

# EDITION 23

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# The Wall

*After returning from online school, the discovery of a mysterious white wall was made by many here at Renaissance International School. Upon entering the school, climbing up the stairs that cascade from the tall, standing flagpole is this wall, which is just a few steps towards the gym. The wall has brought fascination along with the inconvenience that secondary drama students endure. Without any clear answers, this has remained a blank canvas of curiosity in the students' minds till now.*

*A combination of interviews, thoughts and ideas, to share with you what mysteries hide behind the wall. Originally students assumed it was there to stop children from running around, or to hide those who wronged Renaissance. Our speculation was that they were simply improving or creating a new art gallery there, reconstructing and renovating it. Our thoughts were corroborated when Mr. Richard told us about how some people in year 13 are holding an art exhibition there in April. It could have made sense given that there is a door there. Though the*



*contradicting rumors mentioned its appearance was due to a regulation*

*Which rumors were the truth? The one person who knew most about this was the one person we had the hardest time getting in contact with. Ms. Oanh in charge of the facilities.*

*Upon seeing her, many of our questions were answered though we had gained even more questions than we had started with. The reason for the wall was the interest in renovating the school.*

Ms. Oanh mentioned that they had demolished the floor last year, in order to check the current state of the building, with the intentions of a renovation. Yes, the school is being renovated.

Mr. James, the principal, stated that the wall was quote, "a complicated question of Vietnamese building regulations." He goes on to say that they did not need to check the state of the building reassuring its safety. Due to the regulation, they had to block off that area of the school. It is unclarified if the wall was put there simply because of a general regulation, or a regulation with means to renovate. Aside from that, Mr. James answered many burning questions about the renovation.

The concept of the renovation originated from the owners of the school. Last year, certain members of parliament, briefed the timeline and plan shown by an architect. There was also a consultation involving the owners of the school, teachers, students, parents, and the leadership of the school to allow everybody an opportunity to express

their ideas that then inspired the final plan for the renovation.

Which includes a total of 6 floors in certain areas, collaborative spaces with modernistic designs. Mr. James Robert Coulson elaborated, "We want to promote 21 learning, which is collaboration, creativity critical thinking."

The plan for the renovation is ready although they need approval from the Vietnam government to begin the process. The process will be done in stages, during holidays this way students will still be able to go to school. It's sought to be done in a year after approval, though Ms. Oanh presumes it'll be done in roughly 2-3 years.

Although the reports of it turning into an art gallery were inaccurate, there will still be a year 13 exhibition in April. The mystery of the wall led to the discovery of a beautifully remodeled school in the making. We're all looking forward to hearing more about the renovation.

# SCHOOL LIFE WITH COVID

## TRAN NGOC BOI TU 9J

### How did the pandemic affect education?

In around mid-2020, schools and different school-like programs had to pause and close because of the amount of covid cases throughout the country. As a result, it has taken a toll on the children's health, education systems, development, income, and the overall economy. Online classes started to become an option to instruct students without any physical contact between teachers and other students. Schools thought this would be a temporary fix at that time but most of that year students had to learn online. Online classes can have their advantages like students are less shy to clear doubts and it helps save time and resources, but most complaints about online class is that it is too draining and doing it every day is tiring. The virus has also affected the social lives of most students and affected their mental health. A few weeks ago, schools in Vietnam and most countries started to reopen and there have been benefits like having students finish their studies, improving children's well-being, both social and psychological, allowing parents to work. With benefits come with disadvantages such as more covid cases through the careless action's innocent children make.

### Effects of COVID on Renaissance

Similarly, Renaissance closed and started an online learning program called: E-learning. The school started with online classes for 2 weeks and then it turned to 3 weeks and eventually it turned into 3 months of just online school. Here are some thoughts from students about e-learning "Interview about thoughts on e-learning." Another part that covid affected is the IGCSE and IB program that our school offers to students of year 10 to 13. Both courses take at least 2 years to study and students from Renaissance had experienced the cancelation of their exams which failed their efforts and 2 years of studying. However, students' have earned high scores with their predicted grades and handled the situation extremely well.



With the cases in the city rising day by day, the students and staff of Renaissance have adapted to the hybrid learning system where any teacher or classmate has the chance to teach or study online the next day. Although the system is getting more and more familiar, IGSCes and IB students are finding the process difficult as exam season is approaching. A student from year 11 stated "It is very hard to communicate with a teacher teaching from online, especially when the IGSCes are coming in a few months". Renaissance also provides online learning for students who stay at home because of COVID-related reasons, however most students pointed out that they would always fall behind when coming back to school, teachers are trying their best to provide online materials as well as recordings of previous lessons so that students can revise whenever necessary.



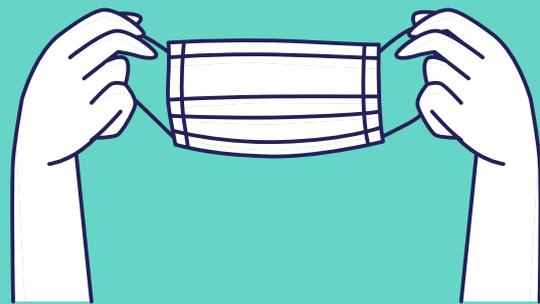
## How did covid affect other schools?

Students who were interviewed from different schools in Ho Chi Minh city stated that the same situation was happening in their schools. From CIS, AMIS, Dinh Thien Ly School, VAS and SSIS students have reported the “online school was an option for students who have COVID or choose to stay at home because of their worries” and even if their quality of study decreases, the option is less risky. In all schools of Ho Chi Minh, primary and secondary classes have all returned to school and trying to adapt to the new yet familiar school life that they had before the pandemic started. Some students stated, “school was exhausting” and some got back to their lives quickly. Exams are coming for all students in the city, we wish them all the best of luck!

## A list of things you need to do as a student and a citizen:

It is natural to feel sad, frightened, perplexed, terrified, or furious in this scenario. Know that you are not alone, and speak with someone you trust, such as a parent or teacher, to help keep yourself and your school safe and healthy.

Inquire, educate yourself, and obtain information from credible resources.



### Safeguard yourself and others:

- Wash your hands often, always for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Keep your hands away from your face, eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Share no cups, dining utensils, food, or beverages with others.
- Be a health advocate for yourself, your school, your family, and your community.
- Share what you've learned about illness prevention with your family and friends, especially younger children.
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- Share what you've learned about illness prevention with your family and friends, especially younger children.
- Teach excellent habits for younger family members, such as sneezing or coughing into your elbow and washing your hands.
- Don't make fun of your classmates or criticize them about being sick; remember that the virus has no regard for geography, ethnicity, age, ability, or gender.
- If you feel ill, notify your parents, another family member, or a caretaker and request you to stay at home.
- Even when there are times when things get hard by keeping social distance and following these strict rules will keep you safe. If there is a possibility e-learning might start again make yourself busy and find a hobby that will keep you off your devices.





# CANTEEN FOOD GONE WRONG?



By Vivian & Jenny Y10

With new changes coming into our school, there have been mixed responses. Specifically, our school cafeteria has been receiving both praise and criticism. This has resulted in both likes and dislikes of the new system which were expressed by both students and parents in a form sent by parliament.

Firstly, having a new company for the cafeteria means unfamiliar systems and different selections of food, so what do the students think about the changes?

In the survey created by the parliament; 60 percent of the students found the new ordering system to be as efficient while 40 percent find it even more efficient than the older cafeteria system.

Furthermore, the newly installed pre-ordering system slightly decreases the waiting time for food. Therefore, most of our students were satisfied with the new ordering system and found it better compared to previous years.

Secondly, with new changes in the cafeteria, there were also changes in the quality of food being produced. Based on the reviews given by students, at least 70 percent believed there was an improvement in the quality of the food being produced compared to previous years. While 30 percent of students taste no change in the quality of the food.

Additionally, the selection of food has garnered controversial results with half of the students finding the current selection to be better than that of previous year's while the other half found the selection to be lacking in vegetables and variety. Meanwhile, the selection of meat was average, and fruits and desserts are more well-received. However, it is worth mentioning that our school provides a salad bar that compromises the quantity of vegetables in a meal set. Overall, results show that most people eating school lunch have found enhancements to the food and are content with the snacks being given out with our meals.

Lastly, many people had issues about the pricing. The main gripe about the food is its price (140K VND) was too expensive. Due to the prices being higher, there have been reviews from parents as well questioning the price change, however, the rise in price was reasoned. As mentioned during assembly, the pricing change is due to the quality of food improving and change in cater company. Despite having a few questions about the price, many students and teachers have started to grow used to both the quality of food and the amount being paid.

To summarize, there were mixed reviews regarding the new cafeteria due to many students having troubles accustoming with the catering company at first due to its new systems. Regardless, many students have grown used to the prices and quality of the food.

# BATTLE OF THE BANDS

an insider's perspective

Battle of the Bands is a music event that hasn't been in our school for a long time. However, since the very first year of it, three years ago, joining Battle of the Bands has led to more creations of bands in our school. The first year that our school joined was described as an amazing event with good performances and a supportive atmosphere. Last year, more people joined the event with 3 bands performing in total. The event started becoming more popular and more competitive inside of school. Three bands all tried hard for their performance and at the end "The Careless Bears" got to represent our school for BOTB in Ho Chi Minh city.



Huy 12W (aka my part time drum coach): "I enjoy playing music in general and being able to play the drum with my friends".

Kim Chi 12W: "I think it's always an exciting time where I get to team up with my friends, and work hard on a song we really enjoy. I think last year was especially fun because we got to perform live. However, this year we had to do so through recording due to COVID. I feel like that really limits us in terms of sound quality and overall experience. But every band practice we have is always filled with laughter. My favourite memory is from last year when we got to perform at the Hard Rock Cafe, it was truly very memorable."



I agree with Kim Chi that this year's Battle of the Bands was so much harder with the Covid situation. Even though playing music is a fun activity, sometimes we also must go through a lot of obstacles like having some members who left the school, ... Probably because of that reason, there are only 2 bands joining this year and with "Noise Pollution" who got to represent the school for FOBISIA BOTB.

Here is what our music teacher, Mr. Felipe thinks about Battle of the Bands:

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*"Battle of the bands is a very important event for the school because it promotes student lead learning. I really enjoy watching students go through the whole process and I am always amazed at how much they learn about music and friendships. Battle of the bands has inspired younger students to play instruments and make bands with their friends. I look forward to seeing how things develop in the future and I hope we win it one day!!!"*

Since Battle of the Bands, some bands are formed from it and started to play for other events like Tet, and possibly more events in the future... and from my experience, I feel like this is something that I really enjoy doing, practicing with friends and performing on stage. I have never thought that I would do something like playing in a band before. However, even though it is not easy as I thought, it created so many memories for me and my friends. I don't know about the future but something I know is that this will be a special experience in my school life that I will never forget.

By Thao 11L

# TOP 3 RESTAURANTS TO TRY OUT DURING THE WEEKEND

EVA - 11LT

Saigon is a big city with a myriad of new restaurants every month, and my hobby is basically going to try different spots every weekend and exploring these exquisite restaurants for myself and friends.

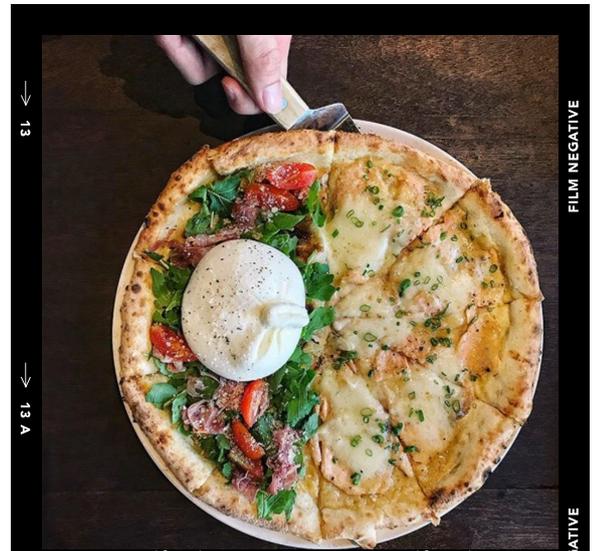
First, I visited one of the most popular diners in Saigon. Founded by Masuko, a Japanese man, the restaurant was named Pizza 4P's, with its vision to make the world smile "For Peace." Their main dishes are mostly pasta and pizza with different optional toppings, and they are also famous for their cheese production. These are five dishes I recommend you should try based on my personal taste.



Burrata with Parma Ham & Mixed Tropical Fruits



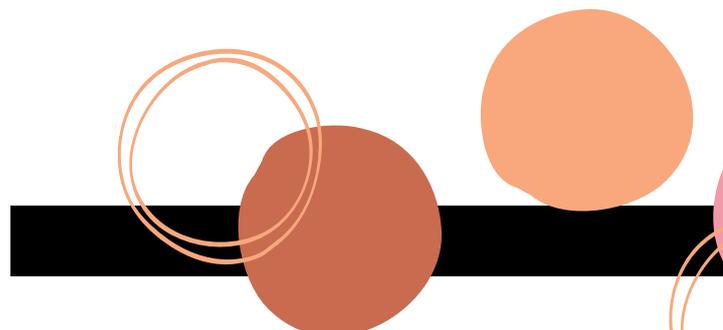
Crab Tomato Cream Spaghetti with Ricotta Cheese



Pizza: Half Salmon Miso Cream, Half 4 Cheese



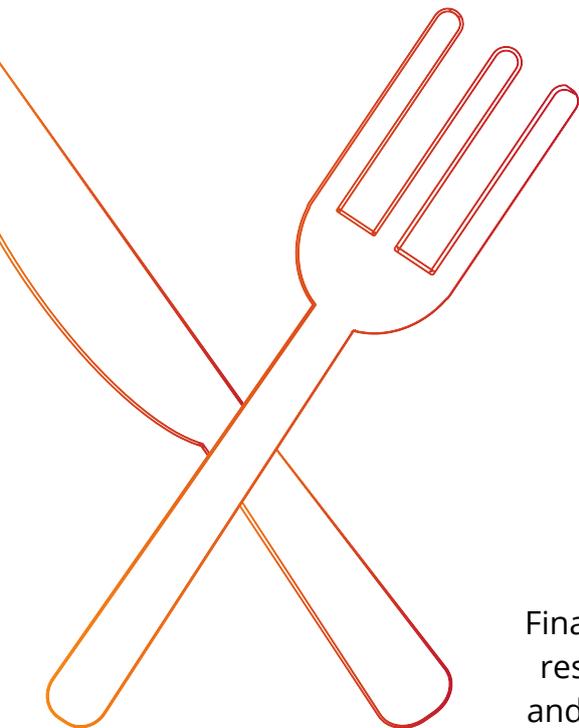
Roasted Duck with Dalat Figs and Beets Purée



Following on, I also recommend 030 Cuisine. Placed in district 1, 030 Cuisine is an Asian-European fusion comfort food restaurant, with a combination between Western dishes (taco, pasta) and Asian signature ingredient. The founder of this diner was a young and passionate Vietnamese man, who lived at Berlin for a long time. These are the three dishes I would recommend everyone to try:



Spicy Kimchi Seafood Pasta



Nori Tacos



Truffle Beef Ponzu

Finally, I would also love to recommend Baozi, a famous Taiwanese restaurant located in District 1. They offer different types of buns and even a bar that serves cocktails, which all comes in a sleek and elegant red-black design, creating an image of a small Chinatown in Saigon. Their signature dishes are made to be suitable for Vietnamese people's taste.



Taiwanese Beef Noodles



Char Siu Buns



Beef Wrapped Egg Yolk

# KANYE WEST: CIVIL WAR

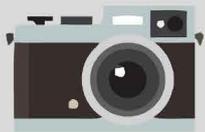
BY: AN THU, BELLA, KHUE 10W



WE ARE  
NEVER, EVER,  
EVER GETTING  
BACK  
TOGETHER



#BESTIES



A FEW MONTHS LATER...



SKETE!



KANYE'S PHONE...



KANYE COSPLAYS AS A BUSH  
OUTSIDE KIM'S HOUSE



NORTH WEST SAVES THE DAY <3



#SLAY!



# MEET THE CHARACTERS:)

KANYE WEST A.K.A. YE

PETE "SKETE" DAVIDSON



KIM KARDASHIAN

TIMOTHEE CHALAMET

TAYLOR SWIFT  
AKA  
"THE MUSIC  
INDUSTRY"



FEATURING...



NORTH  
KARDASHIAN  
WEST

## MY MOTHER TONGUE

*Yearning my country  
Where weather is uncertain  
Yet I adore the chaos*



## NATURE'S CRY

*Use her for their own,  
Yet no one really listens  
When she cries for help.*

## GREED.

*They once lied to us.  
Sunflower seeds on the  
ground.  
Tears fall on their graves.*

→ - , **Year 9 Students** ✨

*haikus and spontaneous .*

# poetry.

by Renaissance Students



## “ HUNG HATER ” ✨

*Mr. Paul James Bicker (Carten)  
Probably bullies kids on twitter,  
Flooding the school with his tears  
Because MacArthur beat Hung, my dears!*

\*°:★<sub>xo</sub> **Y10 Student**