

THE COLUMNS



by pupils; for pupils HSD's Newsletter: Issue 128

Well, what's been happening this week. House choir rehearsals have been going at full force, so good luck to all those involved whether you're singing "SOS", "classic", "viva La Vida" or "I want you back". Although by the time this prints, the performances will have happened and we'll probably know the results. But I had no idea what to write in this tiny opening paragraph. Thankfully our writers haven't had the same problem. We've got some really great articles for this weeks edition, so why are you still reading this editorial? There's much more interesting stuff than this in here!

Co Editor, Charlie Grewar

CRIME MEDIA: PART 2

Rosie O'Reilly
Al Forbes

Welcome to part two of my two parter series. I would use this title: Crime, Chaos, and Classrooms: My Take on Murder, Mystery & Mayhem, but let's be real, it's too long. If you think school is stressful, just wait until someone adds a murder mystery into the timetable. Welcome to me trying my best to seem awake after a day of school, plus a couple of old-school TV faves that didn't make my last top 5 list.

This Book Kills – Ravena Guron

Boarding school + teenage sleuth = utter chaos. Jess, our hero, writes murder mysteries... but then real murder lands on her doorstep. It's like the plot saw the drama club and thought, 'let me join in!' The writing? Snappy, darkly funny, and sharp enough to cut through the quietest study hall. If you like your whodunnits with a side of teen sass and chaos, this is your jam.

Truly Devious – Maureen Johnson

Stevie Bell is basically the Sherlock Holmes of boarding schools, with a huge side of awkward teen energy. Cold cases? She eats them for breakfast. Historical mysteries meet current-day sassiness, all wrapped up in more of a plot twist than biting into a stone; eating your grandmas sponge cake. I swear, one minute you're reading about dusty clues, the next you're convinced HSD has secret passageways.

One of Us Is Lying – Karen M. McManus

Five teens. One detention. One murder. Four survivors trying not to cry/flip desks/run away. McManus nails that perfect high school storm: gossip, lies, jealousy... and the messy truth that nobody's really who they seem. Each character is a little nightmare, but in the best possible way. This one's a page-turner, and no, I didn't end up close to tears after I finished reading it... what?!

Onto some shows left over from last weeks article (which you should go back to read)

Inspector Morse

Ah, Morse. The OG Oxford detective with more grump than a Monday morning but somehow more brain than a library's worth of textbooks. Slow-burn British mysteries, smart dialogue, and just enough sass from our hero to keep things interesting. Watching Morse is like drinking tea while solving a crossword... except someone might literally be dead in the library...

Lewis

Spin-off magic! Morse retires (sadly), and Lewis steps in with Hathaway - detective banter? Chef's kiss. Cases still clever, locations still amazing (Oxford has some great old/modern mixup), and somehow it still feels like the perfect mix of 'I'm smart' and 'this is getting dramatic fast.' Classic British crime with a little modern twist.

If you like murder, chaos, teen drama, or grumpy detectives being a bit too clever for their own good, this lot has you covered. Books, TV, suspense, and awkwardly relatable characters everywhere. You'll laugh, gasp, and maybe glance suspiciously at your school library just in case.

“LOVE STORY”

Maisey Lafollette

Yes, we all know that there has been continued war, political uncertainty, school shootings, sporting events, and numerous scandals, but the story that actually broke the internet this week was Taylor Swift's engagement to Travis Kelce.

“You need to calm down,” it's true, TS is finally “never getting back together” with any of her exes!

Thirty-four-year-old billionaire Taylor Alison Swift is an American singer/songwriter who was born in Pennsylvania but grew up in Tennessee. Role-model, Taylor has been a trailblazer for musicians, in the music industry, the artists do not usually own the rights to their own music, but she has re-recorded her earlier works so she could own the rights to them, and these are known as ‘Taylor's versions,’ giving Taylor full authority on how her work is used. Some of the secrets to her success has been using her previous relationships to write hit songs, did you know some of her famous exes were: Joe Jonas, Taylor Lautner, Harry Styles, Calvin Harris, and Matty Healy? Taylor is also obsessed with her cats, who she names after famous female TV characters who all seem to be very strong, independent, fearless women, such as Meredith Grey and Olivia Benson. Travis Kelce is a thirty-five-year-old American football player, originally from Ohio, who now plays for the Kansas City Chiefs. Travis has won three Super-Bowls with the Chiefs, and in 2022, he had to defeat his brother Jason's team, the Philadelphia Eagles! In honour of his brother, Travis wears the number 87 on his football jersey, as Jason was born in 1987. The brothers also host a very successful podcast called “New Heights.”— Fun Fact it was on that podcast that TS recently announced her new album.

In 2023, on the “New Heights” podcast, Travis revealed to listeners that he had been on a recent Eras tour show and had wanted to give TS a friendship bracelet with his number on it but was unable to meet her. He used his platform and famous connections to eventually meet Taylor. Taylor has always made it clear that she is a huge fan of romance and 80’s John Hughes’ films, so it comes as no surprise that the engagement was private and romantic in their back garden. Travis got down on one knee to propose. It has been joked online, “that for all you students to just imagine your English teacher just got engaged to your PE teacher.”

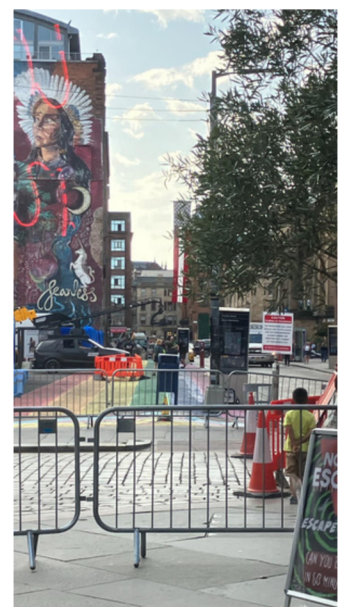
In Taylor Swift’s own words “she played the field before she found someone to commit to.” There’s certainly no “Bad Blood” between Travis and Taylor, and I know millions of Swifties can’t wait to see the wedding photos, and maybe her dress will be “Red?”

Spider-man in Scotland

Tom Johnston

Recently, The newest Spiderman film (Spider-Man: Brand New Day) had a surprising new filming location, the city of Glasgow. But the film is set in New York, so the streets and alleys of Glasgow were temporarily transformed into a wonderland of cameras, tanks and those classic yellow cabs. But why have they changed the location to Glasgow, instead of simply filming in New York? The short answer, Money. Filming in NY is incredibly expensive, and filming in Glasgow is cheap in comparison, and that ends up being that they save so much money that it is cheaper to convert Glasgow into New York than it is to film in New York!

The filming location in Glasgow was also surprisingly open to the public, with simple barriers being the only thing between the public and the set, so people were able to see a good bit of the action! Highlights include explosions, tanks, and Spider-Man himself. Glasgow has actually been the centre for a few movies recently, including “The running man”, “The Ghostwriter”, “The Batman” and “The Flash”. These films have led to road closures and theatrics for the city of Glasgow, making life a bit more interesting for the residents there. All of these movies had Glasgow doubling for other cities, from New York to Gotham, showing how a good director, and a good props team, can make a good story anywhere



Hungry Games (Not a Typo)

Al Forbes

Don't get me wrong - I love this school. It's my life. The playground?

Pretty chill. I still see people getting smushed into each other on the climbing frame, but no broken bones. Yet... But oh, do I love to look at stuff and say, 'gosh, darn. The heck?!' That's why I'm starting a new series where I write (shocking, I know) about the absolute chaos that is school life. And with that horrible intro out of the way, let's get started. Picture this: it's Period Five on a Tuesday. You've got two minutes left of double maths (nothing personal - love maths). Your secret packing operation is underway, stomach rumbling like a jet engine. Then the bell rings.

In a perfect world, there would be no queues, enough lunch staff, and everyone would get their lunch in under 30 seconds. But we don't live in that world. No, no, we live in the Dining Hall Hunger Games.

The bell screams (and tries to burst your eardrum while it's at it) and suddenly, corridors erupt. Students surge forward like charging rhinos on roller skates. Backpacks swing wildly like medieval flails. People shove, push, and elbow their way to glory (which is realistically just a warm chicken burger but that's not dramatic enough though).

L4-7 junior just left, trays wobbling, pasta spilling, juice boxes exploding.

By the time F1-6 arrive, the floor is a battlefield of spaghetti, rogue peas tap dancing, pasta spilling, juice boxes detonating, and a brown stain you really don't wanna risk wiping away.

People are yelling across tables, knives clatter, and trays tip over like dominoes. And yet... somehow, chaos continues to reign.

I watch it all, sense-deprived and weary, walking through the lunch hall with my now sticky shoes (seriously - what do you guys put on the floor), thinking: 'how is nobody actually injured yet' and 'where did the tray that got flung out the window go'? But I've seen it. I've witnessed it. People skipping in the queue like they're being chased by a teacher telling them not to skip... because that never happens, am I right! It's ridiculous.

It's hilarious.

And it's my (big word alert) civic duty to report on it.

So here's my challenge: L4-F2 (ish), survive the lunch rush without becoming a casualty.

Do not shove. Do not block doors. Do not treat trays like weapons. Do not slip in the River Tay of juice boxes. Eat carefully, move carefully, respect the chaos, and maybe, just maybe, we'll all make it through lunchtime alive.

Fail, and I will write Part Two – another empty promise I – whoops, did I say that aloud? I

mean, I will definitely write a part two to this article, featuring the tale of spilled spaghetti, juice-soaked uniforms, and that one person who got shoved against the crisps. Succeed, and you get the ultimate reward: bragging rights, a clear conscience, and my grudging respect. Ish.

Challenge accepted?



Is it Autumn?

Rosie O'Ready

As you will know, autumn is here! Or is it? For most people, the seasons are as follows:

December to February is winter, March to May is spring, June to August is summer, and September to November is autumn. That is what the majority seem to agree on, but not all. You might have friends who say November is in winter, and February is in spring. Some claim that May and September are part of summer, and the wackiest amongst us combine these and more. You might be one of these people.

But who's correct? Is it just a matter of opinion? Not exactly.

The method that most people are familiar with is the Gregorian calendar, which follows the meteorological system, and this states that December and the first two months of the year are part of winter, and every three months from there is a new season. This is based on the annual temperature cycle. The annual temperature cycle is primarily

caused by the Earth's tilt, which causes different hemispheres to receive different levels of direct sunlight. Summer in the UK is when the northern hemisphere is tilted towards the sun. Autumn is when the northern hemisphere begins to tilt away, winter is when the northern hemisphere fully tilts away, and spring is when it begins to turn back towards the sun. There is another system however, which is the astronomical system. This is based on the position of the earth in relation to the sun. Users of the astronomical system use the dates of the equinoxes and solstices, so the winter solstice in the middle of December marks the beginning of winter, the spring equinox in the middle of March marks the beginning of spring, the summer solstice in the middle of June signals the start of summer, and the autumn equinox halfway through September signals the beginning of autumn. The solstices and equinoxes take place roughly on the 21st of that month, but that date will change year by year. So if you're born in early September, you now you know you can correctly announce that you were born in summer!

Which is better though, meteorological or astronomical? Some countries, like the US, use the astronomical seasons more than we do here in the UK. This can sometimes cause issues, as when there is a leap year the equinox and solstice dates change due to the extra day in the year. The meteorological system is used more often by scientists, as it allows them to collect – for example – data about the amount of rainfall in autumn over 5 years without the dates of the season changing.

Hopefully, now you can know whether your June the 20th birthday is really a summer birthday or not



Chinese Parade

Jack Mitchell

On the 3rd of September, China held its largest ever military parade to mark the 80th anniversary of the Second World War, in a clear message to the United States and Europe that it is a force to be reckoned with. To add to the headache for the West, many of the most dangerous leaders in the world were in attendance at the event in Tiananmen Square.

Alongside President Xi Jinping were most notably Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. This made for a very disturbing watch for the leaders of intelligence agencies, militaries and countries of the Free World, as the leaders laughed and smiled together while group after group of military officers marched past. The president of Iran and Lukashenko of Belarus, often dubbed Europe's last dictator, were close behind them. At one point, in what seemed like it was from a movie about a nonspecific dictatorial regime, President Xi was saluted by thousands of troops while being driven standing in his open top car shouting and being responded to. The fact the three main leaders in attendance were almost unanimously elected in mysterious circumstances didn't exactly help either.

Though some of the parade looked almost comical, it couldn't be much further from it. The huge display of military strength paraded China's tanks, fighter jets, stealth aircraft, drones, huge army and most importantly its nuclear capabilities.

The parade follows a large summit hosted by China to reaffirm its leadership in the region and alliances around the world. This should make the West very uncomfortable and spring it into action to build more alliances in the area to bolster its influence. Although we don't need to go quite as far as to have our own version of the dictator olympics of the 3rd of September, it certainly wouldn't hurt to show a little more unity, because you know something has gone wrong when the three dictators seem to have a better relationship than that of the US President and the main European leaders.

The Blur that is my Future

Layla Whaley

I'm standing still, not sure what's real,
The present slips- I cannot feel.
Tomorrows mist, a fading light,
A path unclear beyond my sight.

Each moment sways, I lose my ground,
No steady voice no certain sound.
The future's veil is thin and grey,
It hides it's face, it hides away.

When people ask me what I'll be,
I feel some future inside of me.
Gasping and spluttering I try to grab hold,
Of this future I'm waiting for, or so I'm told.

Maybe in the quiet blur,
There's something waiting to occur.
A hobby, an interest, something roaring to start,
Something to fix my restless heart.

Though I do so much, have so many interests,
Something inside me cries and protests.
I crave something to morph into my career,
But what if it never comes, is my swallowing fear.

Lost in worry and shadows that creep,
That little future inside of me I try to keep.
But deep down inside of me I am unsure,
If my future's anything worth waiting for.

Editors' note
That's all Folks!
Tune in Next Week!

Your Editors - Charlie and Emma.