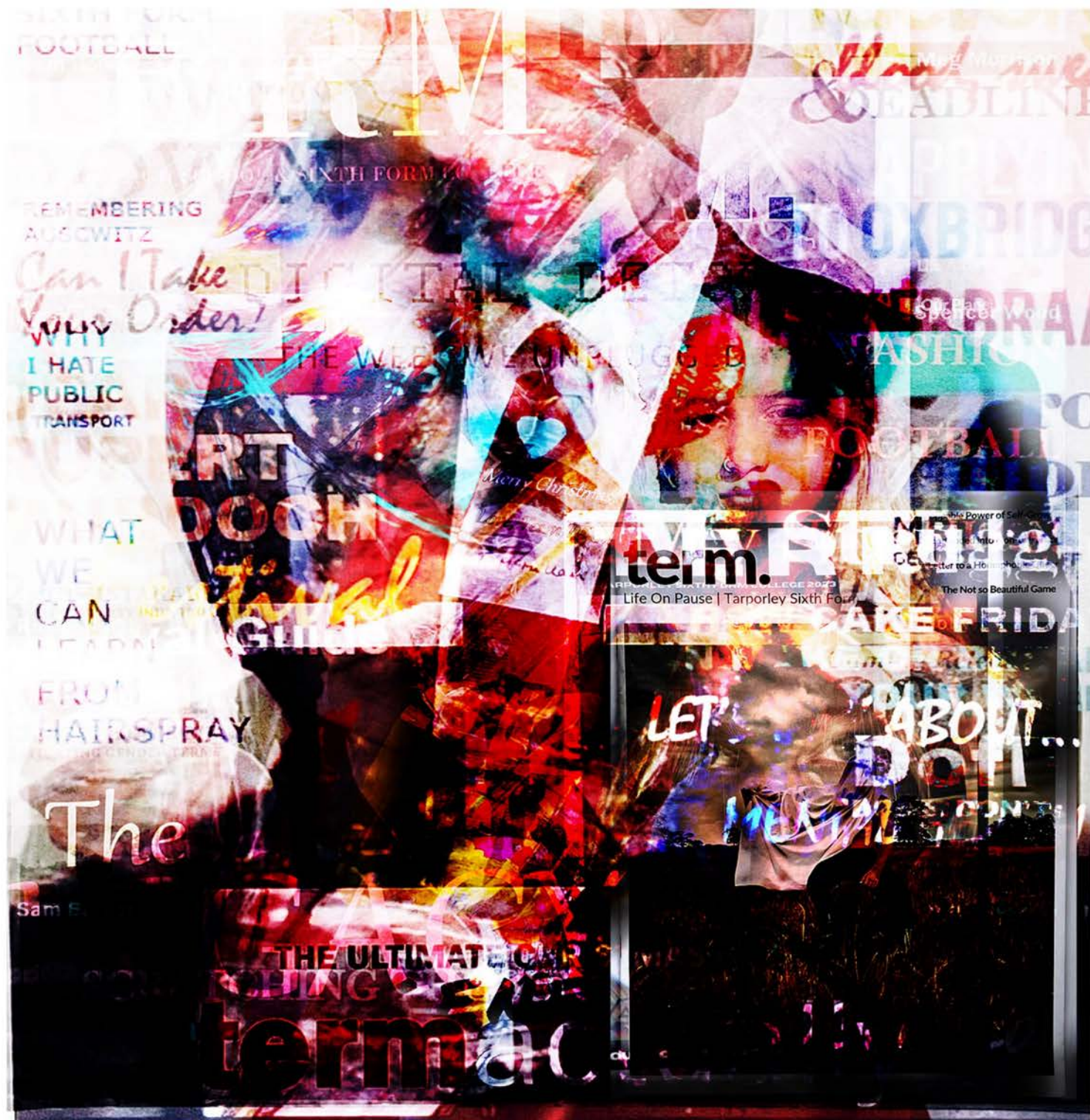
Let's stop the ruin of rigour and  
start the sculpture of the sublime

## Cancer Consciousness

Shining a light on cancer;  
Empowering Awareness, Inspiring Hope

## Hereditary

A mirror to all those  
that have come before







Photography by Rose Daly-Shone

# EDITOR'S NOTE



In this issue-the 21st edition of TERM, we are looking back on the journey our TERM magazine has taken over the years, and have also reflected on a wider context. Not only do we look into the past and observe the changes through the years, but we look into the future and reflect on the infinite possible changes it might have in store. Will water be available to all? Will war cease to be justified? Will our accents be accepted equally? Will gaming tighten its grip on everyday life? Will cancer be cured? And will true diversity and equality be achieved?

Questions that cannot be answered, but only be reflected upon.

It was great to see so many individuals from our Sixth Form community who were passionate to be heard on subjects which matter to them.

On a personal note, reading the articles in which we have re-visited some of our brilliant past editors, can't help wondering where we will all be in the future when we look back and read this edition of TERM.

Rose Daly-Shone - Editor 2024





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# CATCHING UP WITH OUR PAST EDITORS

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CIARA PALFREYMAN STUDIED PUBLISHING MEDIA AT OXFORD BROOKS UNIVERSITY AND IS NOW WORKS AS AN EMPLOYER BRAND SPECIALIST AT THE HUT GROUP.

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By Adam Palfreyman



CIARA PALFREYMAN- DEPUTY EDITOR 2017-2018

## **What inspired you to become the deputy editor of TERM magazine?**

Since I was in high school, I had always been interested in becoming a writer or pursuing a career in a writing-related field. My journalistic interest stemmed particularly from my love of magazines, as well as some broadsheet titles. I was (and still am) an avid collector of magazines since I was in my early teens, and I was applying to study Publishing/Journalism at university, so it just made sense for me to apply for the position! I had also already written an article in the previous year, so I was familiar with the writing and editing process. It was a great decision because I was able to get my first taste of what working for a magazine was like and it taught me so many skills which I still utilise to this day.

## **Can you describe your main responsibilities as Editor?**

Being in an editorial role spanned across many different duties such as assisting the Editor with managing content, feature writing, editing/organising submissions, contributing to the editorial design and proofreading. Having the opportunity to oversee many different aspects of running a publication was a great insight into how each area works together in the making of a magazine.

## **Were there certain themes or aspects you focused on during your time as editor?**

The main theme of the issue at the time I was Deputy Editor, was equality and spotlighting the LGBTQ+ community. This issue was great fun to work on because editorially it was such an exciting and diverse topic, we were able to get some real depth out of the features because at the time, it was something which I think hadn't been covered in previous issues. As well as the writing, we were able to creatively challenge ourselves with the art direction and imagery as it allowed us to really experiment with colour palettes and photographic concepts. This issue was also nominated for five awards at the Shine School Media Awards, which was an amazing achievement for us as a team.

## **What course did you choose to study at university?**

I studied Publishing Media at Oxford Brookes University. It was a brilliant course because it taught me modules specifically in magazine publishing, as well as book publishing/trading and digital publishing.

## **What do you do as job now?**

I am an Employer Branding Specialist at THG (The Hut Group). The job title sounds a bit ambiguous, but it basically involves branding the company as an attractive place to work so that they are attracting great candidates whilst also retaining current employees. My role is quite broad as it involves internal comms, content planning, executing campaigns, market research and reporting, and social media comms. But my absolute favourite part about the role is I get to lead on our digital/print employee magazine 'ICONIC', which goes out internally every month. We are very lucky to have our own in-house Studio and work with some very talented designers who help with the design and photography. This part of my role definitely feels like a full circle moment!





**What were the biggest challenges you faced whilst leading Term magazine?**

I would definitely say managing and organising submissions was particularly challenging because you have to learn to be firm with people (and yourself) when submitting articles on time. Meeting deadlines can be stressful, as an Editor when juggling multiple tasks. Being an Editor sometimes means having to make executive decisions if the content that has been submitted doesn't align with the direction the issue is going in. There can sometimes be creative differences and conflicts regarding the editorial direction, which means managing expectations and communicating what is realistic.

**How did you manage your role as Deputy Editor and your academic commitments?**

I was studying English, Media Studies and RS, so it tied in very well with my academic interests, and I found it actually helped me develop in those areas and that I could apply the skills I learnt as being an Editor to those subjects and vice versa. It was also a very collaborative effort, so there was always support from other members of the team. It does become difficult when you have other academic deadlines you need to commit to, so trying not to leave your articles or editing to the last minute is always preferable, but it was also a great way to learn how to manage your time.

**Can you describe how your role as Editor on Term magazine is beneficial your job and to you getting it?**

Funnily enough, it was my role as an Editor on Term that was one of the main reasons I got hired for my current job! As I said before, a large part of my role is looking after our employee magazine so being able to show my passion for magazine editing spanning back as far as sixth form really set me apart from other candidates. I would also say that my experience on Term magazine was foundational for me in gaining the skills which I still use to this day and throughout my university course. Besides the editorial skills, the biggest benefit was learning how to work within a team and manage a team. This is one of the most important skills to acquire because being able to work collaboratively and communicate effectively within a team is hugely sought after in the world of work and will take you far throughout university. It also taught me how to delegate tasks and organise submissions, which doesn't always come naturally to me but is imperative to doing your job well.

**What would you say your biggest accomplishment was as Editor of Term?**

The biggest accomplishment for me was receiving five nominations at the Shine Media Awards, three of which we were highly commended for. It felt great to be recognised for all the hard work our team had put into that issue because it was an issue we all felt really proud of. We got invited down to London to the awards ceremony where lots of magazine industry experts attended and judged the submissions.

**Do you have any advice for future Editors of Term magazine?**

My main piece of advice would be to make your editorial vision clear to your team but always listen to your team members and their ideas. The best work comes out of it being a collaborative process, even though sometimes it isn't always possible to incorporate everyone's ideas but making sure they feel valued. It's also worth asking your peers what sort of content they'd like to see in the magazine and getting some feedback on any previous issues so that you are creating quality content that resonates with your audience. Finally, the last piece of advice is to make sure you proofread, proofread and proofread again! I can guarantee there will be something you will have missed, and you'll be kicking yourself when you spot it after it goes to print!

# CATCHING UP WITH OUR PAST EDITORS

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PAST EDITOR MEG MORRISON IS NOW STUDYING BA MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS - UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS LONDON | PART-TIME ROLE AT A MARKETING AGENCY | INCOMING PLACEMENT STUDENT AT UNILEVER DOVE BEAUTY (GLOBAL BRAND MARKETING)

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Working on TERM magazine encouraged me to be innovative and creative, cover diverse subjects, feel empowered in decision-making and, most importantly, enjoy the journey as part of the team. I believe the vibrant pages of TERM magazine encouraged me to be my creative self and inspired me to pursue Media Communications in London.

As an editor of TERM, I was responsible for overseeing the editorial process from conceptualisation to publication. This instilled in me a sense of responsibility and leadership, which continue to guide my professional endeavours.



MEG MORRISON - EDITOR 2021-2022

## Meg's TERM highlights in 3!

**Leadership** From leading meetings to making design decisions, TERM magazine honed my leadership skills, equipping me with the confidence to guide and inspire team members.

**Creative Direction** TERM provided me with a platform to craft compelling content across various mediums, including editorial pieces tailored for web and social media. These experiences laid the foundation for my proficiency in creative direction, a skill I am further developing in my Media and Communications degree.

**Time Management** With tight editorial deadlines to meet, TERM taught me the importance of effective time management. I learned to prioritise tasks and allocate responsibilities to ensure the timely delivery of high-quality content.

These core skills I developed through TERM didn't just stay within its pages – they became invaluable assets to future university and job applications. They not only opened doors to exciting opportunities but also gained the attention of prospective employers.

But perhaps more importantly, TERM magazine taught me the importance of fostering a supportive team environment. Whether that was brainstorming article ideas, coordinating photo shoots, or finalising designs, collaboration was at the heart of TERM — a skill that seamlessly translates into my current role in marketing. Here, I collaborate with clients such as Tony's Chocolonely and Superdry to bring innovative campaigns to life.

Looking ahead, my next adventure is a marketing placement year at Unilever, Dove Beauty. Equipped with the skills and experiences gained from my time at TERM, I am excited to drive impactful initiatives and make a meaningful impact in the marketing industry. My time at TERM was more than just a chapter in my story – it significantly shaped my professional growth and nurtured lifelong friendships.

For that, I am very grateful to be part of its enduring legacy.



# term.

Life On Pause | Tarporley Sixth Form

The Unstoppable Power of Self-Growth

Underfunded into Non-Existence

A Love Letter to a Homophobic Queer

The Not so Beautiful Game



# CATCHING UP WITH OUR PAST EDITORS

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BETH STUDIED JOURNALISM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD AND NOW WORKS AS A SENIOR MARKETING EXECUTIVE FOR A TRAVEL COMPANY

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## What inspired you to become the Editor?

When I started Sixth Form, my mind was heavily focused on my future and what I was going to study at university. For a long time, I was torn between studying law and practicing journalism.

It was Mrs McMillan that introduced us to Term magazine, one that had been previously nominated at the Shine Media Awards. Eager to put my creative flare to the test, and also to better confirm my choices for university, I applied for the role of Editor, a choice I'll never regret!

Since doing Media Studies at GCSE, I always wanted to work in the media industry and becoming the Editor of Term gave the sneak peek I really desired.

Our magazine gave our Sixth Form the opportunity to express themselves. Whether students were into movies, music, football or news, everybody had the opportunity to try something new.

Together, our magazine was nominated for numerous awards, many of which we won! Travelling down to the ceremony in London with my fellow Term colleagues is one of those memories I'll never forget.

## Can you describe the role of the Editor?

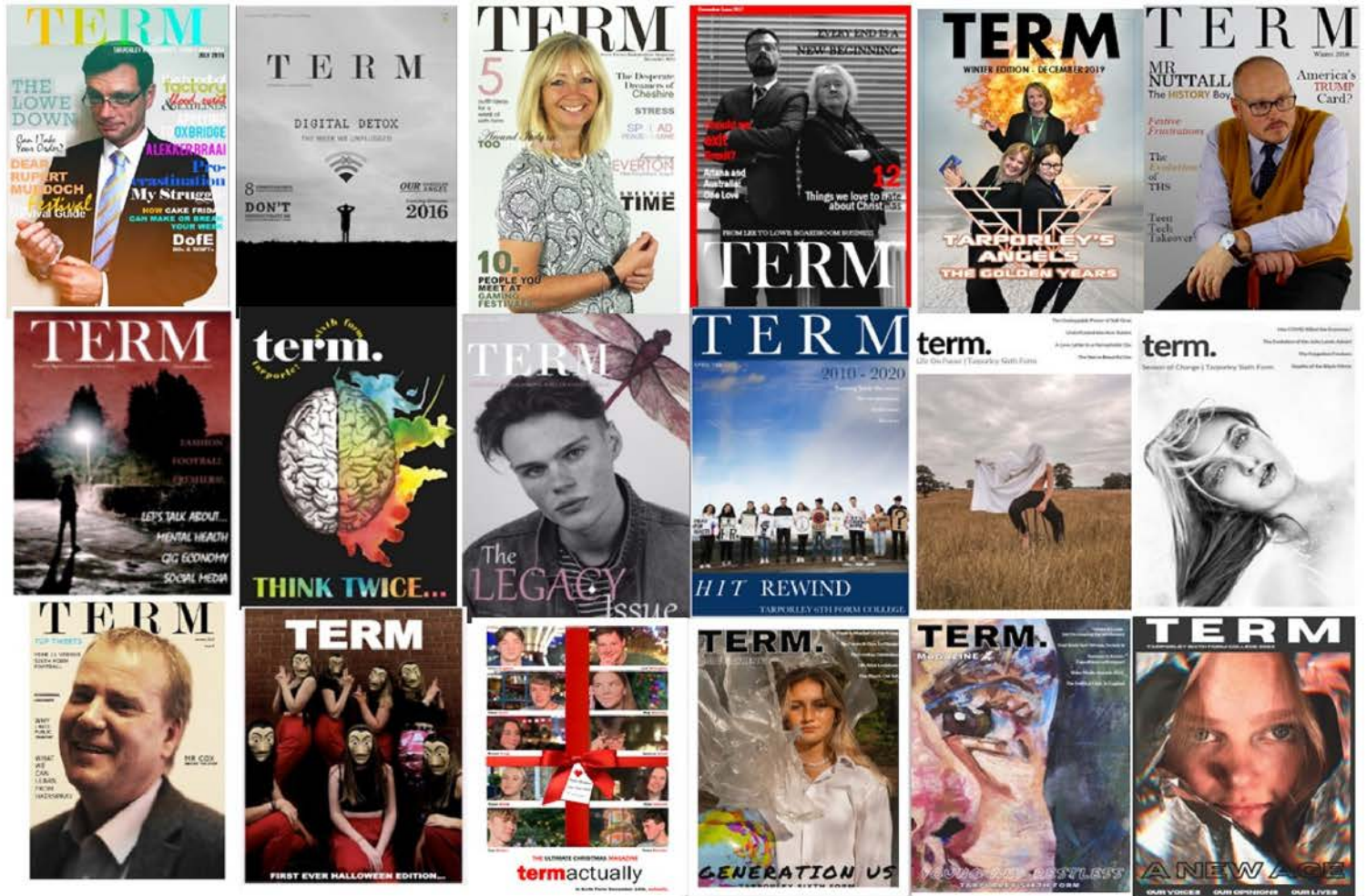
Being the Editor of Term magazine required organisation, creativity, and teamwork. No matter how talented you are, you can't produce a good magazine without a great team of writers and designers. As well as managing the team, I was also able to produce various articles for the magazine, which I really enjoyed writing.

Once everything is completed, there is no better feeling than seeing your official printed hard-copy magazine!



BETH FARRELL – EDITOR 2017-2018





## What strategies you used to encourage student participation?

Encouraging students to write for the magazine and giving people roles which best suit both their interests and skills was important. We made sure that everybody enjoyed the work they were doing.

It was important to understand that not everybody enjoys writing, but that didn't mean they couldn't get involved with Term. We had some students who prioritised photography and design and without them, we wouldn't have had such a unique looking magazine. We even won an award for best cover!

## How did you balance your role as editor and your academic commitments?

Dedicating yourself to a role, such as Editor, can feel daunting, especially when you have A-Levels on your mind. However, for me, working on Term magazine gave me a sense of release from my other academic commitments. It was a beneficial distraction from mocks and exams, one which also heavily supported my UCAS application to study BA Journalism Studies at University.

Utilising study and free periods, and some lunch times and after-school meetings, was key to optimising the amount of time I had to dedicate to the magazine.

## Do you have any advice for future editors of term magazine?

Enjoy it and learn from it. Being Editor of Term magazine will give you the perfect sneak peek into the world of journalism and managing a big team project.

My experience as Editor for Term really gave me the head-start I needed in the world of media. It inspired me to study BA Journalism Studies at the University of Sheffield and put me on the right path to a First-Class Honours degree.

Now working as a Senior Marketing Executive, I'm still using some of the skills I practiced as Editor for Term. It sets you up perfectly for managing projects and teams.

Despite retiring from my role almost seven years ago, I still have copies of the magazines I produced at home, and I love looking back at them - they give me a great sense of pride and accomplishment. Always look after your copies!





# DIVERSITY - WE'VE COME FAR, BUT ARE WE DONE YET?

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IN OUR CANDID INTERVIEW WITH ART TEACHER MR BOWLAND, HE REFLECTS ON HIS PERSONAL JOURNEY OF COMING OUT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIVERSITY

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## Why do you think LGBTQ representation is important in Tarporley High School?

In our progressive society; I think representation of all individuals; whether it be disability, race, gender or sexuality is important to promote discussion, knowledge and a sense of community. I do think it is important, and I think with the current narrative in the media there's a lot of suggestion that schools are 'brainwashing' students, especially with the whole anti-trans narrative that is been stirred up by the media. To witness what students see on Instagram is actually quite frightening. I see some really quite unpleasant narratives in reels and photographs and if you are engaging with that narrative, obviously the algorithms tap into that and you get more and more of it.

I genuinely believe representation is important but to also "normalise" sexuality and gender because it is just part of normal life. You're not any less of a person and, actually, for example, being a gay man is a very small facet of who I am. It does not define who I am, it is more that I just happen to be attracted to someone of the same gender. I would rather be known as an art teacher or someone that's into the gym; that's more important to me than characterised by who I love. So, in short, I think LGBTQ+ representation is important, in terms of sharing awareness and allowing people to discuss thoughts and feeling in a safe and open space. That being said, I think the key thing is dispelling myths and not making it as a big a thing is it needs to be, because it is not actually as important as a person's personality; skills, goals etc.

## Who were your biggest role models growing up?

If you are talking from just in general, I would say my biggest role model growing up was David Attenborough. If I could meet one man for tea, it would be David Attenborough.

I think he's just the most amazing man! He's given his life to science, to the pursuit of knowledge and obviously those credentials about saving environment I think that's really important. I can't think of anything better than sitting down and listening to his incredible stories and things he has achieved across the decades.

If you are asking about LGBTQ+ role models; remember I am old! I'm 37, so you're going back along time. I was a 6th form student twenty years ago, and LGBTQ+ wasn't really talked about. In fact, at that time it was only known as LGBT. Coming out as gay at high school twenty years ago was a big deal! Nobody really did it for fear of social rejection and bullying, and there were no role models that I can recall. I didn't know anyone else who was gay, lesbian or bisexual, and I certainly knew no one who was Trans, because no one even knew what that was! As a result there were no role models, and there was no one that you could look up to as someone you could relate to. Instagram, TikTok were not around, so access to information was limited and mobile phones still were black and white and could store only ten texts! There were certainly no teachers I could have ever opened up to in a million years, especially as my high school was Catholic. You can only imagine how isolating it was coming to terms with being a gay individual in a Catholic establishment with nobody to relate to; you're not going to do so well shall we say!

**"I think the key thing is kind of dispelling myths and not making it as a big a thing is it needs to be, because it is not actually that important as a person's identity"**



## Why do you think its important that we teach younger generations about the history of the LGBTQ+ Community?

I do think that it is quite important that now students feel much more confident to be who they are that they understand the legacy of the struggles of those who came before. I quite enjoyed doing assemblies this year, referring to the past and not only teaching our students but also learning more myself. Even my generation didn't know about the Stonewall riots, what people fought and the laws that have been changed as a result.

I think knowing what our ancestors fought for to get us to the place we have come to is really important, so that we respect that life wasn't always as free and wasn't always that equal. We should respect those older people that paved the way for our safety and our right to express ourselves. Events such as Pride wouldn't have evolved had it not been for the trailblazers such as Marsha P Johnson who in that Stonewall riots stood up for the marginalised.

## How have representations of the LGBTQ+ community changed as you've grown up?

Representation has changed massively, and I would say more so in the last five years. I'd say it's really moving forward that you now have representation filtered through into television; film, sport etc. From Strictly Come Dancing with same-sex pairings to Dancing On Ice; we now see that it is no big deal. That being said as I've previously highlighted I don't perceive sexuality to be a defining personality characteristic, so if I were to be on a show like Strictly I'd still choose to dance with a female partner. We have also got high profile athletes that are more confident to be out as LGBTQ. You've got the likes of the fantastic Welsh rugby player Gareth Thomas, you've got the diver Tom Daley and you've got the boxer Nicola Adams to name a few. So you have got all these people in different facets of the society that are quite comfortable to be out which has completely opened the floor to people being more accepting. I still think there's a fair way to go with trans representation, I think that is quite tricky, particularly in sport as there is no getting away from Biology and the advantages that testosterone provides in muscle development and power, meaning that a Trans woman will have a natural advantage over their biologically female counterparts.



## “We should respect those older people that paved the way for our safety and our right to express ourselves”

Still, we do see progress, Michaela Antonia Jaé Rodriguez recently won a Golden Globe for best actress in Pose, an American drama television series about New York City's ball culture, an LGBTQ subculture in the African-American and Latino communities, throughout the 1980s and 1990s. The fact she is trans is irrelevant and she won that award on merit of her outstanding acting. Through this 'normalising' of diversity I think it is wonderful to see students who are far more comfortable to talk about who they are, who they want to be and they feel safe because when I was growing up you were likely to be victimised if you came out which wasn't a particularly positive prospect.



### **What was your Sixth Form experience like?**

My sixth form experience can be separated into two parts. As a student academically, I was fine. I studied Art, English Literature, Biology and Maths. I loved school, loved studying and knew exactly where I wanted to go in terms of degree and career. Obviously at that time I was kind of coming to terms with who I was. I think I had kind of known from about 13, 14 that I probably was a gay man. I remember all the lads talking about which girls they fancied and thinking I really am not interested at all.

Further conversations around the dinner table when mum and dad would ask me if I had a girlfriend were tricky. I would simply say "I'm just focused on my studies" but once I kind of knew it started to become harder and harder because there wasn't anyone else to talk to, let alone date!

### **“As a straight person you will never have to come out, but as a gay person you do, and it's really odd”**

Eventually I came out to my best friend at party on a Sunday night because I was really out of sorts. She said don't worry all will be fine, the problem was the next day when I went to the common room she had told everybody. I remember walking into the room and it went silent, like a movie and everyone just turned and looked and I felt like the size of an ant. I panicked because I knew I was in a Catholic school and I had a younger brother in Year Nine - what would happen if he found out? I managed to find him, but my brother had already been told. My brother was brilliant, he said he already had guessed anyway, but not to worry, he would never tell mum and betray me like that and he would obviously wait until I was ready to tell; he kept to that promise for seven years.

In that respect Sixth Form was a bit tricky. I kept it from my parents for seven more years, which was exhausting and by that point I was dating someone from university.

### **What advice do you have for newer members of the LGBTQ+ community?**

The newer members of the LGBTQ+ community should know that there's always someone to talk to. Society has moved on and know who your friends are that you can trust to open up to, and there's a wealth of support online. There was none of that when I was growing up, so there is always someone that can chat to you about it, talk to you about experience. Obviously, there are teachers that you may feel comfortable talking to but be aware that if you disclose anything that suggests you are at risk, we are duty bound to pass this on for your safety.

My big advice is don't let it define who you are. It's just a small facet of your personality and therefore it does not have to be a big deal. Remember, nobody makes a big deal of when a girl goes out with a guy is just something that happens and that's fine.

### **Do you have any advice for people whose friends or family may be part of the LGBTQ+ Community?**

I'd say just be an supporter, be someone who listens and cares. You might not necessarily understand or like, but who are you to judge? We all have our individual personalities and characteristics that makes us individual and I think just listening and being supportive is the best thing you can do. Remember it is not easy and "coming out" is strangely a hard thing to do - I have no idea why, because ultimately, it's not a big deal. As a heterosexual person you will never have to come out, but as a gay person you do, and it's really odd. Obviously, someone that doesn't fit this narrative does in a way have to do that. I think you as a friend, family member etc don't diminish it if they tell you, but equally don't go the other way either. It's not a massive deal, but it's not tiny deal. Just be interested, offer support and a caring ear and I think that's all a person wants us to know, that you've got their back.

## The study room

## 6 TYPES OF PEOPLE YOU WILL MEET IN THE COMMON ROOM

By Emily Badger

Welcome to the Sixth form common room- a strange and mysterious place to those who don't visit us often, but to its regulars its basically the next best thing to heaven. Soft, brown sofas, pastel green walls, pictures and posters galore. Polished wooden floors littered with bags upon bags, making any thought of escape impossible, as students abandon their load in search of that much needed respite in between lessons.

But the biggest part of the common room is the students who use it. Harder to navigate than the maze of bags, the student body can be a difficult one to manoeuvre correctly. So, whether you're a common room newbie, or a frequent user- here are the 6 types of students you will meet in the common room to help you on your way.

### The Last Minute.com

The last minute.com can usually be found hunched over a piece of homework that probably should have been handed in about a month ago. Profusely scribbling they aren't usually the talkative type, too busy translating their mates' answers into a near copy to even think about engaging in social communication. Any attempt at distraction by discussion is swiftly met by an ink splattered hand for fear of receiving another verbal berating from their teacher. The last one still fresh in their mind from the previous overdue essay that never materialised on her desk.

Their Edulink never seems to empty either, boxes of red fill the screen like a tidal wave. They smother the white of the new until they too drown beneath the surface and become red like their predecessors.

### The Patient Zero

Marked by their fortress of empty sofa that surrounds them like a mighty moat, the patient zero is not usually a well-favoured student amongst their peers. No more than five words are ever spewed from their mouth before a hacking bark takes over their phlegmy windpipe. Any hope of reaching the respite of a full stop or comma is expelled along with the copious amounts of fluid they seem to secrete after every blow of their cherry chapped nose.

The patient zero is always complaining they need a day off, and yet they never take it. At least not until half the sixth form have been knocked out like a strike at the bowling lanes. That's when they come sauntering back into school- all well rested and fresh faced- to see everyone else infected by their uncovered coughs and unabashed sneezes.

### The Disappearing Act

If there is one thing you can count on to be constant in the common room it's that the disappearing act has well... disappeared. They've probably had every "disease" under the sun- from scarlet fever to appendicitis. If you can name it, they've probably had it- at least that's what the attendance office would say if you asked. Truthfully, they are probably still in bed at 10:00am on a Tuesday, having overslept yet another alarm loud enough to wake a whole country.

Master of the excuse- the disappearing act probably has undiscovered destiny awaiting them in MI6. Their evasiveness could indeed rival that of a top agent- I mean seriously how have they not been cornered at least once for their 102 unauthorised absences?!



# Sixth Form Centre



## The Romeo and Juliet

"O Romeo, Romeo wherefore art thou Romeo?" Next to you. He's sat right next you, as he always is. The Romeo and Juliet never do seem to be too far from one another- whether attached at the hip, hand or to everyone else's dismay the lip they don't seem to be able to function properly without the other. No one can remember when they first got together, they've just always sort of been this way. Maybe it was Year 7? Or was it Year 9? Either way I don't think they even really know themselves, too caught up in the whirlwind romance to begin to think about trivial nonsense such as anniversaries. Besides, if anyone was actually counting, I don't think they would have even officially made it to month one- the 31st a date exclusively marked for their "breakup". Coincidentally the 1st also happens to be their scheduled reunion day- faces sucking at each other once again one as if World War 3 didn't break out between them yesterday.

## The Regular

Two sides of the same coin- the regular is the exact opposite of the disappearing act. They've never missed a day of school in their life, and they plan to keep it that way. A volcano spewing hot, molten lava couldn't keep them from those shining, pearly school gates at 8:50 AM on the dot. And that sweet sweet 100% attendance, with its little paper certificate and bar of chocolate make it all worth it for them in the end (even if they did have to skip their sister's wedding to get it). Disease seems to be a foreign language to the regular - their body seemingly a giant walking antibody. While most are afraid of germs, germs seem to somehow be afraid of them. And they would never, ever, be caught dead with the patient zero- all it takes is one simple brush of the shoulder for them to feel their percentages attendance drop. How ever will they win that Crunchie with 99.9%?!

## The Sleeping Beauty

Sprawled haphazardly across a sofa- arms and legs dangle precariously at an angle that can't be comfortable for anyone to sleep at- the sleeping beauty never misses the opportunity to catch up on sleep. 20 minutes at break? They're already snoring. Hour long free? They're passed out in the common room. A five-minute passing period? There they are slumped soundly against the wall as if there weren't other students darting about in front of them. If there was an award for weirdest sleeping position, they would have won it... every year... for the entirety of their college career.

Think of any place in the sixth form centre. The common room, the study room, the toilets, the storage cupboard. If you can think it chances are they've napped in there. The amount they manage to sleep is almost unhuman- 18 hours a day can't be normal... right?

So once again I say to you- Welcome to the Sixth Form common room- a strange yet hopefully no longer quite so mysterious place. If you do decide to pay us a visit in the near or far future maybe those glassy front doors won't seem so daunting anymore...







## TRIMALCHO'S TALE THE GREAT GATSBY BOOK REVIEW

By Calum Siddall



"In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since." This is the opening line to Fitzgerald's magnum opus, *The Great Gatsby*.

*The Great Gatsby*, published in 1925, takes place in the year 1922 in New York during the roaring 20s. The main character is Nick Carraway, who is also the narrator and accounts for his experiences when he was in New York and the people he met. Nick focuses heavily on Jay Gatsby, the young millionaire with a very secretive and unknown past.

What entices you to pick it up is how the prose is written. Every writer has a unique style; it could be poetic like Charlotte Bronte; it could be realist like Ernest Hemingway; it could be lengthy sentences that use many commas and semicolons like Charles Dickens. The way Fitzgerald crafted the prose in *The Great Gatsby*, as well as the syntax, is so effective that not a single word is wasted, not even the word 'and' is wasted. If you read the novel, you could not replace any of the words, as all the words are perfect. As a result of this, the immersion will be so vivid, when you decide to leave West Egg, you will blink and then, you will slowly stagger back into your own reality. To conclude this point, I will leave a small excerpt from the novel. "Its vanished trees, the trees that had made way for Gatsby's house, had once pandered in whispers to the last and greatest of human dreams... man must have held his breath in the presence of this continent, compelled into an aesthetic contemplation he neither understood nor desired."

During your journey reading the novel, you will follow a group of wealthy characters living in New York. The characters you meet will be seen through Nick's perspective, as Nick is looking back and retelling his time in New York. This, however, can be an issue as he idolises Gatsby, making him biased and making him an unreliable narrator. This can be seen when Nick states, "I am inclined to reserve judgement." You find out early on that he is not inclined to reserve judgement. Some of the other characters you follow include: the eponymous protagonist Gatsby; the golfer Jordan Baker; the arrogant old money millionaire, Tom Buchanan; and his wife, Daisy Buchanan. A problem a reader may meet when reading the novel is that the characters are unlikable. I, however, do not think this is a problem; think how boring it would be if you liked every character in every novel. Even though the characters are unlikable, there are many lessons you can learn from them. For example, wealth does not necessarily lead to happiness.





Corruption, old vs. new, The American dream and unrequited love. These are the main themes that are presented in *The Great Gatsby*. Corruption is prevalent throughout the novel. The characters in the novel, except for Nick, all show signs of corruption. Gatsby made his money by selling bootlegged alcohol during a time when prohibition was a law. Tom and Daisy are also very corrupt; they indulge in affairs, and because they are from old money, they develop a superiority complex over everyone else. For example, Tom despises Gatsby because he is a self-made man. This is further highlighted by the divide between West Egg and East Egg. West Egg symbolises new money, while East Egg symbolises old money. Jordan Baker also shows signs of corruption, as she is accused of cheating in a golf tournament. Nick, however, is the only character that does not show any signs of corruption. In the novel, Nick, earns an honest living selling bonds. When Nick is offered to make money, illegally, he declines.

The impossibility of the American Dream is the most important theme explored in the novel. There is a disparity of wealth throughout the novel, which contradicts the American Dream as there is not an equal opportunity for all. This is shown during how well off the people in West and East Egg are in comparison to how much deprivation there is in the valley of ashes. Even if you achieve the American Dream and become wealthy, it does not translate to happiness, as explored why Gatsby made his money. Unrequited love is also an important theme explored throughout the novel; it is explored through Gatsby's obsession with Daisy, and he wants to recreate the past. This can be seen as he buys the house across the bay from Daisy to be with her.

To conclude, I will finish with the last line of this great novel:

"So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past".

# ACCENT BIAS IN BRITAIN - IS 'ACCENTISM' EFFECTING JOB OPPORTUNITIES?

By Rose Daly-Shone

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## EVER WONDERED HOW YOUR ACCENT CAN EFFECT YOUR CHANCE OF BEING HIRED?

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Racism, sexism and now there is 'Accentism' and it is a very real bias in Britain today.

The RP accent has held presidency over most, stereotyping users as 'intelligent individuals' and has associations with the 'upper class' and a higher level of education. Research has shown that people rate the RP accent above any other regional accent in terms of intelligence and vigour. Yes, 'Accentism' is a new word that has emerged from the recent studies on what your accent says about you and how it affects your image as well as people's impressions about you.

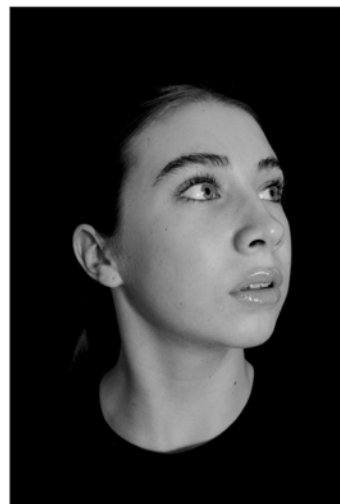
We can't deny that there are stigmas associated with the different accents in the UK. Unfortunately as soon as you open your mouth you already have a subconscious stereotype attached to you. It's a well known fact that the Brummie accent is the 'most hated' accent in the UK, despite the fact that it is the second biggest city. You may ask why is the accent hated so much? After all it's just an accent... Well unfortunately as humans we respond to sound a lot more than the actual words in the utterance. Accents have stereotypes that are inbuilt into are sub-conscious due to social norms living in a proud egalitarian society. It's a cold hard fact of life that's remained un-noticed until of late when new research and statistics have come to light.

A company may be highly more likely to hire a 'posh' RP accent than a drawling southerner which a strong regional accent. Even you and I can't deny that if met with a scouser and an RP speaker you are more like to think that the RP speaker is more intelligent. In a 2006 survey by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, found that 76% of employed admitted to discriminating against applicants on the basis of their accents. This staggering statistic reinforces the notion that there is an inequality in the professional fields for regional accents. You might even find yourself converging towards a 'posh' accent and toning down your regional innovations when faced with an important job interview. Why do you think that is? The truth is, accents are discriminated against, alike any other discrimination.

Although research has shown that regional accents are more 'trusting' and can be viewed as more kind, compassionate and relatable-a nice sentiment. However this in-built bias towards accents is negatively affecting job opportunities, life prospects and on a more grander scheme-equality in itself. Our accents don't define our personalities or our intellect in anyway but assumptions are still made as soon as someone starts talking in their 'ugly' Brummie accent or a 'shifty' Cockney accent. It imminently needs to be recognised that your accent is completely separate to your intellect and personality.

The origin of this inbuilt bias is all down to history and how the majority of wealthier people used the Queen's elite English accent, and when there is wealth, there is usually a rigorous private school education therefore supposed 'intelligence'. Whereas the more common regional accents do not hold this stereotype at all. This has continued into the present day and is a major issue in the equality and fairness of the social economic system of Britain. Although society has rapidly changed in favour of equality, the accent bias in professional fields is not as widely recognised as other movements.

Accentism needs to be stopped as it is the same as any other discrimination of a group of people and is affecting the fairness of the hiring system. Accentism needs to be more recognised by the general public so this discrimination can be dissolved and all areas of the UK can have equal job opportunities. Accentism is real and this biased Britain needs to change.







# A JUST WAR?

By Callum Siddall

## Is war justifiable?

Death. Poor conditions. Pointlessness. These are the impacts that unfortunately occur when a war happens, or when war ends.

Since 1900, it is estimated that 187 million people have died in combat but for what? Glory, pride, and defending your homeland. It does not matter. I don't know about you, but I would rather people have their mother, father, siblings, aunties, uncles, and cousins at home, rather than them lying dead, with them faced down in a muddy field, or a scorching hot desert somewhere with them thinking they died for 'glory.' Innocent children become orphans, the pain affecting them for the rest of their lives. Furthermore, it is not guaranteed that the children will get a home; they may get a home with parents that do not care for them like their mother and father had previously. Something else that happens frequently during war is innocent civilians being caught in the crossfire and dying, only because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. If you are moral, you cannot justify innocent people being killed only because they were at the wrong place at the wrong time. So, if you condemn the death of civilians, which I assume you will, how can you justify war?

The conditions the soldiers are forced to face to get some kleos are inhumane, amoral, and vile. The sun follows you around like a shadow, beating you with its power; it will persist until it successfully subdues; it is unnecessary for soldiers to face this for some glory. When people say, "When the soldiers die, they will die in a blaze of glory," I look at them and say, how can they die in a blaze of glory if the cause is not worth dying for?







The cold, however, is another powerful weather condition; it will start with the occasional shiver, but then it will escalate; it will take control of your limbs, making them useless and then it will throw the worst weapon it has, hypothermia. To conclude this point, I say this: would you want your friends and family to participate in this Promethean torture? If you do not want your friends and family to participate in this, which I assume you would not, how can you justify it? Futile. Yes, futile. War serves no purpose to the majority of people. It only benefits governments and mega corporations. War profiteers benefit from war; I excoriate them, imagine how evil and corrupt you must be to profit from the death of people. Governments use wars to claim a petty victory against their enemies. They win small concessions, a slither of money, or the tiniest amount of land, that was not worth fighting for. The people who benefit do not know what it is like to be fighting; they sit in their ivory towers, with a comfortable lifestyle, whilst the soldiers are being beaten by external forces, they cannot control. The soldiers die for King and Country; the King would not notice if a soldier died. Their country will carry on, business as usual, but their families would grieve them, their world would stop.

To conclude, war cannot be considered justifiable because if innocent people are dying, so their governments can claim the smallest victories, they cannot be considered victories. Their deaths are, unfortunately, futile. To finish, let me leave a quote by Wilfred Owen which perfectly sums up this perfectly: "My friend, you would not tell with such high zest To children ardent for some desperate glory, The old lie: Dulce et decorum est Pro patria mori."



# GRIEF: THE THING WE HOPE NOT TO FACE

By Freya Howarth

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PEOPLE ARE HARDWIRED TO FEEL THE EMOTIONS OF GRIEF BUT JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO COPE.

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Unfortunately, most of us know the feeling, don't we? Hearts shatter, denial begins, anger strikes. But nothing brings them back. Everyone just hopes it never happens to them but there is something that can hopefully just help even one person.

Grief is universal. It is inevitable and real. You never think about losing someone until the dreaded day arrives. You then have to go through the different stages of grief: denial, sadness, anger and then acceptance, except you never really want to come to terms with them being gone. The hardest part about letting go is to live with the memories that follow; heart breaking but they never fade. Another horrific thing is the "uncertainty" – when you are afraid that the moment you let go of someone you will hate yourself when you finally realise that there are no more memories to make with them. The people you lost helped you to become the person you are today; accepting their passing is like a stab to the heart. No one wants to let them go but unfortunately my papa went right in front of me and hopefully this story will help anyone feeling stuck in eternal grief, feeling like nothing will ever help.

The feeling of loss, lack of hope, lack of smiles took over us all that day. Shoulders slumped under the weight of death's hands. I stood next you in silence wishing your eyes wouldn't close. The tears came thick and fast as dad and Rachael held your hand as your eyes slowly closed, to then Rachael saying, "is that it?" I felt hopeless, heartbroken, as silence filled the room.

This may have caused my family an unimaginable amount of pain but let me explain our luck of having three weeks by his side: through my point of view. The sun rose and shone upon another day we got to spend with you, but it also meant another sunset which painted the sky in hues of golden oranges and burnt coral. The sun then dipped below the horizon as it showed its rays stretching out like a last embrace before it let the stars glimmer and shine over us. However, each sunset also meant it could be soon but every night we watched the sky set and finally got to play our game one more time (spotting animals in the clouds).

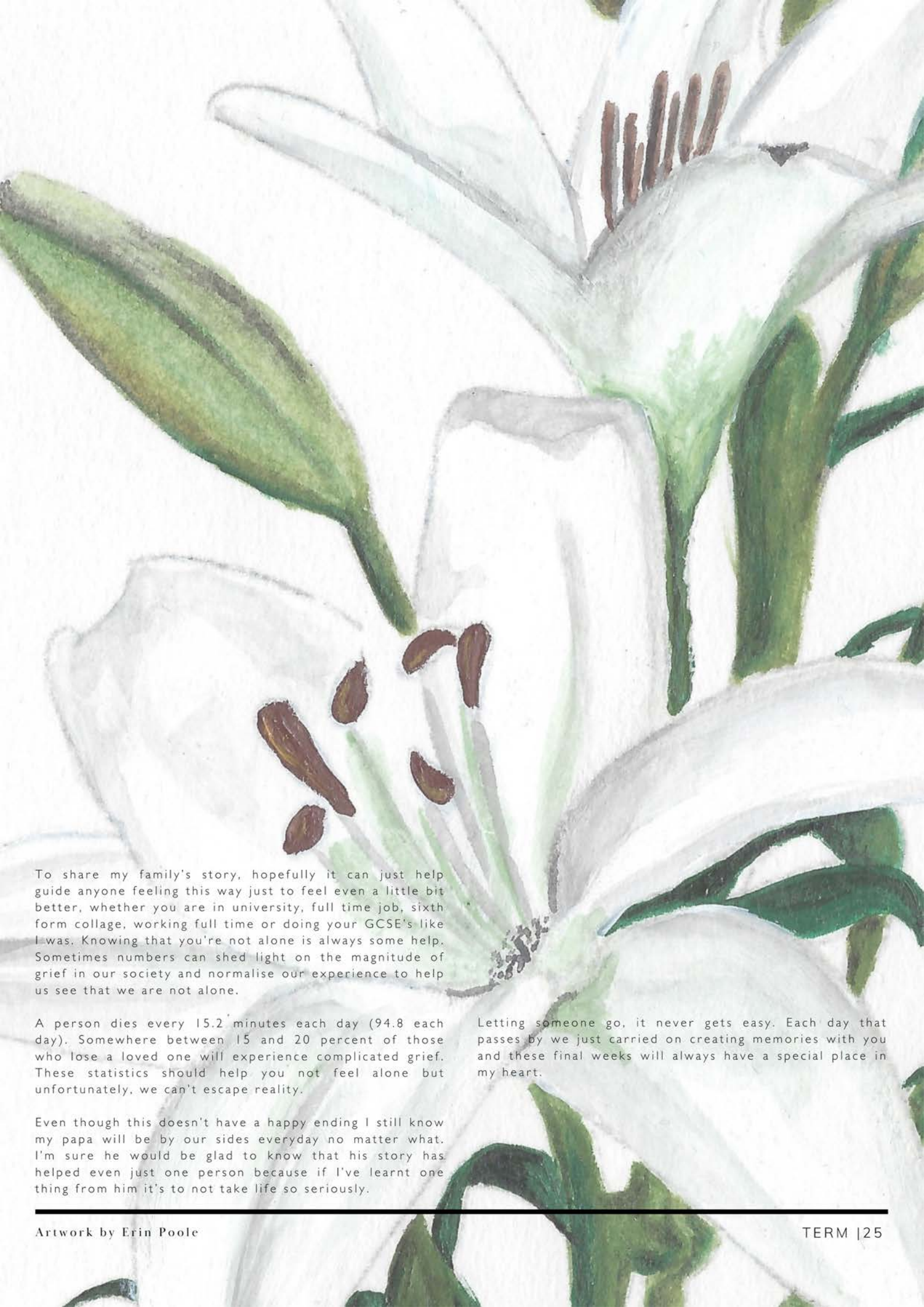
Your final week then crept upon us, everyone came together and spent as much time as possible with you. We spoke about art and my future, but it just felt wrong talking about the future when you were not going to be in it. Unfortunately, the time then came. You lost the strength to be able to speak; the pain that filled us all was heart breaking. You continued to the end of the week with us, so I decided to have that sleepover with you in which myself, Dad and Rachael spent that night with you just one last time, to think that was the last night is so unfair it's like waking up from a horrific dream and is continuing after I wake up.

Monday 10th July 2023 at 8:30am I stood at the top of your bed in disbelief that as soon as Rachael and Dad held your hands you opened then closed your eyes for the last time. All my hope plummeted as I watched you take your last breath and Rachael said, "is that it?" and Dad said, "go get your legs Dad, you're safe now." The world seemed to have come to a complete stop, silence filled the air, hope had gone. The sun then hid behind the clouds as gushes of rain came towards us, it's like the world knew what horrific day was intended. But it helps to think that your safe now and pain free and reunited with family up there, even though you might not be here with us, and we can't see or talk to you. You're not hurting anymore and none of us ever wanted that pain for you. We know you will always be with us like you promised but it's just unfair that your so close yet so far away now.

When you took your last breath, I forgot how to breathe. When you closed your eyes for the last time my vision became clouded. When your voice was no longer heard, I forgot how to speak. The world became still.

Unfortunately, grief never gets easier. We then had your funeral, which I found myself stood there, pain filled my body, trying to understand why you were gone, why you had to go and why it had to be you. I had never seen so many saddened faces all come together it just shows what an incredible person you were to have filled so many people's lives with joy and happiness, but all these people who were lucky enough to have known you also got to help us create the greatest send off for you.



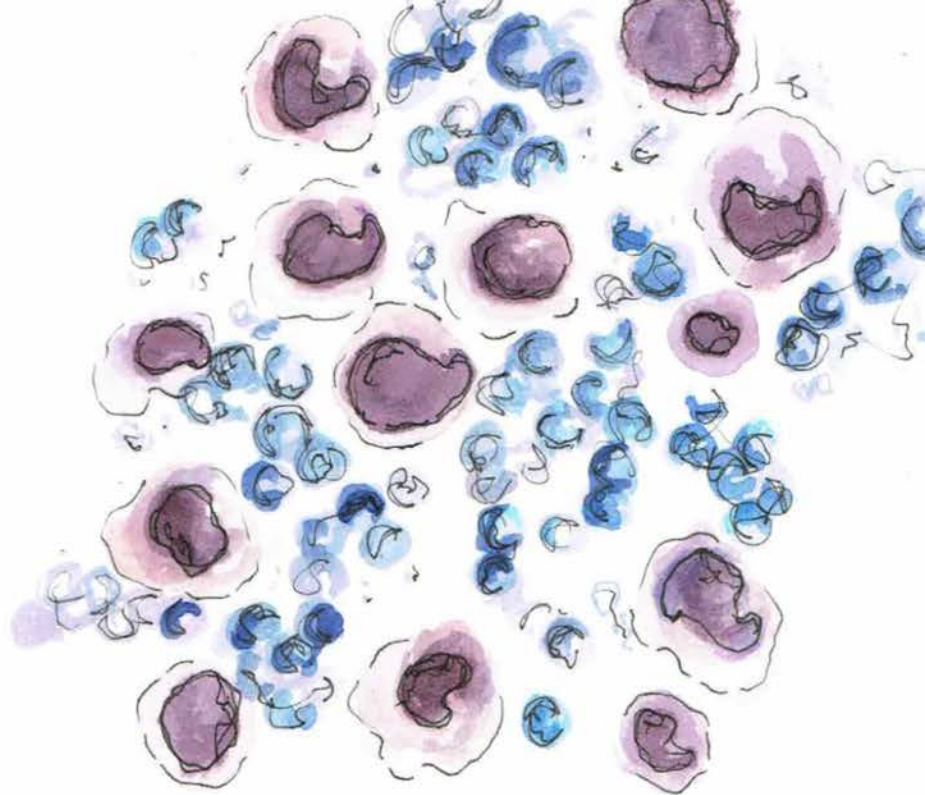


To share my family's story, hopefully it can just help guide anyone feeling this way just to feel even a little bit better, whether you are in university, full time job, sixth form collage, working full time or doing your GCSE's like I was. Knowing that you're not alone is always some help. Sometimes numbers can shed light on the magnitude of grief in our society and normalise our experience to help us see that we are not alone.

A person dies every 15.2 minutes each day (94.8 each day). Somewhere between 15 and 20 percent of those who lose a loved one will experience complicated grief. These statistics should help you not feel alone but unfortunately, we can't escape reality.

Even though this doesn't have a happy ending I still know my papa will be by our sides everyday no matter what. I'm sure he would be glad to know that his story has helped even just one person because if I've learnt one thing from him it's to not take life so seriously.

Letting someone go, it never gets easy. Each day that passes by we just carried on creating memories with you and these final weeks will always have a special place in my heart.



## THE BIG C - KNOWING THE SIGNS

By Elie Roots

### What is cancer?

Cancer is the uncontrolled growth and division of cells, a result of a mutation in DNA. This mutation damages the genes that regulate cell division. Cancer often appears in the form of tumours (growths of abnormal cells), which constantly expand in size and can develop in any organ of the body. Common places for tumours to form are in the lungs, prostate, breast, oesophagus and pancreas.

### Cancer in young people

Cancer in young people is rare and accounts for less than 1% of deaths due to cancer in the UK. However, there are around 2,500 new cases diagnosed each year in the UK so it's vital that you can identify the signs and symptoms of the most common cancers in young people.

Leukaemia (AML) is cancer of the white blood cells. The symptoms of AML usually develop over a few weeks and get worse over time. Symptoms include looking pale, feeling tired or weak, breathlessness, frequent infections, frequent bleeding or bruising and losing weight without trying to.

Thyroid cancer is found in the thyroid gland which is in your neck. Symptoms include: a lump in the front lower part of your neck, sore throat, difficulty swallowing or breathing and pain in the front of your neck.

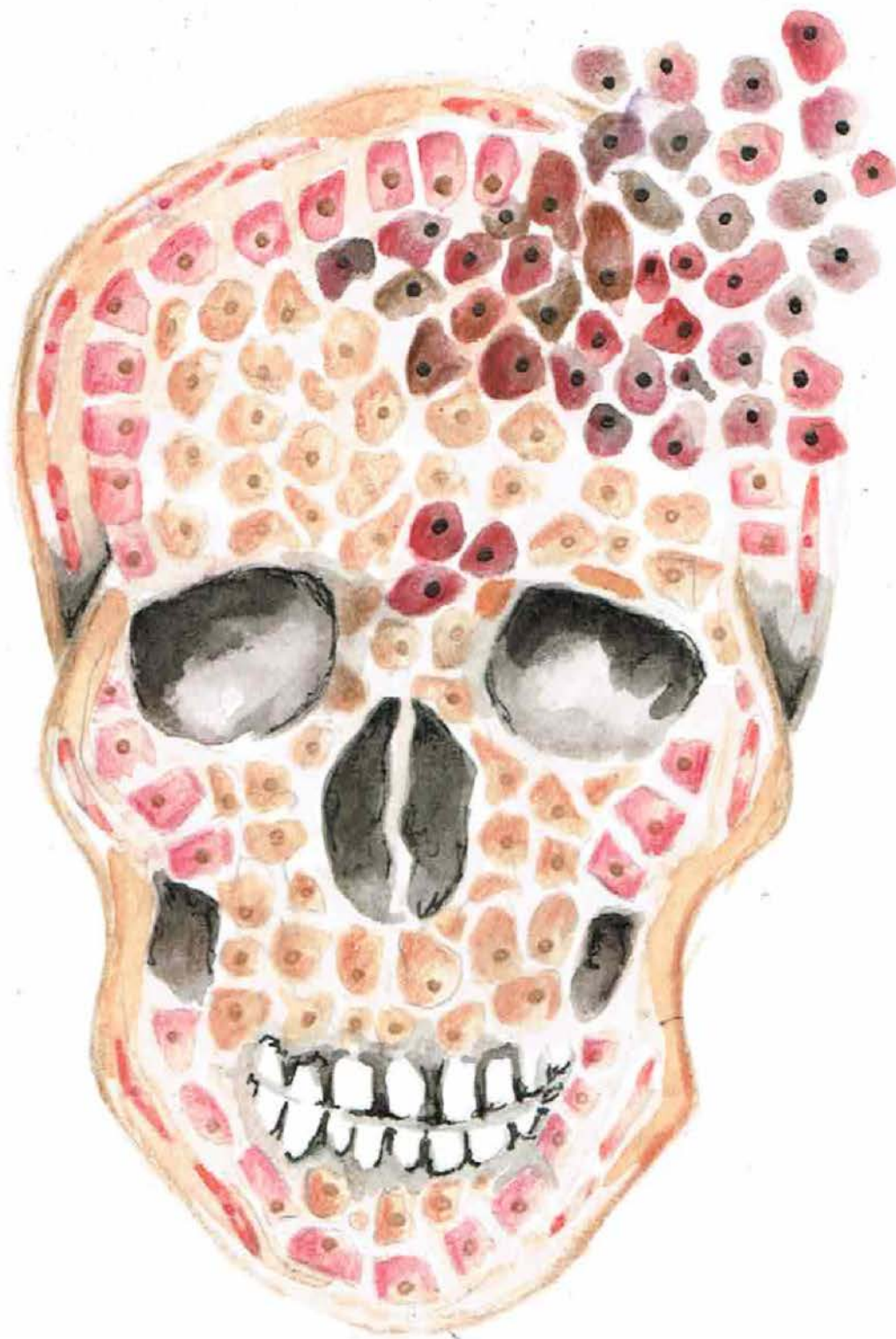
The survival rates for young people with cancer is 87% which has increased by 13% since 2001.

### Preventing cancer in later life

In young people cancer is very rarely linked to lifestyle, however cancer in adults is more strongly linked to lifestyle factors. 1 in 2 people get cancer in their lifetime, so doing small things to improve your health can reduce your risk of getting cancer.

1. Alcohol is metabolised into acetaldehyde, a cancer-causing compound. The higher alcohol consumption the higher the risk of cancer.
2. Too much body fat can cause levels of growth hormones to rise, which causes increased cell division, raising the risk of cancer.
3. Anti-inflammatory fruits such as cherries and strawberries, reduce the risk of many cancers.
4. Being active improves your immune system, making it more effective in spotting and destroying harmful cancer cells.
5. Smoking is linked to 15 different types of cancer, the most common being bowel and lung cancer.





## Breast Cancer

Despite common misconceptions breast cancer can develop in both women and men and symptoms are very similar, they include: a lump which is painless, firm and is immobile within the breast, nipple inversion, a rash around the nipple and a lump or swelling in either armpit.

Sam's Diamonds Cancer Support provides an empowering and uplifting space for cancer patients.

Sam's Diamonds website is also a very useful resource for finding out more about cancer and what you can do to lower your risk of cancer, they provide information on 10 different types of cancer and how to self-examine for breast cancer, as well as how you can support them on their mission to support cancer patients.

It was a privilege to hear from a guest speaker during Sixth Form's PSHE day and we all learned so much about staying safe and the importance of self-care.

# H<sup>2</sup>NO

By Amelie Cooper

Water. H<sub>2</sub>O. The basis of life, needed for all living organisms to guarantee survival. But despite our planet being seventy one percent water, a global water crisis is looming on the horizon.

How, in 2024, are 1.69 billion people living without access to adequate sanitation? Due to the ever-growing population of our planet, our world is facing an imminent crisis. Demand for water is now outstripping supply. Many countries are managing their water supplies poorly with some nations already highly dependent on neighbouring countries for water. Diplomatic negotiations are then entered into, in order for the water supply to remain constant. This reliance on supply leaves the countries needing water in a precarious position. Their threat of water starvation remains constant. At any moment, the water supplier could decide to 'turn off the tap' to conserve water for their own people, especially in times of their own water shortages.

Water stress is another common cause of water scarcity. Countries such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are using more water than they have available to them. Demand is surpassing supply. Even when countries have access to adequate water supplies, the threat of scarcity is still high with factors such as collapsed or inadequately maintained infrastructure, conflict and poor management of water resources.

Along with all the factors highlighted so far, there is still another major threat to our water supply - climate change. World weather patterns are becoming more and more erratic causing two major issues - increasing temperatures and either too much or too little rainfall. The United Nations states - "Water is at the centre of the climate crisis." At present, only 0.5% of the water on earth is accessible and available. Therefore, climate change is a significant factor in the world's water supply.

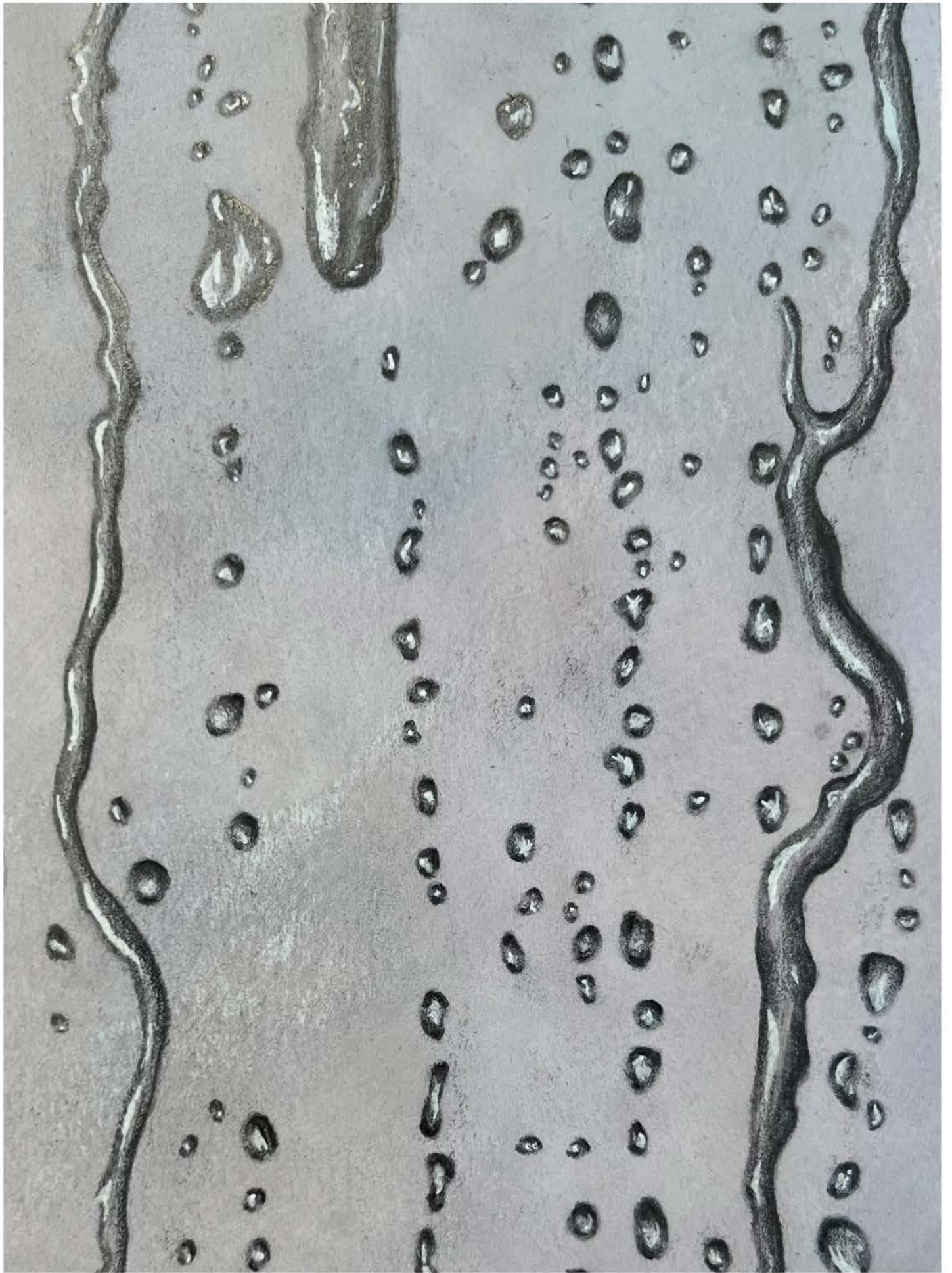
Soil moisture, shrinking ice fields and glacial melting is increasing at an exponential rate - at least 1cm per year. This has major ramifications for our water security. It causes sea levels to rise globally and also presents another problem for us to deal with. This in turn, is projected to extend salinisation of ground water rates.

If the threat of climate change is not dealt with swiftly and appropriately by world leaders and governments this could severely compromise and further threaten the world's water security. It also heightens the risks of further flooding and droughts. Statistically, water-related incidents are dictating the list of disasters from the past 50 years. 70% of all deaths can be traced back to water-related natural hazards. Extreme droughts and flooding are both threatening delicate eco-systems leading to dire consequences. Ultimately, the water crisis will affect the future of every living thing on our planet.

Let's be considerate, eco-friendly and protect this precious commodity.







# THE RUIN OF RIGOUR

By Tilly Green

Stupendous sculpture, delicate details, beguiling buildings. This used to be the idyllic view one would capture if they simply stepped outside, the world carved by humble hands into bucolic cottages, paradisaical cafés and meaningful architecture. The present day, however, is strikingly different. Dismal, dingy and depressing are the only words painted by the myriad of shapeless apartments carelessly thrown up ten stories into the weeping sky, with only millimetres between each identical, lifeless block. This is the death of detail.

Auspicious arches would once seamlessly sweep around ornately carved doors, grand staircases twirling around into a swirl, like a sweet, sugar-dusted lollipop enticing all those around. Delicate hands with feather-light strokes would slave away, transforming a dull and lifeless slab of wood into a magical, sublime creation serving a purpose whilst enchanting the eye. Architecture used to hold meaning. Architecture used to be a display of craftsmanship and skill. Architecture used to stun those who encountered it and paint our streets with unadulterated beauty.

These days, architecture appears to be another mundane requirement. A simple check box that must be completed as quickly as possible - disregard quality, aesthetics and integrity all to regurgitate another copy-cat concrete block two weeks sooner. Today, architecture is an eyesore, an abomination that vitiates any scrap of beauty that has the misfortune of lying next to it. All this melancholic loss and destruction, for what? Poor quality, unsafe housing? Another extravagant office building half of which will lay unused? To temporarily satisfy our consumerist desire for more? What happened to character and pride in where we live?





Perhaps you don't believe skipping those extra details and omitting that ornate design is too much of a big deal. And you're right- as long as you don't mind spending the rest of your life in a copy and paste cube, grey and lifeless, staring at the same boring wall with no detail. Every. Single. Day. The desolation of modern designs is slowly seeping into our lives, quietly but certainly taking rule like a persistent parasite. One may not observe this now but as our eyes scan over another shade of grey, grey, grey and the same smooth, smooth, smooth walls with no colour nor texture, our creativity and imagination is slowly slaughtered along with unique designs. These demised designs fail to ignite passion and fuel ideas. Instead, the same design is pushed out again and again, placing any hope for innovation in a small and suffocating box and carelessly abandoning it in favour of a cash-grab and the rejection to push oneself harder and beyond comfort.

If you too wish to prevent this grim reality and infuse colour along with hope and ambition back into our streets and lives, then you must act. Push yourself and others around you, take the box and unleash it. Allow creativity to flow again, replace the same tedious shades with bold, bright tones and soulless, blank walls with adorned, embellished compositions. Save our bland future by seizing these opportunities and carve the future we all crave, one with colour and desire. Stop the infectious plague of misery and sorrow and allow the stream of invigorating hues and pigments to overflow and take over.

Let's stop the ruin of rigour and start the sculpture of the sublime.





## GAMING IS CHANGING, IS IT FOR BETTER OR WORSE?

By Lucy Rathbone

**The world of gaming is an ever-expanding multiverse. Its rate of growth and popularity makes it a market of fierce competition and unimaginable creativity.**

With the digital world arguably taking over reality, it's all too easy to buy the next best game. Stores on the high street are in decline and places like GAME and CeX aren't receiving the same attention they once did. Technology has evolved drastically and the convenience of purchasing games online has become the next best option. Why bother travelling into store when you can buy it from the comfort of your own bedroom.

Let us begin with 'Live service games'. For those unfamiliar with this, it is a game for which a video game publisher plans to continue providing new content, which is sold to the player in a regular amount and at increasing rates. Examples of such games you may be familiar with are- Fortnite, Call of Duty and Apex Legends. Games that operate like this do gain more profit than games without this, however there are implications that are in favour of the decline of live service games. Some live service games charge their buyers prices around seventy pounds, solely for the base game. Once in game, players often have to purchase further add-ons to experience the complete immersive experience - for example, the Battle Pass in Fortnite.

These are displayed behind paywalls on the in-game shops. Arguably, this tactic maintains an audience with a continuous peaked interest. However, the vast majority of their consumers are young adults and teens with limited money to spend. Therefore, these live service games could experience a decrease in purchases and consumerism, as their audiences aren't able to maintain their gameplay at a level that is affordable, enjoyable and inclusive. This is supported by the fact that in previous years, Game of the Year winners have seen a rise in non-live service games.





Gaming constantly faces backlash as something that promotes violence, lack of sociability and addiction. However, people don't give it enough credit. Let's be honest, what were most people doing, peak lockdown when face-to-face interactions were prohibited, most likely, hooked to their Xbox's, engaging in conversation with their friends. Post-Covid19, society is back to ridiculing people for gaming too much, labelling it as anti-social and rude. This idea is completely ludicrous and far from correct.

Gaming engages your brain and causes you to be more perceptive and mentally stimulated. Watching TV however does neither of these things in as much intensity, yet never receives the same stigmatism, why is this?

A recent study conducted at Oxford University concluded that gaming may be good for you and that it could benefit your mental health.

Parents would always say that gaming is bad, and to stay away from it. 'You don't want that, it rots your brain, pick up a book instead!' Well maybe I'd rather use my left thumb and right forefinger for an hour or two and spam the A button until my hand cramps.

So, overall, the gaming industry is ever changing, and developing and has now become a crucial part of everyday life for the youth of today. People will forever scrutinise it, yet people will always love it. It's just about finding what suits you.

# TO TRAVEL OR NOT TO TRAVEL.

By Daisy Gibson

Picture the scene: drivers raging in rows of cars stacked liked bricks as miserable families head into the abyss... otherwise known as the Lake District. Cramped up in a fusty car, tensions are high and alert as the familiar sound of pointless disputes ricochet around the metal frame as you reach what feels like the 100th hour of your confinement. But it's worth it for the 'holiday escape', right? Upon arrival, you unpack the same dilapidated summer gear that you've worn for the past five years, each item fraying from the torture endured during every vacation; the mundane sight of the hostile environment envelops your eyes once again as you begin your suffering: the fierce, icy draft brushing against the newly-formed goosebumps on your arm, droplets of tears pierce your countenance as you trudge through the repulsive sludge that decorated the floor in your new sandals, desperate for an ounce of joy to penetrate such torment.

As someone subject to the melancholic climate of England, I cherish any escape from our unfortunate environment, and strongly believe that it is ignorant to believe that such joy could be found within our slight country. If you are one of the many people who are convinced that the best place to be is the United Kingdom – I strongly encourage you to reconsider. We are exceptionally privileged to inhabit such an incredible planet, and with the ability to travel endlessly and behold the many hidden wonders scattered across Earth, it is crucial that we take every day as a blessing and experience all that our glorious planet has to offer.

Last summer I embarked on the journey of a lifetime, visiting an abundance of exceptional locations on a global cruise; 8 months later I still struggle to comprehend how I was able to experience the astounding foreign cultures and lifestyles that we, as a nation, are ignorant to. From Nepal and Vienna to Cancun and Maui, I was extremely fortunate to witness their fascinating cultures first-hand. Not only that, but the weather was also simply extraordinary, and the abundance of various picturesque landmarks meant that each day was an idyllic whirlwind of what every holiday should be: relaxing, yet bustling, captivating and eye-opening, leaving you feeling like you never want to return home.







Recently on the news, there was an article about a study which explored the effect foreign holidays had on the wellbeing of the population. This research discovered that 97% of people who travel abroad leave feeling happier than they did before they left – this evidently illustrates how remaining in one country can take a toll on your mental health as the excitement, relaxation and diverse experiences that holidays bring have a significant positive effect on the mental health of people. Furthermore, these studies have also shown that vacations can majorly decrease stress & anxiety levels of people; this is due to the increased volume of endorphins released when abroad – like exercise, traveling increases your serotonin levels, thereby physically and mentally improving the wellbeing of those who travel abroad. In addition, traveling has been associated with a decrease in heart disease risk, lower stress levels, and improved physical activity and well-being; subsequently further demonstrating that traveling is not only an incredible privilege that we, as a population, are fortunate to be able to experience, but that it also improves your physical & mental wellbeing.

Now picture the scene; your heart pounding to the beat of summer as you make your way to the plane's door, eager to step into the immediate, comforting warmth of paradise. Well-rested from the luxurious journey across the outstanding ocean, hair blowing gently from the beachy breeze, picturesque landscapes flooding your view as you step off the plane into the happiest weeks of your life; in your tropical, cooling new outfit, the familiar scent of your favourite tropical utopia penetrating your senses. Upon arrival, the amicable locals welcome you to their village, telling you all about the incredible landmarks and activities to visit near your hotel, a radiant grin decorating your countenance as you plan your stay, comforted by the knowledge that a serene beachside hotel will be waiting to cater for your every needs, whether it be a fresh towel for you to lay on at the idyllic beach, painted with warm, golden sand whilst beams of pure gold illuminate your freshly sun-kissed body, or supplying you with a fortunate stroke of serendipity as the affectionate waiter surprises you with your favourite dish. Don't you think you deserve the incomparable bliss that a vacation abroad provides you?

## ‘UNJUST JUSTICE? THE STORY OF THE IPP’

By William Wesson

What if I told you that there was a man who stole a mobile phone in 2012? Seems harmless right? He got sentenced to 2 years in prison. Again, seems normal right?

This man is still serving to this day, 10 years more than his original sentence. He sits in his 2-man cell tortured by the fact that he does not know if or when he is ever going to be released. This man was not involved in any sort of serious violence or crime within prison. So, how is this possible? Is he living in a totalitarian regime or in a politically corrupt country? The answer may surprise you. He is serving in the UK, and our laws - that our elected governments put in place - are keeping this man from ever knowing whether he is going to ever see his family. The same crime now should deserve a sentence on average of 10 weeks.

Unsurprisingly, the uncertainty of never knowing his release date and the unfairness the whole situation, has led to him developing a severe psychosis illness that was not present before his time in prison. This is the story of Thomas White. Due to the mental illness that this travesty caused it is now quite possible that he will never be released.

An IPP stands for Imprisonment for Public Protection. It is a sentence that was intended to be given for serious offences but one that does not warrant a life sentence. IPPs would give a minimum sentence but not a maximum - all to protect our public from violent offenders. On the surface this might sound like a good idea, yet like many other things in our world it does not and never did work in practice. It quickly became clear that IPP sentences were being given out by judges for to a lot of non-serious crimes, sometimes 'white collar' crimes. And those still serving under IPPs are massively over their original sentence time. Currently in the UK there are 2,892 prisoners who are still serving on an IPP sentence for an average of 15 years over their original sentence. They are 'ghost prisoners': none of them know when they are getting out or whether their IPP sentence could mean life in prison.

So why do these 3000 people remain languishing in prison, many for minor crimes, long over their original terms? There are a few reasons why these people are being inhumanely forced to stay in prison longer than they should. The case of Thomas White is perhaps the most heart wrenching.



The reason why Thomas White was denied freedom is because after his first few years that his sentence overran the parole board were too busy to review his case, and as a result he started to have frequent psychotic episodes. As his sentence elongated further and further, he developed schizophrenia due to the psychological pain of his undetermined future. Not surprising, as he never even knows if he is ever going to see his son whom he has never met. As a result of this, he is deemed not safe to go out into the public and therefore his sentence is made longer again. The IPP sentence that led him to develop the episodes in the first place is now the reason he is deemed unsafe to be released. A IPP vicious circle is in place, and Thomas is not the only person stuck in the middle of this.

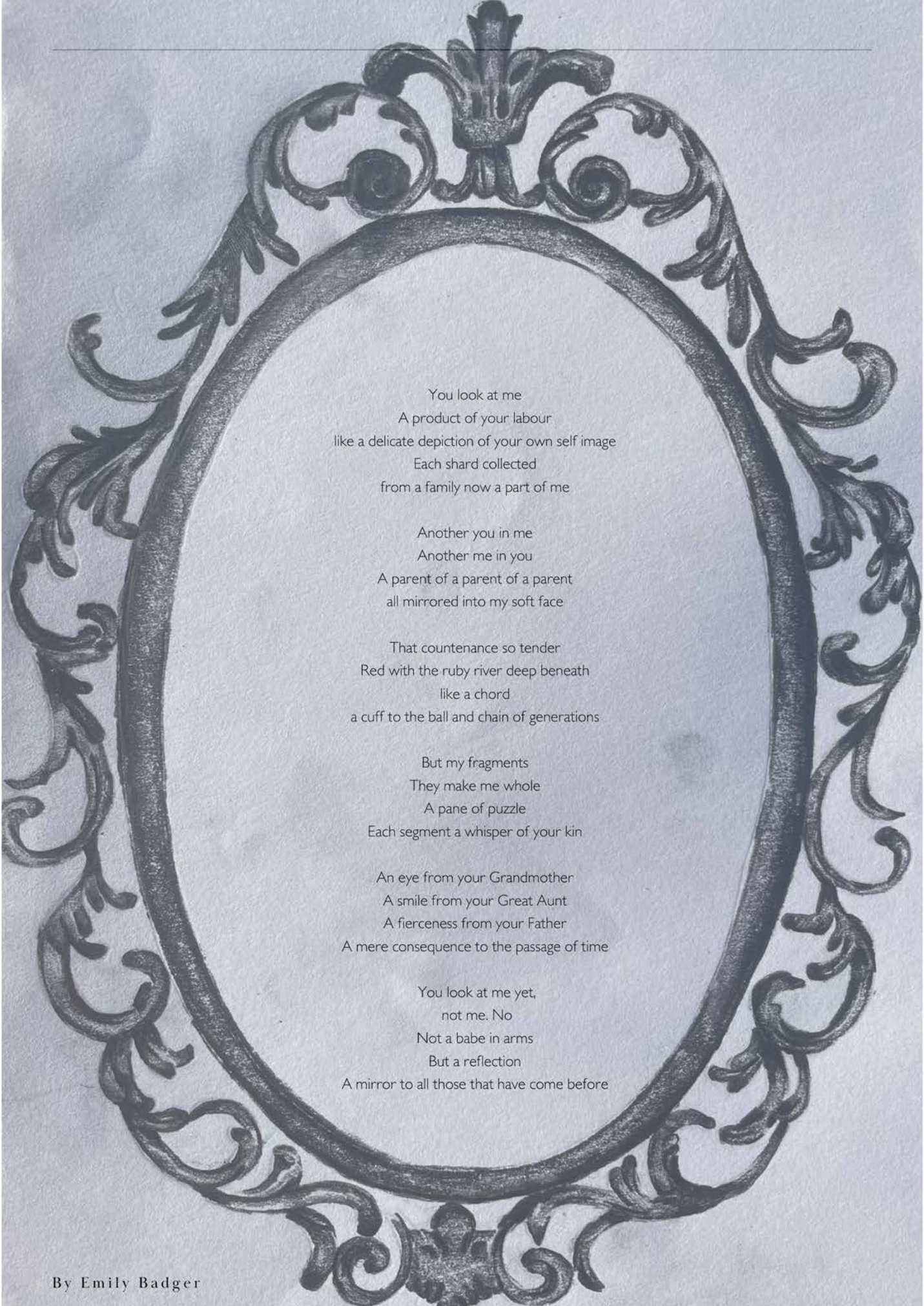
The second reason why these prisoners are being trapped inside is that the reviewing of IPP prison sentences has been denied by the current government. Lord Blunkett was the man who originated the IPP sentence during his time as the Home Secretary in 2005. He is now one of the main campaigners against the IPP as he has seen the vast amount of damage that it has done. In interviews on the subject, he has said that "I got it wrong and now the government have the chance to get it right". He, fellow peers and MPs decided to lobby for a parliamentary select committee - a cross party group of MPs or members of the House of Lords that are set up to investigate a specific issue in detail - to review the whole IPP system. Select committees thoroughly examine a subject and publish a report to the government with various recommendation, which are usually followed through on. In this case, Lord Blunkett and his fellow members gathered extensive research and data outlining the impracticality and the inhumanity of these sentences.

When the government were confronted with their report, they chose to ignore most of the recommendations made, particularly the most pivotal, which was to have each IPP prisoners' case, independently reviewed. Yet due to our governments fear of public opinion, they ignored the committees' recommendations, choosing headlines over doing the right thing. This is despite the UNs representative for torture also calling for a review of this system and stating the sentences were "cruel, inhuman and degrading". Yet the IPP remains a stain on our world-renowned criminal justice system and a fundamental miscarriage of justice.

The reason why I am writing this article is not as a historic piece to make you think of all the sentences that used to be delivered back in 2005. I am writing to bring to your attention that the IPP prisoners are still unjustly rotting in prison. Their cases have not been reviewed. They are serving massively over their original sentence time. It is time our justice ministers focus on delivering justice instead of worrying about the fickle public opinion of the day. They have a duty to do the right thing and make a change for the greater good of our country and its justice system. Now is the time for us all to join arms and initiate this change, whilst the government are so unwilling. This change can be encouraged by simply raising awareness of this issue to your friends and family through word of mouth or social media. People like you can be the beginnings of the groundswell we need. The government serve the public and, as such, we can start to force this change. Let us all help ensure IPP are relegated to the justice system 'crimes' of the past, so that we can once again ensure that principle of any democratic country should promise to all its inhabitants - a fair and humane justice system.







You look at me  
A product of your labour  
like a delicate depiction of your own self image  
Each shard collected  
from a family now a part of me

Another you in me  
Another me in you  
A parent of a parent of a parent  
all mirrored into my soft face

That countenance so tender  
Red with the ruby river deep beneath  
like a chord  
a cuff to the ball and chain of generations

But my fragments  
They make me whole  
A pane of puzzle  
Each segment a whisper of your kin

An eye from your Grandmother  
A smile from your Great Aunt  
A fierceness from your Father  
A mere consequence to the passage of time

You look at me yet,  
not me. No  
Not a babe in arms  
But a reflection  
A mirror to all those that have come before

By Emily Badger





## LAST WORDS

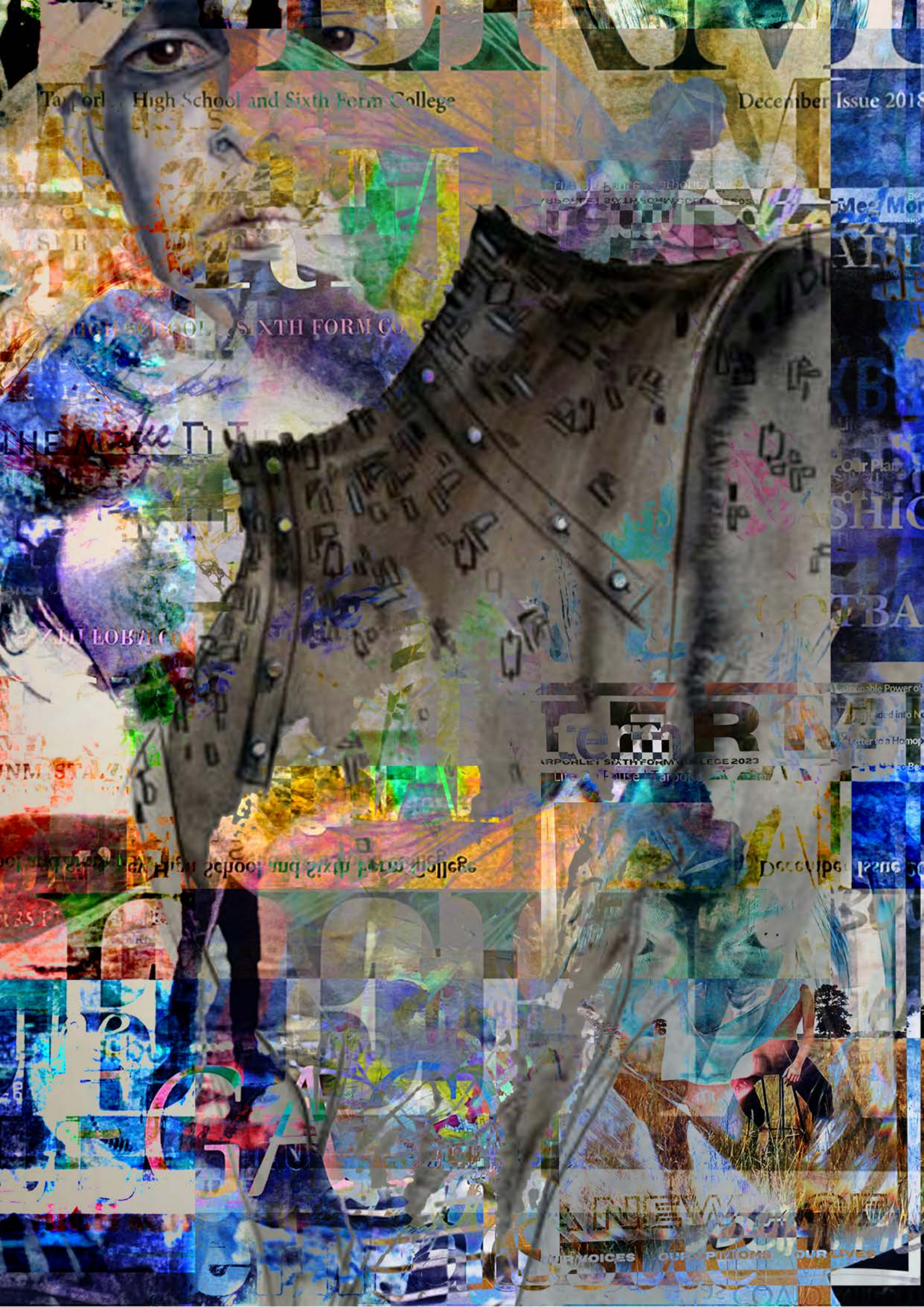
To close this issue, we are all very proud to be part of the 21st edition of the TERM magazine. We hope that everyone can take something from this issue no matter who they are due to the range of articles featured. We hope you also had time to reflect on your past and put yourself in a different context to see things more clearly and learnt something new about an important issue in today's world. Taking time to reflect in today's busy world is more important than ever, allowing us breathing space to pause and reset.

The experience of editing this has been incredibly cathartic and we hope you gain as much from reading it as we did from putting it together.



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December Issue 2018



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