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POSITIVE NEWS FOR A DIFFICULT TIME



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INCOMING!
MEET OUR NEW STAFF

STRANGE TIMES

NORBURY MANOR LOCKDOWN NEWS



Welcome to the third edition of Strange Times.

We hope you're all keeping well and managing to look after your friends and family as best you can.

As you're hopefully aware, the government's expectation is that schools will be re-opening from September. There's lots of work being done behind the scenes so we can welcome back our lovely students for the new academic year. In many ways, school will

"There's lots of work being done behind the scenes so we can welcome back our lovely students"

be quite different but in others it will be the same old Norbury Manor you've come to know and love; we can't wait to see you all!

Thanks to Skye Merrett for the cover image (a photograph of a mural she painted on a wall at home) and to all other contributors.

THE NEW NORMAL

STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

“I’ve been keeping entertained by watching movies and talking with my friends. The work I’m proud of is my art homework because I think I did very well in it. During lockdown, I haven’t cooked anything because I haven’t found the time to do cooking. One thing I miss about school is meeting up with my friends.”

- Alara Ozdemir

“So, lockdown hasn’t been as bad as I thought. I mean, obviously we’re all stuck indoors so we can’t go shopping in JD for tracksuits and trainers or even enjoy a decent meal at Nando’s. But, there are brighter sides to quarantine (I mean, JD delivery is still working).

So far, I’ve played some board games with family and managed to lose every single one of them. I’ve gone to my local park to play football; I was alright at first but that lucky streak has obviously expired because I now can’t even kick a ball without it going in the complete opposite direction to where I wanted.

I’m catching up on the latest TV series. I’ve made a whole bunch of videos on this app called TikTok. I’ve watched loads of YouTube videos and I play-fight with my brother to see if I can floor him, which I’m still working on (ouch!). I make sure I’ve always got a good amount of snacks in my stash, which means that I go shopping to top up on them regularly. I FaceTime my friends and I do the Celeste choir Zoom meeting every Friday at 5pm.

I’ve done so much homework that my brain feels like it’s about to explode but when I’m finished for the day I just go on my iPad for hours doing whatever I find interesting.

“I’ve done so much homework that my brain feels like it’s about to explode”

I haven’t done any baking yet, but I’m going to be making churros soon, which I’m excited about. I have done a lot of thinking though, because even though being in quarantine happened because of something bad, there are so many good things about it as well. If you think about it, quarantine is a blessing in disguise, it’s a chance for us to think about ourselves for a hot moment, it’s a time to forget about all the beef you’ve had at school *ahem* and focus on more positive things.

This is a chance to think about our futures, to revise those subjects you find difficult, to sit home and do absolutely nothing every day. To sunbathe in your garden (if you don’t have a garden, get a beach towel and a lamp and lie under it and pretend you’re on the beach). Just have fun! Spend time with your family, annoy your parents, play-fight with your siblings and get floored. Just be you, because right now, the world has bigger problems to deal with than judging you!

Anyways, I got to go watch an interesting story about Lele Pons and her OCD (check it out if you like) on YouTube, so peace out!”

- Camecia Campbell

“I’ve been keeping entertained by being on the phone with my friends and going outside. The kind of work I’m proud of doing was my science (it took two days). During lockdown I haven’t really been cooking that much. One thing I miss about school are my friends; what I’m planning on doing when the restrictions allow is seeing my friends as much as I can.”

- Amelia Dylewska

BLACK LIVES MATTER

STUDENTS' REFLECTIONS

“Black lives have been targeted for hundreds of years, especially in the US. Across the globe, black people continue to be tortured, abused and tormented just because of the colour of their skin.

George Floyd was a 46 year-old black American man who died on May 25th 2020 by being brutally pinned down by a white police officer in Minneapolis. Sadly, his death was just another chapter in a long American history of the ill treatment of black people by police forces. It awakened anger and an undeniable feeling of injustice within people of colour. Floyd's death brought about meaningful social change, united a movement for equal rights and compelled activism and action in the midst of a global pandemic. Protests broke out, leading to looting, and people demanded change in the system.

Here in the UK, even though the death took place more than 4,000 miles away, there were large protests, too. The global anti-racism movement, Black Lives Matter, re-emerged to fight for racial justice and against police brutality. The movement is led by co-founders Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi and Patrisse Cullors.

Many things have changed in the US since the Black Lives Matter movement began. One of these changes is that monuments memorializing the racist history of the US have been removed. In Boston, Philadelphia, Dallas and Washington DC, monuments and statues dedicated to individuals with racist pasts and legacies have been removed. Furthermore, legislation was introduced to make “Juneteenth” a national holiday in the US; Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States and brands such as Nike, Vox Media and Mastercard have made it a paid holiday for their employees. Lastly, after weeks of pressure and protests from impacted communities, Donald Trump, president of the US, signed an order to ban chokeholds within police departments.

Still, much more change is needed at all levels and activists are continuing to do work to make lasting change. We too can help in numerous ways by signing petitions for change, spreading awareness on social media, supporting black-owned businesses or giving small donations to help those who have been affected. Here are three things you can do to help:

- Contribute to Black Lives Matter UK (BLMUK) - a coalition of black activists and organisers across the UK who have been active in seeking justice in our communities since 2016. You'll find their GoFundMe page here: <https://uk.gofundme.com/f/ukblm-fund>.
- Sign the petition for justice for Elijah McClain, another innocent young African-American man who died in police custody: <https://www.change.org/p/adams-county-district-attorney-justice-for-elijah-mcclain-48a81830-f891-4b04-ba28-c2625b916b96>
- Support a black-owned UK business - you'll find a list here: <https://www.thestrategist.co.uk/article/black-owned-uk-businesses.html>”



INCOMING!

MEET OUR NEW STAFF



Miss Jones

“Hello, Norbury Manor! I am Miss Jones and I will be joining the English Department this September. I will also be the form tutor for 7Y. I look forward to meeting you all soon.”

“Hello! My name is Mr Campbell and I will be rejoining Norbury in September (some of you may remember me as a business and economics teacher from a number of years ago). I am really excited about returning to Norbury and finding out about all the different things you girls have been doing over lockdown. I think we have all learned a little bit more about ourselves and our resilience in these strange times and this will make us all much stronger people in the years to come. I have even learned how to bake and my scones are delicious even if I do say so myself! I look forward to welcoming you all back soon.”



Mr Campbell



Miss Bhadusha

“Hello! My name is Miss Bhadusha and I am the new English TA. I am so excited to start working at Norbury Manor, especially because I was a student at the school! I absolutely loved my time here, so it feels great to be back to work with some of the amazing teachers who once taught me! I feel so inspired by your contributions to the previous issues of Strange Times and I am glad that some of you are taking the time to get creative with your artwork and writing. I hope you are all staying safe and I look forward to meeting you all in September!”

“My name is Mr Acquaaah-Harrison. I will be teaching computer science and maths. I have had seven to eight years’ experience teaching in secondary schools; my last position was at Langley Girls Park School where I taught computer science, ICT and business studies. I’m looking forward to being part of the team at Norbury Manor.”



Mr Acquaaah-Harrison



Miss Spirydon

“Bonjour tout le monde. Je m’appelle Madame Spirydon. Hello everyone, my name is Mrs Spirydon and I am very much looking forward to starting at Norbury Manor in September. I am going to be Head of French and can’t wait to start. As well as speaking French I also speak Italian and love learning and teaching languages. I wish everyone a restful and safe summer and will see you soon.”

3

THINGS I CAN'T WAIT TO DO.... by Unaysah Amir

1. Have a party with my cousins
2. Visit Nando's with my family
3. Spend time playing with my friends

KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL

SENIOR LEADERSHIP SPECIAL



Four steps to sourdough
by Ms Ryder Owen



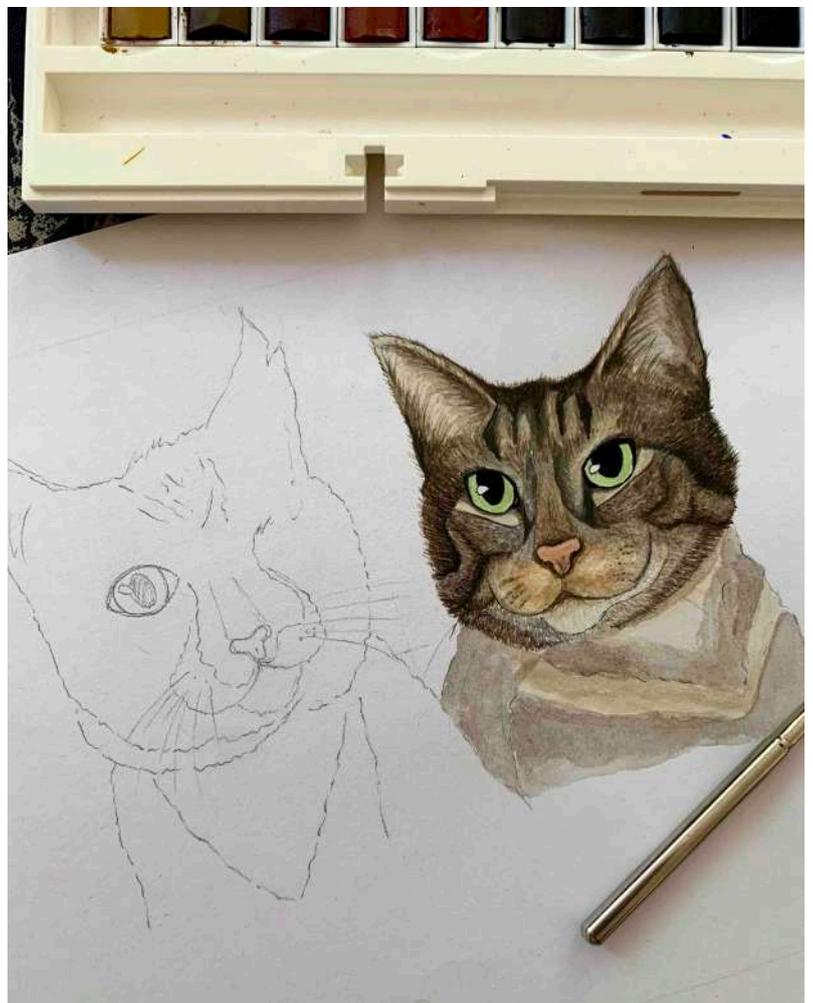
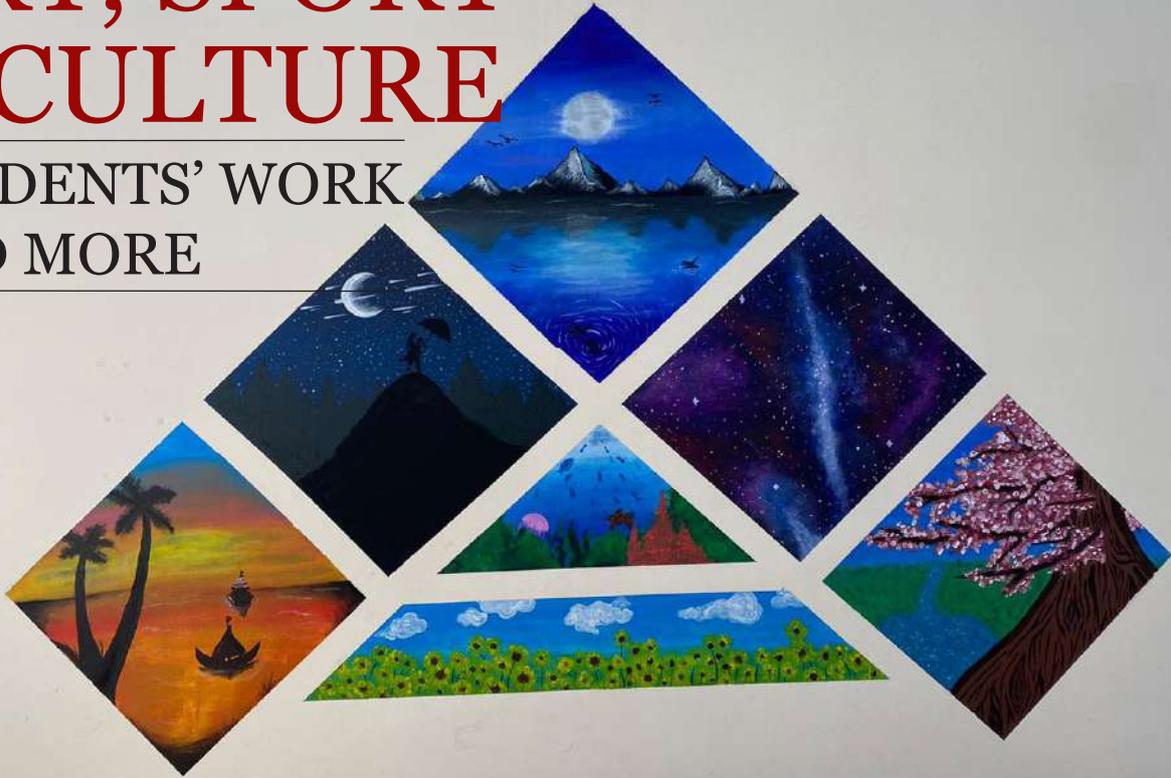
Above: sourdough bread by Ms Ryder Owen; below,
raspberry and white chocolate scones by Mr Campbell



From top: the mother; two 1kg loaves
bench-resting after being shaped;
proving in baskets; the finished article

ART, SPORT & CULTURE

STUDENTS' WORK AND MORE



Clockwise from top: Zahraa Khan and her siblings painted this mural on one of their walls at home; pet portrait by Mrs Iaciofano; illustration by Tia Wilson

FOOTBALL

Football is one of many aspects of ordinary life staff and students are missing since the advent of Covid-19 restrictions. Here, Ms Sage, our resident sportswriter, shares her thoughts on the disrupted 2019/20 season.

“Alright, peeps. Hope you’re all keeping safe and well.

Firstly, I want to congratulate Liverpool on being crowned [Premier League champions 2019/20](#) and [Chelsea FC Women](#) for winning this season’s Women’s Super League.

I really wasn’t sure the season was going to finish but I think the FA have done a good job organising the matches in very difficult circumstances. I have been watching most of the televised Premier League games and I must say it seemed a bit strange at first with no supporters or crowd noise but, as with a lot of things in recent months, you do get used to it.



Magdalena Eriksson, captain of Chelsea FC Women, 2019/20 Women’s Super League winners (see final page for image credit)

I don’t think much will change next season. Social distancing will still be in force so it might be that the grounds will work on getting some fans in for matches using an alternating weeks system or something similar but I think it will be problematic in terms of choosing who gets to go to the games.

“It seemed a bit strange at first with no supporters or crowd noise”

On a personal note, I’m very pleased to report that Chelsea are through to the semi-final stage of the FA Cup. They are due to face Manchester United next and I’m really looking forward to this game and hoping for a win and to thereby reach another cup final. Despite this, the editor has suggested the final will be an all-

Manchester affair but what does he know?

For next season I think we will have to wait and see how the games will be played but, for now, my predictions for the 2020/21 Premier League top four are as follows: 1. Chelsea (champions, of course); 2. Manchester City; 3. Liverpool; and 4. Manchester United.

That’s all from me. Have a great summer. I’m looking forward to seeing you all in September!”

3

THINGS I MISS... by Ms Ryder Owen

1. Seeing friends and colleagues in 3D
2. Hugging my 75-year-old mum
3. My English students *waves*

Lockdown Acrostic

L is for **LONG** hours; we sit and do all the work that teachers send all at once while we scroll through social media.

O is for the **ONGOING** series we have been watching on Netflix.

C is for all the **COOKING** we have been doing because we want to try something different and to pass time throughout the day.

K is for the **KIDS** who think Covid-19 will happen every year.

D is for how far **DOWN** your grades will fall - JK! We have hopefully been studying and doing work :)

O is for **OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGICAL** which refers to the study of diseases of the ear, nose, and throat. Just a fact. As you can tell, I did not know what to write for this.

W is for all the **WHIPPED** coffee we have been making. Some by hand, others by mixer, etc.

N is for all the **NICE** wishes we send for all the people that are helping and looking after those who have the coronavirus and for everyone who has been staying at home, too.

That's all. Stay home. Stay safe and stay out of your fridge cos you are not hungry; you are just bored. Try to stay fit and healthy!

by **Kadean Dunn**



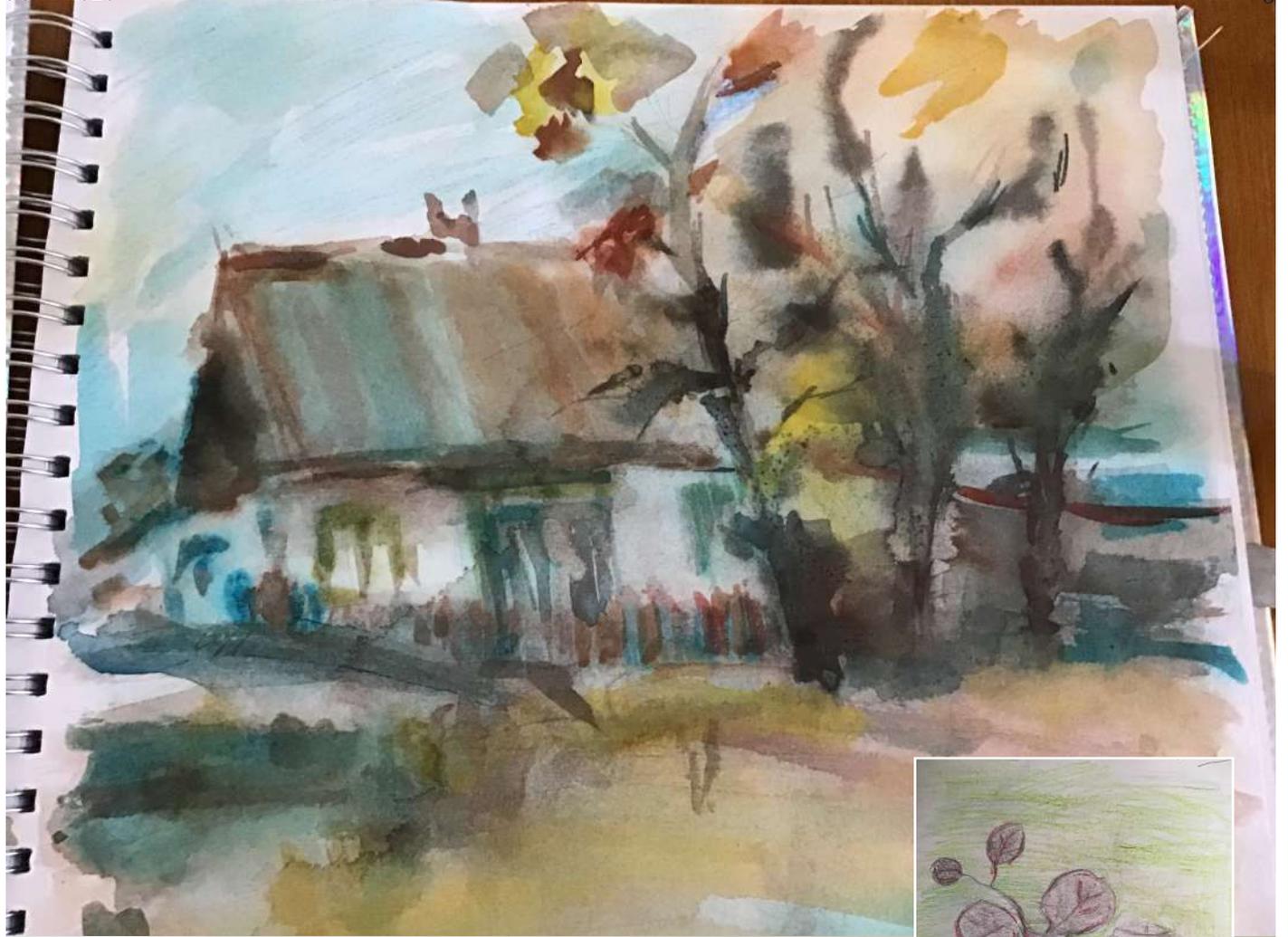
Left: self-portrait by Lana Mitchell in the style of Picasso

Macrame with Mrs Iaciofano



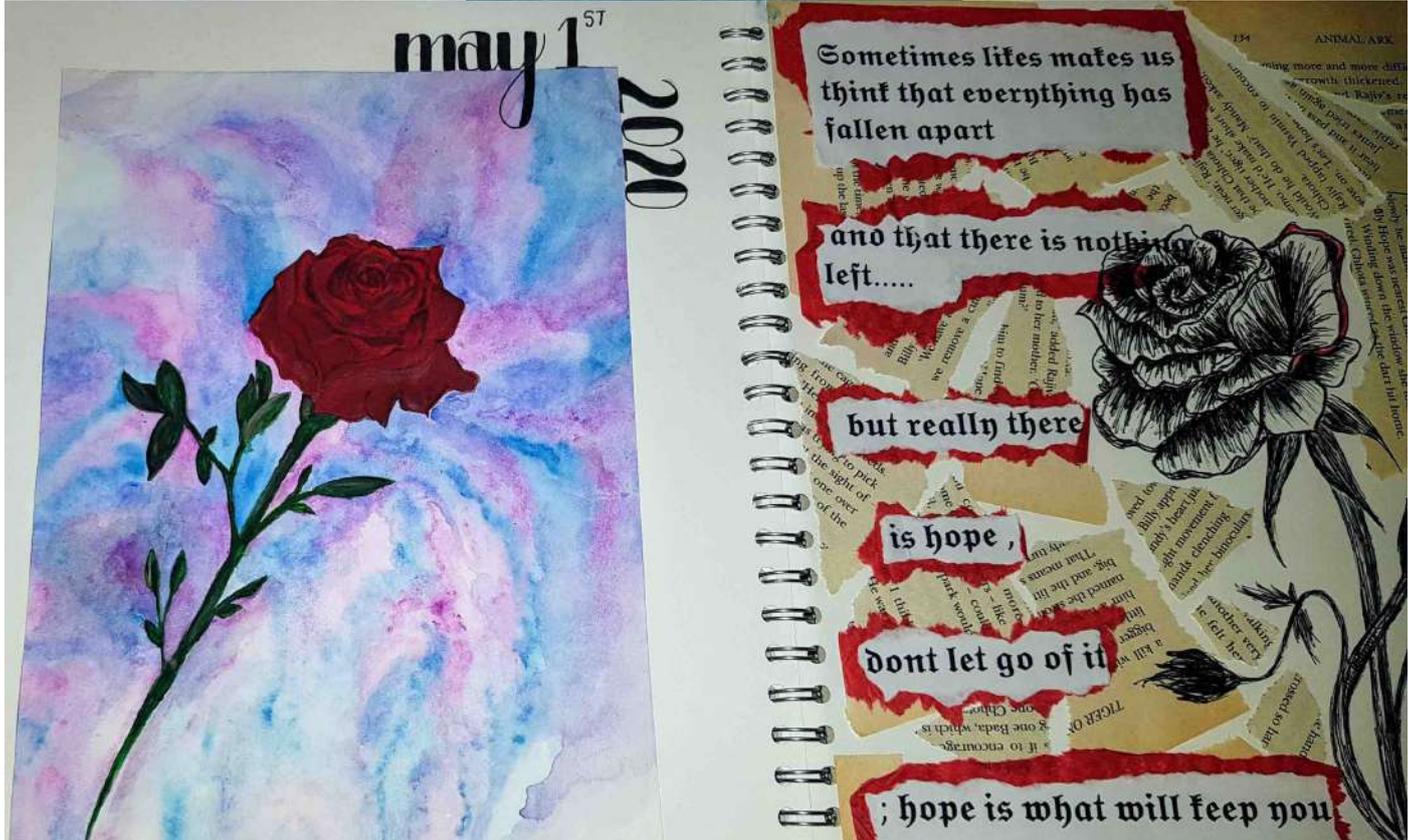
“I have been using my free time to develop some creative skills! I have been learning macrame; photographed are some large and small wall hangings as well as some key rings which I’m hoping we can produce in a new Key Stage 3 club when we are back at school? Let Mrs Choff know if you are interested!”

- Mrs Iaciofano



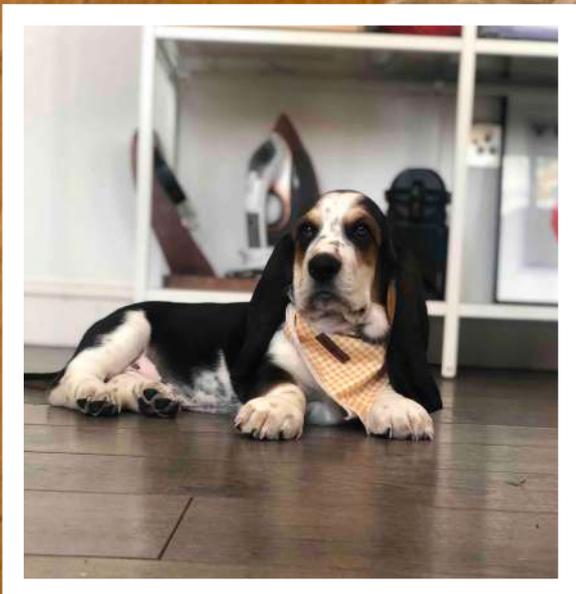


Above (L-R): upcycled chair by Ms Radcliffe, before and after; Mrs Szemalikowski practises slacklining (photo by Mr Bernardoni). Below (L-R) portraits by Fida Shanavas, Lydia Fitsum and Ridah Gafoor. Bottom: artwork by Drishtee Tupsy.



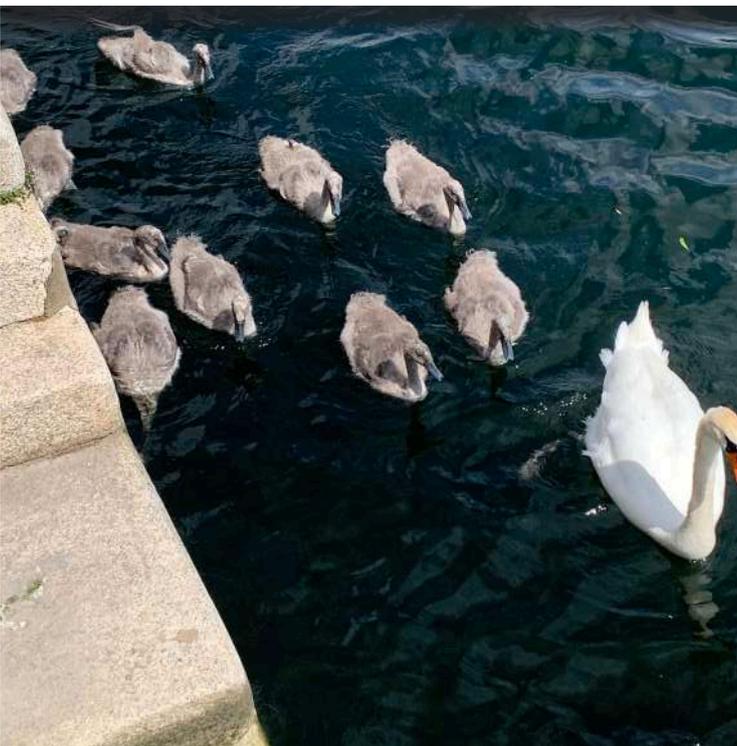
FANTASTIC BEASTS

(MOSTLY) CUTE AND CUDDLY ANIMALS



Main image: Ms Kennedy's four-month-old Poochon puppy, Marlowe

Inset: Ms Lampard's Basset Hound, Wilma



Clockwise from top left: more 'park friends' from Mr Ireland - a heron; oak processionary moth caterpillars*; a tufted duck with ducklings; and a mute swan with 10 cygnets.

*Oak processionary moth caterpillars and their nests should not be touched as they contain hairs which can cause itchy rashes, eye and throat irritations.

Lockdown Superstars

Staff and students who deserve a special mention...

STAFF

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to a number of staff this summer who have all contributed greatly to our community...

- **Mrs Compton** - our current headteacher is retiring after seven years' service but will be staying on as CEO of [The Manor Trust](#) in a part-time capacity
- **Ms Drew** - our head of history is relocating after seven years' service
- **Ms Evans** - one of our deputy headteachers is retiring after 21 years' service
- **Mr Hammond** - our economics teacher is moving on
- **Ms Heitman** - our teaching assistant is leaving to concentrate on her studies
- **Ms Kershaw** - our current Head of Food Technology is retiring after 14 years' service
- **Ms Roberts** - one of our assistant headteachers is relocating after 11 years' service
- **Ms Agyei-Tabi** - one of our former students who went on to work at the school as a teaching assistant is leaving to begin teacher training
- **Ms Whitehouse** - our current head of year 11 is relocating after seven years' service

STUDENTS

- **All those students nominated for achievement afternoon awards**
- **All students who entered the Virtual Sports Week (results on the next page)**
- **All those who received a Head of Year award**
- **Layla Theophilus, this year's winner of the Headteacher's award, pictured with her prize below left**



Mrs Compton, Headteacher, writes: "This year's Headteacher's Award goes to a student who takes part in a good deal of activities across the school but does so in a way that supports other students. She is not afraid to speak up for others and she is reliable, conscientious and hard working. Layla Theophilus has mentored younger students, is undertaking her Duke of Edinburgh's award challenges, has performed with NM Jets and has volunteered for numerous school events throughout her time at Norbury Manor including speaking to a packed hall of parents at an open evening.

If you know Layla then you will know what I mean when I talk about her honest and open nature and her wide smile. Layla has a positive outlook and is a delight to teach; she is a worthy recipient of this award. Well done, Layla."

out and about

things we've spotted...



Virtual Sports Week 2020 Results

Thanks to all those who participated in the 2020 Virtual Sports Week competitions.

Winning Year Group

1st Year 7 - 4629 points
2nd Year 9 - 2654 points
3rd Year 8 - 1592 points

Year 7 Form Group Winners

1st: 7R - 810 points
2nd: 7T - 777 points
3rd: 7F - 751 points

Year 8 Form Group Winners

1st: 8J - 631 points
2nd: 8Y - 258 points
3rd: 8B - 239 points

Year 9 Form Group Winners

1st: 9P - 1072 points
2nd: 9R - 483 points
3rd: 9G - 374 points

Overall Form Group Winners

1st: 9P - 1072 points
2nd: 7R - 810 points
3rd: 7T - 777 points

House Winners

1st: House P - 1804
2nd: House R - 1335
3rd: House J - 1150
4th: House T - 1082
5th: House Y - 988
6th: House F - 952
7th: House G - 792
8th: House B - 772

That's all for now; remember to check the school website (nmbec.org.uk) and Twitter account (@NorburyManor) regularly for other news. Have a great summer!

STAY SAFE, BE KIND AND LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER

Edited and produced by Stephen Ireland. Thanks to Mrs McCardie, Ms Millard and Ms Roberts and to all contributors.

Images: photograph of Magdalena Eriksson on page 7 by James Boyes from UK - [Lewes FC Women 1 Chelsea Women 2 Conti Cup 02 11 2019-270.jpg CC BY 2.0](https://www.flickr.com/photos/1234567890/1234567890/); File: "Lewes FC Women 1 Chelsea Women 2 Conti Cup 02 11 2019-270 (49006366267) (cropped).jpg" created by Wikimedia user Miedema17 on 2 November 2019.