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Changing Forms – Is it a good or bad idea?

Alexa Makinson & Emily Goring

Before half term, an assembly was hosted discussing the history and relevance of Pride month. Near the end of that assembly, it was mentioned that Parklands could possibly start changing the form names due to certain laws that some countries may have - in this case the assembly focussed on countries where being gay was punishable by death. But is it really a good idea or should we maybe rethink?

The answer might be pretty obvious to some readers. "Why would we want to be represented by an excluding government?" (Not a direct quote). Well of course you wouldn't! This idea, in our opinion, is a good point and shows how the school can continue to move forward in being more inclusive to all.

But this is where we think there's an issue - is it really worth revamping our school systems because of laws or beliefs certain countries have? If you're in a form for a certain country, it doesn't necessarily mean that you support or agree with their principles and laws. We believe that when we think of our form countries and learn about them, we won't look at their laws and values and instead focus more on their history and culture and what it means to the people that live there. If this change is put into action, it won't really affect how people view the school because when people learn about how our house and form systems work, they often think it's smart. Parents can typically see how the system is easy to understand and how it can offer new learning experiences for the students.

The Big Parklands Paper

Editor: Grace Scott

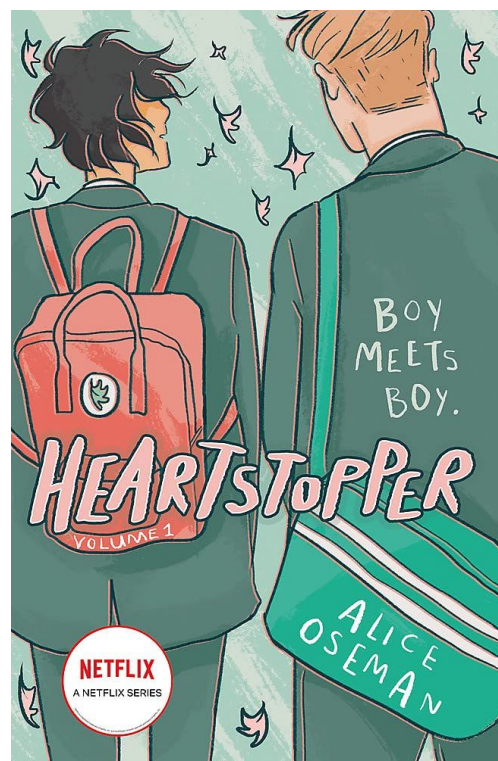
Hi everyone, I'm Grace Scott, the new editor of The Big Parklands Paper. I'm really excited to begin working with the students, fulfilling my role, just as well as Sammy and Georgia did previously. I thoroughly enjoy writing and journalism, so I feel very lucky and grateful to be granted this role. This is my first newspaper as editor, with more to come next year.

Newspaper Meeting: Every Wednesday lunchtime in Steinbeck.



Heartstopper

Emily Goring



In recent weeks, Alice Oseman has been granted fame and increasing popularity due to the success of their show Heartstopper, a Netflix produced series based on the best selling LGBTQ+ graphic novel. The show has been a worldwide sensation, peaking at number 2 on the top ten board on Netflix where it secured its position on the board for more than a month after the release.

The show is about two boys: Charlie, played by Joe Locke, an openly gay Year 10 at Truham Grammar, and Nick - Kit Connor - a Year 11 who loves rugby. Nick is figuring out his sexuality and relationship with Charlie throughout the course of the first season. Heartstopper accurately depicts the effects of homophobia, bullying and mental illnesses.

We would recommend watching the show as it is appealing to various audiences and there are many things to love. Even if you're not LGBTQ+, it doesn't mean you will not enjoy watching it. Heartstopper is the perfect comfort show, it's heartwarming and so easy to get attached to these characters. If you enjoyed the show we would recommend reading the graphic novel and some other reads in the Osemanverse, which can be found in our school library.

Tips for revision!

It's end of year exam and assessment time again. The Big Parklands Paper has got your back, though, with some great revision tips.

To help you revise, you could:

- Plan revision using a revision timetable
- Set up a nice, tidy study space
- Work on a specific subject for a set amount of time (remember to take breaks and allow yourself to relax)
- Try using different methods to refresh your brain and help you maintain motivation
- Keep away from distractions (e.g. phones)
- Always try to sleep and eat properly to help you improve your focus and your mental health.
- Make small songs to remember facts about different subjects

Focus on clubs

Cameron Speakman

This school has many clubs and they are all unique. Here in this article I will be highlighting some of the clubs, relying on the pupil that attend them.

Tuesday *Rubix cube club*

It is a fun club to go to for solving puzzles. They are looking for more people to go as there are only 3 people who currently go. This is where I learned to partially solve a mirror cube. It is a fun club to go to for lunch.

Wednesday *Newspaper club*

This is a club in which you can be in the next school paper. It is a fun club to be in where you can write and tell the school what you want, to an extent. I would recommend this club to those who want to share a message.

Thursday *Creative writing club*

The club is very creative and they need more people to join the club. They are currently writing a book about planets and each chapter is about a new planet. It is fun to go to and you learn new writing methods. Opinions given by Monica Davies, Freya Hallam, Nico Jones and Amelia Squires.

Friday *Sign language club*

This club teaches you sign language - clue is in the name. It is a very fun club to go to and I have learnt how to say a hefty amount of things in sign language thanks to this club.

Cheerleading Success

Our Cheerleaders did the school proud at the national UKCA Cheerleading competition in June. We entered five teams in and got four 1st places and one 2nd place.

KS4 Cheerleading L2	1st
KS4 Pom Dance	1st
KS4 Urban Cheer	1st
KS3 Pom Dance	2nd
KS3 Urban Cheer	1st

As Miss Malone would say:

"We are proud of you, we are proud of you!"



Comment

Wilding Parklands

Aaron Denham

Wildlife is a very important part of our planet as it is our school. We have a range of wildlife from insects to gulls in all different shapes and sizes.

Insects are important for many different reasons ranging from pollination to not disrupting the food chain. Things like these are super important to animals' lives and wildflower reproduction.

They are being affected in many ways which are really upsetting to see and we need to do something fast. Some aspects affecting this are climate change, habitat loss and pollution. Luckily as a school, we are doing our bit that is being significant to endangered species lives. For example, the pond and banning food outside.

Overall, we have done quite a bit but we need to do so much more.

Biodiversity is also another vital element in wildlife and nature, as without biodiversity we will see a lack of healthy and balanced ecosystems. Like a chain reaction, without these healthy, balanced ecosystems, we won't have access to our essential needs and necessities, such as food and even the air that we breathe daily.

Generally, the significance of animals in our environment and lives could be argued as some may think they are key and others may not. Animals are needed in all aspects of life. Having healthy ecosystems, providing humans with food, supporting the web of activity in ecosystems and also in some cases, animals are good for human companionship.

Disabilities and what they are: part 3!

Disabilities are important and I feel that as a school, some people don't realise how serious they actually are. While walking around school, I have heard people making "jokes" about some disabilities which I think is unacceptable, as it is incredibly disrespectful to call someone 'autistic' or 'depressed' based on personality traits, such as energetic or tired.

Lilly Hodgkinson &
Alexa Makinson

As a whole, we wish to help educate people on what the most common disabilities around school are because it is important to represent, raise awareness and understand those terms aren't funny - even if labelled as a 'joke'. Let's start with Autism. Autism is an invisible disability that affects the mind. It is lifelong, it typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills and communication. People with autism may avoid eye contact, struggle to read emotions and be sensitive to things like sound, touch and sight. These are just a few things that they struggle with. Please also remember that everyone with Autism is unique and may not experience the same things as mentioned.

ADHD/ADD (attention deficit (hyperactivity) disorder) are learning difficulties and disabilities. The symptoms of ADHD can be categorised into 2 types of behaviours. These are inattentiveness (difficulty concentrating and focusing) and hyperactivity and impulsiveness. If someone doesn't typically show symptoms of hyperactivity but they have ADHD they would often have a form of it called Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Now even if you show some of these symptoms, it doesn't always mean you have ADHD because there are many deciding factors as to whether you have it (which is exactly why if you think you have one of then you should talk to a GP to get diagnosed.)

These are the two most common disabilities around school that are very easily misunderstood. Often students vaguely know what they are, but not enough to understand how rude it is to use them as insults or call the person who has them weird.