

GRAPEVINE

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GRAPEVINE

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◀ EDITORIAL ▶

As the exhaustion of the exam season is over and Christmas rapidly approaches, I am pleased to welcome you to this year's winter edition of Grapevine.

An eager group of student writers are to thank for the eclectic set of topics and ideas discussed in the pages to follow. You'll find conversation on the ongoing climate crisis and the issue of homelessness in Ireland. You might like to peruse through opinion pieces about generational differences or live-action Disney movies. We also have put together a beautiful array of pictures from our outstanding production of *Les Misérables* and the 2019 Transition Year Uganda trip. We wouldn't have such a brilliant collection of photographs if weren't for Mr. Micallef and Ms Jennings, so a big thank you to them.

As students, it is not uncommon to find ourselves caught amidst a seemingly never-ending list of things to do. Ideally, we would like to maintain a good academic performance without sacrificing any of our extra-curricular activities.

The first term of the school year is always chaotic and sometimes stressful. We all must slowly come to terms with the fact that the summer holidays have come to an end and that it's time to hit the books. You may find yourself feeling overwhelmed with the load of work you are being assigned- especially if you allow it to pile up. Teenagers are no strangers to the dangers of procrastination. We have all stayed up to an ungodly hour to write that essay we have been dreading all week. When we add a variety of extra curriculums to the equation, the result is a worn out and anxious student. The stress may lead to us deciding to drop out of our hockey club or take a break from playing the guitar. There should never be a point where we compromise the things that we love in order to improve our grades. It may seem like you are allowing yourself more time to study, however studies have proven that students engaged in extra curriculums perform better academically. Aside from the academic perspective, we often forget that our wellbeing is equally important. Doing the things that make you happy is vital in achieving a sense of wellbeing. Many students took part in the school's production of the infamous musical, *Les Misérables*. All these students had exams creeping closer, some even mocks for state exams, but they didn't sacrifice the chance to be involved in what would, most likely, be a once in a lifetime opportunity for them.

Academic performance is important, but it is never the only thing. If you ever find yourself falling behind or buried in an impossible pile of work, remember that you have time to get ahead and to achieve the grade you're aiming for. This term is coming to an end, but a new one is about to begin. Perhaps, you will figure out a way to balance study with the things that you love. For now, we can put our feet up and spend our time watching cheesy Christmas movies and drinking hot chocolate. Just before you do that, I'd like to express my gratitude to all the lovely people involved in bringing this edition to print.

I would like to thank our amazing Head of Design, Elena for putting so much time and hard work into making the magazine look as good as it does. She deserves to be commended for doing her job with such flair, even under time constraints. I also want to appreciate all the talented students who produced something for this edition, I hope you enjoy looking at each other's work.

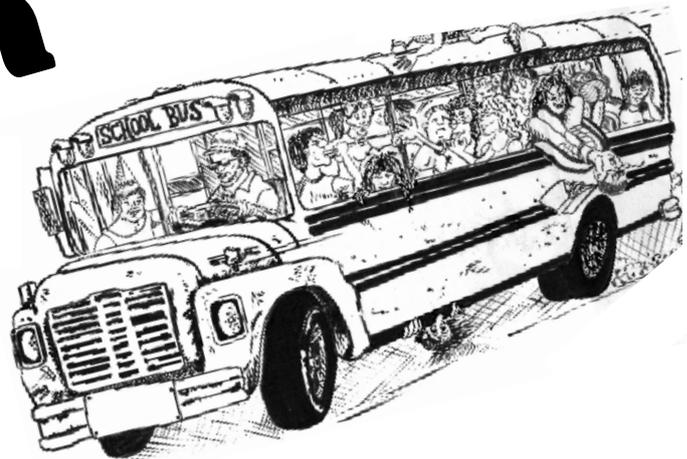
I also I want to extend my thanks Yasmin, our previous editor, for showing me the ropes and for always being willing to help. Although Grapevine is a student-led magazine, it would not exist without the endless support and efforts of Ms. Mockler. She is the backbone of the magazine and I could never thank her enough for all the work that she does.

Finally, teachers are an integral part of our school years. Not only do they teach us and prepare us for exams, but we get to know them as mentors, friends and as people. This year, the halls are a little emptier than before. The absence of the wonderful teachers and staff who have left the college has not gone unnoticed. Ms Devally, Mr Hamill, Mr Laing, Ms Killeen, Mr Taylor and Ms Anne Corrigan have moved on to begin a new chapter of their lives. On behalf of the students of St. Andrew's College, I wish them a happy and healthy retirement. We look forward to including a farewell piece for each in the next edition.

To all the students still reading, I hope you enjoy this edition of Grapevine as much as we all enjoyed putting it together. Most importantly, have a relaxed Christmas and gear up for the new year ahead.

Aleena Manoj.

TRIP OR TREK



Trip or Trek is a section of Grapevine that started last year where students discuss and review school trips that they've been on this term.

1ST YEAR HELL AND BACK

In September, all the new arrivals (First Years) went on a trip to Hell and Back. No, they didn't literally go to hell and back, but they did go to Kilruddery House. It was a very fun and muddy day with some team building exercises in the morning and finishing off the day with the 2.2km course full of mud, obstacles and a bit more mud. Before getting muddy though, we went up a hill where we learned how to make a fire and explored the forest; we even got to roast some marshmallows. Then we moved on to the archery section where a competition was held. For some people the best part was when we all took part in the team building exercises where we ran around trying to find the giant pieces of our colour to complete the puzzle, then moving onto the part where we carried people around in stretchers (don't worry nobody was hurt during this exercise). It was a great day for making new friends, finding out people's different personalities, and I found a new friend as well. I think I speak for most of the First Years when I say that we all loved the day and especially the 2.2 kilometre course at the end which was the highlight of the day for me. Some people found that the team building exercise was also their highlight or that the archery was a close second. From the photos it seems like everyone had a lot of fun. Thank you to our year heads, Ms Talbot and Mrs Griffin, and to our deputy year head, Mr Micallef and to all our form teachers for arranging such a great day.

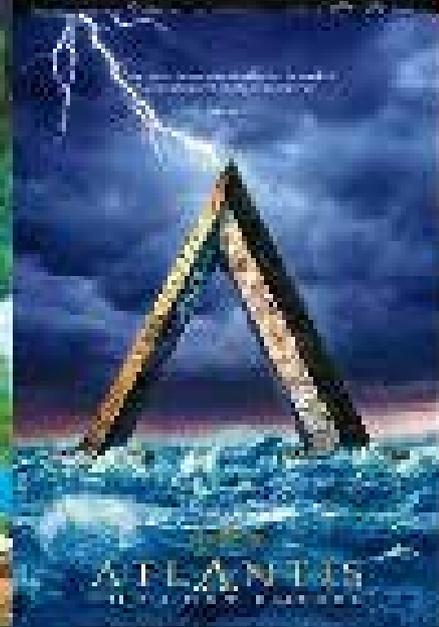
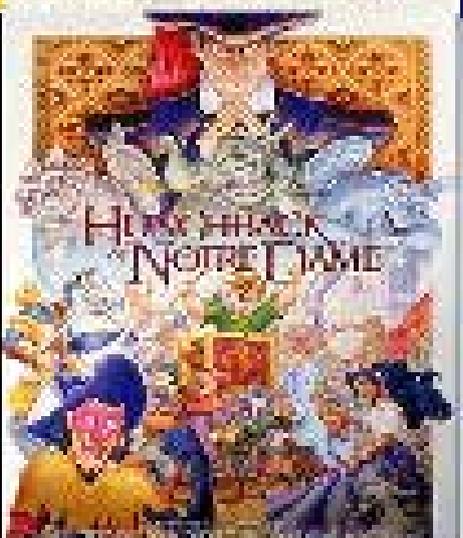
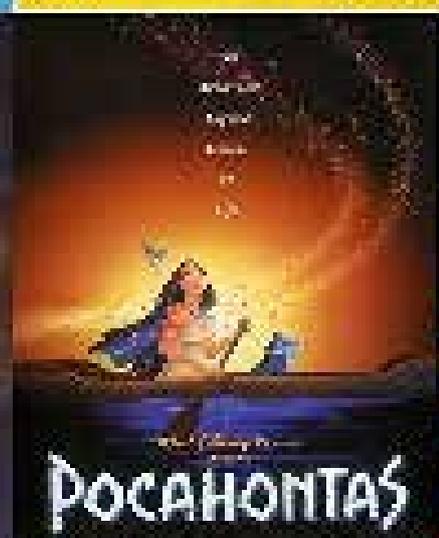
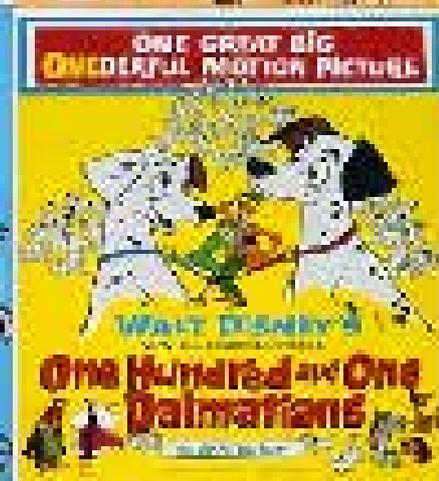
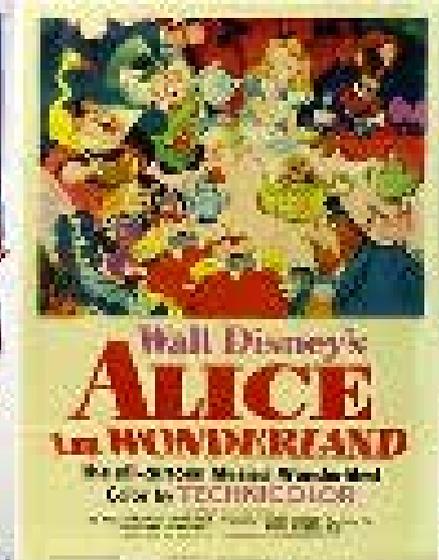
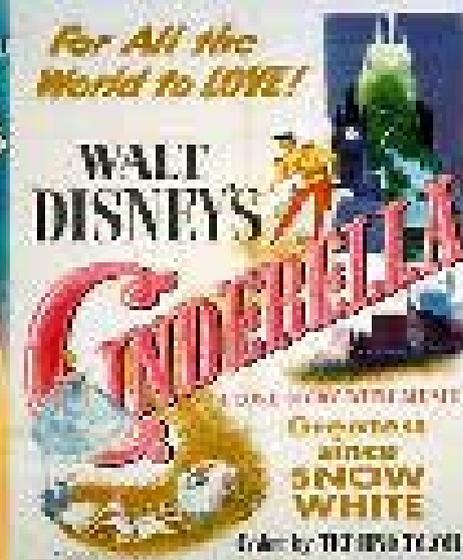


IB FLORENCE TRIP

The St Andrew's trip to Florence was an exciting and amazingly fun experience. Florence is the birthplace of the Renaissance, home to the historic and powerful Medici, cultural hub of the Tuscany region and still full of life, innovation and creativity. Our trip there lasted four days and, in that time, we only skimmed the surface of what the city had to offer. The galleries and museums were fantastic and the fact we were given the freedom to explore them by ourselves and use our own knowledge to navigate their decorative halls was liberating and fresh compared to how most school trips are conducted. Seeing masterpieces like the 'Doni Tondo' by Michelangelo and 'The Baptism of Christ' by Da Vinci in the Uffizi was every bit as striking as we had hoped. Every corner of the city was the perfect place to open up our sketch books and draw away. Seeing classmates sit and draw in every hall and street bench made it feel as if we were true artists, even the IBs who don't do art gave it a go. Each site we visited was captivating in its own unique way and perhaps the most notable moment was when we all found ourselves staring up at the monstrous Duomo built by Brunelleschi, beneath a cool night sky on our first evening, which was the subject of a copious number of photos for all students, especially the wannabe photographers.

Places like the Uffizi, the Pitti Palaces and the Academia captured the imagination of every one of us. The grandness of each one was only truly comprehensible in person. During our lunch breaks we were able to explore the city at our own free will and given a good amount of time to do so. Wandering through the winding cobble roads and down small allies lined with street art was exciting to say the least. Personally, the trip was wonderful. It was not only the academic side, but the company that made it special. Getting to know people in our year we wouldn't have necessarily talked to before was really refreshing and traversing the city with them made for memories none of us are likely to forget. None of this would have been made possible without the help of our teachers who found fun and interesting ways to have us engage in the art, like the statue of Michelangelo's 'David' (1501-1504) drawing competition. I hope the school will continue this trip for many years to come and I would encourage any art students to take the opportunity to visit this spectacular city.





ISSUE WITH LIVE ACTION REMAKES

Disney has always been at the forefront of creative, innovative and successful film-making. Their films are a constant source of cutting-edge technology as well as thought provoking story-telling. In recent years however, it's become clear to me that a key factor which made them so great almost a century ago has faded away. That is their cutting-edge animation. Year after year, we see classic Disney films remade into live action features with big names such as Will Smith and Emma Watson. Instead of stories unfolding in timeless, hand-drawn animation we see real people cavorting around CGI creatures that will look outdated ten years from now. While some recent entries such as *The Lion King* (2019) present absolutely stunning computer effects, others such as *Aladdin* (2019) display a distracting and unnatural take on the genie character. It's not exactly bad, but it won't age well and that will seriously impact the watchability of these films in years to come. The advantage of their hand-drawn counterparts is that they can be watched at any point following their releases and have the same impact no matter what.

Classic animation is old school, it's something you can't put an age on. CGI doesn't have the same effect. A movie filled with CGI characters in 2019 will seem noticeably inferior to CGI characters displayed in 2025 as the technology continues to advance. This will create a permanent road-block in our ability to appreciate films and immerse ourselves in their worlds. In just a few years the effects displayed in the new *Aladdin* and *Lion King* films will be considered out-dated and obsolete, while the classics will continue to amaze and captivate with their natural spectacles. Another aspect of animation that few people appreciate is just how much freedom it provides the film maker. Animation has literally no boundaries; there are limitless possibilities for one to come up with. Animation is versatile, but living things in the real world are not. This becomes especially apparent in *The Lion King*. Despite all the characters consisting of animals, the classic film from 1994 could nail the various emotions and personalities of the cast because it was animated. They could make characters laugh, smile, cry and brood because there's no limit to what you can accomplish with hand-drawn effects. Personalities are

no different; the way a character looked gave you instant insight into what they were all about. If they were hunched with menacing eyes, they were surely a villain. If they were jovial with wide grins, they were surely comic relief. So naturally, when the live action remake rolled around with realistic animals, no different to the ones you would find in your local zoo, there were practical issues.

It leads to an inevitable point of awkwardness and confusion as the voice actors convey emotion yet the on-screen characters do not. That's because a real-life lion can't smile, a real-life warthog can't laugh, and real-life animals can't dance. Not only that, it becomes increasingly difficult to invest yourself in these characters and care about their goals if you can't see how the story is emotionally impacting them. What made the scene of Simba trying to wake up his dead father so heart-breaking was the fact that you could see how damaging it was for him. You could see the turmoil, grief and despair on his face because the animation allowed him to express his feelings. The live action version cannot do this because it has essentially dug itself into a hole in terms of practicality. They have achieved the life-like CGI effects that are likely to bring in crowds of paying customers at the expense of any actual investment, the viewers may have. What is so confusing is that nobody even asked for hyper-realistic Disney films. Was there any part of you, the reader, that wanted a live action *Cinderella* or a live action *Beauty and The Beast*? It has become clear that in trying to incorporate future technology into these films they lose sight of what made them so great in the past. The best we can hope for is that the classics will be remembered by future generations, while the remakes will go down in history as a mere fluctuation in Disney's creative centre.

Luke Keenan



GENERATIONS

If you prefer reading a book over bingeing on Netflix, or if you would rather listen to some peaceful classical music over a good rap song, well then maybe you are not made for this generation. But that isn't a bad thing, and it doesn't mean that you don't belong here! Generations aren't a physical divide in the years, they are more like a divide in the workings of society or in the goings of everyday life. Back before the 1900s, women had very limited rights and their clothing options were awful.

I mean what were they even thinking? Just the thought of those tight corsets is painful! Reaching the 20th century, they dressed better than the previous generation and yet they still had few rights. They did, however, start to change up their outfits and they started fighting for their freedom. Nowadays our clothing is just slightly less... creative than all previous generations, but at least women have got a good few rights to work with. If you think women had it bad not being able to choose a man, imagine what it would have been like if they didn't even like men. It took us so many years to legalize gay marriage in Ireland and in a few countries, it still is not legal. Some countries wouldn't even be able to think of that concept. Anyone who was openly homosexual, was isolated by their community. This isn't much different to some people in our generation who haven't yet



accepted the LGBTQ+ movement. If you think that there is a big difference in sexual orientation and gender equality, imagine if someone like Bach went to a Sex Pistols concert in the 70s. It would certainly be a sight to behold, with Bach's huge wig bobbing in the crowd of frayed jeans and crazy dresses. His 18th century clothing wouldn't have exactly blended well into that crowd. His wig, like many others from his generation, was quite spectacular. Although I don't

think his wig was quite the same as Elton John's... I guess in our generation wigs aren't needed anymore. Take Tupac for example (rest in peace), he was not only bald, but part of a society with endemic racial inequality. He would never have been accepted into society if it weren't for people like Martin Luther King, Jr whose closest thing to a rap song was his speech 'I have a dream', which honestly sounds like it would have made a good song. A few generations before Martin Luther, King Louis XIV (albeit a different kind of king altogether) would have been watching as dancers pranced around his throne. I don't think he would have made it in a concert in the 70s. His hair was crazy enough without him dancing, now imagine if he started headbanging... Now that I think about it, his hair would be a perfect look if he were doing a guitar solo with Guns N' Roses. Despite the obvious changes between generations, we are all just people.

Even though each generation may have had different views and concepts, they have all strived in their own way to make change happen. They have all had their own problems to overcome and they have tried to make the world become a better place in the process.

Sofia Herranz Harmen

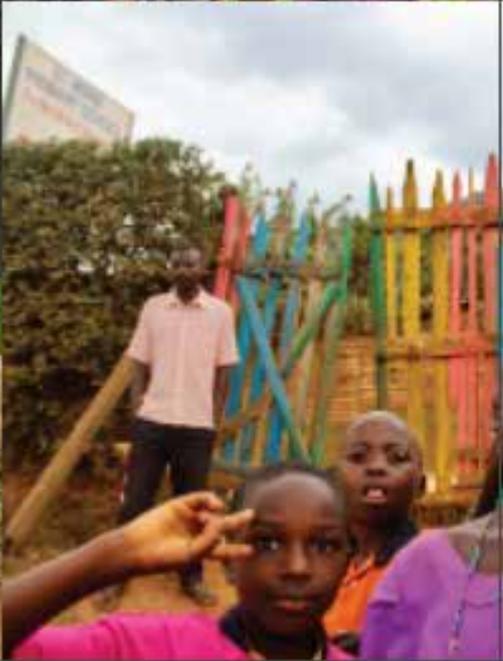
'They have tried to make the world become a better place.'





UGANDA

2019



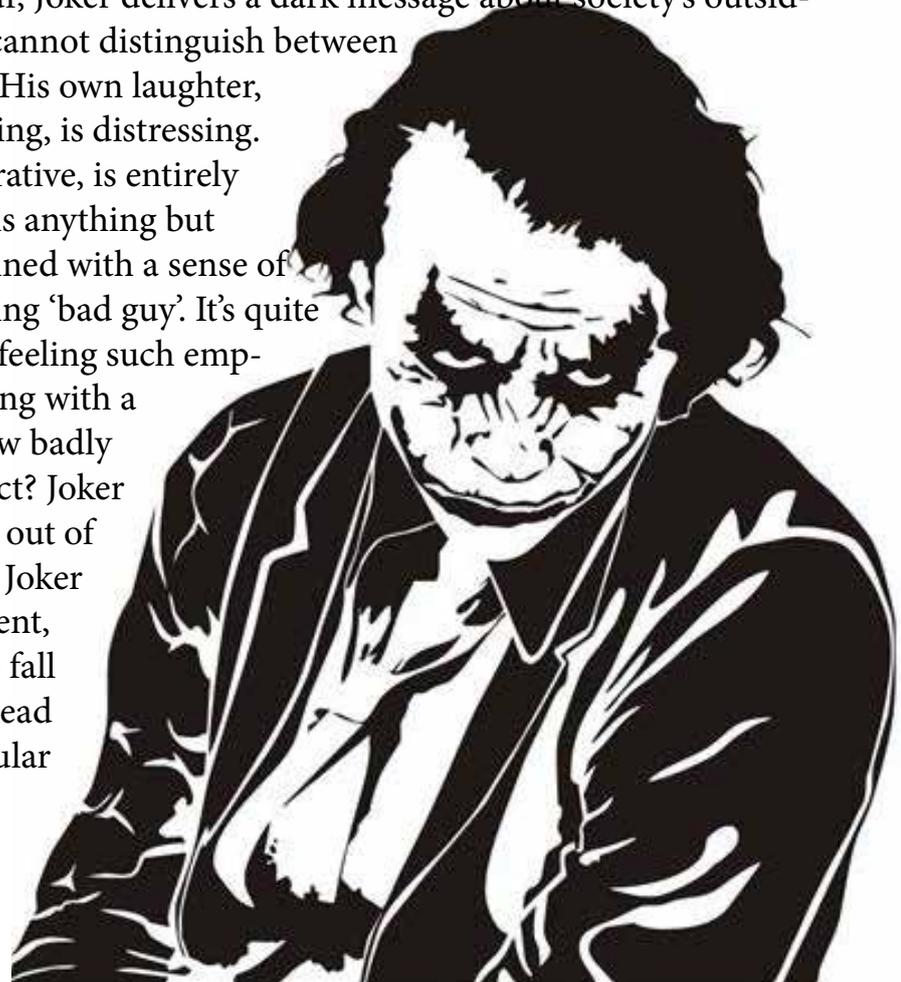




Joker: Telling light from dark

Joker, directed by Todd Phillips is the painful origin story of the 'misunderstood' comic book villain. What is right? What is wrong? And how much is actually the Joker's fault? Played by Joaquin Phoenix, the Joker seeks a connection in a society to which he doesn't belong. Instead he finds a destructive calling and, in turn, Gotham finds an anti-hero. Joker leaves us shaken and disturbed. Surprisingly full of colour, Joker delivers a dark message about society's outsiders. Desperate to be a comedian, Joker cannot distinguish between what the audience deems funny or not. His own laughter, diagnosed medically as internal screaming, is distressing. His ironic nickname and the clown narrative, is entirely disconcerting because the Joker's story is anything but funny. Appearance versus reality, combined with a sense of injustice, makes for a strangely captivating 'bad guy'. It's quite an achievement for any film to leave us feeling such empathy for a pre-established villain. Opening with a tragic beating, the question is asked, how badly can you treat somebody before they react? Joker also highlights society's ability to spiral out of one system and into another. When the Joker unintentionally starts a violent movement, we are shocked to see how easily people fall in behind him. It doesn't matter who's dead or alive, as long as the message has popular appeal.

Evie Kelly



HOUSING CRISIS DUBLIN

It is a known fact that Dublin is a thriving city. According to The Irish Times, southern Ireland is the third richest country in the European Union. They published an article in March of 2019 titled “Southern Part of Ireland Third Richest in EU but West lags behind.” That is an immeasurable achievement considering there are 28 countries in the EU. However, there are many changes that need to be made, one large one being homelessness. Another article titled “Dublin city soup kitchen founder says homeless crisis ‘like social cleansing’ caught my attention. In this article it is apparent that there are many who are in an extremely vulnerable state. Especially during our harsh winters, it is terribly difficult for those out on the streets. The feeling we get when we step into our homes after a long day of school, is something they don’t have. Why is there such a crisis in such a developed country? And how can we help?”

There are many reasons for homelessness, the top reason being our broken housing system. Unlike other countries around the world, Ireland does not have a public housing system. It is inevitable that there would be homelessness, after the housing crisis that is said not to decrease until 2023. On the other hand, personal factors also play a large role. Alcohol and drug abuse is one of the biggest reasons for homelessness in Ireland. In late 2018, The Journal released an article stating that Merchants Quay Ireland (Homeless charity that provide help for people with addiction) said that we are facing a “deepening social crisis.”

The article goes on to say that the number of

people who need help from this charity is increasing.

What can we do to help? The issue is thankfully being addressed all over the country and charities have been established for this urgent cause. Some such charities are: Focus Ireland, Peter McVerry trust and the Dublin Simon Community. Other than these, there are soup kitchens being set up. The best thing we can do is to help these charities and established organizations help more people. Although it is known, not enough is being done about it and it’s our time to help make a change. Information about this will be on the websites of the charities listed above. There is information about what is happening and the goal that these charities are striving towards, as well as information on how you can help. Make a mark and be a part of a better Ireland.

Varshika Mecheri

“Make a mark and
be a part of a
better Ireland. What
can we do to help?”

Varshika Mecheri



SPORTS

2019





STOP STEREOTYPING 1st YEARS

Let's start with a quick question: What do you think of first years? We're guessing most of you said something like: first years are a nuisance, gullible, naive and careless. They get in the way and are really annoying. Were we right? It's fairly easy to realise that first years are very different from the other years. From the way we're treated, to how we act. However not every first year is annoying!

Older years seem to have some sort of stereotype of a first year in their heads; one that is careless and runs through corridors, one that back locks their mentors and leaves a mess wherever they go. They take this prejudicial example and fail to think differently about us. We are called turtlebacks for carrying around all of our books at once, they say that our voices are annoying and that we are too pushy, we even get yelled at and chased if we're late for class and walk through the sixth year centre.

All of you were first years once upon a time. All of you have been the scared, new kids who just started secondary school. So, shouldn't we get a break? Why are we made fun of by you guys; who have all been in this situation before? You all know what it's like to try to grasp the load of information coming at you left, right and centre. There's so much to remember- from where to go, which day hockey is on, to which books are needed for each class. Although our mentors try to help us fit in, it doesn't really help when our disadvantageous label 'first years' is whispered or snickered in the halls as we rush to our next classes. Teachers have no power over this and no one warned the first years that they couldn't walk through the centre.

In conclusion, all we ask is that you think about this before you make fun of us. We are not trying to say that we are perfect and never cause trouble, because we are far from perfect, all we are saying is that you were all there once. We know it's hard to see us any differently than just the outsiders of the school because we're all new, but cut us some slack.

We all know how it feels to be new and I think we can all safely agree it would make our time here just a little bit easier if we didn't get bothered. Just sayin'.

Lili McDonald

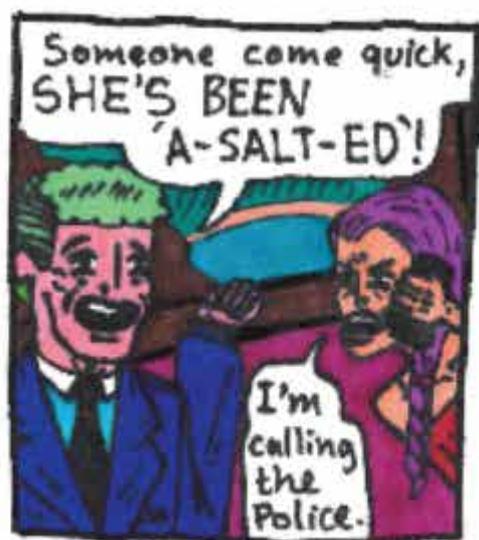
BAD PUNS

by JAGR

'TOES':



'SALT':



'ELECTRIC CHAIR':





International Night 2019





GLOBAL WARMING

“But you can start right now by being just a little more mindful. As Gandhi said “Be the change you want to see in the world.”



Page 21 : Read this article written by Ilona Plissonneau, TY, writing to encourage people to be more aware of climate change and it's consequences.



The Earth is home to millions of various species, including humans. We depend on the environment to survive, just like any other species on this planet. We need nature not only to survive, but to enjoy life. We travel to discover more of our world's beauties. However, these days we can see something happening to our environment. More violent storms strike, more powerful floods and droughts affect our agriculture. This is called climate change. Furthermore, species are dying, and our biodiversity is affected by today's environmental issues. Human pollution is a massive cause of today's climate change, more specifically global warming. We can still do something to reduce it.

Many people think of global warming and climate change as synonyms, but scientists prefer to use "climate change" when describing the complex shifts now affecting our planet's weather and climate systems. Climate change encompasses not only rising average temperatures but also extreme weather events, shifting wildlife populations and habitats, rising seas, and a range of other impacts. The average temperature of the Earth is rising at nearly twice the rate it was 50 years ago. Scientists have concluded that this rapid warming trend cannot be explained by natural cycles alone. The only way to explain the pattern is to include the effect of greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted by humans. Our mass production of everything causes gasses to be released, they build up and are trapped in the ozone layer, which doesn't allow cool air from the universe to enter the atmosphere, as the layer thickened by pollution

is too thick. This is called the Greenhouse effect. Originally, it was a good thing because it kept the Earth warm enough. However, now our Earth is heating up too much which is causing many issues.

Climate change has consequences for our oceans, weather, food and health. Ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica are melting. The extra water that was once held in glaciers is now causing sea levels to rise and floods to occur. Furthermore, this can destroy the economy of countries who can't afford to bounce back. Due to increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from human production, the world's oceans are 30% more acidic now than before the industrial revolution. The oceans play a big part in absorbing the air's acidity. They are increasingly acidifying, which is killing reefs and various fish species. Warmer temperatures also make the weather more extreme. This means more violent storms, floods and snowfalls as we are now experiencing around the world. On top of that, longer and more frequent droughts are observed. This leads to more issues regarding growing crops. The areas for land and animals to be cultivated shift and the water supplies diminish. In addition to creating new agricultural challenges, climate change can directly affect people's health. In urban areas the amount of smog has increased causing asthma, heart disease and lung cancer.

Today, the biggest contributors to global warming are China first with 28%, the USA with 15% and thirdly



India with 6%. However, the USA is the biggest contributor per person, because both China and India have over 1 billion people and provide a lot, if not most needs for the rest of the world. Human activities like the burning of fossil fuels have increased the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere by more than a third since the industrial revolution. From 1990 to 2015, China increased its coal consumption from 1.05 billion tons to 3.97 billion tons. The top 15 freight ships in the world transporting goods internationally produce more carbon emissions than all the cars in the world.

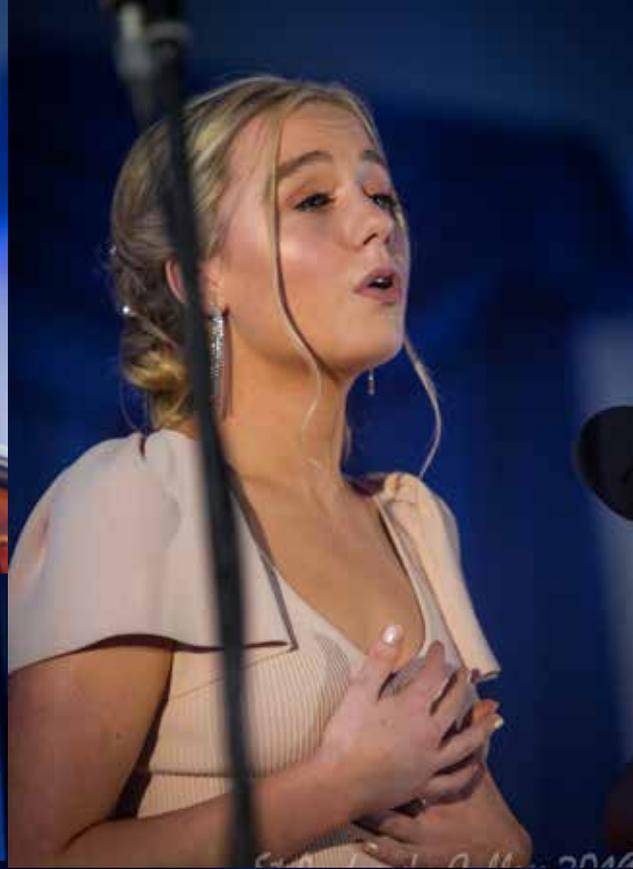
While we are the main cause for climate change, we can also confront it. Some things you can do to reduce your own carbon footprint are recycling, avoid packaging as much as possible, conserve water and drive less or carpool. These are some obvious ones, but you could go the extra mile and even plant a tree, download earth saving apps, eat less meat and spread the awareness.



Getting people educated about the Global warming issue and solutions is key to make a change. We need the big companies and governments to make a move, but you can start right now by being just a little more mindful; we all can play our part in combatting global warming. As Gandhi said “Be the change you want to see in the world”.

Ilona Plissonneau





Valedictory



Les Misérables





A photograph of two young men playing field hockey on a green artificial turf field. The player in the foreground is wearing an orange and blue jersey and blue shorts with the number 23. He is leaning forward, using his hockey stick to hit a white ball. The player behind him is wearing a black jersey and is also leaning forward, watching the play. In the background, other players in orange and black jerseys are visible, along with a goalpost. The scene is outdoors with trees in the distance.

Grapevine is a St. Andrew's College student publication
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