



# THE COLUMNS



HSD's Newsletter: Issue 71

by pupils; for pupils

Every morning during registration time, this week and last, a group of 30 pupils from F1-6 have been meeting to organise the first HSD Multicultural Day. On Friday 9th December we will be holding the event in Baxter, celebrating nearly 20 different cultures through food, clothes, games, music, and dancing. The purpose is to educate each other about the diversity of culture in our school community, and continue HSD's fight against racism. The day is shaping up to be great fun, so remember to come see all the fantastic stalls we will have set up!

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



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# Tennis in 2022

India Simpson

With the conclusion of the Nitto ATP Finals, 2022 is tied up for tennis. The famed Novak Djokovic snatched the win in a match against Casper Ruud to claim the title, in line with his re-entry to Australia allowed, and he jumps up to rank 5. Many speculate that he is likely the best player in the world currently. Due to Rafael Nadal's tough losses (2-1 losses-wins in the ATP finals), Alcaraz was sealed in the position for year-end Men's Number 1. Nadal's year has been a fantastic revival of his best days, winning yet more grand slams, and breaking yet more records. He finishes the year with 22 grand-slam titles, including 14 French Open titles. He has an incredible 92 ATP singles titles (with 36 Masters titles) and 63 of these on clay courts. Rafa Nadal is one of only two men in the history of tennis to complete the Career Golden Slam (in singles). Despite this, he, along with many others, believes this may be the beginning of the end of his tennis career. He will, whether it is sooner or later, finish certainly within the top three players of all time - Federer, Nadal and Djokovic. Nadal finishes the year at rank 2 in the world. 19 year-old Alcaraz finished the year as number 1 and is the youngest ATP player to do so since 1973. 2022 has been his year, having won the US Open and two Masters 1000 titles. Despite his injury and having to pull out of the ATP finals, Alcaraz certainly has cause to celebrate at the end of this year.

2022 has been a fantastic year for tennis, but also a sad one. Many players retired: among them Jo-Wilfred Tsonga, retired at the French Open this year after a 467-match-winning career. It was a tearful goodbye, and he will sorely be missed on the tennis courts. He holds the record for French men for grand-slam matches, with 121 wins. Juan Martin del Potro also retired this year after a first-round defeat to Delbonis in the Argentina Open. He is a former world number 3, but it was his first competitive match since his four right knee surgeries in 2019. The Argentine won the US Open in 2009 and was the first player to beat both Nadal and Federer in the same major. Ashleigh Barty also retired this year, while sitting firmly at women's world number 1 (and had been for 114 consecutive weeks). It was a sudden retirement that shocked the tennis world. It was only a couple of weeks after her Australian Open win (her third Grand Slam title) in January that it was announced. It both shocked and saddened tennis fans throughout the world.

The incredible Serena Williams also retired this year. She has won 23 Grand Slams and holds many, many records and achievements - including in singles: 7 Wimbledon titles, 7 Australian Open titles, 6 US Open titles, and 3 French Open titles. In doubles, she's won 14 grand slam titles at various slams. She competed in three Olympics and won gold medals in each (over singles and doubles). .



She's one of 4 players to complete a Career Golden Slam (along with Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi and Rafael Nadal), and is the only player in history (men's and women's) to have one in both singles and doubles. She's spent a total of 319 weeks as world number 1, has 73 WTA titles and has a win-loss record of 858-156, an incredible statistic. She will be severely missed on the tennis court.

Undoubtedly the biggest event of 2022 was Roger Federer's retirement at the Laver Cup in London this year. The Swiss retired with a very emotional match double match, playing with his long-time rival and friend, Rafael Nadal. The retirement of likely the best tennis player of all time hit the world of tennis right in the heartstrings. His more than 24-year career has been the absolute greatest. His records and achievements are too many to be listed, but among the statistics, he won 1251 out of 1526 of his professional matches, spent 310 weeks as World No. 1, and won 103 career titles (28 masters), played in 31 Major finals and has 20 Grand Slams. He has finished as year-end No 1. five times. He is a sore loss for the tennis community, a legend that will forever be vital to tennis. He brought tennis into its golden ages and played some of the finest tennis ever seen.





# It will be ok.

Editor, Sahar Jafferbhoy

*Trigger warning: discussion of suicide*

**753 suicides** were recorded in Scotland in 2021. Of these, **73 were individuals aged 16-24**; the same age category as many senior pupils. Across the UK, **suicide is the biggest killer of under 35s**. Over **200 schoolchildren are lost to suicide every year** in the UK. These harrowing statistics alone should be reason enough to take immediate action to help.

It is hard to convey the full devastation of suicide with just numbers. Each suicide is the loss of a parent, a sibling, a child, a best friend, a colleague, a neighbour - each suicide is more than just a number, it is a tragic loss of life, that could have potentially been prevented.

Saying the word 'suicide' often makes people flinch, bringing a shudder, and a look of discomfort. This can be attributed to a number of misconceptions about suicidal ideation: talking about suicide does not encourage it; people who admit to suicidal thoughts are not attention seeking; not all suicidal people want to die.

Earlier this week I was in the book aisle in Asda, and I was skimming through blurbs while my mum was buying groceries. I picked up 'Are you really ok?' by Roman Kemp, simply out of boredom. Opening the book to Chapter 1, words jumped at me out the page. Kemp, a Capital FM DJ, lost his best friend and mentor to suicide during lockdown. This awful event dramatically changed his perspective on life; he committed himself to improving the stigma around mental health and encouraging people (in particular, men) to speak up when they are struggling. Standing staring at page 10, I felt the urge to do something, to make a difference, to help ensure people are getting the help they deserve. I only read the first chapter, but if you see the book I would recommend taking a look.

The stigma around mental health remains a fundamental aspect why as a society we are struggling to achieve early prevention of mental health crises. The number of people who speak up when they are struggling with suicidal thoughts is staggeringly low, demonstrating the necessity to break away from the perceived ideas of suicide that are entrenched in society's thinking. Others' judgments almost always stem from a lack of understanding rather than information based on facts. Breaking the stigma is one of the first steps to saving lives.

In my lifetime, I have known two young people who took their own life, and while one of them I only knew by name and face, I think about them both often. I think about where they would be now if they were still here. I think about their families. I think about their friends. I think about how crucial it is that people speak up if they are struggling. There is always help available - email your guidance teacher, or go online and check out the vast amounts of support accessible. You are not alone.

As a community, we need to continue to cultivate an environment where it is okay to not be okay, and where it is safe to speak up. It is okay to speak about suicide; it is okay to admit you need help.

*Useful websites: Childline, Samaritans, Mind, Papyrus, NHS Inform*



# One last chance - COP27

Emma Love & Nellie Luxford

2022 marks the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27), these events have taken place annually since 1995. This year, it was held from the 6th-18th November, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. These two weeks are an important and dedicated space for world leaders, politicians, experts and a whole host of other people to shine a spotlight on the climate crisis, and to discuss it on a global level.

While the goal for last years conference was 'Change', this year it is 'Action' – keep the rise in average global temperatures below 1.5°C since pre-industrial times. Although, many have deemed this goal unlikely - greenhouse gas emissions still continue to rise every year, and at this rate it will only be 10 years until we have exceeded the 1.5°C limit. Worse - if the population continues to grow and we exceed 2.0°C, life as we know it will be irreversibly altered, leaving us with serious climate related problems, such as biodiversity loss, extreme weather events, uninhabitable areas and desertification. We can already see these beginning to happen, with recent events such as wildfires in Australia and flooding in Pakistan.

There are a number of reasons why it is very difficult for countries to come to impactful agreements which will really halt the the climate crisis, and why the COPs are not always successful. Still, some politicians continue to see hope. Rishi Sunak says, "As we come together once again in common cause today, there really is room for hope. Together, let us fulfil it."

As young people, no challenge faces a greater threat to us than climate change. "The climate crisis has already been solved. We already have all the facts and solutions. All we have to do is wake up and change." – Greta Thunberg.





# ‘One of us is lying’

## Book Review

Maisey Lafollette

“Five walk into detention. Only four came out alive. School can be murder.” In the book and Netflix series, “One Of Us Is Lying” by Karen M. McManus five students have phones in class and are sent to detention. The only thing is they all claim the phones aren’t theirs. When a car crash happens outside, the teacher leaves them and one of those students named Simon Kelleher dies of a reaction to peanuts. Was someone lying about his death?

The four other students are suddenly murder suspects they are... Brownyn Rojas top of her class in everything never known to break a rule but did she earn all her prizes and grades?

Cooper Clay is the school star on the baseball field with a secret that he thinks could destroy his career.

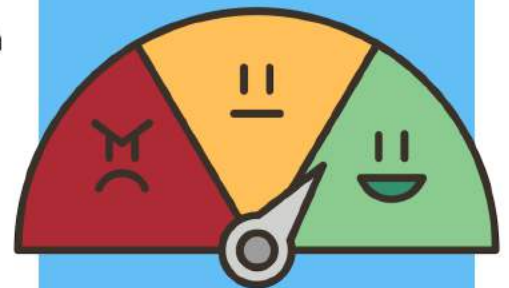
Nate Macauley is on probation for selling drugs and is an all around troublemaker: would he go as far as murder?

Addy Prentiss is the prom queen with an all star boyfriend and a secret that could ruin her social life; what would she do to keep the pieces of her perfect life together?

All four students have motives for killing Simon as he is the creator of an app that he uses to tell the school everyone’s secrets from cheating scandals, to who someone has a crush on. No one is safe and on the day of his murder he has his fellow students secrets ready to go online.

The four students work hard to prove it wasn’t them with lawyers that forbid them from talking to each other, overprotective parents and the cops investigation. They became famous with social media hunting them down. Are any of them really innocent with the lengths they’re willing to go to?

“One of Us is Lying” is a thought provoking book and it accurately shows the relationships a teenager in today’s world has whether it be romantic, a friendship, a teammate or a family bond. It also shows the damage bullying and gossip can cause, as Simon’s app hurts many students at the school causing them to be left out, lose friends, couples to breakup, even some family drama. It ultimately shows the damage bullying can truly cause.







# Supreme Court Decision

Jack Mitchell



On Wednesday the 23rd of November, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the UK Government which means that Scotland does not have the power to stage another independence referendum. The Scottish Government has been pushing for another independence referendum (called IndyRef2) ever since the first one, in 2014, in which Scots voted in favour of remaining a part of the UK. However, the Scottish Government have realised that recent incompetent leaders and Brexit may have turned the 2014 decision on its head. 62% of Scots voted against Brexit. That was the highest remain proportion of any region in the UK (excluding overseas territories) with Northern Ireland in second with 55%, Wales with 47% and England with 46% of voters. Nicola Sturgeon tweeted soon after the verdict was reached and said she, 'respected the ruling of the Supreme Court' but that 'Scottish democracy will not be denied... in a democracy our voice cannot and will not be silenced'. PMQs were held just hours after the hearing and PM Sunak said the UK Government respects the 'clear and definitive' ruling and that 'the people of Scotland want us to be working on fixing the major challenges that we collectively face.' However, the SNP leader for Westminster, Ian Blackford, told Rishi Sunak that he has 'no right to deny democracy to the people of Scotland.' Scottish ministers had planned a second referendum on the 19th of October 2023. We must remember, however, that the SNP advertised the first referendum as 'once in a generational', in an attempt to make people vote for independence so planning to have another only 9 years later has been frowned upon by their many critics. Another point that critics can use against the party is the fact that taking the case to the highest court in the country has cost the government hundreds of thousands and, in a year plagued by continuous strike action, it is clear the money could have been invested in a much more efficient way. Judges heard evidence from Lord Advocate Dorothy Bain KC, who represented the Scottish Government and Sir James Eadie KC, who represented the UK Government. This verdict may have fuelled the independence supporters who have become increasingly vocal about losing in 2014. Back then, their side represented 44.7% of Scots who lost to the 55.3% Remain campaign. Recent events have most definitely evened that out. But to what extent?



# Ukrainian Pop Music

Izzy Clark

Music is one of the key hallmarks of a unique society. Across the world, every individual society has musical sounds that define them. Local instruments and lyrics in regional languages can form the core of a culture's identity. Even in the face of horrific adversity, music has been used as a symbol of pride and defiance - that, despite terrors and outrage, people can be united through music.

In recent times, no other country seems to be in the news as much as Ukraine. The atrocities committed by Russia against the people and nation of Ukraine deserve our attention and focus, but it is also important to remember that Ukraine exists beyond the war, and has done so for thousands of years. Ukraine has a rich and complex history which has culminated in a nation with a fascinating and unique culture. Modern-day Ukrainian pop culture has been influenced by the country's diverse and complicated history, and this is no more evidently shown than in their music.

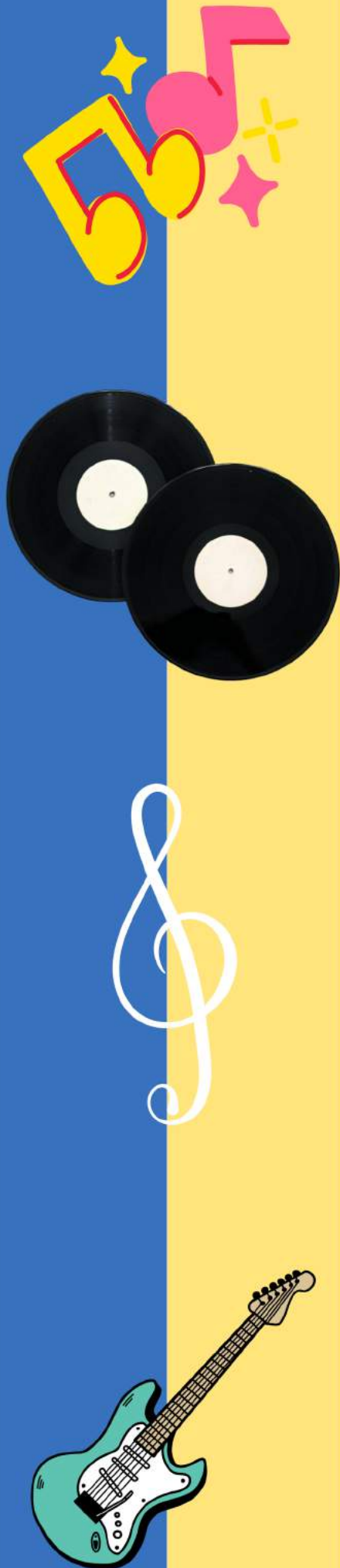
This article was inspired by a wonderful conversation with Masha and Katya, two Ukrainian women currently staying with my grandparents, who graciously agreed to talk to me about Ukrainian culture, especially music.

Much of the modern, Western perception of Ukrainian music stems from their reach into international music competitions, such as Eurovision. In fact, Ukraine has historically done extremely well in Eurovision, winning both the 2016 and 2022 competition, and placing very well in most events. This has led to an increased awareness of Ukrainian music in the European perspective, which has led to several Ukrainian artists getting the chance to collaborate with other international artists, such as Eurovision 2022 winners Kalush collaborating with Swedish band The Rasmus, and Antytila, a Ukrainian pop group, collaborating with Ed Sheeran.

In the European music scene, Ukrainian pop music sounds uniquely distinct. In contrast to artists from other nations, Ukraine's music contains a refreshing mix of traditional folk sounds mixed with the hallmarks of modern pop. Artists such as singer and rapper Alyona Alyona, singer-songwriters Jerry Heil and Onuka, sensational pop group Kazka, and 2021 Eurovision finalists Go\_A, all provide new and exciting takes on present-day pop music, creating a beautiful and exciting sound. Ukrainian music provides an insight into both the country's history and its cultural identity, two things which I personally believe elevate the quality of the music.

If the idea of electro-folk sounds a little bit scary to you, Ukrainian music still has you covered. Artists in the RnB scene such as Boombox, Kola and MamaRika, and rock artists The Hardkiss and Artem Pivavrov offer more traditionally Western-sounding music to appeal to a wider audience. Their music is still deeply linked to their culture and nationality.





Many of the themes present in Ukrainian music are linked to the artists' cultural identity and national pride. Whilst Russian-language songs used to be more dominant in Ukraine, over the last few years, Ukrainian-language music has seen a resurgence, with lyrics celebrating Ukrainian culture, folklore and history, as well as advocating for freedom, independence and pride.

Even during atrocities, Ukrainian music has continued to thrive. Concerts and performances have been held underground in Kyiv's Golden Gate Station, including the celebrations for Ukraine's 98th Anniversary of TV and Radio Broadcasting on November 16th.

As well as this, Ukraine's national selection for Eurovision 2023 will be held on December 17th, once again showing Ukraine's incredible resistance in the face of attempted oppression.

Unfortunately, it comes as no surprise that Russia has tried to claim Ukrainian music as their own. Russian media producers often change the lyrics and language of popular Ukrainian songs for commercial use, showing the international impact Ukrainian music has had. However, in the words of Masha: "they can steal our music but not our pride".

Thank you so much to Masha and Katya for all your help with this article.



# A feminist review of Euripides' Medea

Aoife Stewart

Medea - a classical woman experiencing pain after pain inflicted upon her by her husband Jason, lashes out in anger and violence in response. In attempt to process her grief, Medea acts in a great number of ways which would have been frowned upon for women of that age, some of which, even nowadays, would not be deemed socially acceptable. For example, she acts violently, she is unmotherly, and she speaks up against female injustice. She also, however, acts in accordance with expectations of the time, for example in the way that she values marriage.

Medea acts in a way which would be frowned upon in the classical world; she acts out of great, passionate rage. In feeling the great pain and frustration of Jason's sudden and heartless divorce, Medea reacts in anger, stating a violent desire to harm herself; and to harm Jason. This is so stark an opposition to all expectations of the ideal classical woman.

The perfect classical woman was one who obeyed her husband's commands without second thought, and without fuss, knowing her place was beneath him and his authority. Medea, however, rages against this believed injustice, and not simply internally, she in fact projects her anger to all who will listen: almost publicly stating her desire to kill the man she was expected to blindly accept to be ruled by. This reaction was absolutely and fundamentally unwomanly in its time.

Medea shows this same injusticed fury when she brutally murders her own brother, simply to escape her father with safety, and achieve her own goals. This same passion and rage, leading a woman, of all people, to act in such a manner of brutality would more than likely have been seen as a repulsively atrocious act of unfemininity. It would have shocked a classical audience that she would speak so easily and openly of such an action. Women were expected to keep their emotions to themselves, and never to act in any way which might attract attention. Medea violently opposes this through her actions.

In the modern world there tend to be more of a healthy acceptance of female expression of emotion, and, despite murder still being looked down upon, the issue of female invisibility and inexpression tends to be far less prevalent, especially under modern western political and social acceptability.

In contrast to this, it could be argued that Medea's response - in a twisted way - is highly womanly. Medea's response comes from a place of deep sadness at the loss of her husband, and a feeling of incompetence in regards to caring for her son without a present father-figure. Her passionate love for her husband was a very favourable characteristic for a classical woman, as they were expected to obey their husband's every command, and to remain true to him always. In this sense, Medea boasts admirable, classically feminine attributes.

Similarly, in the modern world, there is generally an expectation, or a desire for a woman (as well as a man, however) to love her husband, and to remain loyal to him within marriage.

Medea also acts in a way which is highly unmaternal. Medea, near the closing of the play, after using her sons as vessels for her wicked, murderous plan, kills them both. This action would have



been sickening to a classical audience. It was the belief in Athens when the play was written, that women's sole purpose and source of worth was in the bearing of children - preferably sons. The fact that Medea should seek to purposefully murder them, showed a deep sickness of the mind - not only in the ultimate degradation of her children, but as a result - of her fundamental femininity. She would have been seen, perhaps, by a classical audience at this stage, to be almost stripping herself of all womanly attributes: care, kindness, and motherly-ness. In today's world, there tends to be less of an expectation on women to be solely caring and benevolent all of the time.

Finally, Medea acts, again, in a manner contrary to feminine expectation. She speaks up, publicly, and in anger, against female societal mistreatment. She states that of all living creatures in existence, none experience injustice to the extent to which women do, and speaks about the advantages which men alone could enjoy. This public spectacle of raw, angry, opposition to injustice would have been surprising to a classical audience, as women were expected to simply deal with things as they were, and certainly expected not to complain about their circumstances. In contrast, in the modern world there is often a push for all people to speak out against societal injustices, with the hope of democratic change in mind.

In conclusion, throughout the play of Medea, Euripides plays with the notion of a classical woman. He pushes the character of Medea so far from the time's expectations, that he almost dehumanises her in the context of the time. She is portrayed, not as a weak or submissive or passive character, but as a woman who is active and raging and passionate. This play challenges the time's norms for women, and presents a unique insight into the struggles of a classical woman.





# Mrs Watson's Weekly Jokes

If a band is playing music and a thunderstorm hits, who is most likely to get hit by lightning?

**The conductor**

What is hail?

**Hard-boiled rain**

Why was the weather forecaster absent from work after breaking both arms and both legs?

**They were having trouble with the four casts**

What do you call the weather forecaster who really likes to eat steak?

**A meateaterologist**

What did one raindrop say to the other little raindrop?

**Two's company, three's a cloud**

## EDITOR'S NOTE

**Sahar Jafferbhoy**

*Another rainy week comes to end as Christmas edges closer.*

*Good luck to all the F4s*

*currently sitting Prelims - I remember the stress of eight exams in two weeks...*

*Everyone at The Columns wishes you all a restful and enjoyable weekend!*

*Have a great weekend!*

THE COLUMNS TEAM