THE VIRTUS HERALD

Education that lasts a lifetime

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OCTOBER ISSUE

FIRST EDITION

VIRTUS
The British
Sixth Form College

Volume 1

VIRTUS
The British
Sixth Form College

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FUN INFORMATION



79%

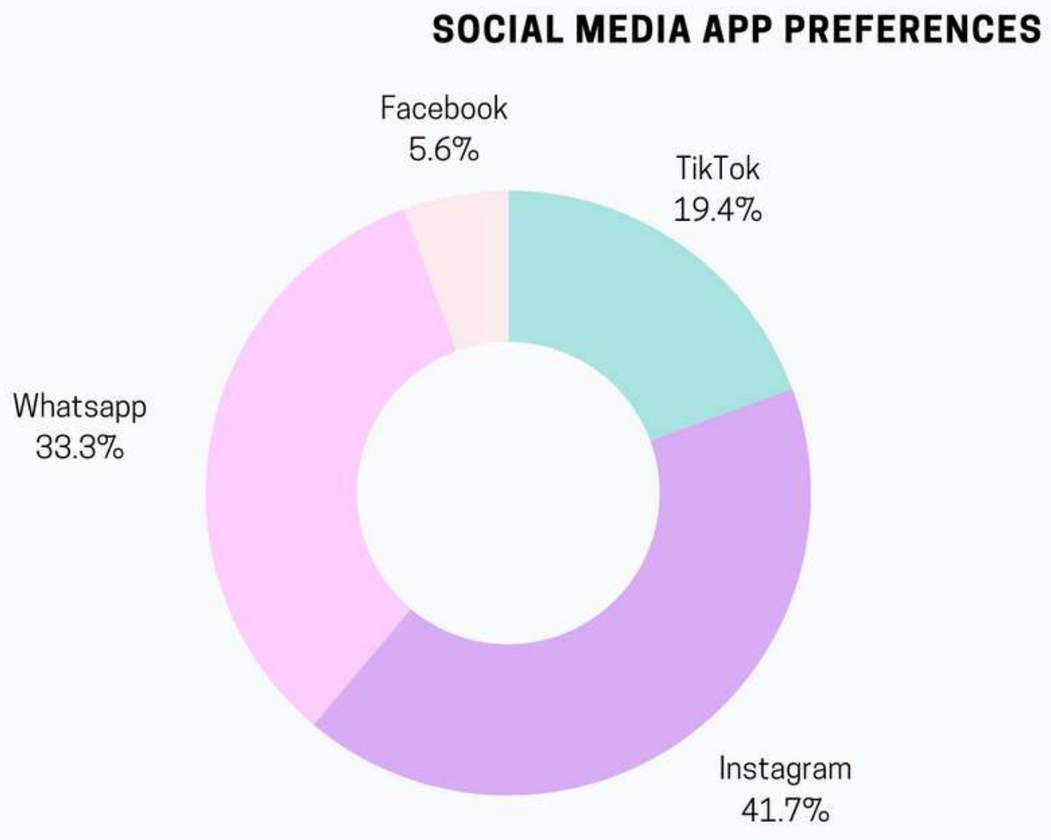
Tortilla **with** onion would go down better at lunchtime than tortilla without onion

83%

Vast majority of the Virtus community prefers **ketchup** over mustard

80%

Having breakfast at school would be interesting... but most would pour the **cereal before** pouring the milk!



CO-CURRICULAR

By Miss Moreno

The Psychology Club raises awareness for World Mental Health Day

On October 10th, the world comes together to celebrate World Mental Health Day with the purpose of raising awareness of mental health issues and attempt to mobilise efforts in support of mental health. At Virtus, the Psychology Club joined forces to create informative posters on a variety of mental health issues which have the potential to affect students worldwide.

The club members have been exploring and debating about a large spectrum of potential mental health issues that could arise in a Sixth Form environment. Through their research and discussions, they picked out what they decided were the most relevant and important mental health issues that students at Virtus had to be informed about. The issues chosen were: suicide prevention, over-thinking, sleeping disorders, eating disorders, and self-harm. The posters include informative sections to shine a light and raise awareness on these issues. For example, did you know that, according to the American Psychological Association, 17% of the world population will self-harm at least once in their lifetime? These facts are accompanied by tips on prevention and on how you can help yourself and others in need. One of the posters includes the Spanish suicide prevention line number, 024, and others bring attention to platforms and helpful practices like meditation or the supportive eating disorder chat website Alsana.

This great initiative has come to life and anyone can have a read of the posters, which are exposed outside the Head's office. Hopefully, they will have a positive impact and anyone in need will be able to sense the safe environment Virtus is and reach out for help.







The Virtus Herald Code of Ethics

In today's fast-paced media landscape, our newspaper stands as a beacon of integrity and truth. Our Code of Ethics embodies our unwavering commitment to unbiased reporting, accuracy, and accountability. With the highest regard for journalistic principles, we strive to deliver news that informs, educates, and empowers our readers, fostering a society founded on trust and transparency. Here is our code of ethics:

1. **TRUTH**:
We, as journalists of the Virtus Herald, engage to speak the truth, be conscious about what's happening, to acknowledge the mistakes and to be honest regardless of our opinion on the topic. We recognise the people's right to receive the information needed to the members of the public.

2. **OBJECTIVENESS**:
Our objective is to have the public's opinions in mind because what we write is truth collected from various news articles, interviews and news sources, this is why we need to be objective and impartial.

3. **RESPONSABILITY**:
As students of the Virtus college and the editors of the Virtus Herald we stand up for representing the school's core values (DRIVE) in our newspaper and how we go about handling it. Specifically, being disciplined to write articles and showing up to school every day. Resilience in handling the stressful job which is being a journalist and gathering the right information and balancing school life and personal life. Integrity is to do the right thing always, no matter what or who it is for.

4. **PARTICIPATION**:
Moreover, we welcome individuals to help us write pieces and send information for our newspaper. Our community is also inviting you to participate in interviews and to become journalists. We try to keep people involved. Members understand journalism as a sharing experience where we respect diversity of cultures.

5. **PERSPECTIVE ON PRIVACY**:
Furthermore, we respect personal privacy and everyone's decisions, limits and dignity. We also look out for the public interest, in terms of what people want to see and don't want to see in the newspaper.

NEW YEAR, NEW CAMPUS!





This school year is different. There are new students, new staff; but most noticeably, Virtus has a stunning new campus. After six years in its previous location in an office building in the northern part of Madrid, the school moved to a purpose-built complex in Alcobendas.

A visitor to the campus immediately notices the minimalist design on the outside. Little do they know it gets better in the interior. Classrooms on the second floor are equipped with white boards and the latest Apple TVs. Students are also provided with iPads equipped with an Apple Pencils to take notes, and a keyboard, creating an environment which wastes less paper and is more flexible with the help of technology. Lunch is served on the first floor in a cafeteria-like area, where you get your food and then sit on one of three long tables with your classmates.

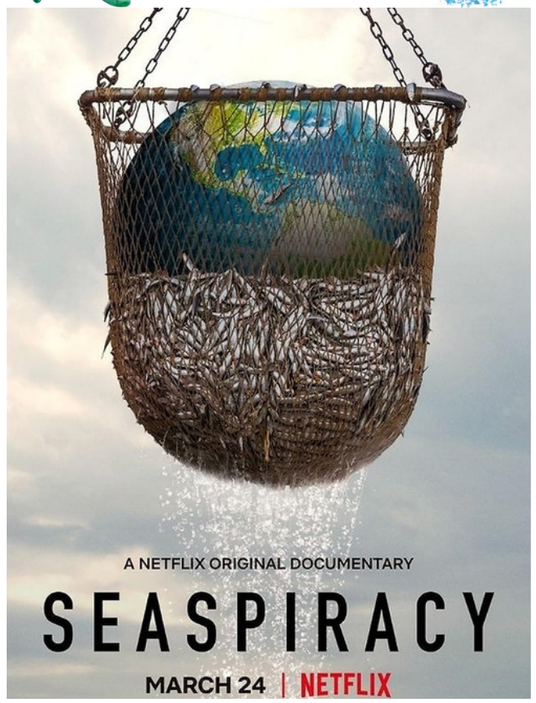
On the 6th of September, the school year started at this new campus. During the induction week, all students settled back into the academic rhythm and went to work. This helped the students get used to their timetables, know which co- curricular activities they were going to partake in, and where they took place. This was all done smoothly, so that less than a month later in October everyone has settled in splendidly. A nice touch in the schedule has been how the co- curricular activities have been fit into the student's schedule so that they leave by 4:30 each day. This is quite beneficial for the students as it is efficient, leaving time at the end of the day to make it to further activities and kick-start preparation for the next school day!

BY:NICOLAS DAVIS

SEASPIRACY

Seaspiracy is a 2021 documentary film about the environmental impact of fishing, directed by and starring Ali Tabrizi, a British filmmaker. Seaspiracy was acquired by Netflic in 2020 and released on the platform on March 24th 2021. The duration of Seaspiracy is 1 hour and 29 minutes. It was filmed in various places including Southern Japan, Faroe Islands, West Africa, Thailand, and China.

The film explores environmental issues affecting oceans; including plastic pollution, ghost nets, and overfishing. It argues that commercial fisheries are the main driver of marine ecosystem destruction. The film rejects the concept of sustainable fishing and criticises several marine conservation organisations, including the Earth Island Institute and its dolphin safe label, as well as the sustainable seafood certifications of the Marine Stewardship Council. It also criticises efforts by organisations to reduce household plastic, contrasting their impact with that of ghost nets. It accuses these initiatives of being a cover-up for the environmental impact of fishing and corruption in the fishing industry. Seaspiracy concludes by supporting marine reserves and for ending fish consumption.



The documentary is very interesting and very educational. I recommend it to everyone as it explores a wide range of arrays of topics, from the devastating impact of 'bycatch' to the significant contribution of fishing nets to the global pollution issue.

VIRTUS
The Sixth Form College of Madrid

IE CAMPUS TRIP

By: Elena Alvarez



On Friday 29th of September, the Year 12s and some of the Year 13s went to the IE University campus in Madrid to visit the new building and see how the classes work. It was a great experience for the students to see how their future could be if they decided to go to IE so study their degree. They did a complete tour of the campus with one IE student, walking around the sport facilities and the classrooms. They also had breakfast at the university, where they were able to talk to staff members and students.

After breakfast, Virtus students were able to experience a real lecture at IE, so they could get a glimpse of university life and how the classes are at this level and specifically at IE University. Virtus students said it was a great experience, and they learned a lot about how their lives might be if they decided to attend IE University.



Leadership Roles



The leadership roles are:

Head Boy: Mateo Aguirre
Head Girl: Isabela Klonis
Sports Prefect: Gabriel Bento
School Marketing Prefect and Newspaper Editor: Elena Álvarez
Pastoral Prefect: Vivian Williamson
Charity Prefect: Kamerin Garza
Austen House Captain: Leire Floristán
Attenborough House Captain: Gonzalo Álvarez
Hawking House Captain: Luis Llorens
Seacole House Captain: Javier Gutierrez
Student Council Chair: Carolina Zheng
Student Council Secretary: Cindy Li

School Council meetings are during lunchtime on Tuesdays and the events and further issues that will be going on in school and further issues will be discussed at these meetings. Future projects are talked about, as well as future inter-house competitions are discussed. Some of the recent topics they have talked about are the Halloween bake sale and the Christmas inter-house video competition. Volunteering opportunities, both individual and collective, are also discussed in these meeting as well as potential charities to give back to the community through.

INTERVIEW MRS RADFORD

By: Elena Alvarez

In the interview with Mrs Radford about the new school, she gave some insights about her thoughts on Virtus.

Mrs Radford has now been at Virtus for 6 months. She is currently studying a Master's degree at Oxford University and said that she likes "walking, reading, horse riding, yoga".

We also talked about what she considered to be the best quality aspect of our school: "students are seen as individuals". Mrs Radford also said that what is also great about the school for students is that "we understand you, we know you" and the "relationships" the students have with the teachers.

When Mrs Radford was asked "why Virtus?", she gave a truthful answer and said: "the small class sizes, the thriving community, and the success in academic results".





INTER-HOUSE PADEL COMPETITION

BY:NICOLAS DAVIS

Virtus has 4 houses: Hawking, Austen, Attenborough and Seacole. The school tries to promote some healthy competition between the houses, in this case, on the 27th of September the school held an inter-house padel competition at the courts adjacent to the school at Riber Padel La Moraleja. There were doubles teams coming to represent from each house. The competition was fierce, and all the school students were invited to enjoy the matches and cheer their house's team on. Attenborough won, though Seacole led came in a close second. All the students enjoyed the padel competition, and some even played in between matches. Padel seems to be quite the popular sport at Virtus, with the padel courts right next to the school, it may well be that the competition is repeated, creating a tradition.





