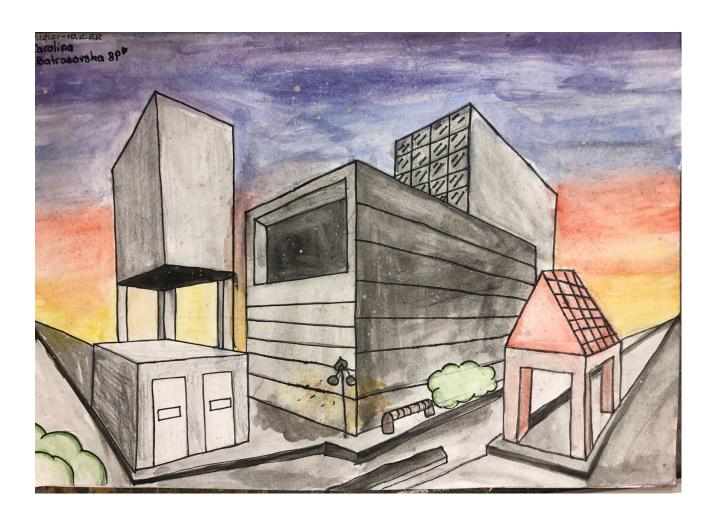
Preston Manor Magazine The Future



Carolina Batranovska 8P

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Why doesn't the school doesn't talk about politics?

Politics saturates everyone's lives, through social media, television shows and books. Events like Partygate and the Windrush scandal were met with huge uproar from people all over the country. Domestic and international politics shape everybody's lives; it is an insult to our democracy, if we fail to educate young people about the current affairs around the world, and the changes that can directly affect them. Children are supposed to receive an all-rounded education from school, so why doesn't our school speak about politics?

Even though people under 18 cannot take part in elections, they can still share their opinions on key issues through joining pressure groups, making online petitions and protesting. It is essential that young people are knowledgeable about the ways they can participate in politics, even if they cannot vote in general elections. When BLM protests were ongoing, students had to rely on social media to know when and where the protest was taking place. When Year II students were so disappointed in the lack of information being shared regarding the war between Palestinians and Israelis, they took the matter into their own hands by protesting during lunch time. This was met with disappointment from teachers as they focused solely on disrupting other students' learning (which is very important), and ignored the students' need to be formally educated about the crisis. Ultimately, the school did then design a PSHE lesson dedicated to the crisis but that was rather a reactive response than a proactive response; it should not be the duty of the students to inform the teachers, but rather the duty of the teachers to inform the students.

Every school has a duty to provide children with political education. It is easy for students to read sensationalised or fake news, especially now with the accessibility of social media. Which makes it even more devastating considering the new guidance given to teachers by the Education Secretary; this limits the political education within Britain of which can be seen to be very limited when you look at more mature age groups in the UK. There should be a lot less government restrictions on teachers, as it creates a boundary for younger generations to understand how exactly their country is being run. With appropriate training to allow for teachers to understand all their students' views and beliefs of politics, it will then allow for a more significant understanding of the country that we are living in.

As much as politics is everywhere, it is still a sensitive subject for many. As Preston Manor houses an extremely diverse cohort, but a less diverse senior leadership team, it may come across that there is information missing or hidden from students, instead of being freely available. Sometimes it may seem as if there is mainly one belief being put across to over 1,000 students. Some important current issues do not get covered at all, in schools across the country. Especially, in the midst of the Ukrainian war, many schools still have not spoken about it during PSHE lessons, or during morning form times. This isn't effectively giving students the fair understanding of the world the school is preparing for them to enter. A more modernised UK PSHE curriculum that includes current affairs would be a lot more effective for students. It would be much more powerful than the current PSHE lessons being taught, that are ineffective at adding value to the education that is being provided within the school curriculum. For this to happen, we need change on a national level, to ensure current affairs and politics are given the funding, resources and training required for all schools to feel confident delivering these subjects as part of regular PSHE lessons.

To have to stay neutral during current affairs isn't fair for the students to withhold, as without the students, the school is nothing. So, why not draw attention to their views and beliefs upon the issue? It is said that the future is in our palms, but it seems as if we are being deprived of the opportunity to state our opinions. Ultimately, this could derail our future later on.

Ocean Renaud 12E

The Problems with Schools: What can we change in the future?

From the basis of society, education has been the fundamental support as to learning how the world works. Many people would expect that those vital years in schools are both useful and enjoyable; some would agree that schools nowadays do hold up to those criterias however I do not believe that! This piece of writing will expose the flaws of our education system and then I will show possible solutions that we as a society can help build on to support future generations.

To start with, let's focus on one of the most important factors in schools- the students. Now, many people will assume that students at schools will enjoy their time at a place that will help build their future careers, but to many students, this is not the case. Mainly, students are unsatisfied with the topics they are forced to learn every day to succeed with their grades. Most of the time, the topics to the students are unappealing or they don't understand why they need such futile information in the future. What's the point of teaching students such diverse subjects when only a handful of them will be interested in them? Another problem students face at school is the lack of voice and control they have. At school, they are told that their every human opinion matters yet nearly all decisions are made by teachers and adults. Students are more likely to be comfortable in an environment where their voice is heard and not all choices made are those by those in power; it is a human right after all. Now some solutions to these problems are to modernise schools' ways of teaching, support every student equally and make better ways in which students learn; only then will schools expect to see a change in students.

The next problem we should give our attention to is the academic problems. Let's look back over a couple of years at schools; let's say around lOO years. Now, most people would expect that schools would have changed drastically to meet the criteria of the new generation's changes, however this isn't the case. Instead, every student in the UK is being taught with Industrial ways and ever since the creation of schools has refused to change. For example, all day students are expected to follow the teacher instructions rather than giving the students the freedom to manage their own learning. In a world where individuality and time management skills are vital (no matter what age or occupation you have) this is not a healthy way to learn those skills. Another academic problem that schools face is the inequality of how students learn. How would you feel if you were only praised on

just much you learnt or staying quiet in class but everyone else around you struggled because they didn't fit that criteria? You would feel a sense of injustice or a sense of inequality. This is no exception to schools. Some solutions to solve these problems can be to let students adapt their social skills with other students (with the assistance of teachers) and to modernise the school's ways of teaching to fit the new generation.

The final problem facing schools in the 2lst century is social problems. It is no secret that bullying is a dire problem that every school in the UK has problems facing; sure enough, it is a hard issue to tackle but with the instalments of social media it becomes more of a serious issue. Schools can only tackle this problem if they change their ways to fit the ways of the younger generation. Another problem facing schools is the unhealthy ways of learning. Students are forced countless hours a day to revise things that they'll most likely never use for the rest of their lives. If it was managed much more effectively then students (and even teachers) would have a much easier time at schools making their lives easier. Imagine early in your life you were given more flexibility in your learning journey. Wouldn't that make it easy to manage society nowadays? Surely you wouldn't want that for yourself and your children. The modern world values creativity, communication and collaboration not this! Solutions for these problems are to tackle school bullying in a modernised way and to give students more time effectively for their understanding and learning needs.

In summary, our current education system for the new generation of students is ineffective and outdated. If we have any chance to prepare our students for modern society then we need to act now for schools. It's not that time is rapidly running out, it's that time has already run out!

Nikki Raja 9M

The future of teenage life

A third of London's youth clubs have been put at risk of closure due to the aftermath of lockdown and the lack of funding from the government. Many young teens rely on these youth clubs as it is a safe space for them and somewhere they are able to express themselves comfortably without feeling pressured to act differently. The support and guidance that they receive from the loving staff pushes them to become a better person with fixed goals and to leave with a positive mindset for themselves and their future.

The potential impact of the thousands of youth clubs that may close can change this, and may raise the risk of knife crime, gang activity, engaging in illegal or dangerous activities. Meg Scott, a youth worker at Twickenham's Heatham House, stated: "The youth club is important for young people to have a safe space to engage with youth workers & receive informal advice and guidance." It prepares them for the future outside of school and gives them guidance on how to be a civilised civilian and the most earnest, hardworking staff in the workplace.

Ansar Youth Project, a local youth club in Wembley, has been a huge change for many of the youths in North West London. AYP organises leisure activities, events, outings and much more to support and guide young people in a positive light, always making sure whatever they do is for the benefits of these young people. AYP believes that young people who are disadvantaged should not be overlooked, and that the young boys peddling drugs on the street corner should not be thought of as a lost cause, but a potential integrated citizen of the British community. There are many more youth clubs with similar ideas and goals for these young people; the community needs these youth clubs. After all, we are all a part of the generation of the future.

We need more attention towards this closure of youth clubs, this can result in a rise in knife crimes, gang activities, etc which we do not need more of. We need to look after our youth and push them towards a positive direction, helping them for a brighter future.

Shania Gregg 12T

The uniform of the future

School uniforms exist throughout the UK, and many schools have differing policies regarding what is permitted within schools. Many schools implement rules that leave students feeling that the little expression that they have is being restrained. Over the past five years, UK uniform disputes in the media have questioned the rights of girls to wear trousers, the demand for shorts as part of a summer uniform for boys, and what constitutes an acceptable skirt length. In Wales, one school this year has even banned skirts, to create a 'gender-neutral' uniform policy. Whether the rules are about sock colours, head bands, skirt lengths or trouser style, many feel that the rules have become increasingly strict. So it begs the question, do uniform restrictions have an adverse effect on students' education and life at school, rather than a positive one?

It is understood that uniforms are to make us recognisable within the community. Nonetheless, most students would love to be able to wear accessories to make us more distinguishable from our peers. Inevitably, teenagers will always want to rebel against uniform restrictions, and what we need to ask is: what harm do a few accessories cause?

Other arguments for uniform include a sense of school community, an improved learning environment and reduced bullying. Some believe that everyone wearing the same clothing creates a sense of equality and unity within a diverse community. However, the truth is that there is a lack of international evidence or research to fully support these claims.

When uniform has been researched, any impact is often found to be marginal. Some research suggests schools with uniform policies have marginally better attendance rates; this improvement only amounted to a half-day improvement in attendance. Other research certainly suggests improved 'settling to work' where uniforms are established. Although some believe that academic success will improve with a 'professional' uniform and 'settling to work', in fact research suggests many other factors have a bigger impact including: class size, education funding, and teacher training.

The fact that disputes over uniform increasingly feature in the media, and are being taken to court, surely indicates a problem. There must be an understanding that students only revolt when they are not being listened to. As the next generation of Britain, we have been recognised for how outspoken we are. Students

are allowed to express their individuality in their artwork, writing and music, so why not through their clothes as well? In a world where ties are no longer expected in many workplaces, we must ask why uniforms in secondary schools remain so formal. Perhaps, it is only a matter of time for schools across the UK to modernise their uniforms, and allow greater freedom of expression. I believe this would not only satisfy the students but create a more peaceful academic environment.

Ocean Renaud 12E



Sarah El Tobgy lOR

The future of politics

Within Britain, the Prime Minister is seen to be someone who is a global representation of the country and within the past few years Members of Parliament (MPs) have gained a lot of attention for their influence on politics, with the future of politics constantly coming into question. Will there ever be a black prime minister? The BBC documentary by Dave Harewood looks at the statistics for the likelihood of there ever being a black prime minister.

Firstly, education plays a crucial factor in the potential of you being seen as an asset within parliament. From the 1950s, it was seen that the best way is to be a white male that goes to private school to then study at Oxford University. However, 45% of black children are born in poverty, so they are more likely to go to a state school. The possibility becomes even lower, as only 4% get a minimum of 3 As to go to a top university whereas 10% of white pupils get 3As *excluding reduced offers*.

In parliament, this representation is very similar with there being only 13 black MPs out of 650 members of parliament. This limits the amount of role models that aspiring young black politicians have to look up to, creating a barrier of chance that few have being willing to take. The media itself does not put a lot of attention on black MPs but when they do, it's done negatively. From David Lammys 'aggressive shouting' to Dawn Butler holding Boris Johnson to account for lying to the public, they are never given the spotlight on the changes that they are wanting to make.

Recent studies suggest that a black child who attends a state school and gets 3 As has a 1 in 17 million chance of becoming prime minister, compared to a white student of the same background and education who has a 1 in 1.4 million chance. This chance is intriguingly high for a privileged white child; a white child who attends Oxford and enters a top profession has a 1 in 200,00 chance of becoming prime minister. The figure was calculated by statistician, economics and inequalities specialist Dr Faiza Shaheen for the documentary "Will Britain ever have Black Prime minister?".

Democracy is meant to represent all citizens that make up society, but still within politics women are still given an unfair treatment. This can be seen with Theresa May's government from 2016-2019. The voted her in as leader of the Conservative government, with her going on to become Prime Minister in 2017, but she didn't receive the backing of the rest of her party. She would put through bills which her party did not back all, because of the women that she was.

Unfair treatment can also be seen with women not making up even half of the members in parliament; 225 members of parliament are women out of a total 650 MPs that reside within the House of Commons. This shows that within government a hierarchy is still being applied. Constituencies need to be represented fairly not just by someone that is incapable of meeting the needs of the people that they have been elected to represent. There are other countries such as Finland that have a female prime minister (Sanna Marin) since December 2019. Marin has brought a uprising of feminism within politics, especially whilst have a female led government. Although Sanna Marin is currently the youngest serving prime minister in the national fold, she was still able to come across as serious and dominant amongst her peers. Her response to the Covid-19 crisis has been praised, with her enforcing earlier lockdown restrictions including closing schools in early March. This led to there being under 20 cases in July and August of 2020. Clearly, the rest of the world is modernising and progressing whereas the UK is still stuck in their way off being 'traditional'.

Conclusively, politics has been constantly contradictory of its abilities and roles within society, with women not having strong enough backing to see an elevation in their representation, or for them to be seen as serious as their male counterparts. People of minorities are unable to represent the rest of the UK in parliament due to historical systemic structures that dont allow for there to be a shift in the results that are seen within parliament. With time, change is seen with minorities and women given more opportunities than ever to be in similar positions to their white peers but also to be seen as equal to their peers academically; the structure of patriarchy are beginning to slowly but surely crumble to the uprising of opinions being evaluated and taken into consideration fairly. The activities associated with the governance of a country are now being seen to slowly want to be more representative of society, but also to influence the public correctly to understand that the state is there for the people. In my opinion, a proportional representation of society would be the most effective way of politics being of significance to all people as it would allow for there to be a sense of personal trust to the government, especially for minority groups.

Lamar Miller 12E

The future of ... the literary canon

Literature is a pervading theme of everything around us. Literature breaks further than the barriers of education and academia; instead it flourishes and shines through the daily events of life. Words and stories enterwine within our lives and those all around us. This is why it is imperative that literature be changed accordingly so that the right stories can be taught and learned at school and within the walls of other institutions. It is common knowledge that the kind of literature we learn at school is that of mainly white men. However, this limits our knowledge greatly as we, as students, are unable to learn about topics we can relate to and once that are of direct significance to our lives. This can prove to be detrimental due to the fact that students are lacking in motivation when having to understand what we are learning.

Literature is greatly diverse so there is no reason as to why schools across the nation would be unable to teach stories and plays written by people who were other than white. There are Black authors, Muslim playwrights, Asian writers and yet these are rarely ever taught despite the fact that literature is not bound by race or religion. Sadly however, much of the world are bound by the two crippling diseases – racism and discrimination. This is an issue and one which needs to be addressed and rectified as 'tradition' and ways of deep rooted discrimination and racism are being subtly transferred onto educational society.

Schools often find it important to make sure that their students are leaving and moving onto higher education and later careers with a solid foundation of the ways in which they have teachable skills to sit tests and revise for exams. Yet it is also important for students to understand the way in which wider knowledge is just as important. Essentially, how can teenagers grow into adults and move into the working world without understanding the basis of diversity? The only impact of this will be long lasting issues, leading to ignorance and unconsciousness of people on a widespread scale and this is a well known cause of many political, social and worldwide issues.

There is further evidence to suggest that the current UK curriculum studied during high school years and even up to sixth form needs to be changed. Three years ago, in Year 9, we studied 'Of Mice and Men' which is very clearly a text which explores racist views and confidently includes racist and derogatory language. This text, for many years on the GCSE curriculum and encouraged by exam boards, was written

by John Steinbeck. He simply happens to be an American white male, does not subvert traditional views of discrimnation, but instead can be considered to support it. At Preston Manor, 'Of Mice and Men' has now been removed from the curriculum, and additional recent changes include the addition of Tanika Gupta's (a writer of Bengali origin) 'The Empress' in Year 8. These changes are definitely an improvement but we hope they are only the beginning.

In Year 12, as part of our English Literature poetry syllabus, this year we were able to choose between Maya Angelou and Sylvia Plath, both authors on the list recommended by our exam board, OCR. However, as we ventured greater into the course and we explored some of the language used by Plath it was clear that she had expressed racist views. Then, once researched into greater depth, we grasped the fact that she was in fact a racist. It is surprising to think that we are given texts to study which are written by racist poets. This is horrible and she most definitely should not be a part of the school or national curriculum at all. Thankfully, due to recent changes, Plath is no longer a poet who will be available at Preston Manor, in accordance with English Literature A Level Poetry Coursework.

Despite the fact that Preston Manor is making small steps towards improving the curriculum and allowing it to be one which shows a wide range of not only skills and abilities but cultures and colours also, it is imperative that this continues and bigger improvements are made. Authors such as Malorie Blackman, Rupi Kaur and Nic Stone which would provide a sense of diversity would be writers that would be beneficial to students across the school. We hope other schools will follow suit.

Shianne Kellar 12T

Preston Manor's Growing Literary Canon: A Response to Tanika Gupta's 'The Empress' and Mildred D Taylor's 'Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry'

Tanika Gupta's 'The Empress' and Mildred D Taylor's 'Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry' both portray their protagonists with brave qualities as they overcame the challenges and difficulties they faced throughout their lives. Today, we will compare the differences in the presentation of their courage, and manage to conclude on who is the most brave.

We see these characters being brave firstly by the way they stand up for themselves against someone who would be seen as 'superior' to them. For instance, Cassie can be seen interfering with Mr Barnett as he was aiding a child who was very similar to her. The reason Cassie did this was because she was unable to come to a clear conclusion of why the white girl's request had been prioritised despite Cassie asking before her. What she was unaware of is that he was being implicitly racist. From the perspective of a young child like Cassie, she could tell there was a blatant unfairness in Mr Barnett's actions and therefore she began to complain to him. This indicates a clear quality of bravery within Cassie, even if she wasn't aware of the consequences. Her talking to an adult in such a manner would definitely require courage. With Rani, there is a very similar scenario in a sense, where she refuses to be mistreated and fights for her respect. When Susan Matthews tells Rani that she will be terminated from her job as an ayah, you can imagine the heartbreak that she would feel. She refused to accept this from Lady Susan and began to try and emotionally persuade her rather than just talking professionally as colleagues. Rani said, 'Then why did you lie to my mother and promise her you would look after me?' because she knew that Lady Susan had a mutual connection with her and her mother, and it might've triggered some sort of guilt or empathy within her. However, Rani's act of bravery wasn't sufficient to change Susan's mind and she ended up getting brutally fired. Rani and Casie are both fighting for their own respect to prove their self-worth to the prejudiced people surrounding them, and can be seen as equally brave.

As aforementioned, Cassie and Rani have a large age difference. While Cassie can be seen in her early teens, Rani is in her adulthood. This suggests they have a large difference in maturity levels too. For example the quote "I went to the other side of it and tugged on his shirtsleeve to get his attention" shows that Cassie is immature and relies on physical actions to express her emotions because she is unable to fully understand the situation with her limited amount of knowledge as a child. In the line "He recoiled as if I had struck him", the word "recoiled" shows that Mr Barnett responded with frustrated body language, and he explicitly portrayed disgust towards Cassie as his racist stereotypes against black people were expressed as Cassie never did anything wrong. Overall, this indicates that Cassie still lacks general social knowledge and her bravery is unconscious because she isn't aware of the consequences. Contrastingly, Rani is much older and wiser than Cassie and is more aware of the consequences of her actions in a world that mistreats women and people of colour. Despite knowing that, Rani is not afraid to have a confrontation with Lady Susan in the novel, proving her valiance and fearlessness. Contrasting to Cassie, Rani verbally disputed with Lady Susan, showing an intellectual superiority between the characters and therefore can be seen as a reason for why Rani is more consciously brave than Cassie.

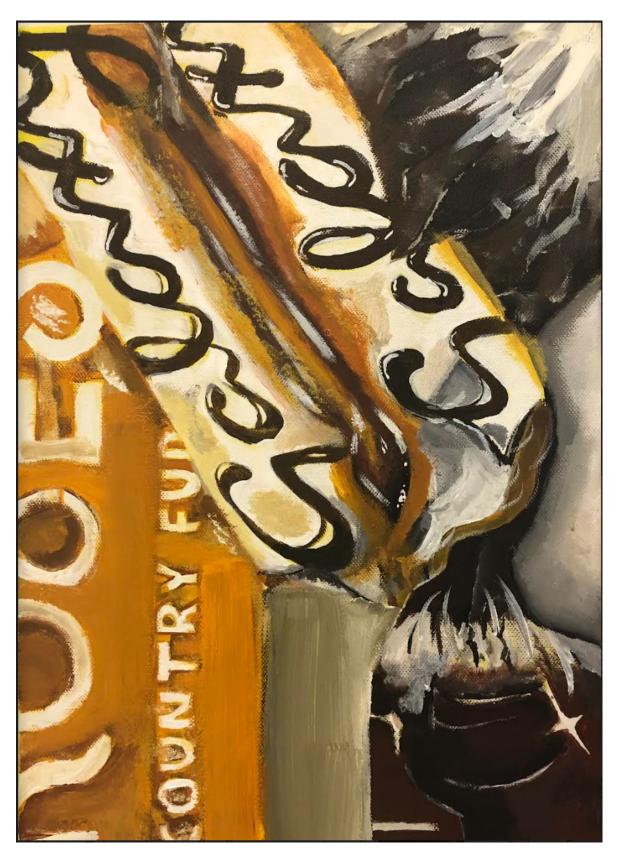
Additionally, the two characters are visibly seen as brave through the actions and stage directions in the texts. Firstly, where it says Cassie chased at Mr Bennett, this depicts Cassie as being very aggravated with the way she has been treated. There is a negative connotation with the word "hissed" and it can be associated with a snake hissing, like nature. However, Cassie is not a snake that is poisonous at all; she is a human. But we can assume that she was completely blinded by her infatuation and that's what caused her to resort to animal-like activities. Her having the audacity to be so disrespectful to someone when she was blinded by emotion is most certainly a key attribute of her confidence and bravery. Similarly with Rani, she is also angered by the antagoniser in the text - Susan Matthews. Rani is on her knees, showing her desperation for any sort of reconsideration from Susan Matthews. This is demonstrated in the quote 'Rani rushes forward and grabs the hem of Susan's dress. Rani fell on her knees'. Despite her efforts, Lady

Susan simply refused to listen to her. Rani was so patient and tried so hard to attempt to change Lady Susan's mind, so now her temper is lost. In the stage direction, '(Angry now)', we can see Rani enveloped in irritation and can no longer put up with Susan's stubbornness. Moreover, she is unafraid of any consequences, since she's already been terminated from her job. Rani continuously fights for herself, proving she's a strong, independent woman. This is a clear presentation of Rani's bravery. She efficiently uses her resilience and wisdom to defend herself, compared to Cassie who relies on rage and emotion to fuel her actions.

Overall, these two characters have successfully completed many feats and both are very brave. However, I personally believe that Rani is the more brave character. The way she uses her wits, her intelligence and her perseverance for an inspirational cause like defending her human rights in a racist and misogynistic world stands out to me. Cassie is also brave, but compared to Rani, she is younger and less developed; this is another reason why I have come to the conclusion that Rani is the more brave character.

Janna Abukar 8R

Year 10 Art Work



Pricilla Antwi 10E

Why is there still racism in the Premier League in 2022?

"For too long now, European football authorities have not taken the problem of racism in the game seriously and refuse to acknowledge how widespread the problem is." - Rio Ferdinand (former England and Manchester United player).

As recently as June 2021, black Premier League players such as Raheem Sterling, Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Jadon Sancho were all victims of racial abuse because of the colour of their skin. This occurred straight after the Euro 2020 final when England played Italy and lost in a penalty shootout. Unfortunately, this problem is not recent and has been around for an extremely long time. So why does racism still exist in the English Premier League and what more can be done about it? To understand the current problem, it is essential that we understand the roots of racism in English football. This article will explore the historical origins of racism in the Premier League, what is presently being done to tackle it, and whether the future is looking bright for BAME (Black Asian minority ethnic) footballers?

Black players first experienced racism in the 1970s in the English football league, now known as the Premier League. Players such as Laurie Cunningham and Viv Anderson infamously suffered racial abuse in the 1970s. Unfortunately, 52 years on, racism in football still continues to this day. In 2001 for the first time, the Football Association (FA) publicly apologised to retired black players for the racism they experienced in the 1970s and 1980s. The FA also admitted it didn't do enough to deal with the problem of racism by spectators or do anything to help the players, which probably ruined their careers. Also, many far-right political groups came to football grounds to recruit members and to spread their political message. For the past 20 years, the FA has been leading the fight against racism in the world of football encouraging people to report it. In 2018-2019, government figures showed a massive yearly increase in reported football related incidents. In July 2020, the police arrested a 12 year old boy who sent Crystal Palace star Wilfried Zaha racist messages and comments on social media. Racism can come from fans but also from other players. In February 2020, Leeds goalkeeper KIko Casilla received an eight game ban after racially abusing an opposing player. Similar allegations have been around for years in European football but largely without punishment.

"Challenge it. Report it. Change it." This is the powerful slogan for the No Room For Racism campaign launched by the English Football Association in March 2019. It aims to fight racism in the Premier League and builds on the momentum of players' support for the BLM (Black Lives Matter) movement since the 2019/20 season resumed in June 2020. How does the No Room For Racism campaign work? The campaign encourages everyone involved in football to challenge and report racism, whether they experience it in the stands or online. The Premier League Chief Richard Masters said that, "We will continue to work with our clubs, players and partners to address all discriminatory behaviour with tangible long-term action and strong messaging to fans. Much is being done to promote inclusion and equality in English football but we recognise there is much more to do." The "Change it" part refers to educating young people about racism; up until now, the Premier League has provided educational materials to more than 18,000 primary schools in England. In August 2021, the Premier League announced that fans who encourage or engage in racist abuse will be banned from Premier League grounds. Previously, football clubs only made this decision.

Is the future looking bright for BAME players?

Overall, I think the future is positive because hopefully there won't be any more racism and black players won't have to deal with or tolerate racist abuse from the fans.

Zaki Hamid 9E

My World

Let's talk about my world: we have killers; we have rappers; we have teachers and we have people.

The government wants to control us like animals in cages, but they can't because we fight to the death.

In the past, we were controlled but now they can't control us. Years after years it took us Time to realise what we have been going through

The pain, the hurt, the sorrow We never caused it, we never wanted it
They forced it on us, they
Controlled us and made us do things we didn't wanna do.

But now we take a stand
And we rebel against
Them. It's not hard to
See what they've been
Doing: our eyes are just
Blinded of the evil in the world.

Rio McKenzie-Rennie 9M

I woke up; rain blasted against the window. I walked towards the window to see what was going on. As I approached it a powerline blew and sparks nearly hit me. Then, over the horizon, was a lovely town only allowed for the rich. It was protected by a thick layer of fog that almost engulfed the city. Then out of nowhere a clock struck seven...The camera in the living room instantly turned on, and gazed over the whole house. It was working time...

Twelve hours of hard labour was about to start. The conditions of the workplaces were terrible - some would reach 50 degrees; it was like being in the sun. The blazing machines roared; it sounded like hell. Some of my friends were unlucky and took a step too far... I never saw them again.

I can still remember when I was seven years old. My dad had just got out of work. We were heading home, but as we crossed the street, I hear a loud bang. Then I saw a truck racing towards me out of control. It overturned. Me and u dad tried to run but it was too late. My dad pushed me out of the way... That day, loneliness and the biggest depression hit me. Later that day, I went home and looked out of the window. A star raced across the sky. I made a wish, but that never came home.

The twelve, long, gruelling hours of work had finally finished. I dragged myself home with rain pouring on me. I opened the front door and instantly the smell hit me. I headed straight into my room, feeling like the world was going to collapse on me. The bed was the only thing I could come home to after work.

Then, out of nowhere, the helicopter patrol started. They were checking who was still awake, and if you were, a harsh punishment would ensue. Unfortunately, I was. The glass shattered into a million pieces. I heard a knock on my door. I was done.

The door opened. It was him, the leader...

Pedro Ramos 9M

Day 10

Dear Diary,

I don't even know if my plan will work. I don't even know where to start. But I'll find a way. Father always told me it will never work if you don't try. So here I am today, finally going to make a change. Okay, diary, I'm going to go and work on this plan of mine. Until then, diary.

Samira

But that all happened months ago. Now, she has made a start to this plan of hers. But, what is the plan, you may ask. Just wait to find out.

Day 36

Dear Diary,

I've been working out how long we are allowed out before the robotic devil-eye machine gets to us. And I have even spotted the different cameras in each room and tried to deactivate the bracelet that notices and tracks our every move. If I can disable it, I'll be on my way to escape the high walls stopping me from freedom. All I have to do now is try to steal the 'twist beaker' from the Royal Blues office.

Wish me luck, diary.

Samira

I left my cabin around 1:00 a.m.; that's when everyone is meant to take that sleeping pill which knocks us out for a good few hours.

But not me. I made sure the camera couldn't see my bracelet, so they wouldn't detect a human body. I distracted it by attaching a blue light to a remote control car. The red flashing camera slowly followed, scanning the car, following its movements. Ever so slowly watching it, like a hawk watches its prey. I quickly made a run for it and headed for the town.

However, she was stopped in her tracks. She looked down at her bracelet; it was nearly 2:00a.m. Soon, all the Royal Blues would scan and search the town. She would be hopeless in a town full of crawling Royal Blues. But she had no choice; her father's blood was in her and she didn't just do it all for nothing. Samira made a run for it into the town. Defying all the laws of gravity, she leapt as high as she could,

hoping to see what lay beyond. She headed straight for her boss' office. Not knowing what surprises awaited her, she carefully creaked open the door.

Slowly, tiptoeing, she opened the door to find the 'Twist Breaker'. She snatched it, just like a hungry mouse capturing cheese, and made a run for it. But to her surprise, she heard large, heavy footsteps. Samira didn't know what to do. So she charged towards the glass window in the office and broke it. Falling from five stories, she held tight, releasing a parachute located in the bracelet. She ran home to complete her task.

Day 37

Dear Diary,

I haven't really told you much about who I am.

Let me explain.

My name is Samira. You probably already know that. I'm twenty years old and have been living here ever since I was born. I grew up with many other children until one day, my father brought me to the top of the hill. The hill was a forbidden place; no-one dared to visit.

He brought me to the forbidden hill, and told me it was the only place that was half safe. He said "When the time is right, run." I never knew what he meant by that, until I reached the age of twelve. It was truly eye-opening, understanding where I was and why I was there. I grew up on a farm, not just any farm, but a farm for humans. And when you hit twenty-one, you are taken and killed and fed to what we call the Velvets. The Velvets are deadly, horrifying robots; they feast on the flesh of human skin to keep them alive.

And we can't escape. Because this town has cameras in every room, every corner. And they are always watching.

And the only way out is over the wall. From the day I turned fifteen, I knew exactly how to escape. The place on top of the hill was the only way to freedom. But with this bracelet, there was no way of escaping. I had to retrieve the Twist Breaker to destroy the bracelet and finally make my escape, leave this human hell hole. For years, I have planned my escape, and today is the day I escape. I am pleased to say, father, we did it.

Thank you diary for all these years. Until next time.

Samira

"Hey, hey, where do you think you're going?"

"I'm going home."

I ran and made my escape, never looking back. At the final moment, I remember my father hadn't told me to run alone, but to run with everyone.

I was free. Or was I?

Aisha Muudey 9M

Year 10 Art Work



Melissa Ilies 10E

I was only ten when it happened. My world was a beautiful place, with beautiful people, or so I thought. Playing with my toys - my only source of hope in the world - peacefully - I surveyed the room like a security camera. Nothing. Everything surrounding me seemed as still and stationery as a soldered statue; it was like time was frozen on ice. Staring at the bright and beautiful pearl-blue sky, there was a sense of serenity, previously unbeknownst to me; it had never been this quiet before; you could hear a pin drop! No! Something was wrong...Where were the planes who monitor us twenty four-seven like prisoners on every 'drill' they they take? Where were they? The silence was deafening but not as lethal as what was about to shock my mind forever,

Glaring at the sky - this time with more concern in my pale and perplexed face - I could this time make out two words on an incoming planes - US Airforce. Within seconds, the sun came down and there was - again - quiet. Ringing ominously in my ear, was a banshee-like scream, truing in vain, to destroy my eardrums. There was no hope - not anymore. But one thing I knew deep down was that I would remember this day, and one day I would take my revenge. One day...

They were the only ones to find me in the deep of the rubble and decay. My friend Yayhe Khalid - Head of Anonymous in Iran - arranged for a group of strangers - my would-be friends - to drive me to Saudi Arabia, where I would be heavily protected from western influence.

"...and then what happened?" inquired a journalist enthusiastically.

At the age of eleven, they taught me to hack into the first organisation I could - The New York Times. During this time, I can't say they were my colleagues; they were my family. They smothered me with care every step of the way, allowing me to progress very quickly, but by thirteen I was promoted to the prestigious positions of Main Group Leader for Foreign Tracking, and then that's when I started to target the large companies like Google and NASA, the ones that could spread our influence internationally. But all this hacking being used for minor and small purposes - it angered me.

What if we changed humanity? What if we actually did something?

Now, the thing about Anonymous is that they don't care what you do - as long as it's for their cause; this is why I began work on Project Vengeance - Project V for short.

" - OK, guys, I love the enthusiasm, but we have to go now," stated Yayhe.

And just like that I was riding back to HQ. Everyone respects us and admires us now after fifty years, but no change has happened. The US are still hiding behind closed doors, what they truly do. They are killers, liars and fugitives. At least now, people are doubting them. Oh, but I'm still angry. Fifty years and not a damn thing has changed? Looking angrily outside my window, I did not think I would see big, black jeeps armed with me in black suits, carrying large assault rifles.

They had come for us, but this time they were serious; they were breaking the law.

They were angry.

Aqdas Chowdhury 90

Trapped in what feels like bars. Suffocated in the same places. No breath to escape out. No breath to alighten. I can feel the sun furiate on why thunder won't let it bleam. Everywhere I go I am the centre of attention, who am I, what are my aspirations; A cut out piece of what the government wanted, a puppet in an ogre's hand. The pilferer of our soul's, who was he, why did he, where he was, an undercover spy?

"Ahh" these horrifying snips of what was the norm a few weeks ago spin in me like a tornado . the tables are turned down this is not how life will carry on! How can you take away freedom? everywhere I go is restricted like a non ending maze, wherever I go I come back to the same place the same people I see with black masks just like me, have no identity.

Is the government playing a game? With us risking people's lives for a better country and a better economy, how shameful! if that is the case they are pineapples (standing tall and powerful but weak inside) i want to believe that this will not happen and illusions are getting the better of me but i know this government they don't like us common people, we don't provide LONDON we destroyed it that's what they think. But Kaveri is going to come back strong with all of us, the commoners, to escape from this misery and we promise each other sunshine will come.

Kaveri Brahmbhatt 9N

I open the door. The hinges make a weird squeaking noise while the door knob seems to shake a bit. I'm met with a strong gust of wind that almost blows me back. I look over the hill to see the people of districts 8 and 9. I live in the most disgusting, filthy and controlled districts out of them all, district 10. District 1 is like our version of paradise where all the Presidents, government officials, Watchers and those men in blue suits you always tend to see when someone tries escaping their district unsuccessfully, live and party together. The reason we live like this is because of a war that happened a while ago where king Octavian was overthrown by the tyrant 'Ouzel' .Our district is separated by electrified barbed wire, watchtowers with heavily armed guards and patrol cars on duty 24/7. The reason our district is so heavily surveyed is because of all the past riots and attempted escapes. The conditions here are so bad and dehumanising that people rather put their lives on the line for a tiny chance at freedom than work here another day. We are forced by the overseers (soldiers) to work in the muddy, foul and rat infested fields to harvest crops while the pouring rain crashes down onto us from above. It doesn't help that the factories nearby in district 9 produce such a toxic gas that the air is polluted to a point where it's barely breathable.

My friends and I have had enough. We're planning an escape like never before. Tomorrow night we're going to distract the patrol guards by using a grenade one that we retrieved from a past escape attempt, and escape through a rip in the barbed wire. We've practised our route about a hundred times and through our extensive testing the guards should be gone long enough for us to be gone too. The night finally arrives. The cold is bitter with only a gentle gust of wind. Jake (one of 4 of us) throws the grenade, it explodes, the guards rush to the scene and we bolt for the tear in the fence. Then suddenly a blinding light shone into our eyes from both watchtowers. We've been discovered. I surrender immediately knowing what'll happen if I don't, while the rest of my friends sprint disregarding the situation. All 3 of them are gunned down and their lifeless corpses plummet to the ground in what seems to feel like slow motion. I scream in anguish when I see them there, lying lifelessly on the cold cement. I don't remember much after that except that something hit me in the back of the head and I fell to the ground unconscious.

I wake up with a bag on my head. The last thing I can remember is my friends getting shot dead. I slowly stand up and come to find myself in a small dark room. There are no windows or anything and the only thing that disrupts the rectangular shape of the room is a camera in every one of the four corners. I'm being watched. I

wander around aimlessly in this room for what seems like forever contemplating how our plan had failed. Maybe we were spotted beforehand or one of the other workers had snitched on us. Anyways, I start to try and figure out where I am, the only human interaction I get is when someone slides me food through the little door thing. As the time passes by it only gets worse. The cold inky darkness of the room feels as if it's taking me over and the loneliness is unbearable. When I'm about to lose hope the door slams open. Light for outside floods in and illuminates the room to reveal that the walls are painted a dull coloured grey. A man wearing a blue suit standing in the door exclaims, "Follow me".

Darius Mititica 9N

Year 10 Art Work



Jana Rodrigues IOR

Keys of Nostalgia

Nostalgia:

Running block to block hearing the rattles of sir's keys speeding by the whisper of trees screaming hide hide hide.

Dashing back through main door, crouching under tables 'til our knees are sore waiting for our teachers to pass us by.

Weeping as I express my loving affection for the boy I now miss sharing stories of good times as I cry cry cry.

Tears running from each eye.
We sit and wait til' time flies by.
I lay my head on my friends shoulder,
As I realise...that we are getting older.

These past few years have been filled with laughter

and humiliation, and arguments, and silly situations.

I now look back to see how much I grew, and how time is on the move.

I cry from the pain.
Stress overthrows my brain.
The end of school is nigh,
All in a blink. Why why why?

Did I not Revise?
I now realise
I'm here for the 9s, not for the 5s...
But school hasn't been about grades

but the memories we hold for days that never fades.

Sharon Stanley 110

Law in the future:

What law would you change or enact to better help young people to live their best lives?

Stephen Lawrence, an ambitious boy who would grow up to be a man. A man with morals. A man with dreams. A man of status and worth. Had it not been for the brutal attack he faced on the 22nd of April 1993. Had it not been for the racist mob that led to his heart-breaking tragedy. Had it not been for wickedness of those who saw him as a danger, an outlier, an outsider in his own area. In reality it is too trivial and far too flippant to simply say that this happened due to the colour of his skin when it was due to the blindness of the murderers who stole his life for they could not see past his race, they could not see past their own hate. However, we must also hold the law accountable. We must be aware of those who are supposed to protect and the ways in which they are doing anything but. We must acknowledge the society we live in and the people we are allowing to walk the streets around us, before we can ever truly see change. Before we can take steps to improving the world, not only for those who come after us, but also for those who live with us, those who live through us and those who were the victims of an absence of justice and morality.

In order to help young people better live their lives it is imperative that the law be changed so that youth offenders over the age of 15 be subject to the treatment of adult criminals. Within our society, we witness the murders, rapes and violent abuse at the hands of teenage offenders. Teenagers who see no problem in stabbing and shooting their peers. Teenagers who believe that violence is the only cure to conflict. Teenagers who are committing heinous and brutal crimes, crimes that create a generation of murderers, a lineage of criminals and offenders. This is because they do not receive effective consequences for their actions. They are given community service and the opportunity to return to normalcy. These criminals are given youth courts where they are allowed to be addressed by their first names to feel less intimidated and worried. They have their names undisclosed to the media and their identities kept private. This should, by no means, be the

way that criminals are treated. They should not be given special treatment. They should not be given a slap on the wrist and the chance to enter back to society to commit these crimes again. By doing this, the law allows violent teenagers to become violent adults. Violent adults who continue their crimes and move on to greater, more damaging ones because they did not receive substantial consequences in their younger years. This is a danger to society because how can young people possibly live and thrive in such conditions? How can young people benefit from a world of crime? How can society improve?

Stephen Lawrence was robbed of his dreams, his opportunities and his life by five wicked and cold murderers. Two of which being David Norris and Gary Dobson who were 16 and 17 years old at the time. Both teenagers had been involved in crimes before but had not been convicted. Four weeks before Lawrence's death the Acourt brothers, who were also perpetrators in the murder, had been involved in the verbal abuse and attempted stabbing of Kevin London – yet another black victim of their 'shared love of violence and hatred of black people'. Due to this, we are left wondering whether harsher laws on youth offenders would have prevented these attacks. If the laws had greater consequences, would London ever have had to experience this abuse? Would Lawrence be thriving as an architect? Would so many other victims of peer-on-peer abuse be alive? Would they still claim the title as a 'victim' or would they in fact be able to live as human beings in a place they feel safe in? This also leads questions towards the policing system. The Acourt brothers, Dobson and Norris should have not been given the privilege of walking freely despite their crimes that the police were aware of. They should have been punished for their actions prior to Stephen Lawrence's murder. Their racism within South London should have been stopped in order to prevent their threats and attacks from becoming actions that caused irrevocable pain and suffering, like that of Lawrence's murder. Through Lawrence's murder, it is clear that youth offenders need to be taken much more seriously. Teenage criminals need to experience the harsh reality of adult prisons. An 18-year-old should not be sent to a penitentiary with 18 - 25-year-olds, they should have an awareness of adult prison to deter them from committing further crimes. Prevention is better than cure and sufficient consequences are better than funeral ceremonies. In order to

better the lives of young people, the law needs to better the lives of society as a whole. The law needs to make sure that young people are not willing to attend prison. They are not willing to simply undergo community service or attend youth homes. Instead, they are encouraged to stay away from crime. They are educated on the dangers of prison so that murders such as Stephen Lawrence's are stopped. So that there are no longer weeping cries of mother's and father's mourning their sons and daughters who are victims of such gruesome crimes. There needs to be a change and the most effective way of this happening would be through the law. This way, these changes and these improvements can be implemented into the lives of young people, allowing them to have hope of a better future. Allowing young people to be exposed to a faith in law and order. A hope in society and the ways it can benefit rather than destruct.

Entered for the SLD Stephen Lawrence Day Competition 2022

Shianne Kellar 12T

The future of the ocean: plastic

Plastic affecting our oceans is a huge situation that we must take action on. There are many ways we can change what's going on and fix this. Plastic is now covering all of the oceans and killing so many sea creatures, making them in danger and us. Plastic covering the oceans is getting worse and worse by every moment. We must make a change!

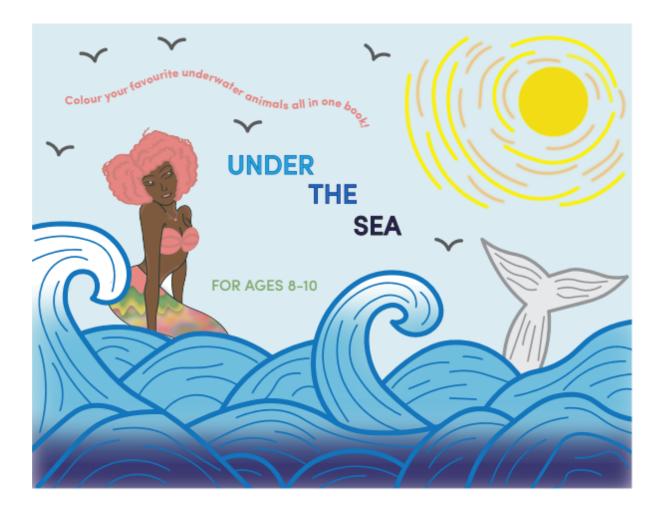
Firstly, this has a huge impact on human life and sea creatures. By 2050 there will be more plastic than fish. How are we allowing this? There are huge islands full of plastic, killing so many sea creatures and affecting their and our health. Plastic is everywhere such as toothpaste and clothes, this isn't safe. It is proven that plastic pollution can be found everywhere in the sea, this suffocates and entangles the sea creatures as they ingest all the plastic. You might use an excuse of "i always recycle tho" and even though that's good and you should be recycling, we must learn to cut out all our plastic use. All the plastic that has ever been made in this world is still in this world.

Another reason why plastic is the single most important issue affecting our oceans is because that plastic is killing all the ocean life. Fish ingest 12,000 to 24,000 ton of plastic each year... killing them mostly because of hunger because of the plastic suffocating their stomach. Sea turtles always mistake plastic for food which leads them to death. 60% of seabirds have eaten plastic because of us, because we don't do what we should. It's come to the point where nearly all dead sea creatures are found dead because of the plastic in them. Plastic kills I million seabirds and 10,000 sea animals each year. The "plastic island" is now as big as texas...

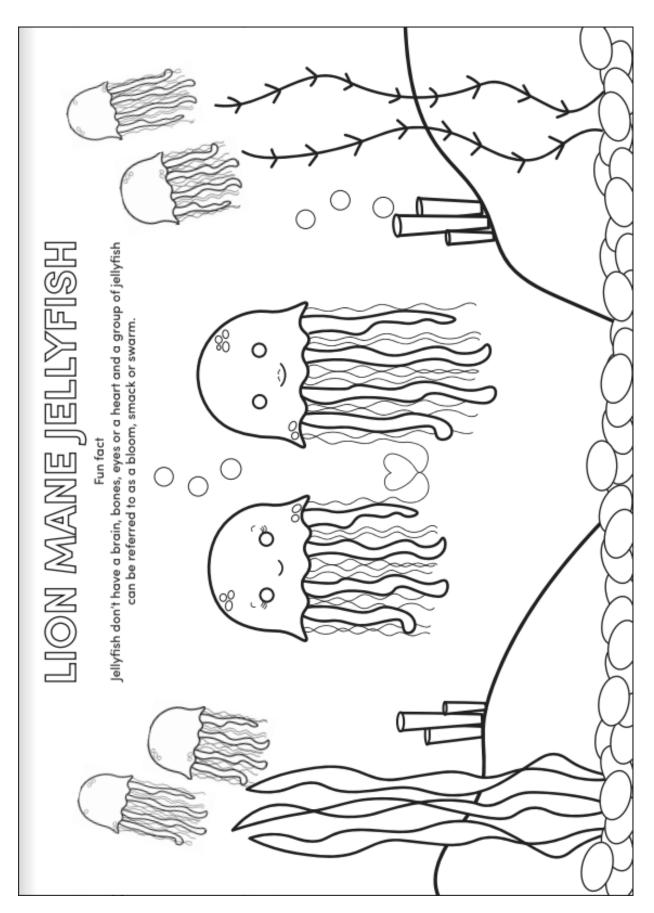
Together we can help reduce the plastic in the ocean, with simple steps we can change this. Instead of using plastic straws, we can try using metal or paper straws as it will help the sea creatures a lot as plastic straws make the sea animals really sick and leave no room in their stomach, in addition to this try using non-plastic containers and reusable water bottles- I million plastic water bottles are sold every minute- and trying buying all reusable objects. Also bring your own reusable bags when shopping. This will help a lot and instead of buying plastic bags every time you shop, bringing your own is also cheaper. With that try to also only buy needed things and less stuff with plastic around it. If you must have plastic for any reason and it's urgent, try and always reuse it as many times as possible and always recycle and never, ever litter. Imagine if everyone did all of this.. The ocean could finally be a beautiful safe place.

In conclusion These are all things happening to the ocean, animals and even us, and how we can help. Just the little thing you do can and will help, if you do all that's necessary things will change and our sea creatures and our health will be better and safer for everyone. Please do all you can to make a change. We can do this together!

Danya Al-Nasseri 9M



Fiza Emaan 12E



Fiza Emaan 12E

Global Warming

To start with, global warming has been an alarming issue to our society and it has affected us in many incompatible ways. Global warming isn't just words. It is a real thing. To add to this, there are many human activities that cause global warming: burning fossils, deforestation and intensive farming. Due to global warming rising temperatures have caused change in weather patterns and some animals becoming extinct.

Global warming has had disastrous, dreadful, deleterious impacts on the planet. Most of the increase of global warming was since 1950. While there are some causes of global warming that are natural, like volcanic eruptions, the reason why we are facing a climate crisis now unquestionably is because of global warming. The main causes of global warming through human activity include: burning fossils, deforestation and intensive farming. The problem is that all of these activities release greenhouse gases that trap the heat in the atmosphere. Power plants burn fossil fuels to operate, due to this they produce a variety of pollutants. burning coal which is used in power plants is responsible for around 46% of coal emissions. Surely this devastating issue should have a solution to it?

As global temperatures increases as surplus numbers, our societies will find it intricate to adapt to the changes this brings; some species are likely to become extinct. Global temperatures rising can cause many problems: dirtier air, higher wildlife extinction rates, more acidic oceans and higher sea levels. Global warming will increase existing risks and create new prospects for both natural and human systems. Without a doubt the risks are not shared equally, and are generally greater for disadvantaged people and communities. Coastal areas will be vulnerable to sea level rise, and some impussiant island nations like the Maldives could dissipate entirely. The problem is that most plants cannot naturally shift where they live, fast enough to keep up with current rates of climate change in most landscapes. The health effects of these disruptions include increased respiratory and cardiovascular disease, injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events. Scientists conclude that rising sea levels can completely disrupt the coral reef!

Undeniably, there are many ways to stop global warming from happening although it would take an eternity to do so. Demonstrably, there is no point in protesting (like

Greta Thumberg) or spending masses of money behind it. Firstly, planting a tree. This could be uncomplicated than it sounds. Trees, when fully grown, will help keep the planet invigorating – as they take in carbon dioxide through a process called photosynthesis. This is the same principle, we need the trees to cool our planet; they are humans chopping them down to create roads or homes. Another course of action would be to stop burning fossil fuels. This is due the fact that it lets out an assortment of CO2 into the atmosphere. Therefore, this would lead to ice sheets melting and rising sea levels. One more way would be to stop using stupefying cars and start walking to destinations you want to go. Overall, bringing changes in the society will not only be beneitifuiacal to the human race-but also animals and the wilderness.

Perilously, Global Warming could be a menace to not just our planet, to us as well. Humans are the main reason for the consequences of Global warming. We release gases such as CO2 into the atmosphere. Some of the activities are burning fossil fuels, deforestation and intensive farming. This is a serious problem and should be stopped now... The changes we bring into society will also be passed onto the future generations.

Aayush Patel 9M

The future of food

Over many years, since the first humans stepped on our planet, food has been changing. Nowadays, we have fast food restaurants, like McDonalds and KFC giving us a great selection of food to eat like: burgers,pizzas and chicken wings- just one click away from our phones. However, this is a problem. This unhealthy way of eating is not sustainable for us and the planet. Imagine a planet, where nothing grows or thrives, no colour anywhere; it is just an ever-lasting wasteland. Imagine a planet where all the exciting and wonderful wild-life that used to live on the canopies of the trees, forever gone. Do you want our planet Earth like this in 50 years time? Well, it is time to change your eating habits and lifestyles.

There are many ways to eat more sustainably and help the planet we live in. In the 21st century, the idea of veganism has risen dramatically because of social media; people are being more considerate and spreading awareness about the damage we are doing to our planet. Veganism is a plant-based diet with no meat and animal produce. Although this may seem abnormal, there are so many other types of food to eat and enjoy that are plant-based. Many people are finding alternatives for every-day food, for example soy milk is used instead of cow milk. Many supermarkets such as: Tesco, Asda and Lidl, are offering a great selection of vegan food. However, unfortunately only 1% of the global population adheres to a plant-based diet. This is not enough. It is estimated that if we all went vegan by 2050, the world's food related emissions would plummet to 70%. So we all need to do our part to help.

If going vegan is a bit extreme for you, you could try to limit the amount of meat you consume and try to eat more plants. But there is one type of meat that seems quite unusual but a great alternative- insects. It is estimated that 8% of the world's nations consume insects. Not only the fact that insects are sustainable and good for the planet, it has many health benefits, such as high levels of vitamin Bl2, fibre and iron. Sainsburys being the first supermarket in the UK to stock the first edible insects, has a great variety of insects such as barbecued flavoured crickets and grasshoppers.

It is estimated that by 2050 that most of the population will eventually consume insects and this could sustain the planet. We humans live in one home, planet Earth, and it is our priority to help save it. Every small thing will count in the future. Why not try to include insects instead of meat in your everyday diet?

Veganism and edible insects are becoming more and more consistent in our diets. Our world population is increasing at an alarming rate. By 2050 the global population will exceed 10 million; it will be harder to feed people according to the UNEP. More land is used for building houses and less land for agriculture, making it harder to have enough food for everyone. Going vegan is not only eco friendly, it will make your lifestyle more healthier. It will reduce the amount of fat and sugar you consume and encourage you to eat more fruits and vegetables. Consuming insects will sustain the planet and have more jobs and opportunities for farmers. The rapid change of the environment is a knock on effect on everything else:jobs,animals and habitats. So we

all need to get together and help be the heroes and save our only planet.

So I urge you, think before you think about ordering a McDonald's. Is this safe for the planet? The future of food is rapidly changing, so do your part.

There is not a planet Earth 2.0, there is only one planet Earth. So remember you are not only killing all the animals, eventually it will kill your friends, your family and eventually, YOU and the planet.

Moksha Carsandas 9E

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New Submissions Desired: Autumn Term <u>Black History Month Special</u> Art, Fiction, Politics, Reviews & More



Perhaps you'd like to write an article for our 'Unsung Heroes' section

Contact the Yl2 Magazine Team or Ms N Taylor if you'd like to contribute.