

# Open House

HBK SIXTH FORM MAGAZINE



Annie Jr

Democracy  
or Dictatorship

HBKURIOUS

Hayao  
Miyazaki

MR  
BURTON

Is satire a  
bad thing?

Spring  
24



**It's springtime!** The daffodils are out, and it is now still daylight while we are queuing to get out of the car park at the end of the day. It's time for another issue of *Open House* to blossom forth! Over the damp start to the year, the HBK journalists have kept themselves busy preparing another magazine stuffed with excellent writing for you.

This time, **Rhys Gill** looks at the series of HBKurious talks so far; there's a politics double-bill as **Ethan Stanbridge** and **Sarah Dear** take two very different approaches to global power and the coming elections. **Agatha Leach** considers the triumphs of the debating society while **Patrick Foy** digs deep in a chat with Mr Burton. With his usual ear for the cultural zeitgeist, Patrick also investigates some conspiracy theories surrounding an Australian Prime Minister who disappeared in the 1960s. He and Agatha also share joint curator credits for this issue's Art Gallery. Also, we have some lovely images of the Murder Mystery and Annie Jr shows. Meanwhile, **Mikolaj Czerwonka** continues his classic album reviews with a spin of Joy Division's excellent *Unknown Pleasures* and **Nathan Edwards** wants to have a word about movie musicals.

As well as all that, we have our usual university open day reviews, poetry, art exhibits, photos from HBK foreign trips and film recommendations. Our Desert Island Disco King this time is **Mr Hall!** He flies a plane! He drives a tank! He plays Kenny Loggins!

As always, please let us know if there is anything you would like us to cover in future issues. If you want to join the team, pop into H48 on Monday lunchtimes or contact **Mr. Lloyd** at [pl@hb�.acesmat.uk](mailto:pl@hb�.acesmat.uk)

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# Democracy or Dictatorship?

How 2024's political elections have the potential to change the future of the world.

The USA is heading towards a highly polarised campaign in November, with candidates disputing each other's 'truth'. (Spoiler: one is forgetful and the other makes it up.) And that's before we get to the potential for AI interference and misinformation. We have our own election in the pipeline, of course. **Sarah Dear** examines the polarisation of politics in 2024.

2024 is the biggest election year in history, with more than 60 countries representing half the world's population going to the polls in 2024. With an estimated 2-4 billion people voting, representing eight of the ten most populous countries, it is clear

by the tightly controlled elections in North Korea. In fact, political commentator Bryan Walsh anecdotally referred to their choice as, "going to the polls in the same way that my son has a choice between "cereal" and "cereal" for breakfast."

Will Taiwan's election shift the geopolitics of the tense South China region? Will Mexico's election result in their first female president? And will the US presidential election be a repeat of the 2020 one whereby Joe Biden and Donald Trump simply square off against each other? While these questions appear to answer isolated countries' queries, the interdependence of the world ensures



that the repercussions of the 2024 elections will be felt globally - irrelevant of whether countries are actually voting.

The map above highlights all countries that will undertake elections in 2024. These elections include polls that will be democratic and above-board juxtaposed

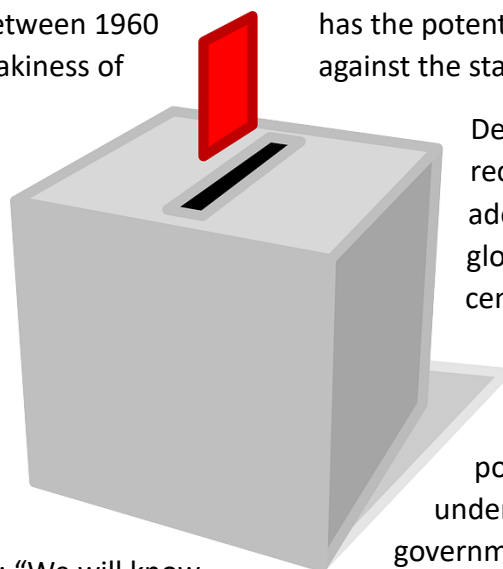
that these elections will be felt globally. Further, the divisive propaganda aimed to gain votes risk inflaming political violence against minority groups. This is often worsened through the tightly controlled elections in the so-called 'People's Republics' of China and North Korea.

These 2024 elections, appear almost like a democracy paradox as, while more people will be performing the most fundamental act of democracy- voting, in fact democracy appears to be at its most vulnerable. The University of Essex and University of Montreal have researched that the percentage of citizens that voted in elections fell by 10% between 1960 and 2010. Further, the shakiness of global democracy is seen through the failure of attracting younger voters and the increasing number of populist politicians leading to the rise of extreme right-wing parties. As the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and investigative journalist Maria Ressa recently said: “We will know whether democracy lives or dies by the end of 2024.”

The chronic lack of public engagement in democratic countries coupled with the absence of choice in the undemocratic countries show that democracy is facing a slow death.

As such, 2021 marked the fifteenth consecutive year of a deepening ‘democratic recession’, as Larry Diamond, Mosbacher Senior Fellow in Global Democracy at FSI commented. It is clear that the global reputation of democracy has been weakened, following the spread of beliefs that democracies are corrupt, worn-out, and lacking in confidence. In fact, it may be argued that this has led to a rise in populist challenges to democracy, which in turn has increased the percentage of voters for more extremist ideologies. In light of the recent global

events, it is easy to acknowledge how the fragile state of our world may lead to increasing votes for the extreme parties which promise ‘a solution to our problems.’ Further, the increasing intolerance of traditional governments’ systems by young people, fuelled by climate change and an uncertain future has the potential to increase the votes against the status quo.



Despite this, it is imperative to recognise the relative adolescence of democracy as a global political system. For centuries, our world has been ruled by monarchs, supreme leaders, and emperors where any political activism was banned under the authoritarian style of government. Indeed, some countries face democratic elections for the first time in the upcoming year. Therefore, it is important to recognise that we cannot forecast the death of democracy before it has had the chance to work globally without reservations.

So, Democracy or Dictatorship? It would be impossible to write a clear answer to that, but indeed it is clear that these upcoming elections have the potential to leave the world in a drastically different place to where it was.

**If you haven't done so yet, please resister to vote if you are eligible. Make sure you have the appropriate photo ID when you arrive at a polling booth.**

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# Don't Laugh – You'll Only Encourage Them

**There is a long history of laughing at those in power. Mocking a despot, rather than dissenting, is probably a safer way of keeping your head! And the contempt might just be more effective. The Roman poet Juvenal famously claimed that 'skilled satire cuts sharper than a knife.' However, does satirising the powerful actually change anything? Ethan Stanbridge asks some big questions.**

Political satire has been a staple part of politics for centuries. Examples date as far back as 2,400 years ago, when Aristophanes, a Greek comedy writer, made fun of Athenian leaders. In the present day, satire has become far more accessible, with politicians now particularly under a spotlight as a result of the internet.

The internet has had a dramatic impact on the world of politics, as people from all over the world can access the news, and new outlets for political commentary have formed. In the UK, there are impartiality rules that restrict what can be broadcast on radio and television,

subsequently placing limits on the spread of political satire.

However, for websites such as YouTube and X, no such restrictions exist, which has led to a wealth of shared memes and comic re-edits of political speeches. However, in recent years, some “left-field” choices of political candidates have achieved levels of political power often by deliberately presenting themselves as open to mockery.

In some cases, political satire can have an impactful, negative effect on the careers of politicians, a particular example being



Ed Milliband. In 2014, in the run up to the 2015 general election, Milliband, the leader of the Labour Party at the time, was pictured awkwardly eating a bacon sandwich. This reinforced the previously existing perception of Milliband, as someone who was unable to complete everyday tasks and is therefore not suitable to be Prime Minister. Although this was not necessarily the main factor in Labour losing the election, it had a negative effect on Labour's campaign.

In another case, Theresa May's reign as Prime Minister came under fire less for her performance, but rather the personality that the media had painted she had. She was described to be robotic, with a video of her dancing like a robot, leading to the nickname "Maybot" being stuck on her.

However, political satire is often used as an outlet for the general population during times of sub-par governance, to brighten the mood or feel that the mockery *in itself* is an achievement<sup>1</sup>. The side-effect of this, is that the politicians in power are merely laughed at, as opposed to being held accountable. Politicians such as Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson were greatly aided by this, being heavily satirised while successfully campaigning for Brexit. Farage is currently being viewed as a potential future Conservative leader (following a self-mocking but lucrative stint on *I'm a Celebrity...*).

Seeming able to take the joke helps: Boris Johnson's career was in part kick-started by appearing on *Have I Got News for You*, which aided his climb from a lowly backbencher to Mayor of London.

Despite derogatory comments about minority groups such as Muslims and women and other scandals that would have killed most political careers, Johnson was able to become Prime Minister of the UK, winning the general election in 2019. Johnson's "serious" side was largely overshadowed by his media persona, which described him as an unserious politician.

Social media also helped his rise, with clips of him bowling over children while playing rugby and comically going down a zipline. Subsequently, when criticisms are made against Johnson, he is able to "hide" away from it, under this clown-like guise.

Overall, political satire can be used as an escape away from politics, especially during scandals, to "soften the blow" of lack of legitimacy. However, it can often fail to hold politicians to account, running narratives on people as opposed to scaling and scrutinising their performance.



Images by **Ditzy Faith**

<sup>1</sup> This phenomenon is called **carnivalism**. Ed.



# HBKuriousity Echoes Through the House in a Series of Riveting Talks

The HBKurious lunchtime talks have made a great start since their introduction last term. **Rhys Gill** talks us through some of the highlights so far.

In a cascade of thought-provoking discussions, the 6th Form has been buzzing with excitement as prominent speakers graced the House, delving into diverse fields and captivating the minds of eager students. The series of talks began in November 2023, and appear to be a momentous success. The hit of HBKurious has us all enthralled in a world of new opportunities, offering a spectrum of insights on law, art, politics, and American history.

## **November 8, 2023: Mrs. Rix LLB - Navigating the Juridical Realm**

Kicking off the captivating series, Mrs. Rix shared her profound insights on pursuing a degree and carving a career in law. The lecture hall echoed with ambition as students absorbed wisdom on the



**Mrs V Rix, LLB - Head of Hinchingsbrook Sixth Form, Teacher of Criminology**  
**First Steps Into Law 01-Nov**  
**Selena Scott - artist, Being a young artist in Cambridge/ her experience with**  
**Cambridge Playlaws 15-Nov**  
**Dr Pierre Bocquillon-Lecturer in EU Politics and Policy**  
**'Why are politicians incapable of fixing the climate?' 29-Nov**  
**Dr Emma Long, Associate Professor in American History and Politics at UEA**  
**"Is the US Supreme Court really political? And does it matter?" 17-Jan**

**Dr Maria Serban-Lecturer in Philosophy**  
**"The philosophy and ethics of AI" 14-Feb**  
**Dr Juvaria Jafri - Lecturer in International Relations**  
**The state of our economy 28-Feb**  
**Anelli Lombard - Creative Subject Leader, Art**  
**"What is visual language? And why it matters to us all" 13-Mar**  
**Sarah Dearnaley - Head of Social Social Sciences**  
**"The Anthropology of Death" 22-May**

intricacies of the legal landscape, the challenges, and the rewards of a profession that stands at the crossroads of justice. It would be an understatement to say that all want Mrs Rix to return to the lecture hall and continue to inspire the next generation of legal practitioners.

## **November 15, 2023: Selina Scott - Artistry Unleashed in 'Cambridge Black History'**

The creative vibes continued to resonate on November 15th when Selina Scott, a

published young artist from Cambridge, captivated the audience. Known for her work and authorship of 'Cambridge Black History', Scott's talk illuminated the intersection between art and culture, leaving students inspired to explore their creative potential and the rich tapestry of ethnic history. Filling in the forgotten timeline of local history, Selina presented that Cambridge is more than just its university.



**November 29, 2023: Dr. Pierre Bocquillon  
- Unmasking Climate Inaction in Politics**

In a thought-provoking session, Dr. Pierre Bocquillon, a lecturer in Politics at the University of East Anglia, dissected the pressing question: 'Why are politicians incapable of fixing the climate?' The lecture hall turned into a hub of critical discourse as students grappled with the complex dynamics of politics and environmental responsibility.

**January 17, 2024: Dr. Emma Long -  
Unveiling the Political Threads of the US  
Supreme Court**

Here, Dr. Emma Long, Associate Professor in American History and Politics,

unravelling the mysteries surrounding the US Supreme Court. Her talk, 'Is the US Supreme Court really political? And does it matter?' ignited discussions on the role of the judiciary in shaping the American political landscape.

These talks have not only broadened the intellectual horizons of 6th Form students but have also sparked conversations that reverberate through the corridors. The diverse range of speakers and topics has reinforced the commitment of HBK to provide students with a holistic education that goes beyond textbooks and classroom walls. As the echoes of these discussions linger, the House eagerly awaits the next chapter of enlightenment that awaits them within the hallowed halls of academia.



# University Open Days Reviewed:

## Edinburgh - Rain and the Royal Mile

## Warwick – Feeling Right at Home

It's a fair old distance from Huntingdon, which may be a plus or a minus, depending on what you're after from the next stage of your education.

**Stella Leach** takes us on a whirlwind tour of the beautiful city of Edinburgh and the university.

With historical roots dating to the 7<sup>th</sup> century; winding streets peppered with bars and cafés; dramatic mountains such as the famous Arthur's Seat; and notable alumni like Darwin and Arthur Conan Doyle, Edinburgh University is certainly an appealing place to study. Trekking up the hill through the Old Town- an area supposedly haunted by many medieval ghosts- was a magical experience. It's easy to see how the city inspired J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books.

Despite the impressive views, a word of warning - if you aren't a fan of the rain and the cold, Edinburgh probably isn't for you, unless you remember to take an umbrella and wear (at least) six layers!

The student life in this dynamic city was definitely one of my favourite parts of the open day, I could easily see myself living there - something you should feel about the unis you're considering applying to.



Edinburgh provides both the nightlife and the enriching natural environment- you can spend a morning hiking (known as

'Munro bagging' in Scotland) in the Scottish Highlands, an afternoon in Leith by the sea, and an evening in one of the many cosy pubs scattered about the Old Town.

Don't forget the food- there's a huge number of options, from Indian, Japanese, Italian, and of course the great Scottish cuisine with

delicacies such as the deep-fried Mars Bar.

But what about the course itself? In my case, I applied to Edinburgh for the amazing English and Scottish Literature BA, which offers a multitude of modules and high standard of teaching- evident in the literary nature of the

city and the writers it has produced; RL Stevenson, David Hume, Robert Burns, Muriel Spark. The Writer's Museum- just off the Royal Mile- is a

celebration of these writers and others, with free entry too. Edinburgh is a city of museums, many showcasing art and literature; as a student these are great places to visit for free and to escape the rain.



For those wanting to pursue more scientific or mathematical degrees, Edinburgh Uni can also provide, with its respected and high-level undergraduate BSc courses and newly built mathematics building. For me, the English taster lecture was interesting as well as useful, detailing the course and the Scottish system of an undergraduate degree- wherein the course is an extra year longer. What did put me off a bit was the knowledge that Scottish students don't have to pay any fees at all for the same course that I would

have to pay the usual £9250 a year for. This lack of tuition fees then in turn affects the costs of student accommodation - which is far more expensive than I had expected: the single rooms we visited were £8311 per annum, with the only real option to pay less rent being to share a twin room with someone. This, combined with the significant distance of Edinburgh from my family and friends, is sadly the predominant reason I haven't chosen this uni as either my 'Firm' or 'Insurance' choice.

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**Less far away (and admittedly less scenic), Ethan Stanbridge sings the praises of Warwick University**

I went to the University of Warwick open day back in June of last year, attending talks on Economics and MORSE (Maths, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics). As a result of going to this open day, I decided to apply to Warwick, to read MORSE.

The University of Warwick is ranked top 10 in the country and is a campus university. While many are put off by this fact, I was drawn to Warwick because of this, as it gives a strong sense of community and gives an almost homely feel.

While the buildings on the campus aren't pretty, there is a good amount of greenery in the area.

There is a lot of emphasis put on diversity at Warwick, with the university making it clear that they are a modern institution, 56% of their students are an ethnic minority and 50% of their students are

international. In comparison to other top universities, it is relatively tolerant, as Russell Group universities are often perceived to be outdated institutions.

I attended two subject specific talks, on Economics and MORSE. As someone who was very conflicted on what to study, these were very helpful, as I realised that I was more interested in doing a course that was Maths based. However, their

Economics course is excellent, and I would definitely recommend it.

The other talks elsewhere I went to were informative, but ultimately repetitive. I felt like there was a lot of droning on about "how

great the university is," with empty statistics, rather than giving specific examples on how the university is.

Overall, I would definitely recommend the University of Warwick. Their standards are high, and they seek to not only educate you, but also prepare you for life after university, something they pride themselves on.

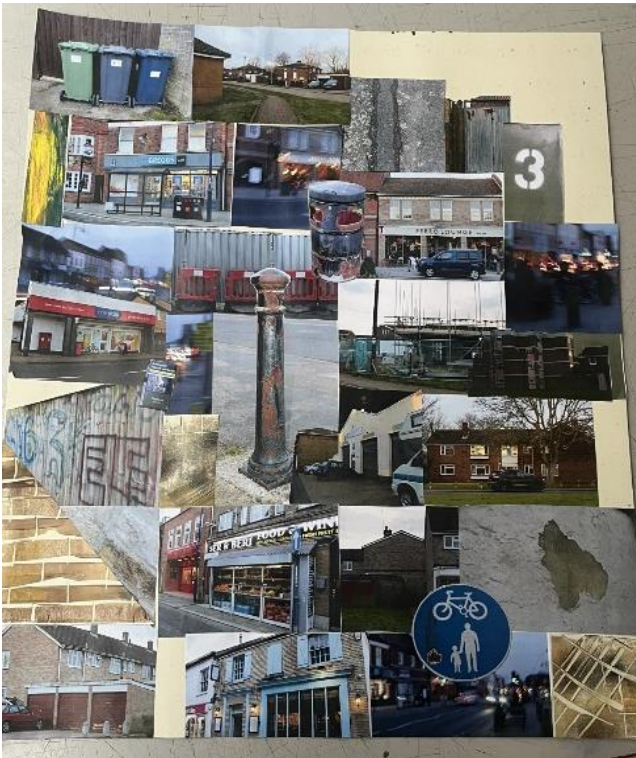


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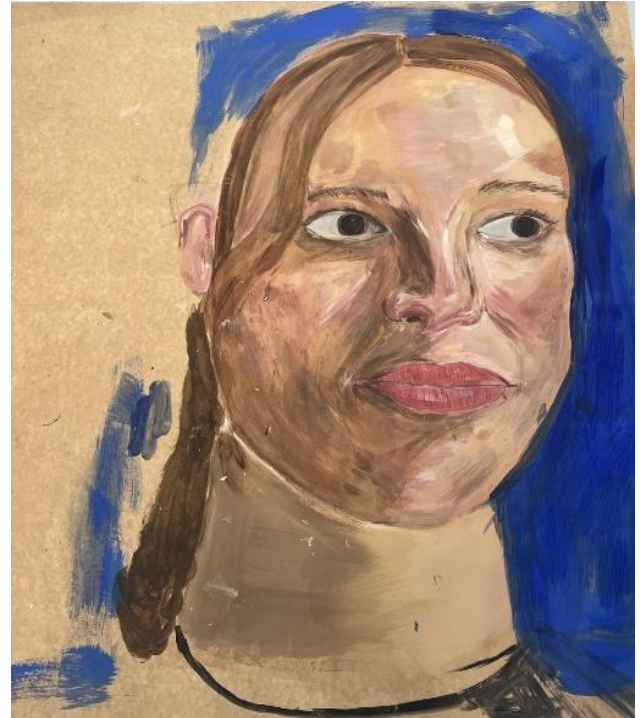
## Art Gallery

Curated by **Patrick Foy**

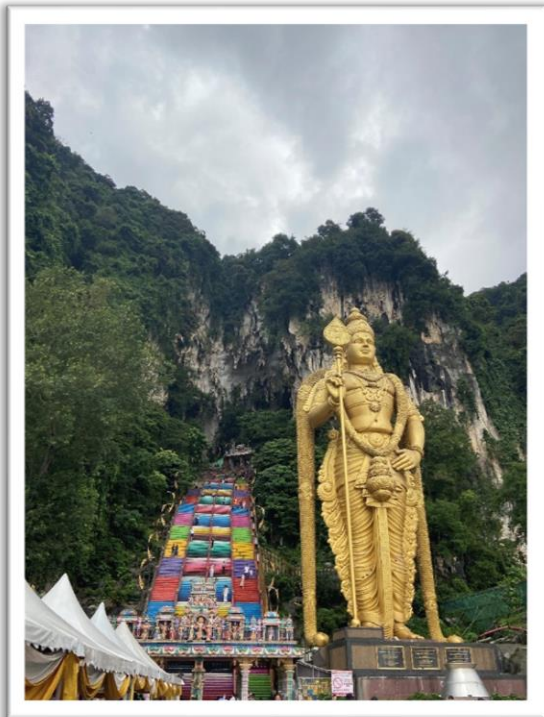


Portrait and Photography

By **Pippa Lomas**



## The View From Malaysia



Photos of the HBK trip to Malaysia,  
October 2023 by **Maddie Graton**





## Art Gallery

Curated by **Patrick Foy**

3D Model: 'The Flame to  
My Resentment'

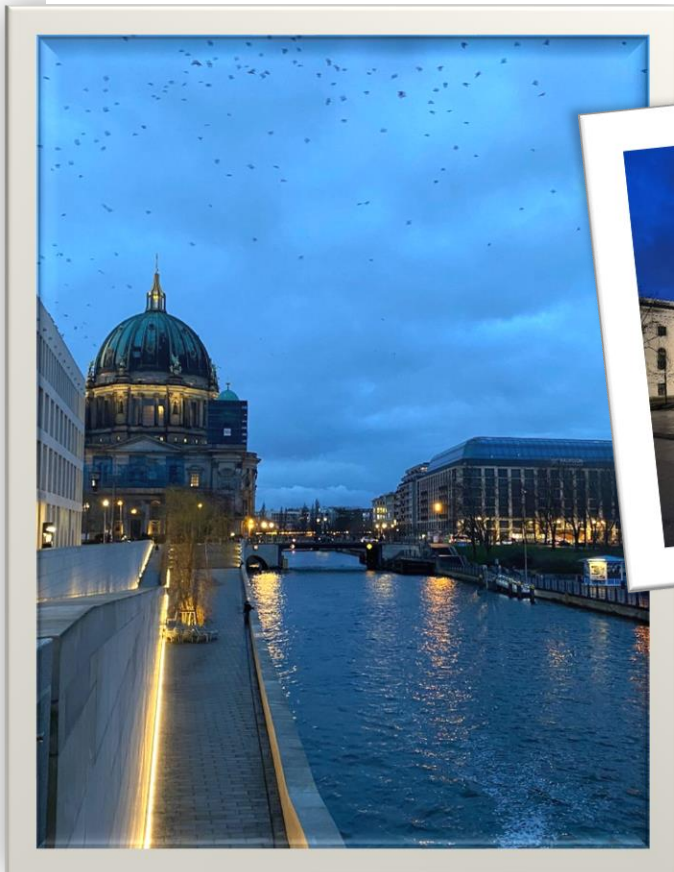
By **Connie Nutter**

Let us know if you have any  
art, design or photography to  
share in future issues of Open  
House



## The View From Berlin

Photos of the HBK trip to Berlin,  
February 2024 by **Sarah Dear**





## A (Casual) Music Talk

### *Unknown Pleasures* by Joy Division

(Factory, 1979)

Joy Division's 1979 studio album *Unknown Pleasures* was one that shook the masses in how alien it was. Its shock came from how different it was to anything before, and even after. The bass driven melodies create this dark feeling to the songs. Even the opener, "Disorder", which has a high bpm of 175, has a gloomy aesthetic.

Ian Curtis's singing performance is extremely bleak and juxtaposes the often soul crushing, precept-like lines he delivers. On "Insight", Curtis says "I've lost the will to want more", however he says it in this monotone, un-expressive way, only dragging the last parts of his sentences. The guitar on the album takes an extremely simplistic approach, though that does not discredit its genius.

Clear inspiration can be pinpointed to prior punk bands like the Sex Pistols<sup>2</sup>, but it isn't a complete steal; whilst they had provided a stereotypically more punk sound, Joy Division give a much more dry, gothic sound.

However, aside from how the album sounds, its poetic aspects are still haunting to this day. Ian Curtis killed himself less than a year after the album's release and glaring warning signs of this can be seen through the lyrics. They appear hopeless, defeated. Even the album cover alludes to the idea of death as we see the wavelengths of a dying star,

possibly alluding to his death soon after. Possibly this was an intentional warning, maybe a subconscious plea for help; either way you can't help but feel the dark feeling that surrounds these tracks.

But this album isn't just constrained by its time period, its influence spread throughout the time, not only in the punk genre but all throughout. Bands like "Interpol" are directly influenced by Joy Division and other bands have tried to dabble in the Joy Division sound, such as Talking Heads on "The Overload", directly ripping off the dark, bass driven melody<sup>3</sup>. But the album's influence branches further than its musical roots, and it is cemented in pop culture. The iconic album cover can be seen on t-shirts across the globe, even if the person wearing it doesn't know its actual origin.

It's referenced in movies too. Granted, *Candyman* isn't a cinematic masterpiece, but the band is referenced in it. It is referenced in music that isn't even inspired by the band, like the song "Let's Dance to Joy Division". Overall, *Unknown Pleasures* is more than just an album to experience, it's the start of a new sound, a poetic marvel, a cultural must-have experience and a post-punk gothic masterpiece. This is an album everyone's heard snippets of, but everyone should give it the time and full experience it as it was intended.

If you are struggling with depression and negative thoughts, please speak to someone, including your tutor, SSO or HoY. Stay safe in a crisis.

<sup>2</sup> And the great Krautrock bands such as Faust and Neu! Ed.

<sup>3</sup> A future review of Talking Heads' *Remain in Light* would get my vote. Ed.

# Murder!

No, it wasn't Miss Scarlet in the billiard room with the rope. Images from the Drama department's brilliant murder mystery in January 2024. Many thanks to **Mr Till**



Clockwise from top left: **Tommy Sadler** on the case; **Magda Zajac**; **Charlotte Simmons** acting innocent; Tommy and **Layla Hobson** in rehearsal; **Tilly Mitchell** dares you to accuse her; a detective with an audience; the gardener under interrogation; everyone protests their innocence; What's a little murder between friends?'. Centre above: **Ivia Pigg** welcomes you to the library; centre below: whodunnit then?



# Science SOS!

**Patrick Foy** on the hunt for volunteers to spread the joys of student-led scientific learning.

If you are a STEM-oriented student, then you need to jump on the SOS wagon. The Science Outreach Society is a fantastic opportunity, not just for your CV, but for those that want to inspire the next generation of science-curious students.

The team is headed by **Mr Petit** and **Miss Spyrides**, two greatly experienced teachers, and consists of sixth-form students who are willing to give up a portion of their time to venture out to local primary schools and lead exciting experiments. These practicals are thought out by the team to be engaging, thought-provoking and, of course, entertaining for the students.

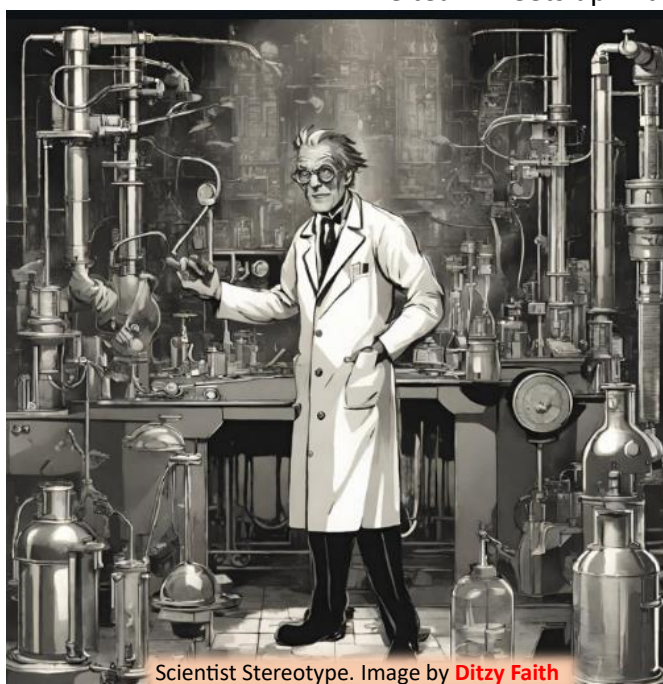
Our latest event was at Cromwell Academy, where we performed a dissection of flowers and oranges. I was able to witness first-hand the passion that many of the students had for science and experiments. The main point of the practical was in understanding the difference between cells, tissues and organs, which I can say they [the students] understood remarkably well. Whilst cleaning up the sticky, orange-doused tables, we all spoke

about how amazing it was to feel like you are inspiring the next generation of scientists.

We are hoping to produce an excellent science-based evening in the PAC that multiple students from local schools can come and participate in. We'll conduct multiple brilliant practicals for everybody to enjoy, spanning across multiple topics from physics, chemistry and biology.

I truly love these events because I remember the same sort of visits from my primary years, and how the amazing displays used to inspire me to start thinking about science and maths. So, it's truly a great feeling that I've now become the one to begin the students' scientific journey.

The team meets up in the science



Scientist Stereotype. Image by **Ditzy Faith**

department almost every Thursday after school, often in the computer room, to brainstorm about our next practicals and the topics we think the students would be most open to and enjoy the most. So, if this has piqued your interest, I implore you to

come down. We are a supportive group of scientists so any ideas will be welcome.



# A Term of Verbal Jousting

**A healthy debate doesn't have to descend to a political slanging matches and death threats on X (formerly Twitter). Nor does anyone really win an argument with 'alternate facts' and shouting an opponent down (soz, Mr Trump). Instead, it's lovely to hear a civil exchange of words and good linguistic skill can be exhilarating – you don't even have to agree! Let us reclaim the lost art of the rhetorical flourish. Words by Agatha Leach.**

A large variety of motions were introduced and torn apart in debate enrichment and the lunchtime society in the first term of year 12. It stretched from contentious social issues such as 'legalise class B and C drugs' to comedy debates such as 'festive characters should be banned' (not for the faint-hearted - side opposition mercilessly condemned Father Christmas and the Easter Bunny).

Our first debate, 'Queen Elizabeth the second should have been the last monarch' was fought eloquently on both sides, drawing on evidence from the year 925 A.D with Aethelstan the Unready and ending with an emotive speech about Maggie Thatcher. Overall, side opposition took the win, but it set the stage for the competitive spirit that would ensue.

'Men are better than women' was quite a tough second debate, with the women in the class fighting for the statement and the men against it. Lots of religious arguments were brought in, some agricultural metaphors and a few

interjections by Ms Spikesley to get us back on track- (I think it was a monologue about sperm that did it). Ultimately, the women were declared victorious, but a comedy debate seemed needed for the following week.

We then had the first meeting of our debate society, Tuesday lunchtime in room 5, commencing with a civilised argument over the abolition of the House of Lords. As the term progressed and our numbers grew, debates fluctuated between legalising public nudity, banning AI and ending with introduction of the Purge (all argued with great maturity).

Back in enrichment we had our first comedy debate over banning festive characters, in which we all became aware of Father Christmas's evil counterpart- 'Krampus' (who beats naughty children with plants and sticks), the price of teeth on the black market (a whopping \$75!) and a possible slave-labour argument involving Santa's Elves. Sadly, for those who enjoy festive seasons, it was concluded that Father Christmas, the Tooth Fairy and Easter Bunny are menaces to society<sup>4</sup>.

In the penultimate debate side proposition toiled to legalise Class B and C drugs, emphasising all the songs and books composed whilst under the influence, the probable health benefits seen in the life expectancy of Rastafarians and referencing the damning nature of the prohibition. Side opposition countered with a passionate argument about

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<sup>4</sup> Straight to the naughty list, then.

overdose, drug tourism and the gateway effect - just managing to win the debate.

Our final debate of the term tackled 'legalising prostitution', which had fierce rebuttals, emotive speeches from both sides, a huge amount of sideways chunking and a range of language (from 'pimp' to ostracization). We had definitely improved since the shaky-hand and wobbly-voiced debates of the start of the term.

Conclusively, this first term has been a brilliant test of rhetoric and I have thoroughly enjoyed the heated verbal jousting. A huge thanks to Ms Spikesley for bestowing her vast knowledge onto us, despite our partiality for 'P.O.I.' rather than 'Point of information'! Next term we begin with 'New Years resolutions are futile' - would you argue for or against?

## The View From Paris

Photos of the HBK trip to Paris, February 2024 by **Jake Usher** and **Patrick Foy**



# SSO Profile: Mr Burton

**Mr Burton** recently had two weeks off on paternity leave. Leaving aside any comparisons to the needs of a new-born and year 12, **Patrick Foy** takes the time (and a photo) to reflect on his importance to the sixth form.

Mr Burton is plainly good at his job. Every time I've gone to him with a problem, looking for advice or simply just to tell him how my days have been going, he's provided nothing but positivity and excellent guidance. Now, you don't have to take it from just me, as every teacher I had spoken to leading up to writing this piece have said the exact same thing about him. I was given the golden opportunity to interview him and to discover his exact opinions on our year group, his own personal time in education and how his life experiences have influenced his ability to tackle his job of looking after an entire year group.

First -quite tragically- Mr Burton is a Longsands alumnus. A fact I try hard not to judge him for. Yet, this did not stop him from summarizing his time there, as solely "brilliant". He revealed to me that one of his fondest memories came from one of the worst incidents he'd been involved with: smashing a lunch hall window by pushing a friend through it. An act which

was met by a thunderous round of applause by his peers which Mr B admitted to basking in before fleeing to the janitor's closet for safe asylum.

Longsands was also the place where he captured his love for history, which prompted him to pick it up for A-level. He credits this love to his teacher Mr Owens, an individual we'll come back to. Sir not only loves history but the people surrounding it, especially at Hinchbrook. He told me he holds the History department in high esteem, in particular Mr Ragdale and Mr Wheeley, as they allowed him to participate in a fantastic trip to the battlefields.



As well as history, Mr Burton picked up economics, politics and business. Now these subjects to me (a very STEM-based person) sound gruelling and Sir

agreed with my dislike, but for more personal reasons. He believed that the selection "wasn't the right fit" as they were based around his elder brother's skills and not his own. A sense of having to live up to expectation was something I could empathize with, as I know many others will too. This led to Sir focusing less and less on his subjects and more on the



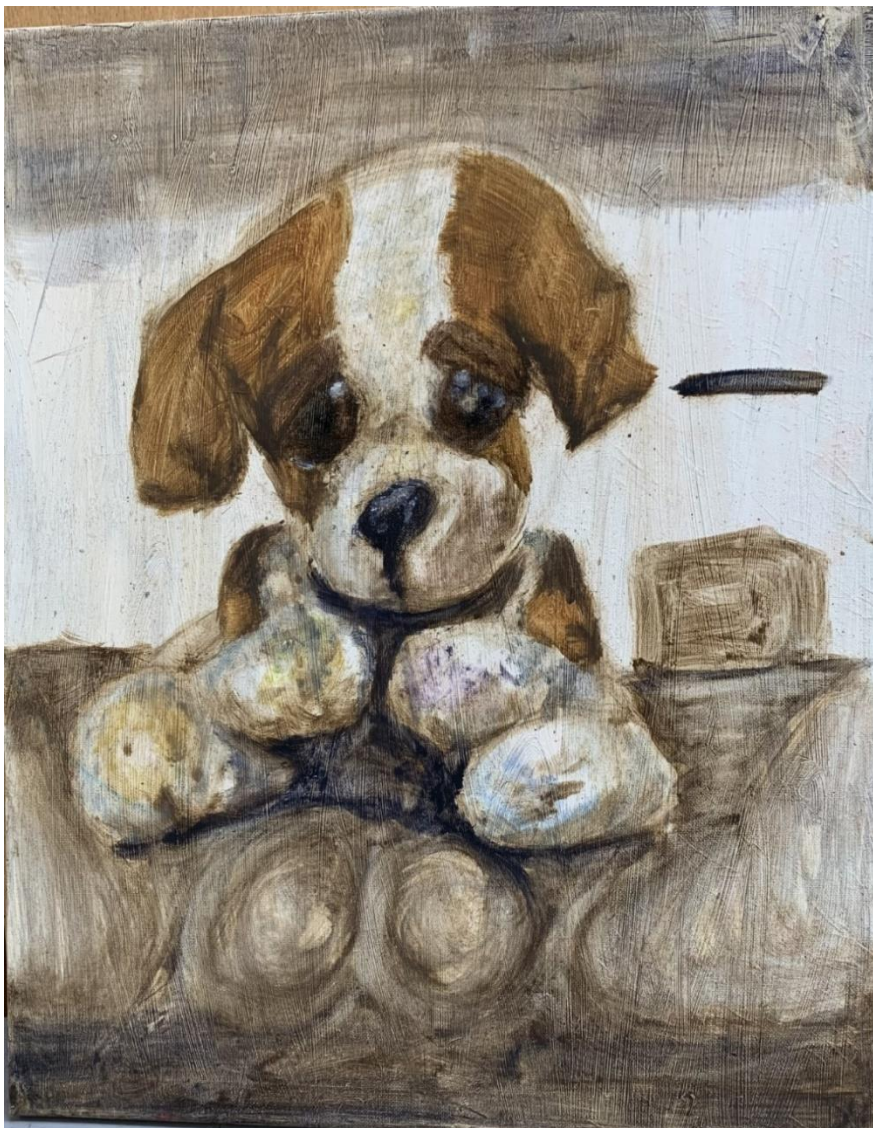
job he'd picked up at Waitrose. All of this accumulated into Sir achieving grades that he wished were better.

Now, I have already alluded to Mr Owen and his ability to entrance Mr Burton as a student in the past-world of history, but this guy was a model for our SSO, especially with how he approaches his job. Mr Owen, in Sir's own words, was a "Direct, no-nonsense individual who was still able to have fun and respected you with a level that was uncommon for most teachers". Not only does Mr Burton credit his love for history to Owen, but also his worst school memory of being screamed out by his history teacher for bunking off

an important business exam. Sir praised Owen's way of dealing with teaching and students and how it created a great learning environment. Sir takes inspiration from his former teacher in this regard, trying to make school for everybody light-hearted and relaxed.

Lastly, Mr Burton wanted to congratulate all of us with how well we've taken to sixth-form life. He believes we're much more responsible and work-conscious than previous years he has heralded. Though if there's one thing he'd wish we'd work on it would be to remember our damn lanyards.

PTO for more on Mr Burton!



## Art Gallery

Curated by

**Agatha Leach**

**'Percy'**

by

**Connie Nutter**

# Get to Know Mr Burton!

Here's even more on Mr B, plus **Mrs Black** too! **By Pippa Lomas**

This week I interviewed Mr Burton, year 12s SSO. After returning from his paternity leave, this felt like the perfect time to catch up and get to know Mr Burton.

## Where did you grow up?

- In St Neots, and I attended Longsands secondary school.

## Hobbies?

- Playing golf and watching football.

## Favourites:

- **Film:** *The Great Escape*
- **Tv Show:** *Only Fools and Horses*
- **Song:** Mr Burton chose his wedding song 'The Sound' by The 1975
- **Food:** Love a roast dinner - specifically with roast beef
- **Drink:** Dr Pepper
- **Takeaway:** Indian
- **Item from Jo's Cafe:** Hashbrown bites

**One thing on your bucket list:** See Tottenham win the premier league but I don't think that'll ever happen.

**Best Memory:** Going travelling to Australia, Wedding day and my baby being born.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**  
Living in Australia

## Previous Jobs:

- Cover teacher at Ernulf
- Manager at Waitrose
- Civil Engineer and, for anyone who like me doesn't know what that entails, Mr Burton summed it up as "building roads and that"

**Biggest Achievement:** Becoming a dad which goes hand in hand with his highlight of the week, which was his baby being born.

**To finish off I asked Mr Burton to give a message to everybody**

"School years are the best years of your life ... do not waste them!"

**Cats or Dogs:** Dogs

**Crisps or Chocolate:** Both, I think cool original Doritos and a plain bar of Dairy Milk are equally as good as each other.

**Best concert you've ever been to:**  
I've only ever been to one; it was The 1975. I'm not that bothered for music.

**Biggest fear:** Heights and glass floors.





# Get to Know: Mrs Black

**Where did you grow up?** The capital of the Fens, Wisbech!

**Hobbies?** When you have children, you tend to do their hobbies, so my hobbies have become watching cricket, football and swimming. However, I still like to go out with friends, and do wine tasting and nice dinners.

**Favourites:**

- **Film:** *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* and *The Wedding Planner*
- **Tv Show:** *Downton Abbey*, *Bridgerton* and *Queen Charlotte* - any kind of period drama
- **Song:** When she was little it was anything from Kylie Minogue and 'Time to say Goodbye' by Andrea Boncelli, her wedding song
- **Food:** Spicy food, an Indian takeaway, specifically a chicken tikka biryani
- **Drink:** used to be red wine but after covid it's become white wine or champagne.
- **Takeaway:** Indian
- **Item from Jo's Cafe:** Sausage roll

want to do is climb some glaciers in New Zealand.

**Best Memory:** Wedding day

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

Still teaching hopefully still in a sixth form environment. I'd like me and the family to be happy and I hope to still love teaching.

**Previous jobs:**

- Teaching has been my only ever full time job
- Shoe shop assistant
- Factory worker for an electrical company
- Worked in the fraud department as an admin assistant at the DWP.

**Biggest Achievement:** Graduating from the University of Cambridge

**A message to everybody:** "You are the best year group I've ever had and have the potential to smash academic records. Keep being as kind and as engaged in your sixth form experience and keep having fun."

**Cats or Dogs:** Cats!

**Crisps or Chocolate:** Crisps

**Best Concert you've ever been to:**

Enrique Iglesias when he brought out Pitbull

**Biggest Fear:** Rats, I hate them! Flying too.

**One thing on your bucket list:** So many things to choose from! What I'd really



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**Annie Jr. February 2024. Another fantastic triumph from the Drama Department, technical crew and all the students involved!**







Top left: **Francesca Howie**

Below left: **Hugo Fletcher, Josie Kay** and **Ivia Pigg**

Above and right: the whole cast and dancers

Below: **Tommy Sadler** and **Francesca Howie**





## The Hills are Alive with the Sound of... Er...?

Why are musicals not being marketed as Musicals? **Nathan Edwards** ponders an odd marketing strategy you might have noticed.

What is a film musical? Surely a film with music and dance numbers; a film that expands itself outside of the norms of reality, a factor that should be embraced. Many other films exhibit this factor such as *The Matrix*; I mean watching Keanu switch between a real world and a fantasised one being transmitted into your brain waves via technology is not exactly realistic, so why is this movie critically acclaimed and beloved but musicals are more outwardly hated?

I'm sure people have heard about and watched the trailer for films such as *Wonka* and the *Mean Girls* remake but by watching said trailers did you ever notice a hint of musicality? No, you didn't. It is probably known by audiences now that these films are, in fact, musicals, but why leave that as a surprise? Why not embrace this through trailers and marketing? I for one had no idea that *Wonka* was a musical until I saw the album on Spotify! However, the *Mean Girls* trailer had had a hint of the film's genre as a musical in the singing

that Regina George did (albeit very little). A hint?

Why do this? The short answer is that many people generally do not like musicals and so the PR teams diminish (or entirely take away) this aspect in order to reel in audiences for showings of these films. Enjoying different genres is not something to be mad at but the fact that the open hate is ruining it for the people who do enjoy these films for things such as the trailers is.

The main question here is, why do people hate musicals so much? Most people may simply not enjoy the story being told through characters breaking out into song, but more



Image by **Ditzy Faith**

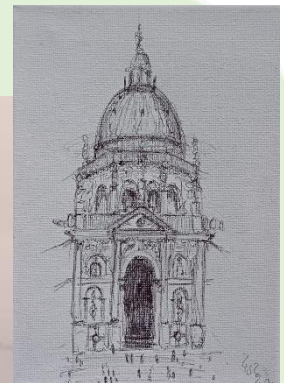
people believe there is no realism in this aspect (as said before, does any film have this realism?) Maybe some people have had musicals ruined for them by gender and sexuality expectations in society, as it has been subtly shown that women must appreciate musicals and if any man shows an interest in this field, then said man would either lose his masculinity or be seen as 'gay' (why is being gay such a bad thing?<sup>5</sup>).

<sup>5</sup> For absolute removal of all doubt: it's not.

Possibly, musicals have “ruined” a pre-existing film/book for many already as they believe this has warped the story or even added more to it than it should have done, such as *Heathers*. Maybe adding music to a cult classic thriller may be seen as an insult to the original message. What about *Beetlejuice* adding irrelevant background stories to the characters, such as making Lydia’s mother her stepmother and giving a reason to Lydia’s oddness/gothness?

All of these reasons to hate musicals are completely valid (although as a society we

should break away from the ideas of forcing a person's interests to match their gender/sexuality and realism can be in the eye of the beholder, but how far is this a valid reason to outwardly criticise musicals?) However, this shouldn’t be a reason for the marketing of new films to be withholding of information about said film. Surely, having a loyal fanbase and making money because it is a good film is enough for the creators; why go to these lengths to make a quick profit? Just be honest about what you’ve made and take the consequences of it with you.



## Capitol Hill and Other Buildings

by

**Giamaria Yazigi**



# HBK Desert Island Disco

It looks like the Science Department are starting to emerge as the most enthusiastic residents of our fantasy beach rave. This time, **Mr Hall** gets ready to throw some disco shapes (possibly dressed as a sumo) and share some memories. He also provides the pictures.

When Mr Pinder said that he had nominated me for Desert Island Disco, I thought this will be easy. Well it has been 6 weeks now and I am still pondering if I have my final 6 down! As someone who has dabbled with playing a bit of music in bands over the years, it's hard to pinpoint songs. So, I have decided to narrow my choices down to summarise significant events and songs that represent those.

My first song is ***Dancing in the Moonlight by Toploader***. Every time I hear this song, I am transported back to being 16. It's a warm summer's evening, we have just finished our last exam and we are sat in our friend's back garden, preparing for the longest summer break of our lives. The conversations are flowing, we are all having a laugh. Out of the blue, Hobb-lar (yeah, adding -lar on the end of any surname makes it cool) asks us all what we really wanted to do in our futures, and I remember distinctly saying I wanted to do a job that made a difference to people. This song reminds me of that conversation and reminds me of when I chose to get into teaching. When I am having a tough day, I put this on and I'm back there, having those conversations under the stars, and think how far that baby faced 16 year old has got on his life's journey.

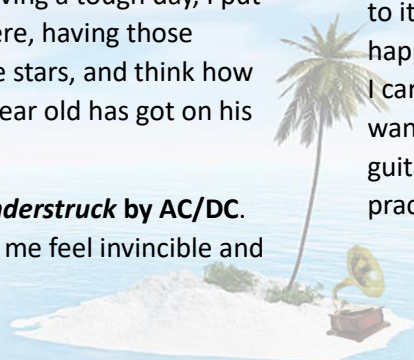
My second song is ***Thunderstruck by AC/DC***. This song always makes me feel invincible and

when I hear this I know I can achieve anything. Back in secondary school I used to be a

member of the Army Cadets with my brother. One year the detachment ran a competition for the best two cadets to go away to Catterick to have a weekend with our affiliated regiment, The Queens Royal Lancers. I

remember both my brother and I saying how much it would be amazing if we could be part of this, so we worked hard all year so we could to make sure we were the ones selected. We were both chosen and, on the weekend away, we got to ride in the commander's position of a Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank. The crew played Thunderstruck through the headset as we went tearing around the tank assault course, driving across tank traps, balancing on the knife edge and drifting round corners. There's something about heavy metal playing whilst driving around in sixty-two and a half tonnes of steel that makes you feel alive! I hope that having this on my desert playlist would remind me that with a bit of hard work, I could achieve anything.

The third song in my playlist slows things down a little and reminds me of those who aren't around or who I don't see as often as I should. When ***Pink Floyd's Wish You Were Here*** starts playing, it guarantees a moment of quiet reflection. Some see it as a bit of a sad song, which I can understand when you listen to it, but for me it is a song that brings back happy memories of time well spent with those I care for. It is one of the songs that I also wanted to put down the bass for and learn on guitar. I can assure you that I still need practice, but I will learn it fully one day. Who



knows, on a desert island with little to do, I could spend some time learning it properly!

The fourth song on my list is ***Danger Zone* by Kenny Loggins**. We all know this as the song from **Top Gun**, which must be my all-time favourite movie. I remember as a kid, watching Tom Cruise getting too close for missiles and switching to guns! The classic 80's guitar solo mixed with jets being thrown around the sky elevated fighter pilots to celebrity status to me.

Watching this movie cemented my love for aircraft and is the reason I am passionate about all things aviation. Even now, when I get the opportunity to go flying, in my head this song is on a constant loop from wheels up until the wheels touch terra firma again!

The fifth song in my playlist takes me back to those 3am nightclub sessions when the energy levels are dropping in the room and next thing, the DJ is playing ***Infinity 2008 – Klass Vocal Edit* by Guru Josh Project**. Once this came on, I always felt refreshed, energised and that we could carry on until dawn! Even now, it is one of my go-to running songs. Normally its placed halfway through the run, just as I hit the wall, and it inspires me to punch through and carry on to the end. It definitely helped when I ran a 10km fun run dressed as a sumo! Trapped on a desert island this would be great to motivate me on my sunrise runs around the island.



The sixth and final song in the playlist had to be a **Kaiser Chiefs** number. Throughout my time in the band, we often threw in Kaiser Chief covers as we all loved to play them. *Everyday I Love You Less and Less*, *I Predict a Riot*, *Never Miss a Beat*, *Modern Way* and many others were played by us at

various times over the years. But the song I have chosen this time reminds me of the great times I had with the band. It is also the first song I played in the car on the way home from

the hospital after my daughter was born.

***Coming Home*** is a great song and always reminds me that no matter where my journey takes me, home was always there, and I would be welcomed back with open arms. I would like to hope that if I was stranded on a desert island, this song would

help remind me of home and all my family and friends.

So that's my desert island playlist. It was great to spend the time reflecting on some great

memories and even recall some great memories I hadn't visited in a while. For the next Desert Island Disco, I would like to nominate **Dr Fradley**. I can't wait to see the eclectic mix of music she chooses to place on her playlist. Something tells me that some of her choices may surprise you! One thing's for certain, there won't be any Bono<sup>6</sup>!

<sup>6</sup> Hooray! Ed.





# Popcorn Bucket List

## Hayao Miyazaki

By **Mr Lloyd**

This list usually sticks to a selection of ten, but in honour of the great Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki's twelfth film

as director (there are many others as producer and writer), we'll make an exception this once. Miyazaki founded the excellent **Studio Ghibli**, named after an Italian aircraft. Flight and engineering being the great passions that inform most of

Miyazaki's work, along with an approach to often European settings and literature that are filtered through a Japanese aesthetic. All his films are at least hugely entertaining and, at their best, singular and brilliant. Even better for this article, Studio Ghibli has released a huge trove of **free to use images**! Hooray!

### ***The Castle of Cagliostro* 1979**

The odd one. The Miyazaki style is in its infancy here, and the tone is more overtly comical than the later films, including a particularly ticklish scene of a character trying to swim up an interior waterfall. The basis in French fiction, the setting of Italian mountains and the use of an iconic Fiat 500 sees the first of his visions of a fantastical, fairy tale Europe.

### ***Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* 1984**

This one is really underrated. It is the first scored by the wonderful Joe Hisaishi (though the score is more electronic than his future piano and orchestral style in later Miyazaki films). It also introduces the theme of nature as equally beautiful, awe-inspiring and terrifying – what the Romantics called

sublime. Based on Miyazaki's own sprawling manga comic set in a far-distant, post-apocalyptic future, *Nausicaä* also includes Miyazaki's joy of flight and flying machines, and a fully realised imagined world. *Nausicaä* herself is the first in a long line of memorable

heroines (with a pet squirrel fox!) The strong environmental message and the moral complexities of conflicting human interest in place of a struggle between one-dimensional good and

evil get properly bedded in with this film. The central character and general aesthetic are influential on *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, but don't blame *Nausicaä* for that. I once ran an adult education event on Studio Ghibli in a Cambridge cinema just so I could have an excuse to watch this film on the big screen.

### ***Laputa: Castle in the Sky* 1986**

Back to a romanticised Europe with ornithopter transport (flying machines with flapping wings!) and a Welsh mining town setting, where Miyazaki had lived during the 1980s miners' strike. The name Laputa comes from Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, but the story really has nothing to do with it. The narrative continues the theme of human damage to nature and how technology and the environment don't necessarily need to be in conflict. Here, we see the first of Miyazaki's many matriarchs in the pirate Dola, plus a rare outing for an actual Miyazaki villain: the government agent Muska. The steampunk aesthetic is brilliant, but it is the quiet, gentle moments in this film that stick in the mind: the clouds, the robot gardener and the



tenderness between the two protagonists. There's also a brief cameo for the squirrel fox.

### ***My Neighbour Totoro* 1988**

**THE** classic. The first big Studio Ghibli hit was weirdly released in Japan as the lesser partner with Isao Takahata's *Grave of the Fireflies* – a great film, but its story of children starving to death at the end of the second world war must have been a tonal clash with *Totoro*'s joyous fantasy, if not downright traumatising! Anyway, it's *Totoro* that we're dealing with here and you can still buy the merchandise. The underlying seriousness of a potentially dying mother and a busy father trying to keep his daughter's spirits up form a subtext that politely intrudes on the fantasy escapism of mucking about with magical creatures in an enchanted forest. That these girls need some escapism is what makes this film so subtle. The scene of them waiting for a bus in the rain is one of the best movie clips ever and the soot sprites are a delight.

### ***Kiki's Delivery Service* 1989**

More flying machines and a return to fantasy Europe. This time, it's a sort of mashup of Paris, Amsterdam and Stockholm. Kiki is a witch who doesn't seem to do much in the way of magic, but flies around as a sort of one-girl Evri, with a comparable success rate in getting her stuff to customers on time. The theme of independence in childhood as a step into adulthood that had been in the air (along with the flying machines) since *Nausicaä* comes to the fore here, as Kiki has to let go of her awkward shyness and become a responsible adult. Oh, and rescue the boy from the runaway airship.



### ***Porco Rosso* 1992**

This one is a tonal shift and drops the theme of childhood in favour of a story of survivor's guilt and masked male vulnerability. Set in 1920s North Italy and Croatia, with a lot of accurately rendered period aeroplanes, *Porco Rosso* is a First World War pilot who has been turned into a pig; "Better a pig than a fascist," he memorably asserts. From this film on, transformation will be another staple. With a backdrop of spreading fascism and a memorable sequence of thousands of dead airmen flying above the clouds, we are a long way from *My Neighbour Totoro*. With a lead character that accurately pastiches mid-twentieth century Hollywood heroes – but he's a pig, remember - this is one of the less well-known of Miyazaki's films. A planned sequel was never made.

### ***Princess Mononoke* 1997**

This time, we find ourselves in feudal Japan with the most assertive and feral of Miyazaki's heroines. The princess herself is introduced with her mouth covered in blood, after sucking clean a wound on the wolf that she rides into battle. Nearly the full bag of Miyazaki's recurring themes gets tipped out: conflicting human interests instead of outright villainy, nature and industry, letting go of innocence, transformation, spiritualism and matriarchy. There is a detectable influence

from John Ford's westerns, as a frontier town is pitted against the wilderness. The antagonist, Lady Eboshi, has built a society of marginalised ethnic groups, lepers and outcast sex workers

that she either shows compassion and acceptance to or exploits, depending on your perspective. Meanwhile, the male lead, Ashitaka must battle his own, very literal inner



demon. *Princess Mononoke* is one of Miyazaki's most complex films.

### ***Spirited Away* 2001**

The really big hit. This was Japan's highest grossing film for a while. Broadly influenced by *Alice in Wonderland* but set in a Japanese bath house, *Spirited Away*

sees the return of the soot sprites, another memorable matriarch, characters turning into pigs again and the usual set of themes I've already mentioned. The film's great set pieces, such as pulling the broken bicycle out of the polluted river spirit, or the train journey across a calm sea (yes – a train journey across water. Just go with it) are the bits that everyone remembers, but there are many other great sequences: the horror of the pig transformation or the demanding, giant baby tantrum to name just two.



### ***Howl's Moving Castle* 2004**

This time, the setting is based on the regions of north-west France for Dyane Wynne-Jones' story of a girl who is cursed to look like an old woman. Yes, its transformation again. More matriarchs, more flying, more technology and the environment, more moral complexity. You'd think I would be bored of typing this list but I actually appreciate the artist fully in pursuit of a muse, so he can just go with it. A fabulous sequence of the two main female characters bickering as they struggle up an endless flight of stairs is the film's outstanding moment, but the psychedelic magical sequence where realities collapse and Sophie sees Howl give his heart to a demon is a rival for the end of Kubrick's *2001*, though the plot

is closer to *The Wizard of Oz*. The secondary characters are great and Howl's sulk about his wrongly dyed hair is inspired.

### ***Ponyo* 2008**

This one is based on *The Little Mermaid*; not that you'd twig from the casting of the two leads as very young children. That sounds creepy but it isn't – the story of the sea creature that

longs to be with the chap who lives on the land is utterly charming and innocent as they just want to be companions. Ponyo's delight in the ordinary things she finds strange (a lamp, a bowl of noodles) is infectious. The sea is animated beautifully and the scenes of the quest the two take across the flood waters in a toy boat are a delight. I won't type out the list of Miyazaki themes again, but they are all here.

### ***The Wind Rises* 2013**

Miyazaki keeps saying that he's retiring, and that his latest release

will be his last – animation is a long, slow process – and for ten years, it looked as though he meant it with *The Wind Rises*. This is more in the vein of *Porco Rosso* than the fantastic flights of fancy, though it is even more grounded in reality, being a 'fictionalised biography' of Jiro Horikoshi, designer of the Mitsubishi fighter aircraft that would be used in the famous kamikaze attacks at the end of the Second World War. So, not *Ponyo*, then. More *Oppenheimer*, but ten years earlier. As a portrait of a man whose obsession for work is prioritised over his family, the biography element is perhaps closer to Miyazaki than its ostensible subject. The aircraft are beautifully rendered, with the undercurrent of blindness to their potential for destruction deftly handled. An odd one to end on, it seemed...

***The Boy and the Heron* 2023**

...until this. And so to the final film (so far), which plays like something of a greatest hits, with the usual ingredients condensed into a heady brew. While it gets a bit plotty in act three, there's the usual futile attempts to tame feral nature, magical transformations and all the others. This time, each of the elements of fire, air, earth and water all take it in turns to prove their might. In between a parakeet military force and a squadron of pelicans come moments of



real beauty, such as the way fields of grass sway in the wind. This is hand-drawn animation, remember. The Boy and the Heron is also a long way from Kiki, Ponyo or Totoro, with a genuinely shocking act of self harm. It is noted in the BBFC certificate at the start, but it still made me gasp when it came.

If you like all these, try just about anything else from the Studio Ghibli stable. Almost all are good to excellent. **Patrick Foy** says that I should give a special mention to *Pom Poko* as the plot involves raccoons with magic testicles. No, really.

## HBK Careers Day 2024

January 24th saw the HBK Careers Day take over the Inner Hall, Outer Hall, Assembly Room, Chapter House and Library. A large range of universities and apprenticeship providers were there this year – forty in total!



Simas Inkratas takes in the news that the Army *might* want him to cut his hair.



## Cold (and Wet) Case

**Open House is a broad church, and our contributors are encouraged to write about whatever subjects interest them. Having said that, no-one quite expected this: Patrick Foy gets out his deerstalker hat and magnifying glass to examine a mysterious disappearance in the 1960s.**

Australia is known for multiple things: friendly locals, long white beaches, exotic wildlife and remarkable barbecues. Yet what is less known is their multiple conspiracies and tall tales. Stories of creatures lurking depths and plains, relocated serial killers and unidentifiable washed-up corpses presumed to be spies. But the case of Harold Holt is one that caught my interest.

Harold Holt was the Prime Minister of Australia for almost two years, though instead of leaving office due to losing an election or resigning, Holt lost the job due to his own mysterious disappearance in 1967.

Holt was a politician known for being outdoorsy. He had played sports his entire life, most notably football when he was young, giving him a lifetime shoulder injury. He also picked up spearfishing later in life. Overall, the guy got out much more than the average individual, even whilst managing his constituency and, later, the entire country. Though this active lifestyle is what has people questioning his supposed disappearance.

On December 17th, 1967, Harold was on vacation. He went for a swim in the sea by the beach town Portsea, Victoria with a few friends. It was noted that Harold had been swimming quite a bit further out than his mates. Eventually, the white plume of hair that had been frequently bobbing down in the water vanished without a noise or trace.

His disappearance into the sea sparked a five-day search for the prime minister and eventually ended with no body being found.



Images by **Ditzy Faith**

Obviously, the most plausible explanation for Holt's going missing was drowning. Many would use his outdoorsy lifestyle and spear-fishing hobby as a crux to the argument. However, a trickle of doubt led to multiple caverns of thought, some

realistic, many downright bizarre. I'm going to go through the most likely explanation and then a few of my favourites.

### 1. Riptide:

No, not the song everyone was obsessed with a few years ago, the strong, often deadly current that's caused by the pulling of the tide. It would be realistic to assume that if Holt was victim to one of these movements of water that challenge the greatest of swimmers, then it wouldn't be crazy for Holt to succumb to this natural villain.

**2. An assassination:**

Some are jumped up on the conspiracy that the US government took Holt out due to the suspicion that the PM would take Australia out of the Vietnam war. They use the fact that Holt had been prescribed heavy painkillers (morphine) for his shoulder injury and that, combined with some CIA meddling, sealed the fate for Holt.



from the sea due to the security intelligence of Australia getting too close to the truth. This theory was produced into an entire book by Anthony Grey, which to many is a work of complete fiction but to some tin-foil hat lovers is the sanest explanation of Holt's disappearance.

Now, Holt's fate is never certain. Did he swim to New Zealand to start a new life? Perhaps he was taken by the infamous

Australian Bunyip! A half-man half-fish creature that took the lives of greedy men who dared to overfish. Whatever happened is not up to me, though one of my favourite facts and what I think was a poetic ending to this case is the building dedicated to the late prime minister. The Harold Holt Swimming Centre.

**3. A Chinese Submarine:**

The third and by-far most ludicrous tale of Holt's demise is that he was in fact a Chinese spy that had finally been called home. The theory goes that a Chinese submarine was on course to pick up Holt

**Spinning Woman**

by

**Anonymous**



## An Invasion

By **Agatha Leach**

A lone wasp  
Occupies my bathroom floor.

It is an omen;  
It hints at more.

A nest writhing with poison,  
Tucked neatly beneath the roof  
tiles.

They emerge one by one,  
Like soldiers.

But they do not die for a cause,  
Not bee-courage but aimless  
cruelty.

They sting because they can.

It is winter,  
They should be dead.

Curled up and stale,  
Frozen by the air.

But no, not *my* wasps,  
They fight on.

Night after night,  
Their yellow and black striped  
army

Sneak into my bathroom  
And await my arrival.

