

The Sixth Sense

Spring Term 2022

Issue 5



Lucton School Sixth Form Magazine

Letter from the editor

Welcome to Lucton School Sixth Form's fifth edition of our termly magazine 'The Sixth Sense'. As the school year rushes by, this Spring Term we have decided to thrust ourselves into bygone eras with our theme of History and The Past, looking at artefacts and events of the bygone years attached to Lucton.

In this issue, we look at past experiences and photographs of the students and staff of the school, with a fun 'guess the student by their baby photo' game and a fascinating interview on Mr Goode's life as a student at Cambridge University, conducted by Head Girl Amelia-Sky. Our signature baking recipe is yet again a prominent feature; this time courtesy of Year 12 student Harvey, who crafted a wartime cake with a surprisingly incongruous ingredient. As always our Magazine is highlighted by the literary work of the students, with the ever involved Louise providing two articles; one on ice skating and the other on how life would have been had we been born in 1870s Germany. Head Girl Felicity writes a captivating piece on historical fashion and combines with Deputy Head Girl Hannah Milhouse to examine their own war-torn histories.

The Sixth Sense has always celebrated the art of our students and the world, and this instalment is no different. We include our trademark 'Art in Focus' section, showing off some exquisite pieces by the artists of the Sixth Form. In addition we have a student questionnaire of their favourite historical films, a film review and a poem by our in-house poet Year 13 student Mathew.

The creating of this term's magazine has provided much joy around the Sixth Form, as it has allowed us to delve into the illustrious past Lucton possesses, and realise how fortunate we are to be Luctonians. A massive thank you goes to both Mr Wolstenholme and Mrs Mathie for the guidance and supervision they provide for every issue made, as this would truly not be possible without them!

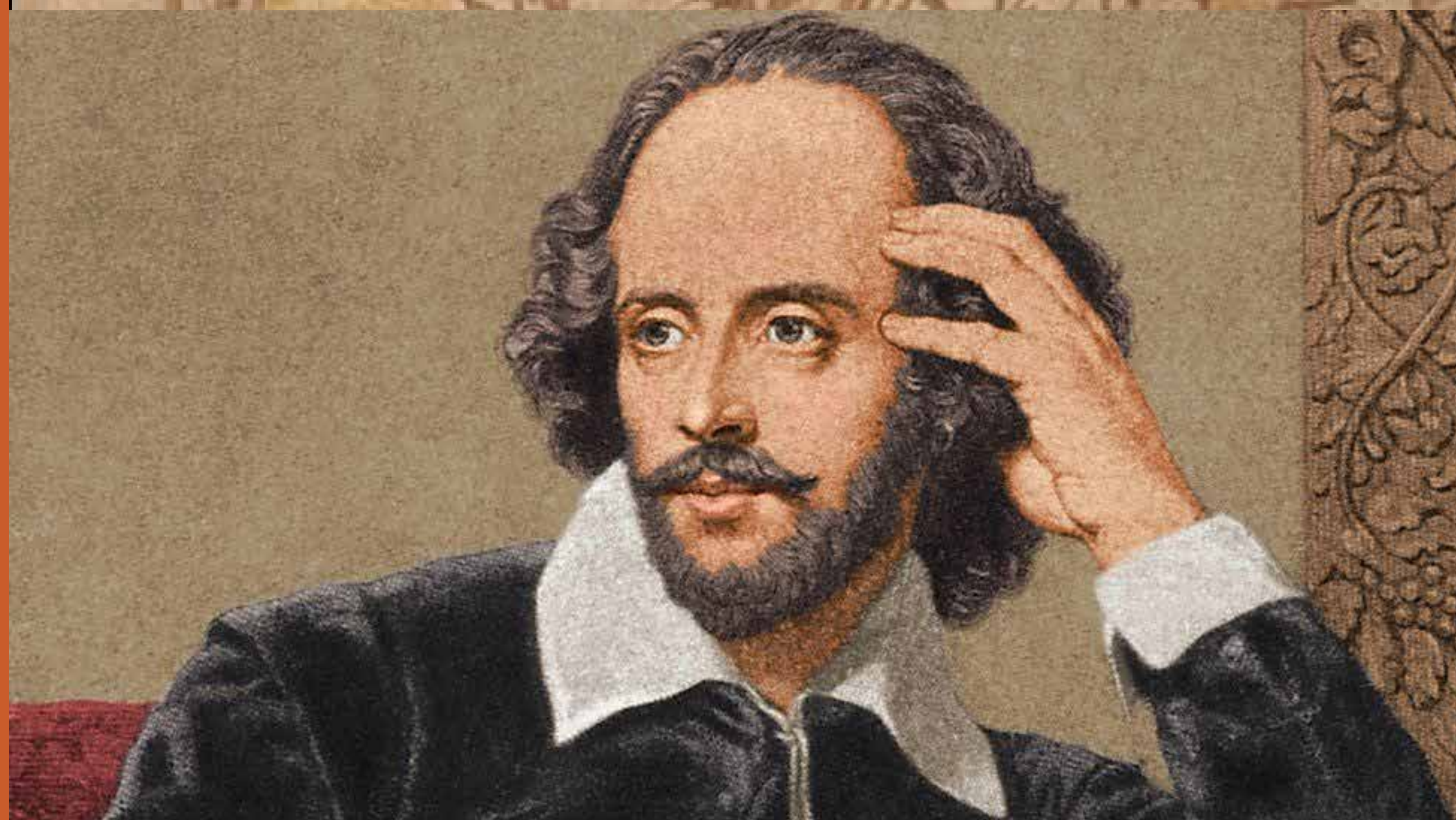
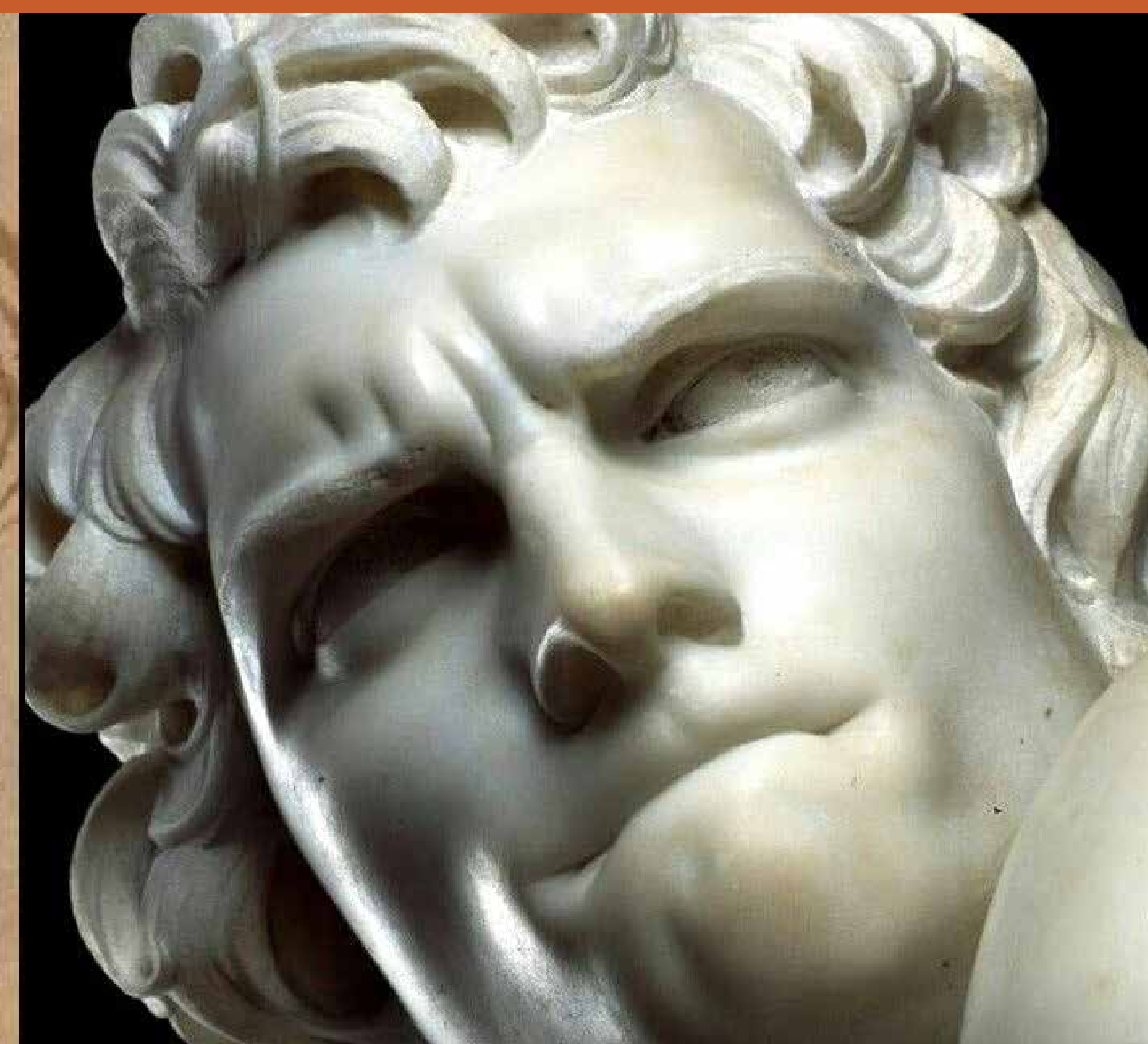
Without further ado, please enjoy this term's issue of The Sixth Sense!

Finn, Spring Editor

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Staff Rewind



Former Headteacher, Mr Goode, sat down with Amelia-Sky and was quizzed at length about his History degree from Cambridge University. Attending Robinson College, his studies focusing on Tudor history, what emerged most from the interview was his continuing passion for the subject.

Q: Why was studying at Cambridge different from studying anywhere else?

A: At Cambridge there are far smaller tutorial groups. My passion was the Tudor period

and the Professor there had written the book on Tudor history. He was the world's leading expert at the time.

Q: Why choose Cambridge?

A: It was a choice between Cambridge or Oxford and frankly I thought Cambridge was a nicer place to be. I had lived in London all my life and the idea of moving to a smaller place was appealing.

Q: What got you into Cambridge?

A: There was an entrance exam which I had to take. I believed I came across as someone who was extremely interested and passionate about history. I had recently visited Rome and it changed my opinion on history as a subject that was still extremely relevant and that showed.

Q: How have you used your education later on in life?

A: Well quite obviously in the teaching profession! I find that you constantly need an interest in the subject as you

are learning for the rest of your life. For instance, I hadn't done any modern history until I had to teach it.

Q: Which areas of history did you study at Cambridge?

A: I studied medieval and early modern history with some European history in there too.

Q: Why is history a good degree to study?

A: I believe it is only a good degree to study, as any degree is, if it is something you are interested in and enjoy. A passion to learn allows you to immerse yourself in the subject. Other useful aspects of course are that you can evaluate information, better distinguish "real" from "fake" news, become a good judge of character and have a good sense of perspective.

Q: With the global situation today, can we learn anything

A: We can, but we generally don't. If we did learn from the past three thousand years of history there would be no mistakes left to make. It's actually important that we don't as life would stagnate, we're almost destined to make the same mistakes over and over again and now historians can almost predict the outcome.

Q: If you could go back in time where would you go?

A: I would like to return to critical points in history to answer key questions such as why Harold Godwinson didn't wait in London in September 1066, or to watch such feats of architecture being created such as monasteries and cathedrals or even some great eureka moments.

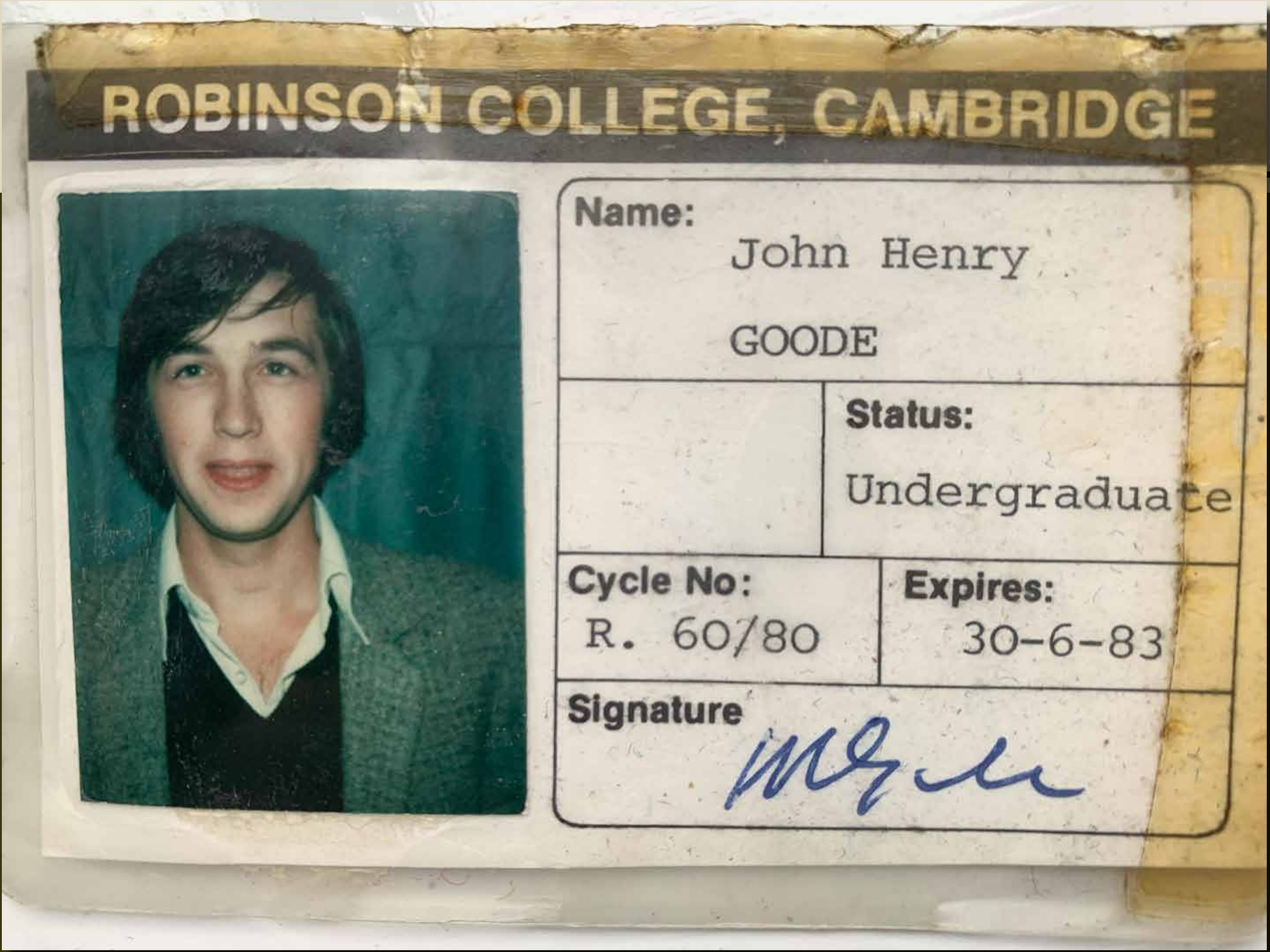
Q: If you could invite three people from history to dinner, who would they be?

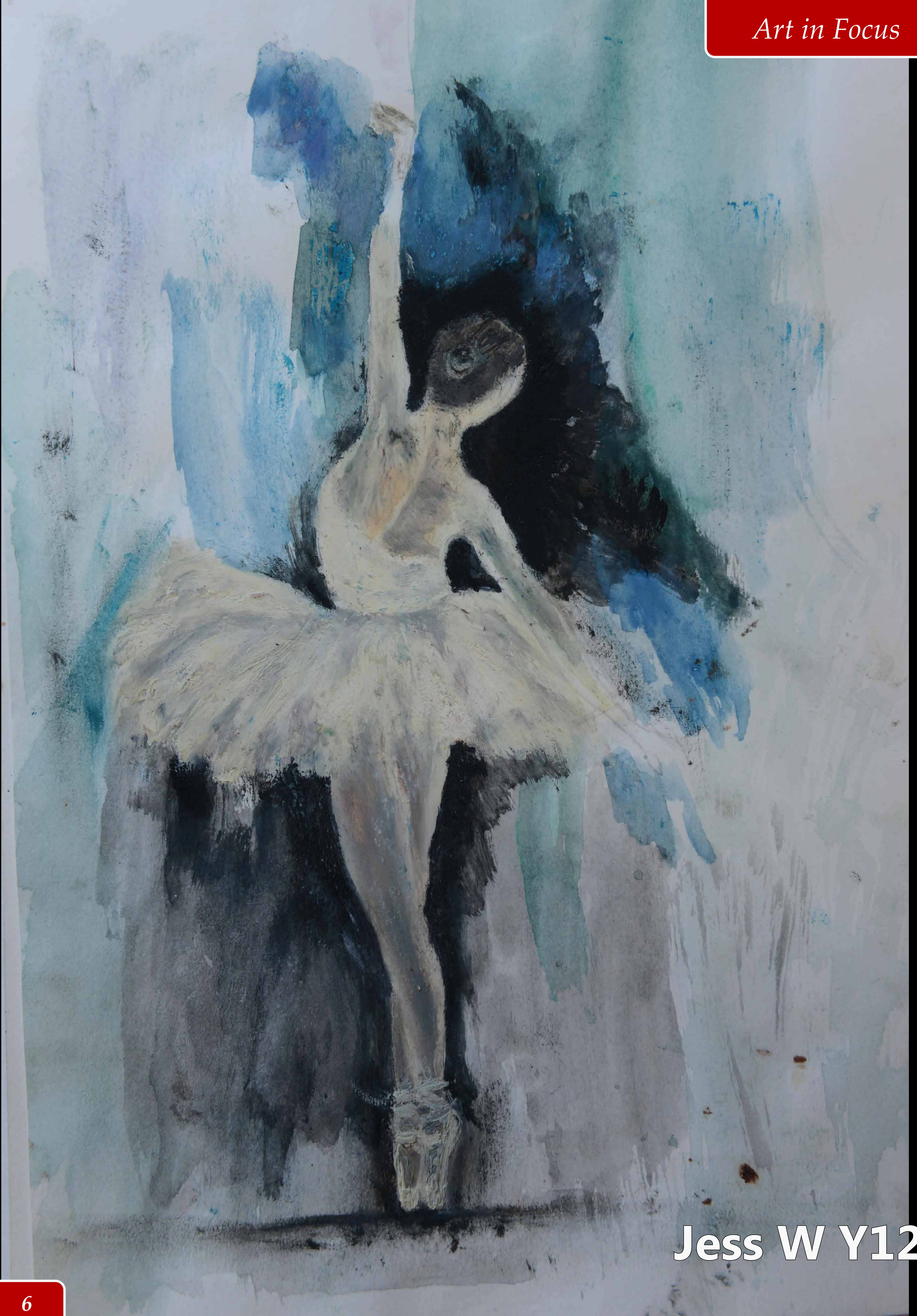
A: That is incredibly difficult! I believe Shakespeare would have to be the first invitation for obvious reasons. Then, either Emma of Normandy or Margaret Beaufort, women who had significant influence in what was then a male political world. I think the last person would have to be Bernini, the Italian sculptor and architect, for his incredible work.

Q: Have you ever written a book?

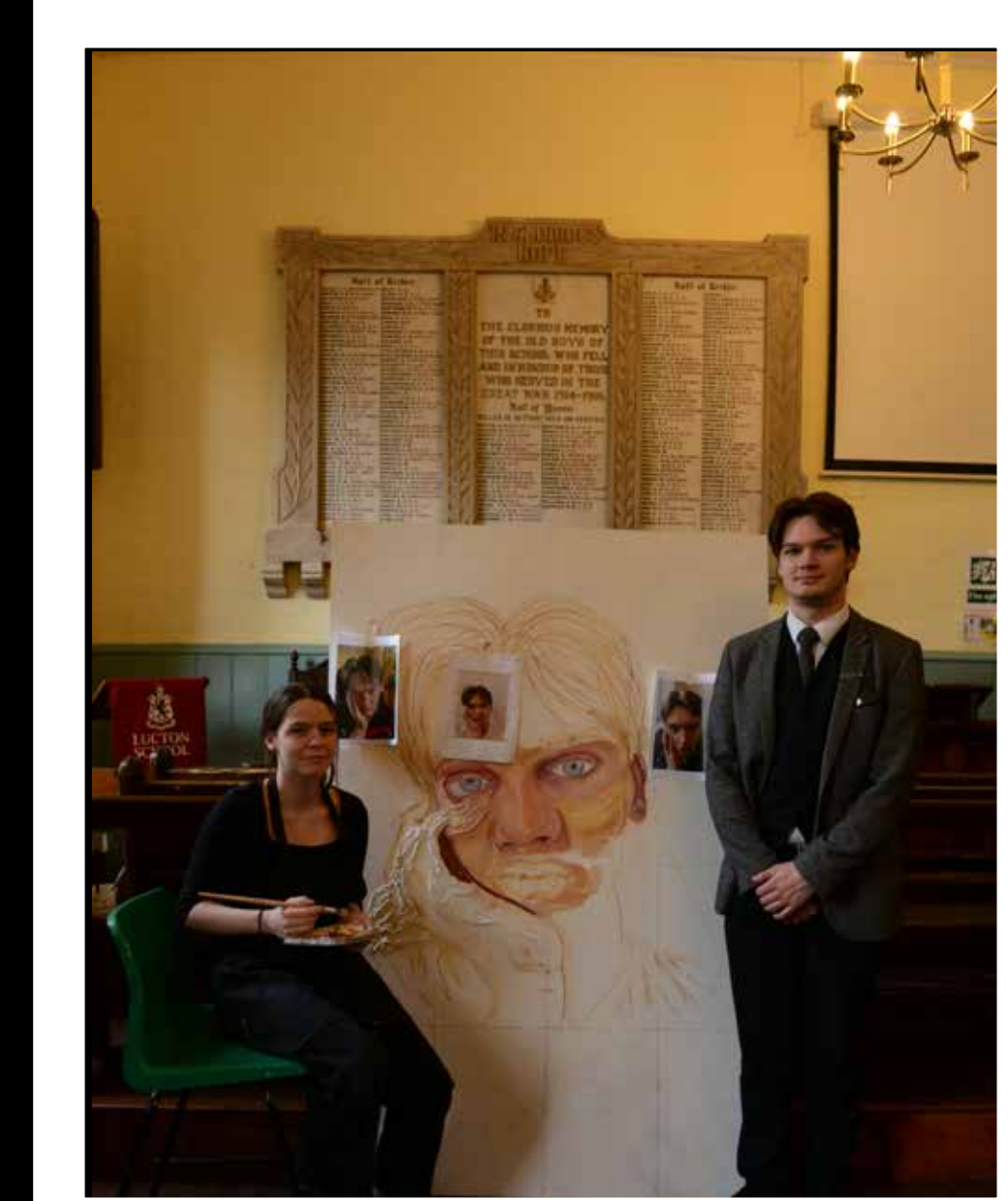
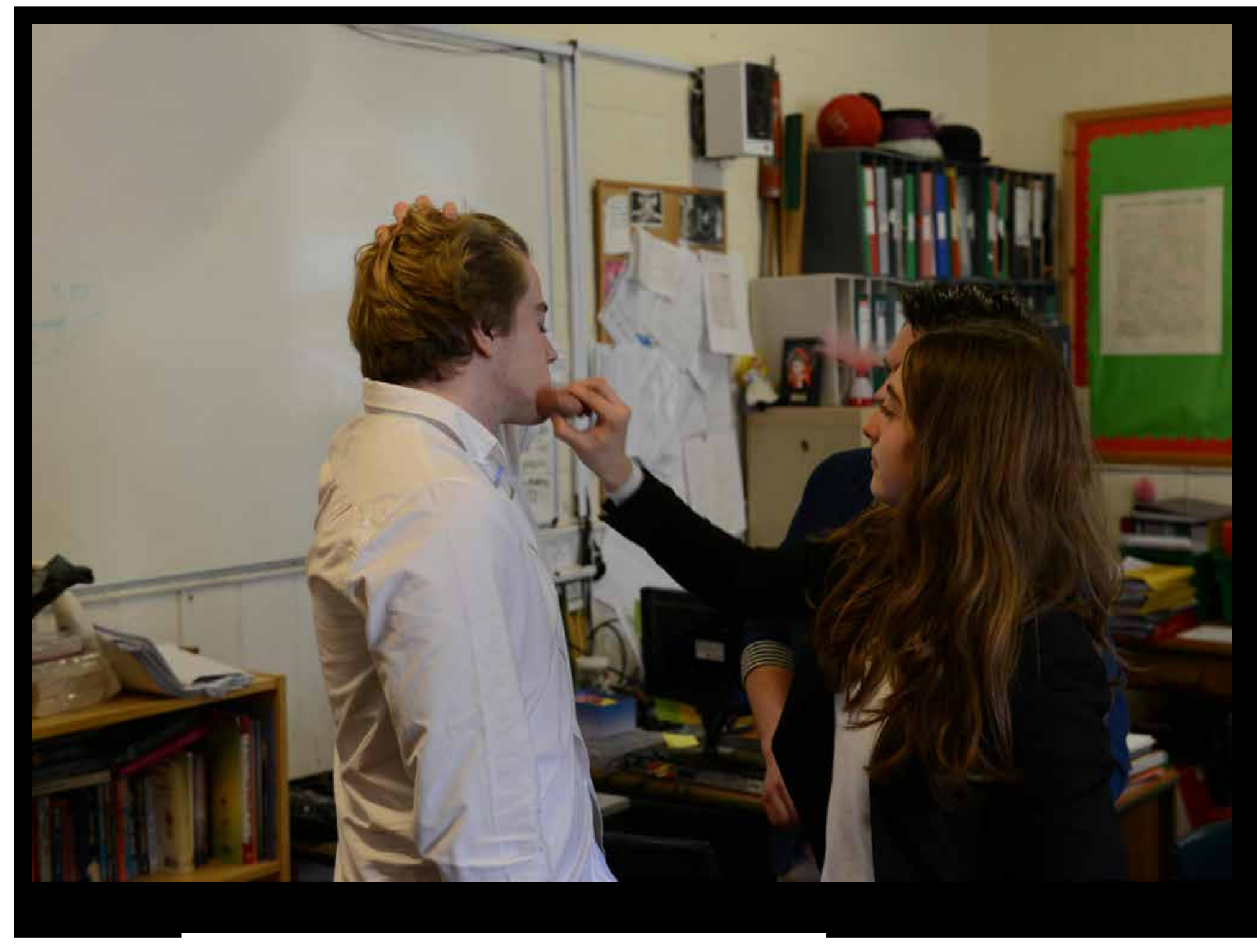
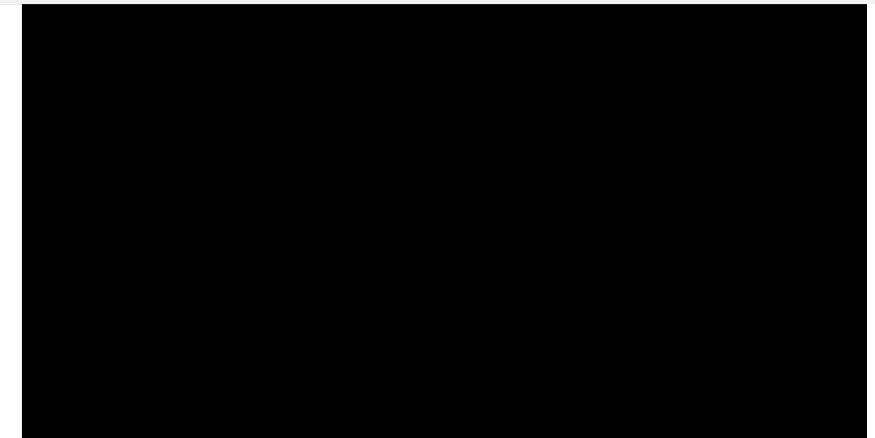
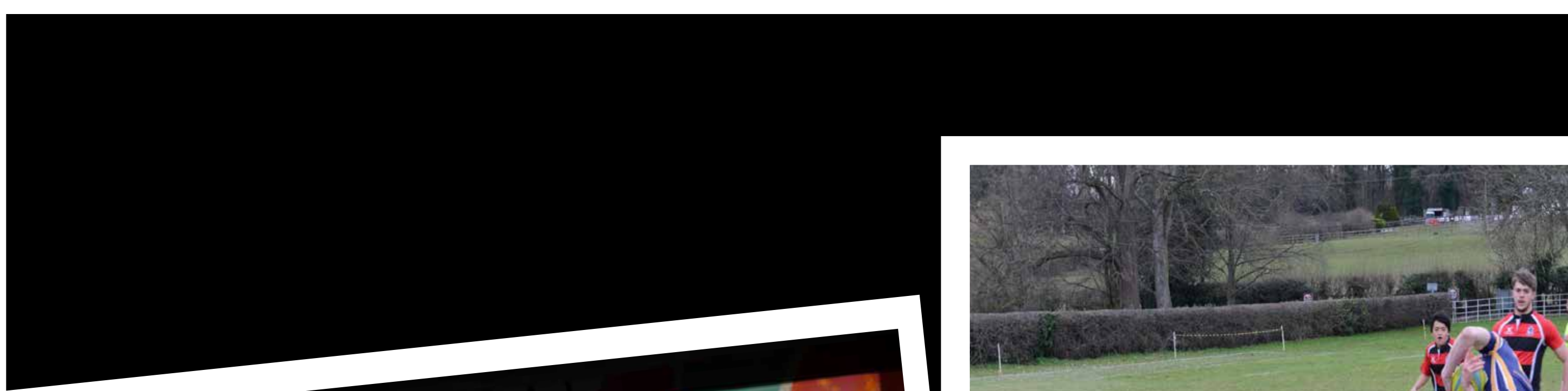
A: I've managed to publish three A Level study guides, one being "Thomas Wolsey: The King's Cardinal", which you can find on Amazon!

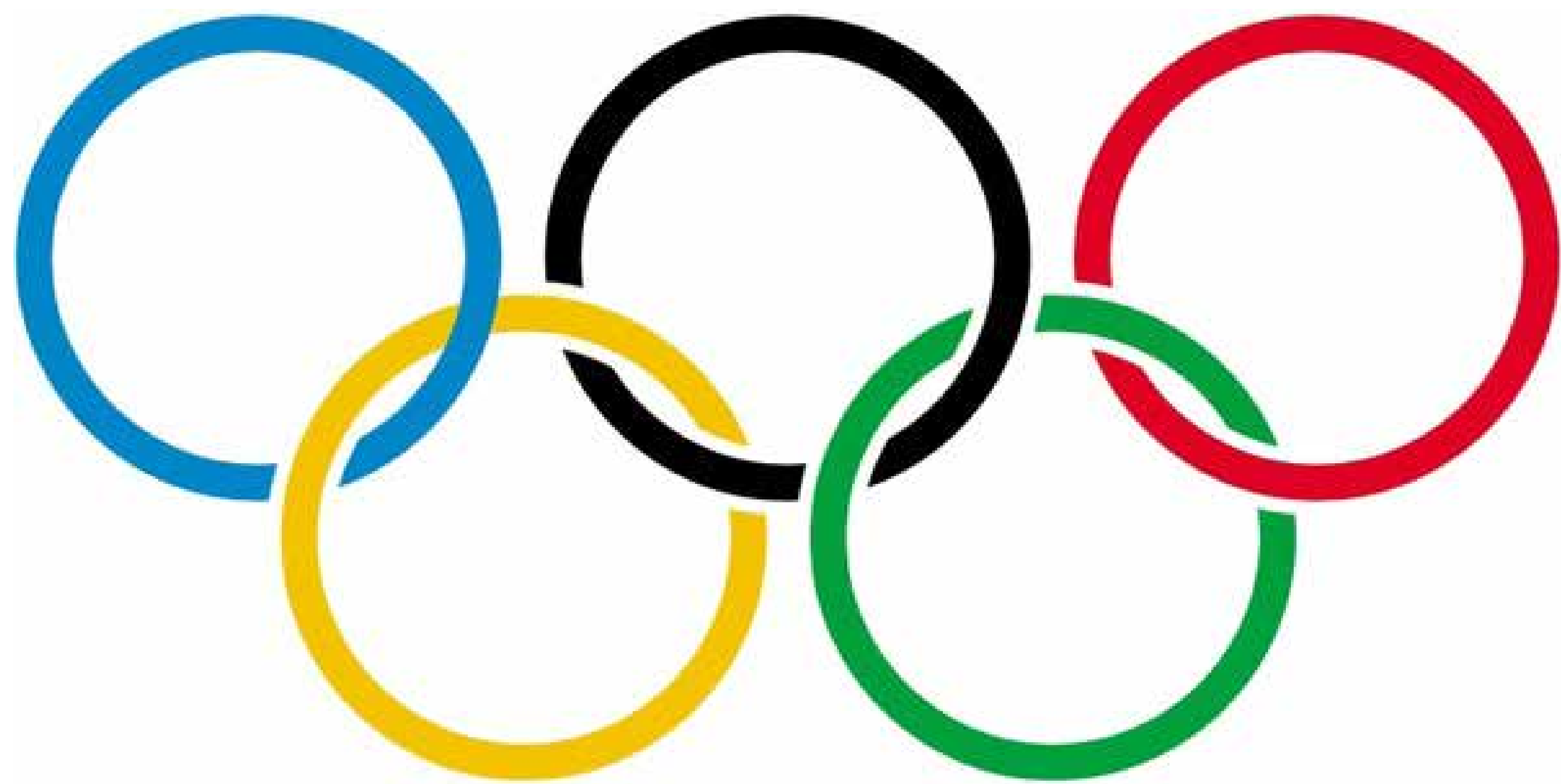
Thank you, Mr Goode.





Jess W Y12





Ice Breakers

The Winter Olympics: History Breakers?

The 20th February saw the closing ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics. As always, history was made, records broken, medals won. And for many people, this two weeks every four years is the only time they are witness to figure skating. For those of us who follow the sport year-round, the big excitement of these games was the trio of Russian teenagers, tipped for the top. Kamila Valieva (age 15): the crowd favourite, Alexandra Trusova: Queen of the Quads, and Anna Shcherbakova: effortlessly elegant (both 17). These girls caused a stir due to their ability to jump quads (a jump with four revolutions mid-air). Quads are incredibly difficult and cause a lot of strain on the body. Until this season no female skater has ever done one in competition. Alexandra Trusova can do five in quick succession.

Quads may be new on the scene, but Russian medallists are not. For the past decade, Russia has dominated women's skating with a string of teenagers who can, quite simply, skate faster, higher, better. Four years ago in Pyeongchang it was 15 year-old Alina Zagitova who took the gold, beating her countrywoman Evgenia Medvedeva into a close second. Four years before that, we saw Yulia Lipnitskaya, once again fifteen, skate to victory, closely watched by Putin himself.

So what links these six skaters? Firstly, their ability to do what others simply cannot. Quads may be a relatively new phenomenon, but Medvedeva, Zagitova and Lipnitskaya were still jumping triples at a level which could not be matched. Secondly, their age. Half of these skaters competed in the

Olympics at the age of 15, and none of the other half were older than 18. There's some science behind that: younger, smaller girls are physically able to rotate more times in the air, and are lighter over the ice. The third link? None of them have lasted any longer than a few short years on the senior competitive circuit. Lipnitskaya retired aged 17, due to severe health issues which landed her in a rehabilitation centre. Neither Zagitova nor Medvedeva still compete: Medvedeva due to a permanent back injury. As for the current trio, it's too early to tell. But the signs don't look good. Valieva was tipped for gold, but with a drug test allegation hanging over her, she failed to skate her best and landed outside the medals. The apparent "underdog", Shcherbakova, ended up in first place, but confessed to feeling "empty" with her victory. Trusova was left with second, and later stated that she hated the sport and never wanted to skate again. She's since put the outburst down to emotion, but has yet to confirm whether she'll be skating at the World Championships next month. This short competitive span isn't normal. True, figure skating is a very tough sport, both physically and mentally, but a strong young skater shouldn't burn out that quickly. Look at the USA team: Alysia Liu made her Olympic debut this year, age 16. She competed alongside teammate Jason Brown, who's 27 and still going strong at his second Olympic Games. A good skater with the right training should start young and have a decent 10-12 years on the senior competition circuit. And many of them do just that.

So, six Russian skaters, all young, all shortlived. Looks a bit odd, doesn't it? What if I told you that all six of those girls have (or had) the same coach?

Eteri Tutberidze is lauded as Russia's (if not the world's) most successful coach. And, on paper, she is. The "Eteri Girls", as they are known, make a habit of winning everything they aim for. But at what cost? Tutberidze's methods are no secret. And they are brutal. In an interview, Zagitova calmly mentioned not being allowed to drink water during her Olympic events. Medvedeva skated her Olympic programmes with a broken foot. It goes without saying that a daily, 12-hour training session involves weigh-ins and highly restricted diets. There Of course, in a world of asymmetric information and fake news, it's difficult to know what's fact, what's fiction and what's exaggerated. But one thing we know for sure is that Tutberidze is a monster. And no one's doing anything about it.

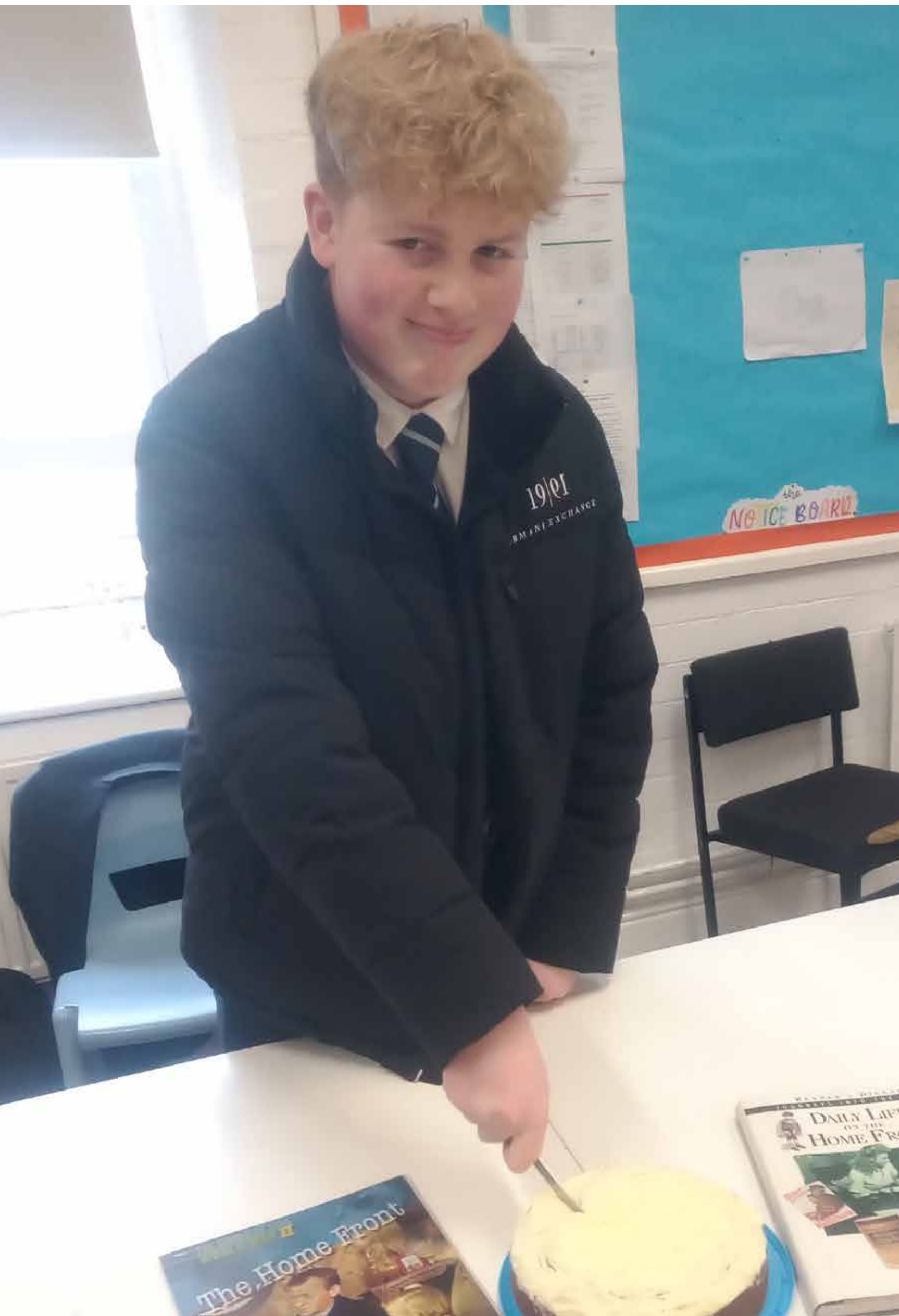
But why not? Because, up to a point, there's not much that can be done. Most countries, Britain included, have strict regulations about human welfare and training hours. Not so in Russia. Furthermore, it's only in the recent drug scandal with Valieva that much of this information has come to light. International Skating Union and Olympic Committee

have commented that Tutberidze's behaviour is "chilling", but as yet, there is no action against her. Once again, I stress that this is not normal. Skaters from every other country competing, especially the USA, Japan and South Korea, can hold their own without breaking down afterwards. Even in Russia, it is not the norm. Former Champion, Evgeni Plushenko runs his own sports school, Angels of Plushenko, where the success of the skaters plays second fiddle to their welfare. Such brutality as Tutberidze's is not standard in the world of skating, and she is giving the sport a bad name. Medvedeva was perhaps the lucky one: after losing the gold medal in 2018, she changed coach. Although she no longer competes, she is at least a happy, healthy individual who had just started her own fashion line. As for the current trio of "Eteri Girls", I cannot say. But after watching Valieva break down in tears rinkside and be offered no comfort by her coach, I cannot imagine we'll be seeing her at a second Olympics. And I have rarely felt more sympathy for anyone. Not for her lack of a gold medal, but for the unnecessary damage done to a young life.





Gian Andrea Y13



A Cake In Time

In the interests of historical research, the Sixth Formers tracked down a cake recipe from World War Two, when many of the ingredients would have been rationed. Of course, in recreating the cake, real egg, rather than powdered egg, which would have been more likely to have been used at the time, was included. Although an apparently basic cake, this would have been a recipe for a special occasion, requiring relatively large quantities of rationed items, as well as the 'secret' ingredient of a tin of tomato soup.

Harvey baked a cake from the recipe, covered it in frosting and shared it with his fellow students. It was actually surprisingly tasty, despite having a slightly 'odd' taste (according to Mr Wolstenholme). Perhaps our readers would like to try it...

Ingredients

- 270g plain flour
- 1-1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 60g unsalted butter, softened
- 200g granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tin of tomato soup (approx. 350g)
- Optional: 40g raisins and 40g chopped nuts

Step 1: Sieve the dry ingredients

Preheat the oven to 350°F/170°C. Line your tin with baking paper.

Pour the flour, cinnamon, bicarb of soda, nutmeg, cloves, baking powder and salt into a large bowl. Sieve the ingredients together three times.

Step 2: Blend the butter, sugar and eggs

Place the softened butter and sugar in a mixing bowl. Blend them together on medium-high speed for 2-3 minutes, scraping down the sides once. Add in the egg. Blend the mixture for about 5 minutes on medium-high speed until it's light in color with lots of air incorporated.

Step 3: Add the dry mixture and the soup

Pour about half of the dry mixture into the bowl and mix. Then pour in the whole can of tomato soup and mix until smooth.

Pour in the remaining dry ingredients and mix just until all of the dry ingredients are mixed in.

Step 4: Time to bake

Pour the batter into the prepared cake tin. Use a spatula to spread it into the corners and even out the top. Place the pan in your hot oven, and bake the cake for 35-40 minutes. A toothpick inserted in the center should come out with just a crumb or two. Place the tin on a cooling rack for 10 minutes.

Step 5: Serve

After 10 minutes, carefully remove the cake from the tin. Allow it to cool completely. You can frost the cake using a simple buttercream with a little cinnamon added in. A cream cheese frosting would also work, or the cake can also be simply dusted with icing sugar.



Daniel Y13

All Grown Up



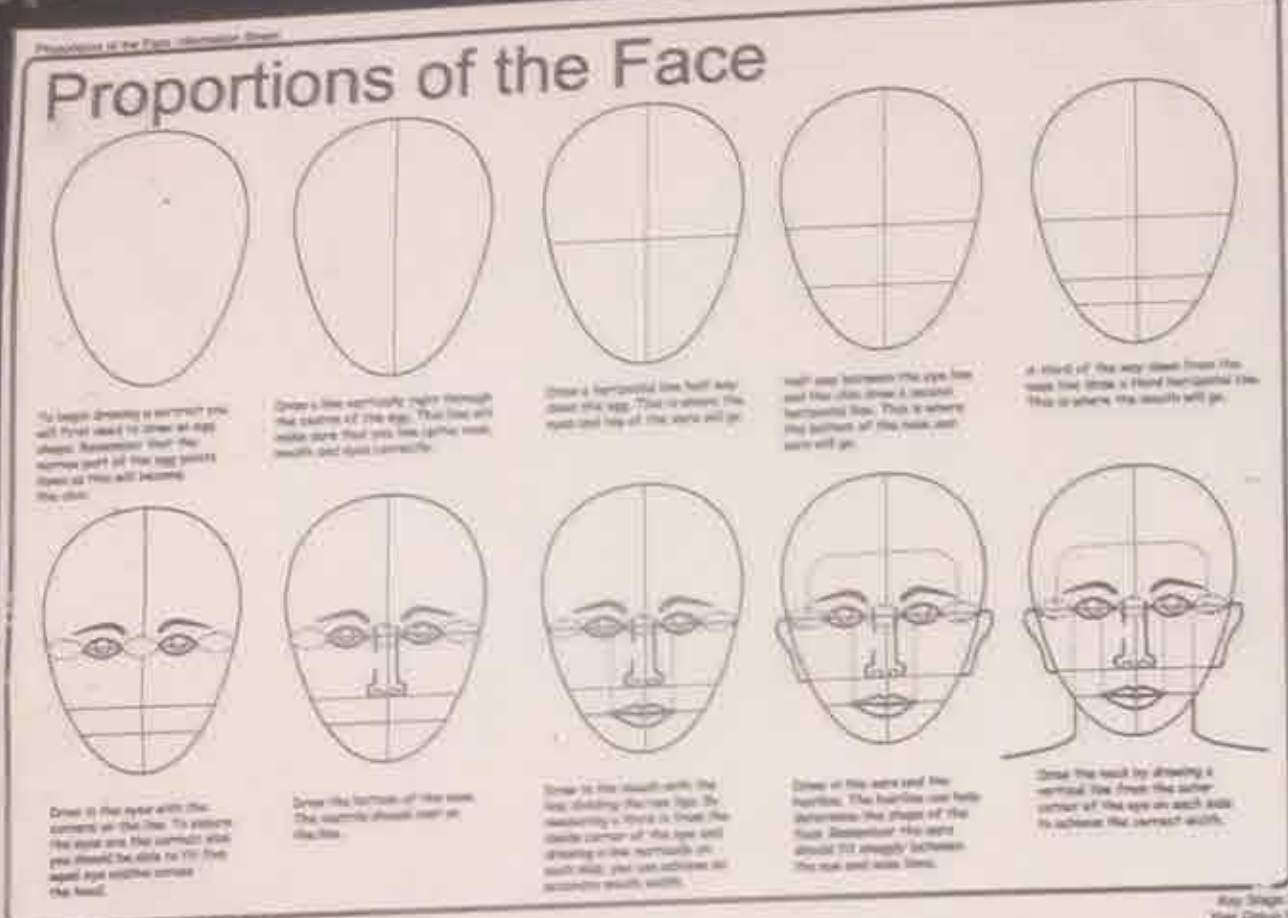
Can you guess who the Sixth Formers and staff are?

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I've begun to start looking at portraiture as a whole, applying previous exploration. I used a proportion technique I learnt, however I found this technique not to be my favourite as a whole; as faces are dynamic + they won't often look exactly straight on.

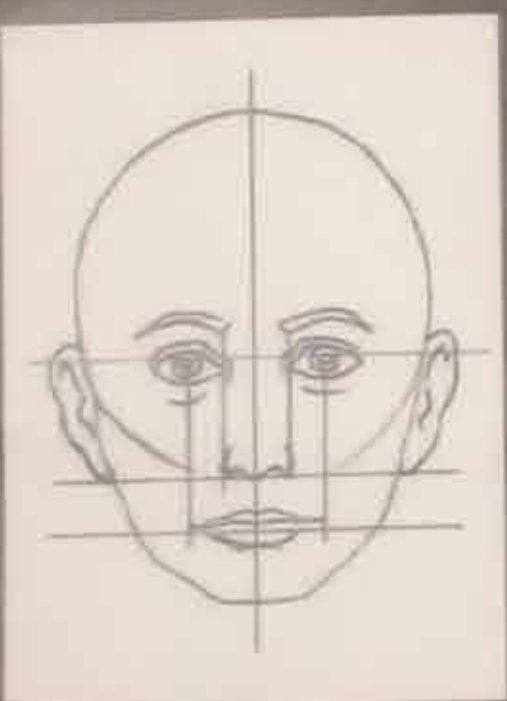
Beginning to look at portraiture



↳ Also doesn't work for portraits side on. I have done a quick ap here to familiarise myself. Instead I prefer to make the mapping out less structured as not all faces fit one style.



- Proportion
- Did you know your face is about five eyes wide?
- Let's test that theory on this guy again...



Grace Y13

Favourites in History

Film and Novels

Louise - Just William Stories by Richmal Crompton

The Just William series is a sequence of thirty-eight books written by English author Richmal Crompton. The books chronicle the adventures of the unruly schoolboy William Brown.

Published over a period of almost fifty years, between 1922 and 1970, the series is notable for the fact that the protagonist remains at the same eleven years of age, despite each book being set in the era in which it was written

Jess- Gladiator 2000 film directed by Ridley Scott and starring Russell Crowe

Crowe portrays Roman general Maximus Decimus Meridius, who is betrayed when Commodus, the ambitious son of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, murders his father and seizes the throne. Reduced to slavery, Maximus becomes a gladiator and rises through the ranks of the arena to avenge the murders of his family and his emperor.

Maureen - Hidden Figures. 2016 film.

The story of a team of female African-american mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA in the early years of the U.S. space programme

Rebecca - Hacksaw Ridge- 2016 film

Hacksaw Ridge tells the true story of PFC Desmond Doss, the first conscientious objector to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, given in recognition of his service in the Battle of Okinawa

Hannah - Saving Private Ryan 1998 film

An American epic war film directed by Steven Spielberg. Following the Normandy Landings, a group of U.S. soldiers go behind enemy lines to retrieve a paratrooper whose brothers have been killed in action.

Grace- Warhorse – novel by Michael Morpurgo/film 2011

Set before and during World War I, it tells of the journey of Joey, a bay Irish Hunter horse raised by British teenager Albert (Irvine), as he is bought by the British Army, leading him to encounter numerous individuals and owners throughout Europe, all the while experiencing the tragedies of the war happening around him.

Felicity- My Fair Lady-1964 film Starring Audrey Hepburn

An American musical drama film adapted from the 1956 Lerner and Loewe stage musical based on George Bernard Shaw's 1913 stage play 'Pygmalion'. The film depicts a poor Cockney flower-seller named Eliza Doolittle who overhears an arrogant phonetics professor, Henry Higgins, as he casually wagers that he could teach her to speak "proper" English, thereby making her presentable in the high society of Edwardian London.

Hershel- The Rifleman 2020 film

Adapted from the book Blizzard of Souls by Aleksandrs Grins and based on true events, the film pays stark witness to the horrors and brutality of the First World War. Too young to fight but old enough to die, sixteen-year-old Arturs enlists to serve on the Eastern Front with dreams of becoming a hero. Conscripted into one of Latvia's first national battalions, he soon discovers the grim reality of trench warfare.

Seren- Here Be Dragons- 1985 novel

Here Be Dragons is a historical novel written by Sharon Kay Penman. The novel is the first in a trilogy known as the Welsh Princes series set in medieval England, Wales and France that feature the Plantagenet kings.

Film Review

The Godfather

Almost fifty years ago, on the 24th of August 1972, the world of cinema was changed forever. Defying the doubters and sceptics at his film studio, up and coming director Francis Ford Coppola released his three-hour long mafia epic, 'The Godfather'. Contrary to expectations, the film smashed box office records and, to this day, countless film critics deem it to be the 'Masterpiece of all Masterpieces' which has influenced every subsequent film director in search of perfection.

Based on the award winning novel of the same name by Mario Puzo, the story follows the Italian-American Corleone crime family over the space of ten years in 1940s New York City. At the helm of the family sits Don Vito Corleone (played by Marlon Brando), nicknamed 'the Godfather', a composed but ruthless leader, who values family and respect over all else. The Don's power seems limitless, but when he refuses to enter the drug business, an attempt is made on his life, forcing his youngest son, Michael Corleone (played by Al Pacino), to step in to protect his father, and eventually succeed him to become the Godfather of the family.

Alongside the thrilling plot and perfect script, the technicalities of this production make it breathtakingly beautiful for the viewer to watch. Coppola fought for complete creative control in order to produce the film he visualised and, with the esteemed cinematographer Gordon Willis, he created visual poetry from the very first shot. The film opens with a solo trumpet from Nino Rota's hauntingly unforgettable score penetrating the darkness as a chilling outline of a skeletal face appears, filling the audience with a sense of foreboding, and setting the scene for things to come.

The film is renowned for superb performances; Marlon Brando won an Oscar for Best Actor (and famously declined it!) for playing the menacingly evil mafioso in such a way that the audience ends up empathising with him, and a young and inexperienced Al Pacino gave an outstanding breakthrough performance for which he received a Best Supporting Actor nomination. The other supporting roles are also wonderfully portrayed, with notable performances from Robert Duvall, James Caan, Diane Keaton and John Cazale.

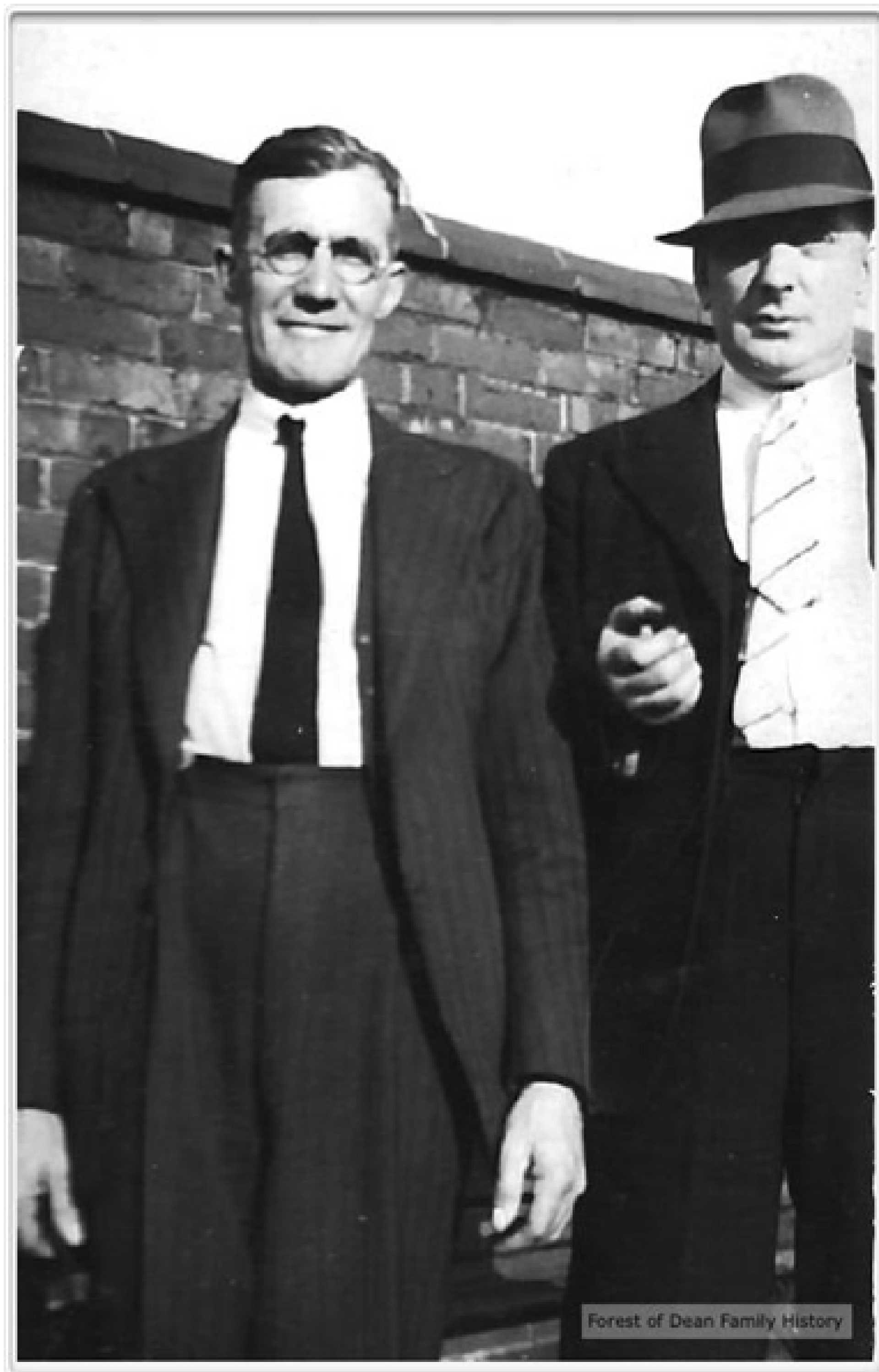
The Godfather is not for the light-hearted, as it seems that Puzo wasn't really into happy endings, but if you can handle a story of good meeting evil and not always overcoming it, the perfection of Mario Puzo's story, coupled with Coppola's bold direction, and authentic and gritty characterisations, cannot be beaten. In my opinion, The Godfather is one of the best films ever made, if not THE best film ever made. So, if you want an unforgettable night, just make yourself a big bowl of Sicilian pasta, pour yourself a glass of red wine, and savour every scene. Surely, that's "an offer you can't refuse"?

Finn M



Daniel Y13

Personal History



This article is borne from an assembly that Hannah and Felicity made to the rest of the Sixth Form, in one of our Tuesday assembly slots.

Hannah: Great grandfather Harry Jones was born in Tenbury Wells and was one of four brothers. When the war broke out, he enlisted in the Worcestershire Regiment and became part of the 5th Battalion. His first deployment was on 14th January 1914 in France and over the course of the war he would not only see action in numerous places but also be involved in all three battles of the Somme. After his battalion was wiped out apart from five soldiers including Harry, he joined the Gloucester Regiment and went on to fight at Ypres, which came to be nicknamed “Wipers” by the soldiers.

In 1917, he returned home due to trauma, however he soon re-enlisted, joining the Shropshire Light infantry, with whom he saw action in Italy, Germany, France and North Africa. His role involved using horses to pull artillery to the front line. During this time, he gained his

sergeant stripes, although he lost them later because he used his own emergency rations to feed starving children in Paris and was caught. He returned home in around 1922 and fortunately his three brothers all came home as well.

After the war, Henry worked for a local builder as a ‘journeyman’ which meant taking supplies around. He also joined the local special constabulary.

In April 1929, he joined the local fire services which he remained part of for thirty years until retiring in 1959. Most notably, he fought the great fire which devastated the ballroom of Witley Court in 1937 and also volunteered to go to Coventry as a firefighter during the Blitz on 14th November 1940.

Henry died at the age of 67, although during his life he had earned three WW1 medals, a medal of special constabulary for 20 years’ service, and two firefighter service medals; one for good conduct and one for long service. He also had regimental tattoos on his forearms which were done during the war with an ink pen.

Felicity: William Stanley Duberley - Felicity’s great great grand uncle (pictured) was born in 1895 in Ruardean, a small village in the Forest of Dean, and was known as Stanley or Stan. He was one of ten children and by the age of 16, he was already working in the coal mines. During WW1 he served with the 1st Hereford Regiment, fighting in the 1915 Gallipoli (Dardanelles) campaign. He returned home in 1916 where he married Elizabeth Mary Gibbs.

In 1917, at the battle of Gaza, Palestine, his best friend Albert Watkins was severely wounded and mistaken as being dead. Fortunately, Stanley carried him to safety anyway and discovered that Albert was still alive. A bullet had entered his jaw and came out at the back of his head.

Although Stanley was a coal miner like most of his family, he was also a rugby player for Gloucester and played a friendly game against the All Blacks in around 1923 and even had a trial for England. I am told he was also a heavyweight boxer and a champion of the army in the Middle East during the First World War.

He died in 1963 of a heart attack whilst queuing up to see Wales play the All Blacks in Cardiff.



Jess Y12

What will it be, that you leave behind
When you are dead and gone.
As the earth envelops you, in sweet embrace-
The chime of your swan song

For as we toil, and hate, and burn
As we laugh and hope and dream
From joy that overflows our souls, to
Despair that tears us seam from seam

And more beasts, have become we
By accident, purpose or plan.
As the earth revolved and ages ran

So we look behind, to bells and knells,
The swathes of time, to find ourselves-
Among the people, from astrum and the ark-
To our generation, all human, all luminous,
Incandescent-as the foil of our bright mortality.
Golden highlights in an endless canvas of the empty space-
That surrounds our lonely blue.

Meaning-how easy to say, yet difficult to know.
Men have built palaces and cities to find it,
Yet tasted only ash.
Conquests bring burning glory-yet to live by the sword-
Is to die by it.

Odes of love, books of thought
Science to question, mathematics to order.
Fame to seek and hope to bind-and yet
Won't we leave these things behind?

They say there's an edge, just before the sea-
Which glows with verdant hues of green.
A rocky shore-battered yet not broken.
A coast worn by time, but beautiful in its marring.
On this bluff, before the yawning unknown ahead-
Depthless and unfathomable, yet real as the ground on which we stand-
A person lives out on the sand.

I met her once, and only once
Out on that distant shore.
To ask her what I'm doing here
And what I'm living for.
To me, she smiled and gently said-
I cannot know what's in your head.
But let me tell you something as sure
As this endless sea, and its glittering Jade
To exist for us, is to be known-
For we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Matthew D





Felicity A Y13

Phew, What a lifetime!

Have you ever wondered how different your life would be if you'd been born in Germany in 1870? Probably not. But read on and find out why it really wasn't that pleasant a prospect!

1870: You are born in the very bossy Germanic state of Prussia (Germany doesn't exist yet). If you're a boy expect to join the army one day, and don't bother asking when vote day is: there isn't one.

1871: Prussia joins up with a lot of other little states to become one big, grumpy country: Germany. Now you're going to have to get used to being "German", not "Prussian"

1888: The long-standing German Emperor, Kaiser Frederick, dies. Unfortunately, this now means that the leader of your country is his slightly balmy grandson, Kaiser Wilhelm II, who is a bit obsessed with conquering countries, wants a navy the exact copy of Britain's, and may or may not have worn his military helmet in the bath. He is certainly a character.

1914: The Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austro-Hungary stupidly gets himself assassinated and suddenly you're at war. As a lowly soldier, you probably have no idea why you're fighting or why, but you do as you're told.

1917: If you haven't died yet, you may do soon: 1917 marks the "turnip winter", a time of such bitterly cold weather that Germany experiences severe food shortages. Even if you're away fighting, you can be sure that your wife and children are enjoying a diet of nothing but turnips back at home.

1918: The war's over! Unfortunately no one told you lowly German troops that you were losing, so you're slightly annoyed to be called off when you were just coming in sight of Paris. You go back home to a country that now has no Kaiser, no military and a very unstable new government.

1919: It's been decided that World War One is all Germany's fault, and as a punishment, most of you soldiers lose your jobs. On top of that, the new Weimar Government (established in February), is a democracy made up of old monarchists. So if you're a conservative, you're unhappy because Germany has no monarch. If you're a Communist, you're unhappy because Germany still has a president and chancellor. If you're a soldier, you're unhappy because you're unemployed. If you're a democrat, you're still not happy because the new government is more interested in stopping a revolution than increasing your minimum wage. Basically, no one's happy.

1920-1923: Have fun living in a society which keeps exploding all over the place. The Communists keep rebelling, the extreme right wing keep rebelling. You may or may not be involved. But you certainly notice when the French army marches into Germany and sits there for a bit. You also notice when money loses all its value and a loaf of bread costs a wheelbarrow full of banknotes which you don't have.

1929: Okay, so, Germany found itself some decent politicians and sorted out the problems of 1923. You've enjoyed six years of relative peace and prosperity. Unfortunately, all of that prosperity came from a big loan off the USA. Now the Wall Street Crash means that they want it back, so you're out of a job again.

1932: The Chancellor of Germany has changed head four times in two years, and none have been very good. By this point you're seriously fed up and are considering voting for the interesting new National Socialist German Workers Party, which seems to know what it's doing (it doesn't), and promises to end unemployment. Sounding a bit long-winded? You might know it better by its abbreviation: it's called the Nazi Party.

1933: Thanks to a landslide of votes (most likely including yours), the Nazis are now the biggest political party and their leader, Hitler, becomes chancellor. Of course, you don't care about that. You're just pleased to see the death of unemployment, food shortages and uprisings (that's what's been promised, anyway.) It's a choice you will regret.

1934-1939: Now the Nazis are in charge of everything. If you're not a Nazi yourself, life is miserable. Otherwise, you have work, but it mostly involves building roads. By this point, you probably have grandchildren: they'll be off learning how to kill at Hitler Youth. So long as you don't mind flying a Swastika flag

and saying "Heil Hitler" instead of hello, life doesn't seem as bad as during the Depression. But let's just hope you're not Jewish, disabled, a criminal, a devout Christian, a gypsy, Slav, or homosexual. Or you'll end up, at best, unemployed and at worse, sent to a death camp. And as for any female relatives of yours, they were instructed to get married, stay at home and have as many children as possible.

1939: 21 years after the Great War, Europe's at it again. You're probably too old to fight this time around, but your children won't be. And this time, staying at home won't save you: you live in fear of area bombing from the British, and have no idea whether Germany's losing or not because the Nazis have censored your news feed.

1945: Well, that's it. Germany's lost the war and Hitler's dead. If you, unlike millions of your fellow Germans, avoided Nazi indoctrination or persecution, you're probably quite glad. That said, your home had been bombed, members of your family killed and you have no food, money, heating or government. You are now waiting to be rescued by the Allies, which doesn't sit all that well, since you've spend the last six years thinking they were the enemy.

Still 1945: You live in the eastern part of Germany. That is now turning out not to be a very good thing, because Germany has been split into four zones, and the Russians control yours. You're glad to be free of the Nazis, of course, but the Russians are Communists. You can't help but wonder what on earth will come next.

1949-1953: Having lived first in Prussia, then Germany, you are a little surprised to find yourself a citizen of the GDR (German Democratic Republic). That's the new offshoot of the USSR which used to be the east part of the country, and is now controlled by Russia. West Germany, the FRG, is getting back to normal. Meanwhile, you can't go and visit your friends and family in the West, because that's not allowed. You've had to become a member of the SED, the only political party there is, and you live your life being spied upon by the government's secret police: the Stasi. Is any of this sounding a little familiar? Well, you're clearly wrong. This is Stalin's USSR and they are nothing like the Nazis, thank you very much.

1953: Stalin has died. You're getting on in years now, but even you can't miss the odious state funeral. You secretly hope that this might mean that you can visit (or at least contact) the west, but no such luck. You have to stay living in your concrete apartment block and being careful never to laugh about Stalin's moustache in public.

1961: At the respectable age of 91, you die. Had you popped your clogs a year earlier, you would have missed the building of the great ugly Berlin Wall between your side of Berlin and the West. Over your 91 years you've seen the creation and division of a country, the creation and dissolution of three governments, been ruled by two dictators, suffered unemployment, hyperinflation, military occupation and bombing. You've gone to war and seen your children and grandchildren do the same. And you've only lived 48 years without some major war or period of oppression. That's what you call a bad time to be born.



Historical Misconceptions in Fashion



With period dramas taking the media by storm and fashion influenced by history becoming increasingly popular, I thought it might be interesting to write about some aspects of historical fashion that you may not have been aware of. In this article I am going to examine the top five myths and misconceptions surrounding historical fashion for you to consider the next time you settle down in front of a period drama.

Victorian Makeup

Common misconceptions about makeup in the Victorian era include: “The Victorians wore white lead makeup” and “The Victorians wore no makeup and all had naturally perfect skin”. The truth is actually that while makeup was frowned upon during the Victorian era due to its association with actresses and the belief that makeup was only used to hide or disguise one’s true features, many women still applied subtle makeup in secret to fit the beauty standards of the day. For example, charcoal, elderberry juice and burned cloves were all used to darken eyebrows and eyelashes. Cosmetics were often homemade, with recipes available in ladies’ magazines, although some products, such as face powders, could be bought in shops. The idea that the Victorians all had perfect skin is also due to early attempts at photo editing, but that is a story for another time.

Hats and Bonnets

Although modern media would have us believe otherwise, hats in their various forms were an essential part of fashion for centuries, with hats only disappearing from everyday wear in the 1970s. They often served practical purposes, from hiding women’s hair in the Middle Ages in order to obey the decrees of the Church, to protecting one’s face from sunburn. Men also wore hats at various points in history, occasionally swapping these for wigs as fashions changed. Indeed, in 1571, a law was passed requiring all men over the age of six (excepting noblemen) to wear a woollen cap on Sundays and holidays, or face a fine, in order to support the English wool trade. This law was repealed in 1597.

Heels were Originally Men's Fashion

The earliest recorded use of high heels comes from the 10th Century when they were worn by the Persian Cavalry as a way of keeping their feet in their stirrups. Since owning horses was a symbol of wealth, high heels also came to signify money and power. By the 17th century, high heels as men's fashion had spread to Europe and were proudly showed off in portraiture. In the 1670s, King Louis XIV of France passed a law stating that only members of his court could wear red heels. By the time of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution, however, high heels were beginning to fall out of fashion as a result of their association with the aristocracy and impracticality. When high heels came back into fashion during the 19th Century, they were worn almost solely (excuse the pun!) by women.

Flapper fashion

When one is asked to picture 1920s flapper fashion, one often imagines short skirts and fringed dresses, usually paired with long gloves, however it turns out that this was largely not the case. For the majority of the decade, skirts reached the middle of the calf and even at their shortest in 1927 they were still below the knee, quite unlike depictions of this era we are so used to seeing in the media. Similarly, fringing was far less common than one might imagine because it was extremely expensive and, in addition, gloves were rarely worn with evening dress. Interestingly, while many people believe that the 1920s was the time when women stopped wearing corsets, this is really another misconception. Women still wore corset-like garments during the 1920s, although their shape and structure had changed markedly, with elastic panels gradually becoming more common than boning. The ideal corset at this time was designed not to emphasise curves, but to flatten them in order to achieve the fashionable tube-like silhouette.

The Corset

Where to begin? The corset is perhaps the one historical garment most surrounded by myths, misconceptions and outright lies. First of all, we must define our terminology. Back in the Tudor era, the stiffened bodice which would evolve to become the corset was known as a pair of bodies. At this point it had no boning and was instead made of layers of stiffened fabric. Jump forward to the 18th Century and this has grown into a pair of stays, a heavily boned, cone shaped bodice which was occasionally worn as an outer garment and therefore was often quite decorated. By the Victorian era it had become known as a corset and was now the hourglass shape most people today would recognise. Secondly, a corset in any of its forms was NEVER worn without a chemise underneath. Corsets could not be washed so it was far more practical to wear a washable layer which protected not just the corset but all of one's clothing.

Now for the myths. While corsets are commonly associated with tightlacing, this historically was very rare, not least because metal eyelets were not invented until the Victorian era meaning that if the corset laces were pulled too tight the fabric corset would rip, rendering it unwearable. More often, the hourglass silhouette of the Victorian era was achieved through padding the upper chest and hips to give the illusion of a smaller waist and, again, early photo editing was used to make the waist look smaller in photographs. This leads us to the misconception that it was impossible to move or sit down in a corset. Since working women wore corsets too, corsets needed to be practical and indeed having a structured undergarment could actually be a sensible choice as they not only helped keep proper posture, but also offered back support. In fact, by the 1890s, a vast range of corsets including everything from "health corsets" to "sports corsets" were readily available. Moreover, women were not forced by men to wear corsets; they were a practical garment meant to support layers of clothing (especially heavy) and to help achieve the fashionable silhouette.



The Great Easter Egg Hunt



Lucton's Rugby Team - Then (1961) and Now (2022)

Using a copy of a 'Luctonian' from previous years, we recreated a photo of the rugby team from 1961 using current Sixth Form pupils. Clearly, there was more mud in the 1960s than today...!

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