

PEACOCK

by the pupils, for the pupils
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With thanks to Mr Kidd and Mrs Kendall and all of our guest writers. Also, we would like to thank Mrs Hunt for allowing us to use her computer!



Russian Cyber Plots

At the moment, countries around the globe are criticizing the Dutch government's actions over the handling of the situation with the near security breach of The Hague's chemical and biological weapon facilities, currently running tests on chemicals linked with the Salisbury attacks in the UK. However, the Dutch government has defended itself by saying that the Russians' plot was stymied: they were caught red handed as they tried to hack into the secure Wi-Fi network of the complex nearby. Although catching them, the Dutch did not try to press charges and let the men fly back to Moscow. The growing cyber threat should surely be greeted with a more robust response?



The Suspected Intelligence Officers

Jamie Weare

Little Theatre review

It would be hard to imagine a more fitting event to conclude thirty-two years of phenomenal teaching from our erstwhile Head of Music, Dr Whittle. From the Big Band to the Folk Group, Dr Whittle has been an amazing Director of Music, fostering a vast array of musical styles in the LGS Music Department. He has been one of the most inspirational and influential staff members that has ever been at the school.

The Little Theatre welcomed us back with open arms again this year, with its wonderful acoustics providing a perfect setting for the rich and powerful sound of the LGS Big Band.

The evening began with the Band's signature tune 'The Opener', written by Carl Strommen. The programme moved on to feature hits from Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, and even an old (and my personal) favourite, 'Sunshine Heart', written by Andy Firth which was a regular feature in the repertoire some ten years ago.

The highlight of the evening showcased the combined work of the Big Band and the Folk Group, playing a piece especially written by Dr Whittle to bring together two of his favourite styles of music. The outcome was unique: it was a wonderful blend of vibrant strings accompanied by the pulsating undertones of the Big Band. Several Year 13 students were also saying good bye as their time at LGS drew to a close. They celebrated by serenading us with outstanding solo performances from Izzy Josza on the trumpet and Charlie Butland on the saxophone.

The concert closed with a gentle lullaby. It was a fitting close to a wonderful evening and signified the end of an era for Dr Whittle. The end of an era maybe, but also the start of a new chapter in the Band's history as the baton is passed to Mr Barker and an exciting new phase begins.

Jennifer Ewington

Leicester History Festival

To mark the Centenary of the First World War, Leicester Grammar School hosted the Leicester History Festival in its first year on Saturday 29th September. The festival helped raise money for the veteran's mental health charity, Combat Stress, and raised over £350.

Throughout the course of the day various talks were hosted, shows and events were put on and there were many stalls displaying information, artefacts and objects posted around the school. The main lectures concerned the First World War, and so did many of the stalls, however the day was not limited to this topic as there was an abundance of other features to see and talks to attend. The talks on the First World War were not only useful to GCSE students in the school, but were very interesting; to hear another perspective on the war and learn new information less commonly known. In addition to the war talks, there were a range of others held throughout the day: from the Ancient Greeks to Tudors and Stewarts, to name a few of the many different points in history that the Festival encompassed. Concerning activities, there was falconry and archery to get involved with and the stands brought archaeology, war artefacts, information and insight from topics across the course of history.

Despite being in its first year, the Festival saw a great many visitors – and not all were Leicester Grammar School students or parents – attracted to the events being hosted. Over 600 people attended the event and everyone left having learnt something new; there was a wealth of knowledge showcased in the school that day, and it

was impossible not to pass a stall or hear a talk which dipped into information and periods of history which were of interest. The range and selection of events and activities were of various sorts, and so well chosen, that the Festival came together very neatly as a whole, branching across the course of history.

It was a well-co-ordinated day and its success is owed to the efforts of the History Department for arranging it and also to all those who helped to bring it together and assist on the day, students and teachers alike. On the doors, in the talks, along the stalls, and around and about, the day was supported by volunteer students who helped with a great many of tasks from setting up and keeping on top of organisation, to directing, welcoming and informing visitors as required. Without the abundance of support across the School the festival could not have run as smoothly as it did, and great thanks are owed to the History Department for their tremendous effort in starting up the Leicester History Festival – and doing it so well.

Georgina Holmes





At the cinema

Mission Impossible-Fallout

“Mission: Impossible - Fallout” is the sixth instalment of the “Mission: Impossible” films, and it would help if you had seen the others (they are pretty good!), though you could get away with just going straight into this as most of the past characters are explained. The story goes that an anarchic organisation called The Apostles, who over time have acquired three plutonium orbs, plan to blow up Mecca, Jerusalem and The Vatican. So Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) and his IMF friends including Benji (Simon Pegg) and Luther (Ving Rhames) go off to try and stop them, along with shady government agent Henry Cavill, and the excitement just escalates from there. With a great fight scene in a bathroom early on, as well as a strong supporting cast, alongside a followable plot and a few touching moments, this was probably the most thrilling of the thriller series. When this film was made, Tom Cruise was 56, and yet he could still jump between buildings, halo-jump out of a plane thousands of feet in the air and hoist himself into a helicopter, with nothing but a dangling rope while it is moving. His face remains unscarred from previous engagements, with a handsome look, not too tall, not too small, and his incredible stunts added a new aspect to the action hero genre. He can say charismatic lines like “We’ll burn that bridge when we get to it” with a straight face. Overall, he is probably fitter than most twenty year olds. He is, in all respects of the phrase, the man that can.

Teen Titans Go! To the movies

If you have seen the ‘Teen Titans Go!’ Television series, you would probably agree that it is, very much, a barmy kids’ show. The movie has its similarities and differences, but the general ground work is the same. That is not to say that it is bad.

You don’t have to have seen the show to understand what’s going on. Though the film is about all five of the Titans (Robin, Starfire, Beast Boy, Cyborg and Raven), the protagonist appears to be Robin; he wants to be considered a real hero, not a sidekick, so he tries to get his team their own movie. Along the way, the Teen Titans discovered a fan-favourite villain, new to the series, called Slade (or Deathstroke to someone who has read the comics) who is crucial, as the Titans feel they need an Arch-nemesis to be considered heroes.

The movie is filled with jokes anyone can laugh at, making fun of the live action Detective Comics Universe especially Aquaman and Green Lantern, and doesn’t shower you with dark and gloom or an epic tale of striving towards victory. The cast includes everyone from the original show as well as the man, the myth, the legend Nick Cage as Superman and Will Arnet as Slade and even Stan Lee. The 2-D animation is simple but beautiful, the original soundtrack is amazing and the end line is one for the ages. Though it did focus on Robin a little too much, that is a little quibble. Overall, it is a smart and silly adventure, even on a par with ‘Deadpool’.

By Thomas Mann

The Incredibles 2

The misunderstood “Supers” are back for a second time. Still balancing between legality and illegality of heroism, the Parr family are in conflict with the Metro Ville police, after leaving a trail of destruction in a wake of their epic battle against Under-Miner. Under those circumstances, the government officially shut down the secret superhero program, leaving the Parr family stranded without jobs.

The Parr Family are approached by the upbeat promoter and telecommunications tycoon, Winston Deavor (Bob Odenkirk), in attempt to restore the superheroes’ tarnished public image. Elastigirl (Holly Hunter) is enlisted to make superheroism legal again. Whilst Helen with the help of her PR guru are out fighting the sinister ‘Screen- Slaver’, Bob, aka Mr Incredible, is left at home with his kids.

Bob (Craig T Nelson) is playing a bigger role as a father in the family, as he faces his own challenges: helping Dash (Huck Milner) with maths and tending to Violet’s (Sarah Vowell) traumas of her first ever teen crush. Jack-Jack, who was not in the spotlight of the first film, shifts to the centre of the stage for “The Incredibles 2”. Over time Bob becomes tired of looking after the kids, and we are shown that he hilariously becomes unaware of the dangers for Jack-Jack (who is in “excellent health”), who can turn into a monster with a craving for cookies and teleportation powers. Unlike any other Incredible he has many powers, which include immolation and laser-beam eyes.

But a question arises: was it worth the wait?

“The Incredibles” came out in October 2004, and “The Incredibles 2” came out this year, 14 years later! This was because the producers of the film wanted to perfect the storyline.

It was worth it. After you get introductions out of the way, the movie finds ways to surprise you and maintains an energetic vibe. It was also hard to make the script after many superhero movies were released in the decade while we were waiting, so many ideas were ‘taken’. However, this movie is still able to stay unique and has pulse racing action sequences, which keep us very interested.

The best aspect of this movie is that the producers did not include gags every 30 seconds, just because this is a family movie. By doing this, they made the movie a proper superhero movie, and this is what makes it differ from the first one, making it the best movie released this year. To conclude, by adding a unique twist but at the same time not making it hard to understand, “The Incredibles 2” was worth the wait.

Aditya Mathur and Svaraji Odedra



Trips

Costa Rica

The Leicester Grammar School Biology and Geography trip to Costa Rica in July 2018 was an amazing opportunity for all of us. As none of the thirty-two pupils and four teachers had ever visited Costa Rica before, we knew that the ten-day trip, exploring the fascinating country located in Central America, would be very exciting, as well as educational and informative.

The agriculture of Costa Rica was extremely interesting and very different to our own. We were shown demonstrations on how to cut open a cocoa pod and given information about the cocoa cultivation, including how they harvest, ferment and dry the beans. The coffee plantation tour in the Doka Estate demonstrated the different processes involved in making coffee, including a manual demonstration of how to dry the coffee beans out in the sun. The chocolate and coffee plantation tours both gave us an insight into how important the cocoa and coffee beans are to the country's economy and gave us the opportunity to taste and take home Costa Rican produce.

As over half the country's area is forested, we wanted to experience what it would be like to walk through and observe wildlife in the rainforest and cloud forest. The Tirimbina Education Project enabled us to contribute information to scientists trying to preserve these important habitats. We all got used to wearing our fashionable ponchos as we carried out some practical work, investigating the different types of leaves that were growing. We encountered more beautiful sights of the cloud forest below us when we embarked on the Arenal Hanging bridges tour. We walked over rivers whilst being

educated about the wildlife and landscapes by our friendly tour guide, Carlos, who accompanied us for the whole trip. Carlos' English was impeccable and his knowledge about all things Costa Rican really made the trip for us.

The variety of wildlife in Costa Rica is amazing. On the boat trip on the Sarapiquí River, we saw howler monkeys and iguanas in the trees, as well as otters, kingfishers and a Caiman crocodile in the water. We also spotted many sloths throughout the trip. During the night hikes, we saw many varieties of insects including tarantulas, crickets, poisonous tree frogs and snakes. A favourite wildlife highlight was when we visited the butterfly farm and had the chance to pick up butterflies of different colours and sizes. We witnessed physical features and sights such as the La Paz waterfall and even went on a hike up to see Arenal volcano, one of Costa Rica's active volcanoes located in the district of La Fortuna. We also had the pleasure of kayaking through mangrove swamps which play an extremely important role in the biological ecosystem and shoreline protection. The catamaran and snorkelling trip, exploring the biology and underwater wildlife, were amazing activities to do on the last day. We saw dolphins leaping alongside our boat and we also swam in the warm water alongside brightly coloured fish.

Personal highlights for myself were exploring the Venado Caves, where we had to work together to help each other scramble through the caves. The Sky Tram and Trek zip line tour was also another highlight, where we ziplined over tree canopies. Again, we had to be supportive and motivate one another to take on this challenge. I think everyone will remember the expression on Mr Fishpool's face as he zoomed over the cloud forest canopy whilst sporting his Go-Pro. If you love beautiful scenery, fascinating wildlife, outdoor activities and a warm and friendly welcome everywhere you go, then this is the trip for you. "Pura Vida!" - as they say in Costa Rica.

Emily Kendall

Tanzania

As we broke up from school for a well-deserved summer break, a small group of students – along with four willing teachers – embarked on a trip unlike any other that we had experienced before. We took the time out of our holiday (albeit, time well spent) to travel to the other side of the equator – to Tanzania.

Yes, we did expect a huge difference between our living conditions and theirs, however nothing can prepare you enough for the poverty which had pounded the area around Kilimanjaro. There were children infested with disease-bearing bugs; parents looking melancholic as they attempt to survive the fight of ailment too. The list of the struggle could go on. This was a foremost reason as to why we journeyed to this alien continent, so we stuck-up Millennials, who always want more, can finally appreciate how lucky we are with true meaning. Now, this will not be a dreary list of all the depressing realities we saw, rather a celebration of a people so unlucky, yet so full of joy, passion, spirit, and not worried about anything that they're lacking. They make the most of what they have.

We (or the 'Kilisquad') had the chance to work with our sister school, The Bishop Alpha Memorial High School, where humility, humbleness and gratitude were traits of all the students and teachers. Their spirits were other worldly, with each day giving them another reason to dance, fight, and dream. They welcomed us with open

arms and received our gifts (old shoes, clothes and school stationary) as though we were the heroes of their adolescent years; but the gifts, something they're unable to access, were everyday resources to us.

Upon leaving the school, after playing humiliating netball and football matches, painting two buildings, spending time with the students, the day drew to a close with a chaotic goodbye full of tears, and flooded with raw emotion. We had created a most beautiful bond.

Experiencing sensational safaris, enduring a gruelling 3500m climb up Kilimanjaro, or getting dangerously close to animals you might think were the highlights of our trip. But, for most, the act of giving away the water filters we raised money for – the main objective of the trip – were the most fulfilling and gratifying moments of not only the trip, but of our lives thus far. Who wouldn't want to be able to say they handed over a contraption (to the nomadic Hadzabe and Datoga tribes, local schools, and villages) that could potentially save hundreds of lives in a few simple steps? It may sound a little clichéd, but despite that, we left Tanzania with a changed perspective, knowing now that being materialistic and unsatisfied with our current situation is merely a waste of time, and we should be overwhelmingly grateful for the opportunities we have here in school and in our country.

Emily MacTaggart

Interview with Mr Pratt

How are you finding Leicester Grammar School?

It's been incredibly busy, but incredibly rewarding! Thankfully my colleagues have all been very patient with helping me to settle in. More importantly, I've been impressed by the warm welcome that I've received from all of the pupils at LGS, whether I teach them or not.

What do you think is the greatest achievement that you have accomplished?

Oh, that's a tricky question. I suppose that I've always done quite well academically; I managed to negotiate a move to and from America, with my poor long-suffering cat in tow; at one point, I was even ranked as a 'professional' table football player. But I like to think of my life as being defined by lots of small victories and things going well, or indeed not so well, rather than one great singular moment.

Are you looking forward to any upcoming events of the school calendar?

Undoubtedly the summer visit to Hadrian's Wall. That, at least, is what Mr McLean told me I should say... but I do genuinely mean it. I've never been before and there is no other site quite like it from the Roman world. Other than that, I am very much looking forward to the School Play.

Have you always wanted to study Classics, or did you want study something else?

I did not go to a school that offered Latin or Classics but I've always enjoyed learning about the ancient world. So when I was looking at possible university courses and discovered that Classics was a 'thing,' I instantly knew it was for me.

Why did you choose to work at Leicester Grammar School?

A few reasons: I really liked the feel of the school when I visited. There seems to be an interesting mix of forward-thinking coupled with a respect for tradition. The pupils I met all seemed very bright, keen to learn and grounded. Finally, the Classics department here is one of the best in the country and I wanted to be a part of that.

Where did you go to study Classics?

I did my undergraduate degree at Warwick and then studied and taught for a number of years at Harvard University.

What kind of student would you recommend this subject to?

Classics involves the study of the Greco-Roman world in its totality, so whether you are interested in language, literature, mythology, history, art, archaeology or scientific thought, there is something there for you. Above all else, though, I think that a good Classicist needs to be curious. There are the big questions: for instance, how could the Greeks invent drama, philosophy and democracy and yet consider slavery to be a totally normal state of affairs? Then there are the smaller details: why was the Roman poet Ovid so upset by the idea of wearing trousers? Being interested in the classical world and wanting to know more about how the ancients were like and unlike us is what makes for a good Classicist.

Period Poverty

When you initially think of Period Poverty, you would imagine girls suffering in developing countries or in conflict zones, unable to access the basic sanitary items they require. However The Independent reported, on International Women's Day this year, that "More than 137,700 girls in the UK missed school in the last year because they can't afford sanitary products".

Nearly all girls and women across the world from the ages 10-40 experience menstruation, so how is it fair that girls have to miss school once a month because sanitary items are unaffordable in their households. In some cases, a decision has to be made as to whether food or tampons should be purchased for that week and so sadly for so many young girls they have to make do with tissue paper or old t-shirts to serve as a makeshift sanitary item.

More than one in ten girls has had to improvise sanitary wear due to affordability issues and more than a fifth of parents said they had gone without something themselves so they had enough money to meet their daughter's needs. One in seven girls have had to ask to borrow sanitary wear from a friend due to affordability issues, says Plan International UK.

Hence why so many girls end up missing days in school, to avoid the embarrassment of not being able to protect themselves adequately. Alesha Dixon, an "Always" ambassador, said: "The more awareness we can raise about this issue, the more we can

help to remove the shame girls feel in talking about it. Puberty is a hard enough time to navigate without feeling embarrassed about not being able to afford essential sanitary products and no girl today should experience that."

It not only means that these girls miss out on education, social interactions, sport and other opportunities but they also have their confidence knocked.

Nine in ten parents say their daughter's school has not communicated with them about Period Poverty in any way, showing that we need to start raising awareness of this issue in schools primarily. In the early part of August, Scotland was one of the first places, to introduce free sanitary products in schools.

One council in North Ayrshire, Scotland has also began to offer free sanitary items in toilets due to the statistic that one in five women in Scotland has experienced Period Poverty. "Always" also launched a campaign to end Period Poverty and in their first three months they donated over 5 million pads to girls in schools across the UK.

In the 21st century no woman should be facing problems such as these, and just because half the population isn't affected by it, does not make the cause any less worthy. We must try and improve the lives of these young girls by educating everyone on this issue and providing support to those who experience this.

Vaidehi Samani

“Real Power is Fear”

On the 5th of September 2018, the New York Times anonymously published an Op-Ed essay regarding President Trump's administration. The author of the article is currently unknown, however in the article disclaimer, we learn that he is “a Senior official in the Trump administration, whose identity is known to us and whose job would be jeopardized by its disclosure”.

The author does not criticize the administration. The author solely criticizes the President's ‘misguided impulses’ and his amorality. He talks about how triumphs in the administration (like tax reform), are ‘despite- not because of’ the President. The Op-Ed criticizes Trump by explaining to us that his administration disobeys his rules and orders on purpose for the good of the USA. Apparently, some members of the administration and the Cabinet even tried to use the 25th Amendment to strip Trump of his powers. The author says that Trump makes ‘reckless decisions’ which later have to be corrected. Evidently, other seniors in the White House are angered by the way he keeps changing his decisions, but apparently thanks to ‘unsung heroes’, supposed bad decisions never get past the West Wing. The author even belittles Trump by saying that there are ‘adults in the room.’

“Fear: Trump in the White House” is a book which sticks to a similar theme to the Op-Ed, as it delves into ways officials in the White House have tried to prevent ‘disasters’ in the Trump Administration. Coincidentally, the day

before the Op-Ed appeared in the New York Times, previews of his book were released to the internet. The media spotlight on the 4th of September was mainly about the book previews, but the Op-Ed also grabbed a lot of that attention the next day, when the essay was published. Bob Woodward, the author of the book, well known for shining light on the Watergate Scandal that led to President Nixon's resignation, based the book mainly on his interviews with the administration and the Cabinet. Apparently, the book title is based on a Trump quote. When the book was released it rocketed to No.1 on Amazon and sold over 1.1 million copies during its first week of publication.

The book delves into many important issues with the President and his administration, including the idea that senior officials take papers off Trump's desk to stop him from signing them, “For the good of the world”. This is also a key topic in the New York Times Op-Ed. In an interview with CBS News Bob Woodward denied anything to do with the Op-Ed essay. Woodward even said, “I wouldn't have used it”, because he believed it was too vague and did not specify specific events.

It also includes many comments from the White House, including one from Secretary of State, James Mattis, who said that Trump had the understanding of ‘a fifth or sixth grader’. Mr. Mattis is viewed as an anchor in Mr. Trump's Cabinet and is mentioned frequently. According to the book, after the chemical attacks on Syria, the President said, “Let's assassinate Assad” and Mr. Mattis hung up and told his aide that they

were going to do something else, which were the following tactical airstrikes on military bases. It also includes quotes from Trump, which are targeted at his administration. The President called Jeff Sessions, his Attorney General, a 'dumb southerner' and 'mentally retarded'. The President said that the book was 'very inaccurate'. However, he also denied having ever been interviewed by Woodward, which clearly tests the credibility of the book's sources. As President Trump continued to attack this extraordinary condemnation from within his own administration, Vice President Mike Pence and other officials began to deny authorship of the Op-Ed essay, which threw the Trump Administration into mayhem. As the New York Time Op-Ed essay is anonymous, no one, except the New York Times, knows who the author of the essay is.

There are many theories into who might have written it. All we know is that the author is a senior official in the White House. James Dao, the New York Times Op-Ed Editor, who published the essay, did not define how senior the official is, and he was even careful enough not to let the gender of the author slip. However, after the New York Times referred to the author as 'he' in social media, it has led some to believe that the anonymous writer was a man. However, James Dao told CNN, that 'he' is referring to someone, who is not named. Mr. Dao has published a few other anonymous pieces during his tenure as an Op-Ed Editor. The most recent example was a piece in June 2018, by an unnamed asylum-seeker in El Salvador.

Some people have speculated that Mike Pence could be the main suspect because

analysts have looked at the language used and one word which comes up often in the essay is 'lodestar', a word, which Mike Pence uses often in his speeches. However, this could even be a ploy to make us think it was Pence, which is unlikely as the writer of the Op-Ed essay gave their name to the New York Times.

The writer of New York Times Op-Ed essay suggests they are part of President Donald Trump's Cabinet, or at least trying to act like being a Cabinet official. So, one can speculate that Betsy DeVos (Secretary of Education) or Linda McMahon (Administrator of Small Business Administration) could have written the Op-Ed essay.

However, Linda McMahon (Cabinet Official and Head of Small Business Administration), clearly denies writing the anonymous Times Op-Ed, as she stated on Twitter: "I am not the author of anonymous @NYTimes Op-Ed ." @RealDonaldTrump, has a clear governing vision for the country and his record of results is remarkable. I am proud to serve as a member of President Trump's @Cabinet to advocate on behalf of America's 30 million small businesses". Trump, and the McMahons have always had good relationship, as Trump's Plaza in New Jersey hosted WrestleMania by World Wrestling Entertainment (owned by Vince McMahon, Linda's husband), in the 1980s. Therefore, this would make it unlikely that Cabinet Official, Linda McMahon would have written the Op-Ed .

All in all, the witch-hunt continues but Sarah Sanders, the Whitehouse Press Secretary, said that business would carry on as normal in the White House. In a statement she described the source as "gutless", "sad" and "pathetic". Only time will tell how yet another tense political situation will unfold for Mr. Trump and his administration.

By Aditya Mathur, Svaraji Odedra and Lucas Hoffmann

“You cannot make a decision based on lies”

On the 23rd June 2016, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland voted in a referendum to leave the European Union, with a majority of 52% to 48% of the vote share.

I believe that this decision is wrong and is not representative of what the nation really wants. I also believe that this decision is not the will of the people.

When a person makes a decision, they should know what the consequences of that decision will be. The same is surely true of a democratic election or referendum. If you vote for a certain political party, you expect them to stick to their manifesto. If you vote for something in a referendum, you expect the reason you voted for it to be reality.

Not just a lie on the side of a bus.

In democracy, the will of the people is what governs above all. But when all the people decide what should be done, what should be changed or kept, you can only expect them to make that decision based on what they know. It is therefore absurd to expect them to make the decision if that knowledge is wrong. And it is not their fault that their knowledge or decision is wrong if they lied to.

So many lies were made in the build up to the EU referendum that it is absolutely extraordinary, at least in my opinion, that the referendum was not made void or ignored. Many lies were made by the Leave campaign,

including advertising many false figures to sway the referendum. In that respect the leave campaign was successful, but if a campaign's only achievement is to lie on a large enough scale to fool a sizeable chunk of the population, I believe the campaign is not successful, and also that the referendum it was campaigning on should immediately be void. It is only logical that the more lies are told the more likely people are to believe them, because they become tangled up in the facts.

I am not saying that it was just the Leave Campaign that made the lies, however they did make what are undeniably the biggest lies of all.

There is huge amounts of evidence to suggest that, had this and many other lies not been made, this country's future would be safer, and more prosperous, within the European Union.

Such evidence of these lies can also be found in the recent fining of the Leave Campaign by the Electoral Commission. It has now come to light that the Campaign lied about it's spending, over spent and colluded with another Campaign, BeLeave, without properly reporting this to the Electoral Commission. Not only did they do these profound and illegal acts, but they then denied it, questioned the Electoral Commission's right to regulate them, accused the Electoral Commission of a politically motivated attack and are even now appealing against the Regulators' decision.

I am not arguing that the European Union is perfect, or that it does what it is supposed to do in the most efficient way. All that I am arguing is that it has done far more good than bad. It forms almost a third of our GDP and a quarter of our exports. It allows to travel freely between many countries, and lets us work and study in those countries. It assists farmers if there's a bad harvest, allows us to share security with other nations. It has the collective power to control huge conglomerates like Google, and assists start-ups and huge amount of research. It cannot be argued that there is nothing on this list that will not affect the British people.

I agree that the European Union has its faults, but the positives far outweigh the negatives to a huge extent.

When people voted to "Take back control" they did the opposite. In doing so they voted to take away our control over large organisations, it told our allies that we think we can make do by our self when we clearly can't. Anyone who follows anything to do with business will tell you it is slowly destroying our companies and our jobs.

People voted for Brexit because they thought we could make a comeback from the short term effects. There is a high chance that if we cannot make a deal with the European Union (a prospect that is becoming increasingly likely) we will fall into a state of disrepair. Our currency could collapse, our companies fail. Without the European Union there is a chance this nation could collapse.

This is not Project Fear, this is the truth.

I also believe that you cannot call leaving the European Union the will of the people if the people who the decision will most affect had no control over the decision. We, the next generation, will inherit this nation but also its problems and I believe it is wrong that older generations should be able to create and force upon us new problems, certainly without our input or control. Nationwide surveys and forecasts show that if children aged 14 or over could have voted in the referendum on leaving the EU, approximately 80% of those who would decide to vote would vote to remain in the European Union. This would easily swing the vote to Remain.

To conclude, I do not think that Britain leaving the European Union can be called the will of the people, because I do not think that the people were told the truth or that all the people were represented. I therefore believe that Britain should not leave the EU without a second referendum. I also do not believe that the generations who go before us should be able to destroy our futures without us having a voice towards their decision. I am a citizen of the United Kingdom, but I am also a citizen of the European Union. And I would rather be just a member of the latter, because Brexit will rip Britain apart, and it will be my generation who pick up the ashes and try to rebuild it.

William Wale

Any opinions expressed in this article are those of the author only, and should in no way be interpreted as the opinion of the Peacock Magazine or Leicester Grammar School.

“The only
thing we
have to
fear is fear
itself.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt