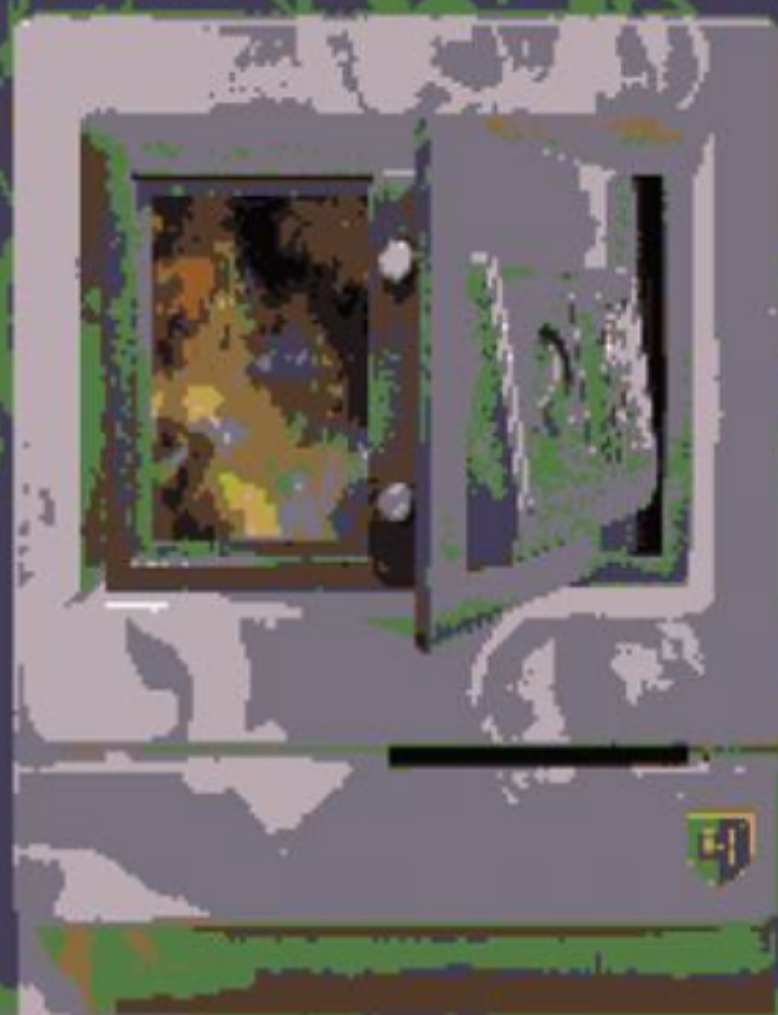


BEYOND THE BUBBLE

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THE HERSCHEL COMMUNITY
AND BEYOND

COVER BY FURQAN KHOKHAR

From the Editor



Dear Herschel Community,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first ever publication of our student magazine, 'Beyond the Bubble'.

During the pandemic, the term 'bubble' came to mean something quite significant and specific, but even before this time we at Herschel Grammar School were aware of the term 'Herschel Bubble', or our Herschel Family as I like to think of it. I think that's why this name resonated with many of you and why it won the 'What's in a Name?' Competition.

'Beyond the Bubble?' emphasizes our goal to try to widen the scope of our community, broaden their horizons, whilst also celebrating the many talents within it. I hope you'll agree that we've definitely made a good start.

Our publication aims to be written *by* you (on topics you want to write about 'To Rule or Not to Rule', 'Qatar: World Cup'), *for* you ('Year 11 Tips', movie review) and maybe sometimes even *about* you ('Move Over STEM there's A New Kid in Town'). What makes it even more exciting is the range of talents that we display through original artwork (illustrations and cartoons), games (crossword) and writing (both fiction and non-fiction) all created by us, the students.

Feedback is welcome as are contributions from future hopefuls. Please email me and 'cc' in Mrs Sahi (ssi).

It only remains for me to say on behalf of our Writing Club ...

Happy Reading!

Sara Inayat

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TO RULE OR NOT TO RULE?

by Sanchali Sreelan



Illustrated by Ayati Kumar

THE RELEVANCE OF THE MONARCHY IN TODAY'S WORLD

September the 8th, 2022. Most are still on their way back from work, stuck in the seemingly endless lines of traffic with only the mindless chatter of the radio to keep them company while a lucky few lounge at home, flicking through TV channels in a search for entertainment. One thing unites them: as the cheerful music and crackle of the radio turn to solemn silence and a 'BREAKING NEWS' banner appears on the TV screen, the world seems to slow as the death of Queen Elizabeth the Second is announced.

For many, she is the only monarch they have ever known- that their parents have ever known too - and her death, which had seemed so elusive, marks the end of not only an era, a political shift, but a personal change. But this isn't the case for many nations around the world: in fact, it isn't something they will ever have to consider, having left behind their days of monarchy years ago. So why is it that the UK still remains adamant in their traditions of the past, and why do we still have a monarch?

“The Queen reigns, but she does not rule” is perhaps the most accurate representation of the power the monarch holds today. While in the past those ruling as monarch held almost absolute power, this style of rule ended in 1215 with the signing of the Magna Carta at Runnymede. As head of state, the monarch now holds mainly ceremonial duties and a few other roles: for example, royal assent for a Bill from parliament to become a law, and theoretically a leading role in all military operations. But even if they do not have as much say as they did in the past, the royal family still hold immense power in terms of sheer support: in 2022 around 59% of the male and 63% of the female population still are in support of a monarchy. And there is no question when it comes to the fact that the royal family could be classed as an ‘economic powerhouse’, as a writer at Medium puts it. While costing UK taxpayers around £87.5 million in 2021, the crown estate made £318 million in profit over the past year- and it’s no secret that the temptation of seeing real, living monarchs draws flocks of tourists ever year, generating another £7 billion annually in profit. But there is no denial that with immense economic prosperity breeds opportunities for corruption to flourish.

Back in 2017, it was revealed through the infamous Paradise Papers that the

Duchy of Lancaster, the Queen’s private estate, invested millions of pounds in hidden offshore accounts in a Cayman Islands Fund, and some of her money funded a retailer accused of exploiting the poor and vulnerable. And when considering the more questionable aspects of the Royal Family, it is impossible to ignore Prince Andrew, who is still permitted to roam free after repeated assault claims after his infamous friendship with Jeffrey Epstein. The royalty seem to be able to get away with a variety of criminal offences simply because they are royalty, all while the average British taxpayer is expected to fund their lavish lifestyles: though it arguably is not much of a fee per person, it is worth questioning why while the rest of the nation struggles to keep up with ever-rising energy bills they still must pay to fund the Queen’s expensive state funeral- and later, in May 2023, King Charles’ formal coronation.

The Queen during her life also held another role, one that still impacts people across the world today: the heir to an empire spanning the globe. “The empire on which the sun never sets” , as George McCartney wrote in 1773, does not and cannot convey the sheer expanse of the now former British empire- that some argue still exists to a certain extent in the form of the Commonwealth.

The power the British monarchy holds is undeniable, and with their part to play in colonialism it is worth beginning to question why they still have a role in politics around the world and are still given a platform without addressing the wrongdoings of their ancestors that continue to affect people living in former colonies today. Those who shun the monarchy wish for people to look past the pomp and splendour of grand royal weddings and the gossip that comes with, and challenge the fact that they seem to be an exception to general society- and with the departure of Prince Harry and Meghan, it seems that some of the younger members are beginning to realise this too. As time passes, it will be interesting to see how some of these factors will impact King Charles' rule too: will the relevance of the monarchy deplete further, or will their 'right-to-rule' prevail as we progress into this 'new, Carolean age.'



**"DEMOCRACY IS THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE
AND FOR THE PEOPLE" ~
ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

by Warda Khan

With the current state of the world, democracy is as paramount as ever. Democracy allows you to vote and be heard-

but statistics show a growing number are electing not to exercise their right to vote.

The importance of voting

Voting is a powerful tool that can make lasting and beneficial changes to social policy. While protests and rallies often help raise awareness about social issues needing to be addressed, voting is a direct message saying that action is needed to correct the issue. Former US president John Quincy Adams summed up the reason why voting should be used by anyone who wishes to make a change in society when he said, "Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost."

In 2019, over 15 million registered in the UK chose not to use their vote – more potential votes than any of the major parties received. In the Slough constituency alone, 35000 didn't vote, compared to the 86000 registered to vote.

With these scandalous figures, two things are clear:

1. Your choice makes you silent. Candidates will not listen to people who have already chosen not to vote, as they know there's no hope there. You have no leverage over the candidates, and no way to get them to care about your opinion.
2. If you had chosen to vote, anything could have been possible. Even a few votes can make the difference between two parties.

Why should you vote?

Voting is a chance to stand up for many issues, such as, but not limited to: affordable housing, economic justice, environmental protection and quality education and healthcare. There are many social issues that you may feel need to be tackled more appropriately: gay marriage, reproductive rights, ect. These issues affect everyone one way or another, and voting gives you a say in who determines the agenda.

Of course, there's always the point that perhaps none of the parties are actually worthy of your vote. Many people choose not to vote, without realizing that the reason why is that no party is acting on their best interests. So how can you make your voice heard then?

Vote NONE.

Voting NONE is an option on your ballot card. A large amount of people voting NONE worries politicians. It shows them that you have considered them as a candidate but have concluded that they aren't worth your time.

But whatever you choose to do, whether you vote or opt out, remember that your decision to vote is the voice for yourself and those around you. Others in your community may not realize how important voting is, while other simply do not have the option to. All elections, big or small, have consequences, and whoever is put in power will be able to make key decision on your quality of life. It is your responsibility to make what you think is the right choice.

Peeling the Green Wallpaper

by Christopher Zander



Illustrated by Ayati Kumar

As of October 2022, British Cycling has signed on for an 8-year partnership with the oil giant Shell begging the question: what does a big bad oil company want with poor, innocent British Cycling?

Has big oil really struck again with its villainous hand, or is questioning this partnership simply just environmental maniacs, creating problems where there simply aren't any?

Shell sponsoring a cycling company seems nefarious at best, dare I say, evil even - yet maybe there is some good behind what they are doing.

At face value, Shell pledges to offer money to help people with disabilities

cycle, so for all intents and purposes they will use resources at their disposal, such as technology, to help British Cycling win more competitions. Surely this is a noble deed? An act of kindness that should be celebrated and encouraged rather than scorned?

Perhaps. Perhaps, Shell and British Cycling are working towards their “shared ambitions... to get to net zero in the UK as well as encouraging low and zero-carbon forms of transport such as cycling and electric vehicles”, as said by David Bunch, the Shell UK Country Chair.

I wish I could say I believed that. It is a nice sentiment; as someone who cycles to school daily, it is a nice gesture to help disabled people cycle more – it offers them joy and freedom - however, it is impossible to escape the fact that it is Shell UK saying this.

Despite all the supposed good intentions in the world, knowing what one does about plastic recycling, it's impossible to view Shell's actions without suspicion, even laughter.

Let me explain...

What is critical is that, when analysing any situation, one looks at what has come before, at the precedent. If we take, for example, the scandal that is plastic recycling,

we will inevitably come face-to-face with the “green wallpaper” that oil companies put up to confuse ordinary people.

From as early as the 1970s, plastic producing companies were familiar with the fact that, as plastic waste became an increasing problem, they needed to take action to protect their profits. As such, initiatives were launched: advertisements rained upon the common viewer, big construction projects were started, pledges, grand and pompous, were made - which of these, do you believe, came with long-lasting action?

Was it the advertisements, promoting the use of plastic as a miracle material, or was it the recycling projects?

It should come as no surprise that none of the latter lasted more than a few years. In the 1990s, for example, Mobil in America started a recycling facility in Massachusetts, which lasted three years. A project by Amoco to recycle plastic in New York schools lasted only two. There is, without a doubt, a trend, showing the painful reality that the big funding of big oil does not go to good causes, but rather to big words and even bigger, but ultimately meaningless, gestures.

The fact is, for such a company, recycling creates competition and reduces business.

Talking a big talk about recycling is good for PR, but actually walking that walk is detrimental, and this is absolutely reflected in the actions we see, both historically and today.

Fortunately, the Americans came up with a solution, a bold, unparalleled, and indeed infallible plan: ship everything to China. For some years, this actually worked, even if it functioned more as a: “if I close my eyes, and pretend it’s not there, it’ll go away” solution. However, in 2017, China introduced its “National Sword” policy, blocking most of the plastic heading towards it. Once again, the issue of plastic recycling was heralded, particularly in America. Articles rose about the failure of plastic recycling, the powerful lobbies at play, the myths of the green revolution, backed by the hydrocarbon-stained claws of oil. And yet, somehow, we still believe plastic’s end is the red recycling bin, though, in reality, less than 10% of all plastic has been recycled, mostly due to a lack of infrastructure and ability to sort, as well as some plastics simply being unrecyclable.

I have nothing against plastic recycling; dare I say, I support it – under 10% is preferable to 0%, and after all, it is, at the very least, our duty to care for our planet and our resources – but the whole point is efficiency. First, we reduce, then we reuse, then after that, comes recycling,

and plastic, it has such incredible capabilities, both to do good and to do harm - I don’t believe it’s any exaggeration to say we as a species wouldn’t be where we are right now without crude oil and what we can make from it, but we have been tearing through resources with nary a thought for the consequences, and that’s all I wish to encourage – a little thought.

Plastic recycling isn’t inherently bad, but, like with almost all aspects of the green movement, it needs to be tempered with a little mindfulness, and with a little less undue praise.

Maybe I'm being too harsh and there were some redeemable souls working for Mobil or Amoco, perhaps there was some good intention behind these companies' actions. On the other hand, the companies' long-term behaviour is consistent with a firm and decisive focus on profit, rather than sacrificing to do a little good, so it's safe to say that if plastic recycling wasn't the angel we first thought it was, the same could be happening right now with Shell and Cycling.

It certainly seems like a PR stunt, one that corrupts a pure and ecological activity like cycling - but that might not be entirely fair of me. Or is it?

Possibly. Greenpeace and Friends of



Illustrated by Neha Antari

the Earth certainly did not hesitate to share their views on the matter, and equal and opposite voices also joined in causing an outcry. In all of this, there is one essential aspect that we must not forget. Accountability. In writing this article, I wanted to peel back the "green wallpaper" covering the cracks of corporations, to peak at the ugly truth: Shell seems interested in playing the same dirty card with cycling that big business has with plastic recycling, trying to fool us, the common public with promises of gold (their green agenda) while their

dark knife of lies and destruction gleams behind their back, bullying British Cycling to sell its soul. Or maybe the real truth is that British Cycling wanted Shell's world-class lubrication, and a sponsorship was the only way to get it.

Only time will tell, it seems.

Qatar World Cup – Progressive or Pathetic?

By Mohammad Abid Malik

As the Football World Cup kicks off on the 20th of November in Qatar, the entire world lies in anticipation hoping that their nation will be the eventual victor. There are many questions to be answered in this cup: Are Messi or Ronaldo going to win the world cup? Will England continue their previous poor form or return to their peak in the Euros? Will France be victorious once again or tumble short? However, the main question on everyone's mind is the question on whether it is just that the cup is hosted in Qatar – a nation not renowned for their footballing history or ability. Everyone is wondering: Why them?

November nonsense.

The least pressing issue of this world cup is the fact it is taking place in November. This is due to it being too hot in Qatar for the cup to take place in the summer months like it usually does. There are many problems which come as a result of this: The loved world cup summer in which people flock outside to watch the matches together is no longer possible since it's too cold. Many star football players are missing from the main squad; thus, play has been halted in almost every league just as things start to get interesting. Even though it is being held in November, the heat is still overbearing, and a lot of players will not be able to perform at their highest standards – resulting in less exciting games.



Illustrated by Ayati Kumar

Money talks.

Many people will be aware of the underlying allegations of corruption amongst FIFA (the ruling body of the competition), and the Qatari competition is yet another FIFA event tainted with these allegations. The process of getting selected as the hosting nation involves a private ballot between FIFA's 22 executive members. As is the case with many private ballots such as this, this gives scope for members getting paid and thus the hosting nation not being the nation who are most fit to host. It would not be outlandish to believe Qatar -being a well-to-do nation with the financial capacity for bribery - have done this. The world was shocked when Qatar was seen outperforming contenders

Cost of living.

Another major point of controversy is the fact that many lives have been tragically lost in the construction of football stadiums. Staggeringly, an estimated 6500 workers have died during this process, which is more than 200 times more deaths than the last two world cups combined. It is shocking and deplorable that the Qatari government have put such little regard for health and safety, especially considering that many of the workers are migrants who are working to provide better living standards for their family back home. Their reasoning behind being the hosts is the hope that they will get a boost in tourism for the economy- is it acceptable that the economic growth of a country is to be built on the backs of thousands of migrant workers, subject to abhorrent conditions, many miles away from their home and families? I think not.

Move Over STEM, There's A New Kid in Town!

By Sara Inayat

It is a well-known fact that after completing their A-levels, the majority of Herschel students pursue STEM careers which is, with no doubt, an amazing achievement.



'Beyond the Bubble' Illustrations by Anusha Subash

But what about those few who go on to other things? Or for those of you (probably in the minority) quietly reading this now who may be thinking your interests lie elsewhere?

I contacted two Herschel alumni who are currently fulfilling their dreams as successful journalists to find out more about exactly this: how did they get into this career and what kept them motivated?

John Abiona was a student at Herschel Grammar School from 2010 to 2017.

During Herschel, some of John's extracurricular activities included public speaking, acting in school drama productions and playing for the football team.

His A-Levels were English Literature, History and Government and Politics. John is currently a City Reporter at the **9**

Daily Mail and writes the market report which analyses the share price movements for London-listed companies across the FTSE 100 and FTSE 250.

Neha Gohil was also a student at Herschel at the same time as John and was in the same year as him! The two soon became friends and helped support each other.

Neha also chose English, History and Government and Politics as her A levels. She now works as a journalist for the News Movement. She covers various stories, ranging from day-to-day news to stories focusing on social issues such as immigration. More recently, she interviewed asylum seekers in Calais, Northern France.

After completing their A-levels, Neha and John both went off to study History and Politics at Warwick. After, Neha applied for the NCTJ diversity fund which funds your journalism course if you are from an under-represented minority group in the journalism sector. John undertook a Masters in Newspaper Journalism at City, London. Whilst studying at City, John applied and was awarded a position on the Daily Mail's reporters' trainee scheme and Stephen Lawrence scholarship which was set up to diversify the newsroom.

Neha knew from a young age that she wanted to become a journalist, her entire journey at Herschel, she remained determined to make that dream come true.

She remained steadfast and true to herself, not allowing peer pressure to sway her in her future career choice.

John's interest for journalism sparked in year 10, where he was involved in the BBC News School Report team. This further inspired him to apply for a summer camp where he met a journalist working at The Sun and so was able to gain experience with them for a few years, and also ended up doing a summer internship with them.

John's take on having STEM-centred friends was that his peers who wanted to do STEM careers in fact helped motivate him to work hard to pursue his dream career.

John's advice:

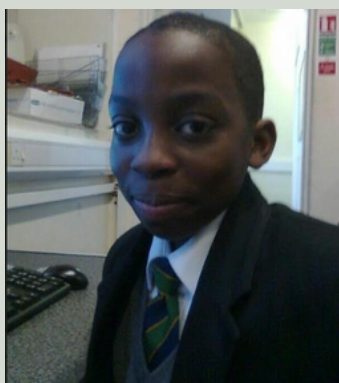
"If you know for certain that you want to take on a career in humanities and you feel under pressure from your parents who aren't keen on the idea of you pursuing humanities, talk to the sixth form staff or if you are in secondary, talk to your head of year".

Neha stressed the significance of focusing on taking on subjects that you would be excited to learn about for A levels, as the majority of study at this academic level and above requires a great deal of self-motivation and self-discipline and organisation in order to succeed.

John's tips for those keen to pursue journalism:

1. Write! Start a blog, whether by yourself or with a group of friends. Practice makes perfect.
2. Be open minded by embracing opportunities whenever they appear.
3. Work hard but enjoy the learning process.
4. Build relationships.
5. Read widely.

John's Herschel yearbook quote:
"The best way to predict the future is to make your future."



Year 7 John



John now

Now let's hear more about their time as students at Herschel:

What Neha enjoyed the most was definitely her friendship group and she is still in contact with them now. Neha and John are great friends and have been since their days at Herschel!

The teacher that stood out to Neha was Mrs. Sharpe as Neha loved discussing questions she had about the news with her as Mrs Sharpe would always give such informative answers.

"If you put in the hard work as a student, the teachers will help you flourish" – Neha

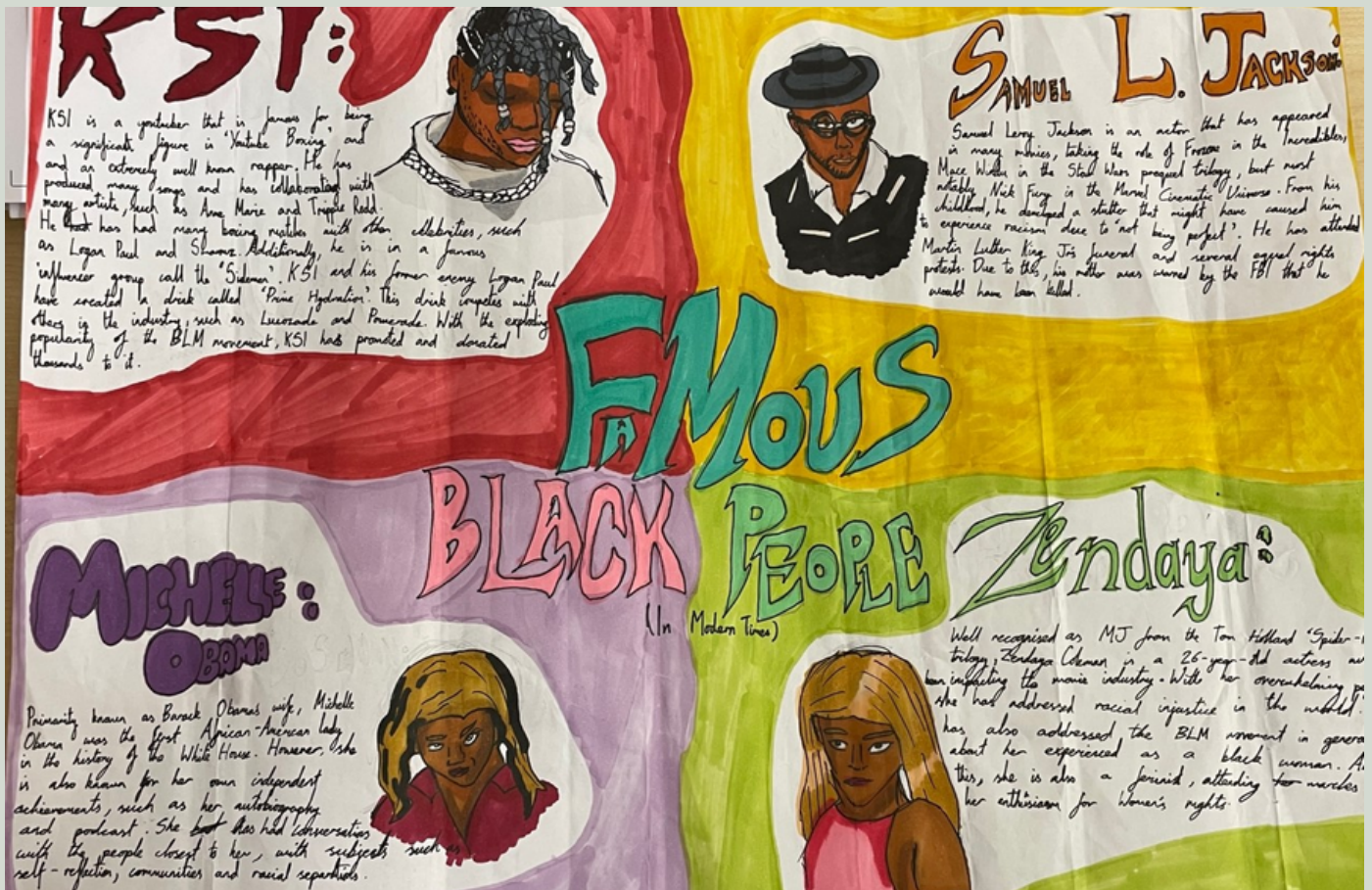
John said: "Herschel Grammar School taught me the importance of working hard, building relationships and becoming a well-rounded person. I left with countless memories and some life-long friends."

For John, as for us, it is clear that Herschel aims for its students to build good work resilience and so sets a good foundation for university.

It was lovely learning about Neha and John's individual journeys to where they are now. It is inspiring to see all the hard work they did to achieve their dreams. They did it - so know that you can, too.

Black History Month: Can One Month Ever Be Enough?

By Aarianna Malick and Melinda Morkeh



Illustrated by Aathavan Vijayarasa

Britain has been celebrating BHM in October since 1987, and has been celebrating it for nearly one hundred years in its pure form.

But, how did it start and is it nearly enough?

The idea of Black History Month was first birthed in 1926 when historian Carter G. Woodson announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week." Forty-four years later, in 1970, black students at Kent State University celebrated the first Black History Month from January 2nd to

February 28th 1970. Six years after, the celebration spread across the rest of the United States: President Gerald Ford said that Americans of the period should use the time to "honour the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans."

In 1941, A. Phillip Randolph fought to draw attention to prejudice against black and ethnic minority people in the workplace. This meant that President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, which prevented any form of racial prejudice in hiring for federal and

war-related work. This Order then allowed for people such as Katherine Johnson to be hired. Katherine Johnson, a black woman, was part of a team working in NASA at the time of the space race, and her intelligence aided in America eventually winning the space race, and her story was turned into the book 'Hidden Figures' by Margot Lee Shetterly, and later adapted into a movie.

In Britain, the opening of borders to the Windrush Generation meant that over five hundred thousand people from the Caribbean could come to Britain in the 1960s, who then made contributions to struggling British sectors such as the National Health Service, and even up to 2019, 6.1% of the NHS workforce was made up of black people.

For many, Black History Month is an opportunity to reflect on the diversities that lie within the history of those of African and Caribbean descent, catching sight of the attainments and contributions to the social, economic, political and cultural development of the UK. But Black History Month is never without its opponents.

Some may argue that trying to cram black history into one month out of the twelve in the year, does not even begin to do it justice, instead relegating it to nothing more than a tick-box activity.

They advocate the idea of trying to integrate it within the curriculum more fluidly.

Our school has certainly played its part in incorporating the victories of black figures of the past into our curriculum, but as we know there is always more that can be done.

We thought we'd ask some of our Herschel Community members to comment on their take on Black History Month.

Melinda Morkeh: "It is honestly refreshing to see the achievements of black people being recognised and celebrated."

Mr Nti: "I think that the basis should be that every life matters but in a society where minorities are marginalised it does need to be brought up. I do often believe BLM is a tokenism, but it still brings everyone awareness of minorities, not just black people but all people of colour. There should not just be one month but everyday should be dedicated to human beings. There is a big problem that people aren't aware that these prejudice issues against minorities exist. It is not just White on Black, but it is also within the minority groups themselves."

Mrs Gumbs: "I think it has made a slight awareness, but I am not too sure about direct change, as changing things is a very big thing. But it does make some people that there is such a thing of black history and that it should be taught and celebrated."

Q. Did you have any role models/ people of colour that inspired you growing up?

Mr Nti: "I am very inspired by the many young people who show maturity, on the contrary to what society says about them. They allow me to correct myself and keep me in check, and also make me aware of issues I can take a stand on."

Mrs Gumbs: "As an athlete, I looked up to Arthur Ashe, the tennis player, who was one of the first black people to participate in Wimbledon. I also looked up to many musicians, specifically Bob Marley."



Mr Noel: "I can't say I looked up to many people, but my Dad was quite influential in teaching me how to appreciate other cultures, as I grew up in Southall, so the tight-knit Asian groups taught me to look out for other people like me. I also grew up in the Church, which taught me a lot too."

SURVIVAL GUIDE

FOR YEAR 11

By Fatima Shahzad & Suhaani Bhawna Mal

With GCSE exams approaching and the stress levels inevitably rising, your main focus must be revision - but one thing I'd recommend more than anything would be to enjoy your last year at secondary school without sacrificing your education. In terms of revision tips, it may seem like there's a lot of content but the most crucial thing is to get organised, there will be homework and deadlines. Start revision early, the earlier you start the more time you have to revisit information. Acknowledge that mocks are important, but they are NOT the real thing and a lot can change from the time of mocks to the actual exams, if you don't do as well as expected, work on your weaknesses and most importantly do not dwell over it, focus on the actual exams. The same goes for if you do well in your mocks, although it can be uplifting, do not get complacent and stop revising, the real thing may be harder or may be easier.

The importance of taking a break

UCL says 'Students are easily distracted, but regular, short breaks can help them focus, increase their productivity, and reduce their stress. Regular breaks throughout the school day—from short brain breaks during class to the breaks at break and lunch, can help wind down and calm down'

- It can also help maintain productivity during the day.
- Improve your academic performance
- This also helps reduce screen time and can improve your focus on schoolwork.
- Even taking a break for about 30 minutes before bed, maybe reading a book can also help you have a better night's sleep.

One way to help space out your work when revising etc. that is guaranteed to increase productiveness is to work for 20 minutes, have a break for 5 and repeat.

'There's always someone there for you, you aren't annoying them don't worry.'

The most common and clichéd advice most people are given during assemblies is to talk to someone when feeling overwhelmed, but they tend to ignore it thinking they can't trust anyone.

People undermine the importance of having someone to talk to, even talking aloud about any problems you experience can ease a huge burden off your shoulders.

Whether the person you are speaking to gives you advice or silently listens whilst you talk, addressing any frustrations or anything you've been keeping in is the first and most important step to drastically improve your mental health.



WEDNESDAY: Netflix show review

By Yuvraj Dave

The show Wednesday on Netflix is the greatest show so far in this school year. The actor Jenna Ortega does an excellent job of using facial expressions to display an emotionless gothic character. In addition, the plot is quite interesting due to the differentiation of each character and the friendships between them. The protagonist Wednesday gets sent to a school for outcasts called Nevermore. After this, she must solve a mystery of a monster murdering the people of the town. As people know, she his template of a story is hugely overused and most of the time, and hardly successful. However, after a few weeks, this show is still number 1 on the top 10 Netflix shows of the week. The supporting actors are also highly skilled with playing outcasts of different personalities. As some people may know, Tim Burton was the director of this show. One of his greatest projects was the 1989 Batman and the sequel Batman Returns. His area of expertise in the movie industry is quite gothic and horror type, which means this was a perfect project for him. He adds an entertaining element that Wednesday completely needed to be even close to the greatness of the movies and books.

Unfortunately, there is one detail that might disappoint the audience. The CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) and VFX (Virtual Effects) is a bit poor due to the inhumane fight scenes and supernatural creatures being created in a way that is not satisfying to the audience. Overall, I give Wednesday a rating of 81%, compared to the Rotten Tomatoes review of 72%. I highly recommend this show to all readers who favour horror and supernatural creatures. minutes, have a break for 5 and repeat.



The Midnight Terror

By Krishiv Shukul

A raging sea of darkness from the sky, swarmed above me uncomfortably, as a socket of haze impeded the view of the dying sun. It was now the moon's turn to rule over as it smiled crookedly, blood draining from my face in terror. Its ferocious glow whipped the expanse of the forest like a thunderbolt eyeing the trees which twisted and twined like ghostly stooped figures. The leaves rattled eerily to the rhythm of the whistling wind that silenced the forest menacingly. The spidery tangle of branches entwined each other like gnarled limbs making their way into the dense undergrowth. Shadows leaped terrifyingly from one tree to another, through the emerald green umbrellas of trees. As I walked through the hard twig-laden forest bed that cracked, the darkest of shadows flitted past me - a bloodthirsty creature lurked under a branch.

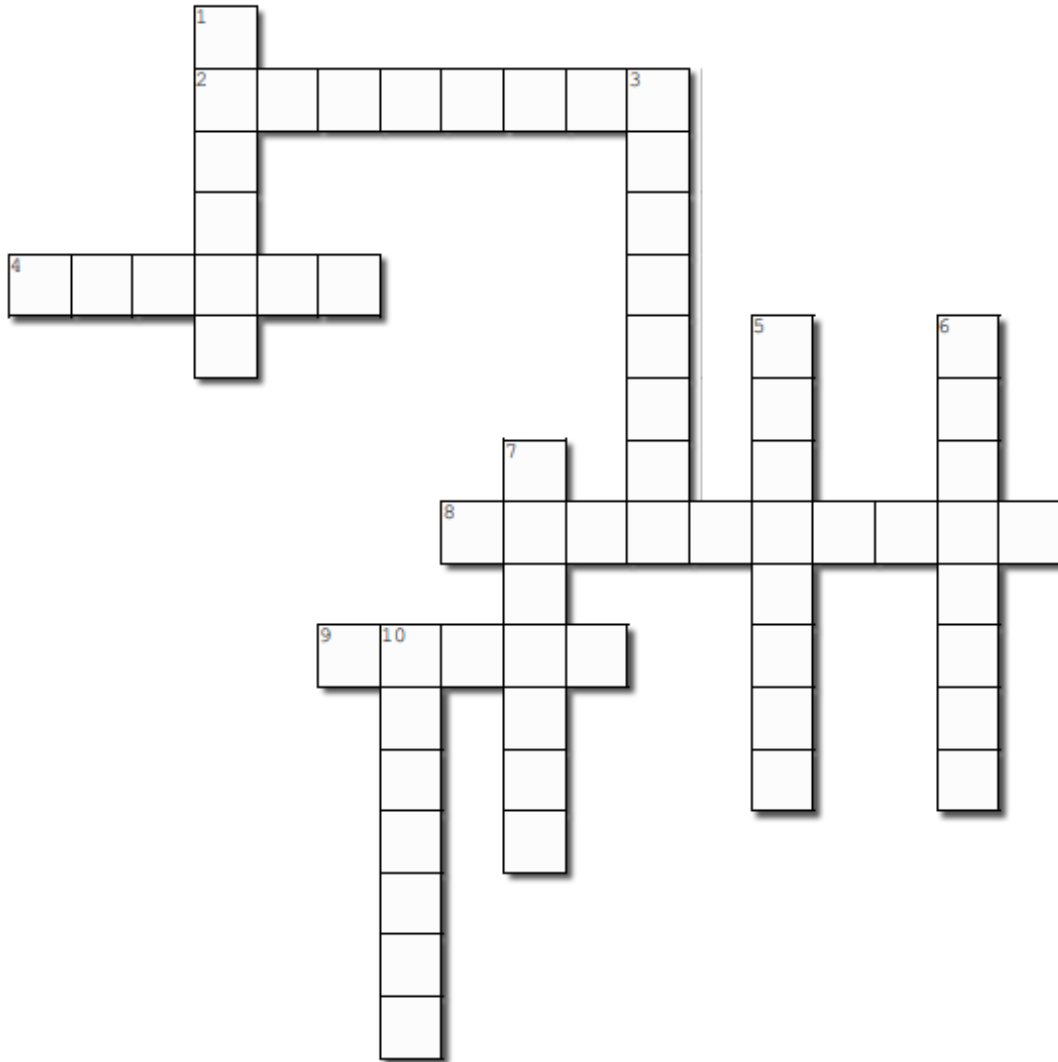
An owl's piercing hoot signalled that it was midnight and the vicious beast roared. His scarlet eyes filled with blood shone brighter than the moon. The vicious beast had long sinewy limbs, his teeth were razor sharp like knives and his nails were long, thin talons. I felt a paralysis of fear when a man feels himself face to face with such horrors that he can understand their true import. The monster was a living terror determined to throw all he met back into the darkness. No one was safe...



Illustrated by Anusha Subash

The Herschel Community and Beyond Crossword

Made by Anas Sghaier



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

- 2. a regime where a president and parliament is elected by the people
- 4. a method which involves a group engaging for the purpose of making a collective decision or expressing an opinion
- 8. the activity or profession of writing for newspapers, magazines, or news websites
- 9. the country that is hosting the 2022 world cup

Down

- 1. a time of intense difficulty or danger
- 3. a person who writes music, especially as a professional occupation
- 5. the idea that everyone is identical to one another and should be treated the same no matter their race, religion, gender etc.
- 6. one of the first professional astronomers and discovered infrared radiation
- 7. a king or a queen
- 10. a feeling of unease and worry

Answers will be in the next term's publication!



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