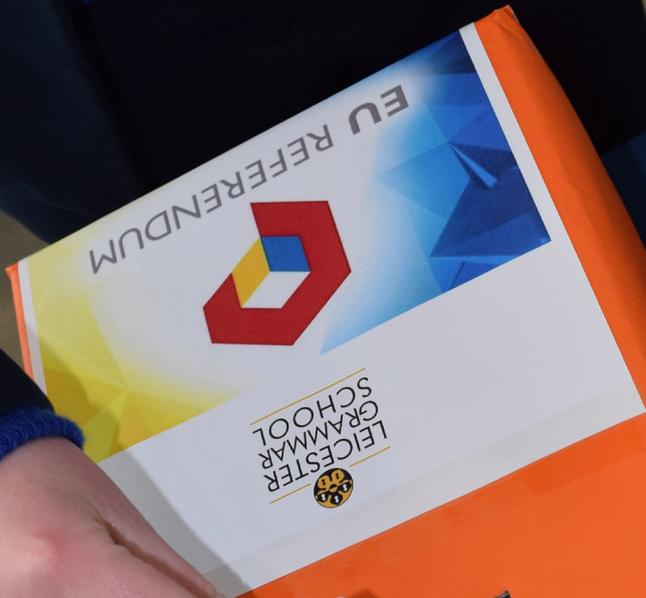




P EACOCK

by the pupils, for the pupils
Issue 6, May 2016



Interest • Interviews • Current Affairs • Debates • Reviews • Music

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**With thanks to Mr Kidd, Mr Hunt and Mrs Kendall, and all of our guest writers.
Also massive thanks to Mrs Hunt for letting us use her office and her computer to
edit.**

Editors' Notes



Time moves on and editorial teams pass on the baton to younger hands - particularly as GCSEs loom large. Our thanks to Kaneeka, Jasmine, Mary, Ruth and Leanne who are now on exam leave. The editorial team for this issue is comprised of Lili Mepham, Isabelle Topping (editing and compositing), and Ellen Blaine (editing and proofing). Lili and Isabelle are both Year 7s and the publication of this edition is almost entirely the result of their endeavour. Ellen is an "old hand" in Year 8. Kaneeka has kept a watchful eye on her protegees. Our thanks, as ever, goes to the contributors - regular and freelance - and to Mrs Hunt and Mrs Slonecki whose office we share in the lead up to publication.

To those editors and contributors who are leaving these pages for the last time - thank you and good luck. To those who will return, renewed and energised after the summer, we look forward to proofing, printing and reading your copy.

Percy

“We must unite. We must be together, regardless of race nationality or faith.”

President Obama

Calling all Europhiles and Eurosceptics; in a few months the decision will be yours as to whether our nation will become an 'even greater Britain' or will take a 'leap in the dark.' Of course, the decision is not necessarily yours, if you are under eighteen, but the outcome of the referendum will definitely affect all of our lives, and so the topic is something everyone should be familiar with, if not have an opinion on.

As a part of his re-election campaign in 2015, David Cameron had promised that, by the end of 2017, an in-out referendum would be held with regard to Britain's position in the EU. The more astute of you would have noticed that it is not 2017 yet, but, as with most necessary evils, it appears the Prime Minister wants to get this over and done with as quickly as possible.

Cameron is an advocate for the in-campaign, famously claiming that Britain would be taking a 'leap in the dark' if we were to leave our home of the last forty-one years, the European Union. However, others have argued that at the time when Britain entered the 'EEC,' we were the 'sick man of Europe,' and since then have come a long enough way to not require the crutch we once so desperately needed.

There are many political reasons why people are so keen to leave the EU, but if we take this from a purely economic perspective, Brexit presents two massive opportunities: freedom from expensive (and often ineffectual) EU regulation, and the opportunity to improve our world trade.

The Telegraph has estimated that the '100 most burdensome EU rules cost us £33 billion a year.' It depends on the individual as to what to label 'burdensome' but none can argue that £33 billion is an outrageous amount to spend on regulations that often reap no benefits. Alongside this, an analysis by Full Fact shows that it costs £24 million per day to stay in the EU. Last year, Britain paid in £13

billion to the EU budget, but only received back

£4.5 billion, roughly 7% of what the Government spends on the NHS each year. It is the unfortunate truth that, as one of the largest economies in the EU, Britain gets out a lot less than it puts in.

Increased regulations also mean that British and EU businesses are less able to compete globally. Leaving the EU would remove much of the 'red tape' that restricts businesses, ensuring greater trade with emerging markets. Currently, to establish trade agreements, the 27 other countries in the EU must also be consulted, which inevitably hampers the progress of free trade, as each state has its own specific agenda. Although supposedly trading within the EU costs no extra tariffs or taxes, the tariffs set on products coming from outside this economic area is incredibly high. Not

only is there an additional 12% added in the textiles industry, but also the OECD has estimated that the agricultural tariffs cost British consumers about £8 billion per year. By leaving the EU, Britain will have far more freedom to establish trade deals and set up unilateral free access to our markets to the world's poorest nations.

Europhiles will argue that the EU is Britain's main trading partner, accounting for 52% of the total trade in goods and services and worth over £400 billion a year. The pro-EU Centre for European Reform recently stated in a report that 'The idea that the UK would be freer outside the EU is based on a series of misconceptions, that a medium-sized, open economy could hold sway in an increasingly fractured trading system dominated by the US, the EU and China.'

The UK also imports many goods that cannot be produced at home from the EU. By leaving, the Government may decide to impose large tariffs on European imports, which could end up costing consumers a substantial amount. On another note, the EU is currently in negotiations with the US to create the world's biggest free

The EU Referendum

trade area, something that will obviously be very beneficial to British businesses – if we stay in.

One of the biggest factors in the out-campaign is that of immigration. The Free Movement of workers is a ‘fundamental principle enshrined in Article 45 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union.’ This entitles all EU citizens to: look for a job in another EU country, work there without needing a permit, reside there for that purpose, stay even after employment has finished, and enjoy equal treatment with nationals in access to employment, working conditions and all other social and tax advantages. In 2014, inflows of EU nationals migrating to the UK stood at just over 250,000, up from 200,000 in the year prior. These levels of immigration have often been labelled as unsustainable and add further pressures on our already strained public services, as well as worsening the housing crisis.

Eurosceptics have often claimed that leaving the EU would allow Britain to ‘regain control’ of its borders and allow the British Government to set the rules. Of course, this not only affects people immigrating to Britain, but also involves the 2.2 million British citizens living in other EU nations. If ‘Brexit’ occurred, then Britons may have to apply for visas to enter EU countries, and those already living there could face integration laws. Britons owning second homes in the Mediterranean could also face heavy taxation, or, on a more extreme level, those looking for foreign property may be banned from making a purchase at all in EU countries. David Cameron has said that during his renegotiations of Britain’s EU membership, the concessions he won will reduce levels of immigration, as new arrivals will receive a lower rate of child benefits, amongst other factors.

There are hundreds of other arguments as to why Britain should or should not stay within the EU. I’ll focus on one more before allowing you to make your own mind up: for Eurosceptics, leaving the EU would allow Britain to re-establish itself as a truly independent nation with connections to the rest of the world. We would remain a part of NATO and the UN - two of the world’s most powerful political relationships, but some say that we may be regarded as a less useful partner by the US, our key ally.

The EU is a powerful body, and whether Britain sinks or floats after the referendum depends not

on the results, but on the action taken directly in the aftermath. Although some may perceive the powers in Brussels to be stripping Britain of the sovereignty and democracy we are so fiercely proud of, it cannot be dismissed that Britain has flourished under its regulations. It will be interesting to see the outcome of the referendum in a few months, and even more so to see what the reaction of Parliament will be. The choice, while difficult, is an extremely important one, and I would strongly urge you to familiarise yourselves with the pros and cons of Brexit before the big day finally arrives.

Kaneeka Kapur

Yes

No

In the news...



November 8th, 2016, is a very important day for America. You could say it's one of the biggest days in America's eventful timeline: the American election. It is the Republicans versus the Democrats. Donald Trump, the famous American Businessman, the wannabe politician, the television personality, the author and the father of five children, is the presumptive nominee of the Republican Party for President of the United States of America in this upcoming election. Hillary Clinton is his likely opposition. She is a candidate for the Democratic Party and she could be the first female president of the United States of America. She graduated from Yale University in America and is also very familiar with the requirements of being a president as she is married to former president Bill Clinton. She could be the successor of Barak Obama as the Democratic party leader. Bernie Sanders is another possible president of America; he is another candidate in the race to be the leader of the Democratic party and is currently a United States senator. Could either of these Democratic senators be the next president? This election is too close to call.

Another big decision to make in 2016, but this time for the UK, is whether we should be in or out the European Union (EU)? The EU is a group of European countries working together. It began when six countries joined up to try and build their industries and to try to improve their economies following the Second World War. Since then it has increased to twenty-eight countries and activities have grown from trade and industry to include

finance, tourism, and care of the environment. But should we stay in or go out? In the recent LGS referendum, the school overwhelmingly voted to stay in the EU by 325 to 121 with thirty ballot papers spoilt.

Leicester City are champions of English football. Mark Selby became the Snooker champion on the same night of Leicester City's success. Leicester Tigers ensured a place in the premiership playoffs and finished in the top four for the 12th consecutive season. Leicester Riders are the British Basketball league champions. Could Leicester be the sporting capital of England? This time last year Leicester City were fighting relegation and only just made it into the Premier League; this year they have won it! It is one of the greatest underdog stories ever. Claudio Ranieri, a seasoned coach and manager known as the 'tinker man' made a massive impact on the players, fans and the nation in this extraordinary season. A massive congratulation is due to all Leicester players regardless of which sport. These successes have certainly kept Leicester in the headlines, an unlikely sequel to "the king under the car park."

Ronil Magdani

Bombings in Brussels

March 22nd 2016: Brussels airport, Belgium: 7:58 a.m. Check-in row 11. The date, time and place of the first suicide bomb attack in Brussels. There is unimaginable horror within the airport; people, families, children are screaming and running amidst the complete chaos.

Then nine seconds later, this time in check-in row 2, another bomb explodes. 9:11 a.m.: a third explosion, this time at Maalbeek Metro Station in the heart of Brussels. Another suicide bomb attacker blows himself up. Devastation lies in the heart of Belgium.

Thirty-five people, including the three suicide bombers, were killed in the three bombings. Four more died in hospital as a result of their injuries. Many more people were injured, with over three-hundred needing hospital treatment; sixty-two of the injuries were life threatening. This was almost certainly the most disastrous act of terror in the history of Brussels. Shockwaves were sent across whole of the world.

The three men have been identified. Ibrahim El Bakraoui, Khalid El Bakraoui (who were both brothers), and Najim Laachraoui were the offenders and, as mentioned, all three died at the scenes of the attacks. All three were also wanted in connection with the bomb attacks in Paris, back in November 2015.

Two others, who have assisted the three suicide bombers, have also been identified. At the airport, Mohamed Abrini was standing next to the two bombers just seconds before the bombs exploded. Abrini was also wanted in connection with the Paris attacks, helping his friend, Salah, escape from the scene. Osama Krayem, who had been fighting for Isil since 2014, assisted El Bakraoui at the Maalbeek Metro Station. He was said to be, before the attacks, one of Europe's most wanted people.

Twelve other men have been arrested on suspicion of being connected with the attacks.

Inside an apartment in the north of Brussels, many explosives and dangerous weapons were found, including almost 30 litres of hydrogen peroxide, a nail bomb and a flag of ISIL. Ibrahim's computer, which had a suicide note on it, was also found in a bin.

The whole world has paid their respects to Brussels and Belgium. Many of the most famous landmarks have been lit up with the yellow, black and red of the Belgium flag, including: Brandenburg Gate (Germany), The Eiffel Tower (Paris), The National Gallery (London), and The Burj Khalifa (Dubai). The people who died in this horrific event in Brussels will always be remembered.

Kaylan Raja

“The people who died in this horrific event will always be remembered.”



Desert Island Discs - Mrs Reeve

Inspired by BBC Radio Four's "Desert Island Discs" programme, Mrs Reeve, erstwhile PA to the Headmaster and the Business Director, was asked on her final day at Leicester Grammar School which records she would take with her to a desert island and why. Her response was as follows:

'Uptown Funk' by Mark Ronson/Bruno Mars – this song keeps me feeling young and the video is super.

Allegri's 'Miserere' – it never fails to make me cry.

Beethoven's '5th symphony' – I do a pretty good job of this on my keyboard.

'Mad World' by Tears for Fears (and the latest slow version by Gary Jules) – I love this song; it will never date.

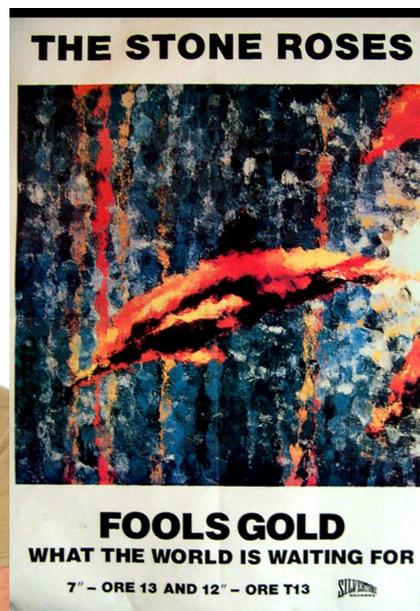
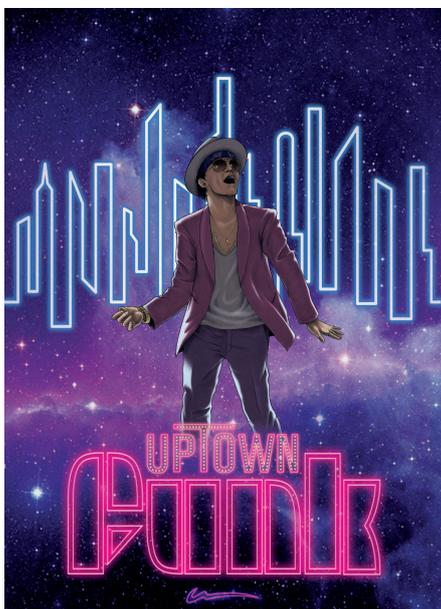
'Fools Gold' by The Stone Roses – this song is known to Les and I simply as 'No.9' (its track number) and will always bring back memories of driving home from the beach in Spain amongst the sunflower fields.

'Stand By Me' by Ben E King – I just love it.

Anything by David Bowie – he's the best!

Mrs Reeve will be greatly missed by all at Leicester Grammar School, and we would like to wish her a long and happy retirement.

Sarah Turner



Print and Press

This month marked an important development in the world of newspapers, as The Independent announced its plans to end print production. The papers released at the end of this month will be the final versions of this national newspaper to be printed and distributed, as the company embrace the idea of an entirely digital future. First launched in October 1986, and more recently bought by Russian billionaire Alexander Lebedev in 2010 for only £1, the well-known paper has a history of innovation, however this trusting leap forward into the technological arena is likely to be the most impactful change to date.

The decision for the paper to be available online only has sparked both admiration and outrage, with the overall reaction towards the ceasing of printing being mixed. There is, however, a general sense of sadness and even nostalgia. Numerous editors, journalists and media figures are mourning the 'loss' of The Independent, a paper whose bold, intrepid front pages often caused a stir. Many have even expressed their sadness on online social media sites, the irony of which I will leave you to grapple with. One that stood out for me was the simple, but effective tweet from English journalist Lionel Barber, which read: "So farewell Indy print edition, we will miss you!"

As technology continues to advance at a startling pace, the internet is becoming a larger part of our lives. It is inevitable that all printed forms of books and newspapers will eventually be replaced by digital copies, similar to how 'hard-copy' music (records and CDs) are being replaced by digital files, but is it happening too soon? Don't get me wrong, there are certainly benefits to living in a digital world, where newspapers can be accessed at the click of a button, and the decision made by The Independent is one that many are supporting. The ability for Internet sites to be instantly updated is invaluable in a world where pivotal

events are occurring minute by minute, at a pace which printed newspapers often fail to keep up with. I am continually impressed by the ease with which I can flick through the day's headlines on my phone wherever I am, at any time during the day, and I have to admit that if certain news apps and internet sites were not available, I would probably be completely oblivious to many of the problems facing our world.

However, I can't help but feel slightly unnerved by The Independent's choice to stop printing their papers. It's as though we have reached the end of an era. Despite the change being understandable, and beneficial to some extent, in my opinion an internet page or an online article will never have the same impact as if it were printed on a tangible piece of paper. Internet copies will never be capable of holding memories in the same way printed copies do. The beauty of having a 'hard-copy' of a newspaper is that you can cut out and keep articles that catch your eye or strike a chord with you; you can keep them in your wallet, pin them up on your wall, or simply file them away for future reference. Yes, online articles can be printed off and made into 'hard-copies', but what if there isn't a printer nearby? Whilst online newspapers and websites can be accessed at the click of a button (an obvious advantage) they can also be lost in seconds, never to be seen again; the Internet simply doesn't come close to the palpable pleasures of a printed newspaper.

Whilst, in my view, The Independent has taken a step in the right direction, I just don't believe we are ready to completely immerse ourselves in the 'electronic sea'. Just moments ago, as I was exploring the depths of The Independent website, much to my annoyance, the internet connection failed and I was greeted with an error message, leaving me a little dubious and sceptical about the abolition of printed newspapers.

Sarah Turner

Testing Times

The school year runs in leaps and bounds: pulses of activity dictated by deadlines for coursework, Trial exams and exams, proper. The hurry and scurry along corridors, the constant traffic on The Street is suddenly hushed into sibilant semi-silence as May arrives and desks are deployed in St Nick's.

As the sun shines, wan students creep from studies, sleep-deprived and heavy-limbed, until they join the excited jabber in the foyer; the Hall doors are pursed together, their cache of secrets safe for a few minutes more.

Heedless hordes of children course past exams rooms on their way to lessons, bubbles of laughter breaking round their heads until a terse teacher signals from the stairs.

Their test is yet to come, beyond half-term; but already revision is replacing homework and the year is racing towards exams, results, reports and then that final yell of freedom as the last bell rings to signal summer...after which it all begins again.

Anon, anon, anon...



Teenage Socialist

In defence of David Cameron



The editorial team would like to reassure regular readers that this article was indeed written by the real Red Mary!

The Press takes any opportunity to mock the Prime Minister; now, I can't deny the fact that I enjoy a good poke at "Dodgy Dave", as Dennis Skinner called him. Over the last few months, the focus of the attacks have been his tax accounts. In April, a number of files, called the Panama Papers, were leaked, revealing the details of lots of people using offshore accounts to dodge paying tax. Among them was David Cameron's father, Ian Cameron – the plot thickened when it appeared that David Cameron had also profited from this illegal enterprise.

The reaction was predictable: the Guardian outdid itself with the dramatic headlines; thousands took to the streets in protest; critics called for his resignation.

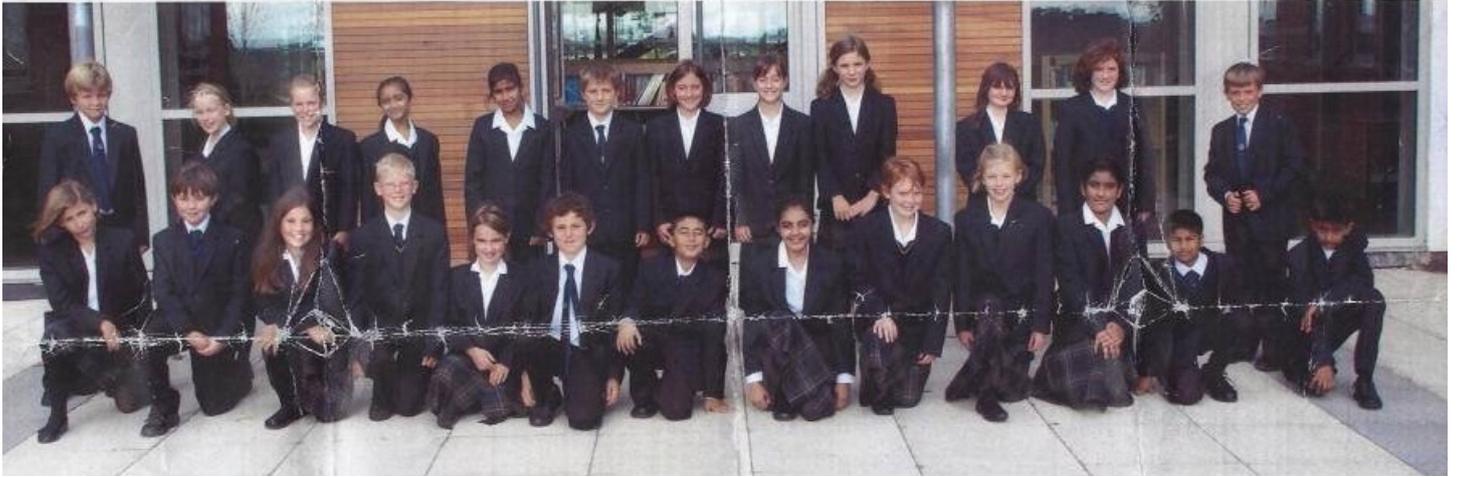
This frustrates me no end – legally, he has done nothing wrong. He bought shares in his late father's company in 1997, and sold them in 2010 (before he became Prime Minister) at a profit of £19,000. In those 13 years, the paperwork shows that Cameron paid tax on everything he should've and, while his father may have broken the law, he did not. Yet not one of the major newspapers have printed this: it's all about "DAVID CAMERON DOESN'T PAY TAX!", rather than actual facts.

If protestors want to draw attention to the corruption of the people at the top, why do we not hear about how top Tory politicians regularly attend cocktail parties held by Rupert Murdoch, the man who owns most of the British media which prints pro-Conservative articles? The deputy chairman of HSBC, one of the biggest banks in Britain, has donated £715,000 to the Tory party over the years, including £100,000 directly to George Osborne – the man who is Chancellor of the Exchequer and therefore organises the regulation of banks (or not, as the case may be) – yet this is never a headline.

It is no secret that I do not want David Cameron, or the Conservative Party, to be in power. However, his tax affairs are not what he should be forced to resign over: it weakens the whole argument of the Left if we focus on falsehoods rather than pure, shocking, revealing facts.

Mary Osborne

Yesterday and Today



Back Row: Jonathan Ramsbottom, Lucy Ramsey, Morgan Rennie, Shraya Ruparelle, Premadhari Shah, James Summerton, Lucy Taylor, Rachel Taylor, Hannah Turner, Megan Waters, James Willmott

Front Row: James Bentley, Lola Carter, Matt Cooke, Natasha Crane, James Hunt, Jahangir Khan, Mohini Kotecha, Holly Mould, Milly Muir, Ryan Patel, Shaylin Patel



The first prep to be taught on the Great Glen site in 2008 have now reached Year 13. We wish them luck in their new academic careers, wherever that may be...