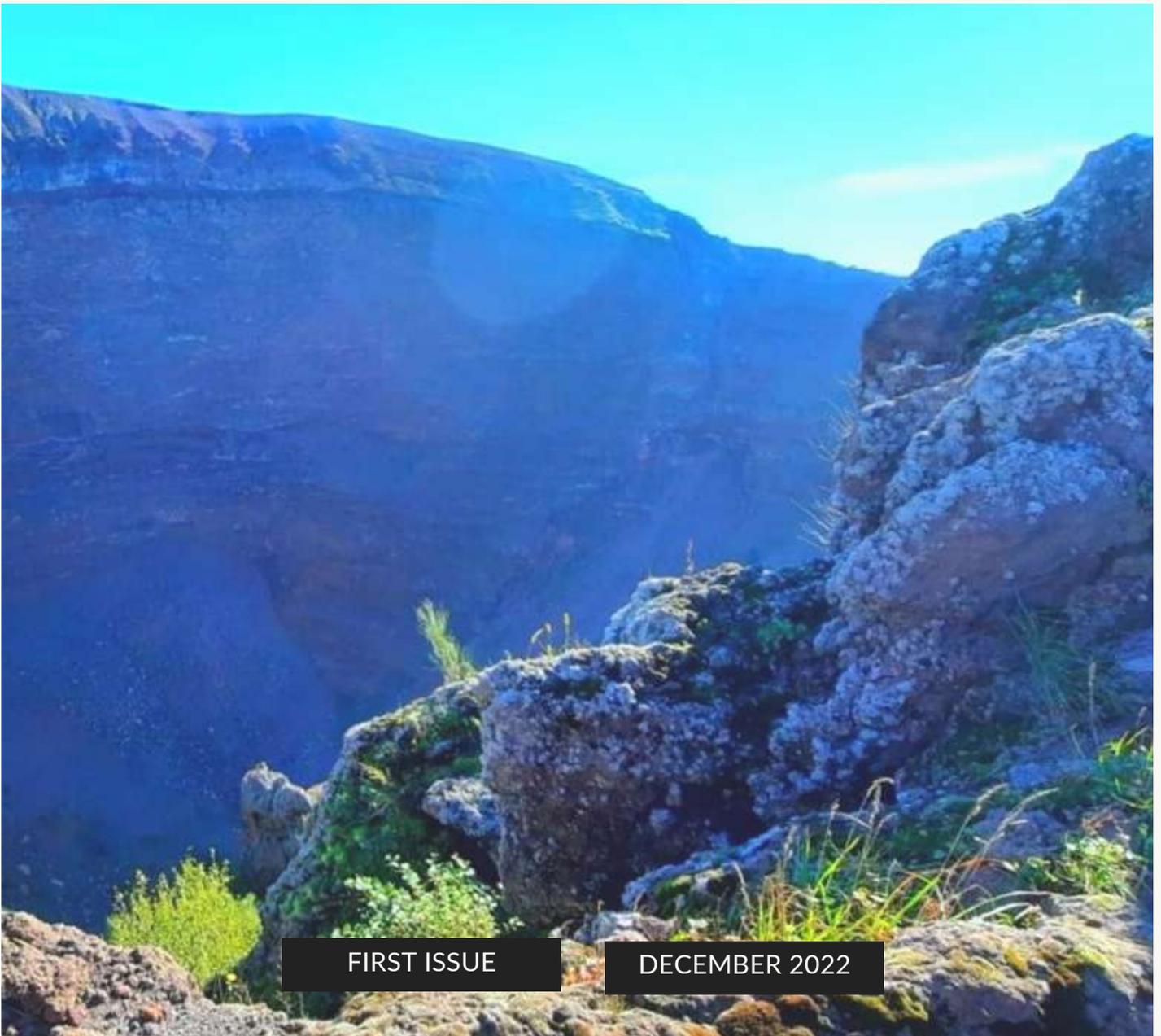




The Rambling **ROSE**

Clifton High Pupil Newspaper



FIRST ISSUE

DECEMBER 2022

Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Clifton High School's pupil newspaper: "The Rambling Rose". Our pupils have such diverse interests, hobbies and skills. We thrive when working as a team within which our individual strengths can shine. Through this process, we are learning so much on-the-job: how to be creative, address the needs and wants of a readership, consider important real-world issues, explore music, arts, fashion, and travel. In brief, we are learning how best to share our passions with a wide audience.

The Rambling Rose will exist in a digital format, on the School's website as well as being available as a print copy throughout the Senior School. What you will read in this edition is a wonderful collection of articles which have been written by pupils in the Senior School from a range of age groups.

The Rambling Rose owes everything to Aneline Wood (Year 12), whose enthusiasm and vision have driven this project. She has worked hard behind the scenes, starting back in the Summer term of 2022 as a Year 11 pupil, to motivate and encourage all. We must also say a huge thanks to Miss Gottesman in the Marketing Department for her time and skill in enabling this paper to be formatted, printed and promoted.

We have all really enjoyed creating this first edition: we hope you enjoy reading it just as much! Watch out for our second issue to be published near to the end of the Spring term 2023. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Mrs Lyons-White

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The Raft of The Medusa - Théodore Géricault (1819)



The Raft of The Medusa - Théodore

Géricault (1819)

This hauntingly beautiful piece of Romantic art illustrates a rivetingly graphic scene; a scene in which many emotions are portrayed through body and face: desperation, contemplation, belief, exhaustion, determination, lingering hope, madness... the more one looks, the more one sees. Through the range of visible emotions, a message of individual torment is more apparent than one of collective suffering. Contextually, the piece depicts the aftermath of a wreck off the coast of Senegal; the raft was called Medusa. The piece itself is actually one of

Géricault's most controversial; as it is a political statement against the French Government, who failed to appoint a proper captain to the Medusa (resulting in the wreckage) and tried to cover up their mistake. The art was influenced by Géricault's imaginative romanticism: he exaggerated the muscle of the survivors and therefore elevated their heroic status. The piece had a significant impact on French society, introducing and propelling the Romantic movement, as well as bringing light to the oppression inflicted on the weak and helpless.

Rebecca Nichols, Year 12



The Big Gig

Date:	Thursday 13th & Friday 14th October 2022
Time:	7:00 p.m.
Place:	Clifton Cathedral, Clifton Park, Clifton, BS8 3BX
Organiser:	BEP and Clifton High School Music Department

Participating Schools

- Badminton School
- Bristol Grammar School
- Clifton College
- Clifton High School
- Queen Elizabeth's Hospital
- Redmaids' High School
- St Brendan's Sixth Form College
- The Collegiate School

What is Bristol Education Partnership?

The Bristol Education Partnership is a collaborative arrangement between four state schools, five independent schools, a sixth form college, two universities and Bristol City Council to improve the outcomes of children and young people in the city. There are currently 17 members in The BEP.

Karl Queensborough

Karl Queensborough is a British actor and singer. He is currently playing the role of Alexander Hamilton in the West End Production of Hamilton. He performed "My Shot" by Lin-Manuel Miranda in the Big Gig.

About the Concert

Music is happiness. It was fascinating seeing so many teenagers from around Bristol with brilliant musical talent taking part in The Big Gig and their performances were amazing! Just as Mr Bennett, Head of Clifton High School, said to all the performers during the concert "You should be proud of yourselves not only for the talent you have in music but also for your bravery to stand out of the crowd and perform to all the people in this concert!". My personal highlight of the concert was when Karl Queensborough performed "My Shot"; the beat was catchy and cool. Moreover, the last performance, where all participants in The Big Gig (singers, orchestra and dancers) performed together, was spectacular!





MUSIC

Top Tracks From 2022

The Only Heartbreaker by Mitski

Mitski explores the difficulties of being in a relationship with a seemingly perfect person in this painfully desperate yet equally groovy track. The song references 80s Synth-Pop, and though the lyrics suggest guilt and resentment, the feverish pulse suggests that all there's left to do once everything is destroyed is dance - I can't help but think of an image of Mitski swirling through flames and dancing like Olivia Newton-John.



Hold the Girl by Rina Sawayama

Rina Sawayama's second studio album explores the themes of identity and childhood, and the title track is a distillation of this idea of the importance of keeping in touch with your inner child. The song blurs genres but still manages to remain an absolute power ballad.

A Temporary High by AURORA

In AURORA's third studio album the Norwegian singer-songwriter explores themes on a scale that transcends global. Commentaries on societal limits and expectations, as well as human tendencies and emotions underlie 'The Gods We Can Touch', with its folk-like sound and vivid imagery. 'A Temporary High' is simply my favourite track but this is really a plug for the whole album because it is insanely good.





Sometimes (Overanalyze) by Faye Webster

In this year's 'Car Therapy Sessions', Faye Webster and a 24-piece orchestra reimagine songs from her previous two albums. Webster amplifies her vulnerable and dry lyrics with musical arrangements that are anything but the background to the vocals. 'Sometimes (Overanalyze)' is a perfect example of where the nuance of the simple lyrics is expressed fully by the orchestra.

Free Yourself by Jessie Ware

Following Jessie Ware's fourth studio album entitled 'What's Your Pleasure?' in which she adopted a disco sound inspired by Kylie Minogue, Ware released 'Free Yourself', a dance anthem that continues this disco feel. Liberating and feel-good, the song definitely lives up to its name.

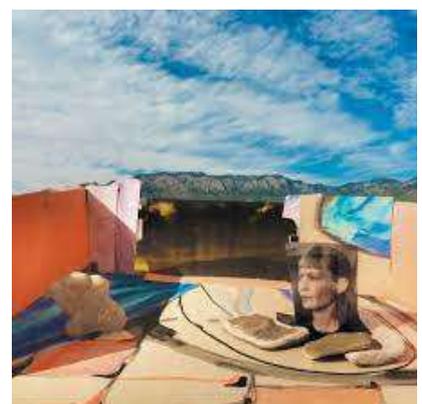


2 B Loved (Am I Ready) by Lizzo

Throughout Lizzo's fourth studio album, entitled 'Special', she expresses the theme of celebrating yourself. Despite having long been an advocate of self-love, the track '2 B Loved' follows Lizzo in her journey as she comes to feel worthy of somebody else's love. The album contains absolute positivity and humour, as well as incredibly important gestures to inclusivity - this combination ensures that Lizzo's listeners never feel alone.

Year of Love by Jenny Hval

In her 2022 album 'Classic Objects', Jenny Hval frequently discusses the messy and painful realities that come with having a body, while exploring the idea that freedom in the interior of one's mind is the only absolute freedom. The Norwegian artist has stated that the album was born from wondering "what 'just me' could mean", and this is certainly reflected in the honest and personal lyrics that run through the album, whether that's discussing a UTI or, in the opening track Year of Love, expressing her hesitations to marriage as a feminist.



CULTURE

Nadia Namulondo, Year 12

Romania

Culture is deeply respected throughout the Clifton High School community. We believe all cultures should be celebrated and displayed with pride. Just like Sophia in Year 3 (pictured) embracing her fabulous Romanian heritage! The red in her dress clearly mirrors the red in the Romanian flag, representing brotherhood and selflessness. The format of this red and white piece dates back to thousands of years ago - even before the Romans. It varies across different parts of Romania and times in history, but it is usually in red and black. It is beautiful to see the celebration of culture in modern day - especially when it came from so long ago. Often trends in historical cultural clothes get erased due to weather, time, materials and storage. Romania is located in the East of Europe and is almost land-locked by Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine. Its population is at an astounding 19 million people. Though Romanian is the only official language of the nation, over 14 other languages are spoken in Romania including Turkish, German and Bulgarian. It is extremely impactful seeing young Sophia wearing her culture proudly.

Did you know Theodor Ionescu - the person who introduced 3D images in cinemas - was Romanian? Did you know Sebastian Stan - well known actor - is also Romanian? You may know him from "Pam and Tommy" or even "I, Tonya" (along with his co-star Margot Robbie)!

Over the years, Sebastian Stan has opened up about his love for Romania. After leaving Romania as a young child, Stan grew up in the United States and became an actor. During an on-stage interview, the actor spoke about his heritage and the hardships he faced as a Romanian American. He explained that "until I was about 16 or 17, I felt a lot of shame, a lot of fear to say I was Romanian". This was after years of relentless teasing for his unique accent by his classmates. Stan described how it made him feel isolated and embarrassed during his high school years. There are a few clips of his interviews circulating on the internet showing his pleasant surprise after hearing interviewers speak to him in his native tongue. Stan eagerly responded speaking fluently in Romanian showing his appreciation for his heritage. More recently, the well decorated actor was finally able to return to Romania for the press tour of "I, Tonya" alongside his co-star Margot Robbie. Stan declared, "I'm a proud Romanian".



Bella Hadid & Taylor Russell



It is hard to speak about recent and memorable fashion moments without mentioning Bella Hadid. The supermodel walked over 20 shows in the most recent Spring/Summer 2023 fashion season. She graced the runways of brands such as Vivienne Westwood, Versace, Michael Kors, Monot, Vogue, and most famously, Coperni.

The Coperni media stunt reportedly garnered over \$26,000,000 of media impact value. Hadid stood poised as numerous professionals sprayed the icy-cold fabrican onto her bare skin. Fabrican is a spray-on fabric created by Tores in 2003. Having thought about the idea of clothing made from mist, he collaborated with King's College London and its innovators. After two years of trials and errors, success was finally achieved. Originally the liquid fibres were used for only tops and smaller garments so the fact that an entire dress has now been constructed shows the development over time. The audience watched for approximately 15 minutes as history was made in front of their eyes.

Coperni's plan is to take this creation to the medical sector and hopefully create spray-on casts and bandages for the wounded. This would become one of the first times the fashion industry has blended with medicine in a very long time. It is remarkable to see what can be created with 'no rehearsal'.

If you are up to date with the up-and-coming actors and actresses of this generation, you may have heard of Taylor Russell. The Canadian actress has been all over multiple social media platforms recently for her outstanding press tour for the upcoming "Bones and all". She is the main character in the soon to be released film with her co-star Timothee Chalamet.

For the many who have yet to see her project, the first glimpse of her is likely her show-stopping red-carpet outfits. Russell was recently spotted at the BFI London Film Festival wearing a beautiful Schiaparelli piece. Eyes are immediately drawn to the gleaming champagne corset with intricate boning. Corsets were all the fashion during the end of the 19th century - Elsa Schiaparelli's childhood. They were used to enhance an individual's figure. The melodramatic corset is partnered beautifully with a monochrome jacket with delicate embroidery mirroring nature. Rosebury - artistic director of Schiaparelli - said the jacket took "over 150 hours and five fittings to get right". This jacket is an ode to Elsa Schiaparelli's 1937 navy-blue evening jacket. Designer Elsa Schiaparelli developed this art from her uncle Giovanni Schiaparelli who was a devout astronomer. Evidently, Daniel Rosebury was paying homage to Elsa Schiaparelli with this piece that Russell is so elegantly wearing. The look was held together beautifully by the draped skirt which was fastened on both sides. The v-line helps create harmony between the corset and the rest of the outfit by creating an interesting silhouette - fitting her impeccably.

Elsa Schiaparelli was not afraid of bending gender norms by placing women in suits during the time where it was considered immoral. After the second world war, men who survived returned to the jobs they had previously worked in. This led to many women losing their jobs they temporarily held during the wars. This meant that the media began releasing pro-domestic beliefs aimed at women and promoted the ideas of nuclear families on an immense scale. This resulted in women's fashion moving away from practicality and more towards hyper-femininity and glamour. Schiaparelli mixed the elements of glamour and practicality by releasing suits for women made beautifully by hand.



FEMINISM: HI

Phoebe Stafford, Year 12

Mary Wollstonecraft: A Life of Defiance

A radical thinker with a tumultuous life: Mary Wollstonecraft revolutionised the feminist movement. From her early childhood to the last moments in her life, Wollstonecraft believed in a woman's right to education and equality and would not let the restrictive patriarchal society prevent her from forging her own path in life.

Wollstonecraft's first act of defiance against patriarchal society was to convince her sister Eliza, a sufferer of postpartum depression, to leave her husband and child in 1784. Society was not ready to accept this radical act of a woman's freedom, and so, Eliza was shunned and forced into a future of hard-work and poverty. Shortly after, Wollstonecraft set out on her own as an independent, self-sustaining, and free-thinking woman in a time when thinking was reserved only for upper-class men. In order to support herself financially, Wollstonecraft established her very own school for girls where she promoted the value of education and offered a much wider range of subjects than would have previously been accessible to a girl. From her experiences as the founder, she published her first works of literature, "Thoughts on the Education of Daughters", in which she briefly touched upon the importance of instilling the values of sound morals, character, and intellect in young girls rather than just readying them for a future of superficial social conduct and marriage. She also demonstrated her frustrations with the limited career options for woman in the chapter: 'Unfortunate Situation of Females, Fashionably Educated, and Left Without a Fortune'.

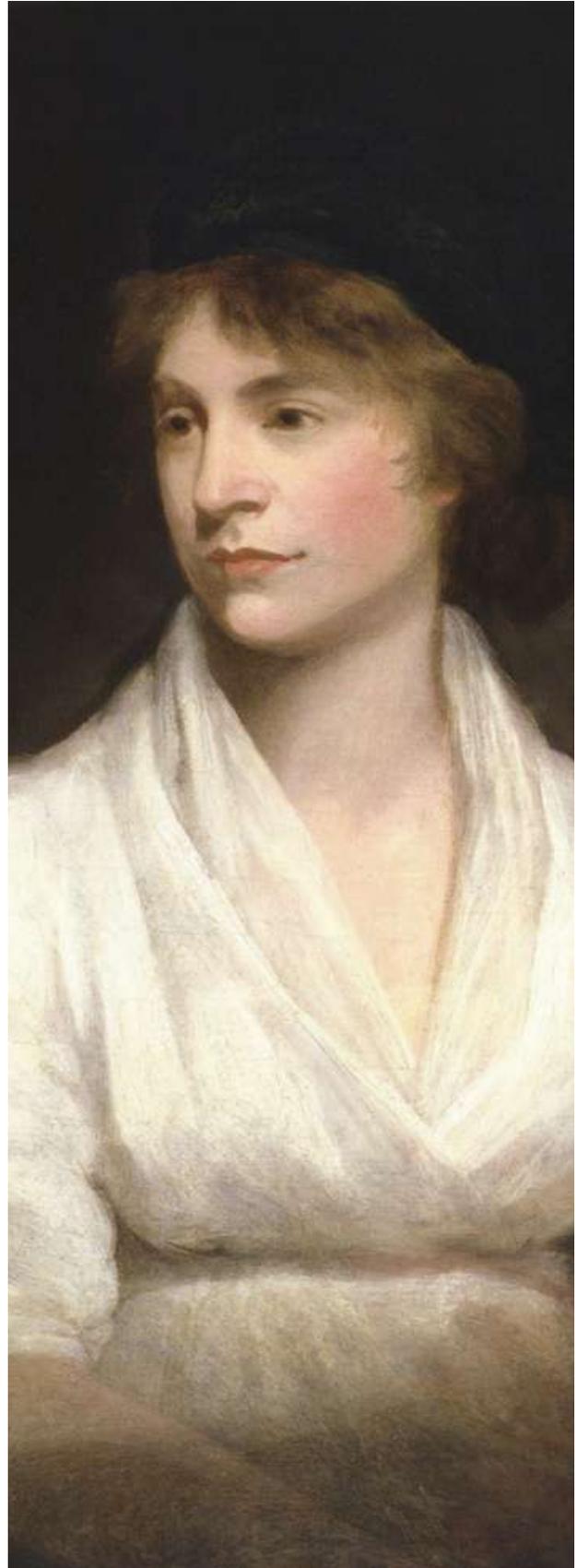
At this time the French Revolution was in full swing, and Wollstonecraft, fascinated with the prospects of freedom and liberty, engaged in a political sparring match with MP Edmund Burke. After Burke's conservative critique of the French Revolution in "Reflections on the Revolution of France" in November 1790, Wollstonecraft spent a month planning and writing the perfect rebuttal entitled "A Vindication of the Rights of Men". Soon after, she published her most famous, and her most revolutionary piece of literature: "A Vindication of the Rights of Women", in which she illustrates her resentment of the notion that women are simply adornments of a husband and household. Furthermore, she asserts that society breeds "gentle domestic brutes" and that such a multitude of restrictions over women causes them to become tyrants in their homes. Wollstonecraft's main point of the essay is the need for educational reform which would "make women rational creatures, and free citizens, and they will quickly become good wives; - that is, if men do not neglect the duties of husbands and fathers."

After the fame and success that Wollstonecraft had created for herself, she decided to move to France in order to experience the French Revolution first hand in Paris. There, she developed a deep resentment of the Jacobin's stance on women; they refused to grant women equal rights, denounced the "Amazons", and made it clear that a woman's existence was purely to help men. Therefore, once the Jacobians were overthrown and freedom of the press was restored in France, Wollstonecraft

STORY

published "An Historical and Moral View of the French Revolution" in which she presented Marie Antionette as a femme fatale and argued that the values of the aristocracy corrupted women in a monarchy as the pressure placed on a woman to produce heirs reduced her to a piece of biology. Furthermore, she explained that the emphasis on a woman's body and her charm forced women like Marie Antionette to become cruel and manipulative.

Sadly, 11 days after giving birth to her daughter, Mary Shelley, Wollstonecraft died. Unfortunately, her legacy would go on to be tarnished for almost a century by her husband's publication of "Memoirs of the Author of A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" and his exposure of Wollstonecraft's various unconventional affairs and illegitimate daughters. However, her beliefs and aspirations were revived again in 1840 by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton at the World Anti-Slavery Convention, where they discovered they had both read Wollstonecraft and agreed upon the need for the Seneca Falls Convention (the first women's rights convention). Furthermore, Wollstonecraft's work was picked up again with the rise of the movement to give women a political voice and in 1892 she was crowned as the foremother of woman's suffrage by Millicent Garrett Fawcett, a suffragist and president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Moreover, in 1898 Wollstonecraft was the subject of the first doctoral thesis with many more to follow. Therefore, Mary Wollstonecraft has inspired centuries of women to fight for what they believe in which has led to the rights we have today.



Society's True Victim?

On 18th November 2022, a group of Year 12 Clifton High English Literature and Psychology students went to the Theatre Royal in Bath to watch the play “Mrs Warren’s Profession” by George Bernard Shaw. Written and set towards the end of the 1800s, the play was controversially banned from being performed for more than 30 years due to the ‘lewd’ nature of the subject matter and theme. The play was fantastic: witty, clever, superbly acted with a beautiful set design and the unusual casting of mother and daughter (Caroline Quentin and her daughter Rose) in the lead roles as mother (Kitty Warren) and her daughter Vivie. More than that, though... the play presented us with the chance to discuss a highly controversial topic: prostitution.

Mrs Warren is a single mother who supported herself and her daughter through the business of prostitution and setting up brothels. Her daughter (Vivie) had the opportunity to attend Cambridge University. This highly prestigious university uncommonly had young women attend in 1893, when the play was written. The first women’s college at Cambridge was established in 1869, however it wasn’t until 1948 that the university began to award degrees to women. Therefore, the fact that Vivie was able to attend university, especially such a prestigious one, would’ve been an oddity. This impressive oddity was accessible for Vivie through her mother’s “dirty” work. Up until Vivie found out where the money came from, she was living in a somewhat blissful ignorance.

However, we see Vivie become impatient and demand to know where her mother got the money. She is initially understanding when she believes her mother only acted in this immoral way as a short-term money source. However, when she discovers that her mother is still benefitting from this immoral business, she is disgusted. How is it that Vivie feels she has the right to call her mother immoral when she has devoted herself to providing for her? In George Bernard Shaw’s apology for the play, he claims that ‘the play sends society an unpleasant but necessary message: that prostitution is made possible by the false morality of a society that refuses to talk about it.’ This exemplifies the accusation of blame on society as a whole instead of blaming the individual. If one believes that prostitution is wrong, or a sin, this shouldn’t be taken out on the prostitutes themselves; they may be in this profession to support themselves or their family. But even if they are in the profession just because they enjoy it, there’s nothing wrong with that. Shaw suggests that society (specifically the upper-class) should be blamed, as it is the working conditions and societal structures they have implemented that have led to women (or men) needing to sell their bodies for survival. It could be argued prostitutes are victims of a merciless society; however, it can also be an act of liberation and sexual power. This is the point of view I feel is explored in Shaw’s play. Needless to say, our discussions following this play were rather unexpected, controversial and drew heavily on our ability to empathise with others. Prostitution (‘the world’s oldest profession’) is most

commonly viewed as being morally wrong, by many men and women. All religions would condemn it as a sin. For centuries it has been written about in poetry, novels, and books. For example, William Blake's 1794 poem 'London' portrays how at that time prostitution and morally correct upper-class men were so intertwined. He mentions how 'the Harlot's curse' 'blights with plagues the marriage hearse'. This poem exemplifies how poverty affects everyone. Even those who declare themselves as wealthy, well-to-do people, are seemingly connected to poverty through prostitution and therefore even through STDs, transferred from lower-class women to upper-class men, and then to upper-class women. This poem demonstrates that, despite the ability for women to feel empowered in these circumstances, prostitution is perhaps ultimately an inescapable result of poverty, social neglect and desperation.

After we watched the performance, we were lucky enough to speak to Caroline and Rose Quentin about the play. Here are Caroline's answers to our questions:

Q: What are your views on prostitution?

A: I am very much with Mrs Warren on this in as much as I think people tend to turn to prostitution out of desperation. It's not a romantic way of life, there's nothing delightful about it, it's a way to make money when you have no other way of making money; to quote Mrs Warren in the play, 'I've always thought that there ought to be better employment, better opportunities for women', 'It's not a job that any woman would do for pleasure, goodness knows'. That's a direct quote from the play, from two pieces in the play when Mrs Warren is talking to her daughter Vivie. There's another piece which I think is really fascinating and it says, 'I've often pitied some poor girl, tired out and in low spirits, having to try and please some man she doesn't care two straws for'. Those are my feelings about prostitution, it's a very hard way to make a living.

Q: Is prostitution just okay under some circumstances or under all circumstances?

A: Well, we all feel differently about that, don't we? Some people would think it's amoral and should not be allowed or banned or shouldn't be done under any circumstances. But those of us who know how the real world works, know that sometimes there are no other opportunities and it is the only way that some people can see forward to making a living and particularly in providing for their children if they are a single parent.

Q: How did you prepare to take on this role?

A: The play was written by George Bernard Shaw at the turn of the last century and he was looking at the plight of people in poverty, particularly women living in poverty, destitution, when there was no state education, no National Health Service, they had nothing to rely on, only themselves and their own wits and the kindness of others. So, I suppose, how do I prepare for a role? I read everything I can around the subject. I learn my lines in the play. I look at the time the play was written and the situation that people were living with, what the world was like. I also look historically at who was on the throne, what's going on socially. I treated this play just like any other play: a thorough, thorough examination of the play and the time it was written.



TRAVEL

Clifton High Pompeii Trip 2022

Top 5 places to visit

This list shows the top 5 places from the Pompeii trip from 19th - 22nd October, surveyed by people who went on the trip. This list will show the history behind the famous sites we saw on the trip. Enjoy!

5. Villa Poppaea

The Villa Poppaea is a buried villa located in Oplontis, near Naples. Owned by Nero's wife, Poppaea, it is a large villa that was situated by the sea, until the eruption in 79 A.D. which caused a pyroclastic flow, extending the land. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site that consists of a series of archaeological ruins in the Bay of Naples, which includes Pompeii and Herculaneum. The Villa is filled with beautiful mosaics.



4. Herculaneum

Herculaneum is a small city that was situated by Pompeii. It is very well-preserved and one of the most well-preserved Roman ruins. The city, like villa Poppea, was facing the sea. When you enter, you see the skeletons of people who tried to escape, but sadly, failed. Most of the buildings have wonderful mosaics, and Herculaneum is home to the most wonderfully preserved Roman baths.



3. Sorrento

Sorrento is a wonderful town facing Naples and the bay. The town is popular with tourists and known for its ceramics. It is part of the Amalfi coast. It was founded by Romans in 600 BC, which is evident still now from its ancient Mediterranean architecture. The town is famous for its shops, which sell a variety of items. It is excellent for souvenir shopping and a nice place to try out authentic Italian gelato.



2. Pompeii

Pompeii is a massive, excavated city within the Bay of Naples. It is extremely well-preserved and the most well-preserved Roman ruins in the world. It was discovered during an eruption in 471 A.D. but forgotten. Then in 1592, a man named Domenico Fontana was digging for an aqueduct when he found an ancient wall with paintings. Since then, diggings have become frequent, and more parts of Pompeii are still being uncovered.



1. Mount Vesuvius

The views from Vesuvius are the reason why we have given this the top spot. From the top you can see the entire bay of Naples! The crater we see today isn't the original. The original crater was at the entrance of the Vesuvius national park and it was multiple times larger than the crater today.

TRAVEL

Clifton High Malaga Sport Trip 2022

Tuesday

On Tuesday 18th October 2022, myself and 19 other pupils went to Malaga, Spain. We arrived in Spain at 1am and due to elevator faults, we had to carry our suitcases up 7 flights of stairs. We then went to sleep in preparation for the new day of training.

Wednesday

On Wednesday, we woke up at roughly 8am and then had breakfast. Afterwards, we went to the sports facilities where we saw the running track and swimming pool. The swimming pool was 50 meters long and very cold! We then completed a land warm up for 30 minutes before we began our 2-hour session. Afterwards, we walked back home and had lunch. We were then allowed to relax for a while in one another's rooms, before we went back out to repeat the training process and then have dinner. When we got back, we immediately went to bed.

Thursday and Friday

Both Thursday and Friday were relatively similar however on Thursday evening we were allowed to do some shopping in a convenience store. I bought a baguette and a bottle of peach iced tea. On Friday afternoon we went to the beach for half an hour and visited the market where we found many interesting shops. I noticed that there were very few chain shops there, which is surprising for a city. We didn't do any land training on Friday.

Saturday and Sunday

Saturday was a relatively normal day although we went out to the shops in the evening. We ended up eating at a Spanish McDonalds, which I did not find very pleasant. When we returned home, we packed our bags before going to sleep. And before we knew it, it was Sunday. In the morning, we got up 30 minutes earlier and did one last swimming session before leaving for the airport and leaving Spain for good. I found the trip quite fun and I would definitely go again if I had the opportunity.



GAMING

Pupil Review and Recommendations



Hyperforma

This is an Arcade Puzzle Game for Android, IOS, and Nintendo Switch which is free to play.

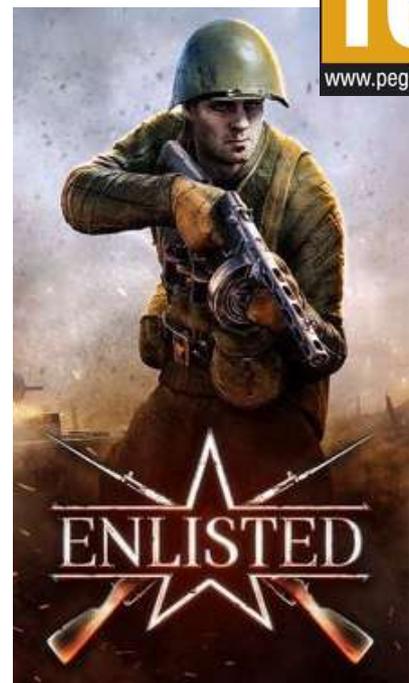
Game developers that try to mix Sci-fi with Arcades and puzzles generally produce a game that lacks in most aspects, but Hyperforma is an exception. It features a unique plot, with sci-fi-themed graphics, complemented by a distinct soundtrack and straightforward arcade-style game mechanics. Set in the future, you as a player are expected to 'hack' into computers by solving intricate puzzles and move towards the end. The game becomes progressively more challenging, and the plot becomes clearer. Without giving away too much, it mainly revolves around revealing answers to an ancient civilization.

It is a puzzle game with a lucid concept; however, it elevates that by adding a plot and stunning art. Perfect to play on the go.

Enlisted (not suitable for persons under 16 years of age)

This is a Squad Based MMO Shooter for Windows, Xbox One, Xbox series s/x, PS5 and PS4 which is free to play.

Enlisted is based on World War 2, with key battles from the War and multiplayer gameplay. It depicts WW2 perfectly- gloomy, abrupt, and chaotic. It features triple-A graphics and over-the-top game mechanics. However, it is viewed as sub-par by some people because of its uncompromising nature. As a player, you get to strategize, choose and deploy troops to fight on the frontlines. It offers historically accurate firearms, tanks, planes, campaigns, and battlefields and reinvents the genre of historical shooters by adding extensive and exciting content. You might even learn something new about WW2. The game is still in its developmental stage and will have a few bugs here and there, but fortunately, the full version will come out soon.





Ori and the Blind Forest: Definitive Edition

This is a Platform-Adventure Metroid Vania; it is available for £3.99 on Xbox One, Windows and Nintendo.

Ori and the Blind Forest is a platformer adventure game with a tragic plot and outstanding handmade art enhanced by a magical ambiance. The game provides simple mechanics and character abilities that are unlocked as you progress. The story is about a magical forest that withers away leaving behind nothing but Ori (the main character) and a multiplicity of obstacles and hostile creatures. As a player, you are expected to tread the desolate lands, adventure deep into caverns and explore uncharted territory in hopes of restoring the forest and rejuvenating life. On this adventure, you will learn more about the story and master different skills that will be helpful later on. Everything is immaculate in this game- the story, the soundtrack, the character development, and the gameplay.

The Sims 4

This is a life simulation for windows, mac, Xbox One, Xbox series s/x, PS4 and PS5 which is free to play.

Life Simulation games are common but the Sims Franchise has always been consistent and fun to play. Sims 4 has been released way earlier than originally planned and the game was made free to play recently but few people know about it. You can develop characters, build their homes and simulate their lives which leads to some really funny and chaotic moments during the gameplay. It is amusing to see the helpless characters communicating with one another and either failing miserably or succeeding in making new companions. The game has no end goal and is based on your imagination. The setback to this game is that the characters feel more isolated in comparison to the last edition, mainly because of long loading times, the inability to build homes close together, and some oversights here and there. However, it is still very exciting to play.



BOOK REVIEW

The Arc of a Scythe: A Trilogy

The Arc of a Scythe trilogy is a story that I recommend for any sci-fi fan. It takes place in a supposedly utopian future where technology has reached the computing limit, allowing for immortality and unlimited regeneration. In this utopia, the world is ruled by the Thunderhead: a perfect, all-knowing computer. The only way to permanently die is to be 'gleaned' by a professional Scythe, whose job is to control the human population. The international organisation of Scythes, known as the 'Scythedom', consists of a hierarchy with each continent's Scythes being governed by Grandslayers and each region by a High Blade.

It is many years after this Scythe system is internationally implemented, and corruption starts to manifest within the so-called 'Scythedom'.

Scythe (443 Pages): 10/10

The first book, simply known as Scythe, follows Rowan and Citra, two teens who are recruited by Scythe Faraday to be apprentice Scythes. This requires them to be put through rigorous training.

Meanwhile, a Scythe known as Goddard establishes the New Order which is an unofficial association that glorifies Scythes and gleaning, exploiting their power and holding mass killings in lavish fashions. This glorification leads the New Order to be popular among Scythe society. Conversely, the Old Guard, which Faraday is part of, strives to keep the Scythedom's original mission of population control.

The two sides are in a cold conflict and Rowan and Citra are caught in the middle of it. Faraday, as he is a card-holding member of the Old Guard, is targeted by the Order. They tell the region's High Blade to pit the two apprentices against each other, with the stronger apprentice having to glean the other by the end of the year. In order to avoid escalating the situation between the Order and the Guard, the High Blade agrees. Due to this decision, Scythe Faraday commits suicide in order to free the two apprentices. Unfortunately, the Scythedom forbids this, so they send the two different Scythes away instead. Citra is sent to another Old Guard elite, Scythe Curie. However, Rowan is sent under the training of Scythe Goddard.

The rest of the book is full of intensity and mystery, but is also full of plot twists, so I won't spoil too much.

Scythe is probably the best book I have ever read. It utilizes the sci-fi genre in a brilliant way, developing a vast universe that is only expanded upon in the sequels.



---- WARNING! SPOILERS! ----

Thunderhead (515 Pages): 9.5/10

Thunderhead expands the world of Scythes, developing upon Thunderhead, the A.I. that rules the world and Tonism, a religion mentioned in the first book.

Following the conclusion of Scythe, Rowan prowls the region, taking out corrupt Scythes. As such, he is a danger to members of the New Order, who therefore capture him. Meanwhile, Citra and Scythe Curie are attacked, but survive due to the interference of another teen known as Greyson Tolliver.

Greyson had been attending Nimbus Academy, where people are trained to be agents of the Thunderhead. As the Thunderhead is not allowed to interfere with Scythe matters, Greyson is expelled from Nimbus Academy and marked as an 'unsavoury', a title reserved for petty criminals.

Greyson meets with a girl called Purity, who is another unsavoury. She wishes to attack the Scythedom, starting with Scythe Curie. Unconvinced about the plan but having been pressured into it, Greyson decides to anonymously warn the Scythedom of a potential attack. Due to Greyson's sabotage, the attack goes chaotically for Purity. Citra, recognising Greyson as the man who saved her, allows him to escape. She tells him to seek refuge in a Tonist monastery, where he would be able to avoid Scythe persecution.

Following the attack, Curie and Citra travel to the city of Endura, an artificial floating island in the Atlantic ruled by Scythes. It is also where the New Order are holding Rowan, who has been missing. Here, the climax of the book kicks off.

Thunderhead is a great book that serves as an excellent sequel. The author, Neal Shusterman, is very skilled in developing fictional universes, and this book serves as a clear example of it.

The Toll (631 Pages): 9.5/10

The story of The Toll takes place three years after the end of Thunderhead. The New Order now has a very strong grip over the entire Scythedom, and Rowan and Citra have disappeared.

A member of the Old Guard discovers an island chain in the Pacific that the founders of the Scythedom established as a fail-safe, in case the Scythe system was to fall to corruption. The islands were intentionally removed from any record, which meant the Thunderhead had no prior knowledge of them. The Thunderhead then sends agents to explore the islands.

Meanwhile, Citra and Rowan re-emerge from their disappearance and meet with Greyson, who is now a high-ranking member of the Tonist society. Greyson tells them of the fail-safe, and they decide to travel there. The travellers spend a night in an ancient castle owned by an Old Guard Scythe. However, they are betrayed by the Scythe's apprentice, who notifies the New Order of their presence. Although most of the entourage escapes, Rowan is captured. The New Order decide to kill Rowan, but the Old Guard break him free right before his execution.

Meanwhile, Citra and Greyson's followers arrive at the island and prepare the fail-safes. On the island are also the Thunderhead's agents, who are building spacecraft to escape the planet, as most of the inhabitants on the island are now enemies of the Scythedom.

Rowan arrives at the island chain, but the New Order have managed to track him. With the New Order unleashing their weapons on the islands, the Arc of a Scythe trilogy reaches a climatic end.

The Toll is a fantastic ending to the Arc of a Scythe trilogy. Neal Shusterman excellently delivers an interesting concept in a perfect way and wraps up the series with an unforgettable ending.

ECO MATTERS

Clifton High Eco Committee

This term the Eco Committee has been hard at work to try and help our School make progress towards a greener and more sustainable community. There have been many developments and accomplishments including our School's involvement in the Bristol Education Partnership Climate Challenge event on the 6th of October, and the Christmas Jumper Swap Shop! The Eco Committee is determined to continue to spread awareness and tackle the climate challenge in the terms to come. Any pupil at Clifton High from Year 7-13 is welcome to join and come along to the meetings which take place every Wednesday at 1:30. Please contact Mrs Schmid for information.

BEP Climate Challenge Event

On the 6th of October, multiple members of our Eco Committee attended the Climate Challenge event at Bristol City Hall. The main focus of the event was to explore how the schools could collaborate in working towards the Bristol target of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The day started with pupils from all 12 of the schools talking, sharing their own experiences and discussing how they are personally acting to tackle climate change. There were multiple workshops in the morning including on energy, food, transport, resources and nature. At midday, we met with Mr Bennett to discuss the next steps within Clifton High School. The three steps we established were to introduce BikeAbility for older students, to carry out energy audits on School buildings and also to include climate change education and eco awareness across the curriculum. In the afternoon guests arrived, including the Mayor, Marvin Rees, who listened to

each school showcase their work and the progress that they are making. It was a day of positivity and purpose for all involved.

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"It is encouraging to see the positivity and passion these young people have towards the current climate and ecological crisis. They are empowered to make a difference in their communities, the city and the curriculum"

”

Bristol Mayor, Marvin Rees.

What Else Have We Done This Term?

We have organized a 'Christmas Swap Shop' which will take place on the 7th of December. This will involve everyone arriving at School in festive themed jumpers to raise money for the 'Asthma and Lung charity' and swapping their old or unwanted jumpers for a different one in an effort to prevent fast fashion and to have a greener Christmas.

Next Term and Beyond

In the next term, the Eco committee will be carrying out projects that focus on raising awareness, transport, waste, and energy. We will have a specific focus on transport and will be advertising the 5 minute 'drop off and walk' initiative around the School to encourage more pupils to walk the last few minutes of their journey to School. We look forward to what the next term will bring and hope everyone at Clifton High has a fantastic, joyful (and green) Christmas!

POWERPOINT CLASSROOM

Theme 1: **RETRO**

by Matthew Tsang

Make use of simple shapes like circles which are common in vintage designs. These can be used to make bullet points or titles.



Use simple shapes

Colour Schemes

Simpler or more limited colour schemes work well in retro powerpoints, so restrict your colour palette and use fewer colours. On another note, duller colours like tan mix well with brighter colours like red when making a retro powerpoint.

Any intricate or elegant art or sketches reminiscent of medieval illustrations can make effective decorations for your powerpoint, such as the frame above or the cloud illustration below which can serve as text boxes.



Vintage Illustrations



Filters

Apply filters such as vignettes or old, dusty textures by using images from the internet then adjusting the transparency on Microsoft Powerpoint or Google Slides.



Scan the QR code for a free pack of retro Powerpoint templates (make a copy of the PPT)

BLACK DECORATIONS

Coupled with the aforementioned filters, black elements will be toned down, perfect for a more muted retro design.

