

MONDAY 1ST JUNE 2020

ROGUE



EDITORIAL

Welcome to Issue 9 where I'm seriously running out of things to write! We've been blessed with good weather over the bank holiday weekend and half term which, whilst it was great to have a classic excuse to pull the BBQ out, has ultimately led to some poor decisions...in my opinion.

I don't know if it's a combination of the sunny weather, theme away from and the Cummings effect or just... people but the pictures of beaches in places such as Bournemouth left me wondering. Crowded beaches look like hell to me at the best of times, sans COVID-19, but the complete disregard for social distancing in the pictures made for seriously uncomfortable viewing. As if that's not bad enough, no public facilities were open, making for some seriously disgusting stories.

Whilst it's great to get out and enjoy the weather, have to opportunity to see friends and family, please, keep your distance, for everyone's sake.

This week, Grace concludes Royal Russell's well-being week, Iris ponders the 'simulation hypothesis' and Sammie explores the

confusion surrounding Boris' *stay alert*. Whilst Phoebe talks new music and Jack brings German football to the UK, in the absence of his beloved Charlton.

It certainly feels weird to say that we've reached issue nine already, Zoya and I really want to thank all of our contributors for their hard work to make Rogue something that we can all be proud of. We're already working hard on our tenth issue so stay tuned!

In the meantime, stay safe, and keep reading.

EDITORS:
Ella Westland
Zoya Lulu Kirmani

CONTRIBUTORS:
Grace Scott
Iris Nuredini
Samantha Edwards
Phoebe Middleton
Jack Burton

COVER ART:
Alexandra Huggett

LAYOUT:
Ella Westland

ROGUE NEEDS YOU!

We're looking for contributors, whether that's weekly or just a one off, no journalistic experience is required we're open to all! Rogue is not just looking for articles and artwork, we're also looking for any content you feel others might enjoy. Have you heard or seen something funny on Microsoft Teams, got a picture of a pet working from home, heard some good gossip, learnt a new skill you'd like to share, want to set a quiz, got a good (clean) joke or just got a question that needs to be answered? We want to hear from you!

Please email:
14westlande@royalrussell.co.uk
14kirmaniz@royalrussell.co.uk

BY ELLA WESTLAND

MIND MATTERS

While we tread in uncertain waters, one good thing that has been spreading is kindness. Throughout the world, random acts of kindness have been bringing people together. the theme for Royal Russell's Wellbeing Week was kindness. A Kindness for community challenge has been set, with four different themes. 1. Staying connected, 2. Home/community, 3. Keep active, 4. Reasons to smile. Each day, new challenges under these four themes have been set, for example, in the Staying Connected theme, calling a friend you have not spoken to in a while or organising watching a film virtually with a friend.

In the Home/community theme, help your parents with a job at home, or smile and wave to people you see on your daily walks. In the Keep Active theme, complete a Joe wicks workout, or go for a family walk. In the Reasons to Smile theme, there is always something positive, write down three things that made you smile today.

Throughout the school community, we have seen lovely acts of kindness. Charlie has been delivering and organising food with the Rotary Club and Food Banks to help give back to the community during these difficult times. Gerry from IT bought all the staff ice lollies. Miss Brennan has been collecting and delivering materials and scrubs that have been made by volunteers and is delivering them to NHS staff in hospitals and doctor's surgeries for them to use. Harvey helped with the washing. Emily made a cup of tea for her mum and spent time with her little sister. There are so many more acts of kindness that are occurring throughout the school community, and we encourage everyone to just do a little bit more for the people around you.

You can donate to the Royal Russell just giving page: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kindness4communityroyalrussell which has already raised £110. The money is going towards two charities. The Rowdown Foundation, a local charity which enables talented pupils to achieve their goals, and Off the Record, a local youth counselling charity that provides free counselling and workshops for 11-25-year-olds.

COVID 19 does not have to stop us from staying in contact with people. Nurturing the relationships closest to you is important. Acts of kindness can improve your mental health while supporting another's wellbeing.

"Kindness is being a breath of fresh air to someone else when they feel like they are suffocating."

BY GRACE SCOTT



WELCOME TO THE MATRIX



A simulation argues that the reality we live in is a giant computer created by a more sophisticated intelligence. The theory that our lives as we know it are just a simulation isn't as far fetched as it seems. Nick Bostrom (philosopher at the university of Oxford) came up with the original concept and Elon Musk, the founder of Tesla and CEO of space X, believes in it himself saying that 'there's a billion to 1 chance that we're living in base reality (a reality where we aren't in a simulation).' In a Vox Media conference Elon was asked to expand on why we could be in a simulation and the reasoning is pretty simple and makes sense. 40 years ago we had Pong, two rectangles and a dot but now we have photorealistic 3D simulations with millions of people playing simultaneously as well as now having virtual/augmented reality which is easily accessible, 'if you assume any rate of improvement at all, the the games will become indistinguishable from reality.' We've seen the videos of people getting scared of virtual rollercoasters in headsets when they are actually in the comfort of their home so naturally we are continuing to improve. 'Simply because we perceive the world as real and material doesn't mean that it is so.' – Rizwan Virk, a tech entrepreneur and author of 'The Simulation Hypothesis.' Could unexplained occurrences like déjà vu, spirits or phenomenons be just a glitch? Déjà vu being that we may have lived this life or already done a task in the simulation. In 2017 researchers at the university of Washington even proved that they could embed malicious computer code into physical strands of DNA. A step in the right direction?

As for why we would be in a simulation, this could be because that future population may have wanted to see what life was like now (especially with this pandemic going on, seeing how we dealt with it). Or like the matrix, a society created to distract and to

hide us from a dystopian life within code. TV has quite a few features and films to show for this theory such as the entirety of the matrix ; Rick and Morty-specifically in 2 episodes one called 'M.Night-Shyam aliens' where the pair were stuck in a simulation made by aliens to get valuable information and another called Mortynight run where Rick and Morty were in the 'Blipz and Chipz' arcade playing a VR game of a person's life where the time went slowly as if you were the person but in reality only minutes had passed leaving Morty especially confused. Finally Black Mirror also had an episode called 'Playtest' where a man was testing a hyper realistic VR game that even mimicked pain and was 'indistinguishable from reality' putting the player in thrilling scenarios, even when he thought he left the game.

So are there limits to computers? Right now, yes most definitely. To make an advanced simulation of our entire population and its movements seamlessly you will need a lot of computing power, but within one thousand years we might just break the surface. However we may have already done so considering our existence if we are in a simulation.

BY IRIS NUREDINI

On the 10th of May, Boris Johnson once again addressed the nation, this time telling us that we can now 'Stay Alert' instead of 'Stay Indoors' to save the country. Now what does this mean? The honest answer is that no one is too sure, the message was very muddled and left many wondering what they could actually do now that the new rules have been put in place. Could we go outside? Could we meet other people? Currently, answers may vary depending on who we ask, and many seem to be taking matters into their own hands when it comes to social distancing and keeping safe.

Unsurprisingly, the day this confusing speech was given, it sparked huge amounts internet attention, with countless memes and viral tweets circulating around the web as the public tried to decipher Boris's contradictory statement and work out what was new with current restrictions. Some compared Boris to a child trying to reach a word count in an essay, whilst others just took to Twitter to point out the madness of the whole situation and how those in charge seemed to have less of a clue about this pandemic than the public.

It wasn't just the general public who seemed confused by this message. Others in charge have also expressed their disbelief over the past week and a half; with Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon being quick to tweet that Scotland will still be urging people to stay indoors despite the Prime Minister's bizarre new slogan.

Boris, as ever, was quick to defend himself, saying that the slogan was 'the right message for the country' despite that fact that Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will not be following it and will be continuing to make sure people stay indoors and only go out for essentials.

So, what actually can we do now? We can now meet another person who does not live in our own household as long as the distance of 2 meters apart is maintained, meaning that we can now finally meet a friend to vent about this situation with! We can now also drive to other destination for outdoor walks and exercise but those caught breaking the rules will receive up to a £100 fine so be careful where you walk! There has also been plenty of confusion when it comes to school and if we will be allowed back. As it stands, some primary school year groups will be back on the 1st of June despite the fact that teachers' unions have said that it is not safe enough yet. As for years 10 and 12, very mixed messages have been received, with it still not being clear if we will go back before summer or not. I just guess we will have to keep an eye out and look for any further updates.

So although we do have more freedom, we must still be careful. Remember to social distance, wash your hands and check up on your friends and family during this tough time. Hopefully things will get easier in the coming weeks and some normality will be restored!



'STAY ALERT' CONFUSION

BY SAMANTHA EDWARDS

WE SHOULD BE HAPPY

BY PHOEBE MIDDLETON

American indie-pop group, 'lovelytheband', formed in 2016 in Los Angeles, USA, have so far, released three songs for their pending album. These include 'loneliness for love', a catchy song with melancholy lyrics appropriate for the title, 'waste', an 80's inspired introspective tune, and 'i should be happy' (the most recent), which they would have performed this year on their "Loneliness for Love Tour", which has been postponed in order to abide by social distancing efforts.

The band consists of lead vocalist Mitchy Collins, guitarist Jordan Greenwald, and drummer Sam Price. The band is most known for their single "broken"

which starred on several US Billboard charts and released their debut album 'Finding It Hard to Smile' in August 2018. They're well known for their support of mental health and self-acceptance, and their newest single 'i should be happy' emphasises that.

This ambient and relaxed song is reflective of how today's society is extremely harsh on people who may seem to have the "perfect life" but struggle mentally. The first lines of the song "I should be happy, but I'm not. God gave me everything I want" very much summarise the issue the band wish to shed a light on; the idea of having everything yet still not feeling fulfilled in life.

This song could be a perfect anthem in regard to today's current climate and as it was released during National Mental Health Awareness Month. Where the band mention they are very lucky with their lifestyle, there are still issues they struggle with, especially the lead singer Mitchy Collins, who has opened up about his prolonged battle with depression and anxiety and frequently reminds fans that "it's a courageous thing to reach out when you're down".

The same goes for us in isolation; although we may have everything we need, it is still understandable that we are not going to be content with the situation. The government

orders prevent us from doing our usual day-to-day activities, the lack of socialising will inevitably affect us and feelings of entrapment have increased in the last few weeks and it is extremely important we keep in contact with people virtually.

Similarly, it is important for our wellbeing to keep our interests and hobbies. Personally, music is a very good stress outlet and lovelytheband have plenty other songs that might help you through quarantine, give them a listen!



FOOTBALL RETURNS

Last weekend saw the return of one of the world's top leagues in football the Bundesliga. This was big news for fans of the sport across Europe as for some it means watching their beloved team and it reinstalls hope for teams like Luton Town who will be relegated down to League One. This would be immensely damaging as relegation costs a lot of money. However, clubs like Bolton and Charlton could go into administration if the season is put on a hold and they are relegated. This is firstly, due to both of their poor ownership statuses and secondly, due to the fact that their more expensive player will not be wanting to sign a new contract at the end of the season meaning that they can't make any money off them to reinvest in their teams for next season .

THE TOP 2

I'd have to say that watching the Bundesliga without fans wasn't as enjoyable since the fans are the most important factor in a football game. In the Dortmund Schalke game, it took a while for Dortmund to build up their usual momentum early on but in the 30th and 45th minuets they managed to get back to their normal ways and went on to win 4-0. It was also fitting that Haland Dortmund's Wonderkid Forward netted a goal as early as he did make him the first football player to have scored since the start of lockdown.

This is Union Berlin's first ever season in the topflight of German football who, this Sunday, had their fixture against FC Bayern Munich who have won the past seven Bundesliga titles and is always one of the games fans of opposition teams look forward to the most. Bayern were the comfortable winners in the end, despite only having three shots on target. Thomas Muller had a goal ruled out by the video assistant referee for offside before Lewandowski scored the opener following a foul by Neven Subotic on Leon

Goretzka. Pavard's header with 10 minutes to go wrapped up the victory to take them four points above Borussia Dortmund at the top. "We are happy to have controlled the game and to have brought the three points home," said Bayern captain Manuel Neuer.

RECENT RESULTS ARE AS FOLLOWS

Werder Bremen 1-4 Bayer Leverkusen FT

Cologne 2-2 Mainz FT

1. FC Union Berlin 0-2 Bayern Munich FT

Borussia Dortmund 4-0 Schalke FT

FC Augsburg 1-2 Wolfsburg FT

Fortuna Dusseldorf 0-0 SC Paderborn 07 FT

Hoffenheim 0-3 Hertha Berlin FT

RB Leipzig 1-1 SC Freiburg FT

Eintracht Frankfurt 1-3 M'gladbach FT

BY JACK BURTON

