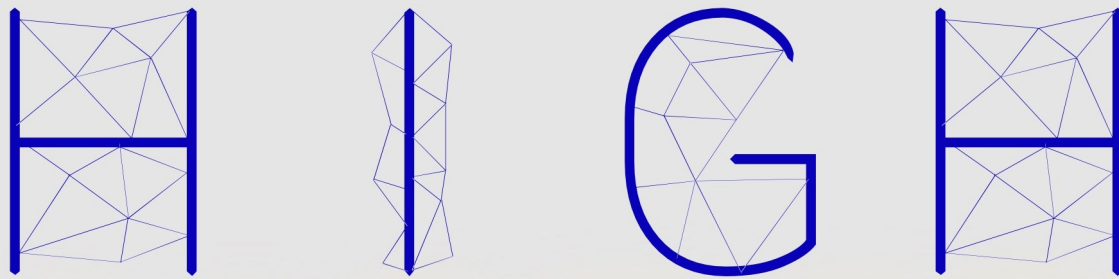


Issue 1  
Dec 2021



# LIGHTS

BY HIGHSTED STUDENTS, FOR  
HIGHSTED STUDENTS

## Sixth form societies

What we're doing and why you should join

## Entertainment

What to watch this winter



## #FreeBritney

A story you should be talking about

## Spotlight on...

Rihanna: Barbadian National Hero



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# Introducing: Highsted's Magazine Society

Welcome to the first edition of HighLights, the magazine brought to you by Highsted's sixth form students. At HighLights, we strive to be informative, intellectual and imaginative. We aim to engage you with topics ranging from school events to the creative arts and social issues. We will publish our magazine termly, and each issue will consist of topics such as empowering women, film reviews, entertainment news, current affairs and emotive art pieces.

In this edition, we will be introducing the wide range of other Sixth Form Societies and reporting on what they have been discussing so far this academic year. From sporting news to a delicious brownie recipe, we're sure there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Our team have also been busy writing articles for this issue about their own areas of interest. For this issue, our team wanted to practice their journalism skills by bringing you news and reviews on popular culture and entertainment in order to hone our writing skills through factual research.

## Meet the Team

**Tomi Onabanjo:** "I joined the magazine society due to my interest in the entertainment industry and I knew it would be an exciting way for me to enhance my creativity. I believe that society today is very heavily focused around the media; it can be such a positive outlet for people to express themselves and it brings news and entertainment to the public. By joining the society, I have been able to incorporate aspects topics such as music, fashion, current affairs, inspirational people that interest me as well as our readers. I believe that our magazine will educate, enlighten and empower others and really be something to enjoy. For this issue, I decided to write about what makes Rihanna an inspirational woman, as well as a round up of recent events in music and fashion.

**Saskia Smith:** "I joined the magazine as a means to become more experienced in the art of writing columns on topics that I am passionate about. I believe that within today's society the media influences us so much, even through the lies that are sometimes told by the media industry. Therefore, I aim to tell the truth in everything that I write. I also aim to engage you as the reader with interesting topics chosen around the entertainment sector. In this issue, I have explored domination in the film industry and what Marvel's next steps will be now that the Avengers have dissembled."

**Gloria Aina:** "Joining the magazine society meant a way for me to explore my interest in writing. With the creative freedom we're being allowed, not only will this become a way to research topics that I am interested in, but also share my findings with a wider audience. I sometimes find that the news, or any information outlet in general, can be difficult to wrap your head around, so not only could I make it easier for me, but for others who may struggle with the same thing. My main interests are current affairs, books and films. In this issue, I have looked into television fandom, and the highly anticipated return of Stranger Things."

**Zara Pratt:** "Personally, I felt that the magazine society would be a way for me to express myself through writing. This would be a way to showcase my interests in journalism and would create experience for this if I were to go into it as a career. I believe that journalism is a solid foundation for formulating ideas and opinions. My interests in this magazine will be to look at social issues, general news and my personal passion, art. In this issue, I have written the long read article about conservatorships in the wake of the #freebritney campaign.

Thank you for supporting our magazine. If there is anything you'd like to see featured next issue, please email Miss McKenner or one of our team.

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# LGBT+ Society

The LGBT+ ociety are passionate about being activists for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (as an umbrella term) rights. As a group of LGBT+ young people ourselves, we feel that it is important to fight for the community's ability to express who we are when at so many times in the past *and present*, people just like us have been oppressed. We are inspired by queer icons such as Freddie Mercury, David Bowie, Marsha P. Johnson, Demi Lovato, Dua Saleh, Brigette Lundy-Paine and Lady Gaga who we have been so privileged to live in a time in history when they are within living memory.

We believe that gender and sexuality are fluid experiences unique to all people. The process of figuring out your identity can be extremely daunting – which is why we feel that it's imperative that we have a society within Sixth Form where we feel safe to share our collective challenges. It isn't necessary to assign a label to the way that you feel about your own gender or sexual identity, but we are here with endless information to help you figure out how you personally can navigate the complex situations you encounter internally and in wider society.

## Frequently Asked Queeries

As a society, we wanted to answer some questions that various people in Highsted have submitted about the LGBTQ community and the kinds of things we experience:

### ***“Is coming out a freeing experience?”***

For some people, coming out to your family or close friend circle can be an extremely negative experience and for others it can be, as you've said, a freeing one. It's very subjective and depends on who you're coming out to. If you come from a family which doesn't particularly know much about gender and sexuality, coming out can actually be a very long process of education and re-learning things that you've been conditioned to think and feel instead of a simple 'Hi mum, I'm gay!'. On the other hand, lots of people have positive experiences with coming out and that's wonderful; in an ideal world, it would be that way for all queer people.

### ***“If you're bi and in a relationship, does that mean you've picked a side?”***

Nope! Regardless of the gender you are dating, you are still bisexual. There are some people who may have a *preference* for a gender but if they identify as bisexual, they are and *no one else can tell them they aren't*.

### ***“What would be the best way to help your community?”***

Educate yourself on *queer history* as well as the variety of *labels* (gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, aromantic, asexual...) that people may have. You can also reach out to your queer friends individually and ask them how you can make *their life* easier, what labels/pronouns they're comfortable with, what name they want to be called, and so on. Also, always back them up if there's a confrontation about their identity. *Nobody gets to tell you who you are except yourself*.





## ***What's the best way to start a conversation with someone who is worried about their gender/sexuality?"***

It definitely *depends* on what their particular worry is. If the person is worried about their gender for example, you could do some research on the gender spectrum and perhaps send them an article, ask for their opinion on what it says and let them know that you're always there for them if they want to discuss their identity. If someone's worried about their sexuality, you can do the same kind of thing but assure them that there's no pressure to figure anything/everything out right now. We're still young and literally developing our brains so *there is no need to rush* into knowing who you may be attracted to, whether it's romantic or sexual.

If you personally aren't in the LGBTQ community, it may be a good idea to refer them to any people/groups you know who can relate to their experiences better and help them navigate the journey that they're on.

## ***"What's the best way to educate people?"***

The best way to educate anyone (on LGBTQ issues particularly) is through *listening* to the stories and experiences of the affected people. If you want to explain to your parents how gender is not confined to your reproductive organs, you could search up on Youtube a trans/non-binary person's perspective. There are plenty of videos, articles and books written by queer people which explain these kinds of things online, and it could be a great way to open up a *healthy dialogue* in your family of what gender and sexuality mean to you.

## ***"What's the best way to support someone?"***

If you mean in terms of if they're struggling with their identity, the best thing you can do is *be there* for them. Let them know that you will always be no matter how their identity develops and that *you are willing to learn* alongside them what gender and sexuality is. Additionally, remember that they may not feel totally comfortable opening up about everything straight away and *that's okay*.

## ***"What advice would you give to someone in the closet?"***

There is no pressure. We've said it a lot in this article but there is seriously nothing anywhere that says you have to know exactly who you are. *Ever*. Of course it's nice to feel secure when you know who you like and how you identify, but in the same way, not knowing can be just as exciting. You can be whoever you want to be and express that however you feel is most appropriate *for you* and no one person can tell you that is wrong. Boys can wear skirts and have long hair, girls don't have to wear makeup or have long hair, non-binary people owe nobody androgyny – *you don't owe anybody anything* when it comes to your individual identity.

**If you need support or more information in relation to LGBTQ+ issues, here are some helplines/websites you can access:**

### **Switchboard LGBT**

Phone: 0300 330 0630

Email: [chris@switchboard.lgbt](mailto:chris@switchboard.lgbt)

Website: <https://switchboard.lgbt>

### **Give Us A Shout (24hr crisis text service)**

Text 'Switchboard' to 85258

Website: <https://giveusashout.org>

MindLine Trans+ (emotional support for trans people)

Phone: 0300 330 5468

Website: <https://bristolmind.org.uk/help-and-counselling/mindline-transplus/>

Samaritans

Phone: 116 123

Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)



# Debating Society

## **What is the society passionate about and why?**

As a society, we organise and engage with thought-provoking debates on

contemporary issues, allowing all members a chance to truly involve themselves in current affairs, as well as gain exposure to a variety of ideas and views. By creating a safe space to share viewpoints, we hope to help to build the confidence of all our members and encourage respect for people's diverse perspectives. We wish to promote this fantastic opportunity for skills development, as well as a brilliant way to engage in constructive discussion.

## **What has the society discussed and found out about this term in current affairs?**

This term we have focussed on inspirational women in the field of debate. No one felt as fitting to discuss as the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Best known for her position in the American Supreme Court, ruling over the debates brought to her, "the notorious R.B.G" argued six cases before the Supreme Court herself, winning five of them.

Throughout her career, Ginsburg made so many contributions to gender-based discrimination, one of the most important being her co-founding the ACLU Women's Rights Project in 1972. Their mission is that "through litigation, community outreach, advocacy and public education, the Women's Rights Project empowers poor women, women of colour and

immigrant women who have been subject to gender bias and faced pervasive barriers to equality." The project had participated in more than 300 gender discrimination cases by 1974.



# The Environment Society

We are the Environment Society. All of our members hold a passion for the conservation, maintenance, and protection of our natural environment. We believe that to make a positive difference for the environment, action needs to be taken immediately; for example, we feel as though the recent climate-based protests in Glasgow surrounding the COP26 summit have helped people to acknowledge the severe global crisis which the environment is currently facing. For those of you who may not be aware, COP26 was a global United Nations summit focused on climate change around the world, and how individual countries were planning to tackle it.

This was an event which we have found to have little positive impact regarding the global ecosystem, as no countries are obligated to follow the rules which were set out within the Glasgow Climate Pact 2021, as well as the fact that two of the world's largest polluters, (Russia and China), did not even attend the conference.



For future charity events, we will be raising money for local animal charities which we hold close to our hearts, such as the Aspinall Foundation and the Kent Wildlife Trust. We are aiming to raise money for local charities, because we feel as though this will allow us to make a real positive difference to our local environment. To raise money for these charities, we have planned games and challenges with prizes for RAG week, and we are planning to sell products related to our chosen charities. We are also in the process of organising a quiz for members of all years to take part in for a prize!

The primary desired outcome of our society is to make a positive difference within our environment. To do this within our school community, we are campaigning and planning to raise money for a no-mow zone. This is a zone where our natural flora and

fauna will be able to flourish without being mowed, also allowing for the maintenance of a constant habitat for our local wildlife such as bird species, small mammals, and pollinating insects such as butterflies, bees, and ladybirds. We hope that this area will also be a suitable place for students to de-stress. It also has several academic uses, as it could be used for photography and art lessons, where students can study plants for their portfolios, as well as in lessons like biology; therefore, making the school curriculum more engaging for students.

We thank you for taking the time to read about our society, and we hope that you can support us on our journey of making the environment a better and safer place for everyone and everything.





# Motorsport Society- News in Motorsport



The achievements of Mika Häkkinen are underrated amongst the Formula One community. Having won two World Championships in 1998 and 1999, Häkkinen is widely regarded as one of the greatest drivers of all time– so why do people seem to forget him? Perhaps his achievements are hidden by the domination of Michael Schumacher in the 1990s, or maybe it's because his career was not necessarily long. Debuting in 1991 with Lotus, his career ended in 2001. He is honoured by McLaren Racing as a pioneer of their team, yet he remains relatively unknown to many fans of Formula One.

Alex Albon is set to be a 2022 Williams driver after losing his Red Bull seat for the 2021 season. Throughout his time in F1, he was promoted from the sister team, Toro Rosso, mid season because of his performance, achieved two podiums and was the 2019 Rookie of the Year, but was ultimately replaced. During his year out, alongside reserve driver duties, he drove in DTM for the Red Bull AF Corse, achieving one pole, one win and 3 podiums, despite limited experience in GT cars. He now takes George Russell's seat at Williams and is hoping to prove his place.



Alfa Romeo's Kimi Raikkonen is poised to step back from Formula One at the end of the 2021 season after racing in the sport for 20 years. The 42 year old is set to give up his place at Alfa Romeo to Valtteri Bottas, who lost his seat at Mercedes; one of the most sought after seats on the F1 grid. Whilst driving for Ferrari in 2007, the Finnish driver found himself in contention for the World Championship alongside Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso, who found themselves tied on points by the end of the season and losing the championship by just one point to Raikkonen.

Sebastian Vettel has educated himself on societal issues, airing his concerns with the environment and also LGBT+ rights. So far this year, Vettel has collected litter from the stands at Silverstone following the British Grand Prix, helped school children in Austria create a bee hotel in the shape of an F1 car, and showed solidarity to the LGBT+ community by wearing a 'Same Love' t-shirt in Hungary in response to a law banning homosexual content to under 18s. He has expressed his views that F1 should take responsibility for sustainability, emissions, and carbon footprint.



After becoming Formula Two's champion, George Russell joined the Williams Formula One team in 2019 and has continued to impress throughout both his first and second seasons. In 2020, he was even given the opportunity to fill in for Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton during the Sakhir Grand Prix. He maintained first place for much of the race, but unfortunately a faulty car meant that the anticipated win was instead taken by Racing Point's Sergio Perez. However, new announcements have confirmed

that he will be joining Mercedes in 2022. In one of the best cars, he could become serious competition next year.



# SPORTS SOCIETY

Welcome to the entertaining, energetic, and electric atmosphere of the Sports Society. Our motto is:

'Pause Your Thoughts, Play Sports'

Playing a sport is a fantastic way for you and your friends to take a break from all the stress of work and release the pent-up energy. Our aim is to provide people with a place to come and have fun, to socialise and unite with people who have the same passion for playing sports as you.

We, as a group, are very enthusiastic sports people, competing regularly in a variety of sports. For example, Mia Thomas and her CrossFit team were runners up in their most recent competition. Ilana Wigg and Katie Mason came first in both categories at their dance competition - Hip Hop International Great Britain Qualifiers - making them 4-time GB champions and giving them the opportunity to represent their country at the World Championships next year. Freya Jury succumbed to an ankle injury, but still resiliently competed in the Kent Heptathlon, where she came first- making her Kent Champion. Chalotte de la Porte-Godden came runner up in Kent Schools' 200m sprint. After the year we've all had, we are proud to share in the joy of one another's achievements.

Recently, the Sports Society helped to lead the Inter-House Netball Tournament. The competition was held across year 7s to 13. We volunteered to organise our houses, whether it was umpiring the matches or guiding and coaching the teams. Seacole won the year 7 tournament to start the week and Keller won the year 12-13 tournament to finish the week, beating Franklin in the final with a last-minute goal to win 1-0. After the Inter-House Netball's overwhelming success, we, alongside the PE department, hope to help with future competitions. Inter-House Newton Ball is coming soon...

Now onto some sporting news we've been discussing. In the world of football, England have qualified for the 2022 World Cup after an amazing, yet unsurprising, 10-0 win against San Marino, with Harry Kane scoring four goals within the first fifteen minutes. The



major international event will be held in Qatar, taking place from 21st November-18th December.



The 2021 Rugby Autumn Internationals took place from 30th October-27th November. England faced South Africa at Twickenham stadium on the 20th November. The nail-biting match was hard fought by South Africa despite England's early lead, but England took home another win 27-26 after Marcus Smith's last

minute penalty. This was a great season for England, having already beaten Australia 32-15.

We have also been planning our society charity event for RAG Week. We are running a Highsted Olympic Games, inspired by the upcoming winter Olympics starting in February 2022. We will have a leader board throughout the days and week, adding up results of all the mini games we are offering: speed cups, speed bounce, beat the goalie, keepy-uppies, crazy catch and many more. The overall winner will get a prize! So, join us on RAG Week to raise money for CAMFED, a charity dedicated to empowering the most vulnerable girls and young women to create the future they imagine, for themselves and their communities.

Written by Freya Jury, Charlotte de la Porte-Godden, Shreya Jagannatha (Year 13) and Ilana Wigg (Year 12)

# Film and Television Society

We are passionate about film, and we enjoy talking about what we have been watching recently. Many of our members are Film Studies students, but we want to educate new members to broaden their understanding of film. Others have joined purely for the fun of watching and discussing our favourite films and TV series. Our society is the perfect place to voice your opinions on any film of your choice. We engage in lively discussions about issues such as character representations, debating whether it is applicable to modern day society. For example, we recently explored representations of black characters on film as part of Black History Month.

Recently, we have studied and discussed the film *Ratatouille*. In this film, we meet Remy, a small rat who has an ambition for food and expresses this through one of the other characters - Alfredo Linguini. The film is set in Paris, where food is a huge part of their culture, and their food has a reputation for being excellent. This shows us that there are high



expectations for the chefs, however they don't seem to be as good as you would expect; it seems that the only brilliant chef is Remy, even though he is a rat. *Ratatouille* has shown us that experimenting and taking risks with food can lead to a delicious and mind-blowing meal. It also taught us to not judge a book by its cover.

We have also been discussing *RuPaul's Drag Race*. This is a reality television series in which people compete to become the next "drag superstar". To compete for this title, contestants are required to complete challenges to prove themselves to be the "best drag queen". Initially, the show was pitched as an opportunity for gay cisgender men to compete in feminine drag. Over recent years, there has been further progress made within the show- allowing openly transgender women, transgender men, non-binary people and cisgender women to compete alongside them. Victoria Scone debuted as the first cisgender woman on *Drag Race* in Season 3 of *RuPaul's Drag Race UK* this autumn. However, RuPaul has been criticised for his previous statement in an interview with the Guardian from 2018, in which he stated:

"Drag loses its sense of danger and its sense of irony once it's not men doing it, because at its core it's a social statement [against] male-dominated culture [...] so for men to do it, it's really punk rock, because it's a real rejection of masculinity."

Overall, we are pleased to see that *Drag Race* has made improvement with social acceptance and recent inclusivity, but it's important to acknowledge that more progress still needs to be made within the show and RuPaul's own views on the transgender community.

We have also been discussing the recent controversy of the shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, who was killed on set of the film *Rust*. She was fatally injured by director Alec Baldwin after a prop gun

accidentally discharged. It was said that the gun was safe to use, but a lawyer from the armorer who oversaw the weapons on set suggested that it was possible someone may have put a live round into the gun used. This event has called for changes within the industry for films to no longer use real guns on set. A representative from the International Alliance of



Theatrical Stage Employees commented that the crew had been

treated terribly. The alliance have called for additional safety measures and prop guns only. Six camera crew members on the set walked out 6 hours before the fatal shooting due to safety concerns. Halyna Hutchins herself had also been advocating for better working conditions and safety precautions on the set. Hollywood stars like Dwayne Johnson have since vowed to stop using real guns on film sets after the incident. This event has shown the need for drastic changes in health and safety

measures on film sets.

The charity our society wishes to support is the Film and TV Charity. It aims to support researchers, writers, and production crew or television and cinema. Since 1924, the charity has been able to offer support to hardworking people working in these sectors and offers a 24/7 support line as well as financial advice, help with mental well-being, discrimination and harassment using a whole host of practical resources. This free service has been described as a "shining light on highs and lows of this extraordinary industry. In order to raise money, we would like to host a cinematic experience during a lunchtime where students are able to watch a film in return for a small donation which will help the charity and those in need.

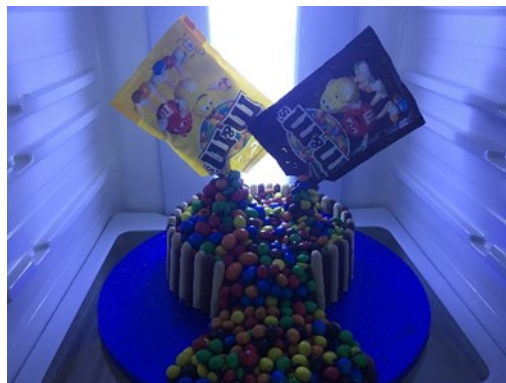
# Baking Society

Baking is a competitive sport that brings all kinds of people together. The Baking Society are passionate about bringing people together through the love of food. Whether it's eating it or making it, we love it all! We have all showed an interest in creating exquisite snacks that tickle our taste buds.

Every Monday, we gather together to discuss new food creations that we have recently baked, or that we are planning to bake. We have eagerly encouraged each other to exceed our baking abilities. The sky's the limit!

As a collective, we also all watch The Great British Bake Off as inspiration for our own Great Highsted Bake Off! Together we have been conversing about the weekly episode of Bake Off and talking about who we would crown Star Baker.

We hope to organise a Great Highsted Bake Off competition in the near future. We are excited to see younger year groups develop their passion for baking, and we want to see the skills and talent that Highsted staff have up their sleeves too! Profits from our events will go towards charities including





# Recipe- The Perfect Fudgey Chocolate Brownies

## Ingredients

150g butter

75g light soft brown sugar

150g plain chocolate, broken into pieces

1 tbsp golden syrup

3 eggs

125g golden caster sugar

1 tsp vanilla extract

150g plain flour

1/2 tsp baking powder

3 tbsp cocoa powder, plus more to dust

4-6 tbsp dulce de leche, caramel or chocolate hazelnut spread

## Method

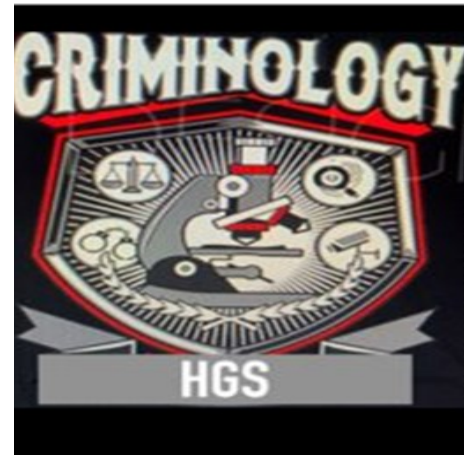
- Pre-heat the oven to 180C and line a square cake tin with baking parchment.
- Melt together the butter, brown sugar, chocolate and golden syrup gently on a low heat until smooth. Remove the pan from the heat.
- Whisk together the eggs and caster sugar in a large bowl until light and fluffy.
- Add the vanilla extract, then sift over the flour, baking powder and cocoa powder and add the chocolate mixture. Fold everything together quickly and scoop half of the mixture into the tin.
- Dot over scoops of caramel or chocolate hazelnut spread and then scoop the rest of the brownie mixture over the top. Add more scoops of caramel or chocolate spread, if you like, and bake for 30 minutes, or until the mixture is set and lightly cracked. The brownies will still have a slight wobble.
- Remove from the oven and allow to cool completely before cutting into squares. Dust the tops with cocoa or icing sugar, or if serving as a dessert drizzle with more caramel. Enjoy!





# CRIMINOLOGY SOCIETY

The Criminology and Forensic Society is great for anyone who has a passion for unsolved crimes. This is a safe group where you can discuss your theories openly and engage in debates with us about who you think is responsible for the crime.



We will run a 'book club' style of meetup, where we will take it in turns to recommend an unsolved mystery documentary or film, then have two weeks to all watch it and reconvene to discuss our thoughts and conspiracies.

The case featured in this documentary will then be used to play out a court scene. People will be given different roles to play and must act as though they are defending or prosecuting others.

We will ensure that the documentaries are screened in advance for sensitive subject matter, with content warnings given.

We hope to possibly collaborate with another society in order to get more people involved.

It is perfect for anyone who is considering a career in law or justice, or even those who just have a general interest in cold cases. It is also a brilliant opportunity to meet new people with the same interests as you, and it will be an asset on your university applications that you have engaged in such thought-provoking topics.

As a society, we would like to support the charities Missing People Victims Support through potential fundraising events.



**missing  
people**

Registered Charity No. 1020419

# Diversity Society

Inclusivity, Diversity, Representation, Education and Inspiration

As a society we aim to promote diversity and equality across the school. The Diversity Society is a place to explore: other people's cultural and ethnic backgrounds, hidden heritages, cultural activities and celebrations. This society is a safe place to share your thoughts and grow your curiosity. We want to embrace our cultural and inherited differences, promoting harmony and respect whilst having fun.

In this society we want everyone to feel free to share with us their heritage and cultural background, whether that is through dance, food, clothes, jewellery, music, dialect or language, or body art. We want everyone to feel proud of where they are from and to be part of a supportive community where we can all appreciate, understand and educate each other on cultures around the world.



Our society will help you gain more knowledge on diversity and culture, which will in turn help us appreciate and get along well with people from different backgrounds both for now (in school) and in our future careers. We believe this will be a great addition to personal statements or applications, showcasing an interest for things wider than your course as well as holding a natural energy and enthusiasm for interacting with others and learning about diverse groups of people.

We host our meetings every **Monday Week 2**. This society is open to everyone regardless of your background. Activities we would do consists of fun quiz competitions about different countries/cultures, including points and prizes, arts and crafts inspired by country flags, educational PowerPoints and watching movies from different industries (e.g.-Bollywood, Nollywood).



**Leaders: Karine Mutah and Tonia Fru**

**Co-leader: Tomi Onabanjo**

## *Avengers: Disassembled. What Next For Marvel?*

So, after *Avengers: Endgame*, we lost Iron Man, Black Widow and Captain America. With the remaining Avengers following their own paths, where can Marvel go from there?

*Endgame* wasn't just the end of the Avengers franchise and the Infinity Saga, it was also the end of Phase Three of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Marvel had to find a new direction, which they did by creating *The Eternals*. This will be a whole new franchise for them to work with—mid and post credit scenes would seem to imply that there will be at least one sequel, if not more.



The Eternals are a race of immortal beings with superhuman powers, who having secretly lived on Earth for thousands of years, reuniting to battle the ruthless Deviants. The Eternals were created by the Celestials who were initially mentioned in the first *Guardians of the Galaxy* film.

With any film there are bound to be mixed reviews, and this was the case for *The Eternals*. Indie film fans were excited about the fact that trailblazer Chloe Zhao (*Nomadland*) directed *The Eternals*, pre-release. While some audience members described the film as “fun, fresh and exciting” with “excellent special effects and visuals”, making it a “fantastic way to expand the Marvel universe”, others held the common view that it was “extremely slow and too long”, feeling that “the film never truly found itself” and although “it had some interesting ideas as well as a good premise it was not well executed as a whole”. Either way, Box Office takings in excess of \$300 million (£226m) would suggest that it was a success. However, this paled in comparison to the \$2.8 billion (£2.11b) grossed by *Avengers: Endgame*.

Although the original Avengers are no longer around, some characters are still making appearances in films and in Disney+ Original series, such as *WandaVision*, *Falcon and the Winter Soldier* and the newly released *Hawkeye*. Audiences fell in love with the original Avengers. Marvel built their success on the fandom surrounding this group, but the two of Marvel's principle heroes (Captain America and Iron Man), alongside fellow Avenger Black Widow, all appeared to meet their demise at the end of Phase Three. With Thor still around, Marvel fans have frequently asked: will he join the Guardians of the Galaxy team? This would make sense following the positive reception when the dynamic team and the God of Thunder join forces in *Avengers: Infinity War*, but after he went AWOL, who knows where and with whom he'll go next— we'll have to wait until 2022 when *Thor: Love and Thunder* is due to be released.

It's not just Thor that's getting another film, as Marvel have announced that within their Phase Four there will be at least eight films and five series, the majority of which are to be released in 2022 and 2023. So far, film wise, only *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*, *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* and, of course, *Thor: Love and Thunder* are in post-production. As for series, *Moon Knight*, *She-Hulk* and *Ms. Marvel* are in post-production stages.



Marvel took the world of cinema by storm in just a decade, redefining the franchising of films. Marvel's twenty-two films have grossed roughly \$17 billion (£13 billion) more than any other movie franchise in history, and have received an average of sixty-four nominations and awards in total. How can Marvel maintain this success without the Avengers franchise to guarantee pre-sold audiences?

When *Avengers: Endgame* was released in 2019, it received rave reviews and generated so much demand that online ticket retailers had to overhaul their systems in order to manage numbers. According to the list of the highest-grossing superhero films, the top four ranks are occupied by all four of the Avengers films. Marvel are at the top of the rankings for superhero films, but depending on how their new films are received this could all change. Although, even with the rivalry of DC, Marvel still have many loyal fans who are excited about the release of their new phase, especially with the release of *Spiderman: No Way Home* on 15th December. Although, Jon Favreau, director of *Iron Man*, stated that:

"It is very difficult to keep these franchises from running out of gas after two [films]. The high point seems to be the second one, judging by history".

Evidently, the Avengers franchise surpassed this and maintained their success, but it does put it into perspective whether or not the sequels that are a part of Phase Four will support this statement.





# WE'RE NOT IN HAWKINS ANYMORE

Way back in 2019, Netflix confirmed the fourth season of *Stranger Things* with a short video featuring the show's classic lettering and the iconic opening theme. Its tagline was, 'We're Not In Hawkins Anymore' and we can only assume that this new season will go beyond the borders of the small town and venture into the wider world. More recently, multiple teasers for the show have been released, according to the following timeline:

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2020:** First Teaser - 'From Russia with love...'

**6<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** Second Teaser - 'Eleven, are you listening?'

**6<sup>th</sup> August 2021:** First sneak peek

**25<sup>th</sup> September 2021:** Third Teaser - 'Creel House'

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2021:** Fourth Teaser - 'Welcome to California'



These insights have revived the *Stranger Things* fandom as many viewers now have a renewed excitement at the prospect of an upcoming season. Although there isn't an exact date for season two just yet, it is estimated to be released in the middle of 2022. If you continue reading, we'll look back into the history of the show as well as its success and overall popularity.

If you didn't know already, *Stranger Things* is a science fiction television series created by the Duffer Brothers, which was first released by Netflix in 2016. The show is set in the 1980s and its pop culture references from the time create a nostalgic feeling for viewers, regardless of whether or not they lived through the era. The cast does include household name Winona Ryder (*Beetlejuice*; *Edward Scissorhands*) but for many of its young stars, the show was the first opportunity they had for leading roles. The Duffer Brothers were heavily inspired by Stephen King, Steven Spielberg and John Carpenter, and all of these creators' styles are infused in their work. As well as this, the brothers drew from real life government conspiracies about strange experiments that took place during the Cold War. You can see the great impact these sources had on the show and it is easy to recognise their influence in the series.

The plot of the first season follows a young boy, Will Byers, whose mysterious disappearance coincides with the arrival of a near-mute young girl, Eleven. The show follows Will's gang on their quest to find their friend whilst also unravelling the supernatural secrets their small town holds. Over the course of the series, new characters have joined, as well as new monsters to overcome. If you're ever looking for a show that tackles: fantasy, friendship, mystery and horror – *Stranger Things* is the perfect one.

The show became an instant hit; within the first month of its release it surpassed tens of millions of views worldwide and with more recent statistics, over 64 million households around the world watched season three of the show within a month of its release. This broke Netflix's streaming records and became the most watched Netflix Original Series.

What is likely a huge contributing factor to the show's success is the likeable cast and how their personalities are emulated within their roles. The Duffer Brothers created many entertaining character dynamics that we watch grow and evolve throughout the series. The clear chemistry of the children on-screen is exactly the same off screen, as a large amount of the show's cult following is due to the well-received reception of the cast. Watching them interact online, behind the scenes and in interviews really allows fans to learn more and have an even greater reason to continue the show to watch these friendships bloom.



Season 3 ended with two of its beloved characters dying, and we saw the Byers family (with a powerless Eleven) packing up their bags and moving out of Hawkins. We were left wondering what could possibly happen next after an explosive cliff-hanger.

The show's fourth series began production in February 2020. All was going to schedule until March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020, when the show had to be shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This uncontrollable delay has had both positive and negative effects on the franchise. To begin on a positive note, the delay has allowed for a build-up in suspense as fans eagerly await a new season. The teasers amplify this feeling as the show's fourth season is highly anticipated. However, it could be argued that the necessary time jump (due to the rapidly ageing young adult cast) would mean that there would be a change in character dynamics to the rest of the series. The young actors have gone through inevitable growth and this change could impact the reception season 4 gets in comparison to the rest. These doubts and uncertainty are not incorrectly felt, but despite the feelings, we simply have to wait for the season to be released before finalising any judgements. In the mean time, why not watch the first three seasons over the festive period?





# #FreeBritney: The Darker Side of Conservatorships

12th November 2021. A 13-year-long entrapment came to an end/ A judge has cut the excruciating ties of Britney Spears and her conservator. With Spears' story taking social media by storm, a question which has been frequently raised is: what IS a conservatorship, and why did Britney Spears want out?

Under US laws, a conservatorship is the appointment of a guardian or a protector by a judge to manage the financial affairs and/or daily life of another person due to old age, or physical or mental limitations. The conservator has the power to collect all of the conservatee's assets, pay bills, make investments, and so forth. The conservator must have court supervision for major transactions, like purchase or sale of property, gifting the conservatee's assets or borrowing money in their name. A conservatorship lasts as long as it needs to, ending when a judge deems that the conservatee no longer needs a conservator.

Britney Spears was put under conservatorship after her extremely public breakdown in 2008, under the care of her father, Jamie Spears. She endured a year of what was seen as 'erratic behaviour', with acts like shaving her head and attacking a paparazzo's car with an umbrella. She was subsequently hospitalised for an evaluation of her mental health.



At the time, her father petitioned courts for an emergency, but 'temporary', conservatorship; due to the so-called 'evidence' that his daughter was unable to look after herself as she was struggling with mental health issues. From this, Jamie Spears was provided the legal right to overlook and make decisions in reference to Britney's finances, health, business deals and personal life. He managed to keep Britney under this 'temporary' fix for nearly fourteen years.

Several of Britney's friends and family have spoken out about the conservatorship, including her brother, Brian Spears; her sister, Jamie Lynn Spears; and long-time celebrity friend, Paris Hilton. In July, her brother attended an interview, which is rare for him, on Drew Plotkin's podcast *As NOT Seen on TV*. He stated:

"She's been in this thing for quite some time now. Obviously, there was a need for it in the beginning. Now they've made some changes, and all we can do is hope for the best [...] She's always wanted to get out of it. It's very frustrating to have—whether someone's coming in peace to help or coming in with an attitude, having someone constantly tell you to do something has got to be frustrating."

Her sister, who is now entrusted with Britney's fortune, stated:

"If you deal with mental illness or care for someone dealing with mental illness, then you know how important it is to respect the situation with privacy for the person, and the family trying to protect their loved ones, no matter how it may appear to the public," wrote Jamie Lynn in an Instagram post.

"[People] have no right to assume anything about my sister, and I have NO right to speak about HER health and personal matters. She is a strong, [...] unstoppable woman, and that's the only thing that is OBVIOUS."

Arguably the most influential of the bunch, Paris Hilton stated:

"I feel like if you are an adult you should be able to live your life and not be controlled," said Hilton in an interview on *Andy Cohen Live*. "After just working your whole life and working so hard, she's this icon and I just feel like she has no control of her life whatsoever and I just don't think that's fair."

The #FreeBritney movement has difficult origins to pinpoint. An early example is in 2009, when FreeBritney.net began to question why the conservatorship was necessary. Those questions have continued. The site points out:

"During the twelve years of Spears' conservatorship she has repeatedly toured the world, released multiple albums, and worked on a variety of television shows[...]" however, "Her conservators decide whether or not she works, as she cannot enter into contracts for herself because she is legally not her own person. Britney Spears needs permission from her conservators to leave her house or spend any of her own money."

Between 2009 and 2019, the conservatorship kept getting extended year after year. In 2019, Jamie Spears admitted in court that "me and my daughter's relationship has always been strained". We can only imagine how her entrapment under him worsened it. In 2019, he also requested for the conservatorship to be extended to several more states, including Louisiana, Hawaii and Florida on top of the original one in California.

In 2019, Jamie stepped down from being Britney's primary conservator as he was accused of abusing her 14-year-old son. Her long-time 'care manager', Jodi Montgomery, took over his duties temporarily. In the April, Britney completed month-long stay at a mental health facility, where an inside source said 'she is taking it easy and not thinking about her career [...] She's not in the mind frame to even think about performing.'

In September 2020, Britney's lawyers filed to oppose the sealing attributes of the conservatorship. According to CBS News, the legal filing stated:

"Britney's conservatorship has attracted an unprecedented level of scrutiny from mainstream media and social media alike. Far from being a conspiracy theory or a 'joke' as James reportedly told the media, in large part this scrutiny is a reasonable and even predictable result of James' aggressive use of the sealing procedure over the years to minimise the amount of meaningful information made available to the public."

Up until this, Jamie and the attorneys for the conservatorship tried to keep courtrooms closed and filings stored away in this case, which the Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brenda Penny approved regularly. Britney objected to the sealing of her father's motion to reinstall the attorney Andrew Wallet as her conservator. Also, in this month, it was claimed that 'Britney's family is at war with each other, and it's all because of the conservatorship'. Around this time, Britney's mother reportedly started to voice concerns about the conservatorship. "Lynne wants a care plan established that would transition Britney's personal life out of the conservatorship," a source said.

In November 2020, a judge declined to remove Britney's father as co-conservator of her life and estate. In legal filings, Jamie claimed that he did not believe that his daughter was ready to take her life back and control her finances. She refused to perform under his control, and planned to continue her hiatus if her father stayed as her conservator. Samuel D. Ingham told the judge 'my client has informed me that she is afraid of her father. She will not perform again if her father is in charge of her career.' In court, Britney did take away a small win. Whilst the judge denied removing her dad from her conservatorship, they did approve to add co-conservator Bessemer Trust, which was in fact requested by Britney's team.

In January 2021, through new court documents acquired by Entertainment Tonight, Samuel Ingham decided that 'it would be highly detrimental to Britney's interest' to give her father any more power in the conservatorship over her estate. He filed this in response to her father who put in an order where he argued that some of his powers had been stripped away when he and Bessemer Trust became co-conservators of the estate. Ingham claimed that in those documents Jamie submitted, he was trying to ensure that the Trust would never become the single conservator of her estate.



February 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 was a significant date due to Britney's boyfriend of three years, Sam Asghari, speaking out to share what he thought about her family, accusing her father of being controlling. He claimed that '[he had] zero respect for someone trying to control [their] relationship and constantly throwing [their] way'. Also, within this time, Britney's lawyers asked a judge to end her conservatorship.

In the March of 2021, Jamie Spears, spoke out about how he wanted the conservatorship to end, with his attorney, Vican Lee Thoreen claiming 'he would love nothing more than to see Britney not need a conservatorship. Whether or not there is an end to the conservatorship really depends on Britney. If she wants to end her own conservatorship, she can file a petition to end it.' Thoreen also stated that Jamie is 'not suggesting that he is the perfect dad or that he would receive Father of the Year award. Like any parent, he doesn't always see eye to eye on what Britney may want. But Jamie believes every single decision he has made in her best interest.



In April, Jamie asked the court to throw away Lynne's requests to repay \$890,000 in legal fees to Britney, as they certified her objections were without merit, and that she was 'not acting in the best interests of her daughter'. They also claimed that Lynne 'exploited her daughter's pain and trauma for personal profit by publishing a book', in reference to Lynne's memoir in 2008 called 'Through the Storm: A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid World.' Britney also requested to speak in court for the first time. For over a decade, she has not spoken about her case.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2021, it was leaked that Britney was forced to perform with a high fever of 102 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius). She claims it was one of the scariest moments of her life.

The next day, Britney made a twenty-four minute statement in court regarding her experiences living under what she called an 'abusive' conservatorship. She said she had no privacy and was often forced to perform against her own will.

"I just want my life back," she explained. "It's been 13 years and it's enough." She also shared that she wanted to start a new life and family with her boyfriend but she is unable to due to the terms of the conservatorship. "I have an [IUD] inside of myself right now so I don't get pregnant," she continued. "I wanted to take the IUD out so I could start trying to have another baby, but this so-called team won't let me go to the doctor to take it out because they don't want me to have children." She added "I truly believe this conservatorship is abusive."

Also in June, celebrities, including Mariah Carey, supported Britney on social media with messages of encouragement and a desire for change.



25<sup>th</sup> June was led up by an apology from Britney to fans on Instagram where she stated "I didn't want to say any of this to anybody, to the public, because I thought people would make fun of me or laugh at me and say, 'She's lying, she's got everything, she's Britney Spears.'"

On the 30<sup>th</sup> Judge Penny denied Britney's lawyers request to remove her father from his role as co-conservator of her estate.

On July 6<sup>th</sup> 2021, Britney's manager and attorney both resigned two weeks after she stated in court that she wanted to choose her own attorney, despite her lawyer representing Britney for all thirteen years of her conservatorship. Her manager resigned after twenty-five years of servicing her as "It has been over 2 1/2 years since Britney and I last communicated, at which time she informed me she wanted to take an indefinite work hiatus. Earlier today, I became aware that Britney had been voicing her intention to officially retire."

On 14<sup>th</sup> Britney hired her own lawyer, Mathew Rosengart, a former federal prosecutor. She also wanted to file charges against her father, Jamie, stating:

"I'm here to get rid of my dad and charge him for conservatorship abuse."

Britney's new lawyer seconded her plea, adding:

"This is not working," he said in court. "There is a real question as to why Mr. Spears does not voluntarily step down today. Is he here for financial reasons? Does anybody really believe that Mr. Spears' involvement is in the best interest of his daughter? He would resign if he loves his daughter."

On 26<sup>th</sup>, Britney's new lawyer filed a request for a new conservator, which would replace Jamie Spears with Jason Rubin, who specialises in forensic public accounting. The document for this also contained a request that Rubin would be able to revoke all the other powers of attorney for Britney, allowing him to make more decisions on Britney's behalf, like health care decisions.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> July, Britney's medical team said they support removing Jamie from his position:

"[Jamie] should not continue to act as the Conservatee's Conservator of the Estate, because his doing so is not in the best interest of the Conservatee," the document read. "Because the paramount concern for this Conservatorship is doing what is in the best interest of the Conservatee, Petitioner hereby joins Conservatee in the Removal Petition."

In August, Jamie finally agreed to step down as conservator of Britney's estate after thirteen years. The, on 28<sup>th</sup> of September Jamie Spears was officially suspended as conservator of Britney's estate, with John Zabel to replace him as temporary conservator. During the heated court hearing, Britney's attorney Mathew Rosengart called Jamie "a cruel, toxic, abusive man," CNN reported. "She wants him out of her life," he continued. "Britney deserves to wake up tomorrow without her father as her conservator."

Finally, on 1st November 2021, Jamie Spears filed for the immediate termination of Britney's conservatorship. On 12th November, a judge formally terminated the conservatorship with the words "The conservatorship of the person and estate of Britney Jean Spears is no longer required."

Britney Spears' long and painful case has brought to public attention how harmful conservatorships can be to the conservatee, and how these can be abused in order to have excessive control over the individual's bodily autonomy, money and career. This case highlights the ethical issues surrounding conservatorships for those with historical mental health issues, and the need for more to be done to intervene early to allow the individual to progress with their life.

Zara Pratt



# Spotlight On...

## Rihanna

Every issue, we are going to be shining a spotlight on an inspirational woman who we think is a positive role model to young people of different backgrounds and identities.



Our first spotlight woman is Rihanna (Robyn Rihanna Fenty). Rihanna is known worldwide as a Barbadian pop and rhythm-and-blues (R&B) singer. She began releasing music in 2005 and has since sold over 250 million records. The last album released by Rihanna was her *Anti* album in 2016, which was triple platinum certified by the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America). Since 2016 Rihanna has yet to release any of her own music, however in 2017 she launched her own makeup line called Fenty beauty and shortly after she then launched her loungewear brand Savage X Fenty. Rihanna's goal for both her brands is to create diversity and inclusivity of style, size and colour as she has always been passionate about the inclusivity of black women. She stated at the time of her launch that she "wants to make people feel good and look good no matter their size or race".

Rihanna was recently declared a national hero of Barbados, where she received the full title of 'The Right Excellent Robyn Rihanna Fenty' as the country celebrates its transition to an independent republic. She is arguably Barbados' most famous citizen and in 2018 was appointed an official ambassador for culture and youth. Throughout her career she is known for never softening her Bajan accent or her music; while tapping into pop, R&B and dance music, she has remained connected to her Caribbean heritage. Barbados celebrated its 55th anniversary on November 30th. Prior to her Bajan title, Rihanna became the wealthiest female musician in the world, following her Fenty launch; she is second only to Oprah Winfrey as the richest black female entertainer.

### "IF YOU DON'T LIVE YOUR LIFE, THEN WHO WILL?" - RIHANNA

We have chosen Rihanna as our first spotlight woman as her career has inspired many young people to aim high in whatever they want to do in life. She is a great role model for minorities because of her resilience and inclusion of others regardless of their backgrounds, as well as a reminder for the youth of today to appreciate who they truly are as individuals as she confidently embraces her heritage and uses this as a fuel to achieve her goals.

Rihanna is also known for her philanthropy. In 2012, she established the Clara Lionel Foundation, which is a US non-profit organisation which benefits impoverished communities across the world. She stated in the past that she believes no child should have to choose between their safety and education. She was later named Humanitarian of the Year by the Harvard Foundation in 2017.

While Rihanna started out as a singer, she has shown versatility in other talents, as she has starred in multiple films (*Oceans 8*, *Guava Island*, *Home* and many more), pulled off stunning fashion looks and, most recently, become an entrepreneur who is continually showing young people to never settle for less and work hard in everything they do.

If you have any suggestions for future spotlight women, please contact Tomi at 16.onabanjo.oluwatomi.



## Entertainment: Music

The 2021 BET Soul Train Music Awards took place on November 28, 2021, to recognize the best in soul, R&B and Hip-Hop music. Multiple soulful performances, fierce red carpet looks and an all-around musically moving evening took place. The awards were hosted by Tichina Arnold and Tisha Campbell and was held at the legendary Apollo Theatre in Harlem, New York.

It was a big night for R&B duo Silk Sonic, made up of Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak, who took home Song of the Year and Video of the Year for their first single, *Leave The Door Open*. The smooth, old school-sounding love song also earned the The Ashford and Simpson Songwriter's Award.

The following category winners include -

Album of the year: Jazmine Sullivan- *Heaux Tales*

The Ashford and Simpson Songwriter's Award: Silk Sonic- *Leave the Door Open*

Best Collaboration: Wizkid featuring Tems- *Essence*

Best Gospel/Inspirational Award: Kirk Franklin

Best new artist: Yung Bleu Best R&B/Soul female artist: Jazmine Sullivan

Best R&B/Soul male artist: Giveon Certified Soul Award: Charlie Wilson

Song of the year: Silk Sonic- *Leave the Door Open*

Video of the year: Silk Sonic- *Leave the Door Open*

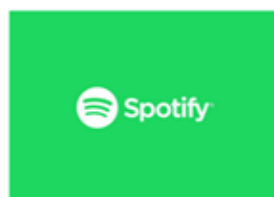
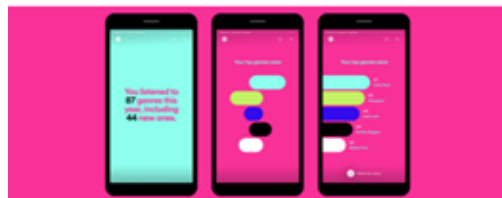
Best dance performance: Normani featuring Cardi B, *Wild Side*



## Spotify Wrapped

Spotify dropped its annual Spotify Wrapped on December 1st. Wrapped offers Spotify listeners a deep dive into their most memorable listening moments of the year, resulting in users spamming their Instagram and Snapchat stories with their top songs and artists, including musicians and other celebrities.

We'd love to hear who you've been listening to lately. If you'd like to see any musicians featured in future issues, please contact our team.





## *Entertainment: Music*

The 49th Annual American Music Awards (AMAs) were held on 21st November 2021, at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles. The ceremony recognised the most popular artists, singles and albums of 2021.

Cardi B hosted the ceremony, following Queen Latifah as the only female rappers in history to do so. Cardi herself took home the award for Favourite Hip-Hop Song, but K Pop superstars BTS dominated the night, picking up several awards and performing live. Contrary to other awards shows, the honourees at the American Music Awards were chosen entirely based on votes by fans. There were also some stunning looks from people on the night.

Here are some of the winners of this year:

ARTIST OF THE YEAR - BTS

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR - Olivia Rodrigo

COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR - Doja Cat ft. SZA- *Kiss Me More*

FAVOURITE TRENDING SONG - Megan Thee Stallion- *Body*

FAVOURITE MUSIC VIDEO - Lil Nas X- *MONTERO (Call Me By Your Name)*

FAVOURITE MALE POP ARTIST - Ed Sheeran

FAVOURITE FEMALE POP ARTIST - Taylor Swift

FAVOURITE POP DUO OR GROUP - BTS

FAVOURITE POP ALBUM - Taylor Swift- *evermore*

FAVORITE POP SONG - BTS- *Butter*



# Fashion News

The Fashion Awards 2021 took place on 29th November, presented by the infamous TikTok. There were a lot of popular TikTok personalities in attendance. The event took place at the iconic Royal Albert Hall, London. Accolades this year included Designer of the Year and the BFC Foundation Award. The BFC Foundation recognises an emerging designer talent, who over the last 12 months has had a major creative impact on global fashion, from those receiving financial and mentoring support from the BFC Foundation in the year.

The Fashion Awards also honoured and celebrated Leaders of Change; the designers, brands, creatives and individuals who created positive change within the fashion industry this past year, under the categories Environment, People and Creativity.

Nominees, Winners and Honourees were voted for by a panel made up of over 800 key members of the international fashion industry. The Fashion Awards were hosted by Grammy Award-winning and Golden Globe-nominated actor, singer, director, composer and playwright, the incomparable Billy Porter. With more than 30 years in the business, Porter has become a recognisable entertainer in the industry. Whether he is gracing the red carpet in couture masterpieces, giving iconic performances on Broadway, or speaking up for the black LGBTQ+ community, Porter is a style icon who uses fashion as a means of self-expression and communication (we love to see it!).



The event expanded its global reach with a new creative approach and goals for the future, while celebrating this year's leaders who are changing the industry, as well as fashion's global impact and its role at the intersection of culture. The Fashion Awards believe they have a duty to support the younger generation, to keep them inspired and motivate them to know that there is a future in creative arts.

The Fashion Awards also strongly believe in the importance of the sustainable development goals - 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". Goals are focused on gender equality (goal 5), decent work and economic growth (goal 8), reduced inequalities (goal 10), climate action (goal 13) and partnerships for the goals (goal 17).

*The  
Fashion  
Awards  
2021*

PRESENTED BY  
 **TikTok**



# Fashion News

The Met Gala returned on 13th September with the theme 'In America', centring on American designers and fashion history. The annual fashion celebration, held in honour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute's Spring Exhibit opening, also serves as a fundraiser. The Gala is orchestrated under the eyes of Vogue mastermind Anna Wintour.

"The Met has endured much in its 150 years and today continues as a beacon of hope for the future. This museum is also a profound reminder of the strength of the human spirit and the power of art to offer comfort, inspiration, and community," says the museum's president, Daniel H. Weiss

Here are some of the most talked about looks of the event:





# Fashion News

## Remembering Virgil Abloh

There was a huge loss recently in the fashion industry this year. On 28th November, there was news of the passing of Off-White founder, Louis Vuitton artistic director and trained architect, Virgil Abloh. Following his death, there was an outpouring of tributes paid by designers and creatives. Abloh also had an interest in music, specifically DJ-ing and producing. Abloh was named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2018.

Virgil Abloh had a very significant impact on the fashion industry due to his African heritage. In a society that can be discriminatory towards the black community, especially those in the fashion and modelling industry, Abloh showed many people that anything is possible and that good things really do come to those who work hard. Shortly after his passing, Louis Vuitton paid tribute to Virgil Abloh at their planned spinout fashion show in Miami with a theme of 'Virgil was here'.



Many famous faces, among his closest friends, attended the tribute such as Kanye West, A\$AP Rocky, Tyler The Creator, Pharell Williams and more, showing such an overwhelming amount of love. Although Virgil left behind so many friends and family, he also left behind a legacy that will be remembered and inspire future generations.

# COMING NEXT ISSUE

MENTAL  
HEALTH  
WEEK 2022



LGBT+  
WEEK



PLUS: 16 DAYS OF ACTION  
FOR SIXTH FORMERS