

UNDER SQUAWK



🦆 – September 2025 – 🦆

Issue One

FIRST MONTH AT CRAIGMOUNT

BY LOUISE TOD AND ORLA HOGARTH

ORLA AND LOUISE TOOK TO THE CONCOURSE TO ASK S1S ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES OF CRAIGMOUNT SO FAR THIS YEAR. THEIR RESPONSES WERE BOTH ENTHUSIASTIC AND HONEST!



WHAT WAS THE BEST THING ABOUT SCHOOL TODAY?

'SEEING MY FRIENDS'

'OUR SOCIAL SUBJECTS CLASS MADE POSTERS WHICH WAS REALLY GREAT FUN'

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SUBJECT SO FAR?

"MINE IS PROBABLY SCIENCE BECAUSE WE GET TO BURN STUFF"

"FCT IS DEFINITELY MY FAVOURITE AND I DON'T THINK THAT WILL CHANGE"

"SOCIAL SUBJECTS BECAUSE MR GALLOWAY IS THE BEST"

"THIS IS AN UNPOPULAR OPINION, BUT I LIKE MATHS BECAUSE IT'S FUN AND MISS HAY IS A GOOD TEACHER"

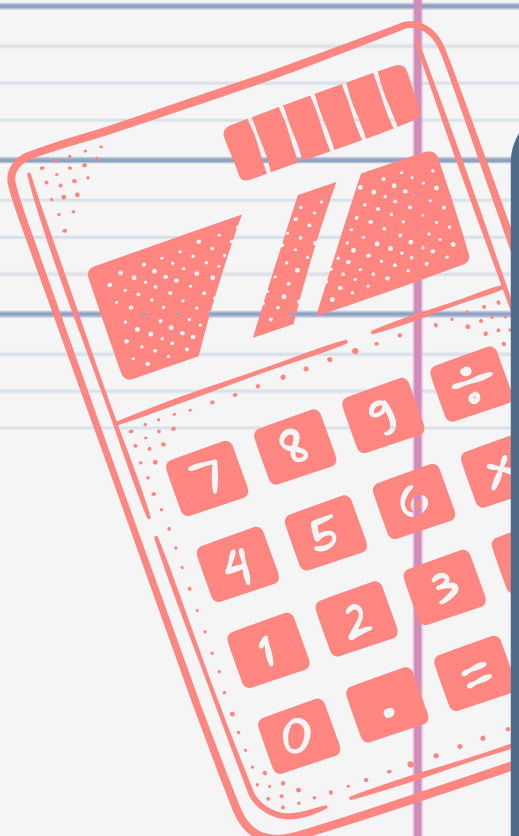
"PE BECAUSE I ENJOY DOING SPORTS BASKETBALL AND TABLE TENNIS"



HAVE YOU JOINED ANY CLUBS YET?

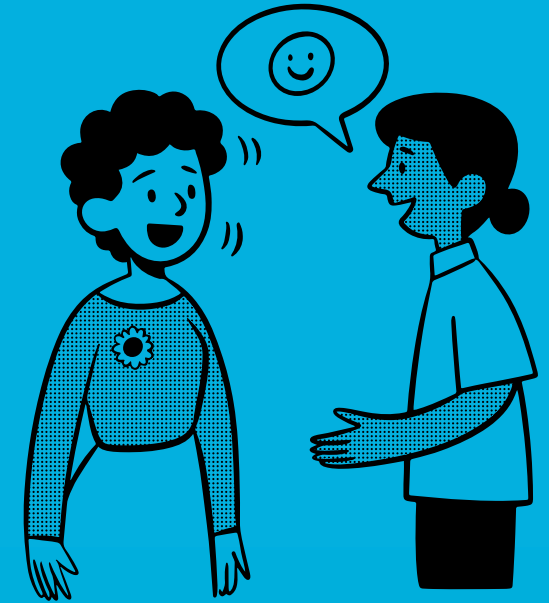
'I'M GOING TO NETBALL AT THE END OF THE DAY FOR THE FIRST TIME.'

"I'M GOING TO JOIN DANCE AND CHEER"



THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP - RRS PAG

BY SHRAVYA SRIRAMADESIKAN



EVERY CHILD DESERVES NOT ONLY LOVE AND AFFECTION. THEY ALSO NEED THE SUPPORT TO GROW IN SAFE AND HEALTHY CONDITIONS. THIS IS WHAT RIGHT 26 IS IN THE UNCRC. IT HIGHLIGHTS THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP. IT MAKES SURE THAT CHILDREN EVERYWHERE HAS THEIR BASIC NEEDS MET LIKE HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, HOUSING, FOOD NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE.

SOME FAMILIES MIGHT NEED SUPPORT TO GIVE THEIR CHILDREN THE LIFE THEY DESERVE. THIS IS WHERE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP STEPS IN. IT MAKES SURE CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO PROPER SCHOOLING, A COMFORTABLE HOME AND THE CHANCE TO GROW.

GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE DUTY TO MAKE SURE THESE SUPPORT PROGRAMS EXIST TO HELP FAMILIES FIND AFFORDABLE HOUSING, PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, SECURE JOBS THAT ALLOW PARENTS TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR CHILDREN. PARENTS PLAY THEIR ROLE BY USING THESE RESOURCES WISELY, GIVING THEIR CHILDREN SUPPORT AND STABILITY. TOGETHER, THEY FORM A SHIELD AROUND THE CHILD KEEPING THEM SAFE FROM THE HARDSHIPS THAT CAN HOLD BACK THEIR FUTURE.

COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS ALSO HAVE A PART TO PLAY. VOLUNTEERING, DONATING AND/OR SUPPORTING CHARITIES AND RAISING AWARENESS CAN HELP SPREAD THE WORD. TREATING EVERY CHILD AS SOMEONE FULL OF POTENTIAL AND HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED ARE SMALL THINGS THAT MAKE A BIG CHANGE.

WITHOUT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP, CHILDREN FACE HUNGER, POOR HEALTH AND LIMITED EDUCATION. THIS DOESN'T JUST LIMIT THE CHILD, IT LIMITS THEIR FUTURE AND EVERYTHING THEY COULD CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SOCIETY.

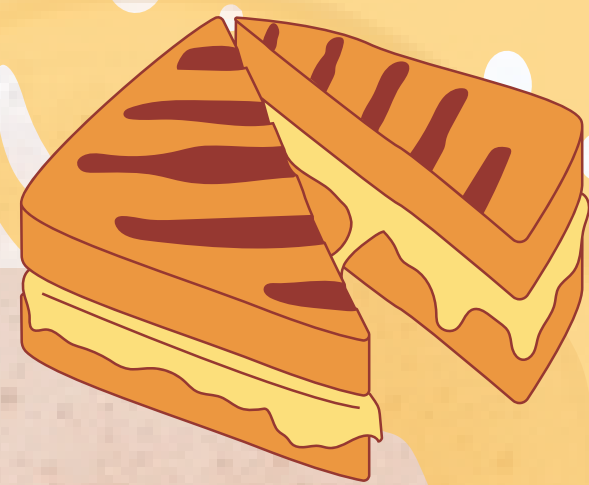
THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP IS MORE THAN A RIGHT, IT NEEDS TO BE A PROMISE. WHEN EVERYONE WORKS TOGETHER, CHILDREN DON'T JUST HAVE TO SURVIVE, THEY CAN THRIVE.



**SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC HELP**

The faces behind the toasties

By Ruth Kerr And Adam Thake

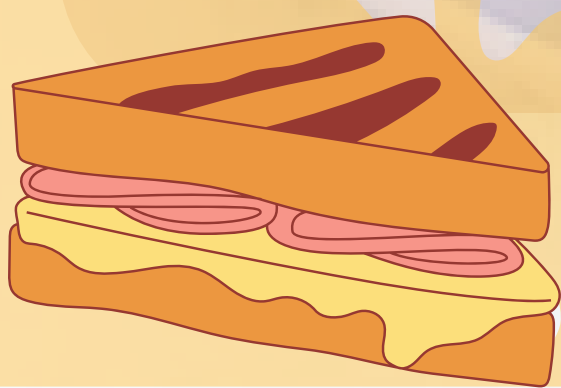


The church bell tolls twelve, beckoning in the usual hungry faces to fight tooth and nail to gain their right to feast upon slabs of cheese and loaf of bread. Welcome to Toastie Thursday! But have you considered the friendly faces that are behind the counter? We set out to meet and 4 of the toastie team and interview them to find out a little bit more about them.

Can you match the interview to each member of the toastie team to test your toastie knowledge?

- 1** This toastie team member often divides the crowds into two lines on approach and is the number one fashionista and stylist of toastie Thursday merch. She's the friendly face you will find outside every Thursday, but sometimes she's the bearer of bad news as she presents the toastie Thursday stock updates. She prefers the first sitting of toastie Thursday as the younger years are more energetic and fun.
- 2** This toastie team member will be recognised by their familiar, friendly face. For the lactose intolerant amongst you, you'll appreciate what she brings too, as she is the one who provides the snacks and drinks. However, this friendly team member has a sterner side, if you're behind on toastie payments she's the one you answer to...Hint: she hates hearing this phrase "Muuuum I need another toastie"
- 3** This toastie team member may look scary to some but loves a good laugh. Whitest toastie Thursday is all his fault. He makes up for it with hard work in his role as the "general dog's body". He loves people with good taste in music because he heard online harmonious notes can regrow hair.
- 4** This toastie team member makes sure to always ask how you are, beckon you in, then takes your money. If you're an early toastie bird you might find her setting up, or if you overstay your welcome, she might take your chair away. She is often found chatting with seniors.

Turn over to the next page to find out who these mysterious toastie team members really are.



**1 Toastie Thursday team
member number one is...
Alison**



**2 Toastie Thursday team
member number two is...
Moria**



**3 Toastie Thursday team
member number three
is... Alan**



**4 Toastie Thursday team
member number four is...
Elaine**



**Toastie Thursday is open every
Thursday to all year groups and
everyone is welcome.**



SUPERMAN (2025): SETTING A NEW STANDARD FOR SUPERHERO FILMS

BY SOPHIE GATES

THE NEW SUPERMAN MOVIE IS JAMES GUNN'S INTRODUCTION OF A NEW SUPERMAN INTO THE DCU, FOLLOWING HIS EARLIER TWO PROJECTS, "THE SUICIDE SQUAD" AND SEASON 1 OF "PEACEMAKER". WHILST THE SUICIDE SQUAD WAS MET WITH A LESS-THAN-IDEAL RESPONSE FROM CINEMA GOERS, HIS NEW FILM, SUPERMAN, HAS BECOME A WORLDWIDE SUCCESS.

AS SOME MAY KNOW, THE LAST SOLO SUPERMAN TO GRACE OUR SCREENS WAS ZACK SNYDER'S MAN OF STEEL, INCLUDING A DARKER, GRITTIER VERSION OF SUPERMAN, WITH GREY COLOUR PALETTES AND A SADDER ATMOSPHERE THAN THE ORIGINAL COMICS. SURE, MAN OF STEEL DID WELL IN THE BOX OFFICE, BUT ZACK SNYDER'S DCEU HAS ALSO CAUSED MANY PEOPLE TO HAVE A FLAWED, MISINFORMED VIEW ON HOW SUPERMAN AND HIS CHARACTER SHOULD ACT, LOOK, AND FEEL.

CONTRASTING THIS, JAMES GUNN HAS SINGLE-HANDEDLY REPRESENTED EVERYTHING SUPERMAN STANDS FOR IN ONE 130-MINUTE-LONG FILM. ME AND FELLOW SQUAWK MEMBER BEN CORMIE WENT AROUND AND ASKED THE OPINIONS OF SOME JUNIORS, AND A COUPLE OF TEACHERS, AS WE WANTED TO HEAR THE RANGE OF VIEWS ON THIS NEW FILM. "I HAVEN'T SEEN A LOT OF DC MOVIES, BUT THIS ONE WAS PRETTY ENTERTAINING, AND THERE WAS A LOT OF ACTION" SAYS CALUM IN S1, FINDING THE MOVIE FUN DESPITE HIS LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF DC PRIOR TO THE FILM.

"IT WAS TRUE TO THE COMICS, THE CHARACTERS WERE UNIQUE, AND THE MORALS WERE REPRESENTED QUITE WELL." VOICED EILIDH AND CHARLIE IN S3. THE MAIN MORALS SEEN IN JAMES GUNN'S SUPERMAN INCLUDE THE IDEA OF KINDNESS AND INCLUSION, THE WORDS 'PUNK ROCK' BEING USED TO DESCRIBE BOTH OF THESE VALUES.



**Superman (2025)
film poster**



SO ANYONE WHO HAS ABSOLUTELY NO CLUE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF CLARK KENT HAS A VAGUE IDEA OF WHERE HE'S COME FROM. SOMETHING JAMES GUNN HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY SUCCESSFUL AT, AND CONTINUES TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT, IS INTRODUCING CHARACTERS INTO HIS FILMS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS LIVE ACTION DC FILMS. THREE OF THESE CHARACTERS INCLUDE THE MEMBERS OF THE 'JUSTICE GANG', GUY GARDNER, HAWKGIRL, AND MR TERRIFIC. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE THREE IS CLEARLY CLOSE, WITH BOTH HAWKGIRL AND MR TERRIFIC MANAGING TO DEAL WITH GUY GARDNER'S OFTEN SELF-CENTRED ATTITUDE.

BUT INDIVIDUALLY, EACH CHARACTER IS SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED AND ENTERTAINING. MR TERRIFIC'S DEADPAN WORDS AND UNDENIABLE SMARTS PERFECTLY CONTRAST WITH EVERY CHARACTER, ESPECIALLY LOIS LANE AS SHE RAMBLES ABOUT HER RELATIONSHIP WITH CLARK.

ONE STAND OUT CHARACTER WHO'S PROVED TO BE A FAN FAVOURITE IS KRYPTO, AN OVERLY ENERGETIC DOG WITH THE ABILITY TO FLY, AND A LACK OF BOUNDARIES. KRYPTO (OBVIOUSLY) DOESN'T HAVE ANY LINES, NOR DOES HE HAVE A CLEAR CHARACTER ARC, BUT HE MAKES UP FOR IT BECAUSE HE IS A DOG WHO SOMEHOW MANAGES TO WORM HIS WAY INTO THE HEARTS OF ALMOST EVERY CHARACTER IN THE FILM, AND MOST LIKELY EVERY VIEWER OF THE FILM. ALSO, KRYPTO IS A LOVABLE ANIMAL BASED ON JAMES GUNN'S OWN DOG, BELONGING TO SUPERMAN'S COUSIN, KARA. AKA SUPERGIRL. MILLY ALCOCK ONLY HAS A FEW SECONDS OF SCREEN TIME IN THE NEW SUPERMAN MOVIE, THOUGH SHE SOMEHOW PERFECTLY EMBODIES THE CHARACTER OF KARA IN HER TWO LINES OF DIALOGUE, PORTRAYING HER AS A MESSY, IMPULSIVE PARTY ANIMAL, STAYING TRUE TO THE SUPERGIRL IN THE COMICS.

"I LIKED IT. I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HATE IT, BUT I LIKED IT. I WAS JUST THERE ENJOYING THE FILM. I THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD STORYLINE, BUT I WASN'T A FAN OF THE CGI" WAS MISS LYNCH'S OPINION OF SUPERMAN, ONLY ANSWERING ONCE BEN AND I ASSURED HER THAT HER LIMITED DC KNOWLEDGE COULDN'T STOP HER FROM HAVING AN OPINION ON THE FILM.

THOSE WHO HADN'T WATCHED THE TRAILER MAY HAVE WALKED INTO THE FILM EXPECTING DAVID CORENSWET TO PLAY A PATRIOTIC, HARDHEADED, GRITTY CLARK KENT, BUT THE FUN LOVING ACTOR SUCCEEDED IN STRAYING FAR AWAY FROM HENRY CAVIL'S PREVIOUS PORTRAYAL AND MANAGED TO SPREAD KINDNESS AND HOPE IN CINEMAS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WITH SECRETLY OBVIOUS POLITICAL MESSAGES AND A POWERFUL SPEECH ABOUT HOW SUPERMAN STILL BELONGS DESPITE BEING AN 'ALIEN', SUPERMAN MADE ME, AND MANY OTHERS, FEEL A WARM SENSE OF BELONGING IN A WORLD WHERE SOME MAY FEEL ISOLATED. BRIGHT VISUALS AND HARD-HITTING CINEMATOGRAPHY SHED TEARS FROM MY EYES MORE THAN ONCE, AND AFTER WATCHING IT FOR A FOURTH TIME I DECIDED THAT JAMES GUNN IS PAVING THE WAY FOR A NEW GENERATION OF SUPERHERO MOVIES.



SUPERMAN IS A FUNNY, JOYFUL, ALL-LOVING, AND INCREDIBLY IMPACTFUL FILM WITH AN AMAZING CAST INCLUDING DAVID CORENSWET, RACHEL BROSNAHAN, AND THE INCREDIBLY TALENTED NICHOLAS HOULT (WHO MANAGED TO PLAY THE MOST HATEFUL VERSION OF LEX LUTHOR TO EVER GRACE OUR SCREENS), AND I SUGGEST THAT ANYONE READING THIS WHO HASN'T HAD THE PLEASURE OF WATCHING IT FINDS A WAY TO WATCH IT AS FAST AS THEY CAN, MAY THAT BE WAITING FOR IT TO BE RELEASED ON DVD OR A STREAMING SERVICE AVAILABLE IN THE UK.

ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, THE FILM MEANS A LOT TO ME, AS A LONG TIME DC FAN WHO HAD COMICS SHOVED INTO HER ARMS AT A YOUNG AGE. JAMES GUNN ACHIEVES EVERYTHING A COMIC BOOK FILM SHOULD ACHIEVE, WITH BRIGHT VISUALS, AMAZING ACTING, A SATISFYINGLY COMIC ACCURATE CAST, AND A PLAYLIST THAT COULD QUENCH THE DEEPEST THIRSTS FOR GOOD MUSIC TO BE USED IN MAINSTREAM MOVIES.

SUPERMAN IS ONE OF THOSE FILMS WHERE I BELIEVE EVERYONE SHOULD WATCH IT AT LEAST ONCE, AND LEAVES ME ANTICIPATING THE FOLLOWING DCU FILMS THAT WILL NO DOUBT LIVE UP TO THE INSANELY HIGH QUALITY OF JAMES GUNN'S LEGACY.

"I HAVEN'T SEEN A LOT OF DC MOVIES, BUT THIS ONE WAS PRETTY ENTERTAINING, AND THERE WAS A LOT OF ACTION" SAYS CALUM IN SI

"I THOUGHT IT WAS A REALLY ORIGINAL WAY OF APPROACHING SUPERHERO FILMS WHERE IT SHOWS THE PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY, AND I LOVED THE MESSAGE OF KINDNESS BEING PUNK ROCK." SAID MS WALKER WHEN WE STORMED INTO HER CLASSROOM, DEMANDING HER OPINION.



THRILLING THEATRE

BY OLAF KRZYSZTOFIK

ON THE WEEK OF THE 18TH OF AUGUST, DRAMA STUDENTS IN S5 AND S6 WENT TO SEE A RANGE OF DIFFERENT THEATRE PRODUCTIONS TO HELP WITH THEIR UPCOMING EXAMS. BOTH YEAR GROUPS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH FAUSTUS IN AFRICA (AN AGE OLD TALE OF DOCTOR FAUSTUS, BUT SET IN 1990'S AFRICA,) AS WELL AS TRAINSPOTTING (LOCALLY SET STORY ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF DRUG ADDICTION). ADDITIONALLY, THE S6'S GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE TEEN ODYSSEY (STORY ABOUT BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN GENERATIONS). WE, THE SQUAWK'S JOURNALISTS, GATHERED THE DRAMA STUDENTS' THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ON THESE PLAYS. HERE'S WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY.

THE FIRST PERSON WE INTERVIEWED, AN S6 STUDENT, HAD "STRONG" OPINIONS ABOUT THE PLAYS HE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO SEE. THE FIRST PLAY THAT THE ADVANCED HIGHER STUDENTS SAW WAS TEEN ODYSSEY. TEEN ODYSSEY USED PHONES TO "BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN GENERATIONS." OUR S6 STATED THAT TEEN ODYSSEY WAS "LESS OF A DRAMA AND MORE OF AN EXPERIENCE", NOT NECESSARILY SAYING THAT IT WAS AN UNENJOYABLE PERFORMANCE, BUT SAYING THAT IT WAS "LACKING IN THE STORY DEPARTMENT", MEANING THAT THE PERFORMANCE

DIDN'T HAVE A CONTINUOUS NARRATIVE STREWN THROUGHOUT IT. THIS WAS A RECURRING VIEW WHICH WAS VOICED BY ANOTHER S6 THAT WE INTERVIEWED. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE DIDN'T THINK MUCH ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE AFTERWARDS HE "SORTA ABSORBED THE THEME AND DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT AGAIN."

THE SECOND PLAY WAS FAUSTUS IN AFRICA. FAUSTUS IN AFRICA WAS MOSTLY PERFORMED USING PUPPETRY, WITH ONE OR TWO PEOPLE CONTROLLING EACH PUPPET. IT'S BASED ON THE CLASSIC TALE OF DOCTOR FAUSTUS BUT SET IN 1990'S AFRICA WHEN MAJOR POLITICAL CHANGES TOOK PLACE. THE S6'S THAT WE INTERVIEWED SAID, IN SUMMARY, THAT FAUSTUS WAS A GOOD PLAY BUT TOOK COMPLETE FOCUS ON EVERY ELEMENT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON. EVERYTHING HAD SOME SORT OF SYMBOLIC OR METAPHORICAL MEANING AND TRYING TO ACTIVELY UNPICK THAT WHILE WATCHING WAS A CHALLENGE FOR MOST PEOPLE. SOME ENJOYED IT THOROUGHLY WHICH SHOULDN'T BE A SURPRISE CONSIDERING MANY STUDENTS WHO TOOK DRAMA ALSO TOOK HIGHER AND ADVANCED HIGHER ENGLISH WHICH RELIES ON ANALYSIS. FAUSTUS WAS A LAYERED PIECE OF THEATRE THAT ISN'T FOR CASUAL WATCHING. REVIEWERS AGREED BY SAYING THAT "FAUSTUS IS A PLAY THAT YOU WATCH AND ANALYSE FOR DAYS AFTERWARDS." THIS VIEW OF OVERLY METAPHORICAL PRESENTATION WAS SHARED BY THE S5'S THAT WE INTERVIEWED.



THE THIRD, AND LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST, PLAY THAT BOTH YEAR GROUPS SAW WAS TRAINSPOTTING LIVE. THE PLAY EXPLORED THE ISSUE OF DRUG ADDICTION AND PUT THE AUDIENCE ALL AROUND THE ACTION, WITH A SMALL ALLEY IN THE MIDDLE FOR THE ACTORS. THE PLAY WAS MASSIVELY IMMERSIVE AND INCLUDED THE AUDIENCE IN EVERYTHING THAT WAS HAPPENING ON STAGE. THIS WAS, UNDOUBTEDLY, THE YEAR GROUP'S FAVOURITE, AND FOR GOOD REASON. OUR S6'S SAID WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT TRAINSPOTTING; ABOUT HOW "WELL PRESENTED [THE] THEME WAS BUT IT WASN'T SPELLED OUT FOR THE AUDIENCE." HOW THE PLAY HAD A "SKILFUL USE OF COMEDY TO BREAK UP THE DARKER THEMES ABOUT DRUG ADDICTION."

BOTH YEAR GROUPS ADMITTED THAT THEY THOUGHT ABOUT THE PLAY LONG AFTER THEY LEFT THE THEATRE AND HOW LONG IT LINGERED IN THEIR MINDS. A LOT OF PEOPLE MENTIONED THAT THE FACT THAT THE PLAY WAS SET IN EDINBURGH, THEY COULD RELATE TO THE STORY A LOT MORE. THE OVERWHELMING OPINION WE GOT FROM THE STUDENTS THAT SAW TRAINSPOTTING IS THAT THEY WOULD ABSOLUTELY LOVE TO SEE IT AGAIN, OR AT LEAST SOMETHING THAT FEELS SIMILAR. MANY SAID THAT THEY NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE FRINGE TO SPEND THEIR TIME BEFORE THEY WATCHED TRAINSPOTTING, BUT NOW THAT THEY'VE EXPERIENCED IT, THEY WOULD ABSOLUTELY GO AGAIN.

THE FIRST STUDENT THAT WE INTERVIEWED SAID THAT "THE THREE PLAYS THAT WE SAW SHOWED THE RANGE OF DRAMA AS A CREATIVE MEDIUM, AND THAT THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE WHEN IT COMES TO THEATRE." THIS STATEMENT PERFECTLY ENCAPSULATES WHAT WE FOUND OUT THROUGH OUR INTERVIEWS. THEATRE IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED AS A WAY TO SPEND YOUR TIME, SO NEXT TIME YOU THINK THAT NETFLIX HAS NOTHING GOOD TO OFFER AND THAT ALL THE MOVIES IN THE CINEMA SUCK, WHY NOT BUY SOME TICKETS TO THE THEATRE? YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED BY WHAT YOU SEE.



TRAINSPOTTING^{LIVE}

'MANY SAID THAT THEY NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE FRINGE TO SPEND THEIR TIME BEFORE THEY WATCHED TRAINSPOTTING, BUT NOW THAT THEY'VE EXPERIENCED IT, THEY WOULD ABSOLUTELY GO AGAIN.'





BEAT IT, SHRED IT, AND PLAY ON!

FRIDAY MUSIC CLUB



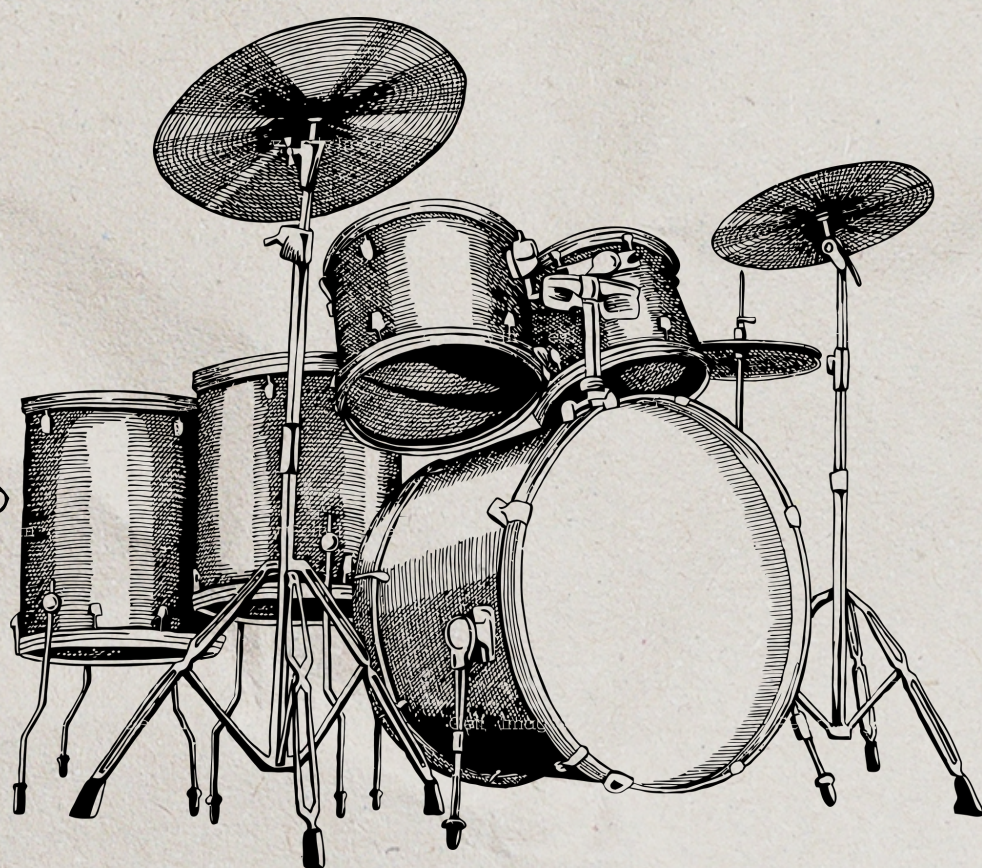
BY BANEEN ZAHRA

MUSIC CLUB IS AN EXCITING AND CREATIVE SPACE FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS. WHETHER YOU ARE JUST STARTING OUT OR ALREADY JAMMING LIKE A PRO, THIS CLUB IS OPEN TO STUDENTS FROM ALL YEAR GROUPS—MAKING IT A WELCOMING PLACE TO LEARN, PRACTICE, AND HAVE FUN WITH MUSIC.

WE MEET EVERY FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL, AND MEMBERS GET FULL ACCESS TO ALL THE INSTRUMENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT. WHETHER YOU ARE ROCKING OUT ON THE DRUMS, LAYING DOWN GROOVES ON THE BASS, OR SHREDDING ON THE GUITAR, THERE IS SOMETHING HERE FOR EVERYONE.

THE CLUB IS RUN BY MR MCLAREN, WHO IS ALWAYS KEEN TO HEAR WHAT STUDENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON. AT THE END OF EACH SESSION, ONE MEMBER WHO HAS BEEN DEVELOPING A PIECE GETS THE CHANCE TO PERFORM IN FRONT OF THE GROUP—AN AWESOME WAY TO SHARE YOUR PROGRESS AND INSPIRE OTHERS.

JOINING IS EASY! JUST QUICKLY VISIT ON A FRIDAY AND REGISTER WITH MR MCLAREN. YOU WILL BE PART OF THE FUN IN NO TIME.





(PHOTOS FROM MUSIC CLUB)



Best of Both Worlds: How the ELF and the Fringe Unite the Worlds of Music.

by Nicholas Cheung, Jad Alhamwi, Antonio Pruteanu



WHEN WE THINK ABOUT MUSIC, WHAT COMES TO MIND? MANY WOULD AT ONCE THINK OF POP ICONS LIKE CHAPPELL ROAN, SABRINA CARPENTER, BENSON BOONE, OR EVEN THE BAND OF THE YEAR, VAPE ALARM. HOWEVER, MANY WOULD ALSO FAIL TO ACKNOWLEDGE A TYPE OF MUSIC THAT THEY MIGHT FIND UNFAMILIAR - CLASSICAL MUSIC- WHICH I WOULD ARGUE IS THE MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT YET MISUNDERSTOOD PART OF THE MUSICAL WORLD.

WE INTERVIEWED SOME STUDENTS TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF CLASSICAL MUSIC. "CLASSICAL MUSIC? HONESTLY, I JUST THINK OF IT AS SOMETHING SLOW AND BORING," AXEL, FROM S1, ADMITTED. ZACH, FROM S3, SHRUGGED, "THAT'S FOR OLD PEOPLE, NOT US." MAX, FROM S2, EXCLAIMED, "I'VE NEVER LISTENED TO CLASSICAL MUSIC IN MY LIFE!" THESE WERE THE WORDS OF MANY OF CRAIGMOUNT'S JUNIORS THAT CAPTURE THE COMMON FIRST IMPRESSIONS MANY YOUNG PEOPLE SHARE ABOUT CLASSICAL MUSIC. BUT DO THEY REALLY TELL THE WHOLE STORY OF CLASSICAL MUSIC, OR JUST THE SURFACE OF IT?

IN REALITY, CLASSICAL MUSIC IS NOT FROZEN IN THE PAST AND MANY WOULD BE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT HOW VARIED IT REALLY IS. CONTRARY TO WIDELY HELD BELIEF, CLASSICAL MUSIC IS NOT SIMPLY "OLD MUSIC" OR "STRICTLY INSTRUMENTAL." IT COMES IN MANY FORMS—FROM ORCHESTRAS AND CHAMBER CHOIRS TO OPERAS AND EVEN PING PONG BALLS!

A LOT OF CLASSICAL MUSIC IS ALSO NOT RELAXING, SOOTHING, OR CALMING. PIECES ARE OFTEN LIVELY AND ENERGETIC RATHER THAN JUST SLOW OR SERIOUS. MANY WORKS, ESPECIALLY THOSE COMPOSED DURING THE SOVIET ERA, CARRY A TIMBRE OF ANGER, FEAR, AND DESPAIR.

COMPOSERS SUCH AS SHOSTAKOVICH WERE OPPRESSED AND SILENCED UNDER STALIN'S TOTALITARIAN REGIME, AND THEIR MUSIC REFLECTS THAT TENSION. IT IS ALSO NOT LIMITED TO OLDER GENERATIONS AS CLASSICAL MUSIC COMMONLY APPEARS IN FILM SOUNDTRACKS, ADVERTS, AND VIDEO GAMES. RATHER THAN BEING DISTANT, CLASSICAL MUSIC IS ALREADY PART OF THE MUSIC AND MEDIA YOUNG PEOPLE INTERACT WITH EVERYDAY.





‘Rather than being distant, classical music is already part of the music and media young people interact with everyday.’

EACH AUGUST, EDINBURGH TRANSFORMS INTO A GLOBAL HUB FOR THE ARTS, AS TOURISTS AND PERFORMERS GATHER FOR TWO OF THE BIGGEST FESTIVALS IN THE WORLD – THE EDINBURGH FRINGE AND THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL (EIF). WHILE BOTH FESTIVALS RUN SIMULTANEOUSLY, THEY OFFER VASTLY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES. THE EIF AND THE FRINGE BOTH STARTED IN 1947 BUT HAVE SINCE GROWN IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

TODAY, THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL IS SEEN AS BEING VERY EXCLUSIVE, WHILE THE FRINGE IS FAMOUS FOR ITS CREATIVITY AND VARIETY, WITH SHOWS IN ORDINARY PLACES LIKE PUBS, STREETS AND SMALL STAGES ACROSS EDINBURGH. WHAT MAKES THIS DUAL FESTIVAL SEASON SO SPECIAL IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CROSSOVER. FESTIVAL GOERS CAN EXPERIENCE BOTH THE STRUCTURED ELEGANCE OF THE EIF AND THE EXPERIMENTAL ENERGY OF THE FRINGE. A STANDOUT EXAMPLE OF THIS FUSION WAS BREAKING BACH, A HIP-HOP DANCE PERFORMANCE SET TO ORCHESTRAL MUSIC BY BACH—BLENDING CENTURIES-OLD COMPOSITIONS WITH MODERN MOVEMENT.

ORCHESTRAL PRESENCES AT MAJOR FESTIVALS LIKE GLASTONBURY AND COACHELLA – SUCH AS THE LA PHILHARMONIC SHOW THAT CLASSICAL MUSIC CAN RESONATE WITH MODERN AUDIENCES. THESE MOMENTS INTRODUCE LIVE CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE TO NEW EARS, PRESERVING AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE.

IN THE END, CLASSICAL MUSIC IS NOT JUST SURVIVING – IT IS ADAPTING. AND WHEN FESTIVALS LIKE THE EIF AND THE FRINGE CREATE SPACE FOR INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION, THEY HELP ENSURE THAT THIS RICH TRADITION CONTINUES TO INSPIRE, CHALLENGE, AND EVOLVE.

P.S. THE EIF OFFER 2 SETS OF FREE CONCERT TICKETS TO THOSE UNDER 18– MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR THEM BEFORE THE FESTIVAL NEXT YEAR!



House Colour Event for World Mental Health Day

ON OCTOBER 10TH (I.E. THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE THE OCTOBER BREAK), THE SCHOOL WILL HAVE A HOUSE COLOUR EVENT TO CELEBRATE WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY. THE EVENT IS AIMED AT S1, S2, S3 AND S6 PUPILS AND INVOLVES PUPILS AND TEACHERS DRESSING UP IN BRIGHT OR NEON HOUSE COLOURS AND WALKING OR RUNNING AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE UPPER FIELDS AND THE ASTRO. ALL THIS MUST BE DONE WITHIN A SET TIME LIMIT AND PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO COMPLETE AS MANY LAPS OF THE SCHOOL AS POSSIBLE. WITH EACH LAP MEASURING AT LEAST HALF A MILE, IT'S GOING TO TEST SOME OF OUR STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE! DURING BREAK TIME, THERE'LL BE MANY STANDS AROUND THE SCHOOL WITH REFRESHMENTS, FACE GLITTER, FACE PAINT AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. ANY MONEY SPENT ON THE DAY WILL GO TOWARDS CRAIGMOUNT'S EQUITY FUND AND TOWARDS SAMH (SCOTTISH ACTION ON MENTAL HEALTH), A CHARITY WITH A FOCUS ON SETTING UP WALK IN MENTAL HEALTH HUBS ACROSS SCOTLAND.



SCHOOL VICE CAPTAIN BLYTHE LENNEN SAID: "THE MAIN GOALS FOR THIS EVENT ARE TO GET EVERYONE ACTIVE AND HAVING FUN WITH THEIR YEAR GROUP, PROMOTING HOW PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IMPROVES WELLBEING, RAISING MONEY FOR THE SCHOOL'S TRIPS FUND AND SAMH AND OVERALL BUILDING THE SCHOOL AND HOUSE SPIRIT TO A GREATER LEVEL. ALL WE ASK IS TO SHOW UP ON THE DAY IN YOUR HOUSE COLOURS AND PUT YOUR ALL INTO IT! IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FUN AND THESE CAUSES ARE THOSE THAT BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL OF US! WE WANT S6S TO KNOW THAT THEY CAN ALL VOLUNTEER WITH THE JUNIOR SESSIONS AND INFORMATION REGARDING THIS WILL BE COMING OUT SOON". WHEN ASKED WHY S4 AND S5 PUPILS WERE NOT GOING TO BE PARTAKING IN THE EVENT, SHE REPLIED "S4S AND S5 WILL NOT BE PARTAKING IN THE EVENT AS THE DAY IS NOT LONG ENOUGH BUT MOSTLY BECAUSE N5 AND HIGHER PRELIMS ARE APPROACHING SOON AND TIME IS BEST SPENT IN CLASS TO PREPARE."

Further information about the event will be given to tutor classes by House Captains very soon!

CHEMICAL

COMBAT

BY HENRY JONES AND ADAM THAKE.

The few students in this school who don't walk around the corridors staring at their feet would've noticed a new addition to the usual rotation of posters. A small poster titled 'Chemical Combat' reads: "Chemical Combat, Out Now! Contact Peter in S6 for a Discounted Steam Key". I've been seeing these posters for around a week now, so I thought it was high time to team up with fellow Squawk member, Adam Thake and sit down with Peter Laing to talk with him about his game.

Once we introduced ourselves, and talked with Peter who introduced his game as a "chemical based roguelike, in which you combine chemicals into potions, which is how you attack in the game, whilst exploring a lab and seeing how far you can get in each run". We asked our first question, "what inspirations have you drawn on whilst making Chemical Combat?"

"Well, the process started when I was invited to a competition, and was told the game had to be based around synergies, and the first thing that came to my mind was Chemistry. From that, I just sort of went from there with that basic inspiration. I suppose my time playing various rogue likes inspired me specifically." Peter named the popular game Risk of Rain 2 for his main inspiration.

Our next question was "How did you find the development?"

"There definitely were challenging moments in game development. There were many moments where I had to re-write a lot of it, especially because I am a solo game developer. I originally made the game in the two weeks for the competition, but I felt it was rushed so I worked on it further for about a month. I had to take a break for exam season but then I went back and worked on it for all summer, right up until release".

Next, we asked Peter why he thinks other people should play his game.

"Uh, I need money" Peter jokes "No, on a serious note I think it's really fun, and it's a novel concept so a lot of people will enjoy it. I think people will also be inspired by what I was able to achieve on my own at such a young age"

"I think just have a good go at it, and keep trying, that's the best way of getting better and getting the motivation to keep going" was Peter's response upon asking him for advice for any other young people, who perhaps like him took computing based subjects and are interested in game design. "Don't be afraid to fail, not everything is going to work out, so just have fun with it, and you might even learn new things you can apply to later projects"

On Peter's YouTube channel 'SigmoidDev', he creates high quality and well edited videos about his development process, in which he details his inspirations, choices and ideas for his games. His channel is seriously impressive and I recommend subscribing to it for well edited videos about Peter's video games.

Our final question for Peter was "What's next for you?"

"I'll definitely be working on the game for a while, the rest of 2025 at least. I'll be adding bosses, NPCs, collectables, log book entries and more. After that I plan to return to work on my game Arboneer, which is a sandbox game similar to Terraria, Minecraft and Stardew Valley. I was inspired by Rain World to try and create a reactive and realistic ecosystem, which I think will be really fun and interesting. There is a demo out, but it's not too interesting at the moment. I hope to add more to it in the future, so keep an eye on it. I plan to add multiplayer, along with everything else I can think of to add."

Before looking into Chemical Combat, I wasn't too optimistic about the game. I'm currently enthralled by the sprawling world of Hollow Knight: Silksong, but after I looked into it, it definitely looks like fun, and I'm sure I will check it out along with Peter's future game Arboneer. Anyone who is a fan of Enter the Gungeon, Risk of Rain 2 and other rogue likes will definitely enjoy Chemical Combat, so as a final reminder I urge whomever is reading to contact Peter in S6 for a discounted Steam key for his game and keep an eye on his future projects, which are sure to be just as fun and creative as Chemical Combat.

A day at the opera

By Kaitlynnne Bryce



Higher and Advanced Higher Music students went to the Edinburgh International Festival to see the opera Orpheus and Eurydice at Edinburgh Playhouse.

The trip was a great opportunity to see live music and learn more about opera. Watching professionals perform helps students understand how music and drama work together to impact an audience. This supports music students with their studies and provides an in-depth understanding of different music genres.

The opera, performed by The Edinburgh International Theatre, told the story of Orpheus, a musician who travels to the underworld to rescue his wife, Eurydice. He is allowed to bring her back, but only if he doesn't look at her. Sadly, he looks back too soon, and she is lost forever.

Here are some quotes from students that attended the opera:

“it was wonderful”

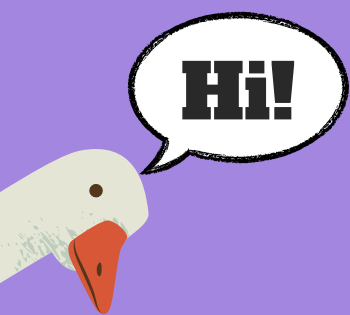
“Exquisite”

“Enticing”

“Amalgamation of emotions”

Students came away inspired, with a better understanding of opera and how powerful music can be. Overall, this was a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a performance that was a bit different.

Music students rated it 9/10!



EDINBURGH 900 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

BY LUKAS ELLIOTT

THE CORSTORPHINE COMMUNITY CENTRE WERE ASKED TO JOIN THE EDINBURGH 900 YEAR ANNIVERSARY MARCH, OUR NEW SQUAWK MEMBER LUKAS ELLIOTT WAS ALSO ASKED TO HELP THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WITH THE MARCH.

ON SUNDAY THE 14TH OF SEPTEMBER AT MIDDAY THE MARCH WAS ORGANISED TO BEGIN, AND THE CORSTORPHINE COMMUNITY CENTRE WAS 18TH IN THE LINE. THERE IS A SMALL AMOUNT OF PHOTOS OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRES HELPERS AND BANNER BECAUSE BIGGER ORGANISATIONS GRAB THE SPOTLIGHT. FOR THE CORSTORPHINE COMMUNITY IT WAS A BIG OPPORTUNITY.

THE WHOLE DAY WAS GLOOMY BUT IT DIDN'T STOP THE CELEBRATION, EVERYONE WHO WAS THERE THAT DAY FELT THE WARMTH AND JOY OF THE CITY, INCLUDING THE 57 COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS WHO WERE IN ATTENDANCE. EVERYONE HAD A GREAT TIME AT THE MARCH, ONE PERSON SAID "IT WAS JUST LOVELY, JUST SEEING EVERYONE THERE WAS JUST WONDERFUL."



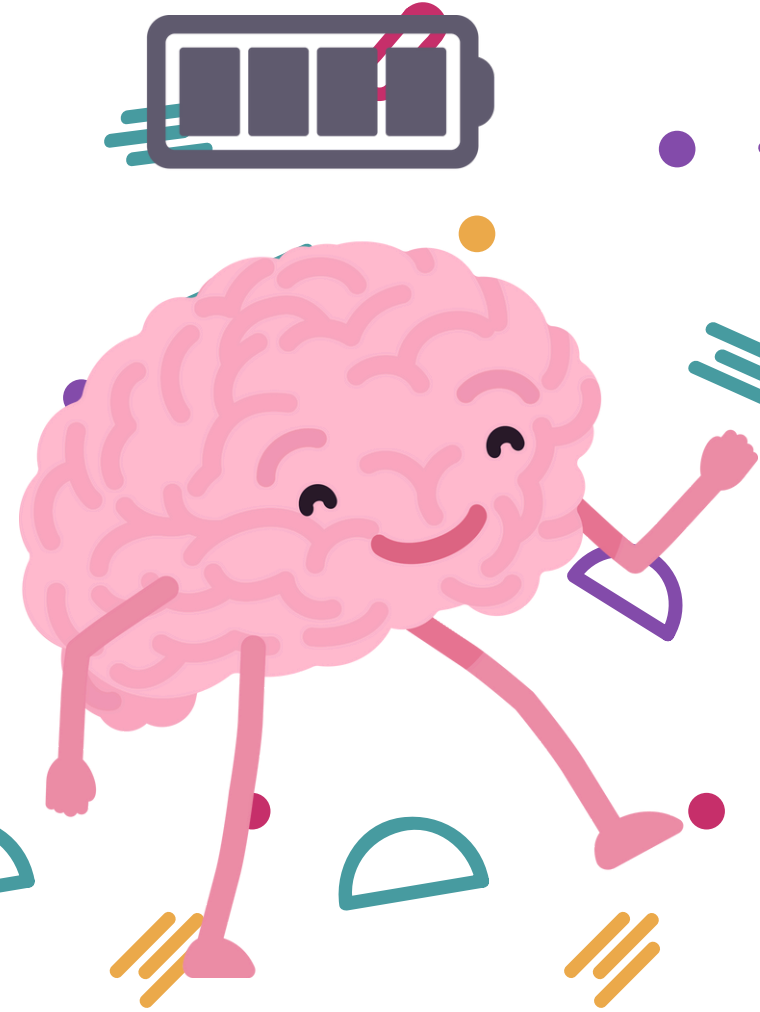
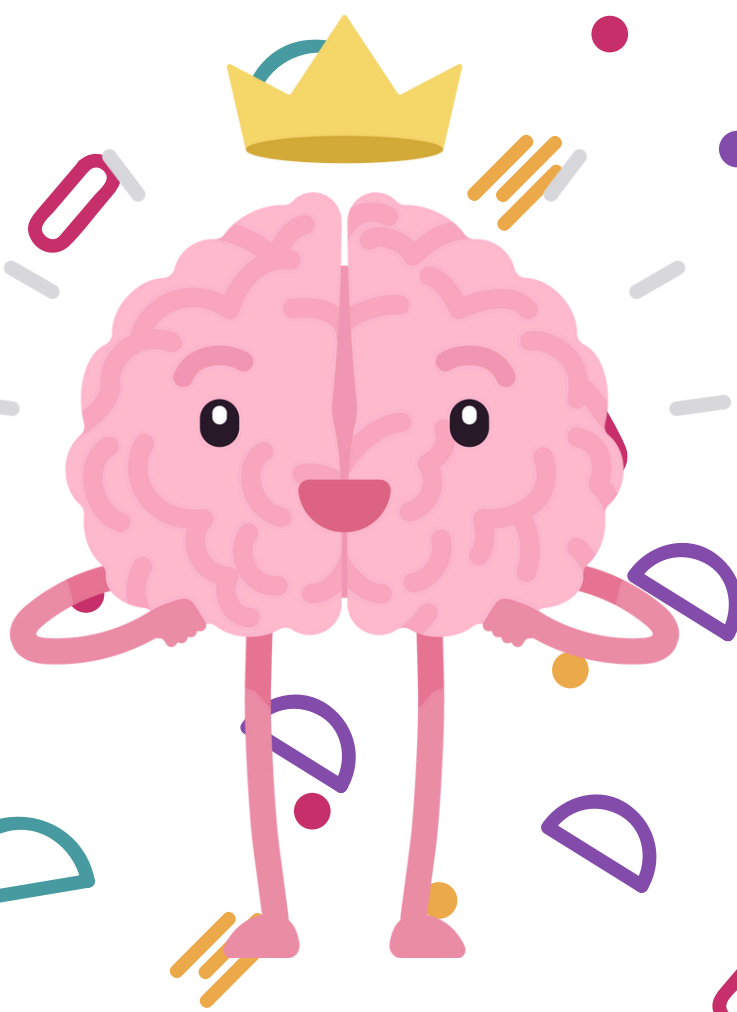
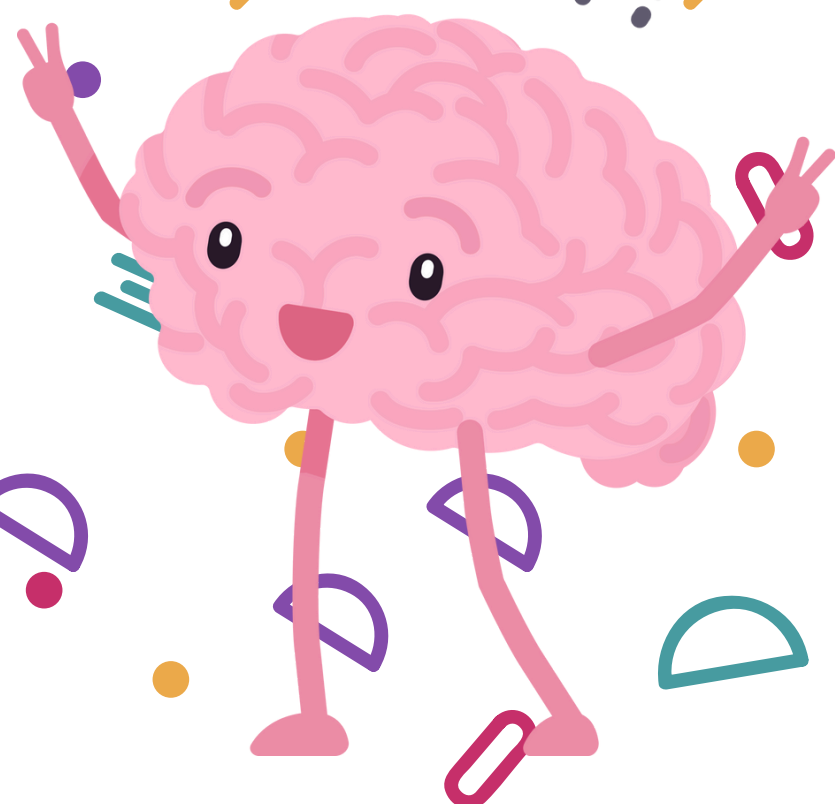
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MISS CAMERON
MISS SANDERS
MRS LAWSON
MR HIGGINS

MRS LENNON
MR MCLAREN
MISS LYNCH
MRS BURNS

MR WRIGHT
MR GRAY
MR PYE



**We would love it
if you could scan
the
QR code below to
give us your ideas
about what you
would like to see
in The Squawk!**

**BREAKING
NEWS**

Help us
please!

