

## Our female role models



My role model is Mary Shelley. She was an author and famously wrote Frankenstein. She inspires me because her work broke the Victorian stereotypes of female writing. Her work is so well thought out and contains so many modern and relevant messages.

MADHU K

My role model is Luciana Berger, ex-MP. I admire her for her unwavering integrity and the way that at every point in her political career she chose to stand up against injustices faced by her constituents and even herself, even though it would be easier to stay silent.



ROSA B

My role model is Mindy Kaling, who is an actress but also a writer and producer for other TV shows. She works hard for proper South Asian representation in the movies and shows she works on. She shows that you can work well on screen as well as behind the screen to create change and eliminate harmful stereotypes.



KAYA H

My role model is my mother. I admire her for never giving up on finding her dream job, and for not being afraid to change career as many times as it took for her to feel professionally fulfilled. I also look up to my mum because of her steadfast belief that hard work always pays off: if she wants to get something done, she will not stop until she has achieved that which she set out to achieve. What willpower!



ALLIE G

My role model is Alison Balsom, a very gifted female trumpeter. She inspires me because I also play the trumpet and it is a very male dominated instrument and brass is a very male dominated orchestral section. Alison Balsom is overcoming expectations and stereotypes, and is also an advocate for music funding in schools for disadvantaged children.



JOANNA C

My role model is Amal Clooney – an international law and human rights lawyer who frequently advocates education and freedom of the media. She's an inspiration to me not only because of her stunning fashion choices often overshadowed by her outstanding career, but also because of her determination, confidence and sense of justice. Despite marrying world-renowned actor George Clooney, she wasn't obscured by his fame. I admire her as a strong, independent and accomplished woman in her own right.



ISABELLE H

PHOTO CREDITS: CHRIS MCANDREW (LUCIANA BERGER); DFREE / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM (MINDY KALING); TANIA VOLOBUEVA / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM (AMAL CLOONEY)

## Ella's tie-dye t-shirt fund-raising project

A Suburb resident turned her house and garden into a tie-dyeing production line over the summer, all to benefit children who don't have enough to eat. Ella Hazell, 11, got the idea from her Scout leaders in the 1st Finchley pack, who dropped off a t-shirt and some dye so that they could all show off their shirts at the next Zoom scout meeting. She researched the cost of t-shirts and dye, decided how much to ask per t-shirt and set up a website and Just Giving page.



Proceeds will go to the Felix project, a charity which collects surplus food that would be wasted and redirects it to schools and other charities. Orders came flooding in and Ella, who also has a regular Suburb News delivery round, made over 70 t-shirts, raising close to £1000 for the charity.

Thank you to everyone who has supported her.

TONI HAZELL

## Give it Up for the Sisters!

Music, for all of us, can be an escape, a way to relax for us to enjoy ourselves and express our emotions. Nowadays, with apps such as Youtube or Spotify, all your favourite songs are available at a touch, making music more easily accessible. Artists are now able to gain traction with viral songs and amass a large following quickly, gaining large platforms. However, with popularity comes its problems, especially for female musicians who are constantly shamed or treated poorly, for things such as being open and honest with their music. With music being such a key part of most of our lives, it is important to acknowledge the gap between male and female artists within the music industry, whether it be through sexism expressed in popular songs or the lack of representation for women. Equally, it is as important to recognise women taking back their power and creating a more diverse platform for artists.

Women make about 51% of the world's total population however, when looking at the top 600 songs from 2012 to 2017, only around 22% of the songs were from female artists. Out of the 2,767 writers who were credited on those songs, only 12.3% of them were women. From interviews with various female songwriters, over 40% of respondents admitted their colleagues dismissed or discounted their work or skills and 39% have experienced stereotyping with 25% of women having experienced being the only woman in the recording studio. Highlighting these gender differences is vital as it shows the lack of female representation and resulting pay gap in the music industry, an influential

industry setting up examples for other industries. Many musicians are recognising this issue and artists such as Ariana Grande are paving the way for a more equal playing field, using more female producers and writers to help create songs, which in turn helps more people discover these amazing writers and producers.

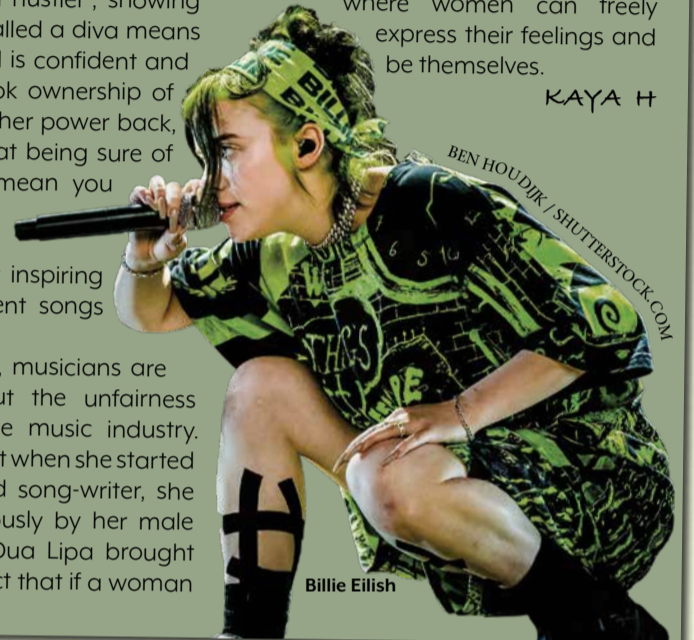
A really big issue within the music industry is how female artists are torn down for just simply standing up for themselves and not staying quiet. A great example of this comes from one of my favourite artists, Beyoncé, who throughout her career, had been criticised for not being 'lady-like' and being bossy, with many people deciding to label her as a 'diva', a word with many negative connotations. Instead of ignoring these claims, she decided to own the title, spinning it on its head, releasing a song called 'Div'. In the chorus, she states that 'a diva is a female version of a hustler', showing that to her, being called a diva means she works hard and is confident and strong. Beyoncé took ownership of the word, and took her power back, showing women that being sure of yourself does not mean you are rude. 'Div' is now considered to be one of the most inspiring female empowerment songs of all time.

Just like Beyoncé, musicians are speaking out about the unfairness they've faced in the music industry. Taylor Swift notes that when she started out as a singer and songwriter, she was not taken seriously by her male counterparts, and Dua Lipa brought awareness to the fact that if a woman

releases a song, it is thought there is another writer behind it but when a man releases a song, it's thought that he's the one who wrote it. Artists sharing their personal experiences of sexism in the music industry is important because by speaking out they can influence change and garner respect for these artists and women in general.

Slowly, but steadily, women are getting more and more recognised for their talents and contributions within the music industry. Just this year, at the Grammys, Billie Eilish (below) won not only album of the year but also record of the year, showing, no matter what your age or gender, it's possible to succeed and follow your dreams. Whilst the music industry still has a long way to go, problems are being recognised and changes are continually being made. Through the pioneering efforts of many women, the music industry is starting to become a place where women can freely express their feelings and be themselves.

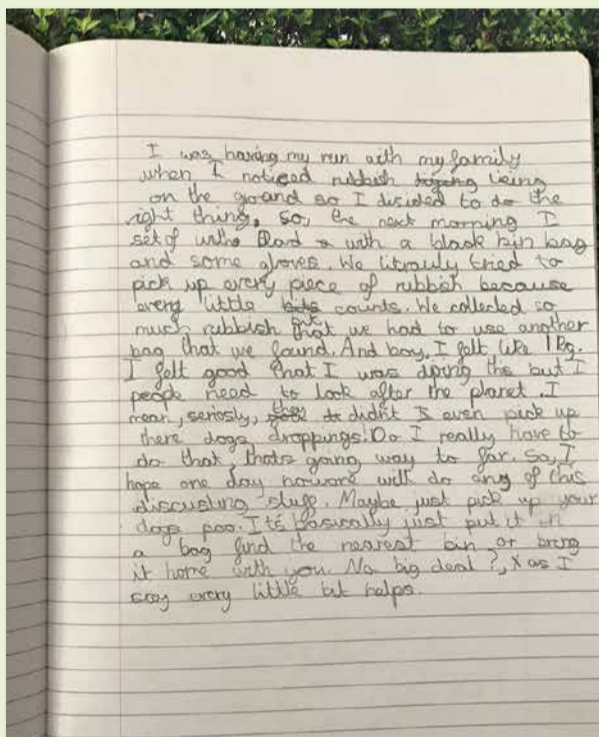
KAYA H



Billie Eilish

BEN HOUDIK / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

## Annabelle's litter project



JONATHAN BENTLEY



### VE DAY

It's the 75th year  
Give a big cheer  
It's time for celebration  
Think of those who died  
And fought for our lives  
And bring together our nation

Put up decorations  
Talk to those relations  
Who lived through WW2  
We'll bake some cakes  
To celebrate  
And lift our spirits out of the blue

TEAH S (aged 11)

## King Alfred School Open Events

Where every student is treated as an individual and given the freedom, challenge and support to thrive academically, emotionally and socially.

We welcome students from Reception to Sixth Form—visit us to find out more.

For dates and to register for Open Events visit:

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