

# THE COLUMNS

by pupils; for pupils

HSD's Newsletter: Issue 104



As we commemorate International Women's Day, we embrace the opportunity to honor the extraordinary achievements, resilience, and contributions of women around the globe. This annual observance serves as a powerful reminder of the progress made in advancing gender equality while acknowledging the ongoing challenges that persist. From trailblazers who shattered glass ceilings, to grassroots activists fighting for justice and equality, women have continuously shaped history and transformed societies. This year's theme, reflective of the diverse and multifaceted nature of women's experiences, invites us to recommit ourselves to the pursuit of gender parity and inclusivity in all aspects of life. It serves as a call to action to challenge stereotypes, dismantle barriers, and amplify the voices of those often marginalized and overlooked.

Editor, Ruby

## SARAH EVERARD

Izzy Clark

At the suggestion of Mrs Tevendale, the day after International Women's Day my mother and I sat down on the sofa under a blanket to watch the documentary produced by the BBC in memorial of the 3-year anniversary of the disappearance and murder of Sarah Everard - "Sarah Everard: The Search For Justice". I went into it knowing it was not going to be an easy watch. I had been relatively caught-up on the case during 2021 as the investigation was unfolding, and had been deeply unsettled and discomforted by the whole ordeal, but going into this documentary three years later I was all too aware of the harrowing nature of what I was about to watch. I tend to avoid documentaries like this because they make me uncomfortable - all too often they sensationalise and exploit the deaths of (usually) women with the sole goal of being frightening and shocking.

"Sarah Everard: The Search For Justice" is not like that. It is well-structured, informative and compelling, all whilst exploring the process by which Everard was found and her killer sentenced. It does not shy away from showing the depravity of her murderer, police officer Wayne Couzens, and the ways in which the London Metropolitan Police had numerous chances to remove him from the force in the past, but had failed to do so. Through interviews with various individuals involved in the case, the BBC manages to present a narrative that is both engaging and honest. It does not need to exaggerate the truth, because the truth is horrific enough this time.

One woman is murdered by a man every three days in the UK. No-one expects to be murdered. But as women, we are expected to protect ourselves - don't walk alone and if you have to then pretend you're on the phone, hold your keys between your fingers in case you're attacked, don't walk in the dark, don't dress a certain way if you're on your own, make sure you're in earshot and view of other people, especially other women. No murdered woman in the UK does anything wrong, beyond what they are expected to do. The BBC makes it clear that Sarah Everard did what you would expect a woman to do if she had to walk home at night: keeping in light spaces, phoning someone, taking the shortest route home.

And yet. As I'm sure the media has made clear, Sarah Everard was kidnapped, raped and murdered by Wayne Couzens, a serving police officer, who tricked Sarah into getting into his car using his police credentials. It was a disgusting breach of trust, particularly given that Couzens' status as a police officer should have been revoked the first, second, third time he was reported for public exposure and indecency, or when he had previously been reported for rape, or when he had been found to possess indecent images of children. The Met's failure to hold Couzens accountable for seemingly "minor" offences, despite the proven path between small crimes and more serious escalations, indicates, the BBC says, an atmosphere of entitlement and ignorance towards severely inappropriate male behaviour.

The BBC does not shy away from the role that the media played in the publicisation of Everard's case, as well as the subsequent rise in protest against the chauvinistic attitude of The Met. Whether the way in which the missing person's case was spread across facebook and twitter, or the uproar once it was revealed that her body had been found and the primary suspect was a police officer, or the photos and videos from the impromptu funeral and protest held in Clapham days after her death, where predominately-male police officers violently assaulted and harassed numerous female mourners. In particular, this last example further showed how the problem was not simply "one bad apple" - it was institutional. The trust that the British public, especially women, had held in The Met had already been shattered by that point, and this had only proved that The Met was intrinsically prejudiced. It mirrors the adage that male violence against women is "not all men". Yes, male violence against women is "not all men", but it is "all women". You could not find a woman who has not had an unpleasant experience with a man where she has felt threatened. To get personal to prove a point, a few weeks ago, I was followed by a man on my way to the shops to buy myself lunch, and I could not help but panic because I was a young woman walking alone.

The media uproar following Couzens' trial and sentencing revealed a disturbing pattern within The Met that not only ignored but seemed to enable rape, harassment and rampant misogyny, racism, homophobia and transphobia. Numerous other police officers, including some closely connected to Couzens, were accused of terrible and horrific actions towards women. If we cannot trust police officers, people whose duty it is to protect us and keep us safe from the people who would wish to harm us, are the people perpetrating these crimes, what kind of future does that leave for women? Is it a future where we cannot walk alone without the fear of being manipulated and kidnapped, where we cannot approach a police officer after we have been hurt because they might hurt us more, where we cannot exist without being objectified, threatened and ignored? In the wake of the rise in concern for women's safety, head of the Metropolitan Police Cressida Dick resigned, seemingly as her force crumbled around her due to accusations of institutionalised prejudice, misconduct and hatred.

The social media fervour against The Met led to a wider discussion about women's safety, something I am particularly passionate about. Women should be able to exist without feeling threatened by men, and this is not an issue that can be solved by women - it is a male problem. I have never been catcalled by a woman, but I cannot name the number of times I have been catcalled by a man, the majority of those instances when I was visibly in school uniform. Every year, half a million British women are sexually assaulted, the overwhelming majority of those cases being perpetrated by men.

Watching "Sarah Everard: The Search For Justice" the day after International Women's Day made me think. What's the point in having one day when we celebrate women when, statistically, over 1000 women will be sexually assaulted on that day, and 233 will be raped? Why do we only care about women on one day, and every other day, we ignore over 98% of rape cases? Why does the Google search term "when is international men's day" reach a peak on International Women's Day? Why don't we care?

What is going to make us care? Is it another murder, another violent assault, another accusation against a large institution? Why are women's issues only relevant once we're dead?

# Amplifying voices behind borders

Ayanah Adam

International Women's Day (IWD) holds significant importance in celebrating the achievements and advocating for the rights of women globally. However, amidst the celebrations and acknowledgments, it is crucial to recognise that the reach and impact of this day often fall short of addressing the pressing issues faced by women in conflict-ridden and underdeveloped regions. Women in places like Palestine, Congo, Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan and Uyghur regions endure unimaginable hardships, from lack of necessities to systematic oppression. While commemorating the remarkable achievements of famous women is essential, it is equally imperative to shed light on the struggles faced by women in marginalised communities.

One of the most poignant examples of the dire circumstances women face can be found in Palestine. There are crucial shortages of drugs, blood products and media, supplies, and fuel is being severely rationed at the remaining partially functioning hospitals. These shortages severely affect access to life saving obstetric care for women who are pregnant or postpartum. There have also been reports of some pregnant Palestinians being shot down and ran over by bulldozers. As well as this, here women not only confront the harsh realities of living in a genocide zone but also grapple with the most basic of needs—period products. Shockingly, many Palestinian women are deprived of access to sanitary products, forcing them to resort to using tent scraps during menstruation. This degrading situation not only infringes upon their dignity but also poses serious health risks. The lack of menstrual hygiene products highlights the neglect and disregard for women's well-being in conflict-affected regions.

Similarly, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), women endure unimaginable suffering amidst ongoing conflict and political instability. They face rampant sexual violence, used as a weapon of war to terrorise communities, and destabilise regions. The prevalence of rape and sexual assault has devastating consequences for the physical and mental health of Congolese women, perpetuating a cycle of trauma and despair. Despite these atrocities, the voices of Congolese women are often marginalised, overshadowed by geopolitical interests and power struggles.

In Yemen, women grapple with the dual burden of conflict and a humanitarian crisis, worsened by years of civil war and foreign intervention. The collapse of infrastructure and healthcare systems has left women particularly vulnerable, with limited access to essential services and medical care. Maternal mortality rates have soared, and malnutrition among women and children has reached alarming levels. The dire situation in Yemen underscores the urgent need for international attention and support to address the plight of women in conflict-affected regions.

Syria presents another stark example of the challenges faced by women in conflict zones. Syrian women have been disproportionately affected by the ongoing civil war, enduring displacement, violence, and economic hardship. Many have been widowed or displaced, left to fend for their families in precarious conditions. The lack of access to education and economic opportunities further worsens their vulnerability, perpetuating cycles of poverty and marginalisation. Despite their resilience and determination, Syrian women continue to struggle for basic rights and recognition amid a protracted humanitarian crisis.

The plight of Uyghur women in China's Xinjiang region highlights the intersection of gender and ethnic persecution. Uyghur women are subjected to widespread surveillance, arbitrary detention, and forced labor camps as part of the Chinese government's crackdown on ethnic minorities. Reports of systematic rape forced sterilisation, and cultural assimilation efforts have sparked international condemnation and calls for accountability. The suppression of Uyghur women's rights stands for a grave violation of human dignity and underscores the need for solidarity and advocacy on a global scale.

While celebrating the achievements of trailblazing women like Marie Curie, Rosa Parks, and Malala Yousafzai is essential in inspiring future generations and recognising the contributions of women to society, it is equally vital to amplify the voices of marginalized women whose struggles often go unnoticed. Marie Curie's groundbreaking research in radioactivity, Rosa Parks' pivotal role in the civil rights movement, and Malala Yousafzai's fearless advocacy for girls' education serve as shining examples of resilience and courage in the face of adversity.

However, we must not forget that the fight for gender equality is far from over, and millions of women around the world continue to face discrimination, violence, and systemic oppression. By elevating the voices of women in conflict-ridden and underdeveloped communities, we can ensure that the principles of equality and justice are upheld for all women, regardless of their background or circumstances. International Women's Day must serve as a platform for solidarity, action, and meaningful change, transcending borders, and boundaries to uplift women everywhere. Only through collective efforts and unwavering commitment can we truly achieve gender equality and justice for all.



# WOMEN JOURNALISTS

Mrs Hudson

On International Women's day 2024, I want to celebrate the work and life of just two of our amazing former pupils: Isabella 'Marie' Imandt (1860-1945) and Elizabeth 'Bessie' Maxwell (1871-1946).

Marie Imandt was 10 years Bessie's senior, but they shared the 'grounding' of an HSD education and, employed by DC Thomson, travelled the globe to report at a time when this was very much the preserve of men.

Marie was used to breaking glass ceilings, being the first woman to graduate with Honours as a "Lady Literate in Arts" from the University of St Andrews. Her father, Peter Imandt, was a Prussian immigrant and political activist who moved to Dundee, married Marie's mother Anne McKenzie and taught German at HSD. Perhaps not surprisingly, Marie herself was fluent in both French and German.

Elizabeth 'Bessie' Maxwell had journalism in her DNA. Her great grandfather was the first editor of The People's Friend newspaper, and her father was an Editor too. Passionate about the Arts, Bessie was also determined to pursue her education beyond school, graduating from University College Dundee, which was one of very few institutions that accepted women students at the time.

Fate was to bring these two ambitious and accomplished women together in 1894 when Bessie (aged just 23) got her first job as a journalist at DC Thomson. This job was working with Marie, who had already been pioneering as a female journalist there since 1887. Their 'project' was a yearlong trip around the world to report on the lives of women globally! I am sure that any pair of young female journalists even 130 years (exactly) later, would still jump at the chance to fulfil such an amazing brief!

The dates also tell us something extraordinary about Marie Imandt and the founder of DC Thomson, David Coupar Thomson himself. He had become general manager of the paper only the year before he employed Marie. In fact, David had been in the year above Marie at HSD. At that time, however, they would have been educated separately at the Boys' and Girls' Schools respectively, but I suspect that David would have been very familiar with Marie's credentials.

Referring to her as 'Our Lady Editor', the much-quoted line from David Coupar Thomson himself sums up the exceptional skills and qualities of Marie and Bessie as they set off on this important work. "These ladies are not only intrepid, but they are shrewd and observant, are possessed of undoubted literary ability, and are in complete sympathy with the stupendous task in which they are about to engage" Over the course of the year they travelled over 26,000 miles and visited 10 countries including France, Italy, Egypt, China and Japan! Their reporting ranged from visiting a women's prison in China and engaging with women who had travelled to Seattle as 'mail order brides' (You can read more about this amazing journalistic journey in Susan Keracher's fantastic book Dundee's Two Intrepid Ladies: A Tour Round the World by DC Thomson's Female Journalists in 1894. (Dundee: Abertay Historical Society)

As she says "Their exploits may not have been the uncertainty of the war zone reporting of today, but given its context, their journey and mission was extraordinary enough...these women went to observe for themselves and inform those that couldn't travel of what they saw; the truth of women's lives"

So what is the reflection on IWD 130 years after Marie and Bessie set off on their trip. Both had received a 'real education' at HSD but they were privileged by the standards of the day, just as we all are at HSD. They travelled in relative luxury but they wanted to use their skills to open up minds and understanding to women from other corners of the globe. They were tough, intellectual, cultured and brave. Their writing reflects their contrasting and complimentary personalities. Marie was the experienced and accomplished writer. Able to articulate the emotion and bring each observation to life for the readers. Bessie was the younger, more light-hearted foil who injected a sense of humour and fun into their travels and writing. What they created was not just an extraordinary archive of two column reports and sketches filed every week for the Dundee Courier and Weekly News. The national reach of the papers gave them exposure in the London Newspapers too. They were trailblazers for the female perspective, voice and influence in the earliest days of female emancipation.

At HSD we are on edition 104 of The Columns. All 104 have had all female editors and editorial teams! It is clear why such a fantastic publication exists... the tradition of groundbreaking journalistic writing is in the very fabric of this great school.

All power to all the female journalists currently risking their lives to report from around the globe, many of them shining a light on the victims of war, so often women and children. On this IWD 2024, we celebrate all the women who' like Marie and Bessie continue to break glass ceilings and inspire us all to do the same!

# THERESA MAY

Jack Mitchell

Two weeks ago, former Prime Minister Theresa May announced that she would be standing down as the MP for Maidenhead – a constituency she has served for her entire 27 year political career – at the next general election. Lady May did not cite a primary reason for quitting, but criticised the ‘coarsening of our debates and less respect for others’ views’. She joins the list of 61 other Conservative colleagues who have also announced their resignations at the general election. They include former chancellors Kwasi Kwarteng and Sajid Javid, Scotland Secretary Alister Jack and Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross.

Theresa May was elected as the Member of Parliament for the Maidenhead constituency in Berkshire in 1997 following an education at Cambridge – where she read Geography – and a twenty-year career as a financial consultant. She was unusual in winning her seat with a vote-count nearly double that of the second-place Liberal Democrat candidate despite the worst general election result for the Conservative Party in 150 years.

It was perhaps due to the combination of her notable work ethic and this apparent popularity that she was promoted within a year to become Shadow Spokesman for Schools, Disabled People and Women. She only held this role for one year because of another promotion, this time to the Shadow cabinet – the first of the new 1997-election MPs to do so. Lady May continued to hold positions in the Shadow Cabinet until the Conservative victory in 2010 under David Cameron, when she was appointed Home Secretary. This appointment made her only the fourth woman to hold one of the Great Offices of State (Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, Chancellor and Home Secretary). May held the role for six years, the longest tenure as Home Secretary since the 1950s.

Following the resignation of her leader David Cameron, Theresa May announced that she would be standing for the party leadership, and won with over double the number of MPs supporting her as second place Andrea Leadsom. Prime Minister May - only the second woman to hold the post - continued with many of the centre- right policies of her predecessor and worked on achieving a positive Brexit. Less than a year into her premiership, May called a general election in an attempt to give her more time with Brexit negotiation and to capitalise on her lead in the polls – which would give her a larger majority. Unfortunately for the party, the polls were proved wrong and Labour made large gains in the number of MPs, thus overturning the Conservative majority. This made Brexit negotiations even more difficult, and after seeing her popularity significantly decline, Theresa May announced her resignation in a tearful speech after only three years in the job. She remained an MP for her Maidenhead constituency, and will do so until the next General Election, which will likely take place in the latter half of this year. Her resignation marks the end of a long career of public service that has achieved multiple successes in many different ministerial positions.

# Neurodiversity Week

Lia Pert

This year neurodiversity week is the 18th-24th of March. Many people won't have heard the term 'neurodiversity' so what is it? Neurodiversity is the range of differences in individual brain function and behavioural traits, regarded as part of normal variation in the human population.

It is important to remember that no two brains are the same, whether you're neurodiverse or not. This week is an opportunity to raise awareness about neurodiversity and for people to learn and educate themselves and others on neurodiversity.

It is also the perfect opportunity to put neurodiversity in the spotlight and celebrate it. Some of you may have heard the terms ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia and Tourette's Syndrome. All these diagnoses come under the term neurodiverse. There are many more diagnoses that fall under this umbrella such as dyscalculia, dysgraphia and epilepsy.

However, what do all these terms have in common? They all impact some, but not all thinking skills. During neurodiversity week, while raising awareness people are also trying to help people grasp an understanding. An understanding that everyone's brain is different. Different attention spans, everyone experiences different moods and most importantly that this is completely normal! So why does gaining an understanding of this topic matter? It matters so that you are able to accept people for who they are. You are able to see strengths in others. You are able to better understand the differences and the similarities. Ultimately making us an inclusive school.

Neurodiversity goes beyond the labels. It makes you unique. This is normal.

## The Umbrella Project

Carys Blyth

It's Neurodiversity Celebration Week! But what does it really mean and what are we celebrating? The word neurodiversity was first penned by Australian sociologist Dr Judy Singer in 1998 and is made up of neuro, meaning nerves or nervous system, and diverse, which means how each person is unique. So essentially, it is all about how people's minds work a bit differently, and it's a lot more common than you would think with 1 in 5 people in the world being neurodivergent.

The umbrella is a hugely important symbol for this special week, neurodiversity being an umbrella term for Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and Tourette's, the umbrella is used as a uplifting and positive symbol to reinforce the idea that neurodiverse people are never alone and are in this together, supporting each other.

The umbrella symbol is most widely known from the Umbrella Project, an art project aiming to raise awareness and understanding through putting up displays of colourful umbrellas around schools and public spaces. Each one of these umbrellas put up is signed by a child saying "My superpower is..." and aim to celebrate ability over disability. Yes, these children have struggles but they are also so strong and can do anything they put their mind to.

It's time we follow in the footsteps of this project, change the perception of neurodivergent people and celebrate strengths. So what's your superpower?



# Neurodiversity in Cartoons

Teigan McNeill-Gibson

One of my guilty pleasures in life is watching kids' cartoons. I don't know what the appeal of them is to me, but it's one of the things I love doing the most. They're a great distraction when all the stress of studying catches up to me, and it's what I spend my evenings doing.

I notice that in a lot of the shows I watch, there are neurodivergent characters. This representation of neurodiversity is amazing, and characters with any type of neurodiversity are generally written in a way that helps young children understand conditions such as Autism, ADHD, and PTSD, among others. This means that children are educated about neurodivergent people from a young age, and they will grow to understand people who are different from them, rather than treat them poorly for their differences.

A couple of cartoons which have had a big impact on me over the years are "The Owl House", "She-ra and the Princesses of Power", and "Miraculous Ladybug". It's been a while since I watched any of these 3 shows, but they have left a big impression on me. For example, in "She-ra and the Princesses of Power", one of the princesses, Entrapta, is autistic. She is described as 'incredibly hyperactive, cheerful, intelligent, bubbly, and optimistic.' She is a kind person, who has never wished harm on/threatened anybody, including her robots. Entrapta is an incredibly positive person, who looks at life with a positive light, even when she is in grave danger. She's a scientist, an incredibly smart woman, who is completely oblivious to her surroundings when she is working on her experiments. Despite the fact her experiments have complications, she uses the opportunity of failure to learn and develop her scientific experiments. She sees herself as a failure, but not in a negative sense. As she is someone who can be incredibly lonely and vulnerable, she is easily manipulated, as seen when Catra, one of the main characters in the show, convinces her to join 'the Horde' - an evil organisation who is the opposition against the rebellion side.

Her main personality traits are her 'one-track mind,' which has often led her into putting herself into dangerous situations, and her obliviousness to many things. As she lives her life surrounded by robots, she doesn't have a lot of experience with people, even saying 'I'm not good at people, but I am good at tech. I thought maybe if I could use tech to help you, you'd like me.' This quote hit hard, as it talks about how Entrapta felt that the only way that someone could ever like her, was if she was of use to someone. Many young people can relate to this feeling, myself included at times.

This leads me to believe that Entrapta is the best written autistic character that I have ever encountered. She shows traits which are incredibly relatable to many young people, and the way she is isn't represented in a way which dehumanises autistic, and other neurodivergent people.



# *The World Through My Eyes*

Carys Blyth

When I was 5 years old, I was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. I'm not going to bore you with definitions and statistics because you've most likely heard it already at the Neurodiversity Celebration Week assembly or elsewhere but instead I'm going to tell you a bit about my personal experience. Autism in the media can sometimes be viewed in such a negative light, especially with platforms like TikTok where it's so easy to leave a comment anonymously and move on without even considering its impact. The stereotypes of Autism and Autistic people are always so negative, whereas as an autistic person, I tend to think of it as more of a positive thing, being what makes me who I am. While there is a lot of things I struggle with such as being sensitive to loud noise and struggling to know what to do in complex social situations, there is many things that have helped me throughout my life.

Take for example programming; I've always had a huge interest in computers since I was little, to the point that I am now planning to go into a career in computing science. I have found that coding was something I could focus all of my energy into, I would go into my own world whenever I started a new program and could work at shockingly fast speeds without feeling time even pass by. This is referred to as "hyperfocus" and is found in a lot of young people with ASD and ADHD. Programming and being on my computer, going into this state of focus was an escape for me throughout my childhood. Now if only I could use this to my advantage to get my Advanced Higher coursework done.....

Autism has also been linked to people having increased lateral thinking skills as well as an incredible memory. These are things that helped me out significantly throughout my exams as I found I was able to memorise huge walls of text, like poems for English, with ease and recall them later through having reminders such as drawings or single letters.

Me and my family all agreed at a young age that I'd never be able to drive: I mean I couldn't even ride a bike, what chance would I have in a car where there are so many things to think about at once with distractions all around. That's what we always thought, until this year that is. I took my first driving lesson in October and found that, if anything, I found it easy to focus on the road, being aware of my surroundings and blocking out distractions.

In conclusion, you can do anything you put your mind to! Don't think of being neurodivergent as something that takes things away from you, think of it as something that makes you even better. Whether that be through great intelligence and an encyclopaedia of facts for a brain, or having a sharp and dry sense of humour. Don't let it be your Kryptonite, make it your superpower.

# Neurodiversity in Our School

1. I have dyslexia and I have been diagnosed since primary 3. It isn't always positive as I really struggle with my memory. Since high school I have noticed it more I would say. When I read, it kind of messes me up because I see the words differently. I am trying to find strategies that will help me with my memory and recall as this really impacts on my learning.

2. I have dyslexia and ADHD, I was diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD just over a year ago. Since being diagnosed I have gotten a lot of extra help and I got put on medication for my ADHD. Since going on medication everything has changed for the better, being on the medication helps me be calmer and helps me concentrate in class. Before I was on it I struggled a lot with concentration and I always had a lot of energy and could never sit still for long periods of time. With dyslexia it really affects my working memory, my reading, my spelling, my pronunciation of words and my phonics. Not everything about ADHD and dyslexia is negative as most dyslexic people have certain interests or strengths and having ADHD makes me an energetic talkative person. When people think of ADHD they think of an annoying energetic person but its so much more than that, no one speaks about the times you can't sleep or the times that you have so much to do that you don't know what to do first, getting stressed and anxious and agitated over little things that wouldn't affect other people. Understanding social cues or make eye contact is one of the things I personally find really hard which a lot of people don't understand. Some days I forget to do simple things like have something to eat or drink or not being able to eat some stuff due to the texture of it. There are times when I don't talk because I don't know how to talk about how I feel. Then there are times where I talk and talk non stop. I I have bad days and good days but overall living with ADHD and dyslexia makes a lot of things much harder, but there still is a lot of positives to come from it.

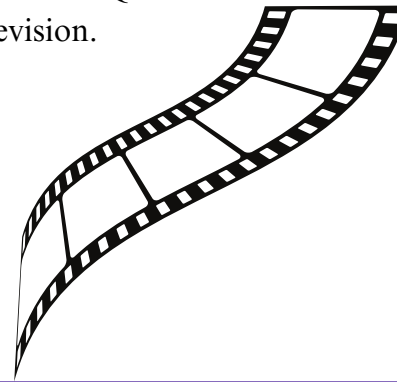
3. I have dyslexia and my journey has been good. I do struggle with certain things. When I was in L3 I got moved from Quota to spelling in Learning Skills as I was never moving up quota levels. My mum took me to Edinburgh in L4 and I got diagnosed with Dyslexia. I was also assessed to see if text was on coloured paper if that would help me read, it didn't. Some of my strengths are that I have good resiliency and although I may have to work twice as hard as some people I still get through the work the same as everyone else. One of my main challenges is reading, in English I may fall behind when doing a close reading task as I can mess up reading the lines. I sometimes re-read the same line, skip a line or completely forget what I have just read. My ambition would be to show people that dyslexia does not mean you are dumb, you may have some challenges but you have many more strengths than challenges.

4. I was diagnosed with dyslexia when I was 8. It really helped being diagnosed as it helped me understand why it was difficult to do spelling and why I struggled with my memory. I got lots of help from Learning Skills. Learning skills really helped in primary by doing phonic sounds as well as doing spelling worksheets. I also got diagnosed with dyscalculia in P6 which is to do with maths and difficulty with processing. I have found it difficult with subjects that involve maths such as Biology, as it involves both science and maths which is difficult. Despite this I don't think it has held me back, I have just found ways to work around it. My strengths are that I am very resilient and work very hard to do my best that I can in all my subjects.

# Verity Lambert

Charlie Grewar

Verity Lambert (1935-2007) broke new ground within the BBC as the first female tv producer in the corporation (and also the youngest). Today she is also well known for being the first producer of Doctor Who, appointed by Sidney Newman in 1963, and is often credited with its early success, in particular pushing for the production of the serial 'the Daleks' which tripled the shows viewing figures and ensured the show a lasting place in the consciousness of the British public. After leaving the programme in 1965, she continued to helm such shows as 'the Newcomers' and 'Adam Adamant Lives' before becoming head of Drama at Thames television, where she would produce 'Quatermass' and 'Minder'. In 2002 Lambert was awarded an OBE for services to film and television.



## Chelsea Women's

Prithvi Sudarshan

Unlike the Men's team this season, Chelsea's Women's team are on the brink of success in all competitions.

In the last 7 years of the Women's Super League Chelsea have won 6 times: 3 times in which they won the double, and one time in which they won the treble. With a promising record for silverware, and a seemingly endless run of good form, it isn't a surprise that conversation surrounding the renowned quadruple has begun. Chelsea Women's are currently sitting in 1st place in the WSL, beating Man City on goal difference with only 6 games of the season left to play. In the Champions League, Chelsea have remained undefeated during the entirety of their campaign and have set their place in the quarter finals awaiting their next opponent. In the FA Cup Chelsea are set to play Man United in the semi finals. And lastly in the Women's League Cup Chelsea have booked themselves a place in the final against fellow London club Arsenal.

When asked about the possibility of a quadruple this season, Chelsea forward Lauren James told the BBC "We're still up for all four trophies but our aim is to take each game and hopefully we can get there."

Current Chelsea manager Emma Hayes has managed the club since 2012 and has gained the title of the most successful manager in WSL history. After a lengthy time at the club she recently announced her departure at the end of the season to venture into America as she accepted the job of managing the USA international women's team.

# Forgotten Women of History

Megan Beckham

Many women have gone down in history for their achievements, discoveries, work, and bravery, to the point that there are names we all know today, like Marie Curie, Anne Frank, Frida Kahlo, Amelia Earhart, and so on. But there are so many women that history has forgotten, women who people don't immediately recognise.

**Hedy Lamarr** - Hedy Lamarr, an Austrian actress and inventor, developed a communication method during the Second World War to prevent enemies from decoding information. After escaping Nazi occupied Austria in 1937, she worked in the USA and created a system that was designed to switch radio frequencies, a system that was an important base to the technology like cell phones and WiFi.

**Alison Hargreaves** - This was the first woman to climb Mount Everest alone, not using the help of bottled oxygen, in 1995. The summit is 8,849m, making it the highest on earth.

**Dorothy Lawrence** - In 1915, as an English Journalist, Dorothy Lawrence disguised herself as a soldier to fight in WWI. With a borrowed uniform and forged travel permits, she headed for the front lines in France. Unfortunately she fell ill shortly after, and was placed under military arrest after her identity was discovered.

**Mabel Stark** - Working and performing with tigers she was one of the few female animal trainers in the early 20th century, and apparently had the scars to prove it, from bites to maulings, she continued to work with tigers until her late 70's.

**Millicent Patrick** - A makeup artist hired for universals "Creature in the Black Lagoon" in 1952, she ended up creating the movie's monster, and was then fired and had her name taken from the film's credits. However, her creation has been an inspiration and influence on the horror film industry, and still is.

**Bessie Coleman** - Bessie Coleman dreamed of flying, but was declined a place at any school in the USA. Instead of giving up, she learned French and proceeded to get her pilot's license in France, 1921, becoming the first woman of color to have a pilot's licence.

**Mary Allen Wilkes** - Mary Allen Wilkes was a highly talented and accomplished computer programmer who developed the software for one of the first ever personal computers, and her work was key steps in building and learning about technology and software.

**Gladys Bentley** - An openly lesbian singer in the 1920s and 30's Gladys Bentley was a talented performer and was known to sing about exploitation and domestic abuse, and fought the boundaries that the time period set in place, going down in history as one of the most successful black entertainers of the time.

**Alice Marie Coachman Davis** - She won a gold medal in high jump at the 1948 Olympics. Having to overcome the obstacles of racism and not being allowed to train at proper fields, she used things like ropes and sticks to help her train, and went on to become the first black woman to win an Olympic gold medal.

**Patsy Mink** - A Japanese American woman who wanted to study law, after being rejected from Mexican school, Mink went to Chicago law school, but was then denied the right to take the bar exam in Hawaii, where she lived. She fought to take the bar exam, and not only passed it but fought to start her own practice, and eventually ran and won for the USA House of Representatives.

**Claudette Colvin** - Rosa Parks is famous for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a bus, and sparking a movement that fought the racist segregation laws in Alabama and across the USA, but before her, a fifteen year old girl also refused to give up her seat, and became the first person arrested for fighting the bus laws in Montgomery.

# JOAN OF ARC

Maisey Lafollette

Joan of Arc was a strong and fearless leader, who had an unwavering faith in Catholicism. She died in 1431, in England at age 19. Joan was a knight for France in the Hundred Year's War. How did a girl get involved in a war? Why was she killed in England? Why is she famous? What did she do?

Joan of Arc was born into a poor family in Domrémy, France and her birth name was Jehanne, but the English called her Joan. Joan's family was Catholic and faithful to the church. When she was 13, Joan heard the voice of an Angel, but at the time she didn't realise what it was. When she heard the voice a third time it struck her who it was. She believed it to be Saint Michael, the guardian of her village. The voice told her to stay faithful and behave, but when she was 16, he told her she would help the Prince of France become the King.

Now being a girl in the 1400's she would never be allowed to fight, but she spoke to Commander Baudricourt. At first he didn't believe her, and told her to go home, but she persisted and he eventually agreed, seeing her determination. The Prince agreed to see her, and for the long journey to visit the Prince she cut her hair and swapped her dress for mens' clothing.

Within a few days of her journey England defeated France, just as she said they would. When she met the prince he tested her, by swapping places with a servant, and Joan still knew exactly who was the right one. The Prince allowed her to help save Orléans, and to prepare Joan he had armour made, as well as a banner and they found a sword. The sword was left in a chapel and covered in rust, but apparently when a Priest touched it, it was perfectly ready for battle.

On the day Joan freed Orléans, she was wounded by an arrow to her shoulder. She treated it herself, and when she went back to fight France won. They still needed to make it to Reims, for Charles to be crowned King. It took them many battles but on July 16, they finally made it. As reward Joan asked for her village to never pay taxes again. They didn't pay taxes for another 360 years.

Joan became famous for freeing French villages from the English, but the English still held Paris. Joan wanted to save it, but the King signed a truce with the English, saying they will not attack. In 1430, she was finally given permission to save French villages, but she had a vision saying she will be captured, which she was, when she was defending a village.

The people who captured her sold her for 10,000 Francs, and she was brought to England for her trial. The Bishop at an English church listed her crimes, saying she was guilty of trying to disguise herself as a man, by wearing their clothes, she was also accused of using magic and going against the church.

The trial lasted for many months, and they tried to trick her with questions, but her honest answers confused them more. When they found her guilty, she was given two choices die or say the voices were fake and that she was wrong. Joan was only 19 and didn't want to die, so she agreed. Her hair was shaved and she was forced to wear a dress and live in a cell with nuns. However three days later she took it all back and put on men's clothing again. In doing so she condemned herself to death. Faithful to the end, she asked for a cross, and she was given two twigs to make into one. She was attached to a wooden stake and was set on fire. She said she forgave the people there to kill her, and asked them to pray for her. When she died people heard her yell for Jesus, and some say that a dove came out of the flames and went to heaven. One even yelled 'We have burned a Saint.' 22 years later her King helped her, by having a retrial where she was found innocent, and hundreds of year later in 1920, she was officially made a Saint.

# Powerful Women

Jack Mitchell

For this year's International Women's Day edition, I have looked into the backgrounds and change brought about by just 5 of the powerful women who appear in the list of the most powerful women in the world, compiled by Forbes:

Georgia Meloni - Prime Minister of Italy since 2022. Meloni is the first woman to ever lead Italy. She is among the most popular and respected European leaders with an approval rating of nearly 60%, more than double that of her French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and triple that of her German and British counterparts. Tax cuts and her more family-based approach to politics are likely the driving factor in her popularity.

Christine Lagarde – President of the European Central Bank. Lagarde has served in her role since 2019, following eight years as the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. She has pushed the ECB to continue its work on tackling wealth and gender inequality and has taken the institution's role in aiding the climate effort to new levels. She is also the first woman to hold her position as head of the ECB.

Ursula von der Leyen – President of the European Commission. Von der Leyen has been in the role since late 2019, following 14 years in then German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet. Ursula von der Leyen is the first woman in history to lead Europe. She, in her role as head of the executive branch of the EU, has control over new laws and trade deals among other things and represents the 450 million people living in the EU and affects the daily lives of a further 250 million non-EU citizens. Von der Leyen, like Christine Lagarde, has pushed for more to be done to tackle climate change and has put equality at the forefront of her agenda.

Tsai Ing-wen – President of Taiwan. Tsai Ing-Wen has been the president of Taiwan (officially the Republic of China) since 2016, and is the first woman to hold the position. Her premiership has been characterised by her strong and quick response to the COVID pandemic which led to a lower death toll than many similar countries and by her praised refusal to bow down to pressures from neighbouring China. Tsai will remain president until May this year due to reaching the constitutional limit of two-terms. Her deputy, Lai Ching-te (also known as William Lai) won the close-fought election earlier this year and will succeed her.

Kamala Harris – Vice President of the United States. Harris is ranked as the most powerful female politician, and has been since taking office in 2021. Kamala Harris serves under President Biden, so doesn't have as much of an opportunity to bring about change as the others, but has still passionately fought for equality, abortion rights and gun control.

# Final Girls

Bea Bate

I'm sure many of you know what a 'final girl' is. Maybe your mind goes to Mia Goth from Ti West's 'X', or Jenna Ortega in the latest 'Scream', and maybe even Jamie Lee Curtis from the classic 'Halloween'.

The idea of a 'final girl' comes from a book by film theorist Carol J. Clover in her groundbreaking 1992 book "Men, Women, and Chainsaws: Gender in the Modern Horror Film." The term refers to the last surviving female character in slasher films. The final girl is not only a survivor; she is a symbol of resilience, strength and often, the embodiment of the audiences hope for triumph over evil.

The idea of a final girl can be traced back to classic horror films of the 1970s and 80s, such as "Halloween" and "Friday the 13th". These films included young female characters who, despite the unimaginable terror, manage to outsmart and often defeat the villains. Final girls quickly became it own subgenre of horror films, it gave an image of female empowerment against the (often) male killers which put them through so much.

In recent years, final girl culture has expanded beyond traditional horror movies, oozing into the modern world in a variety of medias. From tv shows like "Stranger Things", where the main character is a powerful girl named Eleven, who survives numerous attacks against her and her friends, to video games like "Resident Evil", with characters like Ada, Claire, Ashley, and quite literally every other main female protagonist throughout the game series. The idea of a final girl continues to resonate with audiences, surpassing the boundaries of its genre.

By entering female characters as protagonists and survivors, horror movies challenge societal norms and expectations regarding women's roles and capabilities. The final girl embodies the idea that strength, courage, and resilience are not exclusive to men, but are qualities that anyone can possess. Women of colour, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities have increasingly been represented as final girls, offering fresh perspectives and narratives that reflect the diversity of human experience.

Despite people being critical of the idea that it reinforces narrow-minded stereotypes of femininity and the myth of the "strong female character" who must endure suffering to prove her worth, final girl culture remains a powerful and enduring force in horror movies and popular cultures as a whole. It continues to evolve and adapt, showing the changing landscape of gender, identity and society. The final girl represents more than just a survivor; she embodies the resilience, courage and humanity that lie within us all, reminding us that even in the darkest times there is always hope and redemption for everyone.

## EDITORS' NOTE

From the inspiring stories of women who defied the odds to the collective efforts of activists and advocates, we've been reminded of the transformative power of unity and solidarity.

International Women's Day serves as a beacon of hope, igniting conversations, driving change, and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Equally, it's been inspiring to celebrate neurodiversity within the High School of Dundee community.

# Have a fab weekend!

