



# THE COLUMNS



HSD's Newsletter: Issue 78

by pupils; for pupils

It is a year since the Russian invasion of Ukraine and a year of death, destruction and human suffering. If you have some time today, I ask you to try to do something to think about all those lost lives and to support those who continue to struggle and whose families have been devastated by the war. We have many Ukrainians living in Scotland and they will, no doubt, be marking the day in their own ways. I am also mindful of the suffering in Turkey and Northern Syria and ask that you remember those people too. It is coming up to International Women's Day and I want to particularly highlight the role of women in times of need and how vulnerable women and girls are to the problems of war, displacement and upheaval. If you can, give something; if you can't give, try to send support or thoughts and prayers in another way.

**Editor-in-Chief, Sahar Jafferbhoy**



# Chelsea Disaster

**Prithvi Sudarshan**

After sanctions on Roman Abramovich took place and he was forced to sell the club, the future of Chelsea was in jeopardy. With Abramovich being a long standing owner known for investing a lot into the club, many were worried the potential new owners wouldn't back the club as much as Abramovich did. But, since Todd Boehly took over the club in May of last year, one of the only things the club is not lacking is investment, with the club spending more than £500m since the new owners took over.

The club experienced some success after winning the Champions League in the 20/21 season with manager Thomas Tuchel. But, just 16 months after a loss to Dinamo Zagreb, the club decided to sack him as the club had won just 3 out of the 7 matches they had played in that season.

This doesn't actually seem like that bad a result considering the club are currently sitting 10th in the Premier League with 3 losses, 3 draws and just 1 win in their past 7 games in all competitions.

With Chelsea finishing in 3rd place last season, the fans are finding their current place in the league difficult to accept. After Tuchel's sacking the club decided upon giving the reins to the then-successful Brighton manager, Graham Potter. The club has currently been plagued with injuries, but even after their large hauls in both the summer and winter transfer windows, bringing in 17 players, they have still been struggling to put the ball in the back of the net, scoring just 1 goal in their past 5 games.

Although many have called for Graham Potter's sacking at many points in the season, the owners have publicly stated that they will back the manager until the end of the season, but many doubt this if the current run of results ends up continuing as it is.





# Metal Snowflakes



**Marwan Muqit**

Looking closely at a snowflake, you will find a one-of-a-kind lattice with its growth influenced by subtle conditions, such as temperature and humidity. Well, it turns out that this kind of complex self-assemblage can also take place in metals, thanks to researchers at the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.



“Self assembly is the way nature makes nanostructures,” physicist Nicola Gaston says, “What we’re trying to learn is to do the same kind of things, that being figuring out how to craft tiny, complex metal shapes in fewer steps and with less energy, which could be significant for manufacturers.” For instance, these type of metal snowflakes can be handy for catalysing chemical reactions and producing electronics.

In pools of molten gallium, Gaston and her colleagues grew zinc nanostructures with symmetrical hexagonal crystal frameworks.

She and her team chose gallium specifically as a growth medium because of its relatively low melting point, its ability to dissolve many other metals, and the tendency for its atoms to loosely organise whilst in a liquid state.

After mixing the zinc into the molten gallium, the team treated the alloy to elevated temperatures and different pressures. Then they let the mixture cool to room temperature. The loose ordering of the gallium atoms, which was mentioned before, appeared to handle the crystallising zinc to flourish into symmetrical hexagonal structures, just like the ones resembling natural snowflakes.

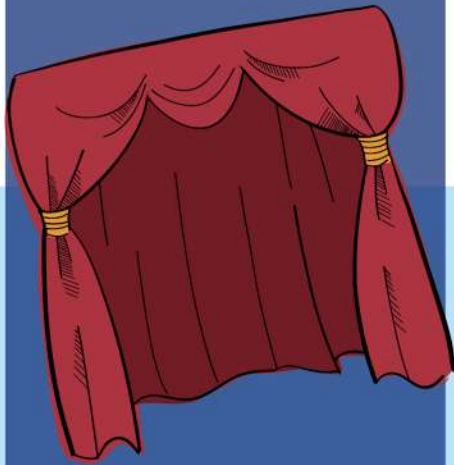
The future could well possibly be more than ready for research into applications of gallium and other low temperature liquid metals such as this.





# Hamilton

M.Laf



"The ten dollar founding father," Alexander Hamilton, was born in 1755, in Nevis, British West Indies. As an orphan he sailed to America and shortly after joined the Continental Army as George Washington's right hand man. Alexander Hamilton fought in one of the most famous battles, The Battle of Yorktown (where I used to live,) he was one of the writers of The Federalist Papers, which were a series of essays with ideas on how the new American government would unite and run the states. He opened a law practice in New York, and founded the Bank of New York, before becoming the first Secretary of the Treasury. When George Washington stepped down as President, Hamilton was one of the writers of his farewell address. Hamilton was a family man whose son tragically died in the same way as Hamilton himself ended up dying.

Hamilton the musical was written by and starred Lin Manuel Miranda it made its Broadway debut in 2015, and winning 11 Tony Awards, including best musical. Hamilton is not a traditional musical as most of the songs are hip hop and rap and it was also famous for being colourblind when casting their actors. This musical is such a hit that it's still very hard to get tickets in America and some fly to the West End in London to see it there. Last week I had the joy to see it in London and it definitely lived up to the hype and gave me a little taste of America again. Hamilton will be touring in Edinburgh next year and if any of you get the chance to go "you'll be in the room where it happens!"



# Roald Dahl Book Changes

**Jack Mitchell**

It was recently announced that Roald Dahl, one of the best-selling children's authors in history, has had some of the language in his books altered in an attempt to do away with anything deemed 'potentially offensive'. A review into Dahl's works was launched in 2020 by the Roald Dahl Story Company, who manage the author's trademarks and copyright. This was before Netflix acquired the company and rights of Dahl for a reported £500 million in 2021. The RDSC has worked with Dahl's publisher, Puffin, and Inclusive Minds, a charity aiming to increase diversity and inclusivity in children's literature, to bring these changes forward. The changes are simple, but aim to make well-known stories such as 'Matilda', 'James and the Giant Peach' and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' more inclusive. Augustus Gloop, from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', will no longer be 'enormously fat' but 'enormous'. 'Mothers' and 'Fathers' now become 'parents'. In a Twitter post, Suzanne Nossel, chief executive of PEN America, an organisation that supports freedom of expression, said that the organisation was 'alarmed' by the changes and that selective editing could 'represent a dangerous new weapon.' These changes were exclusively reported by The Telegraph. The changes have become controversial and widely criticised. Salman Rushdie, the author who was attacked with a knife last year due to his book 'The Satanic Verses', called the alterations 'absurd censorship'. Our own Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, criticised the modifications. In a statement a little less serious than we are used to politicians making, a spokesman for the PM said, 'When it comes to our rich and varied literary heritage, the prime minister agrees with the BFG that we shouldn't gobblefunk around with words.' The Dahl family have not yet responded, but some believe they will rethink their decision to tamper with Dahl's works, especially after a major world leader has attacked the modifications. Many have made the point, however, that there are so many copies of Roald Dahl's books that these changes won't make an impact on many. Some people have also said that the modifications are so trivial that most won't notice.

The backlash against the alterations in Dahl's books has almost certainly surprised the Dahl estate and their publisher, Puffin. They probably didn't expect the Prime Minister to have his say! Along with many, I have wondered how something like this has caught the attention of the PM when the cost of living crisis; the war in Ukraine and more recently the Northern Ireland Protocol remain looming at the door of Number 10. Nobody reacted like this when in 2016 Enid Blyton, another children's writer of stories such as 'The Famous Five', had her language altered to update the stories and bring them into the 21st century. You could argue that updates in the language of books written many years ago are simply breathing new life into the stories and allowing more people the ability to enjoy them. Whether these changes will or will not reach publication is another question, but what do you think? Roald Dahl was controversial during his life as he expressed antisemitic comments. Most today don't think about that, but should they? Should we allow an author with such views to be such a big part of the lives of our children?





# 'LORE' BOOK REVIEW

**Meagan Dailly**

'Lore' is an urban fantasy novel about the "Agon Hunt", where Ancient Greek Deities become mortal for 1 week and they are hunted by the descendants of ancient greek families for the reward of each god's power. Though it sounds like your standard fantasy-adventure novel, 'Lore' also unexpectedly delves into the issues within millennia old patriarchies. Gender inequality is a heavily discussed topic right through the book. Throughout the novel, an accurate picture is created of how women in these sort of archaic male-lead societies were and are treated. The main character, "Lore", is a women herself and she speaks about her experience in these environments. She talks about how she was regularly harassed by her elders when she was a child and was often used as a bargaining chip. An entire chapter of the book is devoted to the criticism of the disgusting practice of young girls being offered up as wives to significantly older men.

Despite the unexpected serious topics explored throughout the book, many of the main characters provide a much needed comedic break from the hard hitting topics. The mixture of comedy and serious discussion along with the exceptional plot and even better characters is fundamental to making Lore such a fantastic read.

12+ due to innuendo and the discussion of mature and somewhat gruesome topics.





# 15-minute cities

Izzy Clark

Imagine with me for just a moment: a school, supermarket, doctor's practice, high-street shopping centre, restaurant, park, leisure centre, and your place of work, all within a fifteen-minute walk or cycle from your house. Now imagine that for everyone in your town or city. Sounds nice? It should. This is the principle of the 15-minute city (FMC), an urban planning concept taking modern society by storm.

FMCs aim to bring all the necessities of daily life (education, shopping, healthcare, entertainment, occupation) closer to ordinary people, and reduce the need for long-distance travel by car and public-transport. The idea prioritises accessibility and walkability, and aims to make cities more welcoming to women, children, the disabled and the elderly, groups which have historically been left out of human-centered urban planning. Additionally, biodiversity and green spaces are key features of FMCs, as people who live closer to parks and other green spaces are reported to exercise more and have better mental health.

All in all, FMCs sound great. Providing essential services, outdoor spaces and a welcoming environment to marginalised groups through people-first, altruistic urban planning - what on earth could be wrong with that?

According to some people, quite a lot. Ever since the words "fifteen-minute city" started leaving the mouths of well-meaning politicians, people have been trying to poke holes in this benevolent concept. Some of them claim it will lead to physically-gated areas where you'll need a visa-like pass to exit. This, as with most things spouted by conspiracy theorists, is a misconception. The aim of FMCs is not to create new isolated communities, but to provide crucial amenities to all people within a larger region - building new hospitals and schools to serve wider areas, creating more parks and opportunities for local businesses where people can gather and socialise - and reduce travel times, which will help decongest city streets and lower greenhouse gas emissions. The name "fifteen minute city" is misleading: new cities won't be built, existing ones will be improved to advance people's quality of living.

Conservative MP Nick Fletcher called FMCs an "international socialist concept" in a debate in February 2023, in reference to several conspiracies regarding the idea. This, again, has no standings. FMCs have no political backing - unless you count providing education, healthcare and leisure to more people as "left-wing". Kindness is apolitical.

Implementing FMCs is not as easy as it seems. Especially in the current economic circumstances, FMCs could raise housing costs at a frightening level. But we can do it slowly. Improving public transport and making it more accessible via lowered prices will take more vehicles off the roads, making travel more efficient and open to all. Disadvantaged communities will be most helped by FMCs, as they will bring more jobs and money to impoverished areas through education, services and businesses.

FMCs will not fix everything. They raise the potential for gentrification and cost-of-living rises, both problems which can negatively impact the very people FMC want to help - the disadvantaged. But rest assured: the government will not be telling you where to go anytime soon. You'll still be able to drive to different cities freely, or travel to different shops, or send your children to different schools. The goal of FMCs is not to trap people - it's to free them. For too long, cities and urban environments have been vehicle-centric and inaccessible, but FMCs put people first in urban planning, not cars. FMCs give people choices, and in many cases, opportunities they would not have had before.





# THE BAFTAS

India Simpson

This last Sunday, the 76th British Academy Film Awards were screened. Commonly known as the BAFTAs, the awards ceremony is held by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). This year it was hosted by Richard E Grant, and many critically acclaimed films were nominated and won awards. Shining out across the board was 'All Quiet on the Western Front' is based on the German novel of the same name by Erich Maria Remarque. It looks at the war from the point of view of German Soldiers, Paul Bäumer and his classmates. It shows the horrific reality of war. 'All Quiet on the Western Front' won Best Director for Edward Berger, Best Original Score, Adapted Screenplay, Sound, Best Film Not in the English Language (it's in German), and finally, Best Film. It shone out in the awards.

Another film that was acclaimed by these awards was 'The Banshees of Inisherin'. Set on a Irish island during the civil war, it centres around Pádraic trying to mend his friendship with Colm. It won Best Original Screenplay, Best British Film, Best Supporting Actress (Kerry Condon) and Best Supporting Actor (Barry Keoghan). It's awards were deserved, and universally agreed.

Perhaps more controversial was the Best Actor winner. Whilst Austin Butler in 'Elvis' was a good performance, many felt that the other nominees were better. Brendan Fraser ('The Whale'), Colin Farrell ('The Banshees of Inisherin'), Bill Nighy ('Living'), Paul Mescal ('Aftersun') and Daryl McCormack ('Good Luck to You, Leo Grande') were the others nominated.

Whilst the Best Actor win was more debated, the Best Actress seems to be agreed to be fair. Cate Blanchett won for her phenomenal performance in 'Tár', which is highly commended. The movie centres around renowned conductor and musician Lydia Tár and her struggles.

Scottish Film 'Aftersun' won Best Debut British Writer, Director or Producer for writer/director Charlotte Wells. Emma Mackey won the Rising Star Award. 'Avatar: The Way of Water' won Best Special Effects, 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' won Best British Short Animation, 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' won Best Editing.

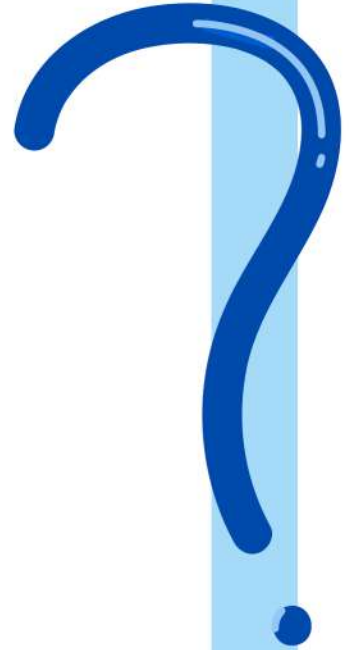
Overall, a successful Awards Ceremony, mainly acclaiming 'All Quiet on the Western Front' and 'The Banshees of Inisherin', which are both well made and well like films of this year.



# Weekly Quiz

Zara King

1. Where did pancakes originate from?
2. What are the secondary colours?
3. What is SpongeBob's pet snail called?
4. How many players are in a netball team?
5. How many children does Mrs Leburn have?
6. Which year was the school founded?
7. Which year was Taylor Swift's debut album released?
8. True or False? Sheep are mammals.
9. When is the next leap year?
10. In Harry Potter, what was the name of the tree Ron crashed his car into?





# Pancake Recipe!

Amy Leburn

## Ingredients:

- 100g plain flour
- 2 large eggs
- 300ml milk
- 1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil, plus a little extra for frying
- lemon wedges to serve (optional)
- caster sugar to serve (optional)



## Method:

1. Put 100g plain flour, 2 large eggs, 300ml milk, 1 tbsp sunflower or
2. vegetable oil and a pinch of salt into a bowl or large jug, then whisk to a
3. smooth batter.
4. Set aside for 30 mins to rest if you have time, or start cooking straight
5. away.
6. Set a medium frying pan over a medium heat and carefully wipe it with
7. some oiled kitchen paper.
8. When hot, cook your pancakes for 1 min on each side until golden,
9. keeping them warm in a low oven as you go.
10. Serve with lemon wedges and caster sugar, or your favourite filling.



# Classic Scones Recipe

Lauren Humphries

## Ingredients:

- 225g self raising flour (a little extra for dusting)
- 50g unsalted butter
- 2 tbsp caster sugar
- 110ml milk of choice
- (You'll also need a circular cutter to cut out the scones)

## Method:

1. Preheat oven 220°/200° fan
2. Put the flour and butter in a bowl and rub in with your fingertips until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.
3. Stir in the sugar and then pour in the milk. Mix using a knife until have a slightly sticky dough.
4. Light flour your surface, tip the dough onto it and roll out to approximately 3cm thick.
5. Using a circular cutter, stamp out 8(ish) scones and transfer to a greased baking tray.
6. (Optional) To get a golden brown finish, dust the top with milk or an egg wash.
7. Put in the oven for 12 minutes or until golden brown (keep an eye on them as every oven is different)
8. Transfer to a cooling rack for 10-15mins
9. Enjoy!





# Mrs Watson's Weekly Jokes

*I saw a radio-active cat. It's  
got eighteen half-lives.*

*My new car has a Bon Jovi  
sat-nav. Apparently we're half  
way there.*

*The Greek mythological  
football team had a striker  
who was half man, half horse.  
He was their centaur forward.*

*For Sale: Watch with half a  
face. For a limited time only.*

## EDITORIAL

India Simpson

*It's the first  
week back  
after the half  
term break,  
and hopefully  
everyone got  
some well  
deserved rest.  
This has been  
the last full  
week of  
February, and  
the beginning  
of this year  
has flown by.  
Good luck to all  
with sports  
fixtures this  
weekend!*

*Have a great  
weekend!*

THE COLUMNS TEAM