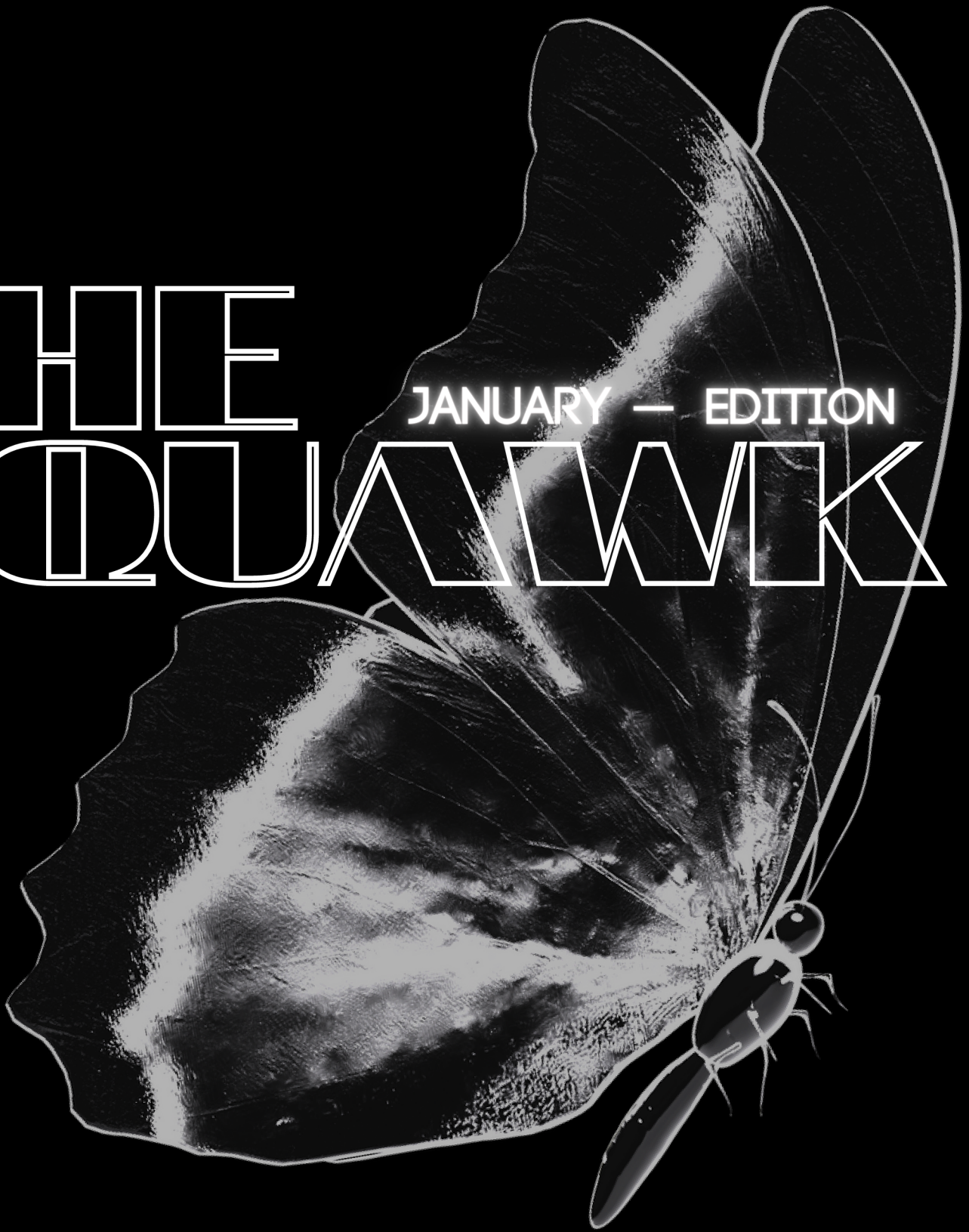


THE SQUAWK

JANUARY — EDITION



THE VOICE OF CRAIGMOUNT STUDENTS

DID YOU GUESS WHO?

Last edition, The Squawk gave you all a challenge to guess who was in the teacher school band, 'Vape Alarm'. And we are finally going to tell you the alias to the face!



ANSWERS

1. *Supreme Leader Kim* was Mr Galloway
2. *Dr Goth* was Mr Gray
3. *Gridiron Ghost* was Mr Sansom
4. *V02 Max* was Mr Clark
5. *Glitch Phantom* was Mr Allan

CRAIGMOUNT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Craigmount students did not care much for New Year's resolutions. We had some input from junior students on their aspirations for the new year but most of them lacked profundity; João aspires to steal a pencil from poor Max every time he's unfortunate enough to have a class with him, and Caelan hopes to pay off his gaming addiction (whatever that means).

20

BY CAROLINA NUNES GOMES

25

But, unfortunately, the majority of pupils I spoke to were pretty estranged from the supposedly magical effects of a New Year's resolution. It was Miss Cameron who gave me an interesting perspective on why this might be, "January is the grimmest, most depressing month of the year!" She's right. Not only January, but the first few months of the new year are just plain awful. Winter loses its charm after the festivities are over and the cold and the dark begin to take a toll on you. What we need in January is warmth, something to make it a more pleasant month.

ERASED

Erased is a beautiful story of friendship, mystery, and time travel. It follows 29-year old Satoru who has a peculiar ability to go back in time. He calls it 'revival' and it randomly activated when something bad is about to happen, allowing him to save people. One day, after a traumatising discovery, he's sent back in time 19 years to find the truth behind a chain of kidnappings and murders that plagued his home town. Truth be told, Erased might just depress you further. But the friendship between 10-year-old Satoru and Kayo, a victim of the kidnapping whom he tries to save, is inspiring and heart-warming.

The scenes of Satoru going to school, spending time with his friends, and strengthening his relationship with his mother and Kayo are my favourite. They feel nostalgic and warm and make me want to move to a rural Japanese village, preferably one devoid of murder and tragedy.



ERASED

MUSIC FROM 'CIGARETTES AFTER SEX'

"Nothing's gonna hurt you baby"

"You leapt from crumbling bridges watching cityscapes turn to dust/ Filming helicopters crashing in the ocean from way above"

"Think I like you best when you're just with me/ And no one else"

The perfect band for your morning January walks to school. Greg Gonzalez's soft vocals paired with perfectly gloomy instrumentals match the grey January sky as well as their album covers do.

This music feels, to me, like Edward Scissorhand's Ice Dance; beautiful, soothing and heart-breaking.



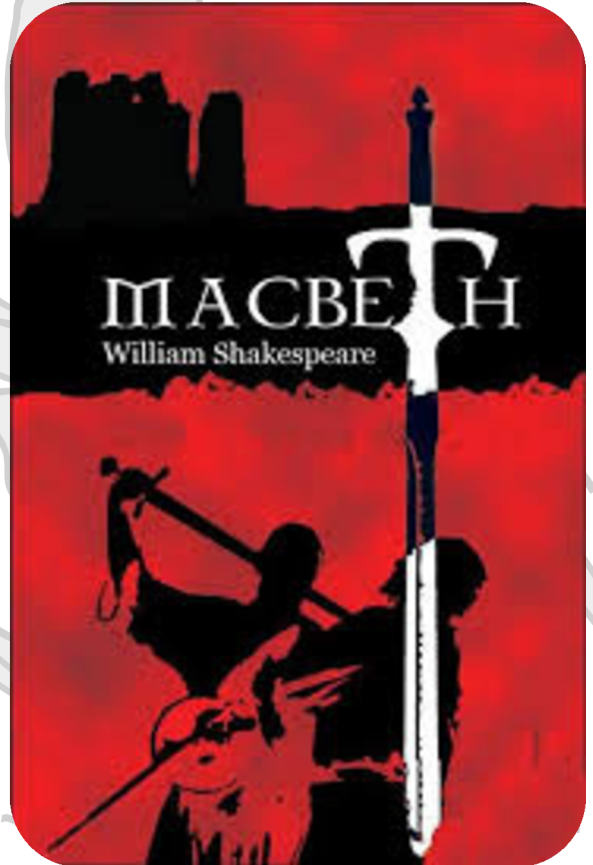


TWILIGHT

Twilight's colour palette is made up of vivid teal blues and dull greys which reflect the vampires' frigidity. However, there is comfort to be found in Twilight; Bella's brown hair and faded red truck offer contrasting warmth to the cool colour palette, as does the passionate romance between her and Edward, all of which is woven together by the film's nostalgic theme song.

MACBETH BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The setting of Macbeth's cold, stone castle and the surrounding forests create a foggy, sinister tone that is heightened by the gloom outside your own window. January and February are the most ambient months for Macbeth because their misty obscurity reflects the supernatural that is explored in the play.



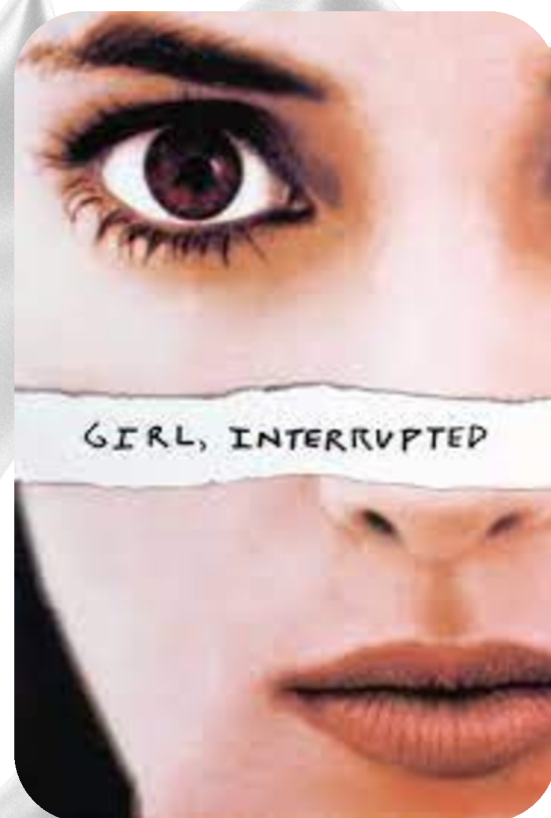
Reading it at this time, I can almost see Duncan's ghost taking the form of one of Scotland's heavy, grey clouds.

GIRL, INTERRUPTED

Whether it's the best selling memoir or the incredible film, Girl, Interrupted is a masterpiece in all its forms.



**Mrs Burns says -
'Great movie but it is
more suitable for
Seniors'**



The story follows Susanna Kaysen's time spent at McLean's hospital, a psychiatric facility, and explores the unsettling account of her experiences and struggles with depression and acceptance. Both the book and the movie are equally fascinating and won't fail to keep you company in these chilly months.



ANASTASIA

A fantasy film based on the true story of the lost Russian princess, Anastasia Romanov. It's filled to the brim with musical numbers, spooky spiritual healers, silly goofs, and the reunion of long lost family. Anastasia also features one of Disney's most realistic and healthy relationships, creating a perfect mood for Valentine's Day alongside a backdrop of wintery St Petersburg.



Mrs Burns says she 'watched this when it first came out. Be aware that it is aimed at an older audience. I still find it haunting!'

TWIN PEAKS

The late David Lynch's most prolific work, Twin Peaks explores the murder of a teenage girl in a small town near the Canadian border. The series is brimming with mystery and the supernatural, leading to confusion and lots of intrigue as the townsfolk try catch Laura Palmer's killer. Misty skies and the classic 80s grainy look create a sense of unease and gloominess that reflect the the limbo state of late winter, alongside some kooky characters who bring light into the darkness.

ONLY YESTERDAY

One of Studio Ghibli's lesser-known films, *Only Yesterday* alternates from protagonist Taeko's twenty-seven and ten-year-old self as she goes on a rediscovery of what she wants in life. The new year is the perfect time to watch this; the theme of reflection and the picturesque animation come together beautifully in this profound film about growing up and finding yourself.



LUCY DACUS

A member of the Grammy-winning supergroup boygenius, Lucy Dacus has just released the first single of her new album, making this the perfect time to get into her music. With an indie rock vibe, Dacus explores identity, religion, and relationships throughout her three albums. Her songs are for when you want to dance and shout your feelings away during the January blues.

"You called me cerebral/ I didn't know what you meant/ But now I do, would it have killed you/ To call me pretty instead?"

"You say I showed you the light/ But all it did in the end/ Was make the dark feel darker than before."

TO THE LIGHTHOUSE:

To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf explores the emotions and relationships of a family and their guests living on a Scottish island. Although only primarily taking place over two days, the novel is able to effectively establish and showcase the unique dynamics of the characters in a way that keeps you wanting more. Woolf has the ability to take the mundane and turn it into a fascinating study of human nature. This guide is heart-breaking, depressing and strangely comforting; like a warm, crackling fire amidst a dark winter night, smelling like smoke, snow, and pine.

“It’s a release of your emotions,” pitches in Squawk journalist, Robyn Neilson.



This isn't to say that New Year's resolutions are a waste of time, they can be inspiring and help you set out your goals for the future, "I want to show lots of people that I have a good imagination" says S6 student, Craig.

Whether you're a certified New Year's Resolution hater, or someone who aspires to thrive in 2025, this guide is the perfect way to romanticise the decaying months of this endless winter: "You'll watch this and feel better about your own life.'

SELF-IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2025

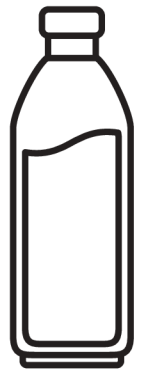
BY TORIN GILMOUR AND JAKE Y YANG

1. Get a good quality of sleep every night

Scientists recommend an average of 8 hours of sleep every day to improve general health

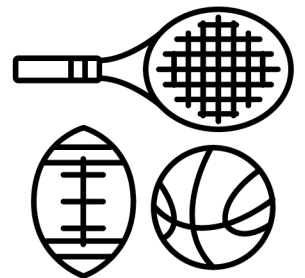
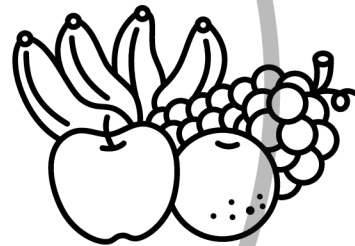
2. Drink more water

The human body comprises around 60% water, so drinking enough water will help improve your physical performance and increase your energy levels



3. Eat more fruit

Fruit is a vital part of a healthy and balanced diet. It contains a variety of important vitamins, minerals and natural chemicals that our body needs



4. Try new sports

Attending extra curricular clubs in and out of school for multiple health benefits



5. Eat less fast food

There's compelling evidence that fast food connects to weight gain, obesity and cancer from its processed foods which are high in fat, starches and sugars.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

BY SATHVIK SRIRAMADESIKAN



Dungeons and Dragons has always really interested me. I've never played it myself, but I have many friends who have and my YouTube Algorithm occasionally decides to bombard me with Dimension 20 and Critical Role clips on the top 10 ridiculous combos to make your Dungeon Master want to quit. So it's safe to say that I have cursory knowledge of the game. The concept of being able to immerse yourself in a story where you can pretend to be someone else with cool abilities and make decisions on the fate of your character and their surroundings is fascinating to me.



"Luke tried to kill a harmless creature but failed three times in a row, meaning the creature gained enough power to go super Saiyan and almost killed him. Karma, I guess."

**It's a universe of madness, creativity
and ridiculously good fun...**

So I decided that in the New Year it would be fun to look at the Dungeons and Dragons Club in greater detail. First of all, for readers who are completely in the dark in regards of Dungeons and Dragons, Mr. Higgins provides a brief explanation of the game:

“D&D is what’s called a TTRPG (*Table Top Roleplaying Game*). Essentially, players have characters that they pretend to be and they role play as those characters. There is also a Dungeon Master (DM) whose job is to narrate the story. The rules allow players to co-create the story. If a character gets captured, I as the DM have to set the scene, asking the players to come up with solutions. For example, if a character has been captured, I as the DM can make it so that they’re trapped in a room and ask the players what they want to do. And they might decide to kick down the door and roll a dice to decide whether that will succeed or fail. It’s essentially similar to Skyrim or BG3. The beauty of D&D is that once you know the rules, you can do lots of interesting silly things.”

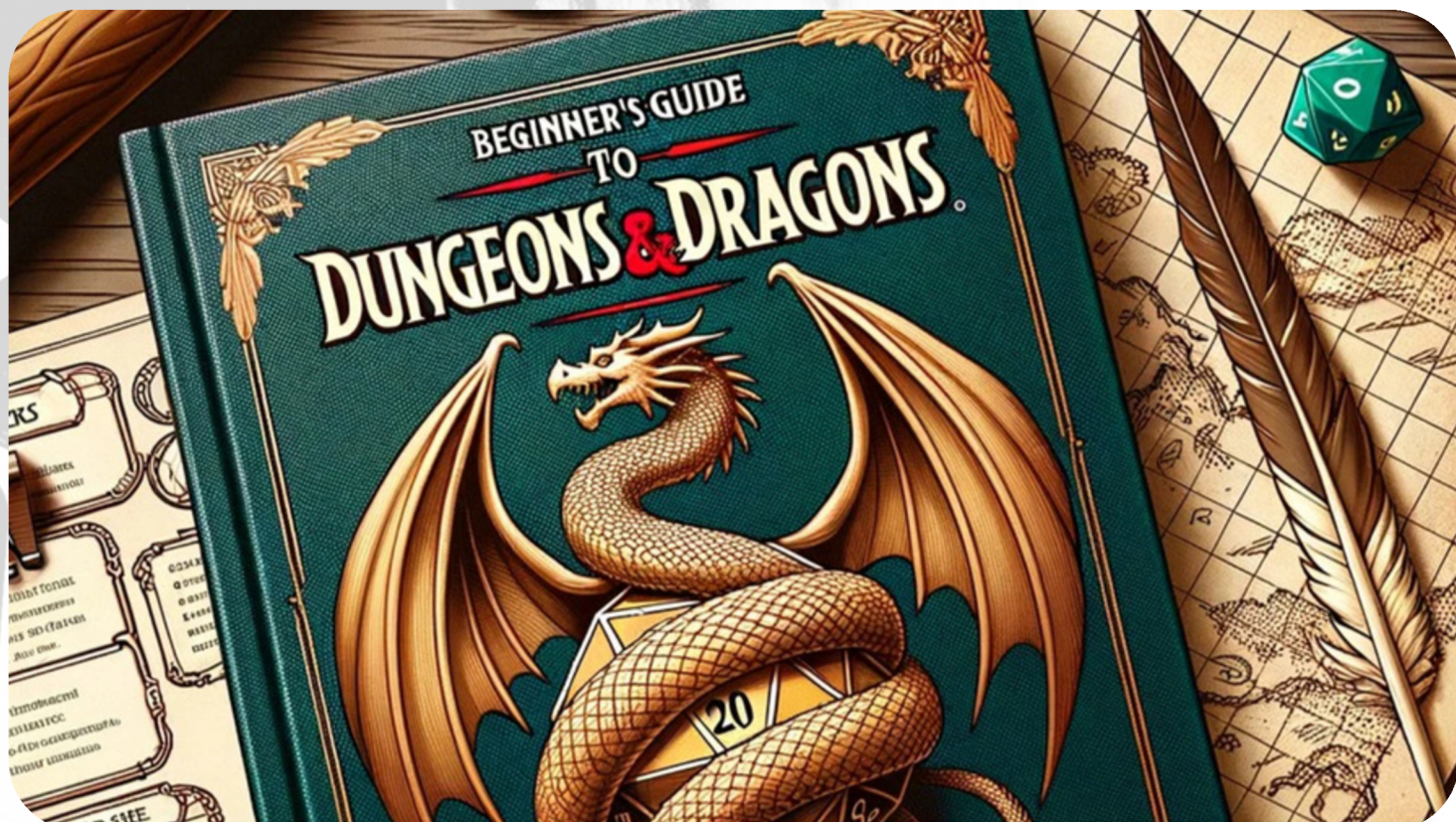
**DUNGEONS
& DRAGONS**



TM & ©2021 Wizards

What do you need to get started with DND?

“To come to the club you need nothing, no experience at all. In general, you need at least two people, maybe some dice.” - Mr. Higgins



How and where can people get involved in the club?

“It’s on Fridays after school during which various groups play with their friends or with me or the helpers. On Thursday junior lunch we do things like designing characters and discussing how to design the dungeons and such. The way the club tends to work is that S1s tend to play with me or some of the helpers and from S2 onwards they organise it themselves.” - Mr. Higgins

“I just like being able to hang out with my friends.”

I was also fortunate enough to get some insight from players who know the ins and outs of the exciting chaos that is D&D:

“My character is called Tysiri. He’s an Aarakochra (a bird person) and a wizard. He’s an acolyte, which means that he’s spent his life outdoors in cities and towns. He’s very chaotic, and usually uses long range moves like freeze rays and magic missiles” says S1, Felix.

Ruaridh, another S1, also described his character, ***“My character is Arzor. He’s a warlock with very high charisma and is fixated on killing Kaiher (one of the other characters in the campaign) because his patron demanded it be so.”***

Ruaridh is also somewhat obsessed with “the boar”: ***“We found a boar in our campaign, I tamed it. Max ran at it with a glass of beer but the boar ran away. In our next combat, Max spent the entire battle making pig noises to try and retrieve the boar. At the end of the battle, the boar returns and pulverises the last remaining goblins and we now we have a cult about it . The boar is now called Giuseppe.”***

D&D characters seem to have no limit. There’s Lingping the skateboarding shoelicker, Greg the communist tiefling, Cooler Oliver, Jeff the Landshark... It’s a universe of madness, creativity and ridiculously good fun.



CREDS TO JOSH ROBERTSON

Life's clock: We Live in Time will break your heart

BY ELILI KANDASAMY AND AOIFE DONALD

We Live in Time, directed by John Crowley, is an incredibly poignant and beautifully crafted romantic drama that deserves your time and your tears. Starring Florence Pugh and Andrew Garfield, the film takes its audience on an emotional rollercoaster through the highs and lows, the laughter and tears of a relationship which battles the unpredictable and precious force of time. We see the challenges the two face together - a terrible crisis and a fundamental, existential choice - which force them look hard at their lives and what their love for each other means.

Both Pugh and Garfield deliver outstanding performances that anchor the film's emotional core. Pugh's perfect portrayal of Almut is both vulnerable and strong, capturing her internal conflict between her



goals and her imminent fate. Garfield portrays Tobias as deeply empathetic, making him a compelling counterpart to Almut. The real highlight of the film is the chemistry between Pugh and Garfield. The film would not be what it is if anyone else had played the leads, Garfield is unbelievably charming and Pugh is the emotional force that binds the film together.



John Crowley took an interesting approach to the structure of the story by switching timelines periodically. While this non-linear approach may have been initially jarring and confusing, it eventually serves to mirror the unpredictable fragments of life. Additionally, the weaving of the movie making it move between moments of joy and moments of heartbreak, allows the audience to truly feel the tension that arises as time slips away.

In conclusion, *We Live in Time* is a beautifully executed exploration of love, loss and the passage of time. Though its narrative structure may not be for everyone, the actor's performances and its thought-provoking message are undeniable. If you are a fan of tear jerking emotional dramas that linger long after the credits roll, this film is worth watching.

Article Of The Month – Article 16

BY OLIVER FREEMAN-FERGUSON

This month the RRS PAG has chosen Article 16 as our Right of the Month.

Article 16 is the right to privacy of their home, family and private life. It also includes their personal details (phone number, passport, address, etc...)

We chose this right for this month because we think that it is extremely important for a child to have access to personal privacy and not to be fully controlled.

As children, we obviously have legal guardians who have responsibilities like meeting our child rights, providing food, water and shelter etc. Although they shouldn't be controlling our whole lives. Perhaps this was appropriate when we were younger, but as high schoolers we should be able to make some decisions ourselves.



Our PAG meets everyday during tutor time to discuss the importance of child rights, organise and plan events, take part in challenges and so much more.

Our PAG group consists of students from S1-3 but are ready to welcome the upper school too!



WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

THIS IS OUR SCHOOL NEWSPAPER AND WE ARE SEEKING VOICES FROM ACROSS THE SCHOOL TO BE A PART OF IT. WOULD YOU LIKE TO WRITE? INTERVIEW? PHOTOGRAPH? DESIGN?

GET IN TOUCH USING THE QR CODE OR POP ALONG TO ROOM 220 ON A THURSDAY DURING JUNIOR LUNCH OR OF YOU RECOGNISE ANY NAMES OF THE SQUAWK, TALK TO THEM DIRECTLY!

WE WOULD REALLY LIKE FOR PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED SOON AS WE WOULD LIKE SOME MORE PUPIL FEATURES.

(PLEASE DO, THIS IS A PLEA FROM THE DESIGN EDITOR, CARLY. I WANT MORE STUDENT FEATURES BECAUSE I'M WORKING OVERTIME HERE ON THESE LONG FEATURES.)



TEAM SQUAWK
AOIFE DONALD
CAROLINA NUNES-GOMES
CARLY MCLEAR
ELILI KANDASAMY
JAKE Y YANG
ROBYN NEILSON
ROWAN KELLY
SATHVIK SRIRAMADESIKAN
TORIN GILMOUR