



# SIXTH SUPPORT

**THE MAGAZINE COMMITTEE**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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All previous and future editions of the Sixth Support magazine can be found online at <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/coronavirus>.

# CURRENT EVENTS

*BY THE CURRENT EVENTS  
COMITTEE*

Throughout the months of November and December we have seen further progress in potential Covid-19 vaccines. The virus has continued to cause problems across many businesses, especially on the high streets. With potential long lasting effects to both society and businesses.

After the initial announcement of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine, other multiple pharmaceutical companies have continued to develop alternative vaccines. The Pfizer vaccine has been permitted for use within the UK and will begin to be administered in the coming weeks. However, there are many issues with the logistics of storing and handling this vaccine.

Covid-19 unfortunately led to the closure of many retail and leisure businesses during November, interrupting their income and resulting in the demise of some businesses. At the beginning of December, businesses including the likes of hairdressers were able to reopen with increased safety measures. In

turn, providing many the hope of recuperating some of the losses from the year. Businesses of all sizes have been affected by the pandemic. Even some of the biggest high street chains such as John Lewis have made losses and others including Debenhams have entered into administration.

Across the Atlantic in the US, even after a string of legal challenges from Trump's team, Joe Biden has been declared the next U.S. President. Now Biden is President Elect, his powers will be determined by the number of seats his party controls in the Senate. The 'run off' elections will be one of major political events featuring in the news headlines in the New Year along with the UK leaving the European Union.

# PHYSICS

## 2020's Space Exploration, Cosmology and Astronomy

*BY TOM S.*

In a year where many of us have been confined to our homes, physicist's exploration of space and the universe have gone further than ever before. Even with Covid-19 spreading across the world, physicists were able to make numerous major discoveries throughout 2020 expanding upon our current knowledge and laying the foundations for future discoveries.

These discoveries have also led to physicists receiving awards for their works. The 2020 Noble Prize award for physics was awarded to a team of scientists looking at black holes. These are regions within space where gravity is so strong that not even light can escape them. The team demonstrated that black holes were due to Einstein's general theory of relativity. The cosmologist Carlos Frenk also won the Paul

Dirac Medal and Prize from the Institute of Physics for his work on the structures of galaxies and helping to shape our understanding of dark matter.

Many other discoveries and advancements have also been made throughout the year. In June we saw the discovery of a black neuron star completely changing astronomy with these stars not thought previously to be possible. In April a group of astronomers used various telescopes to seek a class of black holes. Throughout the year, advancements were also made into the creation of our universe including studies furthering the knowledge on the age of the universe and overturning theories of how it was created.

# HISTORY

## Historical Event of 2020

BY EMILY N.

2020 has been a year of great extremes reached in many sectors, globally.

Australian Bushfires – 2020 started off poorly. These fires continued for months and destroyed almost 126,000 square kilometres of land in Australia, killing 33 people. Victoria and New South Wales were most effected and the capital city declared a state of emergency. The fires killed and damaged the habitats of approximately a billion animals.

Harvey Weinstein Conviction – The conviction of Weinstein, an American film producer, had been desired since 2017 as over 80 women came forward with allegations of sexual abuse. On February 24<sup>th</sup> he was convicted for raping one woman and sexually assaulting another. He was sentenced for 23 years. Members of the #MeToo movement celebrate this win for the progression of women in the film industry.

Prince Harry Quits the Royal Family – Prince Harry and his wife announced they were resigning from their position of “senior” royals in what has been coined as “MEGXIT”. They stated they wanted to hold more “progressive roles” and six months later, signed a multi-year deal with Netflix. This proved controversial recently due to the release of Season 4

of The Crown which portrays the early relationship between Harry’s parents, Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana. The decision to leave their roles could be detrimental to the family’s reputation and position. History may end up showing this as the end of the constitutional monarchy in the UK.

COVID-19 – Everyone knows about the significant amount of damage that coronavirus has caused on a global scale. In the long-term, after a successful vaccine, the virus will have a great impact on the state of our economy. This is because of the numbers of venues that have fallen due to Lockdowns and the impact the virus has had on the stock market.

Black Lives Matter – This movement has skyrocketed in the last year and will hopefully play a large role in changing the lives of many ethnic minorities. Read more in page 12.

Trump’s Impeachment – Trump was impeached (a charge of misconduct made against the holder of a public office) when the House of Representatives approved articles of impeachment on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. This was dismissed but many argue that it should not have been.

Biden’s Win – Fortunately, Trump won’t be serving a second term. Biden may not be perfect but he has chosen the first female Vice President to join him in the White House.

# SOCIOLOGY

## Sociology in 2020

BY EMMA H.

2020 has been an eventful year, with many events having direct social impacts on large amounts of the world. From the Australian bushfires to the Black Lives Matter Movement, COVID-19 and many other events this year that have been thrown at us, all of which have shown society's resilience and ability to adapt to change.

The Coronavirus has had a major impact globally, with masks and hand sanitising becoming the norm but it has also shown how society can come together and help each other. COVID-19 forced millions of people to be in lockdown for months, making communication via technology more essential than ever. This will have an impact on society in the future as many people will look back on 2020 and be even more grateful for those around us and who we spend time with.

COVID-19 has also caused one major change to the education exam system. With pupils not being able to sit exams, centre assessed grades were given. Many sociological perspectives such as Functionalists would argue that education allows society to function smoothly and provides a guide as to areas where society is failing, it also allows socialisation to occur and due to the pandemic, many of these things were not able to occur.

Media coverage has also changed drastically this year. Weekly coronavirus briefings and updates have been given nearly all year round, making people pay more attention to the news and the happenings of societies globally. This

along with the sheer amount of events that have needed covering has meant that so many more people are interested in what is happening in society and people are reading the news more frequently.

The Black Lives Matter Movement is also a significant sociological event of 2020. Millions of people globally have supported this movement that is encouraging equality and highlighting inequalities and educating society about inequalities that need to be solved. This is crucial in helping form a functioning society where there are equal opportunities for everyone.

Marcus Rashford has also fought to combat food poverty by campaigning for free school meals to be provided during holidays from school for those in need. This campaign was successful as over both easter and the summer holidays, free school meals were provided. However, the Government have so far refused to continue with this further, but many other companies and businesses have vouched to help. This is one example of how the voice of the public can be heard all throughout society and petitions and campaigning can help bring about societal change.

2020 has been an eventful year, that will always be remembered. It has brought about so many changes to how society runs and brought to light many areas where society can be improved further for everyone. Maybe, 2020 was just the ignition source to bring change in our lives forever...

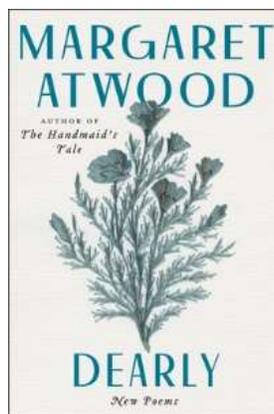
# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## New Releases

BY AMBER M.

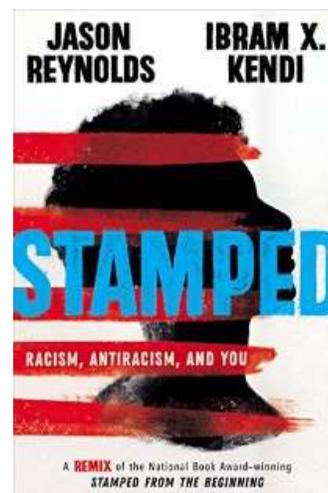
**The Invisible life of Addie LaRue by V.E. Schwab** – Set in the 18th century, this fictitious novel focuses on Addie as she makes a pact with the devil and sells her soul for immortality, however, when she returns home a curse had been inflicted up on her in which nobody will ever remember her. Addie's only companion on her journey is the devil that visits her on the anniversary of their deal every year, however, she is determined to find a way to beat him and return to normality.

**Dearly: Poems by Margaret Atwood** – Before she was a novelist, Atwood was a poet and this collection is her first in over a decade. The poems include concepts such as damage to the environment, the supernatural, political issues and the mind.



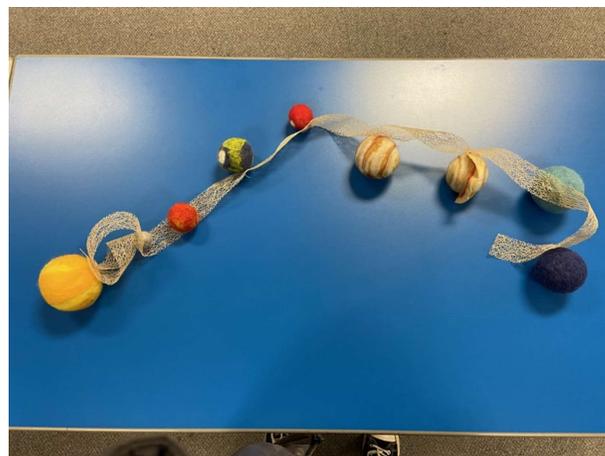
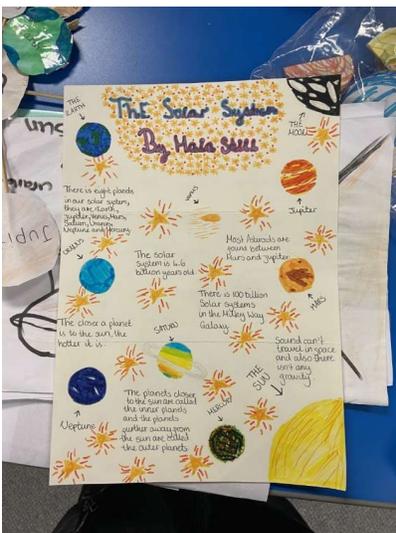
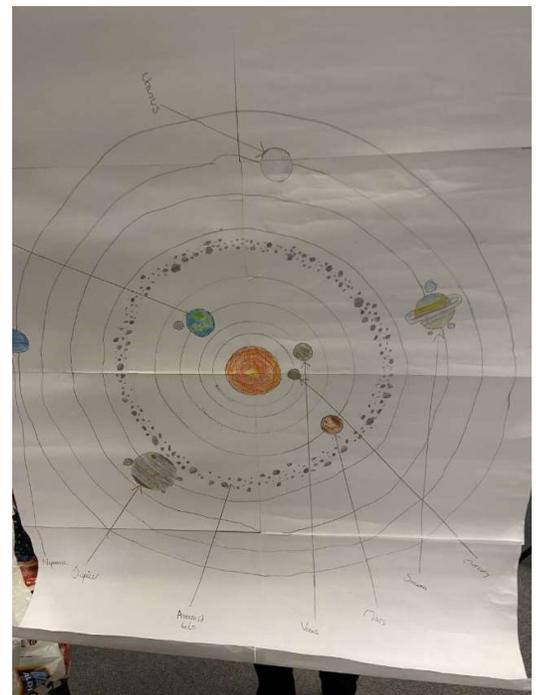
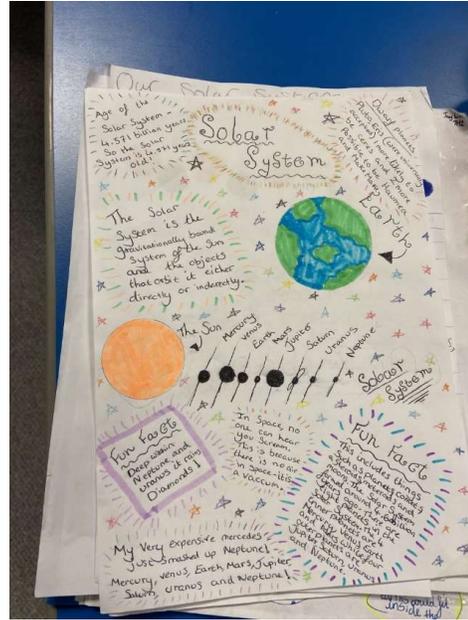
**The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins** – A prequel to The Hunger Games, 18-year old Coriolanus Snow is desperate to mentor the winner of the 10th annual Hunger Games, however, he is stuck mentoring a district 12 tribute, the lowest of the low.

**Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram x. Kendi** – following the narratives of five historical figures, this non-fiction book provides an overview of racism in the United States over a period of 500 years. However, the authors did not intend for it to be a historic novel but rather a book about the problems in the present, raising their hope for an antiracist future. Considering the Black Lives Matter movement that has become increasingly important over 2020, this book is needed now especially.



# SCIENCE COMMITTEE

This week the science committee organised a year 7 form competition. We asked them to complete a project on the solar system. We received entries from Molly M. (7C1) and Mr Jones' form group. As a committee we chose the project which we felt had the most effort put into it, although they all were spectacular!



# PHILOSOPHY

## The man, the myth, the being made of atoms, Epicurus

*BY JOSEPH B.*

During the Hellenistic era there were quite a large number of philosophers, most of the famous ones being Greek. Epicurus managed to claw his way into being on of the primary philosophers of ancient Greece, yet no one today seems to have heard of him beyond those who study the field of philosophy. Why is it, you may ask yourself, that we all know Plato and Aristotle, but no one knows about poor Epicurus? Well, to put it simply, none of his disciples cared all that much about spreading the teachings of Epicurus, they were too busy trying to achieve something that Epicurus coined as 'Ataraxia'. This term being defined as a state without fear or unhappiness, was one of the two major ideas that Epicurus managed to spread among ancient Greeks, with the other big idea being Aponia (No, not a pony. Aponia is about living a life free of pain, although saying all those Greek words might leave your throat a little hoarse).

Amusingly enough, Epicurus may be among the most misunderstood of the Hellenistic philosophers. An ataraxic life full of pleasure, means you should spend your time doing what exactly? Medieval philosophers believed this meant that Epicurus thought we should all spend our time drinking and sleeping around, naming

him the patron of drunkards, whoremongers, and gluttons. However, this is not actually what Epicurus sought to advocate. Rather, Epicurus sought to spread the idea that pleasure was best enjoyed in moderation, drink alcohol but do not get drunk, enjoy delicious food but do not gorge yourself. His reasoning behind this is based off a sentiment that everyone has experience at some point, mainly that too much of something good turns it bad. Experience was rather important for Epicurus, as he founded all of his ideas through empirical belief rather than rational thought. It was this empirical rationale that lead him to the idea of atoms. Quaint little idea, tiny balls that make up everything in the universe and achieve different products by forming into different shapes... Wait a moment that sounds awfully familiar to something a physics student would talk about! Probably because it is, thanks to Epicurus, even the ancient Greeks first discovered the idea atoms, something that has only been proved my modern physicists. If that does not impress you my dear reader than I fear nothing will! Spear throwing atomic scientists! O' the thought of it...

## ARITHMETIC CHALLENGE: Can you complete the following in 30 seconds each?

14	$\times 4$	$+10$	$/2$	$+16$	$-1$	$/4$	$-3$	SQUARE IT	?
44	$/2$	Halve it	$-1$	Square it	$-1$	$/9$	$-2$	5/9 of this	?
15	$-1$	$/2$	4/7 of this	Square it	3/8 of this	$\times 4$	$/2$	$-3$	?

### COUNTDOWN NUMBERS:

Can you use the 6 numbers below to make: 465?

50

8

1

6

25

6

### SUDOKU

The aim is to fill in the grid below so that each row, column and 3x3 section contains the numbers 1 to 9.

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

### COUNTDOWN:

Can you use the following nine letters to create one nine-letter word? You can only use each letter once.

T	S	B	X	O	K	O	T	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

### CROSS MATHS:

The puzzle must contain all the numbers 1 to 16, so that all of the equations are true. Some of the digits are already filled in: complete the puzzle.

9	$\times$		$-$		$+$		141
$\times$		$\times$		$/$		$-$	
	$+$	6	$\times$	5	$-$	10	27
$-$		$-$		$+$		$-$	
	$+$		$-$		$\times$		3
$\times$		$+$		$+$		$+$	
11	$+$		$\times$		$+$	8	25
19		85		20		9	

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Social Justice Movements in 2020

BY MITHU P.

2020 has been a terrible year for most people. However, there has been many protests against injustice worldwide, which have brought change. For example, the protests against police brutality and racial prejudice have appeared all over the world to show support for the murder of George Floyd. Many people protested to show how this treatment is inhumane and needs to be changed. The murder of Breonna Taylor; the police officers, who shot her, have not been arrested in 262 days, showing that change is needed to stop this from happening again. Furthermore, George Floyd and Breonna Taylor are not the only ones who have died. As Rayshard Brooks, Ahmaud Arbery, Elijah McClain and Trayvon Martin all died from racial prejudice while they continued to live their lives. It's not just America where these protests have occurred as they have occurred in the UK as a response to the death of Shukri Abdi, a 12-year-old Muslim, Somali refugee, who drowned in a river as people threatened to get in the water, knowing that she couldn't swim. These protests are also a reminder to keep supporting black lives, even if it not 'trending' on your Instagram feed because posting a black square does nothing to help. Recently, protests in Paris have turned violent after France has proposed a new law that would ban the filming of police, which allows police officers to lose accountability for racial attacks in France.

For ways to help, visit <https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/>

Or donate to the [https://www.gofundme.com/f/shurki-abdis-family?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+share-sheet&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link-tip](https://www.gofundme.com/f/shurki-abdis-family?utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link-tip)

It is not just the rise of Black Lives Matter movements happening as people in Nigeria have been protesting against SARS (Special Anti-Robbery Squad.) These protests have been happening because of this police force using their power to kill innocent people. SARS has been involved the deaths of many Nigerians and the President of Nigeria allows SARS to kill innocent

people. The news of the #EndSARS reached all over the world as many people started to post about it, showing support to those protesting in Nigeria. The amount of support received made major news outlets like the BBC and Sky news to cover this story and support the Nigerians suffering under the SARS regime. In addition, these protests led to the disbanding of SARS on October 11. An example of how protests and donating can bring change.

In Poland, thousands of people are outraged by the news that abortion is now illegal. This new law restricts the rights of women to have an abortion removed. This is due to their Conservative Catholic beliefs, which state that abortion is murder. This law is not in effect yet due to the Red Lightingbolt Movement; their protests have made the Polish government delay this bill. However, this is only the beginning as more demonstrations could ultimately stop law from being passed. If Poland do pass this law then they will have the strictest abortion laws, as it will be in line with their constitution.

Similarly, LGBT+ protests have occurred in Poland in response to the LGBT-free-zones established by President Andrzej Duda. These zones mean that anyone who belong in the LGBT community are not allowed to enter, which is inhumane to discriminate people based on their choice. On 7 August 2020, a protest against the arrest of LGBT activist Margot led to a confrontation with police in central Warsaw and resulted in the arrest of 47 others, some of whom were peacefully protesting and others who were bystanders to the event, dubbed "Polish Stonewall" in an analogy to the 1969 Stonewall riots. In addition, the Polish President wants to make anything associated with the LGBT community illegal, like Russia has by repealing section 28. Many protests are still happening to stop this from happening as it removes the identity of people in Poland.

For ways to help, visit [https://action.allout.org/en/a/poland/?gclid=CjOKCQIAzZL-BRDnARIsAPCJs7009H-Abwphl\\_Cbq6o0z29uvDyRqssE-dfvEXe33bH-YywbWh59NSAaAq9sEALw\\_wcB](https://action.allout.org/en/a/poland/?gclid=CjOKCQIAzZL-BRDnARIsAPCJs7009H-Abwphl_Cbq6o0z29uvDyRqssE-dfvEXe33bH-YywbWh59NSAaAq9sEALw_wcB)

# POLITICS

## Politics in 2020

*BY JESSICA M.*

Where to begin with such a year? There has been one topic dominating all of 2020 including politics, the pandemic. The pandemic has highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the government with their ability to deal with the virus.

The coronavirus has tested the government this year as they try to keep their party united, defend themselves from the opposition and keep control of the virus. The government faced their largest backbencher rebellion yet with 55 tory MPs voting against the government plan for a tougher tier system coming out of the second lockdown and a further 16 abstaining. There has also been issues with the scandal involving home secretary Priti Patel facing bullying and breaking the ministerial code which convention states that she should then resign. However, with backing from Boris Johnson and his rejection of the inquiry findings, Patel didn't resign. Other scandals this year also include the problems with Dominic Cummings breaking lockdown rules and not resigning once again because of the Prime Minister's support. This shows the growing disunity within the government since the start of 2020. Moreover, the Government's dealing with the pandemic has also been criticised by opposition and the public. First there was criticism in March as the UK was one of the last European countries to go into a national lockdown and the same issues were seen in October as the government insisted the tier system was working and was reluctant to go into a second lockdown. There has also been criticism over the test and trace

system, securing PPE for the NHS and exams. We have seen the government make dozens of U-turn decisions regarding the pandemic for some highlighting the government's incompetence.

However, the government has been very successful in being the first country to acquire the COVID-19 vaccine which they have begun administering to over 80s and the most vulnerable in the country. The government has supported institutions such as Oxford university in conducting tests and trials of vaccines to help produce one faster. The government has also been successful in schemes such as city-wide mandatory testing like in Liverpool and testing university students before coming home to limit the spread of the virus. Overall, the furlough scheme introduced by the government and other economic policies such as 'Eat-out-to-help-out' have been successful. It has been a complicated and unprecedented year for the politicians trying to deal with coronavirus, Brexit and trying to carry out their party's manifesto but arguably the government have done a good job overall. What 2021 will hold with the economic aftermath of the pandemic, leaving the EU and climate change, who knows?