

HAKUNA MATATA



by the IGCSE students of Modern High School for Girls



Editorial



This year has been hectic, to say the least, and has held a surprise for us around every corner. Yet, today, here we all are. We survived the nightmare that was 2020. It felt impossible many times- the days seemed to whizz by, yet could not have gone slower.

We all prayed for the year to end hoping that the terrible happenings would be left behind and we would start fresh in the new year of 2021. In some ways, I am relieved that the year is over but some part of me feels sad. We had so many new experiences, connected with people we thought that we had lost touch with and looked at life with a new perspective. The last year opened up many things for us as international students.

We had an online exchange programme with Felsted school which for all of us was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and one none of us are likely to forget anytime soon. We took a different approach to learning - online classes. It is troubling most of the time, sitting in front of our computers for hours on end and not being able to see our teachers and friends in person. However, we gradually got used to it and here we are today. The newsletter is a creative outlet for us. We leave our worries behind, even if it's for an hour a week, and we bring our thoughts and ideas to you, our readers.

It has been quite a journey, I must admit. From being a class of very different people to being a small family. Unfortunately, this is our last issue as IGCSE class 9 students but we can't wait to show you more once our next semester begins. A big thank you to our teachers and all my classmates as well as our loyal readers.

This is the IGCSE class of '22, signing off.

Sanjana C Mitra

Chief editor.



Science



In the field of science, there have been fascinating breakthroughs and discoveries. The constraints of 2020 have not posed as a barrier to some of the most mind-blowing scientific discoveries and events. 2020 has surprised science enthusiasts with path-breaking discoveries, inventions and observations.

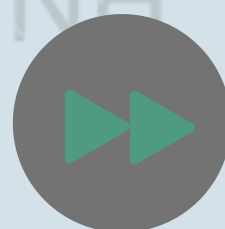
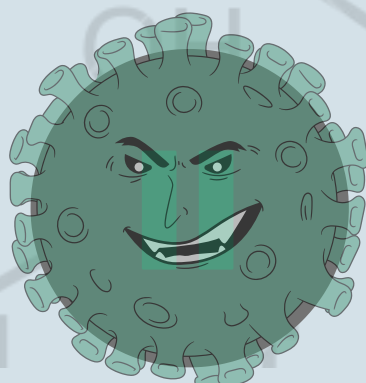
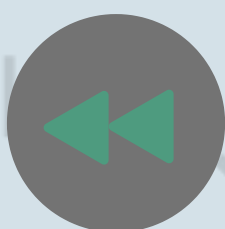
21st January - World's oldest meteor crater found. The Yarrabubba Crater was discovered in Western Australia and is the oldest meteor crater in the world, dating back to 2.229 billion years approximately.

25th January - First tyrannosaur embryos discovered. Palaeontologists have discovered the first baby Tyrannosaur embryos in Alberta and Montana. It was the first time that Tyrannosaur embryos and fossils were found.

24th February - Mars is humming. The InSight Lander recognised over 400 marsquakes and a mysterious humming sound on the Red Planet. The Mars wind, which is strong enough to hide quakes and is responsible for seismically blank periods contributes significantly to the hum.

2nd April - Oldest Homo erectus skull discovered. The earliest known skull of a Homo erectus was unearthed near Johannesburg in South Africa by a group of Australian-led researchers. This discovery showed that our ancestors existed 200,000 years earlier than we had previously thought.

30th July - Perseverance Rover Launch. The Perseverance Rover, which is a large part of the Mars 2020 exploration mission, is expected to reach Mars' surface on 18th February this year!



October - Nobel Prize

5th October- Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine. Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Michael Houghton received the Nobel Prize “for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus”.

6th October- Nobel Prize in Physics. Roger Penrose shared half the prize “for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity”. Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez received the other half of the Nobel Prize in Physics “for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy”.

7th October- Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna broke the glass ceiling when they received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry “for the development of a method for genome editing”. 26th October - Water on Moon. This suggests that water may be distributed across the Lunar Surface and not just restricted to the darker areas of the moon.

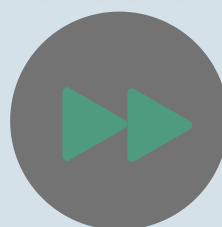
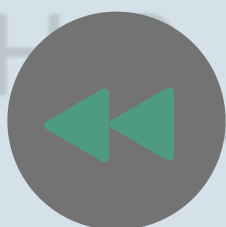
28th October - Plastic Eating Super enzymes. Scientists developed a super enzyme which degrades plastic waste 6 times faster than ever before! The researchers engineered the super enzyme based on a bug discovered in Japan in 2016.

28th October - A reef taller than the Empire State Building. Scientists discovered a coral reef at the Northern tip of Australia’s Great Barrier Reef which stands tall at a shocking 1640 ft.

30th November - First crops harvested in space. NASA astronaut Kate Rubins harvested the first crops, Radishes, aboard the International Space Station in a microgravity environment.

21st December - The Great Conjunction. The conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn after 400 years was a perfect end-of-the-year treat for skywatchers!

The news of such discoveries has kept us going throughout this unforgettable year and has given us each a ray of hope.



Sports

2020 was a unique year in which there were more downs than ups. The sporting scene was dominated by curtailed seasons, postponed competitions, vigorous bio-bubbles and uncertainty, because of the coronavirus pandemic.

However, even this was not even to curtail the enthusiasm rooted in these Indian sports stars. Due to a maternity break and calf injury, Sania Mirza made her way back to the tennis courts after two years, and it turned out to be a memorable one. Partnering with Nadiia Kichenok, Sania won the WTA Hobart International women's doubles title, dominating the final on January 18 with a 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Indian hockey could not have asked for a better start to the year when, on January 19, they beat Netherlands (ranked 3rd globally) at Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium in their debut FIH Pro League tie. As Ronaldo Singh became the world junior No. 1, and the phenomenal rise of Indian cycling on the world stage continues. Ronaldo topped Individual Sprint, Keirin and Time Trial, in the UCI World Junior Rankings revised in January, and was also part of the Indian team, which placed No. 1 in the Team Sprint.

This year, the Sports Ministry awarded five Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna honours in an unprecedented first. The awardees included cricketer Rohit Sharma, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, para-athlete Mariyappan Thangavelu, table tennis Manika Batra, and women's hockey team captain Rani. In addition, the Arjuna award was presented to a total of 27 athletes and 13 coaches (eight for a lifetime and five in the regular category) were bestowed with the Dronacharya award. Taking into account the remaining National Sports Awards, there were 73 winners in all, which was also a first.

The Indian Cricket Team won the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against all odds for the second time Down Under. They also managed to end Australia's 32-year unbeaten streak at the Gabba in the process, as they chased down a target of 328 runs to win the series 2-1 on the final day of the fourth test. This brings us to the end of our 2020 wrap. With the Tokyo Olympics coming up soon, let's hope to make more spectacular memories in 2021.



News

2020 was a year which made it difficult for us to put the remote down. News channels could never get rest, and every small thing seemed to break the internet. To summarise this eventful year, to say the least, we present to you a synopsis of some of the major events which rightfully classified as "breaking news." The COVID 19 pandemic- Although this outbreak started in late 2019, it definitely played an important role in reshaping our lives in 2020. With the worldwide lockdowns, work from home policies, online lectures, masks, social distancing measures and travel restrictions, this year was nothing less than a roller coaster ride, all because of this virus. With over 99 million cases and 2 million deaths worldwide, this virus was more than a few months of mask mandates, but an international disaster.



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DIPLOMACY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS- 2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic had a huge impact on diplomacy and relations between countries. Tensions between the US and China increased during the course of the pandemic with the US blaming the PRC for the pandemic and withholding important information as well. The US-China trade war has resulted in a sharp decline in bilateral trade and trade diversion effects. This affected global trade but also bilateral trade among countries.

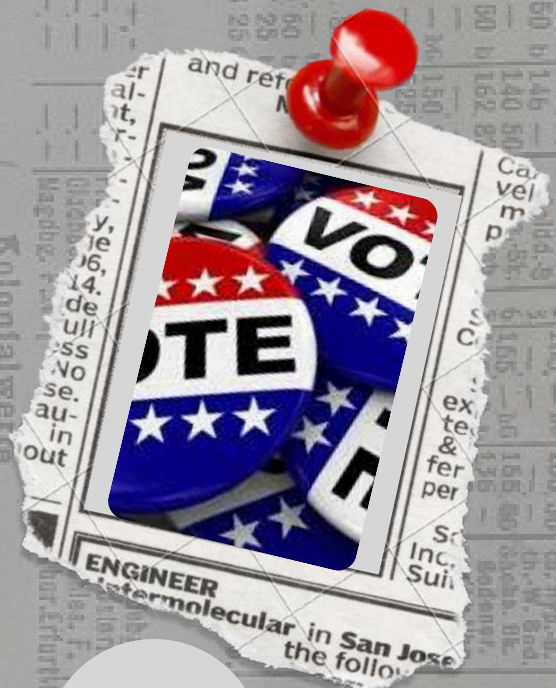
However, with the coming of a new administration in 2021, bilateral relations between China and the USA are set to improve in the future. Relations between China and India also deteriorated with the Indian government banning 50 different Chinese apps. Border disputes have become extremely common in this disputed border between China and India with 20 Indian soldiers being killed in a struggle in June 2020. Though China and India tried to enter negotiations, disputes are still ongoing. Overall, 2020 saw a rise in countries helping each other to combat the pandemic especially with the shortage of necessary supplies like masks and medical drugs and are looking for help regarding vaccine doses from countries who have developed effective vaccines.



THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS- One of the biggest events of the year was the 2020 Presidential Elections of the United States of America. Pitting two opposing ideologies amongst each other along with the numerous campaigns and speeches of the two candidates Joe Biden and Donald Trump was something that each one of us kept thinking of what would happen next. The Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the Black Lives Matter movement, were of great significance in the people's choices of voting for president. In the end, Joe Biden won the elections creating history along the way as Kamala Harris, his vice president became the first female vice president as well as the first African American. However, Trump's loss did not do well with the Republicans and there were numerous protests along with the storming of Capitol Hill. In the end, on 20th January he was inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States of America.

Diplomacy and International Relations - 2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic had a huge impact on diplomacy and relations between countries. Tensions between the US and China increased during the course of the pandemic with the US blaming the PRC for the pandemic and withholding important information as well. The US-China trade war has resulted in a sharp decline in bilateral trade and trade diversion effects. This affected global trade but also bilateral trade among countries. However, with the coming of a new administration in 2021, bilateral relations between China and the USA are set to improve in the future. Relations between China and India also deteriorated with the Indian government banning 50 different Chinese apps. Border disputes have become extremely common in this disputed border between China and India with 20 Indian soldiers being killed in a struggle in June 2020. Though China and India tried to enter negotiations, disputes are still ongoing. Overall, 2020 saw a rise in countries helping each other to combat the pandemic especially with the shortage of necessary supplies like masks and medical drugs and are looking for help regarding vaccine doses from countries who have developed effective vaccines.

THE BEIRUT EXPLOSION- On 4th of August, a huge blast shook the capital city of Lebanon. A neglected vessel containing ammonium nitrate caused an explosion in the city's port. It was a tragedy which caused over 200 deaths, thousands of injuries, and property damage worth over 15 billion US dollars, leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless. During this time, several countries recognised this event as a massive tragedy and extended support and help to the country through organisations such as the United Nations and Red Cross. This event combined with the citizens' discontent with their government really created a problem for the country. However, their citizens acted in unity and took to the streets to help their fellow civilians and carry out a cleanup.



Recipe

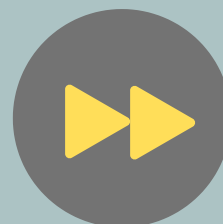
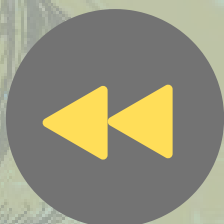
TIRANGA PANEER CUTLET

Ingredients:

- 6 carrots (medium-sized)
- 300g Peas
- 200g Paneer
- Mint leaves
- Coriander leaves
- 3 Garlic cloves
- Bread crumbs 200g
- Cornflower 3tbsp
- Raisins Cashew nuts
- Pickled sweet and sour mangoes (mango chutney)
- Green chillies
- Salt to taste
- Sugar to taste
- ¼ tsp fennel seeds
- ¼ cumin seeds
- 2 tsp Ginger paste
- Ghee

Method:

For the mango chutney: Make a paste of the sweet and sour pickled mangoes with the garlic, coriander leaves, chopped green chillies and mints leaves. For the cutlet: Cut the paneer into four large cubes. Marinate it with the mango chutney and keep aside for ½ an hour. Grate the carrots and stir-fry with the dry fruits in ½ tbsp of ghee. Add 1 tsp ginger paste, salt, finely chopped green chillies. Add a little bit of sugar. Make a paste of peas, rest of the ginger paste, fennel seeds, and chopped chillies. Add salt and sugar and stir-fry the mixture. Add a layer of the carrot filling on top of a paneer cube. Add a layer of the peas-paste on the bottom part of the paneer cube. Coat the paneer cubes with cornflower and breadcrumbs and deep fry them. Serve hot with mint chutney and salad.



Reflections

If someone asked me 'how is this year going' a few months back, my response would be the same as many-'it is a nightmare that seems never-ending' but now I would like to rephrase it and term the year 2020 as memorable. As the days passed by I realized how important it is to stay true to our values. Being confined within the four walls of my house made me feel trapped but also made me perceive how to sustain myself with the minimum.

The boredom felt in the first few months paved the way to unlock the creative me. I understood how important it is to look forward to something and that is what got me through this year. I did not accomplish this year unscathed but I do not regret these 365 days either. Here's to a 2020 wrap!

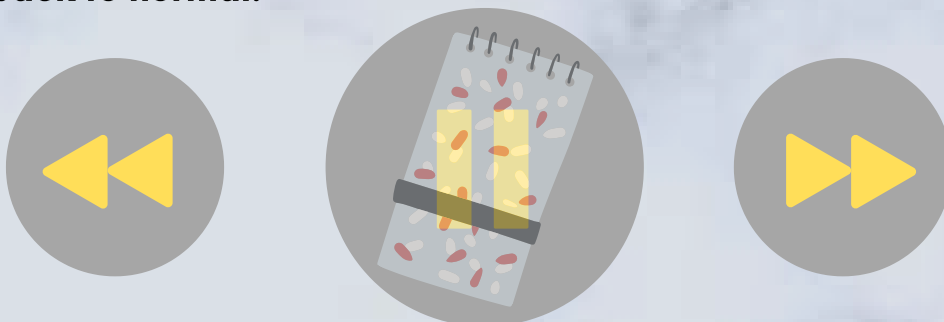
Business

Despite 2020 being a bit of a roller coaster for the world's economy, there were many breakthroughs in the entrepreneurial world. The year of pandemic called for everyone to continue with their work or school but from home. To do so, one requires an extremely strong internet connection.

The 'Satellite Mega Constellation' enabled global connectivity and provided every corner of the world with high-speed internet. While doing so, the satellite mega constellation also litters space stations and increases the number of satellites in orbit rapidly. Hence this breakthrough could result in mayhem without a concrete set of international rules. Website designing, catering, online tutoring, business consulting and IT support are supposed to be the most profitable small businesses in 2020.

The unexpected turn in events had resulted in business organisations altering their strategies and approach towards their customers and the market. The Covid 19 outbreak drained supply chains and supermarkets. The government had to find a solution to the public health dilemma. Moreover, economics, politics, capitalism, technology and society were all entangled together this year.

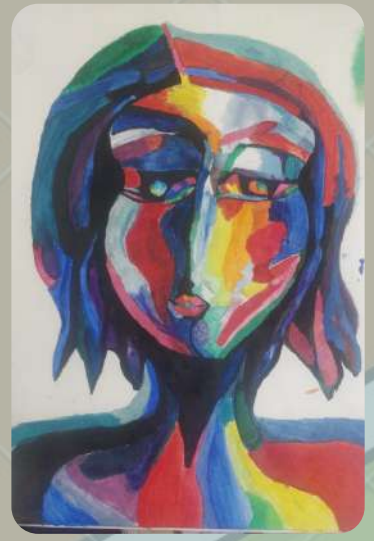
Regardless of the economic decline at the beginning of the year, things are slowly and steadily going back to normal.



Photography



Art





Music

Evolution of Musical Genres from the 2000s to 2020

Now that 2020 has finally come to a close, it's time to look back upon some things that helped us get through covid. Music has come a long way in the past two decades.

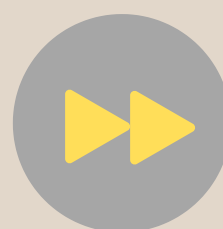
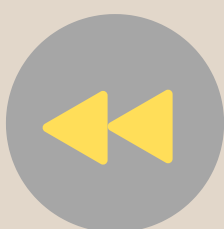
Country- Country music is perhaps one of the most popular genres. The classic country style evolved, and became more like a series of soulful ballads, with some pop tossed in. This was seen a lot, as music went from Billy Ray Cyrus to, Taylor Swift. The ballad side of the country has evolved, with acoustic riffs, and soothing piano. However, the classic country music made a comeback with "Old Town Road" by Lil Nas X, ft. Billy Ray Cyrus and RM of BTS.

K-pop- People might think that k-pop is a relatively new style of music, which it actually is not. Everyone "got into" because of Gangnam style. Yeah, that's k-pop too. It was originally released in the U.S.A. around 2010. But it didn't gain much traction, until around 2013, when the band BTS debuted and blew up across the world, now being up for a Grammy award. Some of these well-known bands are, Blackpink, Exo, Big Bang, and Girls Generation.

Boy Bands- Boyband music has also evolved. When one thinks about boy bands, the first thing to come to mind would be One Direction. But Westlife, The Beatles, Backstreet Boys (don't pretend like you don't listen to "I Want it That Way"), and of course, the Jonas Brothers are still quite popular. Luckily these past few years have brought some good news, in the Jonas Brothers getting back together, after having broken up a long time ago. Hopefully, the new decade results in more bands making amends.

Corona pop- The musical legends of corona need to be acknowledged too, without them releasing new albums, we'd all be talking to birds by the end of the year. So many people lost their jobs in 2020, and many others were working from home. Musical geniuses like Ariana Grande, Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran, Selena Gomez, Naill Horan, John Legend, and Shawn Mendes all released new albums and songs. In the spirit of 2021 here is a list of songs to listen to during the last few days of quarantine, and to set the mood for the new year.

- Positions- Ariana Grande
- Wonder- Shawn Mendes
- Therefore I am- Billie Eilish
- Life goes on- BTS
- Lonely- Justin Beiber
- Blinding Lights- The Weekend
- Drivers License- Olivia Rodrigo
- Afterglow- Ed Sheeran
- Sweet Creature- Harry Styles
- Cherry Wine- Hozier



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