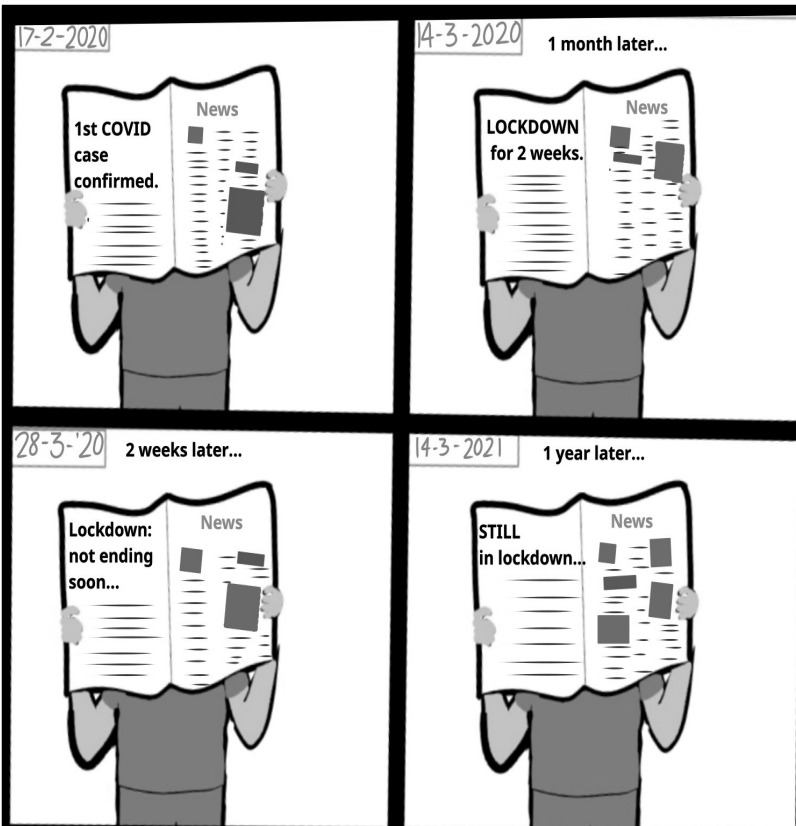


# The 3rd year Gazette



Conor Lavan—Reading the news

year. This gazette has helped me and made me realise this so I guess it was a blessing in disguise. My point is one assignment does not determine your future but it's what you do after it that counts and we need to learn from our mistakes because if we keep distracting ourselves from an assignment with smaller tasks we won't find our full potential. In conclusion, a student can overcome procrastination by becoming aware of its causes and effects and developing their time management skills. Knowing the causes and effects of procrastination will broaden one's understanding to become more aware. Gaining self-awareness will develop oneself to become sensitive to their wrongdoings. Time management is an efficient way to totally avoid procrastination. It helps oneself to organize their time wisely to do tasks productively. Although procrastination is a student's worst enemy, it can still be defeated.

I am procrastinating, you are procrastinating, he is procrastinating, she is procrastinating, we are procrastinating, they are procrastinating ..... By James Corbett

**Procrastination is the action of delaying or postponing something.**

The reason I chose to write about this today is because like most people I procrastinate but I guess it has helped with coming up with an idea for this gazette. Although on the article that "William Sydnor" wrote; he said that the student that procrastinated still got a fair grade I still believe that procrastination is the key to being a failure, eventually, it will catch up to you. In order to be successful one must manage time well.

**In my opinion, I think procrastination has a few stages which goes something like this:**

Stage 1) Having a plan all laid out to minimise workload. Stage 2) Then you usually find something else to do to get instant gratification. This is a stage that usually makes you feel good. Stage 3) But then all of a sudden you wake up one day and realise, oh no the project is due in two days. This is when you start to panic and just accept the fact that you have to do the work and realise it would've been better if you followed through on stage one.

**Why procrastination isn't about laziness.** When we procrastinate, we're not only aware that we're avoiding the task in question, but also that doing so is probably a bad idea. And yet, we do it anyway.

"This is why we say that procrastination is essentially irrational," said Dr. Fuschia Sirois, a professor of psychology at the University of Sheffield. "It doesn't make sense to do something you know is going to have negative consequences."

**How I think I could stop procrastinating:** I think in order to stop procrastinating I need to realise that I should try and follow

through on my plans to complete my work and try not to distract myself from the work I'm actually meant to be doing, with smaller tasks that don't mean much. This is something that I plan to work on more this school

## Normality ... routine ... ground zero by Zoé Byrnes

On a normal school morning pre-covid, when we'd actually go into school I would usually wake up at around quarter to seven and I'd have my breakfast. For breakfast I'd usually have tea with some cereal. After breakfast I would go back down to my room and dress my bed and give it a quick tidy. Afterwards I would get dressed, do my skincare routine, brush my teeth and I would double check my bag to make sure I have everything I needed for that day.

At around half seven my Dad and I would leave the house and he'd drop me at the bus stop on his way to work. My bus is very early and leaves at around twenty to eight, so I am usually in school for eight o'clock and sometimes it's not even open. When I get off the bus me and my friends walk into our usual spot and we put down our bags and usually have a snack. Here we talk for a bit while waiting for the rest of our friends to arrive.

At nine o'clock classes begin. We have our first break at twenty to twelve. This break is only fifteen minutes and then straight back into classes. Our big break is at quarter past one until two o'clock. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays we finish up school at twenty past three, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays we finish at four o'clock. On the days when we finish at twenty past three my bus doesn't come until late, so we just walk around school and wait for the bus to come. Once I get home if the weather is good, I would take my dog on a walk but if it is raining I usually just do my homework. After I finish my homework, I eat dinner and watch the TV for the rest of the night.



Lilly Faulkner—Wear Your Mask!

# Art



Lucja Wojciechowska—Hold on to Hope

This year...

The last year has seen us spend more time with family, more talking and laughing and fighting for sure

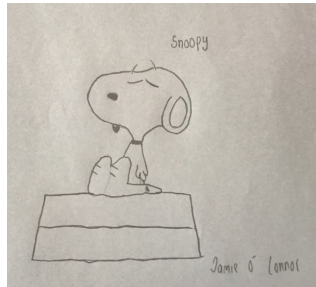
We can't connect with friends as much as we could, enjoying time with them like we should.

Spending more time online to connect with my friends, but would rather be outside playing sports when it ends

Cian McGregor



A friendly face, Eric Clancy



No, I am not procrastinating!

Jamie O'Connor



Living on a farm. Martina Scanlan



The blues of the lockdown, Katy Smith

You stop learning when you quit



# What's on?

## The Pandemic - Niamh O'Connor

A grey cloud of loneliness hangs over my head,  
As I'm watching the news I begin to feel the dread.

Many people are dying,  
Their relatives crying,

Nevertheless, the planes are flying.

The schools are shut down,  
I can't see my best friends,

Who knows when this pandemic will end.

Ireland's on lockdown,

Italy too,

And it's all because of a terrible flu.

Everybody has to isolate,

But nobody knows until what date,

For now, all we can do is wait.

Coronavirus is all over the place,

Kindness helps to keep a smile on everybody's face,

Days spent inside are what we need to embrace.

I've been sitting at home,

With no place to go,

Let's hope the rate of this begins to slow.

We are doing classes online,

All I do is stare at a screen,

Students keep their cameras off to avoid being seen.

I'm doing schoolwork at home,

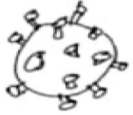
It's better in a way,

We have to keep our distance so Corona stays away.

So let's keep our social distance,

And we will meet again soon,

With any luck this will be over by June.



Bright evenings  
ahead means only  
one thing,  
"Exercise" by  
Diarmuid Mangan

We all have to contend with being at home these days during Covid 19 lockdown. While we may have lost out in socialisation, we've gained something else, "Exercise". Since Covid, the number of people out exercising has increased rapidly.

Overnight, walkers, joggers and cyclists have taken to the roads and footpaths and, need I say, within the 5 km rule.

During lockdown restrictions, we have learned to live in our local community that is rich in natural, outdoor facilities while learning to keep our distance.

My article today is aimed at anyone who has been sitting at home during winter, hibernating on

the couch, watching Netflix, crash dieting or just feeling alone.

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 the clocks go forward 1 hour which means bright spring evenings will begin and that means much more time for exercise.

Firstly, please don't get bogged down thinking about the likes of pace, distance or burning calories before you start either as a walker, jogger or cyclist.

Secondly, ensure that you have good quality gear, example, good quality runners for your feet. Nothing worse than ill fitting shoes.

Make sure you are comfortable before you commence exercising. Aim to buy non-cotton fabrics as in the spring and summer you will likely sweat more. Non-cotton fabrics will help your skin to breathe.

To ensure that you keep to your new exercise routine you need to set

goals and targets to work towards. People give up exercising because they get bored, therefore setting a target will make this less likely to happen.

Finally, if you do pick up a strain, don't ignore it as this is a relatively minor issue and can become much more serious if not treated correctly.

In conclusion, I have given an insight into how to start exercising and before you know it, exercise will be a natural way of keeping fit during Covid and beyond. I am out for a 5km run myself now. So turn lockdown into a time for exercise going forward.



Also in this issue.....

All Around the world

Master Cooks

If We Were JP McManus

Tales

Would You Believe

Sport Edit

Society Today

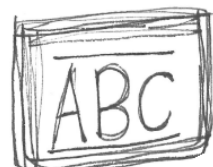
Tips For Incoming 1st Years

(or don't do what we did)

Celebs

Art and Leisure

Looking Into the Future



# Globetrotters

## Trip to Germany by Ally Jagielska

In this article I'm going to talk about our school trip to Cologne, Germany in December of 2019. The trip overall was very fun, and it was also very interesting to experience a different culture!

On the 17th of December, we all gathered at school very early in the morning and we took a bus to Dublin Airport. We arrived in Cologne as the sun was rising. Later that day we took a bus to a theme park called Phantasialand. We spent almost our whole day there. This theme park was huge, it was like nothing I've ever seen before! There were so many rides, some very fast, some very steep but all fun nonetheless. When the time came and we sadly had to leave, we took a bus back to our hotel, we checked in and went to go see our rooms! I was staying in a room with three other girls. After getting all our things settled down in our rooms, we were called downstairs for dinner. After we all had our dinner at the hotel, we went out to the Christmas market nearby the hotel.

On our second day there, we were woken up very early, we got ready, went downstairs to have breakfast in the hotel and rushed onto the bus! We then drove to a nearby city Düsseldorf and we visited a TV station. It was very interesting to see how everything worked inside a TV station as most of us hadn't been inside of one before. While in Düsseldorf, we also visited the Rhine tower, we went into a very tall elevator and it brought us to the top of the tower, there was a massive window stretching around the whole wall and we got a great view of the whole city. Later on that day we went to explore Düsseldorf city. We got lunch there as well from a local takeaway that did typical German food! I ordered a currywurst which is a German sausage served with curry sauce and a bread roll. Later on that evening, we went back to Cologne and we went on a boat in the river Rhine. We had food on this boat and there was also a live band playing German Christmas music, my favourite part about the boat trip though, was when we got to go to the back of the boat and got to watch the sunset on the beautiful city of Cologne. We then got back to the hotel and had dinner and once again we set off to a local Christmas market. This Christmas market was beautiful! It was massive and full of little shops with Christmas themed decorations, hats, jewelry, food and things like that. The highlight of my trip was ice skating in this Christmas market as

there was a huge ice-skating rink in the middle. I fell lots of times as I'm not the best at ice skating, but it was lots of fun nonetheless! I got lots of gifts and souvenirs for myself and my family and friends there.

On our last day we were also woken up very early, we packed our things and went downstairs for our last breakfast. We visited the Lindt chocolate factory, we got lots of chocolates! There was also a gift shop in which I bought lots of chocolate to bring home with me. We then had a stroll around a little Christmas market right outside the chocolate factory. Our last stop was the Rhein shopping center, we got a few hours there to go to all the different shops, we also had lunch there before going back to the airport. Our flight was delayed by an hour, so we had a chance to go to the duty free at the airport. But finally, our plane arrived, we all boarded it and departed on our journey home.

This was one of the best trips I've ever been on and I made so many nice fun-filled memories to look back on today!



## Nous voilà en France! By Seanna O'Connor Kelly

In 2nd year, my French class went on a trip to France (west). We went to the Futuroscope in Poitiers. This is an amusement park but there are no big roller coasters only virtual reality rides! Just amazing! My favourite rides were the Dancing with Robots, the 4D cinema and the Sebastien Loeb experience, all of them gave me shivers and a little bit of stomach ache, but so thrilling! We also visited a medieval abbey, Fontevault, and a medieval chateau (castle in French). I really liked the views over Angers. From the top of the chateau, you could see the river and all the houses below. The highlight of the trip may have been the visit of a chocolate factory when we made our own lollipop in chocolate!

Overall I had a really nice trip to France and it was so much fun! I made so many memories, and my friends and I would really recommend it!

## Que Tal? Spanish Exchange, 2nd Year by Ellie-Mae O'Sullivan

In October 2019, Students from 2nd to 3rd Year went abroad to Spain. We stayed with our Spanish exchange partner and their families in their houses for a week, to experience their culture, language and lifestyles. They were meant to be coming back to Ireland to stay with us for a week, but due to covid, it never happened.

When we first arrived we were very nervous, but we were fortunate that all the families and teachers were lovely. The following day we went to their classes to experience their typical school day. We also ate the food their families provided for us.

During the week we went to a range of different places and attractions. We went to the Alhambra which was a beautiful ancient castle. We also went to a famous cathedral in which Isabelle and Fernadez (ancient Kings and queens of Spain) were buried. Aside from that we went to one of the biggest shopping centres in Europe, a science fair, different ice cream places and lots of restaurants.

Everyone who went on the trip really enjoyed it. We got to experience life in Spain in terms of school, food, tourist attractions and hobbies. It was one of the best memories of my school life so far and we had a great time.

## France je t'aime! by Caoimhe Franey

On the 1st of March 2020, I went on a school trip to France. 40 students went along with 4 teachers for a week in Nantes, France. We were all excited for all the things we were going to do.

**Day 1:** We all met in the school at midnight on Sunday the 1st to get the bus to Dublin airport. Once we arrived in Nantes, we went to a small shopping centre to get something to eat. As my friends and I were walking into the shop, a security guard called us over and started talking to us, but we could only understand half of what he was saying so we started to panic! Turns out it was nothing, but we thought he was giving out to us!! Then we made our way to the Fontevraud Abbey where we got a tour of the beautiful monastery. After that we went to our hotel, ate dinner and went to bed as we were all wrecked.

**Day 2:** On Tuesday we went to the Futuroscope Theme Park. Although the weather wasn't the greatest, we had an amazing time. My favourite things we did were the bikes on water and the virtual reality cinema.

**Day 3:** On Wednesday we went to the Saumur tank museum and an underground mushroom museum. At first, I thought they would be boring, but it was actually very interesting. When we went back to the hotel, we had dinner and then we went bowling.

**Day 4:** On Thursday morning we had to pack up everything before we left because we were staying in a different hotel that night. We went to the Angers Castle and got to see these huge tapestry paintings that covered all the walls. We were supposed to go to a secondary school in Nantes but due to the coronavirus we couldn't, so instead we went to a chocolate factory. Then we went swimming and after that we made our way to the new hotel. The new hotel rooms were like our own little house!

**Day 5:** On Friday we went to the Nantes Cathedral. Then we went to the airport and waited for our flight. We were all sad to be going back home but couldn't wait to tell everyone about it. It was honestly one of the best trips I've ever been on and I'd 100% do it again.

## My Best Memory of First Year, by Billy Earls

My best memory of first year would definitely have to be the time my school, Salesians Secondary College, took us all to Connemara for three days. I know what you're thinking, why would you want to go to Connemara for a group trip? You'll have to speak Irish because it's in the Gaeltacht Region in Ireland, but luckily, we didn't have to speak Irish and that's why I enjoyed it so much. I was so worried about it and even practiced my Irish beforehand, but thankfully I didn't need to use any of it.

### First Impressions

I have to say the most fun part was the first two days and nights, but the worst thing that happened in the whole trip was the three hour bus journey from Pallaskenry to Connemara. We then arrived at a little cottage in the middle of nowhere. Inside it had four big rooms at the back with beds and the front rooms were lovely and cosy with a turf fire. After settling into our rooms, my friends and I heard a knock on the door and a man came in named Daithí, he gave us the rules and listed some of the chores we would have to do like wash the pots and pans and clean off the table after eating. He also mentioned the fun activities that we would be doing, which was very exciting.

### The Scary Man

On the very first night just after eating our first meal at the house we were all told to go to bed, so we did. The lads and I were just going to sleep when one of my friends pointed to the window, this was at three o'clock in the morning, so I was just expecting a light or something. I looked out the window but didn't see anything. Then my friend suddenly starts crying and wakes up all the boys in the room. He said, "there is a man outside looking in at us", so everyone in the room gets out of bed to look out of the window. After my friend, whose name I won't say, calmed down we all started laughing. He asked, "why are ye laughing there is a man outside looking in at us while we are asleep?". We all turned around and said, "it was a COW and you just woke up all of us to look at a cow in the night", so as you can probably tell we weren't impressed, but it is a funny memory.





# Globetrotters

## UN DOS TRES! ESPANA! By Conor Lavan

From the 15-oct-2019 for one week some Spanish students travelled to Spain (back when travelling overseas wasn't an alien concept) and we lived the Spanish lifestyle; everything from the language to the traditional breakfast. The trip was meant to improve your Spanish, but it did more than that! We had great fun as a group, and we made excellent friends. Some of the most memorable experiences were getting a tour of Granada on a bus, being handcuffed while in an escape room and going on a massive shopping spree in Sierra Nevada...

-We arrived really late at night on the first day and got a bus from the airport. When we got to the school all the families were waiting for us and they all seemed really nice. We all went home with our exchange families.

-On the second day I had a traditional Spanish breakfast for the first time, it was different but nice (Toast with sour butter and jamón) When all the Irish met up we got given a tour of the school and got introduced to the classes of our exchange partners, later that day we went to a massive shopping centre called Sierra Nevada we all bought a load of sweets (and breadsticks).

-On day 3 we all arrived at the school just before 8 and we hopped on a bus and went to the Alhambra, it was so enormous we were going around it for 4 hours. In the evening we all met in a local park and relaxed while enjoying Spanish sweets.

- On the fourth day we got a train around Granada and ended up at the Alhambra again but for a different tour, from there we walked into town and we all got pizza with all the exchanges and teachers. Then we went down this dark hall and did an escape room. After the team I was in won, Ms. Rock brought us to a really nice place that did those trendy ice-cream rolls to celebrate. After we got home, we went to the same local park. Later that night I went for a tapas night in the school with my exchange family.

-On the fifth day, Saturday, my exchange family and I went for breakfast to a place with churros and then to a zip line park with some of the other exchanges. The zip lines were really great and then we all had a picnic with some of the other Irish people.

- On Sunday I tried my first Spanish mass - it was an experience. After eating out with the family again we all met up in a different shopping centre and the family brought me up to the top of Granada to see it at night.

-We all had a great last day. We went to a royal chapel and ate churros and visited a load of shops.

It was a great experience, and I would strongly recommend it to anyone and thanks to Ms. D. Ryan, and Ms. Rock for organising the trip and to Mr O'Neill for also coming with us.

## Connacht by Emily Bennis

My favorite memory from 1st year was definitely going to Connemara with my friends and doing all the activities together. It was a great learning experience and I made some of the best memories I have ever had and will never forget. On the first day of the trip we got on the bus in the morning drove up to Galway and we went to the hostel to put our bags in the rooms, get put into our groups and then got changed to go on an adventure walk. On the second and third days we did water activities such as kayaking and surfing in Achill Island. Dinner time was entertaining because there was always something going on and people being rushed because we were going to be late for bed. My favorite part of the whole trip would be when we went to Achill and were brought on a walk along the beach and around some of the village. I really enjoyed the trip and can't wait for Killary in TY.

## Me llamo Lucy, como estas? Lucy Neville

On the 15th of October 2019, a group of kids from 2nd and 3rd year went to Granada, Spain for a week-long exchange trip. The teachers that came with us were Ms. D. Ryan, Ms. Rock and Mr. O. Neill. We arrived at Granada airport at around half 12 midnight and then we got a bus from there to the school to be collected by our exchanges and their families. It was quite late when we got back to their houses, so we just went straight to bed.

First, let me tell you a bit about my exchange. Her name is Maria Pardo Martinez, and she is 15 years old. She lives with her mom and her 2 grandparents in a house in Granada. She plays the xylophone and the keyboard, she does martial arts and she is amazing at drawing and painting. She also really enjoys 70s, 80s and 90s music and her favorite artists are Michael Jackson, INXS, Queen and Nirvana.

On the day after we arrived, we went to school with our exchanges. Now I thought that, even though we went to Spain in October, it still might be slightly warmer than a good Irish summer but boy was I wrong. I vividly remember walking to school that first morning and nearly freezing to death! School over there also starts a lot earlier than school here does. Their school starts at around 8am, so I was up at like 6 in the morning because we had to get up, get dressed, eat and then walk about 30 minutes to get to school. On the first day of the trip, we were going to get a tour of the school and then stay with our exchanges and go to all of their classes with them for the rest of the day. Their school was massive! It was a Montessori, a primary school, a secondary school and a college all rolled into one! There was a recording and filming studio and everything! That day I went to Marias CSPE, English and math's class with her. It was a bit hard to understand everything though because the Spanish speak really fast so I could barely understand a word they were saying! After school me and Maria met up with the rest of the students at a massive shopping center called the Nevada Shopping Centre. It's safe to say that the views you got of the Sierra Nevada Mountains from the shopping center were like nothing I have ever seen before!

On the third day of the trip all of us were up bright and early to go to the Alhambra. The Alhambra is situated on the outskirts of the city and was once home to royals. We walked around the Alhambra for another few hours talking, eating and taking pictures until we got back to school. After school we just went home with our exchanges and relaxed for the rest of the day.

On day 4 of the trip we went back to the Alhambra to get on a sightseeing train/bus thing. It took us all around the city and showed us a lot of cool things. We also got headphones so that we could listen to a man talk about all the places we were passing. After that we all went and did an escape room! I love escape rooms so I found it really fun. I was on Ms. Rocks team and we won (obviously). Because we won and were first done, she took us to get these cool ice cream/frozen yoghurt things. They were really nice! Once we were all back at the school, all of the kids went to a nice little park and we just relaxed and played games for a while until it was time to go home.

The fifth day of the trip was a Saturday which meant that we had the weekend free to do whatever we wanted with our families. For the weekend, Maria and I went to stay with her dad who lives on the outskirts of the city. That day we went to a fair in Granada. We saw lots of animals, food and some stalls that were selling old records and CDs. After the fair the three of

us went to the shopping center to get some McDonalds. When we went back to his house after that, we relaxed for a while until his girlfriend came and then we all went out at around 9 o'clock to go and get some tapas and to just walk around the city at night. I have to say the city was very very beautiful at night! I really enjoyed eating the tapas and trying some new food as well!

On Sunday, I, Maria and her dad all went to the supermarket to get some food and then we just walked around the shopping center a bit more until we went home later on in the day. When we got back to his house we just relaxed and watched TV until dinner. They were watching the Simpsons in Spanish though which sounded really odd! After dinner we just relaxed until we had to go back home to Maria's mother and grandparents!

On the 6th and second last day of the trip we all met up at the school in the morning and then started walking to the Royal Chapel of Granada and the Cathedral of Granada. When we got there we got an audio tour of the chapel and the cathedral. I'm not usually a fan of going to look at chapels and cathedrals but they were the most beautiful things I have ever seen! It was absolutely beautiful! We went in and saw the amazing interior and then we saw the resting place of King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella I. That was really cool to look at. After we were done with the tour, we went out and saw these really cool mimes. We all took pictures with them and there was one that was dressed up as a grim reaper type thing. He was quite scary because every time you went near him, he kept jumping towards you! Then we kept walking towards the square in the center of Granada to just have some free time to walk around, get some food and browse in the shops. Me and Fiona ended up going to a restaurant and getting some churros and what's really funny is that, before I left for the trip everyone told me that I had to try the churros and if I didn't try the churros I was missing out and so we went and got churros to give them a try. When we got the churros they looked amazing! They are like these big, long donut things that came with a cup of warm melted chocolate. You would think that they would taste as good as they look, but no. I was very disappointed. I don't know what I didn't like about them, but I didn't think that they were great. I know it's an unpopular opinion, but I really think that churros are overhyped.

Anyways, churro rant over, when everyone got back together, we all walked back to school and then me and Maria walked home together. On the last day of the trip, for the last time, Maria and I walked to school to meet everyone. When we got there, we went to one of two classes with our exchanges and then we all met up in the canteen for a goodbye lunch with everyone. It was a lovely lunch! When we were done eating, we all got a big picture printed of all of us that was taken at the Alhambra a few days earlier for everyone to sign and write goodbye notes on. I thought it was the cutest thing and I'm glad I still have mine. After lunch was over it was time to say goodbye. We all walked out to the bus together and took a big group picture outside - there was a lot of tears involved. We eventually got on the bus and were headed for the airport. All of us got Burger King at the airport and then hopped on the plane home! It really was an amazing experience and I enjoyed it so much! Our exchanges were meant to come over in March of last year, so it has been about a year and a half since we have seen them last. I really hope that at some point in the future they will be able to come here.

# Master Cooks

## How to make Monster Swiss roll cake by Roisin O'Gorman

### Ingredients

Sponge Cake  
6 eggs  
1 Box of Betty Crocker chocolate fudge cake mix  
½ cup water  
¼ cup vegetable oil  
½ cup powdered sugar

### Filling

1 jar (7 oz.) Kraft Jet Puffed marshmallow crème  
¾ cup butter, softened  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 ½ cups powdered sugar

### Glaze

1 cup dark chocolate chips  
¾ cup heavy whipping cream

### Steps

Heat oven to 375°F. Line bottoms only of two 15x10x1-inch pans with cooking parchment paper. Spray parchment paper with baking spray with flour.

In a large bowl, beat eggs with an electric mixer on high speed about 6 minutes or until thick and lemon coloured. Add cake mix, water and oil. Beat on low speed 30 seconds; scrape bowl. Beat on a medium speed for 1 minute. Pour 2 1/4 cups batter into each pan; spread evenly.

Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until the cake springs back when lightly touched in the centre.

Meanwhile, sprinkle 1/2 cup powdered sugar over two clean kitchen towels. Remove cakes from the oven. Run metal spatula around edges of pans; carefully turn one onto each kitchen towel. Peel away parchment paper. Immediately roll up the cake and towel from the narrow end. Cool cakes on rack 30 minutes with seam centred on bottom of cake.

In a large bowl, beat marshmallow crème, softened butter and vanilla with an electric mixer on medium speed until smooth, scraping bowl occasionally. On low speed, beat in 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar until smooth and creamy.

Carefully unroll cakes. Allow the narrow end to remain slightly curled. Drop 1 cup of the filling by spoonful over each cake, and spread evenly to within 1/2 inch of edges. Reroll filled cakes, using a kitchen towel to help roll up the cake. Wrap in plastic wrap, making sure the seam is centred on the bottom. Place both wrapped cakes on a cookie sheet; refrigerate 30 minutes.

In a small microwavable bowl, microwave chocolate chips and whipping cream uncovered on High 40 to 60 seconds; stir. Continue to microwave in 10-second increments until chips can be stirred smooth. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes or until slightly thickened and still pourable. Place cakes on a cooling rack placed over waxed paper. Pour chocolate mixture over each cake to cover. Return cakes to the refrigerator about 30 minutes or until chocolate is set. Store loosely covered in the refrigerator.

Also, you can add any marshmallows and jelly teeth to make the face, chocolate spread and chocolate fingers for the fur!!



## A taste of India! By Erika Cummins

My favourite food is chicken curry and brown rice. I like this meal because it tastes really nice and fills me up when I am hungry. I love this meal so much I decided to make it for my home economics Junior Cert practical, which was unfortunately cancelled. I always make my own curry from scratch because I don't like buying pre-made stuff because it's disgusting.

This is my recipe to making curry:

2 chicken fillets  
3 cloves of garlic  
1 medium sized onion  
2 tablespoons of chopped coriander  
1 teaspoon of tomato puree  
2 tbsps of mild curry powder  
1 rounded dessert spoon flour  
½ teaspoon of turmeric  
½ teaspoon of ground cumin  
Pinch crushed chilli powder  
500ml boiling hot chicken stock  
Salt & pepper to season  
1 red pepper  
2 tablespoons of chopped coriander  
100g wholegrain rice

Cut up chicken fillet into bite sized pieces  
Dice the onion and crush the garlic cloves  
Wash red pepper and mushroom and cut up  
Preheat a medium saucepan to a medium heat and add to it a little oil.

Sizzle test with a little piece of onion  
Add in the sliced chicken and cook for a couple of minutes until it is sealed all over. At this stage season lightly with a little salt and pepper. Next add in the sliced onions, diced garlic and peppers and mushrooms and allow them to cook quite gently until they are softened. This stage should take about 4-5 minutes.

Next add in the tomato puree and allow this to coat the meat.

Boil the kettle for the chicken stock and make the stock

Next add in the curry powder together with the flour, turmeric, cumin, ginger & chilli powder and allow them to coat all of the contents of the pot and to dry up any juices.

The chicken stock can go in now and allow this mixture to come to the boil.

Reduce the heat & allow the curry to cook gently on a low to medium heat for 30 minutes.

Boil the kettle for the rice. Wash the rice in a colander.

Place boiling water in a saucepan and allow it to come to the boil. Add in the rice and reduce the temperature to a medium heat. Allow to cook for 10 mins until soft and fluffy

Drain the rice once cooked and serve on a plate. Sprinkle with chopped coriander into the curry & Serve the curry steaming hot over the rice.

Add some coriander to garnish the dish, and enjoy!

## Easy Queen cakes recipe for the whole family to do by Ella O'Brien

So over lockdown I was babysitting my cousins and was finding different ways to keep them entertained, the one they loved the most was baking so I thought I'd share an easy recipe for everyone to do. What you need:

125g self raising flour  
125g butter or margarine (room temperature)  
125g caster sugar  
2 eggs (room temperature)  
Few drops of vanilla essence  
To decorate:  
125g butter (room temperature)  
225g icing sugar (sieved)  
Few drops of vanilla essence  
Some food colouring  
Sweets (optional)



### How to:

Preheat the oven to 180

degrees, line cupcake tin with baking cases.

Beat the butter/margarine and sugar together until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in the eggs and the vanilla essence. If the mixture starts to curdle, add a little of the flour.

Gently stir in the remaining flour with a spoon. Place a spoonful of the mixture into the baking cases and bake for 15-20 minutes until firm to the touch.

Remove from the oven and leave to cool on a wire tray.

Make buttercream by beating the butter, icing sugar and vanilla essence together until smooth and creamy.

Divide the icing into separate bowls for each colour you want to use, gradually add the colouring, mixing well until the colour you want is achieved.

Pipe or swirl icing onto each cupcake, top with sweets if you like, then! Bon appétit.

## Let's be decadent! My banana bread recipe, by Denise Quinn

### Ingredients:

Two cups all-purpose flour  
One teaspoon baking soda  
¼ teaspoon of salt  
½ cup butter  
¾ cup brown sugar  
Two eggs beaten  
2 ½ cups mashed overripe bananas

### Method:

Preheat the oven to 180°C, make sure your oven is at this temperature or else the bread will not cook correctly. Lightly grease your pan, you can use a piece of baking paper to spread the butter on the pan.

In a large bowl combine flour, baking soda and salt, set that aside and in a separate bowl put your brown sugar and butter and use a whisk cream together.

Once the brown sugar and butter is mixed (it should be a soft sugary mixture) beat the eggs and mash the banana then add them to the brown sugar and butter mixture.

Add the brown sugar mixture into the flour, baking soda and salt we put aside and stir it together.

Once it is all mixed up, pour batter into the already prepared and greased loaf pan.

Bake the batter in the preheated oven for 60-65 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean.

Let the loaf cool in the pan for ten minutes, then carefully take out and place on a cooling rack. I really liked making this banana bread, my whole family loves it and it's easy to make!

# If we were JP McManus



You will never abandon me ... Will you? Tyler McNamara

If I were JP McManus, I would buy all the vaccines and give them out to Ireland and secure enough Covid 19 vaccines and ship them to Salesian Secondary College. I would get vaccines for the teachers and students so that school life could return to normal!!



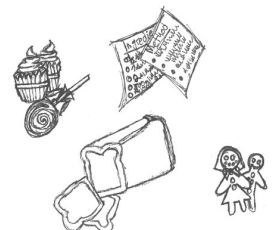
If horses don't work.. Poker? Lucie Aherne

## TOP ANSWERS:

- ⇒ help people in need like homeless or donate to countries that need help
- ⇒ be looking for a way to spend my money, either it be for myself, others or donating. I would have to travel the world first... oh yes, I would love to do that!
- ⇒ give my money to my family
- ⇒ give money to my local sports clubs and community to upgrade facilities
- ⇒ adopt a bunch of cats and donate money to charity
- ⇒ put a lot of my money into upgrading the Patrickswell hurling field
- ⇒ buy all the vaccines and give them out to Ireland and secure enough Covid 19 vaccines and ship them to Salesians Secondary School. I would get vaccines for the teachers and students so that school life could return to normal!!

## AND THEN..

- ⇒ keep investing my money into properties and small businesses with a lot of potential
- ⇒ try to win Cheltenham
- ⇒ get a new phone anyway, I'd have to think about the rest
- ⇒ have the best wardrobe ever and I would always be on holidays
- ⇒ put LOTS of money into cryptocurrency, like Bitcoin. Donate to charity. Build a sports centre with a pool, football pitch, gym and a race track beside my house. Then I would pay to have the World Cup and the next Olympics held in Ireland
- ⇒ try to find out who I am
- ⇒ go on a huge holiday with my whole family when Covid is over to celebrate life being back to normal, spend loads and loads of money on shopping and give some to charity / the homeless
- ⇒ have a big farm
- ⇒ sell the manor and retire to a big house in Tahiti so I could go surfing
- ⇒ buy everything I want because I HAVE GOT MONEY!
- ⇒ pack it all up and move to Portugal
- ⇒ buy a big house in the west coast of America and buy a Rolls Royce and watches like Rolex, Patek, Philippe or Audemars, Piquet and just enjoy life
- ⇒ buy a little island and make it into a Republic so I could be the ruler of my own little country
- ⇒ buy Newcastle United FC
- ⇒ buy better race horses
- ⇒ start a football club
- ⇒ buy all the land around me, upgrade all of my machinery and buy a pedigree herd of Charolais cattle
- ⇒ buy a private resort
- ⇒ make Limerick more environmentally friendly
- ⇒ sell the Adare manor and buy a few holiday homes in different parts of the world
- ⇒ travel the world.



# Tales

## 5 Dollar Island by Jackson Tanzer

Ben woke with a fright. He looked at his alarm clock and realized he had slept in late for his shift at Bernie and Ernie's bait shop. He rushed out of bed panicked. He was never normally late for his summer job. Ben is very average for an 18 year old. He gets B's in school for almost all of his subjects, plays soccer for his high school, he has a close small group of friends, and is pretty normal. He has brown hair, green eyes, pretty in shape and tanned, and is a pretty fun and hardworking guy. He gets in his car and drives to the bait shop. As he is driving he seems to be hitting every red light and there is a lot of traffic. Luckily, the bait shop is only a five minute drive from his house.

He rushes into the bait shop and goes straight to his manager. "Hey, Rob I'm so sorry, my alarm didn't go off and I slept in really late."

"It's alright, we don't get much business on a Monday morning anyway," Rob said. "But hey since you're here, why don't you go and clean out the Ol' Chum Buckets."

"Aw come on man can't you leave that for the new guy? I just got my nails done yesterday, I'd hate to ruin them."

Rob chuckled, "Then it seems you've picked the wrong place to work my friend."

"I guess I'll have to go and work for the mini mart across from here instead."

Rob laughs, "Now stop joking and do your job for god's sake."

Rob starts cleaning out the buckets and as he is, he spots the new guy.

"Hey Elliot, you want to help me clean out these buckets of fish guts?"

"Did you know that the practice Chumming is illegal in Alabama?"

"Uh no, I did not know that. So are you gonna help me or not."

"Negative"

"Fine, now go work the register, we need to have someone there in case someone walks in."

"Affirmative"

Ben sighs, he is relieved that Elliot is gone. Elliot started working there 3 days ago and no one likes him because of his random facts and weird phrases and sayings. Everyone including Ben finds him irritating and incredibly annoying. When Ben is finished cleaning the chum buckets, he pulls out his phone and surfs the internet. He stumbles upon a page that sells private islands. He is intrigued and opens the page. I wish I could own my own private island, Ben thinks to himself. He sets the filter to islands close to his location, and the cheapest ones. He stumbles across an island for only 5 dollars. He is surprised and assumes it is a scam, but out of curiosity he messages the owner anyways asking if the island is available and if it really is five dollars. He gets a response immediately and they say that is still available and if he was interested, they could discuss the details of the island at a nearby coffee shop. Ben is suspicious, but agrees on this meeting as he really wants a private island. They arrange the following morning at 9 to discuss the details of the island.

The seller said not to bring anybody and said it would only complicate things. Ben agrees and their meeting is set. Ben finishes his shift at 6, finishes his dinner and goes to bed early as he is excited and curious about the meeting tomorrow. Before he goes to bed he sends a group text to his other 3 friends about everything that just happened. None of them believe him, and says he is probably going to get scammed or they are wasting his time.

He wakes up the next morning once again soaked in sweat. He had the same nightmare as the night before. Although, this time he can remember a dark twisted creature. He remembers this creature is pitch black and has multiple limbs and looks disfigured. He felt an immense amount of fear when near the creature, as if it irradiated fear from his body. The only part of the creature that you could clearly see was its crooked bright white smile, and its jagged teeth. He remembers the creature spoke to him, and said "You can't stop what's coming. I've hungered for so long."

He gets out of bed and gets dressed to meet the seller of the island. He brings a pocket knife as defence, just in case of an emergency, and drives to the coffee shop to meet the seller. It is a short drive, about 10 minutes or so to the coffee shop. When he arrives everything seems normal, the coffee shop is a legitimate chain business called Beans and Beats. He heads inside and greets the seller. The seller is wearing an old trench coat, a fedora, and prescription glasses. He appears to be around his late 80's but is surprisingly in shape for his age.

"Hello, my name is Ben, I was interested in your offer on the island."

"Hello Ben, my name is Edward, have a seat"

"So Edward, is your offer legitimate? Where is this island?"

"Yes my offer is legitimate, and the island is just off the coast of the Playa

Miramar beach, about fifteen minutes away from where we are now."

"Great, would it be possible for you to show me a photo of the island? Just so that I know that it is legitimate?"

"Of course," Edward said, pulling out his phone. "Here's an aerial view of the island, and a photo of the island from the beach."

"I've seen that island before, La isla de los antiguos?"

"That's the one, as proof that I own the island, you can look up the island's owner."

Ben takes his phone out and searches the island on the internet, sure enough the owner of the island is Edward Martinez, a well known Mexican multimillionaire. His photo matches the person he met with.

"I am very suspicious about your offering," Ben said. "Is it a typo? Why is the island only five dollars?"

"It is good you are suspicious, it is not everyday someone sells an island over millions of dollars for five dollars," Edward said. "But yes, my offer is legitimate."

"You even admit it yourself, it's worth millions of dollars. Why would you sell an island worth millions for only five dollars?"

"You see," Edward said. "It is not about the money. My wife passed away recently, and the island was her favorite place in the world. Seeing the island makes me feel so much dread and pain since her passing, and I would love to give the island off to someone who loves it as much as she did."

"I'm very sorry for your loss."

"Yes, but anyways about the island. You seem quite young and excited about the island, you remind me of my wife. I do not currently have the paperwork, but I will prepare a contract for the island. This contract will state that this island will be in your possession, and I will pay off the taxes on the island for the next 50 years."

"Wow that is awfully generous of you, thank you."

"Of course, just please do one thing for me."

"What do you need?"

"Just promise me you will never sell the island, it means the world to me. I would much rather it be in your possession than anyone else's."

"Of course, I promise."

Edward smiled, the smile was bright white and his teeth were unusually sharp. His smile looked awfully familiar to Ben, but he couldn't quite place where he had seen that smile before. Edward asked Ben to meet him at the island the next morning to finalize the purchase, and Ben asked if he could bring anyone to the island, to explore it. "Of course you can, the more the merrier." Those words floated in Ben's mind that night, along with that smile. Where has he seen that smile before?

That night, Ben sends a group text to his three friends asking if they want to see the island with him. They all agree saying, "Wherever you go, I'll be there". It was a cringy saying they made up in the third grade. Ben thought about how he would get to the island. Both he and his parents do not own a boat, and all the boats for rent will surely be rented out on a Saturday. Ben remembers his uncle has a boat, and he is out of town this weekend on a business trip. He texts the group chat saying, "I've got the ride".

Ben wakes up again in a cold sweat, he had the same nightmare as the previous two nights. Once again seeing that pitch black creature with that bright smile saying the same line as it did before, "You can't stop what's coming. I've hungered for so long." He is getting worried about the nightmare, but does not have any time to worry about it. He gets ready to leave and meets his friends at their rendezvous point.

To be continued ...





# Would you believe?

## The Joseph Levin's Case by Eóin Harrison

"Yeah, I walked past him that day. I recognized his face, I'd seen him around. He was out on a step ladder, painting his veranda or something. Seemed like a normal guy to me. I nodded to him and he nodded back, with a smile actually. A pretty average encounter."

That was an extract from an interview conducted by a reporter for The Guardian. The interviewee in question is supposedly a woman by the name of Alicia Roberts.

Alicia lives (or perhaps, now, lived) in Great Wakering, a coastal village in Southend, Essex. She stated that she often went on long walks around the area, enjoying the sea air and some well deserved time to herself, after "busy days with the family, and getting back to school and all that". On the 2nd of September 2018, she went for one of these walks. It was roughly 7:30 when she passed St Nicholas Church and turned right, down into Shoebury Road. Shoebury Road is a long, wide line towards the sea, populated by a wall of houses on either side. It acts as the connection between the upper High Street, and the lower Poynters Lane, with another connecting road parallel to it. Altogether they create a sort of rectangle in the landscape, and this is the loop that Alicia walked that day. It's a nice enough place on it's own, but on that evening it was one of those almost annual days where you could even call it beautiful; basking in a yellow glow and that late summer heat. "It was busy, [and there were] a lot of people trying to make the most of the sun", says Alicia. "Tons of people must've seen him". Alicia says she made her way down the left side of the street, facing south. A typical walk by all means. She was home by 8.

Joseph Levins is a man in his late forties. He is a father of three, been married since 2004. He works at an insurance firm in Hadleigh, not far from his home in Great Wakering, and goes on a 30 minute commute to work every morning, weekdays. On the weekends he's known to enjoy long walks on the beach, no matter the weather, or just staying at home and relaxing with a newspaper, coffee and music. One weekend his wife and kids travel to visit their grandparents, planning to be back Monday afternoon. Joseph didn't go because of work, so he decided to spend his week-end adding a long needed touch of paint to the front porch. Joseph doesn't have much left to do by Sunday, after some good work the day previous, and is very close to finishing by 7:30. It is now around 7:50, and Joseph has finished packing up his equipment, and is heading inside. He is seen doing this by his neighbour Phillipe, as she sits by an open window with the tv on, blowing out cigarette smoke as she holds back a cough.

At 1:20 in the afternoon on the 3rd of September 2018 an elderly couple left their home in Ullapool, Scotland to go for their daily walk by the Ullapool river, undismayed by the grey weather. They reached the path opposite the Old Moss Road, the one that leads off from the A835 towards the river. It was roughly 2:00pm (although witnesses claim to have seen them at the paths edge almost 20 minutes prior). The couple stated that they then walked for a further 10 minutes, following the trail at a slow pace due to their age. They had taken this walk many times, and were apparently very familiar with the surroundings. So when they eventually came across a strange, mangled patch of the fencing on their left, they were curious. They had a closer look, and before they could assume that it was just some local animal vandalising yet another artificial intrusion, they found a small ripped piece of grey fabric on the ground. It looked to be a torn off piece of grey jeans. The couple were now beyond curious, and seeming as the fence was already broken into a state that was crossable, they decided to have a quick look around. Not more than 20 feet from the fence, they found resting in the grass beneath the low dangling branches of the trees, a body.

The couple called the emergency services almost immediately. The woman who answered said the couple were slow to get any information across due to "being in a complete panic", and after minutes of unproductive explaining, the police and ambulance services were dispatched. Arriving shortly afterwards, at around 2:25, the body was examined, the area taped off and the couple taken in for questioning. Later the couple would say that they never touched the body, that they just knew he was dead just by looking at him, and this was all but confirmed by the "complete lack of any outside fingerprints." The couple were sent home by 4 that afternoon, their innocence in the affair seemingly apparent. Miranda Levins and her three children have just arrived at their home on Shoebury Road at 5:20pm on the 3rd of September. Their trip to visit Miranda's parents had gone well, and as she parked her car on this dull grey afternoon, she noticed that her husband Joseph's plan to paint the porch had gone well also. It hadn't looked this good since 2009. She has arrived a bit later than expected after two toilet stops and bad traffic, and is in need of paracetamol for a bad headache she developed slowly over the long drive, which isn't helped by a brief argument that takes place after the kids wake up in the back seat to find that Miranda hadn't stopped for takeaway like she said she would. The family get out of the car, their mood worsened, and grab their suitcases and bags from the boot. Miranda opens the door after inspecting the new paint on the porch, and the family go inside, silently surprised that Joseph didn't greet them at the door. Miranda calls out her husband's name, but gets no response. She puts her bags down and makes her way to the kitchen as the kids rush off to

their rooms. She is thinking that Joseph has been stuck in traffic on his way home from work, as she turns on the radio and gets out her phone. His usual arrival at home is 4:30. There are no messages or voicemails from Joseph on her phone, so she puts it away and picks up the landline to call him. She isn't even slightly worried until he doesn't pick up.

Miranda then begins to walk upstairs, calling to her kids if they've seen any sign of Dad. They call back no. Miranda gets to the top of stairs and notices for the first time how cold it is inside. She walks down the upstairs hall and into her and Joseph's bedroom, where she feels a sudden pit in her stomach as she takes in the sight of the window beside her bed swung wide open, and the red curtains bunched on the floor. After checking if her children had done this to the room because of the distinct lack of takeaway, and eventually finding herself satisfied that they hadn't, Miranda does a quick check of the entire house, garden and shed for any intruders or signs of intruders. There are none. It is now 5:30pm and Miranda calls Joseph's work, and is told that he neither showed up that morning, or called in sick. By 5:45pm Miranda is calling the police.



Shoebury Rd. and surrounding area, taken from Google Maps

By 9:00pm on the 3rd of September 2018, the body of the man found by the Ullapool river was identified to be Joseph Levins. The authorities were of course a little surprised to find that the man was so far from home for no clear reason. Joseph's wife was called soon afterwards, and a flight to Scotland was quickly arranged. Miranda most likely explained over the phone to the authorities how it made little sense that her husband would be in Scotland, and how they had a stable marriage, and that he would have told her about a trip like that, how he was just a regular person. But now there was slight doubt of that last point in her head.

Miranda wouldn't arrive in Scotland until late the next day, and in that time the case became rapidly stranger. Soon after the body was identified, the cause of death was as well. Levins had died of multiple organ failure amid internal bleeding. He was littered in minor scratches, and his clothes (a pair of grey jeans and a black t-shirt) were ripped slightly. It didn't seem like he was in a struggle, but there was severe bruising to the entirety of the back of his body. The coroner report stated that "it was as if he was dropped from a large height onto his backside", but that didn't explain organ failure. A post mortem was decided to be necessary. The time of death was estimated to be roughly 10:55pm on the 2nd of September. This was, for the moment, unremarkable.

On the morning of the 4th of September, information on Joseph's death was released to the public along with a plea for anyone with information to come forward. The death was barely reported in mainstream media, due to other headlines over shadowing, and the fact that no one was even sure if there was foul play yet. But in Essex, and especially Southend, it was talked about. Very much so. Soon a flood of information started to come into local Essex authorities, who then notified the Scottish authorities of the updates.

They were understandably left baffled by the information.

It appeared that upwards of 20 people were claiming to have seen Joseph Levins alive at his home as late as 7:40pm on the 2nd of September, three hours and fifteen minutes before he would be lying dead in Scotland.

When Miranda Levins finally arrived in a Scottish airport sometime in the evening of the 4th of September (the details of her arrival are not well reported) she was almost immediately brought in for questioning by the Scottish authorities. .... (next page)

# Would you believe?

(...) The Joseph Levin's Case by Eoin Harrison

After explaining in detail what she had done in the last 4 days, and what she had known her husband to be doing, she was given a full overview of the current situation. There were currently 4 working theories as to how her husband had died (and if my sources are as reliable, then this was legitimately what she was told by authorities).

No. 1, was that her husband had travelled to Scotland soon after 8:00pm in a private plane or jet (as no regular flights were scheduled for any times that would add up with the current timeline of events) where he had landed at Inverness airport, travelled 47.7 miles to Ullapool and suffered some kind of organ failure, due to an unknown illness or possible exposure to poison, either at Ullapool or on the way, where his body was eventually dumped by the river after experiencing some kind of large fall.

No. 2, was that Joseph had an unknown identical twin brother who happened to fall from a large height at the same time as suffering from largescale organ failure close by to the river, where he collapsed and died, and this happened to coincide with either the running away, murder or kidnapping of Joseph after 8:00pm on Sunday.

No. 3, was that all twenty of the eyewitnesses who reported seeing Joseph between 7-8pm on the 2nd of September were lying, and Joseph had actually gone to Scotland via some form of public transport and along the way he suffered organ failure due to an unknown illness or poison, which resulted in a large fall which then resulted in his death.

No. 4, an unknown party had orchestrated the entire situation (and murder) in order to make some kind of attention seeking case for authorities, etc.

All of these theories were of course completely baseless, interchangeable and stupid. They were drawn up hastily in an effort to "try and give a solution to a victim in crisis" (a quote from a public apology given by the DCI in Ullapool). Theory No. 1 was almost immediately dismissed after it was found that no private jets or planes had been in either of the countries' airspaces at the right location for it to be Joseph's trip. This also partially ruled out theory No. 4 as well, as there was now no way that Joseph could have been transported to the location of his death within 24 hours, if the eyewitnesses were to be believed.

There were some other ideas that maybe the couple who came across the body in the first place were involved somehow, but that quickly led nowhere. The idea they were sticking with throughout the initial days of the investigation was that Joseph Levins had left his home on the Saturday of that weekend. There were flights nearby that went to Inverness, so it wouldn't be impossible for him to have been there, and then suffered an accident. As previously stated, this was in direct contradiction of the multiple eyewitnesses however. It also didn't help that Miranda Levins could offer no explanation of why he would go there, and she openly denied the idea, claiming it to be something he'd never do. The investigation was more or less leadless.

search was done of the Levins' house on the 6th of September, after a few days of complications between the legality of which police force could investigate which crime scene. Eventually the English authorities searched the house. The Levins' children were staying with Miranda's sister in Croydon, so the house had been empty since the 4th. Upon arriving the officers found that the window in the married couple's bedroom was wide open again, but there were no other signs of intrusion, and nothing appeared to have been stolen. It was noted in an officer's report that the porch looked particularly nice since its new paint job. Miranda was questioned afterwards if she had actually closed the window the first time she arrived there after her trip to her parents. She said she did, but considered it possible that she didn't. This wasn't particularly helpful. Two officers were sent to watch the house for a day to see if anyone came back. No one did. By the 7th of September there had been no leads found, and no new information from the public. Miranda was still in Scotland, staying at a local hotel and planning funeral arrangements when her phone rang. It was the police. Something big had come up.

On the evening of the 7th a representative of Google LLC got in contact with the local authorities in Ullapool. He was representing the Google Street View provision. His conversation with the officer was recorded as per protocol, and eventually leaked to the public:

*Officer Curtis: Hello, this is Ullapool Police Station, this is Officer Micheal Curtis speaking, how can I help?*

*Google representative: Yeah, hi this is Brian Garcia speaking. I'm a representative of Google LLC, specifically the Google Street View division, and I'm here to report information that we have in connection with the, uh, Joseph Levins case, which I believe was reported on recently?*

*Officer Curtis: Wow, yeah that's uh, uhm... name and phone number please?*

*Google representative: My name is Brian Garcia, but I'm just a representative... I mean do you want the company's phone number or...?*

*Officer Curtis: No, yeah, I think that'd do, but uh...actually hold on, let me check.*

*Google representative: Okay.*

*Officer Curtis: ...*

*Google representative: ....*

*Officer Curtis: No yes, sorry that'll-that'll do we just need some proof of, uh, identification as well, sorry.*

*Google representative: Yeah, of course, I'll send you my details.*

*Officer Curtis: Thanks.*

*Google representative: So about the information?*

*Officer Curtis: Yes, right.*

*Google representative: Yeah, well, one of our Street View drivers was getting images of the area around Great Wakering for the Street View function on our Google Maps application, on the uh...2nd of September, and she came to us yesterday with what she believes to be images- or well, what we believe to be images of Joseph, uh, Levins, alive at 7...36pm....on the 2nd.*

*Officer Curtis: ....Really?*

*Google representative: Yes.*

*Officer Curtis: Jesus.*

Google provided all the images it had taken of the surrounding area that day. The driver who realised she might have had images of the victim, was called Jolie Robinson. She came to this realisation on the 6th of September, after she first heard the news of Joseph's unexplainable death briefly mentioned on a local radio station. She had apparently stopped what she was doing immediately and reported this to her higher ups, who claim to have had staff sift through the images of Shobury road as soon as possible. Why the information took a whole day to finally arrive at the ears of a Police Officer is unknown, but Jolie was right. There were images of Joseph taken at 7:36pm on the 2nd of September. This now made it impossible for Joseph to have realistically been in Ullapool only 4 hours later, and proved that the eyewitnesses were speaking the truth. This ruled out theory No. 4 and made the impossibility of theories No. 1 and 3 certain. And, theory No. 2 was also scratched because the clothes that Joseph was wearing in the photo, were the same as the corpses'. There were a few whisperings of other ideas theories, one involving the claims of a few eyewitnesses across the UK who say that they saw a man travelling through the sky the night he died, floating, but nothing of any actual substance or credibility. Joseph's death was now officially considered an impossibility.

The Joseph Levins case is still under investigation today, almost 3 years after it happened. It's considered a cold case by the very few people who know of its existence. For some reason it was swept under the rug, media speaking, as it got lost in the cluttered news cycle of it's day. Perhaps if more people had known about it, some kind of answer would be found. But even a simple Google search of the man's name doesn't yield any results now. The few publications who reported on it have since removed their articles, including the Guardian's interview with Alicia Roberts, one of the few eyewitnesses who actually spoke publicly about the case, and her brief encounter with it's victim. Any information of what happened to the rest of the Levin family simply doesn't exist, no social media, no updates from the area. It's almost as if the case has been deliberately erased. As to why I can't say. But by now you're probably wondering how I managed to get all this information. You probably want to know the truth of all this: how he died, how it was possible, why there are no records, who killed him. You're probably wondering at this point if there's truth to any of this. If I had just made it up. If it's just a story. But it doesn't matter. Because at the end of the day you're going to decide what's fact and what's fiction. Based on your beliefs, your values, you'll shape what is real to you, what's within the realm of possibility, whatever agrees with your ideas of the world. Truth, actual truth, doesn't really matter at all.

But if you really want to know, then check Google street view.

## Volcano eruption by Daniel Kirrane

Mount Pinatubo Eruption In 1991:

The 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines killed hundreds, damaged thousands of homes, and had negative effects on the whole planet.

The eruption ejected more than 1 cubic mile of material into the air and created a column of ash that rose up 22 miles (35 km) in the atmosphere. Ash fell across the countryside, even piling up so much that some roofs collapsed under the weight.

The blast also spewed millions of tons of sulfur dioxide and other particles into the air, which were spread around the world by air currents and caused global temperatures to drop by about 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.5 degree Celsius) over the course of the following year.





# Sports



## Manchester United VS Norwich City 2014 by Ciaran McMahon

For my father's 40th birthday, he was surprised with tickets for a Manchester United match. I was probably happier than he was, with these tickets. It was going to be both our first time seeing Old Trafford in the flesh. It was also my cousin Cian's birthday a few days later and he was surprised with tickets to the same game so we were going to go together.

My first job before I could leave was to renew my passport. So I went to Henry Street Garda station for the paperwork. I don't remember the encounter vividly but the Garda was a United fan too and jokingly asked for a match program, but that was enough for me that was my first objective to bring him back to a match program.

We travelled from Shannon airport. We were using a rental car while over there and I can remember the exact inside of the car.. why.. it's just hard to explain. I also remember the dodgy radio in the car which was so different to what I was used to. I don't travel much it seems... We reached the hotel and it was called the Premier Inn which I thought was funny at the time because we were going to a 'Premier League' game, .. see what I mean...

We arrived late enough and were going via tram into Manchester the next day. Before we went to the city we had breakfast which I remember so clearly as the toaster was so different to any toaster I'd seen before. We then took the tram in and decided to pick up some memorabilia for my family and a couple small bits for myself. I picked up a few t-shirts for my brothers and a teddy and other small things for my mother. On the way to the match I saw this Irish flag hat with a Man United badge on it, then I picked up two match programs (one for the Garda) and we went into the stadium.

Cian and Billy were sitting a few rows away but we were all around the middle of the East stand. Wazza (Wayne Rooney) and Juan Mata both scored a brace as United beat Norwich City 4-0. It was a big game as it was the first game after David Moyes was sacked and Ryan Giggs had a player/manager role. It was a serious game to go to though as it was the start of Giggs' managerial career, as he is now the Welsh manager.

When the match was over we waited outside in the supporter's area where some of the players came out to sign jerseys and to take photos with the fans. I got the attention of Rio Ferdinand (GOAT centre back) and he signed my hat which I have lost since.. I know.. I know ...but it should ... and will .. turn up!

We hung around the city and stadium for a bit before returning to the hotel. Before we reached the airport we got something to eat and I don't know how I managed to remember this but I tried custard there for the first time, and it's not my favourite food. Anyway once we came home and were back to reality I had one last job to do.. I had promised myself to. We went into the Garda station and delivered the match program to the Garda.

Overall even though I remember the smaller things more than the bigger things like the match, it was without a doubt one of the best experiences of my life.

## My passion, please and thank you... SPORT! By Cian O'Sullivan

Hello, my name is Cian O'Sullivan and I am a very big sports fan. My favourite sport to play is soccer and Gaelic football. I find it very fun and enjoyable to play and also it is also very beneficial for my physical health. My favourite part about playing is that I am with my friends and we all have a good time but there are also times when we need to be serious and focus. An example of this would be when we are in a tournament and are in a very hard match playing another challenging team. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to play in months due to COVID-19. It has been really hard as sports have been one of my favourite things to do. Thankfully though, I am still able to watch matches from home as there are still professional teams playing. My favourite professional team would be Manchester United. So far they are doing very well in the Premier League as they are 2nd, just behind Manchester City. This has been the first year in a while where they have been title contenders and I think if they keep playing as well as they can then they have a great chance at winning.

I have gone to multiple Premier League matches and stadiums in the last couple years. I have attended 4 Manchester United matches in Old Trafford (their home stadium), 1 Everton game at Goodison Park and I have gotten a tour of Anfield which is United's rival's stadium, Liverpool. This was because it was a group journey with a team and the majority of the team supported Liverpool. Although I would have preferred a different stadium, it was still a fun experience to get a tour and to be allowed to walk beside the pitch and in the changing rooms.

My favourite game that I have attended would be the 2013 game between Manchester United and Norwich. My cousin Ciarán, his dad, my dad and I went together for my birthday. United won 4-0 but my favourite part was after the game. While walking from the carpark where we had parked the car, my dad decided to buy Ciarán and I a hat from one of the stands on the side of the road. I got a red, baseball hat with the badge and Ciarán got a beanie with the Irish colours on it and a badge. When the game was over there was a small section where fans could go to see the players walking away back to their cars. Some of the players were very nice and stopped for a few minutes to sign jerseys or anything that people wanted signed. Obviously, because there were so many people, they couldn't get every-one but I was lucky enough to get my hat signed by Rio Ferdinand and Shinji Kagawa. Ferdinand is now retired and Kagawa has moved onto a different club but that was my favourite moment from the day. It was a great experience to get to see the players up close and in person compared to at home watching them on the TV.

## Why Do More Girls quit sport than Boys do! By Amy Mullins

Why do girls tend to drop out of sport at a young age? This is a very good question that not many people know the answer to. In Ireland, new figures show half of the girls drop out of the sport before the age of 14. This is not just a problem in Ireland, but it is a problem worldwide. By the age of 14, girls are dropping out of sports at twice the rate in which boys do.

Playing a sport teaches people how to work in a team, build confidence, teaches discipline, etc. According to a 2013 study by E.Y, 96% of female executives ( the big CEO's and the like ) participated in sports as teenagers. Playing sports both reduces stress and improves overall mental health. Participating in sports can lead to higher grades and higher educational aspirations. It also improves girls social skills and self-esteem. I think with all the benefits that come with it playing sports is something all girls should be encouraged to do.

Since playing sports has many benefits, why are girls still dropping out?

From 25 years of research, the Women's Sports Foundation has presented the 6 key factors which lead to girls dropping out of sports. They are as follows;

- **Lack of Access:** Often there is a lack of access to playing facilities near their home which make it difficult for girls to participate in sports.
- **Safety and transport issues:** To play sports you need a place to participate and for some girls, if there isn't a suitable means of transport her only option may be to stay at home.
- **Social Stigma:** Playing sports that are considered as a 'boys' sport is enough to push many girls out of sports and decrease quality of experience in the sport.
- **Cost:** some families aren't able to afford to pay all the expenses that come with sports
- **Lack of positive female role models:** if

there's not anyone for young girls to look up to how can they strive for success.

What are people doing to keep girls in sports?

Nike top tips for keeping girls in sport are as follows:

- Opportunities for girls to be part of the team
- Role models are very important

Finally, to keep girls coming back and playing we need to create a sports culture that includes and celebrates women.





# Sports



## Match Report.. LIVERPOOL! By Darragh Griffin

I am doing a match report on the 2nd leg of the Champions League last 16 match between Liverpool and RB Leipzig on the 10th of March 2021. Liverpool were 2-0 up going in to this game and RB Leipzig needed to get 3 goals if they wanted to get the comeback. The first half was goalless, but both teams got a couple of chances in the first half.

At the start of the 2nd half Liverpool player Diogo Jota nearly put Liverpool ahead. Liverpool finally broke through in the 70th minute when Jota fed Mo Salah, who cut across the top of the penalty box before drilling it into the bottom corner. Four minutes later Mane made it 2-0 on the night when he met a Divock Origi cross from the right with a first-time finish.

The game ended 2-0 but it was 4-0 on aggregate.

Liverpool move onto the quarter finals of the Champions League.

Liverpool are now 8th in the premier league and if they want to get a European competition appearance they have to win the Champions League this season.

## My favourite sport by Adam Bolger

Hi my name is Adam and I'll be talking about rugby. I chose this topic because I really like to play rugby and all my family are big rugby fans. I go to watch a lot of the matches with my parents. My grandfather who died in 2015 was a massive fan of rugby. He would go to every one of the matches that his local team played (Young Munster) and go down to the pub to watch the big matches with his friends. I played with Copsewood Gaels RFC for a long time but I moved into Young Munster 3 years ago. My team's biggest tournament was the pan Munster, we had to get up very early in the morning to get to a lot of the matches. We played against some of the best teams in Munster. We won the tournament and my team played very well in all their matches and gave it their all. I am lucky enough to have travelled to a lot of the international matches played in Dublin. I also attend most of the Munster matches played in Thomond Park. The best match I ever went to was Ireland vs. Australia, there was such a big crowd there. My biggest achievement to date in rugby is when I was picked as man of the match against one of the best Welsh teams. My mam, her brothers and sisters always watch the matches that are on television. I always hear her shouting for them.

## Gaming by Oisín Hayes.

My favourite game to play in my free time is a game called Destiny 2 that came out in 2017. I got into Destiny from my cousin who lived in Tramore. The first time I played the game I was shocked with how good it looked, the flow of the gameplay and the planets you can go to. There is an endgame activity called a raid with different objectives. The very first raid ever was called Vault of Glass in 2014 where 6 members of a fireteam went in to learn the mechanics of the raid. Every new DLC had a raid to do so there was always a raid race to get worlds first. When Destiny 2 came out I got it for my birthday in 2018.

The new DLC for Destiny 2 is called beyond light with a new raid called deep stone crypt.

When it came out, 5 of my friends and I got worlds first, we were so happy we stayed up until 2am talking.

My favourite game to play in my free time is Destiny 2. I am a very focused player always willing to help others and play by myself.

## Hurling.. what else! By Conor McMahon

**Limerick Win All Ireland 2020!** The Senior Limerick Hurlers won their 2nd Liam McCarthy cup in just 3 years! After beating Galway in an intense semi final they came out on top in the final against Waterford winning with an impressive score line of 30 points to 19!

## Pallaskenry Hurling Makes History:

Pallaskenry under 17s of the year 2018/2019 made history winning all competitions across the board. Although they started off the season with an injury and a loss, they ended up pulling through and winning 6 different titles, including an all-Ireland minor school championship. They met a few tough challenges along the way facing teams such as Ard Scoil Ris, A hot favourite to win out the championship. After beating the favourites they moved up to the semi-final playing Scoil Mhuire and big college from Dublin. It was a hectic match, but Salesians came out on top winning 3-16 to 2-9. Now was the final on the 26th of August which if won would make history, all they had to do was overcome Colaiste Phadraig to win the title. While Colaiste Phadraig were in possession for the most part, 2 late goals would lead Salesian College on their way to claim the cup. It was a very successful weekend for the county of Limerick. I was on the team playing wing forward and put in a hard shift along with others from the year. Team Captain Ciaran McMahon showed great leadership and dedication to bring Pallaskenry all the way. Pallaskenry and now qualified for the Harty Cup championship but will have to wait until Covid 19 passes us. Hopefully the last few years will bring hurling to a more serious level in the Pallaskenry school.

## I am not a fan of Liverpool ... Brighton and Hove Albion by Darragh Toomey

It is fair to say that Brighton's season has been disappointing so far, they are 16th in the premier league table on 29 points just above Newcastle and just below Burnley. Although Brighton's results have looked poor overall this season, they still managed to get some great results earlier on like a 3-0 victory over Newcastle back in September. But their form took a turn since a draw with Burnley. When Brighton play they look like they could score 10 or more goals but they lack a clinical finisher to put the chances away. With only 7 goals in 26 appearances Neal Maupay is Brighton's top scorer. Followed by Lewis Dunk with only 4 goals, this is all the evidence you need to see that Brighton do not score enough. Brighton have suffered massively through the loss of Tariq Lamptey and Solly March. Both wing-backs have been such a loss to Graham Potter's side that he has had to switch to a back 4 which is restricting them on the attack. There have been a few stand out young players for Brighton this season. Robert Sanchez has impressed enough to get a call up from the Spanish national squad while Ben White should feel hard done by to miss out on being in the latest England squad with the season he has had at centre back. Yves Bissouma is also having a great season dominating the midfield with his high work rate and will to win the ball back. Brighton's most recent result was a 2-1 win against Southampton to end the increasing run of bad results. They play Newcastle in a crucial relegation battle this weekend on Saturday the 20th of March. I think another win at Newcastle would give Brighton the boost they need to finish the season on a high with a few more good results between now and the end of May.

## Match of the Year 2018 - by Conor O'Brien

Line up of Limerick

In goals - Nickie Quaid

Full back line - Sean Finn, Dan Morrissey, Barry Nash

Half back line - Diarmuid Byrnes, Declan Hannon, Kyle Hayes

Mid field - Darragh O'Donovan, William O'Donoghue

Half forward line - Gearoid Hegarty, Cian Lynch, Tom Morrissey

Full forward line - Aaron Gillane, Seamus Flanagan, Graeme Mulcahy

Match Summary

Playing into the Davin end, Aaron Gillane opened the scoring for Limerick after 2 minutes. Joe Canning opened Galway's account with a 65 after 7 minutes to make the score 3 points to 1. Canning got another point in the 15th minute to level the score at 5 points each. In the 16th minute Graeme Mulcahy scrambled the ball over the line on the ground from close range after dropping it for the opening goal to put Limerick 2-points in the lead. A Seamus Flanagan point in the last minute of the first half made the score 1-10 to 0-9 at half-time.

Four minutes into the second half Kyle Hayes got the opening score to increase the lead to 4 points. Kyle Hayes got the decision from Hawk-eye with another point a minute later to increase the lead to 6 points.

After 54 minutes Limerick got their second goal when Tom Morrissey pounced on the mistake from Gearoid Hegarty to run in on goal and finish low and powerful in to the net to put 9 points between the sides. In the 68 minute, substitute Shane Dowling got another goal for Limerick when he picked the ball up and finished with a low shot to the right of the net from the left to increase the lead to 8 points.

In the first of the 8 minutes added time Galway scored a goal when Conor Whelan shot a powerful shot to the right of the net, four minutes later Joe Canning got another goal with a powerful shot to the top left of the net from a free to put 2 points between the sides.

A minute later Naill Burke scored a point to put only one point between the sides. Graeme Mulcahy then scored a point for Limerick with a shot from the right to put 2 between them again before Joe Canning scored a 65 to again make it a one-point game. In the last minute of time added on, Galway were rewarded a free from inside their own half on the right, Joe Canning took the free which dropped short and was eventually cleared before the final whistle sounded with Limerick the winners by one point.





# Sports



## Why Serena Williams is my biggest Inspiration?

Before I get started who, who exactly is Serena Williams?

**Serena Jameka Williams** (born September 26, 1981) is an American professional tennis player and former world No. 1 in women's single tennis. She has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the most by any player in the Open Era. The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) ranked her world No. 1 in singles on eight separate occasions between 2002 and 2017. Williams is widely regarded to be one of the greatest female tennis players of all time. She holds the most Grand Slam titles in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles combined among active players.

Williams was born in Saginaw, Michigan, to Oracene Price and Richard Williams. Her father trained her and her sister (Venus Williams who is also a world renowned tennis player) in the game. When Serena Williams was nine years old, they moved to West Palm Beach, Florida. There, she went to the tennis academy of Rick Macci.

When Serena Williams was ten years old, her father made her focus on school work and stopped her from joining national tennis tournaments. She and her sister, Venus, experienced racist remarks during these tournaments, which was one reason why they stopped playing in them.

She was ranked number one among the players aged under 10 in Florida.

In 1995, Serena Williams stopped attending Rick Macci's academy and was coached by her father. In 1995, after turning 14, Serena Williams was set to make her professional debut as a wild card entry in the Bank of the West Classic in Oakland, California. She was denied because she was too young. In 1999, Serena Williams won her first professional singles title in the Open Gaz de France in Paris.

At Wimbledon 2002, she won tennis's oldest championship for the first time in her life to win a Grand Slam singles title which made Serena Williams rank No. 1 for the first time, ousting her sister. She became the third African-American woman to hold that rank. Now that is a quick insight of what her tennis career looks like but how is she an inspiring person outside from sports?

- Serena Williams was awarded Celebrity Role Model Award from Avon Foundation in 2003 for her work with breast cancer awareness.

- In 2008, Serena Williams helped finance the construction of the Serena Williams Secondary School in Matooni, Kenya.

- In 2014, Serena Williams started hosting a yearly charity run named "The Serena Williams Ultimate Fun Run" that supports the Serena Williams Fund.

- She became the first black female athlete to be on the cover of Vogue – which was for the April 2015 issue.

- In 2016, Serena Williams supported the

Black Lives Matter movement. This was the same year the Serena Williams Fund collaborated with Helping Hands Jamaica to construct the Salt Marsh Primary School for Jamaican youths in Trelawny Parish.

- The Serena Williams Foundation gives out university scholarships for indigent students in the United States.

Those are only a small insight into some of the amazing things she has done to help and inspire others. There are many more but if I was to list them all we would be here all day !!

Some more facts about her personal life....

On December 29, 2016, Serena Williams got engaged to Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian and they married in New Orleans last November 16, 2017.

On April 19, 2017, Serena Williams announced her pregnancy and gave birth to their daughter, Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr., on September 1, 2017.

Now back to the question, why is Serena Williams my biggest inspiration ?

Well the answer to that is, even when the going gets tough she always pushed through it, no matter if it was an injury, having comments being made or even having a baby and still carrying on with her career the following year! Having all this in mind reminds me that everything will be okay be it if I'm having a bad match (camogie/football) or a bad training session or even studying or doing homework. I know that I will be able to push through and keep going without giving up just like Serena.

She also inspires me not only to be resilient and optimistic but also caring about my fellow team mates and my friends. As she is always there for her family and friends and even her opponents. She is always delighted to see her opponent succeed, even if it means that she didn't win herself.

In times of defeat she reminds me that even though I might not have won, I still tried my best and I should always be happy for the opponent as they deserve it. It makes me feel better about not winning that certain time and that there will always be next time.

That is all I have to say about why Serena Williams is my biggest inspiration. I hope this might have inspired you too!

Thank You for Reading This!  
I Hope You Enjoyed  
By, Ciara Dunne

## Winning the Minor Premier Hurling Title By Bobby Smith.

My favourite memory of my first 3 years in school is actually very recent. It is when I won the minor premier hurling title with Ballybrown GAA. It started off with combined training between the U16s and the minors as our manager wanted to give us extra time for skills development. So we trained for a couple weeks until matches were allowed to be played due to Covid 19 restrictions. After training with the minors the U16s had improved greatly, we only lost one of our friendlies before the championship began. We were then asked to come to play with the minors on their friendlies and they also only lost one match. Great progress had been achieved. The minor panel had to be cut from 30 down to 25 players because of Covid 19 restrictions and I was fortunate enough to get selected. We had one more friendly against Newcastle West before the championship and we beat them also. First in the championship we played Patrickswell in Ballybrown and beat them well. We then had to play Doon in Doon and that was a really tough game as it was neck and neck for the whole game, fortunately we won and we were guaranteed a place in the semi-final. Our last game of the group was Mungret although we were through to the semi-final as someone from Ballybrown you never wanted to lose to Mungret, fortunately we beat them too. We got Doon in the semi-final like the first match. It was a very tough and physical match but we won by a point and were into the final against Mungret. This was played at the Gaelic Grounds with limited spectators, my parents got tickets but my siblings had to watch the match on TV. It was a tough match the whole way to the end and fortunately we won. We had great celebrations being welcomed back to the club by the Ballybrown supporters young and old. It was a great experience and a memory I will cherish forever. I now have a Premier Minor Championship medal.

## The Six Nations by Liam O'Hara

The Six Nations is a rugby tournament which the national teams of Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy take part in. It first started in 1883 and was known as the Home Nations Championship and only Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales took part in it at the time. France joined in 1910, making it The Five Nations. Italy joined in 2000 making it The Six Nations that we all know today. The winners of The Six Nations are presented with The Championship Trophy, It was first given to the winners of 1993 who were France. The tournament begins on the first weekend of February each year, each team plays every other team once making a total of 15 matches throughout the tournament. The team that finishes bottom of the table is said to have won the wooden spoon although no award is actually received also if a team lost all five of their matches they are said to have been whitewashed. The only teams to have avoided the wooden spoon since The Six Nations began in 2000 are Ireland and England. Italy has received the wooden spoon the most times with a total of 15 times and has been whitewashed 11 times. Since 2000 England have won 7 times, Both France and Wales have won 5 times and Ireland has won 4 times. Scotland and Italy are yet to win. A Grand Slam is when a team wins all five of their matches, Wales has the most Grand Slams with 4 followed by France with 3 and finally both England and Ireland have 2 Grand slams. A Triple Crown is contested by Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales and is awarded when one of the four teams wins all their matches against the other three, it has been won 5 times each by Ireland, England and Wales.



# Sports



## What will your next sport be? By Jules Deegan

One of the most important things in my life is sport, always was and always will be. I come from a very sporty family. My grandfather was the captain of the Munster rugby team, when he was in his prime. My aunt and her family are quite competitive in rowing. My mom is a serious runner and has competed in many marathons in Ireland and abroad. As for my dad he spent all his youth playing hurling and soccer. The rest of my family are extremely active too, enjoying other sports like surfing, paragliding and much more. They are where I get my love of sport. So far I have participated in many different types of sports which I will be sharing with you.

I started taking swimming lessons in Askeaton Pool at the age of 5. It was important that I learned to swim because I spend most of my summers by the coast. I enjoyed the lessons until I got to a new level with an awful teacher. I didn't look forward to lessons after entering the new level so after a while I quit. Now, after a few years, I'm training to be a rookie lifeguard in the Woodlands. I absolutely love it but the course is at a halt for a while due to covid restrictions. At the age of 6 I joined the Limerick Gymnastics Club. At the time the club was quite small and was run in a school hall but over the 9 years I was with them I saw the club expand. I thoroughly enjoyed gymnastics, it was exciting and new. I had never seen all the equipment and apparatuses before and was in awe of them. I couldn't wait to get started. My favourite apparatus was the bars. The asymmetric bars are an artistic gymnastics apparatus. It is made of a steel frame and the bars are made of wood. They require a lot of upper body strength. One of my highlights of being part of the gymnastic club was being picked as part of the team to compete in the All Irelands. We had an amazing time and I was honoured to help represent the Limerick gymnastic club. I eventually decided it was time to give it up and try something new. I gave it up because I had just entered 1st year and I couldn't manage school around it. I learned so much and will never forget it.

*I started with a little tumble and ended with a somersault.*

The next sport I tried out was athletics. My mom really encouraged me into starting this because she loves running. I developed a liking for cross country running which is longer distance running on rough terrain. I really didn't enjoy the training or the competitions. The competitions for cross country are always held in a field which are normally meant for farm animals and the weather is never nice as the season for cross country is winter, early spring time. Over time the training became a little bit more enjoyable but still is certainly not my favourite sport. I prefer to just go for a long run on the country roads with a friend who lives nearby.

When I was in fifth and sixth class a few friends and I signed up for playing on the football and camogie team. This was my first time playing either of these sports.

On the school team I learned the fundamentals and gradually began to get the hang of it. I enjoyed football more than the camogie. Soon the Gaelic football season came to an end and my teacher suggested that I become a member of a club to play football. That weekend my friends and I signed up in Mungret St. Pauls GAA Club. That was 5 years ago now and I'm still playing with the same friends and I have made new ones too. In the five years I have learned new skills, I have played in different positions on the field until I found the right one for me (which is now left half back), thankfully I have had only one serious injury and had the honour to go to Féile. Féile by far has been the highlight of being part of the club so far. Féile na nGael, Irish for "Festival of the Gaels", is an annual tournament comprising the sports of hurling, camogie and football organised by the Gaelic Athletic Association. Our whole team travelled up to Meath for 3 nights and we stayed with host families. There we competed in different matches and we made our way to the semi finals but lost. I would definitely recommend taking part in the experience if you get the opportunity. Over the years I have been playing sports I nor anyone else I know has ever been subject to gender inequalities until I joined the Gaelic football team. The girls Gaelic football team in Mungret ST. Pauls are always overlooked, they never get to play in the club pitch instead we have to play on the village pitch which is in terrible condition, we often don't have the right equipment available to us and in fact there has never been a girls minor football team. This means that the girls can only play up until the age bracket of under 16s then they have to quit and sometimes they move to a new club and continue their training but others just quit completely. Meanwhile the boys Gaelic football team have a minor team, suitable equipment and a proper pitch. I can't say this is the case for other sports in the club. I'm just speaking about Gaelic football. I know these may seem like little differences to some people but to the players it means a lot and I can say that it's a topic that the girls do complain about at least once every training session. I'm glad to say though that there are plans in place to create a minor girls team but nothing has been made official. My dad also loves golf. He is a member of Limerick Golf Club. When I was younger he used to take me to the driving range out in Coonagh which was great fun but last summer I became a member of Limerick Golf Club too. I took a few lessons last summer and developed my skills. Since the lessons my dad has brought me onto the golf course and showed me the tricks of each part of the course. I partially enjoy golf. It's really frustrating when you hit the ground with the golf club instead of the ball or if you miss the ball completely. When you do hit the ball though and you see it soar down the middle of the course it's really satisfying. I would recommend everyone do a sport as there are many benefits. It improves physical fitness, teaches important life skills like how to work as a team and increases the chances they will become active adults. It's also good for your mental health.

## Sport in Ireland by Shane Costello

In this article I will be talking about Hurling, Gaelic football, soccer and Rugby. I will talk about the history of the sports and some facts and information.

In Ireland the most played sports in no particular order are hurling, Gaelic football, rugby and soccer.

The most watched sports in Ireland are GAA, soccer and rugby.

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) was founded in 1884 by Micheal Cusack, it includes the traditional Irish sports of hurling, camogie, Gaelic football, Gaelic handball and rounders.

GAA is very popular in Ireland, it is one of the most played sports in Ireland and the most watched in Ireland.

The most popular sport in the GAA is hurling and Gaelic football, there are over 2,200 clubs in Ireland.

Hurling is one of the oldest field games in the world and is popular for at least 3000 years in Ireland with the first literary reference dating back to 1272 BC.

Cul Camps are organised every year during the summer, by the GAA, it is a summer camp to get kids aged 6-13 interested in sport.

Every year there is a Championship (The All-Ireland) and a league.

Kilkenny and Cork have the most All-Ireland wins.

Rugby is very popular in Ireland, the sport can be dated back 2000 years. Both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland play for the one team in rugby.

The Irish rugby team was founded in 1875, the current coach is Andy Farrell, and the current captain is Jonathan Sexton. Ireland compete in the Rugby world cup and the Six Nations Championship.

The Irish rugby team is one of the best rugby teams in the world.

There are 209 rugby clubs across Ireland

The 4 provinces in Ireland each have a rugby team, They compete in the Pro 14 and the European Rugby Championships Cup. Leinster have the most Pro 14 wins.

Soccer is very popular in Ireland. The game as we know it traces back 2000 years to where it was played in England.

The Republic of Ireland national team represents Ireland in men's international football. It is governed by the Football Association Of Ireland. Their current coach is Stephen Kenny, their captain is Seamus Coleman.

A very famous player who used to play for Manchester United, Roy Keane, is from Ireland.

The SSE Airtricity League, is the League of Ireland. The current champions are Shamrock Rovers F.C.

There are so many other sports played in Ireland, like tennis, swimming, karate, gymnastics and loads more. Sport related spending in Ireland generates on average 1.8 Million for the Irish economy. Sport plays a central part in Irish life. It provides a number of socio economic benefits through a contribution to health and wellbeing.

## The rise and the fall of Newcastle United Seamus Stokes

Newcastle United, a club that in the early days of English top flight football were known as a side who were unpredictable and so said many Sunderland fans even, inconsistent. Never the less, Newcastle as a club was doing very well, they won the championship 4 times, the FA cup and Community Shield 6 times and a UEFA Cup! As we go into the 70s, 80s and 90s we see Liverpool get knocked off their perch, sadly, not by Newcastle United but Manchester United who had signed Sir Alex Ferguson as their new manager and was starting to dominate English football. Newcastle were still progressing though and had become consistent UCL competitors. Then the 90s really saw Newcastle turn into a team nobody wanted to face. The 1995-96 season was one of the best seasons in the club's history, well it was supposed to be. That season saw Les Ferdinand score all round him, Kevin Keegan interviews and Alan Shearer signing for his local team. Sadly Newcastle finished 2nd after a draw at Anfield and a Man United win at West ham, gifted United the title. Usually clubs who come so close to winning the title usually go on to win it but sadly it was a two horse title race between Arsenal and Manchester with Newcastle finishing 3rd, 4th and 7th. As we go in the 2000s, we see the fall of a great club getting bought by Mike Ashley and inevitably getting relegated in 2004. The years up to 2017 were barron years seeing manager after manager go by with no consistency. Thankfully Rafa Benitez came in to save the day and not only got Newcastle promoted but turned a bang average team into a top 10 contender. Rafa left in 2019 and Steve Bruce stepped in. It was the start of a 9 game unbeaten streak with the likes of Allan Saint Maximin shining but a run of bad form yet again due to Maxi's injury has put Newcastle in an unnecessary relegation fight. It's hard to believe how such a great club can go from Alan Shearer to Joelinton.

# Society Today

## Normalizing the LGBTQ+ Community by Kirsty Solley

As we all know the Lgbtq+ community faces a lot of backlash, discrimination and homophobia, this is very disappointing as people shouldn't be judged on something like that. This is why we need to normalize it, normalize being a part of the Lgbtq+ community and normalize being an ally to it.

### Casual Homophobia

Casual homophobia is the use of micro aggressions with homophobic connotations without the intention of expressing bigotry. Some examples of casual homophobia would be saying stuff like "that's so gay", "don't get a crush on me", "being gay is a choice", "you haven't been with a boy/girl how would you know?", "you can tell they're gay", "you just haven't found the right man/woman yet" and "I've always wanted a gay best friend".

Don't ignore casual homophobia if you notice it even if it's your friend saying stuff. These negative stigmas harm the queer community so by ignoring it you are as bad as the person saying it. Suicide rates among the Lgbtq+ community are very high from the discrimination and homophobia people face every day just for being themselves so it might not seem like much to call somebody on a homophobic comment, but it genuinely is helping.

### —> How to be a better ally to the lgbtq+ community

- Educate yourself on the topic
- Call out people being homophobic
- Don't use slurs or ignore people saying slurs
- Don't treat people differently when they come out
- Don't pressure people into coming out until they're ready
- Never out somebody
- Spread awareness and educate people
- Be open minded
- Don't assume people are straight
- Be willing to talk about it
- Defend your lgbtq+ friends against discrimination
- Don't deadname a transgender person
- Never make jokes about it
- Correct somebody if they misgender a person
- Take your online activism into real life scenarios
- Check your privilege
- Know it's ok to mess up sometimes, just apologise and ask for guidance
- Ignore stereotypes and unconscious bias

- Learn the history of the slurs
- Use inclusive language
- Listen to those within the community

### The meaning of Lgbtq+

L: Lesbian, homosexuality in women

G: Gay, homosexuality in men

B: Bisexual, sexually attracted to both men and women

T: Transgender, a person whose personal identity and gender does not correspond to their birth sex

Q: A transgender person, whose bodily characteristics have been altered through surgery or hormone treatment to bring them into alignment with their gender identity.

Q: Queer, describes sexual and gender identities other than straight and cisgender.

Q: Questioning, someone who is figuring out their gender identity and figuring out how they want to identify their sexual orientation

I: Intersex, a general term used for a variety of situations in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the boxes of "female" or "male."

A: Asexuality, the lack of sexual attraction to others

A: An ally, straight ally, or heterosexual ally, is a heterosexual and cisgender person who supports equal civil rights, gender equality, and LGBT social movements, challenging homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia.

P: Pansexuality, sexual, romantic, or emotional attraction towards people regardless of their sex or gender identity.

Organisations and Charities that help the Lgbtq+

<https://www.belongto.org/>

<https://www.outhouse.ie/>

<https://lgbt.ie/>

<https://goshh.ie/>

be  
your  
self



## Killed because of her gender? Sarah Everard by Alannah Ryan

Gender equality is not a human right but is needed in society to keep peace and happiness. Gender equality has still yet to be fully achieved. There has been a lot of progress in gender equality but it isn't 100%. Women still face more sexual and physical violence on a much greater scale than men do. 1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15-49 have reported to have experienced sexual or physical violence from a romantic partner within a 12 month period.

In the United Kingdom it has been recorded that 1 in 5 women have been sexually assaulted, but these figures are not accurate as many women are scared to tell their story as they might be told 'were you wearing inappropriate clothing?' or 'you are only looking for attention'. Women can't even walk home at night without feeling like they'll be attacked. An example of this would be Sarah Everard, a 33 year old woman who was abducted as she was walking home from a friend's house in South London on March 3rd of this year. Wayne Couzens, a 48 year old London police officer who should have been the one to protect her, is currently facing trial for this murder. If Sarah couldn't even feel safe with a police officer then who can you feel safe with?

This murder has inspired so many more women and girls to share their experiences with sexual assault, rape or harassment from men. People are aware that males experience sexual assault, harassment or rape too but on a much smaller scale than females do. Every woman or girl fears walking home alone at night and boys and men cat calling them. They have to check behind them and cross roads just to feel safe walking home to their own home. All over social media women have been posting stories and sharing information on what people can do to help and make women and young girls feel safer but most men and boys silence has never been louder!

## Dear Editor, this is an exciting week of quarantine, by Cian Arthur

Monday: On Monday I got to have a lay in because I didn't have a class early in the morning. The day goes by doing school work and all that but after school because the weather is nice, I walked down to the astro to play some soccer with my friend. Nothing much happened on Monday, it was pretty boring.

Tuesday: On Tuesday I had to get up really early to get ready because all my first 4 classes were on zoom so that was unlucky for me. For the last 3 classes I didn't have any calls so I took the time to get my homework done so that I didn't have any later that night. After that I went to the astro with my brother and my friend, then when I got home I had to do a fitness zoom call with my soccer team.

Wednesday: Wednesday was a boring day, I didn't do much because the weather was bad but I went to the gym after my dinner then went on to the PS4 with the lads.

Thursday: Thursday is usually a good day for me because I have a long break in the middle of the day because of P.E so I chill during that time. I barely got homework on Thursdays so I went to the Astro again ( as you can see it's a recurring activity ). When I came home I went straight into the gym, I had my dinner, got some homework done then went on the PS4 again for the night.

Friday: Friday, "thank God" is what I say when I wake up because with all the online learning it drains you a lot. But Friday was good because I got to go on a road trip to Aldi for the shopping so that was entertaining. Mom didn't feel like cooking so she said we could get a take away and I got a class burger from the Locke Burger, then chilled out for the night.



# Society Today

## Agony Aunt! By Mmesoma Egbunam

Hey aunt, I was born with a facial disfigurement that I never really minded. My parents treated me the same as all my siblings, who also treated me the same. The only difference was that I was homeschooled. I begged my parents to let me go out to school, and when I was 12, they did. I was so excited, and then kids started to stare at me. They called me "God's mistake" and some other nasty stuff. I told my mom, who told the principal, and one boy got suspended. I thought my problems were over, and then the next week, I got beat up for "snitching" and it started all over again. I lied to my parents and told them I fell off my bike. I need to tell them, but those bullies hit hard. What should I do?

Hello writer, first of all I would like to thank you for writing to me because I can only imagine how hard this is for you. Bullies act the way they do because they lack the attention, parental love or nurturing which you have. Most bullies are insecure and feel empowered by bullying to take their frustration out on another person. What TO DO if you are being bullied: If the bullies ever come up to you, be confident. The bullies will feel less empowered and usually will pick on people they feel are weaker than them. Just walk away from the bully - This is really important because they want you to react to them but make sure you never react or respond. Build an armored shield around you - Visualize a tall armored shield and with every nasty word that the bullies say it's bouncing off of that shield. Hang out with your friends - bullies usually never like to bully a whole group but rather just one person, if they do feel like conquering the group just walk away. If after using these tactics the bullying doesn't stop, it's now time to tell someone. Don't be afraid to tell someone that you are being bullied. These are

people who care about and love you. It may seem scary to tell someone, but telling them will not only get you help, it will make you feel less afraid. If you are being physically bullied and are in danger you must speak with a trusted adult immediately. And if you can't go to your parents, seek out a trusted teacher, guidance counselor or school psychologist. If you've told a grown-up before and they haven't done anything about it, tell someone else. Tell them exactly what happened, who did the bullying, where and when it happened, how long it's been happening to you, and how it's making you feel. When you tell your teacher, guidance counselor or school psychologist, ask them what they will do to help stop the bullying. It is their job to help keep you safe. Most adults really care about bullying and will do everything they can to help you. Keep telling until someone does help you! What NOT TO DO if you are being bullied: Never think that this is your fault; no one ever deserves to get bullied. React with violence - this will make things worse. Be afraid to tell. Telling isn't tattling! It's the right thing to do. Isolate yourself - you might feel it's the best thing to do but it will only ruin your self esteem. Neglect your health and wellbeing - It is important during this time that you take good care of your health and mental wellbeing. As well as finding a support system, you need to make sure you are looking out for yourself too. Little things like eating a balanced diet, exercising, getting a good night's sleep, relaxing and having quality time with friends and family can really improve physical and mental health, which will, in turn, reduce stress. And remember writer, you are beautiful and never let anyone tell you otherwise. You are the best there is. Remember you are worthy and your self-worth is not based on other people's opinions.

## Racism and Prejudice

What is racism?

Racism is the marginalization and/or oppression of people of colour based on a socially constructed racial hierarchy that privileges white people.

What is prejudice?

Prejudice is an unjustified attitude or opinion, usually a negative one, directed toward an individual for something the individual cannot control. An example of prejudice is someone thinking poorly of another person for his belonging to a certain race, or for having different religious beliefs. Prejudice is different from discrimination, which refers to taking action based on a prejudice. It is possible for a person to have a prejudice against someone without ever acting on it.

I asked my friends how racism and prejudice has affected them and this is what they had to say:

*"In primary I always wished I was white. I feel like people didn't like me because I wasn't white. Especially in out of school activities, I didn't have many friends and I always thought it was because of that. I hated my family for it and I always wondered if things would be different if I wasn't brown. I'm so glad to have such great friends now but I still think about whether people judge me because I'm a non white person in a like "white country", and especially lately I've been thinking about relationships and whether anyone will actually like me because I'm not white but I've learned to accept the fact that I'm not white and I like that, I feel like it adds a bit of spice hahahahaha"*

*"As a South Asian and Muslim I kind of expected to get called things or whatever but everytime it happens to me I get so scared because I don't know if this person is violent or not. In primary school there was a really annoying kid in my class who always called me terrorist and a slur and the teacher knew about this but she didn't do anything because he was a "messenger" like that was some kind of excuse. The lack of diversity in the media and even in schools also made me feel left out? I don't know how to explain it but say if I'm watching a show and the entire main cast is white, it really does affect us. And if I was in a classroom and everyone in the room was white I wouldn't feel safe at all. It's sad but it's true and it happens to me everyday"*

*"I'm lucky enough to not have anything major happen to me. People call you slurs or just yell at you and it's scary but it's also so annoying like damn why are you so obsessed with me. The worst situation I was in was a few months ago actually. I was in town with my mom and a group of guys spit at us and called us m\*zzies and terrorists and stuff. Of course at the time I was scared because I didn't know if these guys would hurt me or not, but after we lost them all I could think was "damn their breath smelled so bad". That was my reaction because I'm able to handle stuff like that, but what about the people who can't handle it? What if stuff like that is what pushes them off the edge? We lose innocent people because of racism and prejudice almost everyday and it has to stop now"*

Why reverse racism does not exist:

Racism is based on a couple of things- historical, systemic oppression and power. As far as history goes, white people have never been persecuted for their race, so there's no point comparing their experiences to those of black, brown and indigenous people. How can people of colour be racist towards whites in a societal system designed to benefit only white people? They can't.

Since the beginning of time, whites have been in power and people of colour have lived under systematic forms of oppression that will keep them down in society. Whites have never experienced this.

As soon as we begin to interrogate issues of racism people get uncomfortable with it. If your default reaction to these discussions is to see white people as victims of reverse racism, educate yourself. Get a deep understanding of what racism is and how it impacts different communities.

If you are white, don't try to be a victim. You have privilege, accept it, and recognise it. Affirmative action is not racist. Stereotypes and biases of whites are not racist. By claiming they are, whites ignore the truth behind real racism.

What you can do to help:

- Educate yourself
- Listen to people of colour and minorities and help amplify their voices
- Call out issues when you see them
- Educate others
- Check your privilege and use it for good
- Racism towards Asians:
- There's been a significant increase in racism towards Asian people during Covid. Asians of all ethnicities have been "scapegoated, verbally attacked with racial slurs, coughed at, spat on, and physically assaulted". Asians are mocked almost everyday for their eye shape, their languages and their cultures and this needs to stop. They're scared for their lives almost everyday.

White people and people in power, it is your job and your responsibility to fix racism because you've created the problem.

## There is no "I" in volunteer ...

Young SVP by Doireann O'Callaghan

In September of 2019, I joined the young SVP branch in the school along with three of my friends. Since then we have organized bake sales, raffles, food drives, and colour days to raise money for the charity, Saint Vincent De Paul. During our time in the group, we have learned many useful life skills that will benefit us for years to come. We have learned teamwork skills, how to manage our time.

Student Council - What's That? By Andrew O'Brien

In the student council, we listen to the ideas and recommendations of students and talk about them with the teachers, principal, vice principals, etc. once a week, in school or online. Some of the things we talk about are uniform, eg. colour days, how classes are going online (more recently) and many more things that people in the school might say or recommend, everything and anything really. As well as that, we try to bring at least one new thing to the school each year. Last year, this was the idea of reusable water bottles for every student in the school, but this never went ahead, for obvious reasons. This year we are still trying to think of a new initiative as good as last year's and hopefully, get a chance to follow through with it. If you ever have any questions or recommendations for a member of the student council, feel free to ask anyone and we will bring it up in a meeting.



# Society Today

## The great filter - A possible solution to the Fermi paradox by Lucie Aherne

### The Fermi paradox

The Fermi paradox is an apparent contradiction between the lack of evidence for extra-terrestrial civilizations' existence or what we would call aliens. Basically the question is where is everybody?

### Are we the only life in the universe?

The observable universe is about ninety billion light years in diameter there are at least a hundred billion galaxies each one with one hundred to one thousand billion stars and some of the stars must have earth-like planets. Many of the stars are much older than our own so that means the earth like planet would be more developed than our own, meaning some may have developed intelligent life long ago and could have developed interstellar travel, a step humans are investigating now. Since many of the stars similar to the Sun are billions of years old, the Earth should have already been visited by extra-terrestrial civilizations by now. So if there is such a likely chance of life where is everyone.

But we are left with no evidence of this happening. There is no answer to explain the paradox. one of the suggestions could be extra-terrestrial intelligent life is extremely rare or maybe we could either be the first or the last of our kind.

### Or maybe they just don't want to reach out. if there is however, what's preventing us from meeting other life ?

There could be a possible solution to the Fermi paradox being 'The great filter theory' ruling out all the other possibilities the great filter is robin Hanson's attempt in solving the fermi paradox.

The great filter is whatever prevents non-living matter from undergoing abiogenesis (to form organisms) and reaching a high level on the Kardashev scale (method of measuring a civilization's level of technological advancement based on the amount of energy it is able to use). In more simple words The Great Filter is a theory that something leads to the destruction of civilisations, before they manage to master intergalactic communication and travel. A Great Filter" that prevents life from reaching an advanced stage of development. The failure to find any extra-terrestrial civilizations in the universe implies that something went wrong .Why has there never been contact? This means something must be preventing us from finding other life sources. Something that makes becoming a Galactic civilization really hard Hence the great filter. If a species is advanced enough to take over their own planet and travel that means they won't stop there. The great filter is a challenge so hard to overcome that it eliminates anything that encounters it leading us to two possible outcomes one we are really lucky and surpassed it or two we are doomed and practically already dead this depends on where the filter is on us behind or ahead of us.

If the filter is behind us we are the first meaning one of the steps we already took is almost impossible to take. It could be that life is extremely rare, some scientists think that life develops anywhere we're the conditions are right and others think that we are the only life source. Or it could be the development of animal cells. Maybe intelligence is extremely rare and we are lucky to have such intelligence. Or it could be something simple like us making fire or even nuclear weapons.

If the filter is ahead of us plenty of other species died already in the great filter before us (dinosaurs). So if a great filter lies ahead of us it has to be extremely dangerous that it destroys all of us if not most of us. So what could be the end of our humanity. The Great Filter might be a consequence of technology itself take this for an example since we are very technology advanced and it happened in such a fast period of time likely chances we could develop more Ai and that could lead to malfunctions or even with nuclear wars they could possibly get out of hand and wipe us all out. It could also be a purely outside event that is not dependent on the species. For instance, the impact of a giant asteroid or an unpreventable natural disaster wiping out all life.

There's also another hypothesis that **once a species has full control over its planet it's already on the path to self destruction.**

Technology is a good way to achieve that it has to be something so obvious that everyone discovers it and so dangerous that it leads to our doom, something that we don't see coming right now.

### This is why finding life outside of ours would be terrible.

The more common life is beyond our universe means the more likely it is that a filter is ahead of us. Bacteria would be bad, small animals would be worse and intelligent life would be alarming.

### The best possible outcome is that we are alone in this universe.

As lonely as it sounds it would have a huge benefit to our kind. However The great filter is only a theory it's an appealing idea of a possible solution to the fermi paradox So although the question of "Where are they?" still remains unanswered, **the Great Filter theory offers one of the best guesses we can think of.**



# Society Today



## Why I Don't Think There Are Aliens In Area 51, by Isabelle Nash

### What is a conspiracy theory?

A conspiracy theory is an attempt to explain an event as the result of a small but powerful group.

### Why do people believe in conspiracy theories?

Conspiracy theories occur in moments of crisis, when people seek an explanation for the unknown. People want to understand the world and when we ask questions conspiracies appear, at least temporarily.

Area 51 is a highly classified air force facility in Nevada. The entire range covers more than 2.9 million acres of land. According to the US military, it's "a flexible, realistic and multidimensional battlespace to conduct testing tactics development, and advanced training". However, what happens inside is kept completely secret and out of public eyes. Warning signs, electronic surveillance and armed guards are some of the measures being taken to ensure nobody sees what is inside. Until 2018, you couldn't even view satellite images of area 51, it's also illegal to enter the airspace without permission from air traffic control. The government never even acknowledged Area 51's existence until 2013.

All the secrecy and unknown surrounding the topic of Area 51 leads to fascinating theories from the public. Some people believe the government keeps and studies alien aircraft and possibly aliens themselves. Believing that "military base" is a cover for alien research. Since there isn't much information on what actually goes on, rumours and myths flourish.

There was an increase of supposed UFO sightings in the area in the 1950s. On June 17 1959, the Reno Evening Gazette published a story with the headline "More Flying Objects Seen In Clark Sky," and described how Sgt. Wayne Anderson of the local sheriff's office was one of several locals to spot what the paper described as an object "bright green in color and descending toward the earth at a speed too great to be an airplane." It was also reported that the Nellis Air Force Base, which is about 130 miles south of Area 51, had received two reports of UFO sightings in the previous three weeks. Those reports came just a few years after rumours of a UFO crashing in New Mexico, in 1947.

In the same year, the air force began investigating UFO sighting claims, known as Project Blue Book. By the time Project Blue Book ended in 1969, over 12,000 claims had been investigated.

People in southern Nevada continued to report sightings, even though we now know that these were probably sightings of the top secret spy planes being constructed.

The sightings were around the same time the U-2 planes were being tested. The U-2 can fly higher than 60,000 feet, much higher than normal airliners at the time, at about 10,000 to

20,000 feet. If a pilot spotted a tiny speck (the U-2), they would have no idea what it was and would report it. Since this testing program was so secretive, air force officials could not deny the UFO claims at the time and told civilians they were experiencing a "weather phenomenon." This fueled the alien rumours further.

Area 51 is a pop culture sensation. The first major appearance in media was the 1996 blockbuster, "Independence Day." More recently though, major attention was brought to the base through social media.

In June 2019, a 21 year old college student named Matty Roberts created a Facebook event called "Storm Area 51, They Can't Stop All of Us". The event would take place on September 20th. Matty said that he created it as a joke, not thinking anyone would take it seriously.

Within a few days, more than 2 million people confirmed their attendance. This led to a stern warning from the air force, discouraging people from trying to gain access to the military base. Around 1,500 people ignored the warnings and headed to the Nevada desert. 40 individuals made it as far as the outskirts of the base, but they dispersed when confronted by law enforcement.

In August 2020, the Pentagon announced that it had been running a secret multi-million dollar program to investigate UFOs for years. It's unclear if this is an expansion or replacement of Operation Blue Book.

Earlier in 2020, three videos taken by Navy pilots were leaked. They show interactions between military planes and fast-flying objects. There was no official explanation for these videos.

A poll from June 2020 showed that more than half of Americans think if the US government had evidence of UFOs, they would hide it from the public.

Even if there aren't little green men running around Area 51, there should be a bit more transparency with what actually does happen. I think Area 51 could be a convenient distraction, by the US government, while the real secret work is done elsewhere.



## Our online society by Katie Harris

Society today and online is a very interesting place, it's a great place to do things like promote charities, protest things like black lives matter and promote mental health and products for businesses, but there is also a dark side you could say to it. This side includes things like inequality, discrimination, comparative stereotypes and bullying and the effects it has on people.

The first thing I'm going to quickly be touching on is the bright side. Influencers use their platforms to promote charities and funds for specific things like saving the planet and animals or a charity like the stand for cancer.

These influencers get major income from their jobs so they have the money to give them. Many celebrities are also philanthropists as they help with these funds a lot. Small businesses also use these sites to get customers for their websites or stores. The internet is great to spread awareness about things that people might be struggling with their mental health and spread positive quotes. This is all really the sugar coating of the internet.

The internet goes much deeper than all this, things like racism, discrimination and bullying are things people are affected by online every day. There is actually history and reasoning behind racism and LGBTQ discrimination, in fact modern evolutionary biology is making enormous contributions to our understanding of how our offence of race, gender and sex rise. In some people it comes from the dark side of the human psyche or being raised with the history or religion of hating against it. People are fighting every day for equality towards people who get scrutinized over things they can't change for example there have been protests and online petitions to help. One of the most heart aching events that started these protests was the killing of George Floyd by one of four police officers who arrived on the scene, knelt on Floyd's neck for a period reported to be 8 minutes and 46 seconds after not giving him a chance or privilege to explain like a white person would have. This is just one display of the fears these people go through.

As we all know and have been taught about cyberbullying and how people get bullied online at least 25% of adolescents are affected by cyberbullying.

Bullying, including cyberbullying, causes significant emotional, psychological, and physical distress. Just like any other victim of bullying, cyberbullied kids experience anxiety, fear, depression, and low self-esteem. They also may experience physical symptoms, mental health issues, and struggle academically. Teenagers can also develop body dysmorphia which means people judge the small flaws about their appearance, a flaw that appears minor or can't be seen by others. One of the reasons the mental health cases have gone up by 20% is how comparative today's society is and that people feel they have to look a certain way, act a certain way or fit into a specific stereotype. More than half of the time when teenagers are going through something like this they tend to keep to themselves and not tell anyone.

The last topic I am going to be talking about is anxiety. Anxiety is the most common mental health disorder. The anxiety disorders also went up by 20%. This lockdown has definitely had an impact on people's mentality as people are feeling less motivated and suck inside with their thoughts.

1 in 3 adolescents will most likely experience anxiety between the ages of 13 to 18 once. There are many causes to anxiety, here are the main ones. One is high expectations or pressure online which I previously talked about and two is a world that feels scary, threatening or intimidating a lot of girls don't feel safe as even before lockdown the domestic violence rate was 30% physically psychologically and sexually. Especially recently social media has been being used by so many inspirational people to tell their stories and raise awareness about these horrible events.

I hope you learned some more information about these topics and that you have an insight now on what people deal with online!

# Society Today

## Addiction?.. Why Do We Spend So Much Time On Our Phones? Amee Ryan

Today more than ever we find ourselves scrolling aimlessly through social media. Not many people stop and think about why this is. I had never thought about my screen time before online learning but now I realise that my phone plays a larger part in my life than ever before.

On average in Ireland, people spend two and a half hours on their phone daily, whilst only ten percent of that screen time is actually talking to people. I think that the communicational purpose of phones is being forgotten. I feel that everyone sees their phone as a way to share and receive information, but not on a personal level.

RTÉ News has revealed that on average Irish people check their phones fifty times a day. People often think that it is just how the modern world is and that it must be done to stay connected. This is not true. If we only received telephone calls on our phones our digital usage would be greatly reduced. It is scrolling in my opinion that clocks up the hours.

The scrolling cycle is what causes prolonged scrolling time. We look for pleasure on our phone and we find it on a post we like. This gives us amusement and encourages us to keep scrolling to find more satisfaction. Then the process is repeated and develops into hours of scrolling. I think that scrolling is an addictive activity and not just a hobby because people do not know when to put their phone down.

A European study of 4108 people in nine countries has found that people's technology usage has increased by sixty five percent during the coronavirus pandemic. I have noticed an increase in my phone usage too. After an online class I feel compelled to check my messages whereas in school I nearly forget my phone exists.

Thankfully, there are ways in which we can reduce the impact the scrolling cycle has on our lives. I went into the digital balance section of my phone's settings and found an option to set limits for apps. This has really helped me monitor how long I spend on each app and has helped me increase my productivity in school. The next time you are about to stop what you are doing to check your phone, pause and think. Say to yourself 'do I really want to be part of the scrolling cycle?'

## UK To Lift Cap on Nuclear Stockpile by Alexander Kaiser

The UK is set to reverse plans to reduce its stockpile of nuclear weapons by the middle of the decade as part of a foreign policy overhaul. Plans from 2010 brought the limit of nuclear warheads in the UK's arsenal to a total limit of 180, but now that number is to increase to 260 sometime in the next 30 years. Boris Johnson told members of Parliament that the UK would have to "relearn the art" of competing with countries of "opposing values". The Prime Minister also said that the UK will remain "unswervingly committed" to the NATO defense programme and in preserving peace and security in Europe. The planned amount of 180 nuclear warheads was said to be "no longer possible" given the constant changing political environment worldwide.

Under a review of Foreign and Defense policies, it is said that the UK shall possess the "minimum destructive power needed to guarantee that the UK's nuclear deterrent remains credible". The same review stated that Russia is the "most acute threat" to Britain's security. Wall Street Journal says how the UK is "looking to carve it's place in a more volatile and fragmented international system" while "bolstering its economy through greater global trade".

## Sexism in the Music Industry: The story of Taylor Swift—by Doireann O'Callaghan

Taylor Swift is an inspiration to many aspiring musicians and young people all around the world, after all, not too long ago, she was just a small town girl with a dream. She has advocated for women's rights, gay rights, and is proud to be a feminist. Unfortunately, the sexism she has faced throughout her career is repulsive, and something a man in her position would never experience.

In 2013 Taylor was groped by David Mueller, an ex-DJ. She brought him to court and won her case, because she refused to back down and be silenced. The case is significant because she has inspired sexual assault victims to report the crimes committed against them. She was vocal about her experience in her documentary on Netflix. It is a scary world to live in as a woman, especially in recent times after seeing Sarah Everard's case, and having a celebrity as big as Taylor Swift speak out, is extremely comforting, and provides hope. It is essential that victims of sexual assault speak up about their own experience, as this inspires others to open up.

In a 2014 interview, Swift pointed out that she was ridiculed for writing music about her past and current relationships while male counterparts such as Ed Sheeran and Bruno Mars never face the same type of jibes. Songwriters, poets, authors, and artists all draw inspiration from their lives, and no one has a problem with this. So why when Taylor Swift, a successful and powerful woman does it, is she attacked by the media? This is another portrayal of blatant sexism.

In her documentary with Netflix, 'Miss Americana', Taylor discusses the body image issues that she and many other female celebrities face. She talks about the beauty standard and how it is 'impossible' to please the media. She openly talked about her struggle with an eating disorder and how it was the media and magazines that triggered this. Seeing pictures of herself in the media everyday was very damaging to her mental health, and even made her stop eating. Luckily, she has recovered and is inspiring people everywhere to be body positive.

Politics is another issue she spoke about in her documentary. Female activists and politicians tend to be questioned on their knowledge more than men are. Any time a woman gives her opinion on politics, she is laughed at, because why would a woman care about something so complex, when she could be cooking and cleaning? By speaking out, Taylor is empowering other women to speak out, and not be afraid to give their own opinion. Women being paid less for doing the same job as their male counterparts is yet another example of sexism in this field of work. With male artists like Niall Horan getting played on Irish radios way more than other female musicians like Soulé. This further proves how difficult it is as a woman in this work field.

In 2019, when she released her 'Lover' album, the response to the song 'The Man' was outstanding. The song is about how it is much easier to be a man in the music industry, and how as a woman, you are questioned on your attitude, what you were wearing, and if you even deserve the fame. The song also highlighted how men are congratulated on how many girlfriends they have, whereas women would be *slutshamed*. *The song was an eye opener for many people, as they were exposed to the reality of sexism and misogyny. It was a song she had wanted to write for a very long time in her career, but she was unsure of how to phrase it. The song is not about what she'd do differently if she was a man, but how she would be treated if she had done the exact same stuff.*

Recently, Netflix has faced backlash for including a 'deeply sexist' joke in one of their new shows 'Ginny and Georgia'. 'You go through men faster than Taylor Swift'. Taylor responded to the line in a tweet, 'Hey Ginny & Georgia, 2010 called and it wants its lazy, deeply sexist joke back. How about we stop degrading hard working women ....as FuNnY'. After working closely with her on her Miss Americana documentary, it is shocking to see the streaming service say anything like this, and it is clear a joke like this would never be made about a man.

Changes can, and are being made in the industry. Women are now supporting each other, for example, Cardi B is offering Selena Gomez help with new music. An example of how to support and empower, not only themselves but those around them. Although their styles are different, Cardi did not hesitate to help Selena. This is what we need to see more of, this is what will put an end to sexism, women standing up for one another, supporting each other, and uplifting each other is the first step. But the males in the industry must all support their female counterparts and play a role when they see something that is unjust. All men should be feminists. If Men care about women's rights, the world will be a better place. We need to start at home. If young boys and girls see that men and women are respected and equal they will grow up reinforcing these ideals. Sexism is not born, it is taught. Should you see something that makes you feel uncomfortable, say something. No matter how big or small it is vital that we as the next generation speak up and teach others the importance of kindness and equality. We can't rely on individual agency alone to dismantle sexism; we must also change the fabric of our organisations and our society.

# Society

# Today

## Do we live in a simulation? By Fiona Nealon

The simulation theory is the idea that what we perceive to be our reality could actually be a computer generated simulation created by a higher intelligence. The definition of a simulation is, "The action of pretending or deception. The production of a computer model or something especially made for the purpose of study." The concept of the simulation theory is that our lives aren't actually 'reality' and that we are living in a computer generated simulation, like the sims. Because we perceive the world to be our reality doesn't mean that it actually is. The findings of quantum physics actually shed doubt on the fact that the material world is real. The more that scientists look for the "material" in the material world, the more they find that it doesn't exist. The theory goes that future civilisations may have wanted to see how past civilisations lived their life, and that we might be living in that simulation. They could be watching and observing us or even controlling us like a computer game.

This theory is widely believed by many worldwide. Elon musk, who is deemed as one of the smartest and most powerful men in the world actually believes in this theory. He discusses this openly and even believes that there is a 1 in a billion chance that we are real, that it is a 1 in 999,999 chance that we are NOT a simulation. One of his reasons for believing this theory is when he famously said "Forty years ago, we had Pong, two rectangles and a dot...That is what games were. Now, 40 years later, we have photorealistic 3D simulations with millions of people playing simultaneously, and it's getting better every year. And soon we'll have virtual reality, augmented reality. If you assume any rate of improvement at all, the games will become indistinguishable from reality." He believes that the way technology and computer simulations have advanced in 40 years to virtual reality games, where you can put on VR goggles and almost be in another reality, imagine how much technology and augmented reality will advance in another 1,000 years.

People are already playing "simulated realities" in computer games with strangers online, where it can feel like they're having an actual interaction with other real life people through the game. Games can be used as an escape from reality and it could be that in the future people use virtual reality to experience an 'ideal life' from the comfort of their couch.

Although in video games that simulate reality like the Sims seem like the people in the game don't have feelings or emotions, many physicists such as elon musk actually believe that as technology and these simulations advance, that it will become impossible for the "characters" or people in these simulations to tell that they're living in an augmented reality. What this could mean for us is that we are actually living in this advanced simulation created by future civilisations and that we're unaware that we're not actually real.

Living in a simulation could be an explanation for things that we experience that we are unable to explain, such as psychics, astral projection, supernatural experiences such as ghosts and deja vu could all just be a glitch in the simulation. Scientists struggle to find an explanation or a concrete answer as to why deja vu exists and why it occurs, but seeing it as a 'glitch' could justify why it happens.

The theory that we are a virtual reality being observed by future civilisations to see what it was like could mean that there's billions of simulations of different 'years' in history and that millions of people could be observing or watching them like we do tv. This is what Elon Musk meant when he said that there's a 1 in a billion chance that we're real. This could sadly mean for us that our reality is like a tv show for future civilisations, that we're being played on a loop and that we're living our lives over and over again and that when we experience deja vu it's because we have actually experienced this life many times.

There is a small chance that we are not a civilisation, and that our current reality is actually real, but the only way this could happen is if Human life actually ended before we could advance to the point of creating simulations. For example, it would take the human race to get wiped out, by a natural disaster, nuclear war, asteroid etc. within the next few years for a simulation to not be created in the future, which is very unlikely. It is almost guaranteed that we will live another 1,000 years to advance enough to create this simulation, because 1,000 years is basically nothing compared to the fact that the world is already billions of years old.

The fact that we are already questioning a simulation shows that we are already thinking of the idea of creating simulations of the past, in the future. This could mean that the creation of a simulation in the future is almost bound to happen and we're already creating virtual realities in the present. As for simulations made in the future, there's a high possibility that one has already been created and that's our reality.

As for the person controlling the simulation, another theory is that they are actually our inner monologue or the "voice" in our head, and when we get the urge to do things is the 'player of the game' and that they're actually controlling our thoughts and actions.

Although this is just a theory, It's very believable and seems to provide an answer or explanation for things that occurred that we could never explain. This theory is just one of many that question the existence of our reality.

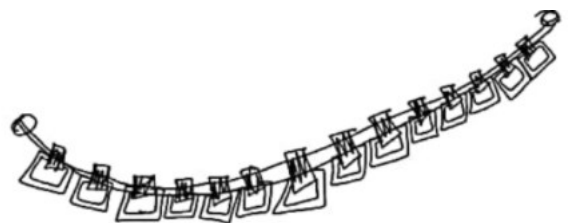


# Tips for incoming 1st years



A good way to start is to learn your timetable as fast as possible. Finding someone who's in your class to move around with is a good help to.

- A routine is the best way to start your year as you stay active and don't laze around.
- Keep your subjects separated ,use either folders or have your locker organised properly.
- Try to get along with your teachers since you'll be with them for the next 5 to 6 years.
- Make sure you bring all small things to class especially for subjects like T.G and Art.
- Try to get into a habit of making notes because it will help later.
- Just do your work and don't try to get out of doing it because its just easier on everyone.
- Be yourself and be genuine to everyone, make friends with everyone don't just stick with 1 or 2 people
- Be yourself I know everyone says this but I saw myself changing in the start to fit in but then I met my friends now and I'm very happy also always have books PE gear and stuff that you'll need for those days
- Don't be nervous, you will make many friends.
- You aren't in 6th class, don't act like you still are
- Always get your homework done
- Write homework in your journal
- Learn time management, it'll help you so much when studying for important exams later on
- Do activities at school, the more you do the easier it'll be to figure what you like and want to do in the future
- Organisation skills, getting organised will help when doing homework, studying etc
- Don't go around with a bag bigger than you
- A piece of advice I would give to incoming first years is to stay relaxed about it all. There is no point in stressing about it because it is an enjoyable experience. I would recommend that you write down all your homework and don't leave it all to the last minute. Don't let it pile up! I would also suggest that everyone starts as they mean to go on and to make a good first impression with the teacher by participating in class and doing their homework.
- Organise your books the night before
- Be confident coming in and have an open mind
- Just be nice to people and don't get involved in drama
- Be open minded don't make your mind up about someone or something without getting to know them or it.
- Don't try to be 'funny' during classes because really you're not being funny at all.
- Be nice to everyone, make friends with everyone mainly people in your classes, always do what you're told and enjoy it
- Make new friends, the new friends you make could be there till you finish school.
- Make a lot of friends have a laugh!
- Look at your time table and stay on time
- Keep your locker organized and don't lose your locker key
- Get used to your surroundings know where the class rooms are, find really helpful and kind friends.
- Don't get a school bag that is the size of your whole body
- Listen to your teachers especially Mrs Mangan ...
- Don't take yourself too seriously
- Be yourself find friends you like get used to your surroundings and get your work done
- Always put the sheets the teachers give you into a folder so they don't get lost; just do your homework, try to read over what you did in class that day, don't overwork yourself; always be kind to others, stay out of drama and most importantly keep on Armelle's good side!
- Don't annoy the teachers
- Don't go in class 10 minutes early, the teachers don't mind if you are a minute or 2 late.. but no more.
- Don't be nervous to talk to new people because they could be your new best friend
- You don't need to bring all your books on the first day
- Play the sports as much as possible
- Be prepared and work hard because it will help you in future years
- Tie up the jumper/half zip. Don't have a massive schoolbag. Don't run around the school. Don't annoy the older years thinking that you are being hard or funny (its not). Be yourself and don't try change yourself, don't act differently just to be in a certain friend group.
- Try to make friends as soon as possible as it's harder after a while
- Try involve yourself in sports or try sign up for as many things possible
- And don't get on anyone's bad side.
- Express yourself and don't be afraid to make more friends
- Talk to new people and make sure you put in effort now cause it's important for 3rd year when pressure is on!
- Have a folder for each of your subjects to keep your books and stay organized
- Have a bit of craic because 1st year is the best year out of 2nd and 3rd year
- School is so much better with friends!
- Don't be on your phone
- Definitely do the language trips if you can, it is very fun and you will have fabulous memories



# Celebs!

## My favorite soccer player: Bruno Fernandes

Bruno Miguel Borges Fernandes is a Portuguese professional footballer who plays as a midfielder for Premier League club Manchester United and the Portugal national team. Fernandes was born on 8th September 1994. Born in Maia, Porto, Fernandes started his career at Italian Serie B side Novara but soon made a move to Serie A side Udinese in 2013, followed by Sampdoria three years later. After five years in Italy, he signed with Sporting CP in 2017, where he was named club captain. He won back-to-back Taças da Liga in 2018 and 2019, as well as the Taça de Portugal, leading to him being named Primeira Liga Player of the Year in both seasons. In 2018–19, he scored a record of 33 goals in all competitions, making him the highest-scoring Portuguese midfielder and the highest-scoring midfielder in Europe in a single season. Fernandes' performances sparked the interest of several Premier League clubs, with Manchester United signing him for an initial €55 million in January 2020, becoming the second-highest fee for a Portuguese player leaving the domestic league. He made his debut on 1 February, playing the full 90 minutes of a goalless draw at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers.

He scored his first goal for Manchester United against Watford on 23 February, converting from the penalty spot in an eventual 3–0 victory at Old Trafford. Fernandes has represented Portugal at five levels. Prior to his international debut, he was named captain of the under-21 team by coach Rui Jorge. He also represented Portugal at the 2016 Summer Olympics. He was chosen in Portugal's squads for the 2018 World Cup and 2019 UEFA Nations League Finals, winning the latter and being named in the Team of the Tournament. In 2020, He was named Premier League Player of the Month for November in recognition of his four goals and one assist that month, and again in December after scoring three goals and providing four assists in that month, becoming the first player to win the award four times in a single calendar year after also winning the award in February and June 2020.

## The Interview in 2021 that we will all remember... really? By Lucy O'Sullivan

Today I will be talking about the interview with Megan Markle, Harry and Oprah Winfrey. The interview aired on Monday night the 8th and they talked about the royal family and why they left.

Megan and Harry met in 2016 on a blind date but decided to keep their relationship private. Harry then proposed in November 2017 and their royal wedding took place in 2018 which was aired on live television. Almost a year after their wedding they welcomed their first son called Archie. At the beginning of 2020 they announced that they will be stepping down as members of the royal family and will be moving to North America.

All of this information was displayed to the public, but there was much more going on behind closed doors and not being displayed to the public eye. I will now be talking about what was revealed in the new Oprah Winfrey interview.

There were many positive things highlighted in the interview, according to Oprah there was no subject that was off topic. Megan revealed that they got married three days before their wedding. They wanted it to be private and just the two of them since the wedding will be on live television. They also revealed that they are expecting a baby girl.

Now I will be touching on the more serious topics that were talked about. While Megan was pregnant with her first child Archie, she revealed that there were many conversations about the skin colour of their son. Oprah asked Megan and Harry to elaborate on who said this and who was having these conversations, they declined to reveal who it was while saying "I think that would be very damaging to them."

Megan also revealed that she was suicidal. She stated that the media scrutiny got so bad and that she wasn't okay. "I was really ashamed to say it at the time and ashamed to have to admit it to Harry, especially because I know how

much loss he's suffered. But I knew that if I didn't say it, that I would do it," she said. "I just didn't want to be alive anymore, and that was a very clear and real and frightening constant thought." Megan told Oprah that she approached a senior member of the royal institution and said that she needed to get help, but was told that she couldn't as it would look bad for the constitution. "I share this because there are so many people who are afraid to voice that they need help," she said. One of Diana's best friends ended up being a source of comfort for Megan, as she was one of the few people who truly knew what Meghan was going through.

This was one of the main reasons they decided to step back as they could not provide them with the help they needed and they both were in a lot of pain.

I personally think that the royal institution should have helped Megan as she revealed it was extremely hard to deal with all the hate on social media. I think that alone would damage your mental health as you would constantly be hearing false articles written about you everyday.

When Megan and Harry revealed to the royal family that they would be stepping down, Harry said that his security team was removed. He said that he didn't expect it and was in shock. Meghan also added that she wrote a letter to Harry's family members to say that she understands why she and Archie could no longer have security but to please keep Harry's in place. And she was told that's not possible. To sum up the interview the couple were asked if they had any regrets. Harry said no, but Megan revealed that she does have one and that was believing *The Firm* when they said that they would protect her.



## Controversy Surrounding the Future of the British Monarchy by Eibhlin O'Grady

Following the recent Oprah Winfrey interview with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle there has been a massive outburst of controversy all over the media since it was aired. It came after the couples decision to 'step-back' as senior members of the Royal Family early last year.

In this explosive interview, Meghan spoke openly and bravely about her life inside the Royal family. She addressed serious topics such as mental health and racism. She shared her own personal struggle with mental health while working full time for the British monarch. Meghan also confirmed the rumours around one of the members of the firm questioning 'how dark her baby son, Archie's skin would be and what that would mean' were true.

Later in the interview, Prince Harry joined her and he even said that he felt sorry for his father, Prince Charles and brother, Prince William who are left 'trapped' within the Royal Family. He even indirectly referenced his mother, Princess Diana, when he admitted he was 'afraid of history repeating itself'.

It is clear to see that there are many similarities between both Meghan and Diana in the ways they were treated and the effect it had on them. Both women suffered with their mental health and asked for help, Diana however, claimed she did receive the help she needed. They also both stepped back from their job and claimed they weren't trained for their royal roles.

Judging by British opinion polls, it appears that the reaction of the British public is divided. It seems that younger people, people who live in London, people who want to remain in the EU and vote Liberal are supporting Meghan Markle however, the older population, people who do not live in the capital, vote Conservative and support Brexit seem to be backing The Monarchy and some believe Meghan wasn't being truthful including the broadcaster Piers Morgan who stepped down as the host on Good Morning Britain shortly after claiming Meghan's claims were false.

Without much delay, the Queen broke her silence and clearly stated that Harry and Meghan are still 'loved members of the Royal Family' and that the issues would be dealt with privately. Many people are still worried about Meghan's safety and are wondering what effects these claims would have on the future of the Monarchy.



# Celebs!

## Ireland loves you Niall Horan! By Sarah Meskell

Niall James Horan is an Irish singer and songwriter, born the thirteenth of September 1993 and lived in Mullingar, Westmeath. He rose to prominence as a member of the boy band One Direction, formed in 2010 on the British singing competition The X Factor.

Following the band's hiatus in 2016, Horan signed a recording deal as a solo artist with Capitol Records.

Horan's debut solo album 'Flicker' (2017), debuted at number one in Ireland and the US. Its singles "This Town" and "Slow Hands" reached the top 20 in several countries. Horan's second album 'Heartbreak Weather', debuted at number four in the US and number one in the UK, Ireland and Mexico.

Review on the album 'Heartbreak Weather' by Niall Horan

Heartbreak Weather is the second studio album by Irish singer Niall Horan. 'Heartbreak Weather' was recorded three years after Niall's first album 'Flicker.' It was promoted with four singles: "Nice to Meet Ya", "Put A Little Love On Me", "No Judgement" and "Black and White." The album was released through Capitol Records on the thirteenth of March 2020, the day of the global lockdown of COVID-19. Even though it didn't come out at the best time the album debuted at number 4 on the Billboard 200, marking Niall Horan's second top 10 album in the US. The album also debuted number 1 in the Irish and UK charts, marking Horan's first UK number one album as a solo artist.

Horan announced the album on the seventh of February 2020 alongside the release of the third single "No Judgement" and stated in a press release that he wanted to "tell the story that was in my head, hopefully, lead people down the storytelling lane of an album track listing. I wanted to write songs from different sides or from someone else looking in." The album was recorded from October 2018 to January 2020.

Niall Horan discussed in an interview with Capital FM how difficult it was to write music for his new album, saying it was 'very raw' and 'tough' at times. It is believed that the album is inspired by his recent split with his ex Hailee Steinfeld. Horan said 'Put A Little Love On Me' was one of his favourite bops, despite it being difficult to write. He said: 'It was one of those ones which was a tough write. It was very early and it was very raw when I was writing it but I think it is one of my favourite songs I've ever written.'

Horan officially announced the Nice to Meet Ya Tour in October 2019. The tour was set to go to North America, Oceania, Europe and Latin America between April and December 2020. On April third 2020, Horan announced the tour was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Lewis Capaldi, Fletcher and Maisie Peters were set to open for Niall on the tour. Niall stated he intends to tour in 2021 "when the crisis blows over." No rescheduled dates have been announced.

On the seventh of November 2020, Niall performed a special one-off live-streamed show in the Royal Albert Hall. In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that has put full-capacity live events on hold, all profits from the show were shared between Niall's touring crew, who are currently unable to work and the WeNeedCrew relief fund.

Featuring songs from Horan's two smash hit albums 'Flicker' and 'Heartbreak Weather', the multi-camera event saw Niall and his full band perform for fans around the world thanks to time-zoned live streams.

## Heartbreak Weather Review

Niall Horan's latest album features fourteen songs (and two unreleased songs with the CD). There was lots of excitement and hype for this album to come out, including a tour and James Cordon having a NiallWeek on the Late Late Show for the album.

Heartbreak Weather has a perfect way of portraying heartbreak but a lot more upbeat and it's clear a lot of effort has been put into all of the songs. The album has catchy melodies, an instant shot of positivity, easy to follow beats and a heartfelt declaration of gratitude. Niall reveals that the kind of music he's been working on the past two years is not only a new kind of portrait of himself but also of his sound.

Unfortunately, the album came out at the worst possible date, the day of the global lockdown of the Coronavirus pandemic. Because of this, the album didn't get as many listeners as it was hoping for. "No Judgement", "Black and White" and "Nice to Meet Ya" became very popular, but sadly the rest of the songs didn't get as much attention on radio stations etc because COVID-19 was taking over the broadcasting.

Even though the album didn't get as much publicity as it was meant to, the album is astounding and breath-taking. I definitely recommend this album to anyone and all ages. You can stream 'Heartbreak Weather' by Niall Horan on Spotify or iTunes now.

## The Kardashian-Jenner family by Clodagh O'Brien

The Kardashian-Jenner family are a famous American family involved in the fields of entertainment, business, fashion and design. The family started with Robert Kardashian and Kris Houghton, who married in 1978. Together they had four children, Kourtney, Kim, Khloe and Rob. Kris got a divorce with Robert and in 1991, she remarried Bruce Jenner [now Caitlin] and along came Kylie and Kendall.

The family has grown so much in many ways. Kris is now 65 years old and Caitlin is now 65 years old, Kourtney is now 41 years old and has three kids with Scott Disick named Mason, Penelope and Reign. Kim is now 40 and is married to Kanye West. Together they have four kids; North, Saint, Chicago and Psalm. Rob is now 34 years old and has a daughter named Dream. Kylie is 23 years old and has a child with Travis Scott named "Stormi" whilst Khloe is now 36 years old and has one kid with Tristan Thompson called True. Kendall is now 25 years old. In my opinion, the kid's names are quite unusual, but I also think they are really nice and unique as they are not the norm!

The Kardashians rose to fame in many ways. Robert Kardashian was a famous lawyer and was widely known for being a high-profile attorney and close friends with American footballer O.J Simpson. He was quite wealthy and managed to earn enough to give his family a good life and a helping hand to their rise of stardom. People really began to recognise the Kardashian name when Robert was on the defence team when O.J was accused of murdering his wife. His positioning in this trial caused conflict among the family because Kris was very close to Nicole and Kris believed that O.J was guilty. The main thing that the family got famous for was the series they started called "Keeping Up With The Kardashians" in 2007!

It is produced by Ryan Seacrest and it premiered on E! It was made in 2007 and debuted on October 14th, 2007 and has subsequently become one of the longest running reality T.V series in the U.S! The series focused on the family and significant others also appeared such as Scott Disick who is Kourtney's ex-boyfriend, Kim's husband Kanye West, Tristan Thompson who is Khloe's ex and many more family friends. The eighteenth season premiered on March 26th, 2020 and the nineteenth season premiered on September 17th. Recently, Kim took to social media to announce that after twenty seasons the hit reality show, which soared the family to stardom would be coming to an end in early 2021.

Some of the girls have formed their own brands! Kim has a massive

brand called "KKW Cosmetics". She started this brand in June 2017, which is a really big makeup brand with a wide selection. Kylie's brand is most definitely the biggest and had the best outcome. Her brand is called "Kylie Cosmetics" and she started it in November 2015. Kendall has a huge modelling career also and she is so successful in it!

This family are billionaires! All worth so much and I am so jealous! Kim's net worth is \$1 billion, Kourtney's is \$35 million, Khloe's net worth is \$50 million, Kendall's is \$45 million, Kylie's is a massive \$900 million. As you can see having a brand will make you more! I honestly wish I was them!

There are a lot of random fun facts about the Kardashian family! Kim's name is searched on Google over 9 million times per month, she earns \$12,000,000 a year which is \$1,000,000 per month! That is crazy! Khloe appeared in the soap opera "One Life To Live" on March 28th, 2011, acting as an attorney named "Kassandra Kavanaugh". She began high school at a Roman Catholic all-girls school called Marymount High School and she also endorses a diet supplement called "Quick Trim", as well as a skincare line called "Perfect Skin". Kendall recently released her modelling photoshoots for an Australian brand. In 2014, Kylie and Kendall launched a shoe and handbag line! They have both co-hosted numerous public events together and they both also appeared in a music video together in August 2014, where Drake was also featured! When Kourtney was younger, she owned a sewing machine in school and she would always play around and make items of clothing for her friends, she also always wanted to be a lawyer just like her Dad and she was the first in the Kardashian family to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts with a minor in Spanish.

That is the end of my information about the Kardashian-Jenner family! I really enjoyed putting this together over the last week. I am really interested in this family and most definitely their series as I watch it all the time, I just find them so funny and entertaining so that is why I decided to write about them! This project was something I always looked forward to doing in the evenings when all my schoolwork was done! Thank you for reading and I really do hope you learnt something new!

# Celebs!

## The shocking death of Princess Diana, 23 years ago by Lauren Maune

Princess Diana's tragic death in a Paris car crash on August 31, 1997 shocked the world. It would become one of the biggest news events of the 20th century.

In the early hours of 31 August 1997, Diana, princess of Wales succumbed to her injuries that occurred after being involved in a car crash in the Pont de lama tunnel in Paris. Her partner, Dodi Fayed, and the driver of the Mercedes-Benz W140, Henri Paul, were pronounced dead at the scene, **this is the official story.....**

For some people, what happened that night wasn't simply a tragic accident. Instead it was the result of some kind of **conspiracy**, conducted by agents of the British state or something else they claim.

Numerous reports, investigations and experts have all agreed with the official account of events: that Diana had been in a car driven by a man who was drunk, and that failing as well as other institutional ones allowed for the tragedy to happen.

But others still believe that something more secretive and intentional happened that night. The conspiracy theories take a number of other forms, but all claim to point to the same fundamental belief: that someone wanted to kill Diana, and they helped orchestrate that night's fatal crash.

The conspiracies were so convincing and so widespread that the Met Police were forced to launch Operation Paget, an inquiry to establish whether there was any trust in the theories. It lasted years, cost millions of pounds and found that the theories were entirely without foundation and that all that happened that night was an incredibly unfortunate accident.

Still however, those conspiracies rage, here are some of the things that made people doubt the official story of events.

### Diana was pregnant.

This, according to Mohamad al Fayed, was the reason for the killing. Diana had become pregnant with his son's child, he said, and that the idea was unacceptable to the British state.

Mr. Fayed said that the royal family "couldn't accept that an Egyptian Muslim could ever eventually be the stepfather of the future king of England" and so plotted to kill her off.

But there was no sign of pregnancy during the post mortem examination. Further tests on Diana's blood found there was no sign of pregnancy there either.

### Diana believed that she was going to be killed by the establishment.

The main motivating factor behind the conspiracies is the belief that Diana herself **thought she was going to be killed**. And that much, it appears, is true.

Chief among them is a letter that was disclosed by Paul Burrell, Diana's butler, who said he had been given it for safekeeping.

"I am sitting here at my desk today in October, longing for someone to hug me and encourage me to keep strong and hold my head high. This particular phrase in my life is the most dangerous [...] is planning "an accident" in my car, brake failure and serious head injury in order **to make the path clear for Charles to marry**.

When Diana wrote the letter, she had experienced problems with her car, and had voiced fears about them, and her bodyguard had died in an accident that she believed had been a conspiracy.

Diana clearly had concerns about her safety, that much isn't a conspiracy theory. But there appears to be no official suggestion that she would actually be killed, even if there was a strong feeling of dislike or hatred between some members of the royal family and Diana.

### The paparazzi made the car crash intentionally.

Photographers were blamed repeatedly for Diana's death. The story caught on in part because it reflected a concern that has pursued Diana throughout her life.

This theory had three specific forms. The first alleges that the group of paparazzi chased and pushed Diana's Mercedes so that it could make the crash happen. The second argues that members of the paparazzi encouraged an environment where a crash could happen. The third suggests that the paparazzi accidentally created a situation that the conspirators exploited to kill the people in the car.

Official investigators found that the Mercedes car that Diana was in, did seem to have driven quickly in part to escape the photographers. But Operation Paget found that the result of normal behaviour by the paparazzi, and that they hadn't been participating in any criminal conspiracy.

There were numerous other conspiracies to Diana's death but even at the end, it couldn't change the fact that the beloved people's princess had died.

Diana was laid to rest in a public royal funeral watched by more than 2.5 billion people worldwide on September 6, 1997.

The streets outside Westminster Abbey, where Diana and Prince Charles had married more than 15 years prior, were lined with an estimated two million mourners, together they watched, heartbroken, as one of the most beloved members of the royal family was carried in her coffin to her final rest.

Behind her walked her two sons, two young princes whose lives would forever be changed by their mother's tragic death.

Although Diana is gone she is not forgotten by the people. Her compassion for the people helped her win not just the hearts of a nation, but global recognition as a symbol of warmth.

She spoke to people in a way the royal family never had before not a distant, stiff upper lipped ruler waving a gloved hand to crowds, she was the girl next door the bare handed, bear hug wielding "people's princess" she will forever live on and be remembered through her people, even those who weren't around in her time like myself who were touched by her humanism, her love and her empathy she will always be someone that people all around the world can look up to.

She changed the world for the good in many ways, her landmine clearance work helped outlaw the weapons, she touched the lives of the most vulnerable, she wasn't afraid to speak truth to power and her humanitarian influence lives on through her sons.



Ciaran McMahon, Good Night...



# Art and Leisure

## 1984 by George Orwell

by Ava Neville

I have recently finished the book "1984" that was written by George Orwell in 1948 and adapted by Matthew Dunster. "1984" is a satire in the genre of science fiction, political fiction and social science. The book is a perfect example of dystopian fiction. If you are unsure of what dystopia means it is an imaginary society that is dehumanizing and as unpleasant as possible.

You may be wondering why a fiction book written in 1948 is still popular today and one of the many reasons for this is that the modern world is now starting to ever so slightly fit the dystopia that Orwell was writing about. The dystopia described in "1984" is when there is a dictatorship party in charge of the country called "Big Brother" who watches your every move. "Big Brother" uses a lot of propaganda like "War is Peace", "Freedom is slavery" and "Ignorance is Strength". There is also a constant war going on throughout the country and if you were to go against "Big Brother" you

would be publicly hanged.

The resemblance between the dystopia and modern society is that everyone now has phones and is under surveillance when in public places ie.shops. A year before George Orwell died in 1950 he said "almost certainly we are moving into an age of totalitarian dictatorship" Orwell has always had a pessimistic view over society and disagrees with capitalism "It is not certain that socialism is in all ways superior to capitalism but it is certain that, unlike capitalism, it can solve problems of production and consumption" he believed capitalism was at its deathbed and would be replaced with a form of collectivism.

The book "1984" was banned in the Soviet Union for many decades because of it's anti-communist views. The book was written as a satire in response to Joseph Stalin's methods in suppressing the people through the invasion of their privacy, propaganda and control over freedom of expression. The book was banned in Russia until 1990. In the United States the book has also been challenged for supposedly being pro-communist.



## The Elephant man

By Ethan O'Donnell

*"I am not an animal! I am a human being! I ... am ... a ... man!"*

Do you know who John Merrick is? Do you know when he lived? Do you know what he lived with? Did you know about his severe deformities? Do you know how society treated him? If you don't know then you should watch the Elephant Man and find out about John Merrick and his struggles.

The Elephant Man is a black and white film from 1980 set in 19th century London and follows the life of circus freak John Merrick, who finds help in London surgeon Frederick Treves. The two hour long film shows the harsh society of 19th century London through the eyes of John Merrick as he tries to live his life with his severe deformities. The film presents a dream-like feeling as we are shown the industry of 1800s London. The film is directed and written by the award winning American director David Lynch, produced by Mel Brooks

and stars John Hurt as John Merrick and Anthony Hopkins as surgeon Frederick Treves. Both actors give a great performance and easily transport you into this harsh world. Both show the strengths and weaknesses of Merrick and Treves, especially John Hurt who masterfully shows the intelligence of the sensitive Merrick. The film was nominated for eight awards at the Oscars but sadly failed to win any.

The film's rollercoaster of emotions brings the audience into John's world, the trials and tribulations he experiences as he goes through life. It's very easy to be captivated while watching The Elephant Man. With very heartbreaking scenes that make you sympathize with John to the climax towards the end which shows the highs of human spirit. It is definitely a defining film and a must watch!

## The Mandalorian Review

By Matthew Daly

Released on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 on Disney+, The Mandalorian is a must watch show. Not only for Star Wars fans but non-Star Wars fans alike, as there is no need to watch any other Star Wars media to understand what is going on. Bringing you an experience from a galaxy far, far away right to your living room.

The Mandalorian is a story about a Mandalorian mercenary (played by Pedro Pascal) set five years after the events from the movie Return of The Jedi (Episode VI) and on many different planets. The Mandalorian is a very interesting character as he never removes his helmet and has a very monotone voice but can convey emotions very well through body language. This sixteen episode series also introduces us to many different characters such as Cara Dune (Gina Carano), Greef Karga (Carl Weathers), Kuill (voiced by Nick Nolte) and the main antagonist Moff Gideon (Giancarlo Esposito). But I will not go into too much detail about these characters as I feel they are very interesting, and it would be better for you to see them first-hand and experience it in your own way. I would also like to avoid spoilers as much as possible as I hate it when people spoil shows and movies in reviews like this.

This show has many positive points about it. Between the fight scenes, the humour, the characters and how they are developed and the music made by Ludwig Goransson is also great and can really set the mood for a scene. There is also a really great story behind each episode and really interesting, cool and new characters to discover throughout this amazing show.

Unfortunately like all things this show also has a fair share of moments I found were not the best, although there were very few, I felt they needed to be mentioned. An example of one of these is in the last episode where one

character is completely forgotten about without any explanation. There is also some unneeded dialogue which I feel had no impact on the story and could have just been left out of the script without affecting the story in any way.

Anyway, as a whole I loved this series for its interesting scenery, characters and vehicles and I think it made a fine addition to the Star Wars universe. This show is definitely worth the Disney + subscription, even if it's just for something to watch over this lockdown which has us all trapped inside. This series is definitely binge worthy.



# Art and Leisure

## Skins by Hana Tsang

I am going to review one of my favourite TV shows that I watched recently again during lockdown "Skins".

It is a British tv show based in Bristol showing the lives of teenagers in sixth form (fifth and sixth year). The show talks about a lot of conversational topics like dysfunctional families, mental illness, (depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress, bipolar disorder), sexuality, bullying, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and death.

Every episode generally focuses on one different character and shows their storyline and struggles with the episode named after said character. The TV series was created by a father and son, Bryan Elsie and Jamie Brittain, and premiered on E4 in January 2007.

The show went initially for six seasons where the primary cast was changed every two seasons. Discussions were held for a reboot but instead filmed a final seventh season in 2013 featuring previous cast from the show.

### Storyline

Gen 1 focus of Roundview students: Tony Stonem, Michelle Richardson, Chris Miles, Jal Fazer, Maxxie Oliver, Lucy (commonly known as Sketch), Anwar Kharal, Sid Jenkins, and Cassie Ainsworth. Although not the same age as the Roundview students, Tony's younger sister Effy Stonem still has a strong tie to the main group.

Having become friends before the beginning of Series 1, the first two series deal with the group's transition into adulthood along with confronting issues such as romantic relationships, familial bonds, substance abuse, religion vs. sexuality, health problems (such as anorexia), pregnancy, and eventually death.

### Gen 2

With the "first generation" having graduated from Roundview, Series 3 and Series 4 focuses on the "second generation" of Roundview students: Effy Stonem (now a Roundview student), Pandora Moon, Freddie McClair, James Cook, JJ Jones, Katie Fitch, Emily Fitch, Thomas Tomone, and Naomi Campbell.

The dynamic of the group is quite different than that of the previous two series, as much of the group do not become friends until they attend

Roundview, although some did know each other before the beginning of Series 3.

Series 3 and Series 4 deals with the group's transition into adulthood along with confronting issues such as sexual identity, mental illness, substance abuse, romantic entanglements, cultural identity, familial bonds, and eventually death.

### Gen 3

With the "second generation" having graduated from Roundview, Series 5 and Series 6 focuses on the "third generation" of Roundview students: Franky Fitzgerald, Mini McGuinness, Grace Violet (Blood), Liv Malone, Nick Levan, Alo Creevey, Rich Hardbeck, Matty Levan, and Alex Henley.

Although some did know each other before the beginning of Series 5, the dynamic of the group is different than that of the previous "generations", as there is initially a strong divide between the "popular" crowd (Mini, Nick, Liv, and Grace), the "outsiders" (Franky, Alo, and Rich). Matty and Alex are initially enigmas, as they didn't appear to be in either of the groups. However, as the series progresses both groups eventually mesh into one large group, as everyone slowly starts becoming friends.

Series 5 and Series 6 deals with the group's transition into adulthood along with confronting issues such as compromising self to fit in vs. staying true to oneself, sexual identity, pregnancy, substance abuse, romantic entanglements, health problems (such as eating disorders), familial bonds, sexual pressures, accepting responsibility and social identity, and eventually death.

### Season 7

Instead of the round-view college previous seasons were based in, it shows life after for characters such as Effy Stonem, James Cook and Cassie Ainsworth. Also characters such as Emily Fitch and Naomi Campbell come back as well.

I like this show for many reasons

I like this show because of its diversity, all characters in the show have very different personalities and interests, also showing characters of all different races, religion, sexuality and backgrounds.

I like how in the show the actors were played by actual teenagers making it more realistic

because often in TV shows actors who play teenagers are often not actually teenagers.

Also I like the fact that teenagers in the show act like teenagers making them more relatable.

I also love the randomness of the show, it's very funny.

I loved how the show was set up too, the way each episode focuses on one person each episode. While there is a general storyline going on with the seasons, focusing on one character each episode gives more insight into said character which is very interesting

Overall I highly recommend this TV and think it is very enjoyable for most ages, thank you for reading.

[Skins \(UK\) | Skins Wiki | Fandom](#)

<https://www.ladbible.com/entertainment/film-and-tv-first-generation-of-skins-cast-where-are-the>

[Freddy Forever: 7 Reasons 'Skins' UK Was The Best Show On Television \(elitedaily.com\)](#)

[19 Reasons Why The First Generation Of 'Skins' Really Was The Best Ever \(buzzfeed.com\)](#)

## Shrek review

Hello everyone now you will read my review about what is the best movie in my opinion.

Shrek is an adventure movie that is animated. It was released in 2001 but it doesn't get boring no matter how many times you watch it. I watch it at least once a week during quarantine. It is always cool to experience it again. You will learn a lot of things about it every time you watch. However one big improvement I would make is to release Shrek 5 sooner as its 11 years since Shrek 4 was released.

Thank you all for reading this hope you have an amazing rest of your day watching Shrek.



# Looking forward in the future

## Where will I be in 10 years' time, and what will I be doing ... best of 3rd year 2021

- Teaching students or else travelling abroad
- I'll be a millionaire with one of the biggest contracting and landscaping companies
- Working at a trade
- On my first holiday since 2020 because the lockdown will have just ended by then, hopefully.
- I will be a professional hurler with a big house.
- I'll be a millionaire, have my own company, and live in Dubai.
- Hopefully I have graduated college and will have a career. I'd love to be living in a European country like Italy or somewhere like that. I want to have at least two cats.
- I have no idea as to what I want to be when I am older. I am also very bad at making decisions so I will probably be still trying to decide what permanent job I want to try to get. In ten years' time I might have moved out from home
- Living in Paris teaching English
- Be a midwife and have children
- I'll probably be finished college and living in a small apartment by myself
- Hopefully in an equine veterinary centre helping horses
- I will be an accountant in a firm in Limerick.
- I hope to be finished college, working in a primary or secondary school and just completely enjoying life while I'm young still
- I will be living life in my mansion
- Hopefully a billionaire model
- A blacksmith or welder
- I hope to be in college and hopefully playing soccer
- I will be living my best life in another country
- Working and saving up for a house
- In ten years' time I hope to be teaching history in UL
- Hopefully not still in my parents' house
- Hopefully if everything goes right I will be a biochemist somewhere
- I will be in Australia with a impressive job making good money
- Farming in Kildimo
- Carpenter hopefully
- President
- I will have a great job and earn money
- Doing something with computers
- In 10 years' time I'm probably going to be in a lot of debt from school but hopefully I would have a job and my own apartment.
- I will be working as a vet, wherever the job takes me.
- I hope to be a teacher in secondary school
- Become a primary school teacher or else a secondary school teacher
- Physio or teaching course
- I will hopefully be in New York living my best life
- I will be working in Europe
- Be a dentist and have a mansion
- I would like to be a mechanical or electrical engineer and my big dream would be doing some work on the ISS (International Space Station)
- A famous accountant
- I will hopefully get a degree in engineering and be in a good job
- I will be working in a job I love and hopefully be traveling around the world
- Living and working in Australia
- I'll be either gone on a holiday or be here and I'll have a job
- Hopefully I will be living in London and traveling the world
- In 10 years' time I hope to either have a stable job or else be in college doing something that I really enjoy.
- A job to do with sports
- Working in a hospital as a nurse
- In Greece on the beach where Mamma Mia was filmed. Tanning
- Not living in Ireland hopefully doing photography
- I would have my own business, my own family and a big house
- I will be travelling visiting different countries
- Hopefully successful, an engineer of some sort
- I'll be employed hopefully
- In 10 years I would hope I will have a job to keep a roof over my head and feed myself. If I have any spare money I will invest in properties and shares.
- In ten years time, I see myself having my apprenticeship done and have a job in blacksmithing or welding and making a living.

### If I could have any job in the world by Peter Kiely

If I could have any job in the world it would be an astronaut, I would be an astronaut because I would like to be able to see the beauty of the universe with my own eyes. The things involved with going to space is very interesting to me because it is the culmination of all the science.

# Looking forward in the future

## My Dream Job !

Hello, my name is Katie Lyons. Today for my article I will be talking about my dream job and what I'm hoping to achieve and aim for in life. If I am successful enough in getting the points required I would love to study in Mary Immaculate College to become a secondary school teacher. The subjects I enjoy most while in school are business and maths. These are the subjects I would be interested in teaching. The reason I would like to become a teacher is so I will be able to help, assist and influence young people in the same way as my teachers have helped, assisted and influenced me. I think some of the skills required to become a good teacher are having patience, being a hard worker, having lots of determination and having good communication skills so that you are able to discuss and explain the topics and subjects that you are dealing with. Although I might not have all the required skills needed at this time of my life I do believe I possess some of the skills required such as hard work and determination. I'm hoping my patience improves with maturity in the coming years. After finishing my Leaving Cert I would love to travel for a year. I love travelling and going to different countries, I myself so far have been lucky enough to go to a lot of places. A year of travel I think would help me mature and give me a lot of experience with other countries, people, languages and cultures. Following on from a year of travel I will hope to begin my studies on secondary school teaching in Mary Immaculate College. This course is four years long but can be extended by doing a masters and PhD. And who knows someday I could be back teaching in Copsewood pursuing my dream!

## Where I see myself in 10 years

Hi my name is Jamie O'Connor, I am 15 years old and I live in Foynes Co. Limerick.

My goal for the next 10 years is: I would like to be finished college and have a job I love. I have great plans for all the money I am going to make! In fact I will need a Financial Advisor so I can invest in properties and investments so I have a second source of finance.

I plan to buy a house in America which will be my permanent base and have a holiday home in Cannes... oh la douce France... I would also like to give my parents some money, maybe a lot of money for putting up with me all the years! Hopefully by the time I'm 25 I will have visited countries I have always wanted to visit since I was younger like Australia, Dubai and Canada. Above all I hope I will be having the time of my life!!



## My life in 10 years by Laura Wisnicka

When people ask me what I think I'll be doing in 10 years I usually respond 'I will probably be dead' in a sarcastic tone. I give such an answer because being honest, I have no idea where my life is headed. I imagine what my life might become, but most of the time it's some unrealistic scenario where I'm rich and happy. I'm still 15 though so the main thing I'm thinking about is just to graduate school, then I can start thinking about the big picture. What I'm writing isn't the exact way I think I'll be living life in 10 years, it's more how I want to live, making this more of a dream in a way.

In 2031. I want to be living somewhere like Italy in a house with 2 or maybe even 3 cats. I want to have graduated college with a degree and have a stable career. I'm not a big person when it comes to love so whether I have someone with me there is not something I care too much about right now. Anyway I like being alone, I'm used to it. I'm sure that won't change in the next 10 years. During my 20's I'd want to be living my life and going out on adventures and what not because well I'm not doing that now while I'm a teenager. I hope that even when I'm living away from my family, that I'll be able to see them every once in a while. I hope my friends that I have right now will be happy and that I will still be in contact with them. Hopefully in 10 years the world will have changed for the better, With things like climate change being resolved, people being more accepting etc etc.

Regards to my personality, honestly I want it to change. Don't get me wrong I don't mind who I am as a person right now but I can't imagine myself being 25 and still being the exact person I'm now. I hope that as I grow up, I'll change and mature for the better but still keep the parts of my personality I do like. I want to be happy with myself in 2031.

I don't think there's much more to say about who I'll be as a person because well I don't know myself what I will be doing. I'm hoping that at least some of this will come true for me. Thank you for reading.



James Corbett—David vs Goliath



# Art



Lucy O'Brien—Unchain Me!



Jack O'Regan - Manga, new passion



Conor Lavan—The Facts



# 3rd year 2021

"Shoot for the moon, even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." *Oscar Wilde*

## Grey

Emily Bennis-Cooney, Michael Brzozowski, Zoe Byrnes, Eric Clancy, Keelin Collins, Shane Costello, Mmesoma Egbunam, Oisín Hayes, Josh Heenan, Lee Hennessy, Danielle Kelly, Patrick Kenny, Ned Lake, Katie Lyons, Jonathan McLoughlin, Scott Miller, Isabelle Nash, Ella O'Brien, Róisín O'Gorman, Eibhlín O'Grady, Liam O'Hara, Adam O'Neill, Paul O'Neill, Dylan O'Rourke-Massey, Ellie-Mae O'Sullivan, Martina Scanlan, Bobby Smith, Kaj Spiewakowski, Katie Taylor, Hazel Walsh

## Caulfield

Cian Arthur, Adam Bolger, Adam Conway, Julianne Deegan, Alexandria Fitzgerald, Michael Griffin, Katie Harris, Amy Idowu, Zoe Kellett, Daniel Kírrane, Freddie Lynch, Hugh Maher, Lauren Maune, Daniel McDonagh, Ciarán McMahon, Tyler McNamara, Maeve Mulcahy, Ciara Murphy, Ava Neville, Andrew O'Brien, Lucy O'Brien, Doireann O'Callaghan, Seánna O'Connor-Kelly, Jack O'Regan, Orla Shanahan, Séamus Stokes, Darragh Toomey, Laura Wisnicka, Lucja Wojciechowska

## Hallihan

Lucie Aherne, Shahd Awaga, Hollie Bridgeman, Michael Collins, James Corbett, Erika Cummins, Lilly Faulkner, Molly Geary, Eóin Harrison, Willie Harty, Alexander Kaiser, Lauren Kennedy, Cian McGregor, Conor McMahon, Sarah Meskell, Archie Murphy-Peters, Fiona Nealon, Conor O'Brien, Kevin O'Connell, Jamie O'Connor, Cian O'Sullivan, Lucy O'Sullivan, Bob Olla, Maria Richardson, Alannah Ryan, Dylan Sampers, Katie Smith, Sophie Spearin, Jackson Tenzer, Hana Tsang



## Sutherland

Patrick Cahill, Calum Coughlan, Ann-Marie Culhane, Matthew Daly, Ciara Dunne, Billy Earls, Rachael Flynn, Caoimhe Franey, Aisling Gallery-O'Neill, Eli Goldberg, Darragh Griffin, Aleksandra Jaqielska, Peter Kiely, Conor Lavan, Diarmuid Mangan, Amy Mullins, Calvin Nash, Lucy Neville, Clodagh O'Brien, Niamh O'Connor, Ethan O'Donnell, Andrew O'Farrell, Sean O'Gorman, Shane O'Sullivan, Denise Quinn, Aimee Ryan, Dean Ryan, Kirsty Solley, Lauren Wallace

Note from the editing team: This Gazette is the sole work of the 3rd year Students 2020/2021 collected by their English and CSPE teachers. These are all original works, and have gone through the scrutiny of our correctors.

The editors: Joy Cinnamon, Ally Whiston and Luke O'Neill—Illustrator Lilly Faulkner.

**Great things never come from comfort zone .. Dream it, wish it and do it!**

