

THE COLUMNS

by pupils; for pupils

HSD's Newsletter: Issue 116



Well with the holidays approaching and Nat 5 prelims done things are getting busier and busier. Earlier this week two of our rugby teams played at Murrayfield and all of our music groups are preparing for their various performances. We hope you enjoy reading and give this week's Problem of the Week a try!

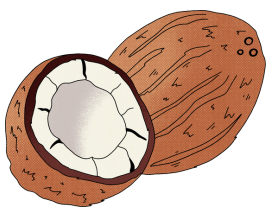
Editors, Megan, Meagan and Roena

A Coconut Christmas 'Crisis'

Roena Seenarine, F6

While Christmas is often said to be the 'most wonderful time of the year' for some, it can be a time of sadness for those who have recently lost loved ones, are struggling financially or are navigating difficult family dynamics. However, some have expressed that the beginning of the festive season has dampened for them by something a little more rogue, Chocolate. But how could something so universally loved ever ruin anything?

Well, the trouble began with the celebration's advent calendar which is one of the most popular chocolate collections in Britain. The problem is that one particular chocolate is, well let's just say a little less popular. For reasons unknown to me, many people have a strong dislike of the very simple coconut-filled chocolate, (which by the way they are never quiet about). The Bounty is one of eight chocolates that come in a box of celebrations including Mars, Galaxy and Maltesers. This makes the assortment ideal for an advent calendar because you have a pretty high chance of getting something different every other day. Shockingly it was found by most that the first three days of the calendar all contained a bounty. As you might imagine there are some extreme forms of resentment against this all over social media at the moment with people even going as far as saying that they want their money back. However, surely if you despise one of the chocolates THAT much you'd opt for an alternative advent calendar, considering the vast variety of different kinds on the shelves these days, I mean I'm not kidding when I say vast, from makeup advent calendars to a Heinz sauce one. I mean, there's really something for everyone. So, while the Bounty saga may have ruffled feathers, perhaps it's a reminder of how fortunate we are if this is our biggest worry this Christmas.



HELP FOR KIDS CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL 2024

18TH NOVEMBER - 20TH DECEMBER!



★ RECOMMENDED DONATIONS

Arts & Creative Play, Action Figures & Playsets, Baby & Pre-school Toys, Electronic & Educational Toys, Dolls & Soft Toys, LEGO & Bricks, Games, Puzzles & Books, Outdoor toys, Games, Pre-School & Electronics, Cosy PJ's, Slippers and Dressing Gowns, Toiletries Gift Sets for Teenage boys and Girls

✧ HOW TO DONATE

If you would like to get involved and help support local families by providing a Christmas gift for boys and girls from birth up to the age of 18 years then please bring these along unwrapped to the designated drop off point.

★ SPONSORS



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CHEMISTRY POEMS

Below we have two beautiful chemistry themed poems written by some talented Form 1 Pupils. Many thanks to Mrs Brook for submitting these on behalf of Astrid and Lucia.

A POEM TO SILVER - by Astrid Kiddie, F1

It is easily formed into shape
It conducts electricity great
It is good at killing bacteria like an oven
It can withstand lots of corrosion
Spectacular in sights
And spectacular in use
Silver is never overproduced

The Matter Show - by Lucia De La Vega Moreno, F1

There are states of matter, 3
Gas, which particles move freely
Liquid's particles flow together
And solids can't move, not ever
Gas fills up the space
Liquid takes the shape
Solids stay how they are
Gases' volume rises far
Liquids keep their amount
Solids don't grow an ounce
Gases and liquids have no fixed shape
Solids cannot separate
These are the states of matter
And all the things to know
About solids, liquids and gases
Thanks for reading the Matter Show

UNDER 18S SCHOOL SHIELD

MURRAYFIELD FINALS

Andrew Duff &
Louie Purdie



First Half



A murky day at Murrayfield saw two top class sides in The High School of Dundee and George Watsons battle it out for the National shield at 15:30. With adrenaline running the Dundee crowd were locked in for a scintillating matchup and it certainly was not short of entertainment.

Watsons started the stronger with their quick ball movement and strength in rucks and were rewarded with a try after four minutes with a drive over the line from Watsons Oli Richardson giving the Edinburgh side a five point lead. The high school bit back quickly with their hard work paying off and winning penalties which unfortunately could not come to anything due to the strong Watsons line outs. Dundee high was put under a lot of pressure 10 minutes into the game and their resilience and willing in defence was eventually undone by a charge to the line from 5 metres from Watsons Michael McAndrew, this combined with the conversion gave Watsons a 12-0 lead 11 minutes into the match.

Not all hope was lost for Dundee as no.8 Fraser Doig broke the Watsons line and used his pace and strength to make it try time, and the high schools first points of the day, with Finn Lawson precision from the tee Dundee high made the score 12-7 with 17 minutes on the clock. George Watsons unmatched persistence eventually got the better of the High School of Dundee when the oppositions Angus Robson extended their lead to make it 17-7 heading into the break.

Second Half

The boys came out for the second half with a different fight in them, with the substitution Callum Binnie for Euan Waddell at scrum half to try and give them a second wind to turn the match around. The team held a great line at the start of the second half, stopping everything Watsons were throwing at them with big hits and defending as a line. Watsons number 10 tried a kick to gain yards, however David Barrie and Finn Lawson covering

the back field well to deny them.

Finally, the defence was weakened as Dawson Ballantyne was shown a yellow card, sin-binning him for a 10-minute period. With this gap in the defence, the crown's defence was weakened leading to a try for Watsons down the left wing, that the crown could do nothing about. The score was converted to make the score 24-7.

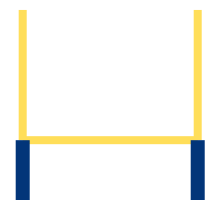
However, the heads of the crown did not drop, as hooker Jock Smith riled the team up by dump tacking his opposing man, creating a big cheer for the travelling HSD support. The crown never stopped in the game, giving there all in attack and defence, creating many opportunities to win the ball back.

However, the Watsons attack was too strong once again, and the number 10 stumbled it over the line for his second score of the day, in which was luckily converted turning the score to read 31-7.

The crown never dropped their heads, as the Watsons support sang muffled and unoriginal chants. The team kept pushing for there well-deserved tries. As they defended, winger Sam Marnie saw an opportunity to intercept a loose pass from Watson, however lost control leaving the referee no choice but to give his second yellow of the night. In which lead to Watson deciding to kick for posts for there penalty, giving there team an advantage of 34-7.

The attitude throughout the whole day for the HSD boys was never letting their heads go down and keeping spirit up throughout the whole 80 minutes. A perfect example of this was when HSD got the last try of the game. David Barrie made a great kick off the restart, launching the ball far and right into the back corner. Jock Smith led the line, motivating the team through his inspiring run to the ball. Leading to the Watsons man completely missing the ball, and Jock getting underneath it to slide into the corner, getting the biggest cheers of the day from the HSD crowd. A great moment for the team showing their great attitude and commitment, through out the whole season.

The final whistle then blew, with score ending in 34-12. The whole crowd applauded the team as they walked toward the stand to collect their medal. Not the result what we wanted, but nevertheless a proud HSD.



South Korea's Marital Law

Jack Mitchell, F3

In a shock announcement on Tuesday night, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law in the nation for the first time in over 45 years. This declaration was soon vetoed by a barely full assembly that had scrambled to Seoul to vote. Thousands of South Korean citizens also marched at the assembly to demand the reversal of the declaration. The President did reverse his decision, but only after the extent of the opposition was revealed. He now faces calls to resign from his post, which he has held since 2022.

Martial law is when a civilian government which is present in most countries - what we have here in the UK - is replaced by the military, who rule the country. Civilian legal processes are also replaced by military powers. Martial law is often only put in place for a certain amount of time, particularly in times of revolt or conflict such as during the Tiananmen Square protests in China in 1989 or the declaration of martial law in Ukraine when it was invaded by Russia which has not been lifted.

During the declaration President Yoon Suk Yeol said that he was imposing a military rule on the Asian country to 'defend the free Republic of Korea from the threat of North Korean communist forces and to eradicate the shameless pro-North, anti-state forces' that threaten the freedom and happiness of South Korea. While these words are self-explanatory and appear to cite the threat of its Northern neighbour as the reason, his failure to name specific threats and the lack of conflict or provocation immediately leading up to the announcement has led many to suggest that President Yoon's actions were only to foil the opposition parties that have been hampering his efforts to pass legislation. He has struggled in the opposition-led assembly to lead effectively over his term because of this. Soldiers stormed the assembly building and barricaded entrances and police officers were deployed to prevent protesters from entering the compound surrounding the building. Members of the military were also seen entering the building from the roof having been dropped by army helicopters. Staff inside the assembly building tried to hold off the military with whatever they could find, primarily using fire extinguishers.

This very odd turn in President Yoon's term clearly shows his frustration at the lack of progress he and his government have made during his tenure, but the unprecedented (in democratic Korea) actions taken by him have turned nearly everyone against him. His position, which was already shaky following corruption scandals involving his wife may now be untenable. The remarkable events have been a major blow to democracy worldwide, but in a small way, - very much overshadowed by the declaration of martial law itself and the fact it was so possible - it was very reassuring to see the guardrails of the democratic system working so quickly and effectively.

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!

LITTLE BOOKIES CORNER

Alastair Forbes, F1

Hello all. I'd like to share a children's book with you all that I recommend to those little bookies who love (or at least don't hate) reading. Hopefully, those little and those older ones will find this useful, as I will be sharing a weekly book suggestion, so sit down, and get a mug of hot chocolate while we talk about this week's book: 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas!'

'How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' Is a book both written and illustrated by Dr Seuss about a green and hairy Christmas-hating monster, trying to steal Christmas from all of Whoville. This book is highly recommended by book-reviewing platforms (and me) because of its poetic style and humorous themes. However, it does explore some darker themes: redemption, sadness and isolation. I will now give you a briefing of the two main characters in this story, the Grinch (obviously) and Cindy Lou Who. The Grinch is a large and furry monster-like creature that lives on top of a mountain, and completely despises Christmas, which kinda sucks for him since the Who's (the people that live in Whoville) absolutely love it! Christmas is their favourite time! The Grinch finally cracks... he hatches a most evil plan: to steal Christmas! Now let's not forget Cindy Lou. She is a little girl with a big part in this story. She is more open-minded than the rest of the Who's, she must warm the heart of the grumpy Grinch to save Christmas, but can she? Will the Grinch succeed in stealing Christmas from the Who's? All those presents and toys? The turkey and the food? But wait... Christmas isn't about all that, it's about what's inside, the love and the feelings. All the Who's don't know this, all but Cindy Lou. Can she convince everyone that it won't be that bad if the Grinch takes the presents, because they'll still have each other? If the Grinch succeeds, will Cindy Lou be able to tell her fellow citizens this, to save them from despair?

Just as I close this book review, I want to tell you why I chose this book. It's because of the message the book gives, the true meaning of Christmas, love. Happiness. Joy. To all. So please think about each other this, and every, Christmas, as we open our gifts, or have our turkey. The true meaning of Christmas: is love.

Want to read more? Cat in the Hat. Want to watch it? How the Grinch Stole Christmas, The Grinch.



PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Haoqi Liu, F3

The problem of the week has now moved to its own Firefly page, which can be found at <https://hsd.fireflycloud.net/senior-years/potw> or by scanning the QR code. The firefly page could have more information depending on the problem!

As always, email solutions to me at liuH@highschoolofdundee.org.uk

The positive integers m and n are such that

$$10 \times 2^m = 2^n + 2^{n+2}$$

1. What is the difference between m and n ?
2. Prove that this is the case for all values for m and n that satisfy this. (A harder challenge)

Have
a good
weekend

The Columns
Team

