

October 2024
GOOD NEWS edition



LOUDSPEAKER

The official student magazine of KEVI Lordswood

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

The summer of 2024 had its fair share of negativity, with various challenges affecting the world. From wars to riots, it feels like there isn't anything 'good' left in the world, which has ultimately affected our collective morale. However, despite all of this, we wanted this edition of 'Loudspeaker' to highlight the positives, the things we do not always see or hear of. The Good News.

**Gabby Karanfila
Year 12**





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THE WORLD OF ART

Sidrah Ahmed



‘Art is inspiring and stimulating for the human mind...
It’s about making our surroundings more beautiful.’

The origins of art stem from ancient times and lie within Africa, before worldwide human dispersal. The earliest known evidence of ‘artistic behaviour’ is of human body decoration, including skin colouring with ochre and the use of beads, although both may have had functional origins. Artefacts have been traced back to the Old Stone Age - the Palaeolithic era - when early humans began using stone tools. Likewise, early humans would create stone arrangements, pictorial imagery, as well as engravings.

Why was art created?

There are countless reasons that motivate the creation of art. Some of them are: making our surroundings more beautiful; creating records of a specific time, place, person or object; and expressing and communicating ideas. Art is inspiring and stimulating for the human mind.

Renaissance Paintings

Renaissance art is marked by a gradual shift from the abstract forms of the medieval period to the representational forms of the 15th century. Subjects grew from mostly biblical scenes to include portraits, episodes from Classical religion, and events from contemporary life. The reputations of Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael have stood the test of time. They remain the big three names of Renaissance art and their works are among the most loved in the collection. Through experimentation and collaboration, Renaissance artists pushed the boundaries of artistic expression, leaving behind a legacy of innovation that continues to be used, inspire, and captivate audiences for centuries.

The enduring popularity of such work proves the timeless power of art.





Banksy: Artist or vandal?

'This House believes that Banksy's 'art' is no more than vandalism and graffiti.'

KS3 Debate Club members MIA PIHLAJA and KEAVAGH BLICK discuss the most controversial motion yet!

PROPOSITION (**AGREEING** with the motion)

Banksy is well known for the secretive nature of his artwork. Therefore, many of his works are created without permission, on private or public property, which completely disregards the rights of property owners and the laws governing urban spaces. This unauthorised spray-painting can lead to significant costs for removal and restoration, disrupting communities rather than contributing positively to them. By operating outside legal boundaries, Banksy's work raises many questions about the distinction between art and vandalism, often prioritising personal (and controversial) expression over respect for communal spaces. It is stated by law that 'Graffiti is an offence of criminal damage' - so why is Banksy allowed to commit crimes around the UK and why is he then idolised for this? It is morally wrong for unequal treatment when many other members of the public are charged with vandalism.

When looking at the statement being presented, it says that "Banksy's 'art' is no more than graffiti and vandalism." When we see images of this graffiti, it is individual, and when taken away from the defacer and its 'fame' it is merely spray-paint on other people's property, which is simply illegal. We should look at the graffiti for what it is, not the person creating it or its location: vandalism that has been done without permission on someone's property.

Whilst art is subjective and people's opinions are unique and different, Banksy's work is not something the victims of his crimes can choose to research. His graffiti is forced on people on their property, which is simply unjust and unfair. The vandal is not aware of people's situations and/or political views, and forcing defacement on them can be costly, stressful and worrying. These are feelings the victims should not be facing as they did not authorise the spray paint or ask for this work in the first place.



OPPOSITION (**DISAGREEING** with the motion)

In order to fight against rules you believe are not just, sometimes you have to break them. Banksy - additional to being an artist - is also a political activist and he expresses his views and concerns in his artwork. We can all agree that Banksy's work is illegal (in terms of breaking UK vandalism laws) but by using his anonymous platform, he can spread awareness of world problems and reach a wide audience, arguably doing good for this earth and our society. In addition to this, how can Banksy's artwork be dismissed when his pieces sell upwards of \$1million? Yes, art is clearly subjective, but you could say that about any art piece and any artist. Vincent Van Gough's famous 'Starry Night' is seen as incredible and having deep meaning but how does Banksy's work so greatly differ? Responding to how fame affects his art, he isn't 'getting away with it' because he is famous; his art is what raised him to fame. Siding with the law is what is seen as right and moral, but laws are changed by disagreeing with them. Then again, Banksy's famous quote is 'The greatest crimes in the world are not committed by people breaking the rules but by people following the rules.'

In conclusion, the majority of hands at the end of the debate were opposing this view: that Banksy's artwork is more than just illegal spray paint. However, this is different to saying his work is morally right - maybe a topic for another week's debate?

The Power of Pastry

Kayal Jayalakshmi Pavendan



Pastry scientists, often known as pastry chefs or patissiers, blend the art of baking with the precision of science. These culinary experts meticulously study the chemistry of ingredients like flour, sugar, and fats, understanding how they interact under various conditions to create delightful pastries and desserts. By experimenting with temperature, mixing techniques, and ingredient ratios, pastry scientists innovate new textures and flavors, transforming simple ingredients into culinary masterpieces.

All about pastries

Their work is not only about crafting visually appealing and delectable treats but also about understanding the science behind leavening agents, emulsifiers, and stabilizers to achieve the perfect balance in their creations. This scientific approach ensures that each pastry is not only a feast for the eyes and palate but also a testament to the intricate blend of creativity and precision.

There's something undeniably magical about sweets and their ability to uplift our mood. This phenomenon can be attributed not only to the delightful flavors and textures that desserts offer but also to the science behind how our bodies and brains react to sugar. When we indulge in a treat, our brains release endorphins, the so-called "feel-good" hormones, which can create a sense of happiness and temporary relief from stress. Additionally, the nostalgic associations many people have with sweets—such as childhood memories of baking cookies or sharing ice cream with friends—can evoke feelings of warmth and comfort.





Feel-good stories from Paris 2024

Positive news that you may have missed from last summer's Olympic Games

by Gabby Karanfila, Arvani Saini, Raiyat Asif and Niki Assir

This summer, the XXXIII (33rd) summer Olympic Games took place in Paris, France. It was an festival filled with amazing and memorable sporting moments, and history was made on numerous occasions. However, we wanted to highlight some of the amazing stories, hardships and phenomenal odds some of these Olympians overcame.

Suni Lee

US gymnast Lee overcame health concerns to earn a spot in the 2024 Paris Games, where she took home a gold medal in the team competition and bronze in the uneven bars and individual all-around competitions.



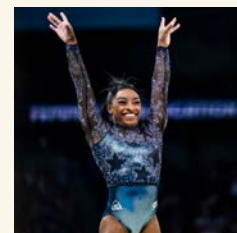
Phoebe Gill

Phoebe Gill is a 17-year-old British athlete from St. Albans, and a member of Team GB's 2024 Olympic 800m squad. At her first ever Olympics, she managed to reach the semi-finals, and rather than being upset about the fact she did not get to the final, took it as a learning experience: "Now I know how to approach this and I hope for greater things coming into the next Olympics."



Simone Biles

Despite having to withdraw from the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games due to a case of the "twisties", Simone Biles came back stronger than before. During the 2024 Olympic Games, Simone won THREE gold medals, confirming her title as the G.O.A.T. She says, "I never thought I'd set foot on the gymnastics floor again just because of everything that had happened," which helps to prove that anything is possible if you put your mind to it.



Imane Khelif

Algerian boxer Imane Khelif won the Olympic gold medal in boxing despite international controversy about gender eligibility. She stated that, "I lived as a woman. I competed as a woman. There's no doubt about that." This helps to show that if you stand true to yourself and don't let others get to you, you can succeed.

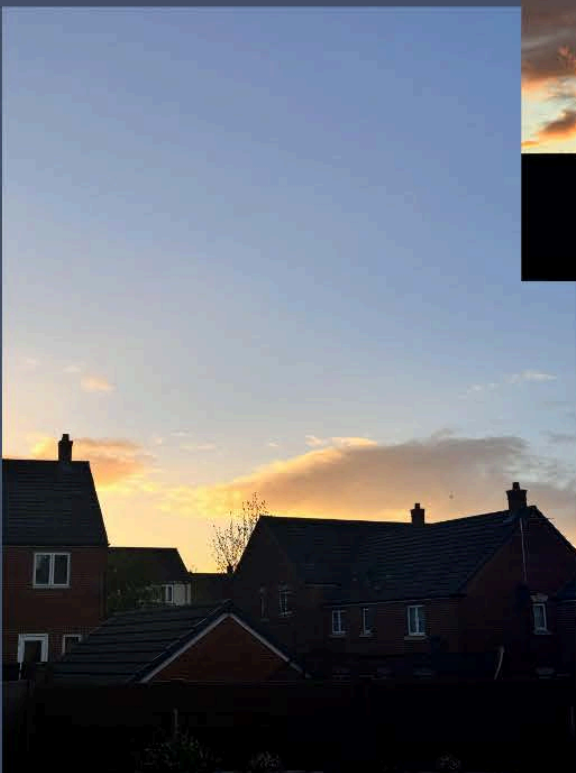


Cindy Ngamba

Cindy Ngamba earned a bronze medal in the -75kg category, winning the first ever Olympic medal for the refugee team since it was created in Rio 2016. She was described as an "Inspiration to a population of more than 120 million", referring to the number of displaced refugees worldwide. Ngamba helped represent the unrepresented and she will go down in history.



HIBA ISLAM shares some of her stunning photography, capturing the beauty of Birmingham's autumn sky.



SKY PICTURES

WHY ARE NETFLIX PRODUCERS GLAMORISING CRIMINALS?

VENUS IAR asks whether there is a risk that the world's most popular streaming service is portraying history's most infamous criminals as attractive, flawed tragic heroes...

The statistics reveal that we're fast becoming a nation of true crime fanatics, with Google searches for "Netflix serial killers" up by 45% and "true crime drama" up by 32% this year alone.

As our love for true crime continues to spike, it's now surpassing other popular categories on Netflix. For example, 'Dahmer', about the infamous serial killer, saw nearly 200m hours watched by subscribers in its first week, compared to only half as many watching another Netflix favourite, 'The Crown', in the week after Queen Elizabeth II's death. Clearly, we're obsessed with true crime. We're obsessed with serial killers. But is Netflix guilty of glamorising these monsters?

When an audience sees a vulnerable character, they feel as though they have some personal understanding of them and they feel compassion towards them, which can lead many to attempt to develop a justification of the character's actions. For example, serial killer Richard Ramirez became a TikTok sensation after the Netflix series 'Night Stalker' was released, as many found the man attractive and were swayed by this attractiveness into believing that they could justify his actions.



On 21st September 2022, Netflix released 'Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story'. The series narrates the true story of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer – before, during and after committing several murders. Well over two months after its release, the murderer and his story are still relevant in online discussion. People have created 'fan clubs', cosplayed him on social media and even manufactured merchandise. Knowing all of this, I only wonder how the victims' families must have perceived the show's success. It goes without saying that releasing such videos is disrespectful to the victims' integrity and their families, not to mention the message it sends when treating a serial killer as a pop icon is normalised.



Streaming services like Netflix and Disney+ - as well as the directors and producers responsible for creating true crime dramas and documentaries - surely have a responsibility to emphasise the evil of their subjects. These killers are not heroes. But there's also a responsibility for us, the audience: we should remember the victims and their families, and that these films and series are enlightening, but not entertaining.





Year 11 students have been practising their descriptive writing skills using one-word prompts, in preparation for Question 5 of GCSE Language Paper 1. Here is one stunning example...

Hope

Melody Christopher

Amidst the vast canvas of nature, the landscape unfolds like a breath-taking tapestry of possibility. A tranquil lake reflects the sun's warm, golden rays as it slowly expands, caressing the earth with its ethereal glow. Distant mountains, their peaks kissed by the first light, stand majestic and tall as if they guard the horizon's mysteries. The smooth, soft wind carries the invigorating scent of alluring petals that delicately grace the earth's skin. I look up in awe and slowly tread through the swaying grass. I feel at peace, knowing better days are to come.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: FRIEND OR FOE?



We all know that AI has crept into every aspect of our lives. But is it harmful or beneficial?

Artificial intelligence enables technology to use a variety of advanced functions. It is like human intelligence, but in a machine. It uses deep neural networks which contain a number of layers through which data is processed allowing a machine to search deep in its knowledge and give the best answer to the question asked within seconds. IT boosts efficiency and productivity and reduces the time required for a human to do a specific task by giving answers within seconds

Written by AYESHA AZMAT

The problem with AI making things easier, though, is it has, in many cases led to unemployment. It has increased laziness in humans and some humans may have become dependent on AI. There are rising concerns across the world as the security risks associated with their use and misuse increase. Perhaps the most dangerous thing is how it has taken over the role of humans.

RUGBY: A SPORT FOR ALL

“Football is a gentlemen's game played by hooligans - but rugby is a hooligan's game played by gentlemen.”

By Lendy Sabur

Rugby is like art. Very structurally unstructured art. In football you must be fast, you must be tall, you must commit to being, physically and talent-wise, superior. In rugby, however, no matter your position there will always be variations of skill and size in the structure of the team. It's a sport for all.

Rugby stands out among major sports for its inclusivity of different body types and physical attributes, embracing players of all shapes and sizes. Unlike sports like basketball, where height often determines success, or football, where specialised skill and athleticism are the most important for reaching the peak of the sport, rugby thrives on diversity. The game requires a mix of skills that range from strength and power to agility and speed, allowing a wide array of body types to flourish. Whether you're a tall lock, a compact scrum-half, or a big prop, every position on the rugby field has a critical role to play. Everyone matters.

This lack of stigma in rugby when it comes to size or genetics is part of what makes the sport so appealing. It creates an environment where players focus on honing their unique abilities rather than feeling pressured to fit a specific physical form. The result is a game that encourages inclusivity and equal opportunity for athletes, regardless of their physical traits.

Personally, as a rugby player, I have seen the reality of this first-hand. Last season, we played a cup game against a very imposing, physically superior team in Kidderminster. The average height of the team was around 6 feet tall: however, our team - at a significant physical disadvantage - beat them comfortably using the techniques we were taught by coaches to put down any big player. In the end, we beat them convincingly, racing across the metaphorical finish line of the game while their team had barely left the starting blocks.



THE EDDIE MURPHY STORY

HASHEM HASSAN

Eddie Murphy - actor, comedian and singer - was born on 3rd April 1961 in Brooklyn, New York. His father, a policeman and amateur comedian, was killed when Eddie was just 8 years old. As a youngster, Murphy did imitations of cartoon characters and celebrities, and he began performing at comedy clubs as a teenager. Now 63 and still performing, Murphy is widely recognised as one of the greatest comedians - and comic actors - of all time.

FIRST FILM:

'48hrs' (1982) – comedy/action

FUN FACT: Eddie Murphy received \$1,000,000 (MILLION) for his role in this film. It was a staggering amount of money back in 1982 - and, at the time, the HIGHEST figure ever paid to an actor for a single role.

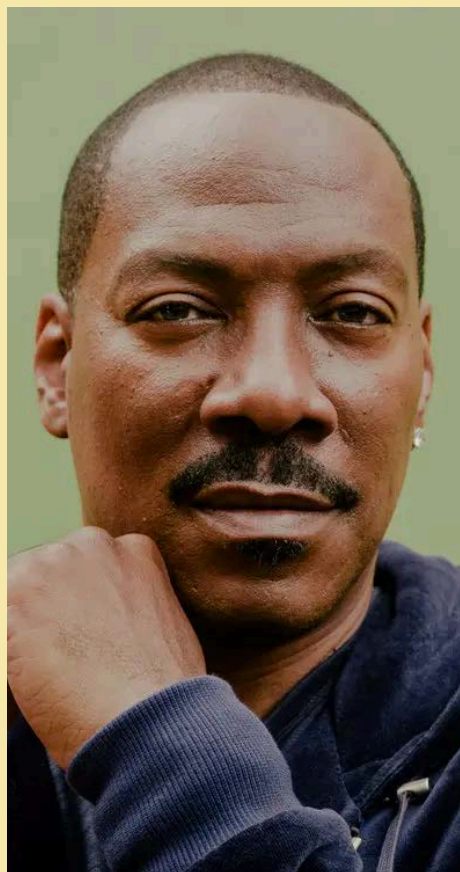


LATEST FILM:
'Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F' (2024) – comedy/action

FUN FACT: Eddie Murphy reprises his role as Axel F - FORTY YEARS after first playing the role in the original 'Beverly Hills Cop' (1984).



“After all these years, I've done well and I'm cool. I feel comfortable in my skin, I've saved some paper, everybody's healthy, my kids are beautiful and smart, doing different things, it's all good.”



ERIC CANTONA: TROUBLED GENIUS

MIKAIL KAMRAN discusses Manchester United's eccentric French icon, superstar of the all-dominating 1990s Red Devils team

Kung-fu kick (1995)

During the 1994-95 season the Frenchman "kung fu-kicked" a Crystal Palace fan on January 25, 1995. Having been sent off for a pull on Richard Shaw's shirt, Cantona reacted poorly to Eagles fan Matthew Simmons' provocative heckling.

Seagulls and trawlers

After the kick, in a post-match interview, Eric Cantona gave his now famous 'seagull' speech. "When the seagulls follow the trawler, it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea." However, despite his actions he claimed that he wished that he could have kicked the Crystal Palace fan harder - even though he was given a 9 month ban.

Man Utd legend

Despite the kick, Cantona is hailed as an icon of the game: despite his actions his footballing ability was more iconic. He had 156 appearances, 70 goals, 52 assists and was the catalyst for Man Utd's 4 Premier League titles in 5 years, including two league and FA Cup doubles.



The true story of the FA's shocking 50-year ban on women's football

Jessica Harrison



Dick Kerr Ladies FC (1920)

In 1921, the Football Association made a controversial decision that ultimately prohibited women's use of any FA-affiliated clubs, grounds/pitches and even referees - all this despite the growing popularity of women's football after World War One. The decision was deeply rooted in the prevailing attitudes of the time, according to which people's beliefs and decisions were highly influenced by societal norms and perceptions of gender roles.

Impact of the ban

After the ban was officially reinforced on the 5th December 1921, as expected, women's participation in football significantly declined. However, the ban didn't discourage everyone, with many women continuing to play informally. One of these women included Lily Parr. Parr was one of the best-known female football players of the 20th century and, during the ban, she continued to promote the sport. Her determination helped influence many other women and even future generations. Sadly, though, due to the FA's power and involvement in football Parr's efforts still weren't enough. Maintaining a high number of participants proved a struggle as women's clubs lacked the resources, which created a ripple effect that further contributed to the decline of female participants. For a while, women began to lose courage and feel defeated. Nevertheless, while it may have seemed that everyone was against them, it's important to establish that not everyone discouraged them. There were a handful of people who recognised and supported them, including some male players, spectators and even some officials. All of these people played a crucial role in advocating women's right to play, which fuelled their enthusiasm to carry on: some people would even say it helped lay the foundation for the current resurgence in girls' and women's football.

The road to recovery

After decades of suppression that stifled the growth of women's football, it finally saw a resurgence in interest - partly a result of various women's liberation movements. The 1960s and 1970s saw a shift in societal attitudes towards gender equality: during the second wave of feminism, women began to push more forcefully for their right to play. On the 1st November 1969, women's football was finally recognised and taken seriously for their persistence and determination. Due to this, the women's FA was established, a huge turning point in the history of women's football as it provided female players with a platform for organisation and promoting their games. Eventually, in the 1970s, the FA voted to revoke their ban, and finally, in 1971, the ban was officially lifted, leading to the first women's FA Cup competition taking place. All of these events paved the way for the growth and recognition women's football deserved.

Women's football today



Despite all of the historical obstacles faced, women have remained resilient and passionate about the game, eventually leading to growth of millions and millions of participants. Football is now the most widely played game in women's sport, with more players recorded than ever before. This is due to the important role of mass media and, of course, the influence of large football teams with global appeals and support - a prime example being the Lionesses' win of their first European Championship in 2022, against Germany. This victory created a surge in popularity, encouraging another 68,000 new participants. The future looks bright.