

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 2024 edition of the Ezine.

This particular publication is packed full or articles ranging from hybrid Lamborghinis to cricket and from the Eiffel Tower to restaurant reviews - an eclectic mix, as ever! I am continually impressed with dedication of our student authors and the time they dedicate to this magazine. A few weeks ago I had an opportunity to visit a classroom at lunchtime and I discovered one of our student contributors hard at work on crafting an article. Like all impressive finished products or final

performances of a sporting event or musical show, the real work is not in the final product, but the hours that go into preparation, information gathering and simple hard work. I'd to thank Editor-in-Chief Mr McBrien for his leadership of this year's issue, as his contribution to the finished product is no less impressive.

This year we've talked a lot about artificial intelligence (AI). I've even experimented with writing a part of a speech with AI as well as a paragraph in our weekly newsletter. As much as this new tool is astoundingly useful in creating documents and presentations, it doesn't replace original thought. Like many colleagues I am very concerned that people will increasingly defer to AI in order to save time and effort in producing original content in the written form. Publications such as the Ezine are essential in promoting original thinking and the delight of both writing and eliciting a response from a readership. I hope it continues well into the future.

Sit back and enjoy the E-zine and thank you for reading.

Mr Brady

E-team 2024

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FLYING

Why do I fly?

I first got into flying because of my father, who spent a few years travelling in Australia when he was younger. While he was there he travelled around the outback and learnt how to fly in both Australia and

New Zealand. I first started flying in June of last year at Coventry Airport, but I have since moved to Halfpenny Green Airport in Wolverhampton. This airfield was constructed between 1940 and 1941 for use by the Royal Airforce. Since I've started flying, I have found it to be a lot of fun and very engaging.

What do I find fun about flying?

Obviously the most attractive part of this hobby is the flying itself. While it might seem scary and dangerous at first, the bird's eye view of the landscape and weather from up high in a small plane is an experience unlike anything else. The skill of flying a light plane is also an exciting challenge. All of the controls are very responsive, and every action is felt in the cockpit, making some of the more intense manoeuvres feel less intimidating. The mechanics and inner workings of the plane and its components, like the engine, radio and control surfaces are all very interesting. The number of different factors such as weight, lift, thrust and drag that go into flying an airplane are really quite amazing.

Is flying hard?

Like most things, flying is a skill, and ability and confidence come with practice. For me, and others I've talked with, landing is one of



FLYING

the hardest parts of all. There are many different things to manage while approaching the runway, like airspeed, alignment, and altitude. On top of that, the wind can blow you off course at any moment and this requires a swift response.

Do I want to be a pilot when I am older?

This is the question I am asked the most whenever someone finds out about my flying hobby. Being a pilot is certainly a prospective job, with great pay, "free" holidays, and many other benefits. I definitely know my father wants me to be a pilot, but I also am keen on exploring some other career paths, like a scientist or commercial diver.

What is flying like?

Flying is a surprisingly varied activity. There are lots of different aircraft, each with different configurations and specifications. For example, some planes, like the Cessna 150, have wings much higher on the fuselage than others, leading to a longer but softer landing. Others have different amounts of seats, which lead to different centres of gravity that affects the stability and effectiveness of controls. In flight, the biggest worry is navigation and weather. It is good practice to periodically check your surroundings with a map to make sure you are on the right path. Unfortunately,



England does not have many unique landmarks or defining features, so the best way to get your bearings is to check for rivers, lakes, and small villages and towns. Weather is also a major factor in flight, being able to completely change the course of a flight. Precipitation can seriously affect visibility and a cloud can divert your flight to a different location.



FLYING

Quite often, a change in weather can result in an entire day being unsuitable for flying.

Would I recommend it?

I would definitely recommend it! It is a lot of fun and can provide many years of adventure and enjoyment. Learning to fly also opens up paths to amazing jobs like pilot, air force and astronaut, and allows you to see loads of different and beautiful sights and travel across the globe. There are hundreds of air clubs in the UK that will happily take on new students.

What else is there to flying?

Going to a flight club isn't just for the lessons. It's also a big social activity where you can meet all sorts of people from different walks of life. Many clubs hold events and activities unrelated to flying which also give a great sense of achievement. Flying is a tough skill to master but is very rewarding once you get the hang of skills such as taking off and tight turns.

Jonathan Tait – Year 10





CREATIVE WRITING

"Creative writing is simply a bullet-point on a revision topic list for many people, and in the past, it was that for me too. That was until I realised as time went on that writing creatively is essentially the backbone of telling a great story, whether it's to inspire an audience in a speech, or producing a motion picture or book to move people. That feeling you get when you're reading a good book or viewing a great film is a wonderful one, which is why it is a goal of mine to be one of the people who gives that feeling to others.

Miss Williams' creative writing club helped me and other students in my year hone skills to help achieve this goal, and I am grateful for her insights on writing and hope you enjoy the story below."



Dylan Castillo – Year 10

THE IMMERSI-TRON

He laid soundly. The boy's face was unrecognisable whenever he was using the Immersi-tron. Not a single blink or furrowing of his brow could be seen under the headset over his eyes, his mouth forming a still, lopsided grin. The back of the boy's skull rested upon the chair's convenient headrest. It was an oval shaped plane, slightly curved inward with pillow-like cushioning stuck on top of it, slightly collapsing to the pressure of his head. His ears completely covered with large ovular speakers surrounded with the same pillow-like material. His neck was equally as upheld, a strong semi-circular plastic frame, layered with foam padding ever so slightly hugging the flesh pressed against it. The backrest, lined with the cushions that had the most memory foam stuffing,

THE IMMERSI-TRON

was naturally bent backward at an angle so that every inch of his back laid on it without an ounce of discomfort disturbing his immersion. His arms and legs were slightly bent and relaxed all the same and similarly to the neck-rest, they were half enclosed by the soft frames, looking like cuffs that weren't yet clasped. All of his limbs were coddled by the same padding down to every muscle. The only non-static part of his body at that moment were the slight movement of his fingers on the only non-softened part of the chair, the black screens by his fingers, with neon-lit buttons that allowed him to type.

The Immersi-tron, the latest creative A.I that could make movies worth of entertainment in seemingly impossibly quick speeds at the command of the person sitting on it. Each detail, each part of this machine was meticulously designed to ensure the body exerted as little effort possible, as to not interfere with the world the user thought they were in. The boy's device had his name engraved on the back of the chair: "Jason Scribe". The boy was hidden



away from the rest of his town in his cramped room, the lights dimmed, the walls painted paper white, piles of clothes and discarded crisp and

chocolate packets crowded around the overflowing automatic rubbish bin that had stopped functioning a long time ago, along with a neatly arranged pile of papers, with human writing on them, all signed 'Hope', building up over time, but they were never touched. The windows were sealed, not a ray of sunlight would dare to disrupt the Immersi-tron's screenings. The auto-thermostat machine

THE IMMERSI-TRON

made sure that the room was always at the most optimum temperature for maximum relaxation. Jason would never want and never bother to sweat or to shiver. Such physical reactions would ruin the enthralling embrace of the A.I's events happening right in front of his eyes. On the rare occasion that another individual would check on the boy, their ears would only ever be met with the faint whirring noise of the Immersitron, the blowing of the air conditioning or the heater, depending on the surroundings and the subtle sound effects and music emitting from Jason's ear-speakers.

Suddenly, Jason moved for the first time in hours, pressing a button to lift the headset from his eyes slightly to allow the view of the keyboard right at his hands. He somewhat leaned forward for his peripheral vision to access the letters and numbers and symbols at his disposal to give the machine material to make his next exit from reality. His fingers lazily prodded at the neon keys, each small 'beep' from the machine whenever he tapped one signalling him being one step closer to his next shot of digital dopamine, Jason's grin grew a bit wider. He entered the final key, and pressed 'Enter', and as if the machine rewarded him, the speakers produced a tri-tone of melodious beeps, akin to playing a major chord on a synth. Jason felt the joy of resting back into his chair, and he prepared to press the button to drag the headset right back over his tired pupils before he was startled by a loud and rude opening of the door.

"J! *Look* at this!" A familiar high-pitched voice belonging to his supposedly least favourite person strained Jason's ears.

Jason didn't even bother to turn around to see his sister. "I'm busy, Hope." He snarled loud enough to attempt to scare her off like he always tried to do time and time again.

"Just look! I promise it's really fascinating!" Hope walked forward

THE IMMERSI-TRON

with a piece of paper in her hand. "Were you out on the streets like a weirdo again?" Jason rolled his eyes and attempted to press the button before he felt his hand be grabbed and suspended in the air by the girl. "Get *off* me!" He struggled.

"I said *look!*" Hope said with a smile as she held his hand firmly away from the button. She held the foreign piece of paper in front of his frustrated face and let it linger in front of his eyes for him to take in.

"Cinema... ticket...?" Jason spoke hesitantly, reading off the paper.

"Yes! Like the ones grandad spoke about in his stories." Hope replied. "I found one under the piles of rubble near our chambers. It's *really* cool, isn't it?! There really was a time where *humans* made motion pictures, where it was an outlet for people to express their minds and their creativity! Like the stories *I* writeyou still haven't looked at them?" Hope said, her smile fading as she looked at the untouched pile of stories she made for her brother.

"There's no need." He responded, slouching more.

"But-"

"No." Jason shut her down once again.

Hope sighed, it seemed no matter how relentless she was in getting her brother to share her interest in true creativity, the Immersi-tron always won. She walked away.

"I really do think it's interesting..." She whispered sadly as she closed the door.

Then she walked into her chamber, greeted once more with her Immersi-tron collecting dust. With another sigh, she picked up her pencil and old paper.



PAINTING

It feels like I've been creating art since I've known how to hold a pencil as I was always a creative and expressive child. However, I'd only started taking art seriously in recent years and at the moment, I am interested in making a career out of it. When I make art, I tend to paint and draw things that can be found in nature such as animals, flowers, plants and fruits and vegetables as well as what is around me. I use a variety of mediums, but my favourites are definitely watercolours and in recent months, coloured pencils. Painting and drawing are both very therapeutic activities for me so I like to sort of let it happen and not have too much of a strict process when creating. I believe creating visual art is something anyone could be doing as it is a great creative outlet and a way to express yourself. You don't need to create large, detailed pieces to feel the magic of art. As of writing this, I've recently picked my options and Art is of course amongst the subjects I picked and I'm very excited to develop my art more and more through the GCSE course at school. I believe art, in all

forms, is what makes us human.

I hope you enjoy the following examples of my art.

Wealth Hambeh – Year 9















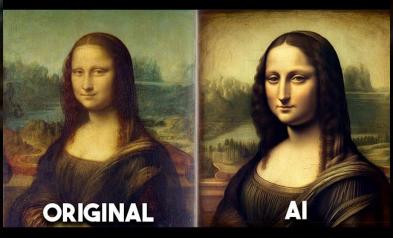
AI ART OR TRADITIONAL ART?

Nowadays when people decide to create a piece of art, they have the option of using computers or some sort of electronic device rather than traditional paint brushes. I think this increase in digital art is because of how much easier computers make things. You can undo mistakes, add effects and fill in big areas with just the click of a few buttons. In a way the computer does the hard work for you. The downside is this means that some digital artists do not make any mistakes at all. If you do not make mistakes, you do not learn as much and skills cannot develop. Making mistakes is what teaches an artist and imperfections can make art more human.

In recent years, AI art has become increasingly popular, with people using it in challenges or references. However, scrolling down on YouTube you will find that most shorts and videos on art focus on traditional art so it is still very much relevant.

Some artists have a digital art career that runs alongside their traditional work and they keep both styles separate, other artists mix both traditional and digital techniques together. Digital art set-ups can cost up to £1000 and this expense can

be a barrier to some people, especially if they buy the set-up, then never use it, it is just a massive waste of money. That said, with traditional art, you must keep buying supplies, but with digital art, once you get the right tools, you will not have to buy anything for a long time so it can be a long-term investment.





AI ART

Digital art comes with one massive downside – screen-time is massively increased, causing more artists to need glasses. The lack of digital screens and the more hands on approach is one of the main advantages that traditional art has to digital art.

There have been many videos on how AI art may start being used in art galleries, rather than hand-drawn art. This, in theory, could eventually replace hand-drawn art as people will not have to do anything to own an original painting made from AI. Furthermore, digital art is continuously upgrading, with YouTubers teaming up with digital art companies to make special sets, with tools chosen by them.

For now, traditional hand-drawn art is winning the race, with hyper-realism becoming increasingly popular in art challenges, and new styles being constantly created. However, with the massive rise in digital and AI art, I do not think they will stay on front for much longer.

Mustafa Mir – Year 7

IS THIS THE FUTURE OFART?



THE MAN WHO STOLE THE EIFFEL TOWER...TWICE!

'Count' Victor Lustig was America's most dangerous con man. He was a highly skilled con artist from Austria, Hungry. At the age of 19, while taking a break from his studies in Paris, Lustig took an inter-



est in. After leaving school, he applied both his quick mind and his fluency in several languages to embark on a life of crime. He focused on a variety of scams and cons that provided him with property and money and turned him into a professional con man.gambling. After leaving school, he applied both his quick mind and his fluency in several languages to embark on a life of crime. He focused on a variety of scams and cons that provided him with property and money and turned him into a professional con man.

He was known to have used at least 47 false names, including the title of 'Count' and he carried dozens of fake passports. On his Alcatraz paperwork, prison officials referred to him "Robert V Miller," which was just another of his pseudonyms. He claimed to come from a long line of aristocrats who owned European castles, yet recently discovered documents reveal his true background was much more ordinary.

In a lengthy criminal career, his sleight-of-hand tricks and get-rich -quick schemes rocked America and Europe. In what is known as a confidence game, Lustig would use his skills to gain people's trust and then defraud them.



EIFFEL TOWER

America in the 1920s had many confidence rackets, operated by smooth-talking immigrants. These European con artists were professionals who called their victims 'marks', and acted not like thugs, but gentlemen. In 1925, Lustig embarked upon what swindling experts call 'the big store'. This was the feather in his crown. He decided to sell the most famous land mark in France; the Eiffel Tower!

After Gustave Eiffel, the Eiffel Tower's main promoter died in 1923 Lustig read in the press about the monument's declining financial viability due to expensive maintenance and declining



attendance. He developed a scenario in which the Tower's owner, the City of Paris, was planning to close and dismantle the Tower and sell it for scrap metal. Lustig decided to use this opportunity and thought of a plan to become rich overnight. He decided to pose himself as a high-ranking French Civil Servant assigned the task of selling off the Famous Eiffel Tower to the highest bidder. He commissioned stationary using official government stamps and sent out invitation letters to all potential bidders in the scrap metal business and rich

investors from around the world. He checked into a swanky Paris Hotel and worked from there, making the entire operation very hush hush. He advised any interested parties that the decision to sell the tower was highly confidential due to the government wanting to avoid the French people rising up to save their famous landmark. This was a plausible reason for such secrecy. Lustig met each of the investors separately, dressed to impress in his exquisite French suits and smoking expensive cigars. Investors were advised that the French Government intended sell the tower to a cash buyer as they did not want to record this as an official transaction just yet. People brought in bags full of cash as deposit and some even tried to bribe him to win the bid. After taking deposits from several people, he finally sold the tower to two of the highest bidders; one a famous scrap metal trader and the other, a



EIFFEL TOWER

rich businessman who bought the entire structure with the intentions of taking it apart and reassembling it in his home town. When they eventually found out that they had been scammed, they could not even go to the French authorities to report the crime as they had no proof of payment, and as they had paid cash, they did not want anyone looking into their financial matters. Lustig walked away with a small fortune and probably a big smile on his face.

One of his other successful scams was the "Rumanian Money Box It was a small box fashioned from cedar wood, with complicated rollers and brass dials. Lustig claimed the contraption could copy banknotes using radium.

Lustig then teamed up with infamous forger William Watts and created banknotes so flawless they fooled even bank tellers. "Lustig-Watts notes were the super notes of the time," said Joseph Boling, chief judge of the American Numismatic Association, a specialist in authenticating notes. Lustig was so bold, he dared to choose to copy \$100 bills, those scrutinized most by banks, and became "like another government, issuing money in competition with the United States Treasury," a judge later commented. It was feared that a run of fake bills this large could shake international confidence in the American Dollar.

Lustig was finally arrested on a New York street corner on May 10, 1935 and taken to prison. Even as a prisoner, he was unlike any other inmate. He dressed like a fashion icon, possessed a hypnotic charm and spoke five languages fluently. The day before his trial, Lustig managed to escape from the Federal House of Detention in New York City by faking illness and using a specially made rope to climb out of the building, but he was recaptured 27 days later in Pittsburgh. Lustig pleaded guilty at his trial and was sentenced to fifteen years in prison on Alcatraz Island, California. On 9th March 1947, Lustig contracted pneumonia and died two days later.

Armaan Currim – 9F



/HORAA/ راق اصبعو HARAK OSBAO

Ingredients: 2 cups of lentils 500 grams of whole wheat pasta 4 cups of tamarind. Or add pomegranate molasses as desired 2 bunches of coriander 6 onions A whole garlic clove Salt and black pepper Cumin as desired 1/2 cup of olive oil Lebanese bread (optional) Pomegranate seeds (optional) A loaf of Arabic bread with wheat flour, cut into squares and toasted in the oven

Steps:

Boil lentils for 20-30 minutes on medium heat until cooked. Heat olive oil in a pan and add onions leave until they caramelize. Set aside the onion.

Fry garlic and chopped coriander, stirring constantly. Add half of the garlic and coriander to the lentils and stir well. Add pasta, tamarind and half of the fried onions. Add salt, black pepper and cumin.

Leave the mixture on low heat for about 10min until completely cooked.



Horaa/حراق اصبعوا Harak Osbao

Pour into serving dish.

Garnish with toasted Lebanese bread, fried onions, garlic and coriander.

Pomegranate seeds can also be added. Enjoy and well done!!!

<u>Notes</u>

Use whole-wheat pasta instead of regular pasta.

- Do not exaggerate the amount of olive oil used to reduce the fat content.
- It is preferable to use wholegrain bread instead of regular to reduce amount of carbohydrates.
- Toast bread instead of frying it, to reduce fat and calories.
- Pay attention to the amount of salt added!

Yusuf Makhzoum - Year 8





EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Here at King Edward VI Aston School, it is not just about what you do in lessons. We are lucky to have a wide range of extra-curricular

activities available for us to take part in on a daily basis. In addition to this, there are fortnightly extra-curricular activities which take place after lunch on a Thursday. On these afternoons, students have the opportunity to take part in activities such as Hockey, Art, Chess, Football and Multi-Sports.

During lunchtimes, students can also attend clubs such as *A Novel Idea*. This is a book club where a group of students meet up in the library to talk about the books they have been reading in a friendly environment. Everyone is welcome to join, and loyal members are rewarded with occasional trips and fortnightly



priority passes. If that's not of interest, Art or Hockey club may be more to your liking. Hockey club is open to Year 8 and 9 and all levels are welcome, all you need to do is pick up a stick and play! If you already play hockey for games, it would be a great warm up if you are in Year 8. Chess Club allows you to pitch your strategic skills against many other students! Whether you play with a timer or

without - you're guaranteed a great time.

Some students may also be interested in getting involved with the School Council and the Eco-Council or becoming a Wellbeing Representative. To apply for these roles, you must be chosen among your peers at the beginning of the academic year. As part of the school council, you will attend weekly meetings to brainstorm ideas on how to improve our school. The Eco-Council is quite similar as not only do you have weekly meetings, but you also



EXTRA CURRICULAR

come together to suggestions on how to improve our school ecologically. A little can go a long way to help the environment. The Wellbeing representative is a person in your class who you can easily approach and talk about anything. All three of these activities offer compelling opportunities to improve our school while gaining experience of putting your points across in a formal meeting.

If you still don't find any interest in the activities above, the Astonain Awards may just be right for you! There is a competitive element to it where you can earn 3 levels of badges (Bronze, Silver and Gold) in the two different categories of 'Leadership' and 'Mastery'. You can achieve leadership by: being a captain of a club, being a part of the School Council/Eco-Rep. Mastery on the other hand has a bit more depth. For a mastery award you must commit to a certain quota of hours researching a certain topic. In addition, you must provide proof of your research and you must show your knowledge as well. Still not impressed? You can also take up one on one music lessons for various instruments such as the Cello, Drums, Guitar, Keyboard or Recorder! So why not pick up a role, instrument, book, hockey stick or paint brush and start now?

Praysit Silwal – Year 8





RESTAURANT REVIEWS

As someone who is an ardent fan of good quality food, I tend to try anything that is different and new. I have been known to travel many miles for that perfect meal and below are a few of my recommendations for places to try in Birmingham. Be sure to let me know what you think and any places that you would recommend.

Toros Steak House - 365 Ladypool Road, Birmingham, B12 8LA



For an experience which will tantalise your taste buds every single

time, then Toros is a definite go to place. If you like a steak which is high in flavour and very tender then I would recommend the Sirloin, or Fillet Mignon. For those of you who like a steak which is slightly tougher, but just as flavoursome, then the Rump steak is one to try.



Etçi Mehmet - Star City, Watson Road, Birmingham, B7 5SA \$\$\$ ★★☆☆☆

The atmosphere, décor and hype is what draws in the crowd, although personally, I would not recommend this restaurant for steak. Their meat is dry aged for 28 days, with little flavour and is cooked medium rare, or far past well done - even if you ask otherwise. However, if you are nearby and just want a light snack, then the halloumi and hummus are a must have.



Al – Arabi Grill House - 30 Martineau Way, Birmingham B2 4UH \$\$ ★★★★★

If you have been shopping till you drop in Birmingham and need a pick me up before heading home, or to continue shopping, then

Al-Arabi is the place to go. Their grilled food is displayed and cooked to perfection before your eyes. Their mains come with both rice and fries; are priced very well. The complimentary soup helps to keep you going while you wait for the mains and the black tea, to aid digestion.



Taste of Khyber - 20 Alum Rock Road, Birmingham B8 1JB

\$\$ **★★★★**☆

The restaurant exudes a bustling atmosphere, making it an

excellent spot for families. It offers an authentic culinary journey through Pakistani and Afghani flavours. This restaurant is famous for its Chapli Kebab which is a flavourful minced meat patty, which you can enjoy with naan bread. If you are looking for something grilled then be sure to try the Afghani Tikka, which is served on skewers, straight to your table.

Oodles N'Oodles - Star City, Nechells, Birmingham B7 5SA \$\$ ****

A modern experience- where eastern and western cuisines are fused together with flavours which, not only complement each other, but marry perfectly to produce dishes from different nations. For starters, I would recommend the Chicken with Sweetcorn Soup, Chicken Lollipop and Meat Chops. As a main,

why not try the Beef Manchurian – a tomato base gravy with a kick- and a side of egg fried rice. If you are a fan of noodles, then the Beef Chow Mein with or without vegetables is a must.





Fumo Restaurant – Upper Dean Street, Birmingham B5 4BP \$

To experience Italy in Birmingham, in a sophisticated and elegant atmosphere- which can be enjoyed by all, then why not head to Fumo - a popular dining destination for those who enjoy the finer things in life. Be sure to try Lasagne Emiliane, Tagliatelle Ragu and Patate Fritte- which are all made with produce flown in from the markets in Sicily and Milan.

Baskin Robbins - 354 Ladypool Road, Birmingham B12 8JY



If you have just had a meal on Ladypool Road and fancy something

sweet, then this is a place to stop at. From many flavours to choose from, everyone young and old is sure to find their guilty pleasure. Jamoca Almond Fudge is my recommendation– grab a scoop while it lasts.

Haute Dolci - Star City, Nechells, Birmingham B7 5SA \$\$ *** * * * ***

Savour a whimsical experience with an array of divine desserts to indulge your senses. The Pistachio and Chocolate ice-cream are by far the best in town.

Armaan Currim-Year 9







Is the World Turning More Fascist?

Ever Since the second world war the ideal of fascism has become synonymous with Adolf Hitler and Nazis. Its outstretched hand has lurked in the shadows and cursed people with its ideals of hatred and violence. The practice has been banned in western

countries since the culmination of the second world war with fascist leaders and organisations often being arrested or in some cases executed. However, the ugly head of fascism has begun to reappear in governments and societies across the world.



History of fascism

The ideal of fascism is said to have originated from ancient Greece. The political culture of ancient Greece and specifically the ancient Greek city state of Sparta under Lycurgus, with its emphasis on militarism and racial purity, were admired by the Nazis. Nazi leader Adolf Hitler emphasized that Germany should adhere to Hellenic values and culture.

Fascism first became a major ideology during the aftermath of the First World War when Benito Mussolini became Italian president. His calls of racism seemingly resonated with the Italian people, with new antisemitic laws being passed in government that discriminated against Jews. Around 20% of Italian Jews were sent to Nazi concentration camps during the second world war. In the 1920s, following the attack on the Greek Island Corfu, Mussolini committed war crimes on the people of Libya as he supported the brutal suppression of anti-colonial resistance. His military leaders used chemical weapons, forced starvation, concentration camps, and mass resettlement of African Libyans to make space for Italian settlers. In 1935 Italy invaded Ethiopia and used similar harsh tactics.



Fascism

The most famous case of fascism was that of Nazi Germany in chancellor Adolf Hitler. His homophobia, antisemitism, and racism deeply impacted the world with around 11,000,000 people being murdered by the Nazis, 6,000,000 being Jews and 5,000,000 other peoples. Hitler would eventually be stopped and Fascism would be outlawed in numerous countries as the world looked for peace. However, Fascism came back and this time it might not leave.

United Kingdom

After the Second World War Fascist political parties and organisations were sent underground, leaders were arrested some were even sentenced to death. The foundations of a golden age were set. However, Fascism evolved like a virus. Neo-fascism, founded in 1942, its role after the second world war was crucial, it provided problematic for multiple governments, its views were extremely similar to that of its predecessor however it shared a euro-nationalist stance rather than a nationalist one. These views were embodied in 'British Union of Fascists' leader Oswald Moseley's 'Europe a Nation', a policy which stated how Europe should become a united country with Africa being subjected to Apart-



heid and exploited for its minerals and natural resources. The policy was entirely based upon Neo-Fascism; it garnered significant support from the younger generations, with cases of hate crimes being common up until the 1980s. Now Moseley's ideals have once again evolved, this time it has infected our very own government, our country illegally ships illegal migrants to countries where they are unsafe and unprotected, while numerous scandals are placed upon us, whether it being the Iraq War or more recently the Partygate scandal.

Europe



Across Europe cases of fascism were common, in Greece after the onset of the great Recession, a movement known as the Golden

Fascism

Dawn widely considered a neo-Nazi party, soared in support out of obscurity and won seats in Greece's parliament, espousing a staunch hostility towards minorities, illegal immigrants and refugees. Traces of this movement can still be found within Greece.

Americas

The United States was plagued by fascism through groups such as the Proud Boys, the National Alliance, and the American Nazi Party. Expressed fascist like views their anti-immigrant policies accumulated much attention across the States, with rallies such as that of the 1939 Madison Square Garden Nazi rally, further wreaked havoc upon the country, with traces of this destructive regime being shown in modern day American politics. With the election of Donald Trump and the ban on abortion.

Africa

The Economic Freedom Fighters are a self-described pan-Africanist political party founded in 2013 by the expelled former African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) President Julius Malema, and his allies. Malema and the party have frequently courted controversy for engaging in anti-White and anti-Indian racism.

Asia

The Hindutva ideology that dominates the Indian political landscape it is has long been compared to fascism or Nazis. It has even been suggested that this ideal had influenced Hitler's Nazi regime. Its belief in a one race superiority system, has long plagued the Indian political system. Furthermore, the persecution of both Muslims and Sikhs under this ideology has many people picture India as a modern Fascist state.

Conclusion

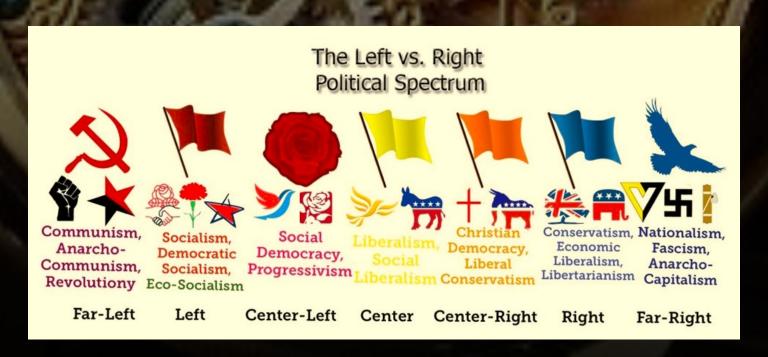
With the example that I have mentioned previously, we can see how the world has always been plagued with fascism; however, we



Fascism

have been led to believe that it has been eradicated from the world. Sadly, the fact is that it has not, Fascism is ever present and its continuous evolution will plague us for generations to come. We need to understand why and how it continues to exist. In cases such as that of Mussolini and Hitler we must examine the country beforehand, both Italy and Germany were economically struggling, so when a leader with a new ideal comes along saying that they can fix everything, this new leader and their ideal will always win, the powerful will always prevail, not unless we can see through their lies and empty promises, we as the people can accomplish great things the powerful know that. So why don't we? We must realise that we as citizens decide the outcomes of our own lives, throughout history we have been manipulated by those who deem themselves to be better than us. We must realise that we decide the outcomes of our own lives. If we unify in solidarity and stop these calls of hate and violence, then we can save our planet for us and our future generations and start a golden age for humanity

Nihal Sumal – Year 9





HISTORY OF CRICKET

After soccer, cricket is the second most popular sport around the world with an estimated 2.5 billion fans. That said, many people who play or follow cricket do not know much about its origin or intended purpose. Some might say it is useless or irrelevant to know the history of a sport, but I disagree. By really learning the rules of a sport alongside embracing its history, you can gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of everything to do with the game.

Cricket is a team game that has been around for hundreds of



years. It has been played in some form since at least the 15th century but it is likely to be even older than this. In the early days it was known as creckett, which comes from and old French word, criquet - meaning a wooden post or wicket.

Many historians believe it was the Normans or the Anglo Saxons who invented the early form of cricket. The first recorded English creckett match was in Kent in 1646, the formal rules of the game were established in 1744 and the first official team was formed in 1760. By the 19th century local cricket matches developed into county matches. The first-ever official cricket County Championship match took place on 12th May 1890 when Yorkshire beat Gloucestershire by eight wickets at Bristol. The sport was particularly popular in counties such as Warwickshire, Yorkshire, Durham, and Essex.



HISTORY OF CRICKET

The 19th century also saw cricket take its first steps to becoming an international sport when England had its first competitive tours of America and Australia. It also began to gain popularity in British colonies and is still largely played by former colonies. Before the formation of the ICC (International Cricket Council) many countries were unaware of such a great sport. Countries that take part in international cricket today include Pakistan, India, Australia, England, Bangladesh, West Indies, New Zealand and Afghanistan. In the modern era, the ICC has encouraged cricket in countries <u>such as the USA, Abu Dabi, and the UAE</u>.

There are a number of different formats played and regulated by the ICC. The first format is test cricket, this is where both teams would wear white clothes with the emblem of the team they are representing. The game is played over five days and each team bats twice. The next format of cricket is one day international cricket which has 50 overs per side in a game. An 'over' is a set of 6 balls bowled by one bowler who alternates with different players. It takes one day to complete a game and consists of a maximum of 100 overs between both sides. Unlike in test cricket, players wear coloured clothes. Australian Tycoon and owner of the World Cricked Series, Kerry Packer introduced coloured kits and the ICC later adopted this idea. The final format is T20 where both teams play 20 overs and they also wear coloured clothing. This is fast becoming the most popular version of the sport, due to the shorter format. It is responsible for pulling newer crowds.

Cricket is a sport celebrated and commemorated worldwide, if you haven't tried it why not give it a go!



Is Lamborghini Going Hybrid?

In July 2022 the last and final of the Lamborghini Aventadors rolled off the line, the Lamborghini LP 780-4 Ultimae. The heart of the Aventador LP 780-4 Ultimae is the most



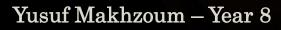
powerful standard production naturally aspirated V12 engine in Lamborghini history. This result was achieved by incorporating titanium intake valves that increase maximum power to 780 CV (574 KW) at 8,500 RPM. With a 221MPH or 355 KM/H top speed, and a 0-60MPH of 2.7 seconds and a 0-100KM/H speed of 2.8 second. This last roaring beast will be remembered as one of the greatest pure V12 hearted cars, and will never be forgotten.

The new and improved Revuelto

The new 2034 Lamborghini Revuelto is a feat of engineering. This hybrid beast has 1,001HP and is powered by a roaring V12 and three electric motors, two in the front and one integrated into the gearbox. The cars front lights seem to have been inspired by the concept car Lamborghini Sian FPK 37. These have also been put as the brake lights. This design is a switch from the usual Lamborghini look and more into the future. Do you like it?

So why is this happening?

Why is Lamborghini going hybrid? Surely the roar of the V12 is a better idea? Lamborghini and other car companies have been told to switch to hybrid or electric to cut emissions and help deal with climate change. This may hide the roar of the V12 but does add an immense amount of speed without the environmental cost to our planet.



THE PSYCHOLOGY OF COLOUR

<u>Can we feel colour?</u>

It is fascinating to see that something so simple as the colours we perceive the world in can affect our moods and feelings. What we refer to as colour are different wavelengths of visual light absorbed and reflected by objects. Our eyes contain photoreceptors called rods, responsible for the sensitivity to low light, and cones, which are responsible for colour vision, i.e. the ability to differentiate between these wavelengths of light and hence perceive different colours. There are 3 types of cones, the first being S cones which are responsible for detecting colours with low wavelengths such as blue. The second M cone is responsible for detecting medium wavelengths of light such as green. Finally, L-cones detect colours of longer wavelengths such as red. Electric signals are transferred by the optic nerve once different cones detect different wavelengths. The ratio at which these signals are presented allows the brain to identify what colour you are looking at.





COLOUR

Surprisingly, colours elicit physiological effects. For instance, the colour red activates the nervous system which causes the heart rate and the circulation of adrenaline to increase significantly. Blue, on the other hand, calms the body, reducing respiration and

breathing rates, this is why the lozenge, more commonly

known as NHS logo is blue, to subconsciously evoke a relaxing and calm feeling. Commercial companies also exploit colour psychology to increase profits. 'The ketchup and mustard theory' is used by many fast food chains, including McDonald's, to catch customers' attention and increase turnover. The mustard (yellow) is used to make customers hungrier, hence they order more food. The ketchup (red) fills them with excitement and power, as a result, they eat more and leave faster [1]. A systematic study was conducted to observe the perceived effects and effectiveness of different coloured drugs. Their results concluded that colour affects both the effectiveness and the perceived effect of a drug. They saw that warm colours e.g. red, yellow and orange were associated with simulating effects and cool colours had tranquilising effects, such used in Hypnotic, sedative, and anxiolytic drugs. [2]

It's hard to believe how something so ordinary as colour can be used to create such substantial effects. Colour is processed by the visual cortex, where different wavelengths of colour activate specific regions of the brain to influence certain emotional responses.





COLOUR

Red stimulates the amygdala, the part of the brain responsible for expressing strong feelings of hate, fear and love. Other than neurological answers for these responses, there are some psychological and environmental factors. It is seen that the effect of colour links to Albert Bandura's social learning theory, where certain behaviours (in this case emotions) are learnt through association also referred to as vicarious reinforcement. Additionally, the effect colours have on an individual person or culture is variable, this is because different colours may be associated with different situations which cause different emotions. For example, in Western countries, the colour white brings feelings of peace whereas in Eastern countries white is used at funerals bringing feelings of mourning. Despite this, there are <u>some universal effects caused</u> by emotions that are seen to be due to human evolution. A prime example of this is red, internationally stop signs and symbols of danger are displayed in red, it is assumed that this is because blood is red and seeing blood generally means you are in danger hence provoking fear and alertness.

After exploring that different colours arouse different feelings, we can now explore why we have favourite colours. Stereotypically boys like blue and girls like pink, that's due to being brought up in gender-specific norms and expectations from a young age, which may have caused children to feel that they need to have these favourite colours to fit in and feel normal. [3] Other than this, having a favourite colour is generally due to having a certain affinity towards certain colours. This affinity can be due to personality traits, but it is mainly due to genetic variation. Genetic differences



COLOUR

in the structure of the eye's photoreceptors and certain genes responsible for colour vision can affect an individual's perception and hence the attraction towards a certain colour. Having a favourite colour seems childish but it can be quite important as it is essential for psychological wellbeing, because if your favourite colour invokes positive feelings you would want to be surrounded by it more often, you see this employed by interior designers and during art therapy. [4]

It is intriguing to understand how the colours you choose for your bedroom, your office, and your kitchen can all cause you to feel different emotions. The cognitive functions of the brain are linked to all the senses whether that be subconsciously or consciously. Medical companies and other big brands recognise this phenomenon and use it to benefit their companies. Next time you paint your house, observe what colours make you feel.

Fahad Imran – Year 12

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SCHOOL LIFE IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Joshik Anjan Ravuri and I will be sharing my experiences as a student who has lived and attended school in three different countries. Firstly, I will share my experience of India because that is where I attended nursery school and started primary school.

The first school I attended was just a few minutes from our house. In that school, which I do not remember much about, the teachers would treat the kids from other classes nicer than their own class. I never understood this because a teacher should always treat every single student equally but, in that school, this was not the case. After I finished kindergarten, I moved to a city called Kakinada. I did Year 1 & 2 there; in this school the education was



nice and there were not many harsh punishments. I always studied hard in that school, while having fun and getting the highest grades in all my classes. Although, one thing I did not like was my Art teacher because he took full advantage of corporal punishment and hit us if we made a mistake.

After Year 2, I moved to Canada. While living there I attended a private school which was nice because the way I studied over there was phenomenal. I did Year 3, 4, and 5 there. I really liked the teachers and the way they taught me. I thought that this was the best school I had ever been to because I had fun. I learned a lot of things and the end of year trips were just astonishing, because the trips were to great Museums, Zoos, etc. If I had stayed until year 6 in that school, I would have gone on a 3-night trip to a cabin which would have been a good experience.



SCHOOL LIFE

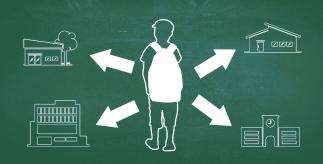
Unfortunately, or fortunately, I moved to another school which had an International Business and Technology program. In this school there was a lot of entrepreneurism because the students in Year 8 were allowed to run open businesses in the P.E. Hall. Students and staff were the target market and were able to buy things from the different businesses. I liked the playground and the games pitch as well as the staff. In this school we had a mental support office. In that office, we could tell the mental support staff about any trauma or bullying you have been experiencing throughout the school semester. I made good friends in this school, more than in the other school.

After Year 6 my parents thought of moving to the UK for a better education for me. We moved to the UK after a month into Year 7. After moving to the UK, I joined a private online Homeschool which was not so good. To elaborate on my opinion, I think this because I did not like the way teachers instructed the students and my grades suffered. After I finished Year 7 in this school, I joined another school in Birmingham for Year 8. This school was a technology school and it was not too bad because it had focused on technology-based studies, which was extremely good for me because I am interested in pursuing a technology-related job.

Although I did like the technology bit of the school and I made some good friends, other than that it was not for me. I then took a test for KEVI Aston, and I got a place. My parents and I were extremely happy because this was a grammar school. So far, I am loving my experience at this school because of the education and the extracurricular and sports activities.

That's My Story!

Joshik Anjan Ravuri – Year 8





THE POWER OF BOYCOTTING

My father said to me "When we see a nation committing atrocities against another, as individuals what can we do?"

"When we see our leaders not speak up for what is right, how do we make our voices heard?"

"When we see basic humanitarian rights not given to people, the right to food, water, medicine and the right to live, how can we make a change to stop the injustice?"

He said "We can make a change, we are not powerless and we have a way to do this – boycotting"

What is a boycott? – it is where an individual can make an informed choice not to buy goods from certain companies or from particular

parts of the world. This can have a direct financial impact on factories and even economies, as it adjusts the balance of supply and demand. A boycott is a peaceful protest that anyone can actively participate in, and we have a personal choice to carry it out or not.



The next question is are boycotts having an impact, how effective are they? History has shown us, when world powers have failed to speak and act, it is the people who can sometimes make a change. An example of this is South Africa where for many years racism and discrimination was openly carried out by the South African Government against black people. A group of people who were opposed to this, started to boycott products from South Africa, and this led to more pressure on the Government to change its racist practices.



BOYCOTTING

Many people and countries have raised serious concerns about the atrocities being committed against the Palestinian people by Israel, with over 30,000 civilians killed including 12,000 children at the time of writing. Over 1 million people have been displaced, with no homes, food, water or medicine. Almost all the hospitals are destroyed; there are no schools and families are living in tents. Diseases and illness are spreading very quickly, and very little aid is being allowed into the country.

The term humanitarian crisis and genocide have been used to describe what is happening in Palestine right now by countries such as Brazil and South Africa. All of this with little action from world politicians. As each day passes, the number of those killed is going up quickly – so how can we boycott to help the Palestinians.

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, in short BDS, is a non-violent movement that began in 2005. It was inspired by the anti-apartheid movement. It called for a boycott of Israeli and international companies it believes are denying Palestinian rights. In the past, BDS has also focused on putting pressure on companies to end funding in Israel and stop operations in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

In this day and age, many people get their information from social media. This is the reason that boycotts in recent months have gained such major momentum. This has now motivated people to boycott companies that we have all heard of and use regularly. For example, McDonalds, Starbucks, and Disney to name a few.

A good example of a company taking the lead is the CO-OP Group, who decided in April 2012 that it would no longer trade with companies that occupy areas or states illegally. Boycotting has helped the people in Gaza and will hopefully save more lives from being snatched away from this world. This is the peaceful power of boycotting that can make a change that is needed.

Ibrahim Muhammad – Year 7

FOOTBALL UPDATE

Since the start of the football season we have witnessed thrilling matches, surprising upsets, and notable developments across various leagues and competitions worldwide. Here's a summary of key events and trends:

League Battles: In major European leagues like the English Premier League, Spanish La Liga, Italian

Serie A, and German Bundesliga, intense battles have emerged at the top of the table. Traditional powerhouses are facing stiff competition from ambitious challengers, leading to unpredictable outcomes.

Emerging Stars: Young talents have been making headlines with their exceptional performances. From breakthrough goals to standout assists, several rising stars are catching the attention of fans and scouts alike, potentially shaping the future of the sport.

Transfer Drama: The transfer market has been bustling with activity, with high-profile signings, unexpected departures, and deadline-day dramas captivating fans. Clubs are investing heavily to strengthen their squads and secure talent for the long term.

Managerial Changes: Several clubs have undergone managerial changes, either due to poor performance or strategic restructuring. New coaches are implementing their tactics and philosophies, aiming to revitalize teams and achieve success on the pitch.

International Competitions: Qualification matches for major international tournaments, including the FIFA World Cup and continental championships such as the UEFA European Championship and Copa America, have been taking place. National teams are striving to secure their spots in these prestigious events, igniting fierce rivalries and patriotic fervour.

FOOTBALL

COVID-19 Impact: The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to influence football, with matches being rescheduled, played behind closed doors, or subject to stringent health protocols. Despite these challenges, the sport perseveres, bringing joy and entertainment to millions of fans worldwide.

VAR Controversies: The use of Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology remains a topic of debate, with contentious decisions and inconsistent implementation sparking controversy and discussion among players, coaches, and fans.

Cup Competitions: Domestic and international cup competitions have provided additional excitement, with underdogs causing upsets and established giants asserting their dominance. From the FA Cup to the UEFA Champions League, these tournaments offer clubs the chance to showcase their talent on a grand stage.

Overall, the start of the football season has been characterized by exhilarating matches, captivating storylines, and the enduring passion of players and supporters alike. As the season progresses, anticipation builds for the culmination of league campaigns and the crowning of champions across various competitions.

Ali Iqbal – Year 7





JU JITSU

I was drawn to Ju Jitsu because of its practicality in self-defence situations and its emphasis on leverage and technique over sheer strength. The idea of being able to defend myself using an opponent's force intrigued me and motivated me to learn more about the art. Learning Ju Jitsu comes with its challenges, particularly in mastering the complex techniques and getting used to different opponents and scenarios. It requires patience, dedication, and consistent practice to progress and perfect one's skills.

As for how far I want to go with it, I aim to continue advancing in Ju Jitsu, perfect my skills to the best, and perhaps eventually attaining a black belt. However, my primary goals is personal growth, self-improvement, and enjoying the journey rather than just chasing belt ranks. In addition to its self-defense applications, Ju Jitsu offers numerous health benefits. It improves physical fitness, flexibility coordination, and balance. It also enhances mental discipline, focus, and resilience, fostering a holistic sense of well-being.

Abdullahi Gambol – Year 7

<u>Facts About Ju Jitsu</u>

Jiu-Jitsu was formed originally as a means of weapon-less defence techniques for samurai warriors by the founder Esai Maeda in the 1900's. It is also known to have borrowed influences from the Japanese art of Judo.



The principles behind the discipline are designed in a way to make the art form useful to those who have smaller body frames, helping then to take down bigger opponents using skill and technique rather than strength.

Achieving a black belt in Jiu-Jitsu can take anywhere between 8-13 years.

A number of celebrities have helped raise the profile of Jiu-Jitsu by taking it up as a hobby for themselves. The list of stars includes the likes of Demi Lovato, Guy Ritchie, Tom Hardy and Keanu Reeves.



BASKETBALL... A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

From its humble beginnings in a YMCA gymnasium in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1891, basketball has evolved into one of the world's most popular sports, captivating audiences across continents and cultures.

History:

Basketball was invented by Dr. James Naismith as a means to keep his students at the International YMCA Training School engaged during the harsh winter months. Little did he know that his creation would soon spread like wildfire, transcending boundaries and uniting people through a shared love for the game.



Popularity:

While basketball found its roots in the United States, its appeal quickly spread globally. Today, it's played in virtually every corner of the world, with leagues and tournaments drawing massive audiences and fostering a sense of camaraderie among fans. Countries like China, Spain, and Argentina have emerged as basketball powerhouses, showcasing the sport's universal appeal.

Basic Rules:

At its core, basketball is a game of skill, strategy, and teamwork. The objective is to score points by shooting the ball through the opponent's hoop while preventing them from doing the same. Players dribble, pass, and shoot within the confines of a rectangular court, following rules that govern everything from traveling to fouls.



BASKETBALL

Iconic Players:

Throughout its history, basketball has been graced by an array of legendary figures who have left an indelible mark on the sport. From Michael Jordan's dunks to LeBron James' versatility and

longevity, these players have inspired generations and elevated the game to new heights. Names like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, Kobe Bryant, and Tim Duncan resonate with fans worldwide, epitomizing excellence and sportsmanship.

Personal Favourite Team:

While opinions may vary, my personal favourite team is the Los Angeles Lakers. With a storied legacy, a passionate fan base, and a tradition of success, the Lakers embody the essence of basketball excellence. From the Showtime era led by Magic Johnson to the



Kobe Bryant era, the Lakers have consistently delivered moments of brilliance that transcend the game itself.

Love for the Sport:

What sets basketball apart is its electrifying pace, fluidity, and sheer excitement. Whether it's the thrill of a buzzer-beater, the artistry of a perfect 'alley-oop' (a move where a leaping player catches the ball above the basket and scores immediately), or the intensity of a playoff showdown, basketball never fails to captivate and inspire. As a fan, I'm drawn to the game's ability to bring people together and create an amazing sense of community, raw emotion and create unforgettable memories that stick with you for life.



BASKETBALL

Getting Involved:

For students eager to immerse themselves in the world of basketball, there are countless avenues for participation. Whether it's joining the school team, attending practises before school/ after school, attending basketball camps, or simply playing with friends at a park, the possibilities are endless. Basketball fosters discipline, teamwork, and resilience, making it not only a source of enjoyment but also a valuable learning experience.

In conclusion, basketball transcends boundaries, unites communities, and ignites passion like few other sports can. Its rich history, global appeal, iconic players, and inherent excitement make it a timeless favourite for fans of all ages. As we continue to celebrate the magic of basketball, let us remember the words of Dr. James Naismith: "The invention of basketball was not an accident. It was developed to meet a need – to keep his students engaged".

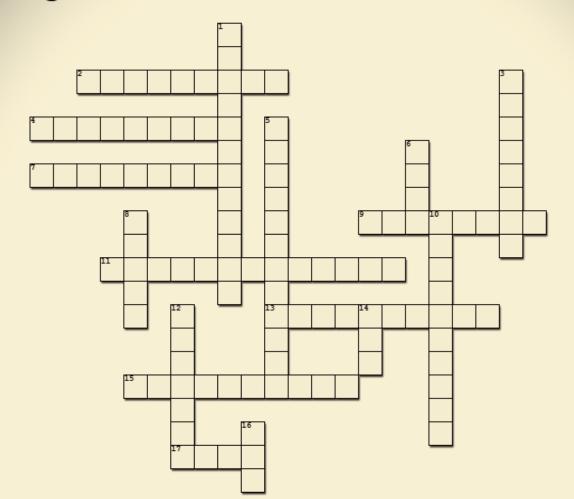
Jessy Girma Kebede – Year 9







King Edward VI Aston School Crossword



Down

1. The school playing fields are located where?

3. Number of trees planted on the driveway?

5. How many stone heads can been seen watching over the quad?

6. Who will not join this chorus is either rogue or? 8. Diev et mon?

10. The name of the longest running school magazine is?

12. What is the surname of the longest serving Headteacher?

14. How many lions are on the school blazer?16. What colour are the walls in the sixth form common room?

Across

2. Honesty, Dillegence, Kindness and?

4. Who is in the portrait that hangs on the wall to the left of the stage in the hall?

7. What was the name of Aston's first Headteacher?

9. The school holds an annual festival of what?
11. 1963 saw the opening of the first 'new building'.

What is it called?

13. In 1911 the girls at Aston relocated to?

15. In which century did the school first open?

17. What age was Edward Tudor when he took to the throne?





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