
KLS PRESS



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COMMUNITY PAGE

**'THE GREATNESS OF A COMMUNITY IS MOST
ACCURATELY MEASURED BY THE
COMPASSIONATE ACTIONS OF ITS
MEMBERS'**

Coretta Scott King



A school community is more than just the students and the staff sharing the same space - it is a network of relationships, support and similar goals which all create a sense of belonging. It is built on mutual respect itself and having a commitment to create a positive and inclusive environment where everyone in the school community can feel valued. KLS Students not only learn academics but also develop friendships, character, and a sense of responsibility towards others. KLS teaches valuable life skills- stickability, empathy and self-regulation. This encourages students to respect different perspectives, work together towards common goals and take pride in what they do. Whether that being through clubs, student leadership, school council, eco council, diversity and equality and so on. Having a strong sense of community sets a level for success, both inside and outside the classroom.

Currently, the School Council have been busy planning all sorts of exciting things for the summer term this year!

The School Council is an outlet for the student's voices and are forever discussing ideas for how to make the school the best it possibly can for everyone. We are fortnightly discussing matters such as the curriculum, environment and wellbeing of staff and students to come up with solutions to benefit all. As well as this, The Charity Committee are busy planning some events for everyone to get involved with to raise money for a number of charities alongside many different causes. We are eager to see the return of our well-favoured Lip-Sync Battle participated by the staff of Kings Langley School (which this year, will happen on Friday 21st March!), as well as the staff sporting event Superstars! If you have any ideas for any future events or charities you would like to raise money for, please let your Form Captain or School Council members know.

How can I get involved in the Kings Langley School Community? Being part of the community goes beyond just attending lessons as it is more about making connections and supporting others. Whether you're looking to develop leadership skills, make new friends or create a positive change in our community, there are plenty of ways to get involved. Here are a few ideas on ways you can get involved in the KLS community.

1. Joining a club or a team: Getting involved in extra curricular activities is a great way to explore your interests and meet peers who have similar interests to you. Whether that's Sports, Drama, Music or an academic club, there's something for everyone.
2. Volunteer for School and Community events. Help organise school events. Volunteer for community service projects which are available to you!
3. Be a Leader and a Role Model Leadership isn't just about the title, it's more about setting a perfect, positive example itself. Support your peers, take pride in representing KLS itself.

Meet The Team



Chanelle Wright
.....
Manager



Mr Scott
.....
Supporting Teacher



Zahra Ahmed
.....
Writer & Designer



Mia Dewhurst
.....
Writer



Emily Doherty
.....
Writer



Ana-Louiza Hartwell
.....
Writer



Jay Higgins
.....
Designer & photographer



Frankie Honour
.....
Writer



Esme Hughes
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Writer

Meet The Team



**Sybella
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Editor &
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**Anaia
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Designer



**Lois
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Writer



**Gabriella
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Designer



**Sai
Sahasra**
.....
Writer &
Designer



**Leonor
Schaff**
.....
Designer



**Amy
Shayler**
.....
Designer



**Lydia
Smithies**
.....
Writer



**Esme
White**
.....
Designer

Designed by Gabriella Oakley

New Year's Resolutions

Mr McGuigan



Mr McGuigan was a trendsetter in wanting to read more this year with a new years resolution of reading 24 books! Not only did he achieve this but he excelled, eventually reading over 30 in total (winning the record out of all the teachers). This year, he is taking on more of a challenge as his goal last year was clearly too easy for him, which many of us I'm sure cannot relate. He is interested in taking up ParkRun again and maybe a 10k. Although he acknowledges the effort and preparation a 10k takes. Partying or loudly messing up the lyrics to 'Auld Lang Syne', that's how many of us choose to celebrate New year's Eve, although Mr McGuigan likes to enjoy a cosy night in after celebrating his late Grandad's birthday the previous night.

Mrs Carr



Kings Langley School and the Sixth Form are strong advisers of the importance of reading. This is proving effective, mainly for the staff it seems, as another goal of reading more was set by Mrs Carr. Inspired by Mrs Butt, she set herself the challenge of reading 12 books unrelated to her work. Supported by the app GoodReads she set off! Unfortunately, Goodreads was only her ally for so long as although Mrs Carr overachieved her goal, Goodreads refuses to accept it and claims she had only read 11! Luckily, Mrs Carr hasn't been too traumatised by this and has increased her goal to 14 books this year. This idea of realistic and healthy New Years goals is an important message as the New Year can quite often be a stressful time. As it comes with the societal pressures that this is the time to make drastic changes to you and your life.



Mr Bilton



For Mr Bilton, 2024 was not the year for New Years Resolutions but this year he is trying something new. Many of us have heard the phrase '9-5 before your 9-5' and Mr Bilton is no exception as he sets the inspiring goal of getting up at 5.20 am to read. Let's hope he is getting an early night then!

Mr Scott



Mr Scott also shows a great understanding of the importance of not setting unrealistic goals. Instead of setting strict numbers on things he plans to run further, take the dog on longer walks and eat more green things in the spring and summer. New Years resolutions can look different for everyone and his take is that the best resolutions are the ones that add something to life that brings joy rather than taking it away. Using this idea he plans to read more books, paint more pictures, play more guitar, visit new places and spend quality time with friends and family. Although, I'm sure many of us wish we had as many talents as painter, musician and teacher Mr Scott!

Miss Chabrel



When setting her New Years resolution for 2024 Miss Chabrel understood the importance of starting your day off with positivity and movement. Setting herself a goal to stretch and do yoga in the mornings, she humbly admits consistency was patchy but she kept going all the way to December. An achievement in itself to make it past January. Her aim this year is to walk more including walking to school on Tuesday mornings. This structure will be encouraging and make her resolution easier to stick to. Also, it is very admirable to trade that little bit off sleep to walk in the grey English weather. Miss Chabrel also has a cosy tradition to visit the cinema with her family



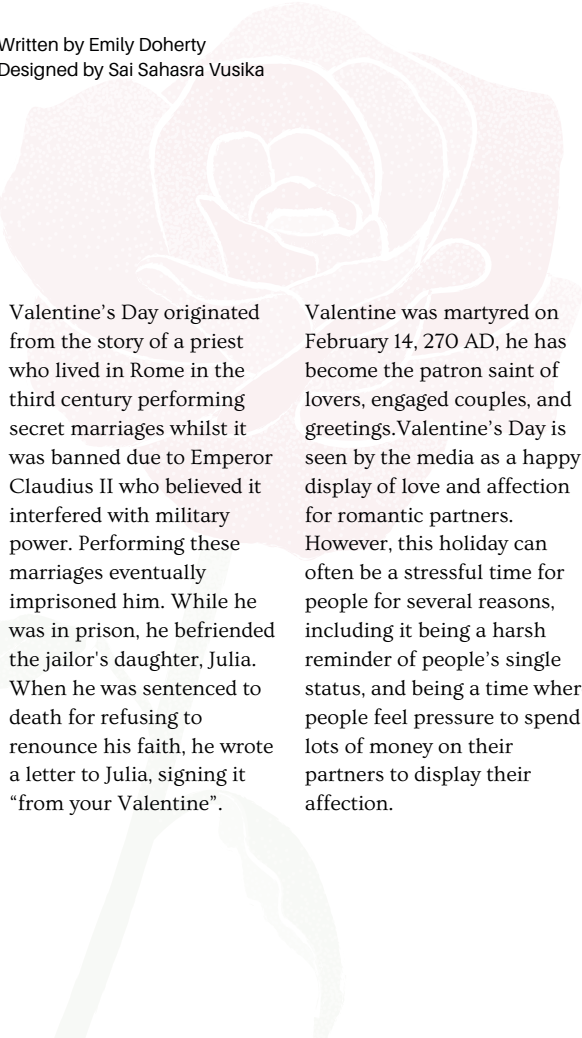
Written by Mia Dewhurst and Designed by Jay Higgins

VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day, celebrated annually on February 14th, is a global tradition where lovers express their affection through the exchange of heartfelt greetings and gifts, rooted in both historical and romantic customs.

Written by Emily Doherty

Designed by Sai Sahasra Vusika



Valentine's Day originated from the story of a priest who lived in Rome in the third century performing secret marriages whilst it was banned due to Emperor Claudius II who believed it interfered with military power. Performing these marriages eventually imprisoned him. While he was in prison, he befriended the jailor's daughter, Julia. When he was sentenced to death for refusing to renounce his faith, he wrote a letter to Julia, signing it "from your Valentine".

Valentine was martyred on February 14, 270 AD, he has become the patron saint of lovers, engaged couples, and greetings. Valentine's Day is seen by the media as a happy display of love and affection for romantic partners. However, this holiday can often be a stressful time for people for several reasons, including it being a harsh reminder of people's single status, and being a time where people feel pressure to spend lots of money on their partners to display their affection.

Many people give gifts to loved ones to celebrate Valentine's Day, typically these consist of chocolates or flowers, however it can be easy to forget the true meaning of this celebration and how it should be a personal appreciation of those you love, looking towards more personal gifts or just spending time with and showing appreciation for them rather than ones that conform to capitalist consumption ideas.



"A READER LIVES A THOUSAND LIVES BEFORE HE DIES . . . THE MAN WHO NEVER READS LIVES ONLY ONE." - GEORGE R.R. MARTIN



Valentine's Day Reads

For some, this holiday can be a fun time to get caught up in the idea of romance and turn to romcoms or romantic stories. Some good romance books include:

[Pride and Prejudice](#) by Jane Austen

This story follows the turbulent relationship between Elizabeth Bennet, the daughter of a country gentleman, and Fitzwilliam Darcy, a rich aristocratic landowner. They must overcome their first prejudice and dislike against each other to fall in love and marry. *Pride and Prejudice* set the pattern for a modern popular love story, the story in which an independent-minded and fascinating woman is loved by a remote, powerful man.

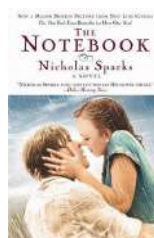
[The Notebook](#) by Nicholas Sparks

"The Notebook is an achingly tender story about the enduring power of love, a story of miracles that will stay with you forever. Set amid the austere beauty of coastal North Carolina in 1946,

The Notebook begins with the story of Noah Calhoun, a rural Southerner returned home from World War II."

[Jane Eyre](#) by Charlotte Bronte

Orphaned Jane Eyre has endured a life of austerity and hardship until she is appointed as a governess at Thornfield Hall, whose master is the remote, brooding Edward Rochester. They are drawn together and Jane's future appears to be secure. But Rochester harbours a dark secret that bars their path to happiness. It challenges many ideas of what a romance book should be and has a recurrent theme of morality. Jane will not become Mr. Rochester's lover because of her self-respect and moral conviction. However, she rejects religious fervor as much as she opposes Mr. Rochester's libertine character. Rather, she uses independence, forgiveness, and love to create her own gauge of morality.



PANCAKE DAY



Pancake day is also known as Shrove Tuesday and started in 1445, but did you ever wonder where the tradition began? Shrove Tuesday, which falls the day before Ash Wednesday, marks the last day of feasting before the season of Lent begins in many Christian traditions. It's a day to use up the last of the sugary foods in your home in preparation for the 40 days of Lent, and what better way to use up these ingredients than by making pancakes?

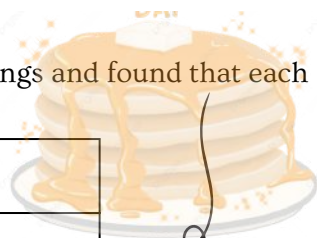


Pancake day dates back to medieval England, where people often took part in a pancake race, the most famous race was in Olney in Buckinghamshire where contestants had to run a race while flipping a pancake in a frying pan. It is one of the oldest continuous events in the UK. There is a legend that a woman was too busy cooking pancakes to get to church and so raced there flipping her pancakes to avoid being late. Towns and cities across the world have adopted their own pancake races and is a great way to celebrate the day. While some people still celebrate pancake day for its religious origins, it has evolved and become a wider celebration that is celebrated by people of all religions. This year it is on Tuesday 4th March.

Fun facts

- The world's biggest pancake was made in Rochdale, Manchester in 1994 and it was 49 ft wide.
- The record for the highest pancake toss is 9.47m (31ft 1in) made in New York in 2010.
- Pancake syndrome is an allergic reaction which some people have after eating pancakes in tropical regions where certain mites can contaminate the flour in pancake.
- In Sweden you can order Blodplättar, which are pancakes made of pork blood.
- The most pancakes flips in a minute is 140.

PANCAKE DAY



We surveyed the school on their favourite pancake toppings and found that each year's favourite was:

Year 7	Nutella
Year 8	Nutella
Year 9	Maple Syrup
Year 10	Nutella
Year 11	Nutella
Year 12	Lemon and Sugar
Year 13	Lemon and Sugar

We also got told that the Year 8's were upset that bacon wasn't an option to vote for as their favourite topping. The least popular pancake topping was jam with only 12 votes throughout the whole school. Overall, the school's favourite topping was Nutella, with sugar and lemon being a close second.

The 3-2-1 Batter Recipe - Ingredients for 8 pancakes

- 300ml of Milk
- 2 medium eggs
- 100g of plain flour

Making the pancakes

- Whisk or blend the ingredients together to form a smooth batter
- Heat a tablespoon of oil in a frying pan on a medium heat
- Pour a thin layer of batter into the pan and cook for approximately 30 seconds until golden brown
 - Flip the pancake
- Cook the other side until golden brown



Written and designed by:
Amy Shayler
Frankie Honour
Esme White



Written & Designed by Sai Sahasra Vusika



FILM DISCUSSION



A Complete Unknown

James Mangold's *A Complete Unknown* takes audiences into the early days of Bob Dylan's career, with Timothée Chalamet stepping into the role of the iconic musician. Nominated for eight Oscars, the film recreates the 1960s through rich visual language, blending grainy cinematography, subdued lighting, and a curated colour palette to reflect Dylan's evolving identity. The film has won the Visionary Tribute award at The Gotham Film Awards and Best Actor for Timothée Chalamet at the Boston Society of Film Critics' Awards. It has also received several nominations, including at the Golden Globes, BAFTAs and Oscars.

Ultimately, the film delves into themes of identity, reinvention, and artistic expression, offering a close look at Dylan's rise to fame as the film moves beyond conventional biopic storytelling, using nonlinear editing and intimate framing. '*A Complete Unknown*' is praised by critics for its authenticity and has earned nominations for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor, solidifying Chalamet's status as a major awards contender, especially with the recent success of *Dune Part II*.

Emilia Pérez

A vibrant and daring musical crime drama, Emilia Pérez leads this year's Oscars with 13 nominations. Directed by Jacques Audiard and starring Zoe Saldana and Selena Gomez, the film combines energetic musical sequences with a narrative heightened by Audiard's use of long takes, kinetic tracking shots and production design showcasing neon-drenched cityscapes.

One of the film's standout elements is its use of bold, saturated colours and fluid camera movements. With the success of Emilia Pérez, Netflix establishes itself as a contender for major Academy Awards, overcoming its reputation for formulaic and poorly written films. The film won several Golden Globes, including Best Comedy or Musical Film and Best Supporting Actress for Zoe Saldana. It also received the Cannes Film Festival jury prize and Best European Film at the Goya Awards.



FILM DISCUSSION

Wicked

Wicked (or Wicked: Part I) brings the beloved Broadway musical to the big screen under the direction of Jon M. Chu. Based on the stage production by Stephen Schwartz and Winnie Holzman, it has become Broadway's highest-grossing film adaptation of all time bringing in over £506 million worldwide therefore surpassing Mamma Mia.

The film is loosely based on the 1995 Maguire novel of the same name and acts as a reimagining of The Wizard of Oz. Visually, Wicked is ambitious. Production designer Nathan Crowley crafted an array of sets, from the mechanized spinning library in "Dancing Through Life" to the demanding Munchkin-land, featuring over nine million tulips. Moreover, filming took place locally at Sky Studios Elstree and Warner Bros. Leavesden Studios.

It was also named one of the Top 10 Films of the Year by the American Film Institute. The film leans heavily into pastel colour schemes and the signature green-and-pink iconography associated with Wicked. However, some critics have critiqued its desaturated hues, especially when compared to the technicolour brilliance of the classic Wizard of Oz starring Judy Garland. Despite this, its star-studded cast—including Ariana Grande, Grammy award winner Cynthia Erivo, and Oscar-winner Michelle Yeoh—has generated significant buzz.

Wicked in Continuation...

No one mourns the wicked, but we certainly do now that we've been left waiting for a second part. Whilst watching this movie, we thought to ourselves "what is this feeling?" but we knew it wasn't something bad. The popular soundtrack has really had us dancing through life! Neither of us is a sentimental man, no we're not that girl but we have both said that one short day with the wizard and I would have us defying gravity!

Written By Ana & Sybella.

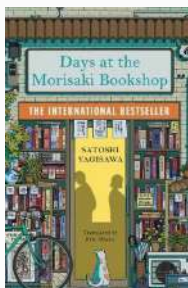
The Substance

Directed by Coralie Fargeat, The Substance is a bold, visceral take on body horror that doesn't shy away from gore or social commentary. Demi Moore stars as Elisabeth Sparkle, a fading celebrity who takes an experimental drug, creating a younger, "perfected" version of herself named Sue, played by Margaret Qualley.

The film blends horror with biting satire—so much so that Demi Moore won the Golden Globe for Best Comedy Actress, despite the film's overtly unsettling nature.

Known for its hyperrealist visuals, The Substance relies heavily on practical effects, including prosthetic makeup, physical modifications, and mechanical puppetry; however, at its core, the film serves as a critique of society's obsession with youth and unrealistic beauty standards, particularly present in the entertainment industry. With Oscar nominations for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress, Best Original Screenplay, and Best Makeup and Hairstyling, The Substance has been both a critical and commercial hit, grossing \$77 million on a \$17.5 million budget.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



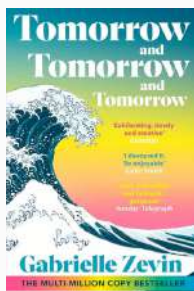
Days at the Morisaki bookshop offers the insights of how the power of books can be uplifting and how power of relationships can change our lives for the better. The book is originally set in Tokyo and then shifts to a quaint town, Jimbocho. The protagonist of our story, Twenty-Five Year old, Takako, is dumped by her boyfriend, resigns from her job and falls into a small depression state, having no guidance to change her ways. During this time, her uncle Satoru offers her work and a place to live at the Morisaki Bookshop – which has been part of their family for three generations. Surrounded by books, her life changes for the better as they give her the willpower to heal and confront her insecurities. She also meets a number of characters and forms friendships with some of these characters. The book shows how important it is to be part of a community and to have meaningful relationships, because in reality you can't survive on your own, we need people to hold on to, and the impact reading and books can have on a persons life.



If He Had Been with Me follows two childhood best friends, Autumn and Finn, who have grown apart over the years despite their mothers remaining close. While Autumn has always wondered if they were meant to be together, life takes them down separate paths—Autumn with her own boyfriend and Finn with his girlfriend. However, an undeniable connection still lingers between them. This novel explores love, missed chances, mental health, and the pain of “what could have been.” Told in a reflective and poetic style, the story is deeply emotional, leading up to a heartbreaking conclusion that makes readers question fate and timing.

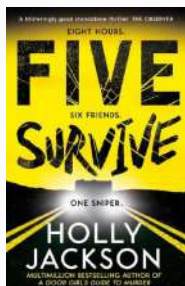


Set during World War I, In Memoriam follows Henry Gaunt and Sidney Ellwood, two privileged boys at an elite British boarding school. Gaunt, secretly in love with Ellwood, enlists in the war to escape his feelings, only to find Ellwood following him to the front lines. As the war unfolds, their relationship is tested by fear, trauma, and the brutal realities of battle. The novel is both a love story and a harrowing exploration of how war shapes and destroys young lives.

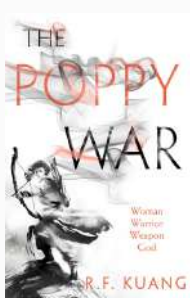


This novel, explores friendship, relativity and the complexities of human connection. Two childhood friends, Sam and Sadie, reunite in college and embark on a journey to create video games together. As they flourish so does their personal struggles, rivalries and heartbreaks, which makes the novel a deep, emotional exploration of ambition, love and the nature of collaboration.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Five Survive is a gripping, high-stakes thriller by Holly Jackson, the bestselling author of A Good Girl's Guide to Murder. The story follows six friends on a road trip that takes a deadly turn when their RV breaks down in the middle of nowhere—and they realize they are being targeted by a sniper. As secrets unravel and tensions rise, the group must figure out who the killer wants and why before it's too late.



The Poppy War is a historical military fantasy set in the bloody history of China's 20th century in which Rin - a dark skinned war orphan from the rural part of the south - has fixed her heart on passing the Empire's placement test and attending the most prestigious military academy in Nikan, as a desperate attempt to escape the inevitability of an arranged marriage. A year at Sinegard - the prestigious military academy where she encounters with rival classmates - all heirs of the Warlords and the wealthy and privileged-telling to imagine the absurdity of imagining herself as being their equal - which only gave Rin more determination to be better than them, and soon, she learns that with the help of her seemingly insane teacher, that she possesses a lethal ability for the nearly mythical art of shamanism.

However, as war looms upon them, Rin is thrown into the brutal conflict between the Nikara Empire and the Federation of Mugen. Faced with undescrivable horrors, she must decide how far she is willing to go to achieve victory, risking not just her own humanity, but the fate of the world itself.

New Releases:

Water Moon - Samantha Sotto Yambao

Released date: 14th January 2025

Onyx Storm - Rebecca Yarros

Released date: 21st January 2025

Sunrise on the Reaping - Suzanne Collins.

Release date: 18th March 2025

Katabasis - R.F Kuang

Release date: 26 August 2025

ART NEWS

What a year for art! From AI becoming a common place in the art market, Banksy murals, a \$6 million banana, to a specific shade of brat green becoming 'so Julia' and a controversial portrait of Charles III, here are some of our top picks!

'His Majesty King Charles III' By Johnathon Yeo



Brilliant or bizarre? This eye-catching portrait of King Charles III went viral in May... and not for all the right reasons. Johnathon Yeo, a British artist of contemporary portraiture, said that when creating this portrait, he wanted to put a 21st century spin on the traditional portrait that we typically see to 'break with the past'. This striking portrait was the first to be unveiled after his coronation, it was made between June 2021 to November 2023, the period which Charles ascended to the throne. The inspiration for the painting was taken from the Welsh guard's tunic which the king is wearing in the picture, and hidden within the painting are some traditional themes with the uniform, sword. There is also a very contemporary theme within the painting of the butterfly sitting above the King's shoulder; this is there to symbolize the King's advocacy for environmental issues as well as his personal transformation from Prince to Monarch, like how a butterfly symbolizes rebirth/metamorphosis. This portrait received extremely mixed opinions; some were shocked at the bold red colour, saying that 'it looks like he is in hell' and that it holds the title as the worst royal portrait ever made, as it is a 'stylistic mess'.

'Comedian' by Maurizio Cattelan

In most cases, you can walk into any supermarket, and you will find a banana for less than £5, however Maurizio Cattelan's audacious artwork of a banana duct-taped to the wall sold in auction for just over \$6 million.

This taped banana first sold in 2019 for \$120,000 and created social media uproar, raising many questions – in 2024 the banana went on sale again and skyrocketed in price, selling for \$6.2 million (£4.9 million). This banana was bought the morning of the auction for \$500,000 at a food stall in Manhattan, New York, and went on to become arguably the most expensive fruit in the world.

This raises the question, of who was worth the price to buy this fruit? Chinese cryptocurrency entrepreneur Justin Sun outbid six others for the comedic installation. Mr Sun bought the piece and said, 'in the coming days, I will personally eat the banana as part of this unique artistic experience'. The reason he gave for buying a banana for over \$6 million is that "this is not just artwork, it represents a cultural phenomenon that bridges the world of art, memes, and the cryptocurrency community." Mr Sun also believes that "this piece will inspire more thought and discussion in the future and will become a part of history." This installation challenged traditional notions of what could be considered art; it also played on the idea that art is less about the finished product and more about the conversation it provokes.



Banksy's Animal Murals

In August 2024, a series of mysterious murals appeared in neighbourhoods around London. These murals were made by artist Banksy and ranged from a goat, elephants, monkeys, a wolf, pelicans, a cat, piranhas, rhinoceros and a gorilla outside of the London Zoo.

The artist Banksy's identity remains unconfirmed, though he rose to fame in the 2000s because of his stencilled, dark humoured, often politically charged designs. His artworks have appeared on walls, bridges and streets across the world and his public 'installations' are regularly resold – often by even removing the wall which they were made on.

These murals sparked conversation on social media as people attempted to depict any hidden meanings behind the pieces, some suggest the animals are threatened or near extinct, others compare the pieces to the Israel-Gaza war. The observer's art correspondent Vanessa Thorpe suggested Banksy indented to resonate with people and create "uplifting works that cheer people with a moment of unexpected amusement" made to bring relief during a tough time. Though these artworks were made to bring joy, the rhinoceros was defaced by graffiti, the satellite wolf was stolen - less than an hour after it was revealed additionally the stretching cat had to be removed for safety reasons.



Art has the power to inspire, challenge, and connect us to the world in unexpected ways. From the regal portrait of His Majesty King Charles III, capturing both tradition and modernity, to the playful absurdity of The Comedian, which questions the very definition of art, each piece invites us to see beyond the surface. Meanwhile, the vibrant Animal Murals by London Zoo bring nature to life through creativity, celebrating the beauty and diversity of the animal kingdom. Together, these works highlight the many forms art can take—whether honouring history, sparking debate, or bringing joy to public spaces. In every stroke, colour, and concept, we find a reflection of our world and ourselves.

Designed by Gabriella Oakley

Global Snapshots

From strange scandals to attempted assassinations, 2024 was undeniably an eventful year, packed with political changes, technology advances and new world records.



Kicking things off in August, the olympics took place in the famed capital of France. Living up to its name, the city of lights put on a spectacular display from the Eiffel tower to mark the beginning of the world championships. After three weeks of the 206 countries competing for gold, 17 records were broken in several sports. The united states took the win, closely followed by China, and Japan securing 3rd place. Great Britain- at 7th place- received their highest number of gold medals in rowing: 3 out of a total of 14. After four years of tireless training and preparation, the 2024 athletes outdid themselves, however one in particular stood out for his outstanding performance in swimming. Leon Marchand received a total of 4 gold medals throughout the course of the tournament , 2 of which he won in the space of two hours.



Astronauts astray! In June 2024 NASA sent two astronauts into space on a trial mission, for what was meant to be around 6 days however, Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore didn't expect their space shenanigans to extend by 10 months. Due to helium leaks and thruster failures, the pair are forced to stay on the international space station, thousands of miles away from humanity. After seven, strenuous months inside of the spacecraft, Williams partnered with a colleague to conduct maintenance updates on the craft, taking her first steps outside of the carriage. After six hours and a job well done, Williams safely returned to the craft, however she will be returning for another task on the 23rd of January. Without any technical difficulties, the pair are due back in March.

Fast forward a couple of months, we near the end of the year, and enter the tense month of the presidential election. Kamala Harris And Donald Trump compete for the head position in the White House, using social media platforms such as twitter and tiktok to aid them in winning votes. At first, the polls appeared very steady, with both candidates staying close to one another despite the eventful campaign. Donald Trump, the first convicted felon to compete for the white house faced - and survived - two assassination attempts, one at a rally and the other at his golf course in Florida. At the presidential debate in september, Kamala Harris forced Trump on the defensive, questioning him about his stance on abortion laws and his legal issues causing uproar. Ms Harris spent more money on her campaign yet was stumped by the legacy left by Biden, making it difficult for her to pull away from Trump. On November 5th, after a long-standing, strenuous election the republican party passed the winning mark with 312 (around 77 million votes) compared to The democrats who received around 75 million. Mr Donald Trump is now in power for the next term (4 years) in the White House. The president himself stated that he is ethused to enforce "project 2025" on the American population, trying to "make America great again."



Global Snapshots

2024 ended with a literal bang, with London putting on a spectacular firework display on the River Thames to mark the end of another year.

Despite December being known for being a month of appreciation, family and fun, we ended the year on a sad note, with the case of Gisele Pelicot going viral across the world. Pelicot is a French woman, who lived her life without knowing her husband would drug her and recruit other men to rape her for over a decade. Dominique Pelicot, 72, was convicted of this crime and sentenced to 20 years in prison.



However 19 of the 49 rapists have said they will appeal. Dominique filmed most of these rape instances, therefore making it easier for investigators to track down the rapists. The trial lasted 15 weeks and the media stood behind Gisele, rooting for justice. Her bravery never wavered, she even stated that she would face those who have appealed as she is "not scared." Many of the men claimed they were "mainipulated" into raping Gisele and that they were not aware she had not given her consent. Eventhough Gisele Pelicot endured decades of horrific abuse and torture, she courageously declined her identity being kept anonymous to help other victims. "I want them to say, If madame Pelicot did it, I can too." Her valiant actions have been deemed heroic, and hopefully Pelicot has gained some closure after the trials. By urging other people to speak out, she sets a good example for those around her, making a terrible situation that little bit lighter.

However, this bliss did not last for long, when disaster struck In California mid-January. Wildfire spread throughout LA, stretching up to around 45 miles forcing thousands to evacuate their homes, leaving many precious memories and belongings behind. Strong winds of 30mph worsened the fire along with climate change which has made the shrubs and grass much drier, thus more prone to burning. The fire has sadly decimated around 10,000 homes and killed over 28 people making it one of the worst wildfires recorded. Although the fire is still burning, firefighters have managed to get around 20% of it under control and hope for it to soon die out before causing any more destruction. Despite many losing their homes to the fire, charities, hostels, food and clothing banks have been set up to help them through this difficult time.



As we continue through 2025, we all hope for a safe and happy year to commence and pray for those already in need!

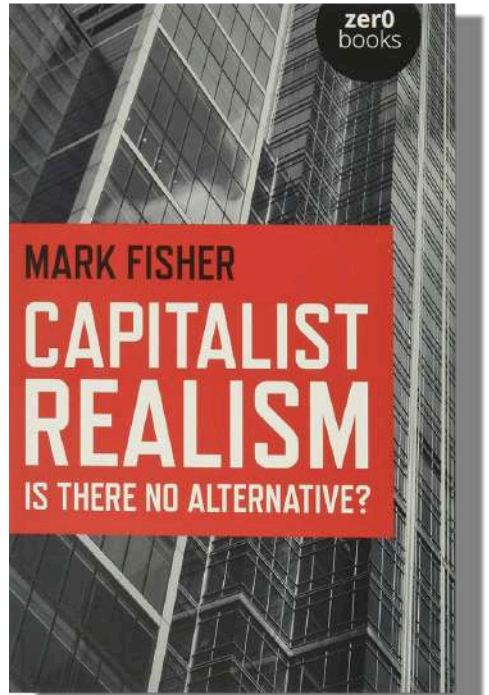


Capitalist Realism

Subject focus

IN CAPITALIST REALISM, MARK FISHER FAMOUSLY QUOTES: 'IT IS EASIER TO IMAGINE THE END OF THE WORLD THAN THE END OF CAPITALISM.' THIS OBSERVATION PRECISELY ENCAPSULATES CAPITALISM'S INESCAPABLE AND DAUNTING TRAITS THAT ARE MORE APPARENT TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS WRITTEN IN 2009. POLITICAL AND CULTURAL THEORIST, MARK FISHER, PUBLISHED CAPITALIST REALISM AS A CRITIQUE OF CAPITALISM AND ITS ABILITY TO SWALLOW ITS OWN CRITICISMS AND RELENTLESSLY ADAPT TO THE FLAWS AND LIMITATIONS IT CREATED.

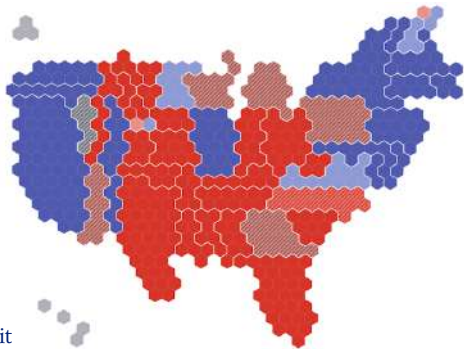
Even though inequality continues to deepen and divide the working class and public outrages towards unethical corporate practices rise, capitalism is still strongly supported and adopted across the globe. In this article, I aim to explain and reiterate the flaws and weaknesses of capitalism and how it survives and prolongs its lifespan despite these points. We need to determine whether capitalism can adapt and eat its own disadvantageous traits, a historic and modern example of such and thus conclude why capitalism will never end.



Establishing The Flexibility of Capitalism (Squid Game Spoilers)

Expanding on Fisher's critique, one of capitalism's defining aspects is its ability to adapt to and embrace its most severe criticisms, whilst retaining its core identity. This trait allows for capitalism to interminably grow and broaden its influence, turning difficulties into new opportunities for capitalism to thrive on. For instance, Squid Game. This is a Netflix series which addresses the dystopian nature of capitalism represented through desperate players competing in various deadly games for a large sum of money.

One of my interpretations of the show is that Squid Game is a criticism of capitalism. I came to this consensus due to the repeating scene where the players could vote on whether to continue the games or not. As a viewer, it may be frustrating to see these players clearly voting against their own interests several times over: those in favour of continuing the games were essentially voting their life away. This, though, is a direct hyperbolic metaphor for our society today where women cast their vote for Donald Trump, working class people support Reform UK and Turkish-Kurdish people vote for Erdogan's AKP. Furthermore, our world is reflected in Squid Game as a large majority of contestants did not want to fight the creators of the games and instead chose to brutally murder one another for a chance at a larger prize pool. Just as we discriminate against immigrants and other minorities, seen through the riots in the Summer of 2024 in the UK, instead of working together to hold the top 1% accountable. While Squid Game presents the consequences of a lack of class consciousness and capitalism's impacts on empathy remarkably well, it is still swallowed by capitalism. Those who worked on the series, behind the scenes and cast, amassed considerable profits from it: benefitting from the capitalist system that they were trying to denounce.



Written by Lydia Smithies
Designed by Chanelle Wright

The 67TH ANNUAL Grammys



written and designed by Anaia Malkan

Last year was big for the music industry, seen through the amazing albums that were released such as *Hit me hard and soft* by Billie Eilish, *Chromakopia* by Tyler the creator, *Brat* by Charli XCX and *Short n' Sweet* by Sabrina Carpenter.

The 67th Annual Grammy Awards, held on February 2nd, 2025, at the Los Angeles crypto Arena was a night of historic achievements, memorable performances and heartfelt tributes. It was hosted by Comedian Trevor Noah for the fifth consecutive year. The ceremony not only celebrated music but was also a fundraiser for the Los Angeles wildfire relief effort, raising over \$7 million.

Beyonce, already the most awarded artist in Grammy history, won her first Album of the year award for her Genre-blending country album, *Cowboy carter*. This win marked her 35th Grammy and made her the first Black woman this century to win in a country music category. However, many fans that were watching thought that some of the other nominees should have won, such as Billie Eilish, Sabrina Carpenter or Charli XCX. Kendrick Lamar was another standout, taking home both record and song of the year for his track 'Not like us', a song that has sparked many discussions due to its pointed lyrics. One of the highlights of the evening was when he came up on stage to accept the grammy award and the whole crowd was dancing and singing along to the song, which lead to memes being spread across the internet of Taylor Swift dancing along.

The best new artist award was presented to Chappell Roan, who delivered a powerful and tear evoking acceptance speech advocating for better support and fair compensation for emerging artists. Doechii also won a grammy for the best rap album of the year which included songs such as "denial is a river" and "alligator bites never heal".

The evening featured a series of captivating performances. Billie Eilish sang an emotional rendition of "Birds of a Feather", paying homage to her California roots. While Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga teamed up for a heartfelt cover of "California Dreamin'", honoring the resilience of Los Angeles in the wake of the recent wildfires. We also saw performances from Chappell Roan, Sabrina Carpenter and John Legend. There was also a surprise performance from the weekend.

Sabrina Carpenter not only won best pop and vocal album for *Short n' Sweet* but also turned heads with multiple stunning outfit changes throughout the night, showcasing her evolving style and stage presence. However, she was not the only person to turn heads that night as Kanye west and his Fiancé showed up unexpectedly at the Grammy's, he was wearing all black and she was wearing a mesh dress that was extremely see through. They were then escorted off the premises by security.

The ceremony included a moving tribute to the late Quincy Jones, featuring performances by Stevie Wonder, Cynthia Erivo and Janelle Monáe, celebrating Jones's profound impact on the music industry. At the start of the event there was a video tribute to the late Liam Payne, the video included a voiceover of Payne, alongside clips of him on stage and waving to many of his excited fans. "I never expected any of this to happen... I actually still think about it. We've done some amazing things," Payne can be heard saying.

Beyond the awards and performances, the 2025 Grammys emphasized community support, with numerous references to the recent Los Angeles wildfires. The event underscored the power of music to unite and heal, making it a memorable night for both artists and fans alike.

KLS CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH



STAFF

VS



**SIXTH
FORM**

Date:

Thursday 3rd April 2025

Venue:

Kings Langley School

Price:

£2.50 (18+)

£1 (Under 18)

Kick Off:

3:45pm



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