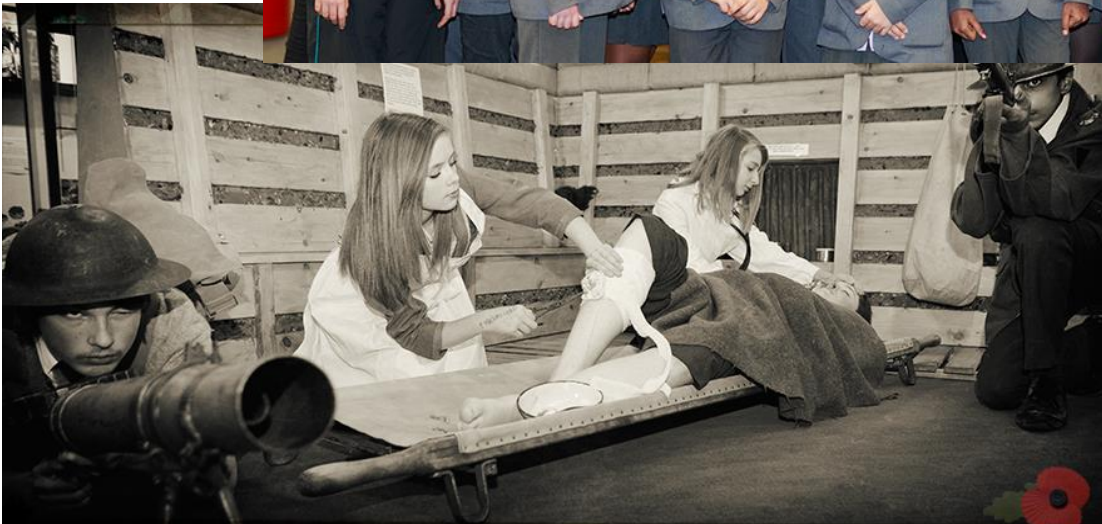


Student Voice

Issue 13 – Term 1+2 2014

For students, by students



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EDITOR'S LETTER



Having been in this school for almost seven years, I never imagined being Editor for the Student Voice let alone for three years!

Over this course, I've read every single piece that has been submitted, and was always left impressed by the amount of talent students in this school have!

However, most good things come to an end, and this is mine.

As much as I love this role, I'll be leaving the Academy soon and so I had to appoint new Editors – **Ramsha Syeda and Junead Khan**. I am so excited to see what they will bring to the Student Voice next year, which I'm sure will be spectacular.

They have helped me put together this current issue, which entails lots of stories, poems and Youth Parliament speeches!

Always try to be confident in yourself and the work that you accomplish.

Happy reading!

Manpreet Kainth

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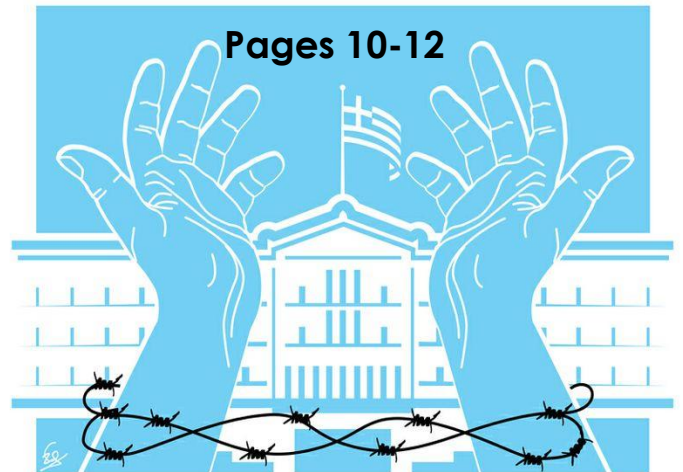


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MY SHORT STORY

By Tommy Dilly

One day I went fishing and was catching lots of carp and it was very hot so all the fish were coming to the surface and all of a sudden a crocodile came on the bank. The crocodile tried to get in my bivvy but I shot it with a shotgun and his brains came out so I called the RSPCA and they gave me a £10,000 reward because it had killed 12 people in the last week. After they went with the crocodile I carried on fishing at Burghfields Lake and went on to catch the Burghfields common at 58lb. What a day!



Contribute to the Student Voice! Submit your articles to trevor.oneil@langleyacademy.org

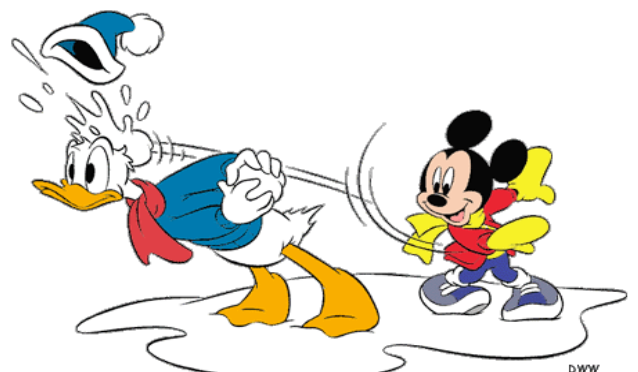
BEST HOLIDAY EVER

By Humda Mohamud

It was a lovely Friday evening. I was getting ready, packing my clothes ready to go. I had 24 hours left until I had to go, getting all the necessities that I need. In the back of my head I was worried and anxious. The reason was because it was my first time travelling by myself. The day kept on getting shorter and shorter, minutes went by.

When I woke up, I saw the brightest view ever. It looked like Christmas; the snow was white as milk. As soon as I got up in to the living room, I saw my mother and father talking. As I took another step the television was on and the news was playing. As I was watching the news, I fell to the ground wishing that I could still go on holiday. But that dream ended for me, when they announced the big horrible news. "The Los Angeles international airport, from LA to Tokyo is cancelled".

After that day I hated snow. Anyway, it was Christmas Eve. I would have been on holiday at the right moment. Sunday 25th December 2019, came really quick. This was the day when family members came from all over the world and celebrated Christmas with us. My friends were all sending me pictures of them on holiday. I was slightly jealous. But I didn't care because it was Christmas and Christmas is the best time ever. Christmas is forever, not for just one day. For loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away, like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself.



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ARMY LIFE

By Calvin Tremeth

In a town not far from Cardiff, a teenage boy is sitting in school thinking about his life and what he wants to do in the future and what he needs to do to get there. Every day the boy went to school and worked hard, thought about life again and started to think about what it would be like to join the Army. Then he thought to himself what his family would say if he told them he wanted to join the Army, and then he decided when he left school he was going to make his dream into reality.

5 Year's Later.....

The boy we once knew is now a man and has joined the Army just about to start his first tour in Afghanistan helping check civi cars for drugs, IED's and other illegal objects/substances. When he arrived at the FOB in Afghanistan he was re-introduced to his dog 'Riley' and sent to the checkpoint he would be working at. On the way to the transport he met another dog handler that would also be working at the same checkpoint. The man spoke to the women on the way to the checkpoint. A few hours had passed and the team suddenly came under fire from multiple directions. The man looked around and saw Riley lying in the middle of the road dead. When they found out it was a group of snipers it was too late. Our lead handler was dead. Killed by a 50.cal bullet to the head. That was the end of PVT.Shaw



THE EXAM

By Tanzeel Mirza

I was scared, I was nervous. I had an awkward feeling in my empty stomach that made me desperate for something I really wanted; but don't know what it was. All I knew was that today was our final English exam. I was never this frightened on other exams - not even on the first exam! My feet were cold and God had the future in His hands. I heard a teacher open the door to the exam hall and welcome us to our final destination of today. I followed the queue of students into the hall and sat down at my seat. There was Amy on my left side and Ryan on my right, Jack the most annoying person sat right behind me, but it's not like he's going to distract me in an exam; or is he? I couldn't see the person in front of me. All I could see was he had black hair. The teacher announced that we could open our exam papers and begin. Jack turned his paper over and coughed loudly. It was quite obvious that he faked it. I ignored him and focused on my table and then my question. I had to write a short essay on this confusing question. I had one hour and forty minutes. So I started off with my introduction:

I was crying louder than ever, I couldn't control this stressful moment. This was over the limit. I wanted to kill myself at that very second of my entire life. My friend Ali, was lying in hospital with blood surrounding him. What happened was, we were running to my home after school, it was the last day before summer. We were so excited, me and him were going holiday in France for three weeks. In the excitement, we decided to run speedily, I crossed the road as Ali got left behind. As I shouted at him to sprint across the road, he didn't realise this could be his last few steps before death came speedily after his tail. I was first scared that I might be arrested for this, however I realised that there is no evidence for this. I couldn't blame it on me, not on anyone. I'll just believe this to be an accident. Yes, so this is the reason why Ali had to take such a depressing moment today. Ali's parents were here too. I calmed his parents down telling them, "everything will be alright, don't worry." At about a minute and half later, the doctor came out of the operation room, his parents ran off straight towards the doctor and asked how Ali is, the doctor said he is perfectly fine and we got permission to take him out of the hospital.

The following day, I walked to school thinking about yesterday. As I arrived at my first lesson (English), the teacher was doing the register as well as giving us the marks from yesterday's exam. I heard my grade, I got second place in the whole class. I was so proud of myself, on the other hand I didn't hear Jack's name. I raised my hand and asked the teacher, "Miss, you missed out Jack!" "Who's Jack, oh that Jack, don't you remember! He had passed away about two years ago now."

MY LIFE

By Christina Butler

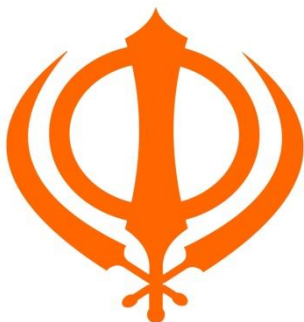
This is a true story that happened to me.

On 1st February 2009 I was rushed into Hershel doctor surgery with my mum carrying me, because I had no strength within myself but I could hear people talking around me. Everything was blurry. When I got into the doctors, they laid me on the couch that was in the waiting room and the head doctor came out to me and smelt my breath my mum didn't know what was happening but they called a fast reacting ambulance to take me into hospital. When the ambulance came to the doctors, the paramedic carried me out to the ambulance van and then they took me to the A&E part and put me on a crash trolley. When I was in the hospital my mum was pushed out the way and all the nurses and doctors were examining me to see what was happening with me. It took the nurses 5 minutes to find out that I was type 1 diabetic and I was put in to a coma. I was in the coma for 5 days. When I came out the coma, my mum told me everything and how scared she was; that before she took me to the doctors I was fast asleep with my eyes rolling and how, when we got to the hospital, the nurses told my mum if she left me another hour she would have lost me and that she was lucky to get me in hospital that quick. When they released me after 2 weeks of being told what to do and how to do it, I started to do things on my own and figuring it out, because you have to do that. You can't have it one day and then not. You have to be on top of it all the time. Then after being out of hospital three days later, I went back in because my mum couldn't get me to eat so my blood sugars were way too low that she nearly lost me again. Now it's nearly been 6 years on the 1st February. When I first told people they laughed at me, because they thought they could catch it so I tended to stay on my own. Now they know that I'm not different and I can do what they do as well. The only way I'm different is I have to do an injection every time I eat so it can break down all the sugar in my body.

MY TRIP TO KHALSA

By Munaahil Rana

Six Year Eight girls were given the opportunity to attend an interfaith event at Khalsa Secondary Academy, where we were given a respectful welcome and experienced a unique way of learning. The day started with an inspiring speech by a special guest named Gus who emphasised the importance of peace in the world, in the eyes of all religions. A video was also shown to add to making the world a better place. After this moving talk, the children had prepared some presentations on Guru Nanak Ji and Friendship which were very engaging and gave me the chance to learn more. Many guests were also there to attend the function; we introduced ourselves to them and got to meet new people from different backgrounds. With much more to the day, we took part in various activities. This included introducing ourselves to a worldly spoken language, Punjabi. With the support of the considerate staff, we learned how to write our names in Punjabi and made birthday cards for Guru Nanak Ji as it was his birthday on our visit. We also received the pleasure to get creative with making Diwali lights. It was such a joyful experience from which I learnt so much and I was so fortunate to be a part of it.





WAR POEMS



THE GAS BOMBS

The running Bomb flew in,
It was as green as grass,
Everyone calls them 'Green Gas Bombs,'
These Bombs can make you blind,
So watch out for anything that you find,
Guns shooting,
People struggling around,
Everyone had to be bent down.
When a volcano erupts that how the guns
sound when being blasted
BANG, BANG, BANG,
Soldiers dying because of the gas,
It is grotesque in front of our eyes.
BANG, BANG, BANG,
Then you die...

Jade McGuinness (Year 8)

THE EXECUTION

I've been told I have to kill my friend
Our great friendship has come to an end.
I both think and worry all day
About what I've been told today
I also worry through the night
I wish I never had to say goodbye.
Today's the day it must be done
It's now time to pick up the gun.
The paper has been stuck to his chest
Right where his heart always rests
We all go and aim down our sights
We shoot. The light then leaves his eyes.
I can't believe I shot my friend
I'll go and get shot before this war ends.
I'll never forget my friends and foes
Especially the one I shot long ago.

Jack Hazell (Year 8)

THE GAS GRENADE

I saw it coming, but not so quick
A Grenade that was it,
It was big as a brick.
We had to put on our gas masks from our kit
When it exploded we were gone
Like in a cloud or in a fog.

Back then I talked with the Major John;
He talked about his time at home and about
his small little dog.

The Gas Grenade covered us with smoke just
like a cloud in a sky
I saw Major John kill himself with a knife
For a second I thought I would die.
But at least I will have a good time during my
afterlife.

Jakub Mlodzinski (Year 8)

THE PLANE

As the plane plunders the sky
She wonders why.
Why she is used to destroy
Or kill things?

Why she couldn't be used
For transport or help.
She never wanted this,
She is always at risk.

She was made to
Kill and destroy.
But after a while she wondered
Why she was built for that reason.

As she nears the land
She begins to feel nervous
Because she was forced
To feel murderous.

Harrison Simmonds (Year 8)

POEMS

THE CROW

The crow walked across the obstructed
lofty trench
as the beefy Major strolled through.
I stood up straight, dropping me stew
not knowing what was next, not even a
clue.

The major looked at us sternly without
letting us speak,
he pitied my useless face, as if I was a
tree...
I stood still as a destructive dooming
demolishing bomb landed 10 yards
away.
The Major ran and thought it was okay.
The sound smashed slowly through my
ear.

I looked to the left and looked at the
stone-cold dead body flat on the floor.
My friend was lying there like a broken
door.
"Help! I'm down, don't leave me
behind." He said
"Run upfront and leave the men
behind." Major said
I froze stood still and thought of what to
do.
A German held a large gun to my head
I ran. Without thinking of my friend...

I still regret till this day, what I have
done.
After the war, 6 years later
I still regret and will remember that I ran
away

From a suffering soldier.

Amit Jaspal (Year 8)

DAISY

With the power of life and death,
warmth and destruction,
it shone its sharp rays across the round field.
Brightening the day and warming the
atmosphere
like the love and affection of Mother.

Birds sang gracefully
and squirrels chased one another playfully
and they,
they had blossomed beautifully.

Oh what speechless beauty
had the omniscient one created?
Red, yellow, pink, blue
all planted side by in never ending rows
enhancing the elegance of one another.

But One.
One was white.
White like the pearls in the ocean,
reflecting the unclear sky.

It grew.
It grew fighting.
Fighting through the soil, reaching for
affection.
It had a stem with leaves, craving for
nurture.
But its crying soul was attacked, and so it
grew thorns.

The sun was no longer shining,
The birds were no longer singing.
The squirrels were no longer chasing.
It, was no longer growing.

She was a flower,
and one by one,
they torn her petals.

Arpna Arora (Year 12)

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Hi, I'm Ramsha Syeda and I'm in year 10; my main goals are to improve education and focus on developing parks and outdoor facilities so that going outside is more appealing and enjoyable for the youth of Slough. Moreover, I also aim to raise awareness and improve about the youth clubs that are currently already available in Slough, this would help teenagers use their time sensibly and divert them from any negative influences they may be prone to.

Another issue I wish to tackle is that the lessons we are taught do not directly prepare us for the real world. Maths, English and Science are all very useful subjects in their own respect, but what about the things we aren't taught? Like politics, budgeting and other basic life skills. The next thing you know, you're turning 18 and suddenly have a job, have to pay taxes and have a right to vote in the national elections; but vote for what? The political party that your parents vote for? Or no party at all? You can't make informed decisions about these real world situations if you don't know the basics. Which is why we need to be taught the basics of democracy, budgeting, taxes and other transferrable skills, but this doesn't necessarily mean introducing a new lesson, it just means incorporating these topics into existing lessons like RE and Citizenship. We **need** a curriculum that prepares us for life, even the controversial things like drugs, crime and sex.

But why should you vote for me? Well, I'm very enthusiastic about youth empowerment and thus genuinely care about what you have to say – meaning I'll ensure that your voice is heard. I'm also very confident, approachable and always have a smile on my face; hence if elected you could always voice your opinions to me, knowing that I'll be sure to pass them on. On top of this, I'm already part of the academy council and would love to make a change beyond our school, on a larger scale in order to better the education of children across Slough.

In summary, voting for me would mean more engaging lessons tailored to **your** abilities, a curriculum that prepares **you** for life, and a dedicated, friendly representative to voice **your** opinions.

Thank you

Ramsha Syeda

Year 10

Globe House

Hello my name is Liliana Carri and I want to be your representative for the Slough Youth Parliament. I would like to give you as young adults more opportunities in Slough. These include clubs and sport/art centres. I want to make for an hour a day or an hour a week free for children like you to use the facilities set out for us to use. Meaning, having at least an hour free every week will give you the opportunity to become more active. I would also propose to bring back the kids go free passes so you get an opportunity to go free.

In our day and age many people forget about the older generation, our Nan and granddads. When they get too ill or get too old to function and do basic tasks such as get out of bed or make a cup of tea so it becomes less and less likely for them to visit grandchildren or children which is why I want to start getting involved by visiting a local care home and visiting the people who can't see family and put a smile on their face.

I would also like to sit down with the school board and discuss our curriculum in an effort to try and get more appealing subjects put into place. I want to persuade teachers and staff to take us and our future more seriously when making decisions on our behalf. I feel that it is our turn to be heard. So Vote for me and I will make the changes needed to make our school and the community better!

Liliana Carri

Year 10

Henley House

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The main thing I have heard from students is their safety in their community. They do not feel safe! Slough is OUR community and we have the rights to make it a place in which we feel safe and not have to be worried about dangers lurking around the corner. If elected I will be partitioning for a brighter Slough in which I want to add more lights around parks, alley ways and road sides. I believe that alley ways need more character, instead of the pathetic defacing of public property give the extremists a way out of their boredom, turning a negative into a positive by creating a fun month where children can use their creativity in an artistic and positive way. We can also link this project with schools and youth groups in order to brighten up Slough.

I've also noticed that children are bored because there is a lack of things to do and this is why we have so many 'walk around' teenagers that have nowhere to go. I want to create a youth centre for all of the children occupying slough. A place where children can be free from the restraints of boredom and negativity of "life". A place filled with game consoles, pool tables, arcade games and free clubs and tournaments for you to take part in, and even a quiet area for those times where you just can't study at home. Moreover, I will be making changes to parks adding more sport facilities such as multipurpose cages and outdoor gyms and then also adding more park attractions for older kids like swinging buckets. I will not only be your voice I will also be your friend, being one of the easiest people ever to approach. I guarantee I will never think one of your ideas is stupid and because I am in year 11 I know how each and every one of you are feeling right now as I remember what it's like to be in all of your years.

I hope you agree with my aims.

Thank you very much,

Leah Lewis

Year 11

Grace House

Hi I am Harleen Sandhu and I believe Slough can be changed for the best. Wouldn't you like a better future for yourself, family and friends? We could do that but I need your help, I can't do this without your vote. I believe everyone has something to say and everyone has the potential to reach for their intent. Everyone and anyone can make a difference, why not you? Plus I know some of the facts, problems and amounts this will help me with understanding what needs to be changed. And I can add on to my knowledge if I am chosen as a member.

I know that no one likes the crimes which occur in Slough, so why not make a difference to that. Why not bring the percentage down? Now I know Slough isn't flawless, that's why we need to work together to improve it as much as we possibly can. Some people say no one is perfect but does anyone say *place* is perfect. That's why we need to work as one to make Slough perfect not just better but perfect. We need to mend the imperfections; we need to try to make a difference to *our* community. We need to make our community faultless. I want you to know that somewhere, at some time, at any point, in any place someone with the authority to make a change will see to your proposition.

And not only do I want your ideas to be heard but for you to be recognised for them. I will make sure you get the credit for your idea, if it is carried out.

And I know if I am selected I will go to the end and above expectations. I *will* give all I have and more. Lastly I'd like to say: Believe in a better Slough, believe in a brighter future, believe in a better you.

Thank you

Harleen Sandhu

Year 8

Darwin House

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Enthusiastic, Determined and Innovative are 3 words that describe me and three reasons why you should vote for me.

I'm not going to promise that I will ban homework or open a KFC in the school. But what I will promise is that I will provide you with a voice. I will ensure that when we want to be heard – we will be heard. Your voice is as important as anyone's voice. I don't want that voice ignored. Every time that voice is ignored another, potentially world changing, idea is wasted. All the time, important decisions are made about our local community and we have no influence on something that directly affects us. Imagine how different the world would be with our impact. So, if elected, my intention is clear. My aim - what I will be striving to achieve is a clear communication of ideas. I want us to be able to communicate our thoughts and express our views on local issues and potentially have a say on the topic – perhaps even having impact on the outcome.

What I bring to the role is a plethora of new ideas. I believe that the Youth Parliament is the perfect opportunity for people like you and me to bring fresh ideas to an out-dated table. I'm the sort of person who will suggest the most extravagant and bizarre ideas and once in a while it'll be a revolutionary idea. My aim is not to be the norm. We shouldn't be another member of the crowd. We should stand out and be unique. That's what I encourage and I aim to bring that to the role. I strive to let us show our uniqueness.

To sum things up I'm not doing this to be another Youth Parliament Representative. I'm doing this to give us what we deserve – A voice. I'm doing this because I feel I can offer something different to this role that together we can actually make a difference to our local community rather than just standing by and watching. There is no limit to what we can achieve, only a limit what we push ourselves to achieve.

Junead Khan

Year 9

Gaia House