

# The BOLT

Magazine, Spring Term

HS2

COVID-19

iPhone 12

School  
Memories



2019 - 2020

# Editorial



## Welcome to the Spring edition of The Bolt Magazine.

Currently, the UK is in lockdown with many people working from home and only being allowed out for necessities such as shopping to buy food. The Bolt has also been affected with the final work on this edition being completed from home. Affecting countries such as China, USA, Germany, Italy and many more alongside the UK, COVID-19 has affected the whole world. In an article which was written before lockdown began, James explores what COVID-19 is and who it mostly affects.

While the school shutdown did not leave many opportunities for Years 11 and 13 to look back at their time at school, in his article 'Tales of a Middle School Nothing' Owais reminisces on his five years of high school, with insights into memories from his first day in Year 7 all the way to his last in Year 11.

Despite the pandemic, COVID-19 is not the only news in the world. With it being six months now since the last iPhone was released, attention now is slowly turning towards the iPhone 12. Alexander explores the new iPhone 12 and gives his opinion. Another topic in the news is HS2, the multibillion pound project. It has finally been given the green light for phase one, however is the project worth it financially? Levi investigates.

From all of 'The Bolt' team, I hope you enjoy this edition and you have a safe and healthy Easter.

**Aashir Khan, Editor**

2020 marks the end of 5 years of high school for **Owais Khalid 11b**. In this article he looks back upon his five years at Bolton school and picks out the best memories ranging from his first day in Year 7 all the way to his last in Year 11.

## Tales of a Middle School Nothing

With GCSEs on the horizon for both Year 11 and 13 pupils, time is of essence. It's a time where we move on to the next chapter in our lives. For me, that would be Sixth Form. Although my four and a half years at this school have been short-lived, I do have some of my best experiences to share, along with some monotonous (yet helpful) tips on how to survive your first years in ~~the wild~~ school.

My earliest memory of my time in school was (obviously) my first day of lessons. At the knees of the Year 11s of that time, I was lost in the huge building of the school, trying to make my way up the mountain to C31. Being at the top of the food chain at the time, they reaped the benefits of my confusion. Of course, it didn't help when they led me the wrong way causing me to be twenty minutes late for music. Thankfully, Mrs. Hampson was took pity on me and let me off without punishment. Now, looking back in hindsight, I should've asked one of the Sixth Formers for directions. Moral of the story? Don't trust Year 11s to give you the right directions.

My next memory is quite possibly the worst moment of my life. The Year 7 Paris trip to Disneyland was amazing, however, being the tiny Year 7 I was, I was only a few centimetres off the height limit to go on the *Indiana Jones Coaster Ride*. The rest of my friends were able to pass whilst I waited for them for about ten minutes, with visible distress on my face. It was truly the most mortifying experience yet. To make up for it though, I was able to ride on the *Tower of Terror* and the *Rock n Roller Coaster* which were probably better than the Indiana Jones ride (although I wouldn't know). The obvious moral of this story is to try and grow as much as you can before going to Paris (although the trip may be out of the realm of possibility this year).



My next best memory is from a few years down the line in Year 10. Being a member of the Rochdale Coach, I was on there every morning and every evening. On one particular day however, we spotted a humongous wasp. I kid you not, it was the size of my hand. The whole bus plunged into anarchy as we tried to keep ourselves alive from this deadly enemy. Being school boys however, we joked and lied about how the wasp was next to someone just to see their panic. However when the wasp disappeared was when the games began. After joking to a friend (we'll call him *Jamm*) that the wasp was next to him, he panicked until he realised that I was lying. Fate, however, played its part and when we next saw the wasp, it was about two inches from *Jamm's* head, on the bus window. Now we all told *Jamm* that the wasp was really next to his head, but he didn't believe us. We kept telling him and he didn't even turn his head to check (in order to

not be mistaken for gullible again). When the wasp started buzzing however, *Jamm* slowly turned his head to see the winged menace right next to him. Comically, he emitted a delayed scream and the wasp took flight again, never to be seen again... Through its disappearing acts, the infamous insect got its name – Wally the Wasp. I suppose I should have a moral for this story as well...? I guess the moral would be stay focussed in unfamiliar situations, especially when it concerns a winged warrior.



After many hours of searching through my mind for the last memory, I have decided to choose my last day at Bolton School as a Middle Schooler, which took place only a week ago. Although we were all excited to have an early summer, without having to worry about exams, there was a slight hint of melancholy in the atmosphere as some of us knew that this would be the last time we see one another. With everyone leaving having their shirts signed, and having our last lessons with some teachers online as they were following government advice about self-isolating, I especially felt a bit drained after that day. Although my friends and I just ran around the school enjoying our last moments together, we all knew that this would be the last moment spent together. So we took a picture to commemorate our five years at this school and we all kept it together when we said goodbye. While the goodbye hurt at the time, it was nice knowing that these past five years were worth it. I'm just grateful that they happened. That said, looking at the picture below, I regret not doing my hair better!



I guess the morale of that story, and the whole article, is to enjoy every moment. Whether you're in Year 7 or even in Year 10, you don't know when you'll have to say goodbye earlier than expected. I now understand why we read the novel *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. The book was written by the character who, like me, organised her memories of her past after she had to say goodbye to her friends. I am now in a similar position. I would just like to say thank you to all the teachers who have put up with my annoying self for the past five years and all of my friends who stuck by me. And everyone else at school who plays their part. I hope to see you all next year!

*Every year apple brings out a new iPhone model, however is buying a new iPhone yearly a necessity and worth it. Alexander Fitzsimmons 7E makes his assessment.*

## **Should they bring out the iPhone 12?**

Apple earns millions of dollars every year and the company itself is worth trillions. They sell a lot of products but they are mainly known for their iPhones and iPads. They are now looking to bring out the next iPhone, known as the iPhone 12. The public are expecting the iPhone to be released in September 2020 and there are likely to be four models in three different sizes. The biggest is expected to be 6.7 inches and this will be the largest iPhone yet.

Apart from that it is..... basically the same as the iPhone 11, but with four cameras not three (as shown on the internet).

Many people do think that a good phone is essential, because they might need to ring or text people in emergency. Smart phones however are used for other things other than making calls or texting. They are used for emails, the internet and taking pictures as well as many other things. But all iPhones still have the same functions, even though there may be a new model brought out.

Other people's views might be to skip the iPhone 12 or to just not bring anymore iPhones out for a while. But then some people do like new phones coming out, because they want to buy the latest phone. On the other hand, maybe people are so incredibly tired of phones coming out one after the other that not many people will buy them.

My point of view? That it is pointless to bring out an iPhone 12 so soon after the iPhone 11. All it has is an extra camera, while it is probably just a bit quicker than the previous models. Apple could just be selling it because they want to make even more money! Wouldn't it be better if they just bring the next phone two years after the last one came out. Anyone who has bought the iPhone 11 would have spent about £700 and before you know the next iPhone is out and your phone is out of date. You should keep the phone you bought for a longer time, then get the latest phone after a couple of years.



*HS2 is a multibillion pound project which will make travelling around the UK quicker and easier than ever before, however is this project worth spending not millions but billions of pounds on? Levi Higham 9d evaluates both sides and decides.*

## HS2: Is it worth it?

The government has given the go-ahead for its first big infrastructure project – HS2, however it has attracted criticism from people on both sides of the political spectrum. With accusations of poor management and rising costs, is HS2 worth it? In a recent ITV/YouGov Poll results showed that 39% of people oppose the project, while 26% of people support it.

HS2 or High Speed 2 is the new super-fast railway line that will run from London to Birmingham (Phase 1) and then from Birmingham up to Manchester and Leeds (Phase 2). Most trains travel at around 360 km/h, but the trains on this line will travel at around 400 km/h; this would make it the fastest rail line in Europe. HS2 is part of the Government's new extensive infrastructure spending plan. The assumption is that it will help to bridge the divide between North and South. The first phase between London and Birmingham was due to open in 2026 but Transport Secretary Grant Shapps recently said that the first trains may not run on it until 2028-2031. The second phase to Manchester and Leeds has been pushed to 2035-2040, originally being 2032-33.



Supporters of HS2, including most of the Cabinet, say that it will reduce transport times, increase capacity, create jobs and rebalance the UK's economy. According to the Department of Transport, London to Birmingham travel times will be cut from 1 hour 21 minutes to 52 minutes.

Opposition has come from many high-profile Conservatives: Andrea Leadsom, the Business Secretary at the time of the vote to approve HS2, was a prominent sceptic, as were the Prime Minister's transport advisor, Andre Gilligan, and his senior advisor, Dominic Cummings. Overall, 34 Tory members of Parliament voted against the project. Conversely, the official Labour Party position is to support the project.

One of the biggest issues is the ever increasing cost. The cost set out in the 2015 Budget was £56bn, but recent studies have put the cost as high as £106bn, with a total of £600bn being invested in infrastructure in the coming years in this year's budget.

The route also runs through many people's homes, including homes within the Prime Minister's own constituency. Ron Ryall, who has been ordered to leave his home, said: "It's completely wrecked our lives. I'm finding it difficult that someone can just walk into our lives and destroy it. My family have lived on this lane for 100 years. I was born here."

Additionally, the route also runs through several woods and green belt land. This has led to the project receiving staunch opposition from organisations like Extinction Rebellion, who have even gone as far as telling their supporters to “self-isolate” in the affected forests.

Another problem for the project has been its poor management. HS2’s Chief Operating Office quit last year after just one year on the job, following allegations from whistleblowers who said that the HS2 team “deliberately misled parliament.” There have been three chief executives since 2009 and three chairmen in little over a year. There has also been criticism over the fact that a quarter of the 1,346 staff are being paid more than £100,000, with fifteen employees being paid more than £200,000. Joe Rukin, head of Stop HS2, said it was the “smell of rats leaving a sinking ship”.

So why is the Prime Minister supporting this infrastructure project? After all it was him as Mayor of London who said he would “lie in front of bulldozers” to stop the third runway expansion of Heathrow Airport, a project that the Prime Minister has recently said will not go ahead. It is probably because he wants to please the northern voters who put their trust in the Conservatives, many of them for the first time, in December’s election.

Personally, I do not support HS2. There are better ways to bridge the North-South divide than physically connecting them. What is needed is for the funding for the North to match that for the South to support its major cities and businesses. We need infrastructure projects in the North that will help the North.

But the truth is the divide between North and South will never be healed. And the Prime Minister shouldn’t expect it to. After all, London is our capital city, and so has such a significant business district. The problem with HS2 is that it costs far too much. Money people would like to see used elsewhere, like for example, fixing the existing railway system in the North. The government recently nationalised Northern Rail – maybe we should invest in that. But whatever happens, we know Boris is ready to spend a lot of money on infrastructure projects like HS2 in the coming years – for better or worse.

*The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has affected each and every single one of us, whether it be through school being shut, having to stay at home due to the nationwide*

*lockdown or the virus affecting a loved one or close family friend. In an article written before the school shutdown, James Wilson 7B explores the virus, whilst also letting us know who it could affect the most and how it is transmitted.*

## **The Corona Virus Pandemic: what is the threat?**

As soon as somebody mentions it, there is at least one person who screams and at least one who screams shut up. We have to admit, even the slimmest chance of a world apocalypse seems to scare people. Sometimes, though, we have extremely viable reasons to do so. For example, in the series *The Maze Runner*, the flare virus took over the world and (obviously) everybody went nuts from having the disease or being scared. Now, I don't think corona virus has the potential to make somebody go insane, but it can kill. But, what is a corona virus?

A corona virus is the branch of disease under which both the common cold and the flu come. This new corona virus is not called 'corona virus' but it is called COVID-19. It is not extremely deadly, but it can be lethal to people with both old age and underlying respiratory problems. This means that while many have been killed by this virus, if you don't have extreme issues, you should be relatively well.

However, you may be a 'carrier', meaning you are not affected by COVID-19, but you carry it around and affect anyone in the nearby radius. To catch the virus, you must be in a two meter area for fifteen minutes. This means that it can spread fast in a small, contained areas (e.g. a bus, classroom, plane or office).

The virus has resulted in many events are being cancelled and without jumping the gun, I believe that schools in the UK will shut shortly, which may lead to a serious economic impact. This sole virus poses a risk to our entire society!

Focusing on certain individuals, a lot of elderly people are now at a particularly urgent risk and (as I write this very sentence) the advice is to self-isolate for four months! This could severely impact a person's mental health, while the only time they have with their family has been ruined, completely discarded.

Now, I'm not saying self-isolation is a bad thing, but as a grandchild myself, the only communication we can get is via a phone, with no direct, face-to-face communication with her. This is a great way to kill off all fun times with a member of my family.

There are, admittedly, ways to get around this. As I write this, I am currently listening to my family Skype my grandma, so we have not lost all means of communication. This is good news and people with older relatives will be pleased COVID-19 has not cut off all communication.

Keeping in touch has been encouraged, including by political leaders. On St Patrick's Day, Leo Varadkar (the Taoiseach of Ireland) delivered a speech to the nation and one section was specifically addressed to school pupils. One statement he made was to "call your grandparents". He released this with two other suggestions :

1. Keep up with schoolwork.

2. At least once a day, ask your parents how you can help.

To all children, from a kid's perspective, I believe this should be exactly what we should do.

So, to answer the question posed in the title, the only major threat of corona virus is to our society. This means, even though it does not pose a high death risk, it will most certainly be a major risk to our community. For example, we are now unable to go to school due to it being shut. This is bad news, but as a famous football figure said (don't judge me, I don't know his name!) when he cancelled a football match "If it saves one life, it will have been worth it".