

THE COLUMNS

By Pupils; For Pupils | HSD's Newsletter: Issue 147

International Women's Day took place this year on the 8th of March, so this week, we've produced a special edition in celebration of it! We at the columns are very proud of our history of female leadership. Some may remember Ruby and Izzy who ran the paper superbly when I first joined it three years ago, who were of course succeeded by last years incredible trio of Meagan, Megan, and Roena. This year I believe I am the columns first male editor, make of that what you will, but I couldn't do a fraction of this newspaper without the amazing support from Lucy, Emma, and the regular contributions from Maisey, Ayanah, Rosie, Kirsty, and many others.

Oh yeah. I guess we have to cover at least some other news: War, war, war, oil, war, oil, death, prices, trump, trump, war, Epstein, war, war, more death. You know, cheery stuff!

Anyway, ignore that nonsense, read on, and learn about just some of the amazing women that have lived throughout history.

~ Charlie, Editor

The History of High School Girls

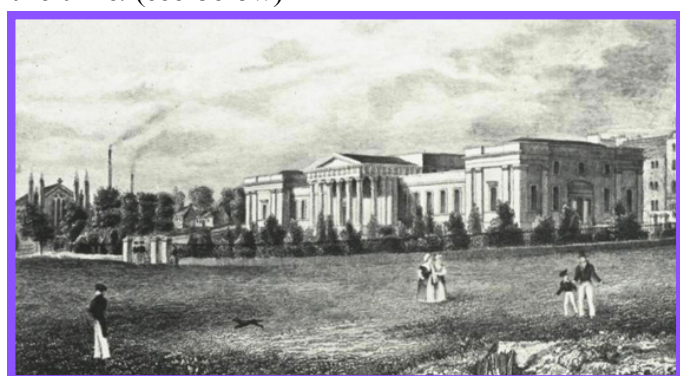


Lucy Smith

Your resident history enthusiast is back once more, and for international women's day I thought I'd take a dive into the school archives once more to do a little digging about the history of girls at HSD.

As most of us know, the Margaret Harris building, now the Junior School and music department was originally built as the Girls School in 1890. What I didn't realise before my extensive reading is that the history of girls at HSD is much longer than I thought.

The High School of Dundee was formed from 3 different schools, the Grammar School – which is the famous one allegedly created in 1239 with William Wallace, the English School – the one that finally let its pupils speak English instead of Latin, and the Academy – the one that was created the latest for sciences rather than literature. In 1834, the main school building that we know today was opened to house all 3 schools, though they remained separate at the time. (see below)



From as early as the 18th century, we can see evidence of girls at the school. In 1789, a grant was given to the Academy for girls to be taught 'the English language, Writing and Arithmetic', with provisions also being made for sewing. By the 1834 merge there are clear timetabled slots for 'Ladies' Classes', though they remained separate from the boys. This structure continued throughout most of the 19th century. In 1934 the school magazine produced a special centenary edition on the history of the school, including several reports from old girls.

(I'd recommend giving the entire thing a read – it's fascinating!) An alumna who was at the school 1884 reflects on her time saying 'All the classes were held then in what is now mainly the Boys' school—the girls at the west side, the boys at the east. One of the few classes that were mixed was the French one'. So clearly by this point there were a few co-ed classes, but the girls were still a distinct entity from the boys. In 1887, 21 girls from HSD graduated from St Andrews University with a degree equivalent, so the education being provided by HSD for girls was already of high standard!

TEACHERS.	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4
Mr CAMPBELL	English Grammar and Geography	English Reading and Elocution.		English Reading and Elocution		English, Geography, History, and Composition for Ladies	
Mr STEWART	Arithmetical Classes.		Ladies' Arithmetical Class	Writing	Ladies' Writing Class		Writing
Mr BLACK	1st and 2nd Latin Classes			1st Class		2nd Class	
Mr LOW	2nd Greek Class	3rd and 4th Latin, and 1st Greek Classes.		3rd and 4th Latin, and 1st Greek Classes.		2nd Greek Class	
Mr LEGENDRE	1st French Class.	1st French Class for Ladies	Spanish	2nd French Class	2nd French Class for Ladies	German	2nd French Class
Mr ANDREWS	Painting			Drawing			
Mr ROY	Arithmetic and Book-keeping.			Geography, General Grammar, English Composition, History and Logic			
Mr M'LAREN	Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.			Mathematics and Algebra			



Another interesting thing to note is the staff – I found a wonderful photo of the staff from 1889. An unusually high proportion of them are women – for that time period, which indicates that there must have also been quite a high proportion of girls being taught at the school at that time too. Have a look at their hats though, aren't they incredible?

By 1890, the school was struggling with space for all its pupils, so thanks to a generous donation from Margaret Harris, a separate space for the girls was built – the building now to the west of the main school. So, the invention of this 'Girls School' was in fact not the introduction of girls to HSD but rather the improvement of their education. In the 1990 School Review, several engravings from the opening of the girls school in 1890 are shown.



In this one we see the girls in an art class in what is now Mrs Stevenson's classroom in the music department. Look at their outfits, Mrs Watson would be so pleased!

And this one has the girls in the gymnasium – now Margaret Harris Hall where we have assembly – doing some sort of PE, though it clearly can't be too physically demanding given their uniforms...



The girls were also taken on day trips to do sketching exercises as seen to the left.



Aside from the various creative classes seen in these engravings, a girl's education at HSD was academically vigorous, studying literature, arithmetic, Latin, and even sciences towards the end of the century. When women were finally allowed to graduate universities with degrees in 1895, Agnes Forbes Blackadder, the first ever woman to obtain a degree from St Andrews University, was from the High School of Dundee.

From there on, the history gets a little more blurry and I admit that I've failed to find out exactly how and when the girls and boys schools finally merged. It seems that more and more classes (asides from French) became co-ed, but later than one might think, as many parents of current HSD pupils still remember the Margaret Harris building as the Girls School. The girls were still restricted in many ways, not being allowed to join the CCF until 1982, or do woodwork until the late 1970s. Even in my time at the school, girls have finally been permitted to wear trousers and play rugby. However, in the grand scheme of things the High School was incredibly unique in allowing a fair and high quality education to be delivered to such a high number of girls from such an early time period.

So, I hope I've opened your eyes a little (or a lot!) into the history of girls at this school. I know I certainly didn't know half of this before researching for this article. If anyone is interested, I really would recommend taking a look through the school archives, they can be found online here:

<https://highschoolofdundee.daisy.websds.net/default.aspx>

American Women That History Forgot

Maisey Lafollette



I'm half American and I love history, so I thought since it was International Women's Day recently, I would write about lesser-known women in American history.

1. Agent 355. Surrounded by myth and little fact the existence of the spy is debated. Supposedly she was the only female member of the Culper Spy Ring, the essential team of spies George Washington created to gather intelligence on the British. 355 was their code for lady and was mentioned in a letter between Washington and a spy, as the spy said he would bring a woman with him. Many believed the woman was a member of the ring, but there is no evidence to support that she was more than an ordinary woman. However, many have turned her into a myth arguing she was crucial to the Americans gaining independence. We have no way of knowing if she existed, but she is important as if fake her story shows how people can manipulate history to suit their version of events.

2. Marguerite Higgins. She was a war correspondent for the New York Herald. Higgins was famous or infamous for being brash, rule breaking and fearless. Higgins didn't believe in sugar coating her stories and was famous for her story on the Libration of Dachau, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. She insisted on being in the front lines to ensure accuracy, which angered some as in Korea she ignored orders to leave the battlefield. Due to her hard work in breaking barriers in a male dominated field, she has gone down in history opening doors for future female journalists. In addition, she won the Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts and the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting.

3. Major Charity Adams. This woman featured in the recent film *The Six Triple Eight* which explains the story of the Central Postal Directory (6888) Adams battalion was the first Black Women's Army Auxiliary Corp battalion to be sent overseas. They organised 7 million pieces of mail for US soldiers in three months. This was instrumental in boosting morale for the soldiers as they hadn't received any mail for a long period of time until the 6888 began their work. They were so effective under Adams' leadership they were sent to France for the same job, and Adams herself was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. After the war Adams returned for a master's in vocational psychology and continued her work in activism. To honour her and Lieutenant General Arthur J Greg, Fort Lee was renamed to Fort Gregg-Adams in 2023.

4. Bella Abzug. Otherwise known as Battling Bella, Abzug fought for equal rights for all. Before becoming a Congresswoman, Abzug was a lawyer who specifically fought Civil Rights cases. While in government she helped pass the first federal bill to protect Gay rights in America, known as the Equality Act. In addition, she worked on Title IX which made it so schools couldn't discriminate based on gender or they'd risk losing funding. Abzug also founded the National Women's Political Caucus and chaired the National Advisory Committee on Women, which gave women a voice in American politics. Abzug also fought for women's rights internationally, as she helped create the Women's Environment and Development Organization, which works with the UN to ensure women could help protect the environment. Due to her dedication and advocacy Bella Abzug was awarded the Blue Beret Peacekeepers Award, the highest honour a civilian can receive from the UN.

I hope you learned something about these dedicated, intelligent and heroic women. Without them many American women wouldn't have the rights or opportunities they do today. Without Higgins writing the cold hard truth, many female journalists wouldn't have been able to become a war correspondent. Without Adams the American military would have never accepted Women of colour as soldiers. Without Abzug many laws defending people's rights wouldn't exist, nor would many women have had the chance to work in politics. It's important to look back and see what extraordinary things women have done for their country, especially for Americans at a time when women's rights are at the forefront of discussion.

Female Mathematicians

Haoqi Liu

Mathematics has often been viewed as a male-dominated field. However, many women has made extraordinary contributions to the subject. To celebrate Internation Women's Day, I have brought you three truly remarkable female mathematicians, whose work has shaped today's society.

Emmy Noether

Described by Albert Einstein as the most important female mathematician in the history of mathematics, Emmy Noether was born to a Jewish family in Germany in 1882. She was planning to teach English and French before she decided to become a mathematician. She worked at the Mathematical Institute of Erlangen without pay for seven years, because she was a female. She later moved to the University of Göttingen, until she was dismissed by the Nazi government and forced to move to the US.

In terms of her mathematical work, she made many important contributions to the field of abstract algebra, as well as proving what are now known as Noether's First and Second Theorems, establishing some of the most important foundations in mathematical physics.

Ada Lovelace

Ada Lovelace was born in London in 1815, where her father was disappointed that she was not a "glorious boy." Her parents soon separated from each other, and she never saw her father again.

At 18, her talent led to a close working relationship with British mathematician Charles Babbage, where she was particularly interested in his work on the Analytical Engine. Unlike others at the time, including Babbage, she was the first to realise that computers could be used for more than just crunching numbers. She was the first to make the idea of storing and processing data such as music, and is widely considered to have written the first published algorithm for a machine.

Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale is perhaps best known for her care for wounded soldiers in the Crimean War. She worked hard to improve hygiene and living standards, which ultimately resulted in a significant drop in death rates. She led the way to improving healthcare in Britain, and advocating against harsh treatment towards women at work and in society.

She was also a pioneering statistician, able to effectively create graphs to draw conclusions from data. She is most known for using the polar area diagram, which was a clear, elegant way to display statistical data, and is fairly similar to the modern pie chart.

All three of these women, along with countless others, have transformed the field of mathematics into what we know today. Their achievements serve as a reminder that talent and innovation come from all backgrounds.

Fun Fact About the Edition Number

Haoqi Liu

Every week I will be sharing an interesting fact about the edition number for the week, starting with:

147 - Maximum possible break in a single game of snooker (without penalties).

Why The Rugby AGLV Are Made To Discourage

Women From Playing Rugby

Astrid Kiddie

The rules that dictate how young women play rugby are a direct cause of the patriarchy and misogyny in rugby. The rugby age grade law variations (aglv) are the rules of rugby that differ by your age such as how many people are playing, what size ball you use or how many people are in the scrums or rucks. They are said to be in place to “ensure an enjoyable and inclusive game for players across many age groups” which I believe is untrue as the rules differ drastically from girls U14 rugby to boys U14 rugby.

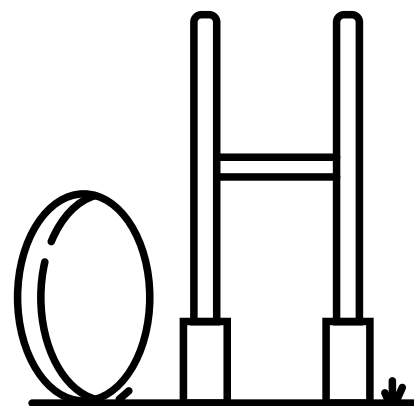
The difference in rules between the girls and boys is unheard of. The U14 aglvs differences include things like the girls have 8 people play, while the boys have 15 people. Girls use a size 3 ball, boys use a size 4, girls use a half pitch, boys use a full pitch. Girls have 1 person in a ruck (the breakdown after a tackle happens) boys have as many as they want. Girls have 3 people in the scrums (a group of people from either side push against each other as the ball is placed in the middle, and is kicked out) with no competition and no pushing, boys have 8 people with competition and pushing. Girls have no line outs (passed in from the side of the pitch) , boys have line outs with 5+ people in them. Girls have no conversions (kicking it over the post after a score) boys have conversions and adult point scoring.

I know I have just used a lot of rugby words there, but there is a noticeable difference between the two groups.

The law variations directly play into the patriarchy. Young women are being put at a direct disadvantage to their male peers. The vast difference between the rule set is enough to prove that, they are made to dumb women down, to make them expect less of themselves, to make them believe their male peers are better or smarter than them. We should all be upset and angry about this. The dominance of men in rugby is immense, and it is already difficult enough for a woman to decide to play rugby and stick at it, due to societal pressures, harassment from men and other people on their team, and the fact that the patriarchy has ground the need to be small, petite and helpless into them that the thought of being muddy, tackling and getting injured puts women off, not just because it's “gross” but because to be muddy and aggressive and angry is seen as an inherently masculine thing, and the men in high positions want women to stay weak. To be dominated. And these strong independent rugby playing women are a threat to them, which is why they make it seem like a bad thing to do something with masculine ties. But just because something is dictated as masculine doesn't mean you can't still be feminine. But does the patriarchy want you to know this? No. They don't. There is nothing wrong with being masculine or feminine. But the patriarchy and the men in power control media and the idea going into our heads about everything. Including what sports we play. And how we play them. These rules are made to satisfy men. I know from personal experience that when I have spoken about this before, especially to boys my age, I have been laughed at or ridiculed for something that is made to be against me. This just shows the fact that this rule difference, and the line the men are trying to draw between girls and boys, is satisfying to men and boys. Adolescent boys. The laughter and the insults and the ‘throwaway’ comments are all part of the patriarchy's plans to split us. These rules will not fix the patriarchy, but every step counts. Making sports, especially male dominated ones, open to women is always a step in the right direction.

Girls and boys, at this age group, are barely any different. The rules are different for no reason other than sexism. The only reasoning behind this that the SRU (Scottish rugby union) will say is that “a girl would struggle to pick up the rules, at the age of twelve, as quickly as a boy would.” This statement is wrong and simply not the case. These rules are meant to discourage the girls, make them feel weak, helpless and small compared to their male counterparts. Many people join rugby at the start of high school, girls and boys alike, which is why they state that at the age of twelve, or just before which is when the girls and boys split into separate groups.

That’s when the boys and girls should stop playing with each other. Because it become “dangerous” for the girls to be playing with the boys. Would you not be put off if you saw your opposite gender counterpart, who is meant to be playing the same sport as you, playing wildly more advanced rules? And you cannot find any difference between the two groups other than how they identify? What is the point of rugby if you join in to play rules similar to that of a p6? A 10 year old? While you yourself are 13 nearly 14? These sexist rules should change. Either hold the girls to the same standard as the boys, not treat them as less important, or you drag the boys back down the primary 6 level as well. I know which I’d prefer.



How Accurately Did The Greek Goddesses Reflect The Lives Of Mortal Women?

Anonymous

Greek goddesses played an incredibly important part in Ancient Greek culture, from temples and alters to the naming of the capital city. They had interesting lives, stories and relationships, they were worshiped equally alongside the gods. One would suppose that Greek women always looked up to the goddesses, partly because they were taught to, but more importantly, because the goddesses had what they did not. However, the general expectations and attributes forced upon each of them are contrasting to say the least.

We know Greek women had a very restricted lifestyle from various archaeological evidence and texts, in stark contrast to the goddesses who could roam pretty much wherever and whenever they wanted to. Many, such as Demeter and Athena even carried weapons like scythes or swords, wearing full battle armour. Women rarely left the house, if they had to, it was only with a veil covering her face and a male relative that they were allowed to leave. This is very different to the modern world as we know it, where women, similarly to the goddesses of the ancient times, are free to do as they wish, when they wish. It is these small things in their lives that make the Greek women and goddesses so very different, and it is really not hard to see why the women looked up them.

Obedience also played a big part in the lifestyle of a woman, as stated previously, a woman’s life was controlled by men. They dictated what she would wear, where she could go, what her opinions were, they really had no say over their own lives. A woman was really just a slave, I really cannot tell much difference between their rights or treatment. However, the goddesses, although still supposed to be conforming to traditional marital roles, did have more of a chance to live a life. Partly this was because they had the power to do so, the power women did not have. Goddesses did not have to obey the gods, except for their king, Zeus of course, but there are several examples in mythology when a goddess outwits a god, or even defeats him.

For example, when a group of gods plot together to overthrow Zeus, Athena and Hera leading this revolution, they were vaguely successful, until a nymph frees Zeus. But either way, it shows that the goddesses had a lot more power and independence, and certainly did not care about obeying the male gods.

Another point is that there was no place for a single, virgin, unmarried woman in Greek society, you would be shunned and ignored. The only path for women in life was to get married and keep your head down. Young girls would be married off as young as 12 or 13, as a way for their fathers or male relatives to get money. In the modern world, in most countries, this is now illegal, and women have a choice of who to marry, however in others, arranged marriages decided from birth are still around, so in that respect, they are similar to the Greeks. When they were married, they would immediately move out of their home, and into their new husband's house, all alone and isolated. In stark contrast, most of the goddesses were not married, Athena, Demeter, Artemis, Hestia, they were all free. Both Artemis and Hestia famously swore off men completely. Hestia after being proposed to by two of her brothers, took up the role of goddess of the hearth, which was actually surprisingly similar to a woman's job. But it is interesting that she left the official Olympian gods soon after, replaced by Dionysus god of wine, showing that the hearth didn't matter as much to men as wine did. The goddesses were unmarried partly because the gods were known to be avid cheaters, but also because they had a choice, a choice in what to do and how to do it. So, the representation of the women through the goddesses was incredibly inaccurate, at least for this example.

Gods and goddesses were said to be examples to the mortals, which is strange given there are so many virgin goddesses out there. One would have thought that most of the goddesses would have had children in order to set a good example, because a woman's most important duty was children, not only the care and nurture of them, but the general act of procreation, for that was a woman's sole purpose. But it is far the contrary, take Artemis for example, she was the goddess of the hunt, but more importantly she was the virgin goddess, so she had no children at all. Yet she was still respected by all, unlike childless women. She was also the protector of young girls, leading a group of them, who had all sworn off men, this was probably your safest option as an ancient Greek woman anyway. One would like to think this is different than the modern world, however in countries such as the USA, abortion is illegal in many states, thus forcing women to have children even if they do not wish to do so, so really, they are still quite similar. The question really is why are the expectations on the goddesses and women so very different? Yes, the goddesses are deities, but both groups were female, so what makes a mortal woman only fit for childbirth, yet a goddess able to be free of that constraint?

In conclusion, the Greek women were not at all accurately depicted through their goddesses. A Greek woman had to be married, with children, obedient and submissive, the Greek goddesses were anything but that. Most of the Greek goddesses were strong and independent, many of them carried some form of weapon, so saying they were anything like the Greek women was just untrue. There were a few instances when they had some similarities, but most of those similarities were negative attributes, not positive. So really, the goddesses and women led completely separate and different lives, despite the goddesses being the role models of women, nothing ever came of it.

Women In Parliament



Jack Mitchell

It was over 100 years ago that the first woman was elected to the House of Commons as a Member of Parliament, and since then significant strides towards a more equal chamber have been made. Since 1918, there have been nearly 700 female MPs, and the current parliament has the highest proportion of women ever, with 41%. The previous record was set at the last general election in 2019, showing steady progress towards having a parliament more equal to the wider population that may well continue at the next election as well.

Constance Markievicz was the first woman to be elected as an MP on the 28th of December 1918 representing the constituency of Dublin St Patrick's. However, as a Sinn Féin member, she refused to take her seat in the Commons and so is sometimes not counted as the first 'real' female MP because of her lack of Westminster presence. The first woman to actually be elected as an MP and also take her seat was Nancy Astor, who on the 28th of November 1919 won Plymouth Sutton seat in a by-election that had been triggered by her husband's elevation to the House of Lords. An American by birth, Viscountess Astor was a supporter of education reform and women's rights during her time in parliament and served for over 25 years in her role.

Since then, women in the British parliament have reached even greater heights than their predecessors, becoming ministers, members of the cabinet, and on three occasions in the top job of Prime Minister. In fact, since the appointment of Rachel Reeves as Chancellor, a woman has held every great office of state, the term for the four most important government positions of Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister.

As previously mentioned, three women have so far managed to become Prime Minister – Margaret Thatcher, Theresa May, and Liz Truss. Interestingly, all three belonged to the Conservative Party which counterintuitively typically has a great disparity between male and female MPs. While more left wing parties such as Labour and the Liberal Democrats have a much more equal number of female MPs compared to male ones, neither party has had many women involved in leading it, with the Lib Dems only ever having one female leader and the Labour Party never having a permanent non male leader in its history.

Having said that, the current Labour government does have many women in prominent roles such as Chancellor Rachel Reeves, Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper, Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood and Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson. Having women in such high-profile positions is key to inspiring young women and girls and showing them what is possible for them in future. When our next female Prime Minister will emerge I do not know, but I am certain we won't have long to wait to see Britain's fourth.



What Is Misogyny And Why Does It Matter?

Anonymous

Imagine being judged, ignored, or treated as less important, not because of anything that you've done, but simply because of your gender. For millions of women and girls all over the world, this isn't unfairness doesn't just happen once for them, it's something they have to face almost every day and that's what makes misogyny so wrong. Women shouldn't have to be constantly worried about their safety when walking alone at night or being concerned of being suddenly harassed. This is what misogyny looks like.

Misogyny is the hatred, dislike and prejudice against women and girls. Misogyny might not always appear in obvious scenarios, sometimes it gets shown in less detectable ways, for example like in stereotypes, unfair expectations, or dismissing women's ideas. Misogyny is based on the belief that women are less capable and less valuable than men. We know that there are many famous and inspiring women in history and today, people like Rosa Parks, Marie Curie and Emmeline Pankhurst who all changed the world for the better, but in the end women will still never be considered as intelligent or successful as men.

We hear examples of misogyny all around us, it could be in politics, at school, at home or out and about in public. It can be hearing that women are "too emotional" to lead, watching women be judged more harshly for their behaviour, seeing that women are often paid less for doing the same work as men, or knowing that women are often seen as people made to boss around and to do some man's bidding and will.

But these stupid ideas did not appear suddenly overnight. Misogyny has deep roots in history dating back to as far as the Ancient Greeks, when women were denied basic rights and opportunities to speak out. Many were silenced and punished for having ideas or having the confidence to express their opinions. Back then, misogyny was so normalised that people just got used to it and went on with their lives in a world contaminated with inequality. Women were always seen as just toys for the men to play with and should never be taken seriously. Malala Yousafzai had famously quoted, "I raise up my voice — not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard." She was one of the few women who dared to speak out and stand with her beliefs in hope to change the world for the better.

Stereotypes play a big part in misogyny as well. When someone mentions something related to gender, race or anything, our minds automatically form an opinion as if engraved into our way of thinking, for example, boys like blue and girls like pink, when someone mentions Asia, many people assume there is only Japan, China and Korea, or you are only beautiful when you have a slim body figure and perfect facial features. From these stereotypes, many people live to hate and despise who they are and what they look like. They begin to feel ashamed of their looks, their weight, or their race. Women are constantly getting judged for their body shape and their appearances, if a woman does not meet the standards that men want from them, they are considered as undesirable. Everyone is beautiful in their own way, society does not get to decide that.

Apart from that, misogyny also seriously affects women's mental and physical health. Constant discrimination, harassment, hostility and the need to meet perfect expectations can lead to anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and stress, which will deeply affect their overall well-being. It also increases the risk of physical harm through violence and unsafe environments.

Last year in the UK, 72.1% of domestic abuse reported to the police involved a female victim and only 27.9% with a male victim. 90.9% of women were victims of sexual assault and around 65%-70% of domestic homicide involved a female victim. Although both genders do experience harm, women are the majority of victims this could be because many men still believe that women do not get a say in situations, so the only way to assert dominance would be to intimidate and frighten them. Based on global statistics, 1 in 3 women have experienced misogyny or any type of harassment towards them, and because of these reasons, over 250,000 women worldwide die from suicide every year. It's heartbreaking to think that the only way these women could escape from this torture was to take their own lives. This is how serious misogyny is.

Recently the UK has begun to recognise misogyny as a serious hate crime, with a punishment of spending around 1 – 5 years in prison depending on the circumstances. And although misogyny may not seem so common anymore, it is still happening all around the world in countries such as Afghanistan, Somalia and Pakistan.

We may not be able to completely end misogyny once and for all, but we all have the ability to challenge and defy it in different ways. That can start with speaking up against sexist comments or suggestions, even if it feels uncomfortable to do so. It also involves questioning stereotypes and using respectful language so everyone can feel as if they matter. We can stand up against misogyny and support fair treatment in our schools, workplaces, and communities, so that those who experience discrimination can feel happy and confident. Change will not happen suddenly overnight, but how we act now can gradually change people's mindsets and contribute to a more equal and respectful society.

When we talk about ending misogyny, we're not just doing it for just women, we're doing it because everyone deserves fairness and respect. Misogyny doesn't just hurt girls, it creates a world where people think it's okay to judge or underestimate someone just because of their gender, and that affects all of us. It can make schools, workplaces, and even friendships feel unfair or uncomfortable. If we want a future where everyone has the same opportunities and chance at life, we can't ignore sexist comments or brush them off as only "just jokes." We have to call them out, support each other, and make it clear that treating people unequally isn't acceptable. We're choosing fairness, respect and a better future for everyone, and in order to do so, **MISOGYNY HAS TO STOP.**



12:00 | 09.02.2100 | UST+8 | Mont Tate Enclave, Neutral

Misha woke to the low whirring of machines and the slow hiss of air vents. His eyes adjusted to the pale morning light spilling across the room. Outside the window, the mountains rose in a wall of silver and green, mist curling around their ridges like smoke from a sleeping dragon.

Alexei was already awake, pacing restlessly. The floor beneath his boots wasn't wooden—tatami, woven and dry, exuded a faint grassy scent that mingled with the perfume of alpine flowers drifting through the open vent.

A knock came at the door. Both men froze. Instinct took over. They slipped to either side of the frame, ready—until the door slid sideways instead of swinging in. Their fists struck air.

“Dear, dear... are you both all right?” came a woman's calm voice.

Misha blinked. The newcomer wore a white jacket with a red insignia stitched over her chest—a rising sun encircled by a ring of ice. Her face was kind but unreadable.

Misha's tone was sharper than he intended. “What would you care, anyway?”

“We do care,” she said evenly. “Here, some food. You were unconscious when we found you. We pulled you from the wreckage near Inchoun. The fighting there has already begun—your people and the Xi Empire are tearing each other apart at sea.”

Alexei snorted. “I'd have enjoyed a good old fight. Who are you, then?”

The woman gave a polite bow. “Forgive me. My name is Yui Suzuki. You may call me Ms. Suzuki. I've been instructed to speak with you about what you've learned regarding the Icelands.”

Misha and Alexei exchanged a quick look. Then Misha spoke, his voice measured but wary. “I found out about a secret program—ICE. We thought it was just myth. But then came the broadcast... and I knew.”

“Thank you, Mikhail,” Ms. Suzuki said quietly. “We heard the same message. You're safe here—for now. This is Mont Tate Enclave, one of the Neutral Territories. Japan stands apart from the Five Powers. We're doing what we can to stop what's happening beneath the ice. Something is changing... and not for the better.”

For a moment, silence filled the room. The hum of the machines seemed louder than before.

Misha stared at the tatami beneath his feet. His fingers trembled slightly—not from fear, but from the dawning realisation that even here, buried in the quiet heart of the mountains, the world's fracture lines were still spreading

Book review: *Bad Girls of Ancient Greece* by Lizzy Tiffin



Bad Girls of Ancient Greece for when you are DONE learning about men. The great women of history are often left in the shadow of the males in their lives, but when the lives of these women are so interesting they deserve to be recognised. Lizzy Tiffin includes so many ancient women that are mostly not covered or misunderstood in lots of literature. This book explores the greater women behind the great men of myths and legends.

(Books, Biscuits and Bedazzling meets every Tuesday break and lunchtime in the Library, please join us!)

And Finally...

Seven questions for staff

Lucy Smith

Welcome back! I seem to be getting in a trend of visiting the departments I haven't seen in forever. Today I trekked up to Bonar to see the geography department and I bring to you...Miss Stewart!

1. **Cats or dogs and why?** – Dogs all the way, their loyalty and love and their little tippy tappy paws around the house, they're the siblings I never had
2. **What did you want to be when you were younger?** – An Olympic gymnast, I had an obsession with Nadia Comăneci, but never did gymnastics
3. **What is your comfort film/TV series?** – An early 21st century docuseries called 'Everwood', which tackles challenging issues in a soft and gentle way. I also watch Channel 4 news every night, which comforts me
4. **What department would you like to be in?** – PE, I'd in my happy place running around exercising
5. **Who is your favourite musical artist?** – A band called Old Dominion, a contemporary country band
6. **What was your first job?** – A school summer holiday activities coordinator
7. **What is your go to karaoke song?** – I only sing in the kitchen but it'd be 'Livin' On A Prayer' by Bon Jovi

I have come to terms with the fact that most teachers are dog people, and that's ok, I'll live. Otherwise, a fascinating set of answers, see you next week!

(actual editors note:
found...this. I think
Haoqi did it. I can't find
anyone who knows what
it is, so make up your
own explanation.)

(Haoqi reply:
I totally didn't do it.)

(random mystery
person reply:
Have fun with this!)

$$\prod_{k=4}^{63} \frac{\log_k (5^{k^2} - 1)}{\log_{k+1} (5^{k^2} - 4)}$$

Your Editors - Charlie, Emma, and Lucy

The text from just deleted so I was forced to put a photo in