



Park Times

SUMMER 2025



“A CELEBRATION OF
STUDENT TALENT”



WINNING Art Piece by Alice F, 7GT.

A word from the editors...

Welcome everyone, to the Summer 2025 edition of the Park Times, the magazine made by students, for students!

Some of you may notice that things are a little different this time – that’s because, as the new Communication Captains, we have decided to rebrand the Park Times.

We wanted to use the magazine to showcase the amazing talent we have at our school, from all years, so we chose to make the magazine almost fully based on student submissions!

“A celebration of student talent” is what we like to call it.

What you’ll see in this magazine are the results of the Summer 2025 Park Times competition: a compilation of work by creative and imaginative students at RPS.

Special mention to Alice F in 7GT for the winning Art piece submission on the cover and Anna L in 9C for the winning text submission on the following page! Well done to everyone else who submitted work and congratulations to those who made it into the magazine!

We hope you enjoy!

***Communication
Captains,***

Yash, Martha & Bethany



If only time stood still.

Does anyone else realise all the time we've lost?

Growing up, I constantly took time for granted - I never appreciated the importance of time and the power it held - I always wanted to move quicker. It seemed like **time stood still**.

But if I went back now, I wouldn't make the same mistake.

I wish to have one more car ride full of laughter, our joy reverberating around the walls; one more time playing in the garden, climbing up the grass slope, imagining it was a volcano; one more time being explorers, diving into the deepest part of the ocean, looking for hidden gems. I want one more time, where **time stood still**.

But now I look back, admiring the marks in the carpet where we spilled our juice; I look back, admiring the marks on the wall from the pictures I hung of you; I look back, admiring the memories stored in my head. The things I would do to relive one of them again. But life continued.

You've watched me grow up, and I've watched you. You've held me in your arms as I cried, and I've held you.

If only time stood still, I'd run back to the common, my hair being brushed by the wind and my nostrils taking in the familiar scent of freshly cut grass, it was always our favourite playground. We would run races through the long grass, our yellow pinstripe dresses standing out like the daisies that lined the track, climbing the trees, seeing who could get to the top the fastest, and playing in the snow, our laughter reverberating around the field. I miss those days, nothing to worry about, no cares in the world, no expectations to meet. But life continued.

If only time stood still.

But then we moved house and on the last day, as I lay on my mattress and listened to the bustling traffic, I knew I would miss it and all the memories it held. But mum said I had a new house with a new room to look forward to. Life continued. Then I joined secondary school, and I was struggling to make friends, you were too. You would check in on me, and I would too. Then you made new friends, so would I. But you still let me hang out with you. Life continued.

If only time stood still.

You joined year 13, and I joined year 9. Life continued. And now we're here; 4 months left until you leave home.

If only time stood still.

I hope we stay friends. Our bond still strong? I guess only time will tell. **If only time stood still.**

I wish to have one more car ride full of laughter, our joy reverberating around the walls; one more time playing in the garden, climbing up the grass slope, imagining it was a volcano; one more time being explorers, diving into the deepest part of the ocean, looking for hidden gems. I want one more time, where **time stood still**.

But I can't because I've wasted my time. I guess we're all just pieces playing the game of father time.

Does anyone else realise all the time we've lost?





Photo by Harvey M, 12S.



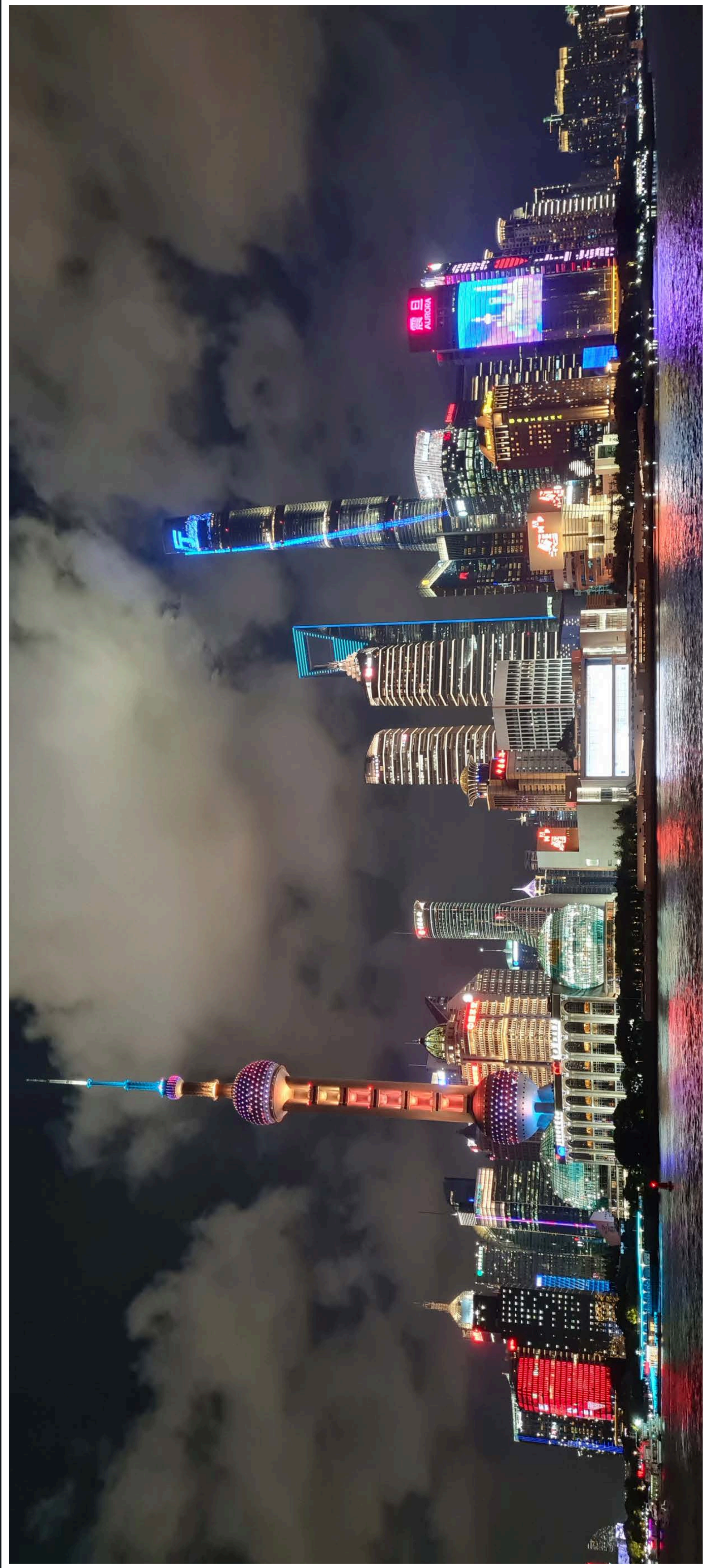


Photo by Zifan L, 12C.



>> Use AI responsibly before we can't act without it!

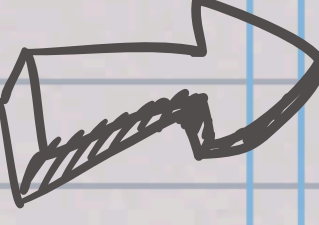
1. As fireworks light up the sky, and Big Ben chimes to celebrate
2. the first moments of 2025, the watchful eyes of Artificial
3. Intelligence may guide us. However, without restrictions,
4. major companies could manipulate the public, such as the
5. American 2016 election, where a newspaper lied about the date
6. of the election changing. Given this amount of power, not even
7. the people with the highest amounts of integrity can be
8. trusted to not misuse them in promise of material wealth.

9. AI has impacted our lives for the last 30 years - ever since a
10. Computer Scientist, known as John McCarthy, christened the
11. term after another group of coders created the first AI.
12. A recent survey has revealed that 15% of the British
13. population uses AI daily, while around 55% of Americans use it
14. at least once a day. The programs are capable of completing
15. many tasks, from writing essays to giving romantic advice. In
16. the UK alone, over 4/5 of students between 13 and 17 use it to
17. cheat while doing homework.

18. To avoid this future, the general public needs to act.
19. Remember that we are in possession of a device more powerful
20. than programs such as Chat GPT, which are consuming around 1
21. billion watts to run. Meet the human brain - a supercomputer
22. that grants you sentience - which only runs on around 20
23. watts. Take every opportunity to exercise the complex organs
24. that are crucial for our existence, instead of taking the
25. shortcuts that Chat GPT and other programs (for instance Deep
26. Seek) create. —



SHOULD HOMEWORK STILL EXIST?



While almost all students reading this will most likely hate homework, it's actually an interesting topic to discuss and debate, particularly nowadays when technology is moving and advancing so fast.

Homework is important in many schools across the world, usually spanning many different subjects. While it isn't exactly... popular amongst students, it's important to consider both sides of the argument.

♡♡ PROS OF HOMEWORK

- (As much as students hate to admit it) homework can improve time management, responsibility, and independence in general, which is especially important and very useful later in life.
- It teaches students punctuality, and teaches them to follow rules.
- Can make students be less afraid to admit mistakes and ask for help if they misunderstand or are struggling.

☆☆ CONS OF HOMEWORK

- Over 60% of students report feeling stressed daily, a little over 50% report losing sleep because of it, and 55% report feeling anxious primarily due to homework.
- It can cut into free time, which could otherwise lead to sociable, fun, or productive usage of time.
- Gives consequences/punishments for not doing it on time.

Overall, personally, I think homework should still be used by schools as a way to show students what they expect of them, just in a different way. As many students regularly feel stressed, maybe we could make homework more fun, social (maybe including other people), and expand deadlines so that students don't have so much to worry about. However, it is important to note that homework also certainly has many benefits that can prove to be very helpful in later life. What do you think?





Art piece by Arianne E, 12GT.

D R O W N I N G

I am thrashing, flailing, can't stop blinking,

For I am drowning, I am sinking,

In a sea of monsters I created,

Why can't people see my shoulders are weighted,

You push me down,

Dressing it up in the prettiest gown,

Dressing it up so others can't see,

The pain and suffering you cause me.

So yes I am drowning, that much is true,

But I am only really drowning, because of you.



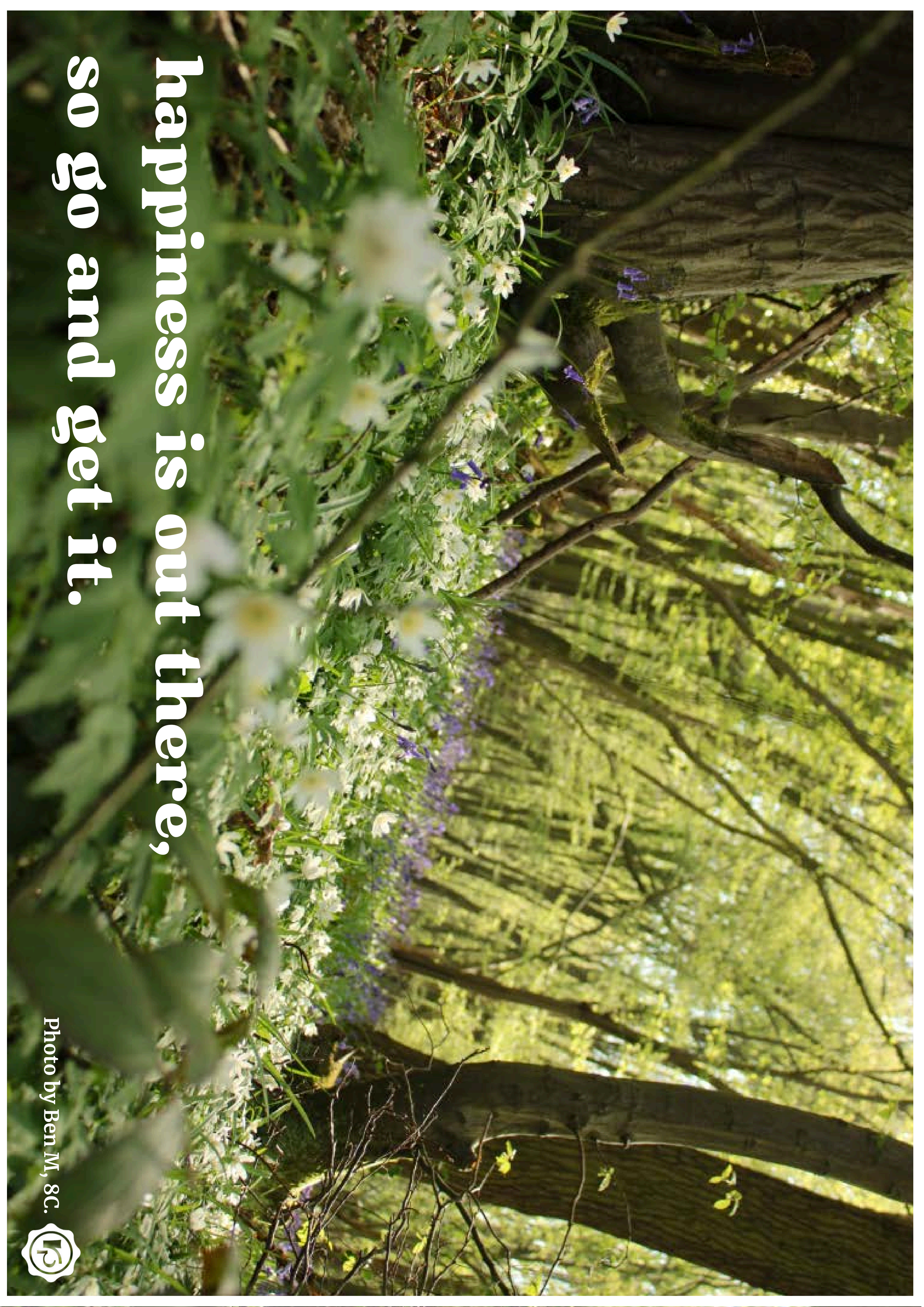


Photo by Megan L, 120.



Photo by Saketh N, 12S.





**happiness is out there,
so go and get it.**

Photo by Ben M, 8C.



Have smartphones made us less smart?

Some may argue that smartphones have made us less smart, however others disagree. There are many different reasons backing both sides of this ongoing debate, and more are constantly being thought of.

One reason people think that smartphones have made us less smart is because we can easily just find out an answer without having to do any thinking; this is usually the easier and therefore preferred option. If we never use our brains to work things out for ourselves, then we will never learn anything new and remember it.

For example, you can start to rely on apps to give you directions to places, or the answer to a maths equation. Learning how to read and use a map is an important skill to learn, but online you can just get it to tell you the best way to go. The same is true with maths equations; it is very tempting to use a calculator. However if you always use one, then you won't practice the method of doing it yourself.

Another reason that smartphones have made us less smart is that whenever you have an opportunity where you are not doing anything, you can just play on them rather than socialising with friends and family. You can learn a lot from your peers and the world around you, but you will never get to experience that if you are always glued to your phone.

On the other hand, the view that they have made us smarter is also commonly believed. This is because when you need to know something, you can find out the answer easily. This will make you more eager to learn, as it is a quicker way to find information; so you will do it more, and learn lots of new facts.

Another reason that this is believed, is because we can learn from different sources, and it helps us with our technology skills. Rather than just using one source of information, or having to look in lots of different locations, we can find out lots of different explanations for the same topic all in one place, and it will give us a better understanding of the topic. Also, navigating our way around the internet and websites will help you in future when you use technology for your job.

Using your smartphones can often lead to better and more efficient decisions. For example, you can check the weather to know how many layers you need, and if you need a raincoat based on the temperature and chance of precipitation. You can also use a maps app to find the best and quickest route to somewhere, so that you are not late to an important event. As well as this, you can use reviews to find popular cafes and restaurants that people have enjoyed, so you can avoid making bad choices.

To conclude, there are many views on whether smartphones have made us less smart or not. In my opinion, smartphones have made us smarter, although I think that not always using them to find things out is a good idea, and that going out to socialise with friends and family is also key. What is your opinion on this subject, have smartphones made us smarter or not?






48 Summer


Activities...

...one for every day this summer!



- Go camping
- Bake a cake
- Go for a picnic
- Go swimming
- Gardening
- Make a scrapbook
- Have a sleepover
- Arts and crafts
- Sewing
- Knitting
- Gaming with friends
- Go for a walk
- Go to the cinema
- Read a book
- A day out in London
- Go to a museum
- Go to an art gallery
- Watch a musical
- Try a new instrument
- Crazy golf
- Go fishing
- Volunteer
- Summer job
- Bowling
- Go hiking
- Star gazing

- Bike ride
- Go swimming
- Organise your room
- Origami
- Do a puzzle
- Go to a festival
- Movie night
- Hang out with friends
- Bury a time capsule
- Start a journal
- Cook a meal for your family
- Learn a new skill
- Creative writing
- Go to the zoo
- Go roller skating
- Watch a sunrise
- Go to the beach
- Have a water-balloon fight
- Go for a run
- Go shopping with friends
- Find a pen pal
- Go-karting



These are just suggestions...

... remember to RELAX!!



A decorative header featuring a stack of books on the left, including one titled 'COOFATHER' and another 'Into the woods', and a potted snake plant. On the right, there is another potted snake plant and a row of colorful books standing upright.

SUMMER READING LIST

Fiction



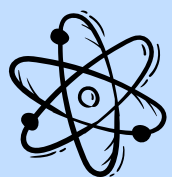
Le passe-miroir by Christelle Dabos



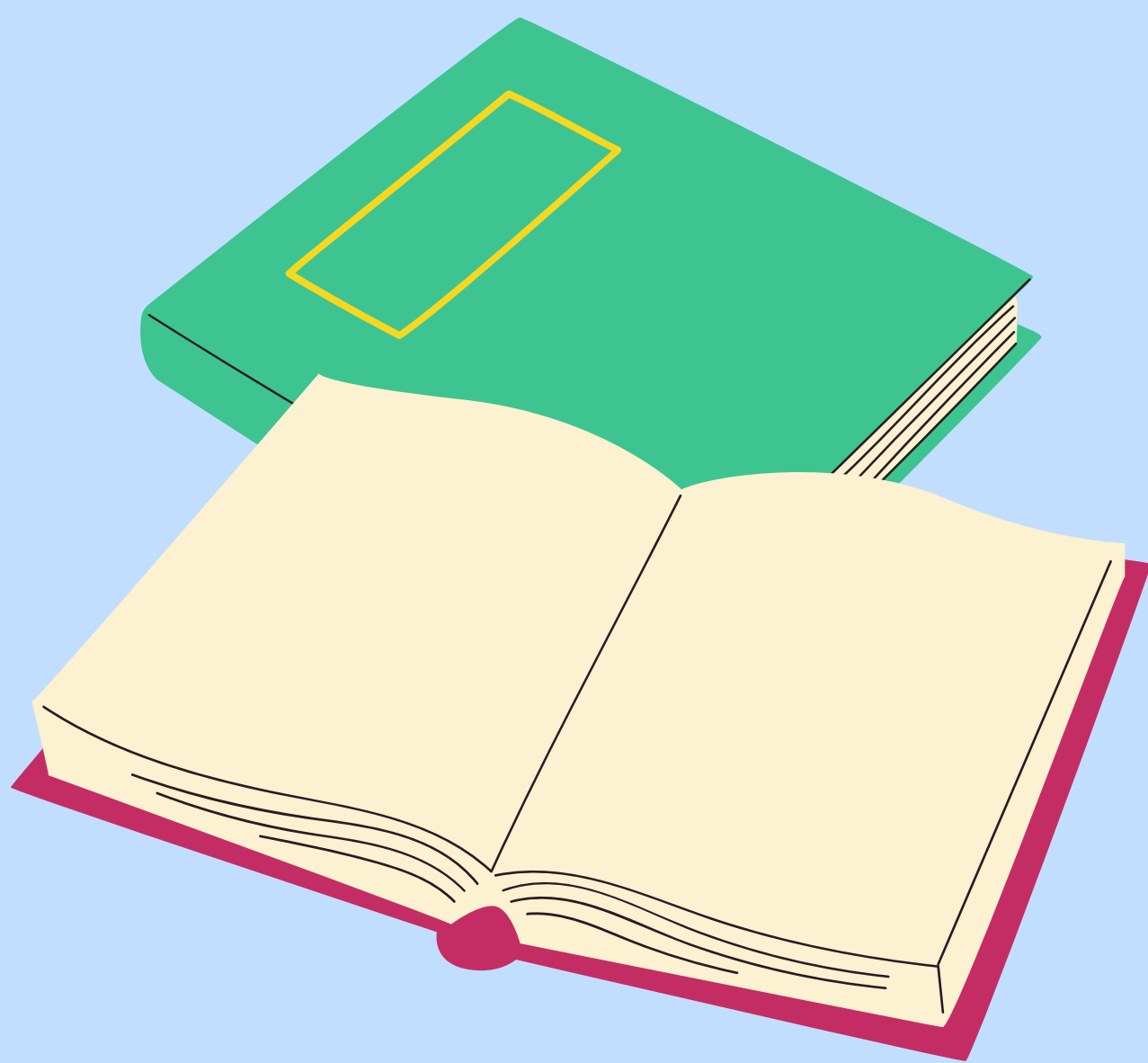
Cafe in Berlin by André Klein



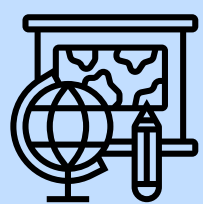
Esperanza by Carol Gaab



Scythe by Neal Shusterman



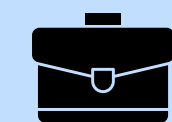
Non fiction



There Is No Planet B: A Handbook for the Make or Break Years



Voices from the Past: The Blitz – Gillian Mawson



The 33 Laws of Business and Life - Steven Bartlett



Hello World: Being Human in the Age of Algorithms – Hannah Fry



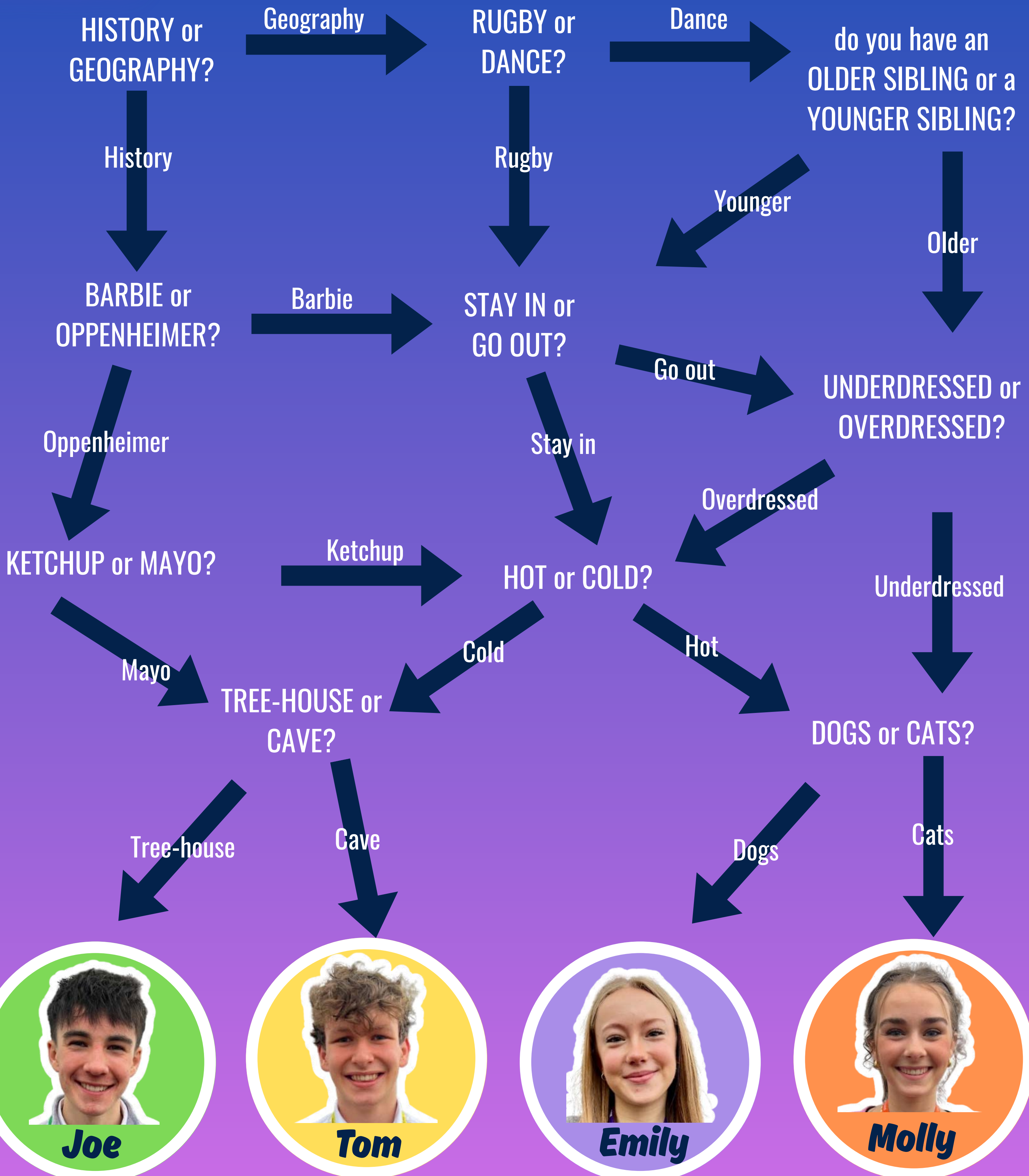
Why We Sleep – Matthew Walker



WHICH HEAD STUDENT ARE YOU?

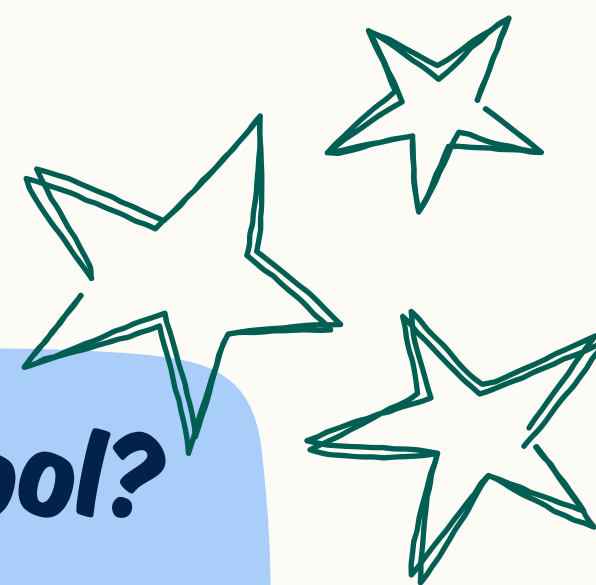
Are you more like Joe, Emily, Molly or Tom?

START!





ADVICE



Exam stress, or needing some advice on school?

Look no further...



how do I avoid burning out when revising/ working?

- Take regular breaks
- Make a revision timetable
- Study different subjects rather than just one subject for hours
- Have your favourite snack or drink before/ after you work
- Remember balance work with social life

how do I cope with exam stress?

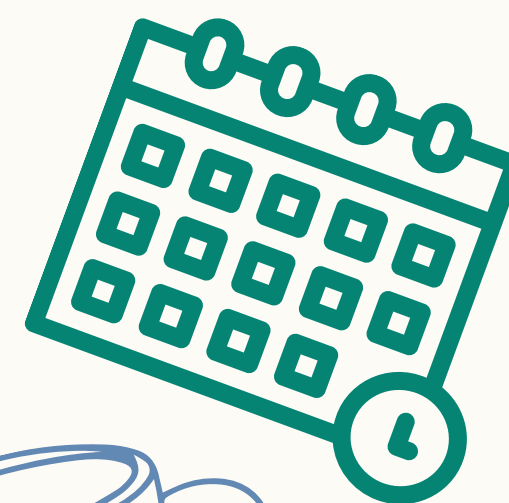
- Talk to a trusted adult or your friends about how you are feeling
- Have a good breakfast before exams
- Take time during revision periods to relax
- Find a revision technique that works for you
- Have a good night's sleep before every exam (7-9 hours)
- You can also come and talk to sixth formers (we know a thing or two about exam stress!)

what is the best revision technique?

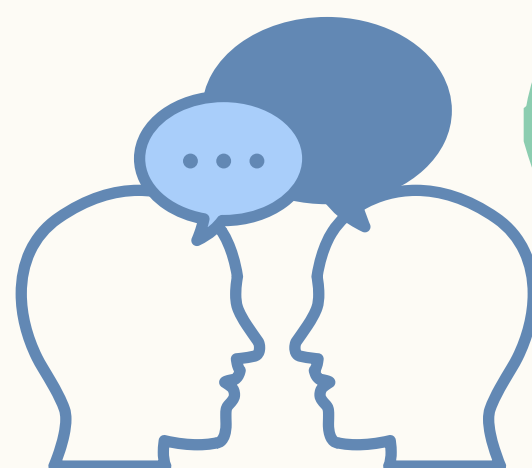
The best revision technique is whichever works best for you, and this is different for everyone!

But here are some strategies we love that you could try out...

- *Revision cards
- *Mindmaps
- *Page blurt
- *Past papers
- *Revision timetable
- *Teaching others
- *Cornell notes
- *Revision videos



**make sure if you are upset or
worried about anything, or
looking for more advice, talk to
a trusted adult in or out of
school...**



**...Sixth Form and the SLG
are more than happy to
help you too!**



Park Times

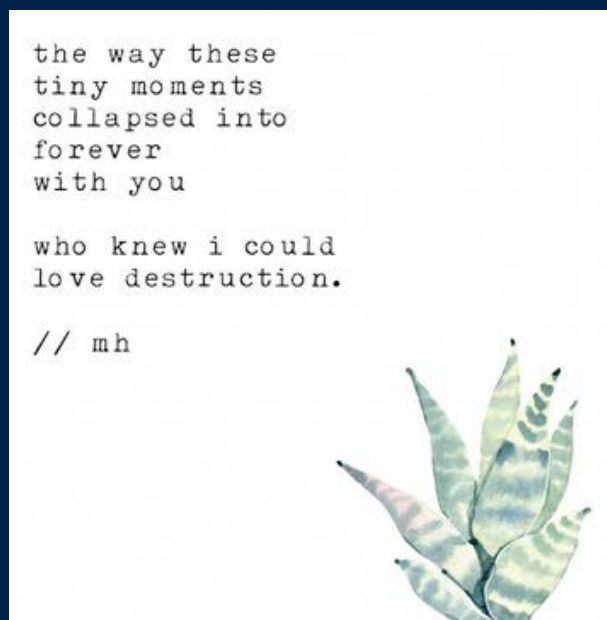
WINTER 2025

GET YOUR PLACE IN THE NEXT EDITION!

SUBMIT ANYTHING!



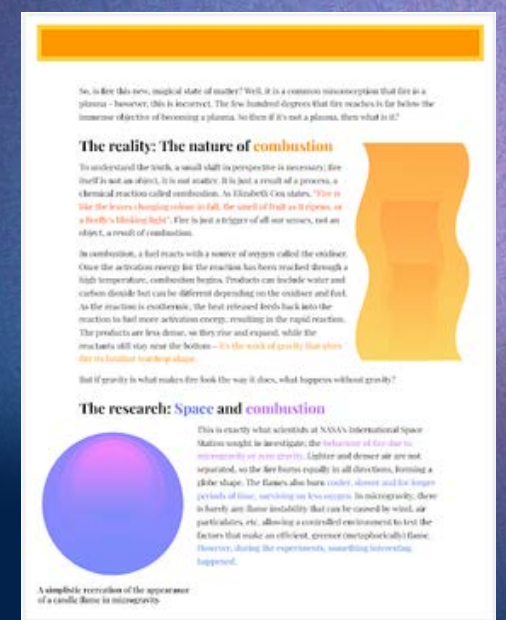
You could make an
art piece or take a
photo



You could write a
short story or **poem**



You could make a
comic strip



You could write an
article or a **book
essay**

It could be something you've already made, or completely new!

The best Art/Photo submission and Text submission will each
receive an **Amazon Gift Card prize!**

The rest of the winners will get their own page in the magazine!

GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODE:

5253yvuy

Submissions are open from **now** until **24th October 2025**

Win £10!

Be the first to email us with all 10 correct answers to win a £10 Amazon Gift Card!

The questions are based on everything in the magazine... so make sure you've read everything!

- 1.** In "If only time stood still", what school year is the narrator's sibling in?
- 2.** In Harvey's sunset photo submission, what does the hut say on the front?
- 3.** What city skyline is in Zifan's photo?
- 4.** In Sebastian and Ernest's AI article, who created the term Artificial Intelligence?
- 5.** In Max's homework debate article, what percentage of students does he say feel anxious, primarily due to homework?
- 6.** In "Drowning", how many words make up the poem (Excluding the title and including words like "I" and "a")?
- 7.** What is the animal in Megan's photo?
- 8.** What is the American monument in Saketh's photo?
- 9.** How many surfboards are in Ismaeil's Art piece?
- 10.** What is Olivia's personal opinion on whether smartphones have made us smarter?

Got your answers? Email them to
rpsparktimes@gmail.com