



THE COLUMNS

HSD's newsletter: Issue 68

by pupils; for pupils

From the spooktakular Halloween dress down day to the Hollywood Ball last night, this week has certainly been busy. Form 5&6 raised over £1400 for Maggie's last night in style dressed to the nines. Maggie's is an amazing charity which collects money towards cancer research, funding life-saving projects. Thank you to everyone who attended last night!

Editor-in-Chief, Sahar Jafferbhoy

Make me Prime Minister: A Review

Jack Mitchell

Labour's Alastair Campbell (former spokesman and director of communications under PM Tony Blair) and Conservative Sayeeda Warsi (Co-Chairperson of the Conservative Party from 2010-12) have come together to host Channel 4's Make Me Prime Minister which has, over six weeks, whittled down the 12 candidates until one person was finally named as the alternative Prime Minister. The show has been criticised as being a 'rip-off' of The Apprentice, a BBC show which, like this programme, has a number of candidates who battle for a top job (this time being tycoon Alan Sugar's business partner).

The similarities are obvious, but I believe that the way that the show is composed is very different and that the reasons that candidates have for participating in each programme are worlds apart. Warsi and Campbell provide a reason to watch the show with their very interesting insight into their perceptions of British politics and rival party policies. Over the six episodes candidates have had to face problems such as Health, Crime, Energy, Education, a week of facing crises (such as reasoning with the French after a submarine was lost in their waters and large protests) and, in the final week, managing their own Prime Ministerial campaign.

Only three candidates made it to the final: Natalie, Kelly and Holly. The finalists then set up their policies which were: Kelly – Provide housing for everyone in need; Holly – solve institutionalised racism; Natalie – make tax-avoiding foreign corporations pay their fair share. They then participated in a hustings-type debate hosted by Krishnan Guru-Murphy in front of an audience who would go on to vote for who they believed to be the best candidate. In the end, Natalie was announced as Channel 4's Alternative Prime Minister with 52% of the vote. Runner-up Kelly received 27% of the vote with Holly in third with 21%. I thoroughly enjoyed the show but would advise keeping younger siblings clear as candidates tend to let slip the odd profanity whilst under stress.

Bonfire Night!!

Maisey Lafollette

*Remember, remember, the 5th of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot.*

I see no reason

Why gunpowder treason

Should ever be forgot.

*Guy Fawkes, Guy Fawkes, 'twas his intent To blow up the King
and the Parliament Three score barrels of powder below*

Poor old England to overthrow

By God's providence he was catch'd

*With a dark lantern and burning match Holler boys, holler boys,
let the bells ring*

Holler boys, holler boys God save the King!

This is the poem that tells us the story of Guy Fawkes Day but why do we celebrate? Who is Guy Fawkes? When was the event? Why is it important? What happened and how do we celebrate?

On November 5, 1605, Guy Fawkes was one of the main leaders of the group of people who were dissident Catholics who attempted to assassinate King James I of England because they thought that the government were treating Roman Catholics unfairly. Guy Fawkes became the most infamous group member because he was the man in charge of the gunpowder that was supposed to blow up the Houses of Parliament; he was supposed to light it. The plot was foiled on November 4. He was found in the basement of the House of Lords guarding the gunpowder, after a letter received by Lord Monteagle informing him of the plot was reported to the authorities. After the failed plot, the King's policy towards Catholics became harsher introducing an Oath of Allegiance which his subjects had to swear to.

If the gunpowder plot had succeeded it would have killed the majority of the English politicians, most of the royal family, aristocracy and many merchants, and probably would have changed history as we know it. Today, we still commemorate the failed gunpowder plot from 400 years ago. The bonfire night was started to celebrate the survival of the King and Fawkes' demise but today it's mostly an evening hanging out with the family watching some colourful fireworks and keeping warm by the bonfire.

PSA- Stay safe, don't pick up sparklers, only attend organised events- then you can Remember Remember the 5th of November is an entertaining, joyous evening.



SCOTTISH HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS

Izzy Clark

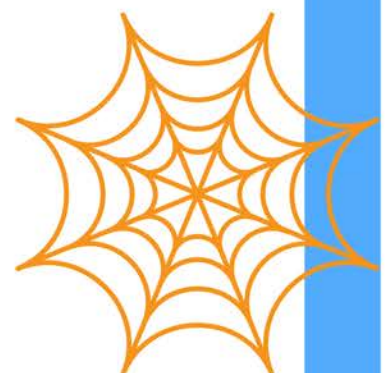


Autumn is now upon us, bringing with it bright colours, a cool breeze in the air, and, of course, Halloween. Much beloved by young and old alike, modern-day Halloween is a heavily- commercialised excuse to be moderately frightening and get sweets and chocolate for free. If you're feeling adventurous, you might carve a pumpkin too. Much of what we now associate with Halloween - monsters, creatures, and orange gourd vegetables - come from American culture. But if we trace back these now-warped cultural roots, we find ourselves once again in Scotland.

Halloween as a celebration dates back all the way to the Celts, the native peoples of the British Isles who inhabited the island before the arrival of the Romans in 54AD. The Celts celebrated Samhain, a festival to mark the end of the summer, a tradition that was once widespread across England, Scotland and Wales, but eventually became synonymous with medieval Scottish culture after Britain became Romanised. Samhain was a celebration of the end of summer and the beginning of winter - an auspicious time when it was said that the borders between the spirit and the mortal world were weakest. Because of this belief, the Celts would extinguish all existing fires in their houses and light new ones (a tradition that seems to have been lost to history), and would carve faces into turnips to make lights with candles that were said to ward off evil spirits.

Trick-or-treating, another popular Halloween tradition in the Western world, comes from the Celts too. Parents would dress their children up so that they would blend in with the spirits, and send them around other people's houses to collect small gifts to ward off evil from them. This was known as "guising". In the modern-day, this practice has been expanded to require something from the child in exchange - usually a joke. One Roman tradition which became apart of Samhain was apple bobbing, which is suspected to come from Roman faith but which became assimilated into Celtic culture to the point where the two are indistinguishable. In this way, Samhain celebrations became linked to those of All Hallow's Eve in England, a largely-Christian celebration. In an attempt to de-paganise the Scots, English Christians incorporated Celtic rituals into their practices without giving proper credit, thus leaving the roots of these traditions lost to history.

It's vitally important to take pride in one's country's traditions and festivals. Scottish Halloween practices and Samhain have been influences on the entirety of Western culture, yet they are lost behind the glittering facade of rampant consumerism and corporate greed. These traditions are a crucial part of Scottish history and culture, and it's important that we remember their origins, so that we can continue to tell these stories that have lasted two thousand years already...



Charity trip to Lebanon

Ananyah Adam

During the October holidays, I'm sure lots of people travelled abroad to sunny places like Spain or Portugal. I, however, went on a charity trip to Lebanon with an amazing charity called World Care Foundation.

World Care Foundation was founded in 2015, in hopes of encouraging humanitarian efforts in order to help anyone in need, no matter their race, religion or gender. It supports people all across the world in places like Turkey, Lebanon, Syria and Pakistan. They create connections with everyone they meet through personal participation. They organise volunteer trips as well, and I was lucky enough to go on one with my family.

On the journey to Lebanon, I was not sure what to expect when I got there because I had only seen adverts about the daily struggles people go through and I had never really understood or appreciated the work charities do. Of course, I had donated money and volunteered at events, but I had never truly known what a difference the money made to people's lives.

On the first day of the trip, we were in Beirut and started the day off in the Salaam School which is a registered school that World Care Foundation set up. This school was especially for orphans from their orphanages who welcomed us into their classes with open arms. We met kids from KG1 all the way through to Grade 9. All of the children learn Arabic, English, Science, Islamic Studies and learn geography and history in their English classes. The classrooms were decorated with beautiful artwork and every teacher was qualified. The children seemed so grateful for their education, unlike a lot of people in first world countries as it is seen as a given and is taken for granted. We then made our way to 3 orphanages. As we walked up the hill, there was a balloon arch and kids were waiting for us there with sweets and flower necklaces for us - it was so cute! They did a show for us and sang songs. Then we had lunch, played games with them, and finally gave them all presents and the widows money. I wanted to take all of them home with me! Every one of them was smiling, giggling and giving us lots and lots of hugs.

When the party finished, we visited them inside their orphanage and heard their stories. I was shocked at how horrible the stories were – fleeing illegally over the mountains, fathers being killed because they were assumed to be part of the Free Syria Army, living on the streets, and choosing between food and rent for years on end. I could not believe that the children were so smiley after all of the trauma they went through. They were all so thankful for World Care Foundation and said that they finally have a safe place to call home. That night, I could not stop thinking about the horror those kids have been through whilst we complain about the wifi not being good enough – their electricity can go out at any second due to power shortages!



The second day we headed on to a project called Threads of Care. It is a project which gives widows and divorcees a chance to earn a salary and a sense of independence. They sew beautiful clothes from 9 am – 3 pm. We then went to a shelter which lies somewhere between a refugee camp and an orphanage in terms of quality. We distributed food boxes and sweets, cuddly toys and books for the kids who were practically fighting each other to get to the front of the line. The inside of the building is horrible. The only light, until you enter a home, as natural from the 'windows' – holes in the cracked stone wall. It smelt dusty and despite all of that, all I heard was children giggling and having fun. We visited many homes and heard many stories but one really stuck out to me. It was about a family of 13 people, 2 parents and 11 kids. The 2 older girls worked in agriculture and made around 1 dollar a day. The father was a construction worker and waited at the side of the road for work. One of his children was called Mahmoud and had a brain tumour. The family can not afford the medical bills so his head is getting really big.

The third day we were in Bekkah Valley. It is in between 2 valleys, one of which is right beside Syria. First thing in the morning, we went to the refugee camps. It was horrible. The ground was covered in sharp and spiky rocks which children ran on bare foot. The houses were sheets of plastic held up to wooden sticks and tyres are on the roof so that the 'roof' doesn't blow away. There were no proper toilets. However, there was a clear community, it was like a huge family. We distributed food boxes and winter clothes. It felt rewarding, although I felt guilty about going back to the hotel at the same time. Next, we headed back to the shelters to hand out winter clothes. Some of the kids even remembered our names! After lunch, we went to some orphanages. They greeted us with traditional Arab drums and songs. They gave us necklaces and handmade flowers with our names on them! We played games with them, they took a particular interest in duck duck goose. However, it was more duck duck DUCK!!! Next we visited about 20 homes in the orphanage, all of which gave us food, food and more food. Most of the stories were the same – fleeing illegally, father being bombed in Syria, being moved from camps to orphanages and finally having a sense of safety.

The fourth, and last, day was my favourite. First thing in the morning, we went to a camp and distributed food boxes and bags filled with feminine hygiene. Next, we entered their homes and the quality was appalling but they were such nice people despite all this. Then we went to a salon which was run by girls who had left their education for too long to restart – they gave my sister a cute bun with pink and blue bows. The second half of the day was so fun! We had a giant party with kids from about 5 orphanages. They greeted us singing and gave us flowers and sweets. They prayed Quran for us, sang more nasheeds and did a karate presentation. Then we gave all of them presents and gave the widows money. We had lots of food and played some games.

All of the people we met have been through so much trauma yet they were the happiest, smilest and most welcoming people I have ever seen. Anyone can say that they understand the difficulties people go through, but until you see it with your own eyes, you will never truly realise. We complain about bad wifi, what we had for dinner and how we couldn't stay up late on a school night. People in 3rd world countries have real issues, don't have wifi, are not guaranteed dinner and are so, so grateful for school – if they are lucky enough to go. If our shoes or clothes get too small we can go and buy new ones in bigger sizes but they just have to cope. If we are still hungry we can have another serving of food but they just have to go to bed on their cold, hard floor hungry and miserable. We need to be so much more appreciative of what we have. And maybe donating £2.50 instead of having a coffee or £40 instead of your 10th hoodie. I love everyone I met so much and hope to go back to see them soon.

So please, donate to World Care Foundation by buying second-hand books in the library and change someone's life.

1st XI Scottish Cup

Harriet Vincent

On Wednesday the 26th of October, the 1XI girl's hockey team set off to Glasgow to play Hutchesons Grammar School in the first round of the national cup. The stakes were high and, following the team talk from Mrs Anderson, we were all excited and felt ready to play the tough opponent. The first half began and the HSD side kept much of the possession and created a few chances early on. As nerves began to settle the match remained fast paced and close. The scoreline at half time was 0-0. Going back out with lots of energy, and a growing audience against us, we felt even more determined. After many close calls, for both teams, we were into the final phases of the match. Sadly, on the final touch of the ball Hutchie got a short corner and as the whistle blew, the whole team was allowed to go up to try score the winning goal. With the unlucky goal being scored, Hutchie were through to round two in the cup. Although, now the HSD team is in the national plate and will face other teams who were also out in the first round.





Embracing Autumn

India Simpson



Autumn is a very popular season, generally for one major reason – the aesthetic. A quick search of ‘autumn’ on Pinterest will immediately draw you towards it. The falling leaves, the browns and oranges, the bookshops and headphones, fireplaces and the rain. For the majority of people, however, their Autumn doesn’t completely fit the aesthetic. So, this is a short guide to making the most of your autumn.

Although your Autumn’s weather may not be picture perfect, that is what makes Autumn so inviting. Sit by a window, and look at the natural world. Are the leaves turning red? Or brown, or orange? Is the sky cloudy and dull and musky? Is the rain pouring down just past the pane of glass? My first piece of advice is to pause for a minute, and enjoy the natural world. Keep the shutters open, and try to live your Autumn near the windows.

Autumn is a big season for movies, so what are some of the best for embracing the aesthetic? Any dark academia movies, for example, are perfect. *Dead Poets Society* (1989), *Good Will Hunting* (1997), *Mona Lisa Smile* (2003) etc. Period movies also fit the aesthetic, like *Little Women* (2019), and *Pride and Prejudice* (2005). Whodunnits are popular around autumn too, like *Murder on the Orient Express* (2017), and *Knives Out* (2019). TV shows like *Gilmore Girls* have also often been associated with autumn. Perhaps swapping out some of your normal films genres for the occasional one from these genres might make your autumn feel more like the aesthetic.

Any and all books are included in the Autumn aesthetic, so a big part of embracing Autumn is to read. Some of the best books to fit the aesthetic are the classics, and older books. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde (1890), *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (1818) and *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt (1992) are perfect fits for the autumn aesthetic. But most of all, picking up a book and reading it is one big step towards making the most of your Autumn. If you want to push it a step further, pencil in annotations in the rain, or read it by a fireplace while the rain is pouring down. Visit your most aesthetic local library, or read it by the window.

Warm jumpers, brown trousers, boots, converse, messy hair and headphones can make you feel as if you are the person in the photos you find of Autumn. You can listen to music, read old books, visit old places, watch aesthetic movies and wear aesthetic clothes to embrace the autumn aesthetic. But most importantly, Autumn is already aesthetic. To embrace it, all you have to do is open your eyes and look outside.



Hello
Autumn

Mrs Watson's Thought of the Week

If you ever think English isn't a strange language, just remember that "read" and "lead" rhyme, and "read" and "lead" rhyme, but "read" and "lead" don't rhyme and neither do "read" and "lead"!



EDITOR'S NOTE

Izzy Clark

Halloween has come and gone, with many fabulous and frightening costumes from the entire school. For the Form 5s and 6s, the Hollywood Ball was a sparkling night, with lots of money raised for an excellent cause.

We at The Columns hope everyone has had a fantastic week and has a wonderful weekend :)

happy friday!

THE COLUMNS TEAM