

THE MENDEL TIMES

The newsletter written for (and by) TTO students



From Postcards to Bastognes

By: Mr. Hunter

Mr. Hunter teaches the (pre) IB English programme to upper grade tto vwo

It's all about the biscuits.

Although it starts with a postcard (to your mentor before you come to Mendel) and finishes with a the IB English Language & Literature diploma, Mendel's tto programme is actually a journey involving new experiences, acquiring new skills and knowledge, making new friends – plus plenty of time for fun along the way.

Remember dreaming for the first time in English? Normally, it is around Christmas of 1tto. What about those of you lucky enough to have gone to England in 2tto - did the host family really have a carpet on the bathroom floor?



Interview with teachers

Get to know some of our beloved TTO teachers even better!



Eurovision Song contest

Find out everything about the Eurovision Song contest!



Music recommendations

Discover the latest new music, here in The Mendel Times.

Not forgetting the regular school excursions and trips such as the Buitenjan, Ieper or Aken in year 4 , the IB international placement (stage) which you organise yourself in 5th. Then there is London, Rome or Paris in your exam year. For those of you yet to experience any of this...it will be all the sweeter when it happens.

Your first formal academic qualification is the Cambridge Advanced English in fourth year and we celebrate your success with Bastognes and tea when the certificates arrive. Thereafter, the focus is on preparing for the IB programme in 5th and 6th year.



But what is that IB English Language and Literature A diploma all about? Well, in short, we are building on the skills you have learned in the tto junior school by developing your critical literacy skills .

These texts can be anything from Shakespeare to Nike trainers. Yes, Nike trainers or indeed any type of clothing, or poster, documentary, film, advert, cartoon, poem or song are all texts.

The tto senior school boils down to exploring global issues through analysing English language texts in oral, audio visual and written form. In essence, we are preparing you for University life and global citizenship.

So what does the tto programme mean to our students? Think about the funniest moments in your classes, trips, the new friends, the most memorable speeches or presentations, or the films you made together when studying plays or even the teachers you

liked or who made you laugh. Those are all aspects of the tto programme at Mendel.

But if you ask me what I think makes the programme so special and fun to be part of...that's easy for me to answer – the students. You all stay together in the same classes throughout your Mendel life (years 1 to 6).

There is only one word to describes the atmosphere and culture that is created by you, our tto students, and I have never been able to come up with an English translation - GEZELLIG!



Eurovision Songcontest

By: Koen Federer (1EGA1)

On Saturday may 23rd the Eurovision song contest was held (in the Netherlands!). The presentation was done by famous make-up artist Nikkie de Jager (known on YouTube as 'Nikkie Tutorials'), singer and former performer at the song contest, Edsilia Rombley, singer Jan Smit, and singer, actress and TV presenter Chantal Janzen. With guest performances from among others Duncan Laurence and Afrojack. These are the things and performances that caught my eye.

The stage

At the performances there were mostly really cool backgrounds and acts. That was because of the big stage and high quality lights. This was just revolutionary. We also got a lot of admiration from other countries. I think the bar was set high for Italy next year!

The public votes

The public votes were very interesting. There were 4(!) countries that got 0 points from the public. (the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain). On the other hand, other countries received many points in comparison to others. Especially Ukraine and Italy (364 points and 318 points). The top 3 countries from the professional jury were:

- Switzerland
- France
- Malta

The performances in general

Different from other editions, There were many different styles of music, very diverse. You had 2 rock bands (Finland and Italy), some bombastic songs (for example Azerbaijan), a couple of ballads (for example France and Switzerland), but also synth-pop (Iceland).

My top 5 songs and why

Dark side (Finland)

This is my favorite song of them all. The band "blind channel" combines rock and pop to create what they call, 'violent pop', very innovative. They sounded very good live and you almost couldn't tell that it was live. The 2 singers sound very cool together. The light-show was also awesome.

Voilà (France)

This song is sung by Barbara Pravi. She sings her song in French, her own language, which can work out well, but it also can't. So it is a big risk to take but I think it worked out very well. She has an amazing voice and the song suits it perfectly. The act was a little bit boring, but that is the only reason why it isn't number 1 on this list.

El diablo (Cyprus)

This is your typical Eurovision song, very solid. Heavily inspired by Lady Gaga, I have to say that, but I don't think that that makes the song worse. The melody's will be in your head for sometime, it isn't a bad thing tho. The act was pretty normal compared to other performances. But it also wasn't bad. A well-deserved number-3 spot.

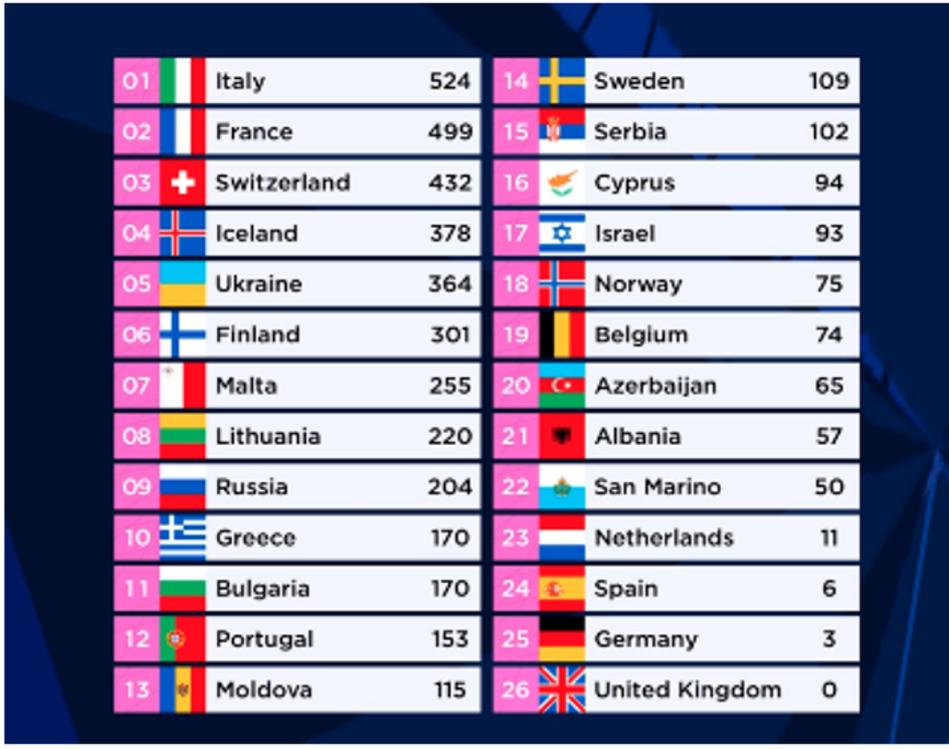
Birth of a new age (The Netherlands)

I think this is the most underrated song from the whole contest. It is catchy, it has a good statement, a colourful act and diversity. It is an original song. I can go on like that forever, but I have to take into a count that I am Dutch and that I have to rate all songs equally, that's why it is on number 4.

Tout l' univers (Switzerland)

A very good song, singer and performance. However, it is all a bit mediocre. Other songs have some more outstanding things, it is also a bit too much inspired by arcade from Duncan Laurene in my opinion. Nonetheless, still a very good song. Just like I said with France, doing a song in your own language is a risk. However, I think they nailed it. A solid number 5.

The Final Score



| | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----|
| 01 |  | Italy | 524 | 14 |  | Sweden | 109 |
| 02 |  | France | 499 | 15 |  | Serbia | 102 |
| 03 |  | Switzerland | 432 | 16 |  | Cyprus | 94 |
| 04 |  | Iceland | 378 | 17 |  | Israel | 93 |
| 05 |  | Ukraine | 364 | 18 |  | Norway | 75 |
| 06 |  | Finland | 301 | 19 |  | Belgium | 74 |
| 07 |  | Malta | 255 | 20 |  | Azerbaijan | 65 |
| 08 |  | Lithuania | 220 | 21 |  | Albania | 57 |
| 09 |  | Russia | 204 | 22 |  | San Marino | 50 |
| 10 |  | Greece | 170 | 23 |  | Netherlands | 11 |
| 11 |  | Bulgaria | 170 | 24 |  | Spain | 6 |
| 12 |  | Portugal | 153 | 25 |  | Germany | 3 |
| 13 |  | Moldova | 115 | 26 |  | United Kingdom | 0 |

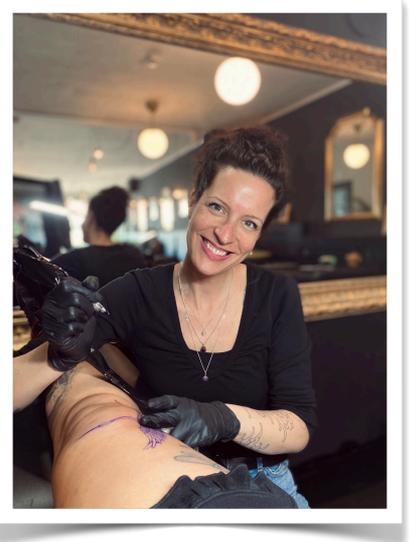
Interview Mrs. Roest

By: Bima Poeze (1EHA2)

Once again, I had the privilege to look into one of our coolest teachers' life.

Mirjam Ellen de Jong is a graduate of Mendelcollege. People who are close to her call her "Mim" because when she was young, her sister could not pronounce "Mirjam" since then "Mim" stuck as her nickname. I think it's a cute nickname. She took her husband's last name after they got married ten years ago.

Mim Roest was born and raised in Haarlem. She went to Art school in Amsterdam Academy for Fine Arts and lived in Amsterdam for a few more years. But her heart always belonged to Haarlem. She doesn't think that she will move out of Haarlem.



Art has been her passion since she was young, during high school it was her favorite subject together with physical education. She was an active person; she did gymnastics and swimming at a high level which requires focus and full dedication of time and effort.

Biology was also one of the subjects she loved to learn which related to another activity she did and actually still does, Girl Scouts. With all the activities she did in the past she managed a good relationship with her friends. She is still friends with people she met 11 years ago.

What I like about the interview with Mrs. Roest is that she was honest enough to say that she did not like school. Which was very funny to hear from a teacher. I learned from my conversation with her that it's okay not to like something. As a human we cannot like EVERYTHING. Imagine how chaotic our lives would be if we have to like to do EVERYTHING. However, the trip to London with the whole class when she was in 5 Havo was one of the most exciting things she experienced during high school.

However, she did mention that she was also interested in becoming a farmer. She even went to a school where she learned about farming. But after a while she found that her calling was in the art world. Not only is she a great teacher she is also a tattoo artist in her free-time. If she's not teaching you will find her sketching tattoos. She is very much a lucky person, to achieve her dreams; to do art and become a tattoo artist. And she made it.

How fulfilling it is to find a balance in work and passion in once!

She also likes to spend time with her family and go out with her friends which, recently has been more difficult due to Covid 19.

She has been working at the Mendelcollege for almost fifteen years now, she noticed the different between teenagers then and now. During her own school period friends had more interaction with

each other and teenagers nowadays are more technology users. She hopes that teenagers use the technology to communicate with each other in a positive way.

She was never a big fan of a movie star or a singer, but Michael Jackson was one of the memorable artists she remembers. She was more a city girl with polished nails and make up and she remembered that she and her friends once dressed up as Spice Girls. How fun!

Once again, she also got to answer my random questions. When I asked if she would rather go to the past or to the future, she would rather go to the past when she did not have wrinkles (what wrinkles?) but keeping the knowledge she has now. But also... going fast forward to the future skipping the Corona period is also a fine choice too.

If she could choose between being able to fly or to being invisible, she chose to fly. So, she can go traffic free everywhere to work, to the tattoo shop, to her home and to other places in the world.

Fun-fact: Mrs. Roest's first phone when she was 16 was the "unbreakable Nokia".

September 1, 2000: @Nokia 3310 was announced. It sold very well, being one of the most successful phones with 126 million units sold worldwide and being one of Nokia's most iconic devices. The phone is still widely acclaimed and has gained a cult status due to its durability. (Source Twitter @ValaAfsar)



The Spice Girls are an English pop girl group formed in 1994. The Spice Girls were signed to Virgin Records and released their debut single "Wannabe" in 1996; it hit number one in 37 countries and commenced their global success. Their debut album Spice (1996) sold more than 23 million copies worldwide, becoming the best-selling album by a female group in history. In November 2000, the group released their last album "Forever" and the following month they split. (Source: Wikipedia)

It was once again a fun interview. Thank you for your time Mrs. Roest and I hope all of you have enjoyed this article.

#staysafe

Mr.B 🎩

Interview Mr. Heinemeijer

By: Zülal Can (1EHA1)

The schools have been open after a long time at home and a lot has changed. We were able to interview our principal Mr Heinemeijer to ask him a few questions about this (interview from March 2021).



Do you think the rules at school are enough to avoid the virus?

'I don't think it's enough because the virus is hard to control and we are with a lot of people together at school. So it's hard to completely avoid it but, I think we are doing our best considering the limits.'

Would you want more rules, or do you think this is enough?

'I don't want more rules. We had rules for a long time. Of course there are a lot of people in the hospitals and that's terrible but on the other side, there are also 17 million people and we need to be realistic. So it is definitely complicated but I don't want stricter rules.'

Is there a chance that the schools are going to close again?

'Well I don't think so because the pressure from the society is too much, but if this weekend or next week the Covid-19 cases increase they have to do something. But I don't think they will close again.'



Were you busier during the lockdown?

'I don't think I was busier doing (for example) other things. Every 'normal' year we talk about education or how the lessons are going and so on and now we are discussing more practical things. So it's not busier.'

And lastly, do you have any tips for the students?

'Keep on smiling, believe in yourself and keep up the good work. It's difficult but I think you all can do it. And next year I hope it's normal again. Good luck on your testweek!'

FUN & FACTS

By: Oscar Nolan (2EA)

Word of the month:

'Discombobulated', which means: confused or disconcerted.

Oscar had a hard time trying to pronounce discombobulated.

Fun fact of the month:

Carrots weren't always orange they actually came in a whole assortment of colors but when Willem of Orange came along the Dutch bred the carrots to be orange.

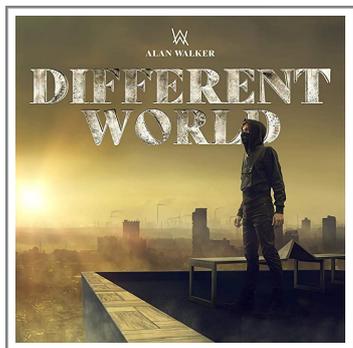


3 Best DJ albums of all times

By: Koen Federer (1EGA1)

I have always loved the DJ genre. So I thought to myself: Why don't make an article about it? And here it is! The top 3 best dj albums of all time. (Again based on my opinion). The albums will mainly be from the 10's and the 00's.

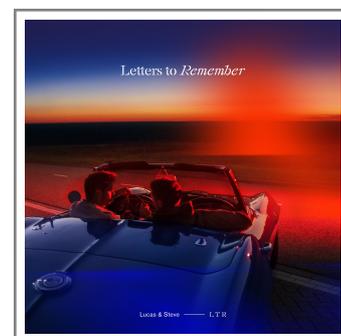
Different world (Alan Walker)



This is the debut album from Alan Walker. It came out in 2018, but it also has songs in it from 2015. Alan Walker is a Norwegian artist, born in Bergen. He became famous for songs such as *Alone* (part 1) and *Faded* (both songs are on the album). You can say that the album is more of a compilation album, because of the varied data of release of the songs. But that does not make it a bad album. Exactly the opposite! I think it is the best DJ album of all time and that is why it is on the number one spot.

Letters to remember (Lucas and Steve)

I have already talked about this album in my new music recommendations list. But I just had to include it in the list because it is such a good album! I think Lucas and Steve are also one of the best DJ duos ever in my opinion. All of their songs are all amazingly good. That's why it is number two on this list. I can't pick a favourite song!



True (Avicii)



This studio album is made by Avicii. Sadly enough he died in 2018, but I want to keep the article positive so I won't go deeper into that. The album consists of big hits such as *Hey Brother* and *Wake Me Up*. I think Avicii was one of the most talented dj's of our time. He can add a sort of vibe to his music to just let you feel happy immediately and not every artist can do that. The song *True* is a perfect example for his talent. That's why the album is on number 3 of this list.

(Please follow me on Spotify, I make many new playlists like top 10's of artists, my top 10 songs from the moment and playlists for activities like gaming. You can follow me by clicking on [this](#) link (digital version), my username is 'Koen Federer'. if you have any suggestions for new playlists, please mail to 11159@mendelcollege.nl.)

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

By: Fien Tol, 5V1

EMAIL 9729@mendelcollege.nl WITH YOUR SHORT STORY FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN THE MENDEL TIMES! You can enter your story before and after the summer holiday.

We have decided to organise a short story competition! Because our literary geniuses deserve just as much praise.

To partake in the Short Story Competition, write a short story of max. 1000 words, inspired by one of the following themes:

DESTINY

REDEMPTION

HEROES

DOUBT

Then send your story to 9729@mendelcollege.nl. The winning story will be featured in the next issue of the Mendel Times.

Here is an example of a short story, to give you an idea of what your story might look like:

The morning was brighter than yesterday's, and those before it. Darkness usually engulfed the room when he woke up, making him want to turn over and get another few hours of sleep. This morning, however, it was different. He felt it from the moment he opened his eyes and heard the faint tapping of rain on his window. The wind whistled through the crack in the door, willing him to place his feet on the ground and investigate.

He was awake instantly; the bright light which seemed almost unnatural before him, stinging his eyes and making him aware of every sound, every crackle.

It was only then that he noticed that it was not morning at all; the clock told him it was two AM. Chills went down his spine like spiders crawling.

2 AM, 2 AM. Make sure you're asleep by two AM. 2 AM, 2 AM. They will check at two AM.

The old nursery rhyme echoed in his mind as if someone turned on an old cassette in an empty ballroom. The melodies which once seemed so sweet, guiding him to sleep, now had an ominous air to it.

He clenched his eyes shut, willing the sound to fade. It reminded him of times long gone, opening old wounds in his fragile heart.

When he opened his eyes again, he had to blink. The light seemed even brighter than before, seemingly surrounding the entire house: a white light flashed from under the door, through the crack, through the window and even seemed to be bursting from the walls. His entire room lit up like a searchlight.

Squinting, he found his way to the door. Despite part of him screaming that it was a bad idea, he felt as though it was his duty to open the door and face whatever was out there. There must have been a reason why the Light found him tonight.

Gripping the door handle, he forced open the door and was instantly met with a strong current dragging him out. The light brightened with a flash, before dimming and disappearing completely.

The door swung shut and the night wore on.

English Sports Day

By: Erik van Duijn Recalde (1EGA1)

On May 13th we had the English Sports Day. I had a lot of fun because I saw my friends from the other group again. We first gathered at school and biked to the Cricket club in Bloemendaal. The English Sportday could then start with with cricket and ended with Rugby. The cricket training was given by an Indian and a British man and started with an explanation of how the sport was invented and how to play the sport. Then we did a warm-up and started to learn how to hit a ball. We ended with a game of cricket and after that we had a break.



Cricket

When we were done with cricket we went to the Rugby club in Haarlem. The training was given by Rugby players from Australia,, New Zealand and Ireland. When they introduced themselves we were sorted into groups, and my group started with learning how to kick the rugby ball. We then did a workout and learned how to tackle with punch bags and we finished with a passing game. I enjoyed the Sports Day very much because the sports were fun, it was a nice sunny day and I saw all of my friends again. I hope we can do days like this more often.



Rugby



Music recommendations from the Mendel Times members

By Koen Federer (1EGA1)

In my last articles I gave my opinion about songs and albums and gave recommendations. but now i asked other Mendel Times members for their favourites so we have all kinds of different albums, artists, and songs in all genres! (please make sure to follow me on Spotify: Koen Federer)

Julie den Exter:

One direction (*pop*)
Harry Styles (*classic rock, pop*)
Louis Tomlinson (*singer-songwriter*)

Bima Poeze 🎩:

One too many - P!nk (*poprock, pop, r&b*)
Riptide - Vance Joy (*indie-pop, folk*)
There Will be a way - Dotan (*pop, poprock*)
Hymn for the weekend - Coldplay (*alternative rock, poprock*)
To die for - Sam Smith (*pop, dance, soul*)

Cleo Oldenziel:

Lewis Capaldi (*pop*)
Davina Michelle (*pop*)
Dua Lipa (*pop, dreampop*)

Marijn van Kooten:

Blue - keshi (*hiphop, r&b, alternative*)
Lost in You - khai dreams (*singer-songwriter*)
Dove e quando - Benji & Fede (*latin pop*)

Ms. Dams:

Islands (album) - Bear's Den (*alternative rock*)
Cleopatra (album) - The Lumineers (*folk rock*)
Lover (album) - Taylor Swift (although... she will love anything and everything by Taylor Swift forever and always) (*pop*)

Oscar Nolan:

Thefatrat - We 'll meet again (*electro house/ EDM*)
Tobu - sweet story (*house/ EDM*)
Jim Yosef & Alex skrindo - ruby (*dance/ electronic*)

Fien Tol:

Diamonds on the soles of her shoes - Paul Simon (*singer-songwriter/ country*)
Girl - the Beatles (*pop/ rock and roll*)
Something good - Alt-J (*alternative rock*)

Me (Koen Federer):

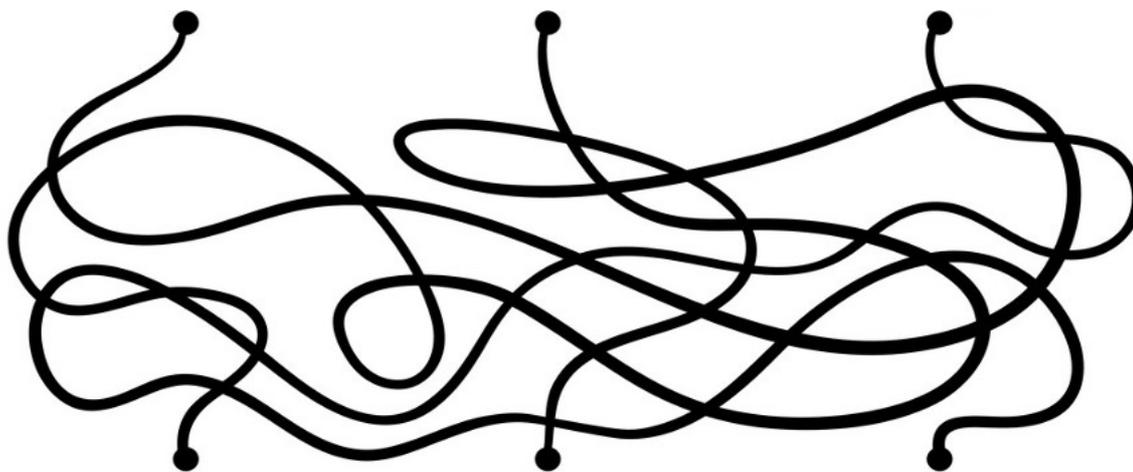
Because I love you - Chef'Special (*pop*)
Impossible - nothing but thieves (*pop/rock*)
Amigo - Chef'Special (*pop*)

Fun!

By: Oscar Nolan (2EA)

A famous YouTuber is doing a eat only one color challenge

Check if all the participants are eating the right colored carrot:



The mother is eating the correct/incorrect carrot
The youtuber is eating the correct/incorrect carrot
The father is eating the correct/incorrect carrot

Meme of the month:

Nobody:

Humans when someone survives 8760 hours:



Word Puzzle

By: Charline Kwadrin (2EGA)

home
corona
call
netflix
bored
class

school
online
friends
disney
family
english

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q | L | G | R | L | C | A | L | L | A | Y | D |
| G | J | T | G | M | O | N | L | I | N | E | I |
| J | C | E | A | B | L | O | O | H | C | S | S |
| N | K | L | B | O | R | E | D | Q | O | W | N |
| L | E | J | A | U | A | O | J | B | L | G | E |
| H | T | T | R | S | D | N | E | I | R | F | Y |
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| G | U | E | D | M | M | X | N | U | P | C | D |
| N | J | H | A | A | A | O | A | H | L | N | O |
| E | V | W | F | C | Q | J | H | B | B | N | K |



The Mendel Times Team
Not pictured: Asha Ie and Zülal Can