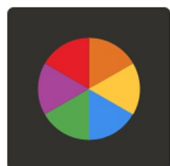




## Teams

Join or create team

Your teams



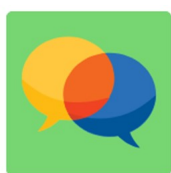
Equality and  
Diversity



Minecraft vs  
Roblox

# E-Zine 2021

Semper Iuvenis



Black Lives  
Matter



Sport

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# Headteacher's Welcome

It has been a pleasure to have an opportunity to preview this edition of the Ezine and be asked to write the introduction. Well done to all the students involved in producing it. This academic year has been an incredibly challenging one for staff and students. The enormous sadness we all felt at the passing of Mr Parker remains as well as having to continue to respond to the changing demands of COVID and the national restrictions. Reading this edition reminds me of why Aston is such a fantastic school; that given such a challenging year the school has continued to develop, to look forward and to find opportunities for you all to excel both in your



lessons but in extracurricular opportunities, House events, sport, music and drama. This commitment from all staff and students to education in the broadest sense is one of the outstanding things about the school. As my period of Interim Headship here draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the staff and students the very best for next academic year and the future. I would also like to wish Mr Brady, the new Headteacher, the very best of luck as he takes up his Headship in September.

**A Whittall - Interim Headteacher**



## Editorial

## E-Team

**Editorial:**

Malachi Thompson, Faris Khan,  
Toby Bowler, Ayyan Ahmed, Saied Dakak,  
Richard Godwill

**Design:**

Philip Organ, Adam Whittome

**Staff Editor:**

Mr McBrien



Activity



Chat



Teams



Assignments



Calendar



Files



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## Year 7 in a Lockdown

When I found out I had been offered a place at King Edward VI Aston School I was so excited about the move to secondary school and to experience the things it had to offer that I did not do in primary school. Some of these things included working in science labs and playing contact rugby as a common sport at the school. There was also a school activities trip at the end of Year 7 that I was looking forward to.

But then Covid-19 struck, and my once perfect vision of joining Year 7 at Aston was not quite what I had anticipated. There were many reasons it was different for me, for example, at the start of the year I had to wear a face mask in corridors.

This later expanded as the year went on to having to wear them everywhere in school. Before September I was really looking forward to being able to move around the school for different lessons. However, unfortunately I have to have most of my lessons in one room except for PE, Games, Design Technology, Music and Art. This can get a bit tedious at times and it would be lovely to have lessons in classrooms all over the school.

I was looking forward to using the library as I was really impressed with it on the open day. It can only be used one day a week so that we do not mix with other bubbles. Not mixing with other bubbles has impacted on other aspects of school life too. At lunchtime, for instance, we don't get the chance to meet or mix with older boys – this is a real pity as I would have liked to get to know boys in older year groups as they can be role models for us Year 7s.

I was expecting to take part in large assemblies when I started Aston but I have only ever been to 4 or 5 in-person assemblies and those were only with other Year 7 boys. There has been no occasion at all when the whole school has come together.

I travel to school on The Green Bus which has not been as expected because we have allocated seats and we are not supposed to talk.

Another thing I have missed out on was clubs at the school - this was one of the things I was really looking forward to at the school because there were so many opportunities for me to get involved. However, due to Covid-19 there have been no lunchtime clubs offered.

Obviously one of the biggest impacts that Covid-19 has had on school life this year has been having to self-isolate and total lockdown again in January. In the first term I had to isolate a total of 3 times altogether due to Covid cases in my year group or on the school bus. Learning from home was something that I had to get used to very quickly but once I learnt how to use Microsoft Teams it became easy, although I had to be very disciplined to focus on my school work and not be distracted at home.

I am optimistic for Year 8, now more people are being vaccinated and infection rates are decreasing. This will hopefully lead to less mask wearing and more clubs opening up in the school. It would also be great next year if we can go on some school trips. I am hopeful that there won't be another total lockdown again.

Having said all of this, it has still been an amazing year in this school so far - just not what I had imagined! **Toby Bowler - Year 7**



Apps



Help



Activity



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Files



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RP

R Pierce Chat Files Organisation Activity

# Miss Pierce

Yesterday

How different have you found the prospect of online learning, compared to face-to-face learning?

RP

The two are hardly comparable as there is so much that is lost through the lack of interactions within the classroom and around the school site. Teaching successfully is based so much upon responding to students in the classroom and this is often through non-verbal signs, things that are incredibly difficult to simulate through online learning.

The similarities though, have been with the determination of teachers to continue delivering the curriculum and to ensure that all of their students are making progress.



If there is one feature you can add to Teams, what would it be?

RP

In my opinion there needs to be additional functionality for the 'Assignments' aspects of Teams. It would be great if your assignments could be allocated to different categories e.g. classwork, homework, test etc. The ability for you to be able to filter and sort your assignments by these categories would, I think, make the assignments far easier to navigate for all students. It would also be useful if assignment due dates showed up on your calendars to help with managing deadlines.

What has been the most difficult aspect of organising online learning?

RP

The most challenging yet rewarding aspect has been the different starting points of all members of the school community with their levels of technological ability and access to technology. It has been challenging to organise training sessions for staff and students that meet everyone's requirements. The determination of everyone to learn and progress with their skills has been impressive. Teachers have also been working together to support each other, and it has been great that a range of departments have been able to support students in their development of the use of Teams and OneNote.

Type a new message



Apps



Help



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Yesterday

Do you view online learning as an area with prospects? Could the future of education include a more online approach?

RP Face to face teaching can never be replaced, and we are all valuing those daily interactions that were missed so much during the period of school closure, however there are aspects of the remote learning that I think will stay. Teams and OneNote offer excellent support for students and teachers in organising and managing work and I think both of these will continue to be used. I am planning to keep using OneNote for my students to submit their work and for me to mark it, for example. The new staff laptops also give teachers more flexibility in their teaching, whether that be through the wireless connection to the boards in rooms, or being able to easily write on their PowerPoints with a stylus, and then to save their annotations and share them with their classes.

How has the motivation of students towards online learning compared to the norm?

RP From the student surveys we conducted we found that overall the engagement of students at this school was really high, comparable to that during normal in school teaching. There were students who were not overly engaged with their online learning, but let's face it, during normal term time not all students are fully engaged with their learning all of the time! I am really proud of everyone's determination to succeed in their learning and progress during this time and credit should go to both students and staff in achieving the high levels of engagement.

What has been the funniest moment in terms of organising online learning, for yourself?

RP I have really enjoyed teachers coming and sharing their remote teaching funny moments with me, whether that be Mrs Weissmann-Hubbard telling off her son on screen (while muted) and receiving words of support from her class, Miss Carter's class guessing how much her roof repair quote was going to be, or Mrs Linford's cats making regular appearances. During the last few months I have been in lots of online meetings and inevitably there are the moments that happen on a regular basis, to Mr Downing - 'you're muted,' to Mrs. Whittall - 'you're frozen,' and to many many people, 'Have you got your hand up, or is it still up from before?,' these will continue to happen over the next few weeks and months and each time just adds to the amusement.

Type a new message

- Apps
- Help

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Yesterday

How have issues with security and privacy impacted the school's endeavours with online learning?

RP Initially we were wary of enabling students to use their cameras in lessons, however the issues associated with this were soon overcome. We then conducted a few trials with classes and as a whole the groups were unwilling to use their cameras, so we did not roll out this approach on a larger scale. We have not had any issues with security, and I suppose the only real issues with privacy have been for your parents and siblings having to listen to your Maths, Mandarin or Music lessons being beamed throughout your homes.

What has been your most memorable moment in organising online learning?

RP There have been many. From the staff perspective it has been when your teachers have achieved something new with the technology and have come to share that success with me, from live streaming an in-school lesson to students isolating at home, to others who used the stylus on their laptop to give feedback to students in their marking. I will never forget Mrs Leah wheeling a bank of laptops up to the top courts to issue to Year 13 as they were being sent home to isolate. Overall we have issued over 100 laptops to families which has been incredible, but the image of Mrs Leah looking like she was selling a stack of laptops is one that will stay with me. Not linked to learning, but to online events, was the organisation of Mr Parker's celebration assembly that was streamed throughout the school. This was an experience that I will never forget, and I hope that everyone in the school community was able to share that moment together through the technology.

**Interview by Saied Dakak**



Type a new message

- Apps
- Help

# Introducing Basic HTML

Hypertext Mark-up Language (also known as HTML) is a type of coding that was initially released in 1993. To this day, many people use HTML in their jobs or to update their website. Some people use it just for fun because it is really easy to learn. Hopefully, once you have read this tutorial you will have an understanding of the basics of HTML.

Before starting you will need to have notepad++, this is a text and source code editor and can be downloaded for free.

The first things you need to be aware of are the "head" and "body". You put your coding between these. The head is not seen as it is to add external files. Although what you put in the body section is what you will see. The first piece of coding that you MUST always enter is the "head" and "body" like so:



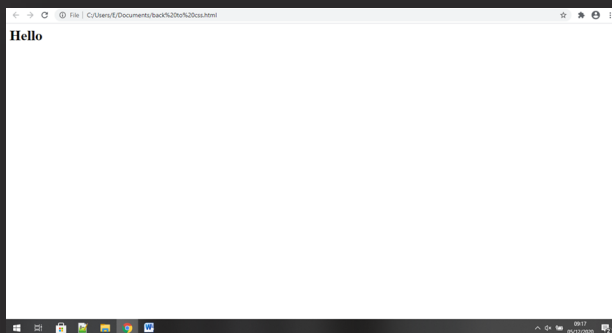
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*C:\Users\E\Documents\back to css.html - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
fomite code html.html x SoftCam.Key x oscam.server x oscam.conf x back to css.html x new 1 x
1 <head>
2 <body>
3
4 </body>
5 </head>
```

As you can see I have the head first then the body. I have then left a line and put in the close BODY FIRST and the closing the head. To open something is means whatever you put in it will be seen but then something you open must be closed, your text will go in the gap. To open something you type "<body>" then to close it you type "</body>" you may have noticed I have to use / to close it:

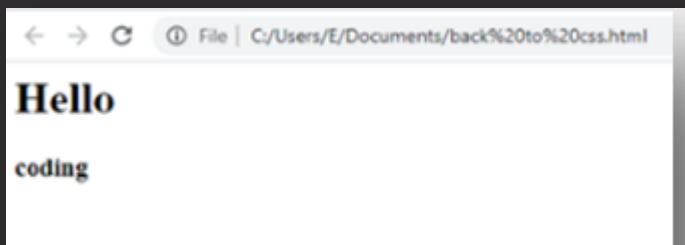
Next, we are going to type the word 'Hello'. So as I have already said we must put it in the gap that we left. When we write text we must use the open and close method this goes with everything but this time to open we will use <h1> and to close we will use </h1> then just but hello in the middle like so:

```
C:\Users\E\Documents\back to css.html - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
fomite code html.html x SoftCam.Key x oscam.server x oscam.conf x back to css.html x new 1 x
1 <head>
2 <body>
3 <h1>Hello</h1>
4 </body>
5 </head>
```

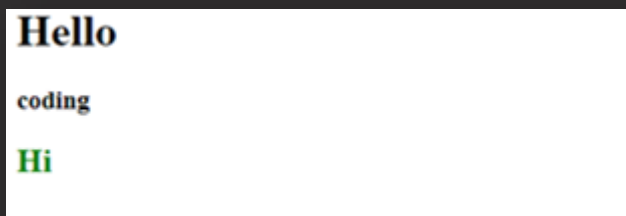
Now you may be wondering, how do I see a hello? To do this you will need to save your work and put ".html" at the end like "hello.html". Once you have done that simply go to the folder and then open your saved work. This will take you to a chrome page with your "hello" on there.



You have now managed to code the word "Hello" and it is as easy to learn as that. In the coding above we included `<h1>`. The "1" means large text. You can go from 1-6. 1 being the largest and 6 being the smallest. If you want a regular text size you will use `h3`. Now we will try saying coding in a normal text `<h3>`. Don't forget to close your code!



The next thing that is good to know is how to change the colour of your text. To do this you type "`<h2><font color='Green'>Hi</font></h2>`"



Now you know how to enter text and change its colour and font size you can take it to the next steps using a website.

**Eashan Sander - Year 7**

*Why not have a go:*

[www.notepad-plus-plus.org](http://www.notepad-plus-plus.org)



It is no secret that the lockdown inflicted by COVID-19 has taken a genuine toll on the mental health of society. Our inability to reach out to those who usually surround us daily, our isolation from the rest of the world, and our constant need to persevere with our daily duties whilst adjusting to this strange, new world, can easily leave us feeling as though we lack orientation. That said, the coronavirus pandemic has without a doubt also left a positive impact on our society. It has given us a stronger appreciation for the concept of community and has gifted us with a much more intense connection to our mental and emotional states – things that we would usually take for granted whilst living our fast-paced and “normal” lives.

According to “mind” (a mental health charity), during lockdown, more than half of adults and over two thirds of young people said that their mental health had worsened during the period of lockdown restrictions, from early April to mid-May. Loneliness has been a key contributor to poor mental health, and these feelings have caused nearly two thirds of people’s mental health to worsen during this time period, with 18–24-year-olds the most likely to see loneliness affect their mental health. Unfortunately, many people do not feel entitled to seek help, and may feel as though they do not need or deserve it. 1 in 3 adults and more than 1 in 4 young people did not access support during lockdown because they believed they did not deserve it. 25% of adults and young people who tried to access support were unable to do so, with one of the main barriers contributing to this issue being the inability or lack of comfort in using video technology to access means of support.

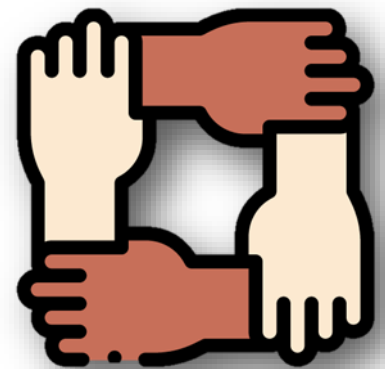


The major issue that arises from these problems with our mental health, is that a rising percentage of people have reported increased usage of alcohol and drugs as a self-help mechanism and as a defence strategy against seeking assistance. This only exacerbates the issue and has left many people facing substance abuse and addiction, and an increasingly negative state of emotional health. Insomnia and anxiety are also amongst the now more common reports of issues arising due to the instability of mental health, and these problems interfere in the lives of individuals, and make this already difficult and stressful period of time, even more of a struggle.

However, we must remember that happiness itself, is just a comparative emotion. The measure of happiness a person feels is judged against the measure of sadness that person felt in the past. Without sadness, happiness has no meaning, and ironically, the fear of emotional sadness often restricts a person's ability to experience the elevated heights of happiness. Although lockdown has left us burdened with several negative impacts on our mental states, overall, society has begun to appreciate the meaning of community, and we have started to actually show gratitude towards those who we would often simply expect to be there for us naturally. A key philosophical idea regarding life, is that the darker one's sadness proves to be, the brighter the happiness experienced afterwards, and as we navigate through this seemingly never-ending period of social isolation, we begin to reflect about our feelings more often and we feel a greater sense of responsibility towards our psychological state.



## Mental Health in Lockdown





Our communities are so valuable. Having a system of individuals where one may feel comfortable and supported is honestly very underrated in my opinion, and as we continue our journey through this dark tunnel of lockdown, we are starting to see the glimpse of light that is community. However, we must remember that we have a responsibility towards one another as we continue this journey. We often aren't aware of the inner turmoil others are currently experiencing, and this life of isolation makes us feel as though the only person in our lives, is ourselves. This narrows our perception of others and may lead us to overlooking the mental states of other people as we strive to stabilise our own. But we need to provide a leaning shoulder for those who may need it, and a caring ear for those whose feelings are trapped within them.

If there is one thing that I have learnt from this lockdown, it is that we tend to overlook our inner states and compromise them in order to get ahead. However, this constant repression and negligence of our psyche only pulls us back further, and forms of a bubble of stress, isolation and helplessness, that only the warmth of support and our presence for one another, can break.

**Saied Dakak - Year 11**

# Lockdown Pastimes

*"I spent a lot of time with my friends on FaceTime playing games so it has been ok. I really like playing Minecraft as it is an open ended game with no limits. Nothing has really changed for me in the lockdown apart from the way you interact with people is through a screen. I didn't watch much TV or read any books".*

**- Parameth Yingchankul**

*"I played lots of challenging video games, I really liked an older game called 'The Last of Us' as I got to play more experienced players who you don't need to talk to. I also like 'Super Smash Bros' on Nintendo Switch as it involves a lot of techniques. At the start of the lockdown I got really into the Marvel Series and watched one movie a day. I enjoyed reading Sherlock Holmes".*

**- Azam Khan**

*"I watched a lot of TV, I would keep Netflix on pause and press play during my 10 minute breaks in the school day. I particularly enjoyed 'Afterlife' and 'The Assassination of Gianni Versace'. I tried reading books but didn't get that far. That said, I read a lot of online magazines and kept up on Pop Culture. I also kept myself informed of the Black Lives Matter movement as events unfolded around the world".*

**-Cameron Dews**



**"My teacher told me to read for an hour a day.  
Do Facebook and text messages count?"**

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

## Black Lives Matter

2020 was not only a year of social distancing and self-isolating but also of a social coming together to make a stand for equality. Mass protests for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement took place, after the murder of George Floyd – an African American killed during an arrest after it was alleged he had used a counterfeit \$20 bill in Minneapolis. There was mass outrage at the unnecessary violence displayed by the responders to restrain Floyd with three cops on his back with one of them kneeling on his neck. For eight minutes and forty-six seconds George Floyd was restrained in this position and this resulted in his avoidable death.

George Floyd's death led to protests on the streets of Minneapolis and the phrase "I CAN'T BREATHE" quickly spread throughout the world. A rallying call to take a stand against the racial injustices so evident on our planet, so profound not even a pandemic could not halt it. Although it seems irrefutable that justice should be served to uphold the rights we have, so a person is not to be profiled or targeted because of race, the protests were still criticized for being too brazen. Such a simple thing showing the need for protests to occur so change can happen. While the Black Lives Matter movement came to prominence with the death of George Floyd, the hash tag #BlackLivesMatter has been around since 2013 in relation to the acquittal of George Zimmerman and the lethal shooting of Trayvon Martin (an African-American). BLM is not only about one person or one victim of a flawed system, it is also not just an American issue as the 2011 riots across the UK after the death of Mark Duggan highlighted. So, without a provocative reason for change how can we expect those in charge to listen and do something about it?

Even though the BLM voice has been heard, more is needed yet. We are seeing slight changes across the board. In a response to the protests condemning police brutality, the Las Vegas Police Department applied a psychology-informed "hands off" policy for officers involved in foot chases, the use of force dropped by 23%; in Seattle officers trained in a "procedural justice" intervention designed in part by psychologists, which reduced the amount of force used by 40%. In the UK, we have witnessed the rise of 'No Room for Racism' in English football with kneeling before kickoff to signify the solidarity. The English football leagues have also sought to incorporate minorities into higher managerial opportunities. There have been rises in the amount of people buying from black owned businesses with the incorporated Black Pound Day. While it not be so much police brutality related, we have seen an increased awareness into the violence with more news coverage and investigations into cases, which is better than nothing being done. So we are seeing slight changes, they aren't enough to prevent the excessive violence shown, as police violence is still a major issue across the world, and people will continue to be abused and killed based on the colour of their skin.



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Regardless of the response to the death of George Floyd and others who were victims of police brutality in 2020, the racial disparity in police killings continued to increase. "Data shows that from January 1 to May 25 of 2020, black people were approximately three times more likely than white people to be killed by police; from May 26 to August 31, they were about 3.3 times more likely" (in the US only). Though police brutality may get more coverage it is not to say that it isn't as prevalent in the UK with the "Met Police 'four times more likely' to use force on black people" than other races. "The Met used force 159,000 times in 2019-20, with more than a third of cases involving black people". Most recently we have seen news coverage of Mohamud Hassan, who died after being released from custody, after it was revealed prior to his release while being held in custody, he came into contact with more than 50 police officers. Demands have been made that the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), who have been investigating the South Wales police over their conduct to share evidence with the family of Hassan. From 10pm to 08:30am 52 officers came into contact with Hassan while he was in custody with allegations of excessive force used with no more information being shared with the family. Such cases as these in light of the mass protests against police brutality show that our voices cannot go silent yet and we must continue to call for justice in the judicial system.

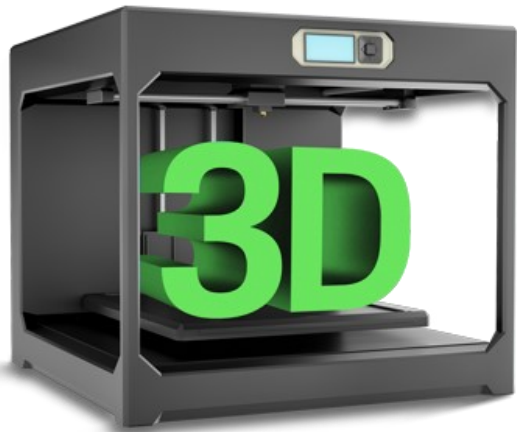


However, change must not only occur in the judicial system but further into the institutions, we have to realize black lives mattering is not just in the case of the eyes of the enforcers of law. Black lives matter is not only about police brutality but racism as a whole. Hence the need for initiatives such as those the English football leagues have brought in, because racism can affect anyone anywhere, being sports athletes, politicians, or people like you and me. In a world where we are so torn and there seems to be minimal cohesion, we see black football players being racially abused online for one bad performance and being called "monkey" among other demeaning slurs. Therefore, diversity is needed in the institutions to integrate people of colour into higher institutional positions so change can occur from the pinnacle creating a flow of change gaining speed and substance as it moves down the ladder, and maybe one day there will be a world without racial prejudices. We must not forget that black people are not the only victim of prejudice but other minorities are as well, everyone deserves equality.

**Malachi Thompson - Year 12**

- Apps
- Help





# 3D Printing

While the concept of a 3D printer has been around since the 1950s it wasn't until the early 1980s that Charles Hull of 3D Systems Corporation filed a patent for a 'stereolithography fabrication system'. Hull was an inventor and at the time was employed in a company dedicated to manufacturing UV lamps into plastic layers, so they easily be placed on different surfaces around the house.

Hull had the idea of using the UV light to turn computer generated design into 3D objects. He worked tirelessly until he discovered photopolymers; an acrylic based medium that hardens when exposed to UV light. He then began building a machine that had a concentrated UV laser embedded into it that would follow a generated pattern and harden the acrylic exposed to the laser. These produced thin layers of hardened photopolymers that could then be stacked to produce 3D models. The process of using digital data for produce layers that can then create a tangible 3D object is called stereolithography and to this date is one of the most common methods of 3D printing.

## First successful bioprinting project

In 1999, an institution called the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine used bio ink; a special ink made compatible with the 3D printer made from the patient's own cells, instead of a photopolymer to print a thin layer of living cells. Once a base scaffold of the patient's bladder had been produced, the scientists then coated it with cells from the patient to produce completely synthesised yet living tissue. This completely 3D printed bladder was then implanted with no rejection. The process of bioprinting poses no real threat to rejection as the implants are produced completely by the body's own cells.

## The answer to heart failure?

The heart is notoriously one of the hardest organs to print and has posed a tough challenge for researchers around the globe due to the sheer complexity of the blood vessels involved. The intricacy of the smallest vessels and mechanisms by which blood flow is seamlessly regulated is near impossible to recreate. The closest we have gotten is a team of Israeli researchers who printed a cherry sized heart. This organ contained cells, blood vessels, ventricles and heart chambers; all features that had never successfully been printed before. The heart was synthesised by a hydrogel developed by collecting cells from the patient's fatty tissue to prevent chances of rejection. While this is a huge step for the industry the 3D printed heart was unable to replicate the synchronised contractions of the human heart. Another issue raised was the ability to scale up the model. Scaling up would make the model less accurate and the synthesised vessels would not be able to regulate the blood flow of an average human.



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### The cure for blindness?

An estimated 10 million people suffer from corneal blindness and require surgery, with 4.9 million people suffering from complete blindness due to scarring of the cornea as a result of a lack of treatment. However, there may be a solution.

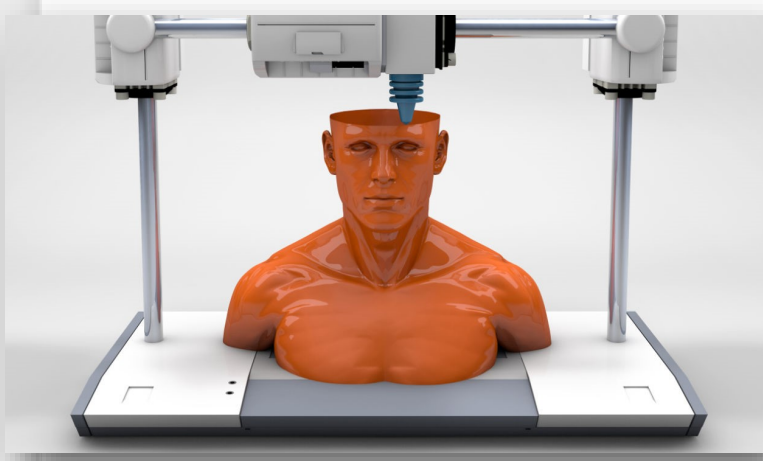
In 2018, researchers from the University of Newcastle developed a 3D printed cornea with complete functionality. The dimensions of the artificial cornea were taken from a donor which was then scanned, and the data used to print a matching cornea with the identical shape and size. The process was quick and took less than 10 minutes from scan to the finished printed cornea. The researchers hope to reduce the need for cornea donors and acknowledge the technology is years away from being available to the public. This is due to the heavy regulations and testing which is needed to determine whether the prints are completely safe.



### Bio printed skin

The market for bio printed skin is expected to grow from 24.7 billion dollars in 2018 to 109.9 billion dollars in 2023. A French company, Poietis, has developed 4D printed skin which can hopefully be used for victims of burns and skin diseases. This would benefit millions around the globe, helping burn victims or soldiers in the army with heavy wounds. This 3D printed skin has other great benefits too. It has been taken out of the medical field and large beauty and skincare companies like Pantene are using this synthetic skin to test their products. This gives more accurate results than their usual method of testing and eradicates the need for animal testing.

Many of these 3D printed organs can be used for drug testing and the specificity of the tailored organs has given rise to personal medicine. Many pharmaceutical companies are testing these patient specific models to synthesise custom pills/tablets tailored to the needs and reactions of the patient's specific body. Again, due to strict FDA regulations this technology is still in the testing stage and is yet to become accessible on a large worldwide scale.



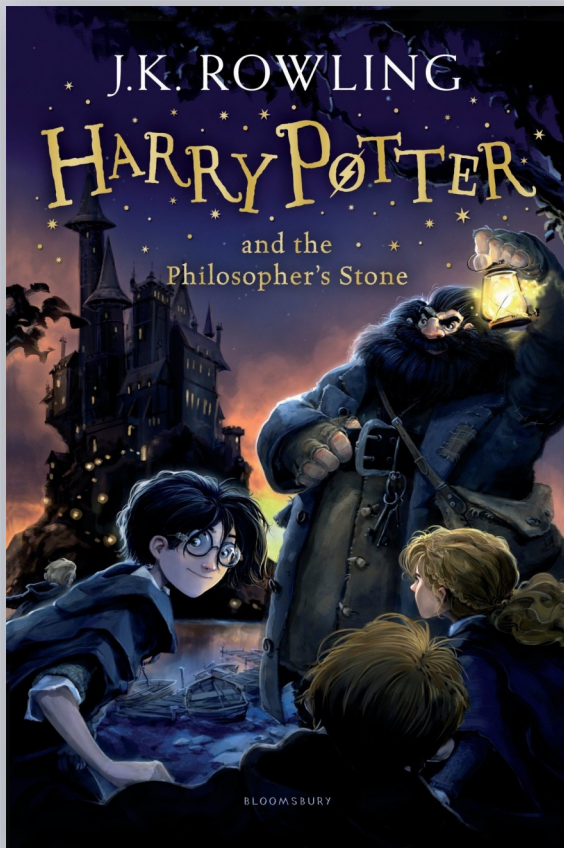
While many of these things seem like a distant fantasy, the rapid advances of technology and larger groups of researchers could mean we can expect to see these projects become available in our local hospitals in the not so distant future. The short waiting time, guaranteed acceptance and customisability, will hopefully make things like organ transfer waiting lists, blindness, skin conditions and paralysis a thing of the past.

**Hammad Khan - Year 12**



# Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone is the first book by the author JK Rowling and it was published in 1997. It is a story about a boy called Harry Potter who is raised by his aunt and uncle after his parents died. They treat him really badly and even make him live in a tiny closet under the staircase. When he finally realises that he is actually a Wizard, Harry ends up going to a magic school called Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and learns the skills of magic.



After a lifetime of bottling up his magical powers, Harry finally feels like a normal kid. But even within the Wizarding community, he is seen as special. This is because he is the only person to have ever survived a killing curse inflicted by the evil Lord Voldemort who launched a brutal takeover of the Wizarding world, only to vanish after failing to kill Harry.

Though Harry's first year at Hogwarts is the best of his life, not everything is quite as it seems. There is something dangerous hidden within the walls of the castle, and Harry has to stop it from falling into evil hands. But doing so will bring him into contact with forces more terrifying than he ever could have imagined.

The book has lots of interesting characters and exciting situations all set in a magical world. I would recommend you read this book and then if you like it, you will end up wanting to read the rest of the Harry Potter series.

**Hashim Khan - Year 8**



*"A writer only begins a book. A reader finishes it." - Samuel Johnson*





Activity



Chat



Teams



Assignments



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# My Music Passion

Hello, my name is Richard Godwill and I am thirteen years old. From the age of six music really intrigued me, I found it so interesting! I was so fascinated by it so at the age of seven, I started to play the piano. Starting the piano was honestly quite hard, I had to learn notes chords and keys and quite frankly I felt like giving up. But my parents supported and encouraged me every step of the way. My parents actually were the ones who wanted me to start playing the piano originally, although I liked music at the time, I didn't think I'd have to play it. But I'm thankful they did make me learn the piano because nowadays people pay me to play for them. One fun fact is that the piano is the only instrument you look directly at the notes you're playing. Furthermore, learning the piano is also believed to make learning other instruments less difficult, which in my opinion, is 100% true.

By the age of eight, I found more instruments fun such as the drums and guitar (which is what I'm learning to play now). I always found the drums interesting, but it wasn't until the age 10 I started to give it a go. Now, aged 13, I can play the drums quite fluently. I never really did have school lessons because sometimes I wouldn't really understand the notes and beats etc. But in King Edwards Aston I started my guitar lessons which were honestly, a huge success, currently I'm on a Grade 1 but slowly I'll be able to reach that top grade. The reason why I wanted to play the guitar, was because I thought it was a rather cool instrument, I'd normally see band leaders playing the guitar and that sort of surprised me. As usual, starting something new could be quite challenging at first but the more you practice the more you get used to it. Another instrument I find quite cool is the trumpet, and although most people might not see the use in a trumpet it's a great instrument. There are many reasons why you could play the trumpet: it is small and easy to carry, you don't need much to play it, just a mouthpiece, the horn, and yourself, as opposed to an electric guitar which needs amps and a power cord. Trumpets



are also sturdy and surprisingly they can improve your fitness and health. Playing the Trumpet requires your full lung capacity and is one of the most important skills when playing a brass instrument.

In conclusion, there are multiple instruments you yourself could have a go at. You could play them because it's just fun or for a more educational purpose. Learning a musical instrument not only sustains and feeds the brain, but it also improves so many other cognitive and physical aspects of the human body. Studies prove that learning a musical instrument improves memory; it not only improves your mental memory but also muscle memory as well. Lastly, I'd also like to use this opportunity to say thank you Aston for really helping me with my music education and passion. **Richard Godwill – Year 8**

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### The Beginning of Minecraft

In 2009, Minecraft was created by Markus Persson, also known as Notch and it was originally called Cave Game. This game was different than other online games where you create things because instead of simply creating structures, you also have to gather resources to build those structures. This mix was unusual because most games at the time usually only had the player gather resources and not build or they had the player build but not gather resources. As well as this, Minecraft was also a survival game. You have to survive hostile mobs and can explore the vast world. You can also use your resources to craft new materials that you can use to create structures, these can help survive longer and you can then craft even more materials.



### Microsoft Arrives

In 2014, Microsoft bought Minecraft from Markus Person for \$2.5 billion. Many people were sad and outraged that Minecraft was no longer in its original owner's hands, and many worried that Microsoft would ruin the game. However, people soon realised that the changes made were not drastic and that the game would keep its original feel.



### Speedruns

YouTuber, 'Dream' has created a new Minecraft 1.15 Speedrun World Record and he completed in just 22 Minutes and 6.9 Seconds. It seems Minecraft fans and Roblox fans don't always get along. They tend to think their game of choice is better than the other, and they are stubborn about it at times. Today we'll look at how the games do in a match-up against each other.



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## Roblox

Roblox doesn't have the same awe-inspiring romantic fairytale background. That said, a lot of effort and time went into creating this game. The earliest development of it goes right back to the 1990s, but it wasn't until much later that it was released as Roblox. The two creators were called David Baszucki and Erik Cassel and on April 6th, 2006, they released Roblox, formerly called Dynablox, to the public. By November the game had 1,000 signed up players. In December that grew to 10,000 users, and within a year that number was 100,000 users.

## Minecraft Vs Roblox

If you look at lists of games with the most active monthly players you'll find that Minecraft has around 91 million active monthly players. Just so you know, it was fourth on the list. In front of Minecraft were League of Legends, Pokemon Go and way out in front, PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds. Which game was right behind Minecraft? Yep, it was Roblox which today is said to have around 90 million active

monthly players. In this respect, we could call the games neck-and-neck. Minecraft can take one of the biggest accolades in gaming, though, because it's the best selling game of all time. It's said to have sold over 176,000,000 copies. Roblox is different in this respect as it's completely free. That doesn't mean it doesn't make any money of course. In Roblox, you can purchase virtual currency for in-game upgrades or accessories for avatars. People can also buy a "Builders Club" membership, and that offers special privileges such as getting your hands on premium items for better avatars, getting rid of advertisements, and getting an item trading system.

## Which Game is Better?

As for which game is better, well, as we said at the start both games have their fans. You could say that Minecraft is better for lonesome virtual adventurers who enjoy going on their way. Minecraft has multiplayer options, but Roblox was designed to be a social game. The social environment could be seen as a personality building exercise for players, although parents have raised concerns because a lot of strange stuff has been created in the game which you could say is not child friendly. So, in terms of social aspects and learning coding, you'd have to say Roblox is the game of choice. If you're a parent, you'll just have to take Roblox's word for it that its human moderators are policing the game and they will keep it child-friendly. While Minecraft might miss that social element, for the most part, some kids just aren't social creatures and as creatives, they can succeed in this game. They can be the masters of their domain, builders of worlds, rulers of virtual kingdoms, and that in itself is a great thing. It depends on what kids want to do, but we think both games can provide a great educational experience.

Both games can promote collaboration, problem-solving, mathematical skills, thinking and reasoning. Both games promote creativity. So yes, we won't tell you which we think is the better game in this respect. It all depends on what you prefer.

## Aamish Bhatti & Mohamed Nur - Year 7



# STUDENT COUNCIL

SPEAK OUT BE HEARD MAKE A CHANGE

The student council of 2020-2021 took over on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, when I was elected alongside Muhammad Suleman to represent the students as Chair and Deputy, respectively. The first few months of school were challenging for the student council as whole year groups were in and out of school unexpectedly, and it proved difficult to represent the council effectively. Nonetheless, we took inspiration from the school teaching system, and we began to move most of our council activities online. The primary aim of the council as of this moment, is to find creative solutions to abstract problems.

Seemingly arbitrarily – to the absolute devastation of the staff and student body alike - our beloved head teacher Mr Parker passed away in the early part of the year. Consequently, our primary response was to focus on his passing and offer support alongside the Senior Leadership Team. Mr Parker was always very involved with the Student Council, and we felt we should reciprocate the attention Mr Parker gave us as students by remembering him and mourning his death in the most memorable way possible.

Henceforth, our first fundraising day was in remembrance of Mr Parker, as he wanted a fundraising day to be dedicated to our local foodbank – Aston and Nechells Food Bank, reflecting Mr Parker's pursuing interest in the community. Additionally, the council created videos, played in every form which announced a challenge. If we reached the target of £2,300 by the end of the fundraising day, we would have a fundraising day as a reward, which only incentivised more students to donate.



This year we managed to break records and raised a sum of £2,620; a greater amount raised than any previous fundraising day in Aston history. In the later stages of the year, we also wish to support British Heart Foundation in Mr Parker's name. What hasn't been considered previously but has come to light with virtual collections is that, online, we can share the link everywhere. Your friends, your family, Old Boys, teachers, there are no boundaries, and that takes a fraction of reason as to why online charity days are so successful. Don't forget to send that link out!

In November, the PE department sought input from the council on how best to improve our PE kit. The somewhat dated white shorts we've all worn running around on the courts and the sports hall are out; the council has invited ideas of new items of kit we can see being used and welcomed appreciatively. By the next year, the PE department will take on board our collective research and hopefully we will see a new addition to our kit.



For World Book Day in March, we collaborated with the English department and looked for creative ways to reinforce the message of reading. Together, we set up a "dress up challenge" where students and teachers dress up as a character from a book, and the winner of the competition after being judged by a panel of teachers, took home a £10 console voucher. Simultaneously, we hosted other challenges such as a two-stage quiz with fun fact related questions on popular books, series and won another student a prize for their exceptional knowledge on books and authors. In the future, perhaps even next world book day, we may see famous actor and poet Benjamin Zephaniah come to our school to talk about reading and some of his works, fulfilling his and the schools combined passion for education.

Over the course of its time, the council has also responded to a myriad of smaller issues across year groups. We pride ourselves on, first and foremost, existing as a voice for the student body. Thus, any complaint, as insignificant as it may appear, will be acknowledged, and solved to the best of our ability. We responded to radiators being on at high temperatures and distracting students from concentrating in class and we also responded to criticisms about water fountains being turned off during lunchtime, both of which were addressed promptly.

There remains a lot of plans still in the works, and we hope we can make several significant improvements to our school, for you, in our remaining time as representatives.

### **Safwan Jamil – Chair of the Student Council**

Please visit - [www.bhf.org.uk](http://www.bhf.org.uk)



I have been volunteering for this charity as a 'Check in and Chat' volunteer since March 2020 when the pandemic began. My role involves supporting individuals from all ages and backgrounds who are vulnerable or shielding and at risk of loneliness because of self-isolation.

This has been a hugely rewarding experience for me; giving someone who is lonely some company and making them feel better to help them get through their day. This experience has also been good for my own well-being and something that I can be proud of upon reflection on my contribution to helping the nation during these times.

The Royal Voluntary Service was first founded during the outbreak of WW2 when a million women stepped forward to help those in need. It is great to see that human compassion comes to the fore at times of national crisis.

To find out more, please visit the following website:

[www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/news-and-events/news/major-call-for-volunteers-to-help-nhs-fight-coronavirus](http://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/news-and-events/news/major-call-for-volunteers-to-help-nhs-fight-coronavirus)

**T Noreen**





# Sports vs Covid

The return to school life in September 2020 came with its problems (and solutions) due to the effects of Covid-19. Following the national lockdown in March 2020, schools had to quickly adapt to the way they educate their students. This has undoubtedly been a challenge for teachers who have had to learn how to deliver lessons remotely as well as for students who favour the in-person teaching and the social aspect of school. That said, we have adapted and it is almost expected that online lessons will be a feature in our generation's education for the foreseeable future and we have to make the most of it so our education isn't disrupted exponentially.

Within the Aston community, Covid has had a massive impact on the way in which we socialise. Sport has always been an important way to mix with other classes and year groups through Games or PE lessons. Take for example, rugby games lessons from Year 11 upwards; these lessons are a mix of Year 11 and Sixth Form. Due to the school being split into bubbles they have not been able to take place and training has been restricted to one year group. There have not been any matches this year which is a real shame as they are normally a large part of sports at Aston, especially the fixtures against other schools within the King Edward Foundation. The fact Games has been training with a lack of matches has been annoying for the participants and possibly for the staff as well who would normally enjoy the thrill of games and getting the one up on the opposition staff.

The intensity of sports for many people is a release of stress that they might be experiencing academically yet because of Covid this is not the same. For example, because of Covid contact in rugby has not been prevalent because of Covid regulations where it has been restricted to reduce transmission. Because a common outlet has been removed it may affect peoples mental health, as not only their social life has been disrupted but also the way they may deal with their stress.



For the time being at least, it seems Covid is winning the battle against sports. On a wider scale the pandemic has led to large sporting events being postponed. The most notable being the 2020 Olympics that were due to be held in Tokyo and the 2020 Euros, both of which have now been postponed until 2021. This will have had a serious impact on the professional athletes who would have prepared both mentally and physically, the impact on their mental health will have been significant. Some of those who may have been participating may miss out in 2021 due to injuries or not having as good a year as they may have had previously. For others the change in the year may work to their advantage, such is the element of chance in sport.

Therefore, not only has Covid affected schools like Aston but has had large effect on sports and those involved in it all around the world. But like students have done on the academic side is to adapt to the current situation and make the most out of what we are able to do under current and future regulations. Yet if any one is struggling with the their mental health as a result of what is happening because of the effects Covid has had on you and people around you.

**Malachi Thompson - Year 12**

Mind - [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

Calm - [www.thecalmzone.net](http://www.thecalmzone.net)

YoungMinds - [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)



# Loneliness in the Elderly

According to the NHS, one million older people in the UK say that they go over a month without speaking to a friend, neighbour or family member. With this number set to increase in the coming years, one third of elderly people currently think of themselves as lonely. As the world seems to be increasingly connected through social media, it seems as if that our older generation are becoming more and more disconnected. These statistics are heart-breaking, especially when many of us have grandparents, whom we are fortunate enough to be able to visit (pre-covid). Studies suggest that long-term loneliness can result in a decline of physical and mental

well-being, and can lead to serious health complications.

Loneliness can be an issue for elderly people due to many reasons. Restrictions brought on by ill health, restricted mobility or lack of contact with close family and people from the same culture can be factors. Older people often struggle to participate in community activities where they might form new friendships, leaving them alone and isolated which significantly damages their mental health. Some elderly people do have friends and family but for some reason they are not in contact with them anymore. Loneliness is one of the main causes of depression, which is soon set to be the biggest killer in the UK, and this has not been helped by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

A survey conducted by myself, around the school, where 93/130 students, surveyed said they had an elderly relative, almost 40% of which said they spend less than 1 hour a week with them, 54% stated that they use social media for over 4 hours per day, with a positive correlation between the students in older year groups spending less time with their elderly relatives. Birmingham is one of the high-risk areas of chronic loneliness, according to Age UK, with Aston being 'very high-risk.' As a school community, we should be on the front lines helping tackle this problem, by attempting to speak to our elderly family members, as well as visiting them. Smiling or having a short chat with an elderly stranger, can do them the world of good, and it is us who should be raising awareness as well as striving to fix this problem.



A report highlighted that some older people sit in the waiting room of their GP, just to have some social interaction. One day we may also grow old, and none of us would want to be in that situation, and we can start by making a difference today. If you have grandparents abroad, try and call them at least once a week, as I assure you it will mean the world to them.

In conclusion, I ask that we all try and help an elderly person, whether we know them or not. It is our duty as a community to help people, in their times of need, and there is no better time to assist the elderly during this pandemic. I hope my message is simple and clear: let's end loneliness in the elderly together.

**Faris Khan – Year 12**



# KEA Equality and Diversity Committee

***"We believe that all members of our community are entitled to be treated fairly and equally regardless of their race, ethnicity, class, religion, gender, sex, sexuality, or disability. Our purpose is to challenge discrimination in all its forms so that our students can achieve educational excellence"***

2020 brought with it many challenges, whether that be COVID-19, lockdown, exam stress, isolation from others and our entire lives having to be deconstructed and replicated in a manner that would be able to fit into our living rooms and be shared over webcams and phone screens. Isolating challenged the way that we worked or interacted with it each other but it also made many of us question our fundamental values and outlook on the world. The cracks in our society that were previously ignored or purposefully hid, erupted into valleys that could no longer ignore. Before the murder of George Floyd, we were already seeing the effects of inequality unfold across the world as the worst hit communities were those at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder. Yet the video we all have seen, the image that is now engrained into all of our minds served as a tipping point for calls for change and justice.



At Aston we had already prided ourselves on being an inclusive school that has zero tolerance for any form of discrimination but the BLM protests and forthcoming waves of activism across the country and the world had called for us to recognise that it isn't enough to be passive, we must stand actively against all forms of discrimination whether that be against individual instances or those that are less commonly understood or thought about such as the lack of diversity within our curriculums or representation across the school at every single level. Recognising that as a school we must not only stand in solidarity with those who have been discriminated against but also be an example of how we can change the communities we are part of for the better. In May of last year 3 students and 5 teachers joined together in bi-weekly meetings and created the Equality and Diversity Committee to set out a road map of how we can improve the school in a myriad of areas from student-teacher relations to the extracurricular activities available. Mr Parker held these meetings in great regard and in spite of his passing his legacy runs through this committee and it must be noted that the committee is only one of the many examples of his dedication to improving school life for all those students that walk through the gates here at Aston.

Together the Committee first had to gather evidence and data to understand where improvements or changes needed to be made and in the course of this we all recognised the truly diverse diaspora of students at our school. Mr Parker noted that in over 150 years this school has truly changed from its origins becoming a beaming example of the multiculturalism of our city, as even within those broad categories of ethnicity or race we have a plethora of individual student experiences that can not be simply bundled together and seen as a checkmark on a list of inclusivity.









LGBTQ is an initialism that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Queer. While there have been huge leaps with regards to equality in recent decades, sadly there is still some way to go until all people are treated equally regardless of their race, gender, religious beliefs, disabilities or sexuality. Currently, there 11 countries in the world where people can actually be put to death because of who they choose to be with. How can it be that people can be punished for simply being themselves?

I believe that everyone should have equal rights. Imagine if you were discriminated for having a certain hair or eye colour what if you were put in jail or even killed because of this. We all are humans so we shouldn't discriminate against someone for their sexual preference.

According to the Office of National Statistics:

The proportion of the UK population aged 16 years and over identifying as heterosexual or straight was 94.6% in 2018.

In 2018, there were an estimated 1.2 million people aged 16 years and over identifying as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual.

The true statistics may be hard to find out as many people choose to hide their identity, especially in countries where being LGBTQ is illegal. From these statistics, LGBTQ people are clearly a minority group and minority groups are often singled out and discriminated against in society.

There have been many LGBTQ people who have made significant contributions to society. Alan Turing was a code breaker whose work saved many lives in WWII, he was also involved in designing early computers. Bayard Rustin was a close friend and advisor to Martin Luther King Jr. and organizer of the 1963 March on Washington. Marsha P. Johnson was a black trans woman and an activist who spent much of her life fighting for equality. Josephine Baker was a well-known entertainer of the Jazz Age and identified as bisexual. Other famous gay people include English actor Sir Ian McKellen who played Gandalf in the Tolkien films, American music star Lil Nas X and Ifti Nasim who was a gay Pakistani poet who moved to the United States to avoid persecution for his sexuality.

I believe that here at Aston we have an opportunity to create a safe place where people are accepted for who they are and can talk to one another about their own individual experiences. There should be an inclusive sex education classes for all preferences. I hope that students can think about what equality really means before using the word 'gay' as a derogatory term.

**Anonymous Student – KS3**





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# Badminton

## A game of tactics

Badminton is a fantastic sport that requires a badminton racket, a shuttlecock, and a net and can be played in singles or doubles. It is a game of tactics and can be played for fun and for competitive reasons.

The objective of the game is to hit the shuttlecocks over the net and into your opponent's side. If your opponent knocks it back to you, this is called a rally. If you win the rally, you get a point. The sport is played indoors as wind can affect the shuttlecock.

Each game will start with a toss to determine which player will serve first and which side of the court the opponent would like to start from.

Each game is umpired by a referee on a highchair who overlooks the game. There are also line judges who can see if the shuttlecock lands in or not.

A serve must be hit underarm and below the person's waist. No overarm serves are allowed.

A point is scored when you hit the shuttlecock over the net and land it in your opponent's court before they try to hit it. A point can also be won when your opponent hits the shuttlecock into either the net or outside the parameters.

The game has only two rest periods, which is a 90 second rest after the first game, and a 5 minute rest after the second game.

If a player touches the net with any part of their body or racket, then it is a fault, and their opponent receives the point.

## History of Badminton

Badminton can be traced back 2000 years to when the Battledore and Shuttlecock were used by the Ancient Greeks and Ancient Egyptians. Battledore was the previous name of the racquet and the Shuttlecock which is used today. In Japan, the game "Hanetsuki" which was similar to Badminton, was played as early as the 16th century. The game called "Poona" was made in India in the 18th century by the British Army officers stationed in the city of Pune in India.

The officers took the game back to England, where it became a success at a party given by the Duke of Beaufort in 1873 at his estate called "Badminton" in Gloucestershire and the new sport was launched.

This new sport was now called, "The Game of Badminton" and the game was officially called Badminton.



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In 1934, the Badminton World Federation was made with the countries: Canada, Wales, England, France, Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, and Scotland as the founding members. In 1936, India also joined the federation.

I think of Badminton as a great sport, which is full of tactics and is a lot of fun to play. It is my favourite sport and I often have matches with my family in the garden. Playing Badminton is great in the summer. My uncle is an international player in Badminton who plays for England. He has won a lot of trophies and goes to different countries to represent England and often wins.

Here is a picture of my uncle. In the picture, it shows that he has won a tournament and has won first place with the gold medal.



### **Health Benefits of Badminton**

- Stronger Bones
- You would have a better balance and more flexibility
- You can lose weight
- Badminton improves heart health
- The lungs' function will improve even if you smoke
- It helps reduce a risk of type 2 diabetes
- Depression will reduce
- Badminton could also help you fight against any stress you have

### **Krish Nayyar – Year 8**



Apps



Help



## Euro 2020 (2021)

Postponed from last year, this year's European championships will undoubtedly see a month of great footballing action full of fantastic goals and memorable sporting moments. Reigning champions Portugal have a difficult task on their hands to defend their title, beating France in the final, 1-0, in Paris, thanks to a long-range Eder strike, in extra-time.

### Details:

Opening Matchday: June 11, 2021

Final: July 11, 2021

Host Nation: Several Host countries for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Final Host Stadium: Wembley Stadium, London

**France:** Reigning World Cup winners from 2018, France have a star-stacked squad, with unlimited depth. Strong attackers such as Kylian Mbappe, Paul Pogba, Antoine Griezmann are backed up by a fantastic defence consisting of Bayern Munich duo, Lucas Hernandez and Benjamin Pavard. Les Blues will surely be looking to add another major honour to their collection.

Germany: Always a favourite for any international competition, Die Mannschaft will be hungry for international success after their humiliating loss at the 2018 World Cup, the Germans will be desperate to win this title. Their attacking firepower of Leroy Sane, Marco Reus and Serge Gnabry is enough to terrorise any team. However, they also have arguably the best, and the most complete midfielder in the world in the form of Joshua Kimmich, and the best goalkeeper in the world, Manuel Neuer. With Joachim Lowë, leaving after 16 years in charge, this is his final chance to win a major trophy.

England: A tough choice over the champions, Portugal and Belgium, the three lions, have a fantastic squad, with Gareth Southgate at the helm and the luxury of world class players at his disposal. These include the second best striker in the world, Harry Kane and also having Raheem Sterling and Jason Sancho on the wings. The defence does let them down slightly, with a back pairing of Harry Maguire and Connor Cody not being as great as some of Europe's other centre-back pairings. Will football finally come home?

Spain: Managed by recently appointed treble-winner with Barcelona, creating the fabled MSN trio, Luis Enrique, he will surely be hoping to win his first ever international tournament. Although their squad is not as stacked as it was ten years ago, they still have plenty of talent, especially in midfield, with Thiago Alcantara, Koke, and Marcus Llorente, the Atletico Madrid midfielder who is famous for knocking Liverpool out of the Champions League in 2020, allowing Los Colchoneros to advance. Spain may not be a favourite for the title, but with a man who always turns up for the big occasion in Sergio Ramos, they have every chance to win it.





## Players to watch (Not among the favourites):

**Robert Lewandowski:** The best player on the planet right now, has not had much international success, but this season he is firing on all cylinders. The Pole has 35 goals in 25 Bundesliga matches at the time of writing. He can do everything, a great finisher and team player. Lewandowski is definitely a favourite to take home the golden boot.



**Frenkie De Jong:** The Netherlands return to the Euros, under the management of Frank De Boer, and Frenkie De Jong, is an excellent technical midfielder who can dictate games on his own. An excellent young talent from the famed Ajax youth academy before moving to Barcelona, De Jong has been excellent in La Liga after some poor champions league form. With him pulling the strings in midfield, the Dutch could go far in this tournament.

**Dominic Szoboszlai:** One of the Bundesliga's hottest young talents, famed to be the heir of Ferenc Puskas, Szoboszlai at 20 years old, will be looking to storm the Euros. Despite Hungary most likely not going past the group stages, as being in a group with France, Germany and Portugal, it will be interesting to see what the RB Leipzig magician can show on one of the grandest stages of them all.



## My Predictions:

Winners: France

Golden Boot: Cristiano Ronaldo

Golden Ball: Kevin De Bruyne

Surprise Package: Denmark

**Faris Khan – Year 12**



# Chat

# Cricket

Cricket is a popular sport involving two teams of eleven players, a bat and a ball. It is played on a large grass field with a 22-yard (20-metre) pitch marked out in the centre. This pitch has a wicket at each end, this is two bails balanced on three stumps. The batting team scores a 'run' by hitting the ball bowled at the wicket with the bat and then running between the wickets. The bowling and fielding side tries to prevent this by stopping the ball from leaving the field and then getting the ball back to either wicket so they are "out".

The time spent batting comes to an end by a means of dismissal and this is the aim of the other team. Means of dismissal include when the bowled ball hits the stumps and knocks over the bails and if the fielding side catch the ball after it is hit by the bat before it hits the ground. Also, by hitting a wicket with the ball before a batter can cross the crease in front of the wicket. When ten batters have been dismissed, the innings ends and the teams swap roles. Normally two umpires adjudicate the game but there can be more for international matches.



Cricketers normally play in a totally white kit and some players use protective gear to prevent injury caused by the ball. The ball is made of hard leather and it can travel at up to 100 miles per hour.

The earliest written reference to cricket was in 1611 but it might have been played as far back as Saxon times. As the British Empire grew cricket became popular across the world, the first international matches were played in the second half of the 19th century. As well as being played in in the UK, cricket is popular in India, Pakistan, Australia and the West Indies.



Women's cricket has also become very popular. It has the same rules but there is a smaller pitch and the ball is lighter. The most successful side playing international cricket is Australia, which has won seven One Day International trophies, including five World Cups, more than any other country and has been the top-rated Test side more than any other country.

**Ayyan Ahmed - Year 7**

***Fun Fact: Cricket is also called a gentleman sport because players have to listen to the umpire's decision without any protests.***



[www.keaston.bham.sch.uk](http://www.keaston.bham.sch.uk)