

HOW COVID HAS AFFECTED  
YOUNG PEOPLE



# NEW NORMAL

DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE

# SAPERE AUDE





# Editor's Note

## Welcome

Welcome to our Autumn 2020 issue of Sapere Aude; let me tell you, this was not an issue where we were stuck for newsworthy content! It would be remiss of us, as we leapfrog from lockdown to lockdown, not to explore the impact that COVID-19, our greatest crisis during peacetime, has had on our lives. From our mental health to the approval ratings of our government, COVID-19 has touched just about every part of our lives, which this issue explores. This was also the year that the Black Lives Matter movement gained particular traction with the horrific killing of George Floyd that flooded our televisions and news feeds. We explore the impact of this in the U.K, in addition to examining some age old issues which never seem to go away, such as misrepresentation of women in the Media.

But it's not all the heavy stuff! For a bit of light relief (and, let's face it, for those cold winter evenings where we can't do much else), we explore the hottest new TV shows right now. We also continue in our stock in trade of celebrating the fantastic achievements of our Lutterworth College students, this issue, with a focus on the Maths department.

We hope this issue provides a time for reflection, rest and an opportunity to tune out the white noise of our troubled world. Enjoy!

**Mrs C Bennett**

I would just like to take the opportunity to thank all of the students and staff who make Sapere Aude possible and invite you to come and join our virtual team by contacting Mrs Bennett or Mr Eccles, via email. We are always looking for creative and enthusiastic collaborators to add their unique perspectives to our vision.

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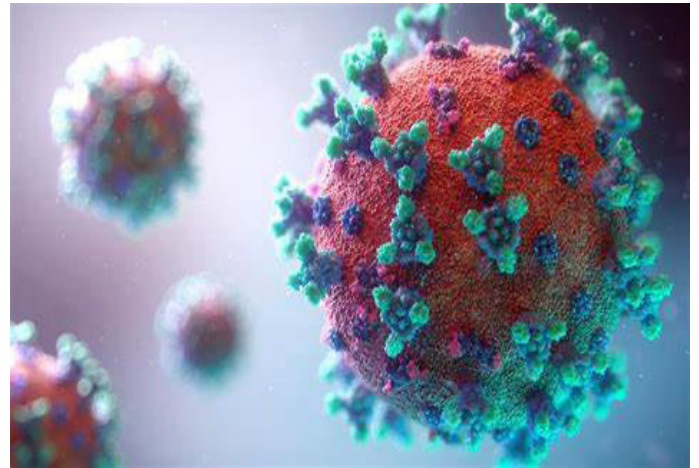
# Covid-19: A Disaster for the Conservatives?

By Olly Woolley

**The first case of Covid-19 in the United Kingdom was reported on January 29th of this year. There have been another 722,000 cases and at least 43,646 coronavirus related deaths since. This begs the question: have the government handled the crisis well?**

One thing that you would expect of a British public which has been through the political ringer over the last few years is to be resolute and rigid in dealing with the crisis. Possibly this is something that Boris could have recognized. One of the biggest criticisms of the plan that the government has laid out to move through periods of high infection and past these times of turmoil into the future, is that there isn't really any plan at all. From looking at the policies in relation to the virus, you might come to believe that they have been roughly making it up as time goes on. The closing of schools back in the spring made sense, but the fairly random re-opening of schools at the beginning of the new academic year (when the infection rate and amount of cases was higher than when schools closed) is at best questionable to many and at worst baffling, especially to the young students involved.

Moreover; the number of people allowed to gather together has been irregularly changed so often and at so short notice that the rule has become completely arbitrary. People who make an effort to enforce these rules have become frustrated, and the people who don't abide by them claim they didn't even know they existed or that they don't see a reason for them. Perhaps the blame wouldn't be so thrust upon Boris Johnson and his government if not for one thing. Maybe people could be more sympathetic and see



how genuinely difficult and daunting this challenge is for the government, if not for their own ignorance to their own rules. On multiple occasions, government officials have broken Coronavirus law. The incident with the highest profile is the Dominic Cummings episode back in March/April. He may or may not have broken his own government's rules regarding the virus to see his ill wife. Understandably, people, who aren't in such a wealthy and powerful position as Cummings (Chief Adviser to Boris Johnson), recognized the irony and disgrace in the story, asking why should we have to halt our lives for the safety of the nation, if the most privileged and informed won't? Ever since this story broke to the public, it was unlikely that any majority of people could perceive the crisis as handled well. Since then, Boris Johnson has never and likely will never reach the popularity



**YouGov's continuous survey found that only**

**3 in 10 Brits think that the Government have**

**managed the virus well .**



(in comparison to his opponents) he achieved in December's General Election.

So, the general consensus is... not really. By October, YouGov's continuous survey found that only 3 in 10 Brits think that the Government have managed the virus well, the lowest approval rating since the outbreak began. Since the only real way of quantifying the government's response being the statistics mentioned above, the public's opinion on these matters counts for more than ever before. Following such a heavy General Election victory, the government's flawed reaction to the outbreak could be seen as a political throw. The massive lead in public approval which Boris Johnson had over Labour has disappeared, with the two parties neck and neck in the polls.

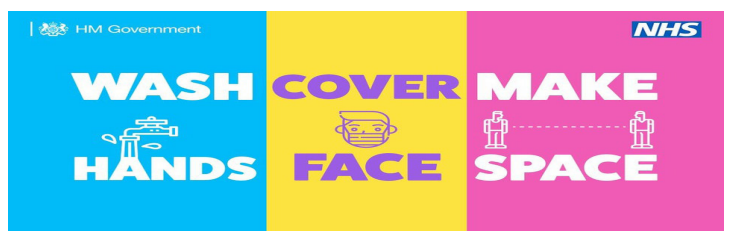
It's hard to say how this change in fortune will affect our party politics in the long run. Johnson will be incredibly sceptical now of calling for another early General Election, for fear of wasting December's landslide majority. The Conservative Party doesn't have to look too far into the past to see what a disaster like this would look like, with Theresa May performing this act in 2017. We will have to wait until 2024 for the next General Election, something which will please many people who are tired of heading to the polling station.

Letting such a tight grasp of the population's favour slip could not have happened at a worse time for Boris Johnson's party. With Labour making an active effort to change the perception of the party following the resignation of Jeremy Corbyn and the appointment of Keir Starmer as leader, the Conservatives have found themselves to be challenged for the first time in years by their opposition. Now, finally, any slip-ups made by the government can actually be capitalized on by the opposition parties, with Labour seemingly resurrected by Starmer, possibly reflecting how poor Jeremy Corbyn's reign was for Labour. You might be correct in thinking that if this had happened at any other point in the last five or so years, then people would just turn a blind eye and accept the situation for what it is. For example, the tiresome Brexit saga was exhausting and people across the country were sick of it, but people never turned against the Conservative government specifically, and Labour never made an effort to encourage this. However, Starmer and the Scottish National Party's



However, Starmer and the Scottish National Party's Nicola Sturgeon will not let that happen again, hence the massive catch-up Labour have seen in the polls.

The question of how much of the Tory's slip is because of Coronavirus and their response, and how much is due to the work of Kier Starmer and Labour is one for historians to decide. However, in short, the Coronavirus has been a failure for the Conservatives. In a few years' time, it may prove to have been a disaster in hindsight. Johnson may have lost the public's trust, but he will be sure to hang on tight to that outstanding majority in the Commons for as long as parliamentary law will allow him to.



# BEAUTY STANDARDS IN THE MEDIA

By Kate Bradshaw

Nowadays, the media is one of the biggest and most influential industries in the world. With social media apps like Instagram and Snapchat being extremely popular, it's easy to get caught up in the middle of it. I'm sure you're familiar. While, on the surface, the media seems innocent and playful, deep down it is the root for many self-esteem and self-confidence issues. In a recent survey of 6,000 people, thirty-four percent said they had felt 'down or low' in the previous year because of their body image. Let's delve into the problems social networking and the media have caused.

## FILTERS

On social media sites such as Instagram and Snapchat, one of the main features are filters that you can use, that typically make you look 'prettier'. Sadly, these filters that supposedly make you look beautiful are causing a big problem. These filters actually change the shape of your face; it makes your jawline stronger and face thinner. The majority of these filters also get rid of acne and blemishes to give you a smooth complexion. Here is an example of a typical Snapchat filter:



See for yourself, these filters completely change this person's whole look! Here are the main things I can see that are wrong with the filter. It:

- Changes the model's face shape/makes it thinner
- Covers her blemishes
- Lightens her skin colour
- Shrinks her nose
- Makes her eyes bigger
- Makes her hair shinier

This is one of many filters that change the way we look to make us more 'pretty'. It promotes that all 'beautiful' people need to be skinny, white, and have no acne. How is this boosting our self-esteem if filters such as this one cover all our natural beauty?

## PHOTOSHOP

I'm sure you've probably heard of Photoshop, the app that lets you edit and play around with your images. Seems fun, right? It's meant to be used in a harmless way to make your pictures more appealing, but this app has been turned into one of the most harmful apps on the internet. Many celebrities, such as the Kardashian family, Lindsay Lohan and Jennifer Lopez have all been accused of using Photoshop to 'spruce up' their selfies and make themselves look prettier. Just look at this example of Khloe Kardashian:



You might have seen this photo being spread on social media for being fake or heavily Photoshopped, which, as you can tell, is true. The two photos in the background of the picture are photos that Khloe posted to her Instagram account in August of 2020.



The photo in the middle, on the other hand, is a screenshot from her family's show of what she looked like on the same day. If you look closely, you can see she looks like a different person altogether! How can she be used as a role model when she is setting the example to her fans that this is what she looks like? How is photoshopping a photo this much supposed to raise her fans' self-esteem, if the photo being shared isn't natural? This is a clear example of why beauty standards in the media are not inclusive and are harmful to others' self-esteem.

## MAGAZINE COVERS

Although magazine sales have declined in recent years, there is still a big problem in their advertising strategy and what sort of things they put on their cover. For example, this image on the right is a stereotypical magazine cover, and next to it is the real image. Take a look:



Surely you can see there's no end of alterations made to this picture here. Her face is thinner and whiter, her arms are thinner, and even the wrinkles under her eyes have vanished!

This is obviously not setting a good example for anyone who reads this magazine, or even sees this magazine cover. This harsh editing is merely one example of the harmful things you see in the media, where, at first it seems innocent, but actually has awful effects on a person's mental and physical wellbeing.

But this isn't the only problem with the magazine cover.

The coverlines included on this magazine are incredibly inappropriate. The one that speaks out to me most is 'The new skinny pills- yes, they work!'

The fact that they are promoting the skinny body type over any other shows how one-sided the media can be- it only values slim people. You can see why this has caused many body-image issues over the years, can't you?

## SOLUTION

We can clearly see that the media is a ruthless and uncompromising industry with very rigid ideas of what constitutes 'beauty'. The detrimental effects it has on the people on the receiving end cannot be underestimated. In a survey published in August, one third of girls will not post an image without digitally altering it first.

So, now that we have covered the main problems with the media in terms of beauty standards, what are some of the improvements that could be made to make the media a much more welcoming and uplifting place?

- Well, one big solution to the problem of promoting unrealistic body types and features is to abolish altering images altogether. Get rid of harsh Photoshopping on magazine covers and start to promote the fact that all body types are beautiful. How much more inspiring would that be, rather than say that you must conform to a certain body type to be pretty.

- Alternatively, another improvement that might already be in action is for a bill to be passed which signifies that a publisher or advertiser on media platforms must display a notice that the image has been altered or edited digitally. In 2017, this law was passed in France. This means people scrolling through Instagram will know if a selfie has been Photoshopped or not. This will hopefully raise a person's self-esteem and ultimately improve their mental health, because they know what a real image is and what isn't.

- Or maybe, social media sites that produce filters should still be able to produce them, but not include the whitewashing and acne-covering features. Instead, enhance images in ways that do not reshape a person's face e.g. the flower crown in the filter in this article. This would give pictures a fun addition, and not drastically change the person in said picture, which should encourage the fact that all people are beautiful, regardless of body type and facial features.

# The BLM Movement's Importance in the UK

By Alexandra Hughes

Since May this year, media coverage across the UK has centered on the riots and protests sweeping across America and the impact the movement has had on the UK. With looting and statue toppling causing controversy amongst the population, it is paramount that we remember exactly what the movement means, and its significance within the UK.

## What First Sparked the Protests?

I'm sure by now it's likely you've seen the brutal execution of a black man by the Minneapolis police force; the inhumane murder occurred earlier this year on the 25th May, and since then it has provoked a series of riots and protests that have been seen as long-overdue by some.

George Floyd was a Black man arrested for allegedly purchasing a pack of cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 bill. He was arrested by officers: Derek Chauvin, J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao. The store owner Mike Abumayyaleh told NBC that Floyd was a regular at Cup Foods; a friendly face and a pleasant customer who never caused any trouble. The officers who arrested him obviously did not see this when they handcuffed him, forced him to the ground and ultimately suffocated him by kneeling on his neck for a reported 7 minutes and 46 seconds.



## What Protests Took Place in the UK?

Since the 28th May, people have been standing and protesting in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement. One of the largest gatherings was on the 3rd June when a large demonstration took place in Hyde Park London, and at least 13 people were arrested outside Downing Street after violent clashes broke out. Actor John Boyega gave a notable speech in which he condemned police handling of the Stephen Lawrence case in 1993. He also called out police brutality in America and showed his support for George Floyd; his actions and appraisable speech roused the UK into showing more support for the BLM Movement and more protests ensued. On the 4th June more than 4000 people took part in a protest march in central Birmingham, and on the 7th June tens of thousands of people protested across the UK. The last protest to be noted was on the 21st June when a peaceful protest was held to bring an end to systematic racism in the UK.



## Discrimination and Racism in the UK's Justice System

Like the signs held up in a state of protest: the UK is not innocent. The last time a police officer was successfully prosecuted for the death of someone in their custody in the UK was in 1969, which was over 50 years ago.

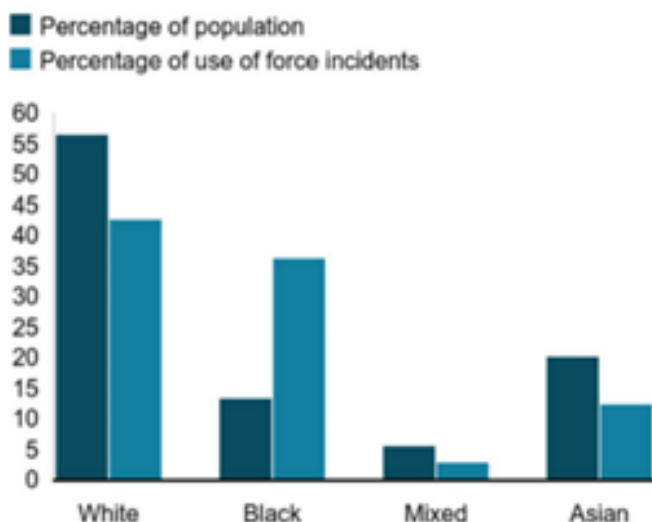
This may seem acceptable to some, but after only an hour's research the underlying issues within the UK Justice system quickly become apparent. For instance, Black, Asian and minority ethnic people account for just 14% of the UK's population and yet they make up 25% of its prison population. What's even more shocking is the fact that between 1990 and 2016 around 1500 people died in police custody, a third of whom were Black or from another minority ethnic background.

A BBC article provided statistics from the MET Police which clearly outlines the injustices faced by Black, Asian and other ethnic minority people by Police. The statistics can be found in the figure below.

Furthermore, statistics like these have only been exemplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions put in place by the Government. Men aged 18 to 34 from ethnic minority groups were twice as likely to be fined for breaching lockdown coronavirus laws than young white men, figures show. A National Police Chiefs' Council report said overall those from minority ethnic groups were 1.6 times more likely to be fined than white people.

### **The Met Police are more likely to use force against black people than other ethnicities**

Use of force statistic



Source: Met Police

BBC

## Discrimination in Other UK Institutions

The UK Justice system isn't the only institution requiring change; many reports conducted on the workplace and the education system have found significant gaps in attainment in racial backgrounds. For example, Black Caribbean children are 3.5 times more likely to be excluded than all other children at primary, secondary and special educational needs schools. Furthermore, a poll of more than 400 ethnic minority teachers found that 54% have experienced actions they believe are demeaning to their racial heritage or identity.

In particular, British universities have the biggest racial inequality gaps; in terms of Black female professors, there are just 17 in the entire British university system, and it has been reported that ethnic minority academics at top universities across Britain earn on average 26% less than their white colleagues. In January 2017, for the third year in a row, HESA figures recorded no Black academics in the elite staff category of managers, directors and senior officials in 2015-2016.

Reports conducted on the workplace are just as poor. In 2018, Pakistani and Bangladeshi employees were paid on average 20% less than white British employees in similar occupations and with similar educational characteristics. In addition, UK-born Black African employees were paid 7.7% less than UK-born white British with similar occupation and education characteristics.

## How You Can Help

It becomes clear after reading all these problematic statistics that there is still much that requires change within the UK. It seems racism in our country is largely institutionalised with ethnic minorities being paid less and making up a large population of the prison system.

You can help combat racism in the UK by supporting and donating to these charities:

- Show Racism the Red Card
- Runnymede
- Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust
- Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI)
- Kick It Out

# The 'New Normal': how COVID-19 has affected young people.

By Sophina Corry

**Normal. (adjective) meaning conforming to a standard; usual, typical, or expected.**



In these current times the usual has become unusual, typical is borderline apocalyptic, and the only way to be prepared is to expect the unexpected. When COVID-19 began in December of 2019 none of us expected for it to have the impact it did. And yet, by March 2020, the UK was in lockdown and 'normal' was thrown on its axis and replaced with panic buying, face masks and hand sanitizer. Last year, normal was sitting your exams and spending weekends with your peers. This year, normal is counting the people in your party and avoiding anyone who shows the slightest of symptoms. The effects of coronavirus have been devastating with the global death toll reaching over 900,000 and the overall cases hitting over 31,000,000. Everybody has been affected by this virus in one way or another. So how have young people been affected? What will be our new normal?

This time last year, Year 13s and 11s were preparing to sit their A Level and GCSE exams. The idea of it going any other way was unfathomable. And yet, just a few months into lockdown, it became clear that that was no longer an option and the exam boards released the news that they would not be sitting their exams after all. This may have caused relief, panic, stress or any multitude of emotions but when the initial results were released the overall consensus was that this was not fair. Teenagers had studied profusely to achieve the grades they desired, only for it to be realised that a capitalist society dictates that state schools suffer while private schools can afford to thrive. Even now, despite some changes to grades, many students are left worse off and unable to attend the courses that they had aspired to. It's not just Year 11s and 13s either. The previous Year 12s, and now current Year 13s, face contending with

the previous year's deferred applicants for slots in their desired universities, as well as blank personal statements from the lack of volunteer work, clubs and work experience available to them. Not to mention the ever looming threat of another global lockdown in which the results will be even harder to achieve due to stricter regulations. Primary school children who need the time in school to learn basic mathematics and literacy have been deprived of this opportunity and now lack the fundamentals needed to move into the next year group. Online schooling is not a reliable substitute for everyone—especially young children. University students suffer an injustice, having paid over £9000 to attend their first, second, third or fourth year only to spend it all online, isolated and struggling to afford overpriced accommodation and achieve passing grades for their classes. Today the norm for young people's education is uncertainty and injustice.

It is already a commonly known fact that the mental health of today's youths is worryingly low as rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide in this cohort are markedly higher than in previous generations. The current Generation Z was already referred to as being the loneliest generation. Now, a six month quarantine away from peers and family can only have negative consequences for the mental well-being of our youngest citizens. Of course, there are some positive outcomes from this quarantine: for some a period of reprieve from the stress of school and social settings would have been welcomed. However, it can surely not be healthy for the 'loneliest generation' to be isolated for six months (not to mention the symptoms of cabin fever where children are climbing the walls in search of finding meaning in every day). There may also be some mental health concerns for the nearly one in three adolescents who suffer with diagnosed anxiety who, when coming out of lockdown, may feel overwhelmed with the expectations of immediate social reintegration as well as the panicking situation of the ongoing pandemic.

It can also be expected that the new normal amongst young people is a sense that they have missed out on a large portion of their youth. There will likely be a sense of frustration among many as they have been forced to spend birthdays, holidays and anniversaries alone. This sense of missing out on your youth cannot be so easily pacified with a furlough income or online zoom calls. How can young people be expected to return to a state of normality when we never had the time to establish our own sense of normal? Furthermore, young people will now carry the economic burdens of their elders as well as be expected to act as the scapegoat for rising cases in the UK, despite, in the main, only trying to operate within the laws and boundaries of this new world. Therefore, it can be expected that the new normal state for young people is one of frustration, stress and panic at the state of the country we now live in.

The new norm amongst the younger generation due to the impacts of COVID-19 is uncertainty, frustration, and stress. We are in a position at this moment in time that means that our once normal lives are now a foreign concept in our own minds: a nostalgic memory we indulge in like grandparents flicking through photo albums, remarking on 'the good old days', as we merge what is with what was and lose ourselves to the world of vigorously sanitising surfaces and checking our pockets for our phone, keys and face masks on the way out the door. The new normal for our generation is making do with the cards we've been dealt and trying to establish a new semblance of order whilst still clinging to our old one.





# It's Maths'o'clock!

By Lucy McDonagh

**You've heard someone say Maths is boring. Am I right? Well, I'll be honest, that's what I thought too until I met up with Mrs Deacon... she made me see, through her amazing students, the opportunities that Maths can give us. She also opened my eyes to a different point of view on Maths.**

There's a young man who's now in year 9 who is amazing at Maths and goes by the name of Xander Goward. Xander has always had a positive mindset towards doing Maths and enjoys it with all his heart. In all honesty, I would love to be as clever as him sometimes because, although he is in year 9, he has been getting grades 5 and 6 in his Maths tests. Now, in year 9, some of you may remember that there was a Junior Maths Challenge held at Lutterworth and Xander, who was year 8 at the time, was one of many students who was able to take part in such a challenge. Before the test, he had little faith in himself which is a normal feeling to have before a big challenge in a difficult subject. After Xander had completed the test, he thought to himself that the most he was going to be awarded was a silver certificate as Xander had already been awarded a bronze. To his surprise, Xander was awarded a gold certificate which left him feeling surprised and proud of himself for completing the exam with such a high score that he was also awarded best out of the school cohort. Xander has not only agreed that Maths helps a lot with Science, but it also helps to understand the world around you better as you have a better developed logic. Unfortunately, Xander comes across a small problem that can sometimes affect his marks. This is multiplication. This shows that Maths poses challenges even for the best of us! Does this stop him from achieving such high grades? No. I am over the moon for Xander and his achievement. I am also glad that he sees himself pursuing a career involving such a rewarding subject like Maths and hoping he reaches his goal of joining the economy. Xander is a great example of someone who not only likes Maths but can see himself becoming a part of it. I wish him all the best.

Now, everyone also wants to know why teachers teach right? Especially Maths, which can seem a mystery to some of us! Well, I have also spoken



to the wonderful Mrs Deacon and asked her a few questions. There's a good reason behind why teachers teach and I'm fairly sure that the teachers at Lutterworth College will agree with me on this one: that they like to see their students flourish and succeed. Also, we get taught because, in a teacher's eyes, it opens different paths for their students. Mrs Deacon knows that there are applications out there to be in the economy and for Maths to help students forge a career path. There are countless opportunities to share what knowledge you have, with other people. Obviously, when faced with your Maths teachers, then you start to question if they get bored working with numbers all day. However, Mrs Deacon was among many other students who enjoyed Maths. Although she had always imagined herself to be a part of the economy, the more she studied Maths, the more she enjoyed it. With the help of technology, Maths was brought to life to an even greater degree.

To summarise, all of the Maths teachers at Lutterworth College are proud of Xander and his amazing achievement especially as he puts a lot of effort into his work. Xander is a lovely boy and I am glad I was able to talk to him about this accomplishment and I'm excited to see where this will take him. Furthermore, we have teachers at the school who have a real passion for Maths and can't wait to pass it on to you!

# X-BOX vs PlayStation: The Real War Waged In 2020.

By Billy Watson

**We seem to have been fighting on numerous fronts throughout 2020, but, let's be honest, the face-off we are really interested in is between the giants of Sony and Microsoft! With consoles now being like gold-dust to get hold of, we discuss which are worth selling all your worldly possessions for...**

## X-BOX

X-BOX have two consoles to offer this generation: a Series X, their flagship Xbox capable of everything for £450; or its little brother, the Series S, capable of most things (despite a few cutbacks such as teraflops and GPU, and some limitations in graphics and smoothness ) for a slightly less eye-watering £250. The Series X is the perfect tool for competitive gamers and people who really want the best out of their experience, but for casual players the price of the Series S is just unbeatable. Xbox are also offering a pay monthly system that includes Xbox game pass that has 100+ games, EA Play and Xbox Live Gold for £25.00 for 24 months. That rather attractive deal is only for the Series S, though. For the Series X it is £35.00 for the same deal. You have to pay for perfection.

## Ps5

PlayStation are coming back this generation with exclusive games and a fantastic new controller packed with high tech accessories. This is for £450, however you can get the digital edition without a disc drive for £400, if you're looking to save a few pennies. PlayStation sold more consoles than Xbox in the last generation, so they get a head start because people tend to stick with the brand they know, due to brand loyalty. The question is: can they keep the momentum? PlayStation can't match the Series S price, but they can match the Series X specifications. Let's see the games that accompany the consoles at launch...these include Fifa 21 for the diehard footie fans amongst us, Call of Duty Black Ops Cold War for those fans of first person shooters, Gotham Nights and a predictably dominant Marvel offering

of The Avengers and SpiderMan: Miles Morales. The only exclusive game here is Miles Morales and that is a PS5 only game, so this has made your choice if you are after that action-packed title.



In conclusion, for casual gamers the Series S really is unbeatable on price but for hard-core gamers, it would be between the Series X and PS5. I have to say it is really close. For the experience and high specifications probably go with the Series X , if game diversity and choice is what you're into, get the PlayStation, as it has a whole host of exclusive games coming to the table.

**WHO WILL WIN THIS WAR?  
Only the consumer will decide.**



# Why does everyone love Tik-Tok?!

By Billy Watson

**The constraints of lockdown have forced us to find inventive ways to entertain ourselves and this is where Tik-Tok has come to the fore. If you've missed what all the fuss is about, read on to learn about the social media phenomenon of 2020...**

## What is it?

The social media platform taking the world by storm recently, particularly during lockdown restrictions, has been Tik-Tok, formally Musical.ly. People take quick, usually 15-second-long videos of dances, skits, comedy and random engaging content for the hope to get on the 'For You' page, Tik-Tok's feed. Many famous Tik-Tok stars include, Dixie D'Amelio, Charlie D'Amelio, Zach King and Addison Rae. Even celebrities such as actors, musicians and commentators create accounts so your content can sit alongside the offerings of superstars! You can add many filters to your video or different music tracks, to dance to. You can even duet with other artists which can feel like the real deal! Or you can show off your personal creativity by making your own original music track. It's up to you! It's this user control, and its 'pick-up, put-down' nature that makes it so appealing to its users.

## Main fanbase?

The most common sex using Tik-Tok are men making up 54%, while women make up 46%. The most common age group though are people between the ages of 16-24. I believe the age demographic active on the platform is the main reason Tik-Tok is so popular amongst young people, as it is self-sustaining. When young people see other younger people doing something they will normally follow and join in to feel part of the crowd and a wider community (this was particularly important during lockdown when users felt cut off from their usual interactions IRL). This is also a great tactic that many companies use to market apps and to peak interest.

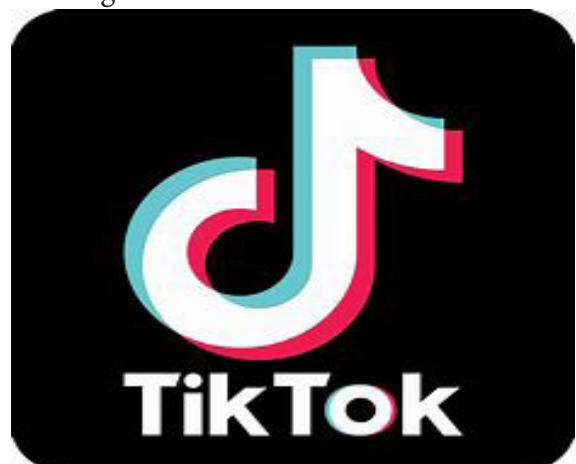
## Key facts

- Tik-Tok was first launched to the world in September of 2017
- The creators are called Alex and Luyu

- Tik-Tok was originally only in China, for September 2016. Now one of Tik-Toks biggest markets is Asia.
- The most popular Tik-Toks make about £50,000 per post. No wonder everyone loves it!
- Tik-Tok has about 800 million users around the globe!

## Conclusion

It does not look like Tik-Tok will be slowing down any time soon and, as long as they have the new generation hooked, Tik-Tok will continue to spread like wildfire becoming a legendary social media platform, up there with Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram. Its users love Tik-Tok and its newness and vitality and everyone loves new things, because it is a different experience to the norm. Its silliness and irreverence was also a perfect antidote to the uncertainty and gloom of lockdown which, for many people, has not been lifted as yet. The question remains though whether Tik-Tok will stand the test of time once the world rights itself and people feel more comfortable making connections in person again. I think, if the longevity of other social media apps like Facebook, despite scandals concerning data and rigged elections, is anything to go by, then the answer is definitely yes! And if Tik-Tok is something we can all have a little harmless fun with, that may be no bad thing.





# The Biggest New TV Shows of Autumn/Winter 2020

By Jacob Grage

We are coming into the start of Winter and during the weeks before Christmas, there are some amazing TV shows that are a 'must watch' during the cold season. Here is, in no particular order, the top four must-watch TV shows this Winter.

## I'm a Celebrity, Get me out of Here! 2020

The very anticipated I'm a Celebrity show is back this year, but with a few differences. This year, instead of living in the jungle down under, they've moved the show to the cold castle walls in Gwrych Castle in North Wales. So, all of this year's 'Bushtucker Trials' will be slightly different, but we hope that there will still be some classics. The celeb popularity contest is currently underway so catch up on ITV Player if you have missed any episodes.

## Strictly Come Dancing

It's that time of the year again! This time it is a little different as well. There are only 12 contestants but everything else is the same. This year's line-up is one of the best so, if you are into dancing and have never watched this before, definitely give it a try. It's also broken gender stereotypes by featuring the first same sex pairing in its history; it's great to see the show being so progressive. This year, the show started on 24th October and will continue up until Christmas.





### The Mandalorian S2

If you like something away from the mainstream, maybe this is for you. The Mandalorian is a Star Wars live-action series that is set five years after the Star Wars film: Return of the Jedi. The storyline is where a Mandalorian Bounty Hunter called Din Djarin goes on a secret mission around the galaxy. This is only available on Disney+ but if you have it, I recommend giving it a watch, if only for the 'Child'/Baby Yoda, who has been the star of numerous memes since the show began. The new season dropped on 30th October 2020.

### Star Trek Discovery S3

Another Sci-Fi show, Star Trek Discovery Season 3, is a continuation of the Michael Burnham story, where he goes into a wormhole sending him 900 years into the future. Star Trek is an American Sci-Fi TV series that follows the adventures of the Starship USS Enterprise and its crew. If you are into Sci-Fi shows, give this show a go. Trekkies will, of course, already be all over this! It is currently airing on Netflix.



# Mental Health in a Lockdown World

By Molly McDermott

Although this is a very confusing time, I can say one thing for certain: everyone has changed over lockdown. One way or another, people have found new interests and hobbies as well as developing as people. However, along with all the positive moments that people may have experienced over this six month period, there have certainly been plenty of negative changes as well. I wanted to talk about my own experiences over lockdown and how, despite the fears people have right now, everyone can learn and grow from this scary time.



Over lockdown, I found it very difficult to stay motivated, as I'm sure the majority of people did. With no lessons, teachers or much structure at all to keep us going, everyone found it at least a little difficult to keep themselves motivated. Many of my friends have said it's also affecting them now as they're having to catch up on work. However, the time away may have distracted people from their official school studies, but I know that it has given people plenty of time to explore other interests and pick up new or perhaps even re-learn old skills: I picked up the ukulele again, my friend Freya started a business with her friend Erin and my friend Eden learned to skate. This may have not been academically productive, but it allowed people to enjoy their time away from their normal routines and stay moving and active.

But going back to the lack of motivation: that was a big deal to me. lockdown made the majority feel unmotivated and somewhat depressed and I know I never want to feel like that again. So one of the positive things I'm going to take from lockdown is, although at the time I was very unproductive and got very little done, those six months taught me what does and what doesn't work for me when it

comes to self-study, as well as how to be more self-disciplined in the future. So hopefully, if anything like this happens again, I should be more prepared! And, thankfully many of my peers feel the same way: they now know what does and doesn't work for them and will be ready if there was another big lockdown (which hopefully there won't be!).

I'm sure people have many mixed emotions about coming back to school: some relieved, some happy, some annoyed... But the vital thing is that we all get back into the swing of school life and come back with as much passion and determination as we left with. Many have exams coming up and having had six months off it's vital that we put in as much effort as we can to catch up. Although everything is a little strange, foreign and even intimidating right now, we need to push any fears aside and try to get back to normal - whilst being safe and sensible, of course.

Thank you for taking the time to read my article as this is something I'm passionate about and I know that everyone around the world has struggled with. Just stay safe, positive and sensible and things should get better from here.



# Novel on understanding and care

By Albert Johannes Keller

**The concept of understanding and care can easily paint, oxymoronically, the clearest of vague pictures; understanding is knowledge of a meaning and care can easily be thought of as kindness attributable to one source.**

These two concepts have one thing in common: they are both used to mean the same thing at the same time; for example, if someone is deprived or subdued of happiness, then to be able to help them is to feel a true or forgiving sense of understanding and general care of who they may be, relevant to their position or scenario.

For a person to understand what someone may have been through, then there is elicited the feeling of compassion by having been through it yourself as if you were seeing life from their perspective or state of mind. This can be conjured by the simple phrase of living a life 'in someone else's shoes'. Previous circumstances may spring to mind when thinking about the general meaning of how understanding or care may be used to support mental and emotional states.

'Understanding' however has a binary opposition:

the opposite of understanding is misunderstanding, which is where the understanding of something is a bit far off or not exactly accurate to the varying perspectives in a given situation.

'Care' also has an opposite too which is known as carelessness; to take care in what you are doing you have to engage with the process of knowing what you are doing to your own understanding. 'Carelessness', however, is the prime opposite, alongside misunderstanding, in that you don't actually know what you are doing or you don't take caution with something that you are doing, like creating a model without instructions, or ordering food without the need or factor of knowing precisely what to get, or maybe even solving a puzzle without actually thinking about it. To truly perceive understanding and care, we must also perceive misunderstanding and carelessness.



# The Bird Collective



## Wholesome curiosity for our times...

By Albert Johannes Keller

**Albert Keller introduces us to a new series of his unique philosophical musings. Enjoy!**

### Conspiracy theories:

A conspiracy theory is a basic term for a theory believed by some people, who choose an explanation for an event that can attract doubt or conspiracy. As such, with the happenings in the world, and open-minded audiences, and plenty of news on many media platforms, people are open to doubt the intentions of governments, politicians, and others of influence. However, with all the evidence conspiracy theorists may possibly come armed with, they are often subject to severe speculation due to the fact that they often have gaps in their story. This makes them not very welcome to society in general, but popular to people with curiosity. However, it is necessary to remember that not all theories are true; they should be taken with discretion by active, as opposed to passive, audiences.

### Shower thoughts

'Is the s or the c silent in the word scent?#

'Humanity is a machine, so that makes it work together; if so, how many mistakes can it make before it stops working together?'

**Fun fact:** the world has existed for over 4.543 billion years or 4,500,000,000 years. This makes the Earth unique in that humans evolved along with all the other creatures, making it full of diverse history and evolutionary marvels.

**Fun fact:** killer whales aren't actually whales, they are the largest type of dolphin. They move in groups of pods and are mistaken for whales because of their name and odd appearance, whereas they have a very similar body shape to that of a dolphin.

### Dose of social enlightenment / memes



