



BROWHEADLINE

THE WINDER HERE AND NOW

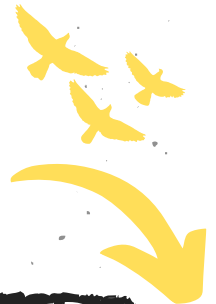
A newspaper for the school, but most importantly, for the STUDENTS.
BrowHeadline is proud to bring you issue 4 of the winder HERE and NOW!



BrowHeadline began in lockdown and now it seems we've come full circle! To keep with our colour theme of the pride flag, this issue is yellow. In some countries, yellow is considered the colour of royalty, to us it's a colour of hope in a particularly testing time. So, after blue January we're making February yellow!

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BROWHEADLINE

THE WINDER HERE AND NOW

Meet the Team

what have we been up to during lockdown?

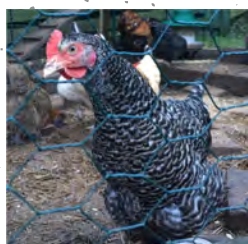
SERENA COOPER

I'm Serena and this lockdown I've helped my family by looking after my little sister while they worked. I hope you enjoy this issue!

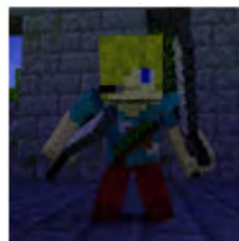


MAYUMI SINGH

Hi my name is Mayumi and during lockdown I have helped my little sister with her homework and online learning.



Hi! I'm Thomas (as you may know), and I've been writing articles all about Virtual Reality. Let me know if there are any articles you would like to see on the topic, and I hope you enjoy this month's feature!



FINN GERAGHTY

Over lockdown, I played a few to many video games.

THOMAS NUSSBAUM-RICHMAN

Some positive things I've done over this lockdown are knitting blankets for premature babies and learning Russian.

Amber Kenny

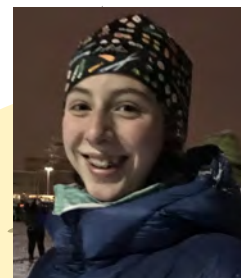


Becca Yahya

During this second lockdown, I practised my baking skills by making some Battenberg cakes, with my Grandma's help and we distributed them among our neighbours :)

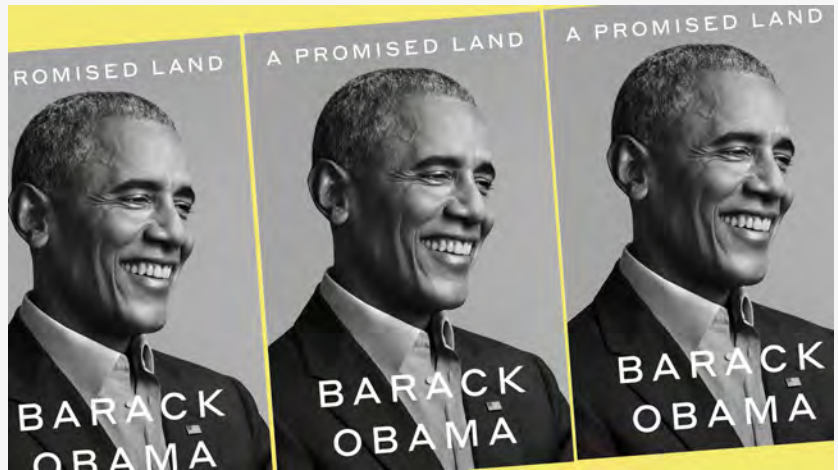
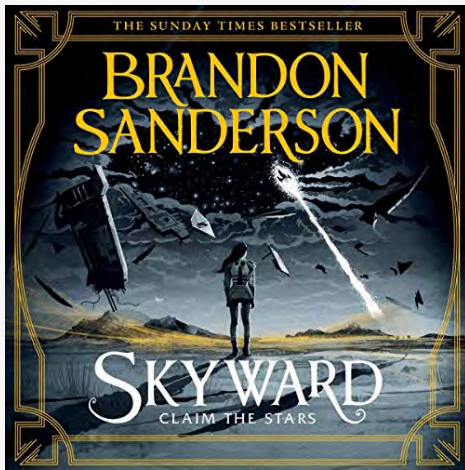
During lock down I have been reading books I haven't read in a while, which has allowed me to think about how the types of books I used to enjoy has changed. Secondly, I have been working on my digital art skills which has been enjoyable as I have my friends to share my improvements with.

LUANA KENNY



Thanks to being at home because of lockdown, I spend more time with my family and almost every day I make them for breakfast: the best porridge in the whole world! Even though it's eaten in 3 minutes after making it for 30 minutes :')

MARTYNA BINEK



RIVETING READS

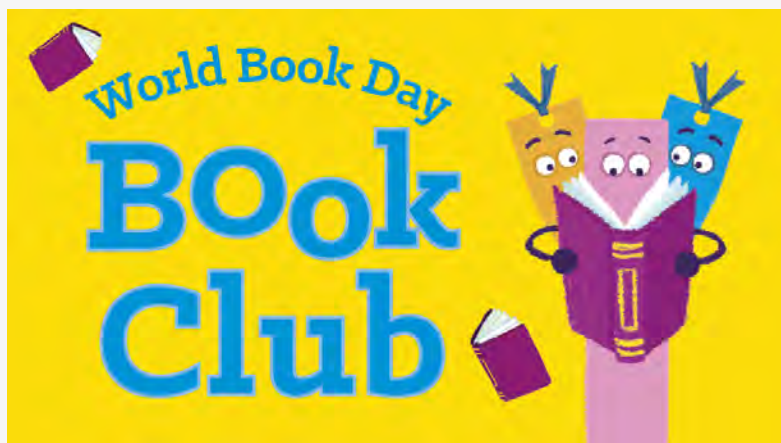
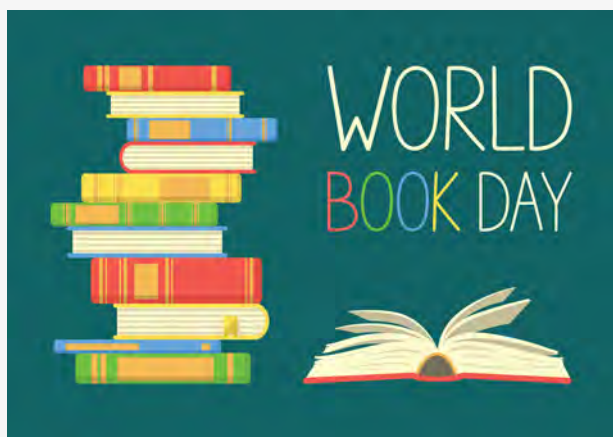
World Book Day Special

Luana Kenny

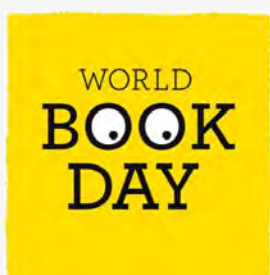
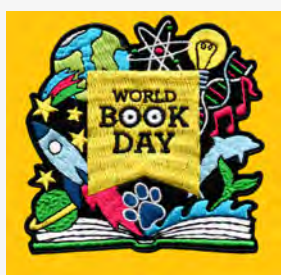
Throughout 2020 there were many difficult times, especially with the national lockdown. Despite this, authors continued to write enchanting books, transporting people to another world, another time in history or just to look at another person's life. This allowed readers to spend some time learning or enjoying something they never thought possible.

The most popular fiction genre of 2020 was Fantasy, with Science Fiction coming in a close second. Personally, some of my favourite Fantasy and Science Fiction books that I read in 2020 were *Bone Crier's Moon* by Kathryn Purdie, *Skyward* by Brandon Sanderson, and *Honor Among Thieves* by Rachel Caine and Ann Aguirre. *Bone Crier's Moon* is a Fantasy book that has elements of folklore. With both main characters fighting against each other the reader gets to see both sides of the conflict. While *Skyward* is a humorous Science Fiction book about aliens, the main character Spensa has everything against her but despite all her struggles she perseveres to become a flight pilot to protect her world that has been under attack for decades. Both of these books are fast paced wonderful books that whisk you away from reality for an afternoon.

The most popular non-fiction genre of 2020 were biographies and autobiographies. Barack Obama's highly acclaimed biography *a Promised Land* was one of the best selling books of 2020. He writes about his growth from a young man to the President of the United States and how he changed throughout his political journey. One of the non-fiction books that I read in 2020 was *Progress* by Johan Norberg. The book depicts to the reader how despite the majority of bad information you find online and on the news, the world isn't as bad as it seems. It shows where the world is heading with the progress scientists have made in the past. The book will give you a positive outlook on life, as it focuses on how there is so much more information available so therefore more people see negative information that enhances the pessimistic human nature.



Goodreads top 200 books of 2021



Windermere School's World Book Day celebrations

Year 7 'Stories with Ellery'

Literary teams backgrounds

Author podcasts

WINDERMERE SCHOOL PRESENTS

Themed English lessons

Free audiobooks

Book tokens

WORLD BOOK DAY 2021

THURSDAY 4TH MARCH

WIN PRIZES!

Speak to your English teacher for more details

Competitions

- Guess the staff competition
- Win book tokens for book reviews
- Book quizzes

KS5 activities

- Reading Cafe
- Empowering books project

KS3 activities

- DRAMA - making book trailers
- ART - altered book page project

KS4 activities

- Writing workshops
- Year group story writing

World Book Day

World Book Day had been an active charity since 1995. The charity is funded by publishers and booksellers in the UK and Ireland. Their mission is to allow reading to become an accessible activity for all children. The charity also wants to change children's lives by making reading a fun habit that they can hold onto for life. World Book Day also celebrates authors, illustrators, and books as a celebration of reading. It is organised by UNESCO, a specialised agency of the United Nations aimed at promoting peace for the world through international cooperation in education. They do this by allowing certain books to be purchased for 1 pound.

To get involved with World Book Day go to the [World Book Day website](https://www.worldbookday.org/), and look at their resources which include, free audio books, and vote for the top 100 books in the nation. You can also look at their 1 pound books. Windermere School is also celebrating World Book Day so look out for the exciting activities we have planned!

CONFRONTING CAMERA CONTROVERSY

TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE?

— THAT IS THE QUESTION —

As we reach another well-deserved half-term holiday, we can now relax and reflect on achieving a successful online start to the second term.

It was certainly interesting to become immersed back into distance learning; we have each had our own individual home-learning headaches when it comes to online school, whether it was some madness regarding the muting/unmuting microphones, the odd temporary Teams crash, or incidences with the internet. Many of us were able to adapt and overcome these intermittent inconveniences. Although, there is one particular issue that is yet to have a solution: should cameras be on or off? This question remains a consistent discussion within our community. There have been multiple attempts to reprimand this specific issue, including emails, teacher to student conversations, and individual requests. However, the situation only appears to remain the same. What has now turned into an almost taboo subject among students, the topic of turning on cameras was thoroughly discussed by the BrowHeadline team; It was concluded that in order to prevent this persistent problem, it was essential to first acknowledge and investigate further into this present issue by releasing a survey to the whole School community with the hopes of receiving the perspectives of both the teachers and students. Here are the results:

TEACHERS

"Unless technical difficulties prevent students from showing their faces, I do not believe that students have a leg to stand on when it comes to not turning their cameras on for at least the start of a lesson/tutor time."

"there is good evidence that shows students are more focused when they can see their teacher and when their teacher can see them!"

"It gets very lonely when students don't turn their cameras on. For teachers, it feels like you are standing on the edge of the infinite void, shouting into the abyss."

STUDENTS

"Cameras on makes it feel like you have had more contact with others like you would in a regular school day and so you feel less isolated"

"the camera is inverted (pretty self explanatory... no one likes their face inverted"

86 RESPONSES

1:3 TEACHER TO STUDENT RATIO

DO YOU WILLINGLY TURN YOUR CAMERA ON?

STUDENTS SAY :

"Depends who is on the call"

"I have it off at the start as you very well know me"
-Mayumi S.

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| 1 | 12 = | Yes - I don't mind |
| 2 | 21 = | Sometimes - I wait until my classmates turn theirs on |
| 3 | 25 = | No - my teacher has to ask me first |
| 4 | 5 = | I never turn on my camera even when my teacher asks me |
| 5 | 2 = | Other |

DOES IT BOTHER YOU WHEN STUDENTS DON'T TURN THEIR CAMERAS ON?

TEACHERS SAY:

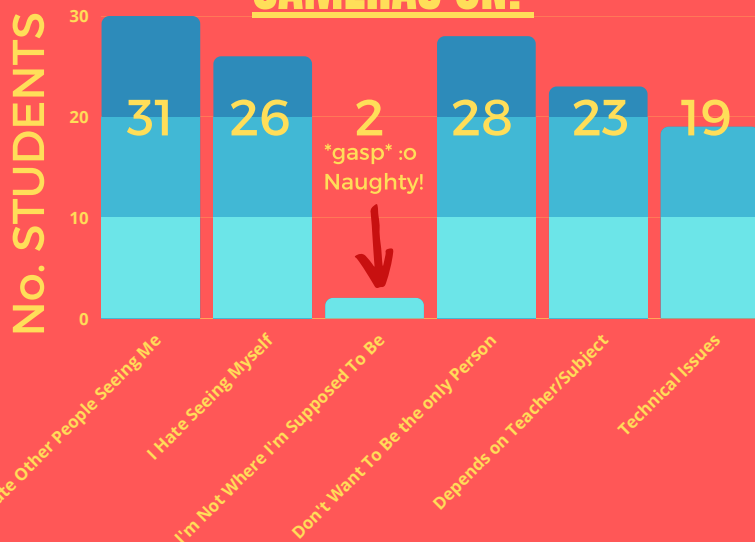
"It depends on the student (e.g. I know some have problem internet or others have good reasons why they don't want to turn their camera on) but for most students they need to have their camera on as it allows their staff to maximise the educational benefit of a lesson, especially during discussions or Q/A sessions."

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 16 = Yes | ← |
| 2 = No | ← |
| 3 = Other | ← |

"Sometimes it does but usually they come up with a valid reason or I know they are very shy."

"I think it makes for a much nicer session when people can see each other."

STUDENTS, WHY DON'T YOU TURN YOUR CAMERAS ON?

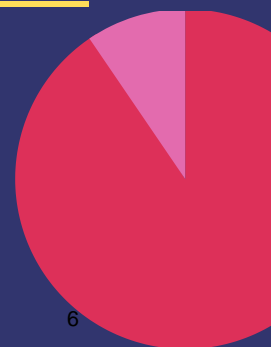


TEACHERS, DO YOU WANT YOUR CAMERA ON??

19 YES

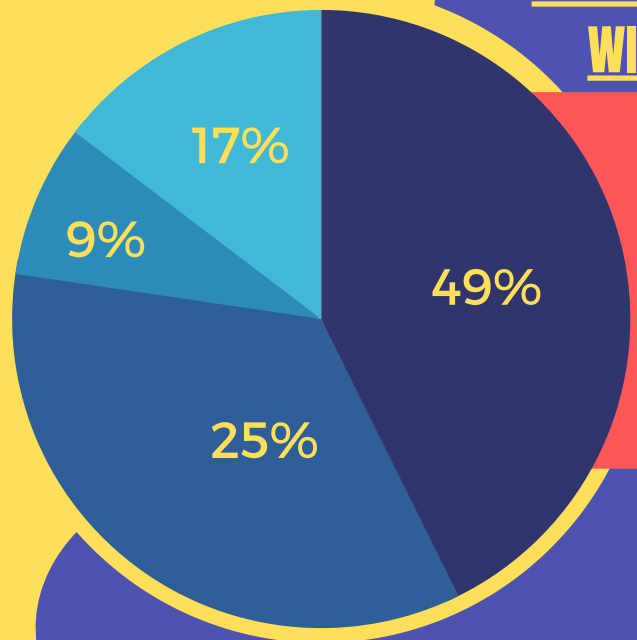
0 NO

2 IDC



SO... STUDENTS

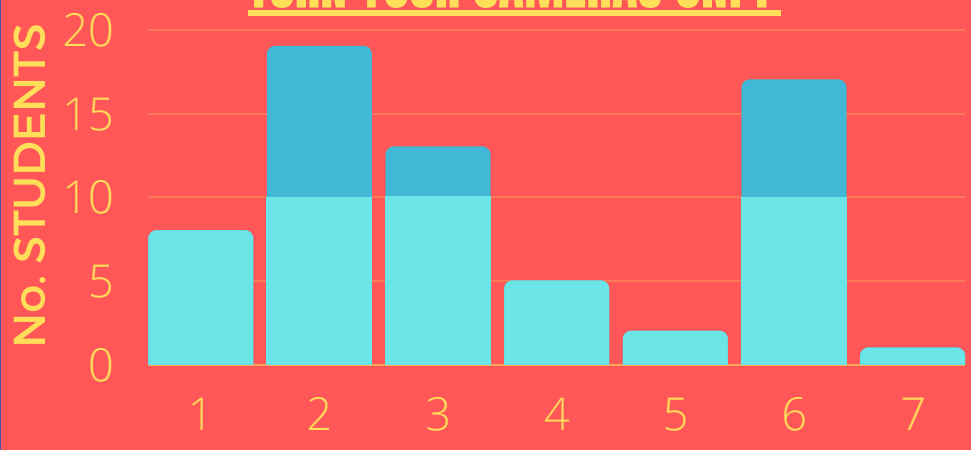
WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU COMFORTABLE WITH TURNING ON YOUR CAMERA?



- ➡ Everyone has their camera on
- ➡ Having regular camera breaks
- ➡ Speaking w/ your teacher/tutor
- ➡ I will never turn my camera on.



WHY DO YOU THINK YOUR TEACHERS ASK YOU TO TURN YOUR CAMERAS ON??



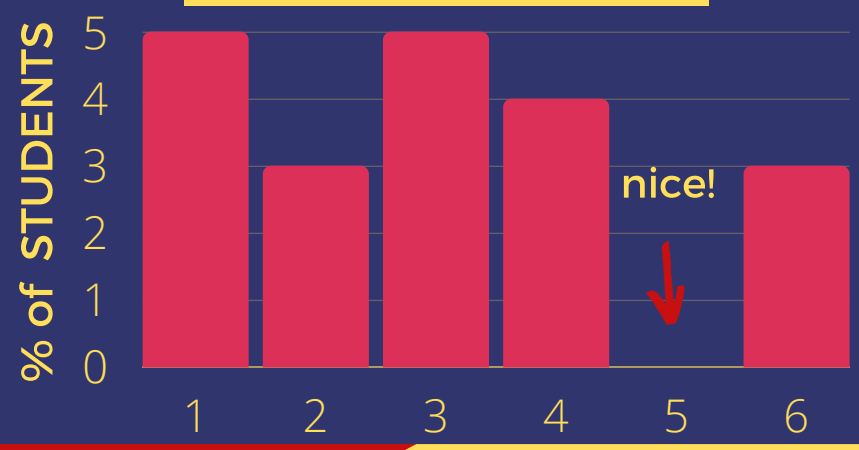
- 1) It benefits my learning
- 2) They like to see their students.
- 3) They are used to talking to faces - like at school.
- 4) They feel lonely - teachers have feelings too!
- 5) They always have their cameras on, so should we.
- 6) They want to know if we're there.
- 7) Other

"Safe guarding and to read body language and facial expressions of pupils"

AND TEACHERS

"If I tell them to then sometimes all of the class will, sometimes 50% of the class will.... if I don't tell them to then no one does."

ON AVERAGE HOW MANY OF YOUR STUDENTS TURN THEIR CAMERAS ON?



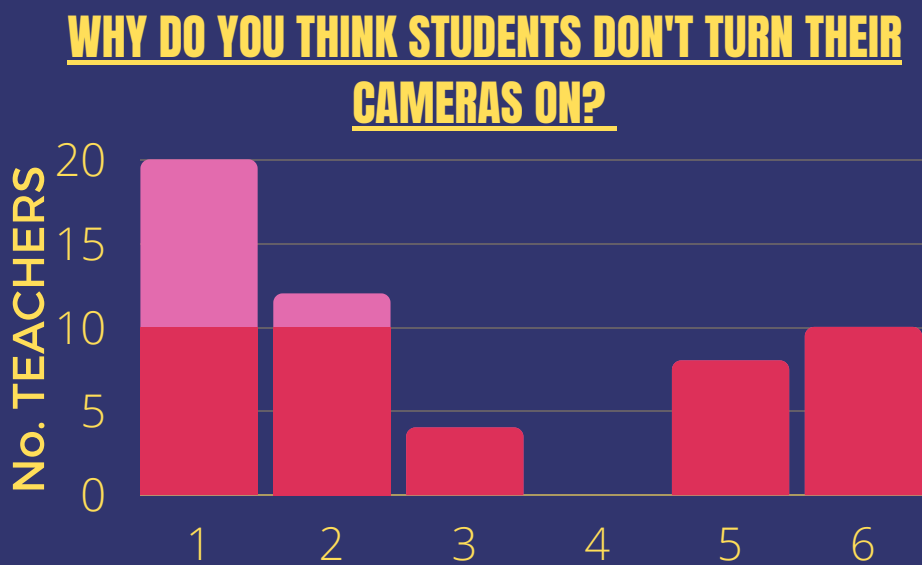
"I'm not delivering lessons at the moment but I am doing assemblies."

- 1) 100% - When I tell them to
- 2) 70%
- 3) 50%
- 4) 20%
- 5) 0%
- 6) Other

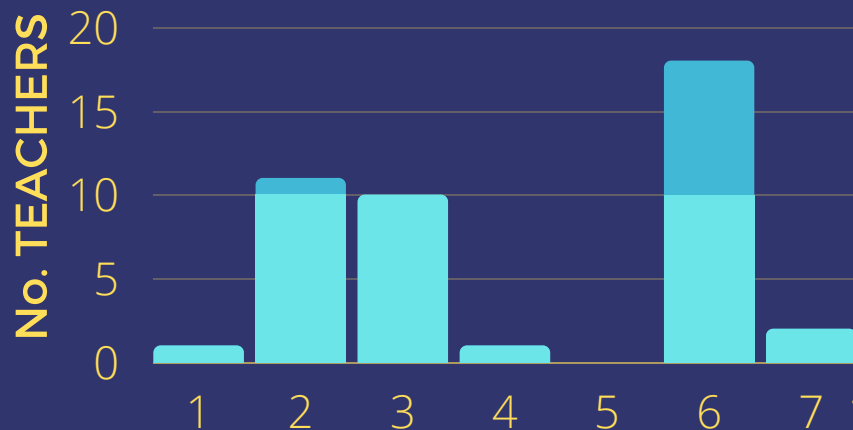
"More than 70%, less than 100% :)"



- 3) They don't like following instructions.
- 4) They are new.
- 5) They aren't listening
- 6) They don't want to participate



WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD MAKE STUDENTS TURN CAMERAS ON??



"For anyone concerned with appearing on camera, I would recommend an earlier bedtime the night before lessons and a subsequent earlier rise of a morning, so that they can make themselves look more presentable and appear more confident in their appearance."

- 1) Bribery.
- 2) Having a chat about it.
- 3) Stricter rules about having Cameras on.
- 4) I don't Know I have given up!
- 5) It is impossible :/
- 6) Being polite and asking them.
- 7) Other

"Wi-fi issues can have an impact, and if a teacher is sharing their screen there is no point the pupils having cameras on. But it is very, very lonely talking to a blank screen all day!!!!"

"Hmm! Bribery!!"

IN CONCLUSION

"It is much easier to teach when students have their cameras on, because teachers can judge better whether the students are engaged and whether they understand. Most teachers enjoy their jobs because they enjoy working with students, rather than working with computers!"

"I don't mind putting my camera on if the rest of the class has there on I don't like to be the first to put there's on"

In the end, the range of passionate-passive reactions we have received has enabled the comparison of the two opposing opinions concerning the camera controversy. Hopefully, this data has provided teachers with further insight into some of the students reasoning. Similarly, perhaps acknowledging the significant effect that showing your face can have on your teachers will encourage students to bypass the camera-shy stigma.

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"nooooooooooooooooooooo  
oooooooooooooooooooooo  
oooooooooooooooooooooo  
oooooooooooo."
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"It's so much nicer seeing the person's face, rather than a blank screen. I like to see people's reactions to what I say!!! I am very animated when I teach and I like to see students' reactions. Also, I hate looking at myself, as I cannot believe how old I look!!!!"

"Students can see my body language and facial expressions as this is so important in communication. I want students to see my enthusiasm or concern etc. Likewise I would love to be able to see all of the students that I am teaching because I would teach more effectively/be able to reach out to students more...I would tell if they were confused, angry, sad, engaged etc. With cameras off I am sometimes left wondering if I am talking to my screen only and find it hard to judge how the content of the lesson is being received."

ANY FINAL



"Some students are struggling with their internet speed and connectivity at home, so turn their cameras off to ensure they can remain in the webinar.."

THOUGHTS?



"Please don't make us put our cameras on."

"I don't think we should have cameras on all lesson, but if necessary maybe at a random point during the lesson ask us to turn on our cameras to make sure we are still in the lesson.."

"Students engage more with lessons when cameras are on and teachers can measure their understanding and mood by being able to see them, just as we would in a classroom. It makes teaching and learning more effective and enjoyable for all."

"I usually ask them to put their cameras on as I say it makes me feel less of a fool and they generally go along with that. If everyone's camera is on then people interact with each other, if it is just the teacher you feel like a talking head."

"Teenagers are not 'shy' they are self-conscious of being judged not by their teacher but their peers. I think this is why students are choosing to not put on their camera unless asked."

"It is very difficult to teach to blank screens."

"As a teacher it is very hard to deliver a lesson to students that are refusing to put cameras on. I also think it is rather rude if I'm honest. I have a much better lesson if all are present, cameras on and students engaging. I understand the issue of being shy."

"Lessons are much more interactive and productive with camera's on. The younger years are really good at this, however it is a battle with older years. I do not like looking at myself on the screen all the time, however it is necessary. I find it very difficult when no one wants to put cameras on, and then they do not complete work set, as they have possibly gone off to do something else. I am aware this happens reasonably regularly."

"Putting cameras on can be very stressful and means that I am thinking more about my camera being on than the work that we are doing"

"My response to [Why I don't like turning my camera on] is not related to me not wanting to not have my camera on, more to feeling a little lonely with only my camera on, and the teachers must feel much the same."

"NO."

"When you have your camera on online, you are in more of a spotlight then when you're at school where you can sit at the back of the class. (which is what some students prefer)"

"I work better when I have my camera on. I also respect that teachers have theirs on and they like it when we have ours on"

"No Thanks."

"I feel like it is acceptable to have our cameras on in morning tutor but I don't feel like it is necessary during lessons. I don't think most students care whether the teacher has their camera on or not so I don't see why we have to if it makes us uncomfortable"

MEET THE MARKETING MANAGER



In this issue of getting to know members of our community, we chat to Miss Spottiswood, our Marketing Manager.

Ever wondered how psychology can help with marketing? Or how the font a person chooses can mean many different things? Well, these questions are answered and more as we get to know the Marketing Manager!

To watch the full interview click [here](#).

Did you always want to be a Marketing Manager?

No, the answer is no, I did not. I started as a florist which may seem shocking. It's how I became au fait with the digital world. I started working in London in Convent Garden at a florist. Then, I set up my own and when you work on your own you have to do a little bit of everything. I had to build websites and social media, which was new then, so was Instagram and Facebook. This included a bit of coding, photography, styling, graphic design and all that sort of thing. I learnt through that and after a number of changes which took me through magazines. I worked at a place called Grace Belgravia in London, which was a women's wellness club. I was graphic designer and stylist for a number of magazines. I did marketing for them as well and I then I ended up in marketing. I then shifted into schools and that was how I ended up as a Marketing Manager. It was not a plan, but I am pleased where I have ended up.

If your friends were asked to describe you in one word, what do you think it would be?

I hope it would be kind, but I don't know. I think there are many things that they would describe me as, but I can't say in a school interview! I hope they would say kind and I can't sum it up in one word but someone who is reliable and someone who would always help them.

By Mayumi Singh and Serena Cooper

What was your favourite subject at school?

It probably fluctuated throughout school. I was quite dyslexic when I was younger. So I would find English quite difficult but then I had an amazing teacher called Mrs Norton who really brought English to life for me. I had her for GCSE, and she was incredible. She was the first person who got me involved in things like Shakespeare. She made it very real and not necessarily just about whether or not you could spell. Probably after that it was Psychology. I did it for A level and I loved it. I loved learning about what makes people tick. Of course that can translate in marketing and it helped me learn more about what I am doing now.

Are you enjoying working at Windermere School so far?

Yeah, it's fab and it's a brilliant place to work. I think what is so great about this School is that it also gives you the location. That location gives you a lifestyle and I have always been an outdoorsy person and my partner's from here. It was a dream come true for us to move because I am originally from down south in Salisbury and to come up here to the Lakes. It was an amazing opportunity which Windermere gave to me.



What is your favourite song of all time?

Do you know you are going to hate my answer to this! I am a 90's baby and so ultimately one of my favourite songs is going to be a Britney. One that would get me dancing and on a dance floor. It would always be some form of Britney Spears which I am aware is a terrible thing to admit! But that is the truth I'm afraid. I am a 90s girl so if were born in the 90s that's it.

What is the most interesting part of your job?

The fact you never stop learning. When you are involved in anything digital, you are constantly looking for the next thing. You are constantly having to learn, to adapt and evolve. The amazing thing about having to learn in a digital landscape is that google is your best friend, if you can't do it, someone would have done a YouTube video on it. The minute you have learnt how to take pictures one way, the trend will change. You will have to adapt to video content and we all know how quickly these things change. Say 15 years ago Instagram didn't exist. Now we have reels, Instagram stories and TikTok. Things are constantly developing, you have to be on that constantly. I love that about my job. You can never ever get bored and it's the same when working with kids. You know you are never going to be bored ever.

What would you say to students who aspire to go into marketing as a career?

Don't pigeonhole yourself. Marketing is a very wide-ranging thing. Become comfortable with lots of different things. Involve yourself with the digital landscape and trial and error, practise building websites, have yourself on social media and practise on it. If you don't know how to create an Instagram reel, give it a go so if someone asks you about it you know how it works, you can then do it. I think there are a lot of people who are in the higher levels of marketing, who were not brought up being digitally literate, and as the younger generation you have that in spades. Being brought up with it, use it to your advantage.

What made you choose marketing?

Honestly it's probably very similar to my previous answers, it's the variety. When I was getting involved, the things that I loved brought me away from floristry, being creative with my hands. There's something very visceral about playing with flowers and creating something very physical, that was a wonderful thing. But I learnt that something I was quite obsessed with was brands, brand stories and how you could use it. For example, Windermere School has navy blue as our main brand colour. You might just say 'OK dark blue' but there are nuances within a dark blue. The dark blue you choose can say a different thing about who you are, that's what brand is. I became very involved in that, I love colour. I love that sort of brand building, like what sort of font you choose can say something about you. Which will all contribute to putting together a picture of what you are. That's what pulled me away from being more physically creative to being something that was more digitally creative. That's what marketing is about, knowing who your customer is and it is the psychology behind that. Knowing what you can create in terms of a brand and a story, which will bring that customer towards you.

If you could meet one famous celebrity who would it be?

I don't know. There is a lady called Grace Coddington. If you don't know who she is you must look her up. If you have ever watched the September issue, which was a documentary Vogue did (Vogue US). Grace was in it as the British lady who went over there and was the chief creative stylist. She was just incredible. I have her books, all of them over there (*points behind her*). She is incredibly interesting. Her style is amazing and I would love to meet her and have a chat, she is amazing.

What animal do you most relate to?

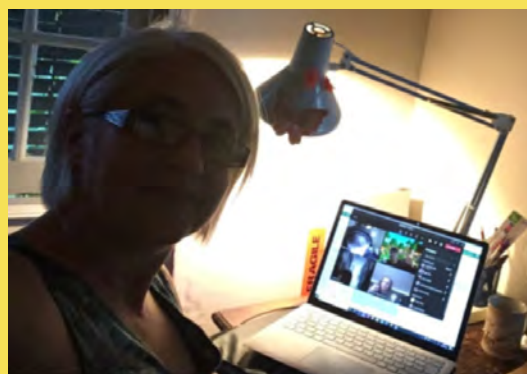
I think I would probably be a cat of some description. Yeah, I think I would probably be a cat. I think I could be incredibly lazy and lie on a velvet cushion. Because as a dog you are forced to go on walks and people tell you to do stuff. As a cat you have the run of the house, you get to go where you like, if you don't want to, you don't. I think cats have the most amazing life and I would quite enjoy it.

Thank you very much to Miss Spottiswood for taking part in the interview. Serena and I really enjoyed getting to know Miss Spottiswood and we hope you enjoy reading it too! Read the next issue where we will be getting to know another member of staff.

Don't let yourself feel trapped.

February 2021, Martyna Binek

Whilst the last reflection was addressed to those whose quarantine was after the Christmas break, this one is for everybody, with no exception. We all are in lockdown, just in different places. But these differences won't exclude us from supporting and sharing with each other a positive attitude! Perhaps they will only contribute to do it even more efficiently!



Thankfully, we have the chance to get to know and be inspired by the outstanding experience of Mrs Bennett, who has shared with us her Christmas quarantine story.



Let's read the story and fulfil our hearts with hope and a different outlook on quarantine that will make you feel better. But most importantly – read with a smile, that I must admit I was lucky enough to receive throughout the whole interview. I hope this is conveyed in every word written below :)

So, I have heard Christmas didn't go as planned this year?

That's right. I was expecting to stay in the Lake District with my husband and two kids for Christmas but then I heard the news from Australia that my dad had a little stroke. At that time, I decided to go to see him and help. It wasn't, though, an easy decision. Especially with the vision in mind of not being with the family on Christmas Day and instead, having a compulsory quarantine alone, in a hotel room.

So, then I thought: *well, I want to stay here with my children for Christmas and then I'll fly.* But another obstacle appeared. I had permission to stay until the end of January, so with 2 weeks quarantine, I would have only three weeks then. After some discussions with my children and having thought about all scenarios, I just thought: *Yeah, I'll just go. I go now.*



So, you arrived on the 18th December and left after quarantining in a hotel room on 2nd January? How was it?

So, that means I was there for Christmas and for the New Year. Actually, it was fine. Mostly because feeling loneliness and this physical distance was successfully minimised by the technology. Thanks to the phones, I could call my relatives so that I barely felt the isolation. My family packed their Christmas food and called me and put the phone on the windowsill. We were literally together during Christmas dinner. I was there, I was in the room with them!

My dad and me realized that our lunches and dinners came at the same time. So, we had a virtual lunch, we would put our cameras on and we would be eating our meals together. And when people came to visit him, they would leave when it was our time for a common meal :)

That sounds wonderful! And what about the New Year celebration?

I actually did what I would do normally. I watched fireworks, I called my friends, I did a countdown on the TV and that's it. Maybe that would have been different if everybody was having fun, and I would have been the only one. But there's nothing happening anywhere. I just enjoyed the time, especially with the special Christmas Lunch the hotel provided us with. They gave us a champagne and a chocolate, just these little things that are worth being appreciated.

Are there, in your opinion, any appropriate or correct ways of feeling in lockdown?

I believe there is no common, appropriate or correct way to choose how to feel during the quarantine. Because everybody needs to find their own, which I believe can happen when we patiently, consciously and with a positive attitude face the lockdown.

Oh... actually, I can say one correct way that fits in every case, every time:

HOW TO FEEL?
FEEL YOURSELF!

And what I mean here is for you to feel and you control it, that you can organize it.

What do you mean by the 'positive attitude to face the lockdown'? For some, these words can contradict each other, almost like antonyms...

Yeah, that's true. But here is the point. Instead of sticking with: *I can't do it, it's not possible in such circumstances,* replace it with:

I can't do it... but I'm going to make this work somehow in this space!

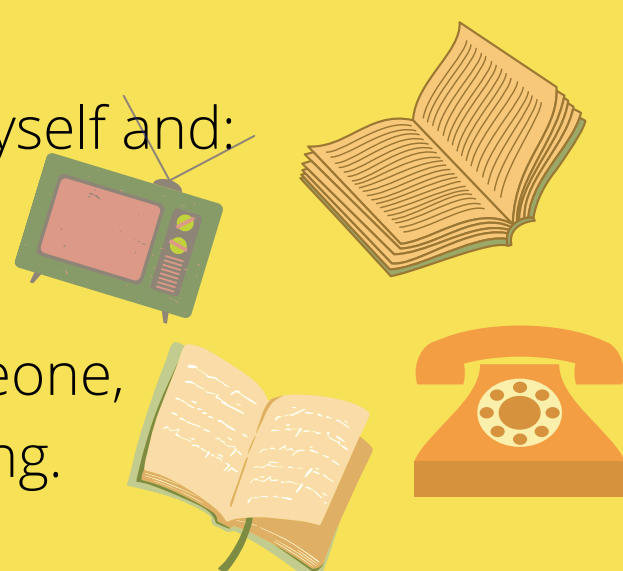
In the space, you are given now, no matter how small, physically and metaphorically it is. In the time you are given now, no matter how much it can drag for you or how fast it slips through your fingers.

Personally, I was aware that as soon as I'm out, I won't have my quiet time.

What is hidden behind this interesting phrase 'quiet time'?

Well... I'm basically surrounded by people a lot. I have my family, friends and we've got things happening in our house. Then I go to work in Windermere School where there are always things happening [laugh]. Then I get home, I've got people. Then I go to work and I've got people.

So, for two weeks I had time to myself and:
I could read a book,
I could watch a bit of television,
I can speak on the phone to someone,
I could write a journal or something.



I had my free time for the first time since lockdown because I've always been with people, which is obviously wonderful as well. But I was really appreciative of this little change, something new for me - the quiet, free time on my hands.

Yes, I clearly see your point. It's good to sometimes just stop the time, just stop the whole universe. Obviously, you can't do this but this is how it partly feels, isn't it?

Yes, totally. I think for me it became a gift of time.

And once I had that in my head, then I'm not trapped..

Quarantine is all about thinking that you're trapped and that you don't have your freedom to walk out of your room and you can't be with your friends.

But even if in the UK everything was normal and everybody was having fun at parties, I might feel guilty and think like I'm trapped here. But actually, there is still lockdown in the UK. They're not doing anything as well. So, they kind of were in the same situation as me. Just I was not allowed to go out of my room at all. Whereas they can go out for a walk and I couldn't.

It's almost all in our hands. And in our heads. It is easy to criticize, to say what we miss. It is much harder, though, to see what is good. If you grow up with privilege and normally things go your way, when you are forced to change it feels unfair and you want to be with other people. But I think it's very good for you occasionally not to have what you want, to learn self-discipline as well.



Did you manage to find alternatives? Were there any nice surprises during your quarantine that exceeded expectations?

I would say the reasons why I enjoyed being in quarantine can be divided into a group of just what I was doing when I was on my own and the second of some nice surprises; these little things that made the 14 days more pleasant.

So, when I was in the hotel room, having taken the yoga mat with me, I could do this wonderful activity, which I highly recommend for everyone [so do I! – author's note]. Practising yoga can bring wonderful physical and mental benefits, not requiring much space and equipment at the same time – perfect for lockdown! The other thing I did was a wall to wall walk. And as soon as I get up, I was just walking through the room, then some bending, lunges or side steps.


Also, writing a journal is a great idea. It's good to have this space to express your feelings or to kind of record how your days go.



As they say, you can do anything you set your mind to...

Exactly! And of course, it's easier if everything goes as you wish to, and circumstances foster your visions and dreams. And what I can add is that I was kindly surprised by the hotel I was in, with a balcony with a beautiful view and, wait for it, a huge, outdoor cinema in the park nearby so I could watch a movie every night, just by opening my balcony!

Ouch, that makes me quite jealous! [laugh] But it's not only about having such lovely opportunities and surprises but also, however corny it sounds, to be able to notice and appreciate them.

This is what I want to convey. Don't let yourself feel trapped. Because with such attitude, you are actually building isolation around you. Then, it's not only isolation in a room in some period of time to get through, but isolation from opportunities this special time can give you. There are always some doors open. Some are closed, but others will open, if you just try to find the right keys :) 

Thank you very much, Mrs Bennett for sharing this inspiring experience with us.

Dear readers, remember: we are here for you and even if we are closed, we are still open for the world, ourselves and each other!



KHALSA AID

HOW THE SIKH COMMUNITY HAS HELPED DURING TOUGH TIMES AND HOW THEY ARE HELPING TODAY

BY MAYUMI SINGH



Anandpur Sahib

Khalsa Aid

Khalsa Aid is a UK based international charity that provide humanitarian relief to countries all around the world. Sikhs provide food, water and clothing to people who need it. They helped out in Kerala during the floods, providing hot food for victims. In Lebanon to help Syrian refugees, Khalsa Aid provided people with furniture and mattresses. They have also helped out a little closer to home, including people in the Grenfell Tower fires providing water and medical assistance. During the UK floods in 2015 (which affected Cumbria) the charity provided flood defence materials, cleaning equipment and aid to the Sikh Community.

Khalsa Aid have supported during COVID-19 by using food banks and donating hot food to four NHS hospitals. This year, Khalsa Aid was even nominated for the Nobel Peace prize for their work. The founder, Ravi Singh, was inspired to start the charity after seeing the plight of refugees in Kosovo in 1999 and a Sikh ideology - Sarbarta da Bhalla - meaning 'well being for all'.



The Gurdwara I visited in Southall

If you want to donate click [here](#).

Or, to find out about more projects that they are doing click [here](#).

'Recognise the human race as one'- Guru Gobind Singh Ji

This quote is the Sikh principle that Khalsa Aid is based on. This comes from the last human guru - divine messenger. One of his main gifts was the message of unity and equality of the people in the world. He felt responsible for the unity of the people of Punjab. Even other religions in India (Hindus, Muslims) felt they were being treated fairly under him. In India there were castes (Hindu classes in society). You (our School community) would most likely be Brahmins - highest. In this system, which is banned in India today but is still sometimes used, it was very negative. If you were the lowest, known as Dalith or Untouchables, you had to remain there and you could not marry someone above you or try and move up. But people today who would be classed as a Dalith are and can be educated professionals.

Some people who believe in this system in India could still think negatively because of your caste, but there are laws which mean you can't practise. Also, there are quota systems stating that you must employ or take people from all castes.

In 1699, in front of thousands at Anandpur Sahib, Guru Gobind founded the Khalsa. He stated that there are no differences between Sikhs and Muslims or any other religious person. Khalsa means pure and all Sikhs who have been baptised by taking Amrit (water and sugar). These Sikhs have to respect but not practise non-Sikh religions and treat everyone as equals regardless of profession or where they are in life.



My opinion on Khalsa Aid

I heard about this organisation after seeing them help out the lorries stuck trying to cross to Calais at Christmas last year. Their volunteers gave out meals to the drivers stranded. I wanted to find out more about them as they were a Sikh organisation and I am Sikh myself (although I am not a practising one). Even though I don't practise, I have visited a Gurdwara in Southall in London and participated in a service.

Reading about Sikhism and hearing the backstory of the Khalsa, including what Khalsa Aid are doing, made me proud to be a fellow Sikh among these people. I have always known about Sikhs helping out after being at a service and finding out that the Gurdwara were providing free meals to help bring the community together. In times like these, helping people has never been more important. Whether that is saying 'hello' to an elderly neighbour or volunteering to help deliver laptops to children who need it. However big or small, it all makes a difference.

'The New Normal'

Serena Cooper

As we readjust to life in lockdown it seems to have become 'the new normal' to live in such a way.

From a position of privilege it feels easy to complain about cancelled haircuts, or not being able to go to theatres. But for many people 'the new normal' is putting them in a far worse position.

The BBC reports that many families of 7 children are trying to access education on one iPhone. In many places in the UK, schools have either failed to provide education for their children or the children are unable to access it; due to the lack of technology or Wi-Fi in their houses. This has left parents trying to juggle home schooling their children and trying to work at the same time.

The BBC have set aside one of their channels to broadcast lessons for children struggling to access education. Recently though, they have launched a campaign to get people to donate their old laptops to distribute around less affluent communities.



Give a Laptop

To donate a laptop search 'give a laptop' or click [here](#).

The BBC have a list of places taking donations. Your laptop must be in a good enough condition, can connect to Wi-Fi and function properly. They must also be fully wiped, if there is any information on them. If you can't do this yourself there are several of the donation sites that can. The BBC accept both Microsoft and Apple laptops, iPads are also accepted on a fair few of the websites.

Life Without a Laptop

Many children across the UK have had to adapt to life without a laptop during online school. As you can imagine, this is exceptionally difficult. There has been reports of students writing their A level essays on an iPhone. While GCSE students are trying to submit coursework while sharing devices with three or four other siblings all trying to work at the same time. With the Government's announcement to cancel GCSE's and turn to teacher assessed grades, this puts these students at a huge disadvantage.

There was a report on the news showing the reactions of children receiving their laptops. A laptop was delivered to twins who lived in a tower block in London. Upon receiving the laptop one of the twins declared that she wanted to be a doctor and that this laptop made her dream possible.

There was another woman whose husband had just died of COVID. Despite the fact she had just lost her husband, she still felt obligated to try to help in any way she could. So, she donated both her own and her late husband's computers to a local primary school.

If you do have a spare/old laptop or tablet and want to try to give back to the community, I think this would be the perfect way to do so.

Make a Difference Awards

Since the start of the pandemic people have taken it upon themselves to do extraordinary things during extraordinary times.

From donating laptops, donating to food banks and taking elderly people to hospital appointments, people have stepped up around the county to make a difference.

If you know someone who you believe has made a difference to the community you can nominate them for an award. These are awarded on each county's local radio stations, giving recognition to people driving change and helping out.



THE MICHELIN STARRED TAKEAWAY

The concept of the takeaway meal can be traced back to ancient Rome, so it's not exactly a revolutionary idea; but a three-course, cook-it-yourself takeaway just might be. As an industry centred solely around an in-person dining experience, restaurants are disproportionately affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Lockdown after lockdown has shut down thousands of restaurants across the country, putting Chefs and wait staff out of work for months at a time. Chefs such as Simon Rogan brainstormed the idea of 'at home' meals to create work for those without it, and to resuscitate fine dining during this strange time. These DIY meals are delivered to your door, where you do some cooking-by-numbers, and voila! You're basically a Michelin star chef yourself.

It really is that simple, too. The fresh and local ingredients are prepared, packaged and labeled at one of Simon Rogan's restaurants located in the Lake District or London and then delivered to your door. This simple idea has helped companies and individuals through this tough time, and has been employed across the world. The restaurant industry isn't the only one to modify basically everything; almost every other sector has made sweeping changes. From regular offices to schools to gyms, everything has moved online. The world as we know it is changing in fundamental ways, impacting the way we live, eat, shop, and exercise, but it's not necessarily a bad thing. As Mr. Cooke likes to say, *change is the only constant*.



'Simon Rogan at Home' is just a local example, as he has restaurants in the Lake District and one here in Bowness, but all over the UK people are adapting to our new reality. Companies and whole industries are finding creative and ingenious ways to deal with their situations due to the pandemic. It's easy to get distracted by the constant bad news and not ideal situation, but it's important to realise that some pretty amazing things are happening, and that people are coming up with innovative ideas, even right next door to our School.



TOTALLY TECH

WITH FINN GERAGHTY

Portability or Performance?

A desktop computer can be, for most people, the best way to experience home computing - but one man's, let's just say less needed items, is another man's treasure... Okay, so the comparison between a laptop and litter is a little unfair - these very words are indeed being written on a laptop, after all. But whilst maybe a bit extreme, I think it does a good job of getting my point across. I don't need portability (much) in a computer. I have the time and knowhow to build a desktop. So why, now I know how, get a new one as opposed to a desktop?

You may have already read those previous two sentences and had opposite views to both of them, which is fine, you're a human and so you have different needs and have a different schedule and standards. You see, when I'm talking about how you, "obviously need to get a desktop computer!" bear in mind that I'm talking about the speed of the parts and often the thermal solutions (the latter tending to be less relevant the more you spend). It'd be a scam to pay decent money for a laptop that you can't use to check your emails and do your spreadsheets without having to worry about your house burning down from that terribly cooled, slow, painful laptop.

However, I still have not actually told you the answer to any questions you may have had when starting to read this article - and that's because there really, really isn't much to say on this topic. Because to be honest, this stretches out the very definition of 'stretching something out'. Need portability? Get a laptop. Need performance? Get a desktop. Don't need performance or portability? Choose the cheaper option.



Nvidia Announces RTX 3060 Ti, 3060 and Equivalent SKUs

In the first totally tech, I talked about Nvidia's new RTX 30 (I called it RTX 3000 in that article, but I'll stick to calling it 30 series, as that is technically the correct name) series of graphics cards. But, a few things have happened since then. First of all, the new lineup has (mostly) launched, but that doesn't mean you can actually buy them, due to cryptocurrency miners, scalpers (people who buy things using robots, and sell those things on Ebay for about 3 times more than they bought them for) and just an outright lack of stock. Across the board, cards were sold out in mere seconds after they were available to buy, and no, I'm not exaggerating. Since then, the RTX 3060 Ti has launched, and the 3060 (Non-Ti) should be releasing (according to Nvidia) in late February. The RTX 3060 Ti starts at £369 (it differs depending on what model you get) whilst the standard 3060 starts at £299. The reason I am still yet to address AMD's answer to the RTX 30 series, the AMD 6000 series (which includes the 6900 XT, AMD's equivalent to the RTX 3090, and the 6800 XT, their answer to the 3080, and are still yet to announce a potential 6700 XT, 6600 XT and 6500 XT.

Project 007: All About IO Interactive's Upcoming Game

With 'No Time To Die' being delayed yet again, many fans of Britain's best secret agent are thirsty for the 007 franchise to return, and whilst Project 007 (working title) will likely not be releasing before 'No Time To Die' does, that doesn't mean you shouldn't be excited about it. So here's what we know so far:

The game follows the story of James Bond getting his 00 status (I wouldn't be surprised if it starts at the end of the WWII, as we know from the films and books, he started out as a commander).

007's appearance won't be directly based off any specific film actor, being only the second time this has occurred.

We do not have a release date yet, however, it is safe to assume they will release on the current PS5, Xbox Series X/S, and possibly even PC. Whilst last gen PS4 and Xbox One ports are not impossible, they are unlikely in my opinion, as when it releases, those platforms will be even older than they are now (that is important to remember, as the PS5 and Xbox Series X/S only just released, but by then, those new consoles will be around 3, possibly more, years into their lives).

+ VR Corner

Hey all! This month on VR corner I'll be talking about the first step into Virtual Reality - **Choosing your first VR Headset**. There are loads of VR Headsets available from a number of companies, but I've narrowed it down to 4 as good starting headsets. So - let's begin!

1: Oculus Quest 2

The Oculus Quest 2 is the aptly named successor of the Oculus Quest. Boasting a far higher resolution (image quality), more powerful graphics card and many more all-round improvements. At £299 for the 64 Gigabyte storage model. This is the cheapest VR headset on the market, and does not require a high-end PC to run, so this is a brilliant introduction to VR. One thing I should address though, is the head strap that fixes the thing to your head. The stock one is material, and not brilliant, but oculus does offer an 'elite' head strap which is more comfortable and better quality.



2: Valve Index

The Valve Index headset is not cheap by any means, at around £1000, and requires a high-end PC to run. However, the build quality is outstanding, and the tracking quality is no different. The resolution is high, you have access to the SteamVR game library, and the controllers have finger tracking, which is undeniably cool. If you are willing to splash out on VR, then this is a nice choice. The only real drawback is that the controllers are somewhat fragile, so try to avoid mantlepieces.

3: HTC Vive/Vive Pro

Another headset that requires a PC, and is pricey. With the Vive pro costing about £1000 also, but the original Vive can cost around £300-400 second-hand with all the necessary stuff. One BIG pro to the Vive is that it is capable of FULL-BODY TRACKING. While not perfect, it is extremely good, and adds a whole new level of immersion in social VR experiences like VRChat.

Overall, I'd recommend the Quest 2 as an entry to VR, as it is a seriously good headset and doesn't require an infinite pool of money to buy. At the end of the day, the choice is yours, but I hope that this article has been a good point in the right direction.

Next month, I'll be discussing some of the best (in my opinion) VR experiences to buy and download first. See you then!