



**PRIORITY
NEWS**

GETTIN' IT
RIGHT

PRIORITY
NEWS
Purslove College

Eco Warrior?

More like Ego Warrior

Student

LOCKDOWN Book

GENDER IDENTITY WHAT IS GENDER?

WELCOME

to the second edition of 'Priority News' - the college newspaper written by students for students!

There are interesting points of view and opinion pieces throughout covering a wide range of topics. If you have any comments to make on the content of this issue, would like to make suggestions for features we could include, or would like to write an article yourself, then contact the newspaper care of c.beadle@pursglove.ac.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!
Enjoy!



Eco Warrior?

More like Ego Warrior

By Ellie Grierson

We get it. The climate crisis is fast approaching, if its not already upon us. With over 43 billion tonnes of CO2 being emitted (according to the World Counts) and 300 million tonnes of plastic ending up in landfill and our oceans every year (UN Environmental project), it's clear that we need to do something collectively to reduce our impact. Despite these frightening figures, I'm probably telling you nothing new, especially since the media and celebrities constantly raise awareness about climate change through protests, social media and important meetings like the COP26 in Glasgow which is going on from the 31st October to the 12th November. However, despite these large-scale protestations by the rich and famous, many need to practice what they preach.

When I think of celebrities that are extremely active in saving the planet, I usually think of Leonardo DiCaprio. On top of being a world-famous actor, DiCaprio has inarguably made an impact on raising awareness about helping the planet, from creating the DiCaprio Foundation, which works on maintaining the long-term health of many around the world and protecting endangered species, to regularly attending climate meetings and talks. In fact, he has even been awarded the 'United Nations Messenger of Peace Clinton Global Citizen Award'. However, despite these many accolades, DiCaprio's carbon footprint is far higher than the average person. From flying by private jet regularly, even using one to fly 8000 miles from the Cannes Film Festival to New York City... to accept an award for his work for the environment (The Independent)... how ironic. As well as using the much more polluting private method of flight, DiCaprio also enjoys luxury holidays, in fact, he regularly rents the Topaz, a private yacht owned by Sheikh Mansour, owner of Manchester United football club (MoneyIN). Whilst DiCaprio is hypocritical, I still think that he deserves some recognition for his efforts, especially since he began things like the DiCaprio Foundation before it was trendy and popular, it's just a pity that he does not always work to help his own carbon footprint, something that seems easy enough considering using a private jet is more expensive than first class, a private and more enjoyable and environmentally friendly method of flight.

Another example is Emma Thompson, who you may know from Nanny McPhee and Cruella. A regular extinction rebellion protestor, Thompson has had her fair share of climate activism. However, despite her efforts, she still flew by private jet from LA to London to attend the protest, that's about 5400 miles! (Daily Mail) Was that really necessary, or just a way to feel as though she was part of the action in saving the environment?

One of the most shocking examples of hypocrisy comes from the Sussexes, also known as Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, who were awarded a gigantic \$695 for their decision to have only 2 children. Whilst this decision does make a good point, after all, more people mean more pollution, however, the 18,671 square foot mansion they live in begs to differ. On top of the electricity usage of a house of this size, the mansion also boasts an unnecessary 16 bathroom and spans over seven acres (according to Hello magazine). It seems patronising for such a huge award to be given to people who seem to have put their comfort in front of helping the environment, which they seem to defend so much.

Finally, I have example of hypocrisy is the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, which is going on right now. Despite the importance of this meeting, which is intended to unite world leaders in the steps to a greener future. Whilst the idea of this is amazing and important in reducing pollution and our impact on the environment, the 118 private jets (Forbes) used to fly all the politicians and celebrities, including Boris Johnson and Joe Biden, has created a huge carbon footprint for an event that is meant to lead us to a brighter, more environmentally friendly future. This is once again an example of the hypocrisy of the rich, famous and influential, who will use this meeting as a way to influence us all into being more environmentally friendly, when, in reality, they seem to be doing very little to change their own lifestyles.

Why though?

One question you may ask about celebrities and their hypocrisy is why? Why would you mention the importance of conservation if you don't actually care about it? Well the answer is that celebrities fear being criticised for their lack of action. Even if a celebrity continues to live a high flying, luxurious life, they don't want to seem uneducated or naive about something as well known as climate change and pollution. Therefore, many put on a facade of concern, hoping it will earn them respect from their peers.

Overall, I don't want to take away from the good created by many celebrities in their climate endeavours, I simply want to raise awareness that the campaigns you see regularly from celebrities, preaching about why using that plastic bottle or being driven to college is going to cause irreparable damage to the environment, aren't all that they seem. This is simply because the celebrities that you see making these points probably live carbon dioxide dense lifestyles. From fast cars, to mansions and private jets, they pollute far more than you probably do. So yes, make an effort where possible but don't let the rich, who have every opportunity to help the environment but choose not to take it, tell you that you should feel guilty. Instead of boosting the egos of these self-proclaimed eco warriors, let's look at them for what they really are, Ego warriors, obsessed with maintaining a holy and good image.

Student LOCK

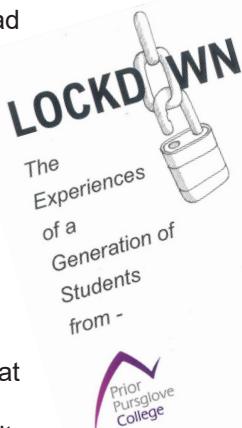
Thoughts Have a Huge Impact

By Chris Beadle

During Lockdown I was so impressed with the way our students had found ways of coping and how honest they were about the struggles they had faced that I asked them to send me some comments on how they had managed, where they had found humour and what they had discovered about themselves because of this unprecedented pandemic.

The results were published in a booklet and gained some publicity for the college and its students. What we didn't anticipate was the fact that a number of people outside the college community picked up on the publication and used the content in some surprising and heart-warming ways. Here are just two examples.

A lady of 93, Joyce Hollicks, who lives in a static home community in Wiltshire contacted me and let me know that the mostly elderly community felt afraid of the younger generation because of a number of news reports about anti-social behaviour. They felt fearful and were unwilling to leave



ex-

the community to shop in larger town nearby such as Swindon and Oxford. Mrs. Hollicks shared extracts from the booklet with her community group to let them see that young

adults shared the same struggles with insecurity and lack of confidence that they did as elderly people and that keeping an open mind and communicating with rather than fearing young people was the best way forward. This led to them arranging outings and visiting places that they had begun to avoid – a fantastically positive outcome for a vulnerable community.

Helen Kirk, an English teacher at Prior, shared the publication with her mother who is a minister. Her mother used the content as the basis for a sermon on the importance of friendship and communal support. Here is an extract:-

'I was struck by the maturity and the honesty of these 17 and 18 year olds. I was struck by their ability to write, not just outpourings but true reflections that showed insight about their situation.'

Each of the pieces of writing is anonymized, some are very brief, others are much longer; each of them feels honest.

KDOWN Book

: Outside College.

Here's one example: "At the start of lockdown, I didn't really connect with people and was lonely. However, as we hit June and July it lifted enough so that I was able to meet up with people. Each night I met up with my two best friends to watch the sunset.

My new boyfriend has become my light and my comfort. My mental health is not great and my tablet dose has doubled combined with other complications as my physical condition declined.

We have no internet connection at home so my phone bill is shooting up, but I have to make it work to keep in contact with people.

Without my close friends I wouldn't have been able to cope."

I think you'd agree there's something refreshingly honest about those reflections.

And I was thinking about the service a few weeks back that Mike and Jane prepared on the theme of Friendship and how we all, with our various contributions, paid tribute to the importance of Friendship. And how for

these young people, it was friendship that kept them afloat at a crucial time in their lives. A time when emotions can be quite turbulent and a time when they're studying and trying to make decisions about their future path.

Finally, we might heed the advice of a wise 18 year old student:

"You don't always have to have great plans to enjoy life and the real happiness comes from finding pleasure in the little things."



I am very proud of our students and the resilience, inventive-

ness and determination you showed during lockdown. It's wonderful to know that the examples set by you have impacted on so many people. If you would like a copy of the booklet, please contact Chris Beadle or Lesley Currie.

GENDER IDENTITY

WHAT IS GENDER?

By Leyla Bolton

Over the past 10 years, Gender Identity has become a more openly discussed topic. People have become more expressive of their gender, whether it be female, male, non-binary or any gender that they want to express themselves as. I have chosen to talk about this topic because, although it is more widely talked about, there are still struggles that they face, as well as people not knowing fully what gender identity is. There are people who go against gender identity and reject that there are more than 2 genders. This could inform them of why more than 2 genders do exist, though the most recognised genders are male and female and are usually based on an assumption that someone's genitals match their gender, but this isn't always the case (teen talk). New sexualities and genders being recognised in society make it easier for people to come out and talking about it in articles makes people more comfortable to express themselves.

Firstly, with new generations, comes new change and reason for people to explore themselves more. More people, including celebrities, have come forward about their gender because, as a generation, we are more accepting of it, we have more knowledge of what it is and that it is a thing that has come with gen z (family resource inc). With regard to celebrities, they could also be a reason people are more confident, as role models expressing themselves in a way that might make someone realise they are the same and feel comfortable enough to express themselves in that way. Some may not be able to express themselves in that way because of family or friends etc, not accepting them for who they are and therefore not letting them be who they are. This isn't a case of who they think they are, this is a case of who they are and who will accept them for that (Kidshealth).

Secondly, I would like to talk about people who identify as male yet were born in what many trans people call the wrong body, this being a female's body. Males who are born this way usually use binders to start off their transition, over time this may evolve to eventual top surgery, as well as using testosterone. It's best that if you do identify as a male that you identify where dysphoria lies in how you look. This could include hair styles or even the way people treat you. It could also be your body (chest, what you have in your pants, feminine skin, no, or lack of, facial

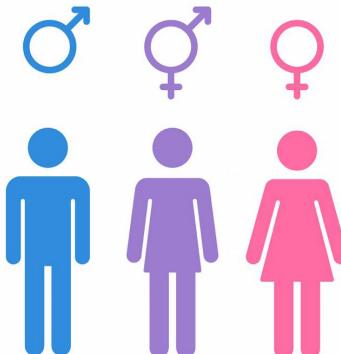
hair). Do not get traumatised. By identifying your dysphoria you can work around it to make things a little better. Getting a simple masculine haircut can improve dysphoria, if only a little bit, though it might seem simple but hard to do. Try to not think about how others may react to it and try to be yourself, I know it seems hard, but a weight will be lifted off your shoulders as soon as you do. Try to act more masculine, train your voice and mannerisms to seem more masculine, see how other guys around you act and even the small things can help (Feminismindia). How people are born, does not affect how they identify, how they present themselves is not up for debate between anyone but themselves. How people identify does not affect anyone else but themselves, and therefore you shouldn't judge them as it is none of your concern. So, what can you do to support and respect them? Well, you can start off by using preferred pronouns. Asking people when you meet them what their preferred pronouns are, makes the person feel respected and valid, they will trust you more because of it. Try to use these pronouns a lot and try to compliment them in ways that they feel comfortable. In situations like these, communication is key, and you should keep this in mind when meeting new people. Moving onto people who identify as female but were born in a male body. People like this tend to try and go through surgery to fit something closer to a female body. They try and change their voice to fit a more feminine one, training it to be higher pitched, while also decreasing testosterone levels

(Vex). Back in what our generation would call the "olden days", people who identified as female but were in a male body were put in the same group as drag queens and gay people, that generation not being able to separate them as it was a new thing. Many people who identified this way were assaulted, or even killed, especially black women who were born male, as racism was still something that happened a lot. However, now in 2021, we know how to separate that group of people and have a wider knowledge of it, with the internet taking over the world. People are more likely to express how they feel if they think they are anonymous, but this may not always be a good thing. Debating on the internet can get very out of hand and people go to extreme lengths to get you to agree with them. Going back to drag queens, these do not always identify as female.

Doing drag is how they want to dress, the outfits do not make them instantly a trans person, it's just how they like to dress. Some like to be referred to as a female when they are in drag, but as a boy when they are out of it. However, this does not mean that some drag queens choose to identify as female all the time. This is why communication is a big thing for this. Respecting someone is the least you can do for any human being, and them expressing themselves in the way they do should not be something to go against them for. A drag queen is not the same as being trans, drag is what you wear as an art form, being trans is who you are. (The conversation).

Now, I would like to talk about people who identify as non-binary, which means they identify outside of the binary. They tend to use they/them pronouns and there are many different types of people who identify with no gender. Non-binary people don't necessarily have to look like they have no gender, there is no specific way they should look and honestly it shouldn't affect you in any way.

Non-binary people gained more recognition in the 1990's among political activists, especially Riki Anne Wilchins. Wilchins used the term in a 1995 essay published in the first issue of "In Your Face" to describe anyone who is gender nonconforming and identified as genderqueer in their 1997 autobiography (digitaltransgenderarchive). Some people identify with multiple genders, most of the time, this being called Genderfluid. This means they are flexible of their gender, sometimes they may feel like a boy, the next moment, a girl, or sometimes none, however, it does not mean that they must be all 3, some choose to be he/they, she/he, or she/they etc. Then there is polygender, which is someone who identifies as multiple genders at the same time. There is also pangender, which is a term for people who feel they cannot be labelled as female or male in gender, or may feel comfortable with many different many different gender labels, such as a drag king or manly man etc. There are also people who may identify with neopronouns, such as xe/xem/xyr, ze/hir/hirs or ey/em/eir etc. Neopronouns can be used by anyone, though most often they are used by transgender, non-binary, and/or gender non-conforming people (intercultural.uncg.edu).



Finally, I would like to talk about gender euphoria, which can be described as a feeling of happiness when a person does not feel like their assigned gender at birth. This could happen when someone sees a bound chest, making it flat and when they see themselves in the mirror, they see themselves as who they were meant to be. It may also happen from times where a trans woman sees herself as an actual woman for the first time in how she looks. There are many different genders and identities that have come over the past few years and they continue to grow.

However, we must remember that some people dress up how they want to and still identify as how they were born. Why should we stop a male from wearing a dress? The answer is we shouldn't. Just as a woman should be able to wear what would be referred to as masculine clothing, and not get judged for it and called horrible things. People can wear what they want without the worry of gender norms, and we should be more accepting of that as a society and I hope this is the future, that it is going to happen. This shouldn't be a problem and sadly it still is

(transhub). Coming out is hard for people and it can lead to abusive households for some, being kicked out and forced to grow up, or live on the streets. Pride month is a big deal for people, and it is the one time of the year they can be proud of themselves and not be ashamed (psychiatrictimes).



Overall, 2021 is way different from 50 years ago, we as a generation know about these genders and have accepted them, though there still needs to be more done for equality. Transphobia and homophobia are things that still happen today, even with all the positivity, this is mostly from people who were raised from homophobic families or choose to be homophobic. There is still stuff that needs to be done about it, but that doesn't mean we need to dedicate our life to it. So, how do we help? Start by being respectful, use peoples preferred pronouns and listen to what people have to say about how they want to express themselves. Communicating with friends, family, even if you just want to ask someone something and don't want to misgender them, is important. Some people may not want you to use pronouns, some may ask why you feel the need to know, and the most you can do is say you didn't know and try to move past it. Respect and support is what the future needs, and as a whole we can make that happen with new generations being educated on what these new gender norms are (transactual.org).

Special Education

Opinion Piece

by Brian's artical

Special educational needs, more commonly known as SEN, not many people think about it. Still, we should, as, did you know, 12.2% of students receive SEN support (Special educational needs in England, Academic Year 2020/21 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)). That is crazy for how little we think about it. So, in this article, I will give you a glimpse into the word of SEN by looking at the provision offered to me in secondary school and what I have been offered since starting college. I would also like to note that this will mostly be what I went through, so others might have had different experiences. Still, I am going to try and keep this general to give a better picture.

One huge problem impacting a lot of SEN people is noise and the acoustics in a room. This prevents concentration and can set off a chain reaction in some SEN people. In fact, I wear headphones to control this weakness (with a bit of help from an MP3 player) because if a room gets too loud, I simply can't work.

During my first four years at secondary school the SEN department consisted of an office, a small classroom (perhaps big enough for 5 people), a closet and a corridor-like area that connected the rooms. The corridor was the main area that students used. The SEN department would commandeer other rooms, but the problem was that no one knew which



rooms and when we could use them. Some staff SEN supports set up a club aimed at giving SEN students somewhere to go during break and lunchtime and even organised an after school version. It was brilliant and I am now helping to run it. So, what's the problem you may be asking? Well, this club had no funding and no room – yep, nothing! We had to fight to get a room every day, whether it was to calm down from a breakdown or do a test. This did improve a little in year 11 when a new SENCO managed to fight for and

acquire an area for only us. Another problem started because the secondary school took on a lot more high end SEN students, most with a lot of needs and requiring a lot of support, thus needing a room of their own. We were struggling for rooms as things were so this was a problem.

Then COVID happened and this meant that the club had to close down. It has now started again now – in the squash court (remember the noise problem!?).

Now I am at college and SEN students have 2 rooms that each have quite a lot of space. Whilst this may not sound like a lot, it is. To give an example, I am writing most of this article in one of the 2 rooms. Basically, there is no problem finding a quiet room at college. The staggered timetable helps keep this availability open.

ional Needs

In addition to this there is student central, the atrium and, most importantly, the learning resource centre (LRC) which I use extensively to do my work. A lack of facilities such as I experienced in secondary school, doesn't mean that you have to give SEN students a sixth of the school. No, all you have to do to fix the room problem is make good places to work in such as the LRC! Guess what, SEN students don't need a room to ourselves most of the time, we just need a nice, quiet room for us to work in. Also, by making more SEN friendly workplaces, it clears the dedicated SEN rooms for the times we do need them whilst giving non-SEN students more places to study.

Moving away from rooms, let's take a

look at one of the most important things to people with Dyslexia – a P.C. or laptop. Dyslexia is an SEN that impairs spelling, reading and writing. I have Dyslexia and I can read fine but I can barely spell and, don't even get me started on writing! In secondary school I had to wait for four or five years before I was given a computer whilst at college it took perhaps a week to get me one. In addition, there are a lot of P.C's around college so you're bound to find one free. This means that people who have Dyslexia can do their work which I think is a really good thing.



Now, moving over to the problem of SEN staffing. At secondary school it was almost impossible to access the SENCO during breaks and lunchtimes and even more difficult during lesson times. At college, even though the team is smaller, every problem I have has been fixed extremely quickly and they have earned my trust. Trust is so important as a lack of it makes it difficult to work with people. A lack of trust is a barrier to progress. I didn't have it in secondary school, but at college I would love to know what magic they have used because everything is working out well, especially with all the help and understanding from teachers who seem to think that things I considered miracles in secondary school

simply happen here as a matter of daily routine. For example, the college respect adjenda. Respect is also important and calling teachers by their first names helps generate respect and a sense that we are equals. Respect is something that I have thought about a lot and here at college it is on a silver platter! It's amazing! By reading this article I hope that you have become more educated and interested in the world of people with SEN.

The Troubles With the Saturday Job

By Jodie Patterson

A recent, Resolution Foundation, study says the number of teenagers aged 16-17 who have part time jobs has halved since 1999, from 48% to 25%. The first question is why? The second question, is that true?
(<https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2020/01/Never-ever.pdf>)

Many employers believe that the decline in part time jobs is leaving teenagers underprepared for the 'real world', but what is the real-world employers are presenting to young people? Our own college, Prior, does not discourage part time jobs, but instead encourages no more than a ten-hour work week. The reason for this is the correlation between lower A level grades if working hours increase over ten hours, as students cannot prioritize studies despite education being full time and the job being part-time. This decrease in teenagers working may be due to the increasing accessibility to university, that means less teenagers have to work earlier.

Simply stating the correlation between longer hours and lower grades is not going to make students spend less time at work, the main reason being, they often cannot afford to. With 30% of children living in poverty it is no surprise that when they can work, they are working longer hours, especially considering the £4.62 minimum pay for 16-17-year old's which has only risen from £3.00 since its introduction in 2004. That leaves a weekly wage of under £40. With the 30% of children in poverty the assumption that this pay is a fair amount is a complete oversight how deeply poverty stretches in the UK.
(<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/national-minimum-wage-previous-rates>)

According to the government this minimum pay is fitting as people under 18 do not have to pay rent, bills or for food. This is an enormously flawed logic as many children's parents are unable to work or are also being paid abysmally. Also, if that is the reason, why is there still a difference in minimum wage for 18-20-year old's and 21 to 23, when most 18-year old's will already be responsible for themselves at this point.

As well as increasing pressure from employers to show up to work regardless of school hours or lose their jobs, I believe children are not aware of their own working rights and employers are not looking to make them aware, if they can keep exploiting them. Places that treat their workers fairly are often not looking for teenagers, instead the ones hiring are looking for people they can under pay and over work.

This leads to huge worker turn over, with teens leaving their first jobs having been discouraged from working until they must. If teenagers are putting off entering the work force it is likely not due to laziness, but the extra challenges they face compared to adults in the same jobs as them.

This statistic comes from the number of permits registered by employers, which begs the question, how much of the decrease in jobs is from the increase in cash - in - hand work. Cash in hand jobs benefit employers looking to work around child labour laws and avoid having to limit the hours teenagers work and provided correct breaks when appropriate.

These statistics do not seem to be representing real life experiences. In our area, most people I know work, many working 16-hour weeks on top of full-time education. Students are also often missing lesson time or assignments due to ultimatums given by those in power in the workplace. The power imbalance between employers and employees is only increased when the employer is a teenager, who isn't being paid the same as others doing the same jobs due to their age.

Being legally able to work at 16 doesn't mean you are ready or able to, but it does mean you are expected.

If the government wants more 16-year old's starting work they should start protecting them also, because how are the employers going to feel they need to treat their workers considerately if even the government does not seem to believe that they should.

NO MEANS NO!

Concent

By Izzy

noun

1. permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.
2. "no change may be made without the consent of all the partners"

The above is the literal Oxford Dictionary definition of Consent.

But what does it mean to us as young people?

I have been fortunate enough not to have experienced any issues regarding this matter. Still, I am thoroughly aware through Social Media and friends, it is a matter of concern for many people!

Whatever your race or sexual orientation, I am sure we all have a friend who can tell us about someone they know who has been put in an awkward or scary position, right?

As a young heterosexual woman, my understanding of Consent is the above translation.

NO means NO! Full stop!
How can anyone argue that they don't understand that?

Sex between age-appropriate consenting adults is perfectly normal.

Everyone does it, and everyone is happy doing it!

Good for them!

What isn't normal is that YOU, as a person, Male/Female/LGBTQ+ are in a position where you are scared to say NO!

Fear of peer pressure, fear of endangering your situation or life!

This is not acceptable and will not be tolerated in our enlightened Society today!!!

You don't have to DO anything you DON'T want to do! And that's all there is to it! No person has the right to touch you, grab you, grope you or have sex with you unless you give that person absolute Consent.

Don't ever worry if you don't say NO; your body language and sexual responses should be enough for the person to read your signals and know if it is appropriate to carry on with Sexual Activity or NOT! A drunken NO is not a YES!
NO MEANS NO!

Never be frightened to say NO, even if you have started engaging in sexual activity at any time.
YOU have the right to say NO!

If any of you have experienced any form of Sexual Harassment of any kind, please be aware that the College can help or signpost

you to services that can help with any problem, no matter how personal the issue.

Please don't suffer in silence; we are here to help.

Prior Confidential Helpline: Call T: 01287
Rape Crisis - RASACC Darlington & Teesside: Call T: 01325 369933
Samaritans: Call T: 116123 for FREE
Sexual Health Clinic Teesside: Call T: 0300 330 1122

Never suffer in silence; there is always someone to help and who will care!

NO MEANS NO!



Art Teacher Exhibits Work In Applegarth Building

Dymaxion 5 at the Applegarth gallery. A show of our very own Fine Art teacher, Jonathan Marshall's drawings and ceramics.

Jonathan said about his work - I very much see the drawings in this series as a critique and observation of the current social climate. The bar has provided artists throughout history with a fantastic opportunity to explore people and human behaviour and as such my work is made with knowledge of the French Impressionists and Post Impressionists. However, it is Kienholz's representation of people that has interested me the most. Human beings at their worst have the capacity to administer power and exploitation over others and this has inspired me to present protagonists who have the opportunity to tell their story. As I continue to make work in this series, I cannot avoid it's politic; as I bring to mind places where it is dangerous for those who dare to be different.

My entire career has been dominated by making figurative art. In the early days I was hugely influenced by German Expressionism and artists such as Karl Schmidt-Rottluff and Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. The power and raw honesty of their work is fantastic; the use of line, form, shape and colour, and how they used these elements to stir emotions in the viewer directly, still fascinates me. Furthermore, the more contemporary artist Georg Baselitz and his Hero/ New Type paintings present a bold statement about



Pictures Prior student: Beau Hayton

the male artist; one which is paradoxically brash, but sensitive and full of melancholy at the same time. For me these paintings are beautiful and moving and ones to emulate.

