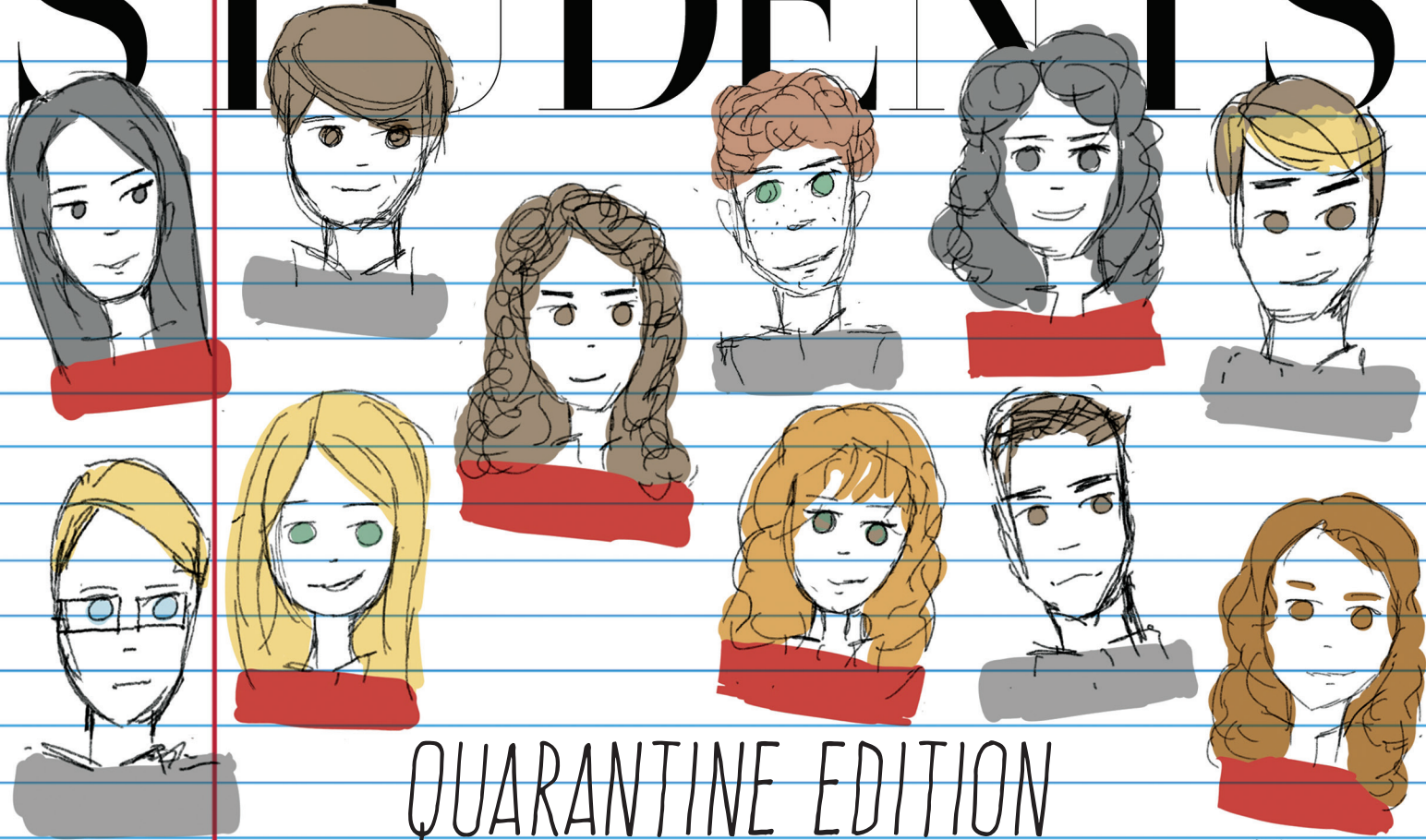
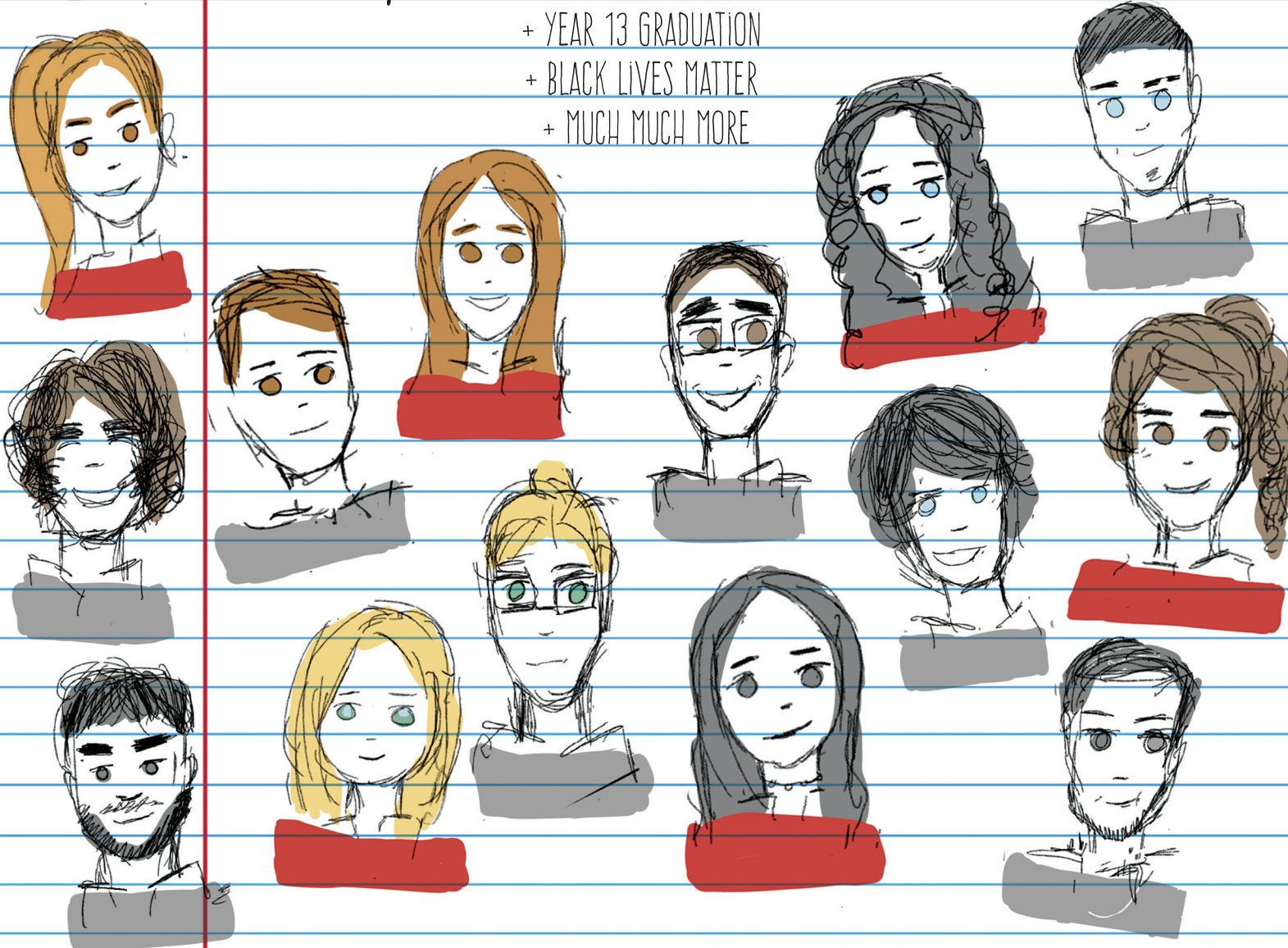


STUDENTS



+ YEAR 13 GRADUATION
+ BLACK LIVES MATTER
+ MUCH MUCH MORE



Editor's Note

Welcome to the second and last **Students** magazine issue of the 2019/20 school year. Due to the circumstances which we are having to deal with, this will also be the first online and interactive magazine.

So far, we've had a bit of a topsy-turvy year. A Third World War almost started, Kim Jong-Un died and came back to life, the world ran out of toilet paper and, most importantly, we have lived through a Global Pandemic.

At **Students** we understand that this has been a far more complex and challenging term than ever expected. This issue will look at some of the best, and worst, news and stories to come out of this quarantine. We hope you enjoy, and we hope that next year all will be back to normal.

Editors:

Lucas Parfitt | Tomás Maillo | Paul Boldison | Alex De Lisle

Journalists:

Milly Deuchar | Laura Avello | Alex De Lisle
Sebastian Batchelor-Walsh | Lucas Parfitt | Tomás Maillo
Lucia d'Aubarede | Ana Cano | Sofía Albaladejo
Emma Daniel | Paula Llana | Gael Martínez

Design & Artwork:

Lucas Parfitt | Victoria Cuesta

We would like to thank Mr De Lisle, Mr Boldison, the journalists of the ESA and the editorial team for putting so much effort into this term's magazine despite the troubling circumstances.

CONTENTS

School Related

- Page 4 Year 13 Graduation
- Page 6 An interview with Mrs Roberts
- Page 18 School lockdown photos

Lifestyle & Art

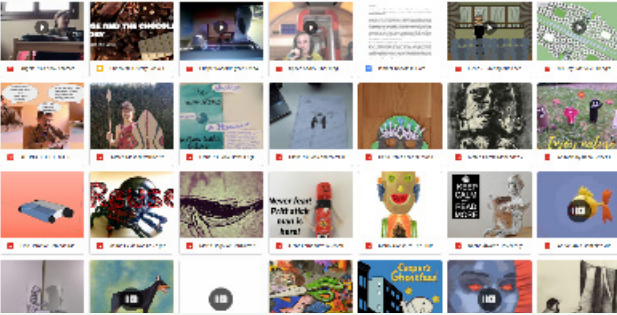
- Page 12 Lockdown Film Club
- Page 16 Year 9 poetry
- Page 20 Art selection
- Page 24 Media Studies music videos

Opinion articles

- Page 11 The Lockdown: too little, too late?
- Page 14 Black lives matter in Spain
- Page 15 Black lives in Spain, history and now
- Page 21 Has anything changed?

Classwork

The best classwork from the year can be found within the folder below, click on the image to access it. IEP Group email required.



Year 13

The Digital Graduation

This year we are sadly saying goodbye to our beloved Year 13 class of 2019/20.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to hug them goodbye, or watch them walk up onto that stage, each of them in their best clothes, to receive that diploma they have come to deserve.

However, due to these troubling circumstances we have found ourselves in, the teachers of the English School have put together a graduation website, with messages and videos from the bottom of their hearts for the students of Year 13.

Dear Year 13 Students,
See you at graduation in September.

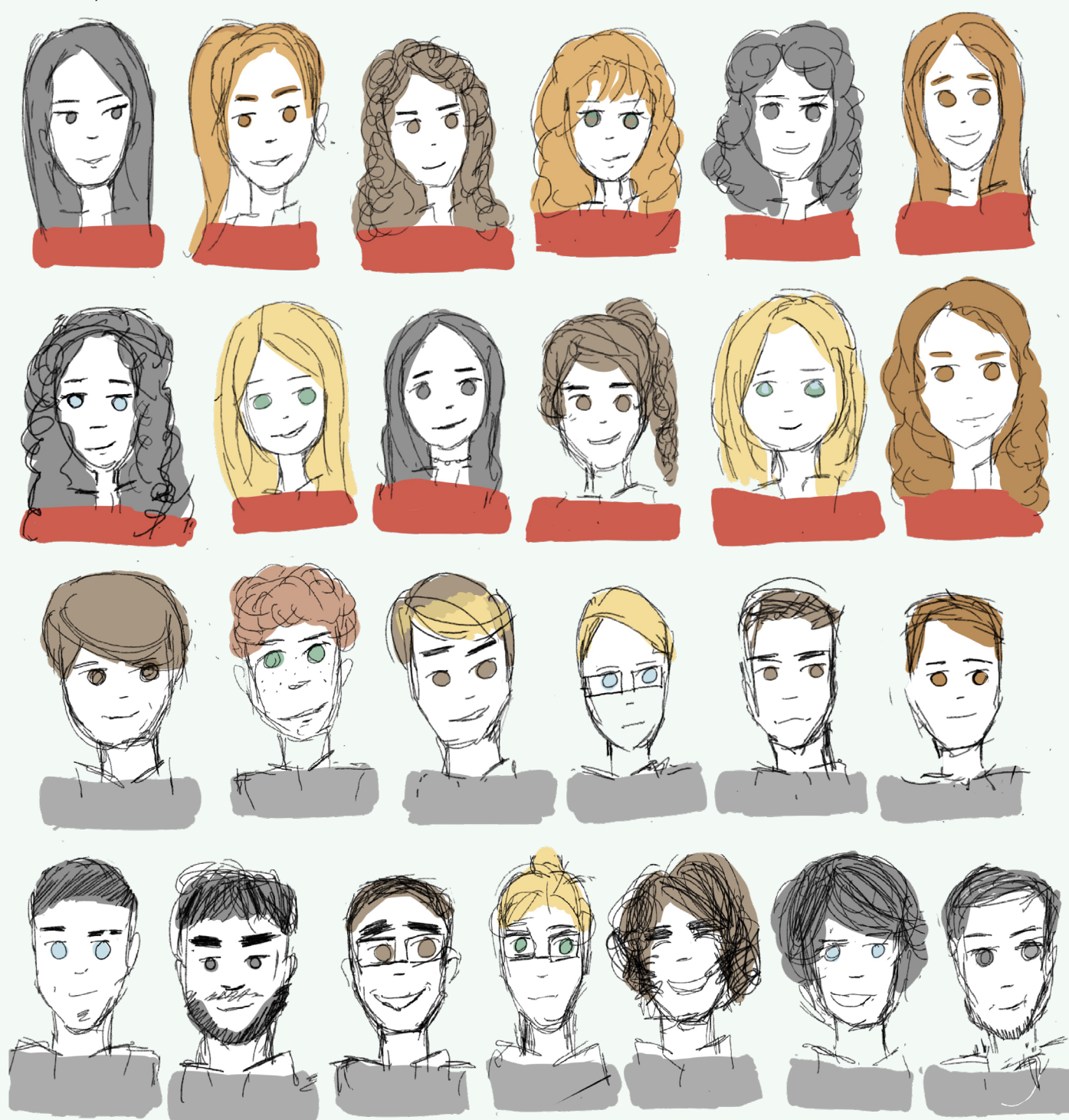


Click on the banner to the left to access the Year 13 Graduation website and find out what the teachers really think about Year 13.

An IEP Group email is required.

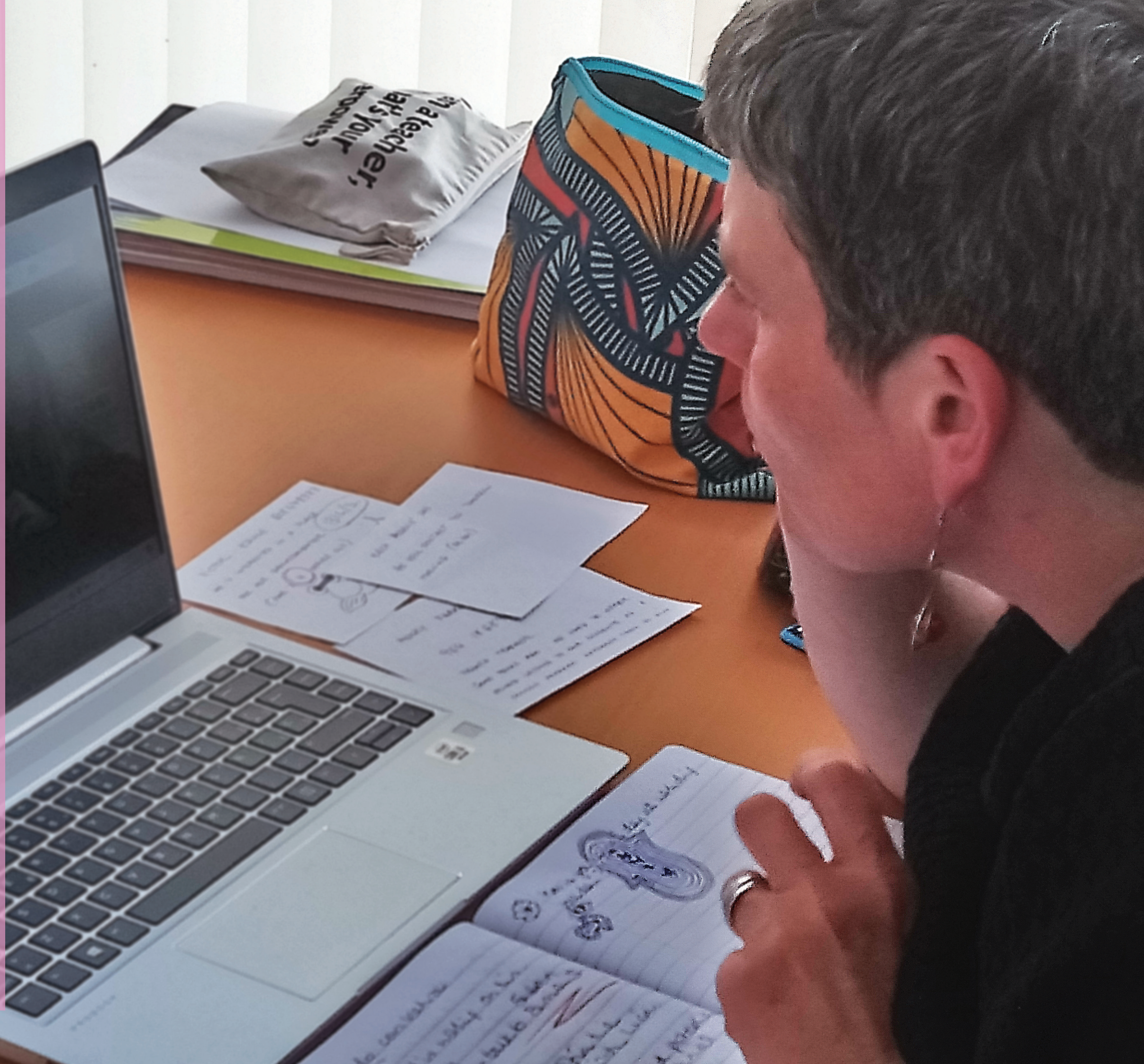
“Gone but not Forgotten”

Below are some illustrations of this Year 13 class drawn by Victoria Cuesta (also featured on this issues cover). Try to spot your friends, family, or even yourself!



An online Interview

An interview with
Ms Roberts -
By Milly Deuchar and
Lucia d'Aubarede



An interview with Ms Roberts

By Milly Deuchar and Lucia d'Aubarede

From health and safety to knitted cats, Ms Roberts tells us the plans for next year and how she coped with lockdown. Last Friday we interviewed our marvelous head teacher, Ms Roberts, when we asked her about her personal experiences with the past three months in lockdown and how it was to run a school from home.

1 *How was your usual day at work during lockdown?*

"A bit odd. I get up really early, because that way I can work before anybody in the house is up. Normally what I'll do I'd get up at half past six and go through my emails and then plan for what needs to be done during the day. If I'm working from home, which is less and less now, I'd say that I've been coming into school since April, maybe coming in twice a week, and now it's three, four, times a week. What tends to happen is I come in when I'm not doing online teaching. The day hasn't got the same structure as it would normally have, because communication because maybe I'd run down to the chemistry lab to talk to Mr Deuchar and then pop up to geography to see Mr Daniel, show parents round the school and speak to students, and chat to Antonio, Aurora and Monica and there's always something going on; whereas now it's a bit like walking down an empty corridor with 300 doors but you can only go in one room at once and you have to sort everything out over email or a phone call and it all just takes 10 times longer than it normally would do." ("to put it shortly, my day is very long")

2 *How has running the school changed over the past three months? And how do you think it will change next year with the new normal?*

"What will be complicated is social distancing, and it's been difficult running the school when we're all in different places. One of the things

we're working on at the moment, and this is about Phase Four because the boundaries keep changing, is to ensure that we can fit everyone in school and on the buses at the same time but still being safe. One of the things that made life easier is that public transport is now at 100% capacity, which of course means that all students will have to wear masks at all times on the bus, end of. One of the big things that's going to happen next year is we will be having a proper sick bay with a school nurse. It's going to be very difficult because we all naturally gravitate towards Antonio, the sort of father of the whole school with his sweets and cotton ball blobs in the ear, and it's trying to make sure that everywhere is more hygienic, cleaning going on throughout all the day and making sure movement is reduced somewhat. The common room was a big debate, but we think we've nailed that so you'll finally get your common room, given that there's going to be about 80 students in sixth form next year, but you know, it also depends on how mature the older students are going to be about social distancing. Teachers are quite clear on that, we just need to use different access points to come in and make sure there's a place to hand gel as you go in and out of lessons and make sure the desks are set up, which is what we're on at the moment. There'll be a point where we might have to group kids in larger numbers together to be able to do a consolidation so we can use a larger school space to be able to deliver a lesson, but there is enough scope in the school to be able to fit everyone in safely."

3 *You said earlier that communicating with people has changed, do you think it's become easier or more difficult to communicate with other members of staff?*

"I think sometimes I get included in emails I wouldn't necessarily have to be. You know, if everyone is sitting in front of a screen then what you'll have is a lot of emails coming through. Teaching through Google Classroom also means you get a lot of emails from students that you

teach. I don't necessarily think it's better, I think it's different, and I think most of the good decisions or problem resolutions, you know when something isn't quite right, or you need to talk to a student or a parent or a member of staff the best way to do that is over the phone or in a meet, but you do miss being able to perceive people's facial expressions."

4 *With the Sixth Form common room, what's the big plan going to be? How is it all going to be regulated?*

"That's one of the things we're still looking at. You'll have heard about in Denmark where they talk about social bubbles, so you could have a bubble of eight students that can be in a space at the same time, and that's actually quite easy to manage, it doesn't have to have a camera in there. When you're old enough to go out and about or old enough to learn to drive some of you, you've got to be old enough to be responsible, but of course you're going to be monitored for your own safety. I'm not telling you exactly how it's going to be, because it just spoils the surprise."

5 *How was quarantine for you?*

"I'm really lucky because I live in the countryside, so my family and I were able to go outdoors because of living in a rural setting, so on that level it's been fine. One of the comedy bits is that I've had a lot of internet problems because of living in a rural area, which is a nightmare when you're trying to run a school and you can only leave the house if you're going to the chemist or supermarket, but you can actually get through that quite well. We also had lightning struck our telephone junction box. That actually feels like it was years ago but it was actually during confinement, so we were three days without a mobile, so I was having to tether my mobile to my laptop to be able to use the data on my mobile. That was the one downside of living in the country, but everything else was quite good actually."

6 *On the topic of kitting, Mr Boldison told me to ask you about the Covid Cats Collection*

"Oh did he? Oh Mr Boldison. First of all I made the decision to knit for Ms Spitzhorn, Deborah, whos a Year Two TA, and Monica a cat in honor of the cat we adopted who we had to put to sleep because he had an autoimmune disease, and I thought I'll knit them a nice cat for Christmas in honour of Bartleby the Cat, and in the end I didn't have time during Christmas, because you never do. So, I worked out that in order to stop myself from going

blind from using the screen so much during lockdown I would knit while watching the news, and because I knit very fast, I ended up over the past three months knitting 29 small novelty cats who I've given to people who I really care about, and I called them the Covid Cat Collection, so they're actually numbers covid-1, covid-2 up to covid-29 which I dropped off this morning at Helena our speech therapist house, because it was her daughter's sixth birthday today. I sent in the post to Ms Spitzhor, Deborah and Monica their little cats, and started posting to other people, cause obvious we couldn't see each other, but I did give Aurora her cat because she was in school, and Mr Boldison's got one, as has Mr Delisle and Mr Deuchar, Mr Daniel, Mrs Hylton and more dotted around, and I've got more to knit, and I won't stop knitting after covid, I'll just keep knitting until I retire or until I go into the madhouse."

7 *What happened before the national lockdown? How did you get the information you needed to make decisions about school?*

"It was a situation that we'd been watching for some time. We were looking towards Italy, really, because of how that was panning out, and then seeing that the numbers were creeping up here, but our remit comes from Consejería, the local education authority, because they're the ones that make the final call. If you remember, prior to school closing, there'd been an outbreak in Pedro Masaveu on Oviedo, so as a result a decision was made to close all schools in Oviedo, and with that, each school has to speak to our inspectors so that we get an idea of what advice they're giving us. I'd wanted to close on that day anyway which is why we sent all students with all their stuff. I had this idea that it was going to close then and there, but I hadn't got the ok from Consejería until after everyone had gone home, and then from that, bearing in mind that the school belongs to a group, they closed on the Wednesday, which was quite late considering Madrid was quite advanced in terms of infections, and then we closed on the Thursday; the other schools generally closed on the Friday, so from that point I said to staff make sure that all the students have something to do. But one of the difficult things was to not actually knowing then that we were going into full national lockdown at the hand of the state of emergency and so with that you have to make very clear decisions about how much you can expect young children to do in terms of school work when their parents are at home as well remote working; bearing in mind not all

families have one laptop or tablet per person, you know, so what we tried to do was stagger it so that things were manageable so that little by little we could increase the work and the presence without making it unmanageable, because I don't think it's pleasant to spend as much time in front of a computer as I do, but it's my job, but I also think that a student no matter how old they are also needs a time to disconnect from their computer, because you do just get really tired eyes and bored."

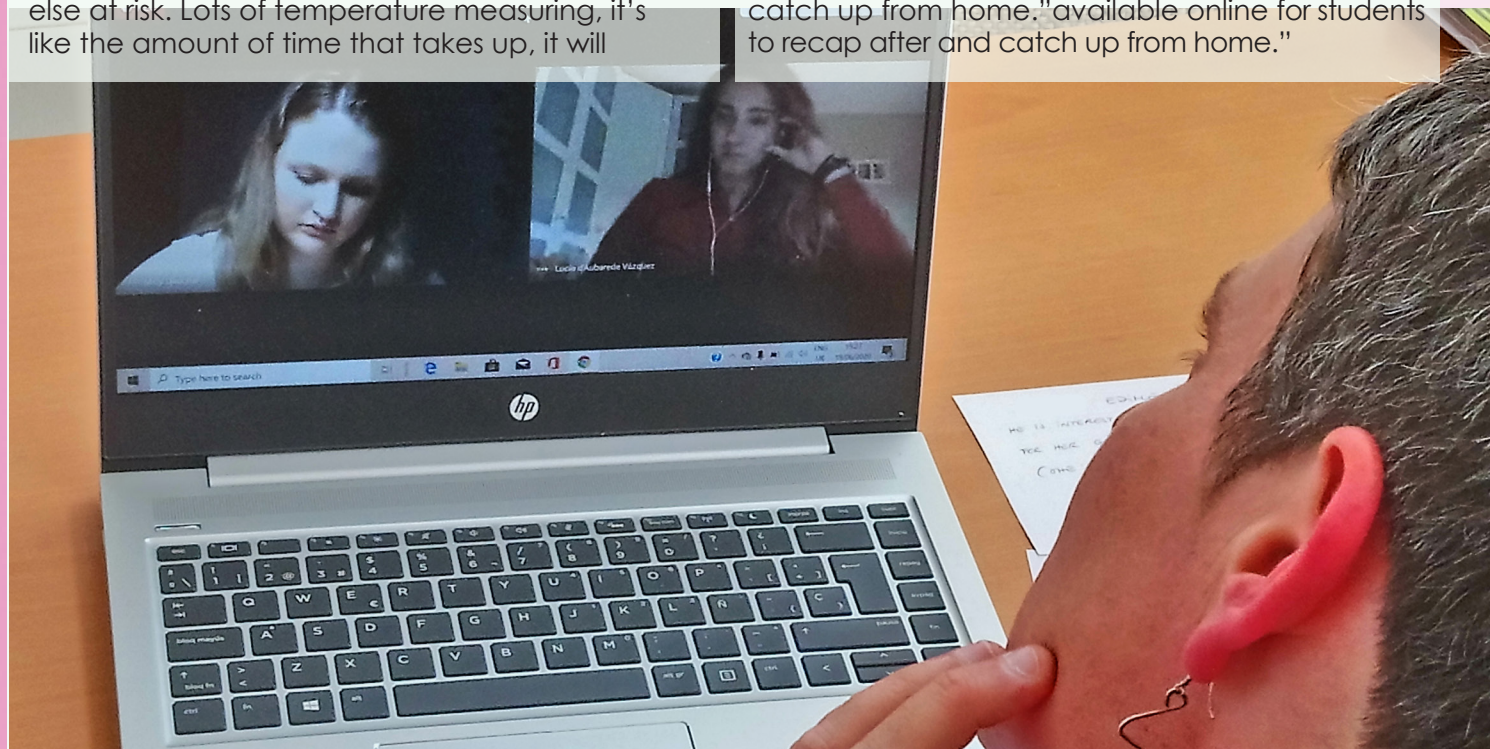
SHow's the kitchen going to work? How are we going to eat, basically?

"It's not set in stone at the moment, it's one of the things still in the air a bit. It's completely infeasible for you to bring food from home, just because in terms of health and safety it becomes problematic. Our dining room is very big, so one of the things is making sure the lunchtime seating works so that you go in for a set amount of time, but then you have to move on, so we're looking at that sense of staggered lunch. There's also the possibility of rotating so that you have one day hot meal and another having maybe a salad, things like that, or something in an environmentally friendly container, but that you then eat outside so we don't have a lot of kids in the dining hall. What's good is that in infants and juniors they were structuring it in a way so that they all fit in all the time to have a hot meal, which I would like that for secondary, but it's actually looking for some flex there, to make sure that everybody eats safely, cause your first thing is that making sure that your students and your staff are safe and that nobody is putting anybody else at risk. Lots of temperature measuring, it's like the amount of time that takes up, it will

guarantee that a 45 minute period everyday there's got to be a certain point at the start and end that's completely dedicated to hygiene and temperature checking, but what we can't do is let that become something that gets in the way of your education. For me priority is to make sure that everybody is getting face to face learning. When it comes to lunchtime, I'm not quite there yet, because I want the room to be set up, and to be really honest, the way in which lunchtime id structure cannot dictate the timetable, but what we have to make sure is that everybody eats in a hygienic situation. If everyone's safety, your safety, our safety, your parents safety. If that isn't respected it'll affect your learning"

Do you think it's necessary for students and staff to be tested to see if they have or have had the virus?

"I think it's almost a pointless exercise, because I think there will have been people who have carried it or had it in its asymptotic form, and also, you are registered up to the point you take the test, but any point after that the results become invalid because of the incubation period, so unless you're testing people every two weeks, well it becomes mental, which is why you have to take temperature and why you've got to make sure people wear masks, which I think is only a small price to pay and I know they are uncomfortable, especially if you wear glasses, but those are the prices you pay to try and reduce cross infection. People have to be very honest as well, like you have to say, "I'm not feeling very well, I've got a temperature so I'm not going to school" so teachers have to make sure that so much is available online for students to recap after and catch up from home."available online for students to recap after and catch up from home."



The Lockdown

Too little or Too Late?

By Sebastian Batchelor-Walsh

We all know why a lockdown was put in place, but the question that's been on many people's minds is if it's against the human right to be free.

"If it were put in place under normal circumstances, then yes – yes it would be against human rights, but I think that given the amount of people who have died due to COVID – 19, it was necessary." said a KS3 student who wished to remain nameless.

"I believe it's necessary because of the state of emergency and the amount of deaths." said Daniel Álvarez Rocas, Year 8A

Who knows if going into lockdown was the right thing to do? There have been countries all over the world, but especially in Scandinavia, where there has never been a complete lockdown in place for everyone, instead there has been more specific shielding. This will help these countries to get back on their feet economically speaking much quicker, as it means that not everyone has had to stay at home.

Surely, after this crisis is over, there will be an enquiry into how the governments of the world reacted to this disease, and if it was too late. If so, our governments will be left with some awkward questions to answer.

Lockdown Film Club

By Mr De Lisle

In the midst of lockdown, students and teachers found themselves with a lot of extra time on their hands, and with only so many trashy Netflix reality shows that we could take, the Media Studies department decided to start a Film Club. The aim was simple: each week to vote on a film based on a topic, then come together to discuss what we thought of it. The process allowed us to watch films we might not usually be interested in, and come together in a virtual social space at a time when social communication was sorely lacking. We could also try to understand some of the more complex ideas of the films and consider the direction, writing and cinematography. Here are our opinions of the films we watched that you might want to seek out this summer. Enjoy!

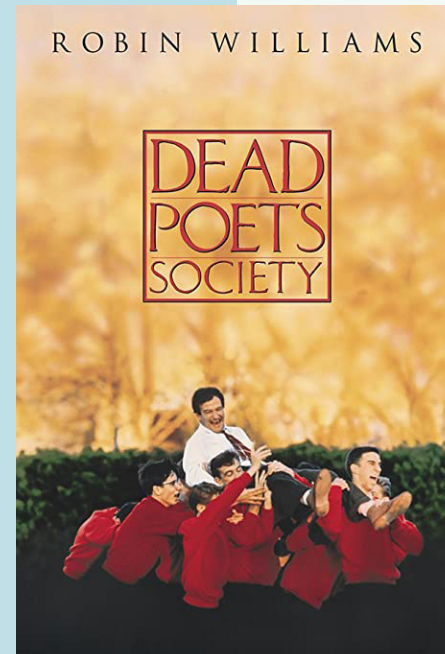


INDIE MOVIES 101 -

The Grand Budapest Hotel (15)

What Film Club thought: The Grand Budapest Hotel is a quirky indie comedy, with drama and intrigue, but mainly it's just a top-tier Wes Anderson film. Anderson is an auteur director with a style so unique that you can identify one of his films simply from the framing of a shot. It was enjoyed by most of the Club, but its unusual sense of humour left some a bit bored. Everyone praised its style calling it 'beautiful' with a 'dollhouse aesthetic' and overall enjoyed it.

3.5/5 Stars



GROWING UP -

Dead Poets Society (PG)

What Film Club thought: Dead Poets Society is a classic coming-of-age story about a group of boys in a prestigious prep school, whose new English teacher prompts them to follow their passions in life. Film Club noted that while the direction lacked any visual style, and the soundtrack was pretty 80s, the narrative and message hold up as a powerful comment on education and growing up. In the words of Mr Keating, 'Carpe diem' - seize the day.

3.9/5 Stars



NAIL BITERS -

Parasite (15)

What Film Club thought: Korean director, Bong Joon-Ho's Oscar Winning Parasite follows a poor family who trick their way into jobs working for the wealthy neighbours in the house on the hill, before things take a dark turn with fatal consequences. The film was popular with Film Club, with members noting that it started off very funny, before turning into a deeply tense thriller. Not everyone enjoyed its sense of humour and felt the hype had left them underwhelmed, but overall its message of class struggle really landed thanks to the entertaining package that Bong creates.

4/5 Stars

Do Black lives matter less in Spain?

By Sofía Albaladejo, Emma Daniel, Paula Llana & Gael Martínez

We've all read the articles and seen the news from the U.S. but do Black Lives Matter less than white lives in Spain too?

Protests have been flooding the streets as civilians from all over the world demand justice in every sense for black lives, including in many parts of Spain. This causes us to wonder: are we protesting against police brutality and other forms of racism in the USA, or are we protesting against Spain's discrimination too?

Racism has always been present, and this made people protest for their rights and make the people feel aware of how black people suffer from racism. These worldwide protests were triggered when a racist action happened, recently George Floyd was killed by white police, and caused a massive protest ALL AROUND THE WORLD, including Spain.

Many people might think that racism is mainly an issue in the United States but in reality, it's all around the world. Just because the media caught a video of police doing these acts in the USA doesn't mean it just happens there. In Spain, racism happens and matters too. People have shown this by doing protests in big cities like Madrid and Valencia. Comments like 'When you shower does your skin colour fade?' still are used.

As said before, racism is found all across the globe. In fact, as much as a country or party wants to claim they are anti-racist, they won't fully be until they are seen as ACTIVELY anti-racist.

Countries with more economic "power" over world influences, such as the USA, must adopt this "actively anti-racist" persona, due to their massive influence on the media and more.

Spain's situation may not be as brutal as the USA's, but it's still present in our day to day. For decades and decades, African-Americans have suffered incredibly due to racism, they were segregated, harassed... In Spain, people of colour never stand out as suffering from big acts of racism, but as always, racism is integrated so deeply in our culture in every way that many problems are still faced in Spain today. Racism is always present, something that must urgently change, but the situation in Spain "appears" much calmer than in places like the USA.

White people with white privilege who have never ever experienced any form of racism, must use their privilege wisely to support the voices of the unheard and educate themselves about this topic.



Black lives in Spain: History and Now

By Ana Cano

A part of Spanish history that isn't taught in our schools

As has been said before, racism is deeply integrated in our culture without us really knowing about it. The history of Spain and its role in African slavery is not a required topic in the Spanish school curriculum at the moment, so we will highlight some important events to cast light on the topic.

A comforting reading of history

You may have heard before that in 1500 the catholic kings abolished slavery and returned all people of color to their country of origin and decreed the equality of all citizens in all rights. It seems racism was abolished a long time ago. Well, this can be a quite misleading fact. Isabel I and Fernando de Aragón may have wanted the natives to feel part of the Spanish crown and not to enslave them. However, "la Encomienda", which was the plan to carry out the kings desires (and included bringing some natives back to the peninsula), did in reality have clear similarities to the ones of forced labour and slavery.

600,000 black people sold

Even though important figures tried to stop it, racism and white supremacy have been present in Spain. Black people were traded under the "animal sale space" in

the newspapers, along with socks or silk trousers. The trade became illegal in 1811, but it was estimated that between 1821 and 1867 100 million dollars were earned with the sale of 600.000 slaves. Spain abolished slavery after the USA

It was a consequence of a war of independence in Cuba, which brought the abolition of Spanish governed slavery. In November of 1886 they liberated the last slave generation in Spain. 1886 was 136 years ago. Spanish slave abolition was after American slave abolition, it was at the time the Eiffel Tower was being constructed and the first film was being shot.

And how is society doing in dealing with racism's legacy?

Legally, racism is not permitted in Spain. And we are certainly not in the same situation as the United States is confronting right now because a 13% of it's African American population are direct descendants of slaves, while in Spain there is just a historical footprint. Yet, the fact that it is illegal doesn't mean other discrimination doesn't take place; slavery's legacy haunts us. Black Spaniards have problems looking for a home, entering in discos, integrating in school and have to live with deceptive stereotypes.

"A black Spaniard says that Spain is not a racist country"

Looking into other perspectives, Bertrand Ndongo, a black man himself, said that Spain is not a racist country and he has the same opportunities as everyone else yet this may be influenced by his statu quo. Luc Andre Diouf Rih (PSOE), from Senegal, Rita Bosaho (Podemos) and Ignacio Garriga (Vox) are also black diputados in the parliament, so we could say blacks have some kind of representation in politics, but certainly this is not enough.

"Racism has always existed and you can't stop it."

A lot of us have probably heard that sentence before, and they probably said that about slavery 137 years ago. But you are the one who can decide to accept this as a truth and live within a society of unending injustice, or make a change. It could have been us who were the slaves once upon another story, so let's fight for the cause because we owe it to ourselves and we all deserve a great and just society.

Year 9 Poetry

The incredibly talented Year 9 students have been working hard through quarantine, creating poems and soliloquies for their English class. Here you can find some of the best work.

Underwater

Bury me very deep under the sea
Where the coral can pierce through dead flesh.
I can see debris, as small as a pea
Fish will eat my rotting body I guess.

The sea plants will pierce my bloodless veins
I'm scared to look down but I can't look up.
I hope that soon I'll be free of my pains
My lungs are filled like water in a cup.

My eyes are so blurry and filled with salt
I can feel my heart inside of my chest.
I can see the rocky ground of basalt
I think I've found the perfect place to rest.

In me I have found a reposeful pride
And the moon and the sun stay by my side.

By Ellie Mazzaccaro Stock

Feeling Blue

My sadness and emptiness consumes me
My soul can take it no more, I'm tired,
It feels like there is nothing left to see
I feel too numb and too and too uninspired

Reminded everyday im not enough
Afraid of change, that's why I stay the same
I try to convince myself I am tough
But still see myself as a cold frame

Can this be the end of the beginning?
Nothing seems to work for me anymore
Or can this be my lonely feeling
I have to keep fighting in this war

Some find an answer some never know
I just hope somehow or someday i'll glow

By Nora Barrera Perez

Summer Nights

Hot summer nights when we were so pretty
Fresh perfume, sunsets and beautiful lies,
The dream you loved, the lights of the city,
When then I realized that time always flies

In and out, like the sea you came and went
Up and down, time has taken our night,
The fresh flowers got dry and lost their scent,
My heart in silence, with any light

Now I remember that beautiful day
When summer nights and sunsets seemed to last
And we usually had something to say
Without foreseeing that moment would be past

I only hope that one day the wind saves
Memories and they come back with the waves.

By Lian Iglesias Gonzalez

In My Mind

We dreamed to be flying in the firmament,
Then I started feeling I wasn't quite right
As if something made me impatient,
Invading my mind day and through the night.

I cry, behind my sorrow and regret.
So then what happened that made me so stressed?
And then, as always it finally gets
to the bottom of my dying brain, depressed.

After, when he checked on his mental health,
he went away with doubts solved in his head.
he survived being chased by a painful death,
Liberated from his mental cage he said.

Hidden tears of joy overflowed in stream,
Two souls which together fought for their dream.

By Andrés González Martín

Beauty

What is beauty? Actually no one knows
I think beauty is something you can hide
It never goes, it stays as our shadows
We can't see it. It is in the inside

Some of us are special and can see it
If you're lucky you'll find someone that can
Having beauty is to know when to quit,
When to stop, when to admit, when to run.

Some people say beauty is physical
That it is just about being pretty
I think it is also emotional
Beauty isn't common in society.

Beauty can't be shared but can be improved,
Be nice or your beauty will be removed.

By Héctor Houghton Sanchez

Sea Turtles

It's the ocean breeze, the beautiful sea
The only home of the curious turtles.
It is the only place where they can be free
As they swim around like us in puddles.

But due to us, to all the pollution
Turtles are being unable to breathe
We did this and we need a solution,
They can't breathe, they can't breathe underneath.

The whole ocean is filled with this plastic
And we need to find something, emotion
As plastic is drastic not fantastic.
They need their home back, they need the ocean!

Turtles and sea animals are dying
And what's worse, we aren't even trying!

By Carmen Martinez Robres

Fly

Should I tell Mum about Heath?
That's my doubt.
She has always told me that love
can make you very, very, very
happy sometimes,
but tear your heart apart lifetimes.
Because if you are not careful,
you'll be stepped on like a bug.
Sometimes it can be your worst
pain,
and you'll wish to be in hell.
I always replied it could be as
beautiful as a white dove!
However, such a thing I never did
hear.

Should I tell her? Yes? No?
The interesting, imaginative word:
Love.

It's a powerful word!
Will Mum understand?
I hope she does!
Whatever she replies,
I'll tell her I love Heath so much
that my body cannot uphold
such a thing!
And that nothing will change the
way I feel about him.
Mum, I'm in love.

By Olaya Vasquez Garcia

Lockdown Reflection

To leave or not to leave?
Should I stay or should I go? I
don't know.
This is like being trapped in a
cave for 7 years.
I want to go outside but the
disease is out there and it may
catch me.
I want to leave this room. I can't
stand this anymore.
I want to have fun and enjoy
the breeze hitting my face and
pushing my hair back.
I feel stressed inside, It feels like
being constantly punctured on
your chest with a knife.
I feel like a man made machine
constantly repeating the same
pattern.
I eat, sleep, eat, sleep...
I can't continue like this.
I will go out to feel that sun hitting
my arms with that pain of it being
too hot.
I leave this house now.

By Nico Botas

Sadness

To stay in bed or not stay in bed?
Whether it is better to get ready
For an awful, dreadful, tough day
Or stay in bed and relax
And, while sleeping, dream.
To think if it were my last nap in
my life
To allow such a presumptuous
feeling
Satisfy my tired and unhealthy
body
To sleep, to dream, no more?
Wouldn't it be cruel to leave this
long lasting nap?
To start a day I don't
want to start?
To say we end our troubles
My soul can't take this no more
To sleep, to dream no more?
I will do what my brain and mind
tell me to do
Sleep, sleep, sleep

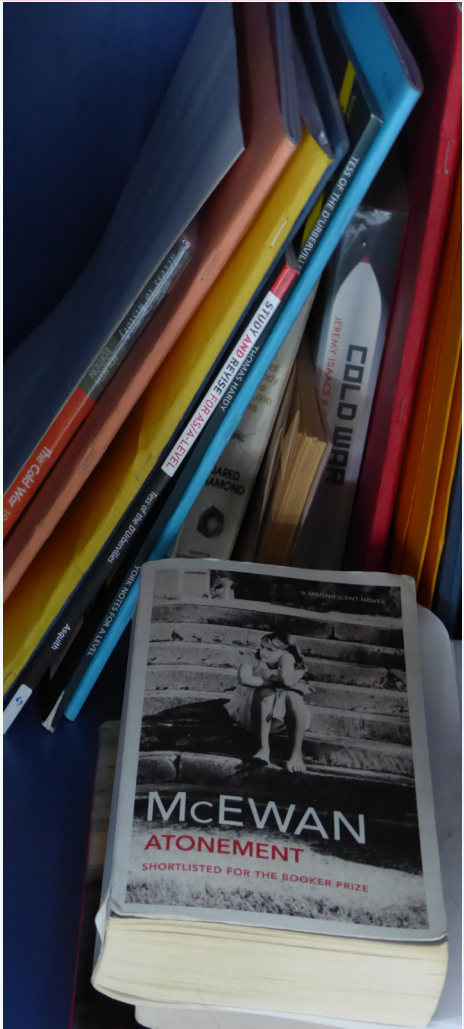
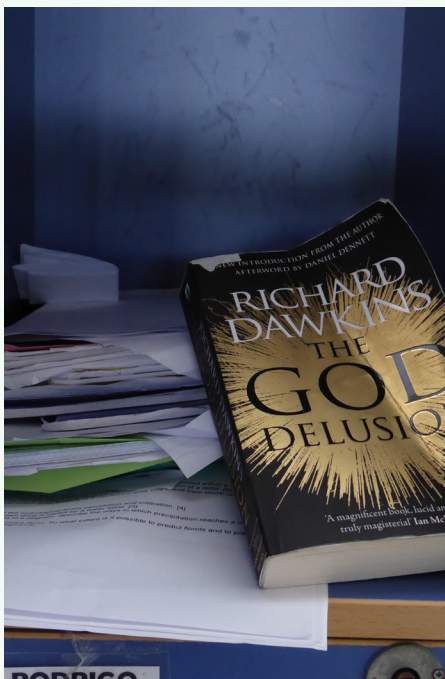
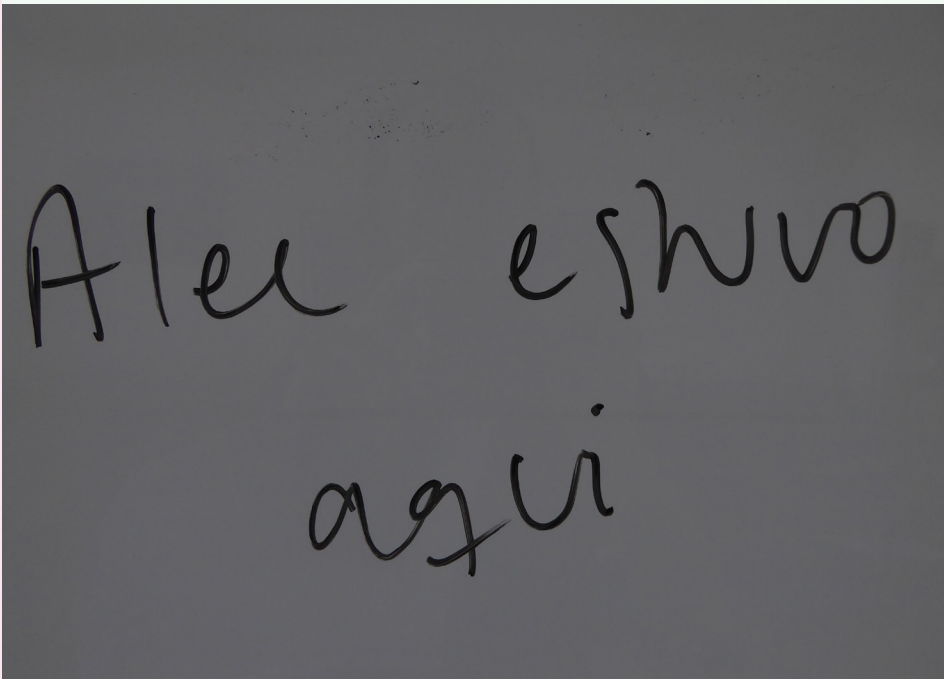
By Anonymous

The ESA Lockdown

Photos from the school in quarantine

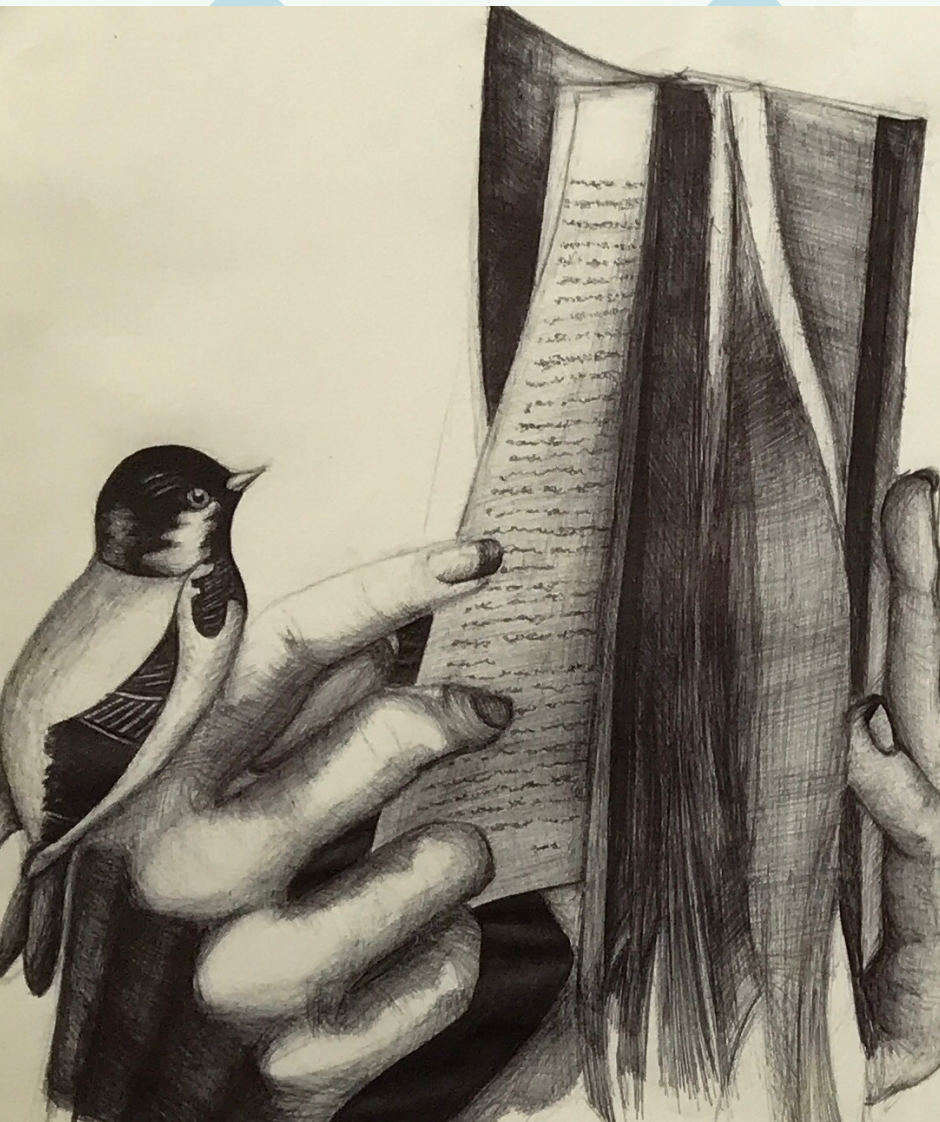
By Mr Boldison

As so many students have recently been unable to visit the school due to the lockdown situation, Mr Boldison kindly took some photos of the English School just to remind us.



Art Selection

For this edition of Students, we have collected some of the best Art work from the past year and put it all on one place for all of you to enjoy. Click [here](#) for more.



Has everything, or nothing, changed?

By Tomás Maíllo

After countless days locked between four walls, pondering is not an option; it's an involuntary and completely necessary act to not lose sanity, something on which we spend the countless dead hours, something that will benefit us, something that can help us order our ideas and know how to act correctly, or at least, according to how we really want to act. However, this type of reflection will not generally endure. It's easier to watch Netflix, television and to go through confinement without penalty or glory, like a self-defeating vacation. This does not mean that we should be like those people who grow up in these situations, and begin countless projects, but we should also not use confinement as an excuse to abandon ourselves to the dynamics of bed-eat-sofa, which will only collaborate in that loss of sanity that we are trying to avoid. Let's start.

From Inspiration to Instagram

For us, quarantine began the first day that classes were canceled: a surreal and comical situation, an ideal situation to celebrate in style. We would not have to get up early; we wouldn't have to sit for 6 hours in front of the books, listening to the teachers while we wait for the bell to ring at 16:20. On the other hand, we could use the time in personal projects that we had left undone. Although it is true that this sounded wonderful on paper, the harsh reality has shown us the opposite: procrastination is conspicuous by its presence in our day to day, without getting anything clear, watching the hours go by. The plans to become a piano virtuoso ended up materializing in a marathon of "Elite" and "La casa de papel". And those intense hours of exercise with online routines that you proposed ended up being hours scrolling through Instagram, seeing how others are in your same situation. This is why we now realize that the supposed lack of time in our day to day life was simply an excuse to avoid all the "goals" we were trying to achieve. But the first step in solving a problem is to be aware of it (or so we want to think).

How Much Loo Roll did you really Need?

But the situation escalated in craziness (much more than any of us could expect). Social hysteria broke out. Thousands of people went to their nearest supermarket to stock up on food, leaving others with no toilet paper (we still don't understand why). We went from absolute calm to obsessive hysteria, from "it's a simple flu" to "SOS". There was no middle ground, not even a small transition. For a few days many stopped thinking, became irrational, did not realize that going to the supermarket en masse would only increase their chances of getting infected.

New Normal or back to the Old One?

On the other hand, we are struck by the drastic reduction of pollution in large cities, so the planet could be the main beneficiary of the coronavirus: the quality of the air has improved massively, the waters have become crystalline and the fauna started exploring the cities. But we must not forget that this is a fleeting benefit: once the quarantine is over, it will all go back to "normal" in a burst, doing everything that they haven't done during the confinement. That is why it is important to be aware of the situation, and not be carried away by impulses, the result of long confinement.

Learning to Love the things you Hate

Despite all of the above, confinement has provided us with the time to stop, think, reflect and value the things that we previously overlooked: friendships, parties, talks with our families (including the occasional disagreements). Some even miss what they said to hate: going to class every day. Furthermore, we have shown strong bonds between its people by means of applause, sirens and daily cheers; to those who decided to take risks to help others, people who decided to help their older neighbors by going shopping and health professionals, working beyond their own capacity. But it has also made us see the negative face of society: unsupportive people, who did not care about the common good and only thought about their own comfort, taking their dog for a walk three or four times the same day; vigilantes that called out at people without knowing their situation or politicians blaming anyone who wasn't on their team.

Were you a good citizen?

For this reason, although we have witnessed many signs of generosity, kindness and responsibility, we must be aware that the world is not perfect, and we must be self critical: were we good citizens during the quarantine or did we put our comfort before the common good? Do we let ourselves be carried away by a self-claimed sense of justice, to feel satisfied thinking that we were contributing something, when we were doing the opposite?

What Can We Learn from this Experience (that we didn't learn before)?

It is therefore our duty as responsible citizens to reflect critically on our behavior and on society as a whole, not to get carried away by sentimentality, and not to think that we were heroes for staying at home and clapping at eight o'clock. We should have learnt that a spontaneous situation like this one was bound to happen sooner or later. We should have learnt that before, so as to have been better prepared. Now, we must recognize the work of those who stood up for us in such a difficult situation, and fight for them to be able to work in the best conditions possible.

In the end, and like so many times throughout history, everything changes, only so that nothing changes at all.

Media Studies

Music Videos

This year's Year 13 were asked to create a promotional campaign for an artist of their creation. They needed to design a music video, website and CD album digipak to promote the artist, focusing on consistent branding and an appropriate use of genre conventions. They have produced some of the highest quality music videos we have ever seen come out of the ESA, so we felt it was only fair to share them with the STUDENTS readership.

Belén de Villota
Prendes



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Ines Robledo
Costales & Victoria
Cuesta Calleja



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Davos González
Álvarez



Alejandra Rey
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Mateo García
Menéndez



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