

THE COLUMNS

by pupils; for pupils

HSD's Newsletter: Issue 111



Coming up on the October Holidays, it's hard to believe it's already been a whole half term, and one with so many memorable events. The Modern Studies Social Inequalities Conference was a huge success, congratulations to Miss Douglas on such a fantastic event. From House choir to Open day, it's been a busy time indeed. We are so happy as an editorial team to have been able to continue the columns, and want to say a huge thank you to all of our writers and participants, it couldn't be done without you! Have a good Holiday and we'll see you next term!

Megan and Roena, Editors

MAGGIE SMITH

Maisey Lafollette

Dame Maggie Smith, one of the most famous British actors of all time, known most recently for her roles in Harry Potter and Downton Abbey where she played a character in both with a sharp wit and very amusing one-liners, has died on the 27th of September, 2024, at 89 years old. In her almost seventy-year-long career, she had been in dozens of roles and had won several awards. In this article, I'm going to attempt to summarise her career and life. Maggie Smith was born on December 28, 1934, in Essex, however when she was four the family moved to Oxford. She went to Oxford High School, and at 16 she transferred to the Oxford Playhouse to study acting. In 1956, her first official role went uncredited but only two years later she was in 'Nowhere to Go' and received a BAFTA nomination for Best Newcomer in 1958.

Dame Maggie Smith has won many awards in her lifetime, including seven BAFTAs and two Oscars but she was nominated for five others. In 1970, she didn't go to the event to receive her first Oscar as she was in a play in London and she didn't want to leave it for the understudy. However, for her second Oscar, she did make an appearance but her speech was only thirty seconds long. She has also won several Emmys and Tonys. Her greatest honour was being made a Dame in 1990, for services to the performing arts. I cannot write an article about Dame Maggie Smith and not mention her role as Professor Minerva McGonagall in Harry Potter. She was actually requested to play the famous role by J.K. Rowling herself. However in 2007, during the Half-Blood Prince film, she was diagnosed with Breast Cancer, but she continued filming and her reason was that she didn't want to disappoint the fans. The younger actors said it was a joy and an honour to work with her. Rupert Grint has also said, "I feel incredibly lucky to have shared a set with her and particularly lucky to have shared a dance." Maggie Smith enjoyed the Harry Potter films and despite being a private person liked seeing fans saying, "A lot of very small people used to say hello to me and that was nice."

Dame Maggie Smith's death is a tragedy, and her death date is ironically shared with Michael Gambon (the second actor to play Albus Dumbledore) who died exactly a year before her. She had several health problems throughout her life including breast cancer, Graves and thyroid eye disease but she was able to live a long accomplished life. Sadly, when Maggie Smith died she left two sons and five grandchildren. Dame Maggie Smith was an extraordinary woman who accomplished so much in her lifetime, to many she was a mentor, 'best of the best' - Miriam Margolyes, brave, intelligent and having a sense of humour. The King even described her as 'a national treasure.' So in that spirit to finish this article here is a quote from Maggie Smith about her long acting career, "If it's possible to be in films without taking your clothes off or killing people with machine guns. I seem to have indeed managed."

TORY LEADERSHIP

Jack Mitchell

On Wednesday, the Conservative Party Conference drew to a close after four busy days of speeches and interviews. Unlike the recent Labour conference in Liverpool, the Tory conference was about selecting a new leader rather than rallying behind a current one. This comes after the catastrophic defeat at the General Election in July of this year in which the party lost 251 from its 2019 majority, after which current leader and former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak resigned. He had only been in place since his predecessor Liz Truss resigned due to her economic woes in office in late 2022.

By the deadline of the 29th of July, six candidates had put themselves forward as candidates. They were: shadow Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, shadow Security Minister, former Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick, shadow Work and Pensions Secretary Mel Stride, former Home Secretary Priti Patel and shadow Housing Secretary Kemi Badenoch. Following two internal ballots in early September, Priti Patel and Mel Stride were eliminated from the contest. The remaining four are:

James Cleverly: Cleverly was born in 1969 to an English father who was a surveyor and a Sierra Leonean midwife mother. After studying hospitality management at what is now the University of West London, he went into sales and marketing. As well as this, Cleverly has served in the Army Reserves since 1989 and holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was elected to the London Assembly in 2008, and to Parliament in 2015, representing the constituency of Braintree, in Essex. In 2019, he was appointed co-chairman of the Conservative Party, and in 2022 he served briefly as Education Secretary, following a stint as Middle East Minister. He was promoted to Foreign Secretary by Liz Truss and retained the role until November last year when he was made Home Secretary.

Kemi Badenoch: Badenoch was born in 1980 to Nigerian parents in Wimbledon. Her father was a GP and her mother a Physiology professor. She moved to, and lived in, Nigeria until the age of 16, when she returned to the UK due to political instability in the country. She studied Computing Engineering and worked in the IT sector, as well as at RBS, Coutts and latterly The Spectator.

Badenoch then gained a seat in the London Assembly following the incumbent's election as an MP and was then elected as an MP the following year, in 2017, for the constituency of Saffron Walden (now North West Essex). She served as a junior minister, as Trade Secretary under Liz Truss, and was then appointed Business Secretary by Rishi Sunak. Following the election defeat, she was appointed shadow Housing Secretary.

Robert Jenrick: Jenrick was born in 1982 to a gas fitter father and mother who was a secretary and read history at Cambridge. He then qualified as a solicitor and worked as one before becoming a director at Christie's, the auction house. He won his seat of Newark in a by-election in 2014. He served at the treasury under Theresa May, as Housing Secretary under Boris Johnson, and as Health Minister during the Truss premiership. He was then appointed Immigration Minister by Rishi Sunak, a post he held until his resignation in December of last year due to 'strong disagreements' with the government's response to the Rwanda plan, which he said didn't go far enough. His strong views on the topic had landed him in some trouble earlier that year when he ordered murals of characters such as Baloo from The Jungle Book and Mickey Mouse to be painted over in a reception centre designed for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Tom Tugendhat: Tugendhat was born in Westminster in 1973 to Sir Michael Tugendhat and his French Blandine de Loisne. He read Islamic Studies at Cambridge and briefly worked for the Lebanese newspaper The Daily Star. He later enlisted in the army and served in Iraq and Afghanistan, also reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before his time in Parliament. He was elected in 2015 as the MP for his Tonbridge and Malling (now Tonbridge) constituency. Two years later, he was elected to chair the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, the youngest member ever to do so. When Liz Truss took office as Prime Minister, he was promoted from the backbenches to become Security Minister, a role Rishi Sunak kept him in.

All of these candidates have extensive parliamentary experience, but many have changed their political positions on key issues such as immigration to appeal to the Conservative membership, who will be voting for them. So far, all candidates have the potential to win, with numerous articles stating different candidates as winning. We will only know who has succeeded when Rishi Sunak's successor is announced and appointed on the 2nd of November

Vogue

The “Fashion Bible” Through the last Century

Emma Turnton

1890s

Whilst a household name now, ‘Vogue’ was actually started out as a simple weekly newspaper by American publisher and editor Arthur Turnure for the wealthy upper class Americans in the late 1800s. It was based in New York and detailed various topics such as social affairs, fashion, gossip and much more for the lavish Americans. It even had a column on London and an entire sports section targeted towards the male reader, this is difficult to believe now as the magazine has become so female orientated. The fashion of the time was delicate, A-line shaped skirts which skimmed over the hips and flared at the bottom with emphasis on the bodice and large sleeves to further accentuate the waist. The most popular colors were dark greens, dark blues like navy or maroon. Most of the covers were of debutants at their debutantes or of men playing sports or sometimes couples. If only Arthur knew what was to come.

Pictures: top right Vogue cover, bottom a picture showing the fashion of the time

1900s

It wasn't until the early 20th century Vogue catapulted, this was due to it being bought over by Condé Nast who decided to rotate the magazine and strictly catered it to fashion, art and any other creative outlets. They made it into a monthly edition instead of a weekly edition too. The magazine had articles covering topics relating to/ or about theatre, art, actresses, fashion of the month or anything

that Vogue deemed to be trending at the time. For example in the December 1909 issue it featured an article showing a famous artist called Terpsichore's home and her art plus various images of her and many portraits. The fashion of the time was tailored blouses with long, floor length skirts, puffy sleeves, hats, gloves and hair was usually if not always placed up while gowns were decorated with jewels and made with soft pastels.

Pictures: top left a Vogue cover from the time, bottom left fashion of the time.

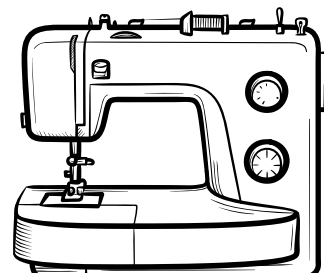
1910s

By the 1910s Vogue was in full swing, within the first six months of 1910 Vogue carried 44% (circulating 1,305,030) more pages of advertising than any other famous ladies' magazines at the time such as The Ladies Home Journal or Harper's Bazaar. The magazine has topics on fashions of the seasons (fabrics, trimmings, buttons, patterns, lace etc) also gossip within the arts, descriptions of patterns, plays, book recommendations and so much more. At the time the fashion was tunics and hohle skirts which were wide at the hips and narrow at the ankles. The colours were dark during the day, black, shades of grey, browns made of velvet or silk but the evenings were much brighter with exotic patterns, silks and satin. The covers were of young woman chatting, portraits or sometimes woman doing activities like sports or knitting.

Pictures: top right is fashion of the time; bottom is a Vogue cover at the time

1920s

The 1920s was the decade of change for not only Vogue but the entire fashion industry, I could spend a whole article detailing its numerous impacts on fashion and the world but I am trying to keep these to a paragraph. Firstly, Vogue declared in 1926 that ‘the Bob rules’, nine years after the incredible dancer Irene Castle had famously wore it. The Bob was everywhere you looked, even on the most famous celebrities such as Clara Bow, Gloria Swanson and Louise Brooks. Next, the Vogue Cover began to shift as Parisian illustrators took over and began promoting fashion as pictures of storytelling instead of the typical covers readers were used to. These illustrators such as Charles Martin or George's Lepape had been founded by



Condé Nast when they were illustrating in a small French journal. The incredible photographer who would be considered one of the best of his century Edward Steichen began at Vogue in 1923 known as being able to photograph anyone and make them look like a model but still a woman. He went on to become one of Vogue's most famous photographers to this day. In terms of fashion the look became tomboy looks with little emphasis on woman's shape after La Garçonne had changed the entire look, flappers became a widely popular look to follow, which were glitzy, short dresses, with little emphasis paired with bobs on young woman. The look was famously started by Clara Bow. Coco Chanel famously made the little black dress, trying to completely change the way the colour black was viewed from mourning to chic and classy, it was called radical at the time and is now a fashion classic covering the many pages of Vogue.

1930s

In 1931 Frogues wrote a feature in the February issue of Vogue about the flapper looking he called it "the figure then the frock" he wrote of the new glorious female form, he embraced the look of the dapper with them expressing their natural curvature in slim, tall gowns rather than restricting clothing and overnight what was once mocked in society became an overnight fashion trend, every lady dressed this way. At this time backless gowns began to rule the fashion industry, it was one of the most fashionable trends at the time, Vogue wrote various articles on what exactly ladies were supposed to wear under earth such gowns but undergarment makers found a way. Pants finally arrived on the scene not just to be worn at bed times but now for sports and the beach as declared in a 1933 Vogue article named "What about pants?: Where? When? Vogue also included features on book recommendations for not only Woman but children too. Vogue's first ever Photograph cover arrived, a bathing beauty in a swimsuit photographed by Edward Steichen in 1932, it was groundbreaking and started the trend of Vogue covers which is still seen today.

Pictures: top left cover from the time, bottom left first photograph cover by Edward Steichen

1940s

The 1940s was a unique decade to say the least: it began with one style of fashion and ended in a contrasting, completely different way. In an excerpt in a 1943 Vogue issue they spoke of the Second World War stating: "rationing coins are a new currency joining the dollar and credit" wrote Vogue illustrating the new somber feelings of the public in America due to the war. Vogue were pushed to work with the ministry of information on producing their magazine to help woman deal with the changes and challenges of the war. Audrey Withers (Vogue editor) and Lee Miller (one of Vogue's leading photographers turned from model) decided to use Miller's now involvement in the Second World War and the photographs she had made of the woman working in combat to illustrate the war to woman in Vogue magazine, helping the war effort as she strived through the war, showing the truth to these woman. These were published as the government worked closely with many female magazines due to men going to war so the woman could cope with their new lives, this inspired much of Miller's photographs no matter how restricting the ministry of information was. She had started out as a famous model and muse for Vogue but when the male photographers left for war in 1939 she attempted at becoming a photographer, her photos from World War Two and afterwards have made her one of the most famous of her time and helped many woman better understand the war. Now, the fashion. During war the resources were tightly restricted, US fabrics became scarce so Utility dressing became the new 'trend'. These were dull, simple fabrics due to lack of variety, made usually into suits for woman featuring a skirt and a blazer, these were unique as they were tailored like a man's, slim at the waist, tight and boxy shoulders. The silhouette of the new style was narrow and slim, belts and smaller hats became popular as woman began working in factories for the war effort, the shoes were also sturdy, heels substantial. The fashion remained this way until the later years when Dior made a new collection featuring flowing skirts, which were poofy, shoulders practically sculpted to the body and extremely accentuated waists. This changed the fashion entirely at the end of the decade. Bikinis also arrived on the scene named after the Bikini Atoll Marshall where the U.S tested their nuclear bombs, these were made as fabric was still in short supply at the time and the two French designers Jacques Heim and Louis Réard wanted to design something which symbolizes the new mood of liberty after the war in 1946, this changed swimwear completely and were seen on beaches everywhere and are still the most popular female swimwear to this day.

Pictures: top right Vogue cover from the time, bottom right fashion of the time (Dior's collection)

THE QUATERMASS SERIALS

Charlie Grewar

You've probably watched, or at least heard of, the classic 1979 horror movie *Alien*, where an astronaut is taken over by an alien life form. But did you know that 25 years earlier there was a TV serial produced by the BBC which was also about an astronaut taken over by an alien life form? Well, actually three astronauts. Set in the near future, the 1953 *Quatermass* experiment, written by 'Tiger Who Came to Tea' author Judith Kerr's husband Nigel Kneale, saw the British Rocket Group, overseen by Professor Bernard Quatermass (apparently he got the name from a phone book), launch the first manned space flight (because Britain is SUCH a major space power). Three men go up. One man comes down. All that's left of the other two are empty spacesuits, yet nothing has left the rocket since its launch. Something, however, has entered, disintegrating the two astronauts, absorbing their consciousness, and taking control of the surviving man, Victor Caroon. Whose hand, after returning to earth, turns into a spiky green cactus sort of thing and goes on a rampage, eventually taking refuge in Westminster abbey and turning into a big blobby sort of alien thing. Caroon that is, not his hand. The day is saved when Professor Quatermass makes a desperate appeal to the humanity left in the creature, which then destroys itself. The six-part serial was broadcast live with the effect of the creature being achieved by the writer, Nigel Kneale, poking a mangled gardening glove covered through a photo of the abbey. The serial was among the first original plays on TV and saw around five million people watching at a time when a year before only four million people in the UK owned a television.

Unfortunately, only the first two episodes survived, recorded by the BBC for future broadcast, until it was decided that they were of too poor quality. Presumably, a fly getting stuck in the camera didn't help. The 1955 Hammer film adaptation does survive, but disappointingly they decided to simply blow up the creature. It was followed in 1955 by 'Quatermass II', so called because Kneale couldn't think of a good name. This time the threat was small meteorites containing alien life forms in a gas, which possessed anyone unlucky enough to come into contact with them. As it turns out, the aliens have infiltrated the Government and taken over a factory aiming to produce synthetic food, which they then use to make a big blobby body for themselves (a theme is emerging here). The serial is a bit more...violent than the previous one. There's not much bloodshed but the offscreen murderer of a family out for a picnic and a man being crushed in a pipe to block it, on his 50th wedding anniversary led to the statement: 'This broadcast may not be suitable for children or those of you who may have a nervous disposition,' before transmission. Remember, this was the fifties. The themes of the government conspiracy and alien infiltration have since become commonplace in sci-fi. The film version was released in 1957.

The third and final serial of the fifties was entitled *Quatermass and the Pit*. In this one, after the British rocket group's plans for a moon base are taken over by the government, a mysterious cylinder is found in a London building site. Quatermass discovers that the capsule predates mankind and is of Martian origin, before it is revealed that the extinct Martians implanted characteristics of their species into an evolving humanity, resulting in much of humanity's conflict. The serial looks at the inherent animalistic nature of man and the roots of its racial strife. The story concludes with the cylinder driving everyone crazy as London collapses into chaos before it is destroyed. Hammer released a film adaptation in 1967.

Rather amusingly, the role of Bernard Quatermass was played by different actors in each instalment: Reginald Tate in *Experiment*, John Robinson in *II*, and Nigel Kneale's original choice for the role, Andre Morell in *The Pit*. The films had slightly more consistency, with Brian Donlevy portraying the character in the first two adaptations, before Andrew Kier starred in the third one.

The three *Quatermass* serials of the fifties were among the first original science fiction for an adult audience and had a significant impact on future science fiction, influencing the alien films, 2001, and innumerable *Doctor Who* episodes.

The Scottish Muslim Awards

Ayanah Adam

On Sunday the 29th of September, the Scottish Muslim Awards took place. There were many categories such as women of the year, which my mum was nominated and shortlisted for, and sportsman, which my cousin won!! I enjoyed this event thoroughly not only because it was a chance to get all dressed up, but also because it was a chance to showcase the multitude of contributions that Scottish Muslims make to our society. It was a chance to show the talents Muslims in Scotland have.

Off the back of this, and many personal experiences, I have decided to start a club called "Discover Islam". It is a chance not only for the Muslims at the High School of Dundee community to come together, but for the rest of the community to come and learn about the true meaning of Islam. Every week I will lead a 5-10 min halaqah (Islamic reminder based on Quran and Hadith) on a different topic. This will serve as a spiritual reminder for the Muslims in the community and perhaps a way for others to ask questions. ***This club will run every Thursday in Mrs Tevendale's room from 1.20 -1.50***
Anyone is welcome to come along and join me.

Short story: The Diary of Samuel Weeps Ep. 1

Alastair Forbes

25th September in the year of our Lord 1660.

Today, I received the thrilling news that Costa's Coffee House in the Strand had an exciting new beverage. I put on my hat and dashed out into the busy street. The pong was overwhelming, so I clicked my fingers for a sedan chair. I climbed in and ordered the two white-wigged bearers to take me to the Strand with all haste. We arrived at Costa's in a cloud of dust. I gave the Sedan chair men a penny and dashed into the coffee house. The owner, Mr Costa greeted me warmly.

"Ah, Mr Weeps my favourite customer. I am so pleased to see you."

"Likewise, Mr Costa. I hear you have a new drink on the menu"

"Indeed, all the way from India. Tea. All the best people are drinking it"

"Then make me a brew and bring it over to my usual table"

I gave Mr Costa a farthing and he marked my loyalty card with his quill. I sat down to await this new exotic, eastern drink. The coffee house was busy with many gentlemen smoking clay pipes. The air was thick with the smoke from their tobacco. Mr Costa arrived with my beverage and placed it on the table. It was a fine light brown brew with just a splash of milk.

"Just take care not to ..." started Mr Costa. Suddenly, I was choking on something. I felt as though my eyes were going to pop out of my head. In my panic I upset the table and the cup of scalding hot liquid fell into my lap.

"Don't swallow the tea bag!" finished Mr Costa.

I ran out of the coffee house and into the stinking street. I got a whiff of the eye watering stench and I wept all the way home.

The End

Problem of the week

Last week was the spider solitaire problem, and Mrs Watson sent in the first and only solution. Well done!

Here it is:

500 games - success rate 49%

Every 100 games, I win 49 of them.

Over 500 games, I won $(5 \times 49) = 245$ games

if x = the number of extra games needing played

↓

Haoqi wants to win $(500+x)$ games with a success rate of 50% (0.5)

$0.5(500+x)$ or $\frac{(500+x)}{2}$ is the number of games Haoqi will win

$$\text{So, } \frac{(500+x)}{2} - 245 = x$$

$$\Rightarrow 500+x - 490 = 2x \quad (\text{multiply by 2 to get rid of the denominator})$$

$$\Rightarrow 500-490 = 2x-x$$

$$\Rightarrow 10 = x \quad \text{or} \quad x = 10$$

↑

Haoqi has to win 10 more games to have a success rate of 50%

Here is this weeks problem:

A large number of people arrange themselves into groups of 2, 6 or 10 people. The mean size of a group is 5. However, when each person is asked how many other people are in their group (excluding themselves), the mean of their answers is 7. Prove that there are no groups of 6 people

Have a
Good
Holiday!

The Columns
Team