



WELCOME TO THE OMNIBUS



The Omnibus is a student-led publication written by students, for students at Maidstone Grammar School for Girls. All content featured within this edition, including opinion pieces, reviews and interviews, reflects the views and creative expression of the individual authors.

While some articles may explore controversial topics or present strong viewpoints, balanced arguments, respectful debate and consideration of differing perspectives have been encouraged throughout the editorial process. The inclusion of any article does not necessarily represent the views of MGGS, its staff, or the wider school community.

We celebrate thoughtful discussion, open-mindedness and the diversity of student voices.

CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE

OLD GIRLS, NEW CHAPTERS

GODFIDENCE

THREE QUESTIONS WITH MRS MARSH

SUMMERMAXXING WITH MR STARR

SPORTS DAY FROM THE ARCHIVES

CAPCOM RUNS THE GAMING INDUSTRY

WHY FORZA HORIZON 4 IS MORE THAN JUST A GAME

THE SCIENCE BEHIND FORMULA 1

STRANGER THINGS FINALE REVIEW

ARTISTS CORNER

MISOGYNY IN THE ROCK MUSIC INDUSTRY

THE LIFE OF A SHEEP

SHADOWS OF THE MUSIC BLOCK

WHISPERS

THE FORGOTTEN THREAD

IS AI GOING TO TAKE OUR JOBS?

ARE UNIVERSITY DEGREES STILL WORTH IT?

OMNIBUS OPINIONS

AN INTRODUCTION TO SOLAR GEOENGINEERING

OUR PLANET

WEAR THE CHANGE

THE FORBIDDEN EXPERIMENT

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the Summer edition of The Omnibus 2026!

As the new editors for The Omnibus this year, we would like to introduce ourselves to you:

"Hi everyone! I'm Tabby and I'm a Year 12 student studying English Literature and Language, Geography, and Sociology and I am incredibly excited to be joining The Omnibus as an editor this year. I am passionate about writing, which is why in the future I hope to pursue a career in journalism or become an author, so I am extremely grateful for this leadership opportunity and can't wait to work with the team to create something engaging and inspiring for the school community!"
-Tabitha Bonner 12N



"Hello, my name is Olivia and I am a year 12 student studying English, history and philosophy, hoping to study law in the future. I am honoured to be given one of the many leadership roles available in the sixth form and am excited to work with the other members of The Omnibus team for the next year!" - Olivia Patel 12R

We would like to start by saying a huge thank you to Chloe West and Chloe

Messenger for their hard work and dedication that they poured into The Omnibus last year! We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity and are excited to carry on the legacy that they were able to successfully bring back to MGGS.



Over the past couple of months, we alongside the rest of the talented Omnibus team, have been hard at work bringing together another great edition that showcases the talent, as well as the passions and perspectives of our school community. This edition includes a variety of compelling pieces such as - strong opinion articles, media reviews, creative writing, teacher interviews, and even some outstanding artwork.

Not only this, but we are particularly excited to share with you our interview with star MGGS alumni, Mia McKenna Bruce, who is best known for her

performance in 'Tracy Beaker', 'Eastenders', and many more. In her interview she talks about her upcoming role in The Beatles biopic and her journey from a school girl to a successful role model.

A massive thank you is needed to all of our talented writers who have used their creative flair to enrich this edition of The Omnibus. The Omnibus is written for you, by you; this wouldn't be possible without your contributions and your hard-work!

This is only the beginning of our journey as editors and we would love for even more people to get involved in The Omnibus to represent all that our school and its pupils have to offer. The Omnibus will return after Summer, with new ideas, opinions and stories - so make sure to look out for it!



Until then, we hope you enjoy the new, Summer edition of our student-led newspaper : The Omnibus - a celebration of our proud, MGGS community!

Olivia P and Tabitha B

Editors of The Omnibus

Meet the rest of our Team

Creative Director - Bernice H

Graphic Artists - Taneka R & Maja F

Culture Section Editor - Isabelle M

Gaming Editor - Deborah O

Creative Writing Editor - Aashani C

Economics Editor - Sophie M & Anna L

STEM Editors - Aleeza K & Violet R

Old Girls, New Chapters

BAFTA Rising Star Mia McKenna-Bruce's journey to acting fame!

Within this instalment of 'Old Girls, New Chapters,' we had the opportunity to interview actress Mia McKenna-Bruce (former Saxon!), who has won a BAFTA award as Rising Star and is known for her roles in Tracy Beaker and EastEnders. More recently, she has been cast in the upcoming Beatles film as Maureen Starkey. During our interview, Mia spoke enthusiastically about her time at MGGS, her favourite memories and achievements, and gave key insights into the behind-the-scenes of the acting industry.



Firstly, Mia reminisced on her own time at MGGS, with her standout memory being her school trip to see an incredible performance of War Horse as part of her Drama GCSE course. She noted that this was the first time she felt excited about possibly pursuing acting as a career. Other key memories include the summer lunchtimes spent on the field eating cake with friends, as well as her favourite Drama teachers, Miss Shand and Mrs

Johnson, who helped her with her nerves and confidence.

During the interview, we asked Mia about her time on set filming Tracy Beaker and EastEnders, and how she balanced student life whilst being a working actor. "It felt like navigating two different lives," she said. Her hectic schedule involved 6 months on set and then 6 months at MGGS. Whilst she was provided with tutors on set and was sent work to complete, she emphasised the importance of discipline and working hard amidst the lack of stability she experienced in her early acting career. However, she continued to speak fondly of her time on set: "Looking back now," she said, "it was crazy to navigate, but I loved it so much."

Next, we explored the highlights of being an actor, the challenges, and the lessons learned along the way. For Mia, the thing that she enjoys most is that she gets to meet all different kinds of people from different backgrounds. She passionately explained how her love for acting stems from a curiosity about how we communicate through our body language. On large sets, Mia had the opportunity to form many new connections: "there is a real family feel for each project," she said proudly, "because of the amount of trust needed and the hard hours." Mia emphasised how meaningful these short-lived connections are.

As a woman in the acting industry with a 2-year-old son, Mia acknowledged the difficulties that come along with balancing family life and acting. As a result, support networks are vital to keep up with the demands of such an unpredictable career. This is especially crucial for her when she has to travel to geographical locations such as Senegal, often at short notice. In the past, Mia admitted that nerves used to get the better of her, especially with drama performances at school where she felt a lot of pressure to prove herself as a 'working actor'. However, now she explained how she doesn't see them as a bad thing, but rather a sign that she cares deeply.



When navigating the transition from child acting to more adult roles, Mia admitted that she did have difficulties initially: since she chose not to go to drama school and only played one character for so long, this created lots of pressure and meant that she missed out on summer holidays that her peers had. As a result, she quit acting and went to Australia for 8 months, where she worked in tech support in Sydney and "got to live a little." After this, she returned and started acting workshops on a Saturday in London; this is when she rediscovered

her love for acting. Whilst Mia did encounter some concerns about her career path, particularly her lack of structure post-school and her choice not to attend university, she said she feels very lucky that everything happened the way it did.

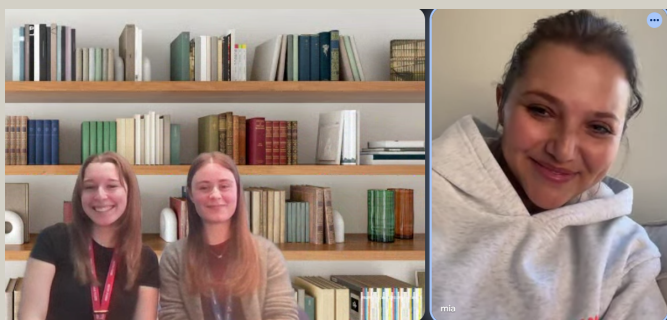
When asked about a turning point in her acting career, Mia immediately spoke about the film 'How To Have Sex', which explored themes such as consent, friendship, and navigating the transition from childhood to perceived adulthood. Mia explained how this was a major turning point for her, both professionally and personally. This was her first lead role, and it was due to her stellar performance that she won the BAFTA Rising Star Award. As well as gaining a lot of recognition in the industry as an adult, Mia spoke proudly about the wider impact that this film had. It was through this project that she truly learned about the power of film and meaningful storytelling.



Mia has also worked on major global projects such as the Netflix series *The Witcher*; this was her first big-scale production and enabled her to work alongside renowned actors such as Henry Cavill, who Mia spoke very highly of.

During this project, she recalled the incredibly detailed set and how she became fully immersed in The Witcher world. Then Mia spoke about the shooting of the film, which took place in Budapest: despite being in one episode, feels 'bizarre' and like 'another world'. However, she finds solace in the fact that everyone is trying to do the same thing and make it work. Another key moment for her was when she saw the poster for 'Get Even' - another series that she has worked on - at her old bus stop on Buckland Hill! She said that it was a surreal moment since she used to go there so frequently during her MGS days. Reflecting more generally on the school, Mia commented, "I loved being at MGS!"

The role models that have shaped Mia include household names such as Helena Bonham Carter, who she had the pleasure of working with on the Netflix series The Seven Dials. Mia said that she showed her what it's like to be a woman in the industry and taught her the importance of speaking up for yourself. Another role model that Mia had the opportunity to meet was Kate Winslet, a long-time role model who was everything she'd hoped she'd be and more.



According to Mia, the most important skill a student needs to survive the 'brutal' world of acting is to put in the work and

she said that she was out there for 3 months. She also recalled that there was a big storm which delayed filming. When asked about how it feels to work on such large-scale productions such as the upcoming Beatles film, Mia said that it understand the craft. By using student research skills, she encouraged young actors to learn about film, the industry, and the people working both in front of and behind the camera. "Find what excites you!" she said. As a final piece of parting advice to aspiring actors, Mia said that it is crucial to fall in love with your life outside of acting because it can be hard to separate your life from your work sometimes.



To conclude, our interview with Mia McKenna Bruce offered a fascinating insight into the world of acting. Despite her challenges along the way, her return to acting and subsequent global success demonstrate that true passion and dedication lead to unimaginable achievements. Mia exemplifies what it means to be an MGS student, and it is through her own inspirational journey that future generations will be motivated to carve out their own path within the world of acting.

WRITTEN BY: Chloe M 13



Thank You!

Miss Calvert, Head of English Department

Mrs Marsh, Teacher of English

Ms Starns, PA to the Headteacher, Admissions & Marketing Manager

Mr Starr, Teacher of English & Teacher in charge of PSHE

Mr White, Assistant Headteacher - Teaching & Learning

