

STUDENTS

NEW NORMALITY EDITION



Competitions

Photos and Winners from this year's socially distant competitions.

Horoscopes & Fashion

Covid-19 effects on the clothing industry and what your Future holds

**NEW STUDENTS
ARCHIVE!**

**Art,
Culture,
Science.**

ALL INSIDE!

Editors Note

Welcome to the first **Students** magazine issue of the 2020/21 school year.

It's been an interesting first term for us all to say the least. Yet, despite the difficulties that come with running a school during a pandemic, it's fair to say that, thanks to a little perseverance and a lot of hard work from the ESA staff, we've made it through.

At the Students magazine we believe there comes a strength in unity and, if anything, the past year has proved this. We only hope that we leave these troubling times stronger than we came in.

We encourage all those who want to take part in next term's issue to come along to the next **Students** meeting.

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Lucas Parfitt

We would like to thank Mr De Lisle, Mr Boldison and the students of the ESA for putting so much effort into this term's magazine. We would aslo like to thank all those who have tried to make our school life a little easier and safer in these troubling times and we hope that, with the help of eachother, all will return to normal.

CONTENTS

School Related

Page 4	2020 Competitions
Page 11	Brexit's Effect on Universities
Page 22	Talent Show Winners
Page 23	Students Archive

Media

Page 6	Retro Film Reviews
Page 20	The Psychology of Animal Crossing

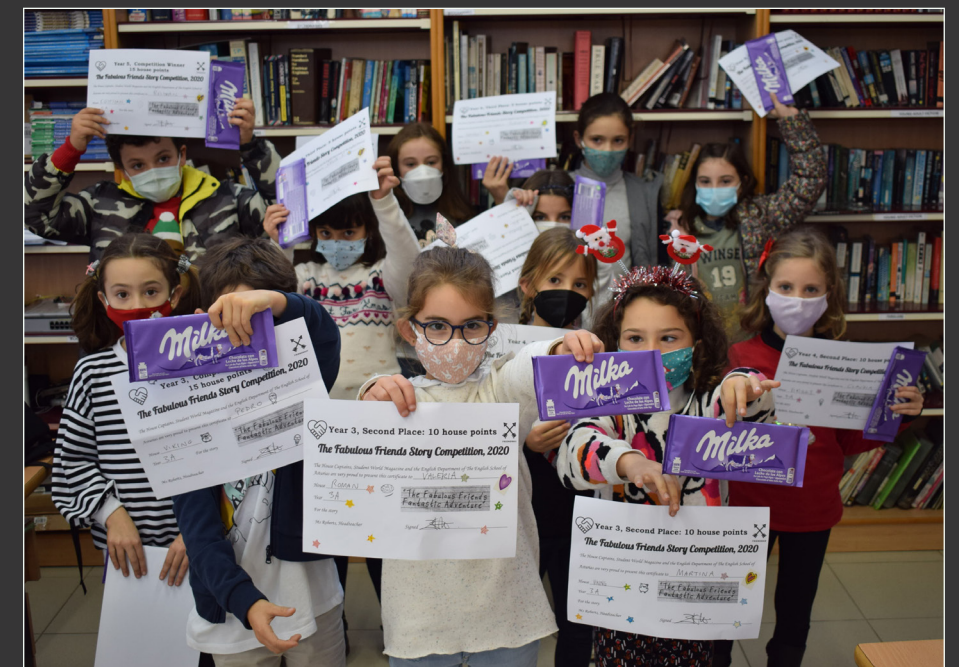
Lifestyle and Politics

Page 8	The Environment
Page 10	Algorithms in Law
Page 11	Brexit & Unis
Page 12	Brexit Trade Deal
Page 14	Short Story Winner
Page 15	Winter Fashion
Page 16	Covid-19 Fashion
Page 18	Horoscopes



2020

Limbo & Short Story Competition



Competition Winners:

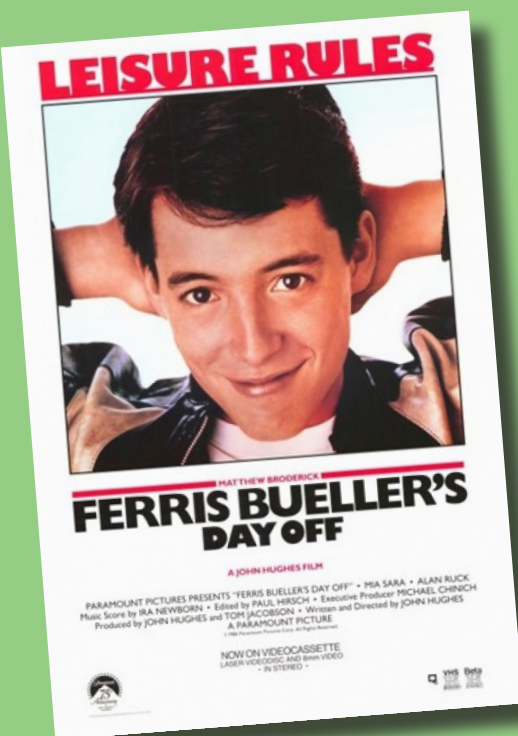
Limbo

Year 7 - Inés Viña , Inés Suárez,
Blanca Escavias, Helena Ocaña
8 - Micaela Ález, Marta Rubias,
Miguel Antuña, Dana
Year 9 - Daniel Álvarez, Diego Cuervo
Year 10 - Ines Corrionero
Year 13 - Ines Morilla
Teachers - Ms Spitzhorn

Short Stories

Year 3 - Pedro - 3A - Viking
Year 4 - Carmen - 4B - Egyptian
Year 5 - Beltran - 5A - Egyptian
Year 6 - Erica - 6C - Egyptian
Year 8 - Candela Coto - Greek
Year 10 - Olaya Vasquez - Viking
Year 11 - Emma Daniel - Egyptian

Retro Film Reviews



In **Ferris Bueller's day off**, Ferris Bueller (Matthew Broderick) wants a break from classroom torture to have fun in Chicago with his closest friends. Faking illness, Bueller's parents allow him to stay in bed to "recover." Once they're gone he convinces his friends, Cameron (Alan Ruck) and Sloane (Mia Sara), into joining him.

The trio, driving Cameron's dad's treasured 1961 Ferrari convertible, hit the town. Meanwhile, the grim headmaster (Jeffrey Jones) is in pursuit - eager to catch Bueller. Ferris' younger sister (Jennifer Grey) dislikes her older brother for getting away with such antics constantly, and tries to rat him out. Despite a few close slip ups, Ferris succeeds.

Personally, I enjoyed this film very much. The actors played their parts remarkably well and I found the storyline extremely entertaining. The film was absolutely hilarious and my stomach was in pain by the end of the film. Despite the fact the film was amusing there was a lot of tension buildup through-out - I quite liked this. The tension was due to the very close misses Ferris kept getting himself into but he never did get caught. My favourite part of the film was unsurprisingly

the end. Everything went rather smoothly except for when disaster struck and poor Cameron was in grave danger. I think the music choice was well chosen and the scenes were shot in appropriate places.

Although, at the start of the film I was very confused and I didn't quite understand what was going on. It was only until the trio had gotten away I understood what was happening. Furthermore, some parts of the film were quite unrealistic but I quite enjoyed this. Finally I think due to the quality of the equipment the speech was muffled in some parts.

In conclusion I think the film was trying to give a message saying that you should properly live life. It also showed that a good film didn't need special effects. The film also conveyed the idea of possibly helping friends and things along the lines of that. Maybe the producer meant to inform the older audience about the trickery teenagers are capable of. I loved the miniature trips they took and it gave a different view of life. I would definitely recommend this film for young teens and ages above.

9.5/10

By Anna Tarasova

The Life of Brian, by Monty Python was produced in 1980. This film brings us back to the roman era, where we can see the story of a boy named Brian who turned out to be a man named Brian

This movie, as most if not all movies produced by Monty Python is clearly not to be taken seriously as its main objective is to make fun of everything possible. This fact allows us to accept a lack of tension and a plot that guarantees that we are simply unable to ever anticipate where it's going. The special effects and the constant recycling of faces is also insubstantial, this could be foreseen, as the movie's from the 80s!

However, this movie causes constant laughs all throughout the film and includes a great deal of creativity. This can form incredible and unexpected twists that add another great deal of enjoyment to the film. In addition and as I said before, the movie manages to make fun of everything, you should expect a laugh when least expected... and when you do expect it... and when you haven't a clue... and always.

Bottom line, I really enjoyed this movie and I would highly recommend this film to anyone as it is apt for all ages. I would also recommend to watch it with someone, it's always funnier. I would give this movie a 9.5 as I personally enjoy comedy movies, if you're a grumpy person, watch it anyways, it'll cheer you up and make you "always look on the bright side of life!".

9.5/10

By Íker Maldonado



Mamma Mia! Is a musical directed by Phyllida Lloyd and produced by Tom Hanks and two of the members of ABBA; Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, who helped with the script and soundtrack. Sophie (Amanda Seyfried) is about to marry her boyfriend Sky (Dominic Cooper). She wants her father to walk her down the aisle, but her mother Donna (Meryl Streep) never told her who he was.

The film is a simple and straightforward romantic comedy that blends in seamlessly with ABBA's songs. In a very natural way, the actors stop talking and express their feelings by singing and dancing. All the songs and their lyrics fit perfectly with the script of the film.

Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Stellan Skarsgård have shown that they are capable of anything and that they do everything well. In this film they sing, dance and make us laugh. The director knows how to take advantage of the beautiful locations, making a film full of energy, colorful, funny and very entertaining.

Mamma Mia is one of the most successful musicals in history. A fun and joyful cinematographic experience, pure entertainment to the rhythm of the legendary songs of the ABBA group.

9/10

By Cristina Estévez



Why is the environment so important?

By Lara Velasco

You have probably heard of these words before: greenhouse gases, pollution, animal extinction... If you have, then probably you know what we are talking about if not you are about to find out.

Why is our environment important?

Our environment is important because it provides air, food and other needs. It's important that we take care of it because Earth is the only home humans have to live. If we destroy it, we'll have nowhere to go!

How can we make the Earth a better place?

Do you know your carbon footprint is? Your carbon footprint is how much greenhouse gases you emit through your actions. In other words, it is how much you pollute or affect the environment.

Now that we know what our carbon footprint is, we can work out ways to reduce it and make the Earth a better place for us and for everybody else. Some ways of reducing it are:

- Using sustainable/collective transport (buses, bicycles...)
- Recycling waste materials
- Taking care of wildlife and vegetation

How do we affect the environment?

But, what is the use of knowing all this if we don't know how humans actually DO damage the environment? Us humans affect the environment in many ways: with industry, water and air pollution, etc.

On the following page are some more detailed actions we do to damage the environment:

Animals

By Izzy Hylton

Why should we look after animals?

Even though you did not know it, animals are exceptionally clever. They can be clever whether an ant or a massive sized elephant. They help us to live. If we did not have any animals at all we would not be able to live very well. Have you ever asked yourself where your food comes from? Well, most of it comes from animals, even the milk, eggs and cheese.

How smart are animals?

Animals are really clever. They can do all sorts of things. Did you know chimps can see something for one second and then remember it for the rest of their life!

Pets

Do you have a pet? If you do, investigate a bit about it, what can it do? Can you train it?

Pollution in the seas

By Covadonga Morate

Pollutants are dumped into the ocean. This waste affects the daily life of fish and other marine creatures. Marine pollution is a growing problem in today's world. Littering, storm winds, and poor waste management all contribute to the accumulation of this debris, 80 percent of which comes from sources on land.

Problems with pollution:

Marine pollution is a growing problem in today's world. Our ocean is being flooded with two main types of pollution: chemicals and trash.

Chemical pollution:

Chemical contamination, or nutrient pollution, is concerning for health, environmental, and economic reasons. This type of pollution occurs when human activities, notably the use of fertilizer on farms, lead to the runoff of chemicals into waterways that ultimately flow into the ocean.

Trash pollution:

Marine trash encompasses all manufactured products — most of them plastic — that end up in the ocean.



Algorithms in Law

By Ana Cano

In law, all algorithms work like this: you put into them a history of decisions which were previously made to the specific case and it finds a similar solution. But how could the dehumanization of this decision-making benefit our world? Would it be another trap of modern technology which Facebook has already fallen into with its racist ad-targeting?

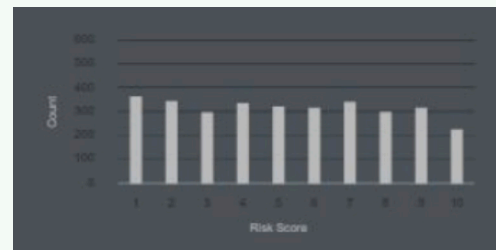
For instance, if used in all juridical decisions, algorithms could replace an entire court and eliminate its downsides. To illustrate, by dissolving the lawyer figure, it could bring fairness to the case. In Spain, "everyone has the right [...] to the assistance and defense of the lawyer." However, there are private lawyers you can hire who have less demand and they focus more on individuals. The problem emerges if there are economic differences between both subjects, and one of them can have a significant advantage at the trial because of a better-prepared lawyer.

On top of that, even snacks and pauses can influence the judges final decisions. A study made in 2011 by Columbia Business School found out that 65% of cases where judges ate snacks or has pauses, convicted fellows were given probation. Personality biases and much more could be avoided if an algorithm took the decision because a computer is not affected by a parallel personal life and surroundings and focuses entirely on a professional field. To support this, there have been a lot of issues where judges' ideologies have affected the case, even in developed countries like Portugal. The European Council has pointed out that only 7% of the 27 000 sexist allegations that are registered a year go to trial and end up with a firm condemnation.

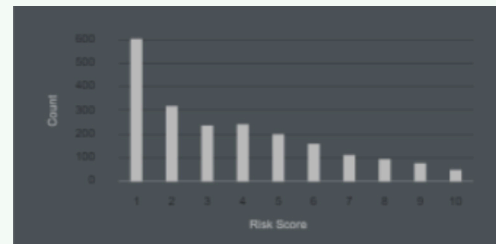
However, what assures us that the engineers who design the algorithm's code won't elaborate a biased decision-taker? Brisha Borden, a black woman, was rated high risk (eight) by an algorithm for future crime after she and a friend took a kid's bike and scooter. She did not reoffend. However, Vernon Prater, a white man, was scored a three even though he had prior offenses: two armed robberies and one attempted armed robbery. After that he committed a grand theft.

This proves how an algorithm can be implicitly programmed to discriminate. This study was taken from an American algorithm which learned Afro-Americans were the most prone of ending up in jail from a history of sentences. This means our biases will haunt us even with "impartial" technology, which is pattern is shown in the graphs below:

Black defendants risk scores:



White defendants risk scores:



Moreover algorithms don't have the ability to analyse any misleading data. We wouldn't take into account non-verbal communication which can help us detect lies. Machines will not question data, they will just work their way through the problem. With intuition which is incapable of programming and our cohabitation with humans, we fortunately still have certain advantages to algorithms in the feeling field.

In conclusion, I find algorithms in this sense amplify our human flaws when technology should be used for the opposite: to avoid errors, to work inhumanely quickly, to displace the capacity of feeling emotions. In law we work with different people and not enough algorithms could ever exist to personalise each sentence. We don't need machines, we need adaptability, comprehension and empathy.

Brexit Information for Uni Applicants

By Laura Avello & Paula Santos

The United Kingdom is a very attractive destination for students from Spain and the world. It has world-leading universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, the London School of Economics and St. Andrews.

In fact, it is the second most popular country in the world for international students (after the US) with over 400,000 overseas students.

But, it is getting more expensive.

Rising Fees/Visas Necessary

University fees for EU students have changed from home fees to overseas fees. The average annual degree now costs 13,000-22,000 Euros. Medical degrees can cost from 40,000-60,000 Euros per year. Apart from the fees, student visas will also be necessary, £348 from outside the UK and £475 to extend it/from inside of the UK.

No More Erasmus

The UK have officially left the EU's Erasmus programme, which provided grants for students, teachers and trainers to participate in international training courses in different European countries. However, Boris Johnson plans to launch an alternative scheme named after Alan Turing.

Certification Difficulties

The General Certificate Education, or more commonly known as 'A-levels', are also affected by Brexit as from 2022 onwards these certifications may not be accepted by the EU.

Brexit: A Big Deal?

By Sebastian Batchelor-Walsh

After months of negotiating, a Brexit deal was finally agreed between the European Union and the UK on Thursday, 24th December 2020, less than a week before the transition period was about to end. Many things are still not known about the deal, but the known facts so far are:

Tariffs: The deal means there will be no tariffs on goods travelling between the EU and the UK if the said product has been produced in either of them. British exports still must comply with EU standards (mainly involving health and safety) and there are strict rules governing products made with parts originating outside the EU or UK.

Fishing: Future access for EU fishermen to Britain's water was one of the most important and hard-to-negotiate issues, and the last thing to be agreed before the deal could be announced. Britain had insisted it wanted to take back full control of its waters while EU coastal states wanted to ensure their fishermen could keep fishing in UK waters. In the end the two sides reached a hard-fought compromise in which EU boats will gradually give up 25 percent of their current quotas during a five-and-a-half-year transition period. This is seen as a success for both sides, as the UK government wanted a transition period of 3 years and the EU one of 14. Following that there will be annual negotiations on the amount of fish EU vessels can take from British waters – and if Brussels isn't happy it always has the option of using economic measures against the UK.

More than four years after the UK voted to leave the European Union, this historic deal is being celebrated on both sides of the channel. And all this in the midst of a pandemic, which has caused more than 108,000 deaths in the UK and has dealt a striking blow to its economy.



Fiction: The Carer

By Emma Daniel

It was only then that I really understood the true value of friendship." I read out loud from the last page. At that, I closed the children's storybook, it's worn and battered cover staring back up at me as I set it down on the bedside table, just like every other evening. "Don't you ever wish for me to read something... different?" I questioned with a smile, leaning closer to the small body beneath me. "Ha!" Adam snorted, immediately regretting doing so by the wheezing breaths that followed shortly. I looked down at him, cautious to not show my ongoing pity.

His face was deeply sucked in at the cheeks, revealing two deep craters framing what little of his face he had left. An invisible hanger was hooked onto his mouth, leaving it to constantly gape at the static images his vision could afford to see. Flakes flew off from his lips, cracked despite the oily moisture which wrapped his surface. If you were to see Adam, the only sign of life one would receive from him would be the distant spark resting in the deepness of his misty eyes, a mere reflection of the flaming life full of potential he once carried, shot and gruesomely slaughtered.

He seemed to sense my staring. "Would you quit that?" I sprung up from the bed where he lay at the sudden abruptness in his voice. "I know I'm good-looking, but you're just embarrassing the both of us at this point." One thing he didn't fail to show was his bold arrogance, however scratchy and light his voice remained when showing it, thinning into air whenever he spoke. "Worth it" I shot back, playing along as I sighed bashfully in mockery. "Sleep well, Adam." He nodded, returning the thought as I pulled the covers above him, observing how he settled back down into his misplaced thoughts, seeming to lose all awareness of my presence beside him. I pondered whether to kiss his forehead, or even stroke him in some way, but it might just seem that he would very well dissolve into ashes at that.

Our closeness was arguable, strong at moments despite no relative bond between us and yet soft in others, fading into something more comfortable and acknowledging of my support. I was a personal carer for Adam. I had been for three months already. When hired, I was told he suffered from an unknown and quite vulgar condition, unidentifiable by any medic or professional. It seemed to claw away at him with every passing day, scraping away at what little energy he had and instead leaving the lousy ghost of his nine year old body in its place.

I hissed viciously as a speck of burning oil landed on my skin from the egg I was frying. It crackled in response as I displayed it on a tray and carried it to Adam's room, leaning into the door and brightly beaming at him, undeterred by the fact that he couldn't actually see me. Adam lay unstirring, his frame buried deep into the mattress.

Frowning in slight panic, I set the tray down and knelt next to him to check his breathing, lacking all emotional professionalism as my heart drummed sharply in my ribs. There was none. His cheeks were flushed with a sickly purple that matched the bruise on his chest. A thick layer of sweat had formed on his skin's surface and was sliding down his limbs that were tangled between the drenched sheets. A painful sob escaped my throat as my hands clung onto his neck, unbelieving of his state. I screeched frantically hoping that some other soul or power could wake him from this. From his end. God, he was too young. As close as he constantly was to death I was certain that it wouldn't reach him. I clung onto his body and dragged it out of his bed. I had to do something. I wasn't the kind of person, the kind of carer, the kind of failure that let somebody die. That let a child die. But as I clutched onto his bones and let my nails dig into his lifeless flesh and searched his body for answers, his frigid eyes told me otherwise.

Winter Style

By Vera García

This winter's fashion will be inspired by beige, white and brown tones, more specifically camel, earth colour and bone white. Neutral tones are always a good option to combine with stronger colours, making our look balance between lights and darks. Occasionally adding a white element can complete our outfit by giving it a more modern touch. At the same time making us step out of our comfort zone and risk a bit in fashion.

For another year, sweaters and cozy jumpers are the protagonists of winter clothing. They never go out of fashion because of being a must have in everyone's closets when starting the cold months. But this time, the knitting trend has expanded through all type of clothes. From long dresses, to jackets, to trousers and even tops. We can see them in every colour and form in all clothes shops. They are a great option to stay comfy and warm wherever you go! Many times this trend is seen weared as a two part combination. Giving a more formal and fashionable sense by being a monochromatic look that fits perfectly well together.

This season, wide leg trousers will be the most demanded by young buyers. This type of trousers has been seen in street fashion from this

year's most famous runways, designed by Victoria Beckham to Louis Vuitton. They are highly combinable with blazers or even with sneakers. Meaning they can be used for sophisticated and elegant looks to more casual outfits

Wide leg trousers are normally seen made of denim, worn by the young audience. They can be found in reasonably priced shops like Zara, Mango, Topshop or H&M. Other substitutes of wide leg jeans are baggy, mom fit and flare.

In patterns, the check print has become one of the most famous. We mostly see it in scarves, trousers and coats made of red, dark green and brown colours. This winter animal print will continue to be a trend, as last year it was one of the most popular tendencies. Leopard, snake and zebra are the most demanded patterns. Primarily used in shoes like boots and high heels, as well as in long coats, handbags and short dresses.

The leather effect in clothes is each time becoming more popular. We can see it in blacks, garnet, emerald green and browns. But how do we style it? The easiest way is with trousers, coats or blazers. And to achieve a total look, by using jumpsuits.

Accessories are still an important element to finish every winter look. This season, the 80's jewelry will resurrect with the golden earring hoops that are this year's focus of interest. As well as the basic chains, which we can find them in necklaces, bracelets, belts and earrings. But this time with a renovated air, having diamond details embedded, being much bigger, different styles of chains...

Conventional pearls and religious crosses are also being a tendency right now. As we said before, small changes have been made to the classical pieces. The original pearl shape is now being weared a lot, and colourful crystals in crosses make them seem more modern and wearable.

Covid-19 Fashion

By Carlota Vega

Covid-19 has hit Fashion as much or more than everything else; consequently the Fashion's new prices rise as the pandemic keeps taking control of the industry. Not only internationally, touching traditional high-positioned brands, like Dior or Gucci, where designers and CEOs find themselves in a state of flux; but locally, we submerge ourselves in Oviedo's fashion industry, where divergence exists between small multi brand businesses and the huge franchises, as ZARA, for example, where many of you, teenagers, consume heavily. Is the virus ready to kill the industry, or can we still revive fashion?

"The answer rests in our hands" argues the owner of the multibrand store "Pikara" in Oviedo, who will respond to some of our questions on the covid theme.



1 Have sales fallen drastically this year?

Obviously, we have experienced a remarkable slump this year, due to the nearly non-existent social life, having bars and restaurants closed and other activities, people don't tend to buy clothes for any occasion.

2 Are clients giving you support, are habitual ones still consuming?

Surprisingly yes, totally, our loyal consumers give us support on a daily-bases and some have even offered us money in a form of coupon for their future shopping, these gestures impulse us everyday.

3 Do you think fashion stores are being unfairly closed?

I consider that if local commerce follows all the security and hygiene measures, it wouldn't be a problem to keep them open, because, in addition, no covid case exists that has come from this type of shop, or at least in Oviedo.

4 Is the government helping the small businesses?

This week they have aproved giving us a small help, although this is insufficient compared to the big losses experienced due to the shop being closed.

5 What do you think about the fact other non-essential stores, like florists or decoration shops are kept open?

I think that if covid cases were really increasing with such high figures, we should all be confined, with the only exception of actually essential activities, like supermarkets, that's the only way cases will definitely fall. I find unfair that some are closed and others not.

6 Are you using some online methods to sell or for promotion?

Yes, we use digital marketing strategies, principally through social media, to promote online shopping, because we count with the shop online. Covid has definitively imposed a new digital era.

7 Have you discovered any niche market product during this situation?

Yes, we have discovered the market of masks, which have clearly been our top sold product this year. Most of our masks are personalised and reversible, and the majority have our logo.



Next is an interview with a Zara employee.

1 Have you noticed a change in the clients' attitudes?

Yes, although at the beginning it wasn't as noticeable, after the quarantine everyone came with a great solidarity, as well as desire to buy and consume; however the returns system on online shopping sites collapsed. Firstly, they entered the shop with fear, or respect more than that, but that respect got lost with the return to normality, and some clients began to act imprudently.

2 In huge stores like that of ZARA, do people follow all the rules of Covid?

Many do follow them, but there are still other lot of clients who forget about them, and we usually have to remind them.

3 Has ZARA's online shopping increased in this situation, or has it continued as normal?

It made a boom clearly. Unfortunately, people who started to buy online due to the confinement kept following that pattern after stores opened again.

4 Was there a disparity in sales of some particular products?

Yes, mainly comfortable clothing, as well as pijamas is in top sales, due to people spending more time at home. Children clothes from ZARA kids also triumphed because children who grew during the quarantine needed new clothes, especially babies.

*This is an example of horoscope writing created by a Media Studies student. We advise you not to take the predictions too seriously, especially if you are a Taurus!

Horoscopes

By Alba Nuñez

Do you want to know what will happen to you this 2021? **Alba Nuñez** will give you advice based on his analysis of the moon and the stars. Learn about what will be your strongest friendship and your most unrequited love in the coming term.



Febuary will be a good time to follow youre dreams. Meanwhile the rest of the term will be calm and unpresured.
RANKING OF THE TERM
6/10



This term will be challenging for you. You will go throught diffilcult experiences but you will finish the term positively.
RANKING OF THE TERM
5/10



Whatever you do, you will inspire others, and you should be proud! The moon will give you energy to boost your aspirations
RANKING OF THE TERM
9/10



This term is going to be spontaneous you will start with great attitude but finish a bit doubtful but this isn't gong to stop you.
RANKING OF THE TERM
6/10



This term is the right one to follow what you where waiting for. Take the opportunity of hanging out with your friends and self-care
RANKING OF THE TERM
10/10



You may think that people dont think the same as you do, but they actually do. They are just trying to let you have peace.
RANKING OF THE TERM
7/10



Dont be so hard on yourself, at the end you will suffer and be down for the term.
RANKING OF THE TERM
6/10



Take a step back and think about yourself. Maybe take up a sport you were always wanting to do or go and relax at the cinema.
RANKING OF THE TERM
8/10



You are going to have an amazing term! You will experience challenges but you will come out of them feeling better than before.
RANKING OF THE TERM
10/10



Dont let others pressure you, and keep calm with your studies... Don't let others try to convince you and do what feels right!
RANKING OF THE TERM
5/10



Meeting new people will be fun. But the rest of the term will be stressful... Consider taking time for yourself and be patient.
RANKING OF THE TERM
5/10



There will be no new changes in your life, take everything as it comes.
RANKING OF THE TERM
7/10

The Psychology Behind *Animal Crossing* “New Horizons”

By Mateo Pérez

With the outbreak of coronavirus millions of people have been following social distancing rules to self quarantine at home. Given the continuation of this pandemic trend, people who have suffered from the anxiety of coronavirus and experienced social isolation their psychological well-being started to be concerned. During this time, one popular video game called “Animal Crossing: New Horizons” successfully got everyone’s attention and led me to explore the psychology behind this game.

In the past several months, many of us are either experiencing lockdown or following the social distancing rules to minimize our time spent outside due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fighting the epidemic is a serious matter. Compared with the importance that people attached to the epidemic trend and healthcare, the release of a video game seems not important enough to notice. However, Animal Crossing: New Horizons, a life simulation video game, brought a magical experience to get the public attention and let us rethink the psychology behind the game.

New Horizons is the fifth main series title in the Animal Crossing series. It is developed and published by Nintendo for the Nintendo Switch, released in all regions on March 20, 2020.

In New Horizons, a player assumes the role of a customizable character who moves to a deserted island to build and expand their home by granting a loan, exploring their surroundings, interacting with a cast of adorable animal villagers, catching bugs, collecting fish, designing

their own fashion, growing flowers, participating in annual events...

Players can also have social interaction with other players online, which is one of the most attractive parts of the game.

It sold five million digital copies in its first month, breaking the console game record for most digital units sold in a single month.

It became the best-selling game in the Animal Crossing series after 6 weeks with 13.41 million units sold.

The Psychology behind it.

Social interaction is another highlight of the game’s success, and it is highly relevant to ones’ psychological well-being to get rid of the loneliness. Even being the only human on the island in the game does not mean that you have to live alone there. The most fascinating part of the game is that the players can continue to socialize virtually even they remain in physical isolation for long periods during the COVID-19 pandemic.

New Horizons provides a perfect social platform to expand personal relationships with others no matter for the introverts or extraverts. The gamers can not only invite others to their islands to trade items but can also talk and hang out virtually. There are even real stories of people having weddings on the game after their ceremonies had been canceled in real life. It is a thoughtful way to make memories and have some laughs during the time they cannot in person.

New Horizons fulfils the players’ desire to continue social contact with each other during the COVID-19 epidemic and further reducing their feelings of loneliness.

Overall, during the COVID-19 pandemic, no matter the experiences of anxiety and escapism, or the social isolation and loneliness, New Horizons made us realize the psychology behind video games has far more to it than we ever expected.



Talent Show

By Marta Ajenjo

This term the first online talent show took place, with a live video broadcast set up and streamed into every classroom in school. Having a combination of live-action and pre-recorded resulted in the widest display of talents from dancing and singing to bike and magic tricks!

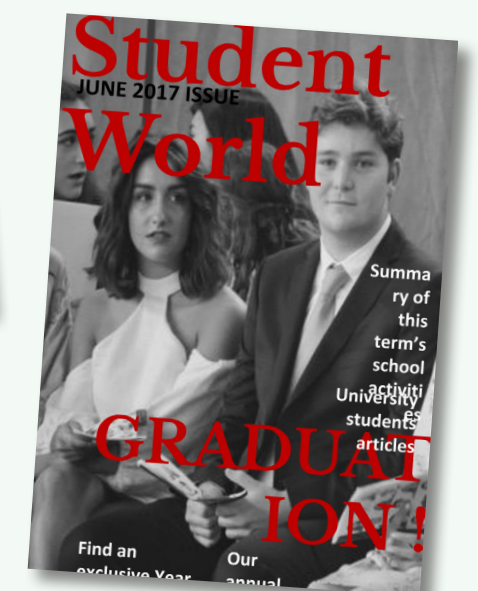
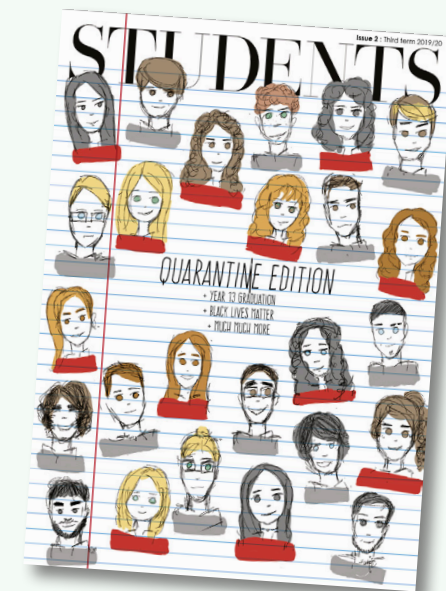
In this one-of-a-kind online edition both judges and classes had the chance to vote on a real-time spreadsheet counting up every single vote, making it the most “democratic” talent show to this date! The judge panel was made up by a variety of school personalities: Mrs Spitzhorn, Diego (PE), “Polita” (Y13) and Andres Smith (Y13) providing insightful critiques about the performances.

Lucas David Parfitt Fernández, this year's presenter, highlighted how “stressful yet gratifying” the experience was, as he had to balance the pace of the show with making sure every class logged in their votes on time. Seconds after the last vote was in, the winners were calculated:

1st Noa Velasco - Y7 Egyptian (left)
2nd Illan Pico - Y9 Egyptian (centre)
3rd Miguel Antuña - Y9 Roman (right)



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