

# Roundwood Park Times



# Welcome back

to the Park Times. This is the first issue since January 2020, so we have a lot to catch up on.

Debate Club is never afraid to tackle a contentious topic and so after a practice debate on marmite, they turned their attention on to the monarchy: should Britain keep it? Turn to page 3 for our coverage of the debate.

House Music was an amazing success this year. Go to page 7 to see our favourite photos.

Finally, to improve local biodiversity, our Environment captains have been digging a pond by the Science Block. Find out more, including a story of buried treasure, on Page 13.

- Your editors

**Millie Shelton and Bruno Moura**



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Page 2**



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5	3		7				
6		1	9	5			
	9	8				6	
8			6				3
4		8		3			1
7			2				6
	6				2	8	
		4	1	9			5
			8			7	9



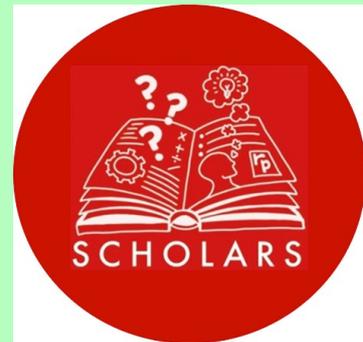
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# Looking for a challenge?

**Then Supercurriculum is for you! If you really enjoy a certain subject, or want to get better at one you're struggling with, check out the Supercurriculum section on the RPS website. It has tables of challenges for each subject, from reading up on Edna Purviance to understanding the Monty Hall problem. If you complete all the challenges in one subject, or five challenges in three subjects, you become an RPS scholar and receive an official Scholar's badge.**



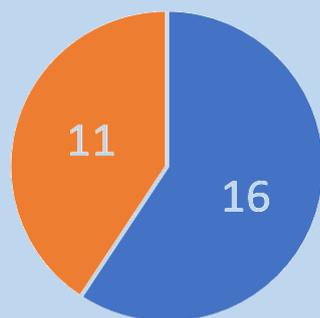
# “This House believes that the British monarchy should be abolished!”

This contentious topic was the subject of Debate Club’s end of term finale on 21 October. Arguing for abolition were Oliver B and Alastair H in Y13 and arguing against were Strachan C and Hal B in Y10 and Y11 respectively.

The monarchy is an outdated and embarrassing relic. This was made clear when the Guardian reported that Buckingham Palace banned ethnic minorities from office roles until the late 1960s, exploiting the Queen’s exemption from laws against discrimination. Furthermore, the monarchy is in direct contradiction to democracy. The Queen does not have a merely symbolic role and instead has used the consent procedure to lobby the government in private. The Metropolitan police has dropped the inquiry into accusations of sexual assault by Prince Andrew. Republics are just as popular if not more so than monarchies; the Irish President has 70% approval ratings and 69% of Greece were in favour of remaining a republic in 1974.



Before the debate



■ For abolition ■ Against abolition

The royals are the most successful British brand ever, just look at the names of our institutions. What would we change the name of the Royal Mail to? The royal family offer an immense boost to tourism and are extremely popular worldwide; 1.9bn people watched Harry and Meghan’s wedding! The Sunday Post calculated that the royal family’s cost to the taxpayer was only £165 million and that they brought in £585 million to the British economy. They also do a great deal of charity work, such as with the Prince’s Trust and Duke of Edinburgh programs. Moreover, if we remove the royal residences from the Windsors, who will buy and upkeep them? Will they just be sold on to the rich? The royals are also a vital source of soft power. The royal family have helped broker deals and improve relations worth 2.8bn over the last 5 years, according to the Sunday Post. Finally, the Queen is the head of the Commonwealth, a group of the UK’s greatest allies; abolishing the monarchy may weaken the UK’s ties with the Commonwealth.

**The royals are not a necessary part of the British national identity. The UK pioneered the welfare state, created the NHS, is an old and yet still modern democracy and is now realising social mobility should be a key role of the state. The UK should rid itself of the class system which the monarchy is an ugly remnant of, profiting from their birth rather than their skills and hard work. The Queen also gives extreme power to the government, in particular the Prime Minister, as seen when they illegally prorogued parliament to pass through a no-deal Brexit. This is again undemocratic. We agree that tourism is hugely beneficial to the British economy but there is no evidence that the royal family boosts tourism. Versailles, a palace which has long since lost its royal family, is one of the 50 most visited places in the world; Buckingham palace isn't even in the top 50 most visited places in the UK. People come to the UK for museums and landmarks, not for a glimpse of Prince Andrew. You ask who would upkeep the royal residences? The taxpayer would, as they are doing it already. Who would benefit from them? Tourists would, being able to explore all the rooms, and the British public would, receiving greater revenue from tourism. Finally, if abolition leads to other Commonwealth nations having more say, or forces the UK to develop relations with third-world countries, this is no great cost. Let Britain abandon the last vestiges of its destructive empire by abolishing the monarchy.**

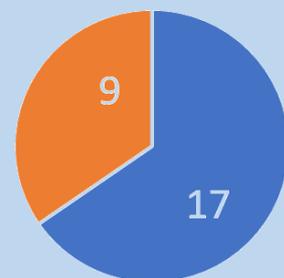


**Versailles typically draws in 7.5 million tourists per year, while Buckingham Palace only attracts roughly 570,000.**



**However, Disneyland Paris has more visitors than either and is full of royals**

After the debate



■ For abolition ■ Against abolition



**If you're interested in joining debate club, it's run by Mrs McMahon and Mr Hambridge in E1 on Thursday lunch times.**

# Will you be HIRED or FIRED?

**Business and Enterprise Week** inspires millions each year to explore their potential in the aspect of business growth and development as well as strengthening creative abilities. It is aimed at anyone, anywhere, interested in enhancing their entrepreneurial skill set with the final goal of launching a business or company producing an innovative product. This year at RPS, we set up a week-long competition run by the Curriculum Captains in which students in Years 7,8 and 9 were given the task of designing and decorating a new brand of cookie while also building promotion campaigns and business plans. They would then present their accomplishments to the judges with prizes up for grabs for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Participants were given different challenges and tasks to do with their fledgling business on each day, leading up to results day on the Friday.



**On the first day, we had just under 50 young entrepreneurs storm into BS1 ready, willing and eager to form groups and design their business plans. Numbers and level of participation were so great that we had to relocate teams into BS2 as well, leaving Curriculum Captain Sam F on the verge of tears when asked to do a register. Once grouped into teams of up to 6 members and finally deciding on a business name (after many ideas), companies were given a pack of resources directing them to devise a logo, slogan, a USP, pricing, packaging etc. This continued into Tuesday where teams were given 50 minutes to finalise their plans and agree on how they were going to decorate their cookies. Additionally, students were given the opportunity afterwards to enjoy and experience a Business Kahoot put together by Curriculum Captain Alex where they learned new unusual facts such as that the inventor**

of Vaseline ate a spoonful of his product every day (and died at 96)! Mid-week - decoration time! After one of the more stressful days in the week and a lot of rogue icing having to be cleaned up, businesses were able to produce and manufacture their cookies. Some young apprentices took it a step further and grabbed the initiative by bringing in ingredients from home.



**Thursday - Make or Break!! An A-List lineup of judges including key figures from the SLT, such as Mr Henshall, Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Bridgman and Mrs Tattersall in addition to SLG members Katy and Oliver. Apprentices were given scores out of 10 on 5 different criteria - Posters, Research & Marketing, Logos, Biscuit Design and Overall presentation. Businesses were able to set up stalls in BS1 and 2 where they were able to display their cookies and give a 5 minute presentation to the judges to convince them that their business was the right choice. Time for the Results! After careful consideration and totalling of judges marks, Mrs Tatts announced the winners on Friday:**



- 1st Place = Cookie Confectionary**
- 2nd Place = Half Hearts**
- 3rd Place = Cookie Culture**



**Overall, a resounding success with many students gaining a much wider insight into the subject of Business. "I'd love to go again next year and win this time" said a fired up Year 7 after the announcement of results. Thanks to Mrs Gallagher and Mrs Tatts for providing us with resources and materials throughout the week making it much easier to organise. Also special thanks to our many helpers, Katy, Nikhil, Zara, Megan and Becky. - Ethan Simcox, Year 13**



# HOUSE MUSIC OVERVIEW

## RESULTS OVERALL:

1st = **Wilberforce !!**

2nd = **Cadbury**

3rd = **Frank**

## CHOIR:

1st = **Wilberforce**

2nd = **Frank**

3rd = **Mandela**

## PERFORMANCE

### PIECE:

1st = **Cadbury**

2nd = **Grey-  
Thompson**

3rd = **Wilberforce**

## CONDUCTORS:

1st = **Louise**

2nd = **Niamh and  
Kira**

3rd = **Emma and  
Gemma**

**'WELL DONE TO EVERYONE WHO  
TOOK PART!' — Gemma, Cate and Louise**

# CHOIR PIECE HIGHLIGHTS

## WILBERFORCE: Radio Ga Ga



## SCOTT: TROUBLEMAKER



## OWENS: UPTOWN FUNK



## CADBURY: I'M STILL STANDING



## FRANK: VOULEZ-VOUZ



## MANDELA: ONE WAY OR ANOTHER



## GREY-THOMPSON: GERONIMO



# PERFORMANCE PIECE HIGHLIGHTS

**CADBURY: SOMEBODY TO LOVE**



**GT: ABC/I WANT YOU BACK**



**OWENS: LIFE ON MARS**



**FRANK: TEENAGE DIRTBAG**



**WILBERFORCE: COUNTING STARS**



**SCOTT: THAT'S LIFE**



**MANDELA: RUMOUR HAS IT**



# PUZZLE PAGE

## SUDOKU

### EASY

	6				9		8	5
9	4				6			2
	8	1			4			3
6						1		8
				3				
2		8						9
3			1			8	4	
8			6				5	7
4	7		2				3	

### MEDIUM

	2					8	4	7
				6			3	
					5		1	
	5	9	2			4		
3	1		6		4		7	8
		8			1	2	5	
	8		3					
	3			9				
2	7	4						9

### HARD

1						2		
		3			2	4	9	
	9	4	3					7
5		2		9			6	8
				2				
6	1			3		9		5
4					7	8	3	
	2	1	8			5		
		9						4

### DIFFICULT

9	2		7	8				5
			9			7	4	8
	7				3			
					5	8		6
5				3				2
2		3	8					
			6				8	
7	1	2			8			
8				2	9		7	4

## PUZZLES

### 1. WHAT WORD OR PHRASE IS THE ODD ONE OUT?

CATWOMAN

DEUS EX MACHINA

PARISHIONER

PYROMANIA

SCUBA

### 3. WHAT COMPLETES THE LIST?

SORE

KEEL

COSH MARK

### 2. WHAT COMES NEXT IN THE SEQUENCE?

7, 8, 5, 5, 3, 4, 4

See the last page for the answers!

# A deep dive into politics

**Dubbed the “The minister for the 18th Century”, Jacob Rees-Mogg’s unique demeanour has earned him a reputation as one of the most distinctive members of Parliament. Frequently seen marching his children around the campaign trail in matching three piece suits, he has stood out in the House of Commons ever since his election. This trait and his instantly recognisable Southern-England drawl helped him quickly gain attention in politics, playing an important role in the ‘Vote Leave’ campaign, and he now holds the influential role of Leader of the House of Commons.**

*The Leader of the House of Commons organises the government’s business and timetable in the House of Commons*

**He has been in frontline politics for years and so is used to facing questions from the media and his fellow MPs, but some RPS students helped provide him with a different audience as they joined St George’s students to take part in a live edition of the Telegraph newspaper’s flagship politics podcast Chopper’s Politics.**

**The episode began with a conversation between Rees-Mogg and Christopher Hope, the Telegraph’s Chief Political Correspondent. Rees-Mogg set out his opinion on a number of current issues, praising the government’s handling of Brexit and Coronavirus as well as the success of the furlough scheme. He was also full of praise for Boris Johnson and his leadership. When asked if Boris**



**Johnson was really a Conservative, he asked whether the Pope was really a Catholic, and elicited a loud laugh from the audience by suggesting that Johnson should attempt to beat Walpole’s record as the longest serving Prime Minister. Walpole is widely seen by historians as having been the UK’s first ever Prime Minister, and he lasted for almost 21 years. If Johnson served for that long, he would be Prime Minister until 2040! Rees-Mogg himself once planned as a child to be Prime Minister – his target was to become PM before he turned 70, so there is still time for him to realise that dream.**



**He discussed more serious issues as well, for example, describing what he sees as the problems with environmentalism. In his view, the UK needs to maintain their “78% economic growth since 1990 whilst achieving a 44% cut in emissions”. In his view, it will require innovation and technology to be able to achieve this, as he would not support cuts in emissions if it means sacrificing economic growth. By implication, he sees the economy as a more important priority than the environment.**

***What do you think? What should be the Government’s top priority?***

**Rees-Mogg didn’t just take answer questions from Christopher Hope; he also faced questions from students in the audience. He was quizzed by RPS students on mental health, the universal credit cut and how his investment firm left the UK following Brexit. In his response to this writer’s question on mental health, he supported the idea of cross-party endeavours for reform of the government’s approach to mental health and recognised that policies need to be put in place. Although he did not describe exactly what these may be, his recognition of this issue is an encouraging demonstration that it is been taken seriously by those in government – especially in the face of a pandemic that he saw as having impacted the old and young the most.**

**In response to RPS Curriculum Captain Oliver Bhutiani’s eloquent question on the government’s cut to Universal Credit, he rejected the assertion that the burden of pandemic recovery was hitting the poorest hardest, arguing that the top echelons were paying more. In response to Bhutiani’s point on the rise of billionaires in the pandemic, Rees-**

**Mogg demonstrated his traditional ‘trickle-down economics’ perspective. He argued that the number of billionaires is good as they generate wealth for the rest of the nation. I would be remiss to simply report Rees-Moggs assertions without evaluation, as the pandemic has undoubtedly hit those on the lowest incomes hardest, and the government’s cut to Universal Credit has been criticised for removing a safety for net for those who are struggling the most in our society. In addition, the ‘trickle-down economics’ he postulated is a controversial theory, with little evidence to suggest that it has been completely successful in practice.**

***Universal Credit is a monthly or bi-monthly payment to help with living costs***

**He ended the podcast with a call to action and call to arms. His advice to people wanting to take part in politics was to get involved! The only way to change politics is to realise your sense of patriotic national duty that inspired him to become an MP, and take part.**

**Overall, Rees-Mogg’s responses demonstrated his conviction. Where other politicians may hide behind a false vote-winning veil in an attempt to establish electoral success, Rees-Mogg has done no such thing. He is unashamedly authentic, and since his authenticity is not one that chimes with the mainstream, wherever you sit on the political aisle that is something to be respected.**

**Finally, thank you to St George’s School, and Mr Ellis who organised the trip, for inviting their Yr13 RPS politics consortium students on this trip!**

**- Alastair Holmes, Y13**

# Pond Report

**Keen eyed students may have noticed a new feature being slowly added to the school. It's not quite finished yet, but this report focuses on RPS' new pond, to be found between the Science Labs and the basketball courts**

**The pond was created to increase the school's biodiversity, providing a habitat for plantlife, amphibians, reptiles and insects. It also acts as a carbon sink and hopefully will be a calm and peaceful area in the school.**

**Efforts to dig and create the pond began before the summer holidays, led by the Environment Captains Jenny, George and Nikhil with help from many teachers and members of staff. Creating the pond is just one part of the RPS plan to become more eco-friendly, which also involved collaborating with the National Trust to reduce cutting of the grass behind the 3G pitch so that wildflowers could grow.**

**Plans for greater biodiversity in RPS continue, one idea being the creation of bug hotels to protect local insect life. However, the creation of the pond has hit a snag - it's leaking! There's a hole in the buried container which the pond is in and the Environment Captains are looking to fill it in or to use a waterproof liner.**



***Buried treasure! While clearing the area for the pond, a partially buried RPS artifact was uncovered! You can see the RPS Remembrance Log on display outside the drama block***



## **Puzzle answers!**

**1. Parishioner (Paris)**

**2. 6 (August)**

**3. THE LIST (THISTLE)**