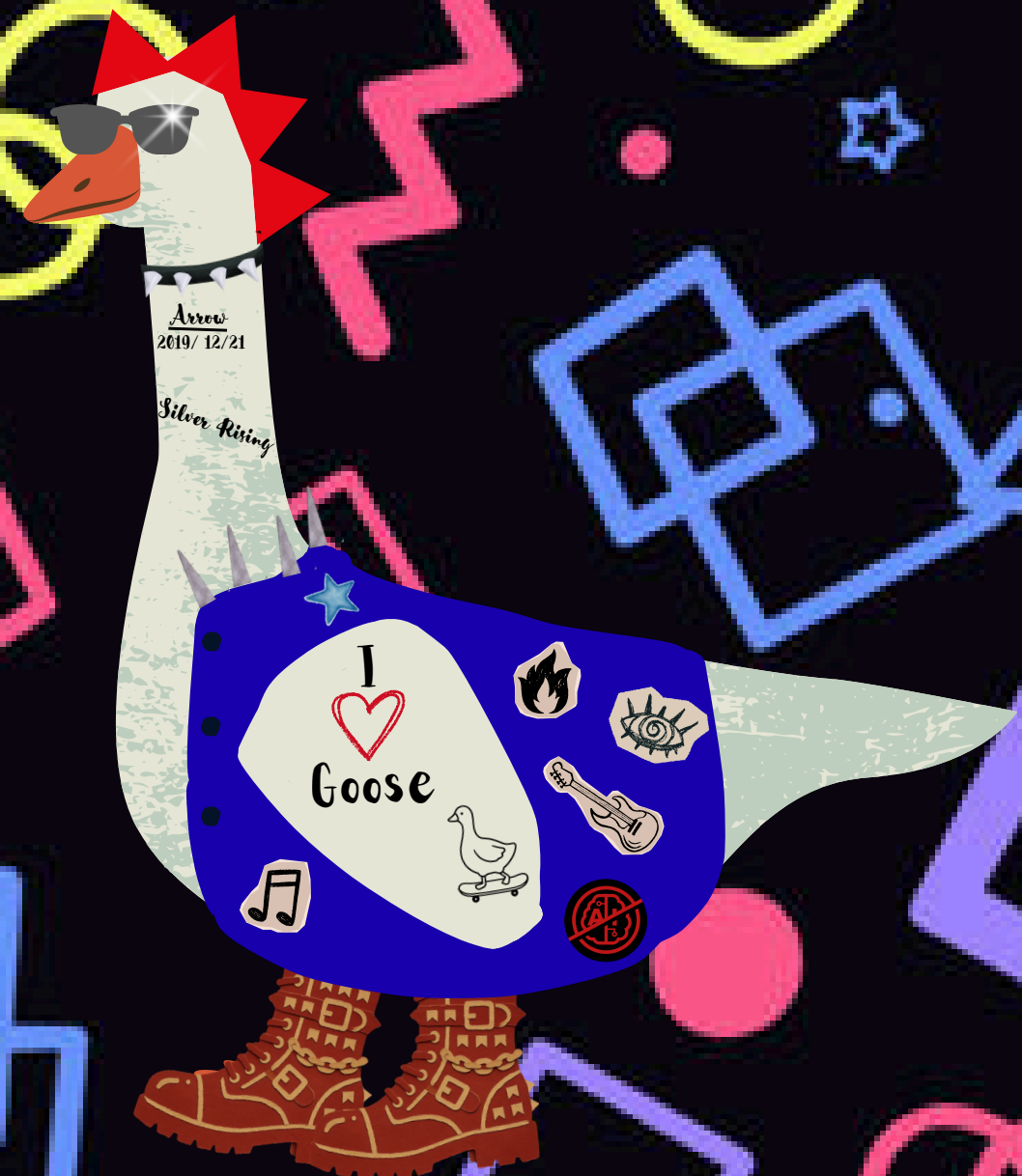


The Squawak
Last edition 26



Another school band?



By Baneen Zahra

As the week opens up, there have been some sneaky rumours floating around from the S5 seniors that a new band will be opening soon. And surely I, your writer Baneen and bassist of the band itself, can confirm that the band “BOLT” will be auditioning for a guitarist, drummer, and keyboardist! Now, you are here to read an article, not an ad, so I shall tell you more about the band itself. But I shall tell you this as the bassist, not your fellow journalist.



Our project started off as a small twoperson band, which was quite inconsistent, as just one bassist - and my friend - the singer - couldn't work ourselves into much progress together. The band was way too small and simply couldn't function. We discussed it and discussed it, but still couldn't get ourselves anywhere. So we disbanded and dropped our ambitious project “Crying Velvet.” (Yes, I know. We have a better name now, trust me.)

Time passed, and me and my dear friend got caught up in our immense studies, completely forgetting the project. Well... not me though. I had quite big ideas for the project - visioning the band perform, practise, and succeed was my dream, yet to come true. But every time, the realistic truth was the same: the band was simply too small and too hard to function relying on just two silly friends.



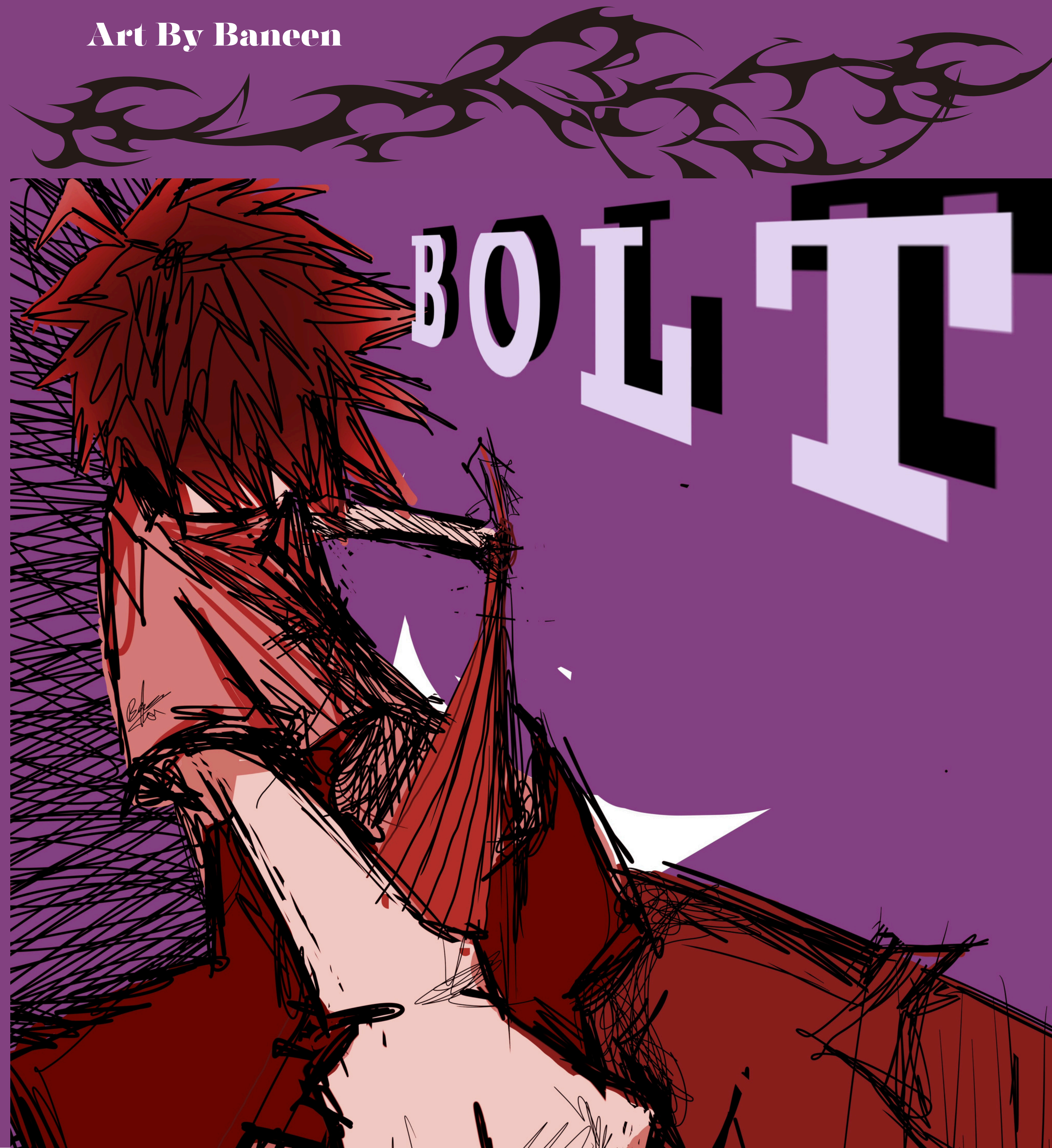
But this DIDN'T stop me.

During the cold nights of November, I sat in my bedroom finally finishing an album I had curated. I didn't know this would be the last time I thought of our lost project in a sad and depressing manner. But suddenly, as I stared at the screen glowing with my newly finished album, I thought to myself: “If our band existed today, I could put together an album of our music.”

That's when it clicked for me. Exams, assignments, studies, and everything I was doing personally would always be there - no matter if I started or DIDN'T start the band. Obstacles may always get in your way, but every obstacle can be avoided.

I snapped out of it immediately. The project wasn't going to be a dream catching dust - it would be a band functioning well. I quickly pulled my phone out and texted my friend. The band would happen, and with that I may conclude this article, as your friendly journalist, instead of the bassist of Bolt. The band has faced hardships with keeping up with the school demands getting higher educationally but it's certainly returned stronger, inviting new people to be part of it. Be sure contact them if you wish to get involved!

Art By Baneen



The Art of the Album

Critiqued by **Sathvik** & **Rory**

Reading time 10 minutes and 30 seconds

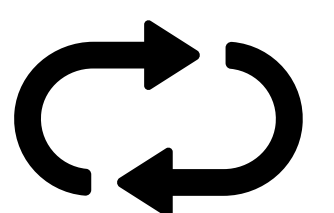
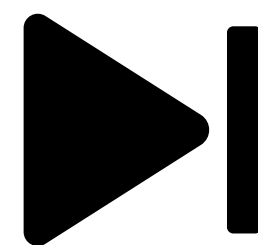
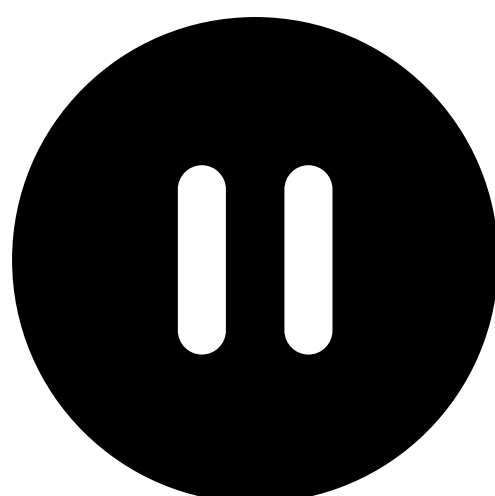
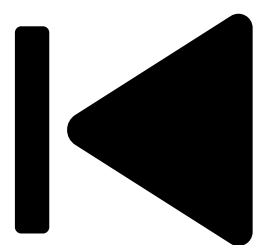
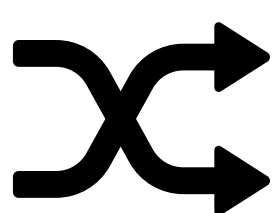


Disclaimer: This was made for entertainment purposes only, and does not fairly represent Sathvik as a real human.



Sathvik - I've recently been on an absolute bender of listening to albums recently. I started with a New Year's resolution of listening to an album everyday (which I've technically kinda done, despite procrastinating hard after that). I've been taking in tonnes and tonnes of album recommendations from all my friends. This has been a lot of fun both because the music is generally pretty good, but also because it's interesting to hear what other people's music tastes are like, especially since, in my opinion, the current S6 year is one of the most musically talented ones the school has had. We thought it'd be a good idea to take a look at the favourite albums of some Squawk members and members of our outgoing S6 Year.

Rory - Whilst I can take notice of our year's musical talent, this doesn't necessarily say anything marginally impressive about their music taste. As a proud 70 yr old according to Spotify wrapped - man what a beautiful app - I'm hoping to see many albums looking back on the past rather than people acting like our new music is any more innovative than any bar of King Crimson music. Oh man, I love Robert Fripp.



Weezer - Weezer

“It’s Blue” - recommended by Gregor

Sathvik - A very iconic (and as Gregor astutely pointed out, very blue) rock album of the late 90s, the Blue Album is an enjoyable listen from start to finish. With lots of loud fuzzy guitar riffs and melancholic lyrics, it is not a transcendent experience, but it is a consistent album, without any tracks that stand out in a bad way. Highlights include My Name is Jonas and Buddy Holly.



Rory - ‘Yay!’, it reminds me of listening to Teenage Dirtbag when I could be listening to Iron Maiden. Similarly, why would I listen to Weezer when I can listen to Iron Maiden. I must commend their ability, however, for making possibly the most annoying riff known to my intelligence. You know the riff. A disgusting lack of suspended chords, despite being one of the most ‘sus’ bands out there, I truly gained nothing from this.

A Night At The Symphony - Laufey recommended by Nicholas

“It blends jazz and orchestra really well and reminded me of the old school Frank Sinatra albums. She also has an amazing alto voice which is perfect for jazz/bossa nova!” - Nicholas.



Sathvik - Really good album, Laufey is a very talented singer, and I’m a sucker for a good orchestra, especially when the songs are as sweeping and emotional as they are in this album. The lyrics are earnestly romantic and help to make this an involving, enveloping listen. The jazzier aspects also add some variety to the sound and mesh really really well with the orchestra.

Rory - Oh here we are with the pretentious music theorist, yeah we get it Nick, you play cello. All in all though, this is a very nice listen with strong cohesion from song to song given them all being constrained to a similar sound, but I’d definitely rather spend my night at the Opera than a symphony...(I’m talking about Queen btw)

Joy as an Act of Resistance - The IDLES recommended by Murray

“One of the most raw emotional albums of all time, no bad songs. Every single one dealing with either political or personal issues all of which are relatable. Colossus is possibly the greatest opening track of all time and the raw energy of Rottweiler can't be understated. My favourite song on the album, Samaritans, is a beautifully depressing commentary on masculinity and has an amazing scream by Joey Talbot which is always hard hitting.” - Murray

Sathvik - Not much to add on to what Murray had to say, this is a really good album from back to front. I'd also draw attention to Television as one of the highlight tracks of the album, since it's aggressively wholesome message (in substance if not tone) about self esteem is definitely prescient. The whole album is absolutely teeming with energy and passion, and it makes it a fantastic package.



Rory - I feel like I'm listening to Pearl Jam. Why would I listen to Pearl Jam when Alice In Chains exist...?

Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band - The Beatles

“It's a really good album. Uhhh. That's it. Listen to Earl Scrugg's Banjo Music” - recommended by Sir Henry Smith J II of Leith

Sathvik - Sgt Pepper's is one of the most iconic albums of arguably the most iconic rock band of all time. That iconic status is well earned, since the album is one of the Beatles' best. While Rory is probably better placed to talk about the technical prowess it would have taken to record this album the way it was, it's still a fantastic listen all the way through. Highlights include the catchy, rocking title track (and its more intense, energetic reprise), the dreamy, psychedelic organs and vocals of Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds, and A Day in the Life which has perhaps the most relatable lyric of modern life ever recorded (“I read the news today oh boy”). But you don't need me to tell you how good Sgt Peppers is. Just go listen to it again.

Rory - Wow. Well this Man's music taste certainly lives up to his name. I must commend the eclecticism of easily the Beatles' best album, seamlessly moving from psychedelic to baroque (or barrack as Nicholas calls it) to Indiana music, and concluding with easily their best song, A Day In The Life - a beautiful melding of melancholic folky riffs, soaring falsettos, catchy rnb and the Orchestra's conducted improvisation all condensed into possibly the best pop song ever. However, if I could offer one criticism, this is an incredibly generic pick, and it makes me wary that he doesn't go out of his way to seek out poorly produced ancient prog albums in his spare time and would rather just listen to commercial guff like Fleetwood Mac, just saying Sir Henry Smith Jones II of Leith... All in all though, I can't complain to much, this is an incredible album. Salutations to you, Sir Henry Smith J II of Leith.



XO - Elliott Smith recommended by Olaf

“I think XO is the baseline for Elliott Smith. If you enjoy the more studio based and edited music in XO then go up to Figure 8 from Elliott Smith (my personal favourite) and if you enjoy the acoustic songs more, go down to Either/Or or even his self titled album/ep Elliott Smith. XO is the most balanced Elliott Smith album.” - Olaf



Sathvik - XO is definitely a very varied album, and my own tastes lean less towards the acoustic songs. But songs like Baby Britain and Amity are absolutely fantastic, and the variety of the album makes it a good listen for a broad range of tastes.

Mint Jams - Casiopea

Sathvik - If you ask me what my favourite album is in a week from now, it'll probably be different, but for now its Mint Jams. It's a live performance of Casiopea that's been mixed in the studio, and it has a very polished sound, while still maintaining a playful energy. It's a very consistent album in its quality, which along with it's short length makes it very easy (and enjoyable) to listen to in a single sitting, which is the main reason it's here. It is the single most bingeable album I've listened to and I've definitely binged it quite a few times. Some of the highlight tracks include Tears of the Star with it's melancholic synths and pastoral guitars, Domino Line with its standout bass and drum solos, and Midnight Rendezvous with its all-around groovy vibes. If you end up listening to this album and like the energy of it but want a more live album feel, I'd highly recommend Casiopea's 1985 Casiopea Live and if you want a slightly more jazzy feel, try their 1979 debut album”

Rory - This guy's favourite album was originally by Dream Theater. What a generational downgrade. I mean seriously, not a single lyric to be found, just compare it to Bob Dylan (he also sucks) and there's a clear absence of personality. But in all reality, it's a solid record and much better then Bob's dissonant harmonica - but that's a story for another album. I do quite like the bass and keys throughout but it feels tooo predictable to be called jazz or even fusion at some points, however it will always be better then Bob.



Hawaii Part 2 - Miracle Musical recommended by Adam

“Its a cohesive and narratively interesting album” - Adam

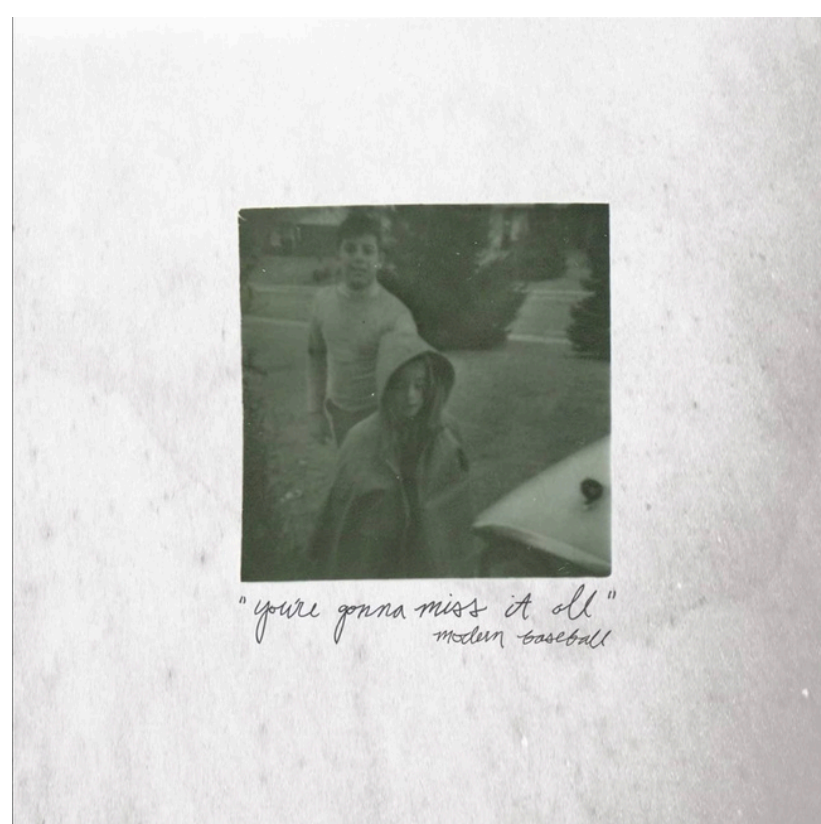
Sathvik - Really good from start to finish. It's cohesive as Adam said but it's also really varied, ranging from the ethereal Isle Unto Thyself to the 8 bit video game sounds and rap beats (yes really) of Labyrinth. The album is absolutely a trip, but it's one that highly engaging and memorable.

Rory - Yeahh.. Just gimme Metropolis Part 2: Scenes from a Memory by Dream Theater - much less pretentious album title, they actually have a Part 1..



You're gonna miss it all

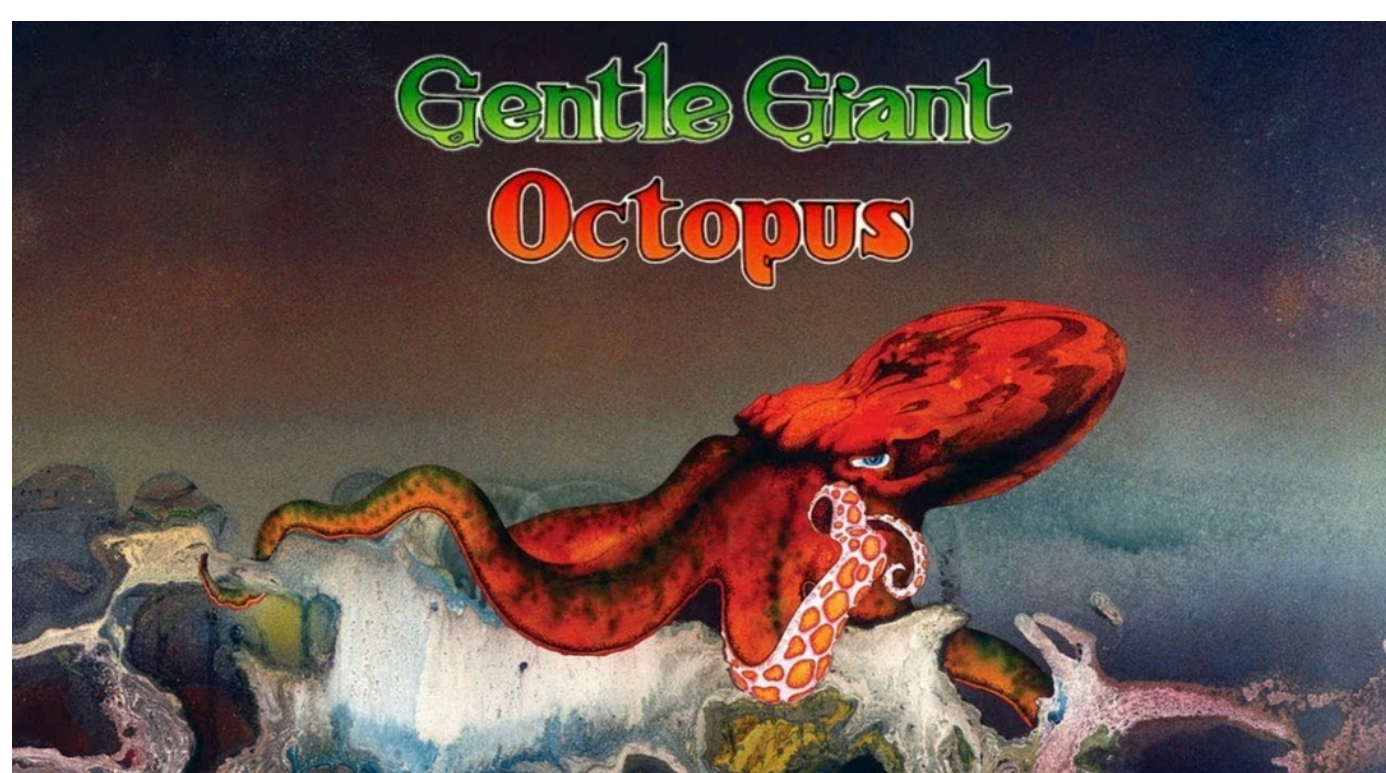
Modern Baseball recommended by Sophie



“I like listening to this album because I am a miserable whatsit ha ha jk jk fr fr. I like the album because despite it being a bit sad the songs are impactful and you can listen to them even when you're not completely miserable, and the lyrics are very metaphorical and up to interpretation blah blah blah idk make me sound cool” -Sophie

Sathvik - While the album is definitely on the sadder side, Sophie's right to point out that the songs still work even without considering that from the strength of the loud, angry instrumentals and up to interpretation lyrics. It's also on the shorter side for albums which makes it an easy listen since it bows out before it can get stale or repetitive.

Octopus - Gentle Giant recommended by Rory



“Let's start by prefacing that I'm very artistic and so is this album, to say the least. It's taken me on countless journeys through a realm of chaos, never sounding the same twice. It sounds like if the Beach Boys stumbled upon Ozzy's hidden stash. If you love music that trips then definitely check this LSD soundsystem out. It will take you to voids that you didn't even know existed.”

Sathvik - Yeah I ,don't know what Rory's on about there, but it's a pretty good album

Wow, I quite literally have nothing to add to this Fine Young Gentleman's review. I guess all there is to do now is praise some of his other favourite albums, such as Station To Station by David Bowie - a perfect variety and sequencing of only six songs built around fantastic motifs without feeling repetitive, Physical Graffiti by Led Zeppelin - some of the most incredible rock songs put to tape with exquisitely raw production (just skip the stuff after The Wanton Song). A Day At The Races by Queen - yet, another, perfect variety and sequencing of songs along with a great sense of light-hearted theatre throughout, Seventh Son Of A Seventh Son by Iron Maiden - impeccable rhythms and choruses which are astoundingly well built up to with the instruments simultaneously intensifying with the vocals - a signature trademark of Bruce Dickinson's style.



Naked - Talking Heads recommended by Kaitlynne

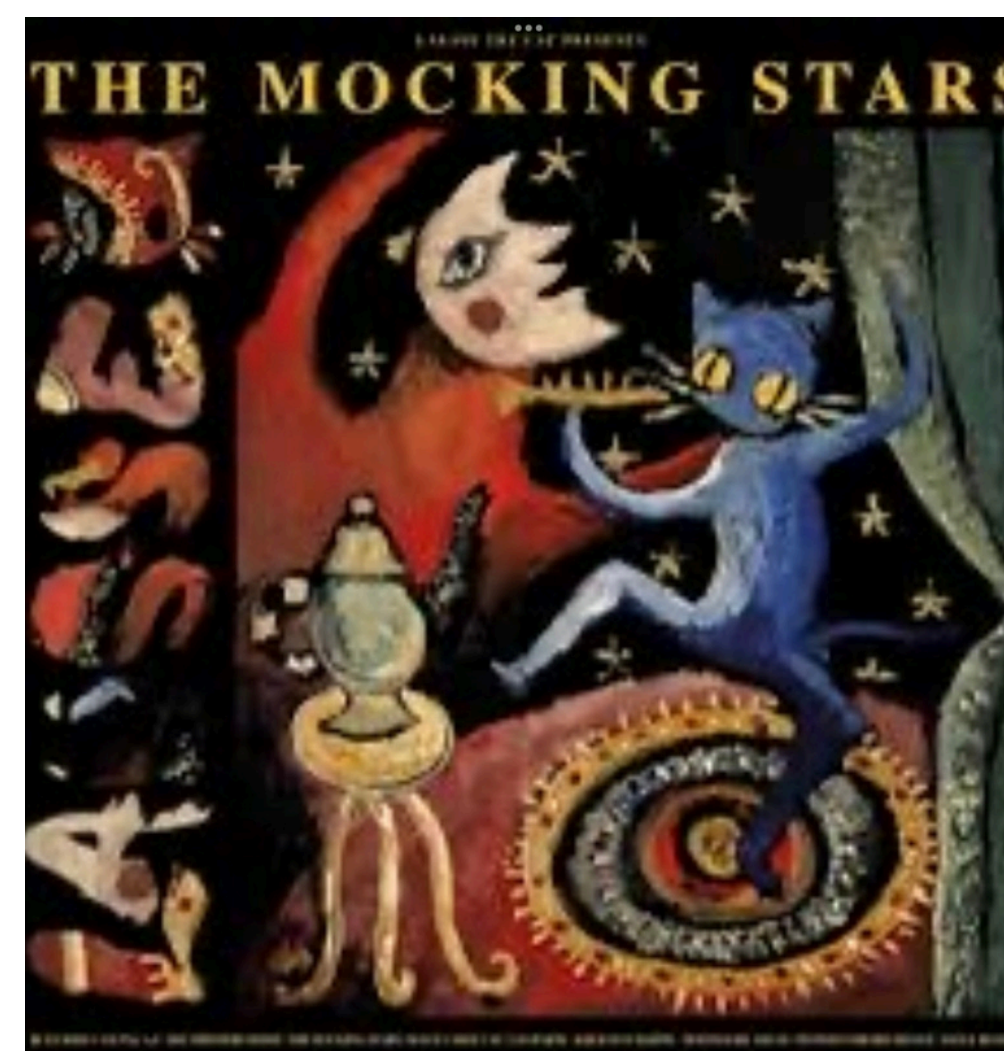
“It's just really fire. I would recommend it because it's a pretty positive album.” - Kaitlynne

Sathvik - Summer island vacation vibes all the way through, not much to really criticise here. Blind and Mr Jones start the album off with a bang, and the rest of the album pretty much carries that energy.

The Mocking Stars - Lausse the Cat recommended by Ruth

“Funky sounds, its a bit odd but in a whimsical way :)” - Ruth

Sathvik - Ruth pretty much summed it up eloquently. Funky, Odd and Whimsical are about as accurate to describe the album as you can get. The album is a very good listen, and a very chill one as well. Highly recommend for lazing about and procrastinating on work due in a week.



Rory - Oh good god.. I gave this year the slightest amount of credit to not expect any hiphop noise from them. Especially from a musician like Ruth the trumpeter. I mean, why not a sax though? Looking into it though, there doesn't seem to be many songs sampled (stolen) on this album but then again, why would I want to listen to some guy reading an audiobook over a beat - unless its Bruce Dickinson reciting The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner, of course. Anyways, its still better then Bob, I guess (is it though?).

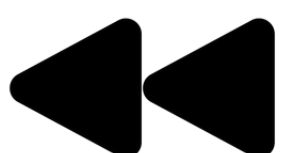
blonde on blonde - bob dylan

“His songwriting is exquisite. It’s timeless in the way he uses language. Completely unique” - Ruairidh

Harmonica. Absolute Cruciamentum... so, we have finally arrived at Bob. What an overrated American, I mean the album’s wikipedia article even has both a “reception” and “reappraisal” section. Let’s just say one of those shouldn’t be there. I mean, why would I listen to what I guess would feel like 2 hrs of a guy yapping over bland instrumentals only to be interrupted by an even more Cruciatous harmonica when The Philosophy Of The World by The Shaggs exist - Man, what a beautiful record. Needless to say I stand with the Great Joni Mitchell on this one. Look, Ruairidh.... I think the album’s pretty, okay? It’s like folksy and stuff, and some of the songs are pretty good. That harmonica though.....



Ah Yes, Sathvik, I could not have put it any better myself (I probably could have, actually). I completely agree that the album’s utterly...abhorrent. We truly gained nothing from this. - Rory



SKIBIDI TOILET

Ahh yes. Skibidi toilet. Where once the national galleries of art were swarming with young, impressionable people, staring at the canvasses which represented their dreams, their hopes and their futures through the simple lenses of oil, acrylic and canvass, now there is skibidi toilet. Many over the course of the skibidi revolution have questioned themselves with the thoughts "what is skibidi toilet?" or perhaps "why is skibidi toilet?" or indeed, mayhaps the simple query to oneself of "how, indeed, is skibidi toilet?". Such queries, although appearing juvenile, do verily force upon your mind the very status of such a world in which skibidi toilet can emerge and remain living and victorious. Skibidi toilet shalt prevail and remain throughout the storied drama, and to some, tradgedy we call this life. To borrow a turn of phrase from earlier in this verse, however, WHY is skibidi toilet?

The phenomenon we know as skibidi toilet first developed in the year of Two-Thousand and Twenty Three. A user known to many as DaFuq!?Boom!, also known as Alexey Gerasimov released the first ever skibidi toilet episode on YouTube Shorts, at the time a new feature of the Google owned company known to many as YouTube. YouTube for all of its history has been a means to connect people to one another, sharing family videos and funny short clips of their pets. No continuing series has been quite as connecting and unifying to the human race as Skibidi Toilet. The first ever instalment in what we now know to be skibidi toilet was but 11 seconds. These 11 seconds are the beginning of the peak of human achievement. Perchance. Although this episode was the shortest in the series, this was, in many ways, the doorway and opening to a new life.



The content of such an interlude of a modern masterpiece was in many ways mystifying and confuddling. Indeed, it is to the merits of such an enterprise which the phrase "brainrot" was coined. This is because many regarded skibidi toilet to be the very implicit verification of such material which wears down the neural pathways and developments required for maturity in the human mind. However, to which ends will the pioneering of the human race be classified by ourselves as a step backwards? However many thought of landing on the moon as preposterous? The invention of penicillin? The discovery of gravity? Einsteins theory of relativity and the pioneering of quantum physics? How many doubters sullied the minds of potential innovators? This is the question we must ponder in relation to skibidi toilet. Skibidi toilet is not brainrot, i proclaim! Instead, skibidi toilet not only nourishes the mind but soothes the soul.

But what of the tale contained within the shorts of skibidi toilet. As of Friday the 13th of march, there have been 79 episodes over 26 seasons. To start from the beginning of our tale, it is a classic tale of conflict. Conflict has been a part of human nature and existence since our inception as a species, as is reflected in Skibidi Toilet. The series shows us a conflict between Skibidi Toilets and humanoids, with heads replaced by CCTV cameras, speakers and televisions in place of their heads. Is this a startling portrayal of the surveillance state? Perchance. The skibidi toilets, led by G-Toilet overtake humanity. Warfare soon develops between the toilets and the alliance of humanoids, which escalates into a cold-war-esque arms race retrospective of the writings of Le Carré and Havel. The titan cameraman and titan speakerman, both the strongest of their respective races, begin to turn the tide of war. Then, the chief scientist Skibidi - the second in command of the skibidis - develops a mind control parasite which overtakes titan speakerman, causing him to turn on the alliance and cause mass carnage within the humanoid alliance. This control is surely representative of the inevitable class uprising which is surely stoked by the repressive and reproacheful fire of a surveillance state. After the titan is cured from his control an alliance force, featuring the titan TV man alongside others, strikes out at the toilets underground facility, known as Alpha-Hills, and callously murders the scientist skibidi toilet. Through this manner, skibidi toilet shows us that in a surveillance state, the scientists and smartest among us will be the first to be crushed by the regime.



Following this, the forces sole survivor, a being known as Plungerman, begins to understand that the facility and its enigmatic Administrator were somehow involved in the toilets creation, but the administrator telepathically kills plungerman to protect the secret of the birth of skibidi. Cocurrently, relations sour between the skibidi toilets and the Astro toilets, a race of powerful extraterrestrial toilets which formerly counted G-toilet amongst their ranks, resulting in the astro toilets invading earth. However, such is the power of the Astro toilets that neither the toilets nor the humanoids can stand against them alone, and they form against their common enemy. This story echoes the hope which is carried within every union against a common enemy. The hope that we as a human race will forget our differences and band together when necessary. The earths surface is ravaged in the ensuing conflict, and so too is the humanoids subterranean base eventually captured. Titan TV man is taken over by the Astro toilets and the toilets commander one Duchess Astro Toilet. The series has been left with the alliance entering a tactical retreat facing against innumerable casualties. The one remaining glimmer of hope for the allies are a powerful Astro toilet weapon they hope to reverse engineer to turn the tides of their great conflict.



Like all great works of fiction, skibidi toilet is secretly about ourselves. Skibidi toilet is about the great troubles and strifes we in this life experience. Although not all difficulties in our lives are as obvious and obtuse as the conflict between the Skibidi Toilets and the Humanoid Alliance, this tale shows us the deepest anxieties and worries of our time. Skibidi toilet is not brainrot, but instead is the deepest and most intimate kind of art. This art reflects our inclinations of worry, desperation, despair and hope. Hopefully Micheal Bay is able to recreate this magic for the surely upcoming skibidi toilet movie. To quote the 11 second short which started the best series ever made "brr skibidi dop dop dop yes yes yes shtib shtibidi dip dipidi yes yes". I think that sums it up. Perchance.



WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE TRANSMAN IN THE BIG 26?

-Reading time 5 minutes and 50 seconds-

By Lukas Elliott

Hi, my name is Lukas and I am a trans man (FTM) and I have been experiencing being a man for 6 or 7 years (no, that is not a joke). I feel that I have experienced the world differently than most people and I would love to tell you my truth about being trans. This is my experience and no matter what I would never change it.

Now, before I begin I want to mention that yes there are a lot of good things about being trans but a lot chunk of it isn't easy to feel good about so if you can't handle feeling sad don't read this article/blog read a better article.

Ok let's move on to a school year. I am now in an S1 class, and I was just seen as the "girl" with short hair and my teacher gave out work. Instead, of writing my dead name (a dead name is a term for the name that you don't anymore because it doesn't align with you), I wrote Lukas by accident. I still have no clue how I did that. After class, my teacher asked me if I wanted to be called by that name. I said yes and it made me so happy, you have no idea what that seemingly small change did for me. Afterwards, I asked everyone if they could please call me Lukas. At the time, I didn't even know what trans was but it felt right.

After that, I did some research about why I was feeling like this and I found out more about transgender people, who they were and it made me understand myself better. Like how when I was younger, I didn't want to grow up to become a woman and when I found out I couldn't grow a beard I cried for two days straight. I was 6. After that day, I started to feel uncomfortable in my body even more than I already did. I hated how my body looked. For my first couple of years of being a teenager, I couldn't look myself in the mirror at all I wanted all the mirrors in the world to be covered. I hate all the usual suspects - my chest, my shoulders but I also hated my face, my voice, my hands, my arms - just my body in general. I have what is called body dysmorphia which is a mental health condition where a person obsesses over minor or imagined flaws in their appearance, causing significant distress and impacting daily functioning. I also have Gender Dysphoria, which can cause significant distress or discomfort because one's gender identity differs from the sex assigned at birth, often felt as being "stuck in the wrong body".

I was the master of hiding every detail about me. I would wear big hoodies and baggy trousers and I would wear gloves and a hat even though it was boiling outside. Another way I stopped these feelings was by binding my chest. There are multiple ways to bind today but for me I use trans tape. Trans tape is basically tape that you put on your chest to make it flat. If you are trying to buy stuff to bind your chest, please, do research beforehand and ask people in the community for advice. I still sometimes hide my body but not all the time and I am more comfortable wearing stuff at a couple of years ago I wouldn't.

Now at that time, I was becoming comfortable in my gender identity however not everyone else thought so... I have had many conversations about how I shouldn't label myself because it can slow me down. I have also had conversations that are uncomfortable and something that you would perhaps NEVER talk about to a CIS gender person. Here is an example.

One week after the bathroom legislation discussion with the courts, and I was minding my own business when a person came up to me and ask what bathroom I use. It was a Monday morning and I get this question a lot, so I started to joke, but then this kid got upset and put their hands on my shoulder and ask me again but more serious. I told him that I prefer to use the men's restroom but his face dropped and he started loudly talking about how I wanted to see boys going to the bathroom and how it is gross. No I don't. I just want to go to the bathroom in peace and 99.9% of the time it is.

I can't talk about my experience being trans without talking about bathrooms. I hate going to public toilets just like all of you. The embarrassment of being in a quiet stall and trying not to make any noise, but bathrooms are a bit more difficult for me. I don't use the gender bathrooms in the school because of the negative response I would get, but I do prefer to use the men's bathroom in public. I will say that perhaps we need to have some more open conversations about how we use these spaces.



So I think I have to mention this, in 2025 the High Court was given a case to define a “woman” and to keep women’s spaces for cis women only. However, it hit the trans community so hard, because it meant that we couldn’t use the bathroom that lines up with the gender we are. At the time it was scary because it felt like we were going backwards in our community, I was so nervous because I didn’t know if I was legally allowed to go in the men’s bathroom anymore.

I felt like I was back in S1 hiding all over again, falling back in the routine of hiding everything about myself just to use the bathroom. Soon, I realised that no one cared and slowly I started wearing everything that I loved again and making the choices that are right for me.

I have so far only talked about the bad and uncomfortable part of being trans. Now for the little things that make me feel good. The community is so lovely! 99.9 % of the time it is great, and I have to mention the transgender population of the world is estimated to be approximately 2% of the global population, which translates to roughly 160 million people. So I would say that is a great statistic to have to remind myself I am not the only one with these experiences.

I also have to mention how I am actually here, typing today. My friends who are my biggest support group. If I didn’t have the friends I do now I wouldn’t be here to talk about my experiences. Now so close to getting HRT, I couldn’t be happier. My friends helped me all the way through the ups and downs, getting harassed in public places and celebrating when I got my name legally changed in 2025.

I’m going to be 18 this year and it got me thinking about the future and the past that is why I wanted to write this article. The future is going to be rough. I am going to go through puberty AGAIN! I’m getting HRT in October and I don’t think people understand how important this is to me. I have been saving up for a year and now I have to wait until my 18th birthday to sign up. That’s why I never understood the agreement for “they are giving hormones to kids!” because they are not really they are doing the complete opposite of that. I have had a long time and lots of help to make this decision and make sure it is right for me.



**TRANS RIGHTS ARE
HUMAN RIGHTS** ❤️

If I could go back and I could talk to wee me I think would say this “high school isn’t forever and you will find people that will never accept you or think you are different. You will find yourself in difficult situations but with some help you will figure things out and become more comfortable in yourself”.

Also if you are still here, thanks for reading until the end. Becoming a man was more difficult than I can write down, and by reading this will you will hopefully make some sense towards what life is like for me and other members of the trans community.



LOVE IS LOVE

**CRAIGMOUNT
QUEER STRAIGHT
ALLIANCE (QSA)**

Wednesdays after school
(3:30 - 4:15) in the library

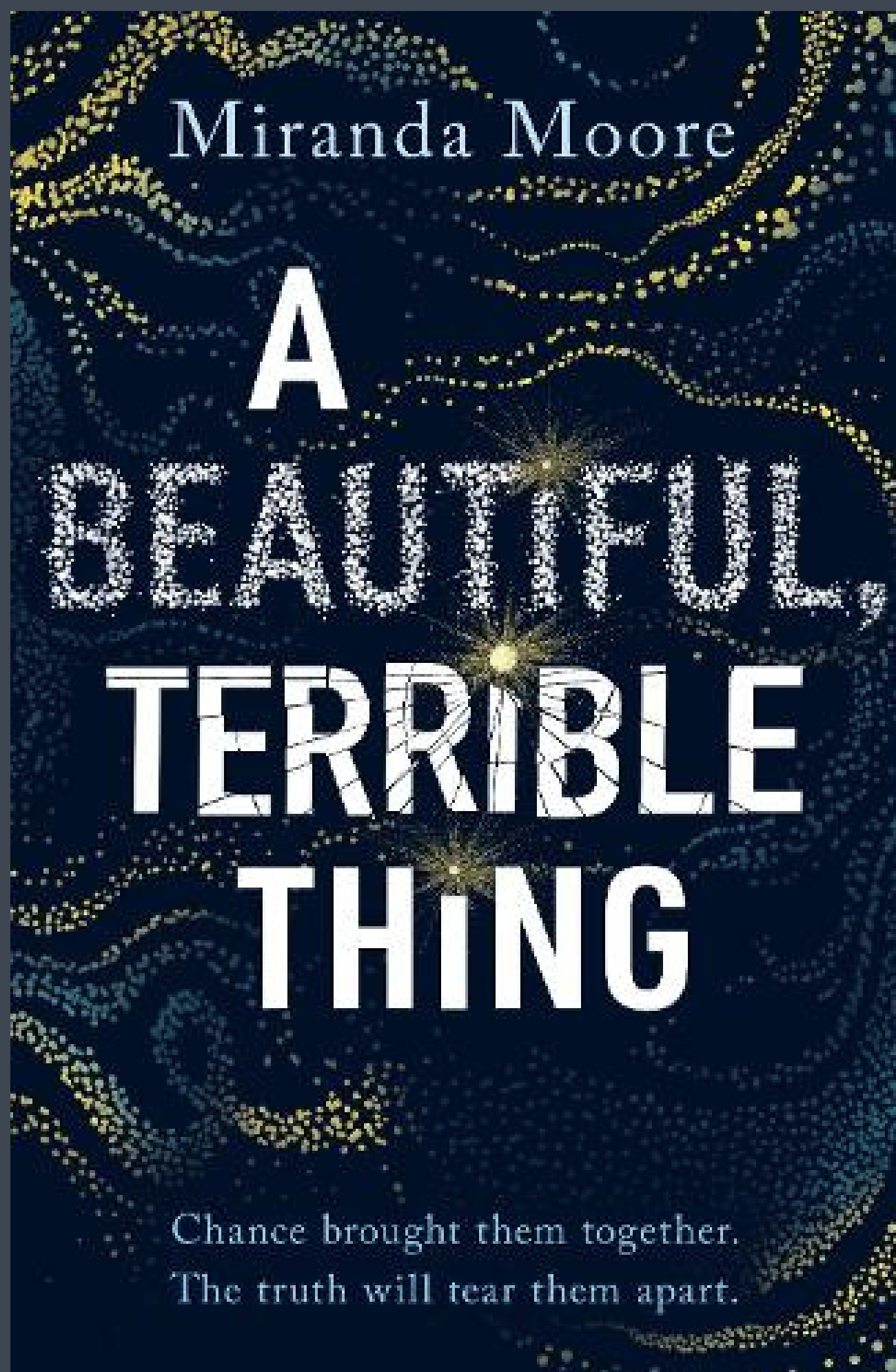
Come along for a safe space,
community, activism, and support!!
All welcome.

Email Miss Glucina
(charlotte.glucina@craigmount.edin.sch.uk) or Mr Hume
(steven.hume@craigmount.edin.sch.uk)
with any questions.

community



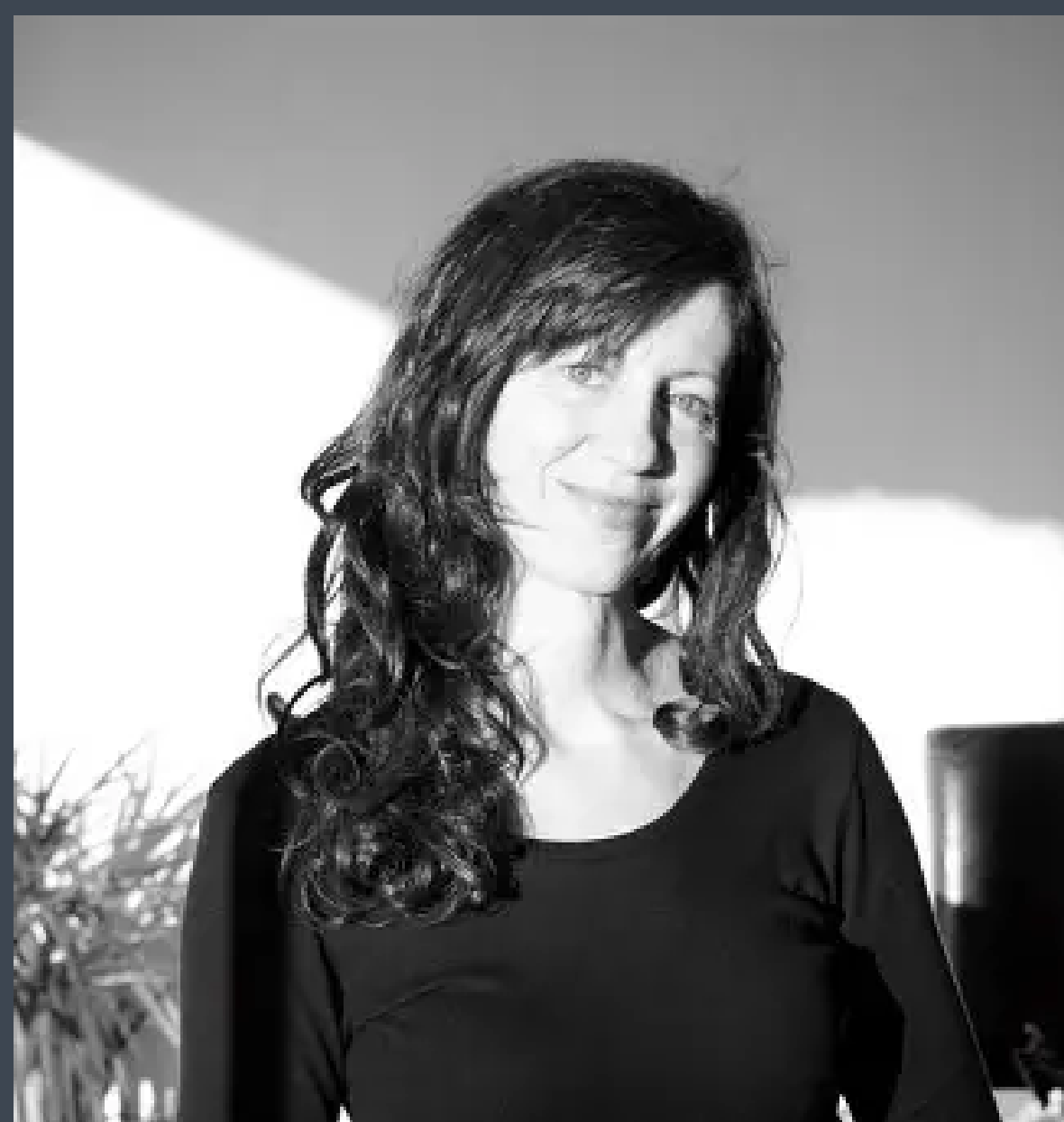
Beautiful, Terrible Things: Questions to the author



Squawk Journalist Henry had the opportunity to chat with author, Miranda Moore, about her new book, *A Beautiful Terrible Thing*.

Her contemporary Young Adult debut novel explores the complex relationship between grief, guilt, and love following a tragic accident.

Copies of the book are available in the library.



How did you come up with the character of Nathan?

The initial idea came, of a young driver on the first day of the summer after leaving school, feeling euphoric with freedom and excitement for the rest of his life, crashing into and killing a pedestrian crossing the road. I started writing that scene and I can't really explain it but Nathan just sort of materialised. Writing it felt a bit like watching a scene in a film. I didn't sketch out his characteristics or personality traits in any depth; he emerged in the process of writing. I got to know Nathan as the story unfolded.

Where did you find inspiration for Nathan and Cara's journey together?

I didn't really seek or find inspiration; I simply wrote the scenes and the story that appeared in my mind. I did write a rough outline of the story, but Nathan and Cara took it in their own direction. The story was led by the characters and how they responded to previous elements. In particular, dramatising the trial made the story take a different course to what I had outlined.

Did you have any inspiration for the location of the book, as some locations are genuine and some only exist in the story?

Ah, good question! I went to school in Edinburgh and live in the Borders, so it made sense to set the story in the places I know best. The locations are a blend of real and imagined, but the towns of Tweedshaugh and Drumleith are modelled on real towns in the Borders, with fictionalised details such as cafes, street names and the church and graveyard of the funeral. I decided to give the towns fictional names simply because it felt insensitive to set such a tragic story in real places, whereas I didn't feel the need to disguise Edinburgh. Claythorpe is fictional, but is drawn from similar spots on the East Lothian/Borders coast. I wanted to create distance from real life.

How would you react if you were Nathan's or Cara's parent?

Utter devastation for my child and also for Si and his family. I think overwhelming sadness and grief and wanting to help and protect my child are the things I would most strongly feel.

How did you write the process of grief not only for someone's future but also for another person's child?

I think I simply tuned into how I thought the characters would feel in this appalling situation. I think if you have empathy then that comes naturally.

In the conflict between Nathan and Cara's secrets, who would you side with in that scenario?

Ooh, I'm not sure it's helpful to take sides and I'm not sure I would want to anyway. I can completely understand why they both end up not telling the other what they know they must. Both fully intend to tell the other once they feel able to, when the time feels right. They find respite in each other and it's a relief to be with someone who doesn't know; it's not out of malice or ill intent. As time passes, it's easier to continue concealing the truth. Obviously, I can empathise with Cara's frustration that Nathan didn't just come out and say he was the driver when she told him about her brother. We like to imagine we'll be courageous and do the right things in situations such as these, but I think the reality is a lot of people would similarly be paralysed with it and wouldn't speak up.

How did you find inspiration to write characters who are experiencing moral dilemmas and intense inner arguments?

Again, I simply wrote the scenes that emerged from the previous scenes. The characters were reacting and responding to the story so far. I tried to inhabit whichever character was leading a chapter and sense how they would feel in that situation. I tried to reflect how Nathan and Cara were feeling through their thoughts, sensations and impressions. In exploring inner turmoil, I simply try to be as honest and direct as I can. Nobody likes to be patronised so I'm just giving the reader the most authentic, raw account I can. I try to really get inside the mind of whichever character I'm writing and let them lead.

What was your process for writing the shock Nathan experiences in the very beginning of the book, and how it developed throughout the book with him struggling with the eventuality of his trial whilst trying to learn to live life again?

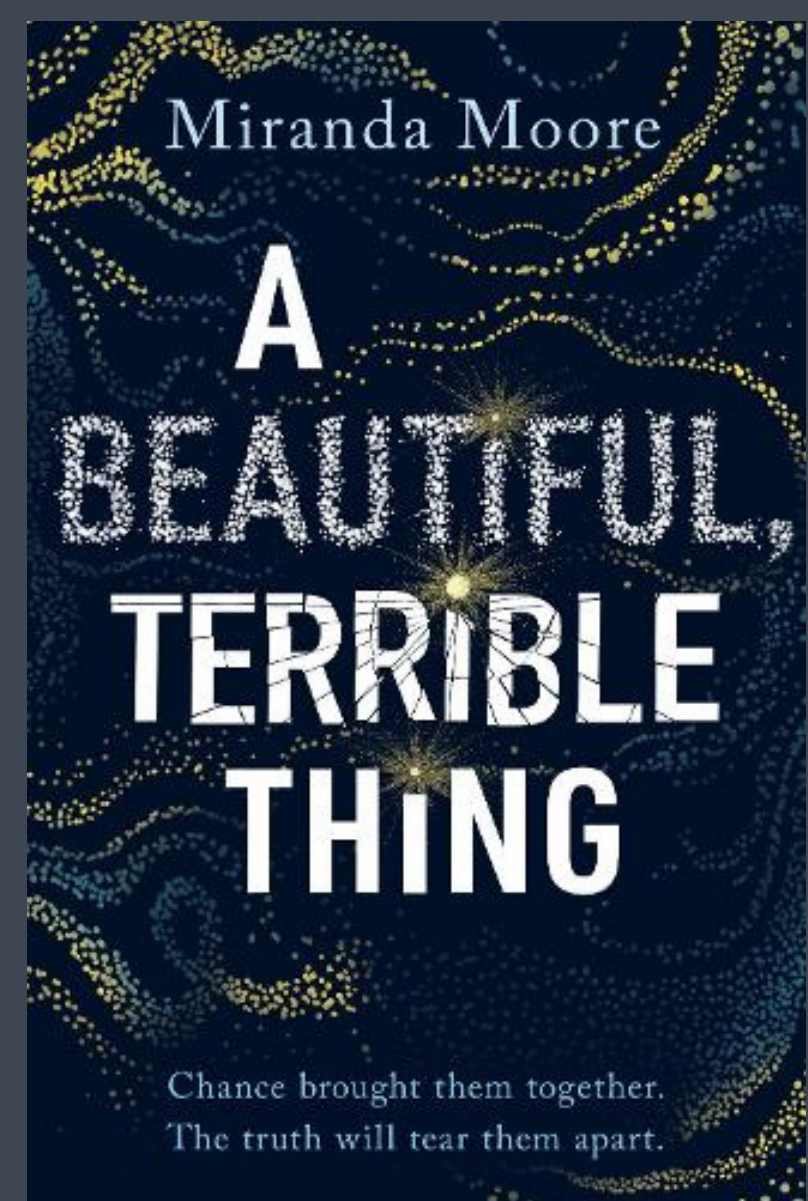
I tuned into how I believed Nathan would feel. It was a close first person voice so I was inside his head, showing things from his perspective, experiencing the world through him. I wanted to show what he was feeling, how he was withdrawing and how he was resisting help. I think it comes from spending time with people, listening, observing nonverbal communication (body language, facial expressions, sensations) and imagining how people feel in painful times rather than anything more systematic. So I guess the process, if you could call it that, was pretty loose and was essentially tuning in emotionally. I felt he would naturally withdraw from the world in order to process what had happened. He spirals downwards and everything begins shutting down for him – his relationships, getting sacked from his job. I wanted to keep the self-harm and suicidal ideation elements subtle rather than centre stage. When he speaks to his mum and sees the therapist, he's beginning to accept help and open up.

Why did you choose to write a YA book as your first novel?

I strongly remember the discomfort I felt at that age and I love teenagers and their banter and idealism, so it feels like an age I relate to and gravitate towards naturally. It's an age where you're working out who you are and what matters to you, and I feel reading can be an escape and a solace, plus you can get a sense of community or solidarity if you strongly connect with a character or other readers. A lot of YA is fantasy, but I was keen to write contemporary YA that feels authentic.

Did you find inspiration from the lives of the young adults in your own life?

I absolutely find inspiration in young people I know, yes. I know quite a lot of young people through my own kids, their social groups and our wider family and friends. I wouldn't say any particular person directly inspired any character, but certainly the general banter, friendships and interactions I see have found their way into the story and the tone. I wanted to reflect the humour, worldliness and compassion that I see every day in young people.



Spirit Week



Calling all S6's for spirit week!

If you're wondering why there are multiple Mr Greys, a bunch of toddlers and people with air fryers wondering around the school, it's Spirit Week! The week where the S6's are given free rein to think outside of the box and dress accordingly as the theme for that day.

On the agenda for this creative week:

Monday is a merged theme of pupils dressing up as their favourite teachers and bringing anything but a bag for a whole day, so S6's are preparing themselves for some weird looks on the bus. Tuesday also has a double themed day, (the school captains had way more ideas than days in the week) where there's a choice to either dress up as your younger self or as a decade to take us back in time to enjoy some bittersweet nostalgia. Wednesday is the classic leaver shirts day which is our personal favourite. Most people painstakingly spend hours decorating their shirts, tediously adding their own personal touches, so hundreds of sharpie armed students can draw all over them by the time Wednesdays rolls around. After a full day of collecting good luck messages and names, all the S6's will have a wholesome memento to keep forever so they can always remember their time at high school. The week ends on a high note (especially for anyone being Cynthia Erivo) with the whole of S6 dressing up as movie icons. It's going to be hard to predict who everyone will be, as just as Forrest Gump says, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get."

We have asked S6's around the school to see how they are feeling about spirit week and have lovingly asked (forced) them to give us hints as to what creative ideas they have prepared specially for this week. Although, some seemed hesitant to reveal their ideas, exciting us for the unpredictable week ahead!

We have found some S6's with some secretive yet questionable ideas... "I don't want to reveal what I'm doing, but it's going to involve a kitchen appliance"

Some pupils have really thought outside the box, possibly breaking child Labour laws in the process... "I'm using my sibling as a bag, but they don't know this yet"

This group wants us to guess who they are dressing up as... "For our movie icon outfits, we will be wearing animal ears, straw, a crown, a basket and a silver top"

Another group giving us an insightful, detailed answer... "Marvel"

We have discovered what people are most looking forward to... "I can't wait to see which teachers' people are going to dress up as" "I'm most excited to get my shirt signed by friends and teachers so I can look back on my time at Craigmount"

All we ask is for all S6's to get involved from the 30th till the 2nd to make their last week at school one to remember. After all, it's been a fun, unforgettable 6 years at Craigmount, the experience deserves to have a proper send off!

Scripture Union: A Group United by Community and Faith

By Nicholas

The Scripture Union is a lunchtime club that is led by Mr Polland in Computing and Miss Jaffray in Science. It runs on different days for seniors and juniors, and aims to provide Christians in the school with a supportive community, while also welcoming anyone who is curious about the Christian faith. Members of Scripture Union read a Bible passage each week and share friendship and fellowship with one another.



As a Christian myself, I was unaware of the group until recently. On a random Thursday, I ventured into Mr. Polland's room during lunchtime, right in the middle of a bustling school day.

Entering the classroom, I was greeted by Mr. Polland himself, who quickly filled me in on the history of Scripture Union. To my surprise, this club has been running for over 20 years— making it one of the longest-running societies in Craigmount's history! He explained that Scripture Union was mainly led by youth workers of local churches with staff members of the school, and that this model has remained largely unchanged over the years.

The meeting started with a Bible reading from Psalm 139, which highlights God's personal knowledge and understanding of every individual. After the passage was read, members were then invited to share our reflections and thoughts about the passage and what it meant to them. What followed was a thoughtful but relaxed discussion. We spoke about the comfort in knowing that God knows and cares for each of us, and how that idea can be encouraging during stressful moments in school or in everyday life.

To learn more about Scripture Union's impact on students, I interviewed several members:

Grace - “For me, it’s personally enlightening. It’s a good break in the school day to stop and think about stuff, and to learn about the Bible in such a busy environment. It’s good to have a sense of support.”

Beth - “If I were having a difficult time I could come and pray about it – there is a strong sense of security in the group.”

Curious about how people usually find out about the Union, I asked Mr. Polland about outreach. "The SU groups are listed in the extra-curricular clubs available to all students. I'd encourage anyone who is curious about the Christian faith or the person of Jesus to come along. Word of mouth is usually how new people find out about us." In fact, that was exactly how I discovered it myself - after asking Ruth, a fellow Squawker, about it. Mr. Polland added that sometimes students join simply because they are looking for a calmer environment during the school day.

As we concluded our time there in prayer, I couldn’t help but reflect on what he said. Indeed, this message hits close to home. As a S6 spending my final weeks in school, I am both slightly disappointed and grateful – disappointed that I didn't find out about the union sooner, but grateful that it exists and will continue to provide a welcoming and supportive space for students in the years to come.

Interested? Here is how you could join!

The Scripture Union has two groups who meet on Monday Lunchtime (Juniors) and Thursday Lunchtime (Seniors), both in room 2/51.



SU Scotland

Article 23: Disability without discrimination

Written by Shravya

UNCRC is an international agreement that protects the rights of all children, including the ones with disabilities, who should live without discrimination. This is stated under Article 23. This highlights that children with disabilities should enjoy a full life with access to support, education and services to help them participate in society. The UNCRC also states that a disability should never be a reason for unfair treatment.

Teachers, governments and parents all play an important role in honouring these rights. Teachers can try to create inclusive classrooms by adapting lessons, using other resources and making sure all children feel heard and valued. Governments must provide funding, laws and policies that ensure schools are accessible for children with disabilities. Parents can advocate for their children, work closely with their school and give independence at home. By working together, we can make sure every single child has a fair chance to succeed.



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EVERYONE MUST
KNOW CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS



13

SHARING
THOUGHTS FREELY



23

CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES

“No One Cares” and the need for validation

How Timothée Chalamet’s comments exposed the dependency of artists on public belief.

By Nicholas

I’m sure most of you would have seen the viral video of 9 time Oscar loser Timothée Chalamet’s snarky comments on ballet and opera, where he suggested “I don’t want to be working in ballet or opera...things where it’s like...no one cares about this anymore” The backlash was swift. Major opera houses, ballet companies and artists ganged up on him, mocking his comments as dismissive while capitalising on the newfound attention. Some companies even introduced promo codes such as “TIMMI” and “TIMOTHEE” to encourage people to attend more performances. Ironically, the “14 cents of viewership” he lost might have just cost him his Oscar that he so desperately wished for.



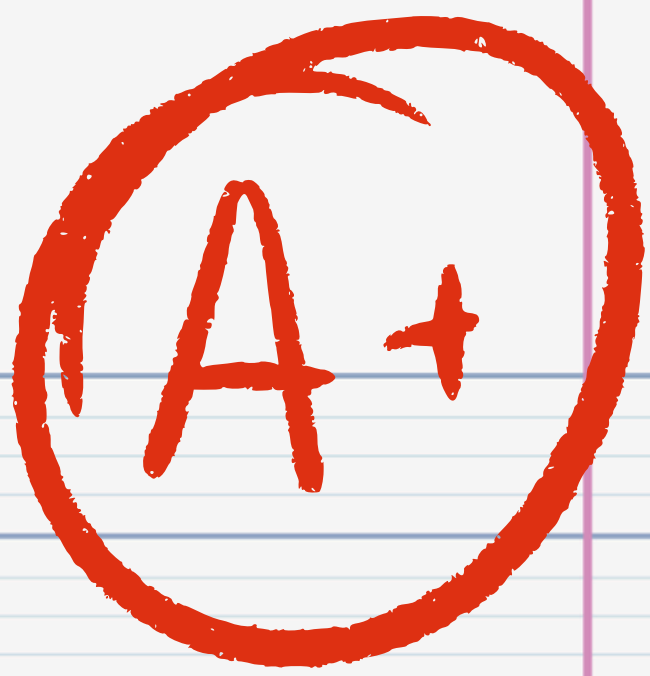
However, there is some truth to his statement – ballet and opera today attract comparatively smaller audiences than movie goers and generate far less income that needed to sustain the art forms. As a result, most of their funding come from trusts, donors and organisations. Still, there is an active audience that regularly go to opera and ballet, and if this audience is lost, the art forms simply cannot survive - public attention is still essential for artforms.

Instead, the public backlash was rather fused by his utter disregard of artforms based on public belief. His ignorant statement clings to the core belief that popularity determines worthiness. Mainstream media actively promotes this – shows like America’s Got Talent often base their format on the potential popularity of acts instead of pure talent. Chalamet’s comments completely disregard artists driven by passion and love instead of monetary income.

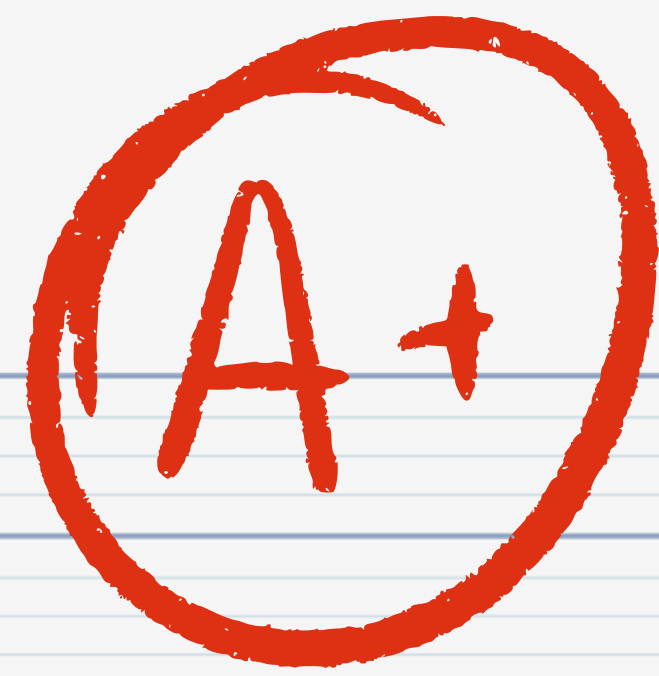
As a classical musician, I have spent numerous hours practicing one line in a piece just to “perfect it”. I have performed in concerts where there were barely any audience members. Sure, I felt distraught, but I was also satisfied that I had the opportunity to share my love and passion for music to other people, regardless of how many there were.

Art rests on the dedication of the artists and the meaning it creates for those who experience it; it exists to challenge thoughts and inspire others. Public attention may help art survive but should never serve as the standard by which its value is judged.





EXAMS PREP!



by Rory. Reading time 4 minutes and 40 seconds

As the exam season approaches only next month, many students begin to feel a growing sense of pressure. Exams often carry significant importance that influence our academic progress and future opportunities, so it is natural for us to feel worried and anxious about our performance. However, effective preparation can make a huge difference. It is important to prepare steadily and adopt a clear plan and strategy, rather than cramming last-minute. With the right techniques, preparation can become far more manageable and far less overwhelming, helping us to achieve results we are proud of.

One of the most important steps in exam preparation is creating a realistic revision timetable. A clear plan helps us organise our time and ensures that every subject receives attention before the exams begin. Without a plan, revision often becomes unfocused and inefficient, leading us to spend too long on certain topics while neglecting others. A good timetable breaks revision into manageable sessions, usually lasting around 50 to 90 minutes, followed by short breaks to maintain concentration. It is also important to rotate between subjects so that the brain stays engaged and does not become fatigued from focusing on the same material for too long. For example, study Maths for an hour, take a 20 minute break, then study English for an hour etc etc. Revisiting topics several times over a number of days is particularly effective, as repeating information over time helps strengthen memory and understanding.



Science subjects require a balance between memorisation and understanding. You must learn key definitions, formulas, and diagrams, also understand how to apply this knowledge to different situations. In biology, for example, learning processes and terminology is essential, but you must also practise explaining these ideas clearly in written answers. You should also practise applying formulas, ensuring you remember your units and the steps required to reach the correct answer. Completing past paper questions and reviewing marking guidelines is the best way understand how marks are awarded and what examiners expect to see in strong answers. Key words are ESSENTIAL.

Language subjects require active engagement with the language. Memorising vocabulary is important, but you should also practise using the language in different contexts. Writing paragraphs and completing listening exercises is the best way to improve your fluency and confidence. Exposure to the language outside the classroom can also be beneficial. Reading short articles, watching videos, or listening to podcasts in the language can help reinforce vocabulary and improve comprehension skills. Even 20 minutes of Duolingo a day goes a long way. The more you engage with the language, the more natural it becomes to understand and use it during the exam.

Humanities subjects, including history, geography, and modern studies, often involve essay writing and analytical thinking. Your preparation for these subjects should focus on developing clear arguments supported by evidence. One effective technique is to practise creating essay plans before writing full responses. A strong essay typically includes a clear introduction, several well-developed paragraphs containing relevant examples, and a concise conclusion. Memorising key dates, events, and case studies is also essential to support your arguments with accurate information. Additionally, practising timed essays allows will improve their ability to organise ideas quickly and write clearly under exam conditions.

English is another subject where preparation involves both knowledge and skill. In exams, you are often required to analyse texts and discuss themes, characters, or language techniques. Memorising key quotations can be extremely helpful, as these can be used to support arguments within critical essays. However, it is equally important to practise analysing these quotations and explaining their significance. In language exams, students you need to analyse unseen texts or produce pieces of writing in different styles. Regular practice in analysing passages and structuring written responses will help you become more confident and organised during the exam.

Another important part of exam preparation is practising with past papers. Past papers allow you to experience the style and difficulty of real exam questions. Completing these papers under timed conditions helps you develop exam technique and improve time management. After completing a past paper, carefully mark and review your answers using the marking scheme and identify areas for improvement. Keeping track of common mistakes can help guide future revision and ensure that weaknesses are addressed before the exam. Over time, repeated practice with past papers will make you more familiar with exam formats and reduces anxiety about the unknown. Use the SQA past papers for this; they contain papers from 2019-2025 with marking schemes.



While academic preparation is important, it is also vital to look after your well-being during the revision period. Long hours of uninterrupted study can quickly lead to exhaustion and reduced concentration. Taking regular breaks allows the brain to rest and improves overall productivity. Physical activity, even something as simple as a short walk, can also help clear the mind and reduce stress. Sleep is another crucial factor in successful exam preparation. Adequate sleep helps consolidate memory and improves focus, while staying up late to study often leads to fatigue and poorer performance the next day. 9 hours sleep should be the goal.

Overall, preparing for exams effectively requires organisation, consistency, and balance. By creating a structured revision timetable, practising past papers, and using subject-specific strategies, you can effectively build confidence and strengthen your understanding of key topics. At the same time, maintaining healthy habits and allowing time for rest ensures that you remain focused and motivated throughout the revision period. With careful preparation and a positive approach, exams can become less intimidating and more of an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and achievement. Best of luck to you all!!



Mr Kimber: The Fischy behind the Music

By Sophie and Henry

Reading time 7 minutes and 30 seconds



A tour bus wizzes along Glasgow Road. Music booms from inside the vehicle, and inside there are cheers and laughs. Fischy Music is on their first tour, about to convince many primary school children such as yourself that they are stars. But who is the real star? Who is the man who revived modern rock and roll one primary school assembly at a time?

Fellow Squawk member Henry Jones and I waited outside the CDT classrooms, hoping to catch just a single clip of an interview for this month's Squawk. We knew that for our final edition, we needed to blow people away. We needed something big. In a haze of smoke and Fusion 360, he walked out. The man of the hour. Wearing a leather jacket and sunglasses indoors, we knew he was the one we were looking for. We were surprised to find he wasn't drinking his classic Duff beer (from the Simpsons), nor was he with his groupie, Duffman (also from the Simpsons). But even then, the shiver that was sent down our spine informed us that this was it. This was our chance. We were no longer mere teacher interviewers, no more articles about bird watching, or history, or the Scream franchise. Oh no. We're part of the big leagues now.

Mr Kimber, to our surprise, wasn't only happy to take part in an interview, he was also enthusiastic to contribute to the March Squawk. Or the Squarch, as many have called it. We couldn't mess this up. One mistake, and Mr Fischy himself would come down from the land of Fabby-Dabby-Dee and take us off this mortal plane.

Unprompted, Mr Kimber shared that Fischy Music was one of the happiest moments of his life, despite being a father to four children.

“My family is very musical. My mum used to sing a lot when I was a kid, and I kind of got involved that way.”

This fascinated us. There was an entire bloodline of Fischy talent that we

were unaware of? How many more Kimbers are there that can convince us to build up our sisters and brothers? How is it that, if Mr Kimber's family has no previous ties to the entity of Mr Fischy, Mr Kimber became one of the most prized members of this musical organisation?

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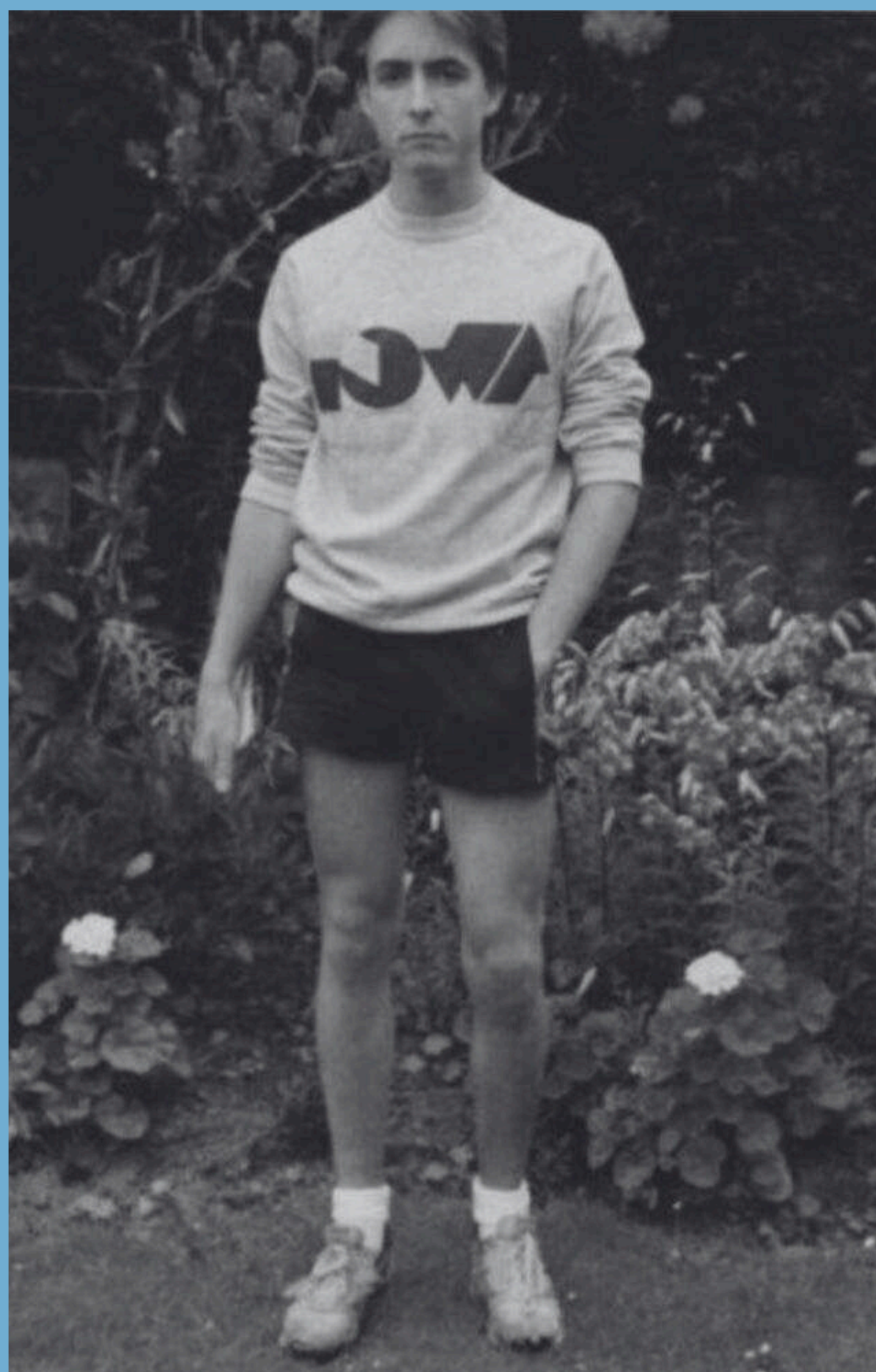
This fascinated us. There was an entire bloodline of Fischy talent that we were unaware of? How many more Kimbers are there that can convince us to build up our sisters and brothers? How is it that, if Mr Kimber's family has no previous ties to the entity of Mr Fischy, Mr Kimber became one of the most prized members of this musical organisation?

“I knew Steven Fischbacher, who runs Fischy, and I think I first met him when I was at school. He was just starting off doing his thing, and over years I just got asked to do more and more stuff.”

By now, our excitement was barely containable. We were sitting in a room with a man who had befriended the one and only Mr Fischy, also known as Steven Fischbacher, and just the second-hand fame we got from the mention of Mr Fischy was almost too much to handle.

“Bit by bit, I played on the album, I did shows, so it was a huge amount of fun. It was so much fun.”

Mr Kimber asked us not to include this, but he said that the fun he had whilst taking part in Fischy music may have been more fun than any family outing. Man, it's great that no



**Mr Kimber pictured being musical
(photo taken in 1752)**

one in his family could be reading this right now. I can imagine they'd be pretty peeved.

There was one question both of us were dying to ask, and many of you may be dying to know the answer. How does Mr Kimber feel convincing millions across the globe (Scotland) that they are, in fact, stars?

“Oh, wow. On the first five albums I did I helped record the original demo versions of You Are A Star, Special Kind of Hero, all of the big ones. They were recorded in my house a long time ago, and that was really cool, just seeing it from the starting point. Seeing it turn into the album, seeing everyone in the primary schools, that was a lot of fun.”

We cannot write this teacher feature without addressing Mr Kimber's well-known best friend and Fischy music groupie, Duffman from the Simpsons. Such a beautiful friendship must have formed over years. They are like the modern day Bert and Ernie, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, Anthony and Cleopatra. “We met a huge number of really cool and amazing people who were amazing musicians and getting to play with them were really cool.”

In another “off the record” comment, Mr Kimber said that his bond with Duffman was stronger than anything he ever felt towards his family. Surely by now he would have realised that nothing is really ‘off record’ when it comes to the teacher feature.

Henry and I had heard murmurs, conspiracies surrounding Fischy music, that Mr Kimber was still contributing to their organisation, despite claims that he had left. This conspiracy was on par with the moon landing, flat earth, Roswell, and the



Mr Kimber (left) and Duffman (Right)

illuminati. We were nervous to ask the question, the constant threat of Mr Fischy looming over us. One wrong word, and he would remove us from this mortal plane.

If it weren't for our careful wording, we may not be writing this teacher feature today.

“I don't still take part in Fischy music, no. It was myself and three or four core friends, and we kind of did those first five album. So we kind of dropped out, and another team came on. We still kind of meet up every now and again. I kind of think that everything needs to evolve, music needs to evolve, and I think if it was the same group of people 25 or 30 years later, it would be too same-y. Having other people involved freshens things up.”

We could hear behind the pained words of Mr Kimber that he yearned to be part of Fischy music again.

And who wouldn't? Fischy music defined the Scottish primary school experience. Assemblies were spent sitting on an uncomfortable floor, singing along to the lyrics of 'I can clap my hands.'

We were bored, sure, and the songs got repetitive eventually, but maybe we lacked appreciation for what we had.

Henry and I are about to leave school, go on adventures to lands that many cannot imagine (Aberdeen), and recently all we have been able to think about are those assemblies. Over the years, the message might have been lost, the one telling us that no matter what we are stars. We are individuals and no one will ever be like us. As we reach this final stretch, the words of Fischy music accompany us on our journey, six years after we last heard their echo in our gym halls.

Mr Kimber said that he often meets up with his old Fischy music friends even when his family thinks he is at work.

“Anything to feel something again.”

What does Mr Kimber really think about Fischy music? Surely, after all this talk about how he appreciates Mr Fischy more than his own family, he thinks Fischy music is...worse without him?

“No. I know that some of the guys who came on after me are amazing. Steven Fischbacher has always been really good at finding really talented people. And then he found me as well, I don’t know how that happened. So, I am very happy for other people to do their thing.”

But surely the magic of Mr Fischy never goes away? As Obama once said, “my fellow Americans.” In the same way, Mr Fischy said, “my fellow Fischies.” So surely, Mr Kimber hasn’t fully moved on from Fischy music?

“I will do just about anything. As long as the money is really good. I’ve done loads and loads of other things, and still do bits and pieces all over the place. Any interesting opportunities that come up, I will be happy to do.”

An inside source informed us of a Fringe show Mr Kimber took part in. We weren’t expecting him to bring this up, as it was not Fischy music related, but to our surprise he did.

“I played a musical Fringe show. I did a three-week run with an American theatre group, and that was...bizarre and weird. It was pretty quirky. Mr Meikle and a lot of people from the school came to see that. I’m not exactly sure what they thought about it.”

One of the only Fringe shows Henry went to see in 2025 was the Shrek Burlesque show. But we’re pretty sure Mr Kimber wasn’t part of that.

Henry voiced that they thought Donkey was, as they might say in China, “说实话，非常有吸引力“

Mr Kimber also had a message for any young musicians hoping to make it as far as he has.

“Get into bands with as many people as you can and play everything you have an opportunity to play. Because you just don’t know what might be your thing, it might be musical theatre, it might be thrash metal. You just don’t know until you play with other people and give it a try.”

To Mr Kimber's knowledge, we had stopped recording by now. But we hadn't.

In a shocking turn of events, Mr Kimber admitted that he had given his daughter tonsillitis the day before her Advanced Higher drama exam. Not cool, Mr Kimber.

So, there you have it folks. An exclusive interview with the star of Fischy Music. We've finally made it. The final teacher feature.

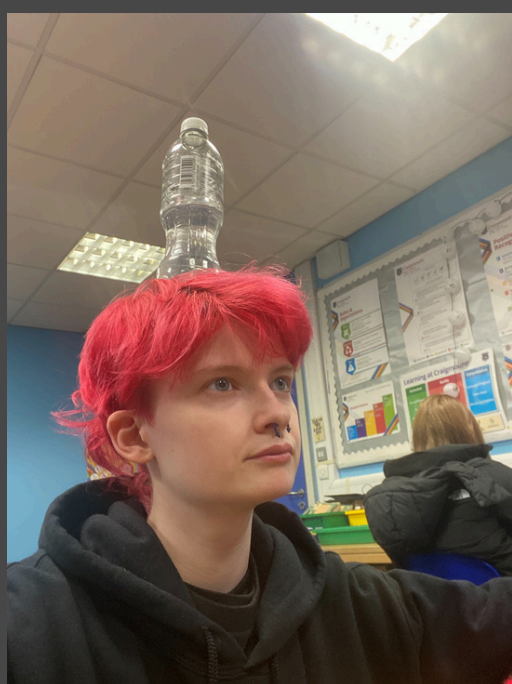
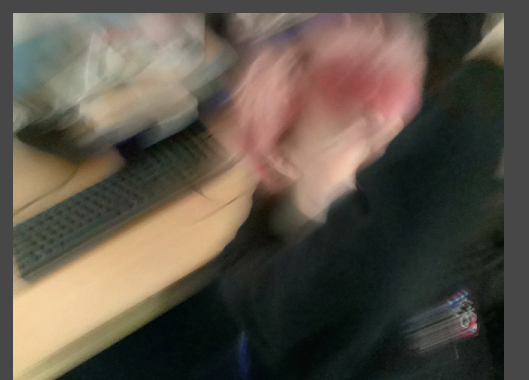
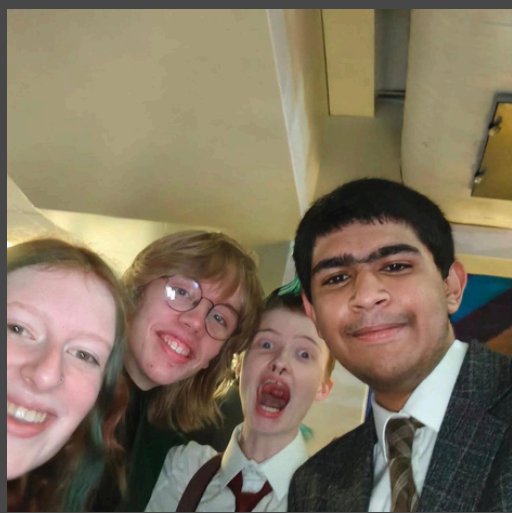
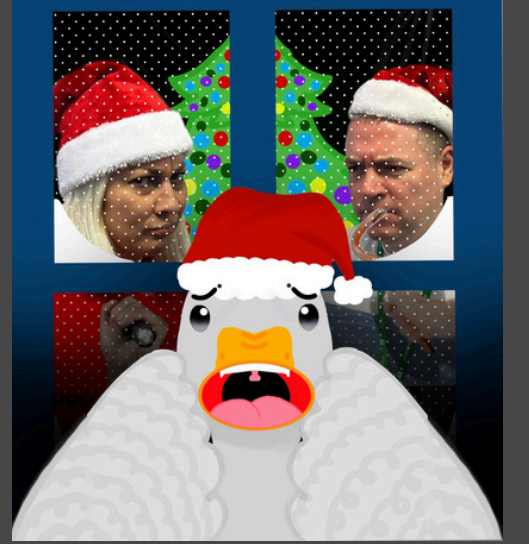
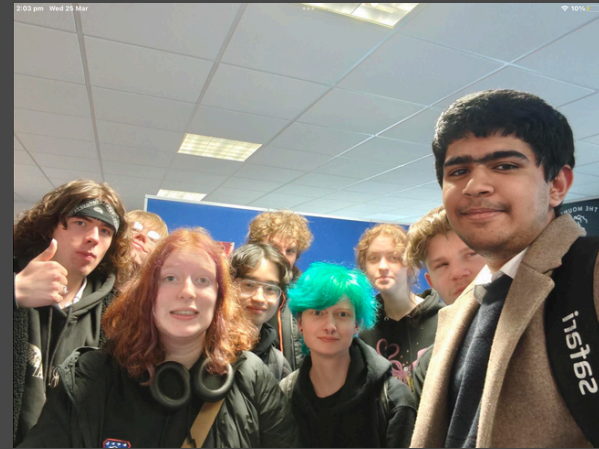
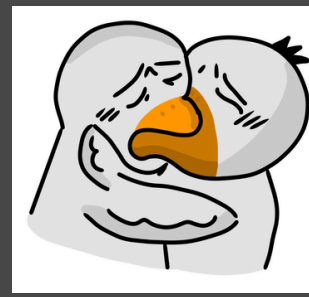
Whether or not the next generation of Squawkers continue our tradition, the teacher feature will always have its own place in our heart. What started as "Mr Galloway's niche things" and ended up as a monthly (kind of) article about a teacher of our choice.

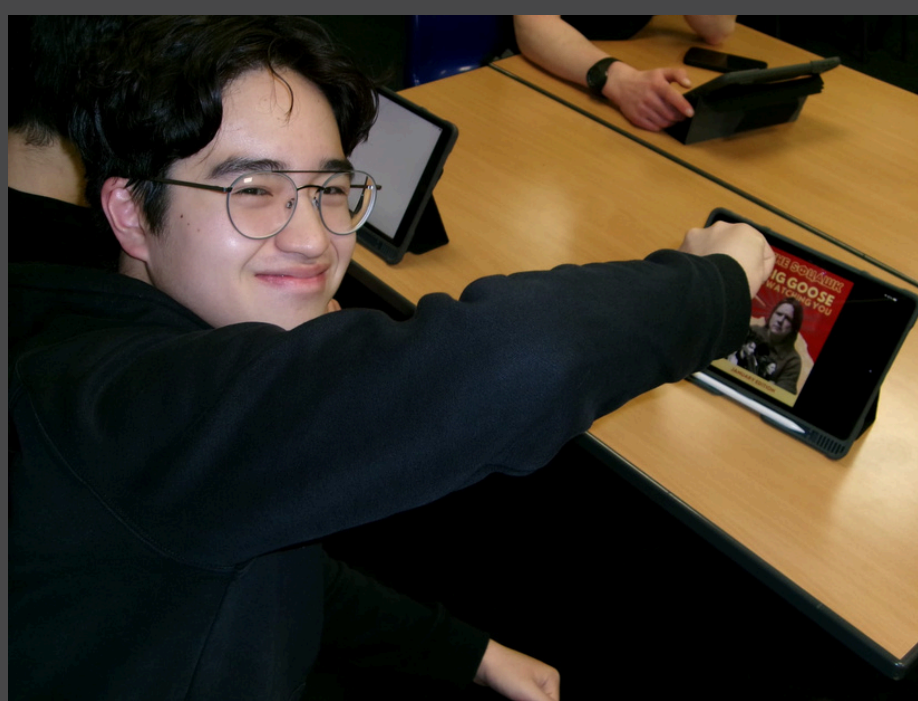
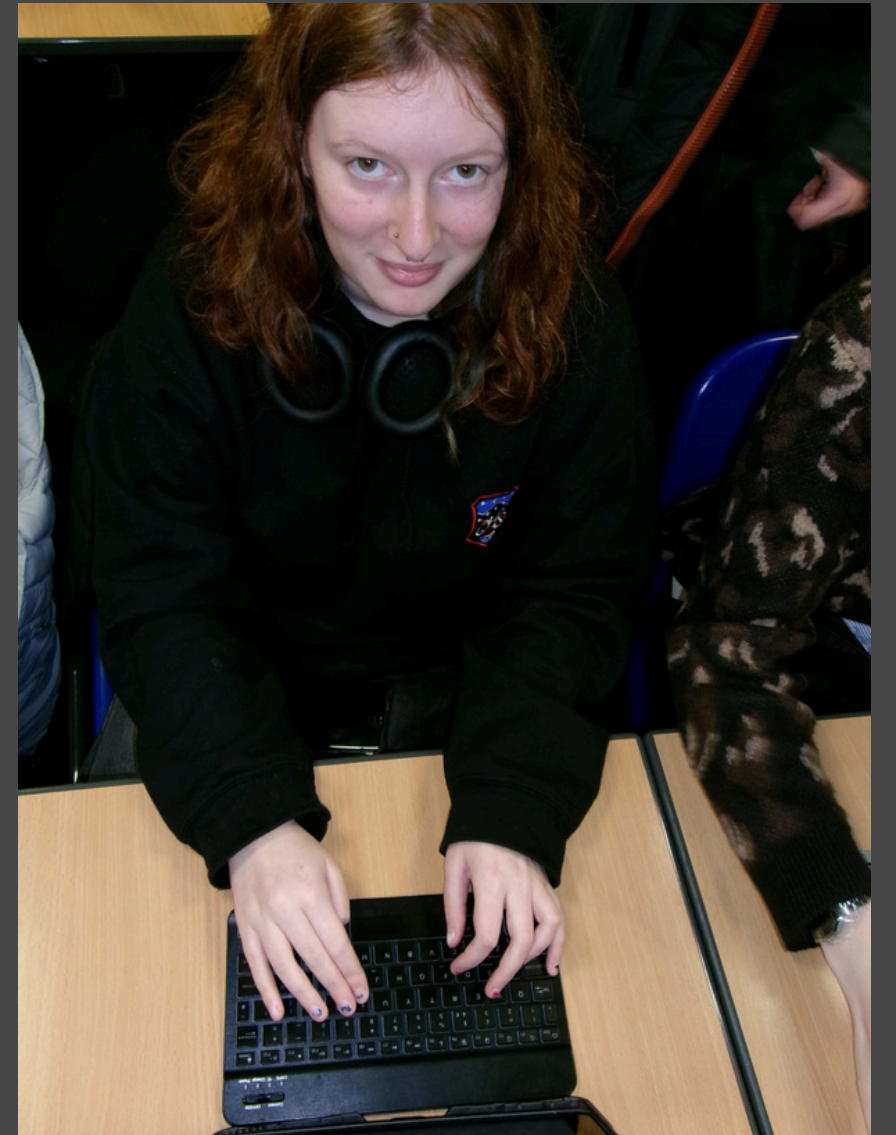
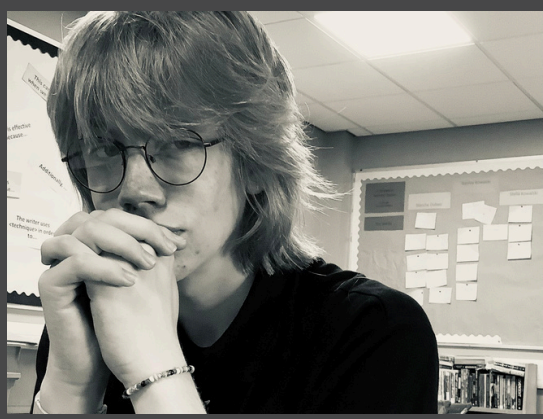
The moral of this month's teacher feature is to take up the opportunities that come to you. Someone asks you to hand out leaflets for a Fringe show? Sure, take it, maybe you'll meet a tourist who doesn't stand in the middle of the pavement. Your friend asks you to hide a body behind their house? Maybe skip out of that one, but if you get a chance to see that Swamplesque show then definitely go. Go for Donkey. And for Mr Kimber.



Pictured is Mr Kimber (left) eagerly showing us the plant (right) he used to give his daughter tonsillitis.

The Squawk 2026





We've all had a great time in the Squawk this year, and although its sad to say goodbye it's good to know we're handing over to a new generation of enthusiastic, passionate squawkers. Who knows, maybe that Christmas music article will finally be written, and Ben can finally rest, and we can all be finally free from the iron grip of Big Goose and her tyrannical regime. Enjoy these squawk photographs as we all say..

GOODBYE SQUAWK!



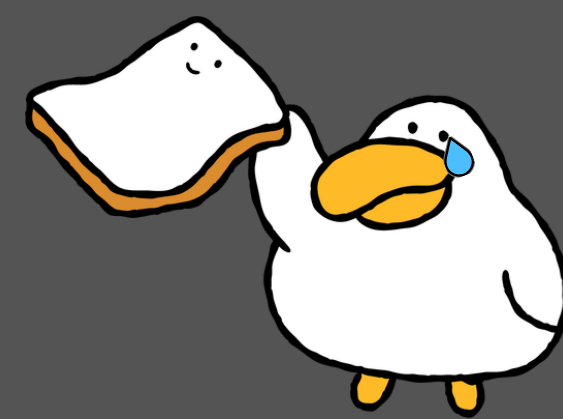
The Awards



- The award for longest article goes to.. Sophie gates with 7 full pages!
- The award for most professional goes to.. Sathvik Sriramadesikan
- The award for wisest person goes to.. Henry jones
- The award for the biggest <insert internet slang> goes to.. Ben Cormie
- The award for best voice goes to.. Olaf Krzystofik
- The award for most controversial article goes to.. Lukas Elliott
- The award for biggest diva goes to.. Orla Hogarth
- The award for best conversations goes to.. Ruth Kerr
- The award for best designer goes to.. Nicholas Cheung
- The award for the chilliest person goes to.. Louise Tod
- The award for best Goth goes to.. Baneen Zehra
- The award for being best at English goes to.. Rory Dunn
- The award for writing about Stranger Things goes to.. Kaitlynnne Bryce
- The award for being the BIGGEST rage baiter goes to.. Adam Thake
- The award for best supreme leader goes to.. Claire Burns
- The award for best mascot goes to.. the goose



Goodbye Squawk



As the summer approaches it is becoming an emotional time for our S6 members, their final weeks at Craigmount High School. Despite the frequent complaints, our S6's has grown to be, at least vaguely appreciative, of their high school experience. This is a time for great change and exciting new adventures, as all of the squawk's S6's are heading towards whatever is next in their lives. And we, the Squawk, want to wish them good luck, we hope that every S6, or other Craigmount leavers, go on to bigger better things, and look back on their times at craigmount with something a little fonder than disgust.

Our S6 year have not had the easiest time moving through education, with Covid meaning that they missed out on a handful of opportunities, missing out on their P7's send off, and some of S1. Finally, after years of complaints they received their well- deserved trip to Dalguise, which while no Madrid, was certainly a fun experience for all enjoyed. However, despite the holdbacks our S6 year has usually come out on top, and while our year team constantly boasts of our academic achievements, this year has done so much more. Being a surprisingly creative year, there have been many budding musicians, actors, and artists born from the class of 2026, and we couldn't be prouder.

As the resident unc of the Squawk (and the only one other than Big Goose herself to do it for both years that it's been on so far), it has been incredible to see how far the Squawk has come since it started. While I'm absolutely proud of the work I and all the other journalists and designers did across the previous year of the Squawk, this current year has been even more impressive in the content that's been put out, from expanding to the audio realm to investigative exposes to unionizing the workers of the squawk against the tyrannical gooseoisie. The greatest success of this year of the Squawk has been expanding itself to truly be the voice of craigmount, covering (to the best of our ability not to endlessly procrastinate) key events in Craigmount this year like the Colour Run or the Battle of the Bands, and I hope that's something that gets carried on and strengthened by the next generation of Squawkers.

Speaking of the next generation, my message to them is simple. Keep the Squawk alive for us please? This is still a young institution but it is one that has so much potential to grow, and the school certainly has the talent to take it there. As much as it would be a boost to our ego for this year's Squawk team to be the peak of the Squawk, it would be even more rewarding to see our own bests get blown out of the water by the next year's Squawk team, and then the Squawk team after that. For there to even be a Squawk team though, people need to be interested enough to take it as their wider achievement, and while I'm obviously biased, it's not unfair to say that this is one of the more fulfilling wider achievements, since every month(ish), you get to see the fruits of your labour show up as a magazine or podcast. So the final message I want to leave readers with as we go off on our final Squawk: Take the Squawk as your wider achievement. We need all the help we can get in our struggle for a newspaper to truly represent the interests and voices of Craigmount's Pupils (and to be allowed out for lunch before journalism trips). So please, Join the Squawk next year.



Blank wordsearch!

To give you guys a hint this is stuff we either believe in these or have done these.

Good luck ;)



SHHHH



Please help us

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!

Help us

