

# THE EAGLE

BY THE PUPILS. FOR THE PUPILS.

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## Welcome back!



We hope you have all had a lovely half term and a much needed rest!

It has been a strange start to the school year with constant cleaning and online learning permeating our regular school routines.

Despite these changes, you have all been adapting as well as you can and we will share some of the ways you have been doing this in this latest issue.

Films and books to explore during isolation, guides to developing your technological skills, and an interview with our own King of Computers, Mr Hughes, are all included here. As well as a summary of what is happening in the world right now.

We hope that you enjoy this issue and remember to see Miss Bunting in 134 if you would be interested in contributing to The Eagle!

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## Half Term Catch Up With Our Head Girl And Boy

By Emmanuella Jackson and Euan Ama, Y11

Whilst being Head Girl and Boy we have done a few things to help with the school and the students since coming back from lockdown. These include things such as: induction days and evenings for the year 7s, open morning, helping with the school's awareness, and planning ways to ensure the students are adapting as smoothly as possible to changes that have been made. We have found these events educational as we find out new things each day about those in the school and how we can make the school environment a better place to be. In general we have found the first half term enjoyable, even online learning, and hope that in the near future we find more means to help the school and the students at St Edmunds to have the best year! If anyone has any queries about the school year, or suggestions, please feel free to contact us at any time!

God bless,

Head Girl and Head Boy

## Top Tips For Surviving Year 7, From A Fellow Year 7

By Faith Fairman, Y7

Year 7 is a tricky time and place for any student due to being in a new place with new people and new rules! I have put together a survival guide based on what I have learned during these first months at Saint Edmunds to help you on your Saint Edmunds' journey.

**First of all, come prepared!** You will have heard all of this before but it is really important! Organisation is key at a school as busy as St Eds! All you need is a little bit of effort, time and preparation to kick start your secondary school journey. One way to put that into practise (and this saves a lot of detentions) is to check your bag the night before. That way you'll know you're ready for the day to come, will stress less (which helps you sleep) and won't be running around in the morning trying to get ready.

**Also, always check in advance with your teachers if you are stuck or worried.** Especially ask for guidance with homework and make sure you write the due dates in your planner!

**DO NOT WORRY!** Even if things at home are not going well, that does not mean school will also go this way. From the moment you join year 7, all of your teachers and most of your peers are on your side, even if it may not seem like it. However, if you aren't comfortable talking to your friends about your troubles, come and visit The Trinity Suite, your tutor, or your head of year, who will offer some advice and methods to handle most issues.

# Meet the Teacher: Mr Hughes (Head of IT/ Inventor of Teams\*)<sup>he</sup>

likes to think

By Jacob Elliot, Y9

## **Why did you decide to become a teacher?**

I spent five years in the army teaching people how to save lives, this was where I found a love for teaching as I enjoyed helping others. When I went to University, teaching opportunities came up so I went for it!

## **What are your favourite things to see from a student in your classroom?**

I love it when students are creative when they complete the task given and go above and beyond. I target my lessons towards everyone and will supply help or extension tasks for those that need it.

## **As a man of many talents, what made you decide to teach IT rather than any other subject?**

I love playing video games and have a vast knowledge of all aspects of IT. My top IT tip would be that 'Strategy' is very helpful with computer solving problems. Also, logical thinking can help you understand IT more.

## **What is your favourite section of IT to teach?**

I love to teach game design and game research in Year 9 as it is something that everyone can enjoy and relate to.

## **Controversial question...how do you deal with students that are not listening to you (if this ever occurs)?**

I would say that I am a firm, but fair teacher and I know that my voice overrides any students! If that doesn't work, detentions!

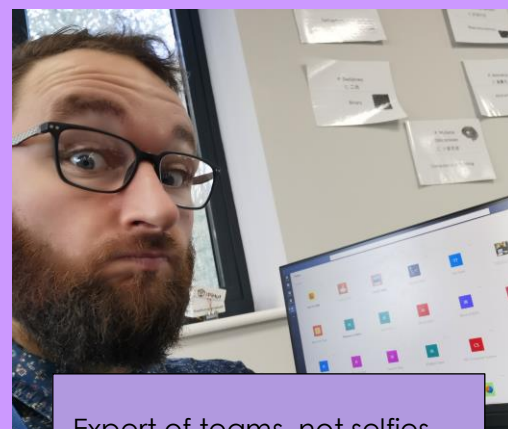
## **Did you enjoy school when you were our age?**

To be honest, I wasn't the greatest of students and I was slightly lazy. However, I knew I wanted to go on to do great things in the future which motivated me whenever I felt like given up! When I joined the army I became much more disciplined!

## **Do you consider yourself an expert of Teams? What makes it so great?**

I would say yes! Teams is great because it allows us to flip learning from a classroom centred approach. It provides pupils with the ability to be in the 'class' anywhere in the world...what's not to love?! Virtual assignments and file storage is bringing us into the future, and particularly beneficial during these 'unprecedented' times!

## **Thankyou Mr Hughes for letting us interview you!**



Expert of teams, not selfies...

## Video Game Designing

By Luca Lima and Maksim Milliken, Y8

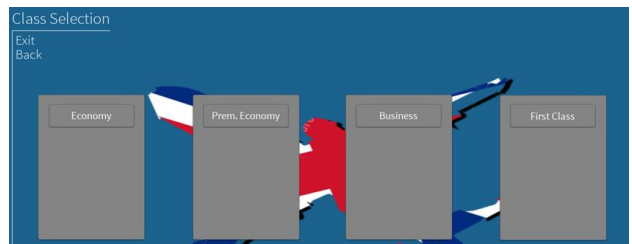
As a side project started during lockdown, Luca Lima, Maksim Milliken, Mathew Kay, Thomas Kay, and Marek Labik have been developing a video game on Roblox:

It's called Britannia Airlines. It's an airport themed game where users can either play a job role in the game or just be a passenger on a flight. Users can also join our Development Group to play our game. When joining the Development Group, you start off as a passenger in economy class, but you can work your way up the crew rank or travel class at a small cost. For example, you could experience what it is like to be part of Heathrow Terminal's security team, encountering all sorts of day to day challenges. There are many other job roles too, including ground crew, air traffic control, as well as passenger travel classes (Economy, Economy+, Business Class and First Class). Flights (or games) are scheduled over different times and travel to different destinations every week.

Stay tuned to further developments as we plan to complete the developing over the coming months!



A pushback truck, used for pushing airplanes backwards from the gate



Self check in system, where you choose your ticket based on your rank



An Airbus A340 with our logo and the black lives matter logo



Security Area



## Clever Cures

By Elena Panalova, Y9

Medicine is being revolutionized constantly, most of us being completely unaware of how it is advancing over the years and how most of it is now being made with state-of-the-art technology that one day may be useful to us. In 1989 the gene that causes cystic fibrosis was discovered, since then the development of treatments has been outstanding. One of the most recent medical breakthroughs has been for a new cystic fibrosis drug. Cystic fibrosis is an inherited condition which causes sticky mucus to build up in the lungs and digestive system, this leads to lung infections and issues with digesting food. The new therapy and drug have shown to dramatically improve patients' lung function and shows us signs of targeting the genetic root of the disease, instead of simply increasing life expectancy.

Artificial organs and robotic surgery may soon become the new normal in tackling health problems. Robot-assisted surgery is now quite common as it allows doctors to perform a large range of complex surgeries with more flexibility, control and precision. Most people have come across prosthetics used for replacements of ears, noses and eyes to conceal accidents or trauma. Since the advancement of technology, artificial organs have slowly started to make an appearance in the medical world. They are engineered as a device that can be implanted into a human body to replace the organ that has been lost. They must be specially made as the interface with tissue that can easily infect and harm the body more if not properly done.



Some more life changing prosthetics available on the market are heart, kidneys, liver, lungs, pancreas, intestines and skin.

Medicine is vital, especially in times like now, we count on medical breakthroughs to save what seems like a cry for humanity. Medicine constantly evolves and only the future will tell us how far it goes.

By Hannah Szczechura, Y9

Remember New Year? The clock struck midnight and you promised yourself that you would have one of the best years of your life? Well that certainly failed. This article will be going over the key events that have happened so far this year.

**Coronavirus**

The biggest thing to happen in 2020, the global pandemic. COVID-19 is one of the world's worst global pandemics in history since it has spread so fast around the world, causing airlines to shut down, lockdowns in most countries, and schools to shut for a long time.

Worldwide there have been over a million deaths, over 36 million cases and 25 million recovered. The government is putting in safety regulations like wearing masks in shops, making us sanitize often, and avoiding contact with the elderly if possible. The coronavirus is believed to have zoonotic origins and has similarity to bat coronaviruses. COVID-19 is still going on in November and there is yet to be a cure. We eagerly wait for the end of this pandemic.

**Australia's Bushfires**

The Australian bushfires are the worst fires to have happened on record. As of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the fires burnt an estimate of 19 million hectares. They also destroyed over 6000 buildings, including around 3000 homes, over a billion animals and at least 34 innocent people. Although the fires started in around June 2019, the fires increased in severity around December 2019 and January 2020.

Thousands of people lost their homes and many others had to leave their houses and live in temporary accommodations until the danger had passed. Smoke was also a big problem since people with medical conditions were at risk and children had to stay inside at school during break and lunch to avoid the smoke.

The reason the fires got so out of hand is because of climate change.

Climate change increased the possibility for bushfires by 30% as 2020 is the hottest and driest year in Australia, with temperatures hitting over 40 degrees in every state. It wasn't until May that the fires were said to be completely gone.

**World War Three Fears**

While the fires in Australia were roaring, the year also started with the fear of a third World War due to tensions between the US and Iran. On Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> an airstrike killed a top Iranian general and then Iran got revenge on January 7<sup>th</sup> with a ballistic missile strike targeting American troops in Iraq. Trump claims that he called the strike on Iranian general Soleimani because he was plotting imminent and sinister attacks on Americans, Trump added that "We took action last night to stop a war. We did not take action to start a war". He also said he did not seek a regime change in Iran. Trump's actions to 'stop a war' almost caused the start of WW3, but luckily it was called off before further damage was caused.

**Black Lives Matter**

George Floyd was a black American killed during an arrest after a store clerk alleged that he had passed a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, a white police officer, Derek Chauvin, knelt firmly on Floyd's neck for a period which was reported to be 8 minutes and 46 seconds, even after Floyd pleaded for him to stop. This horrific event caused many riots all over the world to raise awareness that black lives matter as much as white lives do. Other events similar to this from the past, which have been swept under the rug by the police in America, have also been brought into light.

Black Lives Matter (founded in 2013) is a global organization whose mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities.

A positive to come out of this tragic event is that it caused this movement to go worldwide and now more people are aware of what racism looks like and how it can be stopped! Despite this, humanity still has a long way to go.

**What's next? Maybe a zombie apocalypse?  
Nobody could have predicted the weird year  
of 2020. Let's hope that next year is the year  
of redemption.**





# US Presidential Debate: Biden vs Trump

By Marinela Pervataj, Y9

Trump and Biden locked horns in Cleveland, Ohio on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. A chaotic and tempestuous debate. The moderator at the debate struggled to reign in the volatile back and forth, drawing criticism from spectators.

President Trump and opposition leader Biden traded verbal blows in a preposterous match of political ping pong. Many claim that the debate has brought shame to America, despite this, Trumps' presidential campaigner claimed that it had 'turned into the greatest debate performance in presidential history' depicting Biden as 'weak' and beholden 'to anti-police leftists'. The two leaders bickered over healthcare, the economy, but the coronavirus took centre stage at the debate.

Many claimed that the president was 'unprofessional' during the debate, he frequently interrupted and provoked, opposition leader Joe Biden, telling him to 'Shut up' on multiple occasions.

President Donald trump, failed to answer questions, when the moderator challenged him over white supremacist support, refusing to condemn the far-right group.

According to CBS news, Trump interrupted Biden a total of 73 times, in the 90-minute duration of the debate.

The tone of the debate became clear early on, hectoring from president Trump saw Mr Biden call the president 'a clown'.

As they moved to discuss the Supreme Court, the rancour heightened, with Mr Biden refusing to answer when asked if he would try to expand the number of judges at the US Supreme Court.

The democratic candidate snapped at Mr Trump on multiple occasions, with some claiming that he dealt with the pressure in an unprofessional manner.

Others have come to his defence saying that the fault lies on Trump for acting callously at the debate.

Mr Trump, the Republican candidate, seeking power of America for a second term responded to Biden's criticism by claiming that he is politically incompetent.

In other moments during the debate, Trump was asked if he would encourage his supporters to stay peaceful if the results of the election are unclear. He responded by saying, 'I am encouraging my supporters to go to the polls and watch very carefully.'

The debate hit closer to home when the politicians started taking hits at personal issues and family members, with many on the media referring to the debate as a 'cat fight'.

The coronavirus has dominated the world and continues to, this was no exception in the presidential debate. Mr Biden accused Trump of panicking over the coronavirus pandemic, which has taken the lives of more than 200,000 Americans.



Mr Biden stated that, 'A lot of people have died and a lot more are going to die unless he (Trump) gets a lot smarter, a lot quicker'.

Trump hit back, strongly objecting Biden using the word 'smart'.

The winner of the debate was unclear. It was a political debate, equivalent to a food fight, the winner of the match was the one who came out the least covered in gunk.

On Tuesday night the man with the least political dirt on him was Joe Biden. His main goal was to show Americans that he could hold up under pressure in addition to the fact that his advance in age, had not deteriorated his political wit. Metaphorically, Biden had to show that he could take a pie in the face, and had the ability to keep a level head in the toughest of situations.

For the majority of the debate, Biden managed to keep a calm façade, but Trump's constant interruptions, provoked the former Vice President in saying things that were truly damaging to his own party.

Trump's persona on Twitter – an unconventional, insulting and rumour mongering aspect of the president – was on full show during the hour and a half of the event. The vast amount of Americans, including Trump supporters, find his social media visage one of his more unappealing attributes.

The presidential race is currently weighing down against Trump, the US president needed to utilise this debate to shake up the marathon. Biden's lead, has remained unnerved through the turmoil, in the streets, the economy and the Covid-19 crisis.

One in ten Americans are estimated to be still undecided on to whom to trust their vote on and the dynamics are said not to alter after this debate.



Anything resembling a civilised exchange, was buried in debris of bickering and bloviation. Due to this, the President missed an opportunity for the Republican Party. Overall, many media outlets globally have described it as a chaotic slapstick contest that has drawn American politics to be far from picturesque.

## Film Review: The Greatest Showman

By Veronica Bulavska, Y9

Due to lockdown restrictions I haven't been able to watch anything new at the cinema, therefore I have been scanning my online streaming accounts for the best things to watch during times that I am home bound! The Greatest Showman (available on Prime and Disney+) is one of these.

When this movie was released in 2017 it blew up hugely. People all over the world absolutely loved this charming musical. Director Michael Gracey clearly knows a thing or two about how to make a good movie which has been played on screens all over the world.

The story is about a man P.T. Barnum, played by Hugh Jackman, who has a dream about starting his own circus. He calls in auditions with his assistant Phillip Carlyle, played by Zac Efron, and invites talented people, who are misfits because of how they look. The story develops as their circus grows bigger, better and the characters fight for equality. Whilst they all deal with their own issues.

This film was inspired by a true story. Phineas Taylor Barnum, who was an American showman, politician, and businessman, is remembered for founding the Barnum & Bailey Circus.

I personally thought it was great that the majority of the film was about equality and how it showed all the characters' problems. They also included a description of life struggles, like body weight.

However, I thought that the musical aspect didn't quite fit in with the seriousness of the musical. In my opinion, the songs just didn't fit in with such an important message in the film on struggles and self-consciousness. I feel like these issues would be taken more seriously without the songs (although the songs were great to sing along to).

In conclusion, this musical film had a strong message about equality that I really enjoyed. I would recommend going and seeing the film if you haven't yet, especially if you like musicals.

☆☆☆☆/5



## Book Review: Invisible in a Bright Light by Sally Gardener

By Deshna Nagarajan, Y9

As well as binging on all the latest Netflix shows, I have spent the extra time I have indoors reading as many interesting books as I can! I am going to review my latest read: Invisible in a Bright Light by Sally Gardener.

*THE STAGE IS SET, TAKE YOUR SEATS.....*

*IT'S 1870: IN THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE IN THE FREEZING CITY OF C---*

*CELESTE SEES THE CHANDELIER SHAPED LIKE A GALLEON FALL FROM ITS MOORINGS. AS IT SPLINTERS INTO A THOUSAND PIECES, SHE AND HER GHOSTLY COMPANION FIND THEMSELVES WANDERING IN THE GUTTER OF TIME.*

*HERE THEY MUST TREAD SOFTLY IN THE CAVE OF DREAMERS, FACE THE MAN IN THE EMERALD GREEN SUIT AND PLAY A TERRIFYING GAME CALLED THE RECKONING TO SAVE THOSE THEY LOVE*

'Invisible in a Bright Light' is Sally Gardner's first middle grade novel in 14 years.

Celeste is the lowest of the theatre workers in the Royal Opera House- a mere orphan whose job was to run errands for everybody else. One day, Celeste wakes up in a costume basket to realize that she is recognized as Maria, a talented dancer preparing for a stage performance. Mystified, Celeste also recalls broken fragments of herself in a dream...a devastating shipwreck, a man in an emerald green suit and a vicious game called the Reckoning, in which she mysteriously is a participant...

She has three clues to win the game: the song of a bird that can't sing, a theatre too small for actors, and a chance to guess his name like Rumpelstiltskin. How will she escape her nightmarish hallucination and free herself out of the character Maria? Will she win the Reckoning? This is what the suspense and the thrill of the novel will lead to. Will Celeste find the right path?

This meandering mystery will keep readers turning pages over and over. It unfolds elements giving the whole plot a dream-like quality to interest readers. I loved the way the plot twisted and changed from initial disorientation and confusion to piece together the solution to Celeste's mystery step by step...

