
BGS BUZZ SPRING



MEET THE TEAM

ASHNA ADHIKARI

Hi, I'm Ashna! I like writing about science, society and how they intersect (sometimes). Hope you like what I've written :)

JAMES VRIONIDES

Creator of Economics Club & avid stock trader with interests in developmental and environmental economics

ARIANA ROMANOVA

Hi, I'm Ariana and I enjoy writing, and exploring new perspectives. I'm looking forward to helping shape a magazine that reflects our school community.

YURI HOYTE

Hey, I'm Yuri and I enjoy politics, economics, making cool stuff on Minecraft and going on the occasional run.

MILLIE LAMING

Hiya - I'm Millie, a psychology fanatic with interest in the bits and bobs people do and the research behind them!

JESSICA BOGHEAN

Hey, I am Jessica, a student in Yr 9 and I am interested in many things so I enjoy incorporating fun and different topics in my writing!

OMOLADE PAUL-TAIWO

Hey, I'm Omolade and I like reading books, even though I procrastinate often in reading them. I'm on a quest to explore as many pieces of classical literature before I leave in Y13!

LEV GRIFFIN

Hi, I'm Lev and I am interested in this country's politics, which is now less predictable than ever...

JESSE DAVIS

Hello, I'm Jesse - I'm interested in writing about things that I am passionate about like the arts and politics!

LOUIS LUCKMAN

Hi, I'm Louis Luckman and I'm interested in the topics of power, politics, and people when writing.

BERAD MUSOV

Hi, I'm Berad, and I would say that my strongest interest lies in music, especially in regards to exploring varied subgenres and expanding my music taste. I am also interested in literature, politics and linguistics.

SOFIE RYGIELSKA

Hello! My name is Sofie and I am interested in exploring how media and art affect us all as people.

SOPHIE FOSH

Hi, I'm Sophie and I love literature, politics, art, and pop culture, looking forward to writing more pieces for this magazine!

PERSIA SOLOMON-KNOX

Hi my name is Persia Solomon-Knox, I'm in year 12. I want to get better at writing, and I sing and read in my free time.



IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT I PRESENT THIS TERM'S EDITION OF BGS BUZZ ON BEHALF OF OUR WONDERFUL TEAM OF SCHOOL JOURNALISTS AND CONTRIBUTORS. I HAVE BEEN SO IMPRESSED BY THE TEAM'S ENGAGEMENT WITH CURRENT AFFAIRS AND GLOBAL POLITICS. I PARTICULARLY ENJOYED READING THE ARTICLE ABOUT THE RISE OF THE GREEN PARTY AND THE EDITORIAL QUERYING WHETHER THE GLOBAL MORAL ORDER HAS CHANGED. IN A WORLD WHICH IS INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN, ONE THING IS: OUR STUDENTS ARE PERCEPTIVE, CURIOUS AND WILLING TO INTERROGATE. AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DEPARTMENTAL CONTRIBUTORS: THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO PRESENT ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ARE DOING IN THE SCHOOL, EVERY DAY.

Mrs Dawson

DEAR ALL,
WELCOME TO THIS TERM'S EDITION OF THE BGS BUZZ MAGAZINE. AS USUAL, I'D LIKE TO START BY THANKING OUR TEAM OF YOUNG JOURNALISTS FOR PROVIDING AN ARRAY OF ARTICLES ABOUT BOTH BGS LIFE AND THE BIGGER PICTURE OF THE WORLD TODAY. AS A HISTORIAN, I PARTICULARLY ENJOYED READING THE ARTICLE ON THE NUREMBERG TRIALS AS THEY ARE OFTEN AN AFTERTHOUGHT WHEN STUDENTS JUMP FROM WWII TO THE COLD WAR IN MOST COURSES TODAY. FROM A SCHOOL PERSPECTIVE, I ENJOYED READING ABOUT THE HOUSE DRAMA AND DANCE AS THE MAGAZINE COMES TO YOU FRESH OFF THE BACK OF THE HOUSE SHOWCASE EVENT. FINALLY, A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO MRS DAWSON FOR COORDINATING THE MAGAZINE AND ENCOURAGING OUR STUDENTS TO KEEP READING AND WRITING FOR PLEASURE.
ENJOY.

Mr Gilmore

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Are you a Tulip, a Daisy or a Cherry Blossom? ... Then what picnic suits you?!

By Jessica Boghean

Yay, it is Spring! Here is a quiz to find out what type of flower suits you the best: a Tulip, a Daisy or a Cherry Blossom! Once discovering your flower, read on to be told about the most amazing picnic for your vibe!! Here is the quiz:

1. Your ideal spring morning starts with...

- A) Making tea and journaling in sunlight
- B) Getting dressed up for brunch
- C) Opening the windows and blasting music

2. Pick a spring accessory:

- A) A woven tote bag
- B) A ribbon or hair clip
- C) Statement sunglasses

3. Your friends would describe you as:

- A) The hype person
- B) The calm one
- C) The planner

4. Your dream picnic snack is:

- A) Macarons or pastries
- B) Fresh fruit and homemade cookies
- C) Chocolate-covered strawberries

5. When it comes to personality, you are:

- A) Playful and funny
- B) Soft and sentimental
- C) Bold and expressive

6. Choose a color palette:

- A) Blush pink and cream
- B) Bright reds and hot pinks
- C) Sunny yellow and sky blue



7. Your ideal weekend activity:

- A) Visiting a quiet bookstore or café
- B) Dressing up and exploring the city
- C) A spontaneous road trip

8. Your spring soundtrack sounds like:

- A) Feel-good indie and throwbacks
- B) Soft acoustic songs
- C) Confident pop anthems

9. Your Instagram feed is mostly:

- A) Nature, sunsets, and candid moments
- B) Outfit photos and aesthetic food pics
- C) Group photos and chaotic fun memories

10. Your perfect picnic weather is:

- A) Warm with a light breeze
- B) Slightly overcast with petals drifting in the air
- C) Bright sunshine, no clouds

Now, you will find out what flower suits you!

Mostly A's: You are a DAISY!

Mostly B's: You are a CHERRY BLOSSOM!

Mostly C's: You are a TULIP!

Great, now that you know what kind of flower suits you best, carry on reading to discover the most wonderful picnic for you!!

Tulip picnic:

Vibe: bold, bright with sunshine and laughter

Setup: hot pink picnic blanket and vibrant flowers

Food: charcuterie board with caprese skewers, chocolate covered strawberries and mocktails

Activities: sing and dance to pop music before having a photoshoot

Daisy picnic:

Vibe: sunny and wholesome during golden hour

Setup: a gingham picnic blanket with a woven basket and yellow flowers

Food: fruits with cucumber water and cookies

Activities: listen to indie music while making flower crowns

Cherry Blossom picnic:

Vibe: dreamy and cinematic with flower petals falling

Setup: blush pink picnic blanket with lace details and ribbons

Food: strawberry shortcake macarons and croissants with pink lemonade

Activities: listen to acoustic songs while taking polaroids and reading



A TRIAL THAT CHANGED HISTORY

ARIANA ROMANOVA

After the devastation of World War II, the world was left grappling with an unprecedented question: how could justice be served for crimes so horrifying that they shook humanity to its core? Millions of people had died, entire cities were destroyed, and the systematic genocide of millions had occurred under the Nazi regime. In response, the Allies established the Nuremberg Trials, a series of ground breaking court cases designed to hold the leaders of Nazi Germany accountable. These trials not only prosecuted the architects of the Holocaust but also redefined the principles of international law, setting a precedent that continues to influence global justice today.



The Nuremberg Trials were held in the German city of Nuremberg between 1945 and 1946, in the Palace of Justice, which had survived the bombings of the war. 24 of the highest ranking Nazi officials faced prosecution before an International Military Tribunal made up of judges from the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. The defendants

included military generals, government ministers, and industrialists who had contributed to the machinery of war and genocide. For the first time in history, leaders could not hide behind their position or claim that they were simply following orders. This principle, that individuals could be held personally accountable for state-sanctioned crimes, was revolutionary, and it laid the foundation for modern international law.

The trials were a spectacle, capturing the attention of the world. Courtrooms were packed with journalists, legal experts, and spectators eager to witness history in the making. Each trial included detailed evidence, testimony from survivors, and careful legal arguments. The charges ranged from war crimes, violations of the laws of war, such as the mistreatment of prisoners, to crimes against peace, which involved planning and initiating wars of aggression, and crimes against humanity, including genocide, mass murder, and persecution of civilians based on religion, ethnicity, or political beliefs. The Nuremberg Trials were not just legal proceedings, they were a public reckoning for the atrocities committed under the Nazi regime, and they offered a moral and legal framework for addressing such crimes in the future.

The impact of the Nuremberg Trials was profound. For the first time, individuals were held accountable on an international stage, regardless of their rank or position. This principle challenged centuries of tradition in which state leaders were often immune from prosecution for actions taken during war. The trials also formalized important legal concepts, including the idea of “crimes against humanity” and the rejection of obedience as a defense. By establishing these standards, the tribunal created a blueprint for modern human rights law, which would later influence the Genocide Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the creation of permanent institutions like the International Criminal Court.

Beyond legal precedent, the Nuremberg Trials sent a powerful moral message. They demonstrated that justice could be pursued through law rather than revenge, even after one of the darkest periods in human history. The world saw that accountability was possible, and that mass atrocities could not simply be swept under the rug. Survivors of the Holocaust and other victims of the Nazi regime found their suffering acknowledged in a legal context, offering a sense of closure and recognition that had been denied during the war. The trials proved that the rule of law could rise above chaos and that humanity had the capacity to confront evil in a systematic and fair manner.



Despite their historic significance, the Nuremberg Trials were not without controversy. Some critics argued that they represented “victors’ justice,” since only the defeated Nazis were prosecuted, while the Allied powers were not held accountable for questionable wartime actions, such as the firebombing of German cities. Others questioned whether the defendants were being tried under laws that had not clearly existed prior to their crimes, raising concerns about *ex post facto* justice (a law that affects past actions rather than just future ones). Nevertheless, most historians agree that the trials were necessary, both to deliver justice and to establish international norms that could prevent future atrocities.

The legacy of the Nuremberg Trials is still visible today. Whenever leaders are prosecuted for war crimes or crimes against humanity, they are judged using legal principles that originated in Nuremberg. Modern tribunals owe their structure and legitimacy to the

precedent set in 1945. The trials also remain a powerful reminder of the moral and legal responsibility that comes with leadership and the consequences of abusing power.

The Nuremberg Trials changed the world by proving that legal systems could respond to even the most extreme human rights violations. They established accountability, codified crimes against humanity, and sent a message that the world would not remain silent in the face of atrocity. In the courtroom in Nuremberg, history was being rewritten, not by war, but by law. These trials are more than a historical milestone, they are a symbol of justice, a warning to future generations, and a foundation for a fairer, more just world.



BEYOND THE PITCH: WHO REALLY WINS THE WORLD CUP?



2026
FIFA WORLD CUP
UNITED STATES | CANADA | MÉXICO

On July 19th 2026, a team will lift the World Cup trophy. Confetti will fall, players and fans alike will cry, and headlines will declare them champions. The winners. But they won't be the only winners. While some players cry and others kiss the pitch, a much larger group will be celebrating elsewhere. In boardrooms, in city halls and in hotel headquarters, and in FIFA's Zurich offices. Whilst players count winnings in glory and recognition, others count in influence, or the quiet satisfaction of a deal made far from the cameras. The World Cup is many things: a sporting event, a cultural moment, a month long party. But besides this it's increasingly shifting towards something else entirely. It's a transfer of wealth and influence, but who are the real winners of the World Cup?

First, let's follow a single dollar. When a fan lands for the openings in Mexico, they bring money with them. They saved for months for this. First they check in at their \$200 per night hotel, which is mostly full of other World Cup fans. They then spend another \$50 on dinner out, and tip the waiter an additional \$20. In the span of one night the fan has spent \$270 in Mexico, and even if this specific fan only watches the Mexico opening games, more fans will spend similar amounts of money when watching the succeeding games in Canada and especially the United States, which is expected to host 78 out of the 106 total games this cup. Considering that FIFA estimates an approximate 6.5 million attendees across the games this year, if each fan spent even half that amount there is a colossal amount of money passing through these countries and their economies, with GoalEconomy forecasting this year's Cup to generate up to \$80bn in economic output across the world. But the important question is, where will this money go?

Here I would like to introduce an economic concept, called the multiplier effect. Simply, it is the idea that money entering the economy passes through the pockets of numerous people as they spend it on goods, and that this money has an effect on an economy much greater than the initial amount of that money due to the way its total value "multiplies" as it is spent by multiple people. This is important, as in the example mentioned above the hotel now has \$200 more which goes towards paying workers, who can then afford to keep feeding their families and pay bills which then contribute to the upkeep of countless other lives. In this way, those not directly related to the happenings of the World Cup such as hotel companies and local businesses still "win" in a financial sense regardless of the outcome of the game as they will make more money during this period, and more jobs will be available, improving the overall lives of everyone in the region.

Aside from the financial gain made by some people, others will see large changes, both positive and negative, to their political influence during the World Cup. On one hand, Donald Trump of the USA has made it no secret that he wishes to leverage the US hosting of the World Cup to his political advantage, threatening to move matches on multiple occasions from states with Democrat mayors such as Boston and San Francisco, claiming they are "unsafe" due to crime. Furthermore, in October 2025 he told reporters that if he thought someone was doing a "bad job", he would call Gianni, the current head of FIFA, and say "let's move it somewhere else" and Gianni would do it. This is not an empty threat as Gianni and Trump have grown remarkably close with the latter even opening up a FIFA office in the New York Trump Towers. The winners here are clear; cities that align with Trump's agenda keep their games and the economic benefits that come with them, with potential losers as the Democrat cities such as the San Francisco Bay Area, whose host committee's \$45 million investment could vanish if their games are moved elsewhere.

Equally, European nations have been openly discussing whether they should participate in the games at all. The reason for this began in January 2026, when Trump threatened 10% on numerous countries, including the UK and Germany, over their opposition to a potential acquisition of Greenland. Although NATO discussions have paused tariff talks today, this threat rippled an important question throughout Europe; should European countries boycott the football games hosted by the USA?

In Germany, Jürgen Hardt, a foreign policy spokesperson, suggested a boycott could be considered "as a last resort". Meanwhile in the UK, there have been talks within parliament that non participation should "not be ruled out" and in the Netherlands over 120,000 signatures have been gathered urging the National Football Association to pull out from 2026 games. However, sporting organisations still resist the grip of politics over sport, with Germany's sports minister highlighting that the decision to withdraw is one "within authority of sporting organisations" and not politicians, and that Germany has no desire to withdraw as sports should remain separate from political disputes. These struggles clearly address the political power behind football as despite efforts to separate politics and sport, countries still see the event as both an opportunity to showcase their influence and power, whilst others use it as a way of protest and resistance.



So, who really wins the World Cup? Ultimately, the team who played best goes home with the trophy but other players can still make their countries proud by participating and playing their best. No financial or political gain will strip this from the sport as long as people remain passionate about football. However, it's true that in recent years sporting events such as the World Cup have become increasingly tangled in obtuse financial deals and politics, so I believe that it is our job as watchers and supporters to keep football and other tournaments about sportsmanship and uniting people from across the globe, to appreciate and support the teams and players that they love.



Written by Yuri Hoyte

WHAT'S BEHIND THE RISE OF THE GREEN PARTY?

by Lev Griffin

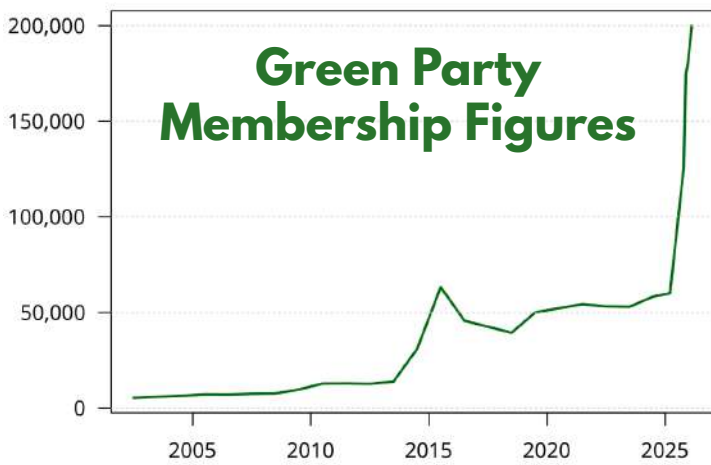


In a party political broadcast viewed over 8.6 million times across social media, Green Party leader Zack Polanski walks down a regular residential street on a cloudy January morning. “Why does it feel like everyone's running all the time?”, he asks. He picks up his pace. “Rent's up. Water bill's up. You dread opening that next energy bill. And when did everything become such a luxury?” A jog turns into a run, and he lists off problems faster and faster. “Wages stuck in 2008. Prices racing ahead... Builders building houses they'll never live in. Nurses queuing up at food banks... Pensioners choosing which room to heat, if any.” He's racing now. “The NHS is buckling. Our rivers are full of filth. Hopelessness sets in. And you're moving so fast. Everything is just a blur. ... But what if the most powerful thing we can do, all of us, all together at once—” He slows down and comes to a stop, “-is to stop running. And look around.” And he comes to a conclusion which has been sidelined in British politics for decades, and is nowhere to be seen among the rhetoric of the other four main UK parties: “The rest of us are killing ourselves to create wealth, and

hardly any of it is coming back to our communities. It's going somewhere else: upwards to the pockets of the super rich.” But he ends the broadcast on a more hopeful note. When homes are homes and not investments, energy is for warming them and not record dividends, and rivers are for nature and swimming in, not profiteering, “we don't burn out ... It's how our whole country grows ... It's how we make hope normal again.”

While this eye-catching and unusual political broadcast pops up on people's social media feeds across the country, a primary school hall in South London hosts a much more traditional element to the Greens' campaign. An army of volunteers, who have given up their Saturday to be here, gear up with stacks of leaflets, route maps and clipboards. This is the beginning of a day out leafleting and doorknocking row after row of terraced houses and low-rise council flats to try to win the upcoming local elections in places where they barely have a foothold. And yet the turnout is ten or twenty times more than this Green Party local branch has

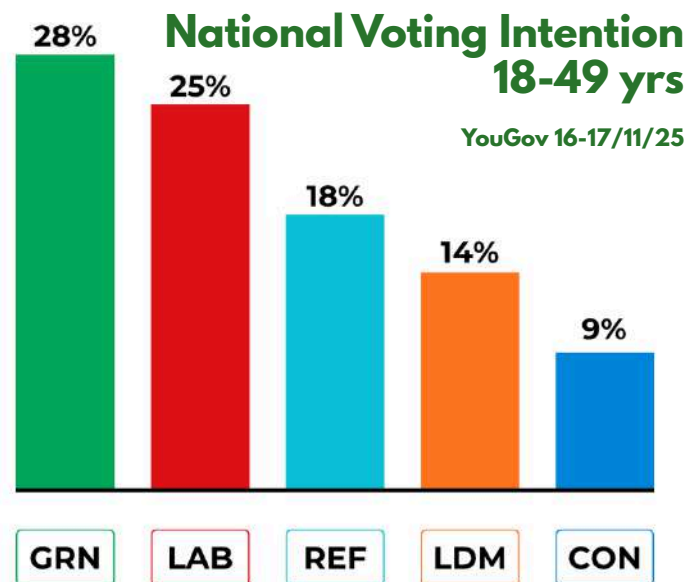




ever seen, and it's clear that despite the lack of the experienced election-fighting machine of the two traditional main parties, or the deep pockets of Reform UK, the enthusiasm and hope of party members here is off the charts. So although a strong social media presence is extremely powerful in modern politics, clearly the Green Party's recent success isn't just in the form of likes, clicks and shares. Elections are still won through conversations on doorsteps, and for the first time in its history the party has enough volunteers to be a serious force in British politics.

So of course the numbers are remarkably impressive. The Greens are now regularly polling at double or triple their 2024 vote share and even second place nationally. Their membership has gone from under 60,000 in August to surpassing the Conservatives at 123,000 in October to over 200,000 in February. They are even polling first with voters under 50. But where has this momentum come from? Of course, savvy social media videos and strong canvassing campaigns add to the momentum themselves, but why have those videos struck a chord in the first place, and what has motivated all those new volunteers to show up? It takes one look at the timing of the Greens' surge to see one of the biggest reasons of all: their new leader. Zack Polanski was elected by 85% of Green Party

members in September on a platform of making the Green Party a louder voice in British politics which speaks up not only about their traditional environmentalist principles but also day-to-day issues like the cost of living crisis and the NHS. Despite some initial worry about this potentially high-risk strategy from veteran Green politicians like their first ever MP Caroline Lucas, the Green Party has united around Polanski and his straight speaking, energetic style. But although Polanski's first six months have been undeniably successful, there is an even more significant cause behind their rise, one that makes them hard to ignore. The Labour Party has been the default home of left wing British politics for over a century. It has been a permanent top two party continuously since 1945. But after a huge overhaul of the party under Keir Starmer's leadership and a questionable performance in government, the Greens are looking to capitalise. In February 2023, Keir Starmer said to Labour supporters unhappy with Labour's lurch to the right, "if you don't like the changes that we've made, the door is open, and you can leave". Now voters are taking him up on this offer in huge numbers, and they are going to a party that according to their leader, "isn't here to be disappointed by Labour. It's here to replace them."





Hannah Spencer, 34, Mancunian plumber, plasterer, local councillor and the Green Party candidate for Gorton and Denton

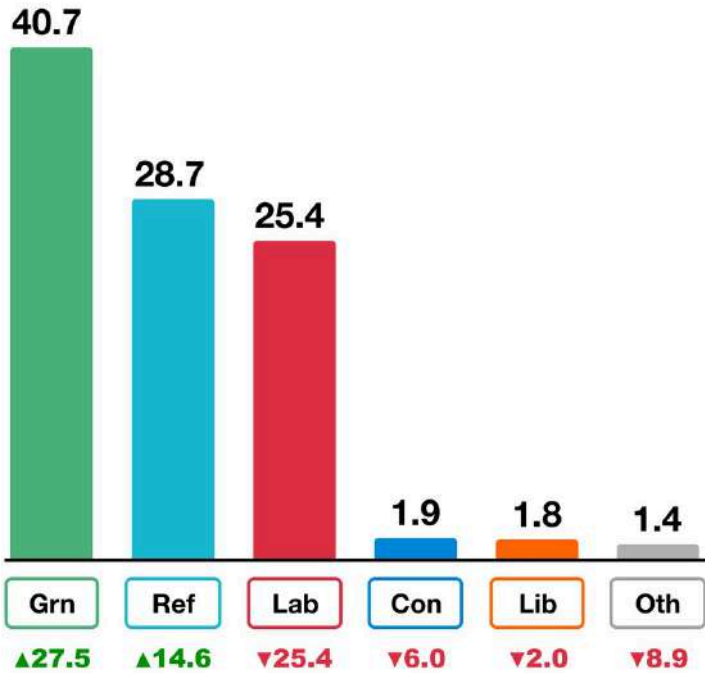
So the Green Party has vowed ambitiously to “replace Labour” and even “take the fight to Reform”. And the polls and statistics all point to a surge in their popularity. But can they justify these grandiose words and back up their impressive-looking line graphs with actual wins? The first real electoral test of Zack Polanski’s leadership took place in the Manchester suburbs of Gorton and Denton on the 26th of February this year. The circumstances of this by-election were a tough first test for the Greens. The seat, which was vacated by its MP due to his ill health, voted 50.8% for Labour, 14.1% for Reform and just 13.2% for the Greens in 2024. However, Keir Starmer’s early decision to block popular Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham from standing for Labour helped make the contest competitive for the first time in a century. Instead, the campaign shifted to a tight three horse race between local councillor Angeliki Stogia for Labour, Hertfordshire-based GB News presenter Matt Goodwin for Reform, and plumber, plasterer and local councillor Hannah Spencer for the Green Party, all on about 29%.

All three parties poured resources into the election; Labour merely to hang on to a traditional stronghold, Reform and the Greens to show that they could now win big in these areas. The campaign was bitterly contested. Reform’s candidate came under fire for saying that primary school girls should be taught in school to have kids early in life and took issue with the Greens releasing one campaign video in Urdu due to a sizeable Pakistani community in the west of the constituency, and Labour posted leaflets containing a fake endorsement for themselves from a tactical voting organisation that does not exist. But when polling stations closed at 10 PM, the public, pundits and the candidates themselves were none the wiser as to which party would emerge victorious, with mandatory recounts if the vote was too close potentially pushing back the result until past 6 AM. At 4 AM, there was an announcement: counting had finished and there was a result ready to declare. The candidates walked up onto the makeshift stage behind the returning officer, who read out the results to a room full of journalists and party officials.



Signs in Gorton and Denton front gardens

Green GAIN from Labour



1935	Joseph Compton	Labour	The MPs for Manchester Gorton (changed into Gorton and Denton in 2024) from 1935-2024
1937 by-election	William Wedgwood Benn	Labour	
1942 by-election	William Oldfield	Labour	
1955	Konni Zilliacus	Labour	
1967 by-election	Kenneth Marks	Labour	
1983	Sir Gerald Kaufman	Labour	
2017	Afzal Khan	Labour	

The Green Party’s Hannah Spencer had won by 4,402 votes, a 12% margin over second place and 40.6% of the total vote, a result that shocked even the Green Party themselves and sent a shockwave through British politics. The Prime Minister stated that he was “deeply disappointed” with the result, while Nigel Farage did not take the loss well and accused the Green party of “cheating” due to concerns raised by a group called Democracy Volunteers, which is disputed by Manchester Council, who ran the election. But for the Greens, it was a golden opportunity to pitch their ideas to the entire country.

In her victory speech, Hannah Spencer spoke of the injustice of modern Britain: how working hard doesn’t get you a nice life anymore. How luxuries are more and more out of reach for most people while the billionaire class gets richer, and how they seek to divide us as they do so. Afterwards, Zack Polanski also made sure to note that voters wanting an alternative to Reform, who he criticised as billionaire-backed and divisive, no longer have to hold their nose and vote Labour. That the Green Party is sticking to its values, building momentum and actually winning elections. So however you look at British politics, it is undeniable that the Green surge is real. And quite possibly, it has only just begun.



1 YEAR ON FROM LIBERATION DAY:

What have Trump's tariffs actually done?

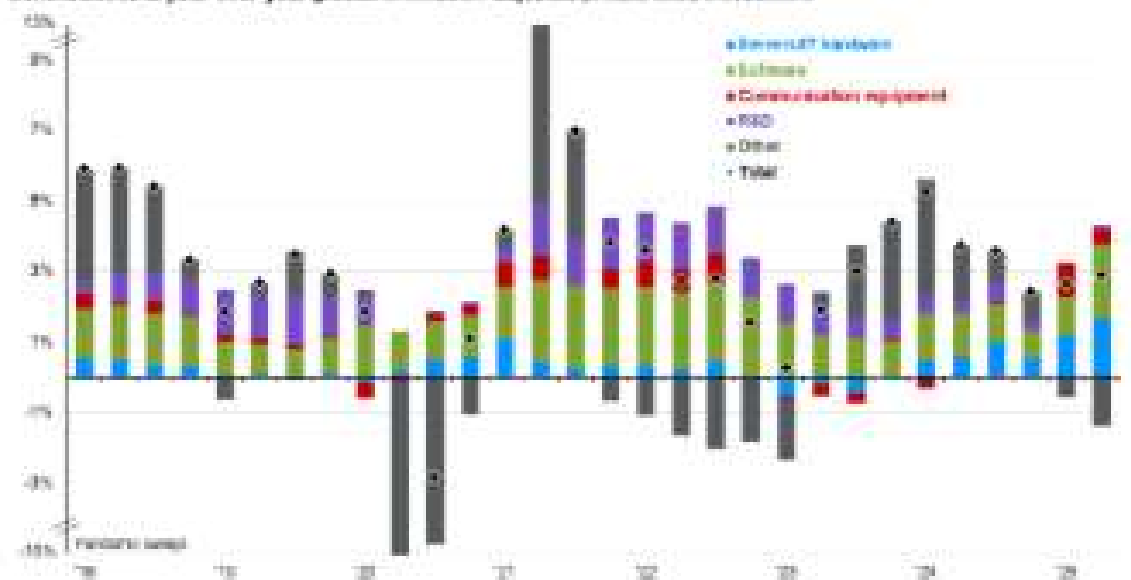
As I'm sure you're aware, Trump's second term has been filled with a flurry of tariffs, taking rates to their highest since the Great Depression. Back in April, it seemed as if Trump's tariffs would, without doubt, lead to economic collapse: economists worldwide were predicting an unavoidable case of stagflation as more expensive imports would both raise prices and stifle economic growth. But none of this materialised – US inflation in 2025 was actually lower than the UK's, and economic growth was the highest in the G7, all while collecting \$200 billion in revenue. So what happened?

It's important to keep in mind that the tariffs Trump unveiled on Liberation Day are not the ones currently active. Instead, average tariff rates have decreased significantly from 18% in April to around 12% now.

The comparatively fast economic growth can be explained fairly easily by the AI boom, and the rapid increase in investment and productivity it caused.

Tech-related spend in total business investment

Contributions to year-over-year growth in inflation-adjusted private fixed investment



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Fitch, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Values in net gross private fixed domestic investment, chain-weighted to 2017. Data as of September 10, 2025.

J.P.Morgan estimates that AI investment represented 69% of the USA's economic growth in the first half of 2025.

But the story for inflation is much more complicated and uncertain – Economists have put forth many theories to explain what's happened, and the truth could be any mix of any of them.

The most popular theory is that inflation is still coming, but there is a time lag involved; that is, inflation has yet to trickle through supply chains. Most of the products America relies on imports for are raw materials, which are at the complete opposite end of the chain of the "finished goods" you see in supermarkets that are used to measure inflation.

To add to this, many firms rushed to import before the tariffs took effect, increasing their stockpiles and thus the time lag between tariffs and inflation. US imports hit an all-time high in Q1 2025.

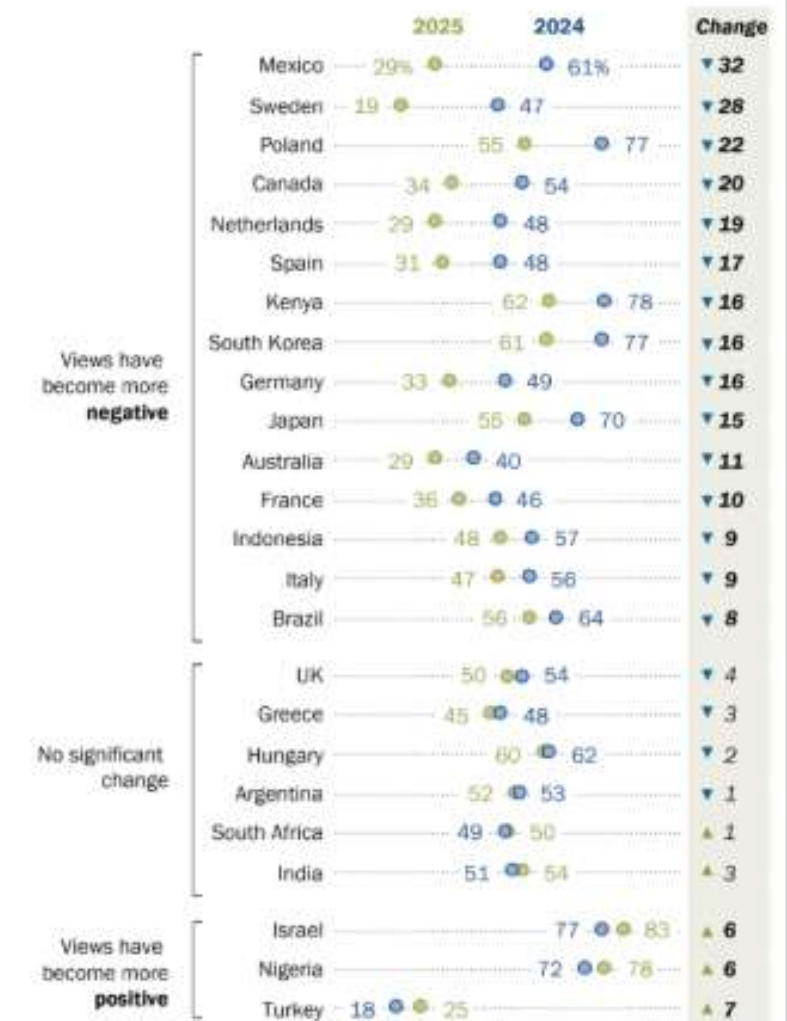
It may also be possible that improvements in AI have led to decreasing costs for businesses, which would offset the inflationary effect of tariffs. While this is definitely a factor to some extent, I find it relatively unconvincing; the short-term inflationary effect of investment should act as a counterbalance to this, negating most of its effects.

However, one factor that sees almost no mention is interest rates. Without getting too technical, the fact that the Federal Reserve has kept interest rates higher than the central banks of other countries means that inflation can be low even as the dollar loses its value compared to other currencies (the Dollar Index has dropped 6% since Liberation Day). This is particularly relevant now: Jerome Powell's term as head of the Federal Reserve is near its end. If Trump gets his way and rates are decreased by his successor, prices may increase rapidly.

While this is important, the effects of Trump's tariffs are not solely related to the economy. Though tariffs are inherently economical, their impact on geopolitics matters equally – and this is where they start to falter.

Ratings of the U.S. have declined in many countries

% who have a favorable opinion of the U.S.



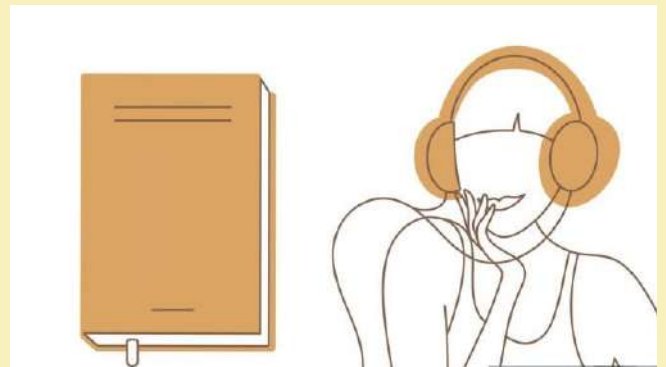
Do Audiobooks Count As Reading?

By Persia Solomon-Knox

I'm sure all readers have tried remembering the plotline of their favourite book but fallen short- I definitely have. So I began to wonder if my memory would be this unreliable when I wanted to recollect an audiobook, and if it was a common occurrence. Reading is the cognitive process of visually engaging with and interpreting written work, while listening is processing a story through someone else's voice and interpretation. I believe that audiobooks should be considered listening, not reading, as it reduces immersion, independent interpretation, and retention compared to visually reading text.

Listening to a story without visual text can reduce the immersive quality of the story, which makes audiobooks harder to remember. The inclusion of a narrator draws readers out of this personal experience (Bransford, 2024). Readers have to process another person's interpretation of a story, then translate that into their own, which I think takes more effort. The tone of a character's voice, for example, may be interpreted differently from what the narrator portrayed, that would influence your opinions. This would be difficult

The lack of physical pages corresponding with the narration pulls readers out of the act of independent interpretation of stories. Which is no different than listening to someone tell a story on podcasts ranging from celebrity gossip, the latest news, and personal stories about the hosts' lives. The way these stories are processed and internalized is the same way audiobooks are, which is why they are comparable. The act of turning pages gives readers a "slight break" that "creates space for your brain to store or savour the information you're absorbing" (Forshaw, 2026). This break is definitely needed, especially in larger books, as focus may be lost so readers want to flip back and re-read pages.



But with audiobooks, even if they are categorized into chapters it will be harder to re-listen to a section that was forgotten and after a while, repeatedly skipping backwards and forwards would get tedious. This is why a transcript with words would be helpful in this scenario. Rereading also has comprehension benefits as 10-15% of eye movements during reading are regressive which means that the eyes are going back and re-checking (Markham Heid, 2018). This act seamlessly occurs and increases our understanding level, which can be captured through audio by repeating phrases (although that doesn't have the same effect).

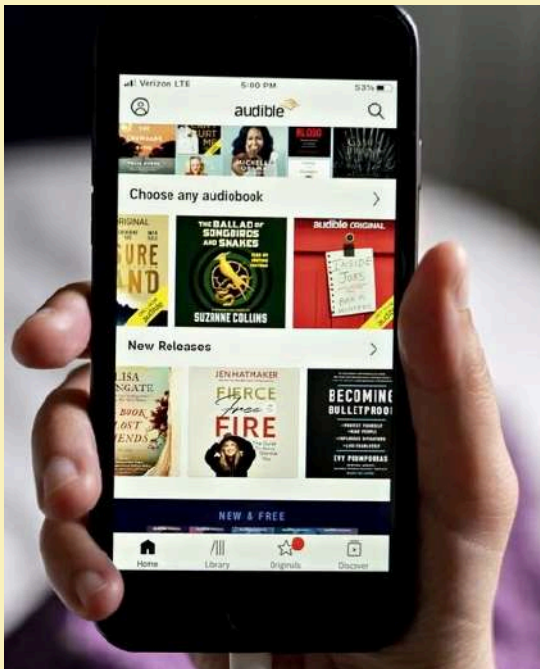


In a 2016 study, Rogowsky had participants either listen to, read, or both read and listen to a section of *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. After a comprehension quiz, she found no significant differences in understanding among the three groups (Markham Heid, 2018). This evidence disproves part of my claim about the comprehension level of those who read audiobooks, as the evidence states that they are around the same. This is why I believe that reading is a separate activity from audiobook listening.

Recollection is the point that is most debated between audiobooks and physical books. If you are looking at sentences on a page you are most likely focused on the text in front of you. On the other hand, focusing on an audiobook is probably more challenging as your attention may drift away from the narration, which would leave you missing parts of the story. Also as the story is being told by another person, instead of yourself (in your head, and by your own voice) your focus may be tied to your own thoughts instead of the story. Minutes could pass before you realize that you're not paying attention to the story, that leads to small details that are key to the plot being lost to the listener as they are tougher to remember.

I personally listened to an audiobook for the first time called *Bound* by Ali Hazelwood which was 6 hours and 35 minutes long. I wanted to see if I had trouble remembering most of the story—and I did. I found that I could recollect the overall plotline, that included the beginning, middle, and end. But I couldn't remember any quotes from the story, which I think is what makes reading fun, that is when you tab, highlight, or just remember the page number of your favourite quote, which isn't possible audibly. I did enjoy the story but I was frequently distracted by my thoughts (which isn't the audiobook's fault) and I found it difficult to be fully immersed in the narration. This may be because I listened to my first audiobook and need to listen to more, or this could be my concrete conclusion on this debate.

Overall, while audiobooks offer accessibility and convenience, I believe cognitive immersion and the thorough process involved in visually reading text make it a distinct and separate activity—and that's okay. Those who read physical books shouldn't diminish those who choose to listen to audiobooks and vice versa; we should all enjoy the stories provided to us by millions of authors.



Is the Global Moral Order as we know it Collapsing?

by Louis Luckman



Multilateralism, liberalism, and democracy have arguably been a growing force in global and national politics since the World Wars. Collective security alliances like NATO as well as joint regional alliances like the EU were formed with the aim of protecting the 'modern' interests of the liberal West. But with a global turn to more polarised politics, and isolationist policy more prevalent than ever, perhaps the world is facing a very dramatic change.

Foundations of international politics have been challenged and called into question throughout the last decade, notably in the global response to the conflicts in Ukraine, and Israel and Palestine. The extent of foreign aid in both scenarios is a debate which has spanned the globe, manifesting in differing global reactions such as increased defense spending (UK pledging to increase spending to 5.0% of GDP by 2035).

Public perception of multilateralism is also evidently changing: 52% of UK voters wanted to leave the European voters in the 2016 referendum; an explicitly isolationist administration won 7/8 competitive states in the US's 2024 presidential election, etc. But if multilateral institutions are receiving more criticism than ever, then to what extent are the values and moral authority that they encourage still valid?

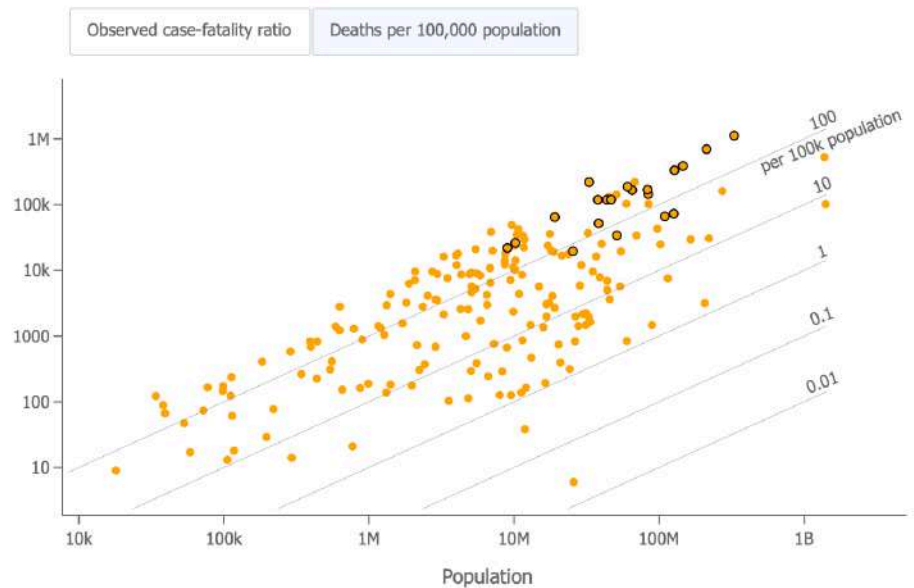


To what extent are the faces leading the movement against multilateralism, most notably Donald Trump and his administration, worthy of accusing international institutions of being ineffective? If those leaders are found to violate their own standards for the international institutions, should their criticisms be invalidated? This article sets out not to decide, but rather to provoke thought upon the topic and provide contrasts between the criticisms against international institutions, and the actions of their biggest critics.

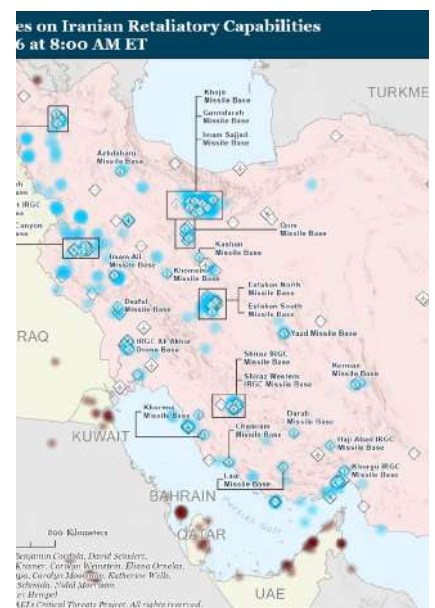
Donald Trump has consistently reached headlines for his overt stance on many international institutions. An example of this is his executive order on January 10th 2025 to leave the United Nations World Health Organisation. The three main reasons cited were the mishandling of the pandemic, the inability to implement reform, and a lack of independence from influences from certain states. However, it could be argued that these very flaws were unfortunately prevalent in the Trump Administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. But the US had a relatively high death rate from COVID-19, indicating poor handling of the pandemic; as well as issues like vaccinations and mandated mask wearing becoming bipartisan political conflicts where the actions of democrat states (mandating masks and vaccines) often being opposite to republican states, therefore potentially suggesting that the Trump administration's handling of the pandemic was also not free from political interference.

Another global idea facing scrutiny is Universal Human Rights. Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all 193 member-states of the UN recognise the 30 articles of the document - which include the right to life, as well as others like the right to freedom from slavery, and right to social security.

However, Amnesty International's 2025 annual report titled The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2025 contained around 150 chapters (each chapter regarding one state) of human rights abuses. Despite human rights being globally recognised in treaties and official documents, there seems to be a consensus that human rights are in fact negotiable.



Additionally, the United States and the Trump Administration has cited human rights abuses as a primary justification for the foreign intervention in multiple states. This includes the intervention in Venezuela in early 2026. According to the Guardian, 'the US condemned Venezuela for its poor human rights record', with the opposition starting from the socialist ruler Chávez's appointment in 1999.



This long-standing rhetoric provided the context by which it was seen as acceptable and necessary for the United States to engage in foreign intervention in Venezuela. The United States' military entered sovereign Venezuelan territory on the 3rd of January 2026, and proceeded to forcibly transport the president to US territory under a narco-terrorism indictment. However, another part of the US strategy in their intervention in Venezuela is the targeting of boats on the Venezuelan coastline. At least 110 people have been killed in strikes of boats on the Venezuelan coastline, which the UN human rights chief, Volker Türk, has said could amount to human rights abuses under Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

A key (supposed) feature of international human rights is their universality: i.e. all humans deserve a right to life. But this has been challenged in both the pre-intervention Venezuela (as alleged by the US, and reported by Amnesty International in their previously mentioned report), as well as in the US's response. Human rights were allegedly abused in both circumstances by both states: so how can the US justify their intervention with human rights abuses, and how can Venezuelan officials oppose any intervention if their actions of repression, arrest of children and political opponents, and torture of their detainees are all morally corrupt. Human rights, an idea created to encourage positive global change, were here used as a justification for intervention that violated the very rights they set out to protect. How does the Venezuelan government have the authority to abuse human rights in their territory, and how does the US have the global authority to begin military intervention? How has a concept designed to protect people contributed to foreign intervention that has potentially violated the concept itself?



In conclusion, at this time of unprecedented and unrecognisable change, we should be aware of the moral dubiousness of all global actors, and realise that criticism should be applied to all actors, and not just one 'side'. Concepts such as human rights which seem to be definitively positive also must face scrutiny and questioning. Ultimately, the inspection of the current global order may result in unrelenting pessimism, but I encourage you to be more politically aware/involved in order to create your own hope and optimism.



WHOLE SCHOOL ARTICLES

SCIENCE DEPT. EASTER UPDATE

MRS MOORE, ASHNA ADHIKARI ET AL.

PE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

PE DEPARTMENT

LET'S CELEBRATE!

MRS DAWSON

Y8 FIRST GIVE

YEAR 8 STUDENTS

NEWS FROM THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT!

MISS ASHMAN

HOUSE DANCE AND DRAMA

MILLIE LAMING

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT SHOWCASE & WORLD BOOK DAY

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

CELEBRATING CULTURE DAY

SEAS

SCIENCE DEPT. EASTER UPDATE

Written by Mrs Moore, Ashna Adhikari et al.

Brace yourselves...

Celebrating British Science Week



Our school has been full of curiosity and excitement as we celebrated British Science Week. It has been a great opportunity for students across all year groups to engage with science beyond the classroom and see just how varied and exciting the subject can be.

One of the standout events of the week was the Science Circus Show on the 12th for Years 7–10. This energetic show combined science with circus skills to explore the fascinating world of forces. Through demonstrations such as juggling and balancing acts, Dr Ken showed how concepts like gravity, momentum and motion play a key role in circus performances. Students even had the chance to volunteer and try out some circus skills themselves!



Our Year 12 students took part in a number of trips designed to broaden their scientific understanding and expose them to science in the real world. Here's what some of them had to say...



Chemistry in Action, 10th March

"The lectures were really insightful in letting us students see where chemistry can take us after our Sixth Form studies! I found them truly fascinating, and I would highly recommend them to anyone thinking of attending them in the future!"

-Isabelle Raphael

Physics in Action, 13th March

"My favourite talk of the day was 'Our Quantum Future' by Jess Wade, who explored how quantum technology can be used to create the technology of tomorrow. It was a fascinating glimpse into the cutting-edge science shaping the future, and it really sparked my curiosity about where physics and technology are heading. Overall, the trip was a fantastic and interesting experience."

-Daniel Nugent



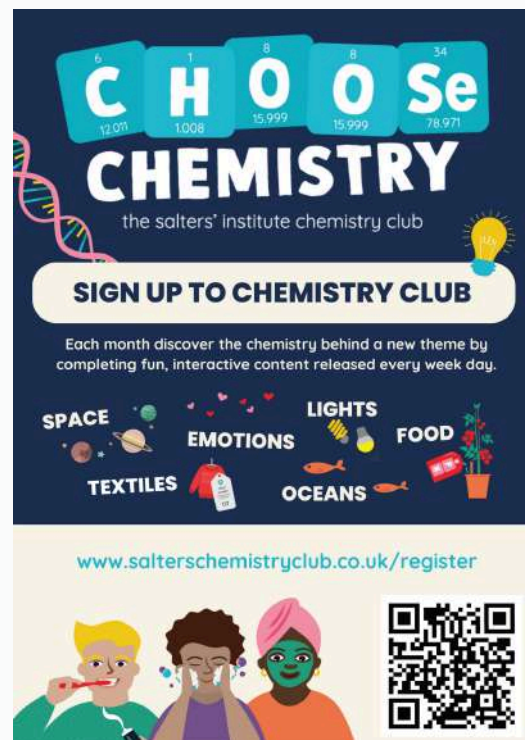
Biology in Action, 17th March

"The trip proved to be an insightful and engaging view into a range of biological fields, from rainforests to ancient pathogens. The six speakers all offered unique perspectives on their topics. Overall, the trip was valuable and broadened my understanding of biology by exposing us all to a variety of potential career paths linked to the subject."

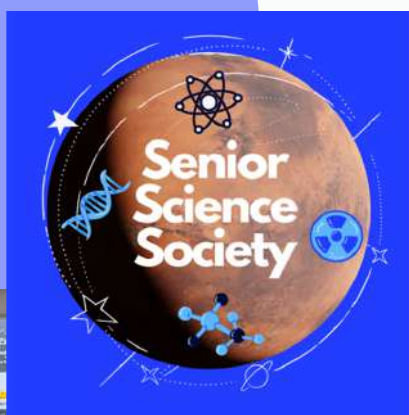
-Nirali Pathak



If you're in Year 7 or Year 8, why not get involved in the Salters' Chemistry Club? This club is designed to spark curiosity through practical investigations and fun challenges to explore chemistry in a hands-on way. From experimenting with reactions to investigating everyday chemistry, it's a fantastic way to develop your scientific thinking while enjoying practical science. Scan the QR code to join and receive more details!



A promotional poster for the Salters' Institute Chemistry Club. At the top, the word 'CHOOSE' is written in large, colorful letters, with the atomic symbols C, H, O, O, and Se, and their respective atomic numbers (12.011, 1.008, 15.999, 15.999, 78.971) below them. Below this, the word 'CHEMISTRY' is written in large white letters, with 'the salters' institute chemistry club' underneath. A central banner says 'SIGN UP TO CHEMISTRY CLUB'. Below the banner, it says 'Each month discover the chemistry behind a new theme by completing fun, interactive content released every week day.' There are several theme categories with icons: SPACE (planets), EMOTIONS (heart), LIGHTS (lightbulb), FOOD (apple), TEXTILES (shirt), and OCEANS (fish). At the bottom, there is a QR code and the website www.salterschemistryclub.co.uk/register. The background is dark blue with a DNA helix and a lightbulb icon.



For the Year 12s, Senior Science Society is on every Friday at lunchtime in M15. This term, they have hosted Q&A sessions with 2 university students studying medicine and engineering, from which they've walked away gaining brilliant insights into the world of STEM.

They've participated in many science-themed games, including quizzes and competitions which contribute to a leaderboard with prizes for those who get the most points! Why not come along if you're interested?

To be continued...

PE DEPARTMENT



Year 7 Netball

A fantastic year of netball for this brilliant bunch. We have had more of your attending than ever and we are hugely impressed with the progress you have made. A very impressive second place in the Borough tournament shows how much hard work and dedication you have put in at training. We can't wait to see you back on court in Year 8!

A huge thank you to Shriya, Isabella, Lois and Sophia for their support at training, coaching and officiating the Year 7 squads. A real inspiration for the younger years!

Year 8 Netball 2026

A great season for the year 8s fielding 3 teams this year. Such a positive season with weekly commitment shown by these lovely group of girls. To top it off they became the Year 8 Netball Bexley Borough Champions! The rain held off long enough for both teams to proudly represent the school. BGS 2 performed brilliantly, finishing a respectable third in their pool after facing tough competition and fighting hard for crucial wins.

BGS 1 emerged triumphant, topping their pool with consecutive high scoring games before playing their final against Townley. Despite a brief downpour, their determination and teamwork shone through, securing them the championship title. Super proud of every player, a fantastic achievement all round - looking very smart too!



Year 9 & 10 Netball

The girls are turning out in huge numbers to training and we've had plenty of matches for all to compete in also. Matches against, Chis and Sid, Townley, St Matthews, Leigh Stationers, Blackheath High School, to name a few. Plus our fun Halloween and Christmas tournaments to keep the competition alive. Two teams went along to the Year 9 borough tournament, again indicative of the numbers attending the club. It's been a fantastic season of netball, well done to all of you.



SIXTH FORM NETBALL



The year 11-13 squad have played and trained superbly this year under Ms Paige's leadership. The squad have really done well, competing against lots of other schools and at the Kent Tournament at Rainham. Well done all!



FOOTBALL



Our girls showed fantastic effort and determination in their football matches this year. Although results didn't go our way this time, their teamwork, attitude and sportsmanship were outstanding throughout. We're incredibly proud of how they represented the school and are confident that their dedication will bring success next year. Well done, girls - great things to come!



Year 9 Boys' Football

The Y9 boys football squad have had a successful term with some impressive performances. Beating Lift Bexleyheath 4-1 was a great victory in challenging conditions.

And a well deserved win to finish on this term from the U13s!

We also represented BGS with 2 teams in the Annual Goals Tournament at Bexleyheath. A lovely sunny afternoon for some great competitive football.



INDOOR GIRLS' CRICKET



Preparations for the summer cricket competitions this term at Sidcup cricket club competing in the chance to compete and indoor 8s. Great wins made by both teams - looking promising.

Equal Play Games

Year 7 pupils proudly represented the school in the Equal Play Games initiative, taking part in bowling, table tennis, and dodgeball events. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship while competing against other schools. The experience helped build confidence, develop new skills, and celebrate inclusive participation in sport.



GCSE Climbing

Year 10 GCSE climbers took on new skills, new heights and their final assessment. It's fantastic to see them thrive while learning a new skill and growing in confidence. Instructors praised their effort, attitude and conduct. Great first set of grades.



LET'S CELEBRATE!



We are delighted to celebrate Theo, 7CPB, for his fantastic achievement in securing a role in Matilda in London's West End. This is an incredible accomplishment, and we are all extremely proud of everything he has achieved during his time in the production.

As Theo's run in the show comes to an end this March, we would like to recognise his hard work, dedication, and commitment throughout. Being part of such a prestigious production is no small feat, and Theo has represented himself brilliantly every step of the way.

We are excited to share that Theo will be writing an article in the summer term, reflecting on his experiences in the show- so watch this space!

Pranshi Bansal, 8SBM, won an award for a video monologue she created in response to David Farr's book - The Book of Stolen Dreams. She was presented the award by David Farr himself, and won a £20 book voucher!



We would like to celebrate your achievements: get in touch at dawson_c@bexleygs.co.uk to let us know what you are proud of!

Y8 News: First Give

First Give is a charity that works with supporters and partner schools to inspire young people to make a change in society. Every year in Y8, forms work together to raise money and awareness for the charity of their form's choice. Read on to hear students' experience of their time working together; learning about their charity and learning about each other.

ALMA GORAVICIUTE 8EAB

I did First Give with my form, not really knowing what to expect. I knew it was some opportunity to do an event, but besides that I really had no clue.

But it turned out to be a really interesting and fun process! Picking the charity was important for me, and my form all simultaneously agreed to focus on mental health, a topic which should be talked about and raised awareness for. Especially nowadays as problems (especially in young people - such as us, and others in the school) concerning mental health grow. It shouldn't be a taboo topic, which is exactly what the charity we chose - Mind in Bexley - strives to prevent. We had a whole lesson where we were lucky enough to talk to a volunteer from the charity. Personally, I felt I had a lot more insight on what we were actually raising money for, and as someone who also was competing at the First Give presentation evening,



I found that there was a more personal connection to the charity.

Now, for the most fun part, our social action!

Through a power day, our class split into different groups and brainstormed ideas for our potential social action, before presenting.

This was also our first chance to practice public speaking, even if only to our class. After a general vote and our form tutors final decision, we came to a conclusion for which idea we'd like to execute.

Combining ideas of two different groups (we couldn't pick just one!), we thought of the 'Two Quid Games', a pun/spinoff of the popular tv series 'Squid Games'. We thought it would be a fun way to attract those especially in the younger years. These games went quite successfully, as we raised over £60. A lot of thought went into where to get all the necessary equipment, the venue, when etc. One of my classmates also created a special, original poster to spread word across the school. Hosting the event was quite special I would say, and it felt amazing to know that this was all going towards something we care about and is really important.

“The whole experience was something that I've never done before, but I'm really glad I did, as it's actually inspired me to start helping out more, volunteering for things I really care and want to advocate for.”

ALMA GORAVICIUTE 8EAB

Hello. My name is Sophia and this year, 8ACR hosted a Movie night for our first give social event. I personally found it incredibly fun! We spent quite a while planning it, discussing the details of prices, what snacks we were selling, etc. We spent around 3 weeks I would say planning it, and then we arranged roles and who would bring what food item. We also had to get permission to use certain things like a freezer for the drinks, K10 to host the movie night in, etc. This wasn't too difficult however, we got these issues solved quite quickly I would say. Then we ran into an issue- getting enough teachers to supervise. Thankfully, we had some volunteers (teachers that we had asked to help us out) such as Mr Diebel and Ms Orchard. Thank you to all the teachers who helped out!!

Once we had all the planning done, we brought all the snacks in and got everyone to arrange them into bags, get the nutrition labels done, and get the drinks into the fridge. Then it came to the actual event after school. It was incredibly fun, we started off by getting everyone into the hall (those helping out) and then allowing anyone attending inside to the K10 hall. Straight away we started selling snacks, and we even had a tip jar. (for every pound raised, I wore a banana costume for a minute. yes. a banana costume.) In total, I'm not completely sure how much money we ended up raising, but it was a lot! Before the movie, we played a video informing the attendees about why we were hosting the movie night. It was an informative video about bexley snap and what they do to benefit those in their care. I am really glad we had the chance to host such an event and help those who need it most in Bexley SNAP's care.



“*I want to quickly give a special thank you to all my classmates for helping make this evening happen, Bexley SNAP for their work, all the teachers involved with helping us run this event and especially Ms Read for helping us host a fantastic night. And of course, thank you to everyone who attended and helped us raise so much money for an amazing cause. First give was an incredible opportunity. Thank you.*

8 SBM

Over the past few months, my class has been working on our First Give presentation and social action. First Give is a program which inspires young people around the country to support local charities and raise money and awareness for them. Winners receive a £1000 grant for their charity. My class chose to raise awareness about the social issue of depression and we supported Mind in Bexley, a charity located just 1.4 miles away from our school.

After lots of hard work, our scavenger hunt went ahead. We hid eggs around J16, within each egg was a fact about our amazing charity: Mind in Bexley, chocolate and sweets. We have organised a wear blue day for older students so they do not feel left out in supporting Mind in Bexley.

SBM: Scavenger Hunt!

We not only raised awareness by going between form groups and spreading the word about what Mind in Bexley does, we also raised over £50 for our charity. Over 30 students attended the event and all reported saying they had had a great time with attendees stating that: our fundraiser was 'pure fun', 'wasn't just an everyday game and helped them 'understand emotions'. It wasn't just an egg hunt, we played a few games such as "splat" to help ease everyone out of a school mindset. Then we did the main event and finally everyone had a great time doing Just Dance. On exit, participants received a handful of sweets.

After lots of hard work and fun, it was time for the presentation. There was an indescribable atmosphere the entire evening. It began with a First Give representative speaking about the program before everyone began their speeches. After your presentation, the judges (including the mayor!) were allowed to ask your group an unscripted question. Our group was last to present and after watching everyone else's amazing performances, we delivered it just as we rehearsed. I think it really showed the value of hard work and despite the fact we did not win, we were immensely proud.

“ I, and many others, really enjoyed the experience and if I could, I would do it all over again in year 9. 8SBM will continue to support the amazing work that Mind in Bexley does. Thank you to everyone who supported us throughout the experience, people who came to our social action, our class, the audience, teachers and everyone at Mind in Bexley. Without them, none of this would be possible.



NEWS FROM THE

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT!

Last year, the Geography department was fortunate to receive a subscription to Royal Geographical Society's **Geographical** magazine through a Jack Petchey Foundation grant from Lily Pigott-Denyer in 9LC. The magazine has been a fantastic addition to the department, bringing geography to life with engaging articles, stunning photography and stories about the people, places and environmental issues shaping our world today.

Published monthly since 1935, *Geographical* covers biodiversity, culture, exploration and global current affairs, helping readers understand how geography connects our planet and the challenges it faces. See 3 interesting recent article headlines and if something catches your interest, be sure to click on the links in the digital version of the magazine to find out more. You can also explore additional articles, quizzes and subscription options by visiting the official website: <https://geographical.co.uk>. There you can read more stories, explore the archive and find information about membership and subscription costs if you would like to continue exploring the world through geography.



East Africa is fighting back against malaria - here's how

By Victoria Heath - Nov 12, 2025

East Africa launches first dedicated mosquito production and research facility in Djibouti, helping



Tropical forests generate rainfall worth billions, study finds

By Victoria Heath - Feb 18, 2026

Study finds each hectare of tropical rainforest generates 2.4 million litres of rain each year -



Vegan diets can halve your carbon footprint, study shows

By Victoria Heath - Nov 12, 2025

Switching to a vegan diet generates 46 per cent less CO2 and uses 33 per cent less land compared to

Stunning Y8 project work

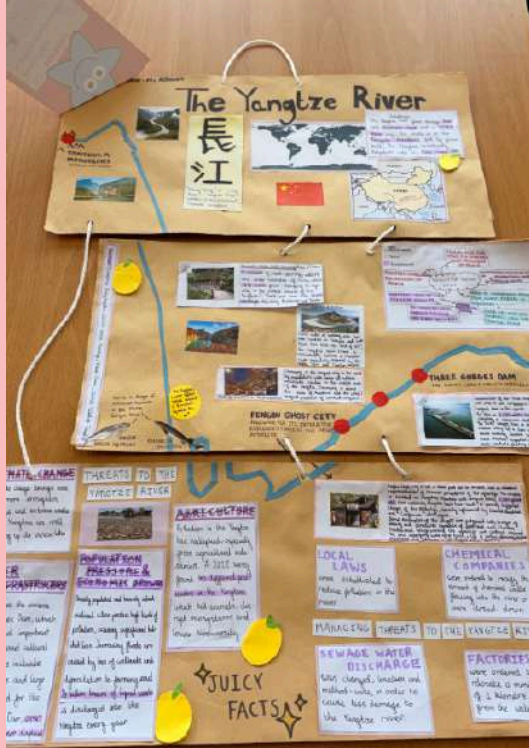
Y8 geographers have been very busy showcasing their creativity and research skills by creating projects on one of the following rivers: Nile, Colorado, Yangtze or the Ganges. The quality of work was excellent across the year group but each teacher selected 2 projects from their classes which really stood out!

Read on to see the highlights!



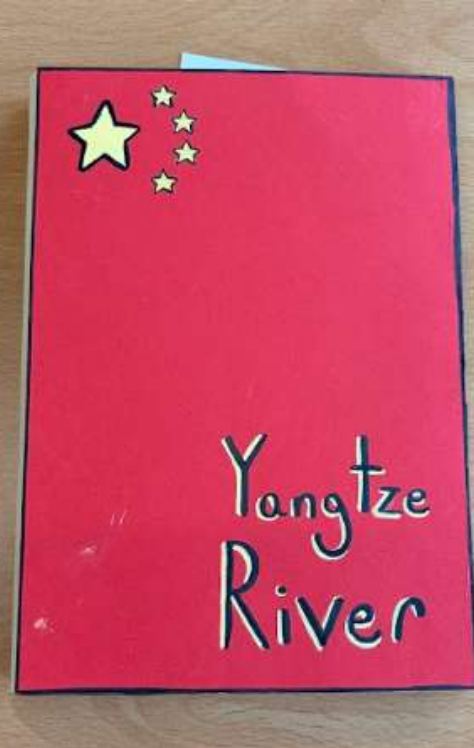
Julian Labuschagne 8SBM

Another uniquely presented project in time for lunar new year celebrations! Creative, stunning and highly educational!



Safaa Abdul-Aziz 8KVC

A uniquely designed hanging river project which has been executed in a highly professional but informative way!

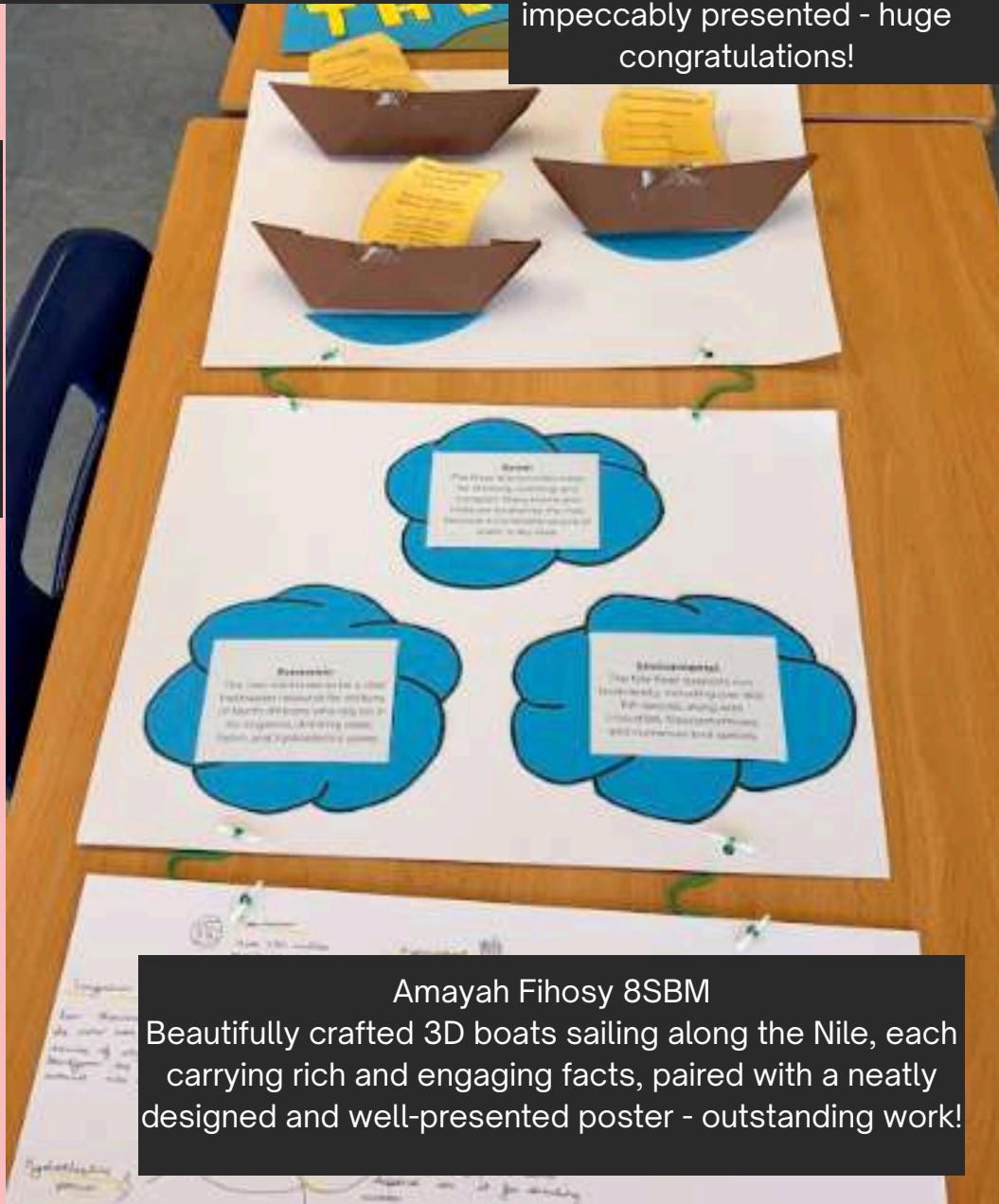


Erin Jennings 8KVC

A beautifully crafted and thoroughly professional booklet on the River Yangtze, thoughtfully themed and impeccably presented - huge congratulations!

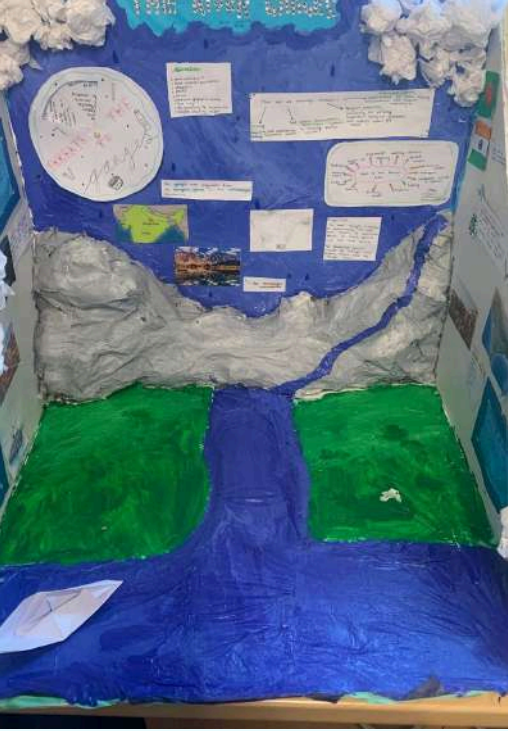
Dotty Shilton 8DJW

This display was just SO interesting! I loved the juxtaposition of media:reality, all of the juicy facts, & the huge variety of imagery alongside informative text.



Amayah Fihosy 8SBM

Beautifully crafted 3D boats sailing along the Nile, each carrying rich and engaging facts, paired with a neatly designed and well-presented poster - outstanding work!

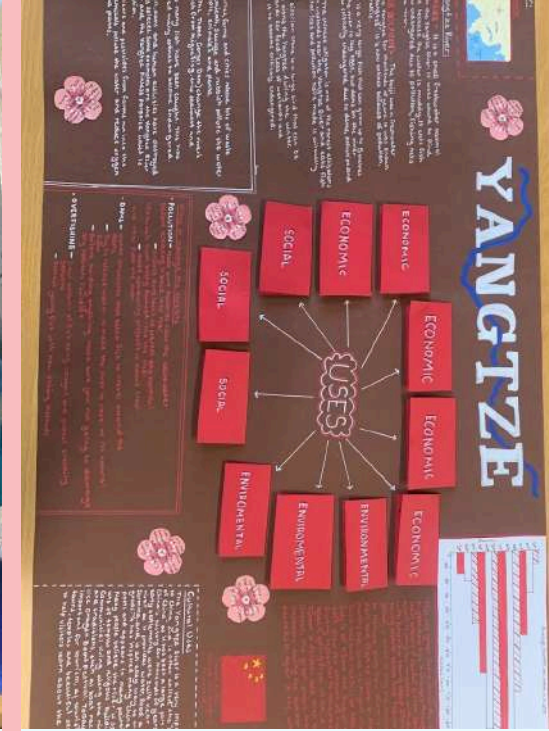


Emilia Couchman 8DJW

There was SO much work and effort put into this presentation! I adore the interactivity of the "Threats Wheel" and the visual effect of the whole project really serves to draw you in to want to know even more about the Ganges!

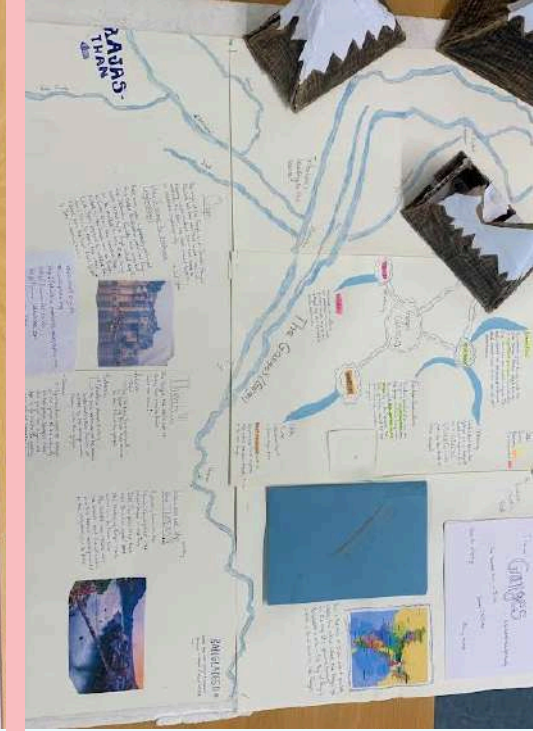
Advait 8ELS

This presentation is so colourful and engaging! I love the interactive mind-map, the collage, ALL of the juicy facts, the formatting - all of it just makes me want to explore and learn more!



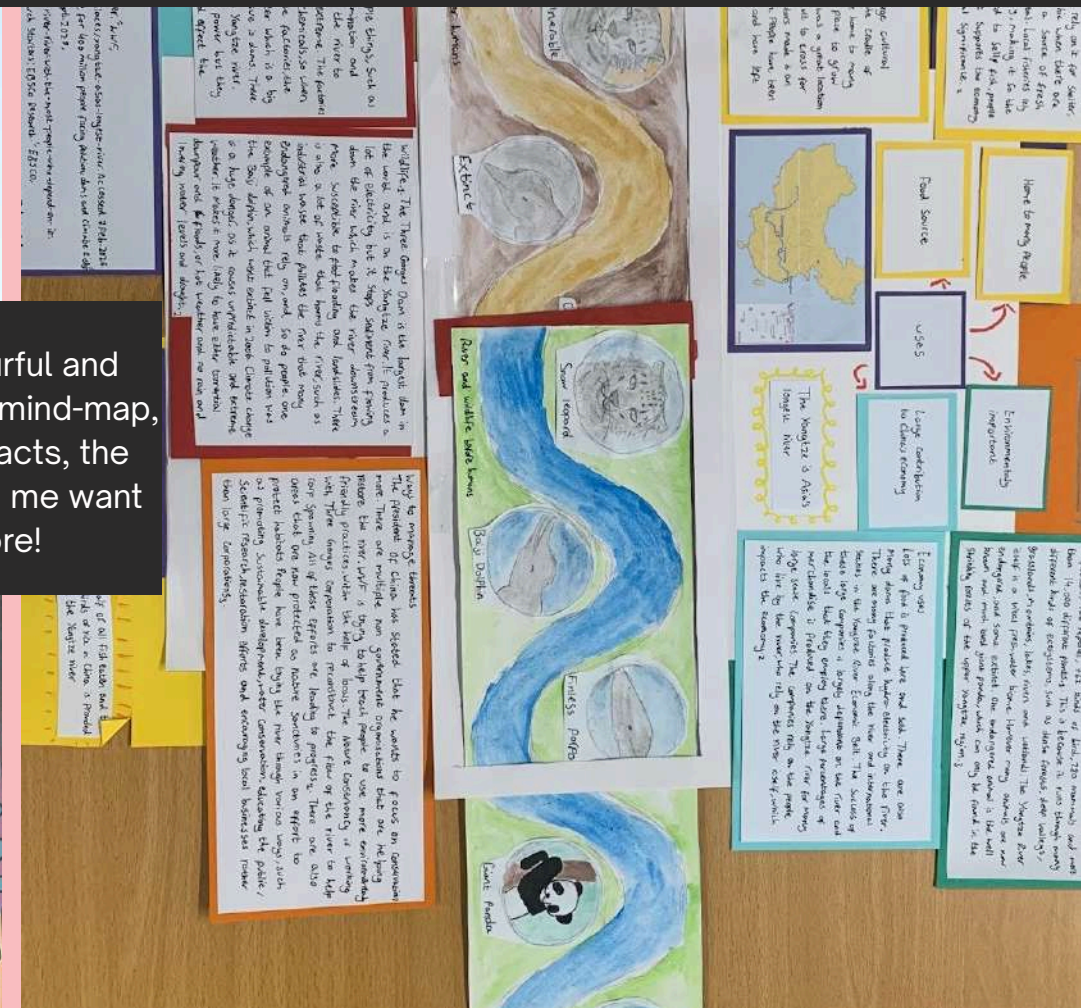
Demira 8ACR

I just think this one is stunning! It is neat, detailed, interactive, colourful, and thoughtfully executed.



Vardaan 8ACR

The juicy facts are INSIDE the Himalayas! This project is detailed, informative, creative, and FUN in 3D!



Lorena 8ELS

Look at these GORGEOUS watercolours! Not only of current species living in the Yangtze, but extinct species too! The level of detail here is also astounding

HOUSE DANCE AND DRAMA

by Millie Laming



House Drama and Dance took place on Wednesday the 4th February, with each house presenting a (roughly) 8 minute performance with lots of energy and emotion.

This year's theme was Hans Christian Andersen, a notable author most famous for writing the story of the Little Mermaid, which has since become the initial animated film and recent live action adaptation from Disney studios. We all entered and it was clear from the start that the atmosphere was electric, with a buzzing mixture of anticipation and pride, and with each house wanting to show off what they've worked so hard to achieve through multitudes of rehearsals.

Here are the results:

- 1st - Wellman
- 2nd - Collins
- 3rd - Prothero
- 4th - Mabbs
- 5th - Johnson
- 6th - Kirkman

It was clear to me and likely everyone who participated (or was lucky enough to watch the performances) that each actor and actress took pride in their performance, wanted to do the best they could and wanted to represent their house well.



We laughed a lot, we teared up at the more emotive parts and I can say it was truly an unforgettable evening (so if you get the chance to participate, I encourage you to, no role is too big or too small to make an impact) and although the competitive nature of the houses definitely shone through a little bit, we all ended the day cheering for each other.

I think as a school, we're lucky to have these house events and such a central house system, as I think it helps you find other people with common interests that aren't always in your form or even your house. I'd like to end off with a special thank you to everyone who organised and took part in this year's house dance and drama, congratulations again to our winners, and I (for one)

The English Department Showcase

My Last Love by Neha George, 7CPB

A Meeting:

“Ding. Ding. Din-”

The sound of the doorbell rang my ears. I wanted to ignore the desperate pleas of it but I just couldn't. Reluctantly, I forced myself off the cold, concrete floor and headed towards the door. Pulling the handle curiously, I peered through the narrow, small hole.

“Hello, Aaliya!” a sweet, welcoming voice chirped. I stared ahead with my mouth gaped open. “I-I know you feel...hurt by the grief but I just wanted to let you know that you're welcome at our home any time.”

Jackson's mother was actually here. She came for me. I just couldn't hide it anymore.

Swinging the door open hastily, I threw myself into her warm, sweet arms. And I sobbed. And sobbed. And sobbed. In her arms, I simply felt like a child. After that day, all I remember was laying in my unwelcoming bed. I could just wallow in my desolation. It was the first time I'd laid alone in my bed. No Jackson around to be seen. And this time, instead of attempting to remain strong, I just let it out: my puffy, sore eyes were filled with tears, tears that just reminded me of the heart-breaking pain. Clenching onto my stomach, I gasped for air. I regret everything. I could have been there for him. Even more. And then, it was darkness. Nothing but the dark. Could I ever move on?

Memories:

I watched as Aaliya sprinted backwards and forwards in a sobbing mess. The scent of the wretched medication, the beeping, surrounding machines and the empty chairs was just too much for her. And I couldn't blame her. She looks so much different when I met her. And all the memories flooded back. I was a charming, cocky man who, every morning, visited a stupid cafe for the sake of her. The sweet, delicious scent of the freshly made coffees wafted in the air and the customers' quiet, happy chatter made it the perfect summer's day. And there she was, in all her perfection: a beautiful lady with shining, brown eyes and smooth, neat hair and a cheery, perfect smile. Being the confident man I am, I asked her out and we fell in love. But, I just knew it was her. The girl of my dreams. But I just knew it wouldn't last for long. And I was right. Soon, I was diagnosed with cancer and there was no way out. But I'm holding it together. Just for her.

A Lesson To Be Learned:

The whole room was quiet and the scene was horrific: the sobbing, emotional guests were surrounding Jackson's casket and even the room felt the devastation. My heavy heart dropped as I glanced around the room. Fate took him too soon. It was too fast. Too soon. And too... painful. Clutching onto the crinkled piece of paper, I stepped onto the old, creaking stage. I was ready for the speech.

Holding onto the piece of paper ahead of me, I read and read and read.

“Jackson was a brave, strong man. He stood strong even through the cancer diagnoses and he was too great: he was kind, giving and welcoming indeed. He was something to all of us. So, you should always cherish him and please stay strong.”

And so, that was the day that all grief died. I had realised that moving on was important and I couldn't let grief get ahead of me. I closed my eyes and finally saw peace; then it was light. Nothing but the light...

The English Department Showcase

The Power of Poetry

If you need a break from your struggle and your strife,
Or the other little things that bother you in life,
Then poetry is the answer, just dump your imagination,
Grab a pen and paper sheet, make a wonderful creation.

If you're tired and you cannot go on any more,
Or you're bored and you need to warm your core,
Then poetry is the answer, ignite your creativity
Grab a pen and write about starships or nativity,
Cause your ideas flow freely when given a chance,
If you give it some time, your thoughts will enhance.

by Harry Shrimpton

The Great Game of Cricket

Through the swings and the misses
And the qualms and the disses
There's just something special about the fan made chants
The love grows in the air like freshly watered plants
Camaraderie, passion and teamwork brings us all together,
Come rain or shine- well actually it depends on the weather!
Put some oomph on it and it's up with the pixies
Stumped, run out of court and the fours and the sixes
All of it matters in the great world of cricket,
Batting, bowling or fielding, or just behind the wicket.
So next time you play, remember this list,
Be brave take a hit and you'll get the gist.

by Harry Shrimpton

WORLD BOOK DAY

by The English department

WHY IS READING IMPORTANT?

March 5th 2026, as every first Thursday in the month of March, was World Book Day and, as usual, BGS celebrated in style, with wonderful costumes, competitions and, of course, reading!

Reading is not only an enjoyable hobby and opportunity to escape the reality of the world for an alternative, it is a hugely impactful pastime to get into - and it is never too late to cultivate a reading habit. Start with 5 minutes a day and see where it gets you! Read on to find out some of the reasons why reading is so important: for more subjects than just English!

Reading for pleasure has been revealed as the most important indicator of the future success of a child.

(OECD/PISA - from DofE website)

Researchers found that the strongest factor affecting pupils' science scores is reading comprehension.

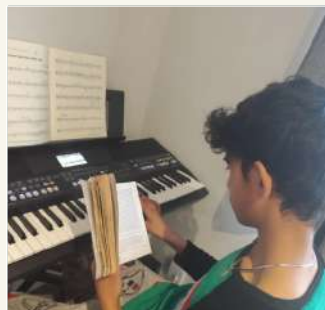
(EEF, 2017)

There is a significant correlation between student reading ability and performance at GCSE level.

(GL Assessment: Why Reading is Key to GCSE Success)

The correlation between good literacy and good student outcomes at GCSE was higher in maths than in some arts subjects like history and English literature.

(GL Assessment: Why Reading is Key to GCSE Success)



"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that skilled reading, writing and talking, is crucial.... to succeed in school."

Alex Quigley

Education Endowment Foundation

Just in case you are inspired to start reading...

Ms. Adeaga



The books that got me back:

'Hacker' and 'Thief'

by Malorie Blackman



It was a little while before I discovered books by Malorie Blackman. But once I did, I loved the fact that her characters were like me! They were also very resilient, inspirational and prompted me to delve into the world of Science fiction.

Miss. Gowdle



The book that got me back:

'Homegoing'

by Yaa Gyasi

If you're looking for the book that will finally get you off your phone, this is it! Homegoing didn't just end my reading slump; it raised the bar for everything I look for in historical fiction. Yaa Gyasi masterfully weaves three hundred years of family history into a series of interconnected stories that feel both intimate and epic, making it impossible to stop reading.

Mrs. Watkins

The book that got me back:

'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'

by J.K Rowling

On the back of reading a lot of French literature for my degree, I hadn't been reading as much for pleasure during my university years. Straight after our finals, a friend told me I had to read this new book about a wizard even though it was written for children. I was quickly hooked and pre-ordered each new book as soon as it was published and found it hard to bear not knowing what happened next. The gap was filled by the His Dark Materials trilogy by Philip Pullman which remains my favourite book series so Harry Potter definitely got me back into reading!



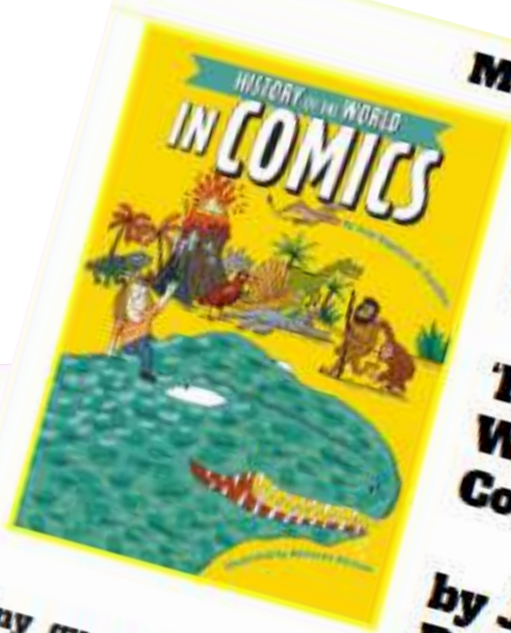
Mr. Male

The book that got me back:

'V For Vendetta'

by Alan Moore and David Lloyd

Long before the Warner Bros movie of the same name, the brilliant, anarchic mind of Alan Moore and the deft draughtsmanship of David Lloyd created this extraordinary vision of a post-apocalyptic Britain which has been transformed into a totalitarian hell. Orwell's darkest thought experiments mingle with mythological themes and biting, violence-fuelled satire to produce a unique creation, that enlarged the capabilities of the graphic novel. As a teenager, this book was my entry point for a life-long fascination of multiple genres of fiction.



Mr. Lafls

The book that got me back:

'History of the World in Comics'

by Jean Baptiste De Panafieu

Any query you might have about the evolution on Earth, including humans, will probably be answered once you hold these series of books in your hands. With plenty of minutiae for those who demand it, but broad enough for pleasurable binge reading!



Mr. Martin

The book that got me back:

'Lord of the Silver Bow'

by David Gemmell

I was a prolific reader as a child, but stopped as I got to Sixth Form and never returned. However, as an Ancient History graduate and History teacher, I've always loved historical fiction. In 2020 during the Covid lockdown, I had plenty of time on my hands. David Gemmell's trilogy on Ancient Greece (Troy) got me back into reading (I read all 3 in less than a week) and I've now made sure I give time every day to reading to help to decompress, relax and allow myself to forget about any concerns I may have at the end of a busy day.

Mrs. Harris

The book that got me back:

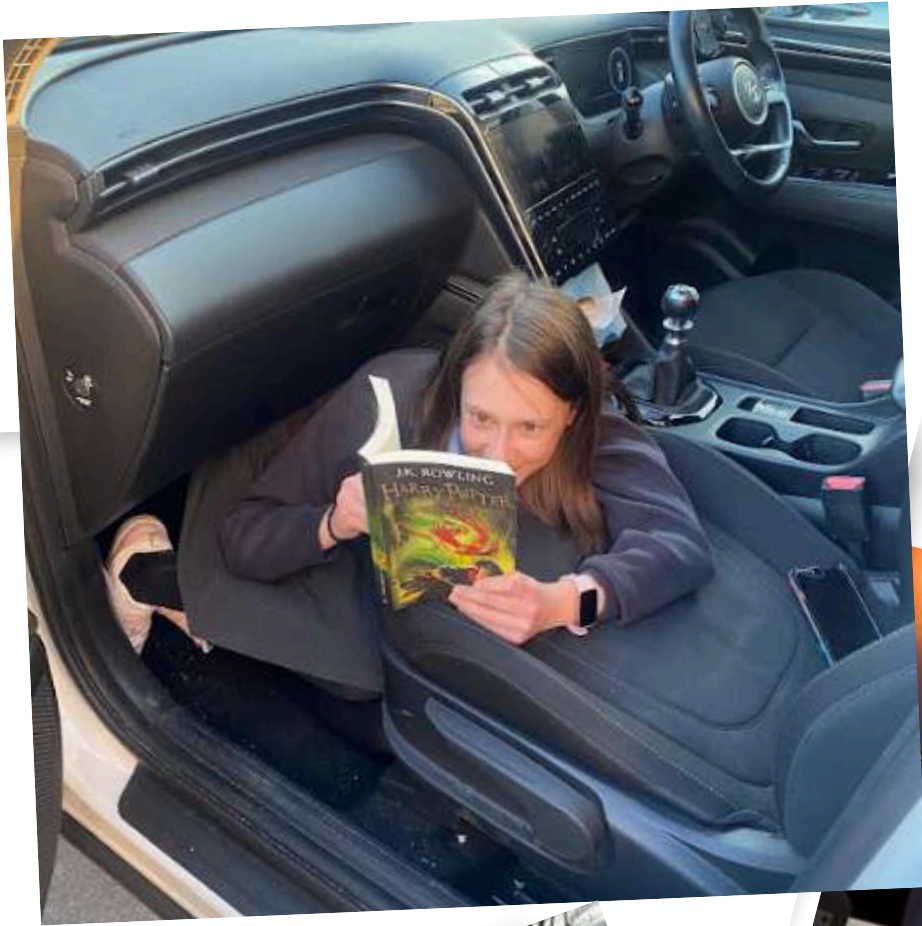
'Dracula'

by Bram Stoker

This was left on the windowsill in my classroom and I picked it up in a 'drop everything and read' event held on a World Book Day years ago. The immersive opening chapters reminded me of how much I love being transported to another world when reading but I never felt I had the time to do so. I looked into audiobooks to make sure I could at least listen to the rest of Dracula and that was a game changer for me. I am now able to 'read' every day when I'm travelling or exercising and even set up a book club to encourage my busy friends to do the same. We're currently planning a Book Club trip to Transylvania...



World Book Day: Photo Competition





Celebrating Culture Day!



-----23rd March 2026-----

Written by SEAS

Culture Day never ceases to amaze me, and this year was no different. From the parade to the group dancing, I was impressed by everyone's willingness to embrace different cultures and display their heritage. I am so proud of our school community for coming together to bring together something so wonderful!

Hundreds of students adorned their cultural attire, all from different places - reflecting the cultural diversity of the school and everyone's unique backgrounds!

The school canteen even served Jamaican food for lunch, which I personally didn't try (I was at SEAS's boba stall!) but I'm sure was enjoyed by those who did.

The real highlight of the day was the cultural parade, where over 30 countries came onto stage, waving their flags with pride while music from their countries played. The atmosphere was brimming with joy, the excitement in the crowd palpable.

Aashraya, one of the event's MCs, then presented a quiz asking everyone to guess the countries based on the pictures to present them. Though some were quite obvious, some definitely caused confusion among us!



The SEAS team (from left to right: Anshika, Aashraya, Prachi, Hailey, Ayaka, Diep Anh, Mia, Angela, Steven, Kobe)

This was swiftly followed by a cascade of astonishing performances from the various clubs in the school, including Dance Club and even a quasi-dance battle between the boys of SEAS and their girls.

But don't worry, that wasn't the end of it. Vic, the president of BEES, then asked us all to put away the chairs we sat on to join in for a traditional group dance from Bulgaria, where we all held hands and tried to skip in time to the music. I must admit, I bumped into far too many people as I tried to follow her instructions, but it was great to learn this new dance!

We then followed Mrs Martucci's moves with traditional dancing originating from Spain, and though I was flailing my arms quite a bit, at least I didn't bump into anyone!

Overall, Culture Day this year was great and I can't wait to see what 2027 has in store...



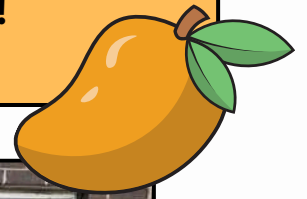
Here are some snapshots of the after-school parade - massive thanks to Jesse Oshogwe for these fabulous photos!



Of course, how can we talk about Culture Day without mentioning the success of SEAS' 'Boba Bliss' stall?

The team worked tirelessly to produce over 500 cups of bubble tea - even managing to sell out on their mango flavour!

Well done to them for their fantastic effort!



The SEAS boba stall was one of the most enjoyable parts of the event for me. I was mainly at the till taking card payments, and although it became slightly hectic at times because of the number of people trying to buy boba, it was a very smooth process overall. The stall was in high demand throughout the day, with a constant stream of customers, and it was clear that it had been a real success.

One highlight was that we even sold out of our mango fruit tea. I may have played a small part in helping choose that flavour, although the credit definitely should not go to me alone. Even so, it was satisfying to see how popular it was. While the final amount is not yet confirmed, we estimate that the stall made around £800, which reflects the strong support it received. I'd like to shout out the entire SEAS team as this wouldn't have been possible without them even for the hard preparation and the advertising we did beforehand on our TikTok and Instagram, which you should follow too!

I also helped MC the parade, which was another part of the event that I really enjoyed. It was exciting to help bring energy to the event and to see such a wide range of cultures being celebrated. Overall, it was a memorable experience and a great opportunity to contribute in more than one way.

-Aashraya Karki (Head of Operations at SEAS)

@seasbgs



**THANKS FOR
READING!**

**ENJOY YOUR
EASTER :)**