

Winter Issue 2025/26

# The Vessel

TVA SIXTH-FORM MAGAZINE



Photo: Miss Steeples - Head of English



# Contents

## 02 A note from the Editor

Hear from our Editor.

## 03 Events and Celebrations

What's going on at Victory? Celebrate your peers, and discover what's up and coming in Sixth Form. Get filled in on recent sporting success.

## 06 Sports

Sara and Porshe talk about winter trends and fashion with a purpose.

## 08 Spotlight Work

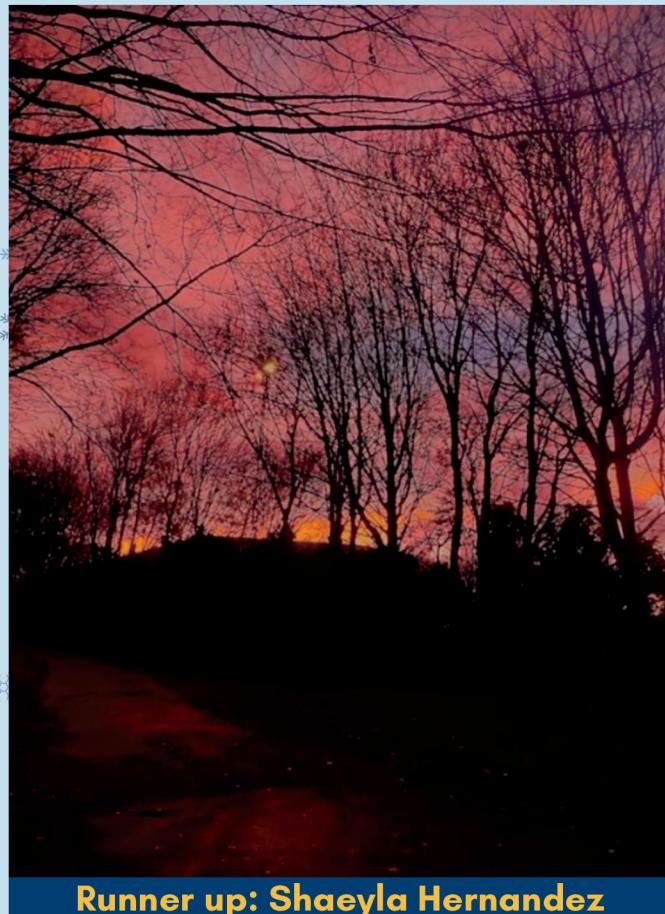
See some of the student work from the last few months.

## 10 Academics

Discover the importance of reading in this modern society. Revision tips, literature and more!



**Runner up: Fayth Chapman**



**Runner up: Shaeyla Hernandez**

## 14 Journalist Corner

What have our journalists been covering this week...

## 16 Q+A

Q+A with one of our alumni students as well as our teacher interview.

## 22 Fashion and Media

Stranger Things, Fashion, Gigs... what have we loved this month?



# WELCOME

Hello, and welcome to the second issue of our Student Sixth Form Magazine, The Vessel.

After the incredible response to our first issue, we are thrilled to build upon that success by developing and curating new, exciting and fascinating articles for you to immerse yourself in.

In this issue, you will find a selection of content, ranging from recent success stories in Sport and the Black History Month Competition, to student articles and excellent creative writing pieces. Continuously providing this platform as a showcase of talent and dedication within Sixth Form, whilst also offering an entertaining and engaging read for all.

Thank you for reading and we hope you enjoy!

- Gabrielis Roye, Editor



# WELCOME

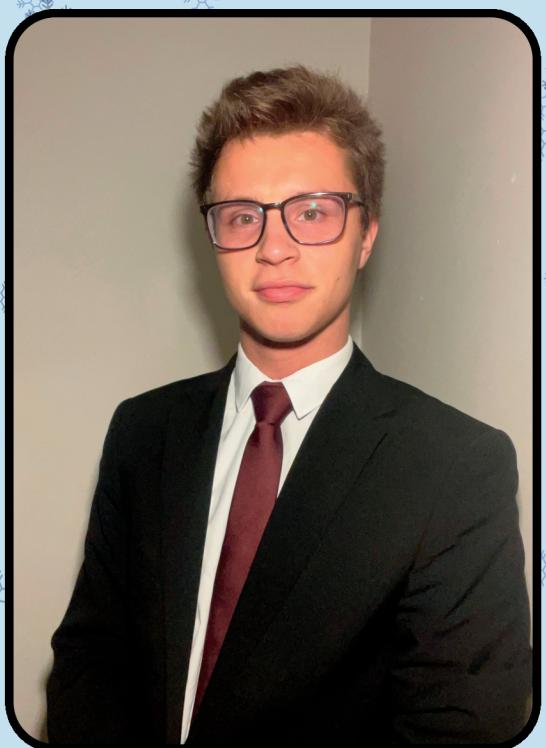
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- Gabrielis Roye, Editor







BTEC Sport students at CCCU

## CCCU Sports Trip

On Tuesday 25th November, the Year 12 and Year 13 sport students visited the Sports Lab at Canterbury Christ Church University. Throughout the day, they took part in a range of field and laboratory fitness tests and learned more about university life and the courses available. Big thanks to the staff at sports lab.

## St. Nicholas Day

In light of the festive period, we celebrated the Feast of Saint Nicholas. Our students and staff left a shoe outside their classroom ready for our festive visitors to fill with treats! St Nicholas Day is celebrated on 6 December in honour of St Nicholas, a 4th-century Christian bishop known for his kindness, generosity and care for others, especially children and those in need. The day highlights the importance of kindness, generosity and compassion, encouraging students to consider how small acts can make a positive difference to others.



Delivering the sweet treats!



St. Nicholas visiting Mr Owen's Office



Want to write for our next issue? Get in touch with the team/Miss Gardner to be a guest journalist! Anyone welcome.





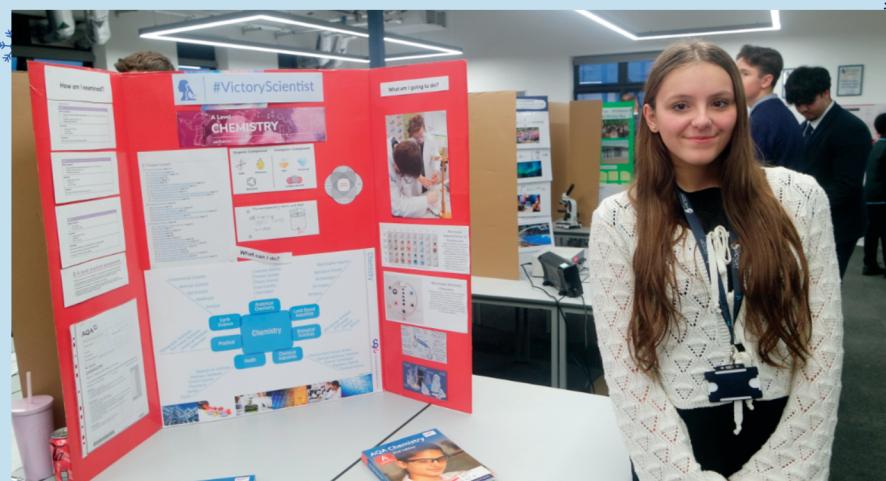
**PA students**

## Magazine Team Honours

Our Magazine Team were proudly presented with their official Magazine Team pin badges at the end of Term 2. These badges recognise the commitment, creativity and hard work the team has shown throughout the year in contributing to the school magazine. We hope they wear them with pride as a symbol of their achievements and dedication. Congratulations to all members of the team, and thank you for the enthusiasm and effort you bring to our school community.

## Open Evening

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered to support our Sixth Form Open Evening. The evening was filled with a real buzz of energy as prospective students and families were welcomed into the school. Our Year 12 and 13 students played a key role in sharing their experiences, answering questions and supporting staff throughout the event, and were widely commended for their enthusiasm, professionalism and positive attitude. A reminder that applications for Sixth Form are still open and can be made via our website using Kent Choices.



**Carmen representing Science**



**The team with their badges**



Want to write for our next issue? Get in touch with the team/Miss Gardner to be a guest journalist! Anyone welcome.



# SPORTS



Victory Academy's APD football team has had a competitive season so far, with 3 wins, 2 draws, and 3 losses. The team has shown great effort and determination in every match, including strong wins such as a 7-3 victory over Northfleet TC and a solid 6-0 win against Hugh Christie.

There have been some closely fought games too, with exciting draws like the 2-2 and 3-3 results against Brompton Academy, demonstrating the team's resilience and fighting spirit.

While there have been tough losses, including a 5-0 defeat to North Kent College and a 3-0 loss to Canterbury Academy, the players continue to learn and grow from each experience.

A notable highlight was the narrow 1-0 win against Lenham School, showing the squad's ability to perform under pressure and secure important points.

With ongoing hard work and team spirit, Victory Academy's APD football team is building a strong foundation for future success. Well done to all the players and coaches for their commitment and passion on and off the pitch!



A big congratulations to Dennis Z for being our standout performer this season. Leading by example, Dennis has been the driving force in the TVA midfield, impressing everyone with his composure and technical skill on the ball. His ability to control the game has been crucial in helping the team work smoothly and effectively.

We also want to recognise George M with an honourable mention. George has shown incredible determination, working hard to secure his place in the team. Despite playing in a new position, he has made it his own and proven himself a valuable asset to the squad.

Well done to both players for their dedication, hard work, and contribution to the team's success!



# SPORTS



As we continue into the 2026 season the players are looking forward to the upcoming matches. On the second week of term APD Victory Football Academy drew in their first game against North Kent College. Victory managed to take a point from league leaders North Kent college, with notable performances from Riley H and Tobe. Looking forward to some more fixtures this year, with the first being on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February away against Leigh Academy Minster.

See below information from APD on trials that are being ran at the Victory for the post-16 APD Academy. Combine the elite Football programme with your Education and represent APD elite team in showcase fixtures and tours.

**BECOME AN APD SCHOLAR!**

COMBINE AN ELITE FOOTBALL PROGRAMME WITH YOUR EDUCATION  
REPRESENT APD ELITE TEAM IN SHOWCASE FIXTURES AND TOURS  
START YOUR COACHING JOURNEY WITH APD

**ACADEMY TRIAL DAYS**

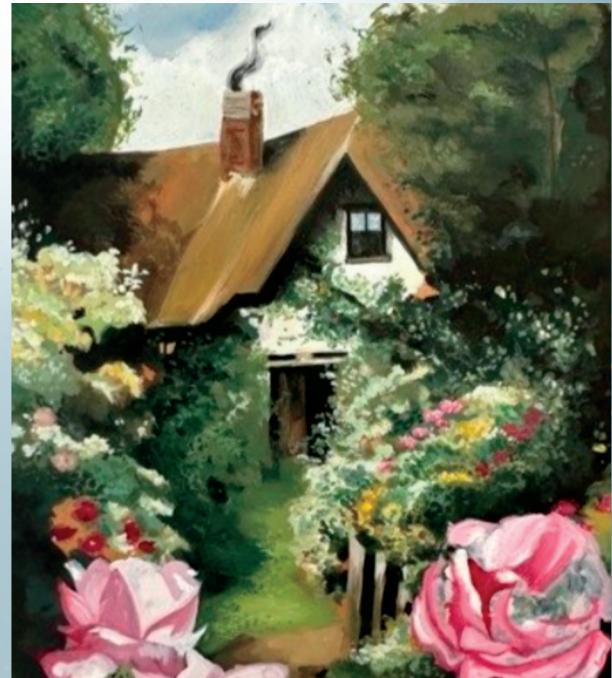
**WELLING SCHOOL POST-16 ACADEMY**  
TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
11:30 - 13:30  
WELLING SCHOOL, ELSA ROAD, DA16 1LB

**THE VICTORY ACADEMY POST-16 ACADEMY**  
WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
11:30 - 13:30  
THE VICTORY ACADEMY, CHATHAM, ME4 5JB

Follow the link in our bio to register!



# SPOTLIGHT WORK



## Art

We are proud to celebrate the incredible work of some of our creative students!

Latoya has impressed us with her detailed close-up hand drawing, expertly created using the stippling technique with a black fine liner. Her patience and precision really bring the artwork to life.

Amber has showcased her artistic skill by using oil paint on an MDF wood surface to capture a natural environment. Her thoughtful approach to design development shines through in this unique and vibrant piece.

We also want to congratulate Victoria in Year 12 for her stunning lemon artwork. Her attention to detail and use of colour have produced a truly striking piece that highlights her talent and dedication.

Well done to Latoya, Amber, Victoria, and all our artists for their amazing creativity and hard work!



# SPOTLIGHT

# WORK



## History

A huge congratulations to Mary in Year 12 for achieving 1st place in the Black History Month History Department competition. Her powerful poem, "Gorgeous and Unrelenting," truly deserved the top prize. Well done, Mary - your talent and hard work have really shone through! See her poem below.



## Gorgeous and unrelenting

Black in colour; but cared for those in a different font.  
Turned down by the lady of the lamp,  
Yet outshone her by being their beacon of light.  
Nightingale walked around with the lamp, but Mother Seacole saved  
with the lamp.  
They called her Mother Seacole  
Because she cared for the dying soldiers like they were her people.

Saw no harm in treating these people.  
What is racism when a life is involved?  
They loved her so, she was given the title of Mother Seacole.  
Treated these soldiers like they were none to die.

Initially forgotten, like past old memories.  
Campaigned for, like the mother she was.  
They say black is everything but gorgeous and thriving,  
But the history shaped is more gorgeous and thriving.

They say black is feisty,  
But I say black is relenting.

First black professional footballer, Lt Walker Tull.  
Thrived and showed he was relentless.  
Led a horde of soldiers in World War 1,  
Showed he could be anything and proved them all wrong.

They say black is ugly,  
But I say history makes it even more gorgeous.  
There's beauty in black if you look even harder.

Fading away through history, clinging on like relentless  
glue.  
Not honored because of the colour of their skin.  
Was relentless even with the colour of their skin.

Black in colour,  
But led soldiers in a different font.

It's easy to narrow history down a homogenous path,  
But quick to forget who helped build the foundation,  
who helped shape history.

History is gorgeous when you look at it from an even wide  
spreadsheet,  
but it is never about who is original but who about who  
helped shape it.  
Everyone who took a part in history was known for something  
great,  
We should always understand history from third person,  
Never from first person.

Black isn't just a colour it's the pillar that built  
symbolism itself.  
History is ongoing,  
Black is just the beginning...



# CAREERS

**FOLLOW**  
+ YOUR + DREAMS

Have a look at some of the opportunities available to you to help enhance your career and follow your dreams!

## Law Opportunities/Experiences

- Young Professionals
- PRIME
- The Brokerage
- Uptree
- Clifford Chance ACCESS
- Clifford Chance; Ready, Set, Law - Forage

## STEM Opportunities

- In2STEM
- mA\*ths Online
- Imperial STEM Futures
- Springpod
- Young Professionals
- Sutton Trust Summer Schools

## Interested in hearing from academic lecturers?

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) give you the chance to listen and watch academics go into depth about their intriguing research in a myriad of fields, for example Law, Economics, Politics, Pharmacy and so many more! Furthermore, these are available to watch either online or on the LSE Campus, ensuring accessibility for all. Search 'LSE Events' to find your next academic talk!



## Apprenticeships

- Find an Apprenticeship (GOV.UK)
- Amazing Apprenticeships
- UCAS
- Young Professionals
- The Law Society
- Institute for Apprenticeships
- Lloyds Business Apprenticeship

## Jobs/Employment

- The National Careers Service
- GOV.UK
- Barclays Life Skills
- Breakroom
- Unifrog

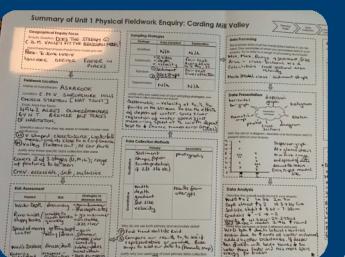
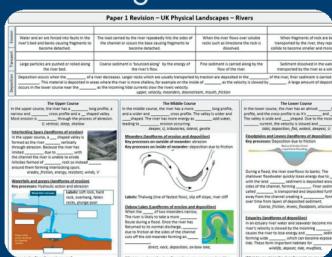




## Lesson Summaries

Lesson Summaries are great for condensing information after a lesson. You note down everything you learnt, however, in a larger font, you will state the key points and vital definitions, whilst in a smaller font, you will write any other relevant information.

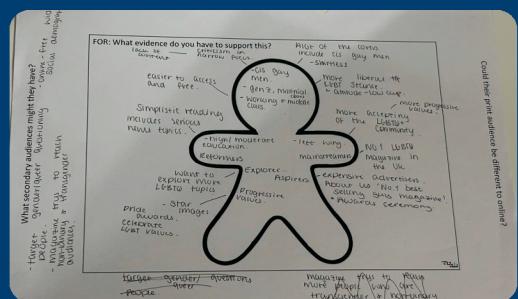
Furthermore, they can be done in any form allowing you to make them personalised to your liking. This allows you to sift through those crowded notes, to ensure you are getting what you truly need from your notes, making it easier when it comes to revision!



## Gingerbread Man

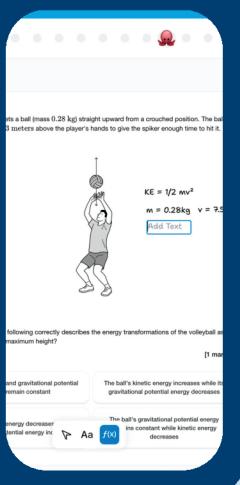
The Gingerbread Man is a worksheet created by Miss Nicholson, in this case, used to create a visual of audience and their appeal for media products.

However, it can be used in other subjects, in a similar way to circle maps/mind maps to give some creativity and motivation to your revision.



## Medly

Medly offers high-quality learning by providing adaptive lessons with instant feedback, allowing you to move on to exam-aligned practice questions, curated to each subject and exam board, perfect for GCSE and A-Level revision. This app allows you to not only learn vital content, but also the structure of exam questions.



## Knowunity

Knowunity offers user-generated study materials such as notes, flashcards and summaries, functioning as a social learning platform – 'social media for revision'.

This platform is perfect for finding high-quality revision material and notes, to get those top grades.



Get better  
Grades

No.1  
Al bud  
for study

No.1  
STUDY APP

Editor's  
Choice  
APPLE

20m+  
USERS  
WORLDWIDE



# READING PLEDGE

We really want to encourage students to 'get reading' - whatever that may look like. Each week, in class students will be encouraged to engage in a reading activity. This can vary per subject, because of this, the Head of English, Miss Steeples, has introduced the 'Reading Pledge' so that every subject is benefiting from reading. See below for some examples of what reading can look like, how much you should be reading and why reading is so important. Please join us on this pledge! #TVAReadingPledge to #GetVictoryReading!

## What can reading 'look' like?

- Reading images/graphs/diagrams
- Summarising texts
- Decoding subject-specific vocabulary
- Reading audio transcripts or captions
- Interpreting infographics
- Reading webpages/subject blogs
- Reading scripts and poetry aloud

## Why is reading important?

- Mental Stimulation
- Stress reduction
- Knowledge
- Vocabulary expansion
- Memory Improvement
- Improved Focus and Concentration
- Better writing skills

## How much should you be reading each day?



**Less than 5 minutes:** This amount is linked to the lowest level of reading growth.



**5-14 minutes:** Children in this group see below-average gains.



**15-20 minutes:** This is the recommended minimum for significant progress. Research shows that reading 20 minutes a day exposes children to 1.8 million words in one school year.



**30 minutes or more:** Students who read for this amount of time see even greater gains, which are higher than the national average.



By Isabelle Chapman



# LITERATURE

Sally Rooney, born 20 February 1991, is an Irish writer, famous for novels such as: *Conversations with Friends* (2017), *Normal People* (2018), *Beautiful World*, *Where Are You* (2021), and *Intermezzo* (2024). Her bestselling novels have sold more than 6 million copies worldwide and her books have been translated into over 47 languages.

## NORMAL PEOPLE

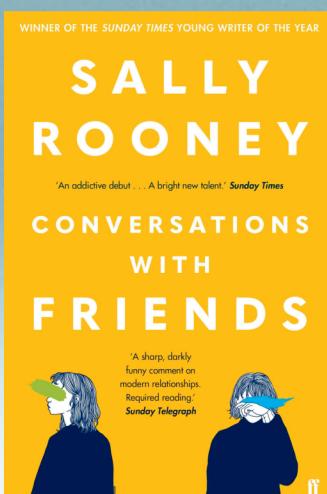
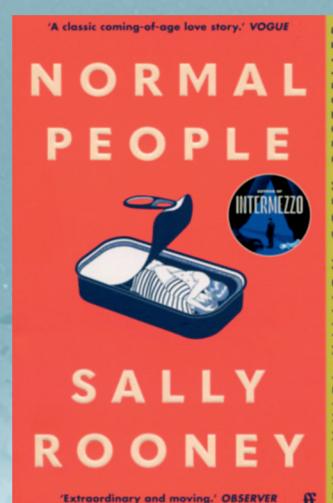
At school, Connell and Marianne pretend not to know each other, he's popular, well-adjusted and star of the school soccer team, while she is lonely, proud, and intensely private. But when Connell comes to pick his mother up from her housekeeping job at Marianne's house, a strange and indelible connection grows between the two teenagers - one they are determined to conceal.

A year later, they're both studying at Trinity College in Dublin. Marianne has found her feet in a new social world, while Connell hangs at the sidelines, shy and uncertain. Throughout their years in college, Marianne and Connell circle one another, straying toward other people and possibilities but always magnetically, irresistibly drawn back together. Then, as she veers into self-destruction and he begins to search for meaning elsewhere, each must confront how far they are willing to go to save the other.

*Normal People* isn't a traditional romance novel — it focuses on emotional growth and maturity. It asks the question that if you don't truly love yourself, are you capable of loving somebody else? The misunderstandings that drive Connell and Marianne apart are normal adversities - Rooney's aim is to frustrate the reader with her characters and show how anxiety and doubting yourself, can distort life and relationships.



Two of Rooney's novels, *Conversations with Friends* and *Normal People*, have been adapted into tv shows — both on BBC iPlayer. Rooney's novels are aimed at an older audience, with a lot of her novels covering mature themes that are recommended for those over 16. Rooney is also politically outspoken, not afraid to express her views on feminism. She lives a life mostly away from publicity, as she rarely gives interviews.



By Isabelle Chapman



# DEBATE CORNER

In today's modern society, there are more people striving to share their ideas and stories with the masses, and through evolution of technology, resources, and shipping/delivery possibilities, people can share their art, tales, and ideas across the globe. But which art form reigns supreme when put against the others? Which conveys plots, narrative, underlying messages and symbolism the best? Which provides the most entertainment to a reader/viewer?



Firstly, the time old classic, the book. One of the oldest mediums found throughout the history of storytelling, once seen as the primary method for those aiming to extend their knowledge outside of their area, giving us timeless classics, some long standing to modern day, whilst others lost in the sands of time as storytelling evolved to other mediums, many forgoing books as they opt for more visual and quicker ways of conveying plots.

Next, probably the most common and well-known art form to the modern age, film and screen series. Often found on your television, or in modern times, all contained on your phone. One reason people may flock to them is that, they can be viewed quickly and easily, as some wish to not have to flip the pages, or take the careful time to look through an author's work, instead, wanting to understand a story quickly, and get to the point of the plot they wish to see, appreciating the sheer amount of work it takes to set everything up and organise all that's used, and the immense size of the team working day and night for months to produce it.



Now we get to the most extravagant, the stage play. The most viewer involved there is, unlike other methods, not often taken in at a home environment, usually requiring an excursion into the outside world, travelling to a renowned theatre or location, to see the current housed attraction within, whether it be a well-known famous piece, or a workshop production from a writer local to the theatre, it's always buzzing with life, and despite the staggering cost compared to the other mediums, certainly provides the most with the experience.

Finally, the more modern and accessible form of telling someone's story, through social media. Easily the most unorthodox, but through social media platforms, such as Instagram, YouTube, TikTok for a few examples, many people have had their hand at telling their stories to the world, and throwing them out into the platform of their own merit and work, each part told in brief little sections, with the schedule in which given being left up to the creator.

That isn't all there is for options of storytelling, nor what the greatest writers, performers, actors etc have given us, what do you believe to be the best medium? Are there others that should be considered like the four listed here?



By Zachary Uden

# CREATIVE CORNER

Term 2 Year 8 have been studying Dystopian Literature. As part of Creative Corner. we would like to showcase work from across the school. This issue, two of our talented guest writers in Year 8 asked to write a piece of Dystopian Fiction for the Magazine.

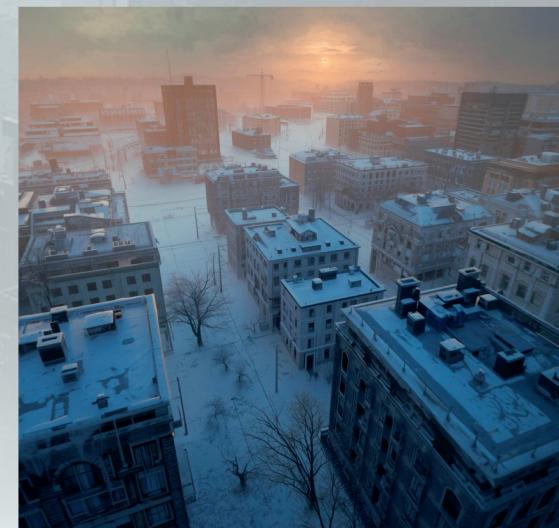
**Have you ever wondered what your favourite dystopian worlds would look like in winter?... Well take a dive into this page and we'll tell you stories of the unknown!**

It has been years since the snow came, but never stopped. Frostbite nips at my nose and ears, despite the multiple layers i have of woolly jumpers and coats, not to mention double the amount of scarfs and wool hats.you can't escape the cold. I walk through the barren wasteland of snow and ice aswell as the never ending blizzard put into the mix, food was scarce making it rare and sacred though I make an attempt to find a sign of food anyway.

The only vegetation that can be produced is in the underground green house in the bunker, though it's not always efficient with its lack of sunlight, we manged to make do with artificial light. We use most of the vegetation for food and other as bait to try catch and hunt any deer, if they aren't already extinct. I, myself managed to take down one deer with my bow, but that was 5 months ago. We never spotted a deer again.

The frozen buildings stand tall, acting as icy palaces, keepsaking the memories of what this town once was, full of life, and summer. But now that's non existent just a permanent implant in our brains and souls of what it used to be. Not frozen, not cold, but free. Free of this winter terrain. Until... I raise my head, my eyes glimmer with hope as light lays upon them, the light that is not man made. But the light of the sun, that can restore things how they used to be, summer can return, wildlife and nature can too. Things can be normal. Let's hope, just hope, that this one ray that views over the frosted city that already starts to melt, can bring our freedom back.

# CREATIVE CORNER



**Featuring guest writers  
Lola Akins and Luka Galway (Year 8)**

## Kyron, Yr 13 gives his advice on external responsibilities during Sixth Form:

### Leadership Team -

### Driving License -

**Q: What made you decide to be part of the leadership team, what characteristics made you think you were fit for the role?**

**A:** Honestly, I did it to improve my UCAS and qualifications I have..? I'm good at thinking my communication is not the best, however I can think of solutions to problems.

**Q: What does it mean to you to be part of the leadership team?**

**A:** It's important we try and help. I do meetings with the School Council and it gives me the drive to carry on.

**Q: Is there anything you've learnt being part of the leadership team?**

**A:** I've realised that we have a lot of ideas in Sixth form that we can't have happen and understanding why. (limitations)

**Q: What advice do you have for Year 12 students who are thinking of being part of the Leadership team?**

**A:** Think of a certain aspect you want to go into within the leadership team such as: Charity, Academics or something like that, so that when it comes to writing the application, base it around that, whilst also showing all your best qualities and why you should get that role.

**Q: When did you start your driving lessons, when did you realise?**

**A:** I started my lessons on my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and I didn't really think about theory that much until January, I was a bit late. I always wanted my license just to make travel easier.

**Q: Were there any unexpected hardships you encountered and how did you get over them?**

**A:** Changing shoes. Changing shoes will have a big impact on some people driving, so stick to one pair when you're driving, call them your driving shoes. Also, driving your own car after you pass, because you're so used to another car, it's hard to adapt

**Q: Theory test, is it as bad as people make it out to be- any tips on passing it the first try?**

**A:** Buy the official DVSA app and revise, it doesn't need much revision just answer practice questions. The day I took my first theory test, I was really tired and fell asleep.

**Q: What has being on the road taught you?**

**A:** Although everyone passed the same test, there are some people who shouldn't have a license. Once you've passed your test, you might fall into bad habits. I know if I took my test now I would not pass. Lastly, just be cautious as some people do drive recklessly.

Do you have any questions for the next issue? Scan the QR code to



ask!



**Q: What advice do you have for pupils finding a car to buy?**

**A: Don't go for anything with a large engine, go for something that'll have cheap insurance and will take you from point A to B, that way you aren't spending a fortune on your first car..**

## Job/Work -

**Q: What was the job hunting experience like? Did you hunt down jobs or apply to any found job immediately?**

**A: I applied for any job that popped up. Eventually I got the job I have now, but I also got rejected from two others.**

**Q: Was there any steps you took that made it easier to find a job?**

**A: Using apps such as Indeed and LinkedIn, these types of apps help find job vacancies. Whilst also, having your CV prepared and tailored to a specific job, if you have something specific you're looking for. Although, my CV was generalised because I didn't care what I did, I just wanted a job.**

**Q: Once you had the job, was there anything you learnt from school that you applied to your job?**

**A: Persistence and resilience. Dealing with customers can be a pain, especially when they think that they're right when they're not.**



**Q: What have you learnt through having your job?**

**A: I've learnt just to get on with it, really pay attention to what people say or do as it just makes it all go a lot easier.**

**Q: What advice do you have for anyone applying for jobs?**

**A: If you have a set type of job you want; go for it. For students, I recommend something like hospitality or retail as they tend to be the most flexible for you, so you still have time to revise. Personally, I prefer retail as they often have better working environments.**

**WRITTEN BY**  
**Elif Eskisan**



# ALUMNI INTERVIEW

SUZI



*This month we spoke to Suzi, an ex-student, who pursued a teaching assistant apprenticeship and is now a qualified teaching assistant at a primary school!*

**Q1**

**What advice would you give to students considering an apprenticeship?**

Some advice I'd give to people considering an apprenticeship is...go for it! If you think that's the route you'd like to take, do it. It comes with the qualifications and you also get to experience what the role holds.

**Q2**

**What skills have you learned that you didn't expect when you started?**

Some skills I've learned along the way would be:

- Confidence - learning from others is really encouraging, whilst also improving my own abilities.
- Belief - trust that what you are doing within the apprenticeship and what you achieve at the end is amazing.

**Q3**

**What's the first thing you tell people when they ask about your apprenticeship?**

I tell everyone how much I enjoyed it and how, personally, I really benefited from taking the apprenticeship route.



**SUZI**

**Q4**

**What's one thing you wish you knew before starting the apprenticeship?**

One thing I wish that I knew is that, it will be challenging, and there will be moments where you feel as if you've got so much written work to complete as well. But, as long as you stay calm and remember what the end result will be; it will all be worth it.

**Q5**

**Have you picked up any surprising talents or habits from work?**

I always have to make a to-do list before I do anything now, just to keep me on track - even outside of work!



**Q6**

**What's the funniest thing that's happened to you so far?**

In early years, you get powder paint. You mix it with water and paint. At this point, I hadn't been working long, but I went to get some red paint and I was in a cream jumper, and the pot of red powder went everywhere! It was all over me and it was a disaster at the time, but looking back it's pretty funny.

**Q7**

**How do you think the apprenticeship has helped you grow personally and professionally?**

Personally, I'd say I'm much more patient in my everyday life. Professionally, as I work in a team, I know my communication skills have improved, as you need to be able to communicate your ideas and thoughts clearly.



**Q8**

**Were there mentors or staff at Victory who guided you through your apprenticeship and made a lasting impact?**

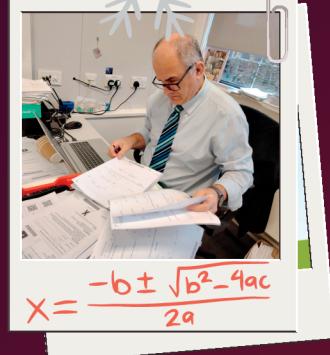
I was always in the Product Design Department. Miss Danes and Miss Vaughn helped me massively, keeping me on track, even when I was really chatty. I wanted to be like that for the pupils that I work with.



# Teacher Q&A

Featuring: Mr Aly

Mr Aly is a genuine, well-liked teacher, wise in age and mathematics, he has been teaching for well over thirty-five years! If you're looking for help in English, History, Geography, don't go to him he's a Maths teacher!



## Question 1: Do you have a favourite genre of music?



“Yes, Yes I do, its jazz music. I like the old songs I can't remember which ones but they have more meanings, something with motivation in it.”



## Question 2: What is your favourite thing to teach in maths?

“Anything in maths. Up to GCSE the top end, that's what I like. But if we talk about A-level then it'd be pure maths.”



## Question 3: who's your favourite maths class to teach to?

$$\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$$

“Year 11... that's because they do respond, they know what I do and they know their future - that's what they need, they pay more attention, more motivated, they want to do more. They enjoy it more.”



## Question 4: is there any particular interesting fact about maths that you want to share, but don't get the chance to?

“I always share stuff about maths, I love maths history. In 1992, Professor Andrew Wiles came and solved Fermat's Last Theorem. Its to do with Pythagoras-  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ , but what happened if that square is more? like cubed? is it the same,  $a^3 + b^3 = c^3$ ? that took us about 350 years to solve, and he won the noble prize for that. That's what is interesting about maths, you get one person every 200 years. One in a lifetime. He didn't use computers, he used his hand. He got proof of every part of the problem, got proof from all history - and he fit it on every section to fit it all together. And that's the masterpiece of it. It took him 10 years to solve the problem, he saw it when he was 9 years old. Even as the Head of Mathematics at Cambridge University, the problem was still stuck in his head. He solved it in his attic, in his spare time. When he did, he invited everyone to scrutinize it, they found a flaw - some mistakes - but within the flaws, he had the solution without even realising it. He nearly gave up. He became depressed, his wife saw this, and one thing she said when her birthday was close, was that the only present she wanted from him was to solve that damn problem. That gave him the kick to go back. This gave him the passion to solve it, the confidence. In 1992, he finally proved Fermat's Last Theorem and won the Noble peace prize. He didn't care about the money, he was happy that he could solve what previous, genius mathematicians couldn't.”

**Question 5: How much do you enjoy teaching?**

“Maths obviously... oh - you mean in general? Well i've been teaching for 35 years so how much do you think i enjoy it?”

**Question 6: what led you down this path to teach?**

“When I was off from work, my wife's friends' daughter was really struggling in her Math GCSEs. She was failing, and my wife asked if I could help. I then became this girls tutor, since I had nothing else to do. In 6 weeks, I had taught her more than she has understood in...5?6? years of education? And when she did her exams, she went from a failing grade to a B! She then came to me, asking why don't I become a teacher? It'd benefit other students she said...those words were very strong. So, I went onto the University of London to apply for teaching practice, but first, I had to sit a test. It was a pure maths test, they gave me an hour and 45 minutes. I came out after 45 minutes, and [the head of teaching practice] was shocked that I finished so soon. I showed him, and he asked if it was easy - I said yes. That year was actually closed, they had their quota. But, because he saw what I had to offer. They opened another course just for me, they even paid for it out of their own budget - not the governments - just for me.”

**Question 7: How come maths is your favourite subject? Just out of curiosity.**

$E = mc^2$

“There is beauty in maths. God gives us that, it exists for us to find. Every century, we gain someone that can find it for us. Maths is important for everyday life.”

**Question 8: You've been teaching for 35+ years, what are the most noticeable differences you've seen in students or even staff?**

“There's been new faces, people come and go. I haven't been teaching in one school exactly, I have noticed that teachers sometimes become teachers for just a job, rather than being passionate and helping students. Not just maths, but in any subject.”

$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$

**Question 9: How come you have been teaching for 35 years?**

**35**

“Mainly due to my passion for teaching, I like getting the knowledge across and seeing ambitious students succeed. It has an impact on the community, some of my previous students are now doctors, engineers, all sorts!”

**Question 10: Are there any good habits on students you've seen or want to see more of?**

“The good habits I like to see is, for them to have their own initiative. When students work by themselves, that's the habit we want. Not compulsory homework for the sake of it, but doing research because they enjoy it. They'll understand it more, it's a good habit. When you go university - that'll be you.”

**Disclaimer:** The interview may have been edited/ altered in order to make it concise, as well as removing certain sensitive information!

# Fashion

## Winter EDITION

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### Fashion with a Purpose: Staying Warm, Stylish and Supportive this Winter

Fashion is more than what we wear, it's a way to express ourselves, show confidence and even support important causes. This winter, students can stay warm, look fashionable and make a statement by wearing purple for Domestic Violence Awareness.

### Why Purple Matters;

Wearing purple shows solidarity with survivors and helps raise awareness about an issue that affects many people, often silently. Even small fashion choices can start conversations and show your support. Simple touches like wearing a purple scarf, jumper, tie, or even socks can make a powerful statement while still fitting into school dress codes.

### **WINTER LOOKS FOR YOU !**

**HAVE A LOOK AT OUR CAPSULE FULL OF BUSINESS-CASUAL, FASHIONABLE CHIC LOOKS THAT YOU CAN WEAR TO STAY WARM AND FASHIONABLE THIS WINTER!**

DEC 2025  
- FEB 2026

ISSUE 2 | 22

# what's new?

## Teacher Fashion: How to Stand Out with Style and Professionalism

Teachers can elaborate their fashion by building a strong, recognisable and even colourful wardrobe by enhancing them with personal signature elements such as statement accessories or a consistent colour palette.

Thoughtful use of colours, subtle patterns and creative layering adds interest while maintaining a professional appearance.



### Top Tips -

Staying warm doesn't mean sacrificing style. Choosing statement shoes, hair clips, or even wearing a favourite jumper can help an outfit stand out and be unique, even on freezing days.

Keep it neat and tidy, by having pride in yourself and what you wear not only makes a huge difference in how you look, but it also improves your self-confidence!

### Pick and mix your outfits !

\*Experiment with unique rings, hair accessories, belts, shoes and even your hair to customise and express your true self.



Accessories are a fun but professional way to coordinate personality into outfits, and can even be a signature piece that all students love and notice. Some simple but affective items can be a necklace, scarf or even a pair of fun earings that will all make your outfit stand out, while allowing you to look stylish and confident.

### Other ways to evolve your outfit:

- \*Bold colours
- \* Unusual patterns
- \* Fun textures

BY PORSHE LEWIS  
AND SARA POPESCU

# STRANGER THINGS

This page is a delve into what happens when a show caters too much for its fans. Stranger Things has been the show for the last decade creating a huge fanbase but this fanbase has had a hold of the creators throats forcing them to create an ending hardly no one wanted or liked

With the season finale as of New Years Day, Stranger Things has been the cultural phenomenon of the early 21st century, running for an almost 10-year track from Summer of 2016 to Winter of 2026. The creators, The Duffer Brothers, have created a hybrid genre with sci-fi and coming-of-age to create a show that brought Netflix to the powerhouse it is today. Following a group of misfits and outsiders in the 80s, Stranger Things has our cast fighting otherworldly threats with their wits alone. They fight indestructible nightmare creatures, giant mind enslaving parasites and psionic psychopaths, keeping their town of Hawkins and by extension the world safe. While the show has its flaws I do think it's a must watch for most general audiences. Being told with charm and mystery this show tackles the themes of teenhood, self-acceptance, relationships and identity. The pull factor in this show is how it weaves together multiple unrelated narratives into a larger plot, like a mystery but with a large dose of dramatic irony.



Seasons 1 and 2 create a world that feels real and lived in, as we experience the story instead of being told it. 1980s Hawkins has schools, a functioning police force, workers, people in the streets, bullies, losers, mothers, fathers, popular kids and the ones overlooked, it truly feels like a town; a place people live and breathe in. The sci-fi of the Experiments of The Upside Down and Children brings a dark, terrifying aura, as the unveiling of it from the cast, plagues itself over Hawkins. As we learn of the creatures that inhabit the Upside Down (a dark warped version of our normal world where the creatures live), we learn of the true extent and power this place, as it holds creatures such as the Mind Flayer, who is able to control the minds of whoever it wants, and the Demogorgon/Demodogs which are nearly unstoppable and can attack from anywhere. The cast is where the real magic resides, the party (being children) are incredible, endearing and heartwarming. Dustin is a personal favourite for his humour, optimism and wonder in the worst situations. However, some characters are made solely to be killed off once they are no use for the plot, evoking cheap sympathy and tears. Many characters grow on you, such as Steve and Jonathan, due to their very bad characterisation from season 1 into season 2. Overall, the first 2 seasons are very bingeable, and I suggest you to binge them, as it helps the complex narratives come together in big reveals; which is very satisfying.



## SHOW REVIEW



Seasons 3 and 4 are the highs and lows of the show, specifically aspect-wise. The show's horror has evolved, introducing bigger threats developing from stalker horror into the Worlds of Eldritch, encompassing psychological terror. The visuals have also improved, from the developed terrain, seen through The Prison and Starcourt Mall, the horror and gore (Season 4 by far being the most brutal has been so far), is also much more realistic, compared to the fantasy world that existed between Hawkins and the Upside Down in the first two seasons. Some characters, like Johnathan and Eleven, have had a decline in their character development, through new characteristics, which didn't exist prior, or relapsing their journey, forcing them to relearn what they already know. The stakes fluctuate, going from mere monsters to Eldritch horrors and psionic threats, yet this isn't addressed fully, as the cast in season 4 are further separated. The stakes vary due to the Prison Guards and the concept of the Upside Down breaking through Hawkins. However, season 3 (my personal favourite) does this idea well. The cast is scattered but close, making everyone come together for a grand season finale. New characters are introduced, ones that stay, like Robin and Erica (who appears in season 1 but gets a major role from season 3), others are the repeated season 1 appearances, prior to being killed, but this has been improved as the emotion is better deserved. The writing and sci-fi quality is kept but issues arise in the way they portray the story. Seasons 1-3 all released their episodes on the same day but Season 4 and 5 release the episodes in chunks over the period of a month or so. Similarly, re-watchers of Season 4 didn't have the constant increase of tension, but rather a cliffhanger halfway through, removing all tension by the next episode.



**REVIEW BY**  
**ASHTON WOOLCOCK**

Season 5 shows a marked disregard for its audience, assuming viewers will accept a significant decline in quality without question. It is a half-baked warped version of what it once was. The mystery elements of this show are subbed out for boring expositions, were the Duffer Brothers going for the world record of using analogies to explain the same 5 things? It got to a point where I could predict what was going to be said. Additionally, the repetitive scenes, enforce the idea that the show wants stakes but no consequences. A show built off the emotional deaths of characters, has shown in bold how they are too scared to kill anyone from the main cast off. Multiple times this show has had the chance to kill characters in good, meaningful ways but refuse to and give their audience a cheap scare. This got so bad to the point that I was not even worried in the finale when my favourite characters were close to death. The pacing has reached its worst, with it feeling like a drag in the finale - what was 2 hours plus of content could easily be shortened to an hour and a half. The ending shows how the Duffers feared their own audience and created a Disney ending (where everything is perfect) which ruins the supernatural and unpredictable nature of the show. I enjoyed seeing the cast in high spirits, but it felt unnatural, as if something was missing; that something was tragedy. The latter created public outcry and marked the start of conformity gate, the idea that on January 7th the show would air the secret 9th episode portraying the original ending as 'fake' as it was an illusion from Vecna...this 9th episode never aired.

In conclusion, the show is great. As much as I dislike Season 5, the highs of Seasons 1 and 3 outweigh the disappoint of the last 2 seasons. The set, dressing and 80s charm stayed strong, even if the drop in quality was recognised by the 5th season. The characters charisma stayed consistent, being my personal favourite aspect of the show. However, season 4 and 5 created issues in the characters, causing my interest in them to fall as there were just too many, who we didn't get to see enough of. Although I dislike the ending, I give the show...

# SEB LOWE

## Background and Message

Seb Lowe is a rising indie music artist challenging the current, political status quo whilst creating a voice for the British populous without prejudice or political biases, his music highlights the struggling relations between the government and its' people, tackling controversies surrounding the government and those associated with them, often ironically via satirical portrayals of certain quotes or events. He has a high level of relatability due to his working class upbringing in Oldham, Upper Manchester, an area of which has historically been neglected by the UK Government. Reflective of this his recent performance in London, was done in Heaven a popular gay club near Charing Cross Station the LGBTQIA+ community also being a historically oppressed minority along with the recent supreme court ruling regarding that a person's sex refer to the one assigned to them at birth as well as the new rules against conversations about transgenderism in schools. this is relevant to Seb because a large amount of his music also talks about peoples identity whether it be nationality, race, gender or any other characteristic particularly that of the British people due to recent controversy with the British flag.



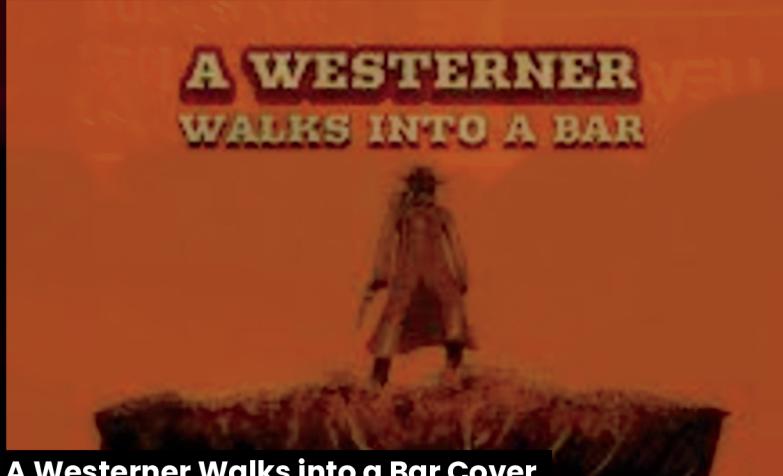
Seb Lowe at Heaven London

## Review of his performance

Seb Lowe's performance at Heaven was filled with passion and heart, the choreography was spectacular, effectively embodying commitment to his craft as well as, contributing to his authenticity as an artist. These features of his music and performance are key contributors to his recent rise in popularity, in combination with the recent political turmoil, which he often comments on or references within his music, alongside his likeable personality, highlighted through the guest performers and their immense gratitude towards him who comment on his kindness and talent, despite his relatively small stature in the music industry. Standouts moments include: his performance of the songs '*Here Come The Aliens*' and '*A Westerner Walks into a Bar*' due to the demanding vocals of the tracks, exemplifying his talent as an artist, the thrilling involvement of the audience throughout the performance, creating unforgettable memories as he referred to specific audience members, and lastly, interacting with fans whilst singing a feature song, normally only seen with smaller artists in small venues such as Heaven.



Here Come The Aliens Cover



A Westerner Walks into a Bar Cover

## Review of the Venue

Heaven, as a venue, was spectacular, its' location just underneath Charing Cross Station is ideal for those travelling from afar. Furthermore, its' smaller size contributes to the quality of performance, keeping fans close to the artist, while still having the feel of a larger venue due to the ambient lighting and high quality sound system, projecting the voices of artists not just throughout the club but also onto the streets.



# Guest Artists



Neckbreakers are a small rock band, based in London, having around 1000 monthly listeners on Spotify, their inclusion in the concert highlights the need for the encouragement of small, local artists, in attempts to give them a boost to grow within the industry and make the dreams of small artist come true. In comparison to Lowe, Neckbreakers are a very small band, who greatly benefitted from the exposure at this concert, giving them an opportunity to expose their music to a wider audience via collaboration with larger artists, this also shows the communicative nature of the music industry relying on the generosity of larger artists or recognition of talent that would otherwise go unseen. Regardless of them being the opening act, and some of their performance was missed as people entered the club, they still showed heart and soul in their performance, being heard through the streets of Charing Cross showing their dedication and undeniable talent.



Opening Performance: Neckbreakers



Concert Review by Patrick Martin



Girl in the Year Above are a small band, spearheaded by there lead singer, Jennifer Ball, whose breathtaking vocals encapsulate the strong themes of romance, throughout their performance with equally stunning choreography and instrumentals, combining the smoothness of conventional romance with the intensity and character of rock with tantalizing performances on all fronts, creating a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Setting the tone before Seb Lowe's star performance and in some opinions even outshining it .

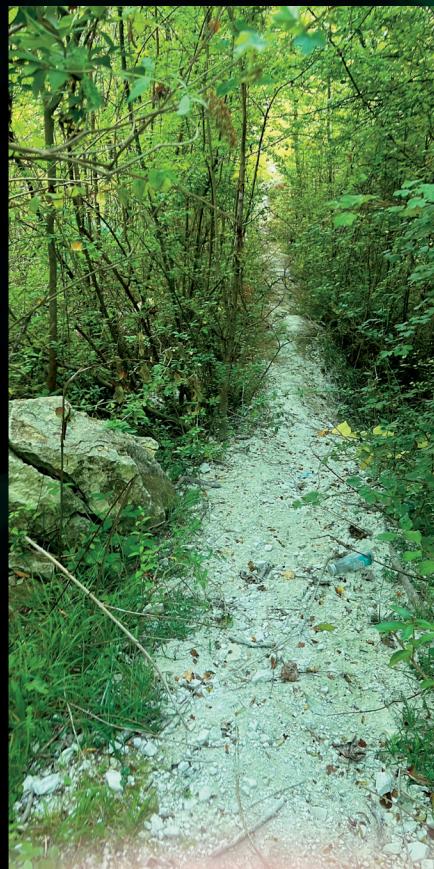
My only gripes with the concert were: the time it took enter, as it took about an hour to get in and the extortionate price of drinks, for example a simple Coca-Cola was £3, as well as the attitudes of staff as the service at bars and other facilities was very meager and uninviting.



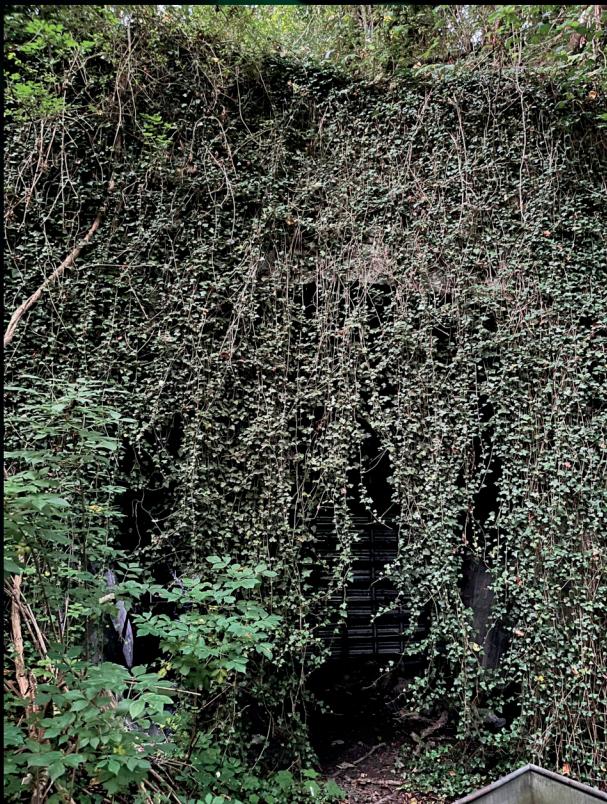
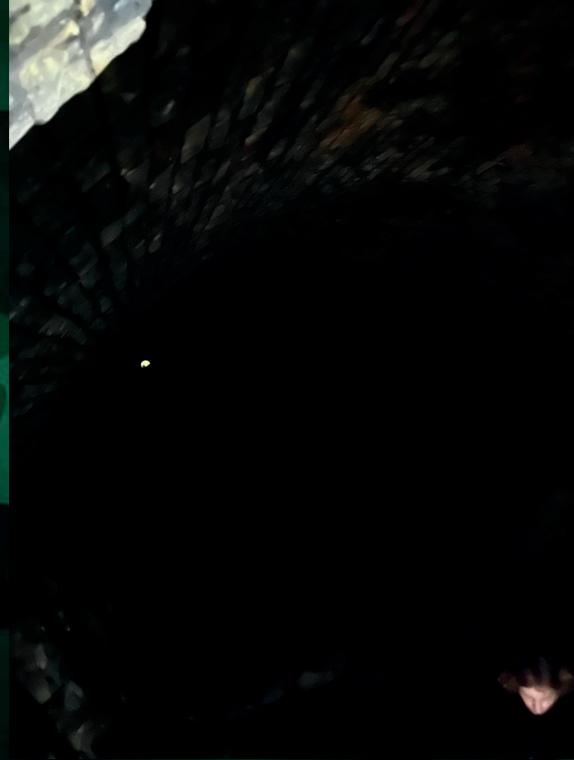
# URBEX

## Bluebell Picnic Site Tunnels and Chalk Cliff

Abandoned in 1939, these tunnels are a part of an extensive network, concluding at a large chalk quarry, the tunnels were used for train transport due to the rough terrain, which meant that other vehicles were not permitted. Currently, only one of these tunnels can still be entered, with remnants of railroads and debris around the area, accompanying this are stunning views from the top of the chalk cliff. This tunnel is fairly difficult to reach, requiring a long trek through woodland, scaling numerous hills – often with steep inclines, as well the large chalk cliff, which requires a rope to traverse. Below are photographs of both the path and terrain of the area, as well as the magnificent view from the top of the cliff:



After entering the tight grate into the tunnels, it was nothing but pitch black and ominous, at some points we had to squeeze through small openings to progress further into the tunnel. From time to time, the floor was comprised of sticky mud and clay, a disparity from the gravel paving at the entrance, water dripped from the ceiling, illuminated minimally by the small peep of light from the entrance. At the other end of the tunnel, there was nothing but more forest and an overgrown gate.



### The Golden Rules of Urban Exploration

1. Never go alone.
2. Do not damage buildings or steal.
3. Always research the area.
4. Leave when asked.
5. Never go into asbestos without protection.

To find the video of this tunnel exploration and more head to [Historic Medway Exploration](#) on [TikTok](#) and [Youtube](#)!

\*DISCLAIMER: THESE VIDEOS AND IMAGES WERE CAPTURED BY EXPERIENCED EXPLORERS; DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RECREATE



# Magazine Team

What have the Magazine team been listening to this month? Take a look!



AS A TEAM, WE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT YOU GOT TO KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US. MUSIC IS OFTEN A GOOD REFLECTION OF THIS. THEREFORE, HAVE A LOOK AT OUR PLAYLIST. EACH MEMBER HAS CHOSEN TWO SONGS THAT THEY ARE LOVING THIS MONTH!

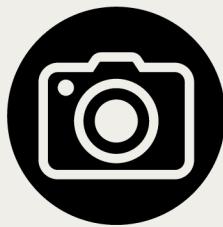
▶		ORIGAMI	SIENNA SPIRO
21		Fuma	□ Music video • Bad Gyal
22		Mi Lova	E □ Music video • Bad Gyal, Myke Towers
23		Jane!	The Long Faces
24		Jessie's Girl	□ Music video • Rick Springfield
25		Call My Bluff	E Goodluck Rylie
26		Wake Up	EDEN
▶		Take Me to the Beach (feat. Ado)	Imagine Dragons, Ado
28		From The Start	Laufey
29		Not Allowed	E TV Girl
30		Chamber Of Reflection	Mac DeMarco
31		ATM	E □ Music video • Bree Runway, Missy Elliott
32		On The Floor	□ Music video • Jennifer Lopez, Pitbull
33		In A Good Way	Faye Webster
34		Üzülmedin mi?	□ Music video • Simge
35		Dance of Life and Death	Robby Good, Project: Eden's Garden Musical E...
36		Guns Blazing	MasterSwordRemix, NoteBlock, MyNewSound...



# NEXT ISSUE



For our next issue we invite  
you to submit photos that  
represent - New Beginnings



Please scan the QR code to give us some  
feedback for this issue of the magazine.

Magazine Feedback

