

GREY MATTER

Beyond the Blazer:
with Dane Archibald

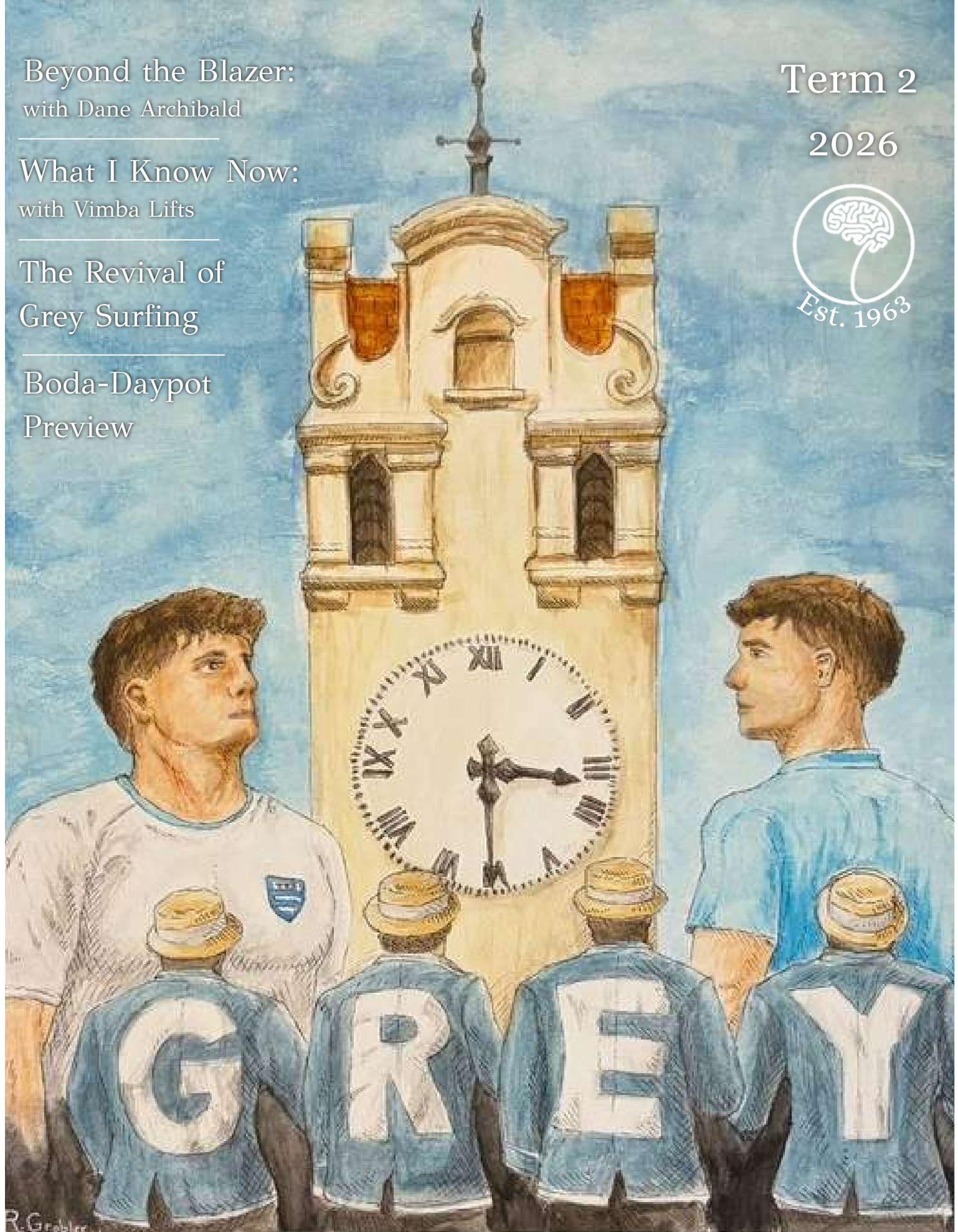
What I Know Now:
with Vimba Lifts

The Revival of
Grey Surfing

Boda-Daypot
Preview

Term 2

2026



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Front cover artwork
by Robert Grobler
(Grade 12)
Our grateful thanks, Robert!

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Special Thanks

Grey Photographers

Sight and Sound

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From the Editor

Last term was most definitely one for the books. A couple of proper derby fixtures, the bone chilling mid – year exams, and, rain? The first assembly of Term 2 at Grey is often introduced by the Rector as a term with many disruptions and making sure we are on top of our work and make use of our time in class. This term was no exception to that description. The term started with a trip to the dusty fields of Dale where our rugby sides kicked into gear and got our shoulders warmed up for the following week's encounter with the Maroon Machine. Paul Roos came down to the Eastern Cape welcomed with rain and hail – a slight foreshadowing to what was to follow for the rest of this wild term. With our First XI having an incredible win over the strong Stellenbosch side and the First XV showing incredible heart in their encounter with the Maroon Machine, this gave the boys some faith and hype for our upcoming derbies and festivals. The Grey Fest was a very encouraging display piece for our First sides with some epic wins over DHS on the Rectory and Michaelhouse on the Kolisi. With the term sailing on smoothly and the buzz of Reunion week filling the hallways of the campus, the school faced a bigger challenge to that of Queens College: floods.

A cold and rainy Period 1 of a Tuesday morning in G6 was introduced by a fairly valid question of, "When last was school cancelled because of rain?". Mr VR reminisced the moment in 2006 when he was stranded in his driveway due to some floods which seemed to have unfinished business. That night, sitting at my desk completing some of Mr Schuin's hectic homework assignments, I heard a cheer of joy from my sister and mom about school being cancelled for the week at our sister school. Since we are the brothers, we followed suit. The joy of extra study time and rest had a bit of a sombre feel due to Reunion being cancelled and our derby fixture against Queen's being postponed along with our annual Trooping the Colour. With a few weeks of rest, we travelled down to the Southern Suburbs of Cape Town to face Wynberg Boys'. I would say it is probably the first time I have ever met sour winners, whom we had to show what real Grey boys are and that what defines a Grey boy is not the results, but the character displayed in moments of ridicule from the opposition. With a quick trip down to Makhanda to face St Andrews, we ended the derby fixtures for the term with a rather nice set of results against SAC.

In the chaos of Term 2, I had the honour and privilege to receive our newest addition to the club: the Editor's Box. A hand-crafted box made from French Oak by Old Grey, Alex Luders, containing a Parker Pen and Parker clutch pencil. The box also contains a very special Cigar Pen crafted from Walnut wood which is native to North America. The Editor's Box was sponsored by a few past Editors and Mr van Niekerk. The box highlights the importance of the Editor in the club and the school as well as the honour of the position and heritage of *Grey Matter*. The club had our annual dinner where the 2026/2027 committee was announced, and our new members were introduced to the club. My congratulations go out to the reporters, the committee and Mr VR on producing an outstanding edition this term. Our last fixture for the term was one of the biggest rivals: mid-year exams. The rain decided to have a cameo appearance and shuffle some exams around whilst giving us some extra study prep I think no one minded having. I hope the tanks are full for another busy term, but without further ado, sit back, relax, and enjoy another fantastic edition of *Grey Matter*.



Jaiden Burger
Editor

TEACHER INTERVIEWS

By Mesuli Louw

Questions:

1. What inspired or motivated you to become a teacher at Grey High School?
2. What excites you the most about Grey High School?
3. What motto or mantra do you live by?
4. Which high school did you attend, and which cultural or sporting activities were you involved in?
5. What do you hope to achieve as a teacher at Grey High School?
6. Who or what is your greatest source of inspiration?
7. If you were stranded on an island with any one teacher from Grey High School, who would it be and why?
8. If your life were a movie, what genre would it be, and what would the title be?
9. If you could travel back in time and teach at any period in Grey High School's history, which era would you choose and why?
10. What is your favourite tradition at Grey High School?

Mrs Jade Burnett
(née Ashby)



Mr Ryan du Toit



1. I previously taught at Grey's sister school and have always admired the school. When moving back to Gqeberha, I wanted to work at a school that not only makes a difference, but also values tradition and strong principles. Grey's ethos resonated with me, which is why I wanted to teach here.
2. The 'Gees'! I love that there is so much energy and support around not only sports, but culture and societies too. Besides that, probably rugby! People are often surprised to learn that I am a rugby fan, so I was very excited for the rugby season to begin.
3. I have two: 'Amor Fati' and 'In Omnia Paratus'. Both mottos essentially mean facing whatever life throws at you head-on and embracing it. I believe that all experiences, whether good or bad, should be embraced. Life comes with many challenges, and the best thing you can do is learn from them!
4. I went to Hudson Park High School. I was involved in a few cultural activities there. I took music privately and played the drums and piano. I was also involved in a few school productions, was an art student who helped paint many murals, and worked on the school newspaper (similar to the Grey Matter!).
5. I want to make sure each student of mine is REALLY heard and seen.
6. My parents
7. Logically, I should probably pick a teacher with excellent survival skills or extensive knowledge of different terrains. But realistically, if we were stranded on an island, I'd rather be stuck with someone who would keep spirits high and make me laugh while we slowly accepted our fate! So, I'd say either Mrs Sawyer or Mrs Le Roux.
8. If my life were a movie, it would probably be a comedy, fate definitely has a sense of humour. Some titles might be: Holding on by an atom. Running on caffeine and spite. I'm just a kid and life is a nightmare.
9. Probably to a time before AI and technology, so I could teach in peace
10. Cadets! Or the G-R-E-Y

1. Teachers in my family, teachers that are my friends and my teachers and their students.
2. Making an unexpected circle back. Love it or hate it where you are now, one day you may return to appreciate the memory of a time more peaceful than you currently realise.
3. "The only difference between me and a mad person is that I am not mad." ~ Salvador Dali. "Correct a wise man and he will still be wise; correct a fool and a fool he will remain." ~ Proverbs. "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." ~ Chinese Proverb. "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." ~ Mahatma Gandhi
4. Grey High School, founded in 1856. I did Waterpolo, Art, and I was part of the Guitar Club.
5. When you genuinely work hard to do something with your life, you hope the energy you expend from your actions is worth it. One day when you have worked hard to get where you are, I hope you will be successful in your own definition of success.
6. Nature and my family
7. Mr Everts will have the map to get us out.
8. Some weird Indonesian tribal house tune kind of theme. The title would be "Freshly cut Coconuts for 15 rand."
9. I would not really have it any different, neither should you. I am curious though about initiation at Sonop and what it was like to have classes in the school building in 1920.
10. Singing the School Song with the whole school

BODA DAYPOT

PREVIEW

Author: Noah Proctor

This year, Boda-Daypot holds higher expectations than in recent years, with the Boarding House and Dayboys fielding well-balanced sides in both the Hockey and Rugby. From the viewpoint of a Boda, this article will obviously be biased, but when is there ever an unbiased opinion on this topic?

The hockey fixture has normally been a thorn in the side of the Bodas. However, in recent years, the matches have become increasingly balanced. Two years ago the match ended tied 6-6 after an exhilarating game, and last year's game ended 5-4 to the Dayboys. This year, the Bodas will be fielding one of the better sides in recent years, with many experienced players and passionate support. The Dayboys, as usual, will be the favourites going into the game, with many First Team players, but the Bodas are looking for an upset.

On the Kolisi field, the match will be just as exciting, as the Bodas are aiming to reclaim their title, and the Dayboys are aiming to defend theirs. After a well-fought game last year that ended in a one-point difference in favour of the Dayboys, many of those same players are taking the field this year and will be eager to defeat the opposition. Both teams are somewhat balanced, but I'd have to say the Bodas have a slight edge on the Dayboys. **[Deputy Editor's Note: This is just wishful thinking.]**

With Boda-Daypot being my favourite day of the school year, I'm extremely excited to see what the day holds, and I'm sure many of you are as well. In my opinion, the Bodas will look to make the most of their home-ground advantage, and the cheering from the Hostel brothers is also a massive positive factor for those in red and black. With this being the last Boda-Daypot for the Class of 2026, the day is expected to be filled with emotion, and for the new grade 8s, an eye-opener to the passion expressed on and off the field. Give us hope, Bodas.



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INTERVIEW WITH MR REINHARDT SCHEÜN

Head Boy of 2004 ——— Editor of *Grey Matter* 2003

By Mr JJ van Niekerk

22 years after walking 'Neath the Tower as outgoing Head Boy, Mr Reinhardt Scheün still lives by the Grey motto: *Tria Juncta in Uno*. He believes in finding balance while simultaneously striving to be the best version of himself across all areas of life. "You need a foundation as it becomes your compass in difficult times and keeps you grounded when [life] is going well, too." Grey High School offers that foundation. It has been 10 years since I last wrote an article for the publication. That was during our school's 160th anniversary year, so I thought it fitting to interview an Old Grey again during our next milestone birthday.

In 2016, I interviewed Old Grey of 2001, Mr Mark Pearce, who was the face of USN and the company's longest standing brand ambassador. In 2007, he won the Men's Health Look competition and was on the cover of the February 2008 magazine. His motivation? He had a bet with one of his library Chess buddies that they were going to race to make the Men's Health cover. Guess who won that bet? What is arguably more impressive is that he entered the winter season of his Matric year in Grey's 10th Rugby Team, and ended up playing for the 2nd Team by the end of that season.

Mark went on to achieve great success in various aspects of life because he too had a strong foundation which The Grey offers to all those receptive to receiving it.

The question remains: why interview Old Greys? Yes, engaging with the current lives of 'outstanding' alumni provides a sense of pride and inspiration, but it is not just about those who are in the limelight on social media platforms. Grey boys resonate with Old Greys for different reasons. Some find inspiration in those who left our shores and achieved remarkable success; others are inspired by a past learner who embraced his high school years and accomplished a plethora of achievements while at Grey.

Reinhardt is someone who has done both, and while you may not find him on the sports page of *The Herald*, he is one of thousands who continue to fly the Grey flag high. He expresses it perfectly: "You can spot a Grey boy from a mile away. There's a glint in the eye and a quite confidence." What a privilege it was for me to interview him.

I presented to Reinhardt a number of questions, and his thoughtful, detailed responses extended well beyond what this feature can hope to capture. Converting his interview into this article created an existential crisis for me which can be summarised by the words, "He elaborated". Crafting this piece felt like serving a seven-course meal on a sosatie stick.

Reinhardt remembers being announced as Head Boy like it was yesterday. "It still puts a smile on my face. It had been a dream since the day I walked onto the school grounds. Being named Head Boy is still one of my favourite memories. It was something I had worked for and achieved, but it was also a recognition from my peers that gave me real confidence going forward."



When asked about what lessons he learned at school that he still carries today, he responded with, “It’s okay to fail, and it’s okay to try again. There’s always another opportunity to learn and grow, as long as you pitch up and give of your best.” Reinhardt recognises that the journey of every boy at Grey is different, but that there is a place for everyone. Being a part of a group of “top-class” young men pushes learners to keep improving, and being surrounded by the best shapes them “in ways nothing else can”. He believes that disappointments should be used as a driving force, as they often lead to one’s greatest successes. “Life is a journey, and figuring out who you are and what you want is the fun part; not the destination.”

I think of all the questions that I asked Reinhardt, the most important response not to paraphrase is this: “Why is it important to make the most of the opportunities Grey has to offer as a learner?” His reply was as follows: “High school is such a big learning curve, and you change enormously as a young man during that time. Grey offers a space to be exposed to the real challenges of life, and you don’t always know what the lesson is until years later. I still find myself in situations today where I draw on something I first dealt with at school. Every boy gets the chance to test himself [in various areas of school life]. All talents and skills have room to be tested, and if you have a passion for something, the environment and the staff give you the space to cultivate it.”



Of course, with Reinhardt being a former Editor of *Grey Matter*, it would be amiss of me not to ask him about his experience of being a reporter and eventual leader of the club. He believes that the club creates a platform for boys with different skills and interests to express themselves. Although he regards writing not as a particularly strong point of his, the publication gave him an opportunity to make a difference, be a positive influence and grow in an area that was outside of his comfort zone.

After experiencing first-hand the amount of work, skill and effort that goes into producing the publication, he felt that it needed to be recognised, and so he introduced the ‘Grey Matter Reporter of the Year’ Trophy, which is awarded at our annual Term 4 Prize-giving ceremony. “I wanted [the trophy] to be something boys could work toward, and who knows, maybe even discover a life-long passion or vocation along the way.”

Despite his many school accolades, Reinhardt prides himself on having been “an ear for boys who were struggling with life and school.” He frequently assisted the Guidance teacher by supporting boys who simply needed someone to listen. My own approach to teaching is rooted in kindness, which made this insight especially admirable and deeply meaningful to me.

Reinhardt is currently based in Gauteng working as a director of a company specialising in data analytics. He looks back fondly on every dark turn in his life as each one created an opportunity to grow. “I feel like I’m on version five of myself, and I’m excited for the versions still to come.”

It was incredibly special to interview Grey’s Head Boy of 2004 (especially since he was ‘my’ Head Boy when I was in Grade 8). He wishes to leave you with an Italian phrase: *Memento Mori, Memento Vivere*, which translates to:



“Remember your mortality, so that you truly live.”

THE REVIVAL OF GREY SURFING

Author: Owen Heny

Surfing at Grey is not something new, but rather a legacy being brought back to the surface.

Throughout the years, surfing as a sport has had so much potential. It opens our eyes up to a whole new way of competing with schools. The only problem we have faced is finding someone brave enough to step up and take action. But the arrival of Mr du Toit has completely changed that.

Mr du Toit entered the school as a teacher in 2026.

Ever since then, his love for surfing has only grown.

While most looked at the difficulties and setbacks, he looked at the opportunity to grow and improve. After

seeing that there was no surfing at Grey, he only

became more determined to succeed. Once finding out what many of the boys here think of the sport, he

knew the support that was needed would be there. So, when the Rector decided to give this ambitious and determined man a chance, Mr du Toit decided to give

it a chance – a chance to revive surfing at Grey.

The history of surfing at Grey has been nothing short of impressive. With countless previous members of the school obtaining SA Colours for the sport, it shows we have the ability to produce talent. Some people really embraced surfing as a way of life and became very successful in the industry.

Mathew McGillivray ('15) – 19th in the world (2024)

Mathew McGillivray, an Old Grey from the Class of 2015, took his talent to the world stage, recently competing with the world's best, finishing 19th in the world in 2024, and remaining at the top level to this day.

Craig Anderson – Global style icon & filmmaker

Craig Anderson, also known as “Ando”, has attracted the world with his stylish surfing, travelling the world surfing the most beautiful spots while filming and making a living too. He has definitely shown one way to earn money while doing something you love.

Quinton Jones ('91) – Championship Tour vet & elite coach

Quinton Jones (“QJ”), definitely a part of the older crew, but his surfing and knowledge made him the man he is today. He matriculated in the same year he debuted on the Championship Tour in 1991. After a successful competitive career, he adapted and made a life out of coaching. He coaches many of the top juniors and seniors in the country and uses his knowledge to help young surfers find their way to the world stage.

With Grey Surfing's first fixture since 2017, it was surprisingly very successful, setting the standard sky-high. After facing an extremely well-rounded and experienced Wynberg Boys' side, the Grey surfers managed to find some waves and develop structure for future derbies. Even though we suffered a loss as a team, we managed to acknowledge individual brilliance, with many surfers impressing each other. Owen Heny scored the highest wave score, while Callum Loftus earned the maneuver of the event. Other members, like Caleb Judd, Kai Clarke and Morgan Loyson also impressed the spectators gathered at Surfers Corner, Muizenberg. This shows we have the ability to perform in future fixtures, not just as individuals but as a team.

Grey is happy with the progress and determination the members of this club have shown. With future fixtures and even some practice sessions in the bay, there is only room to grow and improve. This sport can do wonders for the school, and I believe this could be one of the best decisions the school has ever made.



BEYOND THE BLAZER: WITH DANE ARCHIBALD

By Jaiden Burger and Dane Archibald

Grey has produced countless Old Boys who have gone on to succeed in a variety of fields, but behind every achievement are lessons that are often overlooked. Dane is no exception. During his time at Grey, he served as a Prefect, led the Cadet Detachment, played 1st Team Waterpolo, finished top of his Grade academically, and achieved 100% for Mathematics core in Matric. Looking back on his journey, Dane reflects on the habits, challenges and lessons that shaped his success and gives us current Grey boys some advice and approaches to school and life outside the school on a hill.

You managed to be a Prefect, SSO of the Cadet Detachment, top academic in your Grade, and a 1st Team Waterpolo player. How did you balance all of those commitments without sacrificing your performance in any one area?

Firstly, optimising my free time helped me a lot to tackle everything I needed to do. Whether that meant studying in between polo games on tour or learning calls for the Trooping when I was done with my work in class, every small amount of work done stacked up over time to make a big difference.

I also found that spending copious amounts of time planning and timetabling when I was going to study and complete assignments wasn't very effective. Planning to do something isn't doing it. Thinking about doing something isn't doing it. Only doing the thing will get it done. Keep it simple: write out a list of tasks that need to be done and start with the most urgent one.

Looking back, what do you think was the biggest misconception people had about you while you were at school?

I think the biggest misconception people had about me at school is that I was always studying, at waterpolo practice, or doing something school-related. This was true a lot of the time – I'm not going to lie – but I did have a life outside of school. A girlfriend, friends and family, as well as spending time on other hobbies were really important to me. I cannot stress enough that your school years are some of the best and most exciting years of your life. Do not miss them.



Achieving 100% for Mathematics in matric is incredibly rare. What study habits or approaches do you think made the biggest difference in your success?

My answer might seem a bit cliché and boring, but practise, practise, practise. I think that by the time I was writing Finals, I had completed pretty much all the Maths papers available on EC Exams. However, past papers only help if you learn from your mistakes. I found it very effective to be critical when marking my own past papers. For example, if I obtained something wrong in practice, I would make sure that I fully understood where I went wrong and why. This made sure that it would not happen again.

Was there ever a moment during your school career when you seriously doubted yourself or struggled, and how did you push through it?

Matric was definitely a difficult year in which some self-doubt crept in from time to time. Going on multiple waterpolo tours throughout the year while trying to juggle leadership responsibilities and maintain my academics was very stressful. I think just taking everything one day at a time helped me to manage what seemed like an impossible workload. I touched on this in a previous question, but making a list of everything that needed to be done and starting with the most important task also helped me spend less time stressing about what needed to be done and instead just getting on with it.

As SSO of the Cadet Detachment and a Prefect, what leadership lesson did you learn at Grey that has remained valuable in your life after school?

One of the biggest leadership lessons I learnt was that if you want those you are leading to do something, you have to get your hands dirty too. A true leader isn't somebody who dictates, but someone who leads by example.

If you could go back and give your Grade 8 self one piece of advice, what would it be, and why?

Good question. If I could tell my Grade 8 self one thing, it would be not to fear failure so much. Attempt more sports and do things outside your comfort zone. Failure is the best teacher.

What is one opportunity at Grey that boys often overlook but should take greater advantage of?

One thing that I think is overlooked by the boys at Grey is the willingness of the staff to help if you are struggling. Whether you are not getting the marks that you are aiming for or not making the sports team you wanted to, if you reach out to a teacher or coach with a genuine desire to improve in a certain area, they will help a great deal. Extra lessons or private coaches are great, but so are the staff members.

Success at school often looks very different from success after school. Since leaving Grey, what have you learned that school never taught you?

Being at school, especially at Grey, is a very competitive environment. Everyone is competing against each other to make the first team or to get a leadership position. This is great because life after school is also competitive, but I did have to figure out pretty quickly that striving to be better than everyone else is a slippery slope. It was important to shift my perspective from me vs everyone else to me vs me. In my opinion, success after school is being the best version of yourself and constantly striving to be better than you were yesterday.



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ALL THINGS GREY

MATTER



AUTHOR: TRISTAN VILJOEN

Going from junior school to high school is like taking a plunge into freezing cold water in the middle of winter. The nerves and the excitement are all rolled into one, like a sweet and spicy, cinnamon-flavoured Jawbreaker.

On the first day at Grey High, everyone stuck to themselves. Intimidated, afraid and with no one knowing what to expect. They only had reference to what they had experienced in junior school and only really felt what high school was about when they set foot in the hall... the De Waal Hall.

But fast forward to the end of the term. I received my results for my English exam, and this is where I was given the opportunity to write for the *Grey Matter*, which was something I had not considered before because I did not really know what it was about. My understanding was that it was an elite club consisting of writers, but really, it is about opportunity.

The members of the *Grey Matter*, including Mr van Niekerk, treasure this club and its heritage, as it has been going for 63 years, and how it has given many Grey boys the opportunity to become contributing members of society, both in the school and beyond.

Everything matters in this club, from the informative interviews to the special dinners, and everything Grey, old and new. It's a special club to be a part of and should never be overlooked.



This is where our future at Grey began, and we didn't even know it at the time. We had all listened intently to Mr van Niekerk and Head Boy Memani's voice as it echoed throughout the room: "No speaking in the De Waal Hall!"

They spoke to us about the rules and regulations, as well as the clubs and societies. At the time, none of us really cared about clubs and societies as our focus was on other extramurals. They spoke to us for hours, which felt like days, as we endured the pain of stiff backs and sore bottoms. Many people would only take part in the easier clubs so that they would have an attendance on the schedule and avoided the ones that seemed "difficult". As did I.



It is not just about staying up late to write articles or encouraging fellow members to improve their work. It is also about the brotherhood formed during those moments and the feeling of belonging that comes with it. People often say, "Don't judge a book by its cover." But I say, "Don't judge the *Grey Matter* by the memes at the back!"





The Downfall of Bryson DeChambeau

How One of Golf's Brightest Stars Lost the Crowd

Author: John Scott

Born on September 16, 1993, Bryson DeChambeau grew up surrounded by golf. Although he was born in Modesto, California, he spent most of his childhood in Clovis, California, a town with a strong golfing culture and world-class courses. Golf was a big part of his family life. His father was a director of the prestigious Riverbend Golf Club and an ardent golfer. Being raised in this environment engendered Bryson's love for the game and kick-started what was expected to be a trailblazing career.

Growing up with a passion for the game, DeChambeau's analytical style of thinking about the game and impressive performances led many to believe he was destined for greatness.

After winning both the NCAA Championship and the U.S. Amateur in 2015, an accomplishment shared by only a handful of legends, expectations for his professional career skyrocketed. His name was now mentioned alongside greats like Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus. Following his victory, DeChambeau boldly stated, "I'm in golf history," and few could argue otherwise.



DeChambeau's early tour years were electrifying. His 2020 U.S. Open win felt like the start of a new era of dominance, and for a second, those bold predictions seemed to be coming true. But things slowly started to unravel. The complaints about his slow play, public outbursts, and constant injuries made it difficult to root for him. One major isn't anything to ignore, but for a player who was supposed to rival Tiger Woods, you can't help but feel like something changed along the way. Joining LIV Golf sealed the dream's fate, and Augusta would soon prove it.

The expectations were sky-high. For a moment, it felt like this could be part of his redemption story. Well, it wasn't. His short game fell apart at the worst possible time; he missed major putts and waffled shots almost everywhere he went. Then came the bunker incident. He struggled to escape the bunker; it was almost as if he was trying to imitate a drunk uncle on a Friday afternoon. If that wasn't bad enough, he was accused of cheating after a video showed him moving grass near the ball, making it easier for him to hit. Whether it was intentional or not, it looked fishy.

While this dilemma was unfolding, Rory McIlroy was playing the tournament of his life and quietly completing his career Grand Slam with a final-round 66 that included five birdies on the back nine. The comparison between the two in this competition was stark and almost painful to watch. DeChambeau walked in as the favourite and walked out as the laughingstock of the internet, whilst Rory got the perfect ending that golf fans had always wished for.

Why schoolboy rugby players SHOULD BE PAID

Author: Oliver Lloyd

“SCHOOLBOY RUGBY IS NO LONGER A STEPPING STONE. IT'S A BEAST OF ITS OWN.” ~Dylan Cooke

Schoolboy rugby in South Africa is no longer just a fun game you play after school with your friends. Today, school rugby is a massive business. When the big schools play each other, the school fields are absolutely packed with thousands of shouting fans, and the big derbies are even shown live on TV. Big companies also spend millions of rands to sponsor the teams and get their logos on the rugby jerseys. Because school rugby now works like a professional sport, the boys who actually play the game and take all the hard hits should get a share of that money.

First of all, you just have to look at how popular the matches are to see the money involved. When schools like Grey High, Paul Roos, Affies, or the big schools in Johannesburg and KZN play, the crowds are massive. Sometimes there are more people watching a school derby than a Currie Cup match. SuperSport shows these big games and festivals live on television, meaning they make a great deal of money from advertisements and people paying for TV subscriptions. The schools also use a winning First XV team to promote themselves and to convince more boys to enroll. Right now, the coaches, the schools, and the TV channels are all earning huge incomes. The only people who do not get a single cent are the actual boys running onto the field. If your hard work is making a school or a TV company rich, it is only fair that you get a piece of it.

Also, the life of a top schoolboy rugby player is basically the same as a professional rugby player anyway. You do not just show up for an hour of practice on a Tuesday afternoon and then go home. Teams train all year round now, even in the off season. Boys are waking up to be in the gym at 5AM to lift heavy weights, doing intense running drills, and sitting in classrooms to watch footage of other schools to study how they play. On top of that, they have to travel all over South Africa for different rugby festivals, all while trying to study and keep their school marks high.

Also, the physical danger of the game is scary. The hits in modern school rugby are getting faster and way harder because the boys are so big now. The injury rate is super high. Many players get bad concussions, rip their knee ligaments, or break their bones. A single bad tackle on a Saturday afternoon can end a player's whole career before they even get a chance to finish school or sign a junior contract with a provincial team. Since players are risking their bodies and giving up their entire teenage lives to win these matches for their school, they deserve to get some financial support for that huge sacrifice.



Also, we all know that money is already a massive part of school rugby behind the scenes. Top rugby schools look for the best talent all over the country and convince them to switch schools by offering massive sports bursaries. These bursaries pay for school fees and all the rugby kit. Since schools are already using financial rewards to build the best teams, we should stop pretending that the game is just a friendly amateur hobby. For a talented player who comes from a poor family, getting actual money for his rugby skills could change his family's life right now. It is unfair to make them wait and gamble everything on a professional contract later in life that might never happen if they get injured.

At the end of the day, schoolboy rugby in South Africa has changed completely and it is never going back to how it was. It is a highly profitable entertainment business that relies entirely on the sweat, pain, and hard work of teenagers. When everyone else is making money off the sport, keeping the players completely unpaid is just not right. Paying elite schoolboy players is the only way to treat them fairly.

CTE in Sports

How a progressive brain disease forced a reckoning in professional football and wrestling.

Author: Ayanda Manyela

Chronic traumatic encephalopathy more commonly referred to as CTE, is a progressive neurodegenerative brain disease linked to a history of repeated head trauma and concussions. CTE causes an accumulation of tau protein around the blood vessels in the brain, which damages and causes the death of nerve cells. With the degenerative nature of CTE, one's condition worsens over time, and symptoms affecting behavior and cognitive and motor functions arise. Symptoms tend to include aggression, mood swings, depression, tremors, and loss of coordination. Unfortunately, CTE can only be detected and diagnosed during autopsies after one's death. Many CTE cases have been found in athletes who competed in boxing, professional wrestling, MMA and other contact-based sports such as American football, rugby and ice hockey. Over the years, there have been several high-profile cases from the NFL to the world of sports entertainment in the WWE.

On the 5th of September 2007, the Sports Legacy Institute revealed that former WWE performer Chris Benoit had suffered from CTE, after conducting neuropathological tests on his brain following his death in June of 2007. Benoit's condition was so severe that it was likened to the brain of an 85-year-old with Alzheimer's. Benoit's diagnosis is attributed to unprotected blows sustained to the head, including multiple concussions that he had worked through without adequate recovery time throughout his 22-year career.

Prior to the WWE's transition to the "PG Era" in the late 2000s, there was a lack of a proper concussion protocol and unprotected chair shots to the head were common in the industry as a whole before the WWE had placed a formal ban on them. Colleagues and close friends of Benoit had witnessed the symptoms of CTE in Chris and an apparent personality change, as he became more erratic and withdrawn on the way to his demise. On the 24th of June 2007, Benoit would take his own life after murdering his wife and child in the preceding days. Following the heavy scrutiny the WWE received after the Benoit Family tragedy, the company would introduce a stricter Talent Wellness policy and a formal concussion protocol and make the transition to a PG and family-friendly presentation.

In 2023, the Boston University CTE Centre declared that they had found CTE in 345 out of 376 former NFL players studied (91,76%). Over 20 years ago, Dr Bennet Omalu made the first known diagnosis of CTE of an NFL player, in the former Pittsburgh Steelers and Kansas City Chiefs player Mike Webster. Over the following two decades, the NFL would have a litany of CTE diagnoses and high-profile cases, including the likes of Junior Seau (who had never been diagnosed with a concussion in his entire career) and Aaron Hernandez, who had Stage 3 (out of 4) CTE. The NFL would finally acknowledge the link between CTE and football in 2016.

One of the steps the NFL has taken in recent years to increase safety in football is the introduction of the Guardian Cap, a foam covering (like scrum caps worn in rugby) worn on football helmets to reduce the blow of head impacts.

At present, the full scope of CTE is not known and the first diagnosis of CTE in a living person has yet to be made. Currently, the best way to prevent CTE is to make an effort to reduce the number of concussions and sub-concussive impacts and to implement concise concussion protocols in sports.



SPORT'S GREATEST WHAT IF'S

"THE MOMENTS THAT ALMOST WERE"

Author: Njose Duba

What if the history of our favourite sports were dictated by one turning point in a player's career or even a manager's gamble that didn't see the light of day? There have always been fine margins between glory and heartbreak, from a split-second decision to missed tackles. These are the moments that haunt fans around the world to this day.

What if Sir Alex Ferguson was sacked from Manchester United?

In 1990 Sir Alex Ferguson was under intense pressure and on the brink of being sacked by Manchester United. The Red Devils went eight games without a win and were close to relegation. They were humiliated 5-1 down the road by Manchester City. The Red Devil supporters went ballistic and released a banner reading "3 years of excuses". With supporters losing faith and wanting him out, the press speculated that if they lost their next game, he would be sent packing. In a tight 1-0 thriller, Mark Robins grabbed the win over Nottingham Forest. This led to him staying, and winning the FA cup that year, and the golden era followed.

The Alternative: If Mark Robins' header was sent into the stands, this would have seen Sir Alex Ferguson out of the club. Manchester United would be trembling and would have been fighting relegation and losing their championship hopes. In my opinion, they would have turned into an average club, missing out on the golden ages, but perhaps would have bounced back later on.



What if Du Plessis won against Chimaev?

Dricus Du Plessis has already built a terrifying resume by dominating the middleweight division and defeating the likes of Robert Whittaker, Sean Strickland and Israel Adesanya, using his signature unorthodox and pressure style fighting. Imagine the roars of thousands in a packed arena as two killers step in the octagon. One who breaks their prey and one known for being the most feared fighter in the UFC. What if that night Dricus hands the 'Borz' his first loss?

The Alternative: He matches Khamzat's early explosions and his pace and fights it out until the last round and drops him with a right hook. The world goes crazy as Chimaev's undefeated run has been shattered. Dricus instantly becomes the greatest undisputed middleweight champion this world has seen. We would be looking at a far more dangerous Dricus—one you'd want to avoid entirely inside the octagon. This would send our very own into the history books while forcing Khamzat to rebuild his path.



What if Ayrton Senna finished his Career?

Ayrton Senna is widely regarded as the greatest driver of the Golden Era of Formula 1, known for his raw, aggressive and unrelenting mindset. Senna came off a hot 1993 season with three championships already to his name. He then went on to start the 1994 season with Williams, which eventually resolved its early-season car handling issues. Then came the tragic deaths of Senna and Roland Ratzenberger during the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix.

The Alternative: Had Senna lived, it would have set the stage for the greatest rivalry in motorsports with the young and ferocious Michael Schumacher. A likely scenario would have been Senna winning the 1994 title and further dominating the 1995, 1996 and possibly 1997 title over the likes of Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve, securing his legacy as the greatest driver to master the wheel in Formula One history.



The Loneliest Position

Inside the mind of a goalkeeper

Author: Niel Coetzee



Every sport has the hallmark of an extremely difficult position, and for most, this is the goalkeeper. Goalkeepers carry a lot of pressure on their shoulders. When strikers score goals, they receive praise. When midfielders create chances, they are celebrated too. Most often, a goalkeeper goes unnoticed and is even taken for granted until the moment he makes a mistake.

A goalkeeper should be resilient, focused, intelligent and courageous. Surely, the main function of a goalkeeper is to deter the other team from scoring. He should be emotionally strong since he is the one facing the highest-pressure moments of the match. One faulty move can turn the entire game on its head. That is why goalkeepers have to be able to forget their faults very quickly and get mentally ready for the next challenge. In fact, this is the very trait that puts goalkeepers in a league of their own.

Goalkeepers are highly strategic players of the game. They are capable of formulating complex thoughts and reasoning throughout the match. For example, in a penalty shootout, goalkeepers are very likely to try to read their opponents' minds. It is common for professional goalkeepers to go as far as studying the tendencies of their opponents during penalties to gain an upper hand. On some occasions, they go even further by taking notes, which they hide inside their training gear, or taping cheat sheets to the back of their bottles to be able to read them whenever they need strategic ideas for penalty shootouts. All these tactics go a long way in helping them stay composed in the most difficult moments.

In reality, it is about more than tactics. Goalkeepers even resort to psychological warfare. When defending a penalty, for instance, they can hold back their movements a little, appear larger, or interact with the player (maybe through a lingering look) to disturb his concentration. The goalkeeper does not get rattled, even while increasing the pressure on the opponent.

Goalkeepers are the ones who call the shots. They have the advantage of seeing the whole football pitch, so they are often the ones leading the team. They are responsible for maintaining the cohesion and focus of the team, even in the face of adversity. That is why people remember goalkeepers not only for their saves, but also for their attitude. Behind every pair of goalkeeper gloves is someone willing to take pressure for the team. The goalkeeper is an important player, one with responsibility, courage, and mental strength.

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WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE

SUB 2-HOUR

MARATHON

CHASING SUB 2

AUTHOR: MATTHEW KINGWILL

Running is a sport that requires endurance, stamina, strength, and discipline. But what if I told you that the sport has become more than that? Not just putting one foot in front of the other, but breaking barriers. Barriers that no one thought were possible. Many people believed that the human body was never capable of breaking the sub-2-hour marathon, but recently, everyone has been proved wrong.

Not too long ago, on 26 April 2026, many elite men and women lined up at the start of the London Marathon. It was quite a usual race, and nothing major was expected. But we saw the front pack going at an incredibly fast pace, and slowly breaking away were Kenyan Sebastian Sawe and Ethiopian Yomif Kejelcha. Both men stayed together at an incredibly fast pace for most of the race, showing they were definitely chasing history and that their belief was starting to become a reality.

Interestingly enough, in 2019, the well-known Eliud Kipchoge “broke” the sub-2-hour marathon in Vienna, but there was a catch.

He was the only man in the marathon race, with rotating pacemakers forming a scientifically planned huddle to prevent any form of resistance. This, however, was not recorded as an official world record, but proved that it wasn’t impossible and played a major role in the development of the belief that it was, in fact, possible.

To break it down, a sub 2-hour marathon is faster than most people think. On camera, the runners look comfortable, but the ordinary person wouldn’t keep up for more than 400 m, let alone 200 m. The pace required is 2:50/km (42.2 times), 400 m in 68 seconds (105 times), and an average speed of roughly 21.1 km/h (for two hours)!

The crazy part about the official breaking of the sub-2-hour marathon that has just happened is that not only one, but two men did it. Sebastian Sawe was eventually the man who came out on top and set a new world record of 1:59:30, with an incredible kick and mind-blowing stamina after such a fast-paced run. Growing up and training in the Rift Valley in Kenya...

he first became known when he ran an incredible debut of 2 hours 2 min in Valencia. One of his biggest support groups was that of Adidas. They scientifically designed the Adizero Pro supershoe, weighing less than a new born baby cat, hugely impacting this achievement.

Last but not least, the man behind the scenes known as “the guy who always comes second”, Yomif Kejelcha. The incredible thing about him is that he not only also broke this barrier, but delivered it on his debut! I mean, imagine telling people that you’ve never run a marathon over two hours! With dedication and loads of mileage, this was an outstanding achievement from an outstanding runner.

With this barrier being broken, the real question is what is to come? Will we see many other milestones being reached on the track and road, or even in other sports? To conclude, running this time takes an insane amount of discipline, plenty of mileage (up to 200 km a week), and even running to school at altitude.

THE REAL QUESTION IS

“WHAT IS THE HUMAN LIMIT?”

What I Know Now With VimbaLifts

Authors: Liyema Dubeko (AKA VimbaLifts) and Liam van der Westhuizen



One of the most interesting things about Grey's Old Boys is the variety of paths they take after leaving the school. Doctors, lawyers, teachers, businessmen... Grey has it all. Whilst many boys take the traditional path, others create success and make the most of opportunities in less conventional ways. Liyema Dubeko, otherwise known online as VimbaLifts, is one such Old Grey who built success through fitness and lifestyle content creation and his passion for bodybuilding. As an Old Grey who has carved his own path since leaving school, Vimba reflects on his time at Grey and shares some of the lessons he wishes he had understood sooner.

Liyema Dubeko:

I was a Grey boy from 2018 to 2021 as a day boy, and then in 2022 I made the move into the hostel, and honestly, those are two completely different experiences of the same school.

As a day boy, you are in and out. You have your groups, your sports crew, your class friends, and the casual dap in the corridor. Everyone knows everyone at some level. But the hostel changed things for me in a way I did not expect.

Suddenly, Grey was not just a place I went; it was home. Every single day, I was surrounded by people; surrounded by characters. And that does something to you. You figure out fast who you actually are when you cannot escape to your own space. I learned more about myself in that one year in the hostel than in the four years before it.

Rowing took up most of my energy at Grey. Morning sessions, afternoon sessions, and skipping class for tours and competitions. The grind was genuinely insane. But I look back on it with nothing but fondness. The competition, the team, the feeling of it... That kind of dedication leaves a mark – more than I probably realised at the time.

Academically, I was doing Maths Core, Physics, Life Sciences, and Business Studies. I tried to make IT work, but I dropped it for Business. I was not someone with a perfectly mapped-out future, but I did have a direction.

Since Grade 10, a friend and I had this shared plan. We were going to do content creation together and make something of it. We talked about it constantly. He did not end up pursuing it. I did... alone. I do not say that with any bitterness. I am glad I had someone to dream with when I was starting to figure things out. But the moment I had to move forward without that, I learned something important. The plan does not need everyone who was originally in it. If it is real for you, it is real for you.

I also used to think I would need to leave South Africa to make it work. That the opportunity was not here. I was wrong. There is so much to build here, for the people here. I am still building it.

Now, here is what I actually want to say to you, the boys reading this. What is happening inside these gates right now feels enormous. The social dynamics, the opinions, who rates you and who does not, what group you belong to, what people think of your choices... I know it feels like it matters completely. It does not. Not in the way you think it does. The moment you walk out of Grey for the last time, the entire board resets. The boy who seemed untouchable, the hierarchy you spent years navigating – none of it follows you. What follows you is what you actually built while everyone else was worried about what people thought of them.

I spent time at Grey not fully seeing the world the way I do now. Opinions weighed more than they should have. I was inside the bubble without knowing it was a bubble. If someone had sat me down and told me this: these opinions are temporary and your work is permanent, I would have moved differently. So I am telling you now. You do not have to follow the traditional route if it is not yours. And if you have something you believe in, pursue it at all costs. Not loudly. Not for validation. Just consistently, even when it feels uncertain, even if you are doing it alone. Keep working on yourself. The rewards come. They just come later than school makes you think they should.



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PHOTOSYNTHETIC EYES

Through LEAF

Author: Tristan Huson-Bird

Dry eye disease is a common condition affecting more than 1.5 billion people worldwide. It occurs when the eyes do not produce enough tears or tears evaporate too quickly due to poor oil quality. This leaves the eyes irritated, dry, fatigued and with a gritty sensation beneath the eyelids. At a cellular level, this condition is caused by inflammation in the corneal region, leading to an overproduction of reactive oxygen species (ROS), highly reactive molecules which can damage cells through oxidative stress. Healthy eyes are protected by NADPH, which helps the eye's natural antioxidant defences by neutralising ROS. However, inflamed eyes' ROS can overpower the available NADPH, resulting in the production of more oxidative stress and inflammation. Although modern treatments, such as lubricating eye drops, relieve the symptoms, they do not address the underlying cause of the disease. This left a gap in the market for a revolutionary product to be developed by the National University of Singapore (NUS).

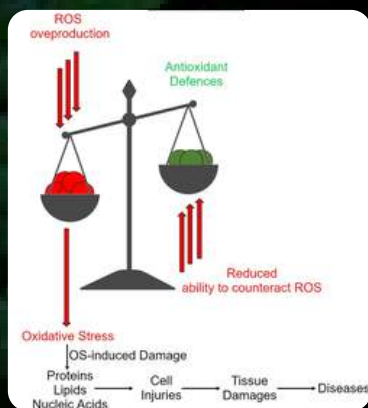
Led by Associate Professor David Leong Tai Wei, the team of scientists engineered LEAF (Light-reaction Enriched thylakoid NADPH-Foundry), a collection of nanosized thylakoid grana carefully extracted from spinach plant cells. These thylakoids were then "unpacked" via a patented chemical and mechanical extraction method. This process increased their effectiveness by approximately 20% by removing the parts that would normally utilise the NADPH while keeping the light reaction machinery intact. The resulting nanoparticles are only 400 nanometres in diameter, making them small enough to be readily absorbed by the cells in the form of eye drops.



The LEAF technology is currently in the preclinical trial stage. Tear samples from dry eye patients and mice experimentally induced with the condition have been the subjects of these tests. After just 30 minutes of exposure to ambient light, LEAF restored NADPH levels to normal and reduced ROS and inflammation, while the mice being administered eye drops for five days reversed the corneal damage to near healthy, outperforming modern drugs. Safety studies evaluated during these periods found no side effects.



Once inside the cells, LEAF is activated by natural light. The thylakoids continue carrying out the light-dependent reactions of photosynthesis, producing a continuous supply of NADPH. Rather than being consumed by the particles themselves, this NADPH becomes available to restore the eye's antioxidant defences, neutralise excess ROS and reduce oxidative stress. As oxidative stress decreases, inflammation is reduced, allowing damaged corneal tissue to heal naturally.



Inspiration was drawn from the sacoglossan sea slug, an organism that ingests chloroplasts from algae and utilises them in a process known as kleptoplasty. The borrowed chloroplasts continue to photosynthesise, providing the slug with additional energy. Inspired by this phenomenon, NUS researchers were intrigued as to whether mammalian disease could be treated by photosynthetic machinery.



NUS researchers have plans to expand their technology beyond dry eye disease. They see potential, wherever the body's antioxidant defences are overwhelmed, specifically in tissues that are naturally accessible to visible light. They are even investigating methods to treat internal conditions where light can not penetrate.

THE EFFECT OF MUSIC ON THE BRAIN

AUTHOR: AIDAN ERWEE

Music has accompanied humans since ancient times. According to the research findings, the emergence of music can be dated to the times when human ancestors started walking and their rhythmic footsteps helped recognize patterns that, in their turn, provided the sense of time and prediction. For this reason, there is an inseparable link between music and movement, and this is why people say that music “moves” them.

A unique characteristic feature of human music is the interrelation between the perception of sound and movement by brain structures. There is a direct correlation between auditory cortices and regions of the motor cortex involved in performing specific actions. Music activates several brain regions, among which are the brainstem that reacts to stimuli, basal ganglia that respond to pleasure, amygdala that processes emotions like happiness, sadness, anger, or fear, and neocortex that interprets musical complexities.



Another peculiar feature of the human brain is a skill called auditory scene analysis, or cocktail party effect. It allows concentrating on a single conversation among several others. The same aptitude is necessary for people to focus on a certain instrument or melody.

Music is very good for one's state of mind. Loneliness happens to be the biggest problem faced by humanity today, and it makes people feel connected. Music has proven to reduce stress hormones and boost the secretion of dopamine to make a person happier. Furthermore, music is intrinsically linked to memories of our life experiences and associated emotions. Moreover, unlike other methods of relaxation, music helps convey emotions that are hard to express in words.



Another factor making music have such an influence on people, is the existence of mirror neurons. Such neurons help a person imitate emotionally what he or she sees in front of him or her. Thus, when listening to a sad tune, a listener starts reflecting emotions shown there. Sometimes strong emotions can cause physical reactions, including goosebumps. Mirror neurons activate the same processes related to emotions such as fear and excitement.

In conclusion, the author argues that listening to music is like going back in time. It involves ancient brain areas and modern ones at the same time and connects people to emotions, movement, memory, and even nature. For this reason, music is far more than entertainment, it is a fundamental part of what makes us human.

JEANS, MULLETS, QUARTER-ZIPS

HAS IT ALL GONE TOO FAR?

AUTHOR: RIDGE LAWSON

These three iconic symbols of today have become absolute essentials for any young man born after 2005, old enough to make his own tie (even though most Matrics struggled with the matter on Orientation Day). These fashion items have proved to be just as important as toothpaste, a pencil bag, and making it to Mr Breytenbach's class on time. I will be diving into my opinions on jeans and quarter-zips (found in closets all over), as well as the big boss of haircuts: mullets. Here goes nothing...

"Cult-like Baggyiness"

First topic of discussion: jeans. That piece of material you see hugging everyone's legs. Which is a rather ironic thing to say because nowadays they do not hug people's legs. Boys prefer to buy their jeans about 33 sizes too big and call them "baggy". These pants could be considered the most generic piece of clothing ever. Plain material, left pocket, right pocket, inside right pocket, and back right pocket, with the occasional surprise of a back left pocket. Riveting stuff? Yes, I know. But somehow, the interesting youth of today have managed to make this a full-on cult.

"Denim so wide it doubles as a sail."

We look back at the Victorian Era in Britain sometimes and mock their wigs, but in truth, I'm sure that in 100 years or so, ChatGPT's latest model will be chuckling at our depressing effort at style. I am sad to say that my cupboard includes jeans, my birthday wish list includes a quarter-zip, and my summer includes a mullet. What a beautiful, typical, and lacklustre fashion statement our generation is setting. Mr Hills does not approve.

"The Disappointing Mane"

Mullets: Today's disappointing attempt at a haircut. The boys of today and the men of the future have universally decided that their heads need a tail, so they faded the sides, left a mop on top, and goodness knows what at the back. Just imagine walking into De Waal Hall only to see Rector Erasmus sporting a mullet at assembly! There is one problem before I go on, though, and that is that I have had a mullet. A mullet that, to me, was my own glorious mane, but to my parents was an utter disgrace. I promise you that there is no feeling in this world like getting off the chair at the local barber only for your mom to ask, "Did he even cut it?" or, worse, receiving the dreaded, "Sit back down." I cannot believe that in fifty years' time, when we look back at the photos from our childhoods, we will be seeing younger versions of ourselves with haircuts stolen straight from the *Avatar* movies.

"The 1:4 Ratio Genius"

Quarter-zips: To think that there is some genius out there who looked at a shirt, then looked at a jacket and thought, "You know what? Let me mix them together." This mystery man then decided that he would not mix them half-and-half but instead in a 1:4 ratio. What is truly disappointing, though? The fact that it worked. You seriously cannot walk through an overpriced *Cotton On* without being forced to observe the chest hair of some random 16-year-old wearing a quarter-zip.



The Rise Of

YOCO

Author: Connor Wilson



You have seen them everywhere – the famous blue card machines that have made their way into every vendor's pocket. From small to large businesses, these machines have spread like wildfire across South Africa and are created by a company known as "Yoco".

Yoco started as a collaboration between four friends: Katlego Maphai, Bradley Wattrus, Carl Wazen, and Lungisa Matshoba, who saw the inequality and gap in the South African market and shared a common purpose – to enable locals to thrive and break barriers. The year was 2011. Katlego Maphai was sitting in a BBQ restaurant in San Francisco when he suddenly noticed the owner using an old Android phone to process payments. That was when the "Eureka!" moment hit – he realised that technology and innovation were empowering the owner. He realised that this idea could be implemented for small-business traders all over South Africa and could help them break barriers in their communities, and from there it stuck with him.

In 2012, after finishing an earlier project in Lagos, Katlego and Bradley knew that they wanted to create a new, unique product. They brainstormed many ideas, but they kept circling back to Katlego's mobile card machine idea. They saw how the company Square had been an enormous success in America with a similar concept, and at once they all came together to start the new business venture.

However, later that year, a major problem arose – they discovered that millions of small businesses lacked access to card machines, even though almost three-quarters of the population had a bank card. When further research was conducted, it was revealed that banks made it an extremely long and complicated process to obtain a card machine. You had to make appointments, provide a transaction history, and sign contracts, which discouraged small businesses that had recently started from prioritising card machines. They asked themselves why a process such as getting a new phone, SIM card, and making calls could be done in only one day, while getting a card machine could take weeks, or even months.

"What started eleven years ago as a scrap-paper sketch of a business pyramid has scaled into the digital heartbeat of South Africa's small business economy."

From 2013, they moved to Cape Town and started operations out of a small studio on Loop Street, working on creating a new, smart system to solve this problem. After a year of hard work on their new technology, they processed their first transaction in October 2014 – a massive milestone. From there, they developed quickly, and in 2018 they released Yoco Capital, which provided funding to local start-ups and businesses. Today, Yoco has raised R1.7 billion in funding, processes R34 billion worth of transactions, and conducts business all over Africa and the Middle East.

Yoco is an inspiration to all South Africans, demonstrating the power of entrepreneurship and the potential for innovation that people of all backgrounds can achieve. The Yoco story empowers local communities and serves as an important role model for us all.

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TEACHERS VS PREFECTS

WHO WOULD SURVIVE A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE THE LONGEST?

AUTHOR: NOAH MOFFETT

The world is in carnage. Zombies plague every corner, with their next destination being Grey High. Everyone has fled, leaving only teachers and Prefects pacing the empty corridors. This begs the question: who would survive the longest and prevail in the apocalypse? Will it be the witty, experienced teachers or the younger, more energetic Prefects?

The teachers would be tough opponents for the zombies to overcome as they have a wide range of knowledge in various areas necessary for survival, using only the bare minimum. Ms Dodd would use her “teacher voice”, as she describes it, to control the zombies. By the time she is done with them, they will somehow be sitting in a corner, staring at the wall, thinking about what they did wrong.

If Ms Dodd can’t keep the zombies at bay, you can trust that once Mrs Samuels threatens them with a History essay on the Xhosa, they will be out of South Africa before they even pose a real threat. Once the imminent danger has been averted, the teachers will need to focus on surviving and thriving with what they have. This is where Mr Breytenbach comes in with his vast knowledge of materials. After he has finished, the teachers will somehow be living in a two-story house with running water and a working cinema, using only whatever materials were left over from the apocalypse.

The Prefects would not put up much of a fight, as they have no new-pot to do all the work for them. Their survival plan is non-existent, and their current shelter consists of the Prefects’ Study. Yusuf Gani would approach survival by sleeping in the De Waal Hall until it is over (just like assembly). Likhona Nakani would surrender himself to the zombies the moment he realises that there are no two-minute noodles and protein shakes in an apocalypse. And finally, Ethan Ownhouse would accept his fate and cram in as much Domino’s as possible before the zombies find him.

The teachers’ superior experience and knowledge would be more effective for surviving a zombie apocalypse. The Prefects’ youth doesn’t always benefit them, as they rely too heavily on modern technology which renders them useless when it fails in the case of an emergency.

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DRAKE'S TRIPLE ALBUM RELEASE

“The albums that put Drake back near the top.”

Author: Holden Jerling



For almost two years, Drake kept fans guessing. After his huge rap feud with Kendrick Lamar in 2024, the Toronto superstar went quiet for a while, leaving people wondering what he would do next. Then, on 15 May 2026, he pulled off one of the biggest surprise drops in recent music history: three full albums at once; *Iceman*, *Habibti* and *Maid of Honour*. Together, the albums include 43 songs and nearly two and a half hours of music. But the release was about more than just the songs. It was packed with clues, livestreams, hidden messages and was one of the wildest album rollouts fans had ever seen.

The first hint came way back in August 2024, when Drake posted a screenshot from his computer. Hidden in the image was a folder called “2.0 *Iceman*.” At the time, most people thought it was just another unfinished project, but looking back it was one of the earliest clues that something big was coming. After that, Drake kept dropping mysterious hints online. Fans spent months trying to decode everything, and then came the stunt that really got people talking: a giant block of ice in Toronto with the release date frozen inside it. Instead of just announcing the date normally, Drake let the ice melt in public. Fans gathered around it, took photos and even tried to speed up the process before police stepped in. Just when everyone thought they knew what was happening, Drake changed the game again. During the final livestream, he held up three hard drives and revealed the names of the albums: *Iceman*, *Habibti* and *Maid of Honour*. Within minutes, social media exploded. People had expected one album, not three.

Part of the hype came from how interactive the rollout felt. It was like a giant puzzle, with every post, every livestream and every image seeming to hide a clue. One of the biggest fan theories was about the album titles themselves. The first letters spell H.I.M.: *Habibti*, *Iceman*, *Maid of Honour*. Online, fans ran with the idea immediately. Some said it was Drake’s way of saying he was still “the one,” while others thought it was just a clever coincidence. Either way, it gave people something to talk about for days, and that is what made the rollout so effective: it wasn’t just music promotion, it felt like a mystery everyone could join in on.

Not everyone was impressed, though. Some listeners thought 43 songs was way too much. They said the albums felt long and overwhelming, and that not every track needed to be there. Others felt Drake was repeating familiar topics like fame, money, relationships and betrayal without doing enough new. A few critics also said the rollout was more exciting than the music itself. In other words, the marketing got people talking, but the songs didn’t always live up to the hype. That split reaction is a big reason the trilogy became such a debate online. Some people called it genius. Others called it too much.

Even with mixed reviews, the release was a massive success. Within 24 hours, Drake became Spotify’s most-streamed artist of 2026, and *Iceman* had the biggest album debut of the year on the platform. One of the songs, “Make Them Cry,” also broke streaming records for the biggest single-day song debut of 2026. So whether people loved the music or not, they were definitely listening.

What made *Iceman*, *Habibti* and *Maid of Honour* stand out wasn’t just the music, it was the way Drake turned the release into a full event. From the hidden folder in 2024 to the ice sculpture in Toronto to the three hard drives on livestream, every step kept fans locked in. And that might be the real reason the trilogy mattered so much. In a world where songs go viral and disappear fast, Drake managed to make everyone stop and pay attention. Love it or hate it, people were talking. And for an artist like Drake, that’s always part of the win.

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NAZI INFIGHTING

DURING WW2

AUTHOR: JASON MOUTON



In May 1945 it was clear that Germany was going to lose the war. The Nazi guards fled Castle Itter, a prison for high profile French hostages in the Austrian Alps. The prisoners of Castle Itter ranged from a former French prime minister to a tennis star. As these guards fled, the fear set in the castle that the roaming Waffen-SS units would come to massacre everybody in the castle to hide any evidence of Nazi wrongdoing. Major Josef Gangl, a defected member of the Wehrmacht, hurried to find troops to help protect the castle. He phoned the leader of the Austrian resistance, however only three men arrived to help alongside the other 36 Nazi defectors and its high-profile inhabitants.



On the morning of the 5th of May 1945, the Nazi attack on the castle began with 150 Waffen-SS soldiers opening fire. Machine gun and anti-aircraft fire shook the castle. By early afternoon, word at long last reached the 142nd Infantry Regiment, an American relief force. The 142nd arrived at 4 in the afternoon, finding the defending troops were running out of ammunition. The tennis star, Jean Borotra, being held captive at the prison prior to the battle, vaulted over the castle walls. He ran through SS strong points and machine gun fire, and managed to reach the 142nd infantry unscathed to give them information. He asked for an American soldier uniform and scurried back to the castle just as the defending force were running out of ammunition. This was a true turning point in the battle as the defectors and the Americans then overpowered the attacking Waffen-SS soldiers, thus winning the battle and saving all the lives of those imprisoned inside the castle.

The defending Nazi defectors only lost one man and suffered four wounded in the battle. The Americans captured over 100 Waffen-SS soldiers, killing many others. A great victory for the Allied forces was achieved, saving the lives of many in one of the more bizarre battles of the Second World War.

R2 for HOPE: The KFC Chronicles

Author: Joshua Botha

If there's one thing that South Africans can agree on, it's that KFC is hard to resist. Whether it's a Bucket for One, Streetwise 2, or, if you're feeling extra greedy, 10 pieces of original chicken, 2 Colonel Burgers, 4 Zinger Wings, large chips, and a Coke Zero, KFC has become a major part of the South African lifestyle.

Since opening its first restaurant in the country in 1971, KFC has grown from a single outlet in Orange Grove, Johannesburg, into a nationwide phenomenon. Today, South Africa is one of KFC's largest markets outside the United States, with hundreds of restaurants serving millions of South Africans each year. Its success is rooted not only in its popular, finger-licking-good menu but also in its ability to connect with local communities and become part of everyday South African culture.

Over the years, KFC has established itself as more than just a fast-food restaurant. For many South Africans, it is associated with large family gatherings, celebrations, and affordable meals. The brand adapted its offerings to local tastes and expanded into urban and rural areas, making it accessible to a wide range of customers. Through consistent marketing and community involvement, KFC became a household name and one of the country's most trusted food brands.

One of the most significant ways KFC has influenced South African society is through its commitment to addressing hunger. In 2009, KFC South Africa launched the 'Add Hope' initiative, a campaign designed to help combat child hunger across the country. The concept is simple: customers are asked to 'dala' a voluntary R2 donation to their order. While R2 may seem like a small amount, the impact of millions of donations throughout the country has been extraordinary.

The Add Hope campaign operates through partnerships with over 130 non-profit organisations and community feeding programmes. The money raised through customer donations, together with contributions from KFC and its franchisees, is used to provide meals to vulnerable children. Since its launch, Add Hope has raised more than R1.2 billion and now helps provide over 30 million meals annually to children across all nine provinces of South Africa. In 2024 alone, the initiative reached more than 150,000 children through thousands of feeding centres nationwide.

The impact of Add Hope extends far beyond providing food. Research has shown that access to nutritious meals contributes to improved physical health, enhanced concentration, and stronger social development among children.

By addressing hunger, the programme helps create conditions in which children can learn, grow, and reach their full potential. The initiative has also demonstrated the power of collective action. A small contribution from individual customers, when combined across the country, has resulted in meaningful social change. During times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Add Hope expanded its efforts to provide emergency food relief to affected communities. This highlighted the programme's ability to respond quickly to urgent needs.

KFC's rise in South Africa is therefore not only a business success story but also an example of how a simple fast-food chain can contribute positively to society, for the love of chicken. Through the Add Hope campaign and the simple R2 donation, millions of South Africans have become part of a movement that fights childhood hunger and supports impoverished communities. The initiative proves that even the smallest act of generosity can make a lasting difference in the lives of others.



DONATE YOUR
R2

+

KFC
DONATION

+

**KFC SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY
TRUST**

+

**OVER 130
NPO's**

MORE
THAN

30 MILLION MEALS
TO KIDS IN NEED

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Ctrl+Alt+Defend: How to Keep Hackers Out of Our Space

Interview by Joel Horak

As I am sure most of you are aware, Grey was recently the target of a sophisticated ransomware cyberattack, similar to those affecting thousands of schools, businesses, hospitals and government organisations across the world each year. The attack disrupted access to several of the school's digital services by encrypting data, requiring systems to be taken offline while the incident was contained and recovery efforts began.

Deputy Editor, Joel Horak, investigated the incident. A sincere thank you to Mr Sammons for providing great insight – not only into the attack on our school, but also on how every one of us can protect ourselves against such activity. “Our priority throughout the incident was to protect our community, restore essential services safely, and strengthen our systems against future attacks,” said Mr Sammons. “While the recovery required considerable work, it also highlighted the importance of preparation, resilience and good backup strategies.”

Our grateful thanks must go, too, to the Rector and the SGB for their input and overview.

Were any files stolen? How many, and which files were lost?

Ransomware works by encrypting data, making it inaccessible without the appropriate decryption key. One of the challenges with modern cyberattacks is determining whether information was merely encrypted or whether any data was also copied before encryption.

At the time of writing, there is no conclusive way to determine the full extent of any data that may have been accessed or copied. For this reason, organisations should always assume that any cyber incident requires careful investigation while continuing to follow best-practice security procedures.

What types of malware did the cyberattack consist of?

The incident involved ransomware, which is one of the fastest-growing forms of cybercrime worldwide. Ransomware encrypts files and attempts to prevent organisations from accessing their own data.

Modern ransomware attacks are rarely isolated events. They are often accompanied by credential theft, network reconnaissance and attempts to disable security systems before the encryption process begins. This is why cyberattacks are now regarded as full-scale criminal operations rather than simply malicious software infections.

How did the school first realise that Grey's system was under attack?

Like many ransomware incidents, the attack occurred outside normal operating hours. As systems began shutting down unexpectedly, it became clear that something abnormal was occurring. Our immediate response was to isolate affected systems, preventing further activity while specialist recovery procedures were initiated.

One important lesson from incidents such as these is that organisations often detect ransomware only after the attackers have already gained access to a network.

How did the hackers enter the school's system?

Cybercriminals rarely rely on a single method of attack. Around the world, they commonly exploit stolen passwords, phishing emails, social engineering, compromised accounts or previously unknown software vulnerabilities to gain access to organisations. Once inside a network, attackers typically attempt to move laterally between systems while seeking administrative privileges. A common objective is to disable or delete local backups before deploying ransomware.

In Grey's case, local backups were affected during the attack. Fortunately, critical off-site backups remained protected and were instrumental in allowing the school to restore many essential services without having to negotiate with the attackers.

Rather than focusing on one specific entry point, the broader lesson is that cybersecurity depends on multiple layers of defence rather than any single security product.

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Other schools have been hit by similar cyberattacks. How did we manage to recover as quickly as we did?

Every cyber incident is different, making direct comparisons between organisations difficult. Factors such as the timing of the attack, the systems affected and the available backups all influence recovery times.

Grey's ability to recover essential services was greatly assisted by having protected off-site backups of critical systems. These backups formed the foundation of the recovery process and reinforced an important cybersecurity principle: reliable, isolated backups remain one of the strongest defenses against ransomware.

Is it possible for us ever to get all our files back?

The encrypted data has been preserved on secure offline storage. Keeping this information safely archived means that if a legitimate decryption method or key becomes available in the future, it may be possible to recover additional data. Cybersecurity researchers and international law enforcement agencies continue to investigate ransomware groups and occasionally succeed in recovering decryption keys. While no guarantees can be made, securely preserving encrypted data provides the opportunity to benefit from future developments.

What advice can we provide for other schools, companies and individuals to protect them from cyberattacks?

Cyberattacks are no longer rare events. Every day, organisations around the world – including schools, universities, hospitals, businesses and government departments – are targeted by increasingly sophisticated criminal groups. The question is no longer whether attacks occur, but whether individuals and organisations are prepared for them.

Cybersecurity begins with awareness. Most successful attacks still start by deceiving a person rather than defeating technology. Be aware of the many forms of modern phishing and social engineering, including:

- Email Phishing – fraudulent emails designed to steal usernames, passwords or distribute malware.
- Spear Phishing – carefully targeted emails personalised to a specific individual or organisation.
- Whaling – attacks aimed specifically at senior executives and decision-makers.
- Business Email Compromise (BEC) – impersonation of executives or suppliers to trick staff into making payments or sharing sensitive information.
- Vishing – fraudulent phone calls, often enhanced using AI-generated voices.
- Smishing – phishing through SMS or messaging applications.
- Quishing – malicious QR codes that lead users to fraudulent websites.
- Deepfake Video Phishing – AI-generated video or audio used to impersonate trusted individuals.
- Pharming – silently redirecting users to fake websites even when the correct web address is entered.
- Clone Phishing – copying legitimate emails while replacing links or attachments with malicious versions.
- Angler Phishing – scammers impersonating customer support on social media.
- Evil Twin Wi-Fi Attacks – fake public Wi-Fi hotspots designed to intercept user traffic.
- Search Engine Phishing – fraudulent websites promoted through search results.
- Watering Hole Attacks – compromising websites frequently visited by a specific organisation or community.

There are several simple habits that dramatically improve personal cybersecurity:

- Use strong, unique passwords for every online account.
- Change important account passwords regularly, particularly if there is any suspicion they may have been exposed.
- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) wherever it is available. MFA remains one of the most effective defences against account compromise.
- Never approve an unexpected MFA notification.
- Verify unusual financial requests or changes to banking details through an independent communication channel, such as a trusted telephone number, rather than replying directly to an email or message.
- Be cautious of unexpected links, attachments, QR codes and requests for confidential information.
- Keep computers, mobile devices and software fully updated.
- Maintain secure, offline or off-site backups of important information.
- Encourage regular cybersecurity awareness training within schools, businesses and families.

Cybersecurity is no longer solely an IT responsibility; it is a shared responsibility. Every informed individual strengthens the security of their family, workplace and community. Awareness, good cyber hygiene and a healthy level of caution remain the most effective defences against today's evolving cyber threats. Every day, thousands of cyberattacks are attempted against organisations across the world. While technology continues to evolve, the strongest defence remains informed people making careful decisions. Whether at school, at work or at home, every individual has a role to play in protecting digital information. If this incident encourages even one family to enable Multi-Factor Authentication, use stronger passwords, question suspicious messages or talk about cybersecurity at home, then some good will have come from a very challenging experience.

TEACHERS



NEW HAIR RULES

CHEERLEADERS AND PREFECTS



DRUM FOR RARA

**THAT OU ON A TUESDAY
WHO ALWAYS HAS EXTRA BERETS:**



**SOMEONE GET THESE
BEGGARS OUT OF HERE!**

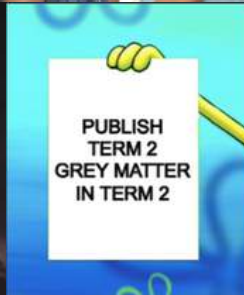


**HAIR
REGULATION**

GREY

PHONE POLICY

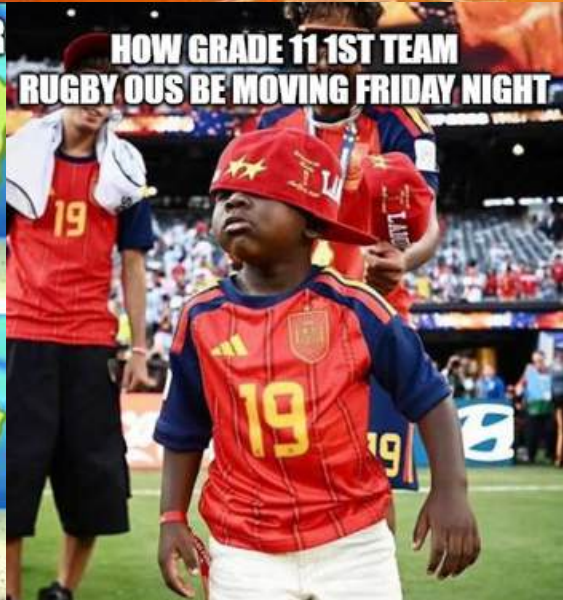
**PUBLISH
TERM 2
GREY MATTER
IN TERM 2**



GREY MATTER



**HOW GRADE 11 1ST TEAM
RUGBY OUS BE MOVING FRIDAY NIGHT**



**MEMES BY
GM TEAM**

**HOW BRO LOOKS AT ME NOW
THAT HE HAS A WHITE BLAZER**



RAIN



REUNION

**COVERING
THE SYLLABUS**



**ME AND BRO CHECKING
WE SAW THE SAME
BADDIE WALK PAST THE STANDS**

LIKS

PAUL ROOS



**ACTUALLY
TRAVELLING**

**GOING
ON TOURS**

