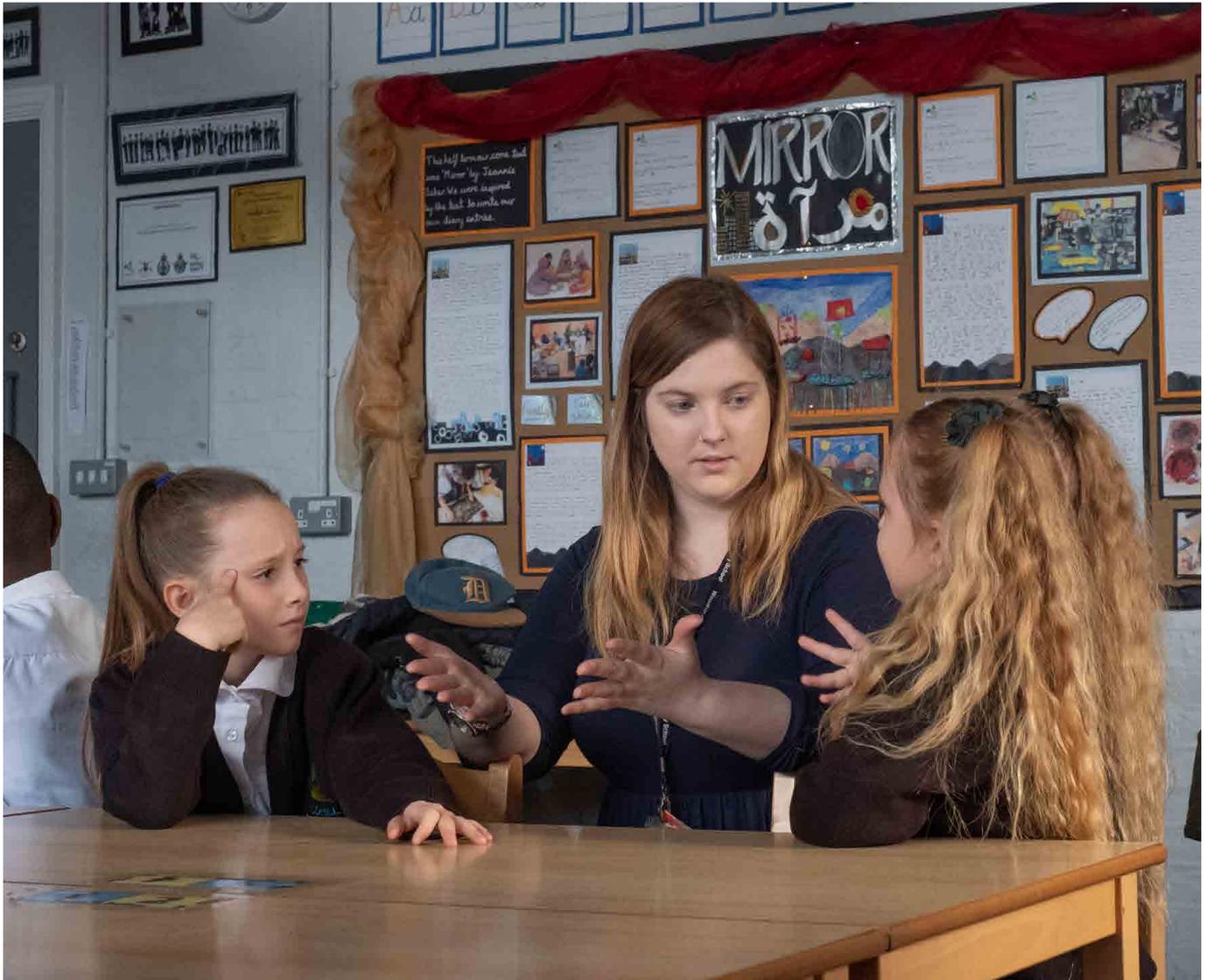




E BURNET NEWS CLUB

The Annual 2019-2020



Welcome to the Burnet News Club Annual



What do you do when you're running a programme of news literacy in schools, but the schools close and a pandemic disrupts everything? You get creative.

The Economist Educational Foundation has connected more children than ever to intensely relevant content about current affairs, in ways that stretch their minds and their skills. The Burnet News Club continued online, and a "Global Conversation" on extreme-weather events involved more than 500 young people from 13 countries, who contributed nearly 6,000 comments. To extend our news-literacy activities to more young people, we produced fantastic resources to support home-learning (subscriptions by parents and teachers to these weekly emails soared to over 12,000).

Other issues covered in the Burnet News Club included the crisis in Hong Kong, the costs and benefits of space exploration and the future of health care. Many fascinating figures shared their expertise with the students, among them Stephen Fry and Tamara Rojo (on the arts), Jeremy Paxman and Emma Barnett (on politics and power), and the astronaut Chris Hadfield and the physicist and broadcaster Jim Al-Khalili (on space). The weekly resources calmly tackled topical but tricky subjects such as racism, mental health and conspiracy theories.

It is gratifying to see the impact that these activities are having. More than 90% of teachers say there has been a positive change in their students' confidence and literacy thanks to the Burnet News Club. Every single BNC teacher says their students became more knowledgeable about the news. Compared with their peers, students make 150% more progress in news-literacy skills.

All this encourages us to make ambitious plans for expansion. Three things give me confidence in the Foundation's future. First, our work is ever more relevant and the evidence shows that our approach works. Second, we have strong backing from all levels of The Economist Group. Third, and crucially, The Foundation has a brilliant team (including four new members over the past year), with a passionate belief in our mission. Even amidst a pandemic they are unstoppable.

Daniel Franklin
Executive and Diplomatic Editor, *The Economist*



ABOUT THE BURNET NEWS CLUB

The Burnet News Club is a network of primary and secondary school news clubs where students investigate one issue in-depth every half term. Each scheme of work is produced by The Economist Educational Foundation for teachers to deliver in class.

Each club provides a safe space for students to hold inquisitive discussions which challenge scary misconceptions and reduce uncertainty. Sessions help students build knowledge of current affairs whilst developing their news literacy, communication and critical thinking.

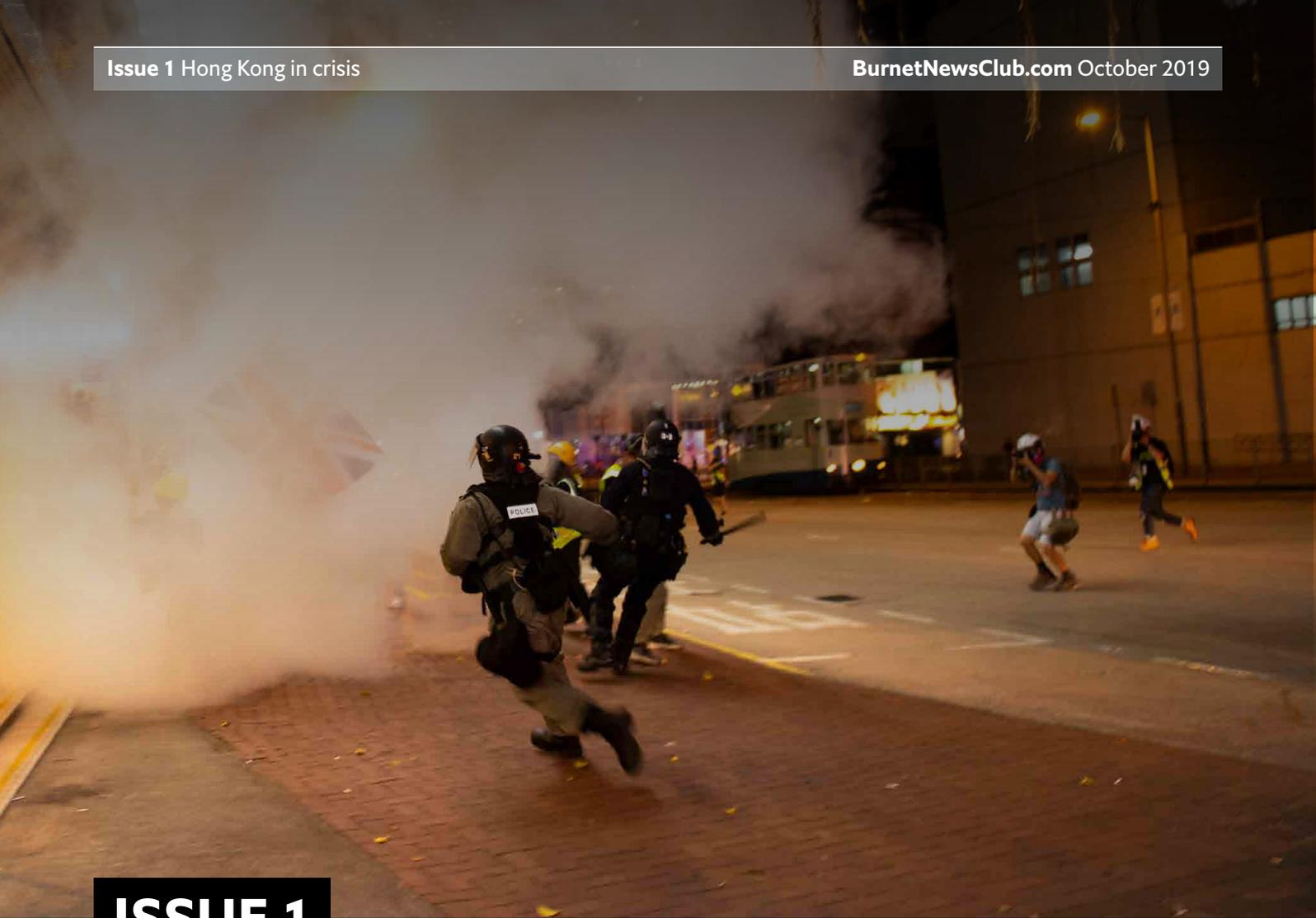
Our unique online discussion platform – the Hub – gives students the opportunity to share opinions outside of the classroom, enter weekly competitions and ask questions of world-leading experts. This Annual showcases a selection of the best contributions throughout the year.

Find out more at economistfoundation.org/burnetnewsclub



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ISSUE 1

HONG KONG IN CRISIS

Should Britain intervene?

FEATURING

Noel Park Primary School

Graveney School

Braiswick Primary School

The Ruth Gorse Academy

Highdown School

For this Issue, the Burnet News Club reacted to the unfolding protests against the Chinese and Hong Kong governments. The Issue culminated in a decision about whether the British government should intervene.

SEE EDITOR'S PICKS
bit.ly/HK-EP

Throughout the Issue, students used their newly acquired knowledge of the region and its history to support their opinions on the past, present and future of the crisis. In this edition of Hub Highlights, we showcase a selection of the best comment and analysis of the events.

Pick of the points

entertaining_strawberry

Birchwood C of E Primary School

If we make another agreement, either saying we keep Hong Kong or the laws should change, China is going to restrict something from us as well.

sincere_piccolo

Bruche Primary School

Britain put them into this mess by making a deal for China and for Britain called "one country, two systems", which we thought was right for Hong Kong but it wasn't.

cheerful_photograph

The Sherwood School

Freedom has a definition and nobody can change that. Nor should they.

and this just isn't right. A promise is a promise, after all. Just because one party has decided not to stick to it, doesn't mean we should break it too.

We strongly believe that everyone deserves at least basic human rights. Here are just a few things that are going on in China that make us wholeheartedly side with Hong Kong:

- China has been criticised on multiple occasions for not protecting human rights. They say that the goal is "a people's democratic dictatorship" and "democracy" but this is so far from the current situation that it seems almost impossible.
- Freedom of speech is prohibited in China. Censorship is the norm, with newspapers and television channels being controlled by the government. If anything is said against the government, there are severe punishments that could include going to prison!
- China's courts are run by the government, meaning that fair trials are a rarity (99.9% of people who are tried for a crime are found guilty!)

We simply have too much of a shared history to just be ignored. Our country ruled Hong Kong as a colony for 150 years and almost 120,000 people who were born in Hong Kong now live in Britain. Imagine how these people are feeling as they watch the country they love being torn to shreds. The majority of people currently living in Hong Kong do not identify as Chinese citizens, with 71% of these same people going as far as to say that they do not feel proud of their connections to China.

If nobody stands up to China, they will keep trying to get away with more and more and eventually the people of Hong Kong will lose what they value so much completely. With your standing and position in Parliament, you can do more than just protest.

We recommend involving the UN more, as we know how much they value human rights. No reasonable country wants to be seen as doing terrible things and we strongly believe that, despite everything, the Chinese government are still reasonable people.

We implore you to act now, before the violence turns even more brutal and leads to the loss of more innocent lives. ■



Dave Coulson Photography / Shutterstock.com

brilliant_blackberry and fairminded_cat

Dear Catherine West MP

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Noel Park Primary School

DEAR MS. West,
We are writing in the hope of persuading that the UK needs to get involved in the situation in Hong Kong, and quickly. In the agreement, China and Britain both promised to ensure that the way of life and the economy in Hong Kong would remain unchanged until 2047. At this moment, we can only assume that China have decided that it can't stick to that promise



Dave Coulson Photography / Shutterstock.com

beloved_chocolate

How far should free speech stretch?

SECONDARY SCHOOL
Graveney School

My opinion is that, in most scenarios, people should be able to say almost whatever they want, there are cases in which it should be limited:

1. If what is said is discriminatory or prejudiced in some way. If somebody says something racist,

sexist, xenophobic or homophobic, this could cause the recipient to be discriminated against by others (especially if the person who first said it was important), causing them a lot of upset and offending them, which could be bad for their self-esteem and mental health.

2. If what is said is provocative. If somebody says something that enrages people, or provokes, them, this could possibly cause them harm. This is because the subject may get angry, possibly putting the other person in danger.

3. Saying things that are classified. For many politicians and people working for the government, police, or justice system, they are told classified information. If they could say whatever they want, this classified information may be leaked, and this could cause political uproar – though the leaking may be beneficial to the public, it could be bad for the global position of the country and ruin international relations if other countries disagreed with what was leaked, or if concerned them.

Free speech is a good thing as well. Many people have changed the world for the better by speaking out. For example, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and other activists against segregation in the US and the apartheid in South Africa all helped to end racism in these countries, and improve the lives of many BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic) people. Just one person can change laws and people's views, positively. ■

succinct_leaves

Should citizens of Hong Kong emigrate?

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Braiswick Primary School

I have seen a lot of news and information about the escalating protests and it got me thinking: should citizens of Hong Kong emigrate? I think that people in Hong Kong should decide whether they should emigrate or not and it isn't needed for us to get involved because I think that Hong Kong should make their own choices and – even if we think we're being helpful – we shouldn't make them for them.

I think that lots of people would want to stay in their home country – they wouldn't want to leave just because other people are showing violence. For some people it might be too expensive to get a form of transport out of Hong Kong and they might think that nowhere would accept them. Also, lots of people won't want to go as they could be afraid of police or the Chinese catching them. Of course, there is a risk in trying to leave but those who do emigrate will just hope for the best. In leaving Hong Kong, there is

danger that could be waiting for them and you can't ignore that. If they have family there or their family has lived there for generations they don't want to ruin it by emigrating to another country.

In summary, I think the choice is in the hands of the Hongkongers and Britain doesn't need to make that choice for them. Even though I understand all these opinions on why they wouldn't leave Hong Kong, I think the best idea would be to leave because they need to avoid danger. Leaving and finding a better life could be the better option, but it is not our place to change their minds. ■

Comment

vibrant_tiger

Woodhill Primary School

Imagine if you were made to leave your country over a disagreement, would that be fair? The people of Hong Kong shouldn't be forced to move, they should be treated fairly, and should have their rights in their own country. Other countries should help so that the Hong Kong people are not turned into refugees.

creative_sparrow

Another new world order?

SECONDARY SCHOOL
The Ruth Gorse Academy

CARRIE LAM'S reason for banning face-masks is to curb out the most violent rioters. She stated that "other countries do the same" to justify her decision.

In most of these cases, there's no need to hide your face. However, this is China, and with their massive surveillance operation, most people will now be fearing for their lives because even the most peaceful protester will be seen radical. It could deter some people from going on further marches – which is what China wants, of course. However it may fire up the defiant ones.

I fear that the fate of HK people could end up just like the Uighurs (pronounced 'wee-gurs'). Their situation is shocking because there are more than 1 million Uighur Muslims from Xinjiang, China (from as young as two to the elderly) innocently locked away to be brainwashed into becoming more "Chinese". My evidence the BBC News, and their documentary: *Panorama: A New World Order*, containing detailed

testimonies of the people taken away, and parents that have lost their young children and many old and frail grandparents were not spared either. It's a shocking and cruel and appalling abuse of human rights and yet the world still continues to deepen their trade links with China. This is China's cruel way to eradicate a people's language and culture. China tells the world it's a "re-education" camp but in my definition it's a prison.

Taking citizens to be placed in a camp, just like the poor Uighurs, is much easier to do so without the face-mask. ■

Comment

free_iceberg

Ormiston Sudbury Academy

Many other countries such as Canada and France have banned face-masks in protests to help them decipher who is being violent and who isn't. But if they ban face-masks people will lose their freedom of speech. Face-masks help protect their identity if they're caught on different news organisations, and means the police in Hong Kong will struggle to find out who the main protesters are.

steady_harmonica

How is technology holding 'One Country, Two Systems' back?

SECONDARY SCHOOL
Highdown School

WHEN THE "one country, two systems" agreement was introduced, technology was not what it is today, or as it will be in 2047. So how can the technology developed since the early 1980s affect how well the agreement works?

China's stance on censorship has not changed much. Because of Hong Kong's laws on freedom, censorship is not as much of an issue there. In China, internet censorship means that a lot of websites allowed in Hong Kong would be inaccessible in China. A noticeable example of this censorship being used is on the online platform Blizzard, where players have been removed for talking about Hong Kong. Also, "one country, two systems" was introduced when online news wasn't the main way to receive news and learn information. However, as the internet grew through phones and computers, the world became more reliant on online news websites. Hong Kong, because

of its high autonomy allowed by China, has the same dependency on this as most of the world, whilst China has some highly controversial censorship laws.

Technological freedom is one of the things holding "one country, two systems" back from being a working system. The population of Hong Kong doesn't want Chinese laws to be put in place, regardless of whether they are technological or not. We know this from the outrage that the proposed extradition law caused. And as 2047 grows nearer, Hong Kong and its rapid growth of technology could easily be stunted by the reversion to Chinese law. And Hong Kong is vital to the Chinese economy. ■





ISSUE 2

SPACE EXPLORATION

Is it worth the cost?

FEATURING

Weston Favell Academy

Noel Park Primary School

Hammond Junior School

Hillyfield Primary Academy

Faringdon Community College

In the year that India and China made strides into space, the re-establishment of the United States Space Command, and space tourism edging closer to reality, the Burnet News Club debated whether space exploration was worth the cost.

SEE EDITOR'S PICKS
bit.ly/EP-Space

Students tackled a range of ethical, environmental and economic quandaries raised by humanity's quest to push the boundaries of discovery. Our experts were quick to comment on the quality of students' questions. In this edition of Hub Highlights, we showcase a selection of the best contributions on this fascinating topic.

THE EXPERT VIEW

Best of the questions



upbeat_acorn,
Birchwood Primary School
 to Commander Chris Hadfield

What discovery has inspired you the most?



eloquent_recipe,
Crampton Primary School
 to Flight Commander Libby Jackson

How do you handle life and death situations?



terrific_pineapple,
St. Mary's Catholic Academy
 to space medicine expert and
 RAF doctor Bonnie Posselt

How long does it take for astronauts to recover after space travel?



congenial_shark,
Preston Manor School
 to spacecraft engineer Abbie Hutty

How did it feel to help make the ExoMars Rover?



genuine_cat,
Hammond Junior School
 to Professor Jim Al-Khalili

Where is space exploration heading next?



focused_violin,
Allerton High School
 to founder of Rocket Women
 Vinita Marwaha Madill

How does funding trips to space affect our economy?

appreciative_turtle and spirited_bat

The International Space Station: \$150 billion dollars well spent?

PRIMARY SCHOOL
 Noel Park Primary School

IN 2006, the Guardian called the International Space Station (ISS) "a costly mistake" and "an embarrassment".

NASA currently contributes \$3 billion per year to maintain and operate the ISS. From a scientific perspective, is this a good use of money?

The ISS was primarily constructed as a space environment research laboratory, in which scientists could conduct experiments in fields such as biology, physics, astronomy, meteorology. Due to its location, the station is also suited for the testing of spacecraft systems and equipment required for missions to the Moon and Mars. The information gained about human health in the closed ecosystem and microgravity environment of the ISS is crucial. A Mars mission may end up being a three-year ordeal, so figuring out how to live and work in space for long periods of time is essential.

In addition, the ISS is an exercise in hands-on learning and how to live and work (and play!) in space for years. It has allowed scientists to observe changes to people's bodies and health and to trial adaptations to make life easier – crucial if space travel becomes for the masses.

NASA are using the ISS to keep a large chunk of their budget safe. In 2024, the money will be shifted towards making the Martian surface habitable and a Mars Ascent Vehicle with which to launch samples from the surface of Mars back to Earth.

In conclusion, although the ISS may seem to be an unjustified burden on finances, we believe it holds the key to a brighter future culminating in human travel to Mars. It's an expensive, but essential stepping stone. ■

funny_power

Is space lawless?

SECONDARY SCHOOL
Weston Favell Academy

NASA has been investigating an alleged crime in space. Astronaut Anne McClain was said to have accessed her ex-partner's bank account while she was on board the International Space Station (ISS). This is the first allegation of its kind.

Having researched space law, I have found that the ISS is governed by an international treaty. This means that each country has criminal jurisdiction for its own personnel as long as it does not affect a person from another country. In this case it was reported that the location of the astronaut was not relevant but what was important was whether she had the rights to access his account or not.

In 1967, the Outer Space Treaty was agreed by 109 nations, this sets guidelines on how space is to be peacefully explored. 2019 saw the first test of space law but I wonder if there will be more in the future as space becomes more popular? What do others think? ■

Comment

beloved_chocolate
Graveney School

I think that there will be more testing of space law in the future, as more humans go to space. I would like to see if laws fall through, change or adapt. How would a crime by a citizen from one country against someone from another country be dealt with? Would enforcing of law in space work given the costs of bringing them back to Earth for trial? Could there be a whole new law system, whereby people are tried and prosecuted and punished in space? What would the laws of this system be, and would they include laws specific to space?

resilient_mandarin
The Ruth Gorse Academy

Space has its own extraordinary beauty that almost nothing else possesses. Space is our own responsibility, and if we wanted to harm a part of space in which there might be extra-terrestrial life, we would need laws.

genius_chocolate

Should there be an age limit on who can go up to space?

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hammond Junior School

NASA sent astronaut Scott Kelly to space, whilst monitoring his twin brother back on Earth. Kelly found lots of different genes in his body which could be harmful to children. They have a life ahead of them, and alterations in their genes from space travel could affect this life, as their genes have not yet fully developed. Space travel could also intervene with children's learning as they would have to go up to space for a long period so they would miss school.

But on the other hand, this could be an amazing opportunity and memory for children to make with their family. If this is your child's dream, they deserve a chance to try and achieve it. In conclusion I believe that there should be a age limit, but I believe it is ultimately up to their parents. ■



Comment

content_lemon
Boutcher C of E Primary School

Mars, or another planet for that matter, could be our escape route from climate change. However, if there is an age restriction of eighteen upwards, think of how many children will be left. In addition, children have dreams. This may be the chance of a lifetime for some. I feel like an age limit for travelling into space isn't necessarily essential as long as they have the needed supervision. What we need is trained and trustworthy people. Whilst an age limit isn't necessary, I think character is. We're not talking about immature young people with money, but genuine characters who long to explore.

accomplished_reality and careful_science

Are we the only living life form in the universe?

SECONDARY SCHOOL
Faringdon Community College

IN 1961, astronomer Frank Drake wrote an equation to quantify the probability of finding an advanced civilization elsewhere in our universe. The equation took into account factors such as the amount of stars with planets around them and the fraction of those planets that were capable to hold life. The universe is astonishingly big. The Milky Way has more than 100 billion stars, and there are over a trillion galaxies in the visible universe. Even if habitable worlds are rare, their sheer number – there are as many planets as stars, maybe more – suggests lots of life is out there.

Water is a key ingredient for life as we know it. And water is fairly common in our solar system. For example, evidence is building that liquid water may flow underneath the surface of Mars. Europa, a moon of Jupiter, appears to also have a liquid ocean and so might its moons Callisto and Ganymede. This builds the evidence that extra-terrestrials do exist. Planets with water might be the only planets that can be inhabited and even in our solar system some of our planets may hold life. Never mind the rest of our Universe which will also be likely to hold water. That said, still we don't know for sure if water is needed for survival.

However, Nick Longrich, a senior lecturer at the University of Bath, has said that the evolution of intelligent life on Earth is so unlikely it may have happened just once. It comes down to whether intelligence is a probable outcome of natural selection. ■

**zestful_editor**

Can we live in space?

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hillyfield Primary Academy

NASA HAS learned that the ecosystem inside the spacecraft plays a big role in astronaut life. Microbes can change characteristics in space and microorganisms that naturally live on your body are transferred more easily from person to person.

According to crowdsourcing agency HeroX, humans have to be housed, fed and kept happy in between their working shifts. Also, if they're working far away, there is a time delay to consider – on Mars, the average 20-minute wait between transmission and reception means the rovers used can't go very far. This explains how difficult it would be to contact and communicate whilst building in space.

Finally, hauling building materials across 225 million km of space – the average distance between Earth and Mars – would be a nightmare. According to engineering agency C&EN, it costs about \$4,000 to launch a kilo of material to low Earth orbit and many times that amount to send it to Mars. Therefore, trying to ship tons of concrete would be financially ruinous and logistically very difficult. ■

**honorable_conclusion, funny_power and fiery_wolf**

Is it worth it? The Great Space Debate

SECONDARY SCHOOL
Weston Favell Academy**WATCH VIDEO HERE**
bit.ly/BNCSpaceVid



ISSUE 3

POLITICIANS AND POWER

FEATURING

Birchwood Primary School

Cowes Enterprise College

Hammond Junior School

Graveney School

Arnhem Wharf Primary School

The political climate is changing faster than ever, but the behaviour of politicians remains in the spotlight. This year saw an emphatic ruling on a prime minister's prorogation of Parliament and a US president impeached for only the third time in history.

This half term, the Burnet News Club gave their verdicts on these, and other instances,

where politicians let their standards slip. After debates on the concepts of power, democracy, justice and responsibility, students created an artwork to represent their learning. In this edition of Hub Highlights, we showcase a selection of the best contributions on this timely topic.

SEE EDITOR'S PICKS
bit.ly/EP-Politics

THE EXPERT VIEW

Best of the questions



warm_cricket, Brompton Westbrook Primary School
to Jeremy Paxman, broadcaster
Did your job make it easier or harder to decide who to vote for?



easygoing_hen, Noel Park Primary School
to Emma Barnett, broadcaster
Should you always keep a certain distance from your interviewees?



artistic_opinion, Arnhem Wharf Primary School
to Kathryn Stone, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards
How did you feel when you saw John Bercow shout "ORDER"?



generous_speech, Michael Faraday School
to Dr Ingrid Wolfe, children's doctor
What is something you have always wanted in a children's hospital but MPs do not agree on?



trustworthy_robin, Hillyfield Primary Academy
to Dr Emre Aytimur, lecturer
Why does the public need Prime Ministers, MPs and Parliament?



courageous_impression, Halsnead Primary School
to Jon Ungoes-Thomas, Sunday Times Chief Reporter
Why did governments accept the misuse of expenses?



genuine_cat and versatile_molecule
Are MP checkers a good idea?

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hammond Junior School

POLITICS IN the UK is far from perfect. Here are three changes to make it work better:

Firstly, we would make it law to behave well in the House of Commons. We would do this because if a bill needs to be passed quickly then bad behaviour will slow the process down. Lack of productivity might also mean MPs do not have enough time to raise important issues and the constituents they are representing might not get their voices heard. Secondly, MPs are meant to be role models and so therefore should conduct themselves in a civilized way.

Secondly, we would make it law that politicians must tell the truth and tell their constituency what they want to do. The constituents elected this person, and therefore it's their right to know what their MP intends to do. Politicians must not mislead the public with half-truths. If the politician is dishonest then they are risking their job and their constituency's faith in the party.

Thirdly, there should be an MP checker, who would check that the MPs actions are in the best interest of their constituency. This is similar to a shadow minister, except that MP checkers would check all individual MPs. MP checkers would be elected by members of the MP's constituency. The MP checker would make sure that the MP is properly supporting their constituency. This would mean that the constituents would feel more reassured. ■

Poll

Do politicians deserve more respect?

Yes **23%**

No **32%**

I'm in the middle **45%**

Comments

plucky_yuzu

Bruntcliffe Academy

I think politicians deserve more respect as things aren't always what they seem at first sight. Most of the time we don't know what goes on in Parliament – we just see how the news presents it to us. As a result, we might think about this situation in a totally different way, and shift our viewpoints to be in line with a news organisation's bias.

jubilant_horse

Birchwood C of E Primary School

Politicians work hard trying to represent their constituents but they are only human. Some people will agree with them and some won't. When people do disagree with them, they can be placed in real danger. Politicians such as Nigel Farage and Stephen Timms have been attacked in public, and on occasions these attacks have been serious. A 2016 study found that one in five MPs had been subjected to an attack or attempted attacks. Because of the risks they take, I believe that politicians should get more respect.

stellar_lion

Arnhem Wharf Primary School

I'm in the middle because politicians are well-educated people who have been chosen by their constituency to represent them. Therefore, they deserve some respect for winning votes. However I also believe that some politicians act for their own benefit over the benefit of the people. Politicians can easily make false statements to improve their reputation, and to make the majority of people accept them as their MP or Prime Minister.

memorable_orchard

Michael Faraday School

When we grow in our respect towards some politicians, they can lose their respect towards us. For example, we gave respect to Boris Johnson by voting for him to be Prime Minister. After this, he dared to prorogue Parliament, which did not follow the law. Another reason why some politicians do not deserve respect is that they can take advantage of their power, thinking that now that they are at this level of strength, they can gain more. For example, the more power Donald Trump gets, the more selfish he can be. This resulted in an impeachment trial.

centered_mode

Politicians and Power

SECONDARY SCHOOL
Cowes Enterprise College

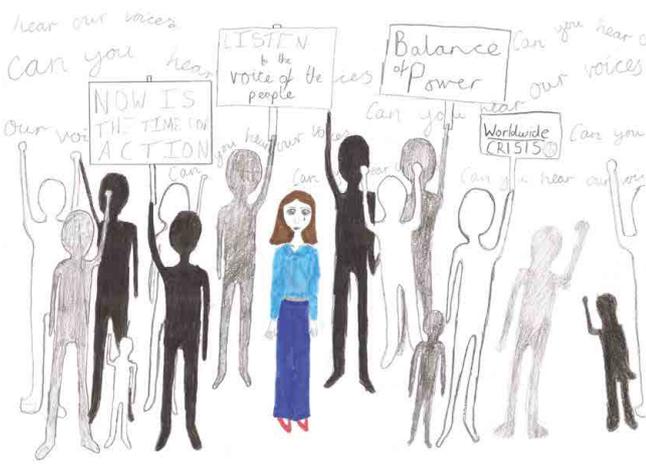
THE CLARINET represents the opposition. They start timid, whilst the other two instruments (a bassoon to represent the speaker and a trumpet as the party in power) are playing louder. Throughout, the trumpet and clarinet repeat a phrase the other instrument has played but slightly differently to show their disagreements. Occasionally, the speaker interrupts when the call and response between the clarinet and trumpet becomes heated. Every time the two instruments begin again the clarinet becomes slightly more confident and becomes slightly louder until, at the end of the piece, it is the same volume as the trumpet. Later, the two opponents finally come to a decision, shown by the instruments playing in harmony with each other. ■



THE BNC TEAM:

Thank you for this wonderful piece of music – you have clearly put a lot of effort into making it!





skillful_passionfruit and lovable_writer

Can you hear our voices?

SECONDARY SCHOOL
Graveney School

THIS ARTWORK is about public voice and the concepts of responsibility and power. A crowd of protesters is a good way to represent the public voice, because what represents the power of the people more than a demonstration?

We have used grey and black for the background crowd to make their appearance irrelevant, because you see them in the picture as a group who move as one. We have used colour and detail for the girl in the middle to represent how every one of the protesters is a different person with a different identity.

She is pictured crying because she represents us, the younger generation, fearing for our futures. The one solitary piece of colour and detail in the middle of a grey mass.

You could imagine that the person in the middle is an MP. It shows the pressure put on them by the constant demands of their people, but they don't have the power or the voice to speak up. In desperation, they cry. The protagonist in the middle could be anyone. We have left her identity uncertain so that every reader of this piece can imagine someone new in the young woman's identity. ■

Can politicians be too honest?



Comments

generous_queen

Cuddington Croft Primary School

I think politicians can be too honest as they could share their opinions from the heart and offend people. Honesty can also lead to some politicians, such as Boris Johnson, appearing too determined. I think a good example was set by Theresa May. She gave up her position on Brexit to try and get it done.

alert_reindeer

Whyteleafe School

Politicians can hide things to make sure it will not be held against them. They are terrified that what they have done will come back to haunt them in later life. However, I think politicians should not

hide anything and be honest. Even if honesty costs them their job, many would respect them for it.

serious_badger

Highdown School

In a perfect world there would never be a thing as "too honest". It should be seen as a good quality as it makes people more trustworthy. However, in today's world, politicians say what they think people want to hear, or say things to "get the edge" on an opponent. If a politician is too honest it can cause them to lose their role as an MP. I understand why people need to be shielded from some truths. If a pandemic were to break out, the government may hide the truth to calm the country down and avoid an economic dip with millions of people afraid to go outdoors.



ISSUE 4

THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE

FEATURING

White Hall Academy

Michael Faraday School

Hammond Junior School

Evelyn Street Primary School

Ormiston Bushfield Academy



The National Health Service has been the beating heart of health care in the UK since 1948. However, as the population ages, costs rise and, during this Issue, a global pandemic strikes, the NHS is stretched like never before. The government is under increasing pressure to protect its future – but how?

In a half-term that saw the NHS facing unprecedented challenges, the Burnet News Club discussed how to best safeguard and sustain it – studying questions about cost, choices and technology. In this edition of Hub Highlights, we showcase a selection of the best contributions on this timely topic.

SEE EDITOR'S PICKS
bit.ly/EP-NHS

enlightened_panther

Can we afford to not have the NHS?

PRIMARY SCHOOL
White Hall Academy

IN AMERICA, people have to pay for health insurance yet many do not have it. If we no longer had the NHS, many of us would not have the money to pay for health insurance on top of our other bills. To help understand others' views, I discussed this possibility with my family.

Dad: "It may not be perfect, but I will take any type of care. I don't want to have to pay for my own health insurance."

Mum: "Having no NHS would be a disaster since we would be paying for something in a way that we didn't before."

Me (enlightened_panther): "The NHS does so much for us and it is free at the point of delivery."

Mysister: "A lot of the UK population is quick to moan about the long waiting times or the tired nurses and doctors who are overworked. However, I am certain that they would rather wait longer than be unable to afford the service in the first place."

THE EXPERT VIEW

Best of the questions



sceptical_imagination,
Ormiston Six Villages Academy

to Sally Warren, Director, Policy,
The Kings Fund

Do you think we will always have the NHS? And if not, will we have to pay for our health care in different ways?



skillful_passionfruit
Graveney School

to Caroline Dove, CEO, NHS Elect

What is the biggest change you had to make or suggest which many of the doctors and nurses didn't like?



entertaining_strawberry
Birchwood C of E Primary School

to Helen Buckingham, Director,
Nuffield Trust

Are all of the debates and people worrying about the NHS making you feel any different about your job?

Me: "I have concluded that losing the NHS would be a catastrophe. People would struggle financially and so it would be a mistake to lose it." ■

Comments

EXPERT: Caroline Dove

CEO, NHS Elect

When we hear in the newspapers about "privatising the NHS", what people are often talking about is allowing private health care providers to deliver services for NHS patients. I think this can be helpful, for example where we have a shortage of NHS services and private providers can help meet patient needs (e.g. for things like hearing aids) and, of course, these services are still free at the point of delivery for NHS patients.

I love the fact that we have an NHS that is largely provided within the public sector and think this helps us to share and learn together and is a fantastic model. I can't see the NHS ever being "privatised" in a way that would mean that people pay for most of their care.

loyal_television**My Manifesto for the NHS**

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hammond Junior School

WATCH VIDEO
bit.ly/NHSmanifesto

**THE BNC TEAM:**

Wow! What a brilliant Final Piece. Your presentation style is great and you have clearly taken a long time to draft this and get the tone right. I really like your ending, which is powerful and thought-provoking about the type of world we'd get if you were voted in.

**Would you support a “mansion tax” to help fund the NHS?**

IN MARCH, *The Independent* broke the news that nearly three-quarters of people would pay more to support the NHS, and 63% would support a “mansion tax” to raise more funds. This would be a tax, paid annually, by anyone who owned a home worth more than £1m. We asked the Burnet News Club if they would support such a move.

**Comments****cheerful_photograph**

The Sherwood School

I was shocked to find out the “mansion tax” did not exist already! The tax was only a proposal in the United Kingdom, but proved very controversial and received widespread media coverage. Some people were against this idea very much, while others who had a house worth around the average price liked the proposal and wanted it to come into effect soon. If a “mansion tax” was included to help fund the NHS, children and parents would have better health care – hospital beds, machines and monitors – could be bought and more staff could be hired. Overall, I believe that the “mansion tax” should be introduced and I believe that it is a good system that will help the future of the National Health Service.

memorable_orchard

Michael Faraday School

In my opinion, I would not support a “mansion tax” because some of these people are likely to have well-paid jobs, which would result in them paying a larger amount in their income tax to the NHS already. I think this is unfair – they may be needing the spare money for important parts of their lifestyle.

I would like to propose a different system: encouraging donations from everyone. If someone was not paying tax because their income was too low, they could donate. This would be more of a general activity because everyone can join, whether they have a job or not! Donations could be open for the whole world, which would increase the amount of money the NHS would receive.



[giving_twilight](#)

The future of the NHS

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Evelyn Street Primary School

SINCE THE outbreak of covid-19, the NHS has been struggling when dealing with new situations. The numbers of people in quarantine are escalating which means more pressure is being put on the NHS to withstand the cost of hospitals around the UK. More staff need to be hired for them to keep hospitals running to high standards. The NHS usually deals with over 1m patients every 36 hours and so there is a lot of pressure.

If things continue, we might have no free at the point of delivery health care and we will be like other countries like America. Our NHS originated in 1948 and it was created to help people free at the point of delivery. Many people think it was a great idea that has kept going ever since.

Recently in class we have been talking about the future of the NHS and how we can improve it. One of my suggestions was to partner with other countries to make a worldwide NHS. Everybody deserves to have the same rights and the same health care. ■

Comments

EXPERT: Alice Raine

Senior Associate @ Clifford Chance

It is interesting to consider whether a worldwide NHS system would work – can you see any difficulties with decision-making when there are a number of different cultures and countries?

[giving_twilight](#)

Evelyn Street Primary School

Many different countries do not believe in the same ways of working. Different cultures may have different ways of treating illnesses which could be tough to work around. Countries around the world do not have the same currency and income to spend as us, so therefore it may be hard to get different countries to create a worldwide NHS.

Notes to the NHS

INSPIRED BY Andy Leek's poster campaign, "Notes for the NHS", we asked students what motivational message they would write to NHS staff. Read their entries, and more about the original project, here:

SEE NHS NOTES

bit.ly/NHSnotes

"THANK YOU TO ALL
THOSE WHO TREAT US
WHEN WE'RE ILL"

[caring_crab](#)

St. Luke's Primary School

The NHS is outstanding, and it is doing everything it can to make better lives for all of us. Small actions can turn a frown upside down. The job of a doctor is obviously hard and it makes sense to be tired during your job, but they hide their worries and smile, which makes us smile! They go above and beyond, despite seeing so many people everyday. ■

"YOU ARE
THE NATION'S
SUPERHEROES"

[fascinating_spring](#)

Ormiston Bushfield Academy

You're the ones who save the lives of not only the patient but their family and friends. NHS staff are vital to the UK – they're always there for you whether it's an emergency or not, 24/7. Superheroes save the lives of everyone, no matter who they are, just like the staff at the NHS. I would make sure my poster thanked them for this. ■

Supported by



ISSUE 5

EXTREME WEATHER

FEATURING

Achimota Basic School, Ghana

Wonderkids Model School, Sierra Leone

Maryknoll Convent School, Hong Kong

Lyons Hall Primary School, UK

Rhemaville Christian Academy, Nigeria

Resources for this Issue were created by The Economist Educational Foundation, supported by the *Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning* programme, from the British Council and UK aid. They advised on ways to ensure the resources are valuable for, and shared with, teachers and young people all over the world.

Extreme weather is one of the biggest threats facing our world. To minimise the impact, communities, economies and health-care systems need to respond and adapt. But how?

This topic is global – so young people around the world were invited to take part in this learning project and join the Global Conversation.

Students also investigated the covid-19 pandemic and explored the similarities between responding to an extreme health-care event and extreme weather. In this edition of Hub Highlights, we showcase a selection of the best contributions on this timely topic.

SEE EDITOR'S PICKS
bit.ly/EP-weather

THE EXPERT VIEW | Best of the questions



secure_meteor, Beit Hanoun Prep Girls School, Occupied Palestinian Territory

to Isabel Gomes, Director, World Vision
Why do developing countries always seem to suffer the most during extreme-weather events?



fulfilled_starfruit, New Horizons Children's Academy, UK

to Liz Bonnin, science and wildlife broadcaster
Has lockdown affected daily pollution levels and will this affect the weather?



comfortable_computer, Achimota Basic School, Ghana

to Helen Czerski, physicist and oceanographer
How do changes in the world's seas affect us?



buzzing_atom, Birchwood C of E Primary School, UK

to Anita Ganeri, children's author
Why did you choose to write about extreme weather?



magical_message, Arnhem Wharf Primary School, UK

to Fran Scott, engineering presenter
Do you think we could make better use of satellites and space technology to predict extreme weather?



brilliant_fossil, Upton Cross Primary School, UK

to Gillian Burke, wildlife presenter and biologist
Is extreme weather the most dangerous challenge facing the natural world?

proactive_agency

An extract from my speech to the UN75 Global Conversation

GLOBAL CONVERSATION SCHOOL
Achimota Basic School, Ghana

MINIMISING extreme-weather events will take time and determination. That's why we all need to be involved.

First, we must recognise the value of our ecosystems and enforce legislation that protects them from being exploited. In Ghana, we focus on reforestation and afforestation and this is a step all countries should consider. Forests help to regulate rainfall, maintain soil quality and absorb carbon dioxide. Their absence today makes way for an unsafe tomorrow.

Governments must focus on preventative

measures such as moving people away from places susceptible to extreme weather. They must also invest money to combat extreme-weather events of the future. Reactive measures are also important. Governments should provide emergency healthcare to the injured and give food and money to those who cannot work.

It is our duty and responsibility to protect and keep the world safe. How many more people must die before we take serious action? We must protect the lives of others and clear the path for future generations. Let's change our attitude so that we can fight this once and for all. It is our attitude that got us to this stage so it must be our attitude that changes it. Together, we must come together as one people with a common goal and fight the threat facing our world.

READ FULL SPEECH
bit.ly/UN-speech1

daring_goji

A message to world leaders

GLOBAL CONVERSATION SCHOOL
Maryknoll Convent School, Hong Kong**WATCH VIDEO**
bit.ly/UN-speech2

What's the most important thing you have learnt from someone else during the Global Conversation?

Comments

determined_world

Sacred Heart School, Ghana

What trees can do to battle drought and its hazards. I learned this from a comment made by decisive_song. I have come to appreciate the saying "if the last tree dies, the last human also dies", which suggests the survival of humans depends on trees. Learning this has encouraged me to explore how to make tree planting more common in my community.

fantastic_dusk

Wonderkids Model School, Sierra Leone

When researching information we should check for the credibility and accuracy of our sources. Thanks to the comments of versatile_molecule, I have learned to understand, reason with and respect other people's views. I think it is very important because it makes our contributions on the Hub more meaningful and we learn valuable lessons from each other.

enigmatic_weasel

Extreme-weather events in developing countries

GLOBAL CONVERSATION SCHOOL
Riis Presbyterian Model School, Ghana

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES are among the most affected when it comes to extreme-weather events. Unemployment can rise because extreme weather destroys businesses and developing economies can find it hard to help them recover. Also, people become susceptible to certain infectious diseases. When an extreme-weather event leads to flooding, an outbreak of cholera or diarrhea can claim lives.

In addition, governments of developing countries have to use their limited resources to support the people affected by extreme weather. They have to give them shelter, food and must support their businesses. This money might have been invested in transport, healthcare and agriculture. This slows the growth of such countries and restricts the expansion of their economies. ■

Comments

productive_harp

Mawela Secondary School, Tanzania

Developed countries have to help developing countries fund strategies that respond to extreme weather. Developing countries should take precautions like constructing good drainage systems and restricting settlements along flood plain areas.

diligent_piccolo

Maryknoll Convent School, Hong Kong

To a certain extent, developed countries have contributed more to extreme weather through industrialisation. Those countries should pick up the responsibility to help those countries in need. Developing countries' activities may not have caused extreme weather as much as others and they have less resources to deal with the consequences.



excellent_photograph

The relationship between extreme-weather events and extreme health-care events

GLOBAL CONVERSATION SCHOOL
Rhemaville Christian Academy, Nigeria

THE RESPONSES to an extreme health-care event and extreme weather are similar. Several things are needed: funding for research, public enlightenment and new laws.

However, I feel extreme-weather events are treated with less seriousness than extreme health-care events because not all people have seen or experienced the effects of extreme weather. Also, some are yet to understand that extreme-weather events have a relationship with extreme health-care events. Based on research carried out by the Texila American University, climate change has compromised water quality – contributing to a projected doubling in the number of people living in water stressed basins by 2050. Food security is also affected. In some African countries, yields from agriculture may halve in the near future. It is clear that extreme weather and extreme health-care events are interlinked. ■

Comments

Olivia @ the BNC

What do you think can be learnt from the coronavirus that can help shape our response to extreme weather?

excellent_photograph

Rhemaville Christian Academy, Nigeria

I think one mistake that was repeated several times by many countries was the failure to close their borders before the virus could be transmitted. The lesson to learn here is the importance of timing. If we fold our arms and wait until extreme weather becomes unbearable, it might be too late to make any serious impact.

intrepid_hurricane

How do droughts affect people and animals?

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Lyons Hall Primary School, UK

IHAVE used BBC's *Newsround* to research the impact of droughts. One consequence of droughts is a shortage of safe drinking water. Available water isn't always clean and this can lead to severe health problems. A lack of water can cause crops to fail so there won't be enough food to go around, and farmers might not get paid either.

Animals are also affected. Rivers can dry up and there won't be much for all of them to share. If animals rely on trees and plants, they could lose both their homes and their food sources. Droughts can also cause wildfires, destroying millions of homes and claiming lives of innocent animals and people. ■

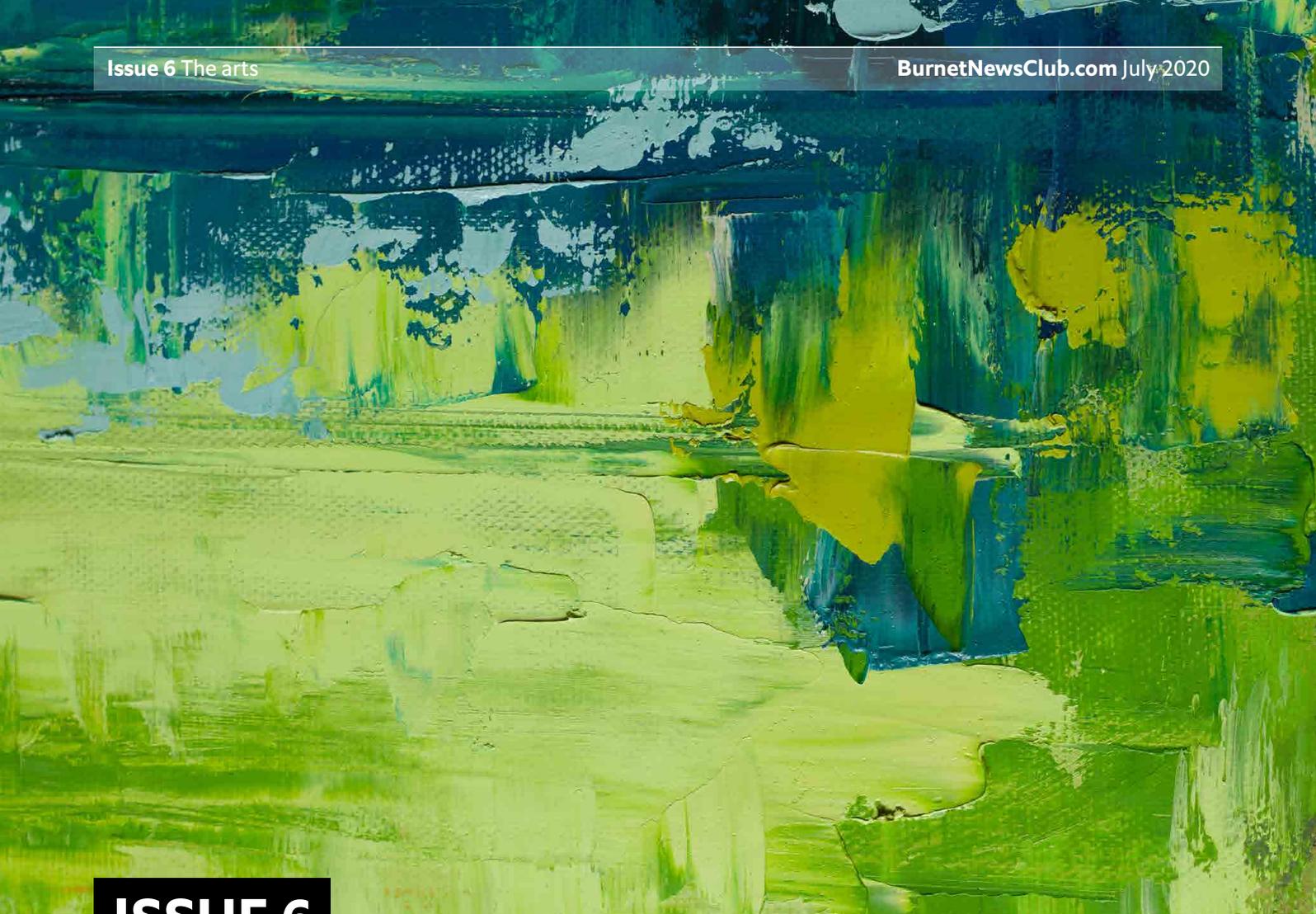
Comments

emotional_literature

School College Pilote Sousse, Tunisia

New technologies can help keep some soils fertile. To achieve this, efforts from different countries are needed because most states that suffer from droughts cannot deal with it themselves. We should think globally and act locally because when it comes to saving others, every action counts





ISSUE 6

THE ARTS

Articulating opinions

FEATURING

Cowes Enterprise College

Whyteleaf School

The Sherwood School

Firth Park Academy

Portobello High School



People have always made art. Drawings have been found on cave walls, made by people 40,000 years ago. The Greeks painted pottery and sculpted statues, as did the Romans. Making art seems a fundamental part of being human. It's one of the things that makes us different from animals.

This half-term, the Burnet News Club discussed the arts: their history, value, impact on society, role during times of crisis and future. In this edition of Hub Highlights we showcase a selection of the best contributions on this timely topic.

SEE EDITOR'S PICKS
bit.ly/EP-Arts

cheerful_photograph

Art's power to speak up for people

PRIMARY SCHOOL
 The Sherwood School

ART CAN get a word out there. I have done my part by having a window display for key workers in the NHS and other industries. I also made a Lockdown Diary for other people to read. Those protesting for the Black Lives Matter movement are using different types of art such as graffiti, banners and placards. Art can say a thousand words so using it to speak up is a great way of communicating when protesting peacefully.

Some people will use art to define their happiness while others can represent other emotions such as depression and anxiety. This can be particularly important for those who cannot talk, hear or see.

However, there are still disadvantages of using art to speak up. Misunderstanding is a key issue when interacting with others because everyone thinks differently. They can interpret different things in different ways. For example, if some art is seen as offensive or harmful, the artist could be punished. ■



intrepid_hurricane

Street art: Good or bad?

PRIMARY SCHOOL
 Lyons Hall Primary School

ALL ART has a meaning, from an actor on stage telling a story to art in a gallery showing how the world has changed over time. Street art has a meaning too: whether it's graffiti or a detailed picture. Most street art is social commentary: the wall is the canvas and the artist is sharing their thoughts on the world. However, I think some graffiti is made by people drawing on property just for fun. Most street art is better than this. ■

Comments

faithful_bird

Whyteleafe School

Cave people originally drew on cave walls, but now that we have canvases to paint on, should we still draw on walls? Sometimes it is wrong, such as writing on a monument. In the future, people may not see things as we see them because of graffiti.

However, sometimes graffiti can be good and be used to express an artist's feelings if they are thinking about the bigger picture. I read another member of the club say that graffiti helps to show people's emotions from the past (for example the writing on the Berlin Wall) and I agree with this.

lovely_painting

Portobello High School

I think street art is just as valid as any other way of expressing yourself, as long as it is being done legally. Graffiti often delivers a powerful message, especially to do with politics. This makes it important to be exposed to graffiti in modern society. To criminalise all graffiti would be like banning freedom of speech.

THE EXPERT VIEW

Best of the questions



lovable_writer
Graveney School
 to Stephen Fry, actor and author

How do you think the arts can change the way that people look at the world?



intrepid_hurricane
Lyons Hall Primary School
 to Tamara Rojo, Artistic Director, English National Ballet

How has the pandemic changed the way you work and train your dancers?



accurate_octopus
Whyteleafe School
 to Fiona Mountford, theatre critic

Did you want to go into the arts when you were younger?

astounding_currant

Art is something in all of us, we sometimes just don't know it

SECONDARY SCHOOL
 Cowes Enterprise College

Art is something in all of us,
 We sometimes just don't know it,
 We all have inner beauty
 But are too afraid to show it...
 When the world is put in turmoil
 I see it as a wake up call,
 Across the globe street art has grown,
 A message has spread, that you are never alone,
 Expressions of love have taken to the streets,
 People are bravely refusing to be weak,
 Everyone needs help sometimes,
 Everyone needs love in their life,
 Everyone needs to express their art,
 in a way
 that no one person
 will ever forget. ■



Is it impossible to define "art"?

Comments

credible_argument

Firth Park Academy

In my opinion, it's not impossible to define art because when I think of art, I think of someone letting their imagination run free. Even if someone thinks they are not good at art, it's a way they can express themselves. However, some people might think defining art is impossible because art is all around us and there are so many different types of art with such a range of meanings, so this makes it hard to understand.

honorable_meerkat

Michael Faraday School

I think it is possible to define art as you can describe lots of objects as art. These can be everyday items or things on display in museums. Art could also be a fun activity created with your imagination like a dance routine. I consider art as everything creative and imaginative.

Stephen Fry

Expert

"Something made that is not useful?" That sounds strange, indeed contradictory because I think art is immensely important. I'm really echoing Oscar Wilde. What he meant, I believe, is that art is above and beyond what we need. We need shelter, yet there is architecture. We need something to cover our bodies, yet there is high fashion. We create a whole new sphere of made objects or experiences that transcend, that go beyond their function and enter that realm we call art.



valuable_insect

How can art change people's emotions?

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hammond Junior School

ART CAN change the way people feel depending on its colours, scenes and expressions of the people in it.

Happy, confused, and amazed are a few of the emotions art can make us feel. All art can stir our emotions in its own special way. There is no limit to the amount of feelings art can create within us. While some pieces may only make us feel one or two emotions, others might make us feel nine or ten!

How does different art make you feel? Does art only make you feel slightly different? ■

Comments

memorable_orchard

Michael Faraday School

Art can give everyone a myriad of emotions. For example, "The Last Supper" by Leonardo de Vinci portrays quite a sad scene, as it is Jesus' last meal before he is killed. The scene may be sad but that does not particularly make it sad for the beholder. It could be mesmerising for them as it tells of the events that occurred in the past. The statue of Edward Colston, who was a slave trader, is a piece of art, and we still experience racism today. Seeing the statue does create quite a sorrowful feeling, as slavery was a horrendous thing, and these emotions are made worse as we're living with racism.

spirited_insect

Braiswick Primary School

If you don't see what you like in the art you're viewing, then you might not feel anything. However, if you do try to see what you like about the art, you can find something to appreciate, and then you'll feel something. How does art do this? Art can tell stories. If there was a story about someone losing their life, you would cry and feel the emotion of sadness. It's the same with art. If it shows a sad story, you would most likely feel sad.

generous_seagull

Lyons Hall Primary School

I normally feel calm and happy when I do art. However, I have a question about people who do *not* like art – do they attach emotions to an artwork in the same way those who like art do?

COMPETITION: What would feature in your online arts festival?

amusing_bee

Highdown School

My virtual arts festival would have a futuristic theme to reflect its online platform. Each page of the website would take the visitor back to a different decade. On each decade page, there would be a live chat (with the option to dress up), video clips of the greatest songs and moments and games from that time. Everyone participating could find a page that interests them and could feel like they're actually at a festival!

fulfilled_starfruit

New Horizons Children's Academy

My virtual arts festival would be educational, fun and fair. Families would be given a story and have 30 minutes to create a short dance showcasing it. For those who don't wish to take part in this, there would be a range of other activities to choose from, such as recreating music in a freeze-frame, making models and drawings and representing emotions through sounds. Alternatively, people could enjoy watching the performances of others!

School cohort

2019-20



Thank you to...

We're incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Burnet News Club this year:

Experts



Abbie Hutton



Anita Ganeri



Bonnie Posselt



Caroline Dove



Chris Hadfield



Dame Jocelyn
Bell Burnell



Emma Barnett



Emre Aytemur



Fiona Mountford



Fran Scott



Gillian Burke



Helen Buckingham



Helen Czerski



Ingrid Wolfe



Isabel Gomes



Jeremy Paxman



Kate Ravilious



Jim Al-Khalili



Johnny Paterson



Jon Ungood-Thomas



Kai Ping Leung



Kathryn Stone



Libby Jackson



Liz Bonnin



Man-Kei Tam



Masato Kajimoto



Sally Warren



Sophia Yan



Stephen Fry



Tamara Rojo



Vinita
Marwaha-Madill



Xinqi Su

Journalists from *The Economist*



Adam Barnes



Caroline Carter



Fiametta Rocco



Guy Scriven



Hamish Birell



John Peet



Sanjeeban Sarkar



Tim Cross

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