

Students speak out against single use plastic sold in the newly-renovated canteen

BY BILLY MORRELL

The student council convened together for the first time this academic year in early November, their first meeting since before the COVID-19 pandemic, with two central issues being at the forefront, litter, and climate change.

Whilst the school is no stranger to unfortunate littering by students in the past, the issue seemed to have largely died down in recent years, with litter-picking in form time and more bins helping to combat the issue. Despite this, some students believe the issue is on the rise again, attributing the resurgence as coinciding with Denbighshire County Council's completion of the canteen. The revamp, which saw the entire kitchen gutted and replaced, came along with school meals, which include products

in single use plastic packaging, such as flavoured water, the widely popular 'Radnor Fizz' soft drinks, along with some cold food products.

Many members of the council expressed their concerns on the problem, including Head Boy, Matthew Howarth, who stated that the issue is 'upsetting, especially after all of the hard work of the student council to phase out single-use plastics'. Students, school-wide, are grateful for the installation of the new canteen, but the reversed environmental progress that arrived as a result of the new facilities is seen as a severe set-back.

Maddie Bunn, a student from Year 12 who regularly partakes in beach cleans, remains loyal, hopeful, and driven in the pursuit of a brighter future, and is raising the issue further within the school. She has begun an initiative to



visualise the problem at stake and showcase how quickly the amount of plastic begins to rise without us realising, asking for any single use plastic purchased from the canteen to be placed within a box in each forms respective room, following the completion of its contents.

The necessity for limiting the sale of all plastic products, switching to re-usable / more sustainable alternatives, and applying more long-term solutions becomes apparent when

accompanied with the fact that an article by Green Peace claims that 'less than 10% of everyday plastic actually gets recycled'. The resulting effects could prove disastrous for both human and marine life, as rampant pollution is rapidly changing eco-systems, poisoning water, and damaging shipping and tourism.

The school is currently awaiting a response to an open letter sent on behalf of pupils to the Denbighshire County Council.

CCF pays respect to fallen soldiers on Remembrance Day

BY BILLY MORRELL

The Combined Cadet Force held a remembrance service for the school on Thursday 11th November. As Cadet Corporal Elsie Smith played both 'Reveille' and 'The Last Post' on the cornet, the annual service to honour those who have died in the line of duty was led by Headteacher Mrs. Crimes, and attended virtually

by students across the school via Microsoft Teams.

Later that week, the CCF also partook in the Denbigh remembrance service atop Vale Street, with Head Girl Harriet Gaskin laying a wreath for the RAF section, along with Hope Wilkes and Head Boy Matthew Howarth laying wreaths as representatives of the wider school.



Photos by Amy Weyman and Qsian Jones

LIFESTYLE

Why are role models so important for us?

BY SABRINA CASEY

Everyone has role models, and whether they are parents, grandparents or celebrities, these are people we look up to. They hugely impact the lives we will live and the decisions we make. Role models shows us how to live with integrity, compassion, optimism, hope and determination. We can be the role models others will look up to and look to for advice.

But what are the qualities of a good role model? Firstly, it's their passion and ability to inspire that can transform our lives and encourage us to make a better life for ourselves and those around us. Role models also have a clear set of values. They will always do what they consider is right, even if it isn't



the easiest thing to do. They support our values and beliefs, as well as helping us use our personal values to motivate and become advocates in social changes we want to see in the world.

A good role model puts others before themselves. They are other-focused, compared to self-focused. They strive to help their community, and freely give their time to benefit others. They are often selfless

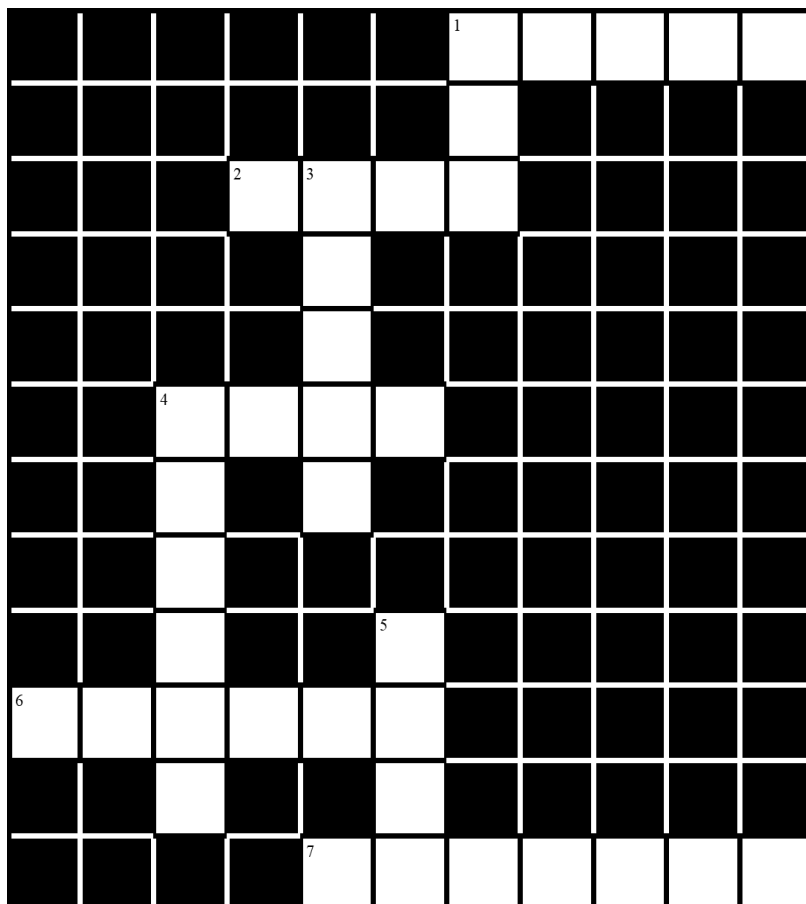
and accept everyone around them no matter how different they are. Lastly, they also have the ability to overcome obstacles, helping us work through our own problems and achieve our goals.

As Christians, we have many role models in the bible: people who were destined for great things, and therefore, people we can look up to in our day-to-day lives. Arguably, the most obvious role model we

can look up to would be Jesus. He not only sacrificed his life for us, but helped the people around him, never discriminating against those who were considered different or sinners. Another biblical figure we can look up to as a role model is Noah, he teaches us to trust in God through everything, even if it isn't something easy to do.

We all have role models in our lives. And at the age we are all in now, it's important to have good role models to properly help shape our young minds. Whether you're just starting in St. Brigid's, doing your GCSE's or finishing school. It's important to have people we can trust and look up to, as well as making sure that we are people who others can look up to.

Christmas Crossword | EDITED BY BILLY MORRELL & SEREN FERGUSON



DOWN

1. ___ to the world, the Lord has come.
3. The celestial being which spoke to the three wise men and made Mary aware of her pregnancy.
4. How many days are in one of the most famous christmas carols?
5. The three wise men followed this.

ACROSS

1. Christmas is a celebration of whose birthday?
2. The mother of the Son of God.
4. The object we decorate and display to celebrate the holiday.
6. The type of calender that counts down to Christmas, typically from december 1st.
7. What we give to one another to celebrate holidays.

How to stay warm and stylish this winter

BY LUCY MADDOCKS

As autumn ends and winter emerges, we all begin to instinctively grab our coats when we head outdoors, but how can we stay warm yet fashionable this winter, especially without looking as if we've just put as many layers on as possible?

One of the most continued trends each winter is dark denim. Whilst being strong and durable to keep you feeling warm, it is also very pleasing to the eye. Whether you choose to purchase a dark denim jacket or a pair of high-waisted tailored jeans, it'll be a staple piece in your wardrobe for years on end. H&M has a variety of dark wash denim for men and women. For example,



Women's Wide High Jeans in Dark denim blue are just as good as similar products from designer brand Loewe, but for a fraction of the price at only £24.99. Maybe you're even interested in buying a winter dark denim jacket, ASOS can

be very helpful in this case, especially for unique styles like a men's reverse collared denim jacket, which could be versatile for both summer and winter.

Winter is evidently associated with sequins and sparkles due to events such as Christmas and New Year's Eve. A perfect dress for this winter comes from Zara. Named the 'short sequin dress', it features a flowing neckline and multi-coloured sequin applicants. In order to keep warm, while simultaneously looking like a disco ball, it may be helpful to layer this dress with a black turtleneck underneath. Personally, I think that some black knee-high boots in addition would pull it all together, with ASOS particularly having plenty on offer.

When Winter creeps up on us, we all rely on our coats to provide us with some nec-



essary warmth. This winter it is apparent that oversized coats and puffer jackets are in trend. Once again, ASOS has the perfect unisex puffer jacket to keep you warm this winter. The 'ASOS 4505 unisex puffer jacket' features padding for lightweight warmth, as well as plenty of handy pockets for on the go. If puffer jackets aren't your thing and you'd prefer a more timeless and classic piece, then why not treat yourself to a trench coat? Trench coats are perfect for winter and allow you to layer well, without making it too obvious. The ASOS site also offers a 'unisex oversized belted trench' for a retail price of £45!



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INTERNATIONAL

Putting Jesus Christ back into Christmas

BY THOMAS CLARKE

Christmas, a time we all love, a time for joy and celebration. Every year we are always told to not only celebrate time with our families but to acknowledge the true meaning of Christmas. Growing up we all participated in the school nativity play, whether you played as a humble shepherd or as one of the wise kings, we know why we celebrate Christmas as Christians. That is, to celebrate the birth of Christ. However, are we genuinely taking this into account, or just

recognising the true meaning, whilst keeping decorations at the forefront of our minds?

We are told that Christmas should be about Christ, but not what this really means. Naturally, since we don't know what it means, we go back to worrying about seemingly more important things, such as buying presents for our friends and family. While this is very important to a lot of us, we should be doing more than simply acknowledging that Christmas is about the birth of Christ. If we're just acknowledging it, and not taking any action, then there is little

point in recognising the difference in the first place.

This is where Advent comes in. Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas, so when it comes to the 25th, and we're opening presents, we have gratitude for everything. To do this, we need to build up our gratitude over time, as if it were a skill. Being grateful in a time like this makes Christmas a much more special time for yourself and for everyone.

How do we increase our gratitude? This is actually far simpler than it seems. All that's needed is to spread joy and pos-

itivity. A mere smile to a single person can improve their day, and encourage them to pay it forward to others. There are so many ways of increasing joy to others, such as being kind, showing interest in others, giving sincere appreciation for those around us, or even just acting selflessly. If we do this, by the time it gets to Christmas, you will be a much more grateful person. That's what Advent is truly about. Not rejecting everything to do with Santa, but by being grateful and spreading joy, we are truly doing Christ's work.

How do the most popular gaming consoles stack up against one another?

BY OWEN BRUMBY AND BILLY MORRELL

This Christmas, many of you may be wanting some new tech, with gaming consoles being at the top of many people's list. There are three main consoles available from Microsoft, Sony, and Nintendo, who have dominated the industry for the past twenty years or so, but what is the difference between all of these next generation consoles?

Microsoft released two new Xboxes last November, and come with a lot of very fast storage to load your games quicker than ever, they also have a higher refresh rate capability at 120fps for smooth gaming. If your TV or Monitor is capable, then the Xbox se-

ries X allows for up to 4k gaming, or 8k video streaming. A slightly lower-spec, yet still powerful Xbox Series S costs £249.99, whereas the Series X retails for £449.99, or around £650 if on resale.

The new PS5 has had similar hardware upgrades, with 4k 120fps gaming and fast SSD storage available like the Xbox. But Sony's biggest upgrades have come to the console's controller. The DualShock controller, which has become a staple of the brand, has been completely redesigned to be more ergonomic, and now includes a built-in microphone and a more immersive vibration system than ever. This console is much more scarce in availability, and is almost only available at resale, costing around £650



for the disc version and £600 for the discless, with no lower-spec alternative available.

Nintendo's new 'Switch OLED' doesn't differ from previous models as much as Sony and Microsoft's consoles do, due to the handheld nature of the device, but it has had a change in design, with the new OLED screen and an aluminium frame giving a more modern look and feel to this portable gaming machine. The Switch OLED is capable of 4k gaming when docked, however, it is still only a 720p display when in hand-held mode. The device is widely available at most major retailers, and costs around £319.99. Otherwise,

there is a non-OLED 'Lite' option that provides a just as fun experience, albeit without the ability to dock the device, that comes in slightly cheaper at £199.99 brand new.

The biggest differences between the three consoles are in the exclusive games available. Whilst Xbox has the likes of Forza Horizon, an open world racing series, PlayStation's collection is much vaster, and includes the likes of Spider-Man, as well as God of War and The Last of Us. Nintendo's exclusives include classic franchises such as Mario, Pokémon, and Animal Crossing, all of which provide a much more relaxed, yet still enjoyable experience.

DART: NASA's trial defence system that hopes to help protect humans from a similar fate to the dinosaurs



BY MATTHEW HOWARTH

The current human psyche is engulfed with the ever-increasing threat of climate change. This leaves most people blind to the extreme vulnerability that outer space places Earth in. Although our planet exists in a stable star system, and in a relatively uneventful region of the Milky Way, Earth has not been sheltered from extraterrestrial-induced disaster in the past. To name a few such events:

→ 4.5 billion years ago: a Mars-sized planet – Theia – collided with Earth, releasing the material that formed the Moon.



→ 450 million years ago: the Ordovician extinction event, which eliminated 85% of marine species, is thought to have been triggered by a gamma ray burst – a flash of dangerous radiation caused by the explosion of a high-mass star.

→ 65 million years ago: the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event, which ended the era of dinosaurs, was likely to have been caused by an asteroid colliding with Earth.

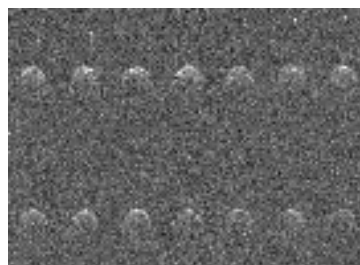
Although humans are close to achieving mastery over Earth, most of the aforemen-

tioned events are completely beyond the bounds of human intervention. This leaves us unfortified against the disasters that space may decide to throw at us.

NASA is attempting to reduce our chances of extinction to one of the most likely of these events: asteroid collisions. Asteroids are rocky bodies that are thought to be the material left-over from planetary formation in the early solar system (although some asteroids can enter the solar system from the outside). Usually, asteroids have a low diameter of a few kilometres. Even so, if an asteroid collides with Earth, its high velocity can induce life-destroying effects on Earth, by sending large volumes of dust into the atmosphere. Although we can track most asteroids, many remain undetected, and could emerge from the shroud of space to collide with our planet.

NASA's solution is to simply nudge incoming asteroids away from their trajectory towards Earth, by crashing a space probe into the asteroid. Upon crashing, the space probe may impart enough kinetic energy to the asteroid to encourage it to veer away from Earth. Although the concept of a 'space missile' seems beyond our technological level, on the 24th November this year, NASA launched the first

stage of asteroid-defence testing – DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test). After being launched by a SpaceX rocket, DART has begun its journey to conduct a test-collision on Didymos, an asteroid system 10.9 million km away from Earth.



Didymos consists of two asteroids. Neither of these asteroids are approaching Earth; the DART mission is only a test of our ability to redirect asteroids. The main asteroid – Didymos – is around 780m in diameter. However, DART's target is the smaller orbiting 'moon-

let' of Didymos – Dimorphos – which is around 160m in diameter. On Earth, we can detect when Dimorphos passes in-front of Didymos, which enables us to determine its orbital period. When DART eventually collides with Didymos in September 2022, at a velocity of 6.6km/s, this will reduce the orbital period of Didymos by a predicted 8 minutes. This change can be detected on Earth, which will confirm that the mission was successful.

If DART is indeed successful, it will demonstrate a new-found ability of humans to artificially alter the natural path of the solar system – a giant leap towards becoming a space-based civilisation.



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AROUND THE SCHOOL

The Buzz Around Brigid's - Autumn Edition:

BY AINE SMYTH-JONES

As we slowly but surely approach the end of the Autumn Term and finish for the Christmas holidays, school has never felt busier. With preparations for the Primary School nativity being undertaken and GCSE and A Level students organizing themselves for mock exams in the New Year, many of us have a lot on our plate. However, in more optimistic news, the laser cutter for the DT department that was funded by reaching the target on the school's GoFundMe page; a huge thank you to everyone who donated!

We all seem to be doing



Photo by Will Pearce

well in terms of managing coronavirus cases, Christmas is almost here, and online learning seems to be remaining a distant memory; will 2021 finish the way we want it after all?

As I have been walking around the school, through the autumn leaves and brisk winds, there appears to be a real sense of community in the school at

the moment. We are very lucky at St Brigid's, because we are able to know everybody by name, but recently, I have seen a certain eager nature from some students to want to be kind, to want to learn, and to want to be here.

What is one thing someone has done for you recently that has made your day a good one?

For me, having such a large number of eager students turn up to the revision sessions we language prefects run (Monday's at 12:55pm in the MFL mobile!) is a great mood-booster for me.

The remembrance services in school and in Denbigh town centre were both huge successes, a massive congratulations to everyone who participated; you made the school very proud. Unfortunately, due to coronavirus restrictions we were unable to have the full service in school, but the online event was still enjoyed by many, and additionally, it gave parents an opportunity to watch too.

How can we balance festivity with focus?

BY ELSIE SMITH

As we all know, the special time of year we all anticipate is quickly approaching. It has been a long term for all of us as we've dived straight back into the swing of our 'new normal' school regime, but the time to celebrate and have a well-needed rest is now upon us.

Of course, the winter holidays are a time to be together with family, enjoy yourself and celebrate such a magical time of the year. However, not to dampen the excitement, we must remember that from an academic perspective we cannot ignore the fact that we need to be all ready to start again in January! This is especially so with, dare I say, the upcoming mock examinations for our upper school pupils. That is not to mention, there also may be important assessments or tasks

awaiting pupils further down the school.

Here are some tips on how we can stay on top of our schoolwork and maintain our focus over the festive season.

Find Smart and Effective Revision Techniques!

I would like to think that we all know now that staring at your notes in front of you does not in fact pass for effective revision. It is easy to do this and come away from it feeling you have been somewhat productive as you have set aside time for revision, however, the harsh truth is you have not.

My best advice would be to use revision techniques that work for you but also ones that are adaptable for the Christmas period. Flashcards are something quick and easy that provide a great way to memorise information, whether this be vocabulary for MFL, key quo-

tations for essays or even pieces of knowledge you keep forgetting! Having the flash cards available at all times to quickly glance at is a fast and an effective way of recapping.

Creating eye-catching but useful posters and placing them on your bedroom walls can be helpful as they are unavoidable, and you can look at them during daily tasks.

Get the difficult parts out the way!

As we settle into holiday mode, for some of us our brain can get lazy and slightly unmotivated. Thereby, when faced with revision it is easy for us to revisit the topics we are already confident with. I understand it is challenging to start a revision session with something you find difficult and need to work on, but doing this is much more productive and simply gets the part you've been avoiding out the way!

Use Past Papers!

The WJEC exam board themselves have stated that the practice of past papers is the

best revision. The use of past papers allows you to get used to the structure of a paper and the language they use, provide a chance to not only work on time management and writing abilities, but also understand the allocation of marks and mark scheme.

Share your knowledge!

Being surrounded by your family and friends during the Christmas period could believe it or not be an advantage to your revision! Several studies have been carried out to explain that the sharing of knowledge to someone or even attempting to teach someone about something new does in fact improve your own memory!

Have a well-earned rest!

Although it is vital we stay focused and maintain some sort of routine during the holidays, it is just as important to have a good rest. It is about finding a sense of balance. Use the winter holidays to enjoy yourself, relax, and catch up on sleep, but be smart and be prepared for January!

ENTERTAINMENT

Music Moments: Ricky Montgomery

BY SOPHIE ROWLEY

‘Mr Loverman’ and ‘Line Without a Hook’, two songs, perhaps unrecognisable by title alone, but likely recognised within a second of hearing the chorus’, became viral hits on the social media platform ‘TikTok’ in 2020 and led to the relatively unknown singer / songwriter being signed with Warner Records later that year.

Born on April 3 1993, Ricky Montgomery released his first debut EP, ‘Caught on the Moon’, in the summer of 2014, later extending it to a full debut solo album titled ‘Mont-

gomery Ricky’ two years later in 2016. The 28-year-old’s interest in music began back in 2005 when he started playing in bands around West St. Louis County at the age of 14. After years of contemplating, he made the decision to pursue a career in music and moved to LA. Before pursuing a solo career, Montgomery released music with local St. Louis bands ‘Adversary in Arms’, ‘Carpathia’, and ‘Henry On The Run’.

Before finding fame in music, Montgomery was a viral sensation on former video sharing app ‘Vine’ where he



had accumulated over 180,000 followers before the app was shut down in 2017.

Some of his most popular tracks, as mentioned, include ‘Line without a Hook’ and ‘Mr Loverman’, both taken from the singer’s debut solo album. Since then, he has released the smash hit ‘Talk to You’ earlier this year, along with ‘Sorry for Me’. For those interested in

listening to Ricky’s music further, below is a list of a songs, which will help you get a taste for the type of music the musician and songwriter releases.

1. Talk to You
2. California
3. This December
4. My Heart is Buried in Venice
5. Sorry for Me

What’s on at the big screen this upcoming holiday season?

BY PAIGE ROBERTS

Cinemas have had the ability to remain open for full-time viewing since July, to ensure this extended period of access remains please when considering using the services at these establishments ensure you follow their guidelines and rules put in place to protect yourself and others.

The holiday period is approaching quickly, meaning all students and teachers will have some much-needed leisure time after their hard work during this term! It is important during this time to maintain a balance between schoolwork and relaxation, and one way you can relax and enjoy your-

self is by going to watch one of the many screenings of your favourite films, or perhaps a new film starring your favourite actor! During the next two months, cinemas have a wide variety of films being played, including many classics and seasonal specials:



Suitable for those within all years; Encanto, Clifford The Big Red Dog.





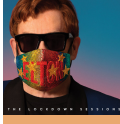
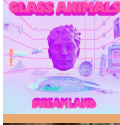

Suitable for those within Year Seven and above; Ghostbusters: Afterlife, West Side Story, Spider-Man: No Way Home, King Richard, Spencer.

For those in Year Ten and above; House of Gucci, Shep-herd.



SPOTIFY WEEKLY TOP SONGS 09/12/21

Chart Check

	Easy On Me ADELE
	Stay THE KID LAROI
	INDUSTRY BABY LIL NAS X
	abcdefu GAYLE
	Cold Heart ELTON JOHN
	Heat Waves GLASS ANIMALS
	All Too Well (10 Minutes) TAYLOR SWIFT

SPORT

Rampant fan incidents continue to stain Ligue 1's season in the spotlight

BY BILLY MORRELL

After seeing mediocre success internationally for the past several years, Ligue 1 has been thrust into the spotlight following Lille's surprise title win in the 20/21 season, a result of an enthralling title race that went down to the very last day, and the arrival of Lionel Messi, arguably the greatest footballer of all time, on free transfer from Barcelona in the summer transfer window.

Despite the stars aligning for the league and setting it on track to become a more global brand, most coverage has seen the football itself overshadowed by negative incidents. Over the course of the season so far, more than five separate acts of violence have occurred, four of which have included Olympique Marseille. The most notable of these be-

ing a near-brawl between Marseille players and pitch-invading OGC Nice fans following Dimitri Payet, former West Ham superstar throwing a bottle aimed for him back towards the fans. This shocking display saw Nice docked a single point, and a Marseille physio banned for a year for his involvement in the fight.

The most recent incident came in the derby between Olympique Lyonnais and Olympique Marseille, dubbed 'Choc des Olympiques' or 'Clash of the Olympics', it was only in the third minute of the game that missiles began being projected toward the OM players, with Payet again being the central target. This time however, he was directly struck in the face by a full plastic bottle of water thrown from the stands. Following concussion protocol, in which the Lyon



players guarded the injured player, referee Buddy Ruquet ordered both sets of players to return to the dressing room until match officials decided on the fate of the match.

A lack of protocol for such a situation, combined with a failure in communication between the French Football Federation and the local Lyon authorities, saw the match suspended and in limbo for almost two hours before being officially abandoned, despite several proclamations by the Groupama Stadium announcer that the match would resume.

As a result of the incident, Lyon have been docked a point, a decision which which they will appeal, and will also have to complete the match against Marseille at a later date behind closed doors.

Although the numerous violent displays have been regu-

larly reported on, the incidents that threaten French football have not slowed down, and are quickly defining Ligue 1. Calls for UEFA sanctions could prove disastrous for the league, as similar isolated incidents in leagues across Europe have resulted in large fines and UEFA stadium bans for the relevant footballing authorities and national teams.

Heading into the winter break, which will commence following Matchday 19 on Wednesday 22nd December, PSG sit top of the table, eleven points clear of second placed Rennes, having picked up only one loss so far in this campaign. The rest of the table sees a much closer battle, with even thirteenth placed Nantes being only five points off of fifth place, which would see them compete in the newly formed European Conference League.

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