

# the quarterly gazette



*February Edition*

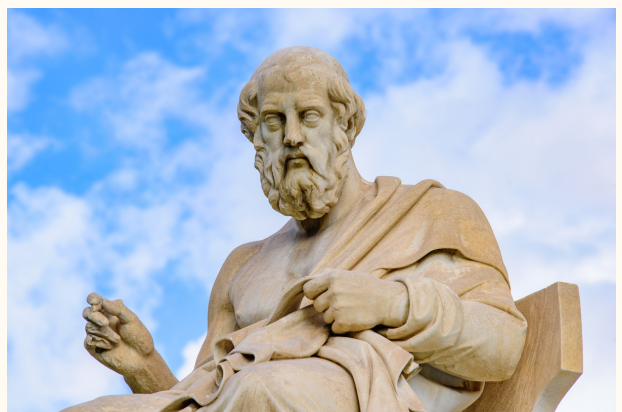


## Party time!

In this edition, a new element of politics is going to be explored: the concept of a political party. We are going to first accumulate an understanding of the meaning of a political party, the history of how they came about, and what they are today in attempts to formulate an understanding of their purpose in our current political system.

So what is a political party? The work may seem rather political and serious to be much of a party. You're likely to have heard the terms labour, Conservative (or Tory), as well as lib dem thrown around in the world of UK politics. But what are these little groups with different signature colours and catchphrases? First and foremost, a political party is an organisation of candidates who are going to compete in a country's election. The members of the party are likely to share similar political views, and some parties have particular ideological goals.

To discover the origins of political parties, one must first look back to Plato's writings concerning ancient Greece, in which he discusses the idea of political factions in classical Athens. There have been groups of people with similar opinions banding together consistently in politics across history, however the modern party system which we are primarily concerned, has been said to have emerged in Britain. A Level historians will be familiar with the Exclusion crisis towards the end of the 18th century, in which the Whig and Tory factions emerged as prominent groups of differing opinion within Parliament. The world's First party system is argued to have actually been founded in Sweden, as it was the first system in which the ideas of political parties were institutionalised and more stable.



# Party time!

Traditionally, party divides were, and to some extents still are, centred around liberal-conservative divides. This familiar rivalry was however to be broken up by the emergence of socialist parties in Europe in the beginning of the 20th century, leading to a development of a broader range of political parties in many countries. Looking outside of Europe, the USA had prominent factions around the time of the war of Independence, which then developed into a party system. Through decolonisation, many countries which were previously under imperial rule developed their own party system through independence movements. A key example of this being the factions that emerged in India during the independence movement, which then became the political parties of the later independent nation..

## The key parties in Modern Britain

For those that are unaware or not completely sure, we will first run through a crash course of the parties you may have heard of.

### The Conservative Party

This is the party currently in power and led by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Conservatives generally have more right leaning policies, such as free trade, restricted immigration, and tax cuts. The UK Conservative Party is generally considered more centre-right, in comparison to parties such as the Republicans of the USA.



### The Labour Party

This is the leading opposition to the conservatives, meaning they are the second most popular party in the current moment, and the one that is aiming to challenge the conservatives for power in the next election. Led by Sir Kier Starmer, Labour generally have more left wing policies such as high taxation of the wealthy, and increased government spending in areas such as the NHS and schools.



# Party time!

## The Liberal Democrats

A party that has been growing in relevance and numbers over the past few years, the Liberal Democrats were the third most popular party in the 2019 general election. They are led by Sir Ed Davey and are considered a centre to centre-left party. An example of their policies include requesting a change in voting system to proportional representation and being pro-European.

## Reform UK

Previously known as the Brexit party, and founded by Nigel Farage of UKIP, the party is currently led by Richard Tice. It is a right-wing party that is particularly Eurosceptic, with policies such as strict border control and abolishing inheritance tax.

The logo for the Scottish National Party (SNP), featuring the letters "SNP" in bold, black, uppercase letters, followed by a stylized black saltire (Scottish cross) on a yellow background.

## The Green Party

Currently led by co-leaders Carla Denyer and Adrian Ramsay, the Green Party is an environmentally focused left-wing party. Their policies largely concern global warming and investing in more renewable energy sources; however, they do also have policies regarding other key areas.

## The Scottish National Party

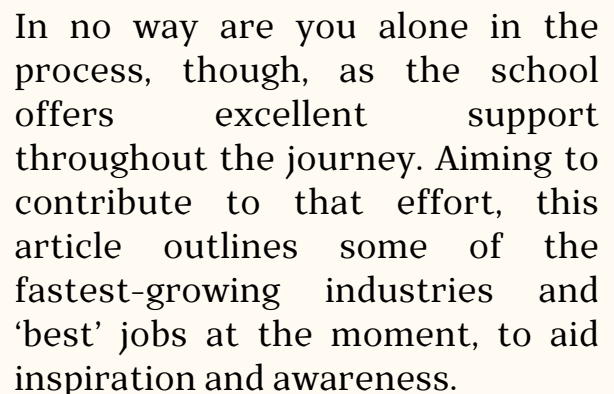
Currently led by Humza Yousef, the SNP (Scottish National Party) are a centre left party. Their key aim is establishing Scottish independence from the UK and want an independent Scotland to be a part of the EU, as well as being against the principle of the house of Lords.

## Independent Candidates

There are also candidates who run without being members of a party. Since 2010, No independents have succeeded as being elected as MPs, which some criticise as being a result of the First Past the Post voting system, and party dominance.

*-Elizabeth Bailey*

Following the success of the Careers Fair last Tuesday, and in the atmosphere of National Apprenticeship week, we are all being actively encouraged to start thinking about the future. Whilst, for many of us, images of adventure- meeting new people and experiencing new things- are easy to conjure, our vision of a 'career' is a little more blurry. That's okay! As students, we are still very young and have much to learn before we decide on a career path. The prospect of getting a job and landing a solid career can seem very daunting, but growing your knowledge of the different types of work out there; developing your passions and interests; and making connections with people, helps to boost your confidence and add a little more clarity to your vision of the future. Opportunities like the careers fair and work experience are perfect for this. Also, going beyond by exploring your interests, whether that be reading, getting involved in activities, or just talking to people, is hugely beneficial to building your character and help you figure out what you would like from life, not just from a career.



The spread of technological advancement, increasing availability and use of detailed data, the increasing move towards an ageing population, and environmental concerns, are at the leading influencers for the job market at the moment.



# Career and beyond: What's the job market looking like at the moment?

Artificial intelligence has firmly captured attention over the past year. It's swiftly embedded itself into our work as a great business asset. Other technologies industries are also growing, such as virtual reality, robotics and gaming. With the ever-advancing technology, the sector is similarly growing, and employers need people who balance the technology with humanity, which is essential for success.

As technology gives us wider access to vast amounts of valuable data, organizations from healthcare providers to clothes companies need to employ people who can decipher large batches of data and turn it into information the organization can act on, whether that be to monitor patient health and identify problems earlier or understand consumer behaviour. As a result, jobs like Data Scientist, statistician, and Security Analyst are in great demand at the moment.



The ageing population is contributing to the healthcare industry's steady, extraordinary growth rate. Older generations, more vulnerable to injury and illness, seek more frequent and complicated treatments. Here in the UK, the NHS is the main healthcare provider, however, private healthcare clinics are also on the rise, and demand for healthcare professionals abroad also increases.

Energy companies are leading the way in developing technologies and processes around renewable energies. Specific skills in sustainability and environment are majorly in demand, as companies experience the social pressure to go 'green.' Whether you are passionate about a career in the environment or not, keeping up to date with the climate crisis and the importance of renewable energy is definitely worth the time.

-Sadie Wilson



# Valentines Day: A brief History

With Valentine's Day being just around the corner in half term, many may find themselves wondering about the importance or origins of this day. Is it just an opportunity for supermarkets and restaurants to make a profit? Is it a chance for singletons to feel even more so?

Well, in discovering the story behind the day many historical mysteries remain. The day is seen to be a combination of both catholic and ancient roman tradition. St. Valentine is said to have continued to marry couples in secret whilst a roman emperor outlawed marriage for young men, believing them to make better soldiers when without wives and families, others say he sent the first valentine to a jailor's daughter whilst in prison. The tales regarding St. Valentine are decidedly murky, but thanks to his sympathetic, heroic, and ultimately romantic reputation, he shot to fame in Middle Ages Europe.



Others argue that rather than taking place in February to commemorate the burial or death of St. Valentine, Valentine's Day occurs then in an effort from the church to Christianise a pagan festival. Lupercalia was the pagan festival that was said to have previously occurred before Valentine's Day, celebrating fertility, dedicated to the roman God Faunus of agriculture, as well as Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome.

The meaning of the celebration ultimately focused on romance perhaps due to the 14th century belief in England and France that February was a time for birds to find their mates. Ever since then, the day has remained a staple day for celebrations of romance and love, and in more modern times, it has also been used by younger generations to celebrate love between friends, rather than just exclusively lovers.

-Elizabeth Bailey



**THE LATEST IN CREATIVE ARTS**

# Sweet Charity: A five star review

Last week marked the week of the performance of Sweet Charity. The production has been met with prominent success, captivating hundreds of parents, pupils and more. Gordon's recreation of the Broadway musical is centred around a woman striving to find true love in the backdrop of 1960s New York, however, her job as a fandango dancer pulls her back. Thus, the musical's narrative entails her quest of finding acceptance and, ultimately, a soul mate.



Sweet Charity was brought to life on Gordon's stage thanks to the actors' remarkable performances. Alice Kermeen, who played the lead role of Charity, was able to perfectly encapsulate the dancer's charming, yet sultry and sassy persona; everything from her impressive vocals to the subtlety in her facial expressions and gestures while on stage proved her to be a perfect fit for the role. Cillian Smith's character, Oscar, also complimented Charity superbly with his shy and square demeanour as one of her (many) lovers, joining her in the song 'I'm the Bravest Individual', where the two find themselves stuck in a broken elevator together.



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**THE LATEST IN CREATIVE ARTS**

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# Sweet Charity: A five star review

The collective effort of every single actor, as well as those in the orchestra and backstage should not go unnoticed. The choreography for the iconic song 'Big Spender', combined with its captivating instrumentals, made for a striking and memorable performance. The backstage team played an important role in ensuring seamless transitions between scenes, performing vital behind-the-scenes work.



Much of the credit must also go to Mr Olden and Mr Stanworth who have invested an incredible amount of assets into making the production as brilliant as it was. Mr Olden, as director of drama, has had a large responsibility in directing the bulk of the production alongside Faith Kurzberg in year 13. Mr Stanworth is the one to thank for leading the musical component in Sweet Charity, which was a major element in bringing the musical to life

This year's production has already been a great start to the year, and we look forward to what the Drama department has in store for us in the near future.

-Hannah Alon



**SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT:**

# An insight into Fashion Society

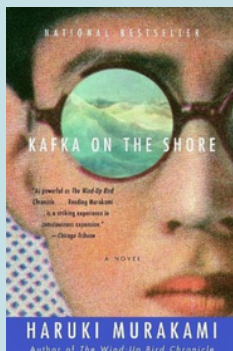


Running Fashion society involves orchestrating a dynamic blend of creativity, organisation and sharing a passion for style with fellow peers. We nurture a supportive environment, and the society engages in a variety of creative workshops where everyone can express their love for fashion. From innovative design challenges, to showcasing fashion shows in class, to group discussions and debates. The society provides a fun and inclusive platform for students to express themselves through clothing, accessories and style. We encourage students to voice their own opinions, promote creativity and celebrate diverse fashion choices.



# Recent Recommendations

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**Kafka on the shore** By Haruki Murakami

Easily one of the best authors of our generation, Murakami blends absurdity and minimalistic writing to produce a masterful work that constantly intrigues (and befuddles) the reader. Authentically Murakami with talking cats and references to his favourite American culture, Kafka on the shore is where Murakami's singular, evocative voice is at its best.

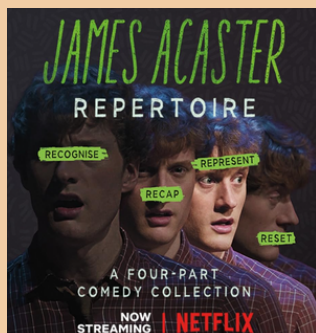
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**Prelude to Ecstasy** by The Last Dinner Party

The much-anticipated debut album from rising stars The Last Dinner Party was released just last week, and features the now infamous 'Nothing Matters.' Sure to be the next big thing, this album is full of heartfelt lyrics and combines the catchiness of 80s pop with the angst of rock.

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**James Acaster: Repertoire**

This Netflix special follows James Acaster, stand-up comedian, on his 4-part show: Repertoire. Witty, offbeat and full of laughs, this is a must-watch for any enjoyers of stand-up comedy.

## Find us on Instagram!

The Quarterly Gazette is officially on Instagram! Follow us for access to all of our past issues and the latest news.



4  
posts

290  
followers

19  
following

**The Quarterly Gazette**

Welcome to The Quarterly Gazette, the student-run newspaper at Gordon's School.

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@thequarterlygazette\_gordons



## **SPORTS HERE AT GORDONS SCHOOL:**

### **1st Netball VII are National Finalists!**

After narrowly making it through the County round, 1st Netball VII absolutely smashed it at Regionals, winning 7 from 7 matches to qualify as National Finalists. They are now the London and South East Champions, and played like it, with some masterful skill and beautiful teamwork that saw them beat previous champions Guildford High and North London Collegiate convincingly. This is the first time ever Gordon's School has qualified for National Schools which take place in March, and where they will compete against the best schools in the country. A huge congratulations to all the players and coaches on this truly incredible achievement!



### **Girls Rugby soaring to new heights**

The 1st Girls Rugby team have begun their season with a bang: winning their first game against Tiffin School 40-0. The girls built strength on strength throughout the match, pulling together as a team to produce an extremely impressive score line. Keira was an invaluable player, scoring a hat-trick. The girls are now training hard in preparation for Roslyn Park: the world's largest school rugby tournament! We can't wait to see more, and make sure to go along and support them at their home games!

