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**The Mark**



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# WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

WRITTEN BY DIYA MANJU (EDITOR)

I have spent the past three days staring at these two blank textboxes, debating, complaining, and procrastinating finishing the first edition of this relaunch of *The Mark*.

It feels overwhelmingly bittersweet after staring at 9000 words of articles for the past two weeks, sending copious lengthy emails to the writers, and making sure each article has enough pictures to retain engagement.

My intention with this magazine is for you all to be able to indulge in the culture of the world beyond RMGS and be enlightened to what we think is important for you to know. To save you that search for the latest news, which only ends up taking you to sites of dense, subjective articles that overwhelm you before you begin to enjoy the act of learning about our world. Having writers from the sixth form, whom I will extensively gush about momentarily, makes this magazine truly accessible for you all, and I hope it allows you to be further informed on your passions. You're free to read one article or all of them; we're giving you the agency to learn something new to bring up in conversation with family and friends, and make yourself more worldly. Equally, this edition may not be for you all! The beauty of these termly editions is that some will not satisfy your tastes at all, which only makes the subsequent issue that much more exciting.

So, I think it's only right to focus this first introduction on the writers.

Embarrassingly, I have spent the last two weeks excessively smiling as I proofread each article (at least five times at this point) written by these ten writers. One of my most loved elements of writing is being able to hear the voice of the author through their work, and this is stunningly evident in every article written. Despite *The Mark on Music* being my personal favourite this time, all these articles have elements I truly love from the perceptive analysis of an Emily Dickinson poem to the review of Wes Anderson's new film *Asteroid City* (hugely recommended by me!). Each writer has cohesively and intelligently crafted their articles for the benefit of you all, and I am very grateful for their talent, and continued tolerance of my frantic email style.

A thank you must also reach Mr O'Neill who has also managed to decipher my tedious emails, while helping me through this very new process.

Finally, as I let go of this first edition and send it off into the RMGS world (the dramatics are now seeping through) I would like to ask for your input on how I can continue to improve *The Mark*. *The Mark* is for you all to enjoy and learn from, so if you have any ideas, please let me know.

Thank you, and happy reading!

Diya Manju 12X

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# POLITICS: YOUR PART IN IT

WRITTEN BY MARCO CAPOLUPO 12X

## REFLECTION OF LAST MONTH (UK POLITICS)

More than three years after the first Covid-19 lockdown was announced, **an inquiry into the handling of the pandemic by senior members of the then-government of Boris Johnson has been launched.** The ex-Prime Minister handed over unredacted WhatsApp messages directly to the inquiry chair, Lady Hallett, therefore bypassing the Cabinet Office of the **current government (led by his ex-Chancellor Rishi Sunak)** that has now said it will seek 'legal actions' against Johnson. The messages aren't the only aspect of the inquiry, as Hallett submitted a variety of questions to ask the ex-PM regarding Covid-19 handling; why he didn't attend crucial Cobra meetings, discussions he had with Rishi Sunak regarding the Eat Out to Help Out scheme (which likely caused an increase in infections during Autumn 2020) and whether he had said he'd rather "let the bodies pile high" than order another lockdown in that same period. **The more than 150 questions are likely to affect not only Boris Johnson and his Cabinet but also the current government, with many ministers including the PM, being involved with the inquiry.**

. . . . .

The Committee investigation revealed that Boris Johnson had misled Parliament during the events of Partygate and recommended his suspension from the House of Commons. In response, on Friday 9th June, **the ex-Prime Minister resigned as an MP, accusing the committee of bias, and attacking Rishi Sunak's government for not being Conservative enough amongst other things.**

This comes following Nadine Dorries' resignation after Johnson's Resignations Honours list was published and approved by Sunak, with no mention of her for either a damehood or a peerage. On Saturday, a third Conservative MP, Nigel Adams, stepped down with immediate effect bringing three by-elections to each of their respective constituencies to be held in the following weeks.

. . . . .

The morning of Wednesday 14th July saw the City of Nottingham under shock as two 19-year-olds and a man in his 50s were killed by a 31-year-old man in a brutal knife attack. The two young victims were students at the city's University that then cancelled its Student Union's graduation ball and expressed their condolences to the family. The suspect later killed a 60-year-old, stealing his van and driving it into people at a bus stop nearby, wounding three. The suspect was later identified as an ex-student of the University, Valdo Calcone. He appeared before the Magistrates Court that sent him back into custody awaiting trial at Nottingham Crown Court on Tuesday. **It is important therefore, to be aware of your surroundings as tragic events like these show the possibility of rare, but nonetheless dangerous situations around us; knife crime affects not only those directly involved but all of us and we should always be wary, wherever we go.**



## REFLECTION OF LAST MONTH (INTERNATIONAL POLITICS)

. . . . .

On Friday 2nd June, two passenger trains and one freight train were involved in a tragic accident in the Balasore District of Odisha in eastern India. The derailment killed 275 people and injured a further 1,175, in one of the deadliest train accidents in the country and the one with the highest death toll since 2004. The Indian railways minister said the accident was caused by a fault in an electronic switch that led the Coromandel Express (from Kolkata to Chennai) to crash at 100km/h into a freight train. The accident has sparked debate and questions regarding rail safety in the world's most populous country; 12 million people take the train every day in India, home to 64,000 km of track.



PHOTO OF TRAGIC TRAIN DISASTER IN INDIA 2/6/23

Silvio Berlusconi, ex-Prime Minister of Italy, died aged 86 on Monday 12th June. A media tycoon, investor and later President of AC Milan and Monza FC, Berlusconi founded the centre-right party Forza Italia in 1994, shortly after the political scandal of Mani Pulite which concerned fraud and corruption in many Italian political parties at the time. Berlusconi quickly became a charismatic leader, with a populist approach both in internal politics and internationally, especially close to Vladimir Putin. He was involved in 34 judicial trials and was found guilty of just one for fraud and tax evasion; the most serious accusations of involvement with the Sicilian mafia Cosa Nostra and terrorist masonic lodge, Propaganda Due (P2) were never proved however many of his closest political allies were arrested and charged for serving as mediators between B. and criminal organisations. As the State funerals were held on the 14th of June, a three-day national mourning period was announced as well as a suspension of all Parliamentary work for a week, by the current right-wing Meloni government, leaving the country divided, as many consider the ex-PM unworthy of such beatification.

## UPDATES ON RUNNING POLITICAL TOPICS/DEBATES

The debate over the Lower Thames Crossing continues, as residents of Gravesend and other areas, see themselves affected by the proposed 6-lane, £9 bn tunnel intended to divert traffic from the Dartford crossing. Residents are worried about the increase in traffic and pollution and the loss of green land that the new crossing would entail. Many campaigners are also questioning why rail is not being considered as this would significantly decrease pollution in the area. Supporters claim the increase in jobs and boost of the local economy as benefits. Earlier this year, construction was pushed back to begin in 2026 as the government continues to be hopeful for a 2032 opening.

# WHY IS POLITICS IMPORTANT?

It's difficult to select a topic to write about for a first article of a re-launched newspaper, especially in the 'Current Affairs' section due to the sheer variety of choice out there. Even writing an introduction to politics would simply require too much space and way too many words. Yet, I'd like to try to paint a different picture of politics for this first edition, one that isn't frequently mentioned: **why it's important**. Fundamentally, **politics is about you and me and the people that constitute a nation**, a collective, called 'citizens' and sometimes, 'electorate' or 'constituents' that all relate to the same group: us, ordinary everyday people.

The real power that we see in terms such as 'Government' and 'Parliament' all derive from us, because **we have the power to vote**. This is what **democracy**, in its most basic form, is. We elect people, in the UK called 'Member[s] of Parliament' (MP) to represent us, the citizens of the country. They represent our interests, our views, and our concerns and are therefore our voice. As such, politics is so much more about us than anyone else.

It's easy to be apprehensive of new concepts and ideas, especially when everyone around you seems to know all about them. However, with politics, involvement and knowledge are almost guaranteed.

Just think of the times you or people around you mentioned the state of the roads, lack of housing, lack of jobs, pollution, traffic, education, and healthcare. Topics like these are fundamental aspects of our daily lives, they affect how we work, feel, and live every day.



These are the same topics that are constantly mentioned by politicians, ministers and journalists when discussing politics. That's because these are politics just as much as investigations into fraud, interest rates, foreign policy, treaties, and the law are all part of politics. **Understanding politics is therefore about understanding and thinking about the world around us, the system we live in and how to develop and improve it.**

# WHY IS POLITICS IMPORTANT?

*Whoever you are,  
or want to be, you  
may not be  
interested in politics,  
but politics is  
interested in you.*

**Marshall Berman**

If, for example, our local GP surgery has a leaking ceiling or very long waiting lists and the problem has been prevalent for some time, we can talk to our MP so that they may contact the correct authorities to deal with the issue. If our MP, upon consultation with other MPs across the country, finds out that other areas are experiencing a similar problem, they may want to raise the issue in Parliament, opening a more national debate. This may resolve the issue not just for you and me that live in a particular area, but also for other people that live

Regardless of the outcome, you have just been involved in Politics; having analysed an issue and spoken to your representative, you have begun a process to investigate and fix that problem, to improve not only your quality of life but also that of your fellow citizens. Your involvement, however, does not begin when you contact your MP, but from the moment you realise there is an issue to be fixed. The actions you will take to fix that issue are then up to you, however, it's fundamental to realise the options you have and how important your

The more you look at the world around you, the more knowledge you will gain, being able to identify both the positives and negatives. Hopefully, however, you'll be driven by the beauty and satisfaction the positive aspects bring, to work to improve and fix the negatives. **Whether it be a leaky ceiling or an entire national economy, it becomes political once you find interest in it, and with you of course, so will many other people.**

## TERM 6 DEBATE QUESTIONS

How should the UK move on from Partygate; if there should be one, what would be a just punishment for those involved and how accountable should be the current government?

How should honours be assigned and are they still relevant in modern Britain?

# A DIFFERENT LENS

WRITTEN BY JACOB MEINERTZHAGEN-WILSON 12X

**FILM OF THE  
MONTH:  
SCOTT PILGRIM VS THE  
WORLD**

**TV SHOW OF THE  
MONTH:  
ATLANTA**

**ACTOR OF THE  
MONTH:  
JASON  
SCHWARTZMAN**

**ACTRESS OF THE  
MONTH:  
ZAZIE BEETZ**

**DIRECTOR OF THE  
MONTH:  
EDGAR WRIGHT**

IF YOU WISH TO WATCH ANY  
FILM OR TV SHOW MENTIONED  
IN THIS ARTICLE, PLEASE TAKE  
NOTE OF THE AGE RATING &  
CONTENT WARNINGS PROVIDED  
WITH EACH TO ENSURE IT IS  
SUITABLE FOR YOU.

Writing about something as simple on the surface as 'Film and TV' seemed daunting to me at first, as there's so much under the surface to talk about. However, the main question I want to answer within this article is arguably the most important: **why are film and TV important?**

By definition, a film or TV episode is a video created with the intention of being viewed by others, generating a response of some degree (fear, sadness etc.). While that is true, there is so much more you can get from a film, in particular an insight into how someone else sees the world. Every film/TV episode is completely and utterly unique, in the sense that an individual has made it, **imprinting their views, ideas, and entire outlook on life**, on the film or TV episode. Through this, we are essentially **seeing the world through the director's eyes**, seeing how they think and feel, **generating an overwhelmingly honest level of connection between two people that is not available anywhere else.**

That is the sole reason why film and TV are important: **to make us empathize with the world around us.**





## 30 YEARS AGO... JURASSIC PARK WAS RELEASED JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> 1993

30 years ago, 'Jurassic Park' made history by pioneering the use of computer-generated visual effects in film. It was one of the first times in film history that computer-generated graphics and characters were on the same screen as human actors. This is unequivocally important to the evolution of film, given the film industry's reliance on CGI and visual effects in the present day. It helped to bridge the gap between reality and fantasy, giving audiences the illusion that the computer-generated dinosaurs in 'Jurassic Park' were real, given that they were interacting with real-life actors.



JOSEPH MAZZELLO IN STEPHEN SPIELBERG'S  
JURASSIC PARK

Without the revolutionary computer-generated elements of 'Jurassic Park', we would not have the same film industry we have today – the original breakthrough led to film designers pushing the boundaries of what computer-generated imagery can do. This led to its normalized use in film, therefore increasing the extent to which movies can hold the viewer's suspension of disbelief and overall giving the director more creative control on what they could do without making the film obviously fake.

## WHAT'S NEW THIS SUMMER? FILM

### ASTEROID CITY (REVIEW) (MUST WATCH) 12A

*"A Junior Stargazer/Space Cadet Convention taking place in an American desert town (Asteroid City) circa 1955, is disrupted by events that affect the lives of the characters present, and the state of the world for years to come."*



JASON SCHWARTZMAN & TOM HANKS IN  
WES ANDERSON'S ASTEROID CITY

This film is classic Wes Anderson – from the juxtaposed bright, vivid colours of the barren desert town to the classic monotonal dialogue and symmetrical camera shots. It's no 'Grand Budapest Hotel', but it still holds the same charm and tone you would expect from a Wes Anderson film – I would say this is an accentuation of his unique style. It's freaky in the best way possible, and I couldn't recommend it more. An impressive contribution to Anderson's filmography, with distinct and original ideas that will leave you stuck for days trying to figure out what they meant.

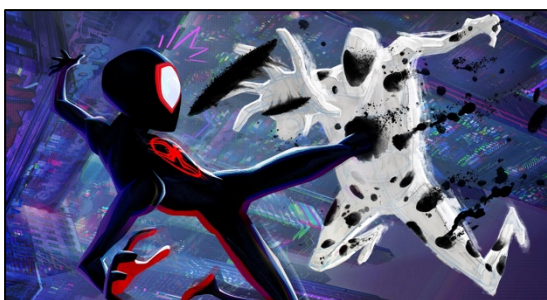
## TV

**ELEMENTAL**  
**PG**

*"In a city where fire, water, land, and air residents live together, a fiery young woman and a go-with-the-flow guy discover something elemental: how much they actually have in common."*

**SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDERVERSE**  
**PG**

*"Miles Morales, Brooklyn's full-time, friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man is catapulted across the Multiverse, where he encounters a team of Spider-People charged with protecting its very existence. However, when the heroes clash on how to handle a new threat, Miles finds himself pitted against the other Spiders. He must soon redefine what it means to be a hero so he can save the people he loves most."*

**THE BEAR: SEASON 2**  
**16**

*"A young chef from the fine dining world comes home to Chicago to run his family sandwich shop after a heart-breaking death in his family."*

**NEVER HAVE I EVER: SEASON 4**  
**12**

*"Follow Devi Vishwakumar, an overachieving, first-generation Indian American as she traverses through high school after dealing with the sudden death of her father."*

**MARVEL'S SECRET INVASION**  
**16**

*"Set in the present-day MCU, Nick Fury learns of Skrulls returning to Earth, dead-set on taking over. He, along with allies such as Maria Hill and Everett Ross, need to stop the Skrulls before they take over, by any means necessary."*



# BARBIE VS. OPPENHEIMER: BATTLE OF THE BOX OFFICE

Imagine this: it's the 21<sup>st</sup> of July, and school has just finished; you have the freedom to do whatever you want for the next six weeks. You decide that the perfect way to start your relaxing break is by going to the cinema and watching a new release. When you arrive at the cinema two films catch your eye.

One film, an 18-certificate historical thriller, based on arguably one of the biggest impacts we, as humans have had on the world in history, produced by a well-known and respected director.

The other film, a 12A fantastical comedy, based on one of the most famous brands in history, produced by a female director, who has already proven herself to be a strong filmmaker from her debut films. Both films are expected to be the peak releases of the year, but the question is: **which one do you go to see?**



MARGOT ROBBIE AS BARBIE

This question is currently a very popular question being pondered by many filmgoers across the UK. As some of you may have already guessed by the title, this article is referring to the great *Barbie vs Oppenheimer* debate regarding both films being released on JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2023. They will both be competing for the opening day profit, which is usually a large part of a film's total money from the box office.

It's not very easy to say which film would attract more viewers – **both films have wholly star-studded ensemble casts, with two of the best directors in this era of film.**



CILLIAN MURPHY AS J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER

However, *Barbie* has one major advantage against *Oppenheimer* – the target audience. *Oppenheimer* having an R-rating (18) results in the film relying on adults for their ticket sales, **cutting out a major demographic.** 'Barbie' on the other hand is a 12, meaning the film will have a larger demographic than *Oppenheimer* via age, but also genre, depending on whether the comedic, bright aesthetics of *Barbie* are preferred over the grounded, realistic aesthetics of *Oppenheimer*. However, this wouldn't set Nolan back too much, as there is still a large cult following for *Oppenheimer*!

The competition between these two films is unprecedented – **never in the history of film have two competing movies of this calibre been in direct opposition with each other with their same-day release.** All in all, the easy option is to watch both films on opening day (like I and many others will do), but the mere fact that this is possible makes the competition between them even more exciting. **It's a battle between Gerwig and Nolan for the domination of the 2023 film industry** and I can't wait to see who wins.



# UNVEILING THE MAGIC OF THEATRE

WRITTEN BY EVIE THOMPSON 12X

## WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH?

In a world filled with countless theatrical productions, there are a few that have managed to capture the hearts of audiences like 'Mamma Mia!'.

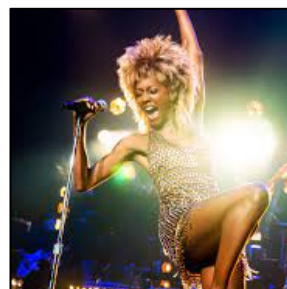
The musical sensation, based on the iconic songs of ABBA, has become a global phenomenon, enchanting theatregoers with its infectious energy. From "Dancing Queen" to "Mamma Mia", the show serves as a musical time capsule, transporting audiences back to the disco era with each electrifying performance. Set on a Greek island, it follows the story of a young bride-to-be Sophie determined to discover the identity of her father before her wedding day. With her mother, Donna, right by her side, they embark on a journey filled with love and laughter. So, if you're looking for a magical and uplifting experience, grab your dancing shoes and get ready to join the celebration that is 'Mamma Mia!' This enduring musical sensation guarantees an unforgettable night at the theatre where happiness and fun come together in perfect harmony.

## PLAY/MUSICAL OF THE MONTH: THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

## ACTOR OF THE MONTH: CORY ENGLISH DOC BROWN in *Back to The Future: The Musical*

## ACTRESS OF THE MONTH: ZURIN VILLANUEVA TINA TURNER in *Tina Turner: The Musical*

## DIRECTOR OF THE MONTH: JULIA TAYMOR *The Lion King*



# THE URGENT NEED FOR INCREASED FUNDING

**Theatre, a vibrant and essential component of our society, is facing a significant financial challenge. As public funding dwindles and economic pressure mounts, the need for increased funding becomes more urgent than ever.**

The arts are crucial to our society, this sector serves as a powerful platform for artistic expression, social commentary and supporting people as a community. So, fostering this creativity becomes a way of appreciating people's backgrounds, walks of life and bridging divide to come to a sense of unity.

Whether it's the anticipation before the curtain rises, the shared gasps of surprise, or the discussions that follow the final bow, **theatre creates a space where strangers become companions, forging connections that extend beyond the confines of the theatre, by bringing people together through the power of storytelling and celebration of our shared humanity.**



THE MARLOWE THEATRE, CANTERBURY

There are several ways in which you can support your local theatre and contribute to its growth and success. From purchasing tickets to spreading the word about upcoming shows you can not only enjoy artistic expression but also **help theatres sustain and increase audience reach and continue producing quality productions.** By actively engaging with and supporting your local theatre you can contribute to the vibrancy of your community, which can make a huge change to the way theatre is and ensure its continued success for years to come.

## LOCAL THEATRES TO SUPPORT:

The Rainham Theatrical Society,  
Rainham

The Brook Theatre, Chatham  
The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury



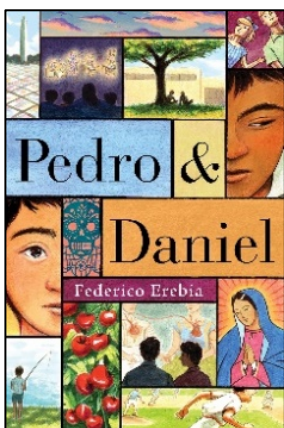
# THE BOOKMARK

WRITTEN BY ANNA WHEELER 12X (pun intended)

**BOOK OF THE MONTH:**  
*PEDRO & DANIEL*  
FEDERICO EREBIA

**POEM OF THE MONTH:**  
*HOPE IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS*  
EMILY DICKINSON

**AUTHOR OF THE MONTH:**  
GEORGE ORWELL



## WHAT'S NEW THIS SUMMER?

*PEDRO & DANIEL* Federico Erebia  
(book of the month—released earlier in June)

This “sweeping and deeply personal” novel follows gay, neurodivergent Mexican American brothers Pedro and Daniel as they grow from children, to teens, to adults, in 1970s Ohio. Together they endure an abusive home life, coming out, first loves, first jobs, and the AIDS pandemic, in a “coming-of-age story unlike any other”.

### CONTENT WARNINGS:

references to domestic violence; child abuse; homophobia; colourism; racism; clergy abuse; suicidality; sex; death

*I FEED HER TO THE BEAST AND THE BEAST IS ME*  
Jamison Shea (coming late August 2023!)

This fantasy-thriller-horror follows Laure Mesny, a black ballerina in Paris who is at the top of her class but constantly overlooked. Frustrated with the corrupt ballet institution and desperate to prove her worth, Laure ventures into the Catacombs of the city and makes a deal with a river of blood. Ancient powers grant her influence and adoration but push her into a monstrous madness that makes her the perfect victim for the dark forces of the underworld.



### CONTENT WARNINGS:

racism; classism; parental abandonment; ritualistic self-harm

IF YOU WISH TO READ ANY OF THE LITERATURE MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE, PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE CONTENT WARNINGS PROVIDED WITH EACH TO ENSURE IT IS SUITABLE FOR YOU.

## 120 YEARS AGO... GEORGE ORWELL WAS BORN IN JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> 1903

120 years ago, on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1903, novelist George Orwell was born. Most famous for his overtly political novels *Animal Farm* and the dystopian *1984*, Orwell's writing continues to be relevant today as a form of protest and a warning against totalitarianism, authoritarianism, and mass surveillance. Like Shakespeare, some of the made-up words used in Orwell's books have entered common usage. The reality TV show *Big Brother* takes its name from the antagonistic head of the authoritarian regime in *1984*, whilst the omnipresence of the "Thought Police" symbolises mass surveillance and restrictions on free speech.



GEORGE ORWELL & A FAMOUS QUOTE FROM 1984

*"My starting point is always a feeling of partisanship, a sense of injustice. When I sit down to write a book, I do not say to myself, 'I am going to produce a work of art'. I write it because there is some lie that I want to expose, some fact to which I want to draw attention, and my initial concern is to get a hearing. But I could not do the work of writing a book, or even a long magazine article, if it were not also an aesthetic experience."*

## WHAT IS POPULAR NOW?

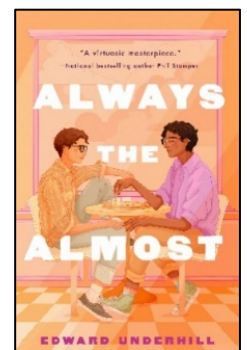
My aim for this article was to briefly document the most popular books for this month, but after trawling through some 'Most Read 2023' lists on GoodReads, I found an almost frightening amount of Colleen Hoover. Instead, I'll recommend some high-rated recent YA books from some of the most popular genres!

## FOR A CUTE & FLUFFY ROM-COM ...

### ALWAYS THE ALMOST Edward Underhill

Whilst sixteen-year-old trans boy and passionate pianist Miles Jacobson is hoping to win back his cruel ex-boyfriend and find success in the world of competitive classical piano, he meets the new boy in town: Eric Mendez.

This proudly queer cartoonist from Seattle asks his pronouns, loves art, and makes Miles' stomach flutter. After fake-dating to score an invite to a couples-only Valentine's party turns into a very real kiss, insecurities lead Miles to wonder how Eric could possibly like him so much. Will Eric help Miles to ever feel like he's more than "almost" enough?

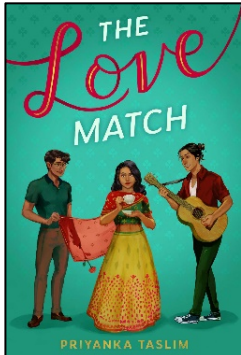


### CONTENT WARNINGS:

transphobia; deadnaming; homophobia; bullying; mentions of racism; infidelity (kiss); gender dysphoria

## FOR A FAIRY-TALE RETELLING...

### THE LOVE MATCH Priyanka Taslim



Bangladeshi-American teen student Zahra Khan finds herself in a love triangle, between the wealthy and handsome Harun, who her parents have chosen as her “good match”, and Nayim, the new dishwasher at the tea shop, with whom Zahra feels an instant connection.

#### CONTENT WARNINGS:

grief; discussions of colourism; sexism; homophobia; bullying; fatphobia; racism

## FOR A MIX OF GENRES (historical, fantasy, sci-fi) ...

### THE LAST SAXON KING Andrew Varga

Sixteen-year-old Dan Renfrew accidentally transports himself back to England, 1066, and learns that he’s descended from a long line of “time jumpers”, who travel back in time to fix glitches in time that threaten to alter history. To get home, Dan must battle malevolent time jumpers and set history back on its proper course, whilst fighting for his life between the battles for England of 1066.

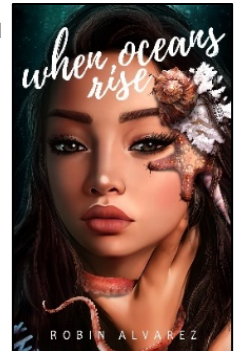


#### CONTENT WARNINGS:

mild sexual references; discussions of abuse; sexual assault

### WHEN OCEANS RISE Robin Alvarez

This “Filipino Little Mermaid retelling” shows 17-year-old Malaya caught in a family curse that submerges her in a toxic relationship. After deciding to let the ocean decide her fate, she meets a sea witch, who takes her voice as payment for switching her life with an alternate version in which she never met her gaslighting and abusive boyfriend. As she tries to undo the switch, the sea witch uses Malaya’s voice to unleash Filipino mythological creatures into the worlds.



#### CONTENT WARNINGS:

gaslighting; mental, emotional, and physical abuse.

#### MORE POPULAR BOOKS THIS SUMMER:

- *Beach Read* by Emily Henry
- *Lady Tan’s Circle of Women* by Lisa See
- *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas
- *Pageboy* by Elliot Page
- *The Whispers* by Ashley Audrain
- *Sea of Tranquillity* by Emily St. John Mandel
- *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Maid* by Nita Prose
- *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang
- *Daisy Jones & The Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid



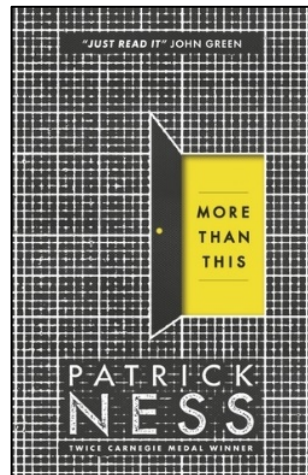
# BOOKED UP FOR SUMMER!

Besides the new releases and popular reads of this year, here are a few personal and slightly random recommendations to add to your summer reading lists!

## **MORE THAN THIS** Patrick Ness

*A boy drowns, desperate and alone in his final moments. He dies. Then he wakes, naked and bruised and thirsty, but alive. How can this be? And what is this strange, deserted place?*

This young adult sci-fi story of life after death features unlikely friendships, a diverse and interesting set of characters and some existentialist philosophy.

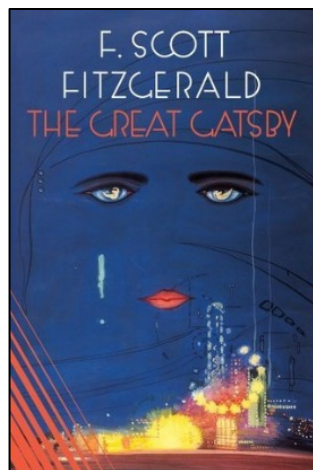


### CONTENT WARNINGS:

domestic violence; self-harm; suicidal tendencies; death and grief; homophobic and racist remarks

### CONTENT WARNINGS:

alcohol; graphic descriptions of violence; death; racism; antisemitism

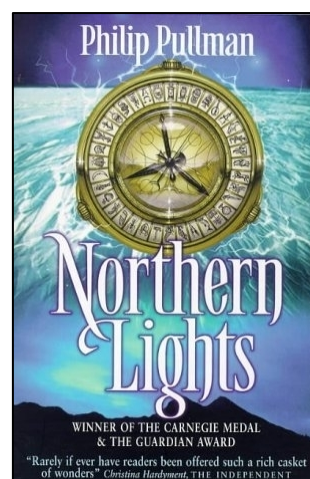


## **THE GREAT GATSBY** F. Scott Fitzgerald

This American classic tells a story of wealth, indulgence, violence and mystery, and its setting in the "relentless beating heat" of New York in the summer could make it particularly fitting to read on the beach or in the park in the 30°C+ heatwaves we've been seeing recently

## **THE NORTHERN LIGHTS** Philip Pullman

Another one you've almost definitely heard of, but a must-read if you haven't already. *The Northern Lights* is the first of Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy, which is fairly lengthy but full of action and fantastical world-building that makes its 400+ pages fly by. 11-year-old Lyra's search for her missing friend leads her to the North, where she meets ice bears and witch queens. This Arctic adventure could provide a needed break from the hot weather this summer!



### CONTENT WARNINGS:

child abuse; death; emotional abuse; violence; alcohol

# HOPE IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS

BY EMILY DICKINSON

WRITTEN BY LUCAS PATTENDEN 12R

There is always something we all hope for, whether that's the continuation of the current summer's weather, positive grades in our exams or that we have all remembered our lanyards in the morning!

That is why I have chosen the Poem of the Month to be *Hope is the Thing with Feathers* by American poet, Emily Dickinson. Most of Dickinson's poetry was not published until after her death in 1886, however, her work is **some of the most intriguing in literature to this day**, with this chosen poem being among her most successful pieces.

How Dickinson writes, **encourages all readers to look at hope in a new light**: it is an **ever-present being within our souls**, that never goes and more importantly, never asks anything in return. Every being is simply required to listen to that 'little bird' within and let it guide them through their troubles. The opening line (and the title, as Dickinson is famously known for not **titling much, if any, of her poetry**, usually believed to be due to its intention to be private), describing hope as 'a thing with feathers' is surprising, with **this element being crucial not only to create a will within the reader to continue reading the poem but also to establish the poem's purpose: to redefine hope**.

VI.

HOPE.

HOPE is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard ;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chillest land,  
And on the strangest sea ;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.

This poem's primary message is that **hope can be found within all of us and is there to motivate and encourage us no matter the situation**. That it should be **embraced and appreciated**, as it 'in extremity' will never ask 'a crumb' from anyone, meaning you can use it to its fullest and never be made to do anything in return. Its **metaphorical description** as a 'little bird' implies **its fleeting and beautiful nature of existence**. It 'perches in the soul', tentative, as if waiting to be called upon.

The bird is 'sweetest in the gale', representing how **hope is strongest in troubling times** and therefore should be utilised in these times. Times of worry and distress. Dickinson emphasises how **hope is always there when needed most and is always active even in times of comfort**, as it 'never stops at all'. Dickinson is describing how hope is a subconscious feeling, as well as a dependable feeling in times of need.

So, with this poem, there is just a simple message to take away: **Hope is there to be felt. Use it, feel it, fulfil its purpose and you will never suffer a consequence from it. It doesn't require any effort or time. Just simply a feeling, nothing more.**



# THE MARK ON MUSIC

WRITTEN BY EDWARD RHODES 12F

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE AGE CERTIFICATE DETAILED UNDER EACH SONG/ALBUM BEFORE LISTENING.

SOME MUSIC SUGGESTED MAY CONTAIN SENSITIVE TOPICS.

## ARTIST OF THE MONTH:

### METRO BOOMIN

Coming off the back of last year's *Heroes & Villains* he has been responsible for the new *Spider-Man* movie's soundtrack which is **complete perfection**. From starting early in his career with regular collaborations with **21 Savage**, it is great to see him finally receive some **mainstream recognition** that will hopefully launch him into further success.

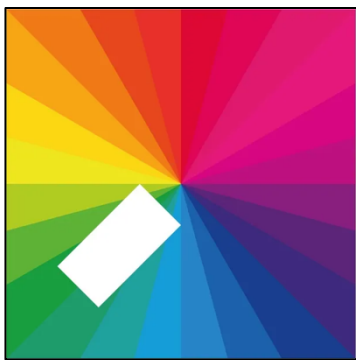


## ALBUM OF THE MONTH:

### IN COLOUR

#### JAMIE XX

**Diverse and vibrant.** Released in 2015 this was Jamie xx's first studio album as a solo artist. He is also a part of the group *The xx* which saw **their breakthrough** in 2009 with their **self-titled album**. My favourite track from the album has got to be *Loud Places* featuring his *The xx* bandmate Romy. The **upbeat and calming production** is very fitting for the summer. Overall, I think this is a **criminally underrated album** that you should definitely check out.



## SONG OF THE MONTH:

### TUDO QUE VOCE PODIA SER QUARTETO EM CY

**Sounds like summer.** You don't need to understand Portuguese to enjoy this song which says a lot about the actual sound of the song and its accessibility.



## THIS MONTH, 10 YEARS AGO...

Three critically acclaimed hip-hop records dropped on the same day. On JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> 2013, J Cole released 'Born Sinner', Mac Miller released 'Watching Movies with the Sound Off', and Kanye West released 'Yeezus'. A stacked release day like this only happens occasionally, hence why even 10 years later this day is so monumental. Each album was so important to each artists' career as it represented a shift in their respective creative approach which has materialised in the form of many more works of art across the last decade.



J Cole would enter controversies regarding his criticisms of other rappers like Kanye West while receiving poor reception of his 2018 album 'K. O. D' which he later bounced back from with the rise of his record label 'Dreamville' which grew the careers of JID and EARTHGANG.

Mac Miller would go on to release many albums which helped him gain further recognition in hip-hop as a genre which peaked with the release of his 2018 album 'Swimming'. Unfortunately, months after Swimming's release Mac Miller died of a drug overdose cutting his career way too short. Substance abuse was a common theme in his introspective music and the signs were there for way too long. His untimely death brought lots of attention to the drug problem within hip-hop and has seen many rappers address their own issues saving many lives.

Kanye West went on to release several albums with varying styles which split his fanbase. Away from his music he has pursued a career in politics which has been surreal, to say the least, and has seen him make outrageous and offensive comments that we must all continue to critique despite his talent in music. During this period, Kanye West made his bipolar disorder diagnosis public which, similarly to Mac Miller's death, helped bring more awareness to artists' struggles away from music and has changed people's perceptions of what these artists actually are, normal people with normal problems.

## RECENT/ UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **WIRELESS FESTIVAL (7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> JULY)**  
With a line-up including Travis Scott, Playboi Carti and the artist of the month Metro Boomin, it will not disappoint.
- **TAYLOR SWIFT'S ERAS TOUR**  
Announced this month and will begin in August running all the way through till mid-2024.
- **GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL (21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>)**  
What would festival season be without Glastonbury! A very diverse line-up this year with something for everyone. There will be appearances from the likes of Elton John and Arctic Monkeys making for a very exciting event.

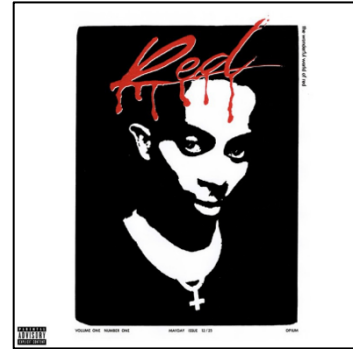
# IS SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCING OUR MUSIC TASTE?

I recently watched an interview between Rap Radar and Tyler, the Creator in which Tyler expressed his views passionately about the **synthetic nature of people's musical opinions**. He mainly blamed social media for this, specifically **Twitter**. I thought this was a very interesting observation as we so often associate social media with connecting us instead of dividing us with superficial opinions. Personally, I have seen many **tier lists and rankings** of artists and their albums across social media with people asking others' opinion on their respective lists. These have influenced public perception of many albums and artists as a '**mob mentality**' has been built surrounding musical opinions. Even I have experienced this.



RAP RADAR PODCAST: TYLER, THE CREATOR

A good example of this was when **Playboi Carti's** 2020 album '**Whole Lotta Red**' was released and initially received some negative criticism which even I took part in. However, as people were given time to develop their own opinions, the album became critically acclaimed. The power social media has in **manipulating our opinions** is truly terrifying when thinking about the future of humanity as a whole...but after all this article is about music so let's stick to that.



WHOLE LOTTA RED PLAYBOI CARTI

I think this happens because people have this kind of fear instilled inside them if they make an opinion about music that is not deemed '**valid**' the world will hate you. If you are seen to rate an artist highly, despite public opinion, you can expect a swarm of people disagreeing with you which can sometimes be enough to stop you from listening to that artist altogether. However, some people disagreed with **Tyler** and thought the opposite. **Anthony Fantano**, owner of '**the needle drop**' YouTube channel and the self-proclaimed "**internet's busiest music nerd**", came out in a slightly angered video abruptly named "**Tyler, the Creator is wrong**". What I deduced from the video was while Anthony agreed somewhat that platforms like **Twitter** hold a certain amount of **toxicity** relating to music, people sharing their opinions was a good thing as it made it easier to connect with people with similar tastes which would **build communities**. Anthony also argued it was a great way for people to find new music, instead of being pushed away from listening to more, **like Tyler suggested**.



ANTHONY FANTANO: MUSIC CRITIC

I also agree with **Anthony** as, once again, based on my own experiences I have been presented with more music that I have gone on to like showing the positive effects that the communities create. However, I have also found myself sharing my music taste online in the hope of receiving validation which I can admit can get quite **addictive**. The **dopamine** hit you receive when someone likes or replies to you sharing an opinion or simply just reposting an artist's work feels good which only makes sense because you are basically being **complimented** which only makes this feeling normal.

But there is still a **sinister aspect** to this as you may get one compliment which only leaves you wanting more so **when you don't receive a compliment the next time you post something music-related you feel destroyed**. This leads you to **manufacture an image** of your music taste that isn't necessarily true to your taste to get that **feeling of validation** back that you received from that one story like on Instagram a few months ago. This therefore creates these **synthetic music tastes** that Tyler, the creator was so heavily criticising.

Overall, I think I **agree with Tyler more**. There is nothing more frustrating than someone sharing a type of music to make themselves more **likeable** or '**popular**'. When this happens, music becomes more of a fashion statement than an appreciated art.

This also leads me to my next point about the **snobbery** that is created by social media about music. I have seen many people share music that is perceived as **underground** in order to look more **intellectual** about their approach to music. However, they most likely do not even enjoy listening to this music and it's all because someone said in a tweet that if you listen to that specific type of music, you are '**cool**'.

It's almost like it's not ok to like music that is played regularly or on the radio anymore which is ridiculous because it's most likely being played for a reason and that's because it's **good** (however this is a **separate debate** about radio that I will most likely cover in a later issue). People need to be more **honest with themselves** and be **OK** with liking the music they like while also allowing for some adventure which Anthony Fantano feels so strongly about.

Whether it's perceived as good or bad, or underground or overplayed, everyone has their taste and music wouldn't be so diverse without it.

Ppl be tweeting song lyrics and people be ready to argue 🤔🤔

9:36 PM · 11/11/21 · Twitter for iPhone

#### TWEET DEMONSTRATING THE FUTILE CONFLICT ONLINE

When it comes to social media, it's difficult to know how to solve this problem. It definitely isn't going anywhere so it's going to have to take a **large cultural intervention**. Until then all we can really do is **be honest with ourselves** and **question why we are posting the music we are** and if we even like it.

**Ironically, people being slightly less diverse in their music taste will ultimately make online music communities more diverse.**



# IS LIFE POSSIBLE IN OUR COSMIC NEIGHBOURHOOD?

WRITTEN BY JOSEPH VARGHESE 12X & COURTNEY MARTIN 12A

Recent reviews of data from the Cassini missions launched by NASA, **show official evidence for all 6 essential elements for life** on Saturn's moon, Enceladus. The latest discovery of phosphorus in the form of phosphates being detected in the moon's ice-covered ocean, adds to the list of elements already discovered on the moon's surface: hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and sulphur. The element was detected by analysing samples in a plume of ice grains and gases erupting into space from cracks in the moon's surface.

**Phosphorus is vital for the existence of all life**, from unicellular cells to multicellular organisms. It is vital in the creation of genetic information (via DNA and RNA), it is a key component of energy-carrying molecules and contributes a large amount to the composition of basic cells. The discovery of all essential elements is **a key stepping stone in astrobiology** and makes us question what lies underneath the icy surface of the world right on our doorstep.

**However, it does not end with Enceladus!**

Many worlds in the solar system already have oceans beneath a surface layer of ice. In our system, these include the satellites Europa and Titan. Especially regarding Titan, **there is high speculation of life being very possible** in the liquid oceans of methane and ethane that flow abundantly on its surface. Some scientists speculate that **these liquid mixtures may provide prebiotic chemistry for living cells different from those on Earth.**

So, the chance of extracellular, unicellular life may not just be possible, but this would also be life that would grow and develop in a completely different way to how life on Earth came to be.



CGI IMAGE OF WHAT THE SURFACE OF TITAN WOULD RESEMBLE - THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY THE CLEAR OCEANS OF LIQUID METHANE AND ETHANE ARE VISIBLE, CONGRUENT WITH LARGE ICE STRUCTURES

Viewing this through a philosophical lens, the desire to search for new life in the cosmos does not solely derive from simply finding us a "new home". It could be argued that the single biggest driving factor for all advancements in science, ever since the time of Democritus, could be human curiosity itself. The mind-numbing thirst to uncover **the invisible; the unpredictable; the inconceivable**. I would like to finally call upon the words of famous author Ray Bradbury, who once said: ***We are an impossibility in an impossible universe.***

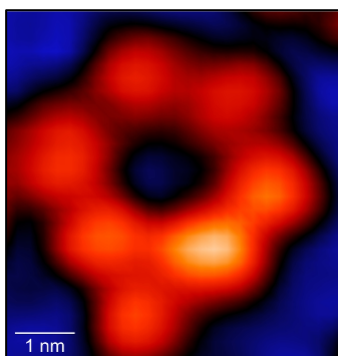
**It would be in our duty, as intelligent life able to conceive of our own existence, to explore and uncover what lies beyond our simple horizons.**

WRITTEN BY JOSEPH VARGHESE



## WHAT HAPPENED THIS MONTH IN SCIENCE?

**Scientists at the University of Ohio have officially taken the first X-ray of a single atom:** scientists have made the invisible visible by employing the use of “quantum tunnelling”, which would cause an atom to leave an elemental fingerprint which could be analysed.



THE X-RAY OF A SUPERMOLECULE WITH ONE ATOM OF IRON PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE RING

**The First Synthetic Human Embryo was made:** This revolutionary breakthrough is one which has posed many ethical questions in the scientific community. The creation of “embryo-like models” from a stem cell culture, is said to be a vital tool in learning about what’s called “The Black Box period” of human development. Embryos cultivated in a lab can only be kept for 14 days, thus any development that occurs shortly after this time frame is currently unknown.

**Artificial intelligence used to forecast the likelihood of development of Alzheimer's disease:** An international team based in Hong Kong has developed an AI software that uses genetic information and medical history to accurately predict the likelihood of developing Alzheimer's before symptoms become clear. This will greatly decrease the costs involved in the numerous diagnostic measures needed to officially diagnose someone with AD.

## EMMY NOETHER THE MOTHER OF MODERN ALGEBRA

International Woman's Day occurred on the 8<sup>th</sup> March of this year, long before the relaunch of The Mark. However, I felt it was only right to have the first edition include such a vital topic as the important women in the fields of STEM.

This edition covers Emmy Noether, commonly known as the mother of modern algebra. She made fundamental contributions to abstract algebra, mathematical physics, and theoretical physics. Her work provides insight as to why conservation laws work, yet her theorems go mostly untaught. This begs the question, who is Emmy Noether and why are her theorems so vital to physics?

### WHAT DID SHE DISCOVER?

Before I delve into the personal life of Emmy Noether, I want to first highlight how she revolutionised the fields of physics and algebra. So, adding to that, what exactly was Noether's theorem?

Imagine rotating a cube, you still find yourself looking at the same shape as before – whether you flip it upside down or keep rotating it, the cube will remain the same. The same applies to physics, whether looking at today or yesterday, or even a year ago the laws of physics remain the same. In that sense, the laws of physics have symmetry like the symmetry in a rotating cube, being symmetrical in time and space. The conservation of energy states that energy cannot be created nor destroyed, and likewise, conservation of charge states that whatever charge you started with must be the charge you finish with.

It was Emmy Noether who linked the conservation of quantities and symmetries, stating that for each conservation law, there's an associated symmetry and for each symmetry, there's an associated conservation law.

But what is this all good for?

Noether's theorem is useful in many aspects of physics, such as within **Particle Physics** and the **Higgs Boson**. Her theorem allowed for the prediction of the Higgs Boson to be made and in 2012 its existence was confirmed by CERN.

## WHO WAS EMMY NOETHER?

Born on the 23<sup>RD</sup> March 1882, Emmy Noether was a **German mathematician** who came from very humble beginnings in the small city of Erlangen. Originally, Emmy Noether was on track to become an educator in French and English, yet Noether decided to study **Mathematics at the University of Erlangen**. Noether was a **persevering and dedicated** woman. To attend lectures, she had to get the approval of each professor of the lectures she attended and was unable to fully participate in class. However, in the face of a lot of adversity, Emmy Noether graduated from the University of Erlangen in 1903 – **having been one of only two women in a university of almost a thousand students**.

In her later life, she moved to teach at the University of Göttingen, headed by David Hilbert, an expert in invariant theory. Emmy assisted regarding ideas presented by **Albert Einstein and relativity**. It was during this time at the University of Göttingen in 1918, that she put forward her theory linking conservation laws and symmetries.



PHOTO OF EMMY NOETHER IN HER 20s

While it was Emmy Noether giving the lectures, they had to be advertised as being held by Professor Hilbert with Noether assisting. This was due to the fact Noether's position at the University of Göttingen was an associate professor. **It was not until 1923 that Noether was given a genuine teaching position and a salary**. However, only 10 years later in 1933, Noether lost her position due to the Nazi occupation of Germany as she was Jewish and had to move to The United States becoming a visiting professor at Bryn Mawr College, where she remained until she died in 1935.

Albert Einstein wrote,

*'Noether was the most significant creative mathematical genius thus far produced since the higher education of women began.'*

Emmy Noether left behind a **legacy, one which remained hidden for so long, and still very much is**. However, it is due to her works, and the findings of millions of others, whose names have been erased from the history books, which have cemented our understanding of the world around us.

# A CRICKETAL MOMENT FOR SPORT

(like critical)

WRITTEN BY GEORGE RICHARDS 12X

## SPORT OF THE MONTH:

CRICKET (The Ashes 2023)

## SPORT EVENT OF THE MONTH:

THE FRENCH OPEN

## ATHLETE OF THE MONTH:

ADAM BROWNSWORD

## WHAT'S NEW?

### NEW IN FOOTBALL

There are several aspects I could talk about in this section, as there are always sporting developments and news. For Chelsea fans, you may have already heard about the news of Nicolas Jackson, and his £32.8 million deal with the London football team. Joined by Jackson is Christopher Nkunku who joined Chelsea earlier this month, with manager Pochettino taking a bid to improve the team's performance from last season.

### THE RISE OF VAHINE FIERRO

The start of this month also saw the ISA World Surfing Games in Surf City El Salvador! Day 7 saw a "Gigantic Surf", as many surfers felt the pressure to qualify for next year's Paris Olympics. Vahine Fierro solidified her place in the games – something she aspired to achieve. Being born 200km outside of Tahiti, she will now be able to compete next year in Tahiti, where Paris 2024 has chosen to host the Surfing Competition.

WOMEN'S  
CRICKET  
WINNERS  
1973



NICOLAS  
JACKSON

## THIS MONTH, 50 YEARS AGO... 1973 WOMEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP

The 20<sup>th</sup> June 1973 marked the first ever Women's Cricket World Cup. I was interested to find out that, unlike other sports, the Women's World Cup was established before the men's in 1975. Women in teams from England, New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica all played together and led the way in annual cricket events.

England won the Cup later in July, followed by Australia. The cup was presented by Princess Anne and Prime Minister Edward Heath hosted an after-party at 10 Downing Street to celebrate their success.

Today this event is more significant than ever; cricket has grown across the world, amongst all genders and across all continents. All players were united by the team spirit, their passion and commitment to represent their country. Sharon Tredrea recently reminded us how the Cup 'opened the eyes of many who dismissed women's cricket.'

## WHAT IS POPULAR NOW?

### ANTICIPATION OF WIMBLEDON & THE TOUR DE FRANCE

We are seeing a lot of preparation for sporting events in July, such as Tennis at Wimbledon, and the Tour de France, both of which are approaching quickly. Tennis players have been participating in the Grand Slam events this year, with **Novak Djokovic being praised for his latest record – his 23<sup>rd</sup> Grand Slam!** On the other hand, **36-year-old Andy Murray suffered a defeat to 24-year-old Australian Alex de Minaur.** Meanwhile, preparations for the Tour de France are underway; the Tour de Suisse (acting, for many, as a practice run for next month) saw success for the Swiss Women's team for the first time. However, **the death of Gino Mäder** was heart-breaking for many, with the Tour de Suisse official website announcing that Mäder was a "bon vivant". Amid the excitement, we at RMGS may recall, or learn about, when **The Tour de France** came through our very town. In 2007, the cyclists faced their final leg of the race through Kent, entering Medway via the tunnel, through to Chatham centre, before climbing up to Bluebell Hill and heading south into Maidstone. The event even contributed **£40 million** towards the local economy.

### WHAT IS PADEL TENNIS?

I have recently read about the rise of a peculiar, yet familiar sport – **Padel Tennis**, originally created in Mexico in the 1960s. A small, yet innovative change to the familiarity of tennis, padel has some distinctive differences from 'normal' tennis. The pressure of the ball, for example, is higher than your common tennis ball. The sport poses a threat to tennis – it is supposedly more accessible for all people, of all ages and abilities. **In Kent, there are already five Padel Courts, the nearest being in Tonbridge.** Could we see this sport growing in popularity closer to



EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR PADEL TENNIS

### THE INVICTA DYNAMOS

Many people know that Medway has its very own ice rink... Planet Ice. But not many would perhaps consider that Medway has its very own Ice Hockey team – **The Invicta Dynamos.** Perhaps some students have heard of this team, or perhaps play or know someone that plays for them, but for those that don't, it is an opportunity to learn about and support a new local team. **The Dynamos were ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the NIHL South Division 2022-2023, just below the Slough Jets.**

### SPORTS LEADERSHIP & MENTORING

Finally, I would like to comment on the launching of a **UK International Leadership Mentoring Programme**, which is working to achieve gender equality and diversity in the sporting communities nationally and internationally, and furthermore aid to make coaching and leadership bodies more diverse. Leadership mentors such as **Annamarie Phelps** (the President of European Rowing) and **Zena Wooldridge** (the President of World Squash) are working to inspire young people from all backgrounds, across the globe, to enjoy their sports. It is vital that we have young coaches, with passions for their sports, to teach the future athletes and Olympians in 20 years' time.



# DJOKOVIC DESTROYS RECORDS

WRITTEN BY SAMUEL BESWICK 12X

For me, the key sporting event this month must be Novak Djokovic surpassing the record set by Rafael Nadal to become the most successful men's singles tennis player of all time. After 18 years in the game and a whole host of other accolades to go along with his grand slam victories, Djokovic won his 23rd grand slam title and his 3rd French open on the 11th of June. Djokovic got the better of his Norwegian opponent Casper Ruud in all three sets that were played, the closest being the first where nerves were high for the Serbian superstar as he clinched the win 7-6. However, Djokovic settled into the match quickly and won the remaining two with relative ease going 6-3 and then 7-5 to finish off the game and win the French Open title.

To say this win came as a shock is of course a huge overstatement but some did not expect him to succeed to this level. Djokovic has been suffering from a few injuries this season, especially on the clay court scene, most notably an elbow injury that forced him to sit out the Madrid open. Despite this Djokovic breezed past all his other opponents playing a total of seven games and only dropping two sets in the whole tournament. The Serbian is well on his way to completing a calendar year Grand Slam – winning all four of the major tournaments – which is an achievement that no man has collected since Rod Laver in 1969.

With both the Australian Open and now Roland-Garros under his belt this incredible accolade is very much on the cards and the Serbian will continue his pursuit at Wimbledon which begins on July 3rd.



DJOKOVIC WINNING THE FRENCH OPEN 2023

During his on-court speech, Djokovic said "Every single player dreams of being on this stage and winning the trophy at least once in their career. I'm beyond fortunate in my life to win 23 times, it's an incredible feeling." Djokovic is now the oldest French Open winner in history securing this record at the age of 36 years and 20 days. Despite his age and the aforementioned injuries, the fitness levels and ability that Djokovic possesses to traverse the court are still some of the best in the world and this is backed up by his standing in the world tennis rankings.

Djokovic now sits atop the rankings for a record-breaking 388th week in his career further cementing his claim to being the best tennis player of all time. Djokovic replaced the newest sensation on the tennis scene Carlos Alcaraz in the top spot after eliminating the Spaniard in the semi-final on June 9th. Alcaraz was able to win the second set after losing the first, ultimately however the Serbian got the better of him and won the two remaining sets to progress to his record-breaking final.