

**THE**



**STANDARD**

"CONFIDENT IN GOD'S LOVE FOR US,  
WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO HIS SERVICE"

## Current Affairs

### 2020, off to a bad start?

Happy  
New Year

Unless you live under a rock you will have heard, at least a snippet of the devastating news that has been plaguing the media since the very opening of this year.

With the introduction of a brand new decade I'm sure everyone expected changes, especially with the ongoing election for a new Labour Party Leader and the fast approaching Brexit. Waiting to welcome us into 2020 was actually the imminent threat of a third world war - something none of us suspected would happen so soon.

After the killing of the second most important figure in Iran, General Qasem Soleimani, there were reports of bombs being dropped on US forces stationed in Iran. Several people were driven to deal with the situation by making memes. Although, the conflict between USA's President Trump and Iran is rather serious.

Everyone is anxiously waiting to find out how they could be affected.

Fortunately, it appears that the thirst for chaos is not as prevalent in the USA nor Iran as it's commonly believed. Neither country actively seeks to resuscitate the horrors of previous conflicts at such a large scale. The USA, seeing that no US citizens were harmed appeared to take a step back. Iran did the same.

Guiding us further into devastation, however, are the heart breaking issues in Australia. Bush fires have been tearing through the country since September rendering *25 people* and *millions* of animals dead. This dangerous beast of an element has also wrecked almost 2,000 homes. Sadly, it's not over yet.

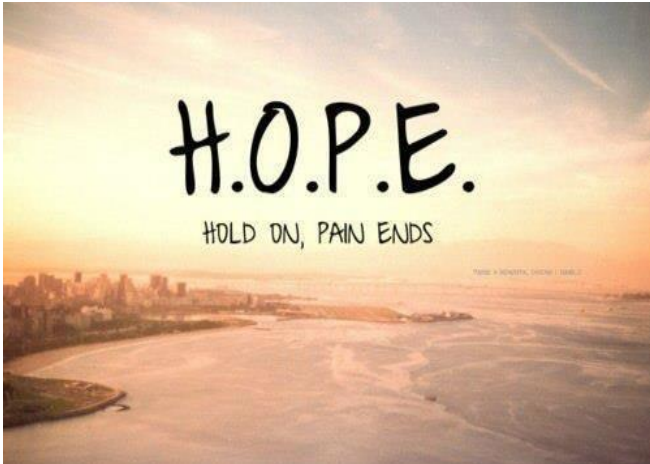
Humans have had a grim reminder of the effects of climate change on the world.

#### **Can we deem this a bad omen for the upcoming years?**

It must be noted that these tragic events cannot account for how this decade will run. Humanity has advanced rapidly and these incredible improvements don't appear to be slowing down either. Society is also, at times slowly but surely moving towards more tolerance and development. Change is sometimes necessary, even when we believe it to be for the worse at first. Occasionally, a new perspective can be the final piece of the puzzle in helping us discover the best thing to do.

Remaining hopeful and grateful is the only fitting approach to adopt for 2020 and everything ahead.

Sara 11H



### Concentration Camps in China

In China many Muslims are being snatched into concentration camps and it is happening fast.

One of the prisoners of this atrocious issue named Sayragul Sauytbay, witnessed something she said she could never erase from her mind.

Sayragul Sauytbay, an ethnic Kazakh woman who fled China's notorious camps where many Muslim ethnic minorities are held, gave a haunting recounting of her ordeal to Haaretz.

Sauytbay, who was granted asylum in Sweden with her husband and two children, taught Chinese and propaganda in the camps, and told Haaretz she witnessed a gang rape and Sauytbay herself was subject to beatings and food deprivation because another Kazakh prisoner hugged her.

Before Sauytbay's detention, her husband and two children were able to escape from their home across the border with Kazakhstan. But Sauytbay, who said her passport had been confiscated, was unable to join them and in 2017, she was taken to a "re-education" camp. She has no idea about where it was located and said it was an unpleasant time.

Sayragul also described the horrific conditions during her detention, including inadequate health care, crowding, and almost non-existent hygiene. Prisoners who were observant Muslims were forced to eat pork, a food that's considered haram, or forbidden, in Islam which was very dangerous. Sauytbay estimated there were around 2,500 prisoners at the camp, ranging in age from 13 to 84, and from a variety of backgrounds, all subject to the brutality of the Chinese state.

"They would punish inmates for everything," Sauytbay told Stavrou through an interpreter. "Anyone who didn't follow the rules was punished. Those who didn't learn Chinese properly or who didn't sing the songs were also punished," she said.

Punishments could be anything from being deprived of food to having one's fingernails ripped out, or worse.

Some say that they had to confess their sins in front of 200 people.

As we commemorate Holocaust Memorial day this month, let us remember people

across the world who are facing persecution and suffering.

**“As of 2018, it was estimated that the Chinese authorities may have detained hundreds of thousands, perhaps a million, Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz and other ethnic Turkic Muslims, Christians as well as some foreign citizens such as Kazakhstanis, who are being held in these secretive internment camps”**

By Michelle 7T

### New Year's Celebrations across the globe

As the new year commenced, city skies across the world were illuminated with dazzling firework displays, welcoming 2020 with grand celebrations.

As one of the first countries to celebrate the New Year, New Zealand's capital saw crowds gather at the Auckland Sky Tower for a spectacular mid-summer night of fireworks while people in Australia admired the stunning displays in Sydney Harbour.



South Africa's traditions truly embrace the whole idea of 'out with the old and in with the new': during New Year's Eve, people throw old furniture out of their windows. Despite this not being practised as heavily today, families gather for all-night parties and Cape Town, in particular, holds a fun-filled carnival. But why celebrate the new

year for only one night? Zimbabwe hosts a 3-day celebration where people flock to Jameson Vic Falls Carnival; entertainment there includes fire dancers, stilt walkers and live performances from musicians.

In many coastal towns in South Korea, sunrise festivals are held where people watch the first sunrise of the New Year and if you make a wish as the sun rises, it is believed that it will come true. Some also write down their hopes and dreams, putting them in balloons or lanterns that are released into the sky.

Japan marks the New Year by ringing all the bells in the country 108 times, to bring prosperity and cleanliness into the new year.

After waiting for the clock's chime at the Royal Palace in Copenhagen, people in Denmark traditionally shatter unused dishes and plates to bring good luck for the New Year. Meanwhile, in Spain, it is customary to eat 12 grapes as the clock strikes at midnight. Each grape represents one of your wishes, so succeeding in eating all 12 will mean all your dreams will come true for the year ahead!



In some countries, including Finland, the tradition is to melt a special metal and drop it into cold water. When the metal makes a shape in the water, as it cools, people try to deduce what it means about their future. For example, a flower shape could mean that you have an unknown admirer.

In Scotland, friends, family and neighbours visit each other in the hope of being the 'first-footer'. It is considered good luck to be the first person to cross the threshold of someone's home after midnight.

In Mexico, the Año Nuevo is celebrated by throwing buckets of water out of the window and opening the front door to symbolise a prosperous New Year. Families also toss coins onto the ground and sweep them back into the house for good luck.



A tradition unique to New York is the ball drop in Times Square, where an 11,875-pound ball illuminated by 32,256 LED lights is lowered down a flagpole to signal the start of the New Year. As well as the fireworks and live music in Canada, those feeling particularly enthusiastic are welcome to do the polar bear plunge, a tradition that involves going into freezing

waters to raise money for charities. If not, you can always just visit Niagara Falls and enjoy celebrations there.

Brazil's traditions involve celebrating New Year's Eve in the water; it's considered good luck if you are able to jump over seven different waves while making wishes, one for each wave. In addition, people eat lentils, which signify wealth, meaning good fortune for the year ahead.

In some South American countries, people believe that walking around with an empty suitcase on New Year's Eve means the next 12 months will be full of adventures.

Whether you'd like to enjoy a spectacular night of fireworks, party all night at carnivals or go 'first-footing', the New Year's festivities are a universal celebration of optimism for the year ahead.

What are you hopeful for?

**By Rachel 10T**

### **Fast Fashion is Fashion?**

With 2019 having just passed, and 2020 opening up with new tech and new music alongside warnings for climate change, it's time for a different approach to save our planet.

British citizens are known to spend £1.18 trillion on clothes every year, each person buying on average at least 68 new pieces of clothing per year which drastically compares to the 12 pieces of clothing per

year in 1990. There is nothing wrong with buying new clothes, however the problem lies in the fact that half of the clothing is worn only twice on average and is never worn again. These clothes are then either donated or thrown away, WRAP UK, a clothing waste prevention organisation, conducted research which revealed that an estimated £140 million worth of clothes end up in a landfill each year, which is approximately 1.5 million tonnes worth of material wasted.



*New clothes bought produce more carbon emissions than journeying around the world 6 times!*

This is solely due to the sudden expansion of fast fashion, stores like ZARA, H&M, BOOHOO and many more are all companies that depend solely on fast fashion. Fast fashion is the making of clothes within a short period of time, so whilst designer brands like Louis Vuitton spend 6 months designing and manufacturing their collection, stores like PRIMARK spend 3 months through cutting corners.

Cutting these corners means that biodegradable textiles are not used, over

working labours and harsh working conditions are both enforced, all of which are never uncovered publically. By cutting all these corners, they produce clothing which isn't able to be recycled, leading to the 1.5million tonnes in landfills.

*Fast Fashion is all about making clothes quick, cheap and disposable.*

Even though many people in the UK donate clothes, only a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> is kept by charities, meaning that the remaining end up in the landfill. By wearing and keeping items for at least 9 months longer, studies have proven that the carbon footprint for that outfit would have reduced by 30%, and if everyone bought a used item, CO2 emissions would drop by 6 pounds, which is equivalent to removing all cars off the road for a year.

*This all proves that you can make a difference to ensure that we have a better world.*

**By Lauwrensia 11A**

**Should men's rights be a more outspoken issue?**



Have you ever heard of men's rights being discussed outwardly?

The chances are you haven't.

However, women's rights are constantly mentioned- from the gender pay gap to the #MeToo movement; that's what makes it shocking: women dedicating their lives towards addressing the crisis of masculinity.

Campaigners supporting this movement believe that in an attempt to rectify the past treatment of women, society has gained a creeping antipathy towards all things male- an antipathy that is rapidly knocking men's confidence. In fact, the UK's highest killer of men under the age of 45 is suicide.

So, who are some of these women, and why are they fighting on behalf of men?

Alison Bushell, 57, runs a social work consultancy. During 20 years of being a social worker, she saw the lack of effort to keep families together and an 'airbrushing out' of many fathers. She says "I see fathers marginalized and excluded from their kids' lives while mothers are supported by out-of-date gendered views of parenting within the courts, and health and social services", thus she believes custody is often given to the mother- even if it is not in the child's best interests. She says that everyday she gets calls from fathers who have not seen their kids in a while, and it often leads to alcohol, drugs and depression.

Belinda Brown, 54, is a social anthropologist. She and her late husband set up the organisation 'Men for Tomorrow' to fight against the ongoing tendency to "neglect or ignore issues affecting men". When Belinda's husband, Geoff Dench, passed away, she decided to dedicate her life to expanding their organisation and expose what she sees as a deliberate attempt of feminists to undermine the traditional family unit. During her studies as an anthropologist, she learned about feminism, and disagreed with much of what she heard. She stated "Most men work extremely hard to provide for their families, often at considerable costs to themselves. For women to ignore these sacrifices and instead blame men for all the problems in the world, it's divisive and damaging to

gender cohesion". She also believes the correlations between 84% of homeless people being men and the raise in fatherlessness is due to the mistreatment of men- and hopes to change that with her organisation.

So, these women devote their lives towards speaking out for men; but why don't men speak for themselves? Well one in four men are scared to speak out, showing an injustice in itself.

After hearing some thoughts on men's rights, do you believe that they should also be fought for?

**By Ella 9T**

## Reviews

### London in 24 hours!

London is a vibrant metropolis with something for everyone. A day out at the museums? Shopping in Oxford Street? Or, what about a trip around hidden London; the secret pet cemetery or a meander through the eerie ghost stations of The Underground? Maybe you could even try to do it all, but that would probably take you a while!



## Museums

London is a massive city with so much to see and learn. It is, in fact, home to over 250 museums! Here is a list of a few that are definitely worth prioritizing if you're short on time.

1. Museum of London – Located at the Barbican, this museum's exhibitions take you through London's evolution, from the prehistoric era to modern times. Can't get enough of the Roman period? You can pay a small fee to book a host to take you on a tour of Londinium - you'd be surprised at how much history you can absorb in just an hour!
2. Postal Museum – Before mobile devices, mail had to be delivered manually. Want to see how that worked? This 100-year-old sorting centre will show you. You can even go on a 15-minute train ride through the tunnels and platforms of London's former underground postal railway.
3. British Library – the national library of the United Kingdom. It's home to over 200 million artefacts, and receives one copy of



all books published in England and Ireland. Did you know that two of the four examples of the original 1215 Magna Carta are kept here?

## **Entertainment**

I'm sure a day at the museums isn't everyone's idea of a cracking time. But, don't fret! Parks, shopping, cafes and visual entertainment are at their best in London.

1. Parks - Although London is often pictured as intensely urban, there's some beautiful greenery in it. And here's a fun fact: about 8 million people live in the city, alongside about the same amount of trees, and millions of plants – and that means it's actually a forest, according to the UN. So, if it isn't raining, why not enjoy a walk, or even picnic, in Holland Park, Hyde Park, Regents Park or Hampstead Heath. Maybe even visit the rainforest in the Barbican – it's free -- after the Museum of London for something out of the ordinary!

2. Shopping – Almost everyone enjoys a good day out shopping, at least once in a while, and London is bound to have some of your favourite stores. Bored of Oxford Street? Try Covent Garden, Camden market, or Westfield.



3. Shakespeare in Regents Park – If you're a fan of our national treasure, why not visit the Regents Park Open-Air Theatre? It starts its season in May, however you can buy tickets for Romeo and Juliet now to be sure to get a spot, and under 18's go half price!

4. South Bank - Southbank Centre is a complex of artistic venues on the South Bank of the River Thames. With three main performance halls, it's Europe's largest centre for the arts! There is always something on, whether it's an exhibition, a show, festival or music event, at the moment for example, it's hosting an interactive exhibition on Vincent Van Gogh.

## **Hidden London**

London is one of the most popular destinations on the planet. When one thinks of the city, they tend to think about the classic attractions -- the London Eye, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and other tourist sites. However, there is more to it than that. In fact, so much of it lies undiscovered even by its residents. So, here are a few things to see in 'hidden London' which will blow your mind!

1. Ghost stations – Are you a fan of horror movies? If you're nodding your head then you'll be happy to hear that the London Transport Museum is holding tours of its abandoned, supposedly haunted train stations. In total, there are around 40 of them, and some have been idle for over a century! After they were closed, many were used in WWII, either for people to shelter from bombing, or for secret government meetings. Down Street station, for example, was fitted with phone lines and hosted a meeting of Churchill's War Cabinet. Going on one of these tours is a rare opportunity because they are only open once in a while, so check now.



2. Planetarium – The Peter Harrison Planetarium, in Greenwich, offers a mesmerizing experience that allows you to fly to the sun, see distant planets and galaxies, go to Mars and so much more. You can use its fantastic 4k resolution technology to see faraway things you would never have imagined existed.



3. Oldest surviving surgical theatre in Europe – Located in the old attic of an ancient church, this museum shows how medicines and herbs were once stored, and boasts a surgical theatre from the 1800s. If you are interested in medicine, this museum would provide a unique experience that shows you what it was like in the past. It's now the oldest surgical theatre in all of Europe!

To get more ideas about quirky, hidden London, Check out @Look\_UpLondon for inspiration! You'll find lots of ideas for places to visit, like the 19<sup>th</sup> century pet cemetery hidden in Hyde Park. Need a break in a cute coffee shops – see this website for the most Instagrammable: <https://www.thehandbook.com/london-guidebook/15-of-londons-most-instagrammable-cafes/>

## Jumanji : The Next Level



Jumanji part two: The Next Level. This time the now-college-age kids are joined by a couple of old-school characters.

With the huge success, earning almost 1 billion dollars world-wide, is this movie worth seeing?

Spencer (Alex Wolff) is a freshman at NYU and is also trying to maintain his romance with Martha (Morgan Turner). He returns home for Christmas break not sure whether they are still going to be a couple or not. An unexpected guest, Eddie (Danny DeVito), is still recovering from his hip surgery which means he stays with Spencer. Not only that, there is Eddie's former business partner Milo (Danny Glover) who tries to repair their long lost broken relationship but Eddie is not interested.

Spencer misses the confidence he used to have when he was Dr. Smolder Bravestone. In order to restore that confidence, he goes back into the dangerous game. When he does not return, Martha, Bethany (Madison

Iseman) and Fridge (Ser'Darius Blain) re-enter the game to rescue him.

Although, there is a bit of a switch. This time, while Martha is still a dance-fighting expert, Ruby Roundhouse (Karen Gillan), it is Eddie who shows up as Dr. Smolder Bravestone. Milo turns into "Mouse" Finbar (Kevin Hart), while Fridge is the former Bethany avatar, a map-expert Dr. Shelly Oberon, (Jack Black).

No one knows where Bethany is. Later on she is found, as an elephant! Again, they have to get back a stone from an evil villain. Jurgen the Brutal (played by *Game of Thrones* alum Rory McCann).

With some twists they manage to track down Spencer, who is in the avatar Ming, a sneaky burglar who also happens to be an Asian woman (Awkwafina). As mentioned, Bethany finds her way back to Jumanji and though I won't give any spoilers they do make it out safe!

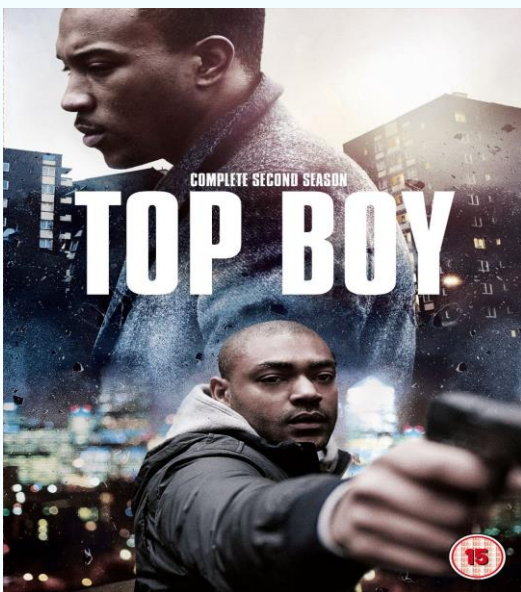
Although, there are many mixed reviews for this movie, (70% on rotten tomatoes and 91% google users liked the film), I personally enjoyed the film however, Johnson's and Hart's new characters aren't as funny or emotionally engaging as the first movie.

Like any other video game, the next level is always harder and I believe that they produced this movie quite well, the script is also quite imaginative.

*An anonymous quote, "Although I did find this movie quite funny, I do wish it was a bit more engaging!"*

By Aleksandra 8T

### Are films related to gang violence necessary?



Blue story is a movie related to gang violence and crime. It was supposed to be aired on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019. Unfortunately, most cinema's, including Vue (one of the most known cinemas' in London', banned this movie from airing.

Following this, people protested in areas such as Birmingham for the movie to air.

A few weeks later it was concluded that it would re-air.

Blue story is a movie which was inspired by another short production called 'Shiro's Story'. These were both directed by Rapman (a famous musician).

Blue story is about two boys who are best friends (Timmy and Marco). They both go to the same high school in Peckham but live in neighbouring boroughs (areas that are close to each other). One day Marco is attacked by one of Timmy's friends. These two boys then wind-up in a cycle of postcode gang wars in which there are no winners... only victims.

Are movies such as these necessary?

There are positive and negative sides to watching shows or movies related to gang wars and violence. For one, they teach us how to be careful in certain situations, and particular areas which are perhaps more deprived and prone to crime.

However, there are concerns that young people may think such cultures are acceptable because they are broadcast for us to watch and "enjoy". Shows like Top Boy seem to portray crime as exciting to young people- with large amounts of money being made. Less emphasis is placed on the outcome of crimes.

Are young children aware that they can receive lengthy sentences selling drugs?

It can also be argued that these shows may impact a child's thoughts on crime because the show is so realistic. The scenes and the sets would remind a viewer of their own city surroundings. Thus, a younger child may be drawn towards the show as it gives them an idea of what's going on in the area around them. They may feel influenced to act or partake in these activities because they can relate to issues such as poverty, hardship and bereavement which force young males in particular into crime.

Despite concerns it must be mentioned that shows like Top Boy are rated age 15. So producers cannot be blamed for a child under 15 years old watching their programmes. This means it is up to the parent or the child to follow recommended guidelines.

**By Imani and Kaoosy 8S**

Inspirational



where flowers bloom,  
so does hope!

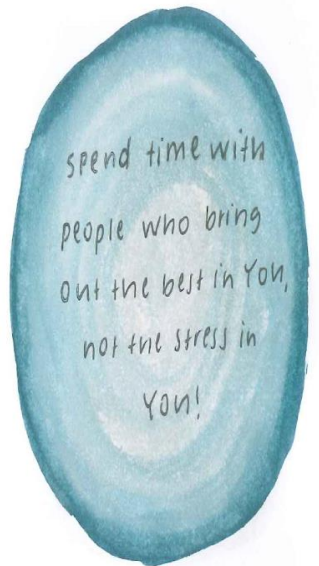


When you can't find the

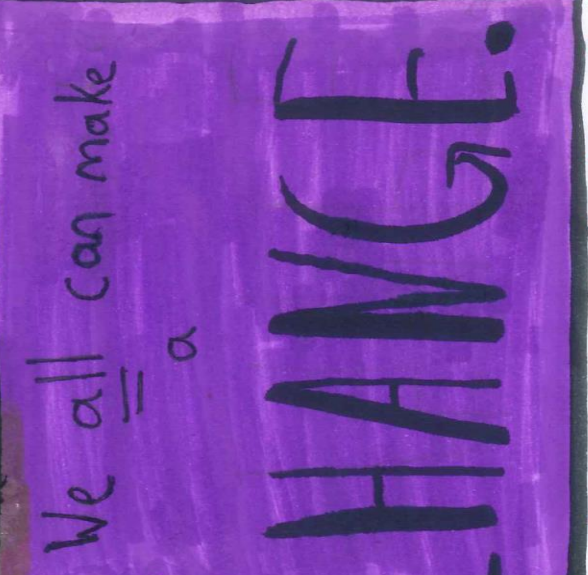
**SUNSHINE**

be the...

**SUNSHINE**



"progress" The Earth is what we all have in common. - Wendell Berry "We showed that we are united and that is impossible, as young people, are unstoppable." - Greta Thunberg "what you do makes a difference, and you don't have to decide what kind of difference you want to make" - Jane Goodall. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead "Every thing needs to change" Greta Thunberg



"It cannot be right to manufacture billions of objects that are used for a matter of minutes, and then are with us for centuries" - Roz Savage "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." - Archbishop Desmond Tutu. "The most environmentally friendly product is the one you didn't buy." - Joshua Becker "we don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly." - Anne Marie Bonneau "All we have to do is wake up and change."

and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. - Greta Thunberg "Change is coming, whether you like it or not." - Greta Thunberg "Single use plastic is a ticking time bomb for the environment." - Jennifer Jini "It cannot be right to manufacture billions of objects that are used for a matter of minutes, and then are with us for centuries" - Roz Savage "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." - Archbishop Desmond Tutu. "The most environmentally friendly product is the one you didn't buy." - Joshua Becker "we don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly." - Anne Marie Bonneau "All we have to do is wake up and change."

**Test your knowledge of 2019**

1. Which African American director won his first Golden Globe award?
2. Which world leader famously ended a meeting with 'bye-bye'?
3. Which royal couple welcomed their first child, and what is his full name?
4. Which two writers were joint winners of the Booker prize?
5. In the 2019 election which party obtained the most votes from 18-24 year olds?
6. Why did Theresa May step down as Prime Minister?
7. In which country did 1 million people protest a bill that would allow the extradition of people?
8. Why was the actress Felicity Huffman sentenced to 2 weeks in prison?
9. Which famous cathedral was damaged by a fire?
10. Which author of 11 novels that explored black identity in America and put the lives of black women in the spotlight died?
11. Which social media platform agreed to pay a \$5 billion fine to settle allegations that it had mishandled user privacy practices.
12. Which female astronauts completed the first all-female spacewalk
13. Who did James Charles fall out with in 2019?

**Competition: complete the quiz and return to Miss Woldu in S08. There is a prize for the entry that has the most correct answers.**

**Deadline 24th February**