

THE COLUMNS



by pupils; for pupils HSD's Newsletter: Issue 127

Well, summer is over and school is firmly back in session. For those going into fifth and sixth year, the summer have been dominated by the impending arrival of results. Some people found jobs and made money, some watched tv, some people went abroad on holiday, some people enjoyed the sun at home. Some saw family and friends, some went to an assortment of camps, many played sports. Some did none of that. Whatever you all did, hopefully your summers were all worthwhile.

Just remember, it could have been worse. You could have been in school!

Oh, and please come along to the co-curriculum fair this lunchtime. The columns will have a table and you can sign up to be sent annoying emails at least once a week, and maybe even (heaven forbid) write something.

Co Editor, Charlie Grewar

CRIME MEDIA: PART 1

Rosie O'Reilly
Al Forbes

After plenty of tennis and club planning, there is just one thing everyone loves to do in the summer holidays. Homework. No, joking, personally for me, it's true-crime podcasts and fictional TV shows. From binge-watching BBC, to listening to Spotify, here is my list of the top five crime programs/podcasts for you to feast into. So, as my favourite YouTuber and Crime Podcaster says, lets unbuckle our seatbelts, go Mach five down the highway, slam on the breaks, and bust through the windshield, into this article together. *cue dramatic music*...

BBC Sherlock

Let's get this masterpiece out of the way before we leave the article to go watch the show. Sherlock isn't just a TV series, it's practically a personality trait. Benedict Cumberbatch struts around London as Sherlock Holmes, being all big headed, whilst Martin Freeman tries not to have a breakdown every five minutes. Literally. The cinematography, genius. The writing, fantastic. The fandom is slightly terrifying. But, what tops it of, is that it's set in modern day London, a massive but appreciated and different change from the book which was set in Victorian London.

Death Valley

Underrated gem alert!!! Death Valley is the show that brought comedy and crime together. It's chaotic, slightly gory, and doesn't take anything seriously for even one second. It's stupidly funny, and honestly, I respect it for committing so hard to BBC crime family. Give it a chance...

Beyond Paradise

Spin-offs usually flop, but Beyond Paradise actually doesn't! Kris Marshall's DI Humphrey Goodman has given up the Caribbean tan for sleepy Devon, which means more sheep-related mysteries. It's warm, charming, and gives you that Sunday-night cozy feel

while still delivering on the ‘whodunnits’. But, may I just add, whoever cast the main characters deserves a raise. Seriously. I can’t begin to describe how much I fell in love with the main characters, from sweet DC Kelby to the many foster kids the DI has fostered, it just makes you want to find a compilation of Margo getting her biscuits stolen...

BBC Ludwig

Now this one is newer on the crime-drama-buffet-table (and yes I will be copyrighting that). Ludwig gives off a darker, moodier vibe, with a funny tone to it, almost like folk story meets awkward adult. It’s fun, stylish, and definitely trying to be the edgy cousin at the BBC family-dinner (and yes I will be copywriting that too). Does it always land? Yes. And for all those who loves a great sub-plot, Ludwig has it. I’ll let you find out what I’m talking about... (#twins).

CCCM (With KallMeKris, AKA Kris Collins)

Yes, I am counting a YouTube/Spotify series as a show, fight me. CCCM (Crime Conspiracy Cults and Murders, with KallMeKris – AKA Kris Collins) is what happens when true crime meets chaotic Canadian energy. Kris takes horrifying real cases and somehow makes them digestible, with humour that helps you process the facts. It’s not disrespectful, it’s the opposite. It’s giving: Easily the best gateway for anyone who wants crime content without needing a therapy session afterwards.

This is the end of my article! Hopefully I will be back with part two – books! Until then, stay safe. And as KallMeKris always says: Never Hitchhike, or you might be on her podcast next...

Summer Crisis: Round Two

Jack Mitchell

Around this time only one year ago, we saw a Britain we don’t like to recognise. One of division, hatred and fear. We saw armies of thugs with little better to do vandalising our streets and attacking our brave police officers trying their best to keep them in line. Figures such as Tommy Robinson – or Stephen Yaxley-Lennon as he really is – took a leading role in these riots, stoking up anger even more. We saw violence on a rarely seen scale and mass destruction and even death threats. Asylum seekers genuinely fearing for their lives watching mobs of rioters mere feet away chanting and seemingly wishing for their deaths.

All this, of course, rooted in misinformation. The triggering event was when 3 young girls were devastatingly murdered by a truly demented, evil teenager, with many more seriously injured. The lie that British-born Axel Rudakubana was a recently arrived asylum seeker who had crossed on a small boat across the Channel quickly went viral within far-right Facebook communities after a LinkedIn post first started the false

rumour, prompting the outrage that started the mess to come.

We saw the true colours of many over the ensuing days and weeks, with some monstrous parts within taking over many people. The recently released Lucy Connolly was a key example of this and has since been taken under the wing of many of the figures who led the riots. Earlier this week she stated that she was a 'political prisoner' of Prime Minister Keir Starmer and suggested she did not 'advocate violence' in her post on X (formerly Twitter). To see this bizarre take on her actions, let's remind ourselves of the tweet itself. In it, she says people should set fire to the hotels housing asylum seekers with them all still inside. Whether you agree with her 31-month jail sentence or not, the wife of a Conservative councillor advocates for the burning alive of fellow human beings.

Her release roughly coincides with this year's anti-migrant demonstrations which have thankfully been far less violent than last year. Many of these protests started locally in Epping after an asylum seeker living in the Bell Hotel was charged with sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl in town. Following a ruling in favour of Epping Forest District Council, which was seeking to stop housing asylum seekers in its area, many more nationwide protests have taken place with the goal of a similar measure in their council area. Many counter protests in favour of migrant rights have also taken place in a similar way to last year. Police ensured both groups could not meet, which would have escalated the situation much further. Roughly 20 other councils are now launching or officially considering launching legal cases against migrant-housing hotels in their districts.

It begs the question of whether and when all asylum seekers in hotels will be moved out. The policy was first implemented under the Conservative government to cope with the growing number of those applying for asylum in Britain. The number of hotels has slowly been reducing over time, from a peak of around 400 in 2023 under Rishi Sunak, who managed to decrease the number to nearer 200. A small number more have been reduced by Labour, who have pledged to end the practice by 2029 by creating accommodation and cutting small boat crossings. Whether this will still be the main issue for the hard-right protesters in demonstrations and riots I unfortunately see happening next Summer I do not know, but chances are they will still be about roughly the same matter.

Foreseeing yet more riots destructive demonstrations is crushing, but with far fewer arrests than the year before, we can only hope next year follows the pattern and the negative consequences are less still.

Huge numbers of those protesting feel left behind and not listened to, a feeling bound to cause severe frustration, but we need a more proactive way for them to let their grievances known, rather than targeting one of the most vulnerable groups in our society.

Division and hate won't solve the problem. It never does, does it



Hear ye, hear ye! The school has a brand-new playground. I can practically hear last year's students hissing with jealousy.

See, back in my day (which feels like a hundred years ago, somehow), our playground was nothing but grey, stony concrete. You fell over, you bled. That was it. No soft landings, no second chances. Honestly, I'd bet real cash that every break time at least one poor JY kid ended up limping into the nurse's office with a scraped knee or a bruise the size of Jupiter.

But no more! This year, the school rolled out a sparkling new playground. We've got a climbing frame/slide combo, another climbing frame (nicknamed the "Beaver Hutch" or something), an obstacle wall, and even an amphitheatre. Oh, and the soft, light-green bouncy tarmac that now covers the west side of the playground? Luxury. Michelin-star floor. You could fall over and bounce back like a cartoon character.

Now, I wasn't planning on writing about this until someone inevitably broke a bone and had to explain to Nurse Chapel (yes, Star Trek reference, deal with it) that 'Laura' pushed them off a wooden beam. But instead, I've decided to issue a challenge...

L1-F2, prove me wrong:

I challenge you to actually use this play equipment carefully. Yes, I can hear you chanting 'boring' already, but listen. Every playtime I watch at least twenty of you (mostly F1s and F2s but I see you, JY) treating the climbing frame like it's a pirate ship. You fall off, jump off, dangle from it like koalas, and somehow, nobody has ended up in A&E yet. Emphasis on yet.

So here's the deal: if you keep using the equipment sensibly, confidently, and without throwing each other off the top, you won't end up at Ninewells with a broken nose or a matching sling. But if there's a Part Two to this article, featuring something like 'thirty students managed to climb the frame at once' or 'somebody landed in the ED with a wonky arm', then you've failed. And yes, I will laugh.

But... if you make it through the whole year without me having to write Part Two, then you win. Hands up, you all get to laugh at me instead. Deal?

And a useful tip for you all: don't over crowd. I processed to calculated maximum number of people on each bit of equipment, whilst watching people get shoved, pushed, and squished. Anyways, the tip, try to keep (average for the entire school) 13-20 people per equipment. This means that there will be less chance of less injuries, and more fun. Unless you're a certain year group (you know who you are) and will ignore my message anyways.

So whether you're a parent reading this aloud, a student plotting how to beat me, or a teacher wondering why on earth I set myself up for this, just know, I am begging you: let this be the first and last negative playground article I ever have to write.

Challenge accepted

When the opportunity arose to meander around Edinburgh, browsing books, listening to some of today's most influential authors, and—let's be honest—buying yet another book just because the cover sparkled, instead of enduring an exhausting school day, you best believe I was in.

I strutted proudly into school, overjoyed for my big day out. Then I walked into the library... and froze. To my absolute horror, everyone was in normal clothes—except me. (Note to self: check your emails.) In my shameful despair, I tried to laugh it off, mourning what I had envisioned as the cutest outfit ever. Luckily, my friend came to the rescue with a jacket, instantly transforming me into a kind of “dark academia” student. Aesthetic achieved—accidentally.

The bus ride was oddly therapeutic. The first few days of term had dragged on, and although I love learning, seeing friends, and having a routine, all the extras that come with school can be truly draining. Watching the scenery blur past, nature swirling like a moving painting, was soothing. After hurling ourselves into a taxi and then gracefully sprinting to our first talk (a very coordinated effort), we had made it.

Our first event was with Joseph Coelho, author of *The Boy Lost in the Maze*. The first fifteen minutes were an interview, and I found it fascinating. To realize that someone so accomplished was just... a normal guy. I became deeply invested in his story: growing up without knowing his real father, living on one of the largest council estates, and even spending part of his teens searching for that long-lost parent. His honesty struck me—he had poured so much of his own vulnerability into his work. I felt waves of respect for him. I could even relate. When it came to the Q&A, the more I learned, the more I wanted to know—until time was up.

Next, we headed to see Laura Bates and her new book, *Sisters of Fire and Fury*. Her talk felt like a TED Talk. No flashy props, just a simple PowerPoint and her own magnetic energy holding the room. I wasn't bored for a second. She explained the reasons behind her book, her fight for equality, and some shocking statistics that honestly scared me. I thought women were almost equal—spoiler alert: we're not. She didn't hate men (not even close), and I admired that. She had even taken up jousting, darts on horseback, and other daring feats to step into her characters' boots. She wrote her stories using old myths—but through a female lens. She was whimsical, fierce, and inspiring. I even asked for book recommendations, then went home and followed her on Instagram like the true fan I'd become.

Overall, it was a brilliant day. I scored free books at every talk and walked away with my perspective widened in ways I hadn't expected. Would I recommend going? Absolutely.

When Grief Turns to Horror

Ayanah Adam

When Zoe Ward walked into a stranger's living room, she thought she was coming to visit her late son for the last time in a caring, and safe place. Instead, she froze. She saw a baby bouncer, PJ masks playing on the television, and in the bouncer was the dead body of her son Bleu, who had passed away 3 weeks prior. Nearby, she noticed another tiny body on the sofa, a barking sound in another room, cat toy in the corner. What should have been a moment of remembrance and dignity became a terrifying memory. She said, "I rang my mum and I'm saying, 'This ain't right'... I was screaming down the phone [saying]: 'It's mucky, it's dirty, he can't stay here.'"

This story, revealed just earlier this week in a BBC investigation, has shocked lots of people. A funeral director who had set herself up as a supporter of mourning parents was found to have been keeping babies' bodies in her house, prohibited from NHS maternity wards and mortuaries in Leeds. The details are horrifying, but the psychology behind them is worth talking about. Why do grieving families place this trust in strangers? What overcame someone with their own history of grief and loss, to push the boundaries of care? And how does painful trauma like this create deep wounds that might never properly heal?

Grief has always been, and will always be, one of the rawest human emotions. It clouds over decision-making, consumes attention and leaves people desperate for help. In these situations, trust becomes easier to give and harder to doubt. In psychology this is called "authority bias": we believe those who sound knowledgeable or professional, even when there is not much evidence. Psychologists also talk about the "halo effect", where empathy, or even the appearance of understanding, makes someone seem utterly reliable. For mothers like Zoe, who had just lost their child, a service run by another bereaved parent seemed not only trustworthy but comforting. In the haze of grief, the red flags were unnoticeable.

The woman whom this case concerns has herself gone through the stillbirth of her daughter years earlier. Out of that pain, she created a service that she said could ease the pain of others. On one hand, that story is familiar: countless support groups and charities are born from personal tragedy. On the other hand, psychology can warn us that if grief is not resolved, it can continue to affect a person's behaviour in negative ways. Known as "complicated grief", it can keep one in a cycle where one's own loss colours every action. For this carers, the line between helping and imposing their own methods of coping becomes blurred. What felt like affection to her was extremely distressing to others.

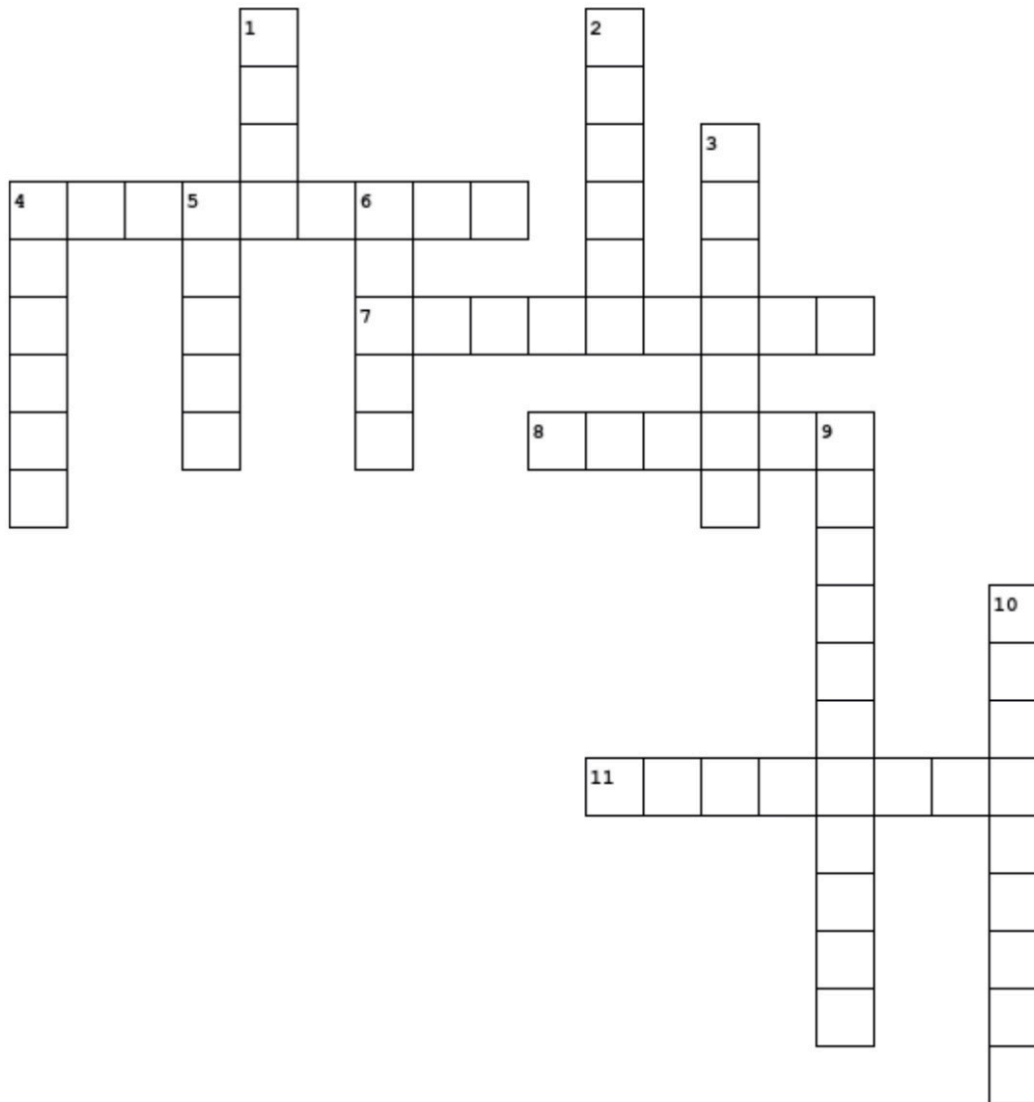
For the parents who found their children kept not in a mortuary but in a private home with animals, the experience was not just upsetting; it was a fresh trauma layered on top of their original loss. Psychologists refer to this as “re-traumatisation”: when the shock of one moment triggers and increases the pain of another. Instead of helping with healing, such moments may reopen wounds, reviving feelings of horror and helplessness. For mothers like Zoe, the last image of their baby is now tied not to dignity or peace, but to a dirty living room and the unbearable sense of betrayal.

The psychological consequences of such experiences can be lasting. Memories intrude without warning. Grief, already heavy, becomes one with guilt and anger. And trust—so vital in vulnerable times—is shattered. Safe spaces are essential when someone has been bereaved as they provide stability when the world around them feels broken. When that safety collapses, recovery becomes much harder.

The Leeds case is on the extreme side, but it shows truths about the psychology of grief that apply more widely. We are at our most vulnerable when we mourn. We hand over trust because we need to believe someone else can help us. But if that trust is misplaced, the pain grows. It also reminds us that carers are not immune to the weight of their own losses just because they have taken on that role. Without careful support and boundaries, their personal grief can shape their care in ways that harm rather than help.

This is what makes the s. It is not only about misconduct, but about how grief, trauma, and trust can collide with terrible aftermath. Psychology gives us the language to understand it: authority bias, complicated grief, re-traumatization. But for the families who lived it, the reality is simpler, and far more painful. They wanted dignity for their children. What they were given instead were memories they will never be able to unsee

Summer of 2025



Across

- 4. Square root of 2025
- 7. Country that hosted the British and Irish Lion's Rugby Team
- 8. HSD are not allowing these in school this year
- 11. DC film that was released in cinemas this year

Down

- 1. Black Sabbath frontman who died
- 2. Male Tennis Player who won Wimbledon
- 3. Country that won the Women's Euros Football Tournament
- 4. Name of recent storm to hit UK
- 5. The American President who visited Scotland
- 6. Amazon boss who married Lauren Sanchez in this country
- 9. Country where Eurovision was held
- 10. Netflix show starring Jenna Ortega

Editors' note

The first week back is typically a mix of emotions, feeling burnt out already, questioning if summer was '7 weeks or 7 minutes?' But also the excitement, the smell of fresh notebooks, new subjects, opportunities, friends etc. We hope you leave this article enlightened and optimistic of the school year ahead.

Your Editors - Charlie and Emma.