



THE ILLUSTRATOR

Issue 18
Winter 2023



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Look out for the snowflakes!!



Mr Alexander's Message

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Illustrator.

Our current Year 12 and 13 students have made a very positive start to the term. The largest Year 12 cohort we have had so far (127), seem to be adapting to sixth form life well and integrated fantastically with their Year 13 peers.

Our Year 12 and 13 BTEC students have already experienced controlled assessments, while our Year 13 A level students are preparing for their mock examinations in January, which will provide some positive outcomes and prepare them for their actual examinations in May. Good luck to everyone!

We've been incredibly successful again this year with our Oxbridge candidates. Six students have been given an offer and their interviews are taking place during the beginning of December. This is an incredible achievement for them, and I must acknowledge their teachers, Tony Bavington and Dr Talbot, for their unequivocal support. We wish them well and look forward to hearing from their Colleges soon. Year 13 are also finalising their choices and deciding which universities they

will hopefully be studying at and with 60% of the year group successfully getting their first and second offers already, it really gives them focus, to deliver academically.

The remaining students in Year 13 are pursuing Apprenticeships, and Degree Apprenticeships with some students already accessing final stage interviews.

Our EPQ students are continuing their individual journeys, and I am looking forward to watching and listening to their presentations in January and February - an absolute privilege!

Year 12 are highly engaged and utilising their time effectively, and they have also been proactive in finding work experience placements (Dentistry, Midwifery, international public relations and international finance), starting their UCAS research early, and some even coming up with their EPQ questions already!

We have also just started our Sixth Form application process after a tremendously successful sixth form open evening. There have already been 135 applications in the first 2 weeks, compared to 80, this time last year. I look forward to seeing them all at their forthcoming sixth form



interviews and our Taster Day on the 29th June.

We are also delighted to celebrate a considerable number of Year 12 students taking advantage of our free Driving School, as well as 20 students being involved in the ADDVANTAGE4U pilot programme, which is hoping to enhance their 'soft skills' sought after by businesses.

Many of our Mathematics and Economics students were fortunate enough to have a personalised presentation from Dr Tom Crawford, lecturer at Oxford University, which was insightful and inspiring. Many of our students have supported the local community with litter picking and raising money for a variety of charities through cake sales, shaking money pots as well as delivering outstanding articles in the *Illustrator*, as well as brilliant quiz evening to celebrate our former TGS student, Will Leonard, as well as a couple of our Year 12 students, 'braving the shave', raising more than £3700 for Cancer awareness, truly amazing!

There have also been some amazing lunch time debates, incorporating students and staff, alongside several sporting clubs and our forthcoming Alumni

Christmas Afternoon Tea and our Year 13 enrichment trip to Turin...

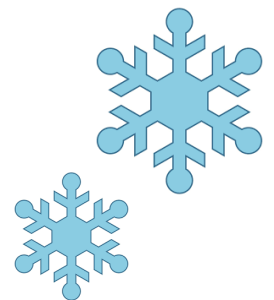
The Ofsted visit in September also highlighted how fantastic our sixth form is, honing in on our academic achievements, pastoral support and the personal development for our students next steps.

Overall, I am extremely pleased and proud of our Sixth Form students and I wish them the very best of luck with their forthcoming university and apprenticeship interviews, as well as their mock and real examinations commencing in January and look forward to meeting all of our potential sixth formers to be, in their interviews.

A great start!

Have a brilliant festive break when it arrives and I hope that Santa is good to all of you!

Ps-Thanks for all the TikTok support!!!



Kenny Alexander

TGS TIKTOK



FESTIVE
FUN



OPEN
EVENING



Lana's Winter Current Affairs

Politics Roundup

For this time of year in the best tradition of Christmas crackers, let me start off with a joke!

Why isn't the government displaying a nativity scene this Christmas? They can't find three wise men!

The past term has been a flurry of political developments. With a Conservative cabinet reshuffle, multiple Labour front bench resignations, and the Rwanda Plan, it's safe to say that there's a lot to discuss!



The Conservative Cabinet Reshuffle:

On November 13th, Suella Braverman was sacked as Home Secretary by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and was replaced by James Cleverly. The public had expressed their disdain towards the former Home Secretary after she made comments criticising the police for being too lenient - playing favourites - in regards to the pro-Palestinian protests happening in London. She described the protests as “hate-marchers” and “pro-Palestinian mobs”. Whilst Sunak initially backed Braverman, he told the press that she had not ran the article saying these things by him, which broke the ministerial code. He was under pressure and had to sack her.

Shocking the public and returning from his previous retirement as an MP, former Prime Minister David Cameron took over the role as Foreign Secretary. You may be wondering - how has he been appointed as part of the Cabinet without even being a Minister of Parliament?

Well, Sunak appointed him as a Lord the very same day he took the role of Foreign Secretary! This means that Cameron sits in the House of Lords, rather than the House of Commons, so he cannot be questioned about his actions and policies as Foreign Secretary by other MPs, only the Lords who sit with him. The last time the Foreign Secretary served as a Lord rather than a Minister was in Thatcher's government in the 1980's - Peter Carrington.

The Rwanda Plan:

Rishi Sunak proposed a policy to tackle immigration in the UK. In this policy, if the United Kingdom identified people coming in the country as being illegal immigrants or asylum seekers they would be relocated to Rwanda to be processed, resettled and to be given Asylum.

The UK government were about to send the first plane off to Rwanda when the Supreme Court ruled the plan illegal, violating the lives of those they were planning to send away.

Sunak vowed that in his time as Prime Minister, his main focus would be on 'stopping the boats'. He attempted to pass emergency legislation, knocking down all the reasons why the Supreme Court was ruling the deportation unlawful. The bill went to voting in the house of commons where he got a 313 vote win, with a 44 vote majority, meaning that his legislation could be passed to allow the government to send asylum seekers and immigrants to Rwanda.

38 conservatives abstained, including Suella Braverman. They did not abstain because they were against sending immigrants to Rwanda, but because they were unhappy with Sunak - it was them challenging him / not voting on a bill he was asking all Conservative MPs to vote for.

Frontbench Resignations:



On the 15th of November the House of Commons had a vote over the ceasefire in Gaza for the SNP Amendment. Prior to this, Keir Starmer, leader of the labour party, urged for all Labour MPs to abstain from voting.

Starmer has been vocal in his support for Israel, contrary to the belief of a large amount of his party, and chose to abstain from voting on the SNP amendment for a ceasefire.

He publicly stated that he would sack any frontbenchers of the Labour Shadow Cabinet if they were to vote in favour of a ceasefire. At Least 11 frontbenchers voted for the ceasefire and resigned from their spots as Labour shadow ministers. 141 Labour MPs abstained on the vote, whilst 56 Labour MPs went against their leader in voting in favour of the ceasefire.





The final vote was:
Noes 293 to Ayes 125,

This means that the SNP Amendment was not able to be passed and the UK's stance on a ceasefire remained the same. Starmer revealed that he was scared for his own family as Labour MPs were threatened after their abstinence on the Ceasefire vote.



Bonus:

The A Level Politics students went on a trip to see high profile politicians such as Jeremy Corbyn, Sajid Javid, David Davis, Jess Phillips and Jacob Rees Mogg talk about current affairs at the Methodist Central Hall in Westminster. It was a great opportunity and we got to watch students ask the Politicians pressuring and direct questions.

It was interesting to hear what a spectrum of different Politicians thought about the recent political events such as the Rwanda Policy and the conflicts happening in Palestine. It was also interesting to see the reception different politicians had when walking onto stage.

For example, Jeremy Corbyn was clapped and students screamed in support of the independent MP, but Jacob Rees Mogg, a high-profile Conservative Minister was booed extensively upon his entrance and during his answering of questions.

My favourite politicians we saw had to have been Jess Phillips and Emily Thornberry. However, I was also impressed by Sian Berry, who is a member of the London Assembly for the Green Party - she knew how to appeal to the audience and market her party.

I was extremely excited to listen to Jess Phillips, a Labour MP who had recently resigned from her position as Shadow Minister of Domestic Violence so she could vote in favour of a Ceasefire in Gaza, as mentioned in the article above. She also was very passionate about the Infected Blood Scandal, saying that she had come down to London on the day primarily to vote in favour for compensation for victims of the infected blood scandal - even though she had felt unwell, she believed she needed to represent her constituents who had been personally affected - this is the same vote Rishi Sunak had his first Parliamentary Loss over.

Aids Awareness Month



December can be a magical time of year for many people, but for others it may be a harsh reminder of a reality for many people. December 1st is the World's Aids Awareness day leading for the whole of December to be International Aids Awareness month.

The World's Aids Awareness days have been going on since 1998 and each year it has a different theme. 2023 is the 35th year and over the past 35 years, there has been significant progress in addressing HIV and AIDS thanks to advancements in medical research, increased access to treatment and prevention, and a broader understanding of the virus. This year's theme is "Remember and Commit".

A key player in this is Rita Harcrow.

Rita Harcrow (Director at the office of HIV/AIDS Housing), distributed a letter to : HOPWA grantees, project sponsors, and friends.

The letter reflects on the progress made in fighting the HIV epidemic and commits to continuing the work.

This annual event serves as a reminder of the global struggle to end HIV-related stigma, an opportunity to honour those we have lost, and a rallying cry to commit to working toward a day when HIV is no longer a public health threat.

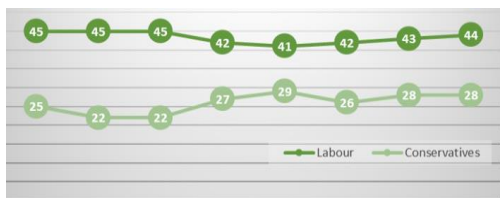
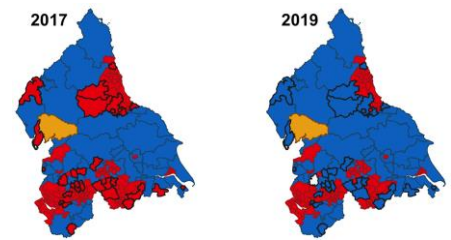


Warrens' Election Predictions

General Election Look Like

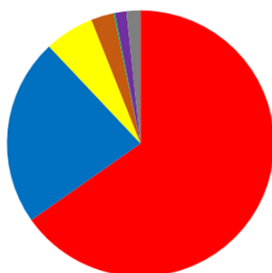
With the next general election due within the next year, and polls showing the likely result to be dramatically different from what was seen in 2019, I wanted to take a look at what the results could look like and how this will shape our parliament in the coming years.

Back in 2019 the Conservatives made 28 gains in the Northern constituencies shown, breaking through Labour's red wall in the North. However latest polls show the Conservatives are set to lose all of these gains which they made at the next election, with the polls showing 50% in these constituencies would vote Labour and Conservatives at almost half that at 26%.

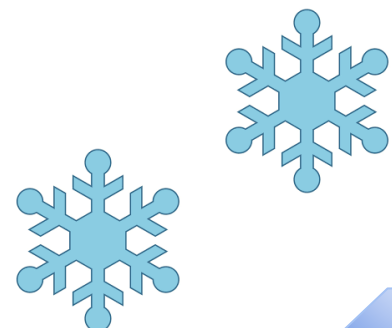


The story of Conservative losses does not end there however, as polls have consistently reported Labour to be ahead of the Conservatives since early December 2021. Latest polls show Labour at a 41% - 45% vote share, Conservatives at 22% - 29%.

Outside of the two major parties, polls show generally the Liberal Democrats to be the next largest party (in terms of vote share), polling between 10% and 13%. The SNP has suffered massively recently polling at just 3% (compared to 4% - 5% just after the 2019 general election), however this does not take into account the fact they only run in Scottish seats and thus it is still likely to see the SNP as the largest party in Scotland. The Greens have mostly been polling between 5% and 7% and Reform UK at 6% - 11%.



LAB CON SNP LIB DEM PLAID MARGINAL UNACCOUNTED



Despite this, the polls are only one part of insight into what the result might look like, we must also consider the impact of the first past the post (FPTP) electoral system and how votes affect how the seats are eventually represented. Looking at seat predictions made this year Labour is the clear winner each time and has a majority of at least 90 and are between 372 seats and 509 seats out of 650 seats in the house of commons. Based on this Labour is potentially set for a greater majority than that of the Labour landslide back in 1997.

Focussing on the most recent seat prediction (shown by the pie chart on the right), Labour is set to best their majority back in 1997 and achieve their best result ever, even including 1945 and 1997. Under this poll Labour certainly wins 424 seats and an additional 1 marginal seat (425), the Conservatives win 148 certain seats and 3 marginal seats (151), the SNP wins 39 certain seats and 1 marginal (40) and the Liberal Democrats win 18 certain seats and 4 marginal seats (22).

So how does this compare to the results in 2019? Labour would be up 223 seats, more than double that in 2019, the greatest increase seen by any party since 1945. The conservatives would lose more than half their seats, going down by 214 seats compared to 2019, with 12 frontbenchers losing their seats. The Liberal Democrats would see their best result since 2010, which may indicate that the public is finally beginning to forget the haunting effect of the results of the coalition with the Conservatives. The SNP will lose 8 seats, which may indicate a decrease in support of the SNP movement but this cannot be confirmed until the next Scottish parliament election, as the Scottish votes may be tactical in order to decrease the Conservatives majority even more.

In conclusion the next election will most likely be wildly different from any election seen in recent years, with Labour winning a massive majority, contrasting to smaller or minority Conservative governments seen since 2010. The Conservatives will see their worst performance in over 100 years, losing all of the northern seats they gained back in 2019 and many of their frontbench MPs wiped out of parliament.



Christmas Film

Every Christmas people watch movies, here's a review of a popular classic: *Polar Express*

Intentions of Director:

Even though the ticket inspector/conductor is presented to be a fairly authoritative character, we see him hole punch the ticket to say believe, this is because of the directors intentions to prove that you can rescue miserable feelings and emotions with the happiness and joy Christmas theme. The director trying to convey to the audience that it's not about what you see and how things work, it's about choosing to believe in the magic of the world, and how the choice to believe is where the magic of childlike wonder comes from which is something people seem to forget when they grow into adulthood.



Ideology:

In the polar express you may be able to argue there is a message against the ideology of capitalism present throughout the film, this can be seen in how all the people on the train are treated the same with no hierarchy but also in how there is less of a focus on the consumer capitalism around christmas time than in other christmas movies we see, for example, 'Elf'.

Most of the focus in this film is on the magical feeling of christmas for those who chose to believe. Even when he gets all the presents under the tree, the one he is most pleased with is the bell that has a sentimental value.



Christmas Music Over Time

Have you ever noticed how Christmas music from the 1950s is still played today?



Well, the 1950s was the decade of the most popular Christmas music to be released, due to:

- The ending of the war; people were in need of uplifting, happy music, to represent a new era that they wanted to experience, to move on from the war.
- They also faced a stylistic change, which also helped Christmas music to develop. For example, the music changed from 'White Christmas' by Bing Crosby, which is slow-paced and more operatic, compared to 'I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus' by the Ronettes, which is faster and brought that uplifting feel, filled with catchy instrumental hooks and proved the development of Christmas music.
- We still listen to old Christmas music at Christmastime as it feels nostalgic, and helps to carry on tradition. The nostalgia is the biggest reason why older Christmas music still tops the charts, as the lyrics relate to family, gifts, dancing and warmth, which for some people is what Christmas is about; hence why most love the repeated Christmas songs.
- Nowadays, Christmas songs still use the same instrumentation: for example, sleigh bells, piano, a choir and strings, which brings us back to the nostalgia element of Christmas, and why music from the 50s is still so important, even now, 70 years later!





The Royal Family At Christmas



Christmas is easily the most celebrated and magical holiday of all time, enjoyed amongst christians and atheists alike. Families come together and enjoy the day with presents, food and drink, whether you're a child or an adult the joy continues. For centuries the royal family have shared and upheld a unique set of family traditions and rituals that everyone can look forward to seeing. These traditions have become essential to the holiday season and it really isn't Christmas without them. Many of these traditions are just simple traditions that we ourselves include to our own christmas.

The royals on christmas especially pull out all stops at christmas from lavish feasts to festive decorations. One of their Christmas traditions that many of us do as well is the annual exchange of Christmas eve presents. This Tradition dates all the way back to the 18th



century when queen victoria and Prince albert, introduced the idea of opening presents on christmas eve, a tradition still used today. Another beloved tradition is the Christmas tree. Which was popularised by queen victoria when she and prince albert brought a tree over from germany and decorated it with candles sweets and homemade decorations. This has become a staple of royal christmases, with the Queen's Sandringham estate featuring a beautifully decorated tree each year. Not only is this carried on by the royals but most of us have one in our own houses with coloured baubles and bright lights. It wouldn't be christmas without them.

The King's or Queen's speech has been broadcast since 1932, but Queen Elizabeth II has read it since 1952. King George V. On Christmas Day 1932 he delivered a 251-word, three-minute wireless message, penned for him by poet and writer Rudyard Kipling. It was broadcast live just after 3pm, which was considered the best time for reaching most of the countries of the empire by short-wave radio. It was thought up by BBC director, John Reith, who saw it as a way of launch the BBC's Empire Service. George V was initially uncertain about using the relatively untested medium of radio. He was persuaded to do so following a visit to the BBC and a discussion with prime minister Ramsay MacDonald who sold the idea of the Christmas broadcast as a tool to help the monarchy maintain unity within the empire. The first speech was recorded in a small room in Sandringham House, connected by telephone lines to Broadcasting House. The king was highly nervous – he was reported as saying that the prospect of making the broadcast ruined his Christmas. The table at which he sat was covered with thick cloth to muffle the rustling of the papers held in his trembling hands. Over 20 million people listened and there was widespread approval, not only of Kipling's words, but also of the king's no-nonsense delivery of them. His slightly gravelly voice was particularly well-suited to his image as the 'grandfather' of the empire. George V made an annual Christmas broadcast for the rest of his reign, the last coming less than a month before his death in 1936. But there would be no Christmas speech from his son, Edward VIII, that year. When he did make a broadcast in December, it was to announce his abdication. It would take the wartime Christmas messages of George VI to turn the royal Christmas broadcast into the tradition it is today.



*Archie
Wiffen*

Me, myself and I

Billie Holiday released the song *Me, Myself and I* in 1937. 52 years later De La Soul released a song of the same title which was their only number one in the US billboard chart. I love both songs but *Me, Myself and I* are all becoming increasingly annoyed at pronoun misuse. I'm not going to profess to be a grammar expert, but I genuinely think that when people use *myself*, when they really should use *me*, they think that it somehow sounds more professional or formal.

The 'Grammar Vigilante' has been heralded as the Banksy of grammar and for years, under the cover of night, has corrected bad punctuation on Bristol's shop fronts. He says that "it's a cause worth pursuing" and his speciality is the apostrophe.

I too think that bad grammar is worth correcting but I can't paint over a misuse of *myself*. I would need to stop people in mid conversation or respond to emails offering polite suggestions of how pronouns could be used correctly. All of which are likely to be met with disdain.

I once had an argument with someone about when to use *me* or *I*. He insisted that as he'd gone to grammar school, he was right, but I knew full well that he was using it incorrectly. A teacher had once offered me this advice. If you were to write "please email John and I" and you now take John away it sounds wrong, i.e., "please email I." So, the correct use is please email John and *me*. Take John out of the equation and the request still sounds correct.

As for *myself*: *Myself* is a reflexive pronoun. That means that the subject and the object of the sentence are the same individual. An example is, "I embarrass myself when I use the incorrect pronoun." The "John rule" applies again, "Please email John and myself" should never be used as if John goes away you'd (hopefully) never say "please email myself."

The issue with pronoun misuse is that people have to think in mid-sentence of which pronoun to use. They panic and revert to *myself*. Think of the "John rule" and your correct use of grammar will inspire someone else to not fall into the *myself* trap.

Anonymous

Thank you to all who contributed to Issue 18!

*Shania Warren
Francesca Pledger
Archie Wiffen
Mr Alexander
Lana Cook
Warren Dew
Maisie Lane
Caitlin Cook*

**Wishing you an enjoyable
Christmas break!**

Did you enjoy the Illustrator?
Want to get involved?

We are a student team which aims to create one issue each half term.

There are lots of roles on offer, including regular writers and designers.

We also really appreciate one-off pieces! You could write about your hobbies, a story, or a biographic piece, interview someone, review a film, recommend a recipe, submit some artwork or photography...

Please email theillustrator@tgschool.net for more information.

Thank you!

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