The ever changing normalities of COVID
By Emma and Darragh

Normal, comfortable, safe, words we'd use to describe the world pre-pandemic times.

Chaotic, abnormal, mysterious, words the same people would use to define current times.

Why the hesitant reaction to the world as we know it?
Our lives before, like a room, were surrounded by the walls that we've grown accustomed to.
These barriers were known for as long as life itself.
I could describe every streak, every bump, every flaw that surrounds me, trying to peer outside, yet being told no, abiding by the norms of society. But that has been destroyed since March 12th 2020, when the norms of society have officially changed. Taking that first step outside into the unknown, carefully trekking the battlefield before me.
I've come prepared, my mask covering my face, my sanitiser at hand and keeping my two metre distance to prevent being struck, finally escaping the walls and saying goodbye to normality.
I feel like I'm dreaming, waiting to be woken up from the falseness of the outbreak, but the day never comes.
We feel as if we've lost ourselves to the wonder as we watched the world twist itself into disorder. But is this not what life consists of? A collection of disjointed events that bring upon a reminder that good is on the way. Throughout the chaos, we must grasp the opportunity of moving forward into the new world and begin reinventing ourselves.
We can't begin going to what was before, that wasn't fine, that was where we crossed the line.
"Go back to what was", do you hear the paradox?
Why would we choose to go back in history, rather than moving onward into a better future.

Towards a new normal.

I'm okay if there is strife for a new way of life, but only if the priorities are set straight and maybe then, we can begin to have faith in the changes we've made.
Maybe now the world can become as we design, to satisfy our needs, create a better world to move from the world our ancestors created before us, a flawed world.
One day we will stand outside and see the beauty of those around us, and not just eyes and a forehead.
We can go to the shops or restaurants and not remember a two metre distance.
The happy birthday song can become a song again and not a timing method.
Maybe, we can begin to step away from the default life that is laid out for us. Going to college, getting a job, finding a spouse, getting a house in the suburbs. Why?
Living like everyone else to just die in comfort? Maybe we can begin to actually live and enjoy life, rather than just pass the time till it expires and just survive.
We don't have to die like those before us, the future is a closed door to the dead, but it is a door we can open ourselves if we choose to.
We can step away from 40+ weeks of self hatred, staring at a screen, working ourselves to death, and begin working for what we enjoy.

We can stand up for the minorities who are refused the chance to speak for themselves, creating a world of love instead of a biased hate.

So tell me this, will you choose to step forward into the new world and leave the appalling past behind us, carrying as little load as possible, or will you stay working the past until you collapse. No we cannot make up for the centuries that came before, but we can ensure a lifetime of joy for those to come.

This moment will be turned into a paragraph for future history books, hand picked words to generalise the world's experience, but we will remember it as a time where we changed the definition of "normal" and societies norms, and begin living the lives we want and not the life of those before us.