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Get involved at Parklands

Ramadan kareem to all our Muslim pupils & staff

Many pupils will, this month, join Muslims around the world in fasting for Ramadan. Sawm (to fast) is one of the Five Pillars of Islam - observing pupils and staff will be unable to eat or drink between sunrise and sunset.

This year, other pupils can join in for a sponsored fast on Tuesday 26th March. The money raised will go to support the ongoing Save the Children Appeal for Gaza.



Matilda Fairhurst

Here at Parklands there are so many ways to get involved! I personally believe that there are so many benefits of getting involved during your time at school and I would like to share a few of these reasons with you.

Firstly, it gives you a chance to enjoy clubs and activities that you already love and doing them at school can make them so much more convenient to you. You can also use school clubs as a chance to try new things and find new hobbies and passions. As well as new experiences, you can also make new friends, and grow your confidence by stepping outside of your comfort zone. This can lead on to you becoming a Prefect, SSLT or even a Head Pupil.

The best ways to achieve these leadership roles is to have experience. For example being a Learning Ambassador and helping with events is all about you getting involved.

You may be wondering why you should want to have leadership roles. This is because it sets you up for your future and teaches you about responsibility, which will be very beneficial for college or potential jobs. As well as this, it can also be very enjoyable and rewarding.

There are so many different clubs at school whether you enjoy music, games, sports, reading, writing, drama and so much more. It's impossible to not enjoy at least one of them. We even offer clubs if you feel like an outcast. LGBTQIA+ and the wellbeing club are always open for everyone.

South Korea Outlaws Dog Meat



Alfie Woods

Many Korean citizens consider eating dog meat part of their culture. Dog is often served in a dish called Boshintang, which is particularly popular amongst older citizens. However, this legislation, passed this year and set to come into force by 2027, aims to end the centuries-old practice of eating dog.

Who is this law focused on?

The new law focuses on the dog meat trade. According to government statistics, South Korea had around 1,600 dog meat restaurants and 1,150 dog farms in 2023. All of these establishments will now have to submit a plan to their local authorities about how they intend to phase out their businesses.

The vote passed unanimously through the National Assembly and shows a changing attitude in Korea. In a poll held last year only 8% of people had consumed dog meat in the last twelve months. The last time the survey was done, in 2015, that figure stood at 27%. Many Koreans just don't want to eat dog anymore.

Is there opposition to the ban?

Some older people, the generation most likely to consume dog, are against the ban on the basis that dog is a traditional Korean food. It still will be in China and Vietnam, where there are no plans to ban it. Equally, a lot of dog farmers opposed the law, arguing instead that the practice should have been allowed to die out naturally.

For those ignoring the law, punishment has been laid out. Dealing in dog meat can be punishable by a three year prison sentence, while those caught raising dogs to sell face up to two years in prison. But there will be some good news for the people who are already dealing in the trade: the government has promised to support meat farmers, butchers and restaurant owners whose businesses will have to close.

While this law has not gone into action yet (compensation for the businesses has not been decided yet), the generational divide is still prominent. Many young people consider dogs as pets while older people wonder why stop now when dog has been eaten from the middle ages.

In my opinion I believe that dog meat is not to be eaten: I think some animals are more domesticated and intelligent, such as dogs, while others, which are more commonly eaten, are not.



Is the government doing enough for kids in the North?

James Wright

With a looming General Election, James Wright shares his assessment of the where the Government are at with the North.

Britain portrays itself as a leader against climate change yet, in recent months, the Government is backtracking on its net zero commitments, against all the advice of its own climate change advisors. They had previously put plans to stop the sale of diesel and petrol cars by 2030 but they have pushed this policy back to 2035. 22% of carbon emissions are due to cars. The Prime Minister thinks this delay will help gain him popularity. What do you think?

The Government's former education minister calculated that schools needed an extra investment of £15 billion after the Pandemic. Instead the Government decided to only allocate a tenth of this. So, in response, the Secretary of State for Education resigned. Instead of an extra

£220 they only gave £22 per pupil. Do you think this is enough?

Levelling Up is a project the government is investing £13 billion in in the simplest way it is tackling inequality between regions in the UK. The reason it is needed is because the UK has one of the worst gaps in equality between areas of all the world's industrialised nations. Recently they have scrapped the HS2 (a high speed railway meant to connect London to Manchester) leg from Birmingham to Manchester. This has people questioning if the government is really that committed to the North, as HS2 was a main part of Levelling Up. How would you close the gap?

All in all the government seems to be focused on the short term (or, in other words, the General Election later this year) rather than any longer term actions it could be taking to secure benefits for our generation.

Sport & Clubs

Ivory Coast Wins the Africa Cup of Nations



James Wright

What is AFCON?

Afcon is an African football tournament, similar to the Euros, consisting of 24 of 54 countries in the qualifications.

Where is it being held this year?

It is being held in Côte d'Ivoire (or as it is more commonly known in English, the Ivory Coast). Côte d'Ivoire is a West African country on the Gulf of Guinea. It was a French colony until 1960, when it achieved independence, but it still retains strong ties to France having French as its official language.

It was an economic powerhouse in the 1960s and 70s but experienced a period of turmoil between then and 2011. Since 2011, it has undergone the fourth fastest rate of economic growth in the world. For example, in 2020 it was the world's largest producer of cacao beans.

The top five favourites (based on rankings and form) going into the tournament were:

(i) Senegal (the current champions), (ii) Egypt, (iii) Côte d'Ivoire (iv) Nigeria and (v) Morocco

On the 11th February, host nation Côte d'Ivoire lifted the Cup of Nations after coming from a goal behind to beat Nigeria in the final. It marked a special moment for the Elephants (as the team is known) and was hailed as a high point by people across Côte d'Ivoire.

Fairytale performance

Cast impresses in Shrek production.



The Big Parklands Paper

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If you have any comments on the content of the paper, wish to suggest future articles or want to submit a report to the paper, please email:

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Want to write for the Big Parklands Paper?

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