

THE COLUMNS

by pupils; for pupils

HSD's Newsletter: Issue 108



When things end, new things begin. Though my time in The Columns is about to end, I'm about to go onto many new things at university. Similarly, though it may seem daunting and sad to bid farewell to this academic year, many more new opportunities are about to present themselves to us, in the form of summer holidays and the year ahead. Whether you're moving from school to university, junior school to senior school, or simply just moving up a year, change can bring many complicated emotions. The future can seem overwhelming and frightening, but all we can do is prepare for it as best we can by finding little things to look forward to. For me, I'm looking forward to my summer holidays and to starting university in Aberdeen. My time at the High School of Dundee and The Columns has been brilliant, but there are so many brilliant things awaiting me in the future. In amongst all the excitement of the Leavers' celebrations - the ball, the champagne breakfast and book-signing, and prizegiving - there's a sense of anticipation both nervous and hopeful. To everyone leaving the High School and going onto something new: great things await you, so make the most of them!

Editor Izzy Clark

Whistle Down The Wind



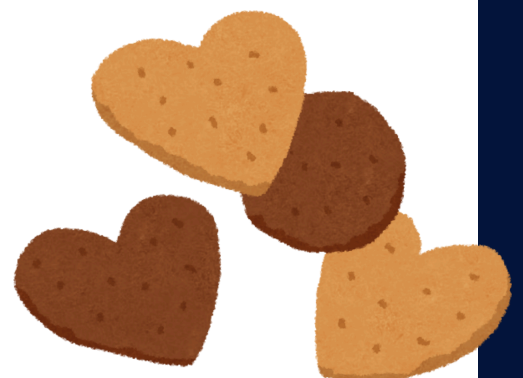
Columns Cookies

Ayanah Adam

With 1 week remaining until the long sleep-ins, movie marathons with friends and beach escapes, my brain has officially switched on “holiday mode”. So, to be quite frank, I don’t have the energy or the willpower to write a long, deep piece about the downfalls of modern society. Instead, I have decided to share my fool-proof chocolate chip cookie to enjoy over the holidays.

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C fan/190°C and line baking sheets with nonstick paper.
2. Beat 150g of softened salted butter, 80g of light brown sugar and 80g of white caster sugar in a bowl and beat until creamy (easiest to use an electric whisk for time but a regular whisk works just as well)
3. Once creamy, beat in 2tsp of vanilla bean paste (or extract) and 1 large egg.
4. Sift in 225g of plain flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp bicarbonate of soda and $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt into the bowl and mix with a wooden spoon until nearly combined but you can still see some flour.
5. Add in 200g of chocolate CHUNKS (hand cut or bought). This can be any mix of milk, white and dark; I would recommend equal parts milk and dark.
6. Make the dough into 22 cookies and put them all on one tray, then chill in the fridge for at least 1 hour.
7. Separate them into the trays making sure to leave space for the cookies to spread.
8. Bake them for 9 minutes on the top shelf, and 10 minutes if they are on the bottom shelf.
9. Leave them to cool and harden and then enjoy!



Life Is Strange

Teigan McNeill-Gibson

Warning: This article contains major spoilers for “Life is Strange”

The hit game “Life is Strange” centres around the protagonist, Maxine (Max) Caulfield, who for reasons unbeknownst to us, has the ability to turn back time, which she discovers after witnessing her ex-best friend (and future love interest in the ‘bae’ ending of the game, where Max chooses to save her over saving the town of Arcadia Bay, where the two reside) being shot and killed by one of the main antagonists in the game, Nathan Prescott. She realises she can turn back time, and saves her ex-best friend, Chloe Price, who at the time she didn’t recognise as her appearance had changed drastically since they last saw each other. Chloe Price is one of the central characters of the “Life is Strange” franchise, being the protagonist of the ‘prequel’ to “Life is Strange” called “Life is Strange - Before the Storm” which shows the story between Chloe Price and Rachel Amber and how Rachel Amber is linked into the main game.

Rachel Amber was a troubled teenager with a fairly good childhood. She was one of the popular group, hanging out with the ‘Vortex Club,’ a club where Blackwell Academy’s most renowned (and richest) students socialised. However, she was not like them, as shown through her interest in the student body. She had a friendship with a guy named Evan Harris, a character who you could interact with in “Life is Strange” and he spoke incredibly highly of Rachel. She never judged him for being ‘different’ from the rest of the Blackwell crowd, and even understood him. Despite hanging out with the most popular (and mean) people within the high school, she was never horrible to him, or generally to others.

Chloe Price and Rachel Amber first talked to each other coincidentally, as they just happened to be in the same barn watching a band play live at the same time. Chloe was having some trouble with some criminals who followed her up the stairs and attempted to attack her and Rachel saved her from them by giving Chloe the opportunity to either attack them or run for it depending on what option you choose. That was where their relationship started, and the girls grew closer and closer to each other as time went on, despite the fact that Rachel accidentally got Chloe suspended indefinitely when the pair skipped school together.

When the two girls skipped school together, they got on a random train got off in a random place and walked up to a hill where there were two observation telescope-type of things. It was out of order, and so Chloe managed to get the resources together to be able to fix it so that they could see down there and see what was going on. However, this led to disaster as Rachel witnessed her Dad and another woman kissing, and assumed the worst, leading to her getting upset and mad at Chloe and stalking off, but later that night she apologised for her actions and ended up accidentally starting a forest fire. The two of them left and after that incident grew closer still.

Part of the punishment that Rachel received when the pair got into trouble was not being allowed to act in the play, and the play ended up getting cancelled until Chloe and Rachel stepped in and saved the day, and subsequently saved the play too. They performed an improvisation together as Chloe was not experienced in the field of Drama and didn't know the lines for The Tempest, the play that they did. However, the crowd were still moved by it. After that, Chloe and Rachel went back to Rachel's house, with the intention of Chloe and Rachel running away together. However, they were caught, and the pair were invited for dinner, which ended awkwardly when either Chloe or Rachel (depending on your choices) confronted Rachel's father about his alleged infidelity, which led to her father being forced to tell the truth about Rachel's parentage. Her mother wasn't her mother, with her birth mother's real name being Sera and the reason they kissed was because her father wouldn't let Sera see Rachel as she showed no interest in her before and 'preferred the money' that was given to her monthly by her father to being in her daughter's life due to her drug addiction.

Understandably, Rachel was incredibly upset about this, and she needed some space to cool down, Chloe also going to comfort her and ended up staying the night as she had a bad relationship with her mum and stepdad and didn't want to go home anyway. That night, Chloe made a promise to Rachel and promised to find Sera for Rachel. Rachel and Chloe went to Chloe's drug dealer in search of answers which led to an altercation with Rachel getting stabbed in the arm by Chloe's dealer's friend/business partner. Frank, the dealer, bought Chloe enough time to take Rachel to the hospital thus saving her life. When Rachel woke up again, she was adamant that she wanted to see Sera, and so Chloe went back to searching. She discovers that Sera is in a bad position, and saves Sera from the torment she is going through, Sera asks Chloe to not tell Rachel about what happened, instead pretending that she never found Sera. The player could either choose to tell the truth regardless or protect Rachel and hide the truth from her.

Either way, Rachel would be hurt by what was said and Chloe would comfort her. That is where "Life is Strange – Before the Storm" ends, however in "Life is Strange," we discover that Rachel Amber is missing.

During the game, Max Caulfield discovers what happened to Rachel (the photography teacher, Mark Jefferson kidnapped her, and Nathan Prescott accidentally killed her with a drug overdose) and tells Chloe Price, who was crushed by the news as we discover she was in love with Rachel back in the day. Max tries everything to turn back time and save Rachel, but no matter what timeline they are in, Rachel is still dead. There is a theory that the doe who guides Max throughout the game is Rachel Amber trying to help her get clues and help save Arcadia Bay or Chloe Price, depending on the ending. When trying to get Rachel Amber back, Max Caulfield falls into the hands of no other than Mark Jefferson, who attempts to kill her but by turning back time, Max warns Chloe's stepfather, who is head of security at the school and he saves her, which leads to the end of the game.



2023-2024 RECAP

Jack Mitchell

As we end another school year, I thought I would take a look back at the biggest global news stories and events that I have written about since August:

Hamas Attacks – early October 2023. On the 7th of October, the militant group Hamas launched several armed attacks on the Gaza Strip. The retaliation by Israel and resistance by Hamas initiated the Israel-Hamas War.

Storm Babet – late October 2023. The storm saw exceptional amounts of rainfall in a very limited time period. This caused severe flooding, and affected nearly all parts of the country. A significant amount of the destruction caused by the storm and subsequent flooding was to regions surrounding the Dundee area, making it more relevant than most news stories in the UK. Unfortunately, seven people lost their lives because of the storm, including two Arbroath residents and even two people in Southern Wales, showing how large the impact of the storm was.

COP28 – November/December 2023. Nearly 170 world leaders attended the 28th United Nations Climate Conference in the United Arab Emirates. Among those attending were Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Foreign Secretary David Cameron and King Charles III. Noticeably absent were the US President Joe Biden and Xi Jinping, the President of China. The conference was criticised for being held in the UAE, a country that produces 3 million barrels of oil per day.

Alexei Navalny Death – February 2024. In late February of this year, Russian authorities announced that the opposition leader who had been in prison since 2020, had died. Though a cardiac arrest was said to be the cause of his death – aged just 47 – many media outlets questioned this, given the country's harsh treatment of prisoners and opposition politicians.

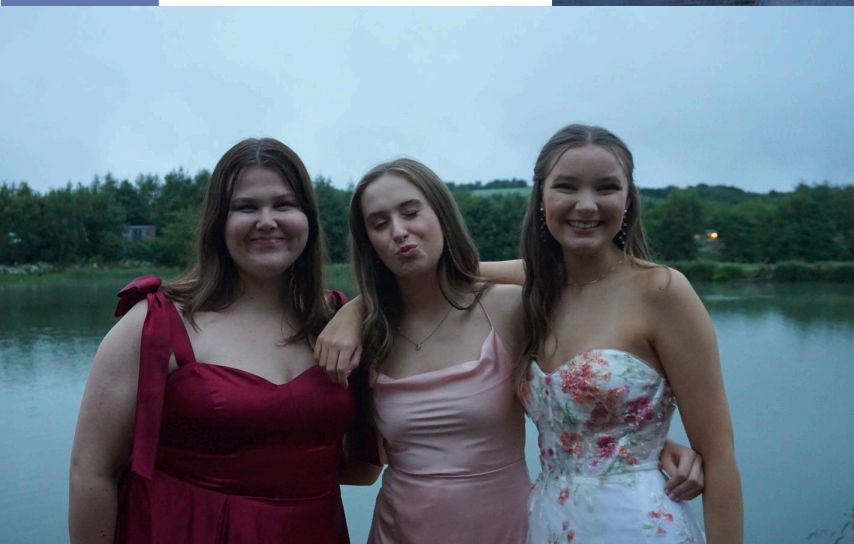
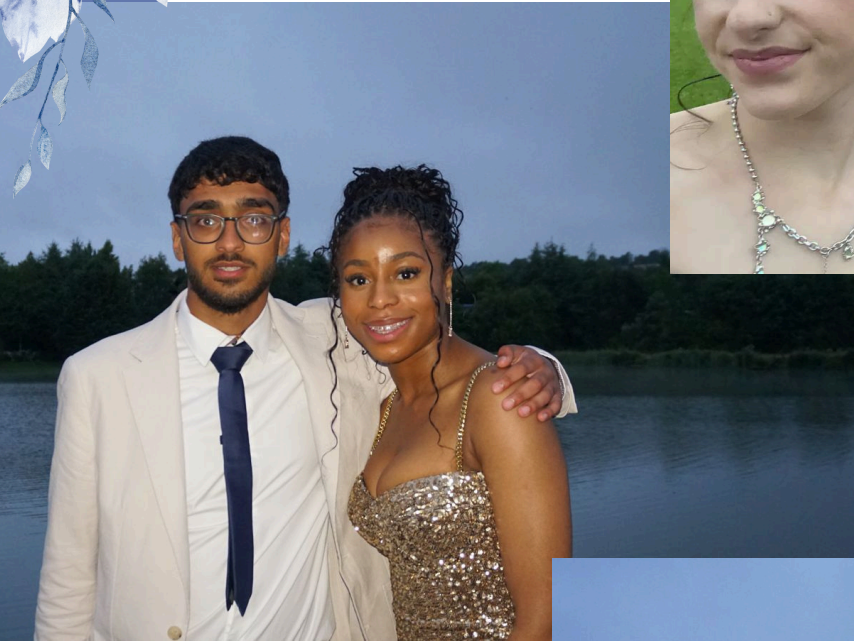
Rishi Sunak Election – late May 2024. On the 22nd of May this year, the Prime Minister announced that a general election would be held on the 4th of July in the pouring rain. This came after some announcements of economic growth. In just over a week, millions of Britons will cast their vote at their local polling station, deciding who should lead our country.

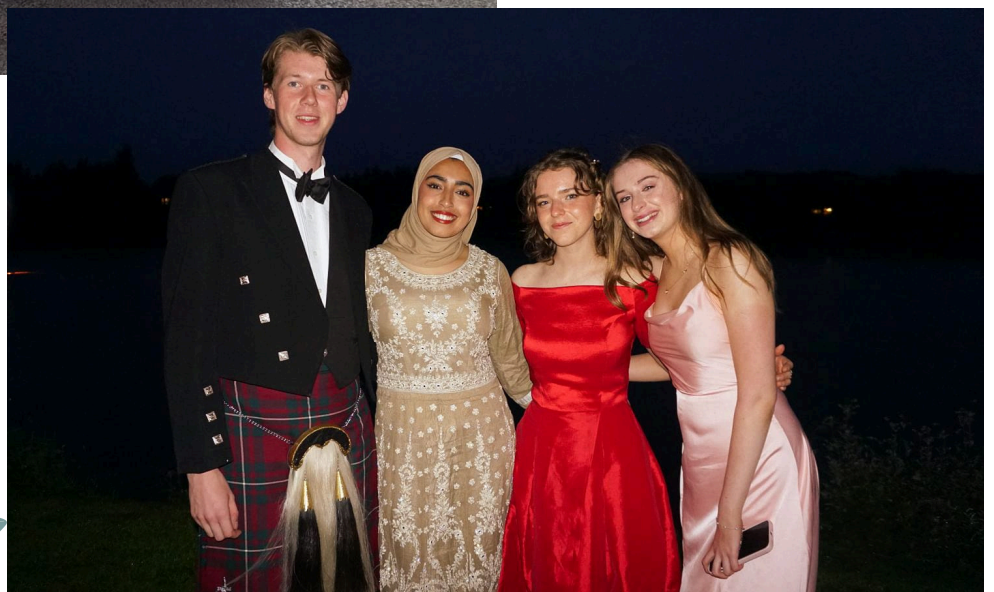
These are just some of the stories written in The Columns this year and next year will see even more. Thank you for taking the time to read all of the articles and I hope you continue to do so.



Leavers' Ball

Forbes of Kingennie, 25th June 2024





FL LOOKBACK

Sophia Kapelyukh

The ending of things is always bittersweet. Writing my last Columns article makes me so sad - the Monday meetings, the rushed writing, the first look at your article published in a beautiful edition the editing team put together. I'm going to miss this so much yet remembering all this makes me so happy because I know I'll always remember the Columns for years to come.

I thought for a while about what my last article should be about, perhaps a final piece about the wonder that is fuzzy socks? But no, I have decided to indulge my reminiscent feelings and write a short summary of my sixth year instead.

Firstly I want to thank all the teachers who have helped me this year, from all my subject teachers who let me revise in their classes over study leave (thank you Miss Campbell for the brownie), to the library department who let me keep borrowing a book for half the year because I needed to write about it in my personal statement and to my UCAS tutor Mrs Watson, who I could not have applied to university without. Also I wanted to thank all the teachers who organised co curricular activities like the business department and of course Mrs Tevendale who encouraged me to sign up to the Columns.

Columns has been the biggest highlight of my year. To be honest throughout all of school I despised writing more than anything, so I thought columns would be a great way to force myself to write often so I could gain confidence. After all, the editors are my best friends so I couldn't avoid writing if I joined. But I never knew how much I would grow to love writing and researching for a piece. I loved the feeling during Friday break when I would rush to Mrs T's classroom to pick up a copy. For anyone going into sixth year, I could not recommend joining the columns team more (plus you occasionally get free baked treats!!). So I want to thank every member of the columns team for all your work and for making writing a joy for me, and a thank you to Izzy for always putting in all my missed comas.

I also wanted to give some advice to anyone going into sixth year next. I often felt like this year was a long marathon of hard work and stress, it never seemed to stop until after exams. So my advice would be to make sure to take care of yourself first. Find something that will bring you joy during this year, whether it's writing articles, sports, sleeping and eating or dancing to old One Direction songs. Whatever it is, I think that self care would be the most important piece of advice I could offer to anyone entering sixth year, to put yourself above any academic pressure you may feel.

To conclude, this year has been one of the hardest in my life but also one of my best. Perhaps that's why it's so bitter sweet to say good bye to the High School. Through all the overwhelming stress this year I've also gained so many lasting friendships, skills and memories that I'll keep forever.

THE TARTAN WARS

Maisey Lafollette

Scotland qualified for the Euros and due to how rare it is fans are excited, so for the Tartan Army out there here are ten facts about your favourite team.

1 Scotland's football team fans are known as the Tartan Army, and the name is used as in the 1970's fans would gather in large groups wearing tartan to show support for the National Team. The 'Army' is known for being friendly, and enthusiastic, always singing and supporting their team.

2 Scotland has only played in the Euros four times, which is why fans are hyped for this year's tournament.

3 There is an estimate of 200,000 Scottish supporters that travelled to Germany for the first match in this year's Euros.

4 The team is managed by Steve Clarke.

5 Scotland has never won the Euros, but England is one of the favourites to win this year.

6 On the opening match last Friday, the results for Scotland against Germany were 5-1 to Germany. This week they'll be playing Switzerland, so we hope for a more favourable outcome.

7 England and Scotland are the two oldest football teams in the world dating back to 1872.

8 Scotland's largest win was in 1901, against Ireland where they won 11-0.

9 Andy Robertson is the captain of the team, and he led them last Friday after recovering from an injury.

10 Kenny Dalglish has the most caps for representing Scotland at 102.

"Football is more than just a game. It can bring hope and joy to people's lives."- Didier Drogba. Scotland is certainly proving this during the Euros 2024 to The Tartan Army and all of Scotland.



The Columns

Izzy Clark

The world was a very different place when I started writing for the Columns. I'd just moved country, the world was just emerging from the depths of COVID and the second national lockdown, and the Columns had only recently been renamed from Quarantimes. At the time, I was fifteen and utterly clueless about most things. I didn't have many friends in my new school, and the ones I did weren't interested in writing. I was hoping desperately for a creative writing club, seeing as that was what I loved doing, but my aimless wanderings around the cocurricular fair were proving hopeless. I thought the one place a club I was looking for had to be was the English department, so I went to the only classroom I could reliably locate: Mrs Tevendale's classroom, where the student leaders of the school newspaper were trying to recruit new writers. Feeling adventurous, and trying to overcome my fear of public recognition, I signed up to write weekly for the newly-named Columns paper.

Back then, the Columns was a very different publication. Malavikha, the original founder of the paper, was a brilliant leader and had kept the Columns going through two different lockdowns, and had managed to bring the paper from the digital world into the real world. My first article didn't really fit in with the general tone of the paper then, which had more politics, sports and TV than trivia, but I decided to keep going. I'd hardly ever written non-fiction before, and seeing my work published week-after-week alongside articles of much higher quality made me feel included in something big.

The first time I realised that journalism was something I wanted to continue doing was a couple of months after I joined the team. I wrote about whether Scotland could become self-sustaining, and apparently had caught the attention of Mr Clarke, who mentioned me and my article in a virtual assembly that week. I'd been horribly embarrassed, of course, but one of my friends told me that she'd cheered for me in her classroom.

So I moved into fourth year, and the leadership of the Columns was handed over to Sahar Jafferbhoy, at the time in fifth year. Myself and fellow fourth-year Ruby McIntee became on the blue-and-white pages every week. During this time, I volunteered to write updates on the school's upcoming production of *We Will Rock You*, alongside my friend Carys, where we got the opportunity to see the show take shape over multiple months. Getting to see the musical at the end of the year was so satisfying after watching it begin on a Monday evening in Margaret Harris Hall.

In January of fourth year, the fifth and sixth years sat their prelims, and the Columns was left leaderless for two whole weeks. Under the guidance of Mrs Tevendale, Ruby and I stepped up and managed to produce two editions of the Columns - 49a and 49b, so that Sahar could lead edition 50 after her prelims. It was our first foray into actually producing the Columns, not just writing for it, and something must've clicked.

When fifth year rolled around, Ruby and I were promoted to junior editors, helping each week behind the scenes to get an edition out on Friday morning. By now, several familiar faces were joining the Columns for our weekly meetings - Maisey and Jack joined over the year, as well as Aoife and India, both in fifth year, and one of next year's editors, Meagan. My friend Lauren brought us home-baked treats each week and became our recipe correspondent. By now, special themed editions of the Columns were being produced - Halloween, Remembrance, Christmas, Valentines, International Women's Day, Pride - and every time I'd feel such joy at being a part of something so vital to the school community. We interviewed teachers and guests, went to presentations and meetings, celebrated sporting and academic achievements, and reported on everything from Taylor Swift to American politics.

When Sahar left and Ruby and I ascended to the top of the Columns hierarchy, part of me was terrified. It was hard enough editing and formatting week on week, but organising it all? Eventually, we decided to split the responsibility, with Ruby taking formatting and me taking editing. The Columns as many people recognise it now had already taken shape, but more and more people were joining - Ayanah, Charlie, Bea, Sophia, Maya, Roena, Megan, Neil and Ethan all played a part in mine and Ruby's time at the Columns. With the phenomenal team of Aoife, India, Meagan, Roena and Megan, my anxieties were soon eased as we put out several strong editions, with our tenure over the Columns growing its distinct appearance, format and style.

Of course, no mention of my time at the Columns could be complete without talking about my proudest moment as an editor - edition 100. Coming together over several frantic days and culminating in a massive celebration in Trinity Hall, Columns 100 is not just one of the proudest moments of my time in school, but of my life as a whole.

Reminiscing on my best moments in the Columns is difficult. I've loved my time here, and I can say without a doubt that the Columns has helped me become a part of the school community and make many new friends. But what I want to be remembered for as a part of the Columns isn't just my time leading it - it's everything else. I've written at least seventy-five articles over the last three and a bit years, and my time in both the Columns and HSD can be measured in those articles. Starting all the way back at my first article, "Phantom Settlements" for edition 36, before moving on to edition 39's "Can Scotland Feed Itself?", both of these articles helped to solidify my passion for journalism. I'm also especially proud of my article on Mental Health Awareness Week from edition 65. My first article of F6, a review of the book "Good Omens" marked a change in my writing style and the way I present myself through words. The 2024 Remembrance edition helped bring together the writing team, and I'm secretly very proud of my article about coffee from edition 94. Edition 99 saw the publication of my work "How to Survive in Greek Mythology if You're a Woman", a piece that won me the Young Scottish Writer of the Year 2023-24, an honour that still hasn't fully sunk in. Likewise, the incredible milestone of edition 100 is something I don't think I'll ever truly get over. Edition 103 saw another massive milestone for the Columns in the form of the Foreign Languages Edition, bringing together 20 languages from across the globe into one publication. Finally, the most recent entry in my Columns highlights is the front page of edition 104 discussing the death of Sarah Everard, and the first time I ever cried writing an article.

I'm honoured to have been a part of something so incredible as the Columns for as long as I have. Three and a bit years of my life have been devoted to providing weekly journalism for the school community, and I couldn't think of better people to be handing that responsibility on to than Meagan, Roena and Megan. I'm certain they'll do a brilliant job and I'm looking forward to continuing my passion for journalism at the Aberdeen University Gaudie.

Thank you to Malavikha, Sahar, Ruby, Aoife, India, Meagan, Megan, Roena, and of course, Mrs Tevendale for making my time at the High School of Dundee and the Columns the best time of my life.

Farewell to Izzy and Ruby

EDITORS' NOTE

Mrs Tevendale

Supporting the Columns this year has been the very greatest of pleasures because of the quality of the team at the top. Ruby and Izzy have worked together, pooling their skills to create something very special indeed. They have tackled some very difficult issues, made me laugh, made Monday lunchtimes hugely entertaining, and been consummate professionals in everything they have done. I am not sure where I will be without Izzy's eagle eye for grammar or Ruby's astute understanding of world events. I will have to find out next year. It is no accident that these two wonderful young women have been so highly rewarded by those in the know: Izzy is the Young Scottish Writer and Ruby won a US competition writing about "Profiles in Courage." They can certainly write, they can think and they are ready to take on the world. It has been a privilege to work with them both and they will be very much missed.



As the final week of the 2023-24 academic year draws to an end with parties, book signings and prize-giving, I think we can all agree that it's been a long year. So many important memories have been made across the school, and so many more memories are yet to be made over the upcoming summer and the next year. It has been the absolute joy of my last year to help lead The Columns this year. I have had the greatest time of my life, and I've made so many lifelong memories. May the next team of editors take as much joy in their time in The Columns as I have.

Editor Izzy Clark

Have A Great Summer!