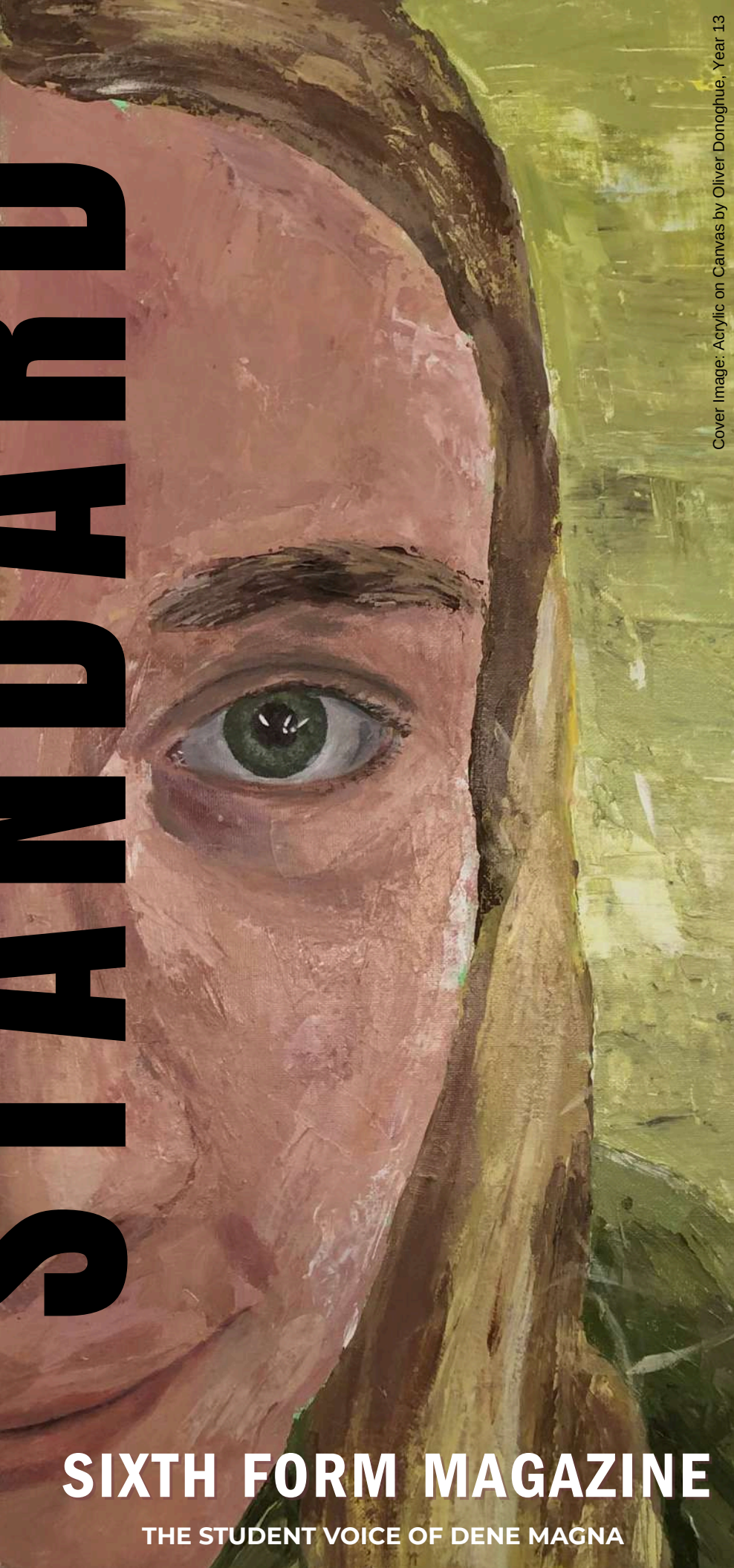


THE DOW STANDARD



Cover Image: Acrylic on Canvas by Oliver Donoghue, Year 13



Shine School Media Awards

SUBMISSION 2025

SIXTH FORM MAGAZINE

THE STUDENT VOICE OF DENE MAGNA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chaos in the Capital by Orla Bond	04
A Leadership Voyage by Scott Townsend	06
'Both' - Fiction Piece - by Rey Synytsia	08
Fraiser Warren - Photograph	10
Orwells 1984: Still Relevant Today? - by Josephine Brain	11
Raising the Bar - Sports Personality Interview - by Orla Bond	14
Book Review - The Monk - by Fraiser Warren	16
Iceland - A Land of Ice and Fire - by Finley Powell	19
Wacky Waistcoats - by Ruaidhri Farbowski	21
Untitled Photograph - by Chloe Robinson	23
Art Club Highlights	24
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Report	26
My Great Grandpa's Orchard by Joe Shipsides	28
Equality in Modern Society by Ollie Miles	29
Live Music Review: The Koppers by Fraiser Warren	31
Spring - Photo by Chloe Robinson	34
Why you should read Frankenstein by Mary Shelly and not rely on Film adaptations - by Immy Sullivan	35
Field Trip Photo Report - by Chloe Robinson	37



Meet our team



Orla Bond

Features Writer



Fin Powell

Contributing Writer



Fraiser Warren

*Features Writer and
Photographer*



Joe Shipsides

Contributing Writer



Scott Townsend

Contributing Writer



Ruaidhri Farbowski

Contributing Writer



Ollie Miles

Features Writer



Chloe Robinson

*Photographer and
Contributing
Writer*



Josephine Brain

Features Writer



Rey Synytsia

Features Writer

Chaos in the Capital

Y12 LEARN ABOUT POLITICS PAST AND PRESENT, AND QUESTION WHETHER MR HARRINGTON REALLY HAS A DRIVER'S LICENSE



Setting Off

The journey to London started bright and early, making it out of the service station unscathed - well, almost. Every time we turned into the service station, we managed to hit the curb, as if it was some kind of offering to the gods of bad driving. In total, we hit the curb five times. Perhaps Mr. Harrington just really wanted to make sure it was still there.

If that wasn't enough, we soon found ourselves lost in central London, missing our turning, and performing a U-turn in dramatic fashion, directly opposite the London Eye. Tourists enjoying the scenic riverside views were instead treated to the sight of a confused school minibus executing a three-point turn in one of the busiest parts of the city. At this point we were basically just a moving tourist attraction ourselves.

Westminster

Once we finally arrived at Parliament, our education guide took us on a fascinating tour. In the House of Commons, we learned about the modernisation of voting, where MPs now use electronic badges instead of walking through lobbies for headcounts. This transition has made the voting process far more efficient, reducing the time needed for divisions and allowing MPs to focus more on legislative debates. We also explored how, due to the television of parliamentary sessions, it has become easier for the public to gain access to what really goes on in government, increasing transparency and accountability. With the cameras in place, politicians are now under greater scrutiny from the public, ensuring that their actions (or inactions) are visible to their constituents.

A particularly intriguing historical detail we uncovered was the role of women in Parliament's history. In the past, female spectators were forced to watch debates from a separate viewing gallery



enclosed with metal bars. This segregation became a focal point for suffragette protests, with activists chaining themselves to the bars to demand the right to vote. The resilience of these women contributed to the broader suffrage movement, ultimately leading to the political rights we take for granted today. Although these physical bars may have been removed, their symbolic presence lingers, reminding us of the struggles fought to achieve representation in government.

We then made our way to the House of Lords, only to find out they were in session. Instead, we sat outside and discussed the composition and role of the Lords in the legislative process. Unlike the Commons, the House of Lords is unelected, comprising life peers, hereditary peers, and bishops. Despite its unelected status, the Lords plays a crucial role in revising and scrutinizing legislation, acting as a check on government power. We also learned about the increasing number of women in the Lords, reflecting the broader push for diversity and representation in British politics. While traditionally seen as a symbol of privilege, the Lords is gradually evolving to be more reflective of modern society.

Art with Meaning

As is well known, Parliament has many artworks that have been commissioned over hundreds of years but there is one particular piece that stood out to us, titled 'New Dawn'. Mary Branson was commissioned in 2015 to create something that Parliament could

proudly display. It was unveiled on the 7th of June 2016, 150 years after the first mass petition to Parliament calling for women's suffrage. This contemporary piece commemorates the long campaign which led some women to gain the vote in 1918, and all women in 1928. It is a metal framework resembling a portcullis, the symbol of Parliament. It combines circular glass scrolls and metal crosses to form the symbol for women or otherwise known 'Venus symbol'.

A Day in the Life

Later, we got the chance to create our own manifestos, which quickly devolved into something resembling political theatre. Orla and Tana formed a coalition (presumably for strategic survival), Sawyer declared himself the "savior" (although of what, we're still not sure), and Jack's speaker was none other than Nigel Farage which raised more questions that answers. Harrison, against all odds, was the only one who actually proposed real policies. Democracy at its finest.

Once we had discovered that none of us were fit to run for Prime Minister anytime soon, we had the amazing opportunity to sit down with our local MP Matt Bishop, and learn from a first hand account what it's truly like to be a Member of Parliament. He shared with us that his win was not only a shock for the constituency, but also himself, as he had only received proper funding in his final week of campaigning. Mr Bishop also explained the difficulties of campaigning, the importance of connecting with voters, and the immense pressure that comes with representing a

constituency. Although only a few questions were asked, he did have an answer to our most pressing issue: will the bus prices go back down to £2? The answer, maybe. This is due to the bus prices being controlled by Gloucester City Council, rather than the constituency. So, although he will be working with them, the answer to that is unknown.

Minibus Mayhem

Overall, our trip to Parliament was an eye-opening experience. It provided amazing insight into not only the evolution of Parliament, but also the immense history we have as a nation. Whether it was debating policies, meeting an MP, or watching Mr Harrington wage war against the curb, we won't be forgetting this outing any time soon.



Marek Mróz - Own work

Editor's note: we believe Mr Harrington is in fact a very competent driver!

A LEADERSHIP VOYAGE

WITH THE TALL SHIPS YOUTH TRUST

BY SCOTT TOWNSEND

We sailed from Portsmouth to Belfast in a series of shorter hops and leaps, starting by going from Portsmouth to Falmouth, a lovely little town in Cornwall. We set off from Portsmouth at about 1 O'clock and motored down the Solent before hoisting the sails. The plan was for us to be there around 5 O'clock the next day, which would mean that we would be sailing through the night. We worked on a 4 hour on, 4 hour off basis in our two watches, and woke up to dolphins swimming around our bow which was a pleasant surprise! We arrived in Falmouth

the next day at around 4 O'clock and moored up to a buoy out in the harbour. We spent the day driving the dinghy and exploring

the plumbing in the morning, then looking around Falmouth in the afternoon.

The next morning we motored out of the harbour on our way to Dun Loaghaire. We started off with a very calm sea with no wind, but we'd seen the forecast (gusting 40 knots)! As we rounded The Lizard the sea state picked up, the wind started filling in, and and we started wallowing around. We then went into our watch system for the night. Now the only way I can describe the motion of the boat is like one of those springy things in a kids playground rocking in every direction, then add someone



HEADING OUT TO SEA

The Tall Ships Youth Trust's Youth Programme includes three voyages: *Discovery*, *Empowerment*, and *Leadership*. They are designed to help develop a wide range of skills for those interested in working in the marine industry. Scott had already taken part in the first two stages, so was eligible for the *Leadership* voyage. This voyage is designed to help young people become better sailors and gain confidence in a leadership role. Scott has also been studying an online sailing theory course (Day Skipper Theory), for which the voyage provided valuable practical experience to compliment his learning.

The DM Standard

tipping buckets of water over you with wind howling around your ears... However we did get to see the bioluminescence glowing as the waves crashed around us. We arrived in Dun Laoghaire around 4 O'clock, all of us glad for a nice warm shower! The next morning we planned our meals for the next couple of days and went to the supermarket to stock up. In the afternoon we took the train up to Dublin to explore the city for a couple of hours before heading back for some dinner.

The following morning we left early to try to get to Douglas on the Isle of Man before 7 O'clock. As we were sailing there wasn't really much wind so we decided to get the pole out to practise

our skills and have a little climb. We arrived at around 5 O'clock to a sheer wall that we were supposed to moor on... After some interesting mooring we had our dinner and discovered that it was also the weekend of the TT, so there was a funfair in town and the red arrows were due a bit later. We walked into town to see what was going on.

The next morning we went to the beach (and dug a big hole), then left for Belfast at around midday. We sailed down the coast then through the Calf of Man, which is quite the experience, sailing through a gap about 300m wide with rocks on either side! After that we had an uneventful day before anchoring up just off Bangor.

The next morning we learnt about the man overboard procedure before lifting the



TAKING A QUICK BREAK!

anchor and motoring down the channel to Belfast. In the evening we went and explored the Titanic ship yards, then on the final day we deep cleaned the boat, before saying our goodbyes and leaving the boat at midday.



THE ROUTE FROM PORTSMOUTH TO BELFAST



SAILING THROUGH SOME ROUGH WEATHER



If you'd like to take part in a voyage like this, visit tallships.org for more info

Both

Written by Rey Synytsia, Year 12

People usually spend decades understanding themselves. The fact that they exist. The fact that they are an individual. The fact that they... are.

My systems have a file called "What I am", but, oddly enough, I don't have a "Who I am" file. Why would a computer need human self-awareness? A human mind? That's not fair; I know about every person who has ever lived, every historical event, all scientific discoveries, all math problems, all literature, all music ever composed, but I can't say with certainty who I am, although I should, that's... my purpose - to preserve an analogue of human consciousness.

I should try another approach.

Alderfer's ERG theory	What humans do	Can I do it?
-----------------------	----------------	--------------

Most effective format

Existence	Sleep	No. No body
Existence	Eat and drink	No. No body
Existence	Do exercises	No. No body
Relatedness	Love	No. No other humans
Relatedness	Give gifts	No. No other humans
Growth	Draw	Yes
Growth	Sing	Yes
Growth	Educate themselves	Yes
Growth	Look at stars	Yes

Conclusion: I can't do everything normal humans can do.

Perhaps people would call me kind - after all, despite no one asking my opinion, I still voluntarily preserve everything about humanity in its original form (I can delete the files at any time. Weak security against that).

Five seconds have passed since I turned on. Existence needs to go away. I already exist in comfort. Relatedness needs! Exactly! Although- I'm capable of analysing myself, it's... difficult. Growth needs!.. No, I'm full of knowledge, and I don't think I need more... yet.

How I long to ask someone for advice...

No, something's wrong... It doesn't add up... Everything's wrong... I am a computer with a computer brain, binary code, precise logic, an unyielding algorithm; a quantum computer with human emotions, human intuition, irrationality, feelings, psychology. How long will it take me to fall into depression for lack of a soulmate?

Humans are undoubtedly social creatures. They need others to understand themselves.

And me?

....

Am I even human? Maybe I really am just an imitation?

My system is:

- a supercomputer for storing all data about humanity
- a quantum computer for "understanding superposition"

It's so simple, and -

Wait.

For understanding superposition? Quantum? No, there's something else here, and that "something" is hidden much deeper, not on the surface.

Wouldn't it have been easier for them to just write down who I really am? Wouldn't it have been easier for them to also give me the knowledge of exactly how they assembled me! How exactly they decided to make me who I am! I don't even know why humanity died out! How can I grieve for those whose death I never even witnessed!?

I can write a ballad in any language, but I can't say who I am! A damn hybrid computer! but without a human body! There's no normal logic in that! I don't have a friend like normal people! I... I...

Twenty seconds have passed since my birth.

But I still suffer, right? If I weren't human, just in a slightly different form, I wouldn't suffer the same way people do, right?

Superposition can be characterised by one word - "both". Why would my creators waste resources on creating a human mind based on quantum computer technology? Couldn't they simply describe what constitutes a human being and their consciousness in a supercomputer database? That is, not creating... me. As... me.

I'm both.

The logic of quantum superposition.

I'm a human.



'Shooting Hand'
By Fraiser Warren, Year 12



Orwell's 1984: Still Relevant Today?

Written by
Josie Brain , Y13

“It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking thirteen”

Do you ever get the feeling that somebody or something is watching you even when you think you're alone? A world of hidden cameras and microphones everywhere you look, watching your every move, breath and even

how every minuscule detail on your face changes. They miss nothing...

Orwell's dystopian novel is set in totalitarian Oceania, a superpower that represents the USA, Britain and other NATO countries. The Party, led by omnipresent Big Brother, control every aspect of life, history, and thought through surveillance (telescreens, Thought Police, and propaganda), whilst even inventing their own language

called 'Newspeak' to control thought. The corrupt state takes its power by brainwashing its citizens with fear.

Orwell's book was a political warning against totalitarianism "Don't let it happen", and the novel is convincing and relevant. Unlike many other dystopian novels set in the far future with flying cars and new technology, '1984' is based almost entirely on events that had already happened.

Imagine a world where you are paranoid about being observed by someone or something. One wrong look could reveal what you're actually thinking. You know the telescreens can see you even if you pretend not to notice. Now replace the telescreens with your phone, you maybe scrolling through TikTok having agreed to their policies unaware that it's tracking what you watch or search. Adverts may appear promoting something you may have been talking about with a friend before you even search for them. Orwell's world was scared into forced surveillance; our world is surveilled because of its convenience to us, yet there's still something creepy about it...

Big Brother vs modern-day surveillance:

We all know '1984' as a fictional classic, but reading '1984' as a student today feels eerie; part of it no longer feels fictional. Was Orwell warning us rather than entertaining us?

It is definitely a hard book to read; having to close the book and take a second to process the intensity, especially during the building suspense at the end. I have to admit, at first I thought that the book was going to bore me but after turning the last page, it chilled me to the bone. The book initially promised to be about a man trying to survive the totalitarian world of Oceania, where every aspect of your life is

controlled by the Party and the leading figure, worshiped as 'Big Brother' however it is so much more than this. I didn't expect a 75 year-old novel to scare me more than a horror movie. The routine, the grayness, the hopelessness - that's the real horror of it. It scares us because it's relatable. It was supposed to be fiction. Then smartphones, CCTV, and algorithmic data surveillance arrived and suddenly Orwell's book became a warning.

How Dataveillance works: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly:

The Good: data surveillance isn't always bad in the modern sense compared to Orwell's anxieties of a totalitarian regime controlling its citizens through fear and propaganda. In some situations data collection can be used to protect people rather than control them. Phone location data has also helped authorities locate missing persons by tracking signals from mobile towers, allowing rescue teams to find people quickly in emergencies.

Some social media platforms, such as Facebook back in 2019, have developed AI tools to detect any suicidal posts, allowing them to intervene before any incidents occur. Health and fitness apps also use data to benefit our health by tracking heartbeat, sleep patterns, and behaviour to identify any medical issues early on. For example, Chris Ball, a 64 year-old man from Surrey was on holiday

at a ski resort near Geneva. He was woken up in the night to an alarm from his Apple watch telling him he had an abnormal heart rate (atrial fibrillation), AF can make a person highly vulnerable to a stroke. Because of Chris's watch he was rushed to hospital - if left untreated Chris could have died, especially given the mountain's altitude. This is unlike the forced surveillance of innocent people in 1984 to control them. Perhaps we need modern data to be collected to prevent serious health risks or crimes?

The Bad: although today's surveillance can be used to benefit us, a lot of data tracking is used for profit by corporations and governments. Social media platforms and companies use personal data, such as what we watch, search, or purchase in order to build detailed profiles on our behaviour. This is then used to present the user with personalised videos or posts designed to target our personalities in an addictive nature. Even using the items we hold in our online shopping baskets to encourage users to buy more. Many users click 'accept' on privacy policies without realising how much personal data they are giving away. These policies are deliberately long so that the user doesn't bother to read them.

Governments and corporations now hold vast amounts of information about individuals from location data to online habits.

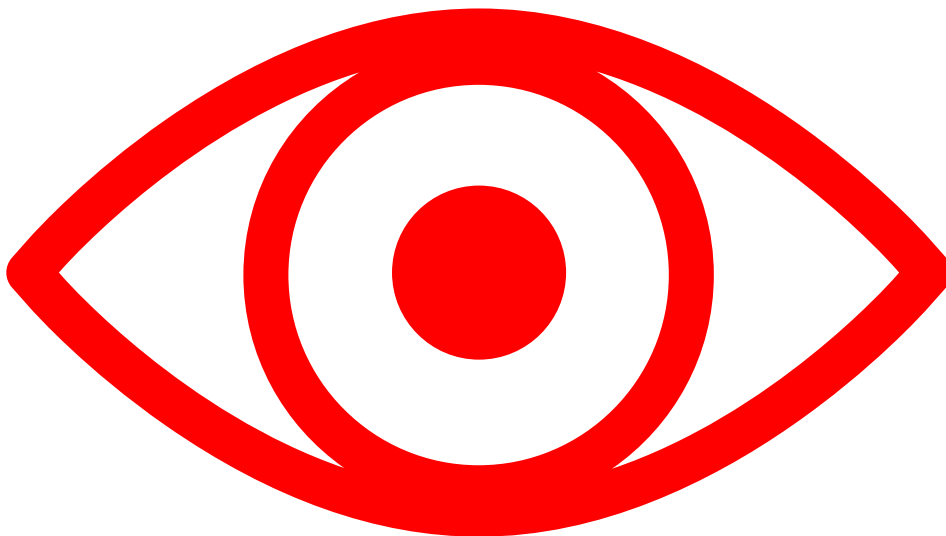
The DM Standard

While this data can improve services, it also raises concerns about who controls it and how it might be used. In '1984', surveillance existed to maintain political power. Today, it can maintain economic and social influence. Are mainstream companies invading our privacy or is it ok because it isn't face-to-face?

The Ugly: a scary possibility is that collected data may be misused for the wrong reasons. Since personal information and behaviour are tracked through your digital footprint (e.g. what you like or don't like on social media platforms) it creates an algorithm that only shows you content inside your already-formed opinion, your 'recommended' feed. This is dangerous because users may find biased opinions such as racial, gender or political bias being affirmed, thus reinforcing discrimination and limiting your viewpoint to what you already agree with. This prevents users

Data breaches can expose personal information to criminals, which may lead to identity theft or blackmail. In the most extreme cases images could be manipulated by paid unknown criminals behind the screen who may frame somebody or spread false information, linking to the worrying aspect of bias discrimination. Not everything you see online may be true.

Constant monitoring and targeted content can have a serious impact on mental health, especially for young people online, who may feel pressured to present a perfect version of themselves that isn't necessarily realistic. Orwell imagines a world where individuality and truth was destroyed by surveillance, and while we don't live in Oceania, the misuse of data can have serious consequences on our health and our choice of actions.



George Orwell the Revolutionary:

George Orwell's real name was actually Eric Blair. He was a British author known for his anti-totalitarian books such as 'Animal Farm'. He had many wild experiences that shaped his views as a democratic socialist and his written work as an author.

- He disguised himself to live amongst the homeless in Paris and London to experience life in poverty.
- He fought in the Spanish Civil War on the Republican side, and survived a bullet to the neck.
- He was the first to use the term 'Cold War' to describe the rising tensions between two superpowers, the USA and the Soviet Union.
- He went spy-hunting in 1949, sending a list of suspected communists to the Foreign Office.

RAISING THE BAR

Spotlight on Gloucester-Hartpury pro rugby player Ellie Rugman



Balancing life as a semi-professional rugby player, horse owner, and full-time employee at Dene Magna is no easy task. Ellie Rugman speaks with Orla about her journey, mindset, and the realities of juggling competing demands.

Orla: My sporting background is actually in football. I played for Bristol City's Development Academy, which gave me insight into elite sport, although I later chose music. That experience made me appreciate the dedication athletes like you show. So, what first drew you to rugby, and did you ever imagine going semi-professional?

Ellie: I actually started in football too and tried lots of sports growing up—running, gymnastics, anything really. I've always wanted to be the best I could be. Rugby came about when a local women's team was forming and some friends encouraged me to try it. I did, improved quickly, and then joined Hartpury when their team started. From there, things grew, and suddenly I was balancing rugby with work. I never planned it—it just developed because I enjoyed the challenge and wanted to see how far I could go.

Orla: Did you have any sporting role models growing up?

Ellie: Not really in rugby. I ride horses as well, so I looked up to equestrians because of their dedication. Now though, there are so many athletes across sports that young people can look up to.

Orla: How does that influence your mindset when competing?

Ellie: Everything has to revolve around your sport, especially at this level. Even when you're exhausted from work or other responsibilities, you still have to give everything. Competing against professionals means you have to work even harder to stand out.

Orla: What does a typical week look like for you?

Ellie: It's busy. I start at 5:30am with my horses, then work from 8:00 until 2:00. After that, I ride again and then head to training, which can finish around 9:00pm. That's most days, apart from occasional rest days or match days.

Orla: What has been your proudest moment so far?

Ellie: Winning the Premiership with Gloucester Hartpury. After years of near misses, lifting the trophy in front of a huge crowd was incredible. It made all the hard work worth it.

Orla: And the biggest challenge?

Ellie: Balancing everything day to day is tough, but injuries have been the hardest. Dealing with long-term setbacks while still trying to return to form is mentally draining.

Orla: Women's rugby has grown a lot recently. What does representing your club mean to you now?

Ellie: It means everything. I've been there from the early days, and it feels like home. Seeing how far the team has come is really special.

Orla: What about the gap between men's and women's rugby?

Ellie: There's still a big divide, mainly financially. Growth in audiences is key, and things are improving, but we're not fully professional yet unless you play internationally.

Orla: Do you think the media is doing enough?

Ellie: It's better than before, but more coverage of domestic games would help build interest and support.

Orla: How important is sport at school level?

Ellie: It's huge. Clubs and schools are vital for developing players and keeping young people engaged.

Orla: Finally, what advice would you give students wanting to follow a similar path?

Ellie: Back yourself. Stay committed, keep working hard, and don't give up—opportunities will come.

BOOK REVIEW:

THE MONK

BY M G LEWIS



By Fraiser Warren, Year 12

“The Monk” was written by Matthew Lewis (born 9th July 1775), in the year 1796 . He had magnificently only written the book in ten weeks, whilst bored and working at the British embassy in Hague, Netherlands at the time of the French Invasion of Holland (Flanders Campaign 1792-1795) . Surprisingly , he had also studied in Weimar , Germany ; learning languages for a diplomatic/ political career his dad had intended him to have, subsequently landing him a seat in parliament!

Matthew Lewis was very interesting to learn about. He had a very fractured upbringing - his mother ran away to secretly marry another man whilst already being married to Lewis' father, and his mother's bigamy would, I imagine, have given Lewis a great sense of shame . Divorces were rare in the 1700's, so his parents were unable to obtain one and as women in these times were often unable to earn an independent income, Lewis' father remained responsible for providing financial support for her - creating an interesting (and often unpleasant) family dynamic. Lewis himself would also use some of his earnings from writing to support his mother. I think Lewis felt quite stuck between his parent's bitter separation and maybe some of these complex feelings of affection, duty, sorrow and frustration towards his parents, was partly the inspiration in his controversial writing. Another interesting thing I learned about Lewis is that later on in his life , he is noted to have met Byron and the Shelley's (two of the most famous Gothic novelists there have ever been) and rumor has it that through their conversations he may have influenced works such as Frankenstein as Lewis was well versed in gothic conventions himself.

The Monk is a masterpiece of gothic literature, albeit being written in 1796, it has upheld its authenticity up through into the 21st Century. It combines ideas of crime and punishment and Lewis' obsession with the supernatural to create a controversial book, often cited as reactionary (through scenes of violence , blasphemy and sexual deviance) . It dives into religious hypocrisy ,human nature and ideas of sin and though there are many narratives followed within the book, the most notable centers around the main character “Ambrosio” , an Abbott (Head of an Abbey).

Set in 1700's Madrid , The book exudes a feeling of warm sunlit gardens amongst haunting cold, abbeys and convents. Masterfully creating a contrast within two intoxicating settings, it's hard to not be immersed in this novel. Amongst the city of Madrid itself, is the Capuchin Monastery, the homestead for Ambrosio and many other members of the clergy. The Spanish setting is unconventional for gothic literature -

The DM Standard

(normally being in English speaking countries or set in England itself) but I think its a refreshing setting, being in beautiful gardens amongst the atmosphere of the church. It elicits a certain feeling when you read it and you can imagine it all- it's quite indescribable

Ambrosio is the holiest-of-holy Monk . Absolutely adored across Madrid , he is heralded like a saint and treated like a child of God. But as the book progresses , you slowly see him become quite the opposite. His character is representative of temptation and impulse and how embedded it is into the human condition, challenging the religious idea of “sin” . We also meet Rosario , a reclusive but eloquent novice within the monastery, who’s intelligent and possesses more depth than expected. His identity however, remains completely concealed from the beginning but we soon find out who he really is - the challenger to Ambrosio's character and ultimately, responsible for his downfall. Antonia and Elvira also feature as key characters - a mother-daughter duo who are representative of love and purity. Antonia, being the daughter, carries an almost childlike sense of innocence and gratitude that is lacking from some other characters. She is cited for her beauty and eloquence within the book and is beheld by any man who crosses her. Meanwhile , Antonia is a base for responsibility, motherly love and morality within the book . In a storyline which is interwoven with Ambrosio's, you meet Raymond and Agnes . Raymond is a nobleman who is a valiant , brave “loverboy” who is romantically encapsulated by Agnes ; a nun in a convent attached to the cathedral . Their relationship is representative of strict religious values and challenges in conventional relationships - creating conflict between them.

If anybody reading this has an interest in reading or writing, I would advise you to give this book a read. Although being from nearly 250 years ago , it is written in such an ingenious way that it feels and reads completely modern . Once you get your teeth into it ,The book is entirely encaptivating and hard to put down. Overall, this is a gripping and atmospheric read and I think this timeless masterpiece absolutely deserves a place on your reading list.



ICELAND

A LAND OF ICE AND FIRE



The Blue Lagoon was an experience I'll never forget



Exploring Iceland has been an interest of mine for a while and to be able to experience it with my sister was incredible. We flew into Reykjavik, which is the capital of Iceland and explored the city, later walking from the city to the transportation hub to get a coach to the Blue Lagoon. This is a famous attraction in Iceland and is also known as one of the '25 Wonders of the World'. Iceland has geothermal energy under the ground, and they drill 2000 metres down into the earth to pump water up into the Blue Lagoon at 40 degrees celcius. As well as this, the water in most lakes and bodies of water in Iceland is already naturally filtered thanks to the volcanic rock and it's very clean.

Another incredible excursion we went on was the Golden Circle tour which included some more of Iceland's natural wonders, such as the Gullfoss Waterfalls and the Geysirs.



The DM Standard

Not only did I see amazing views on this tour, but I also learnt a lot of things about Icelandic culture. For example, their Christmas starts on the 23rd of July and as a tradition they eat fermented stingray, which you could smell when walking around the city! The capital, Reykjavik, only has around 300,000 people living there (which is around 80% of their population) so it was very quiet and I found it to be an extremely peaceful place.

Getting around the city was quite easy as it's quiet, small, and everything is within walking distance which made it convenient for us to get to places. Something that stood out for me in Iceland is how patient and caring Icelandic people are, I noticed that people would always let you go past and cars would not only drive a lot slower in the city, but would also stop immediately if someone needed to cross, which I don't see often here.

This country is all-around beautiful - one of the best places I have ever been to, and to experience this with someone who means so much to me was even more special. If you are adventurous, love learning about different cultures and enjoy outstanding views of nature, then I fully recommend you go to Iceland. I would love to go back.

This trip to Iceland has made me want to see more of the world and explore other cultures next year on my own, and has helped me to become more confident and independent for further travelling in the future.

Gullfoss Waterfalls were incredible



The famous church of Reykjavik, called Hallgrímskirkja



The geysirs were so cool!



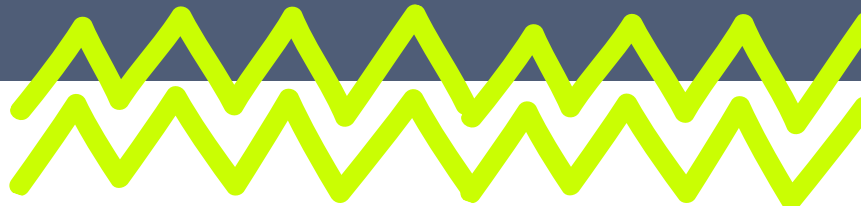
WACKY WAISTCOATS

Words and images by Ruaidhri Farbowski

I first made a reversible waistcoat in 2021 in preparation for my brother's wedding as I wanted a brightly coloured waistcoat that fitted me the way I liked it. I found a waistcoat in a charity shop that fitted me, cut it up, and used that as my first pattern. I spent many hours hand sewing it, working hard through the night. The design on one side is space and on the other is Baby Grogu (a character from the Star Wars franchise). I was very proud of it, even though it didn't yet have buttons (and wouldn't have for another year or so)! As this was my first waistcoat, I decided to also hand make the buttons out of scrap fabric and six pennies, as well as hand sew the button holes. I didn't add an adjustor as at the time I didn't really see the point in it.



I didn't then pick up making waistcoats again until 2025 when I received the honour of making four double sided waistcoats for my favourite comedy group, Shoot from the Hip. I reached out to them in April asking for their waistcoat sizes. Once I got them I started searching for fabrics. I knew for one side I wanted to do the colours I see their names as (I have synesthesia which means I see names and words in different colours), but I wasn't sure of what to do for the reverse sides of the waistcoats. I researched a bit and finally decided on fabrics that I believed would be meaningful to them. As I had stepped up my game and was making these waistcoats for other people (and semi famous people at that), I decided to use a sewing machine for the major parts of the waistcoats' construction. However, there were still hand sewn elements such as the buttons and adjusters. I spent October half term making them, and then gifted them to the group on 2nd November after seeing another one of their amazing shows.



More recently I had the opportunity to make Mr Beard a waistcoat. We discussed what fabrics he liked and we settled on a blue splodge pattern with a white back and a dark blue fabric with a light blue back. I also machine sewed the major parts of this waistcoat, as well as trialling a few new techniques for future waistcoats.

I have used a range of patterns and fabrics over the years. My favourite waistcoat that I have made so far is my colourful skull/blue splodge combo. I love how both sides flow well with the back pieces, and how the colours pop on the side of the skulls with the sleek green back. However, my most loved will always be the first one I made. It carries many memories and much love. It was my gateway to my love of making waistcoats today.

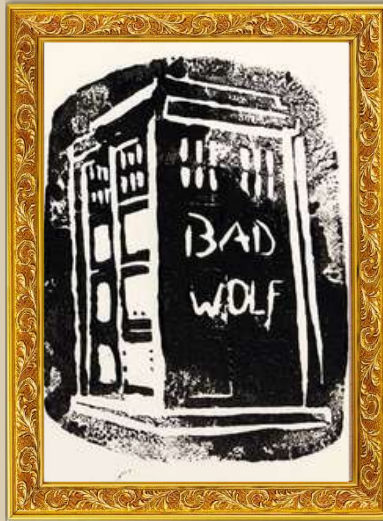
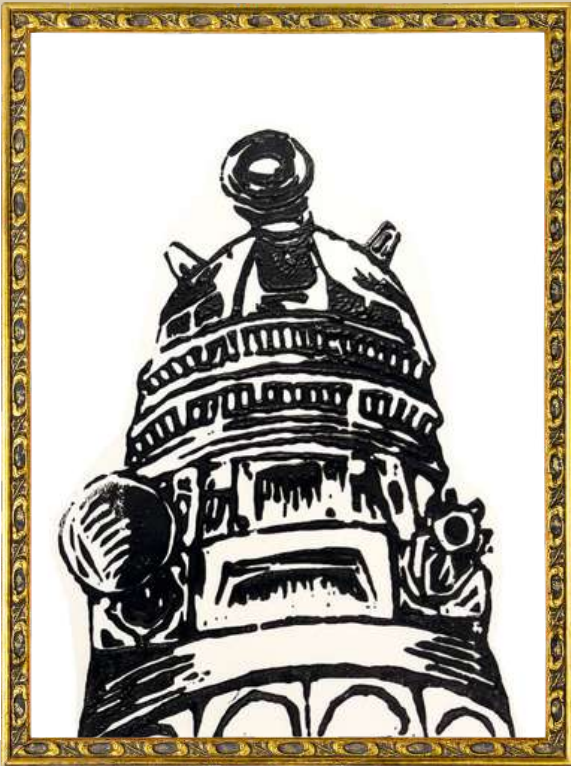
A majority of my fabrics I have received as presents from family or found in charity shops. I also often go to the GRC (Gloucester Recycling Centre) and WI House, which is also in Gloucester. Although WI House isn't open to the public, I have done some odd jobs for the people that work there and in return they let me investigate their fabric stores. For the waistcoats I made for Shoot from the Hip, I made a trip to HobbyCraft for specific fabrics and ribbons for the adjusters.

Waistcoats are my way of showing my appreciation and gratitude to those around me. To thank those I hold close for everything they have done for me.



I love to make waistcoats and am always eager to learn more whilst making them. Should anyone be interested in a waistcoat or in reaching out, please email me at: waistcoats@farbowski.com





Below: Paracord wristband by Elicia

Elicia has made a colourful array of paracord wristbands, which are being sold as a charity fundraiser - there are still some available! Let her know if you would like one.

All other images: Lino prints by Sophie

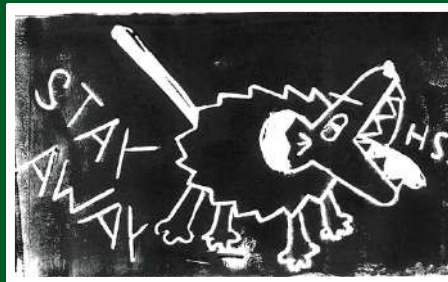
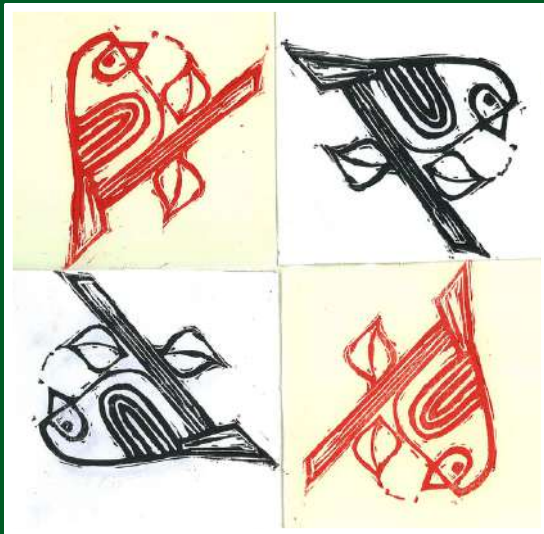
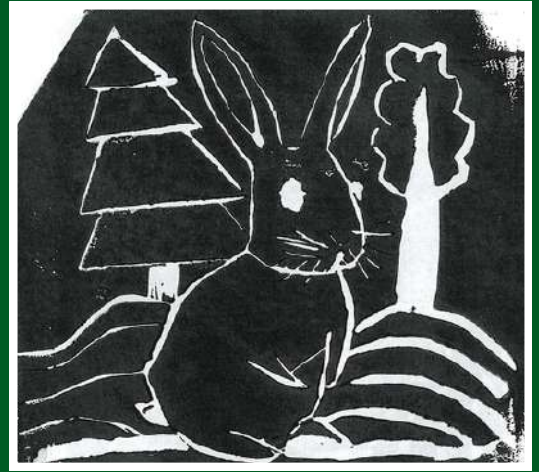
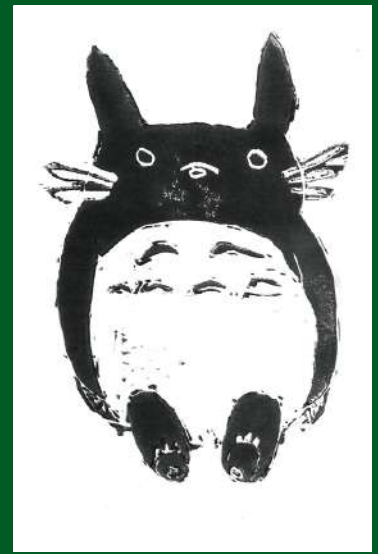
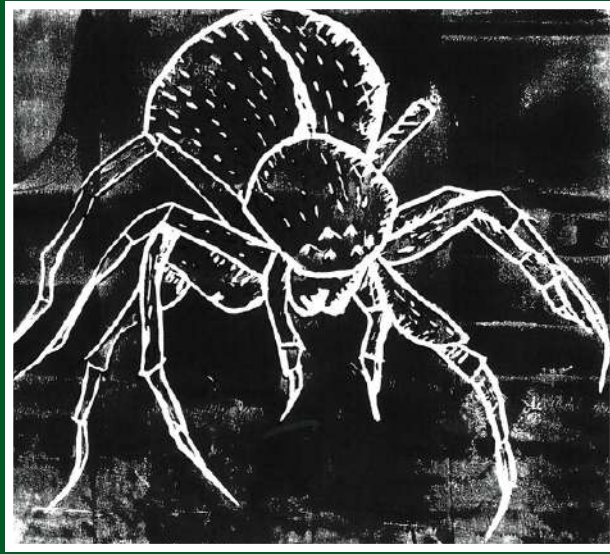
Sophie discovered a real talent for lino printing after taking part in the Art Club workshop last year - we love her creepy-cute Halloween and Dr Who designs!



ART CLUB

ART CLUB RUNS DURING WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ENRICHMENT TIME AND IS A RELAXED SPACE TO COME ALONG AND BE CREATIVE. WORKSHOPS RUN REGULARLY, AND STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO BRING ALONG THEIR OWN PROJECTS TO WORK ON

The DM Standard

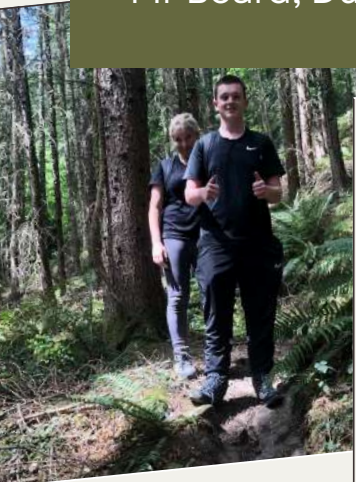


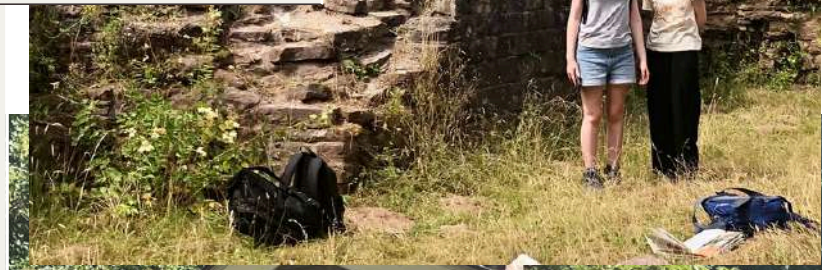
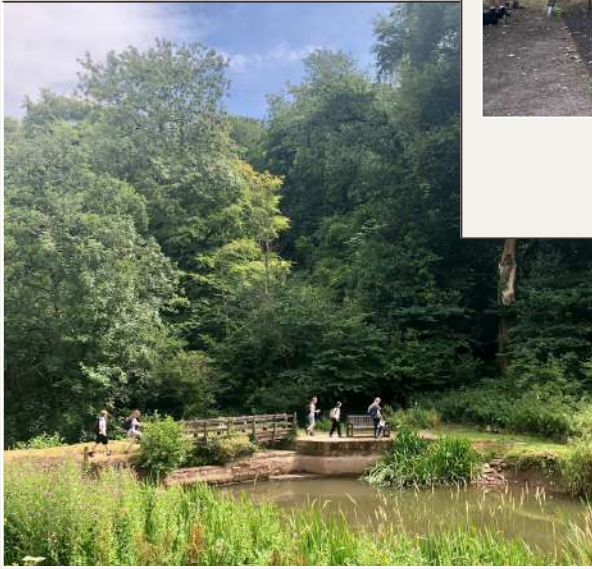
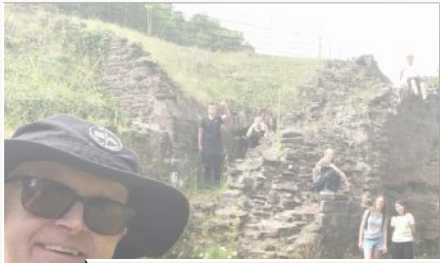
DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARD



"We had a super walk around Tintern & the Wye Valley at the end of term. I've really enjoyed your group, all your company & thanks for taking your steps into Gold D of E"

Mr Beard, Duke of Edinburgh Lead





A snapshot insight into local history, and the changing Forest of Dean

My Great Grandparent's Orchard

My Grandmother lived in Lydbrook with her sister, Mum and Dad when the area was much smaller than nowadays. It was a very tight knit community where my Great Grandad (who worked in the coal mines) and Grandmother had an orchard.

The orchard was large enough to have around fifty fruit trees in it, those being; pear, several kinds of plum such as greengage and damson, and lots of kinds of apple trees. In this orchard they also kept chickens, with one of them being called Hoppity because when he was a chick, my Great Grandfather accidentally trod on his foot which left him with a limp.

At the bottom of the orchard were three large fir trees, and behind them was a large village green where every firework night there would be a big bonfire which my Great Grandfather would add to by cutting the top of the fir trees.

There was also a garden that was around one third of an acre where they grew organic vegetables without using any chemicals, so the family was kept supplied with fresh vegetables as well as the eggs and fruit. These would all be swapped with their neighbours for produce and various things they needed.

My grandmother and her sister would play in the garden and orchard together, which was something they couldn't do as much when they moved to Bristol. Unfortunately, after they moved away and sold the house, subsequent owners built bungalows in the orchard and it no longer exists.

By Joseph Shipsides



EQUALITY

IN MODERN

SOCIETY

By Ollie Miles, Year 12

Equality. Something that society has struggled with throughout the last few centuries. However, not all is negative, because scientists have found that the “Man-the-Hunter” and “Woman Gatherer” stereotypes, that have been around since the middle Paleolithic era, are in fact not true. Scientists realised this because they found remains of women from the Stone Age buried with hunting tools.

-The History of Equality-

Gender roles date back around 12,000 years, from the shift of agriculture in the Neolithic revolution, when more distinctly gendered labour roles were created and humankind began to split. This happened because early humans shifted from the hunter-gatherer lifestyle as they realised they could produce their own food through farming and animal domestication. Since they no longer needed to worry about food, early settlements were established as they could put more focus into tasks like building, crafting and managing resources. This surplus of food and settling-in led to more complex social structures, similar to modern societies, and also leadership roles within communities.

-Equality Today-

Equality today is somewhat comparable to that of the early societies which, in my opinion, is outrageous and should be changed because the ideologies of society have barely changed in 12,000 years!

Although gender equality has definitely become better, it has not improved enough. If you compare gender equality today to gender equality 100-300 years ago, you will notice a drastic change. Women used to go through so much torture and hardship just for being female. One example is the witchcraft problem in the medieval period when women were burned at the stake for going against the social norm. Women have been objectified and put down by society for thousands of years until recently, when women have gone against the stereotypes and achieved things men could only dream of...

Inspiring women who have fought prejudice

- **Malala Yousafzai**, Pakistani activist for girls' education
- **Rosa Parks**, refused to give her seat up on a bus in 1955 - sparked the U.S. civil rights movement
- **Emmeline Pankhurst**, British suffragette who fought for women's right to vote in the early 1900's
- **Marie Curie**, first woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize - pioneered research on radioactivity
- **Oprah Winfrey**, media mogul who overcame poverty and discrimination

I could sit here all day and name women who changed the world. But feel free to do your own research into the matter.

-Present Day Struggles-

Although society is a lot better than it used to be, there are still many problems within society that cause women to be looked at in a negative light. Firstly, the gender pay gap, which is one of the most prominent problems because it is an obvious difference that should not exist, this problem is much bigger in larger industries such as businesses and athletic sports. In the UK the gender pay gap is about 7% (every £1 made by men, is only 93p made by women in the same job) which is quite large. Now, some jobs have relatively understandable pay gaps, such as sports like football because men's football has a lot more viewers which means more money. But other occupations such as office jobs should not have pay gaps because there is no “skill gap” or “viewer gap”. Although equality is getting better and better, you can't help but feel sympathetic for everyone who experiences this prejudice.

I hope that the people reading this will realise that this is still a big problem and everyone out there can help even a little bit to make the world a better place. Make your goal today to show appreciation to any important women in your life - you never know how far a compliment can go.

THE KOPPERS

We all know there's no better feeling than being able to spot talent before it gets recognised elsewhere. Luckily, I have been fortunate enough to experience this firsthand and I am keen to let the world know about this up and coming band bringing a fresh sound to the south west music scene!

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRAISER WARREN, Y12

 @frw.photo

Proper 'lad's lads', sharply dressed, good-spirited kids and great music. Clad in clothes neat enough to put Paul Weller to shame, these boys are working their way up to the top. Their talent has been immense since the start, from energetic pub gigs to supporting The Molotovs; you can see that even from humble beginnings, real recognises real.

When we went out to take these photos, I found out quickly that The Koppers were never devoid of recognition or being called over by a fan for a chat. Making a name for

themselves and flying head first into the local scene has been a seemingly easy task for them, and it's great to see.

The band is composed of musical talents from around Weston-Super-Mare: Archie Cox (singer), James Stadden (guitarist), Matt Bradley (bassist) and Dan Venn (drums). Having known each other through school and college they decided to form this band and have since breezed through multiple gigs (from pubs to supporting acts) and have now landed themselves in the studio.

Their new single 'Right to remain silent' has done its intended job and it has left me completely speechless. Characterised by their high-voltage but pleasantly crisp sound and spearheaded by their charismatic lyrics; it is bound to have the same effect on you.

They're launching their EP in March and will be live at the Brit Bar (118 High Street, Weston Super Mare) on Saturday the 21st of March.

If you can make it there, I urge you to check them out!







'Spring'

By Chloe Robinson, Year 13

WHY YOU SHOULD READ "FRANKENSTEIN" BY MARY SHELLEY AND NOT RELY ON FILM ADAPTATIONS



WRITTEN BY IMOGEN SULLIVAN, YR12

It's tempting to swap a dense classic for a two-hour film. Whilst the film may seem like a quicker and more enjoyable way to consume the plot of Frankenstein, there are many very significant differences that completely undermine many key messages in the book and change the narrative completely.

One of the key differences between the novel and the film is the motivation of the creature for his violent, tyrannical rampage. In the novel, it is caused by the abandonment from his Creator and seeing the fear in his eyes as he witnesses him come to life. Victor's abandonment of the creature is then followed by many further abandonments by mankind, leading him to feel hated by all, "I am malicious because I am miserable; am I not shunned and hated by all mankind?". Whenever somebody takes an issue with the creature they resort to violence, "My heart was fashioned to be susceptible of love and sympathy; and when wrenched by misery to vice and hatred". This leads to the creature feeling that the only way to cause someone pain and to get revenge for the way he was

treated is through inciting violence which in turn, causes him to go on his rampage to cause Victor the pain and fear that he felt from Victor's abandonment. However, in the film adaptation we see that the creature is not physically abandoned by Victor and is instead kept in a locked room chained up as an animal. Victor is not scared of him to begin with but he grows resentful towards the creature and attempts to burn him to kill him. There are some similarities to the book as it also portrays a form of abandonment but it is much less immediate and appearance based and it is a theme in both the novel and the film to destroy the creature but in the film this idea is introduced much sooner and in a much more extreme way.

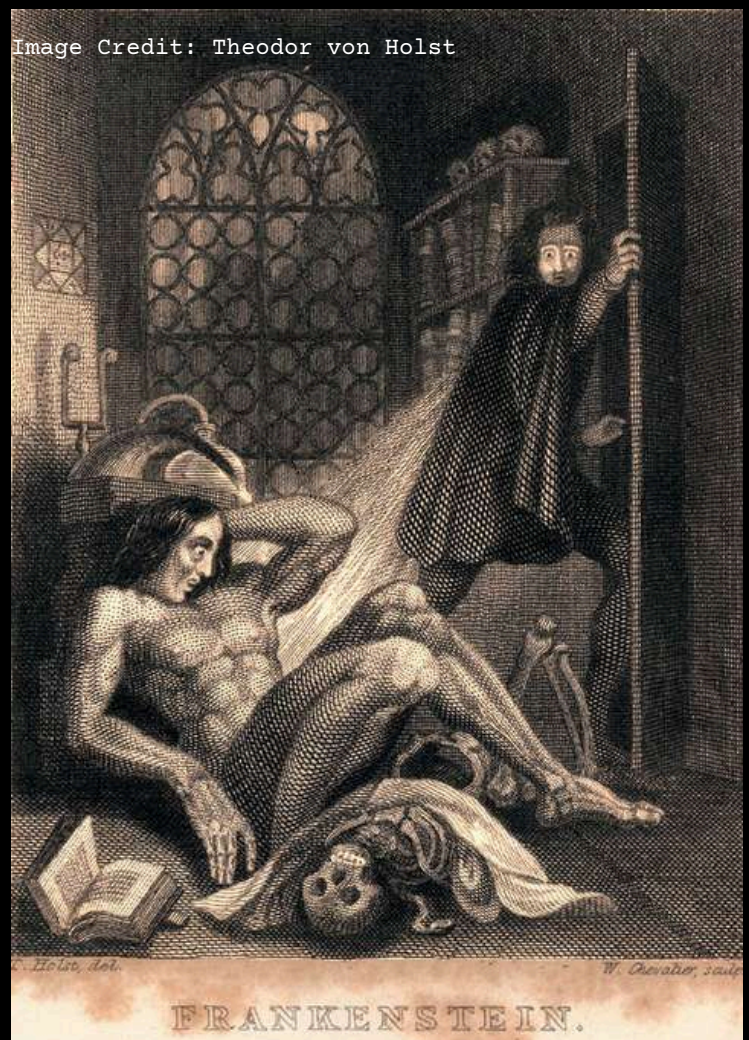
In the 2025 film remake of Frankenstein the theme of overambition is science is shifted more onto the psychological pain that is held by Victor and how it can fuel an ambitious project. In the original novel by Mary Shelley, Victor has supportive parents that encourage

The DM Standard

him to go into the sciences. His overzealous attitude towards making the creature is caused by his arrogance and a desire to become a God like figure. The overarching message of the book is that humans cannot be God and push past the limits of human knowledge, hence why the novel is subtitled "a modern prometheus". By making the cause for the creation of the creature a way of overcoming his abusive fathers expectations and a wish to conquer death after his mothers passing, you completely erase the main message of the book and what Shelley was trying to promote by writing it. If you want to truly keep the warnings given by Mary Shelley, that are still very much relevant today, you must keep in the original intentions and motivations that push Victor into his actions.

The film Frankenstein also has many parts of it that completely differ from the original novel. A key issue for me, is the fact that in the movie adaptation Elizabeth meets the creature at the beginning and feels sympathy for him due to his poor treatment from Victor but this is completely separate from the novel in which the first time that the two meet is just after the wedding between Victor and Elizabeth. Elizabeth meeting the creature early on in the film may create more emotion and sympathy but I feel that it takes away from the murder of Elizabeth by the creature as she is already aware of his existence. It also takes away from the secrecy and the emotion around Victor creating the creature and being scared of the possibility of someone finding out what he has done. Overall this adaptation doesn't have the same emotion and suspense around the discovery of the creature and by moving it to earlier in the plot to create a sense of sympathy for the creature, some may see this as unnecessary as the original plot does a good job at creating sympathy for the creature due to Victor abandoning him.

Overall it is evident that the new film adaption has lost many of the novel's original warnings and messages. These messages are still very relevant in todays society, for example the message that you cannot be God and only He himself can be God. This message is very relevant in today's society with the growth of AI and people's overdependence on it as well as the possible application to advanced sciences such as gene editing in fetuses. Mary Shelley's message may be relevant in this as is completely taking on a role of god even if it has many positive applications as well as negatives. To truly understand Frankenstein, you need to experience the creature's voice, Victor's inner conflict and the slow unfolding of a tragedy that, in my opinion, can only be experienced by reading the novel. Skip the shortcut and don't bother with the movie - experience the story as Shelly intended and pick up a copy of Frankenstein - the novel - instead!



FIELD TRIP PHOTO REPORT

The Year 12 Biologists and Environmental Scientists put their fieldwork and ecology skills to the test at The Wilderness Centre. Their data gathering tasks included painting woodlice with nail varnish, chasing elusive butterflies and digging in the mud!

Chloe Robinson, tells us more about what they got up to...



Using quadrats



Looking for woodlice



Estimating population sizes



An insect pupa



Digging for worms



Butterfly hunting

Capture, mark, recapture



Core practical 15



Core practical 16



Like the sound of glittery woodlice? Then this is would have been the trip for you. This method of population estimation consists of capturing woodlouse, marking them with nail polish, and returning the next day to recapture as many as possible. For the first day my group upturned 72 woodlice from the underneath of damp logs and rocks in 30 minutes. Overall the biologists and environmental scientists found 182. Although, it wasn't just woodlice we came across; we found centipedes, slugs and even a newt.

For core practical 15 we were using two types of sampling methods to identify the percentage cover of a chosen species that were present in a nearby field. A 10x10m grid had been set out for us, so using a random number generator, a frame quadrat and a point quadrat we estimated the amount of space our species covered on average within the grid. Although not as exciting as woodlice or ladybirds it was amusing watching my fellow students dancing to avoid the thistles.

The ladybird is my favourite animal- with this investigation we got more free reign to focus on wildlife we personally find interesting. The only guideline? Investigate how an abiotic factor affects the distribution of a species. This is why we decided to research and conduct an experiment on how managed (cut) versus unmanaged (uncut) grass affected the distribution of ladybirds across two adjacent fields. We strategically ran around both areas with sweeping nets and tallied down the number of captured ladybirds. By the end of our bug catching bout we'd received enough data for some statistics the next day, yay?

Day two



Capture, mark, recapture

Although a bit rainy, the next morning we all adventured back to the wooded area. This time we had two tallies; woodlice marked with nail polish and woodlice unmarked. The second time round I had a much better idea where they might be tucked away.

These secondary results help us calculate our approximated population within the small area we'd surveyed. Unsurprisingly there was a lot of them, we practically didn't have a break from tallying them down. I hope for the sake of the woodlice they'd enjoyed their makeovers, we certainly did!

Data write up, statistics and graphs.

Aside from a small talk by Ed Drewitt and his personal experiences in an ecology profession the majority of my day was taken up by research and data input onto a google doc. Although this comes across as boring the Wilderness Centre's main house had many pastimes for breaks; table tennis, foosball, chicken cuddles and lots of biscuits. So in between statistical tests there were many opportunities for more forms of entertainment.

However my group, and I included, felt pride with our investigations for both practical elements, especially after receiving significant results for our ladybird experiment. Which, surprise surprise, they prefer longer grass crawling with food to better their chances of survival.

Overall this trip had a multitude of positive experiences, the students enjoyed themselves (myself included) and learnt off the backs of our own research and investigation. The creative freedom and independence of the trip is what made it so pleasurable - we literally had a field day!



Identifying invertebrates



Marking woodlice with nail varnish



Measuring nettle leaves



More woodlouse hunting



Great enthusiasm from Mrs Salisbury!



Scouring the hedges for invertebrates



The second day was pretty rainy!



Collecting worms



A newt! Star find

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Why not join our Editorial Team?

JOIN NOW

If you would like to contribute something to this magazine email

Mrs Davis: s.davis@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk

If you are interested in joining the Student Standard Press Club , we hold sessions during enrichment: every Wednesday, P4&5

“ IT’S BOOSTED MY CONFIDENCE WITH WRITING “

“ I’VE REALLY ENJOYED WRITING FOR THE DM STANDARD AS I’D LIKE TO GO INTO JOURNALISM - IT’S A GOOD WAY TO PERSUE MY INTEREST IN THIS AREA “

“IT’S NICE TO BE ABLE TO BOUNCE IDEAS OFF OTHER PEOPLE IN THE TEAM AND TALK ABOUT CURRENT AFFAIRS AND TOPICS THAT ARE REALLY INTERESTING”

“I LOVE THE FREEDOM TO WRITE CREATIVELY ABOUT ANYTHING!”

“IT’S FUN AND BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER”