
The Arabella

May 2020

Special Edition



O, wonder!
How many goodly creatures are there here!
How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world,
That has such people in't!

Miranda, *The Tempest*, Act V Scene 1

As a school community, we are getting used to a “new normal”, containing paradoxes of collaborative independence and isolated community, and where we are increasingly working in a “brave new world”.

To embrace this new chapter and the creativity it is inspiring, The English & Art Departments launched our Brave New World competition. Students from all year groups were invited to submit original and creative poems and artworks exploring this theme. Entries could be witty and humorous, contemplative and reflective, or anything in between – as long as they engaged with what it means to live in a “brave new world”.

We were overwhelmed with the response, and thrilled to see such creativity and artistic flair from our boys. We are delighted to showcase winners and highly commended entries in this special edition of *The Arabella*. Though there is not room to publish all the entries here, we would like to thank each and every boy who sent in a poem or artwork.

We are proud to see that this extraordinary new chapter is bringing out the best in our boys, and we feel sure that the QE pupils of the future will enjoy this special publication, as a piece of ‘living history’ from a remarkable time.

Front cover image by **Kovid Gothi 8P** (winner)
Back cover image by **Pierre Mouglin 12E** (highly commended)

Nostalgia and a new era

“Nostalgia. What does that mean – is it a noun?
Rather, is it a mask of what lurks beneath the surface, an amalgamation of
deceit and
Lies?
But what if this new era was not a lie, what if it was just fear
Of change.

Never a mean feat to approach a new realm
But not many will appreciate the task at hand for a student
Yes, a student – what does it feel like to be stranded at home, with only
TV and messages and the odd walk for company...

To live one’s one life through the lens of another
Now tell me – what could be more challenging. It’s a new world out here;
Not one with drama, happiness, despair
Just emptiness.
Emptiness and
Solitude.

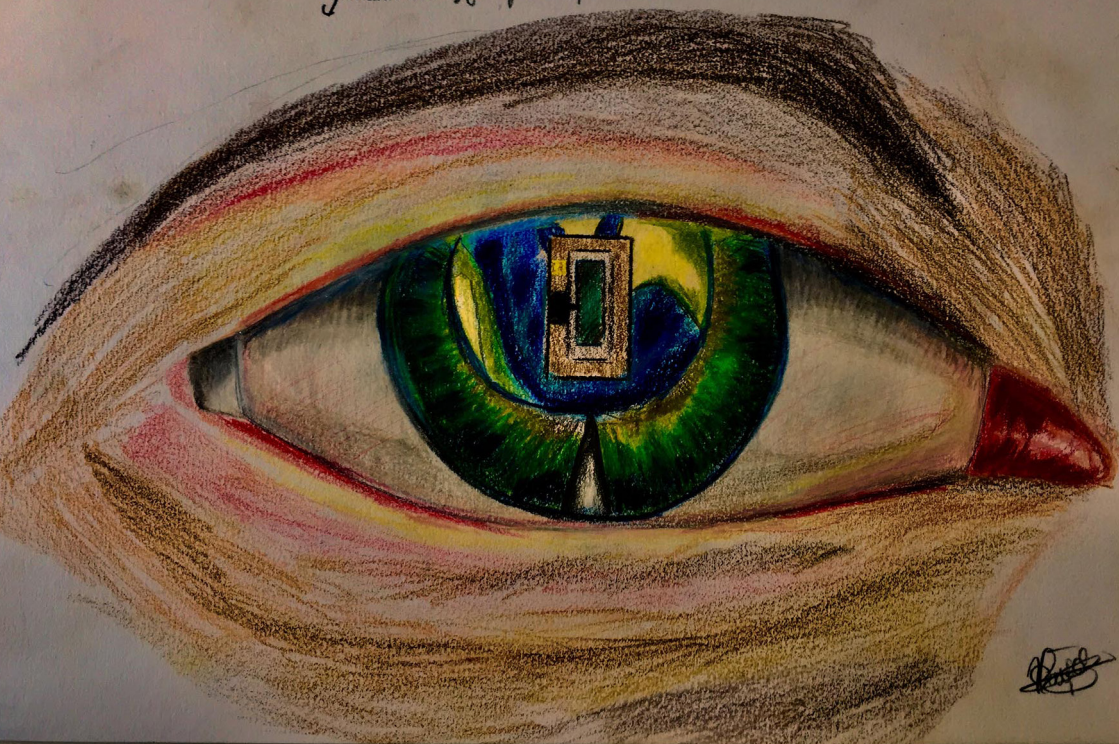
Anyone would be relieved to be free of work, to break a
Cycle. A sort of endless march of the same routines.
But what if that cycle provided a heartbeat, a tempo, an escapism from the
real world
Almost.
Funny what lockdown does!

Nostalgia is a witch at the worst of times. It seeks to invade
Like the branches of a tree, in its case the most majestic one
Sometimes it’s not the most perfect trees which are the most valuable
The ones with a spot of fungi, coarse bark plenty
Are those which truly illuminate the path of the forest”

And that, my friends
Is the same with our experience today
Remember the mask at the beginning.
It is now time to take it off.

Nivain Goonasekera 10U (winner)

"BY SEEKING & BLUNDERING WE LEARN"
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Haipei Jiang 10B (winner)

Elthon, Eidon, Enikesa (ἤλθον, εἶδον, ἐνίκησα)

Alexander wept when he heard Anaxarchus discourse about an infinite number of worlds, and when his friends inquired what ailed him, 'Is it not worthy of tears,' he said, 'that, when the number of worlds is infinite, we have not yet become lords of a single one?'

Plutarch, Moralia, On Tranquility of Mind

A new land awaits, armed with epic history!
Conquered, had we thought, all civilisation;
Yet that far shore remains to us a mystery,
And each fibre of Her body, yet a new nation.

Do you not long to learn of our limits?
Do you not wonder what wisdom we are without?
There is glory, victory, dignity in warfare;
There is curiosity, novelty, study in adventure.
Heroic causes do not cease to call. So go;
March, for the only direction is forward.
A king does not lose his bearings, but hopes;
You did not offer but a day's worth of faith.
Rather eternal loyalty, pledged not to Alexander,
Rather that cause, that image, that dream,
That will be our legacy, your dues and reward.
You need not be dearest Hephaestion, for whom
Soul, spirit, mind, you equal in offered body;
Cavalry, companions in life and death both.
Nor spite the new. They take from us, and yet
We brave shall show them through collision
When, united, our stories converge as one
Experience – our grand tale of the world.

It must yet be done. Come, and may we wisen;
To the furthest reaches, in the greatest throes.
Long as our hearts burn to witness that horizon,
I swear: This campaign shall never come to its close.

Matteo Salomone 13T (winner)

Brave New World

The champions of yore stood arrayed on the field,
And their arrows flew true but were blocked by the shields
And their foes would roar out and then level their spears
And those heroes together laid siege to their fears.

For the sound of the drums was the beat in their chests,
And after the clash each would count themselves blessed,
And the flames of the fallen continued to blaze
As they were embraced by Death's cold, endless haze

For each soul lived with passion eternal and strong;
And their names in the annals of history belong,
And the deeds of these men changed the world's warp and weft
And in a glorious state was this brave new world left.

The champions of now stand there tall but alone
As this new war is waged from the confines of home,
As tactics devolve into words on a screen
And the fears of the people are shown by their miens.

For the safety of all is being ripped apart,
As tension and peace conflict within the heart;
As love and wealth come to invisible blows,
As we see to ourselves all the danger we pose.

For whilst Death himself runs rampant on a wild spree
And the flames of the fallen are numbers to be seen,
A lone soul should simply this dark void embrace:
For only as one can we this brave new world face.

Ethan Solanki 11L2 (winner)



Alex Aliev 12E (winner)

Into a Butterfly

How does it feel, the caterpillar? Half of its legs are gone.
It used to like to walk but now—
Now its wings must fly it on.
How does it feel, the caterpillar? Its teeth and jaws are dead.
It cannot crunch on the stalks and stems,
A change has changed its head.
How does it feel, the caterpillar? It can't hide anymore.
How can it stay safe from the ants?
The ants would kill it for sure.
What can it do in this brave new world without teeth or stealth or legs?
It will drink, it will flee, it will fly.
It will play, it will laugh, it will cry.
In a brave new world, we cannot not know if it will survive.
But the once-caterpillar, it will try.
We all must try.

Akshaj Pawar 9H (winner)

Brave New World

(from the perspective of isolated members of the elderly community)

A world of isolation and independence,
We are one and alone.

Segregated by our fear of death,
Apart, we cannot kill.

No knowledge of the end,
When our old life begins.

A perennial limbo, an infinite pause,
Stuck, watching from within.

A new world of trials and tribulations,
Some of us aren't so brave.

Tristan Lolay 12A (winner)

Trapped

There I sat, in my warm, comforting room,
face pressed against the window pane, staring,
out at the world, wondering what it could've held for me:
joy, wonder, fascination.

If only the notorious monster halted to its massacre,
I could feast upon the delicacies of the original world,
but that was highly unlikely. I had to refresh myself.
This was one that I had to adapt to.

Instead of the adventurous journeys a child might wish to go upon,
it was the internet we could explore or a book to journey through, and,
what used to be travelling to another building, hoping to enhance our
minds,
was online schooling, which would guide us through our curriculum.
Lots of things were different. We couldn't even go out to play.

I had to stand strong and be brave, for this was a change predicted to last
for months...

Education, exploration, association, imagination and relations/families:
All things that would change. However, one thing that I had learnt from
before the change:

Things that, at first, may seem to be long and hard get easier, because,
if this abnormal change was so long, then that also means, overtime, it
would become natural.

It was a new world!

Rajanan Shanmugabalan 8L (winner)



Anik Singh 7H (highly commended)

A Brave New World

A brave new world, we have now entered,
A brave new world which we haven't yet ventured,
A place where your dreams are yours to be,
A place where your troubles are forever free.

A wonderful world, is that what we envision?
A beautiful world, is that now our decision?
Is that the world what we, people, seek?
A world where we are all humble and meek?

What is our world today, shall I now ask you?
What is the world, which we have now come to?
A terrible world full of lies, deceit and hate,
Are we to fall to this depressing fate?

To make a new world, we must sorely let go,
Of the things which have dealt us a suffering blow,
We must not hold grudges which can cloud your own view,
It can make you bite off more than you can chew,

Now, I must tell you something most solemnly,
You may go forth, if you dare, on this great odyssey,
A world which can't be easily tethered,
A brave new world, we have now entered.

Keon Robert 7S (winner)

