



THE COLUMNS

HSD's newsletter: Issue 53

by pupils; for pupils

The conflict in Ukraine continues to unfold, and at the heart of the situation lies the growing humanitarian crisis. Looking at the news has become a heartbreaking task; images and videos of wounded adults and children are plastered across newspapers and websites. The number of those displaced, the number of those injured and the death toll are escalating rapidly. Homes, schools, water supplies and hospitals have been damaged. Explosives and the threat of further attack are a constant threat to life. Therefore, I urge all of you who are able, to please donate what you can to reputable charities, such as noted in Mrs Hudson's message below.

Editor-in-Chief, Sahar Jafferbhoy



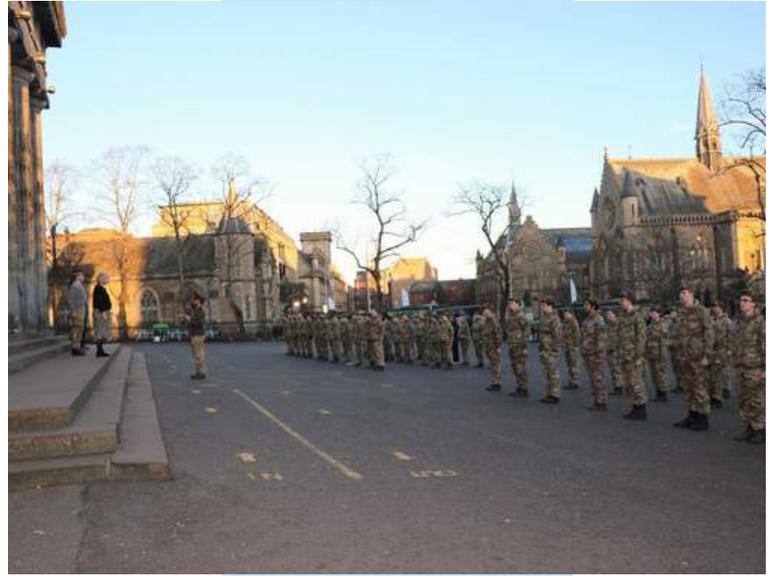
CITYWIDE PUPIL VOICE

Sneha Sripada

Last Tuesday a group of four HSD pupils joined a vibrant community of young people from schools across Dundee for a City Wide Pupil Voice session held at the DCA. The aim of these sessions, is to provide a platform for pupils to share their views on school-life, and to amplify the voices of those who have experienced both the positives and negatives of our education system firsthand. After two years of “no exams” and the additional revision materials being released next week, the main topic of Tuesday’s session was indeed SQA exams. Pupils got into small focus groups to discuss their thoughts and brainstorm ideas to tackle the growing feeling of stress surrounding exams. After discussing and collating ideas on a vision board, each group fed back and took an opportunity to listen to the others’ perspectives. Overall, it was a great opportunity for the four of us, both to contribute and to listen and learn about the ongoing initiatives of local schools (not to mention we also got a chance to see Rae-Yen Song’s striking exhibition at the DCA!). I felt particularly inspired listening to a girl who emphasised the importance of learning not just for the sake of exams, but because of the joy of learning itself. To me, that’s what education should be all about.



HSD This Week In Pictures!



Plants :)

Co-Deputy Editor, Isla Watson



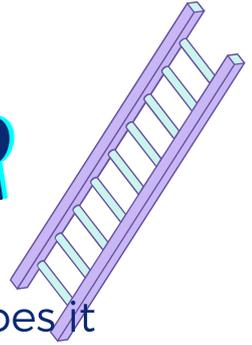
Many people, including me, enjoy keeping house plants. They add some character to rooms

or fill an awkward space that nothing else seems to fit – and there easy to keep too. All they

need is some light and water and they will blossom into your own indoor oasis. But plants don't only brighten up your room, they also have multiple health benefits. The first and most widely known benefit is that they improve your general mood, which is especially important in today's age. This is because humans have strong connections to nature and bringing this nature into your house will make you calmer, more content and, in some cases, they can even improve focus. Caring for your plants can also reduce stress and anxiety as it provides a calming break in your day to water them and even just to look at them.

Houseplants are also good at removing toxins from the air. They don't just convert carbon dioxide into oxygen, they also absorb toxic substances such as formaldehyde, benzene, trichloroethylene, and other pollutants that are often found in the air in our homes and places of work. Additionally, there was a study done at Virginia Tech, which showed researchers that houseplants can reduce indoor dust by up to 20%, meaning that they are efficient air cleaners. Even NASA has done a study that has proved that houseplants are very effective at cleansing the air, hoping that it would prove useful on future space missions. They concluded that the optimum number of plants to have in a 1,800 square-foot house is 15-18. So next time that you are redecorating a room, maybe put a plant to cover up that little bit that doesn't look quite right.

MRS WATSON'S JOKE LADDER



How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?

Ten-tickles

Why do seagulls live by the sea?

Because if they lived by the bay, they'd be called bagels!

Are tectonic plates dishwasher safe?

I'm not sure, but they're great for a continental breakfast!

Why did the yoghurt go to the museum?

Because it was cultured!

How do you organise a space party?

You planet!

EVERYDAY IS A HOLIDAY

Megan Beckham

Saturday March 5th

Multiple Personality Day

Multiple personality day was created to spread awareness about DID, Dissociative Identity Disorder. This is a mental health condition where a person has multiple separate identities, that all have different traits, causing a person to be unsure of self identity, and have unpredictable changes in behaviour.

Sunday March 6th

National Oreo Cookie Day

Oreos turn 110 years old this year. Invented by a food scientist Sam J. Porcello, (and redesigned by William A. Turnier later) Oreos have been selling since 1912 and today are sold in over 100 countries

Monday March 7th

National Flapjack Day

A flapjack is defined as “a sweet dense cake made from oats, golden syrup, and butter, served in rectangles”, and there are millions of different recipes out there that have been modified and perfected over time

Tuesday March 8th

International Women's day

This is a holiday celebrated globally every year on the 8th of March, since it was officially established by the United Nations in 1975. Its purpose is to recognise, celebrate and remember the achievements of women in culture, politics, history, economics, and so on.

Wednesday March 9th

No smoking day

Held on the second Wednesday of March, no smoking day is meant to raise awareness about nicotine addiction, and providing support and help for people who need it.

Thursday March 10th

Bagpipe day

Bagpipes are thought to have originated in Egypt, and then brought up north by Romans invading territories. The first record of bagpipes date back to around 1000 B.C.

Friday March 11th

Take pride in your Middle Name day

Middle names were first created so parents could have less stress of choosing a name for a child, and have a given name with the addition of a family name. This is a holiday that is a part of celebrate your name week, established in 1997

cats vs dogs

Izzy Clark



Are cats really better than dogs? Yes.

I'm entirely biased, of course; I own a cat and have an intense fear of dogs, but my point still stands. 27% of UK households own a cat, in comparison to the 33% who own a dog. But, even though the UK is by and large a dog-loving nation, die-hard cat lovers are still a very vocal minority. So it's time to settle an age-long argument: which is better?

Cats have been domesticated since the Ancient Egyptian times, and were seen as sacred animals. If a family cat died, the owners would be required to shave off their eyebrows in mourning. In contrast, dogs were originally domesticated by Ancient Siberians before migrating Eastwards over the Bering Strait into North America and Westwards throughout Europe and Africa. So dogs are older than cats, but older doesn't always mean better, and which one has done more for us?

Throughout history, cats have been essential for pest reduction. From early agriculture in North Africa to the Black Death in Europe, cats have proven their worth as tried and true rodent exterminators. Unfortunately, this behaviour has also resulted in cats being the cause for the extinction of many species, particularly birds, reptiles and rodents native to uninhabited islands first reached during the Age of Exploration. Dogs have also been used in hunting alongside their owners, and are theorised to be a part of the reason for the extinction of many species such as boars originally found in Britain, although the ecological impact domestic canines have had on the world is significantly less than that of felines.

Cats are relatively low-maintenance animals, and they have been so throughout their history alongside humans. All a cat really needs from humans is usually attention and, so long as you dish out their food and water, a cat will be happy to lounge around in the sun all day, sleep on your bed or hide behind your curtains (don't ask). In contrast, dogs require not just food, water and attention, but also active entertainment, accompaniment on walks and a lot more participation from their owners. Cats are much easier to own than dogs, and are much more self-sustaining and sufficient.

For all I have claimed, it is only fair to give credit to dogs. In society, dogs play important parts in many people's lives, whether as therapy animals, guide dogs or assistive animals, and the roles they play are valuable and life-saving in many cases. However, more injuries are caused by dogs per year than cats, a factor which contributes to my personal fear of all dogs.

Overall, no matter what you believe, pets have been statistically proven to benefit the mind, body and heart of people all across the world, of all ages, backgrounds, cultures and lifestyles.

(Even if cats are the best.)

Hockey Update



2XI - Harriet Vincent

This past Saturday, Mayfield hosted a variety of fixtures, one of which being the 2XI hockey versus St Georges School for girls. Following the Valentine's dance the night before, we still all got there in one piece, ready to play and face a tough opponent. Although Mrs Baxter sadly could not be there, Mrs Anderson stepped in as the umpire and coach and guided us through the match. The game got off to a good start, with HSD gaining much of the possession and dominating the play. For the first ten minutes we struggled to get a goal, although we did have many attempts with shots on goal. After the first goal was scored by Zoe, we were put at ease and took control of the game. During the team talk at half-time, Mrs Anderson gave us strong advice and tips, along with the reassurance and boost we needed to finish the game and secure a win. The second goal scored by Georgia, in the final half, widened the gap between the teams and led us to a victory. Overall, it was a successful match and built up the confidence needed for the 2XI tournament hosted by St Georges in Edinburgh this Saturday.

3XI - Hannah Marnie

Last Saturday, the 3rd XI played at home against St. George's School from Edinburgh and won by an astounding 5-0. It is clear to see we had a strong team on the pitch, with players Sarah Campbell, Hannah Marnie, Hannah Hegarty, Rhonda Byers, Hannah Humble, India Simpson, Rebecca Bonnyman, Hope Barrie, Freya Welch, Darcey Brown, Imogen Kemlo, Poppy Rawson, Laris Spence, and Sawyer McInnes. Everyone worked well as a team, and the win really boosted the team's spirits. Hoping for another good result next weekend as the 3rd XI play Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools.



World Book Day!



Maisey Lafollette

World Book Day is a day celebrating books and reading to help encourage children to read more and to enjoy the escapism of books. It has been celebrated since 1995 and is still popular today. In America it is known as Read Across America; in the UK and Ireland it's a charity event known as World Book Day; it is also celebrated in 100 other countries.

High School of Dundee's favourite books

You can pick up a book, relax, escape and enjoy.

Harry Potter by J.K Rowling. This is an amazing book series in a fantastical magical world.

Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger. This is a book series about a fantasy world with ogres, trolls and goblins, where a girl discovers she's an elf.

Anne Frank, Diary of a young Girl is about Anne Frank and her time in her secret Annex during World War 2.

Gangsta Granny Strikes Again by David Walliams is the sequel to Gangsta Granny. The Black Cat is at it again, or is she?

Percy Jackson by Rick Riordan is a book series about a teenage boy who finds out he's a son of a Greek God. Unknown to him a war is brewing, and he might be able to save the world, but will he save the day, or catch a boat with Charon?

Gladiator by Simon Scarrow. A boy loses his freedom to slavery; his father is dead; he's separated from his mother with a deadly secret he doesn't even know. Will he survive his gladiator training and free himself and his mother or will he die?

Susanna's Midnight Ride, The Girl Who Won the Revolutionary War by Libby Carty McNamee. A story based on real events where a teenage girl named Susanna's home is invaded and she finds out secrets from General Cornwallis that could help the Patriots. Will she be brave enough? Will she succeed? Paul Revere isn't the only one who can ride with information.

The First Conspiracy, The Secret Plot To Kill George Washington by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch. George Washington was the General of the Patriots and their only hope in gaining independence from Britain, but could there have been an end to him and the revolution?

Spy School by Stuart Gibbs. Ben Ripley is recruited to a spy school and told he has cryptography skills he never knew about. He is attacked on his first day and, unprepared, he wonders if he is really capable of becoming a spy?

Tokyo Ever After by Emiko Jean is good for anyone 14 and up and is a romantic comedy. It is an entertaining light-hearted book, great for anyone for an escape.

Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson is a teen mystery novel for anyone 13 or older. It has intriguing mysteries, empowering themes and well developed, realistic characters.

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris.

My Name is Selma by Selma van de Perre.

The Murder Most Unlady Like by Robin Stevens



GREEN FLAG AWARD

Tom Mak

Energy Crisis and the Russia-Ukraine War

As war broke out this week between Ukraine and Russia, the topic of the energy crisis increases as a major concern for all countries in Europe. Although Scotland is very rich in natural gas, thanks to the North Sea, the UK does spend over £2bn on Russian gas imports. This means we must search for greener alternatives, in addition to currently building the biggest offshore wind farm. Ultimately, the issue of climate change and environmental issues is still a long-lasting battle that we need to fight.

HSD commitment after COP 26

After my pupil representative role in the last COP26, we have set up an eco-school committee with a group of 12 students, supported by Mr. Brett, to achieve our 'Green Flag Award'. The 'Green Flag award' will be presented by the 'Eco-school Project' and sponsored by 'Keep Scotland Beautiful.' For more information, I encourage you to have a look at their website, as there is comprehensive and up-to-date information about climate change, as well as a free online programme specially designed for young people.

Road map to achieving “Green Flag Award”

There is a vigorous and challenging 7-Step process:

1. Eco-Committee, a group of students and adults responsible for all things Eco Schools.
2. Environmental Review, a free-to-download resource which has been designed to review learning environments and provide inspiration to Eco-Committees.
3. Action Plan, a plan for environmental actions in your school, college or nursery.
4. Curriculum Links, including environmental issues in your school, college, or nursery learning.
5. Informing and Involving, including all pupils, staff members and your local community in Eco-Schools work.
6. Monitoring and Evaluation, measuring the impact of the projects in your Action Plan.
7. Eco-Code, a rallying call that everyone can get behind!

How can you participate?

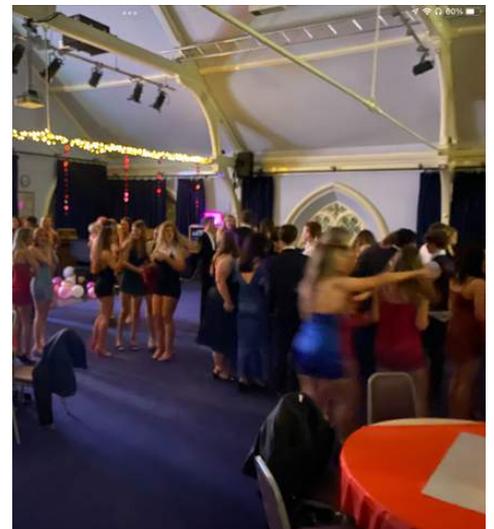
Last week, a set of environmental reviews was delivered, and we are delighted to investigate your concerns and input. We will select 3 main topics to design our action plan and your participation is critical to the success of the Green Flag award. Let us work together to create a better Scotland!



Interact Update

Grace Berry

Last Friday, many F5/6 pupils attended a Valentine-themed ball in order to raise money for Dundee Foodbank. The party was great fun and everybody enjoyed their time dancing to songs and being with their friends. This was also a great way for pupils to have fun after their prelims and after the cancellation of the Christmas dances. Earlier this month Interact also sold Valentines hearts and sweets so that pupils and staff could send a kind message to a friend or teacher. Both of these occasions are an amazing way to raise money for charity as everyone can get involved and have a great time doing so. In total interact raised an astounding £500 for Dundee Foodbank



Russian Economic Sanctions

Co-Deputy Editor, Zara Taylor

With over one million Ukrainians displaced, and the threat of global war rising, the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues; with a ceasefire seemingly far from sight. The violent assault by Russia over the past week has caused the West to impose tightening restrictions on the country. These restrictions are economic measures designed to stop - and enforced in response to - a country that is violating international law or is behaving aggressively. They are known as 'sanctions.' Essentially, they are designed to target and cripple a country's economy and they are the most extreme measures a government can take bar warfare, highlighting how tense the current situation is.

Financial sanctions being placed on Russia, by the UK, include: freezing the assets of Russia's a central bank as well as, preventing UK businesses & individuals from trading with it. Others include a ban on certain goods which have 'both a civilian and military use' being exported to Russia, in addition to specific EU sanctions which aim to harm '70% of the Russian banking market and key state-owned firms, including defence firms.'

Perhaps the most harmful sanction faced by the country is the removal of select Russian banks from the Swift messaging system. As Swift allows transactions of money to occur between different countries - vital for international trade - this will temporarily impede Russia's ability to receive oil and gas payments, consequentially leading to Russian funds running dry. This is because oil and gas comprise 60% of all Russian exports and so the hope is these sanctions will make Russia unable to finance this war.

Furthermore, many Russian oligarchs, who are members of the Russian elite, are facing individual sanctions against them. Putin himself is having his assets frozen, a very stringent and uncommon measure, indicative of how deeply his actions have been condemned by the world. Currently, the Kremlin insists its economy can withstand these sanctions; however, with rocketing interest rates and the value of the Russian ruble falling each day, the effect of Western sanctions is certainly affecting the Russian economy. Furthermore, the concerted effort by the global community to condemn Russia is highly significant, with even infamously 'neutral' Switzerland, imposing restrictions on the country.

Amid these announcements, many have expressed their concerns regarding the fate of other economies, as international trade has interlinked almost every nation in the world. Russia is no exception to this; Oil and gas from the country supply 40% of Europe's demand. As the weight of sanctions is truly felt, inflation will undoubtedly worsen, meaning higher fuel prices for countries across the world. More worrying still is Putin's order to put Russian nuclear deterrence forces on high alert; however, many have pointed out this is likely just to scare the West. Although many have labelled this war an economic one and social media has done what it always does, making jokes about this very serious situation, ultimately, a very real, very fatal war is being carried out on the streets of Ukraine and I truly wish for no more lives to be lost to this unwarranted attack.

Lord of les filles - why do we shy away from female brutality

Eve Campbell

I'm fifteen, and the blood is sticky on my face.

Or, rather, the corn syrup dyed with red food colouring is; it hardens underneath the hot stage lights in streaks where the blonde girl in front of me has smeared it. She's digging her hands into the corpse of a pig- or, the spray-painted towel stitched into the shape of a pig- and squeezing out stage blood onto the faces of her obediently gathered hunters. She is Jack; the dark-haired girl to my left is Roger; and I am Bill, shifting my stance to stop my legs from falling asleep. Ralph is offstage, showing Piggy something on her phone. I can hear them giggling behind the curtain. The next scene is not one I like. In it, I traipse across the stage with my head bent down, staring at the floor. Jack yells at me, and commands me to spit on the ground. I spit.

It isn't so much that I'm scared of her. She's lovely offstage. But it's a creeping feeling, one I can't name yet; it reminds me of something else, something long ago. Other girls and other faces, other words spoken in the screaming, but it reminds me nonetheless. Sleepovers and playgrounds. Blue eyes watching me, the uptick of a mouth. Exclusion, or, worse, poisoned inclusion, and the terrible ache of not belonging. I think of all this, and wonder.

Our cast for tonight's show is all-female. If we had been stranded together- if it had been us, not them- what would we do? Would we be better?

Somehow, I cannot envision it.

In 2017, Warner Brothers Studio announced that they had recently signed a deal with filmmakers Scott McGehee and David Siegel for the production of a remake of William Golding's celebrated novel, *Lord of the Flies*. Published in 1954, it's been the subject of three previous film adaptations; one English, one American, and one Filipino, each placing emphasis on slightly different elements of the text, certain themes taking the spotlight each time. Questions of colonialism and the legacy of war sit alongside the more picked-over elements of human darkness, brutality, and betrayal; it is an enduring piece of literature discussed in classrooms around the world, and brought to life onstage through Nigel Williams's play adaptation, and Matthew Bourne's ballet.

As a well-worn cultural icon no stranger to being reimagined, the backlash McGehee and Siegel's production faced may seem somewhat surprising. But this new project concealed a transformative sting: it would replace the boys of the original novel with girls.

The project immediately struggled to get off the ground with what was likely its target demographic: feminist women. 'An all women remake of *Lord of the Flies* makes no sense because... the plot of that book wouldn't happen with all women,' tweeted Roxanne Gay, author of *Bad Feminist*, in the wake of the film's announcement. Yet another tweet exclaimed that 'SOMEONE MISSED THE ***** POINT,' an all-capitals assertion that no, this remake was not asked for, nor wanted.

Riane Konc, writing for the *New Yorker*, produced a parody of the all-girl remake. Scenes she adapts from the novel include Simon reciting poetry, Piggy drawing up schedules, and, rather than hunting for meat, the girls discussing the benefits of vegetarianism. "If I took this desiccated pig head down from this spike," Konc writes, "would anybody split it with me?"

The question of why, exactly, it is difficult to imagine girls being so brutal, is an interesting one, and requires nuanced discussion. But this debate must almost certainly be tackled by examining our preconceptions of gender roles. Why is it that, faced with the brutality of ourselves, we turn to the picture of girls sitting around and discussing vegetarianism? The answer: it's what we know.

It is difficult for me to approach this discussion without being drawn back to my own childhood. It paints my preteen sleepovers in savage watercolour; the faces of my friends glowing strange in

the kitchen light, whispered promises and violent betrayals, the breathy excitement of secrets. I know a Jack, and I know a Ralph. I know more than one Simon, and yet more Piggys. I know a thousand thousand teenage hunters, as quick to turn as any wind, deadly in their complicity. And many of them are girls.

A controversial investigative series in 2009 left a group of children alone in a house for a week, and documented their actions. The first run was with boys, the second with girls. While much of the action is suspected to have been prompted by film crews, the speed at which the projects hurtled towards disaster was still startling; boys' group almost entirely emulated Golding's novel, complete with a hunt through the house, emotional and physical bullying of the weaker boys, and animal cruelty to a garden hedgehog. The girls' group, fascinatingly, declined almost just as quickly. While less physical harassment occurred, the house became a social minefield, with children locking themselves in bathrooms, trying to make other girls wet themselves, and more than one being sent home in distress before the week was out.

In the years since the disastrous announcement of the new *Lord of the Flies* adaptation, the project has been altered to once more feature boys, not girls. But other projects have quietly made their own statement; Amazon's *'The Wilds'*, a story of teenage girls marooned after a plane crash, draws sharp parallels with the original text- and was a critical and commercial success. This November, Showtime released the first episode of its new drama, *'Yellowjackets'*, focusing on a high school soccer team becoming stranded in the mountains after (uniquely) a plane crash, and their cruel, gory fight for survival. All-girl remakes are not without an audience- nor are they without their own bespoke kind of brutality. I am reminded of childhood games of running and hiding from the girls that knew the way to balance a punch, and of the simple violence that undercuts hockey matches. I am reminded of eight years old, helpless but not blameless, listening to girls whisper jagged things about their best friends.

I'm still on the stage, and I'm still fifteen. It's that scene I hate so much.

I look up, and Jack is staring at me. It's hard to drag my gaze away from the long streaks of bright red dashed down her cheeks, the dirt and twigs we rubbed in her hair during the interval, and it takes me a moment to realise her eyes are wide. I've forgotten my line.

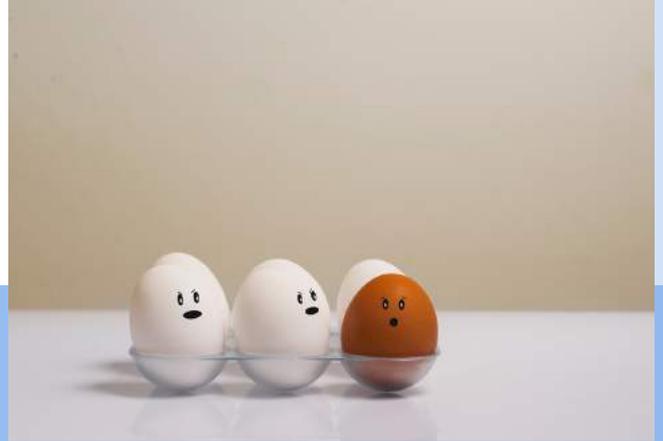
Ralph stifles a giggle behind me. I wince, sifting through my thoughts in one last desperate attempt to seize control of the scene before it all tips sideways.

But I am beaten to it. When I look back at her, Jack has taken a step backwards, mouth open; she starts, in a strung-out yell, to improvise. The scene slips back into control. My next line springs to mind almost immediately.

We exit stage-left. Once we have reached the safety of backstage, she gives my shoulder a squeeze, and throws me a smile. Well done, she says. I grin back at her.

Privilege - What does it mean?

Lavinia Ismail



Privilege is generally heralded as, “a special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group.” There are many forms of privilege, such as white privilege, male privilege, heterosexual privilege, etc.

Even though there are many forms of privilege, it is difficult to identify it and how much it affects society. For example, due to ethnicity, class, education, employment level, geography, country, appearance, and temperament, not all males have access to the same male level of privilege as others. Another example of how privilege can often seem confusing is that even if you are white, you might not get the same privilege because you might not “look” white, or perhaps, even if you aren’t white, you may still experience the privilege because you pass as white or you have a paler skin tone, this is also known as “white-passing privilege”. It’s also important to remember that having white privilege doesn’t mean your life hasn’t been hard; it means your race wasn’t an obstacle.

Privilege affects our society more than we realise; especially male privilege. Male privilege not only affects men but also women. For example, male privilege creates the idea that men are entitled to women’s admiration, time, body, care, domestic labour, etc, (There are many more examples, and feel free to research this topic for yourself).

This type of behaviour can also negatively impact men - which is ironic because it is supposedly beneficial to them. Male privilege assumes that men should be content with their station in life and, as a result, should be quiet which is just inaccurate. We’re taught that males have everything and don’t need equality since they’ve always benefited from discrimination.

Since modern society has been heavily influenced by this idea of male privilege giving men everything, it might make them want to stop asking for help when they need it, and that’s why they are less likely to talk about their mental health demons. Reports have shown that they are more likely to become dependent on alcohol, commit suicide, and are less likely to accept psychologically therapy than women.

Moving onto oppression, this term refers to when people are treated cruelly or are prevented from having the same opportunities, freedom, and benefits as others. Some examples of social oppression are sexism, racism, homophobia, religious persecution, etc. (any discrimination against a minority). The lines of discrimination are not always clear; oppression doesn’t always necessarily apply to you if you are a minority; it almost always all the time applies if you “look” or “seem” like the minority or at least the stereotype of minority. Using the example that I used before people that pass as white but are a person of colour might not face the same oppression the people of the same race and don’t pass as white.

White chocolate and raspberry cake

Amy Leburn

Ingredients:

250g unsalted butter
250g caster sugar
5 eggs
250g self-raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
200g fresh raspberries
White Chocolate
Buttercream:
200g white chocolate
200g unsalted butter, at
room temperature
450g icing sugar
1-2 tbsp boiling water
(optional)



Method:

1. Preheat your oven to 180°C and line two 20cm round cake tins with baking paper.
2. In a bowl, mix the butter and caster sugar together until light and fluffy.
3. Then add the eggs, self-raising flour and baking powder to the bowl and beat again until combined. Fold through the raspberries.
4. Split the mixture evenly between the two lined tins and bake for 40-45 minutes.
5. Once baked, leave the cakes to cool in the tins for 10 minutes and then turn out onto a wire rack to fully cool while you make the buttercream.
6. To make the buttercream melt the white chocolate in the microwave, or in a bowl over a pan of simmering water until smooth. Leave that to cool for ten minutes.
7. Add the butter to a clean bowl and beat on its own for a few minutes to soften. Then add the icing sugar and beat again until combined, followed by the melted and cooled white chocolate.
8. If that mixture is a little stiff, add 1-2 tablespoons of boiling water as needed, beating each time.
9. Place the first sponge onto a serving plate and pipe, or spread, half of the buttercream over the sponge. Add the second sponge and pipe the remaining buttercream on top however you would like.
10. You can decorate with raspberries if you want. Enjoy :)

Message from Ukraine

Mrs Hudson

As the War in Europe continues, and we look towards Ukraine and the suffering that is being experienced there, we can see these are dark times indeed. Cameron Tisshaw (Class of 2013) has been living in Kyiv, Ukraine for the past six months studying for his master's degree in Russian and serving with the British military operation (Op Orbital) in Ukraine. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has forced him to evacuate to Krakow, Poland where he is currently resident.

Cameron has written to me over the weekend as follows:

“Back in Kyiv, the situation with my university is dire. My fellow students and teachers are either fighting with the Kyiv territorial defence force against incoming Russian troops or hiding in bomb shelters. Here in Krakow, there are thousands of desperate Ukrainian children refugees entering the city who need support. I am helping local charities with supplies for these Ukrainian refugees entering the city. To this effect, I am reaching out to you to ask for fundraising support to help Ukraine's main children's charity (Voices of Children). The charity is raising money to help with Ukrainian children refugees currently impacted by the war in the country. Here is information on the charity: <https://voices.org.ua/en/who-we-are/> These are extraordinary times and it is unusual for a former pupil to be asking for such a request. However, I believe many at the school and in the school community will be willing to help these desperate Ukrainian children”

The school will be working to respond to this as a community but, in the meantime, please do use the link to make a donation, if you would like to do so.

met police scandal



Metropolitan's chief of police, Cressida Dick has resigned after a series of scandals. Following an announcement of no confidence in her leadership from the mayor of London, Cressida said she had been left with no choice but to step down. But what led the first female leading the biggest UK police force to step down?

Perhaps the most recent cause was the police watchdog's discovery that found disgraceful misogyny discrimination, as well as sexual harassment among some met officers. She also faced great criticism over the Sarah Everard case, where a former metropolitan police officer used his status as an officer as a pretext for kidnapping Sarah. While it would be said that this was just one 'bad apple', much of the advice that was issued following the case also shows grievous mismanagement. Not only that but her conduct was referenced in an independent report that accused the force of institutional corruption over the unsolved murder of Daniel Morgan.

Essentially, under her leadership the police faced scandal after scandal, leading to her leadership being untenable; that citizens of the United Kingdom need a force they can trust. While her resignation alone will not be able to fix the deeply ingrained institutional misogyny in the Met police, it is certainly taking a step forward in dismantling this toxic, discriminatory culture within the force.

Climate change: it's not your fault

Zamin Okhai



It's easy to feel at fault for climate change. We all do to some extent – it's easy to worry about whatever emissions we create when having a meal or making our commute. Everything we do in life has an eventual environmental impact; so on a surface level, it is natural to feel guilty. After all, Greta is right - the livelihoods of ourselves and that of generations to come are at stake.

This is the standard many of us find ourselves held to. It is a standard formed from lies, misinformation, and a general misunderstanding of the polluting perpetrators of our society. The reality, however, is held within a web of corruption and manipulation, and once this is uncovered, real, genuine differences can be made, even by me and you.

In the early 2000s, British Petroleum (BP) collaborated with an esteemed marketing firm, Oglive and Mather: in an aim to paint the company, and the oil industry which it dominated, in a more friendly light. This move occurred in accordance with growing climate awareness throughout the first world – demonstrations of the effects of climate change were becoming mainstream, such as the movements led by former US Vice-President Al Gore, leaving oil companies in the firing line. In response, they pushed out the 'Carbon Footprint Calculator', a tool designed to allow you and I, the average consumers, to calculate their carbon output from day-to-day life. It was massively effective: it had millions of users within a matter of months and rooted in our society the notion that every individual has their own footprint they needed to regulate to save the planet – completely shifting the responsibility for regulating the climate onto the common man. This move of admittedly genius marketing was reflected on by John Kenney, one of the lead operators within the firm at the time, in a New York Times column in 2006, "Perhaps it always was [marketing] – instead of a genuine attempt to engage the public in the debate or a corporate rallying cry to change the paradigm." It clearly was.

And so, there it was. It wasn't the problem of such oil companies anymore, and it wouldn't be for a long time. Personally, I remember even from my S1 Geography class, using that same BP calculator, and the guilty, fearful discussions of what I, along with my classmates, could be doing better. In the winter of 2021, Lufthansa flew 18,000 empty, or near-empty flights. It was a necessity from the point of view of the German Airline Supergroup – they had to run these flights, of course, otherwise, they would lose their much-coveted take-off and landing rights across the globe. Yet the view that the responsibility rests on us, the consumer, has become integral in society, due to the manipulation and lies of the very people who pollute our planet the most.

The messages that if you simply change your everyday consumption habits, the world will be saved, are far too common, and severely uninformed. These carbon emissions are not created by the use of the odd gas stove; they are built into the society we live in – the food we eat, the tools we use, the materials which build our homes.

We exist in a sad reality in which every single act we do is ultimately destructive to our biosphere. It is inescapable. A study from OurWorldInData demonstrates this. Of all of the greenhouse gas emissions in 2016:

- 1.9% came from landfills,
- 2.7% came from the growth of rice and other crops,
- 3% came from cement,
- And 10.9% came from turning the lights on in our homes.,

But what can we do? There are only so many alternatives we can take, and the options provided to us by the global economy are inaccessible, dysfunctional, and often very, very expensive. Taxes are imposed on us for our petrol emissions, while the leading option in the electric vehicle market has a starting price of £10,000 higher than the average yearly income of a UK household. We live in a world of rising seas and burning forests; because, for the ordinary person, there is simply no other alternative provided to us. The very few other options we are provided are most often short-sighted and exist for the benefit of the brands and corporations they are perpetuated by. Brands such as Greggs and McDonalds paint themselves as environmentally friendly after introducing paper straws and shipping off a couple of vegan alternatives, while continuing to increase sales of goods made of negligently farmed, methane-producing animals. The trusting consumer is led to believe that something as trivial as a paper straw has real impact.

Although this, by no means, is a diatribe of how impotent we all are in this struggle. While the choices we make in consumption appear ineffective, choices we make in voting booths and in political pressure can bring to a halt the current reality of everyday emissions, and even begin to heal the damage the crooked system has already inflicted. Oil and gas production has buried itself into the very foundations of our political systems. Since 2015 the UK government has gifted an obscene £13,600,000,000 in subsidies to the oil and gas industry, policies which have received backing from both sides of the house. Across the Atlantic, in 2021, \$2,493,422,698 was spent by the same industries in lobbying politicians in order to create regulations in their favour. Our governments are propped up by heavily polluting industries, and currently face no reason to change this. We, as a people, have a chance to make a difference. Write letters or support campaigns putting pressure on our own local MPs to take a stand against the emissions-heavy industries we rely on and vote them out if they don't comply. Apply pressure for new, extensive regulations on what can and can't be done by polluting industries. Divert our tax contributions from funding oil rigs and gas pipelines to investing in existing carbon capture technology or cleaner methods of production across the board.

The purchasing choices we make personally can ultimately serve a purpose too. While many of the alternatives available to us are extremely expensive and inaccessible today, for those of us who have the means to purchase these goods, spending that little bit extra for the 'Eco' option will lead to such technologies becoming more affordable for others in the years to come. We have seen this idea in action in the form of solar panels in the past decade; panel costs falling 85% as the increase in effective demand has driven down prices, allowing for them to become more accessible. While, for example, electric vehicles may be inconvenient and carry an extremely hefty price tag, with increased demand competition in the industry will grow, driving down prices while making complementary goods such as chargers and servicing much more affordable and available. The use of smart, driven decisions with our wallets could be just as revolutionary as those with our political ones. However, these ideas still have a major obstacle to overcome: everyone must take part in the fight, and vitally especially those at the top.

The fight for our own planet may initially feel helpless, as though nothing we can do can make a dent in the horrific changes we have observed over the course of our own lifetimes. However, from a different perspective, we can see that the truth is rather swayed in the other direction. As we see the reality of the origins of most emissions, we can take action which will truly affect the future of our planet. By directing our eyes beyond the veil of manipulation and misinformation, we can see a way out – and it's really not too difficult.



movie Quiz

Zara King

1. In the Matrix, does Neo take the blue or the red pill?
2. Who played the park owner John Hammond in Jurassic Park?
3. What song plays over the opening credits in Guardians of the Galaxy?
4. Which movie was incorrectly announced as the winner of Best Picture at the 2017 Academy Awards?
5. Which animated classic was the first film of the late twentieth century "Disney Renaissance?"
6. How many suns does Luke Skywalker's home planet have?
7. Who is the only ever person to receive an Oscar for acting in a Star Wars movie?
8. Who was the first woman of colour to win an Oscar for Best Actress?
9. Which movie star is killed off in the opening scene on Scream?
10. How many Oscars has Meryl Streep won?

1. The red pill 2. Richard Attenborough 3. "Come and Get Your Love" by Redbone 4. La La Land 5. The Little Mermaid 6. Two 7. Alec Guinness 8. Halle Berry 9. Drew Barrymore 10. Three

EDITOR'S

NOTE

Ruby McIntee

As folio and dissertation deadlines fast approach, remember to take care of your mental health! It can be hard dealing with the pressure of current events and school, but please remember to always reach out if you need help. Talking about current events, we hope those who can donate to reputable charity, do so, and as ever our thoughts and prayers are with Ukraine.

happy friday!

THE COLUMNS TEAM