

The Brigidine Observer

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2021

FORTITER ET SUAVITER

ISSUE TWO

School Is Back In Session!

AS LIFE RETURNS TO NORMALITY, YOUNG PEOPLE PRAY FOR A YEAR WITHOUT ANY INTERRUPTIONS TO THEIR EDUCATION

BY BILLY MORRELL

Pupils returned from their summer break at the beginning of September, with most young people hoping their academic year will run smoother than the previous two, which overall resulted in almost nine months of in-person learning being cancelled because of nationwide lockdowns and close contact isolation.

When asked about her thoughts the forthcoming year, Lucy Maddocks, a student preparing to sit her GCSE's next June, expressed gratitude towards the teachers and feels the support she has received will help ease the process of her final year of secondary school, one which usually tends to be quite chaotic. She also felt that the changes to exams, that some have predicted the WJEC to make, will be of great help.

Some pupils, however, are less optimistic. Sixth Former Thomas Clarke said he feels



'nothing but uncertainty' about the upcoming year.

Mrs Crimes, who is heading into her second year as headteacher here at St Brigid's, said she is 'very much looking forward to hitting the ground running' and 'regaining some normality following the last two academic years', whilst simultaneously praising the 'resilience exhibited by learners and staff' over the difficult period. Alongside this, she reiterated the school's commitment to allowing pupils to 'flourish' and be 'the best they can be'

to improve both the global and local community 'through the grace of God'.

The view of the government also seems to be one of promise, largely due to the rapidly rising vaccination rate. Much of the nation rejoiced in July and August, as the remaining restrictions, which have been consistently in place since March 2020, were removed by each British nation's respective government. Deemed 'Level 0' here in Wales, covid restrictions are now practically non-existent. An unlimit-

ed number of people can now meet, indoors or outdoors, without the requirement of social distancing, though mask policy varies.

Pupils should note, however, that in school, where mask-wearing in classrooms is optional, those who are not medically exempt are still expected to wear one as they move through school corridors. Additionally, pupils under the age of 18 will no longer need to isolate in the case of one of their classmates catching the virus. Pupils in Year 13 who are over the age of 18 will require both vaccine doses at least 14 days prior to close contact to avoid self-isolation.

Also positive news is that the NHS are offering the Pfizer vaccine for those aged 12-15, in a decision made in order to 'protect the mental health and long-term prospects for young people' and to limit the effect the pandemic can continue to have on education.

St Brigid's welcomes new teaching staff!

BY NICOLE VIDAL

On behalf of The Brigidine Observer and the wider school community, we would like to give a warm welcome to the various new staff and pupils joining us here at St Brigid's.

Among the new staff are teachers across a variety of subjects, learning support for pupils, a new school secre-

tary, Mrs Roberts, and our new Head of Maths Mrs Bamber.

Here, we have a unique family-like community valuing high standards, and possess a strong Catholic ethos and tradition, so please make sure to make everyone feel welcome!

We hope that everyone feels at home here and that we all have a COVID-free year, excelling in the months to come!

JOIN THE TEAM!

The Brigidine Observer wants voices from all across the school, not just Sixth Form!

If you have a story you want to share, a passion for writing, or want to see what journalism is all about, find us at the following...

COMPUTER ROOM 1
TUESDAY
12:45

LIFESTYLE

Dear parents: What your teenagers wish they could say to you

BY SABRINA CASEY

Dear parents, we've got some things we want to say about being a teenager in the 21st century; things we need to get out into the open. Teenagers in our society don't go through the same problems you did, in fact, we may have it worse. Did you get bullied in school? We do too, the only difference is, when the bell rings, we don't leave it behind. It follows us home like a never-ending shadow. We can't escape it like you did, the darkness of the internet is always there to remind us we aren't good enough.

Dear parents, our lives may seem so much easier than any other generation, but not everything is as it seems. We may have more electronic gadgets, more parties and more

places to venture to, but our lives are full of inner battles. Was that the right decision? Will my parents be pleased? Will I regret it all later? Although these are thoughts and dilemmas everyone goes through, statistics show that teenagers in the twenty-first century are more vulnerable to problems like exclusion, bullying and rejection, showing that our lives are not easy at all.

Dear parents, we teenagers lack independence and privacy. We are told to act mature but are still treated like kids. It's a confusing state of not knowing how to act; whether we should act like our age and just have fun, or act maturely with too many responsibilities.

However, dear parents, being teenagers in the twenty-first century is memorable. We go



through experiences with our peers that are unforgettable. We go to places that many wouldn't have ever dreamed of, and that's all thanks to you, our parents. If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't have nearly as many experiences to treasure. You make it possible to experience things and places that we cannot access on our own. Many of us would be stuck at

home without the constant support from the people who have raised us.

So, dear parents, we had some things we wanted to say that have now been said. Thank you for your support and for the experiences you've allowed us to go through. Thank you for listening to the problems we teenagers go through in the twenty-first century.

Mental health and the ways we can improve our daily life

BY NICOLE VIDAL

Everyone feels worried or anxious or down from time to time. But relatively few people develop a mental illness. What's the difference? A mental illness is a mental health condition that gets in the way of thinking, relating to others, and day-to-day function.

Today, dozens of mental illnesses have been identified and defined. They include: depression, generalized anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder,

post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, and many more.

In fact, approximately 1 in 4 people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year and in Wales 1 in 6 people report experiencing a common mental health problem in any given week. So why is talking about mental health considered taboo?

Unfortunately, the stigma surrounding mental health often leads young people to shy away from seeking the help and support they need, leaving them to face discrimination and

exclusion. Mental health conditions can have a significant impact on young people's development and integration into society and the world of work, yet mental illness is an equal opportunity issue. It affects young and old, male and female, and individuals of every race, ethnic background, education level, and income level. Modifiable factors for mental health disorders include socioeconomic conditions, such as whether work is available in the local area, occupation, a person's level of social involvement, education and housing quality. Nonmodifiable factors of mental illness include gender, age and ethnicity. Biological factors can also contribute to playing a role in developing this condition. In a recent study, the National Institute of

Mental Health (NIMH) have concluded that genetic family history can increase the likelihood of mental health conditions, as certain genes and gene variants put a person at higher risk. However, it is important to note that many other factors contribute to the development of these disorders.

The treatment of mental illness has long been held back by the false belief that disorders of emotion, thinking, and behaviour are false, or instead reflect individual weakness or poor life choices. Not surprisingly, there has been a mismatch between the enormous impact of mental illness and addiction on the public's health and our society's limited commitment to addressing these problems. Despite an overall cultural shift towards compas-

sion, fragments of our society still tend to view the mentally ill and those with addiction as morally broken rather than as ill. Too often, individuals suffering from serious mental illnesses — those in greatest need of care — have been disregarded, isolated and cared for outside of traditional health care, often through unethical methods, and in the asylums of the past. There, mental health care was separate from, and far from equal to, traditional health care. However, more recently, mental health care has been integrated into tradition-

al health care and identified by the NHS.

But what can we do as individuals to look after our mental health and those whom we love? Evidence suggests there are five steps you can take to improve your mental health and wellbeing. Trying these things could help you feel more positive and able to get the most out of life.

Connect with other people.

Good relationships are important for your mental wellbeing and give you an opportunity to share positive experiences and provide emotional support.

Be physically active. Not only great for your physical health and fitness, evidence also shows it can also improve your mental wellbeing by raising your self-esteem.

Learn new skills. Research shows that learning new skills can also improve your mental wellbeing by boosting self-confidence and raising self-esteem, helping you to build a sense of purpose and helping you to connect with others.

Give to others. Research suggests that acts of kindness can help improve your mental

wellbeing by creating positive feelings and a sense of reward, giving you a feeling of purpose and self-worth.

Mindfulness. Paying more attention to the present moment can improve your mental wellbeing. This includes your thoughts and feelings, your body and the world around you. It can positively change the way you feel about life and how you approach challenges.



Fashion & Sustainability

HOW WE'RE ALL DAMAGING THE WORLD OUTFIT BY OUTFIT

BY BILLY MORRELL AND
LUCY MADDOCKS

During the twenty-first century, society has become a lot more aware as to how our actions are damaging the world. With societal breakdown looming and decisive action necessary soon, many of us have tried to adapt to a more sustainable lifestyle. Maybe you even consider yourself a sustainable warrior, who wouldn't even kill a fly, never mind contribute towards global warming.

When the idea of sustainability arises, most of us think using less electricity, eating less meat, or using reusable alternatives such as metal straws are the only ways we can make an impact. But what if I told you that one of the biggest unspoken contributors to global warming is the fashion industry?

In a strange year, social media application 'TikTok' took the world by storm, giving an escape from the constant boredom caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Alongside this app came a challenge unlike many others, which saw users spend vast amounts of money on online clothing retailers



like SHEIN then present their 'haul' in a video. Even as the pandemic has calmed and life begins to resemble that of normality, the trend has not gone away, and people have continued to haul these clothes.

What many won't realise, or will actively choose to ignore, however, is how damaging this practice is to the environment. With every purchase made; the steps involved contribute to various aspects of global warming. From the energy necessary to run the factories, to the plastic used to package them, to the fuel needed for transport, each stage plays its part in the ever-growing crisis. As these brands continue to grow, the emissions released from each of these stages will only grow in relation, and prevent change on a local level from having any real impact.

This isn't even half of it, not only are fast fashion brands actively contributing to the ever-growing climate crisis, but

the ethicality of their business practices are questionable at best. The factories these clothes are made in are ones which have been called out for child labour, abysmal pay, and atrocious working conditions numerous times in the past, and searches of 'SHEIN' on Twitter will quickly reveal many artists and designers who have had their work stolen and discounted by the growing giant.

It is thought that these clothes are often not even used for long either, with employees of charity shops and 'thrift' stores reporting that they are receiving large amounts of these clothes, often in near-new condition, on a daily basis in recent months. So not only are they badly impacting the environment, but they also just go to waste shortly after arriving here. This begs the question, 'Is jeopardizing the planet worth it for a few likes?' The answer is simple, no, it isn't worth it. We must try to slow down climate change and help the planet recover from society's failures.

And yes, it is entirely understandable that some people have no alternative than to shop with these retailers,

but unnecessary, extravagant, and wasteful spending is easily preventable, and incredibly unnecessary and damaging. So in the future, before you open up your laptop, there are a few things you can consider: Will it go out of trend soon? Do you have something similar in your wardrobe? Is it something you'll wear often? This isn't to say you stop shopping all together! Getting new clothes doesn't necessarily mean buying from big chains, instead why not shop second-hand in charity shops? Use apps such as Depop and Vinted to find what you're looking for too!

If everyone makes the conscious effort to try and avoid it where possible, it will benefit our earth greatly. We stand at a pivotal point in history, where every single one of us holds the responsibility of the future of humanity in our hands. We must do better, mean the things we say, and protect our planet (all while having stylish sustainable outfits of course).



INTERNATIONAL

Google's time crystals break laws of physics

BY MATTHEW HOWARTH

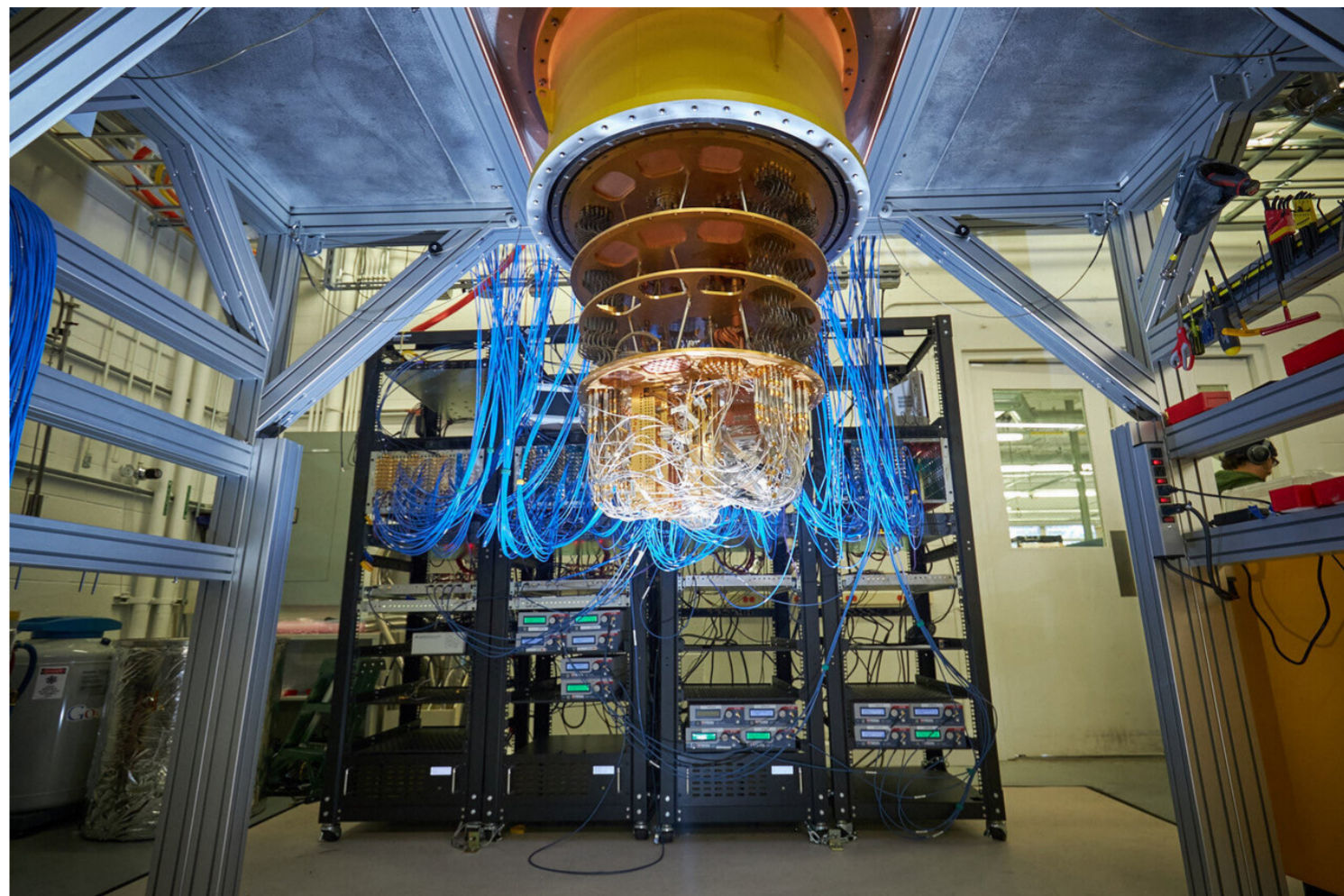
Quantum computers are a revolutionary new technology that can solve complex problems much more rapidly than normal computers, by utilising the laws of quantum physics. Research into quantum computing by Google partners might have just produced a completely new state of matter that defies the laws of physics – a time crystal.

A law that we regularly observe in classical physics is the second law of thermodynamics. This law states that everything in the Universe tends towards disorder (or entropy) as time progresses. We observe this law throughout our everyday lives. For example, the ice in your drink always melts as the temperature of the drink moves towards room temperature. On an atomic scale, ice has a regular, 3D-structure (lattice), but as it turns to liquid water, water molecules spread out, becoming more disordered.

A time crystal is a state of matter that completely avoids the second law of thermodynamics. Time crystals exhibit a property known as 'time-sym-

metry'. Whereas other states of matter (solid, liquid, gas) become more disordered over time, a time crystal is in a cycle, where it flips between two energy states over a regular time-period, without becoming more disordered over time. The time crystal stays the same throughout time, flipping states with no energy input or output. In the world of physics, a time crystal can be likened to a pendulum that swings forever. This is not possible according to the second law of thermodynamics, as the internal energy of a pendulum will spread out as time progresses.

As a more real-world example, we can compare a time crystal to a box containing 1000 coins, initially with a random number of coins showing heads or tails. If the coins behaved like a time crystal, shaking the box once would cause all of the coins to land on heads. Shaking the box the next time would cause all of the coins to land on tails. Shaking the box again would cause the cycle to repeat. A series of events like this has an incredibly low chance of occurring in the classical world; yet in the quantum



realm of time crystals, this is completely possible.

The theory of time crystals was initially conjured by Frank Wilczek, now a Noble-prize laureate. He reasoned that crystals have 'spatial-symmetry' (meaning that they are the same in all directions), and therefore they could have 'time-symmetry'. Strong evidence to support Wilczek's theory might have been found by Google scientists. The scientists blasted microwaves at superconducting aluminium strips. The aluminium strips were designed to behave as qubits, the units of quantum computers that store binary digits in two possible states. The qubits appeared to flip their energy states in a consistent cycle, without absorbing any energy from the microwave. A time crystal had been created.

If confirmed, this discov-

ery will have numerous implications to industry and our daily lives. One application involves time-keeping, as a time crystal flips states in a very regular cycle, allowing us to use each flip of the crystal as a 'tick' of a clock. Another application is storing data, as the qubits in time crystals will store data without losing any energy. Perpetual motion machines – machines that perform work with no energy input, could be made a possibility with the properties of time crystals. This would eliminate the need for machines that run on fossil fuels, and other power forms.

Disorder will prevail in the future Universe, where everywhere will be cold, barren and empty. Yet, the time crystal will continue to prevail until the end of time due to its resistance to disorder.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

BY THOMAS CLARKE

Over the month of October, Christians around the world will be praying the rosary every day in honour of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. This dedication was introduced by Pope St Pius V in 1571 as a commemoration of the victory of Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto. The holy rosa-

ry was compared to the power of the canons used and is described as a weapon to this day. Not as a weapon of evil and turmoil but as a weapon of justice, peace and love, all of which are characteristics of the Virgin Mary.

The Rosary is said to be the most powerful prayer and is hence recited in times of anguish, but also to assist with

the problems of everyday life. Therefore, it's important to say it as frequently as possible, especially in the month of October.

Our Chapel is always open to anyone and the Rosary is said every day at lunch time there. It is a place of peace and is a great escape from the worries of exams or whatever may be going on in your life.



Remembering the victims of the Holocaust

STUDENTS LEARN LIFE STORIES OF THOSE KILLED IN WWII CAMPS



BY SOPHIE ROWLEY

Lessons from Auschwitz is a new, interactive project through which teenagers across the country develop their understanding and knowledge of the Holocaust. Paige Roberts, Billy Morrell, Tomas Holland and I were all lucky enough to take part in the programme this year. Throughout, we worked through self-guided learning modules, attended three live sessions, had a virtual tour of some areas of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, and then concluded the project by completing our 'Next Steps', an opportunity for us to share what we have learnt with others, not only in our school, but also in the wider community. At the end of the pro-

gramme, after submitting all of the required work, we will soon become ambassadors for the LFA and help to continue telling the story of the Holocaust to future generations.

As History students, the 'LFA' was not only interesting, but also helped us to develop an understanding of not only why the Holocaust occurred, but what can be done to combat the atrocities that continue to occur. Furthermore, it is also helpful for us because in year 13 we will continue to study Nazi Germany, with a large focus on the Holocaust.

Before taking part in the LFA, I had two clear aims that I hoped would be achieved by participating. The first was to further my rather basic understanding of the Holocaust by

listening to survivors and their stories, as well as the stories from their families. As well as this, I wanted to be able to comprehend the true extent of the persecution of Jews and other minority groups. Through doing the LFA, I have achieved both of these aims. Beforehand, I knew what the Holocaust was but, by taking part in the lessons, I was able to expand my knowledge in a way that would allow me to then pass this information on to those around me. This was important to me as we are the generation who must now keep telling the stories of those who lost their lives in this horrific part of history that we cannot allow to be forgotten.

Through doing the lessons, we all now understand the true definition of the Holocaust as 'the murder of approximately 6 million Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during the Second World War'. It was a series of events unfolding across Europe, in multiple places, in different ways.' But, not only

have we learnt the definition, we now fully understand why it's so important that we are careful in our definition and being able to break it down. For example, by knowing that the word 'murder' is used as the Holocaust was the killing of people *by* people and that it is defined as 'Nazi Germany' to separate them from non-Nazi Germans. We've learnt that it is important to be aware of all those involved in the Holocaust, including victims, perpetrators as well as bystanders and collaborators.

As briefly mentioned earlier, to end the programme we completed our 'Next Steps'. For this, we were to create anything that would help us to spread the true version of events that occurred during the Holocaust in a safe and direct way. This could be done through the form of a poster, perhaps a PowerPoint or even a podcast. Anything was allowed, so we decided to write a poem, which you can read below.

THE HOLOCAUST

BY PAIGE ROBERTS AND SOPHIE ROWLEY

Of the 6 million lives that were ended,
The level of cruelty cannot be comprehended.
Holocaust, or the brutal murder of many,
An event in history far more significant than any.
The forcing of labour and stripping of rights,
Prisoners were worked long days and nights.
Although it took place many years ago,
Its relevance continues to grow.
How humanity could be so cruel,
As to torture, gas, treat such "workers" as fools.
We remember, we will never forget,
The unfortunate fate these individuals met.
Through history we have been exposed,
To the truth that is often left untold.
We will never know quite the extent,
Of the holocaust and the sacrifice, it meant.
The journey continues now,
In a place and time where it is allowed

For this generation and many to come
The retelling of these individual's stories has only just begun
True, we cannot comprehend
Nevertheless, the education will not end.
The duty that is now faced
Is placed upon the shoulders of the entirety of the human
race.
We cannot take this lightly
For now, we are all responsible however slightly.
This challenge is never-ending
And as students we are not pretending,
That the next steps will be easy.
Instead, we are recommending,

Recommending; rehumanisation, remembrance,
re-education, and respect.

AROUND THE SCHOOL

Meet Mrs. Dixon: Our newest philosopher

BY BILLY MORRELL

To start off, can you tell us a bit of your background?

I am an RE teacher, and I've been teaching for a bit more than a decade. I am married, with four children all under the age of 10, 2 boys and 2 girls. Originally, I'm from the Wirral Peninsula, went to university at St Andrews in Scotland, trained to teach down in London, and then from there I got a job in East Sussex, and was there for 10 years. I've long had a big desire to come back to the North, and my husband stumbled across a job in North Wales, so we moved here about 5 years ago. Now, we live not far from here in a smallholding, where our long-term ambition is to be more self-sufficient, and to have less negative impact on the planet.

When did you first realise you wanted to be a teacher?

I never wanted to be a teacher! Although, when I was tiny, my Mum and my Gran tell me I came back from school in a bad temper, and when they asked what was wrong, I was very disgruntled that I had gone to school expecting to be the teacher on the first day! I went to university, not with [teaching] in mind, but my degree was four years, and when it came to do my dissertation, my plan was to do a PHD and stay in academia, but I needed some breathing space. I ended up going to work in a school, not too dissimilar from St Brigid's, for a year, and that was really what swayed me.

What are your favourite aspects of teaching?

Partly I think it's about equip-

ping people to think! I love the continuity of seeing students for a number of years, and seeing that as we develop more skills, more vocabulary, more experience, we are better equipped and we're often challenged to rethink things we'd accepted to be true, or to be able to give reason for our beliefs. But the drama student in me loves the classroom also, because teaching is to an extent a bit of a performance!

What was your initial dream job?

The original plan was not to study RE or Theology, but actually English and Theatre. My life could have taken a very different direction! I switched within my first year to study Practical Theology, Systematic Theology, and Biblical Studies. St Andrews is the University that won my heart because it is in a historic, peaceful town.



What drew you to philosophy in the first place?

Questions! I've always been a curious person; I was a very curious child, I've always asked questions, lots of big questions, and I've always felt that was important. To me, all philosophers are essentially on a quest to answer two big questions, 'What am I?' and 'How should I live to be happy?'

Do you have any favourite philosophers?

Soren Kierkegaard is my all-time favourite. He was a Danish, Christian, existentialist. As you get to know Kierkegaardian Corpus, you realise he is

stepping into different shoes with each pseudonym he writes under. He's projecting different ideas, a different way of life, because he ultimately believes that to arrive at truth, we've got to live it. Although quite obscure, he is my favourite.



What is your advice to the young people planning out their future?

Think deeply, make decisions based on what is true, what is going to bring you happiness, as opposed to what is going to make the most money, 'what do Mum and Dad want?', 'how will I best fit in?' I think you need to live authentically, not the way you think society expects.

If you were to speak to your secondary school self, what would you tell them?

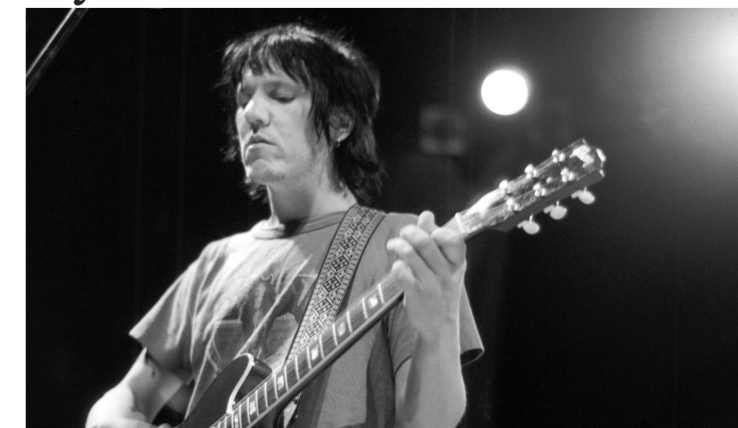
I'm not sure I'd want to tell them 'You're going to be a teacher'! I think that might be a bit soul destroying. I'm not sure, in some ways I'm not sure I'd want to tell them anything. Because, whilst there are lots of decisions I'd like to have done differently, or lots of ways I'd like to have had better understanding, better self-esteem, or know how it's going to pan out, what forms us is those experiences. Our hardships, our triumphs, our successes. In wisdom, I wouldn't give too much away because those processes were really important, so maybe some fashion advice!

Outside of teaching, what do you enjoy doing?

I love the outdoors, walking, being back in the northwest. I have a dog, which gives me excuse to walk a lot, to run a lot, even though I am a rubbish runner, struggling up the hills! I love my allotment and growing food, and in trying, but often failing, to live authentically. So it's important for me, raising my children, that we know where our food comes from, the impact it has on the environment, on society. We try and make small choices that are positive, that are kind and beneficial. And I love cooking! I don't eat meat, so I'm passionate about fruits and vegetables.



Pre-COVID, I loved opportunities to go to the theatre too. I also love lots of different music. One of my all-time favourite bands is 'Sigur Rose' from Iceland. Some of my A-Level classes have laughed if I played it, as it's very conventional music, with some not real words. I'm a fan of 'Sufjan Stevens', I love 'Elliot Smith', and I naturally love 'The Beatles' because I was raised by scousers! TV? More recently I've enjoyed 'Killing Eve', and 'Keeping Faith', but my husband pulls me into lots of crime dramas, though they wouldn't really be my first choice!



ENTERTAINMENT



BY SOPHIE ROWLEY AND
BILLY MORRELL

Drake's sixth solo studio album, 'Certified Lover Boy', follow up to his July EP 'Scary Hours 2', made a remarkable debut upon its release on September 3rd 2021, debuting at number one of the Billboard 100 charts and breaking the single day streaming records for both Apple Music and Spotify, breaking records held by rival Kanye West's 'Donda'.

Prior to its release, many of the features were revealed through billboards in the artist's hometowns, with nicknames such as 'The Hometown Hero', 'Pluto', and 'Slime' being used to generate hype. Featuring a magnitude of guest appearances from artists like Lil Baby, Travis Scott, 21 Savage, and Kid Cudi, the most unsurprising features came from rapper Future and producer Metro Boomin, who joint released the album 'What A Time To

'Certified Lover Boy', debuts at number 1

Be Alive' with Drake in 2015 and the single 'Life is Good' in 2020.

The album came a mere days after 'Donda', an album by Kanye West that was initially announced to be released almost a year and a half ago. The release sparked controversy when West took to Instagram to reveal it was released without his permission, after the artist held multiple listening parties of tweaked versions of the album in various stadiums over July and August. The two rappers have remained at odds with one another since West's long-time friend and labelmate Pusha T went back and forth with Drake in an infamous

beef in 2018, that resulted in Pusha T revealing Drake's hidden son, Adonis in 'The Story of Adidon'. Drake used his verse on Trippie Redd's song 'Betrayal' to mention West back in August. Kanye did not go down without a fight however, instead he countered at Drake on Instagram, revealing his home address and calling out their mutual friend and Off-White CEO Virgil Abloh. Drake fired back once more, directly addressing the reveal on Certified Lover Boy with the song, '7am on Bridle Path', calling it a 'post out of desperation' and telling him to 'give that address to [his] driver'.

Top musicians win big at VMAs

BY SOPHIE ROWELY

The VMA's took place on Sunday 12th September, and saw big names like Billie Eilish, Justin Bieber, and BTS win big. Singer-songwriter Olivia Rodrigo won song of the year for her smash-hit 'Driver's Licence', which spent over 2 months consecutively at No.1 on the Hot 100 Billboard charts. Rodrigo is believed to be one of the front-runners to win a Grammy for best new artist. This would make her only the fifth artist ever to be named best new artist at both the VMA's, and the more prestigious Grammy's. The singers before Rodrigo to win both awards include Billie Eilish and Maroon 5.

Fan-favourite singer Justin Bieber won artist of the year and was the first male to win



the award in over four years, the previous winners have included Camilla Cabello, Ariana Grande and Lady Gaga, with Ed Sheeran winning the award four years ago. Bieber came away also with best pop video for 'Peaches', which features Daniel Caesar and Giveon, which upset many BTS fans who believed their mega-hit 'Butter' deserved to win the award.

Billie Eilish's 'Your Power' was the surprise winner for 'Video for good', beating

artists such as H.E.R.'s Oscar-winning 'Fight for You.' Bieber wasn't the only star to win more than one award, with Eilish coming away with best Latin as well for 'Lo Vas A Olvidar,' a collab with Latin superstar Rosalía, this being her second win in the category.

Alongside the big winners were many performances from previous award winners such as Camilla Cabello and Ed Sheeran, as well as Shawn Mendes, twenty one pilots, Machine Gun Kelly and Travis Barker.

Chart Check



Stay (Feat. Justin Bieber)
The Kid Laroi



Industry Baby (Feat. Jack Harlow)
Lil Nas X

BY PAIGE ROBERTS

Good news for all cinema lovers out there: cinemas are now open across Wales and England! Cinemas have had the ability to remain open for full-time viewing since July, and to ensure this extended period of access remains available, please, when considering using the services at these establishments, ensure that you follow all of their guidelines and rules put in place to protect both yourself and others.



At the start of the pandemic cinemas and production companies were given advice on filming, meaning many releases were postponed, the reopening of cinemas means

A busy October for cinemas as many long-anticipated films are released



these projects are being continued. As these projects are being renewed it is certain that there will be a wide array of films being screened within the next few months for all cinema lovers out there. During the next two months cinemas have

a wide variety of films being played, including classic re-releases and seasonal specials.

Suitable for those within all years: Paw Patrol: The Movie; Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone (20th Anniversary).



Suitable for those within Year Seven and above; Shang-Chi And The Legend Of The Ten Rings, 12 Mighty Orphans, Free Guy, Respect, No Time To Die, Venom Let There Be Carnage, Dune. The French Dispatch



For those in Year Ten and above: Copshop. Herself, Candyman.

SPORT

18 year old Emma Raducanu crowned US Open Champion

BY MAISIE DONOHOE-WILLIAMS

Great Britain's Emma Raducanu was crowned US Open champion after facing the title winning serve this past September, making the 18 year old the first British woman to win a Grand Slam tournament since Virginia Wade in 1977.

After the momentous achievement, Raducanu was given the opportunity to play with the Duchess of Cambridge, describing that she was 'more nervous to play the Duchess' than Leylah Fernandez.



After the stunning victory in New York earlier last month, Emma Raducanu has been given a wildcard into the Indian Wells main draw. World number one, Ashleigh Barty, however, has withdrawn from the Indian Wells due to a 'change of schedule'.

CR7 makes second debut

BY MAISIE DONOHOE-WILLIAMS

Cristiano Ronaldo made his emphatic return to Manchester United recently after his shock move back this past transfer window, scoring twice as the team cruised to victory against Newcastle United at Old Trafford. Ronaldo proved that he still has much to offer at the age of 36, showing per-

severance and determination throughout the game.

Manchester United sit fourth in the table, with only two points separating them with league leaders Chelsea who are on 16 points after 7 games. However, it is Liverpool who are the only team left unbeaten this season, despite sitting one point off Chelsea, heading into the international break.

Hamilton hits a century

BY MAISIE DONOHOE-WILLIAMS

In the Russian Grand Prix, Lewis Hamilton has taken his 100th win to date. A downpour of rain flipped the race on its head whilst Hamilton was able to use it to his advantage, he

caught the McLaren, driven by Lando Norris within five corners and managed to take the lead.

British drivers are spread far across the results table, with Hamilton in 1st, Norris in 7th and Russell in 10th.