



P EACOCK

by the pupils, for the pupils
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Interest • Interviews • Current Affairs • Debates • Reviews • Music

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With thanks to Mr Kidd, Mr Hunt and Mrs Kendall

Editors' Notes



Hello all! It's been a busy term at Leicester Grammar, with school plays, house events and much more. Christmas approaches, and with it, the threat of mock exams... When the revision/ turkey gets too much, pick up a copy of the Peacock to take your mind off it!

Mary Osborne

“Maybe Christmas doesn’t
come from a store. Maybe
Christmas... Perhaps...
Means a little bit more!”
The Grinch

Photo from the school play, “A Small Family Business”
taken by Katie Siddons

Last Week's Answer: Spider

Riddle Me This...

MY MAKER DOESN'T
NEED ME
MY BUYER DOESN'T USE
ME
MY USER DOESN'T
KNOW THEY'RE USING
ME
WHAT AM I?

Come and see Mr Kidd for the answer!

In the news...

A simple line drawing of a hand holding a newspaper. The newspaper has a small picture on the front page and some text. The hand is drawn with simple lines, and the newspaper is held in a way that it appears to be being read.

In the past month, Syria has had a huge debate surrounding it regarding airstrikes. After recent attacks on Paris by ISIS, the terrorist group active in Syria, the government and British people's resolve to attack had been hardened. David Cameron proposed that Britain should create airstrikes against their forces in Syria in order to weaken them and hopefully prevent any similar incident from occurring again.

Jeremy Corbyn, however, strongly opposed the said airstrikes saying that there would be "a large amount of civilian casualties, no matter how targeted the bombs are". The Labour leader also argued that the airstrikes would not solve the problem that is already there and would instead create more.

The motion to create airstrikes in Syria was passed in Parliament, which meant that RAF Tornado jets carried out their first air strikes against the Islamic State group in Syria just hours after the Commons vote. Two of the four Tornados arrived back at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus just over three hours after they left the base, landing shortly before 03:00 GMT on Thursday morning. A Ministry of Defence spokesman said the sorties had returned from the "first offensive operation

over Syria and have conducted strikes".

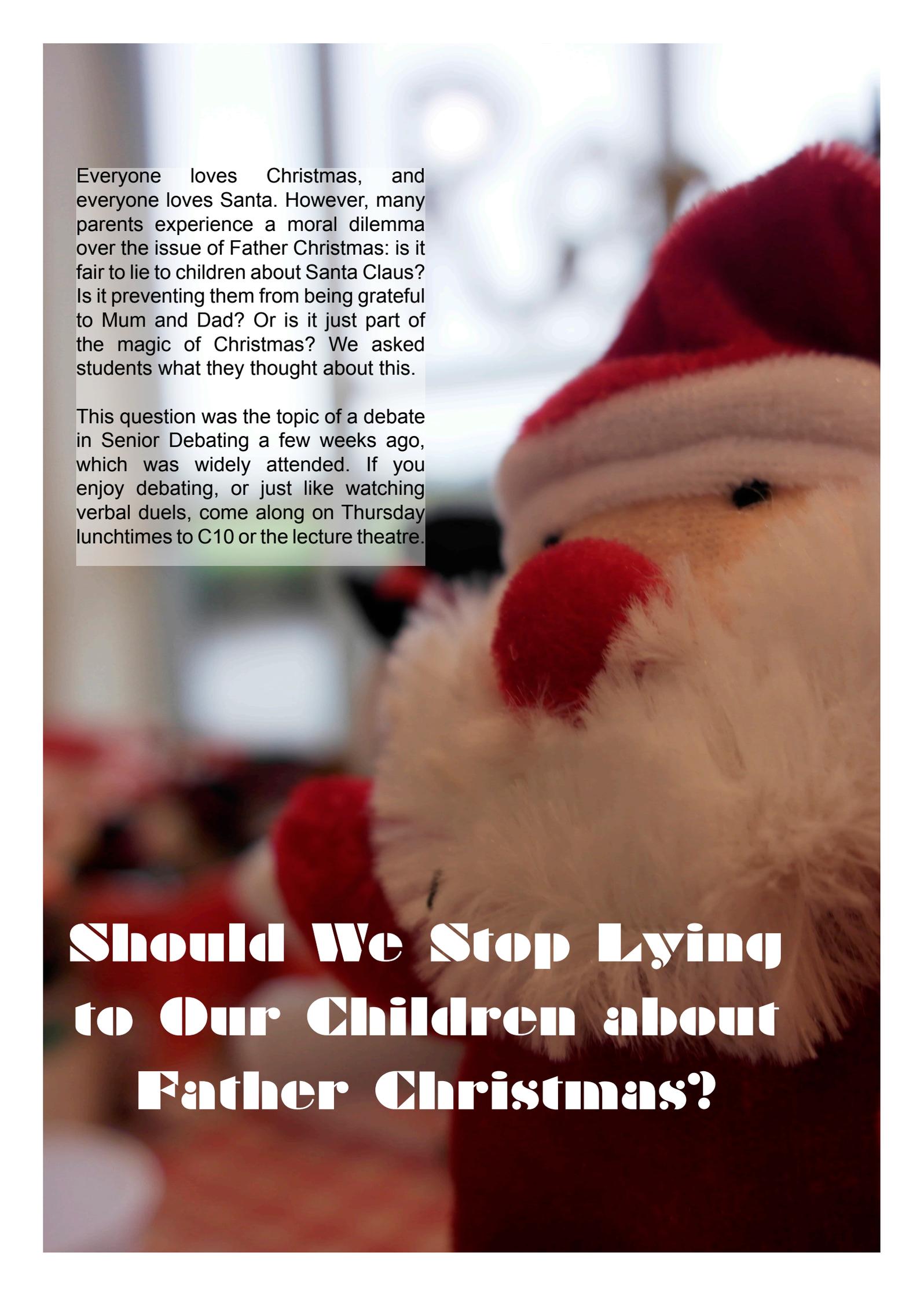
In more positive news, women have been elected to municipal councils in Saudi Arabia for the first time after a ban on women taking part in elections was lifted. At least four women were elected the Saudi Press Agency said, and other newspapers put the number between nine and seventeen. This is viewed by many as a landmark event for the traditionally conservative country.

In November, there was an Earth Summit to discuss what was the maximum temperature the Earth could rise to due to global warming. The target agreed was no more than a 2% rise in global temperature; a carbon tax was considered but it was decided that this would impact most on the poorest in society, and so was not fair.

BREAKING NEWS: Eleanor Jones in 7A has won first prize in a writing competition sponsored by The Bookshop, Kibworth. Many congratulations from Percy Peacock!

Congratulations to the 2nd XV for their unbeaten record this term.

Leanne Potter



Everyone loves Christmas, and everyone loves Santa. However, many parents experience a moral dilemma over the issue of Father Christmas: is it fair to lie to children about Santa Claus? Is it preventing them from being grateful to Mum and Dad? Or is it just part of the magic of Christmas? We asked students what they thought about this.

This question was the topic of a debate in Senior Debating a few weeks ago, which was widely attended. If you enjoy debating, or just like watching verbal duels, come along on Thursday lunchtimes to C10 or the lecture theatre.

Should We Stop Lying to Our Children about Father Christmas?

The idea of Santa Claus can cause misery for a child from a less fortunate family; a new expensive gadget, like a new iPhone, can only be afforded by well-off families for their children. Poorer parents wouldn't be able to afford it. This may lead to children thinking that Santa isn't nice to him or her but is nice to other people who got the expensive presents they had wanted. As a parent it is not nice to see your child disappointed with the gifts they've been given. This suggests that the idea of Santa can spread inequality in this world. - Shiven Arora

If parents tell their children Santa is not real, then it will ruin the Christmas spirit and children will think: 'what is the point of parents making up a random person only to be told that he is not real.' Perhaps they should tell their children when they start having doubts about Santa.
- Ayrton Patel

Although Santa Claus does increase the Christmas spirit, I think that Santa is not a good character to have. This is because Santa can be used for black mail against children. Parents are able to say that Santa won't give their child a present, if he or she is naughty. Also, when children find out St Nicholas isn't real, it might break their hearts because he had made them so happy. - Ethan Teo

I think that Christmas would not be the same without Santa. I believed in Santa Claus until I was about ten, and I have never resented my parents for lying to me. Not only does St Nicholas encourage kids to be good but it also adds to the magic of Christmas. - Ellen Blaine

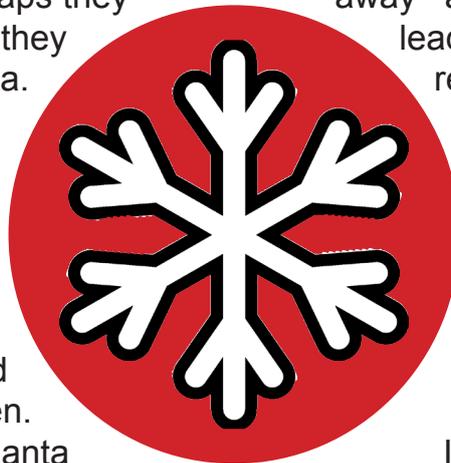
Parents shouldn't lie about Father Christmas, because, if a child decides he or she believes in Santa Claus, they might be inclined to stay up on Christmas Eve. Also, if

they find out from their parents about Father Christmas, they might be tempted to tell their friends (who might still believe in Santa) and they will undoubtedly get upset. So, in conclusion, the whole story about Father Christmas should not be told in the first place, then many will be contented. - Vivek Bulsara

There is plenty of evidence to suggest that adults should not lie to their children about Father Christmas. For instance, you are risking stunting your child's development (by confusing the world of make-believe with the real world) and moral growth (by thinking it is okay to lie). Numerous parents think they are putting their authority in jeopardy by lying. Children may also feel betrayed in having the biggest thing about Christmas for them taken away and destroyed forever. Which leads onto the next point: many very religious children may categorise Father Christmas in the same league as God and to have Santa taken away from them just like that it is highly likely they will start to question God. All because of one 'small' lie.
- Rohan Magdani

I think we should stop lying to children about Santa Claus, but not straight away. The whole Christmas spirit would go up in flames if this iconic figure got ruled out of a child's life from the day they were born. Parents should not make a massive deal, but should keep it as one of the less important parts of Christmas and gradually make the whole idea of Santa die down. - Kaylan Raja

In general with young children: why do we want them to grow up so fast? In my opinion we should allow them to be naïve and allow them to enjoy everything associated with the spirit of Christmas and Santa. It has been quoted by psychologists that children who believe in Santa have a more positive outlook on life and is a healthy part of their development. - Ronil Magdani





We all love a bit of competition, whether it's a family game or competing in a sport at any level, but is competition always good for us? Most people are very mature and have great sportsmanship, but there are always those occasional few who are competitive to an extreme, never satisfied with their own performance, or those who fear competition.

Our school prides itself on attracting the most gifted and talented students, whether they're good at sport, the arts, or academe: we are lucky to have some very accomplished people in our school. But many children (and even parents) are not very sporting in terms of their attitude or behaviour.

I went to a triathlon event in the summer to cheer on one of my friends. I was talking to one of the marshals who was supporting the event and she told me that it wasn't just the children who showed bad sportsmanship, the parents were setting an equally bad example. She recounted a story of how one boy was being sick as he

was running around the course, but instead of expressing concern for his welfare, his parents were pushing him to continue the with the race even as the poor child was being sick everywhere.

This is a perfect example of bad sportsmanship at events. I am very supportive of competition and think it is a wonderful thing that we can all test our abilities. But maybe, whilst we are competing, we could all think about our behaviour and be more respectful. We could even teach some parents a thing or two.

Lili Mepham

Editor: This topic was also explored in Senior Debating earlier this term. To attend more debates of a similar calibre, visit the lecture theatre on Thursday lunchtimes.

Christmas is creeping closer and closer, and the festivities are being ramped up all around us. The excitement is inevitably increasing as trees, lights and decorations spring up in their masses. For many of us, Christmas is the biggest and perhaps the only 'festival of light' we celebrate; however, there is a cornucopia of such festivals that occur throughout the year, some of which we may not even be aware of.

One which the majority will be aware of is Diwali. Falling around October and November each year, the festival of Diwali lasts for five days and five nights, and commemorates the return of Lord Rama to his kingdom Ayodhya after completing an exile of fourteen years. Thousands of lamps are lit to symbolise the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. Traditionally, Hindus clean their homes, open their windows and buy puffed rice in order to welcome Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity. This originally Hindu festival, whose name roughly translates to 'array of lights' is one of India's most important celebrations and one only has to drive down Leicester's Golden Mile, Belgrave Road, during the festivities to appreciate the magnitude of the celebrations associated with Diwali.

Another well-known festival of light is Hanukkah, a Jewish festival celebrated all over the world. It originated some 2500 years ago, when the Jews defeated the Syrian Greeks in battle, and were able to recapture Jerusalem. When they returned to their temple, they found that the Syrian Greeks had allowed their sacred light to go out, and there was only enough oil left to last a single day. However, a miracle occurred: this small amount of oil, incredibly, lasted eight days, until a messenger returned with more. The modern festival of Hanukkah celebrates this miracle by lighting a nine-branched candelabra, with the central candle being used to light the other eight candles, which signify the eight days that the oil kept burning.

The Chinese New Year is a time we have come to associate with myriad hues of light, and the Lantern Festival of China marks the end of these festivities. Also known by names such as Shangyuan and Yuanxiao, this festival of light is celebrated on the first month in the lunisolar year of the lunar calendar. Huge numbers of intricately carved lanterns, coloured red to symbolise good fortune, are hung

up in all sorts of places throughout China. Many legends are associated with the festival, one claiming that it was initiated by the first emperor of China, Qinshihuang, as a means of pleasing the God of heaven, Taiyi. Another suggests that the festivities are a way of commemorating the brave death of 'Land Moon', a courageous warrior who rebelled against the tyrannical king. In modern times, the lanterns are believed to symbolise people letting go of the past and embracing the New Year.

Another festival involving lanterns is Thailand's Loy Krathong, meaning 'floating crown'. Annually, on the night of a full moon, the Thais carry their boats to nearby rivers and float their decorated lanterns, filled with incense sticks, candles, flowers and coins, on the river. Traditionally, the floating lanterns, called Krathongs, which light up rivers all over Thailand, were made of layers of tree-trunk from banana trees, or spider lily plant. This festival of light is celebrated in reverence to the river goddess, who they also believe to be the carrier of their suffering and miseries; their Krathongs are seen as being an offering of thanks to the goddess, and prayers are said in hope that she will bestow good luck on them in return.

In Sweden, a particularly unique 'festival of light', St Lucia's Day, takes place on December 13th. During the winter months, Sweden only gets a few hours of sunlight each day; the longest night falls on December 13th, and, as a result, St Lucia is honoured on this day. Legend states that St Lucia is an angel who spreads the light of knowledge on the dark nebulous night and, on this day, the oldest girl out of every Swedish family is declared as St Lucia. She is dressed up like a fairy, in a white frilled dress with a red ribbon and a crown of candles, and is the leader of a procession of white-robed women, who are all holding candles. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of young girls emerge from the darkness of a Swedish winter's day holding aloft their candles, their symbols of knowledge and hope.

There are countless other fascinating 'festivals of light' all over the globe, to which a single article couldn't do justice. Each year, hundreds of communities celebrate their own unique festivals with explosions of colour, light, and, in our case, Christmas trees.

Sarah Turner



House Drama

On the 16th November, Leicester Grammar held its biannual house drama competition. Each of the four houses – Masters, Dukes, Judges and Vice-Chancellors – had to produce a short play lasting no more than thirty minutes, including setting up at the beginning and at the end of their piece.

Judges took the traditional house drama route, with a mashup of all the fairy tales: here we saw the age-old story of the evil Queen, and her over-sexed husband Darryl, searching to find Snow White, who has recently been declared fairer than the Queen herself, with a few incidents of misidentification along the way.

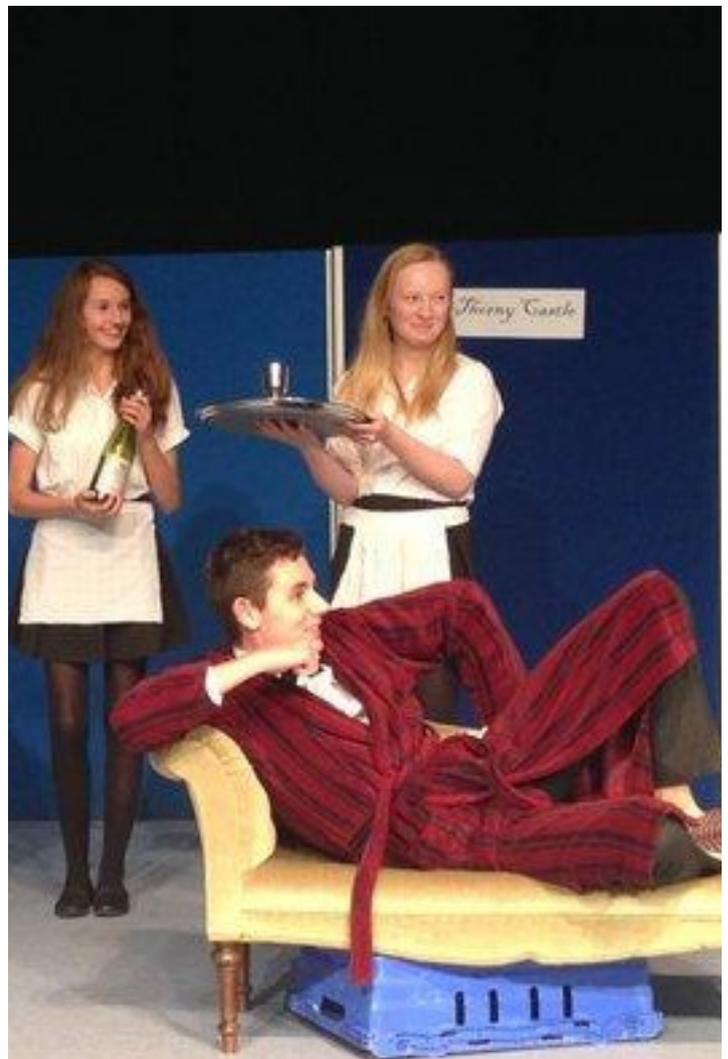
Vice-Chancellors produced a very original play, based off the idea that aliens had got a few Earth books and were trying to understand our ways through them. The play was slickly performed, imaginatively directed and funny in parts.

Dukes produced the first of the nativity plays. With a few line mishaps and some hilarious timing, it was a good play, and pulled many a laugh from the audience.

Masters, the house that were eventually victorious, also performed the traditional nativity play, but with a twist. The actors were playing school children who were playing the nativity characters – it was a play within a play. All characters were brilliantly pulled-off, although it was the noble steed that stole the show.

The end rankings were Masters, then Vice-Chancellors, the Judges, then Dukes. Well done to everyone involved, and thank you to Mr Willis for an, as per usual, brilliant night.

Mary Osborne



An Interview with Desmond Airs

(also known as Dilan Kotecha)

- What is the play about?

The play, 'A Small Family Business,' is about an unquestionably honest man named Jack McCracken and his family. He has recently become the head of 'Airs and Graces,' his wife's family's business. However, problems soon become apparent when Benedict Hough, a private investigator, enters his life. With claims that the business is turning 'sluggish', McCracken finds himself uncovering an elaborate fraud within the company, and the shocking discovery that his whole family are the perpetrators. All of the family - with the exception of Jack - are swindling money out of the company with the aid of some shifty Italian brothers. Written by Alan Ayckbourn, it is a great black comedy that features ironic principles of honesty against corruption. The audience slowly sees Jack lose his battle with corruption when it turns out that everybody in his crystal clear world is slightly 'fuzzy around the edges'.

- What was it like being part of the production?

It was a great experience that I will treasure for life. Both Mrs Griffin and Miss Adams were excellent and handled the stress very well. It was great to meet new people who I never would have spoken to before this production and I can say that I have made some great friends. The rehearsals were very long and tiring - although I always had a bag of popcorn to eat because of my character - but when everything comes together it feels fantastic and the hours

we put in felt worth it. I gained some valuable experience as a performer, and I will miss the pre-show vocal warm-ups. I was quite a shy person at the start of rehearsals, but this production has helped me to become more confident. The rest of the cast and crew were awesome to work with and I'm going to miss all of the rehearsals we spent laughing and joking around. The play felt like (please pardon the pun) a small family business.

- What would you say to any prospective auditionees for next year's production?

Well next year's production, I've been told, is going to be a musical. I remember doing 'Sweet Charity' a few years ago and the audition was a workshop including singing, dancing and acting. All I can say is that you need to be confident and go in with a smile. If you put all of your effort into the audition then you have a better chance of being offered a role. I wish anybody thinking about auditioning good luck and would like to tell them that these productions require an extraordinary amount of hard work and dedication!

- And finally, the question we've all been waiting to hear the answer to: how did Desmond's Lancashire hotpot turn out?

BURNT. VERY BURNT... But he still ate it anyway.

Kaneeka Kapur

Teenage Socialist

David Cameron is the Only Terrorist Sympathiser Here



This month, our government decided to bomb dangerous religious extremists. In January, our prime minister shook hands and rubbed shoulders with a different set of dangerous religious extremists. When Jihadi John was killed in November, we rejoiced. But when King Abdullah died, we lowered the Union Jack outside Buckingham Palace to half mast.

I am referring to Saudi Arabia, the West's long-standing ally in the Middle East. The Saudi regime is famously harsh towards its citizens. The fundamentalist country follows Shariah law: it is a place where having an affair could get you stoned - but only if you're a woman - and stealing a loaf of bread could lose you your hand.

David Cameron is a big fan of so-called "British values". Sure, no one may be quite able to define them, but we are reassured that they are what puts the great in Great Britain. Therefore, I don't think it would be too brazen to suggest that maybe, just maybe, such human rights violations go against them.

We were told it was appropriate to bomb Syria - consequently slaughtering hundreds of innocents and obliterating their infrastructure - because Daesh's

ways went against our honourable "British values".

Now, I think Daesh are absolutely inexcusable. There is nothing that could possibly justify their acts: in this, Mr Cameron and I agree. However, the similarity ends when we get to Saudi Arabia. I deplore Saudi Arabia for their atrocious human rights record. What is it about the oil-rich Saudi Arabia that makes Mr Cameron willing to be chums with King Salman? (The Saudis have 40% of the world's oil supplies.)

It seems, when it comes to countries who have oil, that the West have only two tactics which they will use on anyone whatever their political beliefs: befriend or invade. We invaded Iraq and we befriended Saudi Arabia, despite the fact that the Saudi government and Al Qaida (who were in control in Iraq) were fundamentally similar.

David Cameron said anyone who opposed bombing Syria was a terrorist sympathiser. That seems a little rich from the man who is friends with a country who allegedly aids terrorists with arms.

Mary Osborne
Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are not necessarily the views of Percy Peacock

Over the weekend, Great Glen was calm and tranquil. Who could have imagined that at the same time storm 'Desmond' was busy wreaking so much havoc with people's lives?

Torrential rain has caused widespread flooding in several towns, cities and villages across Cumbria, Lancashire, North Wales and parts of Southern Scotland. Cumbria has been affected particularly badly and more than forty-eight thousand homes have been flooded or have suffered power cuts. So far the weather has managed to claim two lives. The devastation caused by storm 'Desmond' has been severe.

The Government's response has been criticised roundly after multimillion-pound defences that were constructed several years ago failed to stop flood damage. If the floods had reached the nuclear power stations then catastrophic events could have followed, but with more heavy rain forecast for later this week, who knows what is still to come?

The Environment Agency has so far issued more than thirty flood warnings, each given with enough time for people to try to protect their belongings and move upstairs or, alternatively, to be evacuated. The Government has promised to spend yet more money on flood protection to try and stop this from happening in the future, but already huge amounts have been spent. Businesses have been lost and homes have been destroyed. Stewart Young, leader of Cumbria County Council, said there needs to be an urgent investigation into the flood defences which he considers are not fit for purpose. He told journalists: "that's what's going to have to happen because we can't continue to have events like this, we just won't be able to cope."

Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron, whose Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency is in Cumbria, said it was "not about pointing the finger" as the reality was "we are just getting more extreme weather". He instead, raised the issue of whether it was right to cancel some of the funding for flood defence schemes over the last few years. The sheer ferocity of the storm and the unprecedented volume of rainfall (which fell in a very short space of time) has raised inevitable questions about whether global warming has contributed to the extreme weather. The answer is not straightforward – scientists tend to shy away from blaming any particular weather event on climate change. But this weather points to a fundamental physical property of the atmosphere: warmer air can hold more moisture.

That means that rising temperatures are likely to lead to more storms that may drop more rain, and in more intense outbursts. Figures from the Met Office do point to a slight increase in the intensity of rainfall in the UK over the past 60 years. Flood engineers are already trying to take account of climate change in their future planning. Their work needs constant updating.

Whatever the factors are behind this devastating storm and the flooding that has ensued, the people of Cumbria will be asking whether the authorities are getting their calculations right. I have experienced the pain of the flooding first-hand because my grandparents live there. On the bright side, perhaps they will now move a little closer to Leicester! But the big question remains: is global warming really to blame?

Gabriel Samanta



Top 10 Stress-Busting YouTube Videos

Whether you are procrastinating from doing large piles of work, taking a well-earned break or just simply need a 'pick me up' video, we can always count on a frankly genius YouTube video to watch. Here are a few of the top stress busting videos to watch...

1. **"You forgot blueberries"** - This slightly older video shows two American girls, who are sisters. The older sister is making a fruit salad video, but you should be warned there is a massive surprise at the end - it is sure to make you laugh! Even though it is relatively short, the end outcome is so unpredictable: with around 18 million views, it has been a big hit.

2. **"Accountant needed!"** - The title really says it all in this video. A man rings up another man looking for an accountant for his company, but he reads past the real meaning of the flyer, and takes it in a literal way. You will definitely not look at numbers in the same way after watching this.

3. **"...STRAIGHT IN MY BASKET..."** - This is one of the most popular vines around at the moment: the "Ooh, that's going straight in my basket!" catchphrase. It all started off with one man filming himself saying this catchy line as he picks up his food shopping. He uses silly things from Disney Princesses to extra large salami, and doesn't fail to make people around him crack a smile - never mind the viewer.

4. **"Top Moments from Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series 2014"** - Trying something different in your holidays or spare time can be of massive benefit and allow you to look forward to something after a hard term's work! Cliff diving is something which is controversial. Many think it is a rather dangerous thing to do, but with the right supervision and equipment, surely anybody would want to do it!

5. **"Great recovery on the treadmill"** - Working out in the gym is becoming more and more

attractive to people, and so gym memberships are finally being used! The usual attraction is to be seen as strong and healthy but also apparently to check out women and men whilst you are in there. However, this is what happens when you lose your concentration whilst working out...

6. **"World's Best Free Running"** - Forget about football, rugby, hockey and tennis! We really need to concentrate on all of the up-and-coming sports, such as parkour and free running. Free running is all about people who utilise the gifts of infrastructure, nature and objects in order to create a new form of modern art. The skill conveyed in this video is honestly mind-blowing!

7. **"FOOD HACKS"** - A large proportion of students and young people do not have the same culinary skills as each other so these food hack videos are a huge help! Why not try making your own healthy breakfast bars?

8. **"London Fashion Week SS16"** - This is one mainly for the fashion-conscious who like to have a bit of retail therapy time and look at the latest fashions that are in at the moment. Some of the designs are hideous, and some beautiful!

9. **"Best Football Goals 2015"** - This one is mainly for the football-crazy. By watching these types of videos in your spare time, you might just be able to pull out a Messi goal in the near future!

10. **"Cats scared of cucumbers"** - Cats being scared of cucumbers: definitely a video which I never thought I would watch. It is extremely funny how they jump out of their fur just by seeing the cucumber: why they react that way is the question...

Millie Sian

Disclaimer: Percy Peacock is not responsible for the content of these videos

Top 10 Alternative Christmas Songs



Over the past few years the official Christmas number ones have been mostly the winners of The X-Factor, and following behind the famous 'All I want for Christmas' by Mariah Carey. At this time of year you walk into shops or cafés with the same Christmas songs playing in the background. Although Wham!'s '**Last Christmas**' never gets old for me, I wanted to find songs that were less cheesy, however, I couldn't miss out one of the classics.

My 10th Top Alternative Christmas Song is '**I Feel it in my Bones**' By The Killers. The Killers are talking to 'Santa', and they are on his naughty list.

The 9th song is '**(Its Gonna Be) A Lonely Christmas**' by The Orioles. In 1948 The song was number 5 in the Jukebox Charts.

Number 8, for me, is '**Father Christmas**' by The Kinks. I think this song is under appreciated, it's catchy and it highlights the fact that people less fortunate than us may not get gifts under the Christmas Tree.

The 7th song is '**Christmas**' by Darlene Love. This song is often played with TV adverts and you hear it on the radio everywhere, but it is still a great Christmas song and it can never get old.

My number 6 is '**A Snowflake Fell and it Felt like a Kiss**' by Glas Vegas. They are a Scottish band, and released the song in 2009. I think this song is another very under appreciated song. I only have to hear the bells of the tambourine to get me in the mood for Christmas.

My 5th song is '**I Want to Hold your Hand**' by the Beatles. Although this isn't really a Christmas song it still was, rightfully, a Christmas number one.

My number 4 is '**Little Saint Nick**' by The Beach Boys. It came out in 1963 and got to number three in the Billboard Christmas Singles Chart.

Number 3 is '**Let's Make Christmas Merry, Baby**' by Amos Milburn. The blues song is just Milburn, a saxophone and a Piano. There are no cheesy jingling bells or pointless backing singers. It's a very peaceful and calming song which is much needed while the hectic Christmas season is going on.

My number 2 is '**The Christmas Song**' by Nat King Cole. This song is an all time classic and, for me, it can never get boring. Who doesn't like a bit of jazz?

Finally, my top Christmas song is '**Moon River**' by Danny Williams (originally written by Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer). The song itself doesn't have a Christmas theme but it was a Christmas number one. Even though the song isn't a Christmas song, I think it has a 'Christmas feel' to it. It has also won an Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1961. However, the song is best known for being sung by Audrey Hepburn in the film based on the novel written by Truman Capote, 'Breakfast at Tiffany's'.

Maya Patel

Serene's Column of Calm

With mocks around the corner, 'the pressure is starting to build up', as Mr Thacker eloquently puts it. Throughout this whole academic year people are going to be stressed, no matter what, and all we can do is manage the pressure as best as we can. It's become a dreadful on-going joke that I write about exam stress at least once a year, despite the fact I have never sat a public exam in my life - I merely own a lot of anxiety. Next term I will talk about how to manage the stress, as it will be more useful to have those resources nearer to the official exams. But for now, I'm going to talk about how I personally do not see the point in reflecting on the year and making New Year's resolutions.

In the run-up to New Year, some people decide to make a 'resolution' solely for the sake of it being a New Year and wanting to turning a new leaf. However, it is often an unrealistic expectation that will not be met. Of course I'm not saying you should not make a resolution, but the whole idea has become something you barely stick to for one day and then forget about. What is the point of that?

People also use this time to reflect on their year just passed: to look at the highs and lows. For me personally, I do not wish to reflect as I feel I can gain nothing from that experience, besides a bit of a laugh from good moments. I simply want to move on with time, learn from my mistakes, carry on completing things I want to do and make sure I can make a good time for myself.

I do not see the New Year as a big change in time; it doesn't excite me or motivate me. That is possibly the reason for me not believing in all these things in the run-up to New Year's day. It is perfectly okay to want to try to be a new, better person next year, or just to stay the same person you are. Throughout our lives we have many opportunities to change ourselves, I just don't rely on the New Year to make those changes happen.

I hope everyone has a great holiday and a happy New Year!

Soyez Sage!

Serene Dholakia