

BENEATH THE PURPLE ROOF

October 2025-December 2025

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Roof

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Foreword

Dear Readers,

‘Sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together.’

The year 2025 is soon fading away and we are already looking forward to 2026!

Keeping the rhythm of fast changes occurring around us, we introduce a new style of BTPR, wherein you’ll find more of students’ creativity, besides the information about the events at school.

Simmar has proven to be an asset to the Ed Club and has responsibly taken over the charge. I wish her all the best and Good Luck to Shreya for her YEARBOOK and in her future endeavours.

With Warm Wishes,

Sonia Singh

[HOD English

Teacher in charge Ed Board

& Trinity Speech and Drama in charge]

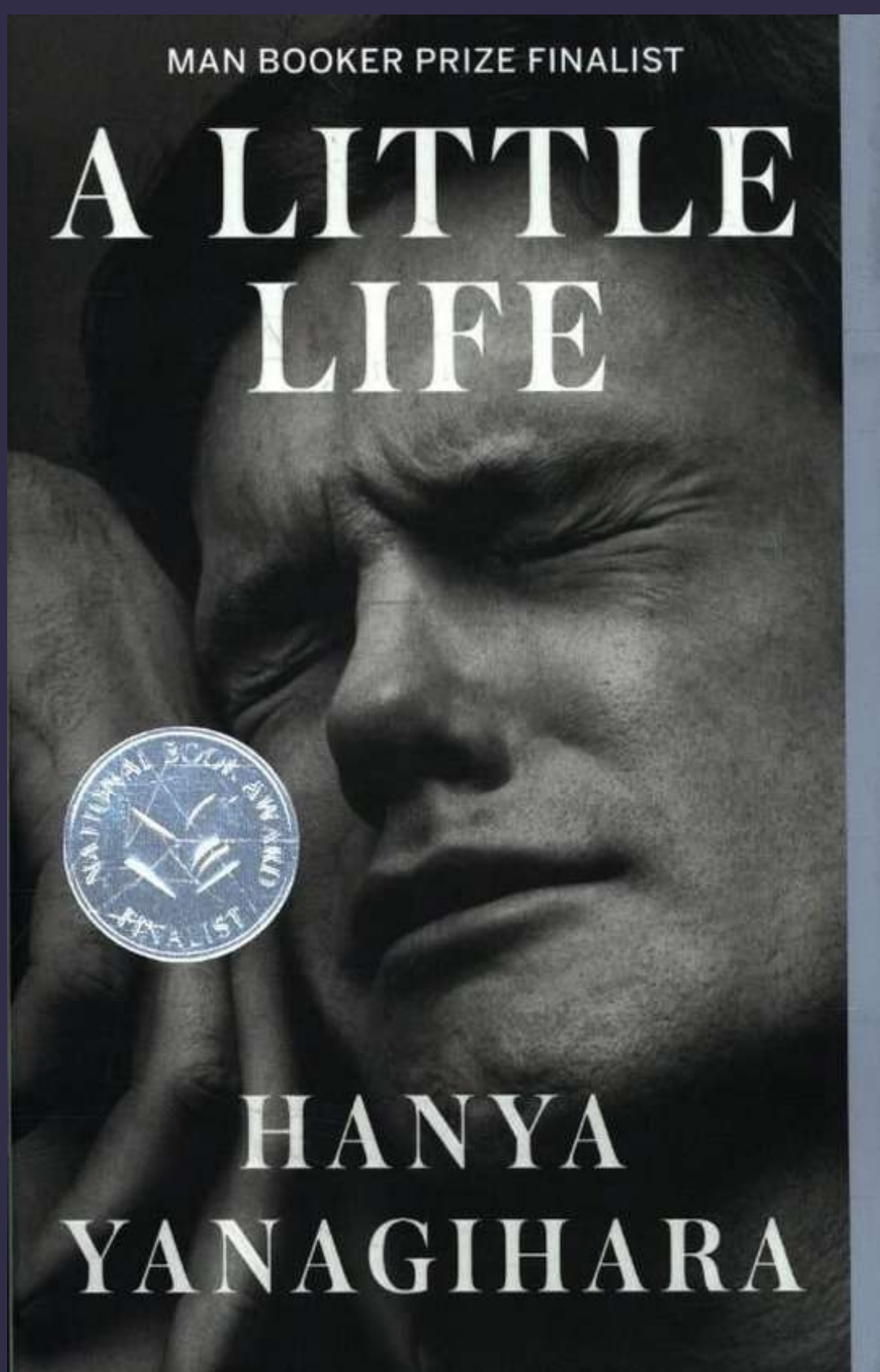
Dear Readers,

I am absolutely delighted to present the latest edition of the BTPR. This edition is like no other because it focuses only on the creative voices of Hopetavians. This edition explores niche opinions about things like films, politics and even Quantum Physics! I hope that you enjoy reading the varying perspectives penned down in these pages and bask in the pure joy of reading.

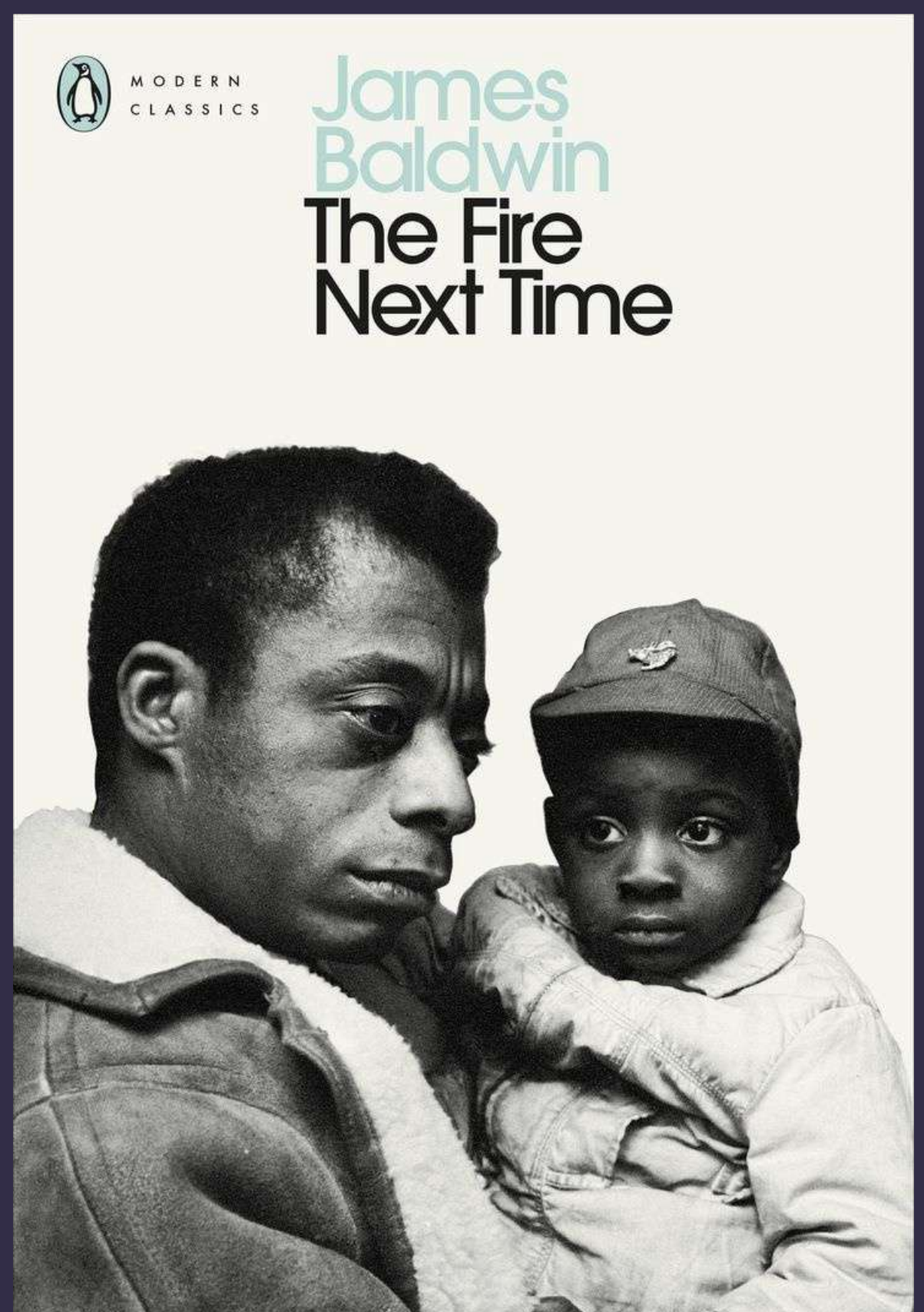
Happy reading!

Simmar Sahota

EDITOR'S PICKS



A Little Life- Hanya
Yanagihara

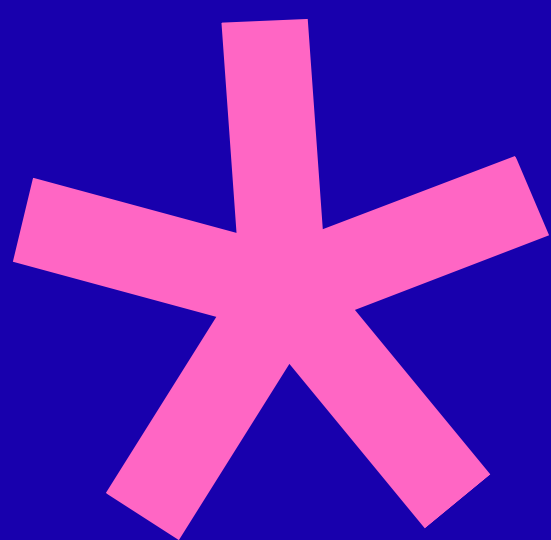


The Fire Next Time-
James Baldwin



CREATIVITY

**UNDER
THE PURPLE
ROOF**



A mandate for change: New York

On the 3rd of December- the New York city elections were held in the United States of America. This particular election was an intense battle between the 3 assemblymen: Andrew Cuomo running Independent, Carl Swiltz running for the Republican party and finally, Zohran Mamdani running on the Democratics behalf. He is the first Muslim Socialist candidate to run for mayor. Each delegate had something quite unique to offer - Andrew Cuomo in the political world is often referred to as Donald Trump's puppet as he follows all his policies and even implicitly was mentioning his political layout. He offers experience and has been the uncontested mayor of New York for over 10 years.



He mentioned in his interview in the wall St. Journal "I am tired of people taking noble American rights" which left many skeptical as more than 62% of the city is filled to the brim with immigrants. The second candidate is Carl who is running for the Republicans and consistently promotes safe public transport (which the state already has and is ranked one of the safest transports in all of America). When we look at Zohran- he knows exactly what the city wants and what it's deprived of. New York has one of the highest rents, and Zohran plans to fix it by taxing the top one percent of all the richest people that live in New York. He went on a 31-day hunger strike to increase the childcare budget and he is making sure that no immigrant shall ever be kicked out of his city. On 4th November he was elected for office and stated in his victory speech, "New York wanted change so its going to get the change". New York has given its mandate for change.

-Savreen Kaur - IX

CHOKHER BALI (2003)

‘Chokher Bali’, the poignant relationship drama set in the early 1900s, was a successful adaptation, inspired by Rabindaranath Tagore’s novel. It won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Bengali. The film is a chamber drama, where Aishwarya Rai deeply immersed herself in the character of Binodini, a youthful, enchanting widow who audaciously rebels against societal conventions.

Her character- Binodini takes centre stage as a meticulously crafted complex female character. The movie marked Aishwarya Rai's first film in Bengali cinema, for which she devotedly learned the language. She developed a strong rapport with director Rituparno Ghosh, who challenged traditional casting norms by casting a Bollywood star in a Bengali film. The movie is titled “Chokher Bali” because Ashalata names her friend Binodini "Bali," but it is Binodini who suggested the nickname "Chokher Bali" for their friendship, which means "grain of sand in the eye" or "eyesore".

Binodini secretly viewed Ashalata as an eyesore because she was the wife of Mahendra, the man Binodini secretly desired. Ashalata, being innocent and illiterate, accepted the nickname without question, unaware of Binodini's ulterior motives. The story begins with Mahendra rejecting Binodini’s proposal of marriage. He marries Ashalata who eventually sent a proposal to Bihari, his close friend who harbours genuine affection for Ashalata and let Mahendra marry her. On the other hand, there’s Binodini, who got married at a young age and became a widow soon after. There she had an old widow friend to whom she used to serve chai; something which was not consented for widows to consume, but Binodini never followed widow rules like- Austerity in Appearance, Domestic Confinement and Subservience etc. by stating proof of her education and the absence of such societal rules in holy books- influencing the old widow to privately start her own rebellion. Mahendra is weak and, westernized but supports patriarchal authority. He is a self-absorbed character

who was attracted to Binodini’s austerity and body, neglecting his devoted wife, Asha. His inability to commit fully to either woman and his shifting affections are a primary source of the conflict and toxicity in the film.

Throughout the film, Binodini desperately searches for a form of independence which becomes increasingly difficult due to her widowed state. Her struggle highlights the hypocrisy of Indian society.

Bihari is the "unsung hero" who consistently tries to steer Mahendra onto the right path and save his friend's marriage to Ashalata. Unlike Mahendra, who is initially attracted to Binodini's beauty and later the idea of her as a challenge. But Bihari admires Binodini for her progressive mindset, and wit. His relationship with Binodini is based on respect and a deep connection, which contrasts sharply with Mahendra's selfish desire and lust.

At last Binodini sacrifices her personal happiness to protect Bihari’s reputation by running away whereas he arrived to finally spend a happily married life with her.

But can we truly judge Binodini for wanting something she admires? In the 20th century, the very idea of widow remarriage was taboo! Tagore penned this mould breaking story, as he asserts the importance of individual freedom from the caged life. It draws an analogy between British colonization of India and subjugation of women. Choker Bali is a classic tale of deception, adultery and relationship exploitation.

Reviewed by Shivika Aurora, XI

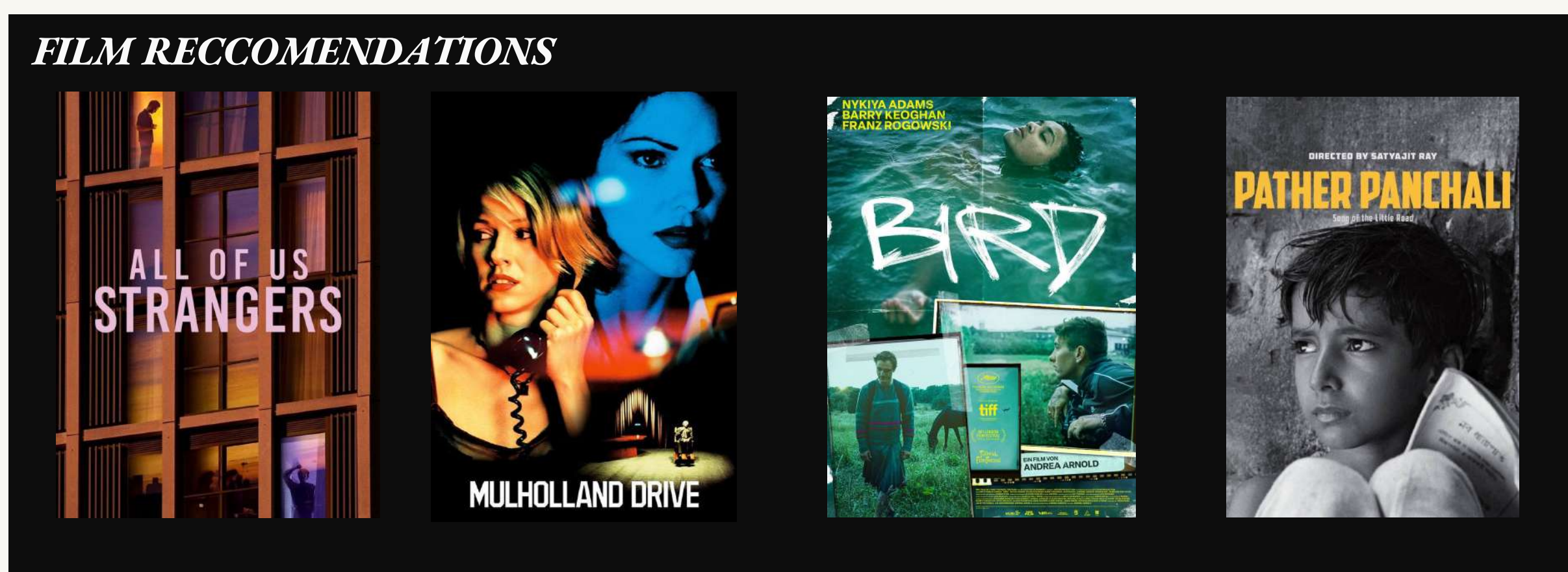
why we need a film club at school!

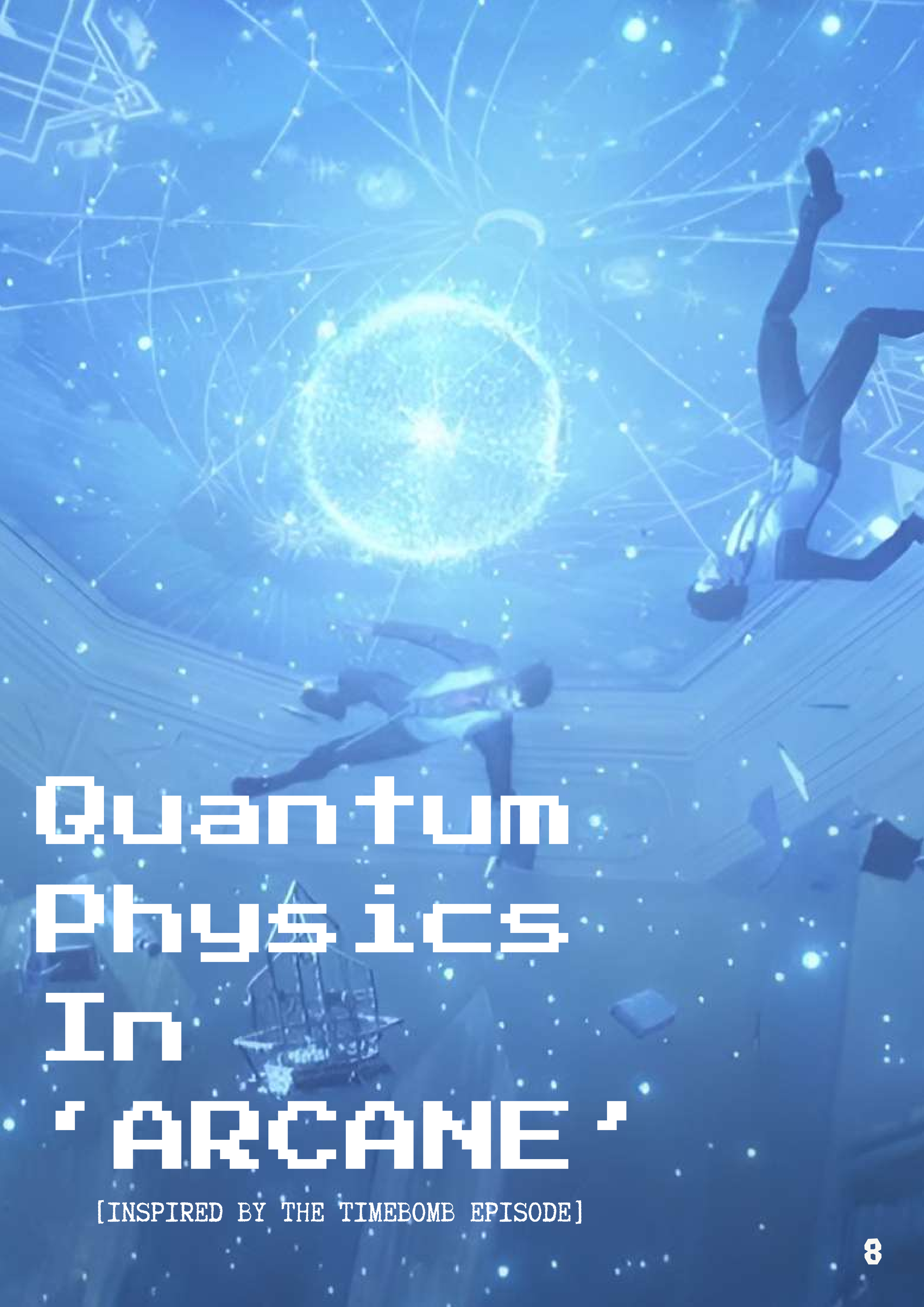
“We are surrounded by a worn-out, dead language. Cinema can be a language to articulate what is around us, to open up a new way of seeing.” (-Werner herzog)

In a landscape cluttered with algorithmic content and superficial reels, we must defend a space for meaningful art. To combat the exponential growth of anti-individualism and sheer mediocrity we require a form of media that is not plagued by superficial emotions. Film is the answer; it has always been.

At school, it is difficult to explore classics and avant-garde films during our regular TV time, as the majority understandably prefer to watch something more light and refreshing after a long week. I strongly believe that the cinephiles of this school need a dedicated forum. I propose the formation of a Film Club: a weekly slot to screen meaningful cinema not on a television, but with a proper projector. This is a great way to preserve the culture of watching films as a community and upholding the tradition of cinematographical critique.

This club will be open to everyone interested, you don't have to be a walking letterbox database in order to join. I plan to extend this collaboration beyond our gates, inviting students from other schools for a wider, more exciting exchange of ideas. It will be a very active collaborative experience with mind stimulating debates and discussions that will help us tap into our inner film critiques. We will organise fun activities to expand our perspective of cinematography and gain a heightened understanding of the importance of films in the world . Our activities will not be limited to writing film reviews, we plan to incorporate more elements such as roleplay, poster making and our very own short film direction (hopefully). Looking forward to executing this plan. I am ending this with yet another quote, *“The cinema image is not a certain meaning, expressed by the director, but an entire world, the mirror of the unique.” (Andrei-Tarkovsky).*





Quantum Physics In 'ARCAINE'

[INSPIRED BY THE TIMEBOMB EPISODE]

Arcane is an animated series by League of Legends which brings together a number of characters and plots surrounding two main cities- Piltover and Zaun. It's a story built on the intertwined fates of two sisters, Vi and Jinx. One of the most crucial elements of the narrative is a supernatural technology known as Hextech, which requires a powerful crystal-based tech invented in Piltover. The series showcases the journey of Hextech, all from the invention of it to the entire Runeterra world colliding because of such enormous amounts of energy. The main characters believe that the Arcane, a raw and ancient form of energy existing within the Arcane world, can be intertwined and mixed with a scientific medium, referring to Hextech- which essentially allows the energy to be quantized and captured without quantum complications. Hextech can stabilize the raw fluctuations in the Arcane and create unlimited or infinite energy for making weapons and, can even make people and objects float. Hextech takes energy that is unpredictable and potentially dangerous and controls it so it can be used more systematically.

A reality check would simply be that this phenomenon is impossible in our world, and, it is. But it is fascinating to think about. Hextech seems to have infinite energy, but real physics states that because of the First law of Thermodynamics (energy in = energy out), it is incomprehensible. In other words, energy cannot be created from nothing, it can only transfer or transform the energy it already has. Because the total amount of energy within the universe must always remain constant. This law is intrinsic to the stability of our reality. Physicists still do not know what would happen if there were an energy disbalance within our realm.

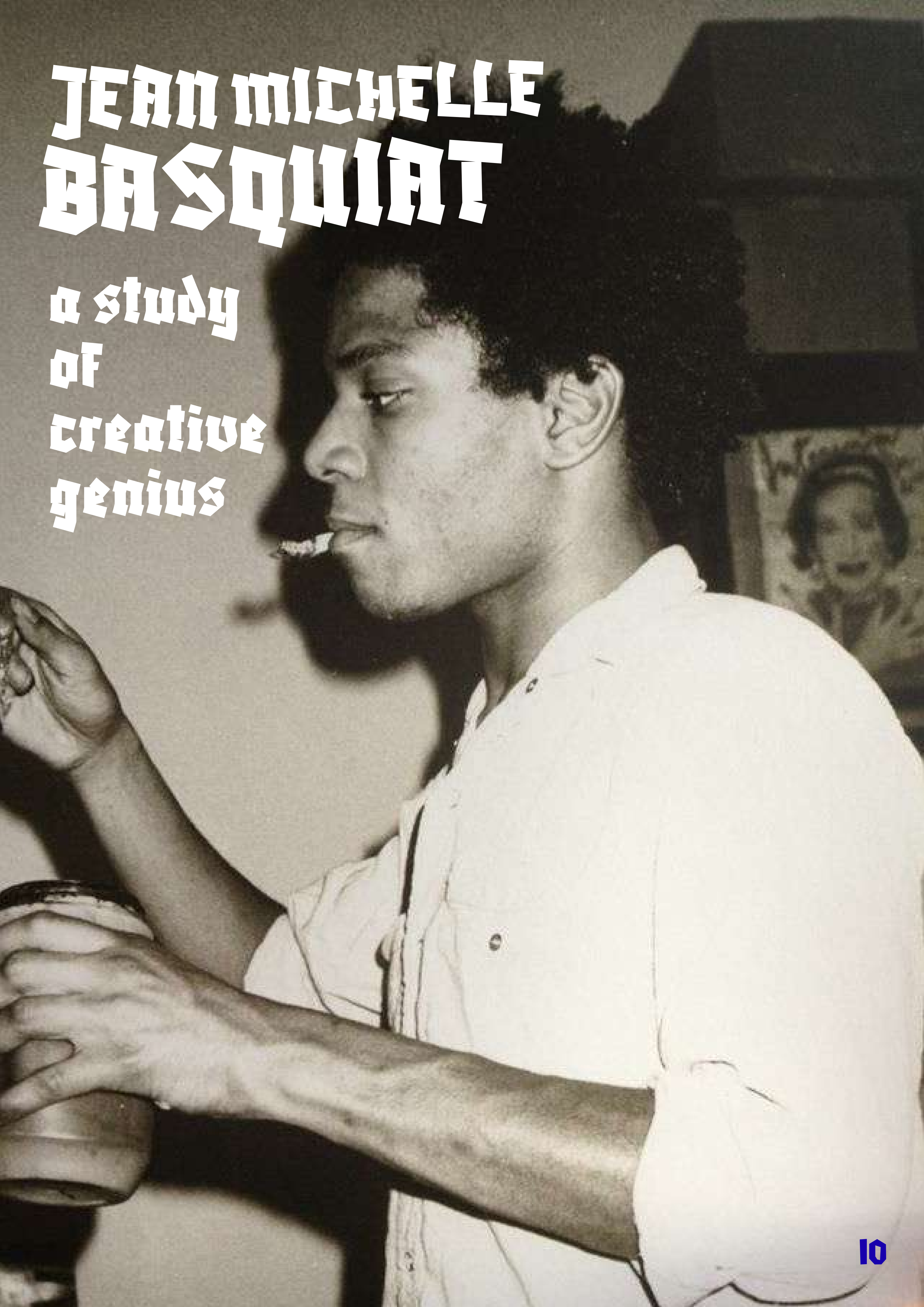
However, something similar to “infinite” energy has been mentioned in quantum physics known as zero-point energy ($E_0 = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\hbar \omega}{2\pi}$), which states that one cannot ever perfectly pin down both a particle's position and momentum (For chemistry students- Heisenberg's uncertainty principle might come to mind)- so even “empty space” contains a small amount of energy at all times. Physicists like Hendrik

Casimir later showed that zero-point energy has real effects, such as the Casimir force, where two metal plates in a vacuum are pushed together by quantum fluctuations. This means that even what we consider empty space is not truly empty, but in fact filled with tiny, constantly fluctuating energy waves. However, even though this energy exists, it is impossible for us to harness it for practical use, because the amount is infinitesimally small. The zero-point energy present in a single atom is billions of times smaller than the energy required to power even the simplest of machines. Scientists can only detect its effects in highly controlled laboratory experiments, and it cannot be scaled to power objects or weapons like Hextech does in the series. Hextech also acts like it stays “perfectly stable,” as if it holds quantum information without getting disturbed or exploding, but real objects lose quantum effects almost instantly because of something called decoherence, which gets worse at normal temperatures. Hextech may be an unreal concept, but it reveals our wish to understand forces that

seem impossible to us. In Arcane, it lights up the world of Piltover and Zaun, inspiring invention and change. And at the end it shows us ourselves and how we want to reach the unreachable and bring forward hope and progress. Hextech may be arising from fantasy, but at the heart of it, it's a real force which can ignite endless inspiration.

Aadya Atri, IX





JEAN MICHELLE BASQUIAT

a study
of
creative
genius

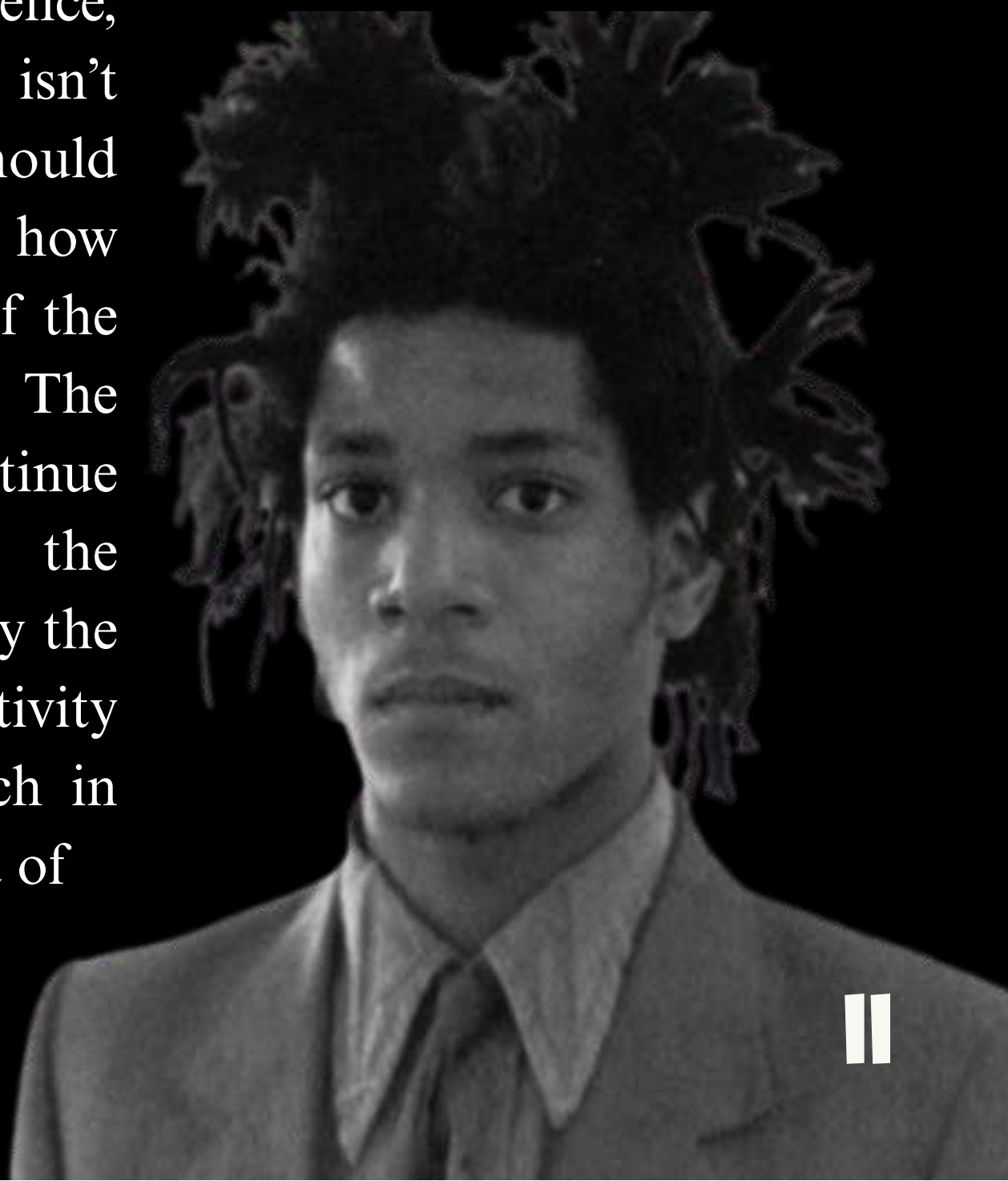
Basquiat's work ethic should serve as an inspiration for all creatives out there. He did not only have tremendous speed- making even Warhol jealous of his efficiency but he had the ultimate artistic flow carved into him. The very flow which mundane people like us are constantly seeking within our mundane lives. But his flow did not arise from the mundane because he did not entirely depend on the things around him. For him- creation was as intrinsic as blood. As intrinsic as a group of embryonic cells- slowly forming tissue. Of course, he painted the things he saw- which were external to him but there was an invisible golden string always allowing his hand to glide along the canvas as though God had created the world just for him to impersonate it with his own soul poured out into the reincarnation. Artistic flow can also only be achieved outside of timely routines and schedules. It is a free thing- belonging to a free world without systems and constraints.

Which is why most artists end up losing the better part of their energies into rebellion and not art. Rebellion precedes art. Art is a product of breaking free. To break free- one must fight. And most often the fight prolongs itself into a tremendous war- ending with the defeat of the child within and an exhausted acceptance of the pragmatic ways of our capitalist world. But Basquiat's secret is that he won his fight. He won the rebellion, and he knew how to break free. How to stop thinking. How to let go of the idea of race and caste and money and opinions and tabloids with critics who have probably never seen the light of day. His brush hit the skin of his hand, and the world went silent- ancient symbols came pouring in; symbols of beasts and love and hunger and purgatory and life and life and life. Basquiat knew life. Hence, he knew art. True art isn't based on skill. True art should always be determined by how well it expresses the soul of the person who created it. The longer we continue conventional standards- the more deaths will be died by the creatives among us. Creativity is a tremendous gift which in fact, uses the most amount of

brain power. This fact might be shocking for many conformists out there, but it is the simplest truth I have. Creation is the highest and most valuable form of any human endeavor. It may not feed the bellies of billionaires or bring a smile to faces of those who love suppressive systems but it arose from our love for life. And Basquiat, he understood that value.

So, before you create your next piece of art- do not do it out of fear, or out of the need to prove your excellence. Do it for the pure urge to express the absurd magic of the life you live. Do it the Basquiat way.

Simmar Sahota, XI-B



HOPETOWN'S Stalwarts



Twenty-five years at Hopetown

With Mr. Divakar Ganguly

I joined the school on 6th august in the year 2000. I came here as a substitute for the tabla teacher who had just left. I was under the tutelage of my guru who taught at the Doon school. At first, I was reluctant but eventually, after much coaxing from my guru, I subsided and began teaching. Teaching surprisingly came naturally to me. I soon realized that there was something within me that allowed the girls to learn to play so fast. I had never realized that teaching would come so easily but it did.



This was my first job. Previously I owned a Tours and Travels company. I used to organize midterm trips and come to the school as a part-time teacher till 2004. I've also owned a dairy farm which I unfortunately could not run due to my inability to indulge in corruption. Initially when I came here, I didn't realize that teaching young people would be fun or that it could prove to be simultaneously interesting and challenging.

In terms of the overall atmosphere, the school was a really small community upon my arrival here. We had three blocks- within which academics, activities and all administrative jobs were conducted. There were only about 140-160 students here.

I evolved with Hopetown once we started Hindustani music as a subject which brought out interest in our teachers- because teaching skills through the subject was much more inspiring for everyone. I was assigned as the person in charge of starting the subject. We used to sit together and create definitions in English (since, the council wanted all English definitions even though the open market has Hindi definitions). I always felt immense support whenever we put up any cultural events. We were always given the freedom to decide what to perform - giving us a beautiful space to grow and, through us, our children and department - started growing. Eventually we grew from a staff of 3 to a staff of 11 (in the year 2019). Another important aspect I think has been my beautiful camaraderie with all my colleagues and a beautiful feeling of oneness which delivered a beautiful atmosphere to Hopetown and the students within it. The support for cultural events still exists.

After so many years we are very well established in cultural arts. The best of school's regard Hopetown as one of the most culturally rich schools. Many of our students have become event planners, directors, writers, photographers, actors in theater etc. Many of them even have their own bands.

My own personal development has come from several different areas. Many workshops and forums have changed my overall perception of students. I feel that many times- I can understand a student's perspective. This ability to connect with the students and earn their trust has come over the course of many years and now I find it easy to bridge the divide of age while communicating with my students. This school has allowed my mind to adapt to the minds of the youth.

I have learnt how to put myself in my students' shoes while teaching them- making it easier for them learn and for me to teach.

A lot of differences in teaching methodology have also evolved over the years. We used to be chalk and dust teachers and now we are laptop-internet teachers. We now must keep up with the student community – we must keep abreast. If a student is talking about an AI tool, we must know what they're talking about. I have made it a point to research new and upcoming things so that I can advise the students on new technology. Even the classroom scenario has changed. I have seen how many subjects' teachers have incorporated large amounts of research to deliver the best possible education to the child. Students stand to benefit here, at this age. But I do have reservations with laptop usage. I believe that laptops must be used as a tool- but they have instead turned into portals for entertainment for many. For me this shift is a downside to the usage of technology.

A piece of advice I'd like to provide is that- Each of us has only this life. How we live this life should be totally governed by us. Not even by our parents completely. You're still very young – mentors are important. But amongst your own community- the effect the community has on you should not get to decide for you. The community should never decide for you. Mentors and peers alike. I wish every child is able to see the balance between what others want from them and what they want from their own life. Even after leaving school- that balance will keep them steady in their life. I hope you make the right choices so that when you progress in life- you evolve into a better person- a happy person.

Being with young people around me, I have developed a very lighthearted approach to things. You all keep me very fun-loving and I'm really happy about that.

Two decades at Hopetown

With Mr. Vinai Pandey

I joined Hopetown Girls' School in 2005 as Administrator because I was drawn to the school's mission to empower young girl students and provide them with a world-class education.

The school's emphasis on holistic development, values-based learning, and community service resonated with me.

I saw an opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the lives of students and contribute to the school's growth.

The warm and supportive community, dedicated staff, and bright students made it an ideal place for me to lead and grow as an educator.

My journey as Administrator of Hopetown Girls' School has been incredibly fulfilling.

I've had the privilege of working with talented colleagues, passionate students, and supportive parents.

Together, we've achieved many milestones, from academic excellence to extracurricular achievements.

I've seen students grow into confident, compassionate leaders, and that's the greatest reward.

The school's growth, innovation, and commitment to excellence have made my journey truly rewarding.

I'm grateful for the trust placed in me and look forward to continuing to shape young minds.

One incident that still stands out was when we organized a charity event to support underprivileged girls in the community.

The students took it upon themselves to plan and execute the entire event, from fundraising to outreach.

Seeing the students come together, take ownership, and make a tangible difference in the lives of others was truly inspiring.

It reinforced my belief in the power of empowering young girl students and the impact they can have when given the opportunity.

The sense of pride and fulfillment on their faces is something I'll always cherish.

To the incredible girls of Hopetown,

I want to say that you are capable of achieving anything you set your minds to.

Don't be afraid to dream big, take risks, and push beyond your limits.

Believe in yourself, be kind, and uplift one another.

The world needs your unique talents, passions, and perspectives.

Remember, it's okay to stumble, but it's how you rise that matters.

Shine your light, spread kindness, and make your mark on the world.



Fifteen years at Hopetown

With Ms. Sapna Sagar

I joined the school on 16th August 2010. What inspired me the most was that it is an all-girls residential institution, known across the city for the strong values and rich culture it instills in its students. The school's commitment to the overall development of both students and teachers, along with the positive and supportive work culture at Hopetown, motivated me to become a part of this esteemed institution.

My journey over the past 15 years has been truly wonderful. I have grown more confident and have learned so many new things at a professional level. The people I have worked with have always supported and guided me whenever I faced challenges or needed direction. The loving students have made my time here so fulfilling that I hardly realised how quickly these 15 years have passed. Every year brought new learning opportunities and challenges that helped me grow further. I feel truly proud to have been a part of this school.

There are many moments that have stayed with me, but one that truly stands out is when a former student returned to thank me for the guidance and encouragement I had offered her during a difficult phase. She shared how that support had played an important role in rebuilding her confidence and helping her move forward. It was one of my proudest moments—when a student recognises her teacher's contribution and credits you for the person she has become. Moments like these make the journey truly meaningful.

Teaching has evolved significantly in the last 15 years. There has been a shift from traditional, teacher-centred methods to more interactive, student-centred approaches. Technology has become an integral part of the classroom, enabling more engaging and personalised learning. Assessment methods have also broadened, focusing not just on academic performance but on skills, creativity, and holistic development. These changes have made teaching more dynamic and meaningful.

My message to the girls is: Believe in yourself and never underestimate your abilities. Stay curious, stay confident, and never shy away from challenges. Success is built on consistent effort, resilience, and a positive attitude. Be kind, be open-minded, and always strive to become the best version of yourself. The world is full of opportunities—embrace them with courage and grace. And wherever life takes you, carry with you the values and ethics that the school has instilled in you, and continue to inspire the same in others.



Events at a Glance

French Exchange Program

1ST OCTOBER-7TH OCTOBER



Interhouse Basketball



1st Position- Diamond house



2st Position- Ruby house

FOUNDER'S ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS



Spandan

*Founder's
Grand finale*



HOUSE BOARDS

Astronomy and Ancient Mythology





2nd Position- EMERALD HOUSE



3rd Position- DIAMOND HOUSE

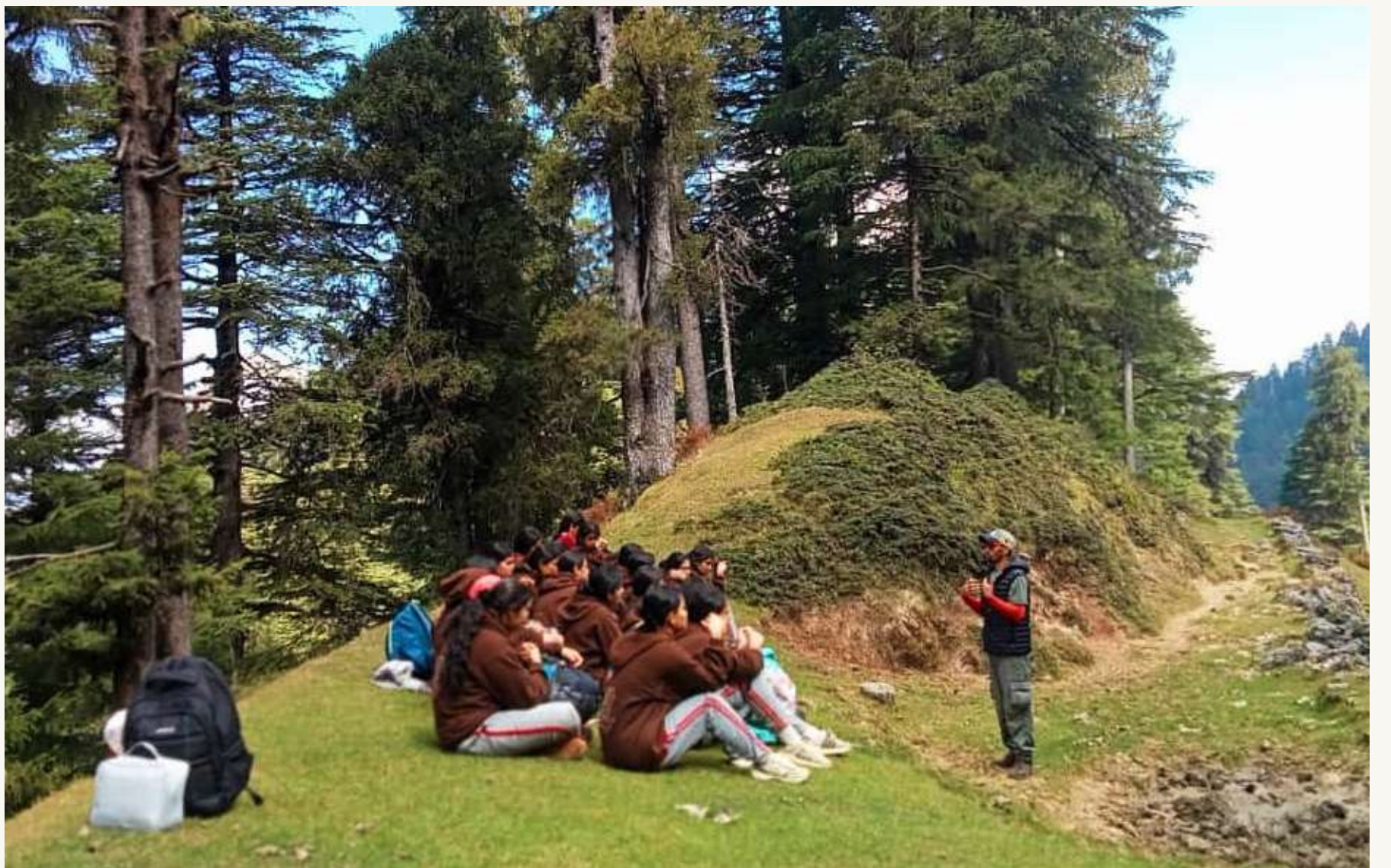


4th Position- SAPPHIRE HOUSE

CHILDREN'S DAY



IAYP BRONZE TREK 25-26TH OCTOBER, CHAKRATA



IAYP SILVER TREK 25-27TH OCTOBER, NAG TIBBA



IAYP GOLD RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

25-29TH OCTOBER, CHAKRATA



AZAIRE'S FAREWELL

6TH NOVEMBER





AZAIRE'S GRADUATION



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