



# THE QUARTERLY GAZETTE

*Autumn Edition*



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# NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back to a brand new academic year! I hope that everyone had a relaxing and comfortable Summer. Whether it was travelling back home or across the country, we have all landed back at Gordon's. Returning and new students, I am thrilled to introduce the first official edition of 'The Quarterly Gazette' for this term. The editorial team and I have worked tirelessly to bring you a publication that captures both the spirit of life at Gordon's and the pulse of the wider world. Within these pages, you'll find everything from coverage of our unforgettable 24-Hour Musical to just how good the dining hall's food has become. Wherever your interests lie, the Gazette aims to inform, entertain, and inspire.



This year also marks an exciting new chapter in our publication's history: the official launch of the Quarterly Gazette Website. For the first time, all our articles and editions will be available online, allowing readers to engage with our content as soon as it's released. No longer are we stuck to publishing seasonally, we can now freely write and upload whenever we want to. On the next page you will be able to see the official design of our website and we have worked tirelessly to be able to present it to you all. Please feel free to head over and have a read of some of the articles that your peers have written as well as just to simply explore!

As many of you may have noticed in our previous edition, we have begun placing a greater emphasis on highlighting the vibrant societies within our school - and this year, we are extending that focus to the students themselves. At 'The Quarterly Gazette', our mission is to celebrate the extraordinary breadth of talent that Gordon's nurtures and to recognise the remarkable individuals who bring our community to life. By sharing their achievements, passions, and personal stories, we hope to not only inform, but to inspire. It is my belief that reading about the incredible initiatives, creativity, and determination of your peers will encourage you to leave a meaningful mark on the world around you. Whether it's joining a society, starting a project, or shaping change in your own unique way, let these stories remind you that every contribution counts.

In our Autumn Edition, you'll find yourself immersed in the latest happenings from across Gordon's - from the activities and achievements of our Houses to thoughtful coverage of current affairs. This issue brings together a diverse range of stories from all across the board, all carefully crafted to capture the dynamic spirit of our school community.

My team and I have diligently put together an edition that hopefully sheds light on what is going on around us as well as highlight the achievements of our friends and peers. I hope that you enjoy reading this as much as we enjoyed putting it together!

**Danielle**

***Editor-in-Chief, The Quarterly Gazette***

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# THE GORDON'S QG WEBSITE

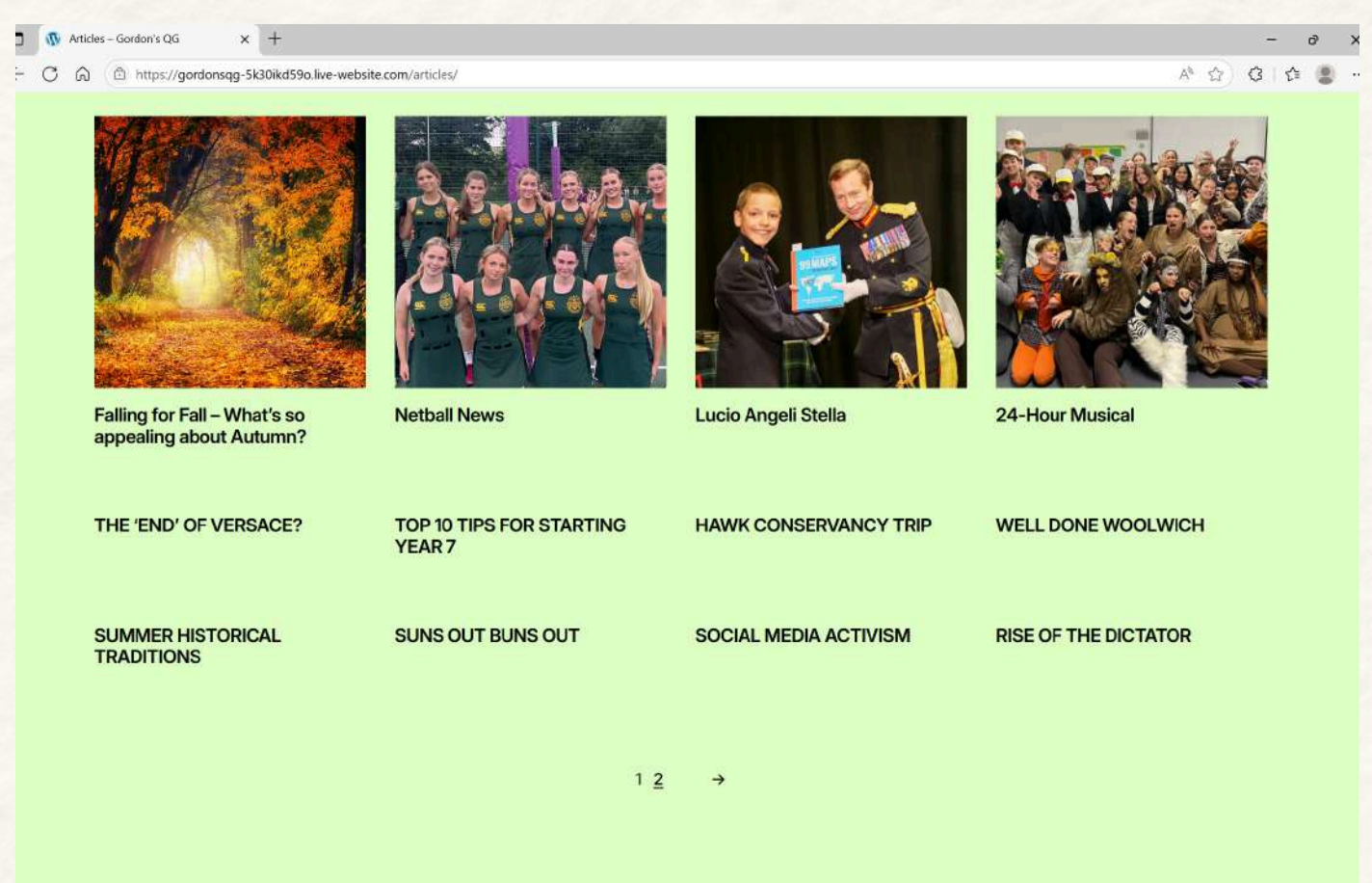
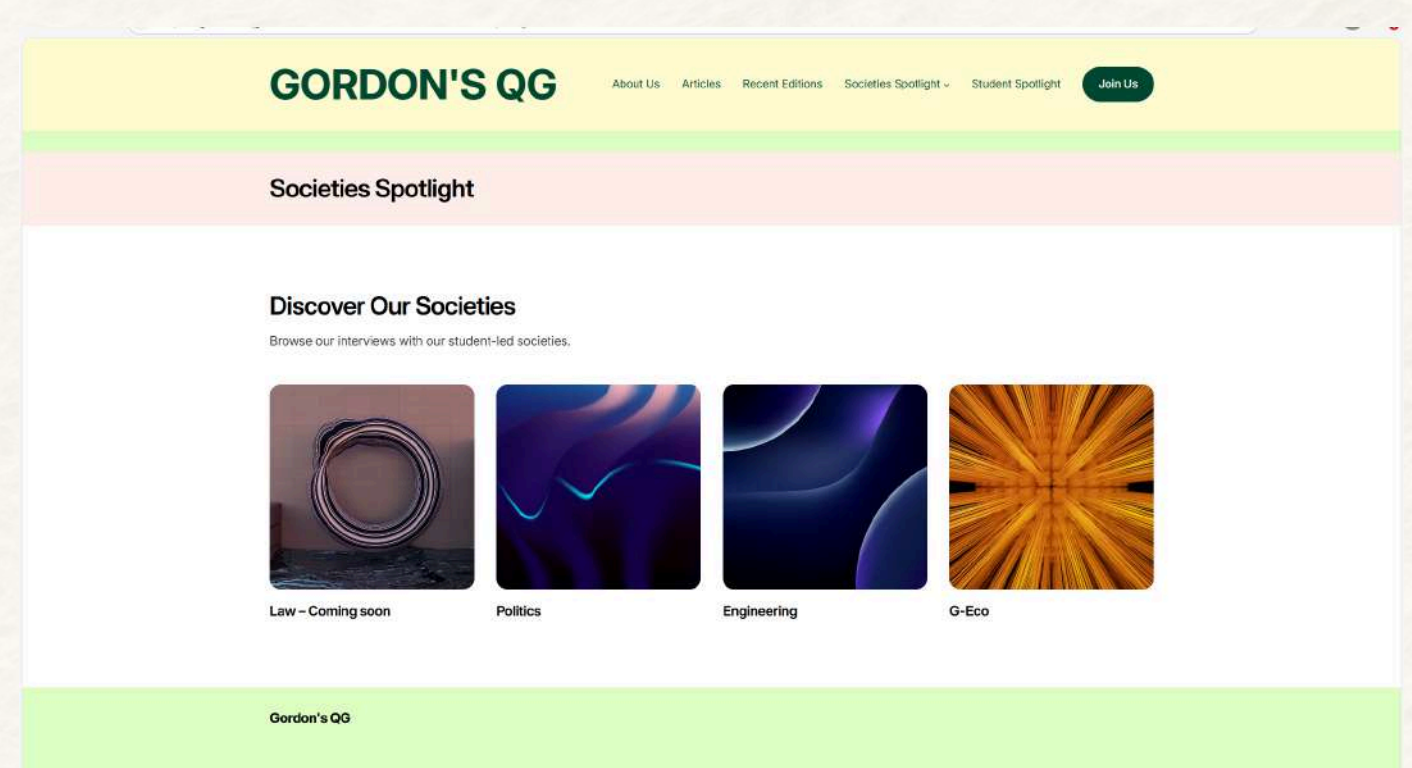
## GORDON'S QUARTERLY GAZETTE HAS GONE DIGITAL

Check out our website: [www.GordonsQG.co.uk](http://www.GordonsQG.co.uk)!

The Gazette has always been your go-to source for stories, interviews, and student voices—and now you can access it all in one place, anytime, anywhere. Whether you're after the latest news, behind-the-scenes features, student spotlights, or exclusive interviews, our online platform makes it easier than ever to stay connected with what's happening in the Gordon's community. We'll be publishing fresh content regularly, so there's always something new to explore.

Do you have an event coming up? A topic you're passionate about? An experience you want to share? We want to hear from you! The Gazette is written by our community, for our community—and your voice matters. Whether it's an article, an opinion piece, or even just an idea, we'd love to help you bring it to life. Check out the website today and be part of the next exciting chapter of Gordon's Quarterly Gazette!

If you'd like to contribute, get in touch with Danielle via our Gazette email address.  
[quarterlygazette@gordons.school](mailto:quarterlygazette@gordons.school).







# AUTUMN TERM 2025







# HOUSE NEWS



Augusta House has launched into the new academic year with a vibrant mix of achievements, creativity, and community spirit. Sporting success at the end of last term was a major highlight, with Year 11 winning Sports Day—continuing their undefeated run since Year 7. In the Inter-House cricket competition, Year 10 dominated their matches, with Miley named player of the tournament. Year 7 and Year 9 also performed brilliantly, helping Augusta House secure first place overall.

Leavers' celebrations included shirt signing and a farewell meal at Prezzo for Years 11 and 13, marking their achievements with warmth and pride. Staff and students also bade a fond goodbye to Miss Garner, our pastoral assistant. Creative events added flair, with the Summer Arts Evening showcasing student talent in music, art, dance, and drama. The 24-Hour Musical was another triumph, with standout performances from Miley, Junyi, Tia, and Eliza.



Community events like the Summer BBQ, 'It's a Knockout,' and cosy firepit nights with Windsor House built strong bonds among boarders. Zorb football, baking sessions, and family evenings with cookie decorating and quizzes brought joy and connection. With a strong start to the Autumn Term, Augusta House continues to shine in spirit, talent, and unity—ready for more fun and success ahead.

We were so incredibly proud of all our students, as their hard work, consistency and fantastic work ethic saw some fantastic A-level and GCSE Results, and it has been so lovely to see so many Y11s return to Sixth Form and to also give a warm Windsor welcome to our new students. The inflatable 'It's a Knockout' event for all the boarders on the first weekend in school was a great success, and since then we've enjoyed IH Tug of War, IH Cycling (a very close race!), firepit and smores night, and some lovely family events including 'biscuit decorating' here in the boarding house, ensuring that Windsor House continues to have a 'steady ship' with our all-important new house motto 'Effort Everywhere, Kindness Always'. We love spending weekends in the kitchen baking or doing arts and crafts, and on Sunday nights we head to the sports hub for Badminton.... A popular activity here in Windsor! We are grateful to our new Y12 Day Student Sarah who is coming into Windsor every so often on a Sunday night to help pass on her top-level badminton skills, as she plays Badminton England tournaments, county matches and club matches.... We look forward to literally 'upping our game with her!'







# HOUSE NEWS

We bounced into the new academic year with serious energy. Fourteen brave Year 7s kicked things off at High Ashurst and took on so many outdoor challenges, and team-building activities. We also welcomed new students into the China House family – including fresh faces in Year 9 and Year 12. To help everyone settle in, we hosted our traditional welcome events. Y7-11 enjoyed pizza and a movie while our Sixth Form students took on the house quiz, with the `sushi rolls` coming out on top.

The Inter-House season kicked off with Cycling and Tug of War –and our Sixth Form team pulled their way to second place in both events, As for Years 7–11... we have had a slower start. The competition has been tough, but our team is more determined than ever to come back swinging. Watch this space! There's so much more to come this term – sports, competitions, the Sixth Form Dance-Off and our Christmas trip to Hampton Court Palace ice rink and we are looking forward to seeing what the China girls can do.



This year, Victoria House has welcomed 33 new students, and things are already off to a flying start! We kicked off the term with some fun House socials, including movie nights and a lively Quiz Night that brought everyone together for some friendly competition and laughs. Inter-House competitions are already in full swing with several events on the calendar for this Term. Huge congratulations to our 6th form Cycling and our Y7–11 Tug of War teams who celebrated their win with takeaway pizza.



Next up is Inter-House Music for which the preparations have already started. In House, we've held our first 'Families' event of the year, creating a great chance for students to connect. Plus, during Surrey School Wellbeing Week, we got involved with themed activities to promote mental health and wellbeing. On top of all that, the girls have been busy with CCF, Drama and Geography trips, as well as lots of sports fixtures. It's been a fantastic start to the year, and with our spooky Halloween events coming up as well as our Christmas Ice Skating House trip to Hampton Court, we can't wait for what's next!







# HOUSE NEWS

## BUCKINGHAM

Buckingham Day House has had a fantastic start to the year, showcasing strength, determination, and teamwork across all year groups. In the Inter-House cycling event, Years 7–11 powered their way to victory, with outstanding performances from Iwan and Sankeith, who anchored the team superbly to secure first place. The Sixth Form also impressed, taking a well-deserved second place, led by Toby, who made an inspiring return from injury to lead from the front and set the pace for his team. In the Inter-House tug-of-war, the Sixth Form proved utterly dominant, destroying all opposition without losing a single pull.

Dom and Harkeerit were immovable forces at the back, showing incredible strength and composure under pressure. Meanwhile, the Years 7–11 team showed tremendous spirit and determination, earning a very respectable second place after several close contests. These combined results mean that Buckingham currently sit top of both leaderboards — leading the Years 7–11 Cup and the Sixth Form Steve Monk Cup. It's been an exceptional start to the year for Buckingham, marked by effort, unity, and pride — setting a strong foundation for continued success across all competitions.



## GRAVESEND

Our new students who joined us in September have settled in really well and the Year 7s in particular are looking forward to their first parade. Throughout the year we run House trips for all year groups. So far this term, we have had a very enjoyable evening out at Top Golf in Addlestone with our Year 11 students. This gave those students who don't normally play golf, the opportunity to pitch their skills against the regular golfers. The overall winner was Daniel, who scored an impressive 93 points. Our next House trip will involve our Year 7 and 8 students and will be bowling in Camberley at the end of this half-term. We are also planning a whole House trip at Christmas for students in Years 7 to 11.

Further news on these events to follow in the next edition of the Quarterly Gazette. Moving onto Inter-House news, we are looking forward to the upcoming Music Competition, which is always a highlight of the year. In the Sports Cup, Gravesend had a fantastic win in the main school Tug-of-War Competition. The boys were undefeated in all their pulls which was outstanding.







# HOUSE NEWS

BALMORAL

This term has been extremely busy with lots of new students starting and fitting into boarding house life. I must say how well they have all done so far. They had big shoes to fill as the Summer had some sadness when you have to say goodbye to some students who have played such a massive part of Balmoral life. We wish them all well as they continue on their life journey and hope they remember all the good times and memories from Balmoral.

The House continues to have numerous Inter-House success across tug of war, cycling and music, as well as the eagerly awaited Dance Off fast approaching, where yet again the boys will give it their all. There are lots of exciting residential House trips too, including Thorpe Park, Regent Street Christmas shopping and some year groups will be going kayaking on the River Wey. The boys are also having great success with lots of good comments this term. The Autumn is always a fun time of the year for boarding houses, where the boys enjoy playing outside and being active.



It was great to welcome back everyone at the start of term, especially our new Year 12 and 7 girls, seen below before their Induction Day. Early in the term, we enjoyed the start to IH Competitions with lots of energy in the first two sporting events. We were delighted to win first place in Cycling and the Sixth Form tug of war, with 2nd place in Yrs 7-11 Tug of War, putting us currently first place in the I-H sports events table! A great start to the year.

KENSINGTON

Also in sports news we shared huge congratulations with Kensington's very own Hannah in Year 9 who has signed for Reading FC this season! Hannah is already a Surrey County football player and of course Team Captain for Gordon's School. New to Gordon's and Kensington in Year 12, Jess, made her National League Debut for Guildford Hockey Club this week alongside Alice in China. Just two of our sporting stars to share with you this half-term.

To help everyone settle in quickly we were able to enjoy a series of pizza evenings with games and Just Dance, as well as family get togethers to meet girls across all age groups

All of which led us to the first parade of the year which was a great success for all our students, especially our Year 7 girls marching for the first time







# PIPES AND DRUMS AT WINDSOR

BY DANIELLA

The Pipes and Drums Band has performed at various venues, from annual trips to Menin Gate and Whitehall, to parading down 6th Avenue in New York City. However, in July their achievements reached even King Charles himself.

With the opportunity to meet His Majesty the King and march through Windsor Castle, this visit marks another milestone in the Band's commemorative tour- visiting the places most important in General Gordon's history. For this particular visit, the importance in question was his Bible. Kept sacred inside the castle, the book had been passed down to the General from his mother and contained the names and dates of each of his postings throughout his lifetime. As well as performing, the Pipes and Drums were able to view this inside the King's drawing rooms, led by a guide through the castle grounds.

The Quarterly Gazette were able to interview a snare drummer who attended the event. Here are her thoughts on the experience:

**What exactly was going through your mind when you performed at Windsor? How did you feel?**

I was so nervous at first, my mind was racing... I was so scared I'd mess up when I was playing. When we first arrived, the stress really started to kick in. But when we started playing, I felt really honoured to be able to have such a great opportunity. It's something I can look back on with a smile on my face.



**We've heard that each Band member got to meet with the King on a personal level as well. Did anything really surprise you when you finally spoke with him?**

First we shook hands, then talked. I was really surprised about how kind and genuine he was! Although I was quite nervous, I spoke confidently and we had a nice chat. He asked if I'd recently joined the Band, which I had, and I said 'Yes, Your Majesty' as we were told beforehand to speak as politely as we could. It was a nice conversation!



**What was it like preparing for the event?**

We had to make sure everything was going to plan. Our uniform had to be top-notch. We had to practice our music for hours on end, for months before the visit, but in my opinion it was worth it in the end.

**Finally, what was your favourite part about the visit? What did you take away from it?**

My favourite part was performing Drummers' Beating to the King, as it felt good that the rest of the Band and I might actually be able to impress him! As for what I took away, I had no idea General Gordon's Bible was kept inside Windsor Castle. It was an amazing experience which I still love getting to tell people about.

A ceremonial finish to a wonderful academic year.





# SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT - ENGINEERING

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE LEADER SEEJAN. WRITTEN BY JAMES.

## What are your plans for Engineering society in the future?

The main aim is to help younger years realise that they want to do engineering and understand what it exactly entails, as most people do not understand what engineering truly is. In terms of Year 12/13, it helps them to craft their personal statements and do things hands-on as opposed to purely research based. Being a member of the Engineering society is essential for any Sixth-Form students interested in any engineering-based degree.

Our younger members are looking forward to leading the society, and this is beneficial as it ensures that Engineering society has continuity for the next school year. Some of the Year 12s already have plans as to how they will make the society better, which is a good sign that they are being involved.

## What have you been proud of in Engineering society?

We are proud of being a big community, and teamwork is very important to us. Engineering society is considered one of the more academic societies, but we are much more than just hard work. Students very much enjoy our P7 as they involve projects that use teamwork and allow students to have fun while learning, which is lacking in the rest of the school day.

## What are you currently working on in Engineering society?

For now, we are working on paper aeroplanes for them to understand forces and other factors that impact flight, such as shape and material. We are trying to get students hands-on experience with planning, experimenting, designing, and creating certain projects.

In the second term, we will start actual competitions where they can participate in teams against each other and get them involved in national competitions. For example, The Big Bang competition, which is an engineering competition where students must work in a team to make a project and then do a presentation on it. Currently, the briefs have yet to be announced, but when they have been released, we will finalise the teams and begin working on it.



## What challenges has this society faced?

We have suffered from a lack of motivation with some of the students, but we solved that by cutting down our members to ensure that only those who take it seriously enough get in. Now, we have a team of intelligent people who are willing to put in the time and effort to get work done.







# 24 HOUR MUSICAL

BY DANIELLE

The famous 24-Hour Musical is back – and this year’s production was nothing short of extraordinary. Marked with energy, creativity, and sheer determination, the event once again proved the magic that can happen when talent and teamwork collide under pressure.

The team started bright and early at 9am on Saturday morning where they found out the musical they would be doing: Madagascar. With less than a day to learn lines, perfect choreography, and pull together costumes, the challenge was immense. Auditions took place on the spot and choreography and blocking was all done scene by scene. What came from this was a spectacular show as per usual. Yes, there were a few off-key notes and a couple of fluffed lines, but these tiny slips were drowned out by the sheer joy and infectious energy radiating from the stage.



As soon as the show started and the opening pose was struck, the audience were in for an rollercoaster of chaos, comedy and fun. The main cast consisted of Naima , Susie, Owen and Adekunbi playing Alex, Marty, Melman and Gloria. The vibrant costumes and iconic face paint helped transform the cast into a group of animals that audiences couldn’t help but fall in love with. One of the highlights was when Hamish came out as King Julien and the whole audience screamed and cheered so much that the music was drowned out.

From start to finish, Madagascar was a triumph of creativity under pressure. The 24-Hour Musical once again showcased the incredible talent within the drama department, both on stage and behind the scenes. It was a performance that left audiences amazed, entertained, and already looking forward to next year’s whirlwind production.







# A NOTE FROM A PLAYWRIGHT

BY CHARLOTTE

As a Year 13 Playwriting Scholar, I am writing a plea to young passionate storytellers to step forward to continue this legacy and ensure that future generations can experience the same transformative journey.

What makes this opportunity so special - and, perhaps, so vital - is that this is a very niche interest, meaning there's a real chance for the next student to step into this role, develop their voice, and leave their mark. As the only scholar in my field, I've felt empowered and inspired, but I believe this kind of support should be accessible to more young writers. If you have a passion for storytelling, a desire to explore your creative potential, and an interest in theatre, I strongly encourage you to consider applying. This scholarship offers more than a chance to learn and create - it offers an experience that could shape your future in ways you might never have imagined.



For me, being a part of this scholarship has opened incredible doors. I've connected with so many inspiring people, attended eye-opening workshops, and explored the works of other talented playwrights. Hearing from professionals who live and breathe theatre has broadened my understanding of the craft and sparked new ideas. My own work has been read, workshopped, and even performed by others, each experience feeding back into my creative process and shaping my writing. My scripts have come alive on stage, culminating in a brand-new play, *Where The Wind Blows*, which will be performed this December at the Wynter Bee Theatre in school! This deeply personal work brings together everything I've learned, and I'm incredibly proud to see it come to life. In addition to writing, I've had the incredible experience of directing alongside mentors and co-directing the upcoming musical *Amelie* - opportunities that have pushed me to grow creatively and personally.

My writing journey began with simple musings about everyday moments, what some would consider a diary: simple, small observations and fleeting thoughts that I captured in writing. These early reflections gradually transformed into more constructed prose, and even poetry at times, allowing me to play with language, rhythm, and emotion. Over time, this evolved into a unique style that people now recognise as distinctly mine, giving my work a special, niche identity. I truly believe if this resonates with you in any way, give it a try!

Please feel free to contact Charlotte via [quarterlygazette@gordons.school](mailto:quarterlygazette@gordons.school) if you have any questions.

Charlotte, Year 13 Student





# GORDON'S CUISINE TRIUMPHS

BY JAMES

So far, this term has seen a rebirth of the food served at the Gordon's School cafeteria. I have been at this school since the start of Year 7, and I have eaten my way through the ups and downs of the meals offered. From bland paella to the often-uneaten sausage and bean stew, we have all truly experienced what 'school food' is commonly thought of as. However, in this article, I wish to highlight the massive improvements that have been made to the Gordon's cuisine.

Not all the menu has changed; our favourites are still available in pride of place. Chicken Katsu Curry is arguably the most popular dish on the rota, with its simple mix of white rice, katsu chicken and curry sauce creating a comforting yet delicious meal for all to enjoy. Katsu Thursdays are the days where I see the most clean plates when I put tray away, and it truly highlights how the easiest way to prevent food waste is to serve food that people enjoy eating. Another dish that I would like to highlight as a long-time item is the beef burgers in baps at Tuesday dinners. Recently, they've been much improved by the added option of slices of lettuce, cheese, and tomato.



Now I would like to mention some of the newcomers to the Gordon's menu. The 'sticky Korean chicken', while a Korean friend of mine has confirmed that though they may not be Korean style, it has still been a hit. Another dish I wish to highlight is the pork stroganoff, served at Wednesday lunches. It may be orange, and some people find the pork a tad chewy, but the majority of people enjoy it, with the mashed potato pairing very nicely.

Now, it wouldn't be a food article without the desserts. While most wish for larger portion sizes, all can agree that the puddings are delicious, even if they have to take 2-3 portions. The carrot cake is moist and fluffy, and the sticky toffee pudding is very warming, and when paired with the toffee sauce becomes even sweeter. The apple crumble, while some may think of it as healthy due to it being made of apple, expertly combines the soft mushy apple and the crumbly crumble.

While the meals have much improved, we must not forget who is to thank for all of their hard work: the kitchen staff. Always remember to say your 'pleases' and 'thank yous' to the staff when collecting your meals. It really does impact them, and it makes them feel appreciated for all of their effort. I myself have formed a bond with Dawn, the lady who is often seen manning the soup station, and I encourage all others to warm up to the people who serve them.





# TRUMP'S 20-POINT GAZA PEACE PLAN

BY HARRY

On September 29th, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled a 20-point peace plan alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benzion Mileikowsky (more commonly known as Benjamin Netanyahu). This peace plan is aimed at ending the war in Gaza, which has resulted in Israel killing over 66,000 Palestinians, of whom around 20,000 are children.

This plan has received backing from numerous Western and Arab governments, including the UK, France, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. The initial phase of the plan, which includes hostage exchange and remains recovery, has also been accepted by Hamas.

The plan is claimed to outline an approach to de-escalation and reconstruction. It calls for a mutual ceasefire, the release of prisoners from both sides, and the formation of a trans-national Palestinian Administration. Crucially, it demands that one side of the war fully disarms, whilst also excluding them from any future role in Gaza's governance. Reconstruction would instead be managed under international oversight, with a supposed guarantee that Israel will not reoccupy or annex the territory.



To coordinate the plan's implementation, Trump has established a new international body called the Board of Peace, which he personally chairs. Former Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair has been explicitly named as one of its first members, drawing on his past experience in the Middle East. The board has been tasked with monitoring the ceasefire compliance, supervising reconstruction, and liaising with regional governments and humanitarian agencies.

Alongside this peace framework, Trump has introduced a new economic plan for Gaza. This initiative includes privately funded infrastructure projects, tax incentives for foreign investors, and the creation of a Gaza Free Trade Zone. Aid distribution would be tightly regulated, with economic support strictly linked to compliance with the plan's security and governance conditions. Critics argue that this approach prioritises external control and investor interest over local empowerment, raising concerns about the long-term implications for Palestinian autonomy.

While U.S and Israeli officials have described the plan as "the most realistic path to peace," analysts and humanitarian groups have voiced their scepticism. Many point to the exclusion of Hamas as a destabilising factor, given its influence in Gaza. Others highlight the framing of humanitarian aid as a security tool, which risks politicising basic needs such as food and medical care. The absence of provisions addressing occupation, displacement, and blockade has led some experts to question whether the plan addresses root causes or merely manages symptoms.





# LESSONS IN FEAR: WHY KIDS ARE CARRYING KNIVES TO SCHOOL

BY KATE

A recent BBC investigation has revealed that children, as young as the age of four and five, have been bringing knives into schools and classrooms. Police data showed 1300 knife related incidents occurring in schools and colleges across England and Wales in the last year- but why is this happening?

The UK has been dealing with a knife crime epidemic for a number of years, but as more disturbing data comes in, it doesn't appear that the situation is improving. Out of the 1300 knife offences in the UK in 2024, 10% of them involved primary school children- some barely old enough to tie their own shoes. This raises the question of how safe British schools really are and whether the Government is doing enough to halt the problem before tragedy strikes again.

However, an investigation revealed that 41 out of 43 police forces that provided data said that nearly 80% of knife related incidents involved boys, mostly in their teens. The alarming emergence of very young offenders has left experts warning that 'knife culture' is now seeping into primary education. Cases range from shocking to surreal. West Midlands Police reported that a six-year-old brought a flick knife to school and told teachers that he planned to kill another student. Another five-year-old was found with a ten-inch kitchen knife that he took to school 'to show his friends'.

But why are children doing this? In a Sheffield gym, three teen boys admitted during an investigation that they had taken knives into schools out of fear. Kids carrying knives may walk the streets wielding a knife in order to protect themselves, or perhaps due to pressures from peers at school to do so, possibly to be viewed as strong or of higher status within the group. Others may do so because of past trauma or experience, or because of a lack of trust in the police force, so they feel that they have to protect themselves as the police won't. One fifteen year old, stated that he had paid £30 for a twelve-inch blade after receiving threats, and said that "I used to walk around with it on my hip. The teachers never noticed." Gym owner Trevor Chrouch, former bodybuilder turned youth mentor, says he sees fear driving the problem as "Kids are bringing knives into school every day. They've got their mobile phones in one pocket, their knife in another- because they're scared." Caroline Willgoose lost her fifteen-year-old son Harvey to a stabbing by another student at his school in Sheffield earlier this year and told the BBC that 'I always thought knives were a gang-culture thing. Never in a million years did I think that there were knives in school'.







# LESSONS IN FEAR: WHY KIDS ARE CARRYING KNIVES TO SCHOOL

BY KATE



After increases in cases like Harvey's, some schools are taking matters into their own hands. Dudley Academies Trust in the West Midlands are installing permanent knife arches in all four of its secondary schools following local incidents. Other schools are making students walk through airport-style detectors each morning. Preventative measures like these mean that the sales of security equipment to schools are soaring. Bryon Logue, managing director of Security Products, told the BBC that sales of knife arches tripled between March 2024 and March 2023, with more than 100 handheld scanners sold to schools in the same period. Although the number of recorded knife incidents slightly fell from 2023, the number of serious incidents (as opposed to possession only) rose. This rising trend of carrying knives among youth warn British schools that they need to tackle the situation proactively to attempt to combat the growing trend of knife carrying.

Other solutions to this serious issue could be to introduce early education and prevention programmes. These could be Government implemented and inform students of the dangers of knife crime, especially within cities and areas prone to heavy gang violence and provide known trusted adults that students can go to if their parents aren't able to help them through the challenges. Additionally, identity building programmes could help young people find their hobbies or talents that would help them stay out of gangs and dangerous violence involving weapons like knives.

A potential solution has been put into action in Glasgow. Scottish police treat knife arrests not as a violence issue, but rather a public health issue. This means that the offender has to be referred to a unit, similar to those of drug and alcoholism, where they are mentored and helped 1-2-1 to give them the tools to escape the gang-violence and knife crime while they are only on their first offence. This prevents reoffending and therefore reduces the number of people out on the streets encouraging gang violence as an acceptable means of violence.







# CHAOS IN CONGRESS: US GOVERNMENT GRINDS TO A HALT AS SHUTDOWN BEGINS

BY KATE

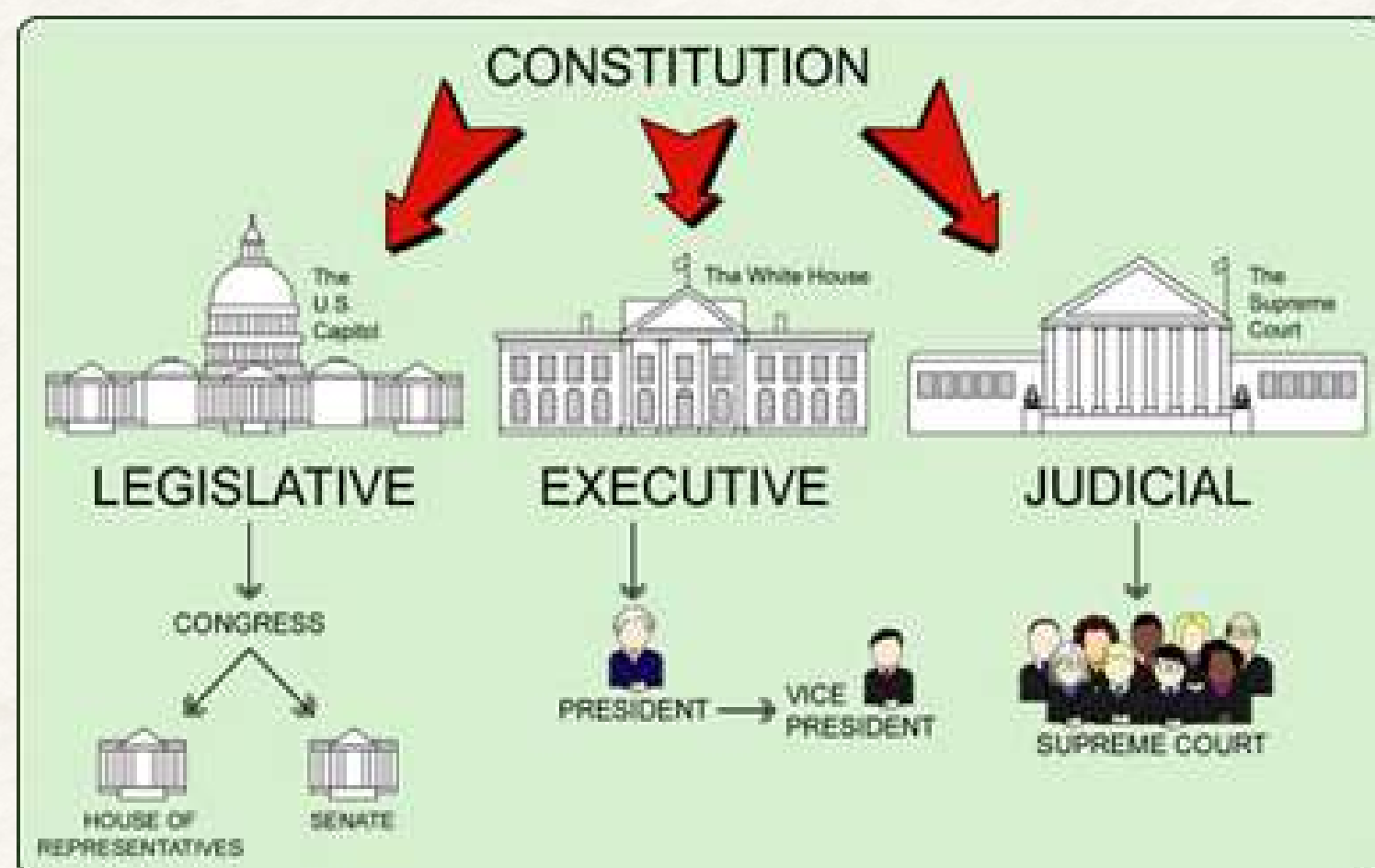
For the first time in nearly seven years, the American Government has ground to a sharp halt after disagreements over healthcare policy in the senate. Over 750,000 people (approximately 40% of the federal force) have been placed on unpaid leave, meaning many parts of the Federal Government that millions rely on, will no longer be functioning the way they should.



So why has the government been shut down? Well, it is down to a disagreement between the Democrats and the Republicans, whereby neither party could agree to pass a bill funding the government service into October and beyond. Under the US system of government, there are many different branches of government that all have to reach an agreement on spending plans prior to them becoming law. Currently, the Republicans control both chambers of politics- the House of Representatives and the Senate. However, in the Senate, also known as the Upper Chamber, the Republicans were short of sixty votes, meaning that the spending bill did not pass- therefore putting the Democrats in power to negotiate policy.

The Democrats did not vote in favour of the spending bill due to their differing views on the Republicans' changes to the healthcare system. Democrats want to see an extension of expiring tax credits, which make health insurance cheaper for millions of Americans and the reversal of Trump's cuts to Medicaid (the government programme used by millions of elderly, disabled and low-income Americans).

The Democrats decided to make the shutdown a fight about healthcare. They knew that there were Obamacare subsidies that were passed during COVID-19, and if they were left to expire, the average Obamacare payment would increase as much as 75%. So, this disapproval of spending allowed the Democrats to protect the subsidies so that more Americans can remain on Obamacare, and therefore able to afford their healthcare.



The shutdown doesn't just impact the Government. It directly impacts millions of people across America and the globe. However, not all aspects of government stop during the shutdown. Services deemed 'essential' are required to continue as normal, although many are working unpaid. Border protection, law enforcement, immigration and customs officers (ICE) and medical workers are expected to continue as normal. Thousands of flights have been cancelled and delayed because of shortages of air traffic controllers who are expected to work without pay.





# CHAOS IN CONGRESS: US GOVERNMENT GRINDS TO A HALT AS SHUTDOWN BEGINS

BY KATE

National Park services remain only partially open, as 433 parks have had over half of their workers put on leave. The majority of US schools are state funded by the Federal Government, so provides billions of dollars' worth of grants and student loans, which could eventually come to a halt. However, politicians are still being paid- a feature of this shutdown that has been criticised by some politicians.

The scale of the damage caused directly by the shutdown will depend on how long the shutdown lasts and how wide ranging it is and or becomes. Analysts estimate that the situation could shave off roughly 0.1-0.2% points off of economic growth each week that it continues, however this could be regained as it has been previously after similar shutdowns. If Trump ends up permanently firing workers rather than temporarily putting them in a state of furlough, there is a risk that the impact could become more substantial. Across the globe, even the UK economy has already been hit by the effects of Trump's actions, such as his tariffs, however analysts cannot know how badly the UK has been hit until data has come in.

On a global scale, the shutdown will affect millions of people outside the US. For example, the stock market could become more volatile as the longer the state of shutdown continues, the weaker the US Dollar could become depending on reactions of other nations. Travel and visa delays could halt business and student trying to travel to or from the country. Foreign aid projects could be delayed due to lack of funding available and overall, the shutdown weakens the USA's image as a steady, dependable leader in global affairs.



In the history of political shutdowns, shutdowns over budgets are a unique aspect of US politics. The last shutdown occurred in December 2018, lasting 35 days, the longest in history (at the time), on the basis of disagreements over funding a wall on the Mexico border. This shutdown finally concluded due to air traffic controllers, who had been working for a month without pay, began calling in sick; a trend that has started to emerge in this present shutdown.

In my opinion, I think that the Democrats were clever in their political movements, as they are acutely aware that healthcare is something that has broad support among the American people. We are currently in a moment where there is more and more inflation, making people's healthcare increasingly expensive, which could hurt Trump's approval rating and support. I wonder if politicians should attempt to protect voters when the voters voted for something that may not have been in their interest?





# WE DON'T TRULY LIVE IN A DEMOCRACY

BY HARRY

We're constantly told that voting is the ultimate form of democracy and freedom, that if we want change, we should elect better politicians, that countries without elections like ours are "authoritarian" and "backwards". But how often do we, or are we told to, question our own version of democracy?

In the UK, we have 650 Members of Parliament representing nearly 70 million people. That's over 100,000 people per MP. Can one person truly represent the needs, struggles and views of that many individuals? And even if they could, how much power do they really have?



Groups such as Freedom House claim to measure global freedom. They rate countries on how "free" they are, often giving high scores to U.S. allies and low scores to its rivals. But here is the funny thing: Freedom House is primarily funded by the U.S. government and private donors such as the Ford Foundation. Can we really trust a self-proclaimed "non-partisan" group that is paid by powerful interests?

Voting itself doesn't equal freedom. It's supposed to be a tool for people to shape society in their best interests. But if politicians need a strong economy to make change, and that economy is controlled by business owners, then who are politicians really working for?

Many times, parties have repeatedly chosen policies that benefit the ultra-rich minority over the working majority. If votes are what matter most, wouldn't that be a bad strategy? Unless of course, votes aren't what matter most.

Take the Conservative Party's 2022 Edinburgh Reforms, which rolled back financial regulations introduced after the 2008 crash. These reforms were argued to "boost competitiveness" in the financial sector, but in practice, they handed more freedom to big banks and asset managers to take risks with other people's money. The reforms were praised by corporate lobbyists and financial institutions, while offering nothing to workers who are at most risk of inflation, stagnant wages, and rising debt.

Now consider the current Labour Government's decision to maintain the capital gains tax exemption on inherited assets. Despite calls from economists and social justice groups to reform the system, Labour chooses to preserve a loophole that allows wealthy families to pass down vast fortunes without paying tax on the increase in value. This benefits the richest asset holders, those who own land, stocks, and property, while doing nothing for the millions of people who live paycheck to paycheck and will never inherit anything of significant value.

Politicians rely on economic stability. That means keeping business owners happy. If every name on the ballot is ultimately beholden to the same elite interests, what's the point of choosing between them?

We're told we live in a democracy, but that democracy seems to vanish the moment we step into the workplace. At work, most people have no say in how things are run. You're told what to wear, how to speak, and what to do. Decisions are made from the top down, often by people you'll never meet. This isn't just hierarchy; it's a form of economic control, and unlike political power, you have no say in who is your boss.





# DO WE STILL HAVE A RIGHT TO PROTEST?

BY MILO

With the rise of social media and increasingly accessible news and information, more and more people are being informed of injustices across the globe. This, amongst other reasons, has led to a rise in protests in recent years however the impact and morality of these protests has come into question. Protests that start with peaceful intentions can escalate, often due to police action, creating an environment of extremism which can polarise followers and spread a negative public image.



In recent years, the UK has witnessed a surge in protest activity, driven by global conflicts, social justice movements and governing decisions, such as anti-Brexit protests. From climate activism to pro-Palestinian demonstrations, the streets have become a ground for political expression. However, this rise in protests has been matched by a rise in police action with nearly 500 people arrested in London last week for “supporting a proscribed organisation” during pro-Palestinian marches.

According to the National Police Chiefs’ Council, the UK saw over 3,000 protests between June and August 2025 alone, the highest number in three years. These included demonstrations against asylum and immigration policies, the war in Gaza, and the prosecution of activist groups like Palestine Action. While many of these protests were peaceful, others escalated into confrontations, often triggered by strict policing or counter-protests. During pro-Palestinian protests in London last weekend a counter protest began consisting of protesters waving Israeli flags and calling for the return of the hostages. A number of arrests were made following the collision of the two groups after the counter protest breached an agreement set to stop any violent conflict.

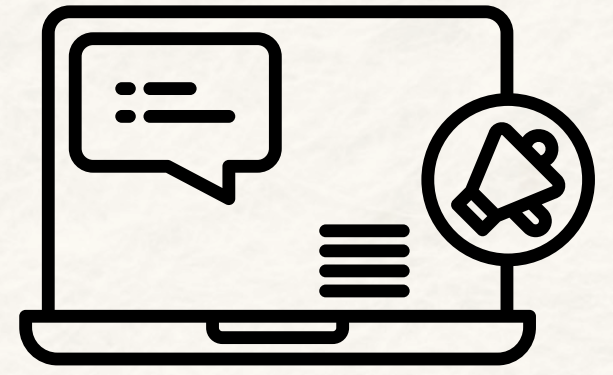
The increasing number of arrests at protests highlights a change in methodology from policing forces throughout the UK. Whilst these changes can be seen as impeding on free speech it can be argued that restrictions and prosecutions are a necessary measure in order to combat violence and harm that can be suffered at the hands of violent protesters. However, the disenfranchisement of the population does come with dangerous consequences. Infringing on the right to protest can lead to increased government control potentially causing further issues throughout the country. An example of a nation that has effectively used protest to force a change in an oppressive government are the recent protests in Nepal dubbed the “Nepalese Gen Z Protests” which followed bans on social media platforms. These protests successfully elected a new temporary prime minister showing the power that protest can hold when faced with an unjust government. Demonstrating the power that is being taken away from the UK population and the repercussions that could follow.





# DIGITAL IDS: THE FUTURE OF IDENTITY OR A THREAT TO PRIVACY?

BY MAISIE



Imagine if your passport, driver's licence, and National Insurance number could all fit into one secure app on your phone. It sounds convenient, easily accessible and safety assured, yet, it poses significant risks to privacy and data security. That is the idea behind the UK's new digital ID system, known as the BritCard.

A digital ID is ultimately an electronic version of your official identification. Instead of carrying physical documents, it could be proved exactly who you are with a few taps on your phone. The UK government plans to introduce the BritCard by 2029, starting with mandatory use for Right to Work checks, meaning employers will have to verify people's identity through the system before hiring. Sir Keir Starmer, examined India's digital ID system on his visit to Mumbai as a potential model for the UK, praising the system as a "massive success". He said it made identification easier, faster, and more secure. No more lost documents or long forms; just a digital wallet with all the important details.

Supporters of the BritCard explained that it cuts down on fraud and fake IDs; amplifying how we access public services like tax, benefits, or the NHS; it saves time and money for both citizens and businesses. Supporters claim that it makes identity simple, safe, and modern. "The world is going digital — and so should our ID." At the moment, it is easy to borrow, steal or use someone else's National Insurance number and that is part of the problem in the shadow economy like people sharing National Insurance numbers for example. In theory, digital IDs make it harder to abuse that system.

However, privacy campaigners think it is not that simple. Groups like Big Brother Watch warn that digital IDs could give the government too much power to track people and mass surveillance. "If you need an ID to get a job today, what will you need it for tomorrow?" asked Silkie Carlo, the group's director. Other concerns include the potential for government overreach and the system being difficult for some citizens to use. There are also concerns about data breaches; hackers accessing the system; digital exclusion and people who do not either own smartphones or struggle with technology. "Digital ID might be convenient for some," says Age UK adviser Jane McDonald, "but it could leave millions of older or vulnerable people behind."

The BritCard has already sparked petitions, protests, and political arguments. Opposition parties say the government must guarantee strong privacy laws, independent oversight, and non-digital options before making anything mandatory. Others argue that the UK should learn from countries like Estonia, where digital IDs work well because citizens control their data and privacy is protected by strict laws. Like many new technologies, digital IDs have pros and cons. They could make life easier but they could also cause harm in corrupt hands. For now, the BritCard is still being developed, and the government promises more details soon. Whether it becomes a success or a scandal may depend on how much trust people have in the system.

Would you be happy to use a digital ID instead of a passport or driving licence? Or does it feel like one step too far into a world where everything, even your identity, is online?





# FALLING FOR FALL - WHAT'S SO APPEALING ABOUT AUTUMN?

BY DANIELLA

As we flit to and fro from lessons like falling leaves across the school campus, we smile as the Parade Square trees exchange their viridescent colours for red and golds. Even as the rains fall harder and the winds grow colder, we smile despite our slight discomfort, just to watch the world transform into something more otherworldly, more enchanting. Even if you might not be a fan of the season, you're sure to know someone who does. But what is it that makes autumn so beloved?

On the surface, it's easy to see what people find attractive. We love strolling through peaceful, pumpkin-coloured forests, sipping gingerbread and cinnamon-themed drinks, wearing the cosiest things we can find. We hear the fading birdsong chirps, the wind whistling in the treetops, the leaves crunching beneath our feet. As each day goes on, we look forward to the Harvest Festival and finally, finally, the beginning of half term. But there's much more to autumn than just what we see and hear. Fall is a symbol of new beginnings, new journeys in life, and new life. Things that create, if only temporarily, a structure that helps us to see the world in a new light. Starting a new year at school. The stakes are higher than before, everyone seems to have changed, and everything feels so much different. Research proves that, as human beings of habit, we're significantly more motivated to actually get things done when we reach landmarks (regardless of the effort it takes to do that!) Ever felt excited at the start of a month, because you know (at least, you hope) that by the end, somehow you'll emerge better than before? As we adjust to the routines we abandoned just a few months ago for the summer, we fall into a peaceful cycle of balance, stability, and comfort.

Autumn's charm, however, extends far beyond our emotional associations; it's woven into the UK and the world's cultural traditions, with events including Bonfire Night (UK), Halloween (worldwide), Día de los Muertos (Mexico City), and the Harvest Festival (worldwide). These are celebrations that bring people together for similar reasons- remembering old memories, centuries-old traditions, allows us to bring together our friends and families along the way.

Fashion's also a key role in autumn's appeal. Our wardrobes shift towards universally loved, aesthetic favourites- cozy jumpers and coats, scarves and hats, neutral colours that blend easily with nature. Comfort and practicality over what might look best because hey, it's autumn! It invites self-expression and experimenting- it's a season to be a new you, a new person. A feeling more and more people are beginning to cherish. Social media platforms scream with all sorts of outfit inspirations and cottagecore aesthetics, romanticising tips and cute recipes to try out new things to do. Everywhere we look, inspiration and opportunity is waiting to be found.

Autumn is a season beckoning with warmth, comfort, and rich traditions- from the many autumnal events awaiting us, the delicious food or even the company the season encourages to keep- a sweet little bubble of bliss before winter's everlasting chill.







# SAVOURING THE SEASON

BY MAISIE

Autumn is the time when cosy jumpers meet steaming mugs, when leaves fall in golden swirls, and sunsets burn softly across the sky. But there's something special about how the season finds its way into our kitchens. The smell of spiced biscuits drifts through the air — ginger and nutmeg curling like warmth itself — while cinnamon lingers from the oven as apple crumble bakes. Hot chocolate experiments pile high with cream and melting marshmallows, and even the simplest slice of pumpkin pie tastes like home.

At school, lunchtimes start to mirror the season. Bowls of soup warm cold hands, steam curling up like tiny clouds. Tomato, butternut squash, or root vegetable — each one a small act of comfort between lessons. Then there are the seasonal classics: toffee apples at fairs, stick to fingers at fairs; spiced lattes that taste like nostalgia; roasted chestnuts best eaten warm. Toffee apples stick to fingers at fairs, spiced lattes taste like nostalgia, and roasted chestnuts remind us that the simplest things can still feel special.

Even ordinary meals take on an autumn glow: a bowl of stew after a long walk, or roasted vegetables turning sweet at the edges. Autumn food isn't just about flavour; it's about slowing down and finding warmth in small moments. The food and drinks of this season have a way of turning grey afternoons golden and into something worth remembering.

Whether you're sharing a hearty meal with family or sipping a spiced latte in a café, this season invites us to pause, savour, and feel at home. Let your next meal or drink be your own quiet celebration of autumn — one comforting bite or sip at a time.







# POPULAR P7 RECIPE

## HALLOWEEN BISCUITS

### INSTRUCTIONS

#### STEP 1:

Preheat the oven to 180°C

#### STEP 2:

Place the margarine, sugar and syrup in a small saucepan. On a low heat melt and then stir

#### STEP 3:

Place the flour, bicarb and ginger into a large bowl. Pour in the melted sugar and butter mixture.

#### STEP 4:

Stir together to form a dough (you may need to use your hands).

#### STEP 5:

Gently roll out the dough, if too sticky use baking paper underneath and on top. Use cutters to cut out the biscuits.

#### STEP 6:

Place on a baking tray and cook for 10-12 minutes until lightly golden brown.

#### STEP 7:

When the biscuits have cooled decorate them in a spooky way!



### INGREDIENTS

75g margarine

60g light brown sugar

1tsp ground ginger

175g plain flour

1/4tsp bicarbonate of soda

1tbsp golden syrup

#### Decorations

- Icing pens
- Marshmallows
- White Fondant Icing

### HOW DID IT GO?

TIME IS IMPORTANT, YOU'VE GOT TO BE QUICK

"HARDEST PART IS ROLLING THE DOUGH AS IT STICKS TOGETHER."



"BE CAREFUL CUTTING THE COOKIES OR IT WILL RIP APART."





# AUTUMN WORD SEARCH

BY CELIZA



FALL  
AUTUMN  
LEAVES  
HARVEST  
PUMPKIN  
HALLOWEEN  
THANKSGIVING  
FOOTBALL  
SWEATER  
APPLE CIDER  
SCHOOL  
ACORN  
ORANGE  
YELLOW  
BROWN

S	P	O	R	B	S	Y	L	E	A	V	E	S	U	A
N	T	A	R	D	R	H	G	H	T	E	R	W	O	P
U	H	T	P	C	I	O	E	A	S	M	P	E	N	P
L	A	L	H	E	H	G	W	A	C	O	V	R	P	L
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U	K	P	E	C	R	S	R	I	O	I	L	F	C	C
P	S	N	S	R	E	O	E	V	S	E	T	O	E	I
R	G	R	O	N	C	H	A	T	E	S	A	O	X	D
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Y	A	C	K	P	S	C	H	O	O	L	A	P	O	P







# AUTUMN BUCKET LIST

BY CELIZA

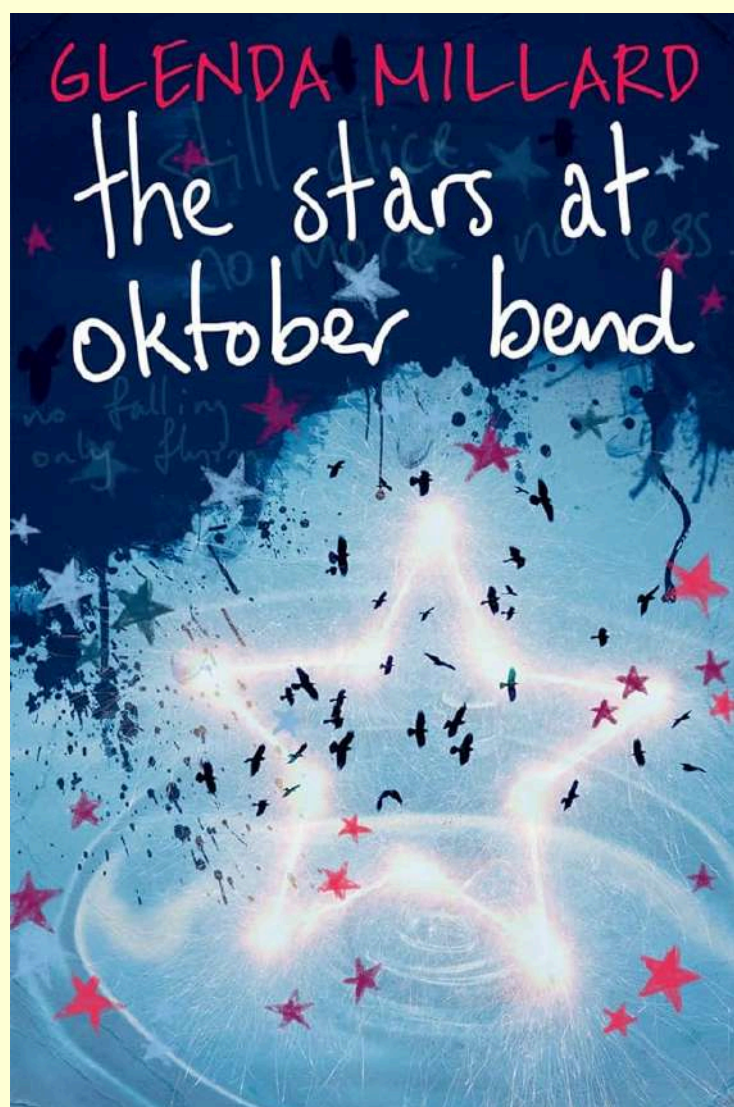
Watch a scary movie	Visit a pumpkin patch	Buy a fall scented candle	Make candy apples	Attend a Halloween Party
Buy a cozy sweater	Visit a pumpkin patch	Build a bonfire	Make s'mores	Drink hot chocolate
Go on a nature walk	Buy matching gloves and scarfs	Tell scary stories	Go on a hike	Visit a farm
Buy candy	Make a Halloween costume	Make an apple pie	Attend a football game	Read a fall book





# RECOMMENDATIONS

BY MOROLAKE



## BOOK TO READ

### STARS AT OKTOBER BEND – GLENDA MILLARD

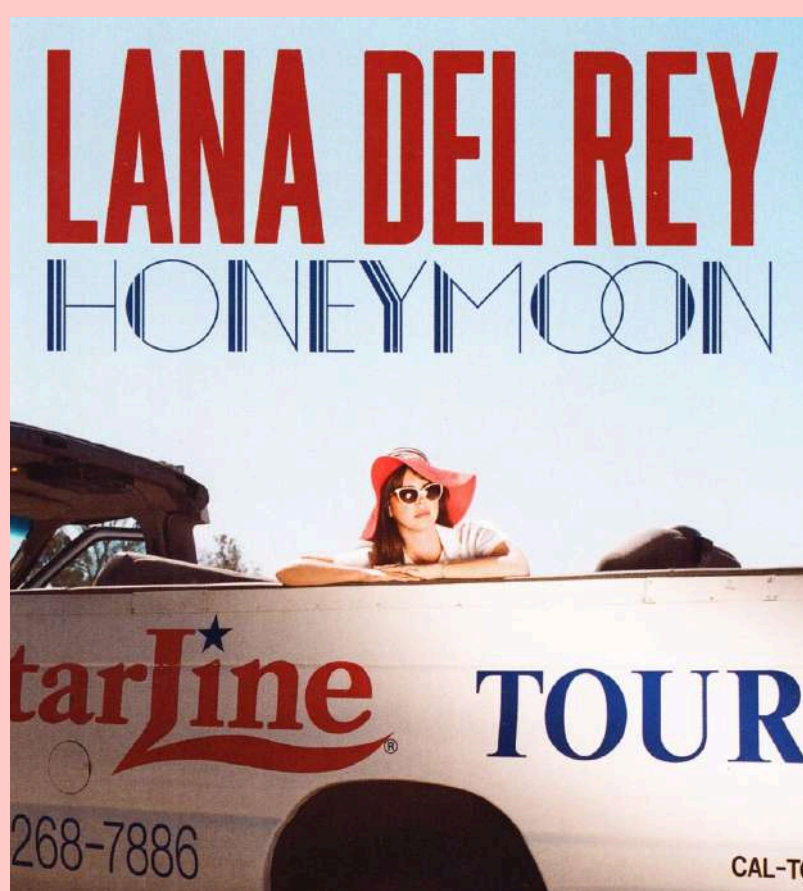
The Stars at Oktober Bend is a good book because of its beautiful, lyrical prose that provides a hopeful story of healing and love for its two unforgettable, broken protagonists—Alice, a girl with a brain injury who uses poetry to express herself, and Manny, a former child soldier—helping them find freedom and joy despite their past traumas.



## FILM TO WATCH

### FANTASTIC MR. FOX

Fantastic Mr. Fox explores the complexities of identity, the consequences of pride and greed, and the essential role of community and relationships in finding meaning and purpose. Mr. Fox's personal journey to reconnect with his wild nature and outsmart the farmers ultimately leads him to embrace his family and friends, demonstrating that true fulfillment comes from belonging, connection, and accepting one's true self within a supportive community.



## MUSIC TO LISTEN TO

### HONEYMOON – LANA DEL REY

Lyricaly, the album touches on themes of tortured romance, resentment, lust, escapism and violence. Honeymoon received positive reviews from music critics, appearing on the 2015 best albums lists of many publications. At the time of its release, several critics considered the album Del Rey's best work to date.





# YEAR 7 POETRY COMPETITION



## GORDONIAN CREATIVE WRITING PRIZE – YEAR 7



### English Poetry Competition

All Year 7 students are invited to submit a poem that describes your first impressions of Gordon's School.

Need inspiration? Choose 2-3 topics you can explore:

- Details of your first day at school
- What it's been like walking around the buildings
- What you have learned so far in lessons
- What your favourite parts of Gordon's are
- How you feel after the first few weeks
- What you hope to achieve while at Gordon's

All poems must be submitted to your English teacher or emailed to [dduran@gordons.school](mailto:dduran@gordons.school).

**Deadline to submit poems is Friday 7th November.**







## MEET THE TEAM



**DANIELLE**  
**EDITOR**



**DIPSI**  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**



**MILO**  
**SIXTH FORM WRITER**



**JAMES**  
**SIXTH FORM WRITER**



**MOROLAKE**  
**SIXTH FORM WRITER**



**CELIZA**  
**SIXTH FORM WRITER**



**HARRY**  
**SIXTH FORM WRITER**



**KATE**  
**SIXTH FORM WRITER**



**CHARLOTTE**  
**SIXTH FORM WRITER**



**MAISIE**  
**KS4 WRITER**



**DANIELLA**  
**KS4 WRITER**



**NATHANIAL**  
**IT CONSULTANT**

WANT TO JOIN THE TEAM? HAVE SOMETHING EXCITING TO SHARE FOR OUR NEXT EDITION?  
EMAIL [QUARTERLYGAZETTE@GORDONS.SCHOOL](mailto:QUARTERLYGAZETTE@GORDONS.SCHOOL) TO GET INVOLVED!





\* Breaking News \*

SPECIAL  
EDITION

WE WANT YOUR STORY

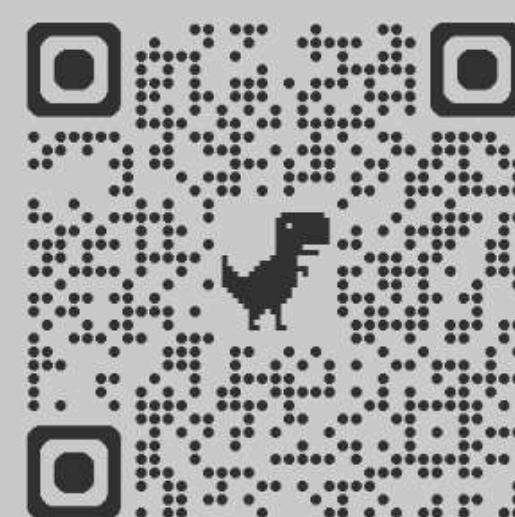
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# The Quarterly Gazette

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### *Join us*

*The GQ has a variety of topics and opportunities to write about. We meet every Monday P7 in the library - scan the code to contact us.*



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OCTOBER 2025

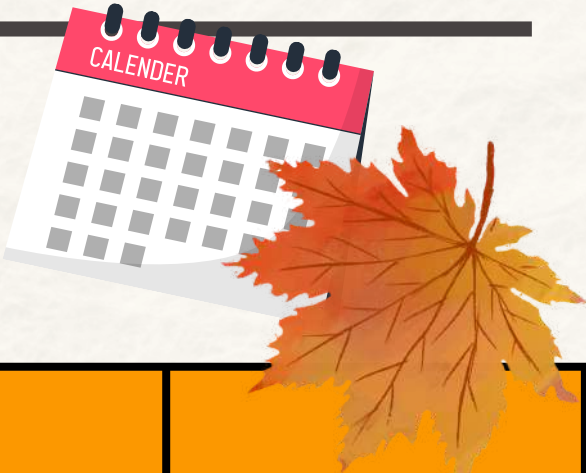


ONLINE NOW





UPCOMING EVENTS



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
OCTOBER 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 HOLIDAYS	24 HOLIDAYS	25 HOLIDAYS	26 HOLIDAYS
27 HOLIDAYS	28 HOLIDAYS	29 HOLIDAYS	30 HOLIDAYS	31 HOLIDAYS	<b>NOVEMBER</b> 1 HOLIDAYS	2 HOLIDAYS
3 HOLIDAYS	4 HOLIDAYS	5	6	7	8	9 Parade
10 Year 11 Mocks	11 Sixth Form Open Morning	12 Year 12 Geography Trip	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Exeat	23 Exeat
24 Winter Arts Evening	25 CCF night training	26 New comers concert	27	28	29 West End Christmas Fair	30 Winchester Christmas Market
<b>DECEMBER 1</b>	2	3	4 Othello Theatre Trip	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Sixth Form Dance Off	13	14 Residential borders - Oxford street shopping
15 School Ski Trip to Obertauern	16 German Exchange Trip	17 End of Term	18 HOLIDAYS	19 HOLIDAYS	20 HOLIDAYS	21 HOLIDAYS