

150 — The Book of Psalms in the Bible has 150 psalms.

Well, this is the final regular edition of the columns from this year's editorial team. At the end of last year I took up the position of editor from Meghan, Meagan, and Roena, and was soon joined by Emma, then Shan and Lucy without whom I would have been totally unable to produce this paper almost every week for the past year. Credit as well to the consistently superb assistance of Maisey, Rosie and Al. Haoqi was also helpful sometimes. And of course, thank you to everyone who contributed to this paper. To those of you who have read this every week, to those who have only read one, to those who hadn't heard of us at the start of the year but now read regularly, to those who aren't reading this and never will and don't even know we have a newspaper, thank you (ok probably not thank you to the last one). Editor Charlie

Coming of age – films to watch before leaving school

Emma Turton

“Teenagers sparkled... they knew something children didn't know, and adults ended up forgetting” – Lorde

Adolescence – the unique period of raw emotion plastered between the naivety of childhood and the ritualism of adulthood, the struggle for understanding, the desire for connection, a period that adults often reflect upon, but forget. Its essence had once been captured through Tumblr – a galactic, interconnected universe – a single click away. Conversations fueled by melancholic longing and nostalgia – the struggle for understanding was replaced with pure connection by this period in their lives. It wasn't just connection. It was a shared cosmos - a community of Doc Martens, subcultures and the curation of film and music. Film and music which reflected the visions and nostalgia. But which constellation of films reflect the sparkle of being a teenager best?

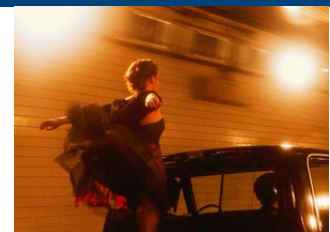
The breakfast club.

The Breakfast Club is widely considered one of the most powerful coming-of-age films. It captures the complexity of teenage identity in a way that still feels real decades later. Set in a single day of detention, the film strips away the stereotypes each character represents – the brain, the athlete, the princess, the rebel, and the outcast - revealing the insecurities and pressures beneath them. What allows it to truly capture this unique period is how it shows that growing up isn't about fitting into a label, but about understanding yourself and others. As the characters open up, they realise they're all dealing with expectations from parents, fear of failure, and a desire to be accepted. This emotional honesty makes their development feel genuine rather than forced. The movie also highlights a key part of coming of age: connection. Despite their differences, the group forms unexpected bonds, showing that empathy can break down social barriers. Paired with humor, by the end, they haven't completely changed who they are, but they've gained perspective – making it feel authentic to the sparkle that adolescence brings.



the Perks of being a wallflower

The Perks of Being a Wallflower explores the emotional complexity of growing up, particularly around mental health and identity. Through Charlie's perspective, the film shows how past trauma and loneliness can shape a person's experience of adolescence. Charlie assumes adolescence and growing up is full of excitement and glamour but quickly realises it is at times both confusing and overwhelming. The friendships Charlie forms help him begin to understand himself, highlighting how connection can be a crucial part of healing. Ultimately, the film suggests that coming of age is about learning to accept both your past and yourself showing a newfound side to the glitter of adolescence.



Lady Bird

Lady Bird captures the tension between independence and belonging. Christine, or "Lady Bird," is desperate to define herself and escape her hometown, yet she remains deeply tied to her family, particularly her mother. The film stands out for its realism - there are no dramatic transformations, just small, meaningful moments that reflect real life. It shows that growing up often involves conflict, especially with the people we love most, but also understanding and forgiveness. In the end, Lady Bird's journey reflects the idea that maturity comes from recognising what has shaped you.



Mid90s

Mid90s presents adolescence in a raw and unfiltered way. Following Stevie as he becomes involved with a group of older skateboarders, the film highlights the desire to belong and the influence of peer pressure. What makes it powerful is its realism in reflecting youth - there is no clear lesson or resolution, just a series of experiences that shape Stevie's understanding of himself. It shows how growing up can involve risk, poor decisions, and vulnerability. Ultimately, the film suggests that coming of age is not a single moment, but a gradual process shaped by the people around you.



Energy crisis - Should the UK turn back to Russian Oil? Nhat Nguyen

Iran War. Why should we worry about a war away in the Middle East? At first, it seems like it doesn't affect us at all. What you may not know is that the UK isn't heavily dependent on Iran for energy, so you might expect the impacts to be limited, can't we just buy it from other countries?

However, it's a bit more complicated than that. Countries don't just buy and sell oil and gas locally – they trade it internationally. So if a major supplier like Iran suddenly supply less, there is less energy available overall. This is a supply shock, a sudden reduction in something known to be available, causing sharp price rises. The issue is that Iran and its forces have threatened and attacked commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway that is crucial for oil shipments, making it highly dangerous and risky for tankers from other countries to pass through.

This means that it's not only Iranian oil we don't have access to, it's also other countries in the Persian Gulf such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, UAE (12% of UK diesel imports in 2024 according to the DESNZ). Even UK diesel imports from European partners, the Netherlands and Belgium, which makes up 37% of petroleum product exports, are reliant on oil producers near the Gulf region.

Once energy becomes more expensive, the cost rise spreads through the economy like a chain reaction. Energy is something every business relies on, whether for production, transportation or keeping the lights on. When these costs rise, business will have to, to some extent, pass the cost onto consumers. If wages don't rise at the same pace, people will be worse off, they can afford less with their fixed income. When this happens across the country, people tend to spend less, and the economy will slow down.



Ships going through the Strait of Hormuz, a major choke point for roughly 20% of global oil shipments

The obvious question is what can actually be done about it?

In the short term, there are ways to reduce the pressure. Government can step in to help households but controlling energy prices and offering financial support. The UK can also try importing from different countries. One possible way to lower energy costs is to buy oil from countries where it is cheaper such as Russia, which President Trump has done by easing sanctions on Russian oil. However, many countries are opposed to this approach due to political tensions and security measures as Russia will likely use the oil revenue to fund military spending, prolonging the war in Ukraine.

However, these are temporary measures, they don't reduce the UK reliance on energy imports, which makes it vulnerable to global energy prices. So how do you stop this from happening again?

Rely less on global fossil fuel markets. Stepping towards energy independence, preferably through renewable energy, producing more solar, wind, nuclear energy of our own. There are other changes that could help too. For example, shifting from gas heating and petrol cars to electricity – which comes from a renewable source. Improving infrastructure, like building better ways to store energy or upgrading the national grid, is also important. After all, it's not just about producing energy, but making sure it can be used when and where it's needed.

Of course, there are huge costs involved in terms of the high capital investments and time it takes to set up. Despite these challenges, this transition is necessary long term, to not only offer protection against these global shocks but also to fight climate change.

In a way, the war in Iran hasn't created a completely new problem - it has exposed one that was already there. The UK isn't necessarily short of energy, but it is highly exposed to global price changes. That means events happening far away can still have a direct impact at home.

Architecture and Engineering Wonders

Niel Alam

Dundee West Station served Dundee from 1847 to 1965 when it was demolished. Situated initially operated by the Dundee and Perth Railway and was the terminus of the Dundee-Perth line. In the photo, this is actually the third rendition of the station. It was constructed for the Caledonian Railway Company between 1889-1890, previously being built out of wood.

This third rendition was built in red sandstone and Scottish Baronial Style designed by Thomas Barr. The structure was really an architectural masterpiece in Dundee, the clocktower with its sharp spike at the top and the grand scale of the building, especially when compared to the people to in the picture created a warm welcome to Dundee especially to people who came from places like Edinburgh or London.



An example of Scottish Baronial Architecture is Morgan Academy itself.

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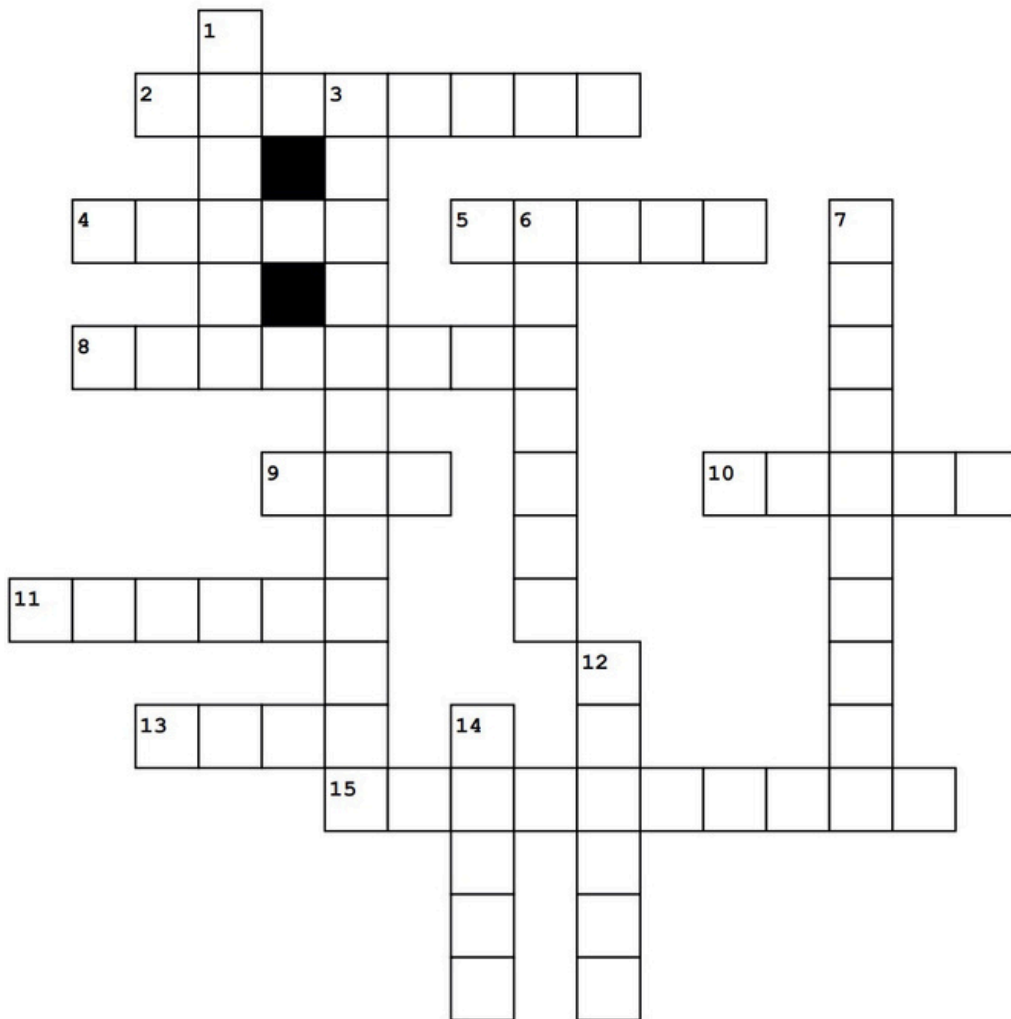
In the picture to the left is another perspective of the station, with the clocktower being incredibly imposing. You can also see where the Malmaison, Union Street and Whitehall Crescent are and how similar they are in present.

The building was closed on the 1st of May 1965 to make way for an intersection to lead to the Tay Road Bridge, with its last train departing to Glasgow at 8pm. The station was demolished after.

At its peak, the station employed loads of people and in terms of goods, over 15,000 tons of materials, which were mostly coal for Dundee's large number of factories. Trains ran to destinations like Manchester, Liverpool and London, and also served local towns like Blairgowrie and Crieff.

The station is really impressive, and if it was never demolished, I think it would've been one of, if not the best building in Dundee architecturally. Authors and architects have often thought the demolition of the building was 'perhaps the most tragic loss' in terms of railway architecture across Scotland.

The School Year So Far...By Maisey Lafollette



Across


2. Finish the name of the new club in the Library called Books and...
4. Where was the annual STEM trip this year?
5. What is the surname of the new Executive Rector?
8. Which house won the recent egg hunt?
9. On Remembrance Day what colour were the Pillars lit up?
10. What is the name of the hall Prize Giving is held in?
11. Major who is stepping down as the Contingent Commander of the cadets?
13. For the F6 Skorts Vs Shorts charity hockey match, who won boys or girls?
15. What is the name of the school newspaper?

Down

1. What is the name of the school musical this year?
3. Which charity visited F5 & F6 to give a talk on suicide prevention?
6. Which house is currently in first place for the House Shield?
7. Which American historical figure did Mr.Kent dress up as for Halloween this year?
12. What piece of technology has been prohibited from school?
14. For Multicultural Week what word was written in different languages on the wall?

Music & Lyrics by
STEPHEN SCHWARTZ




PIPPIN
Book by
ROGER O. HIRSON



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The Space, Dundee. Tickets £20, under 18s £15

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**This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI**

BOSS YOUR EXAMS

Haoqi Liu

So, seeing as Lucy has been complaining about cheese and curling and dead wood and punctuation ranting and petrol drinking and bubble writing and capital pi's and terms and conditions and all the other nonsense I've been throwing into The Columns, I thought I would write something more serious, since exams are right around the corner for half the school.

[seriousness starts now]

Just remember, throughout study leave, and not just limited to exams, keep calm, think with a clear head, and you can make everything ok.

When you are studying, remove distractions, stay focused and revise in determined, dedicated, short blocks. Don't overstudy. Don't tire yourself out. You should never feel exhausted from revising. Make sure you rest well, take breaks throughout the day. If things feel overwhelming, don't worry, just take it one step at a time. Also, don't quit your life. Speak to your friends, get together, ideally not via the internet. Keep enjoying the things you love doing, whether that's reading, dancing or football. Get fresh air and stay active regularly.

When the time comes for the exam, check everything before you go, arrive in good time, and in relaxed and enlightened spirits. If you panic, take a moment, breathe in, breathe out... Work through the paper like you normally would at any other time. The flow will come naturally. And once you are in the flow, do not break it.

Read questions carefully. Very carefully. Don't write your Macbeth essay only to find you were looking at the poetry question. If something doesn't click, don't dwell on it, not during, not after. Move on, come back. Do not rush, there is enough time. Otherwise you will oopsie, and you will spend even more time (or marks) recovering it. Haste at the start is waste at the end. If you finish fast, check your work. No daydreaming or stargazing or origami.

And just remember one more thing: these exams don't exist because the government thinks teenage torture is entertaining. It's a chance to shine, to demonstrate how great you truly are, because – and I promise – you are a great person. You know you can do it. Stay happy. Stay positive. Celebrate yourself.

[seriousness ends now]

And don't forget +C. :)

To higher/AH maths students, please genuinely do not forget!

To everybody else, you probably won't have a clue what this is about. You'll C if you take higher maths.

LUCY: I HAVE FORGOTTEN +C APPROXIMATELY 5 TIMES. AND IN EVERY SINGLE PRELIM.

HAOQI: YOU'RE NOT ALONE. I FORGET +C FAR TOO MANY TIMES AS WELL. :)

More Than Seven Questions For Staff

As this series comes to a close, I realise there are still so many teachers I wanted to question, and so many more questions I wanted to ask. So I sent out a poll to all the teachers last week with a selection of questions to get some more answers, and some general statistics from our staff.

Out of the 101 staff in the senior school, 36 replied.

Starting with the boring questions:

Tea or Coffee? – 72% responded with coffee, which makes sense given the type of job these poor teachers have chosen

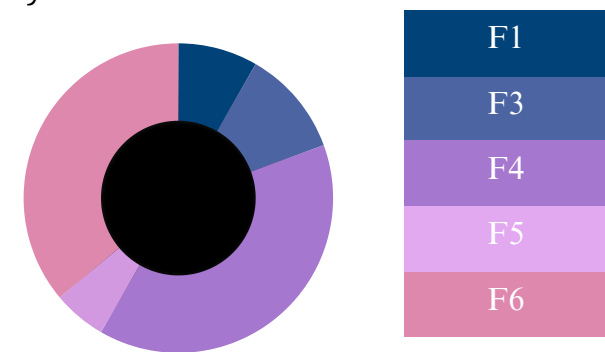
Introvert or Extrovert? – 72% claim to be introverts, which I find odd given they talk to and interact with people for a living...

Night Owl or Early Bird? – This was pretty much a 50-50 split, not much else to say

I was surprised by the discovery that 33% believe that ghosts exists... what does this say about our teachers??

In terms of favourite department, PE wins by a landslide, though history and business aren't far behind.

Favourite year-group in the school was close between F4 and F6, but unfortunately F4 pulled ahead by the last second. No one voted for F2.



The best house was an unfortunate draw between Aystree and Wallace, though I would like to say Aystree was far in the lead until recently so I'm going to count it as a win anyway...



By far the most interesting results were from 'What is your most niche hobby?'. Try and guess who these belong to...

Finally the question that I'm sure no one cares about but me...Cats or Dogs?

Glass Making
Chopping Wood
Reformer Pilates
Stamp Collecting
Tap Dancing
Genealogy
Table Setting
Balloon Arches
Model Railways
Hot Yoga
Impulsive Spending
Mushroom Foraging

Well, I'm distraught to announce that the dogs won. With 72% of the votes. I'll get over it one day. But today is not that day.

Anyway, that rounds up my stats about staff! Don't worry I've still done the usual 7 questions, with a very special guest for the final week...Keep reading!

Seven questions for staff

Lucy Smith

Welcome to the final week of your favourite series! As this is my last ever Columns article, and the 150th edition, I thought I'd bring you all someone extra special for this week. It's none other than the Rector herself...Mrs Hudson!

1. **Cats or dogs and why?** – Definitely dogs. I have more experience of dogs, so I know them better, and they're always happy to see you. They have characteristics that we humans could learn from: loyalty, positivity, and trust.
2. **What did you want to be when you were younger?** – A teacher, always. Originally, I wanted to be an English teacher, so I did English at university, but then I discovered medieval history...
3. **What is your comfort film/TV series?** – It has to be 'ER'
4. **What department would you like to be in?** – The easy answer is the English department, but if I could play the piano then the music department.
5. **Who is your favourite musical artist?** – For the intellectual answer it's a toss-up between Anne Sofie von Otter, and Ian Bostridge (both opera singers). For the more average answer then Taylor Swift.
6. **What was your first job?** – Working in the family business, a paint manufacturing company, filing various things.
7. **What is your go to karaoke song?** – 'The Winner Takes It All' by ABBA. I've got my own karaoke version of it on CD, which I recorded for my 50th.

And that brings the series to an end! An excellent set of answers, even if I was hoping for one last cat person... I hope you've enjoyed reading these as much as I've enjoyed interrogating the wonderful teachers here at HSD, goodbye!

Editors' Note

(Stuff that didn't fit on the cover)

This year in general has been hectic, but the columns has always been the one consistency in my workload, the deadline that's always there, always descending to put strain on my Thursday evenings and Friday mornings. Don't worry it's been fun! I think! Outside of this paper, the last year has been...well you know. A year that has seen institutions and consistencies, that we were told would stand firm until the end of time, come crashing down into little pieces, when all certainty in the world has been torn up and scattered, where the future has been washed away on the whims of lunatics, rubbing together their withered, oily hands in golden halls, surrounded by spineless reptiles who have scrubbed the concept of 'No' from their feeble minds, and whose spiny claws tear at the world, ever plotting to kidnap presidents and ignite the world for reasons we can only guess at. I suppose in times where the chaos of the world is shown at every corner, small school newspapers full of random nonsense might be a little important (nonsense in a nice way).

I think we did quite ok in the end.

Hope you enjoyed the Columns this year, and best of luck to next years editors! I'm sure the world will give you lots to write about.

Your Editors - Charlie, Emma, and Lucy