

ISSUE 01 • 2021/22

The Young Reporter

A CELEBRATION OF YOUNG JOURNALISM



All reports written for NewsQuest Young Reporter Programme

Foreword

I couldn't be prouder of our NewsQuest Young Reporter Team 2021-2022.

Amongst this year's cohort are individuals whose professionalism and commitment to the considerable challenges of this national work experience programme, have been truly impressive. We have two official award winners on the team (and some runners up,) although sadly the Awards Ceremony has been postponed until September, so we will have to wait until then to find out in which categories they were winners!

I hope you enjoy this sample of their journalistic endeavours and join me in congratulating them on putting together this publication, entirely independently.

Have a wonderful summer, when it comes.



Ms Cotton

Over the last academic year, my fellow young reporters and I have participated in the national Newsquest Young Reporter scheme as part of our co-curricular activities. Publishing articles on the thisislocallondon website, we have had to learn the ropes of professional journalism, adhering to deadlines, word counts and themes.

With the help of a professional journalist mentor, we have navigated this challenge. We are proud of our successes. We have had several prize-winners throughout the scheme, such as Article of the Weeks, pieces published for monthly features in Grapevine online publication, as well as overall winners who will be celebrated at the September awards ceremony. Congratulations to all my fellow reporters who have completed the scheme and to those who have achieved awards.

We have also engaged with the public and our local communities, searching for the lesser-known stories and interesting figures amongst our neighbours, friends, and relatives. This magazine is a celebration of such stories and figures which we have compiled to show you the best of our work.

It has been an exciting experience and immersion into a fascinating profession, and we hope that as you are reading through our articles, you too will join us in celebrating our local areas, and the joys of writing.

Anna K

Meet the team

ANNA K

Hello, my name is Anna and I have just finished year 13. Being a keen writer and philosophy student, I have particularly enjoyed deep diving into each story and finding a fascinating angle or niche to explore.



TARA K

I'm Tara in year 10 and I found my passion for writing through short stories and dramatic pieces as a child. I was drawn to the young Reporter programme because it explored a more sophisticated style of writing that requires interacting with a wide group of people. I particularly enjoyed interviewing entrepreneurs in my local community, discussing their passions and ambitions

REBECCA G

Hi, my name is Rebecca and I have just finished year 10. I have always been passionate about writing and journalism, so having the chance to learn about our school in a way that enables me to do this has been a lot of fun



OLUWATOBILOBA (TOBI) O

Hi! My name is Tobi and I am going into Year 11. During Young Reporter, I enjoyed writing about topics that I was passionate about

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTIONS

Foreword	02
Meet the team	03

BREAKING NEWS AND EVENTS

Scarecrows storming Shirley	04
Can Socks Really combat bullying?	05
A Catalytic Catastrophe	06

INTERVIEWS

Interview with Croydon's Hate Crime Officer	07
Young roots sow seeds of support	08
Interview with Mrs Pattison	09
Computer-less communication during lockdown	10

SPORTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating the Life of Selsdon Junior FC Founder	15
Jubilee celebrations	16
Miles for Miles	17

Introductions

Breaking News & Events

Interviews

Sports & Celebrations

Culture

Quizzes & Quirks

CULTURE

Maintaining Traditions	11
Where even is Guyana?	12
What's in a name?	13
The Importance of black hair	13
Directed by Wes Anderson	14

QUIZZES & QUIRKS

Teacher's favourite Homework Excuses	18
Which teacher are you most like?	19
What to read this summer	20

Scarecrows Storming Shirley

Louise R

As the weather has started to get colder, and darkness is getting earlier, many people across the UK have felt their spirits dampen. However, in Shirley, the annual Scarecrow Festival had people of all ages smiling.

As locals walked around, scarecrows were displayed in many front gardens across the town for people to see.

30 houses took part in the festival this year. The theme was "films" so everyone built a scarecrow based on one of their favourites. *The Titanic*, *ET*, *Robin Hood* and *Harry Potter* are just a few of the scarecrows that were on display.

All this festivity was to raise money for the charity Demelza Hospice Care for Children. So far, £2,907 has been raised, surpassing an initial goal of £2,000. The organiser of the event, Stephanie England, says it is a "hugely supported charity in Shirley" and that locals voted it as 'the best charity to donate to'.

Whether someone was simply walking their dog, or had taken an afternoon to go see the scarecrows, it was clear that the display put a smile on their faces. When asked what the best part of the event was, Stephanie replied: "hearing children running down the street shouting 'I've found another one!' is priceless", and that seeing people "laughing and having fun is fabulous."

Of course, all of this hard work did not go without recognition. There were winners from a variety of courses. The individual winner was *Despicable Me* and the organisation winner was *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. A special mention also has to go to *My Neighbour Totoro*, as the scarecrow was made from all recycled materials.

Fortunately the festival will return next year, where the theme will be "nursery rhymes"

If you would like to donate to Demelza house, here is the link to their fundraising page: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stef-england-scarecrowsutm_source=facebook&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=stef-england-scarecrows&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=9a1d3c080c5743e0b21145ac6037d3e0&fbclid=IwAR2rBfKGrJ19k-XfwcDwG2c44pr2F-zEzcEP2iQu280qDPXMqjoxwT242E



Can Socks Really Combat Bullying?



Occasionally we leave the house and realise that we have worn an odd pair of socks. But on November 15th 2021, for pupils at Raglan Primary school, and 1000s of pupils around the nation, this was no mistake.

Odd Socks Day marked the start of Anti Bullying week and its theme this year was "One Kind Word." With 1 in every 5 school children reporting to be bullied, the theme was particularly apt, and emphasised what one small gesture can do. Whether it is a good deed or a 'behind-mask' smile, it can significantly brighten up someone's day.



The day itself aimed to spread awareness about bullying, with children (and adults alike) wearing mismatched socks. Not only this, it helped students celebrate their individuality in a light-hearted way. One teacher, Sharon Johnson, remarked "wearing odd socks really made me realise what it would feel like to be on the outside as when I went out. I received quite a few strange looks from members of the public for no fault of my own!". Another teacher at the school added, "it was really lovely to be able to see so many people united in the constant fight against bullying. Last year even Sir Mo Farah wore his odd socks and did his part!".



This great day goes to show that we cannot underestimate the simple sock and its ability to aid a nation-wide movement against bullying. So pull your socks up and get involved next year!

Catalytic Catastrophe

The effects of the pandemic have been felt by millions in a myriad of ways and in this country crime appears to be on the rise. One Tuesday night in Wallington, mother of three, Maria, experienced a particularly terrifying encounter.

Having been alerted by her security camera that there was some activity in her driveway around 9pm, she looked out of her front window and was horrified to see four masked men jacking up her car. Realising it was not safe to go outside, she locked her children in a room making sure they were safe and then banged on the window, hoping that this would deter the thieves.

Sadly, it had no effect and in fact, one of them even tried the front door, terrifying Maria in the process. She immediately phoned the police but before they had a chance to arrive, the thieves had removed her catalytic converter and disappeared. The whole horror had taken place in less than five minutes.



The incident has left Maria and her children traumatised. However, when the police arrived, they informed Maria that there had been a spate of such thefts but they were doing all they could to track down the thieves and to find out where the converters were being sold. This offers some hope to Maria and other victims.

Louise R

An Interview with Croydon's Hate Crime Officer

As February draws to a close, so does the sixteenth annual LGBT History Month, and the 50th anniversary of the first pride march to take place in the UK. The month of February aims to celebrate and explore different people and identities who have made history in the community.

Mark Healey, who was appointed Croydon's LGBT Hate Crime Officer in 2019, provides advice and support to those who have been affected by homophobic abuse. As an avid participant in LGBT History Month events, he says they are a "great opportunity to connect with the community", and to "promote anti-hate crime work".

When asked what his biggest achievement as Croydon's Hate Crime Officer has been, Mark responded: "I think my biggest achievement is the support that I have given to individuals who have needed advice and support" as it has "enabled them to get on with their lives."

To celebrate LGBT History Month this year, Mark and Metro Charity launched a community outreach project in 13 of Croydon's libraries. The long term goal of this project is to provide "greater awareness and access to information for both library staff and library users." He also said "I believe signposting groups, organisations and services is very important."

Although there is still a way to go in terms of global LGBT rights, huge progress has been made since the first History Month. With this in mind, I asked Mark what he thought the most important moment in LGBT history was and why?

He said: "Stonewall in New York is often quoted by many people but I think the most important moments in history are the personal moments that we all have, when we start accepting ourselves as LGBT+, when we connect as part of the LGBT+ community, and when we work together to make it a better place for everyone."

A common question is 'why do we even bother to study history? It's in the past after all.' However, Mark said "I think it is important to remember all those that have come before us, those lost, and those who are part of the ongoing movement to make the world a better place for all of us."

Whilst LGBT History Month 2022 is now over, the fight for equal rights is not. When we all come together as a human race to celebrate each other, change is made. In Mark's words: "There are so many stories to learn, so many names, so many important moments in history. We are all richer when we know our past and are able to apply that knowledge to the journey ahead of us."

You can find more information about Metro Charity's services here: <https://metrocharity.org.uk/community/metro-safer-croydon-hate-crime-service>.



Young Roots' Sow Seeds of Support

Ananya R

YOUNG ROOTS

Put yourself in the shoes of a refugee: forced to flee your home to a new and foreign land, trying to grasp a new language, make new friends and a new life. To imagine a life like this is unthinkable for us, but for the 26 million refugees this is the harsh reality.

Amidst the current humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, I was interested to know what our community was doing to help. So, I interviewed Despina Tsiakalou from the local charity 'Young Roots.'

London based charity, Young Roots works with young refugees from around the world to "help them realise their potential through educational activities and support them through one-to-one case work services". This year alone, the charity has impacted 560 people, helping them through a range of ways, one of which being trips chosen by the refugees.

A previous trip to Greenwich that was meticulously debated and planned, saw them taking a leadership role by spending an allocated budget. Despina remarked, "Young people really enjoy all these activities because they don't have the opportunity to do much of this otherwise, as finance is a problem." She later added that "[the young refugees] say Young Roots helps them to be more confident to talk to other young people and other people from the UK more easily, giving a positive impact on their confidence".

However, March 2020 saw the rise of Covid-19 cases in the UK and Young Roots had to close services. Despina said that "the pandemic really affected the way we work and the young people we support, as one of our aims is to reduce social isolation; the pandemic reduced how often we could see young people face-to-face, that was really difficult because they don't have the support networks around them. Being in a house or hotel room by yourself can be very scary". Fortunately, the charity was able to quickly adapt in the unprecedented times, moving nearly all services online by April that same year!

In contrast to the way in which we might have felt about our own situations in lockdown, most of the young people the charity worked with did not have the adequate resources like laptops or phones, to engage with their schoolwork. As well as ensuring that everyone had laptops and phones, encouraging them to exercise and create art with whatever materials they had at home, and sending fruit parcels to keep them healthy, Young Roots was also able to carry on their English conversation club. This club continued to help the young refugees improve their English through a series of one-to-one sessions over 8 weeks, adding a sense of routine to their lives.

When asked about the current situation in Afghanistan, Despina replied that the refugees who still have family in Afghanistan were impacted by the news and the uncertainty of the whole crisis: "We had young people wondering where their family is, whether they would be able to talk to them or see them again." Despite the ongoing uncertainty of what is going on, Young Roots are still trying their best to help young people on an emotional level and are helping them find support and advice.



One question still remains: what can you do within your own community to help? When I asked Despina this question, she replied, "there are many ways you can help young refugees. The most obvious way is to support and donate to charities like Young Roots who are helping provide really vital support to young people during crises. The other way is to use your voice and advocate for the right of refugees to safety and to also educate yourselves of the challenges they face on a day to day basis".

For more information on Young Roots work: www.youngroots.org.uk

Goodbye, Mrs. Pattison

As we all know, Mrs. Pattison will be leaving us at the end of the 2021-22 school year, but before she leaves us for good, we wanted to know some of the best and strangest memories she will be taking away from Croydon High.

First of all, her favourite thing about being our Headmistress:

Spending time with pupils and with staff! Pupils – you are all just incredible – you are fun to be with, full of energy and excitement, lots of creative ideas (some of them have been hilarious!) and as a group you are caring and kind people. Teachers and Support Staff – you are also great people that I have really enjoyed getting to know. You are so committed, talented and you love Croydon High. I will miss you all very much!

Now, some inspirational advice, what she would like to tell the students coming to and leaving Croydon High:

Be yourself and do things your way! That doesn't mean don't study if you can't be bothered, it means enjoy everything life has to offer and don't let anyone tell you how you have to be! I love seeing pupils who put their own mark on the things they do, on their work or on their performances, for example. Get used to loving yourself the way you are (you might have to work at that because it can take practice) and live your own life, not what someone else imagines you should be.

So, after an inspiring message, what does she want her legacy to be when she leaves?

That's a really hard one to answer because I do hope the work that all of the teachers, support staff and Senior Team over the years at Croydon High will be remembered in different ways by different pupils. I suppose all I ever wanted was to feel that I had helped set Croydon High on a really positive journey for the future. We are known as The School That Everyone Is Talking About and that makes me very proud indeed! 'Every Girl, Every Day' has been a very powerful message and has helped define the Croydon High spirit. This has led to larger numbers of pupils interested in joining the school, it has led to a really exciting and forward thinking strategic plan and it has led to improvements around the campus and – probably most importantly – on the delivery of the curriculum, pastoral care and co-curricular offer.

Now comes the fun stuff: the strangest things at Croydon High!

- *I never thought I would see a whole school conga .. but that's pretty much what we did on the Platinum Jubilee... with a life size cardboard cut-out of Her Majesty bobbing up and down above everyone's heads!*
- *I did not ever imagine I would feature in a video on the roof of a school waving to a drone filming me standing next to a teacher playing guitar.*
- *I didn't think I would see one of the teachers dress up as a singing frog and win a competition! Some of the contributions to the Masked Singer were a highlight!*
- *Then, finally, I expect something weird and wonderful every time I go to the Nursery. It's always so lovely to pop over to the Nursery to see what they are up to and the lovely pupils always come up with hilarious stories or funny expressions! They are incredibly creative and very ... honest!*

And finally, a sum up of the school in three words.

Inspirational – there is not a day when I have been in school when I haven't been inspired in some way.

Exciting – working with such fabulous pupils has been really exciting. I do believe it has become increasingly a really exciting place to work and study over the past few years.

Warm – I'm not talking about the heating! The welcoming, friendly, family-feel to our community struck me as much on day 1 as it does now.

Thank you, Mrs. Pattison. We are all going to miss you and we wish you all the best with your new headship at Epsom college and we hope you enjoy every minute of your time there, creating memories like you have done at Croydon High. You have truly been an inspiration to every single girl in the school, and we are sure you will be for the students that you are about to take under your wings.





Computer-less communication during lockdown

Tara K

The bleak memory of lockdown is one full of restrictions, us having to give up the things we love or resort to doing them over a screen. This had a noticeable impact on the arts, dance in particular, which requires large open spaces, and student-teacher interaction. Surely a screen would be necessary, my former ballet teacher thinks not.

Fiona Avenalle is an excellent example of how a passion can innovatively continue throughout a difficult time.

For Fiona Avenalle, like for us all, lockdown was difficult. Being so used to teaching most days, meeting her students regularly was something she dearly missed.

But, despite this, every week Ms Avenalle would phone her friend in Bath over a landline and practise ballet together, informing each other of the music prior and playing them on cassettes.

"We had practised together before lockdown, so I could visualise her movements as we danced". Not only this, everyday, Ms Avenalle would teach a ballet class, as if the students were there. Go through what would have been tasks for a class, and practise for herself.

This proves a complex camera setup is not necessary to maintain connection with friends, and a landline will suffice. This proves even a small interaction once a week can make one nostalgic for times before lockdown.

When asked why she did not make the transition to using a laptop or communicating online she responded it wouldn't have been the same, and technology has never appealed to me".

Fiona Avenalle has been a ballet teacher for over 30 years, and when asked where the passion started she said "it was the music. I was watching my sister's ballet class aged only two and...danced the second it played".

Ms Avenalle recently begun teaching again, "and what a joy it has been."

As the restrictions ease, it is important not to forget the time passed, and to celebrate those who despite their situation, managed to find small yet impactful solutions to their 'new normal'.

Rashna T

Maintaining tradition

Sri Lanka may be thousands of miles from the UK, but its traditional Bharatanatyam dance is alive and thriving in London. This ancient and beautiful art form is very popular amongst the younger generations, in particular those of Sri Lankan descent based in South London. Bharatanatyam's enduring presence is largely thanks to the pioneering efforts of Tooting resident, Mrs Ragini Rajagopal.

When asked how long she had been teaching this beautiful form of art, she replied that she started her first school in Sri Lanka in 1975. 10 years later, when she moved to this country, news of her teaching skills travelled with her and it was not long before she was approached by their headmistress of St Fransiscan School in Tooting. Now Mrs Rajagopal has been teaching students there for more than 35 years!

She and her dancers put on exhibition dances as well as presenting shows at religious festivals in the temple and for charitable events. Productions are also held for parents which provide an excellent opportunity for the children to display their talent, with other family members being able to appreciate the rich culture of Sri Lanka. The traditional brightly coloured clothing that the children are allowed to wear makes for a beautiful spectacle.



She and her dancers put on exhibition dances as well as presenting shows at religious festivals in the temple and for charitable events.

Mrs Rajagopal has received several awards in recognition of her service to Sri Lankan dance and is one of the most famous teachers in London, having been the first Indian dance teacher to be recognised by Wandsworth Council. When asked about the future and the continuing popularity of Bharatanatyam Mrs Rajagopal was very positive. She said that "families always encourage their children to learn this beautiful form of dance" and many of her students go on to be dance teachers themselves. It would seem the future is very bright for Bharatanatyam dance.

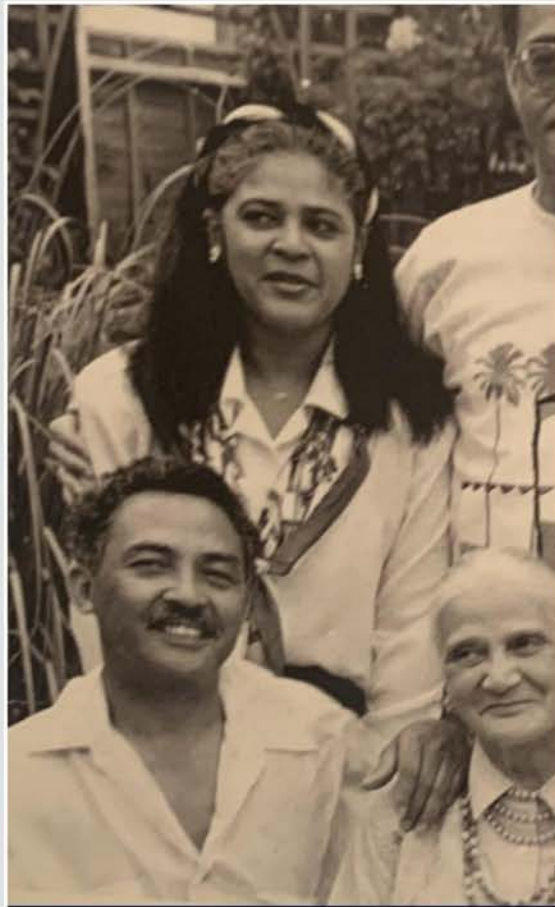


"Where even is Guyana?"

Madeleine H

"Where even is Guyana?" is a question my grandma, Joan Anne Webster (née Kersting), is frequently asked. Raised in Guyana by her mother, she grew up with five siblings. She explained how her childhood in Guyana was "abnormal" yet still "enjoyable". I was curious to learn about her upbringing, as Guyana is a lesser-known country in South America. Google defines Guyana by its "relatively high crime rate" and characteristically dense rainforest, noting it as one of the "poorest countries in South America." However, for my grandmother, it is simply home.

Joan, 75, was born in the capital of Guyana, Georgetown, which she fondly remembers as "an inclusive place filled with fun". Joan recalls her heritage, how her "father's ancestors came from Germany and Austria in the 1900s," and that the "people in those days were pioneers. They were traveling the world in search of riches and adventure". This was an exciting discovery for me as I came to learn about how Guyana is not an isolated nation but a fusion of different cultures and countries merged.



My grandma lived on a plantation, where "you have the overseers and the managers in one secure compound, then you have the key workers, midwives, engineers, who work at the sugar factory. And behind that, you had the field workers who cut the sugar cane in the field". Joan detailed the cultural richness on the plantation, that there were many Hindus and Muslims who worked in these fields, who celebrated their heritage in unison with a festival called 'Phagwa.' An Indian festival to celebrate the eternal and divine love of Radha Krishna. She emphasised how it was exhilarating and that she "used to have fun throwing all the coloured dye around", even though she is not Hindu. The appreciation of other traditions was enlightening. This shows how truly multicultural Guyana is.

One of Joan's earliest childhood memories was "living in an area called Kitty, which was by the sea". She lived in "a big, detached house and the house was on stilts." The stilts were because Guyana tends to flood during the rainy seasons as the coast is low-lying. This opened my eyes to the economic disparity in Guyana. It is filled with deplorable living conditions juxtaposed by concentrated wealth. For me, this makes Guyana even more fascinating to study.

Learning more about my grandmother and her heritage was compelling and a pleasure. I would highly recommend chatting with an elder relative about their childhood. Who knows, maybe you can find out some fascinating facts and even something about them that surprises you entirely!

What's in a name?

'O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo? Deny thy father and refuse thy name'. When I was younger I wanted to change my name. For ten years I disliked it until I found the meaning behind it.

My name is Oluwatobiloba, and it means 'God is great'. I was given this name by my parents, who had been trying to have a child for over 20 years. After hearing this story, I felt ashamed for not wanting to keep my name. I couldn't imagine the agony my parents went through, especially in a culture where children are the centre of the community. So, I decided it was time to start appreciating it. I wrote it everywhere: on test papers, on homeworks and on forms.

I wanted people to know about it. My name encapsulates the true meaning of what my birth meant to my parents.

One of my best friends, Krishna, said "I was named after a god." Whilst pregnant, Krishna's mum had a dream in which a Hindu god called Krishna came to her. She immediately knew that it must be her daughter's name.

So whilst we often disregard names or deem them unimportant, once we find their meaning it can change us forever.

I carry my name with pride, fully aware that it is more than just a name. So, what's in your name?

The importance of black hair

Hair holds a great purpose for us all. For me, black hair represents change. Over time, black hair has moulded and evolved into newer and greater styles.

In early African civilisations, hairstyles could show your class, tribe, and background. Styling the hair took hours and sometimes days. During this time women and men created strong bonds with each other that lasted a lifetime.

However, during and after slavery black hair was changed. Instead of wearing the beautiful and intricate styles that they were used to, slaves were forced to shave their heads.

In an effort to repress them, this change created a sense of shame and stigma around black hair.

However, in the 1960s black hair was reclaimed, with the civil rights movement coming to light. Black pride was new and fresh. Afros were out and large.

Today, black hair is ubiquitous. Our weaves, twists, locks and cornrows have found their way into the light again and out of the shadows.

Madeleine H

Directed by Wes Anderson

Wes Anderson is a truly beloved and valued member of the film industry. Wes Anderson demonstrated complete aesthetic mastery in his new movie "The French Dispatch". His typical whistles and bells are present and more impressive than ever. To my surprise, The French Dispatch is overflowing with new ideas we have not seen before and breathtaking experimentation that worked so very well on screen.

The French Dispatch feels like Wes is expanding and thickening his already brilliant repertoire. Wes' constant play with the black and white aspect of radio and text on the screen is refreshing and feels new and exciting, even for Wes Anderson, a filmmaker who has always stood in the spotlight. Seeing a Wes Anderson movie is an experience. A breathtaking journey from beginning to end, and it is always worth seeing. To see an artist with such a specific singular vision continue to push and push said vision to the next level is inspiring and a pleasure for all.

The French Dispatch was everything I wanted and more! I know that on my inevitable 10th watch, I would still give it five stars. That being said, known film stars do not matter with Wes Anderson movies. I loved it. I had a great time at the cinema. What else is there? I watched this movie at my favourite cinema with my dad, a fellow Wes Anderson lover. We were both stunned when walking out of the cinema laughing and promising to watch more of his work together.

Wes Anderson returns with a vibrant movie devoted not only to the lengthy list of influential writers but to writing itself. For me, this movie felt like it was a love letter to a journalist's notepad and its importance to the modern world. In one hour and forty-three minutes, Wes devises stories composed by a group of writers at a local magazine, the dazzling French Dispatch. The film opens with a lively introduction to the magazine's office. A narrator reads an article from the French Dispatch's final edition: the nostalgic obituary of its creator.

To the surprise of no one, the film is engulfed with the iconic Wes Anderson features: symmetrical shots follow witty whip pans, innovative cuts link comical monologues, and creative compositions reveal a background with rich details filled with vivid colours immersing the entirety of the screen. This movie is incredibly charming and exquisitely shot, in true Wes Anderson style - the film, as expected, is delightful eye candy.

There is a line within the movie that Bill Murray delivers: "Just try to make it seem like you wrote it that way on purpose". I feel as though this reflects the movie as a whole and the way it is a tribute to journalism. The cast was incredible in this movie. I am a big fan of the French-American actor Timothée Chalamet, so when I saw him collaborating with one of my favourite directors, I knew that the final product would be worth watching. The lines delivered by every actor were impeccable. They could take the most direct line and deliver in such a way that results in some comedic value.

I think it is safe to say that: Wes Anderson has truly out Anderson himself here; I'm obsessed.



Celebrating the life of Selsdon Junior FC founder, Derek Millen



How do we honour those who have changed our lives? And how can we preserve their memory when theirs begins to fade?

On 3rd September 2020, Derek Millen, co-founder of Selsdon Junior FC, passed away from Alzheimer's disease; a year later, on 5th September 2021, a charity match and auction were held that saw around 90 people celebrate his life and career.

Despite battling Alzheimer's, Derek's wonderful character remained with him until his final day. Keith Millen, his son, notes that even though "[it was] tough for the family... I felt he [Derek] still recognised me when he saw me". But 45 years before his death, Derek, alongside Terry Fitzgerald, founded the Selsdon Junior football club. And it is for his very "love of football" and "personal side," for which Keith said Derek should be remembered.



The club grew exponentially by establishing an essential source of grassroots football for many youths. With numerous success stories, the club was never shy of young talent. Gareth Southgate--current England Senior men's team manager--is perhaps the most notable graduate, along with former professional players Peter Garland and Charlie Hartfield. Furthermore, Keith went on to play professional football and manage, making his way into the Brentford Hall of Fame.

When asked what led to the success and impact Derek had, Keith cited "the way he looked after the kids," adding "he would do anything for [them], pick them up, drop them home. He had that care factor to his management... he cared about the person [as] an individual". With his wonderful character being so fondly remembered, the charity match and auction were fitting. Indeed, Selsdon Junior FC posted their simple, yet poignant, tribute to the man who changed, and whose work continues to change, so many lives: "RIP Derek, thank you for our club."

Jubilee Celebrations



This May, the school was abuzz with jubilee preparations. Excitement of her majesty's forthcoming 70th year anniversary on the throne did not pass without adequate celebration.

To mark this remarkable event, students descended upon an unusual location: the school car park. The dull grey tarmac was transformed into a sea of tables blanketed in union Jack tablecloths housing every member of the school community. However, this was not completed without the effort of the caretaking team, catering staff and of course the unparalleled Mrs Beck.

It was certainly an exceptional endeavour: setting up in less than two hours and packing up before pick-up time when cars would once again occupy the space.

Despite the lack of brilliant sunshine with an overcast sky and wind blowing furiously causing tablecloths to swirl and hands frantically holding them down - spirits remained high. Music performed by our very own students echoed throughout the school, with all students joining in the grand finale: a passionate rendition of an iconic British classic, "Sweet Caroline."

Students also had the opportunity to write postcards to each other as a way of remembering a time when the school came together to celebrate an event of international importance. Though perhaps the most memorable moment was when students of all ages from year one through twelve formed a conga, with smiles all around.



The festivities did not end there, as the sweet jingle of an ice-cream truck could be heard as students who were sitting in lessons, came down the stairs as we all savoured a 'Mr Whippy' with a healthy dollop of chocolate sauce.

There are those amongst us who might question the continued relevance of the monarchy, but what is clear is the unity the occasion brought, and a sense of worthy admiration for our majesty, the Queen.

Anna K.

Miles for Miles?

A world without sight or sound is, for many of us, unimaginable. But for the estimated 40 Britons and 500 people worldwide who are living with Norrie Disease, this is their reality.

Imagine a world without sight; now imagine it without sound too.

"A rare genetic condition that causes blindness/severe visual impairment with secondary conditions including hearing loss," Norrie disease's effects are life-defining. Seeking to provide crucial insight into the condition and support for those affected, the Norrie Disease Foundation (NDF) was set up in 2017.

Professor Maria Bitner-Glindzicz, a clinical geneticist at UCL and groundbreaking researcher into Norrie Disease at Great Ormond Street Hospital, was instrumental in the founding and funding of the NDF. Wendy Horrobin, co-founder and current chair and coordinator of NDF, described Maria as "the wind behind our sails"; "the first person that listened globally, [the] first researcher with irreplaceable skills". Playing a crucial role within the community, Maria's sudden death in 2019 following a bicycle accident was devastating on both a communal and personal level.

Two years later, Maria's daughter Helena ran the 2021 London Marathon in support of her mother and the foundation's vital research and community. When asked about the impact she has had on the foundation in the wake of her mother's passing, Wendy said, "Just like Maria, I've never met anyone like Helena," describing her relationship with NDF as "deep and meaningful". With kind reciprocity, Helena returned the compliment, saying Wendy has "taken the NDF from strength to strength since she set it up".

Helena's fundraising, which has reached over £8,000, exemplifies the strength in solidarity and determination, even within a relatively small community and in the face of profound tragedy. When asked what she hoped the foundation would further achieve, Helena responded: "I hope they manage to continue bringing people affected by Norrie disease together. It is a small but powerful community, and mum had always said that bringing affected families together... was the most important thing."

Maria's daughter Helena ran the 2021 London Marathon in support of her mother and the foundation's vital research and community.

Fighting to continue bringing much-needed awareness to and research about the disease, in the hopes that research may find ways to prevent secondary conditions including hearing loss, the NDF are working alongside their medical advisory board.

Their website fosters a similar sense of resilience and reassurance, offering a voice and community space for those living with Norrie and their families: "The Norrie community is growing, it is strong, and keen to support, hear and share experiences". As such, the NDF's vision and Helena's commitment expresses the power of collaboration and support that is much needed in many aspects of life.

For more information about Norrie Disease and the NDF's important work:

<https://norriedisease.org.uk/>



What are the best excuses for homework?



Whether you are at school now, or left years ago, we all know about homework.

As students who go to school and receive homework every day (and have possibly used an excuse or two *only* when necessary) we consider ourselves pretty knowledgeable on the topic.

Whilst some of us may think we have our teachers fooled with clever justifications, we are definitely not the experts on what works best. Teachers, having both taught and been through school themselves, have much more experience when it comes to homework. They are the professionals here; surely they have the solution to our problem? If only there was a way to find out what the best excuses truly are...

Luckily for you, we have interviewed some teachers to find some answers. We have compiled a collection of amusing excuses that have been heard by teachers before.

Warning - use these at your own risk!

"I had too many parties to attend!"

"I didn't do it, I was out at the weekend. I am happy to do it in detention though?"

"I left it on my island..." and the pupil had genuinely left it on their family's private island over the weekend.

"I was volunteering at a soup kitchen - I thought it was more important to feed the hungry and homeless than to do my homework"

"My book was accidentally packed in a box and shipped to India."

"I'm not gonna lie, Miss - I couldn't be bothered."

Is honesty always the best policy? You can decide...

Which CHS teacher are you?

Have you ever wondered which teacher is you in adult form? If so, consider yourself lucky. We have compiled a series of questions for this exact purpose. So have a go and who knows, maybe your carbon copy is sitting right in front of you (just behind a teacher's desk!)

Where would you usually be seen on a Friday night?

- A - Heading out to an immersive theatre experience, or a bar with friends
- B - At home, on my sofa!
- C - Relaxing at home with friends and/or family

What animal do you relate to the most?

- A- a capybara!
- B - an orangutan
- C - a rhino

Where's your dream holiday destination?

- A - Somewhere tropical, in the wilderness
- B - I love to travel and would get on a train and just keep going until I had seen the whole world if I could
- C - Travelling around Asia

What is one thing you couldn't live without?

- A - Earplugs
- B - Books!
- C- Contact lenses, I'm really blind!

How would your friends describe you?

- A - Adventurous
- B - Incredibly wise
- C - Entertaining

If you got mainly:
A's - You are Ms Cotton!
B's - You are Mrs Tapsfield!
C's - You are Mr Cordes!

What to read this summer

Summer provides us with a well-earned break to catch-up with friends, explore new places, or enjoy some sunshine. - fingers-crossed!. The greatest challenge with all this time is, as Phineas and Ferb once highlighted, "finding a good way to spend it".

And whilst we of course all want to switch off and forget about work and deadlines, it can also be nice to keep our intellectual engines going. One way of doing this can be reading new books that introduce new ideas, challenge our beliefs, and expose us to unfamiliar perspectives; far from a complete list, I wanted to share some of the books I hope will do just this for me:

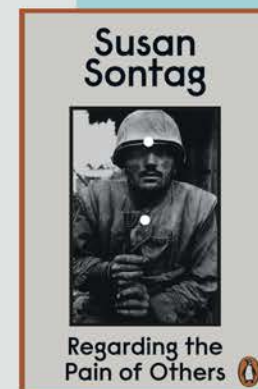
***The Case Against the Sexual Revolution* by Louise Perry**

A critical look at an important pivot in history, and the good, bad, and ugly state of contemporary sex culture



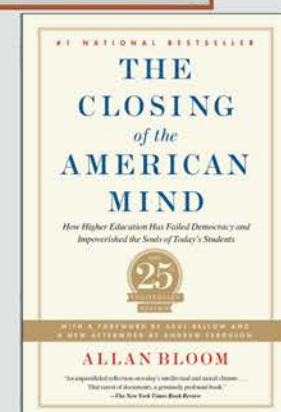
***Regarding the Pain of Others* by Susan Sontag**

After the Uvalde mass shooting and amid the war in Ukraine, this book provides an ever-relevant and interesting look at how we use images, especially those from conflict and war, and their meaning(s) and morality



***The Closing of the American Mind* by Allan Bloom**

The growing 'isms' of thought that Bloom identifies in American higher education are scrutinised, providing a compelling rethink of how we define learning and listening across the Western world



***Free Speech: a Very Short Introduction* by Nigel Warburton**

A careful dissection of a treasured liberal value, how, why and when it could and should be limited, and why it matters

