



for life, not school, we read on.

'This issue of Hear Me Out has been given a fresh coat of paint. The writing is outstanding, and now so are the illustrations. Packed into this magazine is the achievements, actions, and above all, voices of PHS. It's truly empowering to see how in the particular topic of climate change, we are unafraid to take a stand. I hope readers enjoy this issue as much as I have putting it together. Get ready for an empowering read!' - Saja

'As a team we are incredibly proud of the direction that this edition has taken: the focus on environmental issues is one particularly close to our hearts and so it's great to see how passionate the rest of the school is too. Even in this first edition, it's clear to see how much of an impact we, as a school, are able to make, and we hope that, over the course of the next few terms, the magazine continues to showcase the passion and dedication to different causes that the students have.' - Harriet

'This edition really shows the talent of the students at PHS: from writing the articles to the illustrations, it is all fantastic. The team have worked really hard to produce this edition and it has really paid off, so everyone involved in the magazine should be proud of the work that they have created. It really displays how as students we aspire to follow our school motto: "For life not school we learn". I have really enjoyed reading this magazine and hope you do too. This term the charity ambassadors and I have raised money for Comic Relief by selling red noses and organising a just dance competition. We are currently planning a quiz which we will hold on the 22nd of May with all the money going to our school charities: Mind and Devon Wildlife Trust. We have all thoroughly enjoyed organising and taking part in the events and we are looking forward to organising future ones.' - Tess

'This term has been a busy one for all, from end of year exams to GCSEs and A levels. It is the time of year where you can really see how the school comes together as one to support each other and cheer each other on. I'm proud to be part of this school and being part of the Head Girl Team has really given me the opportunity to express myself within the school and make a difference. Since January, I have been working with the Student Council Team to ensure that all students have a say in how the school is run. Working closely with the younger years and listening to their bright minds has been a truly fulfilling part of my role and I enjoy every meeting. I hope that together we can make positive changes for the year ahead and I wish you all good luck in your exams.' - Stella

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YOU WILL HEAR THE YOUTH



Almost every article I've read on the climate change protests stated the basic background and "reason" behind the seemingly sudden outrage of this generation, so I'm sure that you'll already be aware that the call for change began with 15-year-old Greta Thunberg in Sweden: she protested outside the parliament building in Stockholm, during school hours, every day for three weeks.

They say Greta Thunberg "inspired" students to leave school and join the protests – granted, perspectives vary. Some say that she incited truancy, disruption and chaos; while others say that she inspired passion, recognition and hope. However, no matter the viewpoint – positive or negative – no article I've seen thus far explains *how* Greta Thunberg inspired this pure vehemence within young people. So, as a young person, I'd like to take this opportunity to explain.

Climate change. It's always been happening. We've always been taught about it. "Turn your lights off when you leave a room", "reduce, reuse and recycle", "the polar ice caps are melting!" – yeah, I know, you've told me over and over again.

That was it for a long time. Someone may have said something about the orangutans with no trees for homes, and you used to see the WWF adverts asking you to sponsor a snow leopard in reward for a stuffed toy – but whatever we were told, for me personally, it never felt real.

I did turn my lights off – but that was mainly to reduce the electricity bill. In reality, out of the "reduce, reuse and recycle" phrase, I only truly understood the "recycle" bit (which simply meant I put paper trimmings in the green bin rather than the black one at school). And as for the ice caps melting? That meant very little to me. As a 12-year-old at the time, what could I do for the polar bears? Anyway, the people in charge would surely be doing something, so I didn't need to worry, right? Climate change was real, but I felt confident that those in power would be doing their bit to help prevent any serious consequences – after all, the ice caps hadn't melted completely, there was still time.

In Year 8 we learnt about global warming in Biology. We learnt about Al Gore, and his efforts to forward climate action and how, in his run for presidency, he was pipped to the post by George Bush – leaving climate change almost a forgotten subject. In Geography, we learnt about acid rain and looked at graphs that proved global warming was indeed real, despite the denial of many politicians. Again, I felt little responsibility. After all, there wasn't much I could do for Al at that point (as bad as I felt for the guy). Plus, though I was unsettled by the thought of politicians denying climate change, as far as I was aware, none of the "important" ones were – therefore I had nothing to worry about.



It all happened so suddenly, I felt. On social media, instead of posts about binge-watching Netflix and oversleeping, I was seeing articles detailing the amount of land deforested last year, lists of wildlife species that were declared extinct in 2018, how many people died due to effects of climate change (by the way 76000sq.km; the po'ouli bird, the eastern puma and the Spix's macaw - yes, the one from the film *Rio*, and 250 000). And we have 12 years to fix the decades-worth of damage we've done. All this appeared in front of me in the space of about a fortnight. But everyone knows about climate change - so how has this been allowed to happen? Has nothing been done about it? Has no one done anything? Whatever confidence I had in government authority was gone (which was little by this point anyway), but it wasn't as if I was going to be able to do anything about climate change - as far as I could see, few other people even noticed.

But that's how Greta Thunberg inspired teenagers across the UK, Belgium, France, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and even Australia - she acted on her doubt. Young people were already unhappy with the lack of severity with which the effects of climate change were being treated - but now we were shown we didn't have to live in silent passivity. As it turned out, we had a future, and - possibly for the first time - this generation felt as though we could have some control over it.

Of course, I speak as though only students protested. In actual fact, ages of people at these protests ranged from around 4-70. This, to me, proves something to those who claim that many "only attended these protests as an opportunity to skip school". It is probably true that some merely attended to skip a nasty PE lesson, or an unfortunate Maths test - but, in my opinion, this is not the logical

point to focus on. It ignores the extraordinariness of what took place. People of all ages, from all walks of life, came together in support of saving the planet - but even then, people search for ulterior, sly motives to try to minimise the gravity of the events. The gravity being, that the people care - and we won't stand to have our future taken away from us by people who don't.

And though Theresa May stated: "disruption increases teacher's workloads and wastes lesson time" - to that I would say, I absolutely agree that wasting time is thoughtless and dangerous. That was precisely the point we were trying to make to you. I myself, along with a few of my friends did protest. Whilst I knew people who travelled up to Exeter (some with and without permission), in order to join the marches, my friends and I, during our lunchtime, sat with our signs in the middle of the courts while students from the younger years marched and chanted. The number of students that took part, I thought, was incredible. For the lack of notice we were given, I'd say about a third of the school took part, and the other two thirds watched. (For legal reasons, I should probably mention that staff neither criticised nor praised us - this protest took place simply as a message to the government from some students - Plymouth High itself was not involved apart from being a location).

It was my first protest. However, from what I can tell, it is unlikely to be my last.

To finish off, I would like to say that, whilst we have been told by some that it was wrong of us to march, shout and challenge, I personally would rather be criticised for doing something, than commended for doing nothing.

WRITTEN BY YMMA THOMAS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY EVA KLECKHAM
AGAR





Our Striped ATM'S

The decline of bees is a serious matter that not everyone has thought about, or think will affect them. Without bees, to support agriculture with their financial benefits, food costs would go up and many more plants would die. This is the future of our natural environment if we do not act upon it any time soon.

Bees. The small, striped insects so important to us, but often overlooked by all of us. Did you know one third of the food we eat is pollinated by bees? Which makes them one of the key contributors to our ecosystem. Crops and food such as avocado, blueberries, kiwis, cherries and melons all require elements of pollination. We have around 25 species of bees in the UK.

However, this high number is often a misconception. In these 25 species, 3 are extinct, 2 critically endangered and many more in high decline.

Although, you may think that the survival of bees does not affect you, they are actually crucial to our economy and many of the foods we eat. In 2008, honey bees

contributed 165 million pounds annually to the UK economy through pollination, with this rising to 200 million in 2009. So bees are extremely important to all our lives. They should not be neglected when taking into account ways to become more eco-friendly and sustainable. With the clear negligence

we are displaying at the moment, the upcoming decline of bees could have a highly damming impact on our economy; as well as this we would have to change routines such as our diet from British fruits to more starchy foods like grains and cereals. Universities are currently looking into hand-pollination, and whether it would be a feasible and sustainable alternative if bees did become extinct. If this did happen and we paid the pollinator a minimum wage, an apple would cost double the amount it does at the moment.

So is Britain, and the rest of the world, ready for this giant struggle - having fewer plants and losing more from our economy? Because ignoring the problem of bee extinction will ultimately end in this.

Bees also have a lot more attributes that people don't know about: they are hardwired to do certain jobs. Within a swarm there are certain job roles that different bees undertake. Some are scout bees that go and search for new sources of food, along with soldier bees who act as security guards their whole life. And finally, 1% of all middle aged bees become morticians and change their brain chemistry to remove dead bees from the hive. Additionally, bees can also recognise human faces the same as we do, with bees having personalities within beehives. A **2011 study** even found that agitated honeybees can be pessimistic, showing that, to some extent, bees might have feelings.

Friends of the Earth.

In our delicate biosphere where so much relies on the process before it, the survival of bees is a key point we must continue to work towards to establish a more ecologically viable world for bees.

So what can you do to help? There are lots of little changes you can do to help combat bee extinction. Such as

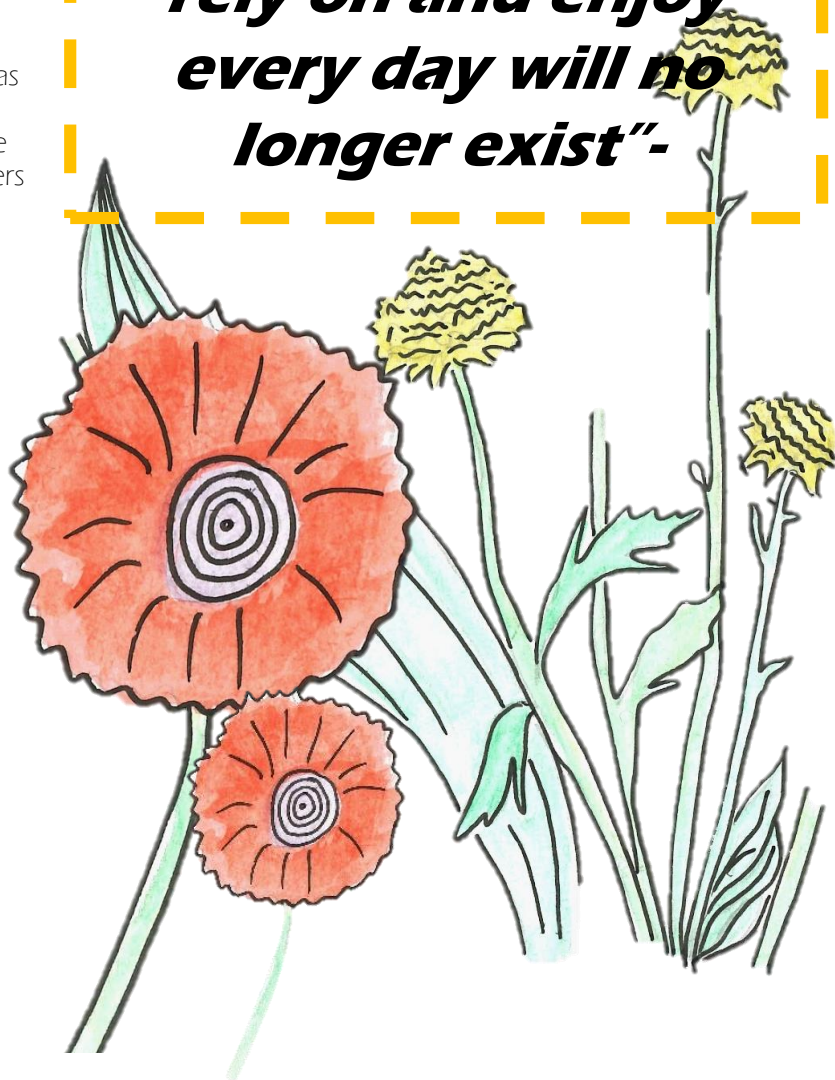
being heat filtered. This will mean that more health benefits will remain intact, so will therefore benefit you as well as the greater good of bees.

Another aspect of your everyday life that you could adapt to help bees, are the sort of plants that you put in your garden – or even window box if you don't have a garden! For example, you could place herbs in these boxes. Or plant flowers that can attract honeybees: this could include purple ones, like lavender. Purple is good as this is the colour that bees can see the most clearly. Or you could opt for flowers such as the foxglove or honeysuckle, as these tubular shaped flowers are a great, feeding places for bees.

WRITTEN BY ABI
FINNIE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
GRACE DOBBIE

“Since the Second World War, we’ve lost 97% of our wildflower meadows, leaving our bees with little, natural habitat. If pollinator numbers continue to decline at the alarming rate they currently are, lots of food crops we rely on and enjoy every day will no longer exist”-



Each year approximately one hundred million sharks are killed by humans, yet only five humans were killed by sharks in 2017. This leads to the question: why are humans so fearful of sharks?

There are over five hundred different species of shark in our earth's waters, each with different sizes, shapes and characters. From the friendly giant, the whale shark, stretching as long as a double decker bus – making it the biggest fish in the ocean – to the quick-paced short-fin mako shark, reaching up to a great speed of forty mph. The most important body of information is that **only** three species of shark (the great white shark, tiger shark and bull shark) out of the five hundred different species in the world's oceans have committed repeated attacks on humans.

If there are so few shark attacks involving humans each year and only three out of a whopping five hundred species have caused serious harm to humans on multiple incidents- what makes the human population so frightened of these magnificent apex predators? One of the most important psychological factors could be argued to be the release of the film, *Jaws*.

Jaws was a book published in 1974; it was released a year later by its director Steven Spielberg as the 1975 film version. The film followed the fictional story of a rogue shark who deliberately calculated a way in which to devour the humans from the shore line of a non-existent 'Californian Island'. The film unintentionally implied that the great white shark (the species of shark that soon came to represent the entirety of the breed) was a brutal killing machine who surged for human blood. *Jaws* was one of the

the most backwards steps in the public understanding of these majestic, fossil-like creatures. Some shark experts argue that had it not been for the movie *Jaws* being released in the middle of such an impressionable decade and the media's reaction had not been to portray inaccurately a whole species, the one hundred million shark deaths annually could have been downsized. Of course, cultural reasons are a main factor in the deaths of tens of millions of sharks each year. For instance, shark fin soup, a cultural meal that has been a delicacy since the 14th century in China is the reason that shark finning is still popular within the East-Asian and some Western waters.

A study by WWF in 2018 showed that, '25 per cent of all 494 sharks and rays inhabiting coastal continental shelves, which includes all reef sharks, are threatened with extinction'. But why all the petitions and attempts to save sharks? Why do we need sharks? Sharks are vital to the planet's ecosystem and food chain. Despite your inherent fear of predators, sharks are not the 'bad guy' of a Hollywood movie. They are merely trying to survive. Sharks have been on this earth for much longer than humans. In fact, they have lived 400 million years, outliving dinosaurs, alligators, crocodiles and even trees.

KILL LAWS NOT **JAWS**

Why people have to stop killing sharks

Shark finning is a practice in which a shark is brutally murdered. In most circumstances, the shark's dorsal fin is cut off on the fishing boat and then the shark is thrown back into the ocean still alive and is left to die a long, slow and painful death. Arguably this is the biggest factor, along with overfishing, why the blue shark has now been classified as a 'near threatened' species.

They are merely trying to survive. Sharks have been on this earth for much longer than humans. In fact, they have lived 400 million years, outliving dinosaurs, alligators, crocodiles and even trees. That's a pretty impressive lifespan. Sharks are very important to the marine ecosystem as they are needed to balance the sea life food chain.



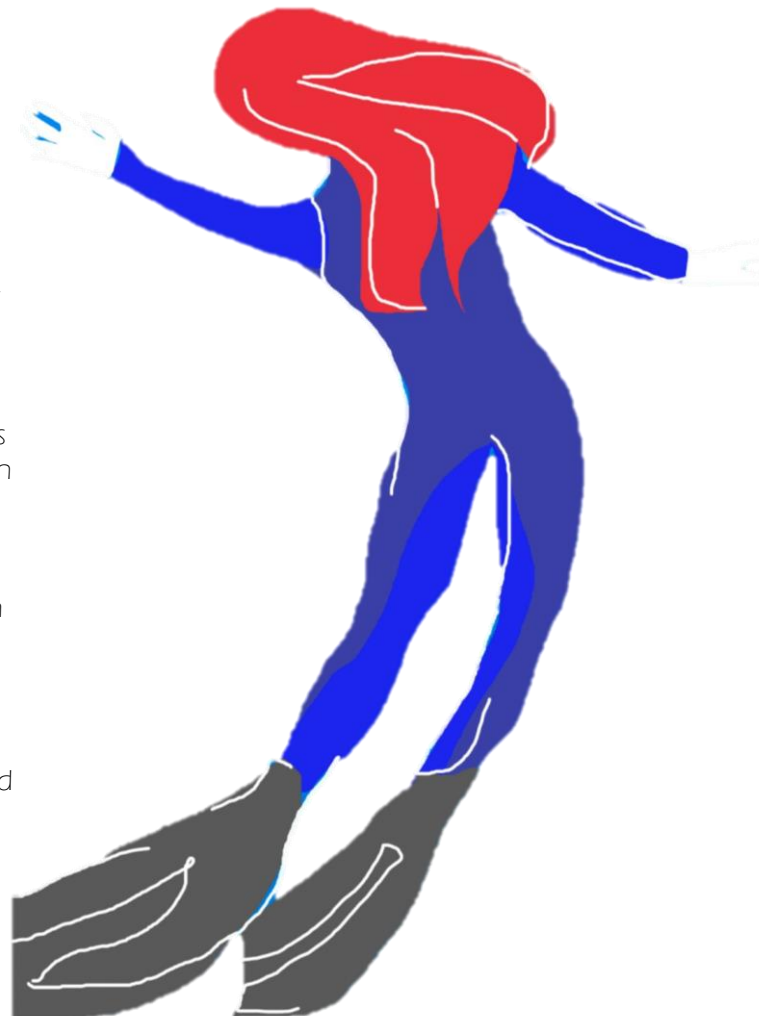
You can also support your local aquarium: the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth is a charity and it needs the most support it can get. If you're someone who doesn't like leaving the house, even something as simple as signing Save The Sharks petition will make an impact. Overall, one of the best and biggest things you can do to help sharks and other marine life is to spread awareness, educate others and speak out. There are many reasons for the shark population thinning down in the last 50 years from overfishing to poor and inaccurate representation of the species in the media to plastic pollution to traditionalist cultural delicacies. Scientists and researchers have spent years asking the question why. It's a very important question to ask. Now that we have a basis to work on we need to start acting on the why and not just sitting back and waiting till the 'unthinkable' happens. The last generation asked the question why.

Our generation needs to start acting, before it's too late.

Scientific studies have estimated that the removal of sharks would be catastrophic to not just the oceans but to the mainland too. Without sharks, other prey would multiply in numbers and the lower end of the food chain, such as algae, would be the main specimen in the ocean and smaller species, like brine shrimp would be uncontrollable. One study even mentioned the possibility of man-made 'under-the-sea' gas pipes and water filtration systems as the ocean would be so overpopulated by green algae that our water systems would eventually stop working. So we could even go as far as stating that without sharks humans could not even drink clean water – eventually the human race could even become extinct themselves. So, you want to help, but what can you do? Reducing your fish intake is a good start, or at least, looking at The Good Fish Guide that advises you on what fish is sustainable to eat. It's a very popular topic at the moment in the media and in conversation but reusing, reducing and recycling can also help drastically. Small changes are just as valid as big ones. Events are also a vital way to help, not just sharks but all ocean and marine life – beach cleans are a good way to start.

WRITTEN BY LEO MACKRODT

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIANA OLIGAN



Challenges Facing the World

'Overpopulation'

"Ozone depletion, lack of water, and pollution are not the disease—they are the symptoms. The disease is overpopulation." Dan Brown.

There are many challenges facing the world today, and it is becoming increasingly hard to separate these challenges because they are so clearly interconnected. Perhaps seen as the greatest problem, as it is the reason for so many others, is overpopulation.

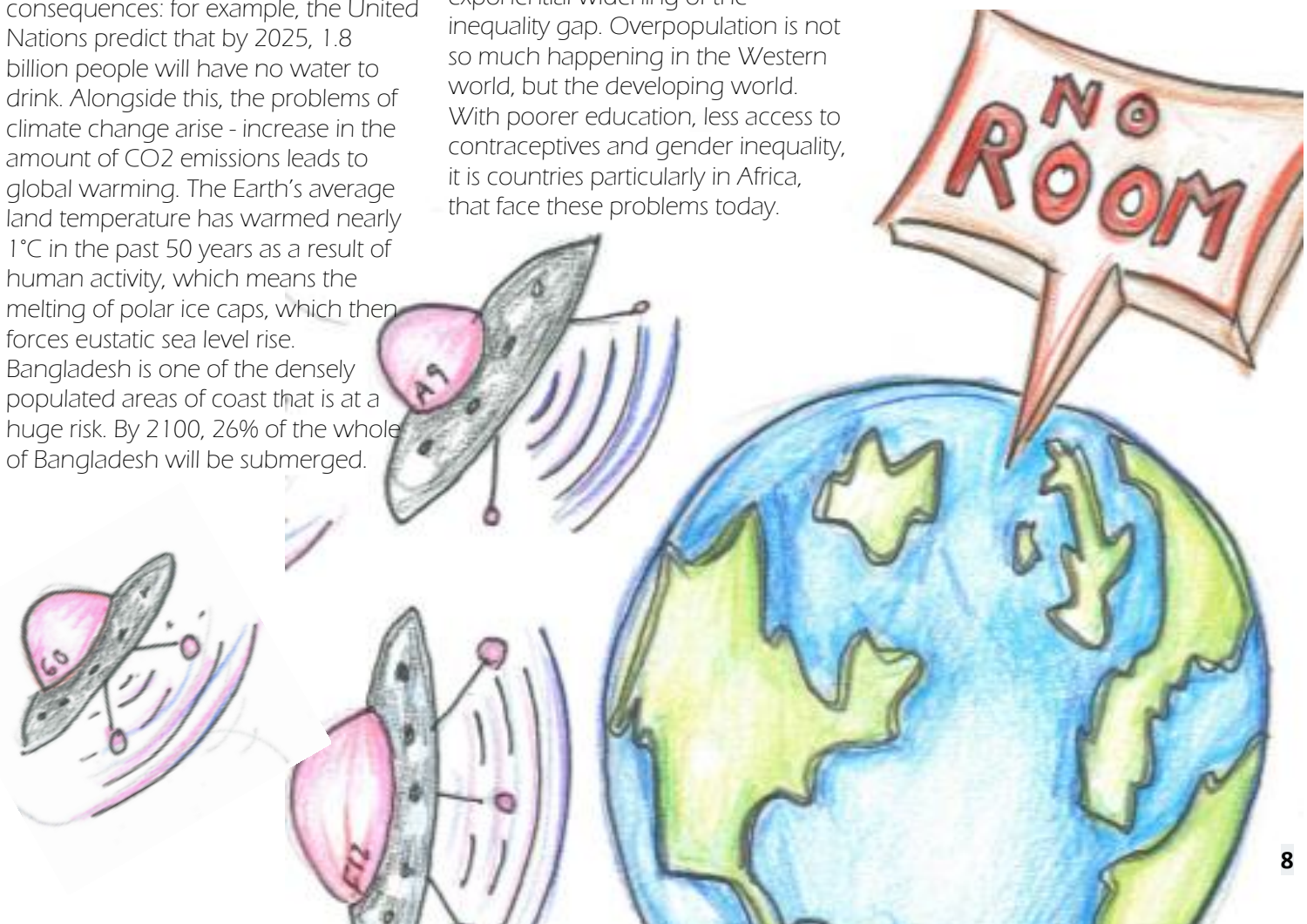
Overpopulation is caused by a combination of improved health care, lack of family planning, child mortality rates and life expectancy. It's estimated that by 2050 there will be almost 10 billion humans on the planet. So what does this mean for the future?

The effect is easily seen. Resource depletion is one of these consequences: for example, the United Nations predict that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will have no water to drink. Alongside this, the problems of climate change arise - increase in the amount of CO₂ emissions leads to global warming. The Earth's average land temperature has warmed nearly 1°C in the past 50 years as a result of human activity, which means the melting of polar ice caps, which then forces eustatic sea level rise. Bangladesh is one of the densely populated areas of coast that is at a huge risk. By 2100, 26% of the whole of Bangladesh will be submerged.

In developing countries, overpopulation brings another string of issues. It puts a major strain on the resources countries utilise for development and therefore conflicts over resources, in particular water, are becoming a source of tension between countries, which can easily develop into wars. As seen from history (though many governments are yet to learn from this, intoxicated by greed and power), wars create poverty, refugee crises, starvation and disease. Humans have only been at peace for 8 percent of recorded history, and the future of peace between nations and groups within nations is becoming an increasingly predicted rarity.

As a whole, one of the greatest problems of overpopulation is the exponential widening of the inequality gap. Overpopulation is not so much happening in the Western world, but the developing world. With poorer education, less access to contraceptives and gender inequality, it is countries particularly in Africa, that face these problems today.

The thing is, when we look at all these knock on effects, the issue we are faced with can seem completely unmanageable. We look to governments or other countries to provide solutions to this challenge, as if we don't have a role to play. But I know I don't want to live in a world where conflict is forced due to fear of starvation or resource depletion, or a world where women still are forced to bear children because they have no liberty to pursue other ambitions. And yet something can be done, because something has to be done. The interconnectivity of the problems centred around overpopulation provides us with a chance to combat this challenge from many different angles. If we challenge female inequality



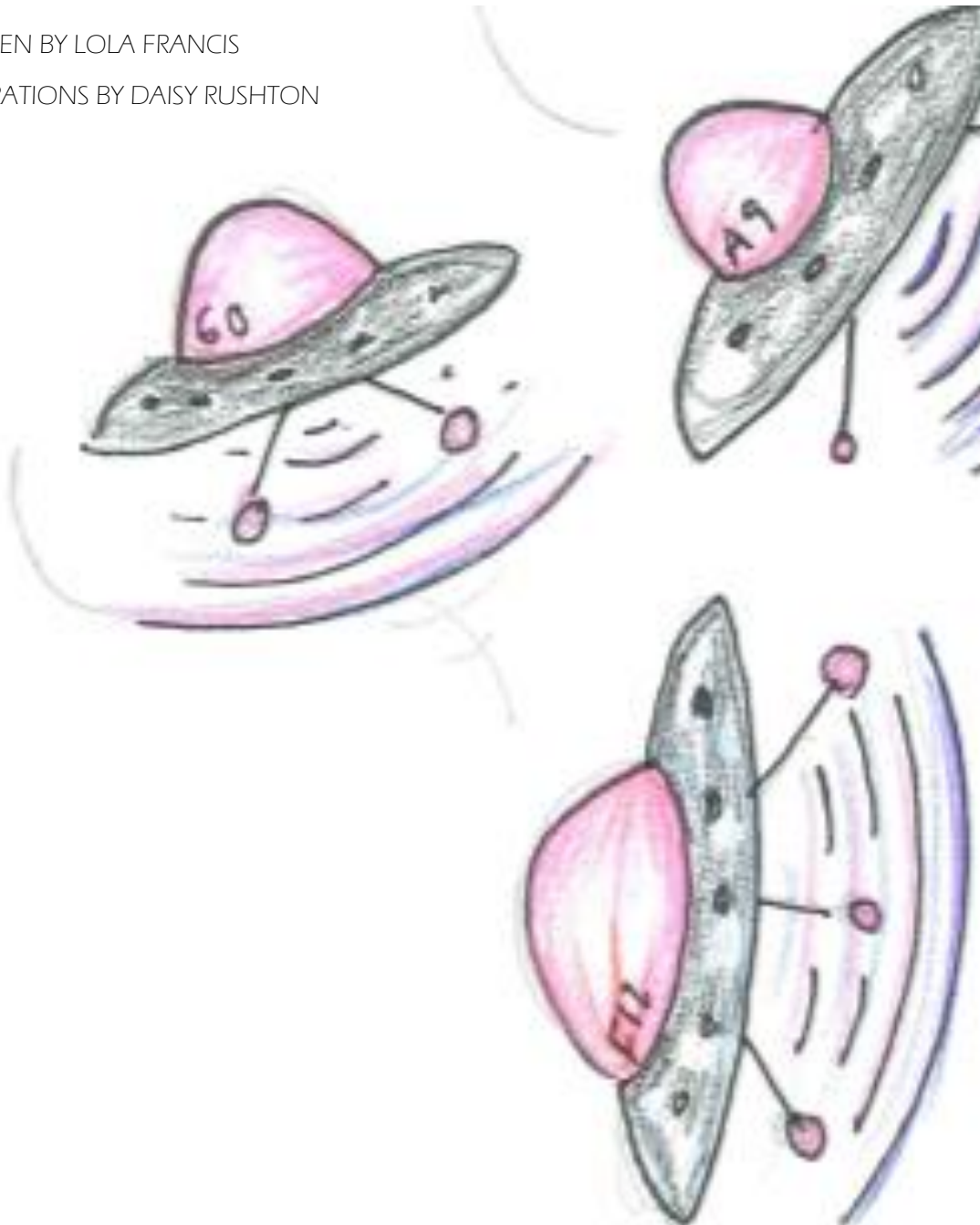


If we continue to provide education and access to contraceptives internationally and if we successfully improve health resource distribution in developing countries it is possible that the most disastrous affects of overpopulation can be averted. There are many ways to stem the onslaught of human induced failures, and as individuals, we have to find a place for ourselves in the solutions, to create the widespread response our world deserves.

The following generations will thank us, and we might even be proud of our legacy.

WRITTEN BY LOLA FRANCIS

ILLISTRATIONS BY DAISY RUSHTON



Venturing Outside the Classroom – Plastic free Plymouth conference

On the 28th March, six students along with two members of staff attended a plastic conference at Plymouth City Council House in hopes of gathering ideas to obtain the Surfers Against Sewage award and finding solutions to reduce the use of single use plastic within the school.

What was immediately striking was that almost the entirety of the conference room was filled with primary school students. It seemed strange that this environmental message was being passed to young children who have less power to change than older students. The only secondary school attendees were ourselves and Scott College. Throughout the day we considered - why? Were they worried about confrontation from older students? Apprehensive of being challenged by their more advanced scientific knowledge?

From this we knew that our efforts to reduce the prevalence of single use plastic would have to be focused not only on progressing our own school, but also in becoming a model for other secondary schools. We are hopeful that we can succeed in this as the primary students had seemed to create a chain of inspirations: Eco-Warriors Club, writing letters, eliminating single use plastics, creating beautiful school decorations from recycled materials - each school seemed to have inspired another.

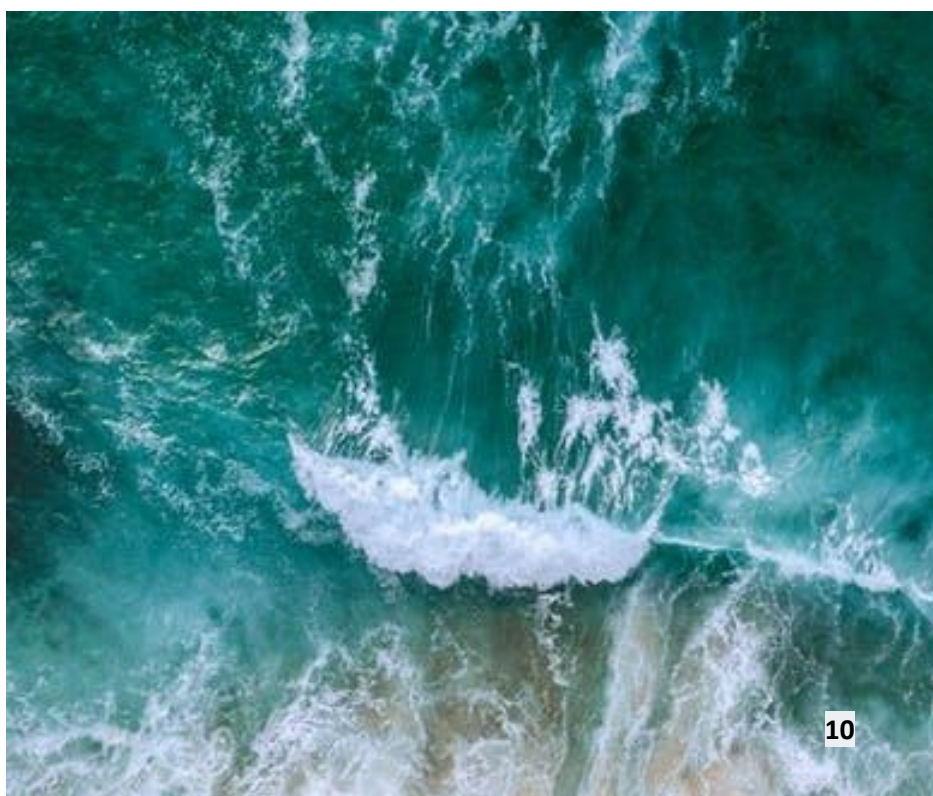
We were lucky enough that throughout the conference there were speeches from experts on the matter. The first of these was Councillor Sue Dann who emphasised in her talk the importance of avoiding use of single-use plastic (i.e. straws and carrier bags) and also confirmed that recycling efforts are not wasted by showing footage from Plymouth Recycling Centre. She highlighted Plymouth's fast action on the ocean pollution crisis and how the city is leading a change by being one of the first UK cities to adopt the Surfers Against Sewage Plan. Her solution to avoid using single-use plastic bottles was to implement water refill stations in parks and shops for people using reusable bottles. There have also been sea bins implemented along Plymouth's coast and harbours, which collect floating debris around the water.

John N Bull is Associate Professor in Pollution Ecology in the School of Geography at Plymouth University. His passion was particularly inspiring and he highlighted the power of youth movements to create change. He introduced shocking statistics: for example that 9 billion tonnes of waste are thrown into the oceans every day and that plastic bottles take over 450 years to decay. Furthermore, 200,000 bottles are sold every second and only 7% are recycled!

We were also lucky enough to receive a letter from Sir David Attenborough who plays an important role through Blue Planet. His words were, "Plastic is poisoning the world - we have created it, now we must get rid of it." His words touched each individual in the room and I think it was safe to say that we all agreed with him.

In light of the rife political situation regarding climate change that the media focused on over the Easter break, we are grateful that this conference came at the right time. We are currently waiting for a meeting to take place with canteen staff to discuss the logistics and finances of reducing single use plastic and are planning assemblies to explain what we can do as students to help this situation.

WRITTEN BY REBECCA SIMS AND LAUREN WOODLEY



Old girl, Tigs Louis-Puttick, writes about resistance in 'Varsity', and reaches out to PHSG

We cannot lose Extinction Rebellion's momentum

After a week with Extinction Rebellion, Tigs Louis-Puttick writes that though its rhetoric must be developed, it has proved that resistance can be powerful as well as peaceful

Arriving in London last week, I intended to pop by the Extinction Rebellion protest for a few hours. Yet after chatting to other 'rebels' on tree-lined, car-free, bee-populated Waterloo Bridge, I was compelled to stay longer. From kitchen volunteers, to arrestees, to media teams, everyone was contributing to create this beautiful, peaceful disruption. At one point, as waves of police advanced up Waterloo Bridge, I realised my time was no more valuable than anyone else's. I joined the 'arrestable' people sat singing on the ground, and spent the next 12 hours in a cell.

Whilst my experience of arrest was emotionally charged yet largely positive, it is of utmost importance to recognise that this experience was a privilege I was afforded due to my identity as a middle class, white, English-speaking woman. Many are subject to entirely different, negative police encounters due to structural racist, anti-immigrant and classist sentiments which persist in Britain (and the world). Returning to Waterloo Bridge 12 hours after my arrest, I found my bag exactly where I had left it, demonstrating the spirit of the community and trust

created by the Rebellion. Throughout the week, each occupied site became a space for sharing stories and ideas with complete strangers. We supported each other through feelings of responsibility and sadness alongside determination rebelliousness. From dancing in the road in Parliament Square at 4am as traffic lights changed, unheeded, to watching a woman in a wheelchair blockading Oxford Circus as lines of police advanced, this week was an unforgettable experience.

The Extinction Rebellion started in response to imminent climate disaster. In 12 years time, the 1.5°C global temperature increase will be **irreversible**. Sea levels and extinction rates are rising at unprecedented speed, and extreme weather events are devastating communities – particularly in the **global South**. Preferring to continue with 'business as usual', governments have been complacent and even **denied** that climate change exists. By burying its head in the safer sands of Brexit negotiations, the UK government refuses to prioritise the true emergency.

In light of this, XR **demands** for governments to: be truthful about climate change; produce legally binding policies to reduce carbon emissions to net 0 by 2025; and establish a national Citizen's Assembly to oversee the changes. The demand for a 2025 zero-carbon target is ambitious – but not impossible. As Andrew Simms from the Rapid Transition Alliance **commented**, if we treated the climate crisis in the same way as economic crises, the results would be astonishing. It is easy to forget how powerful people working together can be, especially with both governments and corporations onside.

Non-violent public disruption has become one of the only options available. I regret that many people's journeys through London have been disrupted this week, but such disruption is minor in comparison to the chaos of climate change. Why should a Londoner's commute be prioritised over the lives of so many others?

With over **1000 arrests** (making it the biggest recent act of civil disobedience), all action has remained non-violent. Continuous effort is being made to ensure the spirit of the movement is



and painted with a beautiful wash of togetherness, dissolving political and social divisions and embodying true solidarity. 'Tories for Climate Justice' signs were waved side by side with Socialist banners, while I (a 20 year old Cambridge student from Plymouth) sat in a police van alongside a 75 year-old retiree from Scotland.

However, the arrest-based tactics of XR have alienated and marginalised people of colour, working class people and disabled people. Advocating – and glorifying – arrest as a tactic ignores historic and ongoing oppression at the hands of police which many people face. XR must reconsider their methods in order to become truly inclusive. Critical to this is decentralising the organisation to allow for the introduction of a wider variety of methods. I feel that such analysis has already begun this week. Speakers reminded us that XR non-violent direct action is a privileged experience far removed from the non-violent movements of MLK, Gandhi and Fawcett; people were invited to the stage to discuss their own international struggles; and working groups were set up by the People's Assembly to tackle the barriers currently preventing inclusivity.

I respect people who have not participated in the protest due to institutional problems within XR. If the movement does not include and amplify the voices and concerns of the communities most affected, it cannot be truly rebellious. However, given the urgent nature of this crisis, XR's powerful momentum cannot be lost, but its rhetoric and method must be developed.

So – has it been successful? The aims of disruption have been realised, with West End businesses reporting losses of **£12m** after only 2 days. At the same time, a study was conducted which found that the occupation had more **support** than opposition from the public. Passers-by gave everything from 'thank yous' to food as they walked past occupied sites. Musicians from Massive Attack and Nick Mulvey, to unknown gifted guitarists, helped energise the crowds, while appearances from **Emma Thompson and Greta Thunberg** increased public support and media coverage.

Of course, there were negative reactions too, but even if people don't support the methods, discussion of climate change has exploded, with climate-related headlines splashed across the UK. We are waiting on MPs to respond. I hope they start enacting the changes we so desperately need.

The XR movement is far from perfect, and requires much work to ensure it goes from strength to strength as we head into an uncertain future.

Personally, I have felt inspired, empowered and humbled by my experience of the Rebellion. Despite the underlying climate sadness which characterised the protest, it has proved that resistance can be powerful, yet also peaceful, uplifting and imbued with hope and joy. As **Greta Thunberg** said to the thousands-strong crowd at Marble Arch, protesters will never stop fighting for this planet. I certainly don't plan to, and if anything, I feel this is really only the beginning.

WRITTEN BY TIGS LOUIS-PUTTICK

“My brief message to PHSG gals would be to get involved with climate change activism and action as early as you can – you won't regret it and if anything, I regret waiting this late to properly start getting engaged!”



PROTECT

Plymouth High Schools Young Enterprise team 2018-19

PROTECT

Our aim is to be a sustainable company limiting waste and raising awareness of the impact society can have in the world.

By creating our beautiful ecojems, with 100% sustainably sourced materials and eco-friendly production methods using recyclable resources and packaging, we hope to spread the message that the smallest changes can make a difference, fashioning our ecojems on their wrists.

We hope to inspire others to make changes in the way they live to help the environment, allowing us to have an impact beyond our company's actions.

Follow us on our journey:

Instagram - @Protect.ye

Twitter - @Protectye

What is MUN?

Day 1

Students had the opportunity to discover Bath and to enjoy the World Heritage site as well as squeeze in some shopping in the city centre.

Then it was off to get changed and head to Kingswood School for the conference opening ceremony.

The opening ceremony's guest speaker was Angus Forbes (Dame Darcy Bussell's husband) who spoke about his campaign for a Global Planet Authority (www.votegpa.com). He highlighted the increasing impacts of consumerisation and industrialisation on the planet and the consequences for humanity in the future. It was a very hard-hitting talk with the optimism that a solution for managing our biosphere and therefore battling climate change globally is possible. However, big change is required.

Delegates then went on to vote on, and lobby for, their Resolutions to the problems outlined by the UN. Students had pre-written their Resolution from their country's perspective along with a number of proposals for a solution. Delegates with the most signatures on their Resolutions were then chosen to present these to their committee on Saturday.

With lobbying done, we headed to Wagamama's for dinner, while Ms Boyle tried to park a 17-seater minibus in the middle of Bath on a Friday night. Ms Roper to the rescue, who hassled people returning to their cars for their space. With the bus parked successfully, it was dinner time.

Day 2

This is debating day. All delegates were in different parts of the school with their various committees to argue their points throughout the day. At first, this seemed daunting with a host of new language and protocol to learn. After the first debate the pace picked up and many delegates got the chance to speak - raising their country's concerns, or supporting countries in their proposed Resolution.

Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is an activity in which students represent a country as delegates to the United Nations and simulate debates in UN committees. In this year's MUN, we represented the countries of Egypt, Belarus and South Korea and took part in the human rights, political, environment, Middle East and health committees. A number of situations currently being debated at the real UN were covered. This included the conflict in Yemen, human rights of the LGBT community, torture, women's rights and climate change.



Once back at the hotel it was time to change into casual wear and head to Frome for dinner where there was lots of discussion about the day's events and ideas of how the next day would develop.

Day 3

Last day: the final chance for people to debate their Resolutions as well as for the committee to deal with an emergency scenario. This was a very rapid discussion and there were also some amusing Resolutions which drew large debate. Some countries even had to debate their way out of being targeted by nuclear annihilation.

All our students deserve recognition as this is a daunting and challenging event and they all impressed with their preparation and participation over the weekend. Facing up to the confident presentations of students



from public schools took some getting used to, but once we realised that we knew as much if not more than they did, then we gained the confidence to speak up and put our country's views across. The closing ceremony included a roundup of topics discussed and awards for those who were seen as the best delegates for their country and within their committee. Given that there are around 500 students at this event the fact that so many of ours were noticed and gained awards is very much to their credit.

We'd very much like to thank Ms Boyle and Ms Roper for organising such a great event and we recommend that next year's Year 12 get their names in early to take part, as it is well worth it.

Below are the students involved, as well as their country, committee and awards:

Ellen Bickley: South Korea , Political Committee

Isabelle Hedley: South Korea , Environmental Committee

Esme Brinsden: Belarus, Human Rights 2 Committee

*Caitlin Scraysbrook : South Korea, Economic Committee *Reward Commended

Libby Hyndman : Belarus , Environmental Committee

*Maddy Skentelbery : Belarus , Health Committee *Reward Commended

Lucy Allan : Belarus Economic Committee

Charlotte Walker , South Korea , Human Rights 1 Committee

*Ruth McCulloch, Egypt , Middle East Committee *Reward Commended

Kezia Lock , Belarus , Human Rights 1 Committee

Keziah Atkinson : Egypt , Environmental Committee

Lola Francis , Egypt , Environmental Committee

Tess Harland , Egypt , Human Rights 2 Committee

*Rowan McKillop , Egypt , Health Committee * Reward Highly Commended



How Does TV Impact Our Lives?

For our generation, television has been constantly in our lives since we were born. From watching cartoons on children's TV to binging a thirty episode Netflix series, we are always hooked up to screens. It has become considerably worse since phones and iPads have been invented, as now we can access almost anything all the time. However, has this constant rush of content caused us to get distracted from our real priorities?

There are many good sides to television. It helps us keep up with what is going on in our world such as Blue Planet Live, which recently hit our screens. Through shows like this, we can see things that we wouldn't normally see and perhaps may have never seen without televisions. We can learn new things through documentaries or the news and we can briefly escape the world and be whoever we want for just an hour or two. It is also a good way to bond with people and watching a show together can be part of some people's family time.

However, there is an ugly side to this amazing machine. In today's society, we seem to have this expectation of ourselves that we must be as perfect as possible. Adverts in magazines show us this 'perfect' unobtainable image which has probably gone under hours of photoshop before it meets the public eye. These images are in the TV adverts as well but they are also in our shows. Popular shows like Love Island show women who seem impossibly beautiful and men who seem to be constantly toned and tanned. Some of these women will have had plastic surgery – which is not necessarily a bad thing – however many shows sometimes play the look off as natural. The show is then aired and insecure people compare themselves to these images and then doubt their bodies even more. Both genders in our society are almost constantly concerned with how they looked with some as young as ten developing eating disorders. The desire to be beautiful or look like some rich celebrity is constantly fed to us through shows and adverts and so on.

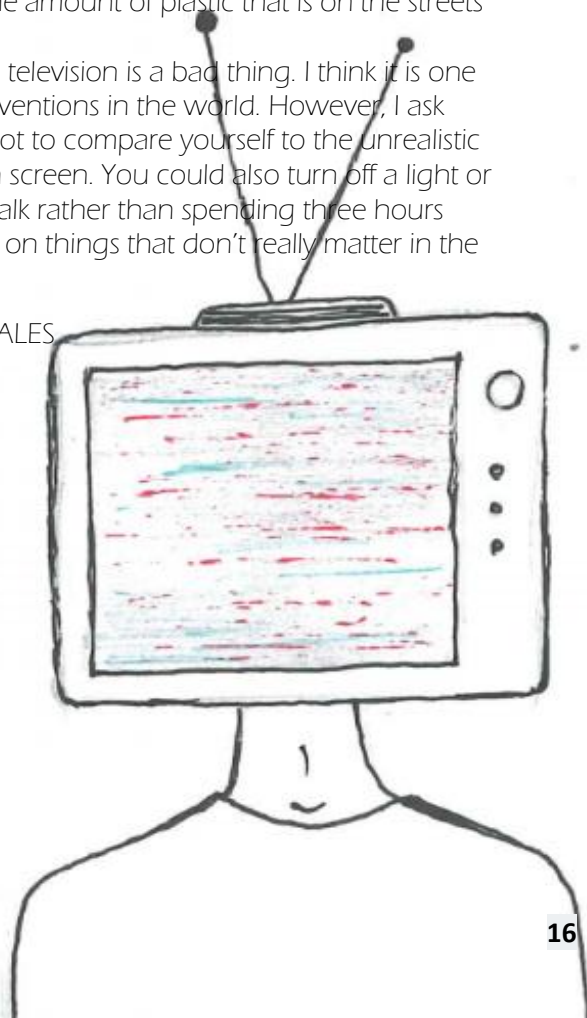
Another downside is our priorities have changed. One example of this is the Jordyn Woods and Tristan Thompson scandal which hit everyone's news feeds this year. Videos were released of Jordyn Woods (best friend to Kylie Jenner) and Tristan Thompson (the father of Khloe Kardashian's daughter, True) kissing at a house party. This was a massive blow to the Kardashian family and Kylie apparently kicked Jordyn out of their shared house in order to support her sister (Khloe). The Kardashians have been on our screens for a while and their show – Keeping Up with the Kardashians – was first aired on 14 October 2007 and is still on today. Most of us know that this family seems to attract drama so by now, we should be used to it. However, the scandal was trending everywhere and it was constantly in the news for at least a week.

We are currently in a climate crisis. Students are striking every Friday all over the world to try to prevent the devastating impacts from going any further. Imagine if every person who spent their time talking about the Kardashians' drama was instead raising awareness for the fact that we may lose $\frac{2}{3}$ of all animals by 2020 due to the climate change. Since when have our priorities been on a family who we don't even know rather than the world around us? Some of us seem to be more concerned with what our favourite celebrity is eating for breakfast rather than the amount of plastic that is on the streets and in the ocean.

I am not saying television is a bad thing. I think it is one of the most amazing inventions in the world. However, I ask you, as readers, to try not to compare yourself to the unrealistic images that you see on screen. You could also turn off a light or go on a litter-picking walk rather than spending three hours processing information on things that don't really matter in the long run.

WRITTEN BY CARYS SCALES

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
EVA KLECKHAM AGAR



Wishes from Mongolia!



Amira, an ex-student from Plymouth High School, got in contact with us and shared her experiences living in Mongolia. She has just graduated from Exeter where she studied Anthropology.

This is Amira, with many good wishes from Mongolia. I kept thinking about writing, but I've been so busy since I got here I kept postponing it and now I've been in country nearly 10 months. I am living in the far east of Mongolia (a province called Dornod) near the border with both Russia and China. Life here is so interesting! Each day I appreciate teachers more and more, but I seriously doubt I will follow it as a career path. It's incredibly exhausting! I have one English teacher I share all of my classes with (but she leaves me alone to teach way too often which is a big no no in Peace Corps). I will attach some pictures of my students so you can see how cute they are!

I live in a wooden house in the center of my village. It is a house that is cut in two and divided with another family. I live alone in one half, and a family of 7 (5 of which are adults) manage to squish together in the same size space in the other half of the house. There is no running water, and no central heating. Every week and a half I need to drag a 10 liter container in a cartwheel to a well and fill it up with water, and then push the now ridiculously heavy load back to my house. Luckily I don't live too far from it. Also, sometimes if the teachers find out I'm low on water they send some of the older male students to go fetch it for me (they doubt my strength). I dread to think what UK law on child labor would say, but this seems to be a very common thing in Mongolia. Students clean their classrooms, and some of them even do repair works such as fixing broken doors or even hammering and sawing wood to fix holes in places.



Winter gets pretty cold. It can go down to negative 40 degrees (although we were lucky enough this year to have a warm winter, it only went down to -30!). Through all of this I need to make my own fires. In the midst of winter I had to do 3 to 4 big fires a day to keep my house warm. Of course being lazy I didn't often do this (as it would require me to wake up at 4 am) so my house was always a bit on the chilly side. Also, as there are no trees in my part of Mongolia (I live on the Mongolian steppe, a completely flat grassland which expands as far as the eye can see) I need to make fire with cow dung and coal. The dung is kind of fun, but the coal is a nightmare! Coal dust gets everywhere so my house is constantly dirty, and I'm pretty sure it ends up in my food and in my lungs. I can't wait until summer comes so I will no longer have to mop my floor four times a day.

Having said all this, there is electricity in my house, and even more surprising, there is village-wide wifi! Even though nobody in my Soum (village) has running water, and showers for me consist of filling up a bucket with water and dunking my head in, I, in the remoteness and isolation of Mongolia can watch Netflix whenever I like. Isn't that bizarre?

I could fill in a whole other email about Mongolian culture, but perhaps for now this is enough. I'm especially busy at the moment as I'm writing a grant proposal to build an English high-tech classroom. I hope this email has been enough for now to give you a small insight into my current life.

Hopefully I will hear from you soon and be able to tell you some more fun stories.

Best wishes,

Amira

"Live a good life, and in the end it is not the years in the life, but the life in the years."
Abraham Lincoln



Book Review Corner, with Carys Scales

THE CRUEL PRINCE BY HOLLY BLACK

Holly Black started her writing career as a production editor on medical journals before releasing her first book in 2002. Since then, she has written many novels aimed at children/teens and has been nominated for - and achieved - numerous awards.

"If I cannot be better than them, I will become so much worse."

The story follows Jude and her two sisters who were stolen from the human world to live in the Court of High Faerie. Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans — especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King. To win a place at the Court, she must defy him — and face the consequences.

The Cruel Prince is a story full of deception, court intrigue, a vaguely dark romance and a plot which will take your breath away. It is a book that you can really lose yourself in — which is useful if you need a break from everything! I found it heart wrenching and completely captivating.

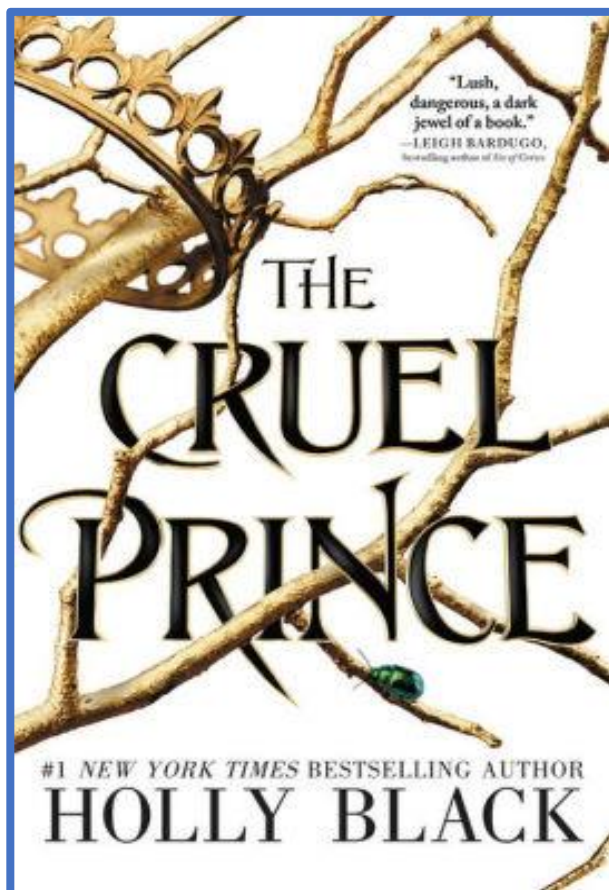
My favourite part is that 'The Cruel Prince' leads up to an even better sequel. The Wicked King came out this year and the fact that we have to wait until 2020 to find out what happens next is frustrating. Holly Black successfully lures her readers in and before you know it, you're constantly checking for news of the next release date.

"Whatever a reader is looking for—heart-in-throat action, deadly romance, double-crossing, moral complexity - this is one heck of a ride." (Booklist)

If you're looking for a series to get lost in or something to do over the holidays, I highly recommend reading this book and then following the rest of the series — you certainly won't regret it!

The Wicked King (Book 2) was released earlier this year

The Queen of Nothing (Book 3) is expected in early 2020.



BRETTFAST AT TIMOTHY'S GHOSTBUSTERS™

Ghostbusters is a special movie. A rare blend of comedic genius and genuine heartfelt Hollywood story; there is no wonder this film resonates with so many. Bill Murray shines as lead protagonist Dr. Peter Venkman. In arguably his most career-defining acting role off all-time, Murray manages to capture the perfect balance of awkward wit and lazy mannerisms to make his character feel utterly genuine.

I truly felt invested with all of the supporting characters too, as Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis and Ernie Hudson all successfully demonstrate their stellar acting capabilities. Their actions and dialogue felt authentic, and they come across as grounded, familiar and relatable which makes the story that little bit more credible and enjoyable. The four main cast members bounce off each other from start to finish, with their humorous exchanges landing almost every single time. All of them develop into concrete, fleshed-out heroes by the end of the nearly two-hour fantasy film, and I found myself wanting to see even more of them and their antics as the credits rolled.

The story begins with Doctor Venkman, Doctor Stantz and Doctor Spengler finding themselves downsized from a New York university parapsychology department. Following this, the main three choose to follow their own entrepreneurial route. Hunting down apparitions and capturing insolent ghosts for people, Venkman, Stantz and Spengler soon investigate musician Dana Barrett's (Sigourney Weaver) refrigerator door, which seemingly leads to the gates of hell.

The narrative feels original and compelling, having been actually written by leads Dan Aykroyd (Doctor Stantz) and Harold Ramis (Doctor Spengler). Not once during the two hours did I find myself uninterested or bored with the plotline. There were some points however, where I thought the story felt a little thin – with the Ghostbusting aspect of the movie not really kicking in until the final half hour.

A particular highlight of mine is a scene in which the Ghostbusters chase down a ghost made of pure ectoplasm named Slimer. The moment is fast-paced and gripping, and is captured beautifully by the use of camera mid-shots and tracking. The CGI for both Slimer and the energy released from the proton pack wand look exceptionally modern (far more so than I was originally expecting for the eighties classic). The avant-garde designs for the ghosts in general hit the mark, adopting a perfect combination of both creativity and eighties cheesiness in one.

Towards the end, we meet the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man who, in-universe, is a mascot of a fictional marshmallow corporation. The giant marshmallow mascot comes to life and begins threatening New York, invoking fear amongst the citizens of the city. Without spoiling too much of the movie's premise, the Ghostbusters defeat the villain in perhaps one of the most ingenious and most satisfying ways I have ever seen in film, and the scene is written, performed and directed so fantastically it deserves more cinematic recognition.

So would I recommend the movie? I came into this franchise with the feeling that I would enjoy it. I never thought I'd find myself leaving the sofa having loved it. This movie felt like the epitome of an all-time classic – a fun, clever family film that shocked me, made me laugh and glued me to the edge-of-my-seat throughout. If there's one thing I took away from Ghostbusters (1984), it would be that the whole production feels like a sculpture. There are some moments where it falls off-track, feels a little bit rough and a little bit messy around the edges, but then there's so much more that makes all of those issues redundant. The film strives and never gets stale, with such humour and such heart driven into the foundations of it. This movie is a landmark movie in cinematic history, that demonstrates a very hard-to-find amalgamation of beautiful dialogue, refined characters and gorgeously-timely CGI. It's a story I'd have no hesitation in showing my own children when I'm older.

The Brettfast Club awards this movie:





LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS AT PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL



BAR MOCK – EDINBURGH EDITION



After our success in Southampton back in November, we were all buzzing with excitement for the National Finals of Bar Mock Trials in Edinburgh.

We had been given a new case - this time about a university student hacking into a database to change the grades of another student. This case was to be tried alongside the acid attack case from the regional heats and the competition was as tough as ever. We would be against 23 other schools, all battling it out for the title of national champions.

We'd been hard at work for months, preparing opening and closing speeches, in-chiefs (where the lawyer asks a witness questions) and ruthless cross examinations (where a lawyer tries to disprove a witness). As soon as the 21st of March rolled around, we were all feeling prepared and ready for Edinburgh - especially Mr Goodchild armed with his red folder of knowledge.

It was all aboard the Banter Bus for the drive up to the Airport, where much to my dismay, Starbucks had run out of iced tea. However, this was not too much of an issue as we were soon boarding the plane and the lack of iced tea was forgotten about.

Less than an hour later, we touched down in Edinburgh and after collecting our bags, we hopped on the tram into the centre of Edinburgh before beginning the trek to the hotel, dragging our suitcases behind us.

The next morning, after a good night's sleep and a lie-in, we headed out for breakfast. Mr Goodchild led the way to the museum where we spent the rest of the morning immersing ourselves in history. In the evening we headed to Zizzi and treated ourselves to a rather delicious dinner. Back at the hotel, we split into groups to focus on our respective cases before the competition. "Acid attack" in room 130 with Mr Graves and Mr Goodchild and "hacking" in room 223 with Miss Findlay and Mr Curson.

The next morning in room 204, we feasted on pancakes and mango before getting our court attire on and making our way to the Edinburgh Courts of Sessions. Soon after we arrived, His Honour Lord Leveson gave a speech introducing the day - the competition had begun.

The first round was the acid attack case and the team headed into the court and battled stiff competition, emerging victorious. Next was the computer hacking case in round two. After cross examining two very emotional witnesses, the Jury voted in our favour and returned the verdict of guilty. We came out of the courtroom victorious yet again. Following a quick lunch, we headed into round three - where we would be trying the accused in the acid attack case again.

Then came the time we had all been waiting for - the results of the two schools that would be going through to the final round. It felt like an age before His Honour Lord Leveson took the stage again, giving a speech congratulating everyone on their hard work and announcing the winners of the smaller competitions like court artist and court reporter.

Finally, Lord Leveson announced the two finalist schools. Unfortunately, we hadn't made it through, but to make it to the national finals in Edinburgh is a huge achievement in itself and we should all be very proud of ourselves for the amount of hard work that we had put into the two cases.

We spent the evening at the Gourmet Burger Kitchen, laughing as Ethan ate more than three portions of fries and two burgers, all of us being supplied with what seemed to be endless amounts of fries.

When we returned to the hotel for our last night, we headed to room 130 where we joked and began a new case based on a rather bizarre event that Katie had experienced that morning at 4 - a man, wearing a blue gilet, walking down the corridor holding a fire extinguisher. Perhaps it really was Mr Goodchild that was out to kill Katie. We will never know as the trial was rudely interrupted so the jury had to return a rushed verdict of not proven. Then, the news was broken to us that we would have to wake up at around 5 the next morning in order to reach the airport on time. Exhausted from a very long day, we all headed to our rooms to pack and get some much needed sleep.

After a very early and rather chilly start, we hopped back on the tram to the airport to begin the journey back to Plymouth. Once we landed in Bristol, it was all aboard the Banter Bus once again for the last leg of our trip.

Without the incredible hard work of Mr Graves, Mr Goodchild, Miss Findlay and Mr Curson, we would not have got as far as we did. It is down to them that we made it there and back in one piece and that we are such a strong team.

On behalf of the PHSG Bar Mock Team 2019, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the teachers that supported us and gave up their own time to make the trip happen. Thank you so much for making the trip so 'lit' and spark as much joy as it did, it truly wouldn't have been the same without you.

WRITTEN BY MADDIE HARPER



WHAT'S DOWN AT THE SUBSEA?

The SubSea STEM event started when 6 year nine girls who showed a keen interest in science and engineering won the regional challenge, this then progressed to the finals, in Aberdeen, where they took part in a much harder challenge where their skills were tested and broadened.

After winning regionals back last year, our team took the long journey up to Aberdeen: consisting of 4 flights in total. The challenge was based around the SubSea industry, though harder and at a much faster, more skilled pace than our regional event. However, we still persevered, testing our team work and motivation to succeed. With the added weight of building more components to our buggy we split up into 2 main teams. Design engineers- working on the presentation, and the flip chart we used and builders- working away to add the grabbing mechanism for our project along with the buggy on the whole.

"For the actual competition, we had to build a Lego Mindstorm which has a main "brain" and wheels and is all connected with limited Lego pieces. We also had to code it to pick up plastic filled barrels: one by following a set of instructions; one by following a black line; and one by picking up a beacon and following it."
-Hannah Frankow

These barrels were placed in real life situations: that could be possible in the SubSea industry. The placing increased in difficulty, with the black line which would represent a cable placed on the seabed, one with a beacon behind an island filled with endangered birds-that must not be disturbed by our work.

We made sure we kept environmental awareness, by not going straight into the highest scoring barrel (knowing this would take a lot of time, whereas we could succeed with excluding a larger volume of plastic by working through each barrel as they came.) WE felt that this was important as not all of the teams would have thought of this and it was important to us personally.

Throughout our trip we learnt a large amount about the SubSea industry and how a career path in this sector could be beneficial to us. This gave us a better understanding, of what we were making the buggy for, along with its importance in our

modern day society. The Subsea industry extracts oils and gases from the water to the sea bed throughout the water column, which is basically the seafloor to the water in a vertical measurement. This extraction is done by Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) as the depth of the sea cannot be accessed by divers- making it a key contribution to the future in trying to make our world more eco- friendly. The company who provided the venue for the project-SubSea 7-worked alongside with the charity Smallpeice to run the event to a high and professional standard. SubSea 7 is a leading company in global delivery of offshore projects and services for the evolving energy industries. These operations have spanned five decades, completing over 1000 plus projects. This gave us a great insight into what the company did and how helpful it is: which is something I had not considered before.

"If you are considering a career in the SubSea Industry, showing an interest in science, technology, engineering and maths will help you greatly. If you want to reach jobs, such as being a divers and project engineering for major projects across the UK, SubSea 7 offers many apprenticeships and opportunities for all people, which are very highly recognized in this industry."-Ingrid Zamfir

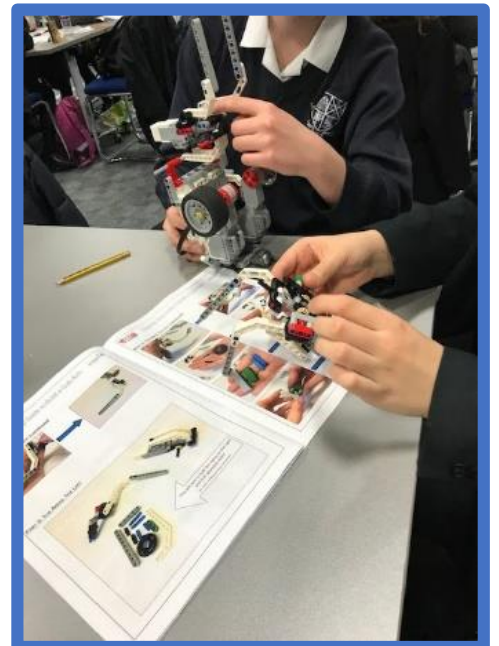
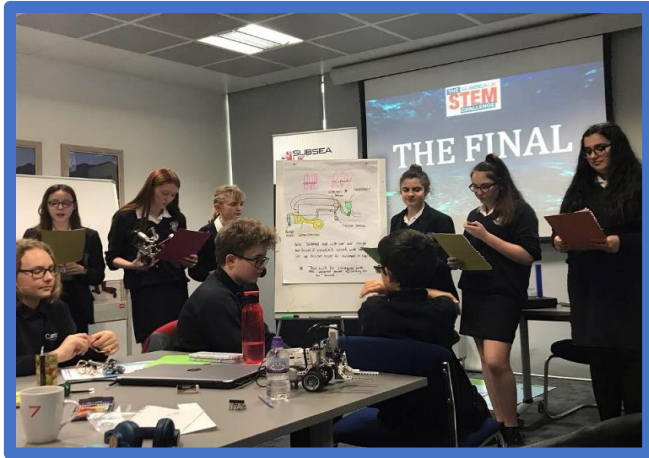
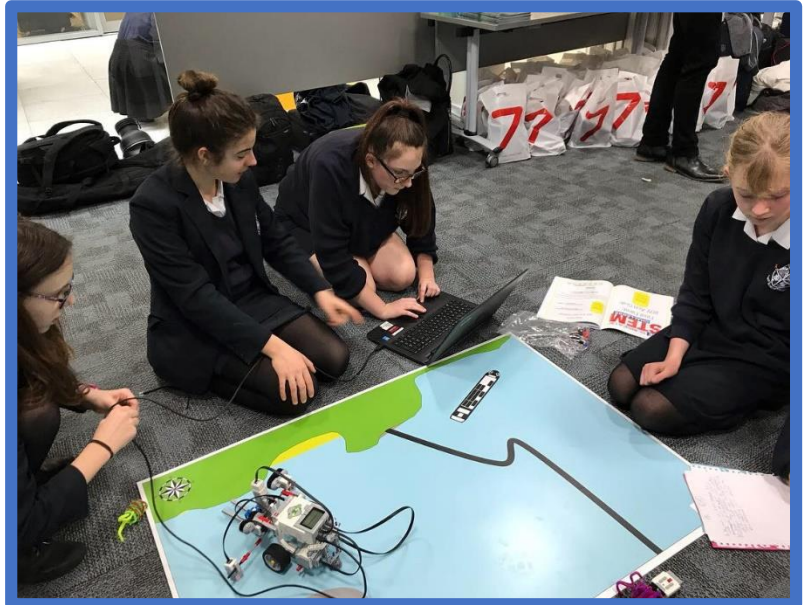
After this exciting look into training we talked to STEM ambassadors at the company, their advice and help was useful and valuable to our pitch, as it helped us improve our flip-chart with diagrams and various engineering language.



Soon after, we continued with this industry research and whilst continuing with our programming and improving the compactness of the buggy, we started preparing a pitch/presentation. This would be delivered to all the other teams, along with a wide range of sponsors and industry professionals. For this reason we wanted to make our presentation as industry based as possible, with key terms that would put us apart from the rest of the project.

In the end we did come second overall, and though disappointed that we didn't get the top spot we were very proud of our team work and our position in the finals. The whole experience meant that we learnt a lot more about this specific part of STEM and had a deeper understanding of the key,innovating technology that shapes our changing world.

Written by Abigail Finnie



The Glass Cliff

The Precarious Position of Women in Power

13th July 2016: Britain is divided. It's just under 3 weeks since the dawn of Brexit, Cameron has fled, and Theresa May has just been appointed Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. 'Honoured and humbled', Mrs May takes to the stage, unfortunately not blessed by the power of fore-sight. At the time of this appointment I was in London, observing a sign held by rabid protesters: 'Theresa May is a Hell Witch' – Not a very promising start.

At the time of writing this article, May is hanging on in there by the threads of her leopard-print heels and, like or hate her, Theresa clings to her position as though with the jaws of the animals used to make her shoes.

'Theresa May is Britain's first female Prime Minister since Margaret Thatcher'. Other sites introduce the PM with the words, 'Prime Minister (2016 -)'. Now, here we have two points perhaps even more telling than the fact that we are expected to want to know about the Prime Minister's husband. The first: Biography.com has decided that May's key point of distinction is that she is a woman in power, a phenomenon seemingly still rare.

'The second, is that condemning hyphen after '2016'; a 'to be confirmed'; a, 'just how much longer can she take it?' and a reminder of the inevitable, that every term in power will end. Put these two facts together and we get a spectacle referred to as The 'Glass Cliff'. This transparent precipice parodies The 'Glass Ceiling', a well-known feminist favourite used to represent the invisible barriers preventing minorities from advancing in society. The Cliff describes an observed pattern of women entering positions of power in times of crisis when the likelihood of failure is highest. Catastrophe is certain, yet hidden, until it is too late. The ill-fated woman's career ends in a drop off a, previously concealed, cliff-edge. Feminists argue that this failure-guaranteeing bluff damages the reputations of powerful women who, as lower in numbers, end up with a seemingly higher level of failure.

The theory, initially proposed by Michelle K. Ryan and Alexander Haslam, Exeter University, has a basis in the idea that, during times of crisis, the opportunities to access positions of power are increased (as seen in the dog-fight of the post-Brexit leadership contest), providing women with more chances. A 'free-for-all' sort of mentality. Women, who have throughout their lives had their careers limited by the Cliff's sibling Ceiling, grasp the positions they're gifted with no choice over circumstances of the team, business, or, in May's case, country, they are about to lead. According to the theory, society's perception of a woman's more nurturing, democratic, and intuitive nature means that they are expected to provide better comfort to the fretting masses than the male counterparts whose ashes they've risen from.



Marissa Mayer became CEO of Yahoo after it lost shares to Google. Julia Gillard (Australia's only female PM) came to power amidst arguments about previous 'Labor Party' immigration and environment policy. May took over Britain on the brink of Brexit. It would seem that society is yet to outgrow the stereotype of women as cleaners-up of other people's mistakes.

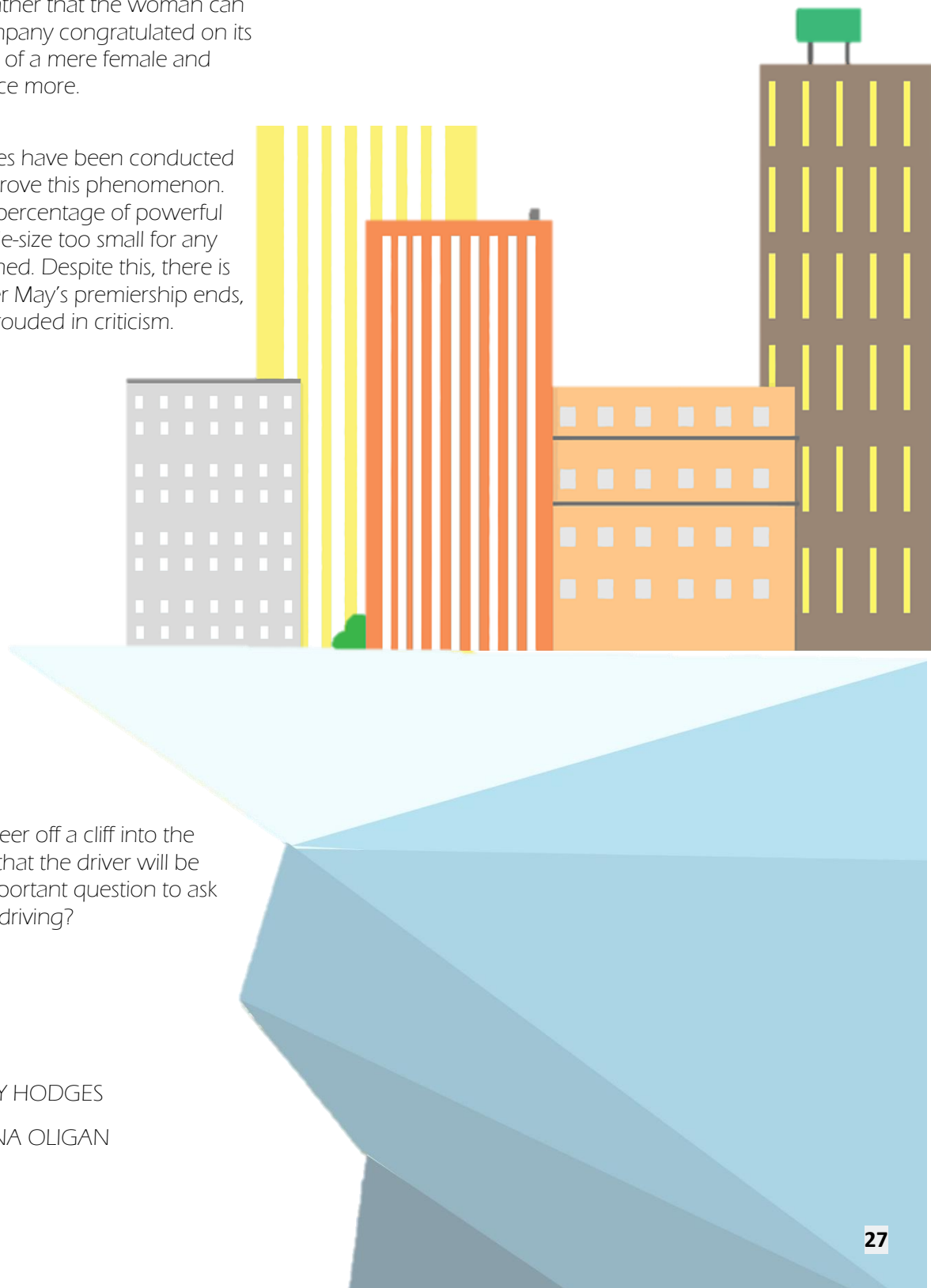
It is often theorised that the appointment of women to these positions is not done with the expectation of success, rather that the woman can be scapegoated, the company congratulated on its progressive appointment of a mere female and male leaders selected once more.

As with all theories, studies have been conducted to both support and disprove this phenomenon. The comparatively small percentage of powerful women makes the sample-size too small for any correlations to be confirmed. Despite this, there is no arguing that, however May's premiership ends, her reputation will be shrouded in criticism.

As Britain prepares to career off a cliff into the unknown, it is inevitable that the driver will be blamed. However, an important question to ask ourselves is: who is NOT driving?

WRITTEN BY RUTH BAILEY HODGES

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIANA OLIGAN



Power at Our Fingertips

Is PHSG's phone policy the best it can be?

Since technology extended its reach at the turn of this century, mobile phones at fingertips of the majority of teenagers in secondary schools has become an increasingly controversial debate in the educational sphere. In 2018, the French educational system took the lead in banning mobile phones during school hours for pupils up to the age of 16. The British system still allows schools to create a policy that will suit their school, creating disparities across the country. With valid arguments for outright bans on mobile phone use in schools but also for greater leniency and freedom, it is hard for schools to create a policy that will satisfy the students, and also create the right environment for better results.

At Plymouth High, our mobile phone policy varies in a number of ways. Year 7 hand in their phone at the beginning of the school day, only to be collected as the bell rings at 3:30. Year 8 and above are allowed their phones during break and lunchtime, but not during lessons – unless permitted by the teacher. 6th form also have the freedom to use them in their study periods. A Plymouth High student poll states that 63% of the student body believes that the methods of enforcing the policy vary from teacher to teacher, and a further 25% believe all teachers are harsh with the rules. Less than 4/10 Plymouth High students are satisfied with the current mobile phone policy.

So what are the benefits of a strict mobile phone ban? Well, a recent study across five schools in Britain saw that implementing a 2-year ban on mobile phones during school hours meant their school grades at GCSE increased by an average of 6%. In fact, banning mobile phones entirely completely reduces the problem of mobile

distraction in class - detrimental to the individual and the class as a whole - disrupting the flow of a lesson if notifications or calls are heard by the rest of the class. Four fifths of Britain have their phones within arm's reach nearly all the time, and 1/5 young people admit to checking their screens every 5 minutes. Only 20% of students who took our poll believed they were able to control their mobile phone usage successfully. As well as this, banning phones in school hours means the risk of online bullying, or hacking during the school day is reduced severely, and the potential for students to cheat during tests is also limited.

However, focusing solely on the negatives of mobile phone use among teenagers omits from the debate the positive aspects of a more lenient policy in schools. Only 2/12 Plymouth High students reported being distracted by their phones during lessons, and just 14% believe they waste time on their mobiles during the school day.

In addition to this, a lenient policy means that educational apps, calculators and stopwatches - great tools for learning - can be used rather than ignored. For schools with limited other technologies for students, or even those that are not able to update the technologies they already have, the quick access and use of mobiles means a lesson can be more efficient and productive. Possibly the most important argument against the banning of mobile phone use entirely, is that this undermines the trust and respect between students and teachers.

Looking more broadly, greater freedom in mobile phone policy lets students learn to self-regulate - learning when it's appropriate or not appropriate to use your phone is an increasingly important life skill in the

technological age. Learning to utilize technology in this age is an important aspect for a student's future, and not preparing students for that world is arguably negligent.

Is our mobile phone policy sufficient? And what can we do to improve our policy?

When looking at the affects of mobile phones on the brain, the major issue was incorrect use of mobiles during evenings (causing cell phone radiation and disrupting the sleep-cycle due to blue-light) - not during the school day. Perhaps, it would be beneficial for a series of PSHE lessons to be dedicated to understanding the importance of using mobile phones appropriately and effectively. If our school can help educate students about the harmful effects of incorrect use, optimize the potential that this technology holds, and successfully enforce our policy across all departments, then this may be the improvement that the students desire in our policy.

WRITTEN BY LOLA FRANCIS



Political Preview

Can there ever be a female president in Trump's America?



In 2016, the odds on there being a female president were higher than they had ever been. Fast forward 3 years and there are five mainstream Democratic presidential candidates with the likes of Kamala Harris and Elizabeth Warren. Despite this, 2020 Democratic candidate Joe Biden, former vice-president, has led every early national Democratic primaries poll amongst a crowded field featuring numerous women. Joe Biden himself has recently been caught up in a number of harassment claims which have affected his campaign but in an America where Brett Kavanaugh serves on the Supreme Court after hefty backlash over his sexual assault case, will the American public ever vote for a female president?

There is definitely major progress towards the goal of women in high places. Many are placing the front-runners in the Democratic race as Bernie Sanders (returning from a 2016 campaign) and Kamala Harris, a 54 year old senator who has already racked up \$12 million in donations. Her prominence in these campaigns is not only notable as a woman but as a black woman, a large often under-represented group in US politics.

Unfortunately, for another candidate, Elizabeth Warren, less than 24 hours from when her campaign got off the ground, some were already likening her to Hillary Clinton and how she should 'avoid' being unlikeable already. It was an attitude that plagued Clinton and due to her previous political past many instantly took a disliking to her regardless of her policies, etc. As Clinton's

Campaign Manager quoted she heard many

on the campaign trail reiterating, 'I am fine with a woman being president, just not this woman.'

One of the barriers to females becoming presidents is simply because all of the female candidates noted have been Democratic. Consistently, there have always been fewer prominent women in the Republican Party than the Democrats. For example, after the Congressional elections in late 2018, now roughly 1/4 of Congress is female, however less than 1 in 10 Republican members are now women. It is a recurring attitude that women are under-represented in the Republican Party. Therefore the lack of chances for women to become president could just reflect an absence of women in the Republican Party.

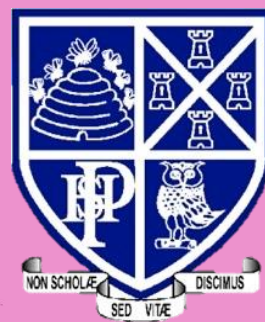
However, America is definitely making progress when it comes to feeling 'comfortable' with a female president. A recent poll stated that 52% of Americans would be happy with a female president. 60% of women agreed with this statement; however only 45% of men would be happy, still showing a clear underlying bias. Despite this, the US still ranked ahead of four G7 countries such as Germany and France, with Japan coming in with only 23% of public support for a female leader.

Yes, despite being one of the world's most developed countries, the US has had ongoing issues with electing women and general attitudes towards women. However, the coming 2020 elections show a lot of promise for a new intake of female candidates and the eventual election of one is a necessary step that America has to make. Even if the US public decide not to elect a woman in the next election, I think that it is an almost certain outcome in the subsequent near future.

WRITTEN BY SARAH DARWICH

ILLUSTRATIONS BY EVA KLECKHAM AGAR

HEAR ME OUT



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