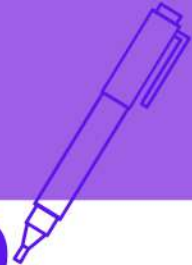




THE COLUMNS



HSD's newsletter: Issue 79

by pupils; for pupils

For International Women's Day I would like to share some of my favourite feminist quotes:

My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent. - Ruth Bader Ginsburg

I myself have never been able to find out precisely what a feminist is. I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat. - Rebecca West.

We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back. - Malala Yousafzi

Editor-in-Chief, Sahar Jafferbhoy

EQUALITY





*Empowered
Women
Empower
Women*

MOTORCROSS RACER

Evie Doyle

This is the story of Ashley Fiolec who was a motorcross racer. The story starts in her kitchen when Ashley was a little girl. Some pans fell off the table with a huge crash and her mum noticed that Ashley didn't even acknowledge it so Ashley's mum decided to get her ears tested, which lead them to find out that Ashley was deaf. Although tragic they didn't let that stop them, they learned sign language and Ashley went to camp with other deaf kids to build her self confidence. Ashley's grandad and dad loved motorcycles and bought Ashley a child motorcycle when she was three. Ashley really loved motor cross and rode with her dad and granddad in the forrest each on their own motorcycle....Ashley dreamed of becoming a motorcross racer because of this. Most people told her it was impossible and doubted she could achieve her dream, 'hearing is really important in motocross' they said. 'the sound of the engine told you when to change gear and you have to hear where other riders are'. But Ashley could feel from the engine vibrations when to change gears and looked for shadows in the corner of her eye and knew when someone was getting close. In only 5 years she became a four-time AMA women's motorcross national champion. She fell many times and broke several bones and also lost her two front teeth. But she always recovered and got back on her bike. Ashley was also the first female motorcross racer to make the cover of TranWorld Motorcross magazine, she became the first woman to be signed to the American Honda Racing factory team, and her motocross riding was featured in a commercial for RedBull. She is also a double X-games gold medal winner and the first deaf x-games winner. In 2012, she was featured in an issue of Vogue magazine. Ashley Fiolec is now 32 years old and has retired from professional racing in 2012 and has lived in her home state of Florida USA ever since where she is now a professional stunt actor.

Betty Boothroyd: A Life of Public Service

Jack Mitchell



Baroness Boothroyd, the first and only female speaker of the House of Commons, died on Monday aged 93.

She was the Labour MP for West Bromwich (now West Bromwich West) from 1973 and speaker from 1992; she gave both up in 2000. Prior to her political career, Betty was a dancer and appeared in a few West End shows soon after the Second World War. As speaker, Boothroyd saw two Prime Ministers, John Major and Tony Blair, face events such as Prime Minister's Questions. She received a life peerage soon after leaving office and sat in the House of Lords. Tributes have been plentiful, with people such as current speaker Lindsay Hoyle, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Leader of the Labour Party Keir Starmer and former Prime Minister

Tony Blair, who served whilst Boothroyd was speaker. Many will be sad to see her gone but many will be thankful for the decades of public service she gave to the country and for the inspiration as the only woman to have sat in the seat of the speaker.

Scottish Plate

Finalists!

Harriet Vincent

On Wednesday the 22nd of February, the 1XI girls' hockey team played in the semi-final of the Scottish Plate against Jordanhill School, the 2022 runners-up of the Scottish Cup. The stakes were high, and we knew we had a tough match ahead of us. As soon as the game got underway, it was high-intensity and fast-paced. Jordanhill got an early goal, but we were quick to follow with a goal from Milly. The first half concluded, and after an encouraging team talk from Mrs Anderson and Mrs Baxter morale was high and we were ready to face the second half. The close match continued, with both teams creating chances and fighting for possession. After winning a short corner, Izzy scored, and the gap began to close. After we knew that we had to keep our lead, although it was tough and Jordanhill were challenging us (and the umpire...!), the girls remained calm and waited for that final whistle. When it finally came, cheers filled the pitch from players and spectators. The team now face The Glasgow Academy on the 17th of March at Peffermill Playing Fields in the Scottish Plate final. A huge thank you to all the support from everyone on Wednesday – and throughout the season!



Female Inspirations

Mrs Jack:

My inspiration is a very small person, but you cannot call her little. My 5 year old daughter and her zest for life, combined with not caring what others think of her make her completely inspirational to me. Orla does what she wants, when she wants, always eats the chocolate, demands a cuddle, and wears every pattern and accessory under the sun. She is brave and always wants to try new things and ignore our pleas to 'slow down'!! Her excitement for life and her willingness to give everything and anything a go and to scream and shout when things aren't fair to seem very appealing to the adult in me!

Mrs McGrory:

So, you were probably expecting to read about all the strong, career-driven women on the international stage that have shaped my life, but looking back, the biggest female influence in my life and my career has been my Mum. She has always believed in me and said I could put my mind to anything if I wanted to. I've always been brought up to have a go and try new things, to be independent and even do my own DIY.

When I was choosing my university course, all around me were strong female characters, such as Madonna, Annie Lennox and Aretha Franklin blaring out songs about 'sisters doing it for themselves' and even 'Alex' was spot-welding on Flashdance. Zandra Rhodes and Vivienne Westwood were turning heads with their statement garments so there I was walking up the Perth Road to Duncan of Jordanstone in my tie-dyed orange and purple jacket with orange hair. I entered the world of Town Planning as my original career and did not stop for one minute to think that this was a male-dominated world and one where I might not fit in and do well. I relished the opportunity to do something I was passionate about and had the full support of family and friends but most importantly, my Mum. Surround yourself with those who believe in you and take inspiration from like-minded folk and you can be anything you want to be.

Mrs Whiting:

Professionally I am inspired by the work of Carol Dweck and Uta Frith. Carol Dweck is a psychologist who promotes the idea of a "Growth Mindset" and that in any situation in school or life that all you need is the power of believing in yourself and that you can do better and therefore will improve.

Uta Frith is a developmental psychologist who specialises in Neurodiversity. She was one of the first in her field to produce ground-breaking theories on Autism. Her work made me want to become an Additional Support Needs teacher and inspired me to undertake a PGCE in Autism and Learning.

However, on a personal note, I couldn't name Inspirational Women without taking the time to mention my mum. My parents separated when I was 10 and my mum raised me and my 4 siblings on her own. I have three sisters and my mum ensured we were raised to believe that anything is possible if you put your mind to it and never rely on anyone for your own happiness, it comes from within.



Mrs Jack's daughter, Orla



Mrs McGrory's Mum

Support all women



Mrs Downie's daughter



Miss Stewart:

I was 8 years old when I had my first fan-girl moment. I was watching a documentary on the life of the Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci and was gripped by her drive and dedication to her discipline and her grit and determination to become the best. She was relentless in her pursuit of excellence and devoted hours of her life to perfecting her acrobatic routines.

It was made clear to me from a young age that success requires dedication and persistence. And this paid off for Comaneci, who scored the first perfect 10 at an Olympic Games, aged 14. The score board read 0 as it was never considered possible to score greater than 9.9! She went on to achieve 6 more perfect 10's at the same games and made history in doing so. I was so determined to emulate her success I threw my-self off the sofa thinking I could perfect a no-handed cartwheel and ended up with a sprained wrist and a dented ego!

Mrs Downie:

This International Women's Day I wanted to shine a light on some of the inspirational neurodiverse women who have achieved success in a variety of different fields. Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE is a scientist and broadcaster referred to as the BBC's 'face of space'. She is a pioneering figure in promoting science to and runs her own company engaging children and adults all over the world with the wonders of space science. She has a degree in Physics and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering. She is also dyslexic. She sees aspects of her dyslexic thinking as being a strength, "I don't just think outside the box, I think outside the planet". This is also echoed by Jo Malone CBE, a perfumer and entrepreneur. Jo is also severely dyslexic. She says, "it is my different way of thinking that has been the key to my success". Simone Biles is an American gymnast who has 30 Olympic and World Championship medals. She was diagnosed with ADHD at a young age. She has spoken out against stigma surrounding ADHD having tweeted, "having ADHD and taking medicine for it is nothing to be ashamed of and nothing that I'm afraid to let people know". Greta Thunberg is an Environmental Campaigner and Activist well known for challenging world leaders to take action on climate change. Greta also has autism and, in many respects, sees it as a strength, "I have Asperger's (a form of autism) and that means I'm sometimes a bit different to the norm. Given the right circumstances it is also a superpower".

Mrs Guy:

My 'inspirational woman' is my biggest cheerleader, my mum. Raising children in a single-parent household, she had to make tough decisions (a lot of which involved my teenage social life!) but now as a parent myself, I can empathise with her wholeheartedly. Growing up, her superpower as a mum was instilling confidence in her children; she embraced every dodgy outfit choice, every over-plucked eyebrow (it was the 00s), and every hair dye disaster. She taught me the importance of friendships and independence. She continues to be incredibly strong and compassionate, and she constantly puts the needs of others before her own. She is the matriarch of the family, and my inspiration for this International Women's Day and beyond.

HSD LIBRARIAN'S BOOK RECS - IWD & WORLD BOOK DAY

The Power by Naomi Alderman

It starts with a tingling in the fingers, a feeling of focus, of a change in the rhythm of the world, a pricking of the thumbs.

Power is everywhere, it is under our feet, it circles around the cities and towns we have made our homes. We gather it and order it and make it flow from the centre outwards in a network like veins, pulsing with an electric heartbeat that keeps things functioning just as they always have. Yet power transfers and the time is coming for it to change hands.

What if the power to hurt were in women's hands?

Imagine a world where teenage girls awake one morning with extraordinary physical strength and power that outstrips their male counterparts. Thanks to a newly acquired section of muscle near their collarbone, young women can now conduct electricity like electric eels: inflicting pain or electrocuting to death as they wish. They can even waken this power in older women too. In Naomi Alderman's *The Power*, the balance of the world is irrevocably altered overnight.

The novel weaves four central points of view; that of Margot, the ruthlessly ambitious member of American government; Roxy, the somewhat gullible daughter of a London gangster; Tunde, a young Nigerian man who documents the worldwide change known as Day of the Girls; and Allie, a teenage runaway who becomes revered as a deity; through their experiences, we witness the ways in which women utilise their newfound dominance.

This brave new world is far from a utopia however. As uprisings and revolts spread through the world and after the initial delight in female empowerment subsides, a darker side to the new world order emerges. Exploring the concepts of gender, hierarchy and power, *The Power* is an ingenious and masterfully crafted piece of feminist science fiction as well as a searing indictment of our contemporary world.

Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie

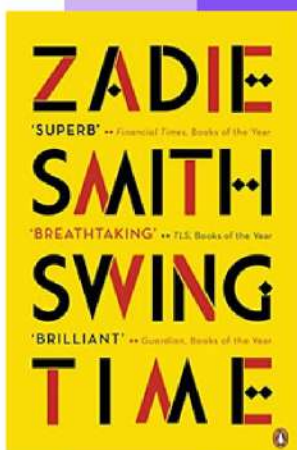
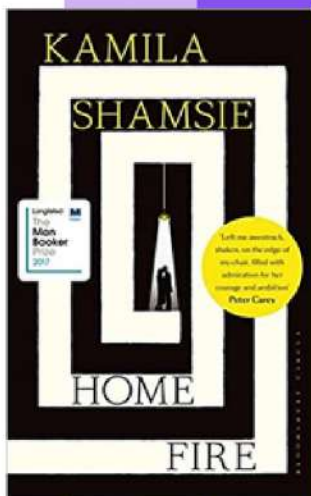
Isma is free.

After years spent raising her twin siblings in the wake of their mother's death, she is finally studying in America, resuming a dream long deferred. But she can't stop worrying about Aneeka, her beautiful, headstrong sister back in London - or their brother, Parvaiz, who's disappeared in pursuit of his own dream: to prove himself to the dark legacy of the jihadist father he never knew.

Then Eamonn enters the sisters' lives. Handsome and privileged, he inhabits a London worlds away from theirs.

As the son of a powerful British Muslim politician, Eamonn has his own birthright to live up to - or defy. Is he to be a chance at love? The means of Parvaiz's salvation?

Two families' fates are inextricably, devastatingly entwined in this searing novel that asks: what sacrifices will we make in the name of love? A contemporary reimagining of Sophocles' *Antigone*, *Home Fire* is an urgent, fiercely compelling story of loyalties torn apart when love and politics collide -



Swing Time by Zadie Smith

On an unremarkable Saturday in 1982, two girls meet. Two brown girls who both dream of being dancers - but only one, Tracey, has talent; a talent so undeniable she is taught to rely on it as a promise, as a way out. The other is taught she has ideas: about rhythm and time, about black bodies and black music, what constitutes a tribe, or makes a person truly free. She is taught her future is her own to decide. Theirs a close but complicated childhood friendship that halts abruptly in their early twenties as their two paths diverge and their lives dance out of each other's view, but never out of their shadow. Dazzlingly energetic and deeply human, *Swing Time* is a story about friendship and music and stubborn roots, about how we are shaped by these things and how we can survive them. Moving from north-west London to West Africa, it is a story about the turn and dip and sway of lives in endless, perpetual motion; an exuberant dance to the music of time.

The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox by Maggie O'Farrell

Edinburgh in the 1930s. The Lennox family is having trouble with its youngest daughter. Esme is outspoken, unconventional, and repeatedly embarrasses them in polite society. Something will have to be done. Years later, a young woman named Iris Lockhart receives a letter informing her that she has a great-aunt in a psychiatric unit who is about to be released. Iris has never heard of Esme Lennox and the one person who should know more, her grandmother Kitty, seems unable to answer Iris's questions. What could Esme have done to warrant a lifetime in an institution? And how is it possible for a person to be so completely erased from a family's history?

The Burning by Laura Bates

Fire is like a rumour. You might think you've extinguished it but one creeping, red tendril, one single wisp of smoke is enough to let it leap back into life again. Especially if someone is watching, waiting to fan the flames...

New school. Tick. New town. Tick. New surname. Tick. Social media profiles? Erased.

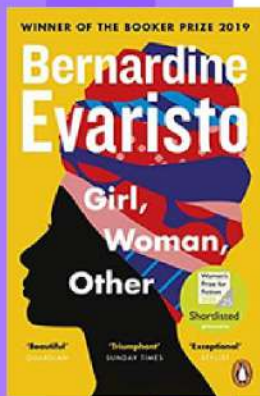
There's nothing to trace Anna back to her old life. Nothing to link her to the 'incident'. At least that's what she thinks... until the whispers start up again. As time begins to run out on her secrets, Anna finds herself irresistibly drawn to the tale of Maggie, a local girl accused of witchcraft centuries earlier. A girl whose story has terrifying parallels to Anna's own...

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai

Written by Malala in collaboration with critically acclaimed author, Patricia McCormick, this edition tells the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world - and did. Her journey will open your eyes to another world and will make you believe in hope, truth, miracles, and the determination of one person to inspire change. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on 9 October, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause. She was shot point-blank on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now, she is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Invisible Women by Caroline Criado Perez

Imagine a world where your phone is too big for your hand, where your doctor prescribes a drug that is wrong for your body, where in a car accident you are 47% more likely to be seriously injured, where every week the countless hours of work you do are not recognised or valued. If any of this sounds familiar, chances are that you're a woman. *Invisible Women* shows us how, in a world largely built for and by men, we are systematically ignoring half the population. It exposes the gender data gap - a gap in our knowledge that is at the root of perpetual, systemic discrimination against women, and that has created a pervasive but invisible bias with a profound effect on women's lives. Award-winning campaigner and writer Caroline Criado-Perez brings together for the first time an impressive range of case studies, stories and new research from across the world that illustrate the hidden ways in which women are forgotten, and the impact this has on their health and well-being. From government policy and medical research, to technology, workplaces, urban planning and the media, *Invisible Women* reveals the biased data that excludes women. In making the case for change, this powerful and provocative book will make you see the world anew.



Girl Woman Other by Bernardine Evaristo

Teeming with life and crackling with energy - a love song to modern Britain and black womanhood.

Girl, Woman, Other follows the lives and struggles of twelve very different characters. Mostly women, black and British, they tell the stories of their families, friends and lovers, across the country and through the years. Joyfully polyphonic and vibrantly contemporary, this is a gloriously new kind of history, a novel of our times: celebratory, ever-dynamic and utterly irresistible.



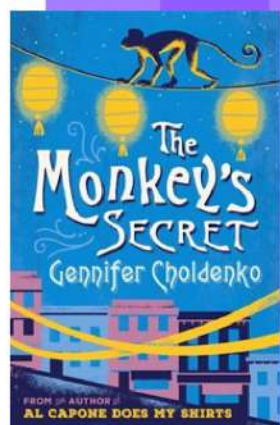
Only Ever Yours by Louise O'Neill

Eves are designed, not made. The School trains them to be pretty The School trains them to be good. The School trains them to Always be Willing. All their lives, the eves have been waiting. Now, they are ready for the outside world. companion . . . concubine . . . or chastity
Only the best will be chosen. And only the Men decide.



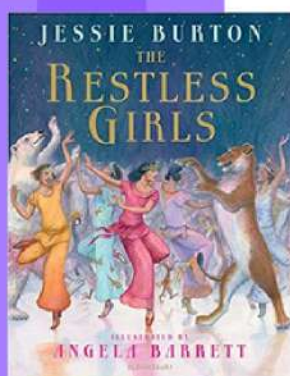
Vote for Effie by Laura Wood

Join Effie Kostas as she fights to become Student Council President in her new school. With a campaign team of loveable misfits, she tackles the truly important subjects: gender imbalance, outdated school conventions... and good-looking boys stealing the last slice of chocolate cake at lunchtime.



The Monkey's Secret by Gennifer Choldenko

A segregated town, a hidden boy, a courageous girl - and a mystery in desperate need of solving. San Francisco, 1900. Thirteen-year-old Lizzie Kennedy is not like the other girls in her town. She'd much rather be helping her doctor father with his patients than be stuck in frilly dresses and learn how to dance - but unfortunately for her, society (and her Aunt Hortense) has other ideas about what is 'proper' for a young lady. This includes not poking your nose in other's people's business - but then Jing, their beloved housekeeper, gets stuck in the Chinatown quarantine. Fear rules San Francisco - fear of the Chinese, and mostly fear of the plague rumours that circle them. Lizzie knows she has to help Jing, whatever the warnings. But what she doesn't expect to find is a strange boy hiding in Jing's room. The boy is called Noah. He says he's Jing's son - although Lizzie's never heard of him - and although he's escaped the quarantine, he can't risk leaving the house in case he gets rounded-up too. Lizzie wants to investigate, but it seems her questions only get people riled up. Is there really plague in San Francisco? What have the Chinese got to do with it? Just what or who is the mysterious 'monkey' - and what has his secret got to do with anything? Lizzie will have to use all of her courage, instinct and cleverness to unravel the mystery of the monkey's secret, save Jing, Noah and Chinatown - and maybe even her change her own destiny.



The Restless Girls by Jessie Burton

For her twelve daughters, Queen Laurelia's death in a motor car accident is a disaster beyond losing a mother. Their father, King Alberto, cannot bear the idea of the princesses ever being in danger and decides his daughters must be kept safe at all costs. Those costs include their lessons, their possessions and, most importantly, their freedom.

But the eldest, Princess Frida, will not bend to his will without a fight and she still has one possession her father can't take: the power of her imagination. And so, with little but wits and ingenuity to rely on, Frida and her sisters begin their fight to be allowed to live.

FEMALE RIGHTS VIOLATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Jack Mitchell

In August 2021, the United States withdrew the majority of their soldiers stationed in Afghanistan and left the country once more under Taliban control. They had been in power in most of the country from 1996 until the military intervention from the United States in late 2001.

The Taliban were quick to implement an extremely frowned upon policy of banning girls from going to high school in August 2021. Since then, have slowly excluded women from all aspects of life and now they are also not allowed to have higher education – such as university and college. This is another step backwards from the developments that were made by the US-backed government. The West immediately condemned these awful changes and many countries including our own placed sanctions against individuals in the country. This has, however, changed nothing. The leaders of the troubled nation have once again taken a basic human right away from a large proportion of their population. However, apart from the odd article, the press have barely reported on the country since the Taliban takeover just over a year ago. The world has, in a sense, turned their back on the nation. However, it is not just Afghanistan that has frankly disgusting policies severely restricting their female population.

On the 16th of December, an 22 year old Iranian woman was killed while in custody of the 'morality police'. She had been arrested for not covering all of her hair with her headscarf. The death of Mahsa Amini, the victim, caused outrage and protests soon began with sports stars refusing to wear hijabs. The protests highlighted the discriminatory policies and society of Iran. Just 3.3% of seats in Parliament are held by women and in 2018, women made up just under 20% of the workforce. A law passed in August of last year states that female government employees will be fired if they post a picture of themselves without a hijab on social media. If a woman wants to go hiking in the northeastern region of Khorosan Razavi, they must get permission from their husband or father.

It is not just these two countries. A lot of the countries of the Middle East and Southern Asia have similar restrictions. In the rest of the world, the problem is still widespread. A well known influencer named Andrew Tate who spreads misogynistic views has received over 11 and a half billion views. He celebrates male supremacy and violence against women and has suggested that women are the property of men. The very fact that this abhorrent man has received such success underlines the problem. We must all work to eradicate sexism and silence those like Tate who celebrate it.

IWD x World Book Day

Mr Smith

Ursula K. Le Guin is arguably one of the most important and accessible American writers of the 20th century. Although mostly known as a writer of speculative fiction, a depressingly dull classification that covers science fiction, fantasy, etc., she played with many formats and genres in her long career including poetry. She rightly fought back against the categorisation of her Earthsea stories as being written for "young adults". Crafted with a classical coming-of-age arc, they are lathered in religious and mythological allegory and include an exposition of ecological and social issues. Her Hainish universe documents an alternate timeline in which she explores gender, race, power, and spirituality - she creates intricate environments, populated by complex characters, and builds anthropologically, politically, and philosophically articulate worlds in which she tackles global issues like capitalism, colonialism, and slavery, individual morality, and the injustices associated with race and gender.

In a 1980s essay, 'Introducing Myself', she challenges gender normativity:

"I am a man. Now you may think I've made some kind of silly mistake about gender, or maybe I'm trying to fool you because my first name ends in a, and I own three bras, and I've been pregnant five times, and other things like that that you might have noticed, little details. But details don't matter... I predate the invention of women by decades."

Go read it to find out more. Le Guin helps us ask who we are.



Women of Ukraine



Izzy Clark

It is impossible to look fully at a country or culture without also examining the women of that community.

If we study history through the sole experiences of men, then we erase the lives, stories and legacies of 50% of the population. Understanding a nation's past and present relies on us considering all aspects of society, not just men. A country which has become far more present in the public eye than much before over this last year is Ukraine, a nation with a 53.6% female population. But to properly educate ourselves about Ukraine, we have to pay attention to more than just the men in their history and current.

At the moment, the most famous Ukrainian woman, particularly in Western media and reporting, is First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska. Formerly a well-respected architect, screenwriter and TV producer, Zelenska's philanthropical contributions are almost as numerous as her cultural and social campaigns. From working to ensure the preservation of the Ukrainian language, and promoting gender equality and rights for disabled people and children, to providing books for impoverished children and raising awareness for social inequality and suffering, Olena Zelenska has proven herself to be devoted to her country and her people.

Another significant woman in modern Ukrainian politics is Yana Zinkyevich. Originally in the military's medical division, Zinkyevich was paralysed from the waist down during the Donbass War, after helping to move almost 200 soldiers to safety. In 2019, she became a member of the Ukrainian parliament, and in 2022 was named to BBC's Top 100 Women of the year.

Oleksandra Matviychuk is a human rights lawyer who has documented war crimes in Ukrainian conflicts for over a decade, and who was nominated to the United Nations Committee Against Torture in 2021. She also helps provide legal assistance to victims of war crimes in her country, and advocates for proper tribunals for the perpetrators.

Less well-known but just as commendable is Ekaterina Polishyk, a 21-year-old actress and volunteer paramedic, who was captured by Russian forces during the Siege of Mariupol and released in September 2022. She gained fame for videos of her singing Ukrainian songs to people in a shelter in Azovstal, where she worked as a medical volunteer. Known to many as "the bird", she is just one of many Ukrainian women fighting to defend their country.

Artist Kateryna Bilokur (1900-1961) was most known for her oil paintings of nature. From a young age she protested against her parents' wishes for her to quit art, and eventually became one of Ukraine's best-known artists. Pablo Picasso said of Bilokur: "If we had an artist of this level, we would have made the whole world talk about her!". She was acclaimed by many other critics and artists, with whom she regularly sent letters to. In 1951 she was awarded a Badge of Honour, and in 1956 she received the title of the "People's Artist". Her contributions to art in Ukraine are numerous and beautiful.

St Olga, the patron saint of widows and converts, is one of the most famous female historical figures in Ukraine. Responsible for the conversion of Ukraine to Christianity, St Olga was the first women to rule over the Kievan Rus, a historical people who lived in the areas now occupied by parts of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. Some of her most notable accomplishments include sacking the city of Korosten using birds carrying flammable sulphur, killing her husband's murderers by burying them alive, and tricking a man into not marrying her by becoming her godfather instead. Memorialised on July 11th, St Olga is one of the most important women in Ukrainian history.

Huge thank you to Masha and Katya, who provided me with numerous sources about women in Ukraine, both past and present.

Victoria Sponge Recipe

Amy Leburn

Ingredients:

4 free-range eggs
225g/8oz caster sugar,
plus a little extra for
dusting the finished cake
225g/8oz self-raising flour
2 tsp baking powder
225g/8oz butter at room
temperature, plus a little
extra to grease the tins
to serve:
good-quality strawberry or
raspberry jam
whipped double cream
(optional)



Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Grease and line two 20cm/ 8in sandwich tins. Use a piece of baking paper to rub a little butter around the inside of the tins until the sides and base are lightly coated, then line the bottom with a circle of baking paper.
2. Break the eggs into a large mixing bowl, then add the sugar, flour, baking powder and butter. Mix together until well combined with an electric hand mixer (you can also use a wooden spoon), but be careful not to over mix.
3. Put a damp cloth under your bowl when you're mixing to stop it moving around. The finished mixture should fall off a spoon easily.
4. Divide the mixture evenly between the tins: this doesn't need to be exact, but you can weigh the filled tins if you want to check. Use a spatula to remove all of the mixture from the bowl and gently smooth the surface of the cakes.
5. Bake the cakes on the middle shelf of the oven for 25 minutes. Check them after 20 minutes. The cakes are done when they're golden-brown and coming away from the edge of the tins. Press them gently to check – they should be springy to the touch. Set aside to cool in their tins for 5 minutes. Run a palette or rounded butter knife around the inside edge of the tins and carefully turn the cakes out onto a cooling rack.
6. To assemble the cake, place one cake upside down onto a plate and spread it with plenty of jam. If you want to, you can spread over whipped cream too. Top with the second cake, top-side up. Sprinkle over the caster sugar.

FICTIONAL FEMALES

Maisey Lafollette

In fiction and on our screens women have been portrayed in many different ways, such as the mean girls, the damsels, the Goths, the smart, and the sporty. Historically these roles were portrayed as unkind, ditsy or moody. These days many characters don't fit one stereotype; they fit two or more and some don't fit any at all. Female roles have evolved into strong independent and supportive characters. Annabeth Chase from Percy Jackson is pretty, smart and kind. She explained the world of demigods and Olympians to Percy and helped guide him through his battles. She was also kind to those who learned that one of their parents was an Olympian, by helping them adjust. She is one of the best-written Rick Riordan characters.

Ginny Weasley from Harry Potter loves Quidditch and is one of the best players on the team. Even though she was young she still fought in the final battle against Voldemort, proving she is a true Gryffindor. Abby, the scientist from NCIS, helps Gibbs' team solve crimes through her forensic analysis skills, and meeting with the other investigators. Alongside this she still has time to make jokes and pursue her many interests.

Wednesday Addams is very moody at the beginning of the show. Initially she wants to run away from her boarding school, but as the show progresses she makes friends such as Enid, Eugene and Xavier. She solves the mystery of Hyde and becomes closer to her friends.

Shuri is the sister to a superhero named Black Panther, the King of the fictional African country Wakanda. In the movie 'Black Panther Wakanda Forever' her brother dies of an illness that she couldn't cure. When he dies she takes up the role of the new Black Panther, and has to help her home fight against invaders. She is a strong hero, a genius scientist and a brave leader.

It's been an inspiration for me to read and watch how women are portrayed with such positivity. It makes me strive to be kinder, a better team player, smarter, supportive of my friends and a positive role model. I know we all have fictional characters that we aspire to be like, and maybe we can all learn a lesson from these characters and use them in the real world.

The Rise of Women's Football

Prithvi Sudarshan

With "The Best Fifa awards" taking place just a few days ago, along with awards being handed to those who won the 2022 World Cup such as Lionel Messi and their manager Lionel Scaloni, it was also the 7th year that awards haven't exclusively been for men but also included categories for women, with the likes of Barcelona midfielder Alexia Putellas winning Women's Player of the Year, Sarina Wiegman winning Women's Coach of the Year, and Mary Earps winning Women's Goalkeeper of the Year.

In the past few years women's football has come a long way from when it began, with a record attendance to a women's game being set in April of last year at the Camp Nou where there was an attendance of 91,648 to a Champions League Semi-Final match between the Barcelona Women's team and the Wolfsburg Women's team which ended in a 5:2 victory to the Catalan side, beating a record previously held by the Barcelona side for an attendance of 91,553.

The first women's football matches are reported to have taken place in the 1880's but it was only in 1969 that the Women's Football Association (WFA) was formed. The Women's World Cup was founded in 1991 and the first tournament took place that year with the USA winning it. Since then it has been played every 4 years with the next one taking place in July of this year, and being hosted by New Zealand and Australia.

Permanent transfers of players from one club to another accounted for only 3.5% of all international transfers in 2021. It was only a fraction in 2018. But in 2022, that number more than doubled to 7.3%.

In comparison, in men's football, only 13.3% of international transfers in 2022 were permanent deals involving a fee, although it may seem more than that because of the way most deals shown in the media have flashy price tags associated with them.

The total spent on international women's football transfers in 2022 totalled £2.7m. That is the largest it has ever been, with the figure increasing by 62% on the global spend on international transfers from the year prior, with such fast growth it isn't realistic to expect total transfer fees to be reaching the £10s of millions in coming years.



A review of 'Lady Macbeth'

India Simpson

This last Saturday, I was invited by a couple of friends to go and see 'Macbeth (an Undoing)' at the Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh. It was described to me as a "feminist Macbeth", centred around Lady Macbeth rather than her husband. I agreed to go, and rather than looking at reviews or synopses, I instead considered the ways they could achieve this. I truly hoped and played they wouldn't do the common "feminist" take on Lady Macbeth, making her out to be a victim rather than a villain. Make it out as if she is viewed as wrong in society, she isn't as bad as they say, it wasn't her fault Macbeth did those things. I think this is the wrong stance to take. I think it undermines her intelligence, and who she is as a character, and makes it out as if women cannot be cruel or villainous or calculating, and I think they can.

In the first half of 'Macbeth (an Undoing)', I must admit, I didn't view it highly. They didn't change much about the play - which is generally good - but the scenes they added in didn't add to the characters or their depth at all. It was centred around Lady Macbeth, but it didn't characterise her any more than Shakespeare did. Macbeth as a character was still more developed. The only addition in the first half that I liked was the addition of Lady Macduff as a major character. They have her be a cousin to Lady Macbeth, and stay in the castle with them. She, as a character, had almost more of a personality than Lady Macbeth.

The second half, whilst much improved, still didn't give Lady Macbeth reasons for her actions. Why did she want Macbeth to be King so badly? Why did she bully him into committing murder? What were her motivations, her reasonings? None of this was explained. The second half of the play in terms of plot, was inspired. They took primarily from Shakespeare's own text, but managed to spin the narrative around. In this play, it is Macbeth, instead, who loses his mind. His lines earlier in the play "Macbeth shall sleep no more" develop into his manic insomnia, and it is him, not Lady Macbeth, that cries "Out, damned spot!". It is him who the physician visits and declares no cure. It is Macbeth that won't stop washing his hands. Lady Macbeth takes over the role of King. Yet, she, too, descends into insanity. All her white dresses keep becoming covered in blood, and rather than trying to wash the blood off her hands, it's from her dresses. She has an awareness that she is in a play, calling for the assistant, and claiming that's not how the scenes are supposed to go. The physician then visits her, too, and diagnoses her mad, and the way the audience were tricked into believing it was Macbeth instead that went insane, when in reality it was both, was well achieved. Yet, the lack of explanation for Lady Macbeth's actions, the lack of depth, makes this play, whilst an intriguing and carefully thought out one, not particularly any more feminist than the original. They had to choose between making her intelligent and calculating and perhaps cruel, or giving her reasons and explanations for her actions, and this play did neither. The final scene had Lady Macbeth kill Macbeth, rather than herself, and she delivers the infamous "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow" monologue. Macduff then kills Lady Macbeth, not Macbeth. I think, whilst how they switched the roles of the character was intelligent, they lost many themes and essential aspects of the original play. Fate, the Supernatural and the Witches have little to no prevalence in the play. They link Lady Macbeth to the witches very loosely in order to explain why they spoke to Macbeth, and she suggests they were

simply lying not predicting the future, and she knew but took advantage of Macbeth's belief. I think Zinnie Harris, the director, missed an opportunity to create the witches into something more than they were in the play, add depth and intelligence and reasoning for their behaviours, and if anything she lessened this. All in all, I wouldn't describe this play as a "feminist Macbeth" but rather purely a Macbeth with an alternate ending. Whilst Lady Macbeth plays a larger role, especially in the second half, compared to Shakespeare's play, it was lacking the additional characterisation required. I would be interested to see other interpretations of Macbeth, however, and Lady Macbeth's role in the play. I would like to see one where they push her to the limit of what Shakespeare started: make her cruel and calculating and have ulterior motives; or watch her insanity take hold, watch it consume her, watch her go too far and see how it breaks her. I would like to see a version where Lady Macbeth wants Macbeth to fail, to be caught, one where she is plotting his downfall. Perhaps a version where there is a very specific reason Lady Macbeth wants Macbeth to be King, not just pure ambition. I would like to see a Macbeth where Lady Macbeth is strong, powerful and intelligent, and where her downfall is all on her own head. Where she causes the play to collapse into turmoil, where she causes herself to go mad.

IWD x World Book Day

Mr Clarke

International Women's Day is a global movement which celebrates women's achievements and invites us all to embrace equality. Therefore it seems only right that I turn to Margaret Atwood for my inspiration. She is interested in truth and democracy - and how these impact women. My wife, an English teacher, tells me that Atwood's style is modern gothic but all I know is that she writes a compelling dystopian horror story! The Handmaid's Tale is a great example - I can see echoes of various times and places across history and geography. It was written in 1985 yet the issues raised are still (perhaps even more so) relevant today. It's a hard task to be restricted to one female author though. I have just started to read Toni Morrison's Beloved and I have a feeling it may eclipse The Handmaid's Tale!

I would like to see more female authors celebrated in schools. Recent research indicates that only 2% of GCSE students study a book written by a female author. In Scotland, only 3 out of 14 authors on the Higher English set text list are female. As Margaret Atwood says: 'A word after a word after a word is power.'

WEEKLY JOKES

Mrs Guy's 4yr old's contribution:
What do you call an orca who tells jokes?



A kidder whale

Mrs Watson's contributions:
I can cut a piece of wood in half just by looking at it. It's true – I saw it with my own eyes.



A couple of my friends went to a shop selling half-price flat fish.
Cheap skates.

A friend's pessimistic attitude cost him his job as a barman. With him, the glass was always half empty.



I like to break the rules – I had an After Eight at half past seven once.



It's fair to say that it is easy to distinguish the funnier person...

Witch Trials

Last year, on this day, Nicola Sturgeon made worldwide headlines with a formal apology for the great Scottish witch hunts, a devastating period in Scottish history that lasted around two hundred years and killed thousands of women. The apology may have been well-intended, but as a young Scottish woman celebrating International Women's Day, I felt like it was an opportunistic betrayal that deflected attention from the real culprits.

It may be centuries ago but like in any murder mystery, the first question when assigning blame should be "whodunnit." The Scottish witch trials were a more deadly precursor to the events in Salem, the more widely known Massachusetts Bay colony witch hunts. Starting with the 1536 witchcraft act and ending with the death of the last 'witch', Janet Horne, in 1727, the "great" Scottish witch trials saw between three to four thousand people tortured and executed for supposed witchcraft and sorcery. The majority were women. While part of the larger European witch hunt phenomenon, it is estimated that five times more people died in Scotland than in England, and over 100 times more than in Salem. A hallmark of the Scottish witch trials was the brutal methods of torture used to illicit confessions, as can be seen in the 1705 Pittenweem trials. There, one Beatrice Lang was accused by a 16-year-old boy, following which she was tortured for five months till she died.

Who was to blame for Beatrice Lang's death? A boy made the accusation, but it was the monarchy and religious institutions that wielded the tools of power and political influence throughout the 1563-1727 period. Historians argue that the witches of Scotland were killed in a moral panic produced by the church. The Scottish reformation and the break in Scotland's traditional relations with the papacy resulted in a presbyterian and predominantly Calvinist national Kirk. This reformation led to competition between the old and new ways, with many churches adopting attention-grabbing witch trials as a form of perverse advertisement, a way to say, "our brand of Christianity is more holy than yours."

The Church of Scotland apologized for their part on May 22nd last year, stating they would "represent and even enact an important public morale change by asserting the wrongness of past norms and policies". A specific apology has yet to be issued from the rival (also murderous) Catholic Church, although Pope John Paul II did apologize for the inquisition in 2000.

The church may be on its way to redemption but the monarchy, with its tactical use of fearmongering, has yet to apologise for its role in the bloody persecution. Even before his ascension to the throne, King James VI of Scotland (I of England) wrote the influential anti-witch treatise, *Daemonology* (1597). The book was cited in multiple witch trials and established the practice of child witnesses when in 1612 a lawyer used it to validate the testimony of a nine-year-old child in the trials of the Pendle witches. *Daemonology* established new norms for child witnesses that went beyond Great Britain and were even used in the Salem witch trials.

Some may remember King James VI from secondary school English lessons on Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' (1623). Macbeth scholars argue the play was written in part to pander to the witch-hunting King James. The witches presented by Shakespeare eerily imitate the story of Agnes Sampson, a real woman put to death over apparent witchcraft against King James. In Macbeth, the downfall of Scotland comes at the hands of witches, which not only strokes King James' paranoia of witches, but also his narcissistic delusion that he was the devil's 'greatest enemy' on earth. And he was part of a monarchy that (bizarrely) continues today, enjoying multiple perks, like their exemption from inheritance tax or the over £100 million in public support annually – by far the fattest the dole in this country has to offer. Maybe instead of penning an autobiography of his oscillating todger, Prince Harry ought to have directed his Pulitzer Prize-winning ghost writer to pen the apology, and the Royals could have had some good press for a change.

But instead, the attention went to Sturgeon. To the devolved Scottish Parliament only opened in 1999. I find it hard to see why this government – and especially Sturgeon, the first woman to hold the position of first minister – should inherit the crimes of the church and the monarchy.

The secular Scottish government should be forever done falling on their sword for Crown or Church, those relics of an abusive misogynist colonial empire, and the oscillating penises of their publicly supported descendants. Let's hope that the new first minister of Scotland – whether it be Yousaf, Forbes, or Reagan, will put pressure where it belongs.

KANT, A VERY BRIEF SUMMARY

Aoife Stewart

Kant, a Prussian philosopher with a pivotal role in moral philosophy has been long spoken of since his works in the late 18th century. Why was his work important at the time of its publication, and why is it still important now?

Kant's work emerged shortly after Bentham's release of the theory of 'Utilitarianism', where the greatest good for the greatest number determines morality. Kant argued against consequentialism, and instead argued that deontology – the belief in duty – was the foundation on which to base all morality.

Emmanuel Kant's work poses a very typically Christian set of morals; believing that "the only good without qualification is the good will". His philosophical compass is relatively simple to follow, focusing not on the end result, but only on the intention while making the decision. At first glance, this philosophy seems fair and just, and would appear to appeal to the best within all, creating a society full of thoughtful and empathetic people. However when delving only a little into consideration, there are many practical difficulties which surface. The first being the fact that perhaps consequence is of more importance than Kant suggests. Kant, for example, might theoretically agree that the consequence of enabling the death of a friend – simply to respect the maxim of not lying to the murderer asking for the same friend's whereabouts – is morally right. Most people, however, would see it as quite plain that a small lie leading to a greater positive outcome would be morally preferable.

Kant, speaking of moral maxims (rules or duties which are morally correct, regardless of circumstance), also does not lay out in his work what exactly the bounds of these are. Some may be seen as self evident, for example the maxim of life preservation, or the maxim not to steal, however morality is to some extent subjective. This creates yet another issue.

What about utilitarianism?

Utilitarianism is much more brutal in its terms of what morality actually is. Bentham's Utilitarianism does not distinguish much difference between animals and humans in the way which Kant does, as evident in the search for the greatest extent of pleasure. In a characteristically primitive manner, Bentham describes pain and pleasure as our 'Sovereign Masters'. Quite simply, we judge each situation by the resulting comfort or discomfort, and even if everyone involved agrees that ruthless murder of innocent lives will bring them immense pleasure, Bentham would then argue that the action is morally correct. See the issue?

Essentially, it can be extremely difficult – if not impossible – to come to a final conclusion on one certain area of philosophy which has the fewest fundamental flaws. Kant's work certainly is not flawless, however a firm believer in Kant will surely develop a sense of the utmost importance of human lives, and allows actions to be thought through in a manner of thoroughness, aiming to treat human beings "never merely as a means to an end, but always at the same time as an end".

Primary School Cake

Lauren Humphries

In honour of International Women's Day, this week I made a primary school cake dedicated to my favourite primary school teacher, Miss Wotherspoon. She was a dedicated woman and always encouraged us to be ourselves and be kind to others. This kindness inspired me to follow in her footsteps and become a primary school teacher too! I hope to educate and encourage children just as Miss W did for me.

Ingredients:

Cake

175g unsalted butter
(room temp) 175g
golden caster sugar
175g self raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp vanilla extract
3 eggs
2 tbsp milk of choice

Icing

150g unsalted butter
(room temp) 400g icing
sugar
Splash of vanilla extract



Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C, line a deep baking tray with greaseproof paper.
2. Add all cake ingredients into a large bowl and mix until the mixture is of dropping consistency.
3. Pour cake mixture into prepared baking tray.
4. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until sponge is golden brown and springy to touch.
5. Remove cake from baking tray leave to cool on a cooling rack for 15 minutes.
6. Mix icing ingredients together in a large bowl.
7. Spread icing onto sponge and toss some sprinkles onto the top of the cake.
8. Enjoy!

Women in Economics

Zara Taylor

A career in economics can often feel out of reach for women. Imagined or otherwise, the stereotype of a pseudo-intellectual man ready to scoff and sneer at your ideas can deter many. This Wednesday a group of F4-6 were fortunate enough to be part of an online workshop, chaired by Arthi Nachiappan, in which 5 female panellists described their career journeys in economics.

The first panellist, Shruti, detailed her journey across sectors and countries from academia to big tech. A major point she stressed was the problem solving aspect of economics. "How do we optimise delivery services, which products should we be stocking more of?" These were examples of the type of data analysis questions she gets posed as an economic analyst for Amazon. As an amateur statistician, I found myself fascinated at the idea of using the models and confidence interval calculations we had learned about in class to help answer these questions. Shruti then went on to detail how in a typical week she could be advising business managers whilst also actualising ideas with engineers, exemplifying how economics has the unique strength of being at the cross section of a multitude of different subjects. Her concluding advice was to be open, flexible and that having a wide skill-set will take you far in her field.

The next panellist was a degree apprentice, attending the University of Kent and working with the Bank of England. Annabelle went into great detail about the role of her department, describing how they use economic models to devise plans to mitigate the damage of climate change, again depicting how multi-disciplined economics can be. She stressed how pivotal it is to believe in yourself and that it's okay to follow the non-linear path.

Panellist 3 was Kate from the Fraser of Allander Institute. I found her undergraduate focus on the reproductive rights and choices of women from an economic point of view a particularly poignant. With her evident passion for gender economics and equality, she encouraged us to pursue a career in something we truly cared about and to never be ashamed or apologetic when asking questions or trying to understand a situation.

Like Panellist 2, Charlotte is also a degree apprentice. She works at Foreign Development and Common Wealth Office, analysing the development of countries across the globe and how to manage pre-existing international relationships. She gave examples of how her office had analysed current affairs such as the War in Ukraine or if China can sustain its growth. She spoke about how make a difference and touching so many lives makes her job fulfilling. Her advice was to always have confidence in yourself.

The final panellist was Matilde, a KPMG economic analyst. Similar to prior speakers economics has given her the opportunity to combine the different subjects she was interested in and to travel the world. Whilst researching at a think tank in Italy she got to analyse economic decisions on a regional and European level, stressing how economics effects everyone and how every person makes economic decisions. This is another reason why I believe diversity at the top is so critical as the decisions being made effect you and I and every single person in society. Her biggest piece of advice was to not be intimidated by preconceived notions. Economics is not all old white men in suits, and these stereotypes can discourage girls before they even begin.

Questions for the panel:

How can we remove the gender biased view of economics from a young age?

Shruti: There needs to be a reframing of what economics is, it's viewed as all about macroeconomics but ultimately it's about understanding society and the incentives that drive those actors.

Kate: so many of the decisions that are made influence the social and political and they are made through economics. It's touches everything that we do. When Male dominated teams make these decisions, it does not reflect society

Panellist: I feel economic uncertainty creates a resurgence to understand economics and the problems we are experiencing, people want to have economic agency and power and we should use this to propagate those minorities

*Corporate challenges?
Experience in the workplace
as a women?*

Annabelle: I've used my unique female perspective as an advantage to bring something new to discussions.

WOMEN IN STEM

Amy Leburn



Personally I have a very strong feeling about women empowerment and feminism. I think that it is so important to break the stigma and show that we all have a value. That is why I am writing this for you, in this article I will be talking about women going into S.T.E.M and why this is important. For those of you who don't know S.T.E.M stands for: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. In these male dominated areas of work some women struggle to shine through and not enough are taking interest. When I chose my subjects in February last

year I was very worried that I was going too 'science heavy' but now that I have started the courses I am so glad that I didn't change them because they are really interesting and will help me in the future massively. I am slightly worried for what the future holds for women because if we don't get into these jobs then we will stay drowned out forever. Now more than ever we need women to take jobs doing these things and have an influence and an input on things like the next new design project or on a building site when a digger is broken. I hope that this has opened everybody's eyes and you think about all of women's options.

Women's Day Quiz

Zara King

EDITOR'S NOTE

Sahar Jafferbhoy

This week's edition is full of inspirational, empowering, and reflective contributions from both pupils and staff. I am proud to be part of a community that is dedicated to aiming for, and achieving, equality not just for the people around us, but also for those who can't speak up for themselves!

*happy
international
women's day!*

THE COLUMNS TEAM

1. Who was the first woman elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?
2. How many grand slams has Serena Williams won?
3. Who is currently America's richest self-made woman and philanthropist, best known for her talk show?
4. Who is the current Vice-President of the USA?
5. What did activist Rosa Parks do in 1955 to spark the civil rights movement?
6. What is the name of the second female prime minister of the United Kingdom?
7. American singer, songwriter and actress Beyonce was born and raised in which city?
8. Who was Time magazine's person of the year 1952?
9. Teenage Pakistani politician Malala Yousafzai was shot in 2021 for what reason?
10. In 2013, Brenda Chapman became the first woman to win an Oscar for Best Animated Feature. Which film did she co-direct?