



THE COLUMNS

HSD's newsletter: Issue 75

by pupils; for pupils

Welcome back to spring term! Hopefully everyone had a restful and enjoyable festive break, and are back raring to go! With F5&6 Prelims starting on Monday, cross country running in PE (aka my version of a nightmare), and all the other busyness of day to day school, let's all keep in mind there's only 4 weeks till the February Half Term! Best wishes to all those sitting exams in coming weeks!

Editor-in-Chief, Sahar Jafferbhoy



2023 New Years Traditions!

Maisey Lafollette

When a New Year comes, almost everyone gets excited across the World. But how do they celebrate in different countries and who celebrates first? The first country to celebrate New Year is the Pacific Island Kiribati, while the last country to celebrate is American Samoa.

In Spain one of their traditions is to eat 12 grapes each time a clock rings at midnight for good luck for every month in the next year.

In the Philippines, on the other hand, people lay out coin looking shapes to show wealth and success in the New Year; several families place piles of fruit on tables in their dining rooms; some people eat 12 fruits, grapes being the most common, at midnight; people also wear polka dots for good fortune.

In many countries in Central and South America people wear special underwear; different colours have different meanings - yellow is believed to bring money and red to give you love.

In Greece it is traditional to hang an onion on the front door of peoples' homes on New Year's Eve, which is a symbol of rebirth in the New Year and parents tap their children on the head with the onion to wake them up the next morning.

In Denmark they bring in the New Year by smashing older glasses and plates on family and friends' doors to make bad spirits go away. Another fun way to celebrate is that they stand on their chairs to stand up and leap off to jump into the New Year for good luck.

In Colombia for hopes to travel more they carry empty suitcases around their hometowns.

People in Finland try to predict the coming year by putting molten tin in some water to interpret what shape the metal takes when they harden. A pig tells you there will be plenty food, a heart or ring represents a wedding and a ship represents travel.

In the U.S.A we gather around to have a meal often with toasts and songs, while watching a celebration in Times Square (In NYC) with many famous singers and comedians performing. We also watch fireworks in the local area.

In Japan it is customary for people to visit a shrine to show respect and families normally go together. Small gifts are given to kids for New Year. Scotland calls New Year Hogmanay, and the first person to go to a loved one's house is called a first footer and superstition has it that it should be a tall dark haired handsome man for good luck, often giving a gift such as coal; but nowadays people give sweets.

In China people celebrate New Year by performing Lion and Dragon dances, flower shopping and temple fairs. Chinese New Year is not on January 1st. It is on a different day each year and is represented by different animals; kids are given red envelopes which contain money inside.

As you can tell New Year's Day is very different across the world. I hope you all had a fantastic New Year and are still following your New Year's resolutions!

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

JANUARY

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2023: all the events to look forward to this year

Jack Mitchell

In my last submission, I made a list of the biggest events of 2022. So, for the first edition of The Columns of 2023, I thought I should do something similar. This, however, will round up all of the scheduled events for 2023. Most are sporting events. Although, we must remember that other big events will take place during the year. These may include deaths, climate crises and political change. Already in 2023, we have seen Croatia adopting the euro as its national currency, the funeral of Pope Benedict XVI, China opening its borders to international visitors and the storming of the Brazilian National Congress, the Supreme Federal Court and the Presidential Palace of Planalto in the capital, Brasilia, by supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro.

- 1st – 11th February – 2022 FIFA Club World Cup – FIFA organised club football tournament. Competitors are the winners of the six continental confederations as well as the host, Morocco's, league champions. From North America, Seattle Sounders FC; from South America, Flamengo; from Oceania, Auckland City; from Asia, Al-Hilal; from Africa, Al Ahly; from Europe, Real Madrid and from host nation Morocco, Wydad Casablanca. Ordinarily the competition is held in December but due to the Men's World Cup, that was impossible.

- 6th May – Coronation of Charles III as King and of Camilla as Queen – on Saturday 6th May, King Charles the Third and the Queen Consort, Camilla, will be officially crowned in Westminster Abbey. This will be Britain's first coronation in 70 years. Charles' mother, the late Queen Elizabeth, was crowned on the 2nd June 1953.

- 9th to 13th May – Eurovision Song Contest 2023 – the 67th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest will be held in Liverpool, United Kingdom. Despite the fact Ukraine won the contest last year, the ongoing conflict in the country has made it impossible for them to host Eurovision as is customary for the winning nation. Instead, 2nd place country, the United Kingdom, will host Eurovision on behalf of Ukraine. Confirmed entrants are: Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

- 14-18th June – UEFA Nations League Finals – the UEFA Nations League Final will be held in the Netherlands and will be contested by the four group winners of the League A; Croatia, Spain, Italy and host the Netherlands. The tournament will consist of two semi-finals, a third place play-off and a final which will decide the champions of the UEFA Nations League.

- 21st June – 2nd July – 2023 European Games – the third European Games will be held in Krakow, Poland and the surrounding area. The countries expected to participate are: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, the Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, the host Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

- 23rd June – 8th July – 2023 Central American and Caribbean Games – the 23rd Central America and Caribbean Games will be held in San Salvador, El Salvador. It is unclear which countries will be participating.

- 20th July – 20th August – 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup – the Women's World Cup will be jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand. 32 teams will take part with the first match being that of New Zealand versus Norway.

- 8th September – 28th October – 2023 Men's Rugby World Cup – will be held in nine venues scattered around France. 20 nations will participate. Chile will be the only country debuting.

- 23rd September – 8th October – 2022 Asian Games – The 19th Asian Games will be hosted by China. The games had been planned to take place during September of 2022 but were postponed due to COVID. 45 teams will take part.

most anticipated films this year...

India Simpson

January

Glass Onion - A Knives Out Mystery

February

Ant Man Quantumania

March

Creed III

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Scream VI

Shazam: fury of the gods

John Wick: chapter 4

Dungeons & dragons: Honor among thieves

April

The super Mario bros. movie

May

Guardians of the galaxy volume 3

The little mermaid

June

Spider-man: across the spiderverse

Indiana Jones and the dial of destiny

July

Mission impossible - Dead reckoning, Part 1

Oppenheimer

Barbie

The marvels

Roosevelt

October

The exorcist

November

Dune: Part Two

The Hunger Games: the ballad of songbirds and snakes

December

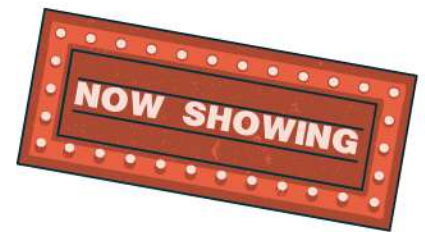
Wonka

Untitled ghostbusters: afterlife sequel

Aquaman and the lost kingdom

Date tbd

Legally blonde 3

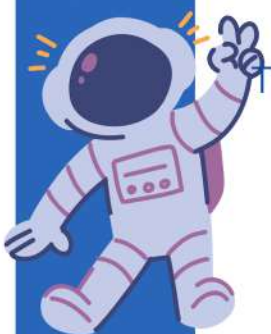


SPACE NEWS

Megan Beckham

A comet visible from Earth for the first time in 50,000 years! A recently discovered comet, named C/2022 E3, by NASA, was visible very early on Friday morning to part of the northern hemisphere for the first time in 50,000 years, around the early Stone Age.

The comet was discovered in March 2022 by the Zwicky Transient Facility, and originally thought to be an asteroid, until it was found that it glows a bright green, and has two tails, making it very uncommon.



The Wonders of the Alphabet

Izzy Clark

The basis of every language - written, spoken or signed - is its alphabet. Just like how living organisms can be broken down into organ systems, organs and cells, languages can be broken down into clauses, words and letters. Even in non-written languages, their grammar and structure can be broken down into increasingly smaller partitions. The smallest of these units, the individual sounds, the vowels and consonants, digraphs and trigraphs, can be rearranged in countless combinations to form every single word, clause and sentence in that language. Of course, not all languages use the same alphabet. More than 7,100 languages are spoken across the world, and over 4,100 of them use some form of written script, as well as over 150 being signed (non-verbal). By number of speakers, including first and second-language users, the most widespread language is English, with approximately 1.45 billion speakers worldwide. English uses the Latin alphabet, prevalent across Europe and the Americas. Whilst English is a relatively complicated language, its alphabet is less difficult. With 26 letters, the Latin alphabet incorporates accents - which are less common in English - and digraphs, combinations of letters which make different sounds from their component letters. To the English speaker, written languages like Portuguese, Norwegian and even something as obscure as Frisian can easily be phonetically deciphered, thanks to the Latin alphabet reaching almost every corner of the developed world.

The second-most spoken language is Mandarin Chinese, one of the variants of the Chinese language, with 1.18 billion speakers. At first glance, Mandarin is daunting to the English reader. It does not have a phonetic alphabet or a written one, with over 6,000 different characters to represent every single word. It is a logographic language, with the smallest language unit consisting of an opening consonant, something called a medial glide, a vowel and a tone. Despite its initial complexity, Mandarin characters do follow some rules. Certain characters are classified as pictograms - a semi-direct representation of what they mean - and others are ideographs - symbols which can be interpreted visually as their meaning. Others combine different characters to make new ideas, such as the symbol for "clear/fair (weather)" combining both the symbols for "sun" and "blue/green". Visually and phonetically, Mandarin is completely different from English, but it is a fascinating language with complexity, depth and rhythm. The third and sixth most spoken languages, Hindi and Bengali, are both classified as using abugida alphabets. Abugidas, like logographics, do not have individual symbols for unique letters. However, abugidas indicate vowels through diacritics - accent marks - so each symbol is represented by a consonant with a diacritic to show which vowel follows it. Hindi uses the Devanagari script, and Bengali uses the Bengali script, both of which are branches of the Brahmi script. Abugida languages are found all across the world, from sub-Himalayan India to Arctic Circle Canada, and are relatively easy to learn to read and transcribe back into the Latin alphabet. The eighth-most spoken language in the world is Russian, which uses the Cyrillic alphabet. Cyrillic is similar to the Latin alphabet - they even share some letters! Both come from the Greek alphabet, but with some significant differences. For example, the Latin character "H" makes an "n" sound in Cyrillic, which can be confusing for beginners. Additionally, certain characters represent digraphs: one character makes a "ya" sound, another a "ch", and another a "ts". Cyrillic languages are prevalent across Eastern Europe and Western Asia, being used by a population of over 250 million people worldwide.

One of the most complicated and fascinating writing systems worldwide is Japanese. A language isolate with no close relatives (think Italian to Spanish, or Russian to Ukrainian), Japanese is a syllabic language, with unique characters for individual syllables. In fact, Japanese actually has three writing systems - hiragana, katakana and kanji. Hiragana and katakana are both syllabic, with each small symbol representing a combination of a consonant and a vowel, or just a vowel. Katakana is only used for loan words, terms which come from languages outside of Japan, such as "chashu", which comes from the Chinese for "barbequed pork", "amerika" in reference to the geographic name, and "pan" from the Portuguese word for "bread". Finally, kanji uses thousands of complex, detailed characters adapted from Chinese writing. Japanese's multiple alphabets for multiple purposes offer a unique perspective on the country's connection to its language and pride, as well as its relations with other cultures throughout history.

Languages do not have to be spoken or written. Across the world, hundreds of different languages are signed. Despite common misconceptions, sign languages are not just spoken language in a visual form. Sign languages have their own unique grammar, structure and linguistics, and can even develop without knowledge of any spoken language. Despite these differences, sign languages still have their own alphabets, which are often used to spell out words without signed equivalents, or names.

And what about the opposite? What about languages with no verbal form, only written? In the digital age, written communication is becoming more and more distinct from spoken language - think of abbreviations and acronyms. According to some linguists, emojis can even qualify as a written script, a pictographic and ideographic language like Chinese, Egyptian hieroglyphics and the Nsibidi family of African languages. Constructed languages like the aforementioned emoji, as well as Esperanto, Lingua Franca Nova, and Toki Pona, offer a unique chance for humanity: to choose how to make a language. What will stay, and what will be cut? The ambiguity of English poses complexity for translators and foreign learners, but it allows for depth not present in other languages. The ability to interpret written language in many different ways is one of the greatest qualities of any language, allowing us to convey doubt, tone, passion and pride for as long as our language is remembered.

If ancient Latin or Chinese poetry can still impact us, thousands of years later, then that is proof of the power of the written word, no matter how it's written.



Philosophy Corner: A cool intro to Hegel

Hegels Lord-Bonseman dialectic illustrates the struggle of two "self-consciousnesses" who are obligated to engage in a life and death struggle.

They are forced to do as such, consumed by the threat of the opposing self conscious, coerced by their own fear to engage in a struggle.

Prior to the confrontation, these consciousness believed in the supremacy of their subjective standards, coining its feelings, desires ect. as the 'objective' metric by which all things should be measured. The

presence of another conscious threatens the standards set,

challenging the other conscious with a different 'objective' metric. With two

metrics of success diametrically opposed and measured against one

another, only one can triumph; only one may be the moral, objective,

truth. The affirmation of self-consciousness requires a struggle to

the death because each self-consciousness can only become

aware of its limits by exerting itself to a maximum effort. Each self-

consciousness must struggle with all its might in order to realize the extent

of its strength in relation to the other.

Each conscious must justify their existence to prove their worth to both

external and internal mechanisms.

And so begins their bitter struggle, and while the original idea was the

eradication of the losers' belief, death of the opposition; the victor must

spare the vanquished so that the loser may provide an external, objective

witness to the power of the winner. Ironically, the loser is the actor that

has achieved self consciousness; realising it is does not hold the

objective truth. On the other hand, the 'master' has yet to reach its limit.

Still seeing itself as the measure of all, this conscious will remain without

closure until the birth or rebirth of another consciousness. And so begins

again the vicious cycle for intellectual, moral, spiritual, all consuming

superiority over yet another conscious. The nature of the struggle

for supremacy is cyclical, a never ending repetition with a forgone

conclusion.

A New Endangered Species: Pipe Bands

Megan Dailly

Pipe Bands are vital to Scotland's culture. They are embedded in the country's very soul. They bring in tourism from all around the world and pump much-needed money into the Scottish economy. But there are so many town, city and rural schools and areas that just cannot afford to start and maintain a pipe band, so many young people don't get to experience and gain an interest in pipe bands causing their numbers to dwindle. We cannot allow pipe bands to die.

The Scottish Government HAS to help, they have to provide funding to save pipe bands. To save our economy. To save our culture. To save the Scotland we all love.

Pipe bands are irrefutably Scottish. From the music to the competitive spirit that goes along with every competition. Pipers have played at Scottish weddings, funerals and parties since the 15th century. Pipe tunes like "Marie's Wedding" have been around for centuries and will remain for many more. However, in the last few decades, pipe bands have adapted to engage with younger audiences. Bands such as the Red Hot Chilli Pipers adapted pop music to bagpipes and snare drums trying to bring in a new audience of young people to the world of pipe band. There are only 10,000 Scottish pipers and even fewer drummers.

Pipe bands like Mallaig, Ardnamurchan and District Pipe are made up of 2 schools 50 miles apart. They have to do this because there's simply not enough interest in pipe bands.

The expense of running even the smallest of pipe bands (12 band members) is astronomical.

The cost of instruments alone can be as much as £4400. Not to mention the cost of uniforms, teaching and transport to competitions to name a few, but once instruments and uniforms are purchased they can last for as long as 20 years. Given the sheer expense alone of running a pipe band (not to mention the gruelling hours of band rehearsal AND at-home practice), it is understandable why most Scots don't want to run a pipe band. This means that young people won't get to hear and experience pipe bands, so there will be fewer pipe bands, so young people won't get to hear and experience pipe bands creating a vicious, endless circle resulting in the ultimate demise of a centuries-old Scottish tradition.

The Scottish snare drum can be traced back to the 1300s and the use of bagpipes in Scotland can be traced back to the year 1400. These instruments were used for every occasion in Scotland until 1745 when everything to do with Scottish culture (bagpipes, other Scottish instruments and even kilts) were banned as they were seen as instruments of war (both literally and metaphorically). But the Scottish people saved our culture, just as we have to.

For centuries pipe bands have been used for military signalling and they still serve a ceremonial purpose for the military and are often used in military fundraisers or for large-scale military events such as the late Queen Elizabeth's state funeral. Many people have said that the most emotional part of the Queen's funeral was when the massed pipes and the lone piper played. The pipes and kilt have been seen as ancient instruments raising morale and leading troops into battle for over 400 years.

Simon Fraser the 15th Lord Lovat was the last military General to have a piper at his side when he went into battle on D-Day.

Scotland's age-old connection with pipe bands brings in tourists from all across the world. The World Pipe Band Championships 2022 saw nearly 150 bands from a variety of countries including Scotland, Canada, Argentina and Israel and 40,000 spectators from all those countries and more. All this in the year when the world is returning from Covid and the pipe band world isn't back to full strength. There are other events such as the Edinburgh Tattoo which bring in tourists from every continent. The Tattoo pumps £100 million into the Edinburgh economy every year. While it is often regarded as an event that celebrates different cultures, what has always been at the very heart of this event is the parade of Scottish Military Pipe Bands.

With so many bands and spectators coming from all around the globe to see the World Championships lots of extra money is being pumped into the Scottish economy. Almost every band had to rent a Scottish bus to transport its instruments and members, even the bands from Glasgow had to at least rent a van or taxi to transport their drums. There were also hundreds of food trucks from the Glasgow and Strathclyde area selling multiple overpriced meals to thousands of people, bringing in even more money to their local suppliers and local economy.

Scottish companies such as Barr Soft Drinks, BBC Scotland and Piping Live! sponsored the World Championships 2022 allowing this fantastic display of piping talent to come to life. However, due to the cost of living crisis, the European Championships 2023 have been cancelled because no one can afford to sponsor such a large-scale event when the survival of their businesses is being questioned. This will only worsen the state of the Highland economy since so many local businesses won't get the huge annual cash flow they normally get and so many young people will yet again miss out on the opportunity to gain an interest in the beautiful art form that is Pipe Band.

Pipe Band is undoubtedly one of Scotland's greatest assets, but it is a dying art that needs to be utilised by the Scottish Government. The first pipe band was found in Scotland in the 17th century, we can't let the last one be from the 21st.

Quiz of the Week

Zara King

1. What is Harry Potter's middle name?
2. Off what State in Australia would I find the Great Barrier Reef?
3. What is the most eaten food in the world?
4. In Australia, what 3 months make up Spring?
5. One of the characters in the Star Wars Series is R2-D2. T/F
6. What watercraft travels underwater?
7. What character lives in a rubbish bin on Sesame Street?
8. What is the largest land animal?
9. How often are the Commonwealth Games held?
10. What is the female Smurf called?

1. James 2. Queensland 3. Rice 4. September, October, November 5. True 6. Submarine 7. Oscar 8. African elephant 9. Every four years 10. Smurfette

EDITOR'S NOTE

Sahar Jafferbhoy

The Columns will be back at the start of February with many more quizzes, recipes, jokes, and informative articles! A huge thank you to the team for their unwavering hard work at keeping the publication going :)

happy friday!

THE COLUMNS TEAM