

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Our Christmas Indoor Market was a triumph last weekend, with thousands of people coming through the school to visit the stalls, do some Christmas shopping, enjoy the entertainment and visit Santa's Grotto. It was a wonderful day, with a festive sense of community and a warm and friendly atmosphere throughout the day with children (of all ages) enjoying games and crafts, music and food. Whilst I don't have facts and figures, I know that we will have raised a lot of money for our charities via the tombola stalls, for the Meserani Project, and the Yarm Apprentice teams raised hundreds of pounds on their stalls alone. I am very grateful to all our pupils who volunteered to help in all manner of ways from setting up in the morning to helping Father Christmas in the grotto, clearing tables or playing music. Thank you to all parents who also donated prizes for the tombola stalls and in particular to the volunteers (parents and staff) who helped man the stalls among other jobs on the day. The YSA did a magnificent job coordinating the whole event - congratulations to them on delivering such a successful community venture.

The Fifth Year have been treading the boards this week with their performances of 'Tracks' and 'Audience', which have received rave reviews. I am looking forward to watching them this evening. Pupils have also been on stage



Textiles students visiting Harrods on their trip to London

in a lively concert of drums and guitars, and we have been active on the sports pitches. Of particular note, last weekend a group of swimmers who had won their way through the regional competition went to London's Aquatic Centre for the national finals, with one team managing the extraordinary feat of reaching the final - the top 10 teams in the country. Do explore the newsletter to find out the details, and congratulations to all our swimmers who dedicate their time outside school to train so successfully.

I enjoyed my stint as Lord Sugar in this week's boardroom, following the teams' efforts at the Christmas Market, and I will let you read on to find out the results. We welcomed Karl Pemberton from Active Financial Planning who

spoke to our students in an enrichment lecture about running a responsible business; thank you to Karl for offering his time and expertise so generously. We also thank the author Zana Fraillon for joining the first year pupils who are studying her book - well done to Zohan, Tyler, Eva and Dihain for their report. Congratulations to Josh and Eizad on their success with EY and PwC, and to Tegan who featured on BBC Introducing! As ever, the newsletter is packed full of other reports of trips, activities, pupil work (including some stunning art from Bee and creative writing from pupils' Activity sessions) alongside other successes: I hope you enjoy reading about the exploits of the pupils in another busy week!

Dr Huw Williams

ANNUAL SENIOR HISTORY SOCIETY DINNER LUMLEY CASTLE

'It's vital that the monarchy keeps in touch with the people to ensure its survival.'

Princess Diana

The Senior History society again enjoyed a fantastic evening of fine food and academic discussion at Lumley Castle in County Durham. Our theme for this year was the evolution of the British Monarchy as part of our commemorations following the passing of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I am grateful to two members of the Sixth Form for their reviews of the evening.

Mr Tim Taylor



Our visit to Lumley Castle involved lively discussions, revolving around the theme of the evening, "The Evolution of Monarchy in Britain", a topic that we explored through four major events in history that helped shape the monarchy that we have today.

The evening began with an hour-long coach trip to the castle, all dressed up, where we got the chance

to explore the 14th century site and observe a variety of artefacts, from collections of Japanese and Chinese pottery to busts of Cleopatra and Julius Caesar. Despite the pouring rain, the magnificence and grandeur of the location was beautiful and steeped in history. We then sat down, before Mr Taylor gave an insight into the evening, and the topics that would be discussed. The first reader spoke about Alfred the Great, which then led in an interactive discussion, comparing Alfred with other monarchs led by Mr Edwards. Our debates continued through the delicious starters that were prepared before we switched seats in order to enable fresh conversations that would broaden the discussion in time for the mains.

The next reader took on the Magna Carta, leading a debate on whether it was to be celebrated in the modern world. Mr Morrison's factual recall throughout the conversation helped us fully understand the discussion at hand, and we were able to hear individuals' points of view, especially from those who had done extra research on the topic in the Upper Sixth.

The Civil war was next discussed after we had eaten our mains, as the conversation modernised, in terms of the content. We discussed the role of individuals like Oliver Cromwell and Charles II and it was in

these discussions where aspects of other subjects learnt were used to compare, the students from Classics using their knowledge of Augustus, and the steps he took in consolidating his power.

Our last main topic of conversation, possibly the most lively and interactive debate, was the question, "Can Monarchy survive the future?". We explored both the importance of the monarchy and its impact on England culture, as well as the possibility of there being no monarchy, and whether the outcome of that would be beneficial to England in some aspects or if the sense of tradition being removed would change the country's values. This conversation wrapped up the enjoyable evening, allowing us to briefly explore the castle again before returning to coach, feeling fully enriched with the discussions that had taken place.

Piya Nag, Lower Sixth

Last Thursday, all the Sixth Form historians travelled up to Lumley Castle for our annual History Dinner. Situated in County Durham, Lumley Castle is a fourteenth-century castle that lived through the War of the Roses under the possession of one of Edward IV's 'favourites', Thomas Lumley and has seen the likes of James I within its walls. That night we were able to enjoy a fantastic four course meal and insightful

HISTORY SOCIETY DINNER (cont.)

historical discussion in the presence of history itself.

As a result of recent events, our topic for the night was the evolution of the British monarchy and we explored four periods in time: Alfred the Great's campaign to king, the Magna Carta, the English Civil War and the future of the monarchy. Each of these were accompanied with a reading and then a discussion on the significance of the event and what it meant to the monarchy at the time.

I especially enjoyed the discussion on the Magna Carta and King John as it is included within the period that my history coursework focuses on and so I was aware of the events

following it which resulted in evidence for my argument that it was significant. It was also fascinating to listen to the discussion on Alfred the Great, a man in a period of time that many of us had never been taught. This led to discussions on why it usually wasn't included in syllabuses.

Overall, the history dinner was great fun and one of the highlights of doing A Level history. It was a great opportunity to talk with the people in the other class and meet the historians from the year below - as well as the Lumley Castle cat! - while enjoying dinner in a historical fourteenth-century castle.

Cordelia Deering Upper Sixth



ARTISTS' CORNER

This arts and craft work is by Bee Williams in Second Year. She has used gouache on the clay baubles and the other pieces are watercolour and pencil.

Ms E Stebbings



FIRST YEAR MEET THE AUTHOR, ZANA FRAILLON



Over the past half term, two English classes have been studying the novel 'Bone Sparrow' by Zana Fraillon. It is a story about a Rohingya refugee named Subhi who is locked away from the world, and his coming-of-age story. Fraillon invites her readers to think about people who are less fortunate than us.

We were honoured to have Zana Fraillon join us over a Zoom video call on Tuesday 7th November 2022. This was a momentous occasion for the First Year pupils, who were fortunate to see her and ask some intriguing and extremely difficult questions. Fraillon was exhilarated to speak to us and her passion about 'The Bone Sparrow' was very apparent, leading her to almost leak an incident involving Eli, one of the main characters in her novel, (which would be a real spoiler for those who

have not fully completed the book).

We found it fascinating to hear Fraillon's perspective and understand her motivation behind this tale. One of our questions was how she came up with the idea for the title. Fraillon answered that she had always wanted for the book to be named after a bone, and the idea of the sparrows was inspired by a flock of sparrows who flew down next to her. Another question was about Eli, a friend to the protagonist, Subhi, and whether he was based on anyone that she knew. Fraillon answered that she had never meant for Eli to be based on someone she knew; however, after the book was published, a friend of hers suggested that the character Eli bore a strong resemblance to himself. Her answers to all of the questions were very insightful, made us think, and

challenged our views. Fraillon also shared writing tips with us. One that is really one to remember is her tip to: 'write like nobody's ever going to read it.'

Fraillon explained that she was inspired to write about the Rohingya community as she had been so shocked by a story that some Rohingyans were left in international waters on a boat with no food, water, or fuel, for two weeks as the world watched on. By the time anybody came to help, many people on the boat had started to die. Eventually six fishermen decided this was enough and helped the survivors off the boat and safely onto land. A further story was about a few children and adults on a tiny boat. The Australian navy took an interest in this and had a closer look. A few minutes later the people on the boat started to show their children by waving them in the air hoping to be granted refuge. The navy took this as a threat and took photographs of these events. The story became twisted and it was reported that they were threatening to throw their children overboard. When the boat later snapped in two, the navy took pictures of the children in the water to try and prevent them gaining refuge. We also learnt that the author has deep roots from Hungary, where her ancestors were witch doctors. Her characters of Oto and

MEET THE AUTHOR (cont.)

Anka were inspired by them. Fraillon explained that she drew on these many stories and her own biography to write about the hardships refugees face and the horrific conditions they live in.

Lastly, one of the other interesting characters that features in the story is the Shakespeare Duck. Intrigued by the relevance and how it made its appearance in the novel, we asked the author about him. Fraillon was

quite amused by the question. In the novel, the Shakespeare Duck, serves as an imaginary friend to Subhi, helping him to cope with the diabolical conditions of the detention centre and sometimes being the voice of reason, but Fraillon feels that he actually wrote himself into the story. He is a physical duck, gifted to her daughters and as he sat on her table where she was writing the novel; he

quickly inserted himself into the story.

‘The Bone Sparrow’ is a beautifully crafted story about hope, optimism and determination. A real eye-opener to the horror inflicted on the refugees and an absolute must-read.

Zohan Wadia, Tyler Baldwin, Eva Thompson and Dihain Madapathage
Don, First Year

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS FOR JOSH AND EIZAD

Congratulations to Josh Littler and Eizad Qafouri Isfahani, both Upper Sixth, who have been selected onto highly competitive degree apprenticeship programmes at EY and PwC respectively.

Josh first started looking at EY degree apprenticeship after a talk from former pupil Daniel Orlopp about his career and route to working at one of the 'big four'. Josh opted to go the Business Academy route which saw him undertake a week of work experience at EY and having intense interviews before, during and after the work experience. He was successful at the end of the week and will take up a degree apprenticeship in Leeds working 5 days a week and studying on a weekend.

Eizad was influenced to apply for the after hearing former pupil Millie McCormack deliver a captivating talk

about her degree apprenticeship at PwC. He was attracted to the programme as it sounded like a better alternative to university for him. After a gruelling Assessment Centre, he was awarded a place on the Business Management programme in Belfast. Eizad will attend university one day a week and complete his degree over 4 years.

Given that former pupils influenced them both on their paths to degree apprenticeships, we asked Josh and Eizad what their advice would be to students looking at this route...

Josh - Each company is different but for EY, I would recommend to be yourself. Personality and confidence is a

lot of what EY is looking for rather than just results.

Eizad - Definitely communication skills, working as a team and pushing yourself outside your comfort zone, for example presenting. Don't be afraid to take risks.

Both - They look for business acumen and an understanding of the business world rather than just your numeric ability (although that is still important).



LONDON TEXTILES TRIP

Earlier this month, Sixth Form textile students joined forces to travel to London for the annual London Textiles trip. The aim was to focus on developing our knowledge for our NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) on the market place, designers work and society, in order to ensure that garments produced by the students are relevant to commercial industry.

On the first day, the schedule began with a visit to the Design Museum, in which the Yinka Llori exhibition was particularly useful to students. This designer associates societal issues from his personal perspective and experiences, combining it with use of bright, bold pattern and colour.

Next, we visited the V&A museum, where this year's fashion and textile exhibition was on "African Fashion". The exhibition provided powerful modern and cultural inspiration for styling, pattern, colour, and further exploring ideas within the design process.

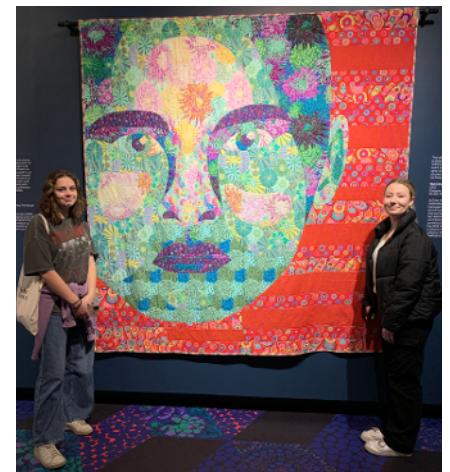
Onto Harrods, in order to carry out

high-end, super brand and haute couture competitive market research. On Saturday morning we visited the Tate Modern. Here the paintings and installations caught our imagination, providing ideas for how art can be interpreted into garment decoration and construction. Understanding the stories behind the work offered further ideas for exploration.

The final museum we visited was the Fashion and Textiles museum, showcasing Kaffe Fassett. It exhibited examples of his extravagant use of colour and patterns, richly incorporated into quilting and surface decoration. Finally, we headed to Oxford Street to carry out further market research of shops such as Selfridges, appreciating how our products sit in a high street context.

Another jam packed textiles trip we all thoroughly enjoyed, with many ideas to bring back to the classroom. Thank you Mrs Jackson and Mrs Wright!

Imy Slack, Upper Sixth



BBC PLAYS TEGAN ADDISON'S 'NOT TONIGHT'

We are delighted that Tegan Addison has had her song, 'Not Tonight', featured on the BBC Tees Music Introducing ... programme. The weekly show introduces new artists and new music from around the region, and described her music as "absolutely brilliant".

Tegan, Upper Sixth, is a gifted musician and singer/songwriter who is currently working on a concept album as part of her EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) alongside her A Levels. She writes at the piano and

then spends 4-7 hours recording each song, including her own backing vocals, in her studio set up at home.

'Not Tonight' is the first song from the ten track album and contains most of the motifs which flow through it. Tegan uploaded the song to the BBC show's Introducing Uploader expecting to get some feedback or comments, and was shocked to receive an email to say that her song would be played on the radio!

You can listen to the programme on



BBC Sounds [here](#) - Tegan's song is about 53 minutes in. We're pleased to hear presenter Shakk saying he "can't wait to hear more" - we can't either! Well done Tegan.

MOVING ON UP: WORKING LUNCH

Last week's Working Lunch was an opportunity for our co-Chair Ben's dad, Mr Gavin Cordwell-Smith to share his experiences. Mr Corwell-Smith is the Chief Executive and joint owner, with his wife Kate (who spoke to the Upper Sixth last year), of Hellens Group. The Hellens Group now incorporates a number of property, construction, manufacturing and social enterprise businesses with interests throughout the North East, Tees Valley and Yorkshire, after being founded in 1973 to focus on the regeneration of brownfield sites.

Along with his colleague Katie, who shared her experiences of a degree apprenticeship, an increasingly attractive proposition for many students, our visitors gave a

fascinating presentation and willingly answered a large number of probing questions. We heard about Mr Cordwell-Smith's decision to train as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG, the pros and cons of working for and now running a family owned SME, as well as how Hellens has expanded and adapted to changing market conditions, moving into sports and recreation facility construction, social housing, land and property

development and investment as well as manufacturing of hard landscaping products for the building industry.

Forty-five minutes flew by and we were curtailed by the bell, but we are really grateful to both Gavin and Katie for giving their time so generously (and we thank them for the water bottles they kindly brought in as gifts for all those who attended).

Miss C E Rhodes



WHICH PET IS BETTER- CATS OR DOGS?

This week's senior debaters tackled the challenging motion of "This house believes cats are better than dogs". Joined by the First Year debaters in the audience, the four debaters worked in preparation for the house debating competition on Friday.

Kitty and Hannah from Oswald were joined by Luke and Josh from Cuthbert in proposition of the motion with Cassie and Piya from Bede joined by Kayla and Sara from Aiden to make up the opposition.

Opening the debate for the proposition, Kitty took on the motion stating her own personal connection to cats through her ownership of one and of course her name! She stated how cats make the perfect pet representing independence and respect as the rulers of the animal kingdom. Kitty further went on to explain how cats' validation means more than the affection of a dog as the beautiful creatures give respect to who they deem worthy. She then gave an overview of the proposition's argument.

Opening for the opposition, Cassie gave a strong introduction about dogs being "Man's best friend" and their attachment being so important as displayed in the classic film "Marley and Me". She explained how dogs give social structure, are non disruptive as well as helping children

with their development. Cassie then went further into the benefits of a dog whilst overviewing the opposition's argument with the main theme of "Dogs take care of us".

Hannah continued the proposition's argument, talking about the conflicting ideas about a dog's loyalty. She went on to state the trustworthiness of a cat is far superior to a dog as cats come home unlike a dog who is loyal to any friend. Hannah then explained how cats are simplistic and only require a piece of string for entertainment unlike dogs who require walking, potty training and huge investments of money and time.

Piya on the opposition went on to rebut this idea of dogs being unloyal with the fact that it is dogs training that resolves this. She further went on to state all the various beneficial positions dogs can take on such as guide dogs and service dogs, explaining how dogs are better as they contribute to saving other's lives.

Luke then rebutted Piya's ideas by saying cats help people instinctively unlike dogs who need to be trained in order to help others. His argument continued to talk about the hygiene of cats grooming themselves or other cats for 50% of the day which maintains the cleanliness of an animal, also talking about the privacy



and space cats require allowing humans to continue with their normal life.

This was rebutted by Sara who argued dogs are equally as helpful than cats shown to release oxytocin in humans (the love hormone) and being great tools at teaching young people responsibility. She also explained the support dogs give to people with ADHD and autism helping them to socialise.

Josh then concluded the proposition's speech focusing on the structure that dogs bring being equally true for cats. He described cats' loyalty as requiring your own efforts and as helping children learn about treating animals correctly. He further went on to give medical benefits of having a cat such as less illnesses in babies and the stimulation from a cat's purr helping the elderly thus closing the proposition's argument.

Kayla closed for the opposition also sticking to the theme of medical benefits explaining how children are 2 times less likely to be allergic to dogs than cats and dog owners being 33% less likely to suffer a cardiac

CATS OR DOGS? (cont.)

arrest at home. She then finished by saying dogs help save lives and give a sense of unconditional love, gained through responsibility that is worth the reward.

The debators then faced questions from the judge Mrs Kingsbury who started by asking the proposition about the imbalance of power in a household with a cat, tilted towards the cat. The proposition replied saying the question was slightly exaggerated as it is normal for pets to rely on their owner but the cats do have an overall sense of independence making them more appropriate for humans as we all have busy lives. The opposition then faced a question about the effect of the vicious dog breed's effect on human life to which they responded saying vicious cat breeds were not mentioned and generally aggressive behaviour is the result of mistreatment from owners and is an issue that can be solved by giving particular care to these dogs.

The judge then concluded that the opposition took the win due to their clarity and consistency in their answers to the questions and overall argument, which ended another intense debate in senior debating society concluding that dogs are indeed better than cats!

YOUNG APPRENTICE - THE BOARDROOM

During activities, B1 underwent a remarkable transformation into Lord Sugar's Boardroom and with trepidation the teams awaited the arrival of Lord Sugar No. 2 (this time, in a Dr Who style regeneration, in the form of Dr Williams).

Ollie and Cassie's teams were phenomenal on Saturday at the Christmas Craft Fair and both PMs were aware now was the time to explain and justify their decisions. After winning the coin toss Ollie opted to present first, assisted by Arhana and Jasmine, delivered a confident presentation. They explained "Twelve Elves" choice of a local charity, Yarm Wellness, and their product range: reindeer dust, magic keys, a hamper raffle and a lemon balancing challenge to supplement funds. They had very little stock remaining at the end of the day and explained their pricing strategies. Next up were Cassie and

Simmi to expand on why they had supported Cash for Kids, and how they had decided to sell personalised signs and reindeer dust whilst providing a face painting service. They were keen to describe their focus on customer service and had evidence of thorough market research but they had a considerable amount of unsold stock remaining, to be written off.

Questions were aplenty from Lord Sugar and his associates, and he faced an unenviable decision. It was however clarified that both teams had adhered to all the task rules, the mystery shoppers (whom I must extend thanks to without revealing their identities!) were satisfied with the customer service received and the stalls had indeed been manned, stocked and sparkled throughout the day, so the decision as to the victor came down to the profits made.



YOUNG APPRENTICE (CONT.)



Face painting had earned £262.02 for Cassie's team and they had (after costs were deducted) received income of £178.55 from the sale of stock, meaning that they had a total

for charity of a fantastic £440.57. Ollie's team had a remarkable profit of £509.79 and were subsequently declared the winners.

Chocolate bars and juice awaited the winning team, but the Boardroom beckoned Cassie's team and she was forced to select Gaurav and Sam to accompany her in. The questioning was intense and the tension palpable before Lord Sugar fired Gaurav and then Sam in swift succession.

This task the bonus points for

winning PM went to Ollie. The Karren and Claude outstanding Apprentice points went to Ollie, Harry and Cassie, whilst the peer points were awarded to Izzi, Molly and Lauren.

We are very grateful to Lord Sugar aka Dr Williams for giving so generously of his time and being so supportive of YA, but we must also commend both teams for raising such fantastic sums of money for good causes and thank all those who visited our stalls on Saturday.

Miss C E Rhodes

Yarm School Music Department presents:

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2022

December 10th 6:30pm and December 11th 2:00pm

Tickets are £5.00 and are available from www.thepaaonline.org or at the Box office on (01642) 792587

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM

CREATIVE WRITING

This term, pupils in the creative writing activity have been busy developing their narrative and descriptive skills. Responding to a wide variety of prompts including other literature, images and films, they have worked hard to explore the use of motifs, repetition and extended metaphors within their personal writing. Below are a few examples of their work from this term- with more to follow next week.

Ms H Blakemore

Drowning

When they say follow your heart, how can you know
which one to pick when your heart is in a million pieces,
as lost as I am?

The turquoise shroud engulfs me whole, plunging me
into Posiden's universe. They call that mysterious abyss
the sea. I use up all my energy trying to push myself back
up to the surface but the monstrous water drags me
back into the depths of the Atlantic.

My

Vision

Is

Blurring.

The more I try, the more stubborn the Water gets; the
more I cry, the more the Water laughs. The more I try,
The more the Water succeeds. The Water grasps me by
the feet, pulling.

Who went wrong?

What was their reason?

When did I get shoved into this world?

Where did I go wrong?

Why did I throw myself in here?

Slowly, the sun is melting into fragments on the water's
surface.

Slowly, the sun becomes nothing but a mere blur.

Slowly, I am drowning.

My frantic screams are silent,

My desperate cries are made into air bubbles,

My tears become invisible,

My soul slowly leaves my body.

Hira Rauf, Second Year

Extract from "Voice of the Wild"

I was enveloped in beauty.

It stretched away from me; an infinite sea of verdant and
cerulean, splashed with flecks of crimson and gold.

How could my heart ever grow melancholy with this
oasis of perfection displayed in front of me?

How could my head ever be heavy with this symphony of
sounds: an orchestra for my ears?

How could my soul ever be burdened with the scents of
delectable fruits and wet earth surrounding me?

I am awakened from my dream of what was to the tragic
reality of what is.

I am not canopied by trees, I am not encompassed by the
plethora of wild creatures that I shared my home with.

'Home', such a strange word.

Is it just a place or rather a concept of safety, of comfort,
of happiness?

Well, either way, I have lost mine forever.

They took it from me, they took everything from me.

All of my safety, my comfort, my happiness - they are
gone.

All that remains is a desolate wasteland of misery and
death...

Elsa Williams, Fourth Year

CREATIVE WRITING (cont.)

A friend

A Winter's morning,
A gust of snow,
A short crack of the wind blows.
Inside:
The fire snaps its blazing tongue,
and the soft scrape of paws on the hard tile floors
remind me that I am alone no more.
With a grumble he launches up onto the couch,
Winter's light glistening on his cocoa brown coat
And the fur on his back; honey soaked.
In his mouth, a blue dinosaur, half his size.
Ripped and gnawed.
He presents his trophy,
eyes wet with pride, his mammoth ears a king's crown,
Held high on his head, preventing any frowns.
For the rest of the day he sits on my lap.
Guarding, unmoving and snoring laid on his back.

A sombre evening,
The September sun hauls itself from its earthy bed,
Into the grieving sky; glowing in orange dread.
Heat stalks the ground; its quiet, leadened, footsteps
making
no sound.
Inside, shards of white light pierce the greying blinds.
And I still listen for the noise of padded feet;
That will not come.
Only a fan's drowning croak,
On repeat, like a funeral drum.
Discarded on the hard tile floors;
A blue dinosaur,
Unguarded and played with no more.
Beside it, a bone, wrapped and labelled.
It'll never be chewed.
And a dog bed in the corner;

That was meant for you.

Sienna McLeay, Fifth Year

Fire and Ice

Her heart was burning with fury. Her wrath enveloped her like a log in a fireplace. She couldn't breathe; it was like she was consumed by suffocating smoke. Her fiery red hair seemed to glow with her indignation. She wouldn't - couldn't - less this anger, this rage, pass. She just couldn't. What he had done was unforgivable and he would have to pay the consequences for it. He must be punished, "charred by the flames", she thought.

His heart felt like it had been frozen by ice, like it would never thaw. What he had done chilled him to the bone. He wanted to apologise, he needed to apologise but even the thought of doing so made him shake with fear; it was like he was standing outside in the bitterly cold air on a winter's day without a jumper or coat to keep it from piercing his exposed skin like a knife. Why had he done such a stupid, idiotic thing even if she had deserved it at the time. Even though it was a warm summer's day, he felt as if he were in Antarctica judging by the numbness he felt in his limbs. He hadn't the faintest idea what to do so he just sat, almost frozen, on the bench thinking "I will never be forgiven for this."

Izzy Barrass, First Year

VOTERS OF THE FUTURE: EXPLORING THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE UK AND THE US

For a number of years the Politics and History Departments have maintained good links with a range of regional universities, benefitting from a close working relationship on numerous issues. One such link is with Northumbria and their American Studies Department, one of the leading institutions for that discipline in the country, in part driven by a scintillating academic, Professor Brian Ward. On Monday of this week we were invited to participate in a collaborative event focusing on the 'shared future: challenge, possibility and potential' between the UK and the United States.

The event brought together an impressive range of speakers including Stephanie L. Young, Executive Director of 'When We All Vote' and Advisor to the Obama Administration, a dynamic force who has built programmes to secure voter registration and combat voter suppression in the US in recent years. Amongst a vast array of insights into the challenges within US democracy, the issue of an emergent gerontocracy - a system run by elders (see the average age of the members of Congress and Presidential candidates, was played out against the additional challenges of voter suppression actions. She explained how a primary reason for

being able to motivate some demographics to vote was their understanding that there were forces at play who actively did not want them to vote, as evidenced by over 500 voter suppression bills in recent years.

We also heard from Richard Johnson, Senior Lecturer in US Politics and Policy, Queen Mary's University, London, who specialises in, amongst other topics, the sabotaging civil rights from the Civil War to the Trump presidency. He argued that access to the ballot has been determined by those in power from the 19th century to the present. His assessment of racially polarised partisanship, supported by evidence from recent elections, provided sobering listening, with ethnicity now providing the best, single indicator of voting preference in the US. In a system whereby even the election administration officials are themselves elected, there is a risk and the realisation that voting choice has overly politicised the system.

We also heard from Northumbria's own Dr Patrick Andelic on 'Why Mid-Terms Matter', suggesting that they had taken on greater importance in recent years, never really being seen previously as a barometer of public confidence in the presidency, in the way in which

they are currently interpreted. It was interesting to hear the notion that these elections are more important for setting narratives rather than the impact of the voting outcome.

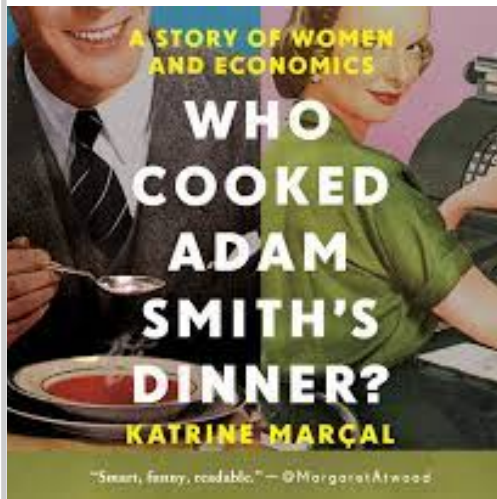
The event was organised in partnership with the US Embassy in the UK with an address from the Cultural Attache of the US Embassy exploring the nature of the much referenced 'special relationship', alongside the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University, himself an academic historian.

It was a fascinating experience, albeit one with some cautionary tales against complacency within democracy. We need to find ways to get along, we need to counter polarisation, and discover the means and mechanisms for collaboration with those with whom we don't agree - you cannot simply 'unfriend' in a democracy.

Mr S Edwards



POLITICS BOOK REVIEW: WHO COOKED ADAM SMITH'S DINNER? BY KATRINE MARCAL



'Who Cooked Adam Smith's Dinner?' delivers a fierce rebuttal and critique of past economic theory, starting from Adam Smith the 'Founding Father' of economics, unpacking the underlying assumptions inherent in economic thinking, in which it becomes apparent that the 'economic man' is not a woman. Using the simplistic yet effective example of Smith's mother Margaret Douglas, Marcal points a spotlight on the glaring flaws in basic economic principles that underpin classical and neo-classical economic theory and modelling. Smith was deeply devoted to his mother, while she was devoted to him, being fed, watered and instinctively kept alive by the 'invisible hand' that was his mother. We would then assume that he was acutely aware of the reliance of a functioning society on unpaid labour such as caring, cleaning and cooking and appropriately framed his economic thinking around these fundamentally crucial activities.

However, he did not. This reveals the question; why have housework and care not been recognized as economic activity since the 19th century and why are they not dealt with in economic theories? The book is based on a theory named 'feminist economics', which is not yet a coherent ideology. However, it has been rotating behind the scenes, potentially discreetly, as academics now create the term 'feminist economics'.

Marcal opens the book by discussing the 2008 Financial Crisis. Studies have recently shown that due to higher testosterone levels in men, men are more prone to taking risks. Thus, with the collapse of the Lehman Brothers, if they had been Lehman Sisters, the financial crisis may have turned out differently, says Christine Lagarde in 2010 when she was France's Minister of Finance, presumably not entirely seriously. Audur Capital, an Icelandic private equity fund entirely run by women, was the only fund of its kind that made it through the crisis without so much of a scratch. Further studies note that girls in co-ed schools are more cautious, while girls in all-girls schools are eager to take risks. In other words, norms and ideas about what your sex is in relation to the so-called opposite sex seem to matter. Marcal also carries on to mention one

important point: Lehman Brothers would never have been Lehman Sisters. Thousands of years of history would need to be rewritten in order to lead up to the hypothetical moment that an investment bank mentioning 'Sisters' could handle its over exposure to Wall Street.

The book seeks to remedy this situation with a feminist perspective on economics. Marcal points out the flaws at the heart of economics, and explains how the consequences of this blindness unfold. It helps to explain the inequalities between men and women, why 70% of the world's poorest are women, why women around the world have worse working conditions, find it harder to access healthcare, get credit or start a business. But it doesn't serve men, either. Our vision of 'economic man' as a rational, maximising individual constantly discounts the importance of relationships, cooperation, altruism and community in how life actually works. We've built our economic assumptions that people are selfish and rational, and have continued with these assumptions despite all the evidence that we are more complicated from that. I found this quote from the book thought provoking: 'We govern the world from a place of not knowing who we are. If we're misreading what it is to

BOOK REVIEW (cont.)

be human, then it's hardly surprising that we create institutional structures that don't serve human flourishing. We create economies that put profits above people, that benefit the richest first, and harm the poor most when they falter. How on earth could you create a functioning economic system with so much missing information? If you want the full picture of the economy you can't ignore what half the population is doing half the time.'

Marcal closes the book with an appeal to economic thinkers, encouraging vulnerability. Instead of construing emotions as the opposite of reason, we could take an interest in how people actually make decisions. Instead of reducing all people to one and the same abstract consciousness, we could accept the difference. Being both a Politics and Economics student and upon reading several books on economics, I came across a few that were as interesting to read. 'Who Cooked Adam Smith's Dinner?' is written with flair and wit, full of wisdom, humanity and righteous anger. If you are new to the concept of feminist economics, this would be a great introduction.

Isabelle Leighton, Upper Sixth

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS!

We would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who donated books to our most recent collection. We were delighted to help pack and donate twenty six boxes of books to Mr Peter Phillips, who works with the 'Just Be A Child' Charity to send second hand books to schools in Kenya in order to establish community libraries.

The Community Action Group

DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS

Why did our Co-Chair Ben Cordwell-Smith bring doughnuts to EconBus Soc this week?

Two reasons...

1) His fascinating presentation included part of a TED talk by British economist Kate Raworth who first used the term Doughnut Economics in a report published in Oxfam in 2012, subsequently developing her thinking in her book 'Doughnut Economics: seven ways to think like a 21st century economist'. And we were introduced to her view that aspects of older Economic thinking are too dated and Humanity's 21st century challenge is to meet the needs of all within the means of the planet.

And

2) They were the prize for a Kahoot Ben incorporated into his session so that he could test who had really been listening to him!! (Reassuringly his Co-Chair was one of the winners!)

Thanks to Ben for introducing a model many of the students had not yet encountered and to the throng of Econ, Bus and other students who make Thursday lunchtimes so vibrant!

Miss C E Rhodes



SWIMMING AT THE NATIONAL FINALS

Last Saturday, Yarm School competed in the English Schools Swimming Association National Finals at the London Aquatics Centre for the first time. All three Yarm School teams had qualified for the competition: the intermediate boys' team for the medley relay, the senior girls' team for the freestyle relay and the senior boys' team for both medley and freestyle relays.

The intermediate boys' team comprised Ryan Mills, Owen Reed, Robert Qin and Fin Cook. They qualified 30th for the event and

with some fast swims, managed to come 22nd overall.

The senior girls' team comprised Pearl Lightwood, Hannah Bettinson, Isobel Keetley and Laura Hull. They swam some excellent individual legs, which put them up to 26th place from their 30th qualifying place.

The senior boys' team comprised Archie Norton, Toma Saha, Ethan Stannard and Ben Rogers. This team qualified for both of the events in 7th place. In the medley relay, the boys narrowly missed out on a place in the final by 0.57s -

finishing 11th. However in the freestyle relay they managed to qualify for the final, placing them in top 10 teams nationally on the day - a magnificent achievement. After the competition on Saturday, the team spent some time exploring the Olympic Park and the local area.

Well done to all teams and hopefully Yarm School will continue this success for future swimming competitions.

Toma Saha and Archie Norton,
Lower Sixth



SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

THAT'S VARIETY!

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls take your seats for the North Easts grand variety performance as "That's Variety" takes to the stage at the Princess Alexandra Auditorium!

Fantastic acts Andy Eastwood, Danny Posthill and Ray Quinn take to the stage to entertain you, accompanied by rousing songs from the Yarm School Choir.

Saturday 4th February 2023 7:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE

Join our presenters as they dive deep into the world of science and look at how science shapes the modern world we live in with a few loud bangs along the way!

Expect 20ft LIQUID NITROGEN clouds, exploding OXYGEN & HYDROGEN balloons, FIRE TORNADOS, HYDROGEN bottle rockets, ignited METHANE and even a self-built Hovercraft!

100% Educational. 200% Entertaining. 300% Explosive. 400% Fun.

Tuesday 21st February 2023, 2:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)



AN INNINGS WITH MICHAEL VAUGHAN

Host for the evening is another English Cricket legend Graham Gooch who was one of the most prolific run makers top-flight cricket has ever seen. Graham will take a nostalgic look back on Michael's illustrious career with numerous anecdotes along with Michael's opinions on the current state of English Cricket and the game in general.

On the night there is also the chance to ask Michael and Graham lots of questions and to purchase some fantastic sporting memorabilia.

Friday 24th February 2023 8:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthday.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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