



MODEL UNITED NATIONS



Gordons's Model United Nations 2020: Day 1

2020

Secretary General Notes



It's been an honour to be Secretary General and work alongside so many amazing people. Thank you everyone who has come from far and wide. I hope you all have an amazing few days. Make sure to make the most of it!

2020

Welcome from the Press Team

Welcome to Gordon's MUN 2020! We are the press team bringing this newspaper to you. We already have plenty of articles in our pages to interest our readers today and lots of ideas for tomorrow. Make sure to keep an eye on our Gordon's MUN Twitter (Gordon_MUN) and Instagram (@gordonsmodelunitednations) for extra content and pictures. We have had a great time writing all our articles, so we hope you enjoy reading them. We've got a couple of more serious articles and some light-hearted ones so we're confident there's something for everyone. Hopefully you've all had fun at the conference so far and are looking forward to the formal dinner this evening – best dressed from the formal dinner get mentions in tomorrow's paper!

Best wishes for the rest of the conference,

The Press Team



Gordon's School 'Model United Nations'

February 2020

Head Teacher Andrew Moss opened Gordon's School's second 'Model United Nations' Conference by drawing attention to 1 February 2020 as "the first day of Brexit", but this not meaning the UK withdrawing from the wider international community and global affairs. There could not therefore be a better day for Gordon's School to be hosting a 'Model United Nations' Conference....

Delegates were also reminded that 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Once again, there could not be a better time to be hosting a MUN Conference. Everyone is reminded of the principles that were behind the foundation of the United Nations in 1945 in the aftermath of the Second World War, not least international co-operation.

Model United Nations or MUN is a way for young people to debate global issues, gain an understanding of international politics and participate in simulations of how the United Nations works. Students assume the roles of national representatives of the countries of the world and take part in simulated meetings of UN institutions like the Security Council and General Assembly, following UN protocols.

Gordon's School has been involved in MUN since 2015, first hosting a Conference in 2017. Conferences enable networking between wider groups of MUN schools. By putting themselves 'in the shoes of world leaders', students build the communication skills, political awareness and empathy to become the next generation of leaders.



Debate Article — Chemical Riots: A Study of the Hong Kong Protests

In 2014, umbrellas became an easily recognisable symbol of Hong Kong's struggle for democracy. The Umbrella Revolution was the first time umbrellas were adopted as a self-defence tactic, but it certainly hasn't been the last.

Nobody could have missed the Hong Kong protests that have dominated the news since June 2019. Starting as peaceful protests against a proposed extradition law, they quickly escalated into riots, and umbrellas were once again used to fend off tear gas canisters fired into the crowds by police. That same month, the UK banned sales of tear gas to Hong Kong – but other countries didn't do the same, and there was still a ready supply.

Tear gas has already been banned in warfare under the Geneva Conventions, so why is it still used in riots? After all, it's a chemical weapon, and it can be lethal, but it also can't be controlled once it's fired. If it's used, it'll affect everyone in its way, be they innocent, or people who are particularly susceptible to its effects, such as children, the elderly, and people with respiratory issues such as asthma. It has also repeatedly been used at close distances (being fired directly at people instead of at the ground), and inside, in malls and metro stations, making it even more dangerous.

Gas masks and protective gear quickly became a common sight in Hong Kong, where street vendors began to wear them in order to continue working during protests, with some even selling them to customers. During one police press conference, journalists turned up in full safety gear, including protective helmets, high-visibility vests and even gas masks, as a protest against the police's use of pepper spray and tear gas on the front-line press.

By last week, over ten thousand tear gas canisters had been fired on protesters in Hong Kong, compared to 87 used during the Umbrella Revolution. Many were fired in heavily populated areas, with no warning to residents, which has caused everyone in those areas to be in range of the gas, including multiple elderly homes and care centres, whose residents were heavily affected. Research by medical students in Hong Kong has raised concern for the health implications of tear gas, including eye problems and skin reactions, which will only get worse as tear gas continues to be used.

Tear gas canisters release a cloud of moisture, designed to seep into skin, clothes and even buildings and attacks all the senses at once. Exposure can result in both physical and psychological trauma, as well as PTSD, and effects of long-term exposure are unclear.

But there's another problem: expired tear gas canisters have also been used. In these canisters, the usual chemicals have decayed into far more toxic ones, which have caused the coughing up of blood; reproductive and developmental problems; damage to the immune system and eventually cancer. They also have the potential to do far worse: the new chemicals include cyanide oxide, which damages the heart, lungs, nerves and brain. In light of this, the police's indiscriminate use of the chemical endangers their citizens and its continual and repeated use on innocents could arguably be called torture.

By Anna Schoeman



Chair interviews

Questions:

1. What drew you to MUN?
2. Have you been a chair before?
3. How are you feeling about this conference?
4. What are you most looking forward to in this conference?

Louise Enser – Environment Committee (internal)

1. “The social aspect of it. My friends really inspired me to start and it helps me build my public speaking skills.”
2. “No, but I’m excited to be one .”
3. “I’m so excited to meet everyone! I’m looking forward to chairing the environmental committee.”
4. “Being able to give a speech in the G.A.”



Emily Garner – ECOFIN committee (internal)

1. “I liked the fact that we were debating current affairs that were topical; instead of looking into causation, we were trying to find solutions to issues.”
2. “No, this is my first time.”
3. “I feel excited because the question that I am debating involves my future interests; politics and economics.”
4. “I’m most looking forward to the formal dinner, as I will enjoy meeting and getting to know delegates from other committees and am excited to hear the Gordon’s Jazz Ensemble.”



Phoebe Norman – SOCHUM (Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian) Committee (internal)

1. “The fact that you get to debate issues that are really current and pressing right now, as well as the fact that my friends were doing it and it’s a really fun and intellectually challenging activity to do.”
2. “No.”
3. “I am incredibly excited. This is without a doubt the single best thing to ever grace my lonely, desolate, and unmeaningful existence as it will give me the opportunity to place some small quark of significance to my life.”
4. “Not spending a conference sitting in the corner of a committee room alone, rocking back and forth, tears streaming down my face, as I debate not the committee’s question but instead whether I should raise my hand to make a point of information or be silent like every other conference before that.”



Antonia Lunn – Deputy Chair of ECOFIN committee (external)

1. “I’m interested in international diplomacy.”
2. “No, I haven’t, but I have been to two MUN conferences before.”
3. “The people are lovely, particularly the Gordon’s students, and it’s a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere so I feel comfortable.”
4. “Debating the resolutions in the committees.”



Meet the Chairs



This or that?

Pineapple on pizza, yes or no?

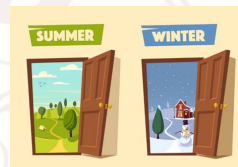
Yes: 33% No: 66%



Summer or winter?

Summer: 33%

Winter: 66%



Was the dress blue and black or white and gold?

Blue and black: 33% White and gold: 66%



Apple or Samsung?

Apple: 92%

Samsung: 8%



Cereal first or milk first?

Cereal: 92%

Milk: 8%



The End of the Beginning: We've Started to Leave



One thousand, three hundred and eighteen days (and one hour) since the referendum back in 2016 and the UK has finally cancelled its EU membership. At 2300 GMT last night, we officially left the European Union. It was an evening of mixed emotions as Brexiteers partied in Parliament Square and anti-Brexit rallies and candlelit vigils were held in Scotland.

The Prime Minister, as expected, was seen to be overwhelmingly positive and, being unable to have the Big Ben sound to mark the moment, opted to have the clock tower projected onto Number Ten with recorded 'bongs' played at 11pm. Mr Johnson called it "an extraordinary turning point in the life of this country" and said he would "bring this country together now and take us forward."

Brexiteers flocked to a gloomy and muddy Parliament Square singing patriotic songs including a triumphant rendition of 'Land of Hope and Glory' led by the Brexit Party's very own Nigel Farage. Farage also gave a speech declaring Brexit as "the greatest moment in the modern history of our great nation."

The US also gave a show of positivity with the American ambassador to London, Woody Johnson addressing the UK saying, "You have no greater friend, ally and partner than the United States". US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said: "We will continue building upon our strong, productive, and prosperous relationship with the UK as they enter this next chapter".

In Edinburgh, the atmosphere was rather different as shouts of 'independence now' met the moment of withdrawal. Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, said her country was being "taken out of the European Union against the wishes of the overwhelming majority" and added in a tweet: "Scotland will return to the heart of Europe as an independent country". Sturgeon argues that Brexit represents a change in circumstances and is calling for another Scottish referendum.

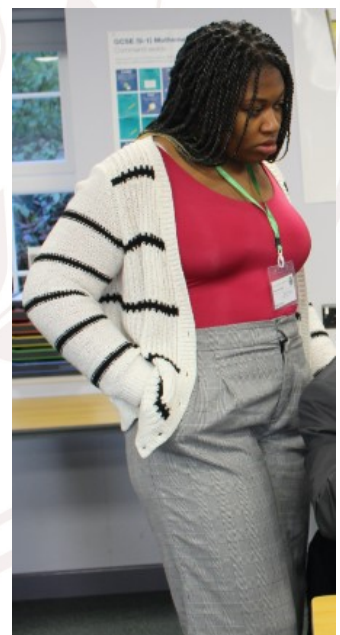
The Union flag was taken down without ceremony at the EU institutions in Brussels and many EU leaders also made their opinions heard. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, said she would miss a "very pragmatic, very down to earth" Britain. President Macron of France wrote a public letter saying that '...the UK has been a central player in the European Project' and added: 'The Channel has never managed to separate our destinies; Brexit will not do so either'. Angela Merkel, German Chancellor, seemed less enthusiastic calling Brexit '...a deep gash for all of us'.

So, what happens now? We may have left but EU rules still apply until the end of the transition period on 31st of December 2020. The UK's requests include: a free trade agreement; co-operation on security and new arrangements for fishing. These are just some of the vital arguments that lie ahead.

By Freya Keppel-Compton



Best Dressed



2020

Pictures



Pictures



Sudoku and Bingo

2	8							1
			8		1			4
		4		7		3		
	2			5			6	
		3	1		9	7		
	1			8			5	
		1		6		8		
5			2		3			
9							1	6

‘Fruitful
Debate’

‘Point of Order’

‘Point of
Clarification’

‘Point of personal
privilege’

‘Order’

‘Expressing its
appreciation’

‘Taking into
consideration’

‘Expressing its
satisfaction’

‘Noting with
Approval’

‘Keeping in mind’

‘Recognising with
satisfaction’

‘Deeply
concerned’

‘Distinct
murmur on
the floor’

‘Having
considered
further’

‘Having reviewed’

‘Yield the floor’