

# more.

*more than news, more than school.*

SECOND EDITION | FRIDAY, 15th of December, 2025



**'Tis the Season,  
Same Paper, *More* Tinsel.**

ST THOMAS MORE'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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**Complex language definitions can be found in a coloured box at the bottom of the page if applicable!**

# A Message From the Editor; *Jacob Morgan*

“

*D*ear reader,

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of our school newspaper and in this edition, we are aiming to focus on our collective values of charity and togetherness, especially throughout this Christmas season.

Therefore, we're going to be interviewing the local leader of the SVP charity, Daniel Cauchi, as he will provide some important insight into how we can help vulnerable people locally, not just during the Christmas period, but year-round. We'll also provide insight into how members of our chaplaincy team are working in the festive period to host charity events and promote the virtues of almsgiving.

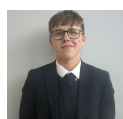
This edition will also include a vast range of intellectual articles on topics including philosophy, politics, and the environment. A prominent feature will be our philosophy article focusing on interpreting the works of Socrates - a father of Ancient Greek philosophical thinking.

This edition is going to include an exclusive interview with the SOS, a local band that keeps getting gig after gig, comprising of four amazingly talented students.

This edition will also include the top Christmas film picks to get us in the festive season.

And to conclude, on behalf of everyone working collaboratively in this edition of the school newspaper, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

”



*Jacob Morgan*  
Editor-in-Chief

# The Great Emu War:

a historical bedtime story by

*Jacob Morgan*



*Jacob Morgan*

*Editor-in-Chief*

**A**fter WW1, many veterans were given land in Western Australia's 'wheat belt', an area that borders Perth. However, due to the Great Depression of the 1930s, farmers had to expand their crops due to falling prices. This expansion led to 20 000 emus being pushed into their fields due to a coinciding drought. The large emu population would break fences, allowing other pests like rabbits to get in, and trample and destroy the farmers' crops. As a result of this problem, financially struggling farmers petitioned the government for help, which led to the military being called in for assistance. The Royal Australian Artillery was dispatched with two Lewis light machine guns to subdue the threat.

The military operation on the emus began on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1932. The emus were however too fast and agile for the military, often scattering before they could be hit by the machine gun fire. Initial setbacks were then experienced by the military, like a machine gun jamming, which led to only twelve emus being killed from a flock of 1000. Similarly, an emu got tangled under a farmer's truck, damaging it severely. Within a week, the military effort was suspended after using thousands of rounds of ammunition yet only killing a few hundred emus. The operation did resume, but ended in December 1932, with the emus never fully defeated by the military campaign, leading to the operation being deemed a failure that was frequently ridiculed by the press.

In the aftermath of this brief war, the government introduced a bounty scheme, which was more effective than using the military, with 57 000 bounties being collected within six months in 1934. Military assistance was requested again by farmers in 1934, 1943, and 1948, yet all were refused after the initial failure in 1932. Now, 93 years later, the focus for farmland protection is on building better fences (e.g. the State Barrier Fence, covering over 3200 km of land) which are used to control the movement of emus and other animals.

When news reached the UK of this war in December 1932, conservationists protested the cull as an "extermination of the rare emu", while Australian ornithologists described the war as an "attempt at the mass destruction of the birds".

The war is still remembered as a ridiculous event today, with action-comedy film, *The Emu War*, premiering in October 2023, and another action-comedy movie retelling the event titled *The Great Emu War* is an ongoing project.

# more, *Politics*

The 2020 Presidential election saw a chaotic defeat for Donald Trump to Joe Biden. Trump claimed the election had been robbed, votes were rigged, and it was 'statistically impossible to lose'. These claims led to 2000 Trump supporters storming the US Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup>, an attempted insurrection which led to six deaths and 1300 convictions.

The President threatened to leave the US permanently after the result in 2021, yet three years later, he won a landslide victory against the disastrous Democrats, and returned to the White House, but how did he do it?

A factor in Trump's victory was the poor performance of his opponents. His first opponent, Joe Biden, was in severe cognitive decline - he was struggling to speak, forgetting statistics, and was an electoral liability.

## How Donald Trump won the 2024 Presidential Election



*Jacob Morgan*  
*Politics & Insight*

And the debate between Trump and Biden in June 2024 displayed this. Biden appeared unsure of himself when walking, he looked weak in his facial expressions, and constantly lost focus, meanwhile Trump walked with confidence, held a firm expression throughout, and had very pointed attacks.

This debate led to key donors withdrawing support for Biden, and people calling for his withdrawal from the race, which he finally did on July 21<sup>st</sup>, leaving his Vice President, Kamala Harris, just 107 days to salvage the party's campaign.

The Democrats suffered another huge blow to their campaign on July 13<sup>th</sup>, when a bullet grazed Trump's ear at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, leading to an iconic photo, and him chanting 'Fight. Fight. Fight' to his supporters. This strong, determined message was the contrast of Biden - who still hadn't withdrawn yet - who already looked defeated.

This bullet allowed for Trump to increase campaign support. His claim of divine intervention saving his life united his MAGA base behind a religious message. Trump's son, Eric, commented that this was the moment his father rewon the

White House.

This event allowed Trump to further blame the 'radical left' as being the main political divider in the US - bringing himself even more support.

Once Biden pulled out, he was replaced by Kamala Harris, but she was just as ineffective. By 2024, the volatile American political climate didn't like Biden, they saw him as the reason for rising prices and high illegal migration, and Harris was a centrepiece of that administration, yet she didn't set out a plan to move from the Biden administration.

Harris offered no policy

alternatives, and rarely attacked Trump's previous record as

President, instead just targeting his criminal record, connecting with insignificant groups in society, and laughing awkwardly, making her even more difficult to watch than her predecessor, even though she was seen as victorious in the debate she had with Trump in September.

The combination of a volatile public desperate for an escape from a cost-of-living crisis, ineffective opposition campaigning, and an assassination attempt uniting his supporters led to Trump becoming the 47<sup>th</sup> President and completing the most infamous political comeback in US history.



### GLOSSARY:

Capitol - the United States' Parliament building in Washington D.C.



## Fashion in the Corridors: the English Department's King of Sustainable Swagger & RE's Own Style Icon

Bold and Timeless, Miss O'Connell showcases how both modern and vintage fashion work together in a style that's uniquely her own. She pairs sleek Bershka trousers with classic Dr. Martins boots, elevating the look with a charity shop belt and jewellery that not only reduces waste but adds personality and individuality to her outfit. Her jumper, found on Vinted and hand-made by Edinburgh Uni fashion student Mairi Noonan, adds a unique, crafted touch.

When asked about her fashion dos and don'ts, Miss O'Connell mentioned that one of the biggest style mistakes is wearing the same material from top to bottom, unless it is double denim done correctly. On the other hand, she encourages over-accessorizing, noting that the right mix can pull an outfit together effortlessly. Taking inspiration from Coco Chanel, she advises taking off the last item you put on to create balance, and emphasises the importance of creativity in what you



**Poppy Chambers**  
Fashion & Culture

wear. "Don't overthink it" she says "and don't be afraid to take a risk - stepping out of your comfort zone can make you feel more confident than ever".

For her fashion icons, Miss O'Connell pointed out Rosie Huntington-Whitely as her go-to inspiration for more classy, elegant moments, admiring her effortless chic style. She also draws inspiration from the rebellious creativity of Vivienne Westwood, the punk pioneer who changed fashion forever. When asked which celebrity she would swap wardrobes with, she was certain it would be Miley Cyrus. Miss O'Connell appreciates how Miley powers herself through her looks, exploring every era of her music with confidence, while developing her own distinct style.

If she could swap wardrobes with any teacher in school, Miss O'Connell had Mrs. Fleming at the top of her list for her consistently daring and extravagant style. Mr. Millham was next, who impressed with his sharp three-piece suits.

Bold and creative, Miss O'Connell proves that the best style comes from embracing individuality.

**Oliver Cooney**  
Fashion & Culture



Famous for his brilliantly wacky style, colour-coordinated outfits, and a beard only he could pull off, you've almost certainly seen Mr Jenkins strutting through the corridors. In our interview, he arrived exactly as expected: showcasing a masterclass in fashion.

He kicked things off with two standout charity-shop finds: a pair of Grenson tanned leather boots and brand-new Ralph Lauren stripy socks, one of his signature pieces. He paired them with Italian moleskin trousers and a Harris tweed jacket from Dun & Co. Staying true to his vibrant style, he wore an orange square-ended knit tie, a vintage Duggie tricol reversible scarf, an exclusive orange cardigan from *1 of 100*, and his iconic Easy-Peasy orange reading glasses.

Unsurprisingly, Mr Jenkins doesn't look to celebrities for inspiration. Instead, he credits his stylish wife, who works in a charity shop, with guiding his outfits and keeping them coherent yet expressive. He also emphasised his focus on ethically made

clothing, especially pieces from English brands that support British craftsmanship.

When asked about his favourite label, he admitted that if money were no object, he'd happily spend it all at heritage brand Sunspel. He also name-checked niche designers like Margaret Howell and John Smithley, expressing clear distaste for clothes that prioritise logos over quality.

On the big question of whose wardrobe he'd swap with, Mr Jenkins eventually (and unknowingly) picked his co-feature, Miss O'Connell, while also praising Mr Griffin, calling him "very, very cool indeed."

As for his fashion icks? Fast fashion, logo-obsession, wearing things purely for attention, and, above all, mullets, which he dismissed as attempts at irony.

# more, *Insight*

What motivated you to first get involved with SVP?

Although I was born in Australia, I've been connected to the SVP society since my childhood. My parents were deeply involved in our local SVP, and they were lead clothes sorters for the town, making sure families had what they needed, and I grew up helping however I could, by ironing and rolling clothes. This experience shaped me. It taught me to put faith and compassion into action, rather than just as words.

When I worked as a teacher in Southend, I continued volunteering with SVP, and I got a real understanding of the pressures that people face in poverty and homelessness. During Covid, my understanding deepened, I saw the isolation and fear, causing me to develop a vision that led to the work at St Vincent's Southend today.

Not only did I see people facing incredibly difficult circumstances, I saw hope, potential, and a community refusing to give up on anyone, so I wanted to be part of an organisation that helped people rebuild their lives.

## Interview with the Leader of the St Vincent de Paul Society Southend: Dan Cauchi



Jacob Morgan  
*Politics & Insight*

What are the most significant challenges your clients face at the Christmas period?

Loneliness, grief, financial pressure, and housing insecurity all intensify at Christmas for those that need support, as many choose between heating and eating, while others have no safe place to stay. Currently, we see a sharp rise in requests for food, clothing, warm meals, and support for emergency accommodation.

The emotional weight of the season for those separated from family can be overwhelming, so our aim is to stop anyone from feeling forgotten and ensuring everyone has somewhere to go.

What are your current goals and initiatives, and how can the community best support your work?

Our focus right now is on meeting urgent winter needs while helping people move forward long term. This includes our nightly hot meals, emergency accommodation support, our Christmas hamper campaign, the Hungry Cupboard initiative for families, and our Pioneer Programme - which helps people develop skills, confidence, routine, and positive pathways out of crisis.

The community can make a huge difference by donating food, clothing or funds. We have a match funder over December £1 = £2; volunteering their time; partnering with us through their workplaces; or simply spreading the word. Every act of kindness helps us reach more people, when demand has never been higher.

What programs or services do you think have had the most impact?

Our most impactful programmes are those combining immediate support and long-term change. The Kindness Kitchen ensures vulnerable people receive warm, nutritious meals and connection every night of the week. Our foodbank and community markets help families during hardship.

But the Pioneer Programme is where we see truly life-changing outcomes - people gaining confidence, overcoming addiction, learning new skills like 3D printing and cookery, and eventually moving into employment. Seeing someone who once felt hopeless begin to thrive again is exactly what SVP exists for.

How do you work with local government and businesses to address homelessness on a broader scale?

We take a collaborative approach because no single organisation can tackle homelessness alone. We work closely with Southend City Council, probation services, HARP, local schools, and NHS partners to ensure people receive coordinated, trauma-informed support.

Local businesses also play a crucial role - whether through sponsorship, donations, or offering opportunities for our participants. These partnerships help us prevent homelessness where possible, respond quickly when people are in crisis, and create sustainable pathways into stability and independence. The more we work together, the more impact we can make.



What is the SVP?

SVP Southend is a charity organisation dedicated to supporting vulnerable individuals in the local community. The society offers a range of services, including food bank services, hot meals, counselling, and outreach support. They aim to provide practical assistance and create a supportive environment for those in need, helping them achieve their goals and improve their quality of life.

# more, Chaplaincy

## Morning Prayer Legends

Morning prayer is a staple of Tommy More life. While some of us are still negotiating with our alarms, students like Luke and Jacob are already praying the morning office – calm, collected, and spiritually switched on. What a way to start the day. In the words of Mark Wahlberg – stay prayed up!

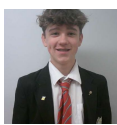
## Bible Study Blessings

Our Bible Study group has been absolutely on fire this term. We've been diving into the Gospel of John, exploring signs, miracles, and the deeper meaning behind Jesus' words. Discussions have been thoughtful, curious, and full of those "aha!" moments that make Scripture come alive.

## Games Club: Growing, Laughing, Thriving

Meanwhile, Games Club has been levelling up – literally. More students, more games, more laughter echoing down the corridor. Whether it's strategy, silliness, or pure chaos, there's always room for everyone.

## Living Out the Gospel Tommy More Style!



*Aidan Griffin*  
Chaplaincy

This half term theme has been all about living out the Gospel through action – showing our faith not just in what we say, but in what we do. As St Francis of Assisi wisely put it, "Preach the Gospel; when needed, use words." In other words, be loving, joyful, kind and you're already spreading the Good News, Tommy More style.

And honestly, we've been absolutely thriving in that mission.

## The Caritas Dream Team

Our Caritas team has been working incredibly hard, putting faith into action with creativity and dedication. They've organised:

- The Sixth Form Quiz
- The Adventurous Treasure Hunt
- The Lively Bazaar

And more behind the scenes that most of us never notice. Their energy is a perfect example of living the Gospel through service.

## Mass for the Deceased

In November, we gathered for the Mass for the Deceased, remembering loved ones and honouring their memory. It was a beautiful, peaceful moment of community, reflection, and hope – one of those times that reminds us of what faith and togetherness truly mean.

## Nativity Scenes Appearing Like Christmas Magic

As we walk through school now, the Nativity displays are popping up everywhere – quiet reminders of the coming celebration, and of the humble beginning of the story that changed everything.

## A Final Blessing

So yes – here at Tommy More, we're not just talking about living the Gospel. We're doing it. Together. Joyfully. Faithfully.

And sometimes with a well-placed boomshakalaka.

Wishing everyone a blessed, peaceful, and joy-filled Christmas!



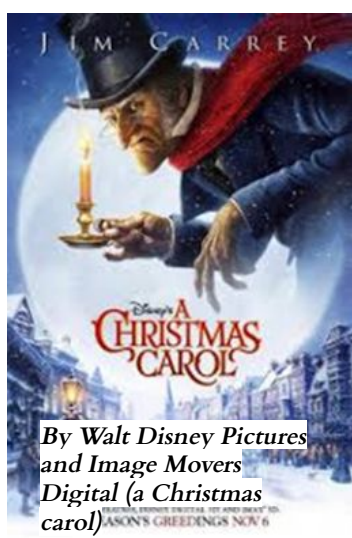
# more, Film

## The Nightmare Before Christmas

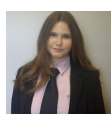
'The Nightmare Before Christmas' directed by Henry Selick, is the perfect crossover of Christmas and Halloween, appealing to those who are not a fan of the typical "holiday magic" in a Christmas movie. Instead, we see Tim Burton's distinct gothic and surreal style which tends to create a darker atmosphere. The movie remains a holiday classic with memorable songs, well-constructed main characters, and aesthetic stop motion animation. The unique and timeless movie follows the genres of family, holiday, and fantasy, making it the perfect movie to watch around the most wonderful time of the year. Influences and visual styles originate from the traditional German expressionism, focusing on bold emotions and gestures.

## A Christmas Carol

If you are nearing your GCSEs, or you are just in the festive mood, 'A Christmas Carol' (2009), starring Jim Carrey, has a traditionalist storyline with a modern touch. As a GCSE student, the film will allow you to visually understand the plot and the significant characters, while also allowing you to use the film as a refresh if you are struggling with your revision. The choice of animation adds a comedic side to the film, exaggerating the characters features to fit the description in the novella. However, you also see Charles Dickens intentions behind creating the original novel, proving that even the nastiest people can redeem themselves and find love in something they had once lost.



## Christmas Classic Cinema!



Isabelle Morgan  
Film

### It's a Wonderful Life

'It's a wonderful life' directed by Frank Capra, is a Hollywood classic with themes of despair and loneliness, particularly around the holidays, which offers a message of hope for those who are struggling. Community is a key tool that is used to bring George -the main character- out of his darkest hours, showing the true meaning of Christmas joy. The film is timeless, being made in the 1940s, with only black and white being accessible. However, it is still the epitome of Christmas spirit and magic, being a consistent favourite amongst many around Christmas time. The movie is classed as a cultural staple across the UK, being a key part of the festive season for many.

### E.T

'E.T' directed by Steven Spielberg, may not be a Christmas film, but it certainly is a family favourite which many of you may not have watched before. The film captures childlike wonder and nostalgia, especially for generation x, who grew up in this era. Now, the younger generations can see the beautiful exploration of the unique friendship between Elliott - the main character- and the little extraterrestrial. Even forty years after its original release, E.T still holds up as special, emotional, and heartwarming feel in many hearts, being one of the most recognisable creatures in movie history.

### Nativity

'Nativity' directed by Debby Isitt, is a nostalgic film, in which you revisit your own childhood experience of Christmas during school time. Martin Freeman is brilliant as Mr. Maddens, and the chaotic chemistry with Mr. Poppy brings constant humour. The film is adventurous and chaotic, embodying true Christmas magic with emotional moments that feel real. The children's natural and unpolished performance makes the story feel genuine and heartwarming. The setting is personal and memorable, as the classrooms are filled with handmade Christmas crafts and classic primary school displays. The blend of comedy and sincerity captures the spirit of the season, making the movie timeless and unable to lose its charm.



On November 10th, COP30 opened in the tropical city of Belem, Brazil, bringing together nearly 200 countries to discuss changes in global climate policy. Leaders, activists and scientists gathered in the heart of the Amazon, emphasising the symbolic importance of hosting the summit in one of the world's most threatened ecosystems. Delegates came with urgent demands: stronger climate targets, expanded finance and decisive steps to protect the Amazon. But with expectations higher than ever, the question lingers, is COP30 the breakthrough the planet needs, or is it just another dead end in disguise?

Despite the intense negotiations, countries ultimately failed to reach an agreement on phasing out fossil fuels. Colombia, the EU,

and 80 other countries tried to find a way to persuade other leaders to step away from oil, coal, and gas usage. However, this only made matters worse. Negotiators from Arab countries refused to work together with nations who wanted to lose fossil fuels, with the Saudi delegate stating, "we make energy in our capital, not in yours". In the end, no agreement was made. In more than 30 years of annual climate meetings, reducing fossil fuels has only been discussed twice. If the planet is to be saved, world leaders need to step up.

However, some progress was made. At COP29, richer countries pledged to provide developing nations with at least \$300 billion a year by

2035 to help tackle climate change. Poorer countries argued this wasn't enough, so at this year's COP, Brazil published a "roadmap" outlining how the new \$1.3 trillion target could be achieved. This budget could drastically change the way developing nations protect the climate, however there is some uncertainty in its improved plan. It remains vastly unclear how much of this money will come from public or private sources, since richer nations have a history of failing to meet financial agreements. But with so many past promises left unfulfilled, can the world really trust these new pledges?

Although there were setbacks, COP30 did



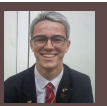
COP30 Summit disrupted by a fire in the venue  
- The Guardian

deliver some more hopeful developments. Brazil launched the ambitious 'Tropical Forests Forever Facility', a fund aiming to raise \$125 billion to reward countries for protecting their rainforest. This is one of the largest financial efforts proposed to protect tropical forests in history, and it could possibly absorb vast amounts of carbon and shelter thousands of species. This sense of urgency was made clear when a fire broke out inside the COP30 venue, forcing thousands to evacuate and exemplifying the dangers of climate-caused wildfires. While not perfect, these steps show real action is possible when political powers group together in a state of climate emergency.

Despite decades of COP negotiations driving some global climate action, opposing views and competing national interests between the EU and Middle East means COP30 is unlikely to make a major difference. While past agreements have had some positive impacts, scientists warn that without faster, stronger action, the world remains stagnant in progress and edges towards disaster.

## Why Does it Feel Like Christmas is Starting in November?

Oliver Cooney  
Fashion & Culture



Don't worry, you're not imagining it. Christmas really has been creeping further up the calendar every year. The moment Halloween decorations come down, fairy lights, jingles, and Christmas jumpers seem to take their place. Christmas music begins to play on the radio by mid-November, supermarkets wheel out mince pies in early October, and festive adverts appear long before most people have even thought about advent calendars. But why is this happening?

A huge part of the answer lies in what retailers call the Golden Quarter, the period from October to December when the retail industry makes the most money. This three-month window captures everything from Halloween to Black Friday to Christmas, and big-name retailers make millions from it. The earlier they can stretch that window, the more time they have to tempt shoppers with deals, decorations and festive "essentials".

This is where Christmas creep comes from: the gradual shift of Christmas-themed products, adverts, music, and events into earlier and earlier parts of the year. Behind the cosy snowflakes, glittering displays and candy-cane branding lies a simple motive, money. Retailers know that festive imagery boosts sales, so pushing Christmas earlier helps maximise profits with sensationalised sales, early-bird promotions, and social-media-ready Christmas campaigns.

And although it sounds dramatic, the evidence is everywhere. In 2024, some UK supermarkets began selling mince pies on 7th September, that's 109 days before Christmas. Christmas markets, once a firmly late-November tradition, now open their doors as soon as Halloween ends. Cities light their Christmas decorations earlier every year, often during the first week of November rather than the final weeks of the month.

Our listening habits reflect the shift too. Data from recent years shows that Christmas classics like Last Christmas by Wham! and Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas Is You began charting in early November in both 2023 and 2024. As soon as supermarkets push Christmas forward, streaming charts and radio playlists follow, reinforcing the idea that November is now "festive season".

Then there are the adverts, the cultural moment that many people still consider the unofficial start of

Christmas. In 2025, John Lewis released its annual Christmas advert on 4 November, a full 10 days earlier than the previous year. At almost the exact same moment, Mariah Carey posted her now-iconic "It's Time!" video on 1 November, officially declaring the beginning of Christmas for her millions of followers. These two events have become modern seasonal markers, and this year, they arrived earlier than ever. Industry trackers for 2025 show that many brands followed suit, launching their festive campaigns in early November or even late October.

All of this leaves one big question: why now? Part of the answer is economic. With rising costs and uncertainty, people want to spread out their spending. Retailers know this, so they nudge Christmas earlier to give consumers more time to shop. And because modern streaming platforms and social media operate outside traditional seasonal schedules, people can engage with festive content whenever they like. Early demand creates earlier supply, and earlier supply creates a new cultural norm.

Like it or hate it, Christmas creep is here, and November may now be Christmas territory for good.



Mariah Carey's "It's Time" Video, 2025  
- Youtube

# more, *Insight*

## Who are they?

The SOS are a local indie-rock band comprising of four students from our sixth form, with their band manager being Year 13 student, Ewan Morrison. The four talented musicians are Will Gracie, the lead singer and guitarist, rhythm guitarist Ethan Ong, Leo Ryan-Hall on the drums, and Connor Lyons playing the bass.

The band have released a range of hit singles, including *Feel (Alive)*, *Six String*, and *Write You a Song*, which are available to listen to on Spotify. The group have also had many successful gigs, attracting crowds to local music venues.

## What's the meaning of the name?

The name is up for interpretation with what it truly means, but the band like to say that it's named after three iconic British bands - The Stone Roses, Oasis, and The Smiths, three bands which have a great influence on their music style.

## Do you have any upcoming gigs?

They've got a gig at Chinnery's on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, with tickets selling fast on their [website!](#)

## The SOS: A More Profile & Interview



Jacob Morgan  
Politics & Insight

## How did the band come together?

Connor explains that while on a bus journey home with Ethan and Will, they were trying to find a band name. They used a band name generator, putting in a selection of words to see what it would produce. After some interesting suggestions, they settled on the name, *The SOS*.

## What's been your most memorable performance so far, and what made it stand out?

From Leo's perspective, all their gigs are energetic, loud, and very fun. Their most memorable performance will always be their *Battle of the Bands* heat in September. As underdogs in the competition with two fantastic bands with amazing fan bases and great sets, *Southern Heights* and *Painting Cars*, the SOS remarkably won with a more engaging and louder performance.

## How would you describe your genre?

Will says that the band's sound is influenced a lot by 90s British rock bands, like *Oasis* and *The Verve*.

The SOS sound is simple, combining powerful drumming and guitar with singing lyrics loud and proud.

## What's your creative process when writing new music - does someone lead or is it a full-group collaboration?

Will makes the songs, but even he doesn't know how he does it. He explains that it shouldn't take longer than a few minutes to make a good song, as it should come to you naturally. Will brings new songs to the groups to practice, which are checked to see if Leo's drumming part flows well. They are currently recording their songs as demos, which should be released soon.



## Where can I keep up with The SOS?



# The Dead Internet Theory

Danny Vanner-Smith  
Conspiracy



The Dead Internet Theory is a theory suggesting that a large proportion of the Internet is composed of AI bots and AI generated content. The theory proposes that most of the content we engage with online has been, since around 2016, designed and produced by AI, and as it continues to evolve and continues its engagement with our modern lives - only seems to reinforce the likelihood that we engage with an AI generated advertisement, video, news article or comment as it becomes cheaper and less time consuming to generate.

The Theory rose to the height of its popularity in 2021 with news stations like *The Atlantic* covering the theory with articles like "Maybe You Missed It, but the Internet 'Died' Five Years Ago" and YouTube channels with

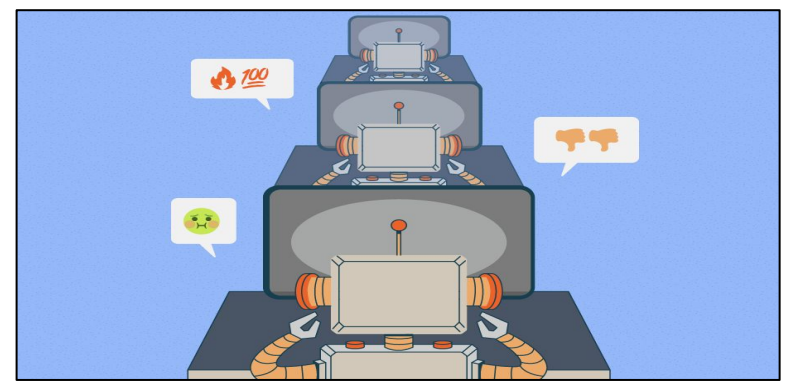
large followings making documentaries on the subject when its influence was still at its peak. However, articles are not slowing down with large newspaper branches like *The Guardian* and *The Conversation* still publishing articles about the theory, showing how influential this idea is becoming in the modern world. The theory gained traction due to how realistic the claim sounded, and it continues to garner proponents today as AI's influence only seems to grow.

More extreme renditions of the theory suggest that governments are using AI to suppress the media

and the population for unknown reasons, as well as other suggestions that the Internet is 100% dead, however, these claims aren't generally agreed

upon by most who believe in the theory as ideas about the extremity of the claim are inconclusive. But, proposing that if AI goes unchecked and is allowed to continue growing and evolving at the rate it is currently at, the more paranoid ideas about the percentage of AI in the Internet and its role in influencing opinions may become much more than just a theory and instead a warning about the future of online activity.

Overall, the Dead Internet Theory is currently regarded as a more extreme version of current usage of AI on the Internet, with no sufficient evidence to support more extreme claims of its severity, whether that be more radical claims that the Internet is 100% dead or even that AI is over half of online activity. However, as AI continues to be



unregulated in its expansion and in its influence, with most modern media having some form of AI engagement and constant exposure to AI generated content online, the Dead Internet Theory becomes more akin to a warning about the future of online engagement and encourages everyone to be more wary about how we use the Internet. As AI becomes more relevant to how society functions it is important to try and not become dependent, and be able to distinguish whether something we look at is real or fake. So maybe not using ChatGPT for your homework is for the best, for everyone involved...



# Why We Do What We Do: A Starter Guide to Sociology

Olivia Barriscale  
Sociology



Have you ever wondered why people follow trends, why some rules exist, or why different groups behave differently? Well, sociology can help us explain this! Sociology is the study of how people live together, how communities work, and how our surroundings shape who we are. It allows us to understand what sociologists call social agencies, and this includes education, families, the media, religion, which all affect how we think and behave within society. Throughout this article I will give you the quick explanation of why sociology is important to us and a quick introduction to the most popular theories!

So, why is sociology important to us? Well, it is great for highlighting social patterns and extracting social issues. By these patterns and issues being brought to our attentions it means we can change things and make changes to flawed parts of society. It is sociologists who find these problems, and they present them to the government so changes can be made. An example would be within schools; they make changes to the curriculum to better fit the rapidly changing society around us. This year the government changed the curriculum so that it now focuses on providing a more balanced, skills-oriented education with a stronger emphasis on core subjects and real-world skills like digital literacy and financial education. Some of the big changes are reduced subject content and more access to the arts, allowing students to express more creativity. these changes will affect and benefit your education. So, without sociology we wouldn't be able to pick these problems

out as easily, which would make life a whole lot harder as it would take us longer to see the problems and adjust!

Sociology is a big part of our lives, and it has some big key concepts, and these can help us understand our society and how it works in more depth. Let's begin easy with the term culture. This includes the beliefs, values, and traditions that shape how people live, this includes the food we eat, holidays we celebrate, even how we dress! Another concept that gives us an insight to our world is what sociologists call norms. This can be disguised as unwritten rules that influence the way we act and can influence how other perceive you. This can include the smallest things such as saying thank you, queuing politely, as these are things we all do without realising as they are just normal expected things for everyone and it would be weird if we didn't do them. Sociology also analyses the roles we take on within society. It can range from student to sibling, friend, or parent and by having

this role attached to it, it can affect how we are treated and the way we behave within society due to expectations that influence are behaviours.

Now, to end this journey we have taken today let's do a quick recap of what this article has covered. Sociology helps us see patterns within society that enables us to learn why things happen, and how things could be improved for everyone. That's what the terms explained aid us in doing as they're explanations to why people act certain ways whether it's part of their culture, a norm, or their role within society.



## GLOSSARY:

Curriculum: the subjects comprising a course of study in a school or college.

# more, *Insight*

## Introduction

Most students know Mr Emmerson as the relaxed and organised English teacher, some students know he plays basketball, but there's a lot more to him than meets the eye, but not many people know how accomplished he truly is in terms of his past or his current professional accolades.

## Sporting Superstar to STM English Teacher: Mr Emmerson



Gustav Bolek  
*Insight*

## Early Life

Mr Emmerson first began playing basketball in Year 7 at St Thomas More, where fellow students encouraged him to step onto the court, slowly progressing in the sport at the school, and started taking basketball outside of school too, joining local divisions, and slowly improving his skills, despite facing difficulties along the way.

## Professional Life

His talent took him up the ranks to playing for the London Lion's in the 2008/09 season. He then played for the Essex Pirates in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 seasons, where he was coached by former Great Britain u20s coach, Tim Lewis. However, it was found he had been playing with a slipped disk in his back for six months, leading to surgery, and the end of his professional career.

## Post Professional Life/Teaching

After his surgery, Mr. Emmerson decided to return to St Thomas More, doing his teacher training in 2012. Simultaneously he returned to basketball, playing for the Southend Saints, this time not professionally, finding a balance between playing and teaching. This work-life balance has become easier over time, with a lot of training being in the evenings. He still plays basketball now, for a local team and a national league team, simply for the love of the game.

## Balancing Professions

He says he doesn't struggle managing his work-life balance, which includes playing for two teams, teaching, and helping his two children (in Years 5 and 8) play the sport too. Specifically, he'll take his children to their games whilst marking schoolwork on the sidelines.

Mr Emmerson advises students to always put education before sport as a safety net, considering his professional career was cut short due to injury, and this can happen to anyone. He tells students now to "Work hard but work smarter first".

## Closing Line

Mr Emmerson's professional career was sadly cut short, but it proves that you don't have to start sports as a young child to make it if you apply the right work ethic, and his story provides a good lesson for young students with a passion for sport.



# more, *Sport*

## 2026 World Cup: Is it Finally Coming Home?

Sixty years on from England's last silverware, it feels as if now is the closest we have been to getting our hands on a trophy once again. These last few tournaments have been heartbreaking for England fans, with two Euro finals lost and late knockout stage exits in the World Cup. However, will it make that moment of glory all so glorious when it arrives?

As of recent form, England are now close favourites, just behind Spain, to bring it home from across the Atlantic. Through the qualifiers, England maintained a 100% record, winning our eight games and not conceding a goal, making us the first European nation to do this. The proof is in the pudding that this might just be our strongest squad ever. With a new manager in charge who

has had a fair share of domestic success, there should be nothing stopping England securing the World Cup. Although, if we dive deeper into our history, it is never as easy as it seems.

One reason our drought has lasted sixty years is due to our inability to perform under magnitudes of pressure. Time and time again, we have come so close but fall just short. Whether it's the extra time loss to Croatia, the penalties against Italy at Wembley, or the last ten minutes against Spain, the recurring theme of England is choking. Therefore, Tuchel needs to find a way of injecting confidence



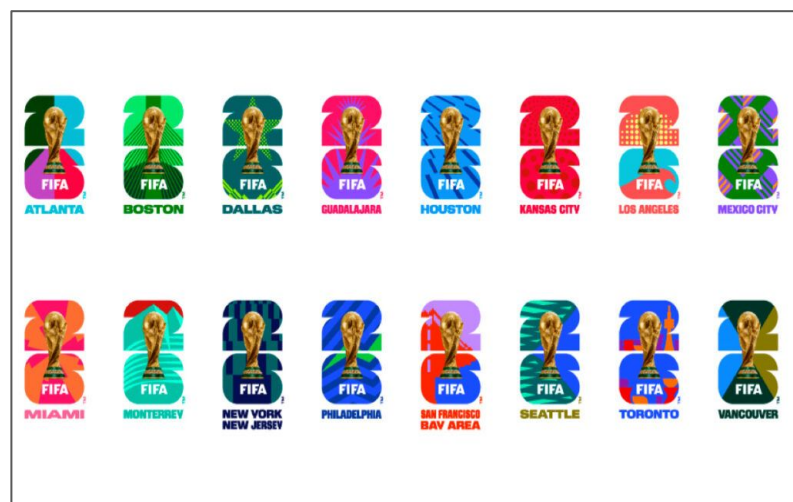
*Ruben Curham*  
Sport

into the team in those crucial moments, which Southgate failed to achieve. England have been drawn into Group L for the 2026 World Cup where they will be facing Ghana, Panama, and Croatia. Realistically, we should be able to top the group winning all our games. It is the knockout stage which will be the real test. Despite having much progress in recent years, the biggest test we have beaten in a major tournament is Germany in the Round of 16 at Euro 2020. We should still not shy away from potential fixtures against France, Spain, and Brazil – if we want to be the best, we must beat the best.

A major advantage this England squad has compared to past squads is depth. Guaranteed starters like Harry Kane, Declan Rice, and Jude Bellingham are our true threat, but the number of options on the bench is impressive. Players like Phil Foden, Cole Palmer, and Trent Alexander-Arnold have struggled to get starts recently, showing how many elite players we have right now.

So, as we look ahead to our trip across the pond, England fans alike are hoping that it will be worth the sixty-year wait. There is no doubt, true England fans will be backing the

boys through thick and thin – as always in hope for a glorious victory. The question rests upon another tournament, do England have what it takes to bring it home?



# more, *Philosophy*

## Socrates' Influence

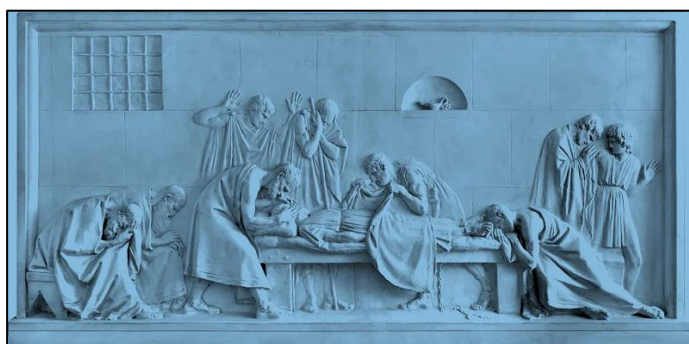
He directly influenced Plato, who created the first university of the western world, the Stoics who relied heavily on his Socratic method to avoid inconsistencies, the Renaissance where Erasmus (a significant Dutch Renaissance theologian) called him "Sancte Socrates", meaning Holy Socrates. Philosophy itself was shaped by his influence where he pivoted the focus of philosophy from natural history to an explicit concern for human affairs. His life has been reflected upon by generations of philosophers. His impact was so significant that any philosopher before his time is defined as "Pre-Socratic". He is referred to by some to be "the Wisest" or having a daimon (an inner guiding voice).

## The Socratic Problem

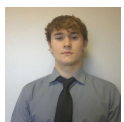
As mentioned earlier, Socrates never wrote anything, his appearance, character, and his real words are unknown, this raises the issue of which account is a reliable interpretation of Socrates. For example, Xenophon, a military commander, often overstated traits of nobility in his accounts which misrepresents who Socrates truly was, and Aristophanes deliberately slanders Socrates in his play *The Clouds*. Everybody who 'recorded' Socrates may have had ulterior motives, to push their own agendas, Plato's is the most reliable as a direct student.

## Conclusion

Nobody will ever know who exactly Socrates was, unless an archaeological miracle occurs and we find his tomb or time travel is invented, but the life of a philosopher exists in their wisdom, denying wisdom is still a kind of wisdom and even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, people write and buy books on Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and others. Humans will always look to the past or to their elders for wisdom and this is shown to be true constantly. Socrates, a humble citizen of Athens who tasked himself with questioning the wisdom in others, remains as the father of philosophy as we know it.



## Socrates: The Father of Western Philosophy



Oliver Abel  
*Philosophy*

Socrates is a mystery of a philosopher, whose most documented part of life was its ending, recorded in Plato's *Apology of Socrates* and Xenophon's *Memorabilia* which documents his trial and execution for *impiety* and corrupting the youth – he questioned traditional religious beliefs and encouraged the young to question authority – and still, he lives on as the most *preeminent* western philosopher who still influences the modern day.

## His Ideas

Socrates held knowing oneself and recognising one's own ignorance in high esteem, and Socrates would exercise this through the 'Socratic Method' where in dialogues he would expose errors or inconsistencies in his *interlocutor's* arguments – the topics often relating to morality and virtue – demanding yes-no answers to reduce his *interlocutor* to admit their own ignorance, exposing people for arrogance, however this method made him unpopular and lead to his execution. Socrates, in his humility, would deny that he ever had any wisdom, only that he possessed "human wisdom", recognising what he doesn't know. He believed that the pursuit of wisdom (basically the definition of philosophy) is a kind of *piety* because it is a method of discovering creation, the nature of all things, the soul, discovering what you do and don't know and from this pursuing knowledge on your shortcomings or being more passionate for what you already know. That, Socrates argues, is *piety*.

## GLOSSARY:

Interlocutor – a person who takes part in a dialogue or conversation  
Preeminent – more important, more successful or of a higher standard than others  
Piety – strong devotion, often for a religion  
Impiety – a lack of proper reverence or respect for God  
Preeminent – very distinguished in some way, surpassing all others