

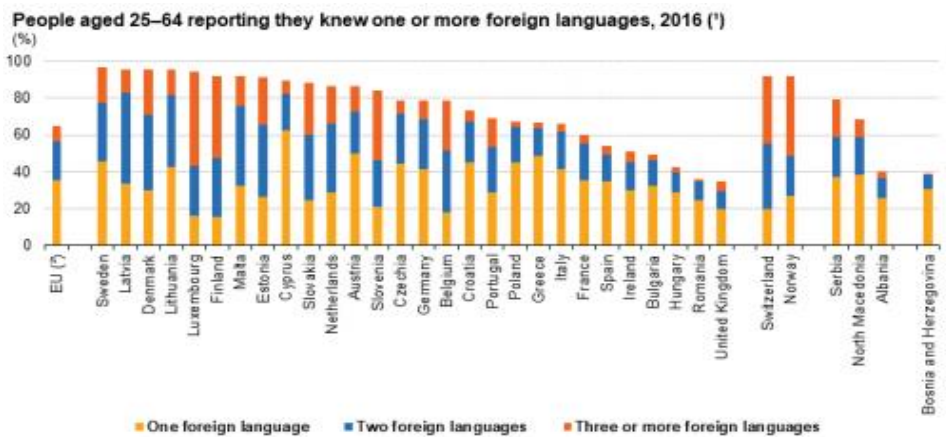
KIMBERLEY *May - Jun*

COLUMN] 07 [

Multilingualism

Why is the UK not as multilingual as other European countries?

39% of people in the UK can speak at least one other language other than their native language. Compare this to 94% of people in the Netherlands that can speak a second language, and 37% of Dutch people that can speak at least three languages other than their mother tongue well enough to hold a conversation, the UK is dramatically outshone. More as to why this is true on pg. 15

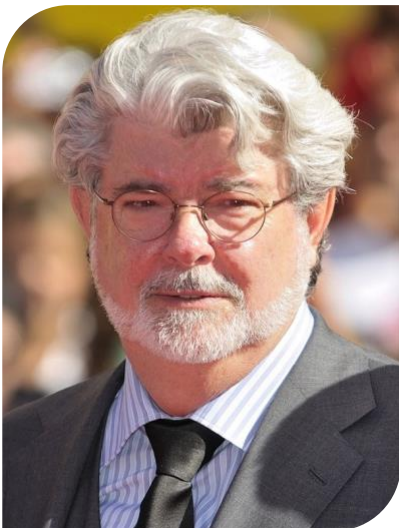


(*) Turkey: not available
Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_aes_i21)

eurostat

STAR WARS DAY

4TH MAY



May 4th is an informal commemorative day that celebrates the franchise created by filmmaker, George Lucas. Many of today's most acclaimed film directors, such as Peter Jackson, Ridley Scott, Christopher Nolan and James Cameron, admit Star Wars was a great influence on their careers. Continued on pg.9

◀ George Lucas, the filmmaker behind Star Wars



Every year since 1956 a song contest has been held in Europe to highlight singers of all different backgrounds coming together and being united by music. This year's Eurovision was held in Malmö, Sweden after Loreen's win at the 2023 contest. Continued on pg.13

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Bulletin Board

Upcoming Dates

May

24th- Half-term break

June

3rd- Return to school

7th- Year 12 UCAS trip

20th- Year 12 Mock exams start

July

8th- Inset Day

11th-12th- Year 6 Induction Days



Remember to try to look after the environment in little ways this half term! More on pg.6 about Earth Day and what you can do to help.

Shout out to Libby Bales, the new Youth Mayor of Broxtowe!

June

Open Days

5th- Bangor University, University of Bath

6th- Derby College Open Evening

8th- Staffordshire University

13th- University of Glasgow

14th- University of Leeds

15th- University of Southampton, University of Bournemouth, Durham University, University of Bristol, University of Hull

22nd- University of York, University of Birmingham, University of Liverpool, Keele University, University of Manchester

26th- Oxford University

29th- University of Bradford, Lancaster University, Loughborough University

For more information check out <https://www.opendays.com/calendar/>

Note for Year 11 and Year 13!

Well done on completing the first few weeks of your exams. Remember to use the holiday to rest as well as revise and come back next half-term rested and prepared. Good luck!

Extra-Curricular Activity Timetable

LUNCH	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Afterschool	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Astro	Yr9-11 Football AW	Yr7-8 Football MXB	Yr9-11 Football AW	Yr7-8 Football MWE/LSC	Yr9-11 Football AW	Astro			Yr7-8 Football BC/MWE/LN H/LSC		Staff Football
Gym			Yr7-11 Dodgeball BC	C'Nat Table Tennis MXB	Yr7-11 Boccia LSC	Gym	Yr10 C'Nat Boxing Club (after Half-term) MWE	Table Tennis Club* Coach: Tim Elmer		Taekwon-Do*	
Sports Hall	Yr7-11 Basketball MXB	Yr7-11 Basketball MWE/BC		Yr7-11 Badminton DIS/LNH	Yr7-11 Badminton DIS/LNH	Sports Hall				Yr 7, 8 & 9 Trampoline*	Staff Badminton

May Day



The History of May Day

May Day only became a bank holiday in 1979 as it was introduced by Labour Employment Secretary, Michael Foot. But May Day is a celebration stretching back over two thousand years. It falls roughly between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice. The Celts celebrated it as the first day of summer, calling it Beltane. It's a day that honours the goddess of flowers, fertility and spring to ensure a good spring and harvest to come. This is accompanied by a May Queen being selected. She is chosen by the younger girls in her village and is the symbol of purity and promise of spring. The Queen sees this is a great honour as she leads all May Day celebrations.

Daisy Gillaspay

May Day Festivities

May Day festivities include a May Queen being selected. She is chosen by the younger girls in her village and is the symbol of purity and promise of spring. The Queen sees this is a great honour as she leads all May Day celebrations. A figure called Jack-in-the-Green is also seen as very important as he is the embodiment of spring and rebirth and represents a spirit from ancient times when people once worshipped nature and trees. At the centre of all these celebrations lies the Maypole. This is a pole with ribbons cascading off it that the people involved in the festivities will dance around. Such dances are survivals of ancient dances around a living tree as part of spring rites to ensure fertility.



◀ An example of a Jack-in-the-Green

23rd April

St. George's Day



St George's Day is the national holiday for England, celebrating the Patron Saint who died over 1000 years ago. It may no longer be recognized as a bank holiday, however it is still commemorated by millions of people in England, and in other countries as well.

St George was born in modern-day Turkey, in an area formerly known as Cappadocia. He became a soldier in the Roman Army and managed to rise through the ranks, and eventually became the Praetorian Guard for the Emperor Diocletian, which was a highly regarded and respected position to hold. However, St George stayed loyal to his beliefs, which went against the Catholic Romans. After years of continuing to refuse to denounce his Christian followings, the Romans executed him on 23rd April 303AD, which is the day St George is celebrated across the world.

In accordance with hagiography (the writings of the lives of the saints), St George slayed a dragon, and rescued a princess from being eaten. This led to the town converting to Christianity as a way of displaying gratitude to St George. However, it is worth noting that there is no physical evidence of this event ever taking place, leading to the story of St George being regarded as a myth. Despite the speculation of the story of St George, he nevertheless is still the Patron saint for other

Sam Gensler-Woodcock

countries as well as England, such as Portugal, Bulgaria and Ethiopia.

St George was made Patron saint in 1348 by King Edward III as a way of thanking him for his heroic involvement in the battle of Crecy, showing his commitment to British-shared Christian beliefs.

In England, traditional celebrations for St George's Day occur in the home, with 'traditional English foods' being eaten as a form of commemorating him. These food substances include Yorkshire puddings, cottage pie, and mushrooms, amongst others. As well as this, large annual events occur in major cities, such as London. These feature marches, music and entertainment for people, and displays a way of celebrating the culture and history of Britain.

St George may never have visited England, however his heroism and bravery led to him being regarded as one of the most important people in English history, and the history of many other nations. His refusal to denounce his Christian beliefs to the Romans remains integral to the stability of English religion, and he ultimately paid with his life in order to uphold and stay loyal to it. This is why we dedicate the 23rd of April, the anniversary of his execution, to this warrior, whether he slayed the dragon, or not.

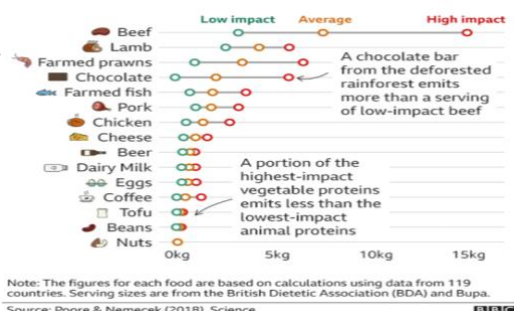
Earth Day

22nd Apr

What is Earth Day?

Earth Day is a global event which occurs every year on April 22nd. Its aim is to highlight the importance of protecting our environment, engage the public with this aim and therefore push green issues onto the national agenda. It was first set up in 1970 by Denis Hayes, a Harvard graduate student, and Gaylord Nelson, a US senator and environmentalist. Both were concerned about environmental damage in the US, after a large oil spill in 1969 in Santa Barbara. On the first Earth Day, 20 million people took to the streets across the US. Now, since becoming a global event in 1990, Earth Day involves over 1 billion people, across nearly 200 countries. People now celebrate by planting trees, raising awareness on social media and planning how to live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. This year the theme is “planet vs plastics”, due to the upcoming UN treaty on plastics. The aim of this theme is to raise awareness of the harms of plastic pollution for both human and planetary health, and what ways we can try to reduce our plastic use. As a result of the upcoming UN treaty, over 50 countries, including the UK have called for an end to plastic pollution by 2040. The organizers of Earth Day would like to go a step further and push for a 60% reduction of all plastics by 2040.

The carbon footprint of different food items.



How can you help?

The main way that we can all make a difference is to reduce our carbon footprint. We can all do this by making very small changes to our daily lives:

- **Cut down on food waste-** this can be done by not buying too much food, using food before it runs out of date and only cooking as much as we want to eat.
- **Buy fewer or second hand clothing-** fast fashion increases our carbon footprint massively, however buying second hand can greatly reduce this. Apps such as Vinted and Depop are great places to buy second hand clothes.
- **Cut down on red meat-** livestock creates 14% of all greenhouse gasses globally. By eating less red meat and replacing it with other protein sources such as more sustainable meats or plant based substitutes, we can massively reduce this.
- **Insulate our homes-** adding insulation means that our homes are kept warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. This means that we can leave the heating off for longer, reducing our carbon footprint
- **Drive and fly less-** transport produces almost a quarter of global CO₂ emissions. We can reduce this by walking, biking and using public transport whenever possible.

Sarah Pickard

Eid

9th - 10th April

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar and is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. The other pillars are the profession of faith, prayer five times a day, zakat - a form of charity - and making the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca once in their lifetime. Ramadan is a month of fasting and abstaining from things considered to be impure. Muslims observe a strict fast from dawn until sunset, where they are not allowed to eat or drink during daylight hours. Fasting is meant to encourage spiritual reflection and it is a means of worship where Muslims are able to feel a closer and deeper connection with Allah.

What to say during Ramadan?

Ramadan comes from the Arabic root "ar-ramad" which means scorching heat. At the start of Ramadan to wish someone a good start you say "Ramadan Mubarak" which means "blessed Ramadan".

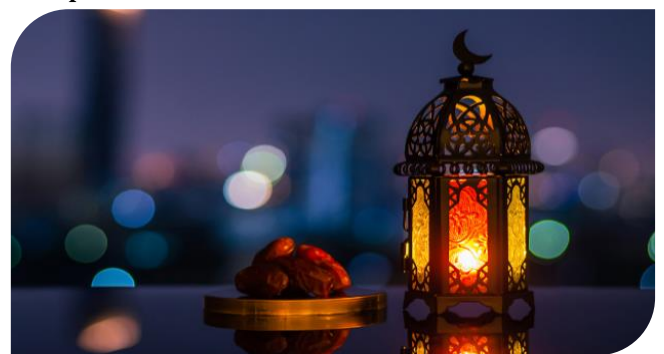


How long does Ramadan last? The Islamic calendar follows the lunar cycle and Muslims are required to fast for 29 - 30 days of Ramadan. This year Ramadan

Ramadan lasted 30 days and began on the 10th of March.

How is Ramadan observed?

Many mosques host daily community dinners where Muslims can break their fast together and many also host open houses for friends and family. Pre-dawn breakfast usually occurs at 4 am before the first prayer of the day (*fajr*). This meal is known as *suhoor*. The fast during the day is broken with a prayer and a festive meal in the evening called an *iftar*. This meal usually begins with dates and water or milk. This is because the Prophet Mohammed broke his fast with dates and a glass of water, so Muslims do the same at both *suhoor* and *iftar*. Hydration is encouraged during the night and Muslims are permitted to snack as well.



Who fasts during Ramadan? Most Muslims are obliged to fast, however people who would find fasting hard are exempt. This includes those who haven't hit puberty yet, women who are pregnant, people who are sick and older people who are too weak to fast. Instead of fasting they



▲ Grand Mosque in Mecca

are able to feed the poor for every day of fasting they miss. While children are not required to fast, it is customary to perform a limited fasting such as half days.

When is Eid al-Fitr and what is it?

Eid al-Fitr means the feast or breaking of the fast. Eid begins with congressional prayers to show appreciation to God which is then followed by festivities. The date of Eid changes every year and the first day of the usual three-day holiday is determined by the sighting of the crescent moon. This marks the 10th month of the Islamic calendar.

How is Eid celebrated? Friends and family gather together where presents are exchanged, new clothes are worn, and the graves of relatives are visited. It is celebrated with a large community wide prayer service in the morning and followed by meals with family. Muslims also celebrate another Eid festival known as *Eid al Adha* which commemorates Prophet Abraham willingness to sacrifice his son upon Gods command.

Why are there two Eid's?

The two Eid's both hold different

significance, *Eid al-Fitr* marks the end of Ramadan which is smaller than *Eid al Adha* which commemorates the sacrifice of Abraham and the completion of the pilgrimage to Mecca. On *Eid al-Fitr* many join in their best clothes to pray and wish each other an Eid Mubarak. *Eid al Adha* coincides with the Hajj pilgrimage where pilgrims will follow the rituals of Abraham, for example circling the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

Hajj

Muslims celebrate *Eid al Adha* which is the last day of Hajj. The Hajj is a pilgrimage to Makkah in Saudi Arabia. It is the fifth pillar of Islam and occurs every year. During the Hajj the pilgrims perform acts of worship and renew faith and sense of purpose in the world. They stand before the *Ka bah* and praise Allah together.

What are common Eid greetings? The most popular greeting is 'Eid Mubarak' (Blessed Eid) or 'Eid sa'id' (Happy Eid). Eid greetings can depend on the country and the language.

STAR WARS DAY

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

May 4th is an informal commemorative day that celebrates the franchise created by filmmaker George Lucas. Officially the day was declared in 2019 by California lawmakers in honor of the opening of Disneyland's Galaxy's Edge. Star Wars even today remains one of the most financially successful films of all time.

Origins

'May the Fourth be with you' is a play on words calling back to 'May the force be with you' a common saying among Jedi and believers of the force in Star Wars. The phrase dates back to at least 1979, on the day Margaret Thatcher was elected the first female prime minister of the UK. Her party took out a newspaper ad in the London evening news that said,

'May the Fourth Be with You, Maggie. Congratulations'

Star Wars is one of the most beloved movie franchises of all time, grossing more than £14.9 billion in today's money since the first movie hit the screens in 1977. It was a real game changer, beginning a new era of special effect-packed motion pictures bursting with imagination that appealed enormously to younger audiences as well as older ones. Many of today's most acclaimed film directors, such as Peter Jackson, Ridley Scott, Christopher Nolan and James Cameron, admit Star Wars was a great

influence on their careers.

Celebration

How you celebrate this day will heavily depend on how well you know this pop culture classic. If you fall under the category of a longtime fan of the franchise, you could attend one of the many organized Star Wars events in various parts of the world. These events can range from costume contests to tours of space centers. However, if you're not willing to go to that extent, for the true Star Wars experience, some fans have taken cooking up treats. If you felt jealous of Grogu as he enjoyed blue macarons in *The Mandalorian* Season 2, the official Star Wars website has a recipe so you can make your own.



Did you know..?

In 2015, in celebration of Star Wars Day, the crew on the International Space Station watched the films.

Holly Newton

WHO'S TAYLOR SWIFT ANYWAY?

This is a genius marketing tactic by Swift, as fans are constantly analysing what she does and continuing to

Who is Taylor Swift?

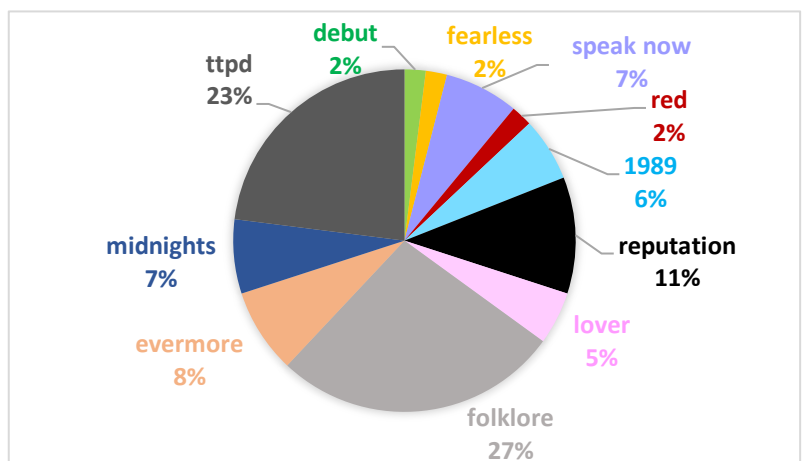
Taylor Swift is a country-pop Singer-Songwriter, with 11 albums and a musical catalogue spanning over 18 years. Making her first professional music debut at 16, Swift has amassed 14 Grammys, 32 AMAs, and 93 active Guinness World Records (as of May 2024), countless other notable awards and millions of fans (known as Swifties).

Her appeal

The sheer popularity of Taylor Swift can be accounted to a number of things, with a significant one being Swift herself, who has been able to span many genres of music while maintaining her ability to write powerful lyrics that are relatable to a vast majority. Her consistency in releasing high-quality songs over a long period of time has allowed her to amass a dedicated group of fans over her 18 years in the music industry. She is also extremely strategic with her marketing, by having distinct 'eras' or looks for each of her albums and using 'easter eggs' when teasing new musical ventures. These 'easter eggs' are a way of telling fans her upcoming plans through subtle clues, cryptic images, and games. This has been a practice throughout her career, starting with her first album when she capitalised specific letters in her cd lyric books to spell out various phrases. Since then, her easter eggs have varied from hinting at the colour scheme of her next album through the colour of her nail polish, to including the names of upcoming songs in the background of her music videos. This

is to indulge in the Swiftie fandom.

When looking at which era and songs were most popular based on 100 album rankings and 50 peoples' favourites from each album, I found the *Folklore* album to be the most popular among Swifties, followed by *The Tortured Poets Department* and *Reputation*. Favourite songs from each album had great variation, but 'Picture to Burn' from *Debut* and 'Death By A Thousand Cuts' from *Lover* were the most popular with 11 votes each. Other fan favourites included 'Getaway Car', and 'All Too Well (10-Minute version)'.



^ popularity of each album, based on 100 fan rankings

(Taylor's Version)

In 2005, artist promoter Scott Borchetta approached a 15-year-old Taylor Swift and her parents after she concluded a small performance in The Bluebird Café in Nashville, Tennessee. He promised to sign her to his record label when he has one officially established, which he had planned to do after leaving his previous company. Swift was signed to the newly established 'Big Machine Records' two weeks later. Under the record company, Swift released her first six albums between 2006-2017, and maintained a close relationship with Borchetta throughout. In 2018, after her contract had officially expired, Swift signed to a different record label (Republic Records) under a deal that, unlike her previous contract, would allow her to maintain ownership of her master recordings going forward. Her first six

albums would continue to be owned by Big Machine Records, but this would cause no loss to Swift.

However, in 2019, the record company was purchased by popular record executive, Scooter Braun, and along with it, Swift's master recordings. Swift responded to the acquisition of Big Machine Records in a Tumblr post, explaining why she believed it to be the "worst case scenario". The post explained "For years I asked, pleaded for a chance to own my work. Instead, I was given an opportunity to sign back up to Big Machine Records and 'earn' one album back at a time, one for every new one I turned in. I walked away because I knew once I signed that contract, Scott Borchetta would sell the label, thereby selling me and my future. I had to make the excruciating choice to leave behind my past." She also called accused Braun of "incessant, manipulative bullying" within this post, due to his involvement as Kanye West's manager in 2016 when the rapper claimed he 'made Swift Famous', released a music video containing a wax model of her naked body, and released an illegally recorded phone call which was used to destroy Swift's reputation and bully her out of the public eye for over a year. In 2020, Braun sold Swift's master recordings for a reported \$300 million to private equity group 'Shamrock Holdings'. This sale sparked rumours that Swift had finally acquired her previous albums, which she denied on Twitter, saying Scooter refused to offer her team a price until Swift signed an NDA promising to not publically talk about Scooter again, leading her to conclude "These master recordings were not for sale to me." As it seems unlikely Swift will ever be able to buy the original masters, she has opted for re-recording her first six albums as a way to own them, which she is fully entitled to do as she owns the compositions for them. To differentiate the original songs from the re-recordings, she labels each song and album title with (Taylor's Version) written next to them. She has also released a number of songs '(From the vault)' on these albums, which are songs written at the time the

album was originally released but were not included.

The Eras Tour

The Eras Tour is Swift's current stadium tour, which plays songs from each 'era' throughout her career. Its current run time is 3 hours and 15 minutes, contains a set 44 songs and 2 'surprise songs' which change with each show. The reasoning behind such a long show is because by the time COVID restrictions allowed for music tours again, Swift had 4 albums she hadn't yet performed in concert, as well as a number of new songs released in the re-recordings. Instead of skipping past these, she started a tour that included songs from all albums, with these albums not-yet-performed having the biggest sections. Swifties have been dressing up in outfits inspired by their favourite eras, songs, or outfits worn by Swift herself. It has also become part of the tour experience to trade friendship bracelets inspired by the songs and lyrics, which became popular from her song '[You're On Your Own, Kid](#)' with the lyrics "[so make the friendship bracelets, take the moment and taste it](#)".



Commercially, it has been incredibly successful, becoming the first tour to ever gross over \$1billion (£800million) and it is the highest grossing tour of all time with 152 shows set to be performed by the end of 2024. The tour has not only benefited Swift and her fans, but also the whole of the US economy in the first leg of the tour. The US Travel Association estimates it has generated around \$10billion for the economy as a whole, when factoring in 'indirect spending as well as spending by others who came to join the action around the events but did not actually attend the shows'. The smaller scale economic impact is evident by each city Swift visited and their commercial boost. In Los Angeles, where Swift performed six shows in August 2023, benefited

from a total economic impact of \$320million, \$20million in sales and local sales tax, \$9million in hotel room taxes, and 3200 new jobs created to accommodate the tour. This trend of economic boost is expected to continue with her international shows, including in the UK with 15 shows being performed here in the summer.

Critique

Throughout her career, Taylor Swift has been critiqued for a number of things, with some being arguably more valid than others. A common unfair criticism is basing Swift's career in comparison to other successful music artists, particularly Beyoncé. This stems from Kanye West interrupting Swift in 2009 as she accepted an award, when he went on stage and said 'Beyoncé had one of the best albums of all time' and implied she was more deserving of the award than Swift. Since then, there has been seemingly been a huge increase in people, especially Kanye fans, putting down Swift whenever she wins an award by telling her Beyoncé is more deserving. This is not just an issue between these two artists and is prevalent across the whole music industry, but to put any artist down simply because you prefer a different one is completely invalid as the success of one artist does not take away from that of another. Both Beyoncé and Swift have supported each other throughout their careers, as seen in 2023 when attending the premiers of each other's concert films, and have said they dislike this constant comparison.

Another unjust example of Swift's critique is arguing 'all her music sounds the same' and 'she only writes songs about her exes'. Swift has a hugely extensive catalogue of songs, which vary from pop hits like 'Shake It Off' to emotional ballads such as 'exile' to country hits like 'Our Song'. This argument is often based on limited knowledge of Taylor Swift's music and is entirely inaccurate. Similarly, arguing that 'she only writes about her exes' is an argument based on a few of her songs and ignores the wider themes she writes about. It is perfectly fine to not like Taylor Swift's music, but to attempt to discredit it and directly insult Swift as an artist based on limited knowledge is disrespectful and invalid.

However, there are some criticisms of Swift which are based on evident facts and are issues that extend to the wider music industry, a key one being carbon emissions and the use of private jets. In 2022, Swift came under fire when it was found that her private jet usage between January and July of that year produced 8,293.54

tonnes of carbon, which is roughly 1,185 times more than the average person's total annual emissions. Since then, the personal use as well as the lending out of her jet has significantly decreased. While it is necessary that Swift was criticised for her carbon footprint, this is an issue among all celebrities. Carbon tracker websites that track the use of private jets and their carbon emissions have found Travis Scott, Kim Kardashian, and Elon Musk as having the highest carbon footprints due to international flights in 2023. So, while it is fair to continue to call out Swift for her carbon emissions, this attitude should also be used to start conversations about other celebrities as well.

Another common argument is that Taylor Swift is a 'white feminist' who uses misogyny as a defence mechanism. While Swift discusses her experiences of sexism in the music industry in interviews and songs such as 'The Man', she consistently fails to acknowledge her own white privileged that has been hugely beneficial to her compared to other female musicians of colour. She also speaks out against politics when it directly affects her, such as her open opposition to Donald Trump in his presidency, but frequently remains silent over global political issues, despite her huge and influential platform. This criticism, similarly to that of her carbon emissions, is a rational argument based on clear evidence, but is also an issue among many celebrities and not just her. Therefore, while it is perfectly acceptable to support Taylor Swift and her career, it is important to remember these understandable criticisms and not simply blindly follow her or any other celebrity.

EUROVISION

SONG CONTEST

MALMÖ 2024

The History

Every year since 1956 a song contest has been held in Europe to highlight singers of all different backgrounds coming together and being united by music. The first contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland and the hosting country also won the first Eurovision with Lys Assia's song 'Refrain.' However, the contest has grown massively with lots of hardcore fans travelling to different countries every year to watch the contest take place. The UK has sent many songs and genres with us as a country winning five times, the most recognizable being the 1981 winner Bucks Fizz's 'Making Your Mind Up'. Yet the countries with the most wins at Eurovision are Ireland and Sweden tied with 7 victories since 1956 with the UK, Luxembourg, France, and the Netherlands coming in at a close second with 5 wins each. The song contest has had many notable participants with ABBA winning the 1974 contest with their song 'Waterloo' and Celine Dion who also won a contest back in 1988 with her song 'Ne partez pas sans moi'. 2012's winner Loreen came back last year to achieve yet another win for Sweden with her song 'Tattoo' and

becoming the first openly bisexual winner and the first woman to win Eurovision twice.

This Year's Competition

This year's Eurovision was held in Malmö, Sweden after Loreen's win at the 2023 contest. The contest was presented by Petra Mede and Martin Åkerman. This year also marked the return of Luxembourg to the competition after they declined an invitation to participate in 1995. This year they returned with Tali and her song 'Fighter' which contains a mix of English and French. The song and artist who represented the UK this year was Olly Alexander (who can also be recognized from being in the band Years and Years) with his song 'Dizzy', an electronic dance pop song. The UK was ranked 13th in the odds to win Eurovision with a 1% chance of winning. The top 4 to win in the betting odds before semi-finals were Italy, the Netherlands, Croatia and Switzerland. Italy's entry was Angelina Mango with her song 'La Noia', a mix of 3 different genres including Italian pop, cumbia and folk described by some as "a song that blends Italian traditions with a modern sound".

Millie Webster-Shipston

The Semi-Finals

The first semi-final took place on the 7th of May 2024. Croatia won the semi-final, with 9 other countries including Ukraine and Ireland also going through. The second semi-final took place on the 9th of May 2024 with juries saying this semi-final was the more competitive in a sense of who is competing to earn a spot on the grand stage most notable is Switzerland who are in second place now with a 16% chance of winning. Other notable performances came from Greece, Georgia, Netherlands, and Norway who were all favorites of many juries in the odds to win. For the first time, the semi-finals also saw performances from the Big 5 representatives. However, only 10 from each semi-final were able to reach the grand stage with the Big 5 and Sweden, leaving 11 other countries behind in the semi-finals. The grand final took place on the 11th of May with all 26 songs and artists competing for one thing the honor of being crowned Eurovision 2024 winner along with the chance for their country to host next year's Eurovision.



▲ Olly Alexander, the UK's Eurovision entry 2024



▲ Nemo, the Eurovision 2024 winner

The Finals

The Eurovision 2024 winner was Switzerland with their representative, Nemo. Nemo proved popular in the jury vote, taking a large 365 votes. However, this year's grand final proved controversial. The Netherlands found themselves without a representative following a backstage incident that prevented Joost Klein from reaching the stage. There also were problems with flags in the arena. There are some regulations on flags in the event that led to controversy over the display of the EU (European Union) flag and the non-binary flag. The final also proved to create frustrations in Malmö due to Israel's representative, Eden Golan making it to the grand final. Due to the ongoing conflict in Gaza, this proved to be controversial between the audience and contestants alike. This Eurovision may have had its downs and controversies, yet it will remain one of the most memorable Eurovisions, with first place Nemo taking the competition to Switzerland for hopefully another memorable event.



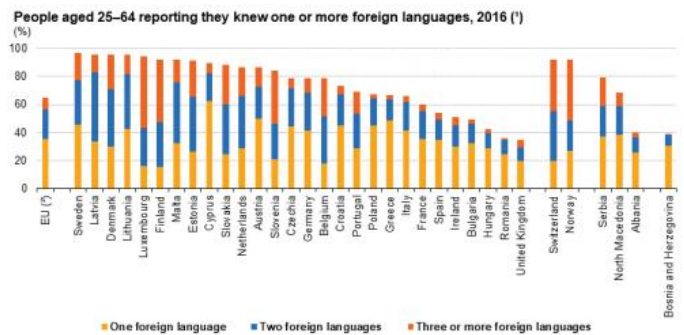
multilingualism

39% of people in the UK can speak at least one other language other than their native language. Compare this to 94% of people in the Netherlands that can speak a second language, and 37% of Dutch people that can speak at least three languages other than their mother tongue well enough to hold a conversation, the UK is dramatically outshone. But why is this the case? And what can we do to reach the level of the Dutch and the rest of continental Europe?

Anglo-centrism

A major reason as to why there are so few multilingual people in the UK is the Anglo-centric attitudes that define the English language. In England, in particular, there is no desire from certain people to learn another language because people think that there is no use for it. Many people think that just because English is one of the most spoken languages in the world, then they have no need to learn another one to communicate with people outside of the UK. While the numbers do evidence the fact that English is an indispensable language, as 67% of Europeans consider English as one of the two most useful languages, it is not the only language that exists, or even the most spoken language in the world. That accolade is awarded to Mandarin Chinese, with its 1.3 billion native speakers. Anglo-centrism means that certain people in Britain see languages outside of English as less important, because if 'everyone can speak English, what is the point of learning another language?'. However, knowing even one foreign language can greatly increase job opportunities, both inside the UK and out. It can help immerse yourself in a country's culture when travelling abroad and aid you in understanding how people outside of the UK live. Aiming to get rid of an Anglo-centric attitude can help us become more open-minded and understanding as a nation and make us more tolerant and respectful of

other's differences and perhaps rid us of the stereotype of British people abroad as unwilling to learn even basic phrases of the language of the country they are visiting.



(*) Turkey: not available.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_asee_i21)

eurostat

Modern Foreign Languages in Schools

It is easy to say that British people are unwilling to learn languages solely because they think that they don't need to, but it is also very hard to learn a language and it could be said that there is a lack of motivation to learn languages at school, from both the students and the education system. There are undoubtedly positives to the teaching of foreign languages in the UK, and the National Curriculum aims to have Key Stage 2 children semi-conversational in a modern foreign language by the end of Year 6. Languages are part of the National Curriculum for ages 7 to 14, and a modern language must be taught at Key Stage 3. However, England is consistently poor compared to foreign language learning in

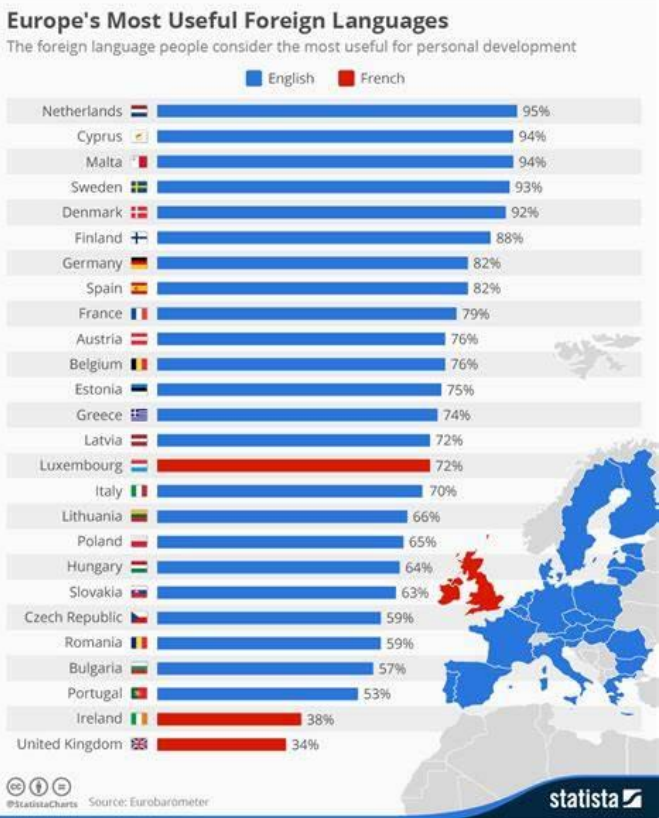
other European countries. Most schools teach one or more of French, Spanish and German, but the Government doesn't promote the teaching of particular languages. In Wales, it is compulsory for students from reception to GCSE to study Welsh and take a GCSE exam in it at the end. However, there is inconsistency in the amount of time spent studying the language, and there is also a lack of Welsh speaking teachers. This issue is reflective of a wider issue of a shortage of languages teachers. According to the 2023/24 Initial Teacher Training census, Modern Foreign Language (MFL) teacher trainee recruitment for secondary schools was below the average for secondary school teachers. In 2023/24, there were 974 new postgraduate entries to Initial Teacher Training for MFL, which is 67% below the target the government has set for trainee MFL teachers. But it seems as though it is a cycle. If there are fewer students choosing to take an MFL GCSE, then there will be less taking it for A-Level and even fewer people choosing languages at a degree level, meaning that change is needed within MFL education on a national level, to motivate more students to take up another language. To demonstrate this compared to the 1997/98 academic year, the number of people taking modern languages in England at the end of Key Stage 4 has dramatically decreased. In 1997/98, 86% of students took a modern language, which is 39% higher than the 2022/23 academic year.



The National Curriculum states that, by the end of Key Stage 3, students should be able to speak “coherently and confidently”. This target is not being achieved by nearly enough students. There is not one sole reason for this. There are a variety of factors that cause this, including low-level disruption, teacher shortages and pupil motivation, but these are not issues that can be resolved easily. It would require more government funding into MFL teacher training and many changes to the National Curriculum to reach these goals and to achieve more funding there would need to be a change in attitude to support the learning of foreign languages.

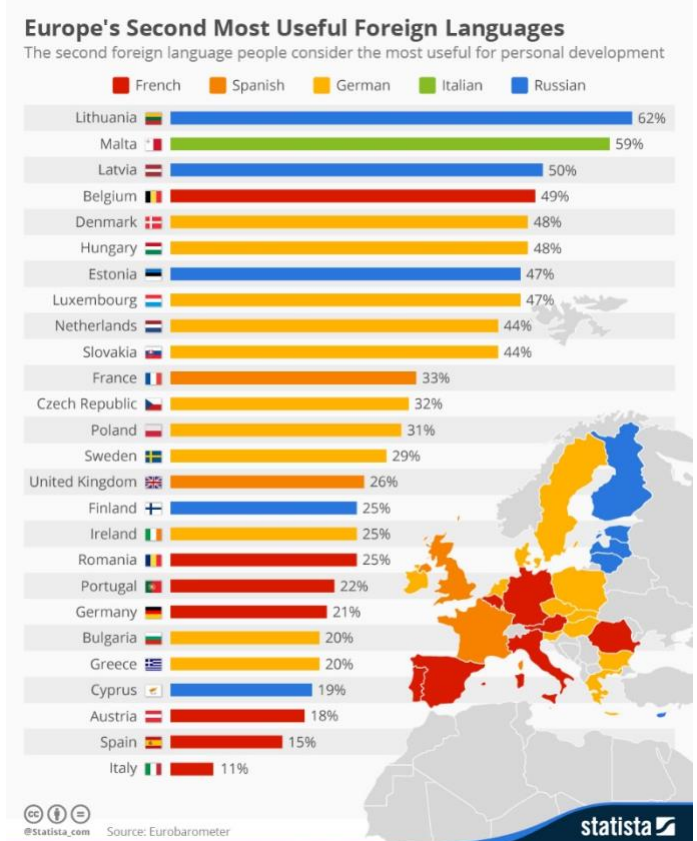
At the primary level, a 2011 report on MFL provisions, which focused on primary schools between 2007 and 2010, found that achievement was good or outstanding in 60% of the schools visited, and teaching was good in 2/3 of the lessons observed, with the main issues being cited as pronunciation and intonation. The report also states that senior leaders were very committed to introducing foreign languages into primary schools but were hesitant because they didn't feel competent enough to judge language provision. This shows that there are some positive attitudes towards the teaching of foreign languages but there is a requirement for more people with the training and confidence to make this beneficial. In a 2011 report of MFL provisions that researched secondary schools from 2007 to 2010, opportunities for students to listen to and communicate in the target language were often limited by teacher's unpreparedness to use it, proving that this is not just something that affects the primary level. Also, teaching at the GCSE level was more focused on achieving good exam results rather than preparedness for a more advanced level post-16. A positive of the report was that teaching and learning were good in most of the post-16 providers visited, as those who

took MFL courses achieved well. Part of the success of these students is down to the usage of the target language within the classroom for further immersion. This practice could be replicated lower down school in order to build students confidence and success in other languages.



If the National Curriculum were to consider the psychology behind how primary school aged children learn languages, then there is a possibility that foreign language instruction in the UK would be more effective. Research shows that people who learnt a second language as a child are often difficult to distinguish from native speakers, whereas it is easier to identify a non-native speaker who learnt a language as an adult due to their accent and grammar. In 1957, B.F. Skinner found that children learn words and grammar primarily by mimicking the speech they hear and receiving positive feedback for correct usage. Therefore, if the National Curriculum were to place more emphasis on immersion at the primary level, language acquisition at this level would greatly improve.

And how can we, as a country, improve our education system to make language learning a passion and something that pupils look forward to? If the government were to make changes to the curriculum to include more immersion in language lessons, as a nation, we might end up with, not only higher rates of multilingualism in young people, but also more school leavers who feel motivated to learn another language, thanks to their success within school. In the long term, this could help us join the rest of Europe with their levels of multilingualism. However, without a change in the nation's attitudes towards learning foreign languages, and an increased openness from Britons to learning languages, then it will be much harder to implement changes to our education system.



SPORTS



▲ Nottingham Forest VS Burnley

Football:

May saw the football season come to a close for both Nottingham Forest and Notts County with both teams eager to move on from reasonably challenging seasons.

After their points deduction as a result of breaking the League's Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules, Forest had their work cut out if they were to beat the drop ahead of relegation rivals, Luton. But 3 wins against Fulham, Sheffield, a 2-1 win over Burnley on the final day and a 2-2 draw to Wolves was enough for Forest to guarantee their safety in the Premier League. Forest ended their season in 17th place, with a record of 9 wins, 9 draws and 20 losses and finishing on 32 points. Looking to further secure their place in England's top flight, Nottingham Forest will want to regroup over the summer ahead of their 3rd successive season in the Premier League.

After a superb start to their season which saw them challenging for the playoffs,

Notts County slumped in form over the latter half of the season. Finishing 14th in League 2 with 61 points, County could only manage 5 wins in 2024 after the departure of manager, Luke Williams. In April, County achieved wins over Harrogate Town and Walsall but a final day loss to Forest Green Rovers brought an end to a largely promising (if not slightly disappointing) first season back in League 2. County player, Jodi Jones, set an English league record of assists in League 2, recording a staggering 24. County's form in front of goal is a promising sign looking to next season as The Magpies will look to build on a solid start to their life back in the football league and push on in future seasons.



▲ Notts County VS Forest Green Rovers

Hi, Agony Aunt...

Hi everyone, welcome to my column where I answer much asked questions on the troubles of secondary school and life as a teen.

“What makeup should I buy for a natural look?”

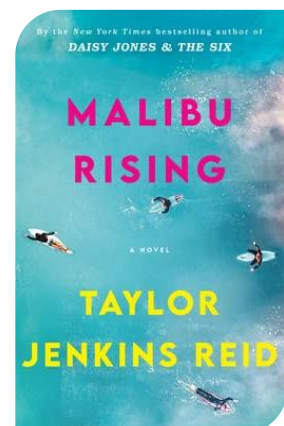
Thanks for the question! I'd suggest a concealer to provide some light coverage, brands such as Maybelline are good, and a mascara to emphasise your eyelashes, the Maybelline Sky High one is very popular. I would also suggest a brow gel to hold your eyebrows in place (I'd personally recommend the Go2b Glued as it lasts all day) as well as a blush and bronzer to give some colour to your face. I hope you find this useful!



MAKEUP

“What are some good books to get me out of a reading slump?”

Hi, I'd recommend Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid. It's about a famous family who live in Malibu and the environment that surrounds it, such as the surfing culture, large eventful parties and the relationships that unfold amongst this. It also gets you in the mood for the summer holidays. It's a really refreshing read and you should definitely check it out. Thank you.



READING

SUMMER CLOTHES

“Hi Agony Aunt, I was wondering where I could buy summer clothes for once it’s warm”

Thank you for the question. Now we’re heading into the warmer months, it can be hard to decide what to wear and where to get them from, but I’ve got some suggestions. Hollister has some nice options if you’re looking for cute sundresses or flowy mini skirts, they also have some very nice bikinis if you’re going on holiday. Urban Outfitters is good for basic tank tops to keep nice and cool and they have plenty of sales. ASOS also has a huge selection of different clothes such as denim shorts and skirts from a large range of brands e.g. Stradivarius. I hope this was helpful!



asos

If you have any questions for Agony Aunt, please DM us on Instagram @thekimberleycolumn or leave an email at kimberleycolumn@gmail.com. All questions will remain anonymous on the paper.

Daisy Gillaspay

Reader Submissions

Pets of the Paper



Stinky, Erin Hodgson, Year 12

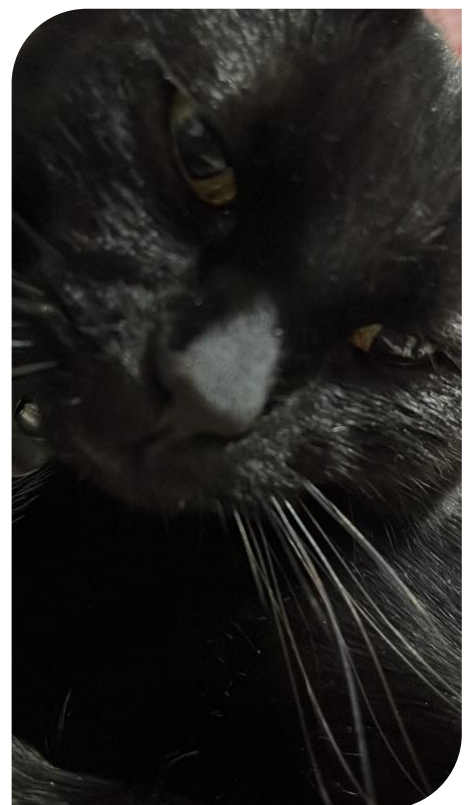
Reader's choice

Pets of the paper is a reader-submitted competition where readers submit their pets to be voted on by readers and editors over the course of a school week. More information will be posted closer to the date of the next publication on our Instagram account for the next competition.

[@thekimberleycolumn](https://www.instagram.com/thekimberleycolumn)

We hope everyone enjoyed the competition and wish everyone good luck in our next campaign.

Runner up



Billie, Daisy Gillaspay, Year 12

Teachers' Pets



Lily and Pippin, Mr Corbett, PE

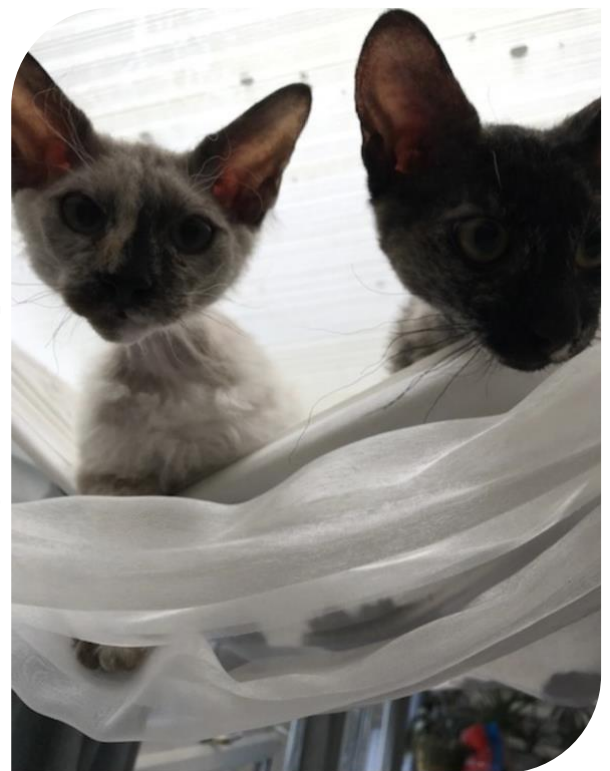
“Here are my two dogs; Lily (closest to the camera) loves her strokes, loves to play and loves to meet new dogs. Pippin (in the doorway) loves food, his walks in the woods and likes to chase squirrels. Both are nearly 11 but have boundless energy!”

Teacher's pet

“The light one is Pixie, the dark one is Tansy. They are ½ siamese and ½ syphnx cats. They like to come to the window and wave to me when I go to work. They like to follow me around the house when I am at home and love to snuggle. I like to knit them jumpers because they haven't got much fur, and Pixie enjoys wearing them, but Tansy sneaks off into another room takes them off and hides them, then comes back without it on anymore.”

Teacher's pet is a section of Pet of the Paper, with submissions sent in by teachers and staff. The winners are not selected by public vote, but instead by the editors.

Thank you to all members of staff who submitted their pets.



Pixie and Tansy, Mrs Cooper, DT

Teacher's pet

THE COMFORT COLUMN

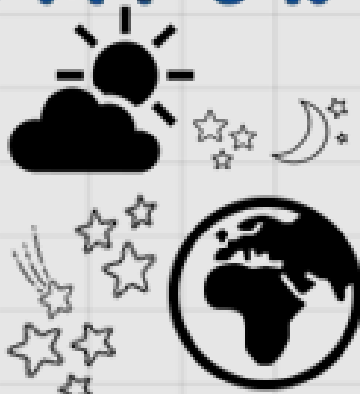
Need a break?

Crossword



Down

1. Colour associated with caring for the environment.
2. We have fruits, flowers, vegetables and other _____ in our gardens.
3. This star is so bright we need to wear dark glasses.
6. Cats and Dogs are types of _____
7. We live on this planet.
8. We need to love and take _____ of the Earth



Wordsearch

e	g	r	o	e	g	a	g	n
i	z	y	k	n	u	f	e	c
e	a	g	u	e	u	r	o	b
m	d	g	f	a	d	e	a	h
e	l	e	k	r	o	c	c	d
s	w	i	f	t	t	h	b	r
j	u	d	h	h	p	o	t	y

Across

4. Plants, birds, and trees are all part of _____.
5. Together we can _____ the Earth
9. These cover 71% of the Earth
10. Reduce, Reuse, _____.

Wordsearch words

- Swift
- Earth
- George
- French
- Euro
- Eid
- May

Need to talk?



Bullying, Self-harm, exam stress. Share if you need to talk; there's always someone

Beat provides helplines for people of all ages offering support and information about eating disorders. If you or someone close to you has been affected. Talk to someone



Non-judgemental confidential emotional support 24hrs, 365 days a year



Free, confidential messaging and support via texting 852



Offers clinical sexual health services (pregnancy, contraception, sex and STIs) as well as education and wellbeing services for young people aged 11-25

TV Shows

New Girl



New Girl

After a bad break-up, Jess, an offbeat young woman, moves into an apartment loft with three single men. Although they find her behaviour very unusual, the men support her - most of the time.

The Mandalorian

The travels of a lone bounty hunter in the outer reaches of the galaxy, far from the authority of the New Republic.



COMMUNITY



Community

A suspended lawyer is forced to enrol in a community college with an eccentric staff and student body.

Movies



Oceans 8

Debbie Ocean gathers an all-female crew to attempt an impossible heist at New York City's annual Met Gala.

Almost Famous

The story of a teenage journalist writing for Rolling Stone magazine in the early 1970s, touring with the fictitious rock band Stillwater, and writing his first cover story on the band.



Flipped

In 1957, 7-year-old Bryce Loski moves in next door to Julianna "Juli" Baker. Looking into each other's eyes, Juli knows it's love, but Bryce is unsettled and avoids her. Four years later Juli is still completely enamoured, rarely leaving Bryce alone.

News in a Nutshell

Quick headlines from across the globe

Global

- Portal connecting New York and Dublin reopened with new regulations to prevent inappropriate behaviour.
- Figures show the fines amassed by embassies between the launch of the congestion charge in London in 2003 and the end of last year.
- Iran's President Ebrahim Rasi was killed in a helicopter crash.
- Ukraine President Zelensky stays in power despite term expiring.

United Kingdom

- Military horses were loose in London on April 24th causing injury to people and the horses.
- Rishi Sunak announced the 4th of July as the date of the summer election.
- Kellogg recalls chocolate Corn Flakes from shops over potential choking hazard.
- Rishi Sunak says that Rwanda flights will not leave until after the election.

Technology

- Google appear to have added 'audio emojis' to their Google Pixel phones.
- Hermen Hulst and Hideaki Nishino named joint CEOs of Playstation following former CEOs retirement.
- OpenAI says they will remove one of the voice options from ChatGPT as it is likened to Scarlett Johansson.
- Security concerns arise over new feature of Microsoft's Copilot.

Humanitarian

- The US military builds a floating pier to provide humanitarian aid in Gaza.
- The UN says that food distribution in Rafah has been halted due to shortages.
- Haiti airport reopen following gang violence.

Environment

- Cities in China are sinking due to water extraction and the weight of buildings.
- Heavy rain has led to floods in Kenya.
- First Nations woman, Murrawah Johnson, wins prestigious Goldman prize for environmental activism.
- Greta Thunberg received a fine for disobeying police orders in an environment protest in March.

Entertainment

- The sons of Beatles members, Paul McCartney and John Lennon, have co-written a song, Primrose Hill.
- Lana Del Ray's tour manager quits days before her Coachella performance leading to comments from the singer when on stage.
- Billie Eilish encourages 'sustainable transport' ahead of her tour later this year.
- Rolling Stone names Emma Chamberlain, Tyla, Ayo Edebiri and Stray Kids among the best dressed at the Met Gala this year.
- Deadpool & Wolverine film breaks record for the best first-day ticket sales in 2024.

The Back Page

The Kimberley Column is a student run newspaper, written by students for students. If you would like to see anything in our next issue please contact us, we would be grateful for your input.

Contact Us!



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