



# THE COLUMNS



HSD's Newsletter: Issue 76

by pupils; for pupils

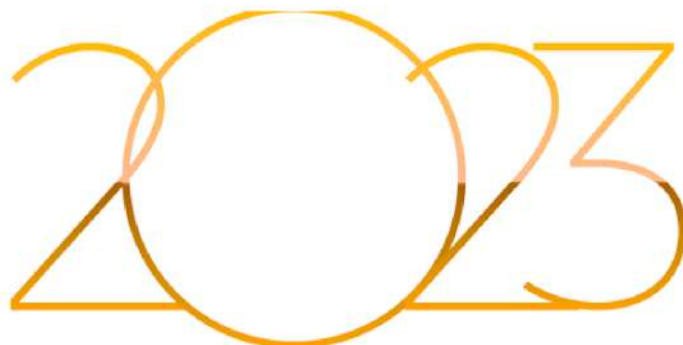
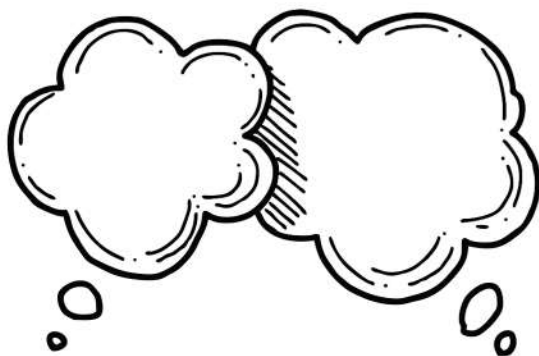
The month of January is always a period of reflection; a look back on the year past, on all the challenges faced, and also on everything that brought peace and happiness. Here are two of the biggest things that 2022 taught me:

Everything is temporary. Although some people say this is a sad thing, it also means that the rubbish stuff won't last forever. The bad days, the fall out with your parents, the feelings of anxiety, and every other unwelcome feeling/situation are not permanent. Sometimes it's too easy to forget that. The hard times you go through are temporary.

'Doing your best' doesn't mean working yourself to a point of a breakdown - at the point that's that's no longer your best. Your best is what you can achieve while taking care of yourself. Your well-being always comes above your grades/sporting success etc. Be okay first. Heal. Take as much time as you need.

Everyone at The Columns wishes you all the very best for 2023!

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



# Book Review: They Both Die At The End

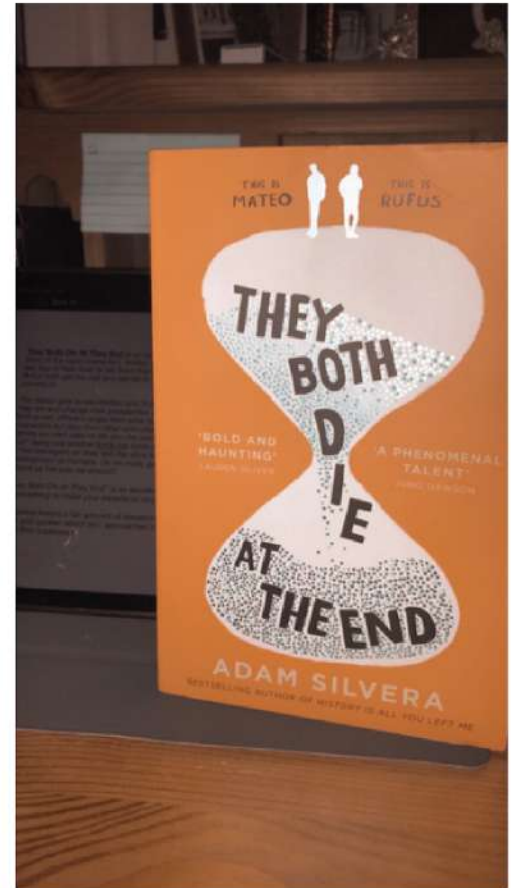
Meagan Dailly

*They Both Die At The End* is an extremely sweet and heartwarming book which follows the story of the main characters, Matteo and Rufus, who live in a world where people get a call on the last day of their lives to tell them that they will die at some point in the next 24 hours. Matteo and Rufus both get the call and decide to spend their last day making each other their new friend and go on one last adventure.

The reader gets to see Matteo and Rufus' character development as they grow to accept who they are and change their perspective on so many things because they begin to see the world from a very different angle from what they're used to. The blunt narrative not only from the main characters but also from other side characters who have received the death-call force readers to rethink our own take on life and the world around us. The expectation of *They Both Die At The End* being just another book-tok book is very misleading because at the heart of the adventures of two teenagers on their last day alive is a philosophical question which is crucial to our own development as humans; Do we really get what we want from life and value the world and people around us the way we should?

*They Both Die At The End* is an excellent read whether you are looking for an excuse not to revise or something to make your parents stop telling you to get off your phone.

The rating is a 12+ since there's a fair amount of innuendo, and the theme of death is constant, shown in brutal ways and spoken about and approached in a very bleak, matter- of-fact way which some readers might find unpleasant.





# NATIONALITY IN SPORTING TOURNAMENTS!

Izzy Clark



Global, multinational sporting events are some of the biggest spectacles available. Athletes from around the world compete for titles and records, and fans watch with bated breathes. But when the medals are won, it is not the athletes themselves who get to gloat - it is the countries. Athletes compete under a team - whether that be a country or a committee - but that's not new information, or of particular interest. What's fascinating is when they change. Athletes can legally change the country/committee (usually referred to as their National Olympic Committee, or NOC) they play for. Changing one's NOC does not equate to changing one's citizenship, and the rules for this can be wildly different. Interestingly, whilst there are usually agreed to be 196 countries, there are over 200 NOCs. Non-country NOCs include the cities of Hong Kong and Macau in China, as well as the territories of the British Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Puerto Rico, and geopolitical entities of varying levels of recognition such as Taiwan (who compete as Chinese Taipei) and Kosovo. As well as this, there exists a Refugee Team, either for those for whom it is unsafe to compete within their country, or for those whose NOCs have been dissolved, as in the case of the Soviet Union, the Netherlands Antilles, and Curacao.

So why would you want to change? Athletes change their NOCs for a variety of reasons. As previously mentioned, some athletes are refugees and may not wish to compete for their former country of residence. Furthermore, if you are changing from the NOC of one sovereign nation to that of another, you must legally become a citizen of your new NOC country before changing the country you compete for. This can be as easy as a financial donation to a country such as Turkey or Malta, or as difficult as living in Qatar or the UAE for 30 years. There is an easy way around the tricky problem of gaining a new citizenship - having it in the first place. Many countries allow for residents to hold dual citizenships, given to a child through one of two ways: jus soli (right of birth) or jus sanguinis (right of parents). For a example, a child born to one American parent and one Brazilian parent living in Canada would receive 3 citizenships, as both Brazil and the USA grant citizenship to the children of citizens, and Canada grants citizenship based on location of birth, regardless of parents. Athletes with dual citizenship may choose to compete for their other country of legal citizenship for political reasons, or simply because they think they will achieve more competing for another country, perhaps as part of a more successful national team, or partnered with a skilled athlete from that other country.

Some famous examples of athletes changing their NOCs include freestyle skier Eileen Gu, who switched from the USA to China, basketball player Becky Hammon switching from the USA to Russia, cross-country runner Norah Jeruto Taniu switching from Kenya to Kazakhstan, freestyle skier Gus Kenworthy changing from the USA to the UK, and footballer Owen Hargreaves, who switched from Canada to England. Other athletes who could change their nationalities include UK skateboarder Sky Brown, who also holds both Japanese and American citizenship, and runner Mo Farah, who could run for Britain or Somalia. At the end of the day, whilst it can sometimes feel like sport is all about politics, it's important to remember that, no matter the flag that flies, these are incredible athletes nonetheless.



# A NEW LEADER...

Jack Mitchell



After the announcement of the surprise resignation of the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, on the 19th of January, the British press barely returned to the Antipodean area. On the 22nd of January, a new Prime Minister walked into Premier House in Wellington, the official Presidential residence. The man: Chris Hipkins, former Health Secretary during COVID and, more recently, Minister for Police. He was the only candidate for the leadership election and was unopposed.

New Zealand has generally been lauded by the rest of the world for their quick and harsh response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This meant that COVID cases in New Zealand were incredibly low and the death rate was also impressive. However, due to this harsh response, the economy took a beating. 2022 was a terrible year in terms of popularity for politicians worldwide. Jacinda Ardern was no different. Her popularity, which had been incredibly high, had been in decline since mid-2020 and plummeted last year. Jacinda said she didn't have 'enough in the tank' to do her job justice. She said she would spend more time with her family. Jacinda decided to leave on a high rather than perhaps lose the next election in October.

Hipkins was Minister of Health for a few months during mid-2020 after the previous minister resigned. After his short spell as Health Secretary, Hipkins was appointed as Minister for COVID Response. He also held the role of Health Secretary from 2017 to this year. From 2022 to his appointment as PM, Chris Hipkins was Minister for Police.

He was also Leader of the House of Representatives for the entirety of Jacinda Ardern's premiership, from 2017 to January of this year. He has been the Member of Parliament for Remutaka since 2008. The New Zealand Labour Party, the party of Hipkins and Ardern, will be hoping that their new leader is just as popular as their last at peak and that they do well in the general election, set to be on the 14th of October this year. They have already seen a boost in the opinion polls after Ardern's sudden departure. He said that the premiership would be 'the biggest responsibility and the biggest privilege' of his life. When asked by reporters if he could win the upcoming election, he replied: 'Yes'.

As Prime Minister of New Zealand, it is expected Chris Hipkins will attend the coronation of King Charles the Third later this year.



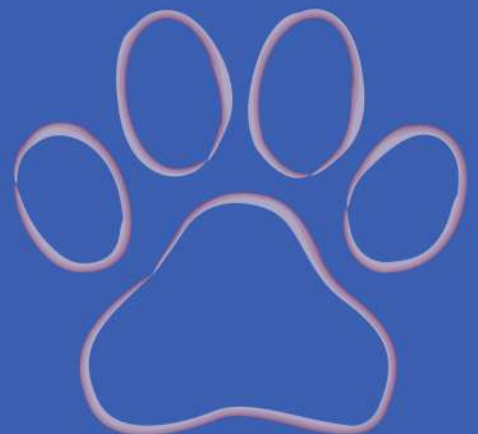


# 10 PAWSOME FACTS

Maisey Lafollette

Dogs are widely known as man's best friend and have been around for a long time. Though some people don't know that much about them.

1. We humans all have unique fingerprints. Well, dogs have different nose prints.
  2. Many people say that dogs are colourblind when in reality they can see both yellow and blue.
  3. The Beatles are a very popular band and one of their songs is named 'A Day in the Life', according to Paul McCartney they added a frequency that only our canine friends can hear.
  4. The sinking of the Titanic was a tragedy but thank goodness that three dogs from first class survived they were a Pekingese, a Pomeranian and a Pomeranian puppy which its owners put in a blanket to take with them.
  5. Many people (including me) have said that they have the stupidest dog alive; well dogs have the intelligence of the average two-year-old. They can understand at least 150 words and trick people to get treats (mine have done that several times.)
  6. It is common knowledge that a dog wags its tail when it is happy but not many know that there is a wagging language. Wagging to the right means they are happy, when they wag low that means they are nervous, to the left means they are scared and when they wag with tense muscles that can be a warning of aggression.
  7. More than half of the U.S.A Presidents owned dogs: Calvin Coolidge had at least 12 furry friends.
  8. The oldest dog to ever live lived for 29.5 years from 1910-1939. His name was Bluey and he was an Australian cattle dog.
  9. Having a dog can help your mental health as when you pet it for 15 minutes it can help lower your blood pressure by 10%.
  10. I love dogs as much as the next person but in the town of Idyllwild, California a golden retriever named Max was elected mayor in 2012, and when he died in 2013, Max II was elected after him.
- Dogs truly are man's best friend they help our health, can listen to music and lead a town, (my dog would institute a mandatory tax to pay for treats.)





# Oil Industry Economics

Co-deputy Editor, Zara Taylor

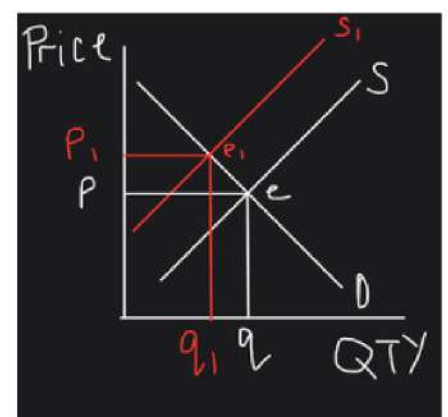
An alliance with a supposed hegemony on the oil industry, unabashedly placing their own profits above all else, OPEC (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) is a cartel comprised of 13 nations. They have control over around 60% of internationally traded oil and have been widely criticised by the West for their ability to manipulate oil prices. Its capacity to collude means that member states can agree to purposefully decrease output, reducing aggregate supply in the industry and artificially pushing up prices. (1) Since we cannot function without oil, even if prices were to increase rapidly we have no practical substitute to power our homes, hospitals, and factories, so we must continue to consume it, regardless of the tribulations it may pose to national finances. In other words, our demand for oil is inelastic (unresponsive to price changes).

Within the UK this type of collusion is illegal and would range from difficult to impossible for firms to actually carry out. It requires a huge amount of cooperation, which is fine for OPEC as each country's oil industry is nationalised so their governments have complete control over production, however, in competitive markets with possibly thousands of different firms this would be incredibly challenging. Each individual firm would have an incentive to betray the others and increase output to capitalise on the increased price per unit, a situation depicted by the Prisoner's Dilemma. Trust would be non-existent, as would enforcement as a firm could not sue another for breaching the terms of their illegal collusive agreement. Thus, in competitive markets where collusion is illegal, it is also unlikely to occur in this form. Returning to OPEC, it is protected by sovereign immunity (at least for now) which allows it to so overtly collude, meeting bi-annually to analyse the market and to determine quotas for each country; the aim to always maximise and create a bountiful profit. In 2008, OPEC cut output in response to a plummeting price per barrel, its slump at 40 USD per barrel. This was a highly effective strategy that resulted in the price per barrel recovering to more than 100 USD per barrel by 2011.

Yet the alliance does not come without its challenges. Firstly, it also faces the issue of trust. In a competitive market, we assume that no one firm has an extremely large share of the market (because if they did they could use their size to create barriers to entry, resulting in a market that wasn't competitive). However, although OPEC consists of 13 countries, not all possess the same level of market share. If Saudi Arabia wanted to exceed their agreed-upon quotas and produce more barrels, with their >10% of global oil supply, that would expand out aggregate supply and lower price, likely creating an adverse effect on total revenue. Yet, if a smaller OPEC member wanted to increase output beyond their quotas, the small marginal effect this would have on the price means there are large rewards to be had for breaking their agreement. Cheating has been a prevalent issue for OPEC throughout its history and it's also hard to combat with no repercussion mechanism. Additionally, the power of OPEC will likely dwindle as technology advances. This can already be seen by the rising market share of the US due to fracking becoming economically viable. The optimist in me also likes to imagine a greener future in which the rise of clean energy means oil is a thing of the past.

2022 was a year plagued by rapid inflation fuelling a whole host of issues in economies across the world. There is only so much a central bank can do with interest rates or a government can do with the fiscal policy before a tanked economy becomes a bigger issue than the inflation they were trying to combat. It's no surprise there has been more momentum in the likes of Germany and the US to combat OPEC and the imported inflation they inject into nations.

Aggregate supply is generally defined as, "a measure of the total volume of goods and services produced in the economy over a given time period," depicted by the supply curve. When OPEC colludes to limit the number of oil barrels sold, this causes the supply curve to shift to the left. This means there will be a new market equilibrium, and critically for OPEC and the rest of the world, prices will rise from  $P$  to  $P_1$ .





# Ryan Johnson and Subversion of Expectations

India Simpson

A valuable skill for anyone in life is recognising your own mistakes and being able to fix them in the future, but it is an especially valuable skill for professional filmmakers. Unfortunately, it's not an especially common one. One strong example, however, of a filmmaker recognising and fixing their mistakes is Ryan Johnson. After the practical failure of *The Last Jedi* in meeting fans' expectations and what was needed of the film, Johnson needed to up his game for his next feature. He looked into what went wrong with *The Last Jedi*, which was issued in the execution of plot and character and, primarily, that it badly subverted people's expectations of a highly anticipated film. His failed subversion of expectations in *The Last Jedi* makes it fascinating that his next film, *Knives Out*, was centred around it. The subversion of expectation in *Knives Out* is incredibly executed. So, why did Johnson's subversion in *Knives Out* work, while it's generally accepted to not have worked in *The Last Jedi*?

In *The Last Jedi*, Johnson created the subversion by undermining important aspects of the plot and character to promote a singular moment of shock in the audience at the subversion. He sacrificed the quality of the film and storyline for the shock factor. So, what was different in *Knives Out*? Well, Johnson realised that a well-executed subversion need not undermine the quality of the film, and should, in fact, enhance the plot. In order to have an effective subversion, you must ensure it does these three fundamental things: enhance your story going forward, have verisimilitude relating to the story's logic as of before the subversion, and must also make sense to the audience as in it is in keeping with the guarantees you have made about the film. And, while *The Last Jedi* doesn't meet any of these fundamentals, *Knives Out* meets them all. In *Knives Out*, the main subversion is the plot twist which occurs a third into the movie. This subversion completely changes the genre of the film, because while the whole first act and the advertising set this movie out to be a whodunnit, a third of the way in, the audience finds out who did. It is no longer a whodunnit, and the expectations of the audience are subverted. However, it also opens up new avenues and develops and enhances the plot of the film going forward. By the end of the first act, the audience knows who killed Harlan Thromby, and all the questions are seemingly answered. It is now instead of trying to figure out who killed him, trying to figure out how Marta is going to get away with it. This subversion works especially well because of how Johnson utilises the tropes of the whodunnit genre. The factors which would normally push the detective closer to the truth in a whodunnit, have become the antagonist in this movie as Marta figures out how to cover her tracks. As Marta is likeable and kind and killed Thrombey by accident, the audience is rooting for her, and against the typical tropes of a murder mystery. In all murder mysteries, the detective always, always, finds out the killer. They stand around a room in the denouement, go over the suspects and the clues, and at the end, reveal the killer. The exploitation of the typical tropes of the genre mean that the audience truly believe that the detective will catch up to Marta, and find out what happened, because the detective always does. This, coinciding with how the audience are rooting for Marta, compel the audience to really engage with the film. Johnson manages to exploit and weaponise the tropes of the film's own genre. This is how Johnson manages to enhance the plot with his use of the subversion of expectations.

The subversion also meets the second fundamental. This means that the subversion must make perfect logical sense, in context of all the other logic surrounding it. Often this comes in the forms of devices such as foreshadowing when the subversion is a traditional plot twist.



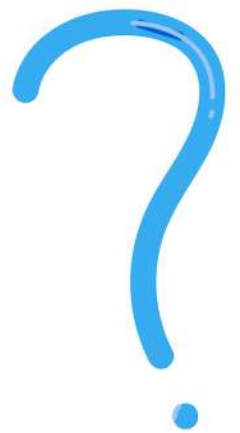
In The Last Jedi, Luke throwing his lightsaber away doesn't meet this fundamental because it completely goes against everything the audience know about Luke's character, so it doesn't make logical sense in the story because of what we know about his character. So, in actuality, a subversion can be very effective without foreshadowing if it fits in well with the logic of the story, while if it doesn't fit in with the logic or the story, foreshadowing doesn't make it any less disconnected. The best kinds of foreshadowing make the ending incredibly cathartic for the audience as they realise they could have worked it out, yet the clues are so subtle that it would be impossible to know without prior knowledge of the plot. This means it has to be perfectly obvious in retrospect, but completely inconspicuous beforehand. This means it won't be too obvious to predict nor nonsensical. In Knives Out, Johnson does this by very carefully deciding the order in which the clues are revealed to the audience.

The final fundamental is probably the biggest issue viewers had with The Last Jedi. Promises were made to the audience beforehand, such as that whilst Rey's parents are unknown, who they were was going to be consequential. Yet, despite the anticipation for this answer to this mystery, Johnson instead throws in that they were nobody important. It achieves nothing for the storyline, it doesn't enhance the plot and most importantly, it breaks the promise that this was going to be crucial. It simply disappoints the audience. In Knives Out, Johnson is very careful not to do this. Instead, he lets you think that he's broken his promise by switching the around the very fundamentals of the whodunnit the audience believed the film was going to be, but he then, at the very end, it runs back around to the whodunnit. Despite the audience thinking the promise was broken, it was no longer a whodunnit, Johnson manages to bring the classic murder mystery denouement into play at the end as detective Benoit Blanc reveals who the real killer was. He ties up the plot of Marta's escape with her getting caught and the detective working it out, but brings the story back to keep his other promise, and completes the whodunnit too, resulting in an incredibly cathartic ending.

Ryan Johnson's journey from The Last Jedi to Knives Out is one that speaks vastly of improvement and fixing mistakes. From a widely criticised movie to one of the most popular movies of the current day, Johnson shows how somebody can improve as a writer and director by understanding their mistakes. In doing so, he also creates what I believe to be one of the best subversion of expectations, or simply one of the best plot twists, of all time.

## Quiz of the Week!

Zara King



1. How many ml in a litre?
2. Name one of Peter Rabbit's sisters?
3. What is a baby goat called?
4. What is the capital city of Italy?
5. Which planet is known for having a ring around it?
6. What is the bird's name in Mister Maker?
7. Who is Batman's crime fighting partner?
8. What is the distance around a circle called?
9. In what country would I find Michelangelo's famous statue of David?
10. What is the name of the toy cowboy in Toy Story?



# JANUARY TRANSFER WINDOW

Prithvi Sudarshan



The 2023 January transfer window has come to an end. Here are some of the biggest transfers that have taken place this month.

Manchester City left back Joao Cancelo has gone on loan to Bayern Munich with a buy option for £70 million for the German club. Cancelo stated he was looking for a different opportunity after he wasn't getting enough game time.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Manchester United mutually agreed to terminate his contract. He moved to Al Nassr as a free agent signing a 2.5 year contract worth £161 million per year, including sponsorships.

3 time Champions League winner Keylor Navas has gone on loan to newly promoted Nottingham Forest after being the second choice keeper behind Donnaruma at PSG.

Marcel Sabitzer of Bayern Munich has gone on loan to Manchester United to replace Christian Eriksen who is out for an ankle injury that rules him out from playing until spring.

Arnaut Danjuma went on loan from Villarreal to Tottenham after a hectic hijack. Everton had flown him in, completed his medical and media, but Tottenham swooped in and offered to pay Danjuma's full salary during the loan period. This was a better offer than Everton so Villarreal accepted before Everton had signed the contract papers.

## Other transfers

Weston McKennie from Juventus → Leeds on loan

Joao Felix from Atletico Madrid → Chelsea on loan

Anthony Gordon from Everton → Newcastle for £45 million

Leandro Trossard from Brighton → Arsenal for £27 million

Noni Madeuke from PSV → Chelsea for £29 million

Mykhailo Mudryk from Shakhtar Donetsk → Chelsea for £88.5million

Cody Gakpo from PSV → Liverpool £35-45 million





# A Brief History of Neoliberalism

While neo-liberalism originally emerged in the 1930s, a significant resurgence was seen in the 1970s, with Carter, Reagan and Thatcher at the forefront of the successful attempt to revive classical liberal ideals, which were aligned with their right-wing governments. Disturbingly, this ideology was not adopted exclusively by democracies, with far-right dictators such as Augusto Pinochet in Chile also using neo-liberalism to make policy decisions. Surprisingly, traditionally left-leaning mainstream political parties also embraced neoliberalism, particularly under the Clinton administration in the United States and the Blair government in the United Kingdom. Unusually, this broke the traditional economic polarization of the parties, making some of the most contentious fiscal decisions bipartisan issues. Since then, almost every US and UK prime minister has backed the ideology, almost as if to prove Margaret Thatcher's theory that "there is no alternative".

Broadly Neoliberalism can be defined as 'the policy of supporting a large amount of freedom for the markets, with little government control or spending, and low taxes'. Notably, it favours deregulated markets and believes that the markets themselves can create a philosophy, often creating new markets through the privatisation of social services (such as the privatisation of British Telecom in 1984) to satisfy this need. More recently, neoliberalism has meant finding market solutions to everything, like the carbon trading market that allows companies to purchase the 'right' to pollute. While there are many contemporary aspects to neo-liberal thought, its origins are found in classical liberal theory championed by Robbins and Hayek. They argued that "those who advocated large-scale public spending programs to cure unemployment were inviting not just uncontrollable inflation but political tyranny." This statement was in opposition to Keynesian economic theory that advocated for state intervention. The neoliberal model focused on the individual, deflecting responsibility away from the collective – undermining ideas at the very core of democracy. The positions of Hayek and Robbins applied the kind of thought process found in Victorian-era books like 'self-help' to the state. They emphasised personal responsibility over the well-being of all. This individualist focus distils the privileges of race, gender, and ability into class privilege (as seen in Freakonomics, where the authors trace racism to money-based discrimination). The definition of freedom under neoliberalism is freedom of the market, where consumers can choose how to spend their wages and the role of government is to facilitate the maximum function of the market. To achieve this, trade unions must be weakened, corporations afforded greater power, and the government has to step back, now a secondary actor concerning the markets.



# Vegan Shepherd's Pie Recipe

Amy Leburn

## Ingredients:

- 600 g Maris Piper potatoes
- 600 g sweet potatoes
- 40 g dairy-free margarine , (or use butter or margarine if you're not vegan)
- 1 onion
- 2 carrots
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 2 sticks of celery
- 1 tablespoon coriander seeds
- olive oil
- 1/2 a bunch of fresh thyme , (10g)
- 350 g chestnut mushrooms
- 12 sun-dried tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- vegan red wine , (or regular red wine if you're not vegan), optional
- 100 ml vegetable stock
- 1 x 400 g tin of lentils
- 1 x 400 g tin of chickpeas
- 5 sprigs of fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary
- 1 lemon
- 30 g fresh breadcrumbs



## Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/gas 6.
2. Peel and chop all the potatoes into rough 2cm chunks. Place the Maris Pipers into a large pan of cold salted water over a medium heat. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 10 to 15 minutes, or until tender, adding the sweet potatoes after 5 minutes.
3. Drain and leave to steam dry, then return to the pan with the margarine and a pinch of sea salt and black pepper. Mash until smooth, then set aside.
4. Peel and finely slice the onion, carrots and 2 garlic cloves, then trim and finely slice the celery.
5. Bash the coriander seeds in a pestle and mortar until fine, then add it all to a medium pan over a medium heat with a good splash of oil. Pick in the thyme leaves, then cook for around 10 minutes, or until softened.
6. Meanwhile, roughly chop the mushrooms and sun-dried tomatoes, then add to the pan along with the vinegar and 2 tablespoons of the sun-dried tomato oil from the jar.
7. Cook for a further 10 minutes, then add a splash of wine, if using, turn up the heat, and allow it to bubble away. Stir in the stock, lentils and chickpeas (juice and all), then leave it to tick away for 5 to 10 minutes, or until slightly thickened and reduced.
8. Pick and roughly chop the parsley leaves, then stir into the pan. Season to taste, then transfer to a baking dish (roughly 25cm x 30cm).
9. Spread the mash over the top, scuffing it up with the back of a spoon.
10. Finely slice the remaining garlic clove, then place into a bowl with the rosemary leaves, lemon zest, breadcrumbs and 1 tablespoon of oil. Mix well, sprinkle over the mash, then place in the hot oven for around 10 minutes, or until piping hot through.
11. Place under the grill for a further 2 to 3 minutes, or until golden, then serve with seasonal greens



# The Return of Mrs Watson's Weekly Jokes

Knock Knock  
*Who's there?*

Icy.

Icy who?

*Icy a February snowstorm coming!*

If January threw a parade would February  
march?

*No, but April may!*

What is at the end of February?  
"Y."

How many seconds are in a year?  
*12! January second, February second,  
March second...*

Knock, knock  
*Who's there?*

Gladys.

*Gladys who?*

Gladys February. How about you?

Student: Can I go to the bathroom?

*Teacher: It's "may".*

Student: No, it's February!

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Sahar Jafferbhoy

*Prelims are finally over and there's only a week till the holidays - I would like to say I'm looking forward to sleeping and watching TV but realistically I'll probably be redrafting dissertations... Congratulations to the HSD U18 Indoor Midland Champs, and to our Open Netball Team who have reached the last 16 of the Scottish Schools Cup!*

*happy friday!*